



# **S. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SOCIETY MAGAZINE**

**SEPTEMBER 2020**



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## Editorial

I have always enjoyed receiving the St. Michael's magazine and so at last year's annual meeting when Charles Beresford's retirement was announced, I felt a certain obligation to contribute to its future, at least for a few years. I think we all want to thank Charles for his work over many years and wish him many more peaceful years to come. I was aware that I was stepping into some big shoes, but little did I realize that I would be taking over at a time when we were all confined to home office. Particularly that has made research for articles in the archives in Hereford difficult, so I am afraid this issue will be somewhat smaller than usual. But after the gap in 2019, it is important that at least a shortened issue appears this year since it is the main medium of communication between our members.

You will by now have heard that the annual meeting at St. Michael's this year will be cancelled in the interests of health and safety. We can only make every effort to make the 2021 reunion that much more of an event when it comes round.

The news that King's College is closing down its St. Michael's campus comes as sad news. At present little is known about the future of the buildings. What is known is reported in the year's news, but I expect that much more will be known next year.

Three years ago, Michael Hart contributed an excellent article on the library and Edmund Fellowes' work in bringing some order into its content. This inspired me to look into the life and work of Sydney Nicholson as another fellow whose name was given to one of the boy's houses of the College. I hope this can be the next in a series on Fellows of the College.

*Chris Higman*

## President's Message

I am very conscious that we are now all very much living with the Corona virus pandemic as a new, if thoroughly unwanted, way of life. Anyone reading the last Society Magazine from 2018 and comparing it to this one published two years later will gather no sense at all of what happened in China (or wherever Covid-19 first appeared) towards the end of 2019 and, as this



is for St Michael's College Society members their record of the year, I think it important to capture the briefest precis of how life has changed for everyone – albeit to different extents.

We all became aware of a novel corona virus spreading across the world in early 2020 and after some inevitable speculation and significant uncertainty about how dangerous and infectious the disease might be, the United Kingdom began to 'lock down' at Government direction in March; 23 March 2020 marked a general end to day-to-day movement and the situation was particularly dangerous for the over-seventies and those with some underlying health conditions. Three months later, restrictions began to ease and there seems, in early July, to be a general easing of the Lockdown albeit with the now all-familiar need for Social Distancing still in place. I think we all accept and expect that we are not yet out of the woods and I cannot imagine that the pandemic will not feature to an extent in the Society's next issue of the magazine.

That, then, for the record.

One (*the*) significant result is that we will not be gathering at Michaelmas this year – neither for the meal nor for the dinner, nor for evensong. The Reunion is cancelled (not postponed, I regret) and I am planning on the assumption that we will next meet in September 2021.

We will, however, hold the Annual General Meeting on Sat 26 September – most probably using the Zoom conferencing app.

I am hoping that remote conferencing may allow a greater number to attend than would normally be the case. This will require anyone wanting to join the meeting to ensure that Tim Coles, our Secretary, has their email address to which the link for the meeting can be sent.

Given the constraints on meeting face to face, we have, I am certain, all become more reliant on email and other electronic ways of keeping in touch and doing business. Therefore, the Society's Committee has decided to default to email for all communications. This year will be the last year in which the Society magazine will be sent to all members in hard copy form. Instead, it will go through the post only to those who make a payment for a paper copy. Everyone else will receive it (or a link to it) by email and it will be available through the Society's 'closed' Facebook page. So too with the annual mailshot which brings news and confirmation of arrangements for the annual reunion; this will be done via email so it is vital you tell Tim Coles what your preferred email contact address is. For those who, for whatever good reason, cannot use email, please do get in touch with Tim when you receive this magazine and let him know. As you might imagine, the relatively high cost of sending mail through the post is the chief driver of this decision; the great majority of us is happy to do things on line, and the cost of a paper copy magazine must, in fairness, be borne by those who receive it. But, to be clear, all Society members remain members – that has not changed. The subscription is a voluntary donation though £15 a year is the recommended amount.

The other significant news is that King's College St Michaels, the international boarding school which operated on the St Michael's College site, has closed. That which we have been able to gather about why it has closed and any insight into the future of the College site is captured in an item in this edition of the magazine. While King's College St Michael's was a thoroughly different organisation to the prep school we all knew, it is very sad news nonetheless and I know we wish all of its staff and pupils all good fortune in what will have been deeply unsettling times.

Last, I highly commend Chris Higman for his work as magazine editor this year. He has done marvellously to get a magazine out at all and I know we will all devour its necessarily briefer contents as we would any year. He had plans for various pieces of real interest to us all but to which the dreaded virus has put paid. I very much hope Chris is in a position to bring his planned work together next year. But I am clear that a magazine is not something for which to put anyone in harm's way!

I look forward to seeing as many as possible at the AGM. In the meantime, I wish everyone very well.

**Christopher Coles**

President

## In Memoriam

### John Austin

John Austin was a former President (1996 - 99) and Secretary (1993-96) of the Society. We are thankful to his daughter, Katie, who sent us this obituary.

John Austin, my father, was born in Atherstone, Warwickshire and went to St. Michael's College in 1941 when he was 9. He went on to Repton and then to do National Service in the Royal Navy, as a Sub Lieutenant, RNVR. He joined the family firm of hat manufacturing and retired when he was 53. He was happily married to Gilly for 54 years and left 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



One of John's chief pleasures came from writing, including poetry. He was a keen and knowledgeable Johnsonian, his many other interests included wood sculpture and cookery. His books include *Merevale Church and Abbey*, *A History of Atherstone Street Names*, *Merevale and Atherstone 1485*, *Hats Coal and Bloodshed* and of course *Ouseley's Legacy*.

John's great passion for St. Michael's, "the Old Place" as he always called it, never left him. One of his greatest joys was travelling up to "Commem" at the end of September each year. It was the only time he was ever apart from his dear Gilly, I remember how his love of everything there showed through in all and every conversation about it. I remember his surprise and absolute delight when the RSCM moved just down the road from Martin and me in Westhumble, Surrey, and he saw the Ouseley portrait that had always hung in the dining room at St. Michael's. I spent so many happy days and hours with Dad, whilst he was researching Ouseley's life, we had St Martin's Dorking only 2 miles away and other Woodyer churches and buildings so nearby, Cranleigh School, amongst others; all great practice for building St. Michael's!

In latter years I travelled up with Dad to Commem and it became so special to me as well. One of my fondest memories, that I will treasure my whole life, was joining the choir for the traditional Saturday evensong at Commem in 2013, when we sang *I was Glad*. It was the year of Queen Elizabeth's 60<sup>th</sup> Coronation anniversary so we were able to sing the Vivats. Sitting in Cantoris, I could see Dad and my husband Martin (Head Chorister at St Paul's Cathedral but ssshhh!) in Decani, singing their hearts out to their absolute favourite choral work, with the Father Willis behind them being played for all it was worth.

Dad slipped away unexpectedly but very peacefully in December last year. We miss him.

### **Paul Drummond**

Paul was born in Bromyard; his father was the manager of the Midland Bank. He attended a primary school in the town, then at the age of eight joined St Michael's as a commoner in May 1950. He became a prefect in September 1953. Paul excelled at sport, especially rugby and was a member of the 1st team Rugby 1952-53-54, and also the cricket XI. Paul was a keen member of the cubs, then scouts, and enjoyed the summer camps. In 1953 the critique of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI stated that Paul Drummond: Batting a little ponderous, but should have some power behind it, fielding fair!

He followed his education at Bromsgrove for Autumn Term 1954. He again excelled at sport and was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby team and cricket team.

On leaving Bromsgrove, Paul decided on a career in agriculture. He completed a year as a farm student, followed by Walford Agricultural College and gaining the National Certificate in Agriculture. He then worked on two farms as a general labourer to gain more experience before becoming Assistant Farm Manager on a 3000 acre estate for Lord Bathurst at Cirencester.

In 1963 Paul joined Silcocks Ltd as an animal feed representative. In 1966 he joined Bayer Agrochem to enter the



world of Agrochemicals. From then until 2000 he was engaged in selling and advising on the use of pesticides for agriculture and forestry, except for three years with Jordans Millers of Bedford where he and a colleague set up the Conservation Grade Cereal growing process nationally.

Paul was a member of St Michael's College Society and served on the committee for a time.

Following a blind date, Paul married Mary Mann from Bovey Tracey. They had two children, Alistair and Helen, and also leaves three grandchildren.

A well-attended memorial service took place at St. Michael's on 20th December at which Alistair gave the above address.

### **Chris Winn**

Chris Winn, who died in August 2017 aged 90, won eight caps as a left-wing three-quarter for England between 1952 and 1954 and also played first-class cricket for Oxford University and Sussex. He was born in



Beckenham, Kent in 1926 and was only at SMC for one year 1936-7, arriving in the term that Buckmaster was installed as Warden.

Chris Winn played his club rugby for Rosslyn Park, becoming President in 1981, and also played for Surrey and the Barbarians. He sat on a number of committees at Twickenham. An all-round athlete, he continued playing Real Tennis into his eighties.

He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

## **Christopher Irby**

Christopher Irby (1931-2019) died peacefully at home after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was 88. The following obituary was contributed by his wife Carol.

St Michael's College gave him his love of music. He loved singing as a boy and his time as a chorister was probably one of the happiest times of his life. He loved the Worcestershire countryside and the apples that came in the autumn, which, during the austere war years were as a luxury to a sweet deprived child. His fond memories and his friendship with John Brown that endured until John's death last year gave him much happiness.

He always said that had it not been for St Michael's his musician's career might never have taken off. He was so grateful for the opportunities it gave him. When he left and went to Claysmore School, he had to find something to replace his singing which is when, asked to learn the cello for the school orchestra, he embarked on his future career. He showed himself to have considerable talent and the drive to work at the cello which led him into a wonderful career with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and then the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Never satisfied with just playing in these great orchestras he was always involved in chamber music with friends and colleagues. Even after retirement he continued to play for fun and then discovered he had a talent as a conductor when he was asked to conduct the Marlborough Concert Orchestra. This was a fledgling institution which he coached until it flourished and attracted many talented amateurs. Unfortunately, his poor sight and the onset of Parkinson's Disease finally ended this career, but he still could not give up with his musical life and helped his granddaughter with her cello studies. He would often get his cello out to play for pleasure even if his poor sight meant that he could not play with others. He was a great musician.

## **Tom Acton**

Tom Acton, father of Francis and Rupert passed away aged 95 at the home where he was born near Church Stretton. Tom was the founder of the Acton Scott Historic Working Farm that many old boys will remember from visits or from television.

## **Rev. Peter Hammersley**

Rev. Peter Hammersley, father of Nick and Andrew and former vicar of Tarrington near Ledbury passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020.

## **Henry Willis 4**

The following obituary was published in The Daily Telegraph on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018, too late for inclusion in the 2018 magazine. Henry Willis was the great-grandson of 'Father' Willis, who built the St. Michael's organ for Frederick Ouseley.

Henry Willis, who has died aged 91, was the last in the line of organ builders founded by his ancestor and namesake (1821-1901), the outstanding British organ builder of the 19th century.

He was born in London on January 19 1927, the last child and only son of Henry Willis III (as he styled himself) and his wife Clara. His father had waited for 14 years for a son and the boy's arrival was celebrated with a christening in St Paul's Cathedral and the presentation of the Trompette Militaire stop to the cathedral's Willis organ.

But Willis III's expectations of his son were impossibly high, and his notorious irritability was driven to near violent levels by young Henry's seeming indifference to the organ. He was sent to Westminster School at the beginning of the war, but removed after three months to the safety of Giggleswick School in Yorkshire. From there, in early 1945, he ran away and joined the Army, gaining a temporary commission in the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.

His father, struggling after the destruction of his company's London works in April 1941, moderated his approach and eventually persuaded the young man to commence an

apprenticeship in 1948. This he threw himself into with commendable energy and after five years he was sent to manage the firm's Liverpool branch.

His first task was to supervise the re-installment of the famous 1854 Willis organ in the St George's Hall after war-damage and the servicing of the 1926 Willis organ in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, the largest organ in the British Isles. He also started to construct small 2-manual organs for the utilitarian churches that were being built in the early 1960s.

Henry Willis III died in April 1966 and at the age of 39 Henry 4 (as he styled himself – the 4 rather than IV being a form of rebellion against his father) became responsible for a business that had declined because of his father's outdated methods. The London works were sold and new premises built at Petersfield, Hampshire.

But a new movement in organ building was in process. Organists and organ builders were now seeking the authentic sounds of the 17th and 18th century European organs and moving away from the ponderous (by comparison) sounds of the Victorian organ.

Willis who, like his father, had no musical skills, would not come to terms with this development. But he still undertook large scale reconstructions of existing organs as far apart as St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, and Johannesburg Town Hall, and he enjoyed working on far-flung Willis organs around the world.

He was on surer ground in holding public office. In his time he was president of the Incorporated Society of Organ Builders, treasurer of the Federation of Master Organ Builders, president of the International Society of Organbuilders, Master of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and president of the Institute of Musical Instrument Technology. In all these offices he was conscientious and diligent, probably to the disadvantage of his own business. With his engaging and amusing style, he was popular with the membership.

In 1997 he retired and sold up.

Henry Willis, born January 19 1927, died June 23 2018

## **Frederick Ouseley and John Rich in Oxford and Chippenham**

In late 2017 I moved to Chippenham and soon found myself singing in the choir at St. Andrew's Church and working on the Organ Rebuild Committee. The organ was originally built by the West Country organ builder Bryce Seede in 1752, but in 1879 it was expanded considerably to meet modern (i.e. Victorian) needs. While researching for the current project, I came across a list of donors for the organ project of that time, among whom was "The Rev. Sir F. A. G. Ouseley, Bart." with a gift of £10 10s. 0d.



Ouseley also advised on the building of the new organ by Gray & Davison. The Vicar of Chippenham at this time was an old friend of Ouseley's from undergraduate days in Oxford, John Rich, who was a founding Fellow of SMC and went on to become a Canon of Bristol Cathedral.

In another source, F. W. Joyce's "The Life of Rev. Sir F. A. G. Ouseley, Bart. M.A., Mus. D. Etc. Etc." [Methuen, 1896] I found the following account of one of Ouseley's and Rich's undergraduate escapades.

At the same time, this well-conducted son of Alma Mater seems to have been not altogether innocent of that very common failing of most university students, viz. the habit of practical joking. Canon Rich recalls how he once found that someone had been "making hay" in his rooms, Ouseley being the culprit; and how, on another occasion, they both

conspired, together with a third friend of kindred spirit, to produce the following musical effect. A concert was being given in the Oxford Town Hall by the "University Amateur Musical Society." The three conspirators were thus armed: Ouseley carried a gong, the loan of which he had obtained for this particular occasion from the then Junior Censor, Mr. W. E. Jelf, with whom he was somewhat in favour. The Censor, on his part, had annexed the gong from another undergraduate, who, in his judgment, had been making too much noise with it. Rich carried a pair of cymbals (so-called), they were really two round pieces of thick bell-metal, and the noise they produced was indescribable. In the hands of the third performer, C. Webber, was borne a good-sized tin tea-tray. Behind the orchestra in the Town Hall was an uncovered, but hidden passage. Here the trio concealed themselves, and then, without any warning, in the fortissimo part of the "Wedding March," came in with a tremendous crash. Canon Rich thus concludes his reminiscences:

"Dear old Dr. Stephen Elvey, who was conducting, was at first as indignant as he was astonished; but, when he found that the audience were highly amused and pleased with the effect, he took it all in good part, and I am not sure that he did not himself encore the performance (s)."

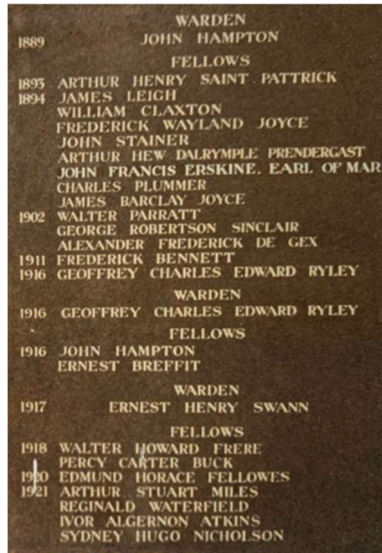
This is hardly the sort of behaviour we St. Michael's Old Boys associate with our illustrious and revered founder or a Fellow of the College. But then we were all young once.

## Sydney Hugo Nicholson

One of the memorable facets of the St. Michael's dining hall was the list of Fellows of the College on the boards mounted on the east wall below the gallery. There were some on those lists who were composers of anthems or other music that we sung in Chapel. A very few we even knew by sight. Most of my own generation will remember Watkins Shaw visiting the library regularly, while he was editing his edition of Händel's Messiah. But as small boys, while we over time learned the names that were up there, we knew little about the people.

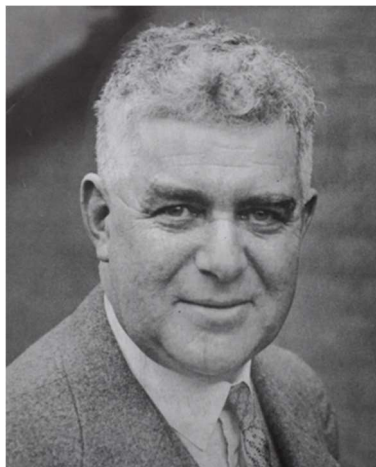
In 2017, Michael Hart wrote about some of Dr. Edmund Fellowes' work as Librarian. This year I want to write about Sydney Nicholson and his relationship with the College. After all, he was with Edmund Fellowes chosen to give his name to one of the two new houses that were established in 1957.

Sydney Hugo Nicholson was born in London in 1875, went to school at Rugby and university at New College, Oxford. Although at the insistence of his father his degree was in English Literature, he took a lively part in Oxford musical life, where he was already in contact with John Henry Mee and Edmund Fellowes, both of whom were or became Fellows of SMC (1886 and 1920 respectively).. It was at this time that he reports in his autobiography how his mother, when they were discussing the future, saying: "I rather expect that one day you will start some school like Sir Gore Ouseley's." Certainly, it was during his time at Oxford that his focus on church music developed.



	WARDEN
1889	JOHN HAMPTON
	FELLOWS
1893	ARTHUR HENRY SAINT PATRICK
1894	JAMES LEIGH
	WILLIAM CLAXTON
	FREDERICK WAYLAND JOYCE
	JOHN STAINER
	ARTHUR HEW DALRYMPLE PRENDERGAST
	JOHN FRANCIS ERSKINE, EARL OF MAR
	CHARLES PLUMMER
	JAMES BARCLAY JOYCE
1902	WALTER PARRATT
	GEORGE ROBERTSON SINCLAIR
	ALEXANDER FREDERICK DE GEX
1911	FREDERICK BENNETT
1916	GEOFFREY CHARLES EDWARD RYLEY
	WARDEN
1916	GEOFFREY CHARLES EDWARD RYLEY
	FELLOWS
1916	JOHN HAMPTON
	ERNEST BREFFIT
	WARDEN
1917	ERNEST HENRY SWANN
	FELLOWS
1918	WALTER HOWARD FRERE
	PERCY CARTER BUCK
1920	EDMUND HORACE FELLOWES
1921	ARTHUR STUART MILES
	REGINALD WATERFIELD
	IVOR ALGERNON ATKINS
	SYDNEY HUGO NICHOLSON

On leaving Oxford he began his musical career at the Royal College of Music under Sir Walter Parratt, Charles Villiers Stanford and Walford Davies. At the same time, he was organist to the parish church in Chipping Barnet close to his parental home. Here he started organizing festivals for parish choirs, something he was to continue doing throughout his career.



After a brief interlude as organist of the Lower Chapel at Eton College in 1903, he took up the post of Acting Organist at Carlisle Cathedral the following year. the Precentor was Rev. Henry Dams, father of Cyril Theodore Dams, who was appointed as a fellow of SMC in 1943.

In 1908 Nicholson received offers from both Canterbury and Manchester Cathedrals and chose the latter starting in 1909. Here one of his Assistants was the 18-year-old Ernest Bullock, who became a fellow of SMC in 1937.

In 1918 Nicholson was invited to become Organist at Westminster Abbey as successor to Frederick Bridge, who had also come to Westminster from Manchester some 40 years earlier. Nicholson started at Westminster in 1919, where he remained until 1928. This gave him the opportunity to shape the music for many special services. "One of the most interesting was the funeral of Nurse Edith Cavell on 15th May 1919." Not long after came the special funeral service at which the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior was inaugurated. But there were not only funerals. There were also royal weddings including that of the then Duke of York and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, later to become King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

It was during his time at Westminster that Nicholson was appointed a Fellow of SMC (1921).



Since his time in Carlisle Nicholson had been involved in judging competitions at church choir festivals and so had a broad understanding of the situation of music in English parish churches. It was with this background that in 1927 he decided to resign from his position in Westminster and found the School of English Church Music (SECM). A society was formed with the main objectives of "(a) giving direct help to existing choirs, and (b) providing practical training for Church musicians by the foundation of a College devoted to that purpose."

Given these broad objectives, it is not surprising that Nicholson operated on many different fronts in trying to meet them. The core was the founding of The College of St. Nicholas in Chislehurst. But in addition to its function as a choir school, it also served as the base for a host of other SECM activities, which included:

- running the triennial Festivals of English Church Music (1933, 4000 voices at Crystal Palace).
- publishing the quarterly magazine English Church Music from 1931.
- producing a series of Choir Books of selected church music.
- running courses for choirs and organists up and down the country.

One of Nicholson's most widely known achievements was the publication of the Parish Psalter. The pointing was developed together with the choir at Westminster Abbey by trying out different versions before deciding which 'sang best'. In his autobiography he is very modest about his personal contribution and attributes much to the choir. It was first published during the interval between leaving Westminster and opening the College.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 the College closed down and the choristers and students there were dispersed – some being called up for military service. Nicholson continued running his courses for choirs. Over New Year 1939/1940 he ran courses in Eastbourne and Wellingborough. In February 1940 he

toured East Anglia visiting 34 choirs and later ran festivals in Bedford, Newbury and Weymouth.

It was at this time that he moved to St. Michael's, where he lived in the Rochford Rectory. He ran the choir with David Littlejohn playing the organ. This allowed him the time to continue with his SECM activities running courses around the country. The SECM work included an annual Easter Choirboys' course – often oversubscribed even during wartime. The lack of a College choir during the school holidays encouraged him to form a village choir with few boys from the village which sang simple settings of the Eucharist and Evensong. In 1943 he broadcast four talks on the BBC using the SMC choristers to provide examples.

Tenbury was however somewhat off the beaten track and he started looking for somewhere more central for travelling to his various courses. He found this in Leamington Spa and moved there in 1943.

At the end of the war in 1945 St. Nicholas College reopened in Canterbury with Gerald Knight (appointed an SMC fellow in 1953) as Warden, though out of financial considerations no longer as a residential school. In March by Royal Charter, the SECM became the Royal School of Church Music, which till today continues as the most important organisation for church music in the country.

Sir Sydney Hugo Nicholson died in May 1947 at the age of 72 and is buried at Westminster Abbey.

## **Annual General Meeting 2019**

The meeting was held in the Village Hall on 28th September 2019 at 2:00 pm. The draft minutes follow:

In attendance were:

Chris Coles	Julian Higman
Tim Coles	Lionel Higman
Tarquin Wiggins	William Jenkyns
Charles Beresford	Jenson Jones
Peter Beresford	John Page
Selwyn Charles-Jones	Stewart Meikle
Michael Hart	David Wells-Cole
Chris Higman	Gervas Wells-Cole

### **1. In Memoriam**

A moment's silence was held in memory of Members and Friends who had died in the past year, including:

Alan Meikle	Julian Clist
Christopher Irby	Lucy Acton

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Peter Scott	Alan Dale
Edward Watson-Williams	Stuart Nelson
Lucian Nethgingha	Anthony Kyrke-Smith
Richard Franklin	John Selby
Barney Bell	Simon Goss
Mike Houghton	Kevin Jacot
James Mealings	Leander Wiggins
Gavin Braithwaite	Roger Mortimer
Mike Benson	David Ritchie

### **3. Minutes of 2018 AGM**

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were read out by the Secretary, Tim Coles and unanimously approved by those present. The president Christopher Coles duly signed the minutes.

#### 4. Matters arising

The president said it was important that the Society had a relationship with the College and he would approach the head to discuss a 'package of engagement' covering prizes, parking and a tour; and report back to the committee.

Michael Hart said there would soon be parking to the left of the turning circle and there was always parking at the village hall.

Jenson Jones said the head had said they would rather a prize that benefitted the whole school rather than just 2 pupils. Chris said he was happy to engage with the head with a view to making a decision in March.

#### 5. President's Report

Chris Coles thanked David Wells-Cole for all his hard work as immediate past president.

Chris said it was a privilege to be made president and that he would like to be in post for longer than the initial 2 years.

The committee had met in April and had looked at timings for the Reunion and these would be adjusted again if necessary.

The 2020 Reunion was to be held on 26th Sept and the committee would meet on 28th March.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Tarquin Wiggins, presented the accounts (attached).

He said subscriptions were gradually reducing and had been for some years.

Items of merchandise were available today and he would do a stock take and look into perhaps ordering more.

It was proposed by William Jenkyns and seconded by David Wells-Cole that the accounts be adopted and this was approved.

#### 7. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Tim Coles, reported that the annual golf competition had not yet taken place but it was hoped to do so at a later date.

It was agreed that the society's membership list be administered by the secretary.

#### 8. Music Report

Michael Hart said the Hereford Singers were singing Evensong and that we were 'lucky to get them'. Michael was thanked for the work he did with organising everything for the reunion.

#### 9. Website Report

William Jenkyns reported that the website was 'doing what it should do' but it needed more content. Members were encouraged to let William know if they had items for the site.

Suggestions were made to add the Boys' Papers and the archive list at Hereford Cathedral.

A members-only Facebook page had also been created - admins were to be William, Tarquin Wiggins and Tim Coles.

In light of the society's falling subscriptions, the idea of using Paypal would be looked at to make it easier to make payments.

#### 10. Magazine

With Charles Beresford stepping down as editor of the magazine, members were grateful that Chris Higman had stepped forward to fill the role.

#### 11. SMCS Legacy

Chris Coles spoke to members about what physical legacy the society would like to leave behind when it naturally came to an end.

The society had been going since 1906 but how many members would there be in 20 or so years' time?

How would the Society leave its mark? - perhaps a book, or a piece of art, a statue or a scholarship; and a fund to maintain it.

Chris sought members' approval to move ahead with looking at ideas and to raise money over the coming 10 or 20 years. This was given.

Jenson Jones said it was important to have a link with the St Michael's PCC

Stewart Meikle said it was right to look at a 'proper dignified end' but we had to be able to deliver, should it be 20 years or a shorter timescale?

#### 12. Election of Officers

None - all to stay in place.

#### 13. Nominations of Friends

It was confirmed that the Dean and Precentor of Hereford Cathedral are to be made ex-officio Friends of the Society.

David Wells-Cole asked whether the Society should have a Patron. This would be looked at.

#### 14. Donations

It was proposed by Gerry Wells-Cole and seconded by Stewart Meikle that a £500 donation be made to the St Michael's PCC

#### 11. Date for the 2020 Reunion

This was set as 26th September 2020.

#### 12. Any Other Business

None

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2.40pm.

### **Music at St. Michael's**

The annual carol service was sung by the Birmingham University Singers. They have been doing this since the college closed in 1985. All the students are given bed and breakfast in the village.

## **St. Michael's International College**

The society has supported the St. Michael's International College with prizes for pupils and this has been reported in earlier editions of your magazine. It was therefore with sadness that we learned earlier in the year that the College has been closed as of 30<sup>th</sup> June. Details are not currently known, though there has been some speculation in the local press about the future of the buildings. It is expected that more news will become available and will be reported in the next issue of the magazine.

## **Memories of St. Michael's**

We all have memories of our days at St. Michael's and it is good to hear about them. This year only one (reported below) reached us but space will be reserved for more next year. Your editor will be very pleased to receive any contributions.

## **Going Out 1952**

Michael Anderson (1949-53) sent in this picture of himself (left)



and friends Adrian Cope (right) and Ben Pearce Higgins (second from right). This was taken on an exeat from school at the invitation of Adrian's

parents. Second from left is Adrian's younger brother. Anyone wanting to make contact with Michael is welcome to do so by email [mbanderson347@btinternet.com](mailto:mbanderson347@btinternet.com).