



Royal Russell School

Old Russellians



Newsletter

Summer 2018

Adrian Edwards, OR Committee Chair (At School 1969-1976)



Welcome to the May edition of the Old Russellians' Newsletter.

We have a number of events scheduled for this coming year, including a golf day, a riverside reunion and an event for those who left Royal Russell in the 1980's. Some of these events we have publicised below so I do hope as many ORs as possible can take the opportunity to attend one or more of them.

The school is evolving in many exciting ways, including a brand new building for use as student houses. The building program shows a considerable investment in the long term future for the school and I would thoroughly recommend a visit to see how this development is progressing. Julia Powell (Correspondent and retired Head of PE 1970-2004) will be delighted to show you around the grounds.

Times are a-changing and with this so are the regulations regarding your data. Please see the article included in this newsletter regarding GDPR and our use of your data.

In the past we have always had three newsletters each academic year to coincide with the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. However, following on from this newsletter you will only receive two newsletters each academic year. One in April and one in October. Hopefully each one will be packed with information and articles for you to enjoy.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter in any way; stories, pictures, articles of interest or news; please email Vicky Rees at vrees@royalrussell.co.uk.

I hope you enjoy the Summer newsletter.

GDPR



In relation to the new GDPR regulations and our engagement with you, we are going down the route of Legitimate Interest.

We will continue to send emails to you as normal as you have given us the information.

You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking [here](#)

Many thanks

Adrian Edwards

Chairman, ORs

BRACELETS AND TIES

From Summer 2018 all Royal Russell School Year 13 leavers will be presented with either a silk tie or a silver bracelet on behalf of the Old Russellians'. A picture of the bracelet can be seen below.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 9 June

Wine tasting at Headmaster's House from 2pm. Please contact vrees@royalrussell.co.uk if you would like to attend

Friday 22 June

Riverside reunion at The Anchor Pub, Bankside, from 7pm. All welcome

Wednesday 27 June

Oldie OR's (Pre-1970 Leavers). Biennial Tea Party at Northwood, from 2pm. Details from carole@theblands.me

Friday 6 July

ORGS, Woldingham Golf Club, CR3 7HA. From 2pm

Saturday 13 October

1980s Leavers' Reunion, Croydon Park Hotel, 7pm. Tours of the school beforehand from 2pm

Saturday 11 May 2019

OR Biennial Reunion

THE THREE ARTISTS AND THE COLONEL



The photo shows us lined up behind Starkey who is sporting his magnificent moustache and sitting next to Julia Powell. Left to Right : Simon Bull, Murdo Urquhart, Adrian Edwards, Simon Meldrum and Tom Wright.

When I arrived at Royal Russell in 1969 entering the First Form I was just eleven years old and extremely excited to be going to school in the UK, happily I was not entirely alone as I had my twin brother Julian to keep me company. We very soon made many friends and being taught in an Independent Boarding School was a huge change to our earlier education in a Primary School in Kampala.

Many of the children at RRS were boarders sent to the UK for further education and without their families around them we quickly made groups of friends either in our boarding houses or in our classes. It is very interesting to see how we

have, to a greater or lesser degree managed to keep in touch with each other ever since and this was of course again stimulated by the advent first of Friends Reunited and then more recently with Facebook.

At school I was thrilled to be put in the class of 1L where I discovered I was to be taught Latin and French along with the other usual subjects. Being fairly fluent in Swahili I thought it would be much the same to pick up, so imagine my horror to discover that we had to also learn all the verbs in the 1st and 2nd Conjugations along with Adjective Declensions etc. and that was only the beginning. I very soon found out that in Latin a Table was in fact female in the 1st Declension and I'm sure we all remember learning by rote "Mensa, Mensae, Mensae, Mensam Mensa Mensa" happy days!

The other subjects that I found myself involved in were English Language and Literature, History, Geography, Sport plus all the Sciences, RK, Maths and then Woodwork (I made a cheeseboard which I still have today!) and finally Art.

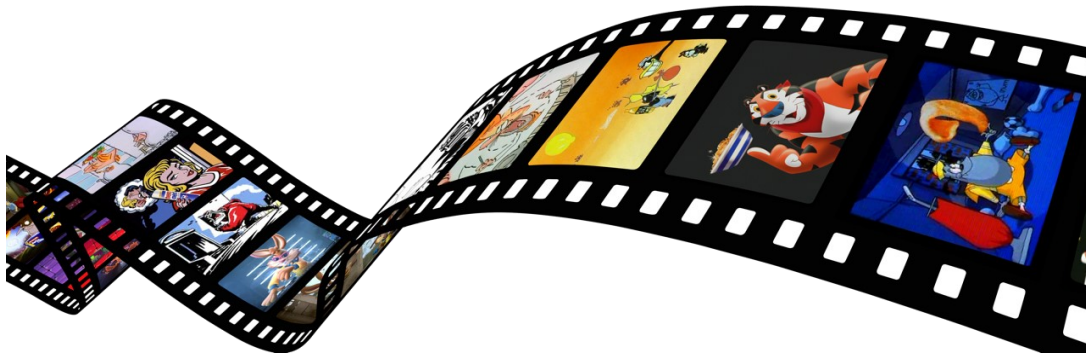


An Art Class

It was Art that I probably enjoyed the most, I was always scribbling away and producing doodles which adorned some of my text books much to the irritation of my teachers, though I think they didn't really mind that much. It was Mr Starkey, our Art Teacher who spotted some semblance of talent in me during his classes and along with a few others he helped us to develop our skills in that respect. He was a truly formidable man, ex military and to that effect he was a Colonel who also ran the School CCF, you may have read about this in an earlier Newsletter article by Murdo Urquhart.

Mr Starkey taught us a great deal, perspective, use of colour and all the basic techniques we would require in our drawings and paintings later in life. He had one quote that he used on me early on when I had made an error in one of my drawings.... "Edwards" he said, "It's ok to make a mistake once, no one learns anything without making a mistake, BUT if you make the same mistake twice you're a bloody fool!" I've applied that advice to many different aspects of my life ever since.

The school produced many excellent artists during my time there, some of us helping Mr Starkey to paint the scenery for the school plays, huge canvasses to work on and great fun. Among the artists of my year there were always three of us vying to be top of the class though we didn't try very hard and this seemed to run along the lines of us taking it in turns to produce something that attracted the Colonels eye. As far as my memory recalls, Simon Bull was by far the most talented with Tom Wright and then myself following up, Tom told me the other day that we only pipped Simon now and then because he was so slow as he was working in oils where we used acrylic paints, maybe that's true but I was always impressed by Simon and Tom's efforts. Tom said I was apparently quite fast and that certainly came in useful for me later on when I started in the Animation business where we were having to draw 24 separate drawings per second of film.



A life in Animation

The summer of 1976 for those old enough to remember was one of the hottest in living memory and the school grounds were scorched, this was the view we had of the Lime Tree Quad during our last few days before venturing out into the big wide world.

Some of us had already made plans for the future, most hadn't and I was certainly one of the ditherers. I went home to Hampshire where my parents had a small house and then proceeded to have a GAP year before it had been invented.

The reason for this is I really had no serious idea of what I wanted to do, with the inevitable result that I proceeded to work firstly in a petrol station, then a fruit machine factory and then in a pub, just odd jobbing while enjoying myself away from education.



***Summer 1976—Top of Cambridge Slope
looking towards Oxford***

My lethargy clearly frustrated my mother and one day she announced that she had met a family friend who worked at the local Art College in Farnham and they had decided that I would be going there with almost immediate effect to just get me motivated again.

So it was that I entered what was then known as 'The West Surrey College of Art and Design' (now known as The University for the Creative Arts) where I followed a path into Graphic Design just in time to be told that the college was shutting down that course and would I like to consider something else? The campus had a very good Film and TV Department which appeared interesting, so I took a look. As I was wandering around I spotted a dark and dingy room to which I enquired of the tutor showing me about "what's in there?" He wasn't overly keen to discuss details, but mentioned it was the animation department and I eventually managed to persuade him to take me in. The room was sparsely populated and the inmates peered blindly up from their light boxes to grunt hello and then promptly ignored me as an outsider. This was fascinating and right up my street, they were drawing cartoons and that was what I did!

The rest is history, I enrolled and soon threw myself into college life, animation took second place to the student bar and it's new Space Invaders machine. We played hard and worked hard and I am proud to say the college has spurned a few Oscar and BAFTA winners who were there during my time and one of them is famous in the UK for creating Peppa Pig with a couple of friends.

The college had a pretty good reputation within the Animation Industry and most of us soon found work in London after leaving. I had the good fortune to initially work at a few of the top studios and then after five years went out as a freelancer for a few more years, where I was able to pick and choose what I wanted to work on.

At this time I was approached to work on the film Roger Rabbit, a lot of my friends were there so I paid a visit and was interviewed firstly by a member of the production department, then swiftly by the Producer and then I was wheeled into see Richard Williams who was a 'God' in the business and was in charge of the animation for the film where he was working closely with the films Director Robert Zemeckis. He was keen that I should join the crew, but after leaving the meeting and upon reflection I decided I was not really that interested in working in a huge studio, so I think I was the possibly the only person to turn down a job offer there?



I carried on working as a freelancer and found myself animating on many TV commercials like Kia-Ora, Frosties, Nesquik, and then numerous American Adverts for cereals like Lucky Charms and Trix.

By now it was 1991 and I had ten years experience in the industry. So, along with a good friend from WSCAD I opened a small Artisan Animation Studio in Soho, where there were many other similar outfits. We attracted a few clients despite the country plunging into

recession, the UK was forced out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism and at the same time interest rates shot through the roof, it was an economic disaster! The recession was tough and a number of studios closed down, but we carried on and developed our client base further to incorporate overseas Advertising Agencies in France, Germany, The Netherlands and significantly in America.

I carried on drawing and running the studio until two years ago when I decided it was time to take a back seat and relax a bit, which I am delighted to say I have now managed to do. I still do the occasional piece of work, but after what seems like millions of drawings I think I need to find other things to grab my interest, like the odd game of golf now and then, you may have noticed I run the Old Russellians Golf Society and we have a growing throng of members with any others very welcome to come along for a laugh at our once a year gathering.

So, to round things up, I have to say that I have been very fortunate to work in an business that I utterly loved since leaving school and how lucky I am to have been able to make a decent career from my doodles which began so many years ago at RRS.

Animation is now a huge Industry in London and the computer aspect has taken over almost completely. Drawn Animation has been eclipsed by CGI and 3D, but the understanding of movement and acting that we traditional animators learnt is still much needed and many of my colleagues are still active in the business, I guess they don't play golf?

I'd just like to finish with this quote:



So, without further adieu (French lessons worked by the look of it?), I'd like to introduce my two dear friends who also carried on with their careers using the artistic talents they developed under the early tutelage of Mr Starkey.

Tom Wright

I never was a brilliant student, not what you might call academic, I was more interested in having fun and generally making mischief. I was just able to keep up with the top set and if I swatted for exams could somehow find a pass mark without unduly taxing myself throughout the term. This last minute panic strategy is not what I do these days as it is way too stressful, now I ensure that I am always well in front of the next deadline, I guess that also has something to do with a love of my subject. For as long as I can remember I have had a fascination with art and creating things so it comes as no surprise that the highlight of the week at school was art class with the indomitable Colonel Starkey. Art classes on the whole were generally peaceful affairs but if you were naughty, and unfortunately for me this was quite often, the Colonel would transmogrify from mild mannered art teacher into something quite terrifying. He would stand inches away from you with red face and bristling moustache and dish out a parade ground bollocking that any sergeant major would be extremely proud of, leaving you literally quaking in your boots. Later in the lesson once things had quietened down and everyone's heart rate had returned to normal he would pop over to your easel and apologise quietly "Sorry for shouting at you Chum, but don't do it again". And you tended not to I can assure you. He was indeed a genuinely likeable man and a great art teacher who helped inspire me to look to a career with design at it's core, architecture.



Tom Wright is the architect and designer of the Bur al Arab in Dubai, the worlds only 7 star hotel

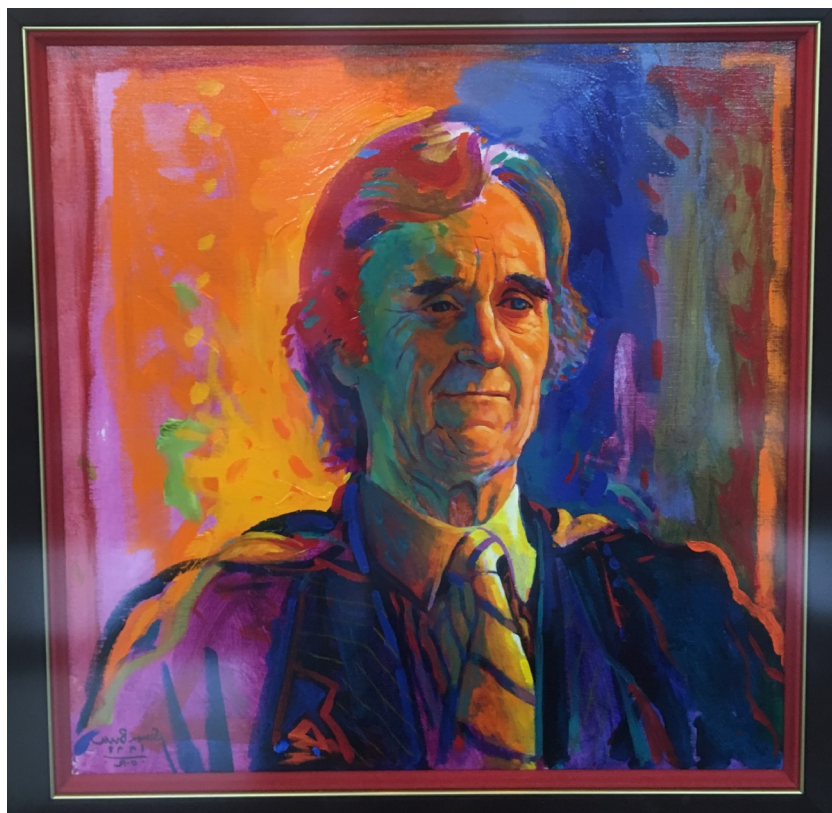
Simon Bull

I'm not sure if anyone ever sings the old school song any more, "T'was Ballards that reared us, from childhood and steered us..." But the words of it certainly held good for me. The environment, ethos and experience of being at Royal Russell from 1969 to 1976 really did steer me into my future life and career. Not only did I meet my wife of nearly forty one years there, but under Colonel Starkey's tutelage, I learned the skills that would lead to a fulfilling career in art that would last a lifetime. I look forward to sharing more with you in a future episode.



Left: Simon and Joanna Bull

***Right: Portrait of Headmaster
Ronald Balaam painted by Simon Bull***



Both Tom and Simon will be producing their articles for the next newsletter. Watch this space.

YEAR 10 CAREERS FAIR

On Thursday 3 May, Royal Russell hosted a superb Careers Fair for all Year 10 pupils and their families in Great Hall and the Auditorium. We were fortunate to be supported by professionals representing careers sectors from Accountancy to Design, the Army to Charity, WaterAid and Information Technology to Public Relations.

All of these professionals, many of whom are parents or Old Russellians, were there with the sole purpose of providing careers advice and information to our pupils.

Best of all, were the conversations with pupils who had secured offers of work experience or work place visits, had business cards with offers for continued advice and mentoring and above all, that many pupils had meaningful conversations about what their future careers might look like. Thank you to the parents and pupils, the exhibitors, Mrs Harris, Mr Lloyd-Jones and most of all to the Prefects for welcoming our guests so warmly and assisting throughout the evening. If you would like to get involved in future career fairs please contact Mr Lloyd-Jones at: jlloydjones@royalrussell.co.uk



RUSSELL HILL SCHOOL CALLING!

Old Russellians who were at Russell Hill School are invited to a Vintage Tea Party on Wednesday 27 June from 2pm. This is a Biennial event where our oldies can relax and enjoy their own reunion.

The event is in Northwood, Middlesex and full details can be obtained from carole@theblands.me



DID YOU LEAVE IN THE 1980s?



If so, come to the party on Saturday 13 October 2018

Venue: Croydon Park Hotel

Time: 7.00pm for 8.00pm start

Tickets are £30 per head to include a drink on arrival and a finger buffet.

There will also be tours of the school from 2.00pm with Afternoon Tea from 3.30 pm. Meet in reception. Further details can be found at: <https://royalrussell.fluencycms.co.uk/1980s-Reunion>

Over eighty ORs attended the leavers reunion in 2016, we're hoping for an even bigger turn out this time.



FRIDAY 6th JULY 2018

**TO BE HELD AT :
WOLDINGHAM GOLF CLUB
HALLOO VALLEY ROAD
WOLDINGHAM
CR3 7HA**

www.woldinghamgc.co.uk

**The venue is situated close to the M25 (Jct 6) and is a 6000 yard par 71 course
Bacon Bap and Coffee on arrival
Golf and Buggy
Sandwiches after the game**

Cost £45

First tee time 2.00pm

**Prizes for First and Second Place,
Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin**

PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:

ADRAN EDWARDS: EDWARDSA@ROYALRUSSELL.CO.UK

JOHN PIGGIN: JPIGGIN@ROYALRUSSELL.CO.UK

NEW MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME

Already signed up are: Adrian Edwards, Nigel Gorely, Andy Rogers, Mike Goodman, Ian Walsh, John McKay, Phil Melliush, David Spencer Thirlwell, John Pigginn, Nigel Reed, Tommy Sherlock, Ian Windle, Tim Spurring, Robin Parker, Jim Ebner, Martin Finch, Ian O'brien, Martin Tanner, Iain Golder, Nigel Rocca, Colin Cameron, Dave Jewiss

ENJOY DRINKS BY THE RIVER!

Come to the annual riverside reunion on Friday 22 June at The Anchor Pub, Bankside, SE1 9EF from 7pm. The pub is conveniently situated between Shakespeare's Globe and London Bridge. Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare used this as a 'drinking hole' now it's our turn.

Bring along a contemporary and if he is a first timer at this popular event you will both get your first drinks free!

Martin Tanner, who is retiring this summer, is looking forward to seeing all his ex-pupils.



MEMORIAL GARDEN

During the summer holidays, Cambridge House will be demolished and this in turn will involve the re-location of the Memorial Garden to the corner of the Chapel Quad immediately outside the chapel. It will be in its new home for November 11th which marks the centenary of the ending of the First World War.



VISIT FROM A FORMER PUPIL

Justin Bradford (St Andrews House 1980 -1985) visited the school during the Easter holidays with his wife and two sons. It is nearly 20 years since he returned to school and he was really impressed by all the recent developments. His proudest moment was being able to show his sons his name on the Honours Board.



CONDOLENCES

Surgeon Captain John Robert Harrison (28.12.40 – 17.03.18)



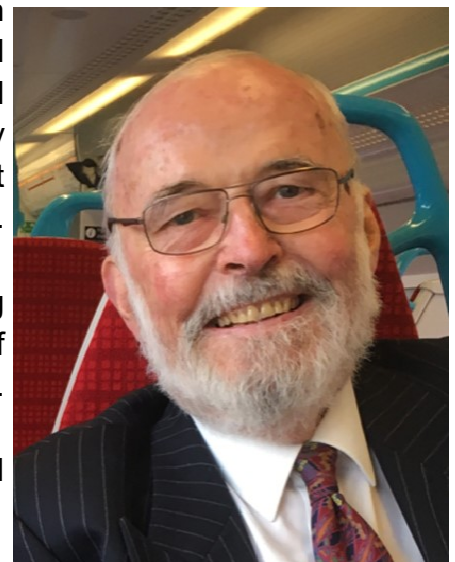
John was at Royal Russell, and boarded at St Andrews, between 1947 and 1958, before going on to study Medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He joined the Royal Navy as a Submarine



doctor, and during a long and illustrious career as a consultant in Occupational Medicine, John was involved in protecting and improving health outcomes in the fields of Diving Medicine, and Radiological Safety. Alongside this, John continued to enjoy sporting success on the cricket and hockey fields alike, whilst raising a family of five children with his wife Judy.

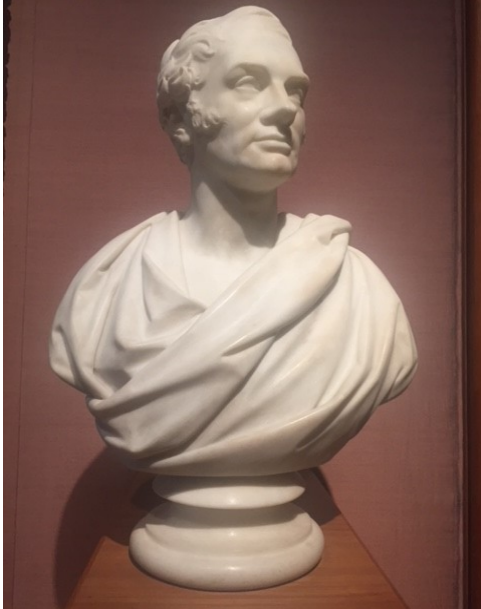
During his retirement John continued to live life to the full, spending much time in the South of France, as well as singing in a number of choirs both there, and back in Brighton, England.

John became unwell during the latter part of 2017, and died peacefully and surrounded by his loving family on 17th March.



REVISITING EARL RUSSELL

Visitors to London's National Portrait Gallery can study the bust of the Rt Hon Earl Russell KG, twice prime minister of Great Britain who gave his name to the school and was president from 1854 – 1878 when he died. In the last years of his life he lived at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park, as a gift from Queen Victoria in recognition of his services to the country as the great Reformer. Visitors can enjoy a tour of the Lodge, a break for tea and even, if the occasion demands, marry in a new wing devoted to wedding ceremonies. In this home of his grandparents, Bertrand Russell, the third Earl Russell, Philosopher, Mathematician and Social Reformer also lived here as a child during his school days.



2018: REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR

1918 saw the armistice of the 1914 – 1918 war. Amongst recruits and lucky survivors were Russellian triplets Daniel, Griffith and William Jones, believed to be the only triplets in the whole British Army. At the request of King George V, the three were presented to His Majesty at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Later an official letter was sent to their mother "I am commanded to express to you the King's congratulations. His Majesty much appreciates the patriotism of this example in one family demonstrating loyalty and devotion to our nation".



NEEDLE MATCH FIXTURE

One Hundred and Ten years ago in 1908 Old Russellians' day enjoyed a 'Thread the Needle' race amongst other sporting events. How would we score on this event today at this very dressy occasion?



70 YEARS AGO

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher joins confirmation pupils at Saint Christopher's Chapel.



TYPHOID DEATHS AT RUSSELL SCHOOL

80 years ago a polluted water well in Addington caused the spread of typhoid affecting over 300 people in Croydon. There were 43 deaths including two amongst the 16 typhoid victims at Russell School. There was worldwide interest in this outbreak of highly contagious fever and delirium caused by the diversion of waste water accidentally switched to Croydon's main water supply. Two pupils, one named Marshall aged 16 and another named Jenneys aged 15 died. The Russell School organist, Mr Gower, who had been teaching one of the victims was himself admitted to hospital for two weeks.



FOR ROYAL PRINCES

After the christening of Prince Charles in 1949, 6 Russellians', three boys and three girls together with the Headmistress Winifred Reade and Headmaster FAV Madden took their gifts for Prince Charles to Buckingham Palace.

Right: Roger Fletcher, Charlie McDougal and Malcolm Green made a gift of chairs and a table.



Left: The pupils with their gifts and the staff outside Buckingham Palace.

ORs HONOUR RAF HERO

On 4 May this year, the Old Russellians' laid a wreath at the Bomber Command Memorial at Hyde Park. This is the annual Remembrance Day where the Netherlands remembers men of the British Royal Air Force crews lost returning from raids on Germany. One Old Russellian in particular, Flying Officer Gerald Hood was rescued at night by the Resistance in Holland after his plane crashed. He was hidden by Dutch families for 7 months before being betrayed, interrogated by Nazi supporting police and then murdered. He is remembered at a ceremony annually in the killing woods at Almelo and an Oak tree from the site of his grave is now honoured each year on the schools Lime Tree Quad.



PRESENTATION TO MICHAEL CRAWFORD

On his visit to St Luke's church, Whyteleaf, the Headmaster, Christopher Hutchinson, presented Michael Crawford with the plaque of the school. The event, reported more fully in an earlier newsletter, was attended by drama students and the RRS CCF.

