

Newbury Old Blues Association



August 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian(s), Old Blues, and friends,

I am writing to invite you to join/re-subscribe to the Newbury Old Blues Association (NOBA). This is an Association for all those connected with Christ's Hospital including pupils, staff, parents/guardians and ex pupils centred on the Newbury area. The association formed over 80 years ago and is part of the Christ's Hospital Association, which is a world wide organisation of some 70 groups. Newbury itself has a special place in CH history by virtue of the West Gift, whose funds form the largest single bequest to the Foundation.

The Newbury members meet formally once a year, in October, for a dinner to celebrate Founder's Day. It is usual for a senior staff member from the school to be invited and also a local West Berkshire representative either from the Council or from local Education. In addition the Head Master will usually select senior pupil(s) to also attend who live in West Berkshire. After the formal toasts, the principal guest from the school is invited to give an update of recent developments at the school, and the Chairman responds. The pupil(s) may stand up and tell everyone their own recent experience of the school. Although the meeting is a formal dinner, it is an enjoyable evening for all, both informative to parents and a good chance to catch up and reminisce with Old Blues.

The Association wishes to play an important task in raising awareness of Christ's Hospital in West Berkshire amongst parents/guardians and teachers of children who could benefit from an education at the school. This is helped by reporting in the local press of any of the Association's activities, contact with local Head Teachers and of course word of mouth.

The Association has had some recent changes with the committee appointing a new Chairman (me!), and new Secretary, Elizabeth Blackshaw. Donald Willis remains the President of the association. Many thanks must be expressed to Mary Davenport and Nicola Owens who have now retired from their posts after many years of invaluable contributions to the association.

It is hoped to develop informal gatherings/coffee mornings throughout the year, in particular for parents/guardians of the current and potential pupils of the school, the first to be held on 23rd August at the Coffee Shop at St Gabriel's School, Newbury..

Members are asked to subscribe a small sum each year (£7.50 per person, £15 per family). These subscriptions will be used to assist with the costs involved with invited guests for the annual dinner, the purchase of gifts for current pupils attending the annual Newbury Mayor's Civic Christmas Service and any administrative costs (postage, stationary etc) in the running of the association.

Secretary:

Ms Elizabeth Blackshaw
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Newbury
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Chairman:

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Treasurer:

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I would appreciate it if your subscriptions for 2011/12 (£7.50 or £15) could be forwarded to Elizabeth at the address below. All cheques should be made payable to Newbury Old Blues Association.

I would welcome any new or existing members to contact either me or Elizabeth for further information of membership and/or events, and if there are any fresh ideas as to how we can promote the school further in the local area and support current parents and pupils.

Yours Sincerely,



Noel Erskine
Chairman
Newbury Old Blues Association
PrepB, BaA, LaB 64-73

Dates for the Diary

Coffee Morning Tuesday 23rd August 2011

To be held at - St Gabriel's School Coffee Shop

Newtown Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 9BD

Please feel free to turn up and meet other parents/Old Blues, current pupils of course welcome too!

Founders Day Dinner Friday 7th October 2011

To be held at - Donnington Valley Golf Club

Old Oxford Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 3AG

(Full details and booking form to follow in due course)

Invited guests to date - Ben Vessey and Joanna Thomson,
Deputy Head Teachers, Christ's Hospital