

Welcome everyone, and thank you for attending this year's Friends of Crockerne AGM.

This is our only formal meeting of the year, and it's where we take a moment to reflect on what we've achieved, elect committee members, and present both the Chair's and Treasurer's reports.

Another Year of Growth & Community Spirit

As Chair of the Friends of Crockerne, I'm incredibly proud to present our annual review of what has been our **most successful fundraising year to date**, raising a fantastic **£25,591.13** and spending **£21,477.04** on projects and experiences that have made a real impact on our children's daily school life.

This success is not just about the money raised – it's about **the spirit** of our school, the strength of our community, and the dedication of our volunteers, staff, and families.

Once again, our Headteacher, **Mrs Emma Bray**, has continued to be an inspiring and supportive presence. Her belief in our PTA and her openness to creative ideas have allowed us to bring even bigger and better projects to life. Thank you, Emma – your leadership and warmth make a huge difference.

Event Highlights

We introduced several **new and exciting events** this year while continuing with well-loved favourites. From our now-infamous **Silent Disco** to the new **Tipsy Tea & Pillgo Bingo** night (hosted by the ever-fabulous **Sonya Crutchley**), we've not only raised money – we've raised smiles.

Other fundraising highlights include:

Break the Rules Day continues to be a day the kids love, I cant think why. Our highlight has to be our incredible Christmas Raffle reaching its highest amount ever. All thanks and credit goes to the wonderful Lou Meek Hopkins for her tireless efforts in securing incredible prizes and connecting with our community selling a record number of tickets.

Not just fundraisers, but events that brought **joy, laughter**, and **connection** to our children and families.

The absolute highlight to close the year off had to be the very new and very exciting 'Colour Run'. It was by far the BEST event we have ever held and to hear the children giggle with so much proper belly laughter was worth every single second of organising it. The support from Mrs Bray and the staff was incredible, all getting involved and showing the children that they too, are still big kids at heart. An event we will definitely do again after hearing 'This is the best day ever' echo around the playground as children snow angled in the residual paint on the floor.

What We've Funded

This year saw the **long-awaited KS1 playground overhaul** finally come to life. What was once a grey concrete space is now a vibrant, fun, and inclusive area that the children absolutely adore.

This was our **flagship project** – and it received attention far beyond our school gates, even making it onto **BBC Points West**! We are so proud of what we've achieved together. This was only made possible by the relationships forged and cemented with our friends of friends, a number of companies within our community who heard our voice and saw our children.

Other key funded projects included:

- Development of the creative '**Storyville**' area for KS2 learners.
- Library overhaul, Sports equipment, Science equipment and the popular Caterpillars
- Life skills for Year 6 Leavers and their final Celebrations.

These aren't just nice-to-haves – they're **experiences that shape childhood memories** and help every Crockerne child feel special, seen, and supported.

Community Partnerships

One of the most powerful shifts this year has been our work building **community connections**. From letter-dropping local businesses to forging lasting partnerships, we've seen how much people care when they're simply asked.

Special thanks to our 'Friends of Friends' collective and an even bigger thank you to the engaging investment supported by **The Bristol Port**. This has, to date secured the amazing new Mini Bus lease, new classroom equipment to name but a small few. This is undoubtedly an incredible alliance to be a part of, and we are beyond grateful.

Committee Thank Yous

The Friends of Crockerne wouldn't be what it is without a team of absolute legends behind it.

A heartfelt thank you to:

- **Sian Bannister & Kat John** – our co-Vice Chairs and brilliant doers.
- **Vicki Merrin & Louise Meek Hopkins** – our organised and efficient co Secretaries.
- **Charlene Coles** – our impeccable Treasurer.

Thank you for your creativity and passion. Your loyalty, hard work, and dedication have been a cornerstone of our success.

To every single parent who has volunteered, baked, sold, set up, packed down, or just turned up – we see you, and we appreciate you.

Thanks also to:

- The fabulous **school office team** – Sharon, Katie & Gemma – for always supporting our chaos with a smile.
 - Our Governors for continued support.
 - Kerrie Brueford for being the backbone of our financial support and helping us to save money.
 - And to our PTA-school link, **Sonya Crutchley** – you are quite simply, irreplaceable.
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Reflections as Chair

As I sit down to write this final section, I find myself overwhelmed — in the best possible way. Reflecting on this past year, and the years I've been lucky enough to serve as Chair, it's hard to put into words just how much this role, this team, and this school community mean to me.

When I started with Friends of Crockerne, my daughter was just four, and now, she's moved on, as have so many of our incredible Year 6s and their families. Watching them grow — not just taller, but kinder, braver, more confident — has been a privilege beyond measure. I don't think you can fully understand the impact a school has on a child, or a parent, until you've been this deeply involved in its heart and soul.

This school isn't flashy. We don't have brand new buildings or high-end resources. But what we *do* have is something far more valuable — a sense of **belonging**. A deep-rooted, genuine community where people care.

We're not just raising funds. We're raising spirits. We're raising children. We're shaping memories that will live in their minds long after they leave these gates. From marshmallows toasted on the firepit, to the squeals of laughter at the Colour Run, to that moment when a child feels truly seen — **that's what we're doing here**.

Yes, it's hard work. Yes, there are times when we're juggling ten things and wondering how on earth we'll pull it all off. But we always do. Because there is an unshakeable belief that **every single child at Crockerne deserves magic**. And if we can be the ones to help bring that magic, then I'll stay up late, I'll run around like a lunatic on event days, and I'll keep showing up — just like so many of you do too.

I'm so proud of this team. I'm proud of the families who say yes when we ask. I'm proud of the partnerships we've built. I'm proud of every small moment that added up to something big.

And above all, I'm proud to be part of this incredible, scrappy, passionate, loving little school. We may not be shiny and new, but my goodness — **we are golden**.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for letting me be part of something so special.

Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart. Here's to another fantastic year ahead.

With gratitude,

Charlotte Kaszubski

Chair, Friends of Crockerne PTA