

The ASA Charitable Trust Report for 2009

At the AGM in May 2009, the treasurer reported that there was £4,091.08 in the Savings Account and £100.53 in the current account. There was 1 application in Spring 2009 from Camilla Ashworth. She had been a pupil for 7 years, leaving in 2007. She then completed an Art and Design Foundation at London College of Fashion, and was then in her first year at Bournemouth Arts Institute studying Fashion Design. She had recently been offered a work internship with Erdem, an established designer who shows at London Fashion week. This opportunity was for 3 days a week for 3 months in the summer, and she applied for assistance with travel costs. We awarded her £500.00. We have recently received the attached report from her; she apparently much enjoyed the internship, despite long hours, and it appears to have been a very useful experience.

Victoria Gilman sent a long, enthusiastic report on her time in Japan, studying traditional indigo dyeing techniques, and again thanking us profusely for the financial assistance we have given to her.

There was an application from 2 other pupils, but it was felt that this would largely be to fund activities which were to take place in a gap year, and the Trust has been adamant not to become involved, however worthy the motive.

Tom Watts stepped down as Secretary, but continues to offer sound advice on all aspects of the Trust, which is much appreciated by Sandra, who has taken on the role of Secretary. Her first task was to complete the name change - from OGA Charitable Trust to The ASA Charitable Trust - and this was not such an expensive operation as we had originally feared.

At a meeting in October, it was agreed that we needed to seriously increase our funds, and ASA agreed to provide the names and addresses of 171 Old Girls who would be targeted by letter. Jo Bonner offered to print the letters and an accompanying letter from ASA, and we are very grateful for this assistance. This appeal only raised £210.00, which, after postage was paid, amounted to just over £150.00 to add to the funds. Rather disappointing, but we are immensely grateful to all those who made a contribution.

In May 2009, we instigated a lunch, which 11 former pupils and members of staff attended; it was held in Cranbrook and considered a great idea. So it is being repeated this year – in Goudhurst - and the cost of £15.00 will include £5.00 which is to be put in to the Trust funds. Details available as a download.

We need to aim for a much higher budget, but appeals for money are not easy to organise and achieve. But we will persevere, as the future of the Trust depends on receiving financial support from well-wishers.

Sandra Noel
Trustee
February 2010