



# THE OLD CATERHAMIAN'S newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7

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

September 2007

## Dates for your diary...

### Fireworks Display with Rock Band –

Saturday Evening,  
10th November 2007

### Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.30am and OC Day –

Sunday 11th November 2007

### Christmas Concert in the Humphreys Hall –

Monday 10th December 2007

### Carol Concert, 7pm URC –

Monday 10th December 2007

### Charity Dinner in aid of the Millennium Fund –

Saturday 16th February 2008

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News from OC Members

**6/7**

## Farewell to Rob Davey

Rob has been Headmaster for twelve years and retired at the end of the summer term 2007.

During his time, the School has flourished and developed; it has built an excellent reputation for its academic results, sporting successes, its wide range of out of classroom activities and its pastoral care. Rob has particularly encouraged and strengthened links with the local community, the PA and the OCA. Throughout, his wife Ann, has supported Rob, has been an active participant in OC reunions and initiated and edited the new style OCA Newsletter.



Rob and Ann enjoying a pre-lunch drink



Rob's presentation from the Association



Ann receives her Belfast Crystal bowl in recognition for her tremendous help with the OCA Newsletter

# President's Message

One of the most important eras in the life of the school has just come to an end.

Rob Davey our Headmaster for the last twelve years has decided to hang up his gown and take a well earned rest. Rob and Ann have seen through some of the biggest changes in our School since it was founded in 1811. Expansion with the amalgamation with Eothen has allowed Caterham to become one of the most successful co-educational schools in southern England. With all the new buildings that have come into being, the school has become a 'Tour de Force' in the Private Educational Sector.

On July 2nd, OCs gathered to pay their respects to Rob and Ann. It was our intention to make a presentation at a barbeque but due to inclement weather we had to eat inside in the new dining area of the "Rob Davey" building. The presentation of a substantial cheque, an engraved pewter salver to Rob, and to Ann a Belfast cut crystal dish was preceded by



Rodney and Janet Lyons

two splendid speeches from our Treasurer, Denis Tindley and our Chairman, David Craft. Also presented, was a book with many kind words from the many well-wishers and friends who had contributed to the presents. We also presented Rob with Honorary Membership of the Association.

I was delighted to see an Old Caterhamian on OC Day who had not been back to Caterham for over sixty years. It must be almost a record - welcome home Peter Wright! He promised me that he will not leave it

another sixty years before seeing Caterham again.

I had already attended the official opening of the new "Davey" building on the 15th. June which was dedicated by George Carey.

On the 6th of July, I attended the Junior School Speech Day, the guest of Honour being the retiring Head Master. Next day, back at the main school for the Seniors' Speech Day, the Guest of Honour was Richard Stilgoe, who showed us what a talented man he really is.

Caterham School is now about to enter another exciting era. The new Headmaster Julian Thomas will be firmly ensconced by the time you read this column. If you haven't met him yet, why not come and say 'hallo' at our next OC Day?

Welcome to the new Headmaster, Mr Julian Thomas



Julian takes over the helm at Caterham School this autumn.

Julian is a computer science graduate from King's College, University of London. He gained experience in the business world through working at Lloyds Bank and BP before he went into teaching after having gained his Post Graduate Certificate of Education at Queen's College, Cambridge. We wish him all the very best and many happy years at the School.

## Opening Ceremony and Dedication of The Davey Building

The £6.5m building was completed in time for the start of the Spring term 2007. It took eighteen months to build and includes the latest thinking both in terms of construction and in terms of facilities. The thirteen science labs are purpose built to the specification of the science staff and include a set of the latest equipment for each class. Each department has its own large prep room, which means that there is a much faster turnaround of work and the lab technicians have an excellent environment in which to prepare practical work. An illustration of the technology used in construction includes light sensitive illumination. When someone enters a lab the room lights come on, but the light sensors



The opening of the Davey Building 'The Rt Hon & Rt Rev The Lord Carey of Clifton, PC and Rob Davey

determine which fluorescent tubes should illuminate. So the lights near the window may stay off whilst the ones near the wall come on. The building also houses the new refectory that accommodates our eight chefs who prepare over a thousand meals a day.

# OC Day and Summer BBQ

Owing to rain and wind, the Summer BBQ 'decamped' to the Refectory where Rob and Ann's presentation took place.

There were in excess of fifty guests present and it was pleasing to see some of our younger OCs attending. Keep it up! The Association presented Rob and Ann with their farewell gifts and cheque along with their thanks and best wishes for a very happy retirement. An album containing farewell messages from OCs was also presented.



Mr and Mrs Roger Deayton



David Craft and Elizabeth Tindley



E. O. James and Elizabeth Macnamara



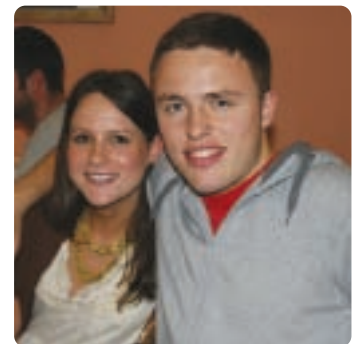
Alan Blake Thomas



Maria Nodrum and Ben Ellinger



Mr & Mrs John Lindsay and Colin Bagnall



Heather Bailey and Alan Whittaker



Philip Tuck and Peter Wright



Two of our younger OCs enjoying lunch



Two OCs enjoying the Day

# OC Day Cricket Matches

The boys beat the Old Boys off the last ball of the match which was reduced to 25 overs a side due to the wet weather conditions.

Old Boys 160-8.... boys 161-7  
....a good game and great fun!



Luckily the skies cleared for the cricket to begin!



The Old Boys' Team (from left to right): Quinten Coetzer, Adam Riggs, Bhavik Dessai, Peter Glancy, Ahmed Raja, Nick Fletcher, Ben Goodwin, Elliott Grant



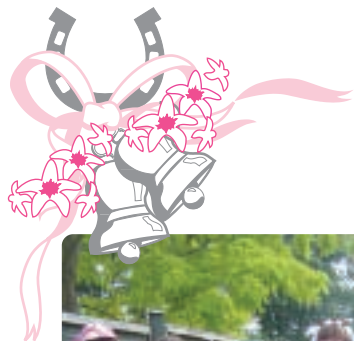
Ben Davidson



Some of the spectators and players enjoy the match



School Team (from left to right): Jack Murphy, Ben Davidson, Ross Mackinley, Freddie Page, Adam Long, Rob Willson, Jamie Dale, Craig Moore, Tim Murphy



# Wedding News



Left to right: Sandie Kirk (nee Fullard), Alison Nichols (nee Kelsey), Lynn Fitzgerald (nee Hallam), Luci Matthews, Lucy Woodburn, Nina Howell (nee Rasmusen), Fiona Moniz (nee Raine).

## Lucinda Matthews 1981-1983 gets married.

Luci married Chris Martin (not he of Coldplay!) on the 30th of June. It was a lovely if rather sodden day! Also among the OC guests at the wedding were Nick Harries, Barrymore Nichols and Yogi Yoganandon. The Hen Party had an Abba theme and it appears that a good time was had by all!



## Laurence Chapman (1995-2001) and his fiancée Georgina Barnes (1995-2001) to wed in April 2008

Laurence romantically got down on bended knee in Barcelona and proposed to Georgina in April this year. They will be tying the knot on the 19th of April 2008. Laurence is a Navigator with the RAF and Georgina works in Public Relations in London. The Queen took precedence on the day of their planned engagement party, when Laurence was called out to attend the Trooping of the Colour!



Laurence Chapman and his fiancée Georgina Barnes

## Bryony Smith (nee Stowell) 1985-1997

Having spent a few years in the RAF, Bryony settled on a career in teaching and graduated from Exeter University with a First. She has settled very happily in Devon and is currently Head of PE at St Margaret's School in Exeter. Bryony still spends most of her time on or in the water – and has recently changed her style of rowing from river to offshore. She competed in the World Offshore Championships in Guernsey. Bryony got married to Mark, a partner in a firm of Exeter solicitors who is also a rower, in a very romantic castle in West Cornwall last November. If you would like to contact Bryony, please email: [bstowell@stmargarets-school.co.uk](mailto:bstowell@stmargarets-school.co.uk)

## The School Chaplain, Rick Mearkle marries Aimee

On the 14th of July, Rick and Aimee Mearkle celebrated their happy day at Caterham United Reformed Church. Reverend Nigel Uden, URC Southern Synod Moderator and Caterham School Governor, conducted the ceremony. Afterwards, the Wedding Breakfast was held at their home in Caterham Valley Road. Congratulations!



Rick and Aimee Mearkle



Elaine Dunwoodie (1995-1998) marries Nick Lane (1993-1998)

## Keeping it in the OC Family! Elaine Dunwoodie (1995-1998) marries Nick Lane (1993-1998)

Elaine and Nick were married on the 15th of September 2006 at St. James' Church, Tong Village in West Yorkshire. Nicky Law (1995 - 1998) was chief bridesmaid and Alan Dunwoodie (1988 - 1995), Matthew Lane (1993 - 2000) and Mark Lane were the ushers. Elaine and Nick now live in West Yorkshire and work as doctor and dentist in Leeds.



Nick and Elaine's wedding

## News from Andrew Coombe (1975-1983)



Andrew Coombe

Andrew is living in Germany at the moment but he frequently returns home to Cambridge.

He tells us that his brother's appearance in the last Newsletter has encouraged him to write. He says:

After leaving Caterham, I read French and a bit of Latin at St Catherine's College, Oxford. On graduating I worked in corporate finance in the City for a few years. This was a bit too dry for me and

there were too many bankers. So, I went back to France to embark on an MBA. I subsequently joined Ford and spent nine years mainly in sales and marketing roles in the UK, Ford of Europe and ending up as Marketing Director of Ford Switzerland. I returned to the UK in 2001 to join Volkswagen. I have recently moved to Volkswagen headquarters in Germany and am now focused on the US market. I seem to spend large amounts of time on planes between the UK, US and Germany and I'm doing my bit to promote cultural harmony between these very different societies. My conclusion is that the British are closer in outlook to Germans than we are to the Americans, whatever special relationship there may be.

When not working I enjoy my two children, play the occasional game of golf and tennis and go to the theatre whenever I can. I have recently been back to school and taken an A level in Spanish; I am now nervously awaiting the result!

Well done Andrew! We are delighted to report that he got an 'A'!!!

## Derek Down's (1937-1945) Shepherd's Pie!!

Old Caterhamian, Derek Down has recently become a 'shepherd's pie recipe winner'!!

A local catering company is now using his recipe, which incorporates sweet potato and rosemary into the mash topping. Derek's improved version of the recipe has now been in the shops for a couple of months and is proving far more popular than the previous recipe.

He entered a cookery competition with tongue in cheek and was surprised at the outcome. However, he tells us that we need not get the impression that he is a Master Chef. Some years ago, when he was a



Derek Down

widower, he attended adult education classes in cooking for men, which proved to be great fun as well as useful. Derek is now happily married to Joy who is a good cook and grandmother of Caterham Schoolboy, Adam Jones.

## James Benning (1996-2000) and Ali Brown (1983-1987)

### James and Ali blast Surrey to world record total!

James Benning and Ali Brown took the leading roles at the end of April as Surrey blasted their way to a limited-overs world record score of 496 for four from 50 overs in beating Gloucestershire by 257 runs in the Friends Provident Trophy at the Oval.

Benning and Brown shared an opening stand of 294 before Brown fell for 176 off 97 balls, having hit 20 fours and eight sixes. The 37-year-old batsman's century had come off 50 balls. Benning's innings of 152 was comparatively sedate, taking 134 balls with 15 fours and four sixes, before he was dismissed by Anthony Ireland.

Well done James and Ali!



James Benning and Ali Brown pass another landmark during their 294-run partnership

## North Wing Demolition & Next Phase of Caterham's Masterplan



Work started to demolish the old North Wing in the Easter Holidays this year. The Architects drawing shows the finished result. There will be a new Health Centre, School Shop, Year area and Piazza for the children to congregate at break times.

## OC Jeremy Hibbins (1976-1983) Pioneering Private Education in Slovenia

Jeremy Hibbins moved to Slovenia in January to work on an exciting new project. After nearly eleven years working in one of Switzerland's top international schools, Jeremy was encouraged by friends to consider opening a school of his own. Initial research showed that Slovenia (the northernmost republic of the former Yugoslavia - bordered by Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia), has made great progress since its near-bloodless independence in 1991 and accession to the EU in 2004. As the most prosperous of the 2004 EU entrants (it joined the Euro in January and will hold the rotating EU Presidency in the first half of 2008), Slovenia is attracting considerable attention. It is a popular holiday destination, served by EasyJet and Ryanair, but also occupies a key strategic location at the crossroads of south and north, and of western and eastern Europe. Over half of the country is covered by forest. Adventurous types love its rolling hills, rivers, lakes, caves, mountains and modest stretch of Adriatic coastline: it is one of the few places where one can ski in the morning and swim in the sea in the afternoon. From the capital, Ljubljana, cultural centres Salzburg and Venice are just two hours' drive. The current centre-right government wants its people to have more choice across the board and a range of legislation is currently being enacted to facilitate this. For example, the government



Jeremy Hibbins

wants more children in private education. However, whilst a small number of private schools operate curricula very close to the state system under a concession system, there is still no real private international school anywhere in the country. Jeremy found during his market research, gathered during eight trips in 2006, that the time was now right for a new private education sector to start in this small but incredibly beautiful country. People want to be able to exercise a choice without resorting to sending their children abroad.

So, Jeremy has bought a house near the famous Postojna caves, from where he is now making good progress in establishing the British International School of Ljubljana, with a view to opening in September 2008. The school

should, within a few years, have 600 children aged 4 to 18, including about 25% boarding in small houses. The school, which will use the International Primary Curriculum and the University of Cambridge International Exams, will be the first international school in Slovenia to teach foreign and local children in English, together in the same classroom. Currently Jeremy's priorities are: concluding the numerous formalities; securing funding; finding a premises; recruiting children and staff. Preparations on all these five areas are making pleasing progress. Jeremy is delighted that the response locally and internationally has been overwhelmingly positive. A number of influential people have indicated their support. Of the half a million Euros he needs to open the doors, he now has 65% in the bag and will soon be looking for individuals and companies who may be interested in investing in this exciting project. Look out for the grand launch in February 2008!

If you want to know more, visit the school site [www.bis-lj.com](http://www.bis-lj.com) as well as local info at [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info) and [www.ljubljana.si](http://www.ljubljana.si) (both with English versions). Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)) also has lots of factual information about the country.

Jeremy's email is:

**jeremy.hibbins@bis-lj.com** - he would be delighted to hear from any OCs who would like to know more.

## Geoffrey Pidgeon's (1936-1940) 'Secret Wireless War'



Brigadier Richard Gambier-Parry head of MI6 Section VIII – the communica-

Possibly the most important wireless traffic in World War II was handled by a unit formed in 1938 by

tions division of SIS. Geoffrey's book tells about its formation and includes diary entries by one of the 'founding fathers' recording the secret meetings that took place, and the assembly of its' talented staff. Geoffrey was born in Fulham in 1926. The family moved to Caterham in the early 1930's and he was educated at Caterham School. In 1940 the family moved to Stony

Stratford to join his Father who was by now, working for MI6 Section VIII at Whaddon Hall. Geoffrey joined Section VIII in 1942 and the fascinating story of his book began. Please contact Geoffrey for more information and book orders: **geoffrey.pidgeon@virgin.net**

## Charity Greeting Cards for Sale

Art work completed by Caterham students has 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 re-cycled 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](mailto:david.clark@caterhamschool.co.uk) or send details and a cheque (made payable to Caterham School) to the school.



## Can you help?

Are you interested in contributing to some of the many school activities taking place at Caterham School?

We would love to hear from OCs who are able to help with the CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme or with any aspect of sports coaching.

Also – if you are considering a career in teaching...then please get in touch. We always need 'gap graduates' to assist with sports coaching, drama, art and music – highly competitive salaries available with great perks!! This applies as much to recent university leavers as to more 'mature' OCs who may feel like a career break!!

Please do let us know if you are interested in any of the above.

Contact **Mr Dave Clark** at the School on **01883 343028** or on [david.clark@caterhamschool.co.uk](mailto:david.clark@caterhamschool.co.uk)

## Bicentennial History Book of Caterham School

A history book covering 200 years at Caterham School is being written by a local historian. This is being produced to commemorate the Bicentennial celebrations in 2011

**NOW PUBLISHED** 'JOHN TOWNSEND CHAMPION OF GEORGIAN CHARITY' by John Townesend. Copies available for £15 + p&p. Please contact Alina for orders.

## Programme for OC Day and Remembrance Sunday Sunday 11th November 2007

<b>10.00</b>	Pre-service refreshments in the Concourse
<b>10.30</b>	Service and CCF Parade in front of the School
<b>11.30</b>	Coffee, tea and biscuits in the Concourse
<b>12.00</b>	Pre-lunch drinks in the Concourse
<b>12.30</b>	Lunch in the Davey Building (New Refectory)

Matches against the School followed by tea at 16.00

## Email and Telephone Contacts

<b>OCA President:</b>	Rodney Lyons sales@eppingmotorcompany.com	01277 365415
<b>OCA Chairman:</b>	Dave Craft	01883 716144
<b>OCA Treasurer:</b>	Denis Tindley dtindley@compuserve.com	020 8657 2604
<b>Administration:</b>	Alina Rennie alina.rennie@caterhamschool.co.uk	01883 343028 ext 291 Direct: 01883 335091

Apologies to those OCs whose names appeared incorrectly on the rugby photographs in the last edition. We will try harder next time!!

## OC Committee

We have Committee Member vacancies for the following:

Social Secretary  
Committee Member  
Editor

Please contact Dave Craft for further information on  
**01883 716144**

or via  
[oldcats@caterhamschool.co.uk](mailto:oldcats@caterhamschool.co.uk)

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

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

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