

# **The OLD WORDSWORTHIAN**



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Founded 1913  
Issue Number. 95

Registration No. 100819  
April 2024

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## **PRESIDENTS LETTER 2024.**

This has been a quiet year for the Association but we are preparing for the future. We have welcomed Stephen Quigley to the Committee. Stephen has started to update our website, which is very old and out of date, not having had anything done to it since 2011!

We have met three times this year with our main objective being to support the School. To this end we have made various grants. The main one has been to the Music Department, under the Director of Music Mr. Edney. A donation of £4000 was given, for the purchase of microphones, guitars, amplifiers and some ukuleles. We have also pledged £5000 for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at the playing field in Britford Lane. We continue to pay the rent for the printer for the Art Department. We give prizes for Founders Day and many other smaller grants. This does keep us in very close contact with the School, with grateful thanks for the co-operation and attendance at our committee meetings, by the deputy headmaster, Graham Lloyd.

It is with sadness that I am informing you that our Headmaster, Stuart Smallwood, who has been with us for 22 years, is retiring. Stuart has given his reflections of his time he has spent with us here in Salisbury as deputy headmaster and later headmaster. These are at the end of this newsletter. We look forward to welcoming Mathew Morgan from Worcester, in September. He has close connections with Salisbury and the Cathedral.

I also look forward to welcoming you to Founder's Day on Friday April 26th for the service at 11.30am in the Cathedral. Our Annual General Meeting will then follow in the VIth Form Common Room and then lunch!

Norman Barter

*Important  
Founder's Day is on Friday 26th  
April, with the Cathedral service  
starting at 11.30 am followed by  
our AGM at the School and then  
a buffet lunch. For details, see  
the top of the next page.*

## Founder's Day – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April

More details about Founder's Day which Norman mentioned in his address. This is your opportunity to return to the School, attend the Founder's Day serviced in the Cathedral followed by our AGM in the School. The service starts at 11.30 am and one or two rows are reserved for OWA members but we need to know numbers so the School knows how many places to keep.

The AGM is followed by a cold buffet lunch provided by the School caterers and will cost £20 including wine or soft drinks. Please let us know by email to:

[normanchalkefish@me.com](mailto:normanchalkefish@me.com)

or complete the form below and post to:

Mr M. Way, 77 Mount Road, Southdown, Bath, BA2 1LJ

Payment can be by online bank transfer to 'The Old Wordsworthians' Association  
sort code 40-52-40, account number 00012102

or by cheque, made payable to 'The Old Wordsworthians' Association, or by cash on the day.

Name: .....

Number of Cathedral places: ..... Number of lunches:

If you decide to come at the last minute and there are no seats available in the reserved spaces, , you can of course sit in the body of the Cathedral and also attend the AGM.

## Vacancies

How can you help your Association.

We are still in need of more committee members, particularly:

- Someone to put the newsletter together. You don't need to use publishing software although that can give a more professional look. Any word processor is fine. This newsletter has been produced with Word
- Someone to organize some way to publicise and arrange the sale of goods we have for sale. Prior to when the structure of Founder's Day was changed, we had a stall when we would sell these items. Now that this is now no longer possible, we need a new way of marketing these items of memorabilia. We have a variety of stock including:

### New items

Two books relatively recently published by the Association, and OWA cuff links and tie chain, purchased by the Association to commemorate its 100th anniversary. In detail, they are:

- A reprint of the early history of the School, written by Frederick Crossfield Happold, headmaster from 1928 to 1960:
- A newer history, consisting of anecdotes of life at the School written by OWA members.



- Cuff links engraved with 'OWA' and '100', and a tie chain, similarly engraved
- The books are £10 each and £16 for the two.

### **Old items**

- Various new 'old' books

Please think seriously whether you can help and we also need committee members without specific responsibilities. We meet three or four times a year and some members have joined remotely

### **Obituaries**

We are including two obituaries - one is of Chris Cochrane, a committee member who died recently and the other is of Arthur Bowden who many of you will know. Arthur died three years ago and at the time it was at the end of a covid lockdown and we had just lost the services of Martin Holloway, our very good newsletter editor so it has taken a while for us to publish it.

#### **ARTHUR BOWDEN**

We thought you might like a few thoughts on the life of Arthur Bowden. He died on the 1st January 2021 after a short stay in Salisbury Hospital, at the wonderful age of 92.

He was born in Caerphilly in 1928. He moved to London in 1935 and on to Salisbury. He entered Bishop Wordsworth School in 1939. He left in 1946 to do his National Service in the Army. He then studied French and Spanish at Peterhouse College in Cambridge. This is where his love and interest in Rugby started and he ended up playing for his college. After university, he went to Bristol to obtain his Diploma in Education. He then moved back to Bishops to start his teaching career. He stayed for 39 years becoming Deputy Headmaster, Bursar and Head of Languages. In 1956 he married Joyce and together they lived in Hulse Road for the rest of his life. He was married for over 64 years.

His love of his favourite sport rugby continued at Salisbury Rugby Club, playing from 1946 to 1952 until injury forced him to retire. This led him to the administrative side of the sport. He became Chairman for 1966 to 1975. He also served many other posts in the rugby world and was very well respected.

In his very busy life as a teacher and rugby man, he had many other interests as well. He became founder President of Wilton Rotary in 1979. He then went on to chair the Rotoract Committee of Great Britain. He also found time to man the enormous boot sales, in Salisbury, and keep everyone in order!

All these activities took place while he was teaching French and religious studies at Bishops. I think most of us lived a little in fear of 'Titch' and of the terrible 'Betsy'. But for all of this he inspired us for the rest of our lives. He always started a lesson with 'Before anyone says anything, I am standing up'. His love of France and all things French will always remain with us all.

And of course he made time to look after the Old Wordsworthian Association. He found time to join the committee and eventually become its President. He also fostered a system whereby boys joined the Association at the end of their time at Bishops, by paying a small amount each term. They then became OW's at the end of their school days so keeping the association young and strong.

His wit, charm and strict observance of rules will remain with us always. God bless you Titch.

## CHRIS COCHRANE.

Christopher Gordon Cochrane was born in Edinburgh in 1944. His father was in the RAF, so they moved about a lot. Chris came to Bishop Wordsworth School in 1955. He joined the RAF after school. He then worked in Portsmouth for an aeronautical company. He returned to Salisbury in the early 2000's. Chris took an energetic interest in politics and his old school Bishops. He became a County Councillor in about 2010 and then joined the Old Wordsworthians Committee in 2018. Unfortunately his health deteriorated in 2020 and this resulted in his being hospitalised many times. He died in his beloved home in Lower Bremerton, Salisbury.

## Charlotte and Anna's trip to the International Geography Olympiad (IGeo)

Earlier this year, we contributed to the costs of Anna and Charlotte's trip to the Olympiad in Indonesia. This is their report on the trip.

"IGeo felt like a distant dream. Being advertised as something 'for the best geography students in the world' was undoubtedly intimidating. But we knew that it was something we had to strive for. Previous year 13's Jack and Toby inspired us as they themselves participated in the 18th iGeo in Finland. Their achievement motivated us to give it a shot. So we worked hard on our application for the national competition for the best geographers nationwide. We wrote an essay on the tectonics involved in creating island arcs in the Lesser Antilles and the socioeconomic issues citizens faced from the geohazards created in these island nations. These topics were exciting and interesting, and we thoroughly enjoyed the process. Then came the long wait. We were concerned as we hadn't found out as rapidly as Jack and Toby. But late one evening, we scrolled through our emails and shining out was an email titled 'Team UK'; we opened it, and to our surprise, we were two of the successful applicants who had managed to get into the international geography Olympiad and would be going to Indonesia in August. We were and still are elated. Throughout the weeks leading up to it, we did numerous Zoom calls, which allowed us to get to know our team members and leaders, made our competition poster, bought gifts for the other countries and sorted travel logistics such as receiving three vaccinations, ouch! This was just the start of our exciting journey to Indonesia, somewhere we had always wanted to go and now had this incredible opportunity to experience its nature, cultures, languages and people.

The flight totalled 17 hours, and with little sleep, we arrived in Jakarta two days before the opening ceremony. We met other teams and their leaders, took in new sights, smells and sounds with the heat being almost unbearable - changing to Crocs and sliders helped, becoming a trip staple. We travelled from Jakarta to Bandung by bus with other teams from countries ranging from Tunisia and Canada to Nigeria and China. Learning about their application process was also intriguing, with some countries using this competition as a gateway into university or for scholarships. The journey took four hours, but the beauty of the rainforest and Indonesia's highlands made it fly by. We arrived in Bandung and settled into our hotel, enjoying a delicious Nasi Goreng with many more to come! The following day was the opening ceremony 'Olympic' style, with each country being announced and a wave of the flag of almost 50 countries. The ceremony continued with Indonesian dance and music. During the following days, we



completed three exams: one written response test, a fieldwork test in the rainforest and a multi-media test on computers. One evening, we also presented our poster on the theme of 'creative inclusive urban environments' represented by four UK cities, Bristol, Brighton, Manchester and London (Croydon).

They encapsulated the UK's art, food, music and architectural scene. We also had the opportunity to see other posters, with Australia's and Belgium's being favourites. The tests and poster competition were interesting. But the real highlight was meeting people from around the world with different experiences, ideas and outlooks. It was amazing to learn about different countries and gain further appreciation for Indonesia and its vibrant culture by watching traditional dance and music, learning to play the Angklung and partaking in cultural games.

Going to the rainforest and the volcano, Tangkuban Perahu, allowed us to see what we always thought would remain in a textbook – truly bringing geography to life. The culture evening, sculpture park, police escort, night in the geological museum (with a dance party) and the



closing ceremony also enriched us deeply. All the experiences iGeo provided further fuelled our love for geography, allowed us to form friendships with people worldwide, and gave us memories we will treasure for a lifetime. Therefore, this is a testament that you should just go for things. It felt impossible initially, but this seemingly far-flung achievement ultimately became our reality, something we will never forget.

Charlotte and Anna (year 17)

### Contacting us

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## Pre-decimal United Kingdom Money Quiz

Here is a quiz for which you need knowledge of pre-decimal currency (or the internet). For our younger members, ask your parents or grandparents for help.

Below are a list of clues to terms used for pre-decimal money. These may be for normal use or slang. One or two terms may still be used. The answers will be given in the next newsletter, or if you can't wait, send an email to the newsletter editor.

	Clue	Answer	Values		
			£	s	D
1	Boy's name				
2	Leather worker				
3	Royal ruler				
4	Bicycle				
5	New Forest or Dartmoor				
6	What the king wears				
7	One and a kick				
8	Unwell sea creature				
9	Part of a pair of briefs				
10	Girl's name				
11	Animal that climbs trees				
12	Type of fowl				
13	Royal headgear split				
14	Sun, moon, star				
15	An imperial weight				
		TOTAL	535	1	9



## **QUESTIONS FOR HEADMASTER DR SMALLWOOD ON HIS RETIREMENT**

Q1. What do you regard as your greatest achievement during your time as Headmaster?

I am not sure that anything I have done over the years would qualify as 'great'! Probably the thing I am most proud of is the return of girls to BWS after more than 90 years of single sex education at this school. What we have done together took a lot of planning (that started way back in 2015) and a certain element of bravery, as the change was a big thing for a place like Salisbury. The marketing, recruitment, communication and leadership needed was significant to win all of the arguments and carry everyone with me. Having said that there has been a huge groundswell of support from most quarters, and local students have (in my view) benefited a great deal by having genuine choice that is open for everyone.

Q2. How would you like to be remembered?

My instinct is that I will be seen as responsible for rebuilding a large proportion of the school site. My hope is that I will be seen also as a reformer, and someone who lead and managed the school through some quite turbulent times. The financial crisis of 2008 and then ensuing lengthy period of austerity was very difficult, energy sapping and hugely time-consuming but with little to show in terms of material gains. I would most like to be remembered as the Head who enlarged the school to its largest ever, and the Head who brought co-education back to Bishop's.

Q3. What were your first priorities when you took over as Headmaster?

Managing a construction site – and then managing expansion – and managing a diminishing budget.

Q4. What big changes have taken place during your tenure?

I suppose that the biggest tangible changes have been to the built environment – so the redevelopments of the Paddock Block (2003), the Sports Hall (2004), the Art Block and Science Block refurbishment (2008), the Sixth Form Block (2010), Reception and Cookery Room (2015), DT Block and Maths Block (2017). All of those have involved a lot of input from my successive Bursars, for which I have been extremely grateful. Other changes have been organisational and logistical – the advent and subsequent disappearance of Language College, Science College, the conversion to Academy Status, the start and then end of

collaboration with SWGS (South Wilts Grammar School). There have also been societal changes that have been reflected

here at school, for example the increase in part-time teachers and the growth in the number of female teachers. The school is also far more ethnically diverse than it has ever been.

Q5. How different is the school in terms of education provision, size of enrolment, condition of the estate and academic facilities?

There are now almost 1,200 students on roll, which makes Bishop's by some margin the largest school in the area. There was an additional House (Ward) added from 2017, and the sixth form has almost doubled in size over the past decade. This means that the staff complement has also risen, there are an additional five tutor groups in Years 7-11 and we have expanded to make a very tight fit into our current estate!

Students come from a wider area now, including many more from the northern fringes of the Southampton

Conurbation.

On the other hand we have probably reduced the breadth of the curriculum in response to two pressures – the market (ie the demand for different subjects) and also quality of outcomes and what those outcomes enable our students to aspire to do next. We concentrate on facilitating subjects, so that our students are well prepared for whatever comes next and also to give them the flexibility that they need to change their minds about future career paths.

Q6. What have been the pressures, including financial, on you as Headmaster?

Nothing that I didn't expect. Being at the very centre of things makes you the 'go to' person for all sorts of decisions, whether they be fundamental or trivial. There have been a very few times when I have had sleepless nights, but you could count them on the fingers of one hand – not bad in over 22 years at the helm!

Q7. Has the introduction of a mixed sixth form been a success?

An emphatic, outstanding success. I have been absolutely delighted with the impact that the girls have had on the life of the school in every way. They have introduced a missing dimension, a jigsaw piece that we simply didn't even know wasn't there. It is also most important that the real potential for leadership through these young women is realised,



and that has happened too.

Q8. The school is tight for space. Did you ever think of finding a new site for the school, better buildings, space for expansion, sports fields on the same site?

No

Q9. What advice would you give your successor?

Get the measure of the school before trying to put your mark on it. Find out about as many aspects of the school as an organic entity. Get to know as many people as you can, as swiftly as you can. Spend plenty of time around the site talking face to face rather than relying on email. Get to know every member of the Sixth Form. And enjoy! You are taking on leadership of an amazing institution, and one that matters so much to so many people.