

REUNION ON SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023 AT THE HERITAGE

A gloriously sunny day greeted Richard and I as we made our journey to the Heritage for the first time in four years, owing to the pandemic. The new Chief Executive, Gareth Germer, and his staff, are pleased that we have been able to hold our Reunion again, and we were so blessed to resume contact in person with our fellow old scholars, after such a long absence.

The day followed the usual pattern. We met for tea and coffee in the Hanbury Suite, before making our way to the beautiful St Martin's Chapel for our Thanksgiving Service, conducted by the Heritage Chaplain and Rector of Newick, the Reverend Paul Mundy. The Hymns we sang were "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky", "This is the Day that the Lord has made", "There is a Redeemer" and "God be with you 'til we meet again". The Bible reading was from Romans Chapter 12 verses 9 to 21, and the Reunion Prayer was read by Iain Pratt. Andy Rees, our organist, played us out to the strains of "The Master Shipwright". Then a wreath was laid below Dame Grace's memorial plaque by Brian Scott, and, after a short prayer, we made our way back to the Hanbury Suite for lunch. Twizzles, the caterers, produced an excellent and tasty meal, cheerfully served by Ann and Chris Jones' band of Volunteer helpers.

After lunch, we held the AGM, at which Richard Clark was voted onto the Committee, and this was followed by an informative talk, illustrated by a video, by Will Folkes, Head of Fundraising, about all the latest innovations which have been and are being implemented at the Heritage. This was followed by giving the answers to the quiz questions which were handed out earlier, with Howard Hawes being announced as the winner with 9 out of 10 correct answers, earning him the prize of £10. We then drew the raffle prize-winners tickets, and there were quite a few winners, with many donations of raffle prizes being well received.

There were Old Scholars who hadn't met for 60 years, and others who had never been to a Reunion before. 55 Old Scholars, families, friends and carers attended. It all made the hard work so very worthwhile.

We ended a happy and memorable day with tea and cake, before departing for home, vowing to do it all again on the 14th May 2024.

May God bless you all and keep you safe and well 'til we meet again.

Janet Wilkins
Chairman