Shrove Tuesday Supper: Through The Archives

Photo taken of the Dining Hall at Chigwell School between 1949 and 1958

21st February 2023
The History

The gathering of Old Chigwellians for Shrove Tuesday Supper has been a tradition at Chigwell School since 1868 or earlier. It seems to have been of the many innovations of Reverend Henry Mowld Robinson (Head 1868-76), who also introduced Speech Day and the School Motto.

Robinson’s growth of the School involved continual engagement with alumni, a direction which Canon Richard Dawson Swallow (Head 1876-1912) continued by giving a Shrove Tuesday supper every year (the anniversary of his appointment). The Old Chigwellian Club was founded in 1909.

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Chigwell School’s annual events (1937)

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It used to be customary on Shrove Tuesday for football matches and a debate to precede the Service and Supper, as a 1950 report reflects. It goes on to describe the evening further:

“On behalf of the Old Boys [A. H. Paine] expressed appreciation for the hospitality given them that evening. He referred to the spirit of friendliness which was so manifest among all on these occasions”.

A. O Dean, Captain of the School, addressed the Old Chigwellians, saying:

“Although you’ve all left, we are struggling on to maintain your traditions”. 
Chigwell School: Then & Now

‘Grammar School at Chigwell’ (1839)  School Motto & Mitre (1907)

Gazette article on Shrove Tuesday (1979)

Shrove Tuesday in The OC Mitre (2008)

Contact Us

How To Get Involved

If you – or anyone you know – has any material that could help tell part of the history of Chigwell School and its people, please do get in touch via the email below. We consider all kinds of artefact (old and new; physical and digital; official and personal) potentially valuable for research, and deserving of memorialisation.

Equally, if you are interested in re-tracing your own – or perhaps writing some new – history, which we might have records for, we are happy to receive enquiries.

I look forward to speaking and meeting with many of you, and will be working to ensure the archives are once again a resource which unites Chigwell School’s communities – both those within its walls, and beyond.

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