



THE OLD TAUNTONIANS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Edition No: 1

March 2023

A letter from the Chairman

Welcome to the first edition of the OT Newsletter, a slimmed down replacement for News and Views, for which regrettably we have been unable to find an editor. Thanks must go to Jeff White for keeping News and Views alive for the last few years as acting editor.

The intention is to produce a newsletter twice a year and articles of interest from OT's for inclusion will be most welcome.

So near yet so far, sums up the situation with regard to the dedicated room at the College, offered to us by Liz Lee and which I reported on in the last edition of News and Views.

In early March 2020, Annelise Miller and I visited the College to meet Liz and 'take ownership' of her former office, which had been cleared and redecorated. Following this, we ordered the first display unit and planned to move in the not inconsiderable collection of memorabilia we have, over the next few weeks, before a formal opening of 'The Colenutt Room'.

Then came Covid, the first lockdown, and it was well over a year before we were able to visit the room again. By this time Liz had retired and her successor, Paul Swindale, had been appointed. Paul understandably had his own ideas and had moved into the room. After discussions with Paul, it was clear he intended to use the room on a permanent basis. Although he offered us the opportunity to display some items in the room, this doesn't offer the long-term home for the whole collection that we are seeking.

For the time being, the memorabilia remain in a room on the first floor of Pearsons in London Road, whilst other possible solutions are considered.

Finally, thank you to the large number who replied to the recent questionnaire regarding the possibility of holding a November reunion lunch. Although some were in favour, there were not enough to give confidence that there would be sufficient numbers to make this a success. Interestingly a number of replies spoke of meeting with a small group of peers on a fairly regular basis, something which started for many after the Guildhall Dinner in 2010.

We have instead decided to put our efforts into making the summer lunch the main event of the Old Tauntonian calendar. The date for this is **Wednesday 12th July 2023** and the venue Ampfield Golf Club, in a room with a lovely outlook. The lunch will be for OT's, partners and friends. Full details will follow shortly but in the meantime please put a note in your diary and also think of those you might encourage to attend.

Kind Regards

Roger Parsons - Chairman

OBITUARIES

Ronald Allison *26th January 1932 - 26th July 2022*

When we new boys at Taunton's discovered that there was an older boy by the name of "Allison", we marvelled at the coincidence of his having the same name as Percy Allison, the maths master. We reacted with incredulity when we discovered that Ronald was actually Percy's son. To we small boys at that time, the members of staff were very remote figures. The idea of them having lives outside of the school was something that we never ever considered and as to actually having families As time passed, I got to know Ron well, and completely forgave him for having a maths master as a father.

Although he did well at school, Ron decided not to go to university and instead joined the Hampshire Chronicle, where he served for five years. In 1957 he joined the BBC, largely as a sports reporter, went freelance for a while, then returned to the BBC.

In 1974 Ron became Press Secretary to the Queen, bringing an entirely new approach to the job. His predecessor, Sir Richard Colville, had been a distant figure, never making any effort to build a good relationship with members of the press. Ron completely reversed this and very quickly was on excellent terms with all sections of the media. It is generally considered that he did a great deal to update the image of the Royal Family.

In 1980, having been awarded a C.V.O., Ron joined Thames Television as Controller of Sports and Outside Broadcasts and eventually became Director of Corporate Affairs. In the 1990s, he left to set up his own media companies and became Director of Corporate Affairs for BAFTA.

Despite his busy life, Ron found time to write a number of books, including "Charles, Prince of Our Time", "The Queen" and "The Royal Encyclopaedia".

Ron was an extremely popular figure at school; I remember him as part of the triumvirate, Ronald Allison, Roger Knight and Rex Lane. He subsequently became an active member of the O.T.A., serving for some years as Toast Master at the Annual Reunion Dinner. He will be very greatly missed.

John Martin

DEATHS

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Ian B. Carswell | (1942 - 1950) |
| John Eldridge | (1947 - 1954) |
| David Goodhand | (1966 - 1973) |
| Geoffrey B Hamer | (1954 - 1961) |
| Norman Handley | |
| Robin Holley | (1944 - 1951) |
| David Lewis | (1954 - 1957) |
| George Pledger | (1939 - 1945) |
| Will Tampion | (1944 - 1953) |
| Derek Tulk | (1945 - 1950) |

OLD TAUNTONIAN COMMITTEE

Chairman *Roger Parsons (1964 - 1966)*
rogerparsons@btinternet.com

Secretary *Graham Jones (1963 - 1970)*
honsecota1@gmail.com

Treasurer *Brian Osman (1951 - 1958)*
pambri2@outlook.com

David Defty (1956 - 1960)
John Martin (1944 - 1950)
Annelise Miller (ex staff 1981 - 2017)
Tony Robinson (1957 - 1962)
Jeff White (1942 - 1951)
Stuart Wilson (1955 - 1960)

CRICKET

Old Tauntonians old boys club formed in 1899 to keep together those former school contacts who wanted to stay in touch through sport. The Old Tauntonians Cricket Club continued for almost another 100 years until 1998 when an opportunity to amalgamate the Old Tauntonians Cricket Club and Romsey Cricket Club arose.

Now, continuing to go from strength to strength, we run four adult Saturday teams playing in the Southern Premier Cricket League and Hampshire Leagues with a thriving junior section from under 9s to under 15s who all enjoy weekly Summer training sessions, Summer camps, and League and Cup matches. Parents have expressed their pleasure in seeing their children move through the junior sections and into the adult teams.

We also run two Border League sides playing mid-week and for those who don't want to let the cricket go for the Winter we have two adult teams and two junior teams in the South Hants Indoor League.

As with all seasons, we have seen some highs and lows this Summer and after a close finish, with only two points in it, the 1st team ended the league in 3rd place with hopes for promotion passing to next season.

Off the field, we were successful in securing funding from club members and external bodies to make major improvements to our facilities. A few of our skilled club members worked very hard to transform the very tired, run down clubhouse and we are delighted with the results. We really hope you will come and see the place for yourselves and watch a game or two over a drink in the welcoming new surroundings – for those of you who saw the old clubhouse you will be very pleasantly surprised.

Stuart Tulk

OT/OLD BOURNEMOUTHIAN'S GOLF DAY 2022

Wednesday 18th May 2022 was a dry, sunny day, perfect for golf and therefore ideal for the annual Old Tauntonian's/Old Bournemouthian's Golf Day at Dibden Golf Club.

The number of participants was again low at 11, despite a much larger number indicating attendance some months earlier. This is only to be expected I suppose from an ageing group! However, unlike the near disaster of 2021 when only Stuart King from the Old Bournemouthian's was able to attend, this year there were the welcome newcomers of Peter Miles and Nigel Jenkins. Well chased Stuart!

The day followed the usual format with 18 holes of golf, a two course meal with tea or coffee, and then the presentations.

The winner of the Old Bournemouthian's Trophy for the best Old Bournemouthian was new boy Nigel Jenkins with a splendid 41 points.

The winner of the John Rush Trophy for the best Old Tauntonian was Colin Ray with 37 points.

The winner of the overall event was Nigel Jenkins who was awarded the Pomeroy Trophy.

Nearest the pin on the 11th hole was John Lewis who was rewarded with a bottle of bubbly.

Both the food and drink afterwards were very good. This was followed by a prompt presentation to allow those with further to drive to arrive home at a reasonable hour.

Important date for your diary in 2023
(slightly later in the year)

Wednesday 7th June 2023

Tony Robinson

*** TAUNTON'S SCHOOL JOURNALS - EDITIONS AVAILABLE ***

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1926 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 |
| 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
| 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | | | | | | | | |

Available from Tony Robinson, 10 Sarum Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants, SO53 2AN Tel: 07875 381104.
A contribution towards postage/packaging is requested - £1 per copy unless collected or easily deliverable.

Old Tauntonian's Annual Reunion Dinner 2021

The 110th Dinner of the Association was held at the Dolphin Hotel, Southampton on 13th November 2021. Due to decreasing numbers it has been decided that this would be the last Dinner in this format.

74 guests attended the Dinner, whose Chairman was David Heatley (1962 - 1969). Amongst the distinguished guests was the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Alex Houghton who was accompanied by his Consort.

The Chairman proposed toasts as follows: the loyal toast and to the memory of Alderman Richard Taunton. This was followed by two minutes silence, after which the Chairman proposed a toast in memory of the fallen. After the interval the Chairman remembered absent friends. The Master of Ceremonies, Ian Carnaby, proposed a toast to Richard Taunton College. The Principal of the College, Paul Swindale, proposed a toast to the Association.

A speech was given by Paul Swindale concerning current news from the College and the Master of Ceremonies then introduced the Chairman. David Heatley gave a resume of his career in the Church interspersed with his memories of the era when he attended the Grammar School.

Brian Osman

OT Summer Lunch Report 2022

For the second year the summer lunch was held at Ampfield Golf Club, on Thursday 18th August 2022.

The golf club is a delightful venue where we have a private room overlooking the golf course with its own terrace.

The number of attendees has sadly decreased but this year was slightly better than last. Let us hope we can return to pre Covid numbers in 2023.

Twenty six attendees sat down to a pre ordered three course luncheon plus tea or coffee, having had a wide choice of menu for each course. With wine and staff gratuities included within the overall price of £30 per head, this represented exceptional value. Everyone I spoke to agreed the food was excellent and that the overall event was an extremely enjoyable occasion.

Following the meal, Roger Parsons, Chairman of the OTA said a few words of belated welcome, together with some anecdotes and thanks.

As mentioned by Roger, this year's lunch will take place on Wednesday 12th July at Ampfield Golf Club. Further details will follow shortly; in the meantime please make sure you put a note in your diary.

Tony Robinson

Join the "100" Club

The "100" Club continues to be a major source of revenue for Association Funds. We are grateful to those who renew each year, particularly to those who renew by Standing Order.

There is no upper limit on membership and therefore further applications are very welcome. You can enter the draw by sending a cheque for £12 (payable to the OTA) to the Treasurer, at 9 Dell Road, Southampton SO18 1QT. Some members find it more convenient to combine the entry fee with the Annual Subscription, i.e. making one payment of £17. You are also not limited to one number - buy as many as you like! In addition to the monthly draws of £20, the big draws (£250, £100 and £50) will take place at the Summer Lunch.

Recent Winners

October 2022

N. Hardisty

November 2022

£50 Prize Draw

R. Clarke

£100 Prize Draw

Gordon Birch

£250 Prize Draw

T. Hall

December 2022

Eric Yates

January 2023

D.J. Watson

February 2023

J. H. Russell

March 2023

Arthur Spencer