

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

OXFORD

The Annual General Meeting of the Somerville Association was held on Saturday 11 March 2017 at 2pm in the Flora Anderson Hall, Somerville College.

The President, Susan Scholefield, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

1. The minutes of the AGM held on 11th March 2016 were approved
2. There were no matters arising.
3. **Susan Scholefield**, CMG [1973 Classics] was re-elected as President of the Somerville Association & Chair of the Committee for a further year [proposed and seconded by the Committee]

Natasha Robinson [1972, Physiological Sciences] and **Lorna Sutton** [2010, History] were re-elected to the Committee for a further term of 3 years [proposed and seconded by the Committee]

4. President's business
Successful networking lunch with the Year Reps before the AGM – almost 50 attended. Discussed how can we be more effective [meeting, linking and networking] to support Somervillians at all stages. Use face to face, Facebook, social media – whatever fits best for different years.
E-mentoring platform very recently launched and the JCR/MCR will be invited to join soon. A welcome advance in how we deliver advice/employment/CV review to help students and fellow alumni in accessing the world of work. Also facilitates keeping in touch at every stage [career change, retirement, bereavement, etc]. Mutual support within the Somerville family.
The President presented a gift and book (with written contributions from students and alumni) to Alice Prochaska who thanked everyone.
5. Future events
A list was circulated.
6. Address by the Principal
Academic standards continue to rise and the focus is to help every Somervillian fulfil their potential. We care about degree class but that is not our only focus and we do well overall even if not reflected by Norrington. We equip students for life as well as degrees. Last year more Principal's Prizes were awarded than ever [13] to students who ranked in the top 5% in a University exam. The Somerville student community continues in its great traditions and the level of volunteering continues to grow. Fundraising is going

well – the Oxford India Centre goes from strength to strength and we currently have 5 talented Indian graduates on full scholarships, none of whom would have been able to take up their place here without our help and all of whom have demonstrated a commitment to return to India. The Margaret Thatcher Scholarship Trust continues to flourish and the associated Development Programme to enhance skills beyond academic achievement is open to all of our students. Funding also supports an enterprising student body including outreach to encourage disadvantaged students including 13-14 year olds as well as 6th formers. Our students are our best ambassadors and have successfully crowdfunded to extend our outreach to schools with no history of sending students to Oxford. Amongst all of these activities our students also row, sing, dance, act and play football to name but a few of their extracurricular activities.

A project is underway to secure a career development fellowship named after Dorothy Hodgkin, the only female UK Nobel Laureate, to encourage and promote women in science.

The new build [Catherine Hughes Building] behind Penrose will be complete by the end of 2019 and this will mean all undergraduates can be accommodated in College throughout their undergraduate degree. The Barbara Craig Building graduate accommodation is now open.

The third phase in the building project will provide further graduate accommodation and will probably be named after the first principal, Madeleine Shaw Lefevre.

We are a very international community. Of our 583 students, 389 are undergraduates [25% from overseas] and 194 are graduates [75% from overseas].

Our next Principal will be Baroness Jan Royall, a distinguished politician and former Labour Leader in the House of Lords.

The meeting closed and was followed by the Winter Meeting, a conversation between Dr Alice Prochaska and Baroness Shirley Williams.