

OBA President's Report – 2009

This year, Bancroftians from a range of eras have been publically recognised for their exemplary commitment and achievements in their diverse careers. Congratulations are due to Jeremy Bromfield (1974 - present) who was awarded an MBE for his services to the Cadet Force; David Pannick (1967 - 1974) was rewarded with a peerage in recognition of his eminence in the field of law; Yolanda Brown (1994 - 1999) scooped a MOBO award for Best Jazz Act whilst studying for a PhD; Adam Foulds (1986-1993) was awarded the Costa Prize for Poetry, and Dr Mike Lynch OBE (1976 - 1983) founder of Autonomy Corporation was named Entrepreneur of the Year 2009.

Unfortunately the success was also tinged with sadness. In conversations with a number of OBs, it was clear that Bancroftians of all eras felt they owed much of their successes in later life to their experiences at the school and the influences of teaching staff.

So, it is with much regret and sadness that Christine Russell a member of staff from 1978 to 2008 lost her battle with cancer last year. By all accounts she was a brilliant mathematician and it would be surprising if she didn't have an influence on Dr Mike Lynch's career.

In contrast to most of my predecessors, my experience of the workings of the various committees was extremely limited. However, seen the work of the committees at close hand has impressed me enormously. Their diligence, dedication and hard work and constant will to do the right thing for the OBA has been exemplary. The committee members give their time and expertise selflessly and I would like to thank them unreservedly, both collectively and individually.

I have had the pleasure of meeting the presidents of other alumni associations and am pleased to say that we compare favourably by almost every measure. We have a strategy, a sizeable membership, are well funded, and more and more, younger OBs are playing an active role in the management of the OBA. We greatly indebted to our chairman, Malcolm Fleet for that and I can't think of anyone better to guide the association onwards and upwards.

The OBA recognises that many of those that elected not to, or missed the chance to join the association may want to attend some of our functions or get in touch with some of their fellow Bancroftians. Because they have lost contact, they may not be aware of the existence of our website and the facilities we offer.

OBA feels that it should make a concerted effort to find those 'missing' members and give them a second chance to join and enjoy the benefits of the OBA. It will not be an easy task but the existing database of registered members is a good start and we will be making a concerted effort to find the 'missing' members.

Committees

General Committee – meets regularly at Drapers Hall to monitor progress and decide policy. There is a great deal of experience within its members and this provides a valuable resource when dealing with the diverse issues that arise.

Executive Committee – continues to work quietly in the background looking after the day-to-day affairs of the Association. As with a lot of things in life, success is ensured by dealing with the detail and much of this is left to the Chairman, Malcolm Fleet, and Secretary, Amanda Campbell. They get through a lot of unsung work to ensure that the OBA is run proficiently and have certainly made life is made easy for me this year.

Nominations sub-committee – Special thanks are due to Paul Corney for his focus and efficiency. Thanks to Paul, we are now in the healthy position of have a number of excellent propositions for the management positions that occur within the OBA. Paul has now handed over to the ebullient and ever optimistic Stephen Ferrari who I am sure will do an excellent job.

Charities

The OBA remains committed to supporting both these charities which are steeped in history.

OB Sixth Form Scholarship Fund – is currently supporting four Bancroftians. David Leighton has done a particularly fine job with the accounts and the cash-flow projections. However, due to the increased number of Bancroftians being supported, and the current financial climate, the charity will have to raise a significant amount of additional funds if its long term future is to be secure. A number of fund raising initiatives to achieve this are planned for the coming year. Please help if you can.

OB Exhibition and Loan Fund – Thanks are due to Steve Thirsk who dealt with updating the Trust Deed to meet modern requirements. The fund is in good order and the committee lead by Jeremy Bromfield and Peter Warner continues to enable Bancroftians pursue a wide range of vocational and academic opportunities where funds are not available from elsewhere.

Events

OB's Day – Tom Bates and Natasha Awais-Dean put on an excellent show and they are a good example of the younger OBs that play an active role in the running of the OBA. The feedback from OBs from a whole range of age groups was excellent and I hope they will continue to lend their expertise to the success of this very important occasion in our calendar.

It really was a very special family day out with all the school's facilities at our disposal. For the sports lovers, the standard of the cricket and netball played on the day was very high and I am pleased to report the OBA enjoyed sporting success in the both matches against the school.

The school looked great and a number of OBs commented on how well it was being looked after. My special thanks are due to Anne Taylor and Jeremy Bromfield for their invaluable guidance and advice.

Annual Dinner – Many thanks to Jeremy Bromfield and Claire de Felice for all their superb efforts in arranging the Annual Dinner. This occasion was a lot of fun, the entertainment and the bar went down well, particularly with the younger OBs. More diners could have been accommodated and we hope for an increase in numbers next year. It was also very pleasing to see a number of the staff from my era.

Northern Regional Dinner – Ian Williams was not only the very efficient organiser of the Northern Dinner but also an excellent host; providing an excellent and walking tour of Chester.

Other Activities

Communications – We are most grateful to Gemma Wickes who single-handedly continues to produce our excellent Newsletters. We are committed to communicating with you in hardcopy and very lucky to have someone so talented, that is prepared to give up so much of their time for the OBA. Steve Dodd deals with for the more frequent circulars you get by email, and John Diver is responsible for the website (www.bancroftians.net). If you have any comments, news or stories to circulate, please contact them.

We have a first-rate the web site, there is so much information displayed on the first page that many users don't venture further. However, much more is available to those that register; such as the archives, the ability to find lost friends and keep their contact details up to date.

Email is the most effective and environmentally friendly way for us to keep in touch with the members, so if you haven't done so yet, please register and login from time to time to see what we have to offer.

Finance – The school fees scheme for funding the administration of the OBA has now matured. It has placed the finances of the Association on a very sound footing and enables us to take advantage of opportunities to expand our activities where appropriate.

Clubs and Societies – Activities continue in the areas of Rugby, Cricket, Golf, Netball and the Theatre. The Bancroftian Lodge also continues to meet regularly. Further details are available on the website. Bancroft RFC has a history dating back to 1894 and it would be good to see more of the younger OBs getting involved.

School activities – The new Head Mary Ireland is keen to maintain the links between the school and the OBA and we continue to be invited to a wide range of events and some new joint initiatives may be introduced.

Last year the memorial gates were re-dedicated after a major refurbishment project undertaken by the school with a contribution from the OBA. It was a particularly poignant and memorable service and the manner in which the Sea Scouts and the CCF were incorporated into the service, greatly enhanced the occasion.

The events such as the Francis Bancroft Service and Leavers Evening are new to someone of my era and are a good opportunity to meet future OBs. Visitation day was quite a special occasion, the chance to tour the prep and the old school was much appreciated.

We are also indebted to the school for allowing us to use its facilities and the catering staff for some of our events. Last summer, the 5 and 10 year re-union in the new 6th form block was very well attended.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the relationship and the bonds between the OBA and the school is strong; the committees are very capable and experienced; the number of younger OBs actively involved is increasing; and we have a well thought out strategy for the future development. Consequently, I am happy to say that the future looks bright for the OBA.

Siegfried Mensah

THE OBA 3 YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009

- 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
- 2. THE TEAM AND STRUCTURE**
- 3. CURRENT STATUS**
- 4. AIMS AND PROJETS**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first committee meeting of the OBA met on Michaelmas eve in 1909. There were 50 members and no traditions in place and therefore the sole objective must have been how can we promote and encourage ex Pupils of the School to stay in touch and join the association. Their target market would have been primarily focused on those just leaving school and attracting those who had left in previous years and had not kept in contact with the school (their being no formal association at this point). 98 years on the OBA has the same challenges along with preserving the history and traditions of the association.

The OBA was an "Old Boys Club" and quiet rightly, as girls did not enter the school on mass until 1978. The clubs, societies and the functions and therefore many of the traditions reflect the "Old Boys" image. This image or perception has not, over the last 20 years, outwardly changed enough to attract the interest of not only the female OB's but their male colleagues as well.

The aims of the OBA are to promote the Association in such a way as to help Bancroftians stay in touch with each other and the school. The recent decisions on how the OBA is funded, has given a very clear responsibility to attract and engage the younger and future Old Bancroftians. This responsibility is in addition to and not at the expense of tradition, and the need to continue to be an "Old Boys" Club to those members who have contributed time and money to ensuring the OBA has survived and flourished over it's 100 year history.

The OBA is very well placed to meet these challenges; it is financially strong, with a steady income flow for the foreseeable future and a structure that will allow it to develop with governance control. The image and perception started to change a few years ago with younger OB's on the committees, more people attending events, and more people registering an interest via the first website.

The membership is growing and will continue to grow. There are just over 3,000 members and this will increase by a minimum of over 100 per year for the foreseeable future.

This development plan, which is a snap shot of where the OBA is today and where it intends to go, is one step on the road to ensuring the hard work of the "Old" Bancroftians are carried forward and developed for all future Bancroftians.

2. THE TEAMS AND STRUCTURE

The General Committee

Role: Governance and general policy

Number of meetings 3

People: Elected Offices (Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer)

President, Immediate past President, Immediate Future President, Headmaster and one other member of staff or a member of the Board of Governors.

Not more than 16 other members

2008 - Malcolm Fleet (70-77), Amanda Campbell (79-83), Michael Watts (86-93). Paul Corney (67-74), , Mary Ireland (Head), Jeremy Bromfield (73), ,

Geoff Crome (39-47), Chris Stuart (58-65), Martin Sumner (57-63), David Leighton (61-68), Steve Thirsk (57-64), Robin Wolstenholme (40-47), Peter Dixon (76-83), Steve Dodd (72-79),., David Giles (45-53, 62-94) Jean Giles (69-94)

The Executive Committee

Role: Day to day management

Number of meetings 3

People: Elected Officers (Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer), Chair of any standing committee, a member of staff, plus any other additional officer or member invited by the Chairman.

2008 – Malcolm Fleet (70-77), Amanda Campbell (79-83), Michael Watts (86-93), Merfyn Jones (59-66), , Gemma Wicks (91-98), Bradley Milliken (93-00), Gordon Brown (67-74), Jason Winton (91-98), Adam Kodish (77-84), Peter Joarder (80-87), Martin Flaherty (member of staff), Steve Dodd (72-79), Tom Bates (93-00)

Sub Committees.

Role: Nominations

Number of meetings – not fixed

People:, Malcolm Fleet (70-77), Amanda Campbell (79-83), Gemma Wicks (91-98), , John Springett (93-00), Jeremy Bromfield (73), , President, Immediate Past President, Steve Ferrari (67-74), James Ballinger (98-00), Peter Warner (60-67)

Events:

OBs' Day

Manager: Tom Bates (Manager) (93-00)

Team: Natasha Awais-Dean (90-01), Ann Taylor (77), Stephanie Prail, The OBA President, Malcolm Fleet (70-77)

Dinners

Annual: TBA & Claire De Felice (96-03)

Cambridge Dinner: Martin Sumner (57-63)

Oxford Dinner: Peter Southern (85-96)

Northern Dinner: Ian Williams (50-56)

Past Presidents: Barry Graham (46-53)

5 and 10 year on reunion

Ann Taylor (77), Stephanie Prail

Business Breakfast:

Malcolm Fleet (70-77), Gordon Brown, (67-74)

L6th Form Interview Day

Peter Joarder (80-87)

6th Form Leavers Presentation evening

Ann Taylor (77), Amanda Campbell (79-83), Stephanie Prail

OBA presentation to new school staff

Chairman.

Communications:

Communications Officer – Steve Dodd (72-79)

Newsletter

Gemma Wicks (91-98)

Website:

Bradley Milliken (81-88), John Diver (51-58)

Membership

Jason Winton (91-98)

The OBA has for the first time a paid administrator, Stephanie Prail, who works in the Head's office and who will dedicate 20% of her time to primarily membership database administration event co-ordination and OBA/School liaison

Charities

Educational Development Fund

The fund is a charitable trust originally established by Old Bancroftians in 1926. Until 2008 when the trust deed was rewritten and the name changed to reflect the needs of the 21st century, the fund was known as the Exhibition and Loan fund. Its purpose was and still is, is to grant financial support to pupils at the School and OBs to enable them to pursue a wide range of vocational and academic opportunities. The fund provides this support when other sources of funding are either unavailable or inadequate. Nowadays this support is normally in the form of a grant rather than a loan. The Charity Registration No. is 310929.

Thanks to the generosity of many OBs over many years, the fund now has assets of approaching £200K, but grants are normally made only from the interest that has accrued on the capital. A committee of OBs and School staff administers the fund. The OBs on the committee represent many different generations and have expertise in a wide range of subjects.

Peter Warner (Secretary) (1960-1967)
Janice Bissett (1980-1987)
Jeremy Bromfield (Chairman) (Deputy Headmaster)
Kevin Campbell (Treasurer) (1874- 1981)
Stephen Gant (1975-1982)
Fiona Mountford (1986-1993)
Duncan O'Leary (1993-2000)
Helen Rogers (1978-1985)
Gemma Wicks (1991-1998)
Ian Skuse (1966-1974)
Geoffrey Smeed (1952-1959)
Amanda Wainwright (1987-1994 and staff)

6th Form Fund

Bancroft's School was founded over 250 years ago through a charitable initiative by Francis Bancroft. He wished to provide a good education that would equip boys for life in 18th century England. Since then the needs of the country and the fashions in education have changed markedly, and the school has similarly evolved. The Drapers' Company has over many years provided support for the school, and in the 20th century a significant proportion of pupils were funded by Essex County Council, the Greater London Council, and central government.

When it became clear that the government did not intend to continue with this financial support, there was concern among Old Bancroftians that access to the school would be restricted by an inability to pay. With this in mind, the Sixth Form Scholarship Fund was established in order to help pupils whose families might not be able to afford the full school fee. The Fund is registered charity no 1018172.

For many years the school helped to run the Bancroft's Youth Club, designed to help young people in Newham. When the Bancroft's Youth Club eventually closed, the proceeds of the sale of its building were used to help young people from the Borough of Newham to join Bancroft's in the sixth form. The Newham Youth Club Fund merged with the Sixth Form Scholarship Fund in 2004, but its assets are still available to help those living in the borough. It is part of the merger agreement that the School will continue to advertise for suitable pupils from the Newham area, and that Scholarships will be awarded by the OBA Sixth Form Scholarship Trust in the ratio of about one in three to the Newham area, provided that suitable applicants are found.

The Charity is run by

David Giles (45-53 and 62-94) (Trustee)
Jean Giles (69-94) (Trustee)
David Leighton (61-68) (Trustee and Treasurer)
Daniel Moore (73-80) (Trustee)
Martin Sumner (57-63)
Adam Kodish (77-84)
The President of the OBA
Immediate Past President of the OBA
The Head

Clubs and Societies

Rugby (Bancroft RFC)

Mike Stout (58-64) President. Steve Thirsk (57-64) Secretary, Malcolm Fleet (70-77) Management Committee.

Golf,
Adam Kodish (77-84) Secretary

Cricket,
Jonty Pollard (88-91) Secretary, John Springett (93-00)

Sailing,
Steve Thirsk (57-64)

Drama (Strollers)
Paul Corney (67-74)

Lodge
Peter Warner (60-67)

3. CURRENT OPERATIONS AND STATUS

Finance:

The recent accounts presented to the AGM showed a healthy position. The association once again had a surplus on its yearly activities.

The projected annual income for the foreseeable future is;

Subscriptions from future OB's £33,500
Donations from OB's £5,000

The School subsidises the association events to £2,000 per year plus provides venues.

Administration costs:

The OBA allows the officers of the Association and committee members to claim reasonable expenses.

Under the new funding arrangement the OBA has the services of a member of the school administration staff for 20% of their time.

Events:

The association currently runs between 7 and 9 events per year attending by around 850 Bancroftians at a cost to the Association of approximately £7,500

OBs' Day – The main function in the calendar. Held at the school on a Sunday, with a Chapel service, wreath laying and lunch in the Great Hall, focused on the 50 and 60 year on groups. Followed by a "garden party" in the afternoon with the emphasis on families and younger Bancroftians. The school facilities are open to be used and viewed.

Cost: The total cost is approximately £5,500, however the school subsidises lunch up to £2,500, leaving a cost to the OBA of £3,000 of which £2,000 is for advertising, posting and packing and £1,000 for the garden party.

Expected numbers 400

Annual Dinner – Held at the school, formal black tie dinner, with speakers arranged by the President.

Cost: Self funding through ticket sales, however the Association subsidises younger Bancroftians and any invited guests.

Expected numbers 150

Regional Dinners – The association plans three regional dinners, the Northern, The Oxford and The Cambridge.

Cost – Self Funding through ticket sales, however the Association subsidises younger Bancroftians and any invited guests.

Expected numbers 50 per location

5-10 year on re-union – Held at the school and organised by the school for pupils who departed the school 5 and 10 years previously.

Cost: £1,600
Expected numbers 150

Business Breakfast - Business networking events in London held at offices of OB's with prominent OB speaker.

Cost – self funding

Expected numbers 80 per event.

Past Presidents Dinner – Held once a year normally at the school.

Cost: Self-funding

6th Form Careers Day

This event brings together Bancroftians who have either just left school or are established in business. The aim is to help 6th formers with interview techniques.

6th Form Leavers Presentation:

This event held in September is to present the 6th Form leavers with an information pack and a gift (Tie or broach) and ensure that they have registered with the OBA.

Cost: £1800 for leaver's gift (Tie and pin). The school subsidise the catering.

Communications

Newsletter:

The newsletter is published three times a year and is presented in a 6-sided A4 folded format. It is timed to come out when the association gives notice of the AGM and when promoting OBs' Day and the Annual Dinner. The development of the Newsletter is an ongoing exercise

Circulation: 3250

Cost: £10,000

Production and Printing £1575/edition

Postage £1250/edition

Packing £425/edition

Monthly emails

Emails are sent members on a monthly basis highlighting achievements of OB's, OB events, and clubs and society news and events.

Website:

The new website has been designed to help fulfil the objectives of the Association. In addition, it supports the Officers of the Association in managing its affairs on a day to day basis by providing essential tools for the purposes of:

Marketing the Association and the events that it runs or sponsors.

Communicating rapidly and economically with Old Bancroftians who are contactable electronically.

Managing the membership records.

The initial implementation of the new website and membership database has been completed. Five phases have been delivered and are functional. However, the development of the site in terms of both functionality and content needs to be an ongoing exercise if we are to gain the maximum benefits from a potentially powerful facility.

The website allows Bancroftians to check on latest events, stories, and go back in time through an archive, and find old colleagues. Most importantly it provides a dynamic focus for Bancroftians, enabling them to keep themselves informed about OBA affairs and to participate actively, wherever they are in the world.

Annual running cost: £1,250 which covers support and maintenance, 50 hours of development and Hosting / License fee).

Current Projects:

The Executive committee has one project running at present.

Implementation of a shopping basket functionality for the website enabling both merchandise and tickets for events to be ordered online.

Charities

Educational Development Fund

Thanks to the generosity of many OBs over many years, the fund now has assets of just over £200,000 but grants are normally made only from the interest that has accrued on the capital.

In the year ending 31 May 2008 seven grants were made totalling approximately. Four grants were made to OBs and three to pupils at the School.

6th Form fund

The Scholarship Fund has supported 27 students since 1985 (of which 13 had come from Newham). In 2005 they were able to increase support to cover 2 students in the L6th and 2 in the U6th.

The OBA recently injected some additional capital to be able to support 4 candidates from September 2009

Clubs and Societies

The committees of the OBA have very little involvement in the Clubs and Societies, however we have helped financially this year with the Golfing Society.

4. AIMS AND PROJECTS

The aims of the Association are;

1. To encourage members world-wide to be actively in touch with each other, and to participate in OBA organised events and initiatives
2. To maintain a strong relationship with and awareness of Bancroft's School, and encourage direct involvement between the School and members of the Association.
3. To promote the organisation, and to undertake such actions as are considered necessary by the Committee in the pursuit of the above two objectives including, where appropriate the provision of financial support.

Communication is the key to ensuring that the aims of the association are met, along with a responsibility to preserve and past and present history of the School

The following projects are being progressed or evaluated by the Executive Committee;

Shopping basket for the website
Expansion of the functionality of the database.
Cleaning of the current database
Contacting missing Bancroftians
Year Champions

The Clubs and Societies are presently left to their own means, work must be done to see how the association and the clubs and societies can work more closely together, to encourage participation.

The two charities are run independently from the OBA, however the OBA is keen to insure that whatever financial help they require is given to ensure that they can at least maintain the current level of support.

The aim of the Charities is not to use the capital built up to support students by only use the interest resulting from the investments. The OBA and the Charities and the School would have to work very closely on fund raising to make a significant change, especially in the scholarship area.

The OBA is exploring the expansion of the Charities with the Trustees and the school.



THE OLD BANCROFTIANS' ASSOCIATION
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008



OLD BANCROFTIANS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008

INCOME	<u>NOTE</u>	2008 £	2007 £
Annual Subscriptions	1	33,587	32,667
Donations	2	5,277	6,287
Interest Received (net)		4,921	5,655
Miscellaneous		550	487
		<u>44,335</u>	<u>45,096</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Newsletter		4,439	5,207
Recent leavers subsidy		3,308	1,022
Post & Stationery		4,274	4,273
Grants		6,375	7,000
Entertaining guests		619	600
Website		1,582	2,390
Business breakfasts		-	77
Contribution to school gates		10,000	
Miscellaneous		3,904	2,970
Yearbook		937	-
		<u>35,438</u>	<u>23,539</u>
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR - ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</u>		8,897	21,557
Surplus from sale of Histories	3	-	180
<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</u>		8,897	21,737
Accumulated surplus brought forward		71,617	49,880
Accumulated surplus carried forward		<u>80,514</u>	<u>71,617</u>

GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2008

		£	£
Stock	4	8,296	6,174
Debtors		44,912	43,570
Bank Balance		14,602	5,319
Bank and Building Society Deposits		148,110	143,189
		<u>215,920</u>	<u>198,252</u>
Creditors and receipts in advance		21,454	12,390
		<u>21,454</u>	<u>12,390</u>
Net Assets		<u>194,466</u>	<u>185,862</u>
Accumulated Fund		80,514	71,617
Annual Dinner Account		(124)	168
Specific reserve	5	114,077	114,077
		<u>194,466</u>	<u>185,862</u>



OLD BANCROFTIANS' ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008

1. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are included on the basis of actual receipts in the year from Bancroft's School.

2. DONATIONS

Donations of £1343 (2007 - £1,343) not included within these accounts have been received for the credit of OB Exhibition and Loan Fund and £1210 (2007 - £1,210) for the credit of the Sixth Form Scholarship Fund.

3. HISTORY

The Surplus on sales is shown after allowing for all costs directly attributable to those sales.

4. STOCK

Stock is valued at cost after writing-off slow-moving and obsolete items. Ties and pendants which may be given to school leavers in the future are included at cost, then to be written-off in the relevant year.

5. SPECIFIC RESERVE

Under the previous arrangement with the School, contributions were collected through fee accounts throughout pupils' time at school and these were taken to cover membership of the OBA for twelve years after leaving. The fund therefore represented advance subscriptions, which were to be taken to General Fund in future years as appropriate. Following a change in the funding structure the General Committee decided this fund should be ring-fenced and only used with permission of the General Committee.

M J WATTS FCCA CTA CF - HONORARY TREASURER

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

We have examined the Financial Statements on Pages 1 and 2 and report that in our opinion, these Financial Statements are in accordance with the books and records of the Association and Information and explanations supplied to us for the purposes of our examination.

Kevin Campbell

S Fairhead

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS