

## Retired Members Group

*"Eton College"*

*Dr Vincent Dubois*

*Held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018*

Vincent had attended this famous public school from aged 2½ until he left for Cambridge University. His father, originally from Paris, was the school's French master. Dr Dubois is now an ophthalmologist at Aintree university hospital.

His address was a scholarly review of the history and customs of this Berkshire establishment set beside the Thames and soon after opposite Windsor castle and under the Heathrow flight path.

It was founded in 1440 by Henry VI whose statue is in the square, the boys passing it on his right and their left. Vincent described the accommodation, especially for King's Scholars, the development of many sports of idiosyncratic nature and the ethos instilled into the pupils of inter alia, self-confidence and determination.

He shared lists of alumni from 19 prime ministers, stars of stage and films, as well as the filthy rich and frankly criminal.

This talk was delivered with a beautiful turn of phrase and augmented by his singing the school song in Latin and the Eton Boating Song with a delighted audience.

In discussion, fees of circa £40,000 annually, were not deterring boy applicants, as the waiting list was over 10 years and it was unlikely that girls would ever be accommodated.

We lunched on the gallery and enjoyed the company of some first time new guests and Christmas fayre.

*"The Pool of Life"*

*Held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019*

*Mr John Minnion*

John Minnion is a caricaturist, who recently came to Liverpool from London, where his black and white drawings illustrated newspapers and journals such as The Guardian and New Statesman.

His presentation "A paddle in the Pool of Life" charted the history and heartbeat of Liverpool through the life stories of its citizens from King John through to the Capital of Culture.

His brilliant caricatures illustrated his easy to follow humorous account augmented by relevant nostalgic musical extracts.

A delighted audience were astonished at John's appreciation of the City and its characters as much as they were in awe of his presentation skills.

Many copies of his book were sold at a discount.

Chris Evans