

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

STEERING
COMMITTEE

DONATIONS AND
BEQUESTS

REFLECTIONS ON
TEN YEARS

DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY

CHAIRMAN'S
FAREWELL

DEVELOPMENT AT
ROYAL RUSSELL

ROYAL RUSSELL
MUSIC

REALLY OLD
RUSSELLIANS

ANNUAL DINNER
2005

BIENNIAL SUMMER
REUNION 2005

LORD MAYOR'S
SHOW 2005

CRICKETING
MEMOIRS

BATTLEFIELD TRIP
2005

FOOTBALL
TOURNAMENT 2005

TOURS OF THE
SCHOOL

A BENCH IN
MEMORY OF JUDITH
CHAPMAN

The objectives of the Old Russellians' Society 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

STEERING COMMITTEE PAUL BARLOW

The School has taken a significant step forward by directly funding staff support for the Old Russellians' Society. Julia Powell is now the Old Russellians' Correspondent and Sue Tanner is the Membership Secretary.

A great deal of time prior to Christmas was spent melding and sifting various databases of names and addresses and it is to everyone with an address that we have sent this newsletter.

Much as we would like to keep in contact with all of you, we do need to meet the costs of postage and stationery, and we would also like to get back more to the style of the excellent magazines championed by Paul Enville and Jason McCreaney.

If there is a cross in the top right hand corner of this copy of your newsletter then we believe you are a paid up member of the society.

We will of course retain the record of your address, but if you wish to keep in contact with us then please can we urge you to complete and return the enclosed subscription form.

We will be using the School website to publish information but future mailings and emails will only be sent to paid up members.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

At Royal Russell Day in May last year the Headmaster touched on the likelihood of public benefit tests being applied to the School and the efforts the School is making to provide assistance for less well off pupils. This prompted an interesting discussion on donations and bequests and we thought it might be helpful if we clarified the point for other Old Russellians.

The successor to the Clerks Warehousemen and Drapers charity and the Purley Children's Trust is the Textile Industry Children's Trust, known as TICT. They no longer have their own schools, but assist children with a link to the drapery trades. Though Royal Russell enjoys a cordial relationship with TICT the School receives no benefit from TICT and currently none of our pupils are assisted by them.

Old Russellians and old pupils of Russell Hill School do make bequests in their wills, but in almost every case the money is deemed to belong to TICT, ie the wording of the bequest makes reference to clerks, warehousemen and drapers or Royal Russell Trust. Should an Old Russellian wish to make a donation or bequest to the current school at Coombe Lane then we would suggest, for the avoidance of doubt, the term 'Russell School Trust' is used.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2006

Sunday 12th March
5.45pm
Choral Evensong in
Chapel - everyone
welcome

Saturday 25th March
Football Match
ORs v School
More info on page 4

Friday 16th June
An invitation to all Old
Russellians to join us at
The Anchor pub on The
River Thames at London
Bridge
All welcome - just turn up!
More details on the
website later!!

Friday 8th September
'One Year On'
for Y13 leavers who left in
July 2005

Friday 24th November
OR Annual Dinner and
AGM

Saturday 19th May 2007
OR Reunion

PHOTO GALLERY



FROM YOUR CORRESPONDENT



Having been a full time teacher at Royal Russell for 34 years and part-time for one, I was looking on retirement with a certain degree of apprehension. When Dr Jennings suggested that I might take the role of Old Russellians' Correspondent, it seemed an ideal way of keeping up my school connections whilst still remaining in contact with former students.

So far, the job has been rewarding as I have caught up with many former pupils and have enjoyed seeing how the years have treated you.

Sue Tanner, as the Membership Secretary, has worked hard to bring the database up to date, as far as possible. Please do let Sue know when your details change. Many of you keep in contact with one another—do pass on any information to friends who have lost contact with us. We would also like to hear from anyone who has news, good or bad so that we can include it in the newsletters. Remember, it can save embarrassment if we know both good and sad situations.

There is so much talent among you that we would like, not only to share that with former pupils, but also use your skills and expertise to help both us and the school.

Royal Russell is well respected within the Croydon community and, as one of its former students, why not play your part and become an active member of the Society. If you feel you can help in any way, do let us know. It helps us to know what you want from your Society and gives us a goal to work towards.

Julia Powell (1970-2005)



DEVELOPMENT AT ROYAL RUSSELL



2006 should see the appointment of architects to take forward the most ambitious building programme Royal Russell has seen since the large development in the 1960s. For some time now we have been working towards the development of a performing arts project to provide a theatre and new home for both the Music and Drama departments. More recently it has also become clear that we need to do something about the Kitchen and Dining Room, and the probable outcome could well be to build a completely new facility. This will not be the end of the splendid Kitchen and Dining Room building, but it may well see a major project to transform the interior to provide classrooms, studios and workshops. The reunion in May 2007 might be the last chance for Old Russellians to see the Dining Room in all its 1926 glory and recall times, and meals, of long ago. It will also be a chance to see and hear more about our plans for the future.

OLD RUSSELLIANS' ANNUAL DINNER 2005

Nearly 60 Old Russellians and members of staff (past and present) attended an enjoyable reunion at School. During the evening those present were able to update their details for the new database, and catch up on both school and former friends' news. Julia Powell and Sue Tanner were delighted at the positive attitude expressed towards the future of our Society. It was also greatly appreciated to get offers of professional help from Old Russellians for our current students at School.



During the evening a raffle was organised to raise funds for the Girls' Hockey Tour to Barbados in summer 2006. Nearly £300 was raised for this event. Organisers are keen to find sponsors for this exciting venture. Please do contact us if you can help, or if you know of anybody who would like to support this.

REALLY OLD RUSSELLIANS

If you are an ex-WC&DS pupil, then this article is for you!

In this newsletter you will have read of the changes being made to the Society's Committee. Being a Really Old Russellian you can rest assured that I shall continue to keep in contact with you one way or another. You may email me at keithangel@onetel.com, mail me at 63 McWilliam Road, Brighton, BN2 6BE, or even telephone on 01273 695596, and let me know what you are up to or have done. OR Benevolent Fund.

Many of us have made a contribution to this fund over the years. For many years the fund remained dormant and since being removed from the Charity Register the Society may use the money in line with the objects of the original Charity.

I have heard from: Philip Barnetson (1929-35), Derek Green (1942-1948) who sent me a copy of the School Rules of Behaviour dated 1945, and Len Watkins (1931-39) who requested a list of ORs who lost their lives in WW2.

Keith Angel (1937-44)

ROYAL RUSSELL MUSIC

If you would like to become a Friend of Royal Russell Music (no charge) in order to keep you informed of all future events please email your email address to:

music@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk

REFLECTIONS DR J JENNINGS



It is now almost ten years since I took over as Headmaster and I hope in many ways the School has not changed too much for Old Russellians.

It is still a happy, vibrant school encouraging the best from its pupils and we are conscious that big is not always best. Our public exam results have steadily improved in recent years, but that has not been at the expense of becoming an academic crammer and we remain convinced that we need to obtain the best result for each of our pupils. Our election to the Headmaster's Conference was a great boost for the School and recognition of our steadily improving standards.

As you will hear elsewhere in this newsletter we are doing a lot to bind together and strengthen the Old Russellians' Society and I believe you have a School you can be proud of.

I hope that those of you who are not paid up members will take this opportunity to confirm your membership and I look forward to seeing you at one of the future functions—the football match on Saturday 25 March 2006 perhaps.

O.R.

BIENNIAL SUMMER REUNION 2005

On Saturday 14th May 2005 Dr John Jennings hosted, what has now become, the traditional Biennial Summer Reunion.

This occasion allowed us to give a second opportunity for those students who missed Judith Chapman's Thanksgiving Service, to attend a Memorial Service taken by the Rev Philip Tait.



Following drinks in the Headmaster's garden,

everyone enjoyed an excellent buffet meal. During the afternoon the Headmaster brought everyone up to date with the latest developments and progress made by the school. Prefects then gave guided tours of the upgraded facilities and enjoyed hearing stories from their predecessors.



CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL

Over the past few months, along with Jason McCreaney, I have been expanding our business together. Due to the increased workload I feel I cannot give the time that the O.R. Society needs or deserves.

After remaining stable for many years, the committee saw many changes of leadership. When I took over the chairmanship I was lucky enough to be supported by Jason who enthusiastically helped launch the Old Russellian Magazine. We then managed to get Chris Gough back on to the committee as an archivist, along with Brian, Keith and Rosemary Angel, as able assistants! I am pleased to say that social events, such as the annual dinner, football tournament and cricket match, have all continued. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Dr John Jennings for continuing the summer biennial reunion that is hosted in school.

During my time as Chairman enjoyable events have included the visit by Her Majesty the Queen in November 2003. On the occasion of her previous visit in 1978 I was one of the pupils forming a guard of honour round the quad outside Cambridge House. Another event that gave me pleasure was the visit to Russell Hill. Although I knew the history of the school, I had never visited it before. It was good to hear the rendition of the Russell Hill song and to hear about what former pupils thought of their schooling.

I appreciate that the Society needs funds to keep it afloat. Without paid-up members this becomes increasingly difficult. I do hope that you will appreciate the new roles that have been created and give your full support to your Society.

To end with, to everyone who has helped me in the last 20 years, thank you. To all those who got pleasure from attending the events, it was a pleasure, and I hope to see you all on future occasions as a proud O.R. member.

Best wishes to you all

Paul Enville (1977-1982)



LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2005



O.R., Jason McCreaney, currently Chairman of the Society of Young Freemen of The City of London, kindly invited pupils and staff from the Prep School to accompany the float at the 2005 Lord Mayor's Show that was held on 12th April. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would like to express their thanks to Jason for including them in this auspicious occasion. Pictured here are members of RRS Prep School with Jason McCreaney (circled) and the Society of Young Freemen.

CRICKETING MEMOIRS



Having played cricket at Royal Russell between 1979 and 1982 this gave me the incentive and enthusiasm to continue playing the game at senior level. Here I am 23 years later still playing and enjoying the game.

I played for the school U14, 2nd XI and House Teams. During that time Sara Jane Sherlock, a very capable cricketer, also played in the 2nd XI. Years later I have been in contact with her elder brother arranging club fixtures. What a small world, Old Russellians being brought together by the game

of cricket.

At school I need to thank both Mr Piggan and Mr Green who coached and managed the teams. I was given plenty of opportunities which encouraged me, and stood me in good stead for club level.

I enjoy reminiscing about my school cricketing days and continue to appreciate the game at a more advanced level. During my career I have been lucky enough to meet Graham Thorpe and Chris Bullen (ex-Surrey County Cricket Club players), I have been coached at the Ken Barrington Centre at the Oval, and even played on the hallowed turf at The Oval! Whilst playing for Caterham Cricket Club I have received two league medals. Last year I also played in the Surrey Championships.

Karl Yabsley (1978-1982)

CURRENT RUSSELLIANS VISIT O.R. WAR MEMORIALS



Last October 43 Year 9 pupils travelled to the battlefields, memorial cemeteries and trench museums of the First World War. Francesca Gallagher read 'To the Fallen' at the Last Post ceremony at the Menen Gate in front of an audience of over 500 visitors, and Robert Marcucilli laid a cross at the grave of an unknown soldier in memory of Old Russellians who gave their lives in WW1.

ANNUAL OLD BOYS, STAFF AND SENIORS' FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

2005

The third tournament was a great success. On a balmy late March afternoon, six sides played out a tournament high on incident and low on quality! The day Houses were triumphant, making up for their heartbreaking penalty shoot-out loss in 2004. The Boarders were very disappointing, finishing sixth and last in defence of their trophy. The three Old Boys' sides played well in parts, but again celebrating too much the night before the tournament cost them dearly and they all failed to reach the final. The Trinity Old Boys' side came very close to ruining Dr Jennings' day by reaching the final.

Well done and thanks to all of those who played, supported and came down to Coombe Lodge for a beer afterwards.

2006

This year's tournament is on Saturday 25th March, from approximately 1pm onwards. All ORs are welcome to come back and enjoy the event, whether to play, watch the action, or simply to catch up with fellow ORs and staff. As usual the post-tournament analysis will take place in Coombe Lodge from 6pm until whenever.

Anyone requiring further details can contact me at stevejgreaves@hotmail.com

Steve Greaves

Oxford Housemaster

TOURS OF THE SCHOOL

Julia Powell would be delighted to give any Old Russellians a tour of their 'old' school. For an appointment please contact Julia by email at jpowell@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk or 0208 657 4433 and leave a message.

JUDITH CHAPMAN



None of you will be surprised that this bench, dedicated to Judith Chapman, overlooks top pitch where she spent many hours enjoying the sports being played.

MESSAGE BOARD

What shall we call our newsletter?

We are looking for a short, snappy title relevant to all ORs. Any ideas? Please email Sue or Julia.

Check out detailed information regarding events on the web site at www.royalrussell.co.uk/OldRussellians

News of Old Russellians - please write and tell us your news!

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

O.R.

Email: jpowell@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk or stanner@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk