

A History of Hartlebury Old Elizabethans' Association



Forward

I have long thought that a history of our Association should be researched and published hoping that it might be of interest to members and for posterity. I little thought what a task I was taking on.

This booklet is just a taster of the document I am preparing which is quite long and will be placed on our website.

My difficulty has been that whereas the Elizabethan Magazine was published termly from 1899 until 1946 and had copious information on the Association, from then on only three magazines were produced, saying nothing about us.

In addition, secretaries kept assiduous records of committee meetings in books until 1968. After that, there is nothing in our archives until 1983. Hopefully this gap can be filled.

The wonderful book by Ron Freeman "The School on the Hill" is a definitive history of the school and to a degree covers the Association. Brian Parker, who for years conducted research on the school and the Association died quite young but he produced a document in 2005 which he called "An Anthology of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School" which has never been made available. This will now be placed on the website. I am indebted to both these Old Boys whose works have been of huge assistance.

This work has been a labour of love, a salute to all those who have had a huge affection for the "School on the Hill" for over 100 years. I hope that you will find it interesting.

None of this work would have been possible without the huge help from my friend Geraint Bevan who has turned my jottings into something far superior that anything I could have produced with his amazing abilities with a computer and to who I give grateful thanks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Thornton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

John Thornton

President

Hartlebury Old Elizabethans Association

2025

In his excellent book, 'The School on the Hill', Ron Freeman notes that on 8th August 1780, the "Annual Meeting of the Gentlemaen educated at Hartlebury School" and that at that meeting, the minutes of the last meeting and apologies would be read out.

This must have been a meeting of the first Old Elizabethans Association. It clearly petered out but never-the-less it was clearly the original Association!

By great good luck, we have a copy of the December 1899 edition of The Elizabethan, where we are told that this is the very first edition of the magazine. We have no record of why it fell into abeyance, only to be revived at the later date.

From an old-boys point of view, it tells us of the forming of an Old Elizabethans' Association in that year. A general meeting of old boys was called on Saturday 14th October 1899 at 6.30pm in the school hall. Twenty-two old boys attended, plus the headmaster, second master and the head boy.

Mr R P Vale officiated as secretary (no surprise there) and Mr H H Pheysey as elected to the chair. The secretary reported that he had sent out letters to two hundred and eighty Old Boys and sixty had responded from all over England and abroad but felt that many of the letters would have gone astray. He presented a draft set of rules which were approved and a committee was formed.

Already Robert Vale was expending a large amount of his time on getting the Association up and running. It was agreed to hold their first annual gathering on a Saturday in the near-future when there would be a football match, the Annual General Meeting and a dinner.

In 1900, they presented an Honour's Board which would give a list of the captains, of cricket, football and the Victor Ludorum. In addition, they would award two prizes for schoolwork, being one for general proficiency and the other for shorthand and for sports the half mile flat race. Old Boys matches against the school were played at cricket and football.

There had been no report forthcoming on the first dinner or indeed anything else. In the next edition, Mr Hopewell, the headmaster and editor must have had a word with the Secretary, Robert Vale who provided no less than six pages for this edition.

The Old Boys re-union took place on 8th December with a football match which the Old Boys won 5-2. Then followed what was the second dinner which was held at the White Hart attended there by twenty-five members.

In December 1900, the headmaster's editorial begins by saying "Again we have to deplore the paucity of news from the Old Boys and urge our leaders to co-operate with us and supply the deficiency". Strong stuff from the Headmaster! He goes on in this vein for a full paragraph.

In the July 1901 edition of the Elizabethan, it was reported that Mr B Danks of Charlton House has transferred £125 of India 3% Stock to form a permanent fund. The income to be expended on a prize to be known as the Victoria Memorial Prize for general proficiency.

The prize will consist of a silver medal representing the seal of the school, the die for which was also given by Mr B. Danks. This is of significance to all Old Elizabethans as it is one of these medals, awarded in 1924 to A R Maiden which is worn by our President today.

In his editorial of December 1901, the headmaster says that the date for the Annual Re-union of the Old Boys Association falls on the day of publication. He suggests that the date is unsatisfactory.

He states that the football match had to be abandoned due to lack of light and the AGM was held in semi-darkness many of the attendees having "imperfectly removed the school property (mud) from their persons and garments" and then having to attend the dinner.

He waxes eloquent on the pleasures which might ensue if the meeting was moved to the summer when a cricket match could be played in pleasant weather with spectators "lying in the shade watching the energetic chasing of the flying ball with the occasional utterings of well-played". He then suggests that the dinner might include duck with green peas as opposed to the Christmas fair. He paints a pleasant picture!

The third Annual Dinner was again held at the White Hart with between twenty-five and thirty attending. The speaker was a Mr Pretty who left the school over thirty years ago. In his day, no football, cricket or fives were played. There were no recreations at all and they had to contend with impositions and the stick!

As proposed, the fourth Annual Dinner was held at the White Hart after the football match won by the OEs and the Annual Meeting. The report on the football match was far longer than that on the Annual Meeting or indeed the dinner when no formal speeches were given the evening been given up to conviviality and excellent songs.

At the 1903 dinner, again, there were no formal speeches at the dinner held at the White Hart. What is described as "conviviality and singing of capital songs" seemed to suffice!

In the 1903 magazine, from the Old Boys section of the Elizabethan the importance of sport to the Old Boys, a thread which began when they were formed, continues with a long section on hockey. It tells us that Old Boys, S M Glover and J M Mason set to work to organize a team in Stourport three seasons ago and it is flourishing. It goes on to say that there are so many Old Boys playing at Stourport that the club might well be called the Old Elizabethans hockey club!

Honours Boards for the names of the captains of the sports teams and the Victor Ludorum were provided by the OEs. Again, the AGM was held after the school sports day on 3rd June and there was a good attendance. It states that the dinner was held at the White Horse Hotel (where was that or should it read the White Hart as usual?)

Mr Stanley Baldwin was in the chair, not an old boy as he went to Harrow. He spoke of the uncertainty of the survival of grammar schools at the time. He was unduly pessimistic as the school flourished for another seventy years.

R P Vale, the secretary said that there were now over one hundred members and he was pleased that most of the recent leavers had joined to association.

The speeches were got over rapidly as the musical part of the evening included no less than nine songs all listed in the Elizabethan, none of them heard today.

Yet again, hockey featured under OEs jottings together with the musical successes of Julius Harrison, clearly something of a prodigy.

The eighth Annual Dinner took place at the White Hart. The dinner was told that the plans for the new school buildings were exhibited in the Architectural Department of the Royal Academy.

As was usual, the evening included with eight songs rendered by the members. Julius Harrison said that he was hoping to write a school song. This is interesting as the school song has been credited to Mr Hopewell. It must be said that Mr Hopewell invariably sang a song at the Annual Dinners and was heavily involved in the annual dramatics taking part in them both as an actor and stage manager. Mr Hopewell got in first and wrote both the words and music to the song.

We have received a note from Old Boy Alan Millington, in which he says that his father was at school from 1905 until 1910 and was a good pianist and organist. One day, "Billy" Hopewell called him to the school piano and made him play a piece of sheet music as he had written it and wanted to hear how it sounded when somebody else played it. This proved to be the very first time that the music for the school song was ever played. What a treasured memory to have!

There are no further reports at all about the Old Boys Association and those Old Boys wishing to play in a football match against the school are asked to apply to the headmaster. It would appear that for some unknown reason the Association had folded up.

1925 Reforming of the Association

For many years, the Old Boys played football, cricket and tennis matches against the school but these games seemed to be the only regular assembly of Old Boys and it is not clear who arranged the sides.

The first hockey match was played against the school in 1925. There are also remarks about it at the meeting below called by R P Vale.

On the 21st February 1925 there was a gathering, including a dinner with toasts, at the Swan Hotel, Stourport which was chaired by Mr R P Vale. He said that he had been at the school for ten years and they had been the "happiest in his life." The meeting was attended by Mr Ashe who addressed the meeting.

There were sixty-nine Old Boys including a large number of Stourport shopkeepers, many of who were still attending dinners into the 1980s and all the staff in attendance.

It was decided on a proposition made by Mr Vale and seconded by Mr V Crane that the Association should be revived and that an Old Boys Day should take place on the second Wednesday in June.

It was decided that there should be a General Meeting of Old Boys to be held at the school on May 12th for the purpose of reviving the Association. There then followed a musical interlude featuring a number of Old Boys who played various stringed instruments or sang songs and the meeting closed, as is the case today with a hearty rendition of the School Song.

In the Summer edition of the Elizabethan, there is a further report concerning the formation of the Association. As a background to the February 1924 meeting, we are told that this came about after a discussion after an Old Elizabethans football match. It was then decided to hold the dinner mentioned above.

After the above-mentioned meeting all Old Boys were circularized amounting to between three hundred and three hundred and fifty in total. Formal committee was formed with Mr R P Vale as chairman, Messrs G E Gittins and D S Gregory Secretaries (one for Stourport and one for Kidderminster), V W R Crane, Treasurer and nine committee members.

The date for the re-union day was fixed for 10th June and an annual subscription of 2/6 was agreed to include three copies of the Elizabethan Magazine.

In the Christmas 1925 edition of the Elizabethan, there was a full report on the Association. It now had seventy-two paid up members and efforts were being made to get it up to one hundred. No Facebook in those days! Everything was by letter or word of mouth.

A full list of events was published including not only matches against the school but also versus the Old Carolians at football, golf matches against Habberley and

Comberton Golf Clubs and hockey against Droitwich. Incidentally, the school won the football match 16-5.

It should be noted that this was not the first dinner since the reformation of the Association as the first was held the year before this had happened. Our founders decided to ignore this small point and who are we to argue with them!

Next came what was billed as the second Annual Dinner presided over by Mr Joe Ragg of Birmingham. It was held at the Swan once more on 20th February. His speech stated that there was only one school to the Old Boys which they still loved. These are the exact sentiments expressed at dinners held one hundred years on and are as sincere now as they were then.

The Re-Union Day was held on 12th June 1926. The usual sports were played but is noted that the Old Boys did not imbibe in cider "after last year's disastrous results". A strange statement as they had won!

After tea, the Annual General Meeting was held with R P Vale in the chair. All the social events had been a huge success and the golf team was undefeated. The football team had entered the Richardson Cup played for by various teams in Stourport. They won the trophy. They beat the Power Station in the semi-final and Worths in the final.

The Annual Dinner in 1927 was to be held at the White Lion in Stourport (see back cover) and we find that the landlord, Sid Glover was an Old Boy, hence the move.

The dinner was held on 19th February at the Lion as already mentioned with Julius Harrison in the chair, probably our most illustrious Old Boy at the time. He had travelled from London.

He said that he began at the school in 1896 and regaled the Old Boys with some of his experiences, sadly not recorded for posterity. Again, the speeches were brief despite being three in number, all with responses.

The musical side of the evening commenced being given by the Merry Optimists. It is suspected that it was a longer evening than today's meetings where people start to get itchy feet by 10pm!

The 1928 dance in the school hall proved a great success with one hundred and fifty attending and dining. The school had now been provided with electricity via a generator, which was a great help.

However, did they manage to fit so many into the hall? Indeed, the supper was taken in two sittings. The dance finished at 1.30. The dinner had reverted to the Swan Hotel.

The chairman was Kenneth Baxter of Pangbourne who said that his family had been associated with the school since the mid nineteenth century. He was the brother of

Felix Baxter, VC and he went on to say how honoured the family were to know that a school house had been named after Felix.

The Annual Dance was held in the school hall on 24th January 1930 and such were the numbers attending that it was decided to restrict the numbers to one hundred and thirty next year and the event would be ticket only.

The Annual Dinner was again held at the Swan in Stourport and over fifty attended. The chairman was a Maitland Kempson who was as was said in the report, a very old boy.

It should be noted that usually the President of the Association was not the chairman of the dinner. Kempson remarked that the headmaster, Rev Lea Head from 1857 until 1870 (Kempson was indeed a very old boy!) who was not slow to use the cane as an aid to teaching Latin.

In the December 1930 Elizabethan, there were great signs of activity by the committee.

The dinner was to be moved to the Black Horse, Mill Street, Kidderminster on 21st February in the hope that the venue would be more convenient for members and more would attend.

It had been decided that the adoption of colours for blazers, sweaters and ties should take place and these would be available in the summer. The association has a number of blazers displayed at each dinner.

It was decided to form an Old Boys Cricket team. The dinner was held in Kidderminster and the numbers up slightly to sixty. It appears that there was no entertainment enabling more socialization amongst the attendees. Of course, the school song was sung. The cricket team was formed and they were keen as they had net practice on Tuesdays and Thursday. They played eight matches that year.

The blazers were now available at a cost of 33s, ties 2/6d, caps 3/6d, all available from a taylor in London no less. There was concern that not enough recent leavers were joining the Association.

At the 1932 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the Old Boys would provide a changing room for the school. Is this the one used right up until the school closed? The Old Boys cricket team was flourishing playing sixteen matches that year.

The dinner was held at the Black Horse, Kidderminster and resulted in an increase in attendance, albeit a small one.

It was noted that the Association was still in low water financially, mainly to the purchase of photographs of the 1930 re-union not being purchased in sufficient numbers.

In 1933, the dinner reverted to the Swan in Stourport. At the Annual Meeting, it was decided to press ahead with the scheme to build a changing room at school. It was

decided that it should be big enough to hold one hundred boys (virtually the entire school!) and would include foot baths, wash basins, a shower and heating.

At the time of the meeting, one hundred and ninety pounds had been raised towards the projected cost of two hundred and eighty-five pounds but that the work should commence in February 1934.

There is a gap in the Elizabethan Magazine from one year in 1934 but it began again in 1935 when it was reported that the work had begun on the changing room. The formal opening was on the Re-Union day in 1935. There had been some delay due to the financial position of the country as a whole but now the job was completed. The total cost was £325 rather more than the £285 mooted earlier. There was a deficit of £36 still to be found.

There were fifty Old Boys attending the 1935 Dinner at the Swan. The contactors were still owed money and a further £7 was raised at the dinner.

For 1938, all the 'Black Country' matches had been dropped in favour of what were described as more congenial matches against country teams.

The dinner was held at the Swan as usual. Again, they had an entertainment after the school song which included a conjurer. The 1938 dinner was to be chaired by Mr Julius Harrison. It should be noted that the President did not necessarily chair the dinners at this time.

Again, the Old Boys cricket team reported that they had played twenty-two matches and had beaten the Old Carolians three times, particularly pleasing! Amongst the regular players was Cotton, an Old Carolian!

On re-union day, it was noted that the period scheme had been a great success and there were now one hundred and four members and that all the boys who had recently left school had joined the Association.

The Annual Dinner in 1939 was held in March at the Swan Hotel, Stourport as usual with Julius Harrison in the chair. The visitors included the President of the Old Carolians and the Deputy Mayor of Kidderminster Alderman Eddy, a regular visitor.

Despite the outbreak of war, hence the blackout and petrol rationing, over ninety Old Boys attended the Swan on 2nd December for the presentation to Mr Ashe who had recently retired. There was an appreciation of his time at the school given by eight Old Boys representing various periods of his time at the school and a presentation was made of a radiogram, a silver cigarette case and a cheque.

In 1940, there was no Old Boys Dinner due to the war. There was long list of Old Boys serving in the armed forces and sadly already four had lost their lives. Five more had been reported missing since Dunkirk. It appeared that a number of boys who had left in 1940, immediately joined the armed forces.

The Old Boys re-union was held and the Old Boys won the cricket match. Mrs McKinley provided the tea which had previously been provided by Mrs Ashe. All the officers remained in place with V W R Crane and G E Gittins carrying on yet again as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. No dinner was held due to the war.

In 1941, less than ninety-five Old Boys were reported as serving in the armed forces. The re-union day was held as usual and in the cricket match the Old Boys were soundly beaten. It is remarked that this was probably because so many of the younger Old Boys were away taking swipes at the "Berlin gangsters" rather than at cricket balls!

In 1942, the long serving Secretary, G E Gittins was called up and Victor Crane, the Treasurer took over his duties. In 1943, of note was that the Secretary, G E Gittins, by getting his leave from the navy brought forward and travelling all night managed to make the meeting. Such exemplary dedication to the Association. It was agreed that the ladies be invited in 1944.

There was only one magazine for the years 1944/45 and a full list of Old Boys who had been in the services was published. It appears that the majority had served in the RAF. Again, G E Gittins was able to get back from Normandy in time to attend.

The appeal for donations for the war memorial raised £67/17s/6d. It was suggested that the dinner might be held in the school hall and that enquiries be made to find a caterer who could provide a hot meal.

In 1947, the memorial to 18 Old Boys who had lost their lives in the war had been unveiled by Mr Ashe. At the AGM, V W R Crane was elected President although he carried on as Treasurer and G E Gittins continued as Secretary.

At the 1950 AGM, G E Gittins finally stood down as Secretary to be made Vice President. The Baldwin Memorial Pavilion Fund was opened and the Pavilion would be opened in May 1952.

In 1951, it became apparent that a license could now be obtained to sell alcohol at one event during the year. For the first time a bar was run at the Christmas Dance and it produced a useful profit of £11.

In 1952, the entertainment was to include a conjurer, singer and a pianist. There was to be no bar at the dance as last year as the governors had vetoed it as last year was to be a trial only and they did not want to set a precedent.

There was a brief meeting in January 1953, when the only item of note was that the Governors had relented and there was to be a bar at the next dance. Mr Ashe was to be approached about having his portrait painted.

At a meeting in May 1955, the matter of a portrait of Mr Ashe had moved on quickly. It was recommended by Mr Ashe, that a local artist Miss Katherine Lloyd be

employed and she agree to do a head and shoulders portrait for around £80. It would be around 30 inches by 25 inches.

The governors were to be approached for permission to hang it. A fund was to be set up to raise the money particularly from Old Boys who had been taught by Mr Ashe and G E Gittins agreed to act as Treasurer of the fund. The next undated meeting was held at the White Hart, Hartlebury. The Ashe retirement fund had reached the sum of £110 from about 80 members.

The February 1956 meeting was at the White Hart. Clearly, the governors had relented with regard to bars as there was to be one both at the dance and the Annual Dinner.

At the March 1956 meeting, it was reported that the first dinner in the hall had gone well. The main business was to discuss the arrangements for the presentation of the portrait to Mr Ashe on 22nd April.

It was proposed that the Old Boys, school governors, staff and prefects were to be invited.

Bouquets were to be presented to Mrs Ashe and Miss Lloyd the artist. R P Vale, chairman of the governors and the President of the Association were to speak. Mr Ashe was to respond and present the portrait to the governors. At the end, the school song was to be sung and light refreshments served.

At the 1956 AGM, Mr Penberthy was welcomed as the new Headmaster. It was noted that the dinner had been held in the school hall and was very successful. By the 25th September 1957 meeting, Mr Penberthy had become chairman of the committee.

At the June 1958 meeting, the major discussion was whether to join with the PTA in providing some sort of building to commemorate the 400 years since the Charter in 1559. It was agreed that a swimming pool would be appropriate and the governors were approached on the subject.

Mr H J Penberthy said the school would print the menu and tickets. It was agreed that the school song need not be printed as everyone should know it! The swimming pool fund stood at £375 from 87 subscribers including two large donations from R P Vale.

The 1960 Old Boys day had been well supported and Old Boys had been able to swim in the new swimming pool. It was hoped that the next dinner could be held in the new school hall.

It was reported that the old headmaster, Mr Ashe had died and also most suddenly Victor Crane. The Association had been Victor Crane's passion and he had travelled thousands of miles to meet and talk to fellow Old Elizabethans. He was a founding member of the Association in 1924.

In 1961, it was agreed that the Association should provide £1,000 for the swimming pool fund and £300 was still outstanding.

The main school was destroyed by fire on the 25th March 1961. The Old Boys' Dinner that year had to be held in the old school. This was facilitated largely by the physical efforts of the headmaster, Mr. H J Penberthy. The rebuilding work was finally completed in April 1962 and the dinners returned to the rebuilt new school hall.

In 1963, the jewel of office was presented to the Association to be worn by the President. It was presented by A R Maiden and assisted by R P Vale.

In 1965, it was noted that Mr McKinley was about to retire and this should be brought up at the AGM so that arrangements could be made for a presentation to him. At the meeting in March 1966, it was reported that the sum of £68/17s/6d had been raised for the McKinley Fund. At the meeting on 29th April, it was reported that the McKinley Fund had raised £69/17s/6d and a clock had been purchased and engraved at a cost of £55 and a cheque had been presented for the remainder.

At the dinner in 1967 there 85 in attendance including a number of governors at the commanding officer of 25MU Hartlebury (the RAF camp) an excellent turn out. It was commented that there was a shortage of beer and cigarettes and the service was bad.

In 1968, a sherry party had been held in the school hall for recent school leavers which had been most successful with 20 attending. This had been arranged by A F Millington for which he was thanked. There was a suggestion that a function be arranged for those old boys away attending college.

In 1976, Mr Fooks who was leaving to take up the headmastership of Rye Comprehensive wrote in the Headmaster's log book "as sad time for me and others who are leaving. I wish that there was some way could be found to integrate this school with its traditions into the new system. It is a great shame to destroy the intangible assets of a school like this".

In 1986, a letter had to be sent out to members saying that the date of the dinner had to be changed because the headmaster had said on 31st January that the school was not now available.

In April 1995, it was confirmed that the dinner would return to the school hall. The valuation of the memorabilia was still outstanding. All tickets should be paid for in advance as last year.

Certain Old Boys had visited the grave of R E McKinley at Wistanstow near Craven Arms. There was no headstone. One would cost between £300 and £400 and Alf Powick was to approach the vicar. Subsequently his sisters and the vicar agreed to a memorial and so an appeal was made to raise funds for it.

By September 1995, £744 had been raised. By 1997, the headstone had been erected and a plaque installed in the school hall.

At a meeting in April 1996, it was reported that the absolute maximum attendees at the dinner would have to be 150!

At the April 1997 there were discussions about the catering which was not too good. No game pie! There was a discussion about name badges. The Association moves slowly as it took well over 30 years before this idea was taken up.

At the September 1997, meeting Doug Thompson indicated that he wished to stand down as Treasurer and that Kevin Smith should take over. Our Secretary's first office!

At a meeting in December 1998, it was agreed that the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the original Association in 1899 be celebrated at the school on 13th June 1999.

On Sunday 13th June 1999, a special Open Day was held at the school to celebrate 100 years since the formation of the original Association. A cricket match was held, a barbeque lunch and other refreshments were also provided.

At the BGM in 2002, new President Kevin Smith said that he intended to pursue a youth policy targeting the 1970 to 1977 age group using the Friends Re-united site. Kevin has continued to pursue this policy over the last 20 years with huge success. Ed Wisniewski was elected Treasurer replacing Kevin Smith. Ed has continued in this office with huge commitment and success for more than 20 years. He will soon replace Victor Crane as the longest serving Treasurer in the history of the Association.

In 2004, it was again suggested that name badges be issued but it was still decided not to do so. It is noted that the dinner did not start until 6.30 for 7.45. Either the speeches were short or the finishing time was late! A painting of the school was presented to us by John Cook and prints were now available for purchase.

In 2009, we sadly lost two of the most hard working members of the committee in Norman Dodd, the Secretary and Brian Parker, the archivist. Bill Bickerton was also gravely ill.

On a happier note, it was announced that our old headmaster, Mr Fooks had been awarded an MBE for his services to education and the community of Rye. What a disaster that he did not get the post of Headmaster of the new King Charles School. We provided some recollections of his time at Hartlebury for his celebration in Rye.

At the March 2010 meeting, a proposal from Ron Freeman was received concerning his writing of a history of the school listing his researches to date. At the 2010 November BGM, information was given concerning the funding of Ron's book. A minimum of £1,000 was needed to make the project viable and donations were

called for. The price was to be between £12 and £15 and the committee were looking for donations to be made. The committee put £250 towards the cost.

In 2011, the much-awaited book 'The School on the Hill by Ron Freeman' was made available and was met with acclamation. It was a labour of love by Ron who put in years of work to produce it. Both Stourport and Kidderminster libraries bought copies. 200 copies were produced and were all sold and there has been a reprint.

In February 2013, David Guyatt died and it was decided to present a trophy to King Charles School in his name. Until it closed, Hartlebury was the only school he ever taught at. He began teaching there in January 1954,

At a meeting in January 2014, yet again there was talk of a loudspeaker system and yet again nothing done. The Constitution had been revised. There was again talk of a stock take of the memorabilia.

In November 2016 at the meeting, Kevin Smith indicated that he was willing to be nominated as President having turned down a similar overture from King Charles!


In January 2020, at a zoom meeting it was considered that a dinner was unlikely to be held because of Covid. This was the very first Zoom meeting and these have been used for committee meetings ever since.

A virtual dinner was held by Zoom on 27th March 2021. The loyal toast was given and a list of those members who had died since the last dinner was read out together with those who had fallen in the wars.

In January 2023, it was agreed that Hugh Lamour would bring all the memorabilia he had in store and Kevin Smith would take it over. It was reported that at the BGM, a number of the senior members of the committee wished to resign. It was agreed that as we would still have 9 there was no need to ask others to join.

It is the 100th Anniversary of the dinner held in 1925 on the reformation of the Association. It was proposed that a commemorative coaster be produced.

In 2024, the Henfield twins and Neville Farr had donated £150 towards the provision of a PA system. This has now been purchased. A document concerning the bursaries sent by the 1962 starters was discussed and it agreed to cease giving bursaries to King Charles School and Stourport High School. It was then agreed to give £800 (max) to the New Elizabethan School. One bursary to an individual of £100 and the rest to some mutually beneficial to the school.

Feb. 19. 1927
Handwritten signatures: H. H. ...
Old Elizabethans'
THIRD
Annual Dinner.
Lion Hotel, Stourport.
 CHAIRMAN ... **JULIUS HARRISON, Esq.**
Handwritten signatures: H. H. ...
QUEEN ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL

Handwritten signatures: H. H. ...
HARTLEBURY 1560.

Saturday, February 19th, 1927.

Old Elizabethans' dinner at the Lion Hotel, 1927. One of the courses was Severn salmon. The signatures record a gathering of leading figures of the time. One of them is J. Irving Glover, organist of Wilden church, with whom Julius Harrison had studied several instruments.