



Old Herefordians' Annual London Dinner

Background

At the beginning of the last century, a group of Old Herefordians from London and the Home Counties started staging reunion dinners in the Capital. Apart from a suspension during two World Wars, the event had always been held each year on a weekday evening at a restaurant in the centre of town. Following an increase in numbers, it was later moved to a private suite at the Charing Cross Hotel in The Strand. As well as OHs from a broad cross-section of HCS eras in attendance, guests also included the Headmaster plus other HCS teaching staff and even members of the cathedral clergy.

This annual reunion was open to *any* student who had formerly attended Hereford Cathedral School, regardless of vintage or year group. It was regarded not only as a social function and a means of keeping in touch with former contemporaries, but also an opportunity to network amongst various professions in convivial surroundings.

Following a decline in numbers over recent years, your OH Club committee found it necessary to cancel the event in 2016 and have sadly announced that they will **not** be staging the dinner in 2017.

Revival by OHiL¹

Many of you will already be aware that, as a completely separate alumni group from your OH Club, we stage regular buffet luncheons in the Capital². However, it is appreciated that not everyone can take time off during the middle of the day if they are working. Thus, in an effort to once more engender interest in this evening event, we would like to know in advance whether you wish to take part in such a reunion. Depending on your response, this will then enable OHiL to make a decision whether to take over responsibility for organising this traditional function. We would then start by running a 'pilot' project in April 2017.

What is involved?

If OHiL revives this long-standing reunion, the plan will be to hold the Dinner at the East India Club in St. James's Square, SW1 on Thursday 27th April 2017. Members will be invited to convene in The Canadian Room for drinks at 6.30pm for a sit-down at 7pm. There will be a cash bar available throughout the evening and OHs can order wine with their 3-course meal as required.

How much will it cost?

On previous occasions the OH Club had set the fee at £55 per person, with discount for students under 25. OHiL could consider offering a small reduction if you bring along a partner. We may even invite someone to deliver a talk to liven up the evening. Dress code will be smart attire, e.g. lounge suits for gentlemen.

Are you interested?

To ensure it will be worthwhile reintroducing this event next year, and more importantly to make the evening a success for everyone, we would hope to see at least 25 or more people in attendance. Accordingly, would members kindly complete and return a short survey on Page 2 of this document, adding any additional comments and observations in the space provided.

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation and support,
OHiL

www.ohil.org.uk

www.facebook.com/oldherefordiansinlondon/

¹ OHiL was formed in 2003 as an alumni group separate from that of the OH Club. We began meeting regularly after 6pm in City ale houses and wine bars. With no catering involved, these pub reunions attracted a wide cross-section of OHs because people were able just to turn up whenever they wished. Although discontinued in 2013 these gatherings could also be revived if sufficient interest is shown.

² These are strictly casual reunions commencing as from 11.am. They do not involve any protocol, no lengthy speeches and no set dress code either. Furthermore, there are no time constraints; members may arrive at the venue whenever it suits them, then leave at will if they happen to have another engagement the same day.

Please complete appropriate boxes in the form below, to indicate your plans and provide information on further interests. Please enter your Name, House and HCS Vintage in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Are you interested in attending a semi-formal Dinner event on Thursday 27th April 2016?		
YES I am interested	NO No interested	NOT SURE I am undecided
Moreover, to help engender even more interest in our London events, would you be prepared to network amongst your contemporaries and encourage them to join you at future OHiL reunions, starting with a Dinner in April 2017?		
YES	NO	
As well as our own website , OHiL also has a Facebook page through which announcements will be made. You may wish to help publicise the various London events yourself, e.g. via social media. If so, kindly use the space provided below to indicate how you propose to go about this.		
Any further comments and suggestions:		
FORENAME:		SURNAME:
HOUSE:	HCS VINTAGE From:	To:
SIGNED:		DATE

Instructions

Once you have completed the above form, please return Page 2 of this document as an e-mail attachment to admin@ohil.org.uk.

Alternatively, you may prefer to print it out and write your responses. Please send by Royal Mail to: OHiL c/o The Development Office, Old Deanery, Cathedral Close, Hereford HR1 2NG