

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
The Society of Old Framlinghamians
held at 6.15 pm on Saturday 6 April 2019 at The College Chapel

Present: John Ellerby – President – in the Chair; Rene Bahar; Chris Bellamy; Nigel Burnip; Bill Collard; Simon Dougherty; Ruth Elwood; John Horton; Peter Howard-Dobson; Kate Jackson; Chris Keeble; JoJo Maberly; Tony Martin; Ken Mayhew; Robert Mayhew; Norman Porter; Luke Quartermaine; John Rankin; James Ruddock-Broyd; Richard Sayer; Brian Smith; Clive Smith; Michael Smy; Chris Sneath; Julian Stapleton; John Thurlow; John Waugh; Nick Whitehead; Colin Wigg; Ele Williamson and Andrew Wright.

1.0 Apologies.

1.1 Andrew Baker; Jenny Binder; David Copeman; Mike Craddock; Chris Essex; Jon Ford; Maddie Gladwell; Peter Golding; Abid Hamid; John Hayward; David Hughes; Nick Jacob; David Juby; John LeGrove; John Kerr; Stephen Llewellyn; Barry Lorkin; Mary Makey (Hon); Chris Milner-Moore; David Mitchell; Bob Morris; Lottie Nickson; Richard Overend; Ian Pearson; James Powell (Hon); Mark Robinson (Hon); Brian Rosen; Graham Seymour, Chris Shaw; Paul Taylor; David Turnbull; Bob Williams (Hon).

2.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 24 March 2018.

2.1 These Minutes were available at the meeting and had also been accessible on the website (www.oldframlinghamian.com) or by application to the Hon Sec.

2.2 These were signed having been approved as a true record of proceedings on 24 March 2018.

3.0 Matters arising.

3.1 Council elections. Jack Richards was proposed by Nick Whitehead at the last AGM subject to his willingness. Whilst Jack is keen to attend OF functions when he can he declined the invitation to join Council.

4.0 To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018.

4.1 Copies of the accounts were available at the meeting, on the website, or can be obtained by sending a large SAE to the Chairman of Trustees, Chris Essex, 3 Kingston Avenue, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3LF.

4.2 Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018. Michael Smy, reported on behalf of the Trustees as follows:

- 4.3 I would like to present the key elements relating to the 2018 accounts. These accounts have been formally approved by the Trustees and Ensors, our auditors, and have been uploaded to the SOF website.
- 4.4 **Accounts:** There are two sets of accounts; one for the Society and one for the Charity.
- 4.5 **Overview:** Usually the accounts do not vary much from year to year. However, every so often an event occurs which breaks this pattern. Such an event happened last year.
- 4.6 At our meeting in January with Investec, the Society's Investment manager, we were informed that, as a result of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) as revised by MiFID II, they would no longer be able to provide advisory management to the Society. The administrative burden of complying with the new regulations was too onerous. The alternative was to move to discretionary management whereby Investec would become responsible for the choice of the investments in the Society's portfolio, subject to a revised investment policy and benchmarks. It was this route that the Trustees chose.
- 4.7 At the same time the Trustees undertook a review of our investment policies. Under the new policies the Trustees now seek a balanced return over a 10 year+ period between income and growth, based on Investec's Medium Risk approach. The change in emphasis away from income to one encompassing growth has allowed Investec to select an alternative range of investments.
- 4.8 These two changes affected the accounts in four ways.
- First, because of move to include growth stocks in the portfolio our income has dropped slightly from £28,037 to £26,872 in the Society's accounts and from £4,237 to £3,514 in the Charity's accounts.
 - Secondly, Investec sold 24 out of 32 of the shares held at the beginning of the year by the Society and 14 out of 22 held by the Charity. Whilst this was not a problem for the Charity, it did create a challenge for the Society as the shares were sold at one of the better points in the stock market. As a result we realised taxable gains of just over £56,000. In the light of this the Trustees decided to make an additional donation to the Charity of £48,710. This together with a generous donation received by the Charity enabled it to make a loan repayment of £50,000.
 - Thirdly, the donation and loan repayment in turn created a new situation for the Society's Trustees. Most of the money for the donation came from the Life Membership and Moreau Funds, but the loan repayment went to the Endowment Fund. In order to address this

issue the Trustees transferred £37,731 from Endowment to the other funds to reimburse them for their contributions to the donation.

- Fourthly, you will see in the Charity accounts when we get there that the Concessionary Loan Finance Charge is a substantial £29,980 compared to the 2017 figure of £5,225. This is because the loan repayment accelerated the write back of the deemed benefit of paying the loan back in currency subject to inflation.

- 4.9 **Society's General Account**, Page 7: The grant from the College was down slightly reflecting the lower overall expenditure. The grant from the trustees was mainly to cover the purchase of the OF scarves and badges shown under OF Merchandise, and other gifts. As the scarves and badges were commissioned primarily to augment the range of gifts for presentation to Honorary OFs, although they will also be available to all OFs to purchase, it was felt appropriate to write the cost off in the year incurred. Before turning to the Trust accounts, I should thank the Secretary for once again waiving his Honorarium.
- 4.10 **The Trustees Income Accounts**, Page 8: I have already mentioned the lower investment income, increased donations, and transfers to the General Account. The other award of £250 shown was made to support the dedication of a memorial stone to Gordon Flowerdew on the centenary of his death. The increase in management fees reflects the higher number of investment transactions in the year. Finally, because of the significant donations made in the year, which depleted the income account, it was necessary to transfer money back from expendable capital.
- 4.11 **Balance Sheet**, Page 9: The Balance Sheet remains in a healthy state, albeit the value of investments reflects the slide in the market in the latter part of the year.
- 4.12 Keeping with the subject of **Investments**, Page 13: Note 3 shows the asset allocation. You will see that we have reduced our holdings in UK Equities and increased them in UK Fixed Interest and Alternative assets. Our ten largest holdings are shown below. I have added a note at the bottom of the page to highlight the fact that we now have three holdings which produce no income. They are included to protect the portfolio against economic and markets shocks based on their reduced correlation with equity markets. Unfortunately the collapse in the stock market in the final quarter landed us with a paper loss of £75,891 (Page 12) which meant we ended the year with a negative revaluation reserve for the first time of -£41,898 (Page 15). The good news is that since being reconfigured the portfolio has delivered a total return above benchmark and that since the start of this year all losses have been eliminated.
- 4.13 **Charity Accounts - Page 7 – Statement Of Financial Activities**: I have already covered the donations, investment income and concessionary loan charge. The additional figures of note are the realised gains of

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- £10,399 and the fact that we are now in the black with a closing balance of £4,102. The figure of £19,855 for grants and awards, in addition to the usual OF Prizes, included financial assistance to a pupil to go on a Rugby tour of Italy and Croatia, support to another in attending the Manhattan School of Music, and, a more unusual award, a grant to a current pupil, Magdalena Mikovic, to enable her to have her novel, about a young girl surviving anorexia, translated from her native Serbian into English.
- 4.14 Other grants included £3,500 for new cricket screens at the College and £287 for trophies to be awarded in support of girls cricket at the Prep School.
- 4.15 With regard to the Balance Sheet (Page 8) and our investments, my comments regarding the Society's investments apply equally to the Charity's – including the Revaluation Reserve going into negative figure (£799). Finally, we have maintained a high cash balance as there are a number of proposals under consideration and the money would be required to fund them if approved.
- 4.16 That concludes my review. Refs. Neuberger Berman Uncorrelated Strategies I2; Gemcap AHFM Defined Returns B; Aspect Diversified Trends.
- 4.17 Questions on SOF Finance were invited by Michael Smy. None raised.
- 5.0 President's Review of the Year 2018**
- 5.1 The President, John Ellerby, reviewed the year as follows:
- 5.2 My task for this evening, my last as president, is to provide a brief overview of the last 12 months though I also want to pay tribute to some key and hard-working members of the Society.
- 5.3 There have been a number of highlights over the year, but the weekend of 29/30 June was rather special. On the Friday Matt King and his team at Brandeston Hall hosted a tea party to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the school an event so dear to the hearts of the Society. It was followed the next day by a reunion lunch for pre-1970s leavers with over 160 (and 93 OFs) sitting down in the marquee on the back. It was a wonderful weekend for older OFs who felt very warmly welcomed by the Prep School and the College and there were quite a number who hadn't been back to the school since they left.
- 5.4 There was also a record attendance of 20 at a reunion dinner in HK in February including 16 OFs who left this century so congratulations to Moria Theulier for organising that event. Ian Howard must have felt old!
- 5.5 Supper events in 2018 were better attended in 2018 than in 2017 and it was good to see the Society return to Newmarket for the Council meeting

- in April though sad that Essex has fallen out of favour. We return to Newmarket again in May.
- 5.6 It was also good to be back again at Brandeston for the October Council meeting and lunch. I can also confirm that the rumours that the president sang during his after-lunch address are true – and unlikely to be repeated.
- 5.7 There was a great attendance at the Norfolk supper in November with 49 guests at Bawburgh Golf Club just 3 days prior to the National Centenary Remembrance. This was an occasion specially dedicated to the College's involvement in WW1 and poppies were placed on the tables as a gesture of respect. The moving grace, written and delivered by Norman Porter reflected the occasion very well. Chris Essex gave a thought provoking, informative and hugely well researched presentation of OF/College involvement in the 1914-1918 conflict. Well done to Colin Wigg for organising a splendid evening
- 5.8 While talking of the Great War it was a huge privilege for me to attend the unveiling of the centenary plaque for Gordon Flowerdew on the 100th anniversary of him being awarded his VC and to lay a wreath in behalf of the Society. It was a very moving occasion attended by several OFs, key members of the College, the Flowerdew family and members of Gordon's Canadian regiment.
- 5.9 Moving on to Sport, our shooting and golf sections continue to be active and successful. Shooters Sandy Walker and James Mehta represented 2 GB teams at the World Long Range Championship in New Zealand in February and the golfers won the Dick Watson trophy for the third year running. There was also a young OF cricket reunion match at Dennington last summer organised by Moreau scholar JoJo Maberly.
- 5.10 I mentioned at the last AGM that there were ongoing discussions with the College both in relation to amalgamating the database and re-hosting the OF website on the College website. These discussions continue to be ongoing, but I remain confident that we will be able to make some positive progress in these two areas though no specific timescales as yet, with the project being led by Peter Howard Dobson and Tim Mitchell..
- 5.11 There have been developments in relation to the yearbook. Council members will be familiar with the correspondence at the back end of last year on the proposals to reduce the number of hard copies of the Framlinghamian and encourage take up of a digital version. Already overseas OFs who left before 1980 will only receive a hard copy if they specifically request one. At the last Council meeting in January Council agreed that it would look favourably on reducing the number of OFs automatically receiving a hard copy in the UK as well on the proviso that the College undertook further work to develop a digital specific version of the yearbook. They would seek to retain the option, however, for OFs to be able to receive a hard copy if they specifically requested one.

- 5.12 The new range of SOF merchandise is available for Hon OFs with lady's scarves and new 'badges' for the gentlemen. These are available for review and purchase in Paul's Court, based on an honesty box after the AGM. The first Hon OF scarf is to be awarded to Amanda Taylor during tonight's presentation.
- 5.13 In the last year there have again been a large number of deaths to report. There are too many to mention here but I will list them all as an appendix to the minutes (Appendix 1) and highlight a few now.
- 5.14 **Anthony Church** (R51-57) died on 14 December at the age of 78. Richard Overend, a contemporary and close friend, Brian Evans and Kate Jackson, a friend of Anthony's daughter Suzannah, the current school nurse, attended the funeral.
- 5.15 **Douglas Robin** (Rob) McLean (K42-48) died on 2nd February 2019 aged 87. There was a funeral service at St Edmund's Church, Kessingland, attended by Colin Wigg (G48-54), representing the SOF, and Michael Fuller (S49-58).
- 5.16 **Shirley Robinson** (Hon OF), a Science teacher at Brandeston for over 30 years and widow of Michael Robinson, a chemistry teacher at the College and also an Hon OF, died on 13 December. They had OF children, Nigel (G64-74) and Martin (G67-77) and Jane (P78-79). Bob Williams told me a story, that Shirley held the speed record for travelling between Brandeston Hall and the College and had been fondly known as 'Shirl the twirl'.
- 5.17 On a brighter note there continue to be those that confound the grim reaper. **Cmdr John Simpson**, K32-36, celebrated his 100th birthday last Sunday. He was a president of the Society and a school governor. Starting with George and William Simpson when the College opened in 1865, there have now been 5 generations and 29 children attend Brandeston/College. Norman Porter and Peter Howard-Dobson attended a birthday party at the Crown, for which the SOF made a contribution towards the party costs. Since the event, the family had sent their best wishes and thanks to everyone at the SOF, in a letter from Helen Chapman.
- 5.18 **Jimmie Mayhew** will be 100 on 22 November and Anthony Thornton on 9 December. The SOF will also contribute and do something to mark these occasions.
- 5.19 Additionally, **John Pemberton** (Hon OF) and a master at Brandeston will be 100 later in the year.
- 5.20 Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to express formal thanks to a number of people.

- 5.21 Kate Jackson, our OF coordinator at the College, did a great job with the organisation of many of the OF events over the year and was heavily involved in the coordination of the yearbook. I would like to thank her warmly not only that but also for everything else she does for the Society.
- 5.22 There are a small group of individuals who work tirelessly on behalf of the Society. My fellow trustees Chris Essex, Michael Smy and Peter Howard-Dobson do an enormous amount of work and turn up regularly to four Trustee meetings, four Finance Committee meetings and four Council meetings every year, let alone dealing with a sea of emails and a range of complex issues. He has also been great counsel to me. Michael has done a sterling job on the accounts and finances throughout the year and is to be congratulated for that. As well as working as a Trustee Chris continues to manage the overseas bag, and the distinguished section as well as collating stories for the website and the yearbook. Peter is also spending a lot of time on the database and website issues with the College as well as being closely involved in the Moreau scholar process, which is brilliantly run by David Mallett. Thank you Peter.
- 5.23 Thanks too to Tim Mitchell on the work he does on the database, particularly in relation to the ongoing discussions with the College and to Jenny Binder, our current Treasurer.
- 5.24 I must also thank Richard Sayer, Norman Porter (supposedly retired!) and Simon Dougherty. I have relied on their guidance enormously in the past 2 years and they all continue to be highly involved in a range of OF matters. If it wasn't for Norman, we wouldn't have had the yearbook we did as he made another massive contribution. I am eternally grateful to Simon for agreeing to put himself forward for nomination as president again and I know he will do another first-rate job.
- 5.25 Last but not least today sees our formal farewell to Paul Taylor. Richard Sayer will be paying a fulsome tribute to Paul after tonight's dinner and presenting him with the SOF gift, but I just wanted to acknowledge formally the enormous contribution he has made in his 10 years as Head of the College. I make no excuse for repeating the words I wrote in the 2018 yearbook, as follows:
- 5.26 Throughout that time, Paul has been a massive supporter and friend of the Society and a regular attender at OF events. He has been very close to all OF presidents who have had the privilege of working with him, and he was of course hugely influential in the new funding agreement between the College and the Society in 2013 and in all the issues surrounding the Fowler legacy. He has always had a ready ear and could always be relied upon to provide advice and guidance, often in emails delivered very early in the morning, before 6.00am! He has ensured that the relationship between the College and the School is better than it has ever been. All

the while he has been wonderfully supported by Amanda who has been equally enthusiastic about the Society. On behalf of the Society I would like to extend the sincerest thanks to Paul and Amanda for all they have done for the College and the Society in the last 10 years and wish them all the very best for the future.

6.0 To Elect Officers of the Society for 2019

6.1 All those whose names are noted below were formally proposed and seconded, and unanimously agreed:

- **President:** Simon Dougherty.

6.2 JNE passed over the chair of the meeting to Simon Dougherty, the incoming President, who continued with the nominations:

- **Continuing Trustees – confirmation only:** Chris Essex, John Ellerby, Peter Howard-Dobson and Michael Smy.
- **New Trustees:** Alex Henney.
- **Vice Presidents:** N/A.
- **Hon Sec:** Abid Hamid, Ruth Elwood as deputy .
- **Hon Treasurer:** Jenny Binder.
- **Finance Committee:** President, Trustees, Hon Sec, Hon Treasurer, Golf & Shooting organisers, supper and sport supremos, OF coordinator at the College, Chair and Vice Chair of Young OFs Committee.
- **Independent examiner:** Ensors – as appointed by the College.
- **Elected Council Members - 3 year term:** Ele Williamson and Luke Quartermaine.
- **New Hon OFs:** Clare Collins, Constantinos Constanti, Keely Ball, Julia Tye, Mark Lavery, Michelle Hewitt, Deryck Cox, Peter Hein, Gerry Grady, Dan Wood.

6.3 The Hon. Sec. would be writing to them and inviting them to the Suffolk Supper in October, for a formal induction into the Society.

7.0 Proposed Change to the Society's Rules (last approved 29th March 2014)

7.1 The President asked John Ellerby to present this item. It was proposed that the rule 3(3)b. for the Honorary Membership of the Society be

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- amended such that any member of staff at the College (to include FCPS) shall, on achieving 10 years of service be invited to become an Honorary Member and this should not be restricted to members of the School Common Room and the Senior Management Team.
- 7.2 The existing rule 3(3) for Honorary Membership was read out, alongside the proposed amendment to the rule, which extends the offer to all staff and removes the restrictions, as follows:
- 7.3 **3(3) HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**
- a. Any person may be proposed for election by an Annual General Meeting as an Honorary Member in recognition of outstanding service to either the School or the Society. Any nomination submitted to an Annual General Meeting shall have had the prior approval of the Council.
 - b. Notwithstanding Rule 3(3)a. any member of staff may, after ten years in office, be invited to become an Honorary Member.
 - c. An Honorary Member shall enjoy all the benefits of Ordinary Membership except that he shall not have the right to vote at any General Meeting.
- 7.4 It should be noted there are about 45 members of staff eligible for this title and the SOF plans to 'play catch up', such that discussions are underway with Paul Taylor and will be ongoing, assuming Council approves this amendment. The amendment was approved with one objection.
- 7.5 The proposed rule change was approved with just a single objection made by Tony Martin, who suggested that the only true OFs are past pupils. He explained that in a conversation with Lee Cunningham, a recent Hon OF, she had stated that now she has left the College, the Hon OF Membership means nothing to her any more as she has moved on. TM believes the College should recognise 'service', which appears to be lacking, as it should not be the Council's duty to honour length of service.
- 7.6 Peter Howard-Dobson commented that it had been agreed that the College is the instigator of nominations and the Head of the College is initiator of this process for nomination, recognising the need to fit in with the SOF process, with the Society responding to the list as presented. John Ellerby confirmed that this process had been discussed with the College and would be implemented accordingly. Simon Dougherty noted his objection and advised that the matter had been fully debated at Council.
- 8.0 Any other business**
- 8.1 New President's address, Simon Dougherty.
- 8.1.1 I am most honoured and humbled to be elected for a second period as President of the Society in its 119th year. I have worked closely with John over past months not only to get up to speed but also to learn and adapt to

- the revised processes introduced, since I was President from 2011-13, after the changes in the role of the Hon. Sec. following Norman's retirement. I'm looking forward to the role, hugely.
- 8.1.2 Our current Hon. Sec. – Abid Hamid – has found it challenging to fit this in with his international commitments. John and I have worked together to refine and pare down the duties and to set up a yearly planner to make the job less onerous, as far as a time and commitment goes. I'm looking for a volunteer to assist me to deliver what is needed. Any volunteers – please speak to me afterwards or call me for a discussion.
- 8.1.3 I wish to pay tribute to John. He has provided proactive sound leadership. He has worked exceptionally hard and taken the Society forward, both in its already close relationship with the school and amongst members of all ages as well. Further, he has served as Trustee of the Society and has had a previous period as Chairman of Trustees. All of this could have been personally challenging but we should also recognise that John is a Governor of the College, who has not only set up and chaired the very important Governor's Welfare Sub-Group and also been a member of the Risk Management and Governance Sub-Group. He is in the process of taking over the vital role as Chairman of the Finance and Operations Sub-Committee on the Governing body. And he has done this whilst living in Winchester – not close to Suffolk.
- 8.1.4 Thank you sincerely, John, not only for the help you have given me, but also on behalf of all members of the Society, for a hugely successful 2 years as President.
- 8.2 **CAPTAIN AUGUSTUS (GUS) WILLINGTON SHELTON AGAR VC DSO RN (1902-03) - Awarded VC for attack on Russian navy in June 1919 at Kronstadt, Russia.** Richard Sayer outlined that he and James Ruddock-Broyd had managed to track down a Gt. Nephew of Agar VC (who is the CEO at Birketts in Colchester) and had asked the family if they would like to celebrate Agar's Centenary in 2019. Whilst he doesn't qualify for a Centenary Stone the same as Hewitt and Flowerdew, it was felt that recognition is due. All agreed.
- 8.3 Bill Collard commented that 18th February had been the 75th anniversary of the 'Raid on Amiens Prison', during which Percy Pickard lost his life, (**Group Captain Percy Charles Pickard**). There has been a great deal of recent aeronautical press coverage about the event to include a double page spread in Britain at War magazine, in which Bill reported, that the College was mentioned.
<https://britainatwar.keypublishing.com/2017/06/25/raid-on-amiens-prison-the-myth-of-the-mosquito/> Sadly, none of the pilots from this raid had ever received any formal decorations.
- 8.4 James Ruddock-Broyd added that there was an intention to commemorate Pickard at the next College Remembrance Sunday and would keep the

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- SOF informed of plans. Chris Bellamy commented that he had seen other coverage of the Amiens Prison Raid in the press.
- 8.5 Tony Martin asked who the current College Governors were and what had they done to become Governors? These details of 'who' are available on the Framlingham College website, however, it was again noted that Tony has no internet access or provision at home. The President will arrange for him to receive a hard copy of the current list of Governors.
- 8.6 Tony Martin advised that 41 original Munnings paintings (*SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS KCVO PRA (1891-92)*), are on display at the Munnings Art Museum in Dedham, from 23rd March to 3rd November. These hold a value of around £20m and are well worth a viewing – open Wednesday to Sundays, 10.00am to 5.00pm. The exhibition includes pictures on loan from the Canadian War Museum as well as selected works from the National Army Museum.
- 8.7 The President closed the meeting at 6.59pm.

Signed:

Date:

President

Ruth Elwood (Dep. General Secretary)

Email: ruth@e-l-d.co.uk

Appendix 1

Deaths 2018/2019:

Richard Cullinan (K55-62) died unexpectedly whilst on holiday in South Africa on 10 February 2019.

John Rixon (S65-70) died on 14 January 2019 aged 64. He was married for over 40 years to Sarah, sister of Jonathan Amos (S67-71).

Andrew Martin Bennett (G74-81) died on 15th February 2019 aged 58 in New South Wales, Australia.

Kevin Kerry (R63-70) died on 1st February 2019 aged 66.

Douglas Robin (Rob) McLean (K42-48) died on 2nd February 2019 aged 87. There was a funeral service at St Edmund's Church, Kessingland, attended by Colin Wigg (G48-54), representing the SOF, and Michael Fuller (S49-58).

Anthony Colin Church (R51-57), and father of Suzannah Tacon, the College Lead nurse, died on the 14th December 2018 after a long illness.

Shirley Robinson (Hon OF), a Science teacher at Brandeston for over 30 years, died on 13 December. She had OF sons **Nigel (G64-74)** and **Martin (G67-77)** and daughter **Jane (P78-79)**.

Kenneth Irvine MacKenzie (K45-53) died on 23 October 2018 in Western Australia.

Peter Hughes (G52-56) died on 26th September 2018 in Gordonvale, near Cairns

Jeremy Simon Page (K62-70), and former Head Boy, died on 28 August 2018 at the age of 67 after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Leonard David Brook (S36-40) died on 9 August 2018 at the age of 94.

Edwin Hugh Cutting (38-44) died back on 12 June 2018 aged 91. He had suffered from Alzheimers for the last 9 years of his life.

Norman Alexander D'Oyley Buck (R51-55) died in early June at home in Sussex.