



The Churchillian

The Newsletter of the Churchill Hall Association

2018-19



Message from the Chair

September 2017 – August 2018

The period covered by this Report was a challenging one for several reasons. Firstly, the University's review of the traditional way in which pastoral support was provided to students took as its starting point that the system of Hall Wardens and their Deputies would not be an appropriate model for the future. Hall Association Committees generally took the view that this – or, more particularly, the proposed replacements – would be unlikely to be as effective; and that this was therefore a dangerous move at a time when the need to provide support to students has never been greater. It was also unclear whether, or how, the characters and traditions of individual Halls could be nurtured within the new structure.....and, indeed, how Hall Associations could continue to operate in anything like the ways in which we have done in the recent past. Fortunately, the weight of representations from a wide range of sources resulted in a considerable number of changes for the better being made prior to implementation. We must hope most sincerely that the new Residential Life Services team will make a clear success of the organisational and pastoral care roles; and that they are able to provide the support needed by Hall Associations for them to play their own roles vis-à-vis the Halls and their residents - there are encouraging signs so far

Secondly, the University decided that the Alumni Weekend was taking up disproportionate resources within the Alumni Relations Office, and that their input should therefore be scaled back. Hall Associations (and, in particular, Wills HA) were therefore faced – at a late date - with the need to take over organisational roles in relation to the Weekend that had previously been staff functions. After a somewhat experimental start in relation to the July 2018 Weekend, we can look forward to an event with a more coherent plan in 2019

Thirdly, the University decided that the form and functions of what was latterly called the Alumni Association Committee should be reviewed. Following a protracted process of discussion, it was agreed that the latter's executive roles should (mostly) be taken over by the Alumni Relations Office, with the AAC being reconstituted as an advisory body. This will come into operation during 2019

Fourthly, the nature of Court has also been changed with, *inter alia*, the number of Alumni Association Representatives on it being reduced from 100 to 30; the rationale for this is that the body will become less cumbersome – and more useful to the University. We shall see

Against this background, a number of planned CHA initiatives for the year had to be postponed; and it is difficult to predict whether (or when) it will be possible to revive these. However, the website mentioned in last year's Report is now up and running. Please visit it (www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk) and interact with your Association through it – or, of course, through any other medium

Please also allow me to repeat my invitation of last year to anyone who feels able to devote a little time to Churchill matters to volunteer to help your Committee. Ideas and assistance would be very welcome.....and we, the Committee, need to be much younger and less male! We also need volunteers who are Bristol-based. Please get in touch (committee@churchillhallassociation.co.uk)

Lastly, the Annual Dinner in 2018 was a great success – words and pictures in a later article – and I am sure that this will be true also of the 2019 event. Please come – make up a small party, perhaps - and thereby help to ensure that my prediction is correct! I shall look forward to meeting you then

Alastair Scott
Churchill Hall 1962-63

Churchill Hall Association News Update

Professor Robert Mayhew



Robert retired as Warden on 31st August 2018, having been in post since 2009.

As will be seen from other items, he was the last ever Warden of Churchill Hall.

It is interesting to note that, in the 62 years for which the Hall has existed, there have only been five Wardens.

CHA Website

We are delighted to advise that the Churchill Hall Association (CHA) now has its own dedicated website that will assist in the building of an engaged and supportive CHA that represents the views of members.

So please take a look and bookmark for future reference <https://www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk/>, you will be surprised!

Update from Churchill Hall

As was outlined in last year's Newsletter, there have been significant changes for Churchill and the other Halls of Residence from the start of this academic year. The most noticeable effect of these changes is that Churchill is now part of the "North Village" and there are no longer a Warden or Tutors, Robert Mayhew retired on 31st August 2018 as the last Warden of Churchill Hall. Overall management of Churchill is now through the Head of Residential Life in the North Village, Andrew Abbey, (who is responsible for about 2,400 students) he, in turn, reports to the Head of Student Residential Life in the Student Services Directorate of the University.

In Churchill, as in all Halls, there is now a Chief and several Senior Residents, who are mostly post-graduate level students. These are salaried, part-time posts who will provide advice and peer mentoring to individual students, proactively identifying vulnerable students and community-building in partnership with the JCR.

The Chief Residents report through Residential Life Advisors (there are 7.4 in Stoke Bishop) who are rostered to provide 24/7 cover, with support for students including responding, in general terms, to concerns about students' welfare as well as community building and encouraging such things as healthy living. The Residential Life Advisors report to the Deputy Head of Residential Life. Also reporting to the Head of Residential Life are a Residential Experience Coordinator, who should forge links between the Residential Life team, JCRs, the Students' Union and other bodies. A Senior Academic Tutor will support the Residential Life Team with academic tutoring. This structure is repeated for two other "villages" (Clifton with 2,500 students and the City Centre 2,600 students; a fourth is planned for the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus).

The thinking behind these changes is 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. The new structure is designed so that issues or problems identified by any student can be dealt with by the most appropriate service within, or in some cases outside, the University.

Representatives of the CHA and of other Hall association committees have met, twice with Head of Residential Life (North) and other representatives of the various Residential Life and Student Services teams. The first meeting was to help us develop our understanding of the new arrangements, and for the associations to be able to provide a background to and history of the Halls. A second meeting in early December reviewed how things were progressing. Although it's very early days the new arrangements, after some teething problems appear to be bedding in, and there is a clear commitment by the Residential Life (North) to work with the JCRs and maintain the traditions of the Halls as far as possible within the limited resources.

David Ewart (Churchill Hall 1974-77)

Memories of a Resident of Churchill Hall 1975-1978.

I was 19 years' old when I applied for my place at University. I had grown up in Truro in Cornwall, from the age of 6, but had not passed my 11 plus and so had gone to the local mixed secondary modern school. In 1971 I was 15 and had the option to leave school or take the Certificate of Secondary Education exams. CSE's had a poor reputation with employers and my standing in tests had improved, having been diagnosed as needing glasses, I therefore transferred to Cornwall Technical College to take a two-year O level course. This was the last year that that this could be done as the school leaving age was raised to 16 in Sept 1972. CSE's and O levels were subsequently replaced in GCSEs in 1988. I excelled at Cornwall Technical College and continued with A levels.

I did sufficiently well to be accepted for a place at Bristol University, and in 1975 I came up to Bristol to read Chemistry, I had reviewed the accommodation options and had chosen Churchill Hall, as my obvious choice. Accommodation was in blocks A-K and consisted of a room with a bed, a desk against the window with angle-poise lamp and a wardrobe. Each block had a communal toilets with washing basins and a shower. Power sockets were very sparse and round pin and were limited to 5 amp; kettles were not allowed. It was obviously before the days of the internet and mobile phone, and a single phone box was under the stairs on the ground floor.

The Holmes and Waltham houses were also a part of Churchill Hall in these days and it was not uncommon to stay in Hall beyond the first year. Weekday food consisted of a full English breakfast and an evening meal including an often-unidentifiable soup of the day. The weekend fare comprised a formal meal on Sunday lunchtime, and on Saturday a midday meal when we were issued with a packed lunch for the evening.

After the formal meal on a Sunday we would gather in the JCR to discuss issues in Hall. I stayed on in Hall for my second year and the JCR voted in soft toilet paper!

When I was young I had been given a Kodak camera, and I became a keen photographer. In the third year I took over the running of the Hall's darkroom, located in the Holmes. This entitled me to a room in the Holmes which I was pleased to accept. This had larger rooms and had some notoriety as it had been used during the Second World War as the residence of senior members of the US army; there were many photos in the original entrance hall area of the building. Importantly the rooms had a gas fire to provide the heating. This transformed the Saturday packed lunch that we were issued as you could toast the bread rolls and the slab of plastic cheese.

During the spring of 1978, my third year, the JCR turned its thoughts to whether the hall should become mixed. Passionate views were aired on both sides of the argument, the JCR eventually voted to accept women from the next intake.

Since I graduated in 1978 many major changes have come to pass, with students these days expecting more of their accommodation. We now enjoy the benefit of these changes when we stay in Hall to attend the Alumni Weekend.

Philip Lake
B.Sc Chemistry 1975-1978



Treasurer's Report

I begin by making the same point that I made last year: – because the Churchill Hall Association's Accounting Year ends on 31 March, the information presented here is very historical, relating to the year to 31 March 2018, and therefore included figures relating to the 2017 Reunion (which is our main activity)

The accounts to 31st March 2018 show a 'technical' shortfall of £735.01, compared to a 'technical' surplus of £714.00 in the previous year. As explained last year, the timing of the advertising of the Reunion meant that some bookings had been received for the 2017 weekend before the end of the CHA's Financial Year-End, which resulted in the surplus. Consequently, this results in a deficit for the year. The actual shortfall on the Reunion events was a trivial £17.48.

There was reference in my report last year to the Committee's agreement to support the Hall in the purchase of a grand piano for the use of students. The changes in management arrangements for Student Residences mean that this proposal is not going forward at the present time. However, we recognise that we hold greater reserves than we are likely to need and that one of our objectives is to support the facilities provided in the Hall for students: we will therefore continue to explore the possibilities and details will be provided in future news-letters

Keith Walton, Hon Treasurer, CHA

CHA Reunion Weekend, 2018

The Weekend began on Friday evening with a Bristol Branch/CHA organised reception for all alumni in the Holmes and a tour of the University Botanic Gardens (the former Holmes gardens) which included a tour a sculpture exhibition. This seemed to be greatly enjoyed, not least because, immediately beforehand, it had been pouring with rain (see the pictures below).



On Saturday there were a number of events mainly organised by the Wills Hall Association (WHA): key among these were:

- In the morning a boat trip around the City Docks lasting a little over two hours, covering both the history and modern developments of the dock system.
- In the afternoon there was a visit to the relatively new Aerospace Bristol, located on the historic Filton Airfield, where every British Concorde made her maiden flight. This visit included a guided tour of a real Concorde.

Between these events the University organized the traditional lunch in the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building. Much enjoyed by all who attended.



In the evening we returned to our tradition of holding our Reunion Dinner in The Holmes (where accommodation was also available), and were very pleased to welcome Matt Carmichael, the Deputy Warden, together with two SCR members; also members of the Clifton Hill House Associations who joined us. The Dinner was preceded by a Reception, where we joined members of the Wills Hall and Badock Hall Associations for drinks in the grounds of Wills Hall. As can be seen from the pictures below we were blessed with fine weather, which helped to make the evening very enjoyable.



On the Sunday morning, following breakfast at Wills Hall, there was a service in the Monica Wills Chapel with coffee following. There was then a lecture in the Chapel organized by the WHA and a buffet lunch in Wills Hall for all those who wished to attend.

Churchill Hall Annual Reunion and Dinner

19 – 21 July 2019

You are warmly invited to our annual Reunion Weekend. As always, a number of events have been arranged, commencing with a Reception at the Botanic Gardens in The Holmes on the Friday evening and ending with lunch in Wills Hall on the Sunday. The outline programme for the Weekend is as follows:

Friday 19 July

6:30 pm - Welcome Reception at the Botanic Garden, The Holmes
9:00 pm

Saturday 20 July

10 am Walking tour of University precinct public art **

10 am - Tour of Clifton Hill House garden
12 pm

11 am - Tour of Wills Memorial Building Tower **
12 pm

12 pm - Reunion Lunch **
2:30pm

2 pm Guided tour of SS Great Britain

2 pm Visit to Aerospace Bristol (unguided)

3 pm - Tea Dance in the Victoria Rooms **
5 pm

5:30 pm - Tour of Badock Hall
6:20 pm

6:30pm Drinks Reception at The Holmes, followed by Reunion Dinner in Churchill Hall

Sunday 21 July

10:30 am Morning service in the Dame Monica Wills Chapel

12pm 3rd Arthur Graves Memorial Lecture in the Dame Monica Wills Chapel

1 pm Buffet lunch in the Wills Hall Dining Room

**these events are organised or promoted by the Development and Alumni Relations Office and, where booking is necessary, should be booked with them. Please note that some events have limited numbers, so you should book early to ensure a place

The highlight of the Weekend is our Reunion Dinner on the Saturday evening which will take place in the main building of Churchill Hall. Our guest of honour will be Professor Robert Mayhew, who was the final Warden of the Hall. We are also pleased to welcome our friends from the Badock Hall, Clifton Hill House and Manor Hall Associations. The Dinner will be preceded by a Reception in the grounds of The Holmes, where we will also be joined by members of the Wills Hall Association.

This year there has been a change in the publicity and booking arrangements for the events of the Weekend. The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) are producing a single publicity leaflet for the Weekend and also a single booking form for all events arranged by the various Halls Associations. Most members should receive a copy of this by post. In addition, an online version of the leaflet and booking form will be available on the Alumni section of the University website. There will also be a link on the website for online bookings. (This is being handled through Eventbrite and you should note that there are charges for booking via this service.) To allow members plenty of time to book, a booking form is provided as part of our Newsletter. The single booking form has meant that all bookings are initially being sent to a representative of one of the Hall Associations (rather than to the individual association). However, details of bookings for our Dinner (and for accommodation in The Holmes) will be forwarded to us and we will acknowledge all bookings.

As you will see, accommodation is being provided in The Holmes (with breakfast at Wills Hall.) In accordance with our normal practice, priority will be given to those who are attending the Reunion Dinner and a room can only be booked for Friday evening if you are also booking for Saturday. Please note that the booking form is presented in a different way this year to cover this point.

Changes in the way the University operates have also meant other changes to the Reunion Weekend arrangements. Full details, including arrangements for meeting for the various events, will be available on our web-site in July.

BOOKING FORM FOR HALL OF RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Friday 19 July – Sunday 21 July 2019

These events are for all alumni and their guests.

Please turn over for accommodation bookings and payment details.

Please send this form by post to: Ian Whiteman 1 Ashdown, Cambalt Road, London SW15 6EL or by email to:

ian_whiteman@hotmail.com, +44 (0) 208 789 3760.**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Subject studied:

Year of Graduation:

Hall of Residence (if applicable):

Years in Residence (if applicable):

If paying the student rate, your year(s) of expected graduation :

Name(s) of your guest(s) and, if they were in a Hall, their contact details (phone and email):

Do you or your guest(s) have any access or dietary requirements?:

Please note: We will share information about what events you are attending with DARO

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

		Ticket price	Number of Tickets	Total Price
Friday 19 July				
6:30 pm	Reception at the Botanic Gardens & The Holmes	£6.00 per person		
Saturday 20 July				
10:00 am	Clifton Hill House. Coffee and pastries, followed by a tour of the recently restored Garden. *	£5.00 per person		
2:00 pm	Guided Tour of SS Great Britain *	£15.00 per person		
2:00 pm	Visit to Aerospace Bristol *	£15.00 per person		
5.30 pm	Badock Hall. Tour of the Hall *	Free event		
6:30 pm drinks reception	Churchill Hall Association, Badock Hall Association, Manor Hall Association and Clifton Hill House dinner (including wine) at Churchill Hall following a reception at The Holmes **	£26.00 Student		
7:15 pm dinner		£37.00 Standard		
Sunday 21 July				
10:30 am	Morning Service at the Dame Monica Wills Chapel			
12:00 pm	The 3 rd Arthur Graves Memorial Lecture in the Dame Monica Wills Chapel: title and lecturer to be confirmed			
1:00 pm	Lunch, Wills Hall Dining Room	£15.00 per person		
TOTAL EVENT PRICE				

ACCOMMODATION**Clifton Hill House, Lower Clifton Hill, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1BX****Contact: University Conference Office, +44 (0)117 428 4000, conference-office@bristol.ac.uk**

Check-in available 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Later check-in is available on request. Breakfast served between 8:00 am – 8:30 am. Single room with shared bathrooms. Limited number of twin rooms with shared bathrooms are available. Price per night for bed and buffet breakfast @ £40.00 single / £66.50 double or twin (inc.VAT).

The Holmes, Stoke Park Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1JG. Contact on the weekend, +44 (0) 7570 812 427

Guests can book 2 nights (Friday and Saturday night) or 1 night (Saturday night only).

If guests do want to book for a single Friday night only, they would need to book their accommodation with Wills Hall or Clifton Hill House.

Check-in: Friday 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Saturday 7:30 am to 10.00 pm. Guests should collect keys from Wills Hall, Parry's Lane, Stoke Bishop, BS9 1AE.

Breakfast is served between 8.00 am and 10:00 am at Wills Hall.

Friday 19 July and Saturday 20 July**Bed & breakfast, Single room (shared facilities) – two nights****Room Price****Number of Rooms****Total Price****£70.00****Bed & breakfast, Single room (en suite) – two nights****£80.00****Bed & breakfast, Double room – 4 foot bed (en suite) – two nights****£120.00****Saturday 20 July****Bed & breakfast, Single room (shared facilities)****£35.00****Bed & breakfast, Single room (en suite)****£40.00****Bed & breakfast, Double room – 4 foot bed (en suite)****£60.00****TOTAL HOLMES ACCOMMODATION PRICE****PAYMENT DETAILS**

Total for all bookings: £_____

- I enclose a donation of £_____ for the Badock/Churchill/Manor/Wills Hall Association (delete as appropriate) made payable to the Wills Hall Association, who will distribute donations as appropriate.
- I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to Wills Hall Association****.
- I am paying by bank transfer to HSBC sort code 40-46-08 account no. 30868590 Wills Hall Association****. Please notify us if you are paying this way. Please give your name as reference.
- I am booking overseas: IBAN is: GB05HBUK40460830868590 and the SWIFT (BIC): HBUKGB4111D. The bank's address is HSBC, Howardsgate, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6BH.

**** The Wills Hall Association is administering all bookings for events taking place in the Halls of Residence.

Please send this form by post to: Ian Whiteman 1 Ashdown, Cambalt Road, London SW15 6EL or by email to: ian_whiteman@hotmail.com, +44 (0) 20 8789 3760.

Notes

* Additional details of where to meet at each venue will be circulated to those who book for these events

** The dress code for the dinners is black tie or lounge suit. The Wills Hall Bar remains open until 12:00 am. The student rate is for those graduating in 2019 or later. Additional wine may be purchased at the dinner.