

THE OLD CESTREFELDIANS' SOCIETY



Eighty Eighth Annual Dinner and Reunion

The 2017 dinner, attended by some ninety OCs, was held at the Casa Hotel, Lockoford Lane on Friday 28th April.

The retiring president, Dr. Geoff Miller, was unfortunately unable to attend due to other commitments but his shoes were ably filled by Past President Sir Brian Unwin.

Following the grace, in Latin, given by John Roberts, which would have kept Bob Young on his mettle, the excellent dinner was punctuated by many requests from the Pro-President to take wine with those who had participated in various ways in the life of Chesterfield Grammar School and the Society.

An update was provided by Frank Gorman on some of the activities of the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust during the year. Philip Riden has made sterling progress with "A History of Chesterfield Grammar School" whose draft, running to some 500 pages, was available for inspection and advance ordering. It is intended that it will be launched formally at the Remembrance Day Service on November 11th. Order forms will be made available on the website.

Annual awards recognising achievement have now been granted to students studying at Brookfield School, St Mary's and at Outwood Academy (which is on the site of the former Newbold Green School).

Attention was also drawn to Sir Brian's latest book, "With respect, minister" which contains details on aspects of school life in the 1940s and 50s.

The formal toast to the Old School and the Old Cestrefeldians' Society was proposed by Peter Williamson who amused the gathering with tales of life at the school during the 1970s.

In his role as Pro-President Sir Brian paid tribute to the Committee for their organisation of these events whose popularity was evidence of the affection with which the School was remembered by so many. There were, of course, awkward moments too, a recollection re Lenny Lodge being cited and rivalries, one such between former pupils who became an admiral and a bishop being retold, presumably not Bishop Godfrey who attended the reunion.

Terry Woodhouse introduced our new president, Prof. John Goodman C.B.E. John like his elder brother, David, excelled at football at school before gaining his degree at the London School of Economics and then entering his chosen career of personnel management. He worked at Ford Halewood in labour relations and then returned to academia at Nottingham University where he spent 5 years as a lecturer in industrial relations.



Following spells at the Prices and Incomes Board and Manchester University, John moved to UMIST as a professor, later becoming Vice Principal before retiring in 2002. Whilst at Manchester he acted as an arbitrator for ACAS. He has written many books and papers, and since retirement has chaired the Police Arbitration Tribunal and various boards in professional football. He still found time to climb all the Munros, and visit all 92 football league grounds.

Terry proposed the toast to our new President.

At this point John was installed by the Pro-President, receiving the medal, cap and badge of office. In his response we were given an entertaining description of school life as seen by a Bolsover boy including strategies for surviving initiation ceremonies, avoiding the choir and the benefits of living in Bolsover for avoiding detention and the treatment of homework as a joint endeavour on the long bus journeys.

Our Treasurer, Michael Hadfield, was next to the podium to present the Old Cestrefeldians' Society accounts for the year to 31st December 2016. Thanks to the sale of ties, a surplus of £225 had been achieved increasing the assets to £2713.

The end of the formal proceedings was the usual competitive rendering of the School Song followed by the singing of Jerusalem.



Prof. John Goodman C.B.E. (left) receives the Badge of Office from Sir Brian Unwin.