



Dear Ols,

I last wrote after the wonderfully successful 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gaudy of the OI Club. This was the prelude to summer and this season has, now a few months later, just about left us.

The autumn brings fresh challenges for many of us, and new beginnings for others. The OI Club programme resumes a more familiar pattern, although it is certainly not stale. Confirm this for yourself by joining us at some of the Club events. And if the notification or invitation asks you to apply for tickets, or indication that you will attend, please do so. Not only that, please do it at an early date. Why? For two main reasons. First, we will know how many to expect, plan and cater for, and this makes the life of the volunteer organisers of OI events much easier. Secondly, you will enjoy events more if you confirm your attendance as soon as you are able to, and have something to look forward to. The journalist Lucy Tobin has wise words on this: see: <http://www.standard.co.uk/comment/lucy-tobin-fear-of-missing-out-is-ruining-everyones-party-9017875.html>

If you would like to be involved with the running of the OI Club, or have an idea for particular events, please let me know.

Kind Regards  
Guy Main  
OI Club Chairman

## Recent Events:

### 1984 Leavers 30th Reunion – 12th July 2014, Cricket Pavilion



*Left to Right: Mark Shelley, Sean Anderson, Jim McWilliam, John Blatchly, Christian Pawsey, Henrietta Wells, Michael McNeil*

The rain that had been threatened held off. As people arrived, the game of trying to recognise people from 30 years ago commenced. Nicknames were shouted across the school field as soon as people were recognised. Most of us looked older, greyer, fatter and balder, but our approach to some things was much the same as when at school. It was clear that some of us had worn badly since our last reunion some 5 years ago.



*Left to Right: Mike Elwell, Tudor Owen, Mark Shelley, Michael McNeil, Jim McWilliam, Jon Wyness, Reg Beardsley*

A bouncy castle had been arranged for the children attending, and the pavilion bar was open for the rest of us. Lunch arrived via a 1940's French corrugated-style van, serving gourmet burgers with a selection of most delicious toppings. We spent ages positioning the van by the pavilion, ensuring that its tyres didn't touch the all-hallowed school grass, only to learn afterwards that the school field nowadays is covered with youngsters at break and lunchtime, playing football and other games. We were rarely allowed on the field in our day, unless playing for the 1st Cricket team or being humiliated on Sports Days! The resentment still lingers...

The all-important desserts consisted of lashings of different flavoured ice cream, served up plentifully by my children attending (thanks Callum and Maddy!).

The afternoon tour of the school was one of the highlights of the day. Many questions were raised: just what was previously behind the Little School? Was that passage way in the Fisons Block there when we were? Why did the old gym (that was turned into classrooms many years ago after we left) still smell of boys gym clothes and plimsolls? One question remains unanswered though: just what is down the stairs that lead underground in the corridor opposite where Mr Fletcher's biology classroom was?

The tour of the chapel led to a group photograph, and then an impromptu rendition of “Bread of Heaven”, with everyone joining in by the end (with some almost lovely harmonies of “feed me now and evermore – EVERMORE!”).



*Back Row (L to R): Iain Chesterman, Christian Pawsey, Jon Wyness, Mark Bammall, Jim Lawson, Reg Beardsley,*

*Middle Row: Mike Elwell, Simon Grainger, Sean Alderson, David Lewis, Mark Shelley, Keith Chan,*

*Front Row: Tudor Owen, Ling (nee Chiang) Stephens, Michael McNeil, Cecilia Passmore, Henrietta Wells, Richard Sutton, Jim McWilliam*

For some of children attending, it was probably hard to imagine their own parents having ever been young and attending such a great school. One teenager (to remain nameless) stormed off when someone mentioned that he looked just like his father (to remain even more nameless!) Departure after the 5 hours of the reunion was slow, with many ending up at The Greyhound for several hours afterwards.

The success of the event was such that a 35 year reunion is now likely.

A great day was had by all. Many thanks to Lindy for arranging the day. The accompanying children were much better behaved than us!

Iain Chesterman

### Rugby 7's Touch Tournament – 7th September 2014, Notcutts (Top Field)



A full report of this event is not to hand. Suffice to say that 5 teams, over 50 players of touch rugby, and another 50 or so spectators, had a great day. The weather was beautiful, the sport entertaining and the food and drink most welcome. Many thanks to the Ben Savory for leading the event, with the assistance of Richard Hudson, Lindy Hacker and the school sports staff.

Next year's event is likely to be on the first or second Sunday in September. Make a note in your diary and find your team now.

## **Drinks in the City – Friday 3rd October – The Habit, Crutched Friars, EC3N 2AE**

We moved to a new location for the most recent Drinks in the City. The Habit proved to be a good choice: a private area, fine food and drink, and excellent staff. The evening did start rather slowly, largely due to the postcode for The Habit indicating on digital maps that the venue was some meters away from where it really is. Those who persisted and found where we were – apologies for any who couldn't locate us – enjoyed a great evening. As is now traditional there were many familiar faces and, just as traditional, a significant number of OIs joined a Drinks in the City evening for the first time. The ebb and flow of the evening was such that OIs arrived over period of some hours, some staying for a drink or two and some for rather more. The bar staff reported over 60 during the evening. A highlight for your Chairman was recognizing, almost instantly, a great schoolmate - after having not seen each other for over 30 years: great to see you, Tim. As ever, there was no shortage of conversation between OIs of different generations.



## **The Big Band Bonanza at the Ipswich School Festival of Music – Tuesday 7th October**

The Club was delighted to once again sponsor the final night's concert of this year's Festival of Music. After a reception for OIs and their guests in The Cyril Perkins Pavilion, The Ipswich School Big Band and the IMU Big Band performed separately and, for the last two pieces, together. The music festival overall was a great success with excellent concerts and educational workshops, and the Big Band finale was of the highest standard.

## Upcoming Events

### Remembrance Service – Sunday 9th November, Chapel

The annual Remembrance Service, with the school, CCF and OIs, is at 6:30pm. Last year the Chapel was very full, and we hope it will be this year too. Please join us. Light refreshments will be available in the Dining Hall afterwards.

### President's Event – Sunday 23rd November, Great School

The President, Trevor Woods, has invited Andrew Leach, the recently retired Director of Music at Ipswich School, to give a piano recital on the superb Steinway grand piano. This instrument was generously funded in 2011 by the Wolfson Foundation and the current OI President and his late wife Mary. The programme will include music by Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, two OIs, and others.

Event Timings:

5pm - 'Sparkling' Reception in Little School

5.30pm - Concert in Great School

about 7.15pm - Buffet supper in Little School

The evening is free to attend although we hope that those attending (and others) will give a donation to the New Music School Fund via the OI 125th Anniversary Appeal. A ticket is required for entry – please book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Lindy Hacker on 01473 298961 or [lxh@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:lxh@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk)

### OI AGM & Ipswich Dinner – Saturday 13th December

Please make a note of the date of these important events. Full details will arrive shortly via post if you have not already received them.

### First 'Five years out' Reunion, Thursday 18th December, Sixth Form Centre

For those who left school 2010–2014, return to the sixth form centre in the evening for drinks and to catch up with other OIs and school staff. Please let us know through [oievents@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:oievents@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk) if you are planning to come along. Thank you.

## **Club News:**

### **The Old Ipswichian Club 125th Anniversary Appeal**

We reported on the latest news in the July eNews. We are not in a position to provide an accurate further report at the moment, and plan to do so at a later date. In the meantime if you would like to contribute to the appeal, in which funds will be split between the school's new music school, school sports and bursaries, please contact the Foundations Director, Peter Boughton, on [pvb@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:pvb@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk)

### **Merchandise – Good for Christmas presents!**

The OI Club merchandise is available, as are the four special 125th Anniversary items from Coes. Please contact them at: <http://www.coes.co.uk/Static/Ipswich> . They have been very helpful in putting these items together.

### **Email addresses for OIs**

As time moves on the Club is delivering more and more of our invitations and correspondence through the digital sphere, to cut down on environmental and financial cost. Unfortunately, we do not have email addresses for many OIs.

If you are in contact with OIs who may or do not receive emails, please ask them to contact the Club by email at [oldipswichians@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:oldipswichians@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk) with their name and years at school. We would hate anyone to miss out.

Kind Regards  
Guy Main  
Chairman  
OI Club

<http://www.ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk/old-ipswichians/>  
[oldipswichians@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:oldipswichians@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk)