

Edlines

the newsletter of **Stourbridge Old Edwardian Club**
No. 12 Summer 2013

Editorial Update

It is hoped that the return of **Edlines** will be welcomed as one of the ways that members can stay in touch with the Club and keep abreast of upcoming events. The best way of course, is to call in and check the notice board and monthly calendar but for those of you embracing the internet, the Club's website is updated regularly and is a rich source of information. Go to www.olderclub.org.uk . Many members receive notices by email but we shall continue to use both paper and electronic as long as required.

The most significant event since the last edition has been the rule change allowing female Old Edwardians to join the Club. As expected this has not resulted in a sudden uptake of membership but it has led to much closer contact with the College and several initiatives particularly to raise awareness of the Club are being explored to attract new members from student leavers and staff.

A letter from the President, Kenneth Wright

Dear Member,

I'm delighted that Edlines has re-appeared after a long absence as I have been concerned that the Club may run the risk of losing touch with a number of its members.

Traditionally the Club has informed members of news or events by posting notices on the Club notice board and in more recent times by email. Less than half our members have sent in details of their email addresses, which suggests that a large number of them are either not connected to e-mail or are not regular "browsers. Email does have cost benefits for the Club but we remain committed to paper as long as needed.

During my presidency of the Club and that of the Immediate Past President, we have undertaken or committed to a number of improvements to the decor of the premises to maintain its high standards. This includes replacement curtains and redecoration to the Memorial Room and the main lounge. The bar area too is currently receiving a makeover. These improvements to the decor have made the surroundings more inviting and attractive to all our visitors, especially the ladies.

Our next social event is "Oh! What A Lovely War" on Saturday 27 July. It is intended to be a fun evening with songs that all can join in, to the accompaniment of our very own musicians "The Trench Raiders". Tim, our steward, will be providing food themed on the period of the Great War that might have been served in a French café. Please try to come along and bring some friends. Profits from the evening will go to that very important charity "Help For Heroes".

I invite all members to stay in touch with the Club and its events and try to join in with our social evenings as often as possible.

Kenneth Wright

Social Round-up

Charter Day

The annual service at St Mary's Old Swinford was held on the evening of Thursday 13th June and was well attended by most of the first year students, staff, Governors, Trustees and many Old Edwardians and guests.

The Annual Charter Day lunch was held on Saturday 15th June attracting a full capacity gathering in the Memorial room. The event was hosted by the Immediate Past President, David Trewin who welcomed guests Prof. Chris Painter, Chairman of the Governors; Alan Cutler, Chairman of the Trustees and Sharon Phillips, Principal with her husband Charles.

The table setting was particularly appetising in both the culinary as well as visual sense and attracted many admiring comments as members, wives and guests entered the memorial room.

Charter Day lunch is traditionally free of formality apart from the loyal toast and *In Piam...* and this year's was in the words of one guest "one of the best".

The cricket match was played on Wednesday 3rd July at S.C.C. Amblecote resulting in a win for the Old Edwardians. It was remarked that there was some difficulty distinguishing between the students' eleven and the Old Edwardians (something to do with policemen looking younger).

The match was followed by a buffet supper at the Club for players and spectators.

Ascot Ladies Day Lunch

Thursday 20th was the occasion of a new event for the Club organised by our Steward Tim Purslow. A glass or two of Pimms, a superb buffet lunch and afternoon tea complemented the racing at Ascot on the large screen. For some it was as good as actually being at the racecourse without the long journey home ! Particularly noteworthy was the fine display of ladies' hats.

Tim has already indicated his intention for a repeat next year when we hope there will be even greater support from members and guests.

Bletchley Park

A small but enthusiastic group of members and wives visited Bletchley Park on Saturday 22nd June. We arrived there at 11.00.a.m. with an opportunity for an initial orientation of the site before being taken on an excellent guided tour of the Park. Afterwards, we were free to visit the museum and many of the restored huts and the displays.

Everyone agreed that it had been a fascinating insight into the secret world of code-breaking and Bletchley Park was well worth the visit.

Leaving the Park at 5.00.p.m., with brains aching with the knowledge absorbed during the day, we arrived back at the Club and were treated to a special "wartime" themed supper created by Tim and served to us by Tracey. A choice of spam fritters (the favourite amongst the group) or Lord Woolton's pie (Lord Woolton was the wartime Minister of Food) accompanied by mashed potatoes, chips and mushy peas was served as a sit-down meal in the Memorial Room.

Wining and Dining

Many of you have now experienced the superb catering and wine list either informally at lunchtime or at one of the many events organised as Club functions or as private parties.

A recent innovation by Tim our Steward is the introduction of Fish & Steak nights. A no frills two course dinner with a main course of either Fish or Steak for around £12/head is held on selected Friday nights throughout the year. Advance bookings only - check the noticeboard or speak to Tim or Tracey, 01384 395635 for dates and availability.

Refurbishment Work

Over the last twelve months considerable work has been undertaken to update the décor in the Club premises. This has been welcomed both by members and by our numerous “paying guests” to whom we make Club facilities available for commercial meetings, functions etc., which source of income is vital in helping us to balance the books.

Both the Memorial Room and the Main Lounge have been redecorated and much of the soft furnishing replaced in a more modern, but elegant, style. Improvements to the bar area are currently in progress and if you’ve not visited the Club recently, why not pop in to see the improvements for yourself.

We have been able to proceed with these works at this time thanks to generous bequests by former members, notably from the late John Sanders. We also have new branded placemats provided by the bequest from the late Bert Thatcher. We record our gratitude to them and their families for remembering the Club in this way.

Club Colours

The range of Club Colours currently in stock is detailed in the list below. Items may be purchased via the Steward or on application with remittance to the Honorary Secretary (for collection). All items of clothing are polyester in ‘Club member’ pattern. They make very acceptable presents too. If there is sufficient demand the committee will consider ordering the traditional Old Edwardian ties which can be worn by all old boys of the school.

Ties	£ 10.00 each
Bow Ties (ready tied)	£ 10.00 each
Bow Ties (self tie)	£ 11.00 each
Cummerbunds (Regular)	£ 15.00 each
Cummerbunds (extra deep)	£ 16.00 each
Cuff links (pair)	£ 20.00 each

SOEC Website – www.olderclub.org.uk

The website contains several pages of information for you to browse. There are a number of downloadable items including membership application forms. This and future editions of ~~Cdlines~~ will also be included together with an archive of (electronically produced) past issues all of which are available as pdf downloads.

On the subject of electronic communications, most of our members have supplied us with an email address for routine contact purposes and this provides, of course, a tremendous cost saving in the face of ever-rising postage costs. If you have email facilities but have not yet let us have your email address, may we ask you to pass it on to us at info@olderclub.org.uk. It will only be used for Club purposes and will not be passed on to third parties. The same email address may be used for general enquires.

The Club has had **wifi** for some time now and although mostly used for business meetings is also free to members with laptops/iphones who can access the internet when at the Club.

Dates for the Diary (2013)

July

- Saturday 27th - "Oh What a Lovely War" – A Romp through the Great War in Story and Song. See poster on page 5 for full details

October

- Friday 4th - SOEC Annual Dinner
Monday 21st - Trafalgar Dinner

The President's Ladies' Evening is being planned for October. Date to be announced.

November

- Monday 4th - Past Presidents' Dinner
Monday 11th - Remembrance observance at College (all welcome at 10.45)
Monday 18th - Committee Dinner

December

- Monday 2nd - SOEC AGM
Wednesday 4th - Turkey handicap snooker competition
Monday 23rd - Boar's Head Supper

Post Scriptum

Assuming that you've read this far we do hope that you've found this edition of ~~Edlines~~ **Edlines** interesting and useful.

If you are one of those members we haven't seen for some time, we also hope that it may inspire you to call in the Club when next in town or on an evening. Bring a friend, bring the wife, just sign them in as a guest and begin to rediscover the refreshed Club over a pint or glass of wine or the extensive range of soft drinks.

We have a unique Club but it needs everyone's support.

Valete