



Newsletter

Welcome

I realised the other day that I nearly always start a phone conversation with some pre-chat about the weather. I don't think I am alone in doing so, and indeed it is a British obsession to moan about it whenever possible. So, this newsletter is starting the same way by waving goodbye to the 'summer', such as it was; a pretty good July, after an average June and the obligatory wash-out that was August – I genuinely had the heating on for a day!

And that brings us to September 2014, and time to issue the annual Society Invitation to the Trafalgar Dinner and the annual AGM.

So welcome, because in addition to the standard invites this is a re-emergence of a SOP Newsletter which I hope will continue on, and in fact grow, with more foresight during the year to add more content.

Hope you like it. As ever, if you have constructive input, never hesitate to get onto the oldpastonians.org website and fill in a feedback form or upload a contribution.



2013-14 Wrapup

Considering the Society year runs from Trafalgar Day to Trafalgar day – what is there to note this past 10 months...

RIP

Sadly a couple of Masters passed away during this time, with Doker Havercroft throwing his last board rubber and Percy Williams reaching his 'terminal moraine' (his words). I was able to attend one of the services and it is a given that their time at Paston featured strongly in the eulogies; Dokers' son providing one for the website. To the friends and families of all Old Boys that also passed during the year – condolences from the Society.

Anniversaries

Society Centenary

December 1913 was the foundation of the Society of Old Pastonians. There was a break during the Great War, a series of Old Pastonians annual magazines from 1928 to supplement the termly and then, later, annual Pastonian record of events, and so we reached the Centenary in December 2013. To mark the milestone, we had initiated a request for donations to the School/ College to go towards carpeting of the Nelson Room – an iconic destination for most of us during our time at the

School. Over the several months this took place, we were able to raise £2,450 and duly made a cheque presentation to Kevin Grieve, Principal of Paston College in June 2014. To all of you that contributed to this cause, many many thanks from SOP and the College – its good to have given something back.

Paston College 30th

The Paston story continues to evolve, with the Sixth Form College going from strength to strength. This year being their 30th since the 1984 inauguration (is that the right word? – ed). The College were blessed with reasonable weather (there we go again) and Kevin Grieve was joined by the former Principals of the College to say a few words about the journey – Peter Mayne delivering his by recorded video.



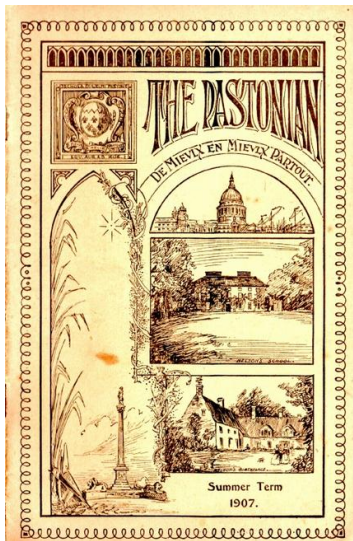
Call for Memories

During the year, SOP received a few research enquiries and a couple of reminiscences of School life which have been posted on the Society website. In addition, the College has a request for submissions of Paston Memories and insights from 'the old days'. It's a record of some past experiences and

what Paston added to peoples journey through life. It's a collection of the diverse careers and lives that Old Pastonians went on to lead with some School day perspectives. I urge you to visit the [site](#), and consider putting your story forwards for posterity of a sort.

Pastonian

Another throw-back to the past was an opportunity this year to catalog (loosely speaking) the contents of the Nelson Room collection of Society artifacts and in particular the many Pastonian magazines there. I collected an almost complete set from 1907 to the final publication (I know of) in 1983.



I intend to scan them slowly (very slowly as it turns out – I need a faster scanner) to at least record them in digital form and make them shareable to all. Along the way I have read a few and they throw up a fascinating view of the School and of life in general, at the time.

The first issue was 1907. Encouraged into life by the indomitable Head of the era, George Hare. It was a termly production capturing the comings and goings (Salvete and Valete) of pupils and capturing the events at the School. In between, submissions of potential interest (a lot of travel and discovery pieces) and items related to School. Edition #1 included an introductory poem (by E.A.Rowe) in Latin:

Scholam nostram hoc in loco
Sæcla sitam tria ut foco
Conservet Deus quem invoco
Auctor, Fautor, Mundi Fons !

Quam egressus ad ornandam,
Fidem mox ad propagandam,
Tenison heteriam fandam
Condidit episcopos.

Nero histrio mero vixit ;
Nelson, faustè qui conflixit,
Se non defuisse officio dixit.
Exemplo Nobilis Noster sit !

Fac nos eis pares, precor ;
Insit æquè ingenii decor !
Libertati hic studetor
Valdè, vulgò, volupè !

Ne Pastonis puer Laris
Obesæ, nedum emunctæ, naris
Maltham spectet laquearis !
Ne, ludens luto, se inquinet !

Hic educati palmas ferant,
Quippe qui honestum querant,
Modestè sese et bene gerant
Nelsonis digni patriæ !

I would be grateful if anyone can translate this for the website and posterity. [See here](#).

Answers on a postcard (or an email)?

Another interesting year was 1947, being the 100th edition of the Pastonian – so it caught my eye in our own Centenary year. Of course 1947 was the year of gales, snow and floods - so it's no surprise that

virtually every page bemoans this (see, it is an old habit). Hardly any sport to report in the year although apparently the Cross Country managed to easily retain its tradition of being held on a rain day.

One benefit of that bitter winter was the School slide reached a record 170 feet (old money measurement) – I'm sure you all had a go at that in the backyard.

Apparently there were 85 Old Pastonians in the Society back then (its around 500 now), although one, Kenneth Pettit, had been killed in a Halifax plane bravely attempting to drop supplies to a snowbound Staffordshire village that snowy February.

Old Pastonian 1928

Talking of Old Boys, Forder (he of the book) instigated and became editor of the Old Boys publication – the 'Old Pastonian' in 1928. Intended to capture news beyond the School walls, it received letters from all over the world. Its first episode included tales from California, Canada, New Zealand and a BSA motorcycle tour of the world. Its first episode included tales from California, Canada, New Zealand and a BSA motorcycle tour of the world. Its first episode included tales from California, Canada, New Zealand and a BSA motorcycle tour of the world. Its first episode included tales from California, Canada, New Zealand and a BSA motorcycle tour of the world.



SOP Website

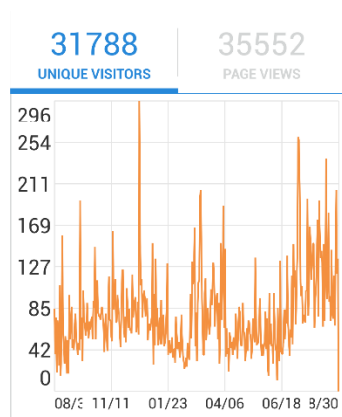
Oldpastonians.org

Launched in Spring 2013, we've had a good year-plus of browsing and form filling. It has served well as a communications channel, for Membership renewals/joiners and has grown steadily over this time.

We have a public site and Members pages for collections of memorabilia, whole school photos, stories and even a video-walkthrough of some of the School. The password remains the same for now, and is:

'Paston1606'

It achieves a daily hit rate of around 150 viewings and hit over 400 when combined with some Facebook mentions! Here's a thumbnail of 1 year of traffic:



All contributions welcome via the forms on the site.

Stop Press: There is now a 'tuck-shop' on the website, if you wish to purchase a School tie, Forder's History of Paston School, or renew your Membership online. As a

reminder – we are non-profit and put funds into postage, consumables and website costs.

Weather Report

Now back to the weather. I remember why it is such a common topic. It's a guaranteed common interest and what we talk about when we are trying to pass the time. In this case, trying to fill Page 3, Column 3.

Annual Homage

With this Newsletter is the important stuff – the invitation for members to attend the AGM and the Annual Trafalgar Dinner. Both on Saturday 25th October 2014. You are invited to respond in the time honoured manner - return post and cheque. It's really not that far away and the sooner we secure final numbers the better.

For those of you new to the pilgrimage – it's a social event, some AGM formalities and reporting, with Sherry reception followed by the dinner peppered with some traditional items – toasts, short speeches and of course a rendition of the School Song. All round, a good chance to see and walk round some of the old school, to whom we are grateful for allowing us to continue to host the event there.



Society Evolution

Paston has evolved over the 408 years. Ebbs and flows. Always an educational institution. Boarders or not, free or fee paying. Always somewhere to remember. Now as a Sixth Form College, 30 years on, the time a pupil stays at the school is shorter, but as important as ever. Boys and Girls pass through the gates of the Griffon Site and the Lawns site as one. A few of these Pastonians have joined the Society and in time will be the ones continuing it. For now our traditional format and 'Old Boys' Dinner continues, but will naturally widen, bringing a new dimension to after-dinner jokes, I'm sure. The School Song and the toasts will endure and memories will 'evolve' and with the anticipation of that I sign off this NewsLetter saying 'Hope to see you at the Trafalgar Dinner'



-John Dring
President 2013,
Society of Old Pastonians

