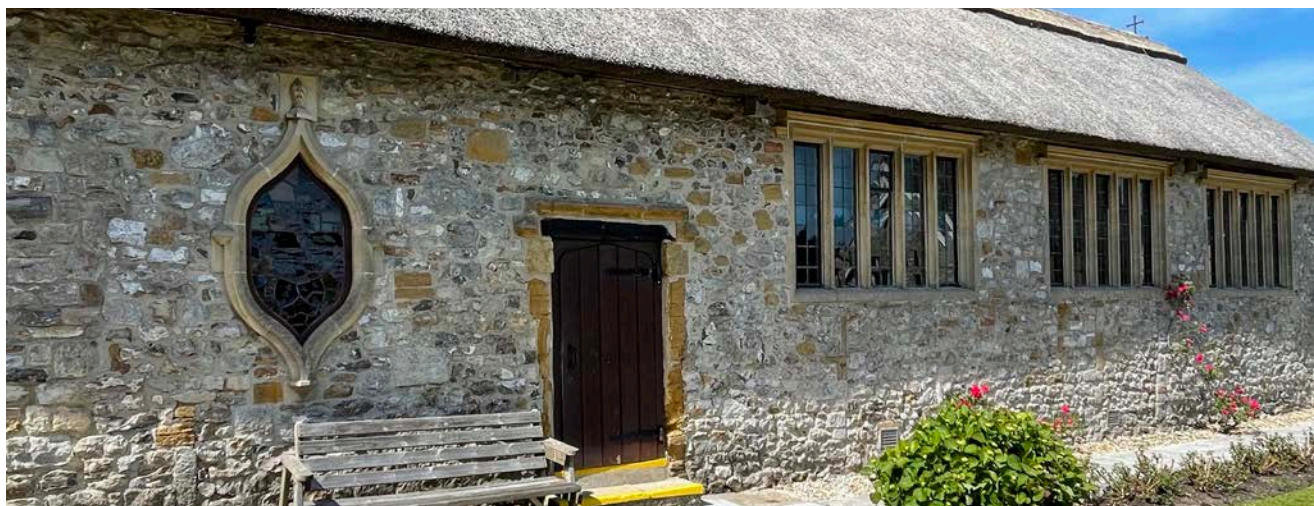




Old Cerdics Association

The Cerdic Newsletter

September 2023 / Issue 51



PRESIDENT'S PREAMBLE

As I write, I'm fortunate to be gazing out to sea from a little Cornish village overlooking the Carrick Roads basking in glorious Autumn sunshine, not far from where many of you went sailing with our one time Headmaster the late Lawrence Powell. Happy memories I'm sure. The same Cornish village where his wife Eileen spent her childhood travelling to school in Falmouth on the St Mawes Ferry.

Anyway, enough of this day dreaming and back to 2023! Firstly congratulations to Chard School on reaching the shortlist in the prestigious Independent School of the Year Awards. We wish you the best of luck in the final evaluation. Please note upcoming dates of School events to which you are all invited.

The 2023 annual OCA dinner was held at Hornsbury Mill on June 11th. In addition to the usual programme we were royally entertained before dinner by a group of children from the School under the guidance of Mr Pearson. Thanks to Stewart Hull for organising his first annual dinner as well as providing the after dinner selection of our favourite songs in his own inimitable style.

Stewart as our incoming Chairman in a year's time, following the announcement that Graham Chamberlain will step down from his joint role of Chairman and Secretary at the end of the 23/24 year, has produced his vision for the future of the Association. Please read it and feedback any thoughts to Stewart over the coming months.

Not enough room in this bulletin to consider Graham's huge contribution to the Association, so suffice to say a simple thank you for now for all his dedicated work and watch this space.

Please also note Stewart's request for more assembly talks. These have been well received by pupils and staff alike, keep them coming please.

Life at the School continues apace as can be seen in Katie Hill's highlights of the many recent School activities. You will also be surprised to read about an extraordinary discovery in the plumbing during some recent refurbishment work recording the famous Moon landing by Neil Armstrong back in 1969, linked at the time by the Chard and Ilminster News to The Three Hundred Years Of History of the School, recently updated by Graham and available from the School.

As always thanks go to Eleanor for her excellent work in tidying up the many inputs to this Newsletter and producing the finished article that you see before you. Although no longer employed by the School as her children have now both moved on to Colyton Grammar School you will be delighted to know that she will continue with this valuable task as one of our younger Old Cerdics that we are all looking to encourage in order to help secure a much needed "Vision for the Future".

Thanks for reading this Newsletter, I look forward to seeing some of you at School events this term.....now back to the beach!!

Charles Denman – President Old Cerdics Association



FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



The end of our school year was marked with many memorable moments. One of the high points was our Cerdic production of *Beauty & The Beast*. The Cerdics and Harris classes all performed brilliantly, their confidence and stage presence shone through as they sang and acted their hearts out to a full audience of their family members. We were so proud of them all and would like to thank in particular three staff members who helped to make the show such a success. Thank you to Mr Sills for directing the whole production, to Mrs Orr-Ewing for her musical direction and tuition and to Mrs Downing for the super costumes, stage design and props. *Beauty & The Beast* was certainly a show to remember!

We concluded the penultimate week of term with our Annual Prize Giving Ceremony and Concert at The Church of the Good Shepherd. This is always a high point of the school year as we come together to celebrate the achievements and progress of our children, to show case their musical talents and to wish our UC children luck as they come to the end of their Prep School journey at our school. We were delighted that some Old Cerdics were able to join the congregation of school families and other members of the school community for this event and afterwards on Chapel Lawn for a cream tea, which was ably served by our FOCS.

It was lovely to see the children having fun at their end of year party on the penultimate day of term. We would like to extend our thanks to the FOCS for organising the fun for the children, it was super to see them all enjoying games, magic and dancing together led by the brilliant DJ in our School Chapel.

On the final morning of term we enjoyed a touching Leavers' Assembly for our UC class, in which the children shared some of their Chard School memories with us all. We watched a memorable film that Mrs Pielez has expertly created showcasing some 'naughty' antics that our UC had got up to and a further touching piece which captured our UC children through the years. UC were delighted to be presented with their Leavers' hoodies when we as a school shared our lasting memories of each child. Our UC have certainly been a special cohort and we look forward to hearing all that they will achieve in their next settings in September.

Over the summer holiday much work has continued at school behind the scenes as we prepare for the start of the new term. We were delighted to welcome Chard School pupils and children from other local schools to our Sports Camp at the beginning of August. The children all had a super time experiencing a range of different sports, making new friends and having fun together. We also had a stand at the Melplash Show, where we were delighted to be visited by a number of prospective parents and Chard School families. We promoted our first Open Day of the year on Monday 25th September and our Autumn Term Scholarship Campaign.

As the beginning of the new school year approaches, we look forward to welcoming our new Deputy Head Mr Matthew Sims and our new Horner & Monmouth Job Share Teacher Mrs Sarah Elmer to our teaching team. We will be delighted to welcome our Chard School children back through our gates once more to begin their new school year of learning together. At the beginning of the Autumn term we will share with you all the dates for our Remembrance Service, Christmas Fayre, Pre-Prep Nativity and Carol Service. You are of course very welcome to join us for these events.

Katie Hill, Headteacher, Chard School



THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARDS/ THE WEEKLY VIEW/DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2023

Many congratulations to Chard School on the momentous news that the school has been shortlisted for the prestigious Independent Schools of the Year Awards. Undoubtedly this outstanding recognition serves as a true testament to all the hard work and dedication of the whole school community.

THE WEEKLY VIEW

With the start of the Autumn Term and the beginning of a new academic year this is a timely reminder that members can keep up to date with all the school news and snippets from the OCA through The Weekly View. Circulated directly from the Heads Desk every Friday in term time The Weekly View is a most interesting pictorial record of what the children have been working on during the week. It also contains a note from The Friends of Chard School (FOCS) and by scrolling down to the end a final postscript from the OCA.

Readily available to all OCs on the OCA database. If you are not already receiving this informative news bulletin please contact Sharon Mason at the school –

secretary@chardschool.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY - FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2023

Of all the events in the school calendar the special assembly in the school chapel to mark Remembrance Day, when we remember those Old Cerdics who died in two World Wars, is of the most significant for the OCA. Their names are inscribed on the Rolls of Honour in the chapel and by time honoured tradition are read out each year by a member of our association. This is always a most poignant occasion. This year Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday so the special assembly will take place at the school on **Friday 10th November 2023**.

ANNUAL CAROL CONCERT - THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2023

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Furnham Road, Chard

A very real occasion to celebrate the end of the Autumn Term and to get into the Christmas spirit, especially with the added bonus of mulled wine and mince pies in school after the concert.

COULD WE PLEASE MAKE AN APPEAL TO ALL OCs WHO LIVE LOCALLY TO SUPPORT THESE MAJOR SCHOOL EVENTS AT THE EXPRESS INVITATION OF KATIE HILL HEAD TEACHER. YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME SO MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES NOW.



ADVANCE NOTICE/THE OLD CERDICS ASSOCIATION - A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

ADVANCE NOTICE OLD CERDICS REUNION DINNER and ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY 15th JUNE 2024

As mentioned later the Old Cerdics Reunion Dinner and Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 15th June 2024 at the Hornsbury Mill Hotel, Chard. Full details and booking form will be circulated in the New Year so watch this space!!

THE OLD CERDICS ASSOCIATION - A VISION FOR THE FUTURE A NOTE FROM STEWART HULL



Following our present Chairman/Secretary's decision to stand down in 2024 I have agreed to step into his very large shoes and become your Chairman with effect from next June. In the interim I intend to try my best to keep the OCA alive, but it will of course be obvious to everyone that unless we do something to add extra numbers to our ranks we only have a few years left before the Association comes to an untimely end, purely through lack of able-bodied members.

With that in mind I am going to spend some of the next year trying to encourage those potential Old Cerdics who were at the 'new' Chard School to join our ranks. I have already enlisted the help of a couple of those potential

members to try and reach out to this new audience and if we can do so then I would hope that in due course the Association will take on a new lease of life of its own. I realise that those potential recruits are unlikely to have the same affiliation to the School as many of us do, mainly because it was their Primary School and we all know we tend to feel more strongly towards our Secondary School. However, the fact that Chard School continues to instil deep affection into whom so ever comes into contact with it weighs in our favour.

If we are unsuccessful in this, my guess is that we have about 10 years left. At least that will take us beyond our centenary in 2029. On that basis I would attempt to ensure that those years are spent with everyone enjoying the comradeship that our reunions afford by trying to get as many to attend as possible. I would welcome any suggestions members wish to make to further that aim and I am completely open as to how we hold these reunions and perhaps other events in the future.

In the meantime please spread the word that we are still alive and kicking and remember that the Association is only as strong as its members contributions. I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible over the next year with your suggestions and then seeing you all at the Hornsbury Mill for our next reunion dinner on Saturday 15th June 2024.

Best wishes everyone,
Stewart Hull



ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023



On a glorious Saturday in June we held our annual reunion dinner, once again at the Hornsbury Mill Hotel which has served us so well for the last few years.

This year we had an innovative first when we were entertained prior to the dinner by a small group of children from the School who sang a lovely medley of songs, culminating in the School Song, while we sat by the side of the lake in the beautiful evening sunshine. It was a most moving event watched by the whole dinner audience of 61 people, spellbound by the youngsters and their obvious enjoyment at what they were doing. Afterwards we gave them a small tea party before their parents took them home with the applause still ringing in their ears!

The dinner itself was a joyous affair and of course we were served so well by the staff at the hotel who by now know us so well and are able to cater for all our needs. During the meal we held the traditional raffle, ably conducted by our three wonderful ladies, namely Alison Reynolds, Lesley Barton, and Diane Denman. We raised the princely sum of £275 for the association's Scholarship Fund in aid of the School.

As usual we were joined by two guests from the Old Ilminsterians and we were also delighted to see a table made up from the School including, of course, the Head Teacher, Katie Hill, the Chair of Governors Neil Maynard and the School Bursar Anna Vickery. They all remarked afterwards on what an enjoyable evening they'd had. It is so important for the association to maintain this close relationship with the School and those who run it. We hope that next year even more staff from the School will join us. Before the dinner our Chairman and Secretary, Graham Chamberlain had announced that he would be standing down from his joint roles in 2024 and so the fact that he acted as Master of Ceremonies for possibly the last time meant that the evening took on a special poignancy. Much more will be said about Graham next year when he finally stands down but for now suffice to say that the very fact that these dinners are still continuing is due in large part to his stupendous efforts.

After the dinner the Toast to the School was proposed by former President Nigel Griffiths who highlighted the excellent way the present Head and her staff were running the School. In reply Katie Hill gave a resume of the school's year and outlined the challenges post Covid and stressed that the school was moving forward in a thriving manner. Finally, our President Charles Denman thanked everyone for their efforts in making the dinner such a resounding success and hoped that next year we would be able to enjoy the company of many more Old Cerdics.

The whole evening was rounded off by me taking everyone back in my usual way to the years of Rock & Roll which ensured that some tired bodies were even more tired as they made their way home, or to their B&B and so to bed!!

Stewart Hull



ANNUAL CONCERT & PRIZE GIVING

ANNUAL CONCERT AND PRIZE GIVING - FRIDAY 7TH JULY 2023

Many congratulations to Chard School on a marvellous concert coupled with the annual Prize Giving before a packed audience of parents and friends at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Furnham Road, Chard on Friday 7th July 2023. This is very much the high point of the school year as the children come together to show case their musical talents. The OCA was represented as always by the association's President and Chairman.

It is fitting for OCs to be present on this special occasion as many of the prizes bear the names of former pupils as well as three former Headmasters. Many of the names date back several decades to the 1930s. Of particular interest is the J.R.Long Efficiency Cup, perhaps the oldest and smallest of all the vast array of cups on display. Mr. Long was a master at the school and retired just before the outbreak of WW2. After the war the cup was invariably awarded to the Head Prefect. On one occasion, just a few years ago, the recipient of the cup in 1953 happened to be present at Prize Giving and was able to say 'hello' to his successor holder of this treasured prize. In her annual presentation Katie Hill, Head Teacher announced that the Lawrence Powell Music Scholarship and the Old Cerdics Academic Scholarship were awarded to Thomas Burmistrovas and Amelie Talbot respectively. It was the time of year when the OCA welcomes the leavers to their ranks as they go on to secondary education. The now traditional presentation by the OCA of 'Three Centuries of History', the comprehensive history of Chard School (see later) was presented to them by OC David Bryant on behalf of the association. All in all a wonderful way to end yet another academic year shared by the whole school community and the opportunity to wish the Upper Cerdic children good luck as they come

to the end of their Prep School journey. Their names and on-going schools follow.

THE CLASS OF 2023

Poppy-Rae Allen (The Woodroffe School, Lyme Regis)

Harriet Burne (Wellington School)

Barney Carrington-Moore (Queen's College, Taunton)

George Carrington-Moore (Queen's College, Taunton)

Lorelei Lee-Dent (The Woodroffe School, Lyme Regis)

Julia Lindsay (Colyton Grammar School)

Louis Richardson Sullivan (Colyton Grammar School)

Nell Short (The Woodroffe School, Lyme Regis)

Gabriella Smith (Home Schooling)





CHARD SCHOOL: THREE CENTURIES OF HISTORY/ MOON LANDING 1969

CHARD SCHOOL – Three Centuries of History



CHARD SCHOOL
Three Centuries of History
Written by Derrick Warren with Graham Chamberlain



This comprehensive account of the three hundred years history of one of the oldest schools in Somerset, sponsored by the Old Cerdics Association, was written and researched

by the eminent author and Old Cerdic Derrick Warren who spent his working life as a cartographic surveyor with the Ordnance Survey.

First published amidst wide acclaim and media interest at the school's Summer Fair in 2007 the story goes back to the very beginning in 1671 when William Symes gave his Manor House in Chard to the Portreeve and Burgesses of the Borough 'for the education and bringing up of youth in virtue and learning'.

A second edition bringing the history right up to date, including some of the most difficult years in the school's long history brought about by the global pandemic was published in 2021 and is still available to purchase from the school at £18.00 to include p&p. Contact School Secretary Sharon Mason at secretary@chardschool.co.uk.

'ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN' - MOON LANDING 1969



'Moon landing newspaper found during work at Chard School'

Banner headline from the Chard & Ilminster News July 2023. With all the children on holiday and away from school; all quiet and no happy chatty children on site what better time to carry out refurbishment work at Chard School? However, hidden away amidst some plumbing

work the Facilities Manager, Jon Henville, unearthed a remarkable discovery - an original copy of The Times Saturday Review dated 19th July 1969 featuring a report on the schedule of events leading up to the historic Moon Landing of that year. The Chard & Ilminster News seized upon the story and proceeded with a detailed history of the school - 'a place steeped in rich history boasts three centuries of captivating stories'.

Is there an Old Cerdic out there, or perhaps a former Master, who would like his newspaper back? No longer in pristine condition given its age but just about legible none the less including the following excerpt - 'Before Neil Armstrong opens the hatch of his lunar vehicle at about seven o'clock on Monday morning the two astronauts will put on their space suits' One wonders whether there may be other 'captivating' long-lost papers secreted somewhere in the school's dusty corners!?

'ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN - ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND' (NEIL ARMSTRONG)



SCHOOL NEWS

Chard School has had an absolutely fantastic summer term with memorable experiences and remarkable achievements. Our students have embarked on thrilling trips and enjoyed captivating Guest Assemblies, making this summer truly unforgettable. Here are some of the amazing highlights:



NATURE EXPLORATION WITH TRAM RIDES AND POND DIPPING

Our students delved into the wonders of nature with delightful tram rides and pond dipping at Seaton Tramway and Wetlands. The children had the opportunity to learn about the fascinating plants and animals that thrive in the Wetlands environment. Pond dipping was a resounding success, providing valuable lessons on food chains, pollination, local flora and fauna, and much more.



THRILLING RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO BEAM HOUSE

The excitement continued with our exhilarating residential trip to Beam House. The children had a blast zip-lining and engaging in muddy adventures, fostering teamwork and creating lasting memories.



SCHOOL NEWS



ROCK AND ROLL GUEST ASSEMBLY

We were treated to a sensational rock and roll music performance by Old Cerdic Stewart Hull during one of our guest assemblies. The children eagerly sang and danced along to classic rock songs, making it an absolute sensation!



CREATIVITY AND NATURE AT FOREST SCHOOL

Pre-Prep students at Forest School connected with nature while exploring their creativity. They learned essential life skills and even made paintbrushes from bamboo sticks and leaves, encouraging artistic expression.



STELLAR PERFORMANCE IN "BEAUTY & THE BEAST"

Our students showcased their confidence and stage presence during the outstanding performance of "Beauty & The Beast." The talent displayed by Cerdics and Harris left the audience in awe and made the production a true highlight of the year.



SCHOOL NEWS



A GROUNDBREAKING VENTURE WITH MARSBALLOON PROJECT

Chard School proudly participated in the MARSBalloon project, sending experiments high up into Earth's atmosphere with conditions similar to those on Mars. Being allocated three spaces among only 150 experiments was a remarkable achievement and garnered media attention from Chard and Ilminster News. You can read more here: https://www.chardandilminsternews.co.uk/news/chard_news/23625357.chard-independent-school-carries-mars-analogue-science-experiment/



SCHOOL NEWS



SHORTLISTED FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

We are thrilled to share the momentous news that Chard School has been shortlisted for the prestigious Independent Schools of the Year Awards. This recognition fills us with immense pride and serves as a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community.



As we look back on this incredible term, we are filled with gratitude for the enriching experiences and successes that have shaped our school community.

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

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