

**Old Retfordians' Association**  
**Annual General Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
**Ye Olde Bell, Barnby Moor at 12:15pm**

**1. Attendees**

Ged Moss 1977-84, Peter Holdsworth 1955-62, Simon Hart 1969-74, Jack Barber 1955-63, Dan Needham 1953-60, John Brooke 1955-62, Chris Trend 1970-77, Tom Oxley 1956-63, Robert Ilett 1948-54, Robert Chambers 1962 -68, Alan Stennett 1956 -62

**2. Apologies were received from:**

Peter Skelton, Graeme Reynolds, Robin Williams, Peter Burton, Harry Payne, Steve Barton, Geoff Hughes, Steve Caress, Peter Howells, David Mellor, David Waterfield, Jon Frankland, Tom Randall, Tim Blythe, Mick Smith, Stuart Blagg, Nigel Hall, Barry Robinson, Colin Whitham, Ian Scott, Steve Marsh, Phil Towler, Howard Paynter

**3. Minutes of AGM 2022**

These were read by outgoing Secretary Peter Holdsworth. They were proposed by Jack Barber and seconded by Ged Moss. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

**4. President's Report**

Out going President Ged Moss gave a reflective report:

Gratitude is the precious compound left in the filter paper of life.

**Qualifications, friends and even painful lessons**

Many people, including John Palmer have reflected on the prize we've all received, most of us have precious friends we still have as well as fond memories of those lost. Many still harbour painful experiences too but in my own experience reunion has contributed greatly to healing as well as a strengthening. Please drink to a handful of some heroes of mine:

- Mr McNeill Watson
- Mike Best, RIP 2021
- Simon Cox, RIP 2022
- Stephen Walker, active in the Little Theatre and Methodist church
- Mr David Walter, attendee in 2018 and 2022

## **Memories**

No ORA speech would be complete without mention of Mr John Palmer, and until recently his kind brother Mr Robert Palmer. John, through the EYEMEAD site has sustained so much school material and inspired us all.

## **For Volunteers**

In my own era, the dedication of ORA stalwarts like Michael Chislett were not as obvious to me as they should be been, so I rue my indifference and beg all younger pupils not present not to make own mistake. Please drink to his contemporaries:

- Robert Proctor, and Edward Otter, RIP
- Peter, Jack, Peter, Chris and Simon
- Tom Oxley for his archive time

Through our own efforts and other ORA members, we have staged innumerable reunions in 2018 (77-84), 2019, 2022 (2) and this one today.

My thanks also to the staff of Ye Olde Bell today, as I do the staff of the West Retford Hotel on previous occasions.

## **For membership**

Thank you to all those subscribe through the website, now numbering 39

I should remind everyone we are funded by a core members who have made voluntary subscriptions of either a one off £50 donation, a £5 annual sub is also available, as are £25 instalments. If you haven't done this, I beg you to consider financially supporting amongst other benefits, the growing website archive which costs approximately £100 per year to sustain.

## **For absent friends**

All those who have registered apologies and regret at being unable to attend - we will try to better for you next year!

PETER SKELTON

## **For attendees here today.**

My final and very personal is to those here today, though few, the visible evidence of the inheritance we have all received.

Ex pulvere palma. From the ashes of effort, the rewards.

Enjoy, reflect, and re-discover old friends, present or absent!

*A more literal translation of the school motto was given as “Out of dust, palms” or “Palms from the dust”.*

## 5. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Simon Hart presented the statement of accounts. He emphasised that there has been an income of £425 in membership fees and £1635.66 is being carried forward into next year.

Summary	[2023] Opening	<b>£1,340.71</b>
Income	Subscriptions	£425.00
	Donations	£0.00
		<b>£1,765.71</b>
Costs	Website	-£115.05
	Archive costs	-£15.00
		<b>-£130.05</b>
In Bank		<u>£1,635.66</u>

The motion to accept the accounts was proposed by Tom Oxley and seconded by Alan Stennet. The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Election of Officers

The following elections were passed unanimously:

- i President, Jack Barber 1955-63 proposed Ged Moss, seconded Peter Holdsworth
- ii Vice President - vacant
- iii Treasurer, Simon Hart 1969 -74, proposed Jack Barber, seconded Peter Holdsworth
- iv Assistant Treasurer, Peter Skelton 1964 -72 proposed Jack Barber, seconded Peter Holdsworth
- v Secretary, Christopher Trend 1970 -77, proposed by Jack Barber, seconded Peter Holdsworth
- vi Assistant Secretary - vacant
- vii Reunion Organiser, Simon Hart 1969 -74, proposed Jack Barber, seconded Peter Holdsworth

There are voluntary positions not subject to election

viii Bassetlaw Museum Liaison, Robert Ilett 1948 - 54, Robin Williams 1975 -79

ix Webmaster, Ged Moss 1977 - 84

x Archives Co-ordinator, Tom Oxley 1956 -63

xi Zoom Host, David Waterfield 1956 -62

In addition to the minutes I would like to express a big thank you to Peter Holdsworth and Ged Moss for all they have done in leading the current Association and creating a group that we hope will go on for a long time.

### **7. Draw for Picture**

A painting of the school was won by Dan Needham which will be returned to the Association eventually.

### **8. Any Other Business**

Tom Oxley stated we need to encourage others to pay as Life Members. Membership is good value for money. There are currently 39 Life Members. One option could be to restrict part of the website to members. This was proposed by Dan Needham and seconded by Ged Moss. This was agreed unanimously.

The option of Associate Membership was discussed. This could be opened to former pupils from the High School or partners of members or former members of staff. Dan Needham suggested that Associate Membership should share the ethics of the Association. A similar model is Associate Membership of the RAF Association. There was unanimous agreement that we should proceed with this via an amendment to the constitution and an extraordinary general meeting.

Robert Ilett asked about the biographical details of Old Retfordians on the Notts Memorial Site.

### **9. Date and Time for next AGM, 2024**

Ideally it should be on a Saturday. Simon Hart to look into this. The date could be around 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Appreciation was expressed to Peter Holdsworth and his work with the Association.

The meeting closed at 13:00

## **Lunch and Talk**

After the meeting we enjoyed an excellent lunch from Ye Olde Bell, Barnby Moor.

After lunch Dan Needham gave a talk with slides on his career in the RAF with slides of the aircraft. It was a fascinating talk and much appreciated by those who attended.