HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OVA MEMBERS - 2013 marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of the School so we look forward to special events later this year such as the Gala Ball on 28th March 2013. In this newsletter we bring news from the second half of 2012 through to the start of 2013.

THE 51st REUNION DINNER – FRIDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2012

The Dinner was attended by OVA members, their guests, friends & by 6th formers & teachers. The guest speaker was former Headmaster Mr. R. V. Hawkes, who as well as an amusing speech, treated the gathering to a performance of the Jake Thackray song “Bantam Cock”.

OVA Chairman John Harmsworth proposed a toast to the School & spoke about OVA events & maintaining links with the School, as well as plans for a project to create an on-line archive of photos & other material. In his reply, Headmaster Paul Ramsey, said that it had been a record year for the School, with the best ever GCSE/ A level results (giving Sandringham & Beaumont Schools a run for their money) & many pupils went on to top 40 universities. There were over 600 applications for year 7 places. One of the aims of the 75th Anniversary Appeal will be to raise funds for a new Sixth Form Centre. While noting the wide range of sporting activities at the School, he had been surprised by the submariner event at Stanborough Lakes (an incident reported in the local press as “School gets that sinking feeling as minibus ends up in lake”). “Engaging Minds” lectures, which OVA members are welcome to attend, included Baroness Meacher, who gave a lecture to encourage students to engage more with the political & parliamentary process (she subsequently praised Verulam 6th formers during a debate on mental health in the House of Lords – due to concerns about cuts to counselling support services they did a survey of young people in St. Albans).

School Captain Andrew Sears-Black spoke about sporting achievements at the School, OVA President David Lucas proposed a toast to HM The Queen and Vice-Chairman, Max Schroeder proposed the toast to absent friends. The organisation of the evening was a great success thanks to OVA Treasurer, David Gudgeon, who also ran the raffle which raised £433.
MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at 8pm Tuesday 16th October 2012 in the Bradshaw Building, Verulam School.

1. Chairman’s Welcome
Present: 
(18 Attendees)
The Chairman opened the meeting at 8 pm, and welcomed all present:
Committee:
David Lucas (President), John Harmsworth (Chairman), Max Schroeder (Vice-Chairman), Alastair White (Secretary), David Gudgeon (Treasurer), John Baughan (Membership and Webmaster),
Members:

2. Apologies
Apologies for absence were received from:
31 Proxy Cards and 7 Proxy E-mails had been received prior to the meeting, making a total of 38 Proxy Votes. All were unanimously in favour of motions A-M, with the exception of one vote against item E (membership to include present and former School Governors).

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 18th October 2011
The minutes of the AGM held on 18th October 2011 (published in the August 2012 Newsletter), were unanimously approved, no comments having been received either way re accuracy, content or matters arising. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising not covered in elsewhere in the Agenda.

5. Management Committee Report for 2011/12
The Management Committee Report circulated by the Chairman prior to the meeting was proposed by Alastair White, seconded by John Baughan, and unanimously approved.

6. Treasurer’s Report and Audited Accounts
Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2012 had been circulated prior to the meeting, and the Treasurer, David Gudgeon, presented his report to the meeting. Highlighted were the following:
- Subscriptions are down, due to a reduction in the size of the membership.
- The Association made a deficit on the 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner, which was done deliberately, but then subsidised by raffle proceeds at the event itself.
- Postage costs have increased due to Royal Mail price increases, but printing costs have remained stable.
- The cost of Gifts and Donations were slightly up.
- AGM costs related to the Cheese and Wine enjoyed by those attending.
- The hire of the Constitutional Club for Committee meetings continued and the cost was slightly down.
- The annual surplus was £475.
- A stock of ties and tumblers (for guest speakers at the dinner) was still held.
- The current balance at the bank was £5288.
Phil Burgess reported that he had audited the accounts, and, after a minor presentational adjustment, had been happy to sign them off as correct. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Phil for continuing to act as Hon. Auditor of the accounts. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by George Howlett, seconded by Colin Morris, and unanimously approved.

7. To approve amendments to The Constitution
The proposal as notified was to amend the OVA Constitution as follows:
1707 Membership; to include present and former School Governors.
1708 To replace the term “Old Boys” with “Former Pupils” to reflect the fact that the 6th Form now includes girls.
These were shown as Items E and F respectively on the Proxy Card.
Those present voted unanimously in favour of amendment i) There was one Proxy Vote against, the rest were in favour.
Those present voted in favour of amendment ii) with one abstention. The Proxy Votes were unanimously in favour.
As The Constitution requires a two-thirds majority to make a change, both amendments were approved, and The Constitution will be updated accordingly by the Secretary.

8. To Consider motions received by the Secretary
None Received.

9. President’s Business
The President addressed the meeting, and stated that he was pleased to note that the feeling of optimism that he had articulated at last year’s AGM for the future of the OVA had been borne out over the previous 12 months. John Harmsworth had settled well into his role as Chairman, ably supported by Max Schroeder as Vice Chairman, and the rest of the Committee.
Continued liaison with the school was very useful, and, as ever, there was a plea for more of the younger generation of OV’s to get involved in supporting the Association. The Association have actively sought to promote the OVA at the School, and events such as the forthcoming 6th Form “Bangers and Mash” event on 24th October were thought to be a good way to seek to actively recruit new and younger members. The VRFC Rugby Club and OV Masonic Lodge had also been invited to attend to generate interest.
In conclusion, the President said that he felt that the future looked healthy for the OVA.
10. Election of officers
2012/13

The Election of Officers for 2012/13 was conducted. All 38 Proxy Votes received were unanimously in favour of the appointments. The appointments were then put to the vote and unanimously approved. The following are, therefore, confirmed in office:

Chairman – John Harmsworth
Vice-Chairman – Max Schroeder
Treasurer – David Gudgeon
Secretary – Alastair White
Membership Secretary and Webmaster – John Baughan
Newsletter Editor – John Harmsworth
Committee Member – Simon Gwynn

11. To reappoint Phil Burgess as Hon Auditor

Phil Burgess was unanimously re-appointed as Honorary Auditor, with thanks from the Chairman, which were echoed by all present.

12. Chairman’s Business

The Chairman addressed the meeting, and paid tribute to the work that Max Schroeder had done with the School, in particular the organisation of the forthcoming “Bangers and Mash” evening, which had been rescheduled from June to half-term week, when it was thought that more would be able to attend. 25 names had already been received of 6th Formers who were intending to attend, including some girls, which was timely given the decision to amend the OVA Constitution. The Chairman extended an invite to all present to attend and support the event.

Another positive development arising out of the organisation of this event was the role undertaken by 6th Former Nick Sutton in acting as a liaison between the School and the OVA. It is hoped that he will be succeeded in this capacity in years to come after he has left the school.

The Chairman then spoke about the Committee’s ongoing work to develop an on-line archive of material relating to the school and the OVA, and appealed for loan and return of items of interest (photos, papers etc) that could be included. The previous project had stalled, primarily due to a lack of physical storage space at the School, hence the push to scan and store material on-line in a “Cloud”. Max Schroeder advised that a large amount of material had been collated as part of the previous project, including a good set of original photographs of the school as-built in 1938. The Chairman advised that there would have to expenditure by the OVA towards the project, and that Mr Les Dow had been advising the Committee regarding the way forward with this initiative, which it was hoped would be taken over by the school to update with future detail once established.

In closing, the Chairman thanked all of the Committee members for their support, and hoped to see as many OVA members as possible at the annual reunion dinner on 16th November 2012.

13. Appointment of President and Vice President(s)

David Lucas stated that he was willing to continue as President, and was unanimously re-appointed, with a vote of thanks from the Chairman, No Vice-Presidents were proposed or appointed at this time.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:32 pm, and invited all those present to stay for refreshments, once again kindly organised by the Treasurer.

THE 2012-2013 OVA OFFICERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>David Lucas</td>
<td>18 Stanley Rd, St. Albans, Herts AL2 3AB</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.harmsworth@btinternet.com">john.harmsworth@btinternet.com</a></td>
<td>01727 858175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman /newsletter editor</td>
<td>John Harmsworth</td>
<td>21 Stanton Close, St. Albans, Herts AL4 9HT</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.harmsworth@btinternet.com">john.harmsworth@btinternet.com</a></td>
<td>01727 847294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes Secretary</td>
<td>Alastair White</td>
<td>55 Windmill Rd Hemel Hempstead HP2 4BN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alastwhite@ao.com">alastwhite@ao.com</a></td>
<td>01442 405179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer /social events</td>
<td>David Gudgeon</td>
<td>30 New House Park, St. Albans AL1 1UQ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidgudgeon@aol.com">davidgudgeon@aol.com</a></td>
<td>01727 834179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Secretary</td>
<td>John Baughan</td>
<td>3 Hampden, Kimpton, Herts SG4 8QH</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.baughan@btinternet.com">john.baughan@btinternet.com</a></td>
<td>01438 833931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
<td>Max Schroeder</td>
<td>111 Green Lane, St. Albans AL3 6HG</td>
<td><a href="mailto:valmax@valmax.plus.com">valmax@valmax.plus.com</a></td>
<td>01727 851481</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVA website www.old-verulamians-association.org Verulamians RFC - www.verulamians.co.uk

MONTHLY LUNCHTIME MEETINGS AT THE JOHN BUNYAN PUB

There is a regular informal social gathering of Old Boys on the last Tuesday of every month at the John Bunyan, Coleman Green, Wheathampstead – just drop in between 12.00 and 3pm.

OVA NEWSLETTERS & INFORMATION BY EMAIL

Thank you to those who responded that you would like to receive newsletters by email. We plan to start emailing in 2013 & hope you find the pdf version satisfactory. If you are interested in joining the email list, please email John Baughan, Membership Secretary.
Where have all the young men gone, long time passing……..

PE, PT, GYM. These lessons meant a lot to us in our school days. For some they were loved, others hated them and yet for others it was the route to a fag on the way to Sandpit Lane Playing Fields for contact sport like Rugby, Football, or the competition of Athletics, Cricket, Tennis or Cross-Country, and hiding down “Dirty Dick’s Lane” until the ardent, sometimes exhausted striders returned.

And what did we return to – a muddy communal bath! Not now – we are in the EU chaps! Or perhaps the inadequate malfunctioning tepid showers overseen by the PE teachers bent on kicking their charges out, locking up and getting back to the Staff Room for that hot cuppa!!

Then there was the trudge back to Brampton Road – the chance of another fag, some tuck from the little grocer’s store on Sandpit Lane (only those pre 1960), meeting the girls from Beaumont/Stags and trying to remember not to annoy the residents of Woodstock and Jennings Road by littering their front gardens.

What did all this effort do for us? Well, let us ponder on a few attributes that moulded our future characters. Obviously discipline, School loyalty, Team membership plus leadership, that competitive spirit, winning and taking part, taking pride in a School that often excelled at sport and produced some outstanding athletes, and finally hearing our Headmaster relay victorious results, as well as the occasional disappointments. Taking out the likes of St Albans School – that dearly loved enemy - duelling with the likes of Cedars, Borehamwood, Harrow and Watford, and scaling the heights with acclaimed individual efforts at District, County and occasional National level.

Who were the “movers” in this surge to “find ourselves”? It was those teachers (masters to some!) of the PE fraternity who encouraged (a PC word for bullied!) us to perform for ourselves and the School. Revered, dare one say “loved”, put up with or hated! Who were they? What happened to them and where did they end up? Outlined below is an attempt to trace the majority from 1945 to the near present day. And, as an observation, the higher the calibre, the better the standing of the School within Hertfordshire. Their charismatic teaching, motivational qualities did much to mould our future characters. So there were:-

In the very early days between 1938 – 45 no such animal as a PE Master existed and although Rugby/Cricket fixtures existed when School numbers hovered between 52 and 275, the School Captains of the day plus the History Master would select the best of the crop every Monday in the Library over the School entrance door. Pictured left is the Cricket 1st XI from 1945 – left to right from the back row: Piggott, Barnes, Duerden, Camp, Whinnett, Grimble, Dodd, East, Lucas, Plaskow, Becker, Hillsdon, Russell.

This was then supplanted by the arrival of PE Masters Carter and Sellars, and between them plus a character called “Digger Goddard” (later to become Saracens Player and Vicar) transformed the makeshift fixture lists into a far more organised, well-trained St Albans Grammar School for Boys into the top Hertfordshire School for Rugby, Cricket, Cross Country and Athletics that launched County and National Championship combatants. Records from 1947-54 have still not been bettered, irrespective of facility advancement. Competition and School kudos was as high on the School agenda then as was academic achievement. Both “Chunky” Carter and Peter Sellars (no not that one!) were later “poached” by Watford Grammar School for Boys where they repeated their successes for that school.

Mr Bradshaw, the then Headmaster, believed that PE Masters employed at the School should possess the highest possible sporting background to maintain the School’s prominent sports position, so during the period 1955-65 we had the likes of Bryn Meredith – London Welsh, Wales, Barbarian and British Lion (he scored 6 tries on a Lions Tour of South Africa as a Hooker).

Arthur Crick (pictured on right with Freely, Russell, Shuttleworth, Pratt & Fowler) & Kerry Davies - Rosslyn Park and ex-Cambridge Blue half backs, all did wonders for rugby, cricket, and athletics and left the teaching profession to take up sales management roles for the drinks companies, Schweppes and Guinness!

Rugby prowess was further secured by Gavin Thomas – another Welsh Valley fly half; Wyn Thomas – Welsh again, who became Director of Town & Country Planning Assoc. and stood for MP for Welwyn; Les “Piggy” Ashdown - who married a lady from the Isle of Man and moved there; Bob “Cauliflower Ears” Walton – a really hard second row type “lovable bastard”; Lyn Tatham – ex-Loughborough College Middlesex Sevens winner who went on to play for Leicester;
Ted Sinclair/Lyn Ingram - both strong props who stayed in teaching in Torquay/Berkhamstead Public Schools; 
Peter “Nobby” Norton – scrum half who carried on teaching in Bedfordshire; 
Jack “Caravan”/?Jock Strap” Sloper - second row who made a pile in the Cayman Isles and owns hotels in the West Country.

Then in the 1970’s the pedigree of Carnegie College, Leeds, graced the School with Bill Tindale – a fleet footed winger/sprinter who became a Macdonalds UK HQ Trainer, local burger franchise holder, Fleetville/Verulam Chair of Governors, and now Bursar of a Hatfield Secondary and in his spare time Chairman of Townsend Tennis Club. Also the illustrious centre Barry Lord - who became Head of PE at Beaumont School and then tragically died of cancer in his 30’s. Stuart Wilkinson - ex-Loughborough, also left the school and sought his Eldorado with Diversey Inc. near Chicago.

The mid 70’s produced yet another set of gifted rugby coaches that held the School’s head high. The likes of Colin Tatterall - who became Head of PE at Royal High Wycombe, and England u16 coach/selector; Ivor Jones - ex-Saracens, Herts County and Player/Coach of Tabard RFC for many years; Alan Woodland – rugby/cricket coach plus Old V’s and now Redbourn post office owner; Simon Hardy – ex-England Schools’ hooker and part of Clive Woodward’s England World Cup Winning coaching team; John Mitchell – noted County javelin thrower and current head of Isle of Wight secondary school; Marc Davies - who moved into special education and became a head in Dawlish, Devon. So this leaves us in the early 1980’s where this resume of Verulam Schools sports life comes to an end.

Please let someone come forward to continue it up to the present day. Perhaps ex-School Captains such as Phil Ashton (1985), and now famous in the Heinz Beans Inc board level and maybe Jack Busby (1995) son of Gerry Busby (1960) could help out.

With such a multi-talented crop of motivational PE Masters there had to be many equally talented prodigies. Here are some of the decades:

Ken Hacker played fly-half for REME at Twickenham in the 1940’s and became founder member of OVRFC and still supports from the touchline at the young age of 86!

John “Jack” Good – Fylde winger in early 50’s.

Barry Dodd – AAA School Boys’ Champion in shot putt, javelin and discus. Represented S. Rhodesia (Zimbabwe to some) in 1952 Olympics.

Jim Rodford – Bedford fly half and Herts County in late 1950’s – MD in Australia.


Tony Smith – Saracens Captain and prolific full back kicking averages.

Colin Blunstone – Herts County 100yds champion – 10.2 seconds, and lead singer of The Zombies.

Nick Gilbert – Herts Cricket Capt and MCC Schools’ Rep for many years.


Dugal Facer – Professional rugby player with Wasps and England AXV player 1980’s.

Fred Perham – SAS and armed forces Royal Tattoo training officer.

Ian Minto – Gen. Manager of current Cambridge Univ. RFC.


Steve Booty – Saracens hooker in the early 1970’s.

Tony Smith – Saracens Captain and prolific full back kicking averages.

Colin Blunstone – Herts County 100yds champion – 10.2 seconds, and lead singer of The Zombies.

Nick Gilbert – Herts Cricket Capt and MCC Schools’ Rep for many years.


Dugal Facer – Professional rugby player with Wasps and England AXV player 1980’s.

Fred Perham – SAS and armed forces Royal Tattoo training officer.

Ian Minto – Gen. Manager of current Cambridge Univ. RFC.


Rou Reynolds/Chris Batten – current world famous lead singer and base guitarist of “Enter Shikari”. The other two band members came from Sandringham School (2006).

If anyone else can add to these please contact me - Max Schroeder
They say that Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder! The same applies to music. Some pieces are stirring, some patriotic, some jog along middle of the road, some horrendous, some yuk, others WOW that pleases, bound to be a hit and of course, I’m glad I didn’t waste my money or where is the nearest Charity Shop!

Well folks, our Col, with his own backing band, NOT the Zombies, has just brought out a 10 song CD --- it is in the shops now --- variable prices! Entitled “Colin Blunstone on the air tonight” and published by Ennismore Records.

And he is, in a way, backing this up with a one night show at The Stables at Wavendon, Milton Keynes – 01908 – 280800. It takes place on TUES 5th Feb 2013. Individual ticket price is £19.50, plus that naughty booking fee of £2.60. Kick – off is 8 pm.

The renowned musical critic Schmax rates the CD as some of the same, with some outstanding numbers, Col’s diction is as ever precise and there are the trademark numbers denoting lost love, melancholy and where did Caroline “Lambs Rum” Munro disappear to!

However, the one that really turns me on is ( tut, tut, what phraseology for this day and age ) is “Dancing in the Starlight”. Just visualise some of those fit Russian, Strictly Come Dancing ladies strutting their stuff to a lustful, bouncy, flowing Latino – Flamenco number. Get Col on that show --- singing NOT dancing!

Other good numbers for me are the opening song “Turn your Heart around” and “Wild Places”. The latter recalls for me an incident in the 1st XV down at the Vees in the mid 60s, when Col was just out of school, playing at wing forward. A little bashful then in more adult company he turned to Hobbs the Captain and politely asked “What do you want me to do?”. Doug, also known for his diction, gift of phraseology and directness answered “Hit the - - - - so he remembers who you are”!

VERULAM WINTER FAIR – SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER

The OVA Committee were back in action the morning after the Reunion Dinner, raffling a super-size bottle of whisky & raising over £100 for the School.

The OVA stall was in the main hall & David Gudgeon & Peter Field are pictured left selling raffle tickets.

OVA AWARD PRESENTED AT SENIOR PRIZE-GIVING

The Senior prize-giving evening on Tuesday, 8th January, included the presentation of the OVA Award (certificate & £100 cheque) & the Peter Malloch Stewart All-rounder cup, to Helen Easton, a very gifted young lady, currently studying veterinary science at Liverpool University.

She also won a special prize for Exceptional A Level results and the Upper Sixth Prize for Biology plus one for Service to the School as a member of the Senior Prefect Team in 2011 – 2012. Helen is pictured with her prizes and Nick Sutton who has done a fantastic job as the Verulam School / OVA ambassador.

The evening included a gripping, motivational talk by old boy Andy Halliday (1974 – 1979), currently the Team Manager of the England & Great Britain Men’s Olympic Hockey Team and a phenomenal rendition on the piano of Dave Brubeck’s Raggy Waltz by Harry Taylor.
HEADMASTER'S REPORT AUTUMN 2012

Whilst staff and pupils enjoyed a well-deserved summer break the site and premises teams were extremely busy organising over £200,000 of development and refurbishment projects.

The most obvious change to the school site is the introduction of new gates and fencing, demanded by Ofsted, which secure the school site. However if former pupils were to venture inside they might be pleased to see the restoration of parquet flooring along the English and Geography corridors. This summer also saw extensive remodelling of the upstairs corridor to create two new classrooms and a dedicated base and teaching area for pupils with special needs. The final major project was the refurbishment of the old lecture theatre into a modern mathematics classroom.

I was delighted that Verulam pupils managed to buck the national trend in examination results this summer by recording record results at both A-Level and GCSE. What is perhaps more important was that they also managed to surpass the rigorous targets they had been set. At ‘A’-Level this improvement meant that more boys than ever gained places at the top 30 universities. I was also delighted that two boys took places at Cambridge and one at Oxford.

This summer also saw the creation of the Verulam Charitable Trust whose aim is to provide support for the school in all its activities, but particularly in relation to development and extra-curricular activities. This move was inspired by the success of the Fuller Foundation at Watford Boys’ which has supported massive development over the last 10 years. We hope that the new charity will grow to attract donations from parents and Old Boys and will help to transform the facilities available for boys over the next hundred years! I would be grateful if any Old Boys could consider a donation via the Charity which will attract an additional 25% tax relief to the school! A brochure is enclosed.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite Old Boys to revisit the school. I am happy to arrange tours but would also recommend visiting on a Friday afternoon, when it would also be possible to take in one of our highly successful Engaging Minds 6th Form lectures. A full list of these is accessible from our updated website – verulamschool.co.uk.

SIXTH FORM CONSORTIUM CELEBRATES 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In October, Beaumont, Sandringham & Verulam Schools celebrated the formation of the BeauSandVer consortium that has enabled the schools to offer students an expanded curriculum. The BeauSandVer 6th form now comprises almost 900 students who can choose from a range of 34 A-level subjects and extra-curricular activities such as the Engaging Minds lecture programme.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL – SETTING UP AN ON-LINE ARCHIVE

As announced at the AGM & Reunion Dinner, the OVA is working with the School to develop a website where historic material can be stored & viewed. We already have a mass of old photos & documents but it is very patchy. Some years are well represented with sporting & other records but there are large gaps, even in recent decades. We are therefore appealing for any items that OVA members can supply from their school days. Scanned items can be emailed but contact us before posting any items, as we don't want any original items lost in the post (contact OVA Chairman John Harmsworth).

UPDATE ON ALEX’S PROGRESS – FROM PETER & ANNE WOOD

It has now been almost 16 months since Alex’s accident. He has made progress but unfortunately he will almost certainly never regain his sight. He can now speak and although it is often very difficult to understand him it has made communication so much easier. He still has a good sense of humour and even laughs at his Dad’s jokes! Alex has no short term memory but his long-term memory is good and he enjoys talking about the past. He is no longer tube fed although his food has to be pureed because he still has a problem with swallowing, but it is a big step towards ‘normality’ and he has a very healthy appetite. He can stand but needs a lot of support and with the help of two physios and a frame he can “walk” a few metres. He still has virtually no use in his left arm but hopefully with time and therapy that will improve. Progress is very very slow but we are continually told it is early days so we all remain positive for the future. He enjoys having visitors and with his wife visiting almost every day, often with his children, us going every other day and other friends and family going regularly he has lots of company.
SIXTH FORM SOCIAL – BANGERS & MASH EVENING

Although the June event was cancelled, the Social went ahead on Wednesday 24th October 2012 in the School Dining Room thanks to the efforts of Max Schroeder & 6th former Nick Sutton. Around 30 students enjoyed a plate of bangers & mash from chef “Shanks”.

OVA Chairman John Harmsworth spoke about the various organisations connected to the School & Rob Saunders, Chairman of Verulamians Rugby Football Club, gave a passionate speech about the club & its strong connection to the School & former students.

Below are a few snapshots of a fun event that we hope to repeat.

Left: Headmaster Paul Ramsay drops in on the evening & browses the photos & school memorabilia on display.

Right: Max lends a hand behind the bar – real ale was on tap along with a full range of other drinks.

Below: Shanks takes a break from the kitchen to view the display of photos & school memorabilia.

As well as being a fun social evening, photographs of the school on the year it opened, proved to be of great interest to the 6th formers & were a great talking point. Such material provides a great start to the project to create an on-line archive but it will involve a massive effort to gather, sort & scan to computer.