



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME >

> Since the writing of the last newsletter there have been several very successful reunions – a reunion organised by Mike Herring (OW 1952-1958) in Sydney in May and a well-attended reunion for students from 1970s-80s in Norwich at The Unthank Arms organised by Karen Snook (Cavell OW 1977-82). A visit to the College was similarly orchestrated with former students of all years able to look around the new developments on the College site. This was followed in July by a very enjoyable OW Golf Day organised by Bob Rowell (OW 1953-58). The OW Committee are currently planning ahead to bring you a packed summer of events – but more on that later.

I attended two Charity Committee meetings at the College this academic year. These meetings discuss ways in which students and staff at the College

can raise money for charity each year and are attended by both staff and student representatives. It is a very welcome way to be involved with the College – and great to hear about their upcoming World Record breaking attempts that we hope take place in the Summer Term!

In October I represented the OW Committee at the Founders' Day Service in the Chapel where the sermon was given by the Rt. Revd. David Leake, former Bishop of Northern Argentina, drawing on his life and experiences in South America.

On Sunday 10th November, the College Remembrance Day Service was held in the Chapel followed by a Wreath Laying Ceremony. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the College, the Second Air Division Association, Wymondham College CCF and the Old Wymondhamians. Guests included the Mayor of Wymondham and

News Flash! Will you be visiting the Royal Norfolk Show on Thursday 26 June? Come & visit us on the College stand from 12-1pm for a drink and a chat.

Lt. Col. Heather Baldwin who laid a wreath on behalf of the United States Air Force.

Most recently we have been interviewing for the next recipient of the OW Travel Award; an award of £750 that is given to a Year 13 student to help them travel and take part in a charitable activity during the summer after leaving College. To find out more about the recipient of this award, please see Page 3.

Finally – we are expanding into the realms of social media to keep in touch with more recent OWs! You can keep up-to-date with news and events by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Julie Harding (OW 1971-76)
OW Chairman

andinside...



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES >

> Royal Norfolk Show: 25-26th June

The College and the OWs will be co-hosting their usual stand at The Royal Norfolk Show which takes place on 25th-26th June. Last year's show was a huge success with former students and staff from all years and generations visiting the stand. Come along at any time on these days to meet current students, staff and OWs. **Between 12-1pm on the Thursday the College would like to welcome you to their stand for an informal reunion over a glass of wine and nibbles.**

Golf Day: 4th July

The annual OW Golf Day will be held on 4th July at Sprowston. Last year was a huge success with over 50 OWs and their families attending. The Golf Day is followed by a dinner in the evening at Sprowston Manor where former students can reminisce and catch up. If you would like to attend please email Bob Rowell: bob.rowell@virgin.net.

FAREWELL TO MELVYN ROFFE

and Welcome to Jonathan Taylor

> This summer we say goodbye to Melvyn Roffe who departs to become Principal at George Watson's College in Edinburgh

We would like to thank Melvyn for his tireless enthusiasm and support for the Old Wymondhamians and for his 100% attendance rate at our committee meetings!

Following in Melvyn's footsteps we welcome Jonathan Taylor as the new Principal and look forward to meeting him at the Royal Norfolk Show.



COMMITTEE NEWS >

> Since the foundation of the 100 Club in September 2003 it has raised a fantastic total of over £30,000.

The 100 Club members pay a £5 subscription per month to be entered into a monthly prize draw. There are two monthly prizes of £50 plus the possibility of winning one of the two star prizes of £500 and £200 in June and December.

Hosted by Phil Robinson (OW 1966-73) and Steve Read (OW 1968-73), the 100 Club meet once a month at popular pubs across Norfolk, using the money to fund projects including the Year 13 Travel Award, the Heritage Trail at the College and College Rugby Tours.

If you would like to get involved in the 100 Club, please email alumni@wymondhamcollege.org.

The College is always pleased to provide facilities for a reunion during the holidays.

Any year groups who are looking to celebrate an anniversary in 2015, please contact the Alumni Secretary on alumni@wymondhamcollege.org to discuss format, costs and help on the day.

An attendance of at least 60 will ensure an enjoyable re-union; a BBQ format often seems popular and is cost effective.

OW TRAVEL AWARD >



> **The Old Wymondhamian Travel Award for 2014 has been given to Year 13 student Rachel Campbell Still who is currently preparing for her A-Level exams in Maths, Physics and Textiles**

Rachel will be spending a year in Guyana with Project Trust from August where she will be teaching Maths and Science at secondary level and getting involved in extracurricular activities and secondary projects. Project Trust has been sending volunteers to Guyana to teach maths and science for the past 15 years as there is a significant shortage of maths and science teachers in Guyana.

Rachel said: "I am delighted to have been awarded the travel award and it really means a lot to me knowing that I will have the support of the College during my time in Guyana. The award has significantly helped me in my efforts to reach my fundraising target (£5,600) and I look forward to keeping the Old Wymondhamians up to date with my progress."

"I am very excited to be teaching Maths and Science in Guyana as I know how fortunate I have been with my education and I want to do as much as I can to help others who have not had the same opportunities as I have. I am looking forward to learning about and experiencing the Guyanese culture, especially within the Amerindian communities, and can't wait to get there!"

OWS RETURN TO GUIDE STUDENTS >

> **Since the College set up a programme called the Entrepreneurship Elective in September 2012, twenty mentors (ten each year) have come in to the College to deliver presentations to Year 9 students on various aspects of business, from marketing to finance through to business plan development.**

Three of the current ten mentors are Old Wymondhamians – Nigel Cushion (OW 1974-81, Freelance Chairman), Ed Miles (OW 1984-90, MD of Freight Force), and Stuart Turner (OW) who are all set on imparting their business skills to the next generation.

Nigel Cushion said: "It has been a great experience returning to Wymondham College 30 years after I left. I very much enjoyed being at Wymondham in the 1970s and early 80s and while the Nissen huts have long gone, the spirit of the College is just as I remember it, which has meant meeting the current pupils a lot of fun!"

"Wymondham gave me the confidence to give business and leadership a go, and it is a privilege to come back to help encourage today's young people on their life journey".

Kirsty Bray, Associate Principal and founder of the Entrepreneurship Elective, commented: "We are always happy to hear from OWS who would like to pass on their experiences and advice to our current students and are now actively recruiting for mentors and speakers for 2014-15." If you would like to get involved please email brayki.staff@wymondhamcollege.org

A BOOST TO OW FUNDS >

> **For those amongst you who like to shop on-line with Amazon, it might interest you to know that, for no further cost to yourself, the OW funds could be supplemented.**

If you **[access Amazon through this link](#)** then Amazon contribute a small percentage of every purchase made this way to the Old Wymondhamian funds.

The other way to access this link is through the WCRemembered website, where you can click on the Amazon icon in the top right hand corner of the front page.

NEWS FROM FORMER STUDENTS >

> Anthony Thomas Architects: 25 Years in Business

On 19th April 2014 Old Wymondhamian Anthony Thomas (OW 1960-65) celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his London-based Architect's Practice, 'Anthony Thomas Architects Ltd'. In the last 25 years Anthony has featured in twelve different national publications, the thirteenth being the May 2014 issue of 'SelfBuild and Design Magazine'. In this he mentions his former life at Wymondham College and the huge inspiration Dave Goman played to him whilst he was a student at the College.

Paying tribute to Dave, Anthony said: "He was an inspiration to me and many others with his enthusiastic help. I have forged my business life with the tools that both Wymondham College and Dave gave me and I am delighted to say I am very happy and successful, pleased to work beyond my retirement age (just) for as many years as God gives me. My future aims are to continue my very satisfying work and I am about to start some property development work, which I will help and introduce my son James into."

In April 2012 his project 'Glass Tower Extension' was labelled as among one of twenty of 'Britain's Best Projects' by a national publishing house. Since 2007 the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) have repeatedly selected his work to be shown to the public at the 'Open House London' weekend event. He has had his many projects shown on multiple TV channels, including the 'Grand Design - Workshop' programme with Kevin McCloud, 'Property Ladder' with Sarah Beaney and 'Best House on the Street' with Charlie Luxton.



On a more informal note, his 'Original Christmas Cards' twice won the title of 'National Winner' in the 'Building Design' magazine's annual Christmas Card Competition. Alongside his stunning architectural projects, you can see over 20 years of Anthony's infamous Christmas Cards listed on his website: www.atatld.co.uk.

> Jack Nicholls

Studying at Wymondham College between 2006 and 2008, Jack Nicholls admits that he was more focused on watching F1 races than his studies. As soon as he turned 18 he spent weekends marshalling on the banks of the UK's circuits and soon decided that he wanted to become involved in circuit public address commentary. After leaving the Sixth Form he began working closely with other commentators for a number of years before being given a big break in 2011, commentating for the live FIA Formula Two TV coverage. This led to work with ESPN, Eurosport, Premier Sports and Motors TV. More recently he provided commentary at the 2012 London Olympics, the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi and is now looking forward to his next challenge. Jack makes a BBC debut this year, leading the coverage from four races on BBC Radio 5 live and 5 live sports extra in China, Hungary, Japan and Russia – an exciting start of great things to come.



COLLEGE NEWS HIGHLIGHTS >



> Record Oxbridge Success

Students at Wymondham College have this year enjoyed magnificent levels of success in attaining offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge universities. A record number of 13 students has been made offers.

Kenneth Glover, Deputy Principal and Director of Sixth Form, said: "The success of our students is enormously pleasing and is a tribute to the terrific approach they have taken to their academic lives. We are always focused on creating a culture of aspiration and are delighted that so many students can now look forward to such tremendous future opportunities."

> Mair Cup

The 2014 Mair Cup once again united each House in an evening of friendly competition that took place in early April.

This year saw the introduction of a new award; the Tom Richardson Memorial Quaich which was instituted in remembrance of Tom Richardson, a former pupil of the College and enthusiastic Mair Cup competitor, who sadly passed away last year. Sixth Form student Heidi Reger was the first recipient of the award for her exceptional efforts in Fry Hall.

Kett Hall won the instrumental category with a lively arrangement titled 'A Chichy Combo'. Cavell Hall claimed the small ensemble prize for their excellent performance of 'Pompeii' by Bastille and Fry Hall took home the large choir award with an enthusiastic rendition of Elton John's 'Circle of Life'.

After deliberations the judges announced that Fry Hall had been awarded the main prize for their consistently high standard of performance. An appreciative

student audience swelled by parents and staff supported each house throughout the evening, giving Fry Hall their well-earned congratulations at the final announcement.

Judges of this year's event were Mr Chris Ellis, Director of Music at Notre Dame, Miss Penelope Carter, Durham Music graduate and Old Wymondhamian, and Mr Christopher Bishop, former recording producer at EMI



› Annie

A huge student cast and full band thrilled audiences at Wymondham College in late March with a hugely successful production of the musical "Annie".

The lead roles were taken by Tilly Chitty and Maisie Dolman as Annie, Anthony Loftus and Ben Partridge as Warbucks and Lily Evans and Grace Durbin as Miss Hannigan. Grace was played by Martha Stocks and Zeta Dell-Smith. Morgan Lewis showed great comic talent in playing Molly. There was particular praise for the stunning choreography in the show which was created by students Ben Partridge and Hannah Shirley.

Head of Peel Hall and Co-Director Mr Chitty said: "Annie took the concept of a school production to a whole new dimension. Fantastic scenery, brilliant lighting and sound production, a wonderful team of staff and helpers, but OH GEE! what a cast!"



"It is always a pleasure to watch young people develop and achieve. It is why teachers teach and one of the privileges of working at Wymondham College. To see these beautifully talented youngsters grow and develop their on-stage characters was one thing, but to see them grow as young people was something I will never forget."

TRIBUTE TO LADY ENID RALPHS ›

› The College Visitor, Lady Enid Ralphs, died peacefully in February a week after celebrating her 99th birthday.

Lady Ralphs was involved from the very inception of Wymondham College, supporting her husband Sir Lincoln Ralphs and taking an interest in every detail of the College as it has developed. It was her energy, charisma, contacts and determination that galvanised the campaign to save the College when it was threatened with closure. She served as College Visitor for over twenty years, regularly attending Governors' Meetings and other College events.

Principal, Mr Melvyn Roffe, paid tribute to Lady Ralphs: "No one, student, staff or governor, who met her could have failed to have been inspired by her extraordinary perceptiveness and sharp intellect, by her integrity and wisdom and by the vigour of her approach to life. She had the capacity to ask the most pertinent and awkward of questions in the most disarming manner and the most generous spirit."



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www.wcremembered.co.uk ›

Contact Details | Email: alumni@wymondhamcollege.org **Website:** www.wcremembered.co.uk **Telephone:** 01953 609000

We are always looking for interesting articles by Old Wymondhamians so if you would like to make a contribution to the next OW Newsletter please contact the Alumni Secretary on alumni@wymondhamcollege.org or telephone her at the College on 01953 609000.



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