

The Old Alfredians' Club Summer Dinner 2016 MINUTES

The Summer Dinner 2016 was attended by

M Stevenson 1943-49, J Haddrell 1943-49, D Harrison 1944-50, R Harris 1952-58, N Doody 1953-58, R Kearvell 1953-59, W Downs 1953-60, J Nichol 1954-59, J Wilkins 1954-59, J Moland 1954-59, D Williams 1957-65, A Downs 1958-62, R Fitchett 1958-63, D Ross 1968-71, A Mathewson 1969-76, M Haddrell 1969-76, C Haddrell 1969-76, J Brett 1969-76, S Smith 1969-76, S Trinder 1971-78, R Taylor 1976-83, M Haddrell 1994-01, J Halliday Headteacher.

Apologies were received from:

A Knight 1932-45, G Baker 1940-52, G Wall 1943-46, J Mayall 1944-52, P Fowles 1945-48, P Simpson 1950-57, P Turtle 1954-59, G Edgington 1955-58, G Glover 1957-62, D Beck 1965-67, S Donald 1967-73, P Nias 1968-75, N Capelin 1968-75, N Dunn 1969-76, S Mears 1970-77, D Gibbons 1971-78, J Prentice 1974-81, G Mabbett 1975-77, E McMorris 1984-91, L Martin 1996-03, T Winter, D Pack. S Spiers Executive Director.

Grace was said by the President who, after an excellent dinner read a letter from the son of Charles Brooke Smith who had passed away on May 17th 2016 aged 99, and proposed the toast to absent friends. Charles Brook Smith was the oldest Old Alfredian in regular communication with the club, sending his apologies and often a donation to the club in response to the bi-annual letters. He spent much of his life as a tea planter in Sri Lanka and served on the North West Frontier in the Second World War. The Headteacher, Mrs Jo Halliday, gave the report from the school, welcoming Old Alfredians to the school's newest building. The Executive Director Simon Spiers was unwell and sent his apologies. The new three storey block has classrooms for Maths and English on the upper floors and dining facilities on the ground floor. The caterers were simultaneously providing for the Year 11 Leavers Ball taking place at the Sixth Form Centre on the top field. Mrs Halliday thanked the Old Alfredians for their confidence in the catering team in returning to the school for the dinner, and praised the quality of their service to King Alfred's which is typical of all those who now serve the school as support staff as well as in teaching. The Three to Two Committee led by Simon Spiers and Chris Ferguson have been working assiduously to secure relevant permissions and grants to take forward the movement of the school to two sites following the sale of East Site for housing. A new £5million science block is the next major project. The 1970s Four Storey Block will be internally and externally refurbished in the same style as the new Main Hall & Creative Arts building. Improvements to the Sixth Form facilities will follow. Mrs Halliday said that in the last week King Alfred's had hosted welcome evenings for 340 new first year students, Music Concerts, the Sixth Form Ball and the PTA Ball. Students have recently returned from enrichment visits to Barcelona as others prepare to set off for Morocco; over the year students have visited places as diverse as Croatia, the Ardeche, New York and Tanzania. Mrs Halliday praised the commitment of those who give up their time to support the wider education of the students in enrichment activities generally and in particular in giving up their time to take students abroad. King Alfred's has its own licence for the Duke of Edinburgh Award which is very popular with large numbers of students. Mrs Halliday highlighted the level of internal and external support for students who are disadvantaged, either economically or by learning difficulties. The Highly Able programme ensures that the most able students throughout the school receive appropriate levels of challenge and stretching opportunities. The school welcomes and appreciates the support and interest of the Old Alfredians as well as the legacy of former students of the school. Former student and Psychologist, Anil Seth recently came to the school to give a lecture; Sir Christopher Ricks has allowed his name to be used to for a flagship lecture in the forthcoming Wantage Literary Festival; Jason Prior is chief executive of the planning consultancy Aecom, the team behind the Rio Olympic Stadium. King Alfred's is rising to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by changes to school curricula and assessment at a national level and remains committed to excellence. Des Williams commented on the excellence of the school's musical productions, most recently The Beauty and The Beast, and called upon Old Alfredians to attend in the future. Mrs Halliday proposed the toast to The Old Alfredians. Mike Haddrell thanked Mrs Halliday for her comprehensive report which gave a very good sense of the strengths of the current King Alfreds. In response to questions it was confirmed that when the armoury is removed to improve traffic access – including more safely for school buses – to the recreation centre, the engraved name stones will be preserved. Steve Trinder, newly appointed Mayor of Wantage proposed the toast to the school which he had attended until 1978. Moving away for work he returned to Wantage in 2009 and had enjoyed bumping in to former teachers in the town. He spoke of the close working relationship between King Alfred's and the Town Council, which included a Youth Town Council of elected students who have their own budget and have determined to improve Tugwell Field sports fields. The student councillors have also enjoyed a tour of the Houses of Parliament. The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were accepted on the proposal of R Taylor, Seconded N Doody. The Treasurer acknowledged expenditure on postage and reported that increasingly members were providing email addresses and receiving communications by that route. The Treasurer's Report was accepted on the proposal of A Mathewson, Seconded S Trinder. Des Williams explained that the Committee have in mind a candidate for President Elect to take over from Mike Haddrell in July 2017. The officials and Committee were unanimously re-elected en bloc with the addition of Steve Trinder on the proposal of M Haddrell, Seconded D Williams. Mike Haddrell said that he was shortly to retire from work in the fortieth year after leaving King Alfred's and would continue to serve the Club. In response to a question from Robert Harris the secretaries agreed to look into publishing a list of members and Dan Ross agreed to respond to any suggestions for changes to the website. Arthur Downs proposed a vote of thanks and a toast to Mike Haddrell for his endeavours in sustaining the club over the years. The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as November 26 2016 and July 1 2017.

President M. Haddrell, 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)