



A message from our Chairman



Dear Fullerian,

Welcome to another edition of Contact. I hope you find the articles interesting as well as informative. We have another busy year ahead of us as we continue to grow our membership and provide opportunities for members to network.

I am fortunate to have another year in the Chair and I want to highlight some of the things we are doing in the coming year.

Firstly we have some new members on the committee and I would like to welcome Sam and Joe England. Both Sam and Joe are working on providing more opportunities for networking and their last London meeting was such a great success that we have had another one on 25th April at the Old Bank of England Pub in Fleet Street. I hope that you were able to make it. Also we were hoping to get recent school leavers to attend so that they could meet OFs who are in work, with a view to providing them some valuable pointers as they embark on their careers. See later pages for a write-up of the occasion.

Also new to the committee is Tim Constable who is taking up the role of Honorary Secretary. Tim is a partner at Matthew Arnold & Baldwin LLP and I am looking forward to working with him closely this year. At this point I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Peter Waters who has been Honorary Secretary for close to 40 years which has only been interrupted by his terms as Chairman of the Association. Peter's meticulous preparation and attention to detail has been the standard to which we all strive to maintain within the committee. Peter has kindly agreed to stay on the committee and we will all greatly benefit from his continued input and experience.

Finally the latest of our new committee is Terence Cloote who brings a wealth of Project Management skills which will be very valuable for some of the larger events and initiatives we have planned for this year.

We continue to focus on our mission to be "One of the most well respected, well run Old Boys Associations in England, that provides value to all its membership as well as playing an integral part in supporting the school in its future ambitions."

This mission is still underpinned by our 4s Strategy of Sales, Social, Succession and School. This year we are looking at each of the 4s and the committee are putting significant effort in making all aspects of the 4s strategy a success.

I wanted to take this opportunity to mention some of the activities we will be undertaking this year.

- 1) We are working with the school to have a careers speed dating event where boys from the school can discuss their career plans with OFs from all industries. This event will be held at the school on 11th September. Many thanks to Russell Deane for organising this event which I think is a very important one for the OFA. The emphasis will be on the OFA recruiting mentors/interviewers on the day to provide observations & feedback to the undergraduates who have returned for the workshop. Russell will be providing more detail in due course but we are looking for OFs to help out so please do let me or Russell know if you can help. We will also be having a Watford meet afterwards which will be organised by Sam and Joe England.
- 2) Mike England currently Vice Chairman of the Association will be preparing for his term as Chairman and I will be working with him this year to ensure a smooth handover.
- 3) Our Dragons' Den initiative with the school has been a great success with boys from year 10. Thanks to Jon Shafe and Roger Faires we will have our 3rd Dragons' towards the end of the year. A full report of this year's event is given in this edition of contact.
- 4) Thanks to the money raised at the raffle this year at the OFA dinner we have been able to provide the school with a rugby scrum machine as part of the school's Olympic legacy.

Even though the economy is still depressed I am seeing encouraging signs within my industry. Online business is increasing; more start-ups are appearing here in the UK and more alternative funding options such as crowd funding are allowing entrepreneurs to have access to capital as an alternative to traditional means. I am pleased that with the continued help of my committee and yourselves the Association is in great position to grow and help our members and the school.

Bobby
shomeb@hotmail.com

From the Editor

Now is the winter of our discontent -----

Surely we are deserving of some decent weather this summer. We will continue to enjoy our cricket, golf and other social events within the Association. A full list of these may be found in the calendar.

Many thanks to you who send in material for publication. I hope to feature items from our overseas members in future editions but would ask you to continue to provide me with any items of information you feel may be of interest to members.

My continuing thanks must go to Peter Holden for his work in connection with the layout and design of this publication

Best wishes

John Cook

We regret to announce the following deaths:

C T Dollimore (39-43)
J W Hemley (23-35)
A G Saunders (44-49)
R E Seymour (37-43)

New Members for 2013 so far.

We welcome the following new members:

D Benton (82-90)
J G Coaley (97-04)
N A Harrison (98-05)
M H Hashemian (84-92)
T Hillel (03-10)
L E Kimberly (03-10)
B Shapiro (03-11)
C R Till (06-13)

Chairman's Awards Dinner

The second awards dinner at the Alpine Restaurant, Bushey Heath, hosted by Bobby Shome, gave him the opportunity to thank members who had served the Association in an outstanding capacity for their efforts. Each recipient was presented with a pen engraved in the Association colours

New Members in 2012 .

We welcomed the following new members:

G Boxall (76-83)	A Kendall (02-09)
F Bridgland (53-60)	R A Lewis (05-12)
N J Carr (02-09)	M G Macdonald (98-05)
P Cadle	C Nicol (00-06)
A Christoforou (05-12)	J Patel (01-08)
T A Churchill (55-59)	C Perkin (62-69)
C Coleman	P G Richards (54-61)
J Cozens (60-67)	M A Robinson (51-56)
A Dawson (01-08)	A Shome
A Dell (81-87)	G R Sillwood (05-12)
W L Donovan (06-12)	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)	A J Williams (94-01)
A Hodgkinson (93-00)	S Witney (03-08)
M Johnston (77-86)	J Wyatt (80-85)
H Junaideen (01-08)	

Dame Helen's Celebration at the Grove Hotel

It was great news that Dame Helen Hyde was honoured by the Queen for her services to education. To celebrate her magnificent achievement, a number of the Girls Grammar School Alumni returned to surprise her at the Grove Hotel on the 15th April and enjoyed a fun filled evening, hearing about Dame Helen's visit to the Palace and her meeting the Queen. Dame Helen was able to hear how each of the girls was progressing since leaving the School.

You will be pleased to learn that Old Fullerians Association is currently working closely with the Girls Grammar School, assisting in the renaissance of their Old Grammarians' Association and to this end, the Grove evening and a Garden Party to be held on the 29th June at the School are part of a calendar of social events to re-engage Old Grammarians and start to build a network of Alumni.



Please pass the word around that the Old Grammarians' Committee is looking to get in touch with the Girls School's Alumni, and details of events can be found on that School's website, LinkedIn and Facebook.

Stephen Morales:

(s.morales@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk) would really like to hear from Old Grammarians who would like to attend the Garden Party in June.

Old Fullerians' Cricket Club

At our recent A. G. M, David Lewy was re-elected as Club Captain for the fourth time. This year the duties of vice captain will be shared by Ian Bulleid who is also our representative on the general committee, and Simon Pearce.

A full programme of Sunday fixtures has been arranged together with a short tour to

Norfolk in August. Also in August we will be entertaining the Chairman's XI.

Full details of all of these may be found in the Association Calendar

John Cook

Chairman O.F.C.C.

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

Do you collect cigarette cards

Sorry but these are not available (yet)



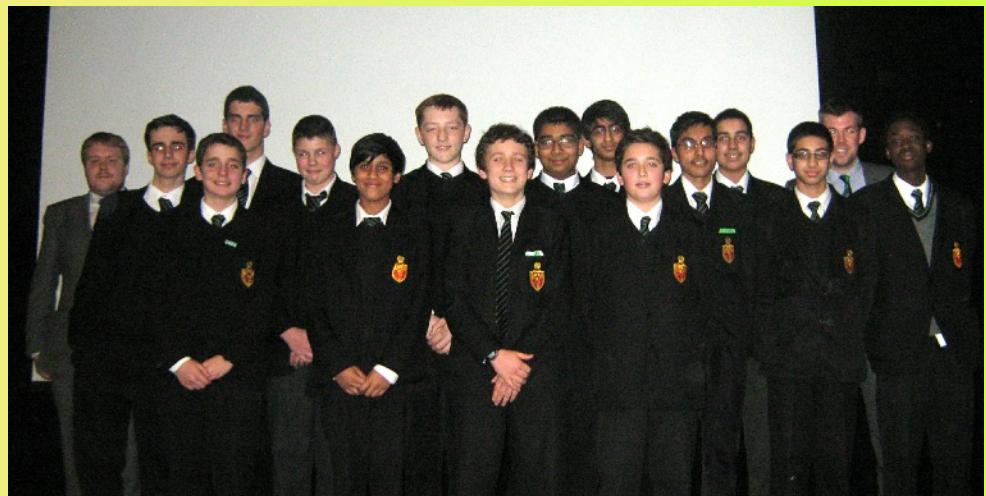
Old Fullerians Dragons Den 2012

The Dragons returned to the School in December, offering up to £2000 for the best proposals submitted by teams of year 10s. The Den forms a major part of our 4th 'S' – School – and the OFA takes its commitment to supporting activities within the School very seriously, and it provides a unique opportunity to give back in a way that pupils directly benefit, as well as being a great educational experience!

For those of you who don't watch the TV show, the TV Dragons are a panel of millionaires who each have a pot of money; entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to try and gain investment. We have adapted the format; our Dragons are not millionaires but OF representatives, the Headboy and Effie Stevenson who is the School's Director of Communications and Fundraising and Chair of the Friends of WBGS. We had six excellent finalists this year with the following proposals:

- Team Artcoustic - Upgrade the speaker system in the School hall
- Team Ski - Providing spare sport kit and kit washing facilities for those who forget their kit.
- Team Invictus - Funding to develop the School e-learning portal called Moodle, with a view to create a mobile app.
- Team Theatre - Upgrade the James Theatre facilities, including painting the back of house areas which apparently has graffiti from the 80s!
- Team Blinds - Replace broken blinds that interfere with lessons due to glare on whiteboards. (Runner Up)
- Team E-Giant providing E-readers (Kindles or similar) in the Library (Winner)

Each team presented to a packed James Theatre and the Dragons questioned them on matters of finance and raised various issues to see how comprehensively the teams had devised their plans. The proposals were judged on four categories, Presentation, Feasibility, Cost/Benefit and the Overall Impression. The judges conferred and debated whom they felt had won, and this year we had two deserved winners, the overall winner was Team E-Giant



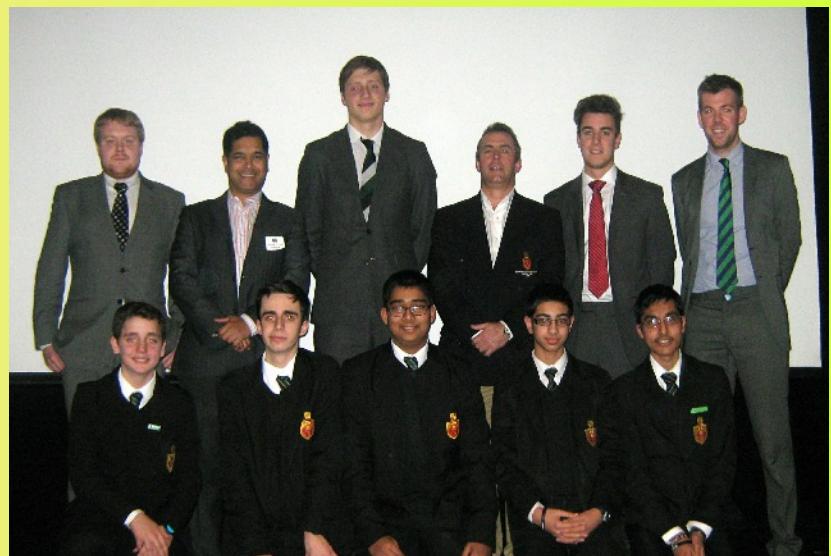
who put a very strong proposal of providing a range of E-readers in the school library. The team's success was based on E-readers delivering a wider range and selection of books, foreign language books, and large text font books for those with poor eyesight or learning difficulties in one electronic device; the readers won't replace books, but compliment the catalogue with variety. The runners-up were Team Blinds, receiving £750 of the available funding due to an excellent humorous presentation!

We wish to thank Jon Shafe, head of year 10, who organises the pupils and provides fantastic support for the work-in-progress projects!

Thanks also to the Dragons who were as always great with probing and thoughtful questions. Hopefully we will return to hold Dragons Den next year for another encounter!

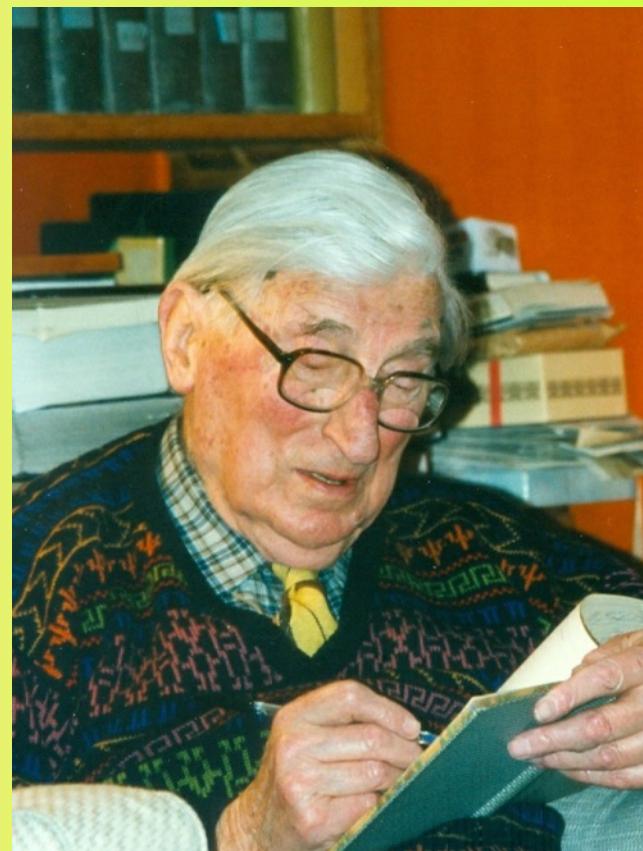
If any old Fullerians are interested in getting involved in the next Dragons Den, then please contact me (roger.faires@googlemail.com) or Bobby (shomeb@hotmail.com); we are looking for further funding to allow the Dragons to support wider proposals.

Roger



Norman Marrow

Members will, I am sure, be interested to have details of a book published recently by Jonathan Marrow, son of Norman Marrow known affectionately as "Ben" by those boys he taught during a long career at the School. The book is certainly evocative of a past era and makes compelling reading.



For details of his life and how to obtain this book go to www.blurb.co.uk and search on Norman Marrow.

I am sure that this opportunity to obtain a copy will not go amiss and will be appreciated by those who had the good fortune to be taught by him.

Ed

Old Fullerians' Golf Society Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting was attended by 35 golfers at Pinner Hill Golf Club on the hottest day of the year when Captain Paul Shearring handed out his prizes to the following.

Spivey Cup:-

Winner - Ian Bulleid - 37 points

Runner up - Paul Shearring - 34 points

Russell Deane

A more full description will be available on the website in due course.



Congratulations:

must go to **Russell Deane** on his appointment as a **governor** of
Watford Grammar School for Girls

News from Rickmansworth Road Science Block Gets a Facelift

Fullerians who attended the School in the late 60's and early 70's will remember the brand new Science Block which was opened in 1968. The building is now receiving a much needed facelift to ensure the School continues to provide the very best Science education for current and future students.

The refurbishment, which began over the summer break, has been achieved through a Government Grant as well as the generosity of Old Boys and parents of the School. The School's new Science Block will

have newly refurbished laboratories equipped with the latest technology; flexible learning spaces to respond to large or small groups of students; specialist rooms designed specifically for biology, chemistry and physics and the building will harness environmental technology and maximise energy efficiency.

As we all know, Science education plays a significant role at Watford Grammar School for Boys with 90% of all students at Key Stage 4 studying 3 GCSEs in Science. This is significantly above the national average of around 15%. The majority of A levels students also study at least one science and the School undertakes extensive Science outreach work at local schools. In fact, WBGS was recently selected to host the first Imperial College Science Hub which aims to raise aspirations, improve attainment and



increase participation in Higher Education and STEM related careers amongst young people aged 9-18 years of age. It is expected that over 1,800 local students from across Watford will be attending specialist Science classes at WBGS over the next year as part of this innovative partnership with Imperial College, London.

Commenting on the Science Block refurbishment, Martin Post said, "I would like to personally thank all Fullerians who supported our Science Block Appeal during our Centenary Year in 2012. We always aim for excellence in everything we do and these new facilities will stimulate our students scientific ambition, intellect and creativity and help them to deliver answers to many of the challenging questions we face as a nation in the future."

The Annual Dinner

On Saturday 12th January, in the school hall, the attendance of 163 was disappointingly down on the previous year, a situation we hope will be redressed at the next dinner. The guest speaker was Pat Stoddart, an Old Boy of the School, and other guests included the Vicar of St Michaels Church, Watford and

Ian Brown, another old boy representing the Borough of Watford.

A happy and enjoyable event – next year the dinner will again be held in the School hall but later in January. Make note of the date, Saturday 25th January.

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Forthcoming Events - Please check the website for details

Since the publication of the 2013 calendar, the following dates have been amended or added:-

Golf Society v Old Columbians' Golf Society will now take place on Thursday 6th June at Verulam Golf Club

The Autumn Quiz Evening will take place at the White House Hotel on Friday October 18th

Spring Quiz Evening - Friday 19th April

With an attendance of 60 comprising eight teams, this was held once again at the White House Hotel.

The winning team included the Chairman Bobby Shome, Terrence Cloote and Geoff Osborne. They were presented with the customary prizes of bottles of wine at the end of the evening which concluded with a raffle.

We look forward to seeing quizzers at the autumn meeting, same venue, Friday 18th October

From the Registrar

If there is no copy of the "Fullerian" enclosed, it will be for one of two reasons. Either you have internet access and have not requested a hard copy, or you appear not to have paid your 2012 subscription. Despite our publicising the change of bank in the last edition of Contact, we still have 164 members who have not reinstated their standing orders. We are therefore £2460 short in our income which will affect our ability to support the School. If you have not already done so, please contact your bank to renew your standing order. A standing order mandate form is supplied. The relevant information is as follows:

NatWest Bank plc,
Berkhamsted Branch,
Account name: The Old Fullerians' Association
Sort code: 60-02-21
Account number: 64087697

Regretfully, those who do not continue with their subscriptions will have to be struck off from the list of members.

Peter Holden

Do you not have an Association Tie or Cufflinks?

For ties, contact Bobby Shome (Tel 02084 322822)

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 OFA WEBSITE

The website has been up now for over three years. Progress with the new facilities is still disappointing. The market place has six entries and we could do with more. We have just one entry offering advice and one career opportunity. Are there no more members who would like to advertise; it is free.

If you have any items which you would like to have included, please send the material, text and photos, to webmaster@oldfullerians.org.uk. We had an encouraging start but the novelty seems to have worn off. Perhaps facebook and twitter satisfy any need. If there is any way that you think the site should change or expand, please come forward with your ideas.

One very pleasing and continuing aspect of the website is that all of our recent new members (33 in 2012) have joined and paid their first year's subscription via the site.

Peter Holden

OFA Second London Chapter Networking Event on 25th April

The England brothers, Sam and Joe, followed on from their success back in October by organising another engaging networking event for OF's in a private room of the Ye Old Bank of England Pub located on Fleet Street. Some 20 plus OF's attended the event where our Chairman, Bobby



Shome, addressed the group by thanking them for their attendance and reinforcing that these evenings are forming part of a series of networking events primarily aimed at building potential career mentoring opportunities for OF's. To this end Bobby announced our first Career Seminar Event to be run in partnership with the School on the afternoon of September 11th at the School. The OFA are going to provide a cohort of OF's who on the day will dispense careers and interviewing advise to returning undergraduates who are considering their futures post graduating. The event sits firmly under the OFA's 4 'S' Plan

whereby Social Networking is a significant thrust of the OFA activity and securing our Alumni careers and job change opportunities is a promise to all members. The economic climate aside our network of OF's needs to do more to provide mentoring and job opportunities to boys leaving the School and those

graduating from University. The 11th September is a great opportunity to give something back to the School and if you would like to volunteer your services for the afternoon please visit the OFA Website/LinkedIn/Facebook where details of the event will be posted and importantly Russell Deane would like to hear from you urgently – russelld@srdrrecruit.com Well done to the England brothers again and we look forward to your next networking event that is rumoured to be hosted in a Watford Pub on the evening of the 11th September – details to follow.

Your Committee

At the recent A.G.M. of the Association, the following members joined the committee:- Tim Constable, Terence Cloote, Joe and Sam England.

Tim takes over as secretary from Peter Waters who will continue to serve on the committee, and we look forward to all four making an important contribution to the Association.

It is fitting to mention those who will be leaving the committee.

Tony Southern; after many years of service as Chairman, Secretary and as a vice-president, stands down. His devotion to the Association has been demonstrated by his near 100% attendance at meetings despite a considerable round trip from Welwyn Garden City. We look forward to his continued presence at our various functions.

Ian Brown leaves the committee but with his civic duties as a councillor on Watford

Borough Council, he will undoubtedly be kept busy.

Roger Faires, a comparative newcomer, also stands down. Pressures of a burgeoning career being a contributory factor. Roger has been instrumental in the success of the two "Dragon's Dens" held to date and we look forward to his return to the committee in the future.

Peter Waters's contribution to the Association should not go unrecognised, although he is not leaving the Committee. Peter, in addition to his terms as Chairman and his tenure as Secretary, has given over forty years of devoted service to the Association. This was recognised many years ago when he was elected a vice-president, and we feel sure that he will continue to give council from the back benches.

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