



Friends of Thorndon School Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date Tuesday 4th November

Time: 15:30

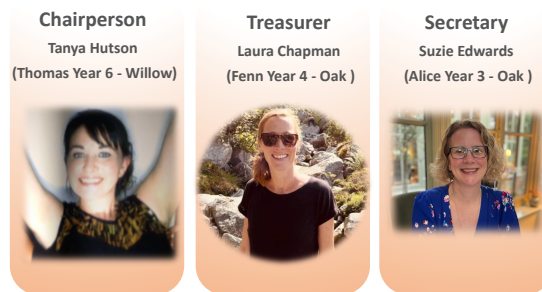
Location: Thorndon Primary School

Present: Tanya Hutson (TH), Laura Chapman (LC), Suzie Edwards (SE), Clare Canham (CC), Hannah Meadowcroft (HM), Nikki Alderton (NA), Lee Harman (LH), Kate Coy (KC)

The following slides were discussed

Welcome and Introductions

Current (2024/2025) committee



What do we do?



Event Organisation – We strive to celebrate and strengthen Thorndon’s vibrant community by hosting fun, engaging events that create lasting memories for the children and bring everyone together. These include Christmas and Summer Fayres, discos, and after-school treats.



Fundraising for school initiatives – We organise events and collect donations to support school trips, leavers’ hoodies, and improvement projects. Most recently, FOTS contributed £10,000 towards the development of the new school playground..



Community Events Beyond School – We also organise activities outside of the school to involve the wider community, encouraging engagement, support, and collaboration. Examples include a wreath-making workshop and an upcoming Chocolate Bingo night.

Our 24/25 fundraising profits and grants

Current bank balance:
£18,626.99

Fundraising source	Profit
Asda fundraising	94.09
Bags2school	150.4
Disco 24	102.43
Easter trail 25	87.50
Easyfundraising	73.76
Fathers Day 25	46.39
Mothers Day 24	17.53
Mothers Day 25	129.52
Refreshments (Easter, harvest, play etc)	282.98
RG governor matched time scheme	500
Summer Fayre	543.17
Treat Friday	726.02
Wonka 25	77.38
Wreath 24	790.34
Xmas Cards 24	43.54
Xmas Fayre 24	558.41

Grants and donations from our community	
Thorndon Parish Council grant	8400
Donation from Marion Ravenhill	1625
Suffolk CC grant for traffic signs	740
Donation from John Wilkinson (Treasure Hunt)	400
Just Giving Donations	29.07
Donation from Thorndon Bowls Club	10

Spending in 24/25

	£
New play equipment	10,378
Colin Wilson Award for Literacy	80
Mid Suffolk Raffle License Fee	20
Sports day ice lollies	12.15
Premier sports after-school club	650
2024 Oaks class trip	195
2024 Year 6 leavers trip	270
2024 Year 6 leavers' hoodies	163.20
2024 Holly class trip	300
2024 whole school cinema trip	720
2024 Oaks class trip	170
2025 Holly class trip	85
2025 Year 6 leavers' hoodies	259.10
Total	5,070.20

Note: Kerrison grant used to cover cost of Premier Sports after-school club went directly to school in 24/25, but in 25/26 will be administered by FOTS

Why do we need to keep fundraising?

Our Annual Commitment (based on 24/25)	Amount £
Leavers Hoodies	400
Parentkind (our insurance) and lottery licence	150
Trip contributions - per child per year (£20 x 60) – increased from £15 last year in line with rising costs	1,200
Whole school Christmas Cinema Trip	600
Sports day lollies	20
Leavers trip (£30 x 20)	600
Total	2,970

New for 25/26: FOTS enrichment fund to support school to deliver "By the time I leave Thorndon..." programme – first investment tennis lessons!

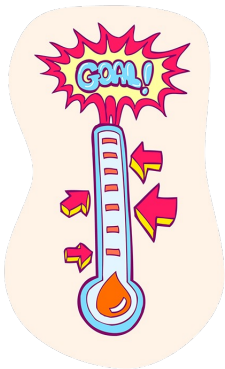
How can you get involved in the Friends of Thorndon School?


Time commitment	
Committee Member (Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary)	Max 4 days per month
Attendance at our committee meetings	One meeting per half term (only 6 meetings a year) – Meetings are straight after school for 1 hour and childcare is provided
Be part of the 'Helping Hands FOTS' WhatsApp group	Flexible – as much or as little as you want!
Help out at events e.g. Fayres, Discos, Mothers Day/Fathers Day shop, Weekly sweets treats.	Flexible – as much or as little as you want!
Stay informed: Be part of the Friends of Thorndon School Private Facebook Group https://www.facebook.com/groups/1068025933222175/	Flexible – as much or as little as you want!

Next Steps - get involved

Come along	Join	Join
Our next Committee meeting is on Tuesday 13 th January 2026 straight after school at 15:30 -16:30 and childcare is provided.	Helping hands WhatsApp group 	Friends of Thorndon School Facebook group https://www.facebook.com/groups/1068025933222175/ 

How can you raise funds?



- You can generate donations from your favourite retailers through  [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofthorndonschool/) <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofthorndonschool/> this generates commission for FOTS whilst you do your everyday shopping online at no extra cost to you!
- Does your business or employer offer sponsorship? Or would they match fund an event?
- Prize donations are always welcome for raffles. We also collect Pre-loved toys and books before our Christmas and Summer Fayres.



Thank You Tanya!



Chairperson of Friends of Thorndon School (2022–2025) -
Tanya's Highlights

Role	Achievement
Chief Buyer	Always found the best deals and supplies
Christmas Wreath Workshops	Spent hours wiring decorations
Disco Coordinator	Made every school disco unforgettable
Lucky Dip Queen	Brilliantly curated fun and surprises
Imaginative Ideas	Added thoughtful touches to every event
Raffle Prize Extraordinaire	Secured amazing prizes year after year

Election of
Committee
2025/26

Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Nomination of Committee members for 2024/2025

- Chairperson: Nikki Alderton (nominated by Tanya Hutson seconded by Suzie Edwards)
- Treasurer: Laura Chapman (nominated by Suzie Edwards, seconded by Tanya Hutson)
- Secretary: Suzie Edwards (nominated by Laura Chapman, seconded by Clare Canham)

	Action
Future Fundraising	
1. Wreath Making workshop 30th Nov 25 – TH organising. First session already sold out. It was noted that this would be Tanya's last year of organising. The committee acknowledged the continued success of the annual wreath-making fundraiser. With Tanya stepping down, FOTS is seeking a new lead to take over the organisation of this popular event. Tanya has kindly offered to share her resources and guidance to support a smooth transition. Interested volunteers are encouraged to come forward, either individually or as a team.	
2. School Christmas Fayre date confirmed for Thursday 11 th December. SE to confirm date with Thorndon Church and sort posters. Non-Uniform / Donation Day confirmed for Tuesday 2 nd Dec it was agreed to do House colour hampers again. Preparation meeting at Nikki's on Monday 8 th December at 7/7:30pm. NA & TH to source Raffle prizes. SE to post on Helping Hands to ask for volunteers.	SE/NA/ TH
3. It was agreed to have a 'fallow' year for Thorndon Easter Egg Hunt and review again in Sept 2026.	
4. Christmas Nativity Refreshments – Two performances planned again on Friday 12 th December. 10am for Thorndon Community and 2:30pm for Parents and Carers. FOTS agreed to provide refreshments and a raffle for each performance. LH agreed to bake cakes and treats. SE to post on Helping Hands to ask for volunteers.	SE/LH
5. Family Chocolate Bingo was discussed, with a tentative date of Saturday 21 st March 2026 3-5pm. HM agreed to confirm date with Daryl Jones. SE agreed to confirm at the next Thorndon Community Council meeting on 5 th Nov 25.	HM/SE
6. Bag2school Collection : CC confirmed her intention to step down from organising future Bag2School collections and invited another volunteer to take over the role.	

<p>Items requested by the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE and FOTS Shed- HM confirmed that the shared PE and FOTS shed is in the process of being ordered, with cost and installation details to be confirmed. The committee expressed thanks to Phil Coy for kindly offering to assist with dismantling the existing shed and helping to build and install the new one. • School Enrichment Fund - It was noted that the School Enrichment Fund, as agreed at the previous meeting, will total £10,000, less the cost of the shed. HM confirmed that the first allocation from this fund will be used to provide tennis lessons for the children. 	
<p>7. Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HM thanked FOTS for all their hard work this year and the incredible fund-raising amounts. 	
<p>Key dates:</p> <p>November 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sunday 30th November – Christmas Wreath Workshops <p>December 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday 2nd December – Non-uniform/donation day – House Colour Hampers - Monday 8th December – Fayre preparation meeting - Thursday 11th December – Christmas Fayre - Friday 12th December Nativity refreshments at 10am and 2:30pm <p>January 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday 13th January 2026 – FOTS Committee Meeting after school - Friday 23rd January 2026 – School Disco <p>March 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date TBC Mother’s Day Secret Shop (Mothering Sunday 15th March 26) - Saturday 21st March – Chocolate Family Bingo. 	