

## Salesian College Farnborough – School reunion for classes of 1968-75 and 1969-1976

Eighteen past pupils attended a reunion at the Oak Park Golf Club in Crondall on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015. These included three current members of the school's board of governors.

The attendees were: Tony Allgood, Clayton Almeida, Chris Baxter, Steve Burton, Philip Carvalho, Dave Cleary, Jez Cockrem, Mark Dunning, Philip Eastman, Alan Ebbage, Paul Fox, Tony Gribbon, Dave Lamb, Andy Mitchell, Simon Moore, Patrick Wills, Nigel Wood, and Simon Worte.

Alan Ebbage will organise the next reunion in 1-2 years' time and is looking for help to trace those past pupils that have lost contact. He asked that all Old Boys register on the OSA Farnborough website ([www.oldsalesiansfarnborough.org](http://www.oldsalesiansfarnborough.org)) to aid the communication of the next reunion which (hopefully) will take place at the school.



Old Boys singing the school song

After a 3-course dinner the 1968-75 Head Boy, Andy Mitchell, gave a short speech. During that speech Andy shared some of his memories of his days at the school including references to the ambulacrum, refectory, dormitories and a multitude of eccentric characters, both pupils and staff. He then requested that future reunions occur more regularly and that the reunions should be extended to school staff from the 1968-76 era.

All present then had an opportunity to share 2 or 3 anecdotes and memories from the school days. Here are some of the highlights (and some added post-reunion – thanks to Mark and Pat)!

- That the school gave us an above average education for which we are grateful.
- “English” classes that turned into “the rules of cricket” led by Brother (“Knack”) Hubert – the fanatical cyclist.
- The caning of the entire class of 1969-76 in response to their written petition to reduce the punishment doled out by a PE teacher.

- Father Gillen's motorcycle collection and his trips on some of them up and down the ramp.
- The photography lab.
- Archery practice while kids were wandering around everywhere
- Frequent violent outbursts by the Physics teacher Father "Tommy Gun" Thompson.
- The cross-country runs – running faster to get away from the smell of the sewage works.
- Some of the strange characters we shared the school with and acceptance that we may not have done all we could to make their lives happier.
- Mark Dunning practising his drumming on any available surface, e.g. the waste basket lids.
- Father's Doyle and Vanston (and selected others) 'marching' up and down the playground!
- Michael Makahon – a unique character.
- Major Cole and Bingo! With the Major telling us how to be manly...and reminiscing about India.
- Clandestine night time covert operations to the Chinese for much needed food for the boarders!
- The relentless playing of Bridge Over Troubled Water album in Bro. Michael's dormitory!
- The ice slide on the playground during winter months!
- Joining the choir so as to be able to mix with girls from Farnborough Hill Convent.
- Courtesy points: don't chew gum in public, pass a lady on the left side on stairs...
- The smell of the floor polish in the school - where did they get that stuff?
- The abattoir's weekly clean out and the foul smell that would put you off lunch.
- The roar of the wind tunnel at the NGTE whilst testing Concord's engines.
- Lining up in the Ambo with Fr Doyle at the front waiting to inspect you and pulling out Tony McKernan and Nick Jowitt (RIP) for having sideburns that were too long at the age of 15!
- Fr Russell giving us all a hard time in Phys/Chem.
- Watching the Mexico Olympics in the wooden huts and seeing David Hemery win gold.
- Cricket balls randomly landing in the compound.



- Father Joe Brown bowling at Pat Wills while Pat had his eyes shut

- Football exploits, including the tournaments “Up North”



- Sporting Legends!



- And finally – the magic that was the Pipe & Drum Band!



**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NEXT  
REUNION!**