

LETTER TO THE EDITOR from Stuart Adams (1946-1950)

Brian Angel's "Despatches" in the Newsletter's Summer Edition made mention and indeed showed a picture of my Prefects' tie that I was wearing at the O. R. Reunion last May, and which was presented to me in 1949 by Headmaster, F. A. V. Madden Esq, M.A. (Oxon). Brian may have a point in what he says about dribbles, spillages and splashes and I do not deny that. I must, however, take him up on his assertion that I have worn it "on and off" ever since 1949. I understand how I can wear it on because if it wasn't on I wouldn't be wearing it;



I understand how I could wear it out (indeed, it is now pretty much on the way to being in that condition); I could, I think, have worn it in, thus giving it a more pliable, supple and even flexible feel when new. It's the bit about wearing it off that bugs me (no connection with the flies he mentions!). I can't wear it "off" – that's just not on ... you know, can't be done. So, much as I appreciate his article, it is not entirely accurate. There may have been the odd fly or two buzzing round but the tie was "on" not "off". Copies of the picture taken by Brian and also of me and my tie in 1949 will show everyone that over the years my tie may have deteriorated but I have not changed at all!

RAYMOND WARD - HAPPY MEMORIES from Ken Dixon (1926-1937)

Following the last newsletter Ken wrote to Julia Powell saying how sorry he was to hear of the death of Raymond Ward. Ken joined Hope Morley House at Russell Hill in 1926 and moved up to Ballards in 1928. He has a great memory as he can still recall all his former teachers and support staff. He appreciated his good all-round education as well as being well fed, well dressed and the good sports facilities. He says that he enjoyed his school days and continues to have fond memories of both them and the staff. Having left school he went on to obtain two degrees at London University, BSc (Economics) and then a PhD. He recalls the following about Raymond: Ray's nickname was 'mossy' due to his dark swarthy features. We both joined Hope Morley House at Russell Hill and then moved up to Ballards in 1926. Ray was an opening bowler for the 1st XI cricket team. He had a slow approach to the wicket, but was very accurate and his tidy action produced a surprisingly fast delivery. He took many wickets.

MESSAGE FROM MURDO URUHART (1966-1976)

It suddenly occurred to me that the O.R. dinner is happening at the end of this week. I cannot be there because I am one month into a 6 month tour with the UN in Darfur, where I am (trying) to lead the military planning to transition from the African Union Mission force (AMIS) to the hybrid United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur force (UNAMID). I am based in a place called El Fasher, which is the provincial capital of Darfur. It is not quite at the back of beyond, but it is not far away from it; that said it is a charming place full of (currently) charming people. I do not know where other absent O.R.s will be next Friday, but I have got to be in one of the more unusual places.

CONGRATULATIONS

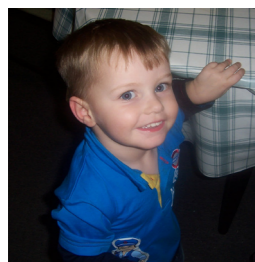
Right: Nicola Foster (née Ryder) at her wedding to Jack in September 2006.



Congratulations to Keith and Rosemary Angel, proud great grandparents to Adam Hope, born on 10th April 2007 on his grandmother Susan's 50th birthday! Susan attended O.R. Day in 1957 as a babe in the arms of her mother Rosemary - and 50 years later she again attended O.R. Day in May 2007.



Below are their 2 sons, Luke (left) and Ryan (right)



Congratulations to Alys and Scott Netherway on the safe arrival of their baby girl, Emily Grace, born on 23rd November 2007, weighing 5lb 12oz.
Congratulations to Jose Bueno on the birth of his baby girl, Naia, born on 9th November 2007.
Congratulations to Fatima and Shihan Cassim on the safe arrival of their baby girl, Salma on 3rd November 2007, weighing 7lb 10oz.
Congratulations to Michelle Womack on the birth of her baby boy, James Michael, born on 8th August 2007 weighing 8lb 11oz.
Congratulations to Katie Kroening (née Atkins) on the birth of her baby boy, Nathan, born on 1st November 2007.

CONDOLENCES

It is with deep regret that we have to report that our Honorary Member, Derek Card, died at 5.15pm on 15th December 2007. He will be remembered for his detailed archiving of the circumstances surrounding the death of Gerald Hood and many other WW2 O.R. casualties - details of which are now recorded in the Book of Remembrance in the School Chapel.



THE OLD RUSSELLIANS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

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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

ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS

The two Old Russellians Accounts Examiners would like to stand down at the next AGM in 2008. If anyone would like to volunteer to take on this small task, then please email Jon Davis, the O.R. Treasurer, at jdav1976@hotmail.com

KEITH AND ROSEMARY ANGEL

By Tony Ford (1947-1958)



Keith in 1941, aged 13, in WW1 Army Cadet Corps uniform

At the AGM of The Old Russellians in November, Keith and Rosemary Angel announced that they would be standing down from the O.R. Committee. In the history of The Old Russellians this is a momentous event. There can be no doubt that these two have done more for O.R.s than any other individuals. When I started at Ballards in 1952 the first Old Russellian event included Keith and Rosemary, together with some other stalwarts whose names are still connected with the Society.



Rosemary, aged 15, in her school tunic at Purley in 1950

Throughout my seven years at Ballards, almost every O.R. event saw either Keith or Rosemary in

attendance. And so it has continued, through the demise of Russell Hill and through the evolution of the present school; through the times when the Society flourished and through the times when it almost disappeared. That it did not disappear is thanks to Keith and Rosemary and the influence that they had in persuading younger O.R.s to take a leading role. Many Old Scholars' societies would give their proverbial eye teeth to have such enthusiastic advocates, and I hope that all current Old Russellians appreciate how fortunate we have been. My few words cannot adequately describe our gratitude, and I trust others realise this. Thank you, both of you!

Photos taken at Annual Dinner 2007: Left: Keith Angel (1937-1944), John Piggin (current staff) and Chris Gough (1951-1955), Centre: Keith and Rosemary (1943-1951) with current student Richard Chandler (LVI), Right: Keith and Rosemary with brother Brian Angel (1938-1947) and Chris Gough



PAM'S REUNION

There will be a reunion tea in the garden of Pam Turtle (née Barrable) (1948-1953) in Essex on Saturday 14th June 2008, for pre 1970 leavers. Apply to 01787 460221 or pam@peppersfarm.entadsl.com for details. Letters will be sent out to all addresses we have.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

Tuesday 11th March
Lunchtime Concert at 1.10pm in Music Room

Sunday 16th March
Fauré Requiem at 6pm in Chapel
(No tickets required)

Saturday 12th April
Old Russellians' Football Tournament from 1.30pm
Information from Steve Greaves at stevejgreaves@hotmail.com

May 2008 (date tbc)
Car Boot Sale at school

Friday 13th June
Royal Russell Riverside Reunion - The Anchor Pub, Bankside. 7pm onwards
Everyone welcome!

Saturday 14th June
Pam Turtle (née Barrable) hosts a Reunion. See details left and on website

Saturday 28th June
RRS Summer Ball
Please check website for details nearer the time

Friday 5th September
Recent Leavers' Social Event at Coombe Lodge from 4.30pm onwards. Anyone who considers themselves a recent leaver is welcome to attend this event

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

PHOTO GALLERY



THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER - PLEASE GIVE US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS!
Email: jpowell@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk or stanner@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk
Website: www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians

ANNUAL DINNER 2007



Former member of staff,
Tony Clarke (1976-1984)

It was great to welcome back former members of staff to our Annual Dinner. Breaking with tradition in more ways than one, current CCF members waited at tables and enjoyed talking to both former staff and pupils. The Dinner, held on Saturday (instead of Friday) this year, still maintained the traditional toasting of absent Old Russellians around the world. Did you do the same? Chris Hedges (Prep School Headmaster) spoke at the event. Chris will retire this summer, after 21 years at the helm. Following a most enjoyable meal and lots of gossip, the committee then did an admirable job in clearing the tables and setting up for boarders' breakfast the following morning - old habits of lunch duty die hard! Thank you everybody for a lovely evening.



Above:
Chairman Karl Yabsley (1978-1982) proposing the
Toast to Absent Russellians at 9pm

Far Left: Mike (1955-1962) and Maril Ryan with John
Piggin.

Left: Simon Jones (1991-1998) and Henry Alger
(1990-1996)



MEMORIES OF RUSSELL HILL

The O.R.s are very grateful to Joffrine Fretwell (now Jo Reade) and Pat Wigley (now Johnson) who were both at Russell Hill school in the mid 1950s and who have very kindly added their memoirs of school life to the Features section of the website. They have always kept in contact with each other, and met up, after a number of years, in December 2007 - see picture below of them now. This was taken at Rosslyn Chapel.



The other photo was taken of Kindergarten 1, Hope Morley House, around 1953-4. We cannot identify a lot of these people, can you?
Back row, L-R: 1st?, 2nd?, 3rd Frances Lindsay?, 4th Judith Hart?, 5th Deborah Metcalf?, 6th?
Middle row, L-R: 1st Joffrine Fretwell, 2nd Margaret Frood, 3rd Hazel ??, 4th Vivian Brand, 5th Mary Tindall?, 6th Pat Wigley
Front row, L-R: 1st John Bartlett or James Brown, 2nd Norma Harrison, 3rd?

**More 'slanguage' has been received from
Anthony Mak (1974-1982) (now a UN employee) - see website!**

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that in 1954/55 there were only 3 boys in the Upper Sixth, compared to today's 79 pupils (51 boys and 28 girls). These 3 were Richard Dadson (1947-1955), Anthony Leon Houghton (1945-1955) and Graham Woodcock (1946-1955).

Anthony Houghton was School Captain and Cambridge House Captain Richard Dadson was Vice Captain and Oxford House Captain Graham Woodcock, who was tragically killed in a motorcycle the year after he left school, in 1956, was St Andrew's House Captain.

REMINISCENCE FROM DIANA JAMES (née DRAKE) (1960-1964)

Diana and her brother, Roger, were at the school in the 1960s and have found details of the Old Russellians through the website. Diana writes this to Bill Forster:
"Many thanks for the email and photo. I did look rather glum. I didn't want to leave. My parents made a sudden move to South Africa, and this coincided with the Christmas holidays.



I sailed to Port Elizabeth. One year later my father moved to Swaziland and I met up with old boy Peter Ralls who was successful in finding a VSO position there. We were keen worldly students and for a while many of us followed each other's overseas pursuits. In those days 'the world was our oyster'. It was safe to travel almost anywhere. The Royal Russell was extraordinarily ahead of its time in what later became known as multi-culturalism, internationalism and religious tolerance and so on. Other boarding schools we visited for sporting competitions by contrast were very old fashioned. Of course our school was always regarded as amazing because it was co-ed boarding.

SIDNEY JOHN SPILLER (1900-1973)

We have published some interesting information about Old Russellian, Sidney John Spiller, by kind permission of Richard Taylor, Secretary of the Naval Historical Collectors and Research Association. This can be found on the website in the Archives section under 1900s.

THE MOSELEYS CELEBRATE 125 YEARS!



Above:
Rachel Maclean (nee Jones)

Graham and Judy Moseley celebrated 25 years of marriage this summer, and also both of their 50th birthdays. Many friends and relatives gathered in Great Hall for a wonderful musical evening, starting with a Barn Dance, followed by buffet with the Moseley Family 'Von Trapp' each doing a turn, and the pièce de resistance was Judy singing in the band with O.R. Sarah North née West (1967-1977). As you can see from the photos here and on the website, many ex staff were there helping with the celebrations!



HONG KONG 2007



In October half term, Les Antrobus was accompanied by John Piggin and Mary King (Admissions Registrar) to the recruitment exhibition in Hong Kong. Whilst there, they met up with some Old Russellians.



Pictured far left: Cathy Robertsen (née Pym) (1983-1986) having a meal with Mr Piggin and Mr Antrobus in Hong Kong

Pictured left: Irene Young (née Chan) (1987-1989) helping Les at Hong Kong Expo

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2007

Brian Angel (1938-1947), pictured left, was invited to give the Address at this year's service. Following the Reunion in May it was nice that both current parents and students could experience what life was like for a boarder during the 2nd World War and how former O.R. Flying Officer Hood (1930-1938) bravely gave his life to save the lives of others who were sheltering him in Holland. (Full Address from the summer is available on the O.R. website.) The four members of the CCF staff, pictured right, are all Old Russellians who give a lot of their time to our current students who are members of the Cadet Corps. Around ten former Russellians were present at the service.



L to R: Nick Smith (2000-2005), Amanda Hollingsworth (Gap Year student left RRS 2006), Charles Froy (1992-1998), Robert Fisher (1996-2002)



KEN HEWITT (STAFF 1951-1960)



Old Russellians who were at school between 1951 and 1960 will remember Rev Ken Hewitt. In those days, before his ordination, he lived in St Andrew's House and taught Maths and Physics and was later appointed both Head of Science and 6th Form Master. After leaving school in 1960 he went to theological college and was ordained in 1962 in Canterbury Cathedral. After two positions as Curate and one as a Chaplain he became Priest in charge of a church six years later. Following his retirement in 1995 he has kept busy by filling in for others during times of illness or holidays. He was also Treasurer of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals and Chairman of MANNA (Mozambique and Angola Anglican Association). The latter position he retired from in September 2007.

In the excerpt below Ken gives a short explanation of how the Anglican Church got involved in both Angola and Mozambique. "David Livingstone challenged universities to start a mission to get rid of the slave route to Zanzibar through the north of Mozambique. In the south, migrant workers went to the Johannesburg gold mines, where they became Anglican Christians, and wanted the church to go back with them when they returned to their homes. When the Portuguese left in 1975, since they could no longer find unemployed farm workers to join the army to keep the blacks under control, only 15% of Mozambicans were Christians of any sort, even though the Portuguese had been there since 1500. Soon after, civil wars were started by outside forces - in particular, apartheid South Africa and Rhodesia, which did not want successful black countries near them. Since the new governments were quite left wing, the rebels were also supported and funded by well known American televangelists, since the way to fight Marxism is by weapons." Now finally fully retired Ken lives at Bromley College in accommodation for retired clergy. Ken says: "In my twilight years, I have no regrets, but look back on all that I have learned from my various experiences, and am very thankful for all parts of my life, and not the least my nine years at Royal Russell." We all wish Ken a long and happy retirement!