



A Member of the Family
of Haberdashers' Schools

The Haberdashers' Adams' Federation Adams' Grammar School

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Old Novaportan Newsletter Winter 2008/09

It is some time since we issued a Newsletter to our Old Novaportans (although there have been a number of e-mails about certain events going on in school, and we hope you have been able to keep an eye on the website too.)

It goes without saying therefore that there is much news to report and we are delighted to be able to share this with you now.

Farewell to Jim Richardson



In September 2007 Headmaster of fourteen years, Jim Richardson, advised governors, staff and parents of the school that he would be stepping down as Headmaster at the end of the academic year in July. He did so with very mixed emotions but with the very good wishes and gratitude of the entire school community. To quote a short piece from Jim's last school newsletter:

"I am proud of what has been achieved at Adams' in the past fourteen years – the achievements of the staff as a whole, current and past pupils and the Governors – and of the community that Adams' is today. If I were to try to list all those achievements then it would become fourteen speeches at Prize Day all rolled into one. I do not see that as necessary. What has been achieved will be noted in the School's history as testament; more importantly I do not see it as my achievement but as that of the whole community."

It is right that Jim should be proud. We are exceptionally grateful for everything Jim has done for Adams'. We are also very happy that he has not left the school totally. Jim has a new role as CEO of The Haberdashers' Adams' Federation (*of which more later*) and this ensures his continuing involvement as mentor and supporter, not to mention his ongoing role as 2nd XV coach!

Welcome to New Headmaster

Last February the Governors appointed Michael Barratt to succeed Jim in the role of Headmaster from September 2008. Prior to this Michael had been Deputy Head (Curriculum) at Adams' for five years and teacher of Business Studies and Mathematics. The decision had the strong backing of pupils, parents and staff.



Succeeding Jim, Michael has expressed his intention to continue to grow all that is positive, building on the best of what has gone before, continuing to achieve excellent results, but also improving the journey to attain them through developing well rounded, interesting pupils. Michael is also keen to regenerate and extend our activities in the important area of Old Novaportans (*Please see paragraph later in this Newsletter.*)

Dr Peter Pack, formerly Head of Maths, replaces Michael Barratt as Deputy Head (Curriculum). Dr Burrows becomes Head of Maths.



The Haberdashers' Adams' Federation

In September Adams' Grammar School became part of The Haberdashers' Adams' Federation. At the same time, Abraham Darby School in Madeley, South Telford became Abraham Darby Academy and also came under the banner of the Federation. A trust has

been established over the two schools by The Haberdashers' Company and it is widely considered that the partnership promises great benefits to both parties. Jim Richardson has steered this project from the outset and takes on the role of CEO of the Federation. Abraham Darby is a Performing Arts College, Adams' Grammar School has Technology College status, Language College status and is also a Training School. Both schools have already been able to share best practice in a number of areas.

Ofsted

Last January the Ofsted inspectors visited school and the resulting report of their findings pronounced Adams' to be outstanding in nearly every category. Categories which are examined include overall effectiveness of the school; effectiveness of the sixth form; boarding provision; achievements and standards; personal development and well being; quality of teaching and learning; curriculum and other activities; care, guidance and support; leadership and management. The quote of a parent "*What a fantastic school!*" opened the report, it included superlatives throughout and made special mention of Adams' as a real community with a strong, distinct and unique ethos which is valued by all the members of the community. The Headmaster passed on the reported findings at the same time as thanking staff, pupils and parents alike for their hard work and support. He also indicated school's determination to remain ambitious and self critical and its commitment to bring about further improvements to make the school even more effective.

Results!

Once again there were celebrations this Summer thanks to a record set of public examination results – 76% of A-level passes were at A or B grade and 72% of GCSE passes were A or A*. The school has seen a substantial improvement in the quality of its results over the last fourteen years. This overall level of achievement provides a broad brush picture of the school's academic success, yet it is the individual's success which is far more important. Some pupils exceeded their own expectations by some considerable margin and some were disappointed; there are always successes and disappointments, even with results like these.

New Science Block

HRH Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex, honoured us by visiting school in September 2007 to perform the opening ceremony for a splendid new building. Our new science block stands on the site of its predecessor but incorporates eight new labs for physics, biology and chemistry. It is fully equipped for twenty-first century teaching and learning and is now being put to excellent use on a daily basis. We have named it after our previous Chairman of Governors, Bruce Powell.



Music

Music in school goes from strength to strength. There are numerous choral and instrumental ensembles of all styles and many more opportunities to perform before an audience than has hitherto been the case. A record number of pupils are also learning instruments in school now.

At the end of last term the school staged ***West Side Story***. Not only is this a very famous musical, it is also a very challenging one to perform in terms of its complex music, energetic choreography, and demanding character acting. With excellent direction from Nick Moor, Hannah Perrins and Amie Mills, our pupils produced an outstanding performance, eliciting a standing ovation on the final night.

You will know from our e-mails to you at the time that our own '**Common Room Choir**' took part in the BBC televised *Last Choir Standing* programme over a number of weeks in July. This was a choir brought together by one sixth form student on his own initiative and, whilst they did not win the competition (they were robbed!), they progressed through to an advanced stage and enjoyed an amazing experience.

The **House Music** competition has now been a feature of the school calendar for four years. Taking place during an evening in November it has become a truly thrilling highlight of the year. This year was no exception. 150 pupils took part, having practiced and perfected their contributions over many weeks. The standard, as in previous years, was very high and this year Ms Alison Ruston from Burton Borough School had the unenviable task of adjudicating. Since the event was once again oversubscribed we set up a live video link to the PAC foyer where more people were able to enjoy the performances. The results of this year's competition were close but Clive House emerged as winners of the House Music Cup 2008. An appreciative parent summed up the evening:

"Laughter, tears, tension, humour. What a stunning night. How quickly can four hours go? We are so pleased we came and now we want more!"

350th Development Fund – Update

Music Department Build Target = £435,000.00

Fundraising continues for our much anticipated Music Department and I would like to take the opportunity of this Newsletter to update you on its progress and to thank those of you who have already supported the appeal by way of your generous donations and pledges.

Nevertheless we do still have some way to go before reaching our target of £435,000.00 and I would therefore encourage any of you who have not donated to re-consider. We would love to be able to commence building work later this year. Many pledges of varying amounts have been made by Old Novaportans. Some current donors support the Appeal through their employers' Give As You Earn schemes. These schemes allow you to support charities by making a gift out of gross pay, there is no need to make any tax claim and the money is put in the School's Appeal bank account free of tax. Some banks and other employers will also match your donations. You can also make use of the tax benefits for charities to help us reach our goal.

As a registered charity Adams' Grammar School can reclaim the basic rate tax if you sign the Gift Aid Declaration on our donor form. This increases the value of your Gift by 28%. In addition, if you are a higher rate tax payer, you can reclaim the difference between basic and higher rate tax (40-22=18%) on the gross value of your gift through your tax return.

We would greatly appreciate your support to help us transform the facilities at School for the benefit of our current – and future - pupils. If you would like to discuss this or simply obtain more details our Development Manager, Ruth Turner, would love to talk to you. You can reach her on 01952 386307 or by e-mail ruth.turner@adamsgs.org.uk.

Sports Tours 2008

Last Summer two sports tours left the school for foreign climes to represent their school in rugby, netball and hockey. The rugby players left for Singapore and Australia. The squad comprised 43 boys and they played ten games in five different locations. This was the seventh tour to be organised since 1996. Our netballers and hockey players visited Barbados.

Quite apart from the unforgettable experience they enjoyed and which will remain with them for the rest of their lives, they also acted as the best ambassadors for Adams'. Many host families in those countries took the trouble to make contact with us and to speak glowingly of the way our pupils conducted themselves. The following summed up the tributes of the rest: "I would like to congratulate you on the quality of the pupils at your school. We had two of your pupils staying with us and I must say they were two of the nicest students we have ever met. They had delightful manners and spoke very highly of their school, being perfect ambassadors. Throughout their stay with us they conducted themselves in a manner in which your school and their families should be proud."

Thanks to ONs We were delighted to welcome ONs **Peter Short** (who plays for premier rugby club Bath) and **Philip Smart** when they surprised us with a visit to one of our pre-rugby tour conditioning sessions in April 2008. Both old boys were part of the inaugural rugby tour to South Africa in 1996. Peter donated two shirts, one Bath and one England International, both of which had been signed by the current team players. The shirts were later auctioned at the Sportsman's Dinner which was held to raise funds in advance of this year's tour. We thank him wholeheartedly for that gesture. Both Peter and Phil were delighted to see rugby flourishing at Adams' and were full of praise for the standards of rugby and fitness on display back in April.

ON Sports Weekend 2008 12th – 14th December 2008

The annual Old Boys weekend this year once again proved to be an outstanding festival of sport.

Basketball The weekend started on Friday evening with the school basketball team playing against a very large squad of old boys numbering 15 players in total. School quickly established a 10 point lead, their greater understanding proving significant. However, in terms of class and the ability to improvise, one had to hand it to the Old Boys. The very successful team of two years ago were present all bar one. They were complemented by Dams, Smith and Taylor who appear to have passed the ball even before receiving it. This game was very well supported and the spectators were kept entertained from beginning to end. Despite making a strong rally in the 3rd and 4th quarters the Old Boys could not make up the differential established early on. School eventually won 48-42.

Hockey My only statement here would be that the quality of hockey was tremendous, the control and stick work by both teams was a delight to watch. This really does reflect the tremendous work that Mr Armstrong has invested in the team. It was also great to see Mr Tweedle assisting with the umpiring.

Mr Armstrong reports: It was an early start at St Georges, Telford, as the 1st XI hockey team looked to play against the Old Boys, fresh from a term of university and raring to keep up the unbeaten run for another year. The game started at a frenetic pace, with both teams jostling for possession and territory, the visitors eventually breaking the deadlock. It was not long after that Adams' were awarded their first short corner, which was left to the expertise of Nick Middleton to unleash a drag flick into the roof of the net. To prove that it wasn't a fluke he then went and repeated the feat twice more before the break, although the Old Boys did pull one back to leave the score at 3-2. In the second half it was the visitors who drew level once again, but thankfully Sean O'Brien was found loitering on the back post during another flowing move, tapping in from close range. Matt Grech then converted, after a nifty bit of skill, before the Old Boys managed to score one more, which was not quite enough to deny Adams' the famous victory. It was a great game of hockey and a true advert for the talent which currently exists in school and also from recent times too! The boys were superb, with Matt Jones working his socks off and being awarded Man of the Match. It was a 1st XI debut for Dan Scriven, who played in goal and did a great job to deny the Old Boys a share of the spoils. The result bodes well for games after Christmas, where we will be looking to work on our first Shropshire Cup at U18s level.

Netball Starting at 11am a round robin of games were played. In total four teams were on display. The support for netball by the Old Girls is simply fantastic. Teams were organised around the tours they attended. School side beat last year's side 9-6 before being beaten by the New Zealand tour squad. New Zealand then beat Barbados before going on to lose to a select Malta squad.

Rugby In the afternoon everyone congregated at Longford for the eagerly anticipated rugby match between school and last year's side. This was without doubt the best Old Boys side since 2000. Pre-match favourites were the Old Boys. This team was jam packed with talent and significantly most had moved on to clubs and universities where their game had continued to develop. Michael Hill and Michael Willets had put much thought into how they were going to approach the game. School however hit the game at 100 miles an hour. They played with an intensity and passion that blew the opposition plans into smithereens; their attitude of mind and body totally focused on winning. The pack were simply awesome. They had to withstand a colossus in the form of the opposition front row but managed to stick to the game plan and simply play the game on the other side of the park. Kendal's ferocity in the early clashes proved significant; he simply did not allow them to build any momentum from the scrum. Hie and Bonser, who has had an outstanding season, were in the opposition's faces throughout. A lovely aspect of the game saw Owain Barton with his first full cap for the 1st XV, and significantly against his brother at scrum half. The spoils on this occasion went to Barton the younger. One got the feeling after the match that the Old Boys, though disappointed, were pleased to see their legacy prevailing.

On Sunday the old Old Boys and friends of the school contested a super first half. This game is billed as Old Novaportans vs Shropshire Gentlemen. Current teachers Mr Robins, Mr Blount and Mr Skeate all played significant parts and were supported by Mr Trower and gap student Jasper da Seymour. The oldest boys there, Ben Nelson, who has played in every game since the conception of the ON sports weekend, demonstrated great verve and resilience. The mouth watering contest of Jamie Robinson and George Browning lived up to all expectations; these two not only have talent in abundance but are also real gladiators on the pitch. Some of the old boys did not really appreciate the half time interval. The score was 0-0. Unfortunately some weary legs could not really get started again and Shropshire Gentlemen ran in four unanswered tries. A fight back was staged by Old Novaportans and the score finished 28-19.

The Old Novaportan institution gets stronger each year and remains the best weekend in the school calendar. It is simply a delight to see old friends.

Mr Mulhern

350th Anniversary ON Golf Day

Some time has now elapsed since our celebrations to mark our 350th Anniversary year. Whilst the various events which took place during the course of the year were reported on in previous issues of the Old Novaportan Newsletter we would nevertheless mention the golf day which was organised entirely by Old Novaportans **Anthony Warner** and **Tony Mann**. Many Old Novaportans were able to return to enjoy a day's golf and each other's company but it has never been reported in the Newsletter that this event, which took place on a sweltering hot day in July, raised the fantastic sum of **£1,468** for the school's 350th Anniversary Appeal. The school expressed its gratitude at the time but would like to place it on record here now. An added bonus is that a number of the ON players have continued to play together socially since then.



ON Golf Day winners with Gillian Barber, AGS Marketing Manager

ON Society

Our former pupils are very important to us. We are therefore in the process currently of considering how we can improve our contacts with Old Novaportans and increase our level of activity. We certainly want to improve and extend the database and we are looking at the feasibility of re-establishing the Old Novaportan Society. The purpose of the Society would be to welcome the involvement of more former pupils, encouraging them to keep in touch with school, network with each other at social events and establishing a wider database of alumni.

In order for this to succeed however we will need the active support and involvement of some ONs who share our aspiration and are willing to assist. It will take time and resources. If you are interested in helping out in some way or if you would like to share your own ideas do please make contact with us. Please call Ruth Turner, Development Manager, on (01952) 386307. E-mail: ruth.turner@adamsgs.org.uk.

Online ON Register

Are you registered?...

We are always keen to extend the database we have in school of Old Novaportans. We are particularly keen to increase the number of ON e-mail addresses registered. You can search for old friends and put in your own profile on our secure site. Go to the school website at www.adamsgs.org.uk and click on the Old Novaportan link on the left, or reach it direct at www.oldnovaportan.org.uk. Also, if you change e-mail addresses please remember to let us know.

Dates for the diary:

Summer Ball 2009 – Saturday 27th June

Our parents' society (AGSS) are beginning to plan the 2009 Summer Ball! This is always an enjoyable, sell out event and it is hoped that 2009 will be no exception! This year the Ball will be held on **Saturday 27th June** in a fantastic marquee in the grounds of Longford Hall. The evening includes a delicious four course meal with dancing to a live band and disco. In addition there will be a fun casino and a raffle with some fabulous prizes. Ticket applications and full details will be circulated at a later date.

Merchandise

The School shop has a range of merchandise which may appeal to our former pupils.

The range includes:

Mr Adams' Free Grammar School by David & Ruth Taylor	
Hardback history book of the school	£15.95
Old Novaportan tie (silk)	£20
Old Novaportan tie (polyester)	£8
Cufflinks – hallmarked silver and enamel	£30
Stickpins - metal and enamel	£4
Wooden plaque	£25
Notelets	£3 per pack
Glass coaster featuring school crest (limited stock)	£10
Glass paperweight featuring school crest (limited stock)	£10



All prices are exclusive of post and packing.

If you would like to purchase any item please contact School Enterprise Manager, Mrs Carol Little, who will be pleased to help you. E-mail: carol.little@adamsgs.org.uk Tel: (01952) 386317

Old Novaportans' News

We love to receive news from our Old Novaportans throughout the year and many of you are happy for us to pass on the news to other ONs through this Newsletter. Do please keep in touch.

Simon Gomberg (2001-2008) Former School Captain, Simon learned during his final year at Adams' that he was to be made an apprentice of the Haberdashers' Company. On completion of the apprenticeship (which is usually of five years' duration these days) Simon will become a Freeman of the Haberdashers' Company. This will also give him Freedom of the City of London. Simon is apprentice to Dr Roger Johnson, Governor and former Vice Chairman of Governors of Adams'. As such he will keep in touch with Dr Johnson and be expected to take an interest in the Company and to attend social functions there. Later he may apply to become a Liveryman, the senior grade of Haberdasher.

Les Curtis (1955-1961) wrote in to tell us about the latest reunion he has organised:

“On the evening of Saturday, 27th October, the third “fringe” reunion for (mainly) fifth form Old Novaportans from 1960-61 was held at The Swan pub in Lower Bar, Newport. Organised by Des Smallman and Martin Moran, the event was once more a resounding success, with real ale and sandwiches in addition to a wonderful atmosphere as reminiscences filled the pub with laughter. One participant travelled from Lancashire, only not to be recognised as he had seemingly grown a foot taller in the intervening 46 years! (It must be something to do with standing up to your knees in the river fishing, J.D...) The numbers increase modestly, year by year, and the organisers are anxious to make contact with as many class mates from these years as possible, as there are still many whom we still have to track down. If you are an ex Adams’ boy from these years, contact may be made via Les Curtis at les.curtis@bcu.ac.uk Hoping to hear from you, and see you at The Swan next year!”

From left: John Challoner, John JD Smith, Martin Elkes, Peter Beardmore, Des Smallman, Les Curtis, Roy Sewell, Lewis Richardson, Bob Fordham



As well as sending us this report Les has put together the most wonderful CD of reminiscences (collected from a number of his contemporaries). Also included are pictures from school trips (remember Fieberbrunn?), school sports teams, his old school form and the various reunions he has enjoyed in recent years.

Thank you Les, it is a truly wonderful record and we are delighted that you have donated one to school for our archive.

Now there's an idea for all you other ONs out there – perhaps we should organise a competition? ...

Assistant Commissioner Armstrong (Frank) (left 1979) of the City of London Police is an Old Novaportan and is pictured leading the Lord Mayor’s Show on his horse last Autumn.



AC Armstrong

Alun Oliver (1979–86) MCIM MBA FRICS is Managing Director of Property Taxation Specialist, E3 Consulting, with offices in Dorset, Manchester, London and Southampton. Alun was elected last year to be Chairman of the RICS South East Regional Board. As well as being a recognised expert in the field of property tax, including capital allowances land remediation tax relief and landfill tax exemption, Alun regularly speaks at conferences and is part-time tutor at The College of Estate Management. Alun is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers and a Governor of Hatcham Federation. He also organised the Old Novaportan 350th Anniversary Dinner at Haberdashers’ Hall, London in 2007.

Edward Arnold (1997–2004) graduated in the Summer of 2007 from Lancaster University with a First Class honours degree in Music Technology. He is setting up his own recording studio business. During his time at university Edward gained a lot of experience recording numerous performances staged by the music department and also outside bodies ranging from small groups through to big bands, full orchestras and the Proms.

We also learned that first class degrees were achieved in Summer 2007 by **Andrew Kosinski** (Civil Engineering, Imperial College) and **Matthew Lawrence** (Civil Engineering, Warwick University). We would love to hear from more ONs about their degree successes.

Mr Russell Levett (1941–1945 Harman House) was prompted to write after he saw our Common Room Choir’s performances on Last Choir Standing on television. Russell was from London but came to Adams’ when his father was stationed at Donnington and his wife and son were allowed to lodge too after the London blitz. To obtain a place he was interviewed by Headmaster Brooks and tested in ‘the three Rs’. Having obtained a year 11 London scholarship Mr Levett was accepted onto the ‘80 List.’ He was admitted into Form 1 Remove and progressed to form VA before eventually returning to London with his parents. He played rugby and cricket for the colts and 2nd XI teams, also the cross country team. He joined the school flight of the Air Training Corps; this discipline held Russell in good stead when called up into the RAF where he served in the UK, Germany (during the Berlin Airlift) and Malta. As well as his interesting and informative letter he was kind enough to send some memorabilia, a report and copies of former school ties, which we will now treasure in our archive of historic artifacts

Victoria Banks (1996-98) was selected last year to direct a Wolverhampton theatre group’s biggest production for a decade. Toria took the reins to prepare the Central Youth Theatre members for a show about the Sunbeam manufacturing firm. *The Supreme Sunbeam* was a specially written play describing a nostalgic trip through time from busy workshops in Victorian Wolverhampton to Florida in the 1920s where a Sunbeam racing car broke the

world land speed record. Toria is a former St Catherine's College, Oxford student who has an MA in Theatre Directing from Royal Holloway College and has directed numerous productions in London, Wales and Oxford.

Richard Slade (1976–78) wrote after reading about our latest Ofsted report. Richard is Headteacher at Joseph Lancaster Primary School in London. He boarded at Adams' for two years before relocating to Kent with his family but was gracious to recall very vivid and happy memories of his time at Adams' – particularly playing sport and good food. Richard's early career was in the City but after six years he undertook a BEd course at Cambridge University, graduating in 1996. Since then he has worked in inner city schools and is now a Headteacher, as mentioned. Richard is married and has four children of his own.

Gerald Addis (1951–58) was a boarder in Ward House during his time at Adams'. Gerald retired from his career as a solicitor three years ago, having been admitted in 1973. Prior to that time Gerald had worked in banking and in insurance. As a solicitor Gerald was first in partnership in Bristol before running his own general practice, then joining the CPS. For the last ten years of his career he worked as a freelance advocate, prosecuting and defending.

David Conroy (1947–54) A boarder in Ward House and nicknamed "Fish" whilst at school, David joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a "Regular" for a 3-year period on leaving School. During this time he was trained as a Medical Laboratory Technician and as a Specialist in Medical Zoology; he also took the Junior Commanders' Course while in the Army.

David went on to read biological sciences in the University of London, and qualified in 1959. In 1960 he moved to Argentina where he was in charge of the Microbiology Laboratory of a large Company. At the same time, he took a post-graduate qualification in microbiology in the University of Buenos Aires. He was appointed to the Teaching Staff of the University, and moved to a position with the rank of Associate Professor and Research Scientist in the Inter-University Institute of Marine Biology, in Mar del Plata. It was in Argentina that he started his future professional career as a specialist in fish diseases.



*Front Lto R: David Conroy, Roger Baldwin, Roy Farmer, Cerdic Warrillow, Leroy, Newton
Back: unknown, unknown, Newt Major, Derek Smith, Mr Sheldon, Ward Housemaster and Senior Science Master*

In 1966 he went from Argentina to Aberdeen, where he worked on fish diseases in connection with the then fledgling salmon farming industry in Scotland. In 1970 he was appointed to a Research Fellowship in the Zoological Society of London, where he helped set up a Fish Pathology Unit at Regent's Park.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations contracted his services as a Consultant/Expert on Fish Diseases in 1973, and he continued to travel extensively.

David has held numerous distinguished positions in his specialized field and been awarded Honorary Professorships and similar such academic distinctions by many universities in Central and South America. Furthermore, as a scientist, he is the author/co-author of 140 publications, 60 Conference Presentations, and 11 books, manuals etc. in English and in Spanish. He received the "Briscoe Prize" from the Institute of Science Technology in 1959, is a Chartered Biologist, and was elected to Fellowship of the Institute of Biology (London) in 1994.

David has a son (also an Old Novaportan, and now a successful businessman in the "fishy field"), a daughter (a Veterinarian) and three grand-daughters by his first marriage. He has two more sons (a future Veterinarian and a future Mechanical Engineer) by his second marriage.

In retirement David continues to work quite actively as a private Consultant but does take things a little more quietly these days. He sends his best wishes to all of his former class mates, from whom he would be pleased to receive news!

Charlie Huxley (1999-2004) Now a jockey and winner of the Scottish Grand National 2008 riding Iris de Balme.

Gareth Wild (1996–1998 in the sixth form) e-mailed at the end of last year to inform us that he has been awarded a PhD in Chemistry. After taking his A-levels at Adams' Gareth went on to study Chemistry at Hull University and remained there for his PhD. He is now teaching Chemistry in the city.



Charlie Huxley

Sam Baxter (1995 -2000) and **Bill Mohin** (1995 -2001) are both pursuing careers in television. They have recently worked on Big Brother 9, Sam as an Editor and Bill as a Researcher.

Lee Jones (1994-99) is currently embarking on a career as a professional boxer. Trained and managed by former world champion Richie Woodhall, at the time of writing Lee remained undefeated after two professional bouts.

Iain Cameron (1946 –1951) has made contact with us. In Harman House, Iain played rugby for school and later for the Old Novaportans, also Newport Town Rugby Club. He undertook National Service in the Royal Marine Commandos and later joined the City of London Police. Iain achieved a BSc in Technology and on leaving the Police became Director of an electronics company, traveling throughout the United States and Europe. Iain has four married children and five grandchildren. Now retired, Iain lives in the Charente area of France and spends time writing novels.

Visitors

In addition to receiving all the above news we are delighted that a number of old boys have paid us a visit over the last year. Amongst them are **Mr John Lloyd** (1954-62) and Mrs Lloyd, now resident in the United States; **Mr Peter Pasquill**, now Head of International Studies at Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz, an international boarding school in Switzerland; **Mr Eric Brown** (1930s) and Mrs Brown who still live locally and who revisited school for the first time since leaving as a pupil. This was as part of a wonderful day to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary.

Obituaries

Since the last Newsletter we have been saddened to learn about the deaths of the following ONs:

WK Chalmers (1936-43) Keith (aka Gol) husband of Carita and brother of Danny and the late Campbell, died in Manchester on June 3rd 2007. He was at AGS 1936 – 43. House Captain of Taylor and Deputy Head Prefect. On leaving, he spent ten years in the Fleet Air Arm , during which time he studied aeronautical engineering at Edinburgh University and finished as Lieutenant (Engineering).

In 1954 he joined the Unilever Group as a Production Manager in Manchester. In 1958 he was transferred to Nigeria to become Manager of their Africa Timber and Plywood Company. From 1970 -78 he was General Manager Bruynzeel Medeiros, a Dutch Timber Company in Brazil.

After a short FAO assignment in North Korea, Keith became General Manager of a World Bank timber/plywood project in Bhutan from where he retired to Gatley in Cheshire to indulge his favourite hobby - amateur dramatics. He was delighted when a few years ago one of his plays "The Meanest Weapon" was produced by a local theatre group.

Charles Quant (1929 – 1936) died at the age of 88 in June 2007 after a short illness. As former chief Welsh affairs correspondent of the Daily Post Mr Quant charted the modern life of North Wales through journalism. Indeed, he ended his writing career for the newspaper as a columnist after 50 years – just short of his 80th birthday. A former alderman on Flintshire Country Council and a magistrate for 25 years he was awarded the MBE for services to the community and was a Lieutenant of the Victorian Order for his service to the Prince of Wales. Mr Quant was a founder member and remained on the Prince of Wales Committee for 25 years. The committee had 10,000 volunteers and carried out £10m worth of projects for the good of Wales. Turning down jobs on the nationals Mr Quant's work took him much further afield than Wales; he reported on wars in Malaya, Cyprus, Kenya and Yemen. Whilst unable to serve with the Army during World War II owing to the loss of an eye, he later became a radiographer with the Eighth Army in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. In 2003 we were delighted to welcome Charles back to school from his home near Mold for the opening of our sports hall. Charles leaves his wife Rosemary, a son and a daughter and two grandchildren.

We wish to offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of all Old Novaportans who have died recently.

Sharing your ON Newsletter ...

As you know we now e-mail the Newsletter to Old Novaportans, rather than using conventional mail. A small number of you have requested still to receive hard copy by post and of course we are very happy to comply with this request.

However, we are keen to reach many more Old Novaportans and so we would ask for your support. If you are in touch with old AGS friends who may not receive the Newsletter already please forward a copy on to them. We would love them to register on our database and then we can send the Newsletter direct to them in future. (See paragraph earlier in the Newsletter). If you have any queries at all do please contact the School Development Office. (01952) 386307 or e-mail gill.barber@adamsgs.org.uk or ruth.turner@adamsgs.org.uk.

With very best wishes.

M J Barratt
Headmaster