

**Rules of the Society of Old Friends**  
**Founded 1909**  
**Updated 17 April 2024**

**Name of the Society**

1. The name of the Society shall be *The Society of Old Friends*.

**Purpose of the Society**

2. To provide, through social gatherings, the opportunity for those engaged in the bookselling, printing, publishing, business supplies and service trades to meet for good fellowship. Members shall be expected to attend not less than two of the functions in each year, unless business or private circumstances make it impossible to do so. The functions throughout the year include Clachans, AGM, Spring and Autumn Guest Nights and additional events as arranged.

**Membership**

3. The number of active members of the Society (exclusive of Country Members) shall be limited to 250 and shall be confined to those engaged in the trades nominated in item 2 above.
4. Those who, having been active members of the Society find it impossible, by reason of health, age or residence to take part in the Society's functions, may transfer to Country Membership, subject to the approval of the Committee. Any member not in full time employment will be permitted temporarily to move to Country Membership. Country Members shall be entitled to attend and bring guests to any of the Society functions upon payments of the appropriate charges.
5. All applicants for membership or recommendations for Honorary membership shall be proposed and seconded by Members of the Society and such applications shall be considered by the committee which shall have absolute power in respect to the admission of members.
6. Honorary members are not obliged to pay subscriptions or pay for dinners or Clachans.
7. In the event of there being no vacancies, the names of those approved shall be placed on a waiting list from which admissions shall be in rotation.

**Resignations**

8. A member may resign their membership at any time but shall not be entitled to the return of any subscription paid. They shall nevertheless be liable for payment of any subscription or charges due to the Society.
9. The committee shall have power to remove from membership any member whose subscription has not been paid by 30<sup>th</sup> June on due notice being given to such member.
10. The committee shall have power to request the resignation of any member whose conduct is deemed prejudicial to the best interest of the Society. A member so called upon to resign shall have the right to attend before the committee to say anything in their defence and their exclusion from membership shall only be effective if passed by at least two-thirds of the members of the committee present.

### **Entrance Fee and Subscriptions**

11. The entrance fee to the Society shall be decided annually at the AGM. It will be inclusive of the current years' subscription and the Society badge. The annual subscription to the Society for Full and Country membership shall be decided annually at the AGM and is due on May 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

### **Meetings**

12. The Society shall hold each year a dinner to which members may invite guests, and a dinner for members only, and other events as the Society decides upon. The members will be expected to wear an acknowledgement of their membership by way of pin, tie or brooch. Members not adhering will be liable to a fine of £5.
13. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in the month of April each year, and a special general meeting may be convened by the committee at any time or at the request of not less than 15 members of the Society.

### **Officers**

14. The Officers consist of the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Committee**

15. The Committee shall consist of the Officers and up to seven other members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. One third of the committee shall retire annually but will be eligible for re-election.
16. The Committee shall consider all nominations for Officers and Committee and make recommendations thereon to the Annual General Meeting.
17. The President shall hold office for two years and within their first year they will work with the Committee to nominate the President Elect and make recommendation to the members at the Annual General Meeting for approval.
18. Any member of the Committee who is absent from three consecutive meetings without giving a reason satisfactory to the Committee shall cease to be a member thereof.

### **Auditors**

19. Two members shall be appointed as Auditors for each financial year and their election shall take place at the Annual General Meeting. The Auditors will be the last two members joining from the previous year.

### **Control**

20. The management and direction of the Society shall, subject to the powers of the Society in General Meeting, be under the control of the committee.
21. In the absence of the President from any of the Society functions, the Immediate Past President shall preside.

**Agreement**

22. The payment of a Membership subscription shall be deemed to be and implies agreement upon the part of a Member to abide by the rules of the Society.

**Alterations of Rules**

23. Any alterations of these rules shall only be made at an Annual General Meeting and notice of intention to move any alteration must be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary 28 days before the date of such meeting. The Secretary shall inform all members of such proposed alteration at least seven days before such Annual General Meeting.