



The Old Johannian Association

The Bulletin

December 2005

***** HEADLINES *****

***Membership offered
another way ahead.
Calling time for the Castle
OJ's bar?***

**The winds of change affect :- 87th annual
Association dinner. (13th May 2006)**

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Chairman's column



I am delighted that, in my sixth year of office, I enjoy the support of 12 committee members, including a former head girl. Times are changing, and so must the Association, so we are looking at ways of improving our membership and communication to you all. This takes time, but I am sure that as we enter 2006 a stronger link will be produced. There will be more news in our next bulletin. Meanwhile you will see from this bulletin, details of the development of an OJA web site.

With your support we have the opportunity to make 2006 a great year for our Association. I look forward to meeting many of our members on May 13th 2006.

*Sincerely
Tony Baker*

Editorial

Well here we are again, almost a year since the last newsletter. We all know it's far too long a gap since the last one, and hopefully the gap will narrow for the next one. In the meantime an enormous amount of change is happening. Some by our own choice and some forced upon us. What is important is that the proposed changes are made clear to the membership (you) and have an opportunity to express your views. Some of these changes will seem a significant departure from the OJA as we have known it for years, and because of its *raison d'être* being tradition, I have no doubt that some of you may feel reluctant to embrace these changes. Nevertheless read on and contemplate.



Editor:- Stefan Bartkowiak

Happy Christmas to you all.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

We are living in interesting times as far as the association is concerned. Much debate and discussion continues on the association's future. There was a great deal of positive feedback from the membership in response to the last bulletin. As a consequence the committee feels assured that it represents the majority view in continuing along the path outlined. All feedback is regarded as important, and gratefully received. The committee is always happy to have members sit in on their deliberations. If there are any more of you out there that might consider attending a meeting, please feel free to contact our chairman Tony Baker.

With regard to the committee, we are sad to announce the resignation of our membership secretary Peter Bryant. Peter undertook the mammoth task of organising and updating our membership files, and he now leaves them in good shape and up to date. We certainly owe him a debt of gratitude for an unenviable task well done.

The OJ's bar in the castle has a great big question mark hanging over it. New legislation has devolved licensing to the local authority (Feb

2005,) from the magistrates. It means that holding an annual licence is probably not feasible (nor was it allowable as the committee was not quorate, as it is now) therefore our licence has now lapsed. Licences may not even be obtained on an ad hoc basis for such occasions as the annual dinner, as the bar is not registered by the college within the planning declaration.



The castle itself, it has undergone a facelift and is looking good again. It must be obvious to all that the significant space that the bar area occupies is a resource that should not be allowed to languish as it does. Who knows what the future holds?

The membership, it's organisation and the method of collecting annual subscriptions is under review. There seems to be disadvantages and obstructions to the options considered

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

so far. The committee has come up with one solution that is currently under development. This is the construction of an OJA web site. Within this web site will be a secure page to pay the nominal annual fee on-line, which will also confer access rights to the remainder of the site. The immediate advantages of this are significantly reduced administrative burdens and accounts automatically audited by the clearing bank we will use for handling the on-line transactions. It is hoped that this will prove popular with the majority of the membership as a convenient way of staying in touch. It does rely on the membership accessing the site even if it is solely so that we can collect the fees. It also means that the Committee can promulgate information more rapidly and effectively on behalf of itself and members. we need a response from you all to give us ideas on what sort of content would be popular. This is a significant development, and normally would be very costly except that we have secured the generous help of an industry professional.

I know there will be many of you out there not digitally inclined. Fear not as there are some within the Committee that are not computer-

ised either. There is therefore a powerful lobby to ensure that the OJA lines of communication will be available to both digital and non-digital camps.

Enclosed with this bulletin is a flyer that contains a lot of important information about the next annual dinner to be held on the 13th May 2006. The dinner will have appeared to have changed significantly because the venue is external to the College campus this year. As in many things, there are pros and cons attached to a decision such as this. The Committee did consider very carefully the move away from the Alma Mater campus, and concluded that the advantages considerably outweigh the disadvantages. Accommodation is now again available, there will be no requirement for Members to prepare the dining area, and a full bar and other associated resources will be at our disposal with a very limited requirement for the input of OJA individuals on the day. If you have been one of the stalwarts, you will realise what a boon this will be. The decision is only for 2006 and is not set in stone. Give us your comments after the event and as in all things we can better represent you.

MEMBER'S NEWS & VIEWS

As far as we know, there weren't any OJ's that were caught up in the Indian ocean Tsunami tragedy. We do have one (Mike Hosking) who lives in Phuket, but he assures us that he's OK.

From Vic Elliott ('39 - '45)

When I retired, after 40 years in the aircraft components industry about 15 years ago, I formed a company now Clino Ltd. We are the sole UK Agents to Spectron Inc in USA who produce tilt sensors and associated electronics. They are used in a wide variety of applications such as aircraft instrumentation, ships, off-road vehicles etc. One of our more ambitious projects has taken us into space. The Spectron web site is www.spectronensors.com and ours www.clino.co.uk

Yesterday I was invited to attend a Press Conference at the Royal Society on 14th January to gather information on the landing of the Hugen module on the surface of the moon Titan.

From Serge Pensa (-'65)

I left in '65. Can we contribute more to the Association by acting as mentors for the present day pupils?

I have spent most of my career in the 3rd. world mentoring and training young nationals to replace the foreigners and run the multinationals we establish in their countries. It is not always successful, as so often, we train other foreigners to replace us, as they are cheaper than we are.

I am sure that career advisors in the school are excellent, but is there a way whereby those of us who are at such a distance can communicate through this wonderful medium, the Internet, to help our successors at SJC? We have extremely valuable hands on experience to share with young people who so often, in today's

economy, must despair when making a career choice. Possibly we could pass information via the careers officer, who could vet it first and assess it's suitability for the individual in question?

Although only 318 of us, I am sure we have great experience to share.

I have lived overseas most of my career and have always worked for multinationals but now am selling my skills for myself. I am still bringing modern business methods to businesses hungry for knowledge and expertise.

I personally, would be more than happy to be contacted through some internal networking at SJC with questions from young career seekers for advice or direction. Hopefully SJC has a computer lab., if not they should!

A sampler of bulletin responses .

Congratulations on presenting a solution to the on-going issues of running the OJA. My inclination is to support almost any initiative which seeks to overcome the age-old problems arising from membership apathy (mea culpa). Your list of advantages are enticing. However, from "The Bulletin" it is not clear how it will work in terms of decision-making. Whilst many OJs are often in the relegation zone when it comes to participation, the Association would no longer be the OJA if OJs abdicated all responsibility for policy, performance and activities. Perhaps these concerns will be overcome with an explanation of any proposed changes to the constitution/rules.

Trevor Johnson

I was pleased to see the proposed changes, and totally agree with them.

Regards Chris Tilley

EVENTS

The remembrance service on November 8th 2004 at the college went well. A group of OJA members attended. They witnessed selected prose and poems being read by the students in an attempt to capture the enormity and solemnity of the occasion. This was followed by a roll of honour being read by students, and our chairman Tony Baker. It was sobering to note how recent some of the losses were. Sadly the traditional remembrance mass was not possible as procuring a priest in these present times is an increasingly difficult task.

The 2005 Remembrance service was again held in the College on Friday 11th November. It started with a 2 minute silence at 11:00am. It was attended by a large number of Old Boys and friends.

The 8th December 2004 saw a group of 70's leavers meet up in the Barmy arms, Twickenham for beers and grub. More of the same including a narrow boat and Bar-B-Q's were thought to be next on the agenda.

Running up to Christmas a group of recent college leavers met up to

exchange news and enjoy each other's company over a beer or modern equivalent. Some upper sixth members were also there. The consequence of this is that we have



30 membership applications from "the younger element" and an increasing interest in the OJA from current students. Little input was required from the OJA except that it acted as a catalyst.

A repeat of the above event is planned again this year. Anyone interested should contact James Goehlert by e-mail at jamesgoehlert@hotmail.com (He's the one on the right)

Of course the final comment in this section goes to the last annual dinner. The standard arrangement of Mass, AGM, Pre-dinner drinks

EVENTS

in castle bar, dinner (inc speeches and raffle, not as long this time) Post-dinner drinks. The major change comes from the lack of college accommodation this year. This is due to the tightening up of regulations regarding access to educational premises and the protection of young people. A sign of the times I'm afraid.

The 2006 OJA annual dinner is scheduled for the 13th May. This will not be held at the college but at the Royal sailors' home club in Queen street. This will offer the OJA members attending accommodation, including breakfast, which is no longer available to us at the college. There are a lot of facilities attached to this premises and it may be that members may wish to bring their partners down to "Pompey" for the weekend, reminisce about old haunts, and check out Gunwharf and the new Spinnaker tower. There is a sheet included with this Bulletin which gives more details of the 2006 dinner. Don't forget to mark it

on your calendars. The Royal sailor's home club are delighted to host the dinner, and will make us most welcome.

As always we would like your opinions on this decision, ideally before and after the event.



The Royal Sailor's home club located a few hundred yards up from the Warrior and the Dockyard gate.

The OJA golf organised by Brother David is reported further on, but as we missed reporting the 2004 event, for completeness the 2004 results are included with the 2005 ones.

Diary Dates

Annual Dinner
May 13th 2006

23rd OJA Golf
19th October 2006

Report on the



The 21st Annual OJA golf day



Thursday 14th October 2004

This golf day for past St. John's college pupils was the 21st in the series. As always, much of the momentum for this event came from Bro. David. The golf day started in 1984 and is played in traditionally fine weather at Waterlooville golf club. This year everyone shared the sense of occasion of the 21st golf day and it proved to be a "better-than-ever" occasion.

Just to remind you that OJ's may bring guest players. A small group of current golf-playing students are also allowed.

Another feature is the presence of teams from two of St. John's sister De La Salle schools, St. Joseph's (Beulah hill, London) and St. Peter's, Southbourne in Dorset. The three college teams also compete with each other within the overall competition for



the De La Salle old boy's shield. The competition has to be seen to be believed.

OLD JOHANNIANS

Open

1. I.M. Hartridge
2. S. Kitchen
3. A. Brzezina

Low Handicaps

1. M. Kell
2. B. Lane

High Handicaps

1. D. Hughes
2. D. Cleave

Veterans

1. B. Parkinson
2. A. Dye

Guests

1. G. Phillips
2. P. Lambden

SJC Students

1. J. Dobbin

De La Salle shield

(Inter-college old boys.)

1. St. John's
2. St. Peter's
3. St. Joseph's

Bro David can be contacted on :-
02392 863036 (820352 (fax))

The scoring is based on the Stableford competition

The 23rd OJ's Golf day
19th October 2006

Report on the



The 22nd Annual OJA golf day



Tuesday 20th October 2005

Another glorious day! and the numbers were up with 40 starters. Play started at 10:30am and after a stiff day's competition, 50 sat down to dine at 5:30pm.

As in past years we were delighted to have players from St. Joseph's (Beulah Hill) and St. Peter's (Southbourne)

OLD JOHANNIANS

Open

1. S. Kitcher
2. B. Saunders

Low Handicaps

1. S. Kitcher
2. G. Clegg

High Handicaps

1. J. Burns

2. M. Osgood

Veterans

1. Bro. Ignatius
2. J. Hiscock

Guests

1. P. Lambden
2. G. Kitchen

SJC Students

1. T. Phillips
2. W. Phillips

De La Salle shield

(Inter-college old boys.)

1. St. John's

Jack Roche trophy

1. S. Sweeney
2. B. Lane

THE LAST REGISTER

Michael Smith

From Ray Smith

My brother, Michael, 1951-56, died peacefully on 1 May, 2004 aged 64. He was in that era of Mike Hugg, Eddie Albertoli, Gerard Farrell, Raymond Grant. His friend was Fred Harkin, Whilst after he left St John's he used to crew for Peter Hodnett. He used to attend the Irish club and was "into" the folk scene for a while, where Barry Walker was prominent with Jon Isherwood at The Railway. Michael, Fred Harkin, Gerard Farrell and Barry Walker used to serve on the altar at Corpus Christi when the curate was Cormac Murphy O'Connor. His teachers included Bro Wilfred (now known as Bro James and serving at Eccles) and Bro Aldhelm (purser - now at Clayton Court). Thanks of the family to Tony and Val Perry, Peter Hodnett and Henry Ellis who attended the funeral.

Bro James (as above formerly Bro Wilfred - Spanish and French inter alia) has recovered from a recent operation and is getting back to full health. He remains a very youthful looking person, younger than most(?) of his former pupils? At Elanico in Eccles Bro James is teaching English to foreign religious Brothers and Sisters. My wife and I visited him and he showed us around The Trafford Centre and The Lowry Museum.

Bro Aldhelm the former Purser at St John's has returned to UK from Rome and is now at Clayton Court. "Faz" as he was known used to run the school shop, used to smoke roll your own cigarettes and was a brilliant photographer. He also acted as an interpreter and I recall an article about his good works in the Evening News. Gerald Hyde is in good spirits after a period of ill health.



THE LAST REGISTER



Ronnie Place

formerly Head at St John's Cathedral Primary, died recently. His Memorial Mass was at St John's Cathedral on 30 October 6 PM.

Jonathan May passed away on December 29th 2004 aged 71.

His funeral was at St. John's cathedral Portsmouth on January 11th 2005.

In 1951 he reported for National service. Initially at Plummer Barracks (Hampshire regiment) and then Inkerman barracks Woking for RMP training. Eaton hall OCS as an officer cadet in 1952. RMP officer course at Inkerman and then a posting to 203 Coy RMP MELF at Moascar, Tel-el-Kebir 1952-1953. After national service he became captain of the 244 GJHQ Port Coy RMP and then as Captain OC 164 RPU RMP with 170 provost Coy in Edinburgh. From 1961 to 1975 he was Major OC 3PTF Pro Coy CVHQ at Roussillon barracks, Chichester. He also involved himself with the Portsmouth youth through the CCF. He was granted his medal for service in the Canal zone and Egypt in 2004.

He was always very active in supporting the RMP Association and it's museum, and has published much on the subject.

In civilian life he was a teacher ranging from primary to university levels. He achieved Master of Education (Leicester 1967) and Doctor of Philosophy (Leicester 1971) A few years ago whilst articulating the foundations of Derby university he suffered a major heart attack and was forced to retire prematurely.

Derek Holman Rees

Derek was born in Yorkshire 26th March 1933, but in 1946 and became a boarder at St. John's College. He loved the school, especially music and sport, and eventually became captain of the school 2nd XI cricket team. In 1951, when called up for his National service, Derek joined the RAF, for 3 years. On leaving the RAF he signed up for a Norwegian ship going to the Antarctic, a journey that took 18 months. Returning to England he became a greyhound trainer at White City. and also found time to play the trumpet in a local band. There were 10

very exciting years for Derek before his return to Portsmouth and employment with one of the local bookmakers. This was followed by a short spell at the King's Theatre and then IBM before going to the commercial dockyard in 1962 and finally the Royal Dockyard in the late 70's. Derek had a passion for horde racing and folk festivals where he made many friends. He spent many happy times in his caravan down in the New Forest.

Derek and Margaret were married for 34 years and had 2 children Nicola and Nathan and 3 grandchildren. Nicola is now teaching at the College and Nathan is an Old Boy. Failing health did not end his great love and enthusiasm for the Brothers, St. John's College or the OJA, and to the end he continued to support them all to the best of his ability. Always with that wonderful sense of humour he was so well known for.

Yes, a lovely, happy man who will be sadly missed. May he Rest In Peace.

Peter Bernard Keyseil

Peter was born in Portsmouth on the 7th November 1930, the youngest of a family of five. He always said he was so fortunate to have had the opportunity to have attended St. John's College, where he remained from September 1941 to April 1946.

Unlike most, Peter liked the cross-country runs up and over Portsdown hill, and often spoke of the encouragement he always received from Brother Michael Sherry.

Peter had a great love for the Brothers and was so proud to have one of his paintings hanging in the Brothers' lounge at the College.

From school Peter went into the Royal Navy which enabled him to see much of the world. He left the Navy to become a nurse, before finally becoming a carpenter. He married Heather in 1967 and they had 2 sons, Anthony and Peter and 3 grandchildren. Sadly Peter was to suffer ill health for many years and one admired the way he coped with such difficulties. He remained a loyal member of the OJA and was a regular at all the functions. He continued his remarkable paintings in water colours, with

many going to charity, which was so typical of the man.

Peter died on the 11th December 2004 and his service of thanks took place at St. Michael and All Saints, Leigh Park on the 23rd December 2004.

He really was a great example to us all. Thank you Peter, and God bless you, and may you rest in peace.

Terence Arthur George Madden

Terry Madden, "Tag" to his friends, was born in Portsmouth on the 12th November 1915. He joined St. John's College on the 12th November 1925 (his 10th birthday) where he enjoyed 10 extremely happy years.

Terry spent his working life in industry, and enjoyed working a great deal in London. In retirement he was able to spend a great deal of time sailing his boat, which he kept at Eastney. He lived in Old Portsmouth with his wife, Betty and was able to get more involved with the brothers and the OJA. He was a very close friend to Brother Charles Galt who often went for afternoon tea with Tag and Betty.

In the 80's, he was an active OJA Committee member and became a school governor in 1986, a position he held for nearly 10 years.

Terry spent the later years of his life in Eastern parade, Southsea with Betty, but failing health meant that he could travel as he used to.

He died on the 28th July 2005 after a long illness. The service of thanksgiving took place at St. Swithun's church, Southsea, and the committal at the Portchester crematorium on Wednesday 17th August. May he rest in Peace.

John Russell Good

John Russell Good was born in Portchester on the 29th January 1933. As a young boy, he often sang solo in St. Mary's church, in Portchester castle. I first met John at 9:00am on Monday 13th October 1941. It was John's first day at St. John's College, and as we were born in the same year, he was put into my class.

That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship that was to last for 64 years. John had 9 marvelous years at the College, and he loved every minute of it. He never forgot how much he owed the College and the De la Salle brothers. He excelled in the classroom and on the sportsfield. He represented the College at ten-

nis, cricket, athletics, cross-country and football, and played for the 1st XI at 14 years of age. 2 years later he played for England at the international schools tournament in Belgium. Described in the French papers as "Le Gigantesque," he scored one of the winning goals against France. The College gazette reported his slow off-break bowling as not far short of professional. He was also long jump champion and best sprinter. He was a member of the school choir, took part in 2 school productions (Julius Caesar & Richard II.) He was a member of the 21 club and one of 12 prefects. A true giant in the history of St. John's College. John left St. John's in November 1950 and went to work for his father Sydney, a naval tailor. The shop, Mosely & Pounsford had an outstanding reputation and was no more than 200 metres from the main gate of Portsmouth, Royal Naval Dockyard. The hours were long and hard but he learnt his trade well from his father, a true craftsman and gentleman. He would then go home to his mother Marjorie, whom he adored.

It was not long before he was called for his 2 years national service. He volunteered for the RAF but failed his medical due to a cricketing eye injury sustained at St. John's. He then went into the RAF regiment. He went to Egypt and started playing football for the regiment. On a trip to Malta he was spotted by a scout for Nottingham forest. After leaving the RAF he tried his luck with Nottingham forest and then Tramere rovers. His greatest success being a player manager with Newport, Isle of Wight, and Sittingbourne in Kent. In football he had the talent but was laid back. In business he was the complete professional, nothing but perfection being asked and given.

With his wife Poilin he built a sportswear empire of 5 factories supplying top teams around the world with highest quality sports clothing. John loved going to the races, in particular Goodwood. In 1985 he went into ownership which developed into a very successful horse breeding interest. They bred the very successful TOMBA, and HOLDING COURT romped away in the French Derby. He chose the St. John's blue and gold as his colours.

John was happiest at home in old comfortable clothes, with his dog Rory feeding the horses.

John had a deep love and affection for his animals. He could work and play so hard but be so gentle and caring with his animals. John acted the tough guy but was a softy at heart, the perfect gentleman, immaculately dressed, kind and generous. John died at his home, Box hedge Hall enjoying the love, care and devotion of Poilin. He enjoyed life and put up a brave battle to the very end of a long illness.

John, dear friend, Goodnight, God bless and rest in peace.

Peter Shipp

Peter was 59 when he died of a heart attack. He left St. John's in the early 60's and built up his Portsmouth business, Shipp's fruit & veg. His popular and larger than life character was well known. His funeral was at St. Thomas's cathedral, and his wake at Rosie's vineyard was attended by very many people. Peter will be very sadly missed.

Graham Sibbick

Left St. John's College in 1984, Age 39 Died suddenly from a brain tumour complication on Monday 17th October 2005.

He was a keen OJA golfer, and will be missed.



College Matters



Copy of an article in the Portsmouth News by Val Fontana (Ex-teacher SJC)

We often hear that the young generation are contemptuous and have little interest in those who died in the two world wars.

As a former pupil and member of staff of St. John's college, I was invited to a special full school assembly to commemorate those former students of the college who gave their lives in the two wars and the Falklands.

I have to say that I was very impressed by the demeanour of the assembled young persons and the presentations that were made. The hall was very quiet while some present stu-

dents and an old boy of the school gave presentations, which included poems, and account of the history and work of the British Legion and reading out the names of all those former pupils who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

The two minutes' silence was kept with complete decorum and respect. I, with the few other old boys that were invited, left feeling optimistic for the future left in the hands of these young people and that they will not easily forget the sacrifices made for democracy and freedom by those who went before them.



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