

OLD HENRICIAN

Any pupils who attended Prince Henry's - when it was a Grammar School or in the present time as a High School can call themselves Old Henricians when they leave the school. In recent years this has also applied to members of staff.

Mr. David Richards, the development officer for Prince Henry's High School, has been reviving the idea of hearing from former pupils and it has fallen to me to try and pass on this information in the form of a twice yearly newsletter. We have prepared a data-base and we have listed former pupils by their year of entry and also have up to date addresses.

In the 1950's there existed a flourishing Old Henricians Association with regular meetings. There was also a branch in London (which I attended during my University days in 1956-1959). During the 1960's enthusiasm waned but it was re-kindled in 1977 when a local committee of Colin Byrd, Eric Tyler, Wendy and David Miller and I organised a large re-union of 200+ former pupils when all sat down to a 3-course dinner in the Dining Hall and Princess Royal Hall. It was called the 6th Centenary Dinner (1377-1977). A smaller event took place the next year but again the enthusiasm fell away.

With Mr. Richard's arrival in 1992 much work was done to bring a list of Old Henricians up to date and after publicity in the Evesham Journal many contacts were made and many leads were followed up and during the Summer of 1994 two re-unions were organised. The first of these and the most successful was held on Friday 20th May for any pupils who first entered the school before 1950 - I was one of the younger of those present but met with several of my school friends and pupils slightly older whom I remembered with much admiration. 160 former pupils attended and the oldest was someone who first started at Prince Henry's in 1919 Mr. S.J. Bubb. People came from all over the country and even from the U.S.A. to re-visit their former school. These included a Professor at Bristol University and a research Scientist from Culham who extended an invitation for our Sixth Form to visit the Atomic Energy Authority. The MP for Cheltenham, Mr. Nigel Jones, is an Old Henrician and the former MP and Euro MP, Mr. Leslie Huckfield is too. Many changes were noted. The main school block and the Art Block were the only rooms known to most of those present and, even then, the upper Art Room was the Gymnasium, the Library was the Assembly Hall where plays were performed, and the office was a boys' cloakroom. As a direct result of this re-union, Mr. Ron Smith has taken it upon himself to contact and try to gather together the class of pupils in Form 4A in 1953. So far he has tracked down over 75% and May 1995 is the planned date for this cohort of Old Henricians to re-convene.

If, in reading this, you believe your up to date details are not known at school, please forward them to the school and pass on this information to anyone whom you may know who came to Prince Henry's and has not had recent contact with their Alma Mater.

Gordon Grove
(Former pupil 1949-1956)
(Former teacher 1962-1994)

