



## Chair's Report to the AGM – 2022

### **About the PTFA**

The principal role of the PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association) at Newton Poppleford Primary School is to support the school and its children, particularly through fundraising activities, allowing the funding of school trips, classroom resources, and educational experiences. We also aim to provide community events that allow the children, parents, staff and wider community to come together to socialise and celebrate. All parents, carers, staff and governors from the school are automatically members, and other friends of the school can become members.

The PTFA is registered as a charity under the name “Newton Poppleford School Association” with charity number 1015155. The PTFA is run by a committee who are elected each year by PTFA members at the Annual General Meeting. The PTFA follows a model constitution provided by PTA-UK.

We have been continuing our ongoing WhatsApp virtual meeting, which has proven very effective, with the reintroduction of face-to-face meetings alongside. Anyone who wishes to join the WhatsApp group should contact the Chair on 07909 798441. Regular PTFA meetings are held throughout the year and all members are invited to attend. The PTFA always welcomes suggestions for future activities and events and any significant expenditure must be voted on by the parents and teachers present at a PTFA meeting.

### **PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

A new PTFA committee will be elected at the AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, all parents and other PTFA members are encouraged to attend. Many thanks to Jon Leeson-Kings (Treasurer), Kate Clemens (Secretary), and Henry Odbert (Deputy Chair) for their service on the committee during the 2021/22 year.



## From the Chair

This year has been an absolutely fantastic effort from the whole school community that has resulted in a brilliant fundraising total of just over **£16,000**. In addition to these fundraisers we received **£500** from a successful grant application.

This has been my second year as Chair of the PTFA and the second feeling the effects of the Covid pandemic, as restrictions forced the cancellation of two of our big fundraisers; the Christmas Fair and the Easter Eggstravaganza. However, we still managed to hold some unforgettable events and raise a staggering amount of money to support our school. These events were organised and run by parents, teachers and children from the school, I am very grateful to all those who helped run these events, to the local businesses who supported them and to everyone who took part.

Some real successes this year include the introduction of a permanent clothing bank on site, the PTFA receive a price per kilo of clothing collected and we are setting a fantastic example to the children about recycling by diverting textiles from landfill. We held our first Book Fair since 2017 this year and it was a huge success, buying hundreds of pounds worth of new books for the school and promoting reading to the children. We have also introduced a preloved uniform shop where we sell uniform all year round by arrangement or in person at our events, the school are obliged to offer second hand uniform and the PTFA are happy to provide this service.

For the first time this year we trialled a grown-ups only, ticketed evening event with Jubilee Party in the Pop; live music, hog roast, a surf simulator, and a licenced bar. Ticket sales were disappointing due to the event being in half term and the volume of competing events across the Jubilee weekend, however, those that did attend had a brilliant time and the evening did end up marginally in profit. The Jubilee Family Fun Day that we organised as a one off event was a huge success, hundreds of local people brought their furry friends to our dog show and the whole community came together for our sports day. There were some unfortunate interactions with the more combative members of the Parish Council, but relations have been repaired subsequently. We are particularly proud of introducing the village's inaugural Cheese & Wine Run, which was very successful and highly entertaining for everyone involved.

We have also introduced SumUp, an electronic payment system, for use at events. This is simple to use with a member of the team having the app on their phone, we have also used it to send payment links. We have used SumUp to process over £2300 this year during bonfire night, Jubilee fun day and the summer fete, so consider it worth the small transaction fees. In particular, the 'PTFA ATM' at the summer fete was a big hit. We have also utilised the School Gateway payment system to process payments and this has been well received by parents who prefer cashless payment options, again considered worth the small transaction fees.

We were delighted to see the return of cake sales this year, these are always well supported and raise much appreciated funds for the teachers to spend on their students learning experiences. We were also very pleased to be invited to cater the village Bonfire Night celebrations again this year, supported by The Cannon Inn. Relations between the Parish Council and the PTFA on this event continue to improve and we are very happy to be working with them again.



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I shall take this opportunity to briefly indulge you in the Tale of the Christmas Fair Catastrophe... We were forced to hold our annual festive event outside due to Covid restrictions, so we decided to create a Christmas market style event. Picture the scene; gazebos all across the playground strung with fairy lights, mulled wine, spiced apple juice, hot chocolate, mince pies and sausages bubbling away in slow cookers, festive photo booth, stalls, music. Adventure Island transformed with life size wooden reindeer and fairy lights into a magical grotto where Santa waited next to a real roaring fire to hand out gifts and marshmallows for the children to toast on the fire... it was spectacular. We had been open for business for four minutes when a freak weather event swept through the village and in 15 minutes of gale force winds, sideways rain and pelting hail, it was all spectacularly destroyed. Five borrowed gazebos flipped up and over the fence, laying in a twisted mess of canvas, cable ties and flickering fairy lights, the food and drink stall soaked, the beautifully and thoughtfully wrapped hamper raffle prizes drenched, thousands of pounds worth of electrical equipment whipped by the elements, the twelve foot Christmas tree horizontal, the mulled wine smashed and dribbling across the playground. Santa heard what had happened and came to the playground to cheer up the disappointed children, unfortunately the deluge had rendered the path treacherous and Santa slipped, arriving in the playground covered head to toe in mud, it was even in his beard... The event was immediately cancelled and the salvage operation begun. The selfless spirit of those present who valiantly battled the elements to rescue all that was rescuable was an absolute joy to behold. The subsequent support for the cake raffle, hamper raffle and perishables playground sale was overwhelming and I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so hard to create the event and later to salvage it. You are all heroes. This will go down in the history books as the worst disaster to ever befall us, but also the greatest display of heart warming community spirit.

I would not be able to organise the busy schedule of events and fundraisers that fill the school calendar without the incredible team I am so lucky to have. The committee, Kate, Henry and Jon, have worked tirelessly behind the scenes and my gratitude is endless. That thanks is extended to the larger PTFA team and Class Reps who contribute to planning, organising, idea brainstorming, troubleshooting, making, baking, buying, wrapping, promoting, recruiting, raffle prize gathering and manning stalls. This wonderful group of people volunteer their time, expertise and energy with a selfless community spirit, always with a smile and it is a pleasure to work with you all.



## PTFA Income during the year 2021/22

**£77 from Terracycle** Our crisp packet recycling scheme has successfully diverted 90kg of crisp packets from landfill, many thanks to Becky Turner for coordinating the donations. Sadly, this scheme has now ended due to the ability to recycle crisp packets at supermarkets. We will review with the school over the coming year if there are any other similar programmes we can initiate as this was a great fundraiser whilst promoting green habits to the children.

**£1,640 from Your School Lottery** This amazing total includes many winners who have donated their winnings back to the PTFA, this is fantastic, thank you! If you've not yet bought tickets, it's easy to do at [yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://yourschoollottery.co.uk)

**£80 from Amazon Smile** Our opportunity to gift to the PTFA every time you shop through Amazon, at no cost to the consumer. If you're not yet registered, it's easy to do through your Amazon account or at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk)

**£44 from easyfundraising.com** An online shopping portal allowing a percentage of purchases to be donated to the PTFA, at no cost to the consumer. If you're not yet registered, it's easy to do at [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)

**£20 from The Giving Machine** An online shopping portal allowing a percentage of purchases to be donated to the PTFA, at no cost to the consumer. If you're not yet registered, it's easy to do at [thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://thegivingmachine.co.uk).

**£146 from our Bags of Help clothing bank** We now have a permanent collection point for textile recycling in the playground. The bank is emptied fortnightly and the PTFA is paid 30p per kilo

**£140 from our Preloved Uniform Shop** This is a new venture, with uniform being sold year round by arrangement or at our in person events. Schools must provide access to second hand uniform and the PTFA is happy to provide this service at our school. Uniform is available from 50p-£2 per item and is available for free to the families most in need. Huge thanks to Camille Harman for coordinating the uniform shop this year.

**£152 from Mr Long Sponsorship** After suffering an arm injury last year Mr Long thought it time to get back in shape through diet and exercise, so took us along for the journey! Huge thanks to Mark Long for generously fundraising for the PTFA.

**£400 from Buddy Bench sponsorship** We received a generous donation from Home Instead who saw an alignment of values with their company ethos and the concept of Buddy Benches in illuminating loneliness. Huge thanks to the team at Home Instead for allowing us to purchase the remaining four benches we had planned to.

**£306 from our Scholastic Book Fair** Our first Book Fair since 2017 was a huge success, open for a week we sold over £600 of books which translated to £306 of free books for the school. Many thanks to Kirsty Singfield.

**£88 from our Twosday Challenge** A sponsored event to celebrate 'Twosday' on 22.02.2022. The idea was to raise £22 in sponsorship over half term by doing 22 things of your choice. Only four children participated, but raised £88 between them, special thanks to the Joyner and Tubbs families.



**£950 from our Autumn Summer Fete** In the summer term our fete was cancelled due to Covid restrictions, so we held a mini version, without a bar, BBQ or raffle. This was a staggering amount raised. Huge thanks to everyone involved.

**£770 from our Bonfire Night BBQ** We were invited to cater the village bonfire night and fireworks event this year (the first since 2019) and it was a huge success. Many thanks to all those who involved in this event and to NPH Parish Council. Special thanks to Steve and Lewis Tingey from The Cannon who provided their BBQ equipment and cooked for us at no cost.

**£606 for Christmas Cards** This was a huge success with great engagement from parents, many thanks to Jody Hall for coordinating the artwork and orders.

**£480 from our Christmas Hamper Raffle** Held remotely due to the cancellation of the Christmas Fair, huge thanks to the hamper wrapping team and everyone who donated hamper items.

**£40 from our Christmas Playground sale** A hastily arranged sale to shift the perishable stock from our cancelled Christmas Fair, thanks to Kate Clemens.

**£120 from Loobys Kitchen cake raffle** The cake donated by Loobys Kitchen and intended for a game at the cancelled Christmas Fair was raffled off via Loobys social media and raised an incredible amount. Huge thanks to Laura Broughton.

**£550 from our Jubilee Fun Day** A special event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we were invited to run a programme of events on PTFA Takeover Day during the village celebration weekend. We organised a dog show (£160 profit) and a family fun and sports day (£290 profit) which were brilliant community events and great fundraisers. We included the inaugural village Cheese & Wine run which was a huge success. Special thanks to dog show judge Liza McLean and Parish Council Chair Chris Burhop.

**£150 from our Jubilee Party in the Pop** Our first ever grown-ups only evening event, with a hogroast, live music and licenced bar. The evening was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Special thanks to volunteer barman Chris Haigh.

**£1400 from our Summer Fete** Our first fete back since 2019 and it was spectacular! A fantastic event and brilliant fundraiser, huge thanks to the team who organised and ran this.

**£2000 from our Grand Summer Raffle** This was £1600 in advance sales and £400 on the day of the fete. A huge success thanks to the incredible prize list. Enormous thanks to all the local businesses who contributed the brilliant prizes. Many thanks to the team sourcing prizes, with special mention to Georgia Trengove.

**£15 from selling refreshments at sports day** The PTFA sold drinks during both KS1 and KS2 sports days. Thank you to the team who ran the stall.

**£20 from a Clothing Swap** This was not intended as a high income event, but more as an opportunity for a children's clothing exchange. Attendance was disappointing and suggestions have been made to change the time of day or notice period to make it more successful in the future. Many thanks to Amy Sweet.



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**£136 from Ice Cream Friday** This was a special one-off event that gave free ice cream to every child and asked for a donation to the PTFA. East Devon Ices generously donated the ice creams at no cost to the PTFA. Huge thanks to Gordon Legg for this generous gesture.

**£1214 from our class cake sales** We were delighted to be able to run our class cake sales again this year, each class took ownership of their own sale and raised an fantastic amount of money for the teachers to spend on their children. Many thanks to the class rep team.

**£500 Magic Little Grant** This grant was secured specifically to pay for 40 new splash suits for Preschool, allowing year round outdoor play for the children.



## Projects funded by the PTFA

The school have been gratefully spending all this hard earned cash on our children! This year the PTFA have funded;

- Adventure Island shelter
- Buddy benches
- Playground pergola and seating
- Theatre Alibi visit
- Aardman Animation workshop
- Climbing wall
- Dance workshop
- Author session with Dara McNulty
- Scooter helmets
- Library books
- Kapla blocks
- Christmas crafting materials
- Preschool splash suits
- Preschool leavers gifts
- Reception class trip to World of Country Life
- Reception classroom resources
- Year 1 classroom carpet
- Year 3 trip to Powderham Castle
- Year 6 leaver activities

## Sensory garden

Progress on the sensory garden project has begun! Phase one is complete, with the whole garden area now covered with rubber grass mats. Watch this space for what will hopefully be rapid progress this year.

## Buddy Benches and pergola

The PTFA project to install twelve benches and a pergola for natural shade in the playground is almost complete, the pergola will be painted and the climbing plants planted soon to complete the project. We are grateful to Home Instead for providing generous funding to allow the purchase of the last four benches on our wish list. Special thanks to the Clemens family for assembling, storing and painting the benches in their garage!



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### Support for the PTFA

We have received prizes and support from local businesses and individuals, the Chair would like to particularly mention the following local businesses and people not mentioned above (in no particular order):

Oliver Joseph Sidmouth, Jo White Travel Counsellor, Clare Veness Legal Ltd, Ladram Bay, Rougemont Hotel, Yarak Birds of Prey, Loobys Kitchen, Pebble Brook Clinic & Wellbeing Hub, Beauty Box, Pure Serenity, JJB Sports, Pride Salon, Pole Control, Exeter Chiefs, Woodbury Park, The Outdoors Group, Exeter City Community Trust, Football Fun Factory, Turtle Tots, River Dart Country Park, Pecorama, World of Country Life, Sidmouth Toy & Model Museum, Beer Quarry Caves, Seaton Tramway, iBounce, Planet Play Honiton, LED Sidmouth, Something Lovely Pottery Painting, Budleigh Riding School, Harry's Restaurant, Dukes, The Otter Inn, Titley Green, The Filling Station, Chris's Café, The Southern Cross, Otterton Mill, Pizza Butlers, Pizza Papi, Exe Valley Pizzas, Krispies Fish & Chips, Taste of Sidmouth, Rickshaw Express, French Tacos, The Scruffy Paw Dog Grooming, Sidmouth Pets, Toto's of Sidmouth, Hidden Oak, Kings Garden Centre, Fix My Boiler, J&R Cleaning, Maciej's Oven Cleaning, Liam Ellis Roofing, Ralph & Co, Double White Creations, Jack In The Green, Water Babies, Cuckoo Down Childcare, Crane & Kind, Otter Nurseries, Four Elms Fruit Farm, Lindsay Bowden, Gilli Whitehorn, Al Findlay, Tilde Dodd, Angela Nash, Stuart Vaughan, Adrian Ableson, Chris Burhop, Woodleys Joinery, Devon and Cornwall Police, Exeter Bouncy Castles.

The PTFA have been gifted two large marquees and a small gazebo by kind members of the local community this summer. With grateful thanks to Geoff and Sue Hulley and Kat Angel.

### Thank you

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the parents, school staff, and family members who have supported the PTFA. Our events could not happen without this wonderful team of volunteers and those who attend and engage with our events, helping to raise money and bringing the school and wider community together, ultimately benefitting our children during their school experience.

The PTFA could not continue without your support.

Teri Murphy

PTFA Chair (2020-22)