



# Old Cerdics Association

## The Cerdic Newsletter

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### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022

*Dear Old Cerdics and friends,*

As the 'auld year' draws to a close and another year dawns it is perhaps time to reflect on what has passed!?

With war in Ukraine, political turmoil and a cost-of-living crisis, 2022 proved to be one of the most, if not the most, tumultuous year of the 21st Century to date. Above all it will be etched forever in history for the Platinum Jubilee and subsequent death, just a few months later, of our beloved Queen. It brought back vivid memories of her accession to the throne to those of our members who were at the school in February 1952 when the Headmaster announced the death of her father King George VI.

For our Association, now in its 93rd year, it has been a year of consolidation and revival following the easing of Covid restrictions. For the first time in three years the school gates were opened to visitors and we have been welcomed back into the school. Old Cerdics were very much in evidence at the school's Summer Fair in June and Guest Assembly Talks, whereby former pupils visit the school to talk to the children of their life experiences, have been resumed. These talks are greatly valued by the school and during the Autumn Term a number of OCs have undertaken talks on a wide variety of subjects.

Our annual dinner, having been pushed back to October in 2021, returned to its traditional spot in June following the Summer Fair and for the second consecutive year was held at the Hornsbury Mill Hotel. Attendance was perhaps not as we would have

wished, largely due to late Covid related cancellations, but none the less a party of some 70 Old Cerdics and friends sat down to a sumptuous three course meal provided by the hotel. The evening was rounded off as ever with musical entertainment delivered by the inimitable Stewart Hull.

A huge thank you to those OCs who attended the annual Remembrance Service at the school on 11th November. This is always a most poignant occasion as we join together with the present children to remember our forebears, many of whom were not long out of school, who paid the supreme sacrifice in fighting for their country. A special thank you to Brab (Hallowes) for reading out the names of the fallen inscribed in perpetuity on the Rolls of Honour in the school chapel. The school's annual Christmas Carol Concert at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Furnham Road at 5.00pm on Thursday 8th December is another occasion when we join together with the school to celebrate Christmas and the end of yet another term; a very real pre-cursor for the start of the season of goodwill with mince pies and mulled wine in school afterwards! We look forward to meeting up with some of you for this special occasion.

Looking ahead we are intent next year in engaging with the younger generation of former pupils post 1971. If you fall into this category it is vital for you to come on board if the OCA is to survive beyond its centenary in 2029. So many of us, whilst not in our dotage (!! ) are now beginning to get on a bit! Our oldest active member with whom we have contact is now 93!

There are slots available for Guest Assembly Talks for



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE/MESSAGE FROM KATIE HILL - HEAD TEACHER

next term. So far these have been undertaken by Old Cerdics from the immediate post war period. If you were at the school under Clive Organ or John Stotesbury and even further back with Miss Dunn we would love to hear from you. We are sure you will have an interesting tale to tell and you would be very welcome to visit the school. All contact details follow.

The Summer Fair and subsequent dinner at the Hornsbury Mill Hotel on Saturday 17th June 2023 is also a good opportunity to meet with old friends.

Tables at the Mill are set for eight people so why not make up a table? Full details will be circulated in the New Year.

In conclusion, from the OCA team, we wish you, where ever you may be, and all staff and pupils at Chard School a Joyous and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year.

**Charles Denman – President Old Cerdics Association**

**Graham Chamberlain – Chairman/Secretary Old Cerdics Association**

**“Oh come on all ye faithful”  
Join us at the Church of the Good Shepherd  
at 5.00pm on Thursday 8th December for the  
Chard School Annual Christmas Carol Concert**

### MESSAGE FROM KATIE HILL, HEADTEACHER - CHARD SCHOOL

It has been lovely this year to once again be able to safely welcome OCA members back on to our school site. It was super to see so many of you at the Summer Fair back in June and I was delighted to pull at least one OCA raffle ticket out of the bucket! Martin and I were pleased to join so many of you at Hornsbury Mill later that evening for your annual dinner, once again it was an honour to speak to you all and share with you news of how our school continues to thrive. This term the children have enjoyed being entertained by some of your members who have delivered interesting presentations to the children in Assemblies. On Remembrance Day we were delighted to welcome so many local OCA members to our school Remembrance Assembly and to share with you the importance that we place as a school in remembering all those who gave so much for us all, particularly our fallen OC's.

As the festive period approaches you would of course be very welcome to join us for our Christmas Gift Fair on Saturday 3rd December between 12-2pm which will be held in the school grounds. We conclude the term with our Carol Service, which is being held in the Church of the Good Shepherd on Thursday 8th December at 5pm, we would be delighted to welcome OCA members to this joyous festive occasion too. As the year heads towards its conclusion, I would like to thank the OCA for its invaluable support this year. Your monetary contributions towards our Scholarship Fund ensure that as many children as possible are able to access our education, your support for maintenance projects enables vital refurbishment and renovation of our beautiful building and your presence in leading assemblies and at school events contributes to the rich experience of our children at our school.

*I wish you all a happy, healthy festive period with your families and friends and look forward to working closely with the association in the new year.*

*Produced and distributed from Chard School, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1QA.*

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