# OLD CRYPTIANS CLUB

## Minutes of Meeting held at the School on Monday 13th October 2014

Present:- Headmaster, Richard Browning (President), Richard Briggs, Peter Hobbs, Robert Timms, Duncan Miller, Eric Stephens, Paul James, Mike Beard

### Apologies for absence:-

Clive Thomas, Stephen Mace, Ivor Smith, John Hughes, John Mitchell, Matt Cass

### Minutes of Meeting 20th May 2014

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

### Matters arising

The President, Richard Browning, mentioned the Founders’ Day supper (Item 10 of 20th May minutes). He felt sure that those attending had enjoyed a most convivial evening, thus thanks are due to Howard Allen and his assistants for making the occasion very special in the School’s 475th anniversary year.

### President’s Business

The President tabled a paper in the form of an aide memoire which would help him carry out his duties during his Presidential year. He hoped that it would also be useful to the Committee. (The paper is attached to these minutes.)

On 6th September he attended a Gloucester Day service at St. Mary de Crypt church. The Gloucester MP, Richard Graham, attended also the Bishop of Tewkesbury.

On 11th September the President attended Speech Day at the School, the chief guest being Councillor Chris Chatterton, former Mayor of the City.

On the 30th September another service was attended at St Mary de Crypt church  to commemorate the tercentenary of the birth of George Whitefield.

The President also said that he has actively contributed to the St. Mary de Crypt renovation project. (This will be covered under item 15.)

### Headmaster’s report

The Headmaster presented a comprehensive report (attached to these minutes) which covered the superb public examination results, university places, other School achievements, work related Teaching School status, the new £1.8M Maths and Engineering Block (completion in March 2015) and future plans.

He also confirmed that he would be leaving the Crypt in April 2015 to take up the Headmaster post at Plymouth College. He had enjoyed very much his time as Head and this included his interaction with the members and the Committee of the Old Cryptians’ Club.

The Headmaster responded to a number of observations and questions arising from his report.

Regarding entrance this term, the appeals panel worked well for the Crypt and for the families concerned. Not all boys are able to cope with the pressure of exams yet they may have huge potential.

Expanding on the Maths and Engineering Block, the Headmaster tabled the architect’s drawings and drew attention to the novel construction method which should reduce on-site time and hence disturbance during term time.

Peter Hobbs mentioned rival schools, many of which had also converted to Academies. The Headmaster conceded that other local schools, in particular Sir Thomas Rich’s and the High School for Girls, were able to take a narrower top slice of candidates from the selective examination results than the Crypt, i.e. a more academically gifted input. However many Gloucester parents accepted that the Crypt School offers an excellent education and its academic reputation in the City is constantly improving.

### Honorary Treasurer’s report

The Treasurer, Matt Cass, was unable to attend the meeting. He has become very busy after the welcome addition to the Cass family! He is urgently seeking an Old Cryptian to take over the post.

Bob Timms had been given some very basic figures – account balance £5054 and unpaid invoices £2000 - but there was clearly a need to establish the position as a basis for decisions about major events in 2015.

ACTION 6.1: Eric Stephens to contact the Treasurer and establish the basic financial position and publish the figures to the Committee.

Richard Briggs pointed out that Matt had also been running the OCC online shop, which sells Old Cryptians memorabilia (ties, badges, pins etc.). Having established the shop we should try to maintain the service as an additional source of revenue.

[Post Meeting Note] Matt has confirmed that he is prepared to continue with the OCC shop.

Paul James believed that he had a contact who might be interested in taking up the post of OCC Treasurer.

[Post Meeting Note] Paul has been successful. Rich Brooks has agreed to take on the Treasurer role.

ACTION 6.2: (in absentia) Matt Cass to contact Rich Brooks and arrange a handover as soon as possible.

### Report on Centennial Bursary Fund

The Chairman, Clive Thomas, was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence the President made a few comments on the situation.

The Bursary sub-committee is looking for new members. “Nino” Pelopida has indicated that he would be prepared to stand. On a Committee vote his offer was accepted and he will replace Howard Allen, one of the founder members of this sub-committee.

ACTION 7.1: Mike Beard to inform Nino of the Committee’s decision.

Clive continues to work on a new leaflet which describes the Bursary Fund and is designed to attract more contributors. He hopes to complete this by the end of the year.

In the academic year 2013-14, the Fund was able to assist 16 candidates to a total of £4000. In future the sub-committee, working with the Headmaster, will select fewer candidates for financial assistance.

There are 85 regular contributors to the Bursary Fund. Howard Allen has suggested that they be recognised in some way. The Bursary Fund sub-committee is still considering ways to do this.

### Membership Secretary Report

Richard Briggs, the Membership Secretary reported on the current breakdown:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Class of Membership** | **No. in each class** |
| Normal (subscribing) | 218 |
| Associate | 7 |
| Life | 10 |
| Under 21 | 62 |
| **Total** | **297** |

There was a significant surge of interest at the time of the Annual Dinner in 2013, but applications for full membership have now slackened. A large number of 2014 leavers asked to become members and have been added to the list. It is now time to review the former U21s and remind them that they must pay or be dropped off the membership list.

Richard suggested that a revised, graded scale of fees is required. For instance the maturing U21s might well not be prepared to convert to full membership if they were faced with a sudden jump to £20. Bob Timms and others agreed that we should devise a scale to retain as many U21s as possible.

Richard suggested that a revised scale might require a change to the Constitution. Peter Hobbs and others thought not and said that a paper setting out a revised scale should be put before the Committee for approval.

ACTION 8.1: Membership Secretary.

### Club Website

Richard Briggs, who manages the site, reported that there has been little activity apart from reactionary updating. He is always looking for copy, in particular news items which can quickly be posted to keep the site active. Richard would also welcome ideas for a revitalised Home Page. It needs to be refreshed.

ACTION 9.1: The Committee

The Directory of Members (restricted information fields) is up to date.

Richard continues to receive requests for registration on the site from people who may be former pupils but are not members of the Club. The standard answer is “Join, and I will happily allow you to register”. The committee agreed with this policy which is intended to safeguard member’s details.

Richard confirmed that the website designer is on a retainer of £300/annum, paid quarterly.

### 2015 AGM date and venue ideas

The date for the 2015 AGM and dinner was confirmed to be 21st March. All present agreed that the 2014 dinner at Kingsholm was a great success. Several Committee members made points generally in favour of a return to Kingsholm:

* Car parking on site is straightforward
* It is convenient for a co-located Ladies Dinner
* Kingsholm seemed to be popular with younger members, perhaps due to price of £10 for U21s
* Stephen Mace is again prepared to organise the event.

A few cautionary opinions were expressed:

* The quality of the meal was rather poor; it is essential to question the menu and perhaps have a sample meal
* We need to budget more closely to ensure that the event is self-supporting, and that the Club can afford the free guest places.

ACTION 10.1: Stephen Mace to book the Kingsholm venue and begin organising the AGM and dinner, with co-opted Committee members as required.

### 2015 Founders Day date and Supper venue ideas

The date for the Crypt School Founders’ Day service, hence the supper, was confirmed as Monday, 29th June 2014.

It was agreed that the Parliament Rooms attached to the Cathedral had provided a wonderful setting for the 475th anniversary supper and that the caterers chosen by Howard Allen had produced a memorable meal. If possible we should book this venue and organise the supper along the same lines. Could we prevail on Howard to organise the event, provided he had some assistance.

ACTION 11.1: The President to approach Howard Allen concerning the Founders’ Day supper.

### Cenotaph 9th November 2014

Richard Briggs stated that he been allocated 12 tickets and has emailed to ask if further tickets can be made available. He said he would prefer to have 12 confirmed rather than a large number of OC’s some of whom may make excuses at a late stage.

A quick poll of the Committee indicated that the number attending would be around 6 unless some action is taken.

[Post Meeting Note] An email has been sent to members in the London and Home Counties area but there has been no response (indeed a poor percentage of email replies). Peter Hobbs has kindly provided a history of the Crypt’s attendance at the Cenotaph, to be passed to the BBC.

The Headmaster agreed to send a letter to parents, hoping that some may be available to swell the numbers.

ACTION 12.1: The Headmaster

### London OC Dinner 8th November 2014

There was no discussion of any substance on this topic.

### Remembrance Day at Crypt School, November 11th

In past years about 6 Old Cryptians have attended. The President offered to collate numbers and inform the School office.

ACTION 14.1: The President

### Discover Decrypt project – HLF - St. Mary de Crypt/Schoolroom

The President was becoming increasingly involved with this exciting and worthwhile project to renovate St. Mary de Crypt church and the old Schoolroom for the benefit of the School and the residents of the City of Gloucester. The President’s notes on the situation are attached to these Minutes.

Paul James stated that the level of match funding for a project such as this may have increased.

Referring to the £400,000 (presently expected) the President believed that £300,000 would come from organisations with the remainder contributed by smaller bodies. It is clear that the OCC is not able to contribute much from normal funding.

In parallel with this activity Peter Hobbs is involved in a project to discover the pre-history of the Crypt School, leading up to the “official” founding in 1539. Peter gave a comprehensive update of the research and some of the points are given below.

* The most up to date authority on the origins of the School is a treatise of 1939 by a respected historian, Roland Austin. Much more documentation is around now and is increasingly available online.
* There may have been a link with education in a local monastery.
* Most of the material to be researched (much of it in Latin) is in the Gloucester Archives
* There is scope for extending the research into learning establishments, perhaps as part of Doctorate. He may try to establish links with Bristol University.

### Conservation Tudor Paintings – John and Joan Cooke

Paul James mentioned that the City Museum has a magnificent collection of Tudor portraits, some of which are linked to the history of the School. For instance there is a portrait of the founders – John and Joan Cooke – that is currently undergoing renovation at a cost between £1500 and £2000.

The Headmaster was pleased to inform the Committee that he had arranged for the School to underwrite this renovation, which would allow the portrait to be loaned and hung in the School crush hall for significant periods. The Committee congratulated the Headmaster on this initiative.

### Any other business

None.

### Date of next meeting

After a brief discussion it was agreed to hold the next OCC Committee meeting on Monday 12th January 2015.

R.H. Briggs/11.11.2014

**The Old Cryptians’ Year 2014/15**

 This programme was developed for the use and action of the Committee

 June 30th Founders’ Day Service–Cathedral 7.15pm Convener Howard Allen

 Supper Parliament Rooms 8.30pm

 Proceedings handled by President, Vice President , Convener

 Assistance with raffle sale tickets for Bursary fund appreciated

Sept 11th Speech day at school

 President attended with at least 3 OC

Oct 13th Committee Meeting (Chair President)

 Members encouraged to raise agenda items

 Agenda and Minutes of previous Meeting provided by Secretary

Nov 08th London OC Annual Dinner. Convener Steve Fleetwood

 Venue Old Cheshire Cheese 145 Fleet St - 6pm for 7pm

 Dinner Price £25,00 + £1,00

 President attending. All members welcome.

Nov 9th Parade/Service at Cenotaph

 Meeting venue MacDonalds on right exiting Charing Cross Station

 and heading up Strand 9.00 – 9.30 am.Richard Briggs will hand out

 passes before proceeding up Whitehall

 President attending and encourages as many members to join

 Nov 11th Remembrance Service at Crypt School - 10.30am

 Wreaths laid by President and School student. Second OC lays

 further wreath. Tony Pugh traditionally reads the citation.

 As many OC able to attend appreciated

 Nov 27th - Nov 29th School Performance ‘Oh What a Lovely War’

 More details to be received

 Dec 16th School Carol Service – 7pm (venue to be confirmed )

 President to attend. Other OC welcome.

 Jan 12th Committee Meeting (Chair President )

 Jan? Oxford Dinner - Convener Richard Briggs

 Event dependent on OC interest, following details and date to be

 firmed up.

 March 21st AGM and Annual Dinner – Convener Stephen Mace

 Venue TBC. Menu choice by OCC Sub Committee. President

 selects chief guest who proposes toast to the OC. OCC members

 organise prizes and raffle for Bursary fund.

 May? Committee Meeting (Chair President) Date to be confirmed

 June 29th Founders’ Day Service – Cathedral

 Supper venue to be confirmed

 Installation of incoming President Richard Briggs (1955-63 )

 Presentation of President’s shield

 Toast to the Old Cryptian’s Club by Headmaste

 Response the President. OCC members organise Prizes and raffle.

**Headmaster’s Report for the Old Cryptians’ Club Committee Meeting, October 2014**

Mr President and Committee Members

I am proud to present my report to the Committee this October. 2013-2014 was a very successful year for the school; in our classrooms and in examination results, and in drama, the arts, sports, music, school trips and other enriching clubs and activities.

Our A level results are the best achieved in the modern era. 59.5% of grades were A\*-B, compared with 38% in 2007. 6 students successfully gained their Oxbridge places, including our first female student, Sophie Smith. 41% gained places at highly selective universities (those on the Sutton Trust 30 list). 83% of the cohort went on to University, with a further 7% to Apprenticeships which include Higher Education. Our year 12 students also performed well, setting themselves up for success in 2015.

Our GCSE results were also the best achieved in the modern era. 98% achieved the Government benchmark of 5+A\*-C including English and Maths. Of more significance for a grammar school, 53% achieved 5+A\*-A and 38% achieved 8+A\*-A. These results in 2007 were 33% and 15% respectively.

The school is full. There are 876 on roll today, including 269 in the VI Form, compared to 742 and 173 respectively in 2007. We have 127 in year 7 alone, in part due to the decisions of the Independent Appeal Panel.

There were numerous other achievements last year. In December 2013 a one day Ofsted inspection of Competitive School Sport judged that we were “exceptional with unique features.” The fifth independent Kirkland Rowell report of parental attitudes scored an overall approval rating of 91%, the highest yet, and significantly up on the first survey result of 74% in December 2007. In the summer term we were awarded the prestigious “NACE” award, recognising our strengths with gifted and talented students.

Our Teaching School work continues to build momentum. We work with a range of partners to improve the quality of education across the area. The days of a successful Headmaster singularly looking after the interests of his own students have passed. There is an expectation today that successful schools support their neighbours in a collective bid to drive up standards, although one always has to remember that The Crypt must come first and this work mustn’t impinge on our own standards. Teaching School status does not attract a huge sum of money, but there is sufficient to support these projects. There is a tension of course when excellent Crypt teachers spend time supporting colleagues in another school, as they will not be in front of their own classes. Managed well this is of mutual benefit, as our teachers will undoubtedly uncover some excellent practice and return with the acquired knowledge.

Construction of the new Maths and Engineering block will commence shortly. This £1.8m project will add two science classrooms, five maths classrooms and an engineering classroom. Two temporary huts will be replaced, reducing the net gain by two classrooms. In my time as Headmaster we have rejuvenated the site, spending well over £5million on major projects: the VI Form Centre; the Food Tech Room; upgrading the electricity supply; the drive; the new gym and Drama Studio; the roof; and the Maths and Engineering Building.

Academy conversion was the most significant change when it was completed in April 2011. Initially we benefitted from increased funding, regaining monies top sliced by the LA, which were, it has to be said, not used favourably for The Crypt School. Whilst these financial benefits have tapered off, we continue to benefit from the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund, which is the source of the monies for our new block. State schools face difficult financial times with increases in employers’ contributions, and decreases in sixth form funding. We have a very healthy level of reserves at the current time, and this will enable us to plan carefully for the future.

I will be leaving for Plymouth in April, to take up my new post as Headmaster of Plymouth College. I am very proud of our achievements in the past seven and a bit years. The Crypt School is riding high at the present time. I will be very proud to be an Old Cryptian and will always look at the school with great fondness. The school will be in great hands under the leadership of Nick Dyer.

J P Standen, Headmaster, 13/10/14

**Notes on the “Discover de Crypt” Project**

I joined this project in July of this year and am very much on the learning curve.

Discover de Crypt is the project to renovate St. Mary de Crypt church and the Old Crypt Schoolroom in Southgate Street. The medieval church is Grade 1 listed and the Tudor schoolroom Grade 2. The only viable manner to get sufficient funding to renovate both of these buildings was through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). A presentation was made in 2013 to the HLF and this attracted sufficient interest to achieve the so called Round 1 success, enabling development of the project design.

The scheme will allow buildings to be repaired and facilities provided to enable their use throughout the year, offering space for gatherings and meetings with rooms for hire and activities for schools and pre-school groups. Visitors will learn about the lives of significant people associated with the buildings, notably George Whitfield and the Fathers of the Methodist movement, being the Wesley brothers and Robert Raikes, founder of the Sunday School movement in the early 18th century. Both were educated in the old Crypt schoolroom which was the first free school for Gloucester.

To date much time and effort has been spent to set up the Design Team consisting of a Project Manager, Architect and Lead Consultant, Software Engineer, Interpretation Design Consultant, Activity Plan Consultants, Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, Lighting Consultant and Project Group recruited from the Parish of St. Swithins, Hempstead, St. Mary de Lode and St. Mary de Crypt.

The HLF is generous when it comes to projects which will benefit the Community. The Schoolroom at present is a disused building whilst the church can only be opened for 6 months of the year. This is probably the best chance the church and schoolroom will have to be renovated and not fall into decay which is why for us it is an exciting opportunity.

I am providing a leaflet which explains the main mechanics for funding. The HLF is expected to provide £900,000 with match funding of £400,000, most of which will come from the Gloucestershire Environmental trustees which coordinates Landfill activities carried out by Biffa and Cory. Both Ecclesiastical and other trust funds have also been approached.

The Parish will submit Round 2 of the HLF application in Spring 2015. Match funding of £400,000 is needed before the project can proceed into the delivery phase in Autumn 2015 with the renovation work planned for 2016-2017.

Both the School and the Old Cryptians are being asked to contribute by donating to Friends of Discover de Crypt. I am planning to place this appeal on the Old Cryptians website and hope we can do it the justice it deserves.

Richard Browning, President, October 2014