



# The OLD JOHANNIAN ASSOCIATION

## Winter 2024 Newsletter

### **Editorial:** (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

Hello everyone and welcome to the new year 2024 OJA newsletter.

The work in the background continues.

We are running up to our OJA annual dinner which is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024. That also brings the OJA AGM which has traditionally preceded the dinner.

We continue to catalogue the many archives that continue to reveal themselves at the college site.

All the current college site material is now in temporary storage and we are working on a more permanent solution.

Developing the web site, is something that taken up a lot of time and effort using our 'homegrown' expertise, but we are happy with the way it is developing.

Facebook and LinkedIn groups continue to flourish with over 900 members in the '**Old Johannian Association**' Facebook group. The web site is developing nicely, but we are still not getting many visits.



### **Chairperson's Report:** (Andy Valvona Chairperson / Treasurer / Membership Secretary) Chairman's Review January 2024

I write this a short time after the Old Johannian Association's Christmas get together, held at the Queen's Hotel in Southsea. Whilst numbers were fairly low, it was great to see OJ's, some of whom I had not seen for several years, attend the event. The evening was informal, and very pleasant, and I would like to see this become a regular event going forward. A special "Thank You" must go to our Events Secretary, Stephen Davies, who rallied some good support from a number of OJs who

are not members of the Association, (who said that they will now join). Stephen had, up until Covid, organised an unofficial OJ reunion, at the Wellington Pub, in Old Portsmouth, for many years, so the Committee are delighted that Stephen has now joined the committee, and has brought his networking and organisational skills to the table. Unfortunately, no photos were taken of the evening, due to unforeseen circumstances.

The reunion followed the annual Golf Tournament, held at the Waterlooville Golf Club in October, which was organised by Brian Saunders. Our sincere thanks go to Brian, for continuing to organise such an important date in the OJA calendar. His hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

The website, <https://www.old-johannian-association.com> continues to evolve. I have had one or two comments that some OJs have struggled to log-in, whilst others seem to have little difficulty. We are currently looking into this, so if you are one of the OJs who is struggling to view the website, please be assured that it is in hand. It may be that the website does not like certain browsers (browsers include Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, and so on), but none of the committee have any particular skills in running a website. If there are any volunteers with (website experience) amongst the membership, please do get in touch if you can offer some time to assist Stefan Bartkowiak, who has done a fantastic job in developing the website, with little web experience.

Our Facebook page, The Old Johannian Association, continues to grow, and now has 900 members. Our thanks once again go to Stefan Bartkowiak for his exceptional level of hard work and enthusiasm, ably assisted by Kes Kesteven, in making this happen.

Stefan also deserves thanks and recognition for his hard work in producing the newsletter. The committee would also like to draw on the experiences of its membership, so if you would like to contribute anything to the Newsletter, please do get in touch. This could be anything from news of OJs, to your memories of St John's, to how St John's helped shape you as a person and anything in between. It's your Association, so please feel free to contribute.

Our LinkedIn presence is managed by Dr Dominic Fontana, and we thank to Dominic for his valuable input into this important medium. You may recall that Dominic's wife, Cheryl, a former teacher at St John's, has also recently joined the Committee, so, along with another former teacher, Steve Bedingham, this gives the committee a more balanced make up with both former pupils and teachers being represented.

Finally, a big thank you goes to Steve Bedingham, who has done a lot of work behind the scenes in cataloguing OJ archives that we were able to recover from the College when it closed. Many of you will have photos of your time at St John's, and I encourage you to share them with the Association, so they can be displayed to a wider audience of OJs.

The next event we have scheduled is the Annual Dinner and Reunion, at the Queen's Hotel, on the evening of Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are £50, for the meal only (wine and other drinks should be bought separately). We plan for future OJ Dinners to offer a discounted ticket price for paid up and Life members of the Association, but due to ticketing restraints

on the website, we are unable to get this ready in time. We will also be holding a raffle, with the proceeds being donated to Brother Raj, in Columbo, Sri Lanka, to assist with the work he does there. Tickets for the dinner are now on sale, either via the website, or the old-fashioned way, depending upon your preference. Please see the details elsewhere in this issue for ticketing arrangements. The meal will be preceded by the AGM of the Association, where will be covering a number of topics, including the agreement to the updated set of rules for the Association. You may recall that the existing rules refer in the most part to the OJ Bar, in the Castle, so were clearly several years out of date.

I look forward to seeing you all on April 20<sup>th</sup>!

## **Membership Report** (Andy Valvona Chairperson / Treasurer / Membership Secretary)

January 2024

The OJA currently has 146 paying members, together with 14 Brothers, and 12 Life/Honorary Members. Of the 146 paying members, the vast majority are paying at least full subs of £20.00 per annum, but there are a number paying at the old rates of £10.00, and £5.00, due to their standing orders not being increased. Can I ask all members to check their standing order payment, and if full subscriptions are not being paid, please amend to £20.00, in time for the next annual payment, which is due at the end of March.

The Association also needs your help, to identify a number of OJ's who are paying by Standing Order, but for whom we have no contact information whatsoever for, due to them moving house, or other reasons. The details of the account holder paying their standing order subscriptions are:

- David Robert John Adewar
- MDJ Barber
- Barnett
- MJF Barry
- Paul Beaumont
- CSP & D Hunter
- HJ Morgan
- Jonathan Morton
- Cecil David Patter
- Patrick Sherrington
- W Swadling
- SPC Tachograph

These OJs will not have received any communications from the OJA for some time, so, If you recognise any of these names, please either let me know, or if you are in contact with them, please ask them to get in touch with me, by sending me an email on [oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com](mailto:oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com), or write to:

The Old Johannian Association

c/o 1 Loxfield Close

East Grinstead

West Sussex, RH19 3GN



## **The College Archives** (Steve Bedingham OJA Archivist)

Various items of interest continue to come to light following the closure of the College and the ongoing development of the College site. These include various items from the estates of Peter Cullinane RIP and Charles Hoare RIP, and these, together with other items are being carefully stored by Stefan Bartkowiak as we seek a more permanent solution to the growing storage needs of the Association.

Much of the site has yet to be fully explored by the development company so that other items are bound to turn up!

Meanwhile, items that were handed to the Portsmouth Archives Department following the closure continue to be catalogued in what will, inevitably, be a long process. and I will keep members updated on this process as it evolves.

Please note: (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

At the college, around 120 trophies, plaques, cups &tc. were photo'd, catalogued and packed for storage. The catalogue and photos are now available on the OJA web site, member's area.

# Treasurers Report (Andy Valvona Chairperson / Treasurer / Membership Secretary)

January 2024

The OJA currently has a much higher than normal Bank Balance of £8,429.85, mainly due to a lack of events held during the covid pandemic. It currently has 2 signatories, myself, and Steve Bedingham, with Dr Dominic Fontana currently being added. Following the sad passing of our former Chairman and Treasurer, Peter Cullinane, and previous Chairman, Charles Hoar early last year, the Association was in a perilous state, as Peter and Charles were our only officials with access to, and authority to administer, the Bank Account. This was compounded by the closure of the college, as the Association no longer had any premises to call "home", and Barclays Bank were persistent in requesting information the Association did not possess, as part of its "Know your customer" regulatory requirements.

Even with my background in Retail Banking, It took me the best part of 7 months to regain access to the Association Bank account, and a special word of thanks goes out to 2 Barrister/Lawyer OJs, Tim Concannon, and Frank Worsley, who assisted the Association in obtaining this access to the Bank Account once more.

Peter Cullinane was also a qualified Accountant, and his advice was always that the Association did not need to report to HMRC, or have it's accounts audited by a firm of Chartered/Certified Accountants. Since his passing, we have taken advice from an Accountancy firm, who have confirmed this. If any Accountancy/Taxation qualified OJs have a different view to this, please let us know as a matter of urgency.

## Financial Activity:

Total receipts of subscriptions in the past 12 months amount to £2,642.72

All items of expenditure for the 12 months to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 will be reported at the AGM, on April 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Queen's Hotel, Southsea, prior to the annual dinner. However, in the meantime, some of the Association's recent expenditure includes:

£500.00	Queen's Hotel	Deposit/Subsidy for the 2024 Annual Dinner
£302.35	Wix (website provider)	OJA Website fees
£271.99	Amazon	Storage Crates for SJC/OJA archives
£122.15	Dox Direct Printers/Amazon	Printing costs for last newsletter/stationary
£83.70	Post Office	Postage costs for last newsletter

Postage and Printing costs have reduced dramatically compared to previous years, due to the majority of Newsletters being read digitally by members. However, there are a number of OJs who prefer to receive a paper copy through the post, and there are also a significant number of OJs for whom we do not hold an email address. If you have received a paper copy that you have not specifically requested, it is probably due to us not having your email address, so please let us have this, by emailing the OJA on [oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com](mailto:oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com)

## St. John's College (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

We continue to strive to maintain contact with the Nicolas James group who now own the college site. We know that this information is of particular interest to the wider OJ community, and we hope to keep you up to date with any developments. It is worth re-iterating the group's vision for the site which is published as follows on their web site:-

### "OUR VISION

*Nicolas James Group has been developing high-quality schemes throughout the south of England for twenty-five years. The company bought St John's College in the knowledge that this is a sensitive location with a long history of being embedded in the community.*

***After consideration, it seems the best use for the site is to retain and refurbish all but two of the modern buildings on site, and bring the vast majority of the site back into a positive use whilst respecting its unique history."***

Further information can be found at the following:- <https://stjohnscollege-consultation.co.uk/the-site/>

If you would like to see a short video where.....

Mary Maguire, head of St John's College, Southsea and Zenna Hopson, chair of governors speaking about the decision to close the college.

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8auja9>

The Castle has its own listing in the National Heritage list for England.

THE CASTLE (ST JOHNS COLLEGE ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL), GROVE ROAD SOUTH

The **National Heritage List** for England is a unique register of our country's most significant historic buildings and sites.

The places on the list are protected by law and most are not open to the public.

THE CASTLE (ST JOHNS COLLEGE ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL)

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1104313

## EVENTS (Stephen Davies OJA Events)

### The Christmas gathering (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

The Christmas gathering went ahead as advertised. A few OJ's attended and, although we had hoped for more OJ's to be present, the general consensus was that it was a pleasant and worthwhile event and should be repeated on the run-up to next Christmas.

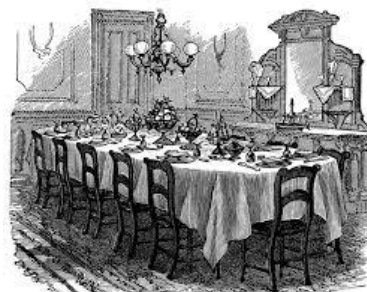
### The OJA Golf (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

We are very lucky to have the support of Brian Saunders in our venture to preserve the OJA golf. Brian has attended our last committee meeting and shared with us his vision for the golf and how we can better interact with younger generations of OJ's.

Currently a residential golf weekend is being considered for the Old Thorns hotel and course at Liphook. There is still a lot to organise and this is one of the "leaps of faith" referred to earlier. Like so many activities nowadays, many will join in once something has been organised and there is something to sign on for. We did put out a request for any interested parties to let us know, but this only yielded one formal response. We do know that there is a 'hard core' of enthusiasts that would support this, but for the moment

this remains unconfirmed and from our perspective, speculative. We are very keen to support Brian in any way we can, but it would be immensely helpful to receive some more positive feedback. Brian has indicated that the traditional autumn event will take place at Waterlooville this year. If successful, it is thought that future events need not be tied to this area but could take place around the country, if there were sufficient appetite for such a gathering.

It's also important to note that the event would revolve around the golf but not exclusively. Other activities ranging from visits to local places of interest to simple social gatherings which would run parallel to the golf. So please do not rule yourself out if you are a non-golfer.



### The OJA 2024 Annual Dinner (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

**The Queen's hotel, Southsea  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

It's getting ever closer, and we are looking forward to returning to some form of normality after the Pandemic disruption.

The recurring date has been changed from the weekend after Easter to the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend after Easter. This is to avoid any potential conflicts with holidays and also to avoid premium dates when travel could be more problematic and the cost of travel and accommodation is likely to be more affordable.

Tickets are now available for purchase (Notified to the Facebook/LinkedIn OJA groups.)

The price of a ticket will be £50 (meal only, drinks purchased separately.) We have managed to contain costs and tickets are offered at the same price as the last dinner in 2022.

We cannot offer member beneficial rates this year for administrative reasons, but intend to introduce this member benefit from 2025.

The venue continues to be the Queen's hotel, Southsea. It has the advantage of being close to the SJC campus which is seen as a point of interest alongside being a useful geographical centre. We have continuity there, and our ongoing discussions with the hotel management are securing benefits from this arrangement. There is on-site accommodation and for this year we have secured a 10% discount attaching to the event.

The actual, dinner will take place downstairs in the same rooms that we used in November 2022. Having missed 2023, we are now returning to some form of normality.

So

visit the OJA web site and purchase your ticket there or use the enclosed form and send it with a cheque and SAE to The Old Johannian Association c/o 1 Loxfield Close, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3GN.

N.B. Due to the limitations of the OJA website, only 1 ticket may be purchased per transaction, so if you are purchasing multiple tickets, I am afraid you will need to apply multiple times, remembering to enter the details of the other attendees you are purchasing the tickets for. Alternatively, you can also use the form, by completing all the details, scanning it, and emailing to us (details on the form).

The Old Johannian Association	
ojasjc@yahoo.co.uk www.facebook.com/st.john.3956	
<b>Old Johannian Chairmen</b>	
The "Old Boys' Club"	
1918-1921 M. Magan	
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The Old Johannian Association  
2022  
Annual Dinner and Reunion

*The School Song*

In the days of old, when hearts of gold  
For Right made common cause,  
They left to Fame a glorious name,  
But not for vain applause!  
JOHANNIANS, we, with souls as free,  
Can do as they of yore,  
And sow the seeds of noble deeds  
By SOUTHSEA'S sounding shore

Chorus:-  
The School! The School! The School!  
And all who love its story!  
The School! The School! The School!  
Its name - its fame - its glory!  
"PER LABOREM AD HONOREM"  
Runs its golden rule  
So now with me,  
Give - Three times Three!  
The School! The School! The School!



2024 Old Johannian Association Annual Reunion Dinner  
Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> - Queen's Hotel, Clarence Parade Southsea PO5 3LJ

**Ticket Order Form – Tickets are £50.00\* per person. Applications for tickets must be received by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**

\*Ticket price does **not** include drinks

Name \_\_\_\_\_ OJA Paid Up / Lifetime Member (Yes/No) \_\_\_\_\_  
Years at College \_\_\_\_\_ Pupil/Teacher/Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets required for:

Name	OJ / Guest	Please state dietary requirements

**Either:**

Post your application to  
The Old Johannian Association  
C/O 1 Loxfield Close  
East Grinstead  
West Sussex  
RH19 3GN

Enclosing a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_, made payable to "The Old Johannian Association", **and** a stamped addressed envelope.

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**Or:**

Complete the form, scan it, and email it to [oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com](mailto:oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com) You can then pay for the tickets by Bank Transfer (The Old Johannian Association 20-69-34 70672971). Please also complete below:

I confirm that I have paid £ \_\_\_\_\_ by Bank Transfer, on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)



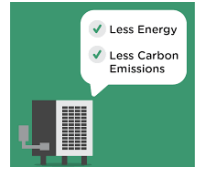
## The OJA web site (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

<https://www.old-johannian-association.com/>

The progress of the development of this vital asset to the OJA continues slowly on.

This site is intended to be the primary means of interfacing with the OJA member community and other OJ's who wish to 're-connect' via the Association.

Here is a short **tour of the OJA web site** as it stands at the moment.



This what the home page looks like.



[OldJohannianAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:OldJohannianAssociation@gmail.com)

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Then it will expand out by using the menu at the top. I'll give a description of the various elements later.

The home page is saying "Hello, we're here." It also introduces visitors to the site, of a consistent portrayal of embedded links. So, where it says 'JOIN US' you can see that it is a green background with a red border. This arrangement denotes a button that can be clicked on.

The next thing to note is that some links open in a new page and some simply change the page from where the button was clicked. Look at your browser tabs at the top of the screen to see whether a new tab has been opened. Some links will take you to a document or a form where data can be entered or an event ticket purchased. Some links will not work until you have registered with the web site and some will not work unless you are a paid-up member of the OJA. However, there is plenty of information available even to the casual visitor.

The **top menu** comprises of the following

Account access	This icon at the very top and to the right of the Association title gives access to accounts
Home	This is the start page.
About	This gives a summary of the Association and the standing committee.
Membership	This provides the OJA membership application form.
Breaking news	This will give any OJA news or communications that are current.
Events	This page gives a summary of the OJA events.
Bookings	The bookings page is where tickets to the events can be purchased.
Archives	The archives page is the entry point for the OJA on-line archives sections.
Newsletter	This is where the current or past newsletters can be viewed or downloaded.
Forum	This operates similarly to a Facebook chat page where ideas can be exchanged.
Contact	This provides a simple form for anyone to contact the OJA committee.
OJA Admin	This is where any OJA admin resources will be available.

### The **account icon** (Yellow)

Once registered as a site user (*this does not mean that you have to be an OJA member*) there various account functions that are available.

Personal profile	Here you can edit your personal details and upload a photo of yourself.
My bookings	Any bookings that you make can be viewed here.
My Wallet	You can view any payment card details held on-file. If none then annual membership payments will not be automatic.
My orders	You can view any OJA purchases here.
My addresses	This is where you can add or edit your contact address.
My subscriptions	This where you can see/edit your OJA subscription payment.
Forum comments	This will list any comments made on the forum.
Forum posts	This will list any posts made on the forum.
Files	This will list any files that you have uploaded to the site.
My account	Here you enter your address, phone number, DOB, and block other members.
Notifications	This where any notification associated with the account will be listed.
Settings	This is where the type of notifications received, can be adjusted.

### The **ABOUT** page

On this page is an introduction to the OJA. It also introduces the standing committee. Click on the photo of the committee member and a short Bio will pop up.

At the bottom of the page are links to  
the OJA Facebook group  
the OJA LinkedIn group  
the 'contact us' form.

### The **Membership** page.

This page provides the OJA membership application form which also takes the annual subscription £20 payment. This payment will be taken every year unless the payment has been stopped.

It also contains 2 links to the page where casual visitors to the site can receive a welcome and a link where they can leave their details, if they so wish.

### The **Breaking news** page.

Any important news and general communications will be posted here. These will normally be backed up by publishing in the following newsletter.

There may be useful/convenient links on this page which will be displayed in the normal fashion.

### The **Events** page.

This page will contain information about upcoming or recently past OJA events. It will list all current OJA events and contain links to pages that give more detail on that individual event.

### The **Bookings** page.

This page simply provides the booking and payment forms for any OJA events.

### The **Archives** page.

Here there will be a list of links to the various archives on offer on this site. Currently they are as per the illustration.

- St. John's college contains college archives
- Photos contains various albums e.g. sports and form photos.
- Past newsletters. We are trying to build a catalogue of past newsletters
- Articles Any relevant articles or items of interest.
- File upload/download This where contributions can be shared via files.
- The trophy room This is a catalogue of the trophies we have recovered.



### The **Newsletter** page.

This is where the current and past newsletters can be viewed and downloaded.

### The **Forum** page.

It is here that members can exchange opinions, ideas and general discussion and chat.

### The **Contact** page.

This page contains a form with which questions, ideas &tc. can be communicated to the committee.

### The **OJA Admin** page.

There are various functions and responsibilities that apply to the running of the Association. It is here that any relevant communications or documents will be posted. Currently the run up to the next 2024 AGM will include the adoption of the proposed new set of OJA rules. The past, current and proposed rules can be viewed and/or downloaded here.

This is also where the OJA committee will comply with any obligations to communicate with the membership.



## The OJA Facebook page (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OJASJC>

From the last newsletter to this one, the FB OJA group numbers have risen from 170 to 900+. This has become a very active and useful medium for OJ's to easily continue communicating with each other. At the time of deciding to transfer over to a more appropriately named group, there was some trepidation as to whether this would be successful. We are delighted with the way this has developed and trust that it will go from strength to strength. We have encountered the occasional glitch, in particular with some 'colourful' advertising. All references to these posts and the perpetrators have been removed and blocked.

The FB group is now in the hands of Kes Kesteven, who has kindly volunteered to admin this resource for the OJA. Thanks, Kes!



## Membership (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

All correspondence should go to our Association email address:  
OldJohannianAssociation@gmail.com



## Finances (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

OJA finances remain healthy. There are some projects that have been proposed that will require a 'leap of faith' to get them started, and that will also include a financial commitment.

Another aspect of OJA financial decision-making is the question of charities and charitable giving. We have managed to get in touch with Jane Turner who is still in close contact with the Bro Raj project. We are meeting her prior to our next committee meeting this coming Saturday.

She has written on the FB group....

*Thank you for your email. I was Head of RS and Chaplaincy from 2005-2019, that is my main connection with SJC. I worked particularly with Brothers Sean, Ben and Michael O'Hara. I took young people to work with Brother Raj in the schools and among the poor and I have always maintained a link with both the Brothers, and Brother Raj in Sri Lanka.*

*I also went to Ethiopia to help in the schools in 2019, I feel that unfortunately Ethiopia although greatly in need, is not safe.*

*I am going to Colombo from 1st to 22nd February 2024. I will take 5 phones, that is the maximum I think that I can take through customs. If you and the OJ's have a used phone or e.g. small laptop, then I will take that as well. I can take any personal gift that you would like to give to Brother Raj, if they are fairly light to carry!*

*I live in Southsea, near SJC in fact.*

*all good wishes*

*Jane*



## OJA revised Rules (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

*Just a reminder....*

The full revised rules are posted on the web site for membership scrutiny and a vote to adopt them will take place at the next AGM that is scheduled to precede the next Annual Dinner.

The purpose of the revision falls into several categories. Firstly, it is simple house-keeping where we remove all redundant references to items such as the Association bar in the Castle. We then seek to define the purpose and aims of the Association. We define how we comply with current law and its changes, specifically the legal liabilities such as accounting,

insurance, and GDPR. Then we aim to define more of the detail of the running of the Association, and to do this we seek to ensure the transparency and inclusivity for the members along with a mechanism that allows the committee to function in its day-to-day business without any onerous consultative procedures.

The rules themselves have been split into 2 sections.

### The rules

The rules are in numbered sections and each rule defines the limitations that it imposes. These rules can only be changed by a vote at a general meeting (AGM or Extraordinary.)

### Annexes to the rules

The annexes are numbered and referenced to a particular rule. The rule themselves make reference to their respective annex. The annexes may be changed by the committee without reference to the membership to avoid unnecessarily limiting the committee's ability to conduct its business throughout the year.

A copy of the current rules will be posted on the OJA web site and a copy of the latest draft will also be posted alongside them for ease of comparison. Because these current changes are so large it will be for the members to make their own comparisons, however future proposed changes will be summarised as they arise and posted on the rules' web site page.