

The Churchillian

The Newsletter of the Churchill Hall Association (CHA)

Summer
2024



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

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Contents

News and updates

Chairs Report	3
Alumni Reunion Weekend, 2023	4
Visit to Westminster Abbey, March 2024	5
Charity Rugby Match, April 2024	6
Updates from Churchill Hall	7
Alumni Weekend 2024	8

Staying in Contact

Future Events	9
Bristol Connects	10
Local Alumni Branches	10
Could you help the Churchill Hall Association?	11
Churchill Hall Association Committee	11
Finance Report	11
CHA AGM agenda	12



News and Updates

Chair's Annual Statement

It's time for a change.

Having been your Chair from 2014 to 2017 and again recently on a fill-in basis, we have, at last, found a volunteer to be proposed as Chair at the September 2024 AGM. I am pleased to report Phil Lake – a long-time member of the CHA Committee has stepped up for nomination. I wish him every success.

As usual, the Committee have assisted in arranging the Annual Reunion Weekend. For those who don't know when the University stepped down from assisting in arrangements for the weekend a few years ago an unofficial body called the Bristol Alumni Network (BAN) was formed consisting of a representative (normally the Chair/ Head honcho) of a Hall Association, Alumni Branch or a University Society. So about 17 of us have created a sub-group to organise the weekend.

For those who have never gone to a reunion weekend before this is a chance to meet other alumni (maybe arrange a group of you who were in Hall together?) and rediscover parts of Bristol; there are several visits and these are highlighted in the advert for the weekend further on in this newsletter. To reconnect with Churchill Hall you can even stay in the Holmes- the historic house, now part of Churchill - surrounded by the beautiful Botanic Gardens (entry is free for alumni). The centre piece of the weekend is dinner at a Stoke Bishop Hall. This year unfortunately Churchill is not available (Uni hired out for Conference) but perhaps next year. I stress the dinner is open to all whether you were in Hall or even if not, and there is a discount for recent grads.

One new event we are thinking of is a reasonably priced dinner in a London pub in the winter. If this is successful we could extend this to other large UK cities where there are Churchillians.

We are still looking for Committee members, especially from the younger generation, as us oldies would like hand over to some new hands so that the CHA will continue to flourish. This has been done before when, in conjunction with the then-Warden Robert Mayhew, Alastair Scott (chair 2017 to 2021) took on the mantle.

I would like to thank my Committee members, past and present, for all their assistance over the years. I am still convinced my years in Churchill 1963- 1965 were some of the best of my life.

David Clarke
BA Economics and Accounting 1965

Annual Reunion Weekend 2023

A very enjoyable weekend was had by all, and featured the annual reunion dinner at Wills Hall on the Saturday evening to which all alumni and friends had been invited; it was not financially viable to have more than one dinner.

Professor Evelyn Welch the Vice-Chancellor and President of The University of Bristol University was invited.



Weekend events included guided tours of the Bristol Old Vic, the Wills Memorial Tower, Clifton Suspension Bridge, see last year's edition, and The Matthew (a replica of the vessel that John Cabot used to cross the Atlantic in 1497). The weekend also coincided with Bristol's Harbour Festival.



Philip Lake
Communications Officer

Visit to Westminster Abbey — Sat 16th March 2024

The event was organised by our chair David Clarke, who is also on the committee of the London Alumni Branch. The abbey is well known for staging every coronation since William the Conqueror and for being the burial place of kings, queens and famous people.

David handed us over to Chris, a Blue badge guide and Bristol alumnus, for an fascinating and educational 3 hour tour.

The coronation Chair which had the Stone of Scone brought from Scotland for the coronation of King Charles III.



Following the tour we were taken to the St. Ermins Hotel where a dedicated room had been reserved for a glass of champagne and afternoon cream tea.



Philip Lake
Communication Officer

Charity Rugby Match, April 2024

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, as was the subsequent year's match.

The third game took place this year on Friday 26 April 2024 at Coombe Dingle and was a draw, with Wills breaking the winning streak that Churchill had displayed for the last two years!

Many thanks to Issie Phillips, Alex Sedgeley, Oli Percival, Ruby Chatfield, Max Dombrowe, James Johnson, all the players and supporters for keeping this tradition going and raising £300 for the charity!



Charles Gunter
President Wills Hall Association

Updates from Churchill Hall



Andrew Abbey

Since the move away from the Warden System in Hall in 2018, Andrew Abbey has been our point of contact for Hall information and activities. Sadly, he chose to take early retirement before the start of this term and he has not been replaced. The Churchill Hall Association (CHA) presented him with a framed photo of The Holmes as a memento to mark his retirement.



Going forward Sarah Price, who is a member of the University's alumni engagement & volunteering team, and who has been regularly attending our committee meetings, will be our point of contact.

Katie Mills of the Inclusive Communities team in Stoke Bishop sent through this report of activities at Churchill:

The year kicked off with a lively, festive and sold out formal winter dinner at Churchill Hall. Returning to campus after the winter break, the JCR are now competing in a village wide Mario Kart tournament – the final is set to take place on Saturday the 10th!

Finally, all JCRs gathered at the end of January to consider Summer Ball season. We look forward to see what exciting ideas we can put into action for them.

Alumni Weekend 2024 Fri 30th August – Sun 1st September

Bookings can be made now through the [Eventbrite booking page](#). Bookings close at 5 pm 22 August.

Full programme for the weekend and details of accommodation [can be found online here](#) (PDF, 251kB).

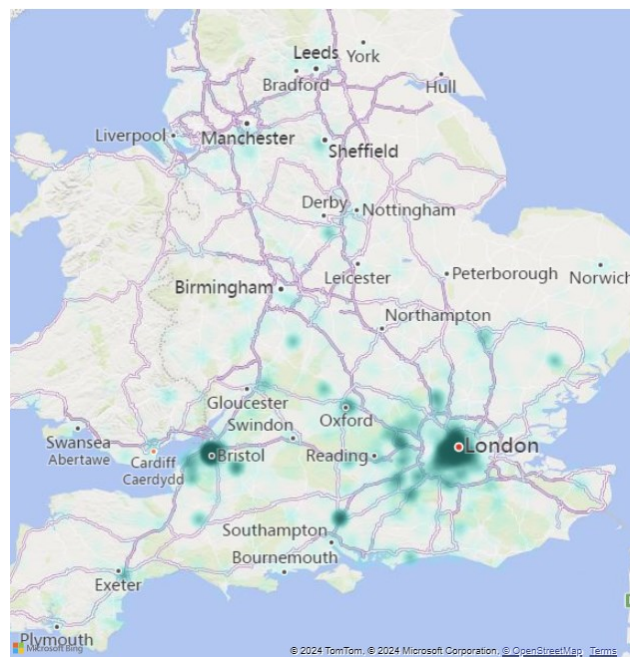
Friday 30th August 7:30pm-9pm	Welcome Drinks and Networking Social	Senate House Ground Floor, 24 Tyndall Ave, BS8 1TQ
Saturday 31st August 11am	Tour of St. Nicholas market and air raid shelter	The Corn Exchange, Corn Street BS1 1JQ
Saturday 31st August 11am-12pm	Bristol Old Vic Theatre “People’s Tour”	Bristol Old Vic, King St. BS1 4ED
Saturday 31st August 11am-12:30pm & 1pm-2.30pm	Wills Memorial Building Tower Tour	Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, BS8 1RJ
Saturday 31st August Gather 1:15pm for 1:30pm-2:30pm.	The Matthew (private cruise)	The Matthew, Princes Wharf Bristol, BS1 4RN
Saturday 31st August 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 31st August at 6.15 pm	Reunion Weekend Drinks Reception	Wills Hall Grounds, Parry Lane, Bristol BS9 1AE
Saturday 31st August 7.15 pm dinner	Joint Dinner at Wills Hall Dress Code Black Tie / Lounge Suits Speaker Dame Carol Black 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 1st September 9.45 am	CHA Meeting—Past Members of hall welcome	Bradley Room The Holmes Ground Floor
Sunday 1st September 10.30 am	Reunion Weekend Morning Service	Dame Monica Wills Chapel, Wills Hall, BS9 1AE
Sunday 1st September 10:15am for 10:30am	Clifton Walking Tour	Tour starts from Boyces Avenue corner of Victoria Square, Clifton (Wat3words location: always.deep.cover)
Sunday 1st September Coffee 11:30am 12pm Recital	Arthur Graves Memorial Event: Piano Recital	Dame Monica Wills Chapel, Wills Hall, BS9 1AE
Sunday 1st September 1 pm	Sunday - Lunch	Wills Hall Main dining room (upstairs) Parry Lane, Bristol BS9 1AE

Future Events

Anyone attending the reunion weekends over the past few years will have noticed that attendance is declining, a total of 53 for the combined reunion meal in 2023 including university staff, partly because our membership is becoming increasingly elderly and so are either unable or unwilling to travel, and because we have been unsuccessful in recruiting younger members.

Furthermore, the rooms within the Holmes that we have enjoyed the use of for a number of years are no longer available to us and this has forced us to attend a combined event with Wills Hall.

Thus I believe we need to rethink the nature and location of our reunion event and as a starting point we approached Sarah Price to see if the University could plot where the Churchill Alumni were based. Thus the 'heat map' below which uses shades of green to illustrate where alumni are based; the darker the colour, the more concentrated the alumni in that area.



Perhaps unsurprisingly the majority of Churchill Alumni for which the University has contact details, are concentrated around London, and then around the South-West (which is in line with the pattern of our UK alumni generally).

So, to take this further we would like to elicit your ideas on the nature of such an event and we request that you to participate by completing a short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QSDPNQH>

Please complete as soon as possible and by the end of August.

Note: we are particularly interested in feedback on what would entice more recent alumni to attend, we will use this information solely to determine the nature of future Churchill Hall Reunion events and that we will never share this information with third parties.

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 University

Please ensure the University is aware of any change in your email contact details. Let them know that you wish to receive email notifications from the CHA and confirm your marketing preferences regarding their contact by telephone, post and email by emailing them on alumni@bristol.ac.uk or calling them on +44 (0)117 394 1046.

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.

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. 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?

We need your help us to fulfil our 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.

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 2024

The year has been relatively inactive in financial terms. The main reason for this is that the Alumni Network Group who are responsible for organising the Reunion Weekend decided that the sensible approach was that, as the transactions for the Weekend were being handled through the WHA account, any surplus or shortfall would be held there and carried forward to the next year.

This means that the only "activity" costs during the year under review were those relating to the maintenance of the website, totalling £101.75 (some of these relating to a period of longer than one year). The charges relate only to ongoing costs for the hosting of the website (and the various additional facilities required to operate it) – there are no costs for building and maintaining it (we express our thanks to Philip for doing this).

The only other cost during the year was for bank charges amounting to £60, against which can be set the interest received of £54.07.

The funds in hand at the end of the financial year totalled £3,347.50 which is considered to be a more than adequate amount to meet our financial obligations for some time to come.

Keith Walton
Hon Treasurer



The Churchill Hall Association

Churchill Hall Association Annual General Meeting

At 9-45 on 1st September 2024 in the Bradley Room, the Holmes.

Items

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the meeting on 16th July 2023
3. Report on the activity of the committee.
David Ewart.
4. Election of:
Chair;
Secretary
Treasurer.
Communications Officer
Webb Developer
Events Officer
5. Finance update
Keith Walton.
6. Feedback on the weekend to date.
All
7. Any Other Business.
8. Date of Next Committee Meeting.
As part of 2025 the Bristol Alumni Network Reunion Weekend.

