

The Old Royals' Association



ORA NEWSLETTER

YOUR LINK
TO THE PAST
PRESENT AND FUTURE

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2018

**Sunday, 11th November
10.50am be seated in Chapel
Refreshments in Victoria Hall
afterwards**

Editorial

At present, the Association does not have a President. The Committee will be looking to find a suitable member to propose at the next AGM. This does not affect the running of the Association but does not give us a figurehead to represent us on Public occasions. The Committee will carry on as usual.

However we do have to think carefully about our future and I would ask you to read and think about the article which I have written and is to be found opposite this on page 3.

This edition is running later than usual, for which my apologies.

Nigel Green

ORA Remembrance Day Lunch

Goldthorn Mecure, following the Refreshments.
If you wish to attend, it is essential that you contact Mike Masters
As Soon As Possible (with your menu choice, see below)
07774409579 or at **oramembership@btinternet.com**

OLD ROYAL's ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON MENU

Sunday 11th November 2018

STARTER

(v) Homemade Vegetable Soup *with warm bread*
Smoked Mackerel Pate *with melba toast and red onion chutney*
Creamy Garlic Mushrooms *served on toasted ciabatta bread*

MAIN COURSE

Roast Pork Loin' *with seasoning and roast gravy*
Oven Baked Salmon Fillet *served with buttery mash and a lemon & lime cream sauce*
(v) Roasted Vegetable Penne Pasta *with a tomato & basil sauce*
All served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes

DESSERT

Homemade Apple & Cinnamon Crumble *served with vanilla custard*
Lemon Tart with Whipped cream *and a raspberry coulis*
Summer Fruit Eton mess

Followed by

Freshly Brewed Coffee/Tea *and chocolate mints*

The Future of The Association

As I wrote in a previous edition, we have to think about the future of the Association. Our rules say it is for the benefit of members and to support the School, and we must bear that in mind in thinking about our future. That is if we have a future. It depends very much on the Management Committee and the funding. At the moment our financial situation is good. A lot of hard work has been done by the Treasurer, Martin White, to raise the number of Old Royals who subscribe and indeed who subscribe the full £15 a year. The Management Committee however lacks members, particularly younger members.

As the School has changed to a Free School the whole structure has changed, leading to both disadvantages and opportunities. As it has become 'free' pupils, or rather their parents, are no longer paying fees and the route of having parents pay a modest £20 towards a leaver's first five years of membership of the Association has closed. In fact over the past few years the number of Old Royals taking up membership after their term membership has ended has virtually ceased.

It is worth noting that there have been more Overseas than UK leavers over recent years and the Overseas ones tend to depart overseas at the end of their time here. The opportunity is that the, much enlarged, sixth form come from the local area, where they will retain family links after they have left.

Before we do anything, the priority is to get a Management Committee that is bigger so that it can engage with members and put on some events to attract encourage them to stay as members. This of course means finding people who live close enough to Wolverhampton to be able to travel there. Of course, a London or Manchester Branch doing its own thing is also a possibility. Ideally there would be some very much younger members on the Committee too.

At the moment the Management Committee is dwindling. Some of them have borne the burden of office for many years. There are no replacements waiting in the wings or even jostling for room on stage.

In the same way the Newsletter is likely to dwindle away. I cannot write all the articles or even contribute a good number of them, as Brian often did. He of course was drawing on some 30 years as a member of staff, I only have 11 as a pupil. In addition, while I think it is very important to mark the passing of Old Royals, even if only to let their contemporaries know, I don't think it should become an Obituary magazine. Finally, if you think you could help, please let us know. Our contact details are on the back page.

Do it now before we disappear!

Nigel Green

Roll of Honour 1914 – 1918

**Let us remember before God those 46 former
Members of this School who gave their lives in
the Great War
1914 - 1918**

**Percy Adams
Frank Armitage
John Bagnall
Cyril Barnsley
John Beckett
Alfred Bore
Alfred Bratt
William Bullock
Thomas Cadwallader
Harvey Cheshire
Percy Clee
John Critchley
Sydney Dyer
T.B.H. Dyer
M.J. Everton
John Fawke
Mervyn Fellows
Hubert Felton
T.A. Garrett
Francis Gay
Edwin Goldstraw
J.C. Harris
Lionel Hawkes**

**Frederick Hill
Thomas Jaggard
Cyril Jago
Arthur Johns
George Lane
Samuel Lewis
William Mabbott
Leslie Peaston
Ernest Pugh
Reginald Rollison
John Sabben
Alfred Service
Frederick Shaw
Horace Simmins
Stafford Simons
Jack Stant
George Taylor
Harold Tonks
George Vaughan
Hugh Watson
Richard Williams
Aubrey Woodall
Kenneth Young**

Roll of Honour 1939 – 1945

**Let us remember before God those 29 former
Members of this School who gave their lives in
the Second World War
1939 - 1945**

**John Baker
Raymond Bett
Geoffrey Cartwright
Paul Clendinning
Jack Corbett
Edmund Deaves
Francis Emery
Noel Evans
Geoffrey Finch
Arthur Griffiths
Geoffrey Hooper
Vernon Jones
Laurence Kendrick
Richard Lawrence
Douglas Moss**

**Philip Neale
John Phillips
Arthur Rogers
Reginald Smith
Geoffrey Statham
David Trigg
Edgar Trigg
Reginald Vaughan
Bernard Vaughan
Stanley Walliter
Harry Weaving
James Whitehouse
Howell Williams
Kenneth Yeadon**

**The Names of these 75 Old Royals and Staff will be read out during the
Service of Remembrance on Sunday 11th November; as they have on
every previous Remembrance Day.**

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

Memories and Reflections on Remembrance.

Do you remember the first Remembrance service or event you went to? I recall my mother taking me to the remembrance event in Croydon in either 1956 or 1957. My father had died in January of 1956 and I was at Ophney from January 1958 and my father was not there. I think I had been to our Church for remembrance previously as we went regularly but this was the first event I recall.

It was held outside the Town Hall at the Cenotaph. I was a small figure surrounded by a sea of adults. There were many Men there, lots in raincoats and at least some, probably most, with medals and at least one gentleman in a wheelchair. There was the Last Post before we stood for what seemed to be a very long time in silence, and then Reveille.



For the next 11 years I was with all the other (now) Old Royals and Staff in the School Chapel, It is a bit of a blur now. I remember the names being read out, the silence, bugle calls and the Garden of Remembrance outside 'guarded' by members of the CCF and planting our poppies there. Easy then, when the stem was a steel wire. What a good way of disposing of the poppies without them lingering around with no

one exactly sure when to dispose of them. I recall the struggle to make sure I had a poppy in the days before and to make sure I had the necessary 3d bit, which was the 'price' of a poppy. At least EF Pope would appear at lunch on Thursday to dole out a 6d piece to everyone.



In the intervening years I have attended some 30 Remembrance Services at Denstone College Chapel, where I worked. The same elements, the names, the silence, the bugle calls. The difference, for a much larger School, was the time it took to read out the Names. At one stage I thought Remembrance, Nationally as well, was on shaky grounds because of some feeling that it was time to stop or hostility to the whole idea of 'glamorising war'. I am pleased to say that with various anniversaries and sadly conflict involving British Forces, Remembrance has been given real and meaningful boost.

There are still those fools who think that Remembrance glamorises war.

I have attended recent services at School, honoured to be reading the Laurence Binyon verse as President at two. It is very familiar, the names, the silence, the bugle calls, as it will be this year, and of course moving.

This year I shall be in my Village Church to lay a wreath as Chairman of the Parish Council of Rocester. It is a village, not so many died but it is no less moving to recall The Lost Sons of Rocester. I will recall to the too too many lost Sons of both Denstone College and The Royal Wolverhampton School. But it will be like the other services; the names, the silence, the bugle calls.

Long may it be so.

Nigel Green

NEWS OF OLD ROYALS

I regret to have to report the death of **Stanley Chance (1941-53)** on 28th August 2017 at the age of 81. He was the ORA medallist for 1953. Our condolences go to his family. Unfortunately due to my error this failed to get in to either of the last two Newsletters. My informant was his brother, **David Chance (1945-55)**, whom I am pleased to report is still with us, but was out, when I spoke to his wife to ensure I did not make any further mistakes.

Nigel Green.

We have received a letter from Julia Fallon about her Mother, **Beryl Adams**

"I'm writing to let you know that my Mother, Mrs Barbara Trapp died on 17 July 2018. She entered the school in 1942 and the experience there completely shaped her life and she was very sad that as an MS sufferer she was unable to participate more in school events.

One of her school friends attended the funeral and is in good health. Others were too frail to attend but able to reflect fondly on their time as school friends and beyond. My mother's name at school was Beryl Adams and she attended a number of events led by Miss Wright in her younger days. Her brother **John Adams** was younger but sadly predeceased her. He too attended the school because their father died as a result of a tragically fatal accident as a member of the Home Guard. Our condolences go to her family.

I have had an email from **Geoffrey Dennis (1969)**, telling me he has retired from working in the Financial Markets in the USA. After 35 years. He and his partner, Susan, are moving from the East Coast to California. He plans to carry on doing some work. He was a very good friend at School, and I wish him a long and happy retirement.

Nigel Green

To those who left in 1969 (or would have left then if you had stayed on into the 6th form),

Mike Masters & Nigel Green are contemplating arranging a reunion event to mark the 50th anniversary of our year group leaving school. In the Wolverhampton area (not necessarily at school) at a weekend. If interested please let one of us know so we can plan further if there is sufficient interest.



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