



A Message from the Chairman

We hope you like our new OFA publication - the idea is that we tell our members what they and their association are doing which we think will be of interest.

You have your calendar of course, but we are developing our social and sporting programme all the time and you will be hearing our news as soon as possible.

The good news will often be about new OF events mainly in the Watford area, but also hopefully also elsewhere if we can encourage our far-flung members to get together and form



local groups and organise -(maybe with our help) their own events. We will also give you news about other members both existing and new so please tell the Editor so he can pass on the news.

How often will we publish? We must see how it goes - and don't forget we also have our website, but provisionally at least twice annually is our target.. John cook will be editor

and any contributions or queries should go to him (see calendar for contact details)

Russell Deane

A message from the Editor

In this newsletter, we hope to be able to include items covering the past, the present and the future. We welcome contributions from all members. Items may be posted to me or sent via our website.

My thanks to Peter Holden for his invaluable assistance in putting this publication together.

John Cook

ANYONE FOR SKI?

Some members have expressed an interest in forming a Ski Club and a small group of O.F.s will be skiing in France on April 8th. If this is your sport, why not contact Russell Deane?

Forthcoming Events Please check the website for details

School Founder's Day Service

Thursday April 29th at 12.30pm
at St Mary's Church, Watford

Golf Society Spring Meeting

Tuesday May 25th
at the Shire of London G. C. Barnet.

Cricket Club v the School 1st XI

Saturday June 26th
at the New Field

Golf Long Driving Competition and Barbecue

Friday July 30th - *note the change of date!!!*
at the New Field

Cricket Club v The Chairman's XI

Wednesday August 4th
at the New Field

Golf Society Autumn Meeting

Wednesday October 6th
at the West Herts G. C.

The second quiz evening of the year

Friday October 15th
at the White House Hotel Watford



Will Jones, Captain of the School 1st XI with one of the bags donated by the Association for the forthcoming tour of Barbados

School Memories (part 1) by Dick Hughes

My school memories are divided into two distinct periods:- peace years, 1933-1939 and the war years 1939-1943.

Peace Years 1933-1939

Sitting the Entrance Examination in 1933

My first class was 1B with Miss Gentry as my Form Mistress

I was taught History by an elderly master called Mr. Thompson - he was actually only 24 years of age.

My gym master was Stanley Rous and we gave a gym display at the Herts County Show in 1934.

Playing organized football on the School Field.

Playing in the under 12 football team run by Tommy Thompson against such teams as Alpha Prep and Harrow High.

At the beginning of each new school year in September, covering text books with brown paper.

Learning the art of mental arithmetic from Mr. Crisp (chipsy)

Dissatisfaction in the 3rd forms at giving up football for rugby with Willy Wiles.

Learning to use a copy book to improve writing.

Sitting on forms to watch the 1st XI play the MCC at cricket supervised by Foxy Reynolds the Headmaster and a keen cricketer.

Playing football with a tennis ball in the Middle School Quad after school at 4.15pm

Visiting the tuck shop in the old pavilion run by Mrs. Cartwright.

Attending the School Concert held at the end of the Christmas Term.

Parents Day held at the end of the Summer Term.

The Swimming Sports held on the last day of the Summer Term.

Cross Country runs held during the Easter Term. I always came last.

The Munich Crisis in 1938 and the issue of gas masks.

The last summer holiday held in 1939 at Bacton in Norfolk before the war

ARP demonstrations held in Cassiobury Park

Strict discipline at all times, in and out of school and the use of the cane, when necessary - by the Headmaster.

For my War Years 1939-1943, you will have to wait until the next edition.

Dick Hughes

The Annual Dinner 2010

Despite the appalling weather, an almost record attendance of 210 members attended the dinner, held as customary in the School Hall.



The Association Chairman, Ron Armstrong was pleased to welcome the President Martin Post and the Guest speakers Lord Garel Jones and David Branch, a former Head Boy of the School, together with the

current Head Boy and the captains of the various sporting sections.

The substantial increase in members attending was largely attributable to the very welcome number of younger Fullerians present. Many expressed their pleasure and enjoyment in meeting up with former school friends, and of their intention to attend next year.

The dinner was once again superbly organised and our thanks go to Paul Shearring and his wife Louise who dealt with the ticket applications and the table plan - a not inconsiderable task, also to the members of the Cricket Club who organised and served behind the bar.

Our thanks must also go to the caterers Preece Burditt and their staff who provided an extremely satisfying meal fitting for the occasion. They had travelled a considerable distance from Sandy in Bedfordshire in most difficult driving conditions.

The date for 2011 - Saturday, January 8th with Josh Lewsey and Percy McClusky as guest speakers.

John Cook

John Shepherd (44-54) who is currently supervising the building of a power plant in Vietnam Writes:

NEWS FROM 'NAM

The good news is that we have survived another Tet attack.

Last week Saigon - sorry, Ho Chi Minh City - was closed, as was the rest of Vietnam. It was Chinese New Year, or Tet, which is a combination of New Year, Christmas and birthdays all rolled into one. In fact, like racehorses, all Vietnamese used to get one year older on New Year's Day, but they celebrate their actual birthdate in this great new Peoples Socialist Republic.

But don't think of this as a grey, uniform example of the old Eastern Europe - that belongs to Ha Noi in the North. Saigon is a vibrant, booming economy equalling most of SE Asia for start-up and trade.



And motorcycles. A population of around 8 million means that there are 10 million motorbikes on the road at any one time.

And then there's the weekly shopping - everything is available, there are supermarkets where the Westerners (all 40,000 of us in Saigon, so I'm told)



buy their cornflakes and Marmite, or there are stalls selling the necessities of life.

I've been out here for most of the past two years, with a few months in Bangladesh just to convince me



that Viet Nam is an unexplored paradise, and expect to be here for at least another couple of years. Besides putting money in the bank, it is a step up from some of my other overseas postings and is well worth visiting between November and March. The rest of the year it rains. And I mean RAINS!!!

THE OFA WEBSITE

When our website opened about a year ago, several members contributed items about themselves. Since then however, we have not had any spontaneous contributions. We would love to see more items. There is a comments section available, please add your comments to it if you have any that you think that other members would like to read. Photos would also be welcome; there is room for far more than in a publication like this. You may email your contributions to "webmaster@oldfullerians.org.uk". I am sure that far more than the 170 members

whose email addresses I have, out of our 600 or so members, have internet access. Currently we have three mailings per year, two of these cost about £180 and the third which is for the Fullerian, costs over £600. We cannot avoid the latter but could save considerably on the others by using email. Also, with the website, we can communicate with internet enabled members at any time, again at no cost. Please make use of your website and let us know how we can improve it.

Peter Holden

Old Fullerians Take on the Old Enemy

When asked to name the best matches between rivals in the world, some might say Liverpool and Manchester United, some "The Ashes" and others the Ryder Cup. Anyone from Watford Grammar knows however that it is the annual school rugby fixture against Merchant Taylor's. When looking back on my school days along with fellow old boy Lenny Brown (1999-2006) our favourite time of every season was making the short trip down to Northwood or welcoming them to the New Field for a game that would always offer some good rugby, refereeing controversy and laughter.

With these memories in mind and the sad absence up until now of a true old boy's side, Lenny took the idea from an Essex Arms conversation and transformed it into a fully fledged plan. Through contacting the Old Merchant Taylor's rugby club, it became apparent that they also wanted to renew this clash of the titans as much as we did and a date was pencilled in for a post-Christmas show-down. Next came the difficulty of recruiting a team that could not only turn up in Old Fullerian colours, but make sure that it was one that tested a team that plays together during the regular season. The mainstay of the team was recruited from years close to ours, with the youngest being a current upper-sixth member, Liam Nicol (2003-2010) and the seasoned campaigner of the side Joe England (1996-2003). In bringing the side together, it became apparent that many of the old boys had gone on to play at a high standard following their schooling in the arts by teachers such as John Williams and Ross Panter. Within the side were players who had represented universities such as Loughborough, Durham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Leeds amongst others upon leaving the school.

Full credit must then go to Lenny who organised almost every other aspect of the game that needed to be arranged, from a referee to a kit for the day. It was decided that we would play at Old Merchant Taylor's Durrant's ground in Croxley Green on December 27th. However, in the week leading up to the game the heavens opened and it looked as though the snow might have put an end to the game. In a testament to the determination and desire for the game to go ahead Lenny and Craig Nicol (1999-2006) went down to the pitch and cleared the snow with brooms to ensure it could go ahead. And so it was that what we hope will become a tradition was started when a team comprising 22 old boys turned up the day after Boxing Day to take on OMTs.

On a cold but bright day that was perfect for rugby, we donned the famous green and black colours.

The game itself was a hotly contested affair with Watford Grammar showing superiority in the scrums and line-outs but OMTs the more cohesive unit in their back play. Having seen a penalty converted by their rivals, the Old Fullerians rallied with a superb break from the youngest member of the side, Liam Nicol, being well recycled, opening up space for Loughborough 1st XV player Rhys Butler (2000-2007) to score in front of the posts. Having gone into half-time leading, the OFs started the second-half strongly again dominating in the pack, with half-backs Craig Foster (2001-2008) and Elliott Birkbeck (2000-2007) kicking well to put us down in the OMT "red-zone." From there a break from Nicol Senior put us within touching distance of the line and Lenny scored a captain's try from a metre out. Having put ourselves in the driving seat, OMTs made their way back into the game with a well-worked try from a cross-field kick. A penalty from Butler kept the score ticking over and a victory looking likely until the last minute. An OMTs break resulted in a try making the score 15-13 to the OFs with no time on the clock. Luckily the fly-half from OMTs missed the kick and the first old boys' fixture was a victory. Following the game Mark Smith (1998-2005) led the post-game social which began in the Standard Tandoori in Croxley Green, a notorious venue over the years for Watford Grammar social events. Donning old school ties and blazers the old boys continued the reunion late into the night with the man of the match award contested between the two England brothers on the basis of who could most quickly consume a pint of lager, with age coming before beauty and Joe England running out a close winner.

Looking to the future, Lenny is hoping to organise future fixtures for the side with a possible game against a St. Alban's old boy's side and a repeat of the OMTs fixture. We were delighted that the first game attracted a crowd of around 100 people with many old boys amongst them and will look to publicise future games for those wanting to come and watch. We would be keen to hear from anyone interested in playing for the side. Contact can be made through the Old Fullerian website as well as the Old Fullerian Facebook group.

Sam England

OFRFC: 1. S England 2. H Parmar 3. J England
4. M Orton 5. M Macdonald 6. A Dawson 7. M Bunce
8. L Brown 9. E Birkbeck 10. C Foster 11. H Harvie
12. C Nicol 13. R Butler 14. L Nicol 15. M Smith
(Reps: H Bukhari; J Tryfonos; J Hewett; R Allen;
J Ausden; S Owen; D Smith)