

Newsletter

Old Elphinians

Autumn 2002

Issue 3

New name but "old" lives on at AGM

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Saturday 18 May 2002 decided that the St Elphin's Old Girls' Guild should have a new name, writes *Melanie Thompson*. Despite my personal wish to drop the "old", postal votes and a show of hands at the meeting confirmed that "Old Elphinians" was the name of choice, so I now welcome you all to this season's newsletter from the OEs! Read of the other decisions at the AGM in the minutes, below.

Busy meeting in May

THE OLD GIRLS' GUILD met for its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 18 May 2002. Prayers were led by Peter Pollard, who then welcomed everyone to the meeting, and together we paused to remember: Rosemary Taylor who is ill in a nursing home; Colonel Hobbs, for many years Bursar of the school, who is now in a nursing home; and Rachel Letford, who sadly died in May 2002.

The joint secretaries, Sarah Brain (nee Straw) and Melanie Thompson took the minutes, as follows:

1. Apologies were received from: Beryl Campbell (nee Williams), Sian Perkins (nee Davies), June Gibson (nee Brierley), Olga Putnam (nee Mort), Sarah Hulme (nee Scott), Jacqueline Marshalleck (nee Osadebay), Dorothy Edwards, Elizabeth White (nee Evans), Elizabeth Hall (nee Mumford), Ann Entwistle (nee Lyon), Joan Newcombe (nee Brittain), Lorraine Gathani (nee McNiece), Kaye Huddy, Liz Horne, Ruth Wheeler, Laura Bennett, Bridget Davies (nee Mawson).

It was very good to welcome everyone to the School for the Reunion. Turnout was a little lower than we had expected, and we hope that you are all saving yourselves for the London event in November (details on page 4).

Peter Pollard, our newly elected chairman sends greetings from Yorkshire on page 3; and another new officer – treasurer Sarah Brain – reports on the events of the Summer Term on page 2.

It has been a very hectic year for both

Sarah and I, and it's not over yet. Both of us have moved house; Sarah has also changed jobs. The upheaval that this inevitably caused meant that we were not able to respond to your letters as quickly as we might have, for which we apologise. And we must thank treasurer, Teanie Dornan, for keeping track of our finances during this busy period.

The year ahead will, hopefully, be more smooth, and I promise to try to keep up with the admin. In particular, I plan to write to all year 11 and year 13 pupils (Upper 5 and Upper 6 in old money) to invite them to join our society.

In the Spring, I hope to make sure that the newsletter goes out nice and early, so that we can encourage more people to come to the AGM and Reunion in May.

For now, I need to concentrate on the November event, and can only add that I hope to see all of you there. (And I do mean ALL – we've booked a huge room!)

2. Head's report. Mrs Erica Taylor welcomed us and recalled that last time we met had been during her first few weeks at the school. She described the many and varied activities that had taken place in the subsequent year, and added that she now felt well and truly settled in.

Major building works began last year with the reinstatement of the reception area in front hall, which we had all admired as we arrived. The Chapel had also been restored to its former glory, with the pews turned back to face the altar, a move that was roundly welcomed by those at the meeting. Sunday chapel had also been re-introduced for boarders.

Hillview (formerly Powys) has been completely refurbished and had been officially opened by Richmal Ashbee. [Old girls later toured the dormitories and were very impressed by the high standard of decor and furnishings.]

A new craft, design and technology (CDT) centre had also been opened by Helen Winlow, and was being

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AGM report, continued...

enthusiastically used by pupils up to year 9. In particular this facility was popular with the new influx of boys (up to age 11).

Highlights of the year to May included: a "clothes show" at which three potential models were "spotted"; a performance of "This is a Christmas Story" attended by the composer, Peter Harrison; 600 people to see the school's production of Grease; and finalists in all categories at the Art for School exhibition at Manchester's Lowry Centre (the only school to be so honoured).

The school roll is increasing, boosted by 38 pupils from Stancliffe Hall in September 2001.

Looking ahead, Mrs Taylor noted that 2004 is the 100th anniversary of St Elphin's on the Darley Dale site, and is also the 160th anniversary of the school. She showed the meeting the print of a new colour painting of the school by local artist Irene Stewart, available for sale price £15 (large) or £10 (small).

3. Officers' reports.

Secretaries' report. Sarah Brain reported that the London Reunion planned for November 2002 would go ahead. In particular she paid tribute to Peter Pollard's work on the mailing list; and confirmed that we all want more staff to join the Guild and to attend reunions.

Treasurer's report. Teanie Dornan summarised the financial position: at the start of 2002, the building society account balance was £1803.02. By May, it stood at £1263.18. Treasurer's expenses were £4.29 for the year. Peter Pollard had raised £208.75 at the York Reunion via the raffle and a donation.

Two mailshots during the year had cost £648 in total (compared to £720 on the previous financial year). She confirmed that Ann Tingle's husband will audit the accounts.

4. Election of officers. *Secretary:* Melanie Thompson (proposed by Sarah Brain; seconded by Mary Goodman); *Treasurer:* Sarah Brain (proposed by Teanie Dornan; seconded by Kathryn Dickens).

5. Vote of thanks. To Teanie Dornan, treasurer, for her work on our behalf.

6. Motion on the name of the Society. Twenty-seven postal votes were received: Old Elphinians (18); Old Elphinian's Society (4); and St Elphin's Guild (5). Following a discussion of the various options, a show of hands made "Old Elphinians" the final winner.

7. Motion on amendments to the Constitution. There was considerable

discussion about the various changes. In particular, it was decided that the existing constitution should be amended, rather than discarded.

Christine Tew suggested the removal of item 7; Mary Goodman commented that the items referring to the budget might not be necessary. The Constitution, with amendments, is now reproduced, in full, on page 4.

The adoption of the Constitution meant that a further election was needed: Peter Pollard was elected Chairman (proposed by Sheila Allen; seconded by Judy Crook).

The President is the current head, Erica Taylor.

8. Motion "Amnesty for Old Girls".

The meeting felt that, as people had joined as "life members", they should not be required to make further contributions and the motion was not carried. Rosalind Maudsley and Peter Pollard suggested that we could, of course, seek donations from members via the newsletter.

There was also a request to publish the newsletter on the internet to save on postage and printing. However, at this stage too few members have e-mail or internet access to make this practicable. [Approximately 50 people have joined the news-group.]

9. Motion on formalising help to the school. Feelings were mixed: some believe that the Society is for exchanging news; others commented that many alumni associations at other schools offer considerable support.

It was decided that low-key fundraising could be tried for one year (see Treasurer's letter on page ??), and that the Society would contribute an annual prize to the school (proposed by Helen Jay; seconded by Mary Mayo).

This being accepted, Mary Goodman asked the Head to recommend what form the prize should take. Erica Taylor suggested a prize for "contributions to social services" – £25 to the seniors and £25 to the juniors.

10. Motion on recruiting pupils and staff. The secretary will write to all leavers to go out with the request for subscriptions; and will also continue to supply information to the school's magazine, to promote the Society.

11. Changes to subscriptions. Sheila Allen proposed putting up the joining fee to £40 (seconded by Christine Tew). The joining fee will be reviewed annually.

12. Next A.G.M. 11.00 a.m. Saturday 17th May 2003.

The meeting closed at 12.45.

Lively end to a busy year

SARAH BRAIN (treasurer) writes: I am writing this sitting in Grove Cottage (which was once the School San). I finally moved here in August to join my husband Chris Brain, who is now the Bursar of St Elphin's. Now that we are living on site, if any of you are in the area, please call by for a cup of tea and a journey down memory lane.

There are several things I want to tell you about my new role as Treasurer:

Thanks for everyone's generosity at the May Reunion. We raised £61 on the raffle, and I received £36.50 in donations.

I am in the process of changing the building society account to "Old Elphinians", but I intend to keep both accounts running for a while, so if you need to send a cheque to SEOGG, it can still be cashed.

Fundraiser

I propose that our first mini-fundraising project is to organise an Old Elphinians Raffle at the St Elphin's Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 30 November 2002 (10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.) I'm going to make up Christmas Hampers, and hope that you would like to donate luxury Christmas goods (or money so that I can buy them). Please bring your items to the London Reunion, or drop them in at the Bursar's office clearly marked "Old Elphinians". Any help before or on the day will also be most welcome. Please contact me if you can help. Tel: 01629 735718.

I also want to tell you about events since we met at the AGM in May.

Jubilee ball

In July I attended the St Elphin's Golden Jubilee Ball – a truly spectacular event. We began the evening with champagne and canapes on the terrace overlooking the pond. The grounds looked superb – I know that the Bursar and his team spent many extra hours weeding, pruning, and mowing. (I also know that the Bursar's wife dragged four huge blue planters from the garden centre to her car, and to School – with the Bursar's help, of course.)

After the champagne reception we went into the Stopford Hall, which had been transformed to look like a marquee fit to receive the Queen herself; and we sat down to a delicious meal, followed

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News

Correspondence received

If you wish to contact any of the people mentioned below, please write to the Old Elphinians, care of the school (see "contact points").

ANNE McCLANAN is now Assistant Professor in the Art Department at Portland State University, USA. She has published a book and will marry Ben Hadad on 13 October 2002.

TANYA LING (nee **GHOSH**) and her family visited Sarah Brain recently. *Sarah writes:* Tanya is a very successful and highly acclaimed artist. She runs her own business with her husband, William, and has just launched her first fashion line. She has three children – Bipasha, Pele and Evangeline.

JACQUELINE MARSHALLECK (nee **OSADEBAY**), who attended St Elphin's from 1986-88 writes: After completing my studies in law in 1995, I worked with a private law firm in Nassau, Bahamas for three years. In 1998 I married Edmund Marshalleck of Belize City, Belize, and left Nassau to take up residence in Belize. My husband is also an attorney-at-law. Since February 1999 I have been an associate attorney

at a private law firm called Youngs Law Firm here in Belize. I have recently accepted the post of Senior Consultant to the Carlisle Group of Companies, and I will take up that post in September this year. I am looking forward to expanding my areas of practice and some globe-trotting.

At the moment I am on maternity leave, having just given birth to my second child Adrian. My daughter Anya was born in Nassau in 2000.

FIONA GARTHWAITE (nee **RANDALL**) left St Elphin's in 1983 and moved to Queen Mary's in Lytham St Annes to take 'A' levels. She studied Law and English at university, then qualified as a solicitor in 1991. She specialises in civil litigation, particularly personal injury claims. She married Paul in 1995. Her sister **SARAH** (1980-85) attended sixth form college after leaving St Elphin's, and then went to study in Scotland. She currently lives in Dundee. She and her lower/upper fifth dorm are having their own mini-reunion later this year and plan to visit the school.

LAURA-JANE BLANT (nee **QUICK**) was married in October 1999 and gave birth to a baby girl, Grace Ellie, in August 2001. She lives in Chesterfield.

JANE E HUNT was at St Elphin's from 1965-69, and remembers many of the staff, particularly Miss Robinson and Miss Marsden. She keeps in touch with **ELIZABETH MALLISON** and **SARAH RANSOME** (nee **PARK**). She writes: I graduated from Birmingham University in Accountancy and subsequently qualified as a chartered accountant. I then worked for IBM. I am now a full-time volunteer working on a disabled entrepreneurs network which is managed by disabled people for disabled people.

ALLISON COPE (nee **JUSTICE**) gave birth to a baby girl, Ashton Elizabeth on 6 January 2002.

JUDY KEARNEY (nee **IRELAND**) who attended the school from 1951-59 has spent most of her life in Africa, and is looking for old friends. She is still in contact with **ROSIE GOWARD**, **JILL RANDLE**, **ANNE BELL**, **ROSALIND YOUNG**, **JUDITH WOOLISCROFT** and **FRANCIS FLINT**. Also in her class were **MONICA EDGERTON**, **ELIZABETH BUSBY**, **AUDREY BUXTON**, **JUDITH WATSON**, **JACQUELINE WATSON**.

AVICE LEE and her old school friends are trying to trace **CATHERINE HUTCHINSON** (known as **CATH**

HUTCH) who was at the school with them during the 1940s. She was in Kennedy House. Avice writes: I believe that Cath was a very good singer later in life and sang at Covent Garden. Her family were living in Mansfield and her father was the

rector of a church somewhere in the town. Any information welcome.

SUSAN LETTING-PEPPER would like to contact **SUSAN PIMLOTT** and **ANNA WATTS** who were at the school during the early 1950s.

Obituaries

IT IS OUR SAD DUTY TO REPORT THE DEATHS OF THE FOLLOWING OLD ELPHINIANS.

MARJORIE ERICA NICOL died on 12 February 2002, aged 101. She and her twin sister **ENA MARGARET** entered the school as boarders when they were eight years old. Ena died in 1999. Neither of them were married; they had spent most of their lives together.

Their cousin, Peter Nicol, writes: the twins lived in Tavistock from 1933, after Marjorie's appointment to the Tavistock Grammar School

as Classic mistress, where there were never more than 100 pupils. She retired in 1962, when the school was being converted to a comprehensive – about which she had strong views. Both sisters entered a residential home in 1994. After Ena's death, Marjorie's will to continue was lost, but despite this she survived for almost three years. I retired to Tavistock in 1980 and got to know the twins and their wide circle of friends. They were always good company and much respected.

Contact points

ALL CORRESPONDENCE should be sent directly to:

Mrs Helen Fairley, School Secretary, St Elphin's School for Girls, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2HA.

Please send e-mail to: admin@st-elphins.co.uk

Alternatively, why not join our news-group?

Simply send a blank e-mail to:

Elphinians-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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by dancing to "Joe Public". When the sound of music became too much, we went to the casino to gamble our (plastic) money. I never imagined I would be placing bets on the roulette table for Peter Pollard in the Head's Dining Room, with the photographs of the governors staring down at us!

Put the date in next year's diary: Saturday 19 July 2003.

Speech day

I then attended Speech Day and Sports Day. Another great event, but unfortunately the sports were cancelled due to bad weather.

Prizes were presented by Don Hale OBE, editor of the Matlock Mercury and Journalist of the Year. A spectacular lunch followed. If you think I've mentioned food rather too often in my letter that's because

the transformation is so dramatic. No more "squashed fly pie" or "matron's leg" – there's choice on the menu these days!

End of term

Finally I went to the end of term staff party, where we said goodbye to several departing staff: Mr Andrew Teague, Mrs Sheila Taylor, Mrs Elizabeth Prince and Mrs Ann Hodgson. The event was enjoyable, and several ex-staff also came, including Mrs Miles, Mrs Leech, Ms Hooton, Miss Crook and Mr Pollard.

All these events were a chance to view the recent improvements to the school's buildings, as well as see its pupils in action.

A great deal has been achieved in the past year, and I look forward to reporting on the continued success of the St Elphin's "team" in the year ahead.

From our Chairman

PETER POLLARD WRITES: it is an honour to have been elected your Chairman.

The Newsletter reports the details of our lively meeting and of the important decisions taken. I much enjoy working closely on your behalf with Melanie and Sarah as Secretary and treasurer. More recently I have been invited to become a governor of St Elphin's; in this context I am able to give my total support to all those running the school at a crucial stage in its long history.

Last year, York: this year, London. I do hope you will make a very special effort to attend the November Reunion, at which I look forward to meeting many friends.

Constitution of the Old Elphinians

(based on the constitution of the St Elphin's Old Girls' Guild
with amendments made by an AGM on Saturday 18th May 2002)

1. The Society

The "Old Elphinians" (previously known as the St Elphin's Old Girls' Guild) is an independent society of former pupils and staff of St Elphin's School, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire, and of former pupils and staff of other schools that may, from time to time, amalgamate with St Elphin's School (hereafter known as "the School"). The Old Elphinians (hereafter known as "the Society") is owned and controlled by its members.

2. Aims/purpose

The purpose of the Society is to provide a forum for former pupils and staff to maintain contact with each other and with the School, and to support the work of the School. To this end, the

Society will organise reunions and social events, publish a newsletter, and raise funds.

3. Membership

To consist of:

- all former pupils of the School who wish to enrol as members,
 - any former member of staff wishing to enrol as an associate member.
- General communications (e.g. a newsletter) will be sent to all members.

4. Meetings

The Society shall be governed by its members through general meetings, at least one meeting to be convened per year (the Annual General Meeting).

Extra meetings or reunions may also take place at any time or venue, according to the wishes of the members.

5. Officers of the Society

5.1 Officers of the Society shall consist of:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

plus any other officers as may be necessary.

5.2 The Head Teacher shall be the President of the Society.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 *Chair*: shall chair general meetings and, if necessary, meetings of Officers

6.2 *Secretary*: shall be the "corresponding officer" of the Society and shall keep the membership records, and shall have the power to delegate administrative tasks as required.

6.3 *Treasurer*: shall open and hold bank/building society accounts on behalf of the Society

(signatories to the accounts to be drawn from the Officers), and shall present a report and audited accounts to the AGM; and shall have the power to delegate the collection of subscriptions to the School.

7. Finances

7.1 The Society shall have the power to set the membership fee (life subscription), to be determined by a vote of members at the AGM.

7.2 Officers shall have the power to raise other funds for the purposes of the Society.

7.3 The Society's accounts shall be audited annually and presented to the members at the AGM.

7.4 Officers have the power to apply funds on the activities of the Society, subject to the following rule:

■ Officers shall be allowed to spend up to £500 per year on activities of the Society without recourse to a general meeting; any expenditure above £500 to be approved by a simple majority of members at the AGM.

8. Winding up

The Society may only be wound up by a majority vote of all members by postal ballot. In the event of winding up, the assets of the Society shall be divided equally among all full members.

9. Book of Remembrance

To be kept in the School Chapel. The Secretary shall inform the Head of deaths of former members; and shall requested that the entries are made in script.

London reunion – a party in the Park!

We have booked a splendid room at REGENT'S COLLEGE conference centre, in central London, *write Melanie and Sarah*, and we hope that there will be a great turn-out to fill the large space! Busy mums should give themselves an afternoon off and let the dads take the kids to The Zoo or Madame Tussauds, while we all get on with the gossip. The day will begin at noon and end at 4pm. A buffet lunch and beverages is included. We have done our best to keep costs down, but we're paying London prices, and we need about 40 people to come if we are to "break even". So, don't forget to bring those raffle prizes!

Calling the class of '77

It's 25 years since we first met at St Elphin's, and we would be particularly pleased to see pupils and staff from our year (most of us left in '82 or '84). Don't forget - if you leave it another 25 years' we'll all be happily retired!

Finding Regents College

Nearest tube station is Baker Street. Take the "Marylebone Road" exit. Follow the road towards Madame Tussauds. Turn left at York Gate. This road leads directly to Regent's College main entrance.

LONDON 2002 REUNION BOOKING FORM

Please reserve.....place(s), **priced £25.00** I enclose a cheque, made payable to "Old Elphinians." for: £.....

Name (please print).....Nee.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Phone.....Dates/House when at school.....

Please return this slip (no later than WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2002) to:

Old Elphinians, c/o The School Secretary, St Elphin's School, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2HA