

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
The Society of Old Framlinghamians
held at 6-15 pm on Saturday 24 March 2018
at The RAF Club, Piccadilly London

Present: John Ellerby – President – in the Chair; Kirk Adam; Nigel Burnip; Hugo Corrie; Simon Dougherty; Robert Ellerby; Ruth Elwood; Chris Essex; Tim Gough; Kate Jackson; Justyn Lawson; Jessica Mawson; Peter Howard-Dobson; Ian Pearson; Norman Porter; Brian Smith; Nick Whitehead; Berenice Wiedemann

1. Apologies.

Andrew Baker; Michael Bentall; Alan Bewick; Bernard Bridges; Guy Brooke-Smith; Mike Bullock; Patrick Candler; David Carr; Bill Collard; David Copeman; Mike Craddock; Andrew Fane (Hon); Jon Ford; Andrew Freemantle; Rob Giles; Peter Gooding; John Halahan; David Hughes; Chris Keeble; Barry Lorkin; Alan Limer; Abigail Mackrill; Indy Mason-Kidd; Ken Mayhew; Robert Mayhew; James Mehta; Martin Myers-Allen (Hon); Graham Osborne; Charles Packe; John Rankin; James Ruddock-Broyd; Michael Smy; Richard Sayer; Chris Shaw; Clive Smith; Christopher Subba-Row; David Turnbull; Colin Wigg; John Waugh; Andrew Wright

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 8 April 2017.

These Minutes were available at the meeting and had also been accessible on the website (www.oldframlinghamian.com) or by application to the Hon Sec.

These were signed having been approved as a true record of proceedings on 8 April 2017.

3. Matters arising.

There were none.

4. To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017.

Copies of the accounts were available at the meeting, on the website, or can be obtained by sending a large SAE to the Chairman of Trustees, Chris Essex, 3 Kingston Avenue, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3LF.

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017. Chris Essex, Chairman of Trustees reported as follows:

I would like to present the key elements relating to the 2017 Accounts. These accounts have been formally approved by the Trustees and Ensors, our auditors, and have been signed by John and I. 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 once again to Michael Smy for producing both sets of accounts (SOF and SOFCT). Michael can't be with us tonight, so no tricky questions! Michael has also agreed, at the request of John, Peter and I, to serve a further 4-year term as a trustee.

Accounts

There are two sets of accounts which are effectively split between the charitable and non-charitable holdings, as has been the case for the last few years.

Overview

Compared with the large financial transactions undertaken in respect of the Fowler Bequest in 2016, 2017 has been a quieter year.

In late 2016 the Society agreed to donate £500,000 of the Fowler bequest to the College. To promote the profile of the SOF Charitable Trust and for reasons of tax efficiency it was agreed that the money would be given to the College through the charity. This was effected by a donation of £136,260 to the charity with the balance being by way of an interest free loan of £363,740 from the Society's accounts to SOFCT. During 2017 the Trustees decided not to repay any of this loan.

The Fowler Pavilion was officially opened in October 2017 and an additional £3,000 grant was made by the Trustees towards to the cost of the excellent Fowler display in this building, which was designed and configured by Chris Keeble and based on Peter Howard-Dobson's narrative.

A further £165,000 of the Fowler bequest remains and this is now held within the Endowment Fund and managed by Investec Wealth Management. The Trustees are meeting this coming Monday in London to consider how the balance of this legacy might best be used in the future, alongside a review of our longer-term income needs.

The current financial period is looking unpredictable with Brexit approaching; however, we have been well diversified in our investments via Investec. Balances have grown over the year and both general funds and charitable funds are showing a healthy return.

Work has also started in conjunction with the College to ensure that we are ready and compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will come into effect on 25th May 2018.

SOCIETY'S GENERAL ACCOUNT

The grant received from the College was virtually unchanged from the previous year, but the grant required from the Trustees was significantly lower due to the much-reduced legal fees incurred in respect of due diligence work on the Fowler Bequest.

Expenditure was significantly down on the previous year due mainly to the reduction in legal fees I've just mentioned. Also no costs were incurred in respect of the Framlinghamian magazine as they were met in full by the College; in addition to which

as the work was carried out 'in house' by them our design consultancy fees were reduced. A further saving was made when the Secretary waived his Honorarium for which he is duly thanked

These savings were offset by increased support specifically given to young OFs in various fields and a new heading has been introduced in the accounts to highlight this. The increase in team expenses was mainly as a result of new rugby kit being purchased and more competitions being entered.

Finally, the cash balance of £600 held at the year-end represents advanced ticket sales for the London Supper held in January.

TRUST ACCOUNTS

Looking firstly at the non-charitable funds, dividend income was a little higher this year reflecting the investment of the remaining Fowler bequest early in the year, but overall investment income was 16% down at £28,046 due to the loss of over £5,000 deposit interest from the Fowler bequest.

£8,426 of the income was used to meet Investment Management fees and £12,875 was donated to the SOF Charitable Trust (SOFCT) to meet prizes and grants. The amount donated to SOFCT represents an increase of £1,918 over 2016 excluding the exceptional donation of £136,260 towards the Fowler Pavilion. The Trust accounts ended the year with a surplus for the year of £6,820.

The Balance Sheet, which reflects the value of our investments at 31 December 2017, showed an increase from £1.452m to £1.518m over the year, including the long-term loan to SOFCT. Of the cash held at the end of 2016, £185,010, including the balance of the Fowler Bequest, was transferred to Investec for investment.

The total return achieved by Investec was 8.6%. Investec had held a slightly overweight position in overseas equities and a slightly underweight position on UK equities and fixed income and this was corrected during the year.

Turning now to the charitable funds in SOFCT, the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), which last year looked so alarming with a deficit of £175,036 due to the Fowler donation to the College, has this year seen a return to the usual pattern of expenditure.

Nevertheless, a deficit of £3,068 before gains was incurred. This arose from the inclusion of a new cost, the 'Concessionary Loan Finance Charge' of £5,225. Last year the SOFA was credited with £189,553, which was the deemed benefit of paying the loan back in currency subject to inflation; this figure has to be written back in the SOFA over the period of the loan and the charge for this year is £5,225. The gains made on the investments, some £7,797, resulted in there being an overall surplus of £4,729 for the year, which helped reduce the overall deficit from £20,889 to £16,160. The deficit is covered by the interest free, long term loan from the Society of Old Framlinghamians (SOF) so the Trustees have no concern for the future of the charity.

Our investments have once again been managed by Investec and the value of our charitable investments have risen to £142,371. The total return achieved by Investec was 8.2% over the last year. As with the non-charitable funds, Investec had held a slightly overweight position in overseas equities and a slightly underweight position on UK equities and fixed income.

The restructuring of our investments last year helped improve the dividend income this year which was up slightly from £4,062 to £4,227. The Balance Sheet remains skewed by the loan.

Grants and Awards

The College's funding of the General Account has allowed the Trustees to increase support to former students to encourage greater participation in the Society's affairs and to assist in other areas of OF activity.

Grants and awards totalled £19,289 were made during 2017 from the Charitable funds and were partly funded, as I said earlier, by £12,875 from our non-charitable funds. In addition to the OF Prizes, the Charity gave financial assistance for two current pupils to go on a Hockey tour to South Africa in April 2018 and supported another on a place on the National Schools Symphony course. Former student Kimberley Pope was given financial assistance to go on her first international shooting tour to Barbados and Guyana, representing Ireland, and Luke Quartermaine was given a grant towards hockey goalkeeping kit for use in playing for his University at Exeter.

The Trustees also decided, with the support of the Bromage family, to enhance and promote the Bromage Memorial Fund, established as a memorial to Ventura and Neville Bromage. This was achieved by amending the terms of the Bromage Prize Fund so that all future sports related grants could be given in the name of this fund.

As in recent years the bulk of the individual awards were given out as OF prizes. Where the award consists of more than one payment, the subsequent instalments are contingent upon the recipients demonstrating a continuing commitment to the Society after leaving the College. The Society has set Prizes and awards to the tune of £8000. This is the third year of the multi-year awards by the society designed to foster long term relationships and it is the intention for the Trustees to review the multi-award scheme in October 2018.

All these awards are in addition to those given for 2 Moreau scholarships of £1,000 per annum for 3 years, making £6,000 in total per annum.

Other grants included money for plaques at Lochnagar Crater specifically to honour five OFs and one College master killed at the Battle of the Somme but whose bodies were never found. Once again, the Charity also supported the popular careers event in London and it looks set to become a regular feature of the student calendar.

The trustees, together with the College are continuing to jointly fund the digitalisation of Framlinghamian Magazines over the last century and more, with 1900 to 1979 now complete. Do have a look on the SOF website as they make an interesting read.

Donations

The Trustees wish to thank all those members who completed gift aid declarations during the year as this enabled them to claim additional funds from HMRC and assisted in raising member donations from £4,730 to £5,521.

Trustees

As advised last year Tim Mitchell stood down as a Trustee after 9 years and was replaced by Peter Howard Dobson with effect from 21 April 2017. I would like to thank Tim for his excellent contribution and to very much welcome Peter back as a Trustees, with his detailed knowledge of the Society over many years. My thanks also obviously to John.

5. President's Review of the Year 2017

The President, John Ellerby, reviewed the year as follows:

It seems that the last 3 years have been dominated by the Fowler bequest and it was wonderful finally to have the opening ceremony for the new Fowler Pavilion in October 2017. It was a great occasion, combined with a Council meeting and Suffolk lunch and totally fitting that the building was opened by Norman Porter.

The excellent news is that the building has been very well received and gets an enormous amount of use.

Other highlights of the last year:

In May 2017 we had the tea party to celebrate the 40th anniversary of girls at the school attended by over 50 female OFs. It was followed in June by the we had the 80/90s Leavers Ball attended by over 250. Tony Lawrence was quoted as saying it was the best OF event he had ever been to. On the same weekend we had the OF Sports Weekend featuring both hockey and cricket and a farewell tea to Michael Cooke who finally retired from school (almost) having joined in 1974! Continuing on the decades theme, we have coming up this year a pre-1970s leavers lunch which looks like being well attended. These decade reunions seem really popular as attendees like knowing that there are going to be contemporaries present. Hopefully in 2019 we can hold another recent leavers ball under the auspices of the Young OF committee.

Jane Easey did a great job organizing these events though she resigned at the end of the summer 2017. We are delighted to have Kate Jackson, OF as her replacement and she has settled in very well.

I was fortunate enough to attend the 3rd German supper organised by Kim Dickel (M97-98) and Sandy-Gwyn Paetz (M99-00). This was a hugely successful event in Munich at

Oktoberfest attended by 18 Kim is already looking forward to organising another event in 2018.

Supper events in 2017 were less well attended. At the Essex supper in April there were only 5 attendees from the county itself. John Rankin stood down as Essex supper organiser after many years and I would like to thank him for all he has done in that time. Unfortunately, we have yet to find a replacement. Many thanks too to Nigel Burnip and Michael Smy who have stood down as supper organisers for London and Newmarket respectively. Both have done a sterling job over the years. Ian Fulcher and Abid Hamid have agreed to replace them. Suppers at Newmarket, West of England and Southern Counties had to be cancelled this year generally due to a lack of interest, but I'm pleased to say Ian Fulcher has organised a Newmarket supper for Monday 9 April with a Council meeting on the same day. The next London supper is on Tuesday 24 July with the Suffolk supper again being a lunch at Brandeston Hall to celebrate the 70th anniversary of pupils at the Prep School. This is on Saturday 20 October.

There will also be a tea party at Brandeston to celebrate the 70th anniversary on Friday 29 June just before the big OF weekend.

Next year's AMG and Annual Dinner will be at the College on Saturday 6 April and will obviously be Paul Taylor's last annual dinner as Headmaster.

Finally on suppers, the 2018 annual HK supper took place last Saturday (17th) in a new venue and organised for the first time by Moira Theulier (M91-93). 6 OFs attended including the ever-present Ian Howard.

Moving on to Sport, our shooting and golf sections continue to be active and successful. The international roll call for our shooters is very impressive (Jon Ford and James Mehta can't be with us today as they are shooting for GB veterans in South Africa and Sandy Walker is representing Scotland at the Commonwealth Games in Australia in April) and the golfers won the Runyard Cup again and retained the Dick Watson trophy. It is good to see young OFs doing well in both fields. There is also encouraging activity among young OFs in rugby and hockey through Luke Quartermain, Cam Greenhall and Emily Wilford.

The College once again organised a London Careers event in November last year. My thanks to OF Marcus Booth for hosting the evening reception and to other OFs who offered work placements in the afternoon. The Society supported the evening reception financially.

The young OF committee under Nick Whitehead and Will Wright has continued to explore opportunities for gatherings of younger OFs and are to be applauded for their efforts.

I would also like to extend thanks to my fellow Trustees, the Finance committee (particularly our treasurer Jenny Binder who is an ex Moreau Scholar) and Council members and to Kate and our small website team who deal with enquiries from OFs and others every day of the week. Many individuals do an enormous amount of work for the Society and their efforts are truly appreciated. I would also like to single out Norman

Porter for the phenomenal job he did on the yearbook at a time of big change within the College (due to departures of Tom Huggins and Jane Easey).

One of the recurring anniversaries in recent years is the centenary of events from the First World War. Last September several OFs and College staff attended the unveiling of a government stone and plaque in Copdock to commemorate the centenary of the award of the VC to OF, William Hewitt. Several more of us are due to attend a similar event at Billingford near Diss on Tuesday 10 April in honour of OF, Gordon Flowerdew.

Martin Myers-Allen has unearthed a host of archive material on Flowerdew and has arranged for it all to be digitized. We are looking at where best to store it.

There are ongoing discussions with the College both in relation to amalgamating the database and re-hosting the OF website on the College website. Further dialogue with the College is planned.

We continue to review the impact of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). One significant area of focus is the sharing of data which is very relevant for supper organisers. There is a need to produce a “rules of the road” for Supper organisers and what they can and can’t do with lists of data. We will take our lead from the College on way forward in combination with other alumni organisations. We hope that “Legitimate Interest” will allow us not to seek explicit permission as long as “unsubscribe” option always given. We await full regulations.

In the last year there have been a large number of deaths among OFs and former members of staff deaths. There are too many to mention here but I will list them all as an appendix to the minutes and highlight a few now.

Jonathan Hulley (K10-16) died in a tragic road accident at the age of just 19. Stewart Birt (S56-61) died on 1 January 2018 at the age of 75 and less than 2 years after the death of his brother John (S59-63). He was well known to Richard Sayer.

Richard’s own younger brother Stephen Sayer (S58-63) died on 14 March after a long battle with cancer. We also lost John Capps (R46-53) a previous Norfolk supper organiser on 2 July and Peter Radcliffe Simpson (K32-40) on 8 July. He was one of 29 Simpsons over 5 generations starting from the very first day the school opened in 1865.

John Maulden, (G45-50) OF stalwart and College master died on 2 July and other formers members of staff include Philip De Whalley (Hon OF) and Richard Law, College chaplain in 1972-83.

I must also mention John Clement (Hon OF) a former chair of Governors at the College who died on 22 December 2017.

6. To elect Officers of the Society for 2018

All those whose names are noted below were formally proposed and seconded, and unanimously agreed:

(Trustees – confirmation only): John Ellerby, Chris Essex, Peter Howard-Dobson and Michael Smy all continue to stand.

President: John Ellerby

President designate: None proposed – to be followed up at future Council meeting

Vice Presidents: None proposed.

Hon Sec: Abid Hamid

Hon Treasurer: Jenny Binder

Finance Committee: President, Trustees, Hon Sec, Hon Treasurer, Golf & Shooting organisers, supper and sport supremos, OF coordinator at the College, Chair and Vice Chair of Young OFs Committee.

Independent examiner: Ensors – as appointed by the College.

3 elected Council Members -3 year term: Nick Whitehead proposed Jack Richards and agreed to approach him to ascertain his willingness to become a Council member. Agreed provisionally.

New Hon OFs: David Astall, Jennifer Barnard, Katrin Caiger, Catherine Cranmer, Angela Kendall.

The Hon Sec would be writing to them and inviting them to the Suffolk Supper/lunch in October, for a formal induction into the Society.

7. Any other business

a/ The 2019 AGM and Annual Dinner will be held at the College on Saturday 6 April.

The President closed the meeting at 6.55 pm.

Signed:

Date:

President

Abid Hamid, (Hon. General Secretary)

Email: abid@recruitmentvc.com

Appendix 1

Deaths 2017/2018

Philip Howell Hopkins (S34-39) died at home on 19 December aged 93. His funeral at Basildon was attended by OFs Chris Wright and Chris Lee and the latter provided a glowing tribute to the occasion. The eulogy included reference to the high moral standards and sense of belonging that the College instilled in Philip.

Stewart Birt (S56-61) died on 1 January 2018 at the age of 75 and less than 2 years after the death of his brother John (S59-63). He was well known to Richard Sayer.

Very recently Stephen Sayer (S58-63), much loved brother of Richard Sayer (S56-60), died on 14 March after a 20 year battle with cancer.

Bernard Oliver Tickner MBE (37-40) was creator of Fullers Mill Garden, West Stow, died peacefully on November 7th 2017, aged 93 years.

Jonathan Hulley (K10-16) died in a tragic road accident at the age of 19.

John Capps (R46-53) died on 2 July 2017. He was a long-time organiser of the Norfolk supper. Colin Wigg, who has taken over as Norfolk supper organiser, attended his funeral

John Adair Adnams (S38-40), part of the Adnams brewing family and previous chairman, died on 22 July 2017. His son Jonathan Adnams (S65-73) is the current chairman of Adnams Brewery.

Paul Kingston Rudd (R56-60) dies on 26 December 2017.

Andrew Lister Cope (R78-86) died of cancer in Spain at the age of 49.

John Thorne Blake (37-39) died on 8 January in Spain. His son Michael Blake (K72-76) was also at the College.

Brian Wilson Aldiss (36-39) renowned science fiction author died on 18 August 2017 aged 92.

Bryan Leslie Shelley (G39-44) died on 24 April 2017 aged 91.

Professor Charles Rossiter (S49-55) died on 9 July 2017 in South Africa.

Peter Radcliffe Simpson (K32-40) died on 8 July 2017 aged 94. He was one of 29 Simpsons over 5 generations starting from the very first day the school opened in 1865.

John Maulden (G45-50) died on 2 July 2017. For many years a stalwart of the SOF as well as a College master. The memorial service for John in the College chapel on 31 August was a marvellous tribute to a well-loved man. John Ford (S58-62) talked about the key role John played in starting him on his air force career

Reverend Richard Law, Chaplain at the College 1972-1983 died on 14 January 2018 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. The president attended his funeral service though there is also a service of thanksgiving in Framlingham church on 9 June.

Philip Hugh de-Whalley (Hon OF) passed away peacefully at home with his family on December 24, 2017, aged 94 years. He was a much loved master for many years.

John Clement (Hon OF) a former chair of Governors at the College died on 22 December 2017.