

OLD VICTORIANS

Summer 2011



**So the results are in.
People care but are just too busy,
so where from here?**

I am under no illusion that everybody out there is busy and for that reason I think we need to do business in a very different way. We need to work with the development office to keep members updated and to support the school we care about. It is for this reason that I am going to make a few proposals, over the next year I plan to develop the newsletter, a website which requires little maintenance and can be easily updated, at the same time working hand-in-hand with the school to give you up to date information about events and fundraising for the school. Having spoken to the relatives of Ron Smith it has been a fairly solitary role as the OVA President and it has been a difficult decision but to maintain a viable association. We need to work with the school to make it better. In this letter I will make some proposals and I need your suggestions and thoughts before moving on to do them. As ever, my personal email is leighbissett@gmail.com and I am always happy to hear from members, however, without more support, the association has a "different" future to the one it had in the past.

Leigh Bissett (Acting President)

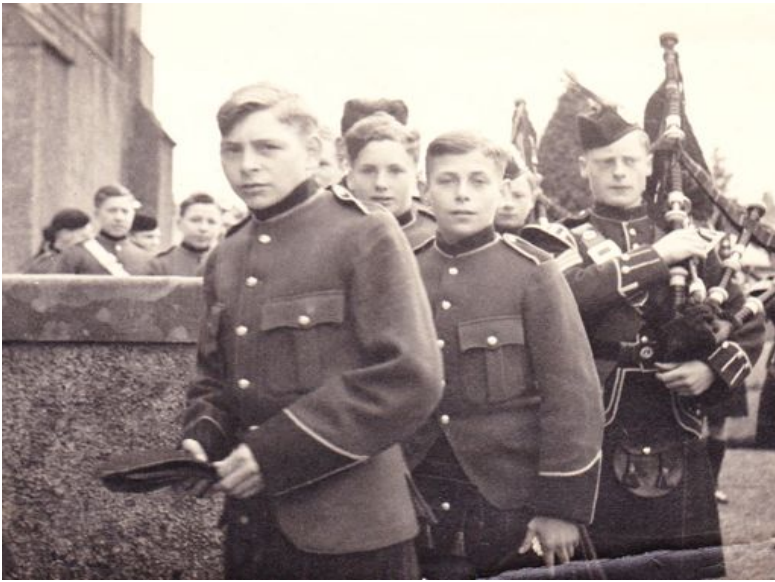
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Ian Stewart writes a very nice article about what the school and his association with it mean to him.



Membership News

OVA Newsroom

Membership News

Calum Motherwell - I'm currently training to do the 3 peaks challenge (Climbing in Scotland (Ben Nevis), Wales (Snowdon) and England (Scafell Pike) all within 24 hours from start to finish). Im doing this to raise money for Alzheimers Scotland and will be doing it 23/07/11. If you could put it in the newsletter and possibly ask people to visit my sponsorship page and donate a little bit it would be really great. The web address is <http://www.justgiving.com/Calum-Motherwell>

Pipers and Drummers In London - The London Scottish Regiment Pipes and Drums currently has 2 Old Victorians piping and drumming and would welcome many more. Whether you want to just practice or join the band you are most welcome – ladies and men, you don't have to join the regiment. Uniform provided. There is a cheap bar. The Regiment is part of the household division so does many prestigious jobs including Beating the Retreat on Horseguards Parade with the Scots Guards, Windsor Royal Tattoo, The Military Tournament at Earls Court and many overseas trips as well. Band Practice is every Thursday evening 7-10pm in Westminster. <http://www.londonscottishregt.org/band.cfm> or email shill@missionit.net

Old Victorians in Uzbekistan - Stephen Hill (3515) and Gary Anderson (3187) represented The London Scottish Regiment in Uzbekistan as the guest of The British Ambassador in April 2011. They played at the Ambassadors' Queens Birthday Party and Royal Wedding Celebrations. During their stay they also played at the Uzbekistan Conservatory - equivalent to Royal Academy of Music & were guests of the military band of the Ministry of the Interior.

Mackie Library - A new library has been opened in Cunningham in memory of Arthur Mackie (granddad of an old boy). Hopefully this will be a peaceful and educationally beneficial addition to the school life.

Gary Cornelius - Gary not only celebrated his 30th birthday party this year but he also got engaged to his beautiful other half. May they be very happy together.

Any Billings (formerly Morton) - It was good to hear from Amy Billings who got married this year. All the best for your future together and I am sure it will be a very happy one.

Sad News

Brian Raine

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of former Headmaster Mr. Brian Raine who was taken to Perth Royal Infirmary following a stroke in April 2011. If you would like to send on any messages please do so via the school.

Our thoughts go out to his wife in particular at this difficult time.

Births, deaths,
marriages,
engagements,
announcements,
promotions, degrees!

**We would like to
know!!**

OVA Charity Rugby Match

...so who was the real 1st XV?

If you were to go on to facebook today you would see a debate taking place, so which year actually had the best rugby team? Now I am not one to be taking sides but there has been a suggestion that there should be a charity match to prove just who was the best of the best. This initiative was probably brought about by the fact that we have had a few good teams and now we need to know which team was indeed the 1st XV of QVS.

So get it in your diaries 10th March 2012

Already 4 teams have professed an interest:

- Pre 1995 Team
- 1995/96/97
- 1998/99/2000
- 2006/07/08 (provisional)

Three of the teams are pretty much made up, one is provisional but if you think your year was better and you can put a team together put your name forward. That said, nobody will be excluded, if you want to play, email Steve and he will put you in to one of the team.

Things are in the early stages of planning but the gauntlet has been laid down and some time in September it is hoped that we will play these matches. For those of you who want to find out more then there is a number of ways to get more information and you can look at the bottom of this article for the details.

We hope to play the matches at the school (with the permission of the head) and to raise money for "Help the Heroes", as it was felt that a number of boys and girls parents (and ex students) from the school, past and present, will be facing hardship following time in battle zones with the British Armed Forces.

This is a great opportunity to build new ties, get a bit fitter, play a bit of old school rugby and have a day out for the family. You might even get to see your old 1st XV play against one of the old rivals if we can tie up the weekend with the school shortly. **This is your chance to set the record straight!**

So if you are interested log in to facebook:

http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2280274887&v=app_2344061033&ref=ts#!/event.php?eid=213044355396195

Alternatively you can email Stephen MacKinnon the tournament organiser of the event at:

stephen_mackinnon4161@hotmail.com



Grand Day
2011
24th June



Itinerary of Events

Grand Day this year follows the similar pattern as to previous years I am led to believe.

0950 hrs – prize giving (you must be seated at this time and it finishes at around 1100 hrs)

After prize giving the school is out for a short recess between then and the ceremonial part of the day, and therefore OVA will have time to occupy themselves, meet old friends and have something to eat before the parade begins. Nearer the time I will send some suggestions about where everybody could meet for a bite to eat before the main parade.

1405 hrs – School Marches on (remember the 5 minute rule people, be there no later than 1400 hrs if you want to see)

Be sure to be back early to get a prime spot to watch the parade however. I will send a separate email out about grand day for Old Victorians however a week before the event to clarify full details. Please keep an eye out.

There is a relatively big group of OVA's coming over from Canada to see the school who left between 1940-1960.

Bad News – Stirling Arms is no longer

The Stirling Arms I am led to believe has been shut down, we therefore need a new haunt in which to meet up. Perhaps 'The Tappit Hen' would be suitable. Famous for being the teachers hide-away, directly opposite the Cathedral, I am sure they would not mind us joining them for a drink after the ceremonies have finished.

Any other ideas will be warmly received.

AGM / Social events

These have been so badly attended for the two years (more than that) that the meetings have failed to meet quoracy and the last AGM was within the last year so I have not taken it on myself to organize an AGM but if you have a desperate desire for one please do let me know. I will organize it for you.

Again, organizing social events for 5 people is not something I am keen to pull my hair out doing, if I know we are going to have 40 or 50 individuals then I would be more inclined to spend precious funds on such things. As time goes by we are more likely to become an online community with ad hoc events being organized, I will of course be more than happy to facilitate such worthy causes (ie. See OVA Charity Rugby Match – good initiative)

OVA – A friend in every town

I wanted to regale you with a tale that makes me smile.

I was at QV from 1989 to 1996. In this time I experienced many highs and lows. The lows include the death of Ben Phillip, the whole "bullying" scandal and the Dunblane massacre. On the high side I played for the 1st XV, I was in the colour party (that still makes my mum cry with pride), I experienced a Royal Visit and I had the honour of sharing my childhood with some of the most special people I have ever met.

Now many years later, happily married with 2 sons and a very fat cat, I still speak with pride as I bore my family, friends and work colleagues with tales of my time at QV. This where I get to my point. As many of you probably did, I recently attend a works Christmas night out.

I was disappointed that I was the only member of my team to attend, no worries though, there were many people for other teams and departments I know very well so I was made welcome and had a great time. After the meal several of us found a large table and made ourselves comfortable, we drank, joked and watched a surprisingly good band perform a Scottish themed routine.

As the evening wore on, due to the heat or drink or both one of our band of revellers, John Tovey rolled his shirt sleeves up. Without thinking I said "shirt sleeve order John". He laughed and asked if I had served in the forces. I regrettably had to reply no (an annoying burden of epilepsy kept me out) but explained I had attended Queen Victoria in Dunblane. With a wide smile he replied "good god so did I". I must explain that although John and I have worked together at the same company for 10 years we were more acquaintances than friends.

We spent the remainder of the night and a sizeable chunk of the early hours ignoring our work colleagues and sharing tales of our QV lives. John had left QV in the late 60's (69 I think, I forget the exact year - drink was involved), but what surprised us both is that while there were obvious differences between the QV I attend and the one he attended, the similarities were striking.

We spoke of the Central & Mess halls, 2s ups, home sickness, rookies, of pipes & drums and Grand days. We found our attitudes to life are almost identical, We are both very much family man, fiercely proud and protective of our friends and happiest most when surrounded by those family and friends. Many people ask if I felt isolated at boarding school or comment that I had not experienced real life as others have. Both John and I found that the close knit life in QV shaped us into proud and confident men, always willing to help another. We see the people with whom we shared our years at QV as more than just friends, almost family. I can not say I see or speak to my classmates with any great regularity but hardly a day goes by that I don't remember something of QV. Although there were nearly 20 years between our times at QV we both experienced the teachings of Mr "TAFF" Williams, a man who scared the life out of us at school but who, on reflection we both hold great respect for. Evidence that what we may have disliked as children was for our own benefit as men.

After my wife Claire had been to her 1st OVA weekend with me she asked in our children would be able to attend QV. I explained that school was for sons and daughters of service men and women. Her reply still makes me blush with pride. She said "pity - you are nicest and most decent man I know, I want our children to be like you". Think about it. How many times have you held a door open for someone, given up your seat on a bus or stopped to help a complete stranger in need whilst others walk by?.

So my point is simple.

Be proud of who you are and the school you attended. Never be afraid to tell people you are a QV boy or girl. You never know when some one down your local pub, that guy you work with or a neighbour you only occasionally say hello to may, in fact be a brother or sister OLD VICTORIAN.

Ian Stewart 4224



Officer on Parade ...March 2012

"Officer on Parade, General Salute"

Okay, well we have a rugby match planned for the 10th March 2012. Depending on school activities, the parade Sunday may well be planned for the 11th March 2012, and the headmistress has kindly invited an OVA to take the salute in March (the date will be firmed up in due course). That said, we seem to struggle for volunteers to take the salute.

Now, I would take the blasted thing myself but I think it would be better to have somebody with a uniform or some sort of public office / standing / credibility. It is traditional nowadays for the commanding officer/person to give a short talk after the "general salute", don't let this put you off though. Alistair Spence did it recently and imparted some wise advice whilst making it look very easy, and he is a tornado pilot! So if somebody that mad (no offence Alistair) can do it...so can you!

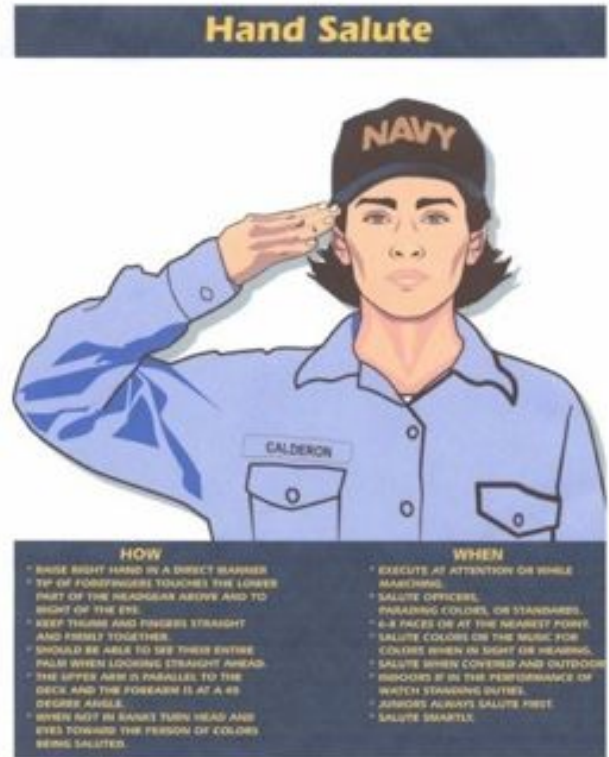
So, can somebody please get suited and booted and take the salute for Old Victorians in March 2012. There is plenty of notice so you can put your holiday form in, you can bring the family to visit the place where you were dragged up and we will be extremely grateful as an association.

At the moment we are looking for an officer in the armed forces but in the future there may well be a move towards inviting individuals to take a "general salute" who have performed well in the business, education and the public sector to take this salute. I am well aware of people who are lectures in law, professors in medicine, high flying PR and marketing executives in London, have invested well in monetary markets – we would like you to be more involved with the school as well to inspire the youth.

So really, if you are interested, let me know. Over the years there has been some very bad representation at OVA's but given that we are now moving towards our first Charity Rugby Match (an event that will be a great success – I can feel it in my bones) with the likely possibility of it coinciding with an OVA weekend, just maybe we will have our first successful OVA weekend for years.

I have my fingers and toes crossed but to top it all off, it would be an honour to see an OVA taking that salute! Can I beg any more, please volunteer!

As ever, if you are interested email me on leighbissett@gmail.com or email the oldvictorians@hotmail.com - my personally email will get you a speedier response but I do check the OVA one every week.





If you would like to find out more
then do not hesitate to contact us
on the following:

Website:

www.oldvictorians.org

Email:

oldvictorians@hotmail.com

My personal email:

leighbissett@gmail.com

Facebook Group:

Search for Queen Victoria School

Twitter:

Search for Old Victorians

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