



DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 21st December
End of term Cinema
trip and Christmas
party – wear MUFT!

Friday 21st December
Break-up from School

Tuesday 8th January
Back to School!

Message from the Chair

The new committee for FOSSA took over after the AGM in October. The Christmas Fayre took up most of our time and energy; however Goli found time to launch the first FOSSA fun run, which was a great success. Sue also found the time to set up the ever-popular Santa shop and Matthew's post office.

The end of term party was scaled down as we were neglecting our jobs and families and time just ran out. So I hope that you don't mind that we didn't provide the lunch this year, however, here will be a little gift from FOSSA instead, thanks to Rachel, and the hall will be suitably decorated.

Happy Christmas Everyone!

Anna Holbrook



So, who are we?!



Anna Holbrook, Sophia's mum – Chair of FOSSA

I used to teach Science at Hayesfield Girls School in Bath, Physics being my main love! After Sophia was born, I couldn't be the mum and teacher I needed/wanted to be and so I left teaching. I started at Bath Spa Uni in 2015 training other people to be physics teachers. Teaching is a tough job and sadly recruitment into teaching (particularly in physics and chemistry) is down – if any one fancies giving it a go – let me know! The bonus of the new job is that I get to work 4 days a week but still get to drop off and pick up – this is so important to both Sophia and I - I never take it for granted. Bath Spa are also paying for me to do a Master's in Education, an opportunity I never thought I would get.



Fillipa Ross, Evie's mum - Secretary

Hi, I'm mum of Evie in Reception. Some of you might remember me from a couple of years ago when Iris, our eldest attended Shoscombe in Reception and year 1. Iris is now in the equivalent of year 3 at Fosseyway special school, still dancing and doing really well. I grew up in a neighbouring village and I love this area. I previously worked in London and Bristol as a solicitor specialising in Employment Law, and now I work for the family Vineyard. I was secretary of FOSSA when Iris was in year 1 and enjoyed it. It's great to see new ideas coming through this year and to get to know the new committee. I have arthritis and as a step towards managing it better, hopefully I will be handing over some of my duties to a lovely new committee member soon, but I look forward to helping out with future events.



Emma Rigsby, Ellie's mum – Treasurer

Hi I'm Emma, and I have come forward to be the new treasurer. My daughter Ellie started at the school in September and is very much enjoying being in Reception. I have another daughter Mia, who is younger than Ellie and will hopefully be joining the school in a couple of years. I work full time as a Senior Finance Manager in the public sector in Bristol, and I have been working in different areas of finance for over 14 years. I have a number of accounting qualifications including AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) and a passed finalist of CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants). Working full time means I won't always be able to help out as much as I would like to at fund raising events, so you might not always see me, but hopefully with the treasurer role I will be able to quietly help FOSSA in the background.



Glavije Amirjamshidi (Nassehi), Hannah's mum – Co Vice Chair

Children at school know me as Goli. I was born in Iran and moved here 10 years ago. I am an Architect with an MSc in Conservation. However, I stopped working and became a full-time mum after having my two daughters, Hannah and Ava. I love working with children and being around them. I joined FOSSA hoping to be part of the big family that make the school a better and a more fun place for all our children.



Sue Jones, Matthew's mum - Co Vice Chair

As some of you may know, I grew up in Shoscombe and also attended the school. I have many happy memories of my time here - anyone remember Mr Goode dressed as a fairy during the Christmas party??! - and am hoping Matthew will too. After teaching dancing for a while I went back to university gaining a degree in Radiography and Post Graduate Diploma I Medical Ultrasound. I now juggle four part time jobs working for the RUH, Circle, Global Diagnostics and Ultrasound Direct as well as currently just finishing my MSc (also in Medical Ultrasound) and teaching my one remaining adult tap dance class. Although being part of FOSSA is important, helping out in school and family time are very important too. Everything in life is a fine balance!! Ultimately, my aim is that Matthew has a happy school life throughout his time at Shoscombe and we as a family do as much as we can to support him!



Camilla Buchanan, Sofia's mum – Co Vice Chair

Hi Everyone I'm Camilla Buchanan, Sofia Buchanan is my daughter in Year 1. Firstly, a little bit about myself. Before I had Sofia, I was working in Care with GNVQS in Health and Social Care and studying Medicine. When I had Sofia, I had to put all of that on hold as my husband was in the Army and serving in Afghanistan at the time, so I had to become a full time Mum until a few years ago, I started working for a sunglasses manufacturer that fits around Sofia and school better. I joined FOSSA to help make school a happy, fun and safe environment for all our children by helping raise money and organise fun events for the school.



Rachel Holland-Vince, Archie's mum – Co- Vice Chair

Hi, my name is Rachel Holland-Vince and I'm mum to Archie in year 1. I myself attended Shoscombe School for the whole of my primary school years and love seeing the parents I went to school with and their children, also my oldest son Harry who is now 17 attended Shoscombe and now Archie is following in our footsteps. I lived in the village for 38 years but moved to Midsomer Norton 2 years ago. I own an ex racehorse and Archie has a pony. If it's not me in the mornings you have seen, it will be my dad - you definitely wouldn't miss him. He is either chatting to fellow parents or more than likely flying his airplane over the village. He has also lived in Shoscombe for over 50 years. I am a working mum and a pony club mum, so have limited time but wanted to be part of FOSSA to help think of simple ideas for the children to have fun and to help raise funds for the school at the same time. My husband Russel also made the book box also for the school library.



Ben Wilson, Scarlett's dad – Co Vice Chair

I'm a journalist from South London who moved to Bath in 2005 for what was supposed to be an 18-month stint at Future Publishing, then forgot to go home. I started my career on the teen magazines Bliss and More so it was inevitable that my children would be girls: Scarlett (Year One) and Indigo (Shoscombe from 2020, hopefully). I was editor of the UK's Official PlayStation Magazine – hence the videogames at the Christmas Fayre raffle! – for five years before going freelance following Scarlett's birth. This enabled me to become a full-time dad while writing for the likes of FourFourTwo, The Guardian and The Mirror during evenings and at weekends.

My wife Liz works as an app developer for Dyson and runs her own cake business, Daisy Bakewell. The 'Guess The Weight' cakes for the 2017 and 2018 Christmas Fayres were both her creations. We've found Scarlett's first 15 months at Shoscombe to be wholly positive and, like you all, are keen to continue to see the school prosper. There was some nervousness on my part about joining a PTA committee, but that's been eased by the reassurance and support from parents of older children who've 'seen it all before', for which I/we are very grateful. The Christmas Fayre felt like an encouraging start; hopefully we can now build on that for the long-term. Please **please** tell us if at any point you feel like we aren't.

Where now for FOSSA?

FOSSA's Vision:

To be a highly efficient, fun loving PTA whereby staff, children, parents and our wider community work hand in hand to create a school that is happy and kind.

There are two main goals.

Firstly - we want to provide the children in the school with opportunities to have fun, socialise and contribute to their community – Fayres, discos, movie nights. Matthew's post office was a great example where Matthew wanted to contribute to the school community and was given the opportunity through FOSSA to do this. There must be other children out there who also want to do something – FOSSA want to promote and support this 'entrepreneurship' in your children, so please approach us and let us know what ideas they have. (continued over)

**We're
All Ears**

Where now for FOSSA – continued

Secondly – funds need to be raised. What do we need the funds for? This is quite a big question and I feel that the people who ‘give’ – both in terms of time and/or money - reserve the right to say what they want the funds to be spent on. I’d like to encourage both school and parents to come forward with ideas for what funds can/need to be spent on. School have put in a request already for lap tops. It is important for the children to have access to computers and without funds from FOSSA the children simply won’t have computers in school. A FOSSA meeting after Christmas will be dedicated to the creation of a ‘wish’ list, whereby you are invited to suggest ideas for both fund raising and what to spend funds on.

I firmly believe that we need to concentrate some of our time on asking for money from people other than our parents. I have submitted an application form to the Institute of Physics. They have just given the school £565 to spend on promotion of physics within the school. Most of this will go towards payment of the Planetarium that will be coming into school on the 15th March – end of British Science Week. Although this is education based – I have seen the joy a planetarium can bring to children – even the most disinterested 14 year old girls told me they had enjoyed it.

Finally, my time as Chair may be a little short lived. As you may know I am currently Vice Chair of Governors. There is a possibility that in May I will be needed to step up as Chair of Governors. I cannot be Chair of both. I am looking to my current team in FOSSA to step up but they are being a little resistant! I would therefore like to give you plenty of notice that a Chair is needed. It does take up time – Fayres in particular. So it may suit someone who doesn’t work or is part time. I would suggest that if it’s the organisation of the Fayres that puts you off – believe me having organised both Summer and Christmas – it is hard work – then don’t have a Fayre. It would be a great shame as the children love them and they raise significant funds. However, it is better to have a FOSSA that exists and copes than have no FOSSA at all.

Since becoming Chair - I have created a FOSSA bible – it includes all contacts and information not only for the Fayres but also organisations that we are currently registered with, passwords and sign in’s. I’ve also been able to retrieve our ‘Constitution’ from the Charity Commission – which is a legal document that FOSSA had lost somewhere along the lines. So, I can guarantee that you would not be left in the dark and that I will ‘joint chair’ with you for a while during the hand over. If you are interested, please come and speak with me.

FOSSA needs you!

Anna Holbrook



How did our first events go?

Here is a round-up of the first events organised by the new committee. Not a bad start!

Christmas Fun Run

Thank you for all those who ran, helped set up. Special thanks to both Goli for managing the event and to Liz Wilson for providing the brilliant biscuit medal.

£125

Donations to Lap Top Fund

Thank you for your donation. It all helps!

£11

Christmas Stamps

At just 1p per stamp Matthew raised £6 – thank you Matthew!

£6

Santa Shop

Always popular with our children, this year we raised....

£244.14

Christmas Fayre

See below for the breakdown.

£768.90

Full Fund Raising Total

Monies raised since October 2018



£1155.04

Well done and thank you to everyone who gave their time, money and effort to raise this money. You, your children and staff now need to decide what you want it spent on!!

The Christmas Fayre

Stall	Profit
Raffle	£349.00
Father Christmas Grotto and crafts	£113.05
Jam Jar Tombola	£67.50
Hot Chocolate (Promotion of 100 club)	-£3.35
Teas and Coffee and cake (Church)	£130.00
Teddy Bears	£64.00
Stalls	£45.00
Face Painting	£49.00
Christmas tree	-£45.60
Totals	£768.90



Feedback on the Christmas Fayre is welcomed via email (anna_fish@hotmail.co.uk) or find me on messenger. All feedback will go into the review of the Fayre and considered for the next Fayre. Key feedback please on the date/timings of the Fayre. Thank you.

Our next big meeting ...

is the last week of **January** and the items on this agenda will be your 'wish list' and other fundraising events – creating a calendar for the year ahead.

Future Scheduled Meetings at the Apple Tree

Last week of every month. We will operate a system where the 'Chair' of the meeting is rotated between committee members. The day of the meeting within that week will also be rotated as there isn't one day where everyone is free. The meeting place will also have to rotate as the Apple Tree can only accommodate us on a Tuesday evening. We will publish exact dates, times and places 3 weeks in advance of the meeting. We will announce this on the class Dojo system as not everyone is on the FOSSA Facebook page!!