

OLD BUCKWELLIANS NEWS



November 2001

Half Way There!

WELCOME to edition number five! The number of Old Bucks traced has risen by a further 478 since the last edition, representing 51% of the pupils that passed through the school. As we expected, progress has slowed as we approached the 50% mark. Finding the remainder will not be so easy, and much will depend on you the readers. If I could find some more volunteers to take up the challenge of tracing individual year/class groups there is no reason why we should not push the total beyond 70%. Even now, there are eight separate year groups where we have traced more than two thirds. If you would like to help in any way please let me know.

Some of you may have noticed the recent upsurge in interest in the "Friends Reunited" website (www.friendsreunited.co.uk). Heavily advertised and featured on radio and in the national press, the site lists more than 28,000 UK schools/universities. I was amused to read newspaper reports speculating on the reasons for its popularity: tribalism, the urge to measure our performance against our peers, or the wish to see that the school bully has got his comeuppance? Whatever the reason, the BHCHS web team got there two years earlier and we are grateful for the spin off benefits to our own cause.

There have been encouraging signs of more interest from those who attended BHCHS in the 1980s. I have been given plenty of leads for potential features in future editions. My challenge is to maintain a balance between the inevitable dose of nostalgia and items that are concerned with the here and now.

Thanks to all who have given me suggestions. Some I hope

to follow up on are:

Classic predictions in school reports: those that came true and those that didn't.

OB record breakers...who has had the most children, most wives, lived in most countries etc etc.

More competitions.

Investigation of various school mysteries, eg why Chigwell House failed to win the house championship and then won for seven successive years.

A few words about subscriptions. The number of subscribers continues to grow at a most satisfactory rate. It is especially pleasing that such a high proportion have subscribed (or tell me, when reminded, that they intend to!)

We have a frustrating problem with subscriptions from overseas (currently we can only accept sterling). Can anyone help us get set up for subs by credit card?

When this project was launched in 1999 one or two people made some rather negative comments to me. You know the sort of thing—no new members emerging from the school.... we're all getting older...

Judging by my experience over the last two years I feel we have an excellent prospect of a thriving network for many years to come.



Here for a season...?



HE LOOKS happy enough, but the O's promotion hopes were dashed in the play off final against Blackpool.

We were taking a weekend break on the day of the final, and found a wide-screen satellite TV in a public lounge. My reputation for being a rather restrained and placid sort of bloke was destroyed in an instant when the O's took the lead in the first minute. I was nearly disowned by my embarrassed family.

Despite taking the lead again later in the match Barry's team could not hold on. Heroic efforts by the O's goalie were just not enough against an inspired Blackpool attack. The final result was 4-2 and so the O's have to wait another season.

In July there was an encouraging sign of the O's future success when they won their first pre-season friendly 13-1 against ..er.. Buckfastleigh.

Inside this issue

Small World	2
Election Report	2
Marathon Man	3
A Brief Education	4
Datafile	5
In Search of an Author	6
Roy Skinner: life in NZ	6
Staff Room	7
Wartime Memories	8
Under-achievers of 1960	8
Meet Jack!	8
OB Historian	8
Shamed	9
Arrested as Spies	9
Moment of Glory	9
Profile - Martyn Heather	10
Letters to the Editor	10
Where are they Now?	11
Obituary	24

Coming up....

Features in the next edition will include:

Profile - Frank Silver

Racing drivers, TV stars, film producers

.... and lots more!