

The Old Ipswichian Club December 2015 eNews



Dear Ols,

The end of any year brings the opportunity, amongst the busy-ness of the Christmas season, to look back and reflect. As a society we maybe tend to focus more on the opportunity the New Year affords to make changes, some necessary and others perhaps desired, and set ourselves resolutions for the year (months, days, hours....) ahead. Some such plans, as we know, last longer than others.

We have recently looked back with gratitude at the life of former Headmaster John Blatchly and a short report of his memorial service is below. The current OI News, wonderfully edited again by Clare Lock, has a full tribute to John. Whilst Chairman of the Club I have received news of many Ols. Some are notices of death, some are updates on aspects of what is keeping them busy and their interests in life. I

have been struck not only by "headline" type successes but also by what may be considered by some as smaller achievements. These are real, important and tend to enhance the lives of others. Our journeys through life are littered with encounters with others, and they all leave a mark. How good it would be if the mark we leave on each person we meet is positive and uplifting, and what a good aim for 2016 (and beyond).

As your committee has planned the Club programme for 2016 we have looked back to this and previous years to see what is good, what can be improved, what should be put to one side, and what new events should be arranged. This is always a work in progress but the numbers at OI gatherings - a capacity attendance of 180 at the Ipswich Dinner (sadly we had to turn down late applicants) - indicate your committee must be doing something right! Of course, fellow OIs are always good to meet and talk to.

Careful change and new resolutions are a good thing, it seems to me, as long as we learn from the past.

I wish you and your loved ones a very Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes

Guy Main

OI Club Chairman

Recent Events:

John Blatchly's Memorial Service - Saturday 21st November

Those of us who attended John Blatchly's Memorial Service instinctively knew beforehand that it would be a very special and powerful occasion that we would not forget. The Tower Church would of course be full. And so it proved to be. Everyone there had their own memories of John, but what overwhelmed us all perhaps more than anything was a sense of the sheer scale and range of his achievements, not to mention the enthusiastically shared intensity with which he carried them out. Although his great love of the School and of teaching had featured largely in his life, it was the realisation that so much else we were celebrating had been achieved since his retirement. Surely there can be no town nor school in England whose history has been so authoritatively researched, celebrated, and lastingly

broadcast by a single advocate?

The choral music, the readings, and Diarmaid MacCulloch's eloquent eulogy were all perfectly conceived and delivered to make a most moving and celebratory service. Above all perhaps, we felt that John would have approved of it. Whenever we hear the 'Wolsey bells' ringing out over the town centre we shall think of John, smile, and be grateful to him.

Stuart Grimwade

First Five Year's Out Reunion - Wednesday 16th December

A group of about 25 OIs and members of staff assembled in the Sixth Form Centre to catch-up on news, swap stories, and meet other OIs for the first time. There was plenty to discuss: trips to exotic parts of the world, jobs that no-one until then knew about (and how interesting some are), universities, and plans for further trips around the globe. The teachers and OIs appreciated catching up - some lessons had sunk in - and the conversation flowed. As always, this was a relaxed and fun event.

OI v School Fives Match - Saturday 19th December

The annual match between the school and Club took place on Saturday 19th December. It was a warm and dry morning, good for Fives and great for spectators. The school were unable to deploy their strongest team as some pairs were unavailable. All credit to the pupils who were able to play. They battled against a reasonably strong OI team. Whilst the result is important - in the event each OI pair beat the school pair they were playing - also key is the spirit in which the games were played, and the friendship through a common interest. The games were fun, and the banter at lunch afterwards excellent.

OI Club AGM - Saturday 19th December

The annual general meeting of the Club took place, as is customary, shortly before the Ipswich Dinner. The minutes of the previous AGM meeting, earlier circulated, were found to be in order, and a minor word change in the Club's Rules brought the Club and School into line as the School now has a Foundation Office, rather than a Development Office.

The Chairman presented his report for the year and ended on an upbeat note by declaring that the future for the Club and its relationship with the School were both bright. The Treasurer set out the sound financial state of the Club, and outlined some of details in the accounts.

The Officers and Committee of the Club for 2016 are:

President - Ling Stephens

Vice President - John Graham

Junior President - George Finch

Junior Vice President - Nick Ranson

Chairman - Sally Webber

Secretary - Clare Lock

Treasurer - Steve Runnacles

Social Secretary - John Ward
OI News & Journal Editor - Clare Lock
Representative on the Governing Body - John Caudle

Committee to Retire end 2016 Committee to Retire end 2017 Committee to Retire end 2018

Tom Edwards
Martin Holland
Bob Clayton
Benson Ho
Chris Warnes
Florence Milner
James Davey
Trevor Woods

Ex-Officio

Headmaster - Nick Weaver
London Dinner Secretary - James Mansfield
Foundation Manager - Lindy Hacker

Ipswich Dinner - Saturday 19th December

One of the key events in the OI year is the Ipswich Dinner. This year on the allocated day of the dinner the weather was warm and dry which was good news as, only a few years ago, attendance at the dinner was severely hit by icy conditions. In 2015 OIs, partners, and guests assembled in the school's Great School for pre-dinner drinks, followed by dinner. In addition to the usual tables in the main body of Great School, three tables were set-up on the stage as the numbers attending this year were considerably higher than they have been for some time. A logistical challenge, but what a good one to have! A total of 176 (yes, really) enjoyed a particularly delicious meal - it really was good - conversation and speeches. For those who were too late to book a seat, sorry there was no more room. Particularly pleasing was the wide generation range of OIs present at the dinner: truly an event with appeal across the generations. We were joined by the Year 13 Heads of School and Heads of each House, who were excellent guests.

The Club President, Bob Clayton, hosted the evening and his guest speaker was Simon Ballard (OI 81-89). Simon, a Training Captain on long-haul routes with British Airway's 777 fleet, had plenty of stories from his experiences with which to entertain everyone present. The Headmaster then spoke about aspects of the school, and emphasized the wonderful all round education offered to pupils. The President spoke about his time at Ipswich School before handing the chain of office and the "chief's seal" to his successor as President, Ling Stephens.

This was an enjoyable and memorable evening. What a great event to complete the OI Club year. Congratulations and many, many thanks to John Ward for organising and running such an enjoyable evening for so many.





Forthcoming Events:

New Year Gathering - Friday 22nd January 2016

We always look forward to this popular event towards the start of the New Year. Please come and meet the committee as voted in at the AGM, and also meet and catch up with peers and friends. Drinks and hot nibbles will be served in the pavilion from 7.30pm and everyone is welcome to come along. If you would let us know through oievents@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk we will make sure there is enough food and drinks for us all.

OI v School Cross Country - Sunday 12th March

This is taking place at the usual venue of Fynn Valley Farm, meeting at 2pm. After the race we all return to school (for showers for those who ran) and a warming curry and refreshments in the school dining hall. To take part - and why don't you, there is plenty of time to train - please contact Alastair Dick. His email address is alistairdick120@gmail.com. Families of OIs are welcome to join in too.

Over recent years the numbers of those running as well as those who come and watch has increased. All are welcome and it would be great to see you. Again, just let us know so we can cater for all.

OI Club London Dinner - Friday 15th April

This year the venue for the London Dinner is the Oxford and Cambridge Club based in Pall Mall. Your current Vice President has arranged the venue and a entertaining speaker. Full details will be found on the website in the New Year, but please put the date in your diary now as this is an event not to be missed.

The OI Sports Festival - Sunday 17th April

The ever popular OI Sports Festival will take place at what has become its established home - the Ipswich School Sports Centre at Rushmere. Once again matches will be played between OI and school teams in hockey, netball and five-a-side football. Tennis is available too, and we hope also to add table tennis.

Full details will be available in the New Year and details be posted on the website. It is never too early to start planning your teams - it's always a healthily competitive event!

Lunch will be provided and spectators are very welcome.

50th Anniversary of the OI Fives Club

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the OI Fives Club a tournament is being held over the weekend of 8th and 9th October 2016. This will be held in Ipswich and is for OIs, not guests. The pavilion and courts are booked and it is up to each OI to find a partner for the tournament, which will be conducted on a knockout basis. If your pair win, you progress, if you lose, you enter the plate competition.

Fives players are asked to "spread the word". Tim Gregory is masterminding the tournament. If you wish to play or seek more details, in the first place please email oisports@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk and your message will be sent to Tim.

OI News

Foundation Director

Peter Boughton (OI 58-69) has served Ipswich School for many years, first as Bursar and, latterly, as Foundation Director. In all this time he has been instrumental in promoting Fives at Ipswich School and among OIs and is, as those who have watched him and competed with

and against him know, a skilled and tenacious competitor. Peter has supported the OI Club in many ways: by being a regular attendee at Club events, by running Fives competitions and dinners, and as a friend to many. As Foundation Director Peter headed the team giving great assistance to the Club, including managing the gifts from OIs towards the Club's 125th Anniversary Appeal.

Peter completed his role as Foundation Director a few days ago, as school broke up for the Christmas Holidays, and whilst he has retired from his "desk job" he will still be Head of Fives and plans to continue to be involved in Club activities. The Club is extremely grateful for his service and support over the years, and looks forward to his active involvement in the future. Peter, our best wishes to you.

Mount Kilimanjaro

Elle Kershaw Jervis (OI xx-13) is currently studying at Royal Holloway College. She is one of a team of 15 from Royal Holloway's Swimming Team taking part, in July 2016, in a Challenges Abroad expedition. They will attempt to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, which will be quite a feat. Apart from the personal triumph the team are raising money for the FutureSense Foundation, which works for the benefit of disadvantaged communities around the world. Elle will be supporting their efforts as a fundraiser and as a volunteer during the expedition.

We wish Elle and her team all the very best in their preparations and on the trip itself. If anyone would like to support Elle they may do so via:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ElleKershawJervis>

Eton Fives

OIs have been active in many Fives competitions recently, with tremendous success. In the 2015 Welsh Tournament, held in September, OI Sarah Frost partnered young Rydal pupil Will Sissons. All was straightforward until the semi-final, when they were put under stern pressure. They held their nerve to win the necessary one point and make it through to the final, which they won. Huge congratulations.

Sarah Frost OI partnered Lucy Pugh (Old Emanuel), both at Durham University, in the 2015 Jesters Universities Tournament at Eton in October. They easily won their group and, indeed, the semi-final. The final was expected to be a close contest but in the event Sarah and Lucy dominated, taking victory in double quick time.

Felix White-Thompson also played in the tournament, for Oxford. With his partner they won the C Plate

In the Midland Tournament in October Cameron Lyle (Year 13) paired with Isaac Wagland (OI). They are a good pair and had a tough draw playing, amongst others, the national men's champion. They still managed third in their group, made the last 16, and with no disgrace lost to the eventual losing finalists. They went on to win the plate.

In the same competition Peter Boughton (OI) and school Fives coach Tony Stubbs also made the last 16. Peter reports that, in the end, "younger legs carried the day". Also in the same event J P Levick (Year 10) played with his father John (OI). Although lacking recent court time they improved as the weekend went on, reaching the semi-finals of the Festival section.

The Very Old Ipswichians played the Very Old Westminster's earlier this month. The VOI pairings of Boughton and Bunyan, Pattison and Woolfries, Cox and Caudle beat their opposing VOW pairs in a 3-0 victory, even though the opposition (by agreement) turned out two "juniors". The combined age of the VOI team was 386!

Tom Rash (OI) Selected to Tour South Africa with the MCC

Tom Rash (1994-2001) has been selected by the MCC to tour South Africa. The party fly on 27 December and they will play 7 games and also coach children in the second largest township in South Africa. Tom was selected on the back of his good form early last season - the tour party was selected in May - and at that time he was taking wickets and scoring runs. Tom modestly suggests his season tailed off a little after that. He has, however, played well in MCC fixtures including against Ireland A, Loughborough MCCU and Wales, and also on his last tour, to Thailand. Most of the party are full MCC members, so congratulations to Tom. More details can be found at <http://www.lords.org/news/2015/december/owais-shah-on-mcc-tour-to-south-africa/>



News of Gareth Jones

Former Head of Chemistry at Ipswich School (between 1982-2006) has written to let OIs know what he has been up to in the last few years. He is surely right that some who remember the odd flash and explosion in the chemistry laboratory may wonder what he has been doing more recently.

The answer is, writing. Gareth says: "About eighteen months ago I completed my first

novel and self-published it on Amazon. In a sentence, and without giving too much away, 'Beethoven's Third' is about a woman whose hitherto fairly uneventful existence becomes increasingly turbulent after she unexpectedly encounters a snatch of classical music. Some OIs may remember that I gave a short course on (classical) music appreciation as part of sixth form general studies."

Although Gareth is more keen to let OIs know what he has been up to, why not download the novel from Amazon to Kindle or Tablet?

125th Anniversary Appeal

An update - The Appeal was launched in June 2012 to mark the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the OI Club. The aim was to raise one million pounds for the school, to be used for sport, bursaries and to assist in building the new music school. Regular updates have been issued.

Now that the first part of the new music school has been built and is open for use we have closed the appeal. Well, just about. Any further donations are of course being accepted and the funds from the sale of pavours - stones with the names of OIs which will make a path to the new music school - will go to the appeal.

The Club has been putting aside some money over the past few years with the aim of making a donation to the school, as part (and towards the end of) the 125th Anniversary Appeal. At the Ipswich Dinner the Club's President, Bob Clayton, presented the Headmaster, Nick Weaver, with a cheque from the OI Club for £44,000. This is a significant contribution and brings the total of money paid and pledged to the school under the appeal to a huge £982,201. This is a fantastic achievement.

Many, many thanks to all OIs who have donated so generously. If another 150 or so pavours are purchased, we will hit the target of one million pounds.

Kind Regards
Guy Main
Chairman
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