

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Charles Froy (1992-1998), pictured left, who recently celebrated his 30th birthday. Charles is still very involved in the work of Royal Russell. He helps Bob Ellis to manage the swimming pool, dedicates much time to the CCF and also to the running of 'The Old Russellians' as part of the committee.

Congratulations to John Brown (1936-1945) and Audrey who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in July. John and Audrey are pictured here (right) at the May Reunion.



Congratulations to Philip Cox (1987-1994) who will marry in Australia in 2010. Philip is pictured here on the left with his brother, Nigel, at a recent O.R. Reunion.

Congratulations to Jonathan Davis (1987-1992), pictured right, whose engagement to Janet Waite was announced in July. Jon and Janet will be married in 2010. Jon is also very involved with the CCF. He will stand down as Treasurer on the O.R. committee at the AGM in November. He has done sterling work in his post over the past few years and we thank him for that.



## ADOPT A DINING TABLE

Please look at the Message Board on the website to get information on how to become part of Royal Russell's history. A number of past and current pupils have 'adopted' a new dining table, by purchasing a plaque containing their name, School House and school dates. These plaques are displayed on the brand new dining tables in the school's dining room. It is also possible to sponsor a whole table!

## DERICK SMITH (1938-1944)

<http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians/features.htm#DCSmith>

Please follow this link to read the message to Royal Russell's Director of Music from O.R. Derick Smith earlier this year. Derick had seen the school featured in the final of Songs of Praise and this reminded him of his own musical experiences. Derick very kindly sent photos which are also uploaded on the web.

## MEMORIES OF SPEECH DAY 1947

[http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians/features.htm#S\\_Adams](http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians/features.htm#S_Adams)

Please follow this link to read the response from Stuart Adams (1946-1950) to Clive Whittenbury (1940-1951) regarding a certain Speech Day in 1947 - quite unforgettable for these pupils!!

## THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER -

PLEASE CONTINUE TO 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)

## VISIT TO BRAMLEY BANK by EDWARD HAMER, SON OF SCIENCE TEACHER, GWILYM HAMER (1946-1949)

"You may be interested to hear that a few weeks ago I located our old house. In those days it was simply known as 'Bramley Bank, Ballards Way' but today it is 39 Chapel View. It is set back from the new estate which all but engulfs it and covers over the fields we used to play in, and which belonged to Farmer King. The house is all boarded up and is possibly the result of a repossession order, but this had the advantage that I was able to amble around and take photographs. The house was once the property of the school, because after our family left in 1949, Dad's successor, George Flett moved in. The older photo is my brother and I outside the house circa 1948, and the other one is the (largely unchanged) house today."



## LOOKING FOR ...



We are still looking for all Head Prefects (boys and girls) and all Heads of House. Those we know of are on the website in the 'Looking For ...' section. Please have a look at this, and let us know of any more that you know of.

We are also now looking for contact details in order to hold a 1980s Reunion.

Nick Southey (1970-1976) is looking for contemporaries from the late 70s.

Please look at the website for details of all these people: <http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians/friends.html>

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Our apologies to Richard Dadson and Pat Bygate for an error which appeared in the summer newsletter. It was in fact Richard Dadson who wrote the pen pics of ex staff in Archives/History on the website and Pat Bygate who wrote the Ballards Epistle in Archives/1940s. We are also advised that it was Geoffrey Hyde (and not Richard) standing on the steps at the Nottingham Factory visit, and in the 1st X1 Hockey Team photo taken in 1951, in the back row (4th from left) should read Barry Robinson then David Liley not the other way round as printed.



# THE OLD RUSSELLIANS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2009

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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

## OLD RUSSELLIANS NEWS



'The Old Russellians' has a new website, a new page on Facebook and new committee members being elected at the next AGM. If you would like to be considered for a position on the committee, please email either Sue or Julia, who will advise you on how to enhance your CV by being part of your old school. Pictured left is part of the committee after the September meeting.

## NEW WEBSITE

Royal Russell has a modern new website, about to 'go live' and The Old Russellians' pages on this will be well worth a look. If you think of anything we can add to this, please email Sue, who will be able to upload information received from Old Russellians. [www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians](http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians)

## NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

'The Old Russellians' now has a generic page on Facebook. The link to become a 'fan' on this page is: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Croydon/Old-Russellians/131412543185?v=wall&ref=search> Please note that this page is designed for advertising events and for getting contact information for fellow Old Russellians. It will not be used for general comments back and forth. Please use our email addresses for this.



## ANNUAL DINNER 2009

This year's Annual Dinner will be held at The Chateau, Coombe Lane. Welcome drinks will be followed by a 3 course meal and wine at the table. This is open to ticket holders only, and tickets can be obtained from Julia Powell from the relevant flier on the website. The closing date is 30th October, so please get your replies in soon. [http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians/Annual\\_Dinner\\_Flyer\\_Rev.pdf](http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/oldrussellians/Annual_Dinner_Flyer_Rev.pdf)

## HARRY POTTER DAY AT RRS

At the end of the summer term Royal Russell hosted a Harry Potter Day. Professional actors appeared on stage as Hagrid and Malfoy (along with current VI Form actors), and performed for our own Junior School as well as other invited local Junior Schools. The big red bus was positioned on the Chapel Quad and everyone was given the opportunity to have their photo taken with the actors. Headmaster Dr John Jennings, suitably dressed as Dumbledore, presented literacy prizes to deserving pupils. The Dumbledore outfit was very kindly made by Anne Dane, mother of Old Russellian, Alex Dane (1980-1997).



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009/10

2009

**Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday Service in Chapel 10am**

**Sunday 8th November Fireworks Display and Fun Fair - Gates open 5.15pm**

**Saturday 14th November 1853 Society Christmas Fair**

**Friday 27th November Annual Dinner at The Chateau**  
Invitations downloadable on the website.

**Sunday 29th November Advent Carol Service in Chapel at 5.45pm**

**Sunday 13th December Christmas Carol Service in Great Hall at 6.30pm.**

2010

**Saturday 27th March Annual Footie & Netball/Hockey Tournament**  
Details on website

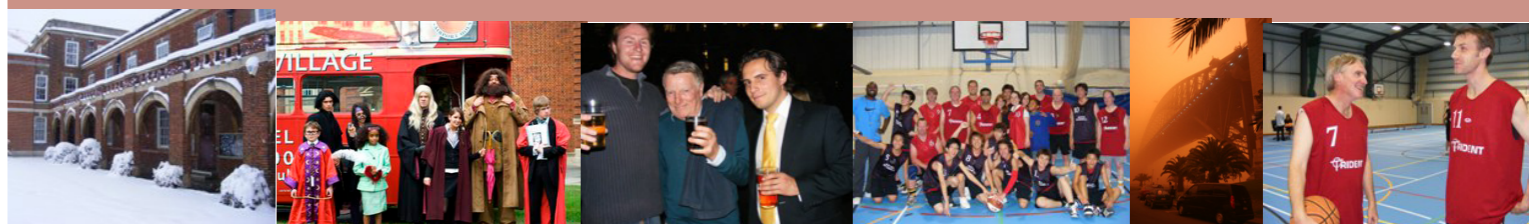
**Friday 11th June Riverside Reunion at The Old Thameside Inn on Bankside**

**2010 Football Tour to Barcelona or Amsterdam**  
Details on website

**First Friday of September Term**  
Recent Leavers Event at Coombe Lodge (tbc)

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

## PHOTO GALLERY



## JUNIOR SCHOOL WELCOME AND FAREWELLS



The Junior School welcomed Mr James Thompson as their new Headmaster from September this year. James was at Ardingly Junior School as Deputy Head until this summer. The school is delighted that James, Viv and their two daughters will now be a part of its happy community.

At the end of last term the Junior School said "farewell" to Mrs Sandy Gavin and Mrs Marion Gooch. The following extract was taken from the Headmaster's Newsletter in July.

"1988 was a vintage year for Royal Russell; both Mrs Gavin and Mrs Gooch joined the school. Sadly 2009 is the year that both will be retiring from us.

Mrs Gavin (pictured below left) has always focussed her attentions on year 3, but has also found time for her involvement with the running club and athletics, both of which she has thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs Gavin feels that she now has such a clear knowledge of the Vikings that she is ready to set sail for new shores! In her own words "Twenty years have gone by in a flash – I have loved teaching here and every aspect of my work has been so rewarding".

Mrs Gooch (pictured below right) began her time at Royal Russell as a class teacher in Year 1. She spent 14 very successful years in this role before undertaking professional training as a Learning Support specialist. Mrs Gooch then became our Head of Learning support and since then she has assisted pupils who have required guidance with specific areas of their education. The support she has provided has enabled pupils to optimise their skills and progress successfully up through the school.

I am very grateful to both Mrs Gavin and Mrs Gooch for their outstanding service to the school. A whole generation of children have benefitted from their enthusiasm and expertise and we hope that they will remain frequent visitors to the school."



## BRIAN ANGEL'S TALK TO YEAR 6

Brian Angel, who was at Russell Hill, Purley, and then Ballards from 1938 to 1947, gave a very interesting and moving talk to our two Year 6 classes at school in June this year.



Brian is pictured above with a photo from an Appeal Dinner 50 years ago.

Brian was able to bring to life what school was like during WW2 when he was much the same age as the current Year 6 pupils. He showed them pictures of the plans for the buildings where they are now educated, before they were built 50 years ago. He told stories of people he knew who lost their lives to that war, including his own mother and her sister (also both Old Russellians) after a visit to see Brian at school. Their bus from Croydon was hit by a supersonic German V2 'terror weapon'. In his talk this year, Brian also traced the school's wartime procedure whenever an air raid siren or the noise of a doodlebug was heard. Brian's sense of humour, humility and modesty, combined with his unique experiences, gave the pupils an unforgettable insight into our school in WW2.



Pictured above are members of Year 6 looking at wartime information leaflets on air raid precautions.

## RIVERSIDE REUNION



A combination of many year groups of Old Russellians all gathered for this popular annual reunion. This year it was held for the second time at The Old Thameside Inn on Bankside, giving everyone a good amount of space and London atmosphere on a warm Friday evening after work. Ian O'Brien, along with Rose Gedney, retired this summer. They enjoyed catching up with old pupils, as did many other staff. **There are slide shows of most events on the website if you would like to see more people and try to spot old friends.**

## SYDNEY REUNION



In August on a very warm (winter) evening in Sydney, Australia, a few Old Russellians again got together to catch up over a glass or two of beer/wine. It was good to see some new faces along with some who had attended last year's event. Pictured above left are Kitty Mak (1998-1992) with Ian Curtois who taught Chemistry at RRS (1994-1995) as a job swap with Eric Brown. Pictured above right are Tony Dear (1949-1959) and Connie Rubin née Jackson (1952-1959).

## VISIT FROM NICK SOUTHEY

"I did enjoy revisiting RRS and being given the tour by Julia who did a grand job. It was encouraging seeing all the changes and building that have happened over the past thirty odd years. I can see that the school has progressed a huge amount. It brought memories back seeming like only yesterday."

Nick is interested in finding other Old Russellians - see website in 'Looking For ...' for more details.



## VISIT FROM DAVE AND PENE GEORGE



Dave (1967-1974) and Pene (née Doyle) (1970-1974) live in Canberra, Australia. They attended last year's Sydney Reunion. When in the UK in early October they took the opportunity to visit their old school. They were treated to a sumptuous lunch served from the School's very smart new servery, followed by a tour by Julia.

## RECENT LEAVERS' REUNION



The opportunity of an organised gathering of recent leavers was enjoyed by many 2009 leavers as well as a few from previous years. Those who arrived at Coombe Lodge early enough were treated to a free drink and were congratulated on their recent examination successes and wished good luck for their futures. We hope that they will keep in contact with us and attend many events in the future.

## BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL SERVICE

O.R. Chairman Karl Yabsley and O.R. historian Brian Angel joined the CCF at Whyteleafe's St Luke's Church on this year's Battle of Britain Sunday in September. Old Russellian pilot Arthur Dumbell Smith is buried there among 66 Squadron's war graves in the leafy "Pilots' Corner". In brilliant sunshine and in the presence of the British Legion, a military band, the Church choir, RAF veterans, air attachés and airmen from Britain, Poland, Canada and other Commonwealth nations, Royal Russell cadets laid a wreath on "Smudge" Smith's grave.



## 30 YEARS OF BASKETBALL AT RRS



This event was organized by David Hughes (1979-1982) and Director of Studies, Graham Moseley. September 2009 saw the 30th anniversary of the start of basketball at RRS and a team of O.R.s came back to play a match against the school's current U19 team. This was such a success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part ... so much so that another match is being organised for next year.