

Old Braesidians' Newsletter Spring 2009

Welcome to the fifth email newsletter for people associated with Braeside School, Buckhurst Hill. We hope you have all found your way to the new website www.braesideschool.co.uk as it now includes a lot more information plus photographs of the school as it is today. The alumni section however can only work if we get news from members to put into the newsletter and on the web page.

The 2008/2009 academic year has again been very busy for the school. The biggest change of course was the retirement of Mrs Clare Naismith who was replaced by our new head Mrs Gillian Haddon. She is only our 6th headmistress since the school was founded 64 years ago. Mrs Haddon joined Braeside in 2002 to teach geography and take over as Senior 7 form tutor later becoming a deputy head. Those of you who left recently will remember her. She is looking forward to meeting our alumni at future events. Several other new staff also arrived in September 2008. Two long serving members of the Senior School staff will be retiring in July 2009 – Mrs Brett who teaches art and Mrs Bodalbhai who teaches history. Many of you who were at school in the 1970's and 80's will be sad to hear that Mrs Hartley died recently. She taught science and was also the 3B (now year 7) form mistress.

The school continues to introduce many new innovations while not forgetting well established activities. A very successful trip to France took place in October and a similar visit to Italy is planned for this autumn. The curriculum is always changing to meet the demands of modern life and government initiatives. Those of you that left many years ago would be amazed by the developments.

Once again FOBS will be running their fete on Sunday 5th July 2009 We will not have an old girls table this year but please do make yourself known to the people running the staff stall. We are always delighted to get news about our former pupils and employees. We hope that some of you will be able to come and enjoy the day as it is a great family day out. Lunch or tea in the school grounds is always an enjoyable treat. If you want to try to trace a contemporary we can possibly help but cannot give out personal details even if we have them. We can contact people on your behalf either by email or post if you supply us with a stamped envelope.

Our plans to hold the next reunion in October 2009 have had to be postponed. It was felt that October is too busy a month for the school to be able to have as much input as they would like so regretfully the date has had to be changed and it is likely to be held in late June or early July 2010. We know that this time of year is very busy for parents, sportsmen and travellers but hope that many of you will still be able to join us. We are intending to make use of the marquee that is hired for the annual Speech Day hence the choice of date. Many visitors last time arranged to come with friends from their year but others who came alone met people they had not seen for a long time so that old friendships were renewed. To date only outline plans have been made but we hope to have enough current staff available to allow us to arrange tours of the schools. After the success of a day time meeting last time we decided to repeat the format with a light lunch followed by afternoon tea for those who have not had to dash away. Sadly we will have to make a charge for refreshments and ask people to book nearer the time so that we know how many to cater for. With space at a premium we cannot extend the invitation to partners or children.

Help with the publication and distribution of the newsletter would still be very welcome if it is to continue to be sent out on a regular basis! We could also do with some contributions from you the past members of the Braeside community. For data protection reasons we will not publish email addresses but if you wish to contact someone we can forward your request to them. For the same reason personal details will not be included unless the person concerned requests their publication. This edition does not include any photographs as they take a long time to download unless you have Broadband. It may be possible in future to let you indicate if you can accept images that could then be attached for those who want them. Meanwhile do look at the photographs on the school website.

For those of you that have not seen the book “A School, Two Houses and Perseverance” by Frances Francis (published in 2004 ISBN 0954738500) copies are still available from the school office. A whole chapter is devoted to memories from past pupils and staff followed by two appendices which contain lists of people associated with the school during its first 60 years. The book should also appeal to historians as apart from chapters about the school itself there are others about Miss Wakefield’s life, her family history (her father was a well known musician and her mother was the daughter of an important Nottingham entrepreneur), a brief biography of Charlotte Mason and the college she founded in Ambleside as well as a history of the Victorian houses the school has used over the years.

Finally an appeal - Many newsletters do not get delivered because mail boxes are too full or the addresses we have are out of date due to inactive or changed accounts so *please make sure you let us know of any changes if you wish to continue receiving information.*

Please send comments, news, offers of help, contributions or suggestions to the editor Frances Francis c/o Braeside School, 130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5SD or email ffrancis@braesideschool.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you!

If you have received this newsletter by email direct from the school please feel free to pass it on to other people associated with the school. If you have received it via a friend and would like to be included on our direct mailing list then please send your details including email address to ffrancis@braesideschool.co.uk . If you know that your email is likely to change before the next newsletter let us know so that we can keep the mailing list up to date. Should you not wish to receive these newsletters please just email as above and we will delete you from the mailing list.