

## **THE SOCIETY OF OLD BRENTWOODS**

### **Hon. Secretary's Annual Report 2004/2005**

At the AGM in September John Norris retired as president and Tim Pailthorpe was elected in his place. Everyone has been impressed by John's devotion to duty and the courtesy and cheerful manner which marked his period in office. Despite undergoing major surgery part way through his presidency he attended many Old Brentwood functions. His common sense and good humour has been valuable in guiding the General Committee in its deliberations. John has continued to attend meetings as Vice President and I am sure that he will always take a strong interest in the Society's affairs.

Tim Pailthorpe has started his year in office in his usual calm and quiet manner but nonetheless shows his keen interest in the Society's affairs and liaising with the School. This is perhaps no new thing for him having been the Society's Hon Registrar recently and for many years having run the Society's Cross Country Club as well as organising reunions for his contemporaries. The date of the Annual Dinner was moved to late in May 2005 and I will report on it next year.

This year saw a significant change for the School. John Kelsall retired as Headmaster and his successor is Ian Davies. The Society is pleased to welcome Ian and his wife Sara to Brentwood. He has already spoken very highly of the school staff and his wish to continue close links with the Society which John Kelsall did so much to strengthen. Ian Davies has already made an impact with the Society. Old Brentwoods Day is to be held slightly later in September and the whole day will be taken up with more and varied activities in which Old Brentwoods and other visitors to the School are encouraged to participate.

The Rugby Club has been growing in strength during the past few years and continues to thrive with activity both on and off the pitch. The teams have had some success on the field (but not too much! promotion is a big step!). The Club is planning to build a spectator stand with a view to staging high profile matches which will doubtless increase the Club's standing.

The Cricket Club celebrates 50 years of its founding this year. It has done much to encourage young players through its Colts Training Sessions. The pitch is highly regarded in the district and is used by Essex County Cricket for minor matches.

The Football Club is stabilising after some years of contraction. Late in the season the first XI were still in a good position to win the league and was still in contention in the Arthur Dunn Cup in the Essex Senior FA Cup. A backlog of fixtures meant that many games were played in the last few weeks of the season and unfortunately the team had no trophies for their efforts. It was particularly disappointing to lose in the final of the Arthur Dunn Cup to Eton.

The Netball Club was started only a few years ago and is now well established and playing regularly in a League. The School has been instrumental in getting the Club off the ground with the notable efforts of Wendy Juniper and others.

The other affiliated clubs have enjoyed themselves. I particularly mention the Theatre Club run

by Stephen Lines. It repeatedly sends a full coach load of happy theatre goers to the West End for an evening out. The tickets are usually sold immediately each trip is announced.

For many years Stuart Doran and John Harris have organised events for Old Brentwoods for the purpose of raising money for charity. They have formalised their efforts by the creation of the Old Brentwoods Indigent Fund which supports local charities. Stuart and John put on the Burns Night in January and a Golf Day in July. This year they have added a new Half Marathon which is intended to become a regular event.

The Society is grateful to the School for instituting some 10 years ago automatic membership for leavers for the first 5 years after leaving school. The difficulty for the Society is retaining membership after the 5 year period has elapsed and to encourage membership amongst female leavers. The School has circulated an Alumni questionnaire which I hope you have all been able to read and complete. The results of the questionnaire will be shared by the School with the Society and I hope the information obtained will enable the General Committee to formulate new and effective proposals for the recruitment of new members. The General Committee has also set up a Young Old Brentwoods Sub Committee to focus on younger members requirements. As ever the General Committee needs younger members to replace ageing officers and committee members to ensure that the activities of the Society and the Club House continue. I am pleased that Gary Murphy of the Rugby Club has joined the Committee this year and is also on the Young Old Brentwoods Sub Committee. I hope that other younger members will follow his example.

The Society needs a new Hon Editor for the Chronicle. Godfrey Thomas took over and implemented the new format which has been widely welcomed by members. He has, however, "done his stint" and a fresh editor is required as soon as possible. Whoever takes on the role will have support from the editorial committee, chaired by the experienced publisher David Tee.

We also need a new Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary. Both Stuart Mathieson and I are continuing to perform these functions but it is time that others came forward to apply for the posts. Stuart has been Hon. Treasurer for over twenty years and I have been Hon. Secretary since 1989. Stuart and I can supply further information about what is involved to any potential candidates.

The Club House remains the focus of many of the Society's activities. Significant sums have been spent on a disabled toilet to comply with new regulations and on refurbishing the kitchen. The former kitchen was the original from when the Club House opened almost 30 years ago and required upgrading. It should enable improved catering to be provided for all members wishing to use the Club House.

Once again I must thank Chris and Edna Innerd for all their hard work in keeping the Club House and grounds in good order. I also thank our Chairman Simon Boon for his leadership and all the other members of the General Committee and Management Committee for their hard work in running your Society.

IRW

May 2005