Old Fullerian CONTACT

www.oldfullerians.org.uk

Edition 4 Autumn 2011
Editor John Cook
Layout & design Peter Holden

A message from our Chairman

A very busy summer sees us drifting into autumn with one big event on our minds!! The Annual Dinner on 14th January 2012. A sell out last year so please get your ticket applications in early. I have asked Old Fullerian Steve Easterbrook to be guest speaker at the Dinner. Steve has had a remarkable early career rising to no.3 in the world wide McDonalds Restaurant empire by the time he was 42. He has recently been head hunted to Pizza Express and is now their new CEO – a terrific achievement. Steve is looking forward to returning to his old school and meeting many of his old friends.

We are also gearing up for our first Chairman's Awards evening to be held on the 9th December this year. The purpose of the evening is to recognise the hours and hours of unpaid commitment and time that is '*put in*' by an army of OFs. The OFA is going from strength to strength currently with a growing and vibrant membership. This *behind the scenes* hard work should be recognised and the awards evening will go some way towards doing this. It will be invitation only and these will be going out at the end of October.

I have also spent time with all three sports associations this summer and enjoyed the company of the football, cricket and golf members. The clubs are always looking for new players so please get involved!!

As I write, John Cook, Peter Holden and I are currently working on this 4th edition of '**Contact**' – our twice yearly members' newsletter packed full of stories from the past, present and future of the OFA. If you have any stories of a newsworthy nature John would like to hear from you. You should be getting this edition by the end of October with the Dinner application form.

Finally let me sign off by encouraging all members to participate in our Careers and Market Place portals on the website. The sites have now been launched and we need you to provide us the details of your company or employer so that we can publicise it on the website. For the Market Place we want to establish a members '*yellow pages*' whereby you can advertise your company/services to a membership approaching 1000 OFs. Getting new sales is never easy so why not give our website a chance to assist you - this service is completely free to all members – please send in your details to our Registrar and he will take care of the necessary.

The Careers website is there to offer OFs a network of contacts when looking for a job, changing career or simply in need of some career mentoring. The old adage about ***it's not what you know but whom you know*** could not be more important in the current economic climate. Once again let our Registrar have your details if you would like to give something back to our membership – you never know when you might need a career assist!

Please stay in touch and tell others about all that is going on in the OFA and encourage them to join as members…..

Russell Deane

From the Editor

It has been a busy and enjoyable summer for the Association and the the next few months will see the further development of our activities not only social but some of which we hope will be of benefit to our members. I much appreciate the various anecdotes that I receive and look forward to including further stories from you in the next edition of Contact in spring 2012

John Cook

From the Registrar

With this copy of "Contact", you should receive a new standing order mandate form as we have changed bank again. Please either fill this in and send it to your bank or use it to change your standing order. Please do not send it to me as I have enough to do already. If you are still paying £10, as the sub was raised to £15 in 2009, you may like to consider sending me a cheque for the arrears, (I can cope with that), or better still, make an extra payment by on line banking.

Best wishes to all

Peter Holden

Forthcoming Events - Please check the website for details

Friday 28th October
Wine tasting evening at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall, Rickmansworth

Friday 9th December
Chairman's Awards Dinner at the deVere Hunton Park Hotel (by invitation)

Saturday 14th January
The Association Annual Dinner at the School

Monday 27th February 2012
The association Annual General Meeting in the Fuller Memorial Library

Autumn Quiz Evening

Ten teams competed at the White House Hotel on Friday 14th October and enjoyed an evening of easy and not so easy questions accompanied by an excellent buffet supper.

The winning team was headed by Mrs Coleman. Her team was competing for the first time!

My thanks to Joel Godwin for his invaluable assistance prior to and on the night

Why not bring a team of six next spring? Details will be announced.

John Cook

THE OFA WEBSITE

The website has been up now for over two years and we are starting to implement the new facilities. The first which is now running, is a "market place" where members may advertise their services. The second is similar in that they may offer voluntary advice as a mentor or offer career opportunities; we have one such opportunity on offer. We would of course need volunteers to offer a mentoring service and make it work. The third will be a series of forums where those at university may relate their experiences to assist those that follow them to make the right decisions. 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 forum.

Peter Holden

We regret to announce the following deaths:

E.V. Atkins (28-350
G. B. Ibbott (37-45)
P. Spivey (37-45)
P. G. Taylor (36-44)

Vice Presidents' Luncheon

Nine Vice Pesidents of the Association were joined by our Chairman, Russell Deane for a convivial luncheon at the White House Hotel, Watford on Saturday 8th October. It was good to reminisce and also to hear of plans for future growth of the Association.

Attendees were:

Ron Armstrong
Grant Ausden
John Cook
Russell Deane
Peter Holden
Dick Hughes
Geoff Osborne
Tony Southern
Peter Walker
Peter Warby

John Cook

School Events

100 Years at Rickmansworth Road 1912 - 2012

Wednesday 2nd November
Reunion tea and buffet at the School

Saturday 10th March 2012
Centenary Gala Dinner - venue TBA

Saturday 14th July 2012
Centenary Family Fun Day
Cricket Match
Picnic Concert
Fireworks Display

For more information :
Effie Stevenson - 07789 653288 or
Effie.stevenson@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk or
www.watfordboys.org.uk

Thames River Trip 22nd July

This was a most enjoyable evening supported by forty five members and friends, most of whom travelled to Windsor in the pre-booked coach.

Despite a horrendous holdup on the outward journey due to heavy traffic, we were able to take advantage of the time allocated.

We sailed upstream towards Marlow and enjoyed the facilities of a cold buffet and licensed bar as Geoff Osborne will endorse. Also enjoying the trip are (left to right) Nora and Robin Nicholls, Shirley and Brian Pettifer and Christine Osborne.

It is to be repeated next year.

John Cook.

Alan Selwood (Chairman OFA 1975)

After both quitting the rat race of the IT industry in 1996, Alan and Julia ran The Forest Inn, a 10-bedroomed hotel, in the middle of Dartmoor for over six years and then spent a year living in Slapton, south Devon, prior to moving to Goa. There they set up a restaurant business and were voted in the top ten restaurants in Goa in their first year. Alan helps the local cricket teams where his experience with Old Fullerians' Cricket Club in former years comes in handy.

Julia reads and writes Hindi but is struggling with the speaking part as everyone talks so quickly! They take a full part in the local community, supporting the many events, however Alan has declined to participate in the annual 'well-jumping'! In addition to being an OF, Alan played rugby for Fullerians Rugby Football Club as hooker for the 1st XV in the '60s, '70s and '80s.

Geoff Osborne

New Members for 2011

We welcome the following new members:

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

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.

Reminiscences

I was at Watford Boys Grammar School; from 1941 to 1947 After leaving school I joined Barclays Bank and worked in the Watford High St branch for two years before being called up for National Service I worked alongside Tony Sturman another Watford Grammar pupil, he had just finished his National Service as I was starting. After two years in the army I returned to Barclays but my experience in HM. Forces persuaded me that there was a bigger world outside

I applied to the Chartered Bank [now Standard Chartered] and after completing my exams I was posted to Calcutta in 1953. Here I entered into quite different life. I joined the Calcutta Football Club, which many years before had given "The Calcutta Cup" which is presented annually to the winner of the England /Scotland Rugby International. It was in Calcutta I bumped into my first Old Fullerian, Alfred "Fred " Davies who was working for John Dickinsons, the paper manufacturers. I met him at the swimming, club, where I also met Martin Pudden who was with British India Steam Navigation Co. A little later I also met John Wood ford who I believe also was connected with Shipping Whilst in Calcutta. I went to John's wedding. I was then posted to Cochin [in Kerala] which was a spice and tea port]. A visit several year later I was amazed to see how it had grown into a huge holiday resort I then moved to Bombay [now Mumbai] where I carried on playing rugby for the Bombay Gymkhana.

In Bombay I met the lady who later became my wife. After one year in Bombay, I was transferred back to Calcutta when a colleague who was ill was sent to Bombay.

In Calcutta I returned to playing rugby for the Calcutta Football Club before returning to England at the end of 1957

Alf Davies by then had moved to Australia and neither Martin Pudden, or John Woodford were around

I left Chartered Bank and joined Citibank New York and worked in London, New York and travelled the world before retiring in 1989 as a Vice President of the bank. Whilst working at Citibank I met up with John Facer [who had been at school with me at Chater School and Watford Grammar] and the late Tony Samms.

A group of us, who have maintained contact since those days, are planning to have a joint 80th birthday lunch this year. Hopefully it will include John Facer, Clive Weston, Vic Crump, Geoff Dee and myself.

I learned to read and write Hindustani whilst in India. I can still manage a bit.

If anyone wants to contact me my address is:

The Coach House, Burfield Road, Chorleywood, WD3 5NS

Tel 01923 282180 mob 07977267478 E-Mail geoffreyliley@hotmail.com

Geoffrey Liley

Your General Committee

Officers are:
Chairman Russell Deane
Vice Chairman
Bobby Shome
Deputy Chairman
Ron Armstrong
Secretary Peter Waters
Treasurer Michael Groves
Registrar Peter Holden
Social Convener
John Cook

The Annual Dinner

"Contact" will be accompanied by application forms for the 2012 annual dinner in the School hall. This year's dinner was a sell out so when you do receive the form, please return it as soon as possible to maximise your chance of getting a place.

John Cook

School Matters

Paul Shearring (67-72) is now Chairman of Governors of Watford Grammar School for Boys

When I left WGSB in 1972, the last thing on my mind was how I could or should help the School in future years. Although not a reluctant scholar, some teachers may disagree, when I sat my final exam in June 1972, I departed with my school friends never expecting to return to the School.

Nearly 40 years later, how things have changed for me! Following many years as an active member of the Old Fullerians I became Chairman of the WGSB Governing Body in 2008. I strongly believe that the future of the School matters and I want to encourage other Old Boys to be part of that future success, as I know that many of you are somewhat sceptical about the School's demands for your loyalty and support.

The appearance of the School is not how it used to be, although the main building is similar to when we moved in 100 years ago! Our investment programme over the last three years has significantly improved a large of part of our student facilities. We now have the award winning Clarendon Muse, a state of the art Sports Hall & Fitness Suite, a refurbished English Block and SEN Department, a modem cafe style canteen area and a new 6th Form Centre catering for over 300 students. We are about to start some long overdue work on the James Theatre and we have plans to build a new Clubhouse at the New Field in the next few years and develop a new Science block.

My education at Watford Grammar has played a very important part in my career development. I now understand the benefits of good professional teaching of all academic subjects and the extra curricular activities that are available. I did enjoy participating in some of the School's clubs and especially representing the School in all the sports teams. I am sure that like me, many of Old Boys when looking back at our time at Watford Boys realise that we could have made more of the opportunities at School. However, I did not know then what I know now and I recognise that everything in School matters for a lifetime.

As Chairman of the Governing Body, I now understand how we receive our income and what it is spent on. I would have assumed, along with many other Old Boys, that WGSB, a successful School for so many years, could manage on its own financially and for that reason alone was not a particularly deserving cause. I now realise the full cost of providing the School's State plus teaching and extra curricular activities. We provide additional student support and resources across all areas ensuring each student achieves their aspirational targets, not just their predicted grades.

We need an extra £450,000 a year to continue to deliver our all round success. Voluntary Parental Contributions account for 50, for which we are most grateful, and the balance has to be found from other sources. I know that if excellence is to continue at Watford Grammar School for Boys then philanthropy is essential and Alumni support for WGSB in particular.

The School needs diverse income streams and cannot exercise full independence if we are financially dependent on one paymaster. Developing ongoing philanthropic support for our School is therefore an essential part of the overall mix so that our new independence as an Academy is to be maintained. To this end I hope many Old Fullerians will help to support the School's Centenary Appeal which will be launched next year. Details of the Appeal will be available on the School website from January 2012 and in our next issue of Contact.

Paul Shearring

Old Fullerians' Cricket Club

Last month saw the completion of our 66th season of social cricket and two things of note are worth recording.

A welcome influx of cricketers from the School added to our numbers and to our playing strength, and this was reflected in our overall performance.

It used to be said that the New Field wickets played "slow and low". No more - sterling work by Mark Field resulted in a transformation. The strip prepared for the match against the Chairman's XI was in modern parlance, "a belter" and made for some entertaining batting and bowling - this on the hottest day of the summer!

There were several outstanding individual performances during the season and pride of place must go to Joe Warren who scored 107 N.O. Against Mudeford C. C. - the only match we lost on tour. Othe innings of note were Scott Walker's 94 against Essendon C. C. And Bobby Shome's 93 against Fulmer C. C.

David Lewy led from the front in the bowling honours and recorded three "fivers":

5 - 27 against the Chairman's XI
5 - 29 against Old Minchendenians C. C.
5 - 32 against Fulmer C. C.

We were blessed with fine weather during our trip to Dorset when two of these matches were played resulting on O. F. Victories.

Another notable performance was our win over the Royal Household at Windsor.

Our full playing record for the season was as follows:

Played 19, won 8, drawn 5, lost 6.

We anticipate a full programme in 2012 and look forward to renewing old rivalries and once again touring.

We are always looking to improve our playing strength and invite any O.F. Cricketers seeking a club to contact us.

John Cook
Chairman O.F.C.C.

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

Mayors of Watford
from **Watford Grammar School for Boys**

In 1922, the Earl of Clarendon became the first mayor of Watford after "The Borough Charter" which gave the town the right to elect a mayor, was granted by King George V.

Since that time, many Old Fullerians have played their part in the affairs of the borough and the following have been honoured with the mayoralty.

Alec Merrifield (39-42) - Mayor in 1968/69

Edward Amey (22-25) - Mayor in 1979/80 and 1981/83 for two consecutive years

Norman Tyrwitt (42-48) - Mayor in 1979/80 and 1995/96

Ian Brown (51-58) - Mayor in 2000/01

In 2002, Watford decided to have a directly elected mayor

Robert Gordon (63-70) was Chairman of the Council in 2004;05

Edward Amey and Norman Tyrwitt both became Freemen of the Borough.

Note: Ian Brown is active in the affairs of the Old Fullerians' Association, having been Chairman in 2006 and being a current member of the General Committee.

Do you have an Association Tie?

If not but would like one, why not contact Guy Mapley (Tel 01442 843961) or order via our website shop. Ties are available as follows:
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.

Golf Society

The season ended on Wednesday 5th October with the customary dinner at West Herts Golf Club. This had been preceded by the Autumn Meeting at which various cups were competed for and the winners were as follows:

Presidents Cup for highest aggregate over two meetings - Peter Nunn

Lister Cup - Frank Collyer

Veterans Cup - Laurie Cox

Guest Prize - Ian Martin

Longest Drive - Frank Collyer

Nearest the pin - Lyndon Chapman

After the awards had been made, a presentation of a framed portrait drawing of himself was made to Dick Hughes in recognition of his founding of the society and his tenure as President for nineteen years.

Dick announced his retirement from the presidency and was delighted to pass this to his friend and long standing member David Price.

Matches had been held during the summer against:

O.M.T. Golf Society - drawn

The School - won

Old Albanians - abandoned due to weather conditions

Inter Schools Festival at Highgate G. C. - won (eleven teams competed)

Our winning team at Highgate

New President of the Golf Society

David Price (44-49)

A chance meeting with the Ausden twins, Peter and John, in Watford High Street in the early seventies, sold me on the idea of joining the Golf Society.

I have had many years of enjoyment and have made many friends. In the latter years, I have helped to organise and maintain our golf meetings. I have also been the representative for our society on the Association General Committee for the whole of this time.

Dick Hughes now wishes to retire as President. I feel it is a great honour and privilege that I have been chosen to succeed such an eminent O.F.

I know the society will in the future, be in the capable hands of our younger members, although I shall still maintain a keen interest in our future success and progress.

Dave Price

Old Fullerians Association Football Club

The sun shone at the New Field on a memorable Friday afternoon for the inaugural Steve Bird trophy and the celebration of the club's 30th anniversary. The stage had been memorably set by the preceding legends game that saw a keenly contested match played in a great spirit, and that the crowd seemed to enjoy on a number of levels. Then the current Old Fullerians side took to the pitch against a scratch team pulled together on behalf of the school. The Watford Grammar boys scored an early psychological victory by getting changed into the Fullerians' normal kit of black/green before anyone had a chance to protest. This tactic obviously confused the football club as they spent most of the first half seemingly unable to pass to anyone in their change strip of bright yellow. Their youthful opposition were dominant, moving the ball around crisply and looking dangerous with every attack. It was no surprise that they went two nil up in the opening quarter of an hour. Only some good goalkeeping from Dan Grahame and excellent defending from Dean Asling kept Fullerians from greater embarrassment. However against the run of play they somehow found two goals before the interval to haul themselves level. Veteran strike pairing Ben Williams and Joe Rylett both notched in quick succession, the latter from the penalty spot.

Gaffer Jimmy Phang made a few changes at half time and encouraged his side to concentrate on the basics and to maybe show a little less respect to their youthful adversaries. This worked well as a few strong challenges seemed to rock the schoolboys, and gave the Fullerians the confidence to keep the ball a lot better. Given that it was a surprise when the school retook the lead with a fine finish after a quick breakaway. However the football club showed their character to fight back again and Craig Totton made no mistake when put clean through. The second half was a lot more even and a draw was probably a fair result in the end. But with a trophy to play for a penalty shoot-out was needed to split the sides. In a surprise move it was decided that every member of both sides had to take a penalty and after eleven penalties each there was still no separating the teams. But when Fullerians top scorer and regular penalty taker Joe Rylett missed from the spot victory and the Steve Bird trophy belonged to the Watford Grammar boys

Recent results

September 18, 2011 – Watford Sunday League, Division 2
Old Fullerians 6-3 Sun Postal Sports

September 25, 2011 - Watford Sunday League, Division 2
Old Fullerians 2-2 Langleybury CC

October 2, 2011 – Watford Sunday League, Turner Trophies Challenge Cup, Round 1
Victoria 1-3 Fullerians

October 9, 2011 – Watford Sunday League, League Intermediate Cup, Round 1
Old Fullerians 1-5 Chorleywood Club

Printed by Ray Clarke Design and Print - www.rcd.uk.com - sales@rcd.uk.com