

Old Bridlingtonian Club Sheffield Branch Reunion Lunch: Sat 22nd October 2016

There was an excellent turnout of 36 people (with one absentee on the day) at Tapton Hall, which once again was the venue for the Sheffield OB Branch Reunion Lunch.

The event was organised by the Branch Secretary, Eddy de Brouwer. As the Secretary was also the Chairman this year, it was up to Glenda de Brouwer to announce the 'taking wine' categories, and several wines later, it was John Wresdell who duly won the prize for the most 'standings up'. After the customary superb lunch (roast beef), the retiring Chairman Eddy de Brouwer invested the new Chairman, Mike Eveleigh, with the Chain of Office.

Eddy de Brouwer then proposed the toast to the School and Staff. Eddy talked about change at the school between then and now and how there had always been change. When Eddy started at the school in 1969 some of the old staples such as the huts and Saturday morning school had already gone. Some of the legendary masters such as Bampton and Ball had already left. Speech days were almost a thing of the past and discipline and attitudes were changing generally. Some things stayed the same such as Masters' Concerts, CCF and rugby.

He talked about the teachers who had taken him for rugby and (tongue in cheek) thanked them for his subsequent broken leg, being knocked out and permanently aching back.

Eddy talked about the influence that Desmond and the CCF had on his life. Opportunities to do things that he wouldn't otherwise have had – going on numerous camps including in the Lake District, Scotland, Wales and Germany; shooting weapons; driving tanks; going in a helicopter; night exercises; piloting a mine sweeper; and enjoy Compo rations. He had been to AT camps in the Lake District and enjoyed the early morning oat block from Jack Hargreaves.

Eddy said that he had met several OB's at CCF camps and Desmond invited him to come back and help at the Annual Army Camps. He enjoyed this so much that he kept coming back and ended up doing 17 out of 19 Annual Army camps between 1971 and 1989, both as a cadet and an OB under Desmond, Dave Moore and Sue Shilladay.

Sue had taught Eddy French at school and, as the Head of CCF was instrumental in Eddy meeting his wife. Glenda Knights was a teacher at the school and an officer in the CCF. Eddy said that we met at Longmoor Army Camp, Aldershot in 1988 and found that Glenda now lived in Bempton (where my mother still lived) and I had moved to Sheffield and bought a house quite near to where Glenda's parents lived. This made staying in touch after the camp quite easy and the rest as they say is history. We have been married over 25 years now and I still enjoy telling people that I married a teacher from my school!

Eddy also paid tribute to Sue Shilladay for her leadership of the CCF for 29 years and playing such a major role in ensuring that the CCF has continued so strongly over the years.

Eddy concluded by saying that it is the teachers that make the school and they are the ones you remember fondly and have hopefully had a positive influence on you.

The School is very different now but the current staff are still helping the pupils of today to have a positive enriching experience at school and hopefully have some of the same memories that we have. As well as exam successes, there are numerous other experiences that they offer nowadays – the Sierra Leone school link, Millau exchanges, skiing trips, Art, Music are just a few examples that have been mentioned over the last few years. The staff of today are just as dedicated and hardworking as they have ever been.

Eddy asked everyone to raise their glasses in appreciation of the current school and staff.

For the response to the toast, the Head of School, Kate Parker-Randall, had kindly provided an update for the Reunion that was read out by John Blythe.

Headteacher's Report for OB Club. October 2016

2015/16 has been a hugely successful year for Bridlington School where we now top the league tables.

Bridlington School has topped the GCSE league tables this year, coming top out of all schools in Hull and the East Riding for student progress.

I am delighted to report that out of 6382 schools in England, we are ranked 18th on the new Ofsted progress 8 measure. Our Year 11 students achieved a score of 0.82 which means that they achieved almost a whole grade higher than students in rest of the country with the same starting points.

It is great that the outstanding progress our students make between Year 7 and Year 11 is part of the new Ofsted measure. The focus has previously been on *attainment* and not *progress*. The Progress 8 performance measure provides a much better indication of how well a school has done. I am delighted to report that our 2016 GCSE results were also outstanding for attainment: 68% of our students achieved A* to C grades in both English and Maths. This is significantly above the national average which is 58.7%.

53% of our 6th form achieved A*-A grades this Summer. Our students A-Level results are in line with national performance and we are delighted that students completing our level 3 BTECS perform better than those nationally. These outcomes are a direct result of years of hard work which is now starting to bear fruit, our students, parents and staff are very proud of these achievements.

Our school is about so much more than examination results though. We are a learning community that values every individual and aims to achieve outstanding examination results, but even more importantly, to develop happy, confident, resilient and successful young people who are able to make a valuable contribution to society.

We are oversubscribed in Year 7. We have an intake limit set by the local authority of 165 students which we have extended to 200 students and still we have a waiting list. This bucks the trend for all but one school in the authority.

We have so many successes to celebrate – we had a fantastic art and music event at the orangery at Sewerby Hall at the end of the summer term. CCF camp was well attended this year and very successful once again, providing a unique opportunity for personal development and growth. The students went to Wathgill a satellite camp of Catterick and were praised for their team spirit and attitude. The celebration of achievement event saw us pack out Bridlington Spa one again. Thank you for once again supporting us at this event with the following awards:

- Pearson Award went to Tom Astle
- Wilfred Parkinson Award went to Charlie Moat
- Desmond Charlton Memorial Prize went to Aiden Hardy
- Award for Good Service to the School went to Kirsten Macklin

The term ended with our social moral spiritual and cultural week where we provided many diverse learning opportunities for students. As part of this I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Old Bridlingtonians for their support of the careers day. It was most successful with many students enthused about opportunities available to them in their future.

This year we have launched a new online homework system that allows all parents/carers to see exactly what homework their child has, when it was set and when it is due in. The parents are loving this ability to be able to fully support their child, however some students are not too delighted their parents are suddenly so well informed.

We know we are an outstanding school, our results show we are an outstanding school, this year we look forward to welcoming in Ofsted to measure us and give us the official label.

Please do keep your eye on the news section of our website for up to date information about all we are getting up to.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas event.

Kate Parker-Randall.

As the new Chairman, Mike Eveleigh then proposed the toast to the Old Bridlingtonian Club.

Mike was pleased to be doing this speech at Sheffield for the 2nd year in a row – see secretary for more details.

Mike also talked about AT camps, Jack Hargreaves and oatmeal blocks, tea and washing up and of Desmond setting them off on 15 mile walks thereby igniting his love of walking which he still has to this day.

Mike thought that last year he had been unduly pessimistic about the future of the OB Club. In addition to the official branches of the Club, there are several sub branches which are thriving and getting OBs together. These include the Telegraph Inn at Bridlington and the Butcher's Dog in Driffild; the 'Travelling Club' of Paul, Jim, John and Mike going out to the Lord Nelson Pub in Halifax where Daren Wilkinson has just taken over running the pub – all welcome; and the Cleveland Way walking party and several others.

Mike said that although the only exact contemporary that he had in the Club was Cam Sedman, the Club has given him camaraderie, meeting people and lots of laughs. The link between the OB Club and School is improving and he was pleased to say that Kate and Mark Parker-Randall are going to the London Reunion at the RAF Club next year.

The RAF will celebrate 100 years on 01/04/2018 and to mark this occasion, a list of all members who have served in the RAF and its antecedents, the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Force will be compiled. Already over 400 names have been gathered and any more will be welcomed – see 2016 OB mag for more details.

Mike concluded by saying that he really appreciates the OB Club and being a member of it, and long may it continue and expand over the coming years.

The Club President, Andrew Calvert, responded to the toast to the OB Club.

Andrew thanked the Chairman for his warm thoughts for the OB Club. Having missed Cambridge, Andrew was pleased to be here in person to respond to the toast.

Andrew said that the OB magazine is a triumph of editorship for Mike Mortimore. It is always interesting and always positive. He thanked Mike Mortimore for this work and everyone joined in the appreciation.

He had listened to what John Blythe had read from the Head's Update and said that the OB Club is still at the forefront of things at the school. Andrew had gone to the Spa and said that the 4 pupils who received the prizes were delighted to have been recognised by the OB Club. The Foundation Governors have also created a prize in respect of Ian Bryce.

The work that David Lakin has done in regards to the careers information was recognised and appreciated. Kate Parker-Randall was enthusiastic about the help that the OB Club has given for this Careers Day and invited us to please come again next year.

Andrew mentioned that the Remembrance Event at the school will be on the 11th of the 11th but at 1.30pm and all are welcome.

He said that it had been a fast moving year from starting out as President last December to now. He had enjoyed it all but will regret having to give up the Chain of Office to Tony Sugdon (who will definitely enjoy receiving it)

The OB Club has something about it that most other schools don't have. Andrew has links to OB clubs of several schools – Pocklington and Peter Wright's of York among others – and none of them has the friendships, get togethers and enjoyment that our club enjoys.

He is convinced that the support of the school going forward can only be good for the future of the Club.

After Eddy de Brouwer's concluding remarks, including apologies for absence, the menu changed from food and speeches to drink and chat.

2016 Sheffield Reunion

Those attending: Paul Bainbridge, Stuart Blackwell, John and Tricia Blythe, Andrew and Hazel Calvert, Eddy and Glenda de Brouwer, Mike and Jane Eveleigh, Jim Ezard, Ted Fox, Jim Garton and Julie McDermott, Paul Gibson, Peter Hardy, Alison Harvey, Graham Housam and Anna Coulbourn, David Lakin, Mike Mortimore, John Richardson, Douglas Robinson, Alex Scotter, Sue Shilladay, Tony Sugdon, David Sykes, Clive and Annette Thompson, Dominic Thompson, Neil Warwick and June Johnstone, Roddy Watson, Malcolm and Anne Wilson, John Wresdell.

Apologies: Paul and Tracey Atkinson, Nigel Barr, Dave Beckham, David Burnett, Michael Dossor, Alan and Margaret Dutton, Peter Elliot, Pete Gardiner, Ian Graham, David Halkon, John Hart, Mike Horah, Tim Kench and Lindsey Ratcliffe, Steve Kitching, John Metcalfe, Mike and Harriet Newman, Ken and June Nixon, Kate Parker-Randall, Kevin Parkinson, Tim Roberts, Cameron and Rosemary Sedman, Ian and Wendy Sharpe, Chris Shilladay, Peter Stark.

The attached photo of the Sheffield Reunion lunch 2016 shows people enjoying their meal:

