



OCCA GAZETTE

May 2006

Inside this issue:

1980 Reunion	1
60 year celebrations	1
Presidents Report	2
Sports Activites	3
Hockey Club	3
Prof. Frank Firk	4
Book for Sale	4

Dates for your diary

- **Summer Fayre**
Saturday 1st July 2006
- **Reunion— pre 1946**
1st September 2006,
Coopers School for Boys,
Tredegar Square. Please
contact George Neville
Tel: 01325 469001 or
Dorothy Gorsuch
Tel: 01708 445565
- **Reunion—1981**
25 year anniversary
30th September 2006
Please contact Dawn Day
(nee Jenkins)
Tel: 01277 849678 or email:
Dawn_Day@troweprice.com
- **PA Sponsored Walk**



Sunday 25th June from Bow
to Upminster

- **Articles needed**
Do you have anything
interesting to write and
tell us about , or perhaps
you might just be looking
for a classmate we are in
need of material for future
gazettes — Email:
karens.holmes@dsl.pipex.com

Class of 1980 Reunion

A year's worth of preparation, hundreds of e-mails and letters, and many phone calls from people I haven't spoken to in 20 years. It could only be the next of OCCA's 25 year reunion.

As a board member naturally I was collared by everyone else to organise it, along with help from Wendy Howard (nee Bowker). Together we gathered all the names from Friends Reunited and started spreading the word.

The results were amazing. I started chatting to people on my mobile who were all a distant memory, most of whom were really excited about the prospect of meeting up after so many years. Some were as apprehensive as me, but I had the advantage of having the attendee list, so at least I knew who was likely to come !!

The big day arrived in early October and it was very strange to see so many recognisable faces wandering into the theatre. No one seemed to have changed much, and everyone seemed to be up for a fun evening. Sadly it passed too soon. Every bottle of wine and beer gone, only the lemonade left – did that say something about our year group ?! There were also many photos taken and I would be interested to receive some via e-mail if anyone feels brave enough to share ! I can honestly say that my fears for a disastrous evening were not met, on the contrary it could not have gone any better. We managed to get 2 ex teachers along, Sam Spiers who was keen to see his old elite PE team and Joy Cochrane who has managed to attend most of the reunions to date, and didn't let us down either.

Thanks to everyone who attended, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did, and thanks to all the background help I received in putting it all together. Maybe we can do it all again when we're 40 – or is that too soon !!



Written by Helena Bailey (nee Maddock)

Celebrations of 60 years

On Saturday 22nd April the Old Cooperians celebrated its 60th birthday. It began with a game against an Essex RFU Presidents XV at the School ground. What was an open and evenly balanced game, resulted in a win for the Presidents XV. Celebrations continued with a Dinner and Dance in the evening at the Palms Hotel in Hornchurch.

160 attend, filling 2 bars for "pints and aperitifs" and then enjoying a splendid three course meal, with 10 former Club Captains giving very short speeches reminiscing on the days at Ashton Playing fields, Grange Farm through to the present day at the School. After a few presentations, it was onto the dance floor or into the bar until the early hours.

Today the club enjoys superb facilities at the school and is finally encouraging a steady flow of schoolboys to play during their time at school and as leavers. This is beginning to reflect in the playing standards and the club finished the 2005 season as leaders of the Essex League 3—an excellent achievement.

During the clubs 60 years, it has withstood numerous moves, countless bad passes, missed conversions and questionable decisions by referees, but it has scored tries and despite sometimes overwhelming odds, it has survived. To understand the reasons for this you only need to look to the school motto "Love As Brethren". Players may retire through injury or old age, but it is rare they leave to join another ruby club. The bond of friendship enjoyed at school continue through the playing of rugby for the Old Boys are for life.

Written by Norman Cushion

Presidents Report



This year started with a renewed effort to improve the association between the OCCA and the current school and its departing pupils. Many ideas have come and gone in the past few months, but the board have finally agreed on a leaflet type information sheet which will be passed to all sixth form leavers, along with a token gift which will have the new website details on it. The leaflet has been shown to a group of current students who have all approved of its contents, and are interested in the way that the OCCA can organise reunions, sporting events and other ways of keeping in touch with their school once they have left. It was also agreed during the year that all leavers would receive a free gazette for a year to encourage them to remain associated

with us once they have departed for pastures new, something which has already been introduced for all former pupils who attend the 25 year reunions.

There were a couple of reunions that the OCCA were involved in throughout the year, but the major one was the Class of 1980. We had an increased number on the previous year, and once again the evening was a huge success. Thanks go to the board members who worked so hard to help this happen. This year's event is already in the planning stages and hopes are high for a repeat performance.

The major project for the OCCA this year has been the revamp of the website. Andy Vincent has overseen the development of this, gleaned all the information he could from board members to make it a user friendly and informative site. This project is now in its final stages and will be ready for sign off and release in the very near future. The information it contains will be a history of the OCCA and the school, sports facilities available to former pupils, reunion information and much more. The gazette will keep members informed of its proposed live date.

During the year the gazette has kept all members informed of the school's and the OCCA's activities, thanks go to Karen Holmes and her tireless efforts to produce a great read. I think I will be joined by the rest of the board in also thanking her and Dorothy Gorsuch in trying to update the membership database, a very complex task. This project is also nearing completion and should allow a much easier mailing of the gazette, and the tracking of our current members and their membership status.

2005/6 has seen the completion of the upper floor of the Sports Pavilion. Board members were taken for a tour of the new kitchen facilities, which are made available to the sports clubs who currently use the school's grounds. Norman Cushion and I an Milroy oversaw the majority of this project and will continue to keep a track of its usage.

We have contributed to the publishing cost of a book which was started by Dennis Thorogood on the schools evacuation to Frome in Somerset. Unfortunately Dennis passed away in 2004 and the book has been finished by George Perry. More details on page 4.

It has been a privilege to serve as President this year, I have enjoyed my time immensely. My huge thanks go to all of the board for all their support and guidance.

Board Positions 2005/6

President:	Helena Bailey	Sports Liason Officer:	I an Milroy	Membership	
Vice President:	Andy Vincent	Sports Assistant:	Norman Cushion	Secretary:	Karen Holmes
Secretary:	Dorothy Gorsuch	IT Co-ordinator:	Andy Vincent	Membership	
Treasurer:	Ron Carrick	Reunion Officer:	Helen Hill	Assistant:	Helena Bailey
Minute		Former Pupils		Gazette	
Secretary:	Maureen Carlaw	Liason Officer:	Chris Peters/Keith Insole	Producer:	Karen Holmes



SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Sports clubs have been run by former pupils of the school for many years. The Old Cooperians rugby club is now in its 60th year. The cricket club was playing regular weekend fixtures until recently and many other activities have been organised, often just by groups of friends using sport as a way to keep in touch after university. However, with no permanent base these clubs have often found it difficult to attract participants over any extended period and in many cases after a few years have not continued.

The completion of the schools Sports Pavilion has created the opportunity to develop the existing sports clubs and to encourage new activities using the school sports facilities. The OCCA, with the agreement of the school, have provided a kitchen area on the first floor of the pavilion and this will be made available for the use of sports clubs who become affiliated to the OCCA. This area is already being used by the rugby club during the winter and would be the perfect venue for the development of other activities, particularly in the summer months, with the balcony overlooking the playing fields and new Astro turf.

Anyone who is interested in developing other sports clubs or who would like to discuss the OCCA Sports committee, the use of the school facilities through affiliation to the OCCA, please contact Ian Milroy.



Telephone: 01708 475220 (work)
Email: ian@robertsonmilroy.com

01708 224661 (home)

07973 856850 (mobile)

Upminster Hockey Club—Founded 1898 (Men) 1990 (Ladies)

Upminster Hockey Club has strong links with Coopers' Company and Coborn School since it uses the school astro pitch for Club training, and for home fixtures on a Saturday. Joy Cochrane, former Head of PE has had a tremendous impact on the growth of the Club with her inspirational training sessions for youngsters which she has run for over 12 years, and her coaching of the Ladies lower XI side, as well as her considerable support of the Ladies teams in general, and the Colts and Minis.

The Club now fields five mens teams (1st XI plays in the East Mens League Division 2 South), five ladies teams (1st XI plays in the East Womens league Division 1 South), as well as Colts and Minis for the under 18's. I am one of the founding members of the Ladies team, which started in 1990, and it is a privilege to have seen the Ladies team develop from one team (when we used to play friendly matches on grass and sometimes struggled to get a team), to entering the Essex League and playing much faster astro hockey, and now having 5 teams, with the fantastic achievement of our Ladies 1st XI being promoted to the East Womens League Division 1 South. Over half of the Upminster squad of Ladies comprises of either former or existing Coopers Coborn pupils (myself being the oldest playing 'old girl'), and most of the 1st XI are Coopers Coborn girls (pictured below). Every year the Club just seems to get stronger and stronger.

Our Clubhouse is based in Upminster Park which we share with Upminster Cricket Club, and our social committee organise a range of social events throughout the year including an Annual Dinner and Dance which is very well attended. If you, or your family or friends are interested in joining, or finding out more please look at the Club website which is at www.upminsterhc.co.uk

1st XI team—2005/6



Back Row:

Jess Barrett/Jess Bryant/
Jodie Dartford/Katie Goodhill/
Helen Tully/Vicky Wyatt/
Vicky Bailey

Front Row:

Clarie Marston/Helen Bisco/
Sarah Knightsbridge/
Daisy Marston/Hannah
Marston/Rosie Chiverton

Written by Helen Hill (nee Bradman) 1978—1985

Professor Frank Firk—Yale University USA



Professor Frank Firk, a former pupil of the Coopers school has carried out research in Nuclear Physics for more than 45 years. His main interests were in the fields of

very high resolution neutron spectroscopy at energies from a few eV to several hundred MeV, photonuclear reactions, and neutron polarization. He contributed to the design, development, and use of high current electron linear accelerators for use in Nuclear Physics, beginning in 1952. He was one of the originators of the use of very short (ns), high current (>10A) electron pulses using the “stored energy mode” in travelling-wave accelerators. In 1956-57 he worked with the late Dr. Ernest Rae, carrying out the first experiment to measure two parpimeters, simultaneously, using magnetic tape recording involving 100x100 channels of information. This work was the forerunner of the multichannel, didigital systems that are in such wide use today. He made contribu-

ons in the area of scintillation detectors, particularly in his pioneering work with Ginther and Slaughter (1960-1961), to develop and use the first Li-loaded glass scintillatro for neutron detection. After more than forty years, this scintinillator remains the detector of choice for many neutron studies at energies up to about 100 keV. After 1993, his main interests were concerned with the mathematics of statistical distributions not only of the spacings of neutron resonances but also of number-theoretic systems involving prime numbers, and the zeros of the Riemann zeta function. He has published more than one hundred research papers and articles during his career. He has two text books, Essential Physics I and Introduction to Groups, Invariants and Particles and can be viewed on his website:

www.physicsforfree.com.

On a visit to England, he attended a reunion of Coopers Boys in Frome. They left Somerset to visit, for the first time, Coopers’ Coborn in Upminster. They were impressed by the excellent

facilities, by the range of subjects offered to students and by the cultural diversity of the student body. Frank gave a lecture entitled “Understanding Einstein” to an audience of sixth-formers and some staff. The content of the lecture was chosen to provide students with a non-traditional approach to the subject of Relativity. Hopefully some of the students were encouraged to think more deeply about the fundamental problems concerning space, time and motion.

Since this memorable day, Frank has delved into his archives and found his timetable from 1942-44 (a little different to the timetable of today !) They had no choices in the subjects that they took. The courses were often demanding, particularly in the 2nd year. Both Frank and his wife were fortunate to attend both schools—prides of the East End—and they are so pleased to see that the Upminster school is flourishing, and is now the pride of Essex.

Monday	English	Physics	History	Latin	P.Train	Maths	Maths
Tuesday	French	English	Art	Art	English	H.W.	H.W.
Wednesday	Latin	French	Geography	P.Train	Biology	English	Maths
Thursday	R.I.	Maths	Maths	Physics	Latin	History	French
Friday	French	French	Geography	Engish	Latin	Music	Latin

Book for Sale—Memoires for evacuation to Frome

Several years ago, Dennis Thorogood, who was at the school during the war years, began collecting material relating to the school’s evacuation to Frome in Somerset, with the idea of producing a book. He went to great lengths to find out as much as he could from the archives and speaking to many of his old friends such as Rodney Wingfield, George Perry and others who were also evacuated with him. Unfortunately in 2004, Dennis died very suddenly and the project was left unfinished. George Perry came to the rescue, and over the past 18 months has pulled out all the stops to get the book off the ground, carrying on where Dennis left off. The book is now on the way to being published and hopefully many of you will want to buy it and read about the many adventures the boys from Coopers had. We would like to wish George good luck with this publication and thank him for all the work he has done on this. If you would be interest in purchasing a copy of the book, which will be priced at approx £10 (incl postage & packaging) please email George Perry—gsperry@btinternet.Com