



STROUD BOY'S TECHNICAL SCHOOL - OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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Welcome to the Spring 2011 Edition of the Newsletter. The place to be for news about **your** school, however old or young you are or *think* you are! Some of us act our age, some our shoe size, but whichever you choose to do, if you attended the Craft, Central, Technical or post-amalgamation incarnation of our venerable academy, this is the 'spot on the dial' as they used to say on good old Radio Luxembourg.

Editorial

Once upon a time our television screens regularly flickered with the images of a rather large man with a moustache and bowler hat turning to his hapless sidekick and exclaiming resignedly, 'Well, here's another nice mess you've gotten me into, Stanley'.

Sadly, Laurel and Hardy do not seem to feature very often today amongst the myriad reality, cooking, gardening and countless other somewhat tawdry offerings dreamed up by the 'media' and beamed endlessly into our lives. Good old-fashioned humour may seem quaint and dated to some but there's no doubting we could all do with something to cheer us up especially in today's world when every morning's headlines tell of some new disaster, either natural or man-made, which is unfolding somewhere on our planet.

As I write, the NATO 'Coalition' is scratching its collective head, wondering what to do about Libya. I am sure that if Mr Levitt were still with us he would be keen to equate the situation with his much favoured 'irresistible force meeting an immovable object' scenario. Some might say that our own Coalition Government has 'gotten us into another nice mess'. Meanwhile we watch with fascinated horror as the mighty firepower unleashed from allied 'planes and submarines rains down on hapless North Africa, painting a slow but irrevocably unfolding picture of human tragedy.

Unrest in Africa and the Middle East is balanced by natural tragedies in other parts of the world. New Zealand, the 'land of the long white cloud', home to hobbits and Anchor Butter, has suffered again from a devastating earthquake, Christchurch bearing the brunt. A report from Len Gaston appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Australia has endured floods of an unprecedented nature and Japan has been hit by an earthquake followed by a tsunami of truly biblical proportions.

Those of us living in the quiet English shires must count our blessings. We know that Britain faces formidable economic and social problems but, when measured against the elemental and monumental difficulties millions of our fellow men, women and children are struggling with, we can perhaps bear our own crosses just a little more easily.

This Newsletter goes out to some three hundred plus members of the Old Boys Association and is probably seen by rather more than that. Many still reside in Britain but a considerable number live and work overseas. Of course, the members are the ones we know about. There are hundreds of Old Boys that we don't know about. Perhaps we should pause for a moment and remember them all – wherever they may be.

Competition!

The next Newsletter will feature an exciting competition! It will take the form of a quiz and you will need a copy of the Centenary Magazine to take part. Most members have received their copy but if you still haven't got yours one will be sent on receipt of a cheque for £2.95 made payable to the Association. Full details, including prizes, will be announced in the next edition.

Contributions

At the risk of sounding like a broken record your Editor continues to seek contributions for the Newsletter. News, stories, jokes, sports reports, poems – all are welcome and we'll fit them in if they're legal, decent, honest and truthful!

Golf

**Sid Brew's Golf at Minchinhampton Old Course
Sunday June 5th, tee off at 10.30 a.m.**

Enrol with, or gain further details **direct** from:
John Giles: john.giles1@sky.com or 'phone: 01453
759198

Places are limited so don't leave it too late to book.

Some good news!

From David Gardiner 30/1/2011

You may remember from early days that my daughter Layla, born in 1977, suffered kidney failure at an early age and subsequently became a dialysis patient.

Eight years ago my wonderful, courageous sister donated a kidney to her, following which she enjoyed a new lease of life. She married in 2008 and last November a small miracle happened when she gave birth to Amelia, my first granddaughter.

Amelia is the first baby to be born to a transplant patient in the history of Cheltenham Hospital, and she is doing fine. Mother had to risk everything to achieve this, as she could not continue with anti-rejection drugs during the pregnancy. She has suffered setbacks, as was likely, but we hope she will recover in time.

There may well be some media coverage shortly, as we would like to spread the message of hope for others suffering organ failure.

Farewell:-

Stephen Reginald WOODWARD (1940-44), retired Stroud Postman, on January 3rd, aged 81

Donald SKERTON, on February 23, aged 75, of Uplands, Stroud, leaving widow and daughter.

Anthony John (Bill) PHILPOTTS, on March 14th, aged 70, of Rodborough, finally lost a valiant battle with cancer and passed away at home in the company of his family. A fine sportsman, he was at School 1951 to 56 and was in Wren House.

A request from your Editor:-

We are always sad to have to report friends we have lost and endeavour to remember and honour them in the Newsletter. Although we appreciate that it is a very difficult time for families suffering bereavement we think it's always nice if we can have as much information as possible so that we can celebrate their lives in a deserving and respectful manner. Your Editor welcomes appropriate details either by post or by email. Thank you.

Steve Gaston writes from Christchurch, New Zealand about the latest situation there:-

Thought I'd write a quick note to let you know we're all still alive and well here in Christchurch. It's taken a while but most of the city has power and water. Sewerage is still a problem and will take a long time to fix. We have 40000 chemical toilets to try to get rid of the Portaloos, but I don't think a lot of people are using them if the toilet still works. They don't realise the main sewage plant is stuffed, and we have heaps of sucker trucks driving around cleaning out blocked pipes. Roads in the east and pipes under them are stuffed. They've had to string above ground

66000kv lines on poles to parts of the east to get the power to them. People in the west are not really too badly affected and carry on as normal, but all their waste has to come through the east!! City centre, the main employment area is mainly still closed and will be for months. Because of the failing high-rises it's too dangerous to enter. I won't go on about conditions as it's easier to look up on www.stuff.com and page through that for a general view of Christchurch. Family wise I think we're doing ok, even got a new granddaughter, Jemma, a couple of weeks ago. Everybody's doing the best they can and carrying on but it is hard work. The worst thing is the uncertainty of anything. Everybody has been great. Government, council, Red Cross etc. etc. I can't name them all. But now it's back to the 'what next?' that we had three months ago, only three or four times worse than it was then. Aftershocks seem to have quietened down quite quickly this time (I wish I hadn't written that - could be a hex) but every time a truck goes past you wait for the quiver or shake. Ground is like jelly. So unnerving. Mum and dad's house is now much closer to the river, so it should be worth much more. (joke) They've had to build walls along the river as the ground has sunk that much they're worried about flooding in the area, which wouldn't be good as they have to pump raw sewage into it at the moment. We go round once in a while for a look, but it's very sad. They seem OK in the rental but it's not the same as your own home.

Steve

Ps If you need an excuse not to wash your car, try an earthquake with plenty of liquefaction. It's a waste of time, just hose out the undercarriage occasionally.

We will publish some of Steve's photographs in the next edition.

Also coming next time:-

- Details of Marling's decision on whether to apply for Academy status..
- Competition details!

And Finally:-

English with Gandhi:

CGL:- 'How high is a Chinaman(?)'

From the back of the class:- 'Depends on where the ball pitches, sir.'

Answers on a post card, please.

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That's all for now, chaps.

Get in touch! Keep in touch!

Chas Webb, Hon. News Editor.
