

The Old Royals' Association



ORA NEWSLETTER

YOUR LINK
TO THE PAST
PRESENT AND FUTURE

REMEMBRANCE 2016

Sunday, 13th November
10.45 am in Chapel
Refreshments in Victoria Hall
Lunch at The Goldthorn Mercure
Contact Mike Masters



From the President

It is a great honour for me to be elected as President of the ORA and with so many exciting changes happening at school I am looking forward to representing the Old Royals during my term of office.

I was a pupil at the school from 1981-1995 and have been an active member of the ORA Management Committee for over ten years. I am currently a Community Ambassador for Bliss, a U.K. charity for Premature and Sick babies, and I also volunteer at my local hospital's Neonatal unit, supporting parents and sign-posting them to relevant information, and I also liaise between parents and staff about any issues that arise. This year we commemorate 100 years since the Battle of the Somme so I think that Remembrance Sunday will be even more emotive and it will be a privilege for me to be a part of the service. This year's service promises a number of subtle changes and I hope that we will continue to see Old Royals alongside pupils for this poignant commemoration.

As in previous years we will dine at The Goldthorn Mercure Hotel following the service and I extend an invitation to all. Please contact the ORA Chairman, Mike Masters, to book your place. It is always a great time to catch up with friends old and new and enjoy some delicious food.

Tours of the school can be arranged if you wish, to reflect on your time at The Royal and also see some of the works completed in the £17.5 million programme to bring resources within the school up to 21st Century educational standards.

I look forward to seeing many Old Royals at school on Sunday 13th November at 10.50am.

FOUNDER'S DAY 2017
Saturday, 1st April
11.00am Chapel Service
12.30 pm Lunch
Annual General Meeting
2.00pm

Rachel Forsyth (née Woods)

Dear friends and Old Royals,

It is with great sadness that I write this post,

On Saturday 11th June 2016 my little sister and friend passed away. Rachel, 37, was at the school from 1987-1998 and was a devoted wife, an amazing mum and knew how to brighten our days with laughter.

At school I know Rachel had many friends and enjoyed a good laugh, some of them probably best left unsaid... But as Beth (Amy Hall) mentioned, who else would have to call for help as she had managed to sit on a fork!

Rachel is missed so very much by us all.

Nick Woods



Lieutenant-Colonel Gopsill

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Gopsill, Bursar and Clerk to the Governors, from 1967, for 18 years died on 25th July aged 94. It is for his work as Bursar he will be known to several generations of Old Royals, not to mention the several generations of Academic Staff and especially the very many Domestic, Grounds, Catering and Maintenance staff who would have worked to him. Before he came to the Royal he had lived a very full life indeed.

Born in 1921 he left school become an office boy, further his studies in the evenings.

war broke out he enlisted as a Private in the King's Regiment and was rapidly promoted to Lance Corporal. In 1941 he was awarded a bronze medal by the Liverpool Shipwreck and humane society for saving a man from the Mersey. He volunteered for what became the Parachute Regiment, earning the nickname "Fairy" for he parachuted. In India he was commissioned into the Gurkhas. He served in Burma and then what was to become Vietnam where he was awarded an MC. He then served in The Dutch East Indies, India during Partition and Hong Kong. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1949.

He was in Malaya throughout the emergency and was awarded a DSO. In 1963 he raised, from scratch the 1st Ban Malaysian Scouts who were on operations within 2 years in Borneo, for which he was appointed an OBE.

He was a successful fund raiser for the school and later went on to raise money to build and run St Giles Hospice in Whittington. He was also involved in the building of The Gurkha Memorial at the National Arboretum.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends.



KEN MORLING
1956

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ORA Medal Winner: Roger Shervington

In the fifth of a series of articles featuring ORA Medal Winners, we catch up with Roger Shervington on the fiftieth anniversary of his award:

In what year were you awarded your ORA medal ? I recall that I was awarded the ORA medal in 1966 when I was Deputy Head Boy.

How many years did you spend at RWS ? I spent 5 years at the School from 1961 to 1966.

When did you last visit RWS ? I have lived in America since 1985 and although having been back to England several times to visit relatives and friends I have only been able to make it to the school once in that time. I seem to remember that the visit was one special occasion but cannot now remember what year it was or what the occasion could have been.

Are you in touch with your any of your RWS contemporaries ? I am not in touch with any of my contemporaries.

Where do you keep your ORA medal ? I have kept the ORA medal with other treasured items during my travels from Wolverhampton to work and live first in Loughborough and then in Oakham, across the 'pond' to work in Illinois, retire to South Carolina and more recently move to the mountains of North Carolina.

What does the ORA medal award mean to you ? I was of course honoured to be presented with the ORA medal but the event was coloured for me by the fact that a significant portion of the school voiced the opinion that the award should have gone to another individual.

Who was your favourite teacher at RWS ? My favorite teacher was Dr. Cole who I always found to be a great encouragement during my sixth form years.

What are your fondest memories of your time at RWS ? I have many memories of the school. I vividly remember the night the school was assembled safely in the playground while the woodwork shack burned down. I also recall Matron Patullo and the period I spent in the Grove with some ailment I cannot now remember. I still have a scar on my right thumb which resulted one evening from a game a classmate and I were playing with a knife.

Who was/were your closest friend(s) at RWS ? I was always very friendly with the Arnold twins and their brother Michael. I also remember Peter Leith who came from Aberdeen and Paul Gallagher with whom I shared a prefect's cabin at the top of the back stairs in my first sixth form year.

What are you up to these days? I am now living fifteen miles east of Asheville, North Carolina.



Roger Shervington

Then and now.





Back row: Jack Sheldon, Waseem Malik, Tim Smith, David Nicholson, David Price, Keith Tilbury.

Front row: Sean Griffin, Will Ho, Raffy Nicholson, Miles White, Mitten White

Cricket Report Old Royals Association XI vs Butler XI CC Sunday 5th June 2016

On a sun-baked June day in the leafy Oxfordshire village of Charlbury, an Old Royals cricket team took the pitch for the first time in a decade. A trio of actual ex-pupils – Martin ‘Mitten’ White, David Nicholson and Tim Smith – had recruited Jack Sheldon (son of Ann Short), David’s son Raffy, Mitten’s friend Waseem plus half a dozen extras from the opposition, who had

players to spare.

Opting to bowl first, the Old Royals fielded tightly and looked remarkably athletic given their combined age and lack of match practice. Even so, the Butler XI were close to 100 before the first wicket fell, when David Price QC clean bowled the opener. Price then picked up two more wickets and the Old Royals were on a roll. Raffy Nicholson (aged 11) excelled in the field with some stunning sliding saves.

BBC reporter Harry Low, captaining the Butlers, steadied the ship and piled on more runs before departing for 90, with his team reaching 211 at the end of the innings. The opposition’s patron Sir David Butler looked on approvingly from the boundary.

In reply, Mitten White smacked a boundary before making a suicidal dash and being run out; David Nicholson bashed a modest 8 runs; Jack Sheldon was unlucky to be out LBW; Tim Smith bravely heaved at every ball before losing his off stump and David Price crafted a skillful 21 not out. The Butler XI were comfortable victors in the end, leaving extra time for beers and reminiscences in the golden evening sunshine.

Man of the match: David Price, rescuing the Old Royals from ignominy.

Champagne moment: Raffy Nicholson at full stretch cutting off a ball racing to the boundary

Bad behaviour award: An Old Royal who pulled out at lunchtime on the day of the match!

David Nicholson

THE OLD ROYALS ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members will be held
on Saturday 1st April 2017 at 2.00 pm,

in

Queen Victoria Hall, The Royal School Wolverhampton, Penn Road,
Wolverhampton, WV3 0EG

The Agenda will be Circulated in the next Newsletter.

BRIAN KINGSHOTT'S LIFE AS TOLD BY BARRY OLDHAM

Well first of all, can I (reiterate what Roberta has said) and thank you all for coming- Brian would be pleased to see you. Now , between us, let us remember ,celebrate and be grateful for 'The Life of Brian'.

So where did his life all begin. Brian was born in Chichester Hospital in 1938. His father was quite the opposite of Brian; he loved all sports and was an outstanding football and cricket player for the local village teams.

His mother was proudly Welsh and also a teacher. His younger brother, Roger, was to die tragically and far too early at the age of 37.

Growing up in a Mill House, by the side of the River Rother and close to an abandoned lock was his lifelong interest in waterways first began.

At the Midhurst Grammar School, in the early 50's, he became Head Boy and entered the realm of school plays for his first but definitely not the last time. His Head Master, 'Luke' Lucas, inspired Brian to apply for Oxford, just like Brian has inspired many students since.

He proudly won a place at Exeter College, Oxford to read 'Modern History' but first had to complete 2 years of National Service. He was surprised to enjoy these years even though the Army chose to put a person good with words but hopeless with numbers in the Army Pay Corps.

In 1959 he took his place at Oxford and remained in contact with Exeter College ever since. Surprisingly after graduating he found it difficult to get a job so spent 2 years assisting the local vicar in all his many projects. Having tried and not succeeded to get into the BBC (he always liked a microphone) he set his heart on teaching and after a year of training back at Exeter he joined the Royal School in 1965 to teach English and History.

At that time he could not imagine that he would still be teaching at the Royal in the year 2000 and still active in the Old Royals until 2015, giving an amazing 50 years of service to the school. He may have drifted into teaching but he was determined to make a success of his career and that he certainly did.

If you let them, boarding schools swallow you up as you see how much the students need you, not just in lessons, but in all the hours and days wrapped around the lessons. Brian was happy to be engulfed and his students were fortunate enough to be enriched.

The School had a wild but wonderful metalwork teacher called Stan Henley who produced Shakespeare plays in a firestorm of flying chisels and temper tantrums but Brian was his steadying influence and helped guide many a play to rapturous success. He pushed on with his interest in steam railways by taking several parties of boys to help out with the restoration of The Severn Valley Railway.

He taught his History with insight and empathy and inspired many a pupil to take it further, like Martin (White), who is to read to us later, who dedicated his university thesis to the teacher who had inspired him – you Brian.

It was no surprise then that Brian rose rapidly through the ranks at the Royal and was to become House Tutor, House Master and then in 1975, Second Master-a post he loved and carried out with great energy and efficiency . Particularly good in crisis (even if he created some of them.) He was a tremendous support and a fount of knowledge and wisdom for a succession of Heads.

In 1969, when the Iron Curtain was in place. Brian bravely took a party of boys to Moscow where the Secret Service followed them everywhere. Then to Berlin to see the wall being built.

Right from his earliest days in the school, he started up canal holidays for the students. He would hire 2 or 3 boats and then tackle as many miles and locks as he could each day in order to keep spirits up and mischief down. Tricia and I were soon roped in as captains of one of the boats and from that hectic plunge into the canal world, we also developed a lifelong love of the waterways; which we shared with Brian for over 40 years.

I remember Brian for so many things at the Royal; playing hockey (yes Brian on a sports field.) It was when the staff played the UVI –he was in goal, of course. We thank him, with a grimace, for the impossible clues he set when he ran our car treasure hunt for staff and sixth formers.

Willie Morgan thanks him for being a great MC at school sports days with the regular message that all Old Royals remember of ‘Keep off the Cycle Track’. He took regular trips to the Battlefields of WW1 where his knowledge and empathy really got through to so many teenagers, although he was a menace with minibuses and ferries – often reaching the docks with just minutes to spare and on one memorable occasion leaving the lights on the minibus so that when it was time to disembark the battery was totally flat and all had to get out and push the minibus off the ferry.

Then there were all the Walking Days in the Lake District and cycling days in Derbyshire; all fondly remembered by countless students.

And finally, those boarders’ weekends away when Brian, Tricia and I would take parties of bored youngsters to Wales, Yorkshire or the Lake District for weekends of fun, pleasure and leisure.

Now while the Royal School occupied much of his time and energy he still found the opportunity to get involved in his greatest outside interest ,the waterways of Britain.

He joined the Inland Waters Association way back in 1967 and was never just a normal member but very much an active one. We all know what it is like in committees- it’s the AGM- everyone sits on their hands not Brian- he was secretary of the B’ham Branch and the West Midlands region for so many years and years because no one else would do it; he wrote and produced the Midlands IWA magazine ‘Navigation’.

In those busy days, he and my family would often set off in his boat ‘to end up at an overgrown and derelict area of Birmingham where his famed ‘Flying BBQ Service’ would feed hot dogs and burgers to all the other similarly deranged boaters. Then Brian played a key role in recognising the need and opportunity to try and open the derelict Lichfield and Hatherton Canal. He would work tirelessly to promote this cause and ,guess what, he volunteered to be secretary before taking up the chairmanship in 1999. His ability to deal confidently with industry and politicians was instrumental in ensuring that an aqueduct was built across the M6 toll road so that the dream of full restoration of the canal did not meet a dead end.

Well , Brian, there is no doubt that you were definitely ‘ a doer ‘ and not ‘ a sit and watcher’. That is why, when he moved to Hopton Castle he became a Church Warden and took both the roles of secretary and chairman of the Parish Meeting.

In 1981, he joined the Old Royals association, firstly as the school rep. as he was still

teaching, but he stayed a very active member until his retirement from the committee only last year. Altogether he spent 16 years as secretary, 17 years the producer of the ORA newsletter and 4 years as President. It will be difficult for anyone past present or future to match such service to the Royal School.

In 1999, he met Alison and the succeeding years were certainly the happiest of his life.

And finally what did Brian mean to me, Tricia and our children, Amanda and Chris, over our 44 years of friendship. Well for all our children's growing up years, we spent 2/3 weeks with Brian on his canal boat having lovely fun-filled holidays but then he was part of our family in so many other ways. We hired cottages together here and in France at summer and New Year and enjoyed many a murder mystery party.

We thank you Brian for the knowledge you shared with us not just history but in so many other areas too. We loved your ability to mimic other teachers especially DMP but your best offering was back on the canals – yes he could do the prefect demented duck.

We admired his ability with electricity. Brian could power the whole of the school from just one socket. Indeed as Tricia and I have worked in his office, we have felt as if we were in a bird's nest of extension cables.

Brian, we are so sorry that you suffered so much in your final weeks but we thank you for so many lovely memories and these will undoubtedly stay in our hearts and in the hearts of all the people here for many years to come.

Well done, old friend, on a life well lived.

ORA Drama Memories

Sometime ago I was delighted and privileged to be invited to deliver a short speech at Brian Kingshott's retirement celebration. For those Old Royals who know me then it is quite obvious, with my renowned academic prowess, I was asked that night to talk about Drama. I shall share some of my reminiscences with those of you who were unable to attend Brian's night.

One cannot talk about the Drama Society without mentioning the late Stanley Laurence Henley. I dearly loved Stan. So it is with great affection that I say to anyone who didn't know him, that if you happen to catch Paul Whitehouse doing his "old gits" routine and imagine him saying "OW, IT'S NO BLOODY GOOD CHAPPIES, I'M GOING 'OME", then you'll have a fair visual image of Stan.

Stan arrived at "Offney" in 1957, and as stated, he was initially assisted in the Drama Productions by Mr "Birdie" Hinde. When Mr Hinde died in 1994 Brian KINGSHOTT wrote of him:

"He assisted Stan Henley in the production of a succession of Shakespeare plays and was always the voice of calm and reason in rehearsals which often had an electric and unpredictable atmosphere."

This could easily have been written about Brian himself.

I had arrived at The Royal School shortly before my twelfth birthday in 1974 as Brian was in his 9th year of what has turned out to be a thirty-five year career there. I was flushed with the success of performing in two productions by the world famous Youth

on Show at the equally renowned Ellesmere Port Civic Hall. I had been “Doc” in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and “Bob”, Mutch the Millar’s son’s brother in Robin Hood.

I read the school bumf, which said:

“Drama is included in the lesson time-table in the first two years. The Dramatic Society presents its annual Shakespearean production in March and minor productions during other terms. The minimum of equipment is purchased; costumes, scenery and properties are all designed and made in the school. Gilbert Harding, Eric Idle and Dorothy Reynolds (who wrote “Salad Days”) were past members of the school and made their appearances here.”

Earlier that year the society had performed Julius Caesar, which Stan had previously put on in 1966. I think the review had been compiled by a departing staff member, Mr C. N. Hill. It said:

“Special note must be made of the sets, designed by Mr S. L. Henley, built in the workshops... praise must go to the directors, Mr S. L. Henley who not only produced the play but designed and made the armour and countless small properties. He was assisted in the direction of the play by Mr B. Kingshott.”

What had Brian done to upset him? That’s not exactly how I remembered his collaborations. He was more a Costello to Stan’s Abbott, an Allen to his Flanagan.

It is true that the scenery was magnificent; tremendous feats of construction. Sadly, on occasions, the actors got in front of it. But Brian would be there to tell Stan when to put the metaphorical chisel down, usually just before it was slung in the direction of the principle boy.

It’s true that watching Brian try to get your ideas to the fore was a bit like watching someone trying to pass a man with a waddle in a narrow alley. But he persevered. When I was in the Third Form Brian changed the format and decided to put on A Trilogy of Plays. In typical harmonious fashion Brian and Stan couldn’t agree on which plays to show in the Trilogy and so put on four.

I “starred” in one of those plays called “The Pie and the Tart”. Pupil, the late Chris Barnett produced the review and wrote:

“Some promising young actors were revealed who clearly gained much from the experience. S. A. McIntosh playing one of the beggars in the Pie and the Tart showed himself to be a talented beginner.”

If taken at his word one might expect that I’m now a regular vagrant on the streets of Manchester, although in Stan Henley’s report on me in April 1976 he wrote: *“He is a most receptive pupil”* so maybe I should have dusted off my begging bowl.

In July that year Stan wrote:

“I am pleased to be able to offer him an important part in next year’s production of MacBeth.”

My first Shakespearean role. Stan had said to me *“you always remember your first speech”*. I remembered the roles performed by other RWS pupils that I had witnessed. I thought of J. E. “Ted” Brotherton in later years rallying his work mates with: *“Once more unto the breach dear friends”*. Alastair Barnett at a psychology

lecture beginning *"Friends, Romans, Countrymen lend me your ears"* or David Nicholson speaking to his daughter, Martha, saying: *"The quality of mercy is not strained"*.

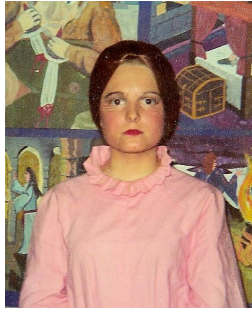
So what is it that I can contribute to a dinner party? I'll tell you: *"Come to my woman's breasts, and take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers."* Not something I use a lot. Although in my adolescent years I did make use of *"Out, out damn spot"* in front of my mirror.

I was lucky to appear not only as Lady MacBeth, but, as Lorenzo in the Merchant of Venice and Brutus in Julius Caesar.

In April this year I paid an all too rare visit back to the alma mater where I was able to sneak back onto the stage in the hall and render my *"Glamis thou art, and Cawdor..."* speech. So self-indulgent it's true, but so memory-evoking too, good memories of Stan and Brian and the Drama Society.

S. A. McIntosh

Stuart McIntosh as Lady MacBeth and Lorenzo



Founder's Day Football
The Loosing ORA Team
(Can you spot the opposition's ringer?)



School Football Captain
Arjun Boparai is presented with
the trophy by The President.



Correspondence

Below is an email I received from Mary Stanley (née Thomson) which I think will interest readers. Editor

I smile to read Simon Davis' memories of school when I see the dates 1967 – 1981.

Asking whether he is in touch with any of his contemporaries, prompts me to write to you to tell you that I was at the school from 1939 – 1946

I keep in touch on an almost daily basis by email, with my friend (formerly Joyce Margaret Jones) now Margaret Measham. who was our bridesmaid in 1959, and I hear news of her sister Beryl

Margaret is married to an old boy Tony Measham who was a contemporary of one Harold Rickett with whom I was also in close touch until he died some years ago now. I am still in touch occasionally with his Sister June Rickett (now Hojnik) recently widowed, in Calgary Alberta, and knew his brother John.

I used to be in touch with Donald Chattaway and his sister Pauline both ex pupils and I understand that Pauline is now married to another old boy.

My brother to whom you refer is Walter Thomson (without a p) and I knew that he was in touch with Paul Sellers and I mentioned to him the fact that someone was asking for contact details in the last newsletter. I too knew Paul Sellers and his brother Peter who is now deceased but was an Estate Agent, and Michael Sellers who I think became a monk.

We were all of course at school during World War 2 and spent a lot of time in the air raid shelters in the gardens with our gas masks, outdoor shoes, siren suits etc, which all had to be kept handy when we went to bed each night !!

Miss Wright was our headmistress until she went and joined the Army as an officer when Miss Wagstaff took over. Miss Wagstaff and I somehow never saw eye to eye.

I shall be 86 in June, my friend Margaret is 86, Tony Measham a bit older so you can imagine how I see the dates 1967 – 1981 - mere children !! so although it was pretty Spartan in our day with meagre rations, it seems we have been moulded into survivors (so far)

Regards
Mary Stanley (née Thomson)

65 Years On

In 1950 my sister (Ann) and I, who are twins, joined the R.W.S. I went to the Junior School and my sister to the senior school. Neither of us ever discussed a university placement and so Ann left as early as she could in 1955 and I left for an engineering apprenticeship in 1956. I went to Vickers Armstrong at Weybridge in Surrey and worked on aircraft like the Viscount, VC10, TSR2 and Concorde. I loved the work but was horrified in 1964 when one Monday morning we arrived at work to find all the construction jigs for the TSR2 had been bulldozed on to the Brooklands Racetrack to irreversibly stop construction of the plane because of a political decision.

I did not want to work in an industry which could be manipulated like this. Consequently, I looked for another job and decided to become a teacher of Technical Drawing in a Secondary School. There I had difficulty finding an appropriate text book to teach this subject and so I decided to write my own called "Geometric and Engineering Drawing". It was published in 1969. Three editions later and approximately 325,000 copies later it is still being published, now in three languages English, Spanish and Portuguese. I worked my way through the profession, earned my Master's Degree part time, and eventually became the Headteacher of a large Comprehensive School in Bristol. In the 90's I retired from my Headship and was asked to train other Headteachers in Avon. I eventually retired permanently in 1998 and travelled extensively and lived in Florida for 6 months of the year for about 8 years.

I still think frequently of my days at the R.W.S. Many were eventful and happy and I hope that those I spent my time with occasionally wonder what became of me as I do them. had many friends in the Chapel Choir, in the show Aladdin where I was Aladdin, in Toad of Toad Hall where I was Ratty, in the Cadet Force where I was a member of the rifle team, in helping David Connell build his beautiful flying models, in holding the F.A Cup and League Cup which were won by Wolverhampton Wanderers and Birmingham City in the same year, of an unforgettable evening at the Wulfrun Hall listening to the Ted Heath Band, of the annual Choir trip which always ended in Cheltenham, giving unusual Christmas gifts to Staff in 1955, Of being Surgery boy for a whole year with Matron Patullo, and swimming in the pool in unmixed warm and cold water and much more. These are some of the good memories and I hope that there are others that remember them too.

Ken Morling
June 23rd 2016



KEN MORLING
1956



WITH MY CLASS 1951

Recognise yourself? Let us know what you have been up to since 1951! Editor

News of the School

In the last year of its existence as an independent school The Royal obtained good exam results at both GCSE and A level. The GCSE results bode well for the future with some really good individual results. At A level the students did equally well, notably Bartosz Szyszka with 2 A* and 1 A going on to Imperial College to read Medicine and Kamil Pufal with 3A* and 3 As going on to read Medicine at Birmingham. You can read more details on the school website (<http://theroyalschool.co.uk>). In July Tom Derbyshire won medals at the European Junior Swimming Championships in Hungary. He won silver for the 800m free-style and then Gold for the 1500m freestyle. He completed the later event in a personal best time of 15m 8.31s. He is also Junior Commonwealth Champion at 1500m. Someone to look for at the next Olympics!



All our very best wishes go to the School leavers as we welcome them as Old Royals.

In September the School opened its doors as a Free School. There are around 1000 pupils, with 540 in the primary and 480 in the senior school. This has meant lots of new staff and the beginning of a £17m refurbishment to meet the needs of the increase in the numbers and to ensure that the School is compliant with all the regulations that come with being a free school. There are 3 new reception classrooms in the junior school in what I remember as the basement, where they can have access to the outdoors. There are 6 new classrooms in what was Rogers boarding area. (LVth boarding to my generation, Girls boarding at the front of the school to those older.)

Those who have not been in a classroom for many years would find them a very different place from their own experience. Blackboards, and also whiteboards are a thing of the past. Classrooms now come with a very large (board sized!) LED touch screen. They can be ‘written’ on with a suitable ‘pen’ and images and diagrams produced as required. If you get a chance to look at a classroom on a visit to the School do take it.

NMG

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**

MINUTES

Present

Members:- N Green , M. Masters, M. George, M. White, A. Bagnall, Sarah Woods, Mrs H. Hall, R. Etheridge, N Woods, S. Gettings, A. Mason, A Hague, D. Craig, B. Prendergast, J. Belam, J. Pedley, L. Rzeczkowski,

Guests:- Mark Heywood, (Headmaster), Mrs E. Masters. Jaemi Hodgson, Natalie White, George Woods.

1. Apologies

F. Nelson, Pauline Gibbs, David Lutwyche, P. Ward, Pauline Ward, B. Oldham.

2. Subscription to the School

The President presented 2 cheques to the School being £600 as the Subscription to the School and £200 as a contribution towards the prizes. The cheques were accepted by Jaemi Hodgson on behalf of the School. They were received with thanks.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the 2015 AGM had been circulated in the April issue of the Newsletter. They were accepted unanimously as a true record – proposed by Sarah Woods and seconded by Andrew Bagnall .

4. Matters Arising

There were none

6. Annual Accounts

The Hon Treasurer, Martin White, circulated the annual accounts and explained the salient points. M. George asked how many foundation students were at the school. Mark Heywood stated that there were 26 at present and no recent applications for places but the Free School might affect this .In his summary, Martin stated that the revenue was very stable, costs controlled, subscriptions increasing and a healthy surplus. The only worry was the small number of term members who converted to full membership after their first five years.

The accounts were approved unanimously by the meeting. Margaret George proposed a vote of thanks to Martin White for all his work for the association. This was seconded by Mike Masters. Accounts are available on request.

7. Report of the Management Committee

The Chairman Mike Masters read his report to the Meeting and this will be incorporated in the October Newsletter and is also available on request. (*See facing page.*)

8. Management Committee Elections

There are 4 vacancies on the committee not including retiring members Nick Woods and Stuart Gettings who have indicated they are willing to stand for re-election. From the floor, Andrew Bagnall volunteered for election to the committee.

Nick Woods, Stuart Gettings and Andrew Bagnall were duly elected as there were no further nominees.

9. Election of President 2016-2017

The Management Committee has proposed the election of Sarah Woods as President of the Association 2016-2017. This was carried unanimously by the Meeting. Sarah Woods was presented with the ORA Jewel by Immediate Past President Nigel Green.

10. Any Other Business

a. Nigel Green ,the Newsletter Editor, talked about the interesting letters and emails that he receives from members and read a couple. He mentioned Brian Kingshott contribution to association and how he was sorry to lose Brian's input and advice about the Newsletter.

The Meeting was closed at 2.55 pm.

Report of the Management Committee 2015/2016

The Committee has met on five 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.

Following the last Annual General Meeting Mike Masters agreed to continue as chairman and in the short term agreed to fill the role of Hon Secretary. Martin White agreed to continue as 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. We hope to further raise the profile of the luncheon this year and would welcome more new attendees.

Our normal soccer match will take place this and the kick off will be following the AGM. There is little senior cricket played at the School and our traditional match again will not be played this year but you will have noticed from your newsletter that a friendly match between the ORA XI and the Butler XI will be played on Sunday 5 June at Charlebury Cricket Club.. 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 will be presented to this year's awardees at Senior School Prize Day which will take place on 11 June.

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 Sarah Woods as our nominee for election as President for the ensuing year. Sarah is a long standing member and ardent supporter of the Association having served on the Management Committee for a number of years. She left the school in 1995 having been at both the Junior and Senior schools for the whole period of her education. We thank Nigel Green for his efforts as President for the last two years. He has ably attended to the Presidential duties.

Our newsletter is now edited by Nigel Green and he has agreed to continue. Nigel will welcome contributions of articles and photographs for inclusion and is happy to receive them by e-mail.

In conclusion we welcome those pupils who will be leaving the School and 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 April 2016



COMMITTEE

Secretary

Andrew Bagnall,(1989)
2, Fernhurst Drive,
Pensnett,
Brierley Hill, DY5 4PU
01384 263616/07779452897
andrewbagnall232@btinternet.com

THE ROYAL SCHOOL WOLVERHAMPTON

President

Sarah Woods (née Holland) (1995)
8 Clementine Road,
Oakhurst
Swindon SN25 2JS
01793 266264
sarah.woods77@hotmail.com

Immediate Past President & News Letter Editor

Nigel Green (1969)
2, Whittaker Mews,
Rocester,
Staffs ST14 5JU
01889-5904110
07977-050509
nigelmgreen.ora@btinternet.com

Chairman and Membership

Mike Masters (1967)
7, Margaret Street,
New Quay,
Ceredigion, SA45 9QJ
01545 560391
07774409579
mike_masters@talk21.com
oramembership@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Martin White (1980)
5a Penington Road,
Beaconsfield,
Buckinghamshire, HP9 1ET
01494 689952
07973801015
martin@martinwhite.plus.com

Nick Woods

8 Clementine Road,
Oakhurst
Swindon SN25 2JS
07531 382841 (mob)
nick.a.woods@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Helen Hall,

Treelands,
127 Penn Road,
Wolverhampton, WV3 0DU
01902 773197

Stuart Gettings (1979)

11 Carisbrooke Rd
Perton
Wolverhampton WV6 7UU
West Midlands
J.gettings@sky.com

School Representatives

Mr Mark Heywood
Ms Jaemi Hodgson

Head Boy and Deputy

Head Girl and Deputy

School Contact Details

01902 341230
www.theroyalschool.co.uk

