



OLD CAMBRIAN SOCIETY (UK)

NEWSLETTER - November 2002

Chairman: Keith Aikin
Treasurer: Ian Beaty
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“Snail-mail” Newsletter

Welcome everyone to a new era in the life of the Old Cambrian Society (UK). Whilst this initial newsletter will be posted out to all existing members, it is very much hoped that future newsletters will be sent out electronically and also published on the Web Site (see article below), thus saving considerable costs.

Please contact the Secretary with your current address and e-mail address if you have one (see page 4)

We all went to a great School. Let’s all keep in touch!

OLD CAMBRIANS ON-LINE

On **25th November 2002**
The Old Cambrian Society (UK)
will have its own Web Site.

**http://
www.oldcambrians.com**

Please visit the site and watch it grow. It will take a little time to develop the site, but the idea is to:

- publish regular news
- form a comprehensive directory of “old boys”, with their contact details and their up to date news
- publish photos of “old boys” and the school
- announce future events
- help people to get back in touch, and keep in touch in the future

The Web Site will be for all Old Cambrians, wherever they might live now.

We are indebted to **Willie Pinto** for acquiring the domain name several years ago, and for kindly gifting it to the Society.

Please use the Web Site.....and have fun!



L-r: Charles Dokelman, Derek Sinclair, Alan Murdoch, Sylvia Skiba, Peter Simpson, George Coventry, Betty Walker & Ian Beaty

2002 Annual Dinner

This took place on Friday 12th April and was attended by more than 60 Old Cambrians and partners. We were back at our old “regular”, The **Albion Room** at The Thistle Hotel, Bloomsbury, after a rather memorable 2001 dinner at the House of Lords. Relative informality was the order of the evening. Some great memories, stories and jokes were shared by all who attended, old friendships were rekindled, and a “jolly good time” was had by all.

Peter Simpson (Scott 1955-58) finally did what he had been threatening to do for several years, and announced his retirement as Secretary. His 36 years of valiant service is recognised in an article on page 2.

After a little arm-twisting, and the promise of “a little help from his friends”, **Steve Le Feuvre** (Clive 1970-75) was proclaimed as the new Secretary. *See Photos on Web Site*

IMPALA MAGAZINES – ON CD

Project for 2003 – to put every Impala magazine ever produced on to CD.

If you have any Impala magazines that are in good condition, please let the Secretary know the year(s) you are willing to loan us for this project.





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Date for your diaries.....

2003 Annual Dinner

Friday 9th May at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, London
Hosted by R. Alan Murdoch (Rhodes – 1950)
Please see Page 4 for Menu and booking details

Kenya Regiment Association Reunion (Kenya, June 2002)

by John Davis (Grigg 1956 – 60)

The 65th Anniversary

After months of detailed planning and exchange of e-mails from all corners of the world, the time finally came for overseas members of the Kenya Regiment Association to return to Kenya to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Regiment. So it was that in June this year a happy band of travellers arrived in Kenya for a global reunion organised jointly with the local Association.

Starting at Malindi

The first gathering point was the Turtle Bay Beach Club, Malindi. This beautifully-located hotel played host to over 140 ex-members of the Kenya Regiment, their wives, partners and friends who had travelled from the UK, America, Australia, Canada, Hawaii, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Southern Africa and from Kenya itself. On the 1st June we all attended the anniversary dinner, which celebrated the date 65 years ago that the Regiment was founded. The meal was superbly organised by the Beach Club and their staff. They did us proud, producing as a special treat – an anniversary cake with 65 candles – a most enjoyable evening indeed. Days were spent reminiscing and lazing around the beach or the pool. Many took advantage of trips to Mombasa, the Ghedi ruins and other places of interest in and around Malindi. Talented local musicians provided an entertaining end to each day's activities.

Up-country activities

On 6th June a party of 33 people departed the Turtle Bay Beach Club for Tsavo Park with Southern Cross Safaris, whilst the rest stayed on for a bit longer at the Beach Club. On Sunday 9th June the Kenya Association held a celebratory curry lunch at their Nairobi HQ, preceded by a Thanksgiving Service. On the Monday the majority of the group travelled up to Laikipia for a reunion camp and a variety of activities in the vicinity of Mount Kenya. Others ventured into the Masai Mara for a three-night safari. Everyone returned to Nairobi later that week to start the long journeys home or to extend their stay in Kenya.



Peter Simpson Secretary for 36 years



Peter became Secretary of the Old Cambrian Society (UK) in 1966. He had attended his first Society annual dinner in 1961.

Born in Nairobi in 1941, Peter's father worked for East African Harbours & Railways, so the family lived at various times in Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Mombasa.

Peter entertains us at the House of Lords (2001) Peter attended The Prince of Wales School between 1955 and 1958 and was a boarder in Scott House. Moving to the UK in 1959, he became a coffee trader, then a motor trader for 11 years, and in 1976 joined British Airways where he is still "gainfully" employed!

He recalls that in the 'old' days the dinners were held at The Feathers in Fleet Street and NO ladies were included! The ladies started being invited around the late 1980's to 'boost' the numbers and this became quite popular.

Peter's worst moment as Secretary was in 1994. The annual dinner was scheduled to be held at Shuttleworths in Aldwych when three days before the dinner he discovered that the doors had been closed and the firm had gone into liquidation. He managed to get a little Italian restaurant round the corner to come to our rescue and had to post a notice on Shuttleworth's door to ask everyone to come round the corner.

The House of Lords Dinner in 2001 ranks as one of the best memories of Peter's tenure as Secretary – "a once in a lifetime experience", he describes it!

The Old Cambrian Society (UK) is truly indebted to Peter for the devotion he has displayed in keeping the Society active, by organising the annual dinners and reunions over the past 36 years. As we all know, for the past 15 years or so, he has delegated "some" of the workload to Sylvia, and all "old boys" are also deeply indebted to her for everything she has done.

Peter (and Sylvia) - we wish you well in "retirement" and look forward to seeing you at Old Cambrian dinners for many years to come.



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Visit to the School – June 2002

by John Davis (Grigg 1956-1960)

For me, one of the highlights of the Kenya Regiment Reunion was an informal visit to the school. I went along with Ian Beaty (Clive – 1959) and Liz Scoble-Hodgins (daughter of Mr Lawrence Walker our brilliant maths master) on Saturday 8th June. We just wandered in and asked if it was in order to walk around and were made most welcome.

A few years ago the Old Cambrian Society collected some money to send to the School for essential repairs including refurbishment of the swimming pool. So we had to go down to the pool to see for ourselves. Whilst there we met Mr Joseph Wakori, the man in charge, who was delighted to show us that the pumps and filtration unit were now in excellent working order. The pool was just as we remembered it – even reminding us of the fear of having to dive off top board for a house point. Joseph was justifiably very proud of his achievements.

The wooden classrooms have been replaced by more permanent structures - except one near the old school hall, which we were told was kept for 'old times sake'. Whilst we were there a French cultural exchange was taking place in the old school hall with the Lenana School (Duke of York). We were impressed when we spoke to some of the boys taking part who were all very enthusiastic about the event.

We then walked up the road past the Science Block, Main Quad and Chapel, and on up to Grigg/Hawke (now Kirinyaga/Baringo). The Chapel is in excellent condition and nicely kept. On the way we passed many students who wear the same uniform as we did and no socks down around the ankles or shirts hanging out! We were told that they are very proud to be at the School because of its history.



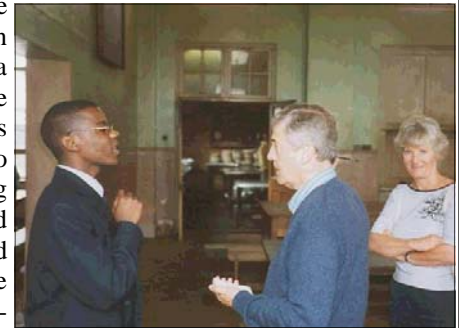
Chapel and Main Quad

Hawke was having a new roof put on it, the dining room was not in use and all the lads from Hawke were temporarily accommodated in Grigg in double-bunk beds! Apparently the students go down to the Clive/Scott (now Elgon/Marsabit) dining room to eat.

School Blazer Badge

The School Blazer Badge used as the logo on the Web Site and throughout this newsletter was kindly supplied by **Dave Mashedor** (Clive – 1970)

On arriving at Grigg we were met by the Head of House, Issale Mbogo, who showed me around. Conversation turned to his tee-shirt which bore the words 'Patch Rugby' in bold letters. Rugby is a popular sport just like the old days and it was a great pleasure to explain to an enquiring Issale that the word 'patch' was a shortened version of 'cabbage patch,' the old nickname for the School. The main study area in Grigg is now a dormitory and so there didn't appear to be anywhere for 'prep', though we must assume that it is still being done! However the cane is now banned and the lads were shocked at tales of the thrashings we received in the boot room, supposedly to keep us on the straight and narrow! Issale was proud to tell me that recently the House had won the 'best kept quad' competition.



Issale Mbogo, Head of Kirinyaga House (Grigg) with John Davis & Liz Scoble-Hodgins

On we walked round to Nicholson/Rhodes (now Serengeti/Athi) where nothing had changed much at all; then on down the old road to Junior House. The wooden dormitories still exist and I stood for a while under the window nearest where I slept in Dorm 1 some 46 years ago. Junior dining room seems to have disappeared altogether. Intermediate House was there with no sign of life and the Sanatorium brought back fearful memories of large nurses clad in white with blancoed shoes. One recalls how these formidable ladies were all too ready to inject one's backside with fearsome needles to cure a spate of boils while dictating orders to eat more cabbage.

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Overall impressions

There is no doubt that the experience of returning to Kenya was a very memorable one for all those who took part in the reunion. For many they were returning to the country of their birth, where they had been educated and had undertaken army service. The place has changed enormously, especially Nairobi and Mombasa. Old landmarks seemed to have disappeared in the sprawl of urban development, but the country is still as breathtaking as ever.

See the Web Site for more photos of John's visit



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Old Cambrian Society (UK) Annual Dinner

Friday, 9th May 2003

at

RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London

6.30pm to 11pm – cash bar in The Club Bar (groundfloor)

7.30pm – Dinner in The Ballroom (first floor)

Slide Show of Photos of “old boys” & the School

Book Now!! It might seem crazy to be thinking about booking places for next years' dinner when it is 6 months away. However, the venue is very impressive and we will have a wonderful evening.

So please book early!!

Fill out the form enclosed, and return it to the Secretary with your cheque.

If you have photos of the School taken during your days there, please send a copy to the Secretary by e-mail (in JPEG format preferably), or as a hard copy for scanning - (they will be returned to you).

Menu

Asparagus Soup

Supreme of Chicken Cordon Bleu
(with a selection of vegetables & roast potatoes)
Vegetarian option will be available upon request

Apple Tart with Cream

Coffee and Petits Fours

Plus ½ bottle of RAF Club Label wine

Price £37 per head

Contact details - please !!

So that the Secretary can maintain an up-to-date list of e-mail and “snail-mail” addresses of all Old Cambrians, please e-mail him with your **name**, the **house** you were in, the **years** you attended the school, **current address** and preferred **e-mail** contact. For those without access to the Internet, please write to the Secretary (address below).

If your contact details change, please inform the Secretary.

Please visit and use the Web Site. Fill out the form on the Web Site so that you can be placed in the Old Cambrians' Alumni. Send in your latest contact details, photos, stories so that “old” school pals can share them and possibly get back in touch with you after all these years. If you don't have the Internet, post these to the Secretary.

(Secretary's address: Avonteur, Six Roads, St. Lawrence, Jersey JE3 1GL, Channel Islands, British Isles)