

## FORMER RECORD HOLDER RETURNS TO SCHOOL

Norman Scott Morrison (1959-1967) who emigrated to New Zealand many years ago is still the current school 1500m record holder with a time of 4m 05s. On leaving school, he became a representative at the English Schools meeting and subsequently competed for both England and Scotland. Norman maintains his interest in athletics by helping out with youngsters in New Zealand. He returned to RRS for a visit in October, and was most impressed by the improved facilities currently at the school. Norman is pictured here with the sculpture of Roger Bannister which was unveiled earlier this year by Neil Speaight, the current British No2 1500m runner.



## BRIDESHEAD, MRS SIMPSON AND LOVE OF HORSES

Hard on the heels of 'The Duchess' film comes another stately home film drama this autumn; this time an adaptation of the legendary 1981 TV series 'Brideshead Revisited' which many readers will remember with pleasure. In that TV production the leading part of Sebastian was played by Anthony Andrews, actor-husband of Mrs Georgina Simpson, a great friend of our School.

Each year the School receives from Mrs Simpson's Educational Trust a generous sum to assist two pupils who would otherwise be unable to continue studies into the 6th Form for financial reasons. Of the 'Simpson's of Piccadilly / DAKS' family who also donated the original Alexander Simpson pavilion in 1937, Georgina Simpson and husband Anthony share a passion not only for acting but also for horses and riding. Her father, Dr. Leonard Simpson was among the founding members of Hickstead of which Georgina is now Patron. Last year her horse Overdrive won all the saddle classes, judged by her all-time heroes David Broome and Liz Edgar.

There have been difficult times too. Georgina had a very serious accident on a horse called Blizzard and she was in hospital with significant brain damage and a broken pelvis. "It was a very worrying time for us all," said Anthony "and it took a long time for her to learn to walk again."



Pictured above left: Anthony Andrews (right) as Sebastian with Jeremy Irons in the 1981 TV series of 'Brideshead Revisited'; Middle: Georgina Andrews (née Simpson) with 'Overdrive' and Anthony Andrews out riding on 'Indian Trail'.

## CONDOLENCES

We have been informed that the following people have died, and we take the opportunity to send condolences to their families:  
Victoria Fisher (at school 1928-1936) who died in January 2008  
David Waylett (at school 1978-1982) who died in 2006  
Stanley Prince (at school 1935-1941) who died recently  
Len Watkins (at school 1931-1938) who died in September 2008

## THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER - PLEASE GIVE US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS!

Email: [jpowell@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:jpowell@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk) or [stanner@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:stanner@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk)  
General enquiries can be addressed to: [theoldrussellians@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:theoldrussellians@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians](http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians)

## UPDATE ON THE NEW BUILD AT RRS - GOING GOING GONE!



Undoubtedly there will be a few wags out there (and we don't mean wives and girlfriends!) who will have something amusing to say about the demise of the Bursar's office seen in the photographs. All we will say is that after all the work that was done, no secret 'stash of cash' was revealed!!

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR ...

Jeremy Element, Robert Renton, and David Berman (all left around 1982/3); Paul Roach (left 1981); Yavwa Nkowan (around 1977-1984)

## ... WE HAVE FOUND ...

Roger Fletcher (1942-1949); Nick McMahon (teacher from 1993-2002); Bill Agelidis (1982-1984); Adam Garady (1980-1985) and Norman McDougall (1939-1951)

## A LEVEL RESULTS

Extract from an email sent from the Headmaster to all staff in August 2008  
Reasons to be cheerful...

All three year groups have recorded 'best ever' results!

\* GCSE: 50% A/A\* (last year was 38.7%)

100% A\*-C in 5 subjects; 99% pass rate overall

\* AS Level: 58% A/B rate (beating last year's previous best of 51.6%)

\* A2 Level: 66% A/B rate (last year was 63%); 100% pass rate

All leavers were placed on courses of their own choosing - the vast majority at their 1st choice university.

This is a phenomenal achievement and is testimony to everyone's hard work throughout the school community.  
Congratulations to all.  
JRJ

## O.R.s TAKE TO THE STAGE

We have been reliably informed that a number of Old Russellians are now unsigned musicians. Juan Zelada (1992-1996) to name but one has a website at: [juanzelada.com](http://juanzelada.com) which is well worth visiting. Also we hear that Ife Onyekwe (1994-2001) is another unsigned singer. Do you know of anyone else who would like a 'plug' on these pages? If so, write to us and let us have website addresses so we can listen too!

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Adam Garady (1980-1985) and his wife Kerry on the birth of their new baby boy, Sonny, born in August 2008. Pictured also are their son and daughter, Finn and Lily.

Congratulations to O.R. Chairman, Karl Yabsley, on his recent ILM Level 3 Introductory Certificate in First Line Management, awarded to him in August 2008.



# THE OLD RUSSELLIANS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### WEBSITE

### WC&DS GARDEN PARTY

### RETIREMENTS

### ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP

### OTHER REUNIONS: - SYDNEY - RIVER THAMES - RECENT LEAVERS

### 'THE DUCHESS', THE DEVONSHIRES ... AND THE SCHOOL

### NORMAN SCOTT-MORRISON (1959-1967)

### REVISITING BRIDESHEAD

### UPDATE ON NEW BUILD

### LOOKING FOR ... AND WE HAVE FOUND ...

### A LEVEL RESULTS

### O.R.s TAKE TO THE STAGE

### CONGRATULATIONS

### CONDOLENCES

## RETIREMENTS

At the end of the summer term Chris Hedges retired after 21 years as Prep School Headmaster; Suzie Dodsworth retired after 13 years as Head of the ICT Department; and Shirley Brewer retired after 20 years as 'personal shopper' to all pupils who visited the school uniform shop. Shirley was also 'personal seamstress' to boarders! Complete photo albums of these retirement parties can be found on the website in the Photo Gallery.

## Electronic Membership

A reminder for all O.R.s (recent leavers) that you are entitled to electronic membership if you left RRS between 1999 and 2003. But we can only send you information and newsletters if we have your correct email address!

## PHOTO GALLERY



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008/9

**2008**  
**Sunday 9th November**  
**Remembrance Sunday**  
Service in Chapel 10.10am

**Sunday 9th November**  
**Fireworks Display and**  
**Fun Fair - Gates open**  
5.15pm

**Saturday 29th November**  
**AGM and Annual Dinner**  
Invitations downloadable on the website.

**Sunday 30th November**  
**Advent Carol Service at**  
**5.45pm**

**Sunday 14th December**  
**Christmas Carol Service**  
in Great Hall at 6.30pm.

**2009**  
**Saturday 28th March**  
Annual Footie Tournament to include Netball and '10 Years On' Event

**2nd & 3rd May**  
Zenderen - details on website and in next newsletter

**Saturday 16th May**  
Biennial O.R. Reunion - Family Fun Day to include Cricket Match in memory of Peter Green

**Saturday 27th November**  
AGM followed by Annual Dinner at The Chateau, Coombe Lane, Croydon

**OTHER EVENTS ARE ORGANISED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS: [www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians](http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians)**

## OLD RUSSELLIANS MEET UP IN SYDNEY



Sue and Martin Tanner were in Sydney this summer and took the opportunity to hold the first Australian O.R. Reunion. This was held at the Opera Bar under the Sydney Opera House – a great venue for a great evening! The complete photo album can be found on the website in the Photo Gallery. Although most people didn't know each other before the event, with every decade represented and wine 'on tap' everyone knew each other well by the end of the evening! Thanks must go to Chrissie Tanner (1988-1998), to Veronica (Bill Agelidis' (1982-1984) partner), to Bill Soper (1966-1969) and Bridget Roberts née Anthony (1975-1982) for all their help and support prior to the evening. It's difficult to organise something of this scale from such a long way away! Two Old Russellians who had not seen each other for 59 years were John Killey (1945-1951) and Roger Fletcher (1942-1949)!! Other O.R.s included: David George (1967-1974), Pene George née Doyle (1970-1974), Diana James née Drake (1960-1964), Raymond Liu (1979-1984), Connie Rubin née Jackson (1952-1959), Jay Smith (1999-2004), Mandy Tanner (1991-2005), Mike Bateson, now Wilson (1961-1964) and Justin Wagemakers (1982-1989).



*Pictured top left: Bridget Roberts née Anthony  
Above left: Justin Wagemakers  
Left: Robert Fletcher, John Killey and Mike Bateson  
Below left: Bill Agelidis  
Below: Bill Soper and Raymond Liu  
Front Cover: Diana James and Mike Bateson*



## RECENT LEAVERS' PUB EVENT - SEPTEMBER 2008



This year the Old Russellians held their recent leavers' event at Coombe Lodge. This seemed to go down very well with many ex pupils. Coombe Lodge on a Friday evening is generally a gathering place for tired and exhausted teachers trying to relax. On Friday 5th September their peace was shattered by a large number of recent leavers from RRS catching up on their news. The Headmaster had kindly given us some money to buy everyone a drink. Martin Tanner did an amazing job of, not propping up the bar, but ordering drinks for all. This gesture was well received by everyone. Those of you who arrived after 8pm missed the Headmaster's generosity. Better luck next year!

## RIVERSIDE REUNION

Past pupils and members of staff gathered on a chilly summer evening to reminisce about school as it was 6+ years ago, at the Old Thameside Inn on Bankside. It was wonderful to see how well so many ex pupils are doing, most of them were unrecognisable now even from that short time ago when they left school. Well done all of you and do keep in contact with your old school.



*Pictured above left: Philip Cox (1987-1994), Mark Vernon (1969-1976), Nigel Cox (1987-1994) - texting home to check the new baby is ok!  
Above right: Julia Powell (O.R. Correspondent), Brian Angel (Active O.R. Committee Member, and worth getting to know at the next O.R. event!), Peter Tilly (1990-1997)  
Below left: Reading the recent newsletter is William Parish (1996-2001), Adam Cakebread (1993-2000), Adam Grant (1997-2000), Mark Stow (1991-2001)  
Below right: Antony Sommerfeld (1991-1998) with Rose Gedney (current teacher)  
Front Cover: Jane Bruce (1993-2000) and Sadie Trotman (1992-1999)*



## ROGER FLETCHER THEN (BELOW) AND NOW (LEFT)

*Pictured right: In 1948 Roger Fletcher standing on the right of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, after his Confirmation Service*



## 'THE DUCHESS', THE DEVONSHIRES ... AND THE SCHOOL



Have you enjoyed the recent film "The Duchess"? In this Keira Knightley stars as Lady Georgiana Spencer, a celebrated beauty in a 'crowded marriage' to the 5th Duke of Devonshire, played by Ralph Fiennes. The Duke had held the title from 1764 until he died in 1811. The movie's popular success has rekindled interest in the Devonshire dynasty which spans from 1618 and is of special interest to Russellians.

When the School's first President Earl Russell, twice Prime Minister, died in 1878, he was succeeded as our President by the Marquis of Hartington. He went on to inherit the title of 8th Duke of Devonshire in 1891. He had played a leading role in Gladstone's cabinets and three times turned down Queen Victoria's request that he should become Prime Minister. His lavish entertaining of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at Chatsworth, and his more private entertaining of the Duchess of Manchester, earned him the affectionate nickname 'Harty Tarty', even in Disraeli's public discourses and correspondence.



*Pictured top left: Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire and School President 1878-1908; top right: Kiera Knightley filming 'The Duchess' on the Chatsworth Estate; left: Edward Cavendish, 10th Duke of Devonshire and School President 1933-1950; right: The Marchioness of Hartington (right) with School Board Chairman Lord Hollenden and Lady Hollenden before the new Hall Opening Ceremony 1937.*



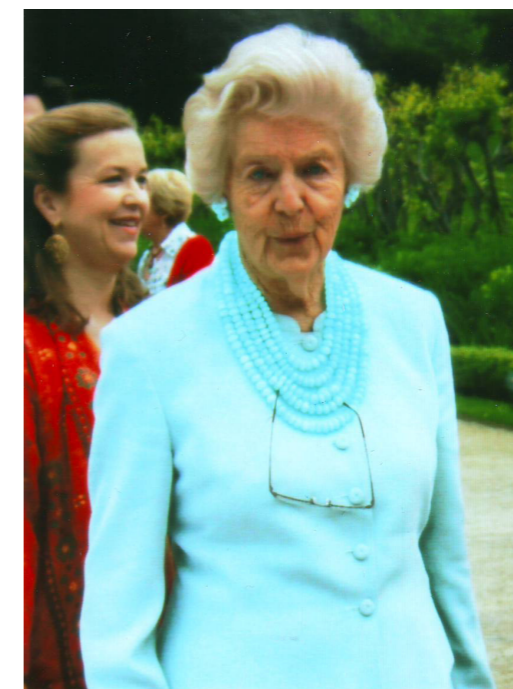
## THE MARCHIONESS AND OUR NEW HALL

In 1908 the 8th Duke died and Lord Rosebery became School President until his death in 1933. Then Edward Cavendish, Marquis of Hartington took over. Four years later in 1937 his wife, Lady Mary Cecil, Marchioness of Hartington, opened our new School Hall extension wing beyond the Chapel building. And one year on, the Marquis inherited, becoming the 10th Duke of Devonshire,

Their elder son William had become Marquess of Hartington, marrying in May 1944 Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy, sister of US President Kennedy. Four months later he was killed in war action and Kathleen died in an air accident in 1948. Continuing his Presidency of the School until 1950, the Duke died suddenly of a heart attack aged 55, while in the care of the noted and controversial Dr John Bodkin Adams of Eastbourne.

Coloured stained-glass plaques of the Devonshire and Hartington coat of arms decorate the School today and commemorate the family's extraordinary commitment to Royal Russell for a period of almost fifty years. And the House title of 'Hartington' was perpetuated for many years at the Girls' School before amalgamation.

*Pictured above middle: Coloured stained-glass plaque of the Hartington coat-of-arms in the Prep School; right: Her Grace Deborah, the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire*



## THE DOWAGER DUCHESS

Visiting Chatsworth this summer I met the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, known to her family as "Debo", who had married the 11th Duke. She clearly recalled the family's historic interest in the School. Now approaching 89, the Duchess is the youngest and last surviving of the six noted Mitford sisters, sometimes described as "famously eccentric" and whose affiliations and marriages were a prominent feature of English culture and politics in the 1930s and 1940s. She has signed and presented to the School the recent book "The Mitfords" which records the sisters' letters to each other over eight decades. Full of wit, passion and great reading, it has been expertly assembled by Charlotte Mosley, Diana Mitford's daughter-in-law.

Before his death in 2004, it was the 11th Duke and his wife Deborah who had led the great revival in the fortunes of Chatsworth. The sudden death of the 10th Duke in 1950 had led to 80% death duties. Thousands of acres of land, many important works of art, rare books and even the Tudor Hardwick Hall were sold or given to the nation in lieu of tax. And since 1950 more than 20 million visitors have also been able to make a vital contribution to the maintenance of this amazing house and estate, its gardens, farms and parkland.

If and when you visit Chatsworth, do take in the Victorian grandeur of Sir Joseph Paxton's conservatory and glass-houses, created on the general lines of water-lilies. Since 1826 he had been the Devonshires' head gardener and later in 1851 his Crystal Palace housed Hyde Park's Great Exhibition. More interestingly for Russellians, in 1861 he was brought in to advise on the siting of our buildings and to design the garden terraces and orchards atop the new Russell Hill School, Purley.

(Notes by Brian Angel, Old Russellian 1938-1947)