

West of England Supper – 7 July 2012

The West of England Supper was again held at the Angel Inn in Hindon on Saturday 7 July 2012. As always we were made extremely welcome by the convivial owner/host Doug.



Sadly our numbers were down by a couple on last year due to the death of Nigel Hyde (R55-60) in May this year, who had attended virtually every year with his wife Christine. She had sent a lovely not earlier in the week wishing us well. We'd also lost Richard Vaughn-Griffiths MC (K60-64) who has attended this supper in the past. We raised our glasses in their memory. Also at lunchtime on the day of the supper we had lost **Richard Overend (S51-57)** to the monsoon conditions outside! **Nick Innell (S67-75)** also gave his apologies due to duties at the Olympics and he has promised to give a talk next year on what he was up to – Nick is head of security operations at the O2 Arena.

In contrast we gave a warm welcome to first timers **Andrew Baker (G59-67)** and his partner Aisha and to Brian Pretty (S52-56). The full list of those able to be present were : **Brian Pretty (S52-56), Julian Stapleton (R58-63), Peter & Liz Gasgoyne-Lockwood (R57-64), Andrew Baker (G59-67) & Aisha Bangura, Simon & Margaret Dougherty(President, G60-67), Chris & Eryl Essex (Organiser, K69-75).**



After a 3 course meal Chris did the loyal toast (and to Andy Murray!) and then said a few words. These included public thanks to Peter Gasgoyne-Lockwood for the brilliant work he was doing to locate photos of every grave/marker for those who died in the service of their country during WW1. Chris was then expanding on this and publishing on website – examples were distributed round.. Chris finished with a toast to Brandeston & the College. The president gave an update on OF events and what's been happening at the College, followed by a toast to the Society.

Unusually we then had a third speaker. Last year Chris had given an update on the amazing exploits of Brian Pretty in Africa - Brian is the grandson of the founder of the SOF 112 years ago. This year we were delighted to have Brian in person and he gave us a first hand account of his work and experiences mainly in Uganda. The evening finished with us feeling how fortunate we were to live in the UK.