

The Old Royals' Association



ORA NEWSLETTER

YOUR LINK
TO THE PAST
PRESENT AND FUTURE

June 2018

No 100

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I have had the privilege of being President for two years and as my role is now coming to an end I find myself reflecting on how much has changed during that time. I have seen the school become a free school and subsequently seen both Junior and Senior school buildings change to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers.

As an ORA Committee we have worked tirelessly to think of ways to establish a modern, refreshing outlook and have worked closely with school representatives to develop a plan for moving forward that will hopefully encourage more recent leavers to join the Association as subscribing members. Without subscriptions our Association would struggle to exist, and with declining membership over a number of years the Management Committee felt the need to put together an action plan to address this issue.

I hope we can organise some events for Old Royals, any feedback from you on what events you would like to attend would be greatly appreciated. Also, we are hoping to email the newsletter out to non-subscribing members so if you would like to receive it I would encourage you to contact us with your current email address to enable us to add it to our database.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Old Royals who have supported me during my term as President.

Sarah Woods

DATA PROTECTION

Please choose one of the two:-

Subscribing members. The rules of the Association allow us to hold details of our members and by subscribing you accept these rules. This allows us to contact you in connection with our activities as indicated in the rules. If you do not wish this to continue please contact Mike Masters , membership secretary, by email or post.

If you are not a Subscribing member (ie. Do not pay a membership fee each year) please contact Mike Masters and indicate that you are happy for us to continue to hold your details and use them to contact you in connection with our activities. This include receipt of the Newsletter.

Editorial

Founder's day this year proved to be a rather low key affair. Unfortunately neither Sarah, nor Nick Woods were able to attend due to personal circumstances. Mike Masters was at hospital with his wife Liz, who had been rushed to hospital the previous night. Liz, who is well known to many Old Royals, is now recovering well. Martin White, Helen Hall, and myself were the only Committee members present. However, aided by several of our loyal regulars, we were able to hold the AGM successfully.

Following the Chapel Service, at which Martin gave a very well received address, light refreshments were taken in Clarence House. Several visitors than had tours of the many changes that have happened to the main building and the AGM followed.

Despite best laid plans our football team for the usual match did not materialise. Our thanks to the School for arranging a team, and our apologies for not giving them a game.

We are sorry to learn of the death of Peter Ward, a former President of the Association. An appreciation appears in this edition.

We are sorry to learn of the death of Peter Lisle, former pupil, at the age of 90. An appreciation appears in this edition.

We are sorry to learn of the death of John Padden, Head of Sport in the late 70s and early 80s.

We extend our condolences to their families.

If you are happy to receive Your Newsletter by email alone, please email Mike Masters who will arrange this. The more people who opt for this the more money we can devote to other projects.

Mike Masters' contact details

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Colin Walker's Memories of 27 years Working at The Royal

I arrived at the Royal School Wolverhampton in September 1979 as an enthusiastic and somewhat naïve young teacher in my twenties. I had been appointed as Head of Economics and Business Studies by the then headmaster, Mr Raymond Hawkins. He was keen for me to take over the department quickly to put right, in his words, the mess it had become while he had taught the subject for a couple of years. It is a position I held until I retired from teaching in the summer term of 2016. I had a good measure of success over the years but, at times, the job resembled the work of a door to door hearing aid salesman. The best customers never answered.

Mr Hawkins and his wife Jilly were flamboyant characters whose main contributions to school life, as far as I could make out, were taking part in the school theatrical productions and singing competitions. The rest of the work was merely detail, but strangely I did get on with them both. Perhaps there was an embryonic actor in me. Mr Peter Goring succeeded him as headmaster. It was during his time at the school that I was invited to lead the first of many school exchange visits to Seifu Gakuen, our one time sister school in Osaka, Japan. In addition, the department organised the first of many annual trips to the Paris Business in Europe conference and an outstanding New York trip for some of our 6th form students during my last year at the school. What fantastic opportunities for Royal School students these trips were and a resounding endorsement of the policy of learning outside the classroom. Clearly, the Royal School has provided me, personally, with terrific opportunities over the years – opportunities which I would not have had elsewhere. Long live the school trip!

I served under a further 5 head teachers: Mrs Evans, Mr Brooker, Mr Waters, Mr Bailey and Mr Heywood. Under their leadership I completed 10 years in boarding as head of Rogers House, did a stint as head of the old Gibbs house, followed by pastoral positions as joint Head of KS4 with Dave Munroe and then head of KS3. I thank them all for their unstinting support.

I have also enjoyed my time preparing and delivering talks for the chapel services over the years. These talks caused some amusement but often the response was “What on earth was he talking about?” At least, there was a response. I have enjoyed teaching the students in my care. I have taken great pride in seeing them leave as confident young people ready to take their place in the world. They are the reason we are here.

It is almost two years since I retired from the school. I hope that I have conveyed my appreciation and affection for students, colleagues and friends. As many of you know, when in post I hated paperwork with a passion, but I understood its importance better when someone gave me a cartoon of a little boy sitting on the toilet with the caption “the job’s not finished until the paperwork is done.” Despite this, wherever you are, remember that people and relationships should win every time over paperwork – something that, at the time of writing, the government seems to be on the cusp of recognising. Thankfully, my time at the school relied more upon teamwork, support, encouragement, and loyalty from colleagues.

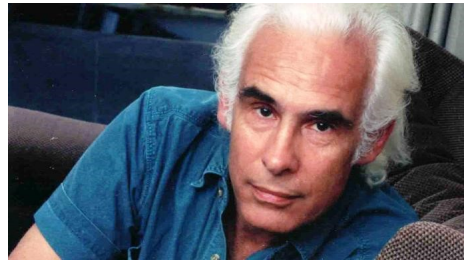
After a great deal of hard work undertaken by the headmaster, senior staff and governors, the school is moving forward into the next phase of its long and proud history. It now belongs to the next generation of staff and students. As they say change is inevitable – except from a vending machine. On a more serious note, good foundations are

vital for life and everyone would do well to reflect on the school's Latin motto "Nisi Dominus Frustra". Just in case your knowledge of Latin is a little rusty, the rough translation is "Unless the Lord build the house, the labourers work in vain" a verse from Psalm 127. I wish you all every success and happiness.

CJW 3/4/18

Alan Sinfield

The death of Alan Sinfield was reported in the press in December of 2017. He would have joined the School in the post war period. He went on to London University where he graduated in 1964. He was subsequently a lecturer at Sussex University in 1965 and going on to become Professor of English and Cultural Studies in 1990.



In his work he "pioneered queer studies in Britain and added new dimensions to the understanding of Shakespeare. He made complex theoretical ideas accessible both in his teaching at the University of Sussex and in his writing, continually relating his readings of past texts to issues in the present ." He was the author of some 17 books, and clearly made a significant contribution and lasting impact in his areas of study. He died, as did his mother, from Parkinson's disease and was supported by his partner Vincent Quinn, also a Sussex academic. He is also survived by his younger brother Mark, who presumably also went to the School. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE ROYAL SCHOOL VICTORIA HALL
AT 13:30 ON SATURDAY 21st APRIL 2018**

Present:

Members: Douglas Craig, Margaret George, Nigel Green, Helen Hall, Andrew Mason, Margaret Measham, Betty Prendergast, Martin White, and John D Williams. *Guests:* Juanita Fan, Mark Heywood (RSW Principal) and Jaemi Hodgson (RSW Communication & Marketing Director).

1. Apologies for Absence

Martin White notified attendees that due to personal circumstances, Sarah Woods was unable to attend the meeting. Likewise, following Liz Masters' overnight admission to hospital and emergency surgery, Mike Masters was also unable to attend. On behalf of the ORA Management Committee and all attendees, Martin wished Liz a speedy recovery.

Other apologies were received from Jo Belam, Vera Fletcher, Pauline Gibbs, Peter Hill, Frank Nelson and Nicholas Woods.

2. Election of Chair for the Meeting

In the absence of the ORA Chairman, Martin White proposed that Immediate Past President, Nigel Green, chair the meeting. This was agreed by all present.

3. Donation to the School Prize Fund

At the Association's 2017 AGM the ORA increased its donation to the School's Prize Fund from £200 to £300. Once again, a cheque in the sum of £300 was presented to the School's Principal, Mark Heywood, by Nigel Green.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 1st April 2017

The minutes of the 2017 annual general meeting, circulated in advance, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. ORA Annual Accounts to 31.12.17: Honorary Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Association's draft accounts for the twelve months ended 31st December 2017 were circulated to attendees and Martin White provided a commentary thereto. In summary:

- i. Total revenues have returned to pre-2016 levels, at £3,173.40, following 2017's spike in receipts due to the exceptionally large number of 2017 Year 11-13 RSW leavers. For comparison purposes, 2005's General Fund revenues stood at £1,385, so income has more than doubled in twelve years, reflecting ORA

Management Committee endeavours to increase the subscriber base ii. The Association's cost base is under control and 16 per cent lower in 2017 than prior year. Production and postage costs of the Old Royals' Newsletter accounts for 63 per cent of all costs, so the faster members are transitioned to receiving a soft copy of the Newsletter, the better,

from a cost perspective

Revenues exceeded costs on the Association's General Fund in 2017, resulting in an overall surplus of £1,362.68. Martin reminded attendees that the Association remains a not-for-profit organisation

There were no requests of the Trust Fund in 2017, but funding remains available to Old Royals requesting financial support for educational purposes

The number of subscribing ORA members dropped marginally in 2017 from 436 to 424, with the number of annual subscribing members standing at 179

Total reserves across the Association's General and Trust Funds stand at just shy of £25k, which puts the ORA in a strong financial position to support further good causes at the School.

Following a comment from Margaret George, Management Committee members agreed to work with School representatives to identify suitable opportunities to support appropriate funding requests, recognising that it would not be possible to fund major refurbishment projects, such as will be required in the School Chapel.

Martin White concluded his comments by recognising that whilst the Association's financial performance has been more than satisfactory over recent years, there is no room for complacency and plenty of reason for concern:

Annual subscription income fell for the third successive year, recognising the ORA's ageing - and loyal - subscriber base

The Association struggles to convert term members (within their first five years of leaving School) to full members

Uncertainty exists over future term membership fee collection following the School's conversion to a "free school" in September 2016

Greater proximity to, and improved engagement with, Year 11-13 RSW pupils is essential to familiarise future Old Royals with the Association, its role and its value proposition

In the absence of further questions, the 2017 ORA accounts were proposed for acceptance by Nigel Green and approved unanimously by all present.

7. Report of the Management Committee

Nigel Green read a summary report from Sarah Woods:

"Firstly, I would like to thank Martin for his Treasurers Report and all of the time and effort he puts in for the Committee each year. Secondly, I would like to thank Mike for his hard work and efforts as Chair for a number of years.

The Management Committee has met on five occasions for routine meetings and once in July 2017 for an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss a Development Plan with the School. This plan has been discussed at subsequent meetings and is still in the process of being formalised. Hopefully during the course of the next twelve months the Committee will have implemented some of the items on the Plan and it will be able to be discussed at a future AGM.

Andrew Bagnall has created a new website for the Association, and it has enabled some Old

Royals to contact us with various requests and information. Andrew worked hard for many hours on the website to make it easy to use and engaging for people to read and we are very grateful to him for his time and patience. He has since resigned from the Committee due to a heavy work load and study commitments and I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank him for all of his time, dedication and hard work.

As an Association we are striving to increase subscribing members and that has been an item of discussion at many meetings in the past and continues to be discussed with new ideas being considered.

Our social event after Remembrance Sunday was a meal at The Goldthorn Hotel. There was a group of Old Royals who met up for the Service and joined us for the meal afterwards. ”

8. Management Committee Elections

Attendees were advised that, in addition to Andrew Bagnall, Sarah Woods had recently advised that she is no longer able to serve as a Management Committee member and, with immediate effect, had relinquished her responsibilities as Chairman and President. Both Andrew Bagnall and Sarah Woods were thanked for their many years of dedicated service and contribution to the Association.

There were no nominees for election to the Management Committee. In the interests of continuity and to ensure the Management Committee remained able to discharge its responsibilities, Mike Masters and Martin White, both retiring members, agreed to continue to serve the Management Committee until “fresh talent” can be identified to move the Association forward.

9. Election of President 2018-19

In the absence of nominations, the Management Committee agreed to give further consideration to a Presidential candidate for 2018-19.

10. Any Other Business

In the absence of any other business, Nigel Green thanked those in attendance for making the effort to attend Founder’s Day and this Annual General Meeting.

Peter John Ward

We are sad to advise that Peter Ward passed away on 18 February 2018. His funeral was held at Sandwell Valley Crematorium on Friday 16 March 2018 and was attended by members of his family, friends he had made at work, neighbours, Old Royals and members of the RWS Lodge.

We extend our sincere condolences to Pauline and to his close family.

Born on 4 April 1931 Peter's grandparents had a shop in Mount Road Wolverhampton and Peter was enrolled as a Foundationer at the Royal Wolverhampton School in 1942, leaving in 1945.

His contemporaries recollect that he was a superlative sportsman and excelled as a goalkeeper in the School team. Peter made many friends at school and afterwards in his working life always endeavouring to remain in touch with as many as possible. He joined the ORA Management Committee in 1979 and his activities on our behalf were numerous during his tenure and included Treasure hunts and Annual Dinners, not to forget his efforts in gaining attendees to our annual Remembrance Day lunch, a task he continued with until 2016 when his health began to fail.

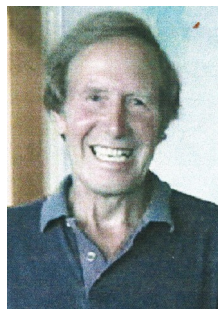
Peter was elected President of ORA in 1989 and he proudly held this position until 1993 applying himself to the responsibilities of the office with the same degree of enthusiasm he showed to all his activities.

He retired from the Management Committee in 1995 but continued to attend every event possible and the presence of he and Pauline was always appreciated.

An epitaph in the order of Service was:

'One Life lived, many lives touched'

How true !!



Dear Member,

On behalf of my wife, Liz, and myself I should like to thank all of you who sent messages and cards following her severe illness in April this year. I am pleased to advise that she is well on the way to recovery and very appreciative of your prayers and support.

Mike Masters

Peter Davidson Lisle

Peter was born in Australia in 1927 to British parents originating from Wolverhampton. He recalls his father was a mechanic in a and in 1934 when Peter was just 7 years old, his family returned to Wolverhampton on the death of his paternal grandmother who had passed away at The Oaklands, on Tettenhall Rock which in more recent years was Tettenhall Library and currently residential apartments called Edward Lisle Gardens. Mr Lisle's Grandfather was Edward Lisle.

Sadly, Mr Lisle's father who had fought in WW1, died just 6 months after their return to the England. As a result Mr Lisle and his two brothers attended the Royal Wolverhampton Orphanage. He recalls his fellow students constantly remarking on his strange Australian accent. In 1943, aged 16 years, he completed his schooling and was earmarked as 'A promising artist' by his teachers. He was still unsure of what career path to follow and as World War 2 was ongoing, young Peter decided to enlist in the Army. As he was still underage, his mother signed the documents permitting his enlistment and he went on to serve as a regular in the Royal Artillery. He left the army in 1947 and met his future wife, Nora, an accounts clerk.

Nora and Peter had 2 children, Rosemary Ceramic Artist / educator and David, a classical car restorer and Rally driver. They also, have two grandchildren Miles Artist/teacher and Faye Jewellery designer.

Using his artistic skills and interest in engineering Mr Lisle became a draftsman and later opened a company called 'Turner & Lisle' designing Galvanising Furnaces. In 1973 Mr Lisle gave up his business to pursue his passion of Art; he simply wished to "paint, have a dog and listen to music".

Many years later, Mr Lisle was invited back to The Royal School to look around at the progress of the establishment, since he had left. He remarked during his visit, that the school did not have a portrait of the Queen Mother, who was the official Patron of the school. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Wolverhampton School, Mr Lisle was given the commission to paint the Queen Mother. The sitting took place at Clarence House. This painting is believed to be the last portrait painted of the Queen mother. Peter said he found the Queen mother to be a wonderful down to earth person who lived up to her image of being "everybody's Grandma". "It was absolutely tremendous to work on her portrait, she bolstered me up so much I just wanted to put it on paper." Peter said

The Queen Mother was reported as saying she was "delighted with the painting. This portrait was received well and as a result that an identical portrait was given to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. This was followed by a commission for the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford (the hospital he passed away in on 22nd May 2018). Mr Lisle, travelled to Buckingham Palace for this occasion. He created a full length portrait of Princess Anne in a standing pose. The 6 foot tall painting is hanging at the foyer of the Hospital.

When Prince Edward became the new Patron of the The Royal School. a new portrait was commissioned. and This portraits is displayed at The School.

Peter carried on painting in his sunlit studio at the front of his house, listening to music, with his dog by his side. Peter died on 22nd May 2018 age 90, he asked that donations at his funeral should go to The Trust Fund.



Peter, working on his portrait of Princess Anne. It hangs in the Foyer of The Princess Royal Hospital in Telford

Peter at the wheel of his Star Motor, built by his Grandfather's Firm, The Star Motor Company.



Peter's portraits of The School's Patrons



THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON SCHOOL LODGE NO. 8170

The School Lodge was founded in 1967 by Old Boys, Teaching Staff and Governors. It meets five times a year in the Victoria Hall and afterwards an enjoyable festive board is held in Clarence House. Details from:

**John Jarvis,
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