



OLD RUSSELLIANS NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2017

2017:

Sunday 12th November: Remembrance Service at 10am in Chapel - please email if you are attending headmaster@royalrussell.co.uk

Saturday 18th November: Old Russellians AGM at 10am in the Performing Arts Centre, Committee Room Please confirm attendance

Saturday 18th November: 1853 Christmas Fayre all welcome

Sunday 10th December: RRS Senior Carol Service in Great Hall at 6.30pm - Everyone welcome just come along

2018:

Saturday 21st April: O.R. Annual Footie Tournament organised by Mr Colin Dear

Friday 22nd June: Riverside reunion at The Anchor Pub

Saturday 13th October: 1980's reunion at Croydon Park Hotel. More details to follow.

Click [here](#) for full details of all events

NEW BOARDING HOUSE

The new boarding house opened its doors to boys of Oxford and Cambridge in September. The new building, with a grand entrance hall, is symmetrical in design for the two houses and has modern study bedrooms and fantastic facilities for study and relaxation for both boarders and day boys.



Cambridge on the left, Oxford on the right



Double Study



Entrance Hall



Day Room

Michael Crawford remembers...

To commemorate Battle of Britain Sunday, a memorial was unveiled for Old Russellian Arthur Dumbell Smith, a Spitfire pilot based at Kenley airfield who was shot down over Kent in the Battle of Britain and later died of his injuries.

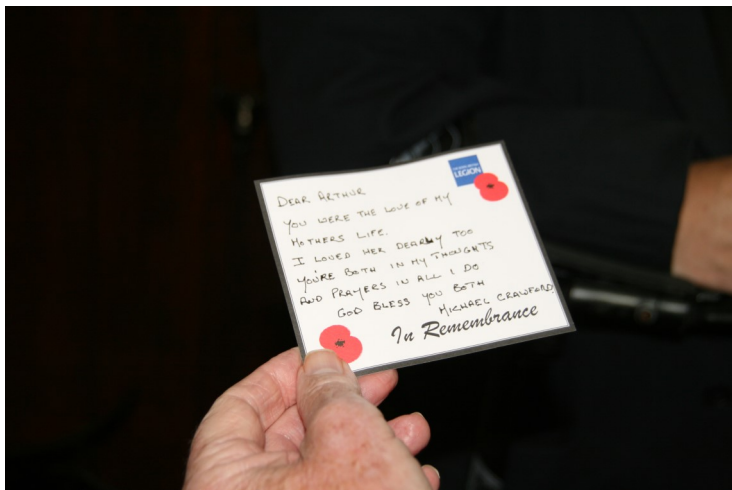
Arthur was father to Michael Crawford, megastar of stage and screen and it was a great pleasure to meet him. The story has a special twist in that the location of Arthur's grave was unknown to Michael until he was informed by the Old Russellians. He was obviously most appreciative and willingly accepted our invitation for him to lay a wreath on the occasion of our

commemoration of the Battle of Britain weekend. We had been prompted by Michael's biography where he writes movingly of Arthur : "My mother gave me some of his books, a prized set of classics he won when he passed his exams at the Drapers' school (now Royal Russell) before the War; I still have them at home now, kept well dusted and as good as new. Those few photos, books, his service record and the 'wings' from his

uniform are all the souvenirs I'll ever have of their brief life together. Along with the stories my mother told me of their blissful relationship, I've kept the image of Smudge as heroic father figure in my mind. I've clung to that image ever since."

Not only did the Royal Russell Combined Cadet Force provide a Guard of Honour for Michael's wreath laying but he requested the chance to meet Drama and Music pupils for an instructive - and fun - Q&A session. Ophelia Humphries Elvis asked an animated Michael if he ever suffers 'stage fright!' and a bemused Michael readily admitted that he certainly did! He added

for every performance of the musical "Barnum" he had to nervously walk the tightrope across the whole stage, having first trained his nerves at the New York Circus School. He later laid his floral tributes at the nearby Kenley airfield memorial to remember their Royal Air Force crews lost in the war.



OR GOLF

Another excellent turnout of Old Russellians this year attending Coulsdon Manor GC on Friday 7th July.

This time we were delighted to welcome three new OR's to the society, Nigel Gorely (1969-1974), Lily Watson (nee Leslie Spurring 1972-1978) and Iain Golder (1972-1978). The course provided an exciting challenge to the OR's with some very good scoring in a tight finish at the end.

First place went to Tim Spurring (1973-1980) who had an exceptional round, winning the ORGS Trophy with 39 points. Robin Parker (1969-1975) a previous winner was runner up with 38 points and the Highest Team Score went to Ian Windles' team of himself and both Lily and Tim.

Longest Drive was won by Nigel Reed (1965-1976) who snatched the prize from Nigel Gorely at the last minute by outdriving Nigels magnificent 270 yard drive by a further 30 yards! Adrian Edwards picked up closest to the pin.

This year we also had the pleasure of presenting a prize for a first ever par in a competition which

went to OR Chairman John Piggini!

After the game a few stayed on for a classic Ham, Egg and Chips Supper to remind us of RRS meals. Most enjoyable it was too, washed down with a decent pint.

Next years event is expected be held on Friday 6th July 2018 venue and date tbc. Any new members are always more than welcome to join the Society.



Golfers enjoying their meal with Adrian Edwards at the top left of picture

Riverside Reunion

Our annual Riverside Reunion in June saw a wonderful turnout of many ORs who came to say farewell to Neil Marshall who retired at the end of the summer term and to Stephen Greaves and Sandra Culbert who are moving on to pastures new. Many thanks to Sue Tanner who organised the evening and to Martin Tanner for help at the bar. ORs, as always, appreciated being bought a drink!



Neil Marshall with a group of former students

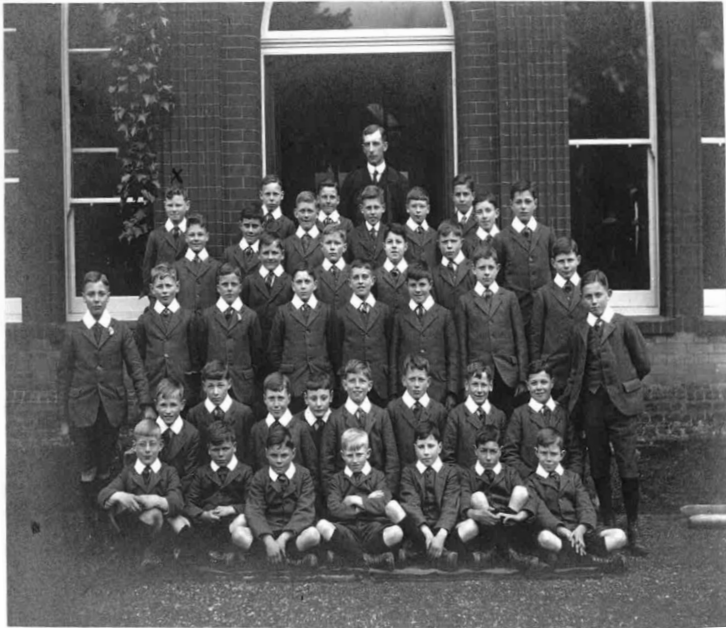


Julia Powell, Emma Jones and Jane Bruce



FIRST 40 BOYS AT BALLARDS

Neil Barbour's Memoirs give us a full account of the first 40 boys that moved up from Purley on the opening day of Ballards on 4th May 1921. His full account can be [accessed here](#).



FAREWELL SUE

Sue is stepping down as Membership Secretary of the ORs after 12 years on the OR committee. The OR committee, on behalf of all Old Russellians would like to thank her for her tremendous work on developing the OR society, in particular with greatly improving communications with ORs and developing the OR database.



SOUTH HOUSE

At the beginning of the summer holiday Cathy Bacon (nee Merry) 1980-1987 and Cherry Blundell (Mullen) 1980-1987 both returned to school with group house photographs from their time at school. Between us we tried to identify as many girls as possible but were unable to achieve 100% success. These photographs with the names that we could identify will be put onto the Old Russellian website. Do have a look and see if you can help us identify the missing names. Apologies to anyone who has been misidentified. During the day we had lots of laughs as memories of their time at school returned. My thanks go to both Cathy and Cherry for their photographs and help in naming house members. J Powell



AUSTRALIAN REUNION



In June Old Russellians living in Australia met up for lunch in Sydney. This was the third Australia Reunion in nine years and many thanks to Martin and Sue Tanner for organising such a successful and enjoyable event.



VISITS

Dudley (1952-59 and David Hird (1952-62)

Towards the end of the Summer Holiday Dudley and David Hird returned to their old school to look around. Both boys came to the school as foundationers as their mother had died and they started in the Junior section at Purley. Once in the senior section at Ballards they thoroughly enjoyed their school days especially sport.

David was the last to leave in 1962 so both were amazed to see the developments since they were at school. They were in Oxford House and were thrilled to be able to go over the new Oxford House housing Boarders from this September.



Calvin Lockhart (1976-79)

Calvin has fond memories of his time at school. It's many years since he has returned to school as he lives in Nassau, Bahamas and was really impressed with all the new developments. Looking at the captains of the school board reminded him of friends that he had in school. He wants to be remembered by any contemporaries who remember him.

Eldon Abrahams (1986-87)

Eldon's brother (Marc) and sister (Melanie) were both at school through to the end of the senior school but Eldon only stayed one year as he moved to Australia when his parents emigrated. Following Marc's visit earlier in the year he persuaded Eldon to return to school whilst in the UK. Eldon runs Football Academy's in Australia so was really keen to see the amazing developments in the sports' facilities today. Having only been in the Junior School, Eldon was keen to see his old classroom and what is now a classroom, but in his day was his dormitory. We were given a lovely welcome by the children who were keen to ask Eldon lots of football related questions.



Wedding

Many congratulations on behalf of all the ORs to OR Dan Jones (1991-2009) who married Alexina on August 19th at Sprouston Church.

