

EXETER CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWS LETTER NO.4.

JUNE 1969

The Annual Reunion took place on Easter Monday. Unfortunately I had an attack of 'flu and so, to my great disappointment, was unable to attend. Thirty six former Choristers attended. After a practice with the present Choristers, and a very good tea in the Cloister Room, we all joined in the singing of Evensong with the Cathedral Choir. The Lessons were read by Reginald Collyer and Howard Crawshaw. Evensong was followed by the Annual General Meeting in the Chapter House and R. Collyer kindly deputised for the Secretary. Two important matters were discussed at length. It was decided that any Non-Chorister who has been a pupil at the School could apply to join the Association as an Associate Member. Mr. Collyer spoke about a plan to form a Bursary Fund and the Headmaster detailed the considerable work that Mr. Collyer had already undertaken. At the close of this letter there will be found a message from Mr. Collyer about the Fund.

At the Dinner Mr. Michael Dykes Bower was the Guest of Honour in place of Sir Thomas Armstrong who was unable to be present because of illness. Mr. Dykes Bower entertained us splendidly with a delightful speech, to which Mr. Eric Goldie responded. The Dean, who was in the Chair, once again was in excellent form as a speaker.

The School Speech Day is on Friday, July 25th and members would be very welcome. If they are able to come, they should inform the Headmaster a fortnight beforehand so that tea may be ordered for the right numbers. Mr. and Mrs. Dakers have kindly offered refreshments in the evening for any who would like to stay on for a performance of *Son et Lumiere*. Again names should, please, be sent beforehand.

I am enclosing a list of all Old Choristers who are active and subscribing Members, also a list of O.C.'s who have either lapsed from membership or not joined. Can you encourage any of these to join and so help to strengthen our Association. The annual subscription is £1 or Five Guineas for Life Membership. I should always be pleased to hear of any old Choristers not on the list and would write to them. The Headmaster is always glad to see Old Boys at the School and to show them round.

The N.F.C.O.C.A. Festival is to be held at Llandaff from July 11th-13th. I will send further information about it to any who are interested and might be able to go.

The Cathedral Campaign Fund now stands at a little over £220,000 towards the target of £298,000. It is hoped that this special "Grandisson Year" will see the final amount realised.

**THE BURSARY FUND.** At the time of "going to press" the Bursary Fund has not met with the success for which the Committee had hoped. Although the Motion, setting up the Fund, has been passed with no dissentient votes by the A.G.M. only eight members have, so far, entered into Covenants, totalling £14. With the tax rebate this will be increased to just under £24 per annum. If the general fund should be able to transfer something annually, we shall probably be able to push the total up to £35. This is the absolute minimum which we can decently offer to the Headmaster for a Bursary to help a boy at the School, but surely we can do better than this. With a membership of over a 100 we are sure we can. We have received one anonymous donation of £10, but, this apart, there have been no bankers orders and no subscriptions! Surely our Association needs to have a usefulness beyond the Annual get together for reminiscence. Surely we need a higher aim, a usefulness that gives us a stronger *raison d'être*? What better object can there be than to help the School, that has bulked so large in the earlier part of our lives, to help others to carry on the musical tradition of OUR Cathedral, in which we take so much pride and which we, in our time, have done our small part to enhance. Come then in your tens and dozens and let us have your support for this endeavour. Bankers' Order forms and Deeds of Covenant may be obtained from, or subscriptions sent to, R.L. Collyer, 14, Brixington Lane, Exmouth, Devon. He would be delighted to hear from you and to give you any information you would like about the Fund. This is a splendid opportunity for those of you who, for one reason or another, are unable to attend our reunions, to be with us in spirit, and to show that lasting mark of affection, which we know you feel, for the Choir Stalls you once occupied--dare we say graced?

F.L. COTTON. SECRETARY.