

2016 AGM REPORT

The Association's 2016 AGM was held at the Richard Huish 6th Form College on Wednesday 13th April. The Chairman, Nick Williams, welcomed all present and thanked the College for supplying both the venue and the catering.

Principal John Abbott opened the proceedings, with a report bringing members up to date on what the college had done in the past year. The College continues to grow, with 2,500 students on the current roll. The College had made a successful application for funding for the construction of a new sports hall, to replace the inflatable hall. The project would lead to the construction of a 3 storey hall, with a budget of around £2.3 m, aiming for completion by October 2016. Additionally, the College had set up a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) as sponsor of the Taunton Academy. This was a really interesting and challenging project for the College and promised great opportunities for the 1,200 pupils at the Academy. Finally, and big news, the College had heard in the past few days that a capital grant of around £1.7m would be made available to construct a new classroom block. This would replace the buildings that many of us recall as the woodwork / metal work buildings, which had already been turned into a creative arts hub and would now be replaced entirely.

Andrew Janes, our Treasurer, reported that the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015 showed a deficit of £305, a little higher than forecast but well within the Association's funds. The Association's charity account was in good shape and had made donations to the College for a student bursary and to last year's charity (Prostate Cancer UK) since the year end. The Association's overall balances were healthy.

Nick then reported on the Association's activities in the past year. The Spring Lunch had been well attended, and he hoped that would continue for the OHA 2016 Spring Lunch. The 2015 Annual Dinner was also well supported, with exactly the same numbers as in 2014. Tom Mayberry from the Somerset Heritage Centre had given a very interesting talk about Richard Huish on the occasion – give or take a day – of the 400th anniversary of the Huish Foundation. He thanked all the members of the committee for their work, especially Neil Trood & John Moore for their efforts in running the profitable raffle for the OHA at the Lunch and Dinner. He finished by saying that although membership was facing a decline, the Association was in good heart – the challenge was to bring in those who had attended the college in more recent years. David Gill gave the vote of thanks to Nick, for his work in managing the Association for all members.

David Gill was re-elected as President with Peter Gibbs as Vice-President; Nick Williams retained his position as Chairman, Andrew Janes as Treasurer and Doug Dawe was reappointed as our Auditor. The rest of the committee were also re-elected "en bloc".

After discussion, the unanimous vote was that our charity for 2016 should be Taunton Association for the Homeless.

Finally, Members were reminded of the dates for the

SPRING LUNCH - Friday 13th May at Oake Manor, 12:00 midday for 1:00 pm

COMMITTEE – Wednesday 14th September at 7:15 pm

ANNUAL DINNER - Saturday 12th November at Somerset County Cricket Club.