

Friends of Vinehall Review 2007/8



2007/2008 was another incredibly busy year for the Friends of Vinehall, many events were held to raise funds for both Rwanda and the school. Once again we enjoyed tremendous support from Julie Robinson and her staff, coupled with the tireless efforts of the parents.

The year began with a coffee morning to welcome new parents, this was well attended and provided an invaluable service to ensure the families are made to feel welcome, giving them an opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

The fireworks display was an outstanding event raising £1,226. The weather looked favourably on us and this is an event that is much enjoyed by the children of the school. This will go ahead once again this year although the location will have to be changed owing to the new Astro turf.

For the first year the Friends held a Christmas fair which was deemed a great success. There were many exciting stalls and the children were able to make small gifts for parents. The fair raised a staggering amount for Rwanda and in January we were able to give Rwanda Aid a cheque for £5,000. We will be looking to keep the fair as a permanent fixture in the calendar. The Christmas cards proved popular along with the tea towels and again these are now a regular feature of the Friends of Vinehall.

The Lent term social was not held this year as it was felt that along with the Vintage Ball and the launch of the Foundation there would be too big a burden on parents. It will, however, make a reappearance in 2009. The pancake races and Easter egg hunts took place and gave great pleasure to the children. We also held a cake sale which made £232 - a good effort.

Finally, the summer term gave us a plethora of delights. The Friends helped extensively with the ball, which everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy. This was followed by the summer fete and disco the following day. These two events were held together for the first time in order to maximize the use of the large marquee. We all felt as a committee that this was particularly successful and this was well received for two reasons. Firstly, parents only had to attend once rather than come to the school two days in succession at what is a hectic time of year for most people. Secondly, the friends could harness all their efforts on one day, maximizing parents good will. Obviously we were able to enjoy a much larger marquee than we would ordinarily have and this will be a consideration in future years.

The gym display was enjoyed by so many people and was a fabulous opening for the fete. This was followed by delightful music from the pupils and culminated in the first appearance of a pupil rock band. The disco continued the fun and the appearance of food vans were well received by the parents who were let off picnic making for once.

Once again, we were lucky enough to receive a voucher from the Vines for a bike which again proved a popular draw. The day raised £1,654 which was really fantastic. The Friends would very much like these two events to be combined again this year and I believe we have the support of Julie Robinson who feels they could make use of the spare Saturday evening to hold an event for the boarders. We would be very anxious to hear the views of the Vines society as we know they are very involved with the events on this weekend.

In conclusion, in 2007/2008 we were able to give Rwanda a total sum of £5,000, a new £2,000 electronic keyboard to the Music Department, athletics shorts and swim squad t-shirts to the PE Department and £300 to the Pre-Prep for library books.

We anticipate being able to continue this level of support for Rwanda and the school over the coming year.

Sarah Brown
Chairman of the Friends of Vinehall.

