

# OLD BUCKWELLIANS NEWS



November 1999

## Goodbye and hello

THIS is the umpteenth time I have started to write the Editorial for the next issue of "OBA News". As you are all too well aware I have up to now failed to complete the task.

As the Dinner approached I was determined to issue a Newsletter shortly afterwards and include therein a plea for someone who could devote more time to take on the role of Editor.

I am pleased to say this has proved unnecessary as Graham Frankel is eager to step into my shoes. It is relief not to have to twist somebody's arm to take on the job and having a keen volunteer bodes well for the future. I will say

no more on the subject as this is Graham's first Newsletter and I'll leave him to introduce himself.

The run-up to the Dinner is always a slightly worrying time. After the extremely well attended 50th Anniversary Dinner in 1997 there were high hopes for a good attendance in 1998. Numbers were, however, so low at one stage that cancellation became a real possibility. In the end approximately 50 people attended and a proposal to hold the Dinner bi-annually in future was firmly rejected.

This year the initial response was excellent but then tailed off as it became clear a lot of regulars were unable to attend.

A late rush pushed the numbers up and as you will no doubt read elsewhere that about 75 old boys and staff attended and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

My first Newsletter in October 1990 indicated I was taking on the job on a temporary basis only and that I would be relying on contributions from you. A tenure of 9-years was not perhaps as temporary as I had in mind but I did receive a lot of letters from "out there" and would like to thank all those who took the trouble to write. I apologise for not having published or responded to all the letters received since the last issue but these have

been passed on to Graham who will again, of course, rely on your contributions. As I said in my first issue "any little snippet of information whether about yourself or someone else connected with the school is always of interest and is really what this Newsletter is all about".

Differences that seemed so relevant at school now seem totally irrelevant. When meeting or reading about an erstwhile colleague twenty or more years on it matters not at all whether they were in 5A or 5C or if they played football or the violin!

**Brian Hughes**

**ALL change in the editorial office! I'm the one whose arm has not been twisted.**

**Before introducing myself I'd like to pay tribute to Brian for writing the newsletter during the nineties.**

**Although the school has now been closed for ten years, I am sure many of us would like to stay in touch with others who were there, either as pupils or members of staff and this newsletter is an essential link.**

**I guess that most of you reading this will have been loyal members of the Old Buckwellians since you left the school. But there are many others, like me, who never joined. In my own case, this wasn't a deliberate attempt to lose contact with the school. But I can't think why, while on holiday this year, I had the idea that the increasing popularity of e**

**mail and internet gave us an excellent opportunity to establish contact.**

**Like most of my ideas, this turned out to be unoriginal, and on returning home I soon discovered not only that the Old Buckwellians Association was alive and well, but also that BHCHS even had its own web site (see article on page 2).**

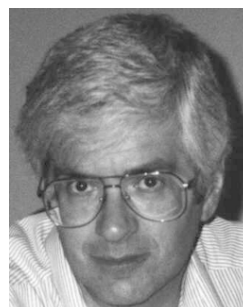
**I aim to issue one newsletter per year. If there is enough interesting material I'd be happy to increase the frequency, but I don't want to make any rash promises at this stage. Much will depend on our success in tracing more people.**

**I look forward to hearing from you with your contributions and welcome any articles and ideas.**

**Since I became involved in all this several people have commented about the ques-**

**tion of reunions and in the light of Brian's comments maybe the time has come for a review of the future format of the annual dinner.**

**I hope you will allow my use of the school crest rather than the Old Bucks' single lion This was quite deliberate on my part. I believe that it is especially important to keep in mind the school motto as the memory of the school itself becomes more distant.**



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