

## **Watling View Parent Staff Association – Chair’s Report for Academic Year 2015/16**

*Registered Charity 1158303*

The Parent Staff Association at Watling View raises money throughout the year to provide much needed funding for the school. Membership is open to all parents, carers and members of staff so if you would like to get involved you will be very welcome. We also aim to provide a number of social events during the year to enable families to get together.

Having achieved a significant milestone of becoming a registered charity last year, we now have an online fundraising page which can be used by anyone to seek or give donations (inc Gift Aid) to the school as follows: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/watlingviewschoolparentstaffassociation>

We have raised nearly £16,000 during the year thanks to a number of events and donations. This included the second Watling View Golf Day and Auction organised by Dave Josephs in October 2015, which raised nearly £9,000\*. We were also delighted to receive £5,000\* from three couples who celebrated their silver wedding anniversaries over the summer, and instead of presents, requested donations to Watling View – a fabulous boost to our fundraising for which we are extremely grateful. Thank you to the Lombardellis, Hacketts and McGowans! Malcolm Driscoll, Community Governor organised another Quiz Night complete with fish and chip supper in June raising another £1,000. Our thanks also to Alex Mercer who ran a half marathon raising a further £800 and the customers of Buongiorno Italia and local residents who generously donated a total of £865 during the year. We also had very successful Christmas and Easter Raffles – raising over £1650 – our best yet! This list is not exhaustive and we would like to thank everyone that has helped with our fundraising this year. Further information can be found in the Treasurers Report 2015-2016. (\*some funds banked during the previous academic year).

As we started the year with a considerable surplus (due to record fundraising in the previous year) we were able to purchase equipment and activities for the children and young people at Watling View of just under £33,000! This included a new soft play area, C Frame swing and platform, 10 new iPads, an eFun table, Touch and Tilt interactive activity screens, and a climbing wall. We also funded the winter sports day, a visit from a theatre group and transport for two residential trips.

Going forward, we will be focussing our efforts on providing the school with a new minibus – no mean feat given that the cost looks to be around £35k (and that our available funds are somewhat lower than this time last year). We are specifically looking at a model which will allow the maximum number of wheelchair users aboard – to enable more trips into the community, which are greatly enjoyed by all students.

To help with this we are planning a number of fundraising events over the next year but if anyone has any suggestions please let us know! We are also applying to charitable trusts and foundations and again any contacts gratefully received.

In addition to the fundraising side of things, we have also held events aimed at bringing together parents and carers who – unlike many mainstream schools – typically get less opportunity to meet at school. Over the academic year we have, held a number of coffee mornings, a family BBQ, a family picnic, provided refreshments at school events and held a summer drinks evening for parents and carers.

So thanks again to all those who supported us over the year and if anyone would like any further information about the PSA or has any suggestions going forward please contact me at [lucy.rayner@btinternet.com](mailto:lucy.rayner@btinternet.com)