

FRIENDS OF THE ABBEY JMI SCHOOL

England & Wales · Charity number 802214

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1989-12-14

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Abbey C of E V A Primary School
Grove Road
St. Albans
AL1 1DQ

Phone 01727851802

Email friends@abbey.herts.sch.uk

Website www.abbey.herts.sch.uk/

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL BY PROVIDING AND ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR EDUCATION AT THE SCHOOL (NOT NORMALLY PROVIDED BY THE LEA).

Activities: To advance the education of pupils at the school by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the school (not normally provided by the LEA).

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CATCHMENT AREA OF ABBEY JMI SCHOOL
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£31,085	£79,958	-	-
2023-08-31	£32,774	£19,707	-	-
2022-08-31	£38,578	£12,018	-	-
2021-08-31	£28,651	£15,844	-	-
2020-08-31	£16,776	£15,437	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alice Harriet Clarissa Toon		2024-09-01
Elizabeth Annie Sitton		2024-06-01
Natalie McEvoy		2021-10-20
Rebecca Jane Murduck		2024-06-01

FRIENDS OF THE ABBEY JMI SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 802214

Accounts

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
Registered Charity 802214
Annual report 2023-24

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
c/o Abbey CE VA Primary School
Grove Road
St Albans AL1 1DQ

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Trustees Report

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Charitable Purpose

The object of the Friends is to advance the education of pupils at the Abbey CE VA Primary School by:

- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school; and
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

Activities during the year

This year, the Friends has engaged in various fundraising events and activities to support the school. Efforts have been made to enhance communication with parents through email newsletters, social media updates, and online parent meetings. These efforts have helped in securing the necessary funding for the Learning Hub.

Notable events this year were:

- *Welcome Back Barbecue!*

This early-evening barbecue event at the school included a bar and a large cinema screen. It was popular, bringing people together at the start of the academic year and raising £1,997.

- *A brand new event, Chinese New Year Fair!*

A Chinese New Year fair was chosen over a Christmas fair to celebrate the school's diverse cultures, raising £2,767.

- *Auction Party!*

Following last year's smaller event, a more formal gathering was held at St Albans Rugby Club with food, drink, music, dancing, and an auction. Although a very impressive £4,768 was raised, there were difficulties faced with ticket sales. The auction itself remained the most profitable fundraiser of the year, and it will continue to be scheduled for the upcoming year with a reconsideration of the accompanying social event.

- *The popular Summer fair!*

The summer fair remained one of the most attended events of the year, benefiting from favorable weather conditions. This was the first event organised by the new Chair, Rebecca Murduck, who maintained the successful format from previous years but also introduced a 'stage' for this year's event. This allowed children, external performers, and members of St Albans Cathedral clergy to perform throughout the event. The magician's performance was popular among the younger children. The event raised £4,139.

- *Other events*

A variety of fundraising events were organised, including school discos, movie nights, bake sales, and uniform sales. A new concept of a Christmas Fun Day for the children to enjoy a day of crafts and fun within school hours including a Santa's Grotto and an after school mince pie and refreshments with parents bought in £917. This enabled the Chinese New Year Fair to take place in early February to celebrate the whole school community and took a little pressure off the busy festive period and raised an impressive £2,767 as outlined above.

The first wreath making event took place in December which was hugely successful and raised £971.

As The Learning Hub was the biggest fundraiser there was a 'Sponsored Signature' initiative for a framed artwork with sponsors names to be added to the wall of the new space. This raised an extra £1,457.

The Friends' committee also continued to play a role as an informal sounding board for the Head for discussing other school issues with the parent body, contributing towards our first object.

Grants received

During the course of the financial year two grants were awarded to the Friends. One of these was from the Shanly Foundation which will be used to improve musical equipment and facilities at the school and the other from Hertfordshire Community Foundation. This was awarded for Ukueles again to enhance the school music lessons and give the opportunity for every child to learn an instrument.

Donations to the school

The Friends donated £72,620 to the school this year, mainly for the Learning Hub. The now-complete space allows children to read, study quietly, meet with teachers, and more. It has transformed an underutilised area, and the Friends are proud to have funded this successful initiative. Other donations to the school were for the school to buy Ukueles for the children to be able to play in their music lessons. This donation was funded by a grant received from the Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

Financial position

At the end of the year, the Charity held £15,613. The cycle of giving has been such that we raise funds first, and then donate these to the school. Historically, our policy has been to keep around six months of fundraising expenses in reserve, to enable us to both continue with our planned cycle of events and take advantage of new as yet unplanned fundraising activities. Traditionally we raise a lot of funds in late June and July - and we only agree spending of these at the start of the next term.

The financial statements are prepared on a cash basis (i.e., without accruing for spending commitments or income pledged but not yet received). The money is held in an account at HSBC. The general cycle of raising funds to be donated to the school within twelve months means that the charity does not currently have an investment portfolio and therefore has no investment policy.

Future plans

With the Learning Hub complete, the next fundraising focus is a dedicated music room. This will be created by converting a storage area in the main hall. Currently, there is no specific room for music lessons, so this new space will be ideal for them. Additionally, efforts will be made to enhance the school's outdoor spaces, including the recently established forest school area.

Governance

The Friends are an unincorporated association, registered as a charity (802214) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Friends adopted the current constitution in 2018-19, following the model set out by Parentkind, the representative body through which we get our insurance as well as advice, resources, access to discounts and our voice at a national level to government. The advantage of adopting this model constitution is that it is pre-approved by the Charity Commission. The revised constitution also enables the Friends to register for Gift Aid.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

- Sasha Brooke-Williams (resigned 1 June 2024)
- Louise Abel (resigned 1 June 2024)
- Natalie McEvoy
- Rebecca Murduck (appointed 1 June 2024)
- Elizabeth Sitton (appointed 1 June 2024)

Public benefit

In carrying out their activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Safeguarding

The Trustees have adopted the School's safeguarding policy in full, save that (as a matter of law), concerns must be reported to the Trustees rather than to the School. The Trustees received no concerns in respect of safeguarding during the year.

Approved by the Trustees



Natalie McEvoy, Trustee

	Receipts £	Payments £	Total £
Fairs			
Chinese New Year	3,437.78	(670.59)	2,767.19
Summer	5,619.49	(1,480.84)	4,138.65
	9,057.27	(2,151.43)	6,905.84
Parent fundraising events			
Welcome back BBQ	2,556.47	(559.20)	1,997.27
Auction party	8,192.39	(3,424.28)	4,768.11
	10,748.86	(3,983.48)	6,765.38
Smaller events			
Uniform sales	59.48	-	59.48
Break the Rules Day	49.18	-	49.18
St Albans Fun Run	406.22	-	406.22
Christmas Fun Day	916.70	-	916.70
Wreath making	971.15	-	971.15
Nativity	40.31	(75.60)	(35.29)
Movie Night	666.79	(42.00)	624.79
Bake and ice cream sales	405.98	(63.61)	342.37
School discos	877.79	(690.30)	187.49
	4,393.60	(871.51)	3,522.09
Charitable income			
Sponsored signatures – The Hub	1,457.21	-	1,457.21
Treasy	68.50	-	68.50
Easyfundraising	101.83	-	101.83
Christmas Cards	235.20	-	235.20
Gift aid	468.19	-	468.19
Sponsored sports kits	150.00	-	150.00
Grant income	4,000.00	-	4,000.00
Miscellaneous giving	404.04	-	404.04
	6,884.97	-	6,884.97
Charitable giving			
Donations to school		(72,619.63)	(72,619.63)
		(72,619.63)	(72,619.63)
Governance expenses			
Bank charges		(86.24)	(86.24)
Parentkind membership including insurance		(174.00)	(174.00)
Just Giving subsidies		(72.00)	(72.00)
		(332.24)	(332.24)
Total	31,084.70	(79,958.29)	(48,873.59)

	£
Opening bank balance as at 1/09/23	64,486.46
Receipts	31,084.70
Payments	(79,958.29)
Closing bank balance as at 31/08/24	15,612.87

Balance sheet i.e. statement of assets and liabilities as at 31/08/24

Bank	15,612.87
	15,612.87

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School –
Registered charity 802214**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the receipts and payments accounts of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School for the year ended 31/08/2024.

Charitable Purpose

As the charity trustees of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination, I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elizabeth Heycock ACA

25th June 2025

FRIENDS OF THE ABBEY JMI SCHOOL

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Trustees Report

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Charitable Purpose

The object of the Friends is to advance the education of pupils at the Abbey CE VA Primary School by:

- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school; and
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

Activities during the year

After a couple of years badly impacted by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, this year was back to normal in terms of the Friends' pattern of fundraising. However, we suffered a reduction in usual number of parent volunteers, so events had to be rationalised for practical reasons. Reasons for this may vary and are speculative; no question there was some reticence to crowd closely post - pandemic, combined possibly with a reaction to the upheaval felt as a change in school leadership bedded down, for example.

Notable events this year were:

- *The first Welcome Back Barbecue ever held!*

This outdoor, barbecue-centred, early-evening event in the school grounds featured a bar and a large cinema screen and proved a very popular start to the academic year. It was perfectly judged as a post-summer social and executed very successfully thanks largely to the new co -Chairs Sasha Brooke-Williams and Caroline Trotman. We raised over £2,125 and plan to repeat this event.

- *A Ball and Auction at the Horn; a Spring Social!*

This event was held on smaller scale than the previous year's St Michael's Manor school ball. A local bar was hired and hosted music, dancing, a live band and auction through the evening. Despite its relatively small scale, the evening raised an impressive £5,338.

- *Yet another record-breaking summer fair, raising £4,732!*

Benefitting from good weather and an enthusiasm and zest for a fair that only the previous years' Covid cancellations can explain, this fair again topped previous records.

- *A Winter fair back on the schedule after last year's cancellation.*

The Winter fair was busy and families were incredibly generous with their spending, allowing this event to chase hot on the heels of the summer fair in profit terms, raising £4,693.

A wide range of other fundraising events took place – a mini marathon, the third Abbey Calendar, popcorn nights and school discos, as well as a new concept: the Abbey Challenge, which encouraged every child to plan a fundraising event and to cast their donations net wider than the usual school community – took the total raised for the year to £32,774. The Trustees would like to thank every single parent, child and wider family and friends who helped to do this – we can't name you all, but it was a huge achievement – every penny counts, and we couldn't have done it without you.

The Friends' committee also continued to play a role as an informal sounding board for the Head for discussing other school issues with the parent body, contributing towards our first object.

Donations to the school

The Friends donated £12,555 to the school, funding amongst other things a new phonics scheme, a visiting planetarium, sports equipment, the school website and a new video to attract applicants to fill school spaces. Last year's accounts spoke of a surplus build up to support the Learning Hub project, which has been being designed for next financial year by re-jigging existing spaces in the school to better effect.

Financial position

At the end of the year, the Charity held £64,626. The cycle of giving has been such that we raise funds first, and then donate these to the school. Historically, our policy has been to keep around six months of fundraising expenses in reserve, to enable us to both continue with our planned cycle of events and take advantage of new as yet unplanned fundraising activities. Traditionally we raise a lot of funds in late June and July - and we only agree spending of these at the start of the next term. With the Learning Hub project to save up for, we agreed with the School's Governing Body that we would hold this money to fund that in the second half of Summer 2023.

The financial statements are prepared on a cash basis (i.e., without accruing for spending commitments or income pledged but not yet received). The money (apart from a cash float of £140) is held in an account at HSBC. The general cycle of raising funds to be donated to the school within twelve months means that the charity does not currently have an investment portfolio and therefore has no investment policy.

Future plans

The main focus of the year was building funds for the Learning Hub project, which will transform the existing space in the school – breakout spaces, places for group work, an area for children to use IT equipment, a calm environment for quiet study or a place to relax with a book – allowing for better learning for all the children, more space for extracurricular events, a wider range of options for children of differing abilities to learn at their own pace, and more! We are pleased to announce that the Hub will now be implemented in late Summer 2023, with a grand opening in the new school year from September 2023.

Governance

The Friends are an unincorporated association, registered as a charity (802214) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Friends adopted the current constitution in 2018-19, following the model set out by Parentkind, the representative body through which we get our insurance as well as advice, resources, access to discounts and our voice at a national level to government. The advantage of adopting this model constitution is that it is pre-approved by the Charity Commission. The revised constitution also enables the Friends to register for Gift Aid.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

- Sasha Brooke-Williams
- Caroline Trotman
- Natalie McEvoy
- Louise Abel

Public benefit

In carrying out their activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Safeguarding

The Trustees have adopted the School's safeguarding policy in full, save that (as a matter of law), concerns must be reported to the Trustees rather than to the School. The Trustees received no concerns in respect of safeguarding during the year.

Approved by the Trustees

Natalie McEvoy, Treasurer and Trustee

	Receipts	Payments	Total
	£	£	£
Fairs			
Christmas	5,908.90	(1,215.52)	4,693.38
Summer	6,929.83	(2,198.08)	4,731.75
	<u>12,838.73</u>	<u>(3,413.60)</u>	<u>9,425.13</u>
Parent fundraising events			
Welcome back BBQ	3,371.93	(1,246.37)	2,125.56
Ball and auction	6,219.00	(880.67)	5,338.33
	<u>9,590.93</u>	<u>(2,127.04)</u>	<u>7,463.89</u>
Smaller events			
Uniform sales	27.39	-	27.39
Mini marathon	1,812.51	-	1,812.51
Challenge Abbey	1,581.16	-	1,581.16
Popcorn night	675.00	(560.00)	115.00
Bake and ice cream sales	659.61	-	659.61
Sponsored litter pick	101.40	-	101.40
Artwork sale	415.15	-	415.15
Calendar	730.00	-	730.00
School discos	1,011.65	(802.20)	209.45
	<u>7,013.87</u>	<u>(1,362.20)</u>	<u>5,651.67</u>
Charitable income			
Treasy	112.50	-	112.50
Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile	486.47	-	486.47
Gift aid	637.57	-	637.57
Sponsored sports kits	1,401.57	-	1,401.57
Yoga event	156.00	-	156.00
Art competition	335.50	-	335.50
Miscellaneous giving	201.21	-	201.21
	<u>3,330.82</u>	-	<u>3,330.82</u>
Charitable giving			
Donations to school		(12,555.13)	(12,555.13)
		<u>(12,555.13)</u>	<u>(12,555.13)</u>
Governance expenses			
Bank charges		(88.33)	(88.33)
Parent/dnd (formerly PTA.co.uk) membership including insurance		(161.00)	(161.00)
		<u>(249.33)</u>	<u>(249.33)</u>
Total	<u>32,774.35</u>	<u>(19,707.30)</u>	<u>13,067.05</u>

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Friends of the Abbey JMI School

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Friends of the Abbey JMI School, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *El Legrock*

Name: ELIZABETH HEYCOCK

Address: 22 ABBEY VIEW ROAD, ST ALBANUS, AL3 9QL

Date: 30 JUNE 2024.

FRIENDS OF THE ABBEY JMI SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 802214

Accounts

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
Registered Charity 802214
Annual report 2021-22

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
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Trustees Report

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Charitable Purpose

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- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school; and
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

Activities during the year

Coming out of the Covid-19 crisis, restrictions were lifted and fundraising by the Friends was resumed, albeit with many families wary to gather in large numbers.

We were thankfully able to hold both Christmas and Summer fairs during this accounts year, albeit that many of the fund raising activities on offer at the Christmas fair were stripped back to ensure social distancing and, where possible, to keep people outside or in the most ventilated spaces. For these reasons, we raised a lower than usual sum of £1,195.79 at the Christmas fair. The Summer fair was less impacted by Covid concerns as it is almost entirely outside by habit, and raised £4,743.73.

For the first time in perhaps six years, a Ball was held in March for school parents and friends. This was by far the biggest earner for the Friends, raising £10,882.98. It was pitched as a premium event and held at St Michael's Manor, a luxury boutique hotel close to the school. Tickets were accordingly sold at premium prices and bolt-ons such as a gambling table, auction and raffle helped increase donations through the evening. All agreed that in order to ensure such generosity is not abused, the Ball will likely not become an annual event; people definitely "splurged" because the event was a one-off and as it was well timed with the lifting of Covid restrictions.

The Wild Camping was once again a popular conclusion to the school year, raising £2,743.04. Income was from ticket sales as well as bolt-ons such as help putting tents up, food (BBQ and pizza) and drink (bar and soft drinks) stalls, face painting and water guns and a popular sweet shop.

Aside from that, the annual Quiz night raised £252.66 and the Pilates and Prosecco night raised £60.

Smaller events provided real boosts to the fundraising totals: the mini marathon raised £2,564.32 and generated a fabulous spirit amongst the children, who were thrilled to run laps of the school. Bake sales continued to perform well, raising £1,274.07, and the calendar to which the children contributed their own artwork raised £1,300.86. Popcorn nights, where the children stay behind after school to watch a film and eat popcorn, were extremely popular, raising £855.08. Smaller but valuable contributions were made up of second hand uniform sales, "Break the Rules Day", ice cream sales and the School Disco.

Easyfundraising and AmazonSmile payments continued to provide us with a boost, totalling £587.58. Marshalling at the local half marathon earned the Friends £1,291.40 and parents contributed generously to sponsored events such as the sponsored bounce, non-uniform days and miscellaneous donations.

The Friends' committee also continued to play a role as an informal sounding board for the Head for discussing other school issues with the parent body, contributing towards our first object.

Donations to the school

The Friends donated £3,302.82 to the school. This was largely on IT projects – sixty Chromebooks were funded, as well as the 'back end' needed to run Google Classroom.

This provided the school with a more modern platform for online learning and more flexible ways to set and receive work. This future-proofed home learning to a degree, noting parental concerns about the quality of learning during the lockdown and the importance of learning from pandemic lessons.

This donation also provided the school with more up-to-date IT for use in school, which could be moved around between classrooms. This helped during the late Spring and Summer, when classes were bubbled – it being easier to sanitise IT and move it between classrooms than to move children around the school and try and sanitise the whole IT suite. Older, obsolete IT could then be redeployed by the school to families struggling to provide a laptop or tablet for online learning.

The Friends donation also laid the groundwork for the learning hub project

Financial position

At the end of the year, the Charity held £51,559.41. The cycle of giving has been such that we raise funds first, and then donate these to the school. Historically, our policy has been to keep around six months of fundraising expenses in reserve, to enable us to both continue with our planned cycle of events and take advantage of new as yet unplanned fundraising activities. Traditionally we raise a lot of funds in late June and July - and we only agree spending of these at the start of the next term. The effect of this was less this year but had been starting to earmark funds for the 'Abbey Cabin' project, described under 'Future Plans' below, although these have not yet been formally designated by the Trustees.

The financial statements are prepared on a cash basis (i.e., without accruing for spending commitments or income pledged but not yet received). The money (apart from a cash float of £140) is held in an account at HSBC. The general cycle of raising funds to be donated to the school within twelve months means that the charity does not currently have an investment portfolio and therefore has no investment policy.

Future plans

Over the last year, the Friends have been developing a longer-term vision for funding.

- The 'Abbey Cabin' project was an imaginative plan to provide additional space to the school, with a purpose-built wooden cabin in the grounds. One of the biggest challenges to enriching the school's provision is lack of space – space that could also be used by the wider community as provision in this part of central St Albans is sorely lacking. This project captivated the imagination of the school community and provided the "YO" for the Ball and several other of the larger fundraising efforts during this accounts year.
- At the time of concluding this accounts reporting, the Abbey Cabin has been reconsidered owing to a feasibility interrogation carefully initiated by the incoming new Head and Chair of Governors. However, during the reported accounts year it was the vision and driver and accordingly merits referencing. A reimagined version of the Abbey Cabin project is under formulation and focus has merely shifted as opposed to waning.
- The new Headteacher's vision for a Learning Hub in an area which used to house computers which are now stored in classrooms – is well underway. This will meet the educational needs of the school, whilst also allowing greater flexibility in community use – not least because the hall would have breakout space immediately next door rather than in a separate building. This is in effect a 'virtual' cabin project – allowing the school (with support from the Friends) to deliver the cabin's aims at a lower cost, with less financial and execution risk.
- Fundraising to date – and during 2022-2023 – will also allow:
 - transformation of the school entrance area – providing a warmer welcome for the

- community and parents; and
- other key projects to both enhance the school day for the children (e.g. refreshing some of the outside classroom areas and forest school area).

These plans will also enhance the attractiveness of the school to prospective parents -- recognising that maintaining pupil numbers is necessary to maintain the current staffing mix which delivers so many of the additional extras the school offers in the curriculum.

Governance

The Friends are an unincorporated association, registered as a charity (802214) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Friends adopted the current constitution in 2018-19, following the model set out by Parentkind, the representative body through which we get our insurance as well as advice, resources, access to discounts and our voice at a national level to government. The advantage of adopting this model constitution is that it is pre-approved by the Charity Commission. The revised constitution also enables the Friends to register for Gift Aid.

The Trustees who served during the year were Astrid Rees (chair) and Richard Gillin (treasurer), each of whom served throughout the year, together with Emma Fenn (headteacher) who resigned at the June AGM (in anticipation of her leaving the school at the end of August) and Harriet McTurk (secretary) who formally became a trustee in Emma's place. Natalie McEvoy became a Trustee in October 2021 in order to transition into the Treasurer role fully by September 2022 on Richard Gillin's departure from the school. Astrid and Harriet stood down at the June 2022 AGM and Sasha Brooke-Williams and Caroline Trotman were appointed as co-chairs supported by Louise Abel as secretary; these roles to take effect once the necessary Charity Commission declarations have been completed in July.

As ever, the Trustees were supported by a wider committee of parents – including class representatives, our secretary (Harriet McTurk), second-hand uniform co-ordinator (Catherine Burgess and Caroline Trotman), bursary team (Harriet McTurk and Louise Abel), auction and advertising co-ordinator (Jo West) and other keen volunteers. Danielle Crossman has ably assisted with the Treasury role, volunteering a large number of hours to the Friends, especially in relation to the preparation of these accounts. The Trustees are grateful to them, and to the large number of other parents who have helped put on our programme during the year to raise funds for the school. Special thanks go to Wayne and Karina Gardner who have also clocked up seven years of service – Karina has been a member of the committee since her daughter started in reception, organising several big parent events including a "Cheese and Fizz" event still talked about years later, and Wayne has provided his professional DJ skills for free at a lot of events whilst supporting the school with technical and video skills and designing many of the posters used to promote Friends' events.

Public benefit

In carrying out their activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

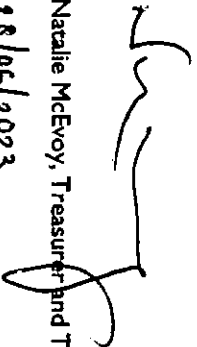
Safeguarding

The Trustees have adopted the School's safeguarding policy in full, save that (as a matter of law), concerns must be reported to the Trustees rather than to the School. In practice, as the headteacher is the Trustee nominated to deal with any concerns, this makes no substantive difference. The Trustees received no concerns in respect of safeguarding during the year.

Farewell

Speaking personally, this annual report has been Richard Gillin's last act as treasurer and trustee, as Ben's time at the school comes to an end. Even before the recent summer fair and next month's wild camping, during Richard's time on the committee the Friends raised over £134,700 towards the school – the Friends really do make a difference! Having worked with Sasha, Caroline, Natalie and Louise over the more recent years, Richard has every confidence that they will continue to lead the parents in supporting the school with a wide mix of events and activities, whilst ensuring the parents and children have fun, generating lots of positive buzz about the school!

Approved by the Trustees



Natalie McEvoy, Treasurer and Trustee
28/06/2023

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
Receipts and Payments Accounts 2021-22

	Receipts	Payments	Total
	£	£	£
Fairs			
Christmas	1,337.39	(141.60)	1,195.79
Summer	5,184.83	(441.10)	4,743.73
	<u>6,522.22</u>	<u>(582.70)</u>	<u>5,939.52</u>
Parent fundraising events			
Quiz	464.95	(212.29)	252.66
Plates and Prosecco	60.00	-	60.00
Ball	16,251.58	(5,368.60)	10,882.98
Wild camping	3,973.97	(1,230.93)	2,743.04
	<u>20,750.50</u>	<u>(6,811.82)</u>	<u>13,938.68</u>
Smaller events			
Uniform sales	140.02	-	140.02
Mini marathon	2,564.32		2,564.32
Popcorn night	966.74	(111.66)	855.08
Bake sale	1,274.07	-	1,274.07
Beak the rules day	153.49	-	153.49
Calendar	1,657.86	(357.00)	1,300.86
Leaver's disco	-	(275.00)	(275.00)
School disco	680.76	(275.00)	405.76
Ice cream sales	268.00	(43.20)	224.80
	<u>7,705.26</u>	<u>(1,061.86)</u>	<u>6,643.40</u>
Charitable Income			
Sponsored skip/bounce	434.36	(60.00)	374.36
Treasury	97.00	-	97.00
Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile	587.58	-	587.58
Half maraton marshalling	1,291.40	-	1,291.40
Green week donation	90.00	-	90.00
Miscellaneous giving	1,100.12	-	1,100.12
	<u>3,600.46</u>	<u>(60.00)</u>	<u>3,540.46</u>
Charitable giving			
Donations to school		(3,302.82)	(3,302.82)
		<u>(3,302.82)</u>	<u>(3,302.82)</u>
Governance expenses			
Bank charges		(82.45)	(82.45)
Parentkind (formerly PTAcouk) membership including insurance		(116.00)	(116.00)
		<u>(198.45)</u>	<u>(198.45)</u>
Total	<u>36,578.44</u>	<u>(12,017.65)</u>	<u>26,560.79</u>

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
Receipts and Payments Accounts 2021-22

Opening balances as at 1/9/21

Bank
Cash In hand

£
24,858.62
140.00
24,998.62

Receipts
Payments

38,578.44
(12,017.65)

Closing balance as at 31/8/22

Being

Bank
Cash in hand

51,559.41
51,419.41
140.00
51,559.41

Surplus to date
Donations

29,863.61
(3,302.82)
26,560.79

Balance sheet i.e. statement of assets and liabilities as at 31/8/22

Bank
Cash In hand

51,419.41
140.00
51,559.41

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Friends of the Abbey JMI School

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Friends of the Abbey JMI School, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable

Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *El Heycock*
Name: ELIZABETH HEYCOCK, ACA
Address: 22 ABBEY VIEW ROAD, ST ALBANS, AL3 4QL
Date: 26th JUNE 2023.

FRIENDS OF THE ABBEY JMI SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 802214

Accounts

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
Registered Charity 802214
Annual report 2020-21

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
c/o Abbey CE VA Primary School
Grove Road
St Albans AL1 1DQ

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Trustees Report

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Charitable Purpose

The object of the Friends is to advance the education of pupils at the Abbey CE VA Primary School by:

- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school; and
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

Activities during the year

As last year, fundraising by the Friends was significantly curtailed due to the Covid-19 crisis:

- The school was again closed to pupils (with the exception of key workers) for part of the year; throughout the rest of the year, it was often illegal (or unwise) for parents to gather in large numbers for fundraising events.
- The priority of the school, and of the Friends, and of the parents who would normally be fundraising, was clearly the health, wellbeing and safety of the children.

The year was therefore a continued effort to raise funds through events held online, through individual challenges, and through kind donations. The bursary team, led by Louise Abel, also sought funding from grant giving bodies – successfully securing £12,300 towards the Cabin Project.

The core fundraising efforts – outside of the grants raised – brought in £14,646. This is a superb achievement and testament to the dedication of our parents, children and other supporters – our last pre-Covid year raised £22,221 and included two large in-person fairs raising over £11,437. These included

- Sponsored events - we were lucky that Matt Cooper ran a marathon to support the Friends, receiving match funding from his employer, and that quite a few of the children did their own “mini-fundraisers” – securing sponsorship and Gift Aid. The children were thanked personally by the Headteacher with Abbey Ace cards – challenges included both physical – bike riding, running and the like – and mental – for example a book reading challenge and a sponsored silence!
- Virtual events provided entertainment for the parents whilst raising funds – John Gardner and Chris Bennett lifting the mood from “oh no, not another Zoom quiz” to “one of the most fun lockdown evenings ever”, with Sasha Brooke-Williams and Ali Parker bringing us somewhat calmer Pilates and yoga nights.
- Parents set to arranging trails around St Albans, organising tea-towels and calendars with the children’s artwork, and an online auction and raffle.

Many of our other activities continued as they had done in the first Lockdown:

- Second hand-uniform sales, with uniform handed over in a Covid-secure way, continued to go from strength to strength. Increased marketing by Catherine Burgess raised awareness amongst parents.
- Fundraising through Easyfundraising and (new this year) Amazon smile continued. The volume of online shopping sales held up at Easyfundraising, although their payments came in later and we (naturally) did not benefit from the larger payments relating to holidays.

The Friends' committee also continued to play a role as an informal sounding board for the Head for discussing other school issues with the parent body, contributing towards our first object.

Donations to the school

The Friends donated £14,139.40 to the school. This was largely on IT projects – sixty Chromebooks were funded, as well as the 'back end' needed to run Google Classroom. This:

- Provided the school with a more modern platform for online learning, including the ability to run Google Meets securely and at scale during the Winter lockdown and more flexible ways to set and receive work – again, used during the Winter lockdown and subsequently for homework. This addressed, in part, parental concerns about the quality of lockdown learning.
- Provided the school with more up-to-date IT for use in school, which could be moved around between classrooms. This helped during the late Spring and Summer, when classes were bubbled – it being easier to sanitise IT and move it between classrooms than to move children around the school and try and sanitise the whole IT suite. Older, obsolete IT could then be redeployed by the school to families struggling to provide a laptop or tablet for online learning.
- Laid the groundwork for the learning hub project.

Financial position

At the end of the year, the Charity held £24,999. The cycle of giving has been such that we raise funds first, and then donate these to the school. Historically, our policy has been to keep around six months of fundraising expenses in reserve, to enable us to both continue with our planned cycle of events and take advantage of new as yet unplanned fundraising activities. Traditionally we raise a lot of funds in late June and July - and we only agree spending of these at the start of the next term. The effect of this was less this year but had been starting to earmark funds for the 'Abbey Cabin' project, described under 'Future Plans' below, although these have not yet been formally designated by the Trustees.

The financial statements are prepared on a cash basis (i.e., without accruing for spending commitments or income pledged but not yet received). The money (apart from a cash float of £140) is held in an account at HSBC. The general cycle of raising funds to be donated to the school within twelve months means that the charity does not currently have an investment portfolio and therefore has no investment policy.

Future plans

Over the last year, the Friends have been developing a longer-term vision for funding.

- The 'Abbey Cabin' project was an imaginative plan to provide additional space to the school, with a purpose-built wooden cabin in the grounds. One of the biggest challenges to enriching the school's provision is lack of space – space that could also be used by the wider community as provision in this part of central St Albans is sorely lacking.
- Since the year end, the new Headteacher and Governors have discussed with the Friends the best way to deliver this project in the light of changing market conditions. Prices of raw materials have shot up since Brexit, and additional fundraising would be needed – at the time of writing in June 2021, we'd raised (including grants) around 80% of the funding based on our first estimates – but only around 50% of the latest costs. These higher costs also included an increased estimate of the costs of ensuring that archaeological concerns around planning would be met – given that the cabin site would require digging trenches for

electricity and water as well as laying of a concrete base. Another local school's building project was delayed for several months after an unexpected Roman find!

- Moving the IT into the classrooms has left the IT suite – a fully sized classroom space – empty and ripe for reuse – without the need to provide water for drinks and toilets and a new electricity supply. The new Headteacher's vision for a learning hub in this space – including library provision, music provision, breakout area provision and more – would meet the educational needs of the school, whilst also allowing greater flexibility in community use – not least because the hall would have breakout space immediately next door rather than in a separate building. This is in effect a 'virtual' cabin project – allowing the school (with support from the Friends) to deliver the cabin's aims at a lower cost, with less financial and execution risk.
- Fundraising to date – and during 2022-2023 – will also allow:
 - transformation of the school entrance area – providing a warmer welcome for the community and parents; and
 - other key projects to both enhance the school day for the children (e.g., refreshing some of the outside classroom areas and forest school area).

These plans will also enhance the attractiveness of the school to prospective parents – recognising that maintaining pupil numbers is necessary to maintain the current staffing mix which delivers so many of the additional extras the school offers in the curriculum.

Governance

The Friends are an unincorporated association, registered as a charity (802214) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Friends adopted the current constitution in 2018-19, following the model set out by Parentkind, the representative body through which we get our insurance as well as advice, resources, access to discounts and our voice at a national level to government. The advantage of adopting this model constitution is that it is pre-approved by the Charity Commission. The revised constitution also enables the Friends to register for Gift Aid.

The Trustees who served during the year were Astrid Rees (chair) and Richard Gillin (treasurer), each of whom served throughout the year, together with Emma Fenn (headteacher) who resigned at the June AGM (in anticipation of her leaving the school at the end of August) and Harriet McTurk (secretary) who formally became a trustee in Emma's place. Since the year end, Natalie McEvoy became a Trustee in October 2021 in order to transition into the treasurer role, and with Astrid and Harriet also standing down at the June 2022 AGM, the appointment of Sasha Brooke-Williams and Caroline Trotman as co-chairs supported by Louise Abel as secretary – these roles to take effect once the necessary Charity Commission declarations have been completed in July.

As ever, the Trustees were supported by a wider committee of parents – including class representatives, our secretary (Harriet McTurk), second-hand uniform co-ordinator (Catherine Burgess and Caroline Trotman), bursary team (Harriet McTurk and Louise Abel), auction and advertising co-ordinator (Jo West) and other keen volunteers. The Trustees are grateful to them, and to the large number of other parents who have helped put on our programme during the year to raise funds for the school. Special thanks go to Wayne and Karina Gardner who have also clocked up seven years of service – Karina has been a member of the committee since her daughter started in reception, organising several big parent events including a "Cheese and Fizz" event still talked about years later, and Wayne has provided his professional DJ skills for free at a lot of events whilst supporting the school with technical and video skills and designing many of the posters used to promote Friends' events.

Public benefit

In carrying out their activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

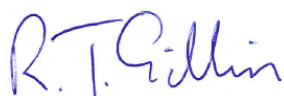
Safeguarding

The Trustees have adopted the School's safeguarding policy in full, save that (as a matter of law), concerns must be reported to the Trustees rather than to the School. In practice, as the headteacher is the Trustee nominated to deal with any concerns, this makes no substantive difference. The Trustees received no concerns in respect of safeguarding during the year.

Farewell

Speaking personally, this annual report is almost my last act as treasurer and trustee, as Ben's time at the school comes to an end. Even before the recent summer fair and next month's wild camping, during my time on the committee the Friends have raised over £134,700 towards the school – the Friends really do make a difference! Having worked with Sasha, Caroline, Natalie and Louise over the more recent years, I have every confidence that they will continue to lead the parents in supporting the school with a wide mix of events and activities, whilst ensuring the parents and children have fun. Their first summer fair figures aren't quite finalised, but it looks to have been a great success and it was so good to see families having fun – and hearing lots of positive buzz about the school!

Approved by the Trustees



Richard Gillin, Treasurer and Trustee
30 June 2021

	Receipts	Payments	Total
	£	£	£
Fairs			
Christmas	1,010.00	(346.45)	663.55
Summer	200.00	-	200.00
	1,210.00	(346.45)	863.55
Parent fundraising events			
Quiz	537.64	-	537.64
Pilates and Prosecco	237.46	-	237.46
Yoga night	225.80	-	225.80
	1,000.90	-	1,000.90
Smaller events			
Uniform sales	538.64	-	538.64
Hannah Sessions prints	63.20	-	63.20
Helping hand	280.00	-	280.00
Christmas and Easter Trails	150.71	-	150.71
Beak the rules day	423.71	-	423.71
Virtual balloon race	311.72	-	311.72
Tea towels	1,062.07	(587.40)	474.67
Calendar	1,181.93	(435.04)	746.89
Leaver's disco	-	(225.00)	(225.00)
	4,011.98	(1,247.44)	2,764.54
Charitable income			
Grant income	12,300.00	-	12,300.00
Sponsored skip/bounce	211.00	-	211.00
Treeasy	70.00	-	70.00
Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile	295.85	-	295.85
Christmas cards	368.00	-	368.00
Donate-a-book scheme	156.04	-	156.04
Marathon - sponsored	4,271.89	-	4,271.89
Minifundraisers	4,019.66	-	4,019.66
Bike theft donation	379.63	-	379.63
Miscellaneous giving	355.59	-	355.59
	22,427.66	-	22,427.66
Charitable giving			
Donations to school		(14,139.40)	(14,139.40)
		(14,139.40)	(14,139.40)
Governance expenses			
Meeting expenses		-	-
Lotteries licence		-	-
Parentkind (formerly PTA.co.uk) membership including insurance		(111.00)	(111.00)
		(111.00)	(111.00)
Total	28,650.54	(15,844.29)	12,806.25

Opening balances as at 1/9/20	£
Bank	12,052.37
Cash in hand	140.00
	<u>12,192.37</u>
Receipts	28,650.54
Payments	(15,844.29)
	<u>24,998.62</u>
Closing balance as at 31/8/21	<u>24,998.62</u>
Being	
Bank	24,858.62
Cash in hand	140.00
	<u>24,998.62</u>
	<u>24,998.62</u>
Surplus to date	26,945.65
Donations	(14,139.40)
	<u>12,806.25</u>
	<u>12,806.25</u>
Balance sheet i.e. statement of assets and liabilities as at 31/8/21	
Bank	24,858.62
Cash in hand	140.00
	<u>24,998.62</u>
	<u>24,998.62</u>

Richard Gillin, Treasurer and Trustee
30 June 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School – Registered charity 802214

I report to the trustees on my examination of the receipts and payments accounts of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School for the year ended 31 August 2021 which are set out on pages 6 and 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Rachael Lyon, FCA
48 Tennyson Drive, St Albans, AL2 3HY
30 June 2020