



Annual Report for the year 2017 - 2018

May 3rd, 2018

The Annual General Meeting was once again held at the Masonic Hall, Bury on May 4th, 2017. It was my pleasure as chairman to welcome 25 Old Girls to the business meeting which was held at 6.45pm. 26 Old Girls enjoyed the dinner which followed at 7.45pm.

Apologies were received from a number of members.

We then stood in silence to remember those members who had passed away during the previous year.

We had received a card from the Old Boys wishing us well. Suzanne had sent them a card on our behalf.

I then gave the annual chairman's report. This included:

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer Julie Jones presented the accounts. Once again, she was pleased to report that our financial position remained healthy. The accounts were accepted by the members.

My thanks, on your behalf, must go to Julie for all her hard work and guidance throughout the year.

The Record/Bursaries

Sending the Record to members electronically has resulted in greatly reduced costs. This in turn has enabled us to donate £2000 a year for the next five years to a Bursary. We felt that this was the best use of our funds rather than it all being spent publishing and posting out the Record.

In addition to this it had previously been agreed that we should fund a £250 scholarship to be awarded to a Year 7 student and presented at Prize Giving. We had decided that the scholarship should recognize the pupil's community or charity work. These scholarships are designed to recognize potential and ability and it is expected that the recipient will then act as an ambassador for this subject area within school.

Election of Officers

A very important part of our Annual General Meeting is the election of the officers and committee, without whom the OGA could not function.

Suzanne, Julie and I were due to retire as Officers of the Association and the retiring committee members were Alison Pockney, Natalie Brooker and Judi Chadwick. We had all agreed to stand for re-election. A nomination had also been received for Rachel Catterall. All these nominations were accepted and elected unanimously.

Future events were discussed including the Golf Day, Reunion Lunch and Founders' Day.

Dorothy Lester Travel Scholarship

The successful candidate was Lucy Jackson who was travelling to the Himalayas for 3 weeks as one of a group of young people under the leadership of the British Exploration Society to study Glaciation and Geomorphology on the Drang Drung Glacier in the Ladakh region of North Eastern India, living at high altitude. These projects also allowed Lucy to achieve the “Gold Duke of Edinburgh John Muir Award for Environmental Awareness and Conservation”.

Annual Dinner

Members were thanked for their attendance and then the meeting was closed. There was an opportunity to chat informally prior to the dinner at 7.45pm where our Guest Speaker Jo was able to update up on what had been happening at school. We had enjoyed a lovely evening and looked forward to future events and opportunities to meet.

Events

Founders' Day was celebrated the following day Friday, 5th May 2017

On Saturday, 6th May Jo and I joined the London Branch AGM which was held at The University Women's Club. This delightful venue has certainly attracted many more members than the previous venue of Hughes Parry Hall. It was a very successful event and another opportunity to meet with our London branch and for us to exchange news and to report on what is happening at BGS

On Saturday, 23rd September 2017 we welcomed back 92 Old Girls to our traditional Annual Reunion Lunch in the Roger Kay Hall. It was a smaller attendance than in recent years, but it was a particularly pleasant occasion with many old friendships rekindled.

Reunion groups who had left school in 1957, 1959, 1962, 1967, 1975 and 2007 were amongst them as well as many individuals.

Old Girls met former staff and viewed recent additions to the school.

Our thanks went to the 6th formers, who were our guides, Miss Britton who played the school song for us, Barrie Harrison and his staff for a lovely buffet and the caretakers who prepared the rooms and cleared up after us.

Dorothy Lester Travel Scholarship

As part of the £400 award Lucy Jackson was required to give a presentation about her experience during a school assembly in January. I was honoured to be at assembly that day as the presentation was inspirational. She used video and photographs to illustrate her speech. I am certain that this presentation helped to inspire other pupils to apply for the 2018 award as we had a particularly strong set of applications this year.

Year 7 Scholarship

Suzanne and I were thrilled to present the first Year 7 Scholarship award to Aminah Akram in a whole school assembly in February. Her award for her community or charity work will also be recognized at Prizegiving.

Bank Account

It had become necessary to separate our bank account from the school's accounts and to make it easier for Old Girls to pay electronically, we needed to close our existing accounts and open a new online account. This has not been without its problems, mostly due to us being given inaccurate information by the bank and an appointment with the wrong member of the bank's staff! After considerable confusion we have managed to set up a new account. Once again, it showed us how fortunate we are to have Julie as our Treasurer and we thank her for spending her valuable time sorting this out.

Digital Archive

Under the guidance of Betty and Suzanne we have continued to digitise our archives. I am sure that those of you who have accessed the site will agree what a great resource it is. We hope that it will attract donations of further material and financial support so that we can continue to add to the available information.

Sadly, the School Alumni website has not been so straightforward, but thankfully it is now up and running and we are pleased to report that we can now add to the site promptly via Sam Gilliland a Development Office staff member.

This time last year we learned that The Development Office's Louise Alford and Michelle Bradshaw who had worked on our behalf had left BGS for pastures new. I am very pleased to report that Sharon Blakelock who took over responsibility for their work temporarily has since been confirmed in the position. We are most grateful for all that she has done for us throughout this year.

Deaths

Every year we remember those who have died during the past year. All deaths are sad, but this year has been particularly so as some of most long-standing members have passed away. It has hit those who have known them since their schooldays in the 1940s and 1950s very hard. Our thoughts do go out to them.

In closing I must thank fellow officers - Suzanne Gauge, and Julie Jones for all their help and support during the year, Betty for her work as Archivist, Rachel for her work as Editor of the Record,

the committee who willingly give up their time to attend meetings and mailings, to Jo for her support of the Association, to Jane Stevens our Bursar and to Alison Holland our Director of Communications.

I wish you all a very pleasant evening. It is my pleasure to present this report.

Diana Robinson
May 2018