

Over 100 years of WKGS history in the archives

Our display of school archives at the Reunion Dinner together with discussion with Elaine prompted the 'Old Girls' to offer support to school this year to collect all the school archives together and rationalise their storage. In the years leading up to the school Centenary these had always been managed by a Science technician but since her retirement no-one had taken on the role.

On seeking advice from the Wirral Archives Service, it was discovered they could store them for us completely free. The archives would still be accessible to school but would be stored in a controlled environment without danger of being damaged or lost. Consequently 8 boxes of archives dating from 1913 to 2018 have been deposited, and Wirral Archives have been busy cataloguing these for us.

This is an ongoing project as there are a vast number of photos, including the long whole school photos, once on display along the 'staff' corridor. We are planning to use some of the remaining Joan Key legacy to digitalise these to add to the archives. Now we just need to train the staff to pass on photos and items to keep the archives up to date!

If any former pupil has any items that they think would go into the school archives we would be glad to receive them. Our contact details are below or via school.

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

Website: www.westkirby-grammar.wirral.sch.uk/formerpupils



West Kirby Grammar School Old Girls & Guys Association

June 2019 edition

Dear Member,

The first thing you will notice is the new format of our mailshot, we hope it meets with your approval.

The OGA Committee had a fascinating two days working on the School archives in September and were invited to share a delicious lunch with the staff – how school catering has changed!

It was good to meet some new members at our AGM in November and to be entertained by such talented musicians from year 10. School seems to be thriving under Elaine Sargent's leadership and we wish her many more successful years ahead.

In January we were saddened to learn of the passing of our Secretary Mrs Jane Bartlett. She was a pupil from 1959-1960 and joined the Old Girls Committee in 2011 taking over from Enid as minute secretary in 2017.

On a happier note in June we went to Peel Hey in Frankby for Afternoon Tea. A delicious spread was served and most people went home with a little box of cake to finish at home. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all and again it was lovely to meet a few new members.

Forthcoming dates for your diary:

2019 AGM & Afternoon Tea - Saturday 12th October 2.15pm in Centenary Suite at School. Your invitation/reply slip is enclosed together with space for any nominations to the committee or minute secretary role.
2020 Afternoon Tea - Saturday 6th June Details will be published on our website & Facebook page and will be emailed out to members. We would love to see you there, bring any friends who were former pupils.

Finally, renewal forms are enclosed for those whose subscription is due. Please let us know if you no longer wish to renew or if your contact details have changed so that we can be sure to be able to keep in touch.

Sue Dutton

Present – Mrs Elaine Sargent (President & Head), Mrs Sue Dutton (Chairperson), Mrs Jane Bartlett (secretary), Mrs Jean Wotherspoon, (vice-president), Committee Members, and about 24 'Old Girls'.

On arrival we were entertained by two extremely talented Year 10 pupils, Rebecca Glaze on Saxophone followed by Jemma Tierney on the piano. They were congratulated by Sue Dutton who lamented not getting past being able to play 'chop-sticks'. Mrs Elaine Sargent then welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Minutes of the 2017 AGM were adopted and signed by Chairman.

Chairman's Report

Sue congratulated Elaine on another year of outstanding exam results, achieved not only by the hard work of the students but also by the support and dedication the staff. Kevin Vane's award of 'Inspirational Teacher of the Year' was acknowledged. We have experienced his passion at past AGM's for his travels with the students and his fundraising to build schools in China and Malawi.

The 105th Reunion Dinner in May was dedicated to Miss Joan Keay, Head 1968-1977. 72 members attended and Chris Goodwin regaled us with tales of her experiences as a newly qualified teacher under Joan's headship. Sue finished by thanking the team who have been working on the archives and also the committee for their support over the past 12 months. A special thank you was given to Enid Hughes who stands down from the committee after many years as secretary. Sue also thanked Elaine and her school team especially Pauline Logan for all their help and support over the year and presented Elaine with £300 towards House Prizes.

Treasurer's Report

The audited accounts as of 31st August 2018 showed a balance of £2,912.68. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Joyce Preston, Seconded by Enid Hughes and were accepted by the meeting.

Election of Officers

In absence of any other nominations the present officers agreed to continue as did the 9 Committee members joined by Lucia Jordan. **There being no other business the meeting closed at 3pm** and we adjourned for afternoon tea.

Mrs Sargent started by introducing Mr Simeon Clarke who had joined the staff at Easter as the new deputy head. He had come from Westcliffe High School for Girls and was to be involved with Monitoring, Reporting and Timetabling.

She then went on to show us projects around the school including replacement of part of the school roof thanks to a £450,000 grant from the D of FE, a job that took nearly 22 weeks to complete. There is also a new entrance and reception area at the West Kirby end of the school, where visitors to the school can be monitored more closely.

We then watched a short video developed to promote our excellent sixth form to students from other schools, with emphasis on the range of support students are offered in all areas.

Elaine went on to say that 90% of the students got into their first-choice universities with 62% of A level results being A* to B grades, resulting in West Kirby Grammar School achieving second place in the Wirral ratings this year. Watch out for next year! The GCSE results were best ever with 15% of grades being grade 9 (equivalent to old A**).

We then saw some of the activities that have been going on in school over the year including the Drama production, Beasts and Beauties, House Events such as a Bake Off, House Music ensembles and choral events all organised by the sixth formers.

Apparently, the staff get very competitive in these events and in Sports Day there was a staff race in which Elaine came fifth. She did go on to say the other competitors were all men and that next year the staff will have two races a men's and ladies, the latter she had hopes of winning!

Pupils have had various trips throughout the year Skiing, a visit to Cern the European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Switzerland, Iceland and exchanges to France and Spain.

She finished by saying that the school has upgraded its Social Media access including Twitter and the school website enabling greater publicity and contact with the school for all.