



# OLA Newsletter

December 2004

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Old Loughburians' Association  
Burton Walks  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire LE11 2DU

## Loughborough Dinner

*Burton Hall, 21st May 2005  
Black Tie - Partners Most Welcome  
£26.50 per person*

Returning to the theme of inviting the Head Boy of 21 years ago to speak at the Loughborough Dinner, we are pleased to announce that Jonathan Gray, the Head Boy of 1984, will be delivering the after-dinner speech at the 2005 Loughborough Dinner.

After leaving LGS and a short service limited commission in the Army, Jonathan went up to St Peter's College, Oxford to read Modern History in October 1985 and "had a thoroughly enjoyable three years playing rugby for college and university". On graduation he joined Phillips & Drew stockbrokers as a graduate trainee working in corporate finance. In 1995 he was made a director of UBS (as it had then become). In 1998 he was headhunted to join HSBC as a managing director and headed a new team there. In 2003 he left to become "Head of Smaller Companies" at Williams de Broe. We look forward to hearing his memories of School and life after leaving!

**Please note the date of Saturday 21st May 2005 in your diary NOW.**

We will be contacting you by letter and e-mail to remind you about the dinner nearer the time and to provide full details. We hope for an especially good turn-out from Jonathan's year.

.Chairman's Letter

*N J Barry Hackett (1967-73).*

Welcome to our December 2004 Newsletter.

During another busy year in the OLA your committee has successfully introduced a new subscription system at the School which will help to fund the Association's long term commitment to the membership.

We have had the benefit of several new committee members namely Graham Campbell and Dave Evans. Both Graham and Dave will be well known to you having seen many years teaching at LGS. They will provide a valuable link between OLs particularly through Web Alumnus. The committee extends a warm welcome to them.

The publication of our Magazine in April is due to the hard work and enthusiasm of Peter Hopkins and Ed Thorpe. This magazine is such a vital part of our ability to keep in contact with a large number of OLs. Please do use the Old Boys Notes to keep everyone abreast of your news – alternatively enter something on the website if you wish. Producing a magazine of this quality is not easy and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Peter and Ed. We look forward to the 2005 edition.

Four committee members attended the LGS Founder's Dinner this year and were entertained by the Sixth Form. I also attended a new parents evening in the Autumn to establish the OLA as an important part of the wider community of existing pupils. Parents are now paying for membership of the OLA

throughout the time that the boys are at school and it is important to advertise the added value the OLA offers.

Sadly I also joined a large congregation at the funeral of Rev John Elliot 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2004. John taught me English, RE and a one-year A level course in Economics. John was a quiet man of great intellect, whose warmth and kindness were far more important to him than discipline and admonishment! The tribute to him by Rev Cherry at the Parish Church was very accurate and very moving. He was a delightful man and will be greatly missed. I spotted Cliff Haines, Rev Foster and Ken Ward amongst the mourners.

A record number of leavers joined in with the September leavers BBQ – our committee member John Weitzel arranged a splendid evening which both boys and girls from the High School enjoyed – in spite of the driving rain!

A happy Christmas to all and I hope the New Year brings good health and happiness to you and your families. I look forward to meeting you at the Loughborough Dinner in 2005.

## Reverend John Elliott (1961 –80)

OL's will be sorry to learn of the death, at 89, of John Elliott - School Chaplain from 1961-1980. John died peacefully in his sleep on 21st October having lived life to the full. A packed Parish Church, full of friends, former colleagues and Old Boys said farewell to John on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. A full obituary will be published in the Old Loughburian Magazine

## WebAlumnus Goes From Strength to Strength

*Jeremy Walsh, Web Admin, November 2004*

It is now eighteen months since we launched WebAlumnus, after a year of preparation beforehand. We are delighted to report that we now have nearly 1,800 past pupils from the Endowed Schools registered on the system. This well exceeds our expectations and we are especially delighted that it has put us back in contact with nearly 200 Old Boys.

Of course a total change in technology such as WebAlumnus has raised many issues over that time. It now requires that those who manage WebAlumnus, make themselves available on a very regular basis to register new members onto the system, solve access issues for existing members who have forgotten their passwords, publish news and events and generally maintain the system. We are unusual in that virtually all the other 80 WebAlumnus systems are being managed by the administration at the past pupils' school. Of course, we are supported by the School from a technical perspective and also in the loading of new leavers. However, we are proud of the fact that, using only a dedicated team of volunteers, our WebAlumnus has achieved a higher rate of registrations than any of the other 80 past pupil associations which use the system.

As I mentioned, there are now nearly 1,800 past pupils registered on WebAlumnus. Nearly one third of the OLA is now registered on the system, with 1,100 members now on line. It is especially pleasing to regain contact with friends who now live overseas.

There are 34 past pupils registered as in the USA and 14 in Australia. We know that the actual numbers are much higher than that, but these above have registered their country on the system.

If you haven't already registered on WebAlumnus, please do. It will help improve our records and help others contact you more easily. Because it is a "closed" system protected by passwords, most members are very happy to display their full contact details including address, phone and email.

**Register on WebAlumnus today**

**You can access it through the school website on [www.loughgs.leics.sch.uk](http://www.loughgs.leics.sch.uk) and follow the links to Old Boys.**

## Ties and Cuff-Links

The new style Old Loughburian ties have a modern "chequer board" design, with the association logo scattered across the material. Produced in silk, the tie costs £17.00. There are still a few of the more traditional style OLA ties available, displaying only a single association crest. These ties are available at only £12.00

OLA Cuff Links are also available for only £10.00.

The ties and cuff links can be purchased by sending a cheque for the appropriate amount to the Old Loughburians' Association, c/o Loughborough Grammar School, Burton Walks, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2DU

## President's Report

*Paul Fisher (1998 - )*

At the Association's AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2004 Paul Fisher (1998 - ), the School's Headmaster, expressed his pleasure at being part of the OLA Committee which has the main interests of both the School and its Members at heart. The loudspeaker system for the Burton Hall, which was a gift from the OLA last year, is operating excellently and is indicative of the links now growing with the boys. He reported that the Association's contacts are now much wider within the School, because of the higher profile of the OLA. He also commented that there are also much closer ties with the Governors on issues which affect both the School and OLA. Finally, the Headmaster also reported that there was one major change in the staff – Bill Dyson had retired for personal reasons after thirty years of service at the School.

## OL Heads English Cricket

*John Weitzel (1978 - )*

David Collier (LGS 1962-73) has been appointed Chief Executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board. A genuine all rounder, in the LGS 1st XI he scored over 500 runs and took 55 wickets - he captained English Universities in both Hockey and Cricket. He initially started in cricket as Assistant Secretary at Essex before becoming Gloucestershire's Chief Executive in 1983. In 1986 he took a 10 year rest from cricket and, amongst other things, was Senior Vice President of American Airlines. He returned as Leicestershire's Chief Executive in 1996 and in 2000 moved onto

Nottinghamshire. He is married with 3 children.

## 2004 London Dinner

*Roy Wood (1963 – 94)*

The 2004 London dinner, again held at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly had a slightly lower than usual attendance, partly due to the absence of a number of regular members for a variety of reasons and partly perhaps because there were no special presentations this year. However, the general opinion seemed to be that the occasion was as enjoyable as ever with more time than usual for informal chatter. For this time, our thanks were due in no small measure to our oldest member present, Frank Cooke (1931-36). When Frank got up to propose the toast to the School and the Association, he expressed gratitude for reaching his advanced age, stated the toast and immediately sat down again to the applause of the gathered company. Frank is a most regular attendee of the London Dinner and on a recent occasion told us memories of "Johnnie" Johnson in an impromptu speech. The Headmaster gave us news of recent happenings at the School in fewer words than he had used at the Prize Giving, again conserving time for use later in the evening socialising with old friends.

Last October's London Dinner attendees (in alphabetical sequence) were:

Paul Alexander (85-89)  
Richard Boccock (90-97)  
Alan Brewin (52-57)  
Bob Broomhall (48-53)  
Adam Byer (84-91)  
Frank Cooke (31-36)  
Alan Dickman (41-48)

Joseph Dolan (90-97)  
Graham Freckleton (60-72)  
Gerard Gray (78-95)  
Barry Hackett (67-73)  
Russell Harrop (85-91)  
Nick Hopkinson (78-85)  
David Lanaway(48-58)  
Jim Mellors (60-67)  
Peter Papworth (41-49)  
Robert Peberdy (68-75)  
Dan Repath (90-97)  
Tony Scottorn (48-53)  
Ian Simpson (48-53)  
Nick Simpson (63-70)  
David Smith (59-69)  
Trevor Soar (68-75)  
Richard Stanford (55-60)  
Richard Tarrant (90-97)  
Steve Walker (69-76)  
Gordon Wilson (39-47)  
Roy Wood (63-47)  
Chris Boccock (53-60)  
Gareth Branston (84-91)  
Graham Brewin (49-54)  
John Bryson (62-74)  
Peter Collins (68-76)  
Mike Coppuck (82-85)  
David Docherty (77-84)  
Paul Fisher (98- )  
Derek Garratt (48-54)  
Jonathan Gray (77-84)  
Baz Hardy (48-55)  
Eric Hodgkinson (48-54)  
Cyrus Jensen (90-97)  
Simon Lane (54- )  
Robert Neild (85-91)  
Micheal Pearson (53-58)  
Mark Pollard (77-84)  
Neil Rowbotham (73- )  
Peter Sergeant (75- )  
Jonathan Simpson (83-90)  
David Simmons (56-61)  
Robert Smith (42-52)  
Louis Stanford (39-45)  
Don Storer (48-54)  
Peter Van Der Feltz (51-62)  
John Weitzel (78- )  
Don Wood (54-84)

**The 2005 London Dinner will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, so mark the date in your diary now.**

## Simon Lane

*Paul Fisher, November 2004*

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November Simon Lane (1954 - ) suffered a heart attack. He was taken to Glenfield Hospital in Leicester and on the Friday the surgeons completed an angioplasty operation. By Saturday he was talking about returning immediately to work, which we resisted! He is recovering well and we expect him to start back at the School in the New Year.

## Thomas Burton Lodge

*Barry Hackett*

Graham S. Freckleton (1960-71) is in the chair this year and is enjoying his year in office. Nearly half of the Lodge comprises past and present members of the Board of Governors, Staff and of course OLs. The close association with the School is extremely rewarding as it gives a focus for sustaining friendships through this secular society.

The Thomas Burton Lodge meets in Loughborough and is always keen to attract new OLs who continue to live in the area. If you are wondering what being a Mason entails, do give the secretary Bob Stark a ring on 01572 756 279 or contact him at 13 Derwent Drive, Oakham LE12 6RZ. You would enjoy being part of an increasingly open membership, which is determined to have a great deal of fun combined with making substantial contributions to society through its local and national charitable works. You can find out more information on [www.thomasburtonlodge.co.uk](http://www.thomasburtonlodge.co.uk) and [www.pgleics.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.pgleics.fsnet.co.uk)

## The Old Loughburian

*Peter Hopkins and Ed Thorpe*

Deadline for the receipt of material for the 2005 issue of the *Old Loughburian* is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005.

Undoubtedly, the most popular parts of your Old Boys' magazine continue to be those which give news of other OLs: we all like to hear what our former classmates and team-mates are doing, where they are now living, whether they have families – and so on.

Write to Ed Thorpe (32 Avon Vale Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2AA), especially if you have not been in touch for some time: news of you will certainly create ripples of interest in your contemporaries all over the country – in fact, probably all round the world!

### Email Contacts

#### Don Wood

You can contact Don Wood, the Honorary Secretary, by email on [honsecola.les@webalumnus.com](mailto:honsecola.les@webalumnus.com)

#### Web Admin

You can contact the web administrator for WebAlumnus on [olachairman.les@webalumnus.com](mailto:olachairman.les@webalumnus.com)

## 2005 Dates for Your Diary

- Loughborough Dinner - May 21<sup>st</sup>
- OLA vs LGS Cricket match - July 3<sup>rd</sup>
- New Leavers barbecue - September 16<sup>th</sup>
- London Dinner - October 14<sup>th</sup>

## Notes of Reunions and Travels

Our Hon. Sec and his wife, Pat, enjoyed a luxurious holiday in Palma, Mallorca at the end of August 2004 and had the pleasure of meeting with OL Amit Bajpai (63-72) who supervises the British Medical School in Palma Nova. After joining him at his new home, they spent an exciting evening together as Amit had his father Ari (Professor of Mathematics at Loughborough university) and his father-in-law from India staying with him, his wife and three daughters. A memorable occasion!

Neil Merrick (44-53) paid a visit at the end of March 2004 to show the School to his wife for the first time after many years of marriage and life in Holland. They were astonished and delighted at the transformation of the quiet Direct Grant School into a thriving community with an established reputation. Neil wants to maintain a closer contact.

Brian Mulligan (45-50) organised a group of OLs who had started LGS in 1945 and, after lunch in Quorn on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, they were taken on a grand tour by John Weitzel and Roger Willson. They were Ken Blood, Noel Bradshaw, Peter Harrod, Dave Jordan, Tony Lunnon, Brian himself, Robert Smith, Tom Smith, Geoff Towers and Colin Watts.

On October 16<sup>th</sup> Phil Stevens (59-64) persuaded other members of mainly class 5 Beta (63-64) to join him with Don Wood and Peter Hopkins at the Falcon in Long Whatton. They were Jim Bancroft, Graham Barnett, Malcolm Carrington, Phil Child, Phil Gilbert, Vince Jones, Steve Latimer, Dave Storer and Phil himself. Another occasion of happy memories.