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**THE OLD CROYDONIANS’ ASSOCIATION**

**MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**4.00pm Saturday 22 July 2023 at the BRIT School**

1. Silence for those members whose deaths had been notified to us since we had last met in 2022.
2. Approval of the Consolidated Report for 2022-23. The Consolidated Report had been sent out to 410 members on email and to 65 by post. The few comments received had been uniformly supportive. The Consolidated Report was unanimously approved.
3. Approval of the Financial Statement and Accounts for 2022-23. The Financial Report was unanimously approved.
4. Retention of Roger Hill as External Examiner of the accounts, in which role which he has kindly agreed to continue. This was gratefully and unanimously approved.
5. Committee matters.
   1. Sue Pearl, Michael Keitch and Brian Young had stood down for reasons related to other commitments.
   2. Valerie Heathorn had relinquished the role of Editor of the magazine. This had been taken on by Cortland Fransella (also Chairman, Secretary and Webmaster), in the absence of any volunteers to replace Valerie.
   3. The Chairman (Cortland) commented that, with inevitably declining numbers of members and with fewer people staffing the requisite portfolios, we had to face the likelihood of the OCA becoming unviable with a few years.
6. Any other business. There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

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**THE OLD CROYDONIANS’ ASSOCIATION**

**REPORTS FOR 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**4.00pm on Saturday 22 July 2023 at the BRIT School, The Crescent**

**OCA CHAIRMAN’s REPORT FOR AGM 2023**

1. You will find below individual reports from the Membership Secretary, the Magazine Editor, the Events Organiser (‘Master of the Revels’), the Webmaster and the Treasurer. Special thanks this year to Valerie Heathorn who has stood down as Magazine Editor after producing a series of first-class editions.
2. I hope you will agree with me that, taken together, these reports show that your Association is active on your behalf. Given the fact that we are, realistically, principally dependent on former members of the old Grammar Schools, our membership is holding up well but we cannot expect to see overall growth. Still, we continue to produce an excellent annual summer magazine and autumn newsletter, our events have increased in number and variety, the website continues to attract users and, last but by no means least, we are solvent.
3. On this last point, I am grateful to all who pay their annual £17 subscriptions, and especially so to those who round up their subs to £20 or who give other donations. These ensure that we can face the future with some financial confidence.
4. We have maintained and strengthened our relationship with the Crescent Primary School who occupy the former Boys’ School building, being represented at their annual Remembrance Day event and at their Leavers’ Event, to which we contributed £225 this year. We also have a good relationship with the BRIT School who occupy the old Girls’ School site, and who kindly allow us to hold our Annual Reunions on their premises.
5. There is an issue of which we should all be aware. Our numbers are inevitably dwindling with the passage of the years and there are ever fewer people available to take on the roles needed to run the Association. The day may come when the OCA is no longer viable. We are not there yet but we have to be realistic about the ability of a dwindling band to keep the show on the road.

**Cortland Fransella as Chairman** [cortland.fransellaOCA1904@gmail.com](mailto:cortland.fransellaOCA1904@gmail.com)

**July 2023**

**OCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2022-23 FOR 2023 AGM**

1. As of mid-July 2023, we have 422 members on our list, of whom 306 are Old Boys and 116 Old Girls.
2. Of this 422 membership, 234 are sustaining members(paying their annual subscription of £17) although there are about 20 who have recently let their membership lapse. We hope that they will reinstate their paid-up membership. An interesting fact is that of the Old Girls over half of them are not sustaining members.
3. Since the AGM in 2022 4 new members have joined, one at the AGM.
4. We have been notified that 14 members have either died or retired. Of those who have retired, the principal reason was ill health.

**Caroline Stoneman Membership Secretary** [cmstoneman44@gmail.com](mailto:cmstoneman44@gmail.com)

**14 July 2023**

**OCA EDITOR’S REPORT FOR 2023 AGM**

1. The 2023 *Old Croydonian* magazine was distributed in late April to 229 sustaining UK and overseas members. A few complimentary copies were sent to the families of those members who have passed away and who had submitted obituaries. Croydon Archives and both The Brit School and The Crescent Primary School received a copy. As last year, we still have around 200 non-sustaining members (those who do not pay the annual subscription) who do not receive the magazine or the Autumn Newsletter.

2. The 2023 magazine was a 76-page volume and in particular celebrated her late Majesty’s many visits to Croydon during her long reign. We are very grateful to all our contributors for making the magazine an interesting and varied read and were particularly pleased this year to receive more articles from girls, thus helping to redress the imbalance between boys’ and girls’ articles. We hope that this will continue into 2024 and beyond.

3. The magazine is a major benefit for sustaining OCA members each year. We hope that all non-sustaining members reading this report will reconsider and convert their membership to a sustaining one, thus helping to ensure the existence of the OCA for as long as possible.

4. After 8 years editing the magazine, this was Valerie Heathorn’s last issue as editor. Assisting Valerie, the editorial team this year comprised Brian Young, Mike Roberts, Steve Coltman (distribution) and Dennis Candy (artwork). In the absence of any members who have signified a willingness to take on the editorship, Chairman Cortland Fransella has agreed to take on the role. As well as his role as Chairman, Cortland is already the OCA Webmaster and Hon Secretary. He would welcome any volunteers to help with the magazine or indeed any of the other roles for which he is currently responsible.

5. The 24-page 2022 Autumn Newsletter (Newsletter number 13) was issued last September and included the annual subscription form for 2022/23. The 2023 Newsletter will be distributed this September with Cortland as editor.

**Valerie Heathorn, Editor** [heathornv@gmail.com](mailto:heathornv@gmail.com)

**July 2023**

**OCA EVENTS REPORT for 2023 AGM**

Since early 2022, we have had five successful outings and an informal social event, in addition to the 2022 Annual reunion, at all of which members were able to enjoy both the location and each other’s company:

**Lambeth Palace 22nd April 2022**

Following lunch in The Three Stags, opposite the Imperial War Museum, a party of 20 had a guided tour of Lambeth Palace. This was the first time that such visits had taken place since Covid. That tour was followed by a visit to the ne Lambeth Palace Library. Afterwards most then went to a riverside cafe for refreshments.

**The Tower of London 6th June 2022**

An OCA return to The Tower of London for a private tour led by a Yeoman Warder, a few drinks and nibbles (and a raffle) in The Warders’ Club ‘The Keys’, and then witnessing the historic nightly Ceremony of the Keys. A group of 35, including relatives and friends, attended despite the difficulties caused by a Tube strike.

**Annual Reunion 30 July 2022**

A good number of members enjoyed not only a nostalgic get-together but also a richly entertaining talk by former BBC journalist Neill Bennett (1960-67) about his varied career and the role that luck played in it.

**Freemasons’ Hall 12th October 2022**

A party of 22 met for lunch at The Prince of Wales near Covent Garden before visiting Freemasons’ Hall for a guided tour of this impressive Art Deco building. Afterwards tea and cake were enjoyed in the café.

**Parcel Yard 3rd December 2022**

17 members met for lunch at a convivial annual Informal Social gathering.

**Spitalfields 23rd May 2023**

A party of 20 met at Liverpool Street Station for a guided walking tour of the historic Spitalfields area. Our guide pointed out as number of features of the area that were new to the members of the group, even though some of us thought we knew it quite well. The walk was followed by lunch in The Astronomer pub near Liverpool Street Station, itself an interesting venue.

Our two next scheduled outings are to the **Canal Museum near King’s Cross on Tuesday 15 August 2023** (information already sent out) and a backstage visit to the **Royal Opera House on Tuesday 24 October 2023** (information to follow in due course).

The next annual **Informal Social gathering at the Parcel Yard, King’s Cross, will be on Saturday 04 November 2023.**

I continue to explore new and interesting places for our outings and would welcome any suggestions from members, to include repeats of previous outings if they appeal.

**Bob Smith - Master Of The Revels** – Suggestions to: [bobskate314@gmail.com](mailto:bobskate314@gmail.com)

**July 2023**

**OCA WEBMASTER REPORT 2023**

***Statistics – page impressions\* per month:***

August 2022 10,217

September 2022 9,363

October 2022 10,159

November 2022 9,686

December 2022 10,860

January 2023 10,903

February 2023 11,798

March 2023 13,144

April 2023 10.740

May 2023 11,111

June 2023 8,135

July 2023 3,956 (to 14 July)

The above figures average out at a little under 11,000 page impressions\* per month.

***Page Impression\*****Every time that a page is viewed on our site it generates 1 page impression. So if someone viewed 5 pages then this would create 5 page impressions.*

1. Numbers of page impressions are holding up well, suggesting that people continue to be interested in the content of our website.
2. I have had more than one approach via the website from people offering Selhurst-related material which they found amongst their parents’ papers or otherwise. This included material from a lady in New Zealand who had cleared out the house there of an old friend who turned out to be an OC and an approach from an Old Whitgiftian trying to make contact with a former neighbour with whom he went camping in the 1950s (contact successfully established!).
3. We have ceased to use the Committee email addresses formerly hosted by IONOS as they raised their fees by 50% and we were not making sufficient use of the service. We switched to (free) Gmail for those who wanted special OCA addresses.
4. There is always scope to add more content and members are invited to submit material in whichever way suits them best.
5. Magazines (except the current edition each year) are available, together with much other material, in password-protected form to fully paid-up members. This constitutes one of the privileges of paid-up membership.
6. Users of the website are invited to send notes on any errors or omissions to me as Webmaster and I shall always do my best to put things right.

**Cortland Fransella as Webmaster** [cortland.fransellaOCA1904@gmail.com](mailto:cortland.fransellaOCA1904@gmail.com) .

**July 2023**

TREASURER’S REPORT for AGM 22 July 20231. The accounts for the year ended 30 April 2023 show a deficit of £879 which when set against  
the accumulated surplus brought forward of £5,744 gives an accumulated surplus to carry  
forward of £4,865.  
2. The reason for the deficit is the inclusion of the costs for the 2022 and 2023 magazines, both  
having been issued during this accounts year. The respective costs were £2,140 for 2022 and  
£2,047 for 2023. The Sustaining membership fee for the year remained at £17 and there were  
generous donations received of £273.  
3. A donation of £200 was paid out in respect of the leavers at The Crescent Primary School.  
4. A big thank you to the many members who have made both large and small donations to the  
Association over the last few years which leaves the Association in a much stronger position.

**John Cook Treasurer** [treasureroca1904@gmail.com](mailto:treasureroca1904@gmail.com) [email address corrected from previous draft]

**July 2023**

*See next page for accounts.*

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