

Guild Reunion Speech 2017 - Chairman

Welcome to the 2017 Guild reunion weekend in College. For those of you who do not know me I am Olga Senior, your Chairman.

I am particularly pleased to see members who have travelled from Australia, Canada, the Cayman Islands, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Romania, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United States where they currently live. A particular welcome to the classes of 1977, 1987, 1992, 2007 and 2012 who are here in large numbers, as well as all the other members and honorary members who are here. There are over 360 members with an age range from 22 to 90 years. A warm welcome to the 143 of you who are attending for the first time since you left College, I hope you enjoy your day and we will see you often in the future.

For those of you who were here last year you will know we changed the format to include the business part of the day in this opening session, and it was well received, so I have built on it for this year.

For those of you who have brought your copy of Guild News, you will find the Agenda for the AGM on page 53.

Please may I now have a proposer and a seconder for approval of the minutes of the 2016 meeting.

Proposed: *Mrs Katie Robyns*

Seconded: *Miss Isy Summers*

Does anyone have any matters arising?

Moving onto the Accounts, I have been given the following report by our Treasurer Jane Richardson

The 2016 accounts are shown on pages 56 and 57 of Guild News.

The income for the year was £70,452 and, after administrative expenses, charitable contributions and professional fees for updating our Articles, there was a deficit of £2,634.

This year the statutory accounts were prepared in accordance with the new micro entity provisions and Guild took this opportunity to include the value of donated staff time received from College. As a result, £35,448 has been recognised both as turnover and staff costs in the Profit and Loss Account and a similar adjustment of £35,019 made to re-state the 2015 figures. No adjustment was required to capital and reserves as a result of the 2015 re-statement.

Please may I now have a proposer and seconder for approval of the accounts.

Proposed: *Mrs Sue Cattermole*

Seconded *Ms Caroline Morris Omori*

I would like you to join me in thanking Jane for all the hard work she has done on our behalf, our funds are in very safe hands with her.

Moving on to the retirement and appointment of Directors which you can find on page 17 of Guild News. I would like to thank all the individuals who are retiring for their contributions.

Our **Pre 69ers representative** on the Guild Executive Committee Caroline Morris Omori retires and the Executive Committee nominates Judith Wigfield (nee Knights 1959-65 St Helen's)

Our **1980s decade representative** Sue Cattermole retires as she is now vice chairman and the Executive Committee nominates Tara Boddington (nee Healey 1978-83 Farnley Lodge)

Our **2010s decade representative** Holly Marven retires and the Executive Committee nominates Selina-Jane Spencer (2012-14 Beale)

As there have been no other nominations, please may I have a proposer and a seconder for the nominations made by the Executive Committee.

Proposed: *Ms Caroline Morris Omori*

Seconded: *Mrs Jane Richardson*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Emma Adams who has been the Guild editor since 2008 for all her hard work and inspiration in developing our publications. Emma please come up and receive a small gift from us all.

I am delighted to let you know that two of our members Tori Marsh and Emma Perry have agreed to be joint editors for Guild and I welcome them to this role and look forward to working with them.

Rupert Williams the Director at St Hilda's East is unfortunately unable to be here today, but I am delighted that Nandini Basuthakur one of the Guild members on the St Hilda's East Management Board, is here with the 1987 contingent.

Rupert has sent the following report:

We would like to convey the heartfelt appreciation of all of us at St Hilda's East for the support we receive from Guild each year. This makes such a difference in so many ways, especially the annual donation which helps us to continue our services, and the presence of Guild members Nandini Basuthakur and Harriet Edwards on our Management Board which aids the governance of our charity. We also greatly value the link with College itself, from girls volunteering during school holidays to presents for our Christmas parties for children.

St Hilda's East has experienced some great successes during the last year, providing support for the community in the East End of London, from under 5s' play provision to care support for elderly people in their 90s. We are delighted to be able to report that St Hilda's East has recently received recognition for this work, having been chosen to be the Mercers' Company Charity for the next three years, following a highly competitive application process. The Mercers' Company is the largest and one of the oldest livery companies in the City of London.

However, along with many other voluntary organisations, we face increasing challenges in securing funds to continue our much needed services. We would therefore be very grateful if Guild members could consider supporting our work through joining our Friends of St Hilda's East scheme. We would also be delighted to hear from Guild member who can put us in touch with other sources of support or lend their skills in any other way.

Staff and supporters of St Hilda's East are taking part once again in the London sponsored legal walk to raise funds.

Moving on now to some more general points.

The year has been busy as my reports in the Slab and Guild News show, and particularly recently around the new fundraising regulator. This will have an impact on all charities and alumni organisations and I am discussing with the Principal and others in College how personal data will be used by College and Guild. You can expect to hear more from me in the coming months and I would ask that you take careful note so that we can ensure that we can keep in touch with you. It is likely that you will need to actively opt in to continue to receive information from us.

I would like to remind you all that sponsorship is available for members who want to undertake challenging study, research or training projects, not just when you are at university. We ask that it demonstrates service to the community or environment. More information is available from the Guild Office.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Guild Executive Committee members for their time and contribution to the often unseen work that they do. Many of them are here today and would be happy to talk to any of you, if you are interested in being considered for nomination in the future.

One of the best parts of this role is the chance to meet so many members all of whom are doing interesting things. I am looking forward to being able to meet Hong Kong members at the start of November when I will be there for the Gala Dinner. I thought you might be interested to know that of our 1,300 members who are over 70 years old, 99 are aged between 90 and 100, and we have 6 members who are over 100. I have been privileged to witness conversations between some of our older members and current College girls who are fascinated by the similarities and differences of College over the years.

None of the work of Guild would be possible without the hard work and support we have from Caroline Harris in the Guild Office. Thank you Caroline.

I would also like to thank all the support staff and catering staff for all their hard work today and to all of College for making us feel so welcome.

I would now like to show you a short film of some of the Guild events that have happened this year. It is of course only a snapshot, but I hope we can make this an annual event to show what we have collectively been doing, often for College, but also to support each other. I am grateful to Dave Stokes the College photographer for his work in putting this together with the Marketing Department.

I will now hand over to our President for news of College and then I will return for any other business and the practicalities for the rest of the day.

Eve finishing with film

As we can see College is in good heart.

Please can I ask you all to sign the book of attendance if you have not done so already. It is in the Garden Common Room

Also in the Garden Common Room you can leave messages for friends on a large post it note on the window and arrange to meet up.

Last year I was asked to use this session to set the scene for the rest of the day, so I will now try and do that, but please do ask anyone wearing a flower for help during the day. There are lessons you can join, including Chemistry and aerobics with instructions in foreign languages; visit the new Engineering, Enterprise and Technology suite from 11.30am and see the kit car in the lower quad for the project that starts in September. In the Council room above the Milky Way at 11.45pm there is a talk on a College Journey in Pastoral Care taking us through some of the College history, while underneath in L14 The Star Lab is being set up. Over at the Parabola Arts Centre there is an exhibition until 1pm of photos showing the changing face of sport at CLC. At 12.30pm there will be

Pimms in the garden and Dave Stokes will be around to take year group photos, followed for those of you who have chosen to join us for lunch here in the PH at 1.15pm.

After lunch there will be two identical performances in the theatre studio at 2.30pm and 3.15pm and at 3.15pm in L14 (without the star lab) Eve will run a question and answer session about College today. There is a chance for you to visit houses and watch some sport at field during the afternoon. Please ensure that in the houses you remember that it is the home for the current girls and respect their privacy. As we said in the email last week, unfortunately you cannot visit the inside of the new Health & Fitness Centre, but you can see the outside and there are large posters of what it will look like. I hope that next year there will be an opportunity for us to have part of our reunion in the new building. For those of you who have chosen to stay on today, tea will be served at 4.30pm in Bayshill Court Dining Room between St Helen's and St Austin's, and dinner will start with drinks at 7.00pm here in the PH.

Is there any other business or questions?

So that is all from me, please do not hesitate to feedback to me what you have enjoyed and what we could improve and it just leaves me to say thank you for coming today and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

The date of the next annual reunion meeting is Saturday 19th May 2018