

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:FROM YOUR
CORRESPONDENT
AND MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY

FINANCE

DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY 2006/7ARTICLE BY COLIÑ
JOHNSONARTICLE ABOUT
WILLIAM
PORTEOUSBALLARDS DAYS
FROM PAT (BRUNO)
BYGATETOURS OF THE
SCHOOLINSET BY O R,
DAVID WESTO R REUNIONS:
BAGHDAD
M U N
HONG KONG

MESSAGE BOARD

MEMORIAL
GARDEN SEATS
DONATIONS AND
BEQUESTSJUDITH CHAPMAN'S
MEMORIAL

CLASS OF 1953

ROYAL RUSSELL
MUSICO R FOOTBALL
TOURNAMENTWHO ARE THESE
TEACHERS?PETER GREEN
(1935-2006)

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

FROM YOUR CORRESPONDENT AND
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We were both thrilled at the response from our first newsletter. It hardly seems possible that six months have past us by and we are again back at the computer, compiling the next issue.

By targeting everyone on the database we have managed to recruit nearly sixty new paid up members. We look to you to remain members and to encourage more of your ex Russellian friends to join up.

Year 13 are invited to become 'student members' of the Society for the first five years after leaving. We now hope to keep these young Old Russellians involved and look forward to them becoming full members in a few years' time. It was great to see so many of you at the Football Tournament in March whether playing on the pitch or supporting from the side line.

Since taking over the role last September a number of older Russellians have revisited the school and rekindled memories. It is unbelievable how astute their memories are with exact recall of events such as 'the monthly dose of senokot', 'matron scrubbing boys' backs', 'where they sat, and what they had to eat, in the dining hall' and 'planting a laburnum tree outside the headmaster's house'. Although their life was hard, all agreed that, without being sponsored as a founder, they would not have received such a good education and certainly would not have been so well prepared for the world of work.

We do hope that you will all be frequent visitors to the OR web page on the school website. It is updated on a regular basis and can be used as a notice board should any of you wish to contact former friends.

Julia Powell and Sue Tanner

FINANCE

We are proposing to regularise the payment of subscriptions. Your annual subscription will now be payable in September, which validates your membership until the end of the financial year 31st August next. Payment by cheque each year means you have to remember - or we have to remind you! So we would prefer you to pay by standing order on a UK bank account or to debit your credit or debit card. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a standing order mandate and a form for payment by card. Many of you pay by one of these methods, but a fresh form would be appreciated. Please complete the relevant form - or cheque if you still prefer - and send it straight back to Sue Tanner. She will update the database with your membership and send it on to me to deal with. Thank you.

Keith Angel (Hon Treasurer)

DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY 2006/7

Friday 8th September 2006
'One Year On' for Y13 leavers who left in July 2005 to be held at the school

Sunday 22nd October 2006
MUN Reunion for Old Russellian MUNers to be held at the school

Tuesday 24th October 2006
Old Russellians and current parents Reunion in Hong Kong

Saturday 18th November 2006
1853 Society Christmas Fayre

Friday 24th November 2006
Old Russellians' Annual Dinner and AGM

Sunday 10th December 2006
RRS Christmas Carol Service

Saturday 27th January 2007
Burns Night Supper - 1853 Society event

Saturday 24th March 2007
Old Russellians' Football Tournament followed by: 1853 Society Quiz Supper

Saturday 19th May 2007
OR Reunion

OTHER EVENTS ARE ORGANISED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - PLEASE CHECK OUR WEB PAGE FOR DETAILS

PHOTO GALLERY



COLIN JOHNSON (1945-1951)

Snippets compiled from Colin Johnson's boarding school memories:

My home was the Isle of Man, my journey to and from school took two days each term and involved many train changes and a ferry ride. As trains and ferries did not coincide, I had to spend the night sleeping in warehouses on the keyside sharing lunches with the dock workers.

It is virtually impossible to describe this beautiful 'Ballards' school and to still do it justice. Much of the school as I knew it is still in place apart from St Andrews' House, where I boarded. We slept in rooms of about 5 boys and spent hours telling ghost stories. On occasions we got caught and were then slipped as a punishment!

Being the end of WW2 bunk beds were housed under the dining hall. This acted as an air raid shelter and later became the clothing store. Matron also lived in this area, and I remember her as a sadistic woman and about 10ft around the waist!

Mr Frederick Gower ARCM used to follow the 1 1/4 hour chapel service with an organ recital that boys could stay and listen to. I always remained behind and it was here that I gained my love of 'classical piano'. Today I take my hat off to my teachers and respect them for a job well done. Discipline was harsh and the memories of certain staff remain with me: Mr Crispin Smith (the Assistant Headmaster), Mr Carrick Smith (French Master), and Mr Tomlinson who was a WW1 veteran. We used to avoid algebra lessons by side tracking Mr Tomlinson and getting him to talk about his war experiences!

The sports teacher's ambition was to ensure that all pupils could swim. The pool then was set amongst acres of pine trees. One boy, unbeknown to the Master, managed to cheat when going across the pool, and kept touching the pool bottom with his big toe - that boy was me. (Disgracefull!)

My philosophy in life is to mind my own business, unless anyone asks for my help, which I willingly give! Ballards (as we knew it) taught me well. I received the best education for which I will be eternally grateful.

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 her by email at jpowell@royalrussell.croydon.sch.uk or 0208 657 4433 and leave a message.



THOMAS CAREW

Thomas's daughter-in-law arranged a visit to his old School to celebrate his 92nd birthday. He spent time reminiscing and recalling his former days here. He must be one of the few left who can actually remember the laying of the Chapel foundation stone. William is pictured looking at his entry in the original founder's ledger in the Board Room.

JOHN HUGHES (1940-1946)

John has visited the school on previous occasions. The purpose of this visit was to spend time looking in the archive boxes for extra material to enable him to write his school memoirs for his grandchildren. Whilst here he also took the opportunity to look at familiar and newly updated facilities that the school now has to offer. He is pictured here outside the Chapel with Julia and Sue.



WILLIAM PORTEOUS

William Porteous 1920-2005
(O.R. 1930-1937)

William's wife wrote to the Old Russellian's Society to tell us of his death last year. William was orphaned at the age of nine and entered school shortly afterwards. He was a cadet throughout his time at school and when he left, at the age of 16, joined the territorial army and then volunteered for regular army service. After serving in India for six years he left the army and joined the Freemasons. He later worked in the Foreign Office in Prague and finished his working life at a pharmaceutical firm. Bill, as his wife called him, was a 'great character' who really appreciated his time at school. He took delight in showing his wife around on an Open Day and kept his leaving book with him until the day he died.



'BALLARDS DAYS'

Pat (known as Bruno) Bygage (1946-1951) has written an account of his school days, starting:

"The school term had already been in full swing for 3 weeks when I arrived at Ballards on Friday 4th October 1946....."

A full account will be available for download from the website during the summer.

INSET BY O.R.



In March David West, a physiotherapist, gave up his afternoon to run a revision session to both the AS and A level PE students.

With exams 'on the horizon' the information was well received and made a refreshing change from normal lessons.

If any Old Russellian is able to help out in a similar way, we would love to hear from them. First hand knowledge and experience help students to gain a better understanding of the subject.

PETER WARREN GREEN - An Officer and A Gentleman 1935 - 2006

Senior Master and Contingent Commander (1958 to 2005)

It was with very great sadness that we announced the death of Peter Green on Thursday 27th April.

At Peter's Thanksgiving Service John Piggin felt very privileged to deliver the Address. This can be downloaded from the Old Russellian web site in full, and extracts can be found below:

Peter the School Teacher

Following his university life at LSE Peter joined Royal Russell in 1958 as a Geography teacher.



The responsibilities that Peter held during his time at the School are quite staggering:

- Head of Economic and Public Affairs
- Boarding House Tutor until 1974
- Examination Officer from 1974 and i/c School internal Exams
- Third Master and then Senior Master
- Producer of the School Timetable
- Master i/c cricket and Cross country
- i/c School stationery – his many stores around the school were each and every one an Aladdin's cave
- i/c school detentions
- U/14 and later U/12 soccer manager
- U/14 and later 1st X1 cricket manager
- Organizer of main school events such as – Parents evenings, Remembrance Day, RRS Day, School photograph
- Treasurer of the OR society until the mid 1980's and the main link between the society and the school

Peter the Soldier

Peter spent an unbelievable 57 continuous years in the Cadet movement joining Christ's College as a cadet in 1948 and finally retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer of the Royal Russell Cadet Corps in 2005.

(James Lacey, an Old Russellian, and an officer in the RRS Cadet Corps then spoke about Peter and the CCF.)

Peter received his Long Service medal last summer. The MOD confirmed that this was the longest recorded period of service ever achieved by an Officer in a school CCF.



Peter the Sports Enthusiast

Peter enjoyed his sport and he was a life long supporter of Arsenal and member of Middlesex Cricket Club. I remember a particular school match when Peter had to send off a rather loud and unruly boy from the opposition: "Would you kindly leave the field of play?" he said to the totally astounded boy who was left speechless.

Cricket was perhaps Peter's favourite sport and as Master i/c he spent countless hours coaching and umpiring the U14 and later the 2nd and 1st X1 teams.

Peter the Political Analyst

Peter was an ardent royalist, feverishly patriotic and it is hardly surprising that Winston Churchill was his greatest hero. How often have many of us heard Peter mention "The Churchillian Spirit" in so many different contexts. More than anything else Peter was a Conservative Party loyalist to the Nth degree.

General Elections, and particularly election nights were great events for Peter and theatre for those of us privileged to have been with him. He was in his element. Armed with trusty clipboard and black bic pen for notes, surrounded by reference books (not that he really needed them), drink and nibbles on a nearby table he was there for the duration.

His knowledge was really quite phenomenal and I think that the only time that you could actually describe Peter as being "smug" was when he was right and Peter Snow was wrong.

Peter the Family Man

Peter and Jane married in 1980. For Peter marriage was a key turning point and suddenly life became full of new adventures. With the arrival of David, Elizabeth, and Nicholas, Peter became a family man - and how he enjoyed it! The family Christmases, birthdays and annual holidays were new fixtures alongside school examinations and local elections. He now faced many challenges: his boxes of National Geographic and the Economist, carefully stored in the garage, in date order, had to make way for bikes, sandpits and paddling pools!

Closing Words from the Address

His influence and memory will always be with us all and there can be no greater tribute than to say of Peter "the sum of the parts is greater than the whole". Peter was a gentleman of the highest integrity, dedicated to his profession and his family. He was a very close and valued friend of mine and greatly admired and respected by all of us here today.

John Piggin (May 2006)



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT MARCH 2006



Saturday 25th March 2006

The annual football tournament took place on Saturday 25th March. Thanks to Steve Greaves (Oxford Housemaster); Old Russellians: Alex Armstrong, David Frimpong, Chris Taylor and Ben Ellis; and to Richard Piggin (who organised the Trinity team). Six teams took to the field. All games were watched by a number of former students who remained faithful to the end of the tournament despite the unrelenting early April showers. At the end of the round games, the staff team (ably assisted by younger legs from both past and present students) again reached the final play off for 1st and 2nd places. Richard Piggin and his Trinity team soon made it apparent that this was going to be their year and quickly made sure of the victory by winning 2-0. They now hold the trophy for the next 12 months when the Russell teams will be more determined than ever to reclaim it!



WHO ARE THESE TEACHERS?



It is the 1980's. I am a kid with a fairly cruel sense of humour with my fountain pen hovering over my rough book.

I took Art classes at Royal Russell and even had Saturday morning lessons with the late Col Starky. At home I drew cartoons for pleasure - and during lessons too, by the looks of things! Sorry Mr Piggin and Mr Tanner, but you and a few close classmates were often targets of my pen. My old rough books and the drawings in them still exist, the one where I found this picture is entitled 'History Revision'!! Whoops! I didn't do much of that, as Mr Piggin will probably remember!

John Piggin and Martin Tanner were my Housemaster and Deputy Housemaster, respectively, in Crispin House. I am still drawing cartoons, but getting paid for it now. I recently had a couple of children's books

printed, so the little cartoons I drew back then stood me in good stead for the future!
Jon Sampson (1982-1984)

OLD RUSSELLIANS REUNION IN BAGHDAD - APRIL 2005 By Murdo Urquhart (1966-1976)

Readers will be aware that much of the British Army is rotating through Iraq, with our main forces deployed in the south around Basrah. There is however a smaller group of individuals up in Baghdad and I have just done my turn there, where I spent six months working as the chief of one of the staff sections in the American Corps headquarters. When out there, I received an email from Adrian Edwards, telling me that Alistair Cook was also there working for the American State Department. Getting to meet him was not easy due to his working in a heavily guarded International Zone (IZ) and I was outside it. The only time I could get access to the IZ was for business, when I visited for short periods of time, as travelling was either by helicopter or by armoured convoys. On one occasion I finished early and had a couple of hours to spare. Seizing the opportunity, I hunted down Alistair who immediately recognized me. It was good to see him and we had sufficient time for a nostalgic long chat before I had to depart. The encounter must be one of the more unusual OR reunions, albeit impromptu.

A Soldier's Tale

(Adapted from an article written by Murdo Urquhart)

Originally this article was written as I had done something 'different and interesting' with my career. After leaving Royal Russell and completing my course at Sandhurst, I joined The King's Own Border Regiment. My career has alternated between regimental duty and in training appointments. I have now been in the Army for 30 years, am a Colonel and still have seven years left before retiring.



Most of my service has been in the UK although I have spent a considerable time in Northern Ireland. In total I have done six tours. Whilst in Belfast we lost several soldiers but were luckier in Londonderry where all survived. Later, when I commanded a battalion of a different regiment, I transferred to it. I still wear the uniform of The Royal Irish Regiment. In 2003 I was promoted to Colonel where I took the appointment of Deputy Commander of the 3rd Infantry Brigade. In 2004 with the improving situation, I returned home. Will I serve there again? It is unlikely but still possible.

Outside the UK, I have worked in Canada, Germany, Cyprus and Malaysia where I gained excellent training. Amongst my experiences were going through Checkpoint Charlie in scarlet mess kit into East Berlin for dinner (this was because we could have an excellent meal at a very cheap price), living in spartan conditions in the Falkland Islands, and an exotic couple of years as a staff officer in the Omani Army Headquarters in Mascat.

I am often asked if I have been shot at. The answer is 'no, not directly' despite being in areas of Northern Ireland when shots were fired and bombs were going off. I did, on one occasion, lose a corporal to whom I had grown close. It was a shocking experience and began my process of growing up. I have never forgotten him and have a quiet period of remembrance on the anniversary of his death. Life in Baghdad was very frightening as no one is safe. I had near-ish misses from mortar attacks, suicide bombers and roadside bombs. Nerve wracking though it was, it was also an utterly fascinating time.

In between tours, I returned to Sandhurst as an instructor, worked as a staff officer in the MOD in Whitehall after which I was awarded the OBE.

Despite not excelling at sport at Royal Russell, I have managed to represent my battalion in hockey, swimming, running, squash and my favourite of all, downhill skiing.

Being a soldier has had a significant impact on my family. We have moved frequently and my boys have attended many schools. It has been an abnormal life but my wife, Juliet, has taken it in her stride.

Looking back, I have not had a bad posting. What of the future and what of my remaining years in the military service? Our government sees the Army as a 'Force for Good' and we are increasingly sent to less fortunate parts of the world in order to try to improve the lot of the people who live there. Against this background the only prediction I will therefore make about my final years as a soldier is that they could be varied and interesting.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2006 OLD RUSSELLIANS REUNION

This October is our 25th Annual Conference and we are holding a reception on the Sunday, 22nd October, during the afternoon in the Library/6th Form Centre and all OR MUNERS are welcome to join us. Roy Bushin will be here for the weekend and there will be the opportunity to visit GA.

Please pass on this information to those with whom you are in contact. Further information will be posted on the web site nearer the time.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

John Piggin
johnpiggin@hotmail.com

HONG KONG 2006 O R REUNION



This is proving to be a very special year for Old Russellians in many ways. For those living or working in Hong Kong and nearby areas there is due to be an Old Russellian 'First'.

On Tuesday 24th October ORs are being invited to the prestigious Hong Kong Football Club for an inaugural buffet and drinks celebration. Les Antrobus and Martin and Sue Tanner will be visiting and a number of ORs have expressed their interest in attending. It is hoped that this may prove to be a launching pad for a new OR satellite.

Further details will be put on the web site nearer the time, and invitations issued. In the meantime please contact Sue for more information.

MESSAGE BOARD

- Many congratulations to Rosemary and Keith Angel who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in April this year. They met at Royal Russell, after Keith left, and one year before Rosemary left (in 1950) when Rosemary was playing in a tennis match. They were then the 13th Old Russellian couple to marry.

This photo was taken of them braving the rain at the recent Football Tournament with Keith's brother, Brian (right) and Valerie McLeod, an Old Russellian visiting from the U.S.A. (centre).

- Congratulations to Petra Clarke (1990-1996) and Oliver Hirschman (1990-1994) who are to be married in the school chapel this August.
 - Steve (Oxford Housemaster) and Jenny Greaves' twin baby girls were christened in the chapel in May.
 - Mel (Queen's Housemistress from September 2006) and John Davies' baby Thomas will be christened in chapel in September.
 - Congratulations to Peter and Cherry Blundell (nee Mullen 1980-1986) on the birth of their baby Timothy Lloyd on 10th April.
- They are pictured here with daughter Hazel and baby Timothy.



MEMORIAL GARDEN SEAT

In memory of Hilary Groves (Talbot) 1947-1956

We are organising a memorial seat, to be placed in the School grounds, in memory of Hilary. Those of you who knew Hilary as a pupil at RHS and through her involvement with the committee of the O.R. Society, will remember her as a very kind warm person, with a happy smile and a wonderful personality. Any of Hilary's friends/contemporaries who would like to make a contribution towards this may forward a donation to the OR Society Treasurer, Keith Angel at 63 McWilliam Road, Brighton Sussex BN2 6BE.

Valerie C MacLeod (King) 145 Milk Street
Westborough. MA 01581 USA
email:
valerie.macleod@unmassmed.edu

IF ANYONE WISHES TO DONATE A GARDEN SEAT IN MEMORY OF A FORMER RUSSELLIAN, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

A reminder from our previous newsletter that the Royal Russell School is no longer part of the original charitable trust (the Textile Industry Children's Trust). Any Old Russellian wishing to leave a bequest to benefit the current school and pupils should use the term 'Russell School Trust' (not RRS) in their Will to avoid any future confusion. Please note that any bequests to the school will be exempt of inheritance tax.

JUDITH CHAPMAN'S MEMORIAL



This lasting memorial was designed and created by Andrew Ellis (Y13) as his A Level Design and Technology project.

CLASS OF 1953

Where are you now?.....

Richard Dadson was a pupil at Royal Russell School from 1947-55 and has done a wonderful job recalling all those in his year. Although he is in touch with a few of you, he would love to hear from others. If your name appears below, please contact Richard on the following email: RJDSPOD@rdadson.freemove.co.uk

Class of '53

David Bennett	Colin Butler	David Carey
William Cave	Ian Cunningham	Peter Gold
Leon Houghton	Roger Keen	David Kirby
Stephen Little	Malcolm McMahon	Peter Matten
Alan Mercer	Alan Mounce	Anthony Needham
Arthur Moore	David Pethen	Simon Roberts
Geoffrey Rowson	Barry Scargill	Michael Taylor
Patrick Walker	Peter Walmsley	John Weightman

* Please note: Graham Woodcock (deceased)

Richard was in Oxford House and was House Captain 1954-5. He has attended school three times since leaving and was pleased to see that the Dining Hall, Great Hall and the pavilion on Top Pitch were much as he remembered them. School has undergone major improvements in the last few years. The major buildings have been redecorated many times but still retain their original charm.

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

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER - THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE GIVEN US NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM MORE OF YOU!

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