



## NEWS OF OLD BETHANIANS 2008

Freddy **PROCTER** and Caroline were married on 26th April at Brasted Church when the weather was sunny and dry. Their reception was at Squerries Court, Westerham, followed by the honeymoon in The Seychelles. Freddy and Caroline met four years ago through work and got engaged in May 2007. Freddy was at Bethany between 1982 and 1987, in Speakers House and spent his five years in The Mount. After leaving school he worked at Harrods for two years, before becoming an estate agent with The Prudential. He is now a partner of George Proctor and Partners (Estate Agents), established by his grandfather in 1946, with an office on the borders of West Wickham, Beckenham and Bromley. Freddy has been on the committee of the OBS since 1989 and was President of the OBS in 2000/01. **Rob MOORE** is teaching PE in Sri Lanka, having spent the last three years in Malaya. He is to be married to his fiancé Sarah, whom he met in Malaya, at Christmas. **Martin ROBERTS** was ordained last year as a local minister, in the magical setting of St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The post is a non-stipendiary one so he maintains a part-time job with British Telecom, but takes responsibility for one of the three Sunday morning services in his church. He has taken up long distance running again hoping to enter the Great North Run, but settled for the Woodbridge 10k as a starter! **Martin & his wife, Rhian**, have three children, Barnaby, Mali & Theodore. **Adam BARNES**, who married Posa in Oxford in September 2006, has returned from living in Tanzania. As Posa has a job at Trinity College, Dublin, they have moved to Ireland where Adam hopes to secure a new job flying. They are expecting their first child in the Spring. **Robert FORSYTH** and his wife, Sally, have been struggling for the past year with the conversion of their two massionettes back into a fine Edwardian house just a stone's throw from the historic Pantiles of Tunbridge Wells. Permanent dust, scaffolding and a skip in the road have been unwelcome features of the project that proved equally tedious to their 16 year old cat, Messerschmitt! Robert's publishing business has had another good year and Robert has written two books on the Second World War, ready for publication this year. Robert has also been in contact with **Martin SCOTT** who was at Bethany during the late 1970s. He works for Abbey business banking. He married in 1986, has two children, Tom 15 and Eleanor 11, and lives near Reigate. He keeps in touch with **Roland KNIGHT** who also lives in the Reigate area. **John JOHNSON**, who did his degree at the Camborne School of Mines, works for KBR, alongside the MOD, and often this is abroad in conjunction with military operations. He is married with a young daughter. **Kate JOHNSON** spent several years after university in the equine industry, owning her own horses and trying to convert her passion into a career. Recently she switched to the shipping industry and works in Sydney for a small Swiss-French family business, which gives her the chance to travel the East coast of Australia, New Zealand & New Caledonia. She and her boyfriend hope to work in Dubai. **Peter SILLIBOURNE**, who farms down on Romney Marsh, has been laid up after a nasty hernia operation and chemotherapy after cancer. He and his wife, Mary, are still active farmers and are both enthusiastic local Scout & Guide leaders, for which they were both awarded OBEs several years ago. **Otto NAU** finished university in 2006 and worked on a new barrage built on the River Nile, a massive structure 2 hours drive north of Luxor. He currently works for a Sales Promotion Company in Milton Keynes and is enjoying 10k running in his spare time. **Roger DIXON**, who was for many years the OBS Archivist, took early retirement from the Civil Service several years ago and has since been enjoying increased leisure, in his garden, in his local church, where he is the committed organist and in holidays in Exmouth. He and his wife, Barbara, are keen gardeners and have been developing the garden of their house in Bishopston, Bristol as well as exploring National Trust gardens like nearby Tyntesfield & Knightshayes. Some years ago Roger converted his attic into a study and archive to house his steadily growing library. He is a Victorian devotee specializing in church & domestic architecture as well as something of a hymn book collector! Congratulations to **Nick DOREY**, one of our Patrons, and his wife Helen on their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Last year they enjoyed an anniversary expedition to Norway, climbing Galdhopiggen, Norway's highest mountain, on the anniversary day. Their two boys are fast growing up, Ben at 25 and Chris at 18 last year. Nick has been elected Chairman of **SHMIS**, the Society of Headmasters & Mistresses of Independent Schools, for 2009, as if he isn't busy enough as Head of a school now reaching 450 strong! **Bill HARVEY**, Nick's predecessor as Head, and **Gwen** are still enjoying their home in South West France though they often seem to be travelling back to England, in May for their daughter, Rebecca's, wedding to Lee in Cheltenham. All their children are now married and **Bill and Gwen** are grandparents several times over! **Christian LANZER**, Bill's predecessor as Head, continues to enjoy life in Wimbledon and, at 83, still has the energy for concerts at Covent Garden, the Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall. Last year he traveled back to Vienna in a heat wave where he enjoyed revisiting old haunts, going to concerts, and having copious amounts of kaffee und kuchen! **Su ROPER** is now on the staff of Sandford International

School, Ethiopia, as Head of Learning Support. The school is just north of the urban sprawl of the capital, Addis Ababa, and its cloud of pollution, but at 8000 ft is distinctly cool. She has enjoyed much travel in Ethiopia as well as summer at her home on the Isle of Man. **Tony ROLT** has just retired from running the V1th Form house at Trent College, after seven years and he and Pat plan to move into nearby rented accommodation. They are in the process of rebuilding their holiday home in Cornwall to house their various family on holiday visits. Tony has also given up coaching Derby Rugby Club whilst Pat is enjoying her job as a local Headteacher. **David SIXSMITH** still enjoys retirement living near to Bury St Edmunds. Once the weather improves he is off on traveling holidays all over the country, last year to North Devon and Cornwall in May, Pembrokeshire and Cirencester in June, Wensleydale and Dentdale in September and the Isle of Purbeck in October. His dog, Alice, clearly enjoys hill walking as much as David! **Colin ROOKWOOD** keeps busy in his retirement. He and Carol live on the outskirts of Horsmonden, where Colin helps with services and Carol is a very busy Churchwarden. They enjoyed a recent visit to Australia, where Daniel and his girl friend live at the moment as well as visits to the North West where other family members live. Their son, Joel, has just completed his PhD and lectures at Hope University, a far cry, his father says, from the days when he was such a rebel at Bethany! **Adrian CHAPMAN** has at last retired from his job as a Health & Safety Officer and he and Coleen still hope to move down to Bexhill. **Adrian** continues to be much involved in OBS matters, holding the committee together at difficult times, but he manages quite a lot of holidays, when he and Coleen are busy chasing the sun! **John-Henry SAXBY** graduated from Oxford Brookes this year with a 2.1, BSc in Business Management. As he had no Gap Year after Bethany he is traveling later in the year to South Africa, where he will be working at an Aids Orphanage in Johannesburg, before going onto Belize after Christmas to improve his diving skills. **Chris KENNY** also graduated from Oxford Brookes with a 2.1, BSc in Business Management. Chris has recently joined the Territorial Army, so it may be that his career will develop in this direction. **Tom MASTERS** completed his PhD at Winchester this year, graduating in July. His research was in Creative & Critical Writing, specializing in epic poetry, something of a miracle for a boy who went to Bethany as a severe dyslexic back in 1992! He is now back writing his own poetry again and takes up tutoring with the Open University and lecturing at Winchester and Southampton Universities in October. **Tor HARMER**, reading Geography at Southampton, has finished her course, which included teaching geography at a local school in Lymington. She has her dissertation to write and hopes to graduate next year. **Matt HARMER** is planning to work with Adam Phillips in a family nursery business, supplying all that babies and young nursery children require. **Gemma BLACKER** graduated from Sussex with a 2.1 in Anthropology & Cultural Studies. She plans to work in London in a consultancy agency. **Matthew MARSHALL** has also gained a 2.1 in Law at Hertfordshire and is now gaining work experience in a London Law firm as a means of discovering the law field most suitable for his career. **Henry LEIPOLD** gained a 2.1 in archaeology at St Andrews. He has joined Price Waterhouse Coopers on their two or three year graduate programme, which he hopes might lead to some exciting travel, especially as his long-term girlfriend is American. **Rosie LIDINGTON** however gained a 1st at Ravensbourne in Broadcasting, whilst **Sally BARWICK** has one more year to do in her nursing degree at King's College, London. **Ainsley MOORE** was married last year, **Chris VEALE** is currently on a four month cycle round Europe aiming at 5000 miles, whilst **Karl STEVENSON** has completed his course at a London Dance College and hopes to combine this with his interest in photography as a career. **OBS** seen at Bethany Reunion included some of the above but also **Michael SIMMONDS**, still a keen practising organist, **Nigel GUNYON**, living at Maidstone, **Eric ADLER**, retiring as OBSAF treasurer having raised considerable funds for the school over the years, **Peter MASON**, a retired teacher living in Essex but still retaining an interest in silversmithing, **Robin TOOP**, who looked as dapper and energetic as ever, despite his years, **Nigel KIMBER**, our Treasurer, whose brother, Roger, is returning to the UK from Thailand to live, **Neil POLLARD**, still in the television business, **Brendan PARKE**, **Billy CHEESEMAN**, as well as many of our hardworking committee. **Hugh ANDERSON**, who left Bethany in 1999 and achieved a 2.1 in Business Studies at de Montford, Leicester, has worked for Sky for the last two years. His field is in sales/sports media on the Internet, where he sells advertising and marketing space. He is about to move to Virgin. **Hugh** has a flat in London at Balham. **Jonathan DAVIES**, a contemporary of **Hugh**, has moved to Australia. He and his wife, who is a chef, live near Sydney. **Jonathan** has his yacht master's certificate and crewed a number of boats in the Caribbean before moving to Australia. **Tom SUTTON** and **Emma MORRISEY-CROUCH** visited Bethany on 7th October 2008 and bought little **Oscar James** with them. **Oscar** was born on 28th September 2008 in Eastbourne Hospital. **Tom** and **Emma** live in Burwash Common and **Tom** works for **Paul GRIST** at Swift Alarms in Bedgebury. **Emma** is enjoying motherhood and will shortly be going back to work, helping her mother in the nursing home.

**Got news? Lost touch? Want to track down an old friend from Bethany? Contact Elizabeth Barry, Alumni Co-ordinator, at Alumni alumni@bethanyschool.org.uk**

## OBITUARIES

**Geoff ADAMS**, at Bethany 1954-58, in Roberts House, died early in the summer. Geoff farmed at Ladysden, on the other side of the hill from The Mount, but had come to Bethany from Maidstone, where his family had business interests. At school he had been a keen member of the 2nd XI cricket and football teams and won the Stamper Prize in 1955. Geoff and his wife Gill were new to farming starting at Colliers Street, moving to Langley, Horsmonden and then finally to Ladysden, where they ran a traditional mixed farm. Geoff was a tolerant neighbour to Bethany pupils, many of whom ran across his farm, mostly on the local footpaths coming up from Harpers and the River Teise on their cross country runs. His son, also Geoff, went to Bethany in the 1980s. Geoff had always had a keen interest in cars and was a loyal supporter of St Mary's, Goudhurst, where he served for a number of years as Churchwarden.

**Barabara REES**, nee KENDON, died on 25th November last year. Barabara was the last Principal of Goudhurst Ladies College, which began life as Bethany's sister school in what is now Todmans, in 1875, before moving to purpose built premises in Tattlebury Lane, Goudhurst, in 1882. During the war the college was evacuated to Charnes and then Doddington Hall, Nantwich and never returned to Goudhurst. Barabara, a pupil at the college with her sister Pat, was born in 1918, the daughter of David & Winifred Kendon and granddaughter of Bethany's Founder, the Revd J J



### You tell us....

Your Committee welcomes hearing your ideas and suggestions for future events for Bethany Alumni wherever they may be in the world. Your Committee is eager to make membership of The Bethanians' Society exciting, fun, stimulating and of value. So if you have event ideas of any kind – social, sporting, or cultural – please contact the Alumni Co-ordinator and let us know.

Also, if you do not think we have all your up to date address and career details, or your own latest news, please email them through to alumni@bethanyschool.org.uk. Helping us in this way will ensure you stay in contact.

### We'll tell you....

The latest news on Bethanians' Society events. The latest news from Bethanians around the world. The latest news from the School. It's our Society – let's make it work!



### A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

**The next Bethanians' Society Dinner will be in London, March 2009**

Due to popular demand, plans are underway to hold the annual Bethanians' Society Dinner in London in March 2009. More details will be in the next Bulletin.

For all Alumni enquiries please phone 01580 211 273 and ask for Elizabeth Barry (Tuesdays only) or email alumni@bethanyschool.org.uk

**To keep up to date on news and future events in The Bethanians' Society visit [www.bethanyschool.org.uk](http://www.bethanyschool.org.uk) and go to 'Alumni'**


Kendon. Barbara studied music at the Dalcroze School, where she subsequently joined the staff. She was an accomplished pianist often acting as judge, organiser or accompanist for local music festivals. In 1957 Barbara married The Revd William Rees, Vicar of Milland, Liphook in Hampshire, where she became the 'Vicar's wife', fulfilling this role until her mother died in 1962, when she took over as Principal of the College. She and her husband then moved up to Cheshire and Barbara ran what continued to be a distinctly family run school in very gracious surroundings. There can have been few schools that had so elegant a 'salon' where one might be sat whilst awaiting an interview with Miss Barbara? She brought coachloads of her young ladies down to Bethany on Sunday 6th July 1975 to celebrate the College's centenary as well as presiding over bi-annual visits of the Old Girls reunions at Goudhurst, a few of which were happily entertained to tea on the lawns of The Mount in the 1980s. Sadly the college closed in 1985 and Barbara retired to Lynwulf Lodge nearby, where she lived busily occupied with dogs, garden, college contacts and her family. Barbara was a keen breeder of dogs, especially German Shepherds, showing and judging, and an active member of the Kennel Club. As a keen gardener Barbara was active in the Cottage Garden Society. She died in a nursing home, where she moved in the last year or so. Happily reminders of the Ladies College exist at Bethany – the David Kendon clock on the north facing tower of the Assembly Hall, the college coat of arms, the Principal's chair and a glass-fronted bookcase all housed at The Mount.



## Give HOCKEY a Try!

## CALLING ALL OLD GIRLS

For more information call **Naomi Clark 07743 497858** or **Tor Harmer 07941 785354** or join the **Facebook Group 'Bethanian Old Girls' Hockey'**



### 'From Acorn to Oak Tree'

*A wonderful history of Bethany School from 1866 to 1988, A4 format, 168 pgs, hundreds of historic and fascinating photos*

*Copies still available. £30 Hardbk edition, or £20 Softbk edition incl. of UK postage. Send order to school address with cheque or PO payable to Bethany School Attn: Elizabeth Barry*



# The Bethanians' Society Bulletin

Uniting the Alumni of Bethany School

Autumn 2008

## STOP PRESS....! WELCOME TO THE (NEW) BETHANIANS' SOCIETY!

### Important news for Old Bethanians!

**O**UR SOCIETY was founded in 1887 with a view to promoting friendship and generating lasting links between ex-pupils of Bethany School and the School of the modern day. It has always been a self-financing organization funded mainly by annual subscriptions by its members or by lump sum payments by those who chose to become Life Members of the Society. It has been run by the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the rest of the Committee, all of whom are elected annually at the Society's Annual General Meeting held at the School on Reunion Day.

Over the years the Society has seen its membership diminish due largely to the increasing pressures and attractions of modern day life which in turn has led to a downturn in the Society's subscription income. About 11 years ago the School helped the Society to respond to this situation by paying for membership of the Society for all leavers for five years thus guaranteeing the Society a steady flow of income. It was then up to each of those leavers to decide whether or not to continue their membership after the initial five year period. Sadly very few chose to do so.

Despite this financial aid from the School the Society continued to struggle due to its dwindling membership. However it is and always has been in the interests of the School to have a thriving ex-pupils or "alumni" association like those of other private schools. With this in mind in early 2006 the Headmaster, Mr. Nick Dorey, met with Robert Forsyth, a past OBS President and now also a Governor of the School, and Robert Pilbeam, the then Honorary Secretary, to formulate a plan to rescue the Society.

The Headmaster's proposals were as follows:-

1. The School would employ on a part-time basis an "alumni coordinator" to take over the day to day running of the Society, looking after membership lists, the OBS website and mailings etc.
2. Every school leaver and every existing member would automatically become a Life Member of the Society, such membership being funded by the School.
3. The Committee would continue to have ultimate autonomy over the running of the Society.



*Ten past presidents of the Old Bethanians Society gather for a historic photograph on the Headmaster's Lawn with the new Alumni Co-ordinator of The Bethanians' Society. Back row from l-r: Paul Holmes, Neil Pollard, Robin Toop, Eric Adler, Freddy Proctor, Paul Grist. Front row from l-r: Robert Forsyth, Brendan Parke, Elizabeth Barry (Alumni Co-ordinator), Adrian Chapman, Billy Cheeseman*

These were radical and very generous proposals by the School and after much discussion by the Committee and at the Society's A.G.M. in June 2006 the Society decided in principle to accept these proposals.

The School and the Society then had to work together to turn these proposals into reality, which involved going through a lot of important details. The final breakthrough came in April this year when Elizabeth Barry was appointed as the alumni coordinator. Since then the Committee have met with Elizabeth on a number of occasions to ensure a smooth transition. She also attended our A.G.M. in June.

The Society owes a debt of gratitude to those who have worked so hard to bring about these changes and in particular to Nick Dorey, Robert Forsyth and Robert Pilbeam.

The final change which was unanimously agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 30th September 2008 was that the Society will henceforth be called **The Bethanians' Society**. This has been done to project a more inclusive image and will hopefully appeal to younger members.

As this newsletter goes to press the Society is entering a new era in its 121 year history and we hope the future will be a bright one for the benefit of all its members.

**Nick Randell**  
**The Bethanians' Society Committee**

**The 'Happenings' are back! Join us for a drink in Royal Tunbridge Wells. See inside.**

**Lost Bethany film discovered! See inside for details**

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## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW ALUMNI CO-ORDINATOR

In June, The Bethanians' Society was delighted to welcome the recent appointment of Elizabeth Barry as its new Alumni Co-ordinator in order to help take the newly re-structured society forward. Elizabeth went to Oxford Brookes University where she studied History and Geography from 1991 to 1994 and then went on to work in politics for six years. She then worked as an Account Manager organising Exhibitions for the Conservative Party Conferences from 2000 to 2002. Elizabeth now lives in Goudhurst with her husband and daughter and enjoys playing tennis, alternative health and listening to music. She is very much enjoying working at Bethany and looks forward to helping set up the new Society and working with the Committee to develop exciting new initiatives. Comments Elizabeth: 'I very much look forward to hearing from former pupils of Bethany wherever they are in the world and will do my best to help support any events they may wish to organise. Members of The Bethanians' Society can contact me through the school website.'

Elizabeth can be contacted at [alumni@bethanyschool.org.uk](mailto:alumni@bethanyschool.org.uk)



Elizabeth Barry, The Bethanians' Society's Alumni Co-ordinator with Billy Cheeseman, Reunion Day, June 2008

## Twenty year-old film of Bethany (re)discovered!

As my exams came to an end at Bethany I was left with 3 weeks of spare time before the holidays started. For a few days I joined my fellow Bethanians down at 'Lutners' farm where I was employed for the first time weighing and packing strawberries just a few miles from the school. Whilst this seemed fun initially, after 5 days I was sickened at the site of strawberries and my stomach had more vitamin C than ever before – so I started to look for a way out!

As the custodian of the sports video equipment, the solution came to me as I was videoing a cricket match on the Arena – I would make a short video of the school in all its glory. With the permission of headmaster Christian Lanzer, I and fellow classmate Tom Wilson

set off to film the school. At the end of this article you will find the link to the video we finally made. However, you will understand the final quality of the film was due to the very archaic equipment we had available to us rather than the operators new found skill – well before the digital age. Indeed, the bulky video camera battery pack did not work so all the clips were filmed using a very long extension lead, and the video was edited together using two video recorders. We borrowed a 'state of the art' BBC computer from Mr Holman which we used for the credits and, with help from Mr Wardell of the Geography department, we were able to add the music.

When complete, Tom and I had made an 11-minute 'Prospectus' of the school which was shown to Pengelly and School House before the term finished. As I remember, only one poor copy was left at the school with History teacher Mr Priestly.

As the years passed by, in 2003 Paul Holmes contacted me asking if I still had the video we had made – unfortunately when I found my copy the tape had deteriorated and the picture and sound quality were unwatchable. In 2007 I was clearing an old pile of video tapes and found an unmarked cassette with broken tape – out of curiosity, before throwing this away I repaired the tape and found it to be the 'original' Bethany Video made in 1987 – now 21 years old.

Through the wonders of modern technology I have added this to 'You-tube'. Whilst speeded up and its quality reduced still further to fit within the requirements of the web site, views of the school and a few Bethanians of 1987 can still be seen.

Hope you like it.....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OB-85Fok-M>

Nick Lang  
Bethanian 1980-1987

## The 'Happenings' are back!

Join us for a drink in Royal Tunbridge Wells

21 NOVEMBER



Many past Bethanians will have fond recollections of evening gatherings in City and West End pubs back in the 1980s. The Bethanian Society is delighted to announce that a new 'Happening' will be taking place at The Ragged Trousers bar on the Pantiles in Royal Tunbridge Wells on Friday 21st November from 7.00pm onwards. This is a very informal event and is open to all former Bethanians who fancy a drink with friends, perhaps followed by a bite to eat at any one of Tunbridge Wells' numerous excellent nearby restaurants. Just turn up. We look forward to seeing you there and hope that this will be the start of many new happy Happenings. If you're in the Tunbridge Wells area, why not organise a small group? We look forward to seeing you!



## THE TWENTY CLUB

Friday, 26th October 2007

Browns Bar & Brasserie, Covent Garden, London

On Friday, 26th October 2007, the diners of the XX Club finally found themselves appearing in Court. Upstairs in Court 2 to be precise... at 'Browns Courtrooms' on St Martins Lane in London's Covent Garden.

The large room was dominated by the Judge's Bench and our table, set for 26 members of the OBS in black tie was laid out in sumptuous style. Years before, the building served as the Westminster Court Rooms.

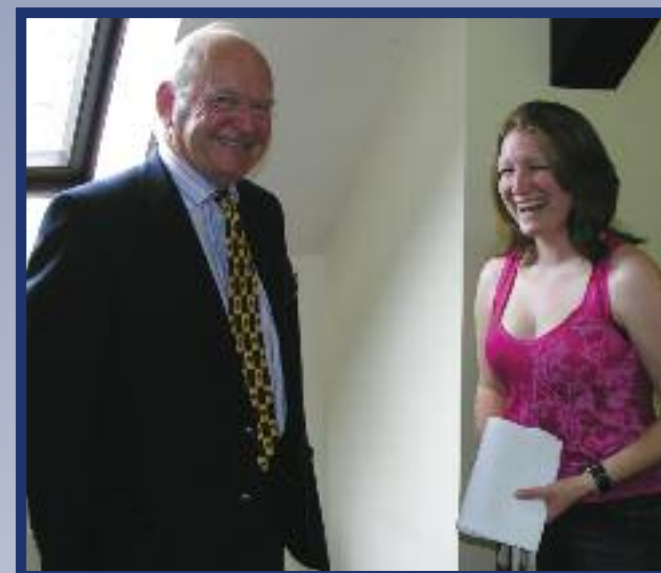
As ever, the evening proved to be another enjoyable occasion for the annual 'stag' group of those invited offenders (sorry, Old Bethanians!), who are known, or heard on the grapevine, to be partial to some good conversation, good company, and good food, while frequenting some of London's hidden gastronomic gems. Now in its 26th year, the dining club saw young former Bethanians and those perhaps not so young as they once were, mixing and chatting as one at the bar at the start of a most convivial evening. As always it was most enjoyable to catch up with news from old friends. Also invited this year to join us was a former Headmaster, an impressively sprightly 82(?), who said he '...would not stay long', but found himself among the last to leave, returning home at, er, 1 am. Of course, some of us youngsters had to catch trains home earlier than that!

The Wards of Court were summoned to dine and filed into their places after having been found unanimously guilty of a pre-dinner drink – or two. A wonderful first course of pillows of smoked salmon and trout mousse was accompanied by a crisp and dry French white. The customary move between course followed, so all could get to meet as many fellow criminals as possible, which added to the good-natured banter and bargaining pleas of 'please, M'Lud – I only had just the one glass!' Delicious fillet of pork followed, with raclette cheese in puff pastry. Order was called again, followed with pear and almond tart, then cheese and coffee.

So we all conversed, laughed, toasted the Queen, our Society and our friendship – but no speeches – as per the tradition of this esteemed gathering. Repleat – there were many who were found 'guilty' of having enjoyed a thoroughly good evening, but excuses were heard and pardons issued for those who had to leave early. However some 'offenders' might get a summons for a repeat appearance next year – depending on their behaviour. There may be some new faces and who knows whether it will be in Court again? Perhaps we might find ourselves in the cells for 2009!

The presiding Judge who, with his court Usher, put the evening together thanks everyone again for keeping this splendid event going.

RP



Brendan Parke and Tor Harmer



Elizabeth Barry and Adrian Chapman



Nigel Kimber, OBS Treasurer with Robert Coupland



Jason Merricks, OBS Hon. Sec, talks with Neil Pollard, while in the background, Ray Richards catches up with Alex Hayward

## A HAPPY DAY

Reunion Day, June 2008

Reunion Day is now combined with Leavers Saturday and it was held on Saturday, 21 June – the equinox.

We former Bethanians look back on our days at school with fond memories and always look forward to meeting fellow Bethanians of all ages anywhere in the world.

It is a time when leavers are perhaps sorry to leave many friends behind but no doubt look forward to life's future adventures. Parents are probably pleased that there are no more schools fees(!) but look forward to experiences yet to come.

The Service in the Chapel at 12 noon is the common link we all have to Bethany School. Staff, choir and pupils all contributed to the Service on this happy day, (as on so many occasions before). Flowers were placed on the War Memorial by the youngest Boy and the youngest girl in tribute to Bethanians lost in conflicts around the world and the Headmaster presented Tankards and Goblets to the prefects.

The School Hymn was sung heartily to a new tune, and also 'Don't Be a Stranger' – a sweet-sad ballad of departure – was sung by a Trio that is now a regular item.

Lunch and Tea were kindly provided, as always, by the Headmaster (and Governors), who made us feel welcome and we thank them for their kind hospitality.

I hope pupils who left on this day will return and have a happy day as I have done even after 57 years!

Robin Toop



Honestly, I buried my old tuck box around here somewhere back in .... Neil Pollard gets nostalgic. Robin Toop is evidently riveted.



Freddy Proctor

Paul Holmes chats with Charles Barsley and Alex Hayward



Peter Mason makes a point



Eric and Wendy Adler with Tor Harmer