

Old Bridlingtonian Reunion Weekend 2018

The Annual Reunion Weekend of the Old Bridlingtonian Club was held from Friday 7th December to Sunday 9th December 2018. 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 group of those who started school 50 years ago in 1968.

In School on the afternoon of Saturday 8th 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 Jan Elmhirst, 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. In this year of the 100th anniversary of both the end of the Great War and the forming of the RAF, Martin spoke of the sacrifices of three Old Bridlingtonians, who died in the service of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps and the RAF. Mike Wilson then read a poem based on the letters of 2nd lieutenant T B D Hough, also killed in action and whose letters were found in the School a number of years ago. Mike, a veteran of the RAF, also 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 Tim Kench was confirmed as President for the coming year. Alec Scotter was voted in as President-Elect. Jim Ezard was elected as Assistant Secretary, Pippa Warcup as Magazine Editor, and Douglas Robinson as Examiner of Accounts. Two vacancies on the Committee were filled by Barry Back and Todd Johnson, who were elected unanimously.

Saturday evening saw the highlight of the weekend, with nearly 100 OBs and guests present at the Annual Dinner in the Seymour Suite at the Expanse Hotel, where the setting, food and service were excellent. President Peter Thompson welcomed a number of illustrious guests: Headteacher Kate Parker-Randall; Head Boy Louis Garland; Head Girl Sarah Birkbeck; Deputy Head Boy and Senior Cadet Keane Heslop; Deputy Head Girl and Senior Cadet Molly Green; John Blythe, who retired last December from the offices of Assistant Secretary and Chairman; Mike Mortimore, who has retired after 21 years as editor of the OB Magazine; and Clive Thompson, who retired last December from the office of Club Treasurer. Peter also presented bound copies of the new RAF Register to the Headteacher and the Senior Cadets. Throughout Dinner, the President took wine with many carefully chosen groups, and following the Loyal Toast, Roddy Watson proposed the Toast to the President and the OB Club. Peter then responded, giving us a report of his year in office and making presentations to three of the guests to reward them for their services as officers of the Club.

There followed a rousing rendition of the 2018 version of the School Song "Now No More", with verses written by John Lepper and sung jointly by Kenneth Nixon and Peter Thompson, accompanied by Todd Johnson.

Peter's final duty was to hand over the Chain of Office to the incoming President Tim Kench, who then proposed the toast to the School and Staff. Headteacher Kate Parker-Randall responded to Tim's toast, chronicling the School's many achievements and successes throughout the past year and drawing the attention of the assembled company to the newly-acquired Bridlingtonian Standards, which were on display in the dining room. After the uplifting speeches, there was plenty of time for the usual convivial renewal of acquaintances, and a lively and successful disco.

On Sunday morning a Service of Thanksgiving and Fellowship, organised by John Wresdell, was held in Bridlington School Old Hall. As usual, the Celebrant was Pastor Mark Parker-Randall, himself a teacher at the School. The Service included an address by Mark, entitled Jesus: the Hope of the World, and a number of prayers and hymns. The piano accompanist was Garth Blackburn, who also played a short seasonal piece.

The weekend concluded with a superb buffet lunch provided by Helen Owen before final departure. Details of membership of the OB Club, open to all former students and staff of Bridlington School, can be obtained from Paul Gibson, the Membership Secretary, who can be contacted on 07810 294591 or by email: pmg.brid@gmail.com.