



THE OLD CATERHAMIAN'S' newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 14

www.oldcaterhamians.com

February 2010

Dates for your diary...

Guitars & Percussion Concert

Tuesday 9th February 2010,
7pm in Humphreys Hall
ADMISSION FREE

Just Pianos

Thursday 11th February 2010,
7pm in Humphreys Hall
ADMISSION FREE

Vocal Concert

Thursday 11th March 2010,
7pm in Humphreys Hall
ADMISSION FREE

Strings Concert

Tuesday 16th March 2010,
7pm in Humphreys Hall
ADMISSION FREE

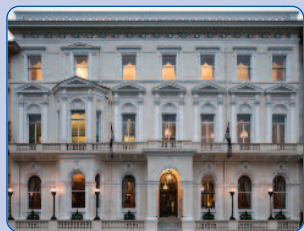
OC Spring Term Sports Afternoon

Sunday 21st March 2010,

- 1.00pm - Football
- 2.15pm - Netball
- 2.30pm - Hockey
- 3.15pm - Darby Medal Swimming
- 4.00pm - Afternoon tea & presentations

AGM & Bicentenary Launch at the East India Club, London

Thursday 25th March 2010
at 7pm



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Remembrance Sunday & OC Day 8th November 2009



Thankfully, the rain held off for our Service of Remembrance although it was a rather chilly day..

Once again, the crowd assembled was a big one and we all offered our thoughts and prayers at a service lead by Rev. Rick Mearkle. The Head gave us a moving address where he told us about the mighty Orient football team of 1915 and their brave endeavours at the Battle of the Somme. Our President then inspected the CCF and we trooped indoors for a warming 'cuppa' to thaw out! A very interesting short silent film about the Orient team and the battle of the Somme was being shown in the Old Dining Room.



Wing Commander Kevin Bage gives his reading



Troops assemble behind the School

Flight Sergeant Jamie Henderson read the following moving poem at our Remembrance Day Service:

Sunset Vigil

*The news is spread far and wide
Another comrade has sadly died
A sunset vigil upon the sand
As a soldier leaves this foreign land*

*We stand alone, and yet as one
In the fading light of a setting sun
We've all gathered to say goodbye
To our fallen comrade who's set to fly*

*The eulogy's read about their life
Sometimes with words from pals or wife
We all know when the CO's done
What kind of soldier they'd become*

*The padre then calls us all to pray
The bugler has Last Post to play
The cannon roars and belches flame
We will recall, with pride, their name*

*A minute's silence stood in place
As tears roll down the hardest face
Deafening silence fills the air
With each of us in personal prayer*

*Reveille sounds and the parade is done
The hero remembered, forgotten by none
They leave to start the journey back
In a coffin draped in the Union Jack*



Remembrance Sunday 2009

continued over page >

At noon some forty Old Caterhamians moved to the Refectory to enjoy a very tasty lunch – a warming soup, Sunday Roast and an old school favourite – Spotted Dick and custard!



A couple of our younger OCs



Iris Richards and Deputy Head, Tracy Ridge



Don Mear and Wg Cdr Kevin Bage



Martin Stevens and family

President's Message

Sitting in my chilly study (the oil is getting low) and staring out over the snow for inspiration, I looked back to see what I wrote about this time last year, only to find that it was largely about the cold spell that had recently been endured. Can't use that approach again here, then!

Warmth is a much more agreeable topic to think about than cold. We are conventionally 'given a warm welcome' (if it isn't 'frosty' – middling sorts of welcomes never seem to happen), and usually it is. It certainly is when we go back to Caterham and I'm very glad to say that this is not extended merely to existing members of the school community. At the November OCA day I was stopped by the departing lady referee who had been in charge of the School vs. Recent Leavers match, and was told how very kindly she had been received and looked after while at Caterham that afternoon. I thought it was a great tribute from a casual visitor, but reflective of the welcoming, and

indeed warm atmosphere that characterises the school these days. I have been a beneficiary of that welcome on numerous occasions during the past two years of my presidency and am deeply appreciative of it. Long may it continue.

The past two years have sped by but have led to the making and renewal of many friendships that I hope will persist long into the future. The President's role is made comparatively easy by the work of the rest of the committee, especially by the Chairman, Dave Craft, the Treasurer, and our Administrator, Alina Rennie, who are always there to tell me what to say when! Many thanks indeed to them and to Julian Thomas and the school at large for making my time as OCA President as enjoyable as it has been.

At the AGM I hand over the 'gong' to a new President and I cannot think of



John Grimshaw and Emmanuel Saiko at Lerang'wa

anyone more worthy than Denis Tindley to take on the position as we prepare for the Bicentenary celebrations over the next couple of years. He has been associated for more than a quarter of its history, and he has served this Association as Treasurer for 22 years, as Chairman

of the Old Caterhamians Millennium Trust since its inception, and as President in 1996-97. Please do come to the East India Club on March 23rd to welcome him as your President and to hear the Headmaster, Julian Thomas, launch the Bicentenary celebrations of the school to which we are all debtors.

“At the AGM I hand over the 'gong' to a new President and I cannot think of anyone more worthy than Denis Tindley”

OC Day Sports and Presentations

The afternoon was very well attended and some good games were played.

Jess Uden, Curator of The Gallery opened it's doors for us to view the Advanced Graphics Exhibition.

Afternoon tea was served at 4pm along with the usual sports presentations and Honorary Membership of the Old Caterhamians' Association was given to Mr Keith Simpson, retired Head of Physics.



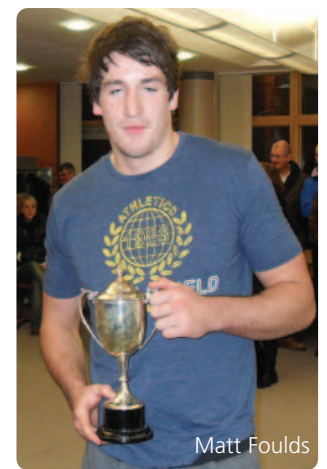
Watching the rugby match



John Grimshaw & Nick Deayton



Pippa Mulvey, Jasmine Rowlands & Keith Simpson



Matt Foulds



Keith Simpson is presented with Honorary Membership



John Short and his team



The Memorial in the Pavilion

Lacrosse:

10:10 - The Captains jointly accepted the trophy.



The School Captain, Loulou Rowlands (Centex Development Squad) & Georgia Shrimpton, last year's Captain and Junior England Player now at Loughborough University.



The Lacrosse Team

Rugby Scores:

Recent Leavers beat the School 34:6
OCRFC beat the President's XV 11:5



Rugby OCs

News from Old Caterhamians

C.H. Bligh 1936–1942

Colin wrote to us after he saw the Headmaster's Remembrance Sunday Address in the 2007-2008 Annual Review which mentioned his brother A.J. Bligh 1934–1938.

Colin tells us:

"I was still at School when the first official telegram was delivered to our front door "...wounded in action..." it said and I still remember my mother's anguished reaction; she was to receive three more before the last one in 1944 when John was seriously wounded whilst commanding a company of the 3rd Bn, The Gold Coast Regiment in Burma. This time he was in hospital for some eighteen months before being discharged, permanently disabled, at the end of the war. He never allowed this handicap to restrict his life. It was not until 60 years later, when he was dying, that he told me he only had one kidney having lost the other one during the Abyssinian Campaign of 1941 hence the home

leave to recuperate. It was during those last months that John also told me of his remorse of the wasted death of one of his young platoon commanders whom he had rebuked for abandoning a Bren light machine gun following an ambush by the Japanese. He learned weeks later from his hospital bed in India that at about the time he had been wounded, the young officer had been killed whilst attempting – on his own initiative – to recover the lost Bren gun.

As for being 'hampered by nerves', I remember my brother as a stylish batsman who was indeed awarded his cricket colours and the white school blazer which I always envied!

After his death, his widow told me that John had suffered nightmares about the Japanese all his life, yet I served as a tank Troop Leader throughout the Italian campaign of 1943 – 1945 and returned unscathed. I stayed on in the regular army and when I retired, I followed my brother to Guy's Hospital and then joined him in general dental practice in Crowborough where I still live among my patients."

Rebecca Perfect 1995–2002

Rebecca emailed with her news:

"I was lucky enough to attend Caterham School from 1995 – 2002 and look back on my time there with very fond memories. I have since completed both a Bachelors degree and a Masters at the University of Birmingham and am now working for Ogilvy UK, which is one of the largest advertising and communications agencies in the world. I've had an amazing experience and have learnt a lot about the world. I am surrounded by incredibly talented people day in and day out and I truly don't believe that I would have been



Rebecca Perfect

in that position if it wasn't for the fantastic grounding and life learning experiences that I achieved throughout my early life at Eothen School and later school life at Caterham. I've always felt that students

who have left the school, no matter how long ago, have always been given an open door policy to come back and meet up with the teachers that helped them shape their adult lives, something that is incredibly important and again something that I thank the school for providing me with."

Bill Deayton 1964–1969



Bill & Nick Deayton

In November 2009 Bill was selected to play hockey for England in the vintage masters class at the World Cup Tournament in Hong Kong. England won Gold, beating Australia in the final. Bill's son Nicholas (2004 – 2006) still holds the School hockey record of 29 goals scored in one term.

Nicholas Fernie 1994–2000

Nicholas sent a Christmas card hoping that the Autumn Term had been one of happy pupils, short meetings and well written essays!! He goes on to say :

"I am amazed that it has been nearly 10 years since I finished school. It has been a busy decade - my brother, Huw, a sailor (he was asked to be on the yacht recently captured by Iranian border controls!!) and I am studying to become a doctor of Educational Psychology. I married earlier this year to Amy and we live in Fowey, Cornwall." Congratulations Nicholas!!

Anthony Lovat 1994–1999

Anthony has sent us an update to tell us that he is now abroad in Bolgatanga, Ghana on a VSO posting.

His wife, Laura (nee Whiteford) who was in the same year as Anthony at Caterham, is with him and is lecturing in a veterinary technical college and working as a government veterinary officer in the Upper East region. Laura's sister, Hannah is an RE teacher at the School. It's a small world!

Anthony's blog can be seen and he can be contacted through his website:

www.CoolAccoustics.com

Colin Eustace 1945–1948

Colin has very kindly sent in this amusing piece:

'Memories of Eothen by a Caterham School Boy'

"I come from an era when the powers that be deemed that any contact between Eothen girls and Caterham boys was to be strictly controlled.

During my first term at Caterham, the 3rd Form boarders were invited to an evening of entertainment by the girls of Eothen. I had never seen so much hair brushing in the 5th dorm that evening. After some 65 years all I remember of the visit was that the food was good.

My next contact with Eothen was more bizarre. Some of the scout troop had been caught in uniform, but not identified (not me sir!), meeting some girls from Eothen. As I was by this time a senior member of the scout troop, Mr Beacock asked me to go over to Eothen and apologise to the Headmistress. So, in uniform, I set forth only to be shattered by the appearance of a very nice young lady who opened the door



The Square Dance at Eothen

dressed only in a leotard! I apologised to the headmistress and beat a hasty retreat!!

A little later the scouts of Caterham School were asked if they could do something at a fete in the village. Well...we came up with what we thought was a great idea. Let's ask some Eothen girls to partner us in a square dance demonstration.

The powers that be



Colin as a 'young lady' and G.D. Smith as her partner

now intervened. In no way was this to be allowed! I am afraid we felt hard-done by, so, after some deliberation, we decided to draw lots and dress up in drag so we could give them a demonstration – and we did!

I think some people admired our determination because suddenly, help was forthcoming from both Eothen and the School. Mr Hayward agreed to play the violin

for us, a teacher from Eothen offered to teach us some dances and Eothen organised some dresses for us 'girls'.

We even had rehearsals on the lawns of Eothen School, but no sign of the girls –and to prove, I enclose an old snap taken in the grounds of Eothen School.

I recently witnessed the relaxed atmosphere at an OC Day of today's mixed school pupils and I can only say I think I was born too early!

Evelyn Madge Boby

Miss Boby's nephew, Mr G.S. Smith visited the School in 2009 and very kindly donated some photographs and memorabilia in connection with his aunt who taught French and German at the School.

Being a lady teacher, she was in very much of a minority and according to records held here at the School, she was in receipt of a salary of the princely sum of £110 per annum! She left at the end of December 1916 to take up a post as the modern language mistress at Luton Grammar School. Here is one of the pictures donated by Mr. Smith....



Prefects Summer Term 1916



Evelyn Madge Boby,
French & German Mistress
1915-1916

Michael Seseman - a technical wizard!

Michael Seseman 1942–1949

Mentioned in our last Annual Review - a tribute to Michael by his brother-in-law, Martin Bishop:

I have been asked to say a few words about Mike's life as a whole. Although as his brother-in-law for the 52 years he was married to my sister Julia, it is only now that I have come to realise what an exceptional person he was.

From an early age he was a technical wizard, particularly with anything electrical. As a boy in Coulsdon, living with his parents and brother and sister, Tim and Anwyn, he rigged up a quarter mile telephone link between his and his best friend's house nearby. He made radios, passed the radio amateurs' exams and became a ham radio operator connected by way of a garden length wire to people around the world.

When Julia first met Mike, he proudly showed her the shed in his garden – which was filled with spaghetti junction wires. He continued his innovations after they were married. He made a television set that was so small that a visiting aunt was worried that they could not afford anything bigger!

Mike spent his whole working life with the family firm, which he joined in 1953 after his National Service with the RAF. Initially he worked as an orthotist. He worked with children measuring them for callipers at The London Hospital and the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

It was during this period, possibly the most rewarding of his life, that he helped to design the Rosen Splint, a device for treating congenital hip dislocation for newborn babies which is still being prescribed today. He later moved to the company headquarters in Coulsdon, where always on the lookout for technical innovations, he quickly spotted the potential of computers. He set about learning to operate, programme and use the machines with the result that the company became fully computerised by 1980, one of the first in the country. The new system worked so well that the company that supplied the computer would often send

prospective clients to Coulsdon, where Mike would show what the equipment would do.

When Mike was in the RAF he won his pilot's wings and later got a private pilot's licence. Flying, particularly gliding, remained a passion throughout the rest of his life. It also used up a number of his lives. Whilst in the RAF, he flew Meteors, their first ever jet plane. This was a dangerous activity: 30% of Mike's class were killed in crashes. He nearly joined them one day when his Meteor suffered a complete electrical failure. But, he managed to crash-land in Somerset and miraculously walk away relatively unscathed.

He introduced Julia to flying shortly before they got married by taking her on a maiden flight in a Tiger Moth to strafe her family home in Purley. At one stage they were flying upside down, an experience which Julia says explains her vertigo!

About the time he was 40, Mike took up gliding at the Kent Gliding Club and being Mike, there were no half measures. Glider pilots have a series of qualifications known as badges, to be attained. The ultimate achievement is the Diamond Badge and for this there must be a gain of height of 5,000 metres, a flight of 300 kilometres or more over a triangular course and a flight of at least 500 kilometres. And, of course, Mike got his Diamond Badge.

At the Kent Gliding Club, Mike also used to pilot the small single engine tug planes which pulled up the gliders. Shortly after take off on one occasion, there was a total engine failure and only Mike's quick thinking saved the lives of the glider pilot and his own. Despite being desperately near the ground, Mike had to try to turn the plane to avoid flying straight into the woods at the end of the airfield. He failed to complete a 180 degree turn and he ran out of height, and the plane literally cart-wheeled down the airfield, but all he suffered were a few cuts and bruises.

A few years before he retired, there took place the event which affected Mike greatly and shaped and directed him for the rest of his life. This was the premature death of his much loved eldest son David, who left two boys – Robert and Philip- under the age of three and his young wife Eileen. Mike was determined to stand in for David as much as possible. So, amongst many other things, he

took them swimming every week for years with the result that both are now expert swimmers and lifeguards. Mike was particularly pleased when Robert recently became captain of his swimming club.

Mike died on the same day – April 17th – as David, a coincidence which close members of the family say they find rather comforting.

In retirement, he became a reading assistant at the local Clare House primary school, a job he loved doing: a hark back to his early days helping crippled children at the Great Ormond Street Hospital perhaps? And the children loved him: he was very touched to receive a card signed by all the children when he was first taken ill.

He regularly attended church services at St George's Church, and served as a chalice assistant for three years at the 8pm Holy Communion Service on Sundays. He was also a member of Probus.

Four years ago, he underwent major open heart surgery and was given a 30% chance of survival. Old Meteor pilots don't go that easily and to his family's huge delight, he recovered and had some memorable times with them in what they now see as bonus years.

And that's the key to Mike. It's not the technical wizardry, it's not the job, it's not the flying. It's the family. His children, Andrew and Caroline, have hugely happy memories of him in their childhood, the incredible bedtime stories he made up, letters to Father Christmas up the chimney, Easter Egg hunts and then later teaching them to drive. And the wonderful family parties on Boxing Day with the cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

And then there are the grandchildren – Robert, Philip and Clara: and James, Jennifer and Olivia, to whom he directed that same love which David, Andrew and Caroline received. He didn't wear his heart on his sleeve; Mike was of a generation that perhaps found it difficult, was not encouraged, to express emotions. But his kindness and his desire to be of help could never be hidden.

I am told that when he was happy he liked to whistle softly. I would like to think that up there, wafting on a celestial thermal, he is gently whistling away in celebration of a life well lived.

Art to Drive for.....

Nicky Law 1995–1998

Nicky, who is Senior Account Director at a London based PR company, asked us to use the School grounds for a most unusual promotion.

Nicky, The Astra, artists, Lauren and Anna visited the School for a photo shoot in September 2009. Nicky sent us the following press release entitled 'Art to Drive For':

As the 'British Staycation' summer comes to an end, Vauxhall Motors and Jiggery Pokery have immortalised the best bits of our holiday at home, by creating the Great British Souvenir – an art installation featuring weird and wonderful trinkets from across cool Britannia.

Intrepid artistic duo, Jiggery Pokery from the Young Creatives Network, were two of the 37 million Brits, expected to holiday on home shores in 2009. To make the most of their summer break they approached Vauxhall to help them in their quest to capture the very best of the summer of 2009.

Armed with a Vauxhall Astra, the artists kicked off their road trip in Whitstable, Kent before visiting over 20 destinations and landmarks. Soaking up

the most eccentric, iconic and popular experiences they gathered inspiration and trinkets along the way to create one of the most unusual moving art installations.

From tea towels and Welsh crest teacups to swan shaped eggs cups, iridescent deer, and Blackpool snow domes the girls selected over two thousand different keepsakes. Each one telling its own story and painting a picture of the best bits about holidaying at home this year to create the ultimate Great British Souvenir.

Lauren and Anna from Jiggery Pokery said: "We read recently that the British souvenir trade is booming more than ever this year. So, we thought, what better way to represent all that we find so exciting and enchanting about our British summers than to create the Great British Souvenir."

Ekow Eshun, Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts commented: "This year's trend for 'staycation' holidays has led to a revival in appreciation for British culture. From the unique and charming to the strange and beautiful, our island offers enough character, quaintness and adventure to fill a century of 'Exploration' summers."



Nicky, Lauren, Anna & The Astra on their photo shoot

Simon Ewart, from Vauxhall Motors added, "Jiggery Pokery's homage to the Great British Summer is a perfect fusion of all that makes summering in the UK special – a roving road trip to experience the best of British and seek out souvenirs.

I hope that the Great British Souvenir inspires people to head out and explore the UK for themselves – there are so many captivating things to see and do, so much culture and tradition plus good old-fashioned fun to be had, and all of it just a drive away."

You can get a full reportage of Jiggery Pokery's trip by visiting their:

Blog:

www.tiptoproadtrip.blogspot.com

Flickr feed:

www.flickr.com/photos/tiptoproadtrip

Twitter feed:

www.twitter.com/tiptoproadtrip

Surrey Harmony return triumphant

Sandie Kirk 1981–1983

Past OCA President, Sandie sent us this press release about Surrey Harmony. As well as Sandie, there are parents and teachers from the school in the chorus:

"The county's own women's close harmony chorus, Surrey Harmony, have returned triumphant from the International Women's Barbershop Championship in Nashville, Tennessee. The 80 strong choir were placed 15th overall – the highest ever ranking for a UK chorus.

Women from all over the region flew out to the US to compete in the prestigious Sweet Adeline's International Competition, after



qualifying last year in Birmingham to represent the country. The chorus has competed several times on the international stage, but Nashville is their greatest achievement to date.

On Thursday 22nd October 2009, in front of a cheering audience of 10,000 at the Sommet Centre in downtown Nashville, they wowed the judges with

their performance of "I Never Meant to Fall in Love" and "Dixieland One-Step". From 15 year old students to 70-something retired nurses, Surrey Harmony attracts singers of all ages and occupations. Barbershop differs from classical singing in that it is always sung without musical accompaniment and is often enhanced with elaborate choreography and colourful, sparkly costumes. It encompasses a wide range of musical styles, from traditional barbershop, to pop songs and West End favourites. Surrey Harmony always welcomes potential new members - anyone interested in learning more should check out their website at www.surreyharmony.com

Old Caterhamians' Association AGM & Caterham School Bicentenary Launch

East India Club, London
Thursday 25th March 2010 at 7pm

PLEASE SEE FORM ENCLOSED FOR DETAILS

The Christine Walker Gallery at Caterham School

*Dedicated to Christine Walker, former art teacher
at Eothen School*

Are you an Artist or Designer? Did you leave Caterham or Eothen and go on to study Art or Design at College? If you would be interested in taking part in one of our Old Cats' & Old Eothen Old Girl's Exhibitions or would like some more information about the gallery and it's exhibitions please get in contact with our Curator: Jess Uden, The Christine Walker Gallery, Caterham School, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, CR3 6YA jessica.uden@caterhamschool.co.uk



There will be an Old Cats' & Eothen Old Girls Exhibition open during February and March this year and there will be more information about opportunities for you to see this exhibition in the near future.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Mr Paul Hoad, Director of ICT Development at the School, for his continued help with scanning old archival photographs for our publications.

APPEAL....

If you have any news and photographs which you would like to be included in future OC Newsletters, please contact Alina. We are always very grateful for donations of memorabilia from both Caterham and Eothen Schools for the School Archives and displays around the School. We are appealing for personal memories of your time here at the School for a Bicentenary School History Book. We are also looking for a copy of 'The Caterhamian 1991'.

Phone **01883 343028** Fax **01883 347795**
Email alina.rennie@caterhamschool.co.uk

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.



LOST!

HAS ANYONE LOST A GOLD CROSS?

Our caretaker has found a 1.5inch gold cross in the changing rooms at the sports pavilion. Possibly dropped by an Old Boy on an OC Day. The cross has been hand cut and engraved with the date '1918' and 'Cyril' on the back. Possibly a WW1 piece of memorabilia and of sentimental value.

Contact Alina for more details.

OC Committee

We have Committee Member vacancies for the following:

Social Secretary
Committee Member
Editor

Please contact Dave Craft for further information on dave.craft@dlg.co.uk

Email and Telephone Contacts

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