

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The London Club continues to flourish. The regular monthly Tuesday dinners at the Devereux were well attended although not overall by quite as many as last year, may be the recession had its effect in several ways as with many organizations. At the dinner in June, James Chester ('47 -'55) formerly Managing Director of NatWest Investments initiated a valuable informative discussion on earlier global financial crises and lessons to be learned. This was much appreciated with requests for a return at a future date. In July, the '*Summer Get Together*' evening again provided an opportunity for Bradfordians to come along and meet others informally over drinks without a pre-planned dinner, continuing the evening as the group or groups agree.

Two new activities were initiated by younger members: in July David Greaves ('85 -'95) arranged from his Paris base, a visit to watch Surrey v Yorkshire: in the event a well chosen, thrilling, 50-over match as Yorkshire won in the last over with a total of 659 runs being scored. In January members had the opportunity to see '*The Power of Yes*', at the National Theatre about the financial crisis, thanks to John Hollingworth ('91 -'99) recent Drummond student who played two cameo parts.

The Ladies Night Dinner was enjoyed as much as ever. Dr W Andrew Oddy ('52 -'61) accompanied by his wife Patricia was Chief Guest and entertained us with his career experience as a research scientist at the British Museum where he rose to be Keeper of Conservation and international recognition. Stephen Davidson, Headmaster once more impressed us with the range of activities and achievements of pupils and students and with the plans for a prestigious new building for sciences funded to a large extent by the generosity of two Old Bradfordians along with School funds, The Club was delighted that OBA President Dr Gavin Craig with his wife Anita and Carol Davidson were also able to be our guests. It is with sadness that we recognised the death of Anthony Cowgill ('29 -'32) distinguished in both his military and civil life.

It is good to know that the two Robert Miura students whose fees we part-fund continue to progress in their second and third years, and that our Sixth Form Scholar Caitlin Brumby gained excellent Grades in all subjects at A Level and is now undertaking applied biochemical studies at the University of York. Applications for support from the Drummond trust are on the increase at the present time and with the help of some contribution from Club Funds, five awards were made this year: Becca Crabtree ('00 -'04) – Studentship, Chris Bentley ('97 -'04), Lili Palmer ('01 -'03), Sophie Wellings ('99 -'04) and Ashley Wright ('99 -'06).

We have been pleased to welcome the following new members: Alan Bateson ('91-'00) Rebecca Crabtree ('00 -'04), Michael d'Arcy ('86 -'94), Simon Causton ('98 -'08), Alex Doherty ('92 -'00), Simon Langton ('53 -'56), Philip Shaw ('68 -'75), Gerald Turner ('50 -'60) and visits from Bradfordians in Australia and America. May I encourage all Bradfordians, members and non members - 'old girls' and 'old boys' – living, working in or visiting London and the South-East, to come along for a relaxing evening at our Tuesday meetings as and when your commitments allow.

It has been an honour to be President of the Club for the last three years. That I have been able to enjoy the role is due to the support of the Officers and Committee members. My thanks to them for the work and time they give and in particular this year for the contributions of the officers, Geoffrey Lister, David Park, Mick Stringer and Angus Wood, and also to Jeremy Chantry, David Ellis and Bill Hammond.

Christopher Parkin (President)