

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2012**

Dear Old Russellians,

I hope 2012 has been a successful and memorable year for all of you. The London Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee proved to be wonderful events and reiterated what a great country England is. I am sure both of those events shall remain in our memories and hearts for a long long time to come.

2012 has certainly been a busy year for The Old Russellians. The Society is thriving and continues to have an excellent working relationship with the School.

The O.R. website, newsletter, and The Old Russellians' pages on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook continue to be popular. All of these member benefits keep O.R.s in the picture regarding O.R. and school news. The Russellian magazine continues to provide articles from the O.R.s, thanks to the School, Sue and Julia.

The usual O.R. events have taken place during the past 12 months, including the Annual Football Tournament (thanks to Mr Greaves for organising this popular event), the Riverside Reunion (where John Piggin's contributions to the RRS MUN over 30 years were deservedly recognised and celebrated) and the laying of a wreath by Brian and myself at the Remembrance Sunday Service in November.

Another special occasion was the Really Old Russellians (WCDS) visit to Danson House in June. This event was wonderfully organised by O.R. Mick Ayles. The day was a great success and my thanks go to Mick for his organisational skills.

There was some sad news in May when we learnt that Old Russellian Keith Angel had passed away. Keith was a former Chairman of the Society and he had been a Committee member for many years. The Society is extremely grateful to Keith for his massive contributions and loyalty to the O.R.'s throughout the years.

The Headmaster, Mr Hutchinson, has been very supportive of The Old Russellians Society since he took on the leadership of the School. The Old Russellians are very much a part of the Royal Russell School community and this is much appreciated. The Bursar and Chaplain have also been very supportive of the O.R.s throughout the year.

Sue Tanner and Julia Powell have made great contributions as always to the O.R.s throughout the year. They work tirelessly behind the scenes and their input is greatly appreciated.

Brian Angel continues to work selflessly and tirelessly for the Committee, and his incredible research on the School's history is vital to both the school and the O.R.s. We learn something new from Brian all the time.

My thanks as always go to the Committee. My gratitude also goes to Julia Lee, the vice-chair. Julia's support and input have been most welcome. The support given and hard work carried out by all the Committee members have made my role a satisfying and rewarding one. I am hopeful that 2013 will prove to be a busy and successful year for the O.R.s.

Over the past six years in my role as Chairman, each year has been different, but each year has been most definitely a joyful experience. Many events have taken place, and thanks to the Committee, the Society plays an important role within the RRS community.

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Kind Regards

**Karl Yabsley**

**Old Russellians' Chairman**

**(RRS 1978-1982)**