



# CLAYESMORE SOCIETY

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Clayesmore Society held on at 6.30pm Tuesday 24 September 2019 at Clayesmore School**

### **Present:**

Fran Deeming (Chair) (FD)  
Jo Thomson (JST)  
Liisa Steele (LS)  
Sarah Kerr (SK)  
Michelle Complin (MC)  
Jane Angell (JA)  
Dan Browse (DB)  
Suzanne Chinnock (SC)  
Darron Ayles (DA)  
Nadine Lewin (NL)

### **1. Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. The minutes of the last AGM were adopted.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from David Fangen (DF), Judi Tipping (JT), Marcia Higgs (MH), Cath Jacks (CJ) and Amanda Hughes (AH).

### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman produced and read out her summary of the Society's activities for the previous academic year, 2018 - 2019 (attached).

### **4. Financial Report**

DA produced the financial report (attached). He explained that the Society currently has £13k more than at this time last year. This is because we have not made any donations over the past twelve months, other than the regular payment to the Old Clayesmorian Society of £5k. He said subscription income was down by £5k as there had been a reduction in student numbers but also because some parents had opted out of paying. It was noted that policing the situation (of who has subscribed and who hasn't) is virtually impossible when parents are attending events etc. There was discussion about why the proceeds from the Summer Ball were so low (£3000). This was put down to a number of possible reasons, such as parents feeling the pinch, our prices

remaining the same whilst costs have gone up, not harnessing the audience at the time to maximise fundraising potential (eg: with an auction) etc... There has been considerable discussion about this already, including holding the Ball less frequently. LS is to send out a short questionnaire (google doc/links on websites and social media) to ask parents for ideas for future Balls to see what they would like to have featured as part of the evening. The questionnaire could also ask what events people would like the Society to consider and test support for a music event.

**LS**

#### **5. AOB**

There was no other business.

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

A provisional date of Tuesday 22 September at 6.30pm was set for next year's AGM.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.56pm.

## DRAFT

### Clayesmore Society AGM September 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

#### Chair's Report

The Clayesmore Society has had another excellent year of meetings, events and parties which, as ever, have involved a great deal of work. For this I would like to thank the Society's Committee and those members of the School Support Staff who spend time planning, organising and catering to ensure that all goes smoothly and successfully. So we are grateful to Liisa Steele, who co-ordinates the whole process, Louise Smith and Sarah Kerr, who have lent valuable support during the year, Victoria Gardiner and the Household team, Nick Church and all those in the Catering Department, Russ James and Pete Kunze in Estates and Grounds. Finally we appreciate the help of Darron Ayles who took over as Treasurer when Louise left on Maternity Leave earlier in the year.

We said our goodbyes to several members of the Committee during the course of the year : Will and Celia Dunlop, James Smith and Will Bedford left the School, Jane Howard resigned, Maggie de la Perelle finished her time as Chair of the Friends and Louise Smith left us for the time being for the best of reasons – congratulations on the birth of Monty : we thank them all very much for their valuable contributions. Joining us at different stages have been Dan Browse, Marcia Higgs, one of our new Governors who also agreed to be Vice-Chair, Nadine Lewin, who became Chair of the Prep PA, and our new numbers guru, Darron Ayles. This year we look forward to welcoming Jane-Claire Angel, the new Chair of the Friends and Suzanne Chinnock, representing the Prep School Staff. Our meetings always manage to be constructive and interesting, on many occasions good fun, and I am very grateful to all members of the Committee who come along cheerfully, often after a long day's work, to contribute opinions and ideas which help to ensure that the Society thrives.

After a lot of discussion during the previous year we decided to change the timing and format of the September 2018 Late Summer Party. The event started earlier and became a combined drinks and tea party, whilst dispensing with the fireworks because it finished before nightfall. Stands with banners were provided for the Houses, Prep and Senior parents organisations, Old Clayesmorians and the Society, providing clear 'stations' for parents to meet staff and each other as well as to pick up information. The weather was kind, the free Raffle proved popular, lots of people came along, the food and drink - the latter funded by the OCs - were fantastic and the Party was declared a success. It was felt that the changes we had made worked well and the format should be retained, with some minor tweaks.

The Golf Day, held at Remedy Oak during the half term break, was a sell-out and a mixture of OCs and their offspring, current parents, pupils and staff from Prep and Senior Schools had an excellent, entertaining day out on the course, with lunch afterwards.

At the end of the Autumn term eighteen of us enjoyed an informative evening at No8 Wines, one of our Business Partners, tasting some of their excellent wares. It was hard work but we coped, sustained by the delicious cheese and bread supplied to complement the wines. We are grateful to Daniel Grigg of Museum Wines for putting on this event for us. We shall be back!

In the Spring a small group of Society members travelled to Keyneston Mill for a morning's session introducing the principles of perfume production and botanicals. It was a fascinating talk and demonstration, followed by a delectable lunch in their café and a spot of retail therapy in their shop, taking advantage of the discount given by the owners.

In the Summer we supported Helen Christmas in the School Charity Walk in aid of Out of Afrika. On a beautiful sunny day lots of parents, staff, students, friends and dogs enjoyed the different routes that had been planned, followed by tea. It was very pleasing that the target sum of £1000 was passed.

Our final event of the year was the Floral Ball for which the sun shone, after a week of wet weather. The Marquee looked spectacular, and everyone clearly enjoyed the theme, with some wonderful outfits on show. Victoria Gardiner, supported by the Estates and Grounds Departments, had gone to town on the decorations – who can forget her beautiful floral arch? Likewise Debbie Wetton's amazing display of hydrangea cakes which was a real show-stopper, worthy of any Bake Off winner. It was wonderful to see so many people on the dance floor, thanks to the expert DJ'ing of Pete Musson and live music supplied by the excellent Tom and the Clementynes. It was no surprise that the dinner was of the highest quality, thanks to the hard work of Nick Church and his team. A great evening was had by all and particular thanks are owed to the Ball Committee, headed by Marcia Higgs.

On top of all this, the Prep School Parents' Association, the Friends of Clayesmore and the Old Clayesmorians have held a series of events over the year, ensuring that all sections of the School can get together to enjoy a variety of activities and at the same time raising valuable funds to support Clayesmore.

In terms of Business Partners, who offer member discounts and preferential rates, we have been able to add to the list Dike and Son of Stalbridge, Coconut and Cotton and The Botanical Candle Company, both in Shaftesbury, as well as Hearn's Estate Agency and Backdoor Shoes, thanks to Judi Tipping and Michelle Complin respectively.

We hope to be able to harness the Development Office's new Database to identify what activities and events appeal to our members, and thereby increase participation.

We all agreed that some of the Society's funds should go towards the development of the Lake Project and we look forward to seeing that progress.

Finally I would like to express my personal thanks to Liisa. It is not easy co-ordinating the variety of events in which all the different parts of the Clayesmore Society and the School are involved. Many Departments and personnel in the School have to be contacted, requests have to be made to people who are very busy in their own areas, and there are always unknown factors, like the weather, with which to contend. Liisa manages to negotiate a way through all of this to ensure the Society runs smoothly – thank you Liisa.

I am sure that this Clayesmore Season will be as successful as the last and let's hope that we have lots of members enjoying being part of the Clayesmore family's Society.

Fran Deeming Chair





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**Finances**  
**As at 31 August 2019**  
**Income and Expenditure**

	Notes	Period to 31 Aug 2019 £	Period to 31 Aug 2018 £
<b>INCOME</b>			
Subscriptions	1	29,810	34,540
Gross takings from events	2	18,393	8615
<b>Total Incoming</b>		<u>48,203</u>	<u>42,705</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Donations	3	5,000	25,000
Cost of events & printing	4	30,108	21,702
		<u>35,108</u>	<u>46,702</u>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<u>13,095</u>	<u>(3,997)</u>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**As at 31 Aug 2019**

	Notes	31 Aug 2019 £	31 Aug 2018 £
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	5	53,898	29,913
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>53,898</u>	<u>29,913</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors/ Accrued Income	6	10,890	-
		<u>10,890</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>43,008</u>	<u>29,913</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
B/f for previous year		29,913	33,910
Current year		13,095	(3,997)
		<u>43,008</u>	<u>29,913</u>



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**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

	<b>Year to 31 Aug 2019 £</b>	<b>Year to 31 Aug 2018 £</b>
<b>1 Subscriptions</b>	29,810.00	34,540.00
<b>2 Gross Takings from events</b>	18,393.34	8,165.45
<b>3 Donations</b>		
Old Clayesmorian Society	5,000.00	5,000.00
Dance Studio Contribution	-	20,000.00
	-	25,000.00
<b>4 Cost of events &amp; exp.</b>	30,108.31	21,702.42
<b>5 Debtors</b>		
Clayesmore School	53,898.37	29,913.34
	53,898.37	29,913.34
<b>6 Creditors/Accrued Income</b>		
	10,890.00	-
	43,008.37	-

**Notes to the accounts**

Subs had reduced by £5,000 compared to previous year, due to dropping pupil numbers and £500 more refunds issued.

Reserves have increased due to £20k less donations. £5,000 has gone out in respect of the annual donation to the OC Society.

Loss on events is similar to last year's figure.

Ball profit was £3,000 which is to be put towards the Lake Project.

Major Costs in Year:

Clayesmore Season booklet production and mailing - £5,069

Database for Old Clayesmorians/Clayesmore Society members - annual licence. £3,360