



**SUTTON COLDFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS  
OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION  
Spring Newsletter 2019**

Dear Old Girls!

I am afraid that I have to start this newsletter with the sad news that Pat Hovers, an active member of the OGA for many years and President of the OGA for the last eight years, died on Christmas Eve. Claire and I met her for the first time almost exactly a year ago, when we volunteered to help on the OGA committee and were amazed at her vitality and zest for life. Indeed, on the day of the 2018 annual lunch, as well as helping to organise and then attending the lunch itself, she went to the gym in the morning, and took part in a quiz in the evening (which she won!) I was therefore very sad to hear that she had been diagnosed with heart problems in August, as a result of which, she was unable to attend the AGM in September and decided to tender her resignation as Chairman. Jenny Jones kindly agreed to chair the OGA in her stead, but Jenny herself has spent several weeks in hospital herself, following a fall in November, and is currently still having to wear a support for her back.

But, on to some good news! We had a very positive and forward-looking AGM in September, and we were very pleased to welcome Karen Elton and Val Inchley to the committee.

At the meeting it was decided that all former pupils and former teachers would be very welcome to attend our annual lunch and not just members of the OGA. So, if you have received this newsletter, you definitely fall into this category and are warmly invited to join us! The price will be £20 and I enclose a form to complete to book your place. Why not get a group of your school friends together, remember old times, and catch up on your news since leaving school?

As this is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the school, we felt it would be nice to do something special for the occasion. At the first OGA lunch which I attended there were a number of boards displayed around the room with photographs of "old girls" during their school days. Val Inchley very kindly agreed to take a look at these boards for us, and found thirteen 84 x 59.5 cm boards covering the dates 1929-1970 - 1929-40 (3 sheets) 1940-50 (4 sheets) 1950-60 (5 sheets) and 1960-70 (1 sheet with 3 pictures!) It would be nice if we could bring these displays up-to-date. (Believe it or not that's six decades – including the 60s – still to cover, with perhaps 3 or 4 sheets for each. Or maybe we should just restrict ourselves to one board per decade.) Ideally, we would love someone from each decade to take on responsibility for collecting photos and creating their own "decade boards", but, failing that, we would, of course, welcome any photographs which you are able to provide. Karen Elton has kindly agreed to co-ordinate this and can be contacted on [karenjelton@aol.com](mailto:karenjelton@aol.com) or 01582 873193. So please get in touch with her if you can help in any way.

Val is also assembling and editing the Link magazine. Thank you to those who have already sent in a contribution. But I'm afraid the magazine is still looking a bit thin. Again, as a 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition, we would like to make it a good one. And again, we thought it might be nice to have some memories from each decade. So if you can think of anything interesting or amusing that happened during your school days (or since) please do contact Val on [val.inchley@uwclub.net](mailto:val.inchley@uwclub.net) or 0121 351 2204. I'm sure you all want your decade to be the one that is best represented!! Sadly, we have been informed about the deaths of a number of our older members, and we will print our condolences in the magazine, but it would be nice to hear about marriages and births from our younger members!

Val and Karen will also be working together to photograph and scan the photos and information on the "decade boards" and other material which the OGA has collected, and which is currently held by the school librarian. If you still live in the area and would be willing to give them a hand, Val and Karen would very much like to hear from you.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, and at the AGM, printing and posting Link magazine and our newsletters is a major expense for the OGA. We simply cannot afford to post them out to old girls who have not paid their subscription. But, in order to give due notice of this, we are sending this newsletter to all those old girls for whom we have a postal address but no email address. That is about 180 people. Of these, only about 30 have paid this year's subs. I am afraid that if we do not then receive a subscription, we will not be able to post any further newsletters or Link magazines. We do, of course, understand that it is easy to overlook payment of annual subs, and so, in future, we will send a Spring Newsletter to any old girl who was a paid-up member the previous year, together with a note to remind them that their subscription is due if they wish to receive the Link magazine and further newsletters. I hope everyone thinks this is fair, and I hope you already know which category you fall into! But if you do have any questions about your subscription please contact me on [hsims@olivers.cix.co.uk](mailto:hsims@olivers.cix.co.uk) or 0118 970 0001.

Of course, you can always overcome this problem by paying by standing order! So I also enclose a form to allow you to do this. And we are also hoping that old girls who are receiving this newsletter through other means than the Old Girls Association network might also be tempted to join the OGA and might also make use of this membership form.

This newsletter, plus all the forms I have mentioned are also available on our new website at [www.suttcoldoga.uk](http://www.suttcoldoga.uk). Unfortunately I have found that this hyperlink brings up a rude message on my own computer saying that "There is a problem with this website's security certificate". I have been told that this is just a quirk of my version of Internet Explorer. So if you do get any strange messages, please don't worry. I haven't put anything nasty on the site at all. And for Facebook users the information will all be posted at [www.facebook.com/suttcoldoga](https://www.facebook.com/suttcoldoga).

The school is also keen to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation. So to keep up-to-date with its plans you might like to register with Future First at [www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk](http://www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk) by choosing "Our School" and then "SCGSG Alumni".

And if anyone reading this has any further thoughts on making our OGA Lunch the highlight of 2019, please do get in touch!

And while I'm writing, as well as putting Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May into your diary for the OGA Lunch, you might like to make a note of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September as well, as that is the date of the 2019 AGM.

Hoping to see you at both the lunch and the AGM, and looking forward to your support over the next year.

Best wishes



On behalf of the OGA Committee  
Karen Elton, Val Inchley, Jenny Jones, Claire Lawrie & Heather Sims