

LOUGHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

Interim Report on the Survey Results March 2009

Introduction

In Autumn 2007 the Old Girls' Association (OGA) Committee agreed to consult its members to obtain their ideas and views on the future development of the Association. To assist this consultation process a questionnaire was designed to invite comment on a range of key issues. In Autumn 2008 it was circulated to members via the LES website and email and, where necessary, by post as part of the OGA Newsletter.

This interim report provides an initial overview of members' comments but, at this stage, lacks the detailed information about age groups, locations and respondents' creative ideas and suggestions. The questionnaire therefore requires further detailed analysis. However, the substantial range of data that has already been included provides a useful resource to assist the Committee with its strategic planning.

Response:

174 members of the OGA returned completed questionnaires although the majority of respondents were predominately those aged under 45 (60%).

Geographical Location:

Of the 174 respondents around 60 lived within the Loughborough area, 24 in London/SE, 11 in the West Midlands and 16 lived abroad. The remaining respondents were thinly scattered over the UK.

Broadening the Range of Activities

135 respondents either strongly or partially agreed that the Association needed to broaden its range of activities. 2 members strongly disagreed.

Members' increased involvement with the OGA

There was considerable interest in increased involvement with the Association:

- 69 respondents wanted to be reunited with former classmates.
- 44 wished to "give something back to the School" in terms of their time and energy.
- 13 wanted companionship and support
- 5 members expressed an interest in membership of the OGA Committee.

Offering Friendship and Support

129 respondents expressed an interest in offering support to former staff and students living in their area who are elderly, lonely and/or housebound. (39 - Yes and 90 - Maybe)

Widening invitations to Loughborough Endowed Schools Events

106 respondents expressed an interest in being invited to one or more LES events including:

Celebration of Christmas	84 respondents
Celebration of Founder's Day – (Thomas Burton)	25 respondents
Exhibitions of students' GCSE and A Level artwork	26 respondents
Recitals / musical events performed by the LES Music School	52 respondents
Drama productions	65 respondents

Attendance at Previous OGA Events or Activities

56 members reported that they had previously attended events and activities although these were mainly associated with reunions and the Celebration of Christmas. Others included specific one-off events.

105 respondents had not attended any such events.

Interest in joining OGA activities in the Loughborough Area

30 respondents were interested in joining locally based activities.

39 respondents were not.

Examples of the activities they would like to see offered include:

(Number of respondents given in each case)

Sports activities:		Discussion groups	9
• Tennis/veterans' tennis	5	Art-based initiatives	12
• Badminton/veterans' badminton	5	Luncheon club	12
• hockey/veterans' hockey	5	Social e.g. drinks parties	14
• netball	5	Visiting speakers/lecture series	25
Walking groups	6	U3A	7

Suitable times of day for activities

Evenings and weekends were considered to be the preferred times to take part in activities although there was some interest in day times during the week.

Interest in attending regional events

98 members were interested in meeting up with former colleagues at regional events with the Midlands and SE Region being the most popular locations. 42 respondents were not interested in such initiatives.

South East	27 respondents
Midlands	50 respondents
South West	4 respondents
Wales	3 respondents
North West	8 respondents
North East	7 respondents
Scotland	1 respondent

Interest in acting as a lead contact for a local region

Although there was little enthusiasm overall for acting as the lead contact for their local region or for acting as the lead for their Year Group, 18 – 20 members did express some interest in either being the lead or assisting someone else.

Year Group Reunions

133 respondents expressed a wish to meet up with former classmates at Year Group Reunions.

Shared Activities with the Old Loughburians' Association

72 members welcomed taking part in some shared activities with the OLA.

Old Girls' Association Newsletter

The Newsletter was considered to be a useful channel of communication by 138 of members. However 11 felt this not to be so but did not supply any constructive feedback to the Committee.

114 respondents liked the new format and presentation. The positive improvements:

- Style
- Layout
- Easy to read
- Use of colour
- Better use of quality pictures.

Features that were considered to be of particular interest:

- News of friends and staff
- Memories
- News of pupils' achievements
- Events
- The High School as it is today

Some ideas for features for future newsletters:

- Old photographs right through to the present day
- Old Form photographs and friendship groups
- Reflective articles by Old Girls.

Suggestions for improvement:

- More on how the School looks today
- More magazine-like approach
- More colourful images
- Less text.

Offers of help for current students, recent leavers and young professionals with careers and professional networking

There was a good deal of interest in helping LHS students with careers advice

Advising current students on a career choice	47 respondents
Advising at a careers conference	31 respondents
Helping with CV writing	22 respondents
Helping with interview technique	22 respondents
Providing a work placement	13 respondents
Advising recent leavers on career paths/changes	28 respondents
Helping young professionals in your own profession	41 respondents
Various ideas, specific to professions, were provided including: Law, Medicine, Marketing, Nursing and Art and Textiles.	

Career Networks

99 respondents reported that they did not wish to join a professional network although 37 were in favour. There was a suggestion for a "Women into Business" networking group.

Jane A Matthews
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