



KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2018

Future Events

2018 A.G.M. and Lunch: Sat 29th September 2018 A.G.M. and Lunch – The Wagon Wheel Inn, Grimley, WR2 6LU. Coffee from 10:30. A.G.M. At 11:00.

2019 Spring Meeting: Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 2:30 - Afternoon Tea at the Palm Tree Cafe, part of De Beers Garden Centre, Hartlebury DY11 7SB.

2019 A.G.M. and Lunch: Saturday 14th September A.G.M. and lunch. Details of the venue will be in the next newsletter.

OGA Contact Information

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From the Editor – Many thanks for the contributions to this newsletter . I am short of space so will limit my opening comments to a request for news for the newsletter for next year. This year I am aware that a lot of my peer group are mentioned and would particularly ask for news of other year groups.

As another year as Chair of the O.G.A. draws to a close, Rosemarie Morgan has sent the following contribution to the newsletter.

It does not seem a year ago that I sat down to write for the newsletter. This was going to be the year that I got it done well in advance, but life has a habit of intervening and disrupting the best of plans!

Another O.G.A. year draws to a close, which is a good time to reflect on the events of this year. As will be seen in other parts of the newsletter, we have again lost several members this year, which is always a sadness, and our thoughts are with their families and friends.

Our last A.G.M. and lunch at The Wagon Wheel was a lovely occasion, with the meal certainly living up to expectations. However, one is then faced with the eternal dilemma of a sweet trolley - the memory test of the list of sweets on the trolley, followed by the need for a decision! We return to the Wagon Wheel again this year, where I am sure we will have the same experience. It has been decided that, as last year, there will not be a speaker, thus allowing more time for those all-important conversations, which is a decision we hope you approve of.

In light of the comments received after his previous visit, we once again invited Max Keen to come and speak to us – this time on Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt. A full report appears elsewhere, but it was good to see an appreciative audience enjoying his talk, and the refreshments afterwards. A visit to Hartlebury Castle was also arranged, with a guided tour of the state rooms and Hurd library. This was a most fascinating day, and many of us could have stayed for many hours, just browsing the books in this historic collection. Again, please see the full report later in this newsletter.

We have had many enquiries as to the health of Miss Bedford. She continues to be cared for in a nursing home in Kidderminster, and we send her the good wishes from the O.G.A.

On a personal level, this year has been quite an interesting year in our family. My husband and I (I've always wanted to say that!) celebrated our

40th Wedding Anniversary in March with a service at St.Mary's church that was made very special by the fact that it was jointly led by our son and daughter in law, Revd David Morgan and Revd Vickie Morgan, and included readings by our other son, Thomas, and daughter, Ruth. David's address was very moving, although he is under strict instructions never to make his mother shed a tear in a sermon again! We received many gifts and cards, including a beautiful arrangement from the O.G.A., for which we thank you very much. (David and Vickie were recently ordained as priests, and are currently serving at a church in Havant, Hampshire.)

However, this was not the only excitement. Our daughter got engaged, which may not seem remarkable, but this is the woman who said that she was "never going to get married in this world or the next" – until Colin came along! As I write this, we are preparing for her wedding this summer. Again – not the end of the excitement, as Thomas also got engaged, and is getting married early in 2019. How much more can I take!

This year has also marked a new era in the life of the O.G.A. Following on from a conversation at the annual Old Carolians dinner with their current President, David Laverty, it has been decided by both committees that this would be a good time for both Associations to work more closely together, so please keep an eye out for details of events open to both Associations. We hope to organise more joint events in the future, as it is felt this would be beneficial to us all.

With this in mind, and in view of the numbers that attended last year's annual lunch, there will be an opportunity for partners to attend the lunch should we have space available. Please see the booking form for further details.

As I have written in previous newsletters, it is a privilege to be part of the O.G.A., and is a testament to the influence of K.H.S. that this Association still continues to bind us together as the K.H.S. family, which is thanks to the hard work of committees past and present, and the support of you , the O.G.A. members. This is something that we should all give thanks for- Gratias Hodie Agimus.

A.G.M. and Lunch 2018

This will be held on Saturday 29th September 2018 A.G.M. and Lunch – The Wagon Wheel Inn, Grimley, WR2 6LU. Further details and booking forms are included with this newsletter.

Thank you to Gloria Phillips for the following reports of the meetings held this year

Spring Meeting 2018 – Max Keen

On Saturday April 21st a group of eager history students assembled again in the Salvation Army Church Centre for another exciting talk by Max Keen. The subject this time was King Henry Vth.

From the moment he entered in full Fifteenth Century armour, ably assisted by his serf “low-born Rob”, Max kept us spellbound. He made us imagine how hot it would have been wearing that armour, and how difficult it would be to move.

We learned details of the early life of Prince Hal including his taking part (aged only 16) in the Battle of Shrewsbury, where he was hit in the face by an arrow, which left him horribly disfigured and could have claimed his life, if not for the extraordinary skill of the medieval surgeon who removed the arrow. This explains why portraits of Henry show only his left profile, hiding his scars.

Max went on to give a full account of the defeat of France at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, ending with a dramatic declamation of Henry’s famous victory speech.

The talk was fully illustrated with slides of the locations, some of which brought home to us the huge numbers of soldiers who died in the battle, and some of which gave a colourful, if somewhat sanitised picture of the scenes, taken from one of Max’s favourite sources – the Ladybird books!

Afterwards we were invited to handle the swords and armour, before enjoying tea and cake. It had been another fascinating history lesson by an inspirational teacher!

Summer Meeting 2018 – Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury Castle has just re-opened after the purchase and restoration of the South wing, former home of the Bishops of Worcester.

After congregating in the magnificent carriage circle in front of the castle, we were taken on a guided tour of the state rooms. We started with the chapel, a beautiful building with vaulted ceilings and wood panelling and were told by our very informative guide that it was designed by a young man of 22 years old! We then progressed to the Bishop’s chambers, the

Great Hall and the saloon. The Long Gallery above these has a carpet timeline, giving the names and dates of every Bishop of Worcester from 1237 to the present day.

The current displays are based around the family of Henry Pepys, Bishop from 1841 to 1860. This family were related to the famous diarist Samuel Pepys, but pronounced their name "Peppis". From the bedroom of the Bishop's wife Maria, there is a "secret door" in the wardrobe, through which we stepped to find, not Narnia, but another small room decorated as the bedroom of Emily, Pepys' ten year old daughter. Emily's diary was found in the 1950s and the original is displayed here. It gives a fascinating insight into the life of a child in 1844, and it was thrilling to see it in her own (amazingly neat for a ten year old!) handwriting.

For me, the real highlight was the Hurd Library, set up by Bishop Richard Hurd in 1782 to house his huge book collection. Librarian Chris Penney gave us a fascinating talk about this very rare library and the volumes it contains and her colleague Tina showed us some of the precious books and illustrations.

After a delicious lunch in the new restaurant, we were able to visit the state rooms again at our leisure and after that there was the County Museum to explore, with its thousands of exhibits covering Worcestershire's rich history.

We ended our day with the circular walk through the castle grounds, the perfect ending to a great day out.

If you haven't visited Hartlebury Castle recently, do go and see it: it is full of hidden treasures!

AGM 2019

The A.G.M. Next year will be on 14th September 2019. The venue has not yet been confirmed but further details will be in the 2019 newsletter.

Increase in subscriptions

The last increase in subscriptions from £1 to £2 had been in 1992 when according to the constitution subscriptions "were due for payment by the A.G.M. or at the latest, January 31st the following year". If not paid by that date it was deemed that the person wished to cancel her membership. It was agreed by the committee that the membership fee should be increased to £5 per annum for members in Great Britain and £10 per annum for

overseas members. New members joining for life via the internet would pay £25. This was agreed at the 2015 A.G.M. There are still a number of members who have not increased their subscriptions. **Please remember to contact your bank to increase your standing order if you have not yet done so.**

In Memoriam

Mary-Elizabeth Raw 7th May 2017

Ann Mole 24th July 2017

Mary Wehner (née Crane) 13th August 2017

Jane Randall 20th August 2017

Linda Mays November 2017

Pat Chester 14th December 2017

Maureen White 22nd December 2017

Audrey Howell (née Bishop) 22nd December 2017

Stella Palmer, 15th March 2018 aged 88

Vera Ryan (Price) 1957/62 has died after a long debilitating illness.

Catherine Ann Mole (née Hammond)- A tribute by Anita Wilson

10th January 1927-24th July 2017

Ann was born on January 10th 1927 to William and Annie Hammond. William was editor of the Kidderminster Times newspaper until 1939.

The family lived at 472 Chester Road North Kidderminster, where Ann was joined by a brother, William James.

Ann began her school life at K.H.S. aged 5 under Miss Raymond, and continued there after passing her 11 plus examination. When Miss Oldfield became headmistress, Ann was often in trouble for being late for school, in spite of only living just along the road! She was also reprimanded on several occasions for not wearing her hat! However, she survived, and was proud to be awarded a white girdle for excelling at P.E. and games.

Ann left school at 16, and went to work in a children's nursery as she wanted to train as a nursery nurse. However, her doctor advised against it, as she had suffered from various childhood ailments, so instead she found herself in Lloyds Bank in Kidderminster, where she remained until her eldest daughter was born.

Ann met Eric Mole at Milton Hall Baptist church when she was 14, and they

married soon after the end of the Second World War. They had 69 years together. They had two daughters, Patricia and Alison, 4 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren.

In later years Ann enjoyed family life, especially holidays in the caravan at Towyn. She was a regular attendee at O.G.A. events, but it was her church that occupied a great deal of her time. She was a member of Milton Hall Baptist Church for 75 years, serving as a Deacon, Captain of the Girls' Brigade, Offertory Steward, Sunday School teacher, pianist, organist, Ladies' Fellowship – the list is endless!

She was always ready to listen, and to offer advice, and she influenced the lives of so many people – me included. We all miss her, but are thankful that she was part of our lives and our history. R.I.P. Ann.

The following is the tribute to Mary Wehner spoken by Rosemarie Morgan at her funeral.

We have just heard from Andrew speaking in behalf of Mary's family, and I have been asked to speak on behalf of another family of Mary's – the Kidderminster High school for Girls (to give it's full title) family.

Mary attended the school from 1937-1950, but that was certainly not the end of her association with K.H.S. Both Helen and Penny went to the school , and it was at that time that I first met Mary – as Helen's Mum. She never knew how much her kindness meant to myself and my family at that time.

Mary was an enthusiastic member of the Old Girls' Association , serving on the committee for many years. It is hard to imagine meetings without her. Indeed, her negotiating skills regarding the AGM and lunch with the management of the Hundred House were already legendary by the time I joined the committee. One almost felt sorry for them!

I'm sure that no-one who was present will forget the lunch a couple of years ago, when she made a speech, with Judy, about the day when they, together with other W.I. members, attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. I say 'speech', but it was pure entertainment, leaving us weeping with laughter, coupled with a wonderment that we were not visiting the pair of them in the Tower of London. K.H.S. decorum – I wonder?

She had such affection for the OGA, if accompanied by her own brand of logic at times. When reminiscing about an Old Girl, and speculating which

house she was in, Mary would often pronounce “Oh, I don’t think she was a Clent (or whatever) – she just didn’t look like a Clent!”. I never did ask for an explanation – maybe it was just as well.

She was a great encourager. After every meeting I received an email the following morning, full of encouraging remarks. She never stopped enthusing about her optimism for the future of the OGA, because it was now in the hands “of the youngsters”. I loved Mary for that.

In her honour we have assembled a choir from people who knew Mary- Stourport Choral Society, the W.I. the OGA, Areley Kings church choir, and others. We would now like to sing the K.H.S. school song “Land of our birth”. I just hope that Mary forgives me for letting boys join in!!

(Note from editor – Sadly we have now heard that Mary's husband, Andrew recently died.)

MARY-ELIZABETH RAW a tribute by Jan Taylor

24th November 1946 - 7th May 2017

“Indefatigable and formidable vet in an wheelchair who won Mastermind and became an adviser on disability” (The Times July 13th 2017)

Mary-Elizabeth Raw’s specialist subjects on *Mastermind* were Charles 1 and Prince Albert, the Prince consort. In the first round she scored 40 points “and no passes” as her memoir would be called, a score rarely equalled and only once surpassed in the show’s history. She went on to score 33 points in the final, winning the coveted glass bowl in 1989. After her win which she described as “Like a fairytale come true”, Mary-Liz attended the Women of the Year lunch and met Margaret Thatcher at a reception in Downing Street. She also appeared on *Wogan* to discuss multiple sclerosis and donated her attendance fee to the Jacqueline du Pre memorial fund named after the famous cellist who also had MS. Mary-Liz said that this was because she loved music and admired the work of the charity.

Born in 1946 in Nottingham, Mary-Liz joined K.H.S. when she moved with her parents to Kidderminster. Her Father Kingsley being appointed Head Master of King Charles 1 Grammar School.

Mary-Liz read veterinary science at Liverpool University. She recalled being one of only eight girls in her cohort. She said that the work was extremely

hard work because of the tests.

Towards the end of her first term she became seriously ill and missed so much work that she had to leave and return the next year.

After qualifying, she gained veterinary experience in Worcestershire then moved to Adelaide Australia. Work in Canada followed then a return to the UK and Bristol University to specialise in Radiotherapy, particularly diagnostic imaging.

Meanwhile her multiple sclerosis was advancing and by her early thirties she was using a wheelchair. Although she spent several lengthy periods in hospital and endured various operations, often for infections, none of this deterred her from taking part in clinical investigations. Former colleagues remember her examining horses and farm animals from her wheelchair without any fear.

Mary-Liz enjoyed eating and drinking with gusto. She was often seen with a glass of something alcoholic balanced on the arm of her wheelchair. She loved giving parties and obtained much pleasure from the enjoyment she was able to give to others. Her fridge and freezer often contained treats from Fortnum and Mason.

A keen traveller, Mary-Liz never let disability get in the way. She attended veterinary meetings in Europe, Japan, Canada and Brazil. In Rome she negotiated special access to the Vatican Museum being conducted through part of the Sistine Chapel not normally open to the public. Wherever she was visiting she would usually learn some the language, sometimes to an advanced level.

Mary-Liz became an experienced adviser on disability, serving as a member of the user panel for the BBC and MS society.

Her thirst for knowledge remained unquenched. In 2016 she gained an Open University degree in languages and fine art. She anticipated finishing her masters before applying for a PhD.

Tough, confident and compassionate, Mary-Liz could also be formidable – yet always in a warm and friendly way. She never lost her love of animals and in particular had a strong affinity for elephants. However, she had to pass on her one remaining veterinary ambition – to carry out a caesarean on an elephant.

“Extracts from The Times newspaper July 13th 2017.”

Jane Mary Randall (formerly Raimes, née Pugh) (1959 – 1966)

A tribute by Lorna Smart

20 November 1947 – 20 August 2017

Jane had a lifelong involvement with K.H.S., firstly through her mother (Mary), who was an active member of the O.G.A., through her aunt, who worked there, and later as a pupil and member of the O.G.A. herself.

Despite moving to London in 1966, at the start of her university course in physics, and later to Dorset she maintained her links to and interest in Kidderminster, with frequent trips to visit family and friends. Only recently I went with her to a talk about the history of Tomkinson's carpets, where her father and other members of her family had worked. She was always keen to receive news of schoolfriends and maintained contact with many of us, organising a number of reunions in recent years.

Jane had a wide range of skills and attributes. Her academic and professional life had strong scientific links but she also played the cello and throughout her life sang in choirs and acted in amateur dramatics: from Bach to 'The Wicked Stepmother' in pantomime. She was a keen tennis and hockey player. Her rather stern façade hid the mischievous person who used to sneak out of school through 'Little Scotland' into her own garden at break times.

Her working career began at the Science Museum in London with elements of the Charles Babbage display, which she was instrumental in creating, surviving to this day. A move to the Department of Education and Science, and the research needed to brief ministers, raised her interest in education and its benefits in helping people to realise their potential in life. It was during this period that she married her first husband, Stanley, who sadly died very soon after of the same disease that recently cut Jane's life short. It was this interest in education and the community that she brought to her work at Dorset Community Action (DCA).

A short break from work showed another side of her character; living aboard a boat, she and her partner Roy sailing to many destinations, especially between England and France, which she grew to love and where she had a cottage for many years. It was during this period that their daughter, Abbie, was born.

She joined DCA in 1986, first as Assistant Director and from 1997 as

Director and Chief Executive. She was dedicated to the voluntary sector, driving forward many projects to benefit her community. This work was recognised in 2004 with an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Following her marriage to her second husband, Kevin, and her retirement Jane entered another phase in her life; in a more family centred and contented, but no less busy time, Jane re-established her links with science, taking a second undergraduate degree in an area she loved, archaeology, and editing an on-line and print journal. She and Abbie became part of the extended Randall family with many family activities involving their children, grandchildren and parents. She supported her mother who had also moved to Dorset.

travelling became important to her again, with the boat trips being replaced by visits in the camper vans she and Kevin used regularly in all weathers!! She developed in her role as grandmother, giving to them the love of learning she had enjoyed all her life. The allotment was replaced by her own vegetable patch.

Jane had such plans for the future: more time with her family; more travelling; a second archaeology degree with lots of research and digs. But she handled her brief illness with cancer and her dying in the same positive way that she had led her life, thinking of her family as much as herself and, of course, leaving detailed orders for her 'last junket', as she called it. And who would have dared not to carry them through?

She was influential in life and leaves a legacy of other lives made better.

Pat Chester 19.01.37 - 14.12.17 (1947-53).

A tribute by Anita Bateman

Pat traveled by train from Tenbury Wells where her family had settled during the war having moved from Birmingham. Pat was a cheerful, jolly person with a very good singing voice who loved to perform dance routines, two gifts she put to good use in shows at the Bridge Hotel, Tenbury. She was a Girl Guide and her mother a Guider. After leaving school she became a hairdresser, later starting her own business; married Tony Lambert and had three sons, Carl, Chris and Michael. She was particularly good at flower arranging. Pat suffered with skin cancer which needed

treating on several occasions because she was too fond of sunbathing, not ideal with her fair skin.

Sadly her last few years were spent in a home in Ludlow suffering from dementia. Her funeral took place 5.01.18. at Tenbury Methodist Church where she had been a long term worshipper.

Audrey Howell (Bishop)

Audrey Bishop as she was then attended K.H.S. from 1951 to 1958 when she was head of Clare House and then Headgirl. After qualifying as a teacher she taught at Kidderminster Technical College and taught Maths at K.H.S. In the 1960s. She leaves one daughter Jane and two granddaughters. Her funeral was on 22nd January 12pm at St Mary's Church, Kidderminster.

MEMORIES OF LINDA MAYS – a tribute by a schoolfriend

Linda and I came across each other twice before we found ourselves together in Miss Baker's IIIH and Caldwell House at K.H.S. and became friends. I have happy memories of fun in Caldwell entertainments, especially as Keystone Cops in the Silent Movies one when I ended up unexpectedly with a face full of 'custard pie' crazy foam. We played centre on opposing teams in netball lessons (so that we could have a chat in between play!) and once volunteered to play for Caldwell but heard no more: when I saw netball at the recent Commonwealth Games I realised just how low our standard was! We always stood together in choir and somehow got away with constant giggling. Miss Stoker once asked us to stay behind after an R.E. lesson: fortunately she didn't ask if we knew why, thus saving a needless confession to whispering and smothered mirth in assembly when apparently she had only noticed that we didn't stand up straight! Perhaps even Miss Stoker accepted giggling as a normal part of schoolgirl life (unlike Miss Marky Davis who once told me off for having adolescence as an epidemic!) I wasn't Linda's 'best friend': in fact, when I look at a photo of UVH I realise that she was close friends with half the form, some indication of what a lovely person she was.

After O Levels Linda and I were Woolworths Saturday girls, enjoying the busy times and relieving the dull spells with trolley rides in the stockroom. After A Levels when we all dispersed around the country to pursue our dreams, Linda went to train as a nurse at The Royal Masonic Hospital in

London, only to return home after a few weeks unable to continue because kidney failure had been discovered. The disappointment must have been huge but she picked herself up and trained as a nursery nurse at Princess Christian College, Manchester (second only to Norland) where she became Head Girl and was presented to the Duchess of Gloucester. Newly qualified but with deteriorating health ruling out a prestigious post, Linda returned home and worked part-time as a nanny for a family who loved her dearly, as did all children.

Home dialysis sounds very convenient, but doing all the required medical treatment oneself is an enormous responsibility, especially haemodialysis: not many of us could cope with sticking needles in our own veins several times a week, and things can and do go wrong as I observed once when visiting, huddled in the corner while Linda and her mum calmly averted the emergency.

After a seven year wait Linda had a kidney transplant... on my birthday. I'll never forget the phone call at 8.30 that morning: what a birthday present. Eventually, after numerous setbacks, Linda could embark on a new life, choosing to train as a nursery/infant teacher in Birmingham where she met her partner Bhavin, who from then on was always at her side in hospital. She was brilliant with children and became head of the nursery department in a Birmingham school. After sixteen years the donor kidney failed and it was back to hours of dialysis each week before a second transplant, coincidentally after another seven year wait. In the midst of grief, two families generously gave Linda a kidney and renewed quality of life for many years. Organ donation can do so much good: if you feel you could donate even some of your organs when you die, please register as a donor, and tell your loved ones, to spare them the agony of deciding without knowing your wishes. Years later, Linda's oncology professor had never treated a transplant patient before so she helped him to push the boundaries of medical science to benefit others.

I dislike pugilistic metaphors for living with illness so never let it be said that Linda 'lost her battle with cancer': for forty-two years she endured restrictions, limitations, countless hospital visits and stays, medical and surgical treatment, serious side effects and complications, and did so with quiet stoicism and courage, but what I remember most is her kindness and all the laughter. Years and years of laughter.

For which - Gratias Hodie Agimus

News of Old Girls

Diana Revitt (née Blackford) enjoys receiving emails about the O.G.A. though feels a little sad at not being able to attend anything recently. She was pleased to be able to attend a reunion of her year 1952 to 1959 when she was in England in 2008. However, she still likes to keep in touch.

Chris Goggin (née Brook) 1967-1974 made her annual visit to England in June and met up with **Anne Budworth** (née Amies), **Jenny Booth** (née Brookes), **Carol Bishton** (née Pugh) and Old Elizabethans, Rob Budworth and Adrian Hayes. Chris and her husband, Pat Goggin, also an Old Elizabethan, are continuing to enjoy being grandparents to Margaret Rose Goggin born in April 2017.

Jenny Booth (née Brookes) has recently moved house to Wellington, Telford so that she and Colin can spend more time with their grandchildren.

Continuing with the grandparent theme, **Sue Whistance-Smith** (née Cartwright) is enjoying spending time with her increasing number of grandchildren. The logistics of this can become quite complicated as her children live at opposite ends of the country.

Linda Stone (née Postins) is a member of a Facebook group dedicated to picking up litter in the Kidderminster area and has appeared in a group photo in the local paper. Volunteers for this group are always welcome.

Norma Heath has recently moved to Poulton Le Fylde in Lancashire. She has met a lovely group of people who meet up most afternoons. She is pleased to be only 4 miles from the sea.

Betty Caswell (née Edwards), who I'm sure you will remember claimed to have finished her local history writing career has just published her 22nd book on Cookley. She has been working on this book about Westley Court for the last seven years. It contains 100 pages and sells at £10 per copy. She tells me that although she was not born in Cookley and travelled extensively as a child, she enjoys writing about Cookley as it is such a fascinating place.

If any of you regularly meet up with your contemporaries, please let me know so that I can publicise your events for you.

From the editor. I still keep cuttings and look out for news of Old Girls but if anyone spots any news about an Old Girl, I would be most grateful if they could let me know the details for our next newsletter, particularly as I am

aware I do not know the name of every Old Girl.

Old Carolian Events

Friday 20th October 2018 – President's Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper

Saturday 17th November 2018 – Annual Dinner

Further details of these events are available from the Old Carolian website. www.oldcarolians.org.uk

Local news – Heritage bus tours of Wyre Forest

Following the success of the Heritage bus tours which took place last year, Dave Laverty, former head of history at King Charles School, has organised a follow up tour on Saturday 22nd September 2018 at 10:00 and 11:30. Further details and booking from Kidderminster Town Hall 01562 732158

Just to make you smile -

Rosemarie had a phone call recently from a lady asking if she could take a Year 9 student on work experience placement at Kidderminster High School!!!

She says “ I did try and explain she was 40 years too late, but don't know whether I succeeded. She obviously thought I was just being difficult. With hindsight, I wished I had asked which school she was based at, but was somewhat thrown by the request – hopefully the school was not from this area. It appears she had just Googled 'Kidderminster High School' , as she assumed there was only 1 high school in the town , and it was called that. She saw the O.G.A. website, and assumed it was the school website, and phoned me.”

O.G.A. Flower Fund- During the year Rosemarie and Elisabeth have made 40 visits delivering flowers, tokens or cards including 15 cards and tokens which were sent to Old Girls out of area. If you know of any Old Girl who would appreciate flowers please contact Elisabeth Robinson (01562 750891) or Rosemarie Moore (01562 67546).

O.G.A. COMMITTEE 2017 – 18

Chairman	Rosemarie Morgan (née Pitt)
Vice Chairman	Anne Budworth (née Amies)
Minutes Secretary	Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway)
Treasurer	Margaret Bazley (née Osborne)
Newsletter Editor	Anne Budworth (née Amies)
Committee	Shirley Whiteside (née Hall) Judy Neale (née Beddoes) Gloria Phillips (née Galloway)
Flower Fund	Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway) and Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth)

Please send any correspondence regarding the O.G.A. to Anne Budworth, 108 Park Lane, Kidderminster, DY11 6TB or budwortha@blueyonder.co.uk who will forward it to the correct person.

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.

MINUTES OF THE KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL O.G.A. A.G.M. AND LUNCH 23rd SEPTEMBER 2017 AT THE WAGON WHEEL, GRIMLEY.

The Chairman, Rosemarie Morgan welcomed all the members of the OGA.

Deaths. Members of the O.G.A. who had died since the last A.G.M. were remembered.

Apologies. Anne Hawthorne, Judy Neale, Mary Jordan, Jenny Booth, Sheila Kirk, L. Napier, Sheila Garlick.

Corrections to 2016 Minutes. Page 2 “under Committee”. Monica proposed by

Stella Stone should read Stonehouse. The Chairman asked that thanks should be recorded to Rosemarie Moore for typing the minutes. The minutes were signed as a true record with all in favour.

Treasurer's Report. (Copy on File). Margaret Bazley reported that the accounts had been audited by John Neale. The opening bank balance on August 1st 2016 was £785.49 and the income for 2016/2017 was £2,431 making a total of £3,216.49. The expenditure for 2016/2017 was £1911.57 leaving a surplus of £519.43. The cash held by Lloyds Bank on the 31st July 2017 was £1,304.92 and the cash at Scottish Widows on the 1st January 2017 was £2,576.43 plus interest of £9.52 paid on 0.01.2017 making a total of £2566.91. £1,000 belongs to the Flower Fund. The accounts were signed as a true record. Thanks to Margaret were recorded.

Flower Report. (Copy on File) £466.01 has been carried forward from 2016 and with donations to be added for this year of £490 plus £1,000 in the Scottish Widows account giving a healthy working account. Last Christmas Elisabeth and Rosemarie visited 16 Old Girls and sent 5 tokens. During the year they had visited 22 people with flower arrangements and sent 11 cards or tokens. Members were asked to let Elisabeth or Rosemarie know of any OGA member who would appreciate a visit, token or card. Sheila Hodges said she had been the recipient of a visit and thanked Elisabeth and Rosemarie for their work. The accounts were accepted. Shirley Whiteside proposed and Alison Hargreaves seconded with all in favour.

Newsletter. Anne Budworth said that most of the news for the letter had come from her own year and asked members to send news in for the 2018 newsletter. The newsletter by email was a better way of distributing the news. Rosemarie Morgan asked that thanks to Anne should be recorded.

Chairman's Report. (Copy on File). Rosemarie Morgan said it would be wrong not to pay tribute to Mary Wehner who as a stalwart of the OGA had served on the committee for many years. The commemoration service had been a fitting memorial to her.

Lunch and the sweet trolley were mentioned and that there was no seating plan this year. There was no speaker this year leaving time for people to catch up with friends. Tips for the meal to be added by the members.

Miss Bedford was still in Tenbury Hospital awaiting a decision on long term care.

The choice of this year's venue had been questioned and Rosemarie explained that the favourable agreement which had been reached with King Charles I school had expired and commercial rates would now apply if we wished to continue using the school. The use of outside caterers was also expensive. Suggestions for alternative venues would be appreciated but even better,

perhaps members would consider joining the committee.

Future meetings were announced and it was hoped that the two tier (members and guests) pricing system was approved. If any member had ideas for future events would they please contact a committee member.

Rosemarie would like to know if there were any ideas on how we could widen the appeal of the Association.

Rosemarie said it had been a privilege to serve as Chairman and thanked the Committee for all their help and support over the year with a special mention to Anne Budworth the Vice Chairman. She also thanked all members of the O.G.A. for their support.

Elections.

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Rosemarie Morgan	Anne Witts	Sue Smith
Vice-Chair	Anne Budworth		Alison Hargreaves
Treasurer	Margaret Bazley	Monica Bashford	Jane King
Committee	Shirley Whiteside	Sue Smith	Sheila Hodges
	Gloria Phillips		
	Judy Neale		
Monica Bashford, Sheila Kirk, Sheila Garlick. Committee members were standing down			

Future Events

Max Keene 21st April 2018 Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt.

Hartlebury Castle 23rd June 2018

As yet there were no price lists available. The visit to Hartlebury Castle would be in the evening and would be exclusive to members of the OGA and their guests.

The 2018 AGM and Lunch would be on the 29th September.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed. Thanks to Rosemarie Morgan and Anne Budworth were expressed by Alison Hargreaves.

Expression of interest in the Spring 2019 meeting-

An afternoon tea in the Palm Tree Cafe at De Beers Garden Centre, (Formerly Fuchsiavale), Hartlebury, Nr Kidderminster, DY11 7SB

The tea will be held on Tuesday 9th April 2019 at 2:30. Numbers are limited to 30 and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Palm tree cafe was established five years ago and has built up a great reputation serving freshly prepared meals, all food is sourced from local suppliers. All of the food is cooked at Palm Tree Cafe.

For further details of the venue please see:

<http://www.de-beersgroup.com/palm-tree-cafe-kidderminster>

Please complete your details below and return this form with a stamped addressed envelope to:

Anne Budworth, 108 Park Lane, Kidderminster, DY11 6TB.
budwortha@blueyonder.co.uk

if you would like to be sent further details of this meeting once they are available after Christmas.

Returns by email would be most welcome.

Name.....

Address.....

.....
email address.....

