

*January 2006*

## **Stockdale Trust Association**

Dear Supporter,

I must apologize for not having been in touch sooner but can assure you that the Trust has been making good use of the subscription which you have been regularly making available to us.

Although we have not had any formal meetings recently, your committee has been active in cataloguing and presenting the various artifact which come into our possession. Recent contributions have been received from Graham Potter (CCF 1949-57) who sent us some photographs on a signaling theme (he having been a Signal Sergeant in the Unit) together with some cadet history documentation produced by Major Don Watterson (CO during the 1950's).

An amazing addition to our collection arrived mysteriously last year having been "left in a plain brown wrapper" delivered anonymously to CRA Secretary, Ray Waller. It turned out to be a collection of diaries and notes made about the activities of the Unit from the early days. Mike Crick is currently working through it. The Trust remains indebted to Mike for all the work which he puts in to enhance and display the collection.

The Trust has continued to mount displays at Cadet functions; each year at Remembrance Sunday at the School and on alternate years at MOD Biennial Inspections when a succession of Inspecting Officers never fail to be impressed by the history of the cadets at Christ's College.

In October 2004 the Trust mounted a major and impressive display in the school dining hall on the occasion of the Corps Centenary parade. This was greatly enjoyed by the visitors especially the many cadet "veterans" who had turned up. We would like to thank the "ladies of the Trust" who assisted in the presentation and its staffing during the afternoon.

We have spent modest amounts on presentation materials including, two years ago, two sets of display boards and three mannequins to display some uniform items. However in 2005 your committee made a decision to improve its storage facilities. Up until then most of the material has been stored in the attics of three of the committee but the move of John Millen to Bideford made us realise that the time had come to reassess the situation regarding our ever-growing collection. This had caused some concern in the remaining two households and the Cadet Unit which had allowed us to use some of their valuable storage

space which they could ill-afford having themselves recently had to contract their storage from the previous TA Centre in Finchley when it was demolished in 2003. With the agreement of the new Headmaster, Gary Tucker and the Commanding Officer, it was proposed to construct a storage facility next to the cadet store on the school premises. This is an ideal solution as it provides a secure store in the most appropriate location. During the summer of 2005 a suitable store was located and purchased via E-bay, collected and assembled on site, racked out and it now houses the Trust collection. This involved a significant but most appropriate expenditure of Trust funds (as can be seen from the attached balance sheet) but was aided by a grant of £200 from the Centarian Regimental Association.

We have also been recently joined by two new supporters: Anthony DeReuck (CCF 1935-42) and Gary Tucker (current Headmaster) who both made generous contributions to Trust funds.

Your Committee remains:

Chairman: Brian Fuller

Treasurer: Patricia Crick

Secretary: John Millen

CRA Rep: John Bowra

Unit Rep: LtCol Jon Walden

Our membership still remains modest at 16 but we are very grateful for the support which they give through their annual (minimum) subscription of £5.00.

Unfortunately we have lost a long-standing supporter of both the Trust and the Unit with the death of Mrs Eileen Fuller in December 2002. The Trust offers its condolences to Brian and Peggy in their loss.

If anyone would like to join the committee or offer some time or expertise in cataloguing and presenting our ever-growing collection any member of the committee would be pleased to hear from you.

New members are most welcome

Centarians reminiscing at the 50th Anniversary of the Presentation of the Unit Colours, 2002

