

# *The Churchillian*

*The Newsletter of the Churchill Hall Association (CHA)*

## 2025



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

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## Chair's Annual Statement

Having taken over the reins from David Clarke, at our annual meeting, I have now been in post for almost a year.

The Churchill Hall Association (CHA) is organising a new event this year, a London Boat trip, and we hope many of you will be able to join us. See page 4 for full details.

As usual, the Committee has assisted the Bristol Alumni Network (BAN) to arrange this year's Annual Reunion Weekend which this year is taking place from 15<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> August and when both Badock and Manor Halls celebrating significant milestones. The Wills Hall Association will also be marking the 40th anniversary of women being admitted to Wills Hall and it is hoped that ladies from those early intakes will be able to join them.

The Reunion Weekend is a chance to meet fellow alumni and perhaps some former friends from your time at University and Hall and to partake in some of the events organised over the weekend. The centre piece of the weekend is a dinner for all alumni and partners/friends at Wills Hall; why not try to organise a group of your former associates?

You can also see how things have changed; for example you can stay in the Holmes (see front cover), the historic house which became part of Churchill Hall and which is now surrounded by the beautiful Bristol Botanic Gardens (entry is free for alumni). Full details, including how to book your place, are on page 7. Note there is a discount for recent graduates, those that graduated since 2020.

We remind everyone who lived in Churchill Hall that they automatically become members of the CHA after their year in hall, with no joining fee, and that the committee are always looking for volunteers who are happy to provide assistance. This is especially true of the younger Churchillians, as we would like to better represent their views and interests, and for those that live in the Bristol area. See pages 10/11 for more details if you could help and on how to keep the University apprised of any change in your email address.

Finally I would like to thank our Committee members, past and present, for all their assistance over the years as without their support the committee would not exist.

Philip Lake  
BSc Chemistry 1978

## Thames Cruise

In response to feedback from our members we are organising a Thames Cruise in early September.

We shall be boarding the M.V Connaught, an Edwardian river cruiser steeped in history and operated by London River Boats from Blackfriars Pier and adjacent to London Blackfriars Rail and underground stations.



We will be travelling downstream towards Greenwich while having an onboard meal before returning. Thus we will be passing the Place of Westminster, passing under Tower Bridge and by the financial quarter to name but a few of the memorable sights. An onboard meal will be served.

### Menu choices:

Aberdeen Angus Beef Burgers / Beyond Meat Burger.

Selection of Gluten Free Pork sausages – Caramelised Onion, Italian or Thick Pork / Vegetarian Sausages

Chicken & Vegetable Skewers / Halloumi & Vegetable Skewers

Mixed Salad, Sliced burger cheese, Coleslaw & Potato Salads

Selection of bread rolls

Selection of sauces

The boat additionally has a cash bar where you may purchase any drinks and snacks.

### Date and how to apply:

The trip will cost £60 per person, including your menu choice and will last approximately 4 hours. We will meet at the pier at 10:45 AM for an 11 AM departure on the 11th September so please reserve your place using our online reservation form.

This great opportunity to see the sights and mingle on what is expected to be very popular event [so reserve your place\(s\) now by completing this short form.](#)

Note we will be readvertising the event in July and so we will then send applicants details of how to complete your booking.



## Annual Reunion Weekend 2024

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.

The guest speaker was Dame Carol Black (BA 1962, MBChB 1970, MD 1975, DSc 2003), Chair of the British Library and Chair of the Centre for Ageing Better, former President of the Royal College of Physicians and Manor Hall alumna.



Michael Stubbs (LLB 1959), a founder member of Churchill hall, gave a brief overview of life in hall in years gone by and the value of discussions to reach a consensus, as valued by the then hall Warden.





Weekend events included guided tours of the Wills Memorial Tower, Clifton Suspension Bridge and The Matthew (a replica of the vessel that John Cabot used to cross the Atlantic in 1497), a Clifton walking tour and an opportunity to join a tour of St. Nicholas market and air raid shelter.



Philip Lake  
Chair CHA

## Alumni Weekend 2025 Fri 15th August – Sun 17th August

Bookings can be made now through the [online booking form](#). (Note bookings close on Tuesday 29 July 2025 at 5 pm).

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

<b>Friday 15 August</b> 6.30 pm for 7 pm start	<b>Private Wine Tasting at Avery's historic vaulted cellars</b>	Culver street, BS1 5LD. Enter on Frogmore St, via green doors next to Sergio's Restaurant
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 10:30 am to 12 pm	<b>60 years of Badock Hall. Tour and morning coffee</b>	Badock Hall, Stoke Park Road, Bristol, BS9 1JQ
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 11 am to 12 pm	<b>SS Great Britain tour</b>	Great Western Dockyard Gas Ferry Road Bristol BS1 6TY
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 11am to 12:30 pm	<b>Wills Memorial Building Tower Tour (A)</b>	Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, BS8 1RJ
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 12:30 to 1:30 pm	<b>Private boat trip showcasing the expansion of the new Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus from the water</b>	Pick up and drop off at the SS Great Britain Landing, BS1 6UN
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 1pm-2.30pm	<b>Wills Memorial Building Tower Tour (B)</b>	Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, BS8 1RJ
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 1pm-4.00pm .	<b>100 Years of Manor Hall Association and Celebrating the Life of Christopher Didcote</b>	Manor Hall, Lower Clifton Hill, Bristol, BS8 1BU
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 2pm	<b>Tour of St. Nicholas market and air raid shelter. <a href="#">Book directly here</a></b>	The Corn Exchange, Corn Street BS1 1JQ
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 2pm—5 pm	<b>Reunion Drinks Reception</b>	The Holmes, Stoke Park Road, Bristol, BS9 1JG (The drive way opposite the main Churchill Hall building)
<b>Saturday 16th August</b> 7.15 pm dinner	<b>Reunion Dinner at Wills Hall</b> <b>Dress Code Black Tie / Lounge Suits</b> <b>Speaker Professor Sir Malcolm Evans</b> <b>Estimated finish time for taxis 10pm</b> <b>After dinner drinks in the Wills Hall bar until midnight</b>	Wills Hall Main dining room (upstairs) Parry Lane, Bristol BS9 1AE
<b>Sunday 17th August</b> 9.45 am	<b>CHA Meeting—Past Members of hall welcome</b>	Bradley Room on the Ground Floor of the The Holmes (room near original main entrance)
<b>Sunday 17th August</b> 10.30 am	<b>Reunion Weekend Morning Service</b>	Dame Monica Wills Chapel, Wills Hall, BS9 1AE
<b>Sunday 17th August</b> Coffee 11:45am	<b>Arthur Graves Memorial Event: <a href="#">Professor Bruce Hood</a> "With the advances in AI and a rapidly changing employment market, what and how should we be teaching our students?"</b>	Dame Monica Wills Chapel, Wills Hall, BS9 1AE
<b>Sunday 17th August</b> 1 pm	<b>Sunday - Lunch</b>	Wills Hall Main dining room (upstairs) Parry Lane, Bristol BS9 1AE



## Updates on Churchill Hall

### Charity Rugby Match, March 2025

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.

The inaugural match was planned for late March 2020 but for understandable reasons wasn't played until James was a final year undergraduate.



Discussions ensued between Charles Gunter (Wills Hall Association) and David Clarke CHA and resulted in the CHA agreeing to purchase a cup to mark the occasion and that was to be presented to the winning team.

The match was a victory to Churchill Hall, as were the three subsequent year's matches.

The fourth game took place this year on Friday 7th March 2025 with a change of venue, St. Brendan's Rugby Football Club.

Congratulations to Wills Hall who won 45 to 26.  
Over £400 was raised for the Ted Senior Foundation.

It was noted that the Churchill Hall Association JCR used their initiative and found a sponsor to cover the cost of their new Rugby kit.



Philip Lake  
Chair CHA



## News from Churchill Hall

This year has seen the return of Rosie Harbour, head of north village student communities, from maternity leave and who provided our committee with an update on Churchill Hall activities:

The students have had a winter / Christmas dinner followed by a club event and a formal valentines dinner. They have been engaged with facilities regarding improving community spaces and making them more hospitable for the students.

There is a chief resident who supports Churchill who unfortunately does not live in, due to personal circumstances, but does work there twice a week and who has been supporting a north village cup by providing events for students in an informal light touch way. This including Mario Kart ( Nintendo Switch console game), Giant Rock Paper Scissors (where the normal gestures used are exaggerated) and Touch Football (A variant of American football in which players are touched as opposed to tackled).

As mentioned there has also been the charity rugby match when the JCR tried to emphasise the charity raising aspect.

Sarah Price, who is a member of the University's alumni engagement & volunteering team, and who has been regularly attending our committee meetings, provided a reminder that the University can support alumni community activity through Alumni Association Initiative Grants.

If you would like to host an event to bring our alumni community together, you can apply for a grant to get your plans off the ground. [Full details, and the link to apply, are online here.](#)

The engagement and volunteering team are always keen to hear about alumni activities and can provide support for your events with promotion. Their designer, who works for them 2 days a week, and has created an event pack of "graphic props" for alumni events including branded name label stickers and alumni bunting and more. Contact the team by email at [alumni-volunteers@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-volunteers@bristol.ac.uk).

## 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.

Its purpose is 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](http://www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk).

### Update your details

Please ensure the University is aware of any change in your email contact details. This can best be done [by completing their new digital update form](#) which now allows you to specifying your hall of residence.

Alternatively you can email them on [alumni@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@bristol.ac.uk) or by calling them on +44 (0)117 394 1046 indicating your wish to receive email communications from the CHA.

### 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

The University of Bristol 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 annual carol service guided walks and more, for example this year a guided visit to Canterbury Cathedral organised by David Clarke. 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](mailto:alumni-volunteers@bristol.ac.uk).

## **Could you help the Churchill Hall Association?**

We need your help us to fulfil our purpose building an engaged and supportive CHA community 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](mailto:committee@churchillhallassociation.co.uk) or discuss at this years reunion weekend. We normally hold about 3 Zoom committee meetings a year together with our annual meeting but we are 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, for a period of one academic year (or a substantial part thereof in the case of the pandemic years).

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/](http://www.churchillhallassociation.co.uk/cha-committee/)

## **Finance Update**

### **Financial Report for the year to 31st March 2025**

The activities of the Association during the year have been working in conjunction with the other Hall Associations and Alumni groups to arrange the Reunion Weekend. The Bristol Alumni Network (the organising group) agreed that the finances for the event would be handled by the Wills Hall Association, as they had the necessary facilities in place, and that any surplus would be held by WHA on behalf of the Network, to be available for future Reunions. Therefore, no transactions relating to the Weekend appear in our accounts.

The accounts, therefore, show the only income as the interest earned on accrued funds which covered the basic account fees for maintaining the bank account. The only other expenses are the costs of maintaining the Association website.

There was therefore a small shortfall of £38.08 for the year, meaning that the funds in hand amount to £3309.42. This is considered to be more than adequate to meet the expected financial needs of the Association over the immediate future.

Keith Walton  
Hon Treasurer





## The Churchill Hall Association

### **Churchill Hall Association Annual General Meeting**

**At 9-45 on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025 in the Bradley Room, The Holmes.**

#### **Items**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the meeting on 1st September 2024
3. Report on the activity of the committee.
4. Election of:  
Chair;  
Secretary  
Treasurer.  
Communications Officer  
Web Developer  
Events Officer
5. Finance update  
Keith Walton.
6. Feedback on the weekend to date.  
All
7. Any Other Business.
8. Date of Next Annual General Meeting.  
As part of 2026 the Bristol Alumni Network Reunion Weekend.

