



AGM REPORT

Friday 14th October 2022

21-22

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2021-22 IN BRIEF

Anna Benfield and Heather Shepherd

During the academic year 2021-22 the Friends of More House raised in excess of £21,000. We are grateful for your generous support, which has enabled us to invest in a wide variety of projects at school supporting literacy, wellbeing, music education, pupils' social development and the promotion of positive behaviour.



MICHAELMAS TERM

September 2021 marked the beginning of a welcome return to Friends' business as usual and things got off to a cracking start, with finish line refreshments for the safari-themed Sponsored Walk. At our AGM October Anna Benfield and Heather Shepherd were elected as co-chairs for 2021-22, their second year. Richard Long was confirmed as Treasurer for a third year and Alison Reynolds became Secretary.

In November we held a Quiz Night with fish and chip supper in the Simkins Centre. Hosted by great friend of the Friends John Giles, the evening was filled with laughter. On the 26th November we held a Christmas Fayre for pupils and a gift market for parents. Volunteers in the Sports Hall were greeted by a sea of smiling, if often chocolate-smeared, boys' faces. The gift market in and outside The Discovery Centre was a hit with parents, with live music and mulled wine adding to the festive atmosphere. We are very grateful to The Garden Party Bar for donating to the Friends all proceeds from pre-orders of their Christmas cocktail kits.

The Friends sold wreath kits, arranged a Bag 2 School textile recycling collection and announced winners of the Christmas raffle on the school's Instagram feed. December's true highlight, however, was the arrival at school of over **60** Nordmann fir trees! Mrs Williams' Business Admin students helped us sort through the orders and received payment in the form of a tree for Crosslanes. The Friends delivered trees within the Farnham area and hosted a virtual Christmas lights switch-on culminating in some joyful carol singing.

LENT TERM

A new logo, a project consultation, an online auction of promises and Easter fun!

In the New Year we unveiled a new logo, an evolution of the previous 'helping hands' design, brought up to date with MHS brand colours. We believe its soft, nurturing aesthetic truly embodies the Friends' mission to support pupils and to strengthen relationships within the school community.

In February we held a successful online Auction of Promises. The school's Core Leadership Group asked us to invest in ideas fostering pupils' social development and student and staff wellbeing, which had suffered significantly as a result of the pandemic. We launched a consultation with the school community to identify projects linked to these themes for the Friends to fund. A group of Middle School pupils approached us via the Chaplain with their idea for a Peace Garden. We were extremely pleased to offer funding to them.

In March we attempted to hold a Race Night, but this idea was put out to pasture due to a lack of ticket sales. Heather Shepherd organised a Spring pop-up gift shop in the HotSpot. Pupils were able to choose a beautifully wrapped mystery gift for a loved one from a selection of samples. They were given the opportunity to write a message on a gift tag. It was a heartwarming occasion, and the Friends were very impressed by the consummate care pupils took when choosing presents.

We ran an Easter raffle, with the lucky winners receiving either a basket overflowing with treats or a giant cuddly bunny. The Friends collected and donated Easter eggs to the school, which were used as prizes for fun curriculum-based games on the last day of term, a PSHEE Flexi Friday. All proceeds from these activities (an Easter egg hunt, Crystal Maze challenge and lucky dip) were given to the DEC's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.



TRINITY TERM

Celebrations for Her Majesty The Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee were highlights of the Trinity term calendar. The Friends' year ended with a summer raffle, the winners of which were announced on Founder's Day.



It was an utter joy to be able to support our first *proper* More House Sports Day since 2019. We were in our element providing cream teas, cakes, pastries, tuck and Pimm's. We presented commemorative Platinum Jubilee medals to all pupils who competed or helped out.

After half term preparations for Jubilee Proms in the Park gathered pace. In the Friends' first (and hopefully only) foray into fashion design, event t-shirt pre-orders were launched. Over 850 event tickets were booked, which caused no sleepless nights at all (!). Slightly over a quarter of the pupil roll performed in ensembles alongside staff and alumni, which speaks absolute volumes about the incredible Mr Place, the unstoppable Mr Burnett and outstanding Music Dept. A parent choir sang 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman.

Proms in the Park was a celebration not only of music, but of **all** things More House. School staff received a meal and a drink as a small gesture of thanks from the parent community for their hard work throughout the academic year.

Picnics prepared by the school's catering team (a huge thank you to Simon, Artur and team), pizzas, pinot and Peroni helped the evening go with a swing.

The primary purpose of Proms in the Park was to bring together the whole school community. We are thrilled that this event generated over **£5,600** for investment at school! We are grateful to the very many staff members and parent volunteers who gave up their time to ensure that the evening was a resounding success.

“
Proms in the Park epitomised the spirit of our brilliant More House community.
”



Image courtesy of Sophie Burrows

PROJECTS FUNDED 2021-22

Every year the committee works closely with the school's leadership team to determine how funds raised may best be used to benefit the school community. We try to support projects aiding pupils at each stage of their time at More House. During the academic year 2021-22 we agreed to support the following exciting initiatives (shown in chronological order):



SURREY CHOICES - £4,320

We finally have news to share about Surrey Choices! A grant of £4,320 for this scheme was approved in November 2019, but as a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic it was impossible for it to go ahead until autumn 2021. We paid £1,870 for a group of Sixth Form students to take part in a supported work experience scheme. The remaining £2,450 from the grant has been carried over for 2022/23. If you are reading this digitally you can find further details of this exciting and invaluable programme by clicking the link at the bottom of the page, alternatively please visit <https://www.surreychoices.com/>



LIBRARY INITIATIVES - £1,500

The Friends are enthusiastic supporters of More House School's Library. Sandra Lewin and Lucy Marshall work tirelessly to make the Library a welcoming and engaging space for all pupils, whatever their experience of reading may have been at previous schools. This year we provided a grant for an author visit for World Book Day, magazine subscriptions and online audio and ebook stock. The librarians were unable to secure a visiting author this year as a result of Covid and timetabling restrictions, and so the £500 allocated for this was used instead for extra Sora stock.



GAZEBO AND PICNIC BENCHES - £4,500

At break times pupils in the Junior School are benefitting from a brand new gazebo outside Gardn'r House, custom-built by talented Estates team member Nigel and his colleagues. It is being used both as a quiet space and also for games of tag. New picnic benches have been installed outside the Refectory and Crosslanes to provide additional outdoor seating for meals on sunny days. We believe this enhances the wellbeing of students and staff and provides the former with an opportunity to practise their conversation skills. We allocated £4,500 but only £3,280 has been invoiced so far.



PEACE GARDEN - £5,000

This proposal was brought to us by a group of Middle School students via Lay Chaplain Teresa Ndovlu as a result of the project consultation we launched in February. Please see the full update in section 4 (page 10).



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD SCHEME - £2,250

Lewis Clarkson, Deputy Head - Pastoral, writes: The Friends of More House have been instrumental to the development of new positive reinforcement opportunities within the school, starting in the academic year 2022-2023. Following internal consideration, it was clear that the school wanted to provide excellent opportunities for pupils who display, consistently, the pupil ethos of **Kindness - Spirit - Responsibility**. In doing so, pupils will be offered opportunities to access external trips, to go-kart tracks and Women's Super League football matches, as well as smaller gifts, including cinema and Airhop tickets. We believe that by strengthening this positive element of the school, we will recognise a development in the behavioural patterns of the pupils within our care, ensuring that they are fully recognised for their actions and approach.



PEWS FOR THE CHAPEL - £6,000

The purchase of rosewood pews (made in 1912) completes former headmaster Barry Huggett OBE's vision for the Chapel of Christ the King, which was his last building project at school. The pews replace uncomfortable, unfit for purpose metal classroom chairs and were collected from Bradford by Mr Hetherington and Mr Place in a lorry during the summer holiday. The pews are receiving a modicum of TLC from the school carpenter and many are now in situ. They enhance greatly this lovely place of worship and quiet contemplation for school community members of every faith or indeed none.



HANDBELL RESTORATION - £5,250

The committee authorised a grant to restore the school's magnificent antique handbells, which had fallen into disrepair following many years of enthusiastic use, to their former glory. Handbell ringing is a collaborative activity which fosters pupils' social development, attention and listening skills. All Year 7 pupils use the handbells in the second half of the Michaelmas term to learn festive carols, which they perform at Christmas by Candlelight and also for their peers during lunch breaks. It is school tradition for Year 10 GCSE Music students to ring two carols in the Christmas service and also to entertain residents of local care homes by doing the same. The restoration work funded by the Friends ensures that for decades to come pupil and the wider school community will be able to enjoy the beautiful sound the handbells create when in full working order.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME SINCE 2019-20

Accounts prepared by treasurer Richard Long and audited by Stephen Johnson, More House School Bursar. Our full accounts will be made available on Classlist.



2021-22

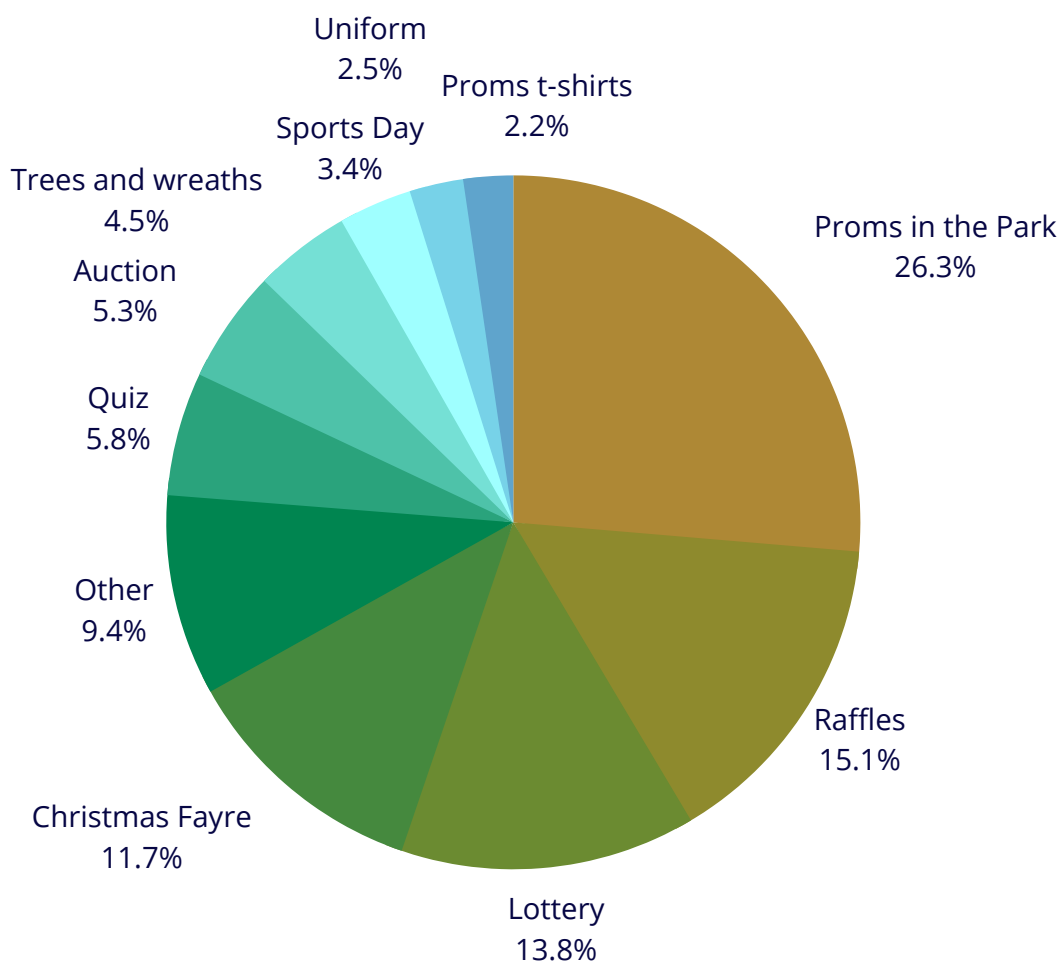


2020-21

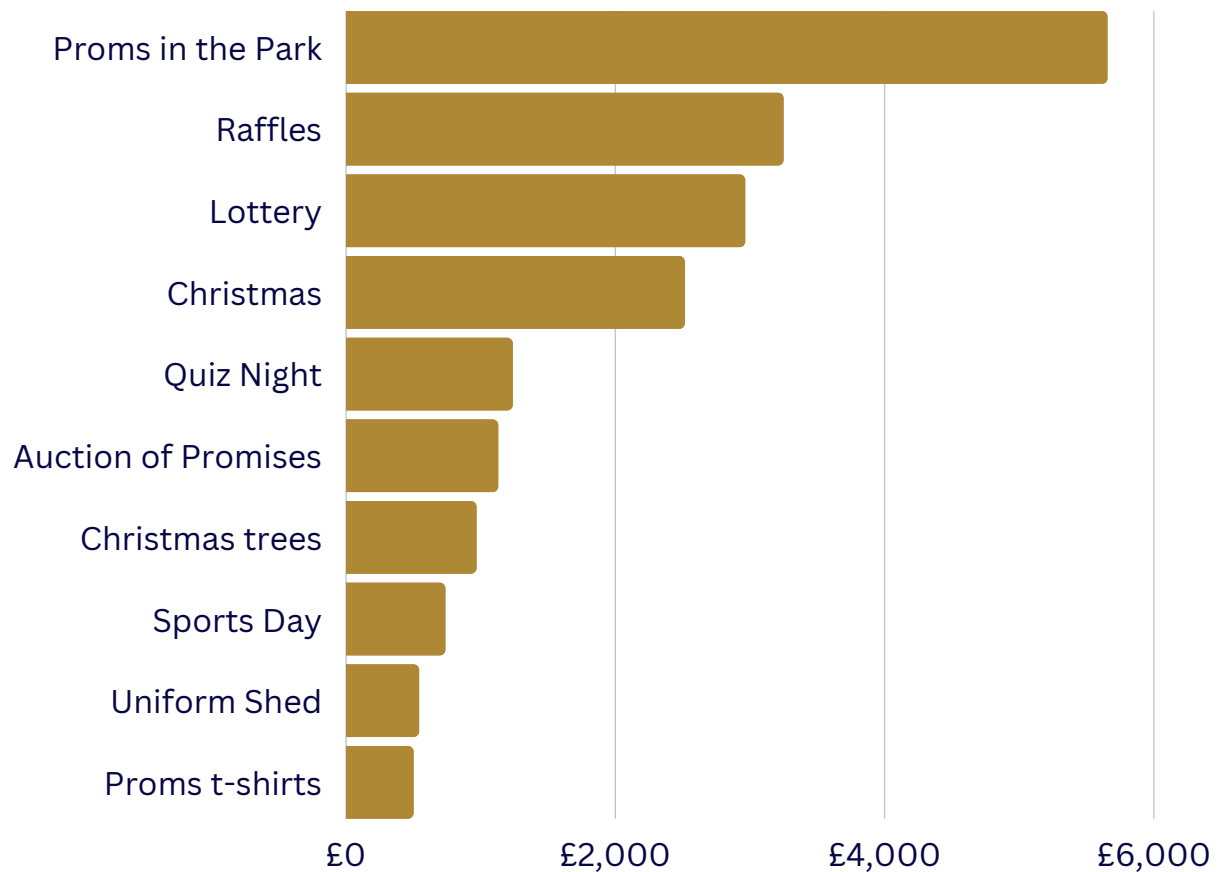


2019-20

INCOME BREAKDOWN 2021-22



INCOME - TOP 10

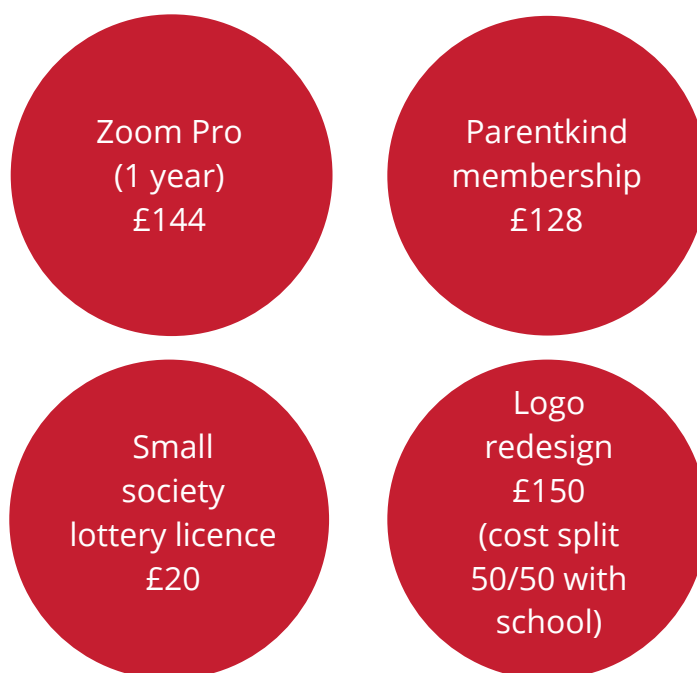


INCOME - OTHER



*All proceeds were donated to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (as per the letter to all parents from Mrs Kerr and Mr Clarkson dated 23rd March 2022).

ADMIN COSTS



As a registered charity we were able to claim a free Canva Pro subscription this year, and have made use of it to create all communications from the Friends of More House, as well as for the Proms t-shirt design.

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS/ AVAILABLE FUNDS

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS AT YEAR-END 31/08/22*	£7,440
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UNCOMMITTED BALANCE	£1,270
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* The sum of £2,450 for Surrey Choices has been carried over for 2022/23. In November 2019 the then committee authorised £4,320 for this scheme but so far only £1,870 has been invoiced due to the impact of the pandemic on its running.

A balance of £2,904 is due upon completion of the handbell restoration work (end October 2022).

£1,296 has not yet been invoiced for the new gazebo outside Gardn'r House and picnic benches located outside the Refectory and Crosslanes.

£750 allocated for work on the pews has not yet been invoiced.

PEACE GARDEN UPDATE

Teresa Ndovlu, Lay Chaplain



Since the announcement on Founder's Day that £5000 of funding has been awarded to the development of a Peace Garden on site, progress has maintained a steady pace. During the unprecedented warm weather over the break, the Grounds Team created a new path leading from the Maths walkway to the Peace Garden. Grounds also dedicated a tremendous amount of time and energy, aided by Sixth Formers studying Countryside Management, to clearing foliage from the pond area. This now provides a beautiful view from the Garden over the pond and down into the rest of the school. Plans are being finalised to install decking and more seating areas, to take full advantage of this new viewpoint. Towards the end of last term, a six-waterfall 'rock' feature was purchased and awaits installation just above the pond area, in a small section that has recently had fencing pushed back to allow pupils access. A natural wall of bushes and tall grasses will be installed on the opposite side of the Garden to inhibit the view from the maths walkway, aiding the Garden in fulfilling its pastoral purpose.

Although our work is far from complete, it has been encouraging to see the space already being used by some as a place for quiet reflection both individually and under the direction of staff members. A number of remembrance crosses have been purchased ahead of November, and we anticipate that the Garden will play a role in our Armistice Commemoration. Many of the pupils who began taking an interest in the Garden last academic year are now firmly committed members of the Peace Garden Project Group. We have also been fortunate to welcome some new regular attenders. The boys are continuously consulted on the progress of the Garden and have been enthusiastically researching bird feeders as well as tending to the flowerbeds they planted last year.