



A message from our Chairman

I would have liked to think that my 50 year old Latin "O" level was up to it but, in the event, I had to refer to Wikipedia which itself cites Neil Hart, sadly no longer with us, to find the derivation of the school motto. "Sperate Parati". (As you will all know this derives from Virgil's Aeneid IX, 158: "pugnam sperate parati" - "look forward to the battle, being prepared").

And so in September some 20 OF Mentors gave up their time, experience and wisdom to assist the current crop of boys entering the upper sixth to "prepare for the battle" that is finding one's niche in the workplace today. More of this in Russ Deane's piece below, needless to say thanks are due to Russ for his considerable investment of time in organising the event and to his "Band of Brothers", the mentors, who so ably supported him.

Subsequently there has been an article in a national newspaper contrasting the role of alumni as mentors in the private education sector with what is available to those in the state system. The article cited a survey that found that only 3% of state school pupils had been contacted by their old school compared with 42% of those who were privately educated. To quote from the MD of Future First who commissioned the survey "Alumni are invaluable in helping State Schools support their students to make that difficult transition between school and work." He also says "Many schools are already doing this by using their alumni as inspirational reputable role models" By "many" I presume he is referring to the 42% in the private sector. Thanks to Russ we are part of the 3%!

In July we held a Summer Ball at West Herts Golf Club which was enjoyed by all who were there. This was effectively a new venture with no track record, as the last one was held some 30 years ago, and whilst the attendance was less than we had hoped we felt it was a

good start. We shall be reviewing whether to repeat the event next year. We need to consider the timing of the function and whether there is likely to be a conflict with other events that target OFs might attend. Should it be run jointly with the Old Grammarians (ex pupils of WGS) and/or the "Friends of the School"? Should it be a major fund raising event for the school? I would welcome your thoughts and suggestions (to mike.england@outlook.com or by traditional means) to aid our deliberations.

Continuing the theme of readers' involvement, I have a few thoughts:

- This is your association – please provide feedback regarding what you would like to see it do/provide;
- If you can, please get involved by offering to help organise something specific or talk to us about joining the committee;
- Bear in mind that we are a voluntary organisation and there is a limit to the time that can be committed to running it and organising events.

Lastly I am really pleased to announce that Don Barrell will be speaking at the Association's Annual Dinner in January. Don (WBS 1997-2004) is approaching the end of an illustrious Professional Rugby Career which began whilst he was obtaining a degree in Anthropology. I look forward to hearing how the school has influenced his development, about his life since and feel confident that the legendary "JDR"¹ will merit a mention at some point.

Mike England.

¹ Mr JDR (John) Williams Former Director of Sport; he of 100 terms at WBS; cited by Don as a great influence on his career.

School Matters



The Beginning of a new era at the New Field

The New Field pavilion construction is in its final stages and the structure looks fantastic. It will undoubtedly be an outstanding facility that every boy at the school will benefit hugely from. The new ten changing room facility will be the headquarters from which the PE and Games Department can run our ever expanding sports programme. We hope to be into the new pavilion by the start of the spring term which brings with it the beginning of the hockey season. At the topping out ceremony the PE Department were lucky enough to get a sneak peek around the new facility and the excitement amongst the department was evident. It has been a bit of a struggle for home fixtures this rugby season with the current lack of facilities but all the coaches have dealt with the issues with a smile on their face as they know it will all be worth it in the end.

"All who visited the New Field will know that it is a renovation that was long overdue, we are really excited with the new facilities and the excellent impact it will have on our ability to field continually high achieving sports teams across a real variety of sports.

In our last fixture with Berkhamsted Collegiate School we had over 200 boys representing the school rugby teams on a Saturday, and this facility will undeniably ensure that this level of sports participation will flourish in the future." - Giles Wallis, Director of Sport/ Master i/c of Rugby
Giles' sentiments were echoed by James Dyson, Head of Physical Education/ Master i/c of Hockey, who added "The pavilion will be an excellent base, not just for housing the vast number of hockey teams we put out on a week to week basis but also offering a space for white board sessions with the seniors. The balcony will also prove a fantastic space for our boys to watch other teams play and create a real whole school atmosphere at the New Filed"

We are thoroughly looking forward to using the new facilities and welcome all Old Fullerians to the New Field on its completion to come and enjoy the sports on show and see what a brilliant impact it will have on our boys.

Watford Grammar School for Boys PE and Games Department

Careers Event

Another very successful session has been held, as described on pages 4 & 5.

The following feedback has been received already:

Mark Allchorn:

It was a very busy and purposeful afternoon. The enthusiasm of the boys and their appreciation was evident throughout. I am looking forward to further collaboration with you during the year ahead.

My sincere thanks again for all your hard work.

Best wishes,

Mark

"It was a really good day and there was a chance for some decent discussion with the lads"

So far 26 boys have joined the Old Fullerians group since the session and one has had a conversation with a recruiter at EY as a result.

Supporting the school

Our involvement in the careers event and mentoring has been mentioned elsewhere and involved a considerable time commitment from the OFA. The Dragons Den needs time and money. It provides a stimulating exercise for pupils who come up with ideas and proposals and requires the School staff, OF organisers and OF Dragons to give of their time. Funding for the implementation of the approved projects comes from the OFA reserves (i.e. via your subscriptions and, possibly, fund raising at events).

During the last year we have funded kit bags for a forthcoming Cricket tour and, most recently, a very fast response to a request to provide additional "Line Benders" (used for hot forming plastic) for the Design and Technology department. This enables multiple "production lines" to be run reducing the time spent by boys waiting their turn. We aim to feature this project in a future edition of *Contact*.

Conscious that the school's budget becomes ever more challenging, we asked Mark Allchorn (Acting Headmaster) if there was a project that the Association could put its name to and fund. He requested that we consider replacing the chairs in the School Hall. This will require funding in the region of £10,000 and we aim to raise as much as possible at events in the year ahead. The first opportunity will be the raffle at the Annual Dinner in January and I'm hoping that you will all be generous (and you never know you might even be lucky).

Mike England.

New Full Members for 2014 so far.

We welcome the following new members:

D Asokakumar	07-14
A Bains	07-14
M Beeton	68-76
E Burford	07-14
S C Chacihan	07-14
M E C Chambers	76-77
E Daniel	07-14
E Finnegan	07-14
E Freer	07-14
K Hansford	07-14
A Oza	07-14
D Patel-Vathvati	07-14
V Raniga	07-14
J Sivasubsamaniam	07-14
J Scott	07-14
M Scozzafava	07-14
C Shah	07-14
Y Shaikhati	07-14
R Slade	07-14
S Speed	07-14
J Stebbing	93-00
D Wills	07-14
I Yuniz	07-14

We regret to announce the deaths of the following:

L H Leader	39-45
M S Lishman	39-48
D S Newman	41-46
D A M Watkins	41-52
P R Walker	25-31
Life member, Vice President and Chairman 1955	

The Annual Dinner

This will be held in the School hall on Saturday 17th January 2015.

You will find an application form accompanying this edition of *Contact* and are urged to make an early booking.

Why not make up a table from friends in your year/s at the School?

Ed

Careers Event

The OFA & WBGs hosted its second Careers Event on September 25th 2014. The event was once again held in 6th form common room and on the day we had 25 mentors representing the 15 business sectors

55 boys attended from the Upper 6th cohort.

Mark Allchom kicked off by saying :

The boys should introduce themselves to as many of the mentors as is possible during the afternoon practise their networking skills and make contacts going forward...

this is part of a number of connected careers events for the OFA and they may be seeing these mentors on other occasions.

Pay attention - listen and ask relevant questions - It would be surprising if these mentors did not have the answers and if they did not they would get back..

Enjoy themselves -

Russell Deane spoke as outlined below.

Russell introduced himself and the purpose of the event and spoke as follows.

- He thanked the mentors for giving up their work time and the boys for attending. He described his own experience but stated that today's Career Landscape has changed dramatically:

- In the current economic times 160 graduates are applying for each job and 40% of graduates are still unemployed nine months after leaving University

- Top Independent Schools have very proactive Career Networks.

- HR departments, are the gate keepers and they hire very good people who use sophisticated recruitment tools to avoid any form of nepotism!

- Finally securing a paid career is now the stuff of Courtship perhaps involving internships, work placements, summer jobs.

All this needs careful planning and sits at the core of Networking

The sectors and hence the mentors were largely selected based on demand from the boys:

Mentors hosted group sessions on their Career Sector and the boys were given an opportunity to visit two rounds of Mentor sessions.

Whilst the Mentors took a well deserved break Mark Weisbaum presented a slide presentation on LinkedIn and the the social media's importance in career networking. Mark reinforced the following points and encouraged the boys to join LND and post up their personal profiles to begin the process of networking in the employee market place. Mark will be spearheading the use of LND as the platform for the boys to network with OF's going forward and we await our first job placement through this process. Mark made the following key points:

- try to get the boys to consider networking as useful, important and not only for people with great family networks
- prompt the boys to get LinkedIn profiles and connect to each other and reach out to OFs, where they have a reason as well as to use LinkedIn to do research and understand who may be able to help introduce them to relevant people
- commitment made that the LinkedIn group will be used as a forum for their questions and we will give guidance to questions on them

* Mark will also upload his presentation onto LinkedIn.

With the break over the Mentor commenced their 1:1 sessions.

This commenced with the boys receiving feedback from the mentors on their personal statements. Similar to an interview type scenario.

The Mentors on the day were:

IT/Computing Mike England	Public Sector / Healthcare John De Braux
Engineering & Construction Roger Faires	Finance & Banking Derek Walker
Management Consultancy Mark Weisbaum	Business Angel/Entrepreneur Matt Cannon
Journalism Mike Walters	Legal Tim Constable
Public Services/ Utilities Dave Gardener	Pharmaceuticals A.Walters
Technology & Telecoms David Cherril	Careers in Science Geoff Osbourne
Director of Finance - Diageo Anthony Price	
Bio Technology Entrepreneur Clive Dix	
Corporate Engineering - Rolls Royce Jon Taylor	
Careers in Sport Don Barrell	Engineering Steve Rose

Mark and Russell finished the afternoon off with some closing remarks and the boys were encouraged to follow up on all the good work carried out in the afternoon.

Due to the success of the event next years event will be held in the Summer term and the lower 6th boys will be asked to attend the Careers Workshop.

Russell Deane



Harry Rée Centenary Celebration

I only experienced the last two years of Harry Rée's tenure (1951 to 1962) as Headmaster of WBGs. Nonetheless he left a very considerable impression and I was interested to read Fred Bridgland's recollections in the previous edition of Contact.

I was able to find out more when Jonathan Daube, a former teacher at the school, now a professor at an American University, and members of Harry's family organised a centenary celebration in London in October. Some 160 former colleagues, friends and students attended an inspiring event which paid tribute to his life and work.

I was struck by the affection in which he was held by all those present and the extent of his influence upon them. It was amusing to imagine what he might have made of the event given he was often heard to make the request "please don't make a fuss".

Anecdotes underlining his extraordinary networking and motivational skills were heard throughout the day. Allied to these, an example of his natural ability as a communicator was provided. The room was hushed when the organisers played a moving recording of Harry describing a wartime experience working with the French Resistance. (I hope to obtain a copy and make it available later in the year.)

Harry was an enigma. Having written a book extolling the value of Grammar Schools he later became a proponent of comprehensive education and indeed wound down his career as a classroom teacher in a London Comprehensive. Wartime exploits followed his initial registration as a Conscientious Objector. No doubt the "poshly dishevelled" Mr Rée

would have charmed into submission anyone pointing out these inconsistencies.

Harry's role as Professor of Education at the University of York and proponent of Community Education followed his time at Watford. He was noted as an egalitarian focusing on equality of opportunity rather than outcome and for a legacy in the quality of teachers trained. Those who knew him then and subsequently agreed that he would say that business is concerned only with what you are whereas education looks at what you might be.

All in all a memorable day rounded off with an appreciation of his father by Jonathan Rée (pictured) in whom a striking family resemblance was evident.

Mike England.



Do you not have an Association Tie or Cufflinks?

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

Striped with crest (silk).....£16.50

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



For ties, contact Bobby Shome (Tel 02084 322822)

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



Old Fullerians' Golf Society

Triangular Competition against OMT & Haberdashers - 12th June 2014 Moor Park GC

This was our first invitation to this triangular match against the old enemies Haberdashers and OMT.....

Captain Nunn picked a strong team and managed to draft in two honorary OF's (Kevin Venn & Dean Edwards) who helped us out in the face of two last minute drop outs. The format was unusual in that each OF golfer played a match against his two opposites in separate matches but played as a three ball. However on our first outing to this fine event OFGS came out as overall winners....we won 11 matches out of a possible 16.

Match v Old Albanians - 30th May 2014 - West Herts Golf Club

OFGS played this year's first fixture against Old Albanians at West Herts GC. The weather was great and WHGC favoured the home team with a good win 3-0. It was Captain Nunn's first match and he sent out a strong team.

- Captain Peter Nunn & Paul Shearring beat Ian McKenzie & Mike Crowston
- John Tyerman & Dan (Bison) Tyerman beat Captain Tony Clarke & Rick Drakard
- John Spicer & Russ Deane beat John Cox & Peter Dredge

Match v Old Columbians' - Thursday 26th June 2014 - West Herts Golf Club.

This was our second match against Old Columbians' played on a beautiful evening at WHGC.

Using a weather metaphor the weather soon changed from sunshine to clouds when they threw everything at us including a team made up of single figure handicap golfers who were determined not to lose this year. Captain Nunn made another shrewd team selection but in the face of a strengthened OC team we lost on the night 3:1.

Despite the strength of OC it was noted that every match was decided on the 18th green.

- Captain Peter Nunn & Paul Shearring lost - 2&1
- John Tyerman & James Tyerman lost - 1 down
- Steve Toms & Dean Edwards lost - 2 down
- Ian Martin & Russ Deane won - 1 up

Match v The School in P.Ausden Cup 10th July 2014 West Herts Golf Club

This was our 6th fixture against WBGS for the Pete Ausden Cup and it was played at

West Herts GC on another beautiful Summer's evening. The school team, organised by Stu Williams, had a surprising lack of boys this year and the teachers had muscled in on the golf to secure a win this year.

* Captain Nunn & Paul Shearring - win 3:2 against Gilles Wallis & Peter Franklin

* Mark Highfield & Guy Mapley - win 6:5 Luke & James Dyson

* Ian Hanson & Chris Price - win 1 up against Ali Dawson & Dylan

* Ian Martin & Russ Deane - win 6:5 against Stu Williams & Ade Kershey

ps the boys need to re-emerge next year?? WHGC put on a lovely spread of sandwiches and Captain Nunn with a wry smile on his face thanked his former teaching colleagues for a fantastic match.

Autumn Meeting 10th September 2014 West Herts Golf Club

This year's OFA Autumn meeting was brought forward into September to guarantee good weather given our Spring Meeting adventure. The early date change paid off and we had a lovely day's golf. 27 golfers attended to play for the prestigious Lister Cup and Dave Price Team Competition as Captain Peter Nunn signed off his Captain's year. M.C. Chris Price entertained us with some more "Cooperesque" funnies after a lovely dinner, and Captain Nunn revelled in his OFGS wins across the Summer - except the narrow loss to Old Columbians at WHGC.

Dave Price was announced as next year's Captain and so the OFGC circus rolls on into 2015 celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

Results were:

Lister Cup:

Points Winner J Williams 38

Runner up P Shearring 38

P.Waters Nearest Pin: G Bolton

Longest Drive: A Wood (G)

15th hole nearest pin in 2: J Williams

Veterans Cup (65+):

Winner P Nunn 34

Runner up J Banks 33

Dave Price Trophy: Colquhoun, Toms, Wood, Shearring 88 points

Presidents Cup: Not played for with cancellation of Spring Meeting

Guest Winner: I Martin 39

Creating work for oneself - Toby Rinkoff ('03-10)

Founder and Filmmaker at MotionBlurr Studios

Setting up a business from scratch is not exactly an easy task, but neither it seems to me, is setting up a career. Both require a degree of self-promotion, and perhaps most importantly time to grow. "Creating work for oneself" is not a phrase normally associated with a positive connotation, but it is, looking back, something I seem to have always been drawn towards. And now, as the projects get bigger, and I hire other creatives in I have the privilege to create work for others.

Watford Grammar School for Boys

The exact chronology of my story is not quite as neat as this article might suggest but sometime before starting my G.C.S.Es at the school I turned my hobby for magic from lunchtime parlour tricks to prestidigitation for a fee at functions, performing at weddings and parties.

I remember my attention towards school work seemed to pale in comparison to this exciting world of earning money for your time. I would often seek out distractions which I felt helped develop more real world skills than learning how to solve quadratic equations - and that was when I heard about the Young Enterprise scheme.

A group of my friends and I set up a team. We weren't actually accepted at first, which is probably fair - our pitch was for a Power Saving energy device (when the sample arrived from China we cracked it open in the DT department and it turned out to be a rather expensive set of flashing lights).

I think it was the rejection that pushed us further - we spent a fair few lunchtimes planning to set up our own company outside the scheme, and I think this must have inspired someone somewhere as those running Young Enterprise heard about our activities and found a business mentor for us.



The Young Enterprise Scheme

Our business mentor suggested we visit a trade fair in London in the hope to be inspired and it was there we bumped into a contestant from the Apprentice - whose name escapes me. He was setting up a web design business. And it struck us we didn't need a physical product. A few of us could code, we could provide web design as a service, and we figured we wouldn't even need some gimmicky USP, we just need to be better [and cheaper] than everyone else.

And it seemed to work, from small CV style personal websites that we sold to students to websites for larger companies including an international charity, for which Dr. Watson of the Physics Department was a trustee.

We were crowned Best Company in the Watford area, and ended up winning Best Presentation and Best Website [thank goodness for that!] at the Hertfordshire finals. One of the judges was so impressed we got chatting afterwards and he offered us a SEO contract (Search Engine Optimisation) for his company. But the YE scheme had come to an end and the company had to be liquidated.

So here was this potential contract, which seemed to me the fruit of the last years work. But no one else was interested in doing further work. So I thought, you know what - I'll do it myself. And I did, and that client passed on my name to a few others and my web design contracts saw me through University.

However, as a result of the Young Enterprise scheme, I also met Paul Shearring, whom I'm sure many of you will know. On the board of trustees, and an Old Fullarian himself, he came down to the Hertfordshire finals and approached me afterwards. He offered to let me come down for a week to the outdoor media agency he ran to gain an insight into the industry.

I genuinely look back on this gesture as one of the defining moments in my decision to pursue a career in the media world. Having a strong knowledge of web design, social media marketing by that point, that week of work experience is imprinted in my memory, and it encouraged me to go and explore what else was out there.

In fact, it was one of Paul's colleague I met there, a copywriter, who gave me the invaluable advice to not to study media, but to study something like English or Law, and to keep my creative endeavours separate from academia.

University

So I went to Uni to read English, but getting my 2:1 was very much the side story, as it was here that I discovered an underlying passion for film making. I joined the student television station, which I later went on to manage with my soon-to-be business partner. It was a great sandbox, but we figured, if we were going to spend all this time not working on our degrees we should probably try to get some sort of remuneration. So we set up MotionBlurr studios in our final year of University and had the great fortune to work with Red Bull, Microsoft and EMI.

Pinewood Studios

We moved into our offices at Pinewood this summer, which was the natural home for our company. Our aim is to be like a traditional movie studio, modular in design - we put a bespoke team together for each project, drawing from a collective of artists: cinematographers, animators, make-up artists, and composers.

As one can imagine networking is key to what we do, we actively go out to find people with really specific specialisms, but who are the best at what they do. Being on the lot at Pinewood gives us access to everything a production will need.

Just the other day some post was delivered whilst we were out to a neighbouring company, but all I had was a name. So I searched LinkedIn for someone by that name at Pinewood, and low and behold the guy came up on the search and I had the name of the company he ran. Aside from the wonders of LinkedIn for tracking lost mail, I noticed something else. This guy, in an office on the floor below me, whom I may have never spoken to, went to Watford Boys. It was there in black and white staring at me on his LinkedIn profile, his last year at the school was my first year.

Needless to say we had a good chat about Mr. Post, Mr. Evans and some of the other teachers we had in common, and even found a way we could help each other out. And I think this point is very much the crux of why I chose to write this article.

The Old Fullerians isn't something that just exists for annual dinners, sport matches, or even careers events, it's there right now, as you read this article.

As much as Pinewood is a creative hub for the film industry, the Old Fullerians is a hub for every discipline, and whether one is growing a company, or shaping their career, why make more work for yourself than you need to. The connections are out there, waiting to be made.

<http://www.motionblurr.co.uk/>

Old Fulleriars' Cricket Club

Old Fulleriars' Cricket Club - 2014 Season
This season, Old Fulleriars' CC played 13 games (including two tour matches in Bath), their home games being played up at the school while the New Field site was being redeveloped. Results didn't go our way as much as we'd have liked, with five wins and eight defeats in total.

Highlights of the season included a dashing win at Fulmer, where we managed to post 225 for the loss of only 2 wickets from our 40 overs (not least thanks to an unbeaten 114 from James Dyson), before restricting the home team to 213. An easier win was secured later in the season against Ivinghoe and Pitstone, where 125 from Simon Walker helped us to 273, and an eventual victory margin of 179.

Chris Pond, meanwhile, led the bowling attack, picking up 17 wickets at 21.6 and comfortably outshining all the other bowlers this season. As has frequently been the case in recent times, (lack of) availability again proved to be something of an issue this season, and we'd urge any Old Fulleriars (and their friends) who fancy making the most of a few sunny Sunday afternoons next summer to join our Facebook page (Old Fulleriars' Cricket Club) or follow us on Twitter (@FullerCricket), where posts will alert anyone who'd like to turn out, about details of forthcoming games in the 2015 season.

Matt Wheeler,
Secretary OFCC.

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

Old Fulleriars' Football Club



Ryan Woosley Steve Pich Ben Williams Phil Seidler Mick Woosley Jon Shafe Dan Woosley Phil Samuels
Perry Knight Craig Totton Joe Rylett Martin Donnelly Jimmy Phang

Having won promotion from Division 2 of the Watford Sunday League Old Fulleriars A.F.C. are facing up to life in Division 1 for only the 2nd time in their 33 year history. Under the continued leadership of player-manager Jimmy Phang the step up in standard has been noticeable. However the team have competed well in all games so far and have picked up 4 points from the last 2 home

games to get the season kick-started. We train at Parmiters School at 9pm on Thursdays and if anyone is interested in coming along the contact details along with lots of other information about the club are on the website

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/oldfullerians>

Chris Coleman

Fullerians Rugby Football Club

We are pleased to feature the club in this edition of Contact.

The word Fullerian is synonymous with Watford Grammar School. Many of the School's pupils spend part of their formative years learning the rudimentary elements of Rugby Football and many of them have progressed to playing senior rugby for the club.

The club, which evolved from the previous Old Fullerians' Rugby Club by becoming open to non Old Fullerians, is based in Coningsby Drive and at the present time fields five XV's and a "Vets" side, is a major player in the development of Junior rugby and is one of the major clubs in Hertfordshire.

If you or any of your family or friends would like further details of the playing or social activities of the club, these may be obtained by contacting: chairman@fullerians.co.uk

Autumn Quiz Evening

At the White House Hotel, Watford on Friday October 17th.

Eight teams competed, and after a three way tie, the team from the University of the Third Age won a sudden death play off and were rewarded with the now customary prizes of wine.

A highly enjoyable evening concluded with a raffle and I am pleased to report that a sum of £180 has been donated to the Peace Hospice.

John Cook

From the Registrar

Just a reminder that our subscription is £15 p.a. and our bank is:

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

If you have paid your initial subscription via PayPal but have not set up a standing order, I should be grateful if you would set one up using the information above.

Peter Holden