

STERNIANS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10.30hrs Saturday 24th June in the Gavin Hall
Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Chris Huffam welcomed a well attended AGM with 41 attendees of which 33 were Sternians. Apologies – A very special mention was made concerning our Chairman John Bacon's absence due to illness and we wished him a speedy recovery. Other Sternians who sent their apologies were read out.

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

- Approved unanimously by a show of hands

3. Deaths since the last AGM

Pharic Gillibrand 672 (8th June 2022, aged 86)
John Brooks 828 (17th June 2022, aged 84)
Penny Carmichael, Hazelveare Matron 1979 -1994 (11th August 2022, aged 100)
Arthur Singleton 628 (18th August 2022, aged 91)
John Gates 445 (30th August 2022, aged 94)
Heather James ZB30 (September 2022, aged 95)
Alec Williams 888 (1st November, aged 83)
David Pownall 834 (21st November, aged 84)
George 'Johnny' Johnson 287 (7th December 2022 aged 101)
William Robert Oliver 'Bob' 542 (18th December 2022 aged 92)
Annabel 'Annie' Clare Bradney E880 (2nd January, aged 31)
Robert 'Bob' Hunt 608 Sutton (7th January 2023, aged 90)
Leonard Harry Cline 588 (8th January, aged 92)
Arthur Gamble (16th January 2023) Head of Languages 1968-1972
Roger Lucas 371 (28th January 2023, aged 96)
James Ambrose Jemson 921 (25th February 2023. aged 82)
Patrick 'Pat' Taylor (27th February 2023) Housemaster and CCF
Ian Forster 916 (13th March 2023, aged 82)
Colin Ponting A012 (April 2023, aged 82)
Noel Taylor 399 (9th April 2023, aged 96)

4. Treasurer's report -Chris Huffam

The Financial Statement reports on the Monies in and out of the Sternians' accounts. All main Expenditure is covered by the LWC Development Office – Production and Mailing of the Sternian magazine as an example.

- Monies in – Made up of Subs and Donations. There were no legacies left to the Sternians in 2022
- Monies out - Only one entry, the hosting of the Sternians' website.
- Figures as written report
- Sternians' Business bank now merged into main account
- Opening Balance at 01/01/22 **£12,072**
- Closing Balance at 31/12/23 including monies in the PayPal account **£12,846**
- PayPal account funds to be drawn down during 2023

- Q: Hugh Podger:
 - i. Any plans for what to do with £12,000?

- ii. A: Still looking at various projects that we can help to finance.
 - iii. Q2: Sculpture?
 - iv. A: Will be addressed under AOB.
- Passed unanimously with a show of hands

5 Trust fund report by Paul Richings

The Sternians Trust Fund –AGM Report 2023

Good morning everyone, it's great to be here today and to see so many familiar faces.

If you don't attend the AGM frequently and are primarily here for this afternoon's festivities, it might be helpful to remind you what the Trust Fund does. Apologies to those of you who've heard me cover this in prior years.

The Fund was originally established in 1961, and in its early years typically awarded small grants towards the cost of musical instruments or field trips. As resources have grown, it has been able to make more meaningful grants, which in recent years have been targeted almost exclusively towards school fees.

Our process involves all candidates for grants being recommended by the College, and there is a rigorous assessment of the detailed financial information supporting each application. The financial case is necessary but not by itself sufficient. Candidates must demonstrate academic and general merit and must be contributing to the life of the College. Following input from the houseparent and tutor, it is then up to the Trustees to consider whether financial support can be given, and if so how much. The expectation is that a grant from the Trust Fund should make the difference between a pupil having to leave or being able to continue their education at the College, usually at a critical point in their school career. The majority of pupils supported are therefore in the 5th or 6th forms.

Our policy is to use donations and legacies to build up the Fund's capital, and then to use investment income to make grants. It's 20 years now since I first became involved with the Trust Fund, and the Fund's assets have increased substantially over that period. That is thanks to a combination of investment growth, regular donations from a small number of loyal donors, but also a number of substantial legacies.

Turning now to the Trust Fund's performance in 2022. The investment portfolio had enjoyed a bounce in 2021 as investment markets recovered coming out of the pandemic, but was not immune to the volatility that affected the markets in 2022, particularly after the start of the conflict in Ukraine and the consequent inflationary pressures and uncertainty. The result was the near-reversal of the prior year's gains, but the Fund's net assets still ended the year with a value of just over one million pounds. The majority of that value comprises a portfolio of investments in pooled funds intended exclusively for charities. Those investments generate an income which reached £36,000 in 2022. This represents a yield of almost 4%, and allows us to support a number of pupils at the level of grant that the Fund typically offers.

This allowed the Trust Fund was able to support 9 pupils during the year, against 2021's record figure of 16. Grants of over £24,000 were provided to these pupils during the year. All of these beneficiaries were Foundationers, where the Trust Fund was able to step into the place of other charities that would not continue their support into the 6th form.

Perhaps surprisingly, we have not always seen the volume of applications that we might have expected after adverse changes in the general economic climate. However, I think we would expect this position to change following the pandemic and the challenges posed by the cost of living crisis. This is borne out by a number of recent applications that the Trustees are actively considering.

I should once again take a moment to pause and thank those Sternians whose generosity continues to benefit the Trust Fund. The Fund's capital has accumulated over many years thanks to a combination of regular donations from a relatively small number of individual donors and, in recent years, a number of legacies. 2022 was no exception, with individual donations on a par with the prior year in addition to a £25,000 legacy. As ever, the Trustees will seek to ensure that these donations generate additional income for the Fund, allowing its contribution to remain meaningful as school fees inevitably rise.

Finally, a word of thanks to the trustees, and to Chris Bellairs, our Independent Examiner. The Trustees are all Sternians, and give up their time both to attend our meetings at LWC but also to consider applications for support that arise between those meetings. Their ongoing contribution is hugely important and valued highly by both the College and by the families whose children benefit from the Trust Fund's support.

PR 24.6.23

Q: Hugh Podger, were grants all to Foundationers? None of merit from non-foundationers?

A: Yes. All assessed including through third party assessment company.

Q: What maximum grant made last year?

A: In the region of £1000 per term typically.

5. Chairman's report

- **John Bacon's report was read out by Chris Huffam:**

On behalf of the Association I would like to welcome everyone to LWC for this historical weekend, where the college celebrates one hundred years as a unique centre of education in the heart of the Hampshire countryside.

With Covid now an increasingly distant memory for most of us, the Sternian year is starting to return to normal. As we have come to expect, the recent Bournemouth reunion was well attended, as was the first of its kind LWC +30 lunch in the splendid surroundings of the RAF Club.

September's Beckwith offered Sternians a new opportunity to explore those more remote parts of the campus, and perhaps a reminder of those enjoyable cross-country runs as a youngster.

More playful Sternians also got together with parents and staff to build sandcastles, although this could have involved trekking across the Sahara Desert for a few days, raising over £50k for The Foundation in the process. Congratulations to all involved. And of course conventional sporting tastes continue to be catered for, so please keep turning out for the Sternians when the call comes. Make a date in your diary for this year's Sports' Festival on 9th September – Beckwith, rugby, football, netball and hockey.

Once again, Sternians were welcomed to help with pupil development in the 5th Form Interview Morning and with the LWC Futures Fair. At these, Parents and Sternians are able to share their experience of the world of work with today's bright young things. Please look out for the invitations to these next year and offer your time when you can.

On the staffing front, we welcomed Clare Faherty as the new Alumni Relations Manager to succeed Justine Lammin. Clare was able to hit the ground running, making the short move from her previous role preparing LWC for its centenary.

In the earlier item we remembered those Sternians that we have lost this year. While undoubtedly the most newsworthy was Johnnie Johnson, we have good reason to recognise the contributions of at least a couple of others. John Gates produced the definitive study in the four volume life and times of our Founder. We were so pleased to be able to satisfy John's wishes that his ashes be scattered in Sheephouse Copse in November. Then on three months later a number of Sternians were present at Bob Hunt's funeral. The eulogies, including one from our President, Peter Booth, recognised not only the part that LWC had played in the development of young Bob, but also Bob's level of commitment to the Association throughout his life. He was always so generous with his time and support for the Sternians, and we will all miss him, but can remember him fondly.

“So, where is our elusive Chairman then?” I hear you ask. I could not have anticipated that Bob’s funeral would be my final event in the Sternians’ chair. With no obvious warning, I suffered a stroke in February. I am very fortunate that the impact has been limited to some loss of vision, such that, for now, I am not allowed to drive. It is entirely my decision that I should relinquish the chair of the Association, as I am not able to perform all of the duties that go with the role.

I thank you all for allowing me the honour of chairing the Association for almost six years. And I will be working to persuade the DVLA that I can be safe behind the wheel again soon. I assure you that you have not seen the last of me, and I will get back to LWC again soon. My timing could be better, to be missing out on all the Centenary festivities. I know you will all enjoy a fabulous weekend. And finally.... (. . .) I couldn’t finish without thanking my Executive Committee, particularly our Treasurer Chris Huffam, who has put in so much work behind the scenes, and to thank our President, Peter Booth, who has been a constant source of support and encouragement during my tenure. But for now, sadly your departing Chairman, John.

6. **Headmaster’s report** in summary form

- Has been a wonderful year but also tinged with sadness.
- Up and down and challenging year with lots going on.
- Bronze Sydney Stern in place.
- Many things have taken place but dark clouds are building around the sector.
- Planning for turbulent times ahead.
- Record numbers and demand at the school.
- 43% girls.
- Amy Hursley died in 5th form.
- Creating destination spaces on the campus.
- New 6th form centre soon to open.
- Henderson’s (new Junior hub).
- House refurbishments going on.
- Will be around 690 pupils.
- Park Courts redevelopment open.
- Buddhist meditation retreat happening.
- New campus master plan coming.
- Signed 3 year relationship with “Geeks” a digital optimisation company.
- Co-curricular activities being transformed.
- Still a school with The Foundation at the heart of it but want to be a bit bolder and have a national presence.
- Working with government to increase funding for looked after and vulnerable children.
- New appointments/leavers:
 - i. Robin Pyper leaving to go to Scotland
 - ii. Alexandra Coxworth and new DH Pastoral
 - iii. Colette McDonald as Director of Compliance
 - iv. New Director of Estates
 - v. New Director of IT
 - vi. New Director of Operations
- 1200 still evolving.
- St Neots collaboration still ongoing. Formal merger in Sept 2025 .
- New website coming.
- New branding rolling out.
- Friends of LWC groups evolving.
- New staff accommodation programme

- Sport:
 - i. Dance going well
 - ii. Girls cricket having lots of success
 - iii. Same with boys
 - iv. As also, rugby, hockey,
 - v. Riding and skiing and canoeing all going well.
- Q: James Gregory-Marshall :
 - i. Q: Lows? Political lows?
 - ii. A: Yes, eg VAT on school fees under Labour. We will weather the storm if it happens.

7. Officers for election

Chris Huffam was re-elected as Treasurer
 Bruce Buckland was re-elected to the Committee
 James Gregory-Marshall was re-elected as Archivist
 Charlotte Greer-Read was re-elected to the Committee
 All Approved unanimously though a show of hands.

8. Election of Vice Presidents and other members

- None up for election this year.
- Chairman:
 - i. Simon Clements agreed to step in until June next year.
 - ii. Approved unanimously by a show of hands.

9. AOB

- Bust:
 - i. Now in situ outside science building
 - ii. Resin version in exhibition tent/Sternian Room
- Biography of Lord Wandsworth:
 - i. Research is moving ahead, additional research is continuing and lots of new research is coming to light.
- Reminder for all to get food from festival

10. Chris Huffam thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.