

The Parents' Arts Society Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 6 November 2019 – 7.30 p.m. in the Cawthorne Lecture Theatre
Chairman's Report
The Parents' Arts Society 2018/2019

The Programme: Michaelmas Term 2018 to Summer Term 2019

We had yet another very busy year.

396 members (139 current parents, 226 past parents and 31 honorary members and staff) submitted 1,591 applications to request 2,474 places on 97 ticketed events during the year.

The wide range of events included 26 Tours, 24 Evening (and other) Classes, 16 Art Exhibitions and Talks, 12 Theatre Performances, 11 Walks, 4 Concerts, 2 Ballets and 2 Operas.

An overseas trip to Milan was organised and hosted in October 2018.

The Tonbridge School Ball attended by 550 guests was organised and hosted in June 2019.

Finances

We have handled over £133,000 in the last twelve months. This is an increase of £9,000 versus the previous year (£124,000 in 2017-18). The overall surplus for the year was £8,500. As the Society is a non-profit-making organization and provides financial support for the Arts in several areas these funds will be used to offset any losses we incur in the following financial year. Our honorary accountants are RSM. Lizzie Winkett, our treasurer, does a superb job of looking after our finances for which she receives a modest honorarium.

Membership

The Society has 2,398 members (1,368 current parents, 808 past parents and 222 honorary members). This is an increase of 422 versus the previous year (1,976 in 2017-18).

Booking and Payment for events on line via Tonbridge Connect

Since the Michaelmas Term 2012 members have been able to apply for termly events online using the web-based PASTA system. This provided regular updates about which events were fully booked and those which still had places available. It also had a viewable and downloadable copy of the programme and details about the Tonbridge Society "Tennant Lecture Series" talks.

On 1 July 2019 the PASTA system was replaced by the new Tonbridge Connect platform. This is now used by the Tonbridge Society to manage Alumni (OT), Parental (PAS) and Charitable (Foundation) relationships. This platform incorporates the core functionality of the PASTA system but also includes the ability to book and pay for events online. It was used by the Society for the first time to book and pay for events during the Michaelmas Term 2019.

Over the last few weeks, the membership provided some very useful feedback about how the Tonbridge Connect platform can be improved and enhanced (for example Reserve Lists for events) and the plan is to implement many of these suggestions in future releases.

The contribution of the Parents' Arts Society to the School community

There is a lot of goodwill and public relations benefit provided by the Society. In addition, the Society provides support to the School community in the following ways:

- a. All members of the Tonbridge School staff have 'honorary membership' of the Society. We are keen to encourage more colleagues to take advantage of what is on offer.
- b. As part of the Tonbridge Society, the PAS keep in contact with parents and generate goodwill to help the work of the School.
- c. The Headmasters of our feeder preparatory Schools, and long serving former members of the committee are honorary members of the Society.
- d. We give all the revenue from the TPAS walks to the Marsh Travel Fund. Over the course of the year this amounted to £585.

The Committee

Three new committee members (Lucy Capon, Sally Hudson, Carla Schaeffer) joined in September and will help us provide top quality events and lectures for our enthusiastic, appreciative and cultured parents.

Three committee members (Fiona Carr, Michelle Oster, Nicky Rochussen) departed this year, all of whom did a superb job for many years. We wish to thank them for the huge amount of work they did for the Society.

A huge range and number of activities has taken place over the last 12 months. None of this would be possible without the unfailing support and hard work of the Parents' Arts Society committee. I would like to pay tribute to the vast amount they have done on behalf of us all. Their work is appreciated enormously.

Other Developments

Chris Scott will be standing down as the Chairman of the Parents' Arts Society at the AGM in early November. Chris has been involved with the PAS for over eight years, including serving as Chairman for the last three years. Over this period, he has continued to develop the society with improved processes and helped to integrate the PAS into the wider Tonbridge Society.

Chris will be handing over the role of Chair to Katie Tribe who will be well known to many members as a current parent and member of the PAS committee. She has also served with great skill and creativity as Chair of the Tonbridge Summer Ball Committee. Katie will lead the next phase of the Society's development as it becomes an organisation which is run by parents for the benefit of current and former parents and the wider Tonbridge School community.

Please join the Headmaster in wishing Katie every success in her new role.

CJS
Oct 19