

AGM Minutes 2015

The Old Alfredians' Club Summer Dinner and AGM The Bear Hotel Wantage July 4th 2015

The Summer 2015 Dinner was attended by

M Stevenson 1943-48; J Haddrell 1943-48; R Weaver 1946-52; Lucia Weaver Guest; N Doody 1953-58; W Downs 1953-60; J Nichol 1954-59; J Moland 1954-59; J Wilkins 1954-59; D Williams 1957-65; D Ross 1964-71; M Haddrell 1969-76; Christina Haddrell Guest; S Smith 1969-76; A Mathewson 1969-76; S Mears 1970-77; S Smith 1976-83; R Taylor 1976-83; Juliane Spiers Guest; Simon Spiers Executive Headteacher.

Apologies were received from:

C Brooke Smith 1926-34; A Knight 1932-45; M Booker 1937-42; G Baker 1940-52; G Wall 1943-46; E Winning 1944-47; J Mayall 1944-52; D Harrison 1944-50; R Evans 1949-54; P Simpson 1950-57; R Harris 1952-58; P Turle 1954-59; D Haynes 1954-59; G Edgington 1955-58; A Downs 1958-62; P Nias 1968-75; N Dunn 1969-76; R Polley 1969-76; G Mabbett 1975-77; S Trinder 1971-78; D Gibbons 1971-78; H Wilcock 1972-79. M Haddrell 1994-01; L Martin (née Haddrell) 1996-03.

The President, Des Williams welcomed members and guests and said Grace. After Dinner Old Alfredians stood in memory of Maurice Winter, sometime teacher of Physical Education at King Alfreds, and other Old Alfredians who are no longer with us. Mr Williams then proposed the Penney toast and read the apologies. The regular returns and donations from Charles Brooke Smith were noted. Simon Spiers reported on developments at the school, mentioning his position as Executive Headteacher of the Multi-Academy Trust. Jo Halliday, who joined the gathering from the Year 11 Leavers Ball is Headteacher of King Alfreds. The school continues to progress and improve in the context of the rapidly changing world of education. Mr Spiers pointed out that the school had played no part in the construction of the Wantage Draft Neighbourhood Plan which does not reflect the school's own vision for its future. He asked Old Alfredians living locally to engage directly with local councillors to promote the interests of the school and place King Alfreds at the heart of education for the local community. King Alfreds will in due course become a two site school with East Site (formerly Icknield) being sold to contribute to funding for improved education for the young people of Wantage. The House Buildings, Bailey, Butler and Lloyd are no more having been replaced by a new three storey building. Mr Spiers invited Old Alfredians to suggest possible names for the new building. A recently developed Art Block has been named the Christopher Lloyd Building. Mr Spiers applauded the continuing links between the school and the Old Alfredians and hoped that more could be done to encourage younger leavers to develop their own alumni activities with the support of the Old Alfredians Club. There was some discussion about this as the evening drew to a close and Des Williams and Mike Haddrell will be meeting with the Headteacher to see what might be done. Dan Ross offered assistance in the development of the web site to support recruitment. Mr Spiers proposed the toast to the Old Alfredians Club after which Des spoke warmly of his leadership of the school. Richard Taylor responded with the toast to the school recalling his own experiences as a pupil whose father taught at the school and the imminent prospect of his own son becoming a King Alfred's student. Asides followed about a near contemporary of Richard's nicknamed pellet (whose father also taught at King Alfreds) and a cherished notice board designated the Bulletin Board. Des praised the food and the service and organised a collection for the staff of The Bear. The Minutes of the 2014 AGM which had been circulated with the dinner letter and tabled were accepted on the proposal of Doody, seconded by Taylor. The Armoury still stands. The Treasurer's Report was accepted on the proposal of Nichol, seconded Downs. The Treasurer Stephen Smith drew attention to the sale of ties to an Old Alfredian in Australia and the fees paid by four new life members. A small loss the previous year was observed to be insignificant in comparison with current difficulties in Greece. We charge members £2 more than we pay the Bear for each meal in order to cover the costs of distributing letters. The absence of interest in the main account is the result of a free banking arrangement. Bill Downs asked about the war stocks which it transpires were sold long ago. Des Williams had reached the end of his agreed second year as President and, as there was no President Elect

and present members who had yet to serve as President demonstrated a collective reluctance to do so, he proposed that Mike Haddrell serve for the next two years (in line with newly established practice) in what would be his second term as President. Neil Doody seconded the proposal and Mike took the chair. Nominations from the membership for the post of President Elect to follow him in the summer of 2017 would be welcome.

The Committee was re-elected en bloc on the proposal of Mathewson, seconded Taylor. President, Secretary & Archivist M. Haddrell, Treas. S. Smith, Auditor G. Holliday, Cricket Marcus Haddrell, Soccer D Williams, Membership Secretary R. Taylor. Committee: D. Gibbons, G Mabbett, D Ross, N Doody. Mike noted that sporting fixtures are currently unlikely to take place but proposed that the posts remain as an indication that the Club hopes they might resume in the future.

Des Williams noted the proposal from the Committee to support the school in re-establishing memorial trees and plaques for Mr Keen and Mr Bower. Nancy Bower has been in regular contact with the school and a memorial clock now seems more of a possibility than a tree.

Requests were made and answered for outstanding payments of dinner money. The dates of the next meetings are November 28 2015 July 2 2016