



# Alumni Newsletter

June 2020

Dear Members

These are challenging times, isolation is unnatural, and I am sure like me you are all missing meeting with friends and family. School has gone through a particularly difficult time this year with a great deal of uncertainty for both students and staff, but hopefully by the time you are reading this some element of normality will have begun to return in preparation for the new term in September.

Our annual newsletter continues to evolve and you will see our layout this year is now in-line with the new school image. In addition, our title has changed to West Kirby Grammar Alumni and we have also made changes to our membership fees. Full details of these are now explained on page 4 of this newsletter.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Pauline Logan as she retired in October. She has been a tremendous support to the WKOGA over many years.

It is also with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Elaine Sargent this term as she moves to Cumbria and takes up the Headship of Appleby Grammar School. During her 3 years at West Kirby we have seen the school continue to be one of the leading schools not just locally, but beyond and we wish her every success in her new appointment.

**2020 AGM & Afternoon Tea** – Due to the present uncertainty of coronavirus we have made the decision to postpone our AGM this year until 2021. Details will be posted on the website and in the next mailshot.

**2021 Afternoon Tea - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June provisional.** Confirmation details again will be emailed out and also on our website & Facebook page asap. We would love to see you there, bring any friends who were former pupils.

Finally, if you received this newsletter by email and/or wish to receive email communications in the future please can you confirm by email to [h.peel58@outlook.com](mailto:h.peel58@outlook.com) so that we can update our membership list.

*Sue Dutton*

Chairperson – WKGS Alumni



## Minutes from AGM Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Present** –Mrs Elaine Sargent, Mrs Sue Dutton (Chairperson), Sue Stewart (Treasurer) Mr Simeon Clarke (Deputy Head), Committee Members, and 24 'Old Girls'. Mrs Sargent opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing a Year 10 student who gave an excellent musical performance on the trumpet.

**Minutes** of the 2018 AGM were adopted and signed by Chairman.

### **Chairman's Report**

Sue echoed Elaine's welcome and thanked the committee for their continued support and contribution to running of WKOGA. She reported that the archives are now all deposited with Wirral Archives at the Cheshire Lines Building in Birkenhead and a leaflet is available from school explaining how past pupils may view the archives. A digitalized copy of the Centenary Newspaper and whole school photos have also been added recently. We are still missing two West Kirby Old Girls Books of press cuttings compiled by Dorothy Furness but hope they may still be under the stage.

Sue reported on the need to address increasing future membership of WKOGA. Our communication using the media ie email, Facebook, Twitter and the website, is now the way to go.

Mrs Sargent was congratulated on another year of outstanding GCSE and A level results only achieved by dedication and hard work of both students and staff.

Finally, Sue presented Pauline Logan, PA to the head with a gift from WKOGA on her retirement, as a thank you for all the support Pauline has given to the 'Old Girls' during her time at the school.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Copy of the audited accounts was on the Agenda sheet and we have £3,164.94 in our account of which £1,087.10 is money left from Joan Keay's Legacy. We had donated £300 for 6 x £50 vouchers for the school House Prizes in 2018 and a cheque was given to Mrs Sargent for the house prizes for this coming year. We were grateful to school for posting out our mailshot again this year, while we sent some by e-mail. Adoption of the accounts was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

### **Election of Officers**

In the absence of any other nominations the present officers of WKOGA have agreed to continue in office, as did 7 Committee members.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.10 p.m.** and we adjourned for afternoon tea.



## 2019 School Update – Mrs Elaine Sargent, Headteacher

Mrs Sargent opened her update by reporting that both GCSE and A' Level results were the schools' best results yet! 60% of grades gained at GCSE level were 7 or above and close to 40% of all grades achieved were 8 or 9 (ie A or A\*) ranking WKGS as 75<sup>th</sup> out of all 3500 state schools in England.

72% of all grades at A' Level were A\* to B, ranking us 70<sup>th</sup> out of all state schools in the Times Comparison, compared with last year when we were 165<sup>th</sup>. These results also put us in top place locally.

We then saw pictures of the 4 science laboratories that had been fully refurbished into state-of-the-art facilities that could now accommodate a whole class! While the old pottery room has been made into a study room for students.

The school website has been upgraded and has taken on a new image which is reflected in all newsletters and also in the new signage both in and outside of the school.

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of school life and the girls are very active in various charity projects. In September, Years 7 & 8 were cooking to feed the homeless every 2 weeks, while Year 10 have been fund raising for the Wings of Hope Appeal. They won a competition and some are going to India in summer 2020 to see how the money they raised has been used. They made a YouTube video of how they raised the money, which included teaching other pupils to play musical instruments. They then formed bands and competed against each other.

There have been numerous trip and visits including 50 students going to China for 3 weeks, year 7 had a residential course at Condo Hall in Shropshire, 100 students went to Flamborough Head on a Geography field trip and also there was a Spanish exchange trip.

Mrs Sargent finished by pointing out that in other schools Music, Drama and Food Technology are fast disappearing but these subjects are really valued here at West Kirby Grammar which makes us the school of choice locally.

## Changes in Membership of the Alumni

The committee have been addressing the issue of increasing membership and better communication of WKOGA. As from July 2020 the following changes will take place:

**All Year 11 and Year 13 leavers** will automatically become members of West Kirby Grammar Alumni (WKOGA) **FREE** of charge and will receive the annual mailshot and invitations to events by email.

**Other new members** who join will receive **FREE** membership provided they agree to receive all communications by email. Any new member requiring communication by post will be asked to pay a **subscription of £10 for 5 years** to cover printing and postage.

**Present members who already receive communications by email** will no longer be asked for a renewal subscription when it next becomes due, but will get **FREE** membership.

**Present members who receive communications by post** have the option to change to email or will continue to pay a subscription increased to £10 for 5 years when their subscription is next due.

**Membership forms can be found on our webpage on the school website:**

[www.wkgs.org/about/past-pupils](http://www.wkgs.org/about/past-pupils)

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*Donations to the work of WKOGA are always acceptable and will be used to continue our support of WKGS. These can be paid by cheque payable to 'WKOGA' and posted to:*

*WKOGA Treasurer, 53 Coombe Road, Irby, Wirral CH61 4UN*

*or by BACs to: Sort Code 20-50-36 Acc Nos 33568695*

### Contact Details:

Chairperson – Mrs Sue Dutton – 0151 632 1701

Membership – Miss Hilary Peel – 0151 678 9572

Treasurer – Mrs Sue Stewart – 0151 648 3290

Email – [wkgsoga@gmail.com](mailto:wkgsoga@gmail.com)

Website – [www.wkgs.org/about/past-pupils](http://www.wkgs.org/about/past-pupils)



**West Kirby**  
Grammar School