

Sma Chairman's Report for 2016

March 2017

A very warm welcome to you all, and many thanks for attending The SMA's Annual General Meeting.

The Valentine Disco in February raised £606.88 and was, as always, thoroughly enjoyed by girls and boys from St Mary's, Maltmans, Gayhurst and Thorpe. This year a new group of ladies took over the organisation and running of the discos, which they did brilliantly! Thank you to Catherine Pianta McGill, Sophie Hayes and their team for your time, support and efficiency in making these a success, we look forward to more in the future.

Following our last AGM, the next event was our annual **Fun Day** held after the Prep Department Sports Morning. With a selection of stalls put together by our Prep Dept classes, inflatable slide and castle, Pimms and cake stalls and our delicious barbecue food (again supplied by our trusted butchers- Warners and kindly prepared by our School Chef) the afternoon was enjoyed by all. This event made £963.95.

For **Father's Day**, we held a sale in the Oakdene Hall, as we had for Mothers Day, enabling the girls in all years to come along and buy a gift for their Fathers, which they enjoyed and which made £90 for our fund.

Regrettably we had to firstly postpone the proposed Wild West Barn Dance Evening, scheduled for June, and then cancel it in September, due to a lack of response.

The **SMA Bursary** of £300 was awarded to Miss Harriet Stallard, of the then Year 13, presented in July at Speech Day. We wish her all the very best in her future education.

We also welcomed Mrs George Jeffers to the SMA Committee and would like to say a special thank you to her for setting up and organising the **100 club**, which, whilst we were unsure whether it would be successful, turned out to be quite so, raising a very welcome £300 for our fund. Lucky members are currently enjoying their winnings, 1 draw every month, with 2 draws made in December, we hope to continue to run this going forward.

We finished off the academic year with a delightful '**Thank You Breakfast**' get together, laid on by Mrs Ross and St Mary's for the SMA and Class Reps where we all enjoyed tea, coffee and some delicious pastries.

As we settled back into a new school year in September, we welcomed our new Class Reps and held the ever popular **Bingo Evening**. This was hugely successful, being full to capacity with parents, girls, siblings, staff and most of the year 7 girls as added fun to their overnight camping stay at the school. With nibbles, pizza, drinks and a bar, our special resident Bingo caller, Martin, put together some great games with cash prizes. A really fun evening was enjoyed by everyone and made a fabulous £632.

Our annual Christmas **Frost Fair** followed this and with a welcome donation and sponsorship by local agents, Gibbs Gillespie, the Fair was, as ever, enjoyed by many visitors, young and old. We had a truly great selection of outside stallholders, the most we have ever had, a lot of whom really enjoyed being part of it and hope to return this year! A big thank you to Cat Gabriel for organising them and fitting them all in! With our class stalls, again very well put together, beautifully decorated and for all ages to enjoy, tasty food served at our Café, Mulled Wine and Xmas puddings, and our fabulous Santa and his grotto, everyone, including us, really enjoyed it and the festive ambience! The basket and hampers for the Raffle so kindly made up and donated by all classes were amazing, and made lovely prizes and a very successful raffle! Frost Fair in total raising a very pleasing £4101.88.

The **Christmas Card Project** once again was welcomed at this busy time, especially in the Prep Dept where many girls and families sent in drawings, designs and photographs to make some special Christmas cards, wrapping paper, tags and mugs for gifts. This made £91.00 for our fund.

Vouchers to the value of £35 were also presented to us from Rowan Garden Centre in Chalfont St Giles for **Christmas Trees** sold (and a percentage given back to us) These will be included in a raffle prize or given to the school.

We finally rounded off 2016 with the Prep Dept **Christmas Parties**, which the girls of all ages attended. Two parties of different ages, with the fantastic entertainer Paula, were enjoyed by the girls. With tea and a visit and gift from Santa and his elf, all the girls had a fun filled hour and a half.

The **Easyfundraising** plan which we started last year has so far raised £351.18 which has been credited to our account. This is such an effortless way of raising funds and details of how to be a part of this and set it up are repeatedly listed in the school newsletter. It really is so easy and as online shopping etc. is so widely used by everyone nowadays we will continue to promote this hopefully raising more and more!

We were also very kindly given a donation of £52.50 from last year's Year 11 group who had funds left over from their own organised prom and sent it to us, which was very nice of them.

So our fundraising total for 2016 came to in excess of £7,000.

As ever, this is most pleasing and we look forward to an even higher amount this year, 2017, as we have our 'Spring Ball' at the end of April, being held at Heatherden Hall in Pinewood Studios. I am very pleased to confirm this event is sold out thus reaching the maximum of 188 guests!

We are very excited about this and are looking forward to a fabulous and glamorous evening! We have some great auction prizes, details of which we will be sending out to everyone very soon, as well as fantastic entertainment, a champagne reception, 3 course dinner with wine, casino, photographer and lots more to enjoy!

We also have the Mother's Day Sale on Friday this week, the Easter Egg Hunt at the end of term and the usual Fun Day and Frost Fair as well as another Family Portrait Day, hopefully in October, all to look forward to this year!

My deepest thanks, as always, to all of the SMA Committee, for their continued help and time given ensuring our events are a success. A special thank you to Mrs Ross for her ongoing support and loyalty, to Mr Martin our Bursar who we welcomed to St Mary's this year and who has given the SMA much help and support, to all the Office staff, who are always so kind and willing to help, our Caretakers Mr Long, Mr Gutteridge and Mr Peterson for all their help, time and muscle, which is invaluable, and as ever to all our parents for their support, generosity and participation in our fundraising, a huge thank you!

Finally, it is with much sadness that I have decided that this will be my last year with the SMA (12 years – by then is probably enough!) but I look forward to the coming year with the events planned and will be ensuring that it will be a really good one!

Thank you all again

This concludes the Chairman's report for 2016

Julie Hurst

Chairman

