



THE OLD CATERHAMIAN'S' newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 18

www.oldcaterhamians.com

Summer 2011



Bicentenary dates for your diary...

Here are a few of the Bicentenary Year dates. For more information of dates, times and venues throughout this very special year of celebration, please go to:

www.oldcaterhamians.com
and the School website:
www.caterhamschool.co.uk

OCA Cricket Afternoon and School Fete

Sunday 26th June 2011,
1.00pm

Summer Bicentenary Ball

Saturday 9th July 2011, 6.45pm

West of England and Wales Reunion in Bath

Friday 14th October 2011

Westminster Abbey Service

Thursday 20th October 2011

Remembrance Sunday, OCA Day & OCA Art Exhibition

Sunday 13th November 2011

Past Presidents' Reunion: English Speakers Union

Thursday 24th November 2011

Bicentenary Quiz with Mr David Rogers

Friday 25th November 2011

OCA AGM and Dinner at the East India Club

Friday 30th March 2012

A full colour brochure of dates will be sent to all OCs towards the end of May.

AGM East India Club

Twenty two OCs attended a vibrant 120th AGM at the East India Club....

It was great to see some new faces join us this time. Denis Tindley gave his President's report and his Honorary Treasurer's report and we all congratulated him for his 23rd year of looking after the accounts!

Special Past Presidents' badges were presented to Rodney Lyons and Bill Broadhead and there will be a Past Presidents' dinner at the English Speakers Union in November as part of the Bicentenary celebrations.

Julian Thomas told us that the School is in fine fettle and it looking forward to the Bicentenary Year with enthusiasm. Our unique School History book – 'Independent Spirit', is nearly finished and Julian thanked Colin for his hard work and dedication with this incredible task.

Andrew Latham and David Rogers



Chris Rose and John Bleach catch up



Bill Broadhead, Denis Tindley and Rodney Lyons with their Presidents' badges

Once the date of the next meeting was finalised, noting that there would be a short AGM followed by OCA Bicentenary Dinner, the meeting closed and all members then enjoyed an informal chat with some delicious sandwiches and a glass of wine.



Ian Battison signs the register



Denis Tindley and Dave Clark

The President's Message...

The Sports Pavilion on the Home Field was a gift to the School from the OCA, being a memorial to the fifty-six former pupils who lost their lives in the Second World War 1939-1945.

Fund raising was started at the end of 1945, and the target of £7,500, a huge burden at the time, was attained by the time the Pavilion was completed in 1952. Modifications to the building have been made over the years but it is much in need of major refurbishment, which is to be undertaken as a Bicentenary project with support from the OCA and the Parents' Association. Your committee will receive a presentation on the School's plans at its next meeting in May, when we will decide on the OC participation. I am very pleased, and I think it fitting, that the Pavilion, which has meant so much to OCs over the years, is to be the Bicentenary building project.

The planning for the Bicentenary year is nearing completion, and you will all receive shortly a brochure setting out



Denis Tindley

the full programme. We are very grateful to David Clark, the School's Assistant Head (External Relations) and to our Secretary, Alina Rennie, for all the work that has gone into ensuring that 2011-2012 will be a memorable and exciting year of celebration. I hope to see many of

you at one or more of the events. Please also monitor our website

www.oldcaterhamians.com for the latest information.

Colin Bagnall, our hard-working archivist, has been putting enormous effort and time into the new School history, which will be launched on 5th July. As he told us at the AGM, he has wanted it to be not only comprehensive and accurate but also a book that OCs will love and treasure. Something for us all to look forward to!

The AGM was an enjoyable and convivial occasion; while numbers were down on last year, it was good to see several OCs who had not been seen for many years! We hope this is a good portent for the next year. Two hundred years is really something to celebrate and I hope we will all give our support in whatever way we can. On behalf of your officers and committee, I send you our very best wishes.

OC Sports Afternoon 27th March 2011

Caterham was bathed in bright sunlight and 14 degrees on this lovely afternoon and a good crowd turned up for the three usual sporting events. The Headmaster made the presentations at afternoon tea in the Refectory at 4pm.

A trio of spectators - where would we be without these ladies? - Lesley, our Health Centre Manager; Marie, Senior Boarding Matron and Jess Uden, OC and Curator of the Christine Walker Art Gallery and gives invaluable help to the OCA with her photographic skills.



The Football match

SCORES

Football: School's 1st XI team won 2-2
The match was decided on penalties.

Hockey: The Old Cats won 4-3

Netball: The School won 31-4



The Hockey match



The Netball match



Preview Launch

The launch of Preview 2011, which took place at Westminster Cathedral Hall, was a great success. Preview is Caterham School's in-house political journal – published and produced by a team of 6th form students.

Deputy Speaker Nigel Evans MP was the guest speaker on the night and over three hundred guests enjoyed the convivial atmosphere and the various speeches.

The audience was made up of past and present students, teachers and parents and a contingent from Woldingham School.

The star of the show was the magazine itself and the editorial team must take immense credit for creating such a well designed, professional publication.

Preview's cartoons produced by Nicola Jennings of the Guardian and OC Fred Bungay were especially appreciated – and a fierce bidding war took place when they were auctioned at the end of the evening.

Contributors included Lord Geoffrey Howe, Sam Gyimah MP and Daniel Hannan MEP. The 2011 team were: Charles Davies, Megan Armitage, Dan Tiernan, Gareth Tuckett, Joanna Odling, Tom Leatherby, Chris Toomey and Adam Blackwell.



A happy group of 2008 Leavers celebrate Preview Launch



Alex Bishop and Jeremy Hutchinson



Hayden Allan and Matthew Pinkney



Elliott Grant, Andrew Prickett, Kieren Unwin and Nick Fletcher

News from Old Caterhamians...

Mike Kimberley

1971-1978

Mike continues to work for British Rail as Delay Attribution Manager, based in Croydon. Mike is Secretary of The Ninety-Two Club which is a club for people who have seen a first team competitive match at all ninety-two Premier League, Championship, League1 and League2 football grounds. He also hosts quiz nights every Thursday at the King and Queen in Caterham-on-the-Hill and he



Mike Kimberley

would be pleased to see any Old Cats there. You can contact him on m.kimberley2@btinternet.com

Keith Chester

remembers 1932-1940

Keith has very kindly donated some lovely old black and white photographs of masters and the School. Keith tells us "the snaps of the masters have been rather special to me because they remind me how influential they were in my very young life. Excellent teachers, yes but so much more with their extra curricular activities and their 'in loco parentis' guidance and paternal discipline"

Peter Dixon 1954-1961

Having been shown the picture of the Old Honorati boards with the one including my name appearing twice it would be churlish not to respond briefly.

I have been a missing person for decades but keep very warm memories of the school and owe it a great debt for the opportunities it gave me. Many of the things I enjoy now (including my wife whom I met in my last term at Caterham!) remain the same as then - music, theatre, literature, sailing, mountains to name some of my priorities. As it happens I still go climbing every year with an old school friend, Peter Finch who does keep me in touch with some of the things that go on at the school.

Most of my work over the last dozen years has been in health and housing where I chaired the Housing



Peter Dixon

Corporation, the government's affordable housing agency in the years before 2008 and also University College London Hospitals, a wonderful teaching hospital full of amazingly talented staff

where I stepped down last summer after nearly 10 years. I was fortunate enough to be given a knighthood in 2009 for my work in housing. I still work as a non executive in private and public service roles and have a trustee role in two charities to keep me busy.

Good luck with the bicentenary celebrations. I am afraid I am not much of an anniversary person but I do wish the school and all those connected with it well.

David Terry 1952-1959



David sent us the following email:

I have seen the pleasure of keeping in contact with school friends, or any friends, but school friends are amongst your

earliest and clearest memories. So whilst inviting in a succession of OCs to share a garden flat on the fringes of the Royal Borough of Kensington in the 1960s, I played rugby at the OCRFC, saw my sister marry OC John Underwood, and my brother marry Sandra Carl, an Eothen girl.

My feelings are that reunions are good for you, arranging your thoughts on life and success, failure, loss of dear ones, pride in offspring, marriage and fulfilment.

Being neither dinosaur nor daredevil, and three years into busy retirement from a construction business, I have enjoyed savouring change with a daily rant over the morning news until my wife Moira can take no more.

Over the years I linked news with friends, and neglected cousins, have

traced colleagues from college, first job, second and third jobs. We are more in contact than ever before and a big birthday beckons for a repeat of the 50th and 60th beans.

The year we were examined in the General Certificate of Education and Ordinary Level was my fifth year at Caterham and the class were fettled into shape by many styles of teaching – some light hearted but encouraging, others earnest and purposeful.

In 1996, 2004 and 2009 various members of that class made their way to my conveniently central London home from as far away as USA (Michael Aminoff) or Australia (Ian Hodgson) and with a dozen or so others, including Mr Dennis Tucker, past Head of Languages and javelin ace, who married Miss Diana Hearn, secretary to the Head Mr T.R. Leatham.

In 2014 maybe there will be another meet and a virtual folder has been created with recent chance contacts with OCs. There were the wedding guests of Jim Dowling, Tony Randall, Graham Edmonds, an OC from France, David Johnson and Palu Tatham in Bermuda..all of the same era!

To the School in its Bicentenary Year, I wish you much reunion pleasure.

John Pleydell 1930-1938

John has very kindly written to us with his news and of other OCs:

I would like to take the opportunity to indicate news of self and other OCs. My wife and I have a bungalow in the centre of Knutsford, twenty miles south west of Manchester. We are close to the main shops and supermarket and face across the trees of a school to the block of flats where Ralph Jarrett (1921-1930) lives. He left Caterham School in July 1930 before I started in September 1930. He worked for a customer service subsidiary of ICI which moved its offices to Northwich – about eight miles south west of Knutsford to the same factory where I was the Works Engineer. He lived in a house in Knutsford with his sister who was a retired teacher. After her death in about 1998, he stayed by himself in the same house until he moved to his flat near us in 2004. He had bought a testing lab from ICI and analysed the effluents of other chemical firms. At one time, he employed his former boss in his lab and worked on until he sold the business in his early 90's. By now, 99 next birthday, he must be one of the oldest surviving OCs!!

For many years while we still drove cars we had a group of OCs to host the others from the Manchester area: Walter Sondhelm (1935 – 1936), who had come to my class at school as a refugee from Hitler's Germany; Aylmer Astbury – a year or two before me at School and once, Arthur Astbury. Aylmer moved to be with his young family in Suffolk until he died in early 2008. Walter Sondhelm came and lunched with us and Ralph before Christmas 2010. He had a very long career in the cotton textile industry and used to lecture on visits to Israeli universities.

John has very kindly invited any other OCs to visit him and he can be contacted through Alina.



John Pleydell and his wife Doreen

David Hatch 1948-1955

Congratulations to Professor David Hatch who has been honoured by having an annual lecture and medal named after him at Great Ormond Street Hospital, where he was the first Professor of Anaesthesia. The visiting Professor, who so far has come from overseas, spends a few days in the anaesthetic department teaching and demonstrating to the trainees. On the last day, he or she is one of the judges for a trainee's research presentation competition and then gives the annual guest lecture. The visitor is then



Caterham Scout Troop Bus 1955

presented with the David Hatch medal and a celebration follows.

In addition, David has very kindly donated a series of amusing pictures from a 1955 Scout Troop trip to the School Archives.



Scout Troop loading up the bus

Peter Bradsell 1938-1945 Honoratus 1945

Peter has sent us his very interesting 'potted life-story':

Seeing the present difficulties with further education makes me realise (at 82) how fortunate I have been – County Scholarship from Warlingham village school to Caterham, Royal Scholarship to Imperial College, and the support of my parents- Father in the Met. Police at Kenley, Mother at home for us.

Radio was my early interest, encouraged by Norman Maddock, but I did not expect a professional career in electronics. I took a degree in Physics at the Royal College of Science. Radar papers were being published in 1945-48; I studied microwave technology in my post-graduate year, with much hands- on work in the students' workshop.

In 1948 I started as a junior microwave engineer at Cossor Radar in Highbury. My experience developed – trouble shooting on radar sites, systems work, then heading a team developing naval radar transmitters.

I joined the Whyteleafe Twenties Club (still running – we had a reunion in Godstone the other year!), sport. Social, camping, dramatics; there I met Margaret Gurney, chiropodist, from Caterham. We married in 1956, bought a house near Weybridge, commuted to London. Our daughter Helen was born in 1957.

The company moved to Harlow and we moved with it. Our son Richard was born in 1959. We did not want to stay in Essex, so I joined Decca Radar at Addlestone, moving with Decca to the Isle of Wight a year later.

I headed a team designing systems to filter out unwanted echoes from radar screens – fascinating work using transistors for the first time. I went on to run a systems group, retiring as Chief Systems Engineer. Visits were made to radar sites overseas and I lectured to military groups in the Middle East. I had a visiting lectureship at the University of Birmingham.

I joined the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE) in my twenties and became a Fellow in 1973. I was awarded an MBE in 1986.

My contract (then with Plessey Radar) retired me aged 62. I continued as a consultant to Plessey and other companies and I worked overseas with NATO committees. I spent several years as joint Editor of IEE publications and book reviews.

I joined the Old Cats Rugby Club in its first post war season and only missed one season until our move to the Isle of Wight in 1960.

Margaret ran a chiropody practice from home for many years. She had always been interested in the theatre, and joined



Peter Bradsell

the Apollo in a converted chapel in Newport, I.W. to work on-stage and backstage. I was drawn into theatre work, building, plumbing etc, and went on to act and sing on stage.

The Apollo is an amateur theatre with high professional standards and LTG membership. Margaret is now Properties Manager – I now make specialised props for them and act occasionally.

My colleagues at Plessey started a trad. jazz band in the 1960's. I joined and sang with them for 10-12 years. I still break out occasionally, bought a trombone, don't play regularly but turn out sometimes with Ventnor Comic Band!

Retiring from radar, I now have gone back to Physics working one day a week as a volunteer at Carisbrooke High School. I devise new experiments, help with students' projects and maintain electrical instruments. The school workshop in turn, is helpful with items for the theatre. There are new things to learn every day and I am grateful for my health to enjoy them.

Helen and Richard are working in London. We have one grand-daughter, in her 20's who is now a graduate hoping for a career in the film industry. Margaret continues to be active and works for the local Hospice shop as well as the theatre. We are both grateful for the start we were given at Caterham.

Ben Davis 1996-2003



Captain Ben Davis of the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment (1R Irish) and his soldiers recently discovered a large Taliban cache of weapons whilst on patrol in the Nawabad desert area of Helmand Province. The 1R Irish Combined Force Reconnaissance Group (known as 'Wildcat 10') was deployed on Operation TORA BASRA 27 when they

discovered the cache. Their commander, Captain Ben Davis, was leading the patrol when he was tipped off about a weapons hide that it was initially thought consisted of four rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) warheads. Following compound searches in possible insurgent locations, Wildcat 10 then searched a walled poppy garden to the east of the target area. The initial find of the four RPG warheads was confirmed and Captain Davis then made the decision to rummage through the rest of the compound. Throughout the operation the Afghan National Police were involved in cordoning off the weapons cache to deter any unwanted insurgent attention. The documents that were hidden in the ground contained photographic identification of a suspected insurgent.

Captain Davis said:

"This weapons cache is an important find for the Nad 'Ali district. The weapons and ammunition that were recovered will undoubtedly have saved



the lives of Afghan and ISAF forces, and the amount that was recovered would have provided an extremely heavy weight of fire for the Taliban during an engagement with any of our forces. The find also reinforces to the local population that the Afghan security forces are bringing security to their area in partnership with ISAF."

Afghan National Police representative, Staff Sergeant Yosef Mohammed, said: "It is very good that these weapons are now out of the hands of the Taliban as their supply chain will now be tested."

Well done Ben!

Notable Old Boys – An OC Royal Connection

Our Head received a lovely long letter from Vera Mortimer- widow of the late John Mortimer - telling us about some notable Old Boys. Here are some of her entertaining stories:

"With all the interest that seems to have been generated at the beginning of the year by the film about George VI and his speech therapist Lionel Logue, I thought you might be interested in a couple of anecdotes.

As usual, the misconception that the King died from lung cancer has been aired. Possibly someone has already pointed out to you that he was operated on successfully by an OC, Sir Clement Price Thomas KCVO, FRCS, 1906 – 1910 (who died in 1973). This appears in Roger Deayton's invaluable book. In the Daily Telegraph from January 8th this year, there is a quotation from a letter to Logue from the King....."that very clever operation from which I seem to be making a remarkable recovery...Before the operation Price Thomas had asked to see me breathe."



Some years ago, I think at the time of the Queen's Jubilee, so, fifty years after the King's death, Price Thomas' son wrote to the Telegraph pointing out that his father had operated to remove the lung successfully and his Majesty had died in his sleep from heart failure after spending the previous day out shooting at Sandringham – hardly possible for a man about to die from lung cancer. He also retold the story about the operation which I recalled hearing at the time as I was working in a hospital in North West London, Dollis Hill.

After Price Thomas (I assume he was knighted after the operation) had finished, he stood away and started to take his gloves off and indicated to his

assistant that he could close the wound. The assistant gasped and said with horror "but aren't you going to do it Sir?", Mr P.T. replied, "I haven't closed in twenty years and I am not going to start practising on a King!!"

I guess it went round many hospitals, it certainly caused much amusement at ours!

By chance, Lionel Logue came to our hospital as a patient and sadly died there, I think. (I really have no memory of him but seem to recall he bored everyone silly by his constant references to his connection with 'Royalty')

I worked in the Path. Lab- very interesting in those days. Our Pathologist was one of the leading haematologist's of the day. Incidentally, I have just remembered another Caterham connection. When I started working at St Andrew's, my senior pointed out the reference books and said 'Now this is your Bible – you must study it very carefully' It was a text book written by Cuthbert Dukes 1900-1907 (who died in 1977) younger brother of Sir Paul Dukes 1900-1906 (who died in 1967) who was very famous in his time. In fact his classification of bowel cancers is still used today – Dukes' Classification. C.E. Dukes was OCA President in 1925.

Peter Finch 1996-2003

Peter emailed us with news of some of the OCs who appeared on the honorati boards pictured in the autumn 2010 Newsletter and says:

"In the Old Caterhamians' newsletter for Autumn 2010 you showed two honorati boards and asked for news of those whose names appeared on them. Three were my contemporaries, PJB Dixon, C Kearton and MS Richards. I invited them to write to you but Mike Richards said he "preferred to retain his relative obscurity" and Cherry Kearton echoed this view. Peter Dixon (now Sir Peter) said he would be in touch and you may have heard from him. However, that doesn't stop me from updating you myself!

Cherry Kearton (1954-64) retired last year having spent most of his career teaching maths at Durham University. I believe he enjoyed something of an international reputation and specialised in topology and knot theory. I recall his excitement when it was proved mathematically that a reef knot was not the same as a thief knot – something which was blindingly obvious to those of us in the scouts!

Mike Richards (1957-64) is semi-retired having spent much of his career as a statistician at the road research and veterinary research laboratories. He still works part time in the same discipline at a London hospital. He is



Peter Dixon and Peter Finch in the Alps 2009

one of a group of us, ex-Caterham school and/or Caterham scouts, who enjoy mountain adventures and he has been a key member of recent expeditions to the Himalayas, Peru, Corsica, Wales and, this year, the Pyrenees.

Peter Dixon (1954-61) has enjoyed a varied career culminating in chairmanship of both the Housing Corporation (for which he received a knighthood) and the University College London Hospitals. He loves the hills and for the last 12 years he and I have made an annual trip to climb (or more recently walk amongst) the snow peaks of the alps, frequently guided by the books of J Hubert Walker.

Other Old Caterhamians I have met in the last few years include John Chiles (1954-63) and Christofer Rexworthy (1961-1963), both of whom are occasional members of our outdoor pursuit gang. John has recently retired after a lifetime immersed in complex software systems and Chris has retired to France having sold his solicitor's practice.

In 1962 a group of Caterham scouts organised, financed and executed a month's expedition to walk across Norway – no adults, no mobile phones; extraordinary by today's protected standards. The trip was led by Geoff

Mortimer (1956-63), son of Gerald and nephew of John. Apart from myself, other Old Caterhamians included David Charlesworth (1959-64), Michael Bews (1958-66), David Payne (1954-63) and Robin Willoughby (1954-63). We

held a 40th anniversary reunion and there are moves afoot for a 50th next year.

All the above hail from around 50 years ago, which illustrates the enduring friendships which can be formed at school and, in many of our cases, the scouts. I do have one more recent contact – my stepdaughter's partner, Tom Maynard (1983-1991) is also an Old Caterhamian and axiomatically a fine chap! Something which Tom tries to keep quiet is the fact that we believe he and I had at least two teachers in common, Messrs Roughley and Bloom.

And as for me? I retired several years ago after a career in engineering, mainly defence equipment, satellite systems and air traffic control.

This is a very thin skate over my network of Caterham contacts. I can put more flesh on the skeleton but I doubt your readers would be that interested. If those mentioned feel affronted they can always write in with their own stories!!"

Peter has sent us in some lovely photographs displayed in the article.



'The Norway Expedition 1962: From left to right - David Payne (non-Cat in jacket), David Charlesworth, Geoff Mortimer, Colin Lewis (non-Cat), Robin Willoughby, Peter Finch and Michael Bews



Tom Maynard and Peter Finch

Lynn Hainge (Neé Allward) 1991 – 1993

Lynn was spring cleaning her loft recently and came across this year group photograph which she has donated to the School archives along with a photograph of the girls in her Sixth form.



Sixth Form Girls



Class of 1993 Leavers

There are some OC blazers and silk bow ties being specially made for the Bicenentary and will be available soon. Full details will be posted on the website shortly.

STOP PRESS!



Bill Broadhead 1953 – 1960



Bill celebrated his 70th Birthday party and 50 seasons at the Rugby Club in February. The party was very well attended and he was presented with England v Scotland match tickets and hospitality. Eric Peters, the guest speaker, gave a very interesting talk.



Old Caterhamians' Merchandise

Old Caterhamian Ties

Silk tie, striped£15
Crimplene, striped£10
Polyester, crested£10
(Postage & packing £2.50)

Old Caterhamians' Enamel Cufflinks

We are delighted to be able to offer these beautifully crafted enamel gilt plated cufflinks available with chain or T-bar fitting. Our cufflinks have proved very popular. Please state chain or T-bar when ordering.....£30.00 (Postage and packing £2.50)

Please send your requirements and cheques made payable to 'The Old Caterhamians' Association' to Alina.



OC Committee

Your Committee Members:

President: Denis Tindley
Vice President: Bill Broadhead
Chairman: Dave Craft
Archivist: Colin Bagnall
Committee Members: Mark Harriott
John Short
John Grimshaw
Bob Fairall

Honorary Members: David Rogers
John Jones
Secretary: Alina Rennie
EOGA: Anne Bailey
School: Head - Julian Thomas
Dave Clark
3 Pupil Representatives.

We still have Committee Member vacancies for a Social Secretary and Editor
Please contact Dave Craft for further information on:
dave.craft@btinternet.com

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