

Chair report August 2026

It is now over a year since the Old Palace closed its doors as a school as we all knew and loved. It has been a time of adjustments as we all get used to this and I am sure we all miss the chance to return and visit as we have done in the past.

Committee meetings (all on Zoom as we live all over the country) were held in July, September and November 2025 and May, July and August 2026. Your committee has grown with members being coopted during the year to make a viable committee and consists of Veronica Barnes, Sophie Filon (treasurer), Liz Forrest (secretary), Hannah Guerin, Joanna Jayarajan, Tracy Lee, Jean Loh (chairperson), Karen Sayers and Karina Thorne.

The alumnae have now taken over maintaining the new database, though we are missing being able to contact many of our 'old girls'.

The new website is now also fully functional, and we are now managing this ourselves.

In September 2025 we held our first Founders Day service without any current pupils. The service was well attended, and we were able to sing many of the favourites from years gone by not forgetting the school song. There was a very successful scratch choir conducted by Veronica Barnes and accompanied by Marian Holmes on the school piano which is now permanently housed in the Minster. Refreshments followed the service and a great deal of chatting and catching up. We were fortunate to be able to display a copy of the school song which was loaned to us by The Whitgift Foundation for the day as well as using the beautifully repaired / refurbished school banner which is held by the Minster.

As a committee we are working on creating an oral history archive about our times at Old Palace, please ask for more information after the service. We are also looking into working with Trinity school to support the education and opportunities of girls.

Your committee has been working establish links with the new occupiers of the school site and also developing links with The friends of Old Palace who previously ran the tours of the building.

Find out all the latest information on our website and social media.

Does anyone have of venues for us to hold events as mentioned in the treasurer's report?

Save the date for Founders Day and our AGM next year on the 25th September 2027.

Pro Ecclesia Dei!

Jean Loh