Old Caldeian Union

Email: ocumember@gmail.com
Website: www.ocuweb.hostoi.com
(please note new address of website)

Council

President: Mr P M Dodd 0151 6256459
Chairman: Mr S Hill 0151 625 7438
Hon. Secretary: Mr J D M Loney 0151 648 5040
Hon Treasurer: Mr M L Byrne MBE 0151 342 4799
Hon. Membership Secretary Mr David Wilkes
Council Members: Mr M E Collins 0151 632 3572
Mr R Tann 0151 625 1234
Mr M F Cross 0151 336 5238
Mr P J Singleton 0151 632 5047
LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Twenty years ago your President, Mr Peter Dodd, edited the first edition of the OCU journal. He also acted as roving reporter cajoling members, tracked down in the favourite watering holes, to produce copy for him. He still frequents numerous hostelries in the country but our membership, having grown old; seem to be staying at home.

The reason for the OCU Journal was because the school had ceased producing one. They have now re-commenced – do we still require a separate journal? Please write or email and let me know.

The Summer Buffet Evening had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. I apologise to those few members who wished to support the event.

Meetings have been held between your Council Officers, Mrs Helga Shoebridge and Mr Mark Rodaway, Headteacher, regarding a large heritage project entitled Calday 1636. Detailed plans are being drawn up and a short synopsis is shown on a later page. Your comments and any offers of assistance would be appreciated. Please let me know.

Also on a separate page is a proposal by your Hon.Treasurer, Mr M Byrne that a donation be given to the Cyril Edward Gourley Victoria Cross Endowment. This will be the subject of a vote at the next AGM which will be held on Tuesday 3rd December 2013 as per notice enclosed. In the meantime, if there are any objections from members please let me know in order that they may be taken into consideration.

It was pleasing to see that the Honours Board has regained its rightful place in the hall of the main entrance at school. Chairman of the Honours Board Committee, Mr Peter Dodd, has written pen pictures of those elected.

An interview with Professor Sir David Weatherall is featured in the first edition of The Vibe (the new school magazine) along with the achievements of other Honour Board members. Perhaps this is not a coincidence.

I regret that our own web site has not been updated and we had problems with sending out the last journal by email. If and when this is sorted out, emailed journals for those members who want them will be sent. Otherwise until then I am afraid that you will receive paper copies.

I regret to have to report the deaths of the following members:-

Mr A J Scott (1923 – 1929)
Mr G S McCulloch (1931 – 1937)

Obituaries are included in a later section of this journal.

I thank the officers and members of the Council for their support and the school for their invaluable assistance.

S Hill
November 2013
REPORT FROM MR MARK RODAWAY, HEADTEACHER

ADMISSIONS
In September we welcomed 170 students into the new Year 7 and 193 into the Lower Sixth Form.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Students at Calday Grange Grammar School achieved some pleasing result in their recent external examinations.

At GCSE level there was a significant increase in the percentage of students achieving the threshold of 5 GCSE’s A*-C including English and mathematics. In 2012 this figure sat at 94.7%. In 2013 this has improved to 98.9%, with 82.2% achieving the English Baccalaureate (GCSE pass in English, mathematics, a modern foreign language, a humanity and 2 sciences.)

What was most pleasing is the percentage of students who were awarded the very highest grades of A* and A. 55.4% of all grades were either A* or A (an improvement on the previous year’s figure of 46%. This is against a background of government realigning GCSE’s to make them more difficult.

Over the years the school has become synonymous for producing students of exceptional calibre – and this year is no exception, with 33 pupils gaining 10 or more A*/A grades. Four students achieved the highest accolade of 11 A’s: Niall Flanagan, Joe McCrave, Luke Needham and Sakib Rahman. Michael Horner, Michael Jamieson, Felipe Pacheco, Matthew Page, Mrinank Sharma and Jonathan Tam all achieved 10 A’s and one A.

The results of Mrinank and Jonathan are even more amazing when you take into account the other courses they were studying. Both boys have completed their A-level in business studies during twilight sessions in the course of 18 months – Jonathan achieved an A grade while Mrinank achieved an A* with a score of 399 out of 400.

At Advanced Level students achieved some outstanding results. The percentage of %A*-E grades increased from 98.8 in 2012 to 99.33% in 2013. The percentage of ‘top’ grades improved from 57 to 60% (A*-B).

Recent difficulties that all schools have had regarding placing students in Higher Education appear to have reduced. All students who opted for continuing their education at university were awarded places. Increasing numbers of students are looking beyond universities and applying for high quality apprenticeships and paid internships.

LINKS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS

After visiting South Africa during the February half term break (financed by the British Council), we have entered in to a Connecting Classrooms/Afritwin initiative involving ourselves, Plumstead High School (Cape Town) and Batanai High School (Zimbabwe). Students will be involved in projects that challenge perceptions of each other’s school/country. Currently we are constructing a bid for further funding based upon a number of strands;

- Combined video of ‘A Day in the Life’ produced by a student from each school.
- Uncovering the history of each school (we are also putting in a bid to National Lottery
- Recipes from each country collated into a cook book.
- A drama project (still being organised).
- A sporting tour (possibly Y8 Football) of Cape Town in July 2014.
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL
We continue to work on the development of the site and have recently made a submission to Wirral Planning Department for the construction of a Sports Hall. Details of the plans are on show in the school foyer. We will be presenting these plans to the DFE for funding at the first opportunity.

SCHOOL WEBSITE
The development of our new school website is continuing. E4Education are responsible for the design, training and implementation of the new site which will be operational by the end of the year.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES
We are currently working with 9INE consults to develop a vision for the use of technology across the school. This will identify where the significant sum of money identified by Governors should be invested.

NEW SPORT WEBSITE
We now have a new sports website that provides details on all fixtures/results/match reports/team selections/admin etc. Please feel free to visit the website to see how our students continue to excel in all areas of sport. The link is http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/caldaygrangegrammarschool

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
Our students continue to excel in all areas and below is a brief overview of some of the outstanding successes over the past few months:-

- **Nuffield Research Placements**
  The judging and prize giving ceremony for this year’s Nuffield Research placement students took place at the World museum in Liverpool earlier this week. We had two students involved this year:

  Jan Gasieniec: UCAS Clearing Day 2013, Twitter based analysis. (University of Liverpool)
  Adam Cliffe: X-ray crystallography of salts to determine if H₂O is detectable in a sample. (University of Liverpool)

  They were 2 of only 120 students regionally and less than 1200 students nationally to be awarded placements. Many congratulations to both students, this is an outstanding achievement of which they should be justiably proud.

- **ESSA Swimming Gala**
  Four students attended the ESSA swimming gala in Salford. Harry Das, Jack Underwood, Gregor Sutton and Jacob Baker Collins took part in the 200m freestyle and medley relay. They achieved very respectable times of 1.55 and 2.10 respectively. They swam their best and behaved in a mature, sensible manner on poolside and were a credit to the school. The top 16 schools in the country are selected to take part in the nationals. Their position was 6th in the NW.

- **Gliding Scholarships**
  Joe Tasker and Sam Lupton were selected for residential Gliding Scholarships over the Summer and were successful in achieving their wings and flying solo. A fantastic achievement! Both students are NCOs in the CCF (RAF) Section.
• National LAFTAs Awards
  Tom Bickerstaff, Zach Coburn, Harry Das, Sam Riley and Jake Smethurst in Year 10 were shortlisted for Best Foreign Language Film at the National LAFTAs Awards for their French film "Le Zombie".

• Ghana Expedition – Summer 2013
  14 students, two members of staff and an external Mountain Leader had an extremely exciting and educational expedition in Ghana for two weeks this summer. We did many exciting activities which included exploring a rain forest; sleeping in a tree house 50 metres up; taking part in an ecumenical open air service; visiting an ex-slave fort; crocodile spotting; making bricks and building a primary school; teaching in a primary school and meeting many exceedingly kind and generous Ghanaians. The expedition was a great success and some students and staff would love to return in 2015!

NEWS OF FORMER PUPILS

Sam DICKINSON who played for Caldy RFC from school has become a professional rugby player and on 6th September started his first game for Northampton in the Premier League as No.8 (with thanks to Kenneth Ross, his school and Caldy rugby playing friend). Sunday Times (08/09/13) lists Sam as the match ‘star man’.

Ian KELLY (1950s) has been awarded this year’s Society for Theatre Research Theatre book prize. This prize was established in 1997. Judges included Penelope Keith, Professor Gavin Henderson and theatre critic, Henry Hitchings. Ian’s book ‘Mr Foote’s other leg’ which won the prize has been much praised (see OCU Journal No.39 Spring 2013).

We congratulate Chris TODD (Chemistry Master 1974 – 2006) on his election by the England Hockey Board as the new England Hockey Vice President. Although he retired from teaching in 2006 he is still Calday’s Director of Hockey and in June 2014 will have been in charge of hockey for 40 years. In that time Calday’s First hockey squad has reached many national U18 finals and won on three occasions 1985, 1989 and 1991. As an international umpire he was appointed to five world cups, a world record. He remains a Level three hockey umpire coach. Among many other honours he has been Chairman of Cheshire Hockey Association since May 2009 – a post once also held by the late lamented Peter Cross.

Chris reports that:-
  • On Friday 6th September 2013 in the Old Boys’ Annual Hockey match the result was Calday Grange 7 Old Boys’ 2
  • That Andrew Bradshaw (left July 1991) is Head coach of England U18 Girls hockey
  • Samantha Quek (left July 2010) is a member of England’s Women’s senior team.
  • Bobby Crutchley (1980s) is England Senior men’s hockey coach (see Honours Board report)

Michael J MOORE (pupil 1955 – 65, teacher 1971 -2013) has retired after 41 years as an employee of the school. Whether in the gym, on the rugby field, in the tuck shop queue or in the geography classroom, he will be remembered for his straight talking.

Andrew BRADSHAW (left July 1991) was a member of the Calday Hockey XI that became national champions, played for the North of England and then achieved the higher levels as a coach to become the U18 Girls Hockey coach.

Steve CUMMINGS (1998 – 99) continues his remarkable professional cycling career. Having won in 1999 the Eddie Soens Memorial Road Race as a junior aged 17, he went on to take the British Nation Road Race Championship that year. His first professional win was in 2008 in Calabria and he joined the new British based Team Sky in 2010 and was part of the Great Britain team that helped Mark Cavendish to win Gold in the 2011 World Race
Championship. He was second overall in the 2011 Tour of Britain. Despite serious injuries from crashes, he having recovered gained his first Grand Tour victory in Spain. The Guardian reports that he is included in the Florence long list for the Men’s Elite Road Race in Italy in late September 2013.

News from Jack GARDINER in Canada. He still laments the inexplicable decision to destroy Paton House. His friend David SPEIRS, a fitness fanatic, had a massive heart attack whilst out running, needed open heart surgery and is working to get fit again.

David HALE (1959 – 66) writes that after Liverpool University and Bar Finals, he practised as a barrister on the North Wales and Chester Circuit before becoming a Circuit Judge in 1994. He retired on 4th September 2013. He notes that he never sentenced an old Caldeian – they must have been too clever to be caught!

Phil Dale JONES (1940s) writes from Australia that he is able to watch the Australian rugby and cricket teams and in common with most of his age group (including the editor) finds some of the new rules silly. He reports that Doug WITT has left Australia to live in Kent.

The 1951 intake had their successful biennial dinner at Bromborough Golf Club. There were nineteen Old Caldeians present and Peter Dodd (1954 – 1987) was their guest. The reunion is still organised by Chris GARRETT and Brian HALL. They noted that Russell BLACK could not come as he was in the process of getting property in France and presumably leaving Spain. Of those present all have retired save Brian HALL who continues to run a small band and recording business. Those attending were Alan AUSTIN, Barry CLARK, David CLARK, John DODD, Brian DUTTON, David EBBUTT, Barry FULLARTON, Mike FRANCIS, Chris GARRETT, David GRIFFITHS, Brian HALL, Robert HILL, Bill HOUSLEY, Alex MACKENZIE, Roy PARRY, Ken PYE and Graham WEBBER.

Richard DIXON (1962 – 69) informs us that after a degree in Chemical Engineering at Birmingham University and employment in Ireland, the North Sea etc., he now runs a printing business in Purton, Wiltshire. He is planning a history of Purton during the World Ware One. He also informs us that Robin NELSON (1950s), having retired from being head of music at Marlborough College, is still composing and also conducts at the Swindon Choral Society.

John WILSON (1960s) is still making waves in London theatre land. Under his stage name John Bowe he is appearing in Daytona at the Park Theatre. It is described in the Telegraph on 19th July 2013 as a three hander with ‘one of the most intellectual trios in town’ (with thanks to Mr M F Cross his school play producer).

THOSE DEPARTED

Mr A J Scott

Jim Scott passed away on his 99th birthday after five weeks in hospital following a fall. He was born at Kew, Surrey on 29th July 1914. He has always been known as Jim Scott. He entered Calday in spring term 1923 and left in summer term 1929. After the Second World War he joined the timber trade and became a major importer of Polish timber ‘from the forest to the buyer’s yard’ travelling frequently to Russia and Poland. Subsequently he joined one of the oldest wood brokers in the UK and regarded it as a great job.

In his CV written in 2011, Jim also wrote ‘I have had a great life. Married twice, my first wife died of cancer after a marriage of 28 years. We had one son, Michael. Diane and I are still going strong after 38 years’.

Jim was keen to receive news of his contemporaries at Calday and after numerous letters we resorted to phone calls (of some length) to keep in touch.
THOSE DEPARTED

Mr G S McCulloch

Gavin Stewart McCulloch passed away on 9th October 2013 aged 93. His wife Maureen has written his obituary.

He attended Calday from 1931 to 1937. He played cricket for the 1st XI. I believe he was a good player (1937 Journal showed he opened the batting with JB Hardwick with whom he had several good partnerships). He generally made his runs when they were badly needed. Top score 59 not out).

He also played for Hoylake Cricket Club (West Wirral) where he opened the batting with Charles Elston.

On leaving school he worked for Rea Limited. When war broke out he joined the Indian Army Corps Rifles Frontier Force. He was captured by the Japanese and taken to Changi POW camp, Singapore. He was then taken up country with his fellow prisoners where they were made to work as slaves building the Burma/Siam railway. After the War he returned to work at Rea Ltd and then for the Coal Board.

In 1983 he retired and we went to live in Ruthin, North Wales.

HONOURS BOARD

Ray STUBBS (1970s) has joined the new sports channel BT Sports as the chief association football reporter.

Andrew BADDELEY (1990s) has been injured this season but ran on Sunday 29th September in the Invitation 5th Avenue Mile in New York, which he won in 2009. This year, it being his first race after injury, he was not placed.

Next season he intends to step up to the 5000 metres. He is sponsored by New Balance, an American shoe and clothing firm.
Currently within the school, we are researching the possibility of a large Heritage Project focusing on exploring, investigating and sharing the Calday story. We wish to raise the awareness of such a rich history both within and outside of the school, instilling a sense of pride for either participants or audiences.

Major aims will be to ensure the school archives and memorabilia are better managed, recorded, interpreted, explained and preserved. Training in skills will be provided along with a programme of activities and events whereby people can participate and/or volunteer. Some ideas that are tentatively being discussed are archiving workshops, archaeological dig, oral reminiscences, open days/exhibitions, performance, documentary, website, printed publications and of course inclusion of WW1 information although we may consider a separate project specifically for this.

During this phase, we would welcome any feedback, suggestions or pledges of possible involvement with such a project. Do you think it is a good idea? Would you support such a project? We do not need historical detail at the moment as this will be gathered within the life-time of the potential project.

Please refer any comments to Mr S Hill for inclusion within our research.

Thank you
Helga Shoebridge
Dear Chairman, OCU

At the recent OCU meeting it was agreed that anyone who would like to suggest a worthwhile project for utilising some of the OCU's surplus funds, within the remit of the OCU Constitution should write to you.

The C E Gourley VC Charity was founded in 1919 by public donations to commemorate the award of the Victoria Cross to Sergeant Gourley who served in the First World War. He was educated at Calday Grange Grammar School and Gourley's Lane which runs from Grammar School Lane to Column Road is also named after him.

The Charity awards university scholarships to students of Calday Grange and other secondary schools in West Kirby and Hoylake area of £50 p.a. over a three year period and has a small annual income of a few hundred pounds. Michael Byrne, OCU Treasurer and Mark Rodaway, CGGS Headteacher, are two of the current Trustees and John Loney, OCU Secretary, has been a Trustee in the past.

I should like to propose that the charity is awarded a single donation of £1000 by the OCU to enable additional scholarships to be awarded to local students.

Yours sincerely

Michael L Byrne MBE, FCA, MAE
Treasurer and Trustee