

OLD BUCKWELLIANS NEWS



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No stopping the Bucks

THE prospect of tracing 100% of one or more year groups is now starting to look realistic. There are now nine year groups where the numbers still to be found are less than ten.

My appeal in the last edition seems to have spurred a lot more of you into writing, and I am very grateful for this.

Year group reunions continue to thrive. The intrepid "49ers" now meet up several times a year and recently Faith (my wife) and I were honoured and delighted to attend a superb barbeque hosted and laid on by Brian and Isobel Page, together with tremendous amount of help from various others. If any other year groups want to start getting organised please feel free to ask me for help in contacting people. I cannot release personal data directly but I am always happy to

pass messages.

Hunting down Old Bucks all round the world continues to be a fascinating and sometimes amusing occupation. Including the lists of untraced ex-pupils with the last edition provided many useful clues on the whereabouts of our missing colleagues. As a result we have traced a further 149 since the last edition. I still believe we could make more progress. In many cases, for example, it becomes very easy to trace an Old Buck if I receive information about one of his relatives or associates – particularly their name. For example, an OB with a common name may be impossible to find but if I knew his wife's name the search would become much easier. As you may know, it is sometimes possible to trace Old Bucks by searching on the internet. Entering BHCHS in Google gives plenty of clues, but

not all of them relevant. Did you know, for example that there is an annual reunion of the Big Horn City Historical Society each year.....?

Finally, thanks again to all who have been so tremendously supportive and encouraging to me in the efforts to develop and maintain our thriving network.

Graham Frankel



Comment from the Chair



IT IS very easy to reflect on the past, relatively easy to view the present but surprisingly difficult to muse on the future.

Looking back into the past, I see the school in a number of dimensions. Physical (the building, the setting, the playing fields and even the appearance and smell of the polished wood floors throughout the school along which we used to slide either our briefcases or ourselves for greatest distance!). Human (pupils, staff and parents). Moral and cultural (the ethos, the ambi-

tions and the joy in achievement, so well summarised by the school motto, whose meaning has deepened for me over the years). Focusing on the present, these dimensions exist still. The building, though not ours anymore, still stands as a monument, perhaps even a memorial, to all that was wished for each of us and from which we have for so long benefited. The boys, albeit older and some even looking it (!), the staff and for some of us, our parents. Most of all, the friendships and mutual respect still so evident whenever we meet.

And the future? Difficult in so many ways to predict, yet for me in one area at least blessedly reliable. Members of my Year Group, like so many others, have kept in touch, not because we thought we ought to, but because nothing could be more natural. Whether at monthly visits to local (or not so local) hostels, annual walking trips or pilgrimages to 24 hour Sports Car races, whether at Christmas dinners or New Year events or whether just meeting up in person or by phone, the friendships and understanding grow ever deeper.

The feeling of togetherness that I experienced when I first attended the OBA Annual Dinner at Chasneys' is the same as I still feel every October at the Met Police Sports Club.

The committee and I can of course engage in initiatives. We can and will work on communication and networking whether by the excellent *Old Buckwellians News*, our website or telephone calls so that news of individuals and societies and functions can be more widely known by those who are interested. We can encourage a feeling of belonging by "pushing" Association ties or the new OBA polo shirts. We can engage in events such as the successful and charming rededication of the School Sign. Whatever we do, for me it needs to always match the values that I believe, in significant part, I gained from the School.

The recent rededication ceremony of the School Sign provided a marvellous link from the past, through the present and into the future. The children of St John's Primary School who were our hosts for the evening were a splendid example of all the hopes that the staff at BHCHS had for us. How proud those staff would have been if even some of us had turned out to have

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the modesty, manners and confidence which I saw in those primary school children. I hope that you are well and that the Association is all that you would like it to be. If it isn't, then you know where to find me!
Kind regards and best wishes to all.
Alan Woods