

# The Old Royals' Association



## ORA NEWSLETTER

YOUR LINK  
TO THE PAST  
PRESENT AND FUTURE

### **REMEMBRANCE 2015**

**Sunday, 8th November  
10.50am in Chapel  
Refreshments in Victoria Hall  
Lunch at The Goldthorn Mercure  
Contact Mike Masters**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



The very first thing I must do is to say a huge thank you to Brian Kingshot, who has stepped down from the Management Committee and as Editor of this Newsletter. He has made a profound contribution to both the School and the ORA over the last 50 years. I will not tell his story here for he did that himself in the last Newsletter. That article also reminds us that a pupil only ever sees a relatively short window in the life of the School, while some staff will see a very much broader picture.

On a personal note, I am still grateful to him for getting me through English Language and Literature O levels in 1967, however any mistakes I make here are solely my fault!

I have now inherited from Brian the role of Editor of the Newsletter. This is rather a daunting task. There are 12 pages in this edition, and I have to make then fill up! So, I appeal to you to let me have your news and reminiscences. Preferably by email (so I can just pop them straight in) however I am always open to handwritten offerings too. My addresses are on the back page. Even the briefest note of what you are doing would be greatly appreciated. Those of you who were my contemporaries are, as I am, becoming eligible for the state pension, so let me know if you are retiring and what you have been doing the past few years.

As President I recently attended Founder's Day. It was a good occasion. People began to arrive in good time for the Service, and with the weather being kind to us, an early opportunity for old friends to meet presented itself. I was privileged to have been asked to speak during the service, and I hope I did not induce too much slumber amongst the congregation. The choir sang for us and the whole congregation gave a good voice to the hymns and the School Song. As the names of the boy's Houses are now used for Boarding House the verses have undergone some change; and of course the School is fully co-educational now!

There were post Chapel refreshments in the Victoria Hall and then a good lunch in the Dining Hall. I have enjoyed many lunches there in my time as President, and it reminds me of just how much better the food is. Tours were then available and the AGM of the ORA took place.

## NEWS OF OLD ROYALS



### **Michael Kidson**

I am sorry to have to report that Old Royal Michael Kidson has died at the age of 85. He was at the School (then Orphanage) from the age of 7 in 1936. His obituary appeared in the Daily Telegraph on July 4<sup>th</sup> this year. After National Service and Cambridge Michael was to go on to teach History at Eton for 30 years. He is reported as having been David Cameron's favourite teacher, who said of him... "an inspirational teacher who made you feel as if you were in the room with the people he taught about".

He was clearly the sort of eccentric Schoolmaster who became a legend to his pupils, but whom Headmasters would be wary of appointing today. He made sharp, often rude, comments to his pupils, and wrote similarly to their parents in reports. Of David Cameron's top grade in History he said that it was "among the most inexplicable events in modern history." One Housemaster took to losing his reports rather than be faced with angry parents! He was a very successful teacher and provided sympathy and understanding, in particular, to those in trouble.

ORA WEBSITE  
Visit us on  
[oldroyals.com](http://oldroyals.com)

**FOUNDER'S DAY 2016**  
**Saturday, 16th April**  
**11.00am Chapel Service**  
**12.30 pm Lunch**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**2.00pm**

## Founder's Day - a Personal Reflection

Over the past few weeks I had followed Paul Hayward's travails to drum up support for an Old Royals reunion at the 2015 Founder's Day from his contemporaries who left in the 1970's. I had first entered RWS (or RS of W as it is now termed) in 1974 so some of those on his list of his attendees were to be the formidable prefects, dormitory captains and table heads I had been in awe of. Since leaving Ophney in 1981 I have been back about half a dozen times, the last being in 2013 and, with my wife's encouragement to leave the house today, I made the journey down from Cheshire.

Typically I arrived far too early but others had too and I parked my battered old jalopy in amongst the Audis and BMWs ( and even an Aston Martin!) to reinforce that I was not the most successful or privileged of alumni. Still my car had got me there and I was able to abandon it and join the other early arrivals sheltering from the drizzly rain just inside the front door. This is where everyone either looks lost and out of place wondering why they'd come or, if they've found someone to talk to, is engaged in conversation but constantly looking past the other's shoulder to see who else is there.

The first person I bumped into was Martin 'Mitten' White who greeted me with the biggest, tightest, most rib-crushing bear hug I have enjoyed in a while. When I had been shown around the school as a perspective pupil in 1974, it was Martin who had been sent to show me around and my affection for this genial, gregarious fella was born and has continued throughout the past five decades. Our two-minute snap chats commenced with me acknowledging that as a former head boy, current ORA treasurer, member of the board and all-round good egg, he'd have to flit and out of my company as he played unofficial host for the day.

Able replacements were found in the shape of Stuart Gettings and Nigel Brown who are both enjoyable company. Stuart was the only other person from my year I saw there. Martin White was from the year above and I think was the only one from his year there. Nige was from the year below, which has always seemed to stick closer together and so there were one or two more of his contemporaries there.

By 11am it was time to file into the chapel for the service. The chapel is probably my favourite building at the school and the least changed. It's a safe place, especially this June day as my birthday wasn't for another four months and so little danger of being thrown into the holly bush or nettle patch around the back. The service contained rousing hymns: Praise to the Lord The Almighty, Oh God our help in ages past, Lead us Heavenly Father Lead Us and Jerusalem. I didn't notice any of the school staff there (but to a wrinkly, they'd probably be hard to distinguish from the pupils) so I took the opportunity to continue chatting and catching up with Mitten. The senior & junior school choirs entertained us with the anthem Love Is Patient Love Is Kind, which reminded me of my marriage, and it also explained why some of the pupils wore blue blazers, but not why the cassock, surplus and ruffs were not worn. Surplus to requirements, groan?

The lady minister chatted about sport so I listened and didn't look for a "War Mag" to read like in days past. Although it was amusing to hear her comment upon the current investigation into FIFA and suggest that no matter how old our transgressions were, the truth will out eventually. Some Old Royals may have been squirming in their seats. We finished with the National Anthem as a warm up to Nisi Dominus Frustra. The printers had inexplicably printed the wrong last verse but Mitten remembered the words and so our old House names were sung out loud and proud. As we filed out Mr Heywood the Headmaster gave Mitten and me the curly finger of rebuke and humorously admonished us for chatting as Nige laughingly suggested we

be given a Copy to write out.

The weather forced the drinks reception to be held in Victoria Hall, a library devoid of books, poor old Gilbert Harding, where is his donated collection? It was here that new communications were commenced with Ben Gardiner, Steve McMurray, Richard Barnfather, Tim Smith, Barry and Trish Oldham to name a few. Of all the former teachers just "Willy" Morgan, Barry and Brian Kingshott were visible to me. I'm told my old economics teacher Colin Walker is still employed there, the last after Graham Beckett retired last year. Then it was up to the current incarnation of Clarence House for a lovely lunch. It was served to us rather than the two at the top of the table collecting it, table head distributing it and the one at the bottom end having to get the cloth to wipe down the table.

Martin, Nigel, Richard Barnfather and I were joined by Ben Gardiner and Syd Partridge who had been prefects when I first joined but the huge chasm of years between us then was inconsequential now. More pleasant chats were enjoyed after which some groups of former pupils were treated to a guided tour of the school whilst others headed off for prearranged meetings with their peer groups. I chose to attend the ORA AGM, which was not too long and allowed the meal to settle before I headed back up north.

My wife had asked me how many were there and I expressed my disappointment over the relatively few Old Royals in attendance. Each year had around sixty leavers and I left in 1981 so in the thirty-fours since then there were over 2,000 who were eligible. Going back further just adds more numbers to those with ex-pupils who are now in their sixties and seventies. Add to that former staff members and it's a heck of a lot who don't return for one reason or another. I thought about each Head Boy and Head Girl or those who have received school bursaries or Old Royal trust donations as being almost obliged to make the occasional return.

Even if physical presence can't be achieved then at least a small contribution to the Old Royals Association wouldn't be too much to ask from most. The Treasurer's Report suggests that, ignoring the most recent five years' leavers, there are just 192 paying members of which 29 don't even pay the minimum annual requirement of just £15. Many may describe their times at the school as being less than enjoyable but quite a few benefitted from the education and used that platform to launch successful careers. If more had attended I wonder how many other top range vehicles would have been vying for a parking space alongside my shed-on-wheels. Yet just £15 a year can't be found to help support the ORA?

Upon reflection it was a day a mixed emotions for me. Good ones upon meeting former pupils and staff and to return to some familiar surroundings that housed me during adolescence for seven years, whilst I gained an education and good manners. Sad ones at the faces that weren't there to see again, the buildings that have been altered to show that my part has mostly gone apart from fading memories. Overall, it was a good day though. No heavy chat just pleasant small talk, giggles over funny memories and great hospitality from the headmaster and his team.

Thanks Stuart A. McIntosh (1974-1981)

Editors Note The lady minister that Stuart refers to is the current School Chaplain The Rev Roberta Maxwell.

## The School Today



Mandeep and Charlie

As the new editor I thought that it would be of interest to those many Old Royals who have not been back to the School in some years to produce a series of articles about the School as it is today. I thought I would start by visiting the Theatre and the DT/Art block. On my list for future visits are a boarding house and the Junior School.

I arrived on a Tuesday afternoon and after signing in I was handed over to Mandeep Rayatt, who is in year 13 (UVI for those not up with Current Educational Jargon). Among her A levels are

Psychology and RS and she is hoping to go to University to read Psychology. As an Old Royal of the late 60s I reflected on how much improved life is by coeducation. We set off to visit the DT/Art block first. Down the corridor past the pre 1969 dining room and Common room of the old boys' side, past the corridor that once led to the Head's House and then we turned right and straight

through what was the senior prefects' room and is now a lobby and a door to the outside. Then we went through the windy alley (some things don't change!) and into the playground. The DT/Art block stands at the top of the playground and it was opened in 1989. The CCF hut is still there behind the newer building.



The Workshop

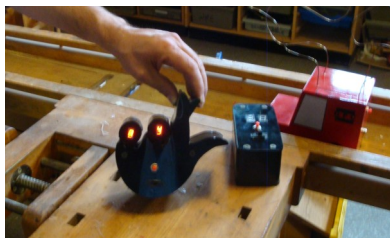
Bearing in mind you can't just barge into a School, and the fact that I spent over 30 years teaching, I now realised that I should have asked to see the Art Department as well. I did not feel that I could go there without their expecting me, An opportunity for a later visit!

The DT department is on the ground floor, and Art upstairs. I was met in the DT suite by Ivor Pugh, who has been on the staff for 3 years, with a background in engineering. He is kept busy, as the only DT teacher in a subject which growing in popularity at both GCSE and A level, helped, no doubt, by some very good exam results. The suite consists of three rooms and some storage space.



The Art and DT Block

For those of us of the Metalwork, Woodwork and Engineering Drawing era a brief word about tdays DT. DT of course means Design and Tecnology, and no longer are pupils just given, say, a detailed drawing of a bookcase to make, they will be expected to research, design and make it. So instead of a



A Number Generator for the Lottery

class's worth of identical bookcases, there will as many different bookcases as there are pupils in the class. So in addition to the workshop there is a classroom for any theory lessons and the design stage. The third room houses computers and a Computer controlled cutting machine.

Electronics plays a part, as you can see in the number

generator. The rather cheerful looking toys of the year 8 project ( 3rd form) are certainly more interesting than the teapot stands we made at that age. In my case an especially bad teapot stand.



Year 8 projects

So to the Theatre, where I was met by Charlie Scarlett, who is in year 9 (Fourth form) and whose particular enthusiasm is lighting. Old Boys will know where the theatre is, using the spaces that were occupied by the play-room and some classrooms. The permanent stage was installed in 1967, while I was there. There has been much done since, a raised platform for lighting



Inside the Theatre

and sound at the Windy Alley end, with lighting bars there and along the walls. (No footlights these days.) Drama is an integral curriculum subject and Theatre studies is an examination subject. I spent a lot of time in the theatre, appearing in several of Stan Henley's Shakespeare productions; I would have though myself in Paradise to have found myself doing drama as an exam subject!

So my visit ended, My thanks to the School for its help, and especially to Mandeep and Charlie for guiding me round.



## **Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 2.00pm in the Queen Victoria Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Present**

##### *Members:*

N Green, B Kingshott, M. Masters, M. George, M. White, A. Bagnall, Mrs H. Hall, David Lutwyche, R. Tilley, V. Fletcher, B.R. Oldham, V Fletcher, P Ward, R. Etheridge, N Woods, S. Holland-Rhymes, D.A Morgan, S. Gettings, S McIntosh. P. Ward.

##### *Guests:-*

Mark Heywood, (Headmaster), Mrs E. Masters, Mrs T Oldham. N. Webster, P. Hill (Chairman of Governors), S. Morgan, Jaemi Hodgson,

#### **1. Apologies**

F. Nelson, D. Craig, P. Gibbs, J. Bevan, W. Petts,

It was stated that notice of this AGM was issued late. It was approved that the meeting should still go ahead proposed by N Green and seconded by B Oldham

#### **2. Subscription to the School**

The President presented 2 cheques to the School being £550 as the Subscription to the School and £150 as a contribution towards the prizes. The cheques were accepted by Mark Heywood (Headmaster) on behalf of the School. They were received with thanks.

#### **3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM had been circulated in the May issue of the Newsletter. They were accepted unanimously as a true record – proposed by Sarah Holland-Rhymes and seconded by Andrew Bagnall .

#### **4. Matters Arising**

None

#### **6. Annual Accounts**

The Hon Treasurer circulated the annual accounts and explained the salient points. Accounts are available on request. The accounts were approved by the meeting – proposed by Margaret George and seconded by Barry Oldham.

#### **7. Report of the Management Committee**

The Chairman, Mike Masters, read his report to the Meeting. This will be incorporated in the October Newsletter and is also available on request.

#### **8. Management Committee Elections**

There are 3 vacancies on the committee and therefore Martin White and Mike Masters will continue to serve on the expiry of their current term of office. Brian Kingshott retired from the Committee.

#### **9. Election of President 2015-2016**

The Management Committee has proposed the election of Nigel Green as President of the Association 2015-2016. This was carried unanimously by the Meeting. Sarah Holland-Rhymes will continue as Vice-President.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that the delayed dispatch of the most recent Newsletter was unfortunate making attendance difficult for some members. Every effort will be made to avoid this in future years.

The new chalice and patten for the Chapel has been donated by David Ingram in memory of his late mother, Jessie, and brother, John. Rev Philip Atkinson will present a lead crystal cruet set.

A safe will be provided in chapel, possibly near the altar.



A cut glass tankard was presented to Brian Kingshott to commemorate his long service on the committee. This was received with thanks.

The Meeting was closed at 2.40 pm.

### **Report of the Management Committee 2014/2015**

The Committee has met on six occasions since the last AGM, and has been well attended by those active members who are able to contribute their time. Committee meetings are normally held in the Victoria Hall, on the fourth Wednesday evening in each month during term time and we are grateful to the School for allowing us the use of these facilities.

At the meeting following the last Annual General Meeting Mike Masters agreed to be chairman and Brian Kingshott was elected newsletter editor and agreed to fill the role of Hon Secretary. We extend our thanks to Brian for his efforts in this respect and for his continued help and guidance. Martin White was elected Hon. Treasurer and continues his efforts in contacting Members whose subscriptions require updating to current levels. Mike Masters agreed to continue to act as Membership Secretary.

Our only social event was the luncheon at the Goldthorn Hotel following the Remembrance Day service in the School Chapel which was as normal well attended by more than 30 members and guests. The committee thanks Peter Ward and Mike Masters for the reading of the Rolls of Honour at the service. We hope to further raise the profile of the luncheon this year and would welcome more new attendees.

Regretfully our normal soccer match did not take place this year but in 2016 Founders Day will be held on the first Saturday in April ( a date closer to the actual foundation date) and we will be resurrecting this fixture.

There is little senior cricket played at the School and our traditional match again will not be played this year. We are very keen to hear from recent leavers who would be interested in playing other sports versus the School and in particular basketball where the School teams have excelled in the area for a number of years.

The 'Old Royals Medal Award', in the form of a paperweight inscribed with the School Crest and the recipient's name, was presented, to this year's awardees at Speech Day which took place yesterday , 12 June. This was combined with the Leavers Bible Ceremony for the first time. The awardees this year are Sarah Akram and Ben Easterbrook.

Our thanks must be expressed to the Headmaster, Mark Heywood, who has been most supportive of the Association and has attended some of our meetings despite a heavy workload occasioned by the move to become a free school. We also welcomed the Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies to some meetings and are grateful to them all for their input giving us a welcome insight to School and pupil achievements

We are delighted to present Nigel Green as our nominee for election for a second term as President for the ensuing year. Nigel is a long standing member of the Association having previously served on the Management Committee. He left the school in 1969 having been at the Junior and Senior schools. He is a retired teacher of mathematics spending most of his working life at Denstone College near Uttoxeter.

Our nominee for election as Vice-President, a new office agreed at the AGM last year, is Sarah Rhymes. Sarah has been a management committee member for many years and is well deserving of this office.

Our newsletter which Brian Kingshott has edited and published for many years is now published in colour which has well received by members. Brian is standing down at this AGM and Nigel Green has agreed to become newsletter editor. Nigel will welcome contributions of articles and photographs for inclusion and is happy to receive them by e-mail.

We cannot allow this occasion to pass without expressing our sincere thanks to Brian Kingshott for his

efforts over many years. Brian first came to the School 1 year after me and I have thus known him for 50 years. It has been my privilege and that of all current and former members of the Management Committee to work with him and I have pleasure in presenting a cut glass engraved tankard to him as a mark of our appreciation.

We hope Brian will continue to attend our various events and wish him a happy second retirement.

In conclusion we welcome those School leavers who will be joining us this year and we wish them luck in their future endeavours. We hope they will feel able to remain in touch with us and that we will see them at as many of the social and sporting activities as possible.

M D Masters  
Chairman June 2015

### **Contact Requested**

Douglas Craig (1939-48) has written to ask if anyone has contact details for or news of Paul Sellers, who taught Art at Stourbridge Grammar as a friend is writing a book about that School.

### **Marriage**

I am pleased to report the Marriage of Sarah Rhymes (née Holland) (1995 and Nick Woods, both of whom are Committee Members, we wish them all future happiness.

### **Cath Sharp**

I am sorry to report that Cath Sharp, wife of former President Andrew Sharp, has died. Our thoughts are with Andrew at this time.

**Your News could appear here.** Send News to the editor, Nigel Green (see back page)

#### **Rules of ORA**

The rules of the Association are available from the Secretary on request. They are also available on the ORA website.



### **The New Chalice, Patten and Cruet**

The Chalice and Patten were given by David Ingram and the inscription reads for the Love of God and the School and Jesse Ingram” DAI and WJI

The Cruet Set was given by Rev Philip Atkinson, and family.

Philip was a former Chaplain.

### **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,**

**113 Rosemary Crescent West, Goldthorn Park,  
Wolverhampton, WV4 5AN**

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

### **Exam Results**

I am sure Old Royals will be delighted to hear that the School has achieved some great A level results this year. 19% were at A\*/A and there were excellent results in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths for those without experience of the latest educational jargon.) Among the High flyers are Maria Ciupka, off to the USA to study Modern Languages, Alexsejs Slandzevskis, off to Leeds to read Mechatronics and Robotics, Krystyna Drown off to read Medicine, Kenny Nguyen off to do Mechanical Engineering and Ceibhionn Hodgson to read Veterinary Science. We congratulate them, and all the 2015 leavers on their success at A level and wish them all the very best for the future.

### **Free School Progress**

As reported in the Last Newsletter the School is preparing itself to become a Free School in September 2016. Much work towards this is going on. The intended goal is to achieve an ‘outstanding’ Ofsted inspection outcome soon after opening. This requires much liaison with the Department for Education and close examination of all areas of the curriculum and all the facilities across the School. The final draft of the new admission policy for September 2016 should be with the school shortly having had a number of iterations. It presently sits with the DfE for ratification and as soon as confirmed will be published and distributed ready for the application process in the autumn for entry in September, 2016.



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