

The Birkonian

ISSUE 4 - Michaelmas 2018

newsletter

Head runs Marathon!

Headmaster, Paul Vicars, will continue his charitable running streak when he runs the London Marathon on Sunday 28th April 2019, in aid of Claire House.

If you would like to support him, please visit:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paul-vicars

Welcome!

After a full year now in post as your Alumni Officer I must send my sincere thanks to all those who have sent words of encouragement and who have supported the OB events and careers initiatives at School. It is only through your feedback and involvement that we can continue to develop the Old Birkonian Society and connections with alumni, and I am grateful to have had such a positive response from everyone I have met so far.

We have had lots of exciting events already this year, including the OB Weekend in September and the London Dinner at The Swan, and we are looking forward to many more. See the 'Dates for your Diary' section for more information.

As ever, please pass on this newsletter to those who may not be receiving our communications and encourage them to get in touch so we can keep our database up-to-date!

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@OldBirkonianSociety



@OldBirkonianSoc



Old Birkonians

Old Birkonian Weekend 2018

The annual Old Birkonian Weekend was packed full this year with events and activities to suit all interests. Beginning with a service in Chapel on the Friday evening to welcome the new raft of 2018 leavers into the Old Birkonian Society, the service also served to thank the OBS for the generous donation of a new font for the Chapel and to have it officially blessed. The service was followed by the Leavers' Presentation Evening in Bushell Hall, with refreshments afterwards.

Saturday started with netball and hockey matches, with School winning both games. The Archives were open with tours of the School given to visitors by Prefects. The AGM became a rather heated affair as a change in name to the Society was suggested and a full vote deemed necessary. The incoming Chair Will Roberts and Headmaster Paul Vicars spoke of their visions

for the future, and they thanked outgoing Chair, Roger Ewing, for his excellent work on the OBS Council. A delicious buffet lunch was then served in the Sixth Form Centre.

The afternoon saw lacrosse and rugby matches played at Noctorum Field, the OB's regaining their dignity winning both matches. The Annual OBS Dinner in the evening was well attended and held in the newly refurbished Dining Hall.

Sunday saw Team Birkenhead

(comprising staff, students, parents and Old Birkonians) run the BTR Wirral Half Marathon and 10k. Many had chosen to run in memory of Prep pupil Krishan, who was sadly lost in 2017.

The windy weather at the start location in New Brighton brought its challenges for the runners, but they came out with excellent results and, most importantly, with smiles on their faces, having achieved their wonderful goals.

We look forward to seeing you next year on 6th to 8th September 2019.



OB television takeover!

Over the last few months our TV screens have been awash with Old Birkonians!

You may have seen Siân Round (OB '08-'15) competing on *University Challenge* with Durham at the end of August. The team beat Strathclyde with 360 points to 55. We are looking forward to their second round appearance soon. Well done Siân!



Luca Galvani (OB '99-'14) also featured in September when he and his three team mates won an amazing £100,000 between them on ITV's *The Chase*.



Finally, former Prep school pupil, Alex Finn, (OB '01-'07) was a contestant on *The Apprentice* on the BBC in the Autumn, where he was 'fired' in October by Lord Sugar.



Otto Dawes joins the Red Arrows

In October this year at a ceremony at RAF College Cranwell, 19-year-old Otto Dawes (OB '02-'17) was commissioned as Flying Officer OSC Dawes in Her Majesty's Royal Air Force.

Otto started his Initial Officer Training in March and he came 11th out of 106. He is currently the youngest Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force. He will now go on to Elementary Flying Training, and then hopefully on to Fast Jet Training to fly the new

F35 Lightning aircraft just commissioned by the MOD.

There is a delay in training new pilots which means Otto has to go on to other jobs within the RAF for up to two years, called 'Pilot Holding'.

For his Pilot Holding, Otto has been chosen to join the Red Arrows at RAF Scampton. He will be Project Officer Operation Western Hawk, and will help take the Red Arrows out to the USA.



Otto Dawes

London Dinner

The London Branch of the OBS held its annual dinner on Friday 23rd November, and it was a sold-out affair.

It was held at The Swan on the South Bank, a restaurant attached to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and many of those attending took advantage of the complimentary tour of the theatre beforehand, which was very enjoyable and informative thanks to the tour guide and an excellent setting.

With a view of St Paul's, guests, who had travelled from as far as Canada, were met with a Champagne reception, followed by a delicious three course meal with wine and coffee.

OBS Chair Will Roberts was compère for the evening, with Sir Andreas Whittam Smith (OB '47-'55) and Headmaster Paul Vicars making speeches.

If you are interested in helping out with the organisation of London OBS events, or if you have any ideas, please let us know via carol.keegan@birkenheadschool.co.uk.



Christmas Bazaar

The OBS and Archives Team were delighted to attend the Annual Christmas Bazaar at Birkenhead School, organised by the Parents' Association and the 20th Birkenhead Scout Group.

Our stand in Bushell Hall provided the opportunity for shoppers to purchase discounted OBS goods, such as ties and polo shirts, as well as great value cufflinks and Christmas cards.

The organisers had ensured that the event had plenty of Christmas cheer, with refreshments (including mulled wine!) in Café Noel, a Santa's Grotto for the children, family fun and games in the Sports Hall, and a Grand Raffle featuring some excellent prizes.

We look forward to returning again next year.



Archives Christmas Celebrations

The dedicated Birkenhead School Archives Team took a well-earned break on their last meeting of the year, and enjoyed coffee and mince pies courtesy of Ian and Marilyn Boumphrey.

They swapped their top floor premises on the School site, where they meet every Monday to record and take care of School events and history, and instead met at the Boumphreys' home where they were treated to a festive welcome.

The Team is a valuable resource for the School, making sure that the extensive records, artefacts and gallery are maintained, along with the ever-evolving database of past students. The Team is made up of Old Birkonians and former staff of the School, who generously give up their time to volunteer to work in Archives, for which we are very grateful.



Sixth Form Lectures

We are very lucky to have had a number of generous offers from Old Birkonians who are willing to provide informative talks to our Sixth Form in the weekly Nicholls Lecture Series.

In the first lecture of the academic year on Friday 7th September, Ian Huntley OBE (OB '65-'79), a retired Brigadier with the Royal Marines, discussed the differences between management and leadership, with an original outlook on the distinctions.

In portraying leadership as the role of a motivator who imparts emotion and management as more scientific and technical in its application, he allowed the Sixth Form to assess the relative usefulness of each method in current world affairs, such as the tensions between North Korea and America and in the tariff policies of the American President.



Ian Huntley
with Headmaster Paul Vicars

On 28th September, Dr Adam Boddison, (OB '93-'00) Chief Executive for

Nasen, addressed 'The Truth About Inclusion'. Through the use of statistics and examples from his personal experience, Dr Boddison presented the issue of inclusion and exclusion in the education system, from styles of teaching to standardised testing and its implications for those with special educational needs.

Finally this term, Dr Michael Morton, (OB '59-'64) talked about his career path as a Gynaecologist and Obstetrician and the unlikely circumstances that led his work across the world, in a lecture entitled, 'Birkenhead, Bermuda, Beijing, Bangkok'.

This lecture, along with being a fascinating description and explanation of Chinese culture, was a powerful reminder that in life anything can happen and that even events that appear negative in the short term can offer merit in the future. This message, offered by a man of such experience, was definitely appreciated by everyone listening.

Seán Carpenter, Deputy Head of School

If you would like to attend or can offer your time to share advice and knowledge, please contact Carol Keegan via carol.keegan@birkenheadschoo.co.uk or on 0151 651 3098.

Careers Conferences

This year's careers conferences start with the
Engineering, Design and Technology Careers Conference

on Monday 28th January 2019,
5.30pm - 8pm in Bushell Hall

Open to all Birkenhead School students and Old Birkonians who may find the conference of value, it is also open to students from local schools in Years 10 and 11.

If you are in the industry and feel you could help give informal advice, please get in touch!

There will also be a

Media and Arts Careers Conference

on Monday 29th April 2019.

Booking to attend the FREE conferences can be made at

www.bookwhen.com/birkenheadschoo

We would also like to invite women chemists to
**'Empowering Women in Chemistry:
a Global Networking Event'**
on Tuesday 12th February; email
carol.keegan@birkenheadschoo.co.uk
for more information.

Dates for the Diary

Liverpool Festive Lunch
Friday 21st December,
12.30pm, The Athenaeum

Rugby OBFC v Birkenhead Park
Saturday 29th December
3pm, Birkenhead Park RC

**Engineering, Design and Technology
Careers Conference**
Monday 28th January 2019
5.30pm - 8pm, Bushell Hall

West Side Story OB Lunch
Sunday 24th March 2019
2pm, Bushell Hall

Liverpool Lunch
Friday 29th March 2019
12.30pm, The Artists Club

Media and Arts Careers Conference
Monday 29th April 2019
5.30pm - 8pm, Bushell Hall

OBS Weekend
6th - 8th September 2019

For more information email
carol.keegan@birkenheadschoo.co.uk