

Treasurer's Report. 2026 : Treasurer Sophie Filon

I am the current Treasurer of the OPA following the resignation of Tracy Lee from the role and my appointment at the last AGM on 1st July 2025.

In terms of the current financial position of the OPA, as of 30th April 2026, the funds in the bank account were £18, 958.98. This is down from £23,318.55, as at the previous end of year on 30th April 2025.

Unfortunately, income has dwindled following the closure of the school in July 2025.

The main expenditure up until 30th April 2026, relates to the Founder's Day service on 27th September 2025, payments to the Whitgift Foundation and to the company hosting the website.

Payment was made for the hire of Croydon Minster for Founder's Day and the provision of refreshments to those attending after the service. Some alumnae generously gave donations towards our funds on that occasion. The purchase of a Sum Up machine beforehand facilitated this, as donations could be made by card as well as cash. Total donations amounted to £331.53.

This Founder's Day, we would encourage those attending to make a voluntary contribution of at least £5 to go towards the cost of the refreshments and of hiring the Minster for the occasion.

In terms of funds, going forward, the focus needs to be on fundraising so that the OPA can continue to run events, including the annual Founder's Day Service in September. Ideas for suitable events are most welcome from the Members!

The alternative is that the funds will eventually run out and the OPA will be unable to continue in its present form. At the present time, the former Old Palace School building is not accessible for tours or events. Although this may change in the future, alternative venues may be required in the meantime.

I would like to welcome Jonathan Whitby of XTB Solutions Ltd as our new accountant following the resignation of Janis Sinden last year. Jonathan is a Certified accountant with many years of experience both in commercial and private work. He also undertakes pro bono work for charities, such as the Thames Estuary Partnership. We are very grateful to have the benefit of Jonathan's professional expertise.