

# Associations

## Freemen's School Association

Registered Charity number 269680

The FSA is a registered charity run by parents. Our aims are to raise money to use within the school to further the development of the pupils; to provide a social framework for parents and members of staff; and facilitate the new initiative, the Parents' Forums. We have had another successful, busy and happy year.

### Social Events

During the past year we held five main social events.

We started the year with our annual Cheese and Wine Evening in September, an event that combines our AGM with a means of getting together after the summer. It also provided us with the opportunity to hear feedback from the recipients of the FSA Tall Ships Award and Travel Scholarships, to hear about the drama tour to the Edinburgh festival, the New Zealand rugby tour, and the Peru Expedition – and meeting Mr Beach and Mr Close.

November heralded our extremely popular Fireworks Display and Barbecue, which was again well attended. 700 parents, pupils and members of staff enjoyed a fine autumnal evening and witnessed another excellent firework display. The free glow sticks not only proved very popular with the younger members of the school, but also provided those of us on duty with a means of tracking pupils in the dark.

The Christmas Fair is one of our main fundraising events. As many of you will recall December's weather was rather too festive – and the snow meant we had to swiftly rearrange the event for the following weekend. The Fair proved a huge success, and we knew that all the hard work was worth it when one young lad was heard to remark that "this is the best day of the year".

February brought the introduction of The Highland Fling, our version of Burns' Night. This was the first time that this event has been held at Freeman's... and

the non Scots amongst us viewed both the haggis and the dancing with a certain amount of trepidation. However, a great evening was had by all, and it proved such a success that it seems set to become an annual event.

The academic year drew to a close with our Summer Ball, which was held at the Burford Bridge Tithe Barn. This was the second year it was held outside of the school premises, and proved not only to be an immediate sell out – with 180 attendees – but also an enormous success with a few surprises for us all.

### Donations to the School

Each year the School formally submits a list of funding requests to the FSA. This year we were very fortunate in that we were able to fund the following donation requests:

- £990 – Equipment for the Chess Club
- £3000 – three saxophones and one violin for the music department for hire by pupils wishing to learn these instruments



- £2540 – Apple Multimedia suite for pupils to use for advanced multimedia projects and mobile phone programming
- £200 – specimens for the Sixth Form Dissection Club
- £1000 – the annual donation towards the Sixth Form Prom

This year we were also really happy to introduce the FSA Enrichment Award. This is a new FSA Award Scheme for Sixth Form students by which the FSA will provide, at its discretion, awards adding up to a total of £2000. For pupils to qualify for an award, their proposed project, trip or activity must have some benefit to others, or it can be something that broadens their life experience, allows them to develop new skills, develops their self-confidence, or improves their career chances. We very much look forward to report back on this new FSA Enrichment Award in next year's Ashtedian.

#### **A Final Thought**

As with all PTAs we are always looking for volunteers to help out at FSA events. In practice this takes up as little – or as much – time as you can spare. It's a great way to get to know other parents across the year groups as well as supporting the school. It would be lovely to have a few new parents – mums and dads – join us this year.

If you would like to help organise any of our events please contact your FSA Form Representative. Your help will be very much appreciated.

*Maria Anthony, Chairman*



## Old Freemen's Association

**The Old Freemen's Association presents some of our past pupils who have featured in the news over the last year:**

Former pupil Alexandra Rickham (class of 2000) became one of the first members of the Great Britain team to be selected for the 2012 Paralympic games in London.

The British Paralympic Association (BPA) announced the selection of the first five athletes who will compete for Great Britain at the London 2012 Games in sailing in August.

Alexandra, who came back to Freeman's in April to give a talk to the Sixth Form, has been picked alongside her partner Niki Birrell to represent team GB in the two-person keelboat event.

Ms Rickham, who along with Birrell, finished fifth in the 2008 Paralympic Regatta in Beijing, said: "It's great to be selected. We're really happy and excited and looking forward to putting in the hard work to try and ensure we get a medal.

The hard work is just about beginning – I'd say that everyone ramps up their campaigns and their preparations towards the big event, so we'll be pushing harder than ever."

Another potential contestant for the 2012 Games is swimmer Kathryn Wylie, who told us: "I actually had a hip operation in December and I'm still trying to get back to training properly. It's still my goal to compete in 2012 but I don't know how realistic it is, given everything that's happened over the past couple of years." We wish her a complete recovery.

Alex and Kathryn follow other former pupils on the path to Olympic glory. Ron Ede (Class of 1942) was also destined for the Olympics (1948 London) but sadly had to pull out due to a pulled ligament. The photo was taken at one of the Qualifying competitions, Amateur Athletic Association, where he was the flag bearer.

Charles Wiard was picked for the 1936 Games. When Charles was at School he set the Long Jump record in 1927, a record which was not broken until 1994. So it was no great surprise when he was picked for the British team in the 1936 Games.

Charles went on to become a Director of Billingsgate Market where he wined and dined many important guests including royalty.

But Sport is not the only subject to hit the highlights this year.

Nicholas Goddard (Class of 1973) has had an exciting career as an orthopaedic surgeon. He is based at Hampstead's Royal Free Hospital, and holds an honorary post at the Royal Ballet School, Covent Garden, where he has "looked after those up-and-coming dance muscles and Billy Elliots".

Captain Sarah Crabb (Class of 2009) of the First Medical Unit is on her way to Afghanistan to treat the wounded soldiers.

Ian Archer (Class of 1966) uses his rights as a Freeman of the City of London to drive his sheep across London Bridge!

"I thought you might be interested in this

picture: I took part in a Sheep Drive across London Bridge to raise funds for the Red Cross on 19th November 2010. It was open to Freeman and so I imagine some other Old Freemen may have taken part. They do look realistic don't they?"

And of course Andrew Garfield has gone from strength to strength. He secured best actor in the *Evening Standard* Film Awards for *The Social Network* and *Never Let Me Go* and he is next playing Peter Parker, aka Spider Man.

### 70s Decade Dinner

On Saturday 25th June, 40 Old Freemen attended the 70s Decade Dinner along with the Headmaster, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, School staff past and present, and OFA Committee members Robin Eve, Laura Morrison and Pat Jenkins. There were former pupils from each year of the decade at the dinner.

We were lucky to have a warm summer's evening enabling us to enjoy a pre-dinner drink on the terrace, catching up with old friends, revisiting old times, catching up on past news and being entertained by current pupils playing the piano.

Helen Kemp, the former Headmaster's wife during the 70s, was also present bringing her own memories to the gathering and it was good to see her on such good form. We look forward to the next round of dinners in 2011-12.

Mrs Pat Jenkins







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