

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held at 6.15 pm before the Annual Dinner on Saturday March 19th 2016. The meeting took place at the RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY.

Present: Chris Essex (President) in the Chair; Nigel Burnip; Simon Dougherty; John Ellerby (Chairman of Trustees); Ruth Elwood; Hugh Jenner; Abigail Mackrill; Norman Porter (Hon Sec); Brian Rosen; Clive Smith; Julian Stapleton. (Quorum is 10).

1. Apologies.

Chris Bellamy; Bill Collard; Peter Golding; Peter Howard-Dobson; Tim Mitchell; John Rankin; James Ruddock-Broyd; Richard Sayer; Michael Smy; John Waugh.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 10th April 2015.

These Minutes were available at the meeting and were also accessible on the website (www.oldframlinghamian.com) or by application to the Hon Gen Sec, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. These were taken as read, approved by the meeting and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising from those Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending December 31st 2015.

Copies of the accounts had been available on the website, and at the meeting, or could be obtained by sending a large SAE to the Chairman of Trustees at:

1, Rooksacre, Lankhills Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 7AE.

The Chairman of Trustees, John Ellerby, presented the accounts and reported as follows:

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2015

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

My role today is to present the key elements relating to the 2015 Report and Financial Statements. The accounts have been formally approved by Ensors and the Trustees and I have signed them on behalf of the Trustees. It is now for the AGM to note their content and to raise any issues/questions it may have.

Firstly I must express enormous gratitude to Michael Smy who has done an excellent job in producing two sets of accounts at a time of significant change. Unfortunately he can't be with us tonight as he had had to undergo a minor operation this week. We wish him well.

Copies of the accounts are available today for review but I appreciate that there is a lot to take in. I have also circulated a copy of the Balance Sheet from the 2015 Management Accounts which shows the combined picture (I will explain shortly why there are 2 sets of formal accounts) and all my comments will be focussed largely on the aggregate position.

Accounts

At the end of 2014 the Trustees of Society were appointed Trustees of the Society's charitable funds that were previously under the trusteeship of the governors and charity

trustees of the College. These funds were then linked to the Society's new Charitable Trust created. For the 2014 reporting year the Society produced one combined set of accounts as well as submitting a separate set of accounts for the Charitable Trust to the Charity Commission. Following this restructuring there is now a requirement for the Trustees to produce two separate set of accounts, one for the Charitable Trust and one for the Society itself. Both sets of accounts are being circulated today.

The accounts are split as follows:

Society accounts.

These include:

- General account
- Life membership fund
- Moreau Bequest fund
- Endowment fund

Charitable Trust

- FCIF
- Moreau Benevolent
- OF Scholarship
- Wallace Scholarship
- Alfred Pretty
- Bromage Memorial
- Mawby Memorial

A major policy change this year has been the decision to channel, wherever possible, all awards through the charity and to fund them by donations from the Society. This has the dual advantage of increasing our charitable activities whilst being tax efficient for the Society.

Investments

In January 2015 all our investments were restructured with the aim of enhancing our investment management capability. Whereas previously our investments were held separately for each fund they have now been amalgamated into two funds (one for charitable and one for non-charitable funds) which are managed by Investec Wealth Management. This allows even the smallest fund to have the same access to a balanced portfolio of investments. The rationalisation has meant that historical performance comparisons are initially difficult to produce but these are building up again over time. As a result of the fund reorganisation the Trustees updated the Society's Investment Policy Statement though the changes were generally in relation to the reference to specific funds and the underlying investment management criteria remain unchanged.

Grants and Awards

The Trustees agreed to fund the digitisation of the entire catalogue of Old Framlinghamian magazines and the cost of £2,000 will be shared with the College.

In 2015 the new range of OF prizes were implemented. Overall grants and awards were slightly higher in 2015 at £11,100 compared with £10,809 though many of the new awards consist of more than one payment. Subsequent instalments are contingent upon the recipients demonstrating a continuing commitment to the Society after leaving the College and if these are met our commitment will increase each year.

Also payments for the Moreau scholarships have been increased from £800 to £1,000 per annum.

Donations

Donations were £4,705 in 2015 (2014 - £4,568) and most of these are now directed to the SOF Charitable Trust. A gift aid claim was successful submitted for the first time in 2015 resulting in additional income of £93. Unfortunately, the old gift aid declarations were not transferable to the new charity so an appeal to existing donors to complete new declarations has been launched, resulting, it is hoped, in an increase in this income line.

Financial performance

Total balances increased from £972k in 2014 to £1.64m at 2015 close.

Charity £125k to £142k

Society £846k to £1.5m

Pretty much all of the increase related to the Fowler legacy with other variations relatively minor. Significant cash balances are still held in respect of the Fowler bequest and these will continue to be held pending the ongoing due diligence enquiries.

Because of circumstances of where money came from we need to check that there is no possible tax liability before paying to College. One remaining issue was whether donor was US citizen. Extensive checks with previous US attorneys seem to suggest no evidence that she was. Peter HD has contacted one of the sons in UK but has not been able yet to fully determine. We are awaiting an opportunity to talk again. It is a sensitive subject as they received nothing from her. Overall we remain confident of bringing this to a satisfactory conclusion but prefer to complete all investigations first.

2015 saw the first full year of funding from the College and £16,910 was received. The year end surplus was £3,833 with most of this due to lower expenditure than planned on broader society events and subsidies CHECK.

Key expenditure items in 2015 included:

Fowler legal fees £3,600 (more to come)

Career event £1,042

Digitisation £772

The above were all funded by the Trustees rather than the operational grant from the College.

Rules and Policies

Following the establishment of the new Charitable Trust the Trustees have been reviewing its policies and procedures. Particular attention is being focussed on a Risk policy, a Complaints policy and the eligibility and election of Trustees. New policies and procedures have been drafted and are in the process of being approved. Whilst this is a requirement for the Charitable Trust it is prudent to consider these in the context of all the Society's financial operations.

Trustees

All 4 Trustees will be continuing for the coming year though at the end of the year Tim will retire due to pressure of work. Peter HD has agreed to replace Tim and once again become a Trustee from the 2017 AGM. In the meantime he will be attending Trustee meetings to get back up to speed and also provide a wealth of experience.

We are also looking at co-opting legal representation to the Trustee body but as yet have not identified a suitable candidate.

5. President's Report.

In a brief review of the year the President reported on various highlights of 2015:

The Trustees had given significant financial support to:

a/ A new Golf facility at the College.

b/ Peal plaque in St Michael's Church commemorating the 2015 peal that coincided with the community Garden Party celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the College.

c/ The Grave of WW1 victim Robert Simmons, formerly employed at the College, in Framlingham churchyard. The grave had previously been unmarked.

d/ Charlotte Findlay and her research expedition to the Antarctic. She would be giving talks on her experiences.

e/ A contribution to Fressingfield Church to refurbish the chimes, originally installed in memory of OF Herbert Fisher. Herbert is commemorated in a fine stained glass window there, complete with College crest.

Plans were being progress for the new pavilion extension and refurbishment. Final planning permission was awaited, as was a final decision on possible tax liabilities relating to the Fowler bequest.

He thanked Officers for their work over the year, particularly Jenny Binder who, as the first ex-Moreau scholar achieving office had now completed her first year as Treasurer.

150th Dinners. There had been a range of hugely successful dinners, both in the UK and abroad. The Norfolk Dinner had been particularly successful, with Andy Allen having been responsible for bringing in considerable numbers of 1980s leavers.

There had been significant developments in co-operation between the SOF and the Careers Department at the College. Of particular note was the Year 12 visit to London, with a concluding reception, generously hosted by Matt Truman, and including a number of other OFs. .

Past President Richard Sayer was to be congratulated on his election as President of the Corporation.

The website team were thanked for their on-going hard work and support.

OFs in the news: David Mason – award of BEM – services to charity and the community; Angus Cundey – award of MBE – services to tailoring; Christina Johnston (Prague – opera), Laura Wright (soprano, Wembley and Twickenham appearances), Ed Sheeran (BH – popular singing phenomenon! Caroline Reid (now a double blue – Rowing and Rugby)

Birth of Young Committee –Ball coming up

Jane Easey had achieved much as in-College Liaison Officer. She had worked very hard on behalf of the Society. She continued to be responsible for organising tours for OFs around the College.

The work of digitisation of OF Books and Magazines was on-going. Work on Magazines from the 1920s to the 1960s was now complete.

The Creative Framlinghamians Exhibition in June had been a great success. Some 50 OFs had contributed. Chris Keeble deserved thanks for his input into the designing of the exhibition.

Moreau. Candidates of high quality continued to apply. The scholarship was now worth £1000 pa for 3 years. David Mallett was to be thanked for his fine work as Chairman of the Selection Committee.

Sport achievements – Runyard, Shooters – national honours.

Deceased: Peter King: Michael Mullender, Canon William Loveless, Peter Martin, Lt Col Robert L Stevens, Jerry Lee, Edward Woods, John Ives, Antony Randell, Peter Arbon, Robin Ludlow, Michael Barrington-Phillips, Geoffrey Peck, Robin Kiddle, Edmund Baker.

He commented on the wonderful standard set by the two publications: The Framlinghamian and the SOF Newsletter. The SOF owed a huge debt to Chris Keeble for his design work over the years. He would now be stepping down.

He spoke of the charity Annies Challenge. Two young OFs, Sam Crimp and Henry Dunham, would be spending a year walking to Kathmandu, raising money for Henry's sister who had recently, at the age of 29, with two young children, had recently died of a brain tumour.

6. Election of Officers of the Society for 2016:

All the elections below were formally proposed and seconded:

President: Chris Essex

President-designate: John Ellerby

Vice Presidents: en bloc plus Chris Hobson

Hon Gen Sec: Norman Porter

Hon Treasurer: Jenny Binder

Finance Committee: Officers plus Secretaries of sections.

Independent examiner: Ensors

Elected Council Members (for a 3 year term): Abigail Mackrill

New Hon OFs: **Roy Witham; Tom Huggins, Ruth Noble, Teresa Blower** – Domestic Manager, she much to do with the students pastoral life, she manages the Matrons and is behind the scenes for all the OF dinners etc. **John Slay and Dorothy Englert**

7. Any other business.

There was none, and the President declared the meeting closed at 6.55

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