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OCTOBER, 1990

# OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

## Chairman's Newsletter

Are you more excited by a DC3 than a 747? Do you recall ARCHway easier than 071? Were you brought up on Compton or Computer? Rub shoulders with Spivs or Yuppies? Did you drive a Beetle or deafened by the Beatles? 2LO or FM? War or Peace; Spitfire or Supersonic; Fag or Lag; Bully or Battered; Arts or Science; Whatever your era, demena, attributes or attire you will find someone of like mind and interesting to talk to or listen to at:

The Old Boys Dinner, Friday 30th November 1990.

Forty years on, so the School song reminds us, is a time for looking back and wondering on those bygone days "what you were like in your work and your play". Several Old Boys have been sharing some of their memories with us. Roy Jones wrote from Somerton in Somerset last year to remind us of the fiftieth anniversary since the school was evacuated to Towcester. Roy recalls a number of events as well as the names of Colin Canham and Mr Hugh Browne, the English teacher. I have sent the full text of Roy's letter to several Old Boys of the 1937-41 period, and would be happy to send a copy to anyone else who might be interested in some personal recollections of the time. (eg "A fearsome janitor", "A tram or trolley bus to the school fields at Finchley", "Billeted at Yardley Gobion with Mr & Mrs Tandy"). Thank you Roy for your letter.

Another letter was from Ray Arthur of Stafford, who writes very sympathetically of his time at school. He recalls after fifty years that "many things that I was taught at Holloway must have lodged in my subconscious mind. I owe much to the teaching of Mr Jobbins, Mr Crabtree, Mr Price and others". He asks after some of his contemporaries and though some may have fallen in the war, wonders what became of Murray, Morgenstein, Bliss, Emsley, Sheppard, Altman, Burden, Slocombe. Again I will gladly pass his letter on to anyone interested in receiving it.

Forty, and now more poignantly, fifty years on, we have been reminded once again of those days when so much was given by so few. Some of you might have seen the magnificent flypast over Buckingham Palace, or at Abingdon aerodrome where the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain was commemorated. For me, I was in London during the summer of 1940, though too young to attend Holloway School. My brother, sister and I were evacuated to Cambridge in September 1939 and returned to London in March of 1940 - because 'everything was quiet'. So we stayed in our Andersen shelter or 'down the tube' while the City burned. Going to Holloway in 1943 we sometimes had to stop and take shelter whilst the Doodlebugs went over.

The article in The Sunday Times of July 1990, brought some good publicity to the school. Paul Smith, the present Head teacher has restored some of the traditional values of the school. With the help of committed staff, the standard of dress, discipline, attendance and examination results have all improved. Old Boys wrote to the Head welcoming the return of a system of education involving the participation and partnership of staff, pupils and parents. The Old Boys have made a small contribution of prize money to be given to boys who have gained consistent standards of homework and attendance. The Old Boys have also given money to help restock the Reading Room. Those of you involved in business, would have been very impressed to see the 'strategic business plan' that the Head has written for the school, including targets, standards and levels of achievement expected from each departmental head.

The Head has responded with appreciation to the letters from J N Daley (1925-32) of Chippenham; to Mrs M E Grimes who was the resident First Aid Nurse from 1958-64. Mrs Grimes' son, Kenneth, was at the school and often talked of the Masters of his day - Messrs Lewis, Brewer, Goldsmith, Wright, to name just a few. (The school secretary at the time was Miss Dora Kamps - now Mrs Butler.) Mrs Grimes sends best wishes to all current members of staff and those who were there when she was at the school.

The Reverend A F Osborne has written from Peterborough with some recollections. Phil Cramer writes to say the Sunday Times article gave him immense pleasure to read.

At the annual dinner, a couple of years ago, portraits of Mr Hurleston-Jones and Dr Khan were shown after being recovered in a somewhat damaged condition from an old storeroom where they had been despatched during the reign of the ILEA. So far these portraits have not been restored, though there is still hope they will be, if money and the right contacts can be found. We are also looking for someone to take "proper" photographs of the honours boards which lined the walls of the old hall. Any keen photographers among you who can take on this task?

Your committee was informed at its last meeting, that money has been collected to put a plaque on the wall of the Club House at Burtonhole Lane to the memory of Ron Nutkins who died last year. Ron had given many years of service to the Old Boys Football Club and to the Old Boys League.

I understand Charles Simpson was seen at Lords cricket ground during the summer, as were Bill Wraight, Jack Crook and Alan Cornelius. Arthur Rust sent me a fixture list of Cockfosters Cricket Club who toured New Zealand earlier this year. Mike Duffy, who came to last year's dinner has written to say how much he enjoyed the evening and how nice it was to see so many of the staff of his day. He has also given me the names of Peter Dedman and Richard Deletant (1958-63). Also at the dinner, I was asked why Alan, Mick, Brian, Denis, Paul, Cliff, George and Frances were missing.

Annual Newsletters are not meant to be read in one go. Specially, since I missed writing one at all last year, so this is somewhat of a bumper edition. At this stage, you may need a break for a cup of tea or even something stronger. While you are on your feet, reach for a pen and your diary. You might find you already have a dinner appointment booked for Friday evening, 30th November. If not - you have one now. You are cordially invited to come and join like minded Memory Lane dwellers on a trip where only the pleasurable is remembered and where "Do you remember ..?" begins most sentences.

Twink (nee Harold) Martin wrote to known members of the Old Camdenian Society earlier in the year. Some 32 members replied, some of whom are in their 80s and 90s. No longer able to meet together, Twink has divided the Society funds into two donations - £240 to the Parent Club and £120 to Help the Aged.

*wrote* From the Old to the Young. Was it Alexander Pope who said "The Child is Father of Man" (R G Dixon would be surprised if I have quoted correctly). To have any kind of future, we must look to the young ones now. So may I encourage you to help some of our current fifth formers to come to the dinner by sending a small donation with your response to this letter. The attached form will tell Phil Cowley if you intend coming to the dinner - and you can enclose a contribution towards sponsoring a young person to attend.

Of course, I am always interested to receive news of any Old Boy of the school and am happy to pass on copies of correspondence. We don't actually do much as a Club but I do know there are many long lasting friendships which exist among our members and we are always interested in extending the list of contacts. Please let me know the name and address of any Old Boy who you may be in touch with who may not be on our list. It would be nice to find someone who would like to act as a 'collector' or 'correspondent' for say a decade at the school - say someone from the 50s - someone from the 60s, the 70s and the 80s. Such a person could keep in touch with his own contemporaries.

Regards and best wishes to all, have been received from Fred Lindgren, Brian Collins, Frank Pottinger, Stanley Whiteman, A J Smetham, Theo Crabtree and Sydney Hutchinson.

Please complete the enclosed form and return it to Phil Cowley.

*See you on Friday, 30th November.*



Richard Brown  
Hon Chairman  
Old Camdenians Club  
October 1990

