



FORT AUGUSTUS OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

Corbie Newsletter April 2017



Annual Dinner/AGM: Saturday 7th Oct 2017 Holiday Inn Theatreland, West Nile St., Glasgow G1 2RL

Annual Dinner Report: Last year's well-attended Dinner was another great night. The 4-course meal was delicious and the company sparkling. Thanks go to Maurice and Ralph for the wine and Bennies, and once again many thanks to Maurice and his team. Our after-dinner speaker was OB Pat Barron, who kept us enthralled with an illustrated talk on his many trips on the canals of Europe with his wife Jill in their converted Dutch barge the Topaz. Move over Timothy West and Prunella Scales.

This year's Dinner will cost the same as last year @ £37 a head and accommodation with our usual OB discount is double/twin £109 and single £99 including full Scottish Breakfast. To reserve Accommodation phone 0141 352 8305 and remember to ask for the OB discount. To reserve dinner phone Ralph Giulianotti at 01738 624674. Please book early to make sure of a place. Partners are welcome.

2017 Dinner Menu: Smoked duck breast with red onion and cranberry compôte; Carrot and cumin velouté with chive crème fraîche; Corn-fed chicken with cauliflower cheese purée, spinach, glazed carrots sauté potatoes and peppercorn sauce; Coffee and chocolate layered torte, crème fraîche and orange compôte; freshly brewed coffee and tablet. This year's speaker is Fr. Gerry Mulligan CSsR, the Rector at St. Mary's Monastery Kinnoull, Perth and one-time provincial of all the Redemptorists. His other claim to fame is he is the first cousin of OB Paddy Mulligan.

Jottings from the School Chronicle (1937).

The following poem sums up the School's attitude towards the needlessly barbaric haircuts with which we were inflicted:



*The recent hair-cuts
Aren't fair-cuts.
All our good looks,
Turned to rude looks
Perhaps hygienic,
Hardly scenic
Utilitarian
Most barbarian
No one varies
All like Commander Farie's
We're a haven
For the shaven
Isn't funny,
Waste of money.
Why not a normal trim or 'bob'?
Asks a poet 'out of a job.'*

Three-Weeklies. One never ceases to marvel, when reading our contemporaries, that the things which we have always done at Abbey School naturally, normally and from time immemorial, are regarded elsewhere as 'projects' and 'adventures.' A case in point is our use of the usual whole day holidays. If we were to record solemnly the amount of Hiking, Sailing and Mountaineering we do on those occasions, we would cut quite a figure in the stately columns of the 'Times Educational Sup.' The Abbey School however, favours the light touch. We go up North Point on a free afternoon and only mention the Midges. We do our annual Corryarach run and comment only on the food supply. We climb Sron na Choinne Garbh by the scree face and only refer afterwards to S. . . .'s torn pants. Long may it continue thus. It's our tradition.

News: A new date of 15 May 2017 has been set for Fr Benedict's appearance in court.. Last year OB Fr. Francis Davidson (now at Ampleforth) celebrated the 60th anniversary of priesthood. On behalf of the OBs your chairman sent congratulations and a Mass card for his intentions. Laurence Scudder, nephew of the late OB. Abbot Alban Boulwood, one-time president of the FAOBA has sent in some very interesting photos which will be displayed at the AGM/Dinner.

On our recent visit we saw the preparation of the new all weather Cricket wicket being constructed for Fort

Augustus Cricket Club with support of The Highland Club and Abbey OBs. Anyone fancy a bounce match! On our tour of the Old Abbey we found the Monks Cemetery in good order. If you fancy a tour of the Abbey for a small fee contact the guide Pebble Evans Telephone 07976 434453.

1. Construction of new all-weather Cricket pitch
2. Monks' graveyard with main Abbey building.



Deaths: Peter Barry (d Aug 2016). Peter was a farmer at Ratho Mains, Midlothian. Born in 1923 he was, along with his brothers, a formidable cricketer, who year after year stamped his authority on the annual match of the OBs versus the School. An affable man, he was a man of the soil and a gentleman of deep piety. Aged 93 he was the oldest living OB. Major Selby Charles Macduff-Duncan MBE (d Aug. 2016, aged 64). Selby was born in the Scottish Capital and raised at his parents' farm in the Black Isle. Educated at Cargilfield Prep School, Edinburgh and at Fort Augustus Abbey School, he went to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He completed his officer training in 1973, receiving a Special Regular Commission into the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch. He served in the Far East to the Far West—from Hong Kong to Canada, and all points between. He was involved with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and in organizing the commemoration events in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of VE and VG Days. He retired from the army in 2007 and latterly lived on Deeside where he was project manager at Fasque and Glendye estates. Our Chaplain will remember all our deceased members in his Masses. RIP.

Post Script: Remember that all news is welcome. Our website is still www.corbie.com

Old and New: rear of the former Abbey Church and main monastery building.



The Boat House restaurant, showing Old Boys' Cricket colour boards from the Pavilion.



Minutes of the FAOBA AGM: Sat. 1st October 2016

1. Present: Hugh Anderson, Pat Barron, Jim Brown, Brian Caulfield, Mike Cipolato, Kevin Deady, Gerry Devine, Tony Duncan, Ralph Giulianotti, Neil Godfrey, Nigel Guthrie, Owen Halloran, Erich Harrison, Martin Harrison, Laurence Hogarth, Vinnie Igoe, Vic Macari, Angus Mackinnon, Paddy Mulligan, Tom Murphy, James O'Hey, Tom O'Hey, Dermot O'Reilly, Colin Peteranna, Maurice Taylor, Ian Traquair, Mike Turnbull.
2. Apologies: Mark Dunn, Ian Dunn, Chris Stephenson, Alasdair Macdonald, George Campbell, Fr. Stephen Dunn, Ralph & Mark Giulianotti, Colin Bryce, and Fr. Benedict our president who sent his good wishes to all.
3. Opening Prayer: Vice President Owen Halloran read the prayer as Fr. Stephen Dunn our chaplain was on holiday in Ireland.
4. Minutes of the 2015 AGM: Having been circulated were passed as an accurate record – proposed for adoption by Maurice Taylor, seconded by Neil Godfrey.
5. Matters Arising: Fr. Benedict; after a hearing in the sheriff court in September, a report on the charges appeared in the Press and Journal and the date for the case was set for the 23rd January 2017 in Inverness. Copies of the article were circulated to those present. The Chairman suggested that it was for individual OBs to send letters of support to his Lawyer Ms Claire Russell, Craig Wood, 16, Union St., Inverness IV 1PL. We have been advised by lawyer OB George Campbell that individual letters would carry more weight from those who knew him at school in the period 1973-88. The chairman is also sending a letter of support on behalf of the FAOBA.
6. Website: Webmaster Colin Bryce sent a report saying, "It is planned to redevelop the site on a different platform using Word Press, probably the world's most common platform (over 75m websites have been created using WordPress)." Hopefully we will see the return of the photo gallery and the forum. The OBs recorded their thanks for his time and work on the website.
7. Committee Report: Last year's dinner was a great success. Our speaker Fr. Beattie OSB from Ampleforth and former pupil of Carlekemp sent a letter of thanks for our donation of £400 which he donated to SCIAF.
In April three of the committee went to F.A. as usual to send out the Newsletters from OB Chris Stephenson's Caledonian Hotel. We inspected the monk's graveyard, the grass was cut and the crosses legible, as we had instructed Abbot President Richard Yeo to paint them a year ago. Kevin Deady had been asked by the FAOBA to look into the possibility of having a plaque placed under the bronze statue of St Benedict with two kilted schoolboys by Dr Arthur Fleishmann. The statue graced the Calder wing at FA. and is now at Ampleforth Abbey. He had spoken to their Abbot and was referred to the Trustees. The price quoted of £11,000 is far too high and the wording is not to our liking as they said the statue adorned the hospice at FA. He is continuing his research, however it is not looking too good.
8. Treasurer's Report: Mark Dunn CA who sent in his apologies as he was attending a wedding had prepared a statement of income and expenditure for the year to 31st August 2016. We are still solvent, cash in the bank stood at £4,841. Many thanks Mark.
9. Elections: The current officials were all re-elected en bloc, proposed by Pat Barron and seconded by Maurice Taylor. However our chairman pointed out that he had been in the chair for over 20 years and next year would be 75 and although he was prepared to run for another year wondered if there was some one younger and fitter out there to take over.
10. Deaths: Canon James Rae aged 88; Vincent Kronka Kinross aged 48; John Brown, brother of Jim Brown (1960s); Peter Barry aged 93, our oldest OB (1935-45); Major Selby Macduff-Duncan MBE aged 64. Our chaplain will remember all our deceased members in his masses. RIP.
11. AOCB: Kevin Deady noted that in September Fr. Francis Davidson had celebrated the 60th anniversary of his clothing as a monk. It was decided to send a Mass card for his intentions with our congratulations and best wishes. Unfortunately Fr. Francis has heart problems and is not keeping too well. Maurice Taylor was congratulated for being awarded a CBE for his services to the Hospitality industry.
12. Date of next AGM and Dinner: Saturday 7th October 2017 at the Holiday Inn, West Nile Street, Glasgow, with the AGM at 7.00 followed by dinner at 7.45pm.