

OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

Chairman's
Newsletter

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19th October 1988

Nostalgia, as they say, is not what it used to be. Whether your halcyon days were model T Fords, The Hope and Glory era of gas masks and identification labels, U Plan or G Plan, Miller, McCartney or Madonna, you will all know this is the time of year when you rummage through the drawers for the Old Boys tie ready to enjoy good company, a tale or two and to reminisce at the Old Boys Dinner about "the good ol' days".

We meet, as usual, on the last Friday of November. This year that means 25th. The only change is the venue. This year we meet for the first time at the Kenilworth Hotel, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LB. It is hoped that this central London location will encourage more out of towners to attend. The hotel is just a walk away from Tottenham Court Road underground station and rubs shoulders with the British Museum, according to the brochure.

Our principal guest this year is Francis Cheney, Founder Trustee of the Camden Playing Fields Trust. The proposer of the toast to the guest is Sid Hutchison. We will have on view the new headteacher at the school, Mr Paul Smith. Yours truly is scheduled to propose the toast to the school and staff while the response will be made by a member of staff who was once a pupil at the school, Mr Mike Bunyan. From my calculation that is a representative body from each decade since the 1930's. With such a plethora of talent your ears will be working overtime while the gastric juices combine with the port to digest the last of the meal.

During the year I have received a number of letters and take this opportunity of thanking you all for keeping in touch and letting us know what you are doing and where you are.

Fred Lindgren sends his best wishes from Majorca. Stanley Whiteman, who incidentally was my first boss in the City, wishes to be remembered to all old friends including Jack Crook, Charles Fellows, Twink Martin and Denis Steel. Louis Watt (what a loyal friend); Brian Collins, unable to attend last year because of business; Mo Hales was sorry to miss Bill Wraight's speech; F W Penfold says 'one year I hope to make the dinner again'; Tom Head sends his best regards to Charles Fellows (he says did Edna ever forgive him for running Charles out at 49); Bernard Chibnall asks what happened to Brian McCarthy of the Foreign Office and was Denis Steel the one who played the female lead in the Dramatic Society!!!

I also received an airmail from Eric Whiting in South Africa who has fond memories of F R Hurlestone-Jones and morbid ones of Dr Crippen who lived at 39 Hilldrop Crescent. He writes of mid morning two slices of bread and dripping, the like of which he has never tasted since, and a hot mug of cocoa, combined total of 2 (old) pence. He has asked to be sent a copy of the school's roll of honour of those who fell in World War II. This hopefully has now been done. Mr Whiting, we would be pleased to take up your offer of postage stamps - I certainly know some charities who are always pleased to receive foreign used stamps.

Mr D J McCarthy, now of Woodbridge, Suffolk, has sent a nine page, close typed letter mainly of his memories of 1933-41. He then goes on to make some barbed comparisons with modern education. I don't propose quoting from his letter but will pass it on if anyone wants me to.

Do you know of any Old Boys who were in the Olympics - any previous pupil doing particularly well at anything - well do let me know and we can all share in the good tidings. Earlier this year I saw a front page picture in the Telegraph of Sid Brittin's son, Matthew, stroking the Cambridge crew against Oxford. I have just read a copy of the School's Newsletter which Mr Smith sends out to parents, in which he mentions John Francis one of several Old Boys featured on television. Are you coming to our dinner, John! Maurice Stone (61-69) telephoned me recently to say he has taken up a teaching post back at Holloway and hopes to be at the dinner to see former classmates. He asks particularly if Gordon Clarke is coming to the dinner. Well Gordon, are you?

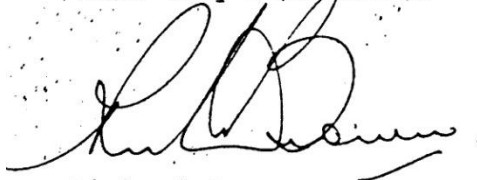
With this newsletter you will find an agenda for the AGM. The notice says the official meeting should start at 6.30 p.m. - so if you arrive before that you can have a couple of jars before the voting and be ready for dinner soon after. Your reply slips to be sent this year to our Secretary, Bob Cairns. We are, as always, grateful to those of you who send a small donation to help pay for the younger attenders. Your donations enable us to encourage a few who otherwise could not make it. So on behalf of them, I say thank you, in advance.

In summary -

Kenilworth Hotel, Great Russell Street, Friday 25th November

6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.
(Dinner after the AGM)

With very best wishes



Richard Brown
Hon Chairman
Old Camdenians Club