



A message from our Chairman

Dear OFA member, welcome. I am pleased to be the Chairman for this upcoming year and I wanted to let you know what we planning to do in the next 12 months. The entire OFA committee has really helped Russell and myself in driving the 3S (Sales, Social, Succession) plan over the last two years. We have done many new things such as adopting technology (thanks to Peter Holden for website). I am encouraged by the level of support and energy that I am sure will continue as I take over from Russell.

My aim during my tenure together with my Vice-Chairman Mike England will be to continue to make the OFA "One of the most well respected, well run Old Boys Associations in England, which provides value to all its membership as well as playing an integral part in supporting the school in its future ambitions".

This is my vision for the OFA and to that end I will be introducing a 4th S which is THE SCHOOL. We have continued to work closely with the school and we are starting to see the mutual benefits of this close collaboration in terms of activities, sharing of ideas and working out the best way to communicate with past pupils of the school. To



this end I have asked Russell in his role as Deputy Chairman to focus on helping the school in its centenary year and to work with Martin Post, Effie Stevenson and key school staff to ensure that the OFA takes an active role in making sure that all ex-pupils are aware of what the OFA and the school are planning in terms of events. Given the high standards of education we all received and that current pupils are receiving it is only right that the OFA continues to set high standards

for the benefit for all its members. The challenge for us all is to spread the word about what the OFA is doing in terms of reaching out to ex-pupils, via the website, LinkedIn, Facebook and as I am happy to announce, via a newly set up Twitter account. The life blood of the association is its members and we are all ambassadors when it comes to encouraging ex-pupils to join. For that to happen, we as the committee will and must deliver on the vision so that joining the OFA is the most natural thing for any school leaver past and present to do. I look forward to meeting with you all on a personal basis during what I am sure will be a very successful year.

Bobby Shome

From the Editor

This summer will see a range of sporting and social activities within the Association – all of which are listed in this edition of Contact. We are trying to cater for all interests and tastes and would like to hear from members with suggestions and ideas for any additions to our programme.

Thanks go to those of you who have sent in stories and anecdotes. I am particularly pleased to have received articles from Brian Dorsett-Baily and Guy Mapley.

Further reports of happenings for inclusion in the Autumn edition would be appreciated.

John Cook

From the Registrar

The increase in subscription three years ago resulted in only about half of our members increasing their subscriptions. We resisted striking off those who were not paying the full amount.

Now that we have changed banks, we shall receive no more subscriptions at old rates. We may however receive far fewer subscriptions. Disappointingly we have so far received subscriptions from about half of our members. Does this mean that our membership is about to crash?

If you have not already done so, please contact your bank to renew your standing order. A standing order mandate form is included with this mailing for those who may need it.

Peter Holden

Forthcoming Events - Please check the website for details

Friday 27th April

Quiz evening at the White House Hotel, Watford

Thursday 3rd May

School Founder's Day Service at St Mary's Parish Church, Watford

Wednesday 9th May

Golf Society Spring Meeting at Flackwell Heath Golf Club

Friday 22nd June

Thames river trip

Saturday 23rd June

O.F. Cricket Club v The School at the New Field

Wednesday 8th August

O.F. Cricket Club v the Chairman's XI at the New Field followed by a barbecue

Spring Quiz Evening

The Spring Quiz Evening is scheduled for the 27th April at the White House Hotel. If you read this before that date and are interested in taking part, please contact me on 01923 222829.

John Cook

School Events

100 Years at Rickmansworth Road 1912 - 2012

Saturday 14th July 2012

Centenary Family Fun Day

Cricket Match

Picnic Concert

Fireworks Display

For more information :

Effie Stevenson - 07789 653288 or

StevensonE@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk or

www.watfordboys.org.uk

The Gala Dinner held at The Grove was an outstanding success. Attended by 276 persons, the evening was M.C.'d by John Bulleid, an old boy of the School and incorporated an auction. The evening raised funds in excess of £32,000 to be used towards the refurbishment of the science block. A group of attending OF members with partners is shown below.



From the Watford Observer

School cheers 100 years

Watford Grammar School for Boys celebrated 100 years on its current site in Rickmansworth Road on Tuesday.

More than 1,200 pieces of cake were given out to students and staff at the school to mark the centenary day.

On the same day in 1912, Lord Clarendon officially opened the new school.

Tuesday's cake-cutting ceremony was led by headmaster Martin Post and Paul Shearring, chairman of governors.

The school's centenary celebrations began in September with a 100 balloon release by Year 7 students.

A stained glass window for the main hall, designed by Year 10 students Sam Della Vale and Rupert Woods, was commissioned and produced by old boy, Petri Anderson.

Since then the school has hosted three reunions, a centenary gala dinner at The Grove as well as a centenary lecture series for sixth form students

A 42 Degree Shift by Guy Mapley (75-82)

Its 6.30am on a very crisp February morning and my car temperature gauge reads -14 degrees, possibly the coldest it's ever read.

I'm on my way to Covent Garden, to the Royal Opera House to set up a quick script rehearsal for Stephen Fry. He's presenting the BAFTA Film awards after a break of 4 years. Everyone's very happy he's back. My team are installing a 65" plasma screen at the rear of the auditorium to relay his script in 4 inch high letters. Autocue's a necessity for all awards shows; particularly the BAFTA's, for the compere, the citation readers and the "life time achievers" award (Martin Scorsese has won it this year).

I've been in the live events industry since school and currently work as a freelance production consultant. It's an industry that is not particularly well known, a whole host of services including lighting, sound, rigging, stage design, video projection and graphics that are brought together to put on the technical side of a sales conference, product launch, music gig or television show.

It was at the Grammar School back in around 1979 that I discovered an interest in this field. I can only put this down to my classrooms proximity to the James Theatre and a few enthusiastic teachers who encouraged me to get involved "behind the scenes". I fondly remember two productions the school put on. An adaptation of Tom Brown's School days and a musical version of Sweeney Todd – I was responsible for all the imitation blood. Having been back to the James Theatre a couple of times in the past 30 years I can't believe how small the back stage area was and how we managed any type of quick efficient scene changes.

My Platt House form teacher Ned Blane, I seem to remember, was a stout chap, an

actor by profession (presumably he taught "between jobs"). He was a larger than life character, I remember seeing him play Friar Tuck in Robin Hood on the TV back in the '80's. He got me involved in the stage management side of the school's productions. I loved the whole thing; the excitement of being back stage on an opening night was enough to tell me I should consider this as a career.

Clive Wouters was another of my form teachers and another trained actor, he helped me secure a position in the National Youth Theatre in the summer of 1985

following my A levels. I was awarded a Dick James scholarship of £ 200 from the school and spent a wonderful 4 months in London learning the basics of stage management.

I can honestly say that without the early encouragement of Messrs Blane and Wouters (and to a lesser part the famous Jim McCabe!) I probably wouldn't have discovered my love for the theatre and live production.

It's now the second week in March and the temperature has shifted. I'm in Cancun, Mexico and it's 34 degrees. I'm working

for my wife Liz's autocue company this time scrolling the lyrics for Michael Buble and Robbie Williams on big autocue screens. Yes, even the biggest of stars forget their words! It's Sir Phillip Green's 60th and his daughter Cloe's 21st birthday bash. A multi million dollar party over four days with guest artists including Stevie Wonder, Santana, Celo Green, The Beach Boys and Enrique Iglesias. A long way from the James Theatre!



Guy with his BAFTA for "Acting like a cricketer".

Guy Mapley

The British Antarctic Monument Trust

Fullerians and the Antarctic

There has been much publicity this year about the death of Captain Scott and his companions on their return from the South Pole. What is probably not so well known is that since then, 29 British Scientists have lost their lives in pursuit of science to benefit all. One of these was an Old Fullerian.



Jeremy Bailey (52-60)

After obtaining his BSc. in Physics at Bristol University, Jeremy joined The Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. He was part of a small team developing a system using radar waves to measure the depth of ice. In the summer of 1964 he successfully tested the equipment in Greenland and later that year, in association with British Antarctic Survey, he took the equipment to Halley Bay. The equipment was fitted into a Muskeg tractor and continuous traces of ice depth were recorded.

After several successful short runs near the base, a team of ten travelled towards the Tottan Mountains in Dronning Maud Land. The team split up to make several scientific observations. Jeremy's team of four men, a tractor and a dog team were one day into their programme when the tractor with Jeremy and two of his companions fell into an unseen crevasse and all three were killed. It is interesting to note that in 2009, ice depth radar, first pioneered by Jeremy Bailey, was used to reveal secrets of a the Gambutsev Mountains, a range as big as the Alps hidden beneath the Antarctic ice for 14 million years

Brian Dorsett-Bailey (51-58) Chairman of OFA 2001

In 2006 Brian (Jeremy's brother) was invited to attend a reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the first base at Halley Bay in 1956. For the first time, he met several of his brother's colleagues from 1965. One of them, Rod Rhys Jones, invited him to become a trustee of "The British Antarctic Monument Trust." The trust has charitable status and has been set up to commemorate the lives of 29 young scientists who have lost their lives in the pursuit of knowledge in the Antarctic. All have been employed by British Antarctic Survey or its predecessor, The Falkland Islands Dependency Survey. The Trust has installed a memorial plaque in St Paul's Cathedral and has erected the first part of a two part sculpture at The Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge and is now working to install its counterpart in The Falklands. This has been designed by Oliver

Two new vice-presidents

In recognition of their outstanding services to the Association, Russell Deane and Paul Shearring were elected as vice-presidents of the association at the A.G.M. in February

New Members for 2011. We welcomed the following new members:

D Barrell (97-04)	A Hassan (87-94)
P F Chambers (93-00)	M R Hobbs (78-85)
R Clarke (68-74)	M W G Jones (04-11)
T Constable (79-86)	O J Lewsey (88-95)
M C Cox (72-78)	J D Margrett (55-62)
S C A Craze	M R Moghul (02-04)
S Easterbrook (82-89)	J Newitt (89-94)
S P Etkind (96-03)	S B Purohit (84-91)
G Fox (96-03)	J Sachs (76-83)
R Godfrey (78-84)	J Waterman (80-85)
D S Grahame (98-05)	

In view of his outstanding services to the Football Club over many years, Chris Coleman was made an Honorary member of the Old Fullerians' Association.



The Memorial to those who have died from Halley Bay with the new Halley VI in the background.

Barratt, who designed the Everest Memorial. It also intends to ensure that those who died have a geographical feature named after them.

For more detail on the Trust's activities please visit the website www.antarctic-monument.org

Halley VI

Halley is located on the Brunt Ice Shelf on ice 150m thick which has been forced off the continent onto the sea due to glacial movement. Snow accumulates without thawing, increasing snow levels 1.5m every year and the whole ice shelf and everything on it moves towards the Weddell Sea at 400m per year. Temperatures never get above freezing and dip to minus 56°C in the winter, and 100mph winds are common. The station is manned all year round and the residents at Halley must face the winter without seeing the sun - complete darkness 24 hours a day.

The first research base was constructed in 1956 (which was no more than timber huts) was quickly inundated with snow and ice. There

followed a further three stations, but none withstood the snow and moving ice shelf. The current base, Halley V, is on the wrong side of a crack that is developing in the ice shelf that means there is an increasing danger than an ice berg the size of Devon and Cornwall will float off with Halley V on it. It was from Halley in 1985 that the world was alerted to the man made influence on the ozone layer that protects the earth.

Michael Wright (69-77)

Michael attended the launch of the competition to design a new base at Halley to replace the stricken Halley V and has been leading the design of the new research station ever since. The design is complete and the new base is currently under construction.

The skid based jackable modules will be linked together to create a dramatic new station, which will propel Antarctic design into the 21st Century. A hundred years after Scott and Shackleton built their timber huts on this frozen continent, the design for Halley VI will provide the first ever relocatable modular research station, introducing the very best accommodation for both living and working. The station will be packed with stimulating areas for recreation and relaxation, and allow total flexibility for growth and change. It will be the envy of Antarctica; a beacon for sustainable living and above all, it will provide an icon to draw attention to some of the most significant and influential science conducted on our planet today.

Michael Wright

New Members for 2012 so far.

We welcome the following new members:

G Boxall (76-83)	P G Richards (54-61)
T A Churchill (55-59)	M A Robinson (51-56)
J Cozens (60-67)	G R Sillwood (05-12)
A Dell (81-87)	P V Townsend (47-53)
H Ebrahim (90-97)	S P Walker (63-70)
J Franklin (95-03)	E D White (93-00)
M R Harrison (98-05)	
H Junaideen (01-08)	
A Kendall (02-09)	
M G Macdonald (98-05)	
J Patel (01-08)	
C Perkin (62-69)	

We regret to announce the following deaths:

M P Coreware (39-48)
 G G Howard (28-35)
 J P Parker (38-42)
 R C Turney (39-46)

Old Fulleriars' Cricket Club

At our recent A.G.M., David Lewy (photo right) was re-elected as club captain, this is his third consecutive stint.

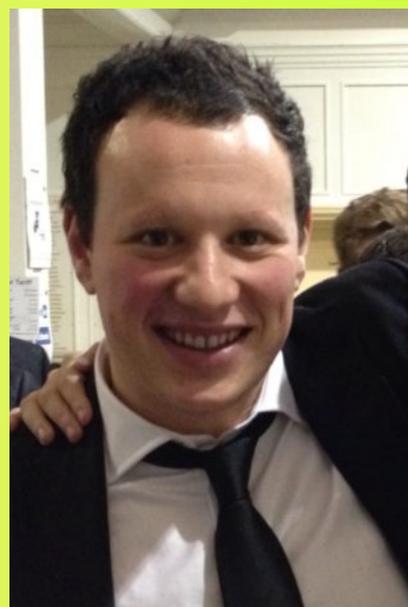
At this same meeting, Ben Cole (very youthful photo below) was appointed Vice-Captain, and in recognition of his services, both on and off the field for 20 years, he was made a Vice-President of the club – well deserved.



Details of our home fixtures are listed in the Association calendar and you will be assured of a warm welcome should you visit the New Field at any of our fixtures.

A date worth putting in your diary is Wednesday 8th August when we entertain the Chairman's XI and both teams and visitors enjoy an after match barbecue

John Cook



Chairman O.F.C.C.

Club website: <http://.oldfullerians.play-cricket.com>

THE OFA WEBSITE

The website has been up now for three years and we are continuing with the new facilities. The market place now has six entries but we could do with more. We have just one entry offering advice and one career opportunity. We would welcome more and will make efforts to drive these forward. The series of forums where those at university may relate their experiences to assist those that follow them to make the right decisions is still in abeyance but should progress in the coming year. Please watch the web where in due course more details will be available. In the meantime, if you have any ideas, please let us know either by email or by using the existing comments page.

If you have any items which you would like to have included, please send me the material, text and photos.

One very pleasing aspect of the website is that all of our recent new members (18 since the beginning of the year) have joined and paid their first year's subscription via the site. These are mainly not new leavers; one actually left 59 years ago.

Peter Holden

Do you not have an Association Tie or Cufflinks?

For ties, contact Guy Mapley (Tel 01442 843961)

Striped with crest (polyester).....£8.50

Striped with crest (silk).....£16.50

Black with crest (polyester).....£9.00

Price includes postage



Some members have enquired about Association scarves, comments would be welcome.



For cufflinks contact John Cook (Tel 01923 222829) or order via our website shop. Price is £15 including postage

The Annual Dinner

On Saturday 14th January, as is customary, the dinner was held in the school hall with an attendance in excess of 200.

Our guest speaker was Steve Easterbrook, an old boy of the school who took us down memory lane and entertained us with anecdotes about his business career during which time he had dealings with government ministers, and his appearances on BBC Question Time.



One of the most pleasing aspects of the dinner was the increase in the number of younger members in attendance.

We are assured that many of them look forward to the 2013 dinner.

A note for your diary, January 12th.

John Cook

Your New Chairman



Bobby Shome left Watford Boys Grammar School in 1995 and went on to study Engineering at Imperial College London followed by an MSc in Transport & Logistics from Imperial College

On completing his studies he joined the Post Office graduate management scheme and held various management roles within the Post Office and Royal Mail between 1996 and 2001,

Bobby then spent nine years at DHL in

various global IT roles and working on projects in the US, Europe and Asia Pacific and was Consulting Director for Global Service Parts Logistics.

Currently Bobby works for a large US software company as an Account Director.

Bobby's involvement with the OFA started in 1991 prior to leaving the School when he started playing for the Old Fullerians' Cricket Club. Twenty years on, he still continues to play and would welcome new members.

Bobby has two younger brothers who also attended Watford Grammar School. He lives with his wife Meghna and two young sons in Watford.

Chairman's Awards Dinner.

At the De Vere Hunton Park Hotel on Friday 9th December 2011.

This inaugural awards dinner presented Russell Deane with the opportunity to thank those who had worked with him during the previous two years and also to pay tribute to other long serving members.

The recipients, listed below, were presented with a pair of cufflinks incorporating the Association crest



Sports Clubs Awards;

Football Club:

- 1 Chris Coleman – Chairman's Award (CA) for services to OFA Football Club



Golf Club:

- 2 Dave Price – Chairman's Award (CA) for services to OFA Golf Club
- 3 Chris Price - Chairman's Award (CA) for services to OFA Golf Club
- 4 Simon Weir-Rhodes - Chairman's Award (CA) for Captaining OFA Golf Club



Committee Awards;

- 5 Ron Armstrong – Chairman's Award (CA) for services to Deputy Chairmanship
- 6 Peter Waters – Chairman's Award (CA) for services to office of Committee Secretary
- 7 Tony Southern - Chairman's Award (CA) for services to OFA
- 8 Mike Groves – Chairman's Award (CA) for services to office of Committee Treasurer



Chairman's Pick Awards;

- 9 Geoff Osbourne – Chairman's Award (CA) for support of OFA.
- 10 Effie Stevenson – Chairman's Award (CA) for partnering with the OFA
- 11 Dick Hughes - Chairman's Award (CA) for services to the OFA
- 12 Peter Holden – Chairman's Award (CA) for creating & successfully establishing the OFA website
- 13 Paul Shearring – Chairman's Award (CA) for planning & organising OFA Annual Dinners
- 14 Ian Hanson – Chairman's Award (CA) for services to the OFA
- 15 John Cook – Chairman's Award (CA) for services to the office of Social Secretary
- 16 Bobby Shome – Chairman's Award (CA) for services to Vice Chairmanship

