



# THE OLD RUYMIAN CLUB

*The Club for VIth Formers, Former Pupils, and Current and Former Staff of Chatham House, Clarendon House, and Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School*

## **OR Newsletter no. 13**

**Please Register on the OR Website.**

### **Chairman's Report October 2022**

This, the latest newsletter, has been possible after we recently received a large number of articles which are included.

You will find the minutes of the 2022 AGM and a short write up of the Annual dinner, held at the School in Chatham Street. The menu and food was organised by the School's catering staff.

The after dinner presentation was given by Mr. Lenny Clarke, a guide at Canterbury Cathedral, who discussed at length on the ancient and historic building and events that have occurred over the centuries. Many thanks to Carole Copeland for organising the speaker this year.

During last month a couple of the committee attended a meeting of the Combined Cadet Force – CCGS Contingent at the old Chatham House Grammar School grounds, where we presented a cheque for a donation agreed at the AGM.

We also received a couple of reports on the OR Cricket Week in August and the Annual Golf day at North Foreland golf course.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Old Ruymian Club, held on  
Saturday 25 June 2022, in the Library of CCGS (Chatham Street, Ramsgate)**

**Opening and welcome address by the Chairman.**

2 OR voting club members attended the meeting, including the following committee members:

Chairman - Mike Tyrrell,

Secretary - John Copeland

Treasurer - Janet Hughes

Ordinary Member - Anthony Jones, Sue Hurrell

**Apologies for Absence.**

Richard Stone, Anthony Carpenter, Richard Hawkins, Richard Tyrrell, Geoff Ward, Mark Lewis, Terry Dennett, Colin Harvey, Colin Whittaker, David Bushell, Stephan Whitaker, Tony Debling.

**Minutes of 2019 AGM**

Minutes were first published in the July! August 2019 Newsletter. Copies were available at the current 2022 meeting for any member who had not seen them.

**Matters arising**

No matters were arising from the minutes.

Proposer for acceptance of the minutes Peter Crisp, seconded Philip Goldsmith

**OR Club Honorary Chairman's report 2021 - 2022**

Well, here we are once again. As you know, we deferred the AGMs the last couple of years, but sent out reports from the Club Officers instead, which showed we were making the best of a pretty difficult and strange time.

2021 was initially very hard, as any planning was continually thwarted because of reintroduced lockdowns and restrictions on gatherings.

We would not have been able to use the library or dining room as they would have been in lock down! Members from outside of Thanet would not have been able to travel here and we had no means of catering the annual dinner.

But the fact that we are now all mostly triple jabbed and have been told we can meet once more, we have been able to organise the AGM and Annual Dinner.

The lockdowns and Covid restrictions have been particularly onerous for the School. When

the students had been allowed back into the premises, they were tested continuously for the virus and outsiders were not allowed onto the grounds. It was a relief then, when we were allowed to utilise the library and dining hall for this year.

As a recap, during the past three years we have been continuously updating the data base, contacting all those members whether active or lapsed when notifying events such as the AGM and the Reunion Dinner. We have been able to jog the memories of many lapsed members to re-join and others to update their subscriptions.

During the course of this exercise, we sadly have been notified by many families of those ORs who have passed away.

With this in mind, the Committee had discussed numerous ways of attracting younger members to the Club through sports & social events, but had come to the conclusion that the way to move forward was to upgrade the Club's electronic communications; to update our website and upgrade our Facebook profile, etc. This was viewed as an investment for the future of the Club, a donation towards the future of the ORs and our ability to support the School in years to come. You will have thus noted that the OR Website has been modernised and continually being updated as we gather information both past and present about the school. Articles we receive from the membership is added to both the news bulletins and the website along with notification of events being organised

Although the Club's Constitution and Rules needs a little more fine-tuning to ensure that it represents a co-educational school, the basic objectives remain the same that is:

To support the continuing interest in Chatham & Clarendon House Grammar School and raise funds from annual subscription for specific projects to benefit future students.

To publish from time to time, journals and news bulletins concerning the School and OR activities and encourage and provide opportunities for sporting events and social occasions, which enable the OR's to keep in touch with one another.

Mark Lewis has been doing a sterling job in organising the cricket match against the school and the cricket week, but had recently been finding it difficult to attract members to play and put together a team. Fortunately some new young/younger blood is now getting involved and an OR Cricket Club has been initiated, which was notified in the latest news bulletin in April 2022.

Tony Debling continues to organise a successful Yearly Golf event for members, for which he must be congratulated.

I must repeat again that Terry Gilliland should be commended for organising celebratory events for Tommy Thomas's 90th birthday party, even though we had to wait until 2021 due to the virus.

I would especially like to thank Janet Hughes and John Copeland for their help this year along with the rest of the committee members, where we have had to keep in contact by phone.

I included in the April News Bulletin, a 'thank you' from the School on their Web page Christmas newsletter, for our 2021 donation. They also stated how important the O.R.s are to the School, explaining a little of what we achieve during the year and how to join the

membership.

Do remember that the School has a website where you can find a page for 'Friends of Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School'. You can find a large number of interesting events throughout the year on the website.

Once more I ask you to ensure you update the club through the Secretary, when you change your home and email address. It is one of the fastest ways we have for informing you of any events.

Lastly, I repeat, if you have any other thoughts on how to reach colleagues from your School days to help expand the membership or have any suggestions for both sports and social events for all the age Groups that are members of our Club, please do not hesitate to send your ideas to the Secretary, copied to the Chairman. The Committee will then discuss and endeavor to implement them over the coming years. Just a few lines to us will help; it does not have to be a manuscript!

Mike Tyrrell - OR Club Hon. Chairman

### **Old Ruymian Club - Honorary Secretary's Report 2021-2022**

Hello to all Old Ruymians, another year of Covid -19 disruption, Mike Tyrrell OR Club Chairman has already remarked on what unusual times we are in. Hopefully we are nearing the end of disruption to our daily lives and will be able to live normally. It is anticipated that our committee meetings will once again follow the normal pattern at regular intervals and that a new committee can function in the normal way

So repeating what was said last year, what has happened in the last twelve months? I hope that you have been keeping up to date by regularly reading articles from the newsletter published on our website. Last year I stated that in spite of the virus there were some articles contributed by members, but we always need more. The website needs continual updating and made as user friendly as possible and we will be pleased to receive suggestions. This is a challenge aimed particularly at younger members, to find features that can make the website more dynamic and more relevant to our community.

We are always pleased to receive articles that you have written about your school days, your school friends and how you personally value the old school. Some of us may want to look back and reminisce about our youthful days in Ramsgate, but what about the present, what work and activities have you been up to all those intervening years, where are you now? We are waiting for you to write down your thoughts and send them in for the newsletter.

We can make the newsletter an historic source of information and interest for future generations of OR Club members, but only if you sit down and start writing now. To the younger OR Club members, what are your thoughts and aspirations for the future, our world is undergoing rapid changes, and how different will it be in 2030? We hope that all of you were interested in the articles outlining activities attributed to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme We hope to learn more. Please record your experiences and send us a news item.

You are all aware that OR Club subscriptions are mainly for the support of school activities that are outside of funding by the state. These gifts to the school are reported on the website, but some money is also needed for the website, to keep it functioning and for future expansion. With your input of ideas and support we hope to make it the 'go to' channel of contact for all OR Club members. So if you have friends from your school days who are not yet members, please urge them to join. The subscription is less than 30p per week [paid annually by standing order], they already have free access to the website.

My final request to you this year is to make our internet connections essential to all of you, sit down and start writing about yourself and your time at Chatham House / Clarendon House School: we all want to know about you and your life and times. We have a particular request to the girls of Clarendon House, we need more input from the ladies, both students and staff. So start writing we are interested in you.

Note that if you can support your articles with photographs and dates it brings them to life, we love them more.

Eventually the articles can be archived for the interest of future generation of students at CCGS, It will be of particular interest in the future if you are aware of any of your old school friends who have interesting public profiles, please urge them to write a contribution for the future students.

John Copeland - OR Club Hon. Secretary

### **Honorary Treasurer's report 2021- 2022**

This year's accounts 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

There is very little to report - There have been no social events apart from the Golf Day last September and Cricket matches last summer.

There was no dinner last year 2021, but hopefully this evening's dinner will be the start of more social events to come.

As no donation was made to the school in 2021, the £1,500 we originally contributed has been carried over to this year and we have added another £2000 (£ 1 000x2) to that and have provided the school with a donation towards a P A system and sundry other equipment for the school .

I hope all is clear on the draft paperwork you are looking at. Our last Accountant has relocated to Thailand and retired, but I will be putting a written report on our Website along with the audited Accounts. We are fortunate to have an old boy, John Larkins, to 'check my work', but due to other commitments he cannot meet up with me until after the 12th July.

Receipts and Payments year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

31/05/21	Expenditure	Payments	31/05/2022	31/05/21	Income/Receipts	31/05/2022
0.00	AGM Dinner [catering - menu]		0.00	2886.00	Subscriptions & Donations	2684.00
0:00	Donation to CCGS	3500.00		0.00	Interest	0.00
0.00	Donation to CCGS charity/ friends	0.00			AGM Dinner	0.00
0.00	Donations to charity	0.00			AGM Bar	0.00
0:00	Donation Cricket	35.00				
00:00	Donation Cricket ball	8.99				
160:00	Donation Golf Day	00.00				
413.38	AGM Documents and postage	287.81				
720:00	E D Analytics	360.00				
0:00	MISC. Etc.	00:00				
1293.38		4191.80		2886.00		2684.00

Note:

Brought forward from 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 Bank balance 2844.62. Excess of receipts over payments 1136.82 Carried forward as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 1136.82

Signed:

Date:

Examined and found to be correct by:

Janet Hughes - OR Club Hon. Treasurer

Provisionally Proposed by - Peter Crisp      Date: 25/06/2022

Seconded by - John Copeland      Date: 25/06/2022

## **Acting Membership Secretary's report 2021 - 2022**

Although I have updated the deaths of old members in the News Bulletins during the year, sadly I have to inform you of the passing of another three of our club members..

Mr. Mike Bridge

Mr. William Green [passed away Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 aged 94 years]

Mr. R C Swan

The trend is that membership is declining. Previously the committee had considered ways to attract a younger generation of ex-students. The conclusion is this should be through modern communications via the Website, Facebook, Twitter, etc. so we need to update quickly. The Secretary will have touched on this so we hope to attract new younger members going forward.

Currently we have contact details of 402 old boys and girls

Email addresses for 274 of those contacts

Home addresses for 128 contacts

Paid membership now stands at 192

Note that the contact details of lapsed/non-members are now used as a pool of potential new members [approx. 210 in total] and has resulted in several new members re-joining/ joining.

## **Constitution and Rules**

This is work in progress although substantially complete; we need to ensure that it properly represents a co-educational school and is accountable to GDPR.

## **Election of Officers**

It has been three years since our last AGM where a committee was voted into office. In the notification for this AGM in 2022, nominees were called to fill positions on the committee - none were forthcoming. After discussions, it was decided that if the current committee were willing, they would continue for the 2022/ 2023 year. This was passed unanimously.

### **Officers**

Hon. President - Mr. Colin Harvey

Hon. Chairman - Mr. Mike Tyrrell  
Hon. Secretary - Mr. John Copeland  
Hon. Treasurer - Ms. Janet Hughes

Ordinary Members

Mr. Geoff Ward, Mr. Anthony Jones, Mr. Mark Lewis, Mrs. Sue Hurrell

## **To consider donations to the School**

Mr. A. Topping - Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager has placed a request for a donation to purchase a further six three person tents, as they continue to grow the number of students from 28 a year to 56 plus. The total cost would be £420.00,

Flt. Lt. Lowis. Contingent Commander. CCF [RAF] Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School writes that 'The Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School Combined Cadet Force (CCF Royal Airforce) is flourishing, our cadets are learning discipline, comradeship and new skills to equip them in the wider world whilst enhancing their educational learning. Further gliding, along with shooting, camping and flying powered aircraft is all planned to take place very soon.

He further commented, "I'm so pleased to see how our cadets are learning new skills, challenging themselves with unfamiliar activities and getting to build skills that can help a person for a lifetime. I am very proud of all of them" .

Unfortunately, the increase in cost-of-living etc. has meant some of our students' families struggle with affording the extra expense of providing the Multi-Terrain Pattern (MTP) or better known as camouflage along with their smart uniform. Some assistance is available, however we would like to get some MTP uniform, as a 'pool' for those who can't afford their

own kit. Some full kit would be brilliant however individual items would also be of benefit and very welcome by the cadets. The prices are changing almost daily, but we would hope to be able to secure a complete set for around £80 each.

We are also working on securing a flight simulator and for a large ticket item as the monitor, a Samsung OdysseyG95 HD 49" curved Oled, black & white Monitor; any amount towards our target of £ 1200 would be welcome.

Both requests from the students were discussed in depth and it was decided that the six tents should be purchased at £420.

It was decided to give a donation towards £1500 for the Cadets for the purchase of MTP uniforms and the monitor for the flight simulator.

The donations were passed unanimously.

**Notice of Motion** None received.



**Any other business** Phil Goldsmith proposed that students are given free membership to the ORS for 5 years when they leave the school. They will then be invited to pay yearly subscriptions. This was passed unanimously.  
Peter Crisp asked what 'The Friends of the School' do and Sue Hurrell explained their role.

**Close of AGM at 6.32 p.m.**

## O.R. Annual Dinner 2022

The Annual dinner was held at the old Chatham House School in Chatham Street, after the AGM held in the old library. The menu and food was organised by the School's catering staff, which did an excellent job.

The after dinner speaker was Mr. Lenny Clarke, a guide at Canterbury Cathedral who discussed at length on the ancient and historic building and events that have occurred over the centuries.

Many thanks to Carol Copeland for liaising with him to organise this extremely interesting presentation.





## **Combined Cadet Force – CCGS Contingent**

On Tuesday the school's RAF section were very pleased to welcome Mike Tyrell, John Copeland and their wives to a parade night, where some very fresh recruits to the CCF were beginning their training in drill.

They were also able to see some of the older cadets awarded badges in both marksmanship and in flying training. Some cadets had been gliding at RAF Kenley, while others had been flying Grob Tutors at RAF Wittering.

As we continue to grow the school contingent - with a hope that in time we can add an army section too, the acquisition of equipment becomes an ever-growing concern. Not least to ensure that those young men and women whose personal circumstances do not enable them to have the right boots, or other equipment are not left behind when we undertake the activities that help them to develop personally.

Thanks to the very generous donation from the Old Ruymians, we can ensure that the life-enhancing challenges that help to build resilience and self-reliance are not to the exclusion of any pupil in our school.

Cadets are presently readying themselves for future parades, such as Remembrance Sunday. They know full well the sacrifice so many of our fallen schoolfellows made, and to see our young people at attention, and parading is poignant on a great many levels. We as a school also mark Armistice Day itself, with the Last Post being sounded and our Flag resting while the section stands together.

The CCF are very much looking for more volunteers to help us still further, and support of any kind is very much appreciated. I would be happy for any OR with helpful advice or connections to contact the school in order to reach me.

We can be followed through the school's website should anyone wish to know more of our recent exploits.

Craig Lewis,  
Head of Sixth Form,  
Contingent Commander CCF





## *OLD RUYMIAN CRICKET CLUB*

**CRICKET WEEK 2022 – 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August, 2022**

In 1921, what became known as Chatham House Grammar School for Boys came into being in its modern form. This year's revitalised cricket week set out to celebrate the anniversary of cricket being played on the field by the 'new' school of 1921. After some very lean years, not helped by sinkholes, unavailability and Covid, the ORs were able to provide entertaining and competitive cricket over 4 days. With the enthusiasm engendered amongst young and old ORs alike, it is hoped to return to a 5-day cricket week in 2023, which would be just reward for all of those who worked so hard to make 2022 such a success. The perfect cricket weather did help, a complete contrast to so many years in the past, although the extreme heat and fears of a potential drought did mean we were all too aware of the negative effects of the current climate crisis! We were all indebted to the school for allowing us to

re-boot the week and to ex-pupil, Clive Bowden (1966-1972; Bracks/Thomas'), who has been groundsman for as long as we, and he, care to remember. Clive highlights how important it is for the school to employ a fully-qualified replacement when he retires, especially if good quality cricket is to survive at the school and in Thanet. The ad-hoc OR cricket committee would also like to thank the site staff who looked after us so well and Laura Morgan (1997-98; Pearce's), Head of PE at the school, for her support.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 v Nelson CC**

This fixture has been in place since 1995, against one of the longest-surviving Ramsgate clubs, which is also full of ORs. In fact, there were 16 current pupils or ORs playing in the match and 19 past or current Nelson players. Recognising the history involved with the centenary, this was a timed game, with win, lose or draw as possible results. It meant the team bowling second had to bowl their opponents out to win the match. In a thrilling finish and with two balls to go, Nelson fell to 212-9, in the chase of the ORs formidable 220. 13-year-old Will Roby came to the crease to bat with his dad Neil, (1988-1995; Larkin's/Heath's), who was on 31\*. Will scored two off his first ball and salvaged the draw for the visitors, by keeping out the last ball of the match from James Bridgland (1996-2003; Norman's/Pearce's). The Nelson score had been built on the back of the efforts of Jordan Webster (2005-2011; Larkin's/Mann's) whose 40, supported Tom Turner who made 68. Wickets began to fall regularly in the chase, with current pupil, Jack Robbins (2017- Thomas-Sharman) taking 3-45 ensuring the ORs forced Nelson to accept the draw. Earlier, in the OR innings, Josh Walton (2011-2018; Mann-Somerville) scored an organised 60 to back up a belligerent 68 from Josh Christian (2006-2013; Larkin's/Thomas'), as the home side recovered from a sharp opening spell from Nelson's Owen Walton (5 overs, 2-10), ably supported by Reece Heatley (2005-2012; Bracks/Heath's). In the chase for runs for the declaration, wickets fell quickly, with Neil Roby, the pick of the visitors, taking 3-17 and Will Roby taking his first wicket for the Nelson CC.

After the game, both sides 'retired' to the "The Pub" in the High Street, a new local, micro-pub venue for the revamped week, where we were offered really good beer at reasonable prices and a fine finger buffet each night. It was good for old friends to be reacquainted in such pleasant surroundings.

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022 v Band of Brothers CC**

This new and very prestigious fixture was against the *Band of Brothers*, which originated in 1858, as the third wandering side of its type. The key distinction for "BB" was the link, solely, to the county of Kent. Known commonly as "BB", the club founders, the original "brethren", were previous members of the East Kent Rifles. The day before the match our opponents asked for help as they were down to 7 players due to a Covid outbreak. Needless to say, the enthusiasm we had banked on from the ORs and our local friends, ensured that the match was played as an 11 v 11 match. "BB" had 3 Nelson CC players, including Matt Williams (2014-2021; Thomas-Sharman) and his twin, Dan, as well as a Ramsgate Corinthians player, our Chairman, Mark Lewis (1980-1987; Bracks/Coleman's). Ultimately, the match started late due to bad traffic and a 35 over game ensued. Batting first, the ORs were restricted to 166-7, thanks mainly to Martin Christian (1983-1990; Larkins/Thomas'), who scored 67\*



and carried his bat, as others fell around him. Only Shivay Sachdeva (2012-2018; Thomas-Sharman) made much impression from the rest, with an aggressive 28. At tea, the consensus was that the score was 20 or so short. It could well have been 50 or so short as “BB” captain, Tom Boucher (84\*) batted beautifully to guide his side to a comfortable 6-wicket victory, ably supported by Nelson CC’s George Evans (17), who belied his 65 years with some controlled stroke play. They battled against a variety of bowling including the spin of Daaim Hasham (1998-2003; Larkins/Pearce’s then Somerville at Clarendon 6<sup>th</sup> form until 2005), as well as Shivay Sachdeva and Andy Signorell (1966-1974; Norman’s/Simmons’). Nothing that captain Martin Christian tried was able to slow the flow of runs and “BB” strolled to their target in 29.4 overs. It was a pleasure to host a team with so much history in such an historic venue. However, it was a shame the ORs could not have put up a more competitive score. It is certainly hoped that this fixture can be retained and a new rivalry created.



*The two teams come together for a group photo at tea.*

*Some other images, from the game played under clear blue skies, are below, showing Josh Walton and Martin Christian striving to build a competitive score for the ORs.*



### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 v Ramsgate Corinthian CC**

One of the oldest surviving clubs in Ramsgate that has also played more club games at the school than anyone else, returned to play the ORs for the first time in a few years. In another timed game, Corinthians batted first. In the line-up was the prolific Isaac Dilkes and his county playing sister Antonia, who were playing with their dad, Mitchell. They also included three ORs, their captain, Andrew Signorell, Mark Lewis and David Lodge (1970-77; Bracks/Thomas'). Corinthians started well, despite



some tight bowling from current 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain, Joel Duraisingham (2016-;Rothschild-Pearce), (who played every game in the week), with 8 overs 2-29 and Jim Shoobridge (1977-82; Bracks/Simmons' then Heath's), 2-40 off 12. Even so at 104-4, with Isaac Dilkes on 48, and fielding under a hot sun, the ORs captain, James Williams (1986-1993; Bracks/Coleman's) expected to be chasing a high score. The match turned on a spell of 3 wickets in 4 balls, including Isaac Dilkes, as well as a run out, all by Herne Bay CC cricketer, Jack Stephens (2009-2016; White's/Thomas'/Thomas-Sharman). He finished on 4-27 from 8 overs, having earlier removed the stubborn Dave Lodge for 35. Corinthians crumbled to 136 all out, ultimately thankful for a stylish 17 from Antonia Dilkes. In reply, the ORs were rarely troubled, only losing an early wicket to a run out, and won by 9 wickets, reaching 140-1 in just 21.2 overs. James Wilson (2002-2009; Larkins/Pearce's) scored a fluent 69\*, ably supported by Ben Buckingham (1992-99; Bracks/Heath's) 59\*. Buckingham had also taken three superb catches in the first innings, behind the stumps. This first victory of the week meant the ORs could go into the final match, against their oldest rivals on the Friday, with plenty of confidence.



*The victorious OR side, including, potential future sixth-former, Cai Redmond, front left, who was playing in the same side as his dad Gareth (1984-1991; Norman's/Heath's) back left.*

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 v Alexandra Park CC**

AP have been touring Kent since 1921 and first played the ORs in 1929, when they were encouraged by their greatest player and OR, Con Davies, to do so. With a few obvious exceptions, the match has been played on the Friday of cricket week ever since. In recent years the festival element of the match had been lost as the ORs struggled to be competitive. However, with a new organising committee to support OR cricket representative, Mark Lewis, the quality of players that became available for the ORs this year, as a consequence, certainly made a difference. In fact, the team would be a match for most sides, not just one coming to the end of a very busy and tiring tour! Playing their first games of the week, Elliott Fox (2011-2016; Thomas-Sharman), Josh Attwell (2011-2018; Thomas-Sharman) and Craig Alder (2008-2015; Bracks/Heath's/Knight-Heath), certainly added to the youth and quality available to captain James Langridge (2005-2012; Larkins/Heath's), along with those who had played earlier in the week, Dennis Hester (2008-2015; Bracks/Heath's/Knight-Heath) and Senura Ratiyala (2008-2015; Bracks/Heath's/Knight-Heath), Joel Duraisingham, Josh Walton and Jack Stephens. The older players, Tom Murphy (1992-1999; Bracks/Heath's)) and Chris Ross (1995-2002; Larkin's/Pearce's), certainly welcomed the energy and athleticism of their team-mates!

In another timed game, AP batted first, but never got going, struggling to 133 all out. The main bowlers were Jack Stephens with 4-53 off 12 overs and Dennis Hester with 3-19. Joel Duraisingham should be credited again as he led the attack for the fourth time in the week, bowling 12 overs and taking 2-35. In reply the ORs stormed to victory with 21 overs to spare. Elliott Fox smashed a belligerent 44 in an opening stand of 62 with Stephens. After their dismissal, Josh Walton, with 29, laid the foundation for Josh Attwell to come and fire a quick 20\*, in an unbeaten partnership of 27 with Craig Alder (10\*), to secure victory by 6 wickets. This was certainly a shock to the visitors. However, they were thrilled that the ORs seemed revitalised and the future of the fixture secured. They showed their appreciation in "The Pub" afterwards, delighting the manager Nicola and her staff with a string of funny and rewritten versions of singalong classics, as well as sharing plenty of drinks with their hosts.



*At tea, the two sides from Friday enjoy a brief respite, before returning to the action*

### **Overview**

There are so many people to thank after a glorious week of cricket. The enjoyment of all involved was paramount and to see the OR Cricket Week come back to life was the best result. Old friendships and rivalries were renewed along with new challenges for all of us involved. The work of Dennis Hester and Senura Ratiyala and their enthusiasm in getting the week organised, by supporting the Honorary Secretary of the ad-hoc cricket committee, Dave Walton (1974-81; Larkins/Heaths), was invaluable. To see stalwarts like Mark Lewis and Andy Signorell enthused and keen to see the week grow again was also a bonus. We were helped by umpires, Brian Langridge (1970-77; Norman's/School/Pearce's) and Allen Nicholson as well as scorers, James Williams, Andy Signorell and Janet Tunmore (former Head of Rothschild-Pearce House and MFL teacher). The opportunity to provide generous cricket teas, part of the great tradition of the sport, also helped the sense of occasion. ORs from Nelson CC did the honours; James Williams (Monday), David Walton and Janet Tunmore (Wednesday), Reece Heatley (Thursday) and Dennis Hester and Senura Ratiyala (Friday). All deserve great credit for the feasts they provided. Friday's tea, below, laid out for Alexandra Park, was a tremendous spread for our large group of visiting cricketers and their supporters.





Finally, it was also good to maintain the tradition of a drink and a chat in the pub afterwards. “The Pub”, Ramsgate, did not know what to expect, but I think they can be happy, as the ORs are, with how the week went.

### **And Finally..**

If anyone is interested in supporting the ad-hoc committee by participating as player, official or organiser, or as a sponsor for the 2023 Old Ruymian Cricket Week, please contact OR Cricket Representative and Cricket Week Chairman, Mark Lewis, or any one of the following:

Dennis Hester (Match Secretary) [dennishester92@gmail.com](mailto:dennishester92@gmail.com)

Senura Ratiyala (Match Secretary) [senura.ratiyala@gmail.com](mailto:senura.ratiyala@gmail.com)

David Walton (Honorary Secretary) [dwwalton154@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dwwalton154@yahoo.co.uk)

David Walton

August 2022

## *OR Annual Golf Day Report*

*OR Golf Day Fri September 9<sup>th</sup> 2022*

*It was a miserable looking Friday in September with a particularly unpromising weather forecast; however the golfing gods afforded us some pity and provided a window of respite for the modest number of participants in this year's golf day. The coffee and bacon rolls were well received in advance of venturing out into the cool air of the North Foreland Golf Course.*

*Golfing stalwarts Mark Lewis, Terry Gilliland, John Darby, Rob Green, Jeremy Parkin, Nick Alder and Ty Harding set off on the long course, with Jeremy Parkin looking to have his name engraved for consecutive years on the coveted OR Golf Day trophy. Whilst John Darby triumphed in the main event, with Nick Alder a commendable runner-up, Jeremy collected the prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive.*

*The short course had a reduced field of David Wake, Phil Goldsmith and Tony Debling. Sadly the Dixons were unavailable owing to family duties, and Peter Arnold called in a late injury falling from his bicycle after becoming overdrawn at the former Midland Bank in Cliftonville.*

*The Tyrrells, the Copelands, Janet Hughes and Tommy joined us for lunch. Thanks were conveyed to the ground and restaurant staff at North Foreland Golf Club.*

*Tony Debling*







## **WILLIAM PARKIN PEARCE 1907-1986**

I'm now pleased to be able to include an article from Bob Lee who lives in Bassendean, Western Australia. He loves researching Old Ramsgate and supplies articles on line.

*As an Old Ruymian, one whose student days at Chatham House Grammar School as it was known in the years 1951-1955, I often reminisce and cherish the memories of that important period in my life. An education experience that I was privileged to be part of, one that had a profound effect on my life from that time until today, now at the age of 82.*

*One major aspect of my education that I have vivid memories of in particular, are those of our headmaster back then, William P. Pearce. His impact upon me was such that I immediately think of him when giving thought to who in my life impressed me the most during my formative years, the one who commanded such respect for his ability to instil discipline in the way that he did. I recall his striding to the podium at school assembly at a pace to have his black gown billowing behind him, and with a tone of voice and deliverance that resonated with such authority; his was always a powerful message to us all.*

*After 1955 I wasn't to know of his remaining years as headmaster, or of his subsequent role as a magistrate in the local courts of Ramsgate, as my departure from Chatham House was due to our family's emigration in 1956 to Western Australia. To have now researched Mr. Pearce's history through archived news reports and other media, I now have an even greater respect of one whose leadership qualities obviously influenced so many us over his 23 years at Chatham House, as well as those of other schools in the years prior to 1947. I have compiled the following that I wish to share with you all.*



## *WILLIAM PARKIN PEARCE 1907-1986*

### *Headmaster of Chatham House Grammar School 1947-1970*

*William Parkin Pearce was born 10<sup>th</sup> November 1907 at Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire West Riding, one of two sons (brother Eric born 1909) to insurance agent William Arthur and Lillian Emma née Booth Pearce. William's father and grandfather Charles a carpenter, were both born in Norwich. William's middle name of Parkin has obscure origins, with nobody identified within his family with that name. There are however several seemingly unrelated people in and around Sheffield with the surname Parkin, possibly a family friend or Godparent at William's baptism.*

*William first attended school at the age of 4 in 1912 at Hunter's Bar School for infants in Sheffield, with a secondary school education at Sheffield Central Secondary School from 1920 to 1927. He then entered Emmanuel College Cambridge where he was to earn his B.A. with first class honours in 1930 at the age of 23. in Languages Tripos in French and German. William's marriage to Jessie P. Browne at Willesden in Middlesex in September 1932, occurred two years before receiving his M.A. at Cambridge two years later in 1934. The 1939 register shows the Pearce residence to be in Bedford Bedfordshire, and continued to be so during the early war years to become parents to two daughters, Alison and Hazel.*

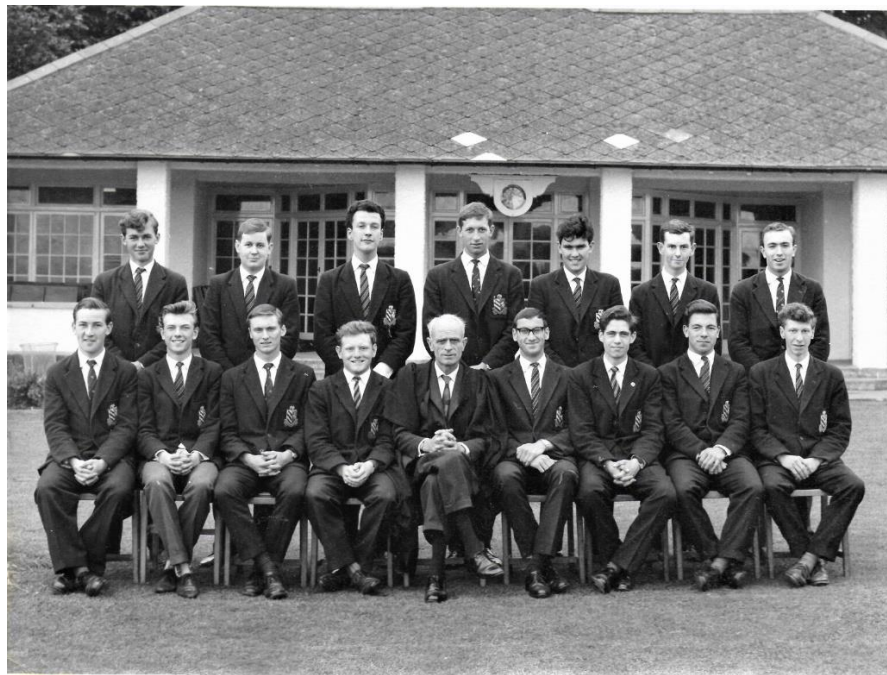
*Mr. Pearce's teaching career commenced after leaving Cambridge with an appointment as Assistant Master and later his becoming head of the languages department at the prestigious Owen's School Islington in London. Leaving Owen's School in August 1943, he joined the staff at Highgate London N6 as 6<sup>th</sup> form master and head of the modern languages department. It was three years later in November 1946 that William Parkin Pearce from 120 applicants was appointed as new headmaster of Chatham House Grammar School, replacing Reverend Brackenbury who had held the post since October 1937.*

*William Pearce took up the post in April 1947 and for 23 years he was to apply his strong leadership qualities, and a headmaster who was immensely proud of the school's record of being at the very top of Kent grammar school*

*achievements, in term of scholarships to universities and service colleges, as well as individual sporting achievements.*

*After 23 years, headmaster William Pearce retired from the role in 1970, continuing for a number of years however as a court magistrate. In 1978 Mr. Pearce was appointed president of Old Ruymians Club, a most befitting appointment of one who was certainly well credentialed for such a role. William Parkin Pearce in April 1986 at the age of 78, died at his home in Kingsgate Avenue Broadstairs. Survived then by his wife Jessie and two married daughters and four grandchildren.*





*Mr. Pearce with Prefects circa. 1963*

## **NEW HEADMASTER**

### **CHATHAM HOUSE APPOINTMENT**

From 120 applicants for the position, the Governors of Chatham House Grammar School, Ramsgate, on Thursday appointed Mr. William Parkin Pearce as headmaster to succeed the Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, who is retiring at the end of term.

Mr. Pearce, who is 38 years of age, is the third headmaster in the history of Chatham House School since it was founded in 1909 as Ramsgate County School for Boys.

A specialist in French and German, he comes to Ramsgate from Highgate School, London, N.6, of which he is head of the modern languages department.

He hopes to take up his duties as headmaster of Chatham House in January.

Mr. Pearce received his education at Sheffield Central Secondary School from 1920 to 1927. In 1927 he went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he graduated, obtaining his B.A. in 1930 with first class honours, Languages Tripos, French and German. He received the degree of M.A. (Cambridge) in 1934.

After leaving Cambridge, Mr. Pearce was appointed assistant master at Owen's School, Islington, London, of which he was latterly head of the modern languages department. Leaving Owen's School in August, 1943, he joined the staff of Highgate School in the following month as sixth form master and head of the modern languages department.

Mr. Pearce has also taken a great interest in many out-of-school activities among which he has been responsible for the organisation of a harvest camp.

A married man with two young daughters, aged five and 11, Mr. Pearce hopes to move his family to Thanet in the New Year.

## **NEW HEADMASTER**







# Chatham House head gives his last speech day report

OVER the past 23 years some 2,500 boys have sat down at Chatham House Grammar School desks to study under the watchful eye of headmaster Mr. William Pearce.

Almost without exception his relationships with them have been happy, he recalled in his last speech day report at the Winter Gardens, Margate, on Friday.

He told parents, boys and special guests: "I have never ceased to be impressed with the basic common sense, loyalty and good humour of the vast majority of boys.

## CURIOUS CHARACTER

"There has of course always been one in trouble of one sort or another, not necessarily of his own making. And there has always been the odd curious character about the place—but very, very few awkward customers.

"We had one years ago who was both. He got his just deserts—he is now a lecturer in psychology at a college of education."

The retiring headmaster began his last speech day address, which he referred to as the best he had been able to make in his 23 years of headship at Chatham House, by welcoming guests and county education officer Dr. John Haynes, who presented prizes.

He said school life continued to be full and vigorous and pur-

poseful and highlighted many of its activities.

He congratulated the four boys who 'so easily' got as far as the final of last year's television 'Top of the Form' series and then were pipped at the post by the girls of Torquay Grammar School.

Old Ruymians were also doing well, especially in the world of sport.

Former pupil N. A. Holladay was captain of the Oxford University hockey team and D. V. Collison, attending St. Luke's College, Exeter, was playing for the England under-22 side. Playing for Wales against Ireland on March 14 was old boy S. P. R. Lunn.

Mr. Pearce added he had just heard that E. G. Cooper had been appointed next year's captain of rugby at Hull University.

He made special mention of old boy Edward Heath, who won the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

On the academic front, six old boys gained 1st classes in their university examinations last

year. Articles by old boys on careers were now a feature on the school magazine.

Even more valuable was the careers teach-in held every July when 'youngish old boys' representing a cross-section of the professions spent a day at the school talking to sixth form boys about the nature and scope of their work.

The results gained by present pupils in examinations were also praised by Mr. Pearce.

He said: "Such results—and by that I mean all the results at Ordinary Level, Advanced Level and University Level—speak for themselves and reflect great credit on all the boys concerned and the masters taking them.

"Naturally it gives me great pleasure that my last report should be one of the best I have been able to make in the 23 years

of my headmastership of Chatham House."

Over the years Chatham House had served Thanet well and earned a well deserved reputation as being one of the best schools in the country.

Thanking the school staff, including teachers, cleaners, secretarial and laboratory workers, for all they had done for the school Mr. Pearce made special mention of deputy head Mr. Arthur Delaney and secretary Mrs. Iris Hall.

He said the school owed much to their 'hard work, sound common sense and level-headedness'.

Parents had also been helpful and co-operative over the years. "Without their lively interest and support our job would be very much less rewarding than in point of fact it is."

He wished Chatham House every success and long life under his successor.

## KIDDIES' RIDE

Installation of a kiddies' ride in the arcade of the High-street, Margate, branch by Bobby and Co. Ltd., has been sanctioned by Margate Planning and Industrial Development Committee.





# Old Ruymians' new president

**MAGISTRATE** Mr. William F. Pearce, for 22 years headmaster of Chatham House Grammar School, Ramsgate, was unanimously elected president of the Old Ruymian Club, the past scholars' association, at Saturday's annual meeting.

Later, at the club's annual dinner he was given a standing ovation by some 80 past and present pupils and staff.

The Old Ruymians, who had travelled from all parts of the country, spanned more than 60 years in the school's history.

Toast of the evening, that of the school, was proposed by past Old Ruymian Club secretary Martin Humphrys, who was introduced by chairman John Curzon.

In his response, headmaster Brian Drury spoke of Chatham

House's "commitment to excellence" and gave an outline of the school's outstanding academic and sports achievements during the past year.

A standing tribute was also paid to former member of the staff F. J. 'Tommy' Thomas for his services to the club and school, especially in the field of hockey.

The remainder of the evening was spent in reunion reminiscing.

## **Notice of Club Member's Deaths**

I was approached by the Solicitor of Mrs. Juliet Marie Poole, who was dealing with her Will. I was informed that Mr. Norman Poole her husband, an OR Club member, sadly passed away some years ago.

### **Diary Dates.**

#### **OR & School Social meetings**

**OR lunches/ dinners** - will be advised, once organised, throughout the year. (Make sure your contact details are current and update the Membership Secretary, if you wish to be informed).

#### **Christmas Concerts**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at  
7 pm Chatham House .Chatham Street

#### **2023 OR AGM in CHS Library. Chatham Street.**

June 2023 at 5.00 pm. Date confirmation to follow in due course.

#### **2023 Reunion Dinner in CHS Dining Room. Chatham Street.**

June 2023 at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Confirmation with booking forms to follow in due course.

#### **OR Sports meetings**

#### **OR Cricket Matches 2023**

To be notified

## **Old Ruymians Golf Day 2023**

To be notified

Do remember that both the School and 'Friends of Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School' have websites you can visit to find a large number of interesting events throughout the year.

**Once more I ask you to ensure you update the club through the Secretary, when you alter your home and email address.** It is one of the fastest ways we have for informing you of any events.

Lastly, I repeat, if you have any other thoughts on how to reach colleagues from your School days to help expand the membership or have any suggestions for both sports and social events for all the age Groups that are members of our Club, please do not hesitate to send your ideas to the Secretary, copied to the Chairman. The Committee will then discuss and endeavor to implement them over the coming years. Just a few lines to us will help; it does not have to be a manuscript