

MINUTES The Old Alfredians' Club Summer Dinner and AGM 2018 The Summer Dinner 2018 was attended

by:

M Stevenson 1943-48, J Haddrell 1943-48, D Harrison 1944-50, R Harris 1952-58, N Doody 1953-58, W Downs 1953-60, J Moland 1954-59, J Nichol 1954-59, J Wilkins 1954-59, , D Williams 1957-65, G Glover 1957-62, A Downs 1958-62, B Fitchett 1958-63, D Richardson 1964-71, L Taylor Guest, W Taylor 1965-72, C Wood 1965-72, D Wood Guest, C Denney 1965-72, P East 1965-72, P Johnson 1965-72, N Wain 1966-72, D Wain 1968-70, D Ross 1968-71, A Mathewson 1969-76, J Brett 1969-76, M Haddrell 1969-76, S Smith 1969-76, S Mears 1970-77, S Knight 1970-77, T Knight 1963-70, Shaun Smith 1972-77, R Taylor 1976-83, J Smart Interim Headteacher. **Apologies were received from:** S Spiers Executive Director, A Knight 1932-45, G Wall 1943-46, J Mayall 1944-52, D Robson 1947-51, R Evans 1949-54, R Kearvell 1953-59, P Moseley 1954-62, A Snowdon 1964-71, M Hainge 1968-75, N Dunn 1969-76, S Trinder 1971-78, M Haddrell 1994-01, L Martin (Haddrell) 1996-03, C Haddrell, G Stoter. Mike Haddrell welcomed the gathering, thanked members for their attendance, said grace and, after dinner, proposed the Penney Toast to absent friends making particular mention of Dougie Fettigan (1942-48), recently deceased, and also Frank Pargeter-Cobden who was killed in action on July 7 1918. John Smart gave the report from the school and proposed the toast to the Alfredians. He thanked the Alfredians for the invitation and for their hospitality and paid tribute to those with far longer associations with King Alfreds than his eighteen years. He joined King Alfreds as an NQT alongside Jo Halliday in 2000 and, following her move to a headship in Thatcham, has taken on the role temporarily, pending the arrival of Rick Holroyd from Langtree School in September 2018. 2017 had seen mixed results at GCSE and outstanding success which put the Sixth Form among the top 25% in the country. GCSEs are now marked on a scale of 1-9 with 9 the highest and strong results are expected this summer. 4 students have been accepted by Oxford or Cambridge pending their results and a further two are similarly heading for medical school. Enrichment activities are a key feature of life at King Alfred's; 90 students currently participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Bronze level, 50 at Silver and 20 are expected to achieve Gold this year. The Highly Able Programme continues to serve those students who have outstanding skills and abilities. In March 2018 a five night run of Kiss Me Kate with two full casts sold out every night to great acclaim. 150 students took part in the annual dance show. In February well over 100 families attended a school -community event to support students and their families in dealing with all aspects of mental health, with contributions from 27 different organisations ranging from Public Health England to the Charlie Waller Trust. June saw 84 students kayaking in the Ardeche, over 25 went trekking in the Swiss Alps in July and twenty Y13 students will spend three weeks in Tanzania this summer. A new Sports Hall opens on West Site in October, replacing the inflatable dome. King Alfreds students participated in a total of 342 fixtures across all year groups in a wide range of sports. Under 12 and Under 15 teams were county finalists in soccer and basketball respectively and the under 13 soccer team reached the last 32 in the nationals. In January 2018 all King Alfred's students were accommodated on two sites following the sale of East and a major rebuilding programme on Centre. The Sixth Form Site on Portway will be closed for a year from September 2018 for a £1.5 million refurbishment, with students accommodated elsewhere on the campus. Steve Mears responded with the toast to the school having entertained the gathering with stories about going downhill rapidly, schools as special places with memorable features like the less than savoury gym changing rooms which had provided a prelude for a series of accidents which befell him in the gym itself, reflections on the legendary "fight in the gym," and trumpet lessons accompanied by unappreciative groans from the adjacent sick bay. He related a story about a friend of Peter Beardsley who lost his job as a rollercoaster manager and sued for unfair dismissal and in conclusion quoted Dr Zeus: Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. Steve then gave the vote of thanks to the caterers who were presented with a gratuity in thanks for their service. The Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated to all members and were tabled at the dinner. They were accepted as a true record on the proposal of Richard Taylor, seconded by Andrew Mathewson. The Treasurer's Report was tabled and presented by Steve Smith who prefaced his remarks with reference to the afternoon Golf match in beautiful sunshine on an otherwise deserted West Berks course. (England were in the process of defeating Sweden 2-0 in the quarter finals of the soccer World Cup.) The golf was organised by Paul East who was present at the dinner with several of his contemporaries. It will be at least an annual event and informal golf is also planned for the weekend of the Winter Dinner. The Committee thanks Paul for his endeavours and encourages other Alfredians to assemble groups of contemporaries to attend our dinners. It was confirmed that the income of £31 for ties included the sum of £1.50 for each of two polyester crested ties at £14 each. Payment for the dinner by electronic transfer is welcomed. Cheques are not cashed until after the dinner but late cancellations will not be refunded once numbers have been agreed with the caterers. The Treasurer's Report was accepted on the proposal of Steve Mears, seconded by Andrew Mathewson. Neil Doody then took the floor to reflect on the sixty years (all but two weeks) which have passed since he left King Alfred's in 1958, during which time he has attended 122 dinners including the London Dinners of old. He mentioned his years as a boarder in School House including one of the few who remained there for leave weekends, enjoying much mirth. Wantage Faringdon and Didcot were the other Houses at that time. Corporal punishment was a feature of school life with prefects and monitors using a stick or a gym shoe respectively, the Headteacher, The Reverend Eric King keeping his cane with his golf clubs where for one memorably well ordered term it remained untouched, and Dom Swan, Joe Knight and others improvising with instruments of punishment, in the latter case the rubber tube from a Bunsen burner. Gym drills were an additional form of punishment while extra curricular pursuits revolved around the Scouts, CCF and a range of sporting activities including regular fixtures against the Old Alfredians which in those days were watched by large numbers of students and staff. The great friendships made have endured, among them Bill Downs, John Wilkins, John Moland and Des Williams all present at this dinner and Robin Kearvell. Neil paid tribute to the school of the past and savoured his memories and reminiscences while commending with pride the school of the present for its outstanding achievements and success. In recognition of his loyalty and long service as an Alfredian Neil Doody was proposed to serve his third term as President, for two years with effect from July 2019, and was confirmed as President Elect on the proposal of Mike Haddrell, seconded Des Williams. Membership of the Committee was confirmed on the proposal of Mike Haddrell, seconded by Richard Taylor: President S Mears, Sec. & Archivist M. Haddrell, President Elect Vacant, Treas. S. Smith, Auditor G. Holliday, Membership Secretary R. Taylor. Committee: D. Gibbons, G Mabbett, D Ross, N Doody, D. Williams, S Trinder, Marcus Haddrell, Andrew Mathewson.

Before the conclusion of business Mike Haddrell presented the Golf Trophy to Paul East. Dates of Next Meeting:
November 24 2018, July 6 2019