

THE OLD ALTRINCHAMIAN - 1994-95

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EDITORIAL

The School Year 1994-95 has been marked by financial initiatives. The Association examined its own financial health, and at its last Annual General Meeting took steps to address the shortfall in its income. If the Association is to prosper and to give financial support to the School in the years ahead, it needs the unstinting help of present members, coupled with the enrolment of many more of those former pupils who never joined.

The School has also been reviewing its future status, with parents voting for the proposal to take over full financial responsibility and control from Trafford by becoming a 'Grant Maintained' School.

The year has also seen some 'high profile' building expenditure at School with the erection of pitched roofs on the Hall and Changing Rooms. Refurbishment of School premises continues to be an urgent need, for which funding is being sought. Old Boys could well have a role to play here as benefactors through endowments and legacies — fitting expressions of thanks to the School for the educational and recreational benefits they received there during some of the happiest days of their lives.

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 1995

The Annual Reunion Dinner drew an attendance of just over 100 to the Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham on 24th February 1995. The occasion was notable in more than one way: it marked the 80th Anniversary of the foundation of the Association, and it afforded the opportunity to honour George Thornton, old boy and recently retired deputy headmaster.

After a substantial meal, with roast turkey as the main course, President Peter Morton lit the candles in the Reggie Thompson memorial candelabra, and welcomed all present. In his remarks, he referred to the meeting of the Golf Section of the Association at Heyrose G.C. last June at which he had emerged victorious. Peter now felt unable to follow custom and formally present the Charles Laver trophy to himself!

The toast to the School was proposed by Jim Gorton (a remarkable 89 years old), who joined the school staff in 1946 and retired as long ago as 1970. The President said members would appreciate that that was 25 years ago; Jim said, with a twinkle in his eye: "And I do appreciate the fact that I'm here!" Jim illustrated the widespread regard for AGS by recalling a return visit he'd paid to Budleigh Salterton, near the school camp site. He met there a retired headmaster from a London school, who praised AGS, and indeed had tried to emulate some features of the school.

