

DESPATCHES from Brian Angel



O.R. CELEBRITIES

In a nation besotted by the 'Cult of Celebrity', Old Russellians can still make their mark. Look who we've found on the O.R. database. :

GORDON BROWN

Well, not actually. O.R. Gordon Brown Fielding's school years were 1922-31.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Well, not actually. Christopher Robin Brown, born in 1944, did 7 years here 1954-61.

WILLIAM HAGUE

Well, not actually. George William Haigh Seddon (1957-66) also has an O.R. sister, Charlotte Emily Horsburgh, born 1947 (1957-61)

ANNE WIDDICOMBE

Well, not actually. Ann Widdicombe, born in 1934 (1946-53) also had a twin sister Paula at school.

LAURENCE OLIVIER

Well, not actually. Laurence Martin Olivier, born 1947, (1958-64) had a brother at school, Philip Aubrey Charles, born 1948 (1958-64). Pictures of both brothers appear on O.R. Bill Forster's new video of school photo compilations.

These celebs, between being PM-in-Waiting, saying their prayers, shadowing Foreign Affairs, Agony Auntie-ing and extolling us "Once more, once more..." (oh, not again) "...unto the breach!" – well, we know where they can be found. But not our own pseudo-celebs. Where are they? If you have info on any O.R. listed here, you know the rules : Free Cruise for 2. Round the World. First Class. Twice.

KEEP IN CONTACT FOR REGULAR UPDATES ON THE WEBSITE AND FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

FLYBOY

The brilliant weather (and programme) for the O.R. Reunion attracted record numbers of O.R.s, guests ... and flies.

Worried Health & Safety Inspectors traced the insects to a tie being worn by Stuart Adams. There it was, presented by Headmaster Madden when Adams became a St. Andrew's prefect in 1949, and worn on and off ever since. It is a tapestry of every dribbled drink, splashed egg and spilt soup in its disgusting half-century of history. Stuart was finally escorted from the school by the inspectors to return to Burnham-on-Sea, closely followed by a thick black cloud. And the skies cleared.



MEMORIAL BENCHES



Two memorial benches have been placed at the edge of West Pitch in memory of Peter Green and Hilary Grove (nee Talbot), both former members of staff at Royal Russell and Russell Hill School respectively.



CONDOLENCES

Deryk Long (1936-1948)
John Baker (1943-1949)
John Farr (1935-1940)

Len Cook (1953-1966)
Michael Douglas McBride (1937-1947)
Harry Crispin Smith (Staff 1936-1972)

John House (1950-1958) Arthur Moore (1944-1952)
Peter Godsall (1935-1939) Brian Thomas Smith (1945-1950)
Margaret Threadgold nee Whitford (1936-1940)



ROYAL RUSSELL DEVELOPMENT by Dr John Jennings

SUMMER 2007



I am pleased to have the opportunity to keep you up to date with recent developments at the school. We have been in discussion with the school architects over the past 12 months to draw up an exciting new building project. The plan involves removing the Bursar's building and replacing it with a Performing Arts and Music Centre. This building will incorporate Drama Studios and Music Rooms along with an auditorium to seat 200 people. The kitchens will be extended down towards the swimming pool providing a new servery and a 'Bistro' area for the Sixth Form and the boarders at weekends. The facilities will be designed in the style of the original Aston Webb buildings and will enhance the school site enormously. Visitors to the school will be welcome to see these ambitious plans and I would be very pleased to meet with any O.R.s who feel they would like to give financial support to particular aspects of this project. I cannot promise a peerage at this stage but support would be recognised in the traditional way as with other named buildings around the school. Your support would be very gratefully received!



DUTCH LIBERATION DAY 4th May 2007



HONOURING WAR HERO GERALD HOOD former Old Russellian from 1930 - 1938

Ten cadets from the school's CCF attended the Zenderen Liberation Day celebrations in honour of RAF Flying Officer Gerald Hood, whose refusal to give information to the Gestapo helped liberate the town. Gerald was an orphan who was educated at Royal Russell from the age of eight. He became a flying officer in the RAF and was shot down in The Netherlands in August 1944. He was picked up and sheltered, along with the son of a Dutch family (who had been called up for German military service). Following many searches the Germans threatened to shoot the family. Gerald and the son gave themselves up to the Gestapo. After 10 days of interrogation the Gestapo took Gerald Hood into the woods and shot him. The son was killed a week later. This year more than 200 people attended the annual ceremony in the woods where Hood was shot. A senior cadet and junior pupil laid a wreath on the school's behalf followed by the children of the town each laying a white rose. The Dutch kindly donated an oak sapling from the wood to be planted in school on the quadrangle where Gerald's final school photograph was taken.

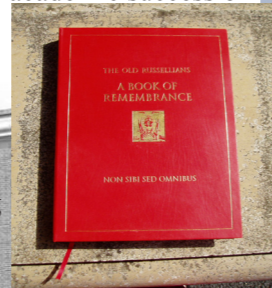
Cadets and Max Leggatt (pictured above) at Gerald Hood's Memorial Contingent Commander Colin Leggatt (pictured right) escorting the oak tree home



**MAY REUNION
19th MAY 2007**

The May Reunion (a biennial occasion) was the perfect opportunity for some of our veteran members to get together again and to commemorate a very courageous man, Flying Officer Gerald Hood. The Chapel was at capacity with nearly 200 Old Russellians, their guests and members of the school Choir and Choral Society, Governors, together with Officers from the RAF 100 Squadron and guests from Holland. The oak sapling (taken from the wood where Gerald Hood was shot) was dedicated at a special service in the sunshine on Lime Tree Quad, and just as the Chaplain finished the prayers, so the Hawk from RAF Leeming flew over the school – perfect timing. The applause was spontaneous. Following drinks in the Library, the O.R.s were invited for a ‘school dinner’ with wine and afterwards the Headmaster was presented with Gerald’s medals and other memorabilia from the Dutch. The finishing touch to the day was a concert by the school’s Chamber Choir together with String Orchestra performing Dido & Aeneas by Henry Purcell (1659-1695). The perfect end to a perfect day.

During the afternoon the Headmaster was delighted to report on the improved academic success of recent years, new building development plans and, hopefully, the re-introduction of foundation students. Those Old Russellians present were grateful to the Headmaster, Bursar, and school staff for making the day so memorable. Brian Angel’s input, especially into the Book of Remembrance, was particularly well received and will remain a historical document for both current and future Russellians in the years ahead. Any Old Russellians visiting the school will be welcome to view the details held within its pages.



Brian Angel (1938-1947) pictured above with Steve Padfield, the School Chaplain. Brian was responsible for much of the research on Gerald Hood, together with the compilation of the Book of Remembrance. He, together with the Chairman of The Old Russellians, Karl Yabsley, presented this Book to the School at the beginning of the Chapel Service.



Pictures on this page give a representation of the formal start to the day in which we remembered Gerald Hood and other Old Russellians who gave their lives during the Second World War. The oak tree, wreath and medals refer directly to the memory of Gerald Hood.



Pictured left: Janet Charlwood nee Thorne (1947-1957) with other O.R.s and guests in the ‘Dinner Queue’



Pictured right: Richard Dadson (1947-1955), Chris Gough (1951-1955), Neil Myers (1975-1980)



Pictured left: Sam Smith (1983-1987), Brigitta Van Niel (1981-1985), Jane Avent nee Turtle (1972-1978), and Pam Turtle nee Barrable (1948-1953)



Pictured right: O.R.s at the special remembrance service for Gerald Hood on Lime Tree Quad



Pictured left: O.R.s enjoying lunch in the Dining Hall



Pictured right: O.R.s in Library awaiting Address by Headmaster and presentations

NAMES AND SCHOOL DATES OF OLD RUSSELLIANS PRESENT ON 19TH MAY

Entry Decade 1920s		Roger Ballaster	1945-1954	Juliet Heery (Brown)	1954-1957
Kenneth Dixon	1926-1937	Stuart Adams	1946-1950	Michael Ryan	1955-1962
Philip Barnetson	1927-1935	William Cave	1946-1953	Hilary Margolan (Nethercott)	
Entry Decade 1930s		Edwina Good (Edwards)	1946-1958		1957-1966
Bernard Thomson	1930-1939	Barrie Leech	1946-1952	Jeff Bolter	1958-1968
David McKergo	1931-1940	John Rowe	1946-1952	Entry Decade 1960s	
Leonard Watkins	1931-1939	Janet Charlwood(Thorne)	1947-1957	Francis Canning	1960-1972
Norman Curtis	1933-1943	Richard Dadson	1947-1955	Paul Mitchell	1961-1964
Meiwyn Roberts	1934-1939	June Glass (Stimpson)	1947-1956	David Mercer	1962-1975
John Dennis	1935-1947	John Harrison	1947-1958	Steven Buley	1963-1969
Angus McGill	1935-1943	Elizabeth Oliver	1947-1954	Alicia Fox (Robbins)	1964-1967
John Brown	1936-1945	John Cook	1948-1954	James Guest	1968-1973
Keith Angel	1937-1944	Pamela Turtle (Barrable)	1948-1953	Entry Decade 1970s	
Brian Angel	1938-1947	Andrew Capel	1949-1954	Jane Avent (Turtle)	1972-1978
Peter Harrison	1938-1949	Graham Cook	1949-1960	Andrew Munro	1973-1980
Pamela Chatfield(Black)	1939-1945	Christine Van Gelderen (Steele)		Neil Myers	1975-1980
Entry Decade 1940s		Mary Wait	1949-1957	Tony Clarke (Staff)	1976-1984
John Hughes	1940-1946	Entry Decade 1950s		Karl Yabsley	1978-1982
Joyce Price (Hughes)	1940-1950	Valerie MacLeod (King)	1950-1957	Jon Robinson	1979-1980
Christopher Neale	1941-1951	Tony Millinger	1950-1961	Entry Decade Post 1980s	
Valeria Grover (Gill)	1942-1954	Colin Barrable	1951-1956	Brigitta Van Niel	1981-1985
Derek Green	1942-1948	Chris Gough	1951-1955	Sam Smith	1983-1987
Malcolm MacMahon	1942-1953	Kenneth Hewitt (Staff)	1951-1960	Simon Tuck	1985-1990
Yvonne Slocombe(Downs)	1942-1947	Duncan Brown	1953-1960	James Lacey	1989-1994
Rosemary Angel (Dennis)	1943-1951	Clyde Jeavons	1953-1958	Charles Froy	1992-1998
David Pethen	1945-1954	John Bartlett	1954-1965		