

**STERNIANS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**10<sup>TH</sup> June 2017 AT LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE**

**MINUTES**

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Chris Gibbs welcomed 21 members and 4 guests to the AGM. He thanked all present. Apologies were received from Pat Taylor, Paul Davies and Ron Burlingham.
2. **Minutes of the 2016 AGM (published in The Sternian 2016):** These were available for inspection. They were approved as an accurate account of the meeting.
3. **Births, Deaths and Marriages:**

**Notified Deaths since last AGM**

Graham Fussell 443 (5th October 2016 aged 89)  
Ivor Darter 379 (2nd November 2016 aged 90)  
Brian Stafford 530 (8th November 2016 aged 87)  
Michael Hanrott A627 (11th November 2016 aged 66)  
William Tootill B206 (8th December 2016 aged 56)  
Colin Holt 745 (29th December 2016 aged 82)  
Dennis Badham 335 (16th January 2017 aged 94)  
Rupert Green (23rd January 2017 aged 21)  
Wyndham Smith 414 (28th January 2017 aged 90)  
Hugh Brown A211 (14th March 2017 aged 73)  
Brian Bellamy 761 (16th March 2017 aged 80)  
Melvyn 'Wally' Sanders aka Wally Pratt 790 (25th March 2017 aged 80)  
Ryan Winstanley C720 (27th March 2017 aged 39)  
Colin Causton A263 (28th March 2017 aged 71)  
Michael Roberts 547 (4th April 2017 aged 86)  
Graham Oke 783 (May 2017 aged 80)

Information on births and marriages where provided is published annually in The Sternian magazine.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Chris Huffam thanked Ben Forman for his help in examining the accounts and ensuring that they are presented in a suitable format.

When comparing 2016 with 2015 it is important to remember that the 2015 numbers cover a 16-month period, where certain activities were run twice.

Closing Unrestricted Funds were £19,792, a fall of £4,915 arising largely from the continuation of the Archive Project.

The Grant from LWC remained unchanged at £16,413

#### Reunions –

For our flagship Summer reunion, expenditure included the printing of invites, postage out and cleansing the database. This is reflected in the loss incurred for the event.

The South West reunion was run this year but not in 2015.

Over 60s lunch was run twice during the 2015 accounting period.

The Bournemouth reunion generated a surplus due to donations.

Sports events – In 2015 the Rugby Sevens and Netball events were run twice in the period. Expenses include Rugby First Aid cover, prizes and catering.

Regalia – Expenditure has been kept low with stocks being minimised. Clothing orders were processed by our supplier where stocks didn't exist. The valuation increase is due to a fresh stock of Sternians Bears.

The Sternian magazine – Costs of our Flagship publication remained constant. (50% Printing, 50% postage & Mail sort).

President's Reception – Traditionally an Autumn event, this was run twice in the 2015 accounting period.

#### Donations –

Contributions received and distributed to causes including the Sternians Trust Fund, the Foundation, the War Memorial and for commemorative benches will vary from one year to another.

The War Memorial individual donation of £110 (L Kinney) is the passing on of a Sternian donation specifically for this project. (The Association has donated £1,500 in 2017).

The £925 for Commemorative Benches represent monies given by the Dare and Pymont families. Both benches are overlooking the sports field.

General expenditure of £425 includes Database People tracer subscriptions, Committee expenses, Trust fund catering, Staff Travel, AROPS (the Association of Representatives of Old Pupils Societies) and Leavers.

Special Projects – This section is kept separate from the reoccurring expenses in order to give an easier comparison one year with another.

- The Website project was completed in 2015.
- The expenditure in 2016 on the second phase of the Archive Project has now made available through the Sternians' website all editions of The Sower and The Sternian magazines, together with a small selection of other items of interest.

In answer to a question from Hugh Podger, Chris Huffam reported that the War Memorial project had been initiated, was owned and being run by the school and its pupils. Hence the total money raised does not appear in the accounts of the Sternians' Association.

Bob Hunt, organiser of the Bournemouth Reunion, questioned the reported Income, Donations and Expenses involved in the Bournemouth reunion. Chris Huffam thought it was to do with Donations relating to Bournemouth attendees that were received direct to the Sternians' office shortly after the event. Chris and Bob were to review the numbers outside of the meeting. [Note – A small discrepancy between figures provided by Bob and those as published in the accounts is due to the inclusion of expenses for Gill Kelly in the published figures. Issue closed.]

Approval of the Sternians' Accounts for the 12 months to 31/12/16.

Proposed: Chris Woodhams      Seconded: George Potter

Majority accepted.

These accounts are published and available to be viewed on the Sternians' Website.

- 5. Trust Fund Report:** Paul Richings reported on the Trust Fund. Page 46 of the Sternian featured a report to December 2016. More pupils were assisted in 2016 than in any previous year and the total of grants was the highest to date. Grants were £7.5k higher than in 2015. The primary objective of the Fund is to ensure that pupils who are being educated at Lord Wandsworth College do not lose that enduring benefit through a change in financial circumstances.

Assets were reported as exceeding £800k for the first time, an increase of 50% in 5 years, and up 12% in this year alone.

In the year there had been one legacy received by the fund, of £10,000. Legacy income is regarded as increasingly important to the ongoing financial strength of the Trust Fund.

Paul welcomed the tremendous contribution of Hugh Podger to the Trust Fund over the years, following Hugh's retirement from the Trustees. Teresa Armstrong, mother of a Sternian, and James Brewin, a Sternian, had accepted invitations to join the Trustees.

- 6. Chairman's Report:** Chris Gibbs reported on his fourth and final AGM as Chairman. In his review of the past year, events with significant Sternian input included:

- Various sports events – cricket, netball, hockey, rugby 7s – these continue to draw a strong attendance of people playing and watching, including many younger Sternians
- Over 60s Farmers Club lunch
- President's Drinks in November
- South West reunion
- Bournemouth reunion
- Careers fair – with over 20 Sternians attending to talk to pupils about their businesses and careers

A planned London drinks session in early June sadly clashed with the day of the snap General Election. That event was to be rescheduled in the near future.

Updating the meeting on the progress of the appeal for the new War Memorial, Chris reported that the pupils have raised almost £10,000, against the target of £15,000, with the College to match all funds raised Pound-for-Pound up to the project cost. The Chairman was delighted that the Sternians have been able to help; through individual donations and as an organisation the Sternian community had contributed over £2,500. The College appreciated the Sternians support in this and in other fundraising ideas, and using any contacts we have. Expect to hear more about that in due course and if you have ideas or contacts then please come forward.

Some projects have proved more difficult to progress over the last year:

- Some fundraising initiatives – like WW1 Battlefield tours or joining the college for its Land's End to John O'Groats Bike rides – these things are more complex because of the need for DBS checks on everyone attending and because they can change the dynamic of events, so we need to rethink how and if we could do something like that.
- Mentoring of pupils and Sternians with business links.

Attention will turn to these in due course.

Sternian Archives – as reported in the Treasurer’s update above, all the past issues of The Sower (1933-2012) and The Sternian (1958-2016), are now online. The meeting was invited to visit the site if they hadn’t already, to view this and other content. The archives can be accessed from the Sternians’ website and from our Facebook page.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Chris Huffam (Treasurer), Ben Forman (Independent Examiner), Hugh Podger and Gill Kelly for their considerable efforts on behalf of the Association throughout the year.

In closing, Chris thanked the committee, the College and the Sternians’ Association for their most welcome support throughout his term as Chairman.

**7. School Liaison – Ed Walker highlighted some aspects of his work as the Staff Liaison and Development link between the Association and the College.**

Ed commended the work of Adam Williams and his Senior Management Team, and particularly of our Alumni Officer, Gill Kelly, in support of the Association throughout the year.

He felt that Sternians as a group were increasingly willing to engage in activities with the College and with the Sternian community. A notable example of that involvement is the annual Careers Fair, which in a few short years has grown into a major event, to which the College is able to proudly invite pupils from local twinned schools.

Ed also cited the significant impact of some of our more hardy Sternians on the local sporting scene, where Farnham Rugby Club relied on a substantial core of our former pupils to help to win the RFU Senior Vase final at Twickenham in May. (Note - See page 37 of The Sternian 2016 for more on our contribution to Farnham sport.)

**8. Officers for Election**

John Bacon was elected as Chairman

Chris Huffam was re-elected as Treasurer

Edward Walker was re-elected as Staff Liaison

Bruce Buckland was re-elected to the Committee

Bill Preece was re-elected to the Committee

Charlotte Greer-Reed was elected to the Committee

**9. Election of Vice-Presidents and other members**

Richard Janaway was re-elected Vice President

**10. Any Other Business**

There being no other business, Chris Gibbs thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.