THE OLD
Wellingburian
NEWSLETTER
Trinity 2024 The Old Wellingburian Club Est. 1897

Welcome from Sophie



Hello, everyone and welcome to the latest edition of the E-newsletter. I hope you are enjoying the nicer weather that is finally upon us.

Since we were last in touch there have been a number of things happening in the OW Club which I wanted to update you on. Firstly, the OW Committee had a wonderful update on our last video call from William who is in Year 11 and who runs the Wellingborough School Astronomy Club. William set up the Club himself and recruited a number of members to join and the Club was pleased to be able to support them with much-needed equipment. It was fascinating to hear what goes on in the universe beyond the telescope and we wish them all the best.

There have also been two dinners in the Spring, the Oxbridge dinner which saw a number of OWs gather at Somerville College for a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks to Max Buckby ('12-'20, F) who helped secure the venue and to Julian Amey who organised it with Debbie Whittemore. I was then delighted to host the OW London Dinner a couple of weeks later at the King's Fund in London. We had over 90 guests at the dinner covering over 72 years of the school's history and I was delighted to be joined by sports broadcaster, Alison Mitchell ('91-98, W) for an 'In conversation with' session. We also heard from the Headmaster, Andrew Holman, as well as two very impressive Heads of School , Polly and Emma.

Then in April, our Golf Club qualified for the prestigious Halford Hewitt Cup which is in its centenary year. We were represented by Martyn Allen, Richard Jackson, Philip Saxby, John Bowers, Ollie Timm, Aemish Taylor, Alan Harlow, Jordan McGuire, Giles Kellett & Chris Billson who took on Fettes school and sadly lost out but it's a great effort and lovely to see the OW flag flying down at Cinque Ports.

We also had a business networking breakfast at the school which is a great opportunity to share insights and keep school connections going which is so important.

There are also plenty of events coming up in the calendar too as you will see and the committee will be meeting again this week to discuss what else we can be doing to deliver added-value to Club members. Following Debbie Whittemore's retirement, the Foundation has welcomed Katie Powell who will be supporting Graham and helping the Club to keep us all up-to-date and informed. A big welcome to Katie and you can read more about her role and her background in the newsletter.

Finally, last time mentioned the sad news about the passing of Richard Dyson, Junior School Headmaster from 1977-1989. I have been in touch with his wife, Margie, who provided some wonderful reflections of Richard's life and career which you can read below. What a man and what an incredible impact on so many young lives! Many people will also remember Margie as a key figure around the school and we are absolutely delighted she has accepted honorary Club membership.

So, I'll pause there but, as always, please do stay in touch. We love to hear your news.

Bye for now,

Sophie

We are on the lookout for committed and talented OWs who might be able to bring their experience and passion to bear as our next President. It would be lovely to hear from people from all age groups and backgrounds so that we can reflect our wide membership base. I have certainly enjoyed my year as President so far. It's connected me to so many former pupils across the generations, given me access to some fabulous events and added further bench strength to my CV so I highly recommend it! Details of what we're looking for and how to find out more is attached in the email with this newsletter.

Birthday Celebrations

Great to see photos from the class of 82-87 who shared news of their meet-up on 18th May which included a Distillery Tour followed by a barbecue in the barn at The Tollemarche to celebrate their 55th birthday milestone. Happy Birthday to you all from the OW Club!





Foundation Update

Having progressed from 'one month in' to 'one term in' since the Lent Term newsletter, I have had the pleasure of helping organise and attend the London Dinner, the Oxford and Cambridge Dinner, the Netball and Football matches vs the School and our first Business Networking Breakfast.

I look forward to meeting OWs at the cricket, hockey and house reunions on the 21st June, the summer lunch on the 29th June and the 2014 leavers (date tbc) reunions this term. Do please join us if you can.

Finally, a very warm welcome to Katie Powell who joined the Foundation team this term as Database and Research Officer.

Graham Papenfus
gnp@wellingboroughschool.org

Our new Database & Research Officer



I joined the school at the start of the Trinity term, and I am really enjoying learning about the School and the wider community – which of course includes the Old Wellingburians. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in the future. I am very grateful that I got to meet Debbie on several occasions before her well deserved retirement.

Before children I had a 10-year career in Retail Events Management. Having my 2 boys gave me time to reflect on my desire to move into the non-profit sector. I have just finished working for a spinal cord injury foundation. I was thrilled when the Database and Research Officer role came up here at the School and I am excited to get stuck into the role.

As well as maintaining and growing our database, I will also be looking after the OW social media pages, helping with OW events and much, much more. Please feel free to reach out to me.

Katie Powell
kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

Future OW Events

Cricket, Hockey & House Reunions

Friday 21st June 2024

Please join us at the popular cricket and hockey vs school as well as BBQ and drinks, kicking off at 5.30pm. We are also inviting OWs to join us between 5 and 6pm to enjoy a drink in their house before joining the sport and BBQ.

2014 leavers 10-year Reunion

Summer 2024 - Date TBC

Rosie Turner invites all 2014 leavers to join her to celebrate 10 years since leaving Wellingborough School. The date and venue will be confirmed but is likely to be in a local pub.

5th & 20 Year Reunions

Saturday 14th September 2024

The annual 5th reunion takes place on Saturday 14th September. We are also inviting the 2004 leavers to celebrate their 20th reunion that day. Current Marsh Housemistress and 2004 leaver, Hilary Arimoro (nee Askham), looks forward to welcoming the class of 2004 back to the school for drinks and a BBQ.

Summer Lunch

Saturday 29th June 2024

The annual OW Summer Lunch takes place this year on the 29th June. Invitations have been sent out to those we hope will be able to join us.

OW Rifle Club

Thursday 18th July 2024

We wish our OW Rifle Club team good luck when they compete in the Public Schools' Veterans shooting competition which takes place on 18th July at Bisley.

Autumn Lunch

Saturday 9th November 2024

Back by popular demand is the autumn 'posh' fish and chips lunch on Saturday 9th November.

South West Reunion

Autumn 2024 - Date TBC

We are planning reunion in the South West – dates and venues will depend on who is able to join us.

WSSPA Summer Ball

Wellingborough Senior School Parents' Association has pleasure in inviting you to attend this year's Summer Ball. As in previous years, this very popular function will take place at the School and is open to parents across the whole school, former parents, OWs, staff, governors, friends, family and Year 13 leavers.

The evening will start at 6.30pm with drinks on the lawn followed by a delicious three-course dinner prepared by the Executive Chef, Kirstie and her awesome catering team. The school Blues Band will start off the evening at 6.30pm with their cool summer vibes. For the main event we have the magnificent Matt Potter, of Potter Group returning, supporting the incredibly talented local band Six Feet Apart. In typical ball fashion there will be the 'usual' heads and tails, along with an auction with some amazing prizes and a chance to win other prizes with a raffle. The dress code is Black Tie.

Additional information and tickets can be found here



Past Events

Winter Sports

The annual OWs vs School football and netball matches took place on Saturday 23 March. The OWs fielded two football teams and one netball team against the school in what were very enjoyable and keenly contested matches.
Mother nature threw everything she had at the footballers in the second half (not affecting netball in the sports hall) but nothing dampened the spirits of both teams. Our thanks to the catering staff who laid on refreshments after the matches.





London Dinner

It was wonderful to see over 90 OWs spanning 72 years of Wellingborough School at the London Dinner on the 15th March. We were lucky to have Alison Mitchell (91-98, W) join us and give a glimpse of her fascinating career journey as a global sports commentator as well as reflections on the role Wellingborough School played in that journey.









Sports Club News

Golf

An OW team played in the centenary competition of the Halford Hewitt Cup at the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club. They lost 4-1 to Fettes in round 1 and then narrowly lost to Cheltenham 2-1 in the Plate competition.

Many congrats to the OW golf team of Aemish Taylor, Jordan McGuire, Chris Billson, Giles Kellett, Andy Billson and Richard Jackson who qualified for the final of the Grafton Morrish in Hunstanton in September.



Business Networking Breakfast

It was wonderful to welcome over 20 Old Wellingburians, Parents, Staff and local businesses to Wellingborough School on the 2nd May to the first Business Networking breakfast. Connections were made, deals done and opportunities to support our students were shared. Please join us at the next meeting in the Michaelmas Term.



News

Wellingborough School Careers Roundup



It was lovely to meet those who attended the OW Business Networking Breakfast last week, thank you to those attendees who were generous to offer the following support:

- work experience opportunities (our current Year 12s are seeking work experience during the w/c 24 June 2024)
- to attend our Careers Convention and talk about their area of expertise (from 18.00 - 20.00 on 28 November 2024)
- to lead Careers Lunches about their industry (this year so far lunches have included 'Careers in... Politics, Radio, Marketing & Advertising, Sustainability and Finance')
- to attend our Apprenticeship Evening to talk about apprenticeship opportunities within their company (2025 date to be confirmed)

Many thanks to the Old Wellingburians who contributed to the Wellingborough School Apprenticeship Evening 2024 - Josh Morris, Tate James, Anna Morrisey and Olivia Harrison-Hine. The insights that you gave as a part of our Apprenticeship Panel were invaluable and incredibly well received, we really appreciated you travelling to share your time and expertise with us.

I am always keen to hear from OWs who may like to be involved with and support our Careers Programme, I look forward to hearing from you! Mrs Alexandra Arber, Head of Careers - aar@wellingboroughschool.org

Wellingborough School Business Directory

Following requests from members of our community to advertise their businesses in the weekly Newsletters, we are excited to have launched the Wellingborough School Business Directory.

The directory is published on our website and a link included in each of the Newsletters, every week. Each advert will last for 12 months from date of publication. We are offering full or half page adverts, for inclusion of your own business, or one that you are employed by. Full details and a copy of the current Directory can be found here

Please contact Jackie Cliffe to find out more - jc@wellingboroughschool.org



Obituary - Richard Dyson

As we reported last time, we were saddened to hear about the death of Richard Dyson, Junior School headmaster from 1977-1989.

Richard's family have kindly shared some more memories about his life which we wanted to share.

It is with deep sadness that the Club reports the death of Richard Dyson, who was Headmaster of Wellingborough Junior School from 1977 to 1989 and who passed away in November 2023 at the age of 83.

Richard was a pupil at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Wakefield between 1948 and 1959, and after leaving school, studied history at the University of Nottingham. His cricketing talents took him straight into the University First XI, which he was to captain in his final year. He also developed a lifelong interest in golf, in which he likewise excelled.

After leaving university, Richard took up a post as Assistant Master at Highgate Junior School in London. This was to be the start of a distinguished lifetime career in education. On leaving Wellingborough, he was Headmaster at St. Faith's School, Cambridge from 1989 until 2002 and finally, Headmaster at Bronte School in Kent between 2003 and 2014.

At every institution where he taught, Richard immersed himself in the life of the school, which would benefit from his warmth and generosity of spirit, combined with his academic, musical and sporting talents. In short, he was widely regarded as a visionary educator.

At Wellingborough Richard played a major role in the improving of the school buildings and other facilities. This included the addition of a separate science laboratory and a biology room for the Junior School, together with improvements to the classrooms, dormitories and changing rooms.

He encouraged the development of the cultural side of school life, stimulating in particular the talents of pupils in the fields of music, art and drama. The School also benefited greatly from Richard's interest and talents in sport and he was a keen and skilful teacher and supporter of all the School teams.

Perhaps the most significant change during his time at Wellingborough was the introduction in 1980 of Co-education, of which he was an enthusiastic supporter. In the same year, he recommended the formation of the WJSA, which was of such value to the School in the organising of social events and the raising of money for worthwhile projects.

Richard always received huge guidance and support from Graham Garrett. Their friendship and working relationship ensured close co-operation between the Junior and Senior Schools.

In everything he did at Wellingborough, Richard was wonderfully supported by his wife Margie and their joint contribution to the continuing success of the School can scarcely be overstated.



Fraser Kelly - Current Student

Dear Old Wellingburians,

Please could I respectfully ask for 3 minutes of your time to introduce myself as a Wellingborough A level student, who is hoping to gain your interest and potential support for an exciting sporting opportunity to represent an England RFU endorsed rugby team at a national level?

My name is Fraser Kerry, and I am a Year 13 A Level student at Wellingborough School. Since I was just 5, Rugby has been one of the biggest aspects of my life, and I have worked tirelessly week-in, week-out to become the best player I possibly can. I have played for a Northampton club, Old Northamptonians RFC for 14 years, represented East Midlands Rugby for 2 years in 2021-2023 and my hard work and perseverance paid off on the 21st of January 2024, when I was selected to play for the England Lambs U18 National team as a prop (front row). England Lambs selection is rigorous with 3 weeks of regional heats leading to a national trial taking place across the country. The England Lambs are an invitational under-18's team that select a new squad each year, whittling over 400 candidates down to just a 45-man squad.

The England Lambs motto is 'play fast and free' and with the 2024 Lambs campaign, we play a series of 7 fixtures, ranging from Academy sides such as Exeter Chiefs and Ealing Trailfinders, to the Welsh equivalent of us: The Boy's Club of Wales. Details on the Lambs can be found here, with our recent team sheets and match reports https://www.lambsrugby.com/news
To finish off our Lambs campaign, we head off on tour to South Africa/Namibia for 14 days in July, as a chance to showcase our sporting talents on an international level.

Lambs players are fully responsible for their own costs, to include travel and accommodation to attend fixtures across the UK, kit, and the finale of the opportunity to represent England Lambs while playing against several teams around South Africa. I will also personally be taking this tour as an opportunity to build up relationships, offer coaching and training tips and support less-fortunate players in South Africa, organising a kit donation to distribute whilst in South Africa. This will include each Lambs player donating a few disused items of rugby clothing such as boots, shorts, and shirts, which we will give to players at the schools we will be playing, who may not be able to afford such garments themselves.

The international tour is the basis of why I am reaching out to you today. I am hoping that you may be interested in my rugby journey to consider helping me join the tour by sponsoring me. The tour price is set at £4000 per player to be self-funded. I am aware that in the current financial situation, that is a huge ask, but as a well-known supermarket is known to say 'Every Little Helps', so any contribution you would be willing to offer would be highly appreciated in taking me towards my final goal. If I were to receive sponsorship over the tour cost amount, then I would put it towards my charitable idea of donating kit, by paying for extra checked-in luggage so that we can take as much kit as possible.

Finally, please can I thank you wholeheartedly for giving me the time to explain my intentions and taking the interest in my opportunity.

Kind Regards

Fraser Kerry

Stay in Contact

Katie Powell
kpo@wellingboroughschool.org
01933 222427