



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM

OLD EDWARDIANS GAZETTE 2010

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Arthur C. Muffett (1926)

As we were going to press we heard with great regret of the death of Arthur Muffett (1926), the oldest member of the Association. He was 102

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



At the time of writing I have just returned from my third London OEs Dinner, with 50% more guests than last year. We have had 60s and 70s dinners at school, and both brought people back for the first time since leaving School – I encountered four of my year and the sense of re-connection both with each other and the School was tremendous. The Chief Master spoke to us of his pleasure at progress in matters such as IB, the Performing Arts Centre and continuing all-round excellence and it was seriously gratifying to see evidence of the changes being wrought under the ‘new regime’ of Development Office support.

When you read this we will be in a new decade, able to look back over extraordinary changes across the globe, and forward with wonder about whether our economic or climate systems will ever be quite the same again. Our private Old Edwardian world has seen change too, and to be able to feel unashamedly positive about it is a delight. This year some 400 Old Edwardians have been back to School or attended OEA events, and this may well be a record – demonstrating the greater reach that has been achieved since Simon and Sue in the Development Office have had the time to invest in bringing our alumni together.

This Gazette is in the same style as last year’s new, landscape edition and we again have Michael Parslew to thank for his editorship. I know that this is a labour of love in the fullest sense because it takes a fair amount of time and you wouldn’t do it if you didn’t care. Having got us over the big hurdle of change, Michael is conscious of the need for succession planning and we should be delighted to hear from the next willing volunteer. In the meantime, as they seem nowadays to say, ‘enjoy’.

*James Martin*

I am delighted to let you know that another result of the changes made with your support over the last year or so is that the OEA can commit to funding an assisted place out of the income no longer needed to run the Association’s affairs. This seems a good step towards other help that we alumni may be able to offer in future, and thus really make our School accessible to the best on merit.



## FROM THE CHIEF MASTER

This article is written under time pressure, between the Scylla of George Andronov's departure on the last day of the Autumn Term and the Charybdis of the deadline of the editor of the Gazette, on the first day of the holidays.

Perhaps the departure of George Andronov, the Deputy Chief Master, is the best place to start. George is the son of a Russian soldier, captured by the Germans in the Second World War and liberated by the British. He arrived at King Edward's in the autumn of 1975 from south London via Imperial College, Cambridge and Manchester Grammar School. He has been a teacher of Physics, Head of Physics, Head of Science, Deputy Chief Master, a brilliant teacher of the brilliant, a wondrous teacher of the 'Physically' challenged, rabble-rouser of the Science Common Room, and, for 14 years, a most loyal and supportive and human Deputy Chief Master. I doubt that anyone will ever forget meeting or being taught by George and, as he has come to the end of his career we have all come to realise that George's greatest contribution has been to make this school seem like a family. Whether George is pater patriae, the patriarch or just plain Uncle George in the pub on a Friday evening, he has made this place a warmer, funnier, happier place for all of us.

Two other giants of the Common Room have also departed this year, Phil Lambie, who started in 1968, and George Worthington, a relative newcomer of the 1970 vintage. Over 80 combined years they have had a massive influence on this place. Very few boys would have passed through the school without being taught by at least one of them. It is hard to imagine that any teacher, any professional, had ever given more time and loyalty and, indeed, love to the organisations which they have served.

George and Phil and George mean a great deal to me, because I was taught Classics by two of them and have been helped beyond measure by the third, but it is important that such men get recognition. For decades, if not centuries, this school and its pupils have relied upon staff who have dedicated all, or almost all, of their careers to one school. Their rewards are certainly not material, but they do come from the day to day experience of teaching the boys, and from the pride they feel in what those pupils go on to achieve. In the end, they are proud of King Edward's School and we should be grateful to them.



I expect that George Andronov won't find it easy to go, and one of the reasons is that, in recent times, he has played such a large part in bringing to pass the big plans for the future. In particular, it was George who did much of the work for the introduction of the International Baccalaureate Diploma. As I write, we are on the brink - I hope - of being approved as an IB school after a visit from two IB inspectors in early December; and then, in September, we will be the first major independent school in this country to convert, with one act of daring, to the IB Diploma. Nothing that I have seen or heard about IB or about A Levels in the last year has diverted me from the belief that this will be not only the right, but a really exciting road to tread.

The other grand design, the Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, is also on course after being given planning approval in November 2009. The architects, Haworth Tompkins, have produced a building that reflects the original geometry of the Hobbiss building and, by its use of patterned brickwork, responds to its appearance and purpose. It is certainly impressive outside, but it's the innards that will really matter: an auditorium that can accommodate an orchestra of 90, a choir of over 100 and an audience of 400, if not all at the same time; a drama studio that can seat 120 in various configurations, another rehearsal room, a large foyer open to the great oak tree by Big School and all the teaching, practice and rehearsal space we need. The first day of the summer holidays is likely to be the last day of, not Pompeii, but the gyms and the Music School, and building is likely to be completed by early 2012. That's not long.

And, whilst all these historic initiatives are being planned and enacted, the life of the school and of the boys runs on. We didn't break all of last year's exam records in 2009, although we did break the record for percentage of A grades at A Level (76.9%) and percentage of A grades and A/B grades at AS (68.8% and 89.2% respectively). One thing that did get better was the number of Oxbridge acceptances, 20 up from 14, but that still isn't good enough for us. However, as you know as well as I do, that isn't it. The school's Under 16 waterpolo team are national champions and our best player, Morgan Hirsch, is captain of the Great Britain Under 16 team. The 1st XV went to Japan and Dubai on tour. Hockey grows apace under the guidance of the double Olympian Michael Johnson and they even went on tour to Gibraltar. The 1st Cricket XI are off to Barbados in the summer and in Jack Cornick they have a batsman who nearly broke Anurag Singh's run aggregate record, and he is only in the Fifth Form. But that isn't all of it: boys can and do play Fives and basketball in the old fashioned way but volleyball and badminton and table tennis with proper outside coaching are new possibilities, too.

Not even that is all there is. Last week lots of us attended two concerts in the Adrian Boulton Hall and the Carol Service at St Philip's Cathedral. There were star performers: violinists Kiyam Lin and Roberto Ruisi have just been chosen to the members of the National Youth Orchestra, Roberto will be the youngest member of it. Both of these boys, and others in the orchestra, are funded by John Osborn. However, the most enjoyable moment of these occasions was the boys' choir, all 120 of them, the biggest that choir has ever been. And the best part of it all was that the choir could have turned out an excellent University Challenge Team, and a decent cricket team and a decent rugby team. I expect that's the kind of school that we would want to be.

Of course, the kind of school that we would also want this to be is accessible to all and my final words must be about that long-term aim. I am most grateful to those alumni who are already funding boys. The Development Office and Simon Lerwill are already making a difference and will make a bigger one as the years go by. It is also important to know that we are succeeding in getting the Assisted Places message out to the public. We have 590 candidates for our entrance examination in January 2010: six years ago that number was 350. That is a great change, but with the departure of George Andronov and the arrival of the IB Diploma and the Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, great change seems to be what we are doing at the moment.

*John Cloughton*



## FROM THE EDITOR

“The Times they are a-changin” - and interesting times they are, too. The ties between the School and the O.E.A. have been strengthened; and this marriage is witnessed in the new joint Development & Association Office in the old Cartland Corridor, where the Development Director, a sort of Pooh Bah to the Chief Master’s Mikado, plans the launch of the Great Appeal, sets up reunions for all living Old Edwardians and harvests incoming O.E.news - and donations. At the end of this academic year the mechanical shovels will move in to remove the old music school and gyms so that the new Performing Arts Centre can be born, testimony to the generosity of one Old Edwardian, Paul Ruddock.

Indeed, generosity is in the air. This edition of the ‘Gazette’ carries an interview with John Osborn, another O.E. who is doing so much more than just repaying the School for its education of him; and Simon Lerwill, (DD & PB,) outlines the plans for the Assisted Places Appeal and the ways in which O.Es can support the cause. There is much to be excited about.

But while excitement is good for the spirits, let us beware that we do not get carried too far away. One of the fundamental legacies of a school is the friendships that it creates and sustains in later life; and the one abiding reason for our School’s existence is the belief in intellectual truth and excellence. The contents of this magazine bear testimony to both *raison d’être*, nowhere more than in the long march of obituaries - and we ignore the moral those offer at our peril.

The men recorded there lived lives motivated by belief - in service, excellence, the integrity of the intellect. It is this belief, not simply the fact of spare cash in the pocket, that also motivates the generosity of men like Paul Ruddock and John Osborn, it is this belief that holds School and Association together. We must beware that the demands of the future do not obscure the efforts and achievements of the past and the men who believed, whatever their condition or circumstance. Theirs is the legacy.

We should remember Ozymandias.

*Michael Parslew*



## JOHN OSBORN (1962) – BENEFACTOR

being one of the biggest boy in the Shells and, when I started playing rugby, trundling up the pitch with several smaller boys clinging on to me in a vain attempt to tackle me”.

By his own admission, his career at Cambridge was not wholly successful. “Classics was my natural choice as I’d studied Latin from the age of 5 and Greek from the age of 6, but it didn’t really suit me. That and my extra-curricular activities – drinking, socialising and the young women from Saffron Walden Teacher Training College – meant that my three years at college were a time of personal growth and academic decline.”

After Cambridge he completely left behind the academic and went into Industry. He had jobs with the National Coal Board and Dutch Philips and then moved over into the ‘Rag Trade’, eventually becoming Managing Director of Wallis, the ‘up-market’ clothing chain. “I turned out to be quite good at running businesses that were in a mess and that is what I did for the rest of my working life. I finished up as Chief Executive of the Alexon Group.”

When he retired he looked round for ways in which he could employ his still very active mind, his interests – Romanesque architecture and Music of the 16th/17th Centuries, and his money. “I’ve been reasonably successful and live fairly frugally, so I had some money to spare. For a long time I’ve admired the relationship the American alumni have with their Colleges – they are much more responsive and generous than we are here, and I liked the notion that when a child from a poorer background applies for a

place at a college or school he (or she) can be accepted without any concern about payment. So, when the School approached me with a view to, perhaps, sponsoring a pupil via the Assisted Places scheme, I was only too happy to help..”

To date John is funding 11 boys through the School and two in particular are of special interest to him; Kiyam Lin and Roberto Ruisi are musicians of extraordinary talent, who have recently been selected to join the National Youth Orchestra.. “I love going to the concerts and listening to them play. It is almost unbelievable that boys so young can produce such beautiful music. Hearing that is a real part of the pleasure of giving.”

He continued, “The Development Director (Simon Lerwill) recently showed me a list of boys who had passed the Entrance Exam but could not come to King Edward’s because they couldn’t afford to. It’s for them, and other like them, that I believe we need to expand the Assisted Places scheme.

“This opportunity tied in with something I had noticed in recent years; that the decline in the School’s standing seemed to coincide with the end of the assisted places. Redressing this situation is a key priority for all of us interested in the School and it was one of the main drivers behind my donations. It’s probably true that in my time King Edward’s was too much the intellectual hothouse and it is pleasing to see the breadth of activities now open to the boys. But, quite honestly, in the last count, the School stands or falls by its academic standards.

“In the past I’ve been a non-executive director on the boards of one or two garden centre companies: By the same criterion, however good their sales were on Christmas decorations or pets or books, their *raison d’être* will always be their performance on plants and living products. I think it is important to keep this basic concept at the centre of one’s thinking, focus and decision making. One must keep one’s eye on the ball.

“Being a Benefactor is hugely enjoyable and I do hope other Old Edwardians will follow suit in the future. It is incredibly rewarding to fund someone else’s education – not just to repay one’s own debt for having had a first-class education free but to watch from afar their future success. This can also be potentially very rewarding.”

He added, with a grin, “I would be embarrassed by too much fuss but I do enjoy being acknowledged. It’s nice when the boys write to me off their own bat and tell me how they are doing. That makes it all worthwhile.”

*Michael Parslew*

In the summer King Edward’s will be launching an ambitious fund-raising programme which aims to increase dramatically the number of Assisted Places that the School is able to offer to bright boys from the Birmingham area who would otherwise be unable to study there. Last month the Editor of the Gazette visited the home of John Osborn (1962) who through several very generous donations is currently funding Assisted Places for 11 boys within the School. .

*Simon Lerwill*

This interview took place in John’s kitchen at his home near Ledbury, over a glass of wine and a bowl of his excellent home-made parsnip soup (with a flavouring of apple). He is a big man in every way, standing 6ft 4ins and having made his money by turning round ailing businesses and restoring them to health.

He came to King Edward’s in 1955 from a modest background; his father suffered from ill-health and his mother was the bread-winner. “I went onto the Classics side and, with the encouragement of the Reverend F.J. (Eric) Williams, himself an O.E. as many people will recall, I gained a Minor Scholarship at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge to read classics. One of my most vivid memories of School is of

## REUNIONS



### CONQUERING TIME WITH THE CLASS OF '51

April 4th 2009: the Class of '51 is on the move again, hitching a ride into history as it revisits the Old School. Some of the group are returning for the first time in over fifty years.

As the group assembles for the Grand Tour of the old place, our minds go back to our earliest days as sherrings; a time when King George VI reigned and Clement Attlee still had a month left as Prime Minister; when trams ran down the Bristol Road, T.E.B. Howarth was 'Headmaster', all boys wore school caps no matter their age. But plus ça change; the Drive and Main Door look remarkably unchanged – even if no-one knows how to open the inner door – and the years roll away as we chat informally before being allowed into the school proper.

The tour began with coffee in the Common Room and a welcoming address from the Chief Master. Straight away we found life at K.E.S. has moved on from the staid 1950s. Gone is the cramped, smoke-filled Common Room once glimpsed through a half-open door; in its place is a spacious room which would not be out of place in a good hotel. Chief Masters have changed too: once they seemed eight feet tall and addressed one in measured tones delivered ex cathedra. But here was a stunning new

line in Chief Masters; a man with a coloured shirt, a man who mingled with the assembly, a man brimming with enthusiasm for his school and its future.

Guided by Derek Benson, (who had been School Captain when we were in the Removes), our party set off, eagerly seeking reminders of our past. We began with Big School and Sapientia, evoking memories of Willis Grant conducting hymn practice and Canon Lunt creating prefects ("See that yer wield this pow-er with justice, loyalty and discretion"). Then we walked along what was once the Classical Corridor but now belongs to the History Department, calling in en route to inspect a form room. Here was total change: the oak blocks have been covered by carpet, the blackboard has given way to 'Information Technology'

The Library too is carpeted and replete with computers. Happily it does also retain books in sufficiently generous quantities to satisfy the shade of Charles Blount, but it is a shame that the elegant Heath Memorial Library of reference books has gone. (Where to, I wonder?) We continued along the Upper Corridor to what had once been the Art Department. This area has changed completely. The School has grown in numbers and clearly needs far more space than in our day. But one feels that in redeveloping this area, elegance has been sacrificed to

expediency and Hobbis's design has been sadly compromised in order to shoe-horn in more teaching rooms.

We continued past photographs of school activities from many corners of the world, making our way through new rooms full of bewildering arrays of technology. Here we noticed a sign prohibiting the throwing of anything whatsoever: "Can't a Master even throw chalk at an inattentive boy?" – "What's chalk?" came the reply!

The tour continued into the Art & Design Centre, opened in 1990. The exterior, while not completely in harmony with the earlier buildings, possesses some style. But the interior is a dog's breakfast of seemingly random rooms and steep staircases. The work on display was, however, of remarkable quality, which is what really matters. From here we walked back down the drive and paused outside the North Door, originally the entrance for boys below the Sixth Form – and where many of our number had once loitered to yearn, not to say lust, after the goddesses of the High School performing on the tennis court. After such impure thoughts Derek Benson quickly marched us to the Chapel for corrective meditation. Once the altar piece has been restored the Chapel will be another area of the School largely unaltered from our day, preserving something of the atmosphere and structure of Barry's historic building.

Looking over the wall by the Chapel many thought that covering the swimming pool had been an aesthetic disaster, an easy verdict from those who have perhaps forgotten the bracing prospect of swimming in chilly water and an even chillier wind.

From spiritual refreshment in the Chapel we turned next to physical well-being and we inspected the gym, where we were surprised that such instruments of torture as wall-bars, beams, ropes and vaulting horses had all vanished. Fortunately our visit to the gym was not, on this occasion, followed by the requirement to have a shower; but we well remembered the need to hurry out before the formidable 'Sam' Cotter turned the thermostat to COLD. At least the showers had been more civilised than the bath at Eastern Road where fifteen young men would sit in water so coloured by mud from the playing field that it looked as though it had been piped in direct from Cadbury's factory down the road.

Our time was now running out, and after passing along the splendid new Classical Corridor, with form rooms where there had once been changing rooms leading straight out onto the South Terrace, it was time to take our leave of the School. We had enjoyed a tour that was both nostalgic and stimulating. The School is in the same business that we remembered with many of the same sights, sounds and smells; but there are bold new activities which we and our contemporaries would not have dreamed of.

*Robert Darlaston (1959)*

## ONCE AGAIN ASSEMBLED HERE



“Alumnus” always strikes me as one of the ugliest words in the language, and only slightly less unpleasant if spelt backwards. Today it is used, I suspect, mainly by Oxbridge colleges when appealing for funds. The plural is even worse, and perhaps that is why KES eschewed the word altogether when inviting those who left school in 1954 and 1955 to a reunion there on 23rd September last. Accompanying the invitation was an alarmingly long list of “Lost Old Edwardians”, in case we were in contact with any. Some, including the first ‘Deputy Chief Master’ and a one-time England cricketer, could hardly be described as “lost” at all; but many others, sadly, are lost for ever, some many decades since..

So it was that, out of a pool approaching two hundred, twenty or so former ‘Sherrings’ (is that word still used?) actually turned up, a few sporting decorations of an empire which, flourishing when last we met, is now entirely defunct. One of us even brought his wife. They had recently celebrated their golden wedding and this occasion must have seemed to them an appropriate climax to their celebrations.

We all met at what was once the Porter's Lodge, the abode in our day of Kelly, who may have had a first name, Christian or otherwise, and Henry Craddock, who certainly did. For some it was a first return to KES for over half a century, but several of the 1947 intake (of which there had been exactly fifty) were on quite recently familiar ground. Gordon Woods organised what he aptly called a "50/50" reunion in 1997, with further gatherings in 2000, 2003 and 2007. Gordon's nick-name (I don't think it was "Tiger") hung in the air unspoken, but we later tried to recall the Latin aliases bestowed upon us by 'Codger' Power, for example "Aula" for Hall ("Tiny"), who wasn't present. That appended to this article for the writer still seems ingenious – to him at least. Those of us born between January and December 1936, during the reign of that fascist playboy Edward VIII, are of course double Edwardians; as indeed was that delightful man, Arthur Muffet OE, whose recent passing at the age of 102 is recorded elsewhere in this 'Gazette' and surely the oldest of OE's born during the reign of the equally egregious preceding Edward. Why is it, incidentally, that the only half-decent King Edwards produced by our country since number VI have been potatoes?

We assembled for tea and coffee in the Common Room and there met Simon Lerwill, the School's Development Director, and Sue Dickens, the OEA Administrator, to whom our thanks are due for arranging the day. We then took early lunch, as cricketers put it, now arranged buffet-style. No longer is the choice simply "take-it-or-leave-it", generally the latter. The writer's namesake recalled that, on being questioned at home as to what he had been served for lunch, he replied "Meat", and when further examined elaborated "Black Meat", and finally "Shiny Black Meat". Also absent, if not much missed, were those vividly remembered desserts of brown squares, apparently composed of equal proportions of chocolate and cement, accompanied by small cylinders of almost equally impenetrable ice-cream, clearly the product of some deranged culinary cubist.

After lunch it was up the drive to the Foundation Office and up its stairs, (for the writer, for the first time), to the Board Room, where Alison Wheatley, the School's Archivist, had laid out an excellent display of photographs, drawings (including those of Barry's New Street Buildings), magazines, books and ephemera. We appreciated her short talk, given under the marmoreal gaze of our Pious Founder, surmounting the fireplace removed from the Georgian predecessor of Barry's building.

By now we had been joined by the one continuous Edwardian link with our school days, Derek Benson, and by his fellow retired master Phil Lambie, still remarkably youthful after forty-one years' service. They, with two of the current prefects, then gave us a tour of the school. This started with the new-ish Arts & Crafts building and continued with a visit to a succession of laboratories and IT Centres, some over-shadowed by the intrusive construction of neighbouring university building. Particularly memorable was the Library and its present-day Lady custodian, who gave us not only a talk but even some souvenir pencils, "King Edward's School Library has all the answers". What would CHCB, that embodiment of human omniscience, have said?

Thankfully there is no longer a Cartland Club to divide us, but Big School survives, with improved access to the organ loft and its portraits of past Chief Masters, augmented since our day. The deceptively mild-looking cleric, John Cooke (1797-1834), better known as 'Butcher', still looks benevolently down but now he has been joined by an equally mild-looking Canon R.G. Lunt. His stature is no doubt more appreciated by us now than 50 years ago. We looked briefly in some form-rooms and were finally entertained by the present Chief Master, John Claughton OE, to tea and cakes in his study.

The view from this room, with its mock-Tudor windows, he likened to that from the stern cabin of HMS Victory, although this is an analogy he might not want to pursue too far. He gave an enlivening talk about how much he and by implication we owed to our days at KES and how that debt might one day be repaid. There was no hard sell, just a happy day among old friends. Of these some were quite amazingly unchanged. Barrie Gane looked about three years older than when last seen in 1954 and preservation orders seem likewise to have been bestowed on Alan Birch, Graham Elliott, David Donaldson, Richard Tipton, Brian Williams and others who, I trust, will forgive absence of specific mention. They know who they are, or believe themselves to be.

A group photograph was inevitably taken in the traditional place, before we made our way up the drive for our separate, tramless journeys home. However, we were followed, unless it was a mirage, by a double-decker bus. That would not have been allowed in our day. I was sorry to note that "A.C. Baker" is no longer the General Manager.

The only significant omission from a remarkable day was a rendition of the imperishable words of Alfred Hayes to that unforgettable tune – but perhaps that was just as well.

*CELESTINE*



## SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY SPARKS REUNION

Nostalgia is one of those degenerative ailments that afflict the elderly. I noticed the early warning signs as I passed the half-century mark. One manifestation was that when I took out a life-membership in the OEA I calculated that if I lived past 67 I would start saving money. And when, several years later, when KES celebrated its 450th anniversary, I felt compelled to cross the Atlantic, Canadian wife in tow, to pay homage

The symptoms of nostalgia became particularly acute in the summer of 2008 when I received an e-mail from my long-lost cousin, Eric, who had found my profile on 'Friendsreunited' while researching his family tree. He noted that we had not been in contact with each other since 1943. So, spurred on by this, I began to plan a sentimental journey. Naturally we would visit Eric in Stourport; but I wondered whether it might also be possible to gather together some of my contemporaries at KES. I consulted our Hon. Registrar, Mike Baxter, who has been consistently helpful in maintaining my connection to the Association over the years. He informed me that the School had just appointed its first Director of Development and he put me in touch with him. Said appointee, Simon Lerwill, no doubt saw a golden opportunity to reach a bunch of OEs. "Ka-ching!" The great untapped source of developments funds – Alumni!!



Simon and Sue Dickens sent out an “all-points bulletin” to their list of Old Edwardians who left in 1956 and 1957. “Who knows, perhaps we’ll get five – maybe ten – responses,” said Simon. Well, as it turned out, the number of acceptances was 16: that nostalgia, there’s obviously a lot of it going around....

The tour arranged by Simon and Sue on May 20 was very nicely organised. We got to see how far the School has come in the past 50 years. However, there was very little time for us to kindle or rekindle individual relationships. I was pleasantly surprised to see how many seemed to have grown into estimable adults, some having changed very little in appearance during the intervening half-century. Others – greyer, heavier, balder – were unrecognisable to me.

I now look forward to maintaining and expanding renewed contacts with compatible contemporaries. I hope in particular, to participate in a consortium to support one or more deserving students who otherwise would not be able to afford to become (eventually) Old Edwardians like us (*mutatis mutandis* – and I note with pride that there has been much desirable mutating). I know why I wanted this event to happen; after all, I’ve been away in foreign parts, “out of the loop”, for the best part of half a century. But I wonder why the others leapt at the chance? I hope they will share with us their motivation – and thereby give Simon Lerwill insight into how to inveigle other old boys into the cycle of support for talented boys to receive a first-class education at KES

*Alan Pearson (1956)*



## 1960S OLD BOYS' DINNER – OCTOBER 10TH, 2009: A MEDITATION



The School has changed, the Chief Master reminded us in his speech at the end of the dinner.

Had we?

Twenty per cent of boys belong to the Islamic Society. A hundred per cent of old boys – these sixty or so 1960s alumni gathered here – belong to the grey-haired society.

The School has changed. The message was there, silently, in copies of the 'Chronicle' laid out in Gild Hall for us to peruse as we sipped preprandial wine. Solid text in the 1960s issues, broken only by the annual photograph of the prefects in a phalanx around the then Chief Master, Canon R.G. Lunt, (the only one smiling!). For 2008 a jazzy cover and full colour on every page; a report on a trip to Madagascar, boys referred to by their first names...

Unbelievable in our day. There were boys 'here' whose first names I never even knew.

"Didn't you used to be tubbier?"

It's true. I was. Shorter, too. That may be why the place seems smaller now.

The School has changed. The prefects, on hand at dinner to laugh at our jokes and look gratifyingly amazed at our distant reminiscences, are just young lads these days, not the awe-inspiring grandees of yester-year.

"I remember you. You used to score at cricket matches."

"Did I?"

And then the memory resurfaces as I drive away, bubbling up like marsh gas from submerged sediments. Watching those wretched white-clad boys running up and down, and filling in the boxes. Annoyingly impossible to think your own thoughts.

The School has changed. Cricket still goes on, we were told. More hockey than rugby, though. Better food – at least for this dinner. (Remember that first lunch in September 1958: the look, texture and – just a bit – taste of boiled-to-death-and-gone marrow.)

No more Philatelic Society.

No more dozen or so Oxbridge awards.

But still, coming in past the Porter's Lodge, we surely all felt ourselves stepping back through forty or fifty years. This is the place that marked us.

"You had an even harder time here than I did, I think?"

"Perhaps, but distance lends enchantment."

*Paul Griffiths (1965)*



## 1970S OLD BOYS' DINNER – A REFLECTION



Start in the middle: I looked back 32 years to leaving KES, I looked forward 32 years to an average death. Before the middle was trepidation. It wasn't a cost thing; it wasn't a time thing. It was a me having to see me as I was thing. Okay, I was asked so I went, convinced that anything can be endured if you sit quietly in a corner of the dining hall.

What's a poor post-modern boy to do? Know thy audience. They've changed: grown up to be nights and knobel laureates who use their spellcheckers diligently; or don't need such refinements... and don't mix their punctuation for artistic effect in the same paragraph. I can't bring myself to include an exclamation point. Why?

Agreed to be agreeable and travelled to be travelling, I arrived in my childhood and saw again the place where I was set down from my father's Cortina at the age of eleven; and there with a sense of bewilderment and terror my life at the school began. Already half dead and half alive, I entered the Gild Hall. Then or now? Both: a husk of our teen years rank with the familiar odour of boy and polish, echoing herring-bone block floors, thickly clotted electric light, and a feeling that you are about to be found out as not quite smart enough.

We chatted, we toured, we wondered at the fossilized memories and nightmare visions of our collective past. Seven Edwardian years of gestation leading to a violent and terrible birth from those hallowed halls and repetitive cubes with their magnificent views of the South Field; it was truly a womb with a view. 148 – where I discovered Laurie Lee, and gambolled fatly baffled down the top corridor until I left to meet the God of Small Things for a new love affair of words and wonder.

They'll want to know what it was like: like a car accident waiting to happen, waiting to be watched, over fast and with less pain than expected but leaving enigmatic soul bruises to blossom for weeks afterwards.

And then John asked us for money. But in a nice way. Did King Edward's better me or batter me into the academically brilliant yet socially defective I that is now? I got an education but still have to say, gentlemen, you scare the snot out of me.

*Ian Whatley 1977*

## AN UNDERSTATED HERO – BRIGADIER MIKE DAUNCEY, DSO, DL, OE



### Part 1

Although my roots are in Uley, near Dursley in Gloucestershire, I was born in Coventry in 1920. My family moved to Moseley in 1925 and it was there that I met my life-long friend, Douglas Bull. I still have a photograph, dated May 1934, in which, for some unknown reason he and I are sitting in the same row as the Headmaster, E.T.England, his masters and the prefects. I travelled to school by rail from Moseley station, twice daily. We had a lengthy break at mid-day, which was used for .22 shooting, fives, swimming and chess for those not going home.

We left New Street in 1935 and were all sad to go: however the temporary buildings at Edgbaston were very convenient for the School's sports fields. [The old Barry buildings were pulled down that same year – Ed.] One day in May of the following year we arrived to find the wooden huts burnt down, but some quick thinking saw us almost immediately housed in Birmingham University until the new temporary buildings (!) were ready for use in the following September.

I won my colours for the Second XV and half-colours in the Corps Gymnastics team. The School O.T.C. was great fun and I took 'Cert A' very seriously. However, I dreaded the regular parades when the order was given, "Shortest on the left!" Due to my small stature I found myself surrounded by grinning 'Sherrings'.

On my leaving school in 1937, it was decided that I should be articled to a Birmingham firm of chartered accountants, but first I spent three months in Cologne, living with a German family. The Rhinelanders are charming people and my hosts were most kind and thoughtful. They took me on many trips, including to watch the car-racing at the Nürbergring where the government-backed Mercedes and Auto-Union teams were outstanding.

The motorways were impressive and even a 17-year-old could see that the new German Army was very formidable. I watched a drive past of motorized and tracked vehicles which lasted several hours. Less attractive were the Brownshirts, who enjoyed their local power, which included writing anti-Jewish slogans outside shops, cinemas and other public places.

In 1940 I joined up. I did 12 weeks recruit training at Chester and then went for Officer Training; my new home was the Brine Baths Hotel in Droitwich, which had been requisitioned for use by the Army. It was not designed to house so many, especially lively young men, and once a week we went to the Brine Baths in the town for a stand-up bath, all together, in the steaming hot water of the pool.

After five months I was commissioned as a second lieutenant and posted to the 5th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment in Chester. Here I discovered the power of a Depot Adjutant. He spotted me with my hand in my pocket and that earned me extra duties. Worse, it made me a "marked man" because the Adjutant now knew my name. Every Friday all ranks went on a 9-mile route march, after first being inspected by the Adjutant, a formidable figure. Field Marching Order was worn, as well as heavy steel helmets; on our shoulders was a rolled-up anti-gas cape for protection against liquid mustard gas. I thought it was clever of the Adjutant, who was over six feet tall to recognise me at 5ft 5ins and hidden by so much kit. However, as he approached, he shouted, "Dauncey, you are a disgrace to the Regiment! Leave my parade at once and get yourself a proper hair-cut – immediately!"

After the Depot it was a great delight to join 5 Cheshire in Northern Ireland. My first Company Commander was brilliant, ideal for young officers. He later became Lt-General Sir Napier Crookenden; his father was Colonel of the Regiment at that time. He left 5 Cheshire soon after to join 6 Airborne Division and he fought in Normandy on D-Day. His decision to join the Airborne forces influenced me in deciding to become a Glider Pilot.

I passed my second Pilot Course with a very average grading and was posted to Leicester East Airfield to await developments...

*Mike Dauncey (1937)*

## Part 2

After initial training Mike was assigned to G Squadron of the Glider Pilot Regiment in January 1944. He was on "stand-by" for the Normandy Landings on D-Day but to his disappointment he was not required. However, later in the year he was selected as a second pilot to fly a Horsa glider on 'Operation Market Garden', the now-famous Arnhem plan.

The intention was to land airborne forces at Arnhem where there were crucial bridges over the River Rhine: if taken and held these would allow the Allied forces to make a thrust towards the Ruhr and Berlin, thus shortening the War by several months.



Unfortunately this plan was ill-fated. A crack Panzer Division was resting up near Arnhem, a glider crashed killing all its occupants and a German soldier, investigating the wreckage, found detailed plans and maps of the attack on a dead British officer. The supposed surprise attack became a desperate holding operation. The German forces were strengthened; the British 3rd Army couldn't break through to support the attack and the airborne troops were forced into desperate defence.

There were many feats of bravery in a battle in which five Victoria Crosses were won. None were awarded to members of the glider Pilot Regiment but 'Mike' came closest, fighting with great heroism:

"Lieutenant Mike Dauncey was commanding one end of the Weverstraat, a diagonal road into which German tanks regularly ventured to shell houses held by the infantry. Together with two paratroopers he captured eight Germans but he was then hit and temporarily blinded in one eye by a sniper. He discharged himself from the aid post of Kate ter Horst's house to return to his position and the following day went out with one paratrooper escort to hunt a German tank. When it appeared he ran up to it and threw a Gammon bomb which disabled the tank. Dauncey was later shot through the thigh and, later still, suffered a broken jaw when injured in the face by a grenade, all in close quarter fighting. A citation for a V.C. went all the way up to Field Marshal Montgomery before being amended to a DSO."

*(from 'Arnhem' by Martin Middlebrook)*

Badly injured he was eventually captured and sent to hospital in Utrecht, where he had two operations on his eye which, as he said, "survived remarkably well and it was only in 1998 that it had to be removed." (!) He was then moved to a German prison hospital in the town and it was from here that he escaped. Together with Major Gordon Cuinghame of the Black Watch he gradually made his way across Holland and aided by the Dutch Resistance was enabled to reach and cross the river Waal where he was "arrested" by British troops. Returned to England he spent the remainder of the War recovering from his injuries.

When peace came he married his fiancée Marjorie and then took up a series of appointments in Greece, in BAOR with the Parachute Regiment, and as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. In 1976 he left the Army but two years later was invited to become Colonel of the Cheshire Regiment, a position he held until 1985 when he finally did retire and went to live in the delightful Cotswold village of Uley, half-way up the hill between Dursley and Nailsworth. There he now lives with his wife in the Coach House of Uley Lodge, the family house in which his grandfather was born and where his son now lives with his family.

*The Editor*

## PAPER-BACK HERO - GAVIN LYALL: AN APPRECIATION BY KATHARINE WHITEHORN



instruments, stuck to the drums. He also loved drawing cartoons and was fascinated by America: there are dozens of drawings of US troops in enormous helmets, as well as jazz players and cowboys

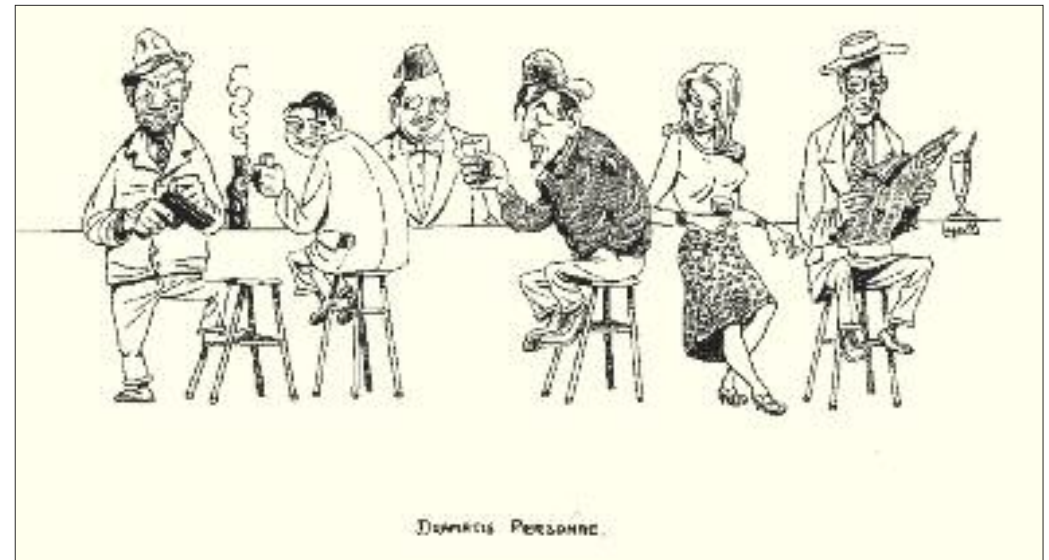
KE had a lot of advantages, not least of which was undoubtedly that it was a day school, and with a girls' days' day-school next door. This meant that there were girls around for dances, (not that Gavin could dance, then or ever) and for dates. It provided a much more normal way to grow up than being segregated among other boys full time. Angela Hericks, who was among them, says that "what was great about these young men was that they were so witty, with much wider interests in reading and films than girls."

Gavin loved King Edward's: when he finally left at the age of 19 to join the RAF, he said he left visible fingernail scratches on the building where they had to tear him away. He was born and raised in Birmingham; his parents – his mother was a Quaker and his father more or less so – lived in Bournville; he was sent to a good nursery school and a rather so-so prep school – a route also followed by his closest friend, Martin Davison, with whom he formed a jazz band at KE. Initially it was called the 'Canal Street Four' because the Canal Street Blues was the only tune they could play. Gavin actually had a tim ear and, after a few tries on various

When he left school Gavin did his two years of National Service in the RAF, which he loved. It affected his whole life, and later he became the Aviation Correspondent of the Sunday Times. He made his name at least partly by the superb flying scenes in his early books such as 'The Wrong Side of the Sky' and 'The Most Dangerous Game'.

After the RAF Gavin found the restrictions of college life at Cambridge rather footling. He read English at Pembroke College with not too much diligence and spent his time making amateur films, writing for and eventually editing 'Varsity', the undergraduate newspaper. He also drew a strip cartoon about an egregious undergraduate he named Ollie; this character was so well known around Cambridge that when he got engaged to me in 1957 several people talked as if I'd got engaged to Ollie. With his experience on 'Varsity', Gavin was able to go straight to Fleet Street and got a job on Picture Post: he shared a flat with two other King Edward's products, Martin Davison and Tony Bates.

Picture Post was a great place for Gavin to learn his trade because there, unlike most other journals, the writer worked totally in tandem with a photographer and was almost equally responsible for making sure they came back with the right pictures; and he had to write the picture captions. One of Gavin's best captions never got printed however. He was doing a story about the film star Jayne Mansfield's divorce; she and her nearly-ex-husband were fighting fiercely over custody of their dog, a tiny Chihuahua – and an affecting picture showed Jayne clasping the little creature to her very generous bosom. Gavin wanted to caption it, "The dog that came between them", but the editor wouldn't allow it.





When Picture Post folded in 1957 Gavin got a job on the Sunday Graphic for a while, then did a stint as a director on BBC Tv's 'Tonight' programme, which didn't go well: after that he started to do shifts on the Sunday Times and began to write his books. He left the Sunday Times simply because he wasn't getting enough time for the books. But anyone who writes creatively knows the importance of what one author called Work Avoidance Schemes. When we had children - two

boys, Bernard and Jake - Gavin loved making films with them; he dressed them up as Generals or Spacemen, did a series of photos in which they were people such as Holmes and Watson or cowboys. Later on he and Bernard played, with increasing seriousness, week-long war-games, with huge constructed landscapes; they ultimately wrote a book together on war-gaming, touring the country to do broadcasts about it.

Another Work Avoidance Scheme was an endless correspondence with a retired electrical engineer in Cornwall whom he had never met. I was cross because I thought not enough proper work was getting done but they had the last laugh: they ended up writing a space fantasy film together in the early 70s, co-opting Martin Davison. Gavin didn't think much of the film - Moon Zero Two - but they had a great time with it, not to mention the money. Unfortunately that was the only film made of his work; MGM was planning to make a film of 'Midnight Plus One' for Steve McQueen, who wanted to play the lead part, but he died before it could be made. Gavin had bad luck about such things: a TV three-parter was made out of The Secret Servant with Charles Dance; it was supposed to be screened in February but something else fell through and it was put on in December at short notice; nine million people watched it but, because of the lack of pre-publicity there wasn't a single copy of the book itself in the shops!

When the Cold War ended Gavin had to abandon the spy thriller and went back to the start of the Secret Service in 1913. But sadly his good and sensitive publisher had been taken over by a crass mass-market giant who didn't bother to try and sell the books.

I can't write about Gavin without saying what fun he was to be married to; he was extremely amusing and, unlike too many husbands, brilliant at presents. And he didn't "let" me work - he almost insisted upon it. On one occasion there was a small dinner for the board of something I was on; the Chairman thanked the directors for their excellent performance and thanked the wives for their wonderful support; as we women rose to make for the Ladies Gavin half stood and said, "What about me? Aren't I wonderful?" Everyone hooted with laughter, but yes - he really was.

*Katharine Whitehorn*

## KES RUGBY AND BEYOND



The first time I picked up a rugby ball was when a Sixth Former decided to hold a practice on Eastern Road for the new members of Robert's House. 'Yellow House', later split into Heath & Prince Lee. I seem to remember that this was well into the rugby season of 1944-45 and nothing came from this introduction as there seemed to be no junior teams, either at house or school level. I was still only 12 years old at the time and was gratified when a senior observed that I showed some promise. There is then a two-year gap in my memory, bringing me to an U15 side which I suspect we organised ourselves; I certainly can't remember any master showing interest in our efforts. The only school match that comes to mind was against Saltley Grammar School whose players seemed twice our size; the score was 75 – 0, and not in our favour.

Following the appointment of Tom Howarth in 1948 things began to look up. We whose brains were in our feet were impressed to hear him say that there were too many "physical illiterates" in the school and now that there were more young masters coming to seek positions following war service rugby coaches began to appear on the staff. The two I best remember were Bob Parry – of course, and Dick 'Pop' Osborne, a lovely man who immediately created an U16 side. Unfortunately I was already 16 and could not benefit from his enthusiasm.



The post-war years were marked by food shortages but my father was determined that my brother and I should spend the summer holidays on farms "to strengthen us up". The first farm that accepted us was superb, as was the summer of 1947. We ate with the family for whom rationing

clearly did not exist: cream with our morning porridge and meat at almost every meal and once even lobster! We enjoyed another summer there in 1948 during which I grew about three inches, so Bob Parry thought that I would make a prop forward. I went into the First XV

having never played for any of the lower senior sides. My first match was a disaster and proved to be the only game I played that year as I had outgrown my strength and suffered several bouts of bronchitis during the winter.

Many of us stayed three years in the Upper VI to gain sought-after Oxbridge entrance. I was a permanent member of the 1st XV in my penultimate year. Bob Parry finally came to the conclusion that I was not a prop and I found my niche in the comfort of the second row as I had a good standing jump. The XV of 1949-50 was not very successful but as so many came back for their third year we had an excellent team for the 1950-51 season, losing - alas – to Bromsgrove 0 – 3. I was flattered to be asked to play some games for the Old Edwardians 1st XV in my final year and later became a regular member of the side when National Service and university permitted. The Old Eds. Fixture list was quite remarkable from today's viewpoint as it contained several clubs which now play in the top national leagues.

National Service called me in October 1953 and for two years I served with the South Staffordshire Regiment. Returning home in October 1953 I was unable to take up the place I had been offered at Selwyn College Cambridge as I had omitted to pass Latin 'O' level. Under the expert

tuition of Bill Buttle I finally succeeded and in October 1954 went up to Selwyn. Bob Parry, [himself a pre-war Cambridge Blue and a Welsh trialist – Ed] had fixed me up with a Freshman's trial, unfortunately again in the front row; and again this proved a disaster. Forgetting university rugby I spent a happy year in

the college XV, helping them to gain promotion to the First Division. Later that season I sustained a serious injury to my ankle playing for the Old Eds on the rough and ready pitch behind the Edgbaston cricket ground. I reckoned my rugby-playing days were over and went back to Cambridge for my final year unfit and

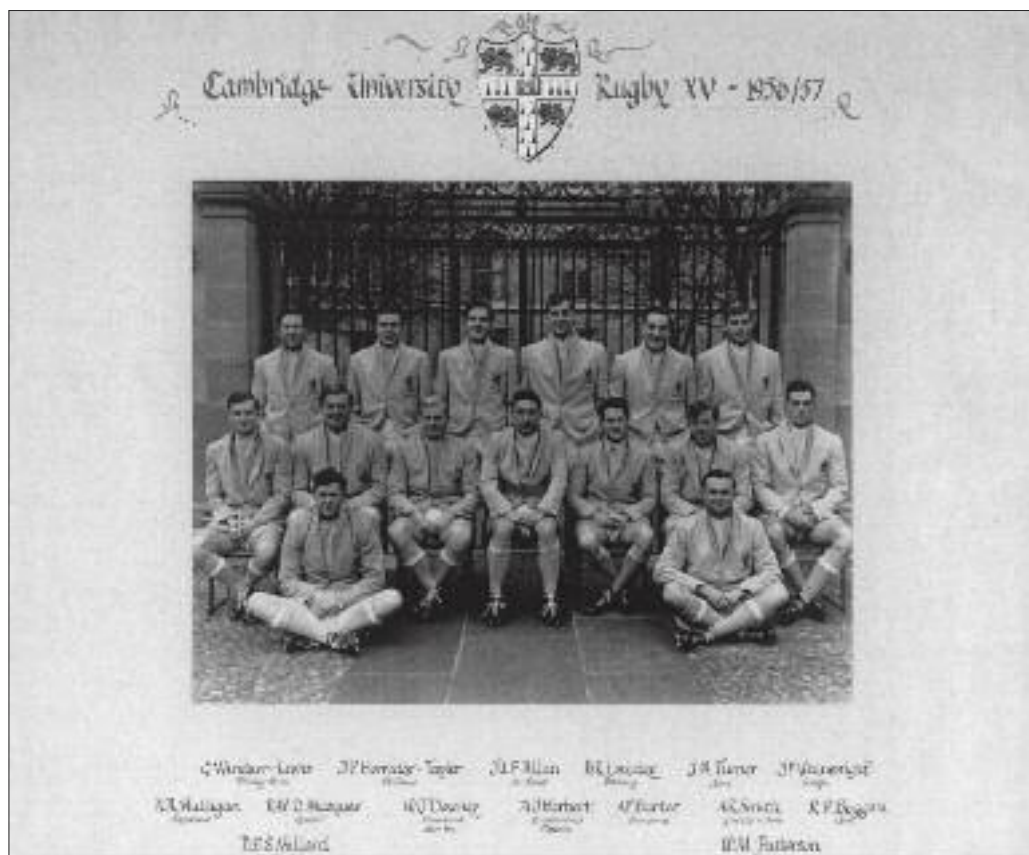
lacking motivation. However some excellent physiotherapy got me moving again.

Halfway through the term I was selected to play in the second half of a LX Club 'B' match against the Old Leysians, during which I was able to put into practice some quick-thinking rugby taught me by Dick Lawes, a prominent OE of the post-war years. I did not realise that watching were the high Heidyans of Cambridge Rugby, so I was surprised next day to receive a note asking me to turn up for 'Blues' training, the intention being to convert me into a back row forward – the blind-side wing forward! So, for the remainder of the term, I played in my new position and did not let the side down in our victory at Twickenham, in the company of such celebrated players as David Marques (England), Arthur Smith (Scotland & 'Lions' captain), Andy Mulligan (Ireland & Lions), Phil Horrocks-Taylor (England) and John Herbert (Cambridge captain & England). In all there were thirteen players on the field who were, or were about to become, internationals.

In the summer of 1957 the icing on the cake came in the form of an invitation to join the combined Oxford & Cambridge tour to East Africa. Here, alas, my rugby career did come to an end when I snapped a ligament in my knee in the first ten minutes of the first match. Fifty years on, the knee is still giving me hell! However, I have no regrets. I entered the teaching profession and my degree and, perhaps more importantly, my 'Blue' opened almost every door I knocked on; and during my time in Scotland I have had the pleasure of coaching several students who have gone on to represent their country.

Looking back nearly 60 years I have to thank KES for an excellent start to life and mention particularly Bill Whalley who taught me geography, Tom Howarth who wrote testimonials on my behalf and Bob Parry who drummed some knowledge of rugby into me. I think they all had faith in me when others doubted.

*Jim Wainwright (1952)*



## THE WANDERERS' RETURN



Mention the name 'Billesley Common' to the vast majority of Old Edwardians and they will nod sagely and say, "Ah yes, that park somewhere in South Birmingham where Moseley Rugby Club now play." They will then go on to reminisce, dewy-eyed over their gin-and-tonic, about the glory days of The Reddings, the golden era of Peter Robbins and Streetsbrook Road, when Birmingham was a serious rugby city.

For a group of 35 Old Eds. (mostly) who gathered for dinner at Edgbaston Golf Club on the evening of 16th October 2009, however, 'Billesley' had quite different connotations – rain-lashed Sunday mornings in the mid-60s and early 70s, with sliding tackles of the Association Football code churning up the mud and the notorious slope of Pitch 13, lead-heavy footballs appearing menacingly out of the mist, goal-keeper howlers, sliced clearances and, just occasionally, flashes of football genius from an outstanding 'striker'.

This was the Wanderers F.C., aka the KES All-Stars, in action; a team created 50 years ago, in the autumn term of 1959, by a bunch of rebellious Edwardians, (most of whom, truth to tell, also loved their rugby); hence the Golden Jubilee Dinner this year. The event had been more than a year in the planning and was put together by Andy Packham (1962), Jim Evans (1961) & Chris Jordan (1961) and Tim Austin (1961) – respectively the outstanding striker, the dynamic midfield duo and the man with the sliding tackle and sliced clearances.

Remarkably, seven of the XI who played in the very first game, against 'Hall Green Baptists (!!), were at the dinner: Rod Pinner (1960), Austin, Will (Hugh) Smith (1961), David Howell (1960), Mick Tracey (1961), Andy P. and Ken (Tony) Green (1961). Surprisingly Jim Evans, one of the longest-serving Wanderers who played well into his thirties, had not made his debut until the second game, while the ever-youthful but misguided Tracey claims to have played more games than anyone else in the club's history.

Guests assembled over a pint or three in the downstairs bar before moving upstairs to the private dining-room, adorned for the occasion with old Wanderers' shirts, medals (over the years an impressive array of cups, etc was achieved), photographs and league handbooks plus records of teams, scorers, etc. – a tribute to Packham's meticulous listing prowess (mania?).



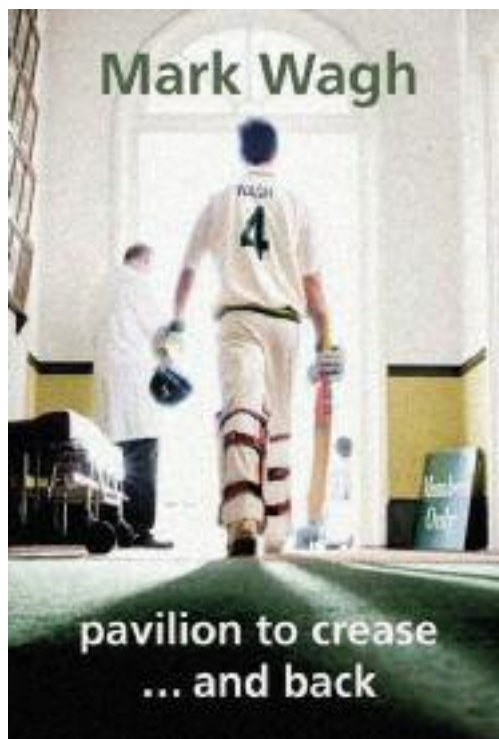
Mr. Packham got proceedings under way with a truly amazing Grace (composed in something like iambic pentameters) and the excellent meal with copious wine oiled the wheels of renewed friendships – many of us had not met for 45 or so years. Various brave souls made public confessions of acts of brutality, usually stopping just short of GBH, committed all those years ago on the bleak parklands of South Birmingham. Such was the glamour of the Coronation League...

Among the distinguished guests were former Wanderers, George Worthington (recently retired from teaching at K.E.) and Dennis Amiss, (Jim Evans brother-in-law), who tended to leave behind the decorous manners of an England batsman when he donned the light blue of the Wanderers.

Friends reunited, sporting memories, good food and wine – a great evening in the best traditions of Edwardian fellowship. All Stars then and All Stars still.

*Tim Austin (1961)*

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MARK WAGH



**Mark Wagh left King Edward's in 1995. After playing for Warwickshire for ten years he left in 2007 to play for Nottinghamshire. This year he published his first book, 'pavilion to crease... and back', charting the 2008 season and their attempts to win the county championship.**

*Q: What do you remember most from your time at King Edward's?*

The teaching and the teachers. Teachers like Jeff Hancock and John Hatton were truly brilliant and some of what they taught me has stayed with me ever since.

*Q: What about the cricket coaching?*

Well, when I arrived Roger Newman was the coach and he has been amazing throughout my career. He gave me my 1st XI debut when I was still in the Rems, which was almost unheard of at the time. Martin Stead was fantastic too.

*Q: Is there a particular cricket fixture or event you remember well?*

I recall coming last in the Bristol Road race quite a lot! I also remember getting four noughts in a row in the Fourths which was pretty terrible. I remember playing with Anurag Singh because there was this strange parallel since we both played at both King Edward's and Warwickshire.

*Q: And you both went on to captain Oxford and Cambridge. Was there a great rivalry at School between you?*

That is a question that I often get asked. Comparisons were definitely made but I think the rivalry was more keenly felt by parents and those looking in from the outside rather than Anurag and I.

*Q: You also both played, separately, at Notts where you moved after ten years at Warwickshire. Was this a difficult decision?*

It was at the time but in retrospect it was an obvious decision to make. I had been at Warwickshire a long time and I felt committed to them. There are interesting comparisons to a marriage because sometimes there are difficult times but you just stick it out and carry on. But it felt great to move on to something new.

*Q: Did you feel like you needed a new challenge?*

Definitely. I think everyone should leave the club they are brought up in because it can either become too easy or you end up stereotyped as a person and player. Moving allows you to redefine who you are. Plus a club saying they want you makes you feel valued which is important in any sphere.

*Q: In the book you mention that when you moved to Notts you put your England aspirations to one side. Is not playing for your country still a source of regret?*

Absolutely. There is always a range of ambitions throughout your career but England was always the main goal. The downside to having such an ambition is that you tend to view your performances through that prism so with everything I did I wondered how it would affect my chances of playing for England. I was so

focused on where I wanted to get to that I wasn't enjoying what was happening that day and my move to Notts coincided with me thinking that I am going to try to enjoy what happens now and not be concerned with how this fits into the bigger picture.

*Q: Andre Agassi said recently that he had never enjoyed playing tennis. Do you think all sportsmen suffer from not enjoying their sport at some point?*

Yes. One of the reasons I wrote the book was I knew that some of the things that supposedly lead to good performance were untrue. So this idea that you have to positively imagine yourself doing well and that would actually lead to you doing well is a load of rubbish. There are so many times when I have been in the "perfect frame of mind" and not done well and vice versa so I wanted to catalogue that. I remember a game against Durham when I woke up feeling dreadful. I saw no way that I was going to make runs - it was a difficult pitch against a lively bowling attack - but I ended up getting some and we almost won the game. Often though it is that sense of dread, that fear of failure that motivates you to do well.

*Q: Do you put yourself under a lot of pressure?*

When I was at School I definitely questioned my ability a lot more than I do now and put myself under more pressure. Some ballerina was once asked why she



worked so hard and she said because by nature she was very lazy. And I completely understand because naturally I am lazy.

*Q: Is that why you always came last in the Bristol Road race?*

Perhaps! I was never happy with what I had achieved because I worried that if I was happy I would stop pushing myself to be better and then I would never play for England. When I moved to Notts I decided to be slightly gentler on myself so I am less critical of myself now.

*Q: What has been the highlight of your career?*

I scored a triple century at Lords which was obviously very enjoyable at the time. However I think the best feeling in cricket, perhaps sport, is when you contribute to a win. I remember my first game at Notts when I scored 60 and I remember walking back into the changing room and seeing the happiness on everyone's faces. Those times are just magic because I think your satisfaction is multiplied through everyone else's satisfaction of winning. Sometimes individual milestones are nice but have a slightly hollow ring.

*Q: And the team have enjoyed great success since you have been there, coming 2nd in the county championship two years running?*

We have done well in four day cricket but

been awful at one day cricket. I thought we could or maybe should have won in 2008 when we played some great cricket. Last year though Durham were by far the best team and although we finished 2nd I don't think we played as well as the previous summer so I think we have a lot of catching up to do.

*Q: Have you had any role models during your career?*

I have enjoyed watching people bat – people like David Gower, Mark Waugh (the proper one) and Brian Lara. Andy Flower has really impressed me with the way he goes about things and I admire Nick Knight for his production of runs at county level. I wouldn't say there was one person I looked up to and wanted to emulate but I guess I have taken bits and pieces from the people around me.

*Q: How do you see the future of the game, particular with Twenty20 now becoming so prevalent?*

I think the basic structure of the game has remained the same for the last 20 years but I can't help but feel it will be different in 20 years time. The money in Twenty20 dwarfs the game and since cricket is ultimately a business it will follow the money. Twenty20 shows that what people want to see is fast moving, close games where people are going for wins and if we don't take that into the other forms of the game, it will die. The problem with county

cricket is that if you get your bonus points, draw most games and have the odd win you will stay in division one and have an OK season but it leads to such dull cricket. I hope Twenty20 will force authorities to ensure teams play to win and I think there will have to be structural reform.

*Q: And what about your own future?*

Law, ironically following in Anurag's footsteps again! (Anurag is a lawyer at Wragges). I have secured a job at Freshfields from the start of 2012 so I will probably finish playing cricket half way through the 2011 season. I am doing the law conversion course now.

*Q: Does that take up a lot of your leisure time?*

Yes, most of my time is spent on the conversion course mainly because I am so inefficient. I am doing a lot of reading around the course and also trying to get my second book off the ground which is going to be about leadership and captaincy in cricket. I also go to the gym most days.

*Q: What advice would you give a boy at KES who is thinking about playing cricket professionally?*

I would say go to university and do as much outside cricket for as long as you can as you will be a much rounder individual. Unfortunately I don't think

this will be an option for much longer as counties are being incentivised to play younger cricketers. If you want to play for England and be the best you can you are going to have to devote yourself to cricket which means joining a county straight from School.

*Q: Do you think that is a shame?*

Ultimately not everyone is going to play for England and not everyone is going to get a lucrative Twenty20 contract but probably everyone will devote themselves from an early age to trying to fulfil these ambitions. For those who make it, it is obviously the right decision but for the people who don't I think it is a shame they have not had the chance to do something else. I think getting a broader perspective in life is a good thing.

*Simon Lerwill*

*Editor's note: Mark's book, 'pavilion to crease...and back', is out now and can be bought online at Amazon. To win a signed copy just answer the following question: How many first-class runs has Mark Wagh scored in his career? Send your answer to competition@kes.org.uk by February 28th. The closest answer received before this date will win the book.*

## OEA ACTIVITIES

### LONDON OLD EDWARDIANS

The A.G.M. was held on Monday 18th May at the RAF Club, Piccadilly with the President, Harry Hart (1941), in the Chair. Harry had completed the one year as President he had agreed to in 2008 and so stepped down. John White (1973) was nominated and agreed to be President by the committee, who thanked the outgoing President for his service. The Senior Committee Officers all agreed to serve for another year and were duly elected. Some of the other committee members had asked to stand down and this was agreed: they were thanked for their service, in several cases over many years, and it was hoped that they would continue to support events. The other committee members were elected en bloc.

The full updated list of Committee Members will be published on the web site.

The Chief Master, John Cloughton, and Simon Lerwill, Director of Development, represented the School and addressed the meeting. 14 O.E.s attended.

The **SUMMER OUTING**: took place on 20th June and began with a visit to Downe House, the home of Charles Darwin for some 40 years, near Biggin Hill in Kent. There were fourteen members present but, with spouses, guests and five former pupils of KEHS, we were 34 in all.

This year marks the bicentenary of Darwin's birth and the house had been given a facelift to mark this. It was fascinating to see the family home (which Darwin extended several times), to view the study where he did most of his writing

and to wander round the garden where he conducted his experiments.

We later travelled a few miles north to the village of Westerham, where a leading member of the Westerham Society spoke to us about the village as far back as Saxon times. As we sat on the Green, in the shadow of the Churchill statue and with General Wolfe also looking on, we listened to the history of the buildings in the village centre. Alan Taylor-Smith was bursting with interesting accounts and amusing anecdotes and he concluded with



a short guided walk. He claims to have the largest private collection of Churchill memorabilia!

The day ended with an early buffet supper at the National Trust restaurant at Chartwell. Over an excellent spread and with wine flowing, we enjoyed the fellowship of friends old and new. Of course, in the presence of the ladies from "across the Drive", discretion had to be exercised when recalling memories of attachments from as long ago as the 1940's!

The weather was kind to us and, from the feedback received, this was a day greatly enjoyed by all.

*Derek Ridout*



## OEA ACTIVITIES

### ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held at the RAF Club, Piccadilly on 7th December, John White (1973) presiding. Over 60 members attended, a significant improvement on recent years. It was pleasing to see that the year of leaving School was widely spread, from 1941 to 2004.

The guest speaker was Professor Rodney Cartwright (1958), a scientist whose specialism is in water-borne infections: however, he chose to speak on something quite different, namely the Livery Companies of the City of London, being himself a past-Master of the Plumbers' Company. He outlined their history and explained in what ways they are committed to the City, to charity, (raising about £40 million a year) and to education. At the heart of all their activities is friendship between the present 35,000 liverymen.

He then proposed the toast of The School.

Replying for the School, Keith Phillips, representing the Chief Master, focussed on three significant events. First, he announced that construction of the new Performing Arts Centre would soon begin; it is an ambitious project with a 450-seat capacity and costing £12 million, partly funded by the generosity of Paul Ruddock (1976). Secondly, he told us that a decision was eagerly awaited from the International Baccalaureate Authority in Geneva on the School's application to transfer from A-level to the IB in 2010. Thirdly, Keith referred to the imminent retirement of George Andronov – an iconic and eccentric figure in the life of the School for the past 34 years.

The final speaker was James Travers, representing the School Captain. He spoke with confidence, spontaneity and wit, which quickly captured the enthusiasm of those present. Here was an all-rounder who had crammed an enormous amount into his seven years at the School; it made people reflect on what KES had done for them. The loud applause at the end of his speech was an expression of sincere good wishes to James in his future.

Finally all present raised their glasses in a toast to King Edward VI and, finally, to the London Old Edwardians.



General Note: If any OE is not on the London OE mailing list and wishes to attend any of their functions, please contact either Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator on [oldeds@kes.org.uk](mailto:oldeds@kes.org.uk) or 0121 415 6050, or The Hon. Secretary to the London OE's, David Edmonds at: 61 Stanhope Road, Longwell Green, Bristol BS30 9AJ. Tel: 0117 9328249 Mobile: 07882005244: e-mail: [dave.edmonds@virgin.net](mailto:dave.edmonds@virgin.net)



## EDWARDIANS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

After last season's disappointing performance the club has seen a more positive start to the 2009/10 season. We have won two league games and only narrowly lost some others. A lot of hard work is being carried out by players and coaches to improve both skills and fitness at training sessions, so that we can improve on our league performances. All details of matches, training schedules and club officials can be found on the club website: [www.edsrugby.com](http://www.edsrugby.com) This website is up and running but is in the process of being updated to add extra facilities to it.

Many of the local clubs are finding it quite a challenge to field a third XV. Thanks to the efforts of our club captains we are the position of being able to field three XV's for the first time this season.

Among the non-playing activities we have held a first aid course so that we have basic medical cover and will shortly be holding a further course to qualify members to use the newly acquired defibrillator machine. In addition to this several members are currently taking a refereeing course, giving an RFU accreditation. I am among this number and the phrase "poacher turned game-keeper" has been bandied about – quite unfairly, of course.

### Junior Section

The Junior Section goes from strength to strength with around 150 paid-up members for this season. The players range in age from U6 to U17 and train/play on Sunday mornings. All players are welcome and should contact Paul Price on 07515 452385 or attend at Streetsbrook Road at 10.30 a.m. on a Sunday. Please refer to the Club website (above) for further details.

This is the first season for a long time that we have fielded an U17 XV. They play in a league alongside Moseley, Stourbridge, Wolverhampton and Malvern so they will have strong opposition. This will no doubt be good experience for them in preparation for playing at a senior level next season.

We are also fielding sides at Under 16/15/14/13/12/10/09 levels and it's good to see the clubhouse so full on many Sunday mornings. The U14 XV have reached the third round of the North Midlands Cup, beating Sutton Coldfield and Birmingham Exiles along the way. Many senior club members act as junior coaches and have been busy taking RFU accredited courses to ensure a good level of training is maintained.

*Mike Allport – Chairman*

## OLD EDWARDIANS CRICKET CLUB

During the winter months much heart searching was done to consider how we could field three competitive teams this summer. In the event we had mixed success but more importantly everyone seemed to enjoy the season and we saw several new promising players, most of them products of the youth cricket teams over the last several years.

### 1ST XI

In summary we finished mid table winning eight matches out of twenty played. There were three winning draws, two losing draws and seven defeats.

The early part of the season brought mixed results; a run of four defeats in a row made poor reading at the half way stage. The captain blamed his poor calling at the toss for the defeats which left us on the wrong side of some rain affected wickets. Things improved considerable when those at School and University returned to the fold and a run of wins left us half way in the league.

Of our recent KES players, Rohin Maini batted positively and provided another bowling option; Dan Christopher often opened the batting and showed good technique and application, whilst Haidar Lone brought more control to the bowling with accurate away swing. Haidar was presented with the Peter Vernon Youth Player award for the season by topping the bowling figures for the whole league.

Of our more senior players John Nicholls still bowls tirelessly, John Winspear and Mike Hughes were seen batting on Tour at Bath but sadly do not perform regularly. The last two now give the Club their energy and wisdom as President and Chairman respectively.

Rashid Mohammed, however, made some of the best individual contributions over the season including scores of 98 against Bournville and 109 not out at Streetly. He also took 5 for 27 against Ansley.

### 2nd XI

The second team played 22 games winning eight and losing nine. Three were drawn and two abandoned. The side spent most of the season battling to get away from the bottom of the league and as a consequence of winning 5 from the last 7 games we finished a commendable 7th out of twelve.

There were four centuries hit during the season. Two were by Zubair Khalid. Azim Khan and Chris Lloyd Smith both went on to get over 150 in their triumphs. Azim was also the highest wicket taker with a best of 6-36. Luke Clarke, son of ex Captain Phil, is now sixteen and hit a good 76 not out in another game. Interestingly a certain James Cloughton made his debut and bowled well.



## OLD EDWARDIANS GOLFING SOCIETY

### 3rd XI

This side finished fifth out of twelve in their league. It had the pleasure and benefit of fielding several players from KES over the season. All these players made useful contributions and give promise for the future.

### Youth Cricket

In all we had around twenty players who were either at or have recently left KES playing for the club or the youth teams over the season.

These sides continued to play in the Warwickshire Youth leagues over the summer. As usual we can see many interested and promising performers in these groups. Mike Thornton and Matt Melia have run regular midweek nets for the Youth players who have attended well and enjoyed the practice.

*Jim Evans*

The outstanding performance of the year was our scratch team's reaching the national finals of the Grafton Morrish held in Norfolk, a feat that had not been achieved since 1992. We lost 2-1 to a very strong Charterhouse team but an enjoyable time was had by all. Even your correspondent was pressed into service at the last minute but he experienced some problems with the sleepered bunkers. Tim Pickering and Jeremy Clifford remained unbeaten in this competition over 18 years.

A pleasing feature of the year has been the appearance of new (and younger) faces in the Halford Hewitt, Grafton Morrish and Cyril Gray competitions. The results below show mixed success in our matches and include the inaugural match against Old Warwickians.

There are always opportunities to represent the Society in tournaments and matches and there is particular space for more at both spring and autumn meetings.

**For further information contact  
Frank Scouse (President) 01295 780529  
jscouse@onetel.net or Martin Wilkes  
(Secretary) 0121 666 6228 (work)  
Martin.Wilkes@Christine-Lee.co.uk**

### Results 2009

March 25 Match v School, Harborne  
Lost 31/2 – 1/2  
April 1-3 Halford Hewitt, Royal Cinque  
Ports & Royal St. Georges  
Round 1: Lost 1-4 to Kings Canterbury  
Plate, Round 1: Lost 21/2 – 1/2 to Bishops  
Stortford  
May 8 Spring Meeting Harborne  
Best Gross: Alistair Harborne 80  
Best Net: Duncan Glover 88-15=73  
Best Stableford: Ian Clemson 30 pts.  
May 9 Grafton Morrish, Olton  
Team of: Tim Pickering, Gary Meads, Rob  
& Alistair Harborne  
Jeremy Clifford, Simon Smart qualified for  
the Final  
September 23-25 Grafton Morrish Finals,  
Hunstanton & Brancaster  
Round 1: Lost 1-2 to Charterhouse  
June 24 MK Foster, Little Aston  
Team was unplaced but congratulations to  
Simon Coghlan & Dan Andrewson winning  
the Pudding Bowl in the afternoon  
June 24-26 Cyril Gray, Worplesdon (Over  
50s Foursomes Match Play  
Round 1: Lost 0-3 to St. Bees  
Plate, Round 1: Won 21/2-1/2 v  
Stonyhurst  
Round 2 Lost 0-3 to Blundells  
July 13 Match v Old Silhillians, Olton  
Won 31/2 – 21/2  
August 6 Match v Old Veseyans, Harborne  
Won 41/2- 11/2  
September 15 Match v Old Warwickians,

Moseley Lost 31/2-11/2  
September 30 Autumn Meeting, Kings  
Norton  
Buckley Salver Winner: Alistair Harborne  
42 pts  
Runner-up: David Wells 41 pts  
Best Visitor: Chris Darby 33 pts

*Frank Scouse*



## SCHOOL NEWS



### DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

One of the unique experiences of my first year in charge of the new Development & OEA Office was when OE Group Captain Richard Mason (1984) landed his Chinook on the South Field to take some of the CCF boys on an unforgettable flight above the School. Richard was one of the Old Edwardians with whom the School had lost touch – a “Lost Boy” – and here he was dropping into the School, literally.

Richard was not the only one. When I arrived there were over 4,000 old boys who had not heard anything from the School since they left. Now, thanks to the detective work of Stuart Birch and many of you, we have re-established contact with more than 1,000 of these and, thanks to the work of Sue Dickens, many have now come back to the School for one of the reunions that have been organised. Not only that but, alongside this Gazette, they are now also receiving the new look Insight Gazette and the new regular e-newsletter, Gazette Online. And, when they are not reading Gazettes, they can always look up old friends, old publications and archive material on our new website or our new Facebook group. Hopefully many of the “Lost Boys” will now feel that the School is very much back in touch.

As I start my second year here I look forward to welcoming more Old Edwardians back at the reunions we are hosting in January and March. We are also busy planning new events for next year based largely on the results of the survey that many of you responded to, which will include more targeted reunions and more events in London, including a pub night and a professional networking event. I hope to see many of you at some of these occasions over the next 12 months.

Finally, the coming year will also see the launch of our fundraising for Assisted Places. As you may be aware, one of the School's key aims is to increase the number of Assisted Places that it can offer to bright boys who might otherwise not be able to come here. Several Old Edwardians are already generously funding individual boys here and many more are giving regular gifts that together accumulate towards funding places. Many of the Old Edwardians I met at reunions last year commented that they would also be keen to support this cause so that they could provide boys with the benefit of the unique opportunities that they themselves were lucky enough to enjoy. In the last 12 months, as I have watched boys here perform in concerts, plays and sports fixtures, I have seen for myself the amazing opportunities they have access to. And let's not forget, some are even lucky enough to get a ride in a Chinook. Now that really is something special!

*Simon Lerwill*

## STAFF NEWS

The end of the last academic year saw the departure of quite a number of members of staff, some of them of long and dedicated service. We include here extracts from some of the valettes that appeared in the 'Chronicle'

### **Philip Lambie – Classicist**

Phil is one of a group of men who joined KES in the 1960's to devote their professional lives to a single school. Such men are characteristically self-effacing, do not seek the limelight, but have a profound effect on the atmosphere, style and feel of the place. KES is a very special place to teach in and a very good school, as Phil was fond of saying; and he was one of the people who made it so. He spent 41 years here, devoted to his subject, his colleagues and the generations of boys who were in his care as Classics teacher, form teacher and House tutor..

Phil might easily have found promotion – he came with a first in Classics from Southampton University – but he was good at teaching and so he stayed in the classroom. Teaching at KES gave him a chance to combine his love of Classics with lots of other things: hockey, athletics, running the Library for 17 years, Classics trips – especially to Pompeii and helping with many other school and fellwalking trips.

It was as a scholar and a superb teacher that he will be remembered most. Latin and Greek grammar were taught with depth and rigour. His scholarship was legendary. It was seen in the classroom in his love of Vergil, above all, and his knowledge of Cicero and late Roman Republican history. He carried with him an air of authority which was helped by his height; but there was also stillness, precision, accuracy and economy of expression – a hint of the Clint Eastwoods.

Phil did everything well. He was never complacent. Every summer he would prepare new teaching courses. His handwriting was neat and exact, Thousands of pupils had the benefit of his preparation and learning. He is not, of course, perfect: an appraisal of 29th June 2004 suggested a new aim – “Greater awareness of the use of IT in teaching across the board.” For a man with one of the largest slide collections in the school this was a bit rich!

### **George Worthington – Classicist**

It is hard to summarise the career of a teacher who has served the School and its community for 39 years. A graduate of St. John's College, Cambridge, George specialised in Greek, bringing with him the skills he had acquired at the Grammar School in his native Wigan and having gained a distinction in his PGCE course at Cambridge. From those starting Greek in

the Upper Middles to those preparing for GCSE and A-level, he taught the riches of Homer, Thucydides and the Greek tragedians with an amazing insight into over 2,500 years of Greek Literature and Culture. He also taught Latin throughout the School and for many years ran the famous Crime & Punishment General Studies Course – with its obligatory visit to the Birmingham Law Courts..

George did everything asked of him, and more, without fuss or complaint and fulfilled the true King Edward's vision of the dedicated schoolmaster. For some time he was a cheerfully eccentric tutor to the somewhat erratic housemastership of this Gazette's editor; and later he went on to become Housemaster of Vardy for 28 successful years, leading from the front with enthusiasm, encouraging the boys and fostering the legendary Vardy spirit. In his time he also “took to the boards” and many former pupils will surely remember him as a daft and deft Poolonius in the Staff production of 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead'. He needs no epitaph because pupils and colleagues will remember him with a spontaneous smile that belies the greatest respect and fondest memory.



### **Carol Southworth – Historian**

Carol has retired from teaching after long and loyal service to King Edward's. She has inspired generations of boys in her care with her obvious love of history and, in particular, of the power of narrative and the grip that can be exerted by a story well told. She has a tremendous wealth of knowledge, especially of the early modern period, which at A-level in particular has left boys quite awe-struck. Her guided tours of the Bosworth battlefield are a treasure trove of the personal and political details that make the Wars of the Roses live and breathe. Famously devoted to reading and research, she has been known to salvage books from skips around the School; her pursuit of an MPhil at the University of Birmingham will only add lustre to her reputation.

Carol's love of music is well known, especially of choral music. It is to be hoped that, during her retirement, oratorios, masses, cantatas, choruses, psalms, requiems and passion music will waft across her garden, especially on Friday afternoons, which once upon a time could be quite a trial but will from now on be much more relaxing.

Gail Ragbourne, Alistair Melvill, Pauline Asher, and Jeanette Durman also departed at the end of the academic year 2008-09.

## THE BIRMINGHAM OLD EDWARDIAN MASONIC LODGE

Many schools have Masonic Lodges consecrated in their name and King Edward's is no exception. Many former pupils have become members and have enjoyed and been rewarded by the relaxation and stimulation of the intellectual, social and charitable aspects of this worldwide brotherhood and fellowship. This worldwide fellowship has forged, through mutual respect, many lasting and valued friendships.

The Lodge meets five times a year, and following the "Business of the Evening", members dine, relax and enjoy the convivial company. Should any Old Edwardian wish to learn more of the Fellowship and visit the Masonic Temple where the meetings are held, without any obligation, they should contact either Michael Spencer, 143 Russell Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8RS, Tel – 07785 110963 or Nick Plotnek, 5 Mead Rise, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3SD, Tel – 07976 357317.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Reunion lunches

These more intimate, informal reunions take place during the School term. There will be a lunch followed by a chance to see some of our archives and have a tour of the School. The day will conclude with tea in the Chief Master's study. This is a great opportunity to catch up with some old friends.

Date: Wednesday 10th March  
1950-1951

Wednesday 17th March 1945-1949

Wednesday 24th March 1940-1944

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: £5

Booking: Invitations with booking forms have already been sent out for these events. Please contact Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator, if you have not received a form and would like to attend via the details below.

NB: Those who left pre-1940 will be invited to a special reception in December 2010 marking 75 years since the New Street building closed.

### Summer concert

The Summer Concert is the main annual joint KES / KEHS concert featuring performances from all the orchestras, choirs and bands and culminating in a full choir and orchestra performance. All Old Edwardians are welcome to attend.

Date: Tuesday 4th May

Location: Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Cost: Tickets are £8 (Adults) and £4 (Concessions).

Booking: Tickets will be available through the Development & OEA Office from March 2010 and further details will be emailed at this time. If you would like to be added to the music mailing list (which will mean you will receive an email reminder when tickets are available for this concert) please contact Sue Dickens, the OEA Administrator.



### London pub night

This summer we will be hosting the first pub night in London. This will be a great opportunity for all OEs in London to catch up and all those who attend will receive a free drink!

Date: Thursday 10th June

Location: Pub or bar in central London – TBC

Cost: Free

Booking: There is no need to book but we would be grateful if you could let us know if you are coming via either the Facebook group or online at [www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/londonpubnight](http://www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/londonpubnight).



### Former staff lunch

Every year the School invites back former staff to have lunch and to catch up with old friends.

Date: June (exact date TBC)

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: Free

Booking: Invitations will be sent out with booking forms a few months before the event.

### Bruce Hurn art event

Over the past few years, thanks to the hard work of Chris Eckersley (1970) and many kind donations, the altarpiece in the chapel, which was painted by Bruce Hurn in 1956, has been restored. To mark the return of the altarpiece, there will be a special service of dedication in June followed by afternoon tea which Bruce will be attending. Those Old Edwardians who supported the restoration work, who were taught by Bruce or who helped to create some of the other items in the chapel, such as the benches, are particularly encouraged to attend but all Old Edwardians are welcome.

Date: Saturday 26th June

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: TBC

Booking: Invitations will be sent out nearer the time. If you would like to ensure that you will receive an invite please contact Sue Dickens, the OEA Administrator, via the details below.

### Date for your diary - Biennial dinner 2010

The Biennial dinner, the main event in the OE calendar, will take place on Saturday 18th September this year at the School. Further details and invitations will be sent out later next year.

You can find further details about all our events online at [www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/events](http://www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/events).

### DEVELOPMENT & OEA OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

#### Address

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Website: [www.oldereds.kes.org.uk](http://www.oldereds.kes.org.uk)

Phone: 0121 415 6050

Fax: 0121 415 4327

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### From Mr. David Robinson

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for the latest edition of the Gazette. It was a most impressive effort and a glowing piece of 'PR' for the School. Will we hear a bit more about and from Old Eds in future editions? As I decline gently towards crusty senility I find nostalgia ever more agreeable and an antidote for the incredible achievements of the younger generations.

You may like to know that my brother-in-law, Ken Hodgkiss (1951) has just published his memoir of life in the RAF, flying Meteor jets during his National Service (1951-53). Its title is 'Fire Can Jockey': "Fire Can" was RAF slang for the Meteor jet and the 'jockeys' were the people who flew them.

On a different subject entirely, might I suggest that reunion dinners are organised by the year in which we joined KES rather than the year in which we left? I for one left immediately after A-levels, whereas most of my contemporaries stayed on for university entrance and the like. I would be more interested in meeting up with some of them than the mostly older men who left when I did.

Yours sincerely  
David Robinson (1958)

*[On the matter raised in David Robinson's first paragraph, work is presently being done to produce & maintain a regular 'Notes & News' section, featuring the activities of OEs of all generations. Much will depend upon people volunteering information about themselves. On the matter raised in the last paragraph, it will be interesting to know what other people think about the suggestion? – Ed]*

### From Mr. Peter Bryan

Dear Editor,

It is not that I am a grumpy eighty-year-old, but I don't like the new magazine format. I also miss the list of Officers of the OE Association and there seems to be no information about the contributors. And what, please, is the reference to "Insight", which seems to have invited comments – (not from me, it didn't)? And the cost? I get a great deal more information from my university college without colour-printing, and more often.

Nevertheless, I wish the new venture well.

Yours truly,  
Peter Bryan (1947)

### From Mrs. Joan W. Goudie

To the Chairman of the OEA:  
11th October 2009

Dear Mr. Martin,

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the death of my husband, Britton Goudie. He died on 24th July, 2008, aged 93 years.

Britton was very fond and proud of his school. He felt that he owed so very much to the wonderful classical education he received during his years at King Edward's. He was always pleased to receive the Gazette and took a keen interest in its contents. He was particularly delighted when, in later years, he was able to attend a number of OE dinners.

Had he lived, I know Britton would have sent a donation to the appeal for funds to help provide more assisted places since he benefitted so much from one himself. I am certain he would be pleased that I am sending now what would have been a legacy.





I and my family miss him very much. I also know that he is greatly missed by the Methodist Church (in which he was a local preacher for 67 years, taking his last service in Sept. 07), ecumenism, the Liberal cause, the community and the many organisations and causes in which he was interested and which he supported tirelessly.

I do hope that, following the changes being made, the OEA will flourish. In particular, I hope that many young lads from less affluent backgrounds will be enabled to attend KES because of your efforts.

With best wishes,  
*Joan W. Goudie*

*[The Chairman of the OEA wishes to say that his Committee has been touched and delighted to receive this letter because it supports and aligns so closely with the changes that have been taking place.]*

#### **From Mr. Bernard Adams**

Dear Editor,

Early in my stint in the editorial chair I queried in committee the title of the Gazette. Should it be the Old Edwardian, the Old Edwardians or the Old Edwardians' Gazette? At the time it was the second of these and I maintained that this was ungrammatical on the grounds that, although English permits the use of a noun as an attributive adjective, a noun so used has to be in the singular. The apostrophe of the third possibility legitimises the plural (as in tradesmen's entrance, members' pavilion and the like) but with the implication 'for the use of', 'exclusive to', a quasi-possessive or associative form that seemed to me at best fussy and at worst meaningless. My contention was that 'Old Edwardian Gazette' was linguistically unexceptionable, as it said what needed to be said without inviting linguistic quibbles. The Committee, however, proved impervious to considerations of syntax, preferred what they were used to and Old Edwardians Gazette remained.

Now I see that in the material recently circulated the apostrophised form has surfaced, and we have the Old Edwardians' Association. It may be that, living as I do far from the alma mater, I have missed whatever discussion led to this subtle change, or it may simply be that someone has – with the best of intentions – tacitly corrected what he felt to be an error. As, however, both the Gazette and indeed the Association as a whole are represented of one of the country's leading educational establishments we cannot afford to be exposed to criticism on such a point. I would therefore repeat my argument as stated above, and hope that space may be found in your columns for informed discussion so that we can in fact get it right.

Yours truly,  
*Bernard Adams (1958)*

#### **From Mr. Christopher Latham**

Dear Editor,

I thought OEs might be interested to hear of honours that have come the way of OEs in the City of London. Last year John White (1973) was elected an Alderman for the Billingsgate Ward Club and later in the year was elected Master of my own Livery Company, The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards. About the same time, in November 2008, Professor Rodney Cartwright (1958) was elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. In 1992 Geoff Darby (1946) became Master of the Worshipful Company of Marketors, followed by myself when I became Master of the Worshipful Company of Playing Cards in 1993. I was very fortunate to become Master at this particular time for during my year we were honoured to have, for the one and only time in our history, which dates back to 1628, our own Lord Mayor of the City of London. I processed in my own carriage in the Lord Mayor's Show.

Have there be any other OEs who have been Masters of a Livery Company in the City of London?

Yours sincerely,  
*Chris Latham (1950)*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### From Mr. David Ganderton

Dear Editor,

Reading on-line past editions of the Chronicle not only brought back memories, most of them agreeable, but also reminded me of the diversity of talent, experience of life and sometimes eccentricity of the members of the Common Room (an all-male institution of which I was a member) during the decade 1964-74. The fun exercise I have devised will, I hope, confirm my contention with the readership of the Gazette.

Can you identify the following?

1. An accomplished trumpet player, he worked with the Political Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office during the Second World War.
2. A Wrangler with a special distinction, he played Bridge for England.
3. A survivor from the beaches of Dunkirk.
4. He nearly pipped Kingsley Amis for the post of Lecturer in English at Swansea University.
5. He fiddled with the volume control of his deaf-aid, causing the emission of high-pitched screeching noises.

6. A strawberry farmer pas excellence.

7. He could sing Lili Marlene in five different languages.

8. A member of the Modern Language Department, he was Orgon in the staff production of Tartuffe in 1964.

9. A brave and reticent survivor of Japanese prisoner of war camps.

10. Knowledgeably regarded as the best batsman outside the County Championship.

11. His Rolls Royce seized up.

12. A former member of the Chemistry Department, he went on in due course to be Headmaster of Reigate Grammar School.

13. He worked with the Maquis during the Second World War.

14. He constructed a superb garden gauge railway and played the organ and the double bass.

15. As well as being rugby correspondent of the Financial Times and the wielder of Excalibur, he became Senior Project Executive with Bryant Construction Design.

16. Widespread applause greeted his appearance as Louis XIV in the staff production of Tartuffe.

17. After introducing Advanced Level Economics, he returned as Headmaster of St. George's School, Buenos Aires.

18. He was with the Royal Signals in India in the Second World War; in peacetime he played full-back for Moseley.

19. He became Cathedral Organist at Hereford.

20. He played rugby for Llandovery and later became the JMB's Chief Examiner in O Level English.

Jack Roberts does not feature in any of the answers to these questions but, if my memory hasn't played tricks on me, he caused the most laughter in a staff room not short of wits and raconteurs when he recalled being a Fifth Form Tutor and the Secretary came into his room, brandishing a register and saying, "Have you got VD, Mr. Roberts?"

Yours sincerely

David Ganderton (ex-Member of Staff)

*[We hope Old Edwardians of all ages, renowned as they are for their perception and intellectual acumen, will rise to this challenge. Answer in the next edition BUT a small (and probably rather silly) prize will be awarded to the sender of the first totally correct answer the Editor receives.]*



### From Mr. Robert Darlaston

Dear Editor,

The article I wrote recalling School life in the 1950s, which was published in the Gazette a few years ago has been on our family website for some time. Occasionally it is discovered by an OE browsing 'Google' and I have had some kind letters over the years. But I was amazed and delighted when I recently received an e-mail from a Mr. David Griffiths who is a nephew of J.D. Copland and who had found the web page.

As schoolboys in the 1950s we were probably convinced that our masters had no private existence and spent their nights and holidays shut away in cupboards in the Common Room. Of none would that have been more true than "Coco". So it was fascinating to have the veil lifted to reveal the man away from school. Below is what David Griffiths wrote:

"James Denison Copland was my uncle, my Mother's youngest brother. He did not marry until late in life and, when still unmarried, he used to stay with my grandmother in Liverpool during the school holidays. When I was in my early teens I used to find him rather intimidating; he used to fire unexpected questions at me – "Tell me, what was the date of Waterloo?"

"He also used to get my sister and me to run round the block with him, timing us with a stop watch. He would sometimes ask my Mother to carry out running repairs on his gown which was so old it had a green tinge about it. The sleeves were torn and much shortened by catching on desks – I had learnt the trick of gently feeding the sleeve over a protruding section of desk whilst a master was stationary by one's desk.

"After my grandmother died, Uncle Denny (as he was known) used to stay with us. He was a very early riser and it was not unusual for him to shout upstairs at 6 a.m., "I'm off; see you next Wednesday". This would be followed by an earth-shattering slam of the front door. On his return we would get a loud explanation as to where he had been, such as, "Went to Belfast, then on to Scotland to look at Copland graves, most interesting. Ah, ha, ha, ha!"

"I was at Liverpool College and for the whole of my time there the Headmaster was none other than the Reverend Ronald Lunt. The "new traditions" which you mention are almost exact replicas of ones he instigated at the College. The words for the initiation of prefects only varied in that they began, 'I, tenth Principal of this College....' One of his favourite forms of address to a boy was, 'You loathsome creature, what would yer father say?'

"In the War he was a padre; on one occasion he was driving around the desert on his own taking comforts to the troops. In the distance he saw a group of men standing round a broken down British vehicle. He drove over to them and too late discovered they were Germans. They took him prisoner and told him to drive them to the German lines. In the back of his jeep was a crate of spirits intended for our troops. He told the Germans they could help themselves to the contents, ("Help yerselves ter the contents of the crate."), which they did with relish. After a while they were well away so he gradually changed course until he was driving towards the British lines. Upon arrival they were taken prisoner. Maybe this was the action that earned him his MC?"

I hope other OEs find these glimpses of the past as fascinating as I do

All good wishes,  
*Robert Darlaston (1959)*

## NOTES AND NEWS

*[Editor's Note: The following notes represent only a fraction of the information that has come in since Simon Lerwill, the Development Director, started "hunting down" the Lost Boys. The full list is posted on the Old Edwardians web site.]*

**Christopher J. Evans (1929)** celebrated his 100th birthday in November. His whole career was spent as a clergyman, mainly as a chaplain. He now lives in a Retirement home in Solihul

**John Bakewell (1945)** is now in retirement after 43 years in the Merchant Navy, rising to the rank of Captain. He was on the Council and Technical Committee of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.



**Geoffrey Gardiner (1947)** celebrated his eightieth birthday by climbing Ben Nevis for the ninth time, accompanied by his two sons and daughter. He first climbed the mountain in 1959 and is a member of the Trust that owns and runs the mountain

**Brian Baker (1950)** has now retired after practising Rural Medicine in Canada for 50 years. He lives on 40 forested acres overlooking Lake Huron.

**Philip K. Harber (1951)** has also retired after teaching in Canada. He lives in Brazil and is learning to paint and play the flamenco guitar.

**Gordon T. Woods (1954)** has recently completed the Wainwright Coast to Coast Walk.

**Bernard Adams (1955)** having forsaken the rigours of the Editorial chair here at the Gazette for the balmier flesh-pots of Hungary, is pursuing his life as a writer and translator. Most recently he has published a translation of the novel *Jaguar* by Jeno Heltai and of the classic Letters from Turkey. He can be reached on [bernardsadams@t-online.hu](mailto:bernardsadams@t-online.hu)

**A.M. Bean (1958)** having spent his career gazing at floods is now spending his retirement honing his skills as a curmudgeon, or so he informs us.

**Chris Gardiner (1959)** retired as a Chief Systems Engineer in 2003 but continues to work for his Company; he has recently flown to Singapore to shoot a few troubles.

**John L. Sessions (1959)** joined the Royal Navy from school. He rose to the rank of Commander and upon retiring from the Service, practised Law. In 1992 he was appointed a Circuit Judge for the south eastern circuit and from 1995 until 2008 was Judge Advocate of the Fleet. He now lives in rural Sussex.

**Paul B. Matthews (1959)** worked in banking and has now retired to Costa Rica.!

**Gordon E. Stollard (1960)** having been an orthopaedic surgeon in Harrogate for 25 years, retired and spent 3 years cruising the Caribbean.

**Michael W. Bill (1960)** has recently returned to the Midlands and would like to link up with anyone who remembers him: [aubynaviation@fsmail.com](mailto:aubynaviation@fsmail.com)

**Terry Wall (1961)** won the Mensa UK National Golf Tournament in 2008 and successfully defended his title again this year. [Modestly he adds that "there were only about 20 players and the rules favoured his handicap."]

**John M. Rock (1962)** is doing voluntary work in Asia and the Pacific.

**David Crigman (1963)** practises at the Bar in Birmingham and, in his spare time, writes crime fiction. [For details see the publications list]

**John A. White (1963)** has lived in Belgrade since 1983. He retired from the EU in 2008



**Anthony J. Herring (1964)** writes to say that he has recently retired from the company that supplies half of Tesco's fresh pork.

**Edmund J. Steele (1966)** has recently completed a six year, 36,000 mile circumnavigation of the planet with his wife in a sailing vessel.

**Derek Benson (1953)** has received the following letter from **Peter Oldershaw (1969)**:

"Dear Sir!  
You were my form teacher in Science Upper Sixth C in 1968/9. We met briefly at a biennial dinner at the School about six years ago. Last year I was diagnosed with Motor Neurone's Disease and I am writing to ask if any Old Edwardians know of anything that may slow down or cure this disease. I had been hoping to come to the reunion which is taking place soon as I would like to go round the School again. I am still mobile but sadly I am not up for the drinks and meal any more. Forgive this e-mail and not telephone but I can no longer talk.

Thank you for your help  
With kindest regards  
Peter Oldershaw

Before illness overtook him Peter had a distinguished career as a Director of ACT Group plc.

**Avijit Mitra (1971)** is Head of Classics and Assistant Chaplain at King's School, Rochester. He can be reached at: [avijit@mitra1953.plus.com](mailto:avijit@mitra1953.plus.com)

**Nick L. Jones (1972)** has been a teacher, a systems analyst and a postman – which he still is..

**Jim Grant (1973)** is better known as Lee Child. He is a hugely successful writer of what he himself calls "Airport Fiction". His last novel, 'Gone Tomorrow', the thirteenth 'Jack Reacher' thriller, was a number one Best-Seller in nearly every country in the world. His next novel will be published in the spring.

**Martin Hathaway (1974)** plays chess in the Birmingham District Chess League. He is interested in setting up an O.E. chess team. Anyone interested should contact him on: [hathawayfamily@AOL.com](mailto:hathawayfamily@AOL.com)

**Paul D. Cockerham (1975)** has been a vet in Falmouth since 1985.

**Howard J. Whitehouse (1976)** in his own words, "has done thirty-three years of stuff, most recently building a house at the bottom of a ravine in Nicaragua. It's not my own house. I actually share an old church manse in New York's Hudson Valley with Lori, my wife of 26 years, four cats and several thousand model soldiers. I earn a modest crust by designing games, building custom models, and writing novels for young people. My most recent book is 'The Island of Mad Scientists.' I can be reached on: [professorbellbuckle@yahoo.com](mailto:professorbellbuckle@yahoo.com)

**Paul M. Ruddock (1976)** is Chairman of the V & A Museum, London, a member of the international advising panel of Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore and a member of the visiting committee of medical art of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He is a Fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford.

**Peter Wynne-Wilson (1977)** founded the Big Brum Theatre-in-Education Company in 1982; has written thirty-eight plays, mainly for children; is the Visiting Professor of Theatre for Children at the Korean National University of the Arts and is also working on Early Years Development at Birmingham Rep.

**Mick P. Ozimek (1978)** is a GP in New Zealand: [mpo@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mpo@xtra.co.nz)

**Andrew J. Willetts (1981)** is Finance Director of Lloyds Pharmacy

**Robert W. Lawrance (1981)** was Durham Diocesan Director of Ordinands and is now Team Rector of the Durham North Team Ministry with seven churches to look after and run.

**Stuart Plotnek (1984)** is an amateur racing driver and won the Britcar Production Saloon Championship in 2006.

**Carl Robinson (1987)** is Publishing Manager for Digital, Schools ELT (English Language Teaching). He assures everyone that "it's not boring".

**Etienne M. Moore (1989)** is Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer & consultant general surgeon in laparoscopic & colorectal surgery at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals.

**Rob Yeung (1989)** is a psychologist and appears regularly on TV, including BBC Breakfast, BBC News 24. [See also the list of recent publications]

**Syed Ahmed (1989)** has just been appointed Chief Medical Officer for Shell UK

## NOTES AND NEWS

**Alex Hurley (1990)** “after 15 years working my way up I have become a senior(ish) marketing bod at ‘Homeserve’ (the biggest company most people have never heard of)”

**Angus Jackson (1991)** has just directed ‘The Power of One’ by David Hare, which is currently running at The National Theatre

**Nick Hockley (1993)** is Senior Commercial Manager for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games & Paralympic Games. In his spare time he has got engaged.

**Charlie I McLachlan (1994)** “Phd, 2 kids, programmer”

**Tom Armitage (1996)** is commanding the Life Guards Squadron in the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment; he commanded the Sovereign’s Escort at the Queen’s Birthday Parade on the 13th June, 2009

**Peter J.P. Ellison (1998)** is still a serving RN Officer, currently working with the Italian Navy in an exchange programme, with the main focus on counter-piracy operations. From Jan.2010 permanently based in the U.K.

**Dan. S. Burns (1999)** passed out of Sandhurst as a doctor in November 2008; is currently based in Afghanistan on Operation Herrick and, when this tour is over will be based in Germany with 2 Medical Regiment:  
danburns@doctors.net.uk

**Mohammed Ali (2000)** currently working for an engineering charity in Darfur: his firm provides security/safety training dealing with critical incidents in “insecure environments” !

**Mark T. Colman (2002)** is teaching physics at a school in Doncaster

**James Waddell (2004)** has demonstrated most admirably that brain and brawn can go together. He achieved a 1st Class Hons Degree in Modern Languages & has been elected to a Bundy Scholarship at Magdalene College, Cambridge. He also became British Universities Light-heavyweight Kickboxing champion 2009; founded the Kick-boxing Club at Cambridge University and organised the first Varsity Match with Oxford in 2007.

**Matthew S. Riddell (2005)** graduated from Leeds Univ with a 1st in Aviation Technology with Pilot Studies. Graduated from RAF Cranwell in May 2009 and is now on Elementary Flying Training at RAF Wyton.

**Andrew Miller (2006)** is an Institute of Civil Engineers QUEST Scholar and is into the final of the ‘npower Future Leaders’ Challenge’; if his team wins he will be off to Antarctica in 2010.

## O.E. PUBLICATIONS (recent and to come)

Anthony I. Rees (1950):  
‘An Obscure Philanthropist’:  
Frank Matthews 1871-1948  
Castle View Books 2009

Michael Counsell (1954):  
The Canterbury Preacher’s Companion  
Canterbury Press 2010

Bernard S. Adams (1955):  
‘Jaguar’ by Jenő Heltai  
& ‘Letters from Turkey’  
Both translated from the Hungarian

Nick McCarty (1958):  
‘Fox: Cromwell’s Spy’ a novel  
Questor Books, late 2009 or early 2010

David Crigman (1963):  
‘In Death We Trust’ The third part of a crime trilogy,  
Published in November 2009

Jim Grant/Lee Child (1973):  
‘Gone Tomorrow’ The thirteenth ‘Jack Reacher’ novel was published in the Spring of 2009; the Fourteenth will be published in Spring 2010 For fuller information go to:  
LeeChild@nyc.rr.com



Roger Rees (1986):  
'Ted Hughes and the Classics'  
ed. Oxford U.P. June 2009

David Warr (1988):  
Online resource for learning English:  
Can be found on:  
[www.languagegarden.org](http://www.languagegarden.org)

Rob Yeung (1989):  
'Personality: How to unleash your  
hidden strength'  
Prentice Hall 2009



## OLD EDWARDIANS GAZETTE: BIRTHS AND DEATHS - OBITUARIES

### Births:

We are pleased to announce the following births:

Warren Cowell (1986) a daughter, Ruby, sister for Sam & Millie  
Syed Ahmed (1989) a daughter, Samara  
Oliver Johnson (1992) & Maria a daughter, Rebecca Maria, sister for Emily  
David J. Clark (1997) & Victoria a son, Daniel Stephen  
Andy Muinonen-Martin (1997) a daughter Iris Miriam  
Raveem Ismail (formerly Tahir) (2000) & Khadija a son, Zachariah

### Marriages:

We congratulate the following on their marriages:

David Warr (1988) to Mathilida Oluoch – August 2009  
Greg Nixon (2001) to Elizabeth Chapman – May 2009  
Christopher Branson (2002) to Tova Turkel – October 2008  
Chris. Mellor (2002) to Ruth Milne – November 2009  
Hasnain Ramji (2004) to Nasreen – April 2009

### Deaths:

We announce with regret the deaths of the following Old Edwardians:

Arthur C. Muffett (1926)  
W. Kenneth Wyatt (1930)  
Britton T.J. Goudie (1933)  
Peter G. Mason (1933)  
Sidney H. Ireland (1934)  
Michael J. Bench (1937)  
Sir Edward Downes CBE (1939)  
Thomas ('Tom') G. Freeman (1939)  
Arthur B. Knapp (1939)  
David F. Bench (1940)  
Major 'Terry' A. Podesta OBE (1940)  
A. Clive Williams (1940)  
E. Norman Ludlow (1946)  
Keith S. Parsons (1946)  
Anthony (Tony) J. Wainwright (1947)  
T. F. Harrison Oxley (1951)  
John H. Whitfield (1957)  
Reverend Edward Coombes (1958)  
Peter R. M. Matthews (1965)  
Furrokh Panthaki (1976)



**THOMAS GEOFFREY ('TOM') FREEMAN (1939) : 1921 – 2009**

Tom Freeman was born in Edgbaston in 1921 and moved to Northfield eight years later. He had happy recollections of his childhood; his clearest recollections were of family outings to the Lickeys, and practising the rudiments of cricket with his father in the kitchen of their first house. The family, with five children to be brought up, had enough for the necessities of life but no surplus for luxuries; nevertheless the five children were all properly clad and shod – no toes poking through their shoes.

Tom's schooling at St. Laurence's, Northfield served him well for, on the

evidence of his performance in the admission examination for King Edward's, Five Ways, in 1932, he was offered a place at King Edward's itself in New Street. He entered the school on a Foundation Scholarship, a King Edward's Scholarship and an award from the Piddock Foundation, a charitable trust which assisted needy parents with the costs of uniform, etc. Tom's recollections of life in the New Street school were ambivalent: the standard of teaching, especially in Maths and Latin, failed to inspire him.

"Still there was always cricket." Tom first played for the 1st XI in 1935 at the age of fourteen and went on to be vice-captain (1937) and captain (1938-39). The Chronicle of the time shows that in thirty matches over five seasons Tom bowled with astonishing economy and accuracy, taking a wicket, on average, every seven runs. Three highlights were his 6 for 23, including a hat-trick, against the Common Room in 1935, 5 for 18 against the Old Edwardians in 1937 and 10 for 52 against Ashfield in 1938. Although Tom's greatest feats were as a bowler, he was a fine batsman too, with career bests of 98 and 91 in 1938. The Chronicle of 1937 described him as "the best all-round cricketer the School has had for many years." He also gained his Athletics Colours (1938-39) & Rugby Colours (1939). When he went up to Cambridge he gained a Cricket Blue in 1940.



In December 1939 he gained a minor scholarship in Classics at Gonville & Caius College; under wartime regulations he went up in the following January and took his degree after five terms, instead of the now customary nine. His move to Cambridge proved momentous as it was there that he met Margaret Young, as she then was. He has recounted how, in the latter part of the summer term of 1940, after a Sunday spent punting, he and Margaret, on their walk back from the river bank to the Red Lion pub, “exchanged the smile that set the pattern for the rest of our lives.” They were duly married on 17 December, 1943 at King’s Heath parish church.

By that time Tom was into war service. He joined the RAF in July 1941 and his war service, mainly as an intelligence officer, took him to Weeton, near Blackpool, Skeabrae in Orkney and Kinloss. He was selected to learn Hungarian and passed out top in his final examination; as a result of this, at the end of the war, when he was given an early “demob”, he was offered the Chair of Hungarian at the University of London. However, this did not appeal and he decided to return to Cambridge to do a teacher’s training diploma.

In 1946 he took up his first teaching post at UCS, Hampstead where he spent the next five years. Of his time there he later

wrote that he made most of his mistakes there and had to work long hours to keep ahead of the clever sixth formers. However, the difficulties of living in Ealing on a salary of just £425 per annum meant that he was more than happy to move back to Birmingham in 1951 when he was appointed to the Classics Department at King Edward’s. He and his family moved into Bryony Road and this proved to be his home for the rest of his days.

Tom described his long stint at K.E. as “fairly uneventful” – “the odd spot of teaching”, running Cricket and Rugby teams, involvement in the RAF section of the CCF, editor of the Chronicle, Housemaster of Levett (1962-76). From 1972 until his retirement in 1981 he held the post of Under Master, a post that made him in effect number three in the School hierarchy or, as he put it, “dogsbody to the Second Master”, responsible for all kinds of administrative duties, such as the organisation of parents’ meetings, Speech days and Founder’s Day.

‘Ferd’ or ‘Ferdie’ to generations of Edwardians, he possessed an unmatched mastery of Greek and Latin language and metre. As a teacher he had the ability to enthuse his pupils with his succinct expositions of grammar and literature. He demanded of his pupils the highest standards of accuracy and set a pace to

stretch the most able, without leaving the plodders behind. He was loved by his pupils and equally by his colleagues, in particular his junior ones in the Classics department who looked up to him as a mentor. In that unofficial role he was gentle in guidance yet firm when the need arose, always approachable and free from any taint of condescension.

In retirement Tom was the most faithful attender at School functions such as Speech Day, Founder’s Day and the CCF Annual Inspection. Retirement gave him the opportunity not only to travel – he and Margaret went variously to Hong Kong, Australia, China, Thailand and Singapore – but also to spend time with his grandchildren and to re-read the Classics, above all Vergil, whom he poignantly quoted in old age: the lament of the aged King Evander, too enfeebled to accompany his son, Pallas, into battle  
“O mihi praeteritos referat si Iuppiter annos!” \*  
and the warning of the Sibyl about the phantoms in the entrance hall to the Underworld, among them  
“tristis senectus” \*\*

Ever true to character, Tom made light of old age but it was a time of anxiety for him. For many years he cared for his beloved Margaret as she descended into dementia; his greatest sorrow was the knowledge, as he lay in hospital with his

children at his bedside, that he could no longer look after her.

To no Old Edwardian does the characterisation “all-rounder” more truly apply than to Tom Freeman – scholar, sportsman, teacher, linguist, traveller and family man. His reference from UCS in 1951 described him as “charmingly easy to get on with” and Maurice Porter, who knew Tom for more than forty years, considered him the most all-round talented person he had ever met. All those who were privileged to know him would heartily concur. He was one of those special people who enrich and enlarge the lives of all around them. Tom had a very good innings.

*Philip Lambie*

\* “If Jupiter would only restore to me the years that are past

\*\* “Sad old age”

*[We very much regret that, because of the exigencies of space, we have had to abridge the very fine piece that Philip Lambie wrote about Tom Freeman. We apologise to Philip and to Tom’s family and hope that what is printed above does justice both to Tom and to Philip’s splendid eulogy – Ed.]*

## OLD EDWARDIANS GAZETTE: OBITUARIES

### ARTHUR C MUFFETT (1926): 1907 – 2009

Arthur Muffett died peacefully in his sleep in hospital in Hereford after a short illness on the 20th December last. Up to the early part of that month he was as alert and involved as ever and indeed attended church only three days before he was taken ill.

Born in 1907, he came to King Edward's in 1922 at the age of 15, his arrival having been delayed because he lacked the standard of Latin necessary for entry at that time. He gained his colours for rugby and went on to play for the Old Edwardians First XV, at a time when their opponents included Cardiff, Coventry, Bath and Sale. Later, when work and years intervened he played for the 'Extras' and continued to do so until, as he put it, he was "too old to keep up with the action."

He spent his working life with the Royal Insurance Company in Birmingham and for ten years he edited the OE 'Gazette'. When he retired he and his wife moved to Kingland near Leominster in Herefordshire. In later years he moved to sheltered accommodation in Dilwyn where he was a much loved and respected member of the community. On the occasion of his hundredth birthday a bench inscribed with his name was placed on the village green.

He was a loyal and devoted Old Edwardian, attending the annual and biennial dinners until he was 95. He always looked forward to receiving and reading the 'Gazette' and took a lively interest in everything it reported. His love of the School and of the Association was at the heart of his life.

*From information provided  
by Pat Muffett*

*A full appreciation of Arthur's life and  
involvement with the OEA will appear in  
the next edition of the Gazette - Ed.*

### PETER G. MASON, MA, MBE (1933): 1914 – 2009

Peter Mason was born in Handsworth; both his parents were teachers. From King Edward's he went on to Christ's College, Cambridge where he took a First in Classics.

From 1936 to 1940 he taught Classics at Cheltenham College. He spoke fluent French and German and during the Second World War he served in the Intelligence Corps first at HQ 21 Army Group and later in "a department of the Foreign Office.". He was appointed MBE in 1946

The war over he taught Classics at Rugby for three years before going as headmaster to Aldenham School, where he remained until 1961. One of the youngest public school heads of his day, he raised the academic standards of Aldenham; as a devout Anglican he was proud to oversee the completion of the school chapel and he also added a new boarding house.

In 1962 he was appointed High Master of Manchester Grammar School. Soon after he had taken over he realised that, while the calibre of boys and staff was extremely high, the school was in danger of becoming "parochial". He wanted to humanise the place, improve the boys' social behaviour, their dress and discipline, and give them a broader, all-round education.

At the same time it became clear that the Labour Party, then in opposition, was intending to abolish the direct grant system. Convinced that academic excellence was being threatened for political ends, Mason felt that a new philosophy was needed, that a new way of funding bright children from poorer families was required. He was soon playing a leading role in setting up such a scheme, notably as vice-chairman of the HMC direct grant committee which put forward a plan for financially assisted places at independent schools. This scheme worked very successfully until Tony Blair abolished it after his election in 1997.

Closer to home, as High Master, he searched tirelessly for funds, raising more than £1 million, leaving the school thriving and independent. One former colleague said of him: "He was not a showman headmaster: he was more like Eliot's Macavity – you never knew quite how he did what he did to run the school so well, and when you looked, Macavity wasn't there."

After leaving MGS he remained active in education, embarking on a series of visits to look at independent education in Europe and writing several books on the subject. His work led to the creation of the European Council of National



Associations of Independent Schools of which he was chairman from 1988 to 1994.

In later life he lived at Longborough, Gloucestershire, where he enjoyed walking in the Cotswolds, fly-fishing and gardening. As a lay preacher, he took services in the local church, delivering erudite sermons which were published regularly in the local press. He was married three times and leaves a widow, Marjorie and three daughters from his first marriage.

*Extracted from the obituary in the Daily Telegraph, 24th August 2009*



**SIR EDWARD DOWNES CBE (1939) :  
1924 – 2009**

'Ted' Downes was born on June 17th, 1924; his father was a bank clerk, though not always in work and the family lived close to the Aston Villa football ground. His parents were highly religious and highly intolerant and the thought of their son wanting to be a musician filled them with horror: "My mother would have regarded Debussy as pornographic," Downes once said when later in life he started to talk about his unhappy childhood. Nevertheless he began learning the piano and violin at the age of 5 and sang as a boy chorister when he came to King Edward's in 1935.

Though forced to leave school at the age of 15 through lack of money, he won a scholarship to read English and Music at Birmingham University where he also

began playing the cor anglais. (His parents only discovered his scholarship success by reading the news in the Birmingham Post) He graduated at the early age of 19 and won another scholarship to the Royal College of Music; and yet a third, after being appointed as a lecturer at the University of Aberdeen, to go and study with Hermann Scherchen in Zurich. Among his duties while out there was to read the Berlin newspapers in German to Scherchen's aged, blind mother.

Back in Britain Downes became a session musician playing the French horn but then was appointed as a répétiteur at Covent Garden; his first job was prompting Maria Callas in Norma. He was taken under the wing of the incoming musical director, Rafael Kubelik and thus was given several opportunities to conduct major works in the repertoire, including *La Bohème* and *Der Freischütz*. He stayed at Covent Garden for 17 years, working alongside Carlo Maria Giulini and Georg Solti and was ultimately appointed Associate Music Director in 1991.

At various times during this period he was the Director of the Australian opera, principal conductor of the BBC Philharmonic and the Netherlands Radio Orchestra. He was perhaps too content and easy-going about his work to be an international success in the highly-strung world of classical music. When asked, on

one occasion, where the key to Sir George Solti's success lay, he replied, "He was a bastard – a marvellous man and a great conductor but a complete bastard when he needed to be. That sort of ruthlessness just wasn't in my nature."

Downes's lifetime in opera taught him to be in many ways a pragmatic man. He recognised that stars were needed to sell seats but he had no truck with the glamour and socialising that are also part of the operatic world. He believed in hard work, disciplined rehearsal and total command of the score. Through and through he was an opera house man and a supreme technician. In the later stages of his career he found himself afflicted by failing eyesight and by increasing deafness as a result of which he was forced to withdraw from the opera and concert scene.

He was appointed CBE in 1986 and knighted in 1991.

He and his wife Joan, a former ballet dancer and choreographer, took the decision to travel to Zurich to the Dignitas assisted suicide clinic to end their lives together after she was diagnosed with terminal cancer. They are survived by their son and daughter.

*Extrapolated from the obituaries in the 'Times' & the 'Daily Telegraph'*

## OLD EDWARDIANS GAZETTE: OBITUARIES



**DR. T. F. ('FRED') HARRISON OXLEY  
(1951): 1933 – 2009**

Harrison Oxley, or 'Fred' as he was always called at School and will be called hereafter, was born in Sheffield; his father was a metallurgist in the steel industry. From an early age he showed himself an exceptional keyboard player.

By the time he was eight his family had moved to Birmingham where he joined the choir of Bournville parish church. His father became deputy organist there and Fred initially learnt to play the organ by watching him practise and by listening to recitals.

At 11 he was taken to play to the renowned organist of the Town Hall, George Cunningham, who advised him to

pursue a musical career and to go to King Edward's. He entered the School in 1944 and two years later was awarded a Foundation Scholarship; initially he was under the tutelage of Philip Cranmer but he left in 1948 and thereafter Fred came under the guidance of Willis Grant, to whom he was assistant at Birmingham Cathedral. Despite his studious, even owl-like, appearance with his round glasses and deliberate, slightly portly mien, he had a twinkle in his eye and a sly sense of humour. At his final assembly in Big School, an occasion of some solemnity for those about to leave, as the (then) Headmaster, T.E.B. Howarth, began the procession to leave after the blessing, Fred, who was playing the organ, played several thunderous and majestic chords before launching into 'Theme and Variations on "The Teddy Bears' Picnic".' Tom Howarth, peering up at the organ loft didn't know whether to frown or laugh; he chose the latter.

In 1951 he went up to Christ Church Oxford as an organ scholar. Here he became the accompanist to the Oxford Bach Choir and met his future wife, the violinist Dorothy Tanton. In 1954 he graduated with a First in music and went off to do his National Service in the Royal Signals, honing his skills as a dance band pianist, before moving on to Bury St. Edmunds in 1957 as the organist. At the age of 24 he was the youngest cathedral

organist in the country and he designed the new four-manual Nicholson organ for the cathedral which was then being "converted" from parish church to full-blown cathedral with the addition of some wonderfully sympathetic building. There he not only conducted the cathedral choir but also the Bury Bach Choir, with whom he did some rarely heard and 'risky' pieces.

During his tenure of the post he introduced girls into the cathedral choir; although it has since become a standard practice in many cathedrals and churches, at the time it was unusual and potentially unpopular. The experiment ended when a traditionally minded Provost, Raymond Furnell took office in 1981 and Fred resigned three years later on a point of principle.

After his resignation he stayed in the area, composing, teaching and examining. After accepting an invitation to give a recital at the USAF Academy Chapel in Colorado in the 1960s he went on regular tours of the U.S. as a solo organist.

Fred and music in Bury St. Edmunds were synonymous, even after the recalcitrant clergy caused his untimely resignation from the cathedral in 1984. (His sense of humour never deserted him and he would often allude to George Orwell's apocalyptic novel when the date of his

leaving was mentioned.) In 1985 he formed the St. Cecilia Singers and he also contributed regularly to the BBC Radio's 'Children's Hour, both as pianist and composer.

He was often exuberantly entertaining with stories of his youth. He was a gifted choir trainer and a highly accomplished organist and pianist. In 2003 he suffered a serious stroke, after which he had to learn to play the organ all over again. He died of heart failure on April 6th, aged 76, leaving a wife and three children, all of whom became musicians.

*from the 'Times': 29.6.09*



N. J. F. O'Leary, M. T. Howard, B. T. England, B. C. Harvey, H. J. Gos.

**W. KENNETH WYATT (1930):**  
1911 – 2009

Kenneth Wyatt died in the early months of 2009 in his 98th year. Because he lived a long life, he had become one of the increasingly small band of OEs remaining from the New Street era, but he was also one of the School's most outstanding cricketers.

He played in the XI from 1927 to 1930 and was captain in his last year. During his time the XI enjoyed great success, and there were a number of high scoring batsmen, including W.E. Sandbach, F.L. Bland and F.N. Bryan, but Wyatt was more prolific than any of them. In 1928 he scored 639 runs, including two centuries within four days; this was a record aggregate for a season which stood for more than twenty years, until F.B. Revill and then A.C. Smith beat it in the 1950s.

An even more telling statistic is that Wyatt's career total of 1583 runs stood as a record for nearly 35 years until John Barnfield passed it in 1965. We know that in Test Cricket the moderns have scored many more runs than batsmen such as Bradman and Hammond in the 1930s, but just as Bradman and Hammond stood head and shoulders above their contemporaries, so did Wyatt at King Edward's. He was a bowler too, with a career total of 112 wickets, and his all-round feats were remarkable, including 52 and 8-56 against Denstone in 1930.

Kenneth continued with his cricket after leaving school, playing for Warwickshire Second XI for some years, and in club and league cricket. For Warwickshire Seconds he helped cause confusion among the scorers by opening the batting with R.A.D. Wyatt, brother of the famous R.E.S. Wyatt, the Warwickshire and England captain, though there is no record of the three of them ever playing together.

When he finished playing cricket, Kenneth took up golf. However, after years of lugging a heavy cricket bag around, he resolved that he was going to play golf with a single club – a driver. He putted with the back of the driver, playing left-handed. Though in later life he remained interested in cricket, there was much in the modern game that he deplored, such as “too much hugging and kissing at the

fall of a wicket.”

In retirement Kenneth lived in Mickleton, where he enjoyed the serenity of village life: “one is most unlikely to die of excitement in Mickleton.”

*Peter Handford (1965)*

**SIDNEY H. IRELAND BCOM, BSC: (1934)**

Sidney was born in Birmingham and, after his time at King Edward's , went on to Birmingham University where he attained his first degree in Commerce. He worked first in an engineering company in Birmingham and at the outbreak of WWII joined the BSA Company, working there as Production Manager on the development of the Sten and Bren guns.

After the war he joined a company of consultants during which time he developed an interest in the welfare of workers and wrote a book about eye-strain at work. He then returned to BSA for a time before moving south and joining Consolidated Pneumatic where he eventually became Managing Director.

After he officially retired he decided to study law and became a barrister and a Member of the Institute of Arbitrators. He also continued his life-long hobby of Magic and was a Member of the Magic Circle. He lived for some years with his brother in Stoke Poges until Alzheimers Disease overtook him.

## OLD EDWARDIANS GAZETTE: OBITUARIES

### **MICHAEL J. BENCH : (1937)**

Michael Bench died aged 83 while on holiday in Cornwall. For many years he lived in Dartmouth Park, London, on the edge of Hampstead. His obituary, published in the Camden New Journal on 16th July was headed, "Architect who fought for the image of Hampstead." It went on, "...he was a celebrated architect who spent many years defending Hampstead from unsympathetic projects....His Voluntary work helped preserve and enhance the area."

He qualified as an architect from the Birmingham School of Architecture in 1951 and completed his National Service in the Royal Navy. After studying Town & Regional Planning in London, he worked for a spell in the schools division of the Coventry Architect's Department. He moved to join the Ministry of Health's architectural research team and was responsible for developments at Walton Hospital in Liverpool and the rebuilding of Greenwich Hospital.

Away from his career, friends recall the enthusiasm he brought to everything he did. His charm was well known, his sense of humour put people at their ease and he endlessly made friends with his manner. His passions included fine wines and his cellar was regularly opened to share with

guests. His close companions feel a deep sense of loss at his departure. He remained unmarried all his life.

*John Collins (1937)*

### **ARTHUR B. KNAPP, LLB., BSC., JP.: (1939)**

After his time at King Edward's Arthur Knapp went to Birmingham University where he gained a BSc in Chemistry. In 1954 he joined Imperial Metals Industries and eventually became assistant company secretary and environment co-ordinator. Having graduated also in Law he was appointed a City Magistrate in 1971; ten years later he became a member, (later Chairman, General Purposes Committee), West Midlands Probation Committee and in 1992 he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Birmingham Bench.

He served from 1980 on the CBSO Council of Management and was elected Chairman of the Board in 1992. He was also a trustee of the MYO. During his time as Chairman he steered the Orchestra through times of considerable financial stringency before relinquishing the post in 1996.

In 1953 he married Sylvia (nee Bowring). They lived for many years in Selly Oak until 1992 when they moved out to Ilmington. Following the death of his wife

in 2007 he moved into a flat in Stratford-on-Avon but his final months were marred by protracted illness. He died, aged 81, in a nursing home near Stratford in January 2009: pre-deceased by his wife, he is survived by a son, two daughters and six grandchildren.

### **MAJOR T.A. (TERRY) PODESTA (1940): 1921 – 2009**

'Terry' Podesta was born in Sutton Coldfield in April 1921 and won a scholarship to King Edward's in 1933. He was at the School in the last years at New Street, was part of the move to the new site – and the legendary Temporary Buildings – in 1937, saw the Great Fire of the same year and later was part of the evacuation to Repton School. He was a keen sportsman, gaining his colours at cricket, fives and chess; and in his last year he was School Captain and was awarded the Dale Memorial Medal.

He had intended to apply for Oxford University, studying Latin, French and History but instead, with the Second World War declared, he and his close friend, Ken Dyer, decided to enlist in the Army.. They were both posted to India and there Terry attended the Officer Training School before being commissioned into the Royal Indian Service Corps in 1942. He was put in

charge of an airborne column, taking rations and ammunition from India to Burma. However, he did not have the healthiest of campaigns; he celebrated his 21st birthday in hospital, having been badly trampled by a polo pony (!) and later he contracted hepatitis and also sand-fly fever. Nevertheless he soldiered on and was in the North West Frontier between 1941 and 1944: during that time he learned Urdu and he kept up his knowledge of this language for the rest of his life.

After the war he found the problems relating to India and the coming Partition deeply upsetting as he had grown to love the country, its culture and people. He returned to England in 1947 and took up a regular commission in the RASC, in his spare time playing hockey (which became his first love), cricket, chess and bridge, as well as becoming highly proficient in ballroom dancing.

In 1950 he resigned his commission and later that year he went to Birmingham University to train as a dental surgeon, qualifying in 1956. While at the University he met Freda who was also studying dentistry and after an "on-off-on" courtship they were married in 1961. They settled in Solihull where they opened separate practices. For the rest of his time in the Midlands, Terry devoted himself to hockey, becoming in turn secretary,



president and finally life vice-president of the Midlands Hockey association. He did a great deal of coaching and umpiring, wrote several authoritative books on the game and, in the late 1970s, was awarded the OBE for services to hockey. Few people have given more to the cause of British Hockey.

Terry and Freda loved the West Country and often holiday'd in the Weston area, so it was no surprise when they decided to buy a holiday home in Bleadon in Somerset. In 1995, having retired, they moved down there permanently and there he died. In June.

*from information supplied by Freda Podesta*

#### **KEITH S. PARSONS (1946): 1928 - 2009**

Keith Silvester Parsons was born in Birmingham on 18th September 1928. His early life was full of the Methodist Church and the Boys' Brigade, in which he played the cornet.. He joined King Edward's in 1939 and took part in the School evacuation to Repton at the outbreak of war. He did well academically and shortly after the end of the war was awarded an Exhibition to study Modern Languages at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

While at Cambridge Keith played rugby and cricket and bridge and learnt to play squash. After graduating he joined the Midland Bank in London, rising to become a senior executive in the Bank's International Division: this latter position involved spells working in Paris and Dusseldorf plus a three year secondment to an affiliated bank in Brussels. He left the Midland Bank in 1979 to become General Manager of the International Commercial Bank a post he held until his retirement in 1985. .

In 1953 Keith married Doreen Milner, a schoolteacher from Derbyshire; In 1955 they moved to Caterham in Surrey where they remained until he died. In retirement he was an elder of the local United Reformed Church and a participant in the University of the Third Age. He was also a member of "Probus" and a founder member of the Caterham Croquet Club

Shortly before his death, to celebrate his 80th birthday, he hired a narrow boat in Warwickshire for a drinks party for friends and family. He died of a chest infection on 13th January 2009, after a short illness. He is survived by his wife, Doreen, three children and five grandchildren, all of whom have inherited his love of languages, food & wine, travel, music and sport.

#### **ANTHONY (TONY) J. WAINWRIGHT (1947): 1934 – 2009**

Tony Wainwright came to KES from Five Ways in 1942. He showed aptitude in the sciences and left the Medical Vith to take his degree at Birmingham University. National Service was spent in the Suez Canal Zone and in Somalia.

After a houseman's job in Kidderminster he entered general practice in Handsworth Wood, finding time to play for the Old Eds. 2nd XV with occasional games for the 1st XV.

Becoming disenchanted with the National Health Service he left medicine for a few years to farm in Cornwall but was eventually drawn back into general practice. For over 20 years he was the much-loved and much-respected doctor in Talgarth as a member of the Hay-on-Wye practice.

He is survived by his wife, Beth and two sons, one of whom is an orthopaedic surgeon.

*Jim Wainwright (1951)*

#### **E. NORMAN LUDLOW (1946): 1928 – 2008**

After wartime evacuation in Gloucestershire, Norman entered KES in 1942. His strengths proved to be non-academic; he became Captain of Shooting in 1945 while in the Lower Sixth and played for the school at rugby, although not quite reaching the First XV.

To learn the basics of the family business he became an apprentice sheet metal worker and studied at evening classes at Birmingham 'Tech' until April 1947 when National Service called. After basic training at Warwick he was transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; he declined the offer of a commission, which would have involved a commitment to seven years' service and was happy to stay as Sergeant when he was selected for his unit's shooting team.

On demob Norman joined the family-owned Ash Group and successfully managed the Group for several years. But in 1978 he took up a senior appointment with Jardines in Hong Kong, specifically to deal with problems in the building of the Mass Transit Railway. Later he joined HMT building the innovative new airport and returned to the U.K. in 1989 to travel in Europe and America as Contracts Manager for the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Trans Manche Link.

## OLD EDWARDIANS GAZETTE: OBITUARIES

Norman's early social life centred on the Hall Green Fellowship, the Youth Club attached to the Church of the Ascension. It was here that he met his wife-to-be, Jeanette Bayliss. They were married in 1952, celebrating their golden anniversary in 2002. With their son and two daughter they remained a devoted and closely knit family in spite of the years of separation across half the world.

His active life eventually became increasingly restricted by heart problems and diabetes but, in spite of an almost complete loss of personal mobility, his lively sense of humour and pragmatism never diminished.. He is survived by his wife, three children and four grandchildren

*John Ludlow*

### **JOHN H. WHITFIELD (1957): 1939 – 2009**

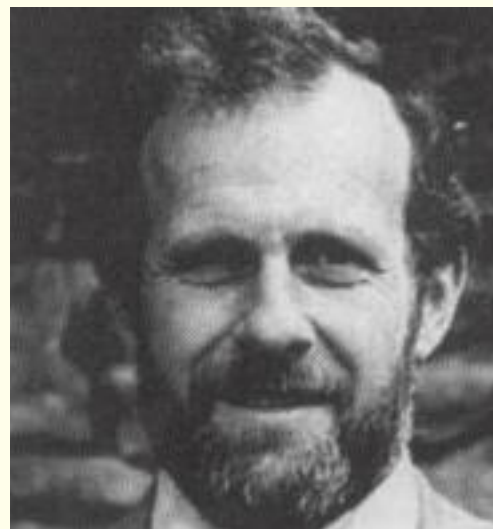
John was inordinately proud of having attended King Edward's. We had been married 45 years and it was a rare day that he didn't mention something to do with the School.

Those who know him will remember that he was more sporty than academic! He was a late developer, getting a Master's degree in his fifties. After school he qualified as a Banker and we both went to Botswana. He was a Government auditor at first, then he was Chief Accountant and latterly Project Manager of the biggest World Bank funded project that there had ever been in Botswana. He finished as assistant Auditor General.

He took up chess again when we moved to Devon and he won a number of local competitions before his deteriorating health prevented him attending congresses.

He died peacefully on 28th April 2009.

*Gillian Whitfield*



### **PETER R.M. MATTHEWS (1965): 1947 – 2009**

Peter Matthews died suddenly in the Spring of 2009. He was a pupil at King Edward's from 1957 to 1965. He was the youngest son of Oliver ('Noll') Matthews, long-time Housemaster and Physics master at King Edward's, and the younger brother of David and Brian, both pupils at the School.

Peter went to Loughborough Colleges, (now University), and then on to King's School Macclesfield where he taught PE and Biology, taking on many responsible posts along the way. Married to Anne for 34 years and a loving stepfather and grandfather of five, Peter took early

retirement in 2002 to look after the small-holding which the family had moved to. Nevertheless he still kept a close interest in King's School activities, taking the 2nd Cricket Team and keenly following the rugby and acting as an assessor for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Another pleasure of his last few years was singing, first with the King's School Foundation Choir and then with the Macclesfield Male Voice Choir with whom Peter was looking forward to singing in the Royal Albert Hall in October.

Peter led a very full and happy life and his death was a great shock to the family, his friends and everyone connected with King's School.

*Anne Matthews*

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