



**Ackworth
Old Scholars'
Association**

**One Hundred and Thirty-fifth
Annual Report
2016**

THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENT - NICHOLAS SEED

Nick was born in Bradford, West Yorkshire, in May 1954 to Quaker parents Mary and John Seed. Mary (née Cordingly), having been at Ackworth herself (1936-1942), had always hoped to be able to send her children there also. So it was a very proud day for them both when Nick, the eldest of 6 children, started at Ackworth in September 1965.

Nick enjoyed his 6 years at Ackworth. His particular interests were swimming, natural history and model aircraft making. He was the swimming team captain and enjoyed hockey.

Whilst at Ackworth, Nick was joined by two of his sisters, where he saw part of his job as older brother to help settle them in to school life.

Nick left Ackworth in 1971 and became involved with the Ackworth Old Scholars Association; he attends the Easter Gathering on a regular basis.

Unsure of which career path to follow, Nick saw an advert in 'The Friend' that led him to start work as a House Father at the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby. Settling in Derby, Nick began a life long career in the National Health Service; he began as a psychiatric nurse and progressed through general nursing to become a senior nurse. He then moved into management, managing the surgical directorate for 12 years and finished his career in 2014 responsible for the commissioning of a new super hospital in Derby.

One of Nick's favourite holiday destinations is St David's in Pembrokeshire, where he met Debbi who was to become his wife in 1979. They have a son, Adam, married to Claire and two delightful grandchildren, Dylan and Amelia.

Nick is very close to his family and spends time holidaying and meeting up with them and his many friends. He has a little more time to do this now he has retired. Leading a very busy and varied life, Nick enjoys DIY, walking, socialising and gardening. He has an allotment in the village and produces lots of healthy vegetables. Not wanting to waste his interest in committee work, Nick is an elected governor at the hospital he used to work at and is an AOSA governor on the Ackworth School Committee.

Nick is a keen supporter of the school and enjoys meeting up with other Old Scholars. One of the events he particularly enjoys is Glenthorne, where he can often be found leading the walk with his brother-in-law, Mike, and failing hopelessly at the quizzes!

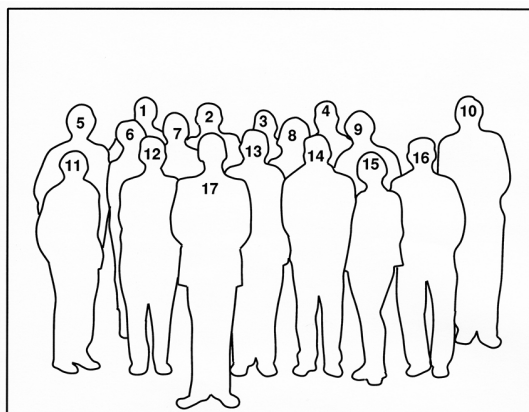
Nick is really looking forward to being your president over the next 12 months.



NICHOLAS SEED
PRESIDENT A.O.S.A. 2016-17



Ex Presidents at Easter



1. Martin Dickinson
2. Stephen Kelsall
3. David Bunney
4. Robert Gibson
5. Michael Bliss
6. Joyzelle Kelsall
7. Geoff Pedlar
8. Marguerite Hill
9. Anne Telford-Kenyon
10. Christopher Jones
11. Marjorie Bliss
12. Christopher Moore
13. Keith Daniel
14. Michael McRobert
15. Annabel McRobert
16. Michael Hargreave
17. Peter Speirs



Photograph by Charles T. Stuart

**One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth
Annual Report
of the
Ackworth Old Scholars' Association
2016**

Edited by David Wood



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AOSA ADMINISTRATION 2016-17

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Head	Anton Maree, The Head's House, Pontefract Rd., Ackworth, Pontefract, W. Yorks., WF7 7LR E-mail: head@ackworthschool.com
Deputy Heads	Jeffrey Swales; Guy Emmett
Bursar	Susan Allan
Past President	Peter Speirs
Guild Representatives	One from each Guild
School Committee Reps.	Stuart Huntington, Robert Lincoln, Aidan Mortimer, Nick Seed
Secretary to the Committee	Jennifer Jones, 1 Edward Court, Lawns Lane, Carr Gate, Wakefield, W. Yorks, WF2 0SW Tel: 01924 870978 E-mail: jenniferjones460@gmail.com

GUILD SECRETARIES

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Wessex Margaret Matthews, 56 Ethelbert Avenue, Swaythling,
Southampton, SO16 3DD

HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?

And if so, have you left anything to Ackworth School? It is true to say that many of the facilities which we take for granted at Ackworth would not exist if it had not been for the generosity of generations of Ackworth Old Scholars. For many years, legacies have enabled the School to develop capital projects and to create bursaries and scholarships which would otherwise have been impossible. Like most independent schools, Ackworth is dependent upon the generosity of its Old Scholars and friends to enable it to continue to offer the high standard of education which it has been able to do over many years.

The School Committee is grateful to those Old Scholars and others who have felt able to leave bequests to the School both large and small. These have been used to provide improvements such as the Sports Hall, Music Centre and Fothergill Theatre, and also to provide bursary assistance and scholarships, enabling pupils to be educated at Ackworth where otherwise it would not have been possible. Recent bequests range from gifts of collections made at funerals, musical instruments and cash donations; some as much as £250,000. All gifts, large or small, are gratefully received.

If you wish to help the School in this way, it would be helpful if the following form of words could be used:

“I give and bequeath the sum of £..... to the Trustees for the time being of Ackworth School 1950 Trust (registered charity number 1056414) as constituted by a Deed dated 4th December 1950 to hold the same upon the trusts therein declared.”

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**Mike McRobert**

The Stables, Grange Barns, North Moor Road, Walkeringham, DN10 4LW

Tel. 01427 89167

E-mail: mikeandannabel@hotmail.com

DISTRICT SECRETARIES**(INFORMATION FOR CASH PAYERS ONLY)**

To whom subscriptions should be sent

*(All other correspondences to Mike McRobert
including changes of address)*

Dear Jennifer, Pauline and Sheila,

It is with great pleasure and sincere thanks that I am able to acknowledge you all for your many years of service to the Association.

PAULINE DYER, 9 Home Farm Close, Uploders, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4RS
Tel: 01308 485445 Email: apdyer@tiscali.co.uk

As we are handing over the running of the Association to the School, the necessity for the Membership Secretary and District Secretaries will be no longer required.

SHARON WILSON, 111 Woodlands, Hull, West Midlands, B91 3HP
Tel: 0121 705 1458

I wish to record my thanks to you all, personally and publicly, for your help and support during my time as Membership Secretary.

JENNIFER JONES, 1 Edward Court, Lawns Lane, Carr Gate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 0SW

Tel: 01924 770778 Email: jennifer Jones460@gmail.com

Mike McRobert.**SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT 4 - Overseas Members.**

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Tel: 01924 870978 Email: jennifer Jones460@gmail.com

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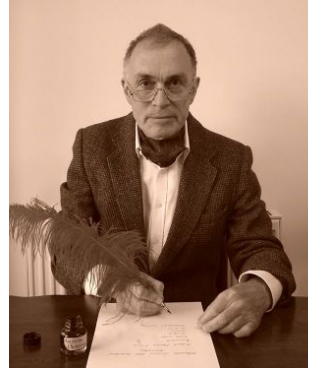
ACKWORTH, PONTEFRAC, WEST YORKSHIRE WF7 7LT

TEL: 01977 611401 FAX: 01977 616225

Ackworth Old Scholars' E-mail address: aosa@ackworthschool.com

FOREWORD 2016

Last year, I said this year's printed report would be formatted differently. In the end, we decided there was no good reason for it to be a different size or shape, and a number of Old Scholars expressed regret about the proposal. The digital version needs to be no larger than A5 size in order to be read on a tablet or small computer screen, so reformatting for the printed versions was considered to be unnecessary.



The different merits of the two systems will have been considered by Old Scholars during the last 12 months, so there's little to be gained from going over them again. Both versions of the Annual Report have essentially the same content, but it has been possible to tweak the digital version slightly. Over the years, printed reports have remained largely unchanged for over a hundred years. Black and white photographs were first introduced in the 1890s. The first colour image was the presidential photo of Walter Fearnley in the bicentenary report of 1979, and in the following year, Agnes Thompson's picture was also in colour. Financial considerations necessitated a return to full monochrome until colour returned in 2006. Collectors of recent Annual Reports will have observed that only the front and back end pages include colour pictures. Those in the middle remain doggedly in black and white. The digital version of the 2015 Annual Report had the monochrome photos restored to full colour, and it's the same this year.

On the inside of the back cover, it has become standard practice to list the names of all past AOSA Presidents, with print size reducing year by year as the number of ex-presidents increases. Thanks to Chris Jones, who has lent me his impressive collection of Annual Reports, and to school archivist, Celia Wolfe, we have been able to trace photos of all but four ex-presidents; these are now included in the digital report, alongside the names.

Collectors of Annual Reports may be interested in a project I have begun, scanning early reports (dating back to no. 1 from 1882-83), in the hope of eventually making these available as a complete set of 135+ PDF files.

Finally, an apology from me for a number of misspelt names in last year's report. Hopefully this minor lapse isn't apparent this year.

David Wood



Ackworth Old Scholars' Association

Janet Blann

Honorary General Secretary

33 Norman Avenue, Harborne, Birmingham, B32 2EX

Tel. 07963 816555

E-mail: janet.blann@gmail.com

Dear Old Scholar,

The School is in the process of taking over the administration of the Old Scholars' Association, with the continued support of a small number of the current Executive Committee.

As you are aware, there are no longer subscriptions required for your membership of the Association. Any monies still received by AOSA, will be forwarded to the School to be put to good use for the enhancement of the facilities.

The School are actively encouraging the support of all Old Scholars; this can be seen on our website, the School Magazine – Ackworth Today, Facebook Pages and Twitter.

The School are continuing to encourage participation of Old Scholars in events throughout the year, such as Easter Gathering, the Annual Report in various formats, Founder's Day, Open Day, the PSA Summer Ball and numerous other opportunities to be involved in promoting the well-being of our School both now and in the future.

There may in future years be a small administration charge for a printed copy of the Annual Report.

We look forward to your continued support and this exciting new phase of Ackworth and the Old Scholars working together.

In Friendship

Janet Blann – General Secretary

Michael McRobert – Membership Secretary

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ACKWORTH OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

As you are aware, there have been changes in the membership of the Association over several years; all school leavers now automatically become members of the Association. From this year there will be no more subscriptions due from any members.

The role of the Association has also been changing over a period of time, perhaps due to the fact that there are more day pupils, able to keep in touch with each other locally, and the advances in social media and a changing demographic resulting in the demise of the Guilds. There are now only 3 Guilds who meet up regularly, the “youngsters” in these groups are often those in their 50s and 60s.

The Association plays a valuable part in the life of the School, and enables the School to keep links with Old Scholars in relation to marketing, especially when recruiting abroad. As a result, the School are keen to become more involved in the organisation of the Association.

Going forward, we propose a smaller joint committee of both School Staff and Old Scholars, to perform the tasks involved. The Old Scholars' Steering Group is as follows

School

Head (Anton Maree)
Deputy Head (Jeffrey Swales)
Liaison/Communications
(Kate Dawson)
Marketing (Michael Atkins)

Old Scholars

General Secretary (Janet Blann)
Easter Secretary (Sal Wright)
Editor of Report (David Wood)
Colours Secretary
(Richard Kenyon)
Membership Secretary
(Mike McRobert)

Others may be co-opted as required, and a team of helpers will still be required for the Easter Gathering.

We still propose to have a President, elected Annually and will still need to have a Nominations Committee. This will continue as at present to comprise The Head, the General Secretary, the Easter Secretary plus the five most recent retiring Presidents. Other tasks of the Nominations Committee will continue to be the nomination of one Old Scholar each year, to serve on School Committee, plus Officers as required. The wording of School Governance will be changed to state “four” former pupils of the School, not necessarily Members of the Society of

Friends” to serve on School Committee.

We propose that our accounts, including any future legacies or investments, should be transferred to The School’s 1950’s Trust and continue to be used for Old Scholar’s activities and the good of the School.

The President will continue to visit Old Scholars around the country during the year, as well as Guild Events, also meeting up with other informal groups of Old Scholars. The Head is also keen to visit groups of Old Scholars throughout the year.

A Transition Group has been drawn up from members of the Executive Committee to monitor the changes and draw up a Set of Rules or Terms of Reference for the running of the New Association.

We propose to keep the name of Ackworth Old Scholars’ Association, but will no longer be a formal Association. We will however continue to have an Easter Address by the President, and reports of activities throughout the year and any business required at our Easter Gathering. The School is keen to preserve this event and add more events to the calendar to involve Old Scholars in the life of the School.

These proposals are before you for acceptance at the AGM on Saturday 15th April 2017.

If accepted by the AGM, we propose that the changes to the Association be implemented on Founder’s Day, 18th October 2017. The current Executive Committee will continue to serve until this date. The General Secretary will write to the Clerk of Ackworth General Meeting, with notice of the intended amendments to go into the Calling Papers for General Meeting 2017, for record and implementation of change in October 2017.

Janet Blann - General Secretary)



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**ACKWORTH SCHOOL OLD SCHOLARS'
ASSOCIATION**

Annual Easter Gathering 2017

Friday 14th to Tuesday 18th April

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Ackworth Old Scholars' Association was held in the Fothergill Theatre on Saturday 26th March 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

Nick Smith: Old Scholars and friends.

Happy Easter everybody and welcome to the Ackworth Old Scholars' Association Annual General Meeting 2016. Janet is going to give us the apologies and greetings and then follow that with the General Secretary's report.

Janet Blann: We have apologies and greetings from:-

Peter and Juliet Norris
 Barbara Whiteford née Duck
 Shirley Day
 George and Margaret Bunney
 John and Margery Bunney
 Gill Rabong, née Speirs (Australia)
 Dianne O'Brien
 Nick and Vivienne Binks (Australia)
 Beryl Evans, née Speirs and family in Cornwall
 Chris and George Banks
 Ann Lambourn
 Robert Taylor – Australia
 Kweku Adoboli

Are there any apologies or greetings from the floor?

(From the hall) Olwyn and John Trotman, Norman Fryer and Josephine Matchett from the South West Guild.

Janet Blann: Thank you. I will now move on to my report.

President Peter Speirs, Old Scholars and friends.

Much of the work of the Executive Committee this year has been looking at the future of the Old Scholars' Annual Report, a financially viable Easter Gathering, completing the school database to include all Old Scholars – both Members of the Association, Lifelong Members – i.e. those who left from 2006 onwards, and other Old Scholars whose information we have gleaned through recent visits to school or contacts made, and the shape of the Association of the future.

Many of you returned the slip in your 2015 Report – it's good to know you read it and some certainly do wish to continue to receive a printed version. I'm afraid it

may no longer match your bookshelf set, but we will continue to produce a printed version which can be mailed out. We do however envisage a greatly reduced postage bill. The Report will also be published on the website and of course you could print off your own copy! We are still investigating software packages to enable it to be read more easily online, by clicking through the pages rather than having to scroll through them. You will have to wait till next October to see how it all turns out!

Over the last few years the Easter Gathering has consistently made a loss – last year the deficit was in excess of £3,000 and so a new pricing structure has been trialled this year. The School and the Association have agreed to meet any shortfall this year.

Alison Maree, Anton's wife, has completed the mammoth task of combining the School and Old Scholar's databases and we thank her for her many hours work on this. To keep this a useful document, it is essential that you notify us of any changes of address including emails – the easiest way to do this is by using the contact details form on the website. Alternatively, by contacting the membership secretary, Mike McRobert.

Ackworth Old Scholars continue to meet up across the country despite the dwindling number of Guilds. We are aware of year group gatherings, university groups and others who have kept in touch and are keen to hear news of these events. If you take part in one, please let us know!

The Way Forward Group has now proposed that the School will in future handle all aspects of Old Scholars – data, communication, events, publicity and finances. To enable this to happen, the school needs to have in place the personnel to manage this. Anton is very keen to expand on the sorts of events being offered to include a wider age range of Old Scholars. We now have a new Liaison Officer - Kate Dawson, who teaches Business Studies part-time and is also responsible for Alumni Development and Social Media. There is also a new Director of Development and Marketing, Michael Atkins, both of whom are keen to be involved. Anton is keen that our Easter Gathering be a key event in the year and that inviting back particular year groups or decades of year groups is a valuable way of encouraging more people to attend – as in the 80s group who are visiting this year. Let's hope they continue to come! He is also keen to promote other events – a possibility being the PSA Ball which takes place on Open Day. Mike and Annabel McRobert and I attended last year and had an excellent evening. We have also discussed the possibility of arranging an Old Scholar's Founder's Day Walk followed by bangers and mash in school – please speak to me if you would be interested in taking part.

All of this transition needs careful planning, and changes will be needed to be made to our constitution. At present the committee will continue to meet as usual, but over the year we envisage that the numbers required to serve will reduce and that a small number, including an Easter Team, will continue to provide support to the school and Association. As all Old Scholars will from now on be classed as members of the Association, there will be no more membership subscriptions due. Those wishing to receive a printed version of the Report will be asked to make a contribution towards this – the amount still to be finalised.

Proposed amendments to the constitution will be made in this year's Report to enable them to be adopted at our AGM next year.

We have been saddened by the deaths of several dear friends during the year – Barbara Jones, Pat Westwood and, just this week, Dennis Mitchell, to name but a few. A good number of Old Scholars attended the memorials of both Barbara and Pat to celebrate their lives.

Finally, at present we do not have a Treasurer; you will have noted that the name in last year's report was different from that proposed at the AGM. Unfortunately, Andrew Ford was unable to take up office and Anne Telford Kenyon agreed to step into the breach, but herself has been prevented from doing so. However, as we move forward into the next phase of the Association, we feel that a Treasurer will still be needed to look after the investments, legacies and interest thereof, but that in the meantime Sandra Lambert has kindly agreed to manage the book-keeping and prepare the accounts for the current year. We do have a name in the pipeline to approach, but this has not yet been done in time for nomination this year.

The committee looks forward to hearing your news and hopes you are enjoying your weekend.

(Applause)

Nick Smith: Thank you Janet. We move on to the Easter Secretary's Report to be given by Sal Wright.

Sal Wright: Good Evening.. I hope that you are all enjoying the weekend so far. There have been such big changes this year but a brief AGM Report will not scratch the surface, so I intend to include a much longer version of this abbreviated session in the Annual Report, which will cover those changes in more detail. Despite some bad press around the new Day Visitor charges prior to the weekend, I am delighted to report that numbers are up on last year. We have yet to do the sums, but believe that we are slightly up on residential numbers and up

enough on meal numbers to justify using both dining rooms, which I am sure you will agree is fantastic and speaks for itself with regard to pricing structure. That said, we are not out of the woods yet, as the increase in numbers this weekend is unlikely to rebalance the accounts and, as always, if anyone would like to make any extra contributions during the weekend, these are always very gratefully received.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Heather and all the School staff for their support and help in making sure that our weekend runs smoothly also to all those of you who help, volunteer and give support during the year and during the weekend and in particular John, Bill, Laura and Cassie; without you Easter would not be the success it is.

I hope that you all enjoy the rest of the weekend. Thank you. (*Applause*)

Nick Smith: Thank you Sal. The next item is the Old Scholars' Representative on School Committee Report given this year by Stewart Huntington.

Stewart Huntington:

Good evening everyone. The last time I stood on this stage it was when the Fothergill Hall was newly refurbished and it was the first play put on. That was over fifty years ago and you then would have been sitting on wooden benches. On Easter Saturday a year ago, I was both very surprised and honoured to receive a telephone call, inviting me to join the School Committee. I had previously done a long stint as a governor of a school in the state sector, so I knew that there would be a considerable commitment, were I to join the School Committee. I didn't jump in with both eyes closed. I made my enquiries; I wanted to see what would be expected of me, but having done so, my name went forward at Ackworth General Meeting and my term of office started in September. But even before September, I found I was coming back to Ackworth, because a panel had been convened to deal with a hearing and the panel required a member who at that stage was not involved in the running or administration of the school. I was told I fitted that bill; so we had a very complicated hearing and I thought I'd jumped in at the deep end. This was quite some induction.

What did I feel when I arrived at School, not just for the hearing but also in September when my term of office started? Well, first of all, I felt as if I were at home, I felt as if I were coming home, after having spent years at this place in my youth, but not only did I feel at home, I was made to feel at home. The kindness, the support and the friendship offered, not only by other members on the committee but also by the staff (at all levels), was overwhelming, and so it was a very easy thing to slip into committee meetings and feel comfortable.

Yes, there is a lot of paper work. My email box has never been fuller and there is learning to do as a committee member. I soon logged on to educare, and did my statutory training. I knew that would be the case if I were to get up to speed with other members of the committee, but I was also wise enough to know that the load would not diminish even when I had got to that point.

What about my first two terms as a member of the School Committee? Well, the easy part is rejoicing in the success and achievements of the school, and as a committee we are kept updated about those by Anton. I need not say any more about that because you have heard that from Anton already today, so I'll pass over that and look at the more difficult aspects.

The running of the School is a business, and as with any business, finances have to be looked at very carefully, and a large part of committee meetings is spent looking at the finances of the School. When making decisions, one of the most difficult things is prioritising very valid and worthwhile claims for capital expenditure from various members of staff and yet saying, 'We can't deal with that yet; something else has to take precedence'. The committee has to look after the fabric of the School and it does that. You see evidence of that going about school now, and in the last year the East Wing has had extensive roof repairs which has made it safe and sound again when there were dangers.

What did I find surprising? I think, I found the importance of marketing very, very surprising. While at school that was certainly not an element which ever occurred to me, but now, as you have heard this afternoon, members of staff are going to all parts of the world to attend education fairs to try and encourage new boarders here. Child protection and safeguarding runs through everything that the School Committee does. Whatever aspects we look at, we always have to look over our shoulder and say 'Is there any concern about welfare in that from the children's point of view?' HR plays a big part as well; it is a school that has a large staff and difficult decisions have to be made, and the unfortunate thing with those issues is that someone always leaves unhappy and so you have to take a very cautious path. Sometimes, unfortunately, we bite the bullet – sorry for that un-Quakerly metaphor – but that happens.

Yes, there are contentious issues and they do take a lot of time, but the committee does meet and it spends a great deal of time discussing these things and, I hope, supporting the Head and the staff. But don't be discouraged; it's a happy atmosphere and everybody enjoys relating to one another and supporting each other.

I think that is all I need to say at this stage, but I have enjoyed being the Old Scholars' Representative on the Committee and for that I thank you. (*Applause*)

Nick Smith: Thank you, Stewart. That brings us to the end of the Reports. Can I now ask for a proposer and a seconder from the floor for the adoption of the reports please?

Mike McRobert proposed the adoption of the Reports seconded by Robert Gibson.

Nick Smith: Thank you. The next item is the nominations for the Officers of the Association for 2016 – 2017 and Representatives for Old Scholars to serve on School Committee.

Janet Blann: The nominations are:-

Chairman - Nick Smith

General Secretary - Janet Blann

Liaison Officer - Kate Dawson

Treasurer - Vacant

Membership Secretary - Michael McRobert

Easter Secretary - Sal Wright

Assistant Easter Secretary - John Golding (Reservations)

Assistant Easter Secretaries - Laura Wales; William Swales (Entertainments)

Editor - David Wood

Recorder of Memorials - Annabel McRobert

Colours Co-ordinator - Richard Kenyon

Photographer - Charles Stuart

Secretary to the Committee - Jennifer Jones

Old Scholar Representatives to Executive Committee -

Cassandra Cartwright (till 2017)

Adam Mosley (till 2019)

Co-opted member - David Bunney

Old Scholar Representative to serve on School Committee:

To serve a second term - Aiden Mortimer from 2016-20.

I hope these names are acceptable.

Nick Smith: Thank you. Is that list of names acceptable?

A resounding 'yes' comes from the body of the hall.

Nick Smith: Thank you. Is there any other business? *No items were raised.*

Nick continues: The last thing before I close the meeting is to confirm that our next AGM will be held on Saturday 15th April 2017, so that concludes this meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Nick Smith: Welcome everybody to the President's Address, my first duty is to present Marjorie and Michael, with the leather bound copy of the 2015 Report.
(Applause as they make their way to the stage)

Michael and Marjorie Bliss: Thank you.

Nick Smith: I will now hand over to Janet for the President's introduction.

Janet Blann: Trying to glean information about Peter and his days at school – I was told he was very studious but not a lot else. Earlier on in the year I gathered information and I was told he was steeped in Ackworth history, a little like an old tea-bag *(laughter)*. That being said, his father, two uncles, aunt, his brother, various cousins and his granddaughter all attended the School.

One of the things I know about Peter is that he is a keen walker and one of his walking partners is Stewart. Stewart told me that he reckoned Peter was one of the few people to have walked part of the Highland Way on crutches, much to the consternation of other walkers. Apparently, indeed the actual accident itself happened on another walking expedition where he had a very nasty break to his ankle. They went up for a little stroll up a hill in the north of Scotland in the morning and when coming back down, he slipped and sat down and then passed out, but they worked out that actually it would be hours before they would manage to get any rescue up to him, even with one of them going down and one staying with him. So they decided the best thing to do would be to help him down and get him to hospital. But they had already got another trip planned to walk the West Highland Way and Peter refused point blank to cancel that trip and said: "No, no that's fine, we'll go. Stewart and lady partners can walk and I'll potter about and enjoy the views". They didn't realise his pottering meant on the West Highland Way on crutches.

Peter has served the Society of Friends and School in a number of ways; he served on School Committee for a long period and been Clerk to School Committee. He has been Clerk of Ackworth General Meeting and has served on numerous local committees and area committees and, indeed I believe, Britain Yearly Meeting Committees too; so he has a big commitment to the Society and indeed this School, so now I would like to ask Peter to give us his address. *(Applause)*

Peter Speirs: Thank you very much. My address, it's: 50 Plas Newton Lane, Chester *(laughter)* thank you, but there is more.

At a Quaker Yearly Meeting in Exeter in 2001, a Friend (it turned out to be Tony Cashmore) came up to me as we were joining a coffee queue, clapped his arm around my shoulders and said ‘Well, Peter, what have you done with your life?’

Old Scholars, Friends, I reckon that’s the question before me this evening.

This year has given me much cause for reflection on my relationship with Ackworth School - my life now, my life since leaving Ackworth, and my time as a scholar here.

I sense that I passed through Ackworth somewhat unobtrusively. No disasters, no triumphs. I cannot pretend that I enjoyed all my time at Ackworth. Except for one brief visit to satisfy my wife’s curiosity - in 1971 or ‘72 - it was more than twenty years after leaving before I made a return visit, and that was in 1987 when I was appointed by my Monthly Meeting to attend Ackworth General Meeting. When I returned a second time, the following year, my presence was evidently interpreted as enthusiasm rather than duty, (*laughter*) and by 1990 I found myself a member of the School Committee. I had become very aware of the good work that the school was doing, and equally aware of the difficulty of finding Friends, Quakers, to serve on the Committee - factors that are as relevant now as they were twenty five years ago. I spent almost fifteen years on the Committee, and have subsequently served the General Meeting. And so I returned to the Ackworth fold, coming as a day visitor to the Easter gathering once during the 90s, then again in 2004 for my own year group’s fortieth anniversary. Now it seems to be turning into a habit.

I was born in a nursing home in Heswall, on the Wirral. I learned recently that the building is now a residential care home for the elderly, so with a little careful planning I could both start and end my days under the same roof. (*Laughter*)

Little did I appreciate, until quite recently, at what an early stage of my life my future was being mapped out. A letter from Claude Speirs, then bursar, to Arnold Speirs, his brother and my father:

. . . with a hand-written note ‘Received by the Committee with acclamation’.

And the date of the letter? February 1948; (*laughter*) I had just passed my first birthday; (*laughter*) brother John was two, approaching three. (*Laughter*)

Ackworth had already become something of a fixture in my father’s family. His father, my grandfather, another John Speirs, had died in 1923, aged only 45, leaving four young children, the eldest just twelve, the youngest only five. It is

difficult to imagine how my grandmother would have managed raising her family without some help. With the support and encouragement of Liverpool meeting, the three sons were successively entered into Ackworth; in due course, each of these children sought to repay in some form the benefit that they had received. Claude, the eldest, became bursar in 1945, and the education of his two elder children, Christopher and Richard, began here. Claude may well have stayed longer at Ackworth, were it not for the early death of the next brother, Geoffrey, and Claude's decision to return to Merseyside to join my father in the family printing business. Geoffrey's two daughters, Beryl and Gill, came to Ackworth in the 1950s; some years later, Ida, their mother, was to join the School Committee. Ida was the sister of Brenda, married to Hilary Smith, another Old Scholar whom many of you will remember. Arnold was the youngest of the family - his two boys came to Ackworth (self-evidently), while he was happy to make his name on the cricket field at Ackworth, whilst at school, and later, for Old Scholars. Edith, between Geoffrey and Arnold, married Leonard Duck, and their daughter Barbara was the last of that Speirs generation to attend Ackworth.

After that influx during the 1950s, I'm afraid the family has been less than diligent in providing scholars, but I was delighted that my granddaughter Hester made her own decision to attend Ackworth. I had brought her to watch the school's production of, I think, 'Grease'; just turned ten, she was much taken with the production (or perhaps it was something to do with senior boys taking part), and she duly wrote her own letter of application to the Head, Martin Dickinson. More recently, my great nephew (I'm not sure if that is the correct relationship - Beryl's grandson, anyway) entered Sidcot - geographically more convenient for him, and let's say next best after Ackworth.

So, back to my own arrival here. In November 1957 William Ruse (the bursar who followed Claude), wrote to my father:

Dear Friend

We are now able to offer you a vacancy for next September for Peter. This offer is subject to any advice which the Head may give as to the suitability of the child (laughter) for the School on educational grounds and to a satisfactory medical report.

'The child', indeed. And 'next September' - 1958 - would have been the right time, but my parents were anxious to speed things up a little, for reasons which they never explained, and wanted to get me into the school during the year already started. Conversations had evidently been taking place. In January 1958, William Ruse wrote again:

Dear Arnold

Now that all the children are back once more, we find that there will not be a vacancy for a boy at the end of this term after all. Nevertheless, Albert [Lindley] feels that he would like to accommodate you by squeezing Peter in at the beginning of next term one way or another. (Laughter) It may mean that he will be without a changing locker or will have to share with John for a term, and also wait for a school number until the beginning of the new school year. (Laughter) However, if you feel that these small inconveniences are not too great a deterrent, perhaps you will let me have your official acceptance of this vacancy. I take the opportunity of enclosing the relevant papers.

With all good wishes,

William Ruse

This didn't bode well, but my future was arranged. As I went off to Ackworth, this letter arrived from the Cheshire Education Committee to the parents of Peter Speirs:

Dear Sir or Madam

*After giving careful consideration to the information contained on his Primary School Record and to the results he obtained in the Common Entrance Examination this year, the Committee has decided to allocate a place to your son in the Secondary School named above [Calday Grange County Grammar School] with effect from the beginning of the new school year in September 1958. . . .
etc . . .*

Hand-written by Arnold Speirs: "Turned down, 17/7/58" (by that date, two months after the offer, I had spent a whole term at Ackworth - perhaps he was just keeping options open)

Attached to the letter, the 'Form of Agreement for admission to Grammar Schools', with its uncanceled sixpenny stamp.

So I didn't get the choice of staying with my childhood friends. I started at Ackworth in May 1958, a few months after my eleventh birthday. Looking back, and with this correspondence in mind, I did not have an auspicious start. I arrived, 'squeezed in, one way or another', (*laughter*) part way through the year; friendships had been made, boys were not as welcoming as they now appear. I felt that I received little support in finding my way around; and for some reason never understood, I was deprived of a year's schooling. I joined a year group in which I was the youngest by several months - by age, I was in the middle of the following year's intake - clearly my proper place. Some in my year were almost eighteen months older than I was, a big difference in the 1950s, aged 11. As a result, I was always behind the year group in both mental and physical development,

disadvantages in such a close community.

Anyway, Friends, I survived! I began to appreciate, if not enjoy, my days at Ackworth as the years progressed. I was always conscious of being out of my age group, which tended to hold back some activities. And by the sixth form, I did feel somewhat out of my depth in my A-level studies.

There are, incidentally, one or two other members of staff that I should mention - Tony Cashmore always kept, I felt, a very caring eye on my life at Ackworth. Wallis Johnson, who had only just joined Ackworth, gave me the only considered career advice that I remember, and Chris Pilling, who taught me nothing in the classroom, opened my eyes to the enjoyment and appreciation of contemporary music - mainly jazz - poetry and literature. I can trace some of my current reading habits to the introductions given and the paths opened by him. I am particularly grateful to all of these.

I left Ackworth in the summer of 1964 with a solitary A-level, and entered the Liverpool College of Building, known variously as the College of Knowledge or the College of Bricks - shortly to become part of Liverpool Polytechnic, and now part of Liverpool John Moores University - on a four-year course in the profession of Quantity Surveying. It took me most of the first year to work out what a Quantity Surveyor actually does; my father assured me that the Quantity Surveyors he knew (he was a printer in Liverpool, and supplied stationery to many professional offices) all seemed to be 'doing well' - then a prime object for one's chosen career. In the event, this was something of a reversal of my Ackworth experience. We were a mixed bunch, 30 or so in that first year, from a variety of backgrounds, some from VIth forms, most not. The course involved four years in college, with professional examinations at the end of the second and fourth years, then two years' professional practice before final qualification. It did me well enough; I spent a couple of years in London, getting my necessary professional practice, and duly collected my diploma from the RICS in 1970. It was salutary to note that of those thirty or so who started the course in Liverpool, only two of us made it to qualification at the first attempt. We were the two who had had the benefit of a private school education.

After London, I spent twenty years in employment in Chester, followed by almost twenty years in my own practice - something for which Ackworth, I found, had prepared me well, as it brought out a sense of independence, adventure perhaps, certainly of self-reliance and responsibility. I never fitted very well into the 'teams' of my employment; on leaving, my senior partner at the time wished me well, and commented that I had always worked on my own, even when part of a team. I think he was right; I was tolerated as I did bring a little work into the practice, but I didn't 'consult' enough. We parted on good terms, though; he and

I still meet for lunch from time to time.

I was lucky during those early years to work on some fascinating, and 'high profile' projects. The practice was one of the largest in Britain - London work included encounters with the Barbican Development, the National Theatre, and the Post Office Research Establishment at Martlesham Heath, when the early experiments with fibre optics were starting in the late 1960s and early 70s, and the two, now listed, concrete tower blocks of Balfron Tower in Poplar, and Trellick Tower in Kensington, designed by the practice of Ernő Goldfinger (the Goldfinger who gave his name to Ian Fleming, which is, of course, another story). Coincidentally, Ernő Goldfinger was the subject of yesterday afternoon's Radio 4 play, which I heard whilst driving here.

From the Chester office, other interesting projects followed: restoration of St Phillip's Cathedral in Birmingham, including re-leading the dome, and repairing its fine Burne-Jones windows; replacing the roof on St George's Hall in Liverpool; planning for the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart (an international architectural competition won by James Stirling); the Swan Theatre at Stratford, the Clore extension at the Tate Gallery (Millbank), and the conversion of part of Liverpool's Albert Dock for the Tate in the North. I became involved in work at racecourses, interesting venues for a Quaker, building stands at Aintree, Fontwell, Leicester and elsewhere, and this line of work continued in my own practice. I spent some time working on projects in Stuttgart, and later joined groups exploring opportunities for the British construction industry in Greece and in Spain.

And on my own, I had my share of interesting work - for Liverpool FC, Chester Zoo, the Royal Welsh Show, and the racecourses at York and Wetherby, where my professional signboard, overlooking the A1, lingered for some years. (*Laughter*) I hope some of you may have seen it. (*Laughter*) I always tried to make sure my clients knew that I was a Quaker - this was the basis for my working ethos, after all; sometimes this led to reminiscences of some Quaker teacher from my clients' schooldays, but invariably to a greater understanding and better development of working relationships. Looking back on my working life, I realise that I had a much wider range of experience than many. I did find out what a Quantity Surveyor did, by the way (*laughter*) - working with client and architect to establish budgets, preparing estimates as the design develops, eventually preparing tender and contract documents, and managing the cost of work during construction. My work included buildings new and historic, landscape and land reclamation, building and landscape conservation and some civil engineering. I have met some fascinating people. The projects and people that really stick in my mind, however, are not necessarily the major schemes, nor the celebrities asked to perform the opening ceremonies.

One example comes to mind: in 1986, whilst undertaking some straightforward building work at a private girls' boarding school near Oswestry, I was asked by the geography teacher if I would help a group of sixth form students on a special project. It turned out that the students had launched a campaign to reopen the railway station at Weston Rhyn, on the edge of their campus, closed by Dr Beeching twenty five years earlier. Trains passed (on the Wrexham to Shrewsbury line); none stopped. The students now had a six mile journey to the nearest station. They contacted British Rail, who, ever keen to improve their public relations, provided a list of aspects for the girls to consider, and promised to give fair consideration to their findings. All they had to do was to demonstrate demand, and show how costs could be met. They had to make it work. They would need to rebuild the station platform, improve the vehicle access, provide signalling, and so on. My job was to lead them through the planning process, to provide, or check, the costs, and to ensure a professional approach throughout. It probably occupied four or five one-hour visits during the course of a summer term, but it sticks in my mind as one of the more useful jobs I did. The estimated construction cost came to a quarter of a million pounds, as I remember (this was thirty years ago), together with all the issues of timetabling, etc. The girls produced a splendid report, and gave their work such publicity that they found themselves being interviewed on Radio 4's 'Today'. They didn't get their station, but what an experience! I think my fee was five pounds, plus VAT, of course, (*laughter*) for which they insisted on a formal invoice and receipt. And, as ever, there's an Ackworth connection - head of art at that school was Daphne Cowen who, as Daphne Jones, taught art here in the 1950s.

Ackworth stood me in good stead for the various aspects of Quaker work that have come my way. Being born into Quakerism, and attending a Quaker school, set the pattern for this part of my life. When working in London in the late 1960s, I joined the Young Quakers' group in The Cellar Club at Westminster Meeting House. There I met Anna, my wife-to-be; she was working for the Arts Council, and we happily received the free tickets for concerts and operas intended for her employer. Anna then went to work in Friends House, as secretary to George Gorman. No more free tickets! Anticipating married life in London, it was while planning our wedding (which took place at Letchworth Meeting House in 1970), that a vacancy for a warden at Heswall Meeting House occurred. We applied and were accepted, and we moved to the meeting of my childhood. Anna became a full time warden; I transferred to the Chester office of my employers. We stayed at the Meeting House for just over three years, but decided to move on before our first child arrived - the warden's cottage was very small, and it seemed easier to move then, rather than start house-hunting with a small child in tow. We moved to Chester: Ella was born late in 1973, Matthew followed in 1975. I have stayed in Chester ever since, except for a sojourn in North Wales for twelve years or so.

The Vale of Clwyd is very beautiful, but in retirement there I would still be very dependent on the car; I had no neighbours, the nearest village shop was two miles away, the nearest shopping towns five miles away in Denbigh or Ruthin. Almost all of life would depend on car journeys. So I moved back into Chester, across the road from a Catholic Church, in case I have a late change of faith. (*Laughter*)

Within Friends, I have served in most of the traditional Quaker roles - treasurer, trustee, clerk, all the usual. I became a meeting clerk in 1971, I became a Quaker trustee in 1975, and I think I have served in these roles, in one place or another, ever since. Currently I am working with other Old Scholars - on the Church Government Advisory Group, clerked by Catherine James, and I serve as clerk to the Quaker Peace Studies Trust, working with David Olver and others.

So what else? What has played a part in my life? Music, drama, local politics, walking, bridge - bridge was part of a child's essential social education, according to my maternal grandmother, and I think I must have learned the rudiments at 7 or 8. Accurately or not, I recall playing bridge in a sixth form study here the moment the news arrived of Kennedy's assassination in 1963. I still play most weeks, in Mold or Chester.

Anna and I both joined a Music Society choir in Ellesmere Port in 1970, and I am still a member, although my appearances are now intermittent. Alan Vernon, here at Ackworth a few years before me, was a member in those early days; Catherine Willis (Seymour) is a member now. When our children arrived, Anna continued with the choir, and I took to the stage. At the time of our joining, the Music Society had been presenting a Gilbert and Sullivan show as a summer alternative to the winter and spring choral concerts. In due course, the light operatic activities took on a life of their own, and we formed a separate company which continued to present musical shows once, then twice a year, until it eventually folded some seven or eight years ago. I joined these shows soon after the beginning - they rehearsed on different evenings from the choir, so Anna and I were able to continue our interests. The operatic group developed a strong link with Reutlingen, Ellesmere Port's twin town in Germany, and we enjoyed several exchange visits. I well remember driving a van laden with our stage properties for a production of 'Merrie England' in 1984 - including the crown jewels, numerous items of mediaeval weaponry, and a dragon - and the lively conversations with disbelieving customs officers in Belgium and Germany. I took part in forty or fifty different shows - not all Gilbert and Sullivan, obviously.

I also became involved in drama activities. At different times, I have been a member of three local companies, and took parts in fifteen or twenty plays over the years, and did several stints as a stage manager. Two other friends and I started our own theatre company, presenting plays depicting historic events. My

most memorable role, I think, was playing the part of Siegfried Sassoon in a two-hander opposite the character of Wilfred Owen. That was a deeply moving experience. (Coincidentally, I was approached only last week by a woman who asked if I had once played Sassoon in a play with Wilfred Owen. It was nineteen years ago, but evidently an experience for our audience, too.) I also became involved with some larger scale outdoor productions that Chester once produced almost annually, but now, largely due to cost, are restricted to the Chester Mystery Plays which are presented every five years. In recent years, having acted in several productions, I have become their House Manager. June 2018 is our next cycle, please take note. It is York's turn this year.

Some of you may know that my Easter weekend was already quite busy before my arrival here yesterday afternoon. Yesterday morning, I had been taking part in a Good Friday Passion Play in the streets of Chester. That production came about largely because of my involvement with Churches Together in Chester City Centre, a group that has seen fit to make me their chairman, so my presence yesterday was doubly necessary, as actor and as co-producer. I am happy to report that the play was a great success, though not without its share of potential pitfalls, from raising the initial funds, to closing streets to traffic for the duration of the play. In fact, it exceeded all our expectations - we had fine sunny weather, and a crowd bigger than I've ever seen in central Chester [approximately 3,000]. We were on BBC regional news at midday yesterday, and I'm told we also made the evening broadcast. I played the part of Joseph of Arimathea - an interesting character, named in all four gospels, but about whom we really know very little. Was he a merchant of some sort? Probably. Did he come from Arimathea? Possibly, but no historian or archaeologist has found where Arimathea was. What was he doing in Jerusalem? We do know that he had paid for the construction of a tomb. Did he still use it after the resurrection? Or shouldn't we ask? Closer to home - did he visit Britain? Did he trade in tin from Cornwall? Quite possibly. Did he visit Glastonbury? Did he really lean his stick on the ground while he slept, and found that overnight it had taken root, later to be venerated as the 'Glastonbury Thorn', blossoming every year at Christmas time? Did he bring the Holy Grail, to tantalise mediaeval writers of the Arthurian legends? Who knows?

I inherited my father's involvement with the Liberal Party, as it was. I well remember garden parties in my childhood, addressed by speakers such as Kenneth Wolstenholme and Robin Day, both prominent broadcasters. My great uncle worked in Asquith's cabinet office, perhaps the Alistair Campbell of his day. My own political interests were awakened during a sixth form project on the European Community - I wrote to Edward Heath, then negotiating Britain's application to join in 1963, and he sent me a wealth of information, much of which I still have, which convinced me then, as now, of the importance of working co-operatively with other nations, something that William Penn had

extolled in the 17th century.

I joined the Young Liberals soon after leaving Ackworth, along with brother John. I have maintained my membership ever since, and have several times found myself standing as a candidate in local elections in Chester; never elected, I am sometimes glad to say, but often affecting what might otherwise have been a predictable result.

When I found myself on my own after some ten years of marriage, I did turn to the mountains both for their own sake, and for the joy of self-discovery. Snowdonia was my local haunt; I think it was in 1985 that I realised I had visited every 3000ft summit there during that year. It wasn't long before I completed the non-stop traverse of all these peaks in a single day, and have managed this several times since. And failed several times, as either weather, or simple exhaustion, have taken over. The last successful completion was in 2007, with Stewart Huntington, both of us having passed our 60th birthdays within the previous year. I first visited the Scottish hills in 1989, following Yearly Meeting in Aberdeen, when I spent a walking week with the Holiday Fellowship near Ballachulish. I raised a few eyebrows there, when on the 'day off' in the middle of quite an active week, I relaxed by taking the CIC hut/abseil posts route for my first visit to the top of Ben Nevis. I don't think I knew what a 'Munro' was at that time, but, looking back, I managed five during that week. The following year I was invited to join a group of Welsh Baptists on their annual Scottish trip, when their numbers didn't quite fill the booking made, and another seven Munros were visited. I saw some members of the group busily ticking off names on lists, colouring in their maps, planning and counting, counting and planning. These, Friends, were Munroists. (*Laughter*) And, for those who don't know, a 'Munro' is a Scottish summit over 3000 feet high, not closely linked to another such. There are 283 of them. And there are lists, maps, handbooks, and the progression from casual hill-walker to serious Munroist is slow but perhaps inevitable. Twelve Munros in my first two trips: next time I bought a guidebook to the Scottish hills (seven more Munros visited), and then I started ticking off the names. I've since had another twenty or thirty trips to the Scottish hills, many in the company of Stewart Huntington, and have had some wonderful experiences. Munros are all different: some, the Meall Buidhes (it means rounded hill), are less challenging, but they often give the views. Some, of course, are challenging, and we had to hone our climbing skills to complete the Cuillins in Skye.

For one reason or another, I've not seen many mountains during the last two or three years, although Stewart and I did manage the Yorkshire three peaks last year. Stewart did complete the Munros; I am content, for the moment, with some twenty-seven still to visit.

Well, Tony, have I answered your question? Life is full enough: I read a lot - too much, say some - and have filled my rooms with bookshelves (they are very good insulation on the external walls of houses), (*laughter*) with pictures in the spaces. I listen to the radio; I've neither room nor time for a television. I grow vegetables as best I can, go to concerts and plays. I have been lucky to have had the opportunity to design and build a house of my own in North Wales. Visitors are welcome there, supposing you can find it! I have had a varied life. Sometimes I think I touch on too many interests without developing any of them fully. Is it better to have the acquaintance of many things, or the knowledge of a few? We know the old adage - specialists know more and more about less and less, until eventually they know everything about nothing. Ackworth gave me a broad education, and a will to explore and to learn; Ackworth was, and still is, a preparation for life as well as a route to higher education and a career. I cannot know where I would have ended up if I had taken that place at Calday Grammar School. It is unlikely to have been the same, but I have no complaints now, despite my rocky start here. Ackworth taught me a degree of independence, of self-reliance. I have become used to making my own decisions, and living with them. I have developed a sense of direction, both metaphorically and practically. I am not very good at asking for assistance, nor at consulting others, and often have to remind myself, perhaps as clerk of a committee, that I should really talk to others before acting. I am used to running my own life and my own house, and suspect I would not now easily share my life. That's not a challenge, by the way (*laughter*). Maybe I could have made more of my time here at Ackworth. But I do thank Ackworth for the life it led me to; and I thank you for your invitation to my present role here, and for your patience tonight.

Thank you. (*Long applause*)

Janet Blann: Peter I would like to thank you for your address. Fascinating to hear about your life. I knew you had served on many great committees and I now believe you have probably served on most of them. I wish you well in perhaps completing your 27 more Munroes and perhaps hope that you don't have any more broken legs. It's been a pleasure to hear you and to hear more about you tonight and thank you very much for serving us as our President for this last year. (*Applause*)

Peter Speirs: Thank you Janet.

Nick Smith: Next, we have the nomination for President 2016/2017.

Keith Daniel: President Peter, Old Scholars and friends. Back in the early 1950s, delivering a meeting in the Meeting House, I heard, for

the first time, one of those Quaker sayings: “our friend cannot be heard”. Believe me when I say that during the next twelve months it will not be necessary to say those words. WHY? Because our next President for 2016-2017 is noisy (*laughter*) but has the ability to project.

“I AM QUIET, (*laughter*) RESERVED, SELF EVASIVE”. No; I am not talking about myself, but these are the very words spoken by our future President, if you accept his nomination.

First and foremost, our nominee is a caring, passionate family person coming from a large family. This person is not slow in coming forward, this person is boisterous, this person is outspoken, this person, as I said is noisy, by now you should know who I am talking about.

This person is enthusiastic, this person is flamboyant, this person is an extrovert, this person is a keen walker, this person is a good organiser, and this person is a leader. All the above are the reasons why our future President was asked two years ago to undertake the merger of two hospitals into one that is state of the art in Derby; as a result of which our president was invited to meet Her Majesty the Queen.

Mike McRobert: Excuse me.

Keith: Yes

Mike continues: Just one point. I think I know this person a little bit better than you (*laughter*). This person that we are talking about, I first met in 1966/7 when I first came to school here and he and I became very strong members of the School swimming team.

(An interruption by Annabel)

Annabel McRobert: Actually, I have known this person since the day I was born (*laughter*).

Keith continues:

Old Scholars, our President for 2016-2017 WAS a friend of mine, (*laughter*) he is one of a large family and I guess, by now you know his name is Nicholas, better known to all of us as Nick Seed. (*Applause*)

Nick Seed: Mr President, fellow old scholars.

First, I'd like to thank Keith for that wonderful and flamboyant address in proposing me; it is nothing less than I expected when I asked him to be party to this evening's nomination.

Most of you will know that I am going to feel it's a great honour and privilege to be your President for this next year and I look forward to it immensely, meeting many of you on whatever occasions those are.

My association with Ackworth is, as you've heard a little bit, I was a scholar here for six years. I came back to Easter Gathering for a number of years after leaving Ackworth, and Keith became somebody that I really looked up to in the Association. He was Easter Secretary and he led (for those of you who will remember) barn dancing; and he taught me things like the 'Gay Gordons' (*laughter*). I was never a good dancer but I could do the Gay Gordons by the time he'd finished with me (*laughter*). The rest of my association with Ackworth over the years is continuing to come back to Easter, albeit not on a full Easter weekend for a lot of years; supporting Annabel and Mike when they were Presidents some years ago. I attend Glenthorne most years and I have been leading walks there over the years, and of course in the last eighteen months I have been one of the Old Scholars Representatives on School Committee which has given me a great insight again into the School.

I am not going to say any more now but to accept that nomination and to really look forward to meeting you, working with you and having a nice Easter next year. Thank you very much indeed. (*Applause*)

Nick Smith: Thank you everybody. That brings us to the end of tonight's proceedings.

**ACKWORTH OLD SCHOLARS'
ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS
for the year ending 30th June 2016**

There is currently no treasurer of the Association, resulting in a delay in the preparation of a full version of the 2015-16 Accounts. To remedy the omission, the accounts will be inserted into the online version of the Annual Report, when available, and will be posted to those who have opted for the printed version.

A.O.S.A. VISITORS' PASSPORT

International Hospitality Scheme

As you will have seen from articles elsewhere in this year's Annual Report, and in previous Reports, the way in which the Association is administered is going to change over the course of the next year. The lengthy discussions between the School and the A.O.S.A. Executive Committee about these changes have included the running of the International Hospitality Scheme. The Scheme is going to continue, and we hope the use made of it – and the numbers of people willing to be “registered” with the scheme as hosts – will increase. If you're not aware of the Scheme, let me – as its current administrator – introduce it to you.

For many years now, there has been an insert to your copy of the Report. This insert comprised a list of the names, addresses and contact details of people – mainly old scholars, but also some former staff members – who were willing to provide hospitality to other old scholars and staff, without charge, for however long or short a stay as was agreed. I have recently been trying to contact everyone who was on the 2015 list, to check that their details were correctly recorded. During the course of those email exchanges or telephone conversations, various suggestions were made as to how use of the Scheme could be encouraged. For example, if you don't fancy hosting a visitor in your home, how about offering simply to meet them for a coffee and a chat? Or perhaps spend the day or an afternoon with them, showing them the sights and sounds of where you live. Maybe they're on a quick visit for a university open day, or a job interview. If someone contacts you via the Scheme, but their requirements and/or what and when you can offer something mean you're not willing or able to say yes, then you simply decline the request.

Likewise, as a user of the Scheme, maybe you don't like the idea of “imposing” on someone by staying with them, but you feel that it'd be great to have someone to pass the time with during those few hours – or that day or two – that you have going spare whilst on your travels. This would be another way of benefitting from the hospitality on offer.

The ground rules for using the Scheme remain fundamentally the same. These are:-

1. Period of stay by mutual arrangement.
2. No charges to be levied.
3. Booking by telephone or email, giving reasonable notice.
4. Confirmation (by guest) 48 hours prior to arrival.
5. Travellers not to put hosts at risk through own contagious or infection condition.
6. Travellers (within the UK) to enquire if they should bring their own bed linen

and towels.

7. Pets are by arrangement only.
8. Participants in the Scheme shall be members of A.O.S.A. plus partners and offspring.
9. No liability shall attach to the A.O.S.A. or the School.

As you will know by now, there is no longer to be a hard copy of the Report (unless you particularly opted in, using the flyer that was included in the 2015 Report). Even if you do receive a copy of the Report by post, a hard copy of the list of Scheme members is not going to be enclosed. Naturally, we are not proposing to put the Scheme list on the A.O.S.A. page of the School's website, because this would publish everyone's personal information too widely. The way forward, therefore, is that if you want to get in touch with someone on the below list, please contact the A.O.S.A. Liaison Officer at the School on aosa@ackworthschool.com. If you are not on email, please call the School's A.O.S.A. liaison officer on 01977 611 401. The Liaison Officer will check that you are also on the A.O.S.A. database (meaning that you are entitled to use the scheme) and the contact details will be given to you.

The current list of people and places to visit is this:-

NAME	LOCATION
Blann, Janet and Laurie Benge	UK: Harborne, Birmingham, West Midlands
Cartwright, Cassandra	UK: St Albans, Hertfordshire
Drake, Vivian	UK: Colne, Lancashire
Gosney, Martin & Jane	UK: Ackworth, West Yorkshire
Hearnden, David & Janet	UK: Looe, Cornwall
Hemmings, Rosalind	UK: Pwllheli, Gwynedd
Kenyon, Richard Anne	UK: Ulverston, Cumbria
LeMottee, Jane	UK: Beeston, Nottingham
Mortimer, Colin & Eunice	UK: Keele, Staffordshire
Norris, Peter & Juliet	UK: Peebles, Tweeddale, Scotland
Osgerby, Michael	UK: Hull, East Yorkshire
Pedlar, Geoff & Washington, Linda	UK: Rushden, Northamptonshire
Roberts, Mike & Annabel	UK: Doncaster, West Yorkshire
Smith, Harold	UK: Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire
Tyas, Alison	UK: Settle, North Yorkshire
Wright, Sal	UK: Southampton, Hampshire
Bombar, Caroline & Hal	USA: Seattle, State of Washington
Skinner, Lance & Tracy	Canada: Blackfalds, Alberta
Stubbs, Bob & Iris	Canada: Osoyoos, British Columbia

Binks, Nick & Vivien	Australia: Middleton, South Australia
Garner, Susan & Richard	Australia: Brighton East, Victoria
Wearing, Barbara	New Zealand: Balclutha, Otago
Banks, Chris	Portugal: Vale Formosa, Loule, Algarve
Köhler, Carole & Hans-Jürgen	Germany: Karlsruhe
Pucill, Andrea	Denmark: Gilleleje
Smiley, Martin & Helen	France: Pordic, Brittany
Stratemann, Gisa	Germany: Frankfurt
Telford, Richard	Norway: Bergen

persuade another old scholar to sign up! – please contact the School’s A.O.S.A. Liaison Officer via the details given above. The list will be amended on an immediate basis, although the published list will only be updated in the next Annual Report. If, as a potential user of the Scheme, there’s a place you are looking to visit, contact the Liaison Officer to see if it has been added.

I recently managed to contact most of the people who were on the 2015 list, but I should be grateful if the following people (if they are still happy to be on the list) would get in touch with the Liaison Officer in the same way. The people I didn’t manage to track down – and who are therefore not on the 2016 list – are: Veronica Law in Fife; Jean McVie in Bridlington; Wendy Wild in Leicester; Linda McKown in Topton, North Carolina; Eric & Margaret Rothchild in Seattle, State of Washington; David & Chris Whitehead in Fergus, Ontario; Andrew & Bettina Hickman in Ndola, Zambia; Bijan Riazi-Farзад in relation to accommodation in Mazandaran, Iran; Netta Walters in Nelson, New Zealand; Katy O’Connor in County Kerry, Ireland; and Robert & Claudia Walker in the Faroe Islands.

I hope you feel able to use, or join, the International Hospitality Scheme over the course of the coming year, and that you enjoy your visit or visitors. Or perhaps I’ll see you at Easter next year: as someone who hadn’t been back to Ackworth for 25 years, I can heartily recommend the Easter Weekend. Go on; give it a try!

Cassandra Cartwright (née Wood) - Scholar 1978 to 1983

EASTER 2016

The 80s Reunion – where we left off

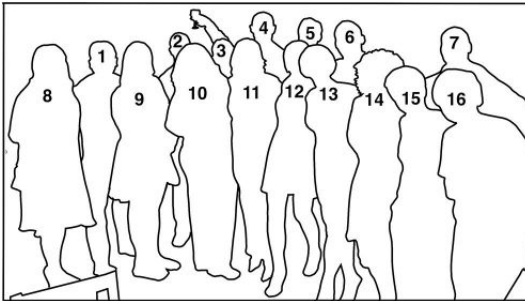
It's fallen to me (with the co-authorship of Vikki Bruff (née Stephenson) to attempt to encapsulate Easter 2016 from the perspective of 'the Big Reunion'. Some of us from the Old Scholars group that fell into 1980-89 had called in for fleeting day visits occasionally in the past, but for almost all who stayed in school this year, it was our first time staying over. Covering the whole decade rather than one year was deliberate for several reasons. Vikki had caught the zeitgeist last year when she set up the 'Ackworth 80s' group on Facebook. It has subsequently exploded with photos, memories, tributes to teachers sadly recently lost – and also reminding us to let other teachers know how much they were and are appreciated. We recognised that many of us had friendships with others in nearby years and also knew that lots of people had had the experience of calling in to previous Easter Gatherings and, if they were lucky, seeing one or two from their year, but rarely more. Strength in numbers...but it was still a big deal for people to commit not knowing how many others were taking the plunge.

So now it's over, what did we think? In short, the weekend was all the best bits of school, without the inconvenience of lessons and exams. The Ackworth 80s group has gone mad again with photos and videos from the weekend – ah, the power of social media! As Vikki put it on Facebook: 'Lots of reminiscing and nostalgia, yes, but also a rekindling of old friendships, beginnings of new friendships and a smattering of unexpected common ground and shared experiences.' That sense of one foot in the past and one in the present – and that only those who shared it with you were able to fully appreciate the past and the growing up together. Our shared memories of friends from our years that we have lost far too young did powerfully help us to feel they were still with us – keeping bright the chain was real.

Looking backwards, The 80s Bop on Saturday night in Boys Dining Room was pretty much a carbon copy of the originals (well, poetic licence) – only thing missing were the hot plates down the side of the room that we used to sit on top. I loved running the Badsworth for the first time as I'd always wanted to know where the boys went. David Wood (1961-69) and I watched John Golding (scholar 1983-88) disappear ahead of us and then enjoyed a good reminisce as we went round. There was also time to talk with older Old Scholars, learn when and how things had changed and hear about some of those famous Quaker families with generations of old scholars – such as Michael Hargreave, whose relative started school in 1782. I noticed that David Wood, in his summary of Easter for last year's report, touched on Harry Potter with the mention of Hermione's time-turner. I guess Hogwarts does conjure up a few parallels – I can't remember who



'80s Group - Easter 2016



1. Stephen Lee
2. Alex Marsden
3. Juliet Morris
4. Alex Higgins
5. Julian Pike
6. Chris Hopkins
7. John Woofinden
8. Veronica Law
9. Vikki Bruff
10. Justine Isherwood
11. Debi Ingham
12. Margaret Levy
13. Jacqui Lord
14. Michelle Barraclough
15. Rachel Belk
16. Bronwen Alty

said during the weekend that Ackworth is a combination of Malory Towers, The Chalet School and Hogwarts. I jest, of course. It's unique and beautiful – but I do like the idea of these Quaker families being rather like the famous Wizarding families of Hogwarts, whereas most of us are 'Muggle-born', but appreciate school no less because of that.

In the present, the best thing for me was having the time to catch up on 30 years

since last seeing people. Watching all our friends' kids running round together was fantastic (their kids 'going feral' as several people put it, but without any need to worry about where they were) and several do look very like their parent at the age we first knew them! Jacqui Lord took charge of hockey and Dawn Wright's two boys, Tom and Suzanne Bootyman's daughter and Justine Isherwood's son all got into it so much that there was talk of finding places for them to play back home. Tom Bootyman's Ac-worth-apella took us from Tallis to barbershop in an hour and I think we were all pleased (though perhaps not that surprised, given the school's choral pedigree) to hear the sound when the 25 or so of us opened our mouths for the first time. Good enough singing, in any case, to get us added to the running order for Pop on the last night. The AOSA President, Peter Speirs, introduced a new programme item – Desert Island Discussions – in two parts (the book and the record) which was so enjoyable that people were hoping it would stay on for subsequent years.

One final reflection is how often people talked about their appreciation of the silence and peace of Meeting – an appreciation they knew their childhood selves had not had. We had a renewed awareness of how lucky we had been to be surrounded by that history, those buildings and these F/friends. I want to do it all again – and I plan to, as I know do lots of people that were there. We think and hope that this might be a momentum that will carry on to next year when more people, including some living abroad who wanted to come, might take the plunge. After all, next year is 30 years since end of 5th form for my year and end of U6 for Vikki's year...though we like the inclusivity of keeping it to the whole decade.

Rachel Belk (1982-89)



**The 80s
group in
the 80s**

VISITORS TO 2016 EASTER GATHERING

Adoboli, Kweku
 Allan, Edward
 Allan, Helen
 Allan, Richard
 Allan, Rowan
 Allright, Amy
 Allright, Becky
 Allright, Jonathan
 Allright, Steve
 Altey, Brownen
 Alty, Jim
 Alty, Lucie
 Alty, Natasha
 Archibald, Angela
 Armer, Herald
 Arnott, Janet
 Askham, Julian
 Avern, Michael
 Barnes, Pauline
 Barraclough, Michelle
 Barron, Malcolm
 Barron, Zeta
 Bates, Jon
 Bates, Julie
 Bates, Karl
 Bates, Keith
 Bedford, Caroline
 Bedford, Jonathan
 Belk, Rachel
 Bengé, Laurie
 Bennington, Judith
 Bertram, Anna
 Billson, Derek John
 Billson, Freda
 Blackshaw, Lesley
 Blann, Janet
 Bliss, Marjorie
 Bliss, Michael
 Bombar-Kaplan, Caroline
 Bootyman, John
 Bootyman, Katherine
 Bootyman, Suzanne
 Bootyman, Tom
 Boroffka, Nikolaus
 Boroffka, Rodica
 Branston, Bill
 Branston, Bridget
 Branston, Claire
 Branston, Isaac
 Brown, Katie

Browne, Finn
 Browne, Heather
 Browne, John
 Browne, Orla
 Bruff, Abbie
 Bruff, Vikki
 Bunney, David
 Burgess, John
 Burnard, Andrew
 Burnard, Keren
 Cartwright, Cassie
 Causer, Pete
 Chang, Caroline
 Cherry-Downes, Julia
 Conroy, Claire
 Cox, Gill
 Cox, Steph
 Cracknell, Tony
 Cross, Lewis
 Dale, Angela
 Daniel, Clare
 Daniel, Keith
 Dibb, Paula
 Dibb, Peter
 Dickinson, Martin
 Dickinson, Susan
 Doll, Jacqueline
 Dorrington, Ella
 Dublon, Anne
 Dublon, George
 Dublon, Max
 Dublon, Victoria
 Ellis, Dru
 Fellows, Andy
 Fletcher-Causer, Nici
 Foo, James
 Foo, Sonia
 Ford, Andrew
 Gibson, Robert
 Glover, Annie
 Glover, Peter
 Golding, John
 Goundry, Christine
 Goundry, Patrick
 Graham, Claire
 Guthrie, Andrew
 Guthrie, Cathy
 Haddelsey, Ohililip
 Harding, Diana
 Hargreave, Michael

Hargreave, Nicola
 Hargreave, Thomas
 Harris, Joseph
 Harris, Miranda
 Harris, Roy
 Heddle, Anna
 Hellewell, Sarah
 Higgins, Alex
 Hill, Chris
 Hill, Marguerite
 Hill, Tony
 Hinam, Anne
 Holborow, Mary
 Hopkins, Chris
 Housden, Jacob
 Housden, Karen
 Housden, Maddie
 Housden, Philip
 Housden, Zach
 House, Claudia
 House, Elton
 House, Suzanne
 Hunter, Dawn
 Hunter, Gabriel
 Hunter, Ian
 Hunter, Maya
 Hunter, Philip John
 Hunter, Ruth
 Hunter, Seth
 Huntington, Jane
 Huntington, Stewart
 Huntley, Helen
 Huntley, Mark
 Ingham, Debi
 Isherwood, Justine
 Isherwood-Martin, Ocean
 Jarratt, John
 Jarratt, Olivia
 Johnson, Chris
 Jones, Chris
 Jones, Gloria
 Jones, Heather
 Jones, Jennifer
 Jones, Judith
 Juliet Morris
 Kelsall, Joyzelle
 Kelsall, Stephen
 Kent, Alan
 Kenyon, Anne
 Kenyon, Richard

Ketchin, Anne	O'Kill, John	Tomlinson, Samara
Ketchin, Lucy	O'Kill, Mary	Tomlinson, Xavier
Ketchin, Stuart	Paget, Pamela	Tordoff-Marks, Jane
King, Eileen	Partou, Eden	Troth, Catriona
Knaggs, Jackie	Pedlar, Geoff	Tuckwood, Jo
Knight, Simon	Pendlebury, Charlotte	Turton, Rosemary
Lambert, Sandra	Pennington, Gillian	Tyas, Alison
Langdown Hopper, Amanda	Preston, James	Vincent, Judith
Law, Veronica	Preston, James	Vincent, Robert
Lawson, Peter	Robinson, Heidi	Wales, Laura
Leach, Guy	Robinson, Juliet	Walker, Isabel
Lee, Roger	Robinson, Meryl	Ward, Bryony
Lee, Stephen	Robinson, Steve	Ward, Dameon
Levy, Margaret	Rowlinson, Meryl	Ward, Gary
Lord, Jacqui	Ruff, Mike	Ward, Tristan
Lord, Tim	Ryan, Jaqueline	Ward, Vivienne
Lycett, Abigail	Samuel, Melvin	Washington, Linda
Lycett, Anna	Sanderson, Allison	Wearing, Barbara
Lycett, Catherine	Seed, Debbi	Webster, Henry
Lycett, Michael	Seed, Nick	Webster, Jayne
Maree, Alison	Seed, Trudy	Webster, Jo
Maree, Anton	Senior, Kay	Whiteley, Andrew
Marsden, Alex	Smart, Ruth	Whiteley, Maise
Martin, Cameron	Smiley, Helen	Whiteley, Sara
Martin, Jenny	Smiley, Martin	Wicksteed, Bill
Martin, Rosalie	Smith, Howard	Wicksteed, Linda
Mason, Paul	Smith, Jill	Wilson, Christopher
McRobert, Annabel	Smith, Martin	Wilson, Tricia
McRobert, Michael	Smith, Mary	Woffinden, Howard
Merchant, Alix	Smith, Nick	Wood, David
Moore, Ben	Snaith, Ann	Wood, Sue
Moore, Chris	Speirs, John H.	Wright, Elfed
Moore, Daisy	Speirs, Mary	Wright, Louise
Moore, Dylan	Speirs, Peter	Wright, Sal
Moore, Elsepth	Spencer, Sarah	
Moore, Elspeth	Stuart, Chas	
Moore, Sheila	Sullivan, Graham	
Morgan, Sue	Swales, David	
Morris, Elizabeth	Swales, Jeffrey	
Mortimer, Aidan	Swales, Meredith	
Mortimer, Eleanor	Swales, Rachel	
Mortimer, Jack	Swales, Susan	
Mortimer, Laura	Swales, Tom	
Mortimer, Rachel	Swales, William	
Morton, Neil	Tector, Mark	
Mosley, Adam	Tector-Whiting, Lousie	
Mosley, Leo	Thornley, Richard	
Mosley, Marie	Tomlinson, Daniel	
Mulholland, Bethany	Tomlinson, Kiara	
Mulholland, Darcy	Tomlinson, Lailanie	
Ndzinga, Melanie	Tomlinson, Luke	

EASTER SUNDAY EVENING CONCERT

Following Bob Gibson's Evening Reading, the focus shifted to the Music Centre, where Nicola Hargreave had again meticulously planned, assembled and rehearsed a classical concert within a very short time-frame.

Nicola herself performed as violinist, piano accompanist and duettist., assisted by David Wood (piano, oboe and flute), Sal Wright (flute and harp) and Jeffrey Swales (flute).

David Wood paid tribute to Bruce Bailey (scholar 1961-66) who died recently. Bruce played *March Humoresque* by Dohnanyi in a school concert in 1962 without music. The remarkable thing about this was that he had never seen the music at that point, and had told his piano teacher, Jack Lincoln, that he would never be able to find it. Of course, Jack did find it, and placed it in front of Bruce in a lesson soon afterwards. Bruce never took the sheet music home, so David Wood "inherited" it and performed using that same copy in this concert.



Sal, best know as the organiser of the Easter Gathering, recently took up playing the harp, and accompanied oboe and violin solos, as well as entertaining us with some fine flute playing.

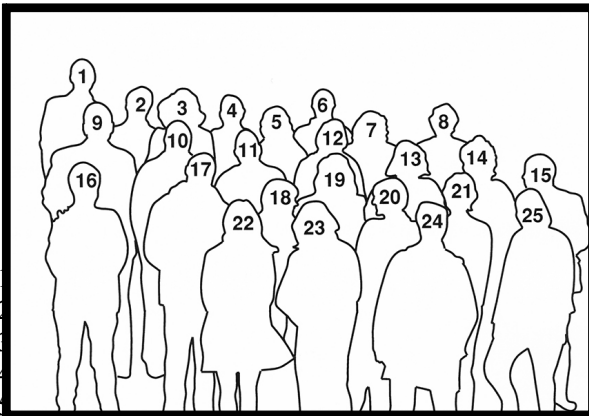
EASTER RAMBLE

Once again, Mike McRobert led a group of walkers through fields, along streams and under railways. This year's walk started off by following the route of the old Badsworth cross-country run, but the return journey took us on a north-easterly path - one which might have been provided a better long-term route for runners, avoiding the main road.

A negative weather forecast gave some case for concern, but this weekend was the famous Michael Fish story in reverse. (The only rain occurred during the Annual General Meeting, when most people were safely sitting in the Fothergill Theatre.)

Perfect planning ensured the group's return just a few minutes before lunch.

1970s REUNION - EASTER 2016



- 6. Richard Thornley
- 7. Helen (née) Vincent
- 8. Sue Wood

- 14. Jill Pennington
- 15. Nick Boroffka
- 16. Claire Conroy

- 17. Michael Lycett
- 18. Anna Heddle
- 19. Cathy Guthrie
- 20. Sandra Doherty
- 21. Amanda Hopper
- 22. Miranda Harris
- 23. Kay Senior
- 24. Herald Armer
- 25. Julia Cherry-Downes

EVENING READING - EASTER SUNDAY 2016

Welcome and introduction

Hymn – ‘Teach me my God and King’ – George Herbert

Reading by Juliet Morris – Quaker Faith and Practice 20.15 and from Advices and Queries - ‘Be patterns, be examples...’

Hymn – ‘Dear Lord and Father of Mankind’ – John Greenleaf Whittier

Reading by Stephen Kelsall – New English Bible, Matthew 25 v14-30 - The parable of the talents

Address – Robert Gibson

‘Ackworth education, learning for life and the meaning of Service’

I’m pleased to have this opportunity to reflect on a significant aspect of my experience as a boy at Ackworth. It’s something I’ve been processing for years, trying to work out the specialness of my years here and its effect on me since. In this address I’d like to share some thoughts about learning for life; about service; and about how so many old scholars have, in business parlance, ‘added value’ to the world. Also to raise questions about how our school with its special value is sustained in the future.

Again, thank you Juliet for reading from Quaker Faith and Practice and Advices & Queries, and Stephen for reading the parable of the talents from Matthew’s gospel.

Regarding the parable - I’ve struggled to understand it for years but have recently concluded that the tale is less about being prudent and safe and much more about, in Quaker speak, ‘living adventurously’. The “talents” can be interpreted as the gifts we all have to contribute and these gifts are less about money and the normal currency of gifting but more about boldly sharing our individual capability and capacity - our time, our resources, our caring and our LOVE. And how much do we have to contribute? That’s a calculation that each of us makes and interprets in so many ways.

The parable emphasises the role of the servant – one who serves, and this notion of giving service is at the heart of something that many of us soaked up during our time here as pupils.

Certainly for me, this place gave little in terms of the normal, now formal,

barometers of schooling success. Some of the teaching was of poor standard compared with current norms and I left in 1965 feeling a dismal failure. Not a good start. Except, except with the longer view, whilst my formal education was poor my learning was great. But learning in what?

Well it was a plethora of general knowledge, quite a lot of fun and enjoyment and experiences way beyond the limits that my family could provide. I experienced a lasting powerful sense of COMMUNITY, BELONGING and FRIENDSHIP; I saw examples of GOOD LIVES; I learned about TOLERANCE and ACCEPTANCE of difference and an experience of KINDLINESS AND SERVICE in the world. Moreover, idealism was not frowned upon as being cynically unrealistic. Were these foundations for a good life? I think so.

A few examples of how these attributes touched me:

One early one (1960 I think) was the launching of the school's effort toward War on Want. Everyone knitted woollen squares for blankets and, along with other associated activities, we proudly raised a tidy sum to send off. But I remember clearly that it wasn't a saccharine, cloying approach to giving and contributing. It was a response based on real information about need in the world.

Another recollection is a succession of interesting visitors from whom we deduced a wider perspective on the world, like Eric Baker, father of children in school and the recent joint founder of Amnesty International. And the reform educationalist, Richard Hauser, and his wife, the pianist Hephzibar Menuhin.

And there were so many parents who were engaged in cutting edge charitable and good works at home and abroad. And countless examples of charity campaigns and good causes which were woven into school life.

This notion of giving and contributing ran parallel (along with the normal timetable, of course) with the need to contribute to the community by engaging in other important aspects of school life. Like voting in school political mock elections, engaging in the processes of the Scholars' Council (my first taste in taking organisational responsibility), and doing labouring projects in the village after summer exams. I guess these days we'd call it 'developing good citizenship skills'.

So, we embraced the need to take responsibility, to care for one-another and to tolerate and accept differences between us and to begin to understand natural variation in humanity. I think we were learning from all sorts of examples, not just from staff at Morning Reading every day and through the silence and ministry in Meeting for Worship on Thursdays and Sundays, but from Saturday evening

talks in the Fothergill Hall and Sunday evening readings here in this Meeting House. Through these gatherings we were gently learning about community, cohesion and engagement - solid values that were transferable into the wider world. And this exposure to liberal, humanistic values has been a stream running through generations of children coming here.

Just a tiny vignette on 'acceptance', shared with me years ago by my dear friend Walter Fearnley, long before he died. He told me about the angst-ridden, harrowing years of 1943-45. Deep discussions, debating and arguments about whether the boys about to leave school should take up arms or be pacifists. After a titanic struggle he and several others decided they must serve their conscience, put aside doubts and join-up. The day Walter qualified as a pilot Germany capitulated (Walter joked that the Nazis had heard the news and threw in the towel!). When he and several other uniformed Old Scholars returned to school after the war ended, they were each embraced by the Head. Nothing was said, or needed to be.

In the last few years I have learned a little about one particular Ackworth Old Scholar, James Reckitt, who was here between 1845 and 1848 - a hundred years before Walter Fearnley. James went on to play the founding role in creating what has become one of the most successful companies in the world. Here's an excerpt from Elfrida Vipont Fould's book, 'Ackworth School' about his time here:

[Excerpt - page 88]

Ok, not a ringing endorsement of Ackworth, but after leaving, James joined his father in the office of the family's small soap and starch company in Hull. Over the years, and having done a variety of jobs in the business, James joined the board, eventually becoming its Chairman. In addition to his primary business development activities, he devoted himself to a life of service and used his wealth to fund a huge range of worthy causes and projects. He supported adult learning by building a library in Hull - after the City authorities had refused to do it. He took a strategic interest in the distribution of land publishing a pamphlet, which advocated the break up of the big estates into smaller owner-occupied holdings - radical thinking then. And on the subject of land and housing, James Reckitt and other family members provided considerable sums of money to build a 'garden village' to improve the lives of their company employees. He was involved in the development of Hull Royal Infirmary, of which he was Chairman from 1900 until his death in 1924. He and his brother converted a derelict hotel in Withernsea into a convalescent home and handed it over to the Infirmary. He was a strong advocate and donor to the Sailors' Children's Society in Hull, and then there was all the financial support for innumerable families and individuals in need. In

addition to all these East Riding based interests, James and his family financially supported many local and national Quaker projects, and countless others beyond the Quaker world.

Sir James' influence and legacy has continued since his death with the founding in 1924 of the Sir James Reckitt Charity, which currently distributes about a million pounds each year in three broad areas: 1) in support of charitable work in the East Riding and throughout Yorkshire; 2) Quaker causes nationally and internationally; and 3) in support of Hull families in need. Each year the SJRC provides substantial financial support to Ackworth and other Quaker Schools. The new roof above our heads now could almost be named The James Reckitt roof!

So where did the eventually knighted Sir James Reckitt (Bar't) get his inspiration and philanthropic nature from? No definitive answer perhaps, but I believe it came from a powerful combination of his family background, the Quaker influence and the notions of community, kindness and service which were here in Ackworth's atmosphere and culture. He wanted to 'do good' and spread his bounty.

And the Quaker bit in all this from my own perspective? Well, for me, the Quaker values I experienced here became a Blackpool rock-like seam. I wouldn't want you to think that I was the perfect young Friend by any means, but plainly I took on board what seemed important. Remember that in the heady 60s, when more Friends then sent their children here (and to the other 10 Friends Schools at that time) – Quakerism was quietly and sensitively writ large. The values seem to be embedded in the sandstone walls - subtly soaked up by umpteen generations of children since 1779. I'm not going to start wallowing in the 'good old days' - don't worry, and I certainly do not want to paint a ridiculously naive picture of an idealised place, but I do wish to emphasise the privilege of being here at a time when there was so much more tangible support from the Society of Friends for this unique Yearly Meeting school.

By "Yearly Meeting school", I mean that the school is overseen by the whole of Britain Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends. I remember Annual General Meetings when what seemed like hundreds of representatives would arrive at the school and we'd all assemble in here for Meeting for Worship. Always plenty of grey tweed on show!

Undoubtedly, James Reckitt had a strong urge to serve and to contribute as so many others have before and since. Where does this need come from? Well, my thesis is that it stems, in part certainly, from the values we inculcated here at

school. Values often articulated as Quaker Testimonies – The S.P.I.C.E.S - SIMPLICITY, PEACE, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, EQUALITY and STEWARDSHIP.

But, of course, let's be realistic: the notion of service doesn't just apply to rich philanthropists and to the Quakers. There is the potential for service in everyone. We all have gifts...

Reading: Corinthians Ch 12 v4-11

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[b] 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

I've conducted a little survey over the last 24 hours. People I've been chatting to have revealed the following examples of their quiet service:

Helping children with their reading through a literacy project

Volunteering for wardening duties

Joining national and local charity committees

Putting themselves up for and becoming school governors

Providing regular and emergency childcare

Volunteering as Citizens Advice Bureaux workers

(My own parents, Jess and Jim Gibson just quietly got on with it too -

Jim, after retiring as a window cleaner, repairing Quaker property in Cheshire Monthly/Area Meeting; Jess at the local Family Planning and Mothers and Baby clinics, providing tea and support, as well as all her spare time knitting for family, friends and charities. Both of them made things to sell for good causes...)

Somehow, it's not the scale that matters. We all know of major charities founded by, and consistently supported by, Quakers. But, of course, as I said before, the Quakers do not have the monopoly of service to good causes and good works - and sainthood is definitely absent! However, it is undeniable that the Society of Friends IS associated with solid activists who have tirelessly worked for good in the world, many of whom are the product of Friends Schools' education, learning

and influence.

I was thinking the other day about the Jesuit approach to education:

“Give me the child for seven years and I’ll give you the man”.

As Richard Dawkins said in his book ‘The God Delusion’ “this phrase is no less accurate (or sinister) for being hackneyed.” But somehow, maybe in a Quaker version of the Jesuit approach, our schools do have a lasting effect on all those who experience them. Of course, at any one time over the last two hundred years several thousand pupils were, and are, being educated under the Quaker banner. Such a brilliant diaspora spreading out to all corners of the globe with an understanding of living values which matter so much. Okay, very few of the thousands of Quaker School children become members of The Religious Society of Friends, but they are ALL touched by their experience.

So where am I getting to with all this? In a nutshell, it’s my concern about Quaker Schools’, and particularly Ackworth’s, long term ability to sustain this unique stance. We, as committed Ackworthians, must separate the nostalgic from the reality. I know that there are layers of complexity about the viability and survival of schools like ours here but for me it starts with a particular ‘bottom line’. I want the school to maintain and nurture the conditions where its students can be curious, supported and challenged about their potential contribution, i.e. THEIR SERVICE, to the world Surely we want Ackworth School to continue to turn out wonderful young people as a product of an educational and learning experience which enables that contribution and service.

In May 2012, after the Annual General Meeting here, I asked several questions of the school committee and Heads - including the following two:

What sort of education is the school offering in the long term? How does Ackworth really differentiate itself in a fiercely competitive market, not just now, but well into the future?

In the context of a declining membership of The Religious Society of Friends, what can the school do to maintain its crucial connection with, support from and support to, Quakerism? Is the connection crucial? How can the school remain credibly branded as ‘Quaker’?

On the bottom of emails sent out from the school is the following statement:

Ackworth School was founded in 1779 by The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to educate boys and girls.

Quakers believe that there is something of God in everyone.

We look for and nurture the talents and gifts of every student.
NON SIBI SED OMNIBUS – Not for oneself but for all.

Fellow Old Scholars and Friends, how do we help the school in its mission to nurture forthcoming generations of students to live that shining motto and, as was mentioned in Meeting for Worship this morning, to ‘Keep Bright the Chain’?

I’d like to conclude by reading the words of the hymn written by the American Quaker, John Greenleaf Whittier, at about the time James Reckitt was here.

‘O Brother Man’

*O brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.
For he whom Jesus loved has truly spoken:
The holier worship which He deigns to bless
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,
And feeds the widow and the fatherless.
Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of Him whose holy work was doing good;
So shall the wide earth seem our Father’s temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.
Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangor
Of wild war music o’er the earth shall cease;
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
And in its ashes plant the tree of peace.*

Can we now all sing it, after which we will conclude Evening Reading this Easter Sunday with some Ackworth silence.

Hymn – ‘O Brother Man’ – John Greenleaf Whittier

Silent worship

Old Scholars know how to celebrate in style!



‘The perfect place to get together
for family celebrations’

Ackworth School Estates Limited

For further information and to check availability please contact
Heather Jones at Ackworth School, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF7 7LT
Telephone +44(0) 1977 612051 Fax +44(0) 1977 616225
Email: asel@ackworthschool.com Website: ackworthschool.com



THE BADSWORTH CHALLENGE

Running has been a popular activity for men and women of all ages for many years. Many have taken up road running, with no competitive intentions other than occasional fun runs. Others enter competitive events, such as 10k races, half and full marathons. Training encourages people to benefit from the fresh air, running in parks, and along town and country roads and tracks. Some prefer running indoors on treadmills, either in local gyms or at home.

Ackworth School has a long tradition of cross-country running. For many years, this was restricted to boys only. Training runs were a regular part of P.E. lessons: Short Island and Junior Badsworth for younger runners, Long Island and Colt Badsworth for intermediate runners, and Figure-of-Eight and Senior Badsworth for older runners. The Badsworth inter-house competition took place annually towards the end of the spring term.

Inter-school cross-country running was one of the many new activities developed by the enterprising and versatile young teacher, Chris Pilling, in the mid-1960s. He began a strict regime to improve our fitness - interval training on the playing fields, starting as early as 6.30 a.m. His aim was to take a team to the English Schools' Northern Cross-Country Championship in Lyme Park, Cheshire. Early morning training was not popular, but there was still great interest in taking part in the competition, even though most participants opted for the gentler option of slower, long distance running on Wednesday afternoons and at weekends.

All this led to Ackworth taking part in inter-school running matches and regional and county competitions. Cross-country running became one of Ackworth's sporting successes. But for home matches, there was a problem. The Badsworth course was not suitable, as it involved crossing the A628 road outside the school. For the inter-house competition, the school arranged for a policeman to be at the crossing point for an hour or so on the race day. Clearly, the local constabulary could not be expected to perform this service on a more frequent basis. William Westwood devised an alternative ending to the Badsworth course, ending where it started, on the playing fields; but this was rather a drab conclusion for a race. Far better would be a route to begin and end on The Terrace. Thus Pit Ponds was devised.

Pit Ponds was a longer and tougher route than the Senior Badsworth, but it was much safer from a road traffic point of view. Later, this same route became the basis of the girls' Hessle run.

There continues to be a school "Badsworth" run to this day, but only the title

remains. The original route was a safety risk, not only because of the main road crossing, but also because it involved running a considerable distance along the busy Wakefield-Doncaster road. Now the original route (the one that actually goes through Badsworth) is run only by Old Scholars, usually on Easter Monday.

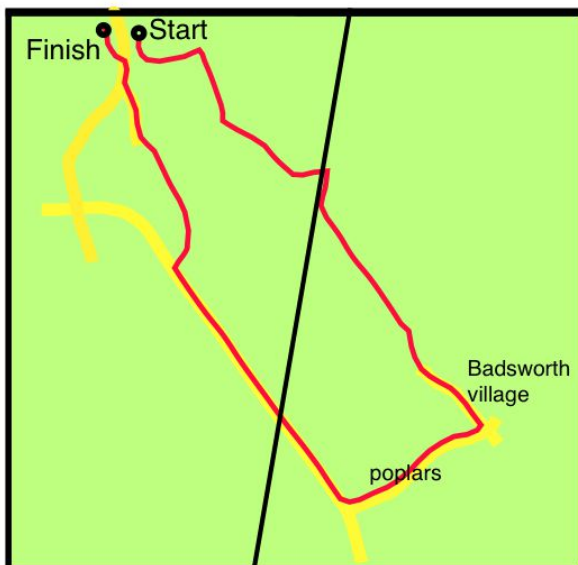
John Golding wins the A.O.S.A. Badsworth run every year.

This is the challenge:- **beat John Golding in 2017.**

There must surely be Ackworth Old Scholars who can challenge John. It will not be easy, but it is possible. John himself would like to have some real challengers. In 2016, there were only two other competitors - me, and Rachel Belk (who had to run with me for most of the route, in order to be shown the way).

Future runners can study the map below, and follow the instructions.

1. Turn left across the playing fields, running diagonally to the far corner to join a clear footpath. Follow this path, passing two farms.
2. After the second farm, pass under the railway bridge and turn sharp right, following the side of the railway embankment for a few hundred metres. A substantial farm track is reached.
3. Fork left along a straight diagonal path. This now takes you directly to Badsworth village. At one time, this involved running across a heavily furrowed field, known as “the prairy” - most challenging part of the course. This new straight path is a doddle in comparison.



4. At the end of the straight path, you enter a short woodland area, still with a good path. In stages, this path widens, eventually becoming a tarmacked road. Continue up a hill until you reach a crossroad.
5. Turn right at the crossroad. Follow the road past the poplar trees (visible from the school) until the main road is reached.
6. Turn right on to the main road, keeping on the right hand side. There is a rough grass verge if

traffic becomes heavy. Pass under the railway bridge and continue until you reach a footpath sign by a bridge over a stream.

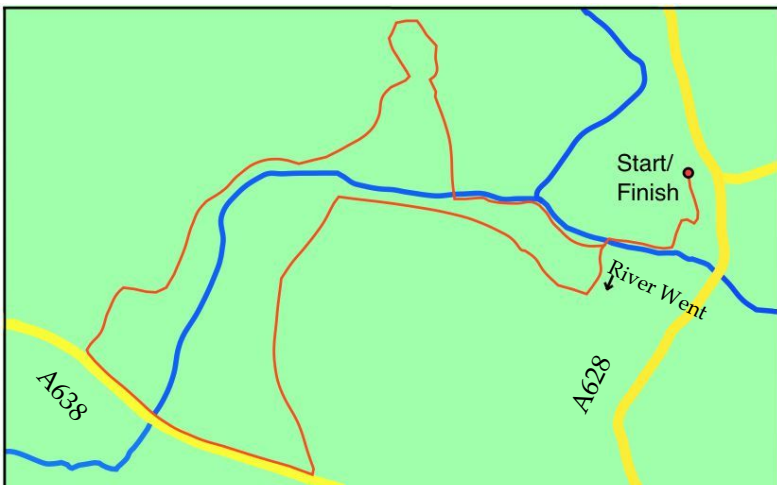
7. Turn right on this footpath. Cross two fields and bear left along a path which passes a housing estate. The path joins a road which eventually leads to Carr Bridge, close to the school. Turn right and run up the hill until there is sufficient visibility to cross safely.

8. Cross the main road. Enter the school grounds through the side gate, and zigzag along the paths to enable you to run up the slope to The Green. The run ends on The Terrace.

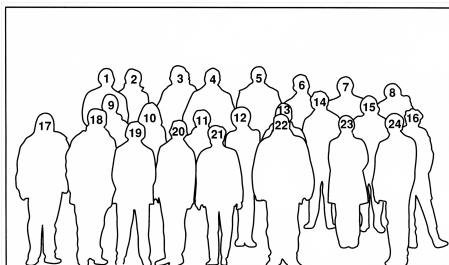
All you have to do is arrive there before John Golding. Begin your training now. Let's make the 2017 Badsworth really special, with an extra large entry. Even if you don't expect to win, taking part is fun, and can be a great family occasion.

THE HESSLE RUN

In the interest of balance, here is the route of the old girls' Hesse run, beginning and ending on The Terrace. (Old Scholars run the old Senior Badsworth route - men and women.) Thanks are due to Celia Wolfe and Lorna Anthony for retrieving the records of this original route.



1961-68 REUNION, NOVEMBER 2015



A single year group (1961-68) has had four reunions during the period 2010-15. This one was organised by Veronica Boshell (née Wilson) in a Leeds hotel, and the weekend included a coach trip to Ackworth, where we were welcomed by Heather Jones, who showed the group around the school. Many had

not set foot in the school for over 40 years, so noticed some startling changes to the environment. Yet some things had hardly altered at all.

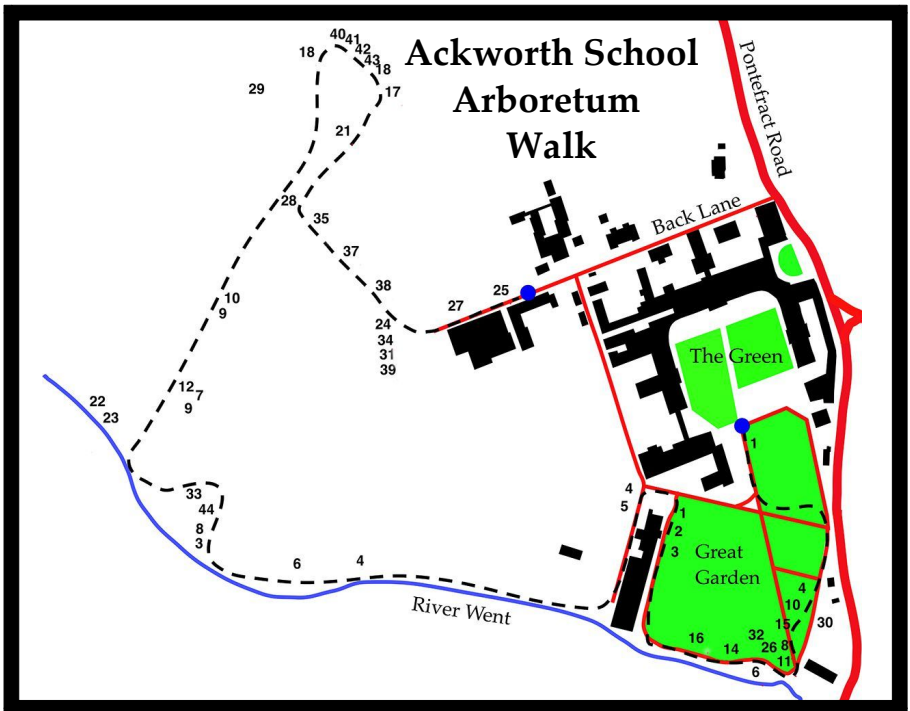
Key to photograph (all surnames as they were in the 1960s):-

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. David Wood | 9. Anne Whitaker | 17. Sally Jepson |
| 2. Rowena Sutton | 10. Pauline Lincoln | 18. Sally Harrison |
| 3. Joan Greenwood | 11. Veronica Smith | 19. Jean Robson |
| 4. Hugh Jones | 12. Joanna O'Sullivan | 20. Jane Marshall |
| 5. Gavin Mendham | 13. Jennifer Glaister | 21. Christine Lytollis |
| 6. Nicholas Seymour | 14. Gillian Harrison | 22. Brandon Everett |
| 7. Robin Evans | 15. Mary Crosby | 23. Diana Craven |
| 8. Hilary Chappell | 16. Deborah Spencer | 24. Veronica Wilson |

ACKWORTH ARBORETUM

In last year's Annual Report, it was announced that the Arboretum (funded by A.O.S.A.) was complete, with every tree planted. The list is repeated here, with a route map, showing the approximate location of each tree.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Silver Birch | 17 Alder | 33 Juniper |
| 2. Whitebeam | 18 White Willow | 34 Purging Blackthorn |
| 3 Large-leaved Lime | 19 Field Maple | 35 Small-leaved Lime |
| 4 Ash | 20 Crack Willow | 36 Service Tree (not to be
planted - very rare) |
| 5 Beech | 21 Hazel | 37 Sessile Oak |
| 6 Elder | 22 Common Hawthorn | 38 Smooth-leaved Elm |
| 7 Wild Cherry | 23 Midland Hawthorn | 39 Spindle |
| 8 Rowan | 24 Alder Buckthorn | 40 Bay Willow |
| 9 Aspen | 25 Box | 41 Sallow (Goat
Willow) |
| 10 Crab Apple | 26 Bird Cherry | 42 Grey Willow |
| 11 Holly | 27 Blackthorn | 43 Almond-leaved
Willow |
| 12 Wych Elm | 28 Black Poplar | 44 Hornbeam |
| 13 Wild Service Tree | 29 Osier | |
| 14 English Oak | 30 Common Dogwood | |
| 15 Scots Pine | 31 Common Sea Buckthorn | |
| 16 Yew | 32 Downy Birch | |



GLENTHORNE WEEKEND

November 2015

Torrential rain couldn't spoil our Glenthorne weekend in early November, when a 34-strong group of Old Scholars, friends and relations arrived in time for an enjoyably noisy evening meal and the usual evening Quiz arranged by Stephen Kelsall. There were 60 questions testing our knowledge on various esoteric subjects. These included ten questions, on groups or singers of recent popular songs. Some participants knew them all, others knew none! However the overall scores were remarkable high which we attributed to a good Ackworth education.

On Saturday, 17 hardy souls took part in a walk organised and supervised by Mike McRobert and Nick Seed. Rain and more rain was forecast and duly arrived. Low level walking round Elterwater and the Langdale valleys, was the order of the day, with a lunch stop at the well known "Three Shires Inn". Skelwith and Colwith Forces in full spate were admired and we were rewarded with a rainbow during a brief break in the clouds.

Old scholars who did not take part in the walk organised their own activities. Some simply stayed in, talked and read, others visited the shops in Grasmere, a few energetic individuals went up one of the nearby mountains and some visited the very interesting nearby National Trust House. Allan Banks was once home to William Wordsworth and National Trust founder Canon Rawnsley. It was rescued from the ravages of a fire in 2011 and is partially restored and undecorated. It will only be properly furnished when public opinion is considered. It is within sight and easy walking distance from Glenthorne and well worth a visit. We were delighted by the antics of the red squirrels, some 20 metres from the drawing room window, where several pairs of old binoculars had been left for visitors' use.

After dinner on Saturday, we were treated to a DVD showing of the recent film of "Far from the Madding Crowd"

Sunday morning was a leisurely affair, with a half hour meeting of worship attended by 24 of us, followed by a very civilized coffee in the Wordsworth Hotel. After lunch we said our goodbyes and departed home. The universal opinion was that we had had an excellent week-end, well looked after by the staff at Glenthorne with good food, activities and conversation. Very high winds made the A66 an interesting journey home!

Stephen Lonsdale



Glenthorne Weekend walkers



Glenthorne indoors

**GLENTHORNE QUAKER GUEST HOUSE
ACKWORTH OLD SCHOLARS' WEEKEND**

4th-6th November, 2016 (fully booked)

3rd-5th November 2017

For details - contact Mike McRobert

Tel. 01427 89167 E-mail: mikeandannabel@hotmail.com

GUILD REPORTS

EAST COAST GUILD

East Coast Guild's Summer Outing to Byland Abbey took place on 24th June 2016.

A slight decline in numbers this year, and so OS from further afield were more than welcome. Stewart and Jane Huntington and Chris and Heather Jones joined us, making 15 in all.

Byland Abbey was our destination, a beautiful Cistercian ruin at the bottom of Sutton Bank, between Helmsley and Thirsk, in a beautiful setting. We met up there for Lunch which was



provided by the Abbey Inn, just across the road, in a lovely old house and garden, and along with the Abbey, in English Heritage ownership.

We were joined by their Senior curator, who has responsibility for many abbeys in the north of England, and he gave us a leisurely tour of the site, with much sitting down on the lower walls of the ruins in the warm sunshine, while he intrigued us with the story of the Abbey. It was a privilege to listen to him with his extensive knowledge and interest in the subject.

After a couple of hours outside, most of us drove to Kirkbymoorside Meeting House for our AGM, which we held in the garden...more of a tea party than an AGM, but essential business was done, the books balanced, and date confirmed for our Founders Day lunch at Worfolk Cottage on October 15th.

Helen Beaumont.

MANCHESTER GUILD

We held our Guild AGM at Eccles Meeting House on 8th October 2015, welcoming our President, Peter Speirs. The business of this meeting was followed by our traditional Founder's Day Lunch, provided by a local caterer. Peter Speirs gave a very interesting account of the Chester Mystery Plays; these date back to the early part of the 15th century. There was a revival of these plays in the 20th century. Peter plays a significant part in the whole event as a member of the cast.

For our Christmas party on 8th December, also held at Eccles Meeting House, 12 members were present, and we all provided food for general consumption. After the meal, we gathered around the piano, but with the absence of Ian Ramage, Tony (with accordion) and I (with English concertina) provided music for carols.

For our next event on 18th March 2016, 12 of us met at Kwok Man restaurant in Manchester again, and enjoyed an excellent Chinese meal and chatting!

Our summer outing on 8th June was a visit to Arley Hall Cheshire, with its interesting interior and fantastic grounds. On this occasion 20 members attended. After a meal at the newly refurbished Timber Yard Restaurant, we separated into small groups to view the gardens. At one point, a member of the group (who shall be nameless) was seen doing some gardening! Luckily the weather was excellent.



Marguerite Hill



WESSEX GUILD

The President and his wife join the Wessex Guild for their summer outing.

SMALLER REUNIONS



Keswick July 2016 - class of '68

L-R
 Jeremy Bowler
 Hugh Jones
 Annie Renwick
 Nick Seymour
 John Renwick
 Anne Seymour
 Janet Bowler
 David Wood

“Following on from a successful reunion in the Lake District in 2012, we met up again this year. On the previous occasion, it was hot and sunny for nearly two weeks, but this year we experienced monsoon conditions, but a brief respite allowed some of us to climb a misty fell.”



Class of '61

(L-R)
 Gill Cox (née Leach)
 Leonora Davies (née
 Alonso)
 Fiona Faulkner (née
 Birkett)

We have kept in touch with each other over the years and try to meet up at least once a year for a nice meal and plenty chat. We each remember our days at school with great fondness.

We always take a photo of ourselves and this year we thought we would share it with you.

Leonora Davies

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and MEMORIAL NOTICES

BIRTHS

MARTIN to Cameron and Jennifer (Hill) (Scholar 1993-2000) a son Alasdair Robert Morrell Martin, born on 24th August 2016

MOORE to Heidi née Smith (Scholar 1991-2002) and Thomas - a daughter, Ellen Florence Moore, born on 7th February 2016

MOSLEY to Marie and Adam (Scholar 1988-93) - a son, Elliot Owen, born 5th May, 2016

DIAMOND WEDDING

BLISS-BROOKE Michael Bliss (Scholar 1944-1950) to Marjorie Brooke (Scholar 1944-1950) on 16th June 1956, at Thornhill Lees Wesley Methodist Church, Dewsbury.

PLATINUM WEDDING

BURR – MARSHALL Sherman Burr and Dorothy Marshall (Scholar 1933-1939) were married in Croydon Village, Cambridgeshire, England. They celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 1st March 2015.

DEATHS

AIRD Wendy Elizabeth (Scholar 1952-59)

Wendy was born on 15 May 1941 in Preston Hospital near Whitley Bay, where she lived before going to Ackworth in 1952. I joined her there in 1956. It was at Ackworth that Wendy first came into contact with the Quaker tradition, which was to remain an important aspect of her spiritual life. Later in life, although she was by then ordained as a vicar in the Church of England, she attended Alston Friends' Meeting.

After working for 10 years in Whitley Bay Barclays Bank, Wendy moved to London, where she eventually became PA to the deputy Chairman of Barclays. After retiring

early from Barclays, Wendy decided to study theology and work towards ordination as a vicar. Caroline Clark, who was ordained in Southwark Cathedral at the same time as Wendy, remembers her as: “a brilliant organizer... While training she put together a couple of weekend retreats, organizing the worship, always with creativity and imagination to inspire all that we did.”

Wendy then decided to return to the North East. In 2008 she became House of Duty Priest in Charge at Chevington, where she was loved and admired. She retired on her 70th birthday, but was later active in Alston Parish where she lived. Margaret Weaver remembers Wendy in Chevington: “she was a driving force in establishing a Local Ministry Development team; she designed and physically undertook much of the re-ordering of the church (she did the plastering herself. These and other memories capture the resilience, wit, energy and creativity which characterized Wendy’s life.

Wendy was full of surprises, particularly for young people who knew her. Her nephews, Jon and Chris: “Trips to Aunt Wendy’s home were always fun; we loved roaming the flat with its cats, collection of antique swords, and a hammock swung from trees in the garden. When we were a little older, we would meet Wendy for dinner by ourselves and enjoyed her wicked sense of humour over a glass or two of wine or a single malt (Wendy was passionate about whiskey, especially single malts).”

Her young cousin, Melanie: “Wendy was, and still is, an inspiration to many. Tales of travels to Peru and Albania, (before that was common-place), roaring around in a Land Rover Defender (before they were trendy), riding her motorbike, then changing career with such conviction, show that she didn’t tread a conventional path through life, and she was admired tremendously for that. When I told her she was my hero, she didn’t believe me, but it’s true.”

Wendy was very independent and liked nothing better than taking herself off to explore. As a child, this led her deep into the countryside, much to the anxiety of her parents. Later this drive took her into the wilds of Scotland and all over the world. She retired to Alston on the edge of Cumbria, an isolated village with a remarkable history. Here, as well as extending her house, she continued her lifelong passion for reading all sorts of books including poetry, which she also wrote. Many of her activities came up in her local sermons. The vicar of Alston remembers: “Her preaching was informed by her breadth of reading, from T. S Eliot’s Four Quartets and deep theology to Terry Pratchett, Harry Potter. Her ability to be serious about her faith without being too solemn also helped a number of people.”

In her later years Wendy returned to Ackworth to meet her year group and then

stayed in touch with them through regular meetings. She died in the cottage hospital in Alston on 7th July 2015 at the relatively young age of 74 and is buried in the beautiful hillside graveyard. She will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched.

Edwin Aird (Scholar 1956 -63)

ANTHONY Lorna (Staff)

Lorna Anthony: an appreciation

Lorna Anthony died on 12 December 2015, having given a lifetime of service to Ackworth School and earned a place in its history as one of its outstanding personalities.

I came to know Lorna in 1995 when I became Head of Ackworth School. I met all staff individually to discuss, among other things, how they felt the school might best be taken forward. Lorna came very well prepared with a stack of prompt cards. I soon learned that this was very much her way of doing things. By this stage she was, of course, a long standing member of staff. She had proved herself in the classroom, had run the Biology department and was experienced in the ways of Girls School House. She was ready for more responsibility, and the opportunity soon presented itself when Diana Chadwick decided to retire from the post of Deputy Head. Appointing Lorna as Diana's successor was an important step for School Committee to take and was one that it, and I, never had cause to regret.

Lorna brought much to the Senior Management Team. She was always energetic, imaginative and loyal. An early success for her was her organisation of the weekend activities for boarders. This was a new task resulting from the decision to abolish Saturday morning school. The commitment she brought in organising a multitude of different activities run by many different staff meant that boarders had a better range of activities than before. Lorna was always fully involved in the life of the boarders, but her pastoral remit extended to all pupils. Staff, pupils and parents always knew where they stood with Lorna, and this clarity was a great asset and helped to ensure that they all had great respect for her. I knew that I could always rely on her as somebody who was conscientious, loyal and a person of great integrity. We didn't agree on everything but we did on most things and we never fell out. Her ideas continued to come, and towards the end of my time at Ackworth she was the main force behind the setting up of the International Centre.

On a personal level I enjoyed her sense of humour, and one of my abiding memories is of her roaring with laughter at something or other.

With magnificent support from her husband, Taras, Lorna achieved much for the school and will be remembered with much respect and affection. I was fortunate that our paths coincided.

Martin Dickinson

Lorna – a personal tribute.

Colourful, funny, practical, generous, organised, knowledgeable, principled and loyal are the adjectives I would use to describe Lorna, my friend for almost 38 years.

The first time I met Lorna Charlton was over a meal in Eileen King's flat, in GSH, the night before term started in September 1977. We were both 22, eager to please but innocent of what lay ahead. In the Summer term of 1978, I joined Lorna in GSH where we shared a flat for several years. We got on well, having in common our sense of humour and our northern roots. We became fond of each other's families, and we went on a number of holidays together, including a grand tour of Ireland (Lorna driving) and Egypt, where I had a ready-made tour guide!

On our 'day off', more than likely we would be found in Betty's in York or Harrogate, rather than preparing lessons or marking, but it became apparent early on that Lorna was a very effective, organised Biology teacher whose sensible, no-nonsense approach earned her respect from pupils and colleagues alike. Her firm but caring pastoral skills were also obvious. She was a problem-solver and she got things done. She had, after all, served her apprenticeship as Head Girl of her own school and Head of her Student Hall at Manchester University. Lorna loved tennis and ballroom dancing, sharing these talents with pupils and staff. Who could forget those legendary Staff/Sixth Form Dances with Lorna sailing around the floor, making sure that everyone was involved? She had such a zest for life.

Head of Biology, Head of Seatons... leadership was in Lorna's blood, so it seemed natural that she would become Deputy Head one day. Her marriage to Taras in 1988, however, was the most significant landmark in her life. They enjoyed almost 28 years together, the last few in retirement, and they were a total support to one another right to the end.

The last time I saw Lorna, two weeks before she died, we chatted over a cup of tea and a digestive biscuit. That will remain one of my abiding memories of her. As Lorna loved Ackworth School, in turn she was loved and respected by so many people whose lives she influenced. Lorna was a true friend.

Linda Brown

BURGESS Donald (Scholar 1945-51 (Staff 1957-61)

Donald was born on the 9th September 1933, the eldest of four siblings to attend Ackworth. He enjoyed his time at school and became Vice-Head boy (as was his younger brother Peter). On leaving, he undertook National Service, working in a mental hospital, before studying for a degree in geography at Durham University. He then returned to Ackworth as a member of staff (he claimed that he only got the job due to his willingness to coach cricket). He was then appointed to a senior post at Richmond Grammar School North Yorkshire before moving to Jamaica to become Head of Happy Grove School, a school established by American Quakers. He and his young family spent five years in Jamaica before moving to Montreal, where he became Associate Professor of Education at McGill University. He was there for more than 25 years, teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels. He was appointed Associate Dean twice. During a sabbatical he earned a doctorate from Harvard. On retirement in 1996 he relocated to Vermont and subsequently Lewes, Delaware. He married twice and is survived by his second wife, Judit, and the children of his first marriage, Alison and Ian.

Donald died on 29th May 2016

BURR Dorothy Iris (née Marshall) (Scholar 1933-39)

Dorothy was born on March 26 1922 in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, daughter of Violet May Monteith and Frank Marshall. Dorothy attended Trinity Elementary School until age 11. Then she attended Ackworth. After leaving school in 1939, she attended Yorkshire Training College of House Craft in Leeds. She obtained a Cook's Certificate and an Institutional Management and Housekeeping Certificate. Then she began a Home Economics Teaching Credential programme, but soon her skills were needed to help in the war effort. During World War II Dorothy served as a relief cook for the Women's Land Army farm labourers. In 1944 an assignment took her to Cambridgeshire, where she met American GI Sherman Burr. They were married in Croydon Village on March 1, 1945. When the war ended, Sherman returned to the States. Dorothy arrived months later on the HMS Queen Mary, along with other war brides. Dorothy and Sherman were married for 70 years until Sherman's death in 2015. Dorothy had four daughters, nine grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Gerald Marshall. When Sherman and Dorothy purchased their first and life-long home in 1950, she joined many of the young married women in the neighbourhood to form their own club called the Sew 'n' Sews. They met for decades. Dorothy became a US citizen in March 1953. In 1955 Dorothy again put her education to use. She re-entered the work force as a part-time cafeteria worker at Peter Lassen Junior High School. Within two years she went

full time and managed the school cafeteria at Peter Burnett, Sutterville and Pacific elementary schools, retiring in 1977. Dorothy joined the Camellia Branch of the California School Food Service Association and at one time served as president. Dorothy was an active member of the First Baptist Church and the Friendship Sunday School class. Dorothy served as a 2nd grade Sunday school teacher for twenty years and followed with service as Superintendent of Sunday Schools for several years. She was active in American Baptist Women Ministries Circle 1. Following retirement, she sang with the Women's Chorale for 10 years and joined a Friday Bible Study. She also helped found Southside Community Church. Because Sherman was an active post office union member, Dorothy joined the American Postal Workers Union Auxiliary in 1949. Dorothy took an active role as an officer at the local, state, and national levels. Beginning in 1968 she served as National Vice President for 12 years. She followed with six years as National President. Along with Sherman she joined the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. She served in various offices including president. She and Sherman were regular ushers for the Sacramento Theatre Company for many years. They also enjoyed their association with the British-America Club. She loved music, travelling and visited every state except Delaware and toured over 100 countries around the world. In traditional British fashion she was a prolific letter writer, articulate, prim and proper and will be remembered as "always a lady". Dorothy passed away on August 6, 2016 in Sacramento after a series of medical setbacks this past year.

FAGG Mary (née Davidson) (scholar 1928-34)

Born into a Derbyshire Quaker family of nine children, Mary was the only girl - games of cricket, tennis, and climbing trees were her childhood. An avid reader she excelled at school as her name on the Honours board at Ackworth School testifies. Success too on the sports field, playing at cricket and as Captain of the Hockey team. Later, studying in Truro she was selected to play for the Western Region Hockey team in the national championships.

Her education completed, she followed her family to Nairobi, where her parents had moved after losing their Leicestershire farm in the 1920s. Of that early period her youngest brother Bobby has written "Mary had led such a wonderful industrious life - starting at a very early age being a great help to Mother in bringing up us younger ones - especially me"

Her love of the world around her, and her perceptive eye, meant she delighted in the Kenyan landscapes and its peoples. Her love of history and its sister discipline archaeology led to a close friendship with Louis and Mary Leakey and all her free time (weekends and holidays) was devoted to exploring and recording Kenya's past.

Through them she met, and in 1942, married Bernard, an archaeologist who was at that time serving as an Engineer with the Royal West African Frontier Force.

He was recalled to Nigeria shortly after their marriage and permission for her to follow him only arrived the following year. Then began an epic journey overland from Kenya to Nigeria by bus and train and boat down the Congo River to Leopoldville and thence to Lagos by plane finally arriving in Jos by train, where Bernard and more archaeology awaited her. In 1946 she then had to return, again on her own, to Kenya when Father was invalided back to UK (with polio) - this time pregnant with Monica and travelling with her toddler, Angela.

Today, 1st October is the 55th anniversary of Nigerian Independence. A country our parents loved and where they are still remembered for their work for Nigerian Antiquities.

Three years after Nigerian Independence they moved to Oxford to work in the Pitt Rivers Museum, where they continued their tradition of hospitality that had characterised their life in Nigeria. All were welcome family and friends - and we have lost count of the number of babies, born in Oxford hospitals whose first home was with Mother, who was, herself, a mother of five.

Her niece wrote “She was the most wonderful woman I know. I can’t even begin to tell you how much she has influenced me; how much love and respect I have for her; how often I am reminded of her in my everyday life...her words of wisdom, her loving kindness, her gentle way of showing disapproval without making one feel guilty, her endless patience, her commitment to family above all, her acceptance and interest in all around her, her intelligence, her own suffering when she saw suffering...and so much more. Her words of wisdom often gently echo in my ear”

Stoical and never complaining, she cared for Father for almost 20 years after his severe stroke in 1968, her help including publications and research. She continued after his death publishing Rock Music, a reference book still used today.

Her Quaker principles permeated her life and her family mattered most to her.

Christmas in Oxford was a special time for us all. Christopher and his family would fly over from Brazil, Monica and her family would come from the north of England while Angela and family would come up from the south. Mother and her brother Geoffery would ensure we enjoyed a close knit time together.

In her last years she delighted in the photographs of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as she rested in Oaklands, her final home, where Monica was a

daily visitor and where we all gathered as often as possible. Of all of Mother's attributes, that which best defined her was her gentle welcoming smile.

ILLINGWORTH Marjorie (née Parkin)(Scholar 1930-34)

Marjorie passed on very peacefully on 15th April 2016 at the age of 98, having had no serious illness. She came from a very long line of Yorkshire Quakers, dating back directly to the late 17th century. Her parents lived in Ilkley, where she grew up. She spent the four years, 1930 to 1934, as a boarder at Ackworth where she made many lifelong friends; regretfully all of whom I believe she has out lived. She learnt languages and was fluent in German and French, skills which she used in her employment as a bilingual secretary in the textile trade.

Marjorie married Brian in October 1939 and they celebrated their Golden wedding in Waldringfield in 1989. They had two sons, Peter and Michael, both of whom were at Ackworth: Peter (Stan) 1956 to 1959; Michael 1964 to 1970.

The family went to live in Pittsburgh between the years 1952 to 1955, where Brian represented English Electric in a professional engineering capacity. Michael was born there.

On return they lived in Harpenden, where Marjorie was clerk of the meeting for over ten years, before Brian retired and they moved to Waldringfield in Suffolk.

Brian died in 2001 and Marjorie lived alone with the support of many friends and family until she decided that she would be more comfortable in a care home. She then moved to Foxgrove Care Home in Felixstowe in August 2015 where she was very happy and well cared for and received many visits from her family and friends right up to the end of what had been a full and happy life.

Her quiet and gentle guidance was much appreciated, especially by her extended family. She was always there with family interests at heart; always interested in her grandchildren for each of whom she had a special affection, as indeed they had for her. What a joy that she lived to see her two great grandchildren, Daniel and Olivia.

JONES Barbara Valerie (née Hickman) (née Barringer) (Scholar 1935-42)

Barbara was born on 24 August 1925 and attended Ackworth from 1935 to 1942, following in the footsteps of her Father, Ronald Barringer and many of her family, Barringers and Fletchers who had been scholars at Ackworth since just after its

founding in 1779. Her grandparents lived in Ivy Cottage at the bottom of GG whilst teaching at the School.

Barbara was very proud of her Ackworth heritage and rarely missed an Easter Gathering until the last couple of years, when her mobility and breathing made it impossible. In the past she served on both the Old Scholars Committee and the School Committee. She was always a keen part of the social scene at Easter and throughout the year with her Guild, especially at Glenthorne!

A wonderful mother and friend, Barbara is sorely missed by her son, Andrew Hickman and daughter, Anne Ketchin, both their families and many of the Ackworth family. She lives on in many “Mumisms” which are used daily.

Barbara passed away 23 August 2015. We were blessed to have her in our lives.

Anne Ketchin (daughter)

JONES Sylvia Mary (née Hodgson) (Scholar 1934-1938)

Sylvia was born in Bradford in 1921, the younger daughter of Harry (scholar 1887-1890) and Ida Hodgson. Her elder sister and two aunts had also been educated at Ackworth.

After leaving school, Sylvia did a comprehensive secretarial training course and, with her aptitude for figures, joined a firm of accountants in Bradford, where she stayed until called for National Service in 1943. Although not a committed pacifist, her Quaker upbringing led her away from the Armed Services, and she joined the Forestry Branch of the Women’s Land Army in a clerical capacity and worked in North Wales for four years. It was there where she met her future husband, John; they married in 1947 and settled in Flintshire where they had two children, Alison and Malcolm.

John became general manager of his family’s firm, Jones Balers, but following a take-over, he and Sylvia ran their own successful businesses for many years.

John died in 1991, and sometime after that, Sylvia met Chris Mercer, with whom she spent ten very happy years until his death in 2012. In 2005 she suffered a stroke from which she never fully recovered, although she remained mentally very alert and looked forward to receiving the AOSA Annual Report each year. She maintained an interest in Ackworth and was especially pleased when her nephew, Chris, was President in 2013/4. She died on 19th October 2015 at the age of 93, and is survived by her two children, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

MORRIS Raymond (Scholar 1947-1954)

Raymond was born to Quaker parents Albert and Sylvia Morris (née Hall, Scholar 1918-1920) at Grenoside, Yorkshire, in 1936. He left Ackworth with the highest academic honours in his year and went on to study Sociology at the University of Birmingham, where he gained a Masters in Social Science. This was followed by post-graduate studies at Oxford, leading to a D.Phil.

From 1960 to 1964, Ray was Lecturer in Sociology and Social Statistics at the University of Birmingham, and in 1962 he was placed in charge of undergraduate admissions in Sociology. During this time he participated in several Quaker Work Camps at one of which he met his first wife, Ruth, an American, also with a Doctorate in Sociology. Both were unhappy with the political and social inequalities of their countries. Their married life began in Birmingham (U.K.) where their eldest children, Peter and Corinne, were born. In 1964 the opportunity to try life in the U.S. arose, and the young family moved to Washington D.C., where Ray became Associate Professor of Sociology at American University, and was in charge of graduate admissions in Sociology from 1966 to 1968.

Having explored the societies of each other's country, and finding both at odds with their values, the family moved to Canada in 1968, settling in Toronto where their adopted son, Douglas, and a second daughter, Joy, soon joined them. Ray taught Sociology and Statistics at York University for 30 years. He led the Graduate Program in Sociology as Director for eight years, and supervised the work of over 40 graduate students. For 13 years, he taught in both English and French at York's Glendon campus. During his time at York, he worked tirelessly to ensure that there was space in the graduate program and the Canadian Society of Sociology and Anthropology for women and people of colour. He wrote six books and contributed articles in French and English to various anthologies. He was active in the Canadian Society of Sociology and Anthropology, including one year as president and two years on the executive committee. At the same time, Ray gave unstinting practical, financial and emotional support to Ruth's pioneering charitable and advocacy work in many areas of social reform, including restorative and transformative justice, prison abolition, the bail programme and radical improvements to banking access for the disadvantaged. The culmination of Ruth's work was her receipt of the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honour. Throughout this period, the family attended and supported Friends Meeting in Toronto.

By the age of 60, Ray had been diagnosed with emphysema, and in 2001, he and Ruth relocated to Salmon Arm, British Columbia, where the climate and air quality was less detrimental to his health. Sadly, Ruth developed cancer and their retirement together was cut tragically short by her death the same year. Ray assumed

responsibility for managing the two charitable foundations, established by Ruth to support the continuation of her work for social justice and prison abolition. In 2002 he met Anne, another committed social justice and peace activist, and they were married later that year.

As a passionate advocate of social justice, Ray served for 11 years as Co-Chair of the Salmon Arm Ecumenical KAIROS Committee, a branch of the national KAIROS organization that unites 11 Canadian churches and religious organizations in faithful action for justice. He gave generous financial and practical support to numerous Canadian and international charities that work for social and economic justice and for a safe-climate world for future generations.

During his final years, his illness and the side effects inevitably took their toll, but with loving support from Anne and from medics who soon became personal friends, he was able to continue his work until the final weeks. Ray leaves Anne, his wife of 13 years; his brother Nigel in Richmond, Surrey (Scholar 1958-65); four children: Peter in Haslett, Michigan, Corinne in Godalming, Douglas in Toronto, and Joy in Lethbridge, Alberta; and three grandchildren.

ROSS Peter (Scholar 1961-66) Died 25th Aug 2013

Peter's family had a tradition of going to Ackworth, starting with Captain Thomas Lidbetter in 1831, followed by his grandmother, mother, father, s mother and uncles.

His first boarding school was The Downs, which he went to when aged 8, so was an old hand when he arrived at Ackworth.

He greatly enjoyed school life, being a keen member of the Aeromodelling Club and Car Maintenance Club; he latterly had a collection of MG cars. On leaving Ackworth, he went to Derby College to study laundry technology, before joining the family business, Watford Laundry, eventually becoming Chairman. This was a very demanding job, as the laundry was one of the biggest in the country, supplying many of the London hotels. His wife, Penny, joined the company and played an important part in its success. Peter was active to the end, and was going to participate in an event at Cowes the weekend after his death.

He will be remembered for his quiet charm, sense of humour and total honesty. He is survived by his wife Penny brother Graham and sister Elizabeth. He died on 25 August 2013.

ROSS Raneë (née Raneë Millicent Lidbetter) (Scholar 1931-36)

Raneë was Peter Ross's mother. She went to Ackworth in September 1931. Here she came under the wing of her paternal uncle Jim (James Staples Lidbetter) who was senior master. He managed to persuade the headmistress to declare a half day holiday in celebration of Raneë's arrival, one hundred years after her grandfather, Thomas Lidbetter, as an 8 year old orphan, had travelled alone by stagecoach from Brighton to Ackworth School.

Raneë was an extremely well organised person, always immaculately dressed even when gardening. I was always amazed at the fast pace of life when staying at the Ross's. She was very committed to fund-raising for various charities. She played golf in to her mid eighties and died on 20 December 2015, aged 95. The church was full at her funeral, which is testament to the many friends she made in her lifetime.

SPENCER Derrick (Scholar 1939-43)

Derrick died in Australia, aged 89. He emigrated there at the age of 39 with his wife and family of four daughters, later fathering a welcome Aussie son. He considered himself Australian, but definitely still a Yorkshireman. He was a prolific swimmer, particularly wild water swimming where he held championship titles at S Australian, Victorian and Australian Masters games.

WESTWOOD Pat (Associate member)

Although never a scholar or member of staff, Pat became an associate member due to her long association with the life of the school, initially as Bill Westwood's wife, and then as parent and grandparent of scholars at the school.

Pat met Bill (William) Westwood (old scholar and staff member) at Leeds University, they married in 1951 and moved to Ackworth, when Bill took up a teaching post which he held until his untimely death in 1981.

Pat supported the AOSA, and regularly attended the Easter Gatherings, where she enjoyed meeting up with friends old, young and new. She was part of West Yorkshire Guild, Glenthorne weekends and Founders Day Celebrations.

Over the years, Pat was involved in many aspects of life, both at Ackworth School and within the village. She was a class teacher at a local primary school then a science teacher at the Middle School. When she retired, she continued to support and

enjoy many societies, activities and groups in the village community, making good friends in all of them. She delighted in keeping up with technology, pursued many creative and academic interests and loved gardening. She played a huge role in the lives of her children and grandchildren and, more recently, took great pleasure in observing the developing characters of her great grandchildren.

Pat maintained her independence and lived life to the full until she died suddenly but peacefully on 29th February 2016. She is missed by all her family and friends.

WILBYE Jonathan P (scholar 1969 – 1976)

Born the eldest of three to Marian H and E Vincent Wilbye, in the village of Stainforth, near Doncaster in 1958, into a Quaker family with roots in the 17th century, although his father was not in membership. His maternal great-great grandfather, James Henry Barber, was a founder member of the AOSA and was president in 1884-85; via the lines of Burt and Hutchinson, Jonathan continued that line to Ackworth as a scholar in 1969.

Initially he was unhappy, but settled and became most active in the woodwork and metalwork department and on the hockey field, playing in the school team.

Jonathan's keen wit and sense of humour got him into trouble on several occasions, for example, when a former staff couple he had known all his life and who lived in the village were out when he called, he used blackberry juice to write a note, having no pen or pencil, which he put through the letterbox, not realising what it looked like. When found, it caused some consternation, being thought to be blood!

Three years later his sister, Caroline, joined him in school and his younger brother, Bernard, came the following year.

Jonathan spent many out-of-lesson hours with Graham Buckley, the metalwork master, who in 1974 gave him a wrecked Austin Mini car, on which the three of them worked during their holidays. This was eventually made roadworthy, passed its MOT, and in 1975, changed hands as had been originally agreed.

Graham also enabled him to buy a woodturning lathe from Hunmanby, which he used all his life. Jonathan's two best pieces of work at school were an oval yew wood table – seating eight – which he made from wood given to him from Nostell Priory, and a garden gate in wrought iron featuring a large spider in its web. During the holidays he enjoyed canoeing, in a fibreglass canoe made in school, and fishing.

On leaving school in 1976, he began work for Edward Starkie, a member of Adel Friends Meeting, who had an antique shop in Knaresborough, as driver and assistant to three elderly men, a French polisher, an upholsterer and a cabinet maker.

These men taught him the ‘tricks of their trades’, then all retired, leaving Jonathan to keep the restoration going. He loved working with wood and was very happy restoring things to their former glory.

Jonathan married Janet in 1980 and they settled in Knaresborough. Their first child, Peter Michael, was born in 1982 and shortly after that, Jonathan set up his own workshop restoring for local antique dealers and driving for a man who sent antiques abroad. Since he had left school, he had joined both mixed and men’s hockey clubs in Leeds and even played against Ackworth. He was also involved in Landrover rallies, driving and marshalling in off-road events. He and Janet had a Series 1 Landrover themselves.

Jonathan and Janet had a daughter, Elizabeth, (Beth), born in 1984, shortly after which they moved to Pateley Bridge where their second son, Timothy, was born in 1985. The antiques workshop was downstairs and the children had many happy hours playing there whilst their father worked.

Sadly, divorce followed in 1990 but Jonathan remarried three years later to Michelle, from Los Angeles, who had a little boy called Michael, the same age as Peter. Playing club tennis took the place of hockey, whilst the antique restoration, Landrover trialling and fishing continued.

In 1994 James was born and Jonathan’s work included restoring clocks for Brian Loombes, the foremost antique clock dealer in the North. More space was needed for the business and fresh premises were sought. Ben(jamin) was born in July of 1997, and in the following February, on Jonathan’s fortieth birthday, the family moved into Bluebell farm on North Stainmore, Cumbria. Two years later he started converting the empty end of the farmhouse into a delightful home for his mother, Marian Wilbye, where she retired in 2001 so she could help with the two small boys.

Having lost touch with his first three children, Jonathan was overjoyed when his youngest niece put him in touch with his daughter, Beth, now in her twenties. They met up and quickly renewed the close relationship they had known years before. Amazingly, a rented cottage directly across the road from Bluebell Farm became vacant and Beth was able to move in – such a happy arrangement.

Jonathan was always busy restoring antiques, repairing local council public benches, playing tennis, mowing grass, repairing stone walls, making the family birthday

cakes and doing all the cooking. He was the pillar of our lives, a fine, upright man, always a Quaker, although not outwardly attending Meetings, but honest in both private and business life and worthy of great respect as a superb craftsman.

On Sunday 12th July 2015, he and his youngest son Ben helped a friend move house from Harrogate to Manchester; did his usual full day's work on the Monday and drove to Bedale to play tennis with the team where he suffered a massive heart attack and died on court, doing something he really enjoyed. The shock for Jonathan's wife, children, mother, siblings and numerous friends and clients was tremendous.

A quiet family service was held in Darlington after the manner of Friends, and four weeks later, an afternoon of celebration, to give thanks for his life, was held in North Yorkshire. Jonathan will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

OLD SCHOLARS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

CLARKE Ann (Sally) (Scholar 1952-59) died a few years ago in New Zealand

EDWARDS Donald (Scholar 1929-36)

GILLETT Patricia May (Scholar 1933-35)

GRAY Iain (Scholar 1947-53)

GREIG Mary (Scholar 1934-39)

HELLIWELL Phyllis (Scholar 1930-37)

JEFFERSON Peter (Scholar 1942-51)

LIDSTER Ruth (née Wallis) (Scholar 1938-43)

MATCHETT Josephine (Scholar 1944-49)

MITCHELL Dennis (Staff)

O'KILL Mary (Scholar 1942-48)

SHAW Elizabeth Carole (née Bulcock) (Scholar 1956-59)

SKURR John (Scholar 1931-35)

THORNE John (scholar 1942-46) died approx 10 years ago

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work of all contributors to the Annual Report is greatly appreciated. The editor would like to give particular thanks to Rachel Belk, Janet Blann, Jennifer Jones, Mike and Annabel McRobert, Charles Stuart, Jackie Utley & Celia Wolfe.

HEAD'S LETTER

You will already be aware that the school is taking over the administration of AOSA. This will be effective from October 2017. AOSA will continue to operate unchanged, although under the auspices of the school. A transition group, consisting of key members of the AOSA Committee and the school, meet regularly to ensure a smooth transition process. The crucial advantage is that the school has created a permanent position to manage operations on behalf of AOSA which will help us all (the School and all old scholars) 'drive' the best interests of Ackworth School into the future.

Parents, pupils, teachers from neighbouring schools, visitors to the school are always struck by the beauty of the school and the relationships between the students and their teachers. Many if not all of our visitors mention the way the school feels.

We are continuing with our development plan and the extension to our Autism Resource was opened in October. We are seeking to improve in other ways that may not be as evident: the potholes at our entrance have disappeared under a fresh sheet of tar, the lighting within the sports hall has been replaced and now offers a first class facility and the Colonnades, as well as part of the East Wing Roof, have been sensitively refurbished at great cost, retaining the distinctive appearance of our buildings. We have ambitions to improve all of our lighting in our other sports venues as it is cost efficient as well as something that we can do ourselves.

The A-level curriculum has undergone considerable change recently and the full effect of this will not be fully understood or appreciated until 2017. It would appear that it is going to take longer to teach the new syllabuses. This has influenced our decision to offer 3 A Level subjects to our students next year instead of 4.

The school production this year was Shakespeare in Love. A nicely balanced cast worked hard with Richard Vergette, our Director of Drama, to good effect. The scene changes were slick and made possible by ingenious devices made by the Design Technology Department and decorated by our Art Department. These devices were carried on and off the stage, and were made in such a way as to allow quick construction whilst the play was in full flow.

The Music Department has had an excellent year. They provided the musical entertainment for Party on the Green, as well as the Open Day concerts, which was an excellent opportunity to hear our soloists perform before they left Ackworth School to start the next chapter of their educational journey. Other highlights from the year included the biennial musical production, which took place before Christmas. In December, the choir joined Hepworth Brass Band for a wonderful

concert in aid of Parkinson's UK. This was a thoroughly enjoyable concert to get everyone in the mood for Christmas and it was lovely to hear the choir from Wakefield Girls' School perform too. The Carol Service on the last day of term was excellent as usual.

In February, the Senior and Junior Choir, along with some instrumentalists, performed in Wakefield Cathedral at a lunchtime concert. This was the biggest audience at a lunchtime concert in the series. Later that same week, Ian Lenihan and Sarah McAlindon took the Senior and Junior Choir to the prestigious Mrs Sunderland Competition in Huddersfield. The competition was of an extremely high standard and, although the choirs didn't win, the Staff were very pleased to be awarded distinctions in all categories entered. In addition, the Music Department added to the reflective and contemplative atmosphere of the Easter Concert with some beautiful music from the Ackworth Orchestra, Ensemble, Choir, Wind Ensemble, String Group and Chamber Choir.

The 103rd Founder's Day Walk involved the entire school. Even the Nursery joined in, by walking around our grounds. Using Twitter and Facebook, it was possible to see what the other forms were doing and, as usual, we visited some of nicest places in Yorkshire. Next year Old Scholars will join the Sixth Form walk.

The annual Quaker Week involved a Pilgrimage for several pupils to 1652 Country. They enjoyed the experience and returned even more committed to Quakerism and with deeper friendships too. The Peace Lecture this year was given by Dr Asfin Shahi, of Bradford University. He is the founding director of the centre for Study of Political Islam. He gave the very interested audience an insight into extremism, explaining why and how it happens. The questions which followed his speech were an indication of the deep concern our students have for the world that they are growing up in. It also reveals that the education they receive here has made them unafraid to ask challenging questions and to take an active interest in what is happening.

A few members of staff have left this year: Karen Chadwick has retired after many years of excellent service to the school, her kindness will be missed. Bryony Lebeter and her husband John, who was for many years our Bursar, have decided to retire to North Yorkshire. Bryony has been an asset to the International Centre for the past 12 years and also helped in the Girls' Boarding House. She has been a regular participant in musical performances at the school and many her significant contribution will be missed. Sarah McAlindon is also leaving, after many successful years as a music teacher and Assistant Head of the Music Department.

Students at Ackworth give without question. December 2015 will be remembered for

the flooding, and the seeming inability of government to deal adequately with the provision of flood defences. The consequences of the floods were devastating, and it will take years for communities and persons to recover; some unfortunate families lost most of their possessions. Mia Kirkland, an 11 year old pupil at Ackworth School, was so concerned about the welfare of the flood victims, that she used her own money to record a CD, with the proceeds going to the Flood Appeal.

Sporting success is important for the general sense of well-being in a school. We have become a leading school at squash. However this is not the only sport we are good at: cross-country is fast becoming an important sport at Ackworth and recent results have caught the headlines. On the 5th and 6th July 2016, Ackworth school hosted the first Quaker Schools' Cricket Festival. Three other Quaker schools took part in the tournament: Bootham, Leighton Park and Sidcot. It was a real pleasure to see so many talented cricketers competing against each other on the pitch and also socialising with one another off it. Great rivalries as well as some friendships have been created. Each team played three games, Ackworth being the only team to win all three, were crowned as the tournament champions.

We are growing in confidence on the football pitch. The Under 15s continue to go from strength to strength and ended the season as winners of the Yorkshire Small Independent Schools League Title with a 100% record. Hockey is another emerging sport. Ackworth's Boys U13 hockey have progressed rapidly and now feature in the top places of every tournament they participate in. They also finished second in the regional hockey festival at Leeds University – losing narrowly to QEGS in the final 1-0.

Tennis continues to thrive at the school, with both our Year 8 and 10 teams competing in the Leeds/Wakefield Tennis League, the boys' teams did well and were invited to the Yorkshire finals, both teams eventually finishing as the 4th best school in Yorkshire at this level. This experience will help them in the future, as some of these pupils have many years of age group tennis ahead of them.

Our squash continues to make headlines, with both the boys and the girls doing very well. Sam Todd became only the second British player to win the British Junior Open during the Christmas holidays. The last British player to do so was Old Scholar James Willstrop. As a result, Sam is ranked number one in the world in his age group.

Coram

Coram House has seen many changes this academic year; the major one being that we welcomed a new Head, Katharine Elwis, at Christmas. Katharine is a member of The Society of Friends. Supported by her diligent and hard working Deputy Head,

Sally Slater, she has brought in many changes and Coram House already feels bustling with vigour. Katharine has trained as a Safeguarding Lead and together with Sally, who is also Safeguarding Lead, they undertake all the safeguarding needs of the Junior School, working closely with Guy Emmett in Senior School.

We have lost some staff, who have moved on as their career progresses. These include: Wendy Bamforth, Y6 teacher, Richard Grogan, Y4 teacher and Elise Ager TA (who has moved to the Autism Unit). Mary Wilson, who was the Head and who was going to replace Wendy, sadly had to go on compassionate leave from January. Her job has been very successfully covered by supply teacher, Surinder Dosanjh. Richard was replaced by Ben Barker, who won the Laurie Brady Award for Teaching Excellence from his University in Sydney, Australia. At the end of the academic year we appointed, Michael Tattersall to teach Y3. Michael can teach Ancient Greek and Latin.

Coram House has seen great sporting success with the girls' netball team winning the HMC Netball Championship and the boys' football team getting to the final of the HMC Football Championship. Y4 pupil, William Cross, was selected for South Yorkshire Cricket U9s and U10s team and he also plays for the Yorkshire U9s. He has been selected to play cricket for the Senior School on many occasions and is regularly awarded 'Man of the Match'. Asia Harris in Y6 continued to achieve at National Level squash, well above her age range.

This year's Y6 production of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' was the best yet – with fabulous costumes and choreography (courtesy of new teacher, Ben Barker and his uncle) and a high standard of singing and acting, thanks to Sarah McAlindon and Sally Slater. Katharine Elwis, who has worked in London's West End, commented that it was as good as a professional show.

Nursery

Coram House Nursery has seen an increase in its full time equivalent number from 11.7 in September 2015 to 15.8 in September 2016.

During the last academic year, communication links with Nursery parents and grandparents have been strengthened through the introduction of new calendar events. Examples of such events include: the invitation to Grandparents to join in the morning's activities with their grandchildren to celebrate "Grandparents Day", invitation to the first Early Years Foundation Stage Nativity "Away in a Manger", Nursery Parents' Forum and the Nursery Graduation at the end of the year, held in the Meeting House.

The Nursery's profile within the local community has been raised, which also fosters

the Quaker ethos. Community initiatives have included a monthly “Baby and Toddler” group, Nursery grown Pumpkin, which was entered into the Ackworth Parish Council competition, and a weekly Babyballet group.

Work has been completed across the EYFS in terms of both moderation of observations and reporting on O Track, which has resulted in positive changes being implemented. The Nursery day has been evaluated and changes to the format of the day have been made to allow for more key worker time, which is proving successful. A key worker observation tracker has also been introduced to avoid duplication and increase variation in observation evidence which is gathered. Since the Nursery staff received training on the Outdoor environment, there has been an increase in the number of opportunities which are provided for open-ended play. A grant provided by the PSA has enabled large wooden blocks to be purchased, enhancing imaginary outdoor play. The teaching of French has been enhanced through the language assistant supporting the lessons.

Following the committee’s decision in May, the Nursery will enter a new phase of development commencing in March 2017. The Nursery will only be accepting children from rising three years old and as a consequence will be a need to reduce staffing. The introduction of these changes will enable the Nursery to become a term-time only setting with a greater focus on education and social development rather than childcare. It is also the hope this will consequently improve the number of children transitioning to Coram House.

WIFI and network access has been successfully installed at Nursery and the children and staff have begun to reap the benefits as we are now able to communicate with parents, staff and the rest of the school more easily.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OPEN MORNINGS

24 September 2016
1 May 2017

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2016: 5.09.16 - 9.12.16
Spring Term 2017: 9.01.17 - 31.03.17
Summer Term 2017: 24.04.17 - 8.07.17

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 13 May 2017

OPEN DAY

Saturday, 8 July 2017

ACKWORTH SCHOOL STAFF - September 2016

Name	Qualifications	Role and Teaching Subject
Abha Aggarwal	B.Sc. Leeds (PGCE); MSc. Leicester	Chemistry (part-time)
Nayyar Aziz	B.Sc. M.Sc. (Pakistan); PhD (Hull)	Head of Chemistry
Christopher Bailey	B.Sc. Bath (PGCE); M.A. Leeds	Head of Biology Boys' Housemaster
Helen Batty	M.A. Oxon (PGCE)	Biology, Head of Psychology, Head of Careers
Tom Bootyman	B.Sc. Manchester (PGCE)	Physics Senior Year Tutor 4th Year
Alistar Boucher	B.A. Warwick, M.A. London (PGCE)	Head of Sixth Form, Head of English, Psychology
Elizabeth Burrows	MSc Leeds (PGCE)	Head of Girls' PE and Games
Michael Callister	B.A. Leeds (PGCE)	Boys' PE and Games
Elena Clark	B.A. Durham (PGCE)	Geography, Fothergill Society
Alexandra Collingwood	B.A. Hull (PGCE)	History, Assistant Head of Sixth Form
Katy Devine	B.A. Leeds (PGCE)	Art, Assistant Housestaff
Guy Emmett	B.A. Durham, M.A.(Ed) Durham (PGCE)	Deputy Head (Pastoral), History
Carol Francis	B.Ed. (Hons) Cheltenham, PG Dip SpLd Kingston University	Head of SEN
Lucinda Hamill	B.Ed. Exeter B.A. Open M.A. Leeds	Head of Mathematics
Stevie-Ann Harrison	B.A. Leeds (PGCE)	English, Senior Year Tutor 1st Year, SEN Learning Mentor KS3
Francis Hickenbottom	B.Sc. Birmingham (PGCE)	Head of Physics
Andrew Hilton	B.A. Sheffield (PGCE)	Head of German, ESL
Laura Hilton	B.A. Durham M.A. Leeds (PGCE)	Modern Foreign Languages and Careers (part-time)
Brenda Hodge	B.Ed. Bradford and Ilkley Community College	Head of Food and Nutrition, Girls' Housemistress
Elizabeth Hussey	B.Mus.Leeds, MA Huddersfield (QTS)	Music (part-time)
Catherine Jackson	B.A. York (PGCE)	English
Shamima Jogee	B.Sc. Leicester (PGCE)	Biology
Ian Lenihan	B.A. Cork; M.Mus. Leeds (PGCE)	Director of Music
Philippa Langfield	B.A. Business Management, MCIPD (QTS)	Business Studies (part-time)
Anton Maree	B.A. Rhodes (HDE)	Head, History
Bruce McDowell	B.Sc. and PhD (London)	Psychology (part-time – covering for maternity leave)
Gill Murray	B.Sc. Leeds (PGCE)	Mathematics
Rebecca Nicholson	B.Sc. Durham (PGCE)	Mathematics (part-time)
Rosalind Noble	MPhysGeog. Hull (PGCE)	Head of Geography, SEN Learning Mentor KS4

Diane Parkin	B.Sc.Ed. Keele	Mathematics (part-time)
Tom Plant	B.A. Leeds (PGCE)	Head of History
Elizabeth Rayner	B.A. Newcastle (PGCE)	Head of French (part-time)
Mark Roberts	B.A. Lancaster, PGCE Durham	History (covering for maternity leave)
Patrick Roberts	B.A. Leeds	Head of Boys' PE and Games Assistant Housestaff
Daniel Roots	B.A. Central Lancashire (PGCE)	Modern Foreign Languages, ESL
Sarah Rose	B.A. Staffordshire (PGCE)	Head of Art; Senior Year Tutor 2nd and 3rd Years
Elizabeth Sochacka	B.Ed. (MFL) Trinity College Cert. TESOL	Head of International Study Centre and Head of ESL
Emma Speake	B.Sc. with QTS Wales (Newport)	Design Technology Assistant Housestaff
John Stephenson	M.A. Leeds (PGCE)	Head of Religious Studies
Jeffrey Swales	M.A. Oxon (PGCE)	Classics, RS, Deputy Head (Academic)
Nicola Tod	B.A. Dundee (PGCE)	Head of Business Studies and Economics, Senior Year Tutor 5th Year
Richard Vergette	B.A. Leeds (PGCE) M.Ed Nottingham	Director of Drama (part-time), Head of Learning and Teaching
Caroline Wilson	M.A. Barcelona, PhD, Dip. Language Teaching	Head of Spanish
Michael Windsor	B.A. Nottingham Trent (PGCE) UWIC	Head of Design Technology, SEN Learning Mentor KS5

Language Assistant

Golvine Chadaud French

Autism Resource

Elise Ager	Level 3 CYPW	Specialist Learning Mentor
Beverley Davis	CASHE L3 SEN and Teaching Assistant HLTA L4 (Sheffield Hallam)	Specialist Learning Mentor
Rachel Dix	B.A. (Nottingham)	Specialist Learning Mentor
Georgina Dyson		Specialist Learning Mentor
Joanne Ellis	Degree (Family Support, Foundation)	Specialist Learning Mentor
Graeme Hemingway	B.A. Sheffield (PGCE)	Specialist Teacher
Shannon Hoyle	B.A. (Leeds)	Specialist Learning Mentor
Michael Isherwood	Cert. Ed.	Specialist Teacher
Jane Long	STAL L3	Specialist Learning Mentor
Karen Metcalfe	B.A. London, M.Sc. London, SEN L3 (OCN)	Specialist Learning Mentor
Sarah Oates	B.Sc. (Leeds) (PGCE) M.A. (Autism Spectrum)	Specialist Learning Mentor
June Pease		Specialist Learning Mentor
Laura Smith	NVQ L3 CCLD	Specialist Learning Mentor
Lynne Ward	B.A. London (PGCE) M.A. (Autism Spectrum)	Head of Autism Resource

Coram House Teaching Staff

Aden Ball	B.Ed. Liverpool	Year 6 Form Teacher
Benjamin Barker	B.Ed. Primary Education, University of Technology, Sydney	Year 4 Form Teacher
Surinder Dosanjh	B.A. Politics and History, Birmingham; PGCE Birmingham; B. Phil. SEN	Year 2 Form Teacher (Supply)
Katharine Elwis	B.Ed.. Drama and Education, Cambridge	Head of Coram House
David France	B.Ed. University of Leeds	Year 1 Form Teacher
Julie Hoar	B.Ed. Bedford College	Coram Sports Specialist
Elizabeth Jordan	B.A. Leeds (QTS) PG Cert. National Award for SEN Co-ordination	Senior Teacher Assessment Year 5 Form Teacher
Fiona McCormack	B.A. Northumbria (PGCE)	Reception Teacher EYFS Assistant Housestaff GSH
Sally Slater	B.A. Open (PGCE) PG Cert. Warwick	Deputy Head, Year 5 Mathematics / English Teacher
Kathryn Staton	B.A. Sheffield (QTS)	Senior Teacher Pre-Prep Year 6 Form Teacher
William Stover	B.Sc. Glamorgan (PGCE)	Year 4 Form Teacher
Michael Tattersall	B.A. Joint Classical Literature and Theology and Religious Studies, Leeds M.A. Eng Lit	Year 3 Form Teacher
Mary Wilson	B.A. Liverpool (PGCE)	Compassionate Leave

Coram House Nursery

Deborah Barraclough	NVQ 2 CCLD	Nursery Assistant
Mayan Buckton	B.A. Childhood & Youth Studies and Education /Studies, PGCE – EYFS Teacher Status	Nursery Assistant
Lucy Cruddas	B.A. European Business Nottingham (QTS)	Nursery Manager
Lydia Horobin	B.A. Early Years & Education Studies	Nursery Assistant
Sharon Marsh	BTEC National Diploma	Deputy Nursery Manager
Neetu Missra	B.A. Education Studies & Early Years	Nursery Assistant
Claire Phelps	Level 3 Children and Young People's Workforce and B.A. Textile Crafts	Nursery Assistant
Della Rudenko	NVQ 3 Early Years Care and Education	Nursery Assistant

Pre-Prep and After-School Care

Amanda Appleton		Lunchtime Assistant
Susan Armitage	HLTA, NVQ 3 CCLD	Deputy Reception Teacher
Sharon Brooke		Teaching Assistant

Christine Hodson	NVQ 3 CCLD	Teaching Assistant
Jenny Patchett	NVQ 2 CCLD	Teaching Assistant
Andrew Rees		Playground Supervisor
Shelley Preston		Lunchtime Supervisor
James Sutcliffe		Graduate Student
Jackie Tagg		Teaching Assistant and Childcare
Paula Ward		Teaching Assistant and Childcare
Karen Withington	NVQ 3 CCLD	Teaching Assistant and Childcare

Non-Teaching Staff

Susan Allan	ACMA / CGMA	Bursar and Secretary to School Committee
Michael Atkins	B.A., M.Ed.Stud, F.EdPlus, TTC	Director of Marketing, Admissions and Communication
Neil Bennett		Technician (DT)
Sarah Bentham		Examinations Secretary, Deputy Head (Academic) Secretary, Head of Sixth Form Secretary
Howard Bundy		Warden
Jane Butterfield		PA to Head of Coram House
Kevin Chambers		Head Groundsman
Karen Clarke		Senior School Secretary
Delia Coburn	A.I.Q.P.S	PA to the Head
Joanne Colley	B.A. Sheffield Hallam MCIPD	HR Manager
Kate Dawson	B.A. Humberside (PGCE)	Marketing, Admissions, Alumni and Development Assistant
Erica Dean	B.A. Leeds, M.A. MCilip	Librarian
Philip Eames	BSc. Lincoln	Sports Facilities Manager
Julie Hart		Receptionist
Richard Illingworth		Driver/General Support Worker
Heather Jones	M.H.C.I.M.A	Domestic Administrator
Susan Liddle		Catering Admin. Assistant
Alaina Logan	M.A.A.T	Payroll and Fees
Laura Lunn		Deputy Head (Pastoral) Secretary
Paul Meeson		Assistant Warden
Glenn Middleditch		Managing Chef
Brent Moran		Assistant Bursar
Debbie Proctor		Purchase Ledger Clerk
Christine Readman		Technician (Sciences)
Andrea Ruddy		Technician (Sciences)
Andrew Rushton	Plumber and Gas Fitter	Temporary Mistress on Duty
Adam Scott	ITIL, SDI-SDA	Clerk of Works
Roy Simpson	Electrician	Network Manager
Rebecca Stephenson		Deputy Clerk of Works
Jacqueline Utley		Admissions/Marketing Secretary
Gillian Wilkes		PA to the Bursar and Office Co-ordinator
Celia Wolfe	B.A. Bangor M.A. UBC	Technician (Home Economics)
		Archivist

BOARDING HOUSES

Boys' School House

Christopher Bailey	B.Sc. Bath (PGCE); M.A. Leeds	Housemaster
Jim Davies	M.Mus.(Adv. Musicology) P.G.Dip.) Leeds	Assistant Housestaff
Todor Doychinov		Assistant Housestaff
Patrick Roberts	B.A. Leeds	Assistant Housestaff
Emma Speake	B.Sc. Design and Technology with QTS	Assistant Housestaff
Michelle Walker		Matron

Girls' School House

Katy Devine	B.A. Leeds (PGCE)	Assistant Housestaff
Maureen Gibbins		Matron
Brenda Hodge	B.Ed. Bradford and Ilkley Community College	Housemistress
Fiona McCormack	B.A. Northumbria (PGCE)	Assistant Housestaff
Naomi Vergette d'Souza	B.Sc. (Psychology with Counselling) Huddersfield	Assistant Housestaff

Pastoral Care

Dr. Gwenan Davenport	MB, ChB (Sheffield) MRCGP	Medical Officer
Pamela Evans	R.G.N., Cert HE (Nursing) Leeds	Nursing Sister
Debbie Bell	B.A. Mental Health Nursing	Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner

Peripatetic Music Teachers

Christine Bullough	G.Mus. Huddersfield LTCL (PGCE)	Singing
Jim Davies	M.Mus.(Adv. Musicology) P.G.Dip.) Leeds	Brass Assistant Boys' Housestaff
Elyse Greenwood	B.Mus. (Huddersfield)	Flute
Helen Issitt	B.A. Music (Performance)	Piano
Clare Little	B.Mus. (Hull)	Cello, Voice, Piano
Eileen Roberts		Guitar
Mick Roberts	D.P.L.M. L.G.S.M. Cert. Ed	Woodwind
Carol Stephens	B.Mus. Huddersfield	Percussion
Rae Strong	B.A., L.L.C.M. A.T.C.L. C.T.V.C.M (Teaching Dip) Huddersfield	Violin, Piano and Recorder
Jeff Swift	G.Mus. Huddersfield (PGCE)	Guitar
Rhodri Younger		Drums

Hobby Instructors/Trainers/Volunteers

Diane Bayliss		Yoga Instructor
Daniel Berry		Hockey Instructor
Katie Campion		Squash Coach

Brian Davies	M.G.N.A.S.	Lead Archery Instructor
Nicola Davison		PE
Harriet Dwyer		Fitness Instructor
Aftab Hussain	British Sign Language Level 2	Sign Language Tutor
Terry Frost	Reg. Instructor BTC	Tae-Kwon-Do
Christopher Key		Archery Instructor
Ian Law		Fencing Instructor
Gary Leslie		Computing and Electronics
Olivia Mountain	PGCE Work Placement	PE
Samuel Messam	England Basketball Association Level III Coach; Level II Basketball Tutor	Basketball
Albert Parkin		Gardening Club
Samuel Moore		Music Workshops Archery Assistant Coach

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2013/2017	Zephyrine Barbarachild, Erica Dean, David Ditcham
2015/2017	Stewart Huntington*
2014/2018	Christopher Allen, Kate Napier, Nick Seed*, Sally Slater (Staff)
2015/2019	Robert Lincoln*, Digby Swift
2016/2019	Andrew Whiteley
2016/2020	David Bunney, Pat Golding, Christopher P. Jones, Aidan Mortimer*
2016/2017 Co-Option:	Kirk Dyson, Andrew Ducker, Michael McRobert, Nick Smith
Treasurer 2015/2019:	Carol Rayner
Clerk to the Committee:	David Bunney
Deputy Clerk to the Committee:	Zephyrine Barbarachild

* AOSA Representative

SCHOOL FEES from September 2016

Boarding per annum	£25,005
Day per annum	£13,185
Coram House - day per annum	
Reception	£7,800
Years 1 & 2	£8,175
Years 3 & 4	£8,505
Years 5 & 6	£8,565

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Ackworth School has, as one of its founding aims, to support 'Friend' children not in affluence. Today the School is committed to broadening access to Ackworth School, and now strives to support 'Friend and non-Friend' children who would benefit from an education at Ackworth School.

Ackworth School recognises the exceptional gifts and talents of young people through the award of scholarships. Scholarships are, therefore, awarded on the basis of merit, either academically or through their abilities in Music, Art, Drama and Sport. In cases of need, the School offers means-tested bursaries, which may be awarded in the form of a discount, of up to 100% of School fees payable, depending on the financial, compassionate or any other pertinent circumstances of applicants. Further details can be obtained from the Bursar's Office. The School will consider applications to supplement a scholarship with a bursary. The number and size of scholarships is at the discretion of the Head. The award of a scholarship will remain solely on merit in any of the categories described above, and the financial implications of this award will be a fee remission of 5% of the annual day fee.

The School has access, along with the other Friends' Schools, to the Joint Bursary Scheme, which provides some support for applications from members of the Religious Society of Friends. All other support for scholarships and bursaries is derived from the annual fee income and this imposes a restriction on the amount of funding available for scholarships and bursaries in any given year.

Scholarships will be awarded at three points in a student's progression through the school or on entry. The three points are at ages 11+, 13+ and 16+. Scholarships are reviewed annually, at the end of each academic year. All Scholarships are awarded on the basis of assessment, interview or audition, and School Report. All Scholarships end at the completion of the Fifth Year. Sixth Form Scholarships are tenable for two years, but are reviewed after the completion of the first year. There is a separate process for application for a Sixth Form Scholarship.

The award of any scholarship carries with it privilege and responsibility; every scholarship holder is expected to set an example for the other pupils in their conduct and approach to academic study, and to participate in the fuller life of the School through commitment to extra-curricular activities. All scholarships are liable to be rescinded in the case of the student not meeting their potential or obligations explicitly stated in the granting of the scholarship. Further details can be obtained from the Head.

MARKETING AND ADMISSIONS

This is my first submission for the Annual Report since taking up the post in March of this year. Since my arrival, I have been struck by the friendliness of the whole Ackworth School Community and the support I have received from Committee and Colleagues.

It is an exciting time as we move forward, with various strategies aimed at maintaining and improving the school's image locally, regionally and internationally.

Our use of Social Media has increased somewhat, with more tweets on Twitter, posts on Facebook and more recently, an incredible growth in the school's LinkedIn connections.

We are working hard to further strengthen the links between the School and its alumni, with many ex-scholars offering their expertise by way of support. Our upcoming College and Careers Fair in January 2017 will see a good number of Alumni manning stalls at this new event.

I have had offers from international alumni to assist in our marketing in cities such as Hong Kong and Shenzhen, with get-togethers planned for both of these centres.

On the local and regional scene we are now members of the Mid-Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and the Yorkshire Mafia (www.theyorkshiremafia.com). Please do not be put off by the name of the latter; it is a very pro-active organization and facilitates ongoing dialogue between the school and local companies! An increased presence in the region has resulted in an encouraging increase in our day student enrolments.

I look forward to meeting more of the Alumni community and encourage you to make contact with me if you feel you can add something to the exciting future of Ackworth School.

Michael Atkins - Director of Marketing, Admissions and Communications.
Michael.atkins@ackworthschool.com

CITATION FOR OLD SCHOLARS' CUP 2016

This year's winner of the Ackworth Old Scholars' Cup has been described as a 'shining light' and 'an absolute joy'. This student is someone who is fearless and who has a passion for life as well as their studies. When the staff and student bodies were asked about this person they were gushing with superlatives to express their admiration of the contribution to our community.

This student has been a boarder at Ackworth School for the past two years and has been incredibly supportive of all students in House, but particularly of the younger students, giving up their own time to ensure others settle into the world of boarding.



This student has been a hugely reliable volunteer in the Autism Resource. SHE has volunteered at every opportunity, showing an understanding of the high level of commitment and professionalism required in this mentor role. Her initiative has led her to provide students with an opportunity to experience a range of activities including student-led science practicals. In particular, one pupil in the Autism Resource has created some beautiful work under her caring guidance. More than any other sixth former she has carried on providing this support and guidance in the Autism Resource - when she really needn't have done; her revision for her examinations did not see an end to her commitment and this has been widely appreciated by all in Shed Court.

Being an international student, one might be fooled into believing that her communication skills could have been a weakness. On the contrary, whilst appearing quiet in her nature, her communication skills have excelled in bringing students together from around the globe, whether this has been as a table end in the dining room or in her role as House Captain.

Her innovative house meetings have sought to integrate her peers with superb effects. She is a true member of Fothergill House and her secret Santa will carry on

as long as Saint Nicholas himself.

During Sixth Form charity week her no-nonsense enterprise enabled her to rally her peers to raise money, have fun, and importantly help others. Nothing fazes her. Her wicked sense of humour has been experienced by many as she has undertaken extra curricular activities including sailing, climbing and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. Staff cannot remember another international student completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh in the last 20 years. Her support of younger students in their swimming lessons was noted by the PE department.

She firmly embodies the motto of Ackworth School: non sibi sed omnibus – not for oneself, but for all - and her contribution to so many aspects of the school community makes her a very worthy winner of this year's Old Scholars' Cup.

She is, of course, Aitalina Semenova.

EASTER GATHERING PHOTO GALLERY



The President welcomes Easter Gatherers



'70s leavers



"Where's that Easter Egg?"



Late evening in the Fothergill Foyer



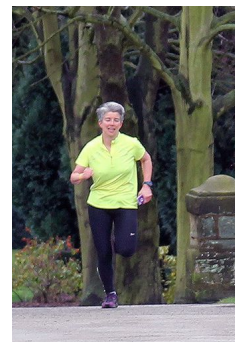
Saturday formal dinner



'80s Night



President cutting Easter Cake



*Badsworth winners:
John Golding & Rachel Belk*



Impromptu Choir in "Pop"



The Swales family in "Pop"

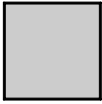


Presidential handover

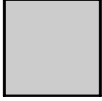


Auld Lang Syne

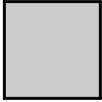
Ackworth School Old Scholars' Association
LIST OF PRESIDENTS



1882-83
Joseph Simpson



1883-84
William Coor Parker



1884-85
James Henry Barber



1885-86
Joseph Stickney Sewell



1886-87
Henry Thompson



1887-88
Thomas Pumphrey



1888-89
Joseph Pattison Drewett



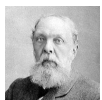
1889-90
William Jones



1890-92
Henry Tennant



1892-93
Frederick Andrews



1893-94
Charles Brady



1894-95
Alfred Simpson



1895-96
Helen Bayes



1896-97
Sir James Reckitt



1897-98
Henry Ecroyd Clark



1898-99
Albert Linney



1899-1900
Mary Caroline Pumphry



1900-01
William Harvey



1901-02
John William Graham



1902-03
Robert Henry Taylor



1903-04
Rachel Oddie



1904-05
Alfred Henry Taylor



1905-06
Philip Burt



1906-07
Joseph Firth Clark



1907-08
Septimus Marten



1908-09
Joseph Spence Hodgson



1909-10
Anna Louise Jackson



1910-11
William Whiting



1911-12
J. Travis Mills



1912-13
Samuel E. Brown



1913-14
Caroline C. Graveson



1914-15
W. Trevelyan Thomson



1915-16
Sheldon Leicester



1916-19
William Graveson



1919-20
Frederick Andrews



1920-21
Ellen M. Fry



1921-22
Charles H. Smithson



1922-23
Isaac Henry Wallis



1923-24
Harold Collinson



1924-25
Henry Binns



1925-26
Margaret Andrews



1926-27
William F. Nicholson



1927-28
Alfred E. Binyon



1928-29
Mary F. Hartley



1929-30
Edmund Henry Gilpin



1930-31
Walter Robert Bayes



1931-32
Gerald K. Hibbert



1932-33
Leila Sparkes



1933-34
Edgar B. Collinson



1934-35
Frank Ward



1935-36
Ernest Bowman Ludlam



1936-37
Jane H. Williamson



1937-38
Thomas Foulds



1938-39
Joseph H. Lester



1939-40
Bertha Smith



1940-41
G. Noel Hyde



1941-42
Helen Andrews



1942-44
W. Arthur Cooper



1944-46
James Westwood



1946-47
Blanche M. Bennett



1947-48
Rowland C. Moore



1948-49
J. Stanley Carr



1949-50
Reginald Broomhead



1950-51
Eleanor Crosland



1951-52
Rex Yates



1952-53
Theodore W. Allen



1953-54
R. Percy Foulds



1954-55
Dorothy Mussell



1955-56
Bernard Wright



1956-57
A. Eric Ellison



1957-58
Lucy Binks



1958-59
James S. Lidbetter



1959-60
Ashton Watts



1960-61
Lucy O'Brien



1961-62
Eric Bellingham



1962-63
Arnold Sewell



1963-64
Elfrida V. Foulds



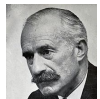
1964-65
Helen J. Neatby



1965-66
Arthur G. Olver



1966-67
Stanley G. Horner



1967-68
Ralph E. Handy



1968-69
Kathleen Binns



1969-70
Phillip Radley



1970-71
Donald Birkett



1971-72
Margaret Martin



1972-73
Phyllis M. Sadler



1973-74
Albert F. Lindley



1974-75
Stephen Burt



1975-76
Mary Rogers



1976-77
Hilary W. Smith



1977-78
Roger Spinks



1978-79
Walter Fearnley



1979-80
Agnes Thompson



1980-81
Ian Bailey



1981-82
D. Keith Daniel



1982-83
Elisabeth F. Heywood



1983-84
John R. Postle



1984-85
Stephen Ward



1985-86
Mary Fulford



1986-87
George Bunney



1987-88
Molly Longley



1988-89
Colin Mortimer



1989-90
Peter Norris



1990-91
Margaret Postle



1991-92
Sheila Banks



1992-93
Celia Brebner



1993-94
Gordon Mckee



1994-95
Mary Robinson



1995-96
Michael Hargreave



1996-97
Anne Telford-Kenyon



1997-98
Margery Bunney



1998-99
Robert Gibson



1999-2000
Grace Hunter



2000-01
Christopher Moore



2001-02
Celia M. Ball



2002-03
Peter Lambourn



2003-04 Michael &
Annabel McRobert



2004-05
Marguerite Hill



2005-06
Geoffrey R. Pedlar



2006-07
David J. Bunney



2007-08
Diana Chadwick



2008-09
Christopher Rengert



2009-10
Donald Elliott



2010-11
Martin Dickinson



2011-12
Shirley Day



2012-13 Stephen &
Joyzelle Kelsall



2013-14
Christopher Jones



2014-15
Michael & Marjorie Bliss



2015-16
Peter Speirs



2016-17
Nicholas Seed