



The Churchillian

The Newsletter of the Churchill Hall Association
2017-18



CHURCHILL
HALL



Message from the Chairman

I took over as Chairman of the Churchill Hall Association (CHA) and its Committee as from September, and would like to start this report on the year's activities by paying tribute to David Clarke, who occupied this position for more than five years, and oversaw the renaissance of what had previously been a pretty moribund organisation. As part of this, he built up an enthusiastic Committee, which fortunately remains in place – including David, himself, who has agreed to stay on

Enthusiasm is one thing, but what has been achieved? The previous Newsletter included the Objectives which the CHA Committee had set itself, and noted that these were considerably broader than the roles which, until then, had been taken on. These roles fall into two general categories: building an engaged and supportive CHA community, and representing the views of members

In relation to the first category, the keynote event was, as always, the Annual Dinner held in July 2017 as part of the Alumni Weekend. A description of this is the focus of an article later in this Newsletter. However, it is worth mentioning here that this was an experiment in that it was held at Wills Hall and in conjunction with the other hall associations. A quick questionnaire afterwards showed (unsurprisingly) that some of those Churchillians who were there thought it an excellent innovation, while others worried that our identity got blurred. Your Committee has decided that we do not think that this is how it should always be, but the parameters for July 2018 have yet to be fine-tuned. What is sure is that it will be in Churchill, and that it will be an excellent event

The edition of the Newsletter circulated in March 2017 was up-graded, and this one will continue the trend – hope you like it. We have not detected any need for greater than annual frequency, but will keep this under review. We have, however, decided that a web-site is a necessity, and work on the design and content of this is at an advanced stage – in fact, it should be up and out there before this Newsletter gets to you. A presence on Facebook is also under consideration

In a separate update below, you will see pictures of the benches bought with donations made following the Founders' Dinner in July 2016. Many thanks to all contributors. We shall also be helping with the purchase of a piano for Hall; this will be available in early 2018

Lastly, we have plans for a careers/networking event; details to follow. What we have not done is to undertake any representational roles in relation to the views of members. This is partly a question of practicalities, and partly a consequence of on-going discussions about changes in the roles of alumni vis-à-vis other parts of the University – and, in particular, the Alumni Relations Office

Finally, may I encourage anyone who feels able to devote a little time to Churchill matters to consider volunteering to join (or assist) the Committee. We are painfully aware of our non-diverseness, and would very much welcome views and ideas from

– in particular –younger/female/diverse Churchillians. Please get in touch via committee@churchillhallassociation.co.uk (or from our web site <https://www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk/contact-us/>)

The CHA Committee as a whole joins me in saying how much we look forward to meeting up with as many as possible of you at the Annual Dinner in July 2018.

Alastair Scott

Churchill Hall 1962-63

Churchill Hall Association News Update

Lady Hale of Richmond



The University's former Chancellor and honorary CHA member, has become the President of the Supreme Court, the first women to hold the post, David Clarke the CHA then Chairman wrote to congratulate Lady Hale on behalf of the CHA.

Benches bought with donations made following the Founders' Dinner in July 2016



As can be seen from the above pictures, taken in July 2017, these benches have now been installed and are in use.

CHA Website

The Association now has a website which can be found at <https://www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk/>, this includes copies of the last few Newsletters, A History of Churchill Hall and much more.

Update from Churchill Hall

There are likely to be significant changes for Churchill and the other Halls this year as in February the university issued a final consultation on Student support in residences that will have a fundamental effect on all the Halls of Residence

The review takes a whole-institution approach to pastoral care and support, which includes proposed major new investments in wellbeing in academic schools, and in central services such as specialist Students' Health and Counselling Services. However, it also planning to create what is described as a sector-leading support model for all students living in University residences, halls and other forms of accommodation. This will mean each student residence, including Churchill, becoming part of one of three Residential Villages in - Clifton, Stoke Bishop (in Churchill's case) and the City Centre (with a fourth planned for the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus).

In Halls this will mean the loss of the Warden and Tutors, with overall management now being through a Head of Residential Life in Stoke Bishop, who will report to the Head of Student Residential Life in the Student Services Directorate of the University. In each Hall they will be replaced by a Chief and Senior Residents, who will be post graduate level students; they and other team members, the review states, will be highly visible – so students will get to know the Teams who are looking out for them. There will always be a familiar face around to help or to manage issues around safety or security.

These proposal follow an earlier proposal which the CHA committee, together with the other Hall Associations, felt did not meet the needs of students in the halls. Therefore all the Hall Associations provided constructive feedback in a joint submission during the consultation period.

In responses to this and other representations the university has changed a number of proposals and the final version includes a number of enhancement to the proposals including:

- Increase in the number of live-in, peer-to-peer roles from 54 to 120;
- added the role of Chief Resident in each Hall, and increased the number of Residential Experience Coordinators , to support JCRs to continue to build communities and ensure the identity of each hall/residence remains as strong as ever;
- added a Senior Academic Tutor for each Village to provide academic links, in place of a Warden per Hall; and
- to manage problems before they grow, Senior Residents and Chief Residents will provide live-in, peer-to-peer support. Residential Life Advisers will be working 24/7 and be out and about in residences on a daily basis (there will be 7 Chief and 28 Senior Residents and 7.4 FTE Residential Life Advisers in Stoke Bishop for 2,400 students).

The CHA committee welcome both the improvement to the original proposals and the commitment of the University to significantly improve pastoral care and support for all students across the whole University, which lies behind this review. However, we very much regret the loss of the Wardens from this summer. In future the CHA committee will now interface the new Head of Residential Life for Stoke Bishop, to build and strengthen links to the benefit of Churchill Hall and all its past, current and future residents.

David Ewart (Churchill Hall 1974-77)

Memories of One of the First Female Residents of Churchill Hall

In 1978 I was 18 years old, a young woman full of excitement at the prospect of going to university. I came to Bristol and spent my first year as a student at Churchill Hall. Not very remarkable so far, except that I didn't realise 1978 was a very special year for Churchill; this men-only institution was now accepting women for the first time.

To say this came as a surprise is an understatement. Having been offered a place to read Microbiology, I was sent several brochures advertising the various halls of residence. I looked through them all and studied the accompanying glossy photos. All were attractive and appealing, but Churchill stood out for me, I think in retrospect because the style of architecture somewhat resembled the sensible and practical buildings of my school: It looked like a friendly place.

Accordingly, I ticked the necessary boxes, duly acquired the appropriate grades for my A levels, and started the countdown to leaving home. Home, in my case, was Leicester, and a pre-requisite of my university choice was that I should be at least 100 miles from home – I wanted an adventure!

And so sometime in September of 1978 I arrived, only then realising that the Churchill Hall brochure had failed to mention that this was the first time in which women students were to be admitted! In fact, there were only 58 young women in residence during that first year. I can't recall how many men there were; somewhere over 200 I believe. All I remember is that we girls were completely outnumbered!

There were some special provisions in place for women students. We were housed in the blocks closest to the main buildings, and on the upper floors. I was in J Block, and not only did we have a key to enter the building, but a special extra key, issued only to female students which locked a door between our floor and the lower floors. I assume it was intended to keep out curious young men.

Even now I can remember my study-bedroom. It was squarish and brownish, furnished with a sizeable desk, bookcase, built-in cupboard and bed. There were big, square, orangey-brown cork tiles on the floor. The walls, curtains, and paintwork were sensible shades of beige to dun. But it was warm and bright, with a big west facing window, which looked out over the back lawns.

My other memories? I remember long queues to the dining hall, and the huge platefuls of food which the men seemed to require compared to the daintier portions of the women. I remember that the catering staff didn't provide a Sunday evening meal, and so at breakfast on Sunday morning all students would be issued with a picnic bag containing half-a-loaf of bread, pieces of cheese, an apple, and a packet of crisps. The girls rarely ate their entire half-loaf, and by Sunday afternoon the lawns behind our top-floor bedrooms would be littered with slices of bread, thrown out of our windows. There were some very well-fed local squirrels.

I remember the bar, discos, and taking part in a doubles table-football tournament and being the last surviving women's duo in the competition. More generally I remember the long walk in to the university every morning over the Downs and discovering that Bristol is a series of hills. The walk didn't matter though – it was a chance to chat and make friends. One of these friends, a fellow resident of J Block, became my boyfriend. We've now been married for 32 years and have three grown-up children. Our daughter Ellie was married last December, and her new in-laws are also Bristol graduates, her father in-law being yet another Churchillian!

In all respects, Churchill Hall has been an extremely significant part of my life. I, and many of my friends have very fond memories of our time there. I hope that Churchill Hall will continue to generate happy memories for all its students now and long into the future.

Marian Presland (née Houldsworth)
B.Sc Microbiology 1981

Treasurer's Report

The Association's accounting year ends on 31 March, which means that this report is very historical, with the main items relating to the Reunion dinner in July 2016.

The accounts show a "technical" surplus for the year of £714.00 resulting in a closing balance of £4,507.92. However, this surplus is due to the change in the way in which Reunion bookings were handled for the 2017 Weekend. In the past, the University (or the Alumni Office) have handled some or all aspects of booking. For 2017, we took over dealing with booking for the Dinner and accommodation in The Holmes. As the event was advertised before the end of the financial year, payments totalling £719.00 have been included in these accounts.

The Reunion Dinner for 2016 actually had a small deficit £6.76. The only other transaction on the accounts (which covers the difference in the figures quoted above) is an amount of £1.76 interest received.

Those who attended the 2016 Reunion will recall that there was an appeal to assist in the provision of additional facilities in the Hall which would not be met by the University. This raised the sum of £2,875. This does not appear in the Association accounts as the donations were handled through the University to allow for Gift Aid on the donations. Items have been purchased since the end of the year and further information is given elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The Association Committee is of the opinion that we hold funds in excess of the amount we are likely to need in the future and has therefore agreed to assist with the cost of purchasing a grand piano which will be available for use by students. Arrangements are in hand for the purchase at a cost in the region of £1,000. Details will appear in the accounts in due course.

Whilst the figures will appear in the accounts next year, it is appropriate to comment that there was a small shortfall in the 2017 Reunion figures under £20.

Keith Walton

Hon Treasurer, CHA

CHA Dinner, 2017



The Churchill Hall Association (CHA) part of the weekend began with the first Joint Hall Association Dinner for former residence of Badock, Churchill, Clifton Hill, Manor and Wills Halls which was held on Saturday 15th July in Wills Hall. There were mixed feelings about the success of this event, a survey carried out after the event showed a roughly 50/50 split between thoughts who liked it and thoughts who wanted to revert to previous arrangements.

Prior to the dinner, each Hall had their own drinks reception, Churchill's was hosted by the Warden, Professor Robert Mayhew, in the refurbished Senior Common Room, followed by a tour of the refurbished Dining Hall, Junior Common Rooms and a selection of study bed rooms and facilities in IJ Block. In his introduction the Warden stated the greatest achievement of the refurbishment, apart from the fact that it had taken place, was that although all the key services and dated items, such as the metal windows, had been replaced, the Hall look like it always has, (although there is no more rust coloured water in the bathrooms).

Guests then proceeded to the dinner where there were a total of 38 CHA members and guests including four who sat on the High Table. The guests of honour included the new Chancellor Sir Paul Nurse FRS and his wife, The Former Chancellor, and honorary CHA member Lady Hale of Richmond and her husband, together with the Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Hugh Brady.

The guest speaker was Lord (Paul) Boateng, Britain's first mixed-race Cabinet Minister, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, British High Commissioner to South Africa, and a member of the House of Lords since 2010, and a former resident of Badock Hall.

Although we were not that fortunate with the weather the evening went well and was enjoyed by most guests, although as mentioned above there were mixed feelings about the joint dinner.

The weekend continued on Sunday morning, with breakfast in Will's for those staying in the Holmes, followed by a joint Service at the Monica Wills Chapel and was rounded off by a tours of the University Botanic Garden's around the Holmes with lunch in Will's for those who wanted.



Churchill Hall Annual Reunion and Dinner, 14th July 2018

Reception at Wills Hall: 19:00

Dinner at the Holmes: 19:45

This year we mark the 40th anniversary of female students being admitted as residents of the Hall and we hope that those who were resident in the Hall at that time will be able to join us. In addition, we are delighted to be able to welcome members of the Manor Hall and Clifton Hill House Associations to join us.

We return to our tradition of holding our Reunion Dinner in The Holmes (where accommodation is also available.) The Dinner will be preceded by a Reception, where we will be joining members of the Wills Hall and Badock Hall Associations in the grounds of Wills Hall.

Our friends in the Wills Hall Association have arranged a number of events that are open to all Alumni. On the Saturday morning there is a boat trip around the harbor on the Flower of Bristol lasting approximately one hour and including a cream tea. In the afternoon, there is a visit to Aerospace Bristol in Filton, with the option to include a tour of Concorde. On the Sunday morning, following the service in the Monica Wills Chapel and coffee, there will be a lecture in the Chapel (no booking required) and lunch in Wills Hall (booking required). Where booking is required, this can be done through our booking form.

Bookings for all above events and accommodation can be made using the form on the next page. Alternatively, you may download the form.

Details of events, including the Alumni Lunch on the Saturday are to be found on the Alumni section of the University web-site.

Churchill Hall Association

The Churchill Hall Association welcomes ideas and other feedback - together, of course, with letters or articles for the 2019 Newsletter. Please make contact via email at committee@churchillhallassociation.co.uk Web site <https://www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk/>.



CHURCHILL HALL ASSOCIATION
BOOKING FORM FOR REUNION WEEKEND 13 – 15 JULY 2018
PLEASE READ SEPARATE BOOKING NOTES BEFORE COMPLETING THE
FORM

ACCOMMODATION (at The Holmes with breakfast at Wills Hall)		Per Room	No of Rooms	Total
FRIDAY NIGHT BED AND BREAKFAST (only available if also booking Saturday night)	Single Room – shared facilities	£35.00		
	Single Room – En-suite facilities	£40.00		
	Double Room (4ft bed) – shared facilities	£55.00		
	Double Room (4ft bed) – en-suite facilities	£60.00		
SATURDAY NIGHT BED AND BREAKFAST	Single Room – shared facilities	£35.00		
	Single Room – En-suite facilities	£40.00		
	Double Room (4ft bed) – shared facilities	£55.00		
	Double Room (4ft bed) – en-suite facilities	£60.00		
MEALS		Per Person	No of people	
SATURDAY 19:00	RECEPTION AND REUNION DINNER including wine (black tie or dark suit)	£37.00		
SUNDAY 13:00 (at Wills Hall)	LUNCHEON	£13.00		
OTHER EVENTS				
Saturday 11:30	Boat Trip round the harbour	£15.00		
Saturday 13:00	Visit to Aerospace Bristol at Filton	£10.00		
	(or to include guided tour of Concorde)	£15.00		
Saturday 15:30	Tour of Clifton Hill House followed by tea in the Music Room			
TOTAL				

IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS AVAILABLE, UNTIL 15 MAY, BOOKINGS FOR ACCOMMODATION WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF YOU ARE ALSO BOOKING FOR THE DINNER.

Final date for booking 25 June 2018. Refunds will be given for cancellation before that date. Later cancellations can only be refunded if there is a replacement booking.

Please complete your personal details and payment details on the next page

BOOKING FORM - CONTINUED

Your Name

Dates of residence in Churchill Hall

Address

Phone Number

Email address

Name(s) of your
guest(s)

Any requests regarding rooms (see accompanying notes) or dietary requests for the dinner

If you would like to be seated with any others who may be coming to the dinner, please give their names

Payment (please complete or delete as appropriate)

Cheque number _____ for £ _____ is enclosed

Or

I have issued a payment through the banking system for £ _____ on _____
(date)

Please send this form to Keith Walton, 7 Simmonds Road, Walsall WS3 3PT with a cheque payable to Churchill Hall Association or **email to** committee@churchillhallassociation.co.uk and pay by bank transfer to HSBC sort code 40-11-07 account number 31038419 Churchill Hall Association. Please give your name as reference

If you have any queries, please contact Keith Walton on 01922 478714 or by email to committee@churchillhallassociation.co.uk If you are booking from overseas the IBAN is GB95HBUK40110731038419 and the SWIFT (BIC) HBUKGB4119D

The bank's address is 56 High St, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6RT

An acknowledgement of your booking will be issued. (If required by post, a stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated)

BOOKING NOTES FOR REUNION WEEKEND 13 – 15 JULY 2018

Please read these notes in conjunction with the Booking Form

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available in The Holmes but, as the number of rooms is limited, until 15 May, priority will be given to those attending the Annual Dinner.

IMPORTANT – please note that the only double room and several of the single rooms with shared facilities are on the second floor (with steep narrow staircase access). Please bear this in mind when booking and if this would create problems, note it in the ‘requests regarding rooms’ section. Also, please note that the bed in double rooms is 4ft width.

If we have more room bookings than we can accommodate, we anticipate that we will be able to arrange accommodation in Wills Hall. (All rooms in Wills Hall are single.) However, if that proves necessary, we will contact you before making arrangements.

OTHER EVENTS

A number of events have been organised for the Weekend. The timings given below and on the booking form are intended to help you plan your activities. Whilst these are believed to be correct, at the time of writing some were still to have final confirmation. You are advised to check the University Alumni website for final details.

A Boat Trip around the Harbour (duration approximately 1 hours) and a Visit to Filton (duration approximately 2 hours or 3 hours including the visit to Concorde) have been organised by the Wills Hall Association, who invite us to join them. As numbers will be limited, early booking is recommended.

All alumni are invited to a tour of Clifton Hill House at 3:30 on Saturday followed by tea in the Music Room at 4:30. There is no charge for this, but booking is needed to provide numbers for catering purposes and for organising the tour. Further information on this event can be obtained by contacting Alison Wilson, from the Clifton Hill House Association. Her email address is amw18@cam.ac.uk.

The Wills Hall Association is arranging a lecture in the Monica Wills Chapel at 12 noon on the Sunday. Details of the speaker and subject will be given with the final information. No booking is needed.

BOOKING DEADLINES AND CANCELLATIONS

Please note the booking deadline (25 June). We have to make a firm commitment to the University as to the numbers attending and will be charged on that basis.

Bookings can be cancelled prior to the deadline when a full refund will be given. Refunds can only be given on cancellations after that date if we receive a late booking which can replace the cancellation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

An acknowledgement will be sent for all bookings. If you require this by post, a stamped-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Final details, including details of how to collect keys, facilities in rooms and arrangements for joining events will be available on the Association's website

(www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk) from the beginning of July. Please let us know if you do not have access to the internet and so will need a paper copy. The website is currently being developed and we suggest that you bookmark the site now and check back from time to time to find out more about the Association, the Hall and plans for the future.