



Rossallian Club

NEWS
Dec 2004

Presidential Letter

As Jen Booth so emphatically states, without ROSSALL RAMBLES there is no Newsletter! The impact of various items can vary, but from time to time something jumps off the page! That was certainly true following our most recent July issue when the name BOSCASTLE hit the headlines following the frightful storm. It was a note from Rev. Canon John Ayling (J + D.C. 1948-55) who had simply wanted to find a good home for his 78rpm recordings of Choral Evensong from 1951; he had recently retired as Rector of Boscastle and moved to the tranquil surroundings of Leominster. 15th August 2004 brought Boscastle onto our television screens and the front pages of our newspapers – nobody could be unaware of the devastation caused, and my memory carried me back to the summer holidays of 1952 and a similar disaster at Lynton and Lynmouth.

My obsession with history and dates is without doubt the lasting effect of being taught by a superb history master, P. M. Wilson, who arrived at Rossall in 1945, later becoming housemaster of Dragon and Crescent before retiring in 1962 to Frinton-on-Sea in distant Essex, now the home ground of my dear friend and Manchester “émigré”, Alec Rowley (J.S and M.C 1945-53).

The Rossallian link and the historic date in question was 10 May 2004, for that was the centenary of the birth of a remarkable Rossallian, Sir David Brown whose initials are perpetuated on the latest Aston Martin DB9. A Huddersfield boy, he came to Rossall in the summer term of 1918 before leaving as a 16 year old to receive private tuition in engineering and joining the family firm aged 17 – those were the days! A director at 25, the manufacturer of the first all British tractor when he was 31 and the buyer of the then bankrupt Aston Martin company in 1947 – fame and fortune followed, but his links with Rossall remained, as his entry in the 1967 Register with an address at Chequers Manor near High Wycombe reveals! An inspiration

surely to any young Rossallian with engineering qualifications and entrepreneurial skills!

After my historic digression, a swift return to the Rossallian Club of today! Mention was made in my July letter of the impending Devon gathering – not simply a lunch, but a delightful Church service at St. Pancras in Widecombe-in-the-Moor and then a weekend programme, superbly organised by Alan and Valerie Wheelhouse. As I always say, the great joy all club events is the chance to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. It happened that I was seated at lunchtime with Lt. Comm. Stan Farquhar (F. 1936-41), who had served as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm during WWII; conversation naturally ensued and Stan mentioned his former study mate. They had not met since 1939! Detective Ayres was soon on the trail, in search of George Reginald Taylor (F. 1936-39) – mission successful when I located Reg, now living at Ollerton near Knutsford in Cheshire. Telephonic contact was established between the two former study mates, and a reunion will take place at the earliest opportunity!

Alan’s carefully composed table arrangements provided yet another new Rossallian friend at lunch, but this was a man I felt I already knew – I refer to Commander Al Stangroom RN (DC. 1973-76) who with Johnny Moss had been the subject of a full page article “Our Men in the Falklands” in the July News. It was a great pleasure to meet Al and his wife, Sue, both of whom I hope are happily settled in their new home in Oman – we shall look forward with much pleasure to further meetings in the future. There are many extraordinary Rossallian connections with the Middle East, but that must be another story!

Now, in mid November, we are into the Dinner Season in a big way, and I don’t just mean my waistline! Another excellent evening in the most convivial surroundings of the Oriental Club, with Mike Jones still at the helm, was very well supported with a

wonderfully mixed cross section of Rossallians, male and female, young and not so young. The London Dinner also provided a launching pad for the charming water colours of Rossall scenes painted by another friend, John Burrows (J.S and R. 1948-56); available in limited edition form and also as Christmas Cards, all proceeds will go to the newly established Rossall Foundation, so let me urge you to support John’s splendid reminders of your days at Rossall.

As a Mancunian, it almost feels like a journey home when Diana and I attend the Birmingham and Midlands Dinner. Happy memories of time in Edgbaston and Market Bosworth are enhanced by familiar faces which grow no older! John Whitlock exercises his secretarial skills in a multitude of ways and ensures that the A.G.M. lasts no more than 60 seconds. This year was notable in providing Mr. M. A. L. Tansey (F. 1949-54) with an opportunity to address his fellow Branch members about The Rossall Foundation and its objectives. Alf has been a stalwart member of the Branch for many years and is now directing his considerable energies into this most important development.

At this moment of writing, I can say that the Rossallian Club is in very good heart – the reservoir of goodwill and affection for our School is evident at every Club event, and I hope and believe that The Foundation will receive the strongest possible support from Rossallians around the world. In wishing Rossall the very best for 2005, may I send my warmest good wishes to all of you at this special time of year, coupled with most sincere thanks to all those associated with our Club for their continuing support!

Floreat Rossallia!

*George Ayres
President*

ROSSALL SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Since the July Newsletter, the Rossall Foundation has made steady progress.

We are forming a Development Committee as the hub with representation from each aspect of the school (Council, ORs, Senior Management, Common Room, parents and the local authority) and we are looking for 'Link' ORs to help with communications through year and house groups etc.

Jen Booth has built up a very useful database and we have been to most of the recent OR Dinners to try and explain what we are about.

I must say that my reception at the dinners has been extremely warm and encouraging. ORs show a great feeling for the school.

We are in the process of sending out legacy literature so 'older' ORs, can expect something in the post!

If anyone wishes to help the Foundation or if you know of ORs who have lost touch with Rossall please contact Jen Booth or me.

May I wish you all the best for 2005.

Alf Tansey (F 49-54)

**Manor Farm, Old Milverton
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV32 6SA
Tel: 01926 339495
email tansey@oldmil.fsnet.co.uk**

**Or contact Jen Booth
The Rossallian Club
Rossall School, Fleetwood
Lancashire FY7 8JW
Tel/Fax: 01253 877420
email ross.club@btopenworld.com**



Are You on this Photograph?

Sent in by William Sumner (DC 53-56)

Message from the Principal

"Headmaster, I would like you to write no more than 500 words, try to make it light hearted and have it on my desk by tomorrow morning."

With considerable trepidation I handed this to Miss Booth for marking!

Headmasters, whether good, bad or indifferent, need a sense of perspective tempered by a sense of humour; or in my case a sense of the absurd. As many of you know, I try to include some comment on the foibles of modern education, on the back of the weekly Bulletin that is published to the pupils in hard copy and that you can peruse on the web. I am often asked whether this is a chore but for the most part I enjoy the creative processes involved. Education like politics is a convenient football to be kicked hither and thither. It is not for want of a story but sometimes it is for want of an angle, to give the story an edge that takes times to settle upon.

I recently wrote a piece on the problems with statistics that the School has on an annual basis with the Department for Education and Skills. I entitled it 'Don Quixote', simply because I could empathise with, the perhaps misguided knight, tilting at windmills. I know many of you remain interested to see the name of Rossall and particularly our results in various papers.

Often we do not appear because our A Level cohort is too small and there is still no foolproof way of counting in our Baccalaureate scores to reflect the commitment of the pupils. The Don Quixote story relates to the appalling misrepresentation our GCSE results will have because the system, already flawed by age-trap statistics, does not count the International GCSEs taken by 40% of our pupils. The Headmasters' Conference is currently fighting this case on our behalf.

In some of my wilder moments, when issues seem so intractable, I pen pieces for the Bulletin that thankfully never see the light of day. Often written when I am at my wits end on a Thursday evening they are not what appear on a Friday. As an example, I did not publish a piece entitled 'Are Independent Schools Too Expensive', although the logic was irrefutably against this proposition, I could imagine there would have been a line of parents seeking an audience and a discount soon after publication. The absurd, well! With the reappearance of Bin Laden in time to win Mr Bush the election, I was taken by the fact the most powerful nation on earth could not track down one man. I was tempted to write a piece entitled 'Bin Laden still buys his kippers in Fleetwood.' Just imagine if it was true.

Tim Wilbur

Coast-to-Coast via Hadrian's Wall June 29th – July 6th 2005

Many of you will recall The Epic Journey reported in the July 2003 edition of the Rossallian Newsletter.

David Dixon (MC 56-62) a stalwart of the Devon Branch walked from Land's End to John O' Groats for the Army Benevolent Fund. David is, once again, in training at Sherborne School where they have kindly agreed to assist with his preparation. He is going to raise money for the interior decoration of the Chapel – about £20,000 is required!

David will begin his journey, literally, in the North Sea in Northumberland and will end it in the Solway Firth off the coast of Cumbria! The journey is expected to take 8 days and each day, David will be joined by a team of pupils from Rossall and hopefully by some ORs – their families and friends.

David will need rest and refuge each night and would be grateful if ORs living near the wall could offer accommodation.

If you are interested in any aspect of this exciting journey and wish to help David raise money, please complete the form on the sheet inserted. We can't be very specific re where David will be each day, at the moment, but we will be able to furnish you with this information in the New Year.

Get out your walking boots you healthy Rossallians and support David and the decoration of the Chapel.

David and his fellow walkers are expected to walk through the Archway at noon, Wednesday July 6th.

ROSSALL RAMBLES

Congratulations to **Andrew V.M.Murray (JS&DC 56-61)** on being awarded the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours. It was an acknowledgement for **Andrew's** contribution to the CCF movement, nationally, in schools.

News from **Naomei Cathcart (PS&R 87-97)**. After leaving Rossall, **Naomei** went to Edinburgh University where she read Psychology. Five years later she gained her MA in psychology and an MSc. In Cognitive Science. She is currently working for Fidelity Investments in Kent as a Service Level Manager (IT). Last year, **Naomei** took up rock climbing and loves it. Since discovering a new level of fitness, mountain biking, snowboarding and water sports are now pursued, also.

Sister **Natasha (PS&R 88-98)** graduated from Manchester University where she had studied Music. She also did a Masters degree and is now working for the Cooperative Bank.

Brother **Richard (JS 92-97)** – the most competent U'11 scorer ever, has just completed his first year at Warwick University where he is studying History and Politics.

Older brother **James (91-2001)** has gained a 2:2 at Nottingham Trent University and is now working for a large advertising company in London.

The four **Cathcarts** are all qualified Day Skippers and sail a lot in Mallorca. **Naomei** is still in contact with several ORs.

His Honour Judge Philip Clegg (JS&F 51-61) appeared in the dock at Basildon Crown Court in August. However he was not alone – the Deputy Chief Constable of Essex, the Bishop of Chelmsford and the High Sheriff of Essex joined him. They were sentenced to a day in Bullwood Hall Prison for 'taking money from the public for charitable causes.' Of course it was a 'comedy conviction,' and the four along with another six defendants were raising money for the Essex Community Foundation, which has raised £4m. for 1,500 groups since it was set up in 1996.

Stuart Beresford Haynes is currently conducting Ph.D research at the University of Wales into the landed estates of the 19th. and 20th. centuries. **Stuart** would be very pleased to receive news about ORs with whom he has lost touch since moving to London. **Stuart's** email address is: gladstonewolf@aol.com

Richard Sumner (M 75-80) graduated from Newcastle University in 1984 after reading Electrical Engineering. He spent the next 15 years working as a project manager in the electricity industry developing gas-fired power stations. In 2000 **Richard** went to Aston University and completed an MBA course and he is now working for a small business consultancy in Birmingham and living in Edgbaston. In the last 20 years **Richard** has spent a lot of time travelling and backpacking around the world. He speaks Spanish! He still retains his interest in sport, although he retired from rugby 8 years ago. **Richard's** address is: 12, Sir Harry's Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. B15 2UY – Tel: 0121 440 1941. His email address is: Richard@vc-consulting.co.uk

Michael Hefferon married in Holland on the 20th. of August. He and his wife, Maureen plan to live in Spain and **Michael** intends to attend OR get-togethers.

Lucy Billiard nee Bright (W 87-91) gave birth to a baby girl, Zoe Alessandra on July 26th in Warwick Hospital. Zoe is a sister for one-year old, Tom. **Lucy** lives with her young family and husband in Stratford-on-Avon.

John Richardson (J&M 65-72) took up his appointment as Headmaster of Cheltenham College. **John** read Engineering at Selwyn College, Cambridge and he began his teaching career at Dean Close in Cheltenham. In 1980 he took a day house, played a part in the Careers department, coached all three major games, ran the CCF/RAF Section, ran two Mathematics societies and the Christian Union. **John** then moved to Eton in 1984, again to teach

mathematics. Again he looked after the RAF section of the CCF and oversaw the coaching of the U'16 rowing crews; coaching the senior crew himself. In 1992, **John** moved to Culford as Headmaster and in 2000 he became Chairman of the East Division of HMC and served on the universities sub-committee. **John** has inspected schools since the inception of ISI. **John** married his wife, Ruth, in 1989 and they have three children, Matthew 13, Peter 13 and Sarah 9.

Having obtained an industrial design degree from Newcastle University, **Michael Fairclough (J&SE73-80)**, has settled in his hometown of Preston and has been running his successful design company for almost 20 years. On March 23rd 2004 a daughter, Georgina was born. However, Georgina had a heart problem but this was resolved at Alder Hey Children's Hospital and Georgina is now well. **Michael** and his wife, Mechelle have a house in northeast Spain but there have been no reports of anyone playing Ross Hockey on the nearby sandy beach. **Michael** still performs music and enjoys real ale! His brother, **John (J&SE 70-77)** is a senior pharmaceutical rep' living in Norfolk. Like brother **Michael**, a home in the sun beckons.

Steve Moran (DC 89-91) graduated from Manchester Polytechnic in 1994 and then spent 9 years in London working for an IT recruitment firm, Harvey Nash. **Steve** married Lucy in 2000 and baby Joseph was born in 2003. The **Moran** family live in Shrewsbury from where **Steve** runs his own recruitment company. **Steve** would love to hear from **Mark Curran, David Hayes, Roger Pestereff** and **Mark Warburton**. **Steve's** e-mail address is: stevemoran2003@yahoo.co.uk

Roger Broadbent (DC 45-51) has been on his travels again – on the Queen Mary 11 with his nephew, Bartholomew. **Roger's** nephew was lecturing on wine but they had the misfortune to be at a table with a group of New York tee-totalers!

Lucy Mair (PS&Dn 90-00) auditioned and was accepted for a coveted place to study singing at the Venice Conservatoire. This is for a two year Grand Diploma. **Lucy** began her studies in Venice in November of this year under the direction of the international opera singer, Stella Silva.

Tom Goldsworthy (PS& R 78-88) is the sales director of a Telecom company in London. Next July, **Tom** will marry his fiancée in East Grinstead and in the meantime he teaches his godson – Rick Water's son to sail in the Solent.

The Waring brothers – John is a partner in a Honda dealership in Australia. **Ross**, after doing VSO in Nicaragua completed his Ph.D at Imperial College, London in Engineering. He and his professor established their own multi-million pound engineering business based in London, Turbo GenSet. **Robert** is Professor of English at Osaka University in Japan and has written books that have been published by Oxford University Press. **Jason**, after a career in debugging missile systems is mapping fish stock in the Pacific Ocean. Eldest brother, Professor Paul Waring has left the McCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne and has been appointed the head of pathology and director of molecular genetics at Genetech in San Francisco.

Congratulations to **Professor Saul Becker (J&Fn 70-77)** who is leaving Loughborough University to become Professor of Social Care and Health at Birmingham University in January.

Many thanks to **David McLaughlin (MC 63-68)** who is the conservation architect for Bath and North East Somerset has presented the school with architectural drawings of the chapel, Mitre, Dining Hall Memorial Chapel and the Common Room, which date back to the 1860s.

In May, **David** is exhibiting his research on the 'Blitz in Bath', which occurred over three days in May 1944.

ROSSALL RAMBLES

David Dixon (MC 56-62) and his wife Wendy attended the 60th Anniversary Service for the Army Benevolent Fund, which was held in Westminster Abbey. After a rousing service the **Dixons** attended a reception at St. James' Palace. The Queen, Prince Philip and the Duke of Kent were the hosts. Because of **David's** walk from Lands End to John O'Groats last year for the ABF and his long association with that organization, **David** and his wife were presented to Her Majesty. **David** is hoping to complete a walk along Hadrian's Wall and down to Rossall in the summer, for The Rossall Foundation.

Toni Antoni (PS&MF 74-83) is very busy running his travel agency, 'Travel and Sun,' a restaurant in Didsbury and two pub/restaurants in Delamere Forest. He is married and has a 14-month-old son, Joshua. **Toni** is still in contact with **Tariq** and **Samir Boubess** who have returned to Beirut.

Mimi Avery (W 87-88) is head of Corporate Sales for the family wine merchants, Averys of Bristol. She is also social secretary of the Bristol Junior Chamber of Commerce, a Liveryman of the Vintners of London and she continues to study for her Master of Wines.

Meanwhile, sister **Ros (W 89-94)** has returned to South Africa with her husband and newly-born daughter, Jennifer.

Mathilde Peres (JS&Dn 82-86) left Rossall and returned to France and she has lived there ever since. She did a Law degree in Bordeaux and then went to Business School in Paris. She married in 1995 and is now **Mathilde Grunbaum**. **Mathilde** has three children aged 8, 6 and 4. She has kept in touch with **Sarah Todd**, her cousin who also lives in France and **Ian Roberts** who works in France. **Mathilde** would like to contact Jaqui Pringle, Libby Temperley, Helen Edwards, Ruth Scarlett, Julie Wood, Rachel Simpson and many more! **Mathilde's** email address is: mathilde.grunbaum@libertysurf.fr.

Congratulations to **David Ewart (PS&R 60-71)** who has been appointed Head Master of Barnard Castle School.

Caroline Crawshaw (Dn 88-95) married fellow lawyer, Gareth Stokes in a ceremony at Sacred Heart Church, Thornton on June 26th. 2004. Other Rossallians present were: **Stuart Crawshaw 90&Fn 84-91**, **Elisabeth McLellan (Dn 93-95)**, **Dr. Simon Rendell (PS&Fn 85-95)** and **Peter Metcalfe (PS&Fn 90-93)**.

You can perhaps imagine my surprise when...

...on opening the pages of my latest "Old Rossallian," I read an article by two ORs who had just completed a tour of duty in the Falklands. Normally, I get my OR when the surface mail eventually gets here from the U.K. I usually pause from bashing out replies to e-mails and spend half an hour reading about Rossall, its aspirations, its triumphs and its shortcomings and (rather depressingly as they seem to have begun mentioning names I know!) its obituaries. It's a sort of escapism – it brings back memories of people and events, and above all, a moment of nostalgia.



So there I was – feeling surprised that some OR's had been close by and I never met them and then saw the website in the magazine. The miracles of the internet led me to the OR website and I registered. I thought I would root around and see what was going on in the OR world. I am looking forward to meeting some old friends or at least finding out if they managed to keep out of jail! (remember that time in Cleveleys with the hockey sticks and the Mods on the sea front?)

Having registered on the website and sort of stuck my head above the parapet, I was then asked if I would write an article for the "Old Rossallian", which explains this piece of work.

It's hard to know what to write about – I suppose that everyone always wants to know what it is like living in the Falklands, so I will try to explain as best I can. Firstly it's bigger than you think – about the size of Wales or Northern Ireland, with one little village of about 2,000 people called Stanley, a few roads, a lot of sheep, good fishing and loads and loads of little soap operas going on all the time. I could talk about the penguins (five types), the wildlife (seals and birds and so on), and the fantastic sunsets and fierce seas surrounding us, but all of this you can discover by reading up on the tourist brochures.

I could go one level deeper and tell you about the fish we catch (which is how I make my living), and how Drac Owen's maths classes, Giddy "Oh my Giddy Aunt" Gill's and David Self's English lessons never quite taught me what I needed to know about fish, but they were indeed a lesson for life. I could give to Kipper Pearson and his Spanish lessons the credit for that little something extra that really kicked me down the road to the Falklands and fortune, but what I really want to do is to tell you about the soap operas that for us are a reality of everyday life and how Rossall in the sixties / seventies taught me what I needed to know to survive!

Imagine a sort of open prison with just over 2,000 inmates. We all live on an island in the South Atlantic, in the middle of nowhere. Our neighbour (Argentina) constantly threatens us by trying to bust our fragile economy with one childish act after another. Don't believe everything you read in the UK press – we are boom and bust down here, and although we have a huge income per head of population, - have you ever looked at the cost of running a small country? We are OK for the moment, but make no mistake

that the Falklands population would evaporate and disappear if the fish were ever to run out...

We have the tranquil, peaceful and very British outlook that always surprises our visitors, but underneath this veneer we are a hive of stressful activity. There is zero unemployment – everyone has a job. Most of us wear a variety of hats - which does make life both interesting and hectic. Running a business, serving on government committees, hosting visitors as a Chamber of Commerce, acting as Justice of the Peace, and doing a variety of other things makes for a very busy and, at times, quite difficult life. Imagine fining someone for speeding on Monday and then overtaking them on Tuesday!

The soap opera nature of Falklands life is something we all learn to live with. You might as well be truthful – if you tell little lies in the street it gets too complicated to try to remember what you last said and to whom you said it. Everyone knows where you are, where you have been, and (more to the point), where you should be. Like ants under a microscope we all run around in a sort of orderly fashion, with some sort of ultimate aim, but at times I could well believe there is no well-defined pattern.

The Falkland Islands Government (known of course as FIG) rules our lives with at times what could be called benign dictatorship from the "Secretariat" (sic). It is a democracy but in such a small society where everyone is busy, there are usually all too few who stand for election, and the result is therefore this strange mix of communism, benign dictatorship and nanny state.

Look - if any Rossallians are heading down to the Falklands get in touch and I can then regale you with stories of tales from the colonies that would make your hair turn grey! Seriously the south West Atlantic branch is ready to be formed!

Dick Sawle (J&P 65-72)

Chair of Council Reports

Another year, the 161st, in the life of Rossall School has just begun. In many ways the School is a far cry from the "Body of Clergymen and Gentlemen for the most part resident in the County of Lancaster" who set up Rossall School to ". provide at moderate cost, a classical, mathematical and general education of the highest class for the Sons of Clergymen and others.' The fees are still 'moderate', at least compared with the South (although I am sure parents find it hard to fund fees out of taxable income); we still provide an education though no longer classical but mathematical and now scientific; we still strive to provide the best academic education that is possible under the constraints of the politically driven standards of today. There are very few sons of clergymen as pupils from our secular society, but importantly, there is no barrier to entry through our bursaries and scholarships which have been set up by Old Rossallians throughout the years. These pupils appreciated the importance of the education they received at Rossall and who wished to enable those less fortunate than themselves to participate in the uniqueness that is Rossall School.

Over the years the School has changed and modified to move with the times, no longer totally boarding it is now predominately a day school 80% of the pupils being the first in their family to attend an independent school. 50% of our intake is girls and they have made a not inconsiderable impact by their achievements, not only academic but on the sports field, and their 'feminine' influence throughout the School. Our foreign students now ensure Rossall is a truly 'global' school, and these pupils make a worthy contribution to our academic results particularly "A" level and IB. They have gained from the British culture but they, in return, have considerably broadened the horizons of our British pupils enabling them to move into an increasingly 'global' world with confidence but with an appreciation and understanding of other cultures.

We have had a few changes on Council in the past year. Early in 2003 John Prestwich (F & PS 1956-66) who owned a very successful business in the paper industry joined us. In the calendar year 2004 we welcomed six new members; Canon Paul Warren (P.1954-59) who adds to our discussions not only on spiritual matters but education; Henry Fajemirokun (PS and F 1974-1984) whose expertise is in merchant banking both in the UK and USA and brings an international dimension to our discussions; Hamish Aird recently retired Deputy Warden of Radley College; Martin Mosley (PS & R 1958-68)

senior executive Barclays Bank plc; Derek Winterbottom (PS & DC 1952-62) an academic who read History at Oxford, was a schoolmaster at Clifton College, is a biographer and a historian; and finally John Butler (R 1950-54) who ran a highly successful international advertising and PR Agency. I am encouraged that we have been able to persuade individuals of such high calibre to join us on Council. Nevertheless, we would like experienced and enthusiastic younger members to participate in the future of their School.

Council have made many important decisions during the past year; the refurbishment of the school accommodation and facilities using Trust Fund monies to achieve Phase 1. Approved raising money for Phase 2 through loans from our bankers to ensure that this continues; agreed the setting up in perpetuity of a separate organisation The Rossall Foundation to support ongoing fund raising for a vast variety of projects; supported the Commercial Director in his successful bid for Lawrence House Trust monies for the new Astronomy and Science Centre; received a successful Independent Schools' Inspection report on the School, and dealt with a myriad of other statutory and compliance issues. The current five-year plan comes to an end in August 2005 and I believe we have achieved 'a first' in the history of Rossall, a joint collaboration of a

small number of Council Members and the Senior Management Team who between them have produced the road map for the next five years. This is currently being tested financially, and just as soon as we are able, the Headmaster will announce the Plan to all our constituents. The road ahead will not be easy, but with careful research, planning, team work and leadership, we will achieve our objectives.

At this juncture on behalf of Council, I wish to place on record our appreciation of the Headmaster, Tim Wilbur's, continued commitment to the difficult task of moving and energising Rossall forward into the 21st Century; and to the Commercial Director, Charles McIvor, for his hard work in containing costs and ensuring that the School keeps on track to reach its financial targets.

From the foregoing you will see that Rossall in its 161st year, is moving forward, being innovative in its approach to education, and at the same time being as nimble footed as it was in the past to keep ahead of changes in today's educational environment, but importantly still holding true to the ethos laid down in the Charter, of the provision of a good education for all children regardless of race and economic circumstance.

Hazel Trapnell – Chair of Governors.

THE LADIES DID IT! THE PERU CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Sarah Holder-Williams, Katie Lee and Helen Gibson on raising over £13,000 for MacMillan Cancer Relief. They faced jet-lag, altitude sickness and a 5 day trek.

I believe the next stroll will be along the Great Wall of China... Perhaps!



Rossallian Gatherings!

The Devon Lunch



Once again the Devon Lunch did not disappoint. 23 Rossallians and their guests gathered, as usual, at Widecombe Church for coffee prior to a church service. Then it was on to a new venue for a delicious buffet lunch at the Edgemoor Hotel Bovey Tracey. It was good to see many familiar faces enjoying this event.

Those who attended were: Al and Sue Stangroom (DC 73-76) fresh from his posting in the Falklands, David and Wendy Dixon (MC 56-61), Peter and Nicky Boulton (F 53-57),

John and Kath Entwistle (M 50-55), David and Prue Whittingham (M 46-51), John and Fran Moore (P 43-47), Graham Millard (A 43-47), Stanley Farquhar (F 36-40), Hazel Trapnell (Chairman of Council), Wilfred and Joan Fletcher CBE. (C 27-31), Dennis and Mary Fulford-Smith (M42-45), Tony Goode and Francesca (F 32-36), Jen Booth (Asst.Gen.Sec. CR 72-), Kath Mounsey, George Ayres (President M50-55), David and Phillipa Cutter (M43-48), John Cutter (M 45-50), Jim and Moira Cowpe (Gen.Sec. J&DC 49-55), John Corder (M48-53), Tim and Faye Wilbur, Principal, Alf Tansey (Chairman of The Rossall Foundation, F 49-54), Mary and Philip Atkinson (MC 45-50), Dorothy and Alan Green, Rev. Tony and Margaret Woodason. Last but not least, the organizer and organist, Alan Wheelhouse (M 48-53) and his wife Val who hosted a drinks party on the eve of the lunch. Many thanks, Alan and Val - a true Devon Delight!

London Dinner at the Oriental Club



41 Rossallians enjoyed a delightful evening at the Oriental Club in October. As usual, the event was superbly organized by Mike Jones (MC 72-77). Following a champagne reception, guests dined on Marble Fish Terrine, Roast Rack of Lamb and traditional Apple Pie. The fine food was accompanied by equally fine wine and port.

It was good to see such an age-range of Rossallians from the '40s to leavers of 2000. The President, George Ayres spoke of lasting friendships and proposed the health of the School. Alf Tansey (F 49-55) chairman of The Rossall Foundation spoke of the latest developments and plans for the infant foundation and then the Chairman of Council, Hazel Trapnell took questions from the floor re the latest developments and achievements of Rossall. There followed lots of chat and catching up – the evening was still in full swing at 12.30am!

Those present were: Roger Hall (P 44-48), Sir Holburt Waring (DC 46-51), Tony Westhead (DC 49-54), George Ayres (M50-55), Chris Buckmaster (P52-57), Peter Holtby (R53-57), Martin Craven (55-60), Clive Littler (DC57-62), Ian Bowden (R57-62), Guy Littler (DC57-62), Peter Bailey (DC58-62), Ian Sproule (DC58-62), John Russ (CR 64-2000), Ian Wyatt (MC69-73), Miles Lees (SE69-75), Gareth Tarr (DC72-77), Gareth Watson (PS&DC 77-87), Chris Butterworth (PS&Fn79-89), Emma Bridge (R93-97), Alison Hope (W93-98), Natalie Martin (W93-98), Stacey Jones (Dn94-98), Hazel Trapnell (Chairman of Council), Alf Tansey (F49-55), Jen Booth (Asst.Gen.Sec., CR72-), Ed Jones (PS&P78-88), Jim Cowpe (DC49-55), Henry Fajemirokun (JS&F74-84), Ian Huntington (A60-64), John Dibble (PS&R81-86), Rick Waters (PS&DC78-88), Paul Clayton (DC81-86), Tom Goldsworthy (PS&R78-88), Ruth-Ann Jurczak (PS&R 85-95), Tom Jurczak (PS&MF91-01), James Cathcart (MCD90-00), John Burrows (JS&R48-56) and Roger Hoffen (SE48-53)

Birmingham Dinner

There was a good attendance at Copt Heath Golf Club on Bonfire Night for the Birmingham Dinner. 40 ORs and guests enjoyed an excellent meal organized by John Whitlock (R84-89).

The speakers were the Principal, Tim Wilbur, Alf Tansey, Jim Cowpe and President George.



Those who attended were: Tim and Faye Wilbur (Principal), Hazel Trapnell (Chairman of Council), George and Diana Ayres (M50-55), Jim and Moira Cowpe (J&DC49-55), Jen Booth (CR 72-), John and Jane Whitlock (R 84-89) Kim and Sue Duce (CR70-75), Tim Edsall & Guest (F49-53), Alf and Sandie Tansey (F49-55), John Henderson (A53-58), Bill Hogg (DC63-67), Nick Elliott (M61-66), Frank and Wendy Taylor (M48-54), Michael Shapeero (SE52-56), Colin and Joyce Mason (JS&A 45-53), Brian and Marjorie Dibble (R36-45), Tony and Margaret Walne (F50-54), Graham Millard (J&A40-47), Charles and Joanne Fraser (A81-84), Ian Shapeero (SE48-53), Chris Fayle (JS&Fn67-76), Ian and Jennifer Stewart (F42-46), David Stockton (P52-57), Ian Robertson (F48-53), Simon Stockton (P 87-92) and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Connor (MC51-56).

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of the **ROSSALLIAN CLUB NEWS**. Your efforts and interest are much appreciated.

Without **YOUR** news there would be no Newsletter!

Rossallian Gatherings!

Paint Bombs: Recording Bath in Wartime

David McLaughlin (MC 65-70) the conservation architect for Bath is co-organising this exhibition, which is to be held, to coincide with the Bath Music Festival, from May 20th. - June 5th. 2005. The exhibition is to be held in the Victoria Art Gallery – a free public facility and has been programmed to coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of Victory in Europe.

The exhibition aims to bring the work of wartime artists to new audiences. They include the war artists, recording Britain artists – John Piper amongst them, architectural illustrators and locally based artists.

The paintings and drawings of these artists record the diverse wartime organizations that worked together to rescue the injured; salvage belongings; remove unexploded bombs; clear bomb sites; repair homes and buildings and recover and bury the bodies of the dead.

The exhibition will include works of art from the British Council, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Imperial War Museum, Tate Britain and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Four private collectors have agreed to loan their work. This includes a large body of work by the artist, illustrator and camouflage officer, Leslie Atkinson (1911-2004) that embraces wartime home life, the Admiralty evacuated to Bath in wartime, bomb damaged buildings in Bath and his work as an Admiralty Camouflage Officer.

There will be a series of free illustrated talks, walking tours and a detailed schools programme. A series of walking tours of four key Bath areas recorded by war artists will take place during the exhibition and one of these guides will be **David**.

A Presentation to Three Presidents

On the evening of September 22nd. The Rossallian club hosted an evening to celebrate a unique occasion. John Dewhurst (JS&R 55-65), Graeme Marrs MBE (J&F 51-57) and Mike Brown (R 52-55) were presented with engraved, crystal tankards to acknowledge their appointments as Presidents of Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire County Rugby Unions. It is a remarkable achievement that three men from the same school should hold these positions in the same year. The President spoke of our pride in this achievement and thanked them for their contributions to the rugby world. George also thanked John Dewhurst for his contribution to Rossall over 50 years as boy, master, rugby coach and General Secretary of the Rossallian Club. They and 35 other Rossallians enjoyed a delicious buffet and lots of chat.

Those enjoying the celebration were: Jim and Moira Cowpe (Gen.Sec. J&DC 49-55), George Ayres (President M 1950-55), Principal, Tim Wilbur and his wife Faye, Miles Green (F 50-57), Johnny Hayhurst (SE 92-97), Travis Wild (MF 82-87), Jen Booth (Asst.Gen.Sec.CR 72-), Martin and Joan Brown (MC 49-52), Richard Brown (R 61-65), John Moore (MC 59-65), Stephen Thornton (J&R 59-64), Graham and Janet Hayhurst (JS&SE 56-66), Alan Clube (CR 63-91), John Fisher (JS&R 66-76), Howard Brown (JS&SE 73-84), Doug Smith (J&M 71-78), Arthur Stephenson (J&MC 54-61), John Prestwich (JS&F 56-66), Anthony Fairhurst, Mike Westman, Stuart Corrie, Nick Tait and Josh Roberts from Common Room. The three Presidents wish to present a trophy to school for someone who has contributed, 'behind the scenes' to the successful running of the game.



From the left: Mike Brown, George Ayres, John Dewhurst, Graeme Marrs

ROSSALLIAN GOODS BUY ONLINE



Books: 'A Desolate Place' and 'Rossall Will be what you Make It.' Peter Bennet £15.00 per copy

Christmas Cards: Chapel in the Snow and The Square in the Snow – packs of 6
From paintings by John Burrows OR £3.60

Rossall Prints: 12 x 16 signed and numbered £25.00 or £40.00 for 2

Baseball Caps: £10.00

Cuff Links: *£12.95

Key Rings: drop or triangle £6.17

Pens: with OR crest £5.99

Polo Shirt: blue *£15.87

Rugby OR Zephyr: £35.22

T-Shirts: maroon £9.82

Teddy Bears: £8.50

Ladies' Scarves: Silk £28.20 Polyester £17.63

New! OR Blazers: made to measure – includes making & material £90.00

Ties: Polyester Striped *£6.74 Silk Striped *£26.44 Crested Polyester *£10.50

Bow Ties: Polyester *£7.90 Thistle Silk *£17.06 Silk Elastic £13.49 Silk Wing Bow £17.06

Ladies' Umbrellas: Dark brown, blue & gold/ hooked handle £16.99

Golf Umbrella: Dark brown, blue & gold £17.95

FUTURE EVENTS 2005/06

Thursday, December 30th. 2004 – Shropshire Drinks Party at the home of **Dr. and Mrs. David Whittingham** – Colmandene, 41, Port Hill Road, Shrewsbury at 12 noon. All who would like to attend, please contact **Michael Connor** – Willow House, Crescent Lane, Town Walls, Shrewsbury. - 01743 355047.

Saturday, March 12th. 2005. OR Hockey/Fives Weekend and North Lancashire Dinner at the North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood. Contact Jen Booth: Rossallian Club, Rossall School, Fleetwood. FY7 8JW or Tel/Fax: 01253 87420 or email ross.club@btopenworld.com

Friday, April 8th. 2005. Rossallian Lodge Open Evening at The Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street. This is an open invitation to all Rossallians, Common Room or pupils of the school. There will be a brief tour of the building, an introductory talk followed by drinks in a nearby hostelry – all as guests of The Lodge.

Contact: Robert Clough – 01782 396128 or robertclough@btinternet.com

Saturday, April 30th. 2005. Re-Naming the Pavilion. Jim Parks (England & Sussex – President of Sussex C.C.C.) has agreed to come and re-name The Pavilion – **The Dick Richards Pavilion**. The 1st.XI are playing Arnold and there will be a buffet at tea-time.

If you intend to come, please contact Jen Booth . We need numbers for catering.

Please contact The Rossallian Club Office or Tel: 01253 877420 or email ross.club@btopenworld.com

Saturday, May 7 th. 2005. Lakes Dinner at the Low Wood Hotel, Ambleside.

Contact: Cyril Fayle – 01539 531824 or email csfayle@talk21.com

Friday, May 13th. Oxford Dinner at Radley College, Abingdon.

Contact; Hamish Aird – hamish.aird @ukonline.co.uk

Sunday, May 15th. 2005 OR Cricket v.1st.XI – Rossall School, Fleetwood.

Contact: Howard Green, 11, Ainsdale Avenue, Rossall, Fleetwood 01253 772912 or Jen Booth at The Rossallian Club, Rossall School, Fleetwood. FY7 8JW or Tel/Fax 01253 877420 or ross.club@btopenworld.com.

Friday, May 20th. 2005. Yorkshire Golf and Dinner at West End Golf Club, Highroad Well, Halifax.

Contact: Mike Hannaby 01422 203193.- Michael@mdhannaby.freeserve.co.uk

Saturday, June 11th. Rossallian Masonic Lodge Meeting/Service and Dinner at Rossall School.

Contact: Colin Mason 01530 836 059.

Wednesday, June 29th.- Wednesday, July 6th. The Coast- to- Coast Walk –

David Dixon raises money for the interior decoration of Chapel.

Contact: David Dixon 01458 223317 or The Rossallian Club, Rossall School, Fleetwood. FY7 8JW. 01253 877420 or ross.clu@btopenworld.com or seek information on the website – www.rossallschool.org.uk/rossallianclub.

Saturday, July 16th. 2005 Devon Lunch. At The Edgemoor Hotel, Bovey Tracey. (Note change of date).

Contact: Alan Wheelhouse – Grey Gables, Ilsington, Newton Abbott, Devon. Tel: 01364 661398.

August 2/3/4th. 2005 – OR Cricket Tour – Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

Contact: Jonty Arundel – 01252 860866 or jonathan.arundel@sjpg.co.uk

Saturday, May 13th. 2006 – MF 21st. Birthday Party Lunch – Rossall School, Fleetwood.

Contact: Stuart Corrie (House Master) Mitre Fleur de Lys, Rossall, School, Fleetwood or Jen Booth – Rossallian Club Rossall, School. Further details will appear in later Rossallian Newsletters. Special guests will be past Housemasters of Mitre, Fleur de Lys and Mitre Fleur de Lys.

Don't forget where payment for an event is required, it can be made by credit/debit card by logging into the Rossallian Club website – rossallschool.org.uk/rossallianclub

Need a new tie etc. log in to the Rossallian Club website and buy on line from the RosShop.

***For further information: The Rossallian Club
Rossall School, Fleetwood, Lancs. FY7 8JW or ross.club@btopenworld.com or 01253 877420***

OBITUARIES

Geoffrey Thompson. O.B.E.

'Mr. Fun,' to many Rossallians.

Geoffrey Thompson, who died in June 2004 at the age of 67, was born in Manchester in 1936. He was the grandson of the founder of Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

After attending the Junior School, Geoffrey went to Shrewsbury and then on to Christ's College, Cambridge where he read Economics. He then, followed his father to Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania to study Business Administration. Geoffrey's first job at the Pleasure Beach was to be in charge of catering at the Casino Building. When his father, Leonard, died in 1976, Geoffrey took over, as Managing Director and his mother, Doris, became Chairman. Attractions were frequently re-vamped and in 1977 Geoffrey commissioned the Steeplechase. The Water Chute and The Revolution followed this. In 1994 the Big One was unveiled.

Geoffrey Thompson – 'Mr. Fun' turned the Pleasure Beach into a multi-million pound corporation. The Pleasure Beach became a resort as well as a tourist attraction with the Hot Ice show, circus acts and a Paradise Room where visitors could wine and dine whilst watching a cabaret. In 2003 the Pleasure Beach's first hotel – the Big Blue was opened

Geoffrey became the founding chairman of Europarks in 1980, Chairman of the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions in 1991, a director of the English Tourist Board and the first British president of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. He was also Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire.

In 1998 he was appointed O.B.E. and received an honorary fellowship from the University of Central Lancashire in 2000.

Around the Fylde, Geoffrey was well known for his charitable works. He was a founder member of the Friends of the Grand Theatre, President of the St. John's Development Appeal and a Macmillan Appeal council member.

Geoffrey Thompson will be remembered at Rossall for his generosity. He served for many years on the Rossall Council; he brought great excitement to many Rossallians when each year they were invited to the Ice Show – having snacks beforehand in the Magnolia Café and a ride on the latest 'white knuckle' thriller afterwards. The young boarders were frequently given tickets to enjoy themselves at the weekends. Geoffrey's generosity helped to refurbish Big School in 1994.

His wife, Barbara, daughters Amanda and Fiona and his son Nicholas, survive Geoffrey.

John Griffiths (D 35-39) - 1921-2004.

After leaving Rossall in 1939 and following a brief start to his career in accountancy, my father joined the RAF in 1941. He soon found himself learning to fly in Miami, Oklahoma, a far cry from the green landscape of the hills of mid-Wales where he had spent his early youth and later in Denbigh in North Wales during his Rossall years. Back in blighty, he became a pilot in Bomber Command, mainly flying his beloved Stirlings, from which he survived a full quota of 30 missions.

After the war, John resumed his career in chartered accountancy and shortly thereafter joined a local firm, Aston, Parkinson & Gadd in Colwyn Bay, North Wales. He soon became a partner and remained with the firm until his late seventies after a number of 'phased retirements.' During his time at the firm, he dealt with many of the local farmers continuing his love of the countryside.

His passion for growing vegetables continued from his youth with various allotments and kitchen gardens over the years, and for a while, a row or two of potatoes in a farmer's field. The quantity usually exceeded the demands of the family, especially after my brother and I left home. Even just a few years ago, a record was set for cauliflowers over the winter season –146- much to the delight (dismay?) of his friends and neighbours.

During his retirement, he also resumed his game of golf and various items of silverware from the Seniors group soon appeared. Combining his interests, his contribution to the local Golf Club Christmas raffle of two complete stalks of Brussels sprouts (with roots) has still not been forgotten.

He was an active member in the local Round Table and 41 Club, helping to organize such events as Donkey Derbys, book sales, days out for the needy children and various other events.

John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sheila, his sons David and Colin, and four grandchildren. He died in July of this year at the age of 82 in Llandudno.

Nick Tidy (J&A 78-82)

Nick Tidy died in his sleep in early November 2004 at the young age of 39. Nick lived and worked in California with his wife and two young children.

Nick was a creative and innovative musician and had formed his own company, Ethnicrobot. He composed, produced and mixed electronic music for a worldwide audience. He was going to do some work in Brazil in February 2005. Nick did work for Warner Brothers; Fox sports, TBS, Playboy, Nike, BBC radio and Nickelodeon.

He was also an instrument consultant for Yamaha.

The family has established a scholarship fund in memory of Nick for children at the Juan Cabrillo Elementary School in California, who have an interest and application for music – especially the drums.

Nick visited Rossall in early July this year with his family; he had not been back for 22 years. He was pleased with what he saw.



Nick Tidy and Tim Musgrave - July 2004

Apologies to P.W.Morgan and P.W.Morgan

The article in the July Rossallian Newsletter was about the author, Paul W.Morgan (J&M 60-67) and not Peter W.Morgan (SE 67-74). The editor apologises for the error.

Paul W.Morgan (J&M 60-67) published 'Farm Doubt' last year under the name of William Morgan. He has recently moved to the Borders – to Norham, Berwick on Tweed and invites any passing Rossallian to visit.

The other P.W.Morgan – Peter was equally confused. He is a Physicist!

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING DEATHS

Dr. John M.B.Garrod (C 28-32) died on 17th. October 2004 at the age of 89. Dr Garrod was a leprosy specialist and a Memorial Service was held at St.Mary's Church, Nether Stowey, Somerset on November 13th.

P.A.Wilbraham (A 85-87) died in Singapore in 1996.

John R.Griffiths (D 35-39) died on the 5th.July 2004 aged 84 at Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno.

Robert C. Buss (F 30-34) died on January 21st. 2004 in Royal Preston Hospital at the age of 86. He leaves his wife, Margaret and four children.

Arthur D.Hughesdon (R 47-51) died on 23rd.May 2004. He was 70 and leaves a wife, Christine.

Anthony Ratcliffe (MC 51-53) died in February 2003 at the age of 64.

Tom E.H Capper (JS&P 55-68) died suddenly on March 14th. 2004. at the age of 56.

J.Colin Faulkner (M 44-49) died after a short illness in Sussex at the age of 72.

Michael A.Robinson. (M46-52) died 2004.

K.J.M (Jack) Manning (F35-40) of Bowdon, Cheshire died on January 16th.2004 at the age of 83. He leaves a wife, Pat, two daughters and five grandchildren. Jack was Rossall's only Captain of Boats.

Ernest C.Lane (M 34-37) died peacefully in hospital on November 6th. 2004 aged 84.

T.John J Foulds (JS&P 58-67) died in the summer 2004 aged 57.

Group Captain D.G.Stokes (R 27-31) the father of P.D.S and M.J.S. died in Aldeburgh age 90.

Nick Tidy (J&A 78-82) died suddenly at his home in Malibu, California on November 2nd.2004 at the age of 39. He leaves a widow and two young children.

R.P.Jolly (M 48-51) died in June 2004 at the age of 69.

A.David Haigh (J&R 54-60) died at home near Sheffield on the 17th.of October 2004. He leaves a wife Suzanne, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Mrs Brisson... Who was she?

Mrs. Brisson was Rosalind Russell, the American film star of the '40s and '50s. She married OR Frederick Brisson (MC 28-29). Frederick Brisson became a famous Broadway producer producing plays such as 'The Pyjama Game,' 'Damn Yankees' and 'How to succeed in Business Without Really Trying.' It was Brisson who introduced New York audiences to the plays of Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard. They were married for over 30 years and the best man at the wedding was Cary Grant.

OR CRICKET TOUR

The opening match of the tour was against the Old Hurstjonnians at Hurstpierpoint in Sussex.

Prior to the match we foregathered at the New Inn where the traditional Moscow Mules were sampled – it was a boiling hot day!

On a wicket that was already breaking, the ORs batted first and reached 198 all out. The only two scores of any significance came from Nick Roberts(PS&SE 87-95) and Henry Fajemirokun(PS&F 74-84). The OJs scored quickly and reached 198 for the loss of only 5 wickets. Nick Roberts took 3 wickets in 4 balls – his efforts were to no avail.

After a traditional OR evening/night, the ORs travelled to Sissinghurst to play the Old Amplefordians. This time Henry Faj lost the toss and we were invited to bowl. Runs came quickly and they rattled up 308 for 5 – Henry Fj taking 3 for 91 in a mammoth bowling spell. The chase was on and there followed a most exciting and exhilarating passage of play. With 20 overs to go the ORs were 119 for 1- Andy Brunt, the Master in Charge of cricket scored a fantastic 91 and Pete Heald(JS&F 94-2004), 50. The last 20 overs was mayhem! 170 runs were scored and the match was drawn with the ORs finishing on 290 for 6.

Liam Morrow(O&P 88-95) contributed 45; Chad Simpson(P 90-95) thrashed 37 from 12 balls, smashing Anthony Fairhurst's (CR) rear windscreen in the process.

The final match against The Cryptics had to be abandoned after the opposition reached 206.

The bonus of the tour was the appearance, as a spectator,

of Chad Simpson's uncle Basil.

Basil Simpson(P51-54) had last been on tour in 1961 – the year Bob Cooke made his debut. I think Basil was the only tourist who didn't suffer from the intense heat – he now lives in Estapona in Spain.

Our thanks to Jonty Arundel the tour manager and organiser for giving us such an enjoyable time.

The tourists were: Jonty Arundel (J&A 72-79), Howard Green (PS&R68-75), Henry Fajemirokun (PS&F74-84), Nick Roberts (PS&SE 87-95), Ali Greenwood (PS&P65-95), Liam Morrow (O&P88-95), Bob Cooke (P56-61), James Preston (PS&MF93-04), Pete Heald (PS&MF83-04), Nick Clements (A72-77), Nick Dixon (O&R74-81), Andy Brunt (CR) and Anthony Fairhurst (CR).



Rossallian 'Down Under'

Every year, for as long as I can remember, Rossall has been fortunate to receive a Gap Student from the land we like to call 'Down Under', Australia. This summer it was the Aussie's turn to receive a Rossallian!

I flew to Sydney Australia on 12th July to stay for 7 weeks with the 'Gappie' of 2003, Mr Che Solomon. What can I say; a plane ticket for my 18th and free accommodation when I got there...could it have gotten any better?! It was time to show them how to do it the Rossall way! After 21 hours or so of watching the latest movies and desperately trying to ignore the cramped seating, we finally approached our destination! It was truly amazing to fly over Sydney and see the lights of the city indicating the whereabouts of the majestic Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. You don't really believe you're actually going there until you see that! Needless to say, I arrived safely and was welcomed immediately into Che's family and their Aussie way of life.

I had a great holiday planned for me including trips to various parts of Australia, as well as experiencing life living in the great city of Sydney. After having a week to settle in, I was already off on my first trip to Cairns, Queensland! After another flight I found myself in a tropical paradise. The city of Cairns was a busy tourist spot, and certainly a convenient base for those wanting to explore the surrounding areas. My first excursion took me on a trip to the Kuranda Rainforest, heading up to the top of an enormous mountain on a train to the Kuranda Village – I could not believe people lived up there! We had plenty of time to experience the many shops and stalls in the village before heading down the mountain on the longest cable-car in the world; the Kuranda Skyrail. A daunting trip, but well worth it as we cruised over the rainforest canopy, enjoying fantastic panoramic views. The next trip was to the Great Barrier Reef. Words can hardly describe this experience; suffice to say I would recommend it to anyone! It was truly outstanding! I have never seen anything like it in my life and any photos just do not do it justice. My final excursion in Queensland was on a Cape Tribulation tour! This included a 'croc cruise' down the Daintree River – very exciting, a trip to the ancient Mossman Gorge – a truly magical place, a visit to Cape Tribulation Beach – the only place where the Rainforest meets the Reef and an informative Board Walk through the Rainforest as well as stops at various 'look-out' points. I would also recommend a meal at the Red Ochre; a restaurant of traditional Aussie cuisine where I tried some 'Bush Tucker' and a beautiful Kangaroo Steak, along with various other Aussie dishes!

On returning to Sydney there were so many more experiences ahead of me. My next trip was to Melbourne; the fashion district of Australia. You don't quite realise how big



Australia is, until you find you have to take a plane to the next largest city! We only went for 3 days and unfortunately the weather wasn't that great, but I still found the chance to explore the city quite well, and do plenty of shopping, although the tram system was a little complex compared to that of Blackpool! Federation Square proved to be an interesting attraction and the Queen Victoria Market is well worth a visit. After Melbourne my next port of call away from Sydney was Port Stephens, a lengthy car trip up the coast! This is a high residential area for Dolphins but unfortunately, as luck would have it, on a 45 minute, and very windy boat trip we only managed to spot 3 or 4 and my photos didn't come out! But that didn't stop me being totally in awe of those amazing creatures. Port Stephens was fairly quiet as it was not the tourist season, but it was nice to experience another part of New South Wales and of course it's always worth visiting one or two of the vineyards that are nearby to sample the local wines!

Back in Sydney there is so much to talk about, it is impossible for me to write about it all and do it justice. It is a fascinating place; with so much to do and see and I don't think you can experience it all, even if you live there. Being a true 'Pommy', I naturally had to go and visit all the traditional tourist spots including Sydney Harbour, and the Harbour Bridge, (it is tradition that on your first drive over the bridge you make a wish), the Opera House and Bondi. Although Bondi is part of Sydney, it is a complete contrast to the city with a very 'beachy' atmosphere to it. All were fantastic and I was pleased to find that although it was winter, there were plenty of surfers at Bondi! bars, cafes and stalls and I grew very attached to Bondi Market! The beach was superb and I just had to bring some sand back home with me! At Sydney Harbour we also caught the ferry to Manly to visit the beach there. The England rugby team stayed at a hotel which is on the esplanade at Manly so naturally the Rugby World Cup had to be mentioned, once or

twice! Shopping in Sydney was brilliant also, with some amazing shopping centres such as The Queen Victoria Building (QVB) and the Strand Arcade. Being such a cosmopolitan city, Sydney is also home to some beautiful parks including Hyde Park, which is transformed at night with hundreds of fairy lights climbing the trees, Victoria Park and the largest Park in Sydney; Centennial Park. Each one of these is definitely worth taking a trip to, even if it's just to walk round them or have a picnic there.

Other places I visited whilst in Sydney were The Rocks; this is the oldest and quaintest part of the city, a historical tourist precinct with cobbled streets, classy restaurants, bars and shops and stuffed koalas! I found myself at The Rocks on several occasions, visiting a bar called The Löwenbräu; an authentic German bar and definitely an interesting experience! I also spent a lot of time at Circular Quay and Darling Harbour – one of my most favourite places in Sydney with some amazing restaurants, bars and clubs on the water and of course, Sydney Aquarium! It was amusing to find that the Aussies, with their reputation for drinking, drank 'schooners', a very poor alternative to a pint! I was shocked! However, it was going to be very difficult to find anywhere at home that was going to live up to nightlife in Sydney! We also paid Homebush Olympic stadium a visit. It was huge! It was really amazing to see everything there and we went for a swim in the pool and visited the Olympic changing rooms! One of my other favourite places in Sydney was The Domain, where the Botanical Gardens were. There is a lovely walk through them to Lady Macquarie's Chair – an important landmark in Sydney and definitely worth taking a look at the view from there! Finally I couldn't visit Oz and not see some koalas and joeys, so Che took me to both the Reptile Park and to Taronga zoo which was a ferry trip away. Both places were so much fun and I got to see lots of Australian wildlife which was very interesting. One other thing I noticed about Sydney was the massive selection of different types of food. Every type of cuisine was available and it was great fun having the opportunity to sample some of them. Whilst I was in Sydney I was also lucky enough to dine at some of the top restaurants there, which included Café Sydney, Bondi Icebergs and The Summit – a restaurant with a revolving floor so one can see the entire city whilst you eat!

My trip to Australia was a trip of a lifetime, and I'm happy to say the 'Gappie' made sure I had a fabulous experience, in return for the enjoyable time he had at Rossall. It was great to have a chance to experience a different way of life, even if it was just for a short time and I recommend the trip to anyone. It is well worth it.

Kate Eaves (DC 93-04)

UNIVERSITY PLACES 2004

Frederick Bertges is reading Economics-Management at Stafford University.

Clare Burton is reading Law at Sheffield University.

Xiao Ting is reading Mathematics with Statistics at Lancaster University.

Tonghang Chen is reading Maths at St. Catherine's College, Oxford.

Katie Craig is reading Law at Hertfordshire University.

David Davies is reading Politics at Loughborough University.

Rachael Davies is reading Architecture at the University of the West, Bristol.

Nadhia Dewi is reading Cultural and Media Studies and Economics at the University of the West, Bristol. Amy Drury is reading European Languages and 20 Century Culture at Aberdeen University.

Gemma Dulson is reading English at Edge Hill University.

Kate Eaves is reading English and German at St.Andrew's University.

Steven Gardner is reading Physics at Durham University.

Michelle Garvin is reading Biomedical Sciences at Sheffield Hallam University.

Damien Grust is reading Commercial Law at the University of the West, Bristol.

Layla Hamadi is reading Social Anthropology at Queens University, Belfast.

Jonathan Hancock is reading Civil Engineering at Cardiff University.

Peter Heald is reading Physiotherapy at Keele University.

Jingxing Jiang is reading Environmental Geoscience at Imperial College, London.

Ling Wai Kung is reading Mechanical Engineering at Nottingham University.

Frankie Lau is reading Architectural Technology at Nottingham Trent University.

Andrew Ma is reading Architecture at Brighton University

Qiao Mo is reading Maths and Statistics at St.Catherine's College, Oxford.

Siu Ng is reading Accounting and Finance at Derby University.

Dan Tam Nguyen is reading Politics and International Relations at Manchester University.

Christopher Oxley is reading Engineering at Lancaster University.

Weiyu Peng is reading Finance, Accounting and Management at Nottingham University.

Quoc Anh Peng is reading Mathematics with Management at Leicester University.

James Preston is reading History at Sheffield University.

Yu Qiao is reading Mathematics/Economics at York University.

Anthony Rigg is reading Multimedia and Sonic Arts at the University of Central Lancashire.

David Rothwell is reading Sport Science at St. Mary's College, London.

Sutthipan Senasuthipant is reading Food Science at Leeds University.

Ka Ho Siu is reading Civil Engineering at Imperial College, London.

Nicki Smith is reading Care, Community and Citizenship at the University of Central Lancashire.

William Towers is reading Film and Television Studies at Brunel University.

Hoang Lam Tran is reading Management with Accounting at Royal Holloway College, London.

Xiaojun Tu is reading Physics at Imperial College, London.

Rebecca Walker is reading Medicinal Chemistry at University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

Bo Wang is reading Mathematical Sciences at Birmingham University.

Yifei Wang is reading Mathematics at Imperial College, London.

Lechan Wu is reading Economics with Politics at Bath University.

Peter Yung is doing an Interdisciplinary Foundation Course at Durham University.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Trapnell and Jackson Scholarships are awarded annually. We wish to inform ORs that these substantial scholarships are available for, both, boarding and day pupils and can be accessed at the ages of 11, 13 and 16. Applications should be made to the Principal, Rossall School, Fleetwood. FY7 8JW before the end of January.