



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: Stroudstsoa@aol.com
Tel: 01453 833411

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

A Happy New Year to all our members!

Editorial

A very warm welcome to the first edition of the year. We hope we find all our members hale and hearty and ready to enjoy a vintage year full of pomp and pageantry, Olympic feats of, well, *Olympic* proportions, not to mention Eurosquabbles aplenty.

A recent programme dedicated to the memory of David Croft reminded us of that fondly remembered tribute to that very British post-war summer resort of the masses – the holiday camp and, in particular, 'Maplin's' where Chief Yellowcoat Gladys Pugh 'a simple girl from the Valleys' (her words, not ours) was very proud of the camp's 'Olympic-size swimming pool'.

By the end of the year we shall all be very familiar with 'Olympic-size swimming pools' as the world descends on Stratford and Stratford hides under the bed.

2012 also heralds a great excuse for unbridled pomp, pageantry and lighting up the sky in the form of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the first such event since Queen Victoria celebrated hers in 1897.

Those of you who pay close attention and read these newsletters assiduously will know that your editor is engaged in the arduous and taxing task of transcribing the School Registers into digital form. Alas, this exercise is proceeding at a glacial pace due to other commitments but it is hoped that an injection of Global Warming during the year may cause the glacier to speed up a bit without resulting in too much terminal moraine. (You can deduce from this that not all Mr Harris's geography lessons fell on deaf ears.)

The impending Diamond Jubilee rang some distant bells and on consulting the Registers it was found that many of the boys who enrolled at the School in 1910 were born in 1897. Indeed, the very first boy on the list was one Harold Vincent Angell of 9, Rowcroft who was born on 8th February 1897. On the outbreak of the Great War he enlisted as a Private in the Gloucestershire Regiment, 1/5 Battalion (Territorial)

Sadly he was mortally wounded and died on 13th June 1915 in Flanders.

On a less sombre note, the last boy to be admitted in the 1964 intake was Martyn George Young of France Lynch. However, the very last entry of all was made on 27th April 1965 when Jeffrey Raymond Ballinger was enrolled after transferring from Gloucester Central Technical School. We should be interested to hear from them.

Annual Dinner

The 64th Annual Dinner was held at the Marquee, Whitminster Inn on Friday 4th November. Although the weather was foul concluding in fog of such density it fairly deserved the soubriquet 'London Particular' (or 'pea-souper' if you like) upwards of 90 members attended and enjoyed an extremely good spread which was well up to the standard we have been used to expect at these functions.

We were very pleased to be able to welcome Dr. Stuart Wilson, Marling Head Teacher, and we are most appreciative that he was able to juggle a very busy schedule in order to address the diners and bring us up to date with a very comprehensive review of the School's progress and achievements during the year which culminated in the conveying of academy status, an exercise which involved much intense work and effort by very many people over the course of the conversion process. We heartily congratulate the School on its success.

We are also very pleased to announce that, as a result of a universally accepted proposal at the Association's AGM, Dr. Wilson was conferred with Honorary Lifetime Membership of the OBA. We are delighted to have him 'on board' and look forward to many happy years of friendship and association.

Members will be pleased to learn that Sports Day victors were Fuller House and the 2010/11 House Competition was won by Elliott House. Frank and Chappie must be congratulating each other!

We are also very pleased to note welcome additions to the Annual Prize giving list in the form of the STSOBA Prize and the Throup Memorial Prize.

We note that 2012 marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of Marling School and will report on celebrations to mark this event in a later issue.

It was with much pleasure that we were able to welcome our new chaplain, Michael Withey. We hope to be able to include some biographical details in the next issue.

In something of a departure from recent years, we were very fortunate to secure the services of Mark Cummings as our guest speaker. Although not an old boy, Mark, who presents a Breakfast Show on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, showed tremendous enthusiasm and interest in the School and life around Stroud in general. Now residing in Tetbury, Mark is a native of Yorkshire, and was brought up in 'Last of the Summer Wine' country. It was noted that there was a certain resemblance between your President and Compo Simmonite. However, on reflection, it was felt that, on balance, Compo was marginally better dressed.

As befits a professional broadcaster and speaker, Mark was thoroughly entertaining despite the failure of the microphone which probably resulted in several cases of laryngitis the following morning.

A fund has been established to enable the purchase of a megaphone for future years although attendees are forewarned not to stand too close to David Boulton while he tests it out.

As usual the raffle proved very popular and generated a healthy £330:00 profit.

Obituaries

Jack Dadson of Brownhill died on December 23rd and was at School 1947-52 in Arnold House.

Marshall John Woodward (1937-41 Drake) died December 1st aged 85 peacefully at Winslow house Residential Home, Nailsworth, having spent most of his life at Watledge.

Ron Cook writes:-

'The subject arose at a family get together - My mother Muriel Cook (nee Blandford) celebrates her 99th birthday in October and she was one of the first pupils at the Girls' Central School established at Downfield - having first attended the Badbrook school before it became the Girls' Central. Her younger brother, Leonard Blandford, is 97 and was at the Boys' Central School from 1925 -27 leaving at the age of 14 years to start work at Holloway Brothers. Could Leonard be the Oldest Surviving Old Boy? His son, Graham Blandford, attended in the 1950's and, in all, 6 members of the family attended the School, the last member being Ian Angel before the Boys' Technical was merged with the Marling.

It might be of interest to hear of other families with even greater associations with the School.'

'Chappie's Challenge'

There was an astonishing response to last Newsletter's quiz. One all-correct entry was received. Congratulations

and well done to Martin Camm of King's Stanley who knew that:-

- 1 – George Holloway
- 2 – Public House
- 3 – Bodyline Tour
- 4 – David Cameron – Prime Minister
- 5 – 'The Great Bear'

- 1 – Samuel Brierley
- 2 – W. S. Wilkinson
- 3 – August 30th 1910
- 4 – Swindon
- 5 – Shepherd

Those members who, for some mysterious reason, have yet to avail themselves of the opportunity to subscribe to the Centenary Magazine are advised that copies are still available on application to the Secretary.

News from New Zealand – Len Gaston writes:-

'We are still in the rental property but not for much longer. Should be on our way out in the first week of November and are quite looking forward to it. Health-wise we are both O.K. though Eileen is still suffering from the shingles. Still getting after shocks most days as many as three, don't feel them as much now as we have got used to them, most of them happen during the early morning hours and they do not wake us from our slumbers. Hard to think that the first earthquake was over a year ago (September 4th) and we haven't been paid out by the insurance co. for it yet. We have had three severe ones since then one on Boxing Day, the next on Feb 22nd and the last one in June since then it had been all after shocks. The city and suburbs is still in a mess, a lot of severely damaged buildings still standing waiting for their death knell and a lot of empty spaces where the occupants have met theirs. In the eastern suburbs where we live it is still in a mess. The roads are full of pot holes, a lot of road works are still in hand and some people are still not yet connected to the sewerage as the pipes are broken. It will be a year at least before it is all back together. The city council is planning for the cities rebuild but can't do anything until the buildings are down, meantime some enterprising businesses are opening shops made out of shipping containers. All in all things are extremely difficult as nowhere in the world has experienced so many earthquakes in so short a time and therefore our council has to learn how to manage things and under the circumstances are not doing too bad a job.'

And Finally:-

Algebra with Kipper:

TVP: 'Good heavens! There's cows seven coming up the Lane!'

From the back of the class: 'Oh good! Milk'll be warm this morning then lads!'

That's all folks!

Get in touch – Stay in touch

Chas Webb – Hon. Newsletter Editor