



# St Edmund's Society

NEWSLETTER

## Welcome from Louise Moelwyn-Hughes

I am delighted to be addressing The Society in my capacity as the new Head of St Edmund's and I look forward to working alongside and supporting The Society in the years to come.

St Edmund's is a truly remarkable school where pupils are encouraged to rise to the challenge of discovering and making the most of their many and varied talents. Our dedicated and talented members of staff ensure that diverse opportunities are made available to each child and that all are supported and cared for within St Edmund's distinctive and family orientated environment. The academic successes of our pupils abound, whether that be in terms of those achieving places at Oxford and Cambridge or those who realise individual ambitions and achieve personal goals. St Edmund's sport goes from strength to strength with some outstanding results on the football and hockey fronts in particular this term, while Music and Drama continue to flourish with a huge range of opportunities for pupils to become involved. In addition, our pupils enjoy all manner



of activities, from helping in the community to CCF, and our House system which serves as a provider of outstanding pastoral care and extra-curricular opportunity is strong.

I am keen for members of The Society to come back to the School to see for themselves what a busy and happy environment this truly is and I would be happy to meet with any members who would like to pay us a visit. We are at an exciting phase in our history, with our boarding department full and the School enjoying an excellent reputation in the local area. I feel sure that St Edmund's will go from strength to strength with the School and The Society working closely together.

**Louise Moelwyn-Hughes**

### St Edmund's Society President's Dinner Friday 18th November, 2011

Please join us for a spectacular evening of fine food, great company and an opportunity to meet Louise Moelwyn-Hughes the new Head. The Dinner is to be held at The Council Room, 170 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HF at a cost of £55 per head, please contact Debbie on 01227 475621 or email on [society@stedmunds.org.uk](mailto:society@stedmunds.org.uk) - limited spaces available.

## Message from the Editor

The St Edmund's Society would like to extend a very warm welcome to this news update. Since our last edition, we held a successful Summer Gathering here at the School in June, with the weather being kinder this year. The cricket and tennis matches were very well supported by Old Boys and Girls and grateful thanks go to **Jock Asbury-Bailey** (former staff '89) and **Kris De Pledge** ('94) for rallying the troops.

We would like to change the format of this event in the coming year to offer additional activities such as other sporting events, lots of family fun and an evening concert. We would love you to bring back your family and friends to show them your old School. If you have any suggestions that could be incorporated in the planning of the Summer Gathering 2012 please e-mail me on [society@stedmunds.org.uk](mailto:society@stedmunds.org.uk) or call 01227 475621.

The Society held its first Golf Day on 23 September at Faversham Golf Club. A staggering £1600 was raised from the day itself which featured 10 teams playing (comprising Old Boys and others), a raffle and an auction; the funds will be used to help former pupils in difficulties.

We are always delighted to hear from our former pupils. If you have any news that you would like published either on the website or in the next full newsletter, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

If you have any spare time and would like to assist the Society Committee in planning and hosting Society events or would like help in organising a reunion please do get in touch!

**Debbie Bersey**

# Sportsman, Sailor, Scholar, Spy?

Our President **Tom James** ('67) was appointed MBE in the Queen's Birthday honours on 11 June for 'Services to Higher Education'. Tom (scholar) had served for 32 years at the University of Winchester, formerly King Alfred's College, and contributed to the successful transition of the institution from a monotechnic teacher-training college to a fully fledged university, a goal realised fully in 2008, the year he retired from teaching there. On 4 October Tom was invested by Princess Anne in her naval uniform (sailor), the Princess Royal, as Member of the British Empire at Windsor Castle. As ever the group being invested – some 81 people - included a cross-section of society

from home and abroad. Among the OBEs were Andrew Strauss and Andrew Flower (sportsmen), in recognition of their services for cricket (the Ashes!) and Phillips Idowu (sportsman), for his triple-jumping. As an 'I' and a 'J' they stood together in the queue and there was a sprinkling of public servants, at least one of whom worked for the intelligence services (spy).

Three guests were allowed, so Tom was accompanied by his wife Mary (née Watson – after Watson House, how could he not marry a Watson?) and his elder two sons Edward and Richard – poor Alexander had to go to school for the day!



Tom and Mary James in the Upper Bailey at Windsor Castle after the ceremony.

## Football

On a warm and sunny October afternoon, the Society's Veteran football team lined up against the School 2nd XI, hoping to maintain their recent success in this fixture.

By half time the Vets were already leading 2-0, with goals from **Harry Benjamin-Laing** and **James Cotton**. The Old Boys continued to dominate in the second half and scored further goals through Larry Law and Matt Sutton, to finish with a 4-0 victory.

It was, as usual, an enjoyable game

of football, played in good spirits, followed by a pint or two in the White Hart. We even managed to heed the School's request that we take it easy on **Dominic Barrett** (son of Shaun) who had turned out for the 2nd XI despite the 1st XI having an important game the following week.

**Henry Mason** ('86) failed a late fitness (!!) test this year, instead putting his skills to the role of team photographer, and it was good to see him looking well.



Pictured from back left: Scott Parham ('95), Shaun Barrett ('79), James Cotton ('94), Chris Wilkins ('98), Lee Wilkinson ('91), David Finch ('96), Kevin Hopper ('85), Harry Benjamin-Laing ('98), Stuart Wilson ('89)

Front left: Mark Webber ('95), Matthew Sutton ('97), Ky Wilkinson ('93), Kris de Pledge ('94), Larry Law ('97), Chris Gremo ('96).

## Congratulations to Benedict Kemp

Congratulations to **Benedict Kemp** ('11) who recently received the 2011 award for Best Academy Scholar at Kent Country Cricket Club. Ben has been at the Academy since 2009 and plays his club cricket for St Lawrence & Highland Court Cricket Club. He has also signed a professional contract with Kent for next year.

On completion of his A-levels in July this year, Ben left St Edmund's after five years at the school. He successfully gained a place at Oxford Brookes University where he is now studying for a business degree. We wish Ben every success for the future.



Myrna Gray presenting the trophy to Benedict. With thanks to Kent County Cricket Club and Sarah Ansell.