

THE OLD CESTREFELDIAN SOCIETY



Eighty Fifth Annual Dinner and Reunion

The 2014 dinner was held in the Chesterfield Football Club Stadium, Whittington Moor.

This grand occasion was attended by 80 Old Cestrefeldians who had attended the school in the decades from the '30s to the '80s together and included two former masters.

Old Cestrefeldians who were no longer able to meet were remembered.

Dining was punctuated by the retiring President's many requests to take wine with those who had participated in various ways in the life of Chesterfield Grammar School and the Society.

The formal toast to the Old School and the Old Cestrefeldians' Society was proposed by Roger Thompson. Roger entertained the assembled company with reminiscences of old school masters both in studies and in sport and their various abilities to inspire or otherwise, making particular reference to the use of props in Latin classes.

Tom Roberts, responded to the toast with detail of activities over the past year. Progress had been made in the creation of a Chesterfield School Foundation, a committee had been created and a bank account opened. Despite this heavy workload there had been sufficient spare time to indulge in numerous reveries.

Next to speak, Alan Simmonds introduced our new President, Canon Peter Downham, reminding the assembled OCs of Peter's academic journey via Manchester and Cambridge, and, like Alan himself, into ministry in the Church of England eventually becoming Canon in the See of Christ Church, Oxford.

Alan then proposed the toast to our new President while the regalia of office, the Shield and Cap, were presented by the retiring President for safe keeping through the coming year.

Peter was formally installed as President by our retiring President and the regalia of office presented.



Canon Peter Downham (left) is presented with the regalia of office by Past President Tom Roberts.

In his words of acceptance, Peter expressed humility at being called to office. He spoke warmly of the old school and of the way in which social mobility was encouraged by it and similar grammar schools, citing his proposer and a school colleague, Ted Smith, FRS as notable beneficiaries.

The presentation of the Accounts by our Treasurer, Mike Hadfield followed. Thanks to the generous donations of members the Society made a net profit of £16.

The end of the formal proceedings was the usual rather competitive rendering of the School Song followed by Jerusalem led by Tom Roberts.