

FSPSP AGM REPORT

2024 was a very successful fundraising year for The Friends, with some exciting and profitable events.

The first event of the year was Geoff Harry's Quiz, on 23rd February, well attended as usual, with the food provided by the Charities Group and an excellent raffle. The money raised was split equally between the Friends and Vaughan House in Guildford.

Our Easter Market was held on March 19th and we had agreed after the bad weather the previous year, to have all the stalls inside at the Parrot. The manager agreed to let us have some extra space and we had better arrangements for stallholders arrival and departures. There were 21 stalls and we estimated that about 250 people attended, with many staying for lunch.

Our big fundraiser in 2024 was our second Family Fun Day at Sayers Croft, held on 27th July. Again the weather was kind to us but attendance was good, it is likely that around 420 adults attended, so the actual footfall with children was over 800.

There were food vans, some stalls for children and a few for adults but mostly the children wanted to go on the activities, again supported by Sayers Croft staff.

Since part of the Roman Road is being excavated close to Sayers Croft wood, the Ewhurst History Society kindly sponsored a 'Meet the Romans' event with Hands on History providing costumes and artifacts at the Round House. Children could also do a mini archaeological dig to find Roman pottery and this was very popular. Felix Cuthbert from the Players dressed as a Roman soldier to escort people to the Round House. The Friends appreciate al, the help from villagers who helped to make the day a success.

Three schools have visited our church this year, and children from Rainbows End came twice. Our trustees showed the children around the church and they completed our activity sheets. These tours are an important part of the outreach which is essential for our grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Friends and the Ewhurst History Society has a joint stall at the Rectory Fete in September and our banners and activity packs were on show in the church as it was also Heritage Weekend. They also combined to take a table at the Christmas Fair organised by Ewhurst School.

Our Christmas card sales were good this year, with two original painted cards from George Yates. The cards were sold after our services and at the village school Christmas Market where we had a shared stall with the Ewhurst History Society.

This year the sales of Christmas Cards went well, there were two painted designs from George Yates and photographs from Geoff Harry and Miles Thompson. Thanks go to them and the ladies who packaged up the cards.

The Bulls Head invited the church choir and friends to go carol singing both outside and inside the pub, just before Christmas. This was very well received and profitable for the Friends.