FOLKESTONE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
27th April 2024 at the School

Welcome

Committee Chairman, Patricia Kennedy, welcomed members to the meeting, thanking them for their support and hoping that that they'd enjoyed their lunch. She talked about last year's events which were very well supported. The Lunch in April, the Dinner at Eastwell Manor in June and the Afternoon Tea in London in November. For the first time, in September, we shared a Quiz Night with the Harvey Old Boys. This went down very well and was well supported by our members and guests. Unfortunately, I have to report a Harvey team winning and an OGA team coming second. A challenge for next September! We would love to see you again at our various events this year.

Apologies

Sylvia Matthews nee Anderson, Janet Bushell nee Yates, Andrena Rhodes, Tracey Crouch, Tracy Luke, Julie Moore nee Hollands, Elspeth Kennedy.

Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were read and approved.
Proposed Christine Dodd, seconded Lesley Secker.

Matters Arising

None

Treasurer's Report

Firstly, thank you to everybody who sent donations and stamps. It all helps to keep the wheels turning. As you can see, we made a loss of £204. The loss was due to the donations we made. This year we gave £1500 to the Ewart Memorial Fund, and this fund goes towards helping girls from the school with their expenses when in further education. We also donated £500 to Breast Cancer Care in recognition of our old girl, Dame Tracey Crouch, who climbed Kilimanjaro to fund raise for that cause with which she'd had experience.
Our secretarial expenses are greatly helped by Anne Spratling who very kindly prints and posts our Newsletter. Thank you, Anne.
We made a profit from our Afternoon Tea which was well attended and I think enjoyed by all.
The income from the Annual Dinner and the Lunch was the raffle. Thank you to all who donated prizes and bought tickets. Also, thank you to all who donated prizes and bought tickets today. We have raised the magnificent sum of £258.
Thak you for listening.
The accounts were for the year ended December 2023. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Christel Moor, seconded by Lois-Jane Thompson. Approved.

Membership Secretary & Secretary's Report

This report incorporates the Secretary's Report and covers early 2024 too. As most of you know, we are without a secretary and we really need someone to help with this job. Come and speak to me if you could help. It would free me up from Minutes etc. so I can get on with the membership jobs that I fall behind with.

Our total current membership has been increasing and we have nearly 470 members with whom we are in contact, that is, we have their current contact details. Sadly, we've lost members who have died but we've added new members and membership renewals, together that was 24. This is very encouraging for us on the committee. It's vital that we find new members and that current members do renew their subscriptions to keep the Association going.

We have approximately another 200 members with whom we have lost contact. This means we don't benefit from them at our events and they don't benefit from contact with the Association. We only discover this when their Newsletters are returned in the post or their email address bounces back. As mentioned at last year's AGM, committee member Debby Jones is helping trace many of these people. Thank you, Debby – she's an expert at tracing names with her family ancestry background. She's very quick and I can't keep up with her – there are more to work from – but we are now hearing from people who had gone "missing". We hear from members who didn't know they were lost but had moved several times and are delighted to be catching up. If we could recruit a secretary, I would have more time to follow up what Debby gives me and to be better about sending out renewal reminders, get the 10-year subscriptions in! When we eventually have time to do all we can, I can re-do the "missing" lists for everyone to see.So far, she's just worked on some of those that we lost track of this year and last and I can't keep up with her but we are now hearing from people who had gone "missing". We hear from members who didn't know they were lost but had moved several times and are delighted to be catching up. If we could recruit a secretary, I would have more time to follow up what Debby gives me and to be better about sending out renewal reminders! When we eventually have time to do all we can, I can re-do the "missing" lists for everyone to see.

Of course, the Newsletter is our main method of contacting all members. The list of email addresses has really now and this February we emailed 250, posted 120, and hand-delivered 100. We know some of you still prefer the printed version and that's fine. Again, we were enormously helped by committee member, Anne Spratling, who arranged all our printing, posting and costs through her business, taking huge care with layout and the look generally. Anne, I can't thank you enough for your help, personally and on behalf of the Association. 100 hand deliveries by Pat, Lois, Debby and me is amazing, I feel. It's a lot of walking, driving out to far flung places, and stop/start around town. Some had a much bigger batch than others (I won't mention names!) and it's a big achievement. A pat on the back, ladies.

I'd also like to thank those who acknowledge receipt of the Newsletter sent to them by email. We've had some very nice comments about 2024's mailing. We love to hear from you all by any means: email, Facebook, even actually writing letters, and by joining us to socialise, like this! And we can be contacted via the website - these messages are automatically forwarded to our email account. This has produced several enquiries about membership some of which have turned into subscriptions and new members! We are still needing to add to the website which is managed for us by a local

website creator but I don't have enough time and it's done spasmodically. We have more content to include and this will gradually build up as we add reports about meetings and gatherings. We have some great photos include but have to do a bit of data protection checking before we go ahead with that. If anyone can help with the website, it would be appreciated, no need to be local. If you object to any photographs taken today going on to the website, please tell us.
As you've seen in the Newsletter, we have three more events this year – the Annual Dinner on the 7th June and the Afternoon Tea on the 29th November. We already have bookings for these two events. For the second year, we have the joint Quiz with the Harvey Old Boys on 12th October. A Harvey team won last year with one of our teams coming second. We need to win this time so please join us – we need your brains! We'll email more info on this when we have it but unfortunately we won't be able to send anything by post so, on a final note, please please give us email addresses and keep them up to date!
Gillian Gates

Election of Officers

Janet Milliken was re-elected as Treasurer. Proposed by Sue Goddard, seconded by Christine Dodd. Gillian Gates was re-elected as Membership Secretary. Proposed by Lois-Jane Thompson, seconded by Lesley McCarthy. Anne Spratling proposed Gill Gough as Secretary, seconded by Janet Milliken. Gill was elected.

Election of Committee

The committee, Christine Dodd, Patricia Kennedy, Debby Jones, Sue Goddard, Anne Spratling and Lois-Jane Thompson were all willing to re-stand and were therefore re-elected en bloc. Proposed by Lesley Secker, seconded by Jenny Dunn. Chairman of the Committee will be elected at the next Committee Meeting.

Social Events

Pat Kennedy reminded everyone that we have three events still to come this year. The Annual Dinner at Eastwell Manor, Ashford on Friday, 7th June, the Quiz Night with Harvey Old Boys on Saturday, 12th October, and the Afternoon Tea on Saturday, 23rd November at the Army & Navy Club. We are awaiting a contact phone number to book for the Quiz but will put it on social medial and the website when we know.

Association Donations.

The committee suggested the following donations: we will propose £500 for the Ewart Memorial Fund, £250 for the Music Trust, and £250 to the Pilgrims Hospice in memory of Janet Oakley. The Chairman expanded on these three charities. Approval was proposed by Lois-Jane Thompson, seconded by Gillian Gates. Approved.

Date of next Annual General Meeting.

Date to be advised. Meeting closed 4pm