

Friends of English Martyrs' AGM 4th March 2022

Treasurer's report

Introduction

I am pleased to report the annual accounts for the charity and in spite of the ongoing pandemic, I believe that we can still be proud of our achievements this year.

Financial results

The accounts I have prepared for the year ended 31st August 2021 have been prepared on a cash basis.

Total income for the year was £5,864 which is £654 more than last year (12.5% increase). Compared to a normal year we have still been unable to run any of our events where people get together at school so we have had to adapt, but we were able to raise quite significant amounts through our weekly Christmas activities for the children, which we held in the four weeks up to Christmas our Christmas hamper raffle and then in the summer our grand raffle, where for the first time FEM purchased the main prize. We also received amazing support from many local businesses which meant we had prizes worth more than £1,500. We have also had non-uniform days, a fill the piggy fundraiser, sent smarties home to be filled with 20ps and we have seen a good increase in money raised through Just Giving and in particular Amazon. This year we moved to taking payment through Parentpay and I think many parents have welcomed this as an alternative way to pay.

200 Club

Income has remained fairly static from the 200 club compared to 2020 dropping by £34 but overall net profit in the year has reduced by £209 to £470. This is wholly due to the timing of issuing cheques, which was delayed at the end of the last financial year due to covid. The main thing to focus on is how much money is coming in and we need to do more work to increase membership as the numbers fell last year and have fallen again this year.

Voluntary income

Voluntary income has increased from £224 to 284. Voluntary income combines any one-off donations that we receive and money we receive from the Giving Machine or from Amazon Smile. This year we have not received any one-off donations but receipts from Amazon have increased by £140. We believe there are many more families supporting us through Amazon Smile and with people buying more online it is great that we can see some benefit.

Expenditure

As we have continued to be affected by the pandemic, our fundraising costs have remained similar to last year at £542 (prior year £538). Main expenditure during the year was the fill the piggy fundraiser whereby half the funds taken were given as a prize, as mentioned previously FEM purchased a prize for our summer raffle (a Nintendo Switch). We were hoping to make our tickets very attractive so that we could raise a similar amount of money to a Summer fair and we were also delighted to be able to run a series of 3 discos for each year group bubble. I think everybody, children and adults alike were so excited that we could get back into school and hold these. This means that net proceeds for our fundraising events was £3,773 (prior year £3,110). Fundraising costs make up about 13% of fundraising revenue compared to about 15% last year so there has been no significant change, but the events analysis sheet shows what each event raised and cost. The committee is really happy that we were able to raise so much through these events in spite of all the restrictions and everything else that was going on.

Charitable giving

During the year the charity has only made one donation to school which was £175 towards a Christmas Panto. This is clearly a lot less than we have given in previous years, but there were a number of contributing factors to this low amount. The charity started the financial year with reserves of £2,786. The intention was that we would use this for a shade sail on the school field. Unfortunately, we were unable to get this installed during the 2021 school year and so this money has been carried forward to 2022. During the year we remained focussed on raising funds for more outdoor furniture but school indicated that a new set of iPads would be required and with the introduction of the new classroom we felt we needed a new bike or scooter rack. Unfortunately due to a difficulty getting quotes and

increased prices we were unable to get these items bought before August. As usual we committed to provide £5 per child for trips but as these could not go ahead we instead agreed to put money towards a fun day at the end of term. However, due to a high number of covid cases in school this could not go ahead as planned and so this money wasn't spent either.

This meant in the year that we report a surplus of £4,201 and finished with money in the bank of £6,987. However, I am pleased to say that since then, money has been transferred for the delayed fun day activities and the iPads and we will be buying the new scooter rack very soon as a location has now been agreed. The shade for the field is also booked for installation in the next couple of months.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are those whereby either we, or the donor have stipulated how the monies will be used and thus the funds become restricted and can only be used for that specific purpose. The charity is required to keep track of any restricted funds separately. I can report that at the balance sheet date the charity currently held no restricted funds.

Records and control

The committee continues to review and monitor control procedures. Some of these have had to be adapted slightly in light of the pandemic such as where we count money but the committee always agrees any changes to our normal procedures and is considerate of the risks involved in doing so.

Independent examination

The charity is not required to carry out an independent examination of its accounts but we as a committee feel that it is a good process to follow. This set of accounts has been reviewed by Richard Cooper who is an internal auditor and I will now share his comments with you.

"Having reviewed the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet against the Cashbook, Bank Statements and Supporting Documentation I can confirm that they provide a fair and true representation of the financial activity of the year ended 31st August 2021.

I can see that it has been another year of comparatively low activity as a result of the continued challenges of Covid19. Hopefully from today as we get back to normality there will be greater opportunities to get back to some of the great fundraising activities that were possible back in 2019.

Richard Cooper 24/02/2022

As always I would like to express my thanks to Richard for his time reviewing the accounts which he has done for the last 5 years.

Conclusion

I concluded my last report with the hope that there would be more opportunities for us to come together as a school community and whilst there have been some, we have still not been able to do everything we would normally do and we are very conscious that our newer parents have missed out on the opportunities to get involved and get to know each other that hopefully our events provide. Whether you are on the committee, volunteering at an event or simply just attending I strongly believe that FEM does help build friendships and builds a connection with the school which is one of the reasons that our school does feel like a big family. I will be stepping down now as treasurer, after six years of doing the books and I can honestly say that I have made some great friends through FEM, and I hope there are others who see the benefits there can be from taking a role on the committee.

Thanks

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supports FEM but mainly I would like to thank my fellow committee members who have all been trustees for a number of years and have put in a lot of time and hard work. However, special thanks must go to Caz who has been our chair for the last few years and has done an amazing job. Despite having many other commitments and with all the difficulties of the last couple of years Caz has kept us all going , always positive and always focussed on supporting the school. Thank you so much from us all!