

Old Bridlingtonian Reunion Weekend 2019

The Annual Reunion Weekend of the Old Bridlingtonian Club was held from Friday 6th December to Sunday 8th December 2019. 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, and included a group of those who started school 50 years ago, in 1969.

In School on the afternoon of Saturday 7th 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 Tom Wright and Todd Johnson, a chess competition organised by David Evans and Andy Tiernan and, for the first time, an archery contest arranged by Sara Cracknell, Tom Wright and John Wresdell.

Afterwards, Martin Barmby led a short but moving Act of Remembrance outside the Memorial Gymnasium. This included the dedication there of a new WWII Memorial Board, which the Club had commissioned to mark the 80th anniversary of the start of the conflict, as a memorial to OBs killed in action. It replaces the old WWII boards, originally in the School Memorial Garden and then transferred to Emmanuel Church where they were later destroyed by fire. The Board also includes OBs who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces after WWII.

Chris Fisk, a veteran of the Royal Artillery, 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 Mary Norris, prior to the well-attended AGM, at which Tim Kench was confirmed as President for a second year. Alan Fumagalli was voted in as President-Elect, Tom Wright was elected as School Liaison Officer, and Douglas Robinson re-elected as Examiner of Accounts. All other officers and committee members remain the same.

Saturday evening saw the highlight of the weekend, with 103 OBs and 5 guests attending the Annual Dinner in the Seymour Suite at the Expanse Hotel. President Tim Kench welcomed a number of illustrious guests: Headteacher Kate Parker-Randall; Head Boy and Senior Cadet Keane Heslop; Head Girl Molly Green; Deputy Head Boy Jack Walker; and Deputy Head Girl Tabitha Askew. Throughout Dinner, the President took wine with many carefully chosen groups, and following the Loyal Toast, he 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 highlighting the strong bonds which exist between School and the Club.

The formal proceedings ended with a rousing rendition of the 2019 version of the School Song "Now No More", with verses written by John Lepper and sung by Kenneth Nixon, accompanied by Todd Johnson. Following this, 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 Our Election, and a number of prayers and hymns. The piano accompanist was Garth Blackburn, who also played an arrangement of the Elvis Presley song 'The Wonder of You' which Garth had made in 1970 when he first joined the staff at the School.

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 020 8998 6044 or by email:

pmg.brid@gmail.com. The OB Club website provides details of all Club activities and can be found at: www.oldbridlingtonianclub.org.uk. Information can also be found on the Club's Facebook pages.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 President-Elect Alan Fumagalli with current President Tim Kench

Photo 2 Bridlington School guests Keane Heslop, Molly Green, Kate Parker-Randall, Tabitha Askew and Jack Walker.