

## OP Club Newsletter Spring 2008

Making the assumption that you will read this before the magazine, may I explain some changes which are taking place to the administration of the Club this year.

At the AGM in February I had the honour to be elected President for this year and am therefore no longer the Hon.Sec. That position, is now filled by Barry Easton who, for many years, was the Hon.Treasurer, and that position is now filled by Bruce Strugnell.

To lighten Barry's workload we have also appointed a Social Secretary, Gareth Perry, and a Membership Secretary, Richard Harrison who is our High Technology wizard. All the relevant information is recorded in the magazine and, as the year goes by, we hope that it will slowly be resolved as to who is responsible for what . We ask for your indulgence for any confusion that may occur during that process.

Roger Harris President

### **Dates for your Diaries.**

27<sup>th</sup> June This is the date of the annual Tennis and Cricket matches against the School. The OP teams will be organised this year by Roger Wilkins ( Cricket) and Tim Clark (Tennis). If you would like to play in either of these matches please contact the organisers direct by phone to put in your bid. Both matches will be played during the afternoon.

Roger Wilkins 02392 327049

Tim Clark 02392 754612

**10<sup>th</sup> October :- The OP Club Autumn Supper.** The highly successful and much appreciated format of last year will be repeated in 2008 and the evening will commence with a drinks reception in the Michael Nott Music School. Andrew Cleary, Director of Music at the School has again, promised to provide sections of the School Swing Band as our entertainment for the evening before we transfer to the South Wing of the David Bawtree Building for a buffet supper. Booking a place for supper will be essential again this year as the caterers will require a definite number in advance of the event and the mechanism for this will be explained in the next Newsletter. The date again – Friday October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**13<sup>th</sup> December** The OP Club Annual Dinner.

( The winter sports fixtures against the School are under discussion to try and find a more successful format but they would traditionally have been on this date and may easily still be so.)

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In addition , we thought you might be interested to be informed of a few of the important dates in the School and Development Office diaries. You may have already seen these but better twice than not at all.

20<sup>th</sup> June :- School History: Book Launch and Inaugural Summer Art Show. Details from the Development Office.

21st-29th June :- Portsmouth Festivities  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July :- The Sixth Form Play  
4<sup>th</sup> July :- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion and Inspection of the CCF organised by the Development Office.  
9<sup>th</sup> July :- School Sports Day  
11<sup>th</sup> July :- Founders Day  
11<sup>th</sup> October :- Wildlife and Field Club Reunion organised by the development Office.  
9<sup>th</sup> November :- Remembrance Concert in the Cathedral.  
27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> November :- School major Drama production in the Kings Theatre.  
12<sup>th</sup> December :- The Upper school carol Service in the Cathedral.  
For more information on the Development Office events please make contact with Liz Preece on [l.preece@pgs.org.uk](mailto:l.preece@pgs.org.uk) / tel.02392681392

### **The Old Portmuthian Charity**

Thanks to the generosity of some OPs the Charity is presently helping one or two needy pupils each year to stay in the Sixth Form by paying a proportion of their fees. However, the Bursar annually receives far more requests for financial assistance throughout the School than there are funds to meet this need. The importance of the availability of bursaries has been heightened by the new rules regarding the charitable status of independent schools. To date it has been sufficient for such schools to simply provide education in order to satisfy the test of 'public benefit'. This is no longer the case. Now, one major criterion of providing 'public benefit' is to offer sufficient bursaries to enable young people to attend the School, who otherwise would be unable to do so. If insufficient bursaries are offered, the continuance of charitable status, which is worth a large sum annually, could be in question.

The OP Charity would like to offer help to more pupils but presently does not have the funds to do so. I am sure there are many of us who are grateful to PGS for providing us with the education that set us on the road to satisfying and profitable lives and careers. If you are in a position to help needy pupils to benefit from the excellent education that you enjoyed, I ask you to please help.

It may be that you made out a Standing Order, which is now coming to an end, in favour of the last School Development Appeal. Would you be prepared to transfer this to the OP Charity?

Donations and Standing Orders of whatever amount are always greatly appreciated. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from the OP Club website [www.opclub.co.uk](http://www.opclub.co.uk) (username: opclub, password: williamsmith) or obtained by writing to the address below. If you prefer to give a one-off donation please send a cheque, made payable to The OP Charity, to the same address. Thank you

M.E. Shepherd (Chairman of Trustees)

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*Barry Easton, The Hon. Treasurer, The Old Portmuthian Charity  
7 Spindrifft Mews, Bosham, West Sussex, PO18 8LW*

