

Friends of Whickham Parochial Newsletter November 2011 - Christmas Fair Special

Chairperson: Lois Robinson
Vice Chair: Nicola Spoons
Treasurer: Gwen Young
Secretary: Rachel Meecham

To contact us email friendsofwhickhamparochial@btconnect.com

The 2011 Parochial Christmas Fair

Saturday 3rd December 9:30-12:30

Please put the date of the fair in your diary. We have lots planned!! We also need HUGE amounts of help from everyone so here goes with what we need and the dates we need them by.

Friday 2nd December - Non Uniform Day please bring a donation for the fair stalls as follows – and thank you so much in advance. The theme is the Christmas colours of Red, Green or Gold.



Key Stage 1 – Chocolate

Key Stage 2 Bottles (eg wine, bubble bath, squash)



Week comm. 28th November we would be delighted to receive donations of Books, CDs and DVDs, unwanted toys, unwanted (new) gifts for tombola.

Monday 28th November – last date for returning sold and unsold raffle tickets to school. These came home on Friday 18th November

Friday 2nd December - Home baked Goods

You've donated some delicious goodies to events so far. If you are able to don your pinny and bring us some cakes, biscuits or scones we'd be delighted.

Friday 2nd December - pm - If you can help 1:30 to 3:15 or 3:15 onwards to set up for the fair, please get in touch on friendsofwhickhamparochial@btconnect.com.

In addition – we are having a **'Sellotape and Scissors night'** on Friday evening 25th November. Please contact friendsofwhickhamparochial@btconnect.com for location and times. Should be a fun night where we'll get all the prep for the fair done.

As a new venture at the fair we are planning to sell bacon and sausage butties to make it worth getting up early for.

CAN YOU HELP ON THE DAY? If please contact us via email, in person or via the school office. We need lots of help. WE ARE SHORT OF AT LEAST 4 HELPERS and without them we will need to start cutting stalls.

Free Cash for WISH TOKENS

You're doing a fantastic job collecting the wish tokens for us. Don't hoard them at home though; get them in to school asap so we can get them stuck into the collecting 'albums'. The promotion keeps is on until January! It's simple – the more tokens we collect means the more cash we can raise for our children. All funds will go towards the Junior Yard Project.

Handprint Mural



The mural was unveiled by the Mayor on Friday 21st October and I'm sure you'll agree it looks fantastic. We are looking at perhaps framing it to make it stand out even more.

Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy coffee and muffins. As the unveiling coincided with the Book Day Fancy Dress we all had a fantastic time admiring the costumes as the whole school came out into the yard for photographs. The Evening Chronicle expects to use the photos to accompany a Wish Tokens article at some time in the future, although they are unable to give us an exact date. We are so disappointed that some tiles have fallen off. Rest assured we have complained to the supplier and they are working hard to restore it.

Nutty Nonsense Night and Cinema Clubs

The nutty Nonsense night just before half term was such good fun for the children. The children sported some really wild costumes and really got in to the spirit of the night. We raised £197.90 so thank you to everyone who helped on the night and supported the event.

Both Cinema clubs have been very well attended and the children have really enjoyed them. They have also raised just over £300. They are really good fun to help at and we could do with a couple more helpers next time so please let us know if you can spare the time.

Contact us on friendsofwhickhamparochial@btconnect.com

Shopping on Amazon or ebay this Christmas?

If you do ANY shopping online, you could be contributing to our funds. There must be more people out there than the 28 currently registered on the website to raise funds for Whickham Parochial. This is such a missed opportunity to make FREE MONEY for school. Virtually every online retailer you can think of is on there, it costs you **no** extra and in most cases you receive special offers. If every Parochial family spends £50 online this Christmas (and goes via the www.easyfundraising.org.uk first) we estimate we could raise a minimum of **£175 just this term**. Last term we raised £45 so well done to everyone who is using this service. Please register!!

Whickham Rotary

In recent weeks, we have been working with some members of Whickham Rotary and we are delighted to say they have allocated us a donation of £100 from their funds. In addition the members have a wealth of experience from many trades and may be able to help us in non-financial ways too. A big thank you to them for their support.

Charity Status

Friends of Whickham Parochial are now a registered charity! This means in certain cases we may be able to claim the tax back on donations you make to the 'Friends'. This will obviously mean we raise more money for school. Watch out for the 'Gift Aid' Box appearing on some reply slips soon and please tick it if you are a UK tax payer.

Recycling Month - February 2012

We're already planning for next year and we are hoping to take advantage of the many opportunities there are to raise funds for school by recycling unwanted items. More details in the new year but if you get a mobile phone for Christmas keep hold of the old one. We also expect to be able to collect printer cartridges and old clothes.

Don't be Disappointed...

As you know ourselves and the children put a lot of effort into tempting Steve Backshall into school. We have had a reply from his agent which is below. She was very impressed by our efforts and she is the agent for many other celebrities so you never know We will also be approach other celebrities to try to get exciting into school.

"I must start this email with a massive 'wow!'

The sheer amount of praise for Steve we've received from all the children of Whickham Parochial is immense! (I read every single letter!) I've never seen anything like it in my time here. We shall do our utmost best to make sure that Steve gets everything that you've sent us.

It's refreshing to see such a large group of children who are so interested in nature, especially to influence the school so much as to become a 'Forest School', and to the develop the outside learning environment. Steve would be proud to have so many fans that are devoted to nature, and those that are aware of its importance in their lives.

As an aside, I must say, I'm rather jealous of your resident Red Kites!

Unfortunately, although Steve would love to be able to be there, to help raise money on top of the fantastic £8,000 you've already gathered, he will currently be unable to appear at any function at this time.

This is due to a massive schedule move, which forced him to set back all of his filming six months. As a result of this, he is fully booked until 2013.

I really do apologise, as your cause is admirable, and these children really do deserve every chance to further their education, especially if it improves their understanding of the natural world that we live in.

I wish you the best of luck with raising the needed funds in the future!

Regards,"

Friends on Facebook

Following feedback from yourselves we have set up a Facebook group. If you are currently on our email distribution list you will receive an email inviting you to join the group. The advantages are that events and reminders can be flagged up on this page and should appear on your own personal pages too. The group will be carefully monitored in terms of membership and content and is for Friends events only and not school issues.