



## OM Sunday – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010



Monkton had a distinctly military feel about it on Sunday as pupils, OMs, staff and other guests celebrated 150 years of the CCF movement in the UK.

Past parent Rear Admiral Tony Johnstone-Burt gave his inaugural sermon to the gathered congregation in Chapel, picking up the theme of the days scripture Mat 20: 20 - 28 which is also echoed by Clarendon's motto "Not to be served but to serve". He spoke about the troops that serve under his leadership at Joint Helicopter Command Headquarters and how many give their lives for their country. Air Commodore Mark Leakey (74) then led us in prayers for

the Armed Services, Government and the staff and pupils at Monkton.

After the service a CCF Guard of Honour marched onto Four Acres and was inspected by past parent Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Stear KCB CBE DL MA FRAeS (57) who also presented a long service medal to Houseparent and English teacher Joe Smith. Captain Smith has been an invaluable member of the Army section here for 12 years and we will be sad to see him leave Monkton to take up a post as Head of The Oratory Prep School in Reading.



The gathered OMs met with Tim Dewes, OM General Secretary and the OM Advisory Board to hear how things had progressed since the running of the OM Club was handed over to the School. Tim Dewes explained that Roberto Dionisio (70) has had to step down as the OM Club President due to work commitments but that Emma Jane Taylor (OC 85) who is currently a member of the Advisory Board has agreed to take on the Presidency. Tim spoke about future OM events including two dinners he hopes to hold in Germany and his programme of visits to OMs studying at University. Principal Richard Backhouse gave a report on the school, which he said is in good heart and eagerly anticipating the start of work on the new Music Centre.

The OM and OC Awards for Leadership were presented over lunch to James Wright and Olivia Evans.



The military theme continued well into the afternoon on Longmead where CCF cadets manned RAF, Army, Navy and Signals stands. Guests were invited to take part in a wonderful array of activities including range shooting, cooking and tasting ration packs, rigging a boat and face painting army style! I think a few parents may have had an interesting evening helping their children remove the paint!

During tea there was a gun run competition. The RAF were the worthy winners of the CCF challenge, but the most lively contest proved to be the Staff v OMs as both teams hit the final section at the same time, but the staff pressed through to take the prize!



A good number of different eras were represented by OMs including John Jeffrey (45) who has attended every OM Sunday since he left Monkton! There were also a number of recent leavers including two of our German students from last year Max Bohrer (09) and Jan Gutsche (09) who traveled over for the weekend to join in the celebrations. The sporting matches were a success – the cricket match ended in a draw and the OM football team, who played on Friday, put in an impressive performance against a school team to win 6 - 4.

Look out for information on next year's OM Sunday, which will have a musical theme to co-inside with the building of a new Music Centre at Monkton.

Thank you to everyone who came and made it such a special day and we look forward to welcoming you back to Monkton soon.

Caroline Bone (Hon OM)  
Alumni and Information Officer