In this issue:

- Upcoming events
- Alan Rouse Blue Plaque
- Graham Richards Honours
- Careers Conferences
- Staff retiring

Welcome!
In our last digital newsletter for this School year, I would like to thank you all for your encouraging comments and feedback for this new initiative which is proving popular and of interest.
The School magazine, InFocus, containing the OBS Bulletin is due to be published in September.
There have been a good number of additions this year, with the introduction of the Alumni Officer position in School, the new events calendar which hopes to encourage more diversity in its attendees, and also the increased careers provision which has been successful not least because of the support from Old Birkonians, for which we are extremely grateful.
Please keep us informed of any contact changes so that we can keep in touch, and feel free to pass this on to those who may not be receiving our communications.
Carol Keegan Alumni Officer, Birkenhead School
carol.keegan@birkenheadschool.co.uk www.obs.org.uk

Headmaster’s Drinks - Tap and Still

Many thanks to all who turned out for the Headmaster’s Summer Drinks, which took place at the H 1780 Tap and Still in Liverpool on Monday 2nd July.
The fantastic weather and the central location ensured a good turn out, not least the enticement of a pint of Higsons or a sample of the brewery’s own Ginsmith gin and tonic.
Young and not-so-young OBs, along with former and current staff members caught up with the latest news, and we were particularly encouraged by the offers of support for the upcoming engineering and technology conference to be held at School in January.
Thanks also to OBs Stephen Crawley and Paul Briscoe from the Tap and Still for ensuring that we were all so well looked after.
Future events are currently being planned, if anyone has any suggestions as to venue or area locations we would be interested to hear them!
Alan Rouse Blue Plaque

Renowned mountaineer Alan Rouse (’63-'70) who sadly died in 1986 during a perilous journey to climb the second highest peak in the world, the K2 in Asia, has had a memorial Blue Plaque installed in his honour.

The plaque has been placed at The Breck in Wallasey where Alan is said to have first begun to learn to climb and where this love for the activity was fostered.

Members of the Friends of The Breck have spent much time clearing and cleaning up the area, with ‘Granny’s Rock’ now in fantastic condition for future generations to enjoy.

The Blue Plaque was funded by Conservation Areas Wirral, who worked with Wirral Council to arrange its production. Representatives from Alan’s climbing club, Gwydyr Mountain Club, as well as Old Birkonian Society and Birkenhead School members were also present for the unveiling in June.

The School is planning to create a feature display by the climbing wall in the sports hall to commemorate the life and significant impact Alan had on the climbing community during his life.

Representatives from the Gwydyr Mountain Club and Wirral Council at the Blue Plaque unveiling

Graham Richards Honors

Graham Richards (’51-'58) has this year been elected to a Fellowship of The Royal Society and has received the 2018 Richard J. Bolte Sr. Award for Supporting Industries.

Following Birkenhead School, Graham read Chemistry at Brasenose College, Oxford, and subsequently spent his career at Oxford where he was Head of the Chemistry Department.

He was also involved in the creation of spin-out companies, including being founder and chair of Oxford Drug Design. Graham was a pioneer in the field of computer-aided molecular design for industrial applications, particularly in pharmaceuticals.

Graham helped found Oxford University Innovation, the university’s technology transfer company, and cofounded its first spin-off, the successful Oxford Molecular, which provided software to researchers. He also helped develop the company IP Group, where he was for a time chair and is now a venture partner.

In 2004 the American Chemical Society gave him its Award for Computers in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research. In 2010 he was appointed as one of two vice presidents of the Royal Society of Chemistry and in 2011 elected as a fellow of the Learned Society of Wales. Graham is the author of 350 scientific articles and 20 books, and holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford.

He was also OBS President in 2007 and 2008, Graham said, “I have much to thank the School for.”

Graham Richards
**Heswall Golf**

Fantastic weather contributed to a hugely enjoyable round of golf being played at the Heswall Golf Club in June.

The joint winners with 33 points were Jon Morgan and James Smethurst who were presented prizes at the end of the day.

The great course and time for refreshments allowed for a pleasurable social occasion for golfers of all abilities.

The next golf event will be the Hoblyn Golf Trophy and Annual Dinner, held at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake on Friday 28th September. The golf will take place from 12pm to 2pm, with the dinner at 7pm. The cost is £110, please contact Jim McGrath on golf@obs.co.uk for more information.

**Charity Marathon Run**

As part of this year’s Old Birkonian Society Weekend in September, Sunday 9th will see members from the whole School community take part in the Wirral Half Marathon, starting from 9.30am in New Brighton.

The School lost a very special young boy in September 2017 and many have chosen to run on behalf of the Krishan Patel Memorial Fund which will raise money towards a memorial and developing the play facilities at Little School, an area which Krishan loved. It is also hoped to make a donation to the Make a Wish Foundation.

You can sign up to run at http://www.btliverpool.com/wirral-enter and let us know if you would like to run with Team Birkenhead!

There is the option of running a 10k or the full half marathon. There is also a chance for the seriously dedicated runner to take part in the Whistle Stop Tour of Wirral which comprises of 3 runs over 3 days. The Friday evening run from 7pm takes place at Arrowe Park for a 5 mile run, the Saturday morning from 10am is at Thurstaston Country Park for 8 miles, and then the half marathon is joined on the Sunday.

Good luck to all taking part!

You can also donate here: https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/paulvicars1
London Dinner - Thank You

For the past 13 years we have been indebted to Andy Jones and Jon Bradshaw for organising our annual London Dinners for the Old Birkonian Society. Andy and Jon are now moving on from this role and we sincerely thank them for their time and commitment over the years.

Some of the most notable evenings have been:

- The Houses of Parliament with OB Karl McCartney MP as host (100+ attendees)
- The East India Club (with Frank Field MP as guest speaker)
- Many evenings at the Army & Navy, including the OB event with the first female attendees
- The Athenaenum, current Headmaster Paul Vicars’ first Dinner

Andy said, “It has been enormous fun and an honour to be able to keep such a tradition going. Jon and I have thoroughly enjoyed organising the London Dinner over the years, we have met some amazingly interesting people and over that time the feedback from the attendees has been very generous.”

This year’s London Dinner will take place on Friday 23rd November 2018 at The Swan restaurant, which is part of Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre on the South Bank.

The cost is £75 to include: a main course and dessert followed by cheese & biscuits, coffee or tea [the seasonal menu will be advised nearer the time], half a bottle of wine per person, and an optional guided tour of the Shakespeare Theatre beforehand. Partners are also welcome to attend.

The tour will take place from 6pm, with dinner at 7pm for 7.30pm.

For more information visit: www.swanlondon.co.uk

Numbers are limited and the majority of tickets have already been sold so please book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment by emailing carol.keegan@birkenheadschool.co.uk to receive payment information.

Old Birkonian Society Weekend

Friday 7th September
6pm: Chapel Service, Chapel
6.30pm: Leaver’s Presentation Evening, Bushell Hall

Saturday 8th September
10am: Netball, School Courts
10am: Hockey, MAC Field
10.30am to 12.15pm: Archives Open plus tours of the School, 44 Bidston Road
12.30pm: AGM, Meeting Room above Library
1.15pm: Lunch, Sixth Form Centre
(please confirm attendance for catering requirements to carol.keegan@birkenheadschool.co.uk by 25th August 2018, lunch is complimentary)

2.30pm: Lacrosse, Noctorum Field
2.30pm: Rugby, Noctorum Field
7pm: Annual OBS Dinner, Bushell Hall
Tickets cost £35 for adults and £20 for students)

Sunday 9th September
9.30am: Wirral Half Marathon, New Brighton

For more information visit www.birkenheadschool.co.uk/obs-weekend
Retiring staff

With over 165 years of loyal Birkenhead School service, we are sad to say goodbye to a number of staff who will be retiring at the end of this term.

Many of you may recall long serving member of the Senior Leadership Team and Maths teacher, Dave Edmunds; Head of Geography, Steve Gill; History Teacher and Battlefields Trips aficionado, Martin Roden; Network Manager, IT and Music Teacher and director of Concert Band and Big Band, Alan Davies; Catering Manager Keith Watson; and Science Technician Ken Jones.

Our grateful thanks for all they have done for so many generations of Birkonians and our very best wishes in a well-deserved retirement.