

# Old Farnhamians gather once again

JUST on 90 former pupils and staff of the Farnham Grammar School gathered at the Legacy Hotel on the road to Guildford to celebrate their 82nd annual dinner/lunch. As usual the Old Boys came from across the country to meet their former classmates and Norman Paget, once again, flew over from America to be there for the lunch.

It was only the second occasion the hotel has been used and once again the meal was excellent, with very good service from the hotel staff. It looks as though this will be the home for future Old Boys' gatherings.

The room hummed with the noise of the members talking about old times and remembering those who are no longer with us. In fact, Ian Sargeant, the new president, began the event by reading the list of more than 10 Old Boys who had passed away during the last year. The room was still as the members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The first speaker was Jonathan Stewart, special guest, and recently appointed as director of Farnham Sixth Form College. He explained something of the current changes in education in this country and still this is a political football and subject to more change

in the future. He has set his sights high at Farnham and wants to increase the number of students to more than 800 by 2016, as well as introducing new subjects and retaining the level of success the college currently enjoys.

Those listening wished him well and pledged their support and hoped that the first class relationship between the Old Boys and the college remains high.

The toast to the school was given by new committee member, Martin Collier, a lawyer and in 2011 the Mayor of St Ives in Huntingford. He highlighted three teachers who had helped him forge a successful career and his entertaining speech was full of amusing anecdotes from his days at the school.

Cyril Trust, chairman of the 400 Trust, followed with a toast to the association and spoke of his 30 years involvement with the organisation. Over the years he had organised the annual dinners, Southampton lunches, Farnham lectures, sponsorship awards evenings as well as editing 21 'Farnhamian' magazines.

Cyril explained that he had enjoyed every minute of this commitment, but as he approached 78 years on the planet it was time for some



Left to right the past presidents and other guests attending are: Rev John Innes (former staff member), Martin Collier (speaker), Bryan Bone, Mike Horner, Ian Sargeant (current president), Brian Daniels, Brian Williams, John Crotty, Dennis Phillips, Cyril Trust (past president and speaker).

of the younger members to take on the various events.

Ian Sargeant, again pledged full co-operation between the association and the college and wished Jonathan Stewart well with his plans. He thanked the officers of the organisation, Roger Edgell (secretary), Stephen Pritchard (treasurer), Brian Williams (mem-

bership) and Cyril Trust for all the time and effort that they give to the Old Farnhamians' Association.

The speeches were followed by the roll call, the passing of the Loving Cup around the room, the school song and finally the national anthem. The room was full of grey heads, bald heads and some walking sticks,

but the spirit was still there among these Old Boys who still owe a great allegiance to their old school. This was something that is special to Farnham and was something that will live on until the last Old Boy!

Attending: G Andrews, T Andrews, H Batchelor, J Bateman, R Bennett, B Bone, D Bowtell,

R Bowtell, D Buckell, J

Clarke, D Coakes, M Collier, J Cooke, P Cranswick, J Crotty, D Cutler, B Daniels, D Edgell, R Egdell, K Elkins, B Elson, P Ford, A Gatfield, G Glazier, B Hall, M Hall, R Hewes, J Hibberd, J Hirst, G Honey, G Hooker, M Horner, D Hughes, Rev J Innes, M Jeffreys, R Jones, J Kite, R Kite, D Lampard, G LeVey, S Linney, R Lord, R Luckhurst, G Martin, E Mayne, D McManamon, M Mehta, K Mentzel, R Moorcroft,

A Moore, K Mortimer, C Mullins, P Mylles, C Nash, J Neave, B Oelman, N Paget, R Parker, J Peace, J Pesterfield, D Phillips, B Philpott, D Poleglaze, S Pritchard, P Read, R Remington, I Sargeant, M Seignot, M D Seignot, J Sherwood, C Slyfield, J Stewart, M Sturt, N Timmins, H Torode, J Travers, C Trust, H Upfold, W Walsh, M Watts, J Walden, R Weiland-Jones, B Williams, M Wingent.