

Annual Report 2014

This has been a fairly quiet year for events but a turbulent one in other ways.

Sadly despite the committee trying to find a venue for the AGM that would be more attractive to members, it was not to be. 'Champagne Charlies' in London appeared to be a good place to meet but as it turned out that there were insufficient numbers present for a quorate. This together with the fact that the new rules were not formally adopted in 2012 led to a lot of unrest in the society. The end result of all this was to arrange an EGM with voting etc being run in line with the 1997 rules. Since then certain members of the committee have worked to formalise new rules that can be formally accepted.

During the year there were two main events organised. The first was the annual football tournament that was held on Top Pitch. Thanks to Steve Greaves and the team captains the tournament was a great success although it was a shame that there were fewer spectators than normal. Numbers were again down for the summer 'Drinks o the River' evening in June. Perhaps some of our regulars were too busy watching the World Cup!

The committee along with school have embarked on an exciting new project of digitising the archives. The firm employed to build our bespoke website have already scanned our early magazines and we are awaiting our first viewing. The whole project will take time to complete fully due to the volume of material and the overall cost of the project.

Brian Angel with help from his sister in law, Rosemary Angel, undertook to run a reunion for pre 1970 leavers in July. The group met at Kensington Palace where they then toured the Palace and then had tea in a local hotel. All had a wonderful afternoon.

Throughout the year several ORs and their relatives have visited the school looking up registration details or reliving their time at school. All visits, births, weddings and deaths that we have been notified about are then recorded in newsletters and information added to the website. Sue Tanner must be congratulated in keeping the website so informative and up to date.

The database now holds records for 6,602 Old Russellians, approx. 200 more than last year.

We are still receiving 'donations' from over 100 Old Russellians, despite having removed the membership fee back in September 2009.

As a result of the unrest earlier in the year, we have reverted to the 1997 Rules until the new 2014 Rules are adopted at this AGM. This has meant that Sue has had to ask for £50 from all O.R.s who have left the school and anyone who has not paid has not been deemed a member of the society.

The Mailchimp email system seems to be working well, delivering information to over 1,000 Old Russellians around the world on a regular basis.

The newsletter is produced towards the middle of each term, and is available to download on the website. It is sent out by mail to 28 Old Russellians without computers, and also displayed in the school common room.

The website is full of news and archive material which is interesting to Old Russellians. Sue is now responsible for uploading material to this site whilst the school is working on a new site in the New Year.

Julia Powell 2014