

Newsletter

Joint Newsletter Editor: Chas Webb
Email: Chazza999@hotmail.com
Tel: 01453 766918

Joint Newsletter Editor: David Mutton
Email: max3mutley@yahoo.com
Tel: 07721 470974

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer:
David Boulton
Email: Stroudstoba@aol.com
Tel: 01453 833411

Association Website: www.stroudboys-techschool-oba.co.uk

Happy New Year to all our Members!

Welcome to the January 2011 issue of the Newsletter, the organ for all Old Boys of the Craft, Central, Technical and post-amalgamation Technical / Marling schools.

Editorial

As I write this in sub-zero temperatures our brave lads are roundly thrashing the Aussies in the fourth Ashes test at Melbourne. Ricky Ponting spent an indecent amount of time arguing with the umpires over their failure to give dismissal decisions. Come on Ricky – we thought it was only the Poms that whinge!

Meanwhile back in dear old Blighty we watch with envy the shirt-sleeved, ice cream eating, sunglasses wearing spectators in sunny Oz, while we shiver and battle our way through the frozen landscape during what is likely to turn out to be the coldest December since 1910. A severe test for the then new heating system at the Craft School in Beards Lane. And so Centenary Year goes out as it came in – with the country carpeted in snow and ice and local authorities battling to keep the roads clear with thousands of tons of grit and salt which might melt the ice but will play havoc with the underside of your car. A thorough rinsing is recommended when conditions improve.

Wherever you may wander in the Stroud Valleys you can't go very far without encountering a hill or 'pitch' either up or down. How are the residents of Chalford, Amberley, Bisley, Rodborough, Minchinhampton etc. coping in this harsh weather? Let us know your experiences and we'll publish them in the next Newsletter. Or if you have reminiscences of winters past such as 1947 or 1962/3 let us know how you battled to School because, as we know, like the Windmill Theatre, 'We never closed' (Well, hardly ever.)

Perhaps that is enough talk of cold weather. We should look forward to the lighter, brighter days ahead. If history should continue its habit of repeating itself we may look forward to a vintage summer. 1911 was certainly one such.

Temperatures well into the 80s were sustained throughout July, August and well into September.

Editorial Postscript

An unavoidable delay in the preparation of this Newsletter has necessitated an update. England secured a famous victory and retained the Ashes. The snow and ice have gone to be replaced by wind and rain. A somewhat feeble but distinctly audible dawn chorus has reminded me that very soon spring will have sprung, the grass will be riz and it will be time to get out the bloomin' lawnmower again.

David Boulton has returned from his adventures in Bonnie Scotland where Christmas and Hogmanay were overshadowed by bad luck when Sonia experienced a nasty fall which meant a spell in hospital. We are glad to see them back home safely in Forest Green and wish Sonia a continuing and speedy recovery.

A gentle reminder to all our members that contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome, so don't be shy, get scribbling and emailing!

Centenary Magazines

Centenary magazines are now available to all members. The magazine was unveiled at the Centenary Dinner and has already generated much interest. Packed with articles and illustrations covering the whole separate life of the School up to and including the amalgamation, it is a 'must read' for all Old Boys and anyone who takes an interest in the history of one of Stroud's oldest Schools. Although the magazine is free to all members, we do ask for a contribution of £2:95 towards postage and packing. (including overseas members) Cheques should be made payable to S.T.S.O.B.A. and sent to David Boulton at the usual address. Supplies are limited to one copy per member, however extra copies may be available, depending on demand, at £5:95 per copy including p&p.

Special thanks are due to David Hatherall of MDL Kelex who made an excellent job of the printing and production of the magazine and also the Dinner menus.

Centenary Dinner

The Centenary Dinner was held at the Marquee, Whitminster Inn on Friday November 12th 2010. The decision to hold the event at larger premises than our usual 'home' was well-founded as we were able to welcome over 120 members amongst whom were many familiar faces and some for the first time. Guests of honour included Mike Workman, Tony Andrews and Dr. Stuart Wilson, Head teacher of Marling School.

Mike Workman entertained us with his memories of School in the early 1950s, a time when social attitudes were changing rapidly after the war, causing some consternation amongst the old guard of masters who found it difficult to deal with boys who persistently wore 'drainpipe' trousers and fluorescent socks.

Tony Andrews was in an anagrammatical frame of mind and invited us to notice that rearranging the letters, S.T.S.O.B.A. when writing cheques to the Association, the word 'BOASTS' can be formed. This reminded him that he was proud to have been associated with the School, first as a pupil and then as a long-serving member of staff both at the 'Tech' and at the combined School. He also related a tale which concerned a certain fascination with girls' blouses which caused great merriment.

A 'Grand Auction of National and International Sports Memorabilia' was held during the evening. The auctioneer was none other than your President, Keith 'The Duke' Urch, who conducted the proceedings with professional panache and whipped the assembled throng into a bidding frenzy. Serious injury was avoided when Keith was persuaded not to wave his gavel about in a rather alarming fashion. A very creditable sum of £255:00 was raised.

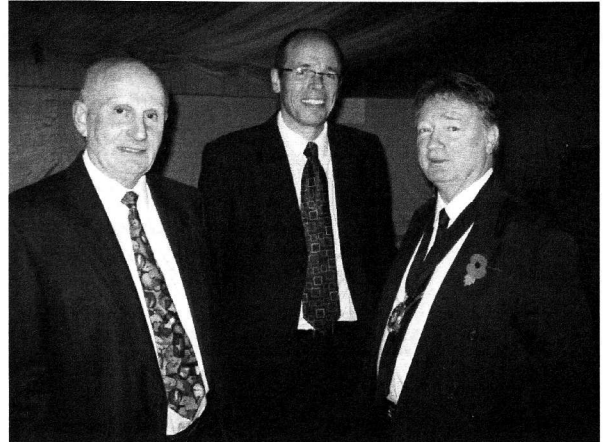
The raffle was held as usual although with an extended range of prizes. Proceeds from ticket sales raised £472:50.

The waiting staff at the Whitminster Inn were efficient and professional and guests were appreciative of being seated at round tables which afforded easy conversation.

We were fortunate in having a photographer from 'Stroud Life' attend the Dinner and he spent some considerable time taking a great many pictures. Some of them subsequently appeared in the paper and we will try to incorporate a selection of these in a future Newsletter.

Great fun was had in transporting 'Chappie's' portrait to the venue; Bernard Trott's Audi coupe proving an ideal vehicle. We hope that, in due course, we will again see Mr Elliott together with other illustrious and worthy personages adorn the walls of Marling's Great Hall.

At the Centenary Dinner



L-R: Tony Andrews, Dr Stuart Wilson, Keith Urch



L-R: Tony Andrews, Chas Webb, Dr Stuart Wilson, David Boulton, Rev. John Forryan, Peter Baxter, Mike Workman, Harry Linforth, Bernard Trott, David Mutton. Foreground:- Keith Urch.

Pictures by kind permission of Will Nichol.

And Finally:-

H. B. Cooke:- "Now laddie, let me hear you recite your 'passage for memory.'"

Wide-eyed first former:- "Oh, you don't need to, sir. My mother tested me last night and I was word perfect!"

That's all for now, chaps.

Get in touch! Keep in touch!

Chas Webb, Hon. News Editor.