



THE OLD PALUDIANS NEWSLETTER

March 2020

WELCOME TO THE 2020 NEWSLETTER

I will introduce myself as the new editor, but first would like to thank Bob Moss, on behalf of all members, for holding the title for the last six years and doing an amazing job. A hard act to follow.

I have no qualification to take over the role, except a desire to keep the newsletter going as it is appreciated by many, and no one else volunteered!

I was at Slough High School from 1959-65. As an aside here, I am in touch with only one person from that time and would love to hear from anyone who remembers our class or indeed knows someone who was there at that time. This, of course, goes for any of the years before and after the 60s. We tend to welcome mainly the same people at the reunions each year and would be so pleased to have an influx of people with other memories to share.

Although I was at SHS I was allowed to go to SGS to join the boys to study A level economics. One reason for this was that it was not on the curriculum in our school and the other was that my father, George Dickinson commonly known as GAD, was head of the maths department and arranged it for me. I believe it was a first for SGS!

Apart from teaching quite a few generations of boys, my father also played bridge, chess and cricket and is still well remembered by many, some of whom were never taught maths by him. I am often hearing anecdotes from "old boys".

One interesting fact I will share is that post war, 1947 when GAD arrived at the school, it was extremely difficult to gain admission to a university. Government regulations meant that 90% of vacancies were reserved for ex-servicemen. What a

shortage of young graduates there must have been.

In the same year there were the terribly severe Thames Valley floods. As I write this we could almost be heading in the same direction once again. I hope that by 21st. March we will all have dried out.

Past pupils, as most people do, love to reminisce about their old friends and experiences. School years certainly provide us all with a lot of memories and the reunion is a brilliant way of catching up and being reminded of events and people that may have been forgotten in the intervening years. Of course, it is just as good to share what life has had to offer us along the way with different careers, changes in families and where we are now when we meet at the reunion.

A big thank you for everyone who has contributed to this year's newsletter. It is so good to hear news and updates from members, although it often means they are unable to attend the current reunion.

Enjoy reading.

GLENYS LAWS (DICKINSON 1959-65)

STOP PRESS!

Just before this Newsletter went to print, the Committee decided to postpone the March 2020 Reunion because of concerns about the potential risks of Coronavirus infection. Subject to School Saturday availability, a new date will be fixed later in the year.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

The mission of the Committee is to do all possible to ensure the longevity of the Old Paludians Association.

To do this we must maintain contact with existing members and increase the membership base.

We believe our modern, sophisticated, interactive website will keep existing members informed and attract the interest of potential new members. It will be our key communication tool of the future. Do use the website to the full and share your news and views to improve the content.

For the time being the Annual Reunion and the Newsletter successfully keep us in touch with the existing membership, but their relative importance could potentially decline in the future. It is unlikely that the Reunion, in its present media format, will appeal to generations brought up on continuous contact through social media.

To foster interest by school leavers to join the OPA, we have successfully built up an awareness and relationship with the School that has never been stronger, with two governors (one Chairman). The visible support we give through grants for projects outside the school budget, annual prizes, careers advice and interviews, are greatly appreciated by the School. We take every opportunity to maintain and strengthen the links between the generations and to keep the history of the School alive and relevant, ably supported by the Head of School, Deputy Head and staff.

Again, I must thank all of you who have so generously made donations to the Association, without which we would not be able to support the School initiatives we have undertaken.

You will have seen that we are proposing a new Constitution bringing us up to date and providing a framework to preserve our longevity and future. Importantly we are deleting the requirement for a membership joining fee as we believe this is a barrier to new member recruitment.

The Reunion is currently the annual focal point of the Association. From our research the prime motivation for members to attend is to meet and talk with old school friends. To this end we are allocating more time for this by streamlining the formalities of

the AGM. To provide a quality lunch at a reasonable price has been a challenge. This year we are trying the alternative of a traditional English cream tea to complement the sociability of the event.

The Committee of Jane Brown, Alan Forbes, Ian Cairns, Rajesh Sharma, David Rogers, and Kav Benepal have worked tirelessly in the interests of the OPA this last year, for which I thank them. These six members have shared the considerable task of organising the Reunion. I also appreciate the contributions from Celia Johns (as Treasurer) and Glenys Laws (as Newsletter Editor) who kindly took over the vacant roles at short notice. Although I understand that most Committee members are prepared to carry on for another year, unless volunteers come forward to share the responsibilities, it is difficult to see how the Association can continue in its present form. Please give serious consideration to volunteering, by mail, before the Reunion to keep the Old Pals an active Association. As I said last year, I will stand down as Chairman at this year's Reunion.

With the help and support from members the OPA will survive, although changes will necessarily evolve in the future, as in the past. Our focus will continue to be to connect generations of Old Paludians together to maintain our rich heritage.

I look forward to speaking to you at the Reunion and if you have any suggestions, however small, or wish to help in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

RON FIDLER (1943-49)

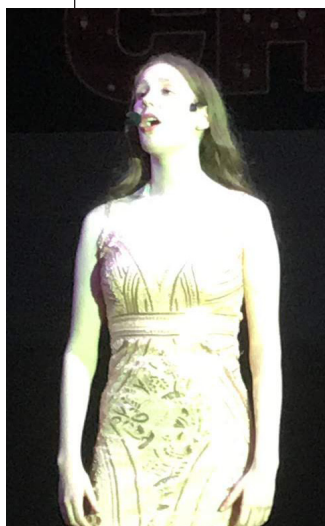
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear all,

Happy New Year! It has been a busy year so far at Upton Court Grammar School. We are always finding ways to bring our school motto Ad Astra and our mission to life:

Upton Court Grammar School ensured all students fulfilled their academic and personal aspirations and became successful and engaged citizens.

We have planned an intelligent, rigorous and engaging curriculum for our young people in order to educate them in a variety of academic subjects, as well as developing the attitudes that will be necessary for future success as a 21st century world citizen. This year we have launched our Ad Astra curriculum in which we encourage students to undertake activities that are designed to recognise achievement and offer opportunities beyond the



Left: The school production of 'Chicago'
Below: School debate in progress

classroom. We lead at least three activities per key stage which include the Pioneer Educational Trust-Themed Week, an Ad Astra drop down day and an Ad Astra educational visit. The remaining activities are student-led, with students undertaking additional leadership opportunities, sports events and competitions or fundraising for charity. All activities relate to our core values of unity, curiosity, growth and service.

In addition to the academic life of the school, we have planned and delivered a rich curriculum that includes guest speakers and visits that bring learning to life. So far this year students have seen the Mouse Trap in the West End, our Pioneer Parliament has visited the Houses of Parliament, students have performed in a Slough Youth Orchestra concert, there has been an art department visit to Tate Modern, a biology visit to Whipsnade Zoo, a sports visit to Twickenham Rugby Stadium and rowing at Eton Dorney, students have put on the school musical Chicago, visited Windsor Castle to take part in the Sketching Science; Leonardo Da Vinci sketches event, competed at Reading Crown Court in the Mock Bar Competition, visited a planetarium and raised money for The Backpack Project; Mary's Meals for Malawi school children. These are just some of the activities that make education at Upton Court Grammar School such an enriching experience.

Still to come this year we have our annual ski trip, we are setting up a project between our school and



the British Council School in Madrid, and we have our annual sports day and cross-Trust themed week on the theme of Pioneering People.

This academic year has seen the completion of our building and improvement works, bringing to an end over three years of building and refurbishments. In addition to our new specialist teaching block and the upgrade of the 1930s legacy building, we now have added a brand new sports centre and outdoor multi-use games area to the facilities in which we can deliver our world-class curriculum. The school is now the biggest it has been in its history and I look forward to showing Old Pals around at the annual reunion.

I am very pleased about the support that our school receives from the Old Paludians' Association, not least as Rajesh Sharma is now Chair of our Education Standards Board and is joined by Old Pal Kav Benepal. In addition, the funds donated every year by the association allow us to run the Old Paludians' Essay Writing Competition for the whole school, as well as fund curriculum grant applications. Your money has helped us to improve the school

environment, including the four murals that exemplify our core values and we are currently working with the Pioneer Parliament to select outdoor benching and canopies to make UCGS an even better place to learn.

This term we have commissioned our new student leadership team, led by Babita and Oliver, as Head Girl and Head Boy. These students have already shown their abilities and school spirit in helping to lead a national conference on 11th January on the theme of diversity in education, where about 200 teachers and leaders from around the country gathered at UCGS as delegates to share ideas and to debate important issues in contemporary education. The quantity of positive feedback we received about our students and school was remarkable. The student leadership team already have plans to continue their work to make our communities even better and to engage in activities that leave a legacy – one of our core mantras at the school.

You will see that our school values of unity, curiosity, growth and service permeate all our work and the activities and opportunities we provide to our students. I want to take this opportunity to thank Old Paludians and all former students of UCGS for their continued support. You give inspiration to our young people as well as to our staff and you enable us to enrich our provision in ways that make us a truly exemplary place of learning. Thank you for all you do for our school community.

With all good wishes, MARK PRITCHARD
Headteacher



The new Teaching Block

ARTICLES



VINCENT EVANS

Vincent Evans was the art master at SGS when I began my studies in 1956; I believe he left the school in about 1960. There have been references to Vincent (nicknamed "Monty" at school for some reason) in previous OPA Newsletters and it is clear that he was a far more talented and respected artist than his pupils ever realised. It had come to my attention that a number of his works were held by the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in Swansea, some on display, others in storage. The Gallery had kindly offered to show me these works; and in addition, a private collector in Swansea had agreed to show me his collection of Vincent's pictures. With this in mind, I paid a visit to both.

Although his father was a stone-mason, Vincent (born in 1895) began his working life in a South Wales coal mine. He spent WWI mining coal, and it was there that he acquired the knowledge and understanding of the trade which formed the basis of many of his pictures and prints. This was a period before mechanisation, working largely with hand tools, and the scenes which he depicted evoke the atmosphere of the South Wales pits in a way which few if any other artists have emulated. In 1923 Vincent went to New Zealand, where he spent 9 years before returning to England; during this period, he participated in the rescue of a group of girls who had gone missing in the wilds, an event covered by the NZ press. Not a great deal is known about the artwork he produced there. It is clear though that he continued to paint and draw throughout his life and there exists a considerable body of his work, some in

museums and galleries (there are several in the Imperial War Museum), some held by other institutions and a large number in the hands of private collectors. The quality of his work is such that it is quite a mystery why he has not become much better known. The esteem in which he was held was such that he was invited to produce portraits of several prime ministers, including Lloyd George:

One of Vincent's best-known paintings is titled "A Welsh Family Idyll" and this I was able to view in storage in the basement of the Glynn Vivian. The picture is shown above. I'm told that this picture was actually on the wall of the SGS art room. Does this ring bells with any pre-1960 SGS students?

BOB MOSS (1956-64)

GRANTS FOR UCGS PROJECTS

We have continued to provide funding for projects that fall outside the school annual expenditure budget. These have replaced the purchase, in the past, of library books. The most recent grants have been :

Old Paludians Essay Competition Anthology

Now in its 4th year this competition has produced some superb creative writing and the best essays are collated into an anthology which is printed and available for students and other interested parties. Copies will be on display at the Annual Reunion.

We will support this project year to year.

School Benches

Following the opening of the new sports facilities, the school will be purchasing new seating area benches for students and as part of this project the OPA will be contributing to this fund. The three benches funded by the OPA will be clearly marked with a plaque.

School Ethos Murals

To display the imagery of the school ethos of Aim High, Be Kind, Be Proud in different languages, four wall murals have been created and placed in the school. These will add colour and increase positivity among students and at the same time the plaques on them will strengthen the ties with the OPA. These can be viewed on the Reunion day.

We believe these grants represent demonstrable support of the school by the OPA. We are planning to continue them with an annual budget of £1,500 for three appropriate projects.

The funding of these grants comes entirely from the generous donations made by members so we would ask you to continue with this support.

RON FIDLER (1943-49)

COINCIDENCES

I was at Slough Grammar School from 1956 to 1963. In 1970 I went to Malawi to teach geography at the university which had been created after independence in 1964. In 1971 Derek Ray (1956-63) arrived at the university to teach economics. He had been in the same year as me at Slough Grammar. In 1972 Elwyn Thomas arrived to teach biology at the university. He had taught both Derek and me at Slough Grammar - I think his first teaching post.

What are the chances that three of us from the same era at the same school should end up at a small university in a tiny and remote country? Perhaps other Old Pals have tales of similar coincidences?

GILROY COLEMAN (1956-63)

MEMORIAL PRIZE

Each September at UCGS, the previous year's Yr13 / Upper Sixth students (often awaiting their start at university) return for the School's Senior Prize Giving. Following presentations by the Head and an invited guest speaker, a number of prizes are

awarded, including three memorial prizes in memory of former students at the School: Richard John Cork (1917-44) was a SWW fighter ace; Jeremy Black (1951-2004) was a noted Assyriologist, and Laurie Brokenshire (1952-2017) was a world class puzzle specialist amongst his many other achievements. Each has a Wikipedia article, describing their lives and achievements in greater detail than is possible here.

I helped put together the Laurie Brokenshire prize, with the assistance of friends, all of whom were taken aback by Laurie's sudden demise at age 64, when he was enjoying an early retirement but still incredibly busy with all his family and other interests. He had arrived at SGSB in September 1966, immediately following the World Cup summer and awaiting the arrival of Mr GH Painter – the newly-appointed head. His family had just moved from Plymouth to Slough, so that his father could take up an engineering management position, after the completion of his naval career. Laurie thoroughly enjoyed all the facilities available at School, and was soon joining the Choir (along with Jeremy Black and Charles Overton), volunteering for every School play, running the Chess Club single-handedly, helping restart the Bridge Club. He played hockey for the School and Buckinghamshire, and also basketball, bridge and chess for the School. He had an extraordinary energy to tackle anything, coupled with a tremendous breadth of interests. After School, he took a BSc and PGCE in Mathematics at Exeter, before joining the Royal Navy as an instructor, where he met and married Ethel who was in the WRNS. It was no surprise when his 'obsession' with puzzles led to historic breakthroughs, and new results. The Laurie Brokenshire memorial award is given for Yr 13 Mathematics, and we were fortunate that Ethel, and Laurie's sister Linnie, were able to present the award last year.

If anyone would like to contribute to any of the memorial prize funds, please contact me or any member of the OPA Committee. -

IAN CAIRNS (1964-71)

NEWS OF FORMER PUPILS

1930s BOYS

Jon Ivall (AKA 'Jack' 1935-40)

Best wishes to all Old P als especially any, who like me, are compos mentis in their nineties. At one point in WWII I was posted to a small unit, in the Eastern Med. area, of about 30 men of which three of us had all attended the old secondary school in William Street in the thirties. They were S. McConnel l, "Dusty" Rhodes and myself.

Dug Ross (1939-44)

Dug is 92 this year and although very active still, is unable to come due to dementia and not able to drive. He always looked forward to his trip from Cheshire to the reunion and would love to hear from anyone. Please send an e-mail to the OPA to be forwarded to his wife Phyllis Ross.

1930s GIRLS

Hilda Milcoy (1932-37)

I am 93 and no longer able to come to Slough due to very restricted mobility (Osteo-Arthritis). I would be interested to know if there are any members from my generation. I was secretary of the girls' section of the OPA in the 1950's. I have a book that I received as a prize in 1936 for passing the Oxford School Certificate with Matriculation, I would be happy to send this to the school if it would be of interest. Best wishes for a well attended and successful reunion.

1940s BOYS

Reg Ohlson (1940-48)

Many thanks for the Reunion invitation and the OPA news and plans. You are doing a great job keeping the Association afloat and trying to get even more wind into its sails!

Much as I would really like to be there, I will not be joining you on March 21st. Though my health is

pretty good and I stay mobile, I reached the big 90 last year and it's no more Transatlantic flights for me. Just too much hassle surrounding flying these days. Oh for the good old days in the 70s when I was taking up to 140 flights a year and some aspects of flying were almost a pleasure!

Fred Collins (1941-47)

Much as I would enjoy meeting old classmates (assuming there are a few left), I regret that the passing years have left me with somewhat reduced mobility. While I am still able to drive, walking any distance even with a stick is becoming more and more difficult.

I have very few distant relatives in England with whom I could visit in combination with my attendance at the AGM and must therefore decline your kind invitation.

Please pass on to all, my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable meeting.

Fred Collins in Canada

Trevor Taylor (1945-51)

Due to recent ankle surgery I will be unable to attend this year's reunion. Don't think I can hop that far. Regrettably that also means final retirement from cricket umpiring. About time too do I hear?

Nevertheless, I will continue to support my local club, Chesham, and pontificate regarding the state of the modern game.

Mike Taylor (1946-49)

Thank you for your invitation which I must regretfully decline. I am in an advanced state of decrepitude (mid 80's) and years of house work since I retired in 1996 has weakened my physical state; like Jerry Lewis I'm called "Cinderfella" around here. 12 hours in "cattle class" on the plane would do goodness knows what! I'm so old now that I do not buy green bananas any more. However keep up the good work in providing the Old Pals site and I hope the reunion is a great success. Have to go, a friend has just called to pick me up for a game of golf! All the best,

Mike Taylor, in New Zealand

Ron Franklin (1946-53)

Joan Franklin (1949-55)

We were hoping to attend this year's reunion. Unfortunately due to Ron having knee surgery in March we are unable to be there.

We hope to be with you next year. We still both enjoy playing golf.

1940s GIRLS

Gwen Gale (Knight 1941-47)

Unfortunately I am suffering a fractured/dislocated arm and cracked ribs at present. Apologies to all friends who may not have heard from me lately. My usual "minders" are unable to bring me to the reunion this year, although I may still attend if I can find alternative carers and am well enough. Best wishes to my special friends and to all Old Paludians.

Mary Haydock (File. 1944-51)

Another year and once again I am unable to attend the 2020 reunion.

I continue to play bowls, and again the Suffolk Ladies County semi-finals are being held on the same day as the reunion. I am pleased to play but I wish it had been on a different day! In June 2018 I had a knee replacement which wasn't too successful so I am glad to be back on the rink!

Two of my three sons live abroad one in Thailand, and the youngest in Guam- a beautiful island in the Pacific. I enjoyed our visits there but now prefer to spend holidays in England, without spending time in crowded airports.

Jean Jackson (Gouldthorp 1947-52)

As no-one from my year attends the meetings I no longer go. Greetings to any long lost friends who may be reading this.

I retired from teaching 25 years ago. My beloved husband, Glyn, died seven years ago. Old age has brought several health problems. However, I still paint. Happy memories of dear Mrs. McCoy-Hill at SHS. I no longer exhibit in London, but as a member of Cookham Arts Club there are opportunities to show one's work. Best wishes to all for the Reunion.

1950s BOYS

Charles Tyrie (1953-60)

I regret that I am unable to attend the reunion this year as I will be having an operation the previous week. I wish everyone a successful day in meeting up with old friends again, and I thank the committee for its sterling work in organising the event, and maintaining the website, which is invaluable for those of us not living locally.

Some years ago, I wrote my life story - The Langley Boy Trilogy, which deals extensively with my early days at primary school and Slough Grammar School for Boys with its rich memories of Dr Long, GAD, Chemie Morgan, Ray Mills and others. Surprisingly, the unintended consequences have been the receipt of letters and emails from former pupils, who share similar experiences to me and who I encourage to support the Old Paludians Association. I am also in contact with family members, who either went to SGS or Slough High School. These include my brother Allan Tyrie (SGS 1963-66), Pat Johnson nee Andrews (SHS 1952-57), and Jean Hayden nee Balding (SHS 1947-52). If anyone wishes to contact them, I will be happy to forward their details onto them. My email address is charles.tyrie@btinternet.com.

Best wishes for a successful 2020 reunion.

John Stacey (1955-60)

I can remember the delight on my parents' faces when I brought home the results of the 11 Plus Examination. They were my passport to go to Slough Grammar School.

For me it was a daunting prospect as I fully expected to just move schools by 100 yards and go to the William Penn Secondary School. Up until then my life had been spent in schools in Penn Road. Kindergarten, Nursery, Junior and there was worse to come as I was the only one from our "gang" who was having to make the change.

I have often wondered what the Social Services of today would have made out of an 11 year old having to make the journey from Canterbury Avenue to Lascelles Road on their own, a journey, which included a bus change at Slough Station. I must have been accompanied in the early days by one of my parents or older siblings. They all worked at that time and money was in short supply, especially as they now had to kit me out with all of the correct uniform. For 5 years I was one of the "Latch Key Kids".

The saying that “School days are the happiest days of your life” is a well-worn and hackneyed phrase but I have to admit that on a scale of 1 to 10, I would give S.G.S. an 8.

Was I any good at school? Not really. Mr Wall reckoned that I would never get a good job or amount to anything, I think that was because my French was almost non – existent. Eventually he gave up and I was made to sit at the front of the class and had Mathematics set for me for the entire lessons. Needless to say, I excelled at Maths but failed French. Still one “O” Level is better than none.

Over the years, talking with my contemporaries, we maintain that our school ran rings around the others. I remember Mr Wharmby, or should I say “Major”, and I still say it is impossible to run forwards and fire a Bren gun at the same time. Mr. Gibbs, was always a little too enthusiastic with the slipper, but we all accepted it with good grace, and at least he kept us fit.

On leaving school my father wanted me to get a job in the bank on Slough Trading Estate. A good steady job with prospects of becoming a Manager and a pillar of Society. So, I bought myself a motorbike and went on holiday to my grandparents in Cornwall for two months. Eventually I did join the Westminster Bank Ltd and spent many a happy year travelling around Southern England with their Staff Relief Team and operating the Mobile Banks at events like County Shows.

In 1967, having just got married, I decided to see the world and transferred over to the ANZ Bank in Sydney Australia. Those were four enjoyable, but hard, years. In order to buy our first house (the children were on the way) I used to work in a Stockbrokers during the evening and a Petrol Station on the weekends. The nickel mining boom was in full swing and through the Stockbrokers I managed to make a few bob, sufficient to bring the whole family home for a year’s holiday. That was nearly 50 years ago. Doesn’t time fly?

I have had a very varied career and life. Not all good but overall satisfying to look back on. Like most ex pupils I wish that I had studied just that bit harder, but then who knows which way life would have taken me then? Slough Grammar School was a good school to me, and I have good memories.

My last job was as the Finance Officer for our Town Council and in August 2019 I handed in my final notice and am now on permanent retirement. I have not lost my desire to travel and Loraine and I are packing in the trips as best we can. I have always

said that I do not want to see the world from the back of a Zimmer frame, or a Wheelchair and we are therefore doing as much as we can whilst we can.

I will miss this year’s reunion as we will be on a cruise, but I have blanked out all of March 2021 just to make sure that I can attend at least one.

Philip John Watson (1957-62)

I was very fortunate to obtain a place at Nottingham University in 1962, given that my interview was mainly based on my hobby of playing duplicate bridge! I was taught to play bridge at Slough Grammar School by the Mathematics master, Mr G A Dickinson (usually referred to as GAD). I was offered a place conditional on obtaining three passes at ‘A’ Level.

I was granted a County Scholarship and decided to throw myself whole-heartedly into, not only my studies at the University, but also to take part in assuming an active role in many societies and on committees.

My studies at University provided me with the ability to gather together all the information about a particular topic, digest this information and produce logically thought-out results and conclusions therefrom. Consequently this provided me with an excellent foundation for my studies and researches when I was, in my later career, the Chief Statistician at the International Rubber Study Group.

I decided, albeit rather later in life, that I would become a benefactor, and sponsor of the School of Economics Nottingham Economic Review. I have provided the yearly Gainsborough Prize, in memory of my mother, who, although seriously ill just prior to my finals, encouraged me to do ‘better than my best.’ Hopefully, my continued involvement with many aspects of the University, and its life, will encourage students there to take full advantage of all aspects the University has to offer and form the basis on which they can build their future careers, given the complexities of the modern world of commerce and politics.

1950s GIRLS

Joan Astill (Chennells 1951 - 58)

This year I joined the ranks of the Octagenarians, quite a milestone! With reasonable health I am quite looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Since my husband died in 2013, opportunities for volunteering have presented themselves. I help in the church cafe drop-in centre, help in the local schools (years 1+2) with reading. I have just given up Rainbows but still help with the Brownies. I am part of a group who volunteer in the local library to keep it open on days when there are no library staff. I have been playing the church organ since 1980 and plan to keep on as long as possible.

I am sorry that the journey to Slough is proving difficult now, hence my not attending this year.

Margaret Painter (Butcher 1953-58)

I am so sorry I shall be unable to attend this year again. I thought it was a possibility this time as my brother James Butcher (1951-56) always encourages me. I am going on holiday that day. I now live further away as I live at the seaside - Bexhill on Sea (Spike Milligan said that people retire to Bexhill and forget to die!). The average age is quite high and services for the elderly are amazing so he may be right.

I wish you a very successful day with lots of memories shared.

1960s GIRLS

Reunion of SHS girls from 1966

Claire Brereton (1966-73), visiting the UK from her home in Australia last summer, was the catalyst in the organisation of a successful meeting in July 2019.

I arranged the booking of a table at the National Cafe which is near the Portrait Gallery in the centre of London. We chose the date many months in advance and later realised that it coincided with the huge Pride celebrations throughout the city on that day.

Through various methods we contacted as many ex SHS girls as possible, this resulted in an excellent turnout of around 20 of us. We occupied our long table from midday until 6 pm often changing places to ensure that we all spoke to each other. Topics of conversation were very varied and frequently

included stories of our families, careers, 'lost' classmates, myths and stories from our days at the High School included.

The day was extremely enjoyable and we plan to repeat this event.

Attendees included;

Claire Brereton, Sally Kreamer, Suzanne Wall, Helen Goff, Ann Williams, Julie Robinson, Lesley Jones, Veronica Hobbs (all from 1K) Diana Veevers, Marilyn Hayes, Bridget Collins, Jackie Williams, Jane Bedford.

(I have used our single names)

1970s GIRLS

Jennifer Ediss (Lynch 1970-77)

We are still living in California and this year I am working at a local elementary school in a Kindergarten class and also helping a boy from Guatemala learn English. It is fun and rewarding work, most of the time!

1980s GIRLS

Gillian Dibden (1986-89)

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend on 21st March. Same old reason:

Rehearsing groups all day and conducting a big concert in the evening in St George's Chapel, Windsor, for the Windsor Spring festival.

There are three lovely choirs and an orchestra:

Taplow Youth Choir

Jesus College Choir, Cambridge

The Purcell School of Music Chamber Choir

I so wish these things didn't clash - but they invariably do for musicians.

My heart is in Slough, mum went to Slough Secondary School - and we have loved all the connections every since.

Have a lovely day I always look forward to reading the Newsletter.

2000s GIRLS

Congratulations!



Emma Flint (2007-14), past student representative on the OPA committee in 2019.

She was head girl and presented at an OPA reunion. She was also instrumental in reaching many people through Facebook to promote the OPA.

After six years at Oxford university she is now Dr. Emma Flint. She has secured a mixed clinical and research job in Oxford to start in August

Lost/Found/Seeking

We have received an enquiry from someone trying to contact Martin Elguezabel who was an SGS pupil in the 1950s. Martin is particularly remembered for his soccer skills and he went on to play for Slough Town.

If anyone can provide contact details for Martin we would be pleased to pass them on.

Wanting to get in touch

June Gibson (nee Williams) is trying to contact Roy Cardric. If anyone can kindly pass on his contact number, address or email to the editor, if Roy is happy for this to be done, then we would be pleased to pass the information on to June.

IN MEMORIAM

STAFF

Anne Orchard (1969-86)

David Rogers (1963-2000) has informed us of the death of Anne Orchard in 2019. She was a member of staff at Slough High School and Upton Grammar. Her daughter and son, Marianne and Stephen, were both pupils of our schools and we extend our condolences to them. She taught both English and Latin and will be remembered for her enthusiasm, a real love of literature and a talent for inspiring others. While at Upton she co-organised some memorable school journeys, notably overland via West and East Germany, crossing the Iron Curtain to Moscow and Leningrad (as was!).

1930s BOYS

Ian (Bronc) Bryant (1937-42)



Ian Bryant on his 90th birthday

Beryl Clinch, (nee Charman) daughter of Bert Charman, who has been passing Ian news/info from our newsletter which she has in turn received from another member, was kind enough to send through the following sad news.

“ Ian (Bronc) Bryant (SGS 1937-42) died on 5th. November 2019 in Spain at the age of 94. He was an enthusiastic member of the Old Pals and had attended several Reunions, until his mobility precluded.”

Last year a long letter that Ian had written about his memories of his time at SGS was printed in the newsletter. He told of the long journey he had to make to school each day, and then returning home sometimes as late as 7pm still with homework to do. His father paid, what was then a princely sum, of 18 shillings and four pence for his first term. The boys were seated in alphabetical order in those days. During wartime, gas masks were added to homework in the satchels. When he was 15 he would spend one night a week as an ARP messenger. He would do his homework whilst on duty. Then at the end of his session he would wash and change quickly at home then go straight off to school.

He played football, cricket and hockey, not only for the school but also later on for the Old Pals.

He attained Oxford School Certificate with Matric Exemptions which he said helped him gain entry to the Royal Navy.

Ian's son writes to add:

I am writing to advise you that my father, Ian Bryant, passed away in his sleep on the 5th November at a nursing home in Malaga. He was 94.

He had a fall at home two weeks earlier fracturing his pelvis and vertebrae. After treatment in hospital we arranged for him to go into a care home to recuperate. He was physically frail but mentally fully alert and thinking of returning home when his injuries allowed.

Sadly this wasn't to be. Christine and I were with him when he went into the home and visited him each day while we were there. During this time he was able to speak to his grandchildren and plan for his recovery.

We had already arranged our return visit when we received news of his death.

We will be collecting his ashes and bringing them back to the UK in December.

There will be a small family ceremony and the ashes will be scattered at Slough crematorium where his parents' ashes were scattered.

My father had a wonderful life with many happy memories. For us he will be best remembered for

his time in Spain and the variety of people he encountered. As a family we visited him regularly and remember the good times, particularly when our children were young. Sadly later in life he chose to stay on in Spain rather than return to the UK as we hoped.

His home is filled with memorabilia of his life, particularly fishing, his time in the navy and travel. He was a keen sportsman but cricket seemed to dominate in later years. There are many items that I remember from my own childhood.

I am sorry to be a bearer of bad news but thought it best to let you know what has happened.

1940s BOYS

Haydn Delve (1944-49)

Barry Delve (1976-81) writes: I would like to let you know that my father Haydn Delve, who was also an Old Pal, sadly died on February 11th. I attach a photo which I found today when I was looking through some of his belongings.

James Osborne (1947-52)

He attended Slough Grammar School before leaving to start work at his father's garage, "Jackson and Nephew". He was the nephew in Chalvey!

He was a keen cricketer and also played hockey for the Old Pals. He married and had a son, Neil. The family moved to Stoke Poges when Neil was young and stayed there. He played golf and bridge once he retired. He had an amazing recall which made him a superb player at Burnham as well as Gerrards Cross bridge clubs. He kept active until early 2019 when his health started to fail. He died on 18th May 2019. He left his son and his two beloved grandchildren, Henry and Florence.

He will be missed by many.

Peter Rolfe (1949-54)

Alan Forbes (1949-53) reported that Peter Rolfe died on 4th June 2019.

For the majority of his working life he was a medical laboratory technician. He was married with a daughter who lives in Canada with her family. For some years Peter and his wife split their time between Canada, where they had a house on Vancouver Island, and Old Amersham .

1940s GIRLS

Beryl Smart (Bigg 1938-46)

Peggy Handcock (Nee Bigg) 1940-46) sadly informs us that her sister Beryl died on 12th January 2020 at the age of 92. She was the middle of the three “Bigg” sisters and was known as “Biggles”. She was widowed in 1980 but leaves three children and 13 grandchildren.

Sylvia King (Hernaman 1946-51)

Eunice Coombley nee Hernaman (1944-1949) advises us of the sad death, last November, of her younger sister Sylvia, who was a pupil at Slough High School. She says “we both had many happy memories of our time there. I am afraid I am unable to attend the reunion but trust it will be a great success as usual.”

1950s BOYS

Andrew Thatcher

Andrew Thatcher an SGS pupil in the 1950s died in August 2019 after suffering a heart attack.

He was a regular member of the chess team and in adult life enjoyed bridge evenings.

Stuart Painter (1953-55)

James Butcher (1951-56) reports that his brother-in-law, Stuart, passed away on the 16th of October 2019. He was the first pupil to attain an ‘O’ level in German at the school, taught by Mr Sonnex. His wife Margaret Butcher attended Slough High School.

Patrick Slater (1956-64)

At SGS was a stalwart of the Debating Society.

“The Swan” of 1964 records that in school debates he successfully opposed capital punishment and the wearing of school uniform.

As a university student he was in London, LSE and SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies)

Afterwards he much enjoyed travelling to Afghanistan before the Russians moved in.

Later he moved around various European capitals, such as Brussels and Amsterdam, where he might even have worked on the trams!

Subsequently taught in schools in London. We have been informed of his death, but not the date.

Further to this David Garrod writes:

I knew Pat very well, especially studying English Lit and History at school. As I used to walk to school daily for many years, he always looked out for me and walked to school for company. We had very interesting conversations on the way, often about his Roman Catholic beliefs among other things!

I hadn’t heard from him for many years now, though I believe he lived in Weston super Mare latterly and understand that he had undergone operations on his mouth and throat for cancer.

I used to regularly play tennis with Pat, weekly in the season, and he was pretty good at that!

That friendship, and tennis continued for many years after we had finished at university (he was at LSE and SOAS). In 1973 I visited him in Amsterdam and stayed a couple of days at his apartment there. where he was, I believe, teaching English.

1960s GIRLS

Patricia Jane Stockbridge

(Dilley 1967-73)

Brenda Smith (Dilley 1962-69) just wanted to pass on the very sad news that her sister, Patricia Jane Stockbridge (née Dilley), known to her schoolmates as “Tricia” and often as just “Dilley” passed away on January 1st 2020 at home in Hove, East Sussex where she had lived for most of her adult life.

MINUTES OF THE OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION AGM,

MARCH 23rd 2019

1. The meeting was held at Upton Court Grammar School, Slough. Apart from OPA Committee members, the meeting was attended by: the Mayor of Slough (Councillor Harmohinderpal Singh Sohal); the Head of UCGS (Mark Pritchard); the Deputy Head (Oliver King); the Head Boy (Pratik Doshi) and Head Girl (Nidi Hariharan); and Mrs Margaret Lenton (ex-President of the OPA). Apologies were received from President Emerita Mrs Mercedes Hernandez Estrada.

2. Welcome: Ron Fidler, OPA chairman, opened proceedings by welcoming those present. He explained that the purpose of the AGM was to communicate to members what goes on between reunions. Our aim was to ensure the success and longevity of the Association. Ron highlighted the need to attract new members and the enhanced website, which it is hoped will be instrumental in this respect. The OPA was endeavouring to build relations with current students by attending school functions and providing funding for school projects. Finally, Ron thanked members who had made donations to the Association.

3. Approval of the 2018 AGM Minutes: proposed by Gloria Dean, seconded by Alan Mabbott and Colin Thompson; approved unanimously.

4. Roll of Honour: the names of 12 alumni were read by Bob Moss.

5. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of a treasurer (following Michael Frankl's resignation), Ron Fidler summarised the current position.

Key points were:

- a) the Association had made a profit of £205 over the past year;
- b) £1500 had been allocated for grants to the school;
- c) donations received totalled £1942;
- d) computer costs were mainly accounted for by the new website;
- e) Archive storage in the School (at no cost to the Association) meant a considerable saving;
- f) The balance of OPA funds being carried forward was £2441.

Acceptance of the 2018 accounts: proposed by Shirley Laine and seconded by Ruth Sheppard.

6. UCGS Activities Update: the School Head, Mark Pritchard, welcomed OPA members. He spoke briefly about the history and traditions of the School. He detailed changes in curriculum, personnel and buildings, and explained the School's mission statement and values. He emphasised that progress scores achieved by students were impressive. He noted the opening of the "legacy building", adding that the final phase of the building programme was currently underway and scheduled for completion in the summer of 2019. Total cost would be £25 million.

The Deputy Head, Oliver King, spoke about the School's curriculum and changes thereto. The new ethos of the School was "Aim High, Be Kind, Be Proud". Points covered by Oliver relating to the curriculum included: the baccalaureate entitlement; cross-curricular lessons; challenges in modern society; timetable enrichment, often based on teachers' personal interests; educational visits and visiting speakers; activities such as debating and the orchestra; and the OPA-funded essay-writing competition. Oliver concluded his presentation by describing several Pioneer Educational Trust projects, such as the "More Able Girls" project and Trust Development Day.

The Head Girl, Nidi Hariharan, and Head Boy, Pratik Doshi, spoke about a number of initiatives at the School: the Valentine's Party; an Outward Bound trip, with canoeing and rafting; career visits; bhangra dance; an art project; the School's Pioneer Parliament and a visit to the real Parliament; and the Performing Arts Spring Showcase.

7. Website Demonstration: Rajesh Sharma demonstrated the new website. He explained the history of moving the old website from Wikispaces and the differences between the old site and its successor. The previous site had principally been a historical depository and this knowledge would remain available to users. The new site must be capable of arousing the interest of prospective new OPA members, who would be able to join the Association online. Users would be able to add their stories to the site for others to read on a more timely basis than at present. There would be user forums for discussion. Invitations to join the website (involving the use of coupons) would be sent out. The archives would also be digitised. Suggestions on use of the new website were encouraged.

Celia Johns raised a point about Facebook and

Twitter accounts. Gloria Dean enquired about the security of coupons and the website, adding that she had recently seen adverse comments about the OPA (or the OPA Limited).

8. Membership Issues: the Membership Secretary, Kav Benepal, addressed the problem of reaching out to new members. Mobility (in the sense of not being local) was a problem for some people and so the website and social media were important aids to building a community. Groups of non-OPA members had formed in some areas and it was important to attempt to bring these people back to the school. The community should cover all ages. OPA members should be encouraged to come to the school to give students the benefit of the knowledge they had acquired in their careers. A new work experience programme should be built.

9. Election of Officers: Ron Fidler stressed the urgent need for more volunteers. He himself offered to serve another year as OPA Chairman. The nomination was proposed by Gloria Dean and seconded by Celia Johns. Approved unanimously. Kav Benepal, Jane Brown, Ian Cairns, Alan Forbes, David Rogers and Rajesh Sharma agreed to remain on the committee for another year. Their en bloc nominations were proposed by Jean Tyler and seconded by Shelagh Rothero. Approved unanimously. Ron appealed for volunteers to fill the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor roles. Celia Johns and Glenys Laws respectively expressed interest in these roles (since confirmed). Jean Tyler pointed out that the Head Girl used to be a committee member.

10. Open Forum: Debbie Wright suggested that committee vacancies should be notified to members in advance of the meeting, to provide more time for consideration. Shelagh Rothero stressed the importance of attracting younger members.

11. Next Reunion: March 21st 2020 is the scheduled date.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2019

The Association made a loss of £976.26, for the year ended 31 Dec 2019. This was as a result of significantly lower income from all sources, notably donations, raffle tickets and the sale of books/memorabilia. Although the figures shown on the accounts are correct and agree with the records in my possession, there are some which require explanation.

I took over the job of Treasurer at the AGM in March 2019 as a last minute (and unexpected) addition to the election of officers, never having had anything to do with the running of the OPA before. I was therefore unaware of the details of income and outgoings on Reunion Day, and those records have not been accurately reported, being simply the net expenditure shown by the amount of the float repaid to the bank account. In addition, I had not been advised of the payment due to the school for Reunion Day refreshments; hence those figures (now obtained) have been accrued until they are paid this year.

The grants made to the school are funded by the donations received from members. As the grants accrued exceeded the donations in this year this resulted in a loss. For the future the level of grants will be dependent on the amount of donations received. The Reunion is self-funding including the payment for guests.

The bank balance at the end of 2019 was a healthy £5424.27, more than enough to take care of all the accruals shown and to leave a good amount as a basis for 2020.

CELIA JOHNS (1955-62)

OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
	2019	2018		2019	2018
Reunion Day income	£1,294.00	£1,608.08	Reunion Day expenditure (net)	£80.00	£1,562.93
Donations	£953.00	£1,942.00	Reunion lunch account	£980.00	£0.00
			Grant towards water fountain 2017	£0.00	£500.00
			Grant for Essay Anthology 2019	£300.00	£0.00
			Provision for 2018 grants		£1,500.00
			Provision for 2019 grants	£1,500.00	£0.00
Subscriptions	£70.00	£140.00	Flowers and gifts	£0.00	£131.00
Raffle	£203.00	£413.61	Stationery	£39.98	£77.90
Books & Memorabilia	£22.81	£350.00	Printing	£187.00	£224.56
			Postage	£343.63	£302.27
			Computer costs	£80.62	£449.83
			Stripe fees	£7.84	£0.00
TOTAL	£2,542.81	£4,453.69	TOTAL	£3,519.07	£4,748.49

Brought forward from previous year	£2,440.53	£2,735.33
Income for year	£2,542.81	£4,453.69
Expenditure for year	-£3,519.07	-£4,748.49
Net income for year	-£976.26	-£294.80
Carried forward to next year	£1,464.27	£2,440.53

Represented by:

Balance at bank at 31/12/19	£5,424.27
Add uncleared Stripe payment	£20.00
Less grant provision 2018 & 2019	-£3,000.00
Reunion lunch accrual	-£980.00
Total	£1,464.27

I hereby certify that the above shows a true record of the finances of the Old Paludians Association as at 31 December 2019.

Signed..... Treasurer Date.....29/2/20.....
(Celia Johns)

I have examined the books and vouchers produced to me and certify, as far as I am able, that this is a true statement of the financial affairs of the Old Paludians Association

Signed..... Date.....29/2/20.....
(Elizabeth Goodchild MAAT)

WEBMASTER'S REPORT

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light" is without doubt one of the best descriptions of a day in the life of a busy webmaster.

Last year's report focussed on the transition from the old "WikiSpaces" website to the new website, our new bulk email facility and our plans for the coming year. Having completed those transitions, the website and email server have been stable and worked well.

Last year's report however also came with some rather grand promises – Namely;

.....the format is that of a News Site. There will be frequent updates of stories of interest to Old Paludians and we shall encourage all members to contribute items of interest. There will also be the ability to comment under articles and engage in discussions with other members. The website will also host Member Forums. There will be forums where members can discuss issues of interest, reminisce, arrange informal get-togethers and share experience and give advice. One somewhat overlooked aspect of the Old Paludians Association is that as a diverse group of largely high-achieving people we have a large body of expertise to call on if we ever need advice or information.

And on these fronts, I'm afraid progress has been somewhat laggardly but on the plus-side, and in the modern spirit of sustainability and recycling, I'm more than happy to be able to repackage and re-announce these aims again for the coming year! The infrastructure for the interactive elements of the website is present, the issue is one of ensuring we have sufficient editorial capability to create a decent turnover of material for the website and social media and to manage users on to the system. I hope to gently persuade (using force if necessary!!) a couple of "volunteers" to "assist" on this effort on the editorial side so we should see some actual progress soon.

There has been one new development from last year, the proposal to utilise some screens in the school to show some Old Paludians content in the form of an Old Paludians "channel" in the form of a slide show of archive material, hints and advice from Old Paludians and news of new developments in the fields Old Paludians are working in that may be of in-

terest to staff and students alike. This will fit in very neatly with the intention to make the Old Paludians Association Website more of a "news site" as well as embedding the Association into the hearts and minds of future members and should be eminently manageable if we manage to persuade the aforementioned editorial "volunteers" to push material to the school channel as well as the website.

As was the case under Ian and Colin Cairns who worked tirelessly for a number of years maintaining and enhancing our previous website, all development work (worth thousands of pounds) has been done voluntarily and free of charge. We are very conscious of the kind donations of members. While the website is a new expenditure item for the Association the modest annual budget of £300 is especially good value as we obtain a considerable increase in usefulness and functionality.

So, while this is a somewhat mixed report, we are in quite a good position. All the necessary infrastructure is in place, is tested and robust, so we are ready to take the next step to use the website, social media and email to enhance the operation, longevity and community of the Association.

Best wishes,

RAJESH SHARMA (1981-87)

THE FINAL WORD

THE UNIVERSAL LINE - A MEMORY

It was the 80's. 85 or 86 or thereabouts. Ties were thin. I was too. I was standing in the old corridor going down to the gymnasium with a couple of friends. A younger boy from the third form I think, running hard, turned the corner and just missed us. Sadly, for him, he failed to outrun the quickly outstretched arm of my friend who grabbed his collar and unceremoniously yanked him back. The young chap was about to get off with a warning when he made the mistake of being cheeky with my friend who promptly offered him the choice between 50 lines or a 30-minute detention. Our young friend performed a quick mental calculation and said he'd accept 50 lines.

As he pulled out his exercise book to note down the line, I suddenly had a flash of inspiration. I hadn't done very much in my school career up to this moment but now was my time to shine. His pen hovered over the paper and I interrupted my friend and started to dictate the line.....it came to me as if from the heavens... complete and perfect....

"Under no circumstances whatsoever...." The young chap looked confused, paused and then started writing....

"Under no circumstances whatsoever should I engage in acts of wanton insubordination which openly defy the powers, station and responsibility of those appointed by our illustrious headmaster Mr Painter to guard the realms and environs of this school and the safety of those under his benign care within and I shall in particular refrain from running in corridors or any space where running is prohibited or will be frowned upon."

For a moment the poor chap looked crushed, but then, in the spirit that was common at the school at that time, seeing that he'd been had, smiled. He presented a thick sheaf of paper the following day with a great deal of pride and he got on perfectly friendly terms with the prefects thereafter. He learned a few words too. For me it was all downhill after that and I found myself years later on the OPA committee as Webmaster.

Karma works over the long term apparently.

RAJESH SHARMA (1981-87)

