



# The Old Coventrian

The newsletter of the King Henry VIII School former pupils association

SUMMER 2013 Issue 4



## Who are the Old Coventrians?

Jan Butler, Chair OCA, [butlerj@khviii.net](mailto:butlerj@khviii.net)

I think you can see from the articles that there has been a lot going on since the last edition of **OC**, so not much comment from me is needed! However, this is a good opportunity to feedback a decision from the EGM, held earlier in the month.

### Who are the Old Coventrians?

Our revised constitution has simplified the situation:

- Membership is open to anyone who attended King Henry VIII School, King Henry VIII Junior School, or King Henry VIII Preparatory School, Coventry.
- All former staff are eligible for Membership.
- Associate Membership is open to current staff and

any party with a connection to the Association or King Henry VIII School at the discretion of the Committee. Associate Membership could include parents, governors, descendants or spouses of former pupils, or former pupils of Coventry Preparatory School.

- Alumni and 'friends' must register to become Members

If you are reading this, then it is likely you have registered, but if you have friends or family who could be members, but have not 'got 'round to it' or didn't realise they could, please encourage them to do so by going on to the School website –Former Pupils.

<http://www.kinghenrys.co.uk/former-students/>

In the Autumn, we will be launching 'My Henry's': a concerted effort to draw more people into the Association so that we can develop its activities. I do hope we will meet many more of you over the next year or so...

## Celebrate your time at Henry's

Amanda Garman, Alumni Relations Officer, [alumni@khviii.net](mailto:alumni@khviii.net)

King Henry VIII School was delighted to welcome Y13 pupils and their parents for a celebration of the time they spent at the school. We also wanted an opportunity to thank the parents for their ongoing support and commitment to their child's education at the School.

It was a delightful evening, allowing everyone to relax and savour some nostalgic moments in the place they had spent their last 7 years! It was wonderful to see so many students with their parents and tutors, all of whom had a vital role in them reaching this pivotal stage of their education.

From our perspective we wanted to say 'au revoir', not 'goodbye' and welcome the students into the realm of the 'Old Coventrians'. This network can help support them through the next few years and aims to provide a 'community for life'.

We were delighted to welcome back Mr White ('54) as our honoured guest, who along with his daughter Helen Rypma ('80) and Granddaughter Eleanor Rypma ('06), represent three generations of OCs. Mrs Rypma recalled 3 very different educational experiences, each unique but equally rewarding. The common theme throughout the generations was that each student left the school not only with an excellent academic education but as a rounded individual leaving them well prepared for the world beyond King Henry VIII.

Many parents said how much they enjoyed the event and found it quite emotional. The students clearly had fun and were not surprisingly in great spirits! It is now more than an event; it is a milestone which students and parents embrace wholeheartedly!



To register with the alumni, go to [www.khviii.com](http://www.khviii.com) and select Former Students

# Hearsall Golf Day

Stewart Freeman (Class of '92), [freemans@khviii.net](mailto:freemans@khviii.net)

On the 22nd April 2013, 29 players gathered at Hearsall Golf Club in Coventry to take part in the annual Old Coventrians Golf Day to battle it out for the Roy Burgess Cup.

A Stableford  $\frac{3}{4}$  handicap team competition was the format with the best two scores for each hole counting. Players ranging from the class of 1960 up to the class of 2005 entered and formed teams of three or four players. In addition to the team competition, four individual competitions were held. The two nearest the pins on the 7th and 17th and two longest drives on the 9th and the 18th allowed players to step away from the team competition to try and take one of the individual prizes.



The Winning Team with a score of 85 points and winners of the Roy Burgess Cup in 2013 were Andy Brymer's team. Andy was in the Class of '70 and he and his team

were able to fit the competition in whilst travelling back home from a trip away. Nearest the pin on the 7th was won by Scott Dunlop Junior and to prove it wasn't a fluke he also won nearest the pin on the 17th! Scott travelled from Mexico to play in the Golf Day so I was pleased he won a couple of prizes to make his trip

worthwhile. Longest drive on the 9th was won by Andy Brymer's son, Tom who was a guest. Finally, Jon Arshad, one of my first friends at Henrys and still one of my best friends now from the Class of '92 won nearest the pin on the 18th hole. His team, made up of more of my oldest and best friends including Jordan Arshad ('95), Haneen Al-Ibrahim ('92) and Paresh Patel ('92) came in second place with a score of 80 points. Third place with a score of 77 was the team of Harry Dunlop ('87), Scott Dunlop Junior ('85), Scott Dunlop Senior (Parent) and Hugh Goulbourne ('89).



If you would like to take part in next year's golf day please email me, and I will add you to the contact list. The day is an informal fun day, players range in ability level and there

really is no pressure or big audience on the first tee. You do not need to form a team of four as there is always space and a warm welcome for additional players on partially completed teams. If you would like to suggest any other sporting events please also contact me. Our aim is to hold as many events as people would like to attend so there really are no limits.

## Message from Jason Slack

Headmaster and OCA President



The end of the academic year, as always, brings about a few staff changes and this year sees the retirement of some long standing and well known members of staff. Andrew Carman joined King Henry VIII School in 1978 and is currently our longest serving member of staff. Andy will retire after 35 years at the school. Last year Andy started teaching a student Economics in Year 12, having already taught his father a couple of decades before! Andy will also be well known amongst Old Coventrians for his contribution, over many years, to golf and skiing trips as well as many other extra-curricular activities. John Cooper, Head of Maths, is retiring after 21 years at the school. John will be remembered for his outstanding teaching but also his contribution to chess where Henry's have won the Coventry Chess League 14 times under his guidance. Old Coventrians will no doubt be delighted to learn

that the tradition of major sports tours continues to thrive with a hockey tour to South East Asia and a rugby tour to Chile about to depart in the coming weeks. In addition we are also running a Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition to South Africa. Fantastic opportunities for all of those involved.

Construction of the Jeff Vent Archive is now complete! It has been in use already for various meetings and art exhibitions and is proving a fantastic addition to the School. Other plans for the summer include the conversion of Art room 4 into a photography studio, so that we can offer GCSE Photography to students from September. I am also delighted to see A level Theatre Studies appearing on the A level Curriculum once more from September. Performing Arts has really started to gather momentum at the school with a fantastic recent lower school production of Arabian Nights. Debbie Isitt, director of current ITV1 drama series 'Love and Marriage', will be our guest speaker at Prize Giving in September. Old Coventrians may have recognised the school appearing in the show, as a hotel setting for a romantic rendez vous!

I wish you all a restful, summer break.

# Class of '92, '93 and '94 Reunion Dinner

Jeremy Thomas, (Staff: 1972 - 2007)

There was a break with tradition this year, in that the Reunion Dinner for the Classes of '92, '93 and '94 on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, was held, not at the School, but at the Ramada Hotel in the Butts, where we were extremely well looked after and feasted on an excellent meal followed by coffee. Guests were able to relax, renew acquaintances and share memories before and after the meal at the hotel's well-stocked bar. So successful was the arrangement that a goodly number were, I believe, still conversing and reminiscing at about 4.30am! – by which time the organisers, being more mature in years(!), had made a tactful withdrawal!



80 diners attended the occasion, including 14 from the Class of '92; 8 from the Class of '93, including Jay Mattu (nee Mistry) and Rob Phillips, both of whom are now on the staff at King Henry VIII and are members of the Old Coventrians' Association Committee; and 14 from the Class of '94; it was attended also by 16 former members of staff (including former Headmaster George Fisher former Deputy Head Gethin Lewis with their respective wives), along with the present incumbent, Mr Jason Slack, and 5 current members of staff. It is worth noting that David and Sarah Hiatt-Jones (nee Clough) – both of the Class of '93 – had formed a lasting union arising from their schooldays and Michael Nicholls ('92) and Hayley Cooper ('94) are set to do likewise: the Year Book of 1992 wondered 'when will Hayley Cooper become Mrs Nicholls?' The answer: Summer 2013!



For those who wanted to relive their schooldays or merely to see how the School has changed since their departure, there was the opportunity to meet at the Trevor Webb Sixth Form Centre at 2pm in the afternoon and receive a warm welcome from members of the OCA Committee, before embarking on a tour, after which refreshments were served. Almost all took advantage of this opportunity. It was easy to linger in the classrooms and recall how it had been in times gone by, as well as to admire the latest facilities, including the Art Block, Language Laboratory, Food Technology Room, new Archive Room and, of course, the Sports Centre and much anticipated and long awaited Swimming Pool!

After the dinner, Jan Butler (Chair, OCA) welcomed everybody, thanked all for coming – especially those who had come from as far away as Los Angeles (Alex Hawkins) and South Africa (Mark Garner) – and introduced the speakers: Robert Gregory ('92) spoke briefly and movingly about absent contemporaries- James Bridgwood and then Tomasz Jennings, tragically killed while on military duty in Afghanistan in 2011. Tomasz's partner is planning an expedition to scale Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the wives and families of soldiers killed in action.

The Headmaster reminded those returning of what had been happening in the wider world when they had all embarked on their School careers, and outlined how the School was continuing to aspire to and achieve the highest standards both academically and on the sports field! This was amply supported and expanded in some detail by Head Boy, Sam Proctor, while Stephen Thompson ('94), Haneen Al Ibrahim ('92) and Mark Garner ('93) all regaled us with some amusing anecdotes about the School in the early '90s and various light-hearted character assassinations of their contemporaries!

All were agreed that it was a splendid occasion and a good move to combine recollections of School through the tours and to try a different venue for the dinner, with ample chance to catch up informally with what has happened to everyone since leaving School. Thanks must go to the Social Sub-committee for organising the event. Also, of course, to Jeff Vent, always fondly remembered, who provided the idea of and motivation for these Reunion Dinners. Those of us privileged to be able to attend all such reunions look forward to the next one – the Classes of '95 and '96 in 2014 – and hope to learn what has become of the next batch and to revive more memories with them!





OLD COVENTRIANS R.F.C.

# Old Coventrians RFC

Peter Owen (Class of '55), 07941 603590, peterowen@oldcoventriansrfc.co.uk, www.oldcoventriansrfc.co.uk

Old Coventrians RFC (OCRFC) was founded in 1930 as the "Old Boys" of King Henry VIII School and played on leased pitches until 1985 when it purchased its current ground which is situated in a prominent position at the junction of Tile Hill Lane/A45. Membership was officially restricted to former pupils of KHVIII until 1974 when in common with other old boys' sides it had to go open to survive. Today many club officers, some players and a large proportion of Vice Presidents are former pupils and the club retains the School crest. More players from the School would of course be welcome. OCRFC has recently been awarded full RFU Club Accreditation.



Midlands 3 West (South)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	B Pts	Pts
Old Coventrians	22	18	2	2	744	356	388	18	95
Old Leamingtonians	22	19	0	3	663	230	433	18	94
Pershore	21	16	1	4	543	457	86	16	82
Pinley	22	12	1	9	416	366	50	9	59
Kings Norton	22	12	0	10	490	465	25	10	58
Cheltenham North	22	9	2	11	539	424	115	16	56
Evesham	21	11	0	10	419	455	-36	8	52
Old Wheatleyans	22	8	0	14	460	529	-69	12	44
Southam	22	8	0	14	402	515	-113	10	42
Ledbury	22	7	1	14	482	562	-80	9	39
Woodrush	22	6	0	16	353	516	-163	9	33
Redditch	22	1	1	20	201	837	-636	4	10

## Old Coventrians RFC League Winners – Promoted For Next Season

OCRFC has just been promoted to Midlands 2 West (South) after winning its current league.

## Junior Section

The Junior Section is thriving under a well organised team of qualified and experienced coaches and administrators and currently has over 250 junior players covering all age groups from Under 7s to Under 17s.

## Facilities

OCRFC has 3 pitches at Tile Hill Lane, one with match grade floodlights and another with full training lights. The clubhouse contains changing and shower facilities for 6 teams, physio room, bar, large function room (for club events and outside functions) and a fully equipped kitchen, and can cater for up to 120 persons seated for hot meals. There is a separate weights room as well as pitches for flat and crown green bowls.

## Musical Notes

**Jonathan Rathbone** ('69) has been awarded the ARAM from the Royal Academy of Music. This honour is awarded to former students who have made a significant contribution to the music profession.

**Paul Daniel** ('69) is currently conducting Benjamin Britten's *Gloriana* at The Royal Opera House

**Simon Pollard** ('94) is now resident Director for *Billy Elliot*. If you would be interested in coming to see the show, please contact Jan Butler, [butlerj@khviii.net](mailto:butlerj@khviii.net)

**Lucy Eliot-Higgitt** ('00) is now Orchestral Coordinator for the BBC National Orchestra of Wales

**Tiffany Lear** ('06) has not only gained a place at the Guilford School of Acting (BA hons Music Theatre), but has been awarded a full scholarship.

## Late Extra!

The inaugural J B Vent Memorial OC Cricket Match *Youth v Experience* will take place at School on Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm. Spectators are welcome and we hope there will be some refreshments and opportunity to buy memorabilia. If you are interested in playing cricket for OC teams in the future, please contact Stewart Freeman at [alumni@khviii.net](mailto:alumni@khviii.net)

A shield, donated by OCA, will be presented to the winning team by one of our celebrities.

## Diary Dates

**Bowls Competition**  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013, 4pm

**Hockey Players' Reunion**  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
See the [alumni site](http://www.khviii.net) for full details

**Class of '95 and '96 Reunion Tours and Dinner**  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014

## ANNUAL DINNER

The **91st ANNUAL DINNER** is an event for all Old Coventrians. This year it will be held on Saturday November 23rd. Please keep the date free! An invitation will be sent separately.

To register with the alumni, go to [www.khviii.com](http://www.khviii.com) and select Former Students