



# Old West Buckland Association

April 2010

Dear Alumni, Parents, Staff, Governors and Friends

As you can see, we are doing something new this year! We have been looking at the ways in which we let you, our members, know about OWBA events and news throughout the year, and investigating how we can do this better. Currently, we produce three editions of the Buckland Brief each year: a January edition, May edition, and August edition. Following much discussion, we have decided to replace the May edition with this newsletter (a 'mini-brief' so to speak!). The Buckland Brief is it is an invaluable way of updating members on news about alumni, events, and the school. It is not, however, cheap to publish and send out. Having looked closely at what is contained in each of the three editions, we realised that while the January and August editions contain a lot of news and reports about OWBA events and members, the May edition is used mainly to tell people about dates of forthcoming events. By moving to a 'mini-brief' each Spring, we free up funds which can be used more productively on other OWBA projects to promote the association to existing and new alumni, while continuing to update you on recent news and forthcoming events. We have also been working with both the school and the Foundation Office to pinpoint ways in which we can work together more efficiently and economically – in this case by sending our newsletter out with the April edition of the Foundation Newsletter. (And a big 'thank you' to the Foundation Office for helping us do this).



As I write, it's a couple of weeks after the 123<sup>rd</sup> London Dinner, and my first as President of the OWBA. As always, it was a great evening, (for which, a big 'thank you' to Chris Boulden for his sterling work organising the whole event). It was lovely to see such a broad age-range of members, including the Head and Deputy Head of School and the Heads of Houses. I look forward to seeing them at next year's dinner, with as many of their classmates as they can gather up – along with, perhaps, this year's trio of "gatecrashers" who it was great, if unexpected, to see catching up with former pupils and staff at the end of the night. This year, also, for the first time, partners were invited. I

hope that **you** all had a fun night too – I didn't see too many eyes glazed over due to a surfeit of reminiscences about school-day antics, but did see lots of smiles and laughter.

A lot of that laughter was down to a fantastic speech by guest speaker, Alan (Franky) Humes, especially when he revealed the various ways in which West Buckland had prepared him for a career in the forces. When I caught up with Alan at last year's dinner I was fascinated to hear what he had been up to since leaving school, and I am so pleased he agreed to be guest speaker this year, so that others could hear his story, of the bravery of injured soldiers with whom he had worked, and about Help for Heroes. As Alan said, whatever your view on going into Iraq and Afghanistan, it is truly humbling to hear about the bravery and commitment of the members of the armed forces on duty there and of those who care for the injured.

And the events don't stop there! This summer, on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, we have the annual OWBA sports day along with the West Buckland Summer Ball which promises to be an evening to remember on the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ball tickets are still available, but selling fast, so please don't leave it too long before contacting Anna at the Foundation Office if you want to attend, otherwise you might be disappointed.

The weekend's OWBA sports fixtures of cricket, shooting, tennis, and golf, as always, promise to be a lot of fun. If you want to play, but haven't yet contacted the organisers, please do let them know: their details are given below with the diary dates. And if, like me, you are more of a spectator than a player, what better way to spend a summery Sunday than by watching the players doing the hard work, having a





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look around the school to see what's changed (such as the newly-opened 150 building) and what's stayed the same, and finishing off the afternoon with a barbecue at the school. In fact, why not make a day of it, get together a group of you, and finish off the day (post-barbecue) by enjoying the evening at the Stag's Head (well-known by many a member from their school days!), or by heading further afield into South Molton, Barnstaple, or farther still. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the number of great places to eat, drink, and pass the evening chatting. I am sad to say, however, for those who remember it well, that the oft-frequented establishment, "Zenaxi's", is no more!

I look forward to seeing those of you who can make it at the various events throughout the year. In the meantime, if anyone has any ideas on things we can do to continue to improve the service we offer our members, please feel free to contact me on [kirstiryall@aol.com](mailto:kirstiryall@aol.com). And, if you would like to get more involved with the OWBA, whether by becoming a committee member, organising an event (formal or informal), or offering your time and expertise to help members and the school, do contact our Secretary, David Walker, on [david@johnwalkerinsurance.co.uk](mailto:david@johnwalkerinsurance.co.uk). We are also looking for Year Reps to help us maintain links with members from all years. If you are interested in becoming a Year Rep, and want to find out more about how it works, please drop me an email. I can promise that it will not be too onerous a role, but it is one that will help us help OWBA members get the most from the OWBA.

Finally, if you have any news and/or pictures you would like to share in the August edition of the Buckland Brief, please contact our OWBA Correspondents, David and Helen Clark, on 01598 740297 or at [owba.clark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:owba.clark@hotmail.co.uk).

Wishing you all a Happy Easter and a fantastic summer, wherever you are.

Kirsti Ryall  
**OWBA President**

## Forthcoming OWBA Dates for your Diary

- Sat 3 July**     **Summer Ball**     For tickets contact Anna on 01598 760188 or  
Email: [ar@westbuckland.devon.sch.uk](mailto:ar@westbuckland.devon.sch.uk)
- Sun 4 July**     **1030**     **OWBA General Committee Meeting**  
**1200**     **OWBA Cricket**     (Martin Clark 07733 017878)  
**1330**     **Team Lunch in Karslake Hall**  
Lunch available for members and friends - £2.25 per person  
**1400**     **OWBA Mixed Tennis**     (Tony Hooper 01598 760130)  
              **OWBA Golf**     (Rob Wheeler 01271 814087)  
              **OWBA Shooting**     (Chris Wilson 01769 572661)  
Followed by tea in the Karslake Hall and presentation of shooting cups.  
**1600 – 2000**     **BBQ** for all sports team and supporters
- Thur 15 July**     **OWBA Veterans' Shooting, Bisley.** Meet 1230 at Flagpoles, National Shooting Centre.
- Sat 18 Sept**     **Speech Day & OWBA Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Shooting matches**
- Sun 19 Sept**     **OWBA Annual General Meeting and President's Reception**
- Tues 2 Nov**     **WBS Chartered Surveyors' Dinner** – The Oriental Club, London
- Sun 14 Nov**     **Remembrance Day Service**
- Sat 20 Nov**     **Tom Hitchins Plymouth Dinner** – Royal Western Yacht Club