

TITANIC - 100 YEARS ON



In November 2007 an Old Russellian died at the age of 96. She was Barbara Dainton (née West), the penultimate survivor of the Titanic disaster. The West girls became pupils at this all-boarders school because their father Edwy, lost on the Titanic, had been a shop floor walker for a textile department store. During WW2 1939-1945 the senior boys and senior girls switched schools. Russell Hill's proximity to Croydon Airport was considered a more dangerous target for Luftwaffe bombs. Boys, it was thought, could 'tough it out' better! In fact both schools suffered bombing but there were no casualties. Constance Miriam West, Barbara's older sister who had been aged 4 when rescued in Lifeboat 10, entered Russell Hill in 1914, staying till 1923. She returned as a teacher in the thirties and became housemistress for Norman House for 8 to 11-year olds, later after war was declared filling in for absent male teachers who had been enlisted for the Forces.

The full article can be found on the website: http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/Message_board/index.php

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations on their engagement: James Ransom (at school 1996-2003) and Halcyon Smith

Having met in prison (neither as guests of Her Majesty I may add) James (28) and Halcyon (29) both work at Brixton Prison, he as an officer and she as a psychologist. They got engaged at the top of Dungeness Lighthouse in September 2011 and will marry on 1 September 2012 at Camden Register Office with a reception in High Barnet.

REUNION FOR PRE-1970 PUPILS

A reunion for pre-1970s leavers will be held on Tuesday 12 June at Danson House, Bexleyheath, Kent. This event is organised by Mick Ayles (at school 1946-1950) and we wish everyone a jolly good time!

RULES AND CONSTITUTION

A copy of the new Rules and Constitution can be found on the website at:

http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/uploads/1/Rules_-_2012.pdf

Please contact us within the next 30 days if there are any issues or any comments you wish to raise regarding these.

LICENSING OF HENRY KIRK

The School's new Chaplain, Revd Henry Kirk was licensed on Sunday 29 January by The Revd Canon Dr Barry Goodwin. Acting Archdeacon of Croydon.

LATEST NEWS



As articles are submitted for news items, they are immediately put onto the O.R. website in the Latest News section. Later they are moved to O.R. Stories or other appropriate sections. The following articles have recently been added:

Joe Begley (RRS 1997-2004) - Passing Out from Sandhurst.

The Vaughan Family - 1920s

My School Days at Russell Hill - Margaret Carden née Butler

Benjamin Mee's film, 'We Bought a Zoo'
The Story of 1853 by Brian Angel

VISIT FROM ROGER WOODWARD



Roger visited the school during a recent holiday in April and had this to say:

We were made to feel so welcome.

Many memories came flooding back!!

It is so good to see the school in good hands, with dedicated staff and

happy harding working pupils. Again thanks for making the visit possible.

Best wishes Roger and Cathy Woodward



FINDING FRIENDS

We are looking, on behalf of ex pupils, for the following people: Any member of the Flett family - early 1950s Valerie Ede, Pat Jordan and Diane Vaughan (Taylor) - 1948-1953 We have put Guy Nichols and Richard Moorer (1970s) back in contact with each other, and Jane Shinn and Delys Booth (1950s)

DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

Old Russellians wishing to leave a bequest to benefit the current school and pupils should use the term '**Russell School Trust**' (not Royal Russell School) in their Will to avoid any confusion with the original charitable trust. More details regarding this are on the website.

CONDOLENCES



We are sad to announce the recent deaths of James Dawes (at school 1999-2007) and ex member of staff Dilys Birkett (teacher from 1946-1959).

James died on 28 February 2012. His funeral was held at Beckenham Crematorium and there were many staff and ex pupils from RRS including the coffin bearers. It was a celebration of the life of a young man who was taken much too early, and the school as well as The Old Russellians wish to extend their sincere sympathy to James' family. Dilys died on 23 March 2012 in a nursing home. She had kept well and in good spirits, and had kept in touch with many Old Russellians. She enjoyed meeting many of them at Pam Turtle's reunion in 2008. Dilys is pictured here at that event. Dilys introduced many girls to the delights of Enid Blyton, with her entertaining readings in 'quiet' needlework lessons, Famous Five to the Adventure series, says one of her pupils "she was the first teacher in my experience to actually read to us for pleasure!"

PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS!

Email: jpowell@royalrussell.co.uk or stanner@royalrussell.co.uk

Website: www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians