

Friends of John Blandy

This year we have continued our commitment to supporting the school. We weren't successful in finding new volunteers to join the team, however, the current committee stepped up once again to give their time and energy to keep things running.

Whilst we have held less events, our priority has been quality of experience over quantity.

Academic Year
2024/2025

Annual Impact Report

Events

- Halloween Trail
- Christmas Disco
- Chocolate Raffle
- Easter Trail
- Uniform Sales
- Textile Collections

Coming up:

- Blandy Boffins
- KBS Village Fete
- Summer Disco

£3,342

MONEY RAISED

£4,115

IN THE BANK ACCOUNT

Purchases

Curriculum Support:

- **PSHE:** Anti-Racism Workshop, World Map
- **Music:** Sing Up subscription, class sets of ukuleles and recorders
- **Maths:** TT Rockstars subscription
- **IT:** Online Safety Newsletter, MPLC Licence

Student experience:

- Christmas Crackers
- Leavers Books
- SATs Celebrations

Income

- Event ticket purchasing
- EasyFundraising
- Tesco Blue Token Scheme
- Donations from uniform sales
- Textiles payment
- My Name Tags
- Donations

9

Events

10

Meetings

18

Purchases
Agreed

Committee

Co Chairs: Jenny King & Rachael Mooney
Treasurer: Sarah Stickland
Members: Nina Davis, Lee Kelsey

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered or simply came an event. Your support makes a real difference. Thanks to Tesco, Coop and One Stop for their regular event and prize donations.

Chair's Report 2024/5

As the Co-Chairs of the Friends of John Blandy, we are pleased to share a snapshot of what we've achieved over the past year.

Firstly, we'd like to thank the current committee, who once again continued in their roles. Your support, enthusiasm and teamwork has been incredible. Our fundraising and presence have made a positive impact once again.

To recap, in April 2024 the Co-Chairs (Jenny King and Nina Davis) shared the news that they wanted to step down. We publicised that we were looking for a new team and reached out to the school community at the AGM. This was poorly attended so we held an EGM in September in the hope of bringing in fresh faces, ideas, and energy. Unfortunately, despite the meeting being well attended, no one stepped forward for committee roles. Jenny King and Rachael Mooney were elected as Co-Chairs, Sarah Stickland was re-elected as Treasurer, Nina Davis continued as a committee member and we welcomed Lee Kelsey as a new member of the team. We adopted the Parentkind Constitution and we have our account filing up-to-date with the Charity Commission.

With a smaller group, we made a conscious decision to scale back on the number of events we ran. Instead, we focused on ensuring that the events we did organise were meaningful, well-run, and enjoyable for the children. They are all popular and good fundraisers: the Halloween and Easter Trails, the Christmas and Summer Discos, the Easter Chocolate Raffle & KBS village Fete. Two achievements of note are that we listened to feedback we received and improved the Disco ticketing system to ensure quicker entry and we made sure that every child at the Easter Trail had a full size chocolate egg as a prize. Both were well received. Our uniform shop has been transformed thanks to Lee Kelsey – she has washed and organised stock and has established a good routine of sales making this a great resource for our families.

Our other priority has been to raise money for the school. Working with the headteacher, Mrs Elliott, we have ensured that the regular subscriptions that support the curriculum have been funded. In addition, we were pleased to be able to fund an Anti-Racism workshop for PSHE, enrich the Music curriculum with class sets of both recorders and ukuleles. We are working towards raising enough money to support the school in organising a theatre trip for all the children.

Our smaller team has presented some issues – mainly not having enough time to achieve as much as we would like. We miss having a Secretary to take meeting notes and help with admin tasks. With Rachael moving in to the Co-Chair role and taking on the admin, our media and communications for events and initiatives has reduced. Our local banks have closed so that has brought challenges to our Treasurer. We are continuing to work on incremental improvements to ensure we are fulfilling our Parentkind constitution in all matters of administering the committee.

That said, the 'Friends' have once again proven themselves to be a strong, committed and reliable team. We have nurtured each of our talents, carved out roles that we enjoy and continue to have a open and creative meetings. Whilst change is coming (more on that later) this year we have taken huge pride in creating memories for the children. and keeping the Friends Charity going.

We would like to thank the teachers, parents and carers who continue to support us. Mrs Elliott, Mrs Wilson and the whole team at John Blandy School are very supportive and appreciative of all we do. Everyone's generosity in time and donations makes our role so much easier – we feel lucky to have such a supportive community. And for those of you who volunteer at every event, who show up for us time and time again and champion the work we do – we are truly grateful.

Jenny King & Rachael Mooney



The Year Ahead

We're hopeful that next year will bring new volunteers and new opportunities, and again whilst our committee remains committed to keeping the Charity running, there is a need to bring new committee or team members to inject enthusiasm for new events and to share the load of organising them. Ideally this would be with a view for them to them taking on key roles in future years. If you are interested please volunteer or speak to one of us in person, on Classlist or via johnblandyfriends@gmail.com

Jenny King has decided to step down at this AGM. Jenny has been Chair and Co-Chair for two years and has proven herself to be a great leader with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Jenny is a very special member of our community serving as a serial volunteer – leading a Beaver Colony, helping at Park Run, being our First Aider – and all of this alongside her two jobs at John Blandy School.

Jenny champions the children's needs and most of all their enjoyment! She plans events with infectious enthusiasm, meticulous detail and minimum fuss. She is such a valuable member of the committee, always challenging thought process (in a good way) and her knowledge as a member of the teaching staff at John Blandy is invaluable in a theoretical and practical sense. Knowing how the school operates, what Safeguarding we need to consider and how our ideas impact teaching staff – her passion and knowledge means our meetings focus more on the why than the how..... And that is integral to the way our committee has run.

Jenny has promised to stay on helping at events but (unless she has changed her mind), will be stepping down from a named Committee Role. We would like to thank Jenny for everything she has achieved as Chair and for being an excellent Friend.

Help wanted!

Secretary

We need someone to join the team as an official Secretary, or simply as a team member to help with some of the admin tasks. The main priorities would be jotting down actions in meetings and typing them up, updating records of items requested by the school, but the role could grow into sourcing grants and raffle prizes too. This person would work closely with the Chair and be fully supported to learn the role. If anyone is interested in this role, please let us know.

Marketing/Communications

We would very much like to welcome a new team member to help with events, marketing and to share information with the school office team. There are so many initiatives we could be exploring if we had someone with the right skills and enthusiasm. We have a lot of assets already created. This person would work closely with the Chair but ideally would have experience & transferable skills. If anyone is interested in this role, please let us know.



Friends of John Blandy School
Registered Charity No: 1040776

Annual General Meeting

7 May 2025

Held at The Swallow Room at Southmoor Village Hall at 7.30pm

Agenda

Welcome

Ordinary Business

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the EGM held on 25 September 2024
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes
4. Chairs' Report for 2024/5
5. Treasurer's Report for the year ending July 2024 and Interim Treasurers Report for April 2025.
6. Q&A / discussion with the Committee Members – We will be inviting interest and ideas for committee roles, events and fundraising opportunities.
7. Election of Officers:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Other Officers
 - e. Ordinary Committee Members

Any Other Business