

The Old Altrinchamians' Association

Newsletter 2007-2008

Annual General Meeting

The Association's A.G.M. will be held at the School on Wednesday 12th November 2008 at 8pm. We will welcome any members of the Association as well as Old Boys who are thinking of joining.

Email Addresses

This is now the third edition of the Newsletter which has been distributed as an email attachment. We've had a good reaction to this move, with members appreciating the use of colour and the ability to forward it to their friends. We have however had a few members who have given us an email address which they don't monitor regularly, and then wonder why they haven't received anything in the post. There are always a few spare copies, so if you'd like me to send you the printed version, just ask. In any case, please do let us have your email address if you've got one recently, or it has changed.

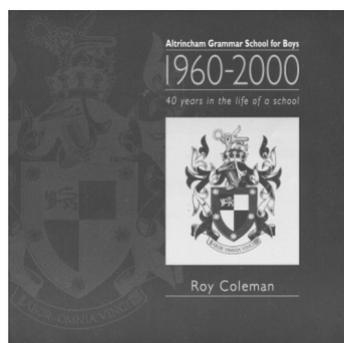
School Magazine

A large part of the copy in this newsletter, is reprinted from the Old Altrinchamian section of the School Magazine. In his piece below, the Headmaster recounts some of the year's great successes. If you would like to read about these in more detail, I can supply copies of the full magazine for just £4.50 each including postage.

Histories of the School

We now have a small number of photocopied versions of Nobby Dore's original history of the School. So if you are amongst our many members who attended between 1912 and 1962, it is well worth a read. Roy Coleman's version of the next forty years is a fascinating story and is very readable. I can supply copies for £7.50.

COLIN BAMFORD



A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER

2008 is a landmark year for the School because September will see the completion of our major sports improvement project. During the summers of 2006 and 2007 the School's grass pitches were much improved through the provision of



an extensive drainage system – and more will be done this summer to improve drainage further. In June 2007 we opened our Astroturf and over the past twelve months the boys have played their sport accompanied by the steady hum of construction machinery as the sports hall has been built. The combined impact of these improvements will certainly be considerable. For the

Where is this? If you don't know, get down to Marlborough Road next March!

President:

Peter F Morton,
11 Whalley Road, Hale,
Altrincham, WA15 9DF.

0161 980 5891

Chairman:

Geoff M Gittins,
10 Dunham Rise,
Racefield Road,
Altrincham, WA14 2BB.

0161 941 5890

Secretary:

Colin C Bamford,
11 Ridge Avenue,
Hale Barns, Altrincham,
WA15 0AY.

0161 980 1032

Treasurer:

Alastair Galbraith,
26 Second Avenue,
Heaton, Bolton,
BL1 4LW.

07917 197989

Membership Secretary:

Ken Webb,
4 Keswick Drive,
Bramhall, Stockport,
SK7 1DJ.

0161 439 4583

Football Section

Secretary:
Philip Lewis,
10 Woodfield Grove,
Sale, M33 6JW.

0161 973 7082

Cricket Section

Secretary:
Ian A Horn,
13 Willowtree Road,
Hale, Altrincham,
WA14 2EQ.

0161 928 1958

Golf Section Secretary:

Brian Little, 15 Betchton
Road, Malkin's Bank,
Sandbach, CW11 4XN.

01270 750519

Masonic Lodge

Representative:
Don E Boden, 30 Sharon
Park Close, Grappenhall,
Warrington, WA4 2YN.

01925 604677

Magazine Editor:

Stephen J W Perrett,
65 Langham Road,
Bowdon, Altrincham,
WA14 3NT.

0161 941 5053



How long is it since you last visited Marlborough Road? Make a date for 7th March 2008; you're in for a surprise!

boys more curriculum time will be given to sport from September and there will be considerable broadening of sports opportunities. All parents and members of the local community will be given the opportunity to join "The Grammar" which is the name we have given to the new sports complex. We expect the fitness gym, fitness classes, and badminton and tennis clubs to be the most popular aspects of "The Grammar" but in addition we expect a lot of take up from other local sports clubs for use of the main and the smaller sports halls.

Whilst watching the sports hall rise take shape has been the most dramatic physical sign of development at the

school this year, the pages of The Altrinchamian magazine are a wonderful record of so many other exciting activities which have taken place. A major section of the magazine is quite rightly given over to our productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Whodunnit". Both were very special pieces of work. We have enjoyed a number of high quality drama productions in recent years but in their different ways these were unique. "Whodunnit" was so because it was written, produced and directed by students with minimal teacher support. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was so because the production standard moved drama at AGSB to a higher level of excellence.

These are achievements different too but, in their own way, just as significant as the progress made with the school sport.

TIM GARTSIDE

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

The Annual Dinner, celebrating the Association's 93rd year was held at Ringway Golf Club on Saturday 8th March 2008 with 85 in attendance.

Keeping with tradition, Association President, Peter Morton, commenced proceedings by reporting those Old Boys who had died since the last Dinner, namely Brian Lines, Stuart Pattison, Peter Durward, Donald Hart QC, Donald Ball, Neil Mayer and Alan Crabtree.

Latin grace was given by Reverend David Clarke, which preceded a delicious four course meal. The President gave the Loyal Toast and lit the candles in memory of Reggie Thomson, following which he welcomed special guests to the dinner including Head Master, Tim Gartside; former Deputy Headmasters, Roger Cleland and George Thornton; Chairman of Altrincham Grammar School Developments, Colin Boothman; the Head Boy, Deputy Head Boys, Prefects and staff in attendance. Alan Hunter was announced as the winner of the Charles Laver Golf Trophy, and Old Boy, Brian Little received the Marlborough Cup as Captain of the winning side in the School v Staff golf match.

A Toast to the School was delivered by Association Chairman, Mike Gittins, accompanied by a cheque of £750 paid to the School Discretionary Fund from Association funds. A response to this toast was by Tim Gartside, who thanked the Association for inviting him and his wife, Hilary again, and shared with the room a few of the year's highlights. Yet again the School had a very strong set of exam results with over 70% of pupils attaining grades A and B at A Level, and perhaps more impressively, over 50% of A-Level grades being at grade A, which no doubt contributed to 13 Oxbridge places being awarded.

GCSE results were also outstanding with 62% of grades being A and A*. Key Stage 3 results (14 year olds) were ranked as 10th in the country.

On the sporting front, in June 2007 the new astro-turf pitch was opened, marked by a Staff v 1st XI football match. Despite the staff fielding a team of "ringers" including former Manchester United star, Dennis Irwin, they still managed to lose 2-0.

Hockey and lacrosse are two developing sports in the school, with Deputy Head Boy, Max Sandy not only being selected to represent England Under 19s in the World Championships in Vancouver later this year, but also having the honour of being awarded the captaincy of the team.

The new sporting facilities, most notably the new sports hall, are due to be completed in July 2008. Fa-



The Top Table—Colin Boothman, Mike Gittins, Peter Morton, Tim and Hilary Gartside, Colin Bamford and

cilities will include the main sports hall, a gym, a café, a fitness suite and classroom, and these facilities will be available to the wider community via a membership scheme.

Links with the more recent school leavers were being fostered with matches lined up with the 1st XI football team and 1st XV rugby team.



Don Boden and Ken Bardsley

The school continues to grow in numbers with over 1,130 pupils currently educated at the school. Inevitably this requires new accommodation, and the next major project is the redevelopment of the science block.

During November 2007 the school underwent an Ofsted inspection. Whilst this resulted in an excellent Grade 1 report, which commended the general team effort of boys, staff and parents alike, perhaps one of the highlights of the inspection was the commendation to a female member of staff for the experience she showed and the way she handled her year 11 pupils in a "sex education" class relating to the use of condoms!

The Headmaster finished his speech with a Toast to the school, recognising its successes in the past and present, and continued success into the future.

A most amusing double act speech was then given by the two Deputy Head Boys, Louis Barnett and Max Sandy, carefully blending tradition with more modern elements. Their speech gave a slightly different slant on school activities and developments, but they concluded that it had been a privilege to have been at the school. They welcomed becoming members of the Old Altrinchamians Association (once they had learnt how to pronounce it!).

There was then a musical interlude by Sixth Form guitarist, Patrick Duncombe exemplifying the strong musical tradition maintained at the school.

This year's guest speaker was Colin Boothman, Chairman of Altrincham Grammar School Developments, and a Governor of the school. Colin presented AGSD as the independent charity body, formed in 1998 to raise money for major school projects such as significant contributions to The Stamford Hall, the refurbishment of the Roy Coleman Hall, improvements to the school staffroom, and furnishing the new Sixth Form block. AGSD's next major project is to channel funds into the proposed new science block. In short, AGSD provides the added value items in these major projects that are often taken for granted. The success of AGSD not only relies upon contributions made by parents of pupils past and present, but also contributions from Old Boys who still benefit from the high reputation gained by being associated with the school.

The Toast to the Association by the President was followed by a very successful (albeit somewhat haphazard) raffle, which raised over £650.



Patrick Duncombe playing 'Classical Gas'



The new Sports Hall? Come along next March and see for yourself!

Official proceedings came to an end at 10.45 pm, and unofficial proceedings closed when the bar did!

Diary Date: Next year's Dinner is to be held at The School on Saturday 7th March, giving you the opportunity to see the various new facilities, such as the Sports Hall, Sixth Form Common Room, Maths Block and Staff Room.

ASHLEY (OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS) CRICKET CLUB

Ashley Cricket Club, incorporating Old Altrinchamians C.C., can look forward to another season in the top divisions of the Meller Brag-gins Cheshire Cricket League in 2008 with both 1st and 2nd XI maintaining their status after tough seasons. With the influx of players the club will run a record number of team, 4 senior teams and 3 junior sides, at Under 9,13 and 15 level. As always we are on the lookout for play-ers of all abilities to join us, especially 1st XI batsmen.



The 1st XI will again be captained by the York-shire duo of Ian Barber and his vice captain Craig Knight (pictured). After the success of 2007's import Trevor Daly from Victoria, Australia we have managed to recruit Tait Burns-Vickery from Queensland, a top order batsman and leg spin bowler. New opponents for the coming year are Congleton, Mere and Trafford Metrovicks.

After 5 years in charge of the 2nd XI Andy Murray has stepped aside to concentrate on his next big in-nings, fatherhood. He leaves with a record of 2 runners up finishes, a promotion and a cup final win. The new captain will have a tough job next season with every side in the division providing tough opposition, but hopefully he will have the benefit of one or two experienced 1st XI players if the club can attract the quality players we are looking for.

George Dawes has taken the 3rd team armband, after it had paid a quick visit to the tailors to be let out. He takes over a side that enjoys its cricket win or lose and he will continue to utilise the talent and enthu-siasm of the club's burgeoning junior section.

The new 4th team will look to give all the new recruits and a few old timers some regular cricket as they take their place in a competitive County League 4th division for the first time.

Several Old Alts are still turning out for the 2nd and 3rd XI, namely Chris Pendlebury, Dave Jackson, John Ward and Ian Horn.

The 3 junior sides are competing in the Right Move Abroad County League and the South Manchester Junior Cricket League. The Under 9s are enthusiastically managed by Old Alt Sefton Kwasnik.



The 1st XI

With extra teams and hopefully drier weather than last year this will mean extra work for the clubs volunteers and grounds man. We are very grateful for their work and to the many club sponsors who have helped in providing finances to buy kit, coaching and match balls. We would ask every member of the club to continue sup- porting our many sponsors.

Summer practice nights are Monday (junior) and Tuesday (senior) from 6:30pm, at the club.

OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS' GOLF SOCIETY

The Association's Golf Society Day was held at Styal Golf Club on 8th June 2007. Following the success of 2006, Golf Secretary, Brian Little once again worked hard to ensure a good turnout. Over 30 members and guests enjoyed good golf, fine weather and food, and good company.

This year's winner was Alan Hunt with 41 points, narrowly beating Bernie Jordan (40 points), who was the first lady to compete in the Society Day. In 3rd place was Alan Faulkner with 38 points. The guest

prize was won by Tony Leigh with a remarkable 43 points. Longest drives was won by Brian Little and Cris Rawson, and nearest the pin won by David Smith and Brian Dickinson.

The day was rounded up by an excellent dinner followed by the usual speeches and prize giving. A note of thanks by Chairman Mike Gittins was given to Brian Little for his excellent arrangements.

This year's meeting is to be held again at **Styal Golf Club on Friday 6th June 2008**.

The Inter School Old Boys Competition was again held at Bramhall Golf Club. The Old Altrinchamians team again suffered from a low number of team members. Despite this, the Association still managed to finish an admirable fourth place out of six teams. For Old Altrinchamians to be able to compete on an even keel, more players are required, and therefore please make a diary note for **Wednesday 9th July 2008, at Bramhall Golf Club**.

The Marlborough Trophy, played for in the match between the School & Staff v The Association had to be postponed from its July date due to the bad weather. It finally took place in early September and proved to be a close and exciting match. The Old Boys just managed to edge the match 4½ - 3½, with most games going to the last hole. This makes the overall match score 4 - 4, which augers well for the 2008 match to be held on **Tuesday 8th July, 4.30 pm, at Styal Golf Club**. Special thanks to Brian Little and Chris Rawson for arranging the two teams from the Old Boys and School/Staff.

GEOFF MIKE GITTINS

OBITUARIES

John Peter Durwood (1939-1945)

Peter, as he was known to his friends and family was born in Hale in 1929, and lived most of his life in this area. Peter attended AGS during the War years, and when leaving school entered the family business – Wholesale Wines and Spirits Merchants, where he worked for two years until he was called up for National Service with the RAF. After initial training, he was posted to Egypt where he did the rest of his service before returning to England to be demobbed. Back in civilian life, he returned to the family business where he eventually ended up as a Director. Out of working hours, Peter was a well known member of his local Church, and also a member of Hale Freemasons Lodge (now amalgamated with Old Altrinchamians Lodge).

On retirement from work, Peter and his wife, Ann went to live in North Wales, but regularly returned to the Altrincham area to continue his various activities including charity work with Abbeyfield Homes.

Unfortunately, ill health finally caught up with Peter who died on 4th July 2007 after a heart attack. Peter leaves a widow, Ann, 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

Stuart Raymond Pattison (1953-1961)

Stuart was born in 1942, and after leaving school qualified in law and became a solicitor and then Partner in his firm.

Stuart was an active member of the Old Altrinchamians Association, serving on the committee and was Secretary for 10 years.

Stuart was a keen cricketer and golfer, being a member of Bramhall Golf Club where he was past Captain and past President.

Brian Austin James Lines (1945-1951)

Brian was born in 1944 and after leaving the school in 1951 qualified as an accountant specialising in insolvency.

He was a keen rugby fan all his life, playing for Ashton-on-Mersey, before officiating as a referee. Brian was a committee member of Altrincham Society of Arts and also involved with Sale Rotary Club. Brian was always filled with good nature, good humour and boundless enthusiasm. He died on 3rd November 2007, aged 74 years.

HH Donald Hart QC (1945-1952)

Donald was born in 1934 and after attending AGS went up to Magdalen College, Oxford. He was called to The Bar in 1956 and appointed a Circuit Judge in 1989. Donald died on 24th April 2007, aged 74.

Donald Heart, Donald Ball, Neil Mayer, Alan Crabtree

SAVILLE LAVER SOCIETY



Tim Gartside, David Wheeldon and Alan Laver

The annual Saville Laver Dinner was held on Saturday November 24th 2007 in the Champney's Room at Oriel College and was well attended by over 25 old boys and members of staff (past and present). This was the 10th occasion of the dinner and it was particularly good to see a large contingent of recent old boys who are now well into their university courses at Oxford and Cambridge.

Headmaster Tim Gartside updated those assembled on recent developments at the School. David McFaden (Economics & Management, Hertford College) proved a worthy host for the evening, organising the event with aplomb and succeeding in getting the most out of a capable Oriel kitchen. Particular thanks also go to Bruno Currie (Monro Fel-

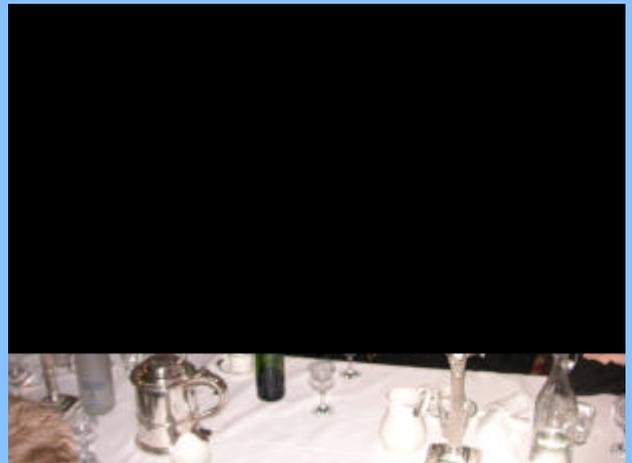
low and Tutor in Classics, Oriel College) for his efforts in securing the room and the services of the Oriel staff. The evening's revelries continued among some of the hostelries of Oxford, though the good name of Saville Laver (and AGSB) was held high.

We look forward now to the 10th anniversary of the dinner and hope that some of the number who have passed through the ranks at "Oxbridge" will return to make the next dinner a successful affair and will update us on their progress since leaving.

The society was established in 1998 in honour of the first Headmaster of the School, Laurence Saville Laver, a Cambridge Foundation Scholar, and is open to all Old Boys of the School with a connection to the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge.

Further details can be obtained from;
Alistair Allen, [Alistair.Allen@Rothschild.co.uk],
Will Allen [will.allen@somerville-oxford.com] or
David McFaden,
[david.macfaden@hertford.ox.ac.uk].

New members are always very welcome.

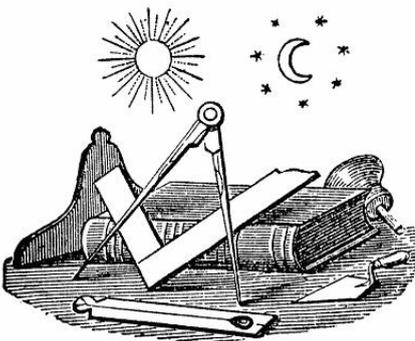


Bruno Currie and Peter Butler

OLD ALTRINCHAMIAN LODGE

Over 80 Lodge members, guests and dignitaries from Freemasonry attended the Amalgamation Ceremony on April 18th 2008, witnessing the joining of Old Altrinchamians Lodge with The Hale Lodge, forming the new lodge of Hale and Old Altrinchamians 3749. Peter Cronan has taken the chair of Worshipful Master of the Lodge, and it is hoped and anticipated that the increased numbers of members will encourage more to join.

Anyone interested should contact
Don Boden – 01925 604677. donald.boden@ntlworld.com.



On the AGSB History page of the School Web Site there are a collection of photographs decade by decade from the 1920s to the 1990s.

<http://www.agsb.co.uk/information/agsbhistory.htm>

Checkout the Old Altrinchamians' Web Page:

<http://www.agsb.co.uk/oldboys.htm>

OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS' AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

Old Alts AFC has enjoyed considerable success in the season 2007/08 with four of our six teams vying for honours in their respective leagues.



Old Alts East Cheshire League side

The 1st and 2nd XIs re-entered the Manchester League after a gap of two seasons. The 1st XI, managed by Lee Bennett and Andy Machin made a strong start and for a long period looked as though they would gain promotion into the Premier Division at their first attempt. However, their form was patchier in the second half of the season but nevertheless the team finished in a very creditable fifth position.

The 2nd XI consisted almost entirely of young players, who were playing their first season of open age football. Aply managed by Paul Schofield and Colm O'Neil, the team was never fazed playing against older and more experienced players. Their skilful performances throughout the season have been rewarded by a finish in the top two, guaranteeing promotion into Division 3, with 15 wins and 3 draws from 22 fixtures.

Pride of place must go to the Sunday XI who this season has won the Premier Division of the Altrincham Sunday League at their seventh attempt. Much of this success must be down to their manager, Ged Manning, who has also enjoyed considerable help from Phil Watkinson and Joel Adams. Their one disappointment was not to do the double and lift the Altrincham District Sunday Cup losing 2-0 in the final to Wythenshawe Youth at Moss Lane.

The last in our quartet of successful teams were our Veterans. This thirty strong squad of players has an average age of 40 and is managed by old boy, Dave Stephens. Dave, who has entered his seventh decade, still makes an occasional cameo appearance when he is short of players. It is quite amazing that the Veterans managed to secure the second spot in the East Cheshire League with only one defeat in the league all season!



Dave Stephens

Playing football doesn't have to be all about winning, as our two remaining teams playing in the Altrincham and East Cheshire Leagues will vouch. Both have finished in the bottom spot of their respective leagues but are already planning for a more successful campaign next season. Our thanks go to the managers, who put so much effort into turning out these teams on a regular basis. These are Dave Richards and John O'Connor in the Altrincham League and Rob James and Martin Officer in the East Cheshire League.



Kevin Morris

This year a match was played between recent Old Boys and the School 1st XI. This inaugural event was won 2-1 by the 1st XI and they are now the proud holders of a fine silver trophy, which will be contested annually. We are hoping that many of those playing in this game will decide to play for Old Alts in the years to come. Many thanks to sports teacher, Kevin Morris, for organising this very successful event.

Lastly, please make a note of the date for the Annual Sportsman's Dinner, which will be on Thursday 27th November 2008 at The Cresta Court Hotel when our guest speaker will be Jan Molby, the Danish International and Liverpool stalwart.

BRIAN CLARK 1954-62

HOUSE OF COMMONS LUNCH



MPs Graham Brady and David Davies show hospitality to guests including Chair of Governors, Chris Barrat, Chairman of AGSD, Colin Boothman and Old Boy, Alistair Allen

For the second year running, Old Boy Graham Brady MP hosted a lunch at the House of Commons on 21st November 2007. The lunch was a fundraiser for Altrincham Grammar School, with a number of Old Boys attending. Former Head Boy, Alistair Allen kindly sponsored the event through Rothschild's.

JOTTINGS

Our congratulations go to recent school leaver, Mike Armstrong, who along with current Deputy Head Boy, Max Sandy is to represent England in this year's Under 19 World Lacrosse Championships to be held in Canada from July 3rd to 12th. Although representing their country, each squad member needs to self-fund their trip, and therefore if anyone would like to sponsor the boys, please contact Mike Armstrong on 07778 679 632.

Filmmaker and Old Boy, Paul Watson has announced that his is to concentrate on working as a playwright following the row over his controversial film, "Malcolm and Barbara: Love's Farewell", a documentary about an Alzheimer's sufferer. We wish Paul every success, and possibly less controversy, in his new career.

The Association has rekindled the traditional 'Old Boys' football and rugby matches, with recent school-leavers challenging the respective First XI and First XV School teams. Both matches were hosted by the School on Wednesday 9th April 2008.

The football match was won 3-1 by the School XI, with the Old Boys victorious, 12-3 in the rugby.

It is intended to continue this fixture on an annual basis, and those interested in representing the Old Boys teams should contact the School's new Head of Sport, Kevin Morris.



Many thanks to member of staff Darren Smith for the use of this picture. There are many other fine example of his work at www.darrensmith.org.uk.

RETIRING/DEPARTING TEACHERS

Mike Killian (Economics)
Ginny Murray (Maths)