

Post-event Summary Report

Name – Abbeyhill Garden Party

Date & time – Saturday 18th June 2022. 12pm until 3pm

Location – Abbeyhill Primary school grounds.

Organising Committee – Melanie Chuprasova, Ann Pratt, Melissa Sturgeon, Emma Fordie, Suzanne Macdiarmid

We are delighted to now offer the summary of the Abbeyhill Garden party. The aim of this is to discuss the successes and details of changes we could make going forward. I think I join everyone in saying it was a very well received event which saw the grounds of Abbeyhill School playground filled with families.

Stalls – On the day, stalls and activities included were the raffle, café, scavenger hunt, uniform exchange, p6 fundraiser, crazy hair, potting stall, garden games, beat the goalie & hook a duck. Thank you very much to the many volunteers who donated their time to running a stall, setting up or clearing away. We have sent thank you messages out to everyone involved. This is a massive commitment and simply put, the garden party could not run without the assistance of the families helping on the day. We tried to get round the stalls and ensure everyone had a break or something to eat and drink, something I now know didn't happen on every stall due to the massive number of people attending and how busy every single volunteer was. Next year, we will aim to have an additional volunteer to fulfil a kind of 'runners' role. This would hopefully make it easier for the many volunteers to take breaks or at least take time to be fed and watered! We thought we had enough volunteers to cover everything, though none of us could have estimated the massive numbers of people on the day. From the feedback I received from attendees, they loved the range of available activities, the relaxing atmosphere and how attentive the volunteers were. Most money raised on the day was a product of the raffle, followed by the café then donation boxes spread throughout the event.

Outside visitors – We had the presence of Police Scotland, Marionville Fire service, Dynamic earth, Holyrood Park rangers & St Andrews First aid. As with previous years the staff who were in attendance were professional & friendly, they really added to a positive feeling on the day. Moira has kindly agreed to have thank you cards / posters prepared by the children of the school. I have contact details of those who attended. At the previous garden party, the fire truck was able to make its way fully into the lower playground. All vehicles were set to arrive at the same time prior to the event at 11:45. I would change that going forward to have the fire truck arrive last as it obstructs the entry of other vehicles.

Food Donations – We had some extremely generous donations of food and drinks from numerous stores. This included Asda – the Jewel, Lidl – Easter Road, Tesco – Leith walk, Morrisons – Portobello Road. Emma got some great photos of the kids holding donation bags. Each store has a community board in store and would appreciate a card to display work they carry out for the community. Mel is happy to attend each store and deliver them once prepared in school by the children.

Prize Draw Donations – We were amazed and hugely grateful for the generosity of those who donated to the prize draw this year. These included; Ooni Pizza Ovens, Hilton Edinburgh Carlton, Unique Aesthetics, Babarista, Myles hairdressing, Lionz barbers, Art and Vintage, Bellfield Brewery, Camera Obscura, Edinburgh Zoo, Edinburgh Leisure, Escape Rooms, Bannantyne's, Red Kite, Think Pastry, The Happy Bean, Hibs and Hearts football clubs and Gold and Gray Soccer Academy. There were also very generous gifts donated for a special children's prize draw that was run at no cost to the children to enter. All children at the event got to add their name and class to the draw and were in with a chance of a prize. There were 71 children who entered their name to this draw so that is some indication of the minimum number of children attending on the day. The Prize Draw and children's prize draw was run by Melissa Sturgeon and although helped by others on the team, she very much did the majority of work and outdid herself with the prize collection and ticket sales. The amount raised is phenomenal for such a small school and we are so grateful for all the hard work put in by Melissa.

Teachers & Abbeyhill staff – We have delivered a bouquet of flowers and card as a token of our appreciation for you all getting involved. Mr Woodhouse being both the goalie and getting soaked, in addition to setting up and clearing away was a massive task. Thank you so much. It's a big commitment getting involved with soak the teacher, thank you for everyone of you that got soaked – the children absolutely love it. To everyone who helped set up, clear away and to simply be present on the day – we appreciate it all. Mrs Pender, the children were delighted with your pocket of coats, you're always so happy to get involved – thank you. You all made the day even better than it was. As Mrs Robertsons first event in the role of HT, I think we can all agree she was a fantastic sport getting soaked. Thank you for replying to our numerous emails, requests and being such a great sport on the day.

Finances – We had an astounding amount of money raised before the event and on the day.

Money out – We spent a total of £371.73 on materials used for the garden party. Items such as plastic boxes, fancy dress, decorations, laminated signs and left over take-away cups and cutlery can be used for future years. Aiming to have no dates on the signage and tickets will help us re-use more items. A massive thank you goes to Ann and Dave Pratt for collecting, counting, and depositing the money. Ann thank you for your hard work in reimbursing everyone.

Money in – An outstanding amount of £1554.33 was raised, which breaks down as £1,158 on the raffle and £396.33 from the donation buckets. Deducting the cost of the items purchased prior to the event, this leaves funds of **£1,182.60** in the Parent Council bank account to be put to good use. Although the event was always intended to be a freely accessible day for the community of the school to come together and have fun, it is an amazing achievement of everyone involved and a testament to the generosity of all who attended, that this amount has been raised from the day. Discussions as to where this money will go will take place at next year's Parent Council meetings.

Team Lead – From being involved in events like this in previous years, we have learned that having one person as Team Lead is essential to ensure the smooth running and ease of decision making, both in the planning and running of the event. It worked very well on the day to have Mel, and her deputy Ann, clearly marked in high vis vests, to answer any questions from the volunteers or families attending. We offer a huge thank you to Mel Chuprasova for taking on the role of Team Lead for this event and for the enormous amount of time and work she put into every aspect of it.

Photos were taken on the day by parent Dave Morris, this was a massive piece of work. Thank you very much to Dave. The party could not take place without the hard work and the commitment of the Parent Council, parent forum and the schools involvement. Thank you for every bit of time and energy every volunteer gave to this event. It was a joy to be part of it all!

Many thanks,

The Abbeyhill Garden Party Committee