

1997

## OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

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### THE CHAIRMAN'S 1994 NEWSLETTER

In June of this year I was one of those attracted by the television programmes concerning the fiftieth anniversary commemorations of the D-Day landings. Among my old boys addresses there are 53 names who were at the school before the outbreak of war and 31 on the address list who were my contemporaries at Holloway during the war years. In one way or other all these would have witnessed the fiftieth anniversary commemorations of the D-Day landings with personal memories. For those of us at school at the time, we were made aware of the assault and the subsequent events by pinning small national flags to a large wall map representing advancing and retreating armies. I can remember what I was doing fifty years ago - but couldn't tell you what I had for dinner last night. We have a fairly good representation on our mailing list of pre war boys but I wonder where all those wartime scholars are now?

We would probably all echo the sentiments from a Ron Wilby letter of a few years back "It was a good school. And if the present Head can recover some of the old tradition, the current students will look back on it with the affection we have retained".

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I think it was Richard King who wrote a history of the school. Should anyone think of writing a further history, Ken Pearce has copies of the Camdenian magazine dated from 1947-74. Ben Hooberman has copies from 1937-39.

In preparing my notes for this newsletter, I picked out at random one of my Old Camdenian magazines. It was for the year 1959. Here are a few items I found

- ☐ Mr Ahier, Mr Crabtree and Mr Robert took 27 boys to France.
  
- ☐ From the School Dramatic Society report:- Desmond Fanning played the Colonel in Journey's End, the Major in Badger's Green and excelled as Macbeth. *(not bad for one year)*  
 J A Kitchen played Macduff and a 'rather static' J Koumi was Lady Macbeth. *( Don't I also remember Desmond Fanning giving a great performance, though less verbose, as Blossom in The Hasty Heart for the Old Boys Dramatic Society production?)*
  
- ☐ Secretaries of the Chess Club and Junior Dramatic Society were H Levy and B Lofts.
  
- ☐ A A Mitchell was School and Blue House Captain and R F Lee was Vice Captain.
  
- ☐ The Chairman's prize was won by L R Frost and the Challenge Shield by Blue House *(again)*.
  
- ☐ B J Collings, R Pritchett, D C Sweeting were White, Red and Green House captains, respectively..
  
- ☐ Roger Gilpin and Alan Kirby were among those who were successful at 3 or more subjects at Ordinary level.
  
- ☐ The school notes of that year welcomed to the staff, Jim Ritchie, Ernie Brewer and Brian Farminer.
  
- ☐ M Sibley (1948-55) was awarded first prize as the best engineering apprentice with the Central Electricity Authority.
  
- ☐ The official opening of the new building took place
  
- ☐ Warmest thanks were expressed to Mr/s Goldsmith, Mr Brockman, Mr Metzger, Mr Christian and Mr Harris for taking the boys to school camp *(Is this not the year I remember them coming to see the Old Boys play cricket at Portland and where I scored a four - all the way to the boundary. Bill Wraight said it would have been a six if I'd put my feet in the right place. Thanks Bill, I'll bear it in mind).*

I wonder how all those boys have fared since then?

WALK'N'TALK AROUND THE BOUNDARY:

- ☐ Is it true George Palmer and Fred Averill are to become grandfathers?
  - ☐ Brian (Ned) Kelly was one of the producers of that remarkable BBC nature series last year "In the Freezer".
  - ☐ Gordon Wing recently flew into England from Australia on a round the world retirement celebration with wife Jean
  - ☐ Your committee received a request to consider the possibility of holding the dinner at another time of the year. So far the discussions have not proved conclusive.
  - ☐ A letter from Bill Chittleburgh tells me he wants to make contact with members of his science VI who all left in 1941 - they are Gordon Chase (known as Charlie), R L (Tiddler) Clinch, George Green and Wally Jeans. Can anyone help?
  - ☐ Stanley Whiteman sends greetings to Bernard Chibnall and would like him to get in touch.
  - ☐ I wonder what has happened to Ian Clarke who left school in 1985 for university, I think to embark on a career in music; to Kirit Solenka and Steve Hodgson (both receivers of King-Seitz memorial prize 1986).
  - ☐ John Fitch would like to see 1964 - 70 boys at this year's dinner.
  - ☐ The Headmaster's appeal at last year's dinner for some money to pay for transport as a special requirement for a boy was answered by a generous member on the same night as the appeal was made.
  - ☐ We have a new supply of old boys ties. These will be available at the dinner, price £7.50. If you want a tie and are not coming to the dinner - then apply, with money, direct to George.
  - ☐ Most of you like to see former masters at the dinner - what about it this year - Gordon, Mike(s), Brian(s), Jim, Allen, Louis, Mike, Joe, Guy, George, Keith, Andrew and Reg
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It is with sadness that I have to tell you that Alf Goldsmith died peacefully in his sleep on 3rd September.

#### IN MEMORIAM

##### Alfred A Goldsmith

After war service with the Royal Marines, Alf trained as a specialist physical education teacher with geography as his subsidiary subject. In 1949 he joined the staff of Holloway School as Head of Physical Education. Alf was a gymnast of high standard and an accredited athletics coach.

This was still the time of the grammar school when the school hall was used as the gymnasium. How he fumed if assembly went beyond its allotted time. He appreciated, valued and used to the full the greatly enlarged facilities of the new purpose built gymnasium which came with comprehensive education. He developed a wide range of activities within his curriculum and was amongst the first in inner London to introduce basketball into schools.

He maintained a link between the Old Boys football club and the school through his evening institute responsibilities and he still retained his interest and contact after he left the school and took up his appointment as Principal of Battersea Evening Institute.

Throughout his time at Holloway he entered into school life with vigour, enthusiasm, humour and an insistence on high standards for both himself and his pupils. He showed considerable skills as an organiser, as was exemplified by the sports days at Hilly Fields. White House boys will remember his contribution at Christmas parties. His successful revues provided lots of toil and also lots of fun. Yet perhaps most of all will be the lasting memories of those who were lucky enough to attend his annual school camps over the years.

Alf gave freely of his talents and skills and will be remembered with esteem, respect and affection by all who knew him. We shall miss him.

ATB

The Chairman's newsletter also serves as a formal notice for the AGM which will be held at the School on

**Friday, 25th November 1994, starting at 6.30pm.**

The AGM is the prelude to the main event of the evening - the Old Boys Dinner. We shall be dining for the third successive year in the old school hall. This year George Ives and his team will be making further adjustments to correct the few snags we have encountered with this brave attempt to carry off the event without recourse to an expensive West End hotel. From your many comments you like going back to the School for the dinner - and this year we have ambitions to reach the hundred attendees. Ten years ago we had less than 50 persons present, so we must be doing something right. Thank you for searching out old boys we haven't seen for years. The dinner is now becoming more of a social event where you are making up your own parties. I also see from my address list that there are three old boys living (separately) in Maidenhead. They could make a party travelling together, as could the Essex contingent. For those without their own transport, the minibus will be in operation again this year between Kings Cross and the school. Enclosed is an application form for dinner tickets which you should complete and return to George Ives. Please note there is no increase in price from last year -£20 - including drinks.

The other social event of this year took place in March at the clubhouse at Burton Hole Lane. It was a surprise party arranged by Elsie for Bert Weedall's 60th birthday. Over 70 guests were present to celebrate the event. To me Bert didn't look any older than when he was trundling his left-armers up the hill in the 50's. Among those present I think I recognised Alan Spaul, Paddy Jones, Phil Cowley, Peter Sumpter, Bob Pearson, George Ives, Cliff Broad, Brian Collins, Bill Wraight, Michael Kennedy, Sid Brittin, Fred Averill, Gary Davis, Paul Scott, Roger Gravitt, George Palmer, Charles Simpson, (Only Charlie could encounter a non English speaking German to give him directions to the ground), John Carter, Jack Crook and many more. At such an event there were lots of "Where are they now?" questions. For instance, the three ecclesiastics, Peter Pearmaine, Wally Eyles and Ian Woodward; The family Chandler - Chick, John and Stephen; banker Ronald (Ginger) Dunne; musician David Smith; actor extraordinaire, Ken Page; Derek Jenner. Stories of Aleck Godfrey's famous football XI were retold (as the evening went on so the prowess of the side increased pro rata with the number of pints swallowed) People asked the whereabouts of Joey Adams and Alan Shearn.

Thanks Elsie for arranging such a wonderful evening. I wonder if Ann will do the same for Fred?

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Somehow we didn't manage to tee off as a Golfing Society this year - maybe Malcolm Wilkins and Phil Cowley can get the golfers together in 1995.

George Ives, now a Governor of the school, has been making regular contact with staff, pupils and parents. George is hopeful that we will see a return to closer contact with the school and the old boys. One way in which we can help is to provide business 'know how' to school leavers. If you are willing to talk about your industry or business, please let me know. Those who have already provided such information have been invited to a lunch at the school on Tuesday, September 27th. Bob Hartley is helping with this project. Another area where you can help is to provide facilities for boys to do their 'work experience'. We say "thank you" at this time to the Fitzpatrick family who are working very hard on our behalf to help the school

And so it remains for me to say - see you all on the 25th November at the AGM and the Old Boys dinner.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Brown  
Chairman  
Old Camdenians Club  
September, 1994