

Report from the THA Secretary

Immediately prior to the 2014 AGM, held in College on Saturday 27 September, Alex Taylor and Georgia Ware, two recipients of the 2014 THA Awards, gave members a presentation on their involvement in humanitarian work in India and Tanzania. At the AGM Colin Hayes (1962) took over from Nigel Chancellor (1990) as President with Roger McKinlay (1979) as Vice President. Colin, on behalf of the Committee, presented Nigel with a framed photograph looking through the Screens to Front Court and main gate. This very atmospheric black and white view had been taken and printed by Roger McKinlay.

After the AGM we adjourned to the Master's Lodge for drinks followed by a splendid dinner in the newly-refurbished Hall. The Cambridge Dinner was the last THA event to be attended by Martin and Claire Daunton, the President paid tribute to the great contribution they had made both to the College and to the Association. We shall miss them.

Three weeks later, on Saturday 18 October, we were in Bath for a South West Dinner in the Pump Room. The evening started with drinks around the pool and a tour of the Roman Baths before sitting down to a really fine dinner in the Pump Room. There was a good turnout from across the years with representation from each of the last six decades. We were delighted to welcome back the Revd Dr Jeremy Morris who responded with a very well received discourse on the College, the future, and the role of the alumni. We look forward with great pleasure to working with Jeremy in the years ahead.

Some 220 alumni gathered together on a delightful summer's evening on Thursday 28 May to enjoy the hospitality of Lambeth Palace on the south bank of the Thames. It was particularly pleasing to be able to welcome alumni with matriculation dates falling in each of the last eight decades. There was a particularly good showing from people who matriculated in the 1970s. Amongst the portraits of former Archbishops was that of a twice past President of the THA, the Most Revd Robert Runcie (one of his terms as our President was during his time as Archbishop).

A plentiful supply of good wine and splendid canapés throughout the evening helped fuel the 'buzz' that we have come to expect at THA events – it is always a great delight to talk to people across the generations and the conversations certainly flowed. Many people commented on how difficult it was, in the Palace itself, to feel that you were really in the centre of London. I think that most were agreed that Lambeth Palace made a superb venue and we give grateful thanks for the privilege of being allowed to hold our event in such a unique setting.

This year we made THA Awards to three students, two of whom will be recounting something of their experiences immediately prior to the AGM before joining us for dinner.

Several committee members are retiring at the AGM and we are actively canvassing the year reps for suggestions and nominations. In particular we are looking for someone with good experience of modern communication techniques, someone with suitable financial expertise as well as trying to ensure representation of our more recent members and a suitable gender balance.

As always we are incredibly grateful for the support that we receive from the Alumni and Development Office in organizing our events around the country and in handling most of the administrative tasks.

We are looking forward to welcoming members to the North East Event at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle on Saturday 24 October.

Dr Chris Angus (1967)

Feedback from our members

Many of you will have been to a THA event, but many more have not. We thought that it might be a good idea to let you know what many of you have been missing with a selection of the feedback from our last event on what people had particularly appreciated.

The venue:

- “great” “historic” “lovely” “interesting” “beautiful” “excellent venue”
- “loved the venue, you always pick the best venues”
- “beautiful (very Cambridge-like) setting”
- “a great setting that is not normally open to the public, so felt very privileged”
- “the opportunity to visit such a famous and splendid building”
- “venue was excellent and beautiful”
- “unusual opportunity to visit the beautiful State Rooms at Lambeth Palace”
- “interesting venue, restful ambience, accessible”
- “an interesting venue in central London”

Food and drink:

- “very good canapés!”
- “fantastic food and drink”
- “good canapés and wine”
- “wonderful canapés, decent wine”
- “drinks and canapé’s were very nice too”
- “good wine and excellent canapés”
- “very good nibbles”
- “catering was exceptional”

The company:

- “excellent to meet the Master”

“meeting friends and talking with the Master”

“meeting friends not seen since graduation”

“wide cross section of THA members”

“some VERY old friends turned up unexpectedly”

“opportunity to meet Hall graduates across the years”

“superb company”

“great to bump into old friends”

“VERY FRIENDLY”

“the usual good company”

“good attendance with a wide range of people, not just the old regulars”

“warm and friendly welcome” “overall a very enjoyable night”