

### KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2024

### **Future Events**

**2024 Closing Meeting and Lunch:** Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 2024. St. George's Annexe, Radford Avenue, Kidderminster, DY10 2ES

#### **O.G.A. Contact Information**

- Website www.K.H.S.oldgirls.org.uk
- O.G.A. website Anne Budworth budworthae@gmail.com

# From the Editor

Welcome to this, my twenty-fourth and final K.H.S. O.G.A. newsletter. I have had some interesting contributions this time and hope you enjoy it. I would like to thank the contributors for their words and also my husband for his technical help with this issue.

### From the Chair

Dear Friends,

Once again, It is my privilege as Chair to write to you all. However, this is a bittersweet letter, as it will be the last time I do so.

At the A.G.M. in October 2023, no one came forward to fill the positions of Chair or Treasurer. As any association cannot function without those two roles, the decision was made by the meeting that the Old Girls' Association should be wound up. As can be seen from the minutes, a final meeting will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, and we hope to see as many of you as possible at that meeting.

The motto of K.H.S. - Gratias Hodie Agimus- Today we give thanks – has never felt so apt as when writing this letter.

We have so much to be thankful for: it is only natural at a time like this that we reflect on all of the wonderful events organised by the O.G.A. over the years. Many of you will have fond memories of lunches, speakers and trips out, in recent years. It would be unfair of me to list names, for fear of leaving anyone off the list, so thank you to you all.

Gratias Hodie Agimus as well as remembering friends no longer with us. Those memories will always be with us, and are definitely something to give thanks for. The fact that the O.G.A. has managed to keep going for some 47 years after the closure of the school is definitely something we can be thankful about. Not bad

for a group that started out knitting garments (mainly socks, I believe) for soldiers in World War I!

Whilst the formal association of the O.G.A. may be closing, it is important to remember that the ties which bind us as alumni of K.H.S. will not cease. The Facebook group is alive and growing, and I know that groups will still meet together over coffee, cake and more to continue their friendships and remember those cold days on the hockey field, memorable teachers (for whatever reason!), school dinners and all those images that come flooding back when we meet up.

I would like to close by adding my own thanks to all those who have worked tirelessly for the O.G.A. over the years, particularly those I have had the privilege of working with

Rosemarie Morgan

.....

# Coffee at Morrisons – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

A group of seven of us met in Morrisons cafe for a cup of coffee in November 2023. Memories were shared but the main focus seemed to be on Sue Smiths breakfast, which she assured us was excellent.

. . . . . .

### In Memoriam

We have received details of the deaths of the following old girls. We have accepted the information in good faith but apologise for any inaccuracies that have occurred.

Brenda Zych (née Amplett) died 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Brenda was a committed supporter of the O.G.A.. It was lovely to be able to present her with flowers to mark her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the A.G.M. last year. She was a committed attender of Milton Hall church where she was involved with many activities. She was also very involved with the local Polish community through her husband who was Polish by birth.

Carol Bourn died in March 2023

Jean Owen (née Benton) died on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 aged 76.

# **News of Old Girls**

Although our paths didn't cross whilst at school, I have been friends with Sherry Bird (née Delamont), since our children both went to the same Mother and Toddler Group at Aggborough, followed by Lea Street School, Sladen School and finally King Charles. We have enjoyed many outings and copious amounts of cake together. Currently, we are planning our outings for this summer.

Sherry recently sent this write up of meeting with school friends after a 54 year gap.

#### K.H.S. Still Laughing!

A long planned meet up for a group of us old girls eventually took place on a chilly Friday in July last year. It was July 14<sup>th</sup>, almost 54 years to the day when a few of us had last seen each other at K.H.S. in 1970!

Myself - Sherry Bird (nee Delamont), Marilyn Boyd (née Cadwallader), Elizabeth Hughes (née Swanston), Jennifer Smith (née Phipps), Janet Read, Christine Saint (née Taylor) and Margaret Macartney (née Hardiman) all made it that day, with apologies from one or two who couldn't make it. The years fell away, and despite the inclement weather and being sat outside at Bewdley Museum cafe, we soon reverted to the mainly carefree girls we had all once been.

Most of us had married, had varying amounts of children, and all had faced some of life's less welcome and unplanned changes. All had survived them and could laugh about them, or at least be philosophical! We were soon giggling together about some of our escapades and memories of our time at K.H.S. and thoughts (very fondly usually!) about some of the staff who had launched us on our various career paths. Some of the planned careers hadn't come to fruition – I had planned a career in art, but ended up working in public libraries most of my working career. Jenny had chosen accountancy, Elizabeth ended up in catering and hotels, with a

short spell as a Sub postmaster, (very topical as I write this!) Marilyn was a wellknown face at Kidderminster Hospital reception in C block as it was then. Chris Taylor pretty much followed her art career and ended up as a carpet designer for Woodward Grosvenor/Grosvenor Wilton, some of her designs (and herself !) going all over the world. Janet Read went to Gilt Edge as a computer operator (quite an innovative thing I would have thought then!) Janet left to have her son, and ended her career working at local schools until shortly before retirement. She and Chris have remained best friends ever since school and in almost daily contact ever since. Margaret has had an interesting career in a few fields, teaching, then working in Birmingham helping families and children towards a better and more settled future. She ended up teaching again then worked for Community Transport, which she still actively supports. There was also some sad news that one of our classmates – Carole Bourn had died in March 2023. But that sad news aside, it was a very happy met up, full of chatter and laughter, and we decided we must meet up again before long, especially as Elizabeth was moving up north to be near family. We hoped more old girls could be contacted for the next meet up.

We did indeed meet up again at the Colliers Arms in November, this time Jackie Underwood (Legierski) and Lynette Partridge (Childe) were able to join us, though Jennifer couldn't make it this time. Jackie had been a social worker, and now looks after a gaggle of her grandchildren. Lynette had run a successful nursery and tea room, and although allegedly retired was still working in the same field, leaving behind Christmas wreath making to join us that day.

Once again, it was a very happy meet up, Lynne and Jackie really enjoyed it. Since then I have met up with Chris, Janet and Margaret again and this time Linda Small (née Palfrey) was able to join us. (Chris, Janet and Margaret meet up regularly anyway). Linda still keeps in touch with Rebecca Walker who lives in Evesham now. We very much hope she will be able to join us next time, as well as Jennifer Barrie who is in touch with Marie Davies and I know has also met up with Karen Mottershead. Myra Kingdom who was in S not K as per the rest of us would like to be included too and she is friends with Margaret and knows one or two of us at least. Janet Devonport is another name that came up: we are hoping to contact her too.

So we hope to have an even bigger group of us next time, and have all threatened to go up in a coach to Elizabeth's new home and camp out on her lawn in tents so

we can see her! It's truly been wonderful to catch up with everyone (it's only taken us 50+ years) so long may it continue!

. . . . . .

A chance meeting with Alison Clarke (née Butt) around Kidderminster one day, led to the following piece about her experience working at Wyre Forest Special School

I left school in 1973 and worked in Lloyds Bank, Comberton Hill until December 1987, leaving to have my children. In 1998 I began work in the Stourminster school kitchen as the hours fitted around childcare. We combined with Blakebrook school to form Wyre Forest Special School, moving to our current site in March 2015. Our children have a wide range of needs, including dietary, and can be very specific as to what they will or will not eat. We also encourage 6th form students to undertake work experience with us.

In February 2023, one of our teachers nominated us for a 'Jamie Oliver Good School Food Award', in the category 'Catering Team Champions', sponsored by the Sun newspaper, and to be judged by Joe Wicks. We were assessed on food quality, Free School Meal uptake, Headteachers opinion of us, the care that we take, and more!

James, our chef, had a zoom interview with some of Jamie Oliver's media team, and in the background could see Jamie, Joe Wicks, Mary Berry, Jessica Ennis Hill, Ellie Simmonds and others. We were delighted to be nominated, then short-listed, then making the final 3 from across the country.

We were visited on June 9th for what we believed was the final assessment. Members of the J.O. media team filmed while we worked, a Sun reporter interviewed us, and Arthur Edwards, the royal photographer photographed US! Whilst serving lunch, Joe Wicks came to the counter to request his meal, and presented James with a 'Golden Spoon' trophy - WE HAD WON!

It was lovely to be appreciated, and we were all presented with goods from the Tefal Jamie Oliver Range, and appeared as a centre page spread in the Sun at the end of June, (and in the Shuttle)! We also featured on Jamie's website, and James

was invited to the awards celebration in London in January 2024, along with all the other winners, the judges, and Jamie Oliver **himself.** 

It was a surreal experience.

This write up was followed four days later by the following message: If it's not too late, could you possibly add that James was named 'Best School Chef' by Jamie Oliver at the January awards celebration?

He was not allowed to tell us until it was announced in The Sun that was published today!!! (February 7<sup>th</sup> 2024)

. . . . . .

Eileen Tasker (née Porter) has been involved with the Talking Newspaper for 42 years, she has been Chairman twice and Editor-in-chief for the last 40 years – a remarkable achievement . She sent the following history of the organisation.

The organisation was set up in 1980 by Kidderminster & District Lions Club, who, that year, had raised money to help the local visually handicapped people. Their idea had been to set up a perfumed garden but, through the encouragement of Bob Roberts, himself blind, a talking newspaper was set up for the Wyre Forest District. This service was needed to bring the local news, as reported by The Shuttle and other local newspapers, via tape recorders and tapes on a weekly basis so that listeners could keep abreast of what was happening in their own local area.

From the original six guinea pig listeners the numbers of listeners grew rapidly, at one time to nearly three hundred per week. However, nowadays this is nearer the two hundred plus mark.

The service is run entirely by volunteers, about 50 in all. Each week, on a Friday evening, a team is gathered together consisting of readers, backrooms workers, a technician and an editor to record about 90 minutes of local news. The only week this does not go out is Christmas week and we do allow ourselves a week off then! The listeners do get a special Christmas recording that week as well as their news one. During the year a magazine is also issued about four times and that features interesting items and Outside Broadcasts that there is not time for on the regular

recording. We also keep listeners in touch with anything that we think may be of benefit to them and that they may not know about.

About ten years ago we took the large step of changing from our tape recorders over to digital recording with boom boxes and memory sticks. This has gone down very well with the listeners who after some instruction do not seem to have any more difficulty in operating the new equipment than they did with the tape recorders.

We have had many homes since we began but are now very happily based at the St. Barnabas Community Centre where we occupy enough space for all our production unit.

The service is completely free to our listeners including supplying them with a boom box when they join as a listener.

We are self-funded relying on donations from other charities and other sources such as talks and donations from our listeners (although these are not requested).

This is a very successful service which provides a service where it is néeded to keep visually handicapped people in touch with everyday life in their community.

Following the announcement in the last newsletter about the future of the O.G.A., Beryl Haughton sent me three pages of handwritten memories. After a sterling job by my husband of scanning and putting the pages through optical character recognition (O.C.R.) software these memories are reproduced below.

. . . . . .

#### Starting my teaching career at K.H.S.

In my final year at Birmingham University I applied for a post as English Teacher at K.H.S. & was appointed for September 1957. They had not reckoned with fewer VK, whose ingenuity in ragging the staff caused their English teacher to walk out at Whitson. The University released me early and in June I presented myself to fill the gap, full of optimism & enthusiasm. Half a term of lower VK nearly convinced me that teaching. was not for me, but as all my other classes were intelligent and

responsive I gritted my teeth and over the subsequent 12 months became quite fond of them!

I found myself in a teachers staff room dominated by teachers of the old school, with high standards and strict values. The learning of younger staff had to be trained in THE RIGHT WAYS. I came to respect, and in many cases, to care for them but it did produce some conflicts of loyalty! Making my form knéel on the floor whilst I measured the length of the gym slips was one duly that I hated, and when the velour hats were replaced by air hostess style models that blow off easily I was horrified when a decision was taken to give detentions if more than two kirby grips each side were used to secure them!

We did not have our own Kitchen for some years & the meals that were delivered were far from Michelin standard. Dinner Duty entailed ensuring clean plates and I felt I had to turn a blind eye to some of the debris - I would not have eaten them myself. On one occasion I could not understand the epidemic of cutlery dropping that had half the room crawling round the floor. I asked one of the sixth form what went on. "They can see Miss X's knickers, Miss". Then there was the green faced young lady who approached me with her plate and begged me, "Don't make me eat it!" I surveyed the grub sticking out of her pastry & gave her a dispensation.

Fundamentally, though, I found myself one of team of hardworking teachers, who cared about their subject and their pupils in equal measure, Sport, Art, Music, Drama, Domestic Science were as important as purely academic subjects, and I had great fun running the Guide companies. (The only Guide Captain to ask her Patrol headers to carry a brick to camp for the fire place and to receive a severe reprimand from the District Commissioner for her scruffy appearance on parade!).

I must also comment on the qualities of our excellent Headmistress, Miss Renwick, not always recognised because of her dignified demeanour. There were many occasions when her good sense, her kindness and her sense of humour were invaluable to me.

I have no regrets about the 7 years I spent at K.H.S. and am still in touch with some of my pupils over 60 years later.

• • • • • •

The newsletter also motivated Gloria Whight (née Deubert) to send me her memories (also handwritten). Sadly, despite his best efforts, my husband could not get the O.C.R. reader to recognise much of the text.

A small part of it has been manually typed in below and the full version, along with other school memories appears on the memories page of the website at <a href="http://www.khsoldgirls.org.uk/memories.php">http://www.khsoldgirls.org.uk/memories.php</a>

K.H.S. was already a well-known girl's school when I won one of the 10 scholarships per year for Grammar School education. Unlike many then and now I loved school. Many of the girls travelled daily by train (no school buses then) and those of us in the town walked up the long hill past the railway station from where it was just a short walk. Later, when I had a bicycle I cycled from the other side of town up Bewdley Hill.

These were the War Years. Paper shortages, our exercise books had to be scrutinised each time before we could have a new one, we had to write in every margin, top, sides & bottom. (But it was during these I made lifetime friends).

I owe a debt to many of the teachers of that era. Miss Whittaker, (I went on to study English). My love of Shakespeare was founded at K.H.S with our annual visits to the Stratford Theatre and the local Rose Theatre (formerly Kidderminster Playhouse), where we were fortunate to have "live performances". I remember the Ballet Rambert for one.

. . . . . .

One of the girls I am still in touch with from my schooldays is Sue Whistance-Smith (née Cartwright). Her mum, Mary became cook at K.H.S. in 1970 and Sue has recently lent me her mums cookery book from 1981. Mary revolutionised school lunches by introducing self-service lunches rather than the system previously used where each table was made up of an assortment of different year group students , the youngest of which had to fetch and carry the meals to the table. It includes handwritten menu plans, shopping lists and recipes. Who remembers (with fondness) Melting Moments, Macarons, Chocolate Cracknel, Butterscotch and Chocolate Sponge.

For anyone wishing to revisit their past, the ingredients list for Melting Moments is:

3lbs flour, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  gs B.P., 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs lard, 12 gs marg, 1-12 gs sugar, 4 eggs.

The above quantities make 150 Melting Moments and cost £7.50 in 1981.

The list of ingredients for Chocolate Cracknel is:

<sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> lbs marg, 2 lbs sugar, <sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> lbs D. Milk, 3 ozs cocoa, 1lb 6oz cornflakes.

This made 108 pieces.

While I'm sure I wouldn't ever want to make 150 Melting Moments or 108 pieces of Chocolate Cracknel in one go, it must be possible to work out smaller quantities......

Rest assured Sue, I've kept your book safe and will return it to you next time we meet at The Running Horse. Thank you.

. . . . . .

# **Charity ideas and Donations**

The O.G.A. will need to distribute its funds once all the debts and credits have gone through the bank account. It has been suggested that these funds be donated to charity but rather than a large amount to a big charity, the money be split between numerous small, local charities. If you have any charities local to you that you support and would like us to donate to , please let us know. So far, the charities suggested include Wyre Forest Talking Newspaper, Kemp Hospice, Kidderminster Hospital League of Friends, Northampton Baby Bank, Dial-a-Ride, Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, Food Bank, Help, Homestart, Mentorlink, Guides, Scouts, West Mercia Women's Aid and Knitted Knockers.

Please send us more ideas. We are particularly looking for lesser known charities which are local to you.

.....

# Keyrings

The committee have been discussing many things since the decision to close down the O.G.A. was made.

It was suggested that a small memento should be given to each paid up member of the O.G.A. and a keyring was chosen for this purpose. Blue and white keyrings were chosen, ordered and have arrived. They will be distributed to members at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Any not collected will then be posted out – please ensure that we have your correct address!

. . . . . .

### O.G.A. Archive

Rosemarie, Gloria and I spent a day in December sorting through three boxes of archive material that have been living under my dining room table for a few years. A list of contents has been made and duplicate items separated out. These will be offered at the Closing Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May. The collection will be taken to The Hive in Worcester where it will be stored for future investigative use. Please find a list of the items going to Worcester below. **K.H.S. O.G.A. Archive** 

#### **School Magazines bound copies**

1913-1917, 1916-1920, 1918-1923, 1918-1928, 1924-1928, 1929-1938, 1934-1940, 1941-1951, 1962-1948, 1952-1961, 1962-1971, 1972-1976.

#### Newsletters

• 1987-2024 inclusive

**Funeral Order of Service** 

• various

#### **O.G.A. Committee Minutes**

• 1914-1950, 1951-1999, 1999-2002, 2002-2020.

- Meetings and A.G.M. Meetings 1973-2014
- A.G.M. minutes 2000-2009
- A.G.M. minutes and Attendance Lists 2011-2019

#### **Misc. Publications**

- History of Hillgrove House
- K.H.S. Souvenir1912-1933
- Memories of a School
- Building Report for Hillgrove House
- Pionéers in Petticoats + proof copy
- Cynibert House Logbook 1940-1948

#### Misc.

- Article by Jo Roche for Kidderminster Shuttle
- Record of Old Girl destinations following School
- Commemoration Order of service 2012 plus centenary information
- School hat
- Donations from Muriel Knott
- Donations from Jennifer Morris
- Donation from Margaret Hands (including exercise books)
- Choir Register 1912-1915
- 1965-1979 Choir adjudication sheets
- Assorted exam results from 1940s and 1950s
- Royal Lifesaving certificate 1948
- John Booths Kindergarten Report
- Uniform list 1967
- Chronicles of Chad 1912-1916
- O.G.A. fruit Cup recipe
- Paperwork for proposed changes 1946-7 following the 1944 Education Act
- O.G.A. Constitution
- Information about the formation of the O.G.A.
- Lists of O.G.A. Members 1939
- Folder of information about O.G.A. Golden Jubilee
- Jiffy bag of badges and ties
- Words and Music of School Song
- K.H.S. Accounts 19-8
- Information about Phillip Larkin and Monica Jones
- Extracts from Lorna Martins Diary 1953
- Memories from pupils Joan Gregory and E A Lamb

- Opening of K.H.S. Buildings Programme + Kidderminster Shuttle article
- Miss Chalk's Memoirs
- Information about Hillgrove House
- Transcript of talk by Shiela Hodges at the 207 A.G.M.
- Book listing monies received in memory of Miss Renwick
- Research about Isabel Squires (mentioned in Rembrance Day Services)
- Letter of Engagement for Mary Cartwright as School Cook in 1970
- Certificate for May Edwards
- Research Project about Hillgrove House 2008
- 1935 plans of School Site
- Plans and Sale information for Hillgrove Estate 1894-1898
- O.G.A. Accounts in Boxfile
- Sports Day Programme 1939
- Swimming memories from Jennifer Morris
- File of labelled Photographs
- File of Newspaper Cuttings
- Eva Landon Memoir

#### **Prize giving Programmes**

1966-1976 inclusive, 1937-1938, 1940-1941

#### School Log Book

1900-1910, 1912-1914, 1914-1915, 1935-1947, 1947-1958, 1959-1964, 1964-1974, 1975-1977.

#### **School Photographs**

Undated – several, 1924 card mounted, 1928 card mounted, 1930 card mounted, 1948, 1951, 1955, 1958, 1962, 1963.

•••••

# Old Girls in the Media

So far this year I have only spotted a single item in the local paper about an Old Girl. The Kidderminster Shuttle on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 contained a photo and write up about Jean Ovens and her renewed ability to play the piano thanks to the staff of Foley Grange Care Home. Staff found out about Jean's musical past, which included being an accompanist for Kidderminster Operatic and Dramatic Society and playing the organ for her local church until her sight failed. Kind heated staff made her dream come true.

•••••

# Website

The O.G.A. website has been updated to reflect the new status of the O.G.A.

Contact details and joining information have been removed. The remaining pages have been updated and contain photos, memories, newsletters and other information which may prove interesting to researchers in the future. <u>http://www.khsoldgirls.org.uk</u>

### O.G.A. Flower Fund

The Flower Fund continues to receive donations and sends out gifts to Old Girls. 14 gift cards were sent out at Christmas by Rosemarie Moore with a note explaining that these would be the last gifts.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE O.G.A. HELD IN ST.GEORGE'S ANNEXE ON THE 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023.

The Chairman (Rosemarie Morgan) welcomed a depleted number of Old Girls to the meeting.

Members were asked to stand in memory of Old Girls who had died since 2021:

Margaret White, Loree Napier, Meriel Williams, Cynthia Rogers, Mary Smith Margaret Vaughan, Jennifer James, Monica Bashford, Sheila Lamb, Anne Baylie, Olive Harris, Suzanne Giblin, Diana Pheysey, Lucy Torrode (Staff), Bridget O'Brien, Eileen Bamforth. Ruth Rudd, Dorothy Randall (Obituary from Brenda Zych), Valerie Vaughan, Brenda Zych, Wendy Williams, Shirley Griffin.

Apologies.

Elizabeth Watt, Shirley Keays, Judy Neale, Elisabeth Robinson, Peggy Guest.

From the previous minutes.

Rosemarie read out a letter received from the secretary of The Under Tree School thanking the O.G.A. for their kind donation of £300 (legacies from Beryl Bedford and Sheila Garlick).

Matters Arising.

None.

Treasurer's Report.

Payment and Expenses which have been audited by T.W.Jones.

Financial Statement (full statement on file).

- Opening Balance AUGUST 1 ST 2022 £3,438.43 (£500 of this was part of the Flower Fund)
- Income 2022-2023. £4,175.43.

- Expenditure 2022-2023. £3,328.70 (included £300 charity donation).
- Cash at Lloyd's Bank £3328.70.
- Cash at Scottish Widows £2,082.33 (included £4.13 interest).

There were no queries. Margaret Bazley was thanked for her work over the past year.

The report was proposed by Margaret and seconded by Sue Smith.

Website and Newsletter Report.

Anne and her husband were meeting with the person who had run the website for 5 years, (a friend of Alison Hargreaves) and the last payment for this service had been in 2022. It was suggested that we could transfer to another server and if it was possible, this may save money. Anne would look into this.

Sue Smith whose Mother had been in charge of luncheon catering gave a short description of her mother's time at the school and the improvement to the menus and presentation. It was hoped for a fuller account in next year's newsletter and the recipe for cheese soufflé and shortcake plus other recipes would be given. The last newsletter would be produced at the end of March.

Flower Fund Report.

Rosemarie Moore and Elisabeth Robinson had resigned from running the flower fund and as no one else volunteered to take it on it was left to Rosemarie Morgan and Anne Budworth to carry on with it. Rosemarie Moore said she was willing to buy vouchers for Christmas and to send them to anyone who would appreciate one. This would be the last time flowers, gifts or vouchers would be given.

#### Chairman's Report.

Rosemarie Morgan said this was a sad time but as numbers of Old Girls attending meetings had declined and no one had volunteered to take on positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and committee members it was inevitable that the O.G.A. should cease. Since Kidderminster High School for Girls had amalgamated with King Charles 1<sup>st</sup> School, any girl who left the school would join the Old Carolians and so it was unavoidable that at some time in the future the O.G.A. would finish. The time had now arrived and the meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 will be the final meeting of the association. The annexe will be booked and it was hoped that there will be a good number of attendees. Rosemarie said that she had been in touch with the Hive in Worcester and they would be happy to store memorabilia of K.H.S. All this would need to be catalogued and with no duplicates. Therefore any duplicates would be offered to members at the final meeting. As seen from the bank accounts the association is not short of money and the committee felt that it would be fitting for all members whose subscriptions were up to date would receive a small memento of their schooldays.

As mentioned previously, Christmas gifts would be given this year and a note would be enclosed explaining the situation. At the close of the meeting a discussion would be held for ideas of charitable institutions that should receive a donation from monies left over after all expenses had been paid.

Rosemarie had been unable to attend the Old Carolians' dinner in 2023 but had spoken to the Chairman to ask if any O.G.A. members could join them if they so desired.

Rosemarie proposed that the process of winding up the O.G.A. should begin; Jane King seconded the proposal with all in favour but with great sadness.

#### **Election of Officers**

Members had been asked for nominations for the posts of Chairman and Treasurer in advance of the meeting. None have been received. Neither were any nominations made from the floor at the meeting. In the absence of any nominations, the existing post holders agreed to act as Chairman and Treasurer for the closing procedure of the association.

Chairman Rosemarie Morgan.

Vice Chairman Anne Budworth.

Treasurer Margaret Bazley.

Committee Sheila Kirk, Rosemarie Moore, Judy Neale, Gloria Phillips, Elisabeth Robinson

Following discussion the following charities were suggested:

Wyre Forest Talking Newspaper. Kemp, League of Friends, Dial a Ride. Boys and Girls Brigade, Northampton Baby Bank, Food Bank.

Jane King suggested that as a thank you to all the committee members they should be given a meal.

The meeting was formally closed at 1.35p.m.

**Privacy Statement** In the past you have given us your contact details so that we can send you information about the Old Girls. These details are held on a password protected spreadsheet on a private computer. We hope that you will continue to allow us to contact you about the O.G.A. Your details will never be used for any other purpose and will not be given or sold to third parties.

If you no longer wish to receive communications from the Old Girls', please contact Anne Budworth.