



Royal Russell School Old Russellians

Newsletter Autumn 2019

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



I am delighted to see this issue of the Newsletter has garnered so many interesting articles and continues to offer a fascinating insight to the goings on at the school, both past and present.

The school and the OR Committee have once again combined to put on a variety of activities throughout the year with more planned for 2020. All ORs are always very welcome to contact the Society via the OR secretary Vicky Rees vrees@royalrussell.co.uk with any suggestions for possible activities/gatherings to supplement those we already have scheduled.

If any of you are wondering about how our OR Golf Day went and why we have not included it in this Newsletter, then please

click on the link provided on page 17 and you can view the write up and photographs in the OR section towards the end of the Russellian Magazine.

Talking of The Russellian, I recently had the pleasure of browsing through a few editions dating between 1930-1944 and am delighted to see our current President Brian Angel is mentioned a number of times during his tenure at the school, having joined in 1938 and still playing an important role in the Society today.

VISITS FROM FORMER PUPILS

Tess Evans and Nigel Gorely, both boarders in the 1970s, returned to school for a visit this summer. Tess brought with her several faded photographs of her friends from her school days. Amazingly enough Tess recalls most of their names and also where they are now and what they are doing as she is still in touch with them. She also had copies of all her old school reports when teachers did not have to write quite such detailed reports as they do today.

The biggest changes in school since the 1970s are the new buildings and sports facilities. Both were impressed by the Performing Arts Block, especially the auditorium and the extensive music department which consisted of just the one room in their time. Tess was a good all-rounder in both winter and summer sports and fondly remembered playing hockey on West Pitch before it was initially levelled and then later converted into all-weather surface pitches. Both could remember the old swimming pool and could not believe that the site now houses the pavilion and conditioning room.



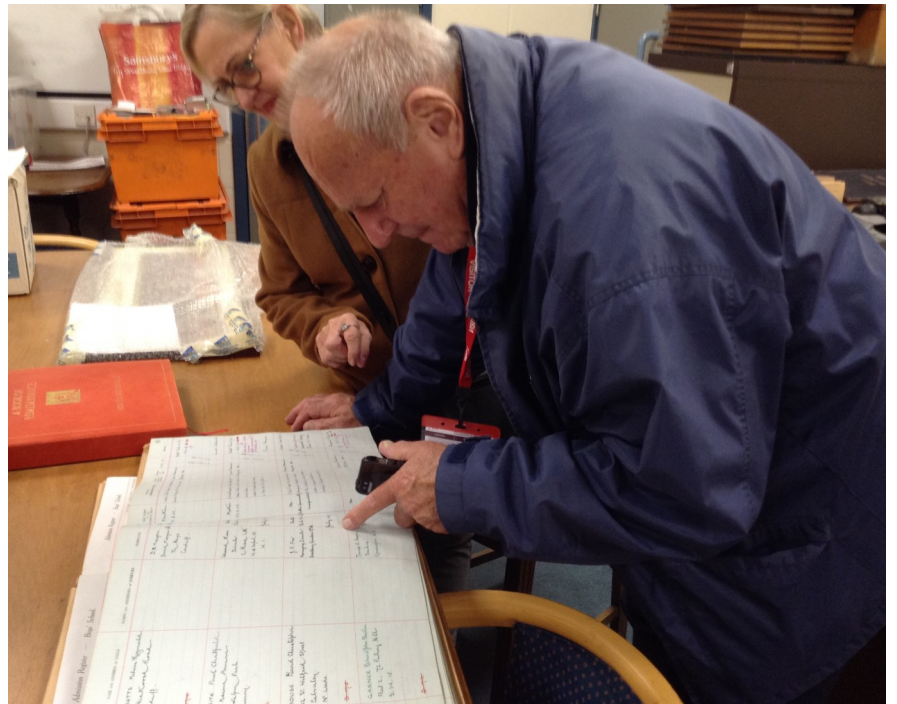
There was a lot of chatter and laughs about what boarders got up to in their days at school and appreciated that the school needs to keep updating itself to be competitive today with other independent schools in the area.

Old Russellian Emma Stevens paid a surprise visit to Royal Russell on the 29th May with both her husband and a close friend. Emma was at Shant in the late seventies/early eighties and is currently travelling the world with her American husband visiting Australia, currently Nairobi, Kenya and soon to be Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



VISITS FROM FORMER PUPILS

David House (at RRS 1950-1960) and his brother joined the school when their father became ill in 1950. Initially David was a Junior at Purley in Hope Morley House before coming up to Ballards and joining Cambridge as a senior. He admits that he was not the greatest academic but loved his sport and representing the school in the teams. His interest in cricket is still true today as he is still fully involved in his local Ilkley Cricket Club. Since school he has worked in the Police Force as a Detective Sergeant.



David looking at his registration



David's hurdles and relay medals from his time at Royal Russell School.



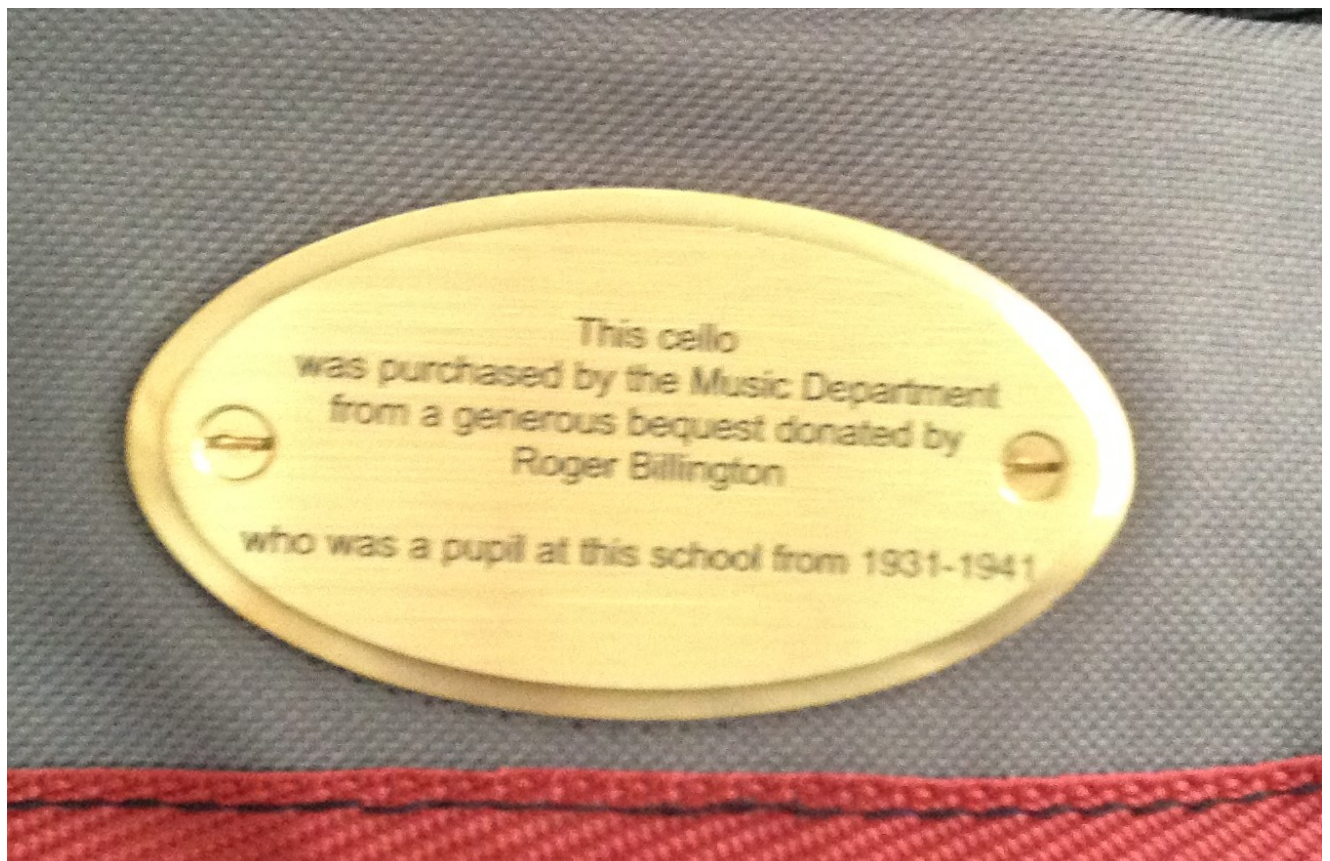
ROGER BILLINGTON BEQUEST



The music department has recently benefitted from a bequest left to it in memory of Roger Billington (St Andrews 1931-1941). This money has been spent on two cellos, which are now available for use by cellists within the department. Pictured here are Charlotte Haines and Lara Thompson with the new cellos. The Music Department is extremely grateful for this generous gift.

Mr P Millward
Director of Music

Roger's daughter, Jan Billington, said that the money was in appreciation for the Schools part in her father's early life. She also mentioned that his main interests were sport, music and theatre and offered him the opportunities that he would never have had thanks to his placement in the school.



DAKS/SIMPSON VISIT

Royal Russell welcomed senior executives from DAKS/Simpson to the school. Jo Smith and Nick Bell were received by Chris Hutchinson, Graham Moseley, Jeremy Lloyd-Jones, OR President Brian Angel and OR Archivist Julia Powell. Brian and Julia gave them an extensive tour of the school, including a look-in at a Year 13 Art class.

We have started to engage with the textile companies who have been former benefactors to the school and DAKS/Simpson will have a new cherry tree and plaque in their name in front of the Aston Webb building. The company gave funds to the school for bursaries back in the 1960s. Engagement with the textile companies was the brainchild of Brian Angel and Julia Powell who have been doing some valuable research on all the former textile benefactors. Julia presented the visitors with some Simpson press cuttings revealing their contact with the school from the 1960s for their own archives.

At the end of the tour, Development Manager, Jeremy Lloyd-Jones, presented Jo and Nick with their Russell Club tie and scarf. All donors to the school receive these and in exchange Jo gave two DAKS ties to the school. There are two existing Simpson plaques in the old cricket pavilion near the Sports Hall. Jo Smith, DAKS/Simpson, General Manager PR and Advertising said 'We were delighted to receive the letter detailing the historical connection between Royal Russell and DAKS/Simpson. It was wonderful to be invited into the school and to hear more about this past relationship and we thank Royal Russell for celebrating this with the commemorative cherry tree. Through our discussions we found very common ground even today between our two organisations.'

Chris Hutchinson invited the DAKS/Simpson Hong Kong office to the school's Asia Pacific drinks reception on 6 July in Kowloon.

We are proud of our historical and philanthropic links with the textile companies who have helped us over the years. Next we look forward to welcoming Fortnum and Mason here in the Autumn.



OLD RUSSELLIANS' RIVERSIDE REUNION

This year, the venue was changed for the London Drinks to the Terrace Bar at the South Bank Centre. Despite the evening being rather overcast, the late sun burst through, lighting up the London Eye in glorious sunlight. This new venue allowed more terrace and green space for everyone to enjoy their first drink, bought for them by the Old Russellian Chairman, Adrian Edwards. About 25 former students met up with former class mates and also enjoyed meeting up with much older ORs who were keen to chat about their former school experiences. The staff that attended found it interesting to see what everyone was doing now, whether they were still at University or in the world of work.



72 YEARS OF UNBROKEN FRIENDSHIP –WILLIAM (Bill) CAVE (1937-2019)

I first met Bill Cave (1937-2019) at Russell Hill in 1947, when we struck up an immediate friendship which lasted unbroken, even though, when after leaving school, we lived on different sides of the country. At school, Bill was very much the 'Gentle Giant', always being by far the tallest boy in the class, an asset which earned him the respect of his peers and which he, to his credit, used to champion the cause of the underdog – boys could be very cruel to those in whom they perceived a weakness. Nor was Bill one ever, all the time I knew him, to speak ill of anyone.

Bill's family home was in Cheam, and his father was Secretary to Cottage Homes, the home for retired members of the textile trade.

At Russell Hill, he was in Normans' House, and at Ballards, St Andrew's. He left school in 1953, after taking his 'O' Level exams.

Scholastically, he was very much middle of the road, and on the sports field, cricket was his forte and, at the time, passion – he was, as a boy, a devoted supporter of Surrey County Cricket Club.. He opened the batting for the Junior XI, and, subsequently, the 2nd XI, where his dogged determination made him very difficult to get out. That determination to do his best characterised him throughout his life, even towards the end, when he knew his days were numbered.



David Pethen (L), Bill Cave (R) and Richard Dadson (C)
taken at David's 80th birthday party in 2017

In 1951, when the then Princess Elizabeth visited Ballards, Bill was selected for an exhibition boxing match. He outreached his opponent, but refused to land any telling blows, not wishing to hurt his disadvantaged form mate in front of H.R.H.! So typical of Bill.

Bill did his National Service in the RAF, signing on for three years, instead of the usual two, because 'it paid better'! He then spent a while in the textile trade, before setting up his own business servicing cigarette machines in clubs and pubs around the Home Counties. He was a lifelong non-smoker!

Bill and I were Best Man at each other's weddings, both in 1961. Our first children were born close together and we both named our eldest son Russell. His and Carol's other two children were Julie and Jonathan. He lived all his married life in the Woking area of Surrey.

WILLIAM (Bill) CAVE (1937-2019) - Cont.

One sign of the success of his business was his purchase in the 1980's of a narrow boat, on which for over 30 years, a select group of OR's were invited for a day's cruising on the River Wey between Woking and Guildford. He also took groups of his acting friends on trips and let friends use it for their own holiday use.

Bill also had a second 'career' as an extra in films and TV productions. His appearances were usually fleeting, as in 'The King's Speech' in which he 'witnessed' the death of George V. He frequently could be seen in the 'Call the Midwife' series as well as many other TV productions, including 'The Bill'.. He would often tell us when he would be appearing, but advised us 'not to blink' in case we missed him!

Space limits what I could say about Bill, so in conclusion, I should like to say that all who knew him were the richer for the experience. A gentler, more caring person would be difficult to find, and all those who knew him will be the poorer for his loss.

Richard Dadson (1947 -1955)

Bill and I found ourselves in the same class when I arrived at Ballards in 1951. Since then we have remained good friends as we lived quite close to each other in Woking.

Bill was a great support to me during my nine years as chairman of the O.Rs. He was only too happy to give my committee a day out on his narrow boat.

The OR day out on "Bills boat" has been a regular feature for many years. I have been pleased to provide photos for the school of our happy days out with Bill. For some years we would meet locally in order to audit the OR accounts and Bill has visited me in Somerset from time to time.

Those of us who new Bill and enjoyed his kindness and sense of humour will miss hearing of his many adventures as a film extra.

He was delighted to take part in last years Christmas episode of "Call the Midwife" filmed in a local studio.

Bill was a credit to the school, a good friend to all who knew him and he will be greatly missed together with his two dear dogs Lucky and Louie.



Left to right – Richard Dadson, Edwina Goode (nee Edwards), Bill Cave with Lucky, Jane Hall (nee Shinn),
Chris Gough

Chris Gough (1951 - 1955)

OR Vice President

OLD RUSSELLIAN BIENNIAL REUNION—MAY 2019

Unlike previous years when the sun shone throughout the day, the weather promised to be a mixture of rain and sun. Undaunted, we went ahead with the planned arrangements and all went well as the rain held off for the most important part of the day.

Guests started arriving early and were welcomed in reception with tea and coffee before making their way to chapel for a short service and some wonderful singing from both the Chapel Choir and Choral Society. On exiting the chapel we were greeted with bright sunshine allowing everyone to enjoy a pre-lunch drink on Chapel Quad. Our new catering manager, Andrew Edwards and his main chef produced a traditional roast lunch which was washed down with a glass of wine. The CCF provided cadets to help in the Dining Hall by serving the wine, clearing tables and chatting to former students. Following the meal a few music scholars entertained everyone by singing popular songs whilst we all digested our meal.

At the last reunion we said goodbye to the old Reade/Cambridge House and this year current students in Oxford took us round their new house and their lovely sleeping and common room facilities. The new girls' boarding house was under early construction and full plans of both it, and the new science extension, were available for all to see in the Library.



Throughout the day there was plenty of chat, with an update from the Headmaster, Chris Hutchinson on how the school is developing and all ending with a nice cup of tea and cake before going home.

I am sure that the 100 or so guests who attended appreciated all the work that went

into organising the day with special thanks going to the Headmaster for hosting the event, the Chaplain, Director of Music, Catering Department, Vicky Rees (the OR Secretary) and current students that gave up their Saturday to make the Biennial such a success.

Julia Powell
OR Correspondent



OLD RUSSELLIAN BIENNIAL REUNION CONT...



OLD RUSSELLIAN BIENNIAL REUNION CONT...



ROYAL RUSSELL VISIT TO HONG KONG

As part of the schools growing global outreach programme, which includes the start of Royal Russell South Korea in 2022/2023, Royal Russell hosted a party for 50 guests for the Royal Russell Asia Pacific Community in Kowloon on 6th July attended by parents, past-parents and alumni from China, Hong Kong and Korea. The home team included Chris Hutchinson, Graham Moseley, Jeremy Lloyd-Jones, John Piggan and Les Antrubus (two former Housemasters)

The Harbour Rooms at the Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel provided the perfect setting for the event with high-end service, food and beverage. Against a back-drop of some excellent Royal Russell branding and signage, CJH gave the main presentation about the school's recent success and progress, a look at the new Masterplan and some words about Royal Russell South Korea. Jeremy Lloyd-Jones spoke about the Masterplan, the work experience and events programme he has been developing for Royal Russell over the last two years. He also outlined the funds he wanted to raise in the coming year for the new Science Block and bursaries. Ron Hadden, a major supporter of Royal Russell South Korea, finished off by reporting the progress of the new school and the rationale for starting such a project.

On the Friday evening, we were hosted at a dinner near our hotel by a former parent, Arthur Leung, a retired architect and no stranger to ambitious masterplans. A positive session with Arthur resulting in an invitation for him to visit London in 2020 for a dinner and tour of the school.

Saturday morning we hosted a breakfast at the hotel with the VIP Korea delegation, Ron Hadden, Jason Lee and Ki-Choon Han. Positive discussions ensued about the next stages for the new school and an October meeting was arranged to take it onto the next step. The Korean delegation also attended the main event on Saturday night.

Sunday morning we hosted another breakfast, this time with OR Ying Zhang. We had met her in London six weeks previously for a tour of the school. Her family own large car dealerships (Hysons). Ying is also looking to invest in commercial property in London and Vicki Lloyd-Jones from Allsop is helping her with this making the connection with the Millennium Group.

Ying is keen to support a Royal Russell School in Suzhou and also to support the School's Masterplan for the Croydon campus. Another meeting is planned for 2019/2020.

This was a very successful trip to Hong Kong with good feedback from the guests and new friendships forged, which will benefit the school in the future. There is talk about another event in Hong Kong in another 12/18 months' time.

Jeremy Lloyd-Jones
July 2019

ROYAL RUSSELL VISIT TO HONG KONG CONT...



ROYAL RUSSELL VISIT TO HONG KONG CONT...



CROYDON ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Royal Russell was one of fourteen sponsors at the Croydon Business Excellence Awards Dinner at the Grand Sapphire Hotel. The school sponsored the Entrepreneur of the Year Award and hosted a table at the dinner; guests included Jeremy Lloyd-Jones, Jenny Harris, Agnelo and Corinne Fernandes, Neil Cufley, Mark Hayden, Lucile de Carbonnieres, Ciara Campbell, John Evans and Clare Tovey.

The Banqueting Hall at the Grand Sapphire Hotel provided the perfect backdrop for the event, attended by 500 people, including representatives from the biggest businesses in Croydon and The Mayor. Jeremy Lloyd-Jones and Jenny Harris were the judges and presenters of the award and they had spent the last month interviewing the seven excellent candidates.

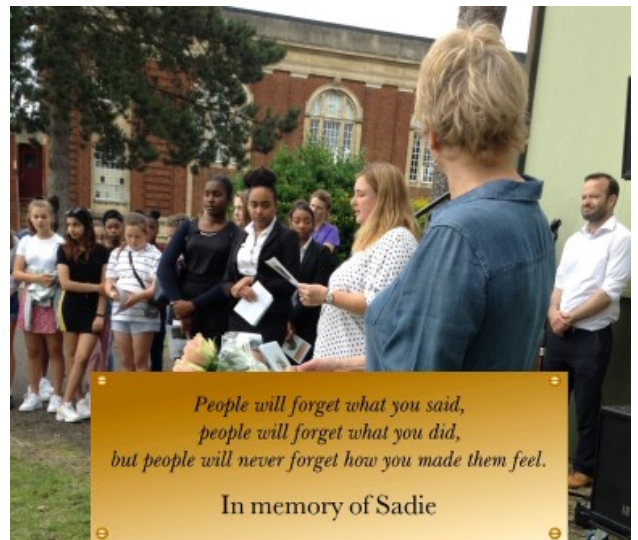
Jeremy said: 'It was an honour to be part of the evening and to be sponsors of this prestigious award. All candidates showed great innovation, business acumen and character and it was difficult to pick a winner. We would like to thank White Label for excellent event management and for inviting us to take part. We shall be back'

Jenny said: 'We selected Dexter Simms of Mula Cake as our winner for the Entrepreneur of the Year award because he has a clear vision to use his successful business as a platform from which he is actively promoting skills development and encouraging aspiration in the community. His passion to educate and motivate people of all ages resonated strongly with us and we were therefore delighted when Dexter was also chosen by all Judges to be awarded the premier prize of 'Business of the Year'. Engagement with the leading Croydon businesses will greatly help to enhance our work experience and careers programme for Royal Russell pupils. We met many people in the room and it was especially good to see several Royal Russell parents there too. We look forward to inviting Dexter to Royal Russell to speak to our pupils'.

IN MEMORY OF...

Sadie France

Sadie was a pupil here from 2003 until 2009 and sadly died from cancer in 2015. On Tuesday 2nd July, Sadie's mother, brother, staff and current and former pupils met behind Buchanan for the dedication of a tree to Sadie. Sadie's mother, Julia was delighted that the tree has been planted outside Buchanan where she used to enjoy spending time. As she also scattered some of Sadie's ashes she now feels that the School has a wonderful memorial to her daughter.



OBITUARIES



Mya-Lecia Naylor (Buchanan House 2014-2017)

Mya-Lecia was a well known and talented actress, singer and dancer who appeared in several CBBC shows.



Divyen Patel (Oxford House 2011-2018) passed away over Summer.



Julian Playford (at RRS 1973-1976)

For 16 years Julian, with a group of ORs, attended a number of OR events.



Jane Patricia Hall (Argyll House 1948-1953)

Passed away on 2nd September 2019.

Royal Russell School recently produced its annual magazine, the Russellian. If you would like to read a copy of the 2019 magazine you can access it electronically by clicking [here](#). Alternatively hard copies are available from reception.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Concert	Thursday 14 November 7pm Great Hall
School Play	Wednesday 27 - Friday 29 November 7.30pm Auditorium
Carol Service	Sunday 15 December 6.30pm Great Hall
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 17 December 6.30pm Auditorium
OR Riverside drinks	Friday 12 June 2020
OR Golf Day	Friday 3 July 2020