

OR Update



News from the Foundation and Alumni Office

Autumn 2008

ARE YOU WHO WE THINK YOU ARE?

After a long and painstaking process we have now transferred our alumni records to a new database. This completes the first step towards *Old Reigatians Online*. The next stage in our preparation for the launch of this exciting new system is to make sure that the information we have about you is up-to-date. To make it quick and easy for you, we have printed out your information on a personalised database form which you will find with this mailing. Please could you check your details carefully. If there are no changes, all you have to do is tick the boxes and sign the form. Otherwise, please add or amend where necessary. Whether you make changes or not, please return the form in the enclosed reply paid envelope.

In the meantime, we will be starting to develop our new-look website which will integrate the existing ORA pages with *Old Reigatians Online*. Would you like to help us test the new site before it goes live? We would like to find a small group of former pupils who could spend a few minutes trying it out and giving us some feedback. Ideally we would like to hear from someone who uses the internet very occasionally, someone who uses it every week, and someone who uses the internet every day. If you could help with this, please email the Foundation and Alumni Office.

ORA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Reigatian Association will take place at the school on Monday 2 March at 8pm. All ORs are welcome to attend. However, if you are planning to come, please contact the Foundation and Alumni Office so that we can make adequate provision for the numbers attending.

TELL US YOUR NEWS

We know some of you are getting married, having children, moving country, changing jobs, playing sport, retiring or being creative in so many different ways. So don't be shy! Share your news with us and we will share it with your friends from RGS on our news page on the ORA website, reached via:

www.reigategrammar.org

Aubs' CORNER

It was great to hear the news that Keir Starmer (RGS 1974-1981) has been appointed Director of the Crown Prosecution Service. He has agreed to be our main man at the Annual Dinner.

It was a joy for Ali and me to run down to Brighton and visit Ron Adkins to celebrate his 100th birthday. He taught at RGS 1943-1958 and I remember with gratitude the support and encouragement he gave me when I first joined the school in 1956. Alert and perceptive as ever, Ron is fully expecting to continue receiving his pension for many years to come.

It was good to see David Walliams on the West End Stage in Pinter's No Man's Land and Paul O'Mahony playing a leading part in Vaclav Havel's Mountain Hotel in Richmond.

Finally, I have to report the deaths of Gerry Bedward, RGS teacher from 1947 and Second Master from 1976 to 1981, and Terry Harvey, former Chairman of the ORA. Terry had been Chairman of the OR soccer committee for many years. This prompts me to remind you that there are six soccer teams and so if you are keen to play regularly there is a team to suit your lack of fitness. The same also applies to rugby and hockey. If you tick the box on the enclosed form, we can pass your details to the relevant secretary.

DIG THAT!

In our Summer 2008 Update, Aubs wrote of the construction of the new indoor swimming pool and of the efforts to build the old outdoor one almost half a century ago. Andrew Dodwell (1954-1961) recalls...

"Back in the pre-enlightenment days before the sixties, joining the school cadet corps was more or less obligatory. Those who were prepared to reject the idea and argue their case with the redoubtable commander of the corps were allowed to join the School Service Corps and spend Wednesday afternoons on such valuable tasks as sorting out the book store or helping in the Headmaster's garden.

"When the idea of building the first swimming pool was mooted, it was brightly suggested that the School Service Corps might dig the required hole. A pilot study was carried out to determine the feasibility of this plan. Sadly it was calculated that it would take something like over two thousand years of Wednesday afternoons to complete the job, so contractors were appointed!"

LARGE PRINT

This newsletter is available in large print on request.

ORA EVENTS

ORA ANNUAL DINNER

This will take place on Friday 13 March, 2009 in The Peter Masefield Hall at Reigate Grammar School.

Your invitation is included in this mailing. We will put a list of those coming onto the website - this list will be updated every week.

ORA REUNION 2009

There will be a reunion on Saturday 16 May 2009 for ORs in the Classes of 1980 to 1989 (inclusive). Invitations will be sent out in the spring.

GRADUATION LUNCH

In September 2009 there will be a Graduation Lunch for the Class of 2005. We will send out more information next June.

RGS EVENTS

If you would like to attend school events, eg concerts and plays, we now have a page on our website giving full details.

THE OLD REIGATIAN 2008-2009

Our next edition will be published in Spring 2009. We welcome your articles, memories, photographs, letters...

If you have anything you would like us to include, please send it to the Foundation and Alumni Office as soon as possible, ideally before the end of the year.

THE FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI OFFICE

Ali Massey and Paula Eason in the Foundation and Alumni Office handle the day-to-day organisation of the ORA during term time only. During school holidays we monitor and acknowledge our emails and check our post. Aubs is usually available to help during both term time and holidays (via the telephone number below). Please keep us up to date with your address and email changes and your news by contacting us at:

The Foundation and Alumni Office
Reigate Grammar School, Reigate Road,
Reigate RH2 0QS
Email: ora@reigategrammar.org
Tel: 01737 222231

CAN YOU HELP US FIND OUR 'MISSING' ORs?

Every time we send out a mailing, a number of envelopes are returned by the Royal Mail marked 'addressee unknown' or 'gone away'. If we have another method of contact (eg email address) we will do our best to get back in touch. Sadly, this is not always possible, and we have to note that the person is now 'missing'. During 2008 we have lost contact with the following ORs. If you can help us to get back in contact with anyone on the list please let us know. You can see the full list of missing alumni in the individual form lists on the ORA website.

	RGS Dates
1960s	
David Daw	1963 - 1965
1970s	
I James Powell	1972 - 1979
1980s	
Martin Whittaker	1977 - 1980
William McNally	1977 - 1983
David Ewings	1976 - 1983
Mark Iddon	1978 - 1984
Iain Miller	1979 - 1983
Matthew Pullen	1979 - 1986
Jane Ashfold	1985 - 1987
Darrell Abbott	1984 - 1988
1990s	
Nicholas Booker	1983 - 1991
Sarah Laker	1989 - 1991
Nicholas Spence	1985 - 1992
John Butcher	1986 - 1993
Vikki Roberts	1991 - 1993
Lee Celand	1989 - 1992
Richard Callcut	1987 - 1994
David Withycombe	1987 - 1995
David Catchpole	1988 - 1994
Jane Harrington	1994 - 1996
Gavin Marshall	1989 - 1996
Zoe Whitmore	1996 - 1998
Toby Harris	1991 - 1999
Peter Philpott	1997 - 1999
2000s	
Christopher Minchell	1992 - 2000
Robin Harris	1993 - 2001
George Byrne	1995 - 2000