

OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

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THE CHAIRMAN'S 1995 NEWSLETTER

And the rains came. At the end of one of hottest, driest summers on record the rains have come with a vengeance to this part of the world. Apart from bashing down the dahlias, swamping the potted plants and finding massive leaks in the garage roof, all seems to have calmed down now. Put the threat of the stand pipes away for another year and increase the water board chairman's salary.

One of the hottest weeks was the one commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war with Japan. I had watched the VE 50th Anniversary commemorations but somehow the poignancy, pageantry and sheer pathos of the march down the Mall and the service, the bands and the absolute splendour of the August parade had me with my hanky unashamedly damp. It may have been the thought that we shall never see a parade like that again - ever. To those Old Camdenians who were fighting for us during the war - whether in Europe, the Far East or the Home Front - thank you. There are over 50 names on the service sheet at the unveiling and dedication of the war memorial on April 2nd 1954.

To every Holloway schoolboy the old school hall evokes personal memories. Whether morning assembly, examinations, badminton, theatre auditorium or special classes, the hall has served numerous functions for many years. Attendees at recent annual dinners at the school have seen the current general dilapidated state. The paint work and plaster bear witness to wear and tear and lack of financial outlay for maintenance over many years. You will be pleased to learn that your committee is in the process of restoring the hall to some decent decorative order. The initial thrust that we should do something came from those attending our annual dinners. A spur of the moment collection and more thoughtful cheques from two of our elder members (thank you) provided the impetus for further investigations into cost, etc. But it was the singular gift of one lady who has left the club a sufficient sum of money in her will to enable your Committee to give authority for restoration work to commence. It is envisaged that the first stage will be completed in time for this year's annual dinner (to be held in the Old School Hall on Friday, 24th November). The generous lady was Mrs Bill Seitz who died last year. Without her bequest we would not have been able to approach another very generous family of Old Camdenians who are actually carrying out the work on our behalf at a price less than it is actually costing them. Thank you to Peter and all the Fitzpatricks for this truly magnificent gesture.

Taking your lead from Mrs Seitz , may I make a plea on behalf of the Old Camdenians to those of you who are writing or rewriting your wills for any sums that may be left over. We are currently redefining our charitable status as this could be a way for you to leave money to a charity.

One of the long running projects of your Committee during the year has been to examine the plight of the football and cricket clubs at our ground at Burton Hole Lane. Many of you will remember that the ground is leased from Barnet Council. Over a period of time, our tenure has become less secure and we may be required to purchase the ground. The cost of this and the inflationary cost of actually running the day to day activities of the football and cricket clubs have placed a burden on a few stalwarts who themselves are getting close to their sell by date (with apologies, but you know what I mean, Harry). Again we are indebted to the professional services of an Old Camdenian, Mike Duffy, who has been trying to sort out the legal entanglements that have developed over the years. I hope that Mike and George together with Alan Robinson and Roger Gravett will have some better news for us at the dinner.

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD DELETANT 1947-95

Richard Deletant, who died suddenly in an accident near his home in Chichester, was at the School from 1958 to 1965. On completion of his A-level studies at the school he went to Leeds University where he gained an upper second-class degree in English. After spending a period working for an insurance company he trained as an accountant and subsequently worked with the Audit Commission.

Richard had an adventurous spirit and was enthusiastic about many things. He took up canoeing, won a bronze medallion from the Royal Life Saving Society and was a black-belt in karate. He was deeply interested in the early history of the peoples of these islands and read widely about the Celts, the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. He retained his interest in Old English and books on the subject could be found on his bookshelves alongside those on sailing and karate. In addition to these personal interests, Richard always showed a great concern for others and was always willing to give up his time for them.

He leaves a widow and three children.

DD

ARTHUR RUST

1916-95

Arthur Rust was at school from 1931-35. He was a regular attendee at Old Boys dinners. He was a happy conversationalist - none more so than when among his small band of contemporaries, Sid Hutchison, Bertrand Rentall and Dave Bowen.

Although an Old Camdenian, Arthur spent most of his Old Boys football days with East Barnet Old Grammarians. His son had gone to East Barnet School and it was from there that Arthur had been involved so much in the Old Boys League. He was Chairman of EBOG Football Club and had much to do with the development of the league.

He was also a committee member of the Old Camdenians Club and his cheery, optimistic and practical contributions to Committee meetings will be missed. He was made Vice President of the Club in 1991.

To his widow, Sylvia we send our condolences.

A WALK'N'TALK ROUND THE BOUNDARY

George and Pam Ives have begun a YEAR of celebrations to mark their fortieth wedding anniversary, starting with a romantic journey on the Orient Express.

Gordon Clarke is "wearing well" (sounds like a pair of comfortable shoes). He writes to tell me Tom (Rolfe) and Janet are fine and both punishing the life out of balls (golf and tennis respectively). Gordon also tells me that Brian Fletcher has just retired from Headship of Christ College, Finchley.

I spoke with Len and Betty Renton on the telephone recently. Both are better now after a bit of an annus horribilis - they send greetings to all.

The school has received £250 from Whitbreads towards hygiene workstations in the food technology department.

The School and Old Boys football fixture was resurrected this year, supported by parents, old boys, school governors and friends. Presentation of the new trophy was made by George Robb. A repeat match is scheduled for 6th April 1996. Come along to Burton Hole Lane and cheer on your favourites (food and all manner of other goodies are provided).

I had a couple of beers with Paul Yates in the summer, reminiscing about old times together. Regards to all cricketers from Paul.

Sid Brittin tells the story of 18 members of 5A being caned by 'Chuckabrick' for playing football in the hall. As the recipients were lined up alphabetically, Sid thinks his was a harder punishment than the two Wilkins.

A new supply of Old Boys ties are available at £7.50 each. Send George a cheque or add it to your dinner cheque.

I had more than a couple of beers with Gordon and Jean Wing on their private home front jetty in Sydney. There were just recovering from a month of looking after their 3 grandchildren.

Great to see Bill Chittleburgh at the dinner last year. He was nearly word perfect - as always. I can promise Bill (and others who have commented on the limitations of the PA system), that we are doing our best to make improvements.

Thank you for your letter, Mr A J Wilkins (31-35) who spent 3½ years as a Far East prisoner of war.

Your committee considered possible alternative dates for the annual dinner and decided there would be no advantage in changing the date. There would be as many potential objections to any day in January, February, March, April or even May. So put it in your psion diary for the duration - the last Friday in November.

Would the 'elder' members like an additional lunch time meeting. Say, in the City, during the Summer?

Following one of the Old Boy-School liaison meetings, Laurence Marks arranged for a very lucky schoolboy to visit the set of 'Birds of a Feather' where he met Tracey and Sharon - and was taken back home by one of them after the rehearsal (his home - not hers!)

Thank you Bill Blunden for your amusing recollection of travelling on the pillion of Mo Hales motorbike - then joy of joys when Mo acquired a sidecar.

It would be nice to hear from Savvas Savouri again. Peter Pearmain, your friends would like to make contact.

We expect to see you at our table this year, Louis. You too, Philip.

Alan Mitchell (48-57) who now lives in Northumberland, has made contact and wishes to be remembered to contemporaries Mick Larnar and Reg Pritchett. Sorry, I don't know of an Old Camdenian who lives near to you, Alan.

I've found an old letter from an adopted Old Boy - Tony Mann (brother of John Gottesman) who recalls playing in front of George Ives - and occasionally playing the ball past him!! Also "he of the flapping hands - Ken Pitman", Paul Scott, the Wilson brothers (the shorter of whom would not be seen without a copy of the Sporting Life) and Zuterek (before someone recognised his talent for scoring goals and shot him into the higher elevens). Do give me a call, Tony, the next time you are refereeing a match at Wembley.

Many of your letters contain get well messages to Theo Crabtree as well as pleasant anecdotes of his teaching. Like this one from Ken Pearce who recalls how Theo turned a blind eye when Ken and his mates took the occasional afternoon off to play tennis.

Many of you have asked for a copy of Richard King's history of the school. We have reprinted some more copies and these will be available at the dinner or direct from George - don't forget to add something towards the cost of printing.

FROM OVERSEAS

A long letter from Daniel Partridge writing from Bulli in New South Wales recalls the class of '54 and some forty years on still remembers being beaten on the head with knotted handkerchiefs the day he arrived and himself doing the same to the next arrivals the following year. David has vivid memories of Mr Martin's once black gown holed with splashed acid and minor explosions. Of being a member of Art Brown's piddlers club - where for an annual subscription of a Mars bar you could leave the Art room at any time without having first to raise your hand. Mr Ahier read out the examination marks of a particularly bad French year "The best mark has come from Partridge with 68%. He must have cheated." If you would like to read the whole letter, please drop me a line.

FROM THE SCHOOL

Bob Robinson, a pupil, has won a public speaking award.

The Holloway Partnership held its first meeting to promote links between the school and local businesses to motivate students by career talks and an active mentoring programme.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Peter Layzelle, Tom Adams, L Bovington, John Brockhurst, Michael Capocci, Ken Page, Attila Beyaz, Peter Sanders.

Here is Bob Hartley's list of would be famous names we would all like to hear from. Tommy Youlden, Charlie George (footballers), Philip Homer (boxer) and James Curran (athletics).

AGM - DINNER

The Chairman's newsletter also serves as the official notification of the AGM which precedes the Annual dinner. This year (last Friday in November, as always.)

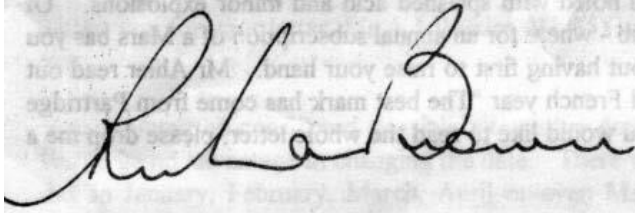
FRIDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER - HOLLOWAY SCHOOL 6.30 PM

When returning your dinner reservation, please signify if you would like transport from/to Kings Cross. We shall be inviting 6 boys from school as our guests - your sponsorship towards one of them is appreciated.

Please drop me a line to keep in touch. If you know any other Old Boys who have lost contact and would like to have some news, please let me know. The majority of letters received by the Head or myself reflect happy times at the school during formative years. A letter in the files from George Askey, a past teacher at the school, wrote "My Holloway School years were the most formative in a long career. I owe the school more than I can express."

Do come to the dinner. Better still bring a group of your year contemporaries with you.

And so until we hear Sidney pounding out the introduction to 'Forty Years On' (that's if Bill is able to move the piano) and your voices have been well lubricated, I wish you all pleasant thoughts of the good ol'days at Holloway.



RICHARD BROWN
Chairman
Old Camdenians Club
September 1995