

The Hertford Society

Annual General Meeting 24th June 2018

Chairman's Statement

Madam President, Ladies, Gentlemen, Hertfordians,

It is a pleasure to assemble once again to celebrate our happy association with College and with one another as the Hertford Society. I was happy to receive a copy of the Hertford College Magazine this week, in which may be found a record of the many and various ways in which the generosity of Hertford *alumni* (or more properly Old Members) has added to the fabric of College and to the enjoyment and richness of College life for a period of over half a century.

Although I had been present on the Hertford Society Committee when many of the decisions in respect of these gifts had been made, I did not remember them all and both the frequency and value of the Hertford Society's contributions still surprises me.

The Hertford College Magazine also includes an extensive report by Christopher Mockler on the restoration of a number of portraits by the Courtauld Institute and the Hamilton-Kerr Institute, with the assistance of the College and funded very substantially by the Society. I would like to express, once again, on behalf of the Society, our thanks to Chris for managing this extremely complicated project to a successful conclusion.

At the Committee meeting immediately preceding this Annual General Meeting, Paul Emery, our Treasurer, reported that the Society holds £10,500 in cash in its own account and that a further £10,500 is held by College in the fund established to accept donations from Old Members which the Society equates to a five-year subscription for membership of the Society. This fund is to be used by College (with the agreement of the Society) to meet the cost of a number of the "routine" gifts which the Society has become accustomed to making in recent years, for example contributions toward the cost of JCR Freshers' Week, the MCR Matriculation Ball, the very successful Choral Awards Programme and supporting Simpkin (version 4). Clearly the more donations that we can encourage Old Members to make into this fund, the greater the level of financial support College and the Society may provide, and it will also reduce the burden on the Society's own funds for these purposes. We are discussing with the Development Office a further communication to Old Members to that end and will report on progress presently.

This is of course the first time the Society has raised funds in this manner and the long-term success or otherwise is, at present, uncertain. An obvious disadvantage is that the amount of money held by the Society itself will diminish over time. Against that, funds donated to College may attract Gift Aid, boosting the overall quantity of funds held, and in addition the funds will benefit from being professionally managed alongside other funds managed by College. The funds are only to be expended on items that the Society intends to support in any case, and to my mind the advantages significantly outweigh the disadvantages, and will also ensure close cooperation between the Society and the Development Office.

My thanks, on behalf of the Society to the Principal and Governing Body for allowing the Society to use College and its facilities today, and my thanks also to all members of the Committee for their diligence and assiduous efforts this year, in particular Graham Jones, our Secretary and Paul Emery, our Treasurer, for taking on the lion's share of the administration of the Society's affairs and committee meetings. I look forward with optimism and enthusiasm both to the forthcoming year,

but more immediately to drinks and lunch which follow this meeting. Thank you again for your support of the Society and I hope you all enjoy the remainder of today's function.

Robert Seymour
Chairman