AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of the 102nd AGM, 23rd September 2017

3. Election of President
   Roger McKinlay (1979), having been duly nominated, stands for election as President.

4. Committee Members
   (a) To note the retirement of Michael Womack (1966) and David Lock (2006) as members of the Committee.
   (b) To propose the appointment of Dr David Billett (1968) as a member of the Committee.
   (c) To propose the appointment of the Revd Cortland Fransella (1967) as a member of the Committee.

5. Secretary’s Report


7. AOB
Dr David Billett

I studied Chemistry as an undergraduate and postgraduate at Bristol (BSc, MSc, PhD) before matriculating at Trinity Hall in 1968 as the University’s Oliver Gatty Student. Here I pursued post-doctoral research in Biophysical Chemistry with the late Dennis Haydon (Fellow 1965- 1988) for 3 years. Leaving Cambridge, I worked as a research and development chemist, then information officer, in the chemical industry on Teesside (ICI). After 10 years I decided to focus on secondary teaching, completed a PGCE at Durham (St John’s College), and taught chemistry at Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire for 20 years. I also fulfilled a number of other significant roles in the school. Since retiring in 2003 I have maintained some professional activity in chemistry as an examiner and moderator, writer and occasional tutor. My wife Sue and I still live in Pickering. I remain involved in the Cambridge Society of North & West Yorkshire, in administration (past Chair), organising events, including Freshers’ Events in York, and networking with our neighbouring Cambridge Societies. In Cambridge I have close links with CUDAR and was shortlisted for the Alumni Board in 2017. I enjoyed my time at Trinity Hall, and had particular interests in music and the Chapel. I try to attend at least 2 or 3 events each year, which has helped me to meet alumni from a wide range of matriculation years. I assisted in the organisation of the College’s regional dinner at Harewood House, Yorkshire in October 2010.

The Revd Fransella Cortland

I read Modern and Mediaeval Languages (principally mediaeval French and Provençal, with Spanish) from 1967 to 1970. I rowed minimally but at least I never sank. I lived in college all three years, which suited me although others couldn’t wait to get out and into digs. I have loved the Hall ever since for what it gave me and for the supportive environment which it offered and continues to offer to all its students, not least by virtue of its small intake. I served as some sort of undergraduate rep in my second or third year but have gratefully forgotten the details.

After Cambridge I worked for the Diplomatic Service for 40 years and added Cantonese and a smattering of Bahasa Melayu to my languages but I can’t say that I ever deployed my mediaeval French in support of HMG’s external policies. Drawn back into the ambit of the Hall at a 25th anniversary dinner in London, I have never really left it since. Frequent visits for several years to Edinburgh, where my wife had studied, brought us back into contact with my tutor and Director of Studies Jim Laidlaw, with whom we remain in regular touch.

For the past 20 years I have been a Church of England priest and was delighted a couple of years ago to be able to arrange a THA event at Lambeth Palace, which proved something of a success. I value the maintenance of ties between Hall alumni and alumnae not only for nostalgia but also in the hope that we might help the students of today and tomorrow who face harsh financial demands of which my generation never dreamt. My work since 2011 with the excellent charity IntoUniversity (https://intouniversity.org/) constantly reminds me that, whilst intellect, aptitude and academic potential may be evenly distributed amongst our population, educational opportunity is not. I strongly support the idea of the THA nurturing today’s students with bursaries or in any other effective way.

In short, I value the Hall and the contribution that the THA can make to its continued flourishing. As a member of the THA Committee, I should be glad to further the Association’s aims.