

The Churchillian

The Newsletter of the Churchill Hall Association (CHA)

Summer

2023



**The Newsletter seeks to update readers on the activities of the
CHA and the wider Alumni network**

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News and Updates

Visit to Chartwell in July 2022

Chartwell in Kent was the home of Winston Spencer Churchill for many years. Following a successful visit in 2014 the Churchill Hall Association, in conjunction with the London Branch of University of Bristol Alumni, planned a repeat visit in 2020. This was delayed a couple of times due to the Covid Pandemic but finally went ahead on 9th July 2022.

The organisation of both visits was greatly helped by one of the volunteers at Chartwell, namely Adrian Mezzetti who graduated in Law at Bristol in 1965. Ironically, Adrian was Chairman of the Wills Hall Association for about 5 years around the time of our first visit in 2014.

The visit for 34 people was originally planned to provide coffee and a modest lunch and, as is the usual practice, numbers and special dietary requirements were provided by the previous Monday. No problem we thought as Eventbrite- our booking agency - supply all this information.

Imagine my anxiety when, despite several attempts, I couldn't get through to Chartwell on the phone. I had a similar problem on Tuesday and at this point I started to get worried. No luck on Wednesday either until in the evening when I got home, I found that Adrian had tried to contact me.

He informed me that Chartwell had a problem with their water supply and their café was stopped from selling food. By this time it was too late to contact Chartwell so thoughts of cancelling the visit were uppermost in my mind.

However, all was saved on the Thursday when we spoke to Chartwell catering staff. Yes, there was a problem with the water supply but visitors could bring their own food and drink. (As it happened coffee, tea and bottled drinks were available). So we went ahead but everybody had to be quickly informed via email (thank you Alan Ingham of the London Branch) of the change of circumstances to bring their own food and there would be a cash refund. So, a dramatic start!

Saturday arrived, thankfully nice weather, with arrival from 10 am in Chartwell's Mulberry room. Whilst we waited Adrian had set out a collection of Bristol and Churchill books and photos to view. Thankfully most guests arrived on time, albeit some were a little late due to problems on the M25.

The main event in the morning was a talk by a Churchill historian, Mr Alan Berridge who chatted to us on Churchill's legacy but also delving into his family history going back to Civil War times. His talk was most interesting, and it was followed by some fascinating questions.

After the 'bring your own lunch' we split into 2 groups to tour the house, ably led by Adrian and Alan. The house is full of Churchill memorabilia, even his 'special gown' which he wore to graduation ceremonies in Bristol.

Afterwards we went to the Shed and saw many of Churchill's paintings and then the brick wall he built, although this looked as though it was in need of some restoration.

For those interested in our former Prime Minister and University Chancellor they should make a visit.

Many thanks to both Alans and Adrian.

David Clarke
CHA Events Officer

Annual Reunion Weekend 2022

After two years with no annual reunion due to the pandemic, last year saw a return to normality. This allowed the CHA to arrange in-person events, with the Annual Dinner being arranged for the 3 September, as part of the Reunion Weekend running from 2 to 4 September 2022.

For the first time it was held in the main dining room which was refurbished in 2016. We booked a professional after dinner speaker, Tony Harris, who entertained us by walking us through Churchill's eventful life.



Weekend events included guided tours of Bristol University's botanic gardens



and a trip to Clifton Suspension Bridge.



Philip Lake
Communications Officer

Charity Rugby Match, March 2023

In 2019, James Johnson (Wills Hall 2019-20) started planning a charity rugby match to be played between Wills Hall and Churchill Hall. He decided to support the Ted Senior Foundation, a charity set up in memory of a former graduate of Bristol who had moved to Swansea University and had sadly taken his own life in 2018. This inspired his family to set up a charity to improve mental health support and suicide prevention (www.thetedseniorfoundation.org).

Discussions ensued between the associations of Wills and Churchill Hall and these resulted in CHA agreeing to purchase a cup to mark the occasion and to be presented to the winning team. The inaugural match was planned for late March 2020 but for understandable reasons wasn't played until James was a final year undergraduate. The match was a victory to Churchill Hall.

The second game took place on Friday 3 March 2022 at a very chilly Coombe Dingle. A quick check with the referee before kick off reassured all about his impartiality; he was a Goldney alumnus! The Chair of the Churchill Hall Association joined the President of the WHA in the box for a bird's eye view of the game with a friendly running commentary provided by rival groups of Wills and Churchill supporters who joined them to watch the match. A large crowd from Wills could be easily spotted on the touch line wearing matching headwear (Wills JCR Committee were selling a surplus of bucket hats which had been found in their store room, with all funds going to the charity).

It was a strong showing from both teams with Wills being especially dominant in the first half. Fortunes turned in the second half with Churchill Hall once again being triumphant, and the CHA Chair took great pleasure in presenting the cup to the victorious team. The final score was 31-28, an excellent evening. Congratulations to Toby Hill for leading the organisation.



Charles Gunter
President Wills Hall Association

Updates from Churchill Hall



An update from Andrew Abbey
Senior Manager, Residential Life (Wellbeing)
Education and Student Experience

The highlight of the 2022/23 year has been the continuation of the re-establishment of the unique sense of community that is always apparent at Churchill Hall following the ending of all restrictions associated with COVID in April 2022. As with the previous cohort, there is a friendly and lively atmosphere between the students and a politeness and respectfulness towards the staff.

Given again that most of this year's residents will have had their final years at school impacted significantly by lockdowns, it has been good to see students embracing life at Churchill and the Holmes making the most of moving away from home, developing new friendships, many of which will last a lifetime.

At the start of the current academic year, the first full day of Welcome Week coincided with the funeral of Queen Elizabeth and this contributed to a quieter than usual start to this hectic, special time.

The Christmas Formal took place and was well attended, with two members of the Churchill Hall Association committee and I being made very welcome by this year's JCR. More recently on Friday 2 June, the JCR organised an end-of-year outdoor event with music and food. The warm weather on the day helped ensure an enjoyable afternoon for Churchill students.

For any Churchill resident reading this I would recommend you consider joining the Churchill Hall Association as this gives a great opportunity to continue your links with where you lived in your unique, all important first year.

Can I also recommend you pay a visit to the nearby Botanic Gardens too. Entrance is free to students; they are not large but are a great place to relax with plentiful information and interest.

A reminder too that support is available 24 hours a day for students of any year. Students who are now leaving Churchill and will live in the private sector can call our Wellbeing Access team anytime on 0117 456 9860 or can complete a [Request for Support Form online](#) via the University website.

Updates from Churchill Hall

Both the Student Wellbeing Services and Residential Life are services which support students living and studying at the University and we support very many students with all kinds of challenges, signposting students to appropriate support services internally and externally.

Within Residential Life, additional resource is being committed to further develop and deliver community building activities across the University's resident student cohort, including students of Churchill Hall, working with the JCR and our own Chief and Senior Residents.

A thank you to Freya, Jacob and Giada, our Churchill Chief and Senior Resident team this year, and best wishes to all of you as you move onto the next stage of your lives. We in Residential Life will miss you.

As always, a big thank you to John, Hayley and their team in Campus Division, all those who keep the buildings running, to the Security team, and to the Catering team who unswervingly provide fourteen meals a week.

Finally, a little bit of history. Next year is the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France that began the fightback against the tyranny of the Nazis. Churchill's name is obviously firmly linked to this.

It might not be well known that the Holmes was used as a base for the planning of the landings on Omaha beach, with the US Generals Bradley and Patton having lived in the Holmes during this period, preparing for this history changing event before leaving for the south coast on 5 June 1944.



Alumni Weekend 2023 Fri 14th July – Sun 16th July

Bookings can be made now through the [Eventbrite booking page](#). Bookings close 29 June.

Full programme for the weekend and details of accommodation [can be found online here](#) (PDF, 261kB).

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| Friday 14th July 7:30pm-9pm | Welcome Drinks and Networking Social | Senate House Ground Floor, 24 Tyndall Ave, BS8 1TQ |
| Saturday 15th July 11am-12pm | Bristol Old Vic Theatre “People’s Tour” | Bristol Old Vic, King St. BS1 4ED |
| Saturday 15th July 11am-12:30pm & 1pm-2.30pm | Wills Memorial Building Tower Tour | Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, BS8 1RJ |
| Saturday 15th July Gather 1:45pm for 2pm-3pm. | The Matthew (private cruise) Note: the Bristol Harbour Festival will be taking place this weekend | The Matthew, Princes Wharf Bristol, BS1 4RN |
| Saturday 15th July 3:30pm-5:30pm Meet at Reception Building on Somerset Side. | Clifton Suspension Bridge “Hard Hat” Tour meets at Clifton Toll House see https://cliftonbridge.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Access-Guide-2022.pdf | Clifton Suspension Bridge |
| Saturday 15th July at 6.15 pm | Reunion Weekend Drinks Reception | Wills Hall Grounds, Parry Lane, Bristol BS9 1AE |
| Saturday 15th July 7.15 pm dinner | Joint Dinner at Wills Hall Dress Code Black Tie / Lounge Suits Estimated finish time for taxis 10pm After dinner drinks in the Wills Hall bar until midnight | Wills Hall Main dining room (upstairs) Parry Lane, Bristol BS9 1AE |
| Sunday 16 th July 9.45 am | CHA Meeting— Past Members of hall welcome | Bradley Room The Holmes Ground Floor |
| Sunday 16 th July 10.30 am | Reunion Weekend Morning Service | Dame Monica Wills Chapel, Wills Hall, BS9 1AE |
| Sunday 16 th July 10:30am Coffee 11am -12:30pm Tour | Clifton Hill House and Garden Tour | Clifton Hill House, Lower Clifton Hill, Bristol BS8 1BX |
| Sunday 16th July Coffee 11:30am 12pm Recital | Arthur Graves Memorial Event: Piano Recital | Dame Monica Wills Chapel, Wills Hall, BS9 1AE |
| Sunday 16th July 1 pm | Sunday - Lunch | Wills Hall Main dining room (upstairs) Parry Lane, Bristol BS9 1AE |

Staying in Contact

A reminder that the [Churchill Hall Association has its own website](#) that contains up to date information on events, and newsletters and articles on Churchill Hall.

It is designed to assist in the building of an engaged and supportive CHA that represents the views of its members. Please take a look and bookmark for future reference www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk.

Bristol Connects

Bristol Connects is an online platform for Bristol alumni, students and staff. Connect with your global alumni community to make new connections, gain insights and share professional experience. www.bristol.aluminate.net

When you update your profile you can identify that you stayed at Churchill Hall. To do this please login to Bristol Connects, go to 'My Profile' and find 'Your time at Bristol'.

You can use the edit function to add your Hall of Residence and any Students' Union club or society that you were affiliated with from the pulldown menus.

Passing on the news

Please pass this information on to any former Churchill Hall residents that you have stayed connected with who are interested in reconnecting.

If you want to ensure that the University have your current contact details you can update them by emailing alumni@bristol.ac.uk or phoning +44 (0)117 394 1046 .

Local Alumni Branches

Bristol University have a number of local branches to aid alumni staying in touch. These include the Bristol Branch, London Branch, Midlands Branch and Cambridge Branch in the UK.

The London Branch hosts several events a year, including an annual lecture, a guided walk of a part of London and an annual carol service. The Cambridge Branch hosts at least 2 events a year; normally also lecture based.

The Midlands Branch has an annual lunch and AGM in January (which has only been cancelled when affected by Covid). For the last few years they have had a visit to the Opera House in Buxton in August and they normally also have one or two other visits each year.

The University also has branches across the world, including Canada, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, and China. If you would like to know more, or be put in touch with any of these branches please contact the University; alumni-volunteers@bristol.ac.uk.

Could you help the Churchill Hall Association?

The covid-19 lockdown has demonstrated the real willingness of many people to give their time or skills to help others in a whole variety of ways.

We need your help us to fulfil this purpose effectively. Why? Because this Committee needs be able to reflect the interests and views of the whole membership, and currently it is insufficiently diverse to do this. We very much need the involvement of relatively recent graduates and from those of you who were in Hall after it went mixed. Members based in or around Bristol, or still at the University would also be very valuable.

Could you assist? Please give this idea some thought – and then email us, entirely without commitment, to committee@churchillhallassociation.co.uk so that we can discuss with you what might be involved – we'd be happy to be flexible. We would love to have your involvement, and are confident that you'd enjoy this particular way of making a difference.

Churchill Hall Association Committee

Purpose

The Churchill Hall Association (CHA) comprises all those who are or have been resident at Churchill Hall, who have had a substantive attachment to the Hall, for a period of one year (or a substantial part thereof).

The purposes of the CHA Committee (CHAC) are to contribute to building an engaged and supportive CHA community, and to consult with and represent the views of members either to the Hall or to the University.

Full terms of reference and job descriptions are available on our website:

www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk/cha-committee/

Finance Update

Finances to 31 March 2023

The assets of the Association reduced by £298.95 during the year to a figure of £3,455.18. The reduction is the result of supporting the Inter-Hall Rugby match by providing the trophy (£115.00) and having a professional speaker at the Reunion Dinner (£280.00) The general booking and finances for the Reunion Weekend were handled by the Wills Hall Association (although we were consulted throughout) and this gave rise to a surplus for us of £115.95. In addition, the visit to Chartwell which was jointly arranged by the London Branch of Alumni and the Association resulted in a surplus for us of £72.52. Interest rate increases in recent months have resulted in the amount of interest credited to our savings account being over 30 times that received last year.

Keith Walton, Hon Treasurer.

