

The Old Johannian Association

The Bulletin

Spring 2006



***** HEADLINES *****

***The new venue for the
Annual Dinner.
Will it be a success?***

**The 87th annual Association dinner.
(13th May 2006)**

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Warleigh 2005

Chairman's column



Our 87th Annual Dinner and Reunion on Saturday 13th May 2006 is almost upon us. The Committee have pulled out all the stops to make the new venue a resounding success. Many of you have already enquired about tables of 10. Let's keep the momentum going by booking early.

May I also remind you of the AGM which will be held before the Dinner at 6:30pm There is ample space provided at the Royal Sailor's Home Club for all of you to attend.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Easter, and I look forward to greeting you on Saturday 13th May.

Sincerely
Tony Baker

Editorial



Hello fellow OJ's.

It seems that we have formalised our bulletin/newsheet production. It was decided that we would have 2 bulletins (like this booklet) one in Spring (March/April), to precede the annual dinner, the other in the Autumn (October/November) to wind up the year's news and precede the Christmas festivities. A newsheet will be published in the summer to bridge the gap between the 2 bulletins.

The OJA Annual Dinner is approaching and is our major event of the year. It is a significant part of our run up to our jubilee annual dinner in 2008, which we hope to hold at the Guildhall. As always, numbers will decide its success.

In compiling this bulletin, it struck me that much space is given over to the "last register" section. This is right and proper, but neither should it dominate the bulletin. As and when we get our web site fully functioning, we will be able to publish full reports. In the meantime I will have to reluctantly abridge the reports that I receive.

The OJA bulletin/newsletter is a strange beast inasmuch that it serves a large and very varied group. It can prove very easy to include information that interests a particular part of that group, and yet holds no interest for many others. There is the burgeoning younger

element, the very busy mid-lifers, and the autumnal brigade. I'll carry on working on achieving the right balance. What I have found interesting is where OJ's end up, fitting into society. Generally a respectable and successful group it would appear.

If any of you have contributions for the bulletins, send them along to the

e-mail address or the chairman's address on the back page.

One other thing to note. We now have our OJA crest back on the front page. We found a black and white version and managed to get it colourised.

Regards

Stefan BARKOWIAK

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Where is the OJA at the moment?

The construction of the web site continues. Because of its intended interactivity, and complexity e.g. Handling payment transactions, its progress may well appear painfully slow. We all feel that it will be better to produce a properly planned and developed site rather than launch one prematurely full of glitches.

A big question mark hangs over the administration of the OJA membership. Peter Bryant was membership secretary until recently. He performed sterling work bringing the membership files up to date. In general they are in good condition, but as time passes they require maintenance. There are a small number of you who have slipped through the net, those of you who have filled in your membership application, sent in your subscription and been missed by the bulletin circulation lists. There is no doubt that this is unacceptable. We are actively searching for a

volunteer who has basic level computer skills who could act as the recipient of completed membership forms and keep the membership database current. It comprises of a continuous but low level activity. Any of you who could consider helping, please contact the OJA committee through the addresses on the back of this bulletin.

We are launching a new initiative to confirm our ties to the College and build some lasting links. We are at present in discussion with the headmaster (Nigel Thorne) seeking to adopt a couple of his teachers into the Committee's activities so that we can pool resources when possible and at the same time forge closer ties to our OJ's of the future i.e. The pupils of today. There is a strong sense of commitment to this initiative headed up by our Chairman and instigated by Charles Hoare. This is an initiative very close to Brother David's heart. Charles also continues to research methods of enhancing what the OJA offers by examining tried and tested at similar colleges.

Diary Dates

Annual Dinner
May 13th 2006

23rd OJA Golf
19th October 2006

MEMBER'S NEWS

At the start of the Christmas break, the leavers of 2004 got together to celebrate the homecoming of one of their year. Elliot Drury has just returned home after spending 16 months in New Zealand playing rugby for Sumner, High School Old Boys and eventually qualifying for Canterbury U19's representational squad. The night 'kicked off' in Guild Hall Walk, Portsmouth, where a short pub crawl headed towards Route 66. A group of twenty OJ's gathered reliving some fond sixth form memories.

The homecoming is only a short stay as he has been offered a place in the Canterbury Rugby Academy where, all going well, intensive training over a three year period will build up his status from semi professional to professional. We wish him the best of luck and hope to see him in an England shirt one day!

Brian Beale 1951-58 Lives in North Lancing, West Sussex. Retired electricity board engineer. Celebrates his ruby wedding anniversary March 2006. Has 2 grandchildren.

Dr. Keith Stenson 1951-58 Lives near Arundel, West Sussex. Married to Moira. Retired doctor with grandchildren.

Alan Gorvin 1951-58 Lives in Berkshire. Married, 2 sons. Retired London bank manager.

Mike Broomfield 1955-62 Lives in Portsmouth. Married to Gill. Children. Retired city engineer.

Tony Williams 1951-58 Lives in Yorkshire. Married with grandchildren.

Bernard Taylor 1940's-51 Lives on Hayling Island. Married to Katie. Retired physics teacher from SJC.

John Bryant 1951-57 Lives in Fareham. Married to Pam. Grandchildren. Retired Hants county council officer.

Bill Tremlett 1951-58 Lives in Portsmouth. Married to Sandie. 3 daughters. Retired pharmacist.

Trevor Clark 1951-58 Lives in Southsea. Married with grandchildren. Vice-president Southsea rowing club. Semi-retired. Keen interest in politics.

David Gallaway 1955-62 Lives in Southsea. Married with 2 daughters. Solicitor.

Norman Levillette Lives in Southsea. Married 2 sons. Graphic design business.

John Crowley 1962-? Lives in Preston. Married to Jackie with children. University lecturer in education.

James Crowley 1964-? Lives near Southport. Married to Heather with children. Sports lecturer.

Angus Whitelaw Has recently (end of 2005) taken over the Wellington in old Portsmouth. Maybe the old stamping ground returns!

Dominic Fontana Married to former SJC junior school teacher Cheryl Herne. 2 sons and living in the Isle of Wight. Lecturer at Portsmouth university geography department.

Quentin Fontana Married and consultant materials scientist in the Nottingham area. Consultant to Boeing in the use of carbon fibre in aircraft construction.

Val Fontana Retired SJC teacher living in Southsea. Involved with HMS

Warrior. Recently completed work on Langstone harbour for the Wessex trust for maritime archaeology. Also assistant archivist for the RC diocese of Portsmouth.

Nick Scott 1991 After his ordination to the Anglican ministry he ministered at Ryde then on the mainland. In 2005 he married Katrina, also an ordained minister who has been appointed as the first female vicar to St. John the Divine in Coventry.

Ralph Barber 1988 After leaving SJC Ralph took a commission in the Royal Navy. He left the navy in 2003 and commenced training in Ripon as an Anglican priest. He married Selena and hopes to commence a 3 year curacy at St. Michael's in Newquay. Possibly rejoining the RN as a chaplain later.

Tom Alan Goodall 1951 Joined the RAF via Halton. He now lives in Ontario. He would very much appreciate a copy of the SJC gazette from his schooldays to share those days with his grandchildren.

Tony Stayne 1954 Tony re-contacted SJC after an impulse visit early 2005. He left SJC into military service and then trained as a teacher under the "eagle eye" of Brother Michael at Hopwood hall. He retired from teaching after becoming deputy head. He continued work at national level for the YCW and made radio programs on modern issues such as poverty, 3rd world, homelessness and promoted peace and justice, winning a national journalism award.

Ben Stallion 1953 Living in Drayton and new member of the OJA.

Nathan Johnston 1991 In software sales, after leaving the SJC, now commutes to North London. Married with a new addition to the family.

Spencer Wragg West Sussex police

Richard Anderson Head chef at Spencer's casino

Jezra Herman Teacher

NEWS FROM THE BROTHERS

Brother David has spent the last few weeks at Queen Alexandra's hospital with an attack of pneumonia. He writes with his typical stoicism that he expects to be back in residence in Southsea very soon.

Brother Francis, another Southsea resident moved to Clayton court at his own request on the 6th March.

Brother Denis-Robert RIP

Brother Denis-Robert, after a long and very active life, died peacefully at Clayton court (The De La Salle Brothers own rest home, on the outskirts of Petersfield) on Sunday 19th February aged 94. He was buried on Thursday February 23rd in the Brothers' sector in Midhurst cemetery. This was after

the requiem Mass at Clayton court, a Mass attended by Brothers from far and wide, plus a vast number of friends and acquaintances.

Bro Peter (Alain Bilien) was seen recently in France and he is very well. Bro Dominic has now moved from the address in Paris to the 'Retraite' at St Avé with Bro Peter.

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EVENTS

The Annual Dinner

This is the last bulletin before the 2006 OJA annual dinner scheduled for the 13th May. Just reminder that this will not be held at the college but at the Royal sailors' home club in Queen street.



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

Some details of surrounding facilities and how to find the venue:-

The road that joins the entrance to the dockyard where HMS Victory languishes alongside the Warrior and St. John's Roman Catholic cathedral is Queen street. The Royal sailor's home club is a couple of hundred yards up from the dockyard gate on the right hand side. (Opposite where the old Whitbread brewery used to be.)

This a ten minute walk from the Portsmouth harbour railway station. Recommended parking is in the Gunwharf underground car park,

which is security monitored. This is just under a 20 minute walk away.

Royal sailors' home club

**75-80 Queen St
Portsmouth, PO1 3HS**

023 9282 4231

Go to

<http://www.google.co.uk/maps>
and type in PO1 3HS.

It will come up with the rest home and give you the opportunity to see it as a satellite picture to help you get your bearings.

87th Annual Dinner and Reunion

Saturday 13th May 2006

At The Royal Sailors' Home Club,
Queen Street, Portsea

Dear Member,

You are probably already thinking 'what!?', but don't panic, there are good reasons for the change of venue, and we will seek to explain them. Those of you attending the 2005 event, will know that we are no longer able to make use of the boarding facilities for B&B. In addition, the change in licensing law meant that it was impractical to maintain the bar. There was also an increasing difficulty in acquiring the services of the caterers and future dinners would have had to be limited to 100 people. This lead us to have a full discussion

on the way ahead for our flagship event. It was felt that partly for these reasons and primarily because we want to have a big push for numbers in order to be able to confidently book the Guildhall for the College centenary in 2008, we will move away from St. John's. There has been no falling out with the College administration, they fully support the move. We have chosen the date, as the closest available Saturday to Founder's Day.

The Royal Sailors' Home Club

This is a great venue for us, for a host of reasons. It is still within Portsmouth. It can cater for up to 180 in it's comfortable large dining room. There is space to hold the AGM before dinner. The accommodation is reasonably priced. The meal is excellent value. The hotel facilities give greater flexibility to families and couples wishing to make a weekend of it. There will be more time for socialising. No need to move en masse after dinner. Smoking allowed in the bar, which is adjacent to the dining room. Live background music after dinner. Round tables of 10, which will make the event more social. With all these positives, we saw no reason to delay our decision and booked the event.

We Need You !!

Now that the change has been made, it is vital that we get your support. Please start networking. Set a target of putting together a table of 10! This is a fantastic opportunity to lift the numbers attending, but it is up to you. Please support your Committee by turning out. Together, we can make the 2006 Dinner and Reunion a really special event.

Itinerary

Arrive 6pm – Bar Opens – AGM 6.30pm

Dinner 7.15pm

Menu : Ardennes Paté ~ Roast Topside of Prime Beef ~ Club Death by Chocolate ~ Cheese & Biscuits ~Coffee & Mints

Glass of Port

Wine on the Table

(additional wine MUST be purchased from the Club)

The Bar will re-open after the main course has been served.

Speeches & Raffle

Approx 9.15pm - Live Music and Socialising until midnight. Function ends 12.30am

(The Home Club is a 5 minute walk from Gunwharf and it's late night clubs and casino, for those who wish to continue their evening !!)

COST PER HEAD £25

IMPORTANT: ANYONE WISHING TO BOOK ACCOMMODATION SHOULD DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SEE SEPARATE LEAFLET ENCLOSED

We need to confirm numbers 2 weeks in advance, so plan early. Complete the enclosed form and send it to Anne-Marie. Tickets will be dispatched one month prior to the event.



College News



Sport

This past term has seen two of the College's rugby teams in county finals – at U16 and U15 levels. The former came out winners in the plate final of the Hampshire Cup, beating Henry Beaufort 40-24. The U15s unfortunately lost their own hard fought game. The U12s also enjoyed success winning the 7's Plate competition at Boundary Oak School.

HAT TRICK SECURES CUP VICTORY

A HAT TRICK OF TRIES BY Spencer Sanchez-Harrison helped St. John's College overcome a lively Henry Beaufort XV, by 40 points to 24 in the Plate Final of the U16 Hampshire Cup on Wednesday.

Whilst the game was marred by nervous errors made by both sides it was nevertheless entertaining and exciting for the many supporters of both sides, as the lead, taken early on by St. John's College, was constantly being challenged by a spirited Henry Beaufort team who, in drawing level on two occasions always looked dangerous and capable of winning the match. Well-worked tries by St John's College and three quick replies by Henry Beaufort saw St. John's take a deserved 26 to 14 points lead into half time.

Given the evenness of both sides, in terms of having very able and potentially talented players in key positions, such a lead always looked vulnerable, as was proved when Henry Beaufort started the second half by taking the game to St. John's and scoring a try after much pressure. It was only late on in the second half that St John's, after more settled and confident attacking play, produced two further tries and were able to build a 21pt lead. However the slightest temptation to relax or lose concentration was severely punished by a Henry Beaufort who, still anxious to win, scored a late try to close the points gap, causing some anxious final moments for the St. John's supporters. But good defensive rugby and some outstanding covering by the St. John's back row ensured a well-deserved victory.

OJ's will also be interested in the College's planned sports tour, to be held in 2008 as part of our centenary celebrations. Rugby and netball teams will be visiting Hong Kong and Australia over the summer holiday period. The College would be delighted to hear from any OJ who might feel able to support this tour – for instance, through donation, sponsorship etc.

Drama

Perhaps the major cultural event in the spring term here at St John's is the school play – this year 'Teachers' by John Godber, himself a former teacher. A very lively and challenging comedy set in an inner-city secondary school, the play raises important issues relating to education today. How can educational provision be made fair for all? What about real choice – especially for the less-advantaged in society? Erica Morley, Head of Drama, chose the play also for the real challenge it presented to young actors working with minimal costumes and props. The play has also been studied by pupils in Year 10 as an examination text. The production was held over three nights - 7-9th February, and was extremely well received by the audiences.

'Inform'

- past pupils may keep up to date with events in College on a weekly basis by reading the weekly newsheet 'Inform' which is posted on the website every Friday.

Adrian Steele
(Deputy head)

THE LAST REGISTER

Graham Sibbick (age 39)

Left St. John's 1984

Graham died on 17th October 2005, it would appear that he had a brain tumour that we knew nothing about until about 48 hours before he died. Graham was admitted to hospital on the Saturday evening he was given a Cat scan that revealed a tumour on his brain. The specialist said that it would be a tricky operation and would take some planning and this was going to be carried out on Sunday or Monday. Graham, however, slipped into a coma during the early hours of Sunday morning, I stayed with him all the time, His condition deteriorated and it was decided that they would operate on Sunday morning.

The poor chap was in surgery for over four hours. They managed to remove the tumour but by then he had developed complications and his blood was not clotting, then he developed septicaemia and his organs started to fail. Graham battled on until Monday afternoon but by then all of his organs were failing or had failed. There was no hope of recovery for him. He died with his family with him. I am grateful really that we didn't know anything about the tumour, Graham would have been beside himself with worry about the children and I if he had known. His funeral was packed with standing room only and people standing outside to pay their respects. The children and I take each day as it comes, we have the support of family, friends and colleagues to see us through these difficult times. I just know that we are all better people for having our lives touched by him.

Hattie Sibbick (Graham's wife)

Stuart Hishon

MB BS Bsc FRCP

Stuart qualified from Westminster hospital and became a medical registrar at St. James' Leeds. He then moved with his wife Jenny to East Anglia. He was senior registrar in gastroenterology at the Norfolk and Norwich and then at Addenbrooke's in Cambridge. He was the first consultant gastroenterologist at the James Paget in Norfolk where he developed a thriving department. He was a talented GP and was well respected for his clinical judgement, frequently being asked for a second opinion. He loved his life in East Anglia with his wife and son. He was a sparkling and witty companion with interests in music, philosophy and military history. He was also an enthusiastic if erratic skier.

He suffered from a depressive illness and retired in 1994 at the age of 49 with the hope that the progress of the illness would abate. It didn't and his last years were spent in and out of hospital with declining health.

He leaves his wife Jenny and son Rory.

(David Wayne & Jenny Jenkins)

THE LAST REGISTER

Brian Hartley 1934-2006



Brian was born in 1934. His father, a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy, was killed in the Second World War when his submarine, HMS Odin, was sunk off Italy in 1940. The Navy stepped in and enabled Brian to attend St John's College, Southsea, a school which had a profound influence on him, particularly fostering his interest in art. After school he embarked upon his first great overseas adventure with service in the Merchant Navy. In 1953 he volunteered for the army and was accepted into the Royal Army Educational Corps. He saw service in Korea, Australia and Kenya. It was in Korea that he made his first acquaintance with the worlds of media and entertainment, working on the army newspaper and becoming a disc-jockey on the Commonwealth Forces Radio. He returned to civilian life in 1957 working in insurance, then banking, neither of which made significant use of his wide-ranging creative talents. His love of things military was, however, catered for when he joined the 383rd Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, The Duke of Connaught's Royal Hampshire (TA). In this, as in all matters to which he turned his hand, his enthusiasm and ability carried him forward and he gained his

Queen's Commission in 1960, becoming the regiment's Intelligence Officer. In 1964 he secured a job that he loved and which gave his creativity full rein. He joined *The News*, Portsmouth, initially as an advertising representative and ultimately as Marketing Manager, responsible for the sale, design and layout of major advertising features and the publicity for, and promotion of, the newspaper itself. Whilst working at *The News* Brian once again took to broadcasting as a show host, and eventually Director, for Portsmouth Hospitals Radio.

In 1971 Brian married Irene who was to remain his closest companion during the many phases of his life yet to come. In 1976 he embarked on his next, and perhaps greatest, adventure, by emigrating with Irene to the United States. Setting aside a career in *The News* that was taking him inevitably to the very top, he secured a job in Hollywood working on film-lighting gangs. One of his first roles was as Best Boy on the remake of *King Kong*. That was followed by work on dozens of films and television series such as *Barnaby Jones* with Buddy Ebsen. Naturally in the course of his work he met many celebrities and whilst he was both delighted and fascinated by them, he was always at ease and treated them as mortals, something to which they responded positively, particularly Peter Sellers with whom he reminisced about days in *Good Old Pompey*. Other jobs in the States followed in publishing and marketing until in 1982 he joined the contract film lighting company Keylite, for which he became Sales and Marketing Manager. In this post he enjoyed renewed access to the studios of Hollywood as well as Edwards Air Force Base where he floodlit the landing of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. Once again Brian was making his mark, so much so that he was head-hunted by the Strand Lighting Division of the Rank Organisation for its senior marketing position in the Americas,

THE LAST REGISTER

a position he held until his semi-retirement and return to the UK in 1994.

In that year Brian began a ten year relationship with Kuwait and his long association with *Dispatches*. His first credits were for design and layout in Editions 5-10 from 1996-97. For Editions 6 and 8 he also took the Editor's chair, a role he reprised for Editions 27-31 from 2001-03. For Editions 33-43 he took the role of Assistant Editor setting some 20-30 pages of copy for each magazine. But it was not only as an innovative designer and editor that he will be remembered for he wrote over 40 articles on topics ranging from the Siege of Al Qurain to an account of the last duel in England in 1845, and from John Dankworth to a Hedgehog Sanctuary in Devon. There were also articles on the film industry and detailed accounts of British military history, these subjects coming together in his last contribution to *Dispatches* contained within the pages of this edition, the story of aircraft manufacturing pioneer and novelist Neville Shute Norway.

Brian was a natural writer with a flair for drawing his readers into his stories. The former British Ambassador, Chris Wilton remembers Brian's visit to the Embassy to interview him and his wife, Dianne. *He was one of the first people we met soon after we arrived in Kuwait when he came to the Residence to do the article for Dispatches. It was an excellent article and one which showed that he had really got to know us all very well, in a very short space of time. We shall look back on it with very fond memories.* Barry Noden the former General Secretary of the BBF has summed up his contribution. *Brian made a positive impact with the continuance of the magazine and for that matter the BBF, his contributions were invaluable and unfortunately only a few of us know how much.*

He also supported the art import business British Studio Arts, managing many large

exhibitions in Kuwait and Bahrain. During this period he found time to revive his interest in his own painting, producing watercolours of Kuwaiti scenes including a series of mosques of which he was particularly proud.

Brian was at ease in any social gathering. Ginty Malcolm, wife of Col Sandy Malcolm, a former Staff College Director of Studies has written: *Brian was never short of interesting conversation and had that golden gift of making sure that everyone was included in the party. Brian had more than anyone else to offer both intellectually and socially but he had the grace to let others sound off and only when he felt the moment appropriate would he talk, teach and fascinate whomever he may have been with.* Brian was an extraordinary man who combined the flair he demonstrated when engaged in his high profile interests - the army, journalism, the film industry, sales and marketing, publishing and art - with a calmness and modesty that attracted all those who were fortunate to come into contact with him.

The British Business Forum of Kuwait has voted to establish an annual lecture by a visiting lecturer to be known as *The Brian Hartley Memorial Lecture*.

Graham Hawkins



At Dar El Cid gallery with his own work.

As We go to Press

We got this from Kelly Brown. She left SJC 2004

Date: Fri, 17 Mar 2006 16:54:14 -0000

Hello,

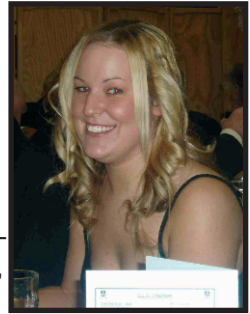
I'm taking part in the Portsmouth Race for Life on 04/06/2006 to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Having lost my mum to breast cancer this is a charity I thoroughly aim to support, so your donations mean a lot to me. Please take a moment to sponsor me. It's really easy - you can donate any amount, no matter how small or great, online by credit or debit card at the following address:

<http://www.raceforlifesporsome.org/kellybrown>

All donations are secure and sent electronically to Cancer Research UK. If you are a UK taxpayer, "Justgiving" will add an automatic 28% bonus to your donation at no cost to you. Please join me in supporting Cancer Research UK and a fabulous cause!

Thanks and best wishes,

Kelly



Kelly at the 2005
OJA dinner

The 5 year reunion of the last A-level Drama class.

To celebrate the 23rd birthday of Mason Willis, two others from his old drama A-level class, namely Ryan Toose and Alexander Bartkowiak, decided to descend on him and make a night of it back in Pompey. Having all managed to avoid the trappings of a 'proper job' we headed with what little money remained of our student loans, to the Portsmouth University Student Union bar for a few cheap drinks before finally going to Route 66 in Guildhall walk. Many drinks were drunk, dances danced (inexpertly), songs wailed and girls harassed. Mason's older sister, who was dutifully playing taxi driver that night, kindly doubled as memory jogger the next morning. We have all changed, and in some ways we have probably changed more than we would have originally guessed, but the speed at which we slipped back into being the friends that were five years previously was apparent to us all and gave us an excellent excuse to raise a glass to St Johns.

Alexander Bartkowiak

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