



The Old Coventrian

The newsletter of the King Henry VIII School former pupils association

AUTUMN 2013 Issue 5



Welcome to our Fifth Edition!

Jan Butler, Chair OCA, butlerj@khviii.net

I am sure you will find plenty to interest you- recent events have been reviewed, there are details of events to come and news of OCs.

We are making a great effort to contact those who are still running, or have taken it up since leaving school as we are entering the **Thames Harriers Alumni Race** on Saturday December 14th in hopes of winning back the trophy we have won nine times in the past. We need runners –both male and female- of all ages to make up teams for the various categories. The following week-end on Saturday 21st December we have our **Annual Crackley Run**. Please see the advert inside, look on our Facebook events page or get in touch (alumni@khviii.net) if you would like more details.

Sooner than that of course, is the **91st Annual Dinner** on November 23rd and we look forward to seeing many of you there. Perhaps we will reach 150 guests this year; that is our hope!

Our focus for the **Reunion Day** are the **Classes of '95 and '96**. Just to jog your memory, you would have been in Year 7, probably rising 12 years old in these years and would have left in 2002 or 2003 if you stayed to the Upper 6th. The Head Boys and Girls were Andrew Watton, Victoria Marvel, Steven Hawke and Sophie Dodd respectively. If you, or a family member belong to these year groups, then we would warmly invite you to come and join staff and old friends in the afternoon for refreshments and a tour of the School and at the Ramada Hotel for the Dinner on the evening. The official invitation will be sent out later in the year, but please save the date: Saturday April 26th and please spread the word!



Paul Montes & Jeremy Thomas



Sarah Lewis, Rob Cooper, John Skamarauskas & Riddanne Sheridan



Paul Rees, Steve Davenport, Frances Woodward, Warren Dunn & Larvinder Madan

Emma Climbed Kilimanjaro!

Emma Banbrook ('04)

Thank you very much for the wear what you like day at school and to everyone who sponsored me. I am pleased to tell you that I made it to the top of Kilimanjaro!

It was not easy, but Mrs Wade definitely prepared me for the journey! I felt like I was on top of the world (well just Africa!). I managed to raise £3000 for Dig Deep, my chosen charity.



Uhuru Peak, Summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro (5,895 AMSL)

Facebook Group Reunion!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KHVIIIseventieseighties/>

About 18 months or so ago, Helen Cooper ('75) set up a Facebook Group for people who attended KHVIII in the 1970's and 80's. We now have nearly 200 members.

On 22 June 2013, we had our first reunion at The Royal Oak in Earlsdon attended by about 30 people from the years of 1972 to 1976 and two former members of staff, Roderic Dunnnett and Jeremy Thomas. It was an extremely enjoyable, informal evening culminating in a late night Earlsdon curry for those of us with sufficient staying power.

We are now working closely with the post-Jeff Vent OCA Committee to locate and recruit former pupils, but we will also continue to arrange informal reunions for those of us who went for our time with Ted Norrish and bemoaned the youth of the Thatcher era with Bert Tompkins. Photographs of Paris trips and sports teams are posted on the Facebook Group page along with those from the reunion.

FIFTY SHADES OF FABULOUS

We are organising a 50th Birthday Reunion for the Class of '75 in June 2014. Please visit our Facebook page for more details!

Calling all OCs (and their guests) for a fun, short run in the woods... with mud!

Michelle Mahiques-Pearce (Class of '85), mahiquesm@khviii.net

It's time for the traditional end of term run at Crackley Woods on **Saturday 21st December**.

You don't have to be super fit to take part in this run – some Old Coventrians have not run any cross-country since their school days.

This year we will be using the facilities at Kenilworth Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. There is adequate parking and changing rooms, and there will be food available (included in the cost). We hope you'll stay around afterwards for the presentations and a bit of a social in the bar.

The cost for runners will be £10 (£9 undergraduates); and for spectators who'd like to eat, the cost is £6. Invitations and pre-registration forms will be sent out via email soon.

Any questions, please drop us a line!



Diary Dates

91st Annual Dinner
Saturday 23rd November
2013, 7 for 7.30pm, School
Afternoon Tours at 2pm, SFC

**Class of '04, '05 & '06
Christmas Get Together**
Thursday 19th December
2013, 4.30pm, SFC

Annual Cross Country
Saturday 21st December 2013
11am, Crackley Woods

**Great War Centenary
Concert**
Monday 24th April 2014,
7pm, School

**Class of '95 and '96
Reunion Tours and Dinner**
Saturday 26th April 2014,
Ramada Hotel

Message from Jason Slack

Headmaster and OCA President



It has been an excellent start to the new academic year and the mood around school has been positive and happy. The new students have settled well. Old Coventrians' may be aware that our Year 7 pupils now routinely participate in a week long residential at Ilam Hall, Derbyshire, as part of their induction process. This trip has been hugely successful in allowing the year 7 students to quickly feel part of our community and this year was no exception. Photos were regularly shown on the school twitter account: @KHVIIISchool. Please feel free to follow us. Our new Year 7 pupils are also quickly introduced to the House Competition on the first Saturday of term and it was a delight to see so many enthusiastic faces at the sports morning, competing in the House relay event, with the competitive finishes in both boys and girls races adding to the excitement.

The girls have started the new year looking smarter than ever with the introduction of new blazers. These have been accompanied by new school jumpers for both boys and girls and they add a great deal to the appearance and professional outlook of the school's image. The change has been warmly welcomed by parents.

A highlight of the term so far has been the recent School Prize Giving evening, with guest speaker Debbie Isitt, film and TV director. Debbie gave out

prizes to successful students and announced the filming of her new sequel – 'Nativity 3'. She also gave an invite to our existing students to join her on set for some work experience in the new film. I'm not sure if she knew what she was letting herself in for as I've passed on the details of a large number of pupils who have expressed an interest. It was also a pleasure to see so many of last year's upper sixth form return to the school to receive their awards before they departed for university.

Our recent 'Open Sessions' have also been reinvented with the introduction of 'Open House' which gives prospective and current parents the opportunity to wander around the school whilst normal lessons are taking place on a normal school day – popping in to join lessons as they were being taught. This was very popular and we hope to repeat the event in the future. Our more traditional Saturday 'Open Morning' also has quite a different feel with an emphasis on the whole family enjoying themselves with food stalls, face painting and a bouncy castle accompanying the usual classroom activities and shows. Again, this has proven to be a great success.

The School is eagerly awaiting the reinstallation of the flagpole on the newly refurbished main tower of the School. This has taken some careful and specialist restoration but the old flagpole (originally installed in 1885) has been given a new lease of life. Look out for the flag flying high as you pass school in the coming weeks.

I hope to see many of you at the forthcoming Annual Dinner.

A Day in the life of Lisa Dooley

Lisa Dooley (Class of???)

Lisa Dooley works as a Business Development Manager at the discretionary fund manager Brewin Dolphin. We asked her to let us know what she does during a typical day at the office. As you can see in the following article she is an extremely busy lady.

Each morning my alarm clocks goes off at 6.30am and by 7.30am I'm leaving the house to walk into work so I'm at my desk ready for our daily 8.30am conference call. This is usually headed up by Mike Lenhoff our chief economist reporting on what the markets have done the day before and any up and coming news flow that will be important that day or for the week ahead.

It's 9am and I've got 30 minutes to make some calls. The first thing I do today is call one of the paraplanners Zoe, about a client who came into the office last week to discuss investing a sizable sum of money under an IHT (Inheritance Tax) solution that Pacific IFA have put together. I check the mail in my tray and I've got two acceptances from solicitors to say they are attending our Lord Patten event which we are holding at the Merchant Taylor's Hall in October.

Time to leave the office and after a quick check on the train times, I arrange to meet Mark Hamstead one of Brewins' investment managers. We are off to Kent for a client appointment with Pacific's Wealth Manager Stephen Baker. Stephen has arranged for the client to have access to a number of experts and is liaising with the accountant, trust expert and Brewin Dolphin to make sure that he finds the right solution for them.

During the meeting we discuss and reconfirm with the client what their risk appetite is, as well as their attitude to loss. This is important as it will have a direct bearing on the type of assets that will be selected and what risks can be tolerated.



It's difficult times at the moment, and most clients have the same concerns. They can't afford to take too much risk but with interest rates being so low, returns from cash doesn't even keep up with inflation, so people have to consider riskier assets. There's no such thing as risk free assets anymore that's for sure!

Once we finished the meeting, its back to the station to make our way back in to Kings Cross, with just enough time to grab a sandwich on the go from the station platform. I'm back in the Farringdon office with 5 minutes to spare before my 3pm meeting on the 5th floor with another adviser to discuss our smaller portfolio proposition.

After this I've got one last meeting of the day in our auditorium to listen to Angus Tulloch who is the renowned fund manager for the First State Asia Pacific Leaders fund.

Finally when I'm on my way out I drop some application forms to the investment managers admin teams, who will scan them onto our system and then send them up to Newcastle for processing.

Thankfully I've only got a 30 minute walk home back to Islington where I can get in, relax and unwind. I've always got time to meet my husband for a glass of Red at our local pub and then walk home for a bite to eat.

Oh yes and not forgetting to feed and let out my cats Sleepy and Romeo for their evening stroll!

Crown Green Bowls

Peter Bruton (Class of '50)

Friday the 6th September was the date for this year's event and play commenced at 4pm as planned, but up until around 3pm this looked most unlikely as the rain had been steady and continuous since early morning.

The weather, however, was not the only obstacle we had overcome as the bowling was originally planned for the 16th August, but 2 weeks prior to this date the club steward phoned to say the club was double booked. We are therefore very grateful to Nick (Wal) Prescott for his input with the alternative date, and also subsequent generosity with the meal costs, in view of the disruption to our plans, enabling us to make a donation to the association.

The bowling itself followed the usual format with mini leagues ensuring everyone played at least 3 games followed by the semi finals and final. Everyone enjoyed the tournament during which there were some very close games with everything finishing on schedule. This allowed sufficient time for a refresher before sitting down at 7.30pm for an excellent meal prepared by no lesser person than Michael Owen himself.

Once again, our thanks to the club for their hospitality and equally to Del Shilton and the bowls section for allowing us use of their green which was in excellent condition considering the earlier weather. The only disappointment on the day was the continuing decline in the numbers participating. The turnout was not helped by the date change, but this cannot mask the trend which must be addressed if the event is to continue. Although the bowling is taken seriously this is predominantly a fun event and any newcomers would be made very welcome regardless of experience, with bowls being provided where necessary. Please make a diary note now for next year which will be **Friday 5th September 2014**.

Finally, in case you were wondering the event was won by the writer with Morris Teers runner up.

Great War Centenary Concert

Niall Doherty, (Staff: '03 - present), Director of Music

After ten years now, I decided it was time to put on something different! I have long since wanted to do a collaborative project with a suitable dance company recognising, as I do, the great power that comes when these two mighty art forms combine.

I have been inspired by my own daughter's experience with Highly Sprung, a local Theatre Company who specialise in working with young people and do a lot of Physical Theatre work (creative dance/movement). I approached the team at Highly Sprung and they have agreed to work with us for an intensive week leading up to the GWCC on **Monday 24th March 2014** starting at 7pm.

The concert itself will contain a variety of powerful music that captures the build-up to war, the battle itself and moments for reflection on the inevitable consequences of war – all of this will be set to a carefully choreographed set involving many students who will come to dance perhaps for the very first time!

The sense of loss and madness that goes hand in hand with war will be carefully considered too with poems by Wilfred Owen being read aloud to accompanied music in the background.

Old Coventrians are warmly invited to witness this historic landmark event and support the school in their usual customary manner. I look forward to meeting you all and hearing your own memories of how not just WWI but WWII shaped the history of our school in such significant ways.

Class of '04, '05 & '06 Christmas Get Together



Amanda Garman, Alumni Officer, alumni@khviii.net

We are looking forward to welcoming back our most recent leavers for another great Christmas Get Together on **Thursday 19th December**, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm!

Following highly successful events in the previous 2 years and in response to popular demand, we have decided to run a rolling event for the last 3 years leavers, to help our former students stay in contact with each other, whilst many are away at University

The students enjoy meeting in their old familiar territory, the Sixth Form Centre, to share exciting news of life beyond Henry's. We enjoy hosting the students with an array of drinks and snacks, and they provide the conversation and humour in abundance.

An email invitation will be sent to all the recent leavers inviting them to the event, on a complimentary basis. We look forward to seeing a 'full house'.

First Ever School Hockey Reunion

Rod Dunnett, **INFORMATION???**

The first ever school Hockey Reunion, of King Henry VIII and Bablake players who toured Holland, Belgium, Spain, France and Germany in the 1970s and '80s, proved a success beyond anyone's wildest dreams.



104 people met up on the 7th September for a dinner in Bablake Dining Hall, following guided tours round both schools, and a series of Hockey matches on the artificial pitches, which opened in 1985/6 when many of these players were at school.

Astroturf was the making of Hockey at Coventry School. Some fifteen boys represented England, and girl and boy Hockey players were selected for the Midlands.

The games were notable both for the quality of the play and because several youngsters – children of former County and England players – joined in the matches. Used to fast surfaces, the young proved eminently skilled; but so did their elders, whose dexterity, ball control and playing finesse seemed undiminished.



Three top England coaches, including Bablake's Graham Burgess, attended. Tony Billson, Chairman of England Hockey, explained how Coventry had the highest reputation in the country, transforming the Midlands, reshaping England Schools Hockey and founding the English Youth Cup. All this was a shared experience well worth reliving.

The meal and the get-together were, judging by the voluminous laughter, a triumph. Plans are afoot to involve yet more in a repeat event soon. Rod Dunnett, ex-Head of Hockey at King Henry VIII, and former parent John Green JP were the instigators, but a substantial younger committee has been formed, which bodes well for the future.