



THE OLD CATERHAMIAN'S' newsletter

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www.oldcaterhamians.com

January 2009

Date for your diary...

Annual General Meeting and Old Cats Day – Sunday 22nd March 2009

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Autumn OC Day and Remembrance Sunday 9th November 2008

Yet another chilly November day but the rain stayed off and a very moving service ensued.

There was a great gathering of old and current boys and girls as we remembered our lost and loved ones on this special day.

A lovely buffet lunch was served and there were nearly 100 guests in attendance as we were also celebrating the naming and dedication of the Stephen Smith Sports Centre later on that afternoon.

At precisely 2pm, the dedication ceremony commenced according to plan and games followed afterwards.

A massive crowd gathered in the Refectory for the sports and Honorary Membership presentations. The OCs were very pleased to be able to present Chris Raina, Val Hoad and Ian Sheffield with their Honorary Memberships for such a valuable and long service to the School.

All in all, a very successful day and we believe it was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Old Boys & Girls await the parade



The CCF stand to attention



Julian Thomas & John Grimshaw lay the wreaths by the Memorial

The School Chaplain giving his sermon



Elizabeth Macnamara, Anne Bailey & Caroline Storer



The CCF march in



Staff, parents & students assemble

President's Message

As a gardener I have a lively interest in the weather and its effects both on the plants and on my own working week.

As I write this a comparatively warm westerly wind is blowing, and rain is in prospect – a much more agreeable outlook for me than the preceding two weeks of hard frost. This winter is said to have been the coldest since 1982, when I well recall the snow lying deep in Caterham, and it has come as quite a shock after many years of mild winters. I fear that there will be a number of gaps to fill in the garden next season. In our school days snow and frost seemed much more frequent and I recall with a shudder how our fresh air fiend of a monitor in the unfortunately named Springbottom dormitory of Mottrams insisted on having all the windows open, whatever the weather, and the morning, probably early in 1979 when we woke to find a mini snowdrift on the floor and a light sprinkling on the bed of your Chairman, Dave Craft.

In an uncomfortable parallel, the

hard winter of 1982 also coincided with a recession in the United Kingdom and the United States. These will be difficult times for many, but for most of us life will continue much as before, though perhaps with a little belt-tightening here and there. Elsewhere, however, things are much worse. News received over Christmas indicated that the Tanzanian village of Lerang'wa, with whose primary school Caterham has established a strong link, has again had no rain when expected. This is the fourth rainy season in succession that has come and gone for them without it actually raining significantly – no worthwhile crop has been harvested in the village since 2006. For a community entirely dependent on subsistence agriculture one missed crop is a disaster: two whole years without



John Grimshaw

replenishment of supplies is catastrophic. Mary Mathayo, the remarkable Head Teacher at Lerang'wa, wrote that the people are starving, and that the only hope for the children is that the World Food Programme continues to supply rations for their school lunches.

Caterham School is committed to helping the development of Lerang'wa Primary School and one of the projects for this year is to raise funds to build a kitchen and dining room facilities there. Before then, however, it is felt that an effort should be made to help relieve the famine prevailing in the village, by supplying staples for distribution. The school will make a generous contribution, and Caterham students will be asked to donate the price of a lunch. I am asking Old Caterhamians to do likewise – to donate the cost of a meal to this fund and consider doing without that meal entirely. Details of how to make a donation appear elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Back to the garden, where this all began. The snowdrops have responded to the mild weather by pushing up fast, and where there was dull woodland ground a few days ago there is no a peppering of white, as the first flowers pop open, indicating that spring is not too far away.

The Pye Building (formerly The North Wing & Sixth Form Centre)

The new Pye Building was opened on the afternoon of Wednesday 8th October 2008 by Dr. John Hood, the Vice Chancellor of Oxford University.

The building has been named after Catharine and Winifred Pye, the two sisters who founded Eothen School in 1892 and of which Miss Catharine Pye was Headmistress for 46 years. Their great-nephew, William Pye is the artist who created 'Edfu', the water sculpture in front of the building. Eothen merged with Caterham in 1995.



OC Day Buffet Lunch

A jolly crowd of OCs and their friends and families joined us for our special buffet lunch....



Rob Davey, Julian Thomas & Stephen Smith



Pre-lunch drinks for a group of guests



Aimee & Rick Mearkle



Mr & Mrs John Mortimer and Mike



Val Hoad and Mr & Mrs Raina enjoying a pre-lunch drink



Mr & Mrs Thomas, Mr & Mrs Davey, Mr & Mrs Smith and Mrs Leathem



John Armitage, Alina & Colonel Atkins



Mrs Leathem and her daughter, Elizabeth



Mr Rogers, Mr Nunn with Tom Harold



The Bursar, John King and The Estates Bursar, Robert Charlesworth

The Naming & Dedication of the Stephen Smith Sports Centre

Stephen Rider Smith, M.A. (Cantab) Headmaster, 1974-1995

(extracted, in part, from 'A Century at Caterham, 1884-1984'
by Ernest de C. Blomfield)

Mr Stephen Smith, whom the School is delighted to welcome back today, was born in October 1934 in India, where his parents were serving as missionaries. He was educated at Eltham College and went up to Cambridge (Emmanuel College), taking his degree in Geography in 1959. He remained a fourth year to take the post-graduate Certificate in Education.

Mr Smith married Helen Shepherd, whom we are also delighted to see today. Shortly after his marriage, Mr Smith was appointed to Harrow School where he remained for 5 years. Subsequently he volunteered for service with the Council for World Mission and was appointed Mission Representative on the staff of the Union Christian High School at Bishnupur, near Calcutta. He returned to the UK in 1972 and was appointed a Housemaster at Birkenhead School. Mr Smith had, in the meantime, distinguished himself in the world of Rugby Football. He obtained his Blue

at Cambridge and captained the University's team. He went on to captain Richmond, Hampshire, Barbarians and India and was capped as Scrum Half for England in the seasons of 1959 and 1964.

Mr Smith took up his duties at Caterham in January 1974. In the following 21 years, he led the School successfully through many challenges. The early part of his tenure saw the ending of Direct Grant status and the move to becoming an independent school, which was achieved in 1976.



Stephen Smith gives his speech

The Assisted Places Scheme was introduced in 1981, which year also saw the arrival of the first eleven girls to join the School. He saw the centenary of the School at Caterham in 1984 and, under his leadership, pupil numbers and the educational attainments of the School grew and sport flourished.

It was due to Mr Smith's support for the Governing Body's vision of a fully co-educational, independent school that Caterham School was able to merge in 1995, on the Caterham site, with Eothen School. Now the School has nearly 1,100 pupils and enjoys wonderful grounds and facilities. It is fitting, therefore, that our Sports Centre be named today 'The Stephen Smith Sports Centre' after someone who has had a significant and lasting impact on the life of the School.

The Plaque is unveiled



The Stephen Smith Sports Centre



The Stephen Smith Sports Centre

Opened in 1996 by Sebastian Coe, the sports centre was built following the merger with Eothen School.

The facilities include a heated 25m, six lane swimming pool, an air conditioned fitness suite equipped with a range of cardiovascular and resistance equipment and an aerobics suite. The 600 square metre sports hall has court markings for badminton, basketball, five-a-side football, hockey and netball plus nets for cricket practice. There are two suites of separate changing rooms for wet and dry activities with the dry changing rooms also accessible from outside. This modern facility is in constant use by the school community and had been an invaluable addition to the development of sport at Caterham School.

OC Day Sports and Presentations

A record crowd turned up in the afternoon to cheer on and support their family and friends.



Teams observe the two minutes' silence

Rugby Results:

1st XV	55
Recent Leavers	5
Matt Foulds received the Rignall Cup	
President's XV	29
OCRFC	12
Michael Grant received the Simon Grant Trophy	



The Match gets underway



Spectators watch the Lacrosse Match

Lacrosse Results:

School	8
Recent Leavers	2
Recent Leavers	3
Older Leavers	1
School	4
Older Leavers	3
Georgina Shrimpton received the David Hatch Trophy on behalf of the School	



Lacrosse Ladies taking a break



Spectators enjoying the day

Afternoon tea and Presentations....



A Chelsea Pensioner joins us for afternoon tea



Matt Foulds with the Rugby Trophy



Georgia Shrimpton receives the David Hatch Trophy



Chris Raina receives her Honorary Membership



Kwambe Amanning (CB), Scott Simpson, Pat Lavery and Charlie Abban



Val Hoad receives her Honorary Membership

News from Old Caterhamians

Ray Howgego, Master and Honorary OC Member (1969–1997)

Ray tells us:

After teaching physics and electronics at Caterham for 28 years I took early retirement at age fifty to pursue a literary career in the field of travel and exploration. I regularly visit remote parts of the world, South America, Africa, Asia and Australasia, to gain first-hand experience of the regions I'm writing about and to seek out locally produced publications to add to an already vast collection of travel books. My four-volume 'Encyclopedia of Exploration', published in Sydney between 2003 and 2008, has become a standard work of reference in libraries throughout the world, and at four million words it is regarded by many as the largest unaided single-author work in the English language. In addition,



my biography of the prolific English traveller Gertrude Benham will be published later this year, and in June 2009 my 'Book of Exploration', a lavishly illustrated popular history to be published by Orion, will appear in local bookshops. I advise others, writers and film producers, on the history of exploration, and I have recently been commissioned by Oxford University Press to write a series of articles on explorers missing from the Dictionary of National Biography. In my spare time I work as an officer of the Hakluyt Society, an

organisation dedicated to the publication of rare travel narratives, whose website I write and maintain. If you enter my full name in Google, you'll find plenty more!'

Ray goes on to tell us:

'You might be interested to know that the pioneering photographic work of a very old Old Cat, William James Saville

(1873-1948), has recently been exhibited in Australia. Saville was at the school around 1890 and became a missionary in New Guinea where he took some of the earliest photographs of the island's remote tribes. I can provide much more information if interested. His work is now very highly regarded, but I guess the school is unaware of him.'

Ray's article about William James Viritahitemauvai Saville will appear in the next Annual Review due out this Autumn.

Paul Claydon (1973–1981)

I have been saying for years that I must contact the Old Caterhamians' and send them my news. Having left the school in 1981, I suppose the driver for me to finally contact you now after 27 years is the fact that my niece Emily Blachtford has just started in prep school.

So here goes.....

After leaving school in the summer of 1981 I initially took a year out before starting a degree in Civil Engineering at, as it was called then, Plymouth Polytechnic. During the year out, amongst other things, I crewed on a friends yacht and had a job working in the local Victoria Wines off licence in Oxted.

In 1982 I started in Plymouth. Part of my reason for selecting Plymouth was that during the 2nd and 3rd years of the course they offered sub aqua diving as one of the course options. Subsequently I left Plymouth with a BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering and a

Commercial Part IV Professional Scuba Diver qualification. I never intended to dive professionally but the information has been very useful on at least two of the civil engineering projects I since worked on and it has always been very useful when abroad to wave the commercial log book at the local diving schools to get some very good dives.

After leaving Plymouth, I joined Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering in October 1985. Although I have moved around within the BB Group, 23 years later I am still working for them and I currently work for Heery, part of Balfour Beatty Management Ltd, the professional services arm of the company.

During my time with them I have worked on a wide variety of projects from relatively small projects to major works ranging from sewage treatment works, sea defences, infrastructure works, land reclamation, work for the Ministry of Defence, and close to Caterham widening the M25 between junctions 8 and 10. Although in the

initial stages of my career I followed the standard route for Civil Engineers; graduate, section engineer, sub agent, etc about 15 years ago I started to specialise in Health and Safety and I am now a Chartered Member of IOSH, the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. My time is currently split between working as a Health and Safety Advisor and a CDM Co-ordinator mostly on projects in central London.

In 1986 work took me to Clacton on Sea to install a new sewage overflow system and two outfalls in to the sea and it was during this time that I met my future wife Lynn. Our relationship almost failed at the first hurdle when she asked me back for a coffee after our first date and I refused saying I had to go back to site to refuel some pumps that were over-pumping sewage. Although actually true, she thought this was the worst excuse she had ever heard and was convinced I didn't like her. ➤

This of course was not true and ultimately we married in 1988. After a short period living in Southend (another sewage job) we moved to Frinton on Sea, where I still live. Sadly, I lost Lynn to illness in 2000 but she left me with two fabulous children, Louise and Michael. They were 9 and 7 respectively when their mother died and it was only with the help of friends and family that we all got through this very difficult time. Lynn's parents, who also live in Frinton, and friends were especially helpful and my parents, who still live in Oxted, also assisted whenever they could. Balfour Beatty were also extremely good allowing me to adopt a flexible working pattern to assist me balance the demands of being a single father and working full time.

Louise and Michael are now 18 and 16 and I am very proud of them both.

Chris Pullin (1965–1974)

Chris has been in touch to update us with his news. He tells us;

After sixteen very happy years in Worcester, we moved to Hereford in August 2008 where I'm Canon Chancellor of the Cathedral. This means that I have the responsibility for the educational side of the Cathedral's work and ministry: my department consists of the library (both the historic chained library, the largest in the world, and the modern working library), The extensive archives (including Magna Carta), the Mappa Mundi, the Cantilupe Institute (running study days, lectures and courses) and school visits. Properly trained staff look after the day to day side of most of that, but my task is to oversee it and provide direction, and to 'sell' it in the wider world in all kinds of ways (with a particular emphasis on engagement between religion, learning and the contemporary world). It's a wonderful job in a wonderful place and I'm enjoying myself greatly.'



Chris Pullin with his family

Although friends were always on hand I am particularly proud that Louise has always preferred to talk to me about any issues. This has led to some "interesting" conversations as she has grown up. Conversations I am sure most girls would have had with their mother.

So to the future. Louise is always telling me I need to get a girl friend. She is correct but I never seem to have the time. Commuting to London from here is a long day and the weekends never seem to last long enough. In the short term we are all looking forward to a skiing holiday in Canada in February. I must come back to school to have a look at all the changes that have taken place at since I left. Perhaps I should get my niece to show me around her new school at the next Old Caterhamians day.



The Culverwell Family

Marcus Culverwell (1979–1986)

Marcus has written the following:

As a matter of possible interest for the next Old Boys Newsletter, I have now been Headmaster at Reigate St Mary's Prep and Choir School for three years. As an occasional feeder to Caterham it is a pleasure to be sending some of our leavers there, including a Year 7 scholar this academic year. I have just celebrated 15 years of marriage to my lovely wife Caroline and we have three children ranging from 10 to 2 years. I now spend some of my time working as an independent school inspector for preparatory schools and am heavily involved in our Baptist Church. I send my regards to all who knew me at Caterham School between 1979 and 1986.



Chris and his wife

Chris Syer (1947–1958)

Chris has emailed to say:

It's hard to believe that it is 50 years since I left Caterham School!!

I hope to get down to writing more later - especially as my brother John (who left in the early 50's) has not been well - he was the UK's leading sports psychologist and wrote several authoritative books on the subject.

My father (Alan Francis Syer) who was President in 1958 opened the then "new" Cricket Pavilion and there is a plaque notating that fact.

It's good to see how the school has expanded in so many areas since my day and that there is now a sports centre !!! Congratulations to all involved.

I hope to visit the school in 2009 and catch up with former colleagues - perhaps we can also resurrect the idea of a Malaysian branch of OCs. We did try once before when the school hockey team toured but it rather "fizzled" out thereafter.'



Nick Doney

Nick Doney (2000–2005)

Our CCF Commander at School, Mr Armitage, sent us some pictures of Nick at the beginning of November 2008 when he came up the River Thames to Greenwich on board the HMS Illustrious. Nick was a former pupil and cadet who left at the end of his 5th year to attend Wellbeck College.

Lerang'wa Appeal...

We need your help with our partner school in Tanzania.

The harvest has failed again and they are desperately short of food. The school has sent an emergency donation of £1,000.

A donation from the OCs would be fantastic.

If you feel able to help, please send cheques payable to 'Caterham School' c/o David Clark at the school. MANY THANKS.



Sameer Monem

Sameer Monem 1995-1999

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Sameer who was a passenger in a car involved in a crash near his home in Weybridge, Surrey. He tragically passed away on the 6th November 2008. He was just 28 years old and leaves behind his parents and two brothers, Sharif and Adham.

With Thanks to.....

Brian Dunphy – School Caretaker

Brian has wielded his paint brush and lovingly restored the Honorati Boards which have now been placed in the old Dining Room.



Caroline Harriott

A big 'thank you' to Caroline Harriott for taking such splendid photographs on OC Days. Very much appreciated!

CALLING ALL HOCKEY PLAYING OCs

The School is hosting an international hockey match on

Friday 27th March at 3pm. An England XI will play against the rest of the world. At least 2 OCs will be playing on the day.

Please come and support and pass the word. More details from David Clark.

Programme for AGM Sunday 22nd March 2009

10.00 am	Coffee and Tea in The School Library
10.30 am	Service
11.00 am	AGM
12.00 noon	Pre-lunch drinks in the Refectory Foyer
12.30 pm	Lunch in the Refectory
1.30 - 2pm	Sports Programme to include hockey, football and swimming
4.30 pm	Tea and presentations

Email and Telephone Contacts

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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

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

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

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