



A message from our Chairman



Dear Old Fullarian,
Welcome to another edition of Contact. It is a sad time for us on the OFA general committee as we have lost our dear friend Ronald Armstrong. There is an obituary later in this edition but I wanted to share a

personal view of how Ron touched my life.

I knew Ron for a number of years before I came on to the committee, a larger than life character with a deep clear and unmistakable voice. He always came to watch the Old Fullerians' cricket club play home games and in particular the annual match against the OFA Chairman's XI. We would often chat during the games and other events and it struck me that his passion for the OFA, what it stands for and what he wanted to achieve was so evident. As I found out more about the OFA from Ron and also John Cook, I felt more compelled to join and help Ron and the rest of the committee achieve their goals. Ron was very focused on getting new members with high energy levels, ideas and the desire to make sure that the OFA continued on its heritage. He also realised the importance of the new media age as a way to keep on attracting new members. He will be sorely missed by us all.

On a positive note and thanks to the effort of Russell Deane, the OFA launched its first careers day at the School. Many thanks go to the boys who really grasped the positive benefits that an event like this can bring as they embark upon finding their first jobs. Also a personal thank you from me to all the OFs who gave up their time to act as mentors to the boys. It is pleasing to see experienced OFs giving up their working time to give back to the school of which they are so proud to have attended.

As I move towards the end of my current tenure I believe that we have made very good progress against our 4S (Social, Sales, Succession, School) plan. Numbers of new

members are significantly up. We have a lot of leavers joining as part of our 4 years free membership offering, and thanks to the increased visibility of the OFA, we have more paid members joining year on year.

The vision I set out when I started out was for the OFA to be "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."

I believe we have taken good steps to get there. We still have work to do but the signs and the progress is positive.

Mike England will be taking the helm from next year in March and he too is behind the vision and the 4S plan and I wish him all the best when he becomes chairman.

The OFA annual dinner will take place on Saturday 25th January at the School and I am looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. This year's guest speaker will be Fred Bridgland who attended the school between 1953 and 1959 and is a veteran foreign correspondent and the winner of a number of journalism awards. He has reported on wars in India, Pakistan, the Middle East and Africa for various news organisations and has made television documentaries on events in South Africa and Angola that have been screened throughout Europe, America and Japan. In 1975 his discovery of South Africa's secret US-engineered invasion of Angola uncovered the CIA's involvement in one of Africa's longest wars, and was a world scoop.

Finally a word of thanks to all those involved in the OFA committee as I am constantly impressed by the energy and effort they all put in all year round. I would also like to thank you the members, for the support and encouragement you have given me over the last few years.

Yours faithfully,

Bobby

Chairman

Contact: shomeb@hotmail.com

Obituary

Ronald Grant Armstrong - L.L.B. O.B.E. 1939 - 2013

On the 20th September while on holiday in Holland.

Ron's affection for the School and the Association was no passing thing.

Despite his many and varied social and business activities, he always found time to maintain his links with both in a practical manner.

He was for a number of years, a governor and trustee of the School, a position he cherished and served diligently.

As a member of the Association, his contribution was marked by his service and dedication.

After serving on the General Committee for a number of years, he became Chairman in 2004 - the year of the School's tercentenary - and again in 2009.



During these years he was totally supportive of all aspects of Fullarian life - be they social or of a more serious nature.

In these he enjoyed the full support of his wife Janice. Together they always attended our various fun events - river trips, quiz evenings, supper parties etc. In recognition of his contribution to the Association, he was later elected a vice-president. A gentleman and a gentle

man he will be missed.

We extend our sympathy to Janice and his sons Duncan and James.

Ed

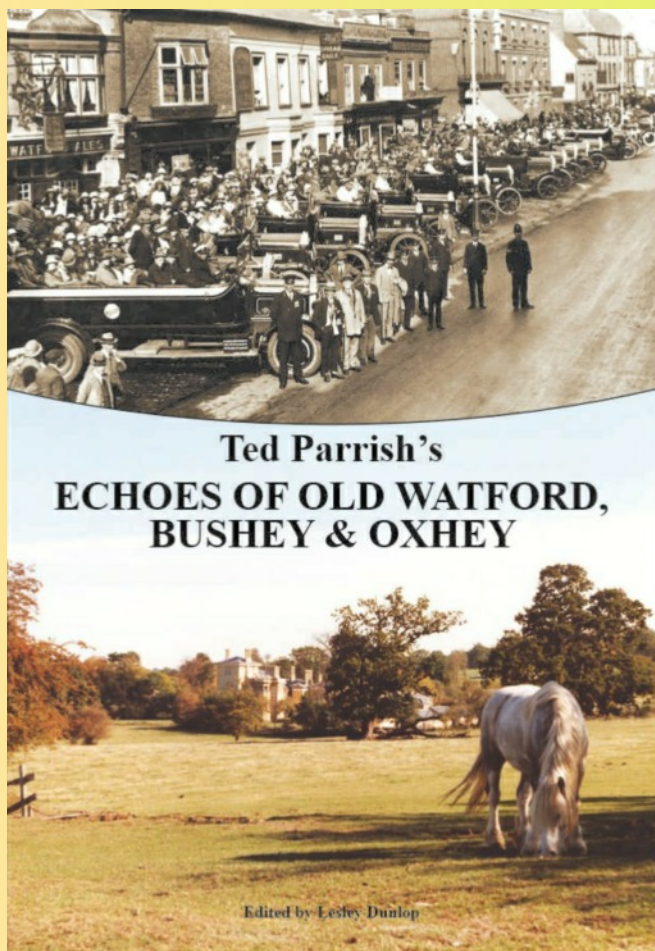
We also regret to announce the following deaths:

D J A Foster (44-54)
A Sturman (35-41)
P V Townsend (47-53)
E V H Williams (41-48)

New Members for 2013 so far.

We welcome the following new members:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| D Benton (82-90) | P E Johnson (44-56) |
| J G Coaley (97-04) | L E Kimberly (03-10) |
| W Gaage (06-13) | J J Maher (06-11) |
| N A Harrison (98-05) | R D E Mansell (97-04) |
| M H Hashemian (84-92) | B Shapiro (03-11) |
| T Hillel (03-10) | C R Till (06-13) |



Nearly 60 people attended the launch of Ted Parrish's ***Echoes of Old Watford, Bushey & Oxhey***, including Mayor Dorothy Thornhill, three former Mayors of Watford and members of organisations with which he was involved, including the RAFA, the Oxhey Village Environment Group, the Kings Jazz Club and Watford Cine Society.

In the early 1980s, the former Old Fullarian wrote a fascinating series of 96 local history articles entitled ***Ted Parrish Remembers*** for the ***Evening Post-Echo***. The nostalgic articles covered many aspects of life in the area in past decades, including entertainment, transportation, education, VIP and Royal visits, housing, policing, politics and the coming of war.

Ted's daughter, Lesley Dunlop, has edited and published the complete series of articles, adding well over 200 illustrations, including maps, readers' letters and footnotes.

Echoes of Old Watford, Bushey & Oxhey is now on sale online at

www.pastdayspublishing.com as well as at Watford Museum, Bushey Museum and via the Oxhey Village Environment Group (OVEG). It is priced at **£12.99**, plus p&p if posted.

Forthcoming Events - Please check the website for details

The Annual Dinner

This will be held in the School hall on Saturday 25th January 2014.

An application form accompanies this edition of Contact. Members are urged to make early application as this facilitates the arrangements for the evening.

Note - The dinner will be held a little later in January than in previous years - This will enable you to more readily recover from your Christmas festivities.

Ed

Autumn Quiz Evening - Friday 18th October

The competing teams enjoyed a fun filled evening and the winners were a team from the Old Fullarians' Football Club headed by its chairman Chris Coleman. The next quiz evening will be in the spring of 2014, date to be advised.

The Vice Presidents' Luncheon

On the 28th September at the Rose and Crown, Chorleywood.

Six vice presidents were pleased to welcome the Association Chairman, Bobby Shome to the most convivial occasion.

Pharmacist to Farmer -

Through the eras of Percy Bolton and Harry Reé, I enjoyed all aspects of school life. House competition, first North then transferred to Travellers, Involved in school rugby and cricket, it was natural to join the Old Fullers' sports clubs. Eventually opening the batting, out first ball then fielding on the boundary for the rest of the day indicated that a change of pastime was necessary. So with Alan Newman, I took up sailing in the Solent where I lived and worked.

Pharmacy was to be my career. As the local pharmacist, I could walk to work. Long distance commuting was over.

In the early nineties, my wife and I converted 2½ acres of old strawberry fields into a vineyard. - From Pharmacist to Farmer!

Over the next 20 years, vines were planted, a winery built and wine produced. Red, white and Rosé, still and sparkling wine. We have on two occasions been judged as producing the best red wine in the country and presented with the trophy at the House of Lords. WGS science lab can take some credit! I can thank WGS and an Openshaw school trip to Switzerland for my love of the mountains and skiing (though now much more under control)

Long may it continue!



THE TITCHFIELD VINEYARD IS IDEALLY PLACED WITHIN A SHELTERED LOCATION CLOSE TO THE WARM SOLENT WATERS IN THE HEART OF THE ELIZABETHAN VILLAGE OF TITCHFIELD.

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Old Fullers' Football Club

Old Fullers' A. F. C. finished last season in 3rd position in Division 2 of the Watford Sunday League, narrowly missing out on promotion which Secretary Phil Samuels thought was a fair reflection of the team's abilities.

For this season, Jimmy Phang has stepped down from the role of manager to concentrate on his playing career and has been replaced as gaffer by his old sidekick Joe Rylett.

A good mix of youth and experience in the squad has led to one of the best starts to a season the club has ever had with five wins and one draw from the first six games. Still playing good passing "Champagne" football, the defence has impressed with less than a goal a game conceded. The expectation is that the club will be in the mix for promotion come the end of the season.

Chris Coleman
Chairman

Old Fullers' Cricket Club

A decidedly better summer, weatherwise than 2013!

Our playing results were as follows:-

Played 19

Won 10

Drawn 3

Lost 5

Abandoned 1

Liam David recorded the highest score of the season - 110 N.O. and Ben Cole was the leading wicket taker with 29 victims.

We enjoyed a two match tour to Norfolk, our first visit to this part of the U.K.

An interesting season, albeit with a reduced number of fixtures.

We still need more playing members and invite old boys who are looking for the opportunity to play friendly cricket in pleasing surroundings to contact us.

John Cook
Chairman O.F.C.C.

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

by MIKE WALTERS, Daily Mirror sports writer (1974-81)

HAPPY Birthday to me, 49 today. Although it's definitely 27 June 2012, I am jet lagged and hardly know what day of the week it is.

In the Melbourne suburb of South Yarra, a 10-minute rattle away from the central business district by tram, I am having lunch with Olympic middle distance legend Steve Ovett.

Although he famously, er, kept his distance from Her Majesty's Press in his heyday on the track, and I have never met him before, Ovett is good-natured and charming with the red-top tabloid reporter who has been sent halfway round the world to sign him up as the Daily Mirror's star columnist for London 2012.

Ovett's rivalry with Lord Sebastian Coe, the chairman of London's Olympic organising committee, made some of the most compelling television of my teenage years. Since then, he has settled in Australia - which is how, four weeks before the curtain goes up on the biggest sporting party Britain has ever thrown, I find myself sat opposite one of our greatest athletes.

Not only do I get on famously with Ovett, but it is a huge source of smugness when I later discover that BBC Radio 5 Live's Colin Murray managed to track down 113 out of 114 living British Olympic gold medallists for his programme Gold Run. Guess who was the only one who eluded him.

In between hours of transcribing interviews and writing them up in my hotel room, I seek inspiration - also known in the print media as intro fuel - in the Elephant and Wheelbarrow pub just across the street.

On the TV in the corner, the Aussies are getting stuffed 4-0 by England in the one-day series, a heavy defeat barely recorded by cheerleaders in the shamelessly jingoistic Oz Press, while at Wimbledon, there are no Australian survivors of the first round singles

draw. Stewth, coppers - if this is the land of the great outdoors, perhaps you'd better stay at home more often.

In some ways, I look back on that five-day trip to Melbourne with as much affection as the London 2012 Games themselves. Ovett turned out to be a perceptive columnist whose predictions were invariably spot-on.

But 2012 was undeniably a sporting year to remember. I had been lucky enough to witness nine of Britain's 19 gold medals in Beijing in 2008; this time, I was there (but did not necessarily write about) 13 of the home nation's stockpile of 29 gold medals, from Bradley Wiggins taking to his throne at Hampton Court after winning the cycling time trial, to Super Saturday, the unprecedented 45 minutes in which Jessica Ennis, Greg Rutherford and Mo Farah delivered a hat-trick of British triumphs in the Olympic stadium.

Former Australian Test captain Steve Waugh, who has encountered the racket which greets Sachin Tendulkar walking to the crease at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, reckons the waves of noise which swept Farah to his 10,000 metres gold medal was the most intense din he had ever encountered in any sporting arena.

Yep, London 2012 was special - although the Games ended on a sad note with the death of my old chum Sid Waddell, the darts commentator whose soundtrack gave pot-bellied men lobbing spears its mysterious appeal.

Where is the Old Fullerian connection in these assorted ramblings, save the author's distant education? Truth be told, there is none - except a careers seminar at the School in September revealed a new generation of motivated undergraduates with aspirations of a career in the media.

They were an impressive bunch. Watch this space...

The Careers Event - Sept 11th 2013

This initial event follows the long since defunct event organised by Sir Frederick Peddler and is in the spirit of the long held practise of assisting boy's careers as established in many top flight schools. The event was held in 6th form common room and on the day we had 24 mentors representing the 10 business sectors as detailed below. 48 boys attended.

Martin kicked off and Russell Deane spoke as outlined below.



Mentors hosted group sessions on their sector and the boys were given an opportunity to visit two rounds. This was followed up with 1:1 sessions based on mentor feedback once the boys had presented themselves in an interview type scenario. Feedback has been excellent from both boys and mentors. Thanks must go to Effie, Martin, the mentors and the boys.

Russell Deane 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 grads 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:

- *Sport and Music – two great career opportunities if you would like to make money out of your passion!*
- *Computing – this sector has exploded and we cannot live without them.....*
- *Public Sector – a great training ground for graduates offering long term career opportunities*
- *Construction and Engineering – one of the UK's largest sectors for employment and on a roll as house building remains a priority*
- *Finance and Banking – a troubled sector of late where reputations have been won and lost however good and varied career choice*
- *Consultancy – the darling of the sectors – great learning for grads joining this sector*

- *General Management – leadership and entrepreneurship marks out this sector and there is lots to learn*
- *Journalism – a specialist sector offering great career development and overseas travel*
- *Marketing and Media – another huge employer of personnel in the UK and always at the sharp end of promoting organizations.*
- *Legal Profession – once again specialist with many and varied career paths.*

He explained that following the Career Sector Groups boys would be a designated a Mentor who would spend up to 15 minutes listening to how they



present themselves through their CVs and share feedback on their career thoughts. Boys were encouraged to:

- *Introduce themselves to as many of the mentors as is possible during the afternoon and evening.....practise 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 – when you are enjoying yourself you LEARN more effectively!*

From the Registrar

Despite our publicising the change of bank in previous editions of Contact, we still have members who have not reinstated their standing orders. If you have not already done so, please contact your bank to renew your standing order. 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

We also have eight members who reinstated their payments in 2012 but have not paid in 2013. Are you one of these?

We did this year strike off 119 members who had not updated their payments to £15 and had not paid since 2011. We intend to strike off the remaining 30 who have not paid since 2011.

We have 30 members who paid their initial subscriptions via PayPal but have not set up standing orders. They will be contacted by email but we would appreciate their setting up payments using the information above.

Peter Holden

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.

The use of the *Shop* is disappointing. We have had no more than two purchases of ties and none of cufflinks.

One very pleasing and continuing aspect of the website is that all of our recent new members (12 in 2013 so far) have joined and paid their first year's subscription via the site.

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

Old Fullers, Golf Society

Autumn Meeting 16th October 2013

This year's OFA Autumn meeting was dramatically switched from West Herts GC to Harpenden GC because WHGC intended to core the greens the previous Monday.

The powers appeared to be conspiring against us as for the first 90 mins the heavens opened and the rain nearly flooded the greens. However the OFA fighting spirit won out and in the end the sun came out and the golfers soldiered on. 30 golfers attended to play for the prestigious Lister Cup and Dave Price Team Competition as Captain Paul Shearring signed off his Captain's year. The results

are shown below. M.C. Chris Price entertained us with some more "Cooperesque" funnies and Captain Shearring revelled in his OFGS wins across the Summer - except the narrow loss to OMT at WHGC. The prizes table heaved under the weight of trophies and bottles of wine as the hushed room waited with baited breath to see the winners collect their prizes. Peter Nunn was announced as next year's Captain and so the OFGC circus rolls on into 2014.....



Peter Nunn

Results were:

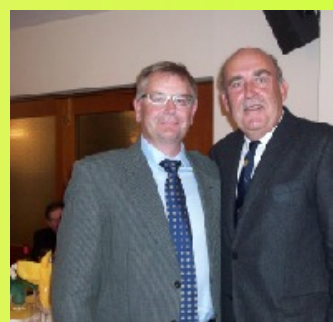
- * Lister Cup Winner: Mark Highfield 34 pts (defended his trophy)
Runner up: Russell Deane 33 pts
- * Nearest Pin: Alan Wood (Guest)
- * Longest Drive: Steve Bird
- * Veterans Cup (65+) Winner: Graham Bolton
Runner up: Nick Bye
- * Presidents Cup Winner: Russell Deane 66pts
Runner up: Ian Hanson 62 pts
- * Dave Price Trophy: R,Deane, M.Deane, Ackerman, Martin
81 pts
- " Guest Winner: Alan Wood 33 pts



Mark Highfield



Alan Wood



Steve Bird



Graham Bolton



Russell Deane



Martin, M.Deane, Shearring, R.Deane, Ackerman,