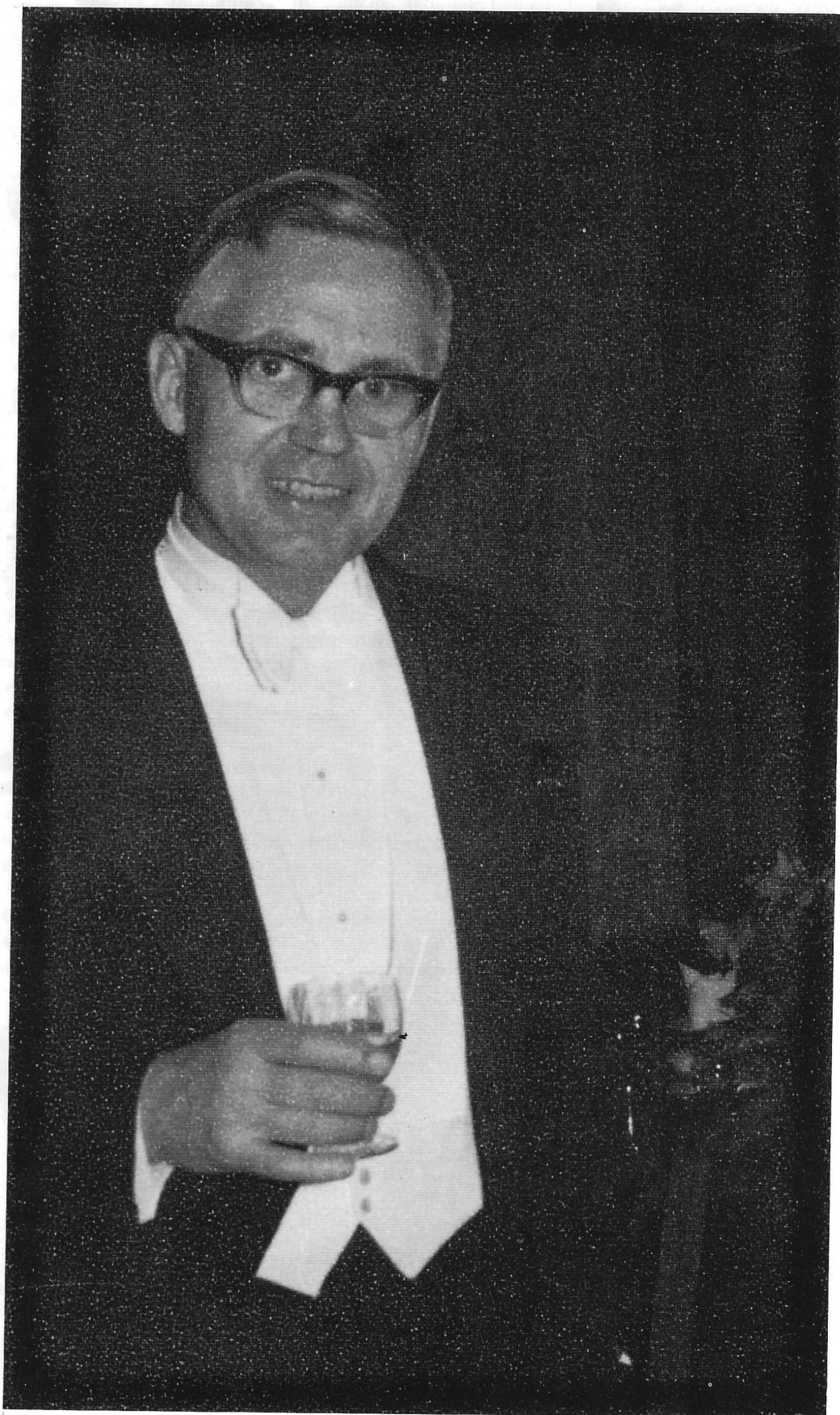


Churchill Hall Association



Dr. Alan Byrne Reynolds 1910 - 1991

"He was a man. take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again."

Editorial note.

What follows is simply a collection of tributes, in an attempt to show the many facets of one of the most remarkable men it has been our privilege to know.

To the very first members of Churchill Hall in particular he was like a second father - life was so different then; perhaps one of A.B.R.'s most telling accomplishments was to be able to be the same yet cope with changing times.

Throughout this publication we have inserted photographs of the original members of Churchill Hall. How many of you remember the influence Alan Reynolds had on your lives? Several thousands since you probably do.

Alan's legacy to the Association is to be used to create a computer room in Hall, which will be named after him.

Alan Morrell.

An example of A.B.R.'s lucid prose style, lightly touched with humour, here is his account of the Hall's relationship with the man after whom it was named:

"As is proper for a godfather, Sir Winston was interested in the possibility of new Halls long before Churchill Hall was named after him. In 1946 the Churchill Appeal made a considerable point of the vital importance of enough Halls of Residence and the Chancellor's introduction to the Appeal supported its objects with his usual clarity and force -

"It has been my privilege to be Chancellor of this University for the last seventeen years. I have followed its fortunes with constant interest. I have watched its growth - in influence as well as in size - with pride.... It has many natural advantages and a tradition of good teaching which combine to make it of all the provincial Universities one of the most suitable for extension."

"We must not, indeed we cannot, leave the financing of such extensions entirely to the State".

"Churchill Hall has certainly not been left entirely to the State. It is proud to bear Sir Winston's name, honoured that he has followed its fortunes with constant interest and watched its growth, and delighted to hold a number of reminders of his personal concern - a splendid portrait in Hall, on loan from the University, but also a signed portrait presented by himself; his Coat of Arms over the main entrance; a badge made up of items from the Coat of Arms and, less obvious but more personal, a series of letters showing to what extent he kept the Hall and its members in mind."

"In 1957, in the first year of the Hall's existence, he was being asked to associate himself more closely with it and was combining interest in its welfare with a characteristic concern that everything should be done with due respect for tradition. He "would be very happy to be Honorary President of the Churchill Hall association" but while he "would certainly have no objection" to the use of the lion from his Coat of Arms as part of the Hall badge he added a reminder "that this should be cleared with the College of Heralds in case they see some technical difficulty".

"Fortunately the College of Heralds was very co-operative and about a year later Sir Winston was sending his thanks for a Hall tie, was "most interested, too, in the crest" and thought the designs were very pleasing. Members of the Hall studied newspapers and news films in the hope of seeing their Honorary President wearing his tie but decided that he was perhaps keeping it in reserve for his official visit to unveil the Coat of Arms."

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"About this there was more difficulty. The Architect had provided a splendid position for it and the Heralds were again helpful - perhaps too helpful, as they advised that the suggestion would more properly be made by Sir Winston and gratefully accepted, rather than proposed, by the University. This led to some misunderstanding but in November 1957 Sir Winston wrote formally "to request you to put my Coat of Arms over your front door" and all was well. The carving and colouring, beautifully done, took about a hundred and sixty hours of meticulous work and it is therefore surprising that the sculptor's chisel should have slipped, yet, hidden in the stone mantling and certainly not visible in the copy supplied

by the College of Heraldry, is something remarkably like a "V" sign followed by the familiar dash and dots in the Morse Code."

"Everyone hoped that Sir Winston would be able to unveil the Coat of Arms and it was hidden under a curtain until he could formally reveal it and declare the Hall open. A programme was printed for the ceremony on December 5th, 1958 and may puzzle historians because Sir Winston was unable to visit Bristol. Next Summer he was still unable to come and ambitious schemes for an opening by television failed to mature; but this time Sir Winston wrote formally to ask the Lord Sinclair of Cleeve, as Pro-Chancellor, to open the Hall on his behalf. The letter, kindly presented by Lord Sinclair, is now framed, with a copy of the Coat of Arms and the signatures of the members and friends of Hall who were present, and makes a pleasing memento of a pleasing occasion. Sir Winston gratefully accepted photographs of the ceremony and would probably have been interested to know that the "signature" of a popular radio entertainer* appears among those of distinguished visitors. He would have liked to know that the genuine pride of members of the Hall does not always prevent undergraduate cheerfulness from breaking in."



The 'topping out' ceremony.

"Apart from formal acknowledgments of formal greetings on special occasions the last exchange of letters was in November 1959, when the University Council celebrated Sir Winston's 85th birthday by presenting a new portrait and transferring the earlier portrait by Mrs. Stevenson Wright from the Reception Room to the Churchill dining hall."

"We were delighted yesterday to celebrate your birthday by a very pleasing ceremony at which the Vice-Chancellor, dining in Hall with an impressive assembly of friends and members of Churchill Hall, unveiled your portrait and proposed your health on your eighty-fifth birthday."

"It gave great pleasure to all members of Hall to receive a handsome portrait on loan, we hope on permanent loan, from Council and to inaugurate a celebration of your birthday which will be a source of pride and pleasure to many generations."

"Sir Winston's reply is signed less firmly than usual and has "Yours very sincerely" written twice and once deleted. But it makes a fitting conclusion to an interesting series of letters:-

"Thank you very much for your letter, in which you tell me of your celebration of my 85th birthday. I am very much complimented by what took place, and I hope that you had an agreeable day."

"It is a great pity that Sir Winston was never able to visit his Hall and that its members were disappointed in their hopes of seeing him. They sometimes feel that there is, after all, something appropriate about the motto on the Coat of Arms. *Fiel pero desdichado* means, as Sir Winston explains in his biography of Marlborough, faithful but unfortunate, - not at all appropriate to Britain's War-time Prime Minister or the University's Chancellor but perhaps partly appropriate to Mr. Churchill in the 1930s. The Hall, similarly, was unfortunate in its failure to entertain Sir Winston but its name, its portraits, its badge and Coat of Arms and a series of interesting letters more than make up for this temporary disappointment and do not cloud the good fortune of association, not merely nominal but also personal, with a very great man."

**The presence of Henry Krun being the contribution of a now internationally recognized authority on - appropriately - bats.*

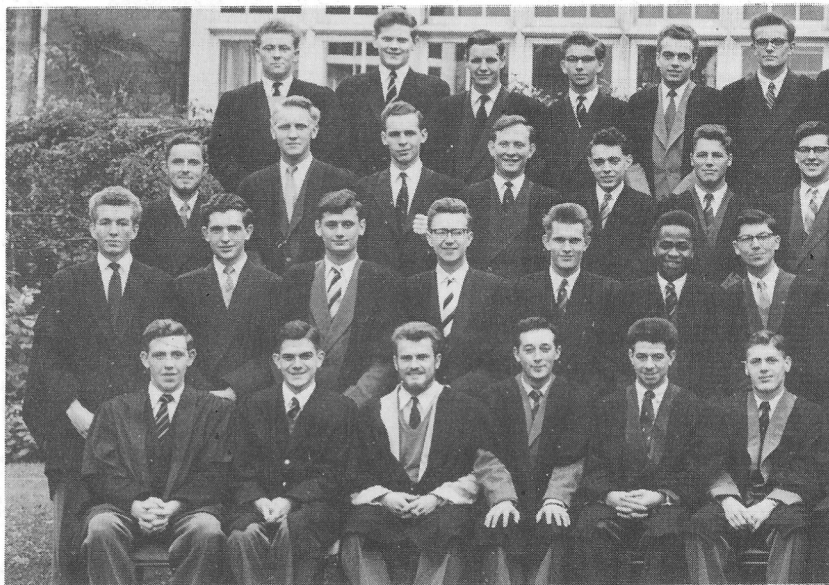
Heila Brennan, formerly of the School of Education and Warden of Clifton Hill House writes -

Although I was a member of the Warden's Committee for many years with Alan, I find it difficult to think of him in only one capacity. Who can? -- his interests and activities were far-ranging and whole-hearted. I knew him first in the early 1930's, when I was helping to train young English graduates in the then Department of Education. In those days of a much smaller and closely-knit University Alan was a particular friend of colleagues in Education; he had not forgotten his own days of school-mastering, and his students look back on him with warmth as an enabler, the kind of teacher to emulate.

When I returned to Bristol in 1969 as a Warden, Alan had become Warden of Churchill, and brought to our discussions a unique span of experience, as Bristol graduate, tutor, Warden and mainstay of Convocation. At that time the Wardens covered a wide spectrum of background and approach, and Alan enjoyed sitting firmly in the middle, tilting sometimes to innovation, sometimes to tradition. His good sense and shrewdness were always valued, his mixture of detachment and warmth even more. Other Wardens will have spoken at greater length of his serious contribution to the development of the Halls of Residence. He delighted in the committee of Wardens as a group, and in watching predictable??? reactions to an innocent quiet comment. (On one occasion the usual need to cut costs had raised the possibility of doing away with bed-making in the Mens' Hall. The discussion became moral as well as financial; strong belief that bed-making was part of a University education was countered by an equally strong faith that the daily entrance of a bed-maker encouraged single occupancy. Alan's comment (on whose side?) brought us back: 'In my day', he said, 'we had our shoes cleaned, too'")

He agreed with Arthur Pennington (another notable Warden) that a Warden's greatest assets are a good Domestic Bursar, a good Secretary, and a sense of humour; all these he had, and kept, over many years. He let his staff work in their own way, and had no false pride in himself, but did whatever needed to be done, whether it was organising the communal garden behind Richmond Terrace, running the bar for a Hodgkin House party (or running Hodgkin House, for that matter), helping an old lady to the communion rail each Sunday (I think neither ever knew the other's name)."

A few weeks before he died some-one asked him how he was, and he gave a non-committal reply, but added: 'If you should hear that I've dropped dead in the garden - then thank God!' He would have been honestly surprised to know how many would give thanks for his life."



Some of the founder members

Robert Hamilton, first Warden of Hiatt Baker Hall remembers:

"When we came back from Africa in 1966, he was just about to appoint a new secretary, a bright girl who had just moved here from Oxford. Out of the goodness of his heart, he said 'you will be needing a paragon to start up the new hall', and so provided me with a first class secretary for my first year."

"He was always a noticeably hospitable host of wardens', and other dinner parties and in this rather set us a standard."

"I thought his funeral service was a most moving tribute; a huge, packed church, and Basil Cottle's story of not deciding which was Johnson and which Boswell when they toured the Western Isles struck a note which he would surely have relished."

Robert soon learned some of the delights of wardenship from two of A.B.R.'s characteristic letters:

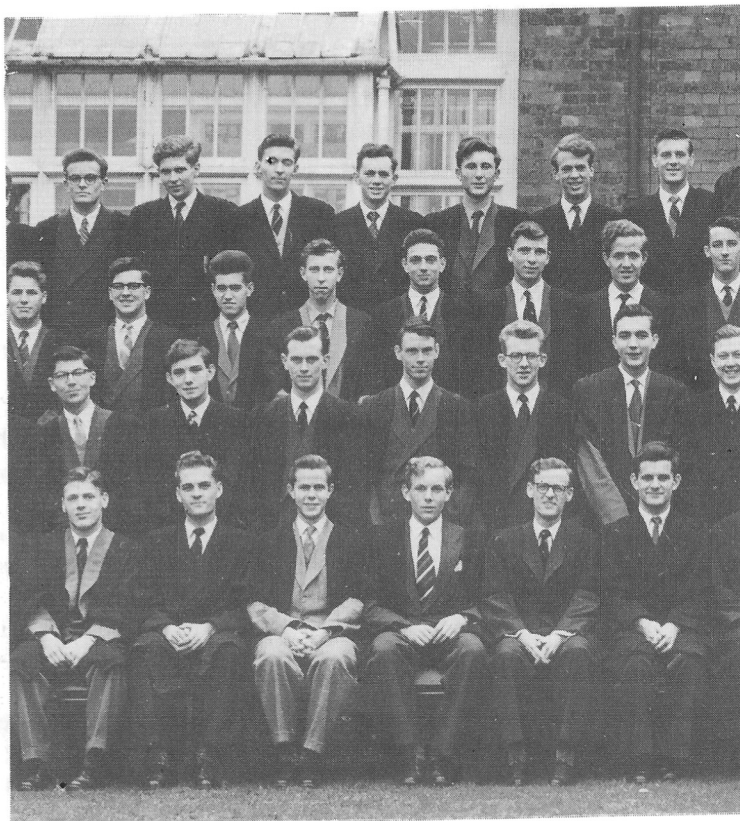
"We seem to be running into a silly season and I think you may be interested to hear of the latest example."

"Sometime on Monday all the lavatory seats in 'A' and 'B' houses were treated with what appears to be black boot polish and one of the cisterns decorated with the word "Badock", also in black boot polish."

"I think the general feeling here is that any sort of reprisal would be very foolish and also that the fact that the operation was labelled Badock suggests that no-one from Badock could have been responsible." There is, of course, no great damage but you will probably wish to be kept informed about incidents of this kind."

"I regret to report that I have had to part with the coach horn which I thought I had acquired permanently."

"Mr. F.J.W.Morris was suitably apologetic and in fact appeared to be a very pleasant person. He assured me that he would not be making any further visits and also that he would be rather careful about what he drank in future. I have told him that I had already spoken to you about the visit and the coach horn and should now be reporting his name and I think he may be sensible enough to see you before you receive this letter. In any case, as far as I am concerned this particular incident is very satisfactorily closed. I will write to you formally about the grass as soon as I have an estimate from Fairgrieve but his preliminary estimate is something under £5 for new turf plus the additional labour."



Some more Founder members

Dr. Jim Holmes, for 36 years Warden of Langford House and, with A.B.R., a co-founder of the Wardens' Committee writes:

"He was what I would call a true academic in every sense of the term. When Churchill Hall was completed, he, with his experience, was the obvious choice to be the first Warden and the first Warden in a hall has great responsibility for its success. He was a man who believed in 'holding fast that which is good' and was wary of change for the sake of change or change which might result in a lowering of standards. This was apparent when the cold wind of financial stringency began to blow and to balance the books it was necessary either to substantially increase fees or to reduce expenditure. One of the major items of expenditure was on salaries and wages. To protect the fees it was proposed that the cost of cleaning could be reduced if students made their own beds. Alan vigorously opposed this suggestion pointing out the importance of staff checking every room daily. However, he finally bowed to the inevitable and once agreeing to the changes he entered into the exercise involving the staff and Trade Union with total enthusiasm. Such was the man - loth to abandon standards he regarded as important but completely cooperative once a course of action had been agreed and he was convinced of the wisdom of the change in the circumstances of the time. He then set out to make it work to minimise any disadvantages which might be part of the price of change.

I also recall the time when we were considering what changes in halls' management might improve efficiency. I drove Alan and other colleagues to Liverpool to see how they ran the halls there. We were well received and spent the day discussing their management structure including arrangements for conferences. We came away more convinced than before that the Bristol system of devolved government had much to commend it."



The new Hall

When our University celebrated its centenary in 1976, Alan Reynolds was chosen to be the recipient of an Honorary Degree at a special Congregation held in the Colston Hall. The Orator was Professor Gifford of the English Department:

"Madam Chancellor,

It is almost fifty years since Alan Bryne Reynolds came up to this University with a Somerset County Scholarship valued at eighty pounds per annum. All but five pounds of this went on paying his fees at Wills Hall, of which not many years later he became Sub-Warden; the residue had to cover the expenses of buying clothes and books and of surviving in the vacations. His father was headmaster of the village school at Huntspill, some thirty miles from this place. There Alan Reynolds was born on the second of July 1910. His mother went back into the village school to teach in 1915 when her husband was chosen to serve as a soldier and was killed in the Great War. Reynolds attended Dr. Morgan's School at Bridgwater from 1922 until 1928, whereupon he entered the English Department of the University. From that department, although officially he retired in 1975, he has not even now been able wholly to extricate himself, for a willing and still mettlesome horse is always liable to recall from pasture."

"He read English here from 1928 until 1932, having to take an extra year because of a road accident, and finished the course with a First Class Degree. In his last undergraduate year he had been Head Student of Wills Hall; he returned to read for a Diploma in Education and to hold the Presidency of the Students' Union. Thereafter he taught for three years in the University of Hong Kong and began research on Basic English as an instrument of teaching. This research he continued in the Session 1936-37 at the London University Institute of Education and at C.K. Ogden's Orthological Institute. He was able to test the efficacy of the instrument at Merrywood Grammar School in Bristol, where he held a post from 1937 until 1940. Then he deserted Basic English, in a not unwelcome escape to basic soldiering, as a recruit to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. From 1941 he served in India, spending a year with white ants in the jungles of Assam, and becoming a captain in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps before he returned to teaching and to Bristol."

"For a year he resumed his post at Merrywood. From 1937 until 1940 he had been Sub-Warden at Wills Hall, and in the same capacity he continued from 1946. Then in 1947 he was appointed to the English Department where for the next twenty-eight years he gave admirable service. Once fully restored to the University, from which he had been parted only by those two sojourns in the Far East, Reynolds contributed to its harmony in a multitude of ways. He was closely involved in the affairs of the Students' Union as a senior member; he sat on committees almost beyond telling of Senate and Council, belonging at various times to both these bodies; and from its foundation in 1956 until 1972 he was the very capable Warden of Churchill Hall. With good humour, patience and discretion he carried out all the tasks that were put before him, and year by year they increased in number. But he was not the man to skimp his teaching for the sake of committee work. Through the weariest days of meetings and consultations, he kept very much alive his interest in Swift and Jane Austen, Dickens and Hardy; as a tutor he was shrewd and watchful; and generations of Bristol graduates in Engineering learned from him the effective use of their mother tongue. For many years the Faculty of Engineering relied on Reynolds to provide a course in English and to examine it in Finals. His classes were a happy experience for those students who may not have realised how much cunning and resource it required of the lecturer."

"Alan Reynolds has his place here today, Madam Chancellor, among the distinguished people whom we honour in our Centenary Year because he has given immeasurably to the University of Bristol. As you have heard, for almost half a century he has belonged to it with an entire loyalty. The study of literature cannot be separated from the ideal of humanity; to love letters, Madam Chancellor, is to retain hope for mankind. In all his service to the University Reynolds has shown himself to be truly humane. The virtues that we admire in him - responsibility, concern for others, an unassuming goodness - are precisely those cherished by Jane Austen, and they constitute the aims of an education in literature."

"Madame Chancellor, I present to you Alan Bryne Reynolds as eminently worthy of the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*."

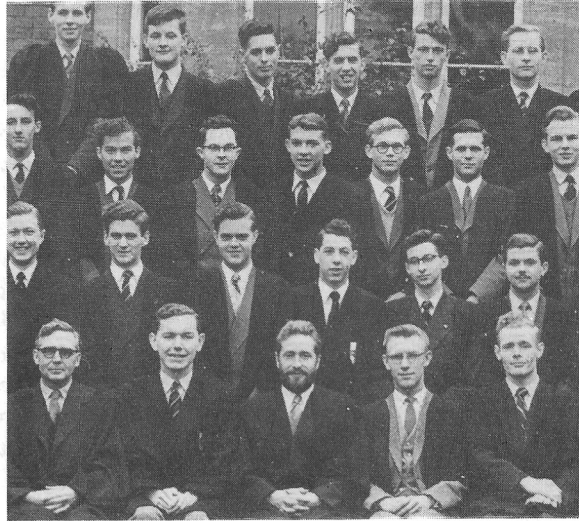


The unveiling ceremony

C.W. Robert of the School of Education and a Vice-Chairman of the Friends of Hodgkin House, remembers Alan's work for the welfare of overseas students:

"Two important strands in Alan's range of interests - his concern for students and his deep Christian convictions - merged in his commitment to the international hostel known first as Meridian Hall and later as Hodgkin House. During the later 1950's, when overseas students from Britain's African and Asian colonial dependencies began to come to Bristol in significant numbers, several groups of Christian idealists began to consider projects for their hospitality and accommodation. Alan was one of those consulted at an early stage by the Anglican group. His reaction was characteristic of the scepticism with which he met proposals which seemed to him unduly starry-eyed, and he dismissed the idea of establishing a hostel as quite impracticable. He recalled this many times, in a self-deprecating way, towards the end of his life, when tributes were being paid to his devotion to this cause."

"When Meridian Hall was formally opened in 1963 he completely accepted the fact that other views had prevailed, and very soon joined its Management Council. Two years later, when a voluntary association of Friends of Meridian Hall was set up to support its work by offering hospitality and friendship to its residents on a more personal basis, Alan became one of its most faithful members. Thus began a very close association which continued, both as Council member and Friend, right up to the end of his life. His involvement was usually quiet and unobtrusive, but his readiness to accept responsibility when needed was shown most clearly in 1979 when he took over as Acting Warden of the Hall for several months, after the sudden death of the Warden, Captain John Campbell. He was also for some time Chairman of the Management Committee of Meridian Hall. After its merger with St. Bridgid's to form Hodgkin House he remained a member of its Council, and Vice-Chairman of the Friends' Association, until shortly before his death, at the age of eighty."



Even more of A.B.R.'s first problems...

Professor T.K. Ewer, Professor Emeritus of Animal Husbandry and former Chairman of the Council of the University Settlement:

"It has proved difficult to be sure of Alan Reynolds' earliest contact with the Settlement. It is certain that by the late 1950's he was playing an important part in our affairs. From Hilda Jennings' book on our history, "Sixty Years of Change 1911 - 1971" we learn that at this time, not only was he closely involved in the newly formed 'University Staff Settlement Group', responsible for organising annual visits by some members to the University for entertainment and refreshment, he was also co-editing the Settlement magazine and, with Miss Goodbody and Anne Cale (also University lecturers) giving up a week of their vacation to decorate the Toynbee Library."

"For many years, he served not only on the Settlement Committee, but also on the Executive Committee, and Miss Marion Jones, the Warden from 1957 to 1967, looked upon Alan as one of the most faithful and concerned of University volunteers."

"I remember most clearly that when I accepted an overseas appointment in 1978, it was to Alan that I turned and persuaded him to be nominated and subsequently appointed Chairman in my place."

"This corresponded to a time of dramatic change in the direction of the Settlement. Miss Jones and her successor, Mrs. Marcia Maddocks, had now retired and there had recently been appointed Mr. Cemlyn as its chief executive, now called Co-ordinator. Funding, particularly from the Manpower Services Commission had become easier and Mr. Cemlyn, overtly left-wing, proceeded to make many new whole-time and part-time workers responsible for running the many clubs and activities at Barton Hill, and at the same time deliberately discouraging the University link and the longstanding support of the "Friends of the Settlement."

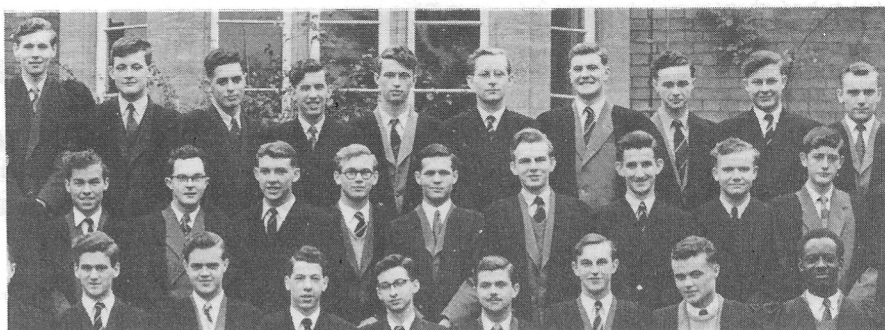
"So it was in no way surprising, although very sad, that in 1979, Alan, with his sensitive and kindly nature, resigned the Chairmanship in favour of Miss Milbank and at the beginning of 1982, left the Council and we saw him no more. Unquestionably, he had made a long and most valuable contribution to the University Settlement."

"In 1929 Wills Hall was opened as Bristol's first 'purpose-built' Residence for men, and Alan and I were two of its original inhabitants. Through no fault of his own he had had a somewhat chequered career. An extremely good-looking youth, at the age of eighteen he had been knocked off his bicycle by a lady driver who then panicked and backed, running over Alan's head in this manoeuvre. He lost an eye and most of his teeth; his nose was smashed. That after this appalling accident he was still a very good-looking youth must be attributed to the astonishing skills of the medics who repaired him, but even they could not restore his eye, and though his glass replacement was remarkably lifelike Alan never could bring himself to believe how good it was. Whatever the damage to his psyche, he triumphed over adversity, took a good degree, and achieved in passing the Presidency of the Union. He then betook himself to Hong Kong and returned home in time to serve in the army in India. After the war he took up schoolmastering, but the University was clever enough to winkle him out of that to make him a Lecturer in English and sub-warden at Wills." "

"How, though, came it about that when the Board of the Engineering Faculty came to the conclusions that the schools from which their undergraduates were drawn had apparently given up the attempt to teach their pupils to write plain straightforward intelligible English, preferably though not necessarily in short sentences with few if any subordinate clauses; and that our graduates should not be allowed not only to disgrace themselves by failing to produce acceptable theses but also, and rather more importantly, to disgrace themselves and the University of Bristol by failing to write technical reports comprehensible even to their managing directors before usurping their positions; and that we had better do something to remedy matters; and that as this simple example shows we were clearly incapable ourselves of tackling such a task, we persuaded Professor James to lend us, not just any one of his colleagues, but Alan Reynolds and no-one else to help us out of our difficulties? It was not a matter for discussion. It is a tribute to his character and reputation that, quite extraordinarily, the Board came immediately to the unanimous conclusion that Alan was the man we wanted, the man who could best do the job, if he would. And typically, though of course it added to his duties but hardly to his chances of advancement, Alan agreed."

"In Hong Kong Alan had been taught to play golf. He was the pride of his pro until the day he decided that he could hit the ball farther. He then went back for another lesson and broke the pro's heart. But we enjoyed our golf. As a partner he was admirable: as an opponent eminently fair. His arithmetic was not always sound, but he is the only man I have ever played against who always, but always, made his mistakes in my favour. On one memorable occasion we arrived at the course to find an obligatory competition in progress, so we collected a couple of cards to let us play. Off the first tee Alan hit a prodigiously long drive. Unfortunately it was badly sliced and finished fifty yards out of bounds. In the guise of Satan, and not having played myself, I suggested that we might perhaps start our game again. The suggestion was treated with the contumely it deserved. So on we went. Whether the first drive had caused an unusual mood of caution or not I know not, but Alan proceeded to play the sort of golf which would have delighted his Hong Kong pro. By the time we arrived at the fifteenth tee it was clear that he had never played such golf before, and probably never would again. The hole normally required at least a 5-iron, but Alan produced his No.7 and the ball landed squarely on the green. But tragedy had struck. The head of his club had left the shaft and travelled quite a long way in pursuit of the ball ... and he would almost certainly need his 7 again. We neither of us had a full set, so I said "Why bother? borrow mine." That was apparently against the rules, so, unwilling to see a phenomenal round spoilt, I said I would GIVE him my 7. Not so: that might have been (though I don't think it was) against the rules too. So he finished the round with no club between his 5 and his 9. And his score, including all the handicaps, harmful and helpful? Eleven under par."

"As a contract bridge player Alan had his idiosyncrasies, which an opponent found it well worth while to study. On the whole his bidding was sound, but, particularly when playing with an unaccustomed partner, there were times when he was not quite clear whether his partner's three-call was a pre-empt or not (the error if any usually due to his partner), what kind of no-trump they had agreed and if they were playing Stayman or not. His opponents could overbid with reasonable confidence provided they had not reached a game call, but woe betided them if they did. Nemesis in the shape of a double was inevitable and usually costly. But Alan's Waterloo came when he was invited to join a self-willed partner at a bridge club where contract was contract and the law was the law. The partner signed them up as playing weak no-trump, 12 to 14 points. In the course of the evening Alan, with 15 points and a balanced hand, called one no-trump. The opponents got to four hearts; Alan as usual doubled; and down they went. Call the Director!! Call the Director!! The Director, clearly a man of sense, having given the matter due consideration, concluded that Alan's miscall had been as likely to deceive his partner as his opponents and dismissed the appeal, but Alan never risked going near that sort of club again. "



Norman Robertson, recently retired from the Faculty of Urban and Regional Studies at Reading University and an Honorary Fellow of Churchill Hall, was its first sub-Warden:

"I first met Alan Reynolds in September 1952, shortly after my arrival in Bristol to take up my first academic appointment. I was new and anxious; he went out of his way to make me feel welcome and at ease. A friendship was formed which was to last almost forty years. Over these years I got to know and admire many facets of Alan."

"There was Alan the gamesplayer. We played cricket, croquet (we never lost a game playing as a pair), squash, tennis, billiards and snooker, and golf. He was a delightful opponent, a keen competitor and the complete sportsman."

"Then I knew him as a warm and convivial companion. His hospitality was legendary. He had a wonderful quiet sense of humour. I have treasured memories of many happy hours spent talking into the night, good wine and conversation flowing."

A"gain there was Alan the true and devout Christian. He was tolerant of all opinions, compassionate and charitable, yet always acting in accordance with simple and deeply held beliefs. He spoke malice of no one."

"Then there was the scholar. He was I think the most widely-read man I have ever known. He had a profound love of English literature, which he was able to impart to others, his friends as well as his pupils."

Perhaps it was as Warden of Churchill Hall that Alan would have chosen to be remembered. I saw him at close quarters, since I spent ten very enjoyable years as his first Sub-Warden. The Hall was dear to him, and it occupied an important place in his heart long after he retired. He gave himself to it unsparingly. He built it up from nothing and his contributions were prodigious, untiring and devoted. Many, many instances come to mind. Suffice it to say that he generated the ethos of a place where hundreds of young people, at a not uncomplicated stage of their development, have been very happy. He subscribed to a simple philosophy - to love the young and wish them well.

Finally, and to me most important, he was my friend, a friend whom I deeply miss now and always shall. He was loyal and kind and goodness emanated from him. I never heard a harsh word spoken of him. For me:

**'He was a man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again.'**



The old Hall - The Holmes.

C. Bruce Perry, Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Honorary Fellow of the Hall and former Chairman of its Hall Committee.

"Alan Reynolds certainly had many facets: although a keen student of 'classical' English and a devotee of Jane Austen, he was prepared to conduct elementary lectures to engineering students on the correct use of English - classes he gave with great success; on the other hand, when Sir Philip Morris, then Vice-Chancellor, gave me a copy of his book "Christianity and the World of Today" I found that in its preface, he thanked Alan - his friend and colleague - for reading and criticising the manuscript."

"He was certainly an excellent Warden and got Churchill Hall off to a flying start. When I had to chair a committee on the management of halls in the early days of Sir Alec Merrison's Vice-Chancellorship, the student members had many complaints about some halls, but none about Churchill."



Raymond Warren, the University's Professor of Music and one of Churchill's Honorary Fellows, writes of A.B.R.'s commitment to the University's Christian community:

ALAN REYNOLDS AT ST. PAUL'S

"Alan was a pillar of the Anglican chaplaincy at the university, serving it in many ways over the years. He took his turn as churchwarden, on the Parochial Church Council, and on various committees, notably in my memory on the inscrutable Finance and General Purposes Committee, for he had that rare quality of being able to understand even ecclesiastical finance. He also had the rare ability to see through the difficulties that can so easily (and at such length) beset parish meetings. Often a single well considered sentence from him would bring matters to an immediate resolution. He had in fact been a pillar of the chaplaincy in the very early days when the services were held in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral, transferring his allegiance when Russell Acheson first set up the new style of parish chaplaincy at St. Paul's in the 1950's."

"He was a very kind and thoughtful man, often to be seen in church sitting beside people who were crippled or lonely - and he would generally take them home afterwards. Such things would be done in a most unostentatious way. Alan was, of course, an unashamed traditionalist in the affairs of the church (as of the university), and I think it is a measure of the affection and loyalty with which he held St. Paul's that he didn't leave when the parish turned its back on his beloved 1662 prayer book and adopted the less sonorous language of the Series 3 liturgy. St. Paul's, being what it is, didn't do the job too ruthlessly and Alan observed the resulting dichotomy with some amusement. I remember sitting near him in church one Sunday when the sermon was preached in the new spirit by the sort of avant-garde young curate the parish seems to attract. He finished with some such words as "Well that's all for now, folks". Then the elderly clergyman in charge of the service immediately called us all to prayer in stentorian 1662 terms "Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here on earth" and a big smile lit up Alan's normally impassive church face!"

"The elderly cleric referred to was Campbell Milford, who helped out in the chaplaincy on his retirement from missionary work in India. He and Alan were particularly close friends, and did a lot of work together at Meridian Hall, now Hodgkin House, the hostel for students from overseas. Another bond between the two of them was that Alan too had been in India. There was a lovely occasion when he produced his officer's box of things collected from his time there, some sarongs, silks, Buddhas etc., and he let the children dress up as Indians. That's the context in which I most like to remember him: a man of personal integrity and authority, of charity, courtesy, kindness and humour, all these things certainly; but also someone with a twinkle in his eye betraying the fact that the child within him had never quite grown up."

Dr. Derek Sylvester, former head of the Student Health Service, Honorary Fellow of the Hall and still a member of the Hall Committee after three decades, was interviewed for his post by A.B.R.:

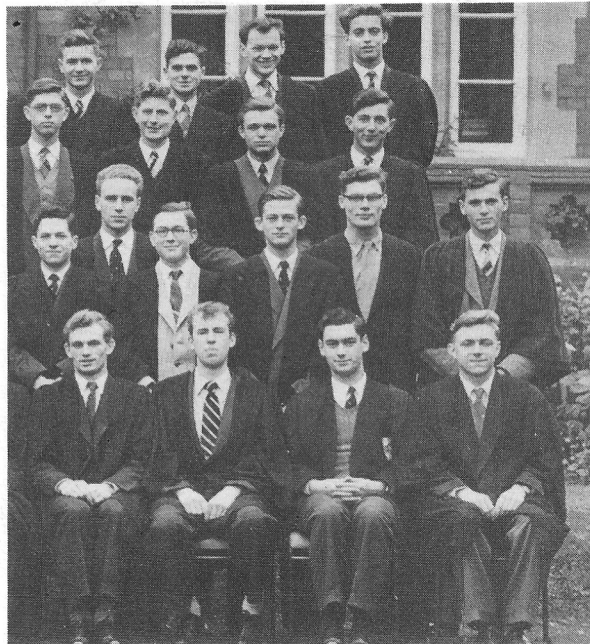
"Alan was one of the first people I met when I came to Bristol for my interview. Having met the V.C.'s Secretary, I was entertained to lunch by the V.C., Marjorie Tait (Warden of Manor Hall), Bruce Perry, A.B.R., and possibly one or two others whom I disremember. I was impressed by this friendly welcome, the interviews being conducted after lunch in a pleasant 'post prandial' state.

Subsequently of course I met Alan frequently at work as in those days, any 'young gentleman' in hall who felt sick out of hours had to summon the Warden to his room, who called the Doctor when it seemed appropriate. Alan was an excellent diagnostician, skilled in the excesses and illnesses of those under his care and if he said 'come quickly', I knew that I should hurry.

We met of course on social occasions and until quite recently, he was a co-member of a Town/Gown dining club known as Les Amis du Vin, whose meetings he attended regularly. When we had an American Supper, which we did each summer, and indeed still do, he would always produce the cheeses; whether or not he was good in the kitchen, I never discovered.

He was I know a keen gardener, and grew some crafty raspberries in the garden area behind his house which he cleared from the scrub which previously covered it. Apart from frequent dispensations of dry sherry in his flat when I visited patients and the above social meetings, we did not discuss much together. He reminded me somewhat of my housemaster at school who also taught English, was a bachelor and doubtless moulded my character in between tanning my backside for minor misdemeanour, such as smoking in the school grounds.

Altogether, one of Bristol's best and most loyal products and a friend whom I miss greatly."



Martin Sugarman - Churchill Hall 1956-58, London 1992

"A few words for Alan Reynolds."

"I first met Alan Reynolds in October 1965, within 10 minutes of arriving at Churchill Hall as a rather nervous "Fresher". I was reading a notice on the board, in the corridor by the J.C.R. He came up and shook hands, introducing himself and asking my name. When I told him - and it was clear to him from my surname that I was one of the only 4 Jewish members of the Hall that year - he said in his usual, dry, laid-back manner, "Ah, are you the one we have to feed on smoked salmon and beignets?"

"This made me feel very much at home, I can tell you. I got to know him well in the coming three years; he found my production of the Hall "Smoker" (Freshers Review/Comedy sketches) very entertaining and he insisted on inviting the whole cast - about 30 of us! - into his small flat afterwards for what to me seemed to be whole tumblers full of his favourite sherry from the wood. He became increasingly "happy" as we all drank into the early hours roaring with laughter, going over the jokes in the review."

"In my second year as Social Secretary and final year as JCR President we of course met regularly at the weekly committee gatherings. He was both business-like and amusing, and always charming. I like to think that some of his skills rubbed off a little on me. He also loved a good yarn and we swapped not a few jokes at the first Hall dinner I attended in 1969 as Ex-officio President."

The following obituary for the University's Newsletter was written by Dr. Basil Cottle, a long-standing friend and colleague of A.B.R.'s in the Department of English:

"Dr Alan Reynolds, one of the most dedicated and faithful servants of the University, died peacefully on 3 March in his 81st year. He entered the University in 1928 and apart from two brief spells, one of them for military service during the Second World War, remained ever since at the service of its teaching, its scholarship, its student residences, its social life, its sport, and its Christian commitment."

"He was born in Huntspill in Somerset and was educated at Dr Morgan's Grammar School, Bridgwater. In 1929 he became a founder member of Wills Hall. In 1932 he graduated with a First in English and in the same year became President of the Union. He also gained a First in the Education Diploma."

"After teaching in Hong Kong for three years, he returned to Bristol to become a Sub-Warden at Wills. After war service he was appointed to a lectureship in English in 1947 and continued to serve at Wills until he became the first Warden of Churchill Hall in 1956. In 1976, his tireless teaching, scholarship and work for the Union were rewarded with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters."

"He will be remembered by pupils and colleagues with great affection. He and I had several memorable tours together. Once when we were following the exact course of Johnson and Boswell around the Hebrides in persistent rain he said, 'The snag with this trip is that neither of us knows which of us is Boswell'. Well, I know that Alan Reynolds had in abundance the Johnsonian qualities of courage, piety, humour, determination, charity, a love of life and books, and a tenacious care for the English language and its literature."

Dr. Cottle, all of us present at Alan's funeral service were very moved at your personal tribute to him. You spoke of the person we all knew, we recognized him, you captured the essence of him and reminded us yet again of what we were losing ; at the same time you gave us a rounded picture which we cherish, thank you, Ed.



...always ready to give a helping hand.....