

Old Bridlingtonian Reunion Weekend 2017

The Annual Reunion Weekend of the Old Bridlingtonian Club was held from Friday 1st December to Sunday 3rd December 2017. The OB Club is open to all former students and staff of Bridlington School.

The weekend started with the usual get-together on Friday evening in the Marine Bar of the Expanse Hotel. It was well-attended again this year, and included a large group of those who started school 50 years ago in 1967.

In School on the afternoon of Saturday 2nd December, numerous former pupils took advantage of the many and varied activities on offer. These included an opportunity to tour the School site, guided by Todd Johnson, and a chess competition, organised by David Evans and Andy Tiernan.

The Memorial Gymnasium, erected in 1924 to the memory of the 75 Old Boys and Staff who gave their lives in the First World War, once again provided the focal point for a moving "Act of Remembrance", conducted by Martin Barmby. On the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai, the first major WW1 conflict to use tanks, Martin paid tribute to two Old Bridlingtonians, second lieutenant Jack Newton Storm and private TW Pipes, who both fought in the battle and who were later killed in action. Mike Mortimore, a former master at the School, then laid a wreath on behalf of the OB Club in memory of the sacrifices of all serving Old Bridlingtonians throughout the years.

Refreshments were served by Jan Elmhirst and Mary Norris, prior to the well-attended AGM, at which Peter Thompson was confirmed as President for the coming year. Tim Kench was voted in as President-elect. John Blythe, Clive Thompson, Mike Mortimore and Todd Johnson all announced that they were standing down as officers of the committee and were thanked for their services. Daren Wilkinson was elected unanimously as the new Treasurer, and Brian Taylor as Examiner of Accounts.

Saturday evening saw the highlight of the weekend, when the Annual Dinner was held in the Seymour Suite at the Expanse Hotel, where the setting, food and service were excellent. During the meal, President Tony Sugdon welcomed a number of illustrious guests: Headteacher Kate Parker-Randall; School Prefects Jade Inman, Emily Pockley and Courtney Tindall; Senior Cadet Ellena Gall; Todd Johnson, who has served as School Liaison Officer and who is now leaving the School to take up a senior post at Skegness Academy; Ian Graham, retiring after 12 years as the OB North West Branch Secretary; Steve Tinegate, who has spent many years organising the annual School v OB Club cross-country race; and Brian Taylor who has been examiner of the Club accounts for many years. The President then took wine with many carefully chosen groups and after the Loyal Toast, Andrew Calvert proposed the Toast to the President and the OB Club. Tony then responded, giving us a report of his year in office and making presentations of a cheque from the Club to the School's African project appeal, and an engraved pewter tankard to retiring Club Chairman and Assistant Secretary John Blythe, who received a standing ovation from the assembled company.

There followed a rousing rendition of the 2017 version of the School Song "Now No More", written by John Lepper and sung by Kenneth Nixon, accompanied by Todd Johnson.

Tony's final duty was to hand over the Chain of Office to the incoming President Peter Thompson, who then proposed the toast to the School and Staff. Headteacher Kate Parker-Randall responded to Peter's toast, chronicling the School's many achievements and successes throughout the past year and mentioning its strong and growing links with the OB Club. After the uplifting speeches, there was plenty of time for the usual convivial renewal of acquaintances and, this year for the first time, a lively and successful disco.

On Sunday morning a Service of Thanksgiving and Fellowship, organised by John Wresdell, was held in the Bridlington School Old Hall. Once again, the Celebrant was Pastor Mark Parker-Randall, himself a teacher at the School. His address, entitled the Light of the World, incorporated an illustrated presentation which reminded us not to hide our light but let it shine before others. The piano accompanist was Garth Blackburn, who also played three short pieces on the cello.

The weekend concluded with a superb buffet lunch provided by Helen Owen before final departure.