



Royal Russell School Old Russellians

Newsletter Autumn 2018

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



Non Sibi Sed Omnibus

Welcome to this year end Newsletter and once again we have an enormous amount of content which I hope you can find the time to enjoy. My thanks go to all contributors from all the varying groups of ORs.

We should also at this time of the year and with the upcoming centenary commemoration of the end of The First World War give a thought to those members of our school who gave their lives in action in all the conflicts since the inception of the school. The School Chapel was built as a War Memorial and contains all the names of those who gave their lives in action.

Our school motto, Non Sibi Sed Omnibus which when translated as 'Not for Oneself but for All' really does mean a great deal with regard to the ethos of Royal Russell and the desire that we should give our best and share our abilities both during our time at school and thereafter.

The school continues to grow and thrive with great plans for the future as a large group of ORs discovered prior to the very enjoyable 80's Reunion held last month at The Croydon Park

Hotel. A visit to the campus is always well worth a visit and can be arranged by contacting either Julia Powell (OR Correspondent) or Vicky Rees (OR Membership Secretary)

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I do hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and any contributions for the next Spring Edition will as always be very welcome. Watch out for the final instalment of 'The Three Artists' by Simon Bull in the next issue.

It is early yet, however may I take the opportunity to wish you all on behalf of the Committee a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

VISITS FROM FORMER PUPILS

Sohee (Sophie) Kim (North House 1995-98) and Sanghee Cho (Oxford House) visited the school earlier this year.

Sohee studied Maths, Geography, Art and Business at A level and went to Surrey University to complete an MA in Business and Tourism Management. Sohee is married with a seven year old son.

Sanghee studied Maths, Physics and Business before a year at Kingston University. He then returned to Korea to complete two years of military service before returning to the UK to study International Business at Westminster University. Sanghee is married with a six year old daughter.



Graham and Judy Moseley met Naoko Mori backstage at The London Palladium following Naoko's appearance as Lady Thiang in *The King and I*. Naoko has been sharing the role for its West End run with original Broadway star Ruthie Ann Miles. Hearing her sing and watching her act brought back happy memories her performances at school.

Since leaving Royal Russell, Naoko has built a successful career in the world of films, television, stage and voice overs. She has worked alongside a rich diversity of talent including the likes of the Spice Girls, John Barrowman, Ken Watanabe, and Joanna Lumley in productions like *Casualty*, *Murder She Wrote*, *Dr Who*, *Torchwood*, *Everest*, *Lennon Naked*, *Hiroshima*. She remains as charming and down to earth as she ever was.

VISITS FROM FORMER PUPILS CONT...



Amit Sampat, (at Royal Russell 1991-1995) visiting the school with his wife and two children earlier in the year, was joined by Mr John Pigginn.

Good friends Stuart Adams (1946-1950) and Frank Griffiths (1941-1954) returned to school last summer term with their wives to enjoy the Summer Music Concert and a tour of the school the next day. They were completely taken aback by the improvement of facilities from their school days. During their tour numerous stories were recounted and Frank enjoyed looking up both his registration and conduct information in our archives. Frank's wife, Sheila was also able to offer me a lot of helpful advice about our archives.



FORMER DEPUTY HEAD GIRL TALKS TO YEAR 12

We were very fortunate to welcome luxury handbag designer, Sarah Haran, to talk to Year 12 about her incredible and successful career journey. Sarah left Royal Russell in 1983, having boarded here since 1975 whilst her parents worked abroad. During her presentation she shared with us her fond memories of being the hockey captain and her involvement in MUN which had just begun. She was clearly delighted to see much of the campus is still as it was 'in her day' as well as the changes being made to accommodate our growing and successful community. Sarah's career journey started out fairly typical of many: she gained good A levels, was accepted onto her chosen course at Newcastle University and began her course fully intending to complete her degree. However, a change of heart soon followed and Sarah returned to her family, who were now based in the UK. She completed a business degree with secretarial skills over the following two years, enjoyed a job at the New Zealand Embassy in Thailand and spent time travelling the world with friends. Her IT career really started when working in one of the first UK based call centres for clients like the Red Cross in the late 1980s. She recognised the potential the internet provided businesses and although without a technical background, she became the first employee to start up a company with 2 friends, selling internet access and =websites to small businesses who didn't even have a computer! It was three years before the Glasgow based company 'iomart', meaning 'Enterprise' in Gaelic,

started making a profit and it was hard but rewarding work. Then in 2000 the company, now offering cloud based systems to large global customers was listed on the AIM stock market and the share prices has risen each year. As Chief Operating Officer of iomart, Sarah's key role was to keep the business running smoothly – and to ensure the first class IT service to their customers was provided 100% of the time (no crashes/ outages etc.). Sarah travelled extensively and was highly regarded in her professional field. So it was a surprise to hear that she gave all of that up to design and sell luxury fashion accessories. www.sarahharan.com was born on 1 April 2017 out of her passion for a new found hobby, a sense that this was what she had always wanted to do and a frustration that she could never find a truly versatile, practical yet stylish handbag for work. Her beautiful creations, have received acclaim from fashion houses, independent stylists and the media alike. Sarah stepped down from iomart to focus on her new career, and her passion for creating a product that is luxurious yet practical, ethical and Made in Britain is tangible. Her strong business skills coupled with a keen understanding of her own strengths and limitations, and how to overcome these, has resulted in her very quickly occupying a niche corner of the highly competitive luxury handbag market. Perhaps not surprisingly, Sarah gives credit to Royal Russell for instilling in her a sense of identity, responsibility and community. Our motto is today as it was in her school days: Non Sibi Sed Omnibus and as she reflected back on her successes, she recognised that Royal Russell gave her all the tools she needed for her future – she knew how to make things happen, how to thrive in a community and how to believe in herself. Her final words of wisdom for Year 12 were to recognise that University is not the only choice you have when you leave school, that you can change your mind at any point in your career and still go on to find success and finally, to find the fun of work – choose a career that you are passionate about and you will always be happy at work!



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CHAPLAIN

I joined RRS in September 1968 as a very raw school chaplain and house tutor for Transition House. The school was something of an adventure for me, and for it I prepared my own syllabus.

I lived in a tiny flat in Transition House on the same level as the boys' dormitories and enjoyed working alongside Tom and Pat O'Brien who were in charge. They could not have been better colleagues and friends. I was later to become Transition House Master and moved downstairs to comparatively spacious accommodation.

As the first full time resident chaplain, I had to carve out the shape and contents of the chaplaincy, a challenge for myself and also for my colleagues and the students.

I was somewhat stretched to teach subjects in addition to R.E. i.e. social studies, the Use of English and Geography. I remember one class having to suffer me for all three subjects one sultry afternoon. I was showing a film strip in a darkened and stuffy room, the class was silent, and I dropped off. There was no reaction when one picture stayed frozen on the screen. When I came to and put on the lights, the reason was clear. The entire class had also enjoyed an afternoon nap.

The chapel was a fine building. I introduced Sunday morning Holy Communion for a small gathering. The compulsory school service later followed a traditional pattern, with a visiting speaker. My first voluntary evening service was a let down. What was known as Evensong had been a pupil devised service. I understood it to be Evensong as in the Prayer Book. Subsequent services were not well attended. I should have known better. I was still a novice and on a learning curve.



Philip Clements, Simon Bull. The Bishop of Croydon. The Rt Revd John Taylor Hughes and Andrew Bull

I enjoyed Ballards with its wooded and fern covered slopes, the habitat of badgers and foxes. The weather always seemed fine, the pupils were for the most part friendly and only once did I feel the need to walk out of a class. A few of the staff took cookery lessons with two of the domestic science teachers. In 1974 I enjoyed acting in Sandy Wilson's 'The Boy Friend' directed by Ed Veranth, house tutor in Transition and with bags of personality. There were also skiing trips led by Edward Thompson.

I introduced cassocks for the chapel choir, also an outside ceremony on Remembrance Sunday, and Harvest festivals were memorable for the scent of the produce and the beauty of the decorations. As Christmas approached, there were three different services for the different age groups, the final one being the traditional lessons and carols and lit by many candles on ledges around the chapel.

It came as a shock when the school's closure was announced and so began a campaign to keep RRS going, led and inspired by the indefatigable Andrew Foot. It was at times a bit of a strain to be loyal to the Headmaster Mr Bradshaw and at the same time to support those working so tirelessly to save the School. The Head may have doubted my loyalty but of course I wanted the school to survive, as it indeed did with a change of governors, a new Head and a spirit of hope that no doubt continues to this day.

I organised a visit by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey. There were also visits by Dame Peggy Ashcroft the actress and a well known TV presenter.

There was a happy degree of informality at the school, though I seem to remember the staff wore gowns. The older buildings were a bit like a film set. The atmosphere was good and the staff friendly and real characters, Tony Starkey, Peter Green, Carrick Smith and Crispin Smith, Miss Collins, Mr Williamson, Miss Mitchinson, and others whose faces I recall, if not their names.

I left in 1975 with some sadness to go to the Midlands to a more traditional public school, and in 1982 I became chaplain to Lancing College with its imposing chapel on the South Downs.

I am grateful to RRS for many reasons. I was happy there and remember it with affection. My retirement years are occupied in writing, including poetry and occasional broadcasting. My best wishes to all who knew me and to those who came after. It was a privilege to serve as chaplain.

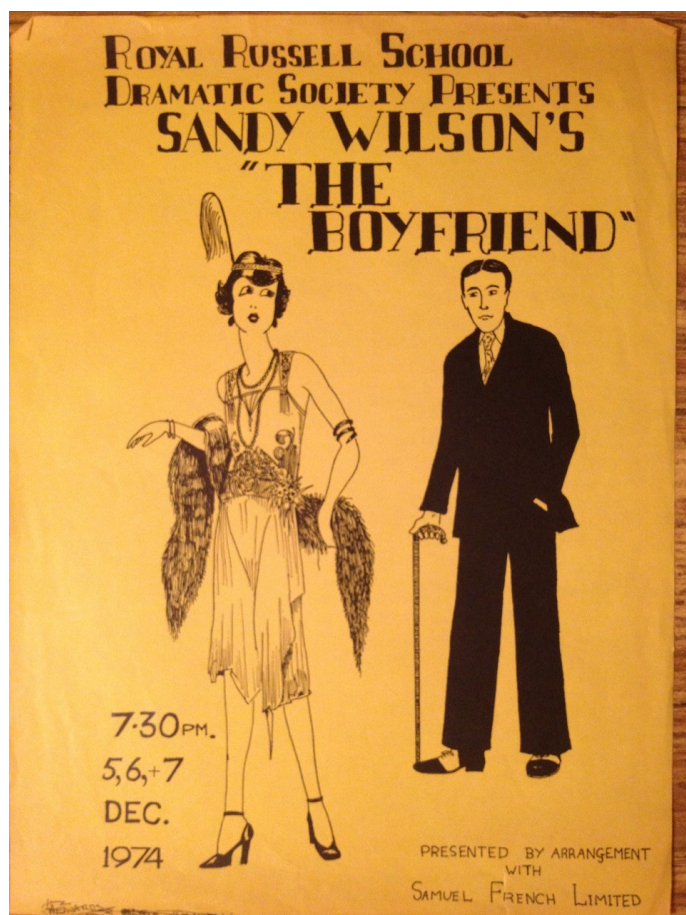


Norman Bradshaw (HM)



Hillary Rushton and Bill Windle & The Archbishop of Canterbury

Philip Clements (RRS 1968-1975)



OLD RUSSELLIANS GOLF DAY

Another excellent turnout of Old Russellians this year attended Woldingham GC on Friday 6th July.

The course provided an exciting challenge to the ORs along with two current members of staff (Nigel Rocca and Dave Jewiss) with some very good scoring in a tight finish at the end.

First place went to Andy Rogers (1977-1984) who had an exceptional round, winning the ORGS Trophy with 42 points.

Robin Parker (1969-1975) a previous winner was runner up with 39 points. Nigel Rocca was 3rd placed with 37 points and also won closest to the pin.

The Longest Drive was won by Ian Windle (1967-1975) who having only played two rounds of golf this year snatched the prize with a massive 320 yard drive!



After the game the society stayed on for a convivial hour or so chatting about the 'old days' and scoffing sandwiches and chips. Most enjoyable it was too, washed down with a decent pint.



Andy Rogers with Adrian Edwards

Next year's event is expected to be held on Friday 5th July 2019, venue tbc.

Any new members are always more than welcome to join the Society. This year we were pleased to have Ian O'Brien, former head of PE, Phil Melliush (1969-1976) and another former member of staff Martin Finch joining us for the first time.

OLD RUSSELLIAN FC

How does a football mad Old Russellian forget the jealousy he feels for the current crop of students who enjoy exceptional coaching, quality facilities and competitive fixtures? Start an Old Boys team, of course.

Back when Royal Russell's 1st XI played two terms of friendly fixtures and didn't train, the only glory you might be able to chase was the greatest points-per-game figure.

And once you had departed for university or full-time employment, the annual Old Boys tournament became the only stage upon which you could prove your credentials as a cohesive footballing year group.



For The Record Breakers – the 2007/08 1st XI widely regarded as the best team of the 'friendly' era who also went on to win seven Old Boys tournaments – more was needed.

And so in the summer of 2017, after finding there was a similar desire for competitive football from other year groups, Old Russellians FC was born.

Our debut season saw the team secure 4th place in Junior Division 2 of the Surrey South Eastern Combination and reach the Round 4 of the Surrey

County Junior Cup.

A lack of squad depth certainly took its toll as the season wore on but there was certainly enough encouragement to suggest the team will only get stronger.

And with some new additions this season things are looking promising – we've recorded two wins, two draws just one loss from our opening five games.

Hopefully, regular competitive football will appeal to more and more alumni and we can grow the squad even more in the coming months.



We train on a Wednesday night at Royal Russell with our sessions improving thanks to an increase in numbers on last season. We would also welcome anyone to come along and get involved.

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MARTIN TANNER'S RETIREMENT



Many current and former colleagues and pupils gathered in the Sports Hall to hopefully make the evening a truly memorable occasion for Martin.

I began by suggesting that Martin had been working towards this evening for the last 12 months but then corrected myself by saying looking forward to rather than working towards since he has not actually done much work for the past 12 months. 8 periods of Geology, Wednesday afternoon golf and Saturday afternoon with the pupils watching Crystal Palace.

Ron Balaam, in his book "From Court Martial to Peerage" wrote that interviewing Martin was like "interviewing Tigger". "He positively exuded enthusiasm, and bright ideas came tumbling forth. My only reservation was that this - bundle of excitement would get on his colleagues nerves but he was much too likable for that and I was pleased to telephone him that evening and offer him the post!

During the past 36 years – 108 terms - Martin's passion and enthusiasm, not only for his teaching, but also for his involvement in so many different aspects of school life has been enormous. Not only was he an inspirational teacher, but also at the same time, an entertainer. The classroom was a stage for him and he took the stage with him, not only on field trips, but to all the activities in which he was involved. Madden House, School sport, Model United Nations, Fund Raising, Marketing, Open Mornings, Pantomimes, and school trips (on top of Geology and Geology field trips). And so much more!

When Martin joined the school he wasted no time in raising the profile of the Geology and Geography departments and making sure that every pupil had a full set of coloured pencils and a sharp pencil sharpener. But Geology was Martin's main passion and such was his enthusiasm for his subject that, at its height, 25 to 30 pupils regularly went rocking off on the Annual Geology Field trip. What an experience it was for them, and for many it was one of their Champagne experiences at RRS.

I along with Les Antrobus, Ian O'brien, Martin Finch and Julia Kirby Jones among others, were very privileged to accompany Martin on such trips. What we didn't learn from Martin about conglomerates, cross bedding, and carboniferous limestone was not worth knowing!! As might be expected, many of Martin's students were inspired by him to go to university to read both Geology and Geography.

Martin, as we all know, liked adjectives. He was never simply surprised at something he was always astonished, amazed, astounded. It was on a geology field trip that a new adjective was added to his vocabulary.

Martin had telephoned the school to ask if some money could be added to the school mobile as there was only a small amount of credit remaining. It was suggested that he himself add the sum £5.00. He was not happy to say the least and stated on at least 6 occasions that he was incandescent.

MARTIN TANNER'S RETIREMENT CONT...

There was complete silence on the mini bus. Packed lunches remained half eaten!

As we moved off, a timid voice from the rear of the bus asked "Sir, what does incandescent mean??"

There was a pause and Martin turned round with a HUGE grin on his face. The pupils burst out laughing. We carried on rocking on our way and the minibus was literally rocking with laughter. A truly champagne moment. Martin got on really well with his 6th form Geologists and they knew him so well.

Martin in his new role of marketing manager played a huge part in marketing the school both locally and overseas. He organized and planned a number of new colour school prospectuses Furthermore he initiated and masterminded the Annual school Open Days. He planned visits to Prep schools, attended and organised exhibitions and initially managed overseas boarding recruitment. Martin was also Acting Deputy Head for a time. At the Common Room event marking Martin's retirement, I said 2 years instead of terms. We would never have survived two years!!!!

Martin was totally immersed in the pastoral side of the school and the fact that he was Housemaster of Madden house for 30 years was testament to this. Martin's long suffering/long serving Deputy, Amy Field/Amy Roseweir then told us about life in Madden under Martin's leadership. This was followed by a very entertaining account of what life was really like in Madden under Martin's stewardship by Jamie Ivory – a former MADMAN of Madden.

Out of school Martin was a member of the Round Table and he suggested that the school should be the venue for an annual Guy Fawkes Night, with a bonfire, Firework display and funfair on the dump – now North pitch. Martin masterminded this for 25 years and between 4,000 to 5,000 members of the public turned up each year. The last one in 2012 raised £13,000 for local charities.

The school has quite a remarkable record for Charity fund raising events and needless to say Martin always gave these events his full support. However, his contributions often had to be something different/ unusual/ challenging. So he arranged abseiling down the chapel tower in fancy dress, followed a few years later by a zip wire experience from the chapel tower to the classroom block. Each pupil/member of staff had to guarantee £100.00. Needless to say that amount was often greatly exceeded.

Martin also enjoyed and supported MUN. He led or misled the press team at our Annual Conference. As Editor of The Delegate – the MUN newspaper - he provided Fake news ideas and the press team wrote appropriate or inappropriate articles. He saw himself as an Ian Hislop - just as controversial and libellous. His most memorable Headline was "Is this man trying to poison you?" Below was a picture of the Catering Manager!!! Sunday lunch was put on hold while I placated the Incandescent catering manager.

Martin was an entertainer and the school Pantomime provided a wonderful platform for Martin to entertain us, the pupils and fellow thespians alike. He invariably played the "baddie" with roles such as The sheriff of Nottingham, The wicked stepmother etc.

MARTIN TANNER'S RETIREMENT

Martin's volcanic experience trips to Italy were legendary and so popular that 50 pupils often went on such trips every other year. Martins planning and organisation were meticulous and he even arranged for Italy to win the Football World Cup when the school was in Sorrento in 2006. The trips were always "Full on"! Sorrento, Pompeii, Capri, Solferino, Vesuvius and The Amalfi Coast etc.

On these trips Martin the entertainer was at his best!

In the Amphitheatre in Pompeii each pupil was given a role to play: Centurion, Gladiator, Emperor, senator, Plebeian, serving wench, dog, publican, brothel keeper NO! and Life in Ancient Rome was re-enacted. Crowds gathered and were fully entertained by Martin directing the pupils.

For 36 years Martin played, not only a major role in the Daily life of RRS but has also contributed so significantly to the progress, development and success of the school. And at the same time he kept us all - pupils and colleagues alike - so wonderfully entertained. The fact that so many present and former colleagues and pupils have joined Martin for this evening, not to mention countless others who sadly could not attend but sent their best wishes, was a great and well deserved tribute to him.

To conclude everyone was upstanding, applauding Martin, and wishing him, a very well deserved, enjoyable, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

Other speakers during the evening included: Graham Moseley, Peter Moore, John Jennings, Neil Marshall, Amy Field (nee Roseweir), Ian O'Brien, Les Antrobus and Jamie Ivory.

Written by Mr J Piggin.

ANNUAL RIVERSIDE REUNION

Old Russellians and staff came together on Friday 22 June for a wonderful evening of drinks in the Anchor Pub, Bankside. Not only was it a chance for people to catch up, it was an opportunity for any ORs to say goodbye to Martin Tanner, who was retiring at the end of the academic year.



RUSSELL CLUB

The Trio of Khans, Jehangir, Homaa and Aflaq were at Royal Russell between 1974 and 1981 at different times. Their father, Professor Ashfaq Khan was teaching at Zambia University and successfully built and ran the Children's Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia at the time.

A surprise 60th birthday celebration for Jehangir was held on the 27th of May at Homaa's house in Purley.

Jehangir now lives in Manhattan and is The Director of the Office of Counter-Terrorism at the United Nations, having had a long and illustrious career in the U.N. and was in town to see his father, who is now 92 and his siblings.



The Khans grew up in Nairobi, Lusaka and Alexandria mainly.

Adrian Edwards had organised the 'boys' Mark Vernon, Julian Edwards, David Gunaratnam, Nigel Reed 'Spider', Murdo Urquhart and himself who were all in the same year at RRS as Jehangir to come along to the party. They hid in the garden prior to the arrival of Jehangir who was a little shocked upon his arrival, he quickly warmed when he realised who everyone was! The nicknames and memories came flooding back and stories quickly followed and there was much laughter and camaraderie.

Stories of Colonel Starkey and his twisted moustache and ever present pipe, and "Ticky" Thompson and his quirky ways as well as shootings, only air pellets apparently, across the quad by unnamed pupils who hid behind a window and aimed at selected passers-by! Fortunately, nobody was hurt! Mr. Foot, Mr. Pigginn and Mrs. Goriely as well as Mr. Muller were all mentioned fondly.

Homaa is now a doctor in Godstone having qualified both in Dentistry and Medicine and having spent part of her working life as an Oral Surgeon. She left RRS aged 16 after 13 O levels and then went to Roedean for the sixth form. She fondly remembers Carolyn Saulter, Jane Turtle, Julia Solomon, Julie Horrocks, Sian Holt, Virginia Jealous and Shirley Birchall. We loved our patched flared jeans and the school dances and actually worked quite hard! "I even received the Snelgrove Prize for English" recalls Homaa.

Aflaq is qualified in both Engineering from Brunel University and also as an accountant. He is financial director for health and education in the NHS. He remembers Cambridge house and many escapades into the woods as well as the old haunted derelict house which we all loved scaring each other in.

Aflaq tells a story of the boys putting washing powder in Colonel Starkey's pipe and watching with glee as he puffed out bubbles and spluttered.

They also talked about using a Ouija Board in the basement of Cambridge house because they heard a boy had died in one of the toilets.

The board started to move on its own and they were ribbing each other and looking for magnets under the table before realising that, in fact it was moving!

They then, rather spooked, asked out loud, "if you're here, give us a sign".

The rocking horse in the corner of the room started to rock and they all ran out screaming and they swear to this day, no-one sabotaged the event!

The School church bell, assemblies, Wagon Wheel biscuits and small milk and juice bottles at break times caused nostalgic feelings as well as the freezing cold swimming pool and icy games pitches. Character building indeed!

Adrian kindly presented the 2 brothers ORs alumni ties and Homaa an alumni bracelet.

A wonderful afternoon of memories and laughter well organised by Adrian and Homaa.



TOM WRIGHT “WITH A BIT OF LUCK”



The photo shows us lined up behind Starkey who is sporting his magnificent moustache and sitting next to Julia Powell.

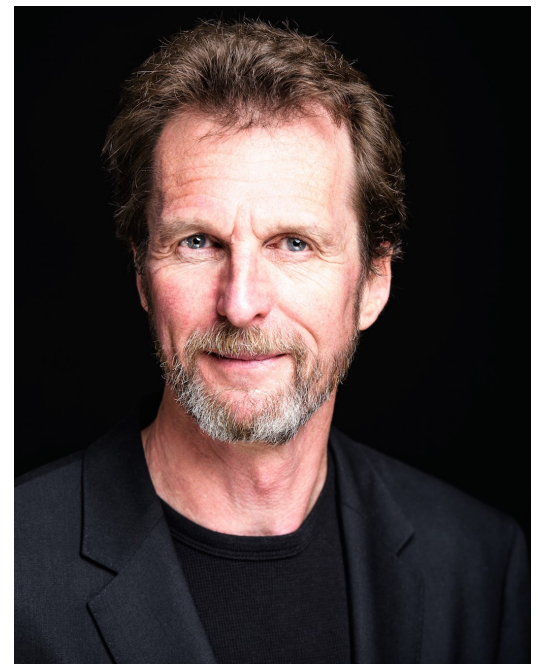
Left to Right : Simon Bull, Murdo Urquhart, Adrian Edwards, Simon Meldrum and Tom Wright.

something for the OR magazine I thought that it might be an interesting idea to look at the pivotal points in my life and see just how much control I have had over the course of events.

Well, pivotal event number one has to have happened in Croydon about nine months before I arrived screaming into English middle class semi-detached reality. A miracle in its own right as I am quite sure my parents never indulged in that sort of thing. Absolutely no control over that one.

Pivotal event number two was in 1964 when the Labour government introduced comprehensive education turning the grammar school, where my father was happily teaching, into a war zone with a clash of badly chosen catchment areas. He decided to stretch his salary to breaking point and send me and my brother to private school, Royal Russell. No control over this one either or, come to think of it, what happened whilst I was there.

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".



When you look back on life you realise that everything you do and everything you say has an effect on what happens next. Mostly in a very minor way but every so often you do something that, whether you know it at the time or not, sets in motion a chain of events and the course of life changes dramatically; for good or for worse. Some of these life changing moments you work hard to achieve and some just happen. You were just in the right, or wrong, place at the time. So as I have been asked to write

And you tended not to I can assure you. Colonel Starkey also ran the CCF and I found myself quite at home running around playing soldiers, I think I might even have been quite good at it. So when I was seventeen I announced to my father that I had decided to join the army. Dad was in the RAF at the tail end of WW2 and had had enough of fighting so he wisely suggested that I might look to building a new world not continue knocking the old one down. So architecture it was. Pivotal event three. I could have rebelled and joined the army anyway so I like to think I had some control this time.

Whilst studying architecture at Kingston Polytechnic, now University, I was living in digs with my good friend Paul who announced that he was going out on a date in town with a girl he was trying to capture. To his confusion, and to provide me with event four his date said that she was bringing a friend. So I went along too and met my first wife Caroline. I had no control over any of this, love is always out of control.

On the work front I was finally qualified after seven enjoyable years of further education and was lined up for my first proper job interview. I guess I should now bring up sailing, a passion of mine that has never waned. Before I went to Kingston, as a reward for A level results, my parents sent me to Salcombe in Devon to learn how to sail and the sport captured my heart. I mention this now as on the last page in my portfolio of student work was a picture of me helping to crew a yacht. The director interviewing me, a keen sailor himself, gave me the job not because of my student work but on the assumption that anyone who sails was going to be OK. Pivotal event five was when I decided to add the sailing photo, so I claim some control.

It was the eighties in London and boom time, we won a few design competitions and grew from half a dozen to twenty or so and I made associate then senior associate in a few years. The practice was brought by another architectural firm looking to add fresh blood to its design ability and before I knew it I was 32 and a director of a company with five offices and over two hundred and fifty staff. No real pivotal events here just hard work, drive and a competitive nature. I think that I have always known when it is the right moment to ask for a pay rise or promotion.

The next pivotal event happened six months after I became a director when the company went bust! When the big recession hit at the end of the eighties the building industry in the UK spectacularly collapsed. Work dried up, staff were released and we ended up with empty offices and leases we could not afford. By some quirk of fate our accountant was also the accountant of Atkins, the civil engineering company, who were not going bust and were looking to augment their small architectural division with some design talent. They brought us out of receivership. This pivotal event was definitely more good luck than good judgement.



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

So I found myself the youngest director in Atkins and over the next couple of years I worked on a series of international projects, one of which was a competition for a new British Embassy in Muscat. Whilst visiting the site I met Barry Chapman the director in charge of the Atkins Dubai Office. We didn't win the work that time but two years later Chapman phoned up out of the blue and asked me if I wanted to have a crack at designing a tower in Dubai. In a splendidly pivotal moment I agreed to help, moved my family to Dubai and seven years later the doors of the Burj Al Arab were opened to the rich and famous.

Caroline and I broke up without animosity when we returned to the UK, we had just grown apart with different agendas. I stayed in touch and a few years later I was having a beer with her brother when Carol his lovely next door neighbour walked in to the pub and swept me off my feet. I had no control again.

In the end I stayed at Atkins for twenty one years and slowly built relationships with clients around the world helping them produce interesting buildings until one day in my mid fifties I finally instigated a pivotal event myself. Accompanied by two fellow directors I left Atkins and set up a new company of architects, WKK. Thankfully, with no encouragement from us, our clients followed and the new practice has been blessed with five years of great business doing what we love to do most, fascinating architecture! You can look us up at wkkarchitects.com if you want to see what we get up to.

So have I been in control so far? Probably not, but to a certain extent you make your own luck. I have a plan to sail around the world in four years time, its been on my bucket list for the last twenty years and over that time I have been tweaking the little events of life so that they begin to align with the dream. When it comes to it the pivotal event will be stepping on board and sailing away, finally in control of my destiny. With a bit of luck.

Tom was a pupil at RRS between 1969 - 1976

STOP PRESS...1980s REUNION



Over 50 former Russellians who attended the school during the 1980s returned to school during the afternoon for a guided tour to see what changes have taken place. This was followed by over 70 at an evening reunion at the Croydon Park Hotel.

Thanks to Colin Cameron and John Piggin the main organisers, the evening was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all who attended from all parts of the world.

A full article will appear in the next newsletter.

REALLY OLD RUSSELLIAN REUNION



The Oldies among us are nicknamed "The ROR's" - or the "Really Old Russellians", the age group largely of founders before the School became an Independent in the 1970's.

Our reunions are smaller biennial events alternating with the larger Reunion fixtures for all ages every two years. The first ROR party was in Rosemary and Keith Angel's Brighton garden in July 2006 and since then venues have ranged from other OR gardens and even parks and palaces in Bexley and Kensington.



This year in June for the second time Carole Bland and husband Tony opened up their beautiful garden again in green-grassed Northwood. The sun shone, the bubbly flowed, blurring memories recounted of Russell Hill Purley and its kindergarten Hope Morley House. (In the group pic spot John Brown, third from left, back row, a Purley infant from 1936!)



Teatime partly in a flag-bedecked tent added ice cream, cakes and more chatter to the fun - and we later lined up for the big photo, OR vice-presidents Rosemary Angel and Chris Gough proudly propping up the banner of the Royal Warehousemen, Clerks & Drapers' School - as we were then known.

Carol and Tony, bless you! Thank you so much from all of us.

RETIREMENTS

At the end of last term Royal Russell Junior School said farewell to two members of staff. Between them, Ms Wilson and Mrs Bennett have given 31 years of service to Royal Russell and they both left us to well-deserved retirement. Both Ms Wilson and Mrs Bennett have had an outstanding impact on so many young people's lives.



Mrs Bennett



Ms Wilson

Sandra Culbert joined Royal Russell School as Head of Careers in January 2001, taking on the additional role of Head of PSHE from September 2002. From September 2007 -2009, Sandra was also Joint Head of Sixth Form and from 2009-January 2018 she worked as Head of Sixth Form.

Sandra took early retirement from Royal Russell School in January 2018 in order to pursue a range of different professional and personal interests including studying for a Masters degree in Art History and acting as a Mentor for the Career Development Institute and as a Careers Consultant in independent schools for a specialist Careers organisation.



THE ROYAL RUSSELL PERSPECTIVE

Patricia Wright (nee Willis) 1943-2018

Imagine the scene: pupils packed into the Great Hall for the annual staff pantomime. The roar of surprise and approval is deafening as on to the stage walks a tall elegant female figure dressed as a bunny girl with legs that seemed to go on forever. The street cred of the recently arrived Patricia reached new heights that December evening.

After Patricia's moment of glory under the floodlights, it was back to the day job as Head of Home Economics. O level (later GCSE) and A level were offered but the latter was replaced by the City and Guilds Professional Cookery Certificate for her growing band of young Jamie Olivers.



Not only did Reade House have the best dressed female member of staff but the girls themselves gained a similar accolade whether it referred to their Crystal Palace shirts for the tug of war, their new red sports shirt to intimidate the opposition, the 50s/60s/70s Christmas party, or their everyday uniform.

The girls also appreciated her calmness and support in any crisis, personal or otherwise. This quality of calmness was tested to the full a few years later when she was informed that, for a second time in her tenure, Reade House would be moving out of its spacious accommodation into a hut! Quite a reasonable hut, but a hut nonetheless. And she had been tasked with designing the interior layout within given dimensions. Now Patricia knew all about weights and measures allied to cookery but little about maps and plans. So, in pragmatic style, she sought help from the Geography Department.

Sadly, the bright red coat she always wore for school photos has not appeared for many years, the white Fiat Panda is no longer driven around campus, and the soft spoken clearly considered opinions so valued by Headmasters are absent from staff meetings but, for those of us who remember Patricia, her legacy goes on: the Home Economics department may have morphed into Food Technology but it continues to deliver first class dishes (and budding young cooks, of course); and Reade House remains a very happy and successful house.

Patricia threw herself wholeheartedly into the life of our school community for which we are all truly grateful. Dignified, elegant, gracious, caring, loving, generous and inspiring. Our Patricia.

Written by Graham Moseley and read at Patricia's memorial service which was held on Monday 25 June 2018 at Beckenham Crematorium.

JOHN COVENTON - DRAMA TEACHER 2001 -2013

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of John Coventon on 26th August 2018 aged 72 years.

In the Drama department at Royal Russell School Mel Davenport was planning her maternity leave whilst elsewhere John was plotting his return to the spotlight of classroom teaching. So in the Autumn of 2001 John arrived at Royal Russell for what was to be a 12 year run. John enthusiastically covered Mel's Drama lessons, GCSE performances and whole school drama productions the first of which was 'Oh! What a Lovely War'. He had boundless energy and always got the pupils to explore ideas further but not always in line with the syllabus. John was a maverick.

John saw Royal Russell as his next adventure and he very quickly became involved with voluntary extra curricular activities by helping John Piggin and Simon Keable-Elliott with the Model United Nations scheme. For many, MUN is a particularly boring club where students debate erudite international problems under United Nations rules but for John this was theatre in action. The role playing, oratory, lobbying and other activities he saw as pure Drama. For a couple of years he ran the press team at the annual conference, happier to encourage dirt digging tabloid journalism, rather than more reasoned broadsheet style debate. John was a maverick.

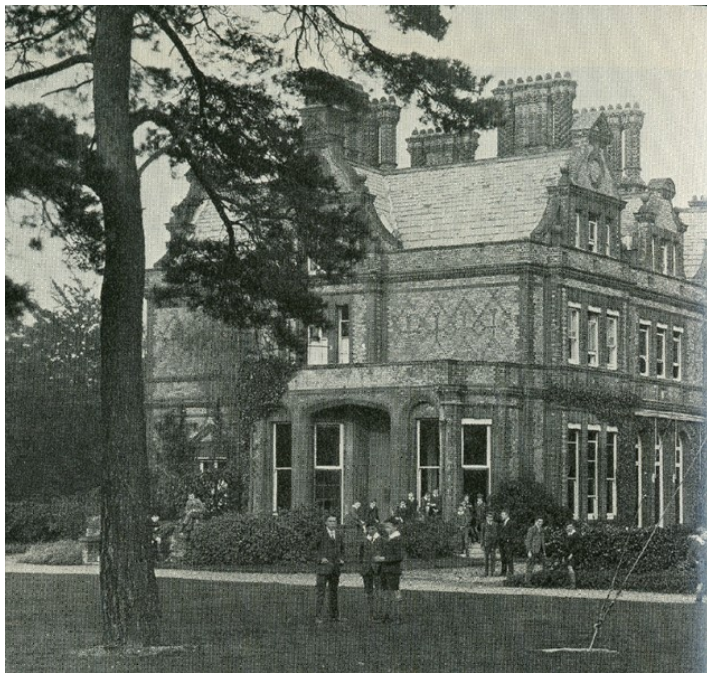
John also supported our students at the prestigious MUN conference in the Hague where he encouraged them to get out and socialise – something he was more than happy to do himself. At conferences John made many good friends sitting with different advisers each meal time and thoroughly enjoyed the conversation and banter that ensued. John's dancing - if that's what you can call it - became legendary and he was always the first on stage, in the front row, for the traditional action filled end of conference song - YMCA. You can picture him now can't you.

John taught full time in 2001 and 2002 then part time until 2006. After this he retained honorary staff status being used as a cover teacher until he finally took full retirement in 2013 after MUN.

Written by Martin Finch



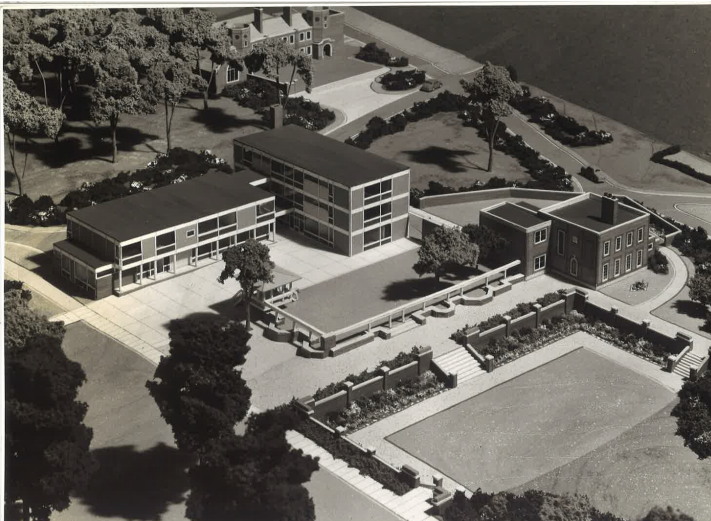
GOING, GOING, GONE...



Ballards Mansion as it was originally.



Ballards Mansion being knocked down in 1961.



A photo of the model of the new building to replace ballards Mansion. On it you can identify both the Headmaster's house and the steps down to Cambridge slope .

GOING, GOING, GONE CONT...



For many, who remember their days in Cambridge Boarding House with fond memories, it will be sad that the building was raised to the ground to make way for the new Girls' boarding block which will be opened in 2020.



The site sits where the original Ballards Mansion was replaced to accommodate the girls moving up from Purley when the school at Russell Hill closed down. When the numbers of boarders in the Junior School fell due to its eventual closure, the girls were moved to their current site and the boys moved into the building that they vacated.



The new building will be built on the site of both the old building and the Memorial Garden that in turn will be modernised and rebuilt on the Chapel Quad.

COMMUNICATIONS

It was with great pleasure that I received a copy of the latest OR Newsletter.....and I must say that the new format is fantastic.

This mail is prompted by a couple of things....three actually.....many actually.

In the latest Newsletter is published three pics of my era and of my friends, Norman (1939-1952) (not Charlie) Mac Dougall and Malcolm Green. I was the third carpenter making the table and chairs for Prince Charles and later having the honour of delivering them, together with our sister students, to Buckingham Palace. A very memorable day.



Many years later I was presented to the Prince and Duchess of Cornwall at the Melbourne Cup here in Australia. *Protocol prevented me asking HRH if he had received any splinters from his nursery furniture.*



The other picture was of our confirmation by Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Of possible interest to those still around from that time I am the student standing on the Archbishop's left.....and who appears to have his chest torn out. Coincidentally I still have a copy of that pic *but complete with chest.*

On that day I received something of a tongue lashing from FAV Madden for having the temerity to request, and to receive, the autograph of the Archbishop on the fly leaf of my

Confirmation Book which is sitting close by as I type this mail....single handedly, of course.

I also received a milder reprimand from FAVM when I and a couple of like minded loafers resigned from the Cadet Corps on the spurious grounds of wishing to utilise the parade time better for study.....we received our wish with highly intensified work in Latin and other subjects.

I was reminded of our unheard of rebellion by FAVM himself when I later revisited the School. *I was somewhat mortified that episode seemed to be the only thing that he remembered of me.*

For those who may be interested I am now living in a small community some 60 minutes by car from Melbourne and have thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in matters rural. Our family contains elements of English, Scottish, Macedonian, Brazilian, Fijian and Australian blood..... and our diet often reflects this.

I originally came out Australia in 1966 on a 2 year engineering contract but was asked to stay on. It is a long story from designing production lines for such as Ford, General Motors and the food industry to retiring from managing a company producing pre sterilised medical products throughout Australia, New Zealand and S.E Asia with the corresponding international travel. I later emerged from retirement to manage the sales of specialised medical equipment such as ultrasound, lasers etc. to the physiotherapy world in Australia .

To keep my 85 year old mind working I have for the last 6 years been a presenter and vice president, on local radio.

This is OKRFM 98.3, for anyone wishing to stream my program Rogers Rambles on Tuesdays and Fridays 9.00am-11.00am AEST. At last count we have been streamed by 54 countries. I also contribute occasionally to the local newspaper.

In addition I have been volunteering in the field of suicide prevention as founder member of the Mitchellshire Suicide Prevention Network. This work is becoming much needed in an area faced with the vagaries of agribusiness and prone to extreme bush fires.

To round out my working week I was elected to be an Ambassador for Positive Ageingin an endeavour to cater for the needs the oldies in an age where longevity is increasing and where life is becoming increasingly difficult for those with a disability or just age.

That sums up the life of a proud Old Russellian who still has a remarkable debt owing to the School and staff for providing me at a very young age with the courage and educational grounding with which to face a daunting world, after losing my father in 1942.

Other students of Russell School, from similar circumstances, will undoubtedly join my sincere thanks for providing us with that stable foundation, embodied in the motto Non Sibi Sed Omnibus.

It has been my dear wish to make one more visit to the School but alas time and circumstances seem to have combined to defeat me. My health and my bank manager have ganged up.

I am in the early stages of chemo therapy for bone cancer with a life expectancy of up to 5 years.

However being a stubborn old b.....I intend to confound the medical experts.

Thank you for keeping me in touch with what was truly my beginning and please feel free to use any of my words to encourage others to get in touch with each other before it is too late.

Kindest regards to all at Royal Russell.

Roger Fletcher

1942-1949

OBE

Simon Thomas, who left Royal Russell in 1992, and is now Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Harare, Zimbabwe has been awarded an OBE for services to British foreign policy. Congratulations Simon.

SUPPORT THE ROYAL RUSSELL 1853 ANNUAL FUND

Royal Russell has started a regular giving programme through its new Annual Fund. The fund is for bursaries and capital projects and encourages ORs and parents to give £18.53 a month to the campaign.

A regular giving scheme allows a school to forecast its Annual Fund income over a number of years. Donors join the Russell Club and receive a tie or a scarf and are invited to a champagne reception at Royal Russell Day each year.

If you would like to support, please email Royal Russell Development Manager, Jeremy Lloyd-Jones jlloydjones@royalrussell.co.uk

OR Chair, Adrian Edwards, said : 'I am delighted the school has started an Annual Fund and I am happy to lend my support to the work the school is doing. As the School started in 1853, this is a suitable monthly donation level to give (£18.53).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Sunday 11 November 2018 | - | Remembrance Day Service. Royal Russell Chapel, 10am |
| Saturday 24 November 2018 | - | O.R. AGM, Royal Russell Library, 10am* |
| Sunday 9 December 2018 | - | Christmas Service. Royal Russell Chapel, 6.30pm |
| Wednesday 12 December 2018 | - | Christmas Concert. Royal Russell PAC Building, 6pm. |
| Saturday 11 May 2019 | - | OR Biennial Reunion |

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

*Please let us know if you will be attending the AGM by emailing Vicky Rees, vrees@royalrussell.co.uk by Saturday 9 November.