

CHURCHILL HALL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

From the Warden . . .

After the A.G.M., this year's Reunion will take the form of a joint party with the Hall's Honorary Fellows. The company, the products of the Hall's kitchen and cellar and (if the weather-god is kind) an early-autumn evening in the Holmes' garden should combine to make it a memorable event. One of the particular pleasures of last year's Reunion was the friendly meeting of people whose experience of Churchill was, in some cases, as much as 25 years apart — this year we look forward to a gathering which embraces a generous representation from all periods of the Hall's history:

The A level scores of students entering our university continue to climb, our graduates are increasingly sought after by employers, our research record is impressive — as a community we believe we are engaged in the single most important investment in this country's future; yet behind us and before us we can see nothing but real cuts: in the general level of activity, in staff, in resources, in time for research and in salaries. It is a somewhat bewildering and, unless we guard against it, a depressing time to be involved in education. But the news of Hall is *good*. J.C.R. President Ron Fogelman writes:

"This year the J.C.R. Committee has tried to adopt a fresh approach towards the integration of the many first years who start their university life at Churchill Hall. Apart from ensuring the organisation of regular activities (and the provision of hall facilities) for all of Churchill's residents, we have attempted to encourage the 'minority' groups to hold events. For the masses we have held the usual run of bands, discos and films, all of which have been well attended.

"There has been a high level of participation in sports this year, with Churchill's football team skilfully hacking their way to the top, but sadly pipped at the post in the intra-mural final. However, the team's enthusiasm and efforts should be fully praised in representing the hall. Perhaps the surprise of the year has been the way in which snooker has come to the fore. A hall snooker ladder proved extremely popular and several of Churchill's players have developed their skills to go on to play for the university team.

"Music has also become an active form of entertainment. Two examples of Churchillian initiative provide good examples of the wide-ranging tastes in hall. This year has seen the establishment of a classically-orientated quartet as well as our own home-grown rock band, the infamous 'Dangerous Brothers'.

"The major event of the year was, of course, the highly distinguished Valentines Ball. There was a phenomenal response to the sale of tickets, the result of the Ball's reputation as an unforgettable night out. Dinner tickets sold out within an hour and the single entertainments only tickets (traditionally hard to sell) were oversubscribed. The evening was a great success and full credit should go to the Ball Committee and to all those who contributed to the stylish nature of the affair. The decoration of the dining hall alone was a masterful accomplishment with a beautiful arrangement of roses. Thanks should go to the kitchen staff who have been a great help in this and other events, such as the 'Holmes Garden Party'.

"Residents have shown their charitable natures and a substantial amount of money was successfully raised with their co-operation and support. Our first charity event was the sponsored 'fast' where Saturday tea was sacrificed in order to contribute the proceeds to the Ethiopian Appeal. Also many of the events we held this year, such as band and disco evenings, were in aid of either Ethiopia or Rag. One of our most popular Rag events was the Churchill Pantomime, where several budding young actors had the opportunity to share their talents with the rest of hall. This was very well produced and the sets and special effects helped to make the occasion a true 'spectacular'.

"On behalf of the J.C.R. Committee, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the success of our events and the good-natured, community spirit prevalent in hall. This of course includes not only our fellow students, but the Warden, staff and tutors, who have admirably put up with many of our crazy schemes over the year and were always willing to give us their support."

Random Memories of Claverton, 1958-61

This was the era when it first housed students alone and had no "central function". Its character was, therefore, developing rapidly as we were "isolated" and often had two or three to a room! We did not have "mod cons" such as toasters (for the "rations") or washing machines. A corporate image soon emerged with the help of some "mature characters" and a preponderance of engineers, chemists and medics with the odd legal eagle to inform us what the rules meant! No prizes for guessing some of the following characters:—

1. The statistical sub-warden who was in his own words "most odd"! His love of numbers led him to check the ladies left on time (Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. 10.30 pm, other days 6.30 pm!) and run the shop.
2. The hockey loving misogynist (still the former but definitely no longer the latter).
3. The lawyer who shot off one of the sub-warden's private parts (why always the left one?) every Saturday night and high days and holidays! (He is now a respectable manager in a large Bristol based Co.).
4. The ex guardsman, oarsman and rigger player who appeared in ballet at the Hippodrome and coached the ladies boatclub!
5. The West Indian whose idea of fun was to cause chaos when he had to practice using the fire escape (ropes and pulleys) which was based in his room.
6. The medic who had an illegal radio (licence fee 10/- p.a.) who invited A. R. to play marbles under his door (others claim this honour too!). Maybe that's why he didn't finish the course!

7. His room mate, another medic (who is tragically no longer with us) who later became an inmate of the Holmes and eventually my best man. Famous for his recording of the after effects of "Hall leeks" at J.C.R. meetings and who also ended Sunday football on the Downs by running off with the ball under his sweater — even though the policeman sent to stop the game (Sunday soccer was illegal) hadn't always arrived!

8. The Cornish chemist who always complained the Hall "Cornish Pasties" did not conform to Cornish specification!

9. The psychologist sub-warden who went potty when he entered Claverton during one of those splendid traditional water fights.

10. Which engineer was champion of the blue-flash club!

11. Which extremely quiet engineer knew more verses of "Eskimo Nell" than anyone else — but only after two pints of cider? Who remembers the smell of Claverton after "Madrigals" when *every* container was full of cider!

In 1958 it was easy to identify with Claverton — especially as the view had not been spoilt by "new Halls", the motorway and Portbury Docks. You couldn't see Wales when it rained. When you could — it was about to! It was so easy, that Alan Reynolds feared that it was a "separate Hall" — after all 90% of us trooped off to formal meals together. He need not have worried about our allegiance to Churchill — H. Krun did not live there (but who *was* he?). We ran the Hall shop for years and we represented Hall in the first pedal car race (round College Green in genuine children's models) etc. etc. Our best days were spent at Claverton — not in School!
Doug Spincer

News of Members



went for a holiday (?) in the Middle East instead — hope to see you this year Mike.

Doug Spincer

Edie and their offspring Ian (who is over the six foot mark at 16) and Charlotte who is rumoured to be a hockey player with two good knees — unlike Doug's which are giving the warning signs some of us noticed many years ago — were on holiday last year but we expect representation in '85. We are greatly indebted to Doug for his "Random Memories of Claverton" article which is reproduced in full.

Mike Hoffman (Managing Director Babcock International PLC, Cleveland House, St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LN) was intending to get to last year's reunion but

Note If Mike Pascoe (still in Clifton) is present at this year's do he will confirm that a certain Medic and he were in my room at the time of the marbles incident and that the undermentioned medic pinched my worst line ever!



Roy Livesey

who will be remembered for his noble defence of the proposition that if you were short of petrol it was best to drive as fast as possible before you ran out, reports that

John Chick

is now a University Professor after several years in the Pacific Islands with various University Departments.

Antony Aston

informed us of the change on Valentines Day but we don't know of any significance as to the new address.

Brian Pingree (Dr.)

— come along this year and tell us what's up Doc!

Neil Fitton (Education Department, County Hall, Chester CH1 1SQ) — deserves all our congratulations on his appointment as Director of Education in Cheshire. Perhaps when he comes along this year he can tell us whether or not the old adage still applies — “Cheshire born Cheshire bred, Strong in th'arm and thick in th'ead” — it did when I grew up there!

Christopher P. Evans is now Sales Director for Siemens Communications Systems — who have obviously got ways of making him talk — he is in touch with **David A. Peel** with the Scott Antarctic Survey and **Richard C. Durley** now a Professor at the University of Corvallis, Oregon, USA working on crop growth.

Stephen Adams is in the Min. of Ag. and Fish in the Food Science Division, after finishing his M.Sc. at

City University.

Michael Battison who couldn't make it last year (the Reunion) is still Warden at LEE ABBEY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CLUB, 56/67 LEXHAM GARDENS, LONDON W8 6JJ.

NOTE The reason for the upper case is that we got it wrong last year and confused him with the Institute of Electrical Engineers! The notepaper has on it “Home from home for students of all faiths — staffed by a Christian Community” so we have reason to believe that we will be forgiven for our error last year provided that we don't do it again.

Charles Lambert

won the Sony award for Sports Broadcaster of the year in '84 — did the BBC give the sports editor of Radio Merseyside a rise? If they did — come along this year to celebrate — if not we'll commiserate with you.

Tony Pinnington ('59-'61) is still growing grapes and spending some time at Thorn EMI Electronics.

Churchill Hall Association — Annual General Meeting 21st July 1984

1 MINUTES: of the 1982 A.G.M. were confirmed and signed.

2 1983 A.G.M.: had been held formally by the Chairman, as the Reunion Buffet had been cancelled; the minute of this was accepted.

3 REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

a) **Subscription** — had been raised in March, 1983 to £7.

b) **Recruiting** — the party (cheese and wine for third-years in Hall) had been abandoned because it was now less effective. Instead, all third-years together with second-years who were moving out but had been active in Hall, were circulated and invited to sign away their caution money for their subscription. The letter also pointed out that this entitled them to attend free the first Reunion occurring after their graduation. 15 had joined.

c) **Expenditure** — flowers had been sent to Mr. Caine's funeral and a contribution to a flowering cherry planted (with a plaque) in the Holmes garden looking towards Churchill.

4 NEWS: reported by the Chairman —

a) **Of the University** — on the retirement of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Haggett had become interim Vice-Chancellor. Professor Kingman

(Chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council) would be the new Vice-Chancellor.

There had been more than 100 early retirements — the cuts were biting.

b) **Of the Hall** — Waltham, Claverton and some car parks were being sold to ease the University's cash crisis. It had been a marvellous Hall year — lively, caring and well behaved — with the Hall having its first lady President.

Further splendid news was the First gained by the Bar Manager, the prowess in the sports field, an excellent Hall Ball, and the Chairman could not remember when Churchill had not raised more money in Rag than any other institution in the University. Molly Hand (in the kitchen) and three tutors were leaving.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT: this had been circulated and he summarised it as “no news is good news”.

6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: John Townsend, the retiring Hon. Secretary, was thanked for his efforts over the past ten years and elected as a Committee member; the other officers and members were re-elected. Norman Bridge was also elected to the Committee.

Churchill Hall Association

Financial Statement for the Year to 31 December 1984

1983	Income and Expenditure	1984
	Income	
230.68	Building Society Interest	256.89
31.89	Subscriptions	67.85
<u>262.57</u>		<u>324.74</u>
	Expenditure	
8.00	Alumni dues	15.00
—	Reunion loss	36.17
20.00	Presentation	—
60.24	Postage	43.75
<u>88.24</u>		<u>94.92</u>
<u>£174.33</u>	Surplus	<u>£229.82</u>
	Assets	
167.88	Bank	140.81
3865.19	Building Society	4122.08
<u>4033.07</u>		<u>4262.89</u>
	Statement of Sources and Applications of Funds	
	Sources	
174.33	Surplus of income over expenditure	229.82
56.35	Decrease in Bank Account	27.07
<u>230.68</u>		<u>256.89</u>
	Applications	
<u>230.68</u>	B/Society Interest reinvested	<u>£256.89</u>

“SEE YOU ON THE 28th SEPTEMBER 1985!”

(Competition for the top 10 Hall Jokes —
for publication — next issue)

And Now A Word from our Sponsor. . .

The production costs for this Newsletter are paid for in rotation by the kind generosity of organisations who are interested in the future of the Association. This year it is the turn of Hendoncrest Ltd. whose Directors are Peter Stagg (the 6' 11" former British Lions and Scotland Rugby player) and Alan Morrell.

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