



OW E-NEWSLETTER – Trinity Term 2021



Dear Old Wellingburian,

Welcome to this end of term e-newsletter. What a joy it was to see pupils back on site over these past few months, and to see the beginning of a return to normality.

Neil Lyon (80-85, W)
Foundation Director

Debbie Whittemore
Foundation Secretary / OW Liaison

A message from the OW Club President, Julian Amey (57-67, G)

I send warm good wishes to all OW Club Members in the UK and in other countries as, at last, Covid restrictions are being lifted.



You will see reports in this e-newsletter that the OW cricket and golf and rifle teams are back in action. I was delighted to attend the first day of the Cyril Gray golf tournament at Worplesdon GC, in June and witness the OW team win the match with Dulwich. Brian Leadsom (53-58, F), shown pictured on the left in a splendid maroon jumper and a great supporter of the OW Golf Club, was there as well, as he is every year, I am informed! It was good to hear that there is a good supply of young talent coming

through to ensure we are strong competitors now and in the future.

I supported the OW rifle team at the Public School Vets competition at Bisley on 15th July, and hope many of you will join us at the OW Lunch at the School on Saturday 25th September. We are also pleased to be holding the Oxbridge Dinner this year at St Peter's College, Oxford on 19th November.

This e-newsletter contains reports from the Headmaster and the Foundation Office. The Headmaster describes the 'brutal' year the School has been through and the staff have clearly addressed the enormous challenges of the last year very successfully. The students in their turn have risen to those challenges, including adapting to virtual learning.

The initiative by the Club to support school leavers with careers advice has gone from strength to strength, with 103 OWs offering forward to help.

The Foundation Office and the OW Club are actively working in support of the new Sixth Form Centre, and several OWs and parents have already given generous contributions. Those attending the Lunch on 25th September will have a chance to see the building work in progress, as well as an opportunity to look inside our iconic Thatched Pavilion following the successful appeal which raised funds for this.

I have been pleased to meet many of my contemporary OWs in different parts of the country over the last 18 months and the Club encourages each year group to extend connections with friends of their generation and thereby strengthen the OW community.

We also encourage you to write to us with your news and any ideas you have about how the Club can be more effective in connecting with, and supporting you. The Club now has over 4,000 members, with nearly 70% on email, and we are increasingly active on social media platforms such as LinkedIn.

Julian Amey

(57-67, G)

A message from the Headmaster, Andrew Holman:-

As the 2021-22 academic year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the most bruising period of my career. The rate at which the School and its staff have needed to flex and adapt to changing circumstances has been quite remarkable but we have met that challenge and now find ourselves in a very strong position. The students have been incredible too, showing the plasticity of youth to just shrug their shoulders, roll their sleeves up and embrace the experience.

The students who have borne the brunt of Covid-induced disruption are our exam year groups, now known as Years 11 (Fifth Form) and 13 (Upper Sixth). Once their exams were cancelled by the Government in January, the most extraordinary process was set up to replace them, essentially leading to our teachers doing all of the work normally done by the exam boards, including preparing papers, marking them and then awarding grades which are now safely locked up until mid-August.

We are very hopeful that September will see a loosening of the restrictions that exist in School and which have prevented a number of the pleasurable parts of School life that OWs will remember so well – sport, music, drama, House activities ... all the best bits! I look forward to reporting to you on this in due course.

Andrew Holman

Nick Hewer of The Apprentice calls in!

In July the TV celebrity Nick Hewer visited the School. Best known for appearing alongside Lord Sugar on *The Apprentice*, and for hosting *Countdown*, Mr Hewer was bowled over by the entrepreneurial talents of some of our pupils. You can see a brief clip of him at the School by clicking on the image below:-



Nick Hewer's visit was arranged by the School's Head of Careers, Mrs Jo Matthews, who retired this summer after a sterling 19 years in various roles at the School.

OWs help the School with careers advice

As we reported in our March E-Newsletter, some 103 OWs responded to the School's request for help with careers advice – thank you! And earlier this month several OWs came to School to talk to senior pupils, including Hugh Anderson (76-85, PI), Emily Bowe (01-15, M), Justin Chacksfield (84-91, G), Jonathan Claber (90-01, F), Jack Gourlay (02-07, G), Sara Misra (96-05, N) and Anna Turney (JS). We are very grateful to them.

The School Today

Term ended with 859 pupils on the roll. As a reminder, in September 2020 the structure of the entire School was transformed as pupils now join the Senior School at the age of 11, rather than 13 as before: there are now 615 pupils in the Senior School under Headmaster Andrew Holman, and 244 in the Prep School under Mrs Katharine Owen. About 41% of all pupils are girls, a vindication of the decision made back in 1979 to become fully co-ed.

For understandable reasons there was no OW Summer Day (the old Open Day; now called Family of Schools Day) this term. The extension of the Lockdown rules also knocked Prize Giving on the head, but the School did manage to arrange a leaving ceremony for this year's Upper Sixth leavers, with Professor Simon Cox (84-91, C) as the guest speaker. This was the final occasion presided over by Simon's brother, Dr Jonathan Cox (79-86, C), who steps down this summer as Chairman of Governors; he is succeeded by Peter Tyldesley (75-85, W), shown pictured here.



Various staff retire this summer, and we shall report more fully in the annual OW Newsletter next term. There are also various changes in the Houses, with Miss Irvin stepping down as Housemistress of Marsh after 17 years in office; Mrs Pattison steps down from Weymouth after 15 years (a record surpassed only by Jack Blake and Stephen Ostler), and Mr Coombs steps down from Garne's.

Forthcoming OW Club events

'Class of 2020' Leavers Reunion – Saturday 4th September

OW Autumn Lunch – Saturday 25th September

Instead of an Annual Dinner, we are holding an informal lunch on 25th September. Details appear below.

OW Club AGM – to be scheduled in 2022. Due notice will appear on the OW pages on the School website.

OW Club Annual Dinner – November 2021

For understandable reasons this event will not take place this year.

OW Oxbridge Dinner – Friday 19th November 2021

St Peter's College, Oxford

London Drinks – 30th November

Fingers crossed, this informal gathering for younger OWs will go ahead as planned.

OW London Dinner – 18th March 2022

This event at the House of Lords remains in the diary. Watch this space!

OW Winter Sports Day – 19th March 2022

Football and Hockey matches against the School – TBC.

OW Golfing Society and OW Rifle Club

Certain fixtures continue.

*******OW Autumn Lunch – Saturday 25th September*******

The School is welcoming all OWs of all vintages (and their partners / guests and family) for an informal lunch on Saturday 25th September. It will be an opportunity to walk around the site, to see inside the Chapel and the Archives Room, and to look at the newly-refurbished Thatched Pavilion.

Tickets are £15 per head. Please contact Debbie at the School dw@wellingboroughschool.org to reserve a place. For catering purposes we shall need to confirm final numbers by 1st SEPTEMBER.

Your Committee

This year your OW Club Committee comprises Julian Amey (57-67, G; President, 2019-21), Peter Crisp (73-83, Pl; President-Elect, 2021-22), Richard Jackson (70-81, St; Treasurer), Neil Lyon (80-85, W), Simon Marriott (60-71, St), Jon Morris Smith (76-86, Pa), Peter Phillips (54-65, Pa), Joe Smith (98-05, PS), Sophie Timms (82-92, W), Rosie Turner (05-14, N) and Debbie Whittemore, with Clive Westley (59-64, F) in attendance.

Alison Mitchell (91-98, W) stepped down from the Committee last year, and Peter Phillips will be retiring from the Committee this year, so there are two vacancies to be filled. The Committee meets six times a year, and until further notice all meetings are held online. We would be delighted to hear from you if you might be interested in putting your name forward to serve on the Committee.

We are very fortunate that Peter Crisp has offered to follow in Julian's footsteps as Club President, and that Jon Morris Smith has offered to serve in 2022-23. We would be very interested in hearing from any OW who might be willing to serve as President in future years; it is a lovely way of being able to reconnect with the School and to give something back.

OW Cricket

On 6th June a well-supported OW side took on the alumni of Monmouth College in the first round of the Cricketer Trophy. The OWs, spanning seven different year groups, batted first and scored 274 runs, Charlie Macdonell as the star with 87. In return, Monmouth were bowled out for 197 following a superb all-round bowling and fielding display led by the Knibbs brothers and Primesh Patel. The team comprised Charlie Macdonell (03-13, C), Matthew Ingram (83-88, Pa), John Bowers (06-12, G), Drew Brierley (13-15, F), Jack Johnson (98-10, G), Alex Mills (07-17, C), Jack Chopping (03-08, F), Toby Mitchell (12-15, PS), Will Knibbs (03-10, G), Primesh Patel (08-10, C) and Thomas Knibbs (04-14, G).

The team went on to win their quarter-final match against the Old Kimboltonians. John Bowers reports: 'After losing the toss, the Wellingborough bowlers made good use of the overcast conditions, bowling out the Old Kimboltonians for 114. Cam Blake took 4 wickets, Adam Davies 3 and Jack Chopping 2. In reply, the batsmen made light work of the target, knocking off the runs in 12.1 overs, Nathan Piper top scoring with 43'. The team comprised James Sales (06-21, G), Matthew

Ingram (83-88, Pa), John Bowers (06-12, G), Drew Brierley (13-15, F), George Groenland (14-16, Pl), Alex Mills (07-17, C), Nathan Piper (14-19, Pl), Levi Draper (10-15, Pl), Jack Chopping (03-08, F), Cam Blake (11-20, PS) and Adam Davies (06-21, Pl).

The OWs now face The Leys in the Semi-Final on Sunday, 25th July at Finedon Dolben Cricket Club. Spectators welcome – plays starts at 11am.

Friday 25th June saw the return of the annual OW match against the School. Cricket master George Houghton writes: 'The current School team consisted entirely of Year 13 leavers. The OWs fielded a strong XI with several of the side still regularly playing Premier League cricket in Northamptonshire. The OWs batted first and were bowled out off the final ball of the innings for 132, Nathan Piper top scoring with an elegant 46 runs. The School XI were always in the game with their run chase but ultimately left it a little too late. Needing 19 off the final over, they eventually came up seven runs short to hand victory to the OWs. Having seen the playing field lie empty for most of the preceding 15 months, it was fantastic to have a 'buzz' back around the recently refurbished Thatched Pavilion and a special thanks to all those OWs and former parents who made the trip back. The OW team comprised Will Hinton (14-19, Pl), Matt Mills (07-20, C), Alex Mills (07-17, C), Sean Mulvey (08-17, G), Levi Draper (10-15, Pl), Cam Blake (11-20, PS), Ollie Bevan (08-20, G), Nathan Piper (14-19, Pl), Harvey Lewis (12-19, C), Ben Dhaliwal (12-17, P)S) and Josh Hewett (12-19, Pl)'.

OW Golf

Congratulations to the OW golfers on reaching the last eight in the Cyril Gray Competition. We beat Dulwich 3-0 and Trent 2-1 before losing 2-1 to the 2019 winners, Liverpool College the former school of Mike Askham (Staff, 78-13). Which side was he cheering?



News of OWs

Many congratulations to Peter Cullimore (46-55, Pa) on being awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for services to the provision of Social Care in Beaconsfield.

We are pleased to renew contact with Tony Payne (60-69, Pa). After graduating from Cambridge he did a PhD in Manchester and subsequently had a career as an academic, specialising in political economy, in particular issues around development and globalisation,. He retired last July as Professor of Politics and former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield.

In March the satirical magazine *Private Eye* ran a piece on Roger Levitt (63-66, Pl), one of the most notorious fraudsters of recent decades (that's what comes from being in Platt's ...). His company had collapsed in 1990 with debts of £34 million, and there was uproar when he walked out of court with a sentence of just 180 hours' community service, leading to the Serious Fraud Office being renamed 'the Serious Farce Office' by the magazine. According to this article, Levitt is understood to have died in January 2020, aged 70. Can any OW verify this?

The Music Department's administrator Liz Burleigh was pleased to hear that Ross Harmon (06-13, G), shown pictured right has recently released his first single, 'Lonely World', available on Spotify, etc. Ross Harmon makes his West End debut this summer in 'Heathers' at The Theatre Royal, Haymarket. The show has a huge teen fan base; set in a high school, it tackles many issues facing today's generation of teenagers.



Looking Back

We have been contacted by a Cambridge academic who is researching the careers of those who served in the Colonial Service in the days of Empire. His query related to T.D. Rutter (1914-21). TDR's father Thomas had also been a pupil here, in 1886. According to Dr Google, Thomas was the person responsible for introducing tea growing in Kenya. A director of Brooke Bond Tea, based in Calcutta, it is said that he went on safari in Kenya in 1914, and whilst there he saw the country was ideal for tea production. Brooke Bond Kenya's first major tea factory in Kenya duly opened in 1927.

This year marks the centenary of a headmaster from Wellingborough (P.A. Fryer) being elected to the Headmaster's Conference. It was this that gave us what for many years was called 'Public School' status. Three years later Fryer created the design for our Coat of Arms and introduced the modern House system, having changed our name from Wellingborough Grammar School to Wellingborough School in 1914. Each succeeding Headmaster has in turn been elected to the HMC, but there was a rocky moment in 1940 when the governors dismissed the Headmaster A.V. Billen and there was talk of his successor Tom Nevill being blackballed. Ah, the good old days!

Looking Forward

This term the School launched its £500,000 fundraising campaign for the new Sixth Form Centre, to be built on top of the roof of the Dining Hall. The project will cost £1.7 million, and this is the moment when the School asks OWs of all ages if they can help in some way.

By the time you receive this Eshot, most OWs living in the UK who left before 2000 are likely to have received the School's fundraising brochure. Any gift of any size is most welcome, and the plan is that the names of all supporters will be recorded for perpetuity on a Wall of Donors in the new Centre. As a guide, we are suggesting £425 to "Buy a Brick" and £2,020 to "Buy a Breeze Block". We fully appreciate that post-2000 leavers may not yet be in a position to support appeals like this.

We are extremely grateful to all those OWs / Honorary OWs, past and present who have already pledged their support, including:

Clive Adams (52-59, Pa), Julian Amey (57-67, G), Bob Bainbridge (45-51, F), Richard Barwick (53-57, Pl), Timothy Bell (52-62, Pa), Oliver Bevan (08-20, G), Adrian Bracken ((57-68, G), Tony Burton (60-65, G), Graham Bond (61-66, F), James Browne (79-86, W), Max Buckby (12-20, F), David Clifton (63-74, St), Peter Cordrey (61-65, W), Dr Jonathan Cox (79-86, C), the late Rosalie Croft, Charles Denton (77-82, Pa), Dr Paul Dickinson (49-54, Pl), Robert Dove (63-71, Pl), Barrie Dugdale (49-53, F), The Duncan family – James (99-06, G) & Hamish (01-08, G) & Robert (03-10, G) & Ellie (07-12, M), Nick (06-11, F) & Chris (08-13, F) Dutton, Joanna (04-12, W) & James (11-15, PS) Dutton, Dr Amitabh Dwivedi (82-87, St), the late R.W. Edwards (32-39, Pa), Eddie Elmhirst (54-58, G), Jocelyn Everett (08-20, Staff), Rod Farey (81-06, Staff), the late Ian Firth (51-56, Pl), the late Graham Garrett (73-93, Headmaster), Guy Gilman (60-70, G), Richard Greener (69-72, C), Sir Christopher Greenwood (65-73, C), The Griffiths family – Mary (90-06, Staff) & Guy (81-90, W/F) & Amy (85-95, W) & Zoe (88-98, W), Jonathan (80-85, Pa) & Chris (85-90, Pl) Grove, Marcus (05-14, F) & Christian (05-15, F) & Emilia (08-18, W) Harper, Julian Harris (63-73, C), Jerry Higgins (57-66, St), Rupert

Higgins (76-87, St), John Higgs (49-58, Pa), John Hilsdon (58-61, Pa), Marcus Horrell (65-75, Pl), John Horrell (50-56, G), Sam (07-17, F) & Fergus (10-20, F) & Elizabeth (née Palmer; 83-85, M) Howell, David (11-21, G) & Philip (10-20, G) Howells, Michael Hwang (59-62, F), Sam Kennedy (15-20, Pl), Harjinder Kooner (85-93, Pa), Robert Lamb (56-60, Pa), Brian (53-58, F) & Sam (82-87, G) Leadsom, Nicholas Leighton (72-79, W), Charles Linfield (73,00, Staff), Roger Luscombe (62-67, Pl), Neil Lyon (80-85, W), the late Stuart MacWilliam (37-40, F), Dr Mandar Marathe (90-93, G), the late Michael McAfee (42-45, Pl), Sarah-Jo Millan (88-92, M), Dr James McNicholas (81-88, G), Paul Midwinter (né Smetham; 73-79, Pa), Ian Millar (37-42, G), Harriet Mills (15-20, W), Cecilia Morris (05-20, N), John Orton (55-64, St), the late Lt. Col. Richard Osborne (36-43, Pl), David Peck (49-58, G), Major General Richard Peck (47-55, G), Peter Phillips (54-65, Pa) in memory of Robin Phillips (49-60, Pa), David Pilgrim (59-64, F), Akihiro (02-04, F) & Risa (02-04, N) Sakakida, John Scropton (54-58, G), Shakunt Shah (81-83, G), Joe Smith (98-05, PS), Jonathan Tait (47-56, F), Peter Tait (50-60, F), the late Tony Temple (40-43, W), Harvey Thorneycroft (82-87, Pa), Peter Tyldesley (75-85, W), Alison Ullmann (in memory of Ralph Ullmann, former Headmaster), David Waller (77-81, St), Simon Wallington (72-77, Pl), James Ward (97-07, C), Dr Richard Waterfield (46-54, Pa), Graham Watson (82-92, G), Clive (59-64, F) & Richard (88-93, G) & William (90-95, Pl) Westley.

We shall publish an updated list in the Michaelmas Term.

