

LOOKING FOR ...

We are currently looking for all Head Prefects (boys and girls) and all Heads of House. Those we know of are on the website in the Looking For ... section. Please have a look at this, and let us know of any more that you know of. We are also looking for contact details for the following ex pupils, only some of whom we have dates for.

Kojo Amofo (1980-1982)	Peter Lamberth (left 1978)
Robert Beel (1952-1956)	Iain Macdonald
Shalil Bhattessa (1976-1981)	Alison Macintosh
Colin Stewart Butler (1947-1953)	Amanda Martin (née Hole) (1978-1983)
Lynn Casali (née Grant) (left 1981)	Michael Matthews
Annabel Christie	Emma Maxwell
Phil Clarke	Cory Mills (arrived 1979)
Francesca de Mayo	David Mooney
Jim Ebner	Michael Morgan
Je Harrison	Evan Morris
Loes Janssen	Mike Mulvey (1955-1964)
Nicolette Jones	Lawrence Parker (1980-1985)
Tracy Jones	Simon Roberts (1948-1953)
Neville Keighley	Fiona Robinson
Tom King (1976-1984)	Paul Robinson
Michael Kinnear (1977-1983)	

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Edward Meaby (1987-1997) on his recent marriage. Congratulations to Oliver Antrobus (1986-1994) on his recent engagement to Lisa Manning-Cox. They will marry in Melbourne in December. Congratulations to Chrissie Tanner (1988-1998) on her engagement in May 2009, to Matt Clarke. They will marry in Sydney next April.

Congratulations to Alex Wan (1994-2001) on his marriage to Muna on 21st January 2009 at Oaks Farm, Croydon. Pictured below with Muna and Alex: LtoR: Kar Kit Li (1998-2002), Alan Leung (1995-2002), Jeffrey Lo (1994-2000), Mr John Piggin (Longest current serving member of staff - Cambridge Housemaster)



Congratulations to Lucy Clarke (1993-2000) on the birth of her baby girl, Abigale. We understand that Lucy is living with her partner in Redditch, West Midlands.

Congratulations to Kira Morgan (née Kopylova) (1997-2000) who married in 2004 and now has two children, Maximus and Eva.

John Rusby
Cathy Pyne (left 1983)
Patrick Sherlock (1973-1979)
Nikki Skipper
Sarah Jane Smith
James Compton (1966-1976)
Bruce Speechley
Lyn Stanford
Sarah Stanford
Lynn Walker

Suzanne Walker
Julia Ward (née Warren) (1967-1975)
Leslie Watson
Gerald Vaughan Williams (Junior School Teacher circa 1965/7)
Ian Windle (1967-1978)
Brian Winstanley (1974-1982)
Gerald Wisden? Burrows

FRENCH TEACHER - 1972



My name is Geneviève Arliss and I was a French teacher at RRS from January to July 1972.

I would be really happy to get back in contact with pupils from 1st Form to 6th Form who took A Level French at that time.

CONDOLENCES

Elizabeth Oliver (at school 1947-1954)
We would like to offer our condolences to the twin brother, Christopher, and family of Elizabeth Oliver who sadly died in February 2009 at the age of 73. Liz is fondly remembered by her friends, Monica Lawrence (née Willson) (1948-1955) and Valerie Grover (née Gill) (1942-1954) who have kindly written some words about Liz., which are downloadable on the website in the Announcements section.



Reyadh Hussein (at school 1996-1998)
It is with deep regret that we announce the sad death of Reyadh on 6th January 2009.

Joyce Marion Raymer (née Scott) (at school 1928-1936)
We are advised by Joyce's nephew, Trevor Scott, that Joyce sadly passed away on Saturday 11th May 2009.



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THE OLD RUSSELLIANS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009

The objectives of The Old Russellians are:

- To keep Old Russellians in touch with one another
- To organise social and sporting events
- To publish a regular newsletter
- To keep Old Russellians informed on all matters of interest regarding the school

NON-SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP

It is with great pleasure that I announce that, at the January 2009 meeting of the committee for The Old Russellians, a decision was made that from September 2009 the annual subscription for membership will cease to exist. All current members will, therefore, now automatically be considered Life Members of The Old Russellians, and enjoy all the privileges of membership. As pupils leave the school they will now be invited to pay a one-off fee to become life members of the society.

All members will now receive electronic newsletters and invitations to society events. These will be sent directly to members who keep the society informed of their email address, or can be downloaded from the Old Russellian website.

Subscriptions received by standing order after September 2009 will be gratefully accepted as donations towards the activities of the society.

Chairman, K A Yabsley (1978-1982)



TITANIC SURVIVOR

Last summer we published the very interesting story of Old Russellians, Constance and Barbara West.

In The Times (26.3.09) Simon de Bruxelles reported on the extreme bravery of Constance and Barbara's father, Arthur West. This is entitled 'Flask of hot milk for the family then Arthur West went down with the Titanic'. The article can be viewed at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5976549.ece>

On Saturday 18th April 2009 an auction in Devizes sold letters and memorabilia from Barbara Dainton West. The black metal thermos flask lowered into Lifeboat Ten went for £37,000!

30 YEARS OF BASKETBALL AT RRS

This event is organized by David Hughes (1979-1982) and Director of Studies, Graham Moseley. September 2009 sees the 30th anniversary of the start of basketball at RRS and as such we would like to get a team together to play against the school's current U19 team. If you participated in basketball on Wednesday afternoons or in any of the teams since its start in 1979 and would like more information about this event, please contact: David Hughes:

diddydavidadr@hotmail.com or by telephone 07710 591 474

WANTED - O.R. TREASURER!!

The Old Russellians need a new Treasurer. This is not a very onerous job but some accounting experience is, of course, required. Our Committee meets no more than three or four times a year and has the reputation of acutally being fulfilling, constructive and ENJOYABLE! Do please help directly – or suggest someone who could spare some time to join our team. . . . If interested, please email Julia Powell, the O.R. Correspondent, at jpowell@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk or Karl Yabsley, the O.R. Chairman at kyabsley@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk. Please note that with a non-subscribing membership the task of Treasurer will not be so arduous!

PHOTO GALLERY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009

Thursday 20th August Australian Reunion
O.R. friends and colleagues are invited to the Opera Bar, Sydney, Australia from 8pm-10pm. Come and join us for a drink and chat.

Friday 4th September Recent Leavers' Social Event at Coombe Lodge
from 5.30pm onwards. Anyone who considers themselves a recent leaver is welcome to attend this event.

Saturday 26th September RRS Open Morning for prospective parents and pupils.

Friday 2nd October 30 Years of Basketball
David Hughes and Graham Moseley will be celebrating the introduction of this sport at RRS and are looking for O.R.s to form a team.

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday
Service in Chapel 10am

Sunday 8th November Fireworks Display and Fun Fair - Gates open 5.15pm

Saturday 14th November 1853 Society Christmas Fair

Friday 27th November Annual Dinner at The Chateau
Invitations downloadable on the website.

Sunday 13th December Christmas Carol Service
in Great Hall at 6.30pm.

2010 Football Tour to Barcelona or Amsterdam
Details on website

OTHER EVENTS ARE ORGANISED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS: www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER -

PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS!

Email: jpowell@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk or stanner@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk
General enquiries can be addressed to: theoldrussellians@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk
Website: www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians

NIGEL OFFER (1946-1952)



It was delightful to meet Nigel at the May Reunion this year, where he was reunited with many of his contemporaries. Nigel is pictured here talking to Headmaster, Dr John Jennings



Nigel has very kindly donated a slide show for the O.R. Archives, which can be viewed on the website.

On leaving school in 1952 Nigel studied Engineering at London University and then worked at Rolls Royce Derby. In 1972 Nigel became a lecturer in Engineering until he retired. He lives on the Isle of Wight, and his many interests include sailing, art, bowling, and vintage cars. Whilst playing bowls for Bembridge he met Peter Harrison (1938-1949) who was playing for Totland.



VI FORM VISIT TO VIYELLA, NOTTINGHAM 1952

John 'Trog' Wood (1941-1952), David Liley (1943-1947), Roger Ballaster (1945-1954), Richard Hyde ?, Alan Cowley (1946-1952) on the steps. FAV Madden (Headmaster 1937-1967), Mr Wesson, Nigel Offer (1946-1952), Mr Flett (Science Master), Francis MacMahon (1939-1952), Maxwell Hewitt (1947-1954), Barry Robinson (1946-1952)



First XI Hockey Team 1951

Back L to R: Peter Taylor (1944-1952), Francis MacMahon (1939-1952), John Newman (1946-1954), David Liley (1943-1947), Barry Robinson (1946-1952), Nigel Offer (1946-1952), Eric Nicholls (1946-1951), Norman MacDougall (1939-1951), George Smith (1946-1952), John Killey (1945-1951)

JOHN WILKINSON (1949-1955)



John, now living in France, remembers the overwhelming generosity of the Board who provided his mum with 5 Pounds sterling per boy per week whilst at home on holiday. "It was a godsend to my mum who was in rapidly failing health with leukaemia during the latter years of our time at Russell School." He is photographed above with John Wassell (1954-1959).

COMIC RELIEF 2009



O.R. Chairman, Karl Yabsley, manned the phones at this year's Comic Relief American Express offices in Croydon, taking donations totalling £815.00 during his 3 hour time slot. He found the experience to be fantastic, and the atmosphere great! Congratulations to Karl for this achievement!

Karl is pictured here participating in the recent Peter Green memorial cricket match, which formed part of the May Reunion 2009.

GARDENS AT RUSSELL HILL William McBride



Wayne McBride sent us this photo of his great grandfather, William McBride, Head Gardener at Russell Hill in 1904.

The early century photo shows kindergarten children (6 to 8) when the 'sailor' outfit would be 'daily casual' wear for boys. (Later, on entering the Junior and Senior School, Norfolk suits were introduced for boys in 1904 and overcoats replaced the formerly-worn Inverness Capes). At that time gardens played an important part in Russell Hill life. The garden terraces at Russell Hill School were designed in 1860 by Sir Joseph Paxton, architect of the 1851 Great Exhibition (later Crystal Palace) and head gardener for the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth. In the 1870s at Russell Hill 'Old Pike the Gardener' is recorded as looking after 'the narrow paths winding in and out, a great place for bird-nesting, but woe betide any pupils found in the out-of-bounds areas.' In the kitchen gardens a series of shallow troughs were uncovered. Excited speculation grew that these were graves of wayward pupils, but they were in fact the sites of individual vegetable allotments for pupils, supervised by the Gardener, another task Mr McBride would have undertaken.

PIRATES OF PENZANCE Alan Mounce (1947-1953)

This photo has been sent from Alan Mounce, who says; "I wonder if anyone out there has the policemen's chorus line and General Stanley's daughters' chorus line?" See features page of website for more photos.



MORE SLANGUAGE

An extract from an email received from Jonathan Buckle (1954-1961). There is more Slanguage from Jonathan on the website.

"I read with interest your entry on school 'slanguage'. I offer a few more examples of 'Shantspeak' from the late 1950s. Some may, of course, be still current today, others long superseded.

Mme - This was the title given to female adults such as masters' wives and sundry staff instead of the usual Mrs or Miss.

CHIPPIES - Sweet chestnuts. In season, prefects would sometimes demand a specified number of 'chippies' harvested, shelled and ready for roasting as a punishment for some minor misdemeanour.

PASH - Close friend.

DUMPER - Dustcart. These vehicles were a familiar sight at Ballards when the dump was landfilled as they would come in convoy every few minutes up the Conduit Lane drive. Eagerly awaited was the dumper from Croydon market as it often contained wooden orange crates useful in the construction of the shacks at Pets' Corner where we kept rabbits and guinea pigs."

MR GWILYM HAMER - SCIENCE TEACHER (1946-1949)

We have recently heard from Edward Hamer, the son of Mr Gwilym Trevor Hamer, former Science Teacher at school in the 1940s. Pat Bygate's 'Pen Pics' of the staff at the time recalls Mr Hamer as follows:

"Hamer, G – Eccentric science teacher prior to George Flett. Eccentric in appearance and manner! He had a shock of dark hair such as an electrocuted cartoon character is depicted as having! His teaching methods were equally bizarre. He left after my first year! One class was spent measuring the thickness of each boy's hair with a micrometer!"

Rev Edward Hamer responds:

"I read with great interest Pat Bygate's memoirs of Russell School in the 1940s. He writes about one of his teachers, Mr Hamer, who was in fact my father, and Pat's recollections are wonderfully accurate. Dad certainly WAS an eccentric, and we loved him for it. We lived at Bramley Bank, Ballards Way, a large house (rented from the school maybe) and which has no doubt long since been demolished. Whilst we were there, electricity was installed. I recall the snow of 1947, and a RS boy damaged his knee very badly whilst tobogganing. My Mum, who was a nurse, patched him up. I followed in Dad's footsteps and eventually went into the teaching profession, and have likewise been occasionally labelled eccentric, so the genes were strong! I should mention that Dad had great regard for Mr Madden, the Head, and his great friends were Crispin and Carrick Smith, also Dale and William Wright. They were very happy days, and it was a happy school. One of the Smiths - was it Crispin? - was my late sister Mary's Godfather."

Mr Madden's testimonial for Mr Hamer and the full article can be found on the website in the Features section.

It was a pleasure to meet Edward at the recent May Reunion.

