



Dear Ols,

A very happy and peaceful New Year to you all.

At this time of year many of us resolve to change in one way or another, improve in mind or body, or perhaps forgo something that has become an unwise habit. A time of reflection and readjustment is good. The OI Club never stops seeking to be relevant and improve, whilst sticking to the foundations for its existence.

The plans for this year include sporting events, formal dinners, informal gatherings, musical spectacles, special reunions and plenty of news, views, reports and updates. Do make the most of the opportunities the Club offers. I am sure you will enjoy all the events in which you partake.

Your committee is little changed from last year. Full details of the new members

will appear in the next OI News. One important officer is appointed annually, and so we say a big "Thank You" to the outgoing President, Trevor Woods, for his time, work, leadership and friendship over the last year in particular. Trevor was an active President, attending many events and most meetings, and he did so by commuting from Italy, where he lives. We should be inspired and perhaps challenged by his commitment. Trevor, thank you.

The Club's new President is Bob Clayton. I recall clearly his arrival as a new "PE" teacher during my time as a pupil, but probably none of us expected Bob to become such an important teacher, leader and friend to so many of us over the years. I am very much looking forward to Bob's Presidential year, and I hope you will support him fully.

You may be aware that Ipswich School was inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in November 2014. The report has just been published and, in every category, the school was rated as excellent. The inspectors report the alumni network as "thriving": and so it is. Many congratulations to the pupils, parents, staff and governors.

This promises to be another busy year for the OI Club. I hope you will be an active part of it.

Kind Regards

Guy Main

OI Club Chairman

Recent Events

OI v School Fives Match – Saturday 13th December 2014

The support for fives at the school by the OI Fives Club has clearly paid dividends with the 2nd win in 3 years for the pupils against the old boys just before Christmas. [That's the official line from OI Fives HQ]. The school first VI, despite not being at full strength, was more than a match for the OIs when the re-scheduled fixture was played on 20 December. First pair Isaac Wagland and Cameron Lyle showed that they can now play at the highest level, beating OIs Tim Gregory and David Leach by 3 games to 1. At second pair James Gray and Torny Whitehead (U16s) were never really in trouble against Joe Hunt and Fives Coach, Tony Stubbs, winning 3-0. A whitewash was only just avoided at third pair, where Dmitri Seymour-Howell and OI Head of Fives, Peter Boughton beat Dominic Barker and Piers Prior 3-2. So the years of encouragement, partnering pupils in the Ipswich Tournament, Graham Turnbull and Richard Barber Competitions etc has borne fruit. Of course next year, Wagland, Gale, Barker and Prior will be ours....

Annual General Meeting – Saturday 13th December - update

Around forty people joined officers and committee members of the Club for the AGM, held in Little School on Saturday 13th December, just before the Ipswich Dinner. During the meeting Chairman Guy Main updated those present with the Club's highlights over the past year.



The outgoing President, Trevor Woods, with Bob Clayton, the Club's President for 2015

Bob Clayton was elected President, Liz Pope Junior President, George Finch Junior Vice President, and Chris Warnes and Martin Holland were elected as Committee members.

The election of Vice President was not possible at the AGM, and an email was yesterday sent suggesting a Vice President who is both willing to stand and fully endorsed by your committee.

The minutes of the AGM will be published in the OI Journal later in the year.

Ipswich Dinner – Saturday 13th December in Great School

Around 115 people attended the 2014 Ipswich Dinner, which was held in Great School after the AGM. The guest speaker was the Chairman of Governors and past OI Chairman, Karl Daniels. Karl regaled attendees with stories of his and President Trevor Woods' school days, including an impromptu performance from HMS Pinafore by the class of '53, accompanied by Andrew Leech on the piano! It was another lovely evening, with friends catching up and sharing news over good food and the odd glass of wine. Towards the end of the evening a presentation was made by the Club to the Headmaster, on behalf of the school, to mark the end of the Club's 125th year. The Club had commissioned a painting of the school and the original was gifted to the school. Please read on to find out how to get your copy of the picture!



The cast from the 1953 production of HMS Pinafore

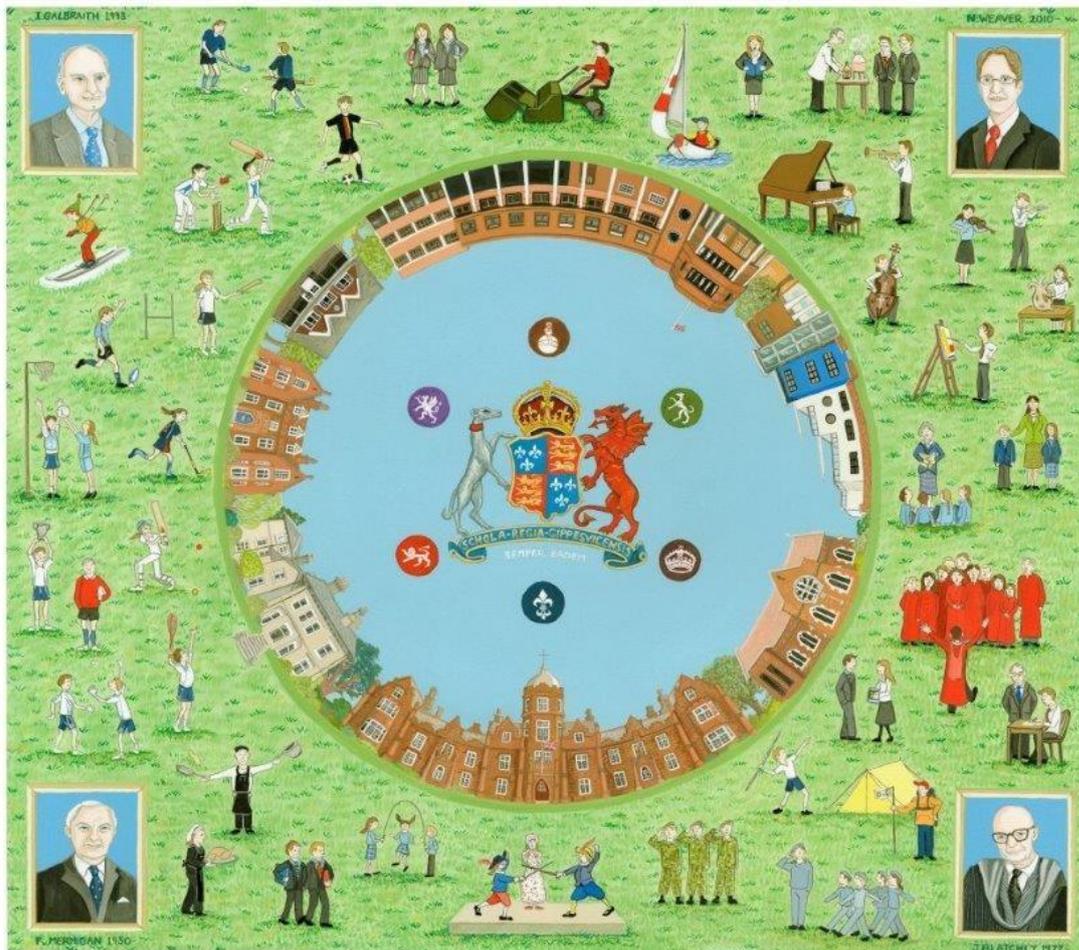
L to R. Capt. John Barker, Tony Hubbard, Alan Wyatt, Trevor Woods, Mark Grimwade, Karl Daniels and Andrew Leach on the piano

Commemorative painting (well, a copy) can be yours...

A highly individual painting of Ipswich School was commissioned by the OI Club to celebrate its 125th Anniversary. The painting was created by local artist Lorna Maxwell, author of the Amazing ABC Adventures, and prints are now available to buy, sized at 51cm x 40cm.

Proceeds from the Giclee Prints (a high quality print) will go towards the OI Club's 125th Anniversary Appeal, which will help fund the new music school, sports equipment and bursaries.

Rolled and tubed prints cost just £45 each. Prints in a classic frame (brown with gold line) cost £100 each (with around 2 weeks lead time). They may be ordered from the Development Office either by email to Lindy Hacker (lxh@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk) or by calling her on 01473 298961. Payment, in advance, by cash or cheque. What a great way to enjoy memories of life at Ipswich School as well as help give future pupils even better facilities and opportunities.



Let's get reunited!

This year's 'First five years out' reunion was held in the school's Sixth Form Centre on Thursday 18 December. It was great to see a mix of faces from all of the recent leaver years. This included a good number of 2014 leavers, some back from their first term at university and others part way through gap years, sharing their first post school experiences. By 9pm there was little space left (especially around the bar...) and plenty of animated catching up going on. This reunion continues to be a very popular get together and warm up for both the Christmas holidays and also for a longer evening of festivities in Ipswich and elsewhere!



The joy of the Graves Cup is that it is the perfect combination of firmly rooted and immovable traditions - the "flexible" nature of the format/draw (pairing OIs, pupils and guest players on a handicap basis understood only to the organiser), the magnificent Saturday night dinner (with wine kindly provided by the OI Club) and the not unrelated gentleness of the Sunday morning.

The group stages this year produced a series of humdingers, with every pair in with a shout. The Saturday evening dinner was a highlight, as ever, with guests including Ann Shortland-Jones (widow of Martin, who restarted the game at the school in the '50s) John Caudle and Simon Woolfries and Fives Club Founder and President Mike Fenn.

Will Gibbons won the Plate A Final with Will Carron (Year 9), while Tim Gregory and Oli Watts powered through the field to win Plate B in impressive style. The final was a see saw encounter, with both pairs enjoying spells of dominance. In the end though Steve Burnell and Ralph Morgan overcame Peter Boughton and Karen Hird.

Thanks as always go to all who took part and made it such a great weekend, to Peter Boughton for his irreplaceable organisational skills, to the school for letting us have use of its facilities, the school staff for wonderful catering and the OI Club for wine for the dinner.

Gareth Hoskins

More detailed tournament reports will be on the OI website:

www.ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk/old-ipswichians/sport.aspx

Forthcoming dates

THIS FRIDAY - 23 January – New Year Reunion - School Pavilion, 7.30pm

After the buzz of the early New Year celebrations, January can seem a bit flat. The OI Club has the answer: a gathering of OIs and their partners and spouses and Ipswich School staff old and new, with a chance to chat and enjoy each other's company over drinks and light nibbles. Do join us.

Other dates for your Diary

Friday 6 March – Drinks in the City – venue to be announced

Saturday 7 March – Cross Country (versus the school), Fynn Valley - (probably) 2:30pm

Thursday 12 March – OI Golf, Stowmarket, 1pm tee time

Friday 13 March – Official opening of the Ipswich School Sports Centre, Rushmere – more details will follow shortly

Sunday 22 March – OI v School Fives match, School Fives Courts

Sunday 29 March – OI Sports Festival, Ipswich School Sports Centre, Rushmere – more details will follow shortly. This was a huge event last year, and now there are more pitches, facilities and sports to enjoy

Wednesday 22 April – London Dinner, East India Club

For more details, or to express a wish to take part, play, or just join others, please email –

for sports events – oisports@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk

for all other events – oievents@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk

Other News.

Excellent news for Ipswich School

Ipswich School has been judged as 'excellent' in all areas, according to the recent independent inspection report, published last week.

Headmaster Nicholas Weaver said: "We are absolutely delighted that all aspects of Ipswich School have been rated as excellent. This is a wonderful endorsement of all that we do here to enthuse young people with a passion for learning, helping them to reach their full potential. As a school inspector myself I know how rare it is to get such excellent results across the board, and I am extremely proud of what we have achieved."

The team of inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate visited the school in November and found that: "Pupils demonstrate excellent levels of knowledge, skills and understanding across all subject areas, in response to an ambitious curriculum and excellent teaching." They looked at ten areas of work, including academic and other achievements, the curriculum and teaching, pastoral care, pupils' personal development, boarding and leadership and management, and found that all were 'excellent'.

The inspectors also noted the role of the OI Club in their report, saying: "There is also a thriving alumni network that forges continued enthusiasm through generations of pupils at the school, who are active supports of the school's longer-term plans."

There was one area recommended for further improvement - ensuring consistency of practice across all departments – an area which is already in the school's development plan. The inspection report is available to read on the Ipswich School website: www.ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk/inspection



Headmaster, Nicholas Weaver and Chairman of the Board of Governors, Karl Daniels, celebrating 'Excellent' awards across the board, given by the Independent School Inspectors.

Can you support Holly?

Holly Mercer, in Year 13 at Ipswich School, will be running the London Marathon in April to raise money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. She is running in memory of her friend Lucy Woolley, who died in a horse riding accident in the summer of 2013. Both girls were pupils at Ipswich High School together. Holly's fundraising target is £2,448, which is the cost of one flight for the air ambulance. You can visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HollyMercer18 to sponsor Holly.

Kind Regards

Guy Main

Chairman

OI Club

oldipswichians@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk