

Amanda MacKenzie – Chair of FOG Speech 2015

Good evening Headmistress, Governors, Prof. Parker, teachers, parents and most importantly girls.

When I took over the United Nations blue beret last year from the wonderful Sam Rogers, I was rather concerned as to what I had let myself in for. I started to worry that chairing the discussions at the FOG committee meetings may be similar to Greece - hot and very hard to manage!! But, I am pleased to report it has been nothing like that.

I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received in my first year from the whole Committee and I would like to thank in particular my fantastic treasurer **Wendy Constantine** and my very organized secretary **Sarah Metcalfe**. I also must say a huge thank you to the ladies in the office **Miss Chittenden** and **Mrs. McEvoy** who have kindly dealt with my daily emails with patience, good nature and humour and also **Mr. Whiting** who has been so very helpful and understanding (particularly on the topic of Gazebo). We really couldn't have done this year without him.

Because I know that not everyone can make all of our events, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind ourselves of some of the great events we've done and thank the people who have made them happen. As it is very like Greece in here tonight, I will try and keep to my promise of a very brief speech!

The FOG year starts with the headmistress' drinks in September. This was organized yet again (I think that is the 5th year running) by **Louise Talbot** and her team with military precision and was a fabulous evening and very well attended. I never know if it is so well attended because of the chance to meet with Mrs. Scott or the offer of a free glass of wine!!! Certainly, it is no coincidence that it is Mrs. Talbot's favourite event!

Next is the busy Christmas season. The Christmas Fayre was again a fantastic morning. The Dining Hall was transformed into a bustling Christmas market. Despite the driving rain **Sam Cliff** and **Iona Hunt** and all their helpers organized a really festive event enjoyed by both the parents and the children. We raised over **£2,000**. Thank you also to **Penny Hughes** who despite many, many, many challenges with the printers organized the lovely Christmas cards designed by the children.

Secret Santa was as wonderful as ever and raised over **£1000**. I must just take a moment to thank **Sam Rodgers** for all her hard work organizing this beautiful event for the children for so many years. They adore buying gifts for their families and visiting Father Christmas. It's magical and is now a Granville institution and I am delighted that **Caroline England** is going to take over the reindeer reigns.

Moving on to the 70's disco. I was hoping to have power point presentation to show some of the very classy outfits and extraordinary dancing of the parents, but I knew the girls would die of embarrassment – so you have been spared girls! Sadly the parents were not as well behaved as the girls and we managed to set off the fire alarms. Thankfully **Mr. Whiting** came to the rescue and despite the dramas we raised nearly **£500**. Well done and thank you to **Vicky McDonagh** and her team – it was great fun and the hall really looked like the set from Saturday Night Fever!

Next comes the FETE – what a wonderful day. **Catherine Daniel** and **Anna Jansen** really must be congratulated on organizing the calmest fete I have ever been too. The Bungee trampolines were inspired – the swing boats of the 21st century!!! A massive thank you must also go to all the class reps, husbands of reps and all the class parents who worked so hard to make the day so special. In the end we raised a fantastic **£9,275**.

The very busy summer term brings Sports Days, the senior disco and our 70th birthday party! Firstly thank you to **Kirsteen Allen** and team of helpers who organized and I quote an “awesome” senior disco. The girls thoroughly enjoyed it and unlike their parents – didn’t set off the alarms. Secondly, I thank **Simone Erhart** and the junior school mothers who helped at the senior school sports day. The Pimms was very welcome in the 30-degree heat. Finally, a thank you in advance to all the mums who have baked cakes and who are helping out at the 70th party tomorrow. Lets hope the sun continues to shine.

A special mention must also go to **Sarah Annandale** and **Sandy Hansen** who have made the second hand shop into a shopping destination!!!! I know that we all appreciate being able to buy good quality and good value second hand uniform. Thank you ladies. They have managed to raise over **£5,800** this year.

But my last and biggest thank you must go to **Vicky Mcdonagh** who as Head of Events for the last 2 years has gone above and beyond the call of duty for all the events she has been involved with. Everything is always perfect the flowers beautiful and most importantly she has always ensured that we have had posing tables at every event. We will really miss you Vicky and your tables. I am very happy to announce that **Catherine Daniel** is taking over from Vicky as Head of Events.

So, adding all that up we have raised a fantastic sum this year - well over **£14,000**. Everyone should be congratulated – it means we can continue to fund the lovely extras for the children. This year we have paid for the school ipads, their storage system and enabling the whole school for wifi. A great achievement and something the girls will benefit from enormously. We have also helped around the school with smaller projects including the gardening club, Granville’s membership to the National Trust and buying our first Granville branded Gazebo. Without the huge efforts of the Mums and Dads around the school so much of school life would grind to a halt. Lets keep the hard-work up and please keep volunteering!!!

That’s all from me, but I have just one last comment to the lovely year 6 girls sitting here; I wish you all the best in your new schools and hope that you come visit us soon and that you leave with very happy memories of your Granville days. Thank you.