

OLD VARNDEANIAN

Newsletter

Archive re-issue

SEPTEMBER 1988



MR. A. JENKINS

It is with great pleasure that we extend a warm welcome to the new Principal of Varndean Sixth Form College, Mr. Alan Jenkins.

As only the sixth Head of York Place/Varndean in over a century, we hope that he will maintain the average and be among us for many year.

He is married and has three children. Indeed we congratulate him and his Wife Elaine on the very recent birth of number three. We hope that he and his family will settle happily both at Varndean and in Brighton.

Mr. Jenkins was born in Neath, Glamorgan in 1950 He was educated at Peers School, Oxford and took his degree in Geography at Liverpool University and his Postgraduate Certificate of Education at Oxford University. Having held teaching posts in Henley at the Grammar School and at King James' Sixth Form College, he comes to us from Rutland Sixth Form College, where he was Acting Principal. His great sport IS Rugby Football; an Oxford Blue, he has been capped 50 times for Oxfordshire, whilst also playing for the London Welsh and other leading Clubs He naturally hopes to encourage It at Varndean.

He has already expressed a wish to meet members of the OVA Council and we look forward to introducing him to a wider audience at the 1989 Dinner.

THE GOVERNORS

A new Governing Body will come Into being this Autumn, pursuant to the 1986 Education Act. This will contain 4 LEA and 4 parent representatives, 2 teachers and 5 co-opted members. It is hoped that these last will include people from the local business community and it is here that OV's could well play a part. Under the Act the new Governing Body will have wide powers in policy and

finance. The statutory Governors' report to the parents was given at the meeting on July 12th.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 86th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association will be held at VARNDEAN on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1988 at 7 45 pm. A list of the Association's Officers is on the front page of the March issue of the Newsletter

This AGM will be more than usually significant since Dennis Leggett will have served his three-year term of office and a new President will be installed. The policy on subscriptions will be discussed.

If you live within reach, please make a determined effort to be present on this special occasion refreshments will be available afterwards.

THE ANNUAL DINNER

This took place at the Dudley Hotel on April 22nd when some 70 members attended. The layout of tables of ten was repeated this year for groups with similar interests; this seems generally acceptable it was a pleasant gathering and gave some OV's the opportunity to notify the Editor of their change of address

The 1989 DINNER has been fixed for FRIDAY APRIL 28th. Will members kindly make a note of the date. The Dudley Hotel is being renovated and will not be available so we shall go back to the IMPERIAL HOTEL, now, we believe, under new management The cost is likely to be about £10.50.

Full details in the March Newsletter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Details of the OVA's finances were given in the March Newsletter, together with the changes thought necessary in subscription rates. These changes - life raised to £15 and annual to £1.50 - will be submitted to the AGM on October 26th for formal ratification. Donald Osborne's excellent production of the bumper-sized March edition was well received and he has agreed to print future editions for us. It would not be right to allow him to subsidise the Newsletter in any way and costs must be on a business basis. Postage has gone up. It seems very

likely that 50p on the annual and £5 on the life subscriptions will be approved.

Banker's Orders. About 290 members pay by banker's order. Dennis Leggett, our Hon. Treasurer, reports that he knows from payments into the Giro account that 170 are paid up to date; but of these 90 are unnamed. This leaves 120 of whom he knows nothing.

These are almost certainly casualties from the transfer from Barclays to Giro. Barclays usually return subscriptions to the sender. At this point a member may forget to do anything about it, let his membership lapse or imagine that the OVA has died on him. In any case, the Hon. Treasurer must know what the situation is. To facilitate this, a reply slip is enclosed to those who pay by banker's order and about whom we need more information. Please complete this and return it. We can't really have "lost" 120 members and we would like to know who the 90 faithful are! All members who pay by banker's order will be notified of changes agreed by the AGM.

NEWS OF OV'S

Obituaries. Very many Old Boys will be saddened at the news that Mrs Margaret HUTCHINS died on Easter Monday, April 4th at the age of 86. It was a peaceful passing, the culmination of some months of physical decline. OV's will recall her close association with the School and her interest in all those who were a part of it. She had also many activities outside Varndean, notably as J.P., Governor of Brighton & Hove High School and latterly in the Oxford Preservation Trust. Mr. and Mrs Ashcroft and Mr. Allt represented Varndean at the funeral.

Several OV's died in March but we heard the news too late for the last Newsletter; it is with regret that we report it now. These are

R.F. BENNETT (1918-22); G.E. DREW (1928-34). formerly the optician in Beaconsfield Road; E.E. HOLE (1918-20). a farmer who then concentrated on Agricultural Engineering; he was an expert on windmill restoration; also his cousin, R.S. HOLE (1912-18) who had a large farm at Albourne; W.K. MELDRUM (1930-37); J.V. REES (1930-35). who was in the Prudential and played football and cricket for the Brighton Insurance Sports Club. We have since heard of the death of G.H.G. ALLEN (1919-1915); T.E. ANGUIGE (1916-20) in June; of J.D. BRIDGLAND (1941-46); and of F.H.M. WARD (1916-20). Old Varndeanians will be saddened to hear of the death of A.J. ALLT (1962-69). a Senior Probation Officer in Nottingham, who died suddenly of a heart attack on September. 20th. Our condolences to Tony and Mary Allt.

A particularly tragic death was that of Christine M. REID (1974 1980) who was killed in a road accident in May at the age of 26. She took a Psychology degree at Nottingham and was one of the care staff at Turner's Court, a residential school at Benson, Oxfordshire. We

extend our deepest sympathy to her family, especially her brother Mark (see below).

The work of Norman HARTLEY (1924-31), who died in February 1987, for the Sussex County Cricket Club has been marked by a plaque in his memory outside his office there. Regrettably his widow did not live to see the plaque put in position.

Readers may recall a fire in a Bulgarian ski resort hotel last winter. Neil AVARD (1972-79) was one of those who had to jump from a third floor Window to escape the flames. He is now slowly recovering from operations on his hip and pelvis in the Sussex County Hospital. This tedious business is all the more frustrating since Neil is a PE teacher at Durrington High School. We wish him a complete recovery as soon as possible

Congratulations. We congratulate the following on their degree results: Gordon APPLETON (Portsmouth Polytechnic) BSc. in Biology; Ala HESSARI BA in Sociology and Howard MUNT BSc. in Food Science (Both at Leeds); O. KAWAFI Imperial College of Science and Technology) B. Engineering; Andrew RAY (York) BA in Economics & Statistics; Joanne SALTER (Warwick) BSc. in Management Science. We congratulate Allan MILLS (1981-83) on gaining his BSc. in Business Administration at Berea College in Kentucky on a \$7,000 scholarship. The College's excellent reputation has enabled him to gain a \$5,000 Assistantship at Western Carolina University to do a Master's degree in Project Management. Congratulations to Thomas SHONE, who went to Oxford to read English in 1986. on being awarded a Domus Scholarship by Pembroke College. Sarah PENDLEBURY (New Hall, Cambridge) achieved an outstanding 1st in Part 1b of the Medical Science Tripos, coming 8th out of 236 candidates. She also leads a College wind ensemble of concert standard. Well done indeed!

Our congratulations also to Bernard E. CLARKE (1945-51) on his appointment to the Board of the Albion F.C; to Desmond LYNAM (1954-59) as the new host to the BBC's Holiday Programme; and to Peter S. SHARPE (1955-61) on his appointment as Chief Superintendent at police HQ in Lewes.

In our social column we are happy to announce the marriage of Deborah MAYSEY (1976-78) to Peter Chisholm, dominating the front page of The Leader for August 11 in the process! Her father and uncle are both OV's. Congratulations to John (1958-65) and Yvonne TAYLOR on the birth of their daughter, Heidi Yvonne, and not least for timing the arrival on that most fashionable of dates this year, 8.8.88! Also to Dr. Nicholas (1969-76) and Martine HASLAM on the birth of their son Dieter James Roger.

NEWS OF OTHER MEMBERS

P.H. BAILEY (1933-41) and his wife have now moved into a flat further into Edinburgh and very conveniently placed. He will be handing over as Chairman of the

Governors of Donaldson's School for the Deaf at the end of the year, after many years' service.

G.R. BAKER (1949-54) has been made Manager of the Peacehaven Branch of the Nat West Bank as from June 1st, having been transferred from Eastbourne. After thirty years with the Bank, he feels he is nearing home again!

FA BROWN (1926-31), now retired to Shoreham, summarises a varied career. He became a commercial artist for 5 years after leaving school; a police officer for 32 years, becoming Chief Constable of Norwich City; then in the NHS for 14 years, becoming District Personnel Officer. His busy retirement leaves him wondering how he found time for work!

Dr. R.G. CHARLES (1955-63) recently addressed a meeting of the International Cardiology Conference held in Capetown. He is head of the Cardiology Department at Broad Green Hospital in Liverpool.

R.F. COVELL (1949-56) was over on a visit from Kelowna, British Columbia where he has been living since 1975. He took his B.Ed. degree at BC University in 1970 and his MA at Gonzaga in Washington State across the border. In September he takes up a post as teacher and librarian at George Elliot Secondary School in Winfield, BC.

R.J. DAUGHTREE (1946-53) is in Brisbane, where he is the Financial Director and Company Secretary of a firm marketing computer software. This followed his graduation in Accountancy as a mature student.

A.A. DUMBRELL (1920-24) is retiring from the post of Hon. Secretary of the Sussex Cricket Society of which he was a founder member in 1965. He also produced 273 issues of the monthly Newsletter His services will be suitable recognised at the AGM at the end of September.

J.P. EPPEL (1966-73) is in the Department of the Environment in London and for the last two years has been responsible for coordinating UK policy on marine pollution. He will be very busy just now!

J.S. GODFREE (1934-43) and his wife have now both retired from teaching in Hertfordshire.

C.R.G. HENLY (1971-78), our former Membership Secretary, has now settled in at Nottingham, where he is a Systems Designer for C.C.N. Systems. As he claims the company to be one of the two principal credit referencing bureaux in the country, OV's had better have him on their side! He also reports that his father, H.R. HENLY (1946-51) who works for the Post Office, met a Personnel Officer from Croydon. an Old Girl of Varndean, Jenny McFarlane, whose brother Keith had been a close friend of Clive at the Boys' School, and now works for the CAA at Gatwick.

B.K. PARNELL (1933-41), who is a Chartered Town Planner has retired from the Glasgow School of Art because the School of Planning has been transferred to the University of Strathclyde. He himself has moved to

Stirling so that his Consultancy is set up there as well as in Glasgow.

M. REID (1974-78) was working for British Coal, but has now moved back to Brighton and is a Senior Site engineer for a Civil Engineering firm . He is married and has a baby son, John Edward.

K.C. SPALDING (1939-44) who had open heart surgery five years ago, is now hoping to organise another sponsored walk, similar to the one he arranged in 1986, for the British Heart Foundation. We wish him every success.

In a letter from Mr J.E. MOLLISON we learn that he made a short visit to relatives in the UK in May after air travel delays. Happily the pernicious anaemia to which he is subject has been contained by vitamin B12 injections and we hope the improvement will be maintained. He sends greetings to OV's.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following item is taken from The Dolphin for the Summer 1914. The Editor was Ralph Hone.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

A ramble to Partridge Green took place on Saturday, June 17th, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. The weather was delightfully fine, and the party had the satisfaction of seeing the Old Yorkonians Cricket Club gain a decisive victory against the Partridge Green Cricket Club. Tea was served on the cricket ground, and in the evening a pleasant walk to Cowfold was taken.

It is regrettable to report that owing to lack of sufficient enthusiasts we have been obliged to abandon the idea of an Old Boys' camp for this year.

The Secretaries sincerely wish that a large proportion of, nay all, the "leaving boys" will join the Association, and so keep in touch with the School and its doings.

History buffs will not be alone in appreciating the poignancy of the date of that idyllic afternoon; the next day the Austrian duke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated at Old Boys' Camps took on a new significance that summer!

COLLEGE NEWS

The informal distribution of prizes by the Principal, Mr . David Turner, officiating for the last time, took place on March 22nd. The Potter awards for service to the College community were also presented, along with many other prizes endowed to commemorate past members of staff. The occasion was marked by another wonderful exhibition of Art and Design, achieving once

more the high standard of excellence associated with the Art Department.' Congratulations to all concerned.

In sport the College won both the Boys' and Girls' senior sections in the Brighton, Hove and Portslade Athletic Championships. We notched up 12 first and 10 second places. Many of the former went on to compete in the Sussex Schools' Championships. The Cricket XI had a successful season under the guidance of Messrs. Alan Ball and Robin Adams who inspired the team to high levels of sportsmanship and good team morale. The results were P 10, W 3, D 3, L 4. It should be noted that two defeats were at the hands of formidable opponents - the OVA and the Staff! The bowling attack was spearheaded by Nick Thorneley who bowled consistently well throughout the season.

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

Mr.R.C. BAKER (Staff, 1939-56)

P.J.G. BRISTOW (1979-81)

R.F. COVELL (1949-56)

R.B.DUNFORD (1932-38)

Miss L.M.C. WINDSOR (1981-84)

THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

Money allocated to the library is usually apportioned among the various subject departments, which is fair enough . But It means that books of fiction are left out. Last Spring term two donations of books from OV's were welcomed with open arms and it may well be that this could be repeated. So if there are any cluttered shelves or cupboards which could usefully be cleared, or unwanted books not actually propping up furniture, Vardean would make good use of them. Please get in touch with Mrs E. M. Gardiner at Vardean Sixth Form College if you have any books of fiction - not too many sets of Dickens! Please help if you can.

THE MINIBUS APPEAL FUND

This fund was launched in March and brought in almost £500 in direct donations and a little more counting options to join the 200 Club. Together with the £250 voted from the OVA funds this makes a very respectable sum . May we express the thanks of the College to all those who contributed; as on other occasions, Vardean is indeed grateful to the OVA.

Mr. A.D. Ball, at Vardean, has a note of those who either sent money or asked for details of the 200 Club and will inform them of progress. Its success depends on getting a viable number of people involved and he hopes to achieve that this term.

THE CRICKET CLUB

The 1988 season has been a very happy and enjoyable one, under the leadership of the new captain, Richard POUNTNEY (1966-73) who has given all players the opportunity of showing their ability. The season 's results are : Won 8 Drawn 8 Lost 4 Cancelled 3. The Club called upon 25 players to complete the team for each game. ten of whom were guest players, and we thank them for enabling us to fulfil our fixtures. The best batting average was that of Bruce FRYER (1965-70): 17 innings, 4 not out: 717 runs. With a top score of 118 not out: average 55.1.G.W.STRINGER(1965-70) had the best bowling average: 86 overs, 20 maidens, 23 wickets; average 10.9.

The Annual College match on July 12th provided the figures for the highest personal score - K.A. THARME (1971-78) of 133 - and the highest Club total - 227 for 1. In reply, the College XI got only 162 all out. C. MARCHANT 53, P. BELL 39. For the OV's, Ian STEVENS was 71 not out. We much regret the poor support for the match; it used to be a Gala Day for Vardeanians past and present. We hope for better things in 1989.

We thank guest players Martin WATTS, for arranging an interesting fixture list and John MORRIS for looking after the club finances and Cyril SHELLEY (1916-20), our President, for acting as scorer. If any OV feels he could help the Club in any way, please contact Graham OSBORNE (1966-75).