

The Old Warwickian

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008



PRESIDENT: DAVID B STEVENS

Welcome to the spring newsletter of The Old Warwickian Association. With an exciting programme of forthcoming events and reunions, and the appointment of Warwick School's new Alumni Relations Officer, 2008 looks set to be a very promising year. We hope you enjoy reading this new style newsletter and would welcome your feedback.

President-Elect John Cavanagh QC

John Cavanagh QC was elected 2009 President of the Old Warwickian Association at the December AGM.

John was at Warwick School from 1968 to 1978 and has very happy memories of his school days. His sporting record at school was mixed and while he still talks of his second place in the three-legged and wheelbarrow races during Upper Two, his proudest sporting achievement was that, during eight years as a rugby forward, he never completed a single tackle.

John was on firmer ground in debating and acting. He enjoyed acting in a number of school plays but, tragically, was the only boy to fail the singing audition of the school production of *The Gondoliers*.

He thrived on the academic side of school life. There were some inspirational teachers at Warwick at the time, including Robert Hudson, David Stooke and the late Robert Heaton and Stephen Woodward.

After a gap year spent as a residential social worker, John read a law degree at Oxford University and then a postgraduate degree at Cambridge. He spent a year teaching at the University of Illinois Law School, before



John Cavanagh QC - President-Elect

returning to England and teaching at New College, Oxford.

John was called to the Bar in London in 1985 and has practised in London ever since. The job suits his sense of theatre and penchant for dressing up. He became a QC in 2001 and was appointed a Crown Court Recorder in 2004. In 2006-7 he was Chair of the Employment Law Bar Association.

John has been married to Suzie since 1989, and they live in Harpenden with their four school-age children. When he has time over from his practice and family, John likes to spend time devising reasons why he shouldn't do any gardening.

Warwick School painted by Grahame Ward



News from Alumni Relations

I am delighted to be Warwick School's first Alumni Relations Officer and look forward to helping you keep in touch with the school and your fellow Old Warwickians.

I graduated from Nottingham University and began my working life in a boys' prep school. There I taught French, served as a part time matron and spent Sunday nights cutting the toenails of 100 boarders. I spent the next five years in the hospitality industry and completed an MSc in Tourism, Food and Hospitality Management. Since then I have worked in marketing management, first promoting Kent Tourism and then Shakespeare Country. I am married to Gordon and, with two young sons, we enjoy weekends on the touchline.

As Alumni Relations Officer I hope to develop our programme of Old Warwickian events and reunions. Whether you'd enjoy a decade reunion to meet up with old friends, a networking event for those in similar professions, or if you simply need to find and keep in touch with some of your contemporaries, I will try and help. With events and reunions, these newsletters and exciting plans for the Old Warwickian website (watch this space!), I hope to keep you in touch with each other and the school.



Anne Douglas

IN THIS EDITION

2008 Events

The latest news on recent and forthcoming OW events.

Sixties Reunion

A chance to meet up with old friends from the 1960s.

Summer Dinner

Book your tickets now.

Tell us your story

Were you at school during the Strover years?

School News

From rugby victories to academic success...

EVENTS AND REUNIONS

SUMMER DINNER AT ST MARY'S GUILDHALL

We're delighted to confirm that the President's Summer Dinner will take place on Saturday 5 July 2008.

The evening will start with a guided tour of Coventry Cathedral, followed by a drinks reception and dinner in St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry. We are especially pleased to announce that Sir John Egan, one of the most influential industrialists and businessmen of his generation, has agreed to be our guest speaker.



St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry

Our evening will begin, at 18.15, with the guided tour of Coventry Cathedral, a dynamic centre of worship and mission, a place of pilgrimage and a focus for international reconciliation. "To walk from the ruins of the old Cathedral into the splendour of the new is to walk from Good Friday to Easter, from the ravages of human self-destruction to the glorious hope of resurrection. Your heart is lifted, your spirit is renewed and you feel that there is hope for the world".
John Irvine,
Dean of Coventry Cathedral.

From the Cathedral we will be escorted to St Mary's Guildhall for a drinks reception at 19.00 and sit down dinner at 19.30.

St Mary's is one of the finest mediaeval guildhalls in England. It served as the centre of King Henry VI's court during the Wars of the Roses and as a prison to Mary, Queen of Scots. Its kitchens have prepared banquets for visiting monarchs and have fed starving weavers! Our mouth-watering menu will comprise roulade of salmon and crab followed by leg cushion of lamb with Dutch chunky apple flan as dessert.

Sir John Egan, our guest speaker, was born in Coventry, the son of the owner of a small garage. He read petroleum engineering at Imperial College and his outstanding contribution to British business includes six years at Massey Ferguson, ten years as Chief Executive of Jaguar Cars, nine years as Chief Executive of British Airports Authority and two years as President of the CBI. He is currently the Chairman of

Severn Trent Water, Chancellor of Coventry University and non-Executive Chairman of Inchcape plc (motor distributors).

Tickets for the Summer Dinner are priced at £50 per person. To book your tickets please send a cheque, made payable to "OWA", to Geoff Thorpe, Highcroft, Butt Lane, Harbury, Leamington Spa, CV33 9JL. Tel: 01926 613801, E-mail: gill@thorpe.spacomputers.com

Please include a SAE. Details of hotels, car parking and the possibility of organised transport are also available from Geoff on request.

Dress: Dinner Jacket. Partners and guests are most welcome. Booking deadline: 16 June.

SIXTIES REUNION



Assembly, 1966

Former pupils of Warwick School will be flying in from around the world for a Sixties Reunion on 3 May 2008. The Reunion is open to everyone who left the school during the 1960s - and the masters who taught them.

Organiser Nigel Robinson, Chairman of the OWA, said old boys would be attending from as far a field as Japan, South Africa and Hong Kong, as well as from Malta and mainland Europe.

"It should be an incredible day," said Nigel. "Many of them won't have seen one another for 40 years or more! The last time we did this was ten years ago, with a reunion for those of us who were turning 50 years of age."

Activities on the day will range from tours of the school and a Chapel Service with Brian Newman as organist, to opportunities for swimming and rifle shooting, plus a chance to watch school cricket and tennis matches. A film show of 1960s cine, taken at the school during that decade, will bring back a few memories.

Anyone wishing to attend the reunion should E-mail Nigel on Nigel@newsline-pr.co.uk

Alumni Warwicensis at The Athenaeum

On 31 October 2007 an eclectic 'melange' of old boys met in the comfortable surroundings of The Whistler Room at The Athenaeum Club, an imposingly classical building on the corner of Pall Mall and Waterloo Place.



OWs enjoyed good wine and canapés

About 40 Old Warwickians gathered under the watchful eye of the surrounding portraits to hear the Head Master report on an unprecedented year of school success. In total some 19 national awards or titles were won, one of the highlights being the school's victory at under 18 level in the National Daily Mail Cup Rugby Competition.

The Head Master confirmed that the new Science Building was up and running and emphasized the strong link that was developing between the school and Warwick University, allowing boys to undertake proper scientific research at postgraduate level. He also expected that in June 2008 a new teaching block, mainly for Mathematics, would be

completed. In recognition of Ralph Thornton's immense contribution to the school, it will be known as the Thornton Building.

Mark Wilkins, the campaign manager for the school Science Project, thanked the OWs for the support they have given to the fundraising activities. He revealed that, through their generosity and that of others, some £380,000 had been raised since January 2007. He hoped the OWs would continue to support the campaign and reach the target of £500,000.

We look forward to meeting again on 6 November 2008. Venue confirmation and details will appear in the next newsletter.

DIARY OF EVENTS

SCHOOL LEAVERS' RECEPTION

On 14 September 2007 we invited the 2007 leavers back to the Sixth Form Centre at school to watch the opening match in England's Rugby World Cup campaign - England v South Africa.

Nearly 50 young OWs swapped stories about their summer holidays and discussed their plans for university or taking a gap year. They enjoyed their free beer and tucked into the food provided by the catering staff.

There was much cheering for England and, although the leavers were disappointed by the result, it did not detract from their enjoyment of getting together before going their separate ways.

Many thanks to Mr Cooper for the audio visual arrangements and to the school for hosting this event.

En Route to Le Mans

This painting, depicting the Jaguar team passing Warwick School en route to victory at Le Mans in 1951, was presented to the OWA Committee on 10 March 2008.

Commissioned by OW Peter Johnston, the painting will be used to raise funds for the proposed school/OW museum.

Details about the promotion, limited edition prints and tickets for the raffle will be announced at



DVD footage of the 2007 Annual Dinner

OLD WARWICKIAN DVD

A DVD featuring footage from the eight main OW events in 2007 has been produced by George Hooper.

Unfortunately illness prevented filming of the September Weekend, Leavers' Reception and London OW event at the Athenaeum Club. If you were present at the Lord's Dinner, AGM and Annual Dinner then this is the DVD for you!

The DVD, which runs for 48 minutes, is available for £10 including p&p. Profits will go towards the proposed school/OW museum. Applications with remittance payable to "OWA", should be sent to Peter Bailey, 24 Park Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 6LG.

the Summer Dinner and promoted in the Michaelmas newsletter.



David Stevens, Peter Johnston and the Head Master

The Sixties Reunion on 3 May and Summer Dinner on 5 July are some of many forthcoming events.

OW Weekends

OW Weekend, 4-6 July 2008

Friday 4 July

- 14.00 OW Cricket - OWs play Wellesbourne CC (away).
- 18.00 Open Evening at Warwick School.
Installation Meeting, Schola Warwicensis Lodge.

Saturday 5 July

- 11.30 OW Cricket - OWs play school 1st XI, Warwick School.
- Also 2nd XI game or 20/20 competition and tennis matches.

Sunday 6 July

- 10.00 Foundation Service in the Chapel.

OW Weekend, 6-7 September 2008

Squash, hockey, bridge and chess matches against the school.

Saturday 6 September

- 12.30 Old Warwickians rugby.
- 14.30 1st XV rugby v Bedford Modern.

Sunday 7 September

- 10.00 Holy Communion Service in the Chapel.

OW Golf

Join fellow Old Warwickians for 18 or 36 holes on 20 May at Tadmarton Golf Club and on 19 September at Broadway Golf Club. All OW golfers very welcome. Further information from Alan Alderman, Tel: 01926 651643, E-mail: arkvets@hotmail.com

Charity Cricket Match

A Lord's Taverners charity cricket match is being held at Warwick School on 13 July 2008. Organised by OW Neil Smith, a Lord's Taverners team of cricketers and local celebrities will take on a Warwick side. If you are interested in playing, or supporting the charity by taking a table in the marquee for lunch and tea, please contact nmks@warwickschool.org

Inaugural Oxford Reunion

Plans are underway for the first reunion of OWs with Oxford University connections. All OWs who are studying or teaching, or who studied or taught at Oxford, are warmly invited to this inaugural dinner. For further details please contact Alumni Relations: ad@warwickschool.org

Chapel Services

Summer 2008 (all services start at 10.00)

- 27 April Joint Service with KHS
- 11 May Morning Worship and Baptism
- 18 May Upper Sixth Sunday
- 8 June Songs of Praise
- 15 June First Year's Sunday
- 29 June Third Year's Sunday
- 6 July Foundation Sunday

Michaelmas 2008

- 7 Sept Holy Communion
- 14 Sept Chapel Choir Reunion Service

Later Chapel Services will appear in the Michaelmas newsletter.

OW TIES, BOW TIES AND SCARVES

Available from the School Clothing Shop, Warwick School, Warwick, CV34 6PP. Cheques payable to "Warwick Schools Enterprises Ltd".

- Crested Tie £8.70
- Maroon, Blue, Silver Striped Tie £6.65
- Blue and Gold Tie £4.70
- Bow Tie £13.05
- Letter Opener £19.95
- Cufflinks £34.95
- Plaque £34.95
- Mug £9.65
- Whisky Tumblers (Royal Worcester, box of two) £37.10
- Glass Photo Frame £15.90.

Tell us your story... The Strover Years

While we have school records and archives, it is the experiences, expressions and anecdotes of those who were at the school that give depth and life to our recollections. In each of these newsletters we plan to select a different era or aspect of school life and gather details of OW experiences, to share on our OW website and in The Portcullis.

In 1977 John Strover became Head Master at Warwick School. His 11 years as Head coincided with significant changes in education and politics and affected many aspects of school life and traditions.

Were you at school during the Strover years, 1977 to 1988?

How did you feel about the abolition of corporal punishment in the school?

Were you affected by the (then) radical step of abolishing Saturday morning school from September 1982?



Warwick School Staff, 1977



Enoch Powell's Visit, 1984

Do you remember Enoch Powell's powerful defence of the classics speech in 1984?

What are your recollections of the threatened closure of the boarding house?

Do you have pictures of any annual trips or exchanges such as the Hovercraft competition in the former Czechoslovakia or the Sailing Club's participation in the Tall Ships Race?

Did you go on the 1985 rugby tour of Zimbabwe or the Canada tour in 1987?

Do you remember the introduction of computers in 1980?

What other memories do you have of your time at school?



The First Computer Room, 1986

We would love to gather your memories and share your anecdotes and images in The Portcullis and on our Old Warwickian website.

Please send any material to Anne Douglas, Warwick School, Warwick CV34 6PP. E-mail: ad@warwickschool.org

Articles in MS Word and images as jpegs are preferred but not essential. We will return all photographs.

SCHOOL AND OW NEWS SPRING 2008

This term started well with the confirmation of twelve Oxford and Cambridge offers plus conditional offers from prestigious universities up and down the country for almost all of our remaining Upper 6th boys.

Other successes have come in the form of pupils winning awards and competitions and stirring concerts, including the inaugural performance of Canticum, our Foundation choir. The Little Big Band has again qualified for the National Concert Band Festival. This event, to be held at Warwick School for the first time, takes place on 19 and 20 April. All are welcome.

Our Sir Ben Kingsley lecture programme continues to attract some of the country's most eminent public figures, including Lord Hurd and Justin King, CEO Sainsburys. If you have any contacts for future speakers, we would be very grateful if you could let Ginny Gretton know. E-mail: gmg@warwickschool.org

The Upper 6th boarders, many of whom live in Hong Kong, recently launched a fund raising initiative to support the Lions Kidney Educational Centre and Research Foundation in Hong Kong. The school has strong links with its many Hong Kong OWs, meeting them each September in Hong Kong.

Once again our rugby players have been heading for national success. We are very proud of our 1st XV who reached the semi-final of the Daily Mail Cup and our U10 and U11 Junior School rugby teams who won their regional finals. They took part in the National IAPS finals, where the U10 team won the competition and are now national champions.

The new Thornton Building is taking shape and soon Mathematics, Classics, Religion and Philosophy will have accommodation of the highest order. The fundraising campaign to support this second phase of the project is drawing to a close, but we still require support to



Daily Mail Cup Semi-Final

reach our target. If you do feel able to help, please contact Anne Douglas, ad@warwickschool.org Your support is, as always, much appreciated.

OW Achievements

Congratulations to OW Harry Greenway for his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Ealing on 19 February 2008.

OW Mike Wardle's commitment and enthusiasm for sport was recognized when he was presented with the Service to Sport award at the Stratford District Council Sports Awards.

These and other OW achievements will be reported more fully in The Portcullis and on the new OW website later this year. If you have news of any other OW achievements, please let Alumni Relations know.

Tell us your news

Where are you now? Please let us have news of births, marriages, weddings, achievements, awards, or any other news that you would like to share with your fellow Old Warwickians. News stories and images will be featured in The Portcullis and Old Warwickian website. Please send any items for inclusion to: Alumni Relations, Warwick School, Warwick CV34 6PP. E-mail: ad@warwickschool.org We would be grateful to receive any items and images by 1 June for inclusion in The Portcullis 2008.