



103 Leicester Road,
Ashby-de-la -Zouch,
Leicestershire.
LE65 1DF
Tel: 01530 413596

24th January 2007

OLD ASHBEIANS` ASSOCIATION DINNER

Dear Member,

This will be held at the Lyric Rooms, Lower Church Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch on Saturday, 10th March, 2007 at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30.p.m. Parking is available in the car park for Manor House School using the South Street entrance. Regrettably locked security gates means that there is no access to the school grounds for parking.

During the evening the School musical department will provide entertainment.

A meal will be provided at a cost of £15 per head and the following menu has been selected.

Celery and Stilton soup

or

Seasonal Melon and Prawn Cocktail with a tangy citrus dressing.

*

Roast Leg of Pork served with sage & onion stuffing and apple and pear compote.

Served with fresh seasonal vegetables and potatoes

*

Treacle Tart with roasted plums and cinnamon sauce.

or

Black cherry and milk chocolate roulade with a hint of kirsch and lashings of cream.

*

Coffee with cream and mints

Hopefully you will wish to join us. An early reply would be appreciated. Please indicate on the slip below how many places you would like me to reserve and return it to me by Saturday, 3rd March 2007. If anyone has any special dietary needs, then an individual meal can be prepared if ordered in advance.

There will be the usual raffle raising funds for the School Music Department. If you wish to donate a prize then please bring this along with you on the evening.

J.B. Exton (Hon. Sec.)

.....

Please reserveplace(s) for me. I enclose a cheque for £.....
made payable to The Old Ashbeians` Association.

Name.....



Mrs C.M.Walmsley,
3 Paulyn Way,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leics.
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Mr J.B.Exton,
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Old Ashbeians' Association **January 2007**

Ashby School continues to thrive – both in terms of student numbers and success.

There are now 1616 students on roll, taking advantage of a growing number of opportunities on offer at the school.

As a **Specialist Languages College**, Ashby works hard to consolidate its overseas links. In the last 12 months, the school has welcomed **visitors** from a range of different countries, including France, Germany, Afghanistan and – most recently – China.

The school has also introduced language courses in **Russian and Japanese**, both of which have proved to be extremely popular. There are plans to take a group of Sixth Form students on a cultural trip to Japan later this year, visiting places of interest such as Hiroshima, Tokyo and Kyoto.

Ashby is also cultivating international links with schools in Russia and China, and is considering offering lessons in **Mandarin Chinese**.

Meanwhile, the Headteacher and Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Helen Hughes, travelled to Boston, USA, to join representatives from America, Canada and South Africa for an **International Leadership Conference**. The event, which was open to all schools affiliated to the Specialist Schools Trust, was a valuable opportunity to share ideas and to look at ways of ensuring long term, high quality leadership in our schools.

Back at Ashby School, a new **Student Support Unit** was launched in September to help struggling students improve their prospects. The unit caters for youngsters who have missed long periods at school, because of ill health, exclusion or other problems.

By attending the unit each week, students can get help with schoolwork, or take part in a range of activities, designed to develop skills, confidence and team spirit outside of the classroom.

The school has also won plaudits for its ongoing campaign to convert students to healthy eating. Ashby was awarded **Healthy Schools** status in July and has since been hailed as 'a fantastic example' by Leicestershire's Healthy Schools advisors.

Ashby School's catering manager, Nicola Leigh, is also working with **Oakthorpe** Primary School to help the school to cook its own meals for the first time in six years. The move away from external caterers will enable Oakthorpe to boost its spending on school meal ingredients from 45p to 62p per meal – an increase of almost 50 per cent.

School House also diversified in 2006 by welcoming its first Maltese residents. The three boys arrived at the beginning of the Autumn term, adding to the cosmopolitan flavour of the boarding house.

There are already high hopes for Ashby School's next batch of Year 13 school leavers. Four of them – including both the Head Boy and Head Girl – have been offered conditional **Oxbridge** places. Two more students are still awaiting a final decision from Oxbridge.

-O-O-O-

Autumn Reunion (thanks to Peter Dalton)

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle this year has passed and it is almost a platitude to say that each year goes by more quickly than the last – but it has! Perhaps it reminds us to make the most of fleeting leisure. The majority of those present at the 23rd reunion are now retired and therefore have more time and opportunity to meet up with friends from their schooldays, some of whom they have not seen for many years, though there is always a good nucleus of regular attendees. I think that such gatherings are a proof that I am still the person I once was: rather like a scar on the body that has remained throughout life!

My languid relaxation in the bar of the Royal Hotel was ended as the people who were boys when I was a boy began to arrive and, glasses in hand, to chat about recent events and almost forgotten ones. Some distant memories are often discussed, if perhaps exaggerated: we remember the French songs Len Matthews introduced us to as he played the piano in the dining room; or Frank Hill's robust determination that Smith House should excel in competition with the other three; or Hutch leading us in exercises to get warm on that bitterly cold winter of 1947; or George Eckersley sitting on the table at the front of the classroom, pulling up his socks, as he made us shiver with fear at his talk of ancestors from the Middle Ages and dirty work at the crossroads.

Another excellent lunch followed, after which we were delighted to hear Vivien Keller-Garnett, the Head of the School, speak of the progress made over the last year. This included sporting, academic and pastoral developments, which show how the school is flourishing. Viv also kindly invited us to have our lunch in School House next year – an invitation received with pleasure by all present.

Bill Weston spoke to us about James Martin who left in 1952 and who is now world famous for his work on and publications about computers, a career which he entered as long ago as 1955.

Lawrence Oldham spoke of his memories of the 1940s. John Wroughton - who has always so efficiently organised the reunion – mentioned the recent death of Levi Fox who, for so long, was Director of the Shakespeare Memorial Trust. In 1957, he wrote

the history of the school which he left in the 1930s to pursue his studies at Oriel College, Oxford.

Stet fortuna domus.

Dr Kenneth S. Heard

I recently stumbled across your school website and have learned a little of the changes that have occurred at Ashby over the last 20 -30 years. In fact, I am an Alumnus of both Manor House and of Ashby Boys' Grammar School, having been boarded in Wood Street from 1951 and then transferred to School House in September 1953.

I left Ashby in 1960 to go up to Oxford and sadly, as I now see it, have had no contact with School since (other than a brief, unannounced tourist visit to your grounds some time in 1980).

Kenneth has now joined the Association and is interested in contacting any classmates from the 1950 – 60 era.

Duncan Marlor (a response to a contribution in the 2006 newsletter)

Dear Ms Dennis,

Your father taught me Latin and Greek at Ashby between 1957 – 1964 and it is to him chiefly that I owe my good fortune in obtaining an exhibition to Brasenose College, Oxford (at which college incidentally, David Cameron matriculated some 20 years after me. Tory leaders, like police officers and parents at parents' evenings, are getting younger, it seems!).

I recall what your father said to me at my first meeting with him at the start of the second form as he gave me my Greek books: 'These books and a few more and a scholarship in Classics to Oxford.' I was impressed and did as I was told.

I have happy memories of being taught by your father. I vividly remember being at Castlemount when the second form Greek group trooped across the road to listen to a radio production of Euripides' 'Alcestis' and viewed your father's collection of Penguin Classics. We were overawed to be sitting in the armchairs of a teacher – and we were on our very best behaviour.

Your father was always interested in making Classics relevant to present day life and making it far more than an academic subject. Moreover, he cared about us all and our problems and prospects. In that regard, he was an old-fashioned teacher in the best sense of the phrase – and he continued to take an interest in me, as in his other pupils, when I moved on, as well as taking the trouble to write generous references.

I was very uncertain what to do when I left college. Several early ideas proved ill-advised and eventually I followed my parents into teaching. I had a number of teaching posts including Head of Classics at Burnham Grammar School, South Bucks, from which I took early (very early) retirement at the age of 50 in 1996.

Since then, I've done some part-time, some supply and private work, though nothing since 2000 apart from a short period standing in for a friend last year. I acted as an

on-set tutor to several children on the BBC drama 'Born and Bred' in Downham, Lancashire, where they were on location. (I was able to give a Bury Grammar boy a crash start in Greek!)

My father, Frederic (Fred/ Freddie) Marlor was Deputy Head at Castle Gresley Central School and later Deputy Head at the Pingle School, Swadlincote's first comprehensive. He worked there for 10 years, from its opening until his retirement in 1975. He was Acting Head when it opened, as the designated Head, Claude Lawrie, was taken ill.

My Mother was at AGGS from 1925 – 32 and then at Goldsmiths' College. Her college thesis on the medieval history of Ashby has recently been adopted by the Leicestershire County Records Office.

Geoffrey Smith (thanks to Deputy Head of Boarding)

I was a boarder from 1950 – 53, the first year being preparatory.

During my short stay, I learnt to swim at Coalville baths, came second in the long jump at Loughborough (after two no-jumps), and was 'worst of the week' several times. I don't know why but I did climb on to the flat roof of the library to retrieve a tennis ball.

I have no claim to fame. I qualified as an architect at Oxford and spent the first years of my career in various offices before starting my own practice in Shrewsbury in 1974.

Regarding my nostalgic trip, I was delighted to find the old school much the same as 50 years ago. In appearance, the main differences are the mobiles and the motorcars in the playground.

Finally, I would like you to know that I was very happy at Ashby. Being good at athletics, I was chauffeured around the county to meetings in Mr Hood's car and led a somewhat privileged life. I was sorry to leave.

Joan Rand

The dinner is a lovely occasion and I enjoy feeling part of the school for a while and also meeting old friends (notably Bernard Daws, now 80, who taught me Physics).

Coincidentally, I have met a lady in Bude who was one of the Erdington evacuees. Audrey Armitage (née Green) is now in her 80s and we were both thrilled to find we had AGGS in common. We met at the Bude U3A 'Singing For Fun' group.

Joan has made copious notes of life as an evacuee and I will publish these on the school website. www.ashbyschool.org.uk

Golden Reunion

More than 30 old girls who attended AGGS half a century ago returned to the school on 30 September 2006. The reunion was organised by Gillian Wilcockson (nee Butcher) of Willoughby-on-the-Wolds who has fond memories of her time at Ashby.

She said: "I enjoyed school but it was very different to school life today. In 1956, the Girls' School was very separate from the Boys' School. We used to wave to the boys

as they walked past the science laboratories and we saw them on the school bus but that was all.

"In those days, girls were expected to do one of the following three things: a few went to university, and the rest went into teacher training or nursing.

"One memory that we all have is from 1956/7 when there was an earthquake. We were all told to get under our desks which we did, cowering, until it had passed."

Year of 1954 Reunion.

Again Diane Burton (née Shilliam) organised reunions for friends who started School in 1954. One lunch was held in June and another in November. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Mollie Hood (nee Addison)

In your news notes, there were specific references to people with whom I have had a lot of contact over a long time.

The first, Dorothy Gutteridge, and I were not contemporary. She had moved on to higher places the year I joined AGGS. I had no contact with her except as an idol with a hockey stick from the day of Mrs Spencer, I believe. However, a few days before I went up to Manchester to take scholarship and entrance exams, I received a charming note from her suggesting that we meet in Manchester – a kind and understanding gesture to one who was afraid of the big, wide world.

After this, several years passed before our next contact via a frail and very elderly uncle of mine who lived in a residential home in Manchester. He had met her at a church gathering. Here she had delighted him when she said that she came from Ashby, which he knew from his family connections. She took him under her wing and made a world of difference to his life, becoming his closest contact to home and family. She looked after him for several years and my last meeting with her was at his funeral. We have been very grateful to her; she was a light to him in his dimmest blind years.

Your next jolt for me was mention of an enquiry about Margaret Arthur (nee Woodcock). I am in very remote touch with her and, until the last five years or so, I saw her occasionally, though she was not in the best of health at that time. She was living alone as she still is but has withdrawn from almost all her earlier contacts. I believe Barbara Dennis sees her occasionally.

This was my last memory evoked by your newsletter. I have never met Barbara Dennis but my father, Frank Addison, often talked about Les Dennis, and I am familiar with the name.

After the war, Gerry and I (married by then) went to Oxford to finish his degree. There we had three very happy years (me as a camp follower) and caught up with Ernie Frost, Peter Wright and Tom Hemsley, as well as my brother Dick.

Then we moved to Gerry's first job in Sheffield but were there for only four terms before we had the opportunity to go back to Ashby, Gerry as Senior Classics teacher and Housemaster, and me as general stooge (Housemother?).

We were living at Castlemount and thoroughly enjoyed the entire six years we were there, working with so many of the staff we had known so well.

We subsequently came to Clitheroe where we still live, though it is now more than 20 years since we both retired.

*Three days later, the following letter was received from **Gerry Hood**:*

What a lot we owe to our wives! Mollie's initiative in writing to you last week has spurred me to write a letter, which is at least 10 years overdue. I am sorry it has taken me so long to respond in spite of your yearly reminders since the turn of the century. I have greatly enjoyed reading the newsletters and feel I must make my contribution since 14 of my first 35 years, man and boy, were spent at ABGS.

When I came up from the Council School in Burton Road in 1932 with John Spencer and Maurice Smith, we found ourselves in George Eckersley's form 3B, along with the likes of Laurie Cotton, George Cantrill and Frank Walthew. Our teachers included several who became legends in their time; Frank Addison, John Staples, Harold Hutchinson, 'Bertie' Bridges, Harvey Woodward and 'Duggie' Goodwin, the Housemaster, who sang alto with my father in the school choir.

A year or two later, we met Jimmy Jones, Bill Marsh, 'Gammy' Hill, L.L.S. Lowe, G.J.Scott (the martinet – we never knew his first name) and the incomparable Matt.

Three of us, John Spencer, Tim Shrewsbury and I, began taking Greek lessons with T.A.Woodcock in the Head's study. These were delightful lessons, punctuated by amusing asides, odd anecdotes and occasional quotations from Lewis Carroll. We followed the illustrious Classics trio of Arthur, Twigger and Cubberley who were two years ahead of us. We, in turn, were followed by Jim Dalton (the oldest of the Dalton clan) and Law.

It was Jimmy Jones who fostered my love of singing in the annual concerts of excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan, with some alto solos and duets from Dr Read. Of course, it was Matt who introduced me to acting in school plays.

In 1940, our final year, John Spencer, Tim and I – along with others, including Frank Walthew, Chas, Harvey and Tom Hemsley – were in the school production of 'Housemaster'. Do coming events cast shadows before? Eleven years later, I came back to ABGS as Senior Classics Master – and Housemaster!

In the meantime, there had been college war service in the army, a wartime wedding to Mollie (Frank Addison's daughter), a return to college and a spell teaching English at King Edward VII School, Sheffield.

So back to Ashby where, after one term in the Manor House flat, we moved to take on the Junior Boarding House at Castlemount, and a dozen lively youngsters, including Duncan Smith, Martin du Sautoy, Michael Stanton and co.

When Lyn Morgan-Jones left to take up his Headship at Wellington, I became Senior Housemaster and found among my charges several pairs of brothers (Dodds, Battie, Peach, Spalton). In the Classics department, I met Betteridge, Tyldesley, John Wroughton, yet another Dalton (Joe – the last of the line) and Tony Richardson, whom I met again two years later in Lancashire where he was Head of Ormskirk Grammar School.

As the boarders became more numerous, some 'satellite' houses were set up under the supervision of Ken Michel, Wilf Brown and Ron Beaumont. Three older groups lived with us in rather cramped conditions at Castlemount. One end-of-summer-term occasion, I had the pleasure of meeting one of our respected seniors in the garden in the early hours as he climbed down the drainpipe. Heady times!

This was the great period of Gilbert and Sullivan productions – whole operas now in costume. Matt, Jimmy Jones and Mal Hedley were in their element. Bradford Ramsell took care of the tenor roles but almost all the rest were boys with some outstanding performances, notably Peter Williams (Ko-Ko and Bunthorne) and rich soprano arias (Mabel, Yum-Yum) from – was it Bill Stevens?

The week of 'The Pirates of Penzance' was unusually warm and the flowing tresses of the Major-General's daughter began to wilt in the heat. Mollie remembers a mad dash to Leicester in Matt's car to get the wigs re-blackened for the final performances. Typically, Matt's car broke down en route and he got it going with a furious kick.

At the end of the week of 'Mikado', a party was arranged in the Town Hall for all the cast and back-stage staff, in the course of which the broken voices gave a powerful rendering of the treble choruses. A worried neighbour, fearing a riot, called the police, leaving the Headmaster (himself a magistrate) to explain and promise to keep the peace.

Experience in G & S led the senior boarders to ask for something more challenging for the end of term boarders' plays than the usual comic sketches. In 1956, we tackled some key scenes from 'Saint Joan'. I believe every one of the boarders took part, either acting or backstage. It was a scramble to meet the deadline and we remember a final session on costume props with Ken and Vera Michel which ended at 5am. It just had to be the end of term!

It was also nearly the end of our term at ABGS. That summer, we moved to Clitheroe where I tried to put into practice something of what I had learned of schoolmastering in these two wonderful apprenticeships at Ashby. It was totally absorbing and filled the next 27 years.

Best wishes to the school and the Association.

Woodcock Cup

Twenty three old boys played for the Woodcock Cup on 1 October 2006 at Willesley Park Golf Club.

The cup was won by Kevin Box with 38 points. He also picked up the Scratch Cup with a gross score of 73.

The Longest Drive was won by Nick Taylor, while Roy Bates was 'Nearest the Pin'. The event was followed by an evening meal.

Next year (2007), a good turnout is expected for the 50th anniversary of the Woodcock Cup. The contest will be played in mid-September/ early October.

Any old boy interested in playing can contact Roy Bates, tel. 01335 360326 or by email at roy.bates@princeandbaker.co.uk

James Martin (from 'New Scientist' magazine, 13 September 2006)

After reading physics at Oxford in the 1950s, Martin worked as a rocket scientist before joining IBM. In 1981, he set up a management consultancy, Headstrong, which holds seminars for politicians and business leaders.

In 2005, he founded the James Martin 21st Century School at Oxford with a donation of 100 million US dollars. There will be 10 institutes covering areas such as science and civilisation, the future of the mind, ageing, emergent infections, migration, environmental change and the future of humanity.

A large part of his millions has come from his books, including Pulitzer Prize-nominated 'Wired Society'.

Mrs Avril Pratt

Avril Pratt joined Ashby School as an English Teacher in 1972 and became deputy head in 1979. Avril retired during Spring 2006 said that "The single biggest change in the last 30 years is the technology. I remember when the school introduced its first computer studies course. Now with fully equipped computer suites and interactive white boards in every classroom things couldn't be more different."

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Sadly, the following deaths have been reported during 2006:

Anne Rogers née Pickering (1944-2006)

On 15 February 2006, a letter arrived from Anne Rogers. In it, she said that she enjoyed reading all the news, adding; "I can't believe that there are buildings on the hockey field! I must have covered many miles up and down that field during my time at AGGS!!" She also said: "I had a very sad letter to say that **Jill Boyle née Pickering (1944-2006)** had died on 21 January. She lived next door to me in Woodville for years and was my bridesmaid at Blackfordby in 1954."

Sadly, a letter was received on 24 September from Lt Col P G Rogers notifying the Association with regret that Anne Rogers had died on 3 September 2006. Anne Rogers' letters will be missed as she always wrote a newsy item when paying her annual subscription.

Miss Elsie Smith (1927-2006)

Miss Smith taught RE at the Girls' School for many years from the mid 1950s until her retirement in the early 1980s. She died peacefully on Thursday 20 October 2006.

Margaret Lois Harvey. For many years Margaret Harvey was Housemother at the Boarding House while Maurice was Housemaster and Chemistry teacher at ABGS. When they left the Boarding House, Maurice continued his teaching career at AGS until his retirement. Margaret had been ill for some time and passed peacefully away just before Christmas 2006. Our sympathy is sent to Maurice and his family from their extended family of boarders.

Dorothy Watson née Gutteridge (1921-2006). In March I was notified of Dorothy Watson's death following a fall at her home in February 2006.

Lorraine Joan Ashley née Page (1946-2006)

Sandra Smith née Lakin (1944-2006). Following illness, Sandra died in November 2006.

Jane ? (née Vendy) (1936 – 2006)

Mrs Joyce Lovett late of Chalfont St. Giles died in May 2006

Dr Arthur William Birley (1927-2006)

Birley achieved a scholarship to the Boys' School in 1938. He excelled in all sports, especially athletics, while not neglecting his academic studies. In 1944, he won an Open Scholarship to University College, Oxford. Following his Doctorate in 1947, he worked for ICI for more than 20 years. In 1973, he was appointed Professor at Loughborough University and Director of the Institute of Polymer Technology where he remained until his retirement.

Dr Levi Fox (1914 – 2006)

Levi Fox won a scholarship to Oriel College, Oxford, where he took an honours degree in medieval history before studying for a Masters at both Oxford and Manchester. He then became Archivist for Coventry. In 1946, he was appointed Director of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and stayed there for the next 44 years. He gained national and international respect for his scholarship in the world of Shakespearean study.

He was awarded Honorary Doctorates by the George Washington University and by Birmingham University.

James Hunt (1943 – 2006)

James studied Modern History at Keble College, Oxford, before returning to the school for a short period. He then went into the legal profession becoming a judge in 1968.

Hunt practised on the Midland and Oxford circuits from his London chambers, and was well known for his quick and penetrating mind and his ability to dominate a courtroom and read a jury.

In 1994, he was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge and was knighted on his appointment to the High Court bench in 2000.

Outside of his career, he was a popular speaker with his booming voice, which also lent itself well to bass parts in his local Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

An extract from one of the tributes in the local "Times newspaper is set out below:

Maurice Harvey JP wrote:

"I would like to add one or two other memories. James was a pupil at what was Ashby Boys Grammar School in the 50s and 60s. He was greatly influenced by several of his schoolmasters and one of them certainly inspired him most of all – not me; James was hopeless at chemistry! No, I am talking about his English master, Mr John Davey. Mr Davey was, and still is, a great friend of mine and, through his vast knowledge of literature and inspirational teaching methods, James became almost obsessed by John Davey's expertise and approach.

James was introduced to literature of a very high quality, written by scholars of great repute and he loved it.

It was Mr Davey who suggested to him that he apply to Keble College, Oxford, for his further education. This was accomplished and James graduated from there. Again it was John Davey who urged James to continue with his interest in Gilbert & Sullivan operettas put on by boys of the school under the director of Mr Len Matthews (Matty). By such guidance, James's interest in literature and his status as a poet in his own right was fostered.

I enclose an Elegy on the life of James, in its various stages written by Mr. Davey as a tribute to his most able pupil."

ELEGY FOR SIR JAMES HUNT

THE HEIR TO MUCH OF TALENT AND OF GRACE,
WITH EASY CHARM FOR ALL, HE MADE HIS WAY
IN RADIANT YOUTH AMONG HIS PEERS TO TAKE HIS PLACE
AND EQUAL THEM AND SHED A UNIQUE RAY.
IN COURTS AND HALLS HIS ORGAN VOICE WOULD SOUND
FOR JUSTICE AND FOR TRUTH, A CLARION CALL.
HIS GOLDEN AGE WITH MORAL STRENGTH WAS CROWNED
THAT VIRTUE PROSPERED STILL, AND CRIME WOULD FALL.
THE STEALTHY TUMOUR MARRED HIS SUNSET YEARS
BUT METTLE OF HIS PASTURE INFORMED HIS VERSE.
HIS UNDAUNTED SPIRIT ROSE TO MEET THE FEARS
AND FACE TO FACE HE FOUGHT THE DEADLY CURSE.
IN EASTON VILLAGE HAS HE COME TO REST
ONE OF ENGLAND'S BRAVEST, ONE OF ENGLAND'S BEST.

Finally, my thanks to everyone for their reminiscences of the school. Please continue to send them so that we can keep this newsletter alive.

MINUTES OF THE 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD ASHBEIANS
ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 7.30 p.m.
IN SCHOOL HOUSE, ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

Present: Mr John Exton Chairman
Mr Ian Massey
Mr Clive Jones
Mr Robert Wildgoose
Mrs Christina Walmsley Secretary

Apologies Mrs V Keller-Garnett President
Maurice Harvey Peter Dalton, Bernard Daws, Ken Land,
Robin Titley, Jack Pickering, Ken and Wendy
Fairbrother, John Williams, Barbara Murfitt, Dianne
Briers, Hazel Finch, Cynthia Sharpe, Wendy Lloyd,
Mary Bassett, Patricia M Jackson, Ena Clifford, Joan
Rand, Joyce Hutchinson,

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 34th AGM, and asked the Secretary to formally declare the meeting open.

The Secretary formally opened the meeting and, in the absence of the president, asked John Exton to take the Chair.

2. The minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting held on 22 September 2005 were read to the meeting. It was proposed by Ian Massey and seconded by Christina Walmsley that they be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. (a) Secretary's report:

John Exton presented his report. In March, the dinner at the Lyric Rooms was attended by 37 members, a fall in numbers on previous years. Those who went seemed to enjoy the event and it is hoped that more will attend next year. The raffle proceeds were donated to the School music department. Other meetings of former pupils continue throughout the year. John Wroughton gathers a group from the 1940s at The Royal Hotel in the Autumn while Mike Gilman gets a group together for lunch in New Scotland Yard on the last Friday in January.

On the ladies' side, two groups from the Fifties (intake of 1954 and 1956) are meeting this year. On 30 September, a group from the intake of 1956 has arranged a conducted tour of 'Their School' which is now known as 'A Block'.

Over the year, I received a number of letters from people recollecting memories of their time at School. Two letters from Mollie and Gerry Hood give a vivid picture of their life in the boarding house in the Fifties. I intend to give a full account in the next newsletter.

Joy Birley sent me the service sheet of Arthur's funeral which recorded a full account of his time at the school. The death of Dr Levi Fox was also recorded.

Christina Walmsley then read to the meeting correspondence received during the past 12 months.

Thanks were expressed to the Secretaries for their hard work and commitment during the year.

3. (b) A Report from the Memorial Trustees.

Clive Jones summarised the work of the Trustees in relation to the Memorial Field. He reported that the drainage system was fine and working well. The land was drier than it had ever been and the maintenance team was able to mow right up to the perimeter fence. The problems with the fencing around the car park at the top of the bank by the Castle were continuing. Clive was due to meet the Head of Landscaping from English Heritage and other interested parties to discuss this further. One other problem that was being monitored was the inappropriate use of the ground by dogs. Thanks were expressed to Clive for this report.

4. Treasurer's report:

As Ken Land was on holiday, Ian Massey presented the Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 July 2006. Copy filed herewith. An old boy, Clifford Jackson, had left a legacy to the Association. As there was no specific wish for its use expressed in his Will, an award will be set up to be named the "Woodcock Prize". This award will be made annually at the Awards evening. After questions were answered, thanks were expressed to Ian for presenting the report and in examining the books. Thanks were also recorded to Ken Land for his day-to-day work as Treasurer.

5. Election of Vice President. Hazel Finch was nominated to be Vice President for the next 12 months. Hazel is one of the School Governors. Last year's president Mike Gilman did attend the Awards evening in the summer.

6. Election of Officers.

Secretaries	Mr John Exton	Mrs Christina Walmsley
Treasurer:	Mr Ken Land	
Independent Examiner	Mr Ian Massey	
Committee:	Mr Robert Wildgoose.	Mrs Barbara Murfitt
	Mr John Williams	Mr Maurice Harvey

7. Any Other Business

School Governors. Peter Bourne's term of office as a representative of the Old Ashbeians was due to end in October. Proposed by John Exton and seconded by Christina Walmsley that Peter is elected to serve another term of three years. It is also noted that the other Old Ashbeians' representatives are John Exton and Hazel Finch.

The Woodcock Prize. Clive Jones thanked the many contributors to the Fund (mainly Old Boys). It was agreed that the Fund would be held in Trust and managed by Leicestershire County Council in the same way as the Nora F Lockton Memorial Fund and The Old Girls' Lockton Memorial Fund.

The Woodcock Cup. Clive Jones informed the meeting that golfers would be playing for the Woodcock Cup on Sunday 1 October at Willesley Park.

Thanks to Year 12. Those present at the meeting wished to record their thanks to the Year 12 students who voluntarily help the Lions at the 'Disabled Day' at the Ashby Statutes Fair.

Ashbeian Musical Theatre Group was to present 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' just before Easter 2006. Flyers would be available to circulate with the Newsletter in the New Year.

The Committee agreed to meet on Friday 12 January 2007 to agree a menu for the Annual Dinner in March 2007.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.10 pm, followed by light refreshments.

Signed:

Chairman

Date