



The Old Collyerians' Association

Autumn 2012

President's message

This year - 2012 - has been an incredible year with the Jubilee, the Olympics, the Paralympics and the tennis. Just how did it all fit in? It was certainly a masterpiece of planning.

And now, here we are in September and my year as your President is nearly over. The OCA, I am glad to say, is still alive and kicking.

Your slimmed down Committee will be required to meet less often in the future, ipso facto there will be a need for a tighter focus if the Agenda is to be completed. The Rules sub committee subjected every jot and tittle of the 1998 version to scrutiny and worked hard to

ensure that we are now up to date and legal. The proposal for an OCA banner has fallen on stony ground.

Socially, the year has been a success, with good attendance ("but could do better", as P.A. Tharp used to say) at the Dinner - and wasn't it good to use the Duckering Hall? The Summer Reunion on the Wey & Arun Canal saw a number of new faces to add to the kaleidoscope of retold experiences at Collyer's.

I would like to express my thanks to the wives of many OCA members who do so much to help keep the Association alive.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Winter Reunion.

Peter Holmes

Contact us

President: Peter Holmes

Secretary: Anthony Barnard

Treasurer: vacant

Membership Secretary: Mark Collins,
4 Stallett Way, Tilney St Lawrence, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 4HT

Newsletter: Bill Thomson, 18 Vale Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1JA
and Lawrence Windwood

Other Committee Members:

Nick Weller,

Paul Smith,

Peter Ticehurst,

Derek Sturt,

Brian Sturt.

College representative: Jackie Johnston (principal)

E-mail is the best way to reach us: please send all correspondence for the OCA to ocawalnutclose@btinternet.com

AGM and Annual Dinner 2012

After last year's change of location we shall, once again, be in the DUCKERING HALL for this year's Annual Dinner which will be held at the College on SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 2012 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

As usual the bar will be open from 5.30pm in the Memorial Hall (previously the Library/old Main Hall) and also after the Dinner itself.

The menu is as follows:

Starter - Beef tomato & mozzarella salad with freshly chopped basil, with vinaigrette dressing.

Main Course - Supreme of chicken wrapped in Parma Ham & coated in a white wine and mushroom sauce.

Dessert - Tiramisu dusted with cocoa powder.

Continental **cheese** board, and

Fresh filter **coffee** and mints.

A vegetarian option is available for the main course. Please contact me for further details.

Tickets are being held at the 2011 price of £25.00 each and can be obtained from our Hon Treasurer, CLIVE BARHAM at 18 Hillmead, HORSHAM RH12 2PU.

If you would like your ticket/s sent to you please include a s.a.e..

As usual we will be extremely pleased to welcome any Old Collyerians (staff, students and governors), whether members of the OCA or not, and their partners and friends.

The evening is highly recommended so if you haven't been able to get along previously why not join us this year. If you are coming from some distance Horsham has a reasonable selection of B&Bs and hotels (including both a Premier Inn and a Travelodge) should you wish to stay overnight.

As usual the A.G.M. will be held at 4.00 p.m. in the afternoon in the Memorial Hall - attendance is generally not good but if you can manage to get along it will be appreciated. **Among the items for discussion will be a Revised Constitution which, if approved, will affect the makeup of the incoming committee in an effort to streamline our meetings. This document can be viewed on our website, www.oldcollyerians.org.uk, and is reproduced in this newsletter.**

If you require any further information of any nature please email me on sturt99@hotmail.com.

Derek Sturt

Collyer's in Wartime

Our family holiday during 1939 came to an abrupt end with the announcement of Declaration of War. As hostilities commenced so did my time at Collyer's.

At the very first lesson, with Mr. F.A. Potter, we completed our first task; that of addressing an envelope to our parents. This, we learnt, was for the school report at the end of term.

Eventually one became accustomed to the daily routine and of moving around this commodious building. The Great Hall was most impressive, where the Morning Assembly took place. Our Headmaster, attired in mortar-board and gown, led the members of staff, also in their gowns, into the hall. Mr Tharp would not tolerate slackness in any shape or form. On rare occasions he would request that we sing the hymn a second time. On more than one occasion, following the prayers, he made us recite the phrase "Lead us not into temptation" because we were running the words into each other and sounded like "Lead us not into Thames Station".

During air raids, if the sound of aircraft was heard, we might shelter under our desks or if time provided we might escape to the shelters. The shelters were not ideal in many ways. Our gas masks travelled with us

wherever we went. I recollect that periodically our masks were checked.

During these years, it became necessary to share our resources with the evacuated Mercers' school from London. Some will remember their Headmaster, Mr Jepson, as well as Mr Fyson. This must have provided increased worries and responsibilities for Mr Tharp.

The heaviest raid that I recollect was at the end of an afternoon in February 1943 during our ATC activities. The bomb blast left a mass of shattered windows throughout the premises. Thankfully, there was no severe structural damage.

Shortly afterwards I saw 'PAT' carefully making his way through the hall, avoiding strewn glass, as he made his way towards me. He requested that I prevent boys from boarding the Crawley train the following morning, as school would be closed for two days. Some of our cadets, together with R.C. Rivaz who was on leave from the RAF, were able to give assistance to our neighbours in Richmond Road.

Squadron Leader R.C. Rivaz DFC, who was our former art master, was a member of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire's crew. During his leave he always visited us. At one never to be forgotten time, he visited us from above. This was in his Spitfire. As the aircraft reached

the peak or its climb it started to fall away. Then, suddenly, he power dived with great precision. The buildings shook.

My guess is that our Headmaster did not entirely share our excitement but was relieved to find the buildings still intact.

Tragically, 'Revs' was killed in October 1945, when a Liberator of RAF Transport Command in which he was travelling as a passenger exploded on take-off from Brussels Airport.

During these years a large book, on occasions, circulated between classes advising staff members of any emergency. On this particular afternoon the book arrived during Algebra with Mr. C.G. Jones. Once he had signed as having read the information, we noticed he became very confused and upset.

We were informed that we had to attend a special assembly. We were all shocked to learn that 'Revs' had been killed. A thick black cloud descended and remained over Collyer's school for many days. We had lost, not only a gifted teacher, but a treasured friend.

Apart from the daily air raid warnings, it was a constant reminder that we were living in perilous times, when 'PAT' would announce during morning assembly that various OCs had been killed in action. Some we had known. Others we had not.

Each had been a member of 'PAT's' great family, which meant much to both him and his wife, as they had no children of their own. When you consider the thousands of letters he wrote to OCs particularly during the war years, our Headmaster knew us, each one, by name.

During the years it has not only been a pleasure but a privilege to keep in touch with many of the staff and visit them in their homes. Messrs Henderson and

Willson always welcomed a visit, as did G.F.W. Hart, my Housemaster of Denne, known as 'Twitch'. My last visit to his home in Henfield was just three months before he died.

Before leaving I reminded him of his final comment to the gathered assembly of boys. "Well boys, I've cuffed your ears and smacked your heads, but never once has my conscience given me an uneasy Twitch" The response was, of course, a thunderous applause. It was a sad farewell for I guessed it would be the last visit.

Founders Day, 7 June 1946, was indeed a day to be remembered. Field Marshal Montgomery, who attended St Paul's school with our Headmaster, had been invited to distribute the prizes and trophies on that important occasion.

Horsham town came to a standstill as the members of St. Leonards, Forest, Collyer's and Denne marched from Hurst Road to St Mary's Parish Church. The splendour of the Causeway was further enhanced by the colourful hoods over academic gowns, together with 550 blue and gold caps. The Bishop of Chichester preached, emphasising the need of the world for the moral leadership of our nation.

The Field Marshal presented the prizes and trophies in the Drill Hall and pleaded for a deeper appreciation of the importance of leadership, morale and discipline in the training of boys. The Field Marshal was so experienced, as was 'PAT', in such matters. Each, in their professional life, had selected and gathered about them a group of men of great ability, who could be trusted, and with attributes ready for the task.

As the years recede one is so thankful for the influence of these men who sought, not only to instruct us, but to mould our characters.

Ivan Hill

Wanted: One Secretary

After 10 years or so in the Office, Anthony Barnard has advised that he would like to retire from the position of Honorary Secretary of the OCA. It is most important that we find someone who would be prepared to take on this important and essential post and, in the hope that somebody reading this Newsletter may be interested, Anthony has provided a brief description of the work as follows :-

- a) To prepare the agenda for and take, prepare and distribute minutes of committee and annual general meetings. Correct minutes, in accordance with comments made at subsequent meetings.
- b) Deal with all correspondence received, responding where appropriate, or pass on for necessary action by, or for the information of, other committee members.
- c) Maintain necessary files and records.
- d) Send out invitations to guests at official functions.
- e) Maintain formal links with other organisations, in particular the Guild of Mercers' Scholars and the Old Mercers' Club.

It is not essential to live in the immediate Horsham district but attendance at the committee and annual general meetings is important as is an e-mail address for communication purposes. The meetings are held at the College - currently three per annum - comprising two meetings of the committee plus the AGM. Other meetings may be added should the need arise but only at the agreement of the committee.

**PLEASE GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR CONSIDERATION - IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER ASAP.**

Summer reunion 2012

The last time we visited the Wey & Arun Canal we enjoyed a beautiful, hot mid-summer day. This year we weren't quite so lucky but the weather wasn't as bad as early indications and the rain did hold off until about 4pm which was enough time for us to get to know each other a little better.

I should straight away apologise if you had read the Spring Newsletter and wondered when the event was - somewhere between me and publication the date disappeared. Don't know how that happened and my apologies. It didn't stop more than the usual number turning up this year and 31 of us were present, including one of our oldest members, Reg Thompson (1933-1938) and his wife; Sue Shilling from the Guild of Mercers' Scholars; and assorted others from both far (Norfolk) and near. Most enjoyed a good lunch at the Onslow Arms before the trip and eventually boarded the *Zachariah Keppel* for our 4pm departure. Unfortunately there wasn't enough room for my wife and me so we adjourned, along with Elisabeth Holmes and Jim Pullen to the Onslow to await the return at around 6pm. I was advised that everyone seemed to enjoy the trip and the opportunity to natter with friends old and new which is

what it's all about. Thanks to those of you who have been in contact to say how much you enjoyed the day.

Perhaps next year it would be sensible to put this event back to July in the hope of better weather; but no matter what date we go for, this is all rather beyond our control. I would appreciate any thoughts you may have on this and also suggestions for places that we can visit which are not too far distant from the Horsham area and also not too expensive.

Derek Sturt



Old Collyerians going nowhere?

Can you help?

Your committee has, for some time, found it difficult to recruit sufficient members to do the work necessary to keep the association running smoothly. It seems ironic that our association, whose membership consists of such a large proportion of retired people, should need to rely on an overstretched committee comprising mainly younger members already juggling the demands of busy careers and for some, young families. We will, this year, have several vacancies. Being on the OCA Committee was never meant to be a job for life, and some of us need a rest. Can you help? Serving on the OCA Committee has been, and, hopefully, will continue to be, both rewarding and fun. With a full committee the commitment is not onerous: Just one AGM and two committee meetings a year. If you can assist, please come to the AGM, or contact our Secretary.

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

We are hoping to hear from still more members prepared to receive their newsletters by e-mail. All monies saved on publishing and distribution, as a result of this, can be re-assigned to other useful activities of the Association. And it arrives faster, and in glorious colour. To receive your newsletter by E-mail, please send your name and years of attendance at Collyer's, exactly as it appears in the Address List, to the Hon. General Secretary, ANTHONY BARNARD at: ocawalnutclose@btinternet.com

OC's 70th birthday reunion

For some years now Robert McCaw, David Gabriel and Henry/Raymond Trickey who left the school for university in 1959 have met for an annual reunion with their wives Madeleine, Jenny and Susan in their homes in Norfolk, Bristol and Hampshire.

This year they marked their seventieth birthdays with a reunion at the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath and are pictured here at dinner, sporting their OC ties.

Ray Trickey



College News

Recent press releases from the College of Richard Collyer in Horsham:

A STARS

Horsham's College of Richard Collyer has achieved record breaking exam results, significantly bucking the national trend. Students have excelled with an A2 pass rate at 99%, with an incredible 61% achieving grades at A*/B, the college's best ever performance!

In a number of subjects the results are particularly outstanding. Photography had a 100% pass rate with a staggering 86% at A*/B, Dance a 100% pass rate with 80% at A*/B, 72% of Maths students achieved A*/B while Further Maths had a 100% pass rate with 72% also at A*/B. Chemistry posted a 100% pass rate with 70% at A*/B, Spanish a 100% pass rate with 65% at A*/B and Drama a 100% pass rate with 62% at A*/B; Computing had a 100% pass rate with 64% at A*/B, Classics a 100% pass rate with 61% at A*/B and Music also enjoyed a 100% pass rate with 60% achieving A*/B. Physics had 71% at A*/B and 68% of Government and Politics students achieved A*/B. 67% Biology and French students achieved A*/B, while History had an excellent pass rate of 99% with 60% at A*/B.

The Principal, Dr Jackie Johnston, paid tribute to the hard work of students, parents and staff: "We are thrilled to be celebrating yet another record-breaking year of outstanding success across our broad range of



subjects. I'm incredibly proud of our students, parents and staff as the success reflects their hard work over the course of another hugely successful year. The results are quite simply superb!

Noteworthy individual successes included Warwick bound Ben Kent, who achieved 5 A* in Maths, Chemistry, Further Maths, Electronics and Physics and Oliver Harris, who having achieved A* in Electronics, Maths and A's in Further Maths and Physics will be studying Physics at Sussex University. Tom Robinson achieved 4 A* in Maths, History, Politics and Philosophy as well as a further A* in the EPQ. Evie Button achieved 4 A* in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Psychology and is



CHEMISTRY STUDENTS REACT POSITIVELY TO NOVARTIS CHALLENGE

Chemistry students have undertaken an organic synthesis of their very own aspirin from a naturally occurring starting compound. The unique project is completed in collaboration with Novartis, a leading global pharmaceutical giant. Once students had fully synthesised their aspirin, Novartis chemists offered five sessions of chemical analysis to 135 students in the labs at Collyer's, followed by a visit for all students to the Novartis research site in Horsham.

During the challenging project, students gained a sufficiently in-depth knowledge of organic chemistry to complete an involved, satisfying and hugely enjoyable piece of laboratory work.

Students had the fantastic experience of observing top industrial chemists working at the cutting edge of drug design and development. Novartis' analytical department worked tirelessly to complete further analysis of every single sample of Aspirin made by our budding chemists! Encouragingly, detailed structural analysis proved that almost all students successfully synthesised Aspirin. Boots had better watch out!

Subject leader for Chemistry Lesley Owen was delighted: "Another year is complete and another exceptional year group of chemistry students have emerged. Our students really are in a unique position by completing the Aspirin project in collaboration with Novartis. It's a fantastic experience for all of our students, as the project draws together so many aspects of the AS course and prepares them well for the progression to the A2 year".

Alongside their laboratory sessions, students have been working hard to produce scientific research style posters detailing their work on Aspirin. The results of their labour look very professional indeed and will be displayed in the foyer in the research department at Novartis, where they will be judged by their top scientists. The winning group of students will have the honour of presenting their work at an official research meeting at Novartis in September.

Principal, Dr Jackie Johnston said: "We are extremely grateful to Novartis for their fantastic support. These students represent the next generation of scientists and we are incredibly lucky that a global leader like Novartis is so actively generous in helping with their development".

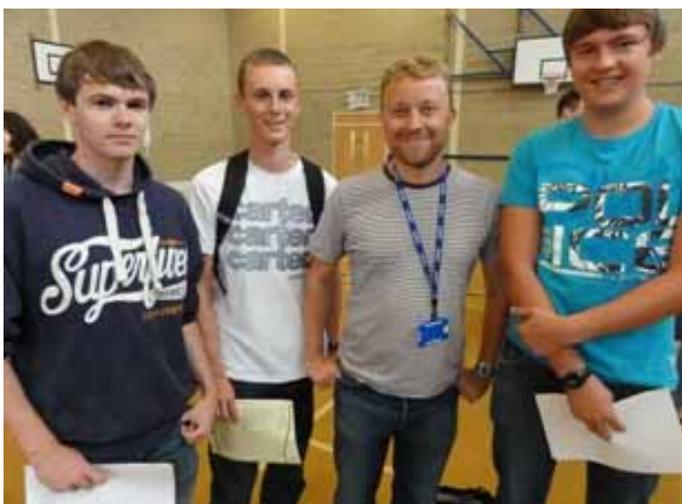
College News is taken from the College press releases, which can be read at www.collyers.ac.uk.

now heading for Cambridge University to study Natural Sciences. Michael McGearty is Oxford bound to study Engineering, having achieved A* in Geology, Maths and Physics and an A in Further Maths. Also celebrating were Mathew Wise, who is to study Physics at Warwick, Louisa Clark who will be reading Law with French at Birmingham and Alex Abbott who will study Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

The college's AS results were also excellent, with an overall pass rate of 93% with 46% achieving A/B. Drama enjoyed a 100% pass rate with 67% at A/B, while 66% of AS Photography students achieved an A/B.

The college's high quality post results advice service is now in full swing, with academic staff guiding students into appropriate university choices.

Dr Jackie Johnston added: "In these difficult economic times, quality education is clearly at a premium and I'm delighted that Collyer's continues to provide an outstanding educational platform for young people in the area. I wish our departing students good luck for the future."



WE NEED YOUR MEMORIES...

Items for the newsletter are always welcome.

Please send your contributions via the Hon Secretary,

Anthony Barnard,

ocawalnutclose@btinternet.com

Revised Constitution

The 2012 AGM of the Old Collyerians' Association will present some changes to the Rules, to be voted on at the meeting. The revised Rules have been published on the OCA website, and are reproduced below:

The Rules of the OLD COLLYERIANS' ASSOCIATION

1) NAME

The name of the Association shall be "The Old Collyerians' Association" (OCA).

2) AIMS

- a) To maintain amongst members interest in the welfare of the "College of Richard Collyer" (the College).
- b) To promote social contacts between members by periodic reunions, newsletters and other means of communication.
- c) To support the College in every way.
- d) To ensure the long term future of the OCA by active recruiting of former students of the College or Collyer's School.
- e) To maintain an archive record of the OCA..

3) MEMBERSHIP

- i) The following persons shall be eligible for membership of the OCA:
 - a) Any former student of the College or former pupil of Collyer's School.
 - b) Any present or former member of staff of the College or Collyer's School.
 - c) Any present or former governor of the College or Collyer's School.
 - d) Any other person whose connection with the College or with Collyer's School is, in the view of the Committee, notable.
- ii) The membership shall be divided into the following categories:
 - a) Annual members.
 - b) Long term members.
 - c) Life members.
 - d) Honorary members.
- iii) Election of members
Members shall be elected by the Committee.
- iv) Discontinuance of membership –
The Committee shall have the power to terminate the membership of any member, without notice, on any reasonable grounds.

4) SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are payable by members as follows:

- a) Subscriptions in respect of annual, long term and life membership shall be paid at such rates as may be determined from time to time by a general meeting of the OCA.

- b) All subscriptions for annual membership shall become due on the 1st September each year.
- c) Any annual member whose subscription is 12 months in arrears shall cease to be a member.
- d) No subscription shall be due from honorary members.
- e) Long term membership shall expire after a period of 25 years.

5) MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

- a) The OCA shall maintain computer based records which are necessary for the administration of the OCA.
- b) These records are to be maintained and used in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. They are to be disclosed at the discretion of the Committee acting in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

6) OFFICERS

- a) The officers of the OCA shall be the President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Membership Secretary (the Officers).
- b) The Officers are to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (the AGM).

7) THE COMMITTEE

- a) The affairs of the OCA shall be managed by the Committee.
- b) The Chairman of the Committee shall be the President.
- c) The Committee shall comprise the Officers, the immediate Past President, the Principal of the College and 5 other members of the OCA. The 5 other members of the OCA shall be elected at the AGM.
- d) The Committee shall have the authority to co-opt members to fill vacancies.
- e) A quorum for the Committee shall be 7 members.
- f) Students of the College and members of the OCA may be invited to attend Committee meetings at the discretion of the Committee. They will not have voting rights.
- g) Subject to these Rules the Committee shall regulate its own procedures.

8) TRUSTEES

- a) Three members of the OCA shall be Trustees, one being elected at a general meeting each year to serve for a period of three years. They may stand for re-election should they wish.
- b) The invested funds of the OCA shall be registered in the names of these Trustees.
- c) At least one Trustee shall attend any meeting of the Committee if required.

9) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) The AGM shall be held on the third Saturday in November or such other date in November as the Committee may determine. A clear two weeks' notice (incorporating the Agenda) shall be given.
- b) The AGM shall be chaired by the President or the President's nominee if the President is unable to attend.
- c) Each member of the OCA shall be entitled to one vote in respect of any resolution at the AGM.
- d) The Chairman shall have in addition a casting vote.
- e) Voting by a proxy who is present at the AGM and is so authorised in writing will be permitted.
- f) The quorum at the AGM shall be eight.

10) SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- i) The Committee shall summon a Special General Meeting either :
 - a) upon a request (written or electronic) specifying the business for which such meeting shall be called and signed by at least thirty-five members of the OCA.
 - or
 - b) pursuant to a resolution passed by the Committee.

- ii) A clear two weeks' notice of a Special General Meeting shall be given and only the business specified shall be discussed at such a meeting.
- iii) The provisions of Rule 9 clauses b) to f) inclusive shall apply.

11) COLOURS

The colours of the OCA shall be dark blue, light blue and gold.

12) ALTERATION OF RULES

- a) No alterations or additions to these Rules shall be made except at the AGM.
- b) Any proposal to alter or add to these Rules must be submitted in writing or electronically to the Honorary Secretary and received by the 30 th September in any year.

13) RULES BINDING

The foregoing Rules shall be binding on all members of the OCA. Any member refusing in any way to abide by them shall, subject to the discretion of the Committee, forfeit their membership.

M e m b e r s h i p

Due to data protection restrictions, membership data is available to OCA members only.

Join the OCA

to receive the full version of the newsletter, plus regular membership lists

Richard Collyer Masonic Lodge and Chapter

The Richard Collyer Masonic Lodge is almost as old as the OCA, having been formed in 1927, while the Chapter is a mere junior having been formed in 1958. Both are very active organisations and meet regularly at Horsham Masonic Hall. The Lodge members would be delighted to hear from any old Collyerians who would like further details or who might be interested in joining.

Full details may be obtained from:

Peter R Ticehurst, Flat 32, Bowes Close, Horsham RH13 5SZ.