

# Freemen's School Association

Registered Charity number 269680

*We have had another successful, busy and happy year.*

## Background to the Freeman's School Association (FSA)

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; provide a social framework for parents and members of staff; and facilitate the Parents' Forums.

## Parents' Forums

Through the Parents' Forums, parents can ask questions and raise issues with the School. A response is provided by the School and discussed in the Forums with the relevant year group FSA representatives present. It has been a really useful medium for views and comments to be expressed and has been positively received.

## Our Income

We raise money primarily via three main sources:

- Membership – to join the FSA there is a one-off payment of £25 per family.
- FSA lottery – for which the subscription is £15 per term. A draw is made each term – one third of the cash goes to the FSA – the remaining two thirds is divided between four lucky winners. If you would like to join, please let your FSA representative know.
- Social events we hold during the year including the Christmas Fair.

## Social Events

We started the year with our annual **Cheese and Wine Evening** in September, an event that allows us to combine the FSA AGM with a means of getting together after the summer break and for parents to catch up and for new parents to meet others. It also provided us with the opportunity of hearing feedback from the recipient of the Tall Ships award and to hear from the new Head of English – Miss Hearne. We also heard from the Headmaster and an update from the Chair of the Parents' Forum, Mrs Jill Mengham.

November heralded the extremely popular School **Fireworks Display and Barbecue**, which was again extremely well attended. Sodexo provided the food. The weather was very kind to us and over 700 parents, pupils and members of staff witnessed another excellent firework display.

The **Christmas Fair** is one of our main fund-raising events. This time we didn't have the snow, which postponed the Fair the year before! The Fair again proved a huge success with a great selection of outside stalls, refreshments, tombollas, house stalls, junior games and many more. Mrs Buckman and the teachers' choir provided some wonderful festive carols. The Fair was enjoyed by all and thank you to all those who helped make it happen.

The academic year drew to a close with our **Summer Ball**, which was held at the Royal Automobile Club. This was the third year that the summer ball was held outside the school premises. It was again a popular event with all tickets sold and over 120 attended. Everyone had a great time in fantastic surroundings.

## Donations to the School for the development of the pupils

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:

- £1,754.13 to purchase studio lighting and camera kit.
- £500 for kits and material for the model railway club to continue the construction and development of the club.
- £500 resources for junior triathlon.
- £200 for specimens for the Sixth Form Dissection Club.
- £1700 for 20 folding trestle tables for use at the Christmas Fair and for community events.
- £1000 for the annual donation towards the Sixth Form Prom.





The first awards under the new FSA Award Scheme (the FSA Enrichment Awards) for Sixth Form students were made. In March we also increased the overall amount that can be available for the awards to £2,250. For pupils to qualify for an award towards their proposed project, trip or activity, it 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. Examples of projects, trips or activities may include (amongst others):

- Voluntary work within the community or further afield.
- Visiting a specific place, or some other activity or project relating to sixth form studies.
- Activity relating to the Duke of Edinburgh award.
- Tall Ships Training, through the Tall Ships Youth Trust.

We encourage Sixth Form Students to apply.



## A FINAL THOUGHT – think about being involved

If you would like to get involved in the FSA please let us know. You do not have to be a year or class representative to be on the FSA Committee, just a member of the School. Our meetings are held in the evenings. In addition as with all Parents' Associations we are always looking for volunteers to help out at FSA events. In practice this takes up a 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 either on the Committee or generally helping out with events.

If you would like to be involved in any way or help organise any of our events please contact your FSA Form Representative. Your help will be very much appreciated. I would like to thank all those who have been involved or have helped us with any events in the past year, without you they wouldn't happen.

*Christina Sparks, Chairman FSA*



# Old Freemen's Association



What a wonderful year of celebration 2012 proved to be, with past pupils involved in so many ways.

Firstly the Diamond Jubilee. There were members who were very involved, for example Richard Turk (1998), Dean Smith and Ollie Gotto (2003).

"300 year old local boat company with Royal heritage takes pride of place in Thames Pageant" read the headline.

For 300-year-old boat company Turk's Launches, the pageant was of special significance as they descend from a family of Royal Watermen. They showcased their two iconic paddle steamers, the Yarmouth Belle which was built in 1892 and acted as a floating hospital during wartime before returning to passenger duty, and the New Southern Belle famous for its part in the Culture Club Karma Chameleon video.

Dean Smith was very fortunate and very proud to be a crew member on board one of the Greenwich Clippers, and to be able to take part in the flotilla for the Queen's Jubilee. He had a truly memorable day. He is carrying out his Watermen's and Lightermen's apprenticeship under the guidance of his Master, Richard Turk.

Ollie Gotto said "I was invited to the lunch by my Livery Company, The Worshipful Company of Broderers, and more specifically by the current Master – Andrew Buchanan. The company also took, as our guests, members of a number of charities we support. Unfortunately we didn't have a royal on our table, but with 108 Livery Companies and only eight or so royals in attendance it was just the lucky few who got one."



Then there were the Olympics.

We were delighted to hear that Alex Rickham (2000) was awarded a bronze medal in her Paralympic event, the SKUD18 sailing.

Alex said "Thank you so much for the support over the last few years. It was a very difficult race as we had to contend with being favourites and having a target on our back. All the same we were grateful to come away with a medal. London 2012 as the whole nation knows has been a success and it is a privilege to be a part of it. As an Old Free I was very proud to be able to represent Freeman's on the world stage. I just want to say a big thank you to everyone involved with the school, both past and present for cheering us on, along this amazing journey. Thanks again, Alexandra."

Philippa Vafadari (1976) was part of the professional aerial cast for the Olympic Opening Ceremony (Mary Poppins) and the Paralympic Closing Ceremony ('Firefly') at London 2012.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

We have held a number of social events this year:



### 1980s Reunion, Saturday 16th June

Several people were quite unsure about meeting up after so many years. As a result, I suggested to a few that perhaps we should all meet at a restaurant in Leatherhead for a meal and then carry on to the Clubhouse.

The memories of school and anecdotes were in full flow throughout the evening, with many being added by Martin Hearne! He is just the same and we hope he never changes! Thank you again, Martin and Christine, for being able to come. It was a very successful evening and I have had several requests to arrange another one soon.

*Della Panton (née Gover)*

### Old Freeman's Day, Sunday 24th June

Once again we had a beautiful afternoon in the Park and a fabulous lunch prepared by Lynne Prys-Owen, Eleanor Deighton and Pat Jenkins. Those of you who attended will know what a wonderful time was had by everyone. It was lovely that more turned up for tea and that many of our Old Freemen with their young families came to join us.

### Bill Deighton's Farewell Party, Sunday 8th July

Amazing as it may seem this party was a complete surprise to Bill, who was persuaded by Eleanor to go out for lunch so imagine his surprise when he arrived at the Clubhouse, which was packed with so many of his old friends. It was one of the most fantastic afternoons I can remember at our Clubhouse, there were so many ex-pupils, staff and RFU representatives who came to see Bill and Eleanor.

I also managed to contact Pete Davidson who, unable to attend the party, came over from Northern Ireland the week before to see Bill.

I have to say, having organised many events for the Old Freemen's over the years, that this was the easiest and most fun to organise given the feelings that everyone has for Bill.

*Laura Morrison*

### Fifties Reunion

Our 50s group had a very enjoyable "Bring-and-Share" lunch on Wednesday 15th August in the Clubhouse. There were 34 attendees, and a small profit was made which we have donated to the Redevelopment Fund.

## News of Old Freemen

In February James Frewin (2011) was selected to go to the U20 Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Jersey: "This went really well and I won silver in the individual event. In the team event I captained England and was absolutely determined to get gold this time. We ended up winning the match 45-34, meaning we got our gold medal!

A few weeks later I was off to the U20 World Championships in Moscow. The event was huge and Moscow was

spectacular. I had an incredible start to the competition and won all my first six fights. I ended the competition ranked 17th in the world with which I was reasonably happy.

During the Olympics I was invited to spend every day of the fencing up at the Excel Centre and helped out on the video cameras used for replays in case a point was questioned. I was also involved in fencing demonstrations for some of the sponsors. It was wonderful to mix with all the

competitors and also catch a glimpse of a few other sports done at such a high level.

I am starting to look towards my senior fencing career now as I am in my last year of juniors (U20) and obviously hope to be getting many more senior GB call ups to add to my two that I received when I was still at school. I also need to do a bit of studying as I am in my second year of university at the London School of Economics."

### Martin Roberts (1973), has been appointed Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company



"It did feel rather odd being back at Prize Day nearly 40 years since I left school in 1973. It seemed very strange being cheered by the students as I joined the Headmaster, Sheriffs and Masters in procession to the Sports Hall rather than being one of those lining the route and doing the cheering. Anyway, it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

I became a Freeman of the City of London shortly after leaving school and became a Liveryman of the City of London Solicitors' Company in 1987,

being elected to the Court of the Company in 2000.

I was installed as Master of the Solicitors' Company in June 2012. The Master Solicitor also serves as President of the City of London Law Society and represents the 18000 solicitors practising in the City.

The term of office is one year and I will be combining this with my day job, so I think it is going to be a rather busy year!

## The Association has a number of Affiliated Clubs

### Old Freemen's Cricket Club

Old Freemen's Cricket Club plays local league cricket on Saturdays and friendlies on Sundays throughout the summer. Our Saturday 1st XI led by Jeff Haywood in his first season as Captain (following his elder brother Tom and father David in the role) gained promotion to the 1st division of the Surrey Downs League – a competitive, enjoyable and high standard of local cricket played at some of Surrey's prettiest villages. The 2nds play in the 3rd division of the same league, while our Sunday XI play non-league cricket home and away across the county against long-held fixtures going back over 30 years.

### The Old Freemen's Hockey Club

Old Freemen's Hockey Club was founded in 2008 for and by the female alumni. The squad returned to Division Six in the Surrey League again this season.

It's been great to have a few new school alumni players join the club, including another Vanstone (Sarah), Amy Davies, plus we are very pleased to welcome back our very own (now Major!) Sarah Crabb, after returning safely from her tour in Afghanistan. Other developments this year have included our new weekday training venue at St Marks Academy, conveniently located next to Mitcham Eastfields station to make life a little easier for all those living and working up in town.

### Old Freemen's Rugby Football Club

The Rugby Club has a proud tradition of providing former pupils, current staff and parents and friends with a chance to play the 'great game' in the wonderful surroundings of Ashtead Park. Old Freemen's field two rugby sides every weekend. In 2011-12, the 1st XV played in the London South-West Division 3. The

2nd XV combines youth and experience in the Surrey Conference but also plays a large number of friendly games against traditional local rivals (largely other Old Boy clubs). Among those keeping the on-field activities going are Simon Daniels, Andrew Owens, Jon Wilson, John Ormrod, Mike Barrett and Director of Rugby, James Tremaine. Off-field there is a group of seasoned veterans led by Chairman, David Harn, ensuring that administrative issues, such as physios, subs, social events and tours are properly co-ordinated.

One of the Club's claims to fame was victory in the Surrey Shield with a Finals Day squad including 18 former CLFS pupils out of 22 players.



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