



CLAYESMORE SOCIETY

Clayesmore Society September 16th 2017

Chair's Report

The 2016-17 Clayesmore Season was full of wonderful events that were enjoyed by so many members of the Society. I would like particularly to thank Debbie Geary, who retired as a school governor in the summer and who was the Chair of the Society since it was established in 2008, and Louise Smith, who has been a driving force behind the organisation and success of the social calendar, for all their hard work in ensuring we have gone from strength to strength.

We have been lucky enough to have several people joining the committee during the course of the year – James Smith and Suzanne Chinnock from the Prep School staff, Catherine Jacks from the Senior School staff, Helen Atkinson who has been Chair of the Prep School Parents' Association and her successor Michelle Complin, Maggie de la Perrelle, Chair of the Friends of Clayesmore, and Judi Tipping, a Clayesmore parent. My thanks also to the other established members of the committee and to Liisa Steele who has supported the whole operation through her work as Clayesmore Society officer. We said farewells and thanks to the Bursar, Mike Dyer, whose advice on financial matters has been much appreciated by us all, and to our Catering Manager, Andy Croft, on whom we could always rely to produce the most delicious food for all our gatherings.

As you will have read in the beautiful, smart brochure for the Clayesmore Season 2017-2018, the aim of the society is to support the school by bringing together all members of the school family, old and new, to enjoy a range of events throughout the year and of course we begin the new season with this evening's late summer party.

Last September saw a wonderful turn out for this event and we were all able to appreciate Clayesmore's fantastic hospitality on a warm late summer evening out on the lawn. For many people it was the first opportunity to meet the new Head, Jo Thomson, and her husband Frank, both of whose feet haven't touched the ground for long since then!

During the year, the Society has arranged reunions in London and Guernsey as well as supporting a number of Old Clayesmorian happenings, all of which preserve and encourage the links between

members of the Clayesmore family. In School, we held an art workshop, courses in floristry and cheese-making, as well as a macaron workshop and a sponsored walk. The Christmas shopping trip to London proved as popular as ever and the Choral Day was a great success. Of course the grand finale was the Bright Young Things Summer Ball and once more I must thank Louise and Liisa who, together with their band of volunteers, ensured that everyone had a fantastic evening and, once again, Andy Croft supplied a wonderful supper.

Special mention must also go to the wonderful, attractive Shepherd's Hut, to which the Society contributed funds. This was constructed by school pupils and staff and has already been put to excellent use during the end of term events in July. I understand that there is already rivalry amongst different groups wanting to use the hut, so it is a good thing that it can be transported around the site.

As if this is not enough, Liisa Steele has been working hard to increase the number of local and national businesses participating in the Society's membership card scheme that enables members to gain discounts on a range of goods and services. If you are able to offer any support in this area, or know anyone who might do so, please let Liisa know.

Finally, can I urge you to have a good look through this season's brochure at everything that is on offer to members of the Society. There really is so much going on in terms of social get-togethers, musical performances, opportunities to learn new skills, sporting occasions etc. etc. I am sure that there is something for everyone. The School's new all-singing, all-dancing website is the place to go for further information and, most importantly, to book your tickets.