



# THE OLD CATERHAMIAN'S' newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 12

[www.oldcaterhamians.com](http://www.oldcaterhamians.com)

May 2009

## Dates for your diary...

### 'Just Pianos' –

Thursday 11th June 2009,  
7pm in Humphreys Hall  
ADMISSION FREE

### Summer Concert –

Monday 15th June 2009,  
7pm in Humphreys Hall

### Caterham Summer Fair & OC Day –

Sunday 21st June 2009,  
12.30pm. Please see page 5 for  
more details and regular updates  
will be posted on the OCA  
website

### Just Voices & Downland Chorale –

Saturday 27th June 2009,  
7.30pm at St. John's Church, Old  
Coulston. For more information,  
please contact the Music  
Department on extension 239

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## OC Day and Annual General Meeting Sunday 22nd March 2009



Guests assemble for lunch

## We were very fortunate with the weather for the AGM and Old Cats Day.....

Despite a bad forecast for the day, the sun shone all day and temperatures really warmed up in the afternoon whilst the games were underway.

There were 19 Old Boys in attendance at the AGM held in the Maggs Library which started after a Lenten service was given by our Chaplain.

A tasty lunch followed as usual in the Refectory and the sound of happy banter was heard throughout.

After lunch our guests were invited to visit the Old Cats Art exhibition. The old tuck shop, as you may remember it, has been converted into an art gallery and is currently displaying a very interesting and eclectic show. We are hoping to make this a yearly event and would encourage those of you who are artists or have indeed studied art at University or College or who are professional artists to make contact if they wish to exhibit their art.

The games were well attended and concluded with a happy crowd of some 150 people at the prize giving and afternoon tea session at 4pm.

For the time being this was our last AGM at school, as plans are underway to hold the meeting on a midweek evening in London in the future. We hope that by having a more central venue, the meeting may be better attended by some of our younger members.

The sports events and afternoon tea will continue to be held at the School in March every year.

More news of this will appear in the next Newsletter and on the OCA website.

Colin Bagnall and Roger Deayton looking at old sports photographs



# President's Message



John Grimshaw

We have just held our Annual General meeting, and while preparing my report on the past year's events I had the opportunity to think about why we hold an AGM....

Such a meeting gives the committee the opportunity to tell members about the events of the past year and our plans for the future, how we have been spending the Association's money, and so on, but it is also an opportunity for members to tell the committee what they think and wish to see the Association do. Of course we are open to such comments and questions throughout the year, but the AGM provides a formal venue and ought to bring members together. Unfortunately the turnout was not very large this year, whether due to the clash with Mothering Sunday or for other reasons.

Many specialist societies and local groups are suffering from diminishing and aging memberships and are facing an uncertain future. Unlike them, however, we are in the fortunate position of having guaranteed recruitment of young members, but we do share some of their other problems. Most especially this is in retaining the interest of our members, and providing whatever it is that is needed to keep them involved. As with many groups the bulk of the work of the OCA is done by a small core of dedicated people, and we do need to work to recruit new members to the committee and to get members to take a sustained interest in our affairs.

In consequence, we have spent a good deal of time in our meetings, and outside them, thinking about ways to achieve this. One of our views is that the format of the termly Old Caterhamians' days has become a bit stale. We have an excellent, vibrant meeting in November, while the spring

and summer meetings attract a much smaller group. We therefore propose to reduce the number of formal OCs' days at school to two, the autumn and summer events. To replace the spring meeting we are planning an AGM to be held at a venue in London, to be followed by dinner. We feel that this would be more tempting to many – and it really would be good to get more people at the AGM. A day of sports fixtures at school will continue, however.

It is hoped that the summer Old Caterhamians' day will metamorphose into a much more family-orientated affair, with strong encouragement to younger members to return for it. This year it will coincide with the PTA Family Day, including their fete and what we hope will be a lively cricket match. The OCA is very much part of the school family and it is important that we join in with the activities of other sections of that remarkable community.

The format of the autumn OCA day will remain the same, including the Remembrance Service, and the very popular rugby and lacrosse games. At the OCs' day last November I had the pleasure of meeting a range of very interesting younger members as well as some old friends, and everyone enjoyed the event. These are the sorts of days we want to encourage.

Having completed a year as your President I now feel that I am beginning to understand how the association works. What I do know for certain is that much of what it does is underpinned by the hard work of a rather small team, especially by Dave Craft as Chairman and Denis Tindley as Treasurer, whose dedication is

extraordinary, but they are of course supported by other members of the committee. Our deliberations are greatly helped by the school representatives who attend. For very many years Sean Hayes was the official link between OCA and school, and did sterling service in that capacity. His knowledge of and contact with Old Cats over the past nearly thirty years – he came to Caterham as Dave Craft and I joined the Main School – has been invaluable, especially in organising the programme and indeed the teams to play on OCs' days. It was therefore with considerable sorrow that we heard that he was stepping down from this post. Our gratitude to him is immense. On the other hand, however, we are delighted that his successor is David Clark, the Assistant Head with responsibility for External Relations. We are already enjoying working with him and look forward to a long and equally happy 'relationship' with him.

Julian Thomas, the Headmaster, has given us his wholehearted support over the year, and I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking him and the school as a whole, for making the Old Caterhamians so very welcome here at all times, and for incorporating us into the school family. We are also grateful to Rick Mearkle for his spiritual lead at our services, and the many other members of staff who support our activities and events.

While paying tribute to those who do much for the Association, I must record a very warm thank you to Alina Rennie, our Administrator, who manages the everyday affairs of the OCA and does so very well. Much of this is rather invisible – the dull day to day of office affairs, but her efforts are spectacularly apparent three times a year in our Newsletter and in the Annual Review. These are really excellent publications – although I am sometimes reminded of those African newspapers whose principal articles always start 'Today the President ...'! It is a mark of the value we place on Alina's work – but also the needs of an ever-growing Association – that we have recently increased the hours she works for us each week. Thank you, Alina.

# OC Day Sports and Presentations

We were happy to see many old faces at the sports events this year and in particular the netball and hockey matches which seem to be very popular.

Winners receive their trophies



Hockey on 'The Astro'



Old Cats Netball Team

## Sports Results:

### Football:

Old Cats 3 - School 0

### Hockey:

Old Cats 4 - School 1

### Netball:

Old Cats 12 - School 35

### Darby Swimming Medal:

Freddie Maude (1.00.61)

Rosie Clarke (1.16.57)

## Charity Mufti Day at the School

A grand total of £1500 was raised for our Lerang'wa and Ukraine Charity projects on Friday 20th March 2009.

While our students and teachers wore jeans and t-shirts, donating £2 a head for the privilege, our School secretaries decided to wear uniform instead of mufti and raised a few laughs AND eyebrows!!

*Left to Right:* Eleanor Kilduff, Bursar's Secretary, Jean Carney, Headmaster's Secretary, Alina in Old Cats blazer and Allyson Aranha, School Secretary in front of the School



# Snowdrops at Colesbourne Park

A minibus with ten passengers left Caterham School on Friday 20th February bound for The Cotswolds. As the bus journeyed westwards, the clouds cleared and the sun shone brightly.

We met up with fifteen other members at our President's charming stone cottage for aperitifs before a delicious lunch at the Colesbourne Inn.

After lunch we made our way to Colesbourne Park for a very interesting tour guided by John and Henry Elwes.

The snowdrop collection at the park was started by Henry John Elwes (1846 – 1922), a traveller-naturalist who in the course of an adventurous life introduced many plants to cultivation. Among these was *Galanthus elwesii*, which he found

OCs admire the snowdrops



Martin Nunn enjoying his pudding at the Colesbourne Inn

in western Turkey in 1874. After his death the collection lay more or less undisturbed for sixty years until great grandson Henry Elwes and his wife Carolyn began to identify the plants and spread them out through regular division. Carolyn has added many further species and cultivars until today the Colesbourne display of snowdrops is acknowledged to be one of the finest in the country. Planted in masses through the arboretum and lakeside landscapes, and in smaller groups in the garden, the snowdrops at Colesbourne offer the visitor the opportunity to compare the



Our President showing us the snowdrop collection



Our trusty minibus driver Nigel and John Mathias at Colesbourne

many different variations of colouring and leaf form that make snowdrops so intriguing to grow and study.

After the tour, we were treated to a cup of tea and some delicious home baking before saying our goodbyes and boarding the bus back to Caterham. A great day was had by all!

## 'Preview' magazine is launched at Southwark Cathedral

On the 25th March, a large group of students, parents, teachers and Old Cats gathered at the Gary Weston Library at Southwark Cathedral to celebrate the launch of our 6th Former's political magazine 'Preview'. We were treated to a very interesting talk by David Blunkett M.P. and he wished our students well with their future careers at University.



The original Preview team. *From left to right:* Colin Hoad, Alex Steer, David Bishop and Will Moy



The 2008 Preview Team. *From left to right:* Alex Hurley, Jim Bulley, Matt Lunn and Felix Bungay

# International Hockey Match

The International match at Caterham School was a stunning success. The weather stayed fair throughout the afternoon and a crowd of about 400 spectators was treated to a match of the highest quality.

The skills on display were quite dazzling and it was a real treat watching world class players up close. It was great to see the game played in such a festive spirit, with the players free to entertain the crowd with some spectacular hockey. It was also a real privilege to watch players from South Africa, Egypt, Germany, Scotland, England and Wales all combining effortlessly together and providing a master class in passing and attacking hockey. Best of all, Caterham School was hugely proud that four former students were invited to take part in this prestigious match as well as two former teachers.

The crowd enjoyed some wonderful goal mouth action and a number of sensational goals. The final score was 4 – 3 in

favour of the South African invitation XI.

The afternoon of international sport was appreciated by all who attended and over £500 was raised for the school's charities.



Rest of World and Caterham XI



School Hockey Team



South Africa Team

## Changes to Summer OC Day...

This year, by way of an experiment, we will be sharing and joining in with the Caterham School Summer Fair on Sunday 21st June 2009 at 12.30pm

We feel that joining in with a School activity would create a firmer bond between the School and the OCA. We will be going back in time to a 'village fayre' style with craft and home made produce stalls, a raffle, a beer/cider tent from Dorking Brewery, cake, art and flower arranging competitions and a dog competition. In addition there will be Maypole dancing, Morris dancers, a tug-o-war a large carousel and a static vintage car show. There will therefore be no lunch in the Refectory – but there will be plenty of food to be had or perhaps you would like to bring a picnic and enjoy the day. The cricket match and a badminton match will take place in the afternoon. Please let Alina know if you would be willing to help out with the stalls or you would like to donate a gift for the raffle. It would be good to see many Old Cats coming along and enjoying the day. Please keep checking the OCA website for regular updates.

# News from Old Caterhamians

## Stephen Appleby (1937–1942)

*Stephen very kindly sent us the following letter:*

"It's not often that I write to the School and indeed, I have only revisited it twice since I left, being far away in the north of England. However, browsing through back issues of OC Newsletters and reading so many post-contemporary obituaries, prompts me to do so.

I have fond memories of Caterham and deep gratitude for what a Caterham education has abled me to achieve in life. After 37 years teaching in the classroom and as headmaster, I have so far enjoyed 25 years of retirement. Life has included wartime army service, 14 years as a part time fireman, 10 years of professional bee farming, plus some interesting photographic experience – with some overlapping, of course. Recently, I

have been involved with the Lancaster Canal Trust restoration activities and also as chairman of Kendal Civic Society. Add to that my church restoration activities, membership of the Cumbria/Lake District Duke of Edinburgh's Expedition Assessment Panel and sail training for school children, and I have a rich range of experiences to look back upon. At 84, I can say that life has been good. With 2 years to go to our diamond wedding, Pam and I can truly say that it has been wonderfully happy!

I sometimes reflect that, whilst many people obtain fame, prominence and influence through singleness of purpose in a narrow company career, there are others for whom the sheer variety of



Stephen in his boat 'Optimist'

their activities and spheres of influence provides an outlet for their ability to do some good for society. When I think of the many hundreds of friends I have made and the thousands of young people I have been able to help in their youthful development, my life founded on a Caterham education has been eminently worthwhile.

Thank you Caterham!"

## Old Cats Art Exhibition

On OC Day, Old Cats were treated to a viewing of some of our younger Old Cats' artwork, which was on display at The Gallery.

Plans are afoot to make this a yearly event and we will keep you posted.

As well as the gallery exhibits, there was a much larger outside installation in the small field next to Beeches. This was Laura and Sophie Vent's 'Spires Project'. Laura left School in 2002 and studied History of Art at the Courtauld Institute. Sophie left in 2005, went to Falmouth to

study Art and Design at foundation level and then on to Goldsmiths to study Fine Art. Laura has already graduated and works in London for Weiden & Kennedy as a Creative Assistant. Sophie will graduate this year.

◀ Laura and Sophie Vent

The Spires Project from ▶  
the air



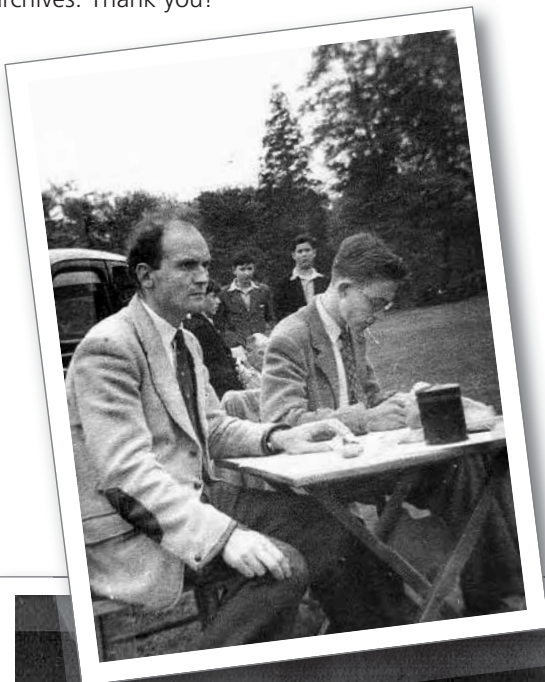
Some Old Boys admire the artwork



# Alan Witt 1947-1958 pays a visit to the School

Some of Alan's black and white photographs – if you recognise yourself, please let us know!

Alan and his wife came to visit the School in February for a trip down memory lane. Alan was amazed at the amount of change that had taken place since he was here as a student. He very kindly donated some lovely old black and white photographs that show the more amusing side of school life in those days. If anyone can identify themselves in the photographs, please let us know! Alan also kindly donated a Caterham cravat to our archives. Thank you!



Mr 'Chick' Foister at Birling Gap

School trip to Birling Gap

## Charity Greeting Cards for Sale

Photographs taken by Caterham students have been turned into charity greeting cards to help fund a new project in Tanzania.

Caterham has linked up with Lerangwa School with the aim of raising £10,000 a year over the next 5 years.

The cards come in packs of 6 with different designs on each card (the designs can be viewed on the school web-site). Printing was done on recycled paper and the cards are left blank for a message of your choice.

Each pack is being sold for £2.50 or 5 packs for £10.

If you would like to purchase a pack please contact Mr. David Clark on

**david.clark@caterhamschool.co.uk** or send details and a cheque (made payable to Caterham School) to the school addressed to Mr. Clark. Many thanks.



## 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.



## Old CAT writes a wartime book...

### Martin L Crook 1945 – 1952 War Time Letters of a West Kent Man

Martin's book about the World War Two letters and related correspondence of Captain Ronald Lewis Crook, 6th Battalion, The Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment, who was killed in action in Tunisia, 30th November 1942.

Copies can be ordered from [www.claudecox.co.uk](http://www.claudecox.co.uk)

## Calling all Kenya Trippers...

### JAMYS CARTER'S KENYA TRIP, JULY 1991 REUNION

Jamys is organising a Kenya Trip reunion to coincide with the School Bicentennial celebrations in 2011. If you were on that trip, please contact Jamys on [jamys@whydontyou.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:jamys@whydontyou.freeseerve.co.uk)

## 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](mailto:dave.craft@dlg.co.uk)

If you have any news and photographs which you would like included in the next newsletter please contact:

Alina Rennie

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We are also always very grateful for donations of memorabilia for the School Archives

## Email and Telephone Contacts

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