

Friends of Gooderstone AGM - 6th October 2025

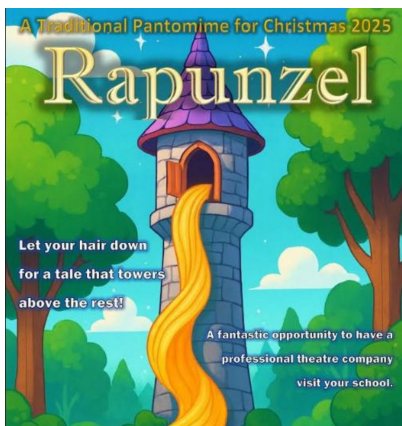
Chair's Report for 2024/25



The Friends have experienced a lot of change over the last 12 months. We've seen key members move on to new jobs/step down from committee duties. It has therefore been a year of learning, and trying to drum up support to keep going! The continued cost of living crisis is likely to be impacting our struggle for volunteer involvement, with increasing work commitments and issues with access to childcare, and we have seen an overall reduction in time and financial donations. Despite the adversity, there have been some amazing events and community efforts among members of the Friends, school staff, parents/carers, and the students this year...

We have held several Friends meetings throughout the year; the 'Picnic in the Park' meeting in April was well attended, and it was great to see parents, carers, and children together. This year a Facebook page has been set up for the Friends. We have also established support from some school Governors, who remain involved.

We were sad to see Ms Amor and Mrs Cross leave the school at the end of the summer term, and want to thank them for their dedication over their time supporting the Friends. Cake Fridays and the discos were highlights of the Friends' calendar, and would not have been possible without their efforts. Cake Fridays continued to be popular last year, and the standard of cake-making has been astounding! We continue to attempt to establish links with school staff to maintain a strong relationship/clear links for communication.



Students thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas disco!

Many parents helped out to make the event a success! The disco made a profit of £223, with the majority of students purchasing a ticket, having a go at the lucky dip, and getting a glitter tattoo, or two (with the help of some of our older students). Glow sticks were a big hit that night!

During the Christmas dinner at school, each child was given their own personalised Rudolph decoration. Toni worked tirelessly to make these, and I know the children loved finding theirs at the table on the day – thank you! Students also enjoyed the visiting Christmas Panto last year, funded by the Friends. We have booked the same company for this December, who will be putting on a production of Rapunzel in the school hall!

During the summer term ice lolly Fridays were popular although we saw a decline in Cake Friday contributions. The Friends purchased ice lollies for every student at Sports Day – it was a hot day and well-deserved treat! The final event of our year was the Summer Stalls, which included refreshments, cakes, flower sales, and teddy tombola. We had some fabulous bunting decorations – thanks to everyone who helped with the afternoon! Each class ran a stall selling their creations, and fundraising. It was great to see everyone working together, and the event was well-attended, raising a total of £268.



This is what our hard work has purchased this year:

- Christmas panto performance 2024 and 2025
- PA sound system for the school
- Science equipment
- Sports equipment
- Classroom resources
- Updated reading scheme books
- Year 6 leavers books and hoodies
- Subsidised trips (paid for transport and parking)

We would like to thank everyone that has been involved over the last 12 months, whatever the contribution – it all makes a difference! In particular, thanks go to Laura, Rosie and Sam who are stepping down this year; without them we couldn't have kept

The Friends going! I know Rosie and Sam are still keen to help out when possible. We also wanted to say a big thank you to El, Toni, and to Amy (who has continued to persevere with sorting out the banking this year). In the end we have concluded that we likely need to open a new bank account for the Friends to add new committee members.

Our main challenge this year will be establishing a new committee, and particularly a treasurer/vice-treasurer, and drumming up enough support to put on events. However, if we can do this, we look forward to school discos, raffle, Christmas wreath-making workshop, and generally supporting the community elements and home-school connections for our children.

The school would really like to purchase a standing pond so the children can do pond dipping and study life cycles etc, the Friends fundraising would aim to support this, as well as individual 'wish lists' for each class in the school. Parents/carers are welcome to make suggestions for resources and events to benefit students – please feel free to get in touch!

As a team we have had some brilliant fundraising ideas this year, and although many are aspirations, it would be great to take some of these forward in the future. These include sponsored events with athletes, yard sale, mobile petting zoo, summer festival, inflatables, Christmas grotto, Christmas photo shoot, school tea towels, Christmas card designs, summer BBQ...the list goes on! We have also discussed the possibility of joining with the Friends of Mundford School events.

The committee contacted local companies and have already established some donations towards a future raffle, including Gressinghall tickets, Bedingfeld Arms voucher, beer from a local brewery, and life coaching sessions! We also received some generous donations from families and businesses, which have been gratefully received.

Our thanks go out again to everyone who has supported the work of the Friends over the last year; strengthening the school community, and providing new opportunities and experiences for our children at Gooderstone.

We look forward to the year ahead,
Sophie & Sam (Co-Chairs 2024-25)