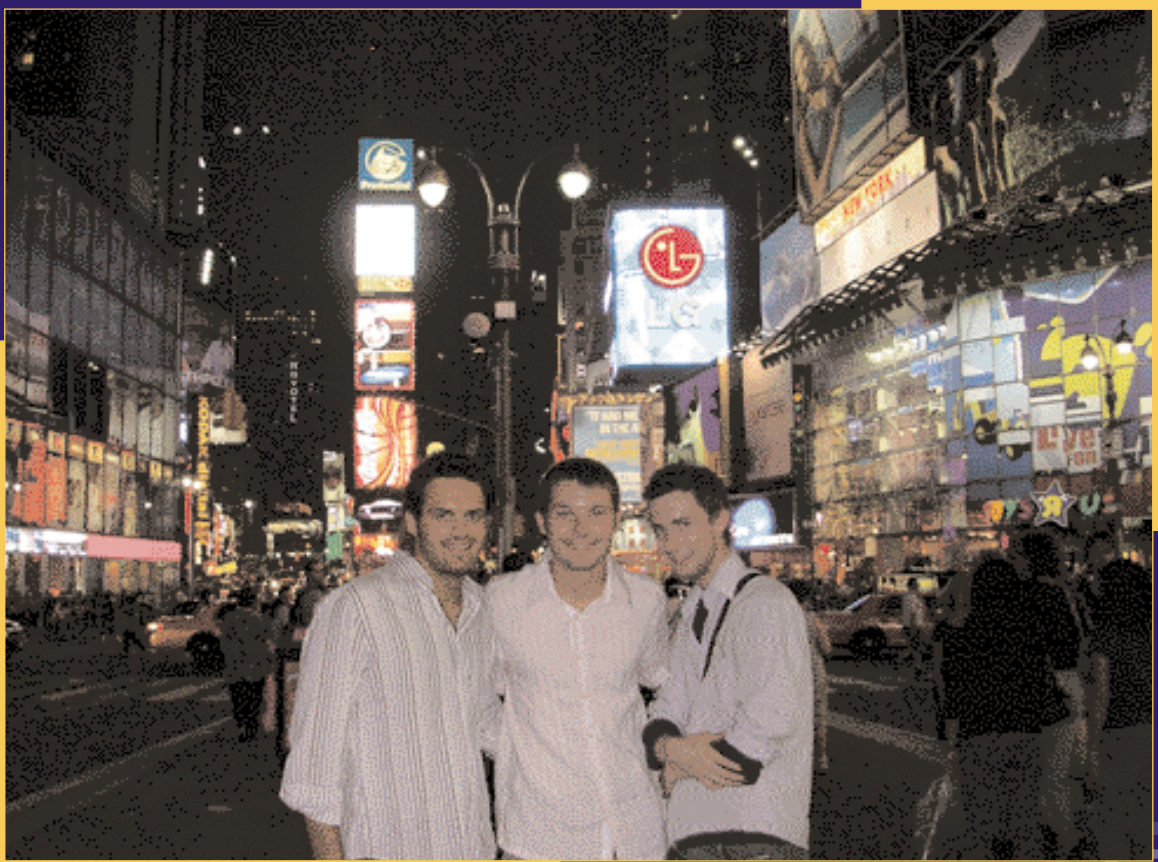


*December 2005*



# *The Old Edwardians Gazette*



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*Copy for the next Gazette should reach the Editor by 30 April 2006. Views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Association.*

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December 2005  
No. 275

# *The Old Edwardians Gazette*

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*Published by The Old Edwardians Association, King Edward's School, Birmingham, B15 2UA.  
Club Founded 23rd June 1883, Association Incorporated 11th May 1891.*

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## *Official Notices*

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### **ADVERTISEMENTS**

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## Editorial

### *Ave . . .*

We welcome on behalf of the Association John Cloughton, who will assume the post of Chief Master of King Edward's on 1 January 2006. The new Chief Master is the first Old Edwardian to be appointed to the post. He came up the School on the Classical side, leaving in 1975 to read Classics at Merton College, Oxford, from where he graduated with a First. At School a distinguished cricketer, he captained Oxford University and has played for Warwickshire. On going down he taught Classics at Eton before being appointed Headmaster of Solihull School in 2001.

He and his wife Alexandra have three young sons, James, Tom and Sam. We look forward to meeting him as our new President, and wish him and his family every success and happiness among us in the years to come.

### *. . . atque vale.*

Roger Dancey gained his enthusiasm for cricket as a pupil at Lancing, from where he went to read Economics at Exeter. He began his teaching career at Whitgift, and in 1982 became Senior Master at RGS Worcester, where I first met him. He joined the Foundation in 1986 as Head of Camp Hill Boys; after nine years there he moved, again as Head, to City of London School, returning to Birmingham as Chief Master in 1998.

His achievements at KES have been notable. The 2001 Inspection report spoke of 'an outstanding school'; he was at the helm for the 450th Anniversary celebrations; the numerous improvements to the fabric have included new laboratories, extra classrooms, better lighting and flooring and the new Tea Pavilion on South Field (aka 'Dancey's Diner'). Academic standards have been maintained: in 2005 92% of all A-level grades were A or B and 82% of GCSE results A\* or A. Not least, he has done much to make KES more accessible after the cancellation of the Government Assisted Places scheme, personally raising over £2 million; he has lent support to the OE Bursary appeal, and has persuaded the Governors to find a further £750,000 for each of the next seven years, so that over 100 boys from disadvantaged homes will receive a high level of fee remission. He has strengthened the pastoral side of the School, introducing

learning support and educational counselling, and has been a strong supporter of extra-curricular activities of all sorts.

Life will be only slightly less hectic after retirement! The Danceys are staying in Edgbaston, where Roger will become a Deputy Pro-Chancellor of Birmingham University until 2009. He is a Governor of King's School, Worcester, Warwick School and West House, and a member of Edgbaston Golf Club and Warwickshire CCC. And there will be more time for visits to the Repertory Theatre, the Midlands Arts Centre and Symphony Hall, not to mention family and friends. He will be missed at KES — but still in touch.

I am grateful to Roger himself and to senior colleagues for much of this information.

Derek Benson



### *The Cover Picture . . .*

Harry Hecht, Jonathan Hick and Joe Speight, who all left School in 2004, have spent some time travelling the world. They are shown in Times Square, New York. Left to right are Harry, Joe (who supplied the picture) and Jonathan.



### *Guided Tours*

Derek Benson is able and willing to show OEs round the School during term. He recommends midweek for this, as the place is more lively than at weekends, and will be happy to make mutually satisfactory arrangements. Contact him at the School.



### *Monthly Lunches . . .*

. . . will continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month in the Buttery Bar at the Clarendon Suite. Your frequent attendance is cordially invited! Contact either Brian Teare (0121 429 7993) or Brian Creed (0121 705 5564).



### *Changes of address*

Members are reminded that they can correct

their own addresses in the Association records by engaging with the web site. Those that have no facilities for this can, of course, notify of change by post or fax as previously.



## Volunteers Sought

The OEA is keen to include as many OEs as possible in events and discussions. So often, those that do attend hear from others afterwards that they wish they had gone too.

To help with this, the Committee would like to identify representatives from year groups who are happy to encourage their peers to join in, especially in attending biennial and other dinners. This may also lead to more OEs coming to the monthly lunches at the Clarendon Suite in Edgbaston.

If you would like to become such a whip, please let James Martin know either by e-mail at [james.martin@begbies-traynor.com](mailto:james.martin@begbies-traynor.com) or by contacting the Registrar.



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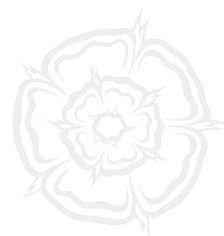
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# Articles

Stuart Westwood (1998) writes on

## ***Marine Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean***

A few miles north of the Caribbean coast of Honduras, the Bay Islands are a Mecca for sport divers and holiday makers. Beautiful views, reefs and the possibility of a whale shark encounter draw the tourists all year round. The islanders rely principally on fishing and tourism for their income, but years of overfishing and an influx of demanding newcomers are taking their toll on the people and the natural environment in which they live.

Lobster and conch are two of the most sought-after creatures in this part of the Caribbean, and just a generation ago they could be found in abundance at swimming distance from the shore. As they became more valuable to foreign markets and the increasing number of tourists, their populations declined so dramatically that fishermen now have to spend weeks at sea, diving on outer reefs to catch animals that are far smaller and worth far less than those they were catching a few years ago. The balance of the ecosystem has been upset, and everything suffers as a result. Lobster and conch feed on waste products. Without them, there is an increase in nutrients in the water and algae cover escalates, smothering the coral which is not able to defend itself against the augmented competition.

Coral reefs provide a habitat for an enormous variety of life, and they are dying out. Human beings are very much a part of this ecosystem, and the health of the reefs is reflected in the health (physical, social and economic) of the people who depend on them. Smaller, less valuable fish and lobster mean lower incomes. Lower incomes and rising costs of living are forcing people to travel further to find work which is sometimes dangerous. One of the biggest problems here results from altered fishing methods. Fishermen now dive for lobster using SCUBA gear but they have no knowledge of safe diving practices, diving to depths of 40m or more 6 or 7 times a day with no breaks and low quality equipment. Almost everyone is related to someone who has been killed or suffered lasting injury from diving-related illness.

There are many contributing factors to the

decline of the world's coral reefs, of which overfishing is just one. The overriding issue that envelops all environmental problems is that natural resources are, for the most part, viewed as being only as interesting as their immediate economic value. The bigger picture is forgotten in favour of survival (for local populations) or profit (for the larger business community).

I spent four months with a non-profit organisation working to protect the coral reef ecosystem of the Bay Islands and to assist local communities in the development of sustainable fishing practices and an improved infrastructure. Diving twice a day, taking a census of coral, fish, algae and invertebrates on the reefs, the aim is to map the Bay Island area and provide the Honduran government with the information required to set aside protected areas and devise sustainable management plans for these valuable resources. At the other end of the scale are the islanders, who depend *directly* on their immediate surroundings.

Government regulation is one thing, but for a community who are physically and culturally isolated from the rest of the country it doesn't mean much. The people need to feel that they have control over their livelihoods. There are gaps in their knowledge, scientifically speaking, but they have generations of experience in the sea and a much greater sense of being part of the environment than 'the powers that be'. It is for this reason that work at community level is paramount to the success of any central initiative. The project I was involved in also worked with local fishermen to develop alternatives to the destructive and dangerous fishing practices used today. Lobster farming and the regulation of fishing according to breeding seasons are two of the proposals, the important factor being local ownership, with the role played by the external organisation being to advise, not to control, to provide information and assistance, but not to take over.

This particular project has mapped over half of the reefs surrounding the Bay Islands, and part of the coastline is already under consideration by the Honduran government as a Marine Protected Area. On the island of Santa Helène a rubbish collection system is being implemented to reduce the serious



environmental impact of waste products. Traditionally, waste has been left on the floor or burned. The new initiative has provided bins (made from disused oil drums obtained from a local power company) which will be emptied regularly, and a landfill site. Plans for an incinerator are also being considered.

The future is with the children, and work with local schools is helping to improve awareness of the natural environment and its importance. Snorkelling trips on the reef and rubbish collection competitions are two of the ways used to develop an enthusiasm in the young for the home they take for granted.

Money for simple but life-changing projects like these, however, is difficult to obtain. Donations from well-meaning foreign donors are great, and non-profit companies like the one I volunteered with do an essential job on a small scale, but if there is ever going to be effective long-term development it needs to be supported by much larger financial institutions with the money and the resources to make a continued commitment. Volunteer work has proven to be very successful all over the world, but the temporary nature of the staff and volunteers leads to a lack of continuity and can hinder progress. Very few people can afford to work for free indefinitely. The emphasis needs to be on commitment from large institutions advising and employing local people to assist in their own development.

My time in Honduras was an excellent experience, educational, challenging and enjoyable, and I would recommend it to anyone. Just remember, it's not a holiday, it's an expedition!

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to the Old Edwardians for their sponsorship contribution. Without the extra help I'd still be saving now!



**Lasantha Wijesinghe (1976–83)** *gives an account of the*

## ***Reunion of 1983 leavers***

In 1983 ninety or so boys left KES for what they thought was the last time. On 8 October 2005 thirty-three of the diaspora returned for a day that inevitably brought back many memories of our time at KES. Some of us had

come from as far away as California (Malcolm Crawford), Argentina (James Quincey) and even Worcestershire (Chris Remfry). One, Shaffiq Essajee, didn't get much closer than Nairobi after his plane was left stranded.

It was a chance meeting with my old Biology master David Rigby at Chievely Services on the A34 that prompted me to get in touch with as many of the old boys as possible. With a little help from Friends Reunited, the Old Edwardians Association, Internet searches, and tip-offs from the General Medical and Dental Councils I tracked down a fair number. Derek Benson, as the OE Liaison Officer at KES, was an invaluable right-hand man in organising a programme for the day, finding an ideal caterer in Syd the Chef and making sure that the School could accommodate us.

Those who could get to Birmingham early enough were met at KES by Derek, who supplied us with coffee in the Common Room, much extended since our day, and led us on a lively and informative tour of the school. We were impressed by the new buildings, laboratories and IT facilities. The damp South Terrace changing rooms were now classrooms and a well-equipped VI form common room had been built above the CCF stores. It was with some sadness that we noted the loss of the School Captain's Office, which had become Mr Roden's office, and of the Cartland Club, which had evolved into what is probably the only wood-panelled classroom in Birmingham. George Andronov, who had shown many of us that Physics was not to be feared, had thoughtfully prepared copies of the relevant Blue Books and U14 XV team lists to prompt our memories. Had Mark Bevan really played so often in place of so many for so few points? It was Mark who had reminded us recently that Laurence O'Toole was not only an eminent cardiologist but also the author of a far-reaching 'adult' website.

Exhausted after the tour we decamped without fear of detention to The Gun Barrels, a rather different place from the bar we remembered. It was here that over a pint and some slow food we caught up with each other's news of the intervening years. The weather turned to remind us of wet windy afternoons on the rugby pitch; therefore many of us couldn't resist the short trip to Eastern Road to watch the First XV play King Henry VIII School, Coventry. The kit was

different but the score was somewhat familiar. The disappointment of defeat was well balanced by a cup of tea (thanks again, Derek!) and David Barell's re-enactment of a famous feat during which he had, in 1983, traversed the underside of the Cartland Club table lengthwise without touching the floor. The pavilion was filled with reminders of many recent sporting heroes; our famous victories had gone uncaptured by the photographer but were reborn in our conversations fresh as the smell of trodden grass and muddy knees. It emerged that Richard Prvulovich (200m) and Laurence O'Toole (hurdles) still held the School records after 22 years! It was also interesting to find out where we had each taken our careers. There was the usual smattering of medics and dentists, lawyers and financiers but oh to be an expert on Zebra fish (Adam Rodaway), a physics PhD directing an NHS trust (Ian Williams), a father and homekeeper (Mark Bevan), a semi-retired surfer (Andy Stallard), head of Coca Cola in South America (James Quincey) and even an (ex)teacher (David Barell).

A highlight of the day will always be our encounters with old masters. Stuart Birch and George Andronov were at Eastern Road and kindly stayed to talk about various aspects of the early 80s, absent friends and masters fondly remembered. George Worthington was at one time form master, cricket coach and Latin master to many of us. He kindly met a breakaway group at the Dirty Duck in Harborne, where we never found out what happened to his model of Fishbourne Palace and he found out who had once been hidden under it (Nimish Subhedar by Adam Rodaway).

So it was that, as evening approached, we gathered back at KES for a splendid Dinner. The school had allowed us the luxury of the dining room toilets in which to change into our Dinner Jackets, but our School Captain Mathew Banks insisted he should change in the public eye rather than its convenience. We were honoured to have David Rigby, Karl McIlwaine (he gave up part of his weekend in Derbyshire to be with us), Derek Benson and Phil Lambie (he had just got back from the Geography Field Trip) representing the teaching staff. My guilt of twenty-two years was finally laid to rest when Phil accepted my six overdue library books without demanding the fine. We were also joined by five of the old

boys' wives; the Alison Marshall show kept Val Cox entertained. Chris Remfry was full of his instant wit, but sadly hadn't been able to match Jason Kendall's post-KES growth spurt. The meal was as good as we had been promised and there was plenty of wine and beer, thanks to Derek's honesty bar. Does he really drink all the leftovers? It was appropriate that we rounded off the evening with the School Song, including the banging of feet and chairs at 'some to fame'. I was impressed by the many who seemed to remember all the words. It is just possible that a website may be set up containing photographs from the day's activities.

I'm sure that all who attended will look back on that day with a relish that is a reward for the apprehension that preceded the reunion; it is impossible to predict how twenty-two years might change body and soul. Happily, we found each other to be a fairly decent lot, much the same as when we had left. We were greatly encouraged to see that while we might have lost some hair and gained some weight, KES is still the fine school that we remember, and if only we lived in Birmingham our sons might now be treading in our footsteps. We look forward to our next gathering in celebration of 30 years since leaving KES; save a date in your diary, Derek!



**Laurence Walker** reports on

## ***The second Meriden reunion***

Prompted by a second visit to England by Clive Cooper, the class of '51 held their second reunion in London on 20 September 2005. Fourteen attended, including some new-old faces. Several others sent their regrets that they were unable to attend because of ill health or work.

Richard Birch again masterminded a very pleasant and successful occasion. We initially gathered at the Lyric in Great Windmill Street, where those from Meriden renewed acquaintance, newcomers were recognised and welcomed and a few pints downed. We then moved on a short distance to the Thai Pavilion — a find of Richard's — where a pleasant and helpful staff served an excellent Thai banquet. Conversation, as at the Lyric, was lively,

covering everything from England's successful Ashes series to Hurricane Katrina and American politics, together with some catching up and reminiscences of School and Birmingham. One very common complaint was of mothers, who — to clear space — threw away cherished collections of the Eagle which would now make a handy addition to the pension fund. More importantly, we found the answer to the great riddle of our schooldays. Now we know how Colin became Cyril.

All too soon the moment arrived when the staff started looking as though they needed to start preparing for the evening and we needed to think of the journey home or catching the shops before they closed. Some retired to a nearby Starbucks. As at the Meriden meeting, I was struck by the strong, intangible links that there are despite the fact that most of us have not seen each other for forty or so years. Thank you, Richard, for all the preparation and work you put in to achieve such a successful occasion. You have achieved something very special and we all owe you an immense debt of gratitude.



*Bill Sykes sends an article by Emma John, here reproduced by permission, from The Wisden Cricketer magazine, March 2004.*

## ***Algarve, Portugal***

When Henry Blofeld and his wife arrived in the Algarve for their winter holiday with friends they were surprised to find their host, Bill Sykes, on his hands and knees in the front garden, paying close attention to a piece of lawn. The focus of his labours was an artificial cricket pitch. He had decided to turn his garden into a cricket ground.

It took him five months, but the results were remarkable. Golf course fairway grass made for a lush outfield, and an ancient beekeeper's building was adapted to create an old-fashioned pavilion. But this was no Englishman's folly. His cause is the training of young cricketers — in the past five years many local children and visiting schools have been beneficiaries of this personal project.

Sykes belongs to a long line of English exporters of the game to Portugal. It is recorded that in 1736 some crew members of His Majesty's ships ventured to Lisbon for

cricket and 'other diversions', though it is not clear which of those activities caused future shore leave to be cancelled! But cricket really took hold thanks to the games played by Wellington's British troops resident in Lisbon during the Peninsular War at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Matches between Lisbon and Oporto became an annual event, and the Kendall Cup, introduced in 1920, is still played for by the two towns.

Those early days were dominated by expatriates; one British chaplain used to conclude his Sunday readings with 'Here endeth the first innings'. Bats were imported from Richardson's of Liverpool, a company that also, incidentally, specialised in trusses and surgical instruments. The revolution of 1974, however, effectively brought the expatriate cricket scene to an end. Foreign companies pulled out, taking their staff with them. The difficulties facing revival after 1974 may be summed up by a letter from a veteran cricketer in response to an invitation to play: 'I'm going to have to face the facts. I'm too old, the ball's too hard, and I haven't got a box. Thanks, anyway.'

The modern game emerged from this colourful past. Young Portuguese players arrived from Mozambique and Goa, and because of the instability in South Africa a number of Portuguese South Africans returned with their cricket-playing children. Touring sides visited in the 1980s and, as facilities improved, both the England team and Middlesex raised the profile of cricket by using them. In the 1990s Portugal's national side blossomed, winning several European titles including the European Indoor Championship three years running.

There is still a need for new grounds as well as for encouragement to local schools and clubs to include cricket in their activities. But the Algarve is doing very nicely indeed. A splendid ground has been developed at Brown's Sports and Leisure Complex in Vilamoura, complete with first-class accommodation and net facilities. The Portuguese national side plans to entertain visiting clubs there and locals will benefit too, with a sixes tournament planned for March 2005. And, of course, there is always the chance of a game at Sykes'!



# ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

## ***O.E.A. Annual General Meeting 2005***

The Annual General Meeting was held at 2.00 p.m. on 14 September 2005 in the Clarendon Suite. The President, Roger Dancey, and Chairman, Paul Thomson, were supported by twenty-two members: Andrew Baxter, Mike Baxter, Derek Benson, Alan Blower, John Botterill, Thomas Brierley, Bill Chambers, David Corney, David Donaldson, Michael Edwards, Paul Faber, Tom Freeman, Bob Garratt, Gerald Grant, Edward Lloyd-Hughes, James Martin, Roger Parsons, Michael Roper-Hall, Bill Traynor, Brian Teare, Stephen Talboys and David Ward.

Apologies were received from Bernard Adams, John Baller, Gordon Britton, Gerald Chadwick, Brian Creed, Norman Douglas, Ron Fletcher, Norman Ludlow, George Watts and Max White

**The Minutes** of the AGM 2004 had been published in the December 2004 *Gazette* and were taken as read. Their acceptance was proposed and seconded by several members and general approval was indicated.

**The Report** of the General Committee had been published in the June 2005 *Gazette* and was accepted in similar fashion.

**The Accounts** for the year ended 31 December 2004 had also been published in the June 2005 *Gazette* and on the proposal of David Corney, seconded by James Martin, were also accepted by general acclaim. Andrew Baxter spoke highly of the skill of the auditors, Clement Keys, represented by Roger Parsons (1971), and proposed they be reappointed. Again, general approval was indicated.

**The Chairman** spoke of the contribution made to the School and the Association by Roger Dancey, who will be standing down as Chief Master in December 2005. His replacement is John Claughton O.E. (1975), currently Head of Solihull School.

**The President** spoke of the continuing high academic standards at the School. He had a particular affinity to this year's leavers as he and they overlapped totally. Twenty-four of this year's Sixth form have places at Oxbridge; 91% of all A level papers taken were awarded an A or a B grade. Thirty leavers will go on to read medicine, with 89 A grades, and one B, between them. KES is one of only 30 schools in the country achieving over 90% A grades. At GCSE the picture is equally rosy with 81% of all papers awarded A or A\* grades. Twelve Top Candidate Awards were made. Outside the classroom the picture is equally bright. The schoolboy National Chess Champion, Ameer Ghazi, is an Edwardian; the Rugby XV won 15 of their 20 matches, including beating Bromsgrove to regain the Siviter-Smith Cup. School rugby captain James Metcalfe (son of IR Metcalfe, 1977) was capped four times for England U18. The cricket team also fared well. And the Athletics team was the best for thirty miles around.

Cultural events are also of a high standard, with stage performances of *Sweeney Todd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and, at the joint Summer Concert with KEHS, given to a packed Symphony Hall, of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto and Dvořák's *New World* Symphony.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Master and expressed the hope that we should see plenty of him during his coming retirement.

### **Elections**

#### **(a) Officers**

The following had all expressed their willingness to continue:

Chairman	Paul Thomson
Treasurer	Andrew Baxter
Joint Secretaries	Derek Benson and Stephen Talboys
Registrar	Michael Baxter
<i>Gazette</i> Editor	Bernard Adams

Bob Garrett proposed their re-election en bloc; there were several seconders and all were duly re-elected.

#### **(b) General Committee**

All members of the General Committee had indicated a willingness to continue (see June 2005 *Gazette*). James Martin proposed their re-election and there were again several seconders; the motion was carried.

### **Any other business**

1. The Chairman thanked Brian Teare for his customary efficiency in organising the regular Wednesday lunches (including today).
2. The Chairman reported the deaths of Eric Lewis (1938) and Roger Brown (1951).

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2.55 p.m.



## ***To All Younger Members of the Association***

Your Committee is aware that the majority of members are now under twenty-five, which is a result of the parental contribution scheme leading to Life Membership for some 90% of each group of leavers.

The opportunities available to members of the OEA are:

1. The *Gazette*, coming out twice a year, with an address list of members in the June issue.
2. Access, via a password, to the OE website, where members can update their own details and communicate with others.
3. The Old Edwardian Dinner, held in Big School in September in alternate years (next in 2006).
4. The London OE dinner, an annual event on the night before the Oxford vs. Cambridge rugby match.
5. A monthly lunch on a Wednesday, in Edgbaston.

6. An Annual Outing, generally in June, to some place of interest such as Oxford.
7. Access to the Sports Ground in Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, where cricket and rugby are played. Both clubs are 'open' but many OEs play regularly.

It may be that these activities, while well supported by Edwardians, are not what younger members would wish for, and so this is a request for such members to let us know what would be attractive. Possibilities might be:

1. A barbecue at Streetsbrook Road in July, perhaps jointly with KEHS former pupils.
2. Visits to suitable University towns in term-time by some OE Committee members, perhaps with members of staff, in suitable (licensed) premises.
3. More contact with KES by year-group dinners in the Dining Hall. (There have been two such this year, one from the class of '64, the other for 1984 leavers.) Such an event could involve a tour of KES in the morning, Eastern Road in the afternoon and dinner in the Dining Hall in the evening.

These are, of course, only possibilities and may well not represent what you, one of the younger generation of Edwardians, would wish for. So please get in touch with Derek Benson (left in '53 and member of staff 1962–95) and tell him what you think your Association should be providing for you. He can be reached at King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UA, by telephone at 0121 472 1672, or by e-mail at [dhb@kes.bham.sch.uk](mailto:dhb@kes.bham.sch.uk) or [derekbenson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:derekbenson@blueyonder.co.uk)

There will of course be financial implications; membership subscriptions (whether annual or for life) are calculated actuarially on the cost of printing and posting the *Gazette*. Having said that, your Committee are conscious of the need to be aware of the changing membership profile.



## ***From the Registrar:***

**Have you checked we have your correct e-mail address??**

In addition to traditional methods like the

*Gazette*, we are increasingly using e-mail to communicate news and events to our members. If you use e-mail, please log on to our web site [www.olders.org.uk](http://www.olders.org.uk) and check we have your correct e-mail address (and other details!). You were sent a personal logon username and password in the covering letter with your December 2004 *Gazette*. If you have mislaid them please e-mail the Registrar at [OEA.Registrar@btinternet.com](mailto:OEA.Registrar@btinternet.com) and we will resend them. When you check your details are correct please note that by default for data protection your information is HIDDEN from other members unless you release it by removing the ticks from the red boxes alongside most fields. Please do click on the ticks to remove them so others can search and view this data and thus contact you.

## ***Famous OEs***

There is now a section on the web site listing many of our famous (or should that in some cases be infamous?!) OEs. We would like your help to build this list up further. Please view it on the web site [www.olders.org.uk](http://www.olders.org.uk); log on and then select Famous OEs in the left-hand menu. If you find any errors or if you would like to propose others to add, please e-mail the details to the Registrar at [OEA.Registrar@btinternet.com](mailto:OEA.Registrar@btinternet.com). We would also be keen to hear from you if you would like to volunteer to take ownership of the list and co-ordinate the updates.

## ***2006 Membership Audit***

Every few years we need to write to all of our members and ask for a written response to confirm that everyone is alive and well at the addresses we are using to post out *Gazettes* to. This is to make sure that we are not wasting the OEA's funds by sending magazines to out-of-date locations. During the first half of 2006 we are due to run the next audit, so look out for the card we send you and on receipt please make sure you return it without delay. Where we don't hear from someone after a reasonable time we will send one final reminder and then if we hear nothing we will have to assume that the member has moved away; we will mark the membership record as "lost contact" and no further mailings will be sent out until the member makes contact again.



## ***From the Chairman***

Twelve months prior to my becoming Chairman of the General Committee, Roger Dancey had been appointed Chief Master, having served in a similar capacity at KEGS Camp Hill and City of London School.

In his message on the School web site our President states one of the School's aims as being to promote and develop links with parents, Old Edwardians and the wider community. Your Committee too feels that our major objective is to maintain and develop the strong liaison between the School and the OEA, and as the Chief Master moves towards his retirement I am sure that we have both achieved these intentions.

Communication among members of the Association is a key issue to be constantly addressed and the highly regarded and valued *Gazette* is supported by a web site and a Database of Membership, each developed through assistance from the School.

Over a weekend in July 2002 the 450th anniversary of the Foundation of the School was celebrated in style, with both a Gala Ball and a Charity Cricket match between the Chief Master's XI and a Lord's Taverners XI. Throughout the lengthy and detailed planning process the Chief Master showed patience and guidance in chairing the organising Committee. He even had the foresight to invite John Claughton to play for his XI.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to work closely with the School during the past six years, we all wish our President a long and happy retirement blessed by good health and successful golf.

In the New Year we plan to invite Roger and Elizabeth to join us at Streetsbrook Road for the appropriate farewell.

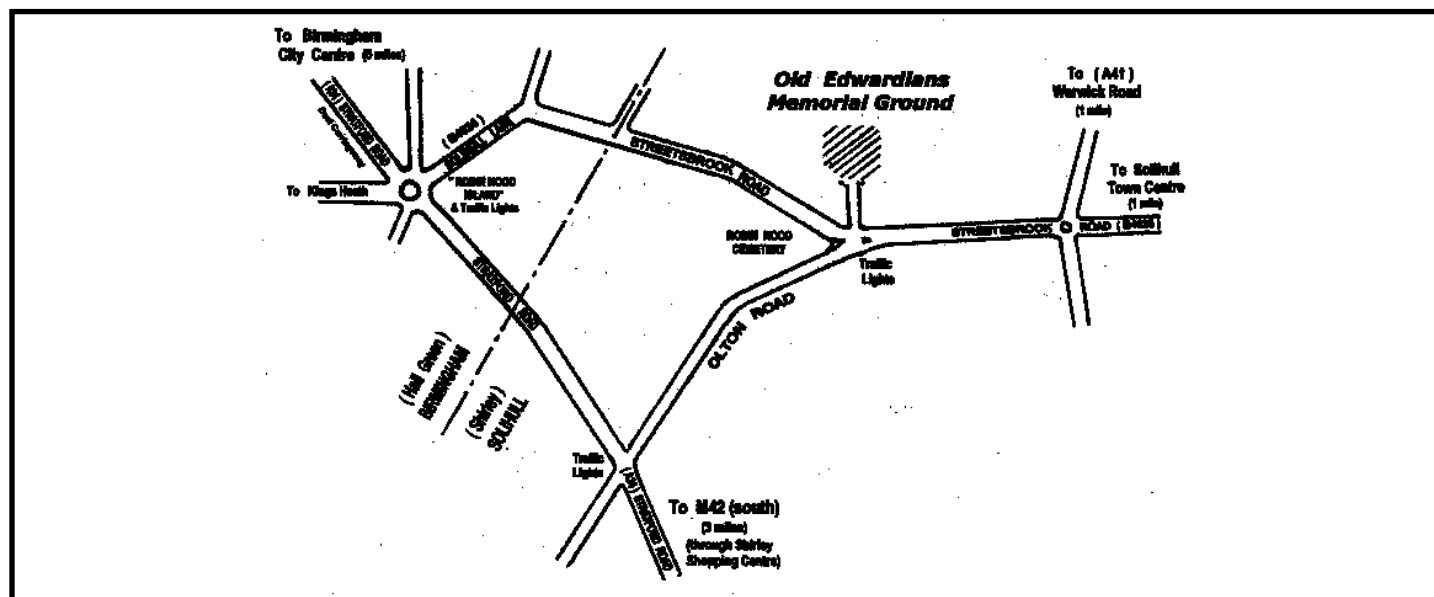


# OLD EDWARDIANS SPORT

## Where to find us!

We are indebted to Richard Stubbs (1963) for the map showing the location of the Memorial Ground.

## The Memorial Ground



## Edwardian Football Club

*John Forster writes:*

At the time of writing we are pleased to be able to report the best start to the season in recent memory. We share first place in our league (Midlands Four West (South)), having won five of the six matches so far played. We lost the sixth away to Droitwich by the narrow margin of 27 points to 21. Unfortunately, our performance in the second round of the Powergen Cup was less inspiring. Having relinquished a substantial lead against the University of Derby, we eventually conceded a try in the final minute and finished two points adrift.

The improvement in our game has been derived to no small extent from our being able to field three former members of the School in the First XV. This has not been the case in recent decades. James Brough has been around for some years now, but the inclusion of youngsters John Ferdinand and Richard Thomson has strengthened our resources considerably. Whilst John works in

Birmingham, Richard travels back weekly from the University of Leeds to represent the Club. Both players have undertaken to re-establish the Boxing Day game against a School and University side, and we hope through this to build again stronger relationships with the School.

The second and third XVs continue to operate and both are enjoying their activities, on and off the field. The newly formed Junior/Youth Section is progressing well, attracting upwards of thirty youngsters every Sunday morning. Games will be arranged after Christmas, when all the coaching requirements laid down by the RFU have been satisfied.

Social activity at Streetsbrook Road continues. We hold probably the most successful Bonfire Night party in Solihull, which is also our major fund-raising project. As ever, pre-match lunches attract a large and varied clientele, as do the Christmas Dinner and the New Year's Eve celebration. Substantial arrangements are being put in place for Year 125 (the season of 2007/08) to mark the Club's longevity. All members and

vice-presidents, new and old, are always welcome to join us at the Memorial Ground whenever they have the opportunity.

With matters progressing well in the Club, it is so saddening to have to record the profound grief which we all felt at the passing of Roger Brown. To everyone that was privileged to have known Roger he was a truly gentle gentleman. His contribution to the Football Club, both on and off the field, was immense. No doubt a fuller account of his life and achievements will be found elsewhere in this *Gazette*. The measure of the man was confirmed by the numbers, members of the Club and others, who attended his funeral. He is, without doubt, truly missed by us all.



## Old Edwardians Cricket Club

*John Evans writes:*

Following the disappointments of the previous few seasons, 2005 was as successful and

enjoyable as any of us could have hoped back in April. All three senior teams performed creditably, with the 3rd XI leading their league for most of the season. A full report on the 2005 season will appear in the next edition of the *Gazette*.

The annual match against the School, which took place at Eastern Road in July, was keenly contested between two evenly matched teams. The Club team, which included three Under 15's from the School, dominated until tea with steady bowling from Mohit Mandiratta (2003) and Tony Ingram. Nikil Saul (current KES) claimed three wickets, including that of the School 1st XI captain Nick Chase. The School set a target of 177 off 40 overs and the Club approached the task with confidence.

Any thought of an easy win was banished in the first few overs of the Club's innings. Five wickets fell for 47 runs as all the School bowlers exerted pressure on overconfident batsmen. William Webb (1999), who had recently returned from the United States, was bowled playing a shot more suitable for baseball than cricket, and your correspondent ran himself out first ball in a ludicrous manner, much to the amusement of everyone else.

Club captain Phil Clarke was joined by wicketkeeper Richard Pope (1973) in a counterattack which was just threatening to recover the situation when Clarke was dismissed by Nick Chase. Tony Ingram and Neil Chandler provided brief resistance, but it was in vain as the School completed an impressive victory, with all but one of the School bowlers taking wickets. Most will be returning next year, which should please the coaching staff and should provide a significant challenge to the Club's attempt to win in 2006. Both on and off the field the match was as enjoyable as ever, with the School hosting the Club in the usual exemplary manner. Long may the fixture continue.

The Club was particularly pleased to note that our professional from the 1994 season, Jacques Kallis, was voted International Player of the Year (jointly with Andrew Flintoff) for his outstanding performances for the South African Test team in 2005. He was subsequently selected for the recent Rest of the World XI which played in Sydney against Australia.

King Edward's School v Old Edwardians Cricket Club  
Played at Eastern Road on 12 July 2005

Result: King Edward's School won by 51 runs

#### *King Edward's School*

TL Burn c Pope b Mandiratta	19
D Neale c Webb b Ingram	6
W Arnold c and b Lone	18
P Neale c Lone b Saul†	7
N Chase c and b Saul*	17
A Gatrad not out	49
JWE Metcalfe c Christopher b Saul	14
K Iyer lbw b Ingram	9
JR Botha run out (Evans)	18
R Hall	
A Shangavi	
Extras	18
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs)	176

Bowling: Ingram 8-0-32-2, Chandler 7-1-31-0, Mandiratta 6-1-19-1, Sheppard 4-0-14-0, Saul 8-4-30-3, Lone 4-0-23-1, Christopher 3-0-17-0.

#### *Old Edwardians C.C.*

WRN Webb b Botha	4
PJ Clarke c D Neale b Chase*	36
JRF Evans run out (Arnold)	0
D Christopher c Chase b Iyer	2
H Lone b Shangavi	7
N Saul c Hall b Shangavi	4
RH Pope b D Neale†	19
T Ingram b Hall	26
NS Chandler c Iyer b Hall	6
D Sheppard lbw b Hall	0
M Mandiratta not out	2
Extras	12
Total (all out, 36.4 overs)	125

Bowling: Metcalfe 4-0-13-0, Botha 5-3-8-1, Iyer 5-3-6-1, Shangavi 8-3-24-2, Chase 8-1-35-1, D Neale 5-1-14-1, Hall 1.4-0-5-3.



OLD EDWARDIANS CRICKET CLUB, 12 JULY 2005

Back row (l to r): N S Chandler, S J Hardie (manager), M Mandiratta (2003), D Sheppard, N Saul (KES), T Ingram, W R N Webb (1999), D Christopher (KES), H Lone (KES)

Front row (l to r): J R F Evans (1991), P J Clarke (captain), R H Pope (1973).

# SCHOOL AFFAIRS

The term has seen some changes in the staff. Departures have been Ben Tanner (to Lyndhurst Prep. School), Philip Rees (to South Germany and Austria), Dr Howard Smith (to RGS Worcester as Head of Chemistry) and to retirement Jeff Hancock and Tamara Hodgkin. Their places are taken by Dr Richard Brookes (OE 1994) (Head of Chemistry), Anthony Dean and Aidan Hayes (Chemistry), Dr Jessica Amann (French and German), Elaine Sigston (Design & Technology) and Alistair Melvill (Classics). We wish them all every happiness.



The tenth Biology Olympiad brought a number of successes. Huan Dong and Anand Pandit gained Golds, Andrew Constantine and Mohsin Khan Silvers and Karan Goswami a Bronze.



The School Mock General Election was won for the Liberal Democrats by Shane Murray.



Simon Friend and Tim Kiely have seen their work directed and performed by a professional company at The Door. Both are members of the Birmingham Rep's playwriting workshop.



Members of the CCF (mostly RN cadets) were aboard HMS *Invincible* for a day of rehearsals for the Trafalgar 200 Review. The CCF Annual Inspection was regarded as the smartest parade for years.



A party of Spanish linguists from the UMs spent some time in April in Andalucia. Based in Torremolinos, they visited the famous historical sites of Córdoba, Seville and Granada. For some, it is feared, the highlight of the tour was the *chocolate con churros* of Ramón's *churrería* in Marbella.



The Friday afternoon programme continues to be amazingly varied. Younger forms have studied Personal and Social Education, different aspects of Citizenship at home and the lives of people in many places abroad, with some emphasis on Japan and the Japanese. South America has come under scrutiny, and films of France and Germany have been shown. The Shells have been coached in rugby by seniors qualifying for the RFU Leadership Award, while the KES Leadership Option has continued to enable boys to develop their own talents and abilities as they help their juniors.



Rems Week took boys to North Wales, with an ascent of Snowdon and other strenuous activities. Others went to the Lakes, where similar programmes were followed. A good — if wet — time was had by all.



The Living History Group has met every Friday to practise archery, make model roundhouses and investigate medieval diving (*sic*). Juniors have been introduced to the longbow on Thursdays. Much firewood has been moved at Avoncroft and blunt arrows fired at Warwick Castle, coins struck, candles dipped, and great good humour displayed.



The Library has been closed for major alterations but reopened at the start of the Autumn Term with a new fiction library, two computer clusters and altogether better facilities for study and reading. The Second Annual Book Fair has taken place, and on 21 October the first Library Author Visit featured Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore.



Old news is not news, perhaps, but this is the first chance that the *Gazette* has had to report on the success of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the junior play in long-ago March. This was a modern version, played in the

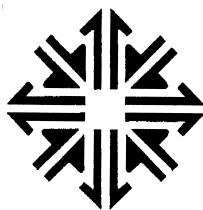
round to a '60s setting with background music by the Beatles. Credits too numerous to list are given in *News & Views*, but mention really must be made of the performance by Gregory Stacey, believed to be the first ever Puck to ride a scooter!



And maintaining the embargo on School sport in these columns, the Chess season finished strongly. Ten players (including two from KEHS) qualified for the Northern area Gigafinal of the British Land competition, and hopes were high for the National final. Ameet Ghasi's outright win in the UK International Tournament at Easter was the highlight of the academic year, and a fitting end to his career at KES. We wish him every success in the future.







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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## ***From Stephen Badsey (1973)***

8 July 2005

Dear Mr Adams,

My old English master Michael Parslew was in fine rhetorical form in his *Meditation on a Theme of Atrabilius J* which graced the pages of the June 2005 *Gazette*. I had assumed, if I gave the matter any thought at all, that after more than thirty years my own name and existence would have faded from his memory, blurred together with perhaps thousands of other pupils who have passed his way. I was therefore surprised to find myself named and shamed in his piece as the last mentioned of seven Unworthies (although quite possibly I was an afterthought), representatives of all those KES alumni who, despite 'achieving success in a wide variety of fields and to a degree not experienced before' have nevertheless miserably and ungratefully failed 'to identify with their old school or its alumni'.

Looking through this list, it is indeed true that the only two names on it that also appear in the list of paid-up members of the OE Association are David Willetts MP and myself. Indeed, I suspect that this alumni membership is the thing that David and I still have most in common, other than that we both looked rather good in tights in a Parslew-directed School production of *The Tempest* back in 1972, as my photographs still prove. But, and obviously, I cannot and should not attempt to answer for my fellow miscreants.

For myself, the reason why I have never acknowledged my debt to KES in public is childishly simple: no one has ever asked me, or given me the opportunity. Nor, I must say, has it ever occurred to me that a school as distinguished as KES should need my poor endorsement, which would be too reminiscent of the flea congratulating the elephant on their companionship.

Even so, having been challenged, I am very happy to respond. I was fortunate enough to receive from KES one of the best educations

available in the world at that time, and this has provided me with opportunities to which I could otherwise never have aspired. As a professional military historian I am one of those very fortunate people whose work is also their vocation. For assisting me to this I owe the School a debt of gratitude that I can never repay, and I am conscious of this obligation every day.

To Michael Parslew himself I owe a great debt in that (together, as I hope he will not mind my saying, with others) as an inspirational teacher of English he gave me a love of literature that continues to enrich my life, and provided me with the foundations of a prose style which enables me to write books and articles that others wish to read. Although, as I fear he may now remember, I was an earnest rather than a competent young amateur actor, his equally inspirational tuition in drama also provided me with a grasp of diction and rhetoric which I have put to use in lecturing and in my occasional appearances on television: at least, I have learned to play myself quite well both on stage and on screen. The occasional recurring nightmare of his great face looming over me (I was only twelve at the time) as he tweaked my hair back rather too hard has always seemed to me a quite trivial price to pay.

What KES presently asks from its alumni (occasionally) is money; and as long as money is all that the School wants from us, then that is what we will (also occasionally) contribute to it. If the School ever decides that it needs more from us, then it has only to seek us out and make the request.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Badsey



## ***From Mike Antcliff (1953)***

18 July 2005

Dear Bernard,

I was interested to read in the June issue the

letter from Professor Arthur Stockwin, which brought back my own memories of Captain ('Codger') Power. I too remember him as a generous, amusing and maybe rather avuncular teacher who gave me the Latin name 'Formica Rupes' (Ant-Cliff). Somehow he managed to invent names for all his pupils, however much he had to twist the meaning. Another memory is the slab of chocolate — a rare treat in the days of sweet rationing — that he 'concealed' in a drawer of his desk. If you performed really well he would beckon you up, slide open the desk and offer you a square of that precious chocolate.

The photograph of the Old Edwardians' 1st XI of 1981 also brought back many happy memories of my cricketing days. In earlier years I played with several of these members, often opening the innings with Peter Vernon. I well remember our two aggressive and successful opening bowlers, David Taylor and Terry Grant, and the satisfaction of seeing the young schoolboys John Winspear and Ian Thomson in action. Frank Jones was a lively and popular wicketkeeper.

So it was such a pleasure to meet again several of my cricketing friends at the Vice-Presidents' Lunch and Evening Barbecue, held for the first time this season. It turned out to be a very enjoyable occasion, and thanks must be given to Iain Crawford, Joan Glover and their helpers for arranging the event. They hope to repeat it next season, so all you Vice-Presidents, try to keep the date free.

Yours sincerely,

Mike



## ***From Desmond Trigg (1945)***

10 August 2005

Dear Bernard,

As promised, I am sending you an old print of a photograph of Form VC taken in 1943/44. Unfortunately I have mislaid the list of names,

and time has blurred my recollection. I am in the middle row, just behind the boy in the smart suit in the centre. Strangely, I do remember most of the faces, if not the names.

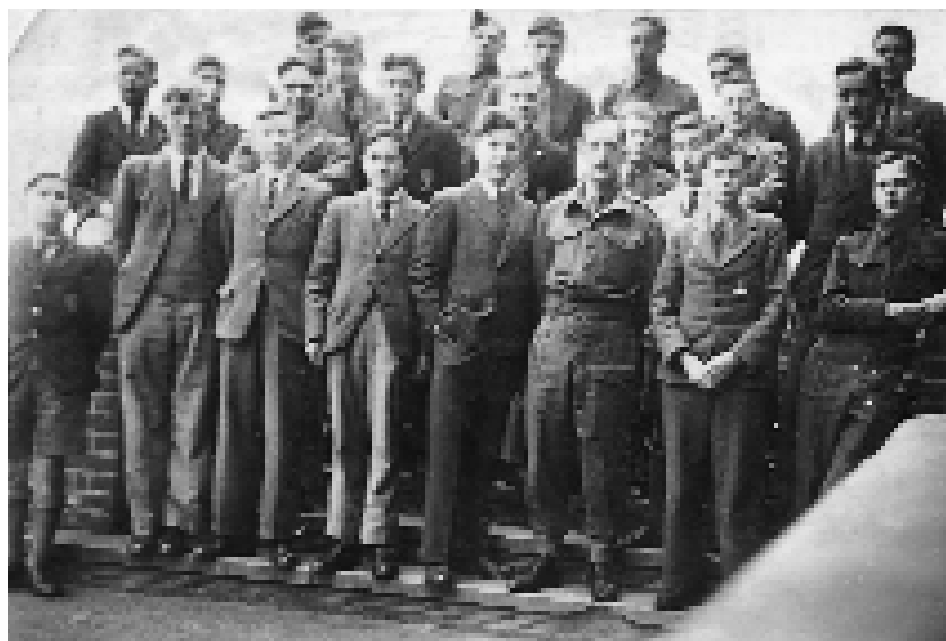
On the extreme left of the front row is Barker, and next to him David Treadwell. At the other end, in Corps uniform, is Yates (I think), and our form master was Major [somebody], OC the Corps. Wartime clothing is in evidence, but at least our shirts are tucked in!

Like Geoffrey Gardiner, I remember Dr Weikesheimer. I went on to do quite well in Physics, although I put that down to the disciplined teaching of 'Henry' Hall in the Fifth and Sixth forms. One day I must get back to the old School to see if it has changed since December 1945 — to see whether the Yanks have gone from the old 'huts'.

Yours sincerely,

Desmond Trigg

*Can anyone identify any of those in the photograph? Information either to me or direct to Desmond, please. I certainly think that he — and any like him — should lose no time at all in visiting the School, which is still quite recognisable to one of his era but impressively improved! He would see that shirts are, as is not always the case in other establishments, generally inside the waistband — BSA.*



Form VC 1943/44

## ***From David Chalmers (2001)***

19 August 2005

Dear Bernard

I have just reread Parslew's somewhat bilious meanderings in the June 2005 *Gazette*. He certainly goes some way to redressing his perceived shortfall in the number of published pages, but as far as I can make out he is making three principal points:

- The *Gazette* is very predictable, with few members taking the trouble to contribute, despite the many and various achievements of OEs.
- The AGM attendance was poor, to say the least.
- That there should be more input to the school and its students from OEs.

On the first I can only agree, but at least in mitigation I have provided a few inputs myself with another on the boil, although that awaits action by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (to whet your appetite!).

On the second, AGMs around the world are poorly attended unless there is a grand controversy to be debated or there is money at stake. In the case of the OEs the onus must inevitably fall on those living within a reasonable striking distance of Birmingham, but a rapid, albeit unscientific, survey of the

membership list suggests that a significant proportion still do. However, AGMs by their nature tend to be short and not particularly either sweet or brutal, so there needs to be greater incentive — some added value — to tempt members into the open, if nothing else as voting fodder. Perhaps rather more than yet another tour of the School is called for.

The final point is perhaps the most telling. I doubt whether members would be inclined to interfere in the running and future direction of the School itself, which is the responsibility of the Governors, although I am sure well-meant suggestions would be countenanced. However, support to the students is another matter. I am sure it is not an original idea, but I suggest that OEs could be invited to provide occasional talks to the young people as they consider their future careers. As Parslew notes, there are many OEs who have risen high in their professions, and even not so high, but who have not received public notice. Even a few of these could give talks of interest and hopefully some enlightenment to the students, as well as providing some 'light relief' from the tedium of preparing for A levels. I for one would be happy to share my experiences of life as a Naval Architect, which takes one into some strange corners of the engineering world. OEs could also provide advice on interview techniques, which might be more pertinent than that which I presume the School tries to give. A call for volunteers could go out with a forthcoming issue of the *Gazette* if the new Chief Master favours the idea. Maybe all this happens already, but if so I have seen no indication of it.

Yours sincerely,

David Chalmers



## ***From Alan Young (1945)***

Dear Bernard

Greetings from Malaysia!

This past year has seen a fair amount of travelling. In November 2004 we went to Adelaide for a week — perhaps the nicest of all Australian State capitals. For me it was interesting as being established by Col. William Light, who was the son of Francis Light, founder of Penang, where I was first

posted in the Colonial Service. He was Surveyor General of South Australia and is buried in Light Square in the centre of the city. While there I had lunch one day with an old comrade whom I had not seen for many years — we joined the Army on the same day in August 1945.

I started to study Chinese in September 1945 while in the Army, and although I had been to Hong Kong and Taiwan, apart from a few brief visits across the Burma–China border at the end of 1947 I had never made it to the mainland proper. I was therefore delighted this June when my younger daughter decided to take us on a trip to Beijing and Guilin.

China is really marvellous and is quite different to what I had expected. Gone are the masses of bicycles clogging the streets of Beijing — instead they are now filled with new cars and smartly dressed people. Everywhere high rise buildings are frenziedly going up — there must be the biggest concentration of tower cranes in the world — and the city is crossed by a mass of freeways, all packed with motorised traffic. A sign of the prosperity is perhaps a Rolls-Royce showroom. Truly a Communist country with no communists!

The famous monuments are meticulously preserved and maintained and are crowded with visitors, the majority of whom are not foreigners but Chinese.

The Forbidden City is grand beyond belief and it was fascinating to stand and speculate what it must have been like at its grandest during the reign of the Emperor Qianlong (1736–1798). Literally thousands of people were employed there not only in serving the needs of the vast Imperial Family but, as it was also the centre of the Imperial Administration, there must have been bureaucrats everywhere.

We are told Qianlong rose at 5 a.m. every day, was at his desk at 6 and worked until midday when he had a two hour break, and then went back to work again. Like Elizabeth I he was always on the move and the whole Administration had to travel with him. What a feat of organisation that must have been. The modern equivalent must have been India in the days of the Raj, when the whole Government used to move to Simla every summer.

Later we went to the Summer Palace, Beijing's

favourite picnic spot. One famous attraction there is the marble paddle steamer reputedly built by the Dowager Empress at the end of the 19th century out of funds meant for the Navy.

Then we went to the Great Wall, which I always regard as China's Maginot Line. Started around the 4th century AD it was gradually extended — the major part being constructed in the Ming Dynasty (14th to 17th centuries). In the end it proved completely ineffective as the Manchus easily breached it and then ruled China till 1911.

We then flew to Guilin, a three hour flight from Beijing. It is in Guangxi province which lies to the west of Guangdong. It is famous for its scenery — the limestone (karst) hills which provide the inspiration for Chinese landscape painting. We took the five hour cruise down the Li River, where for the whole fifty-mile journey both banks are dominated as far as the eye can see by these hills.

Guilin itself is a fine modern city — rebuilt after the Japanese completely destroyed it in 1944. (It was a major US bomber base until its capture, which is why the airport today has one of the longest runways in China — built to take fully loaded B29 bombers.)

We found people everywhere very friendly and helpful and often keen to practise their English on you. On the other hand when I spoke in Chinese no one thought it strange — as if they expected everyone to speak it. In the 1950s/1960s in Hong Kong if you spoke Cantonese it was assumed you were a police officer!

Earlier this year I received a letter from Ted Morley, whom I had not heard from for many years — we used to meet occasionally in the late '50s when he was Station Medical Officer at RAF Changi, Singapore. As a consequence when I was in the UK in June/July he very kindly entertained me to lunch at the RAF Club and we talked over our time at KES over sixty years ago. We used to cycle to school together most mornings from Hall Green, and we were both Sergeants in the JTC.

This reminiscing led me to recollect my last years at school (1942 to 1945). In the Lower Classical VI of 1942 there were only six of us — four of Scottish origin and two English — the ones I disliked. Four of us were Foundation Scholars, and in the 1942 School Certificate

examination two of these Scholars (myself included) didn't reach matriculation standard, but then neither did John Vane, later a Nobel Laureate and a Fellow of the Royal Society. One of these four Scholars also failed the 1943 Higher School Certificate exam. This doesn't say much for the standard of teaching in the school in those days, and it could not just be blamed on the war. For instance, I was put in for School Certificate Advanced Mathematics, which was completely incomprehensible to me, but the teacher never noticed this. I got 9% in the exam. The English teacher, too, was a complete dead loss and I only got a bare pass in English Literature.

The only teachers in the upper school who impressed me were Roger Dunt, Head of Classics, and Fanny Leeds, my housemaster. Also, of course, John Lambert, who commanded the JTC, which was my greatest interest at school. (It was good to read that my OTC/JTC relics were appreciated.) Other teachers I liked, but they were hardly inspirational. Incidentally, in view of recent correspondence on the subject I must declare myself a firm supporter of Codger Power.

I fear I have gone on too long so I will close now.

With kindest regards

Alan Young



## ***From Chris Eckersley (1970)***

30 October 2005

Dear Bernard,

I am writing with some good news concerning the Altarpiece Appeal.

The appeal was launched only ten months ago with the aim of raising £6,000 in order to have restored Bruce Hurn's 1956 *Crucifixion* in the School Chapel. (Readers may remember that this painting was the victim of a misguided and amateurish reworking in the 1980s.) Many OEs and former members of staff have responded quickly and generously and we now have over £5,000 in the fund. Furthermore, Jerry Trafford at the Foundation Office has very kindly agreed to use the Foundation's charitable status to add further finds through the Government's Gift Aid scheme. This means

that we will soon have the money in place for the restoration to go ahead in 2006.

Sadly, we are living in a time when much of the painting, sculpture and architecture of the 1950s and 1960s is undervalued, unappreciated and unfashionable. Here in Birmingham many of the very fine modern buildings of local architect John Madin have been, or are about to be, demolished. Pebble Mill has just been razed — seemingly, with no local protest — and when Madin's Chamber of Commerce building goes there is still a question mark over the future of the John Piper mural that it contains.

In this climate we are indeed very fortunate that enough OEs have felt it worthwhile to preserve the Altarpiece, and to have it returned to its original state as a valuable part of the School's long history. Many thanks to all who have contributed!

Yours sincerely,

Chris Eckersley.

*Sincere congratulations to Chris not only for his enterprise and energy in this matter, but also for his determination in overcoming a degree of institutional reluctance. We look forward to the successful restoration of this impressive piece of work — BSA.*



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# NOTES & NEWS

Congratulations to **John Croxall (1963)** on his election in 2005 to Fellowship of the Royal Society. He is Head of Conservation Biology and Honorary Professor at the University of Birmingham.



**William Grant (2000)** graduated in Medicine from the University of Sheffield last summer. He and his wife Victoria are working as Foundation 1 doctors at Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital. William was the 2005 winner of the Arthritis Research Campaign prize in Rheumatology, and by way of a hobby is a recording singer-songwriter (vocalist and guitarist).



Many will remember one of the most distinguished KES swimmers, **John Hodgskin-Brown (1944)**, whose death is reported in this issue. He swam for Warwickshire and England, narrowly missing selection for the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki.



**Christopher Lawrenson (1998)** is serving with the Nottinghamshire Police Force and his wife Louise (ex-KEHS) is working at the Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham.



At its 2005 Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, The Inter-Society Color Council (ISCC) honoured **Dr Alan Robertson (1958)** with the presentation of the Godlove Award, the highest honour bestowed by the ISCC. It is given in recognition of a lifetime of distinguished service to the colour community. Dr Robertson received his BSc in 1962 and his PhD in 1965, both from Imperial College, London. He received the Canadian Society for Colour Merit Award in 1981. He is a member of the Colour Group (Great Britain) and the ISCC.

Before his retirement, Dr Robertson had been head of the Photometry and Radiometry Group and of the Chemical and Mechanical Standards Section of the Canadian National Research Council's Institute for National Measurement Standards. His main research specialities were in the fields of spectrophotometry, colour science and colorimetric standards, with an emphasis on colour difference evaluation and colour order systems. He was also involved in the negotiation and implementation of various international agreements on measurement standards, and prominent in the development of colour difference formulae.

*Any OE requiring the full press release from which the above is taken should ask me for it — BSA.*



A summarised biography of the School's only historically significant soldier Field Marshal **Sir William Slim** appeared in the June issue of the magazine *History Today*. I am hoping to obtain permission to reprint this in the *Gazette*.



**Paul Smith (1974)** went up to Queens' College, Cambridge, on leaving KES. Between taking his MA (1978) and PhD (1983) he lectured in literature at the University of Delhi from 1978 to 1980. Since then he has served with the British Council in UK, Bangladesh, Nigeria, India, New Zealand, Chile, Germany and Burma, and since August 2005 has been Director of the British Council in Egypt. He has been appointed OBE, and has various publications in literary reference works. He is married to Viveka Kumari, and they have two sons — Mrinal (19) and Nikhil (10) — and a daughter, Radheka (8).



**M Raveem Tahir (2000)** has successfully completed a postgraduate Masters at Wolfson College, Oxford: an MSc by Research "Modelling Studies and Observations on the

Mount Hekla Eruption of 2000." He goes on to pursue a DPhil funded by the Department for Transport at St Edmund Hall, the University of Oxford, starting research on aircraft-induced cirrus clouds.



**Abdul Q Tahir (2004)** has successfully completed the first year of Medicine at Brasenose College, Oxford, and was awarded an Exhibitionary Scholarship for outstanding merit in his Prelims.



**Desmond Trigg** left School at Christmas 1945, aged just 16 — with the benefit of hindsight, a bad move, he feels. After about 18 months as a laboratory assistant with ICI Metals in Smethwick he went to Birmingham Technical College (now Aston University) with a Technical State Scholarship, and there he obtained Higher School Certificate and a London University BSc in Geology with Chemistry — playing rugby the while for the OEs Extra Firsts. National Service saw him an armament fitter in the RAF, posted just outside Blackpool, where he met his wife, then a local teacher. He then joined the central research laboratories of English Electric in Stafford, working on R&D of technical ceramics, before moving to their insulator production unit near Accrington. This closed in 1966 and he moved elsewhere as a technical director, having meanwhile gained wife, son and daughter. Back then to English Electric for a spell. In October 1969 he joined the management consultant P-E International, where he remained until retirement in 1989. This was a wonderful — if sometimes stressful — experience, which took him all over this country and to many places abroad. Since then he has done a little consulting, been Chairman of the Stafford Conservative Association and Stafford Probus Club, and has been involved with the local history society and National Trust Centre. He and his wife have travelled extensively abroad on holiday, and he is a keen gardener.



**Congratulations to RM Whalley (1965)** on his appointment as a Companion of the Order of the Bath in the Birthday Honours List 2005. He has recently retired as Director, Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence at the Home Office. His father **WL Whalley** is, he reports, in good health, aged 94, and living in a retirement home on the Sussex coast.



**Philip Wheatley (1998)** studied at Bristol University on leaving School, taking his MSci in 2003 and PGCE in 2004. He is now teaching science at St Katherine's School, Bristol.



## ***EX-PRESS***

*Brian Creed keeps an eye on the media:*

The novelist **Jonathan Coe (1979)** has won BBC Four's £30,000 Samuel Johnson prize for his *Like a Fiery Elephant*, a biography of the writer BS Johnson. His novel *The Closed Circle* was the choice book for July of the Daily Telegraph Book Club.

**Christopher Hughes (1960)** of St Philips Chambers hosted a meeting of Euro MPs on behalf of the lobby group Birmingham Forward.

**Stephen Talboys (1981)** of Harris Allday was among the seventy-odd guests at the Birmingham Business Breakfast Club addressed by Neil Rami.

**John Wheatley (1969)**, formerly of KPMG, and a business partner are seeking backing for a cash 'shell' company, Investment West Midlands, to be floated on OFEX. A promising start has been made.



## ***OE Bibliography***

**BS Adams** (translator): *The Noszty Boy's Affair with Mari Tóth* (Kálmán Mikszáth, pub. Corvina, Budapest 2005, ISBN 963 13 5421 0).







# *Births, Marriages, Deaths and Obituaries*

## ***Births***

None have been reported.

## ***Marriages***

**William Grant (2000)** to Victoria Khromova on 24 June 2005 at St Mark's, Broomhill, Sheffield.

**Mark Stretch (1992)** to Nadine Faulkner at Bled Castle, Slovenia, on 20 May 2005.

**Christopher Lawrenson (1998)** to ex-KEHS Louise Elliott on 2 September 2005.

## ***Deaths***

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

**RM Brown (1950)**

**MG Coney**

**JK Hodgskin-Brown (1944)**

**N Joseph (1957)**

**JE Lewis (1938)**

**DA May (1961)**

**EJ Pitman (1943)**

**DL Robinson (1934)**

**GL Stagg (1931)**

**JR Wilde (1930)**

**Professor AH Williams (1945)**

## ***Obituaries***

### ***ROGER MURRAY BROWN (1933–2005)***

*This obituary is taken from that which appeared in The Birmingham Post:*

Roger Brown had a distinguished career in rugby. On leaving School he played in the second row for Old Edwardians, Combined Birmingham Old Boys and North Midlands. He was a long-serving member of the North Midlands finance sub-committee and was President 1989–91.

Off the pitch, he was a chartered accountant, working for Cadburys and IBM, and served North Midlands and Greater Birmingham with distinction as an administrator for many years. His service to Greater Birmingham was recognised with the award of honorary life membership of the Domestic Union.

A minute's silence was held in his memory at Greater Birmingham's annual meeting at Tally Ho! on 12 July, and a memorial service was held at St Mary's, Lapworth, on 22 July.

**Jim Wainwright (1951) writes:**

Born in Birmingham in 1933, Roger Brown came to King Edward's in 1944 and was placed in Robert's House, which was where I first met him. With so many young masters away in the war there was no rugby coaching except by senior boys, and it was not until much later that Roger and I formed a partnership in the second row of the scrum that was to flourish in the 1st XVs of 1949 and 1950, and even more so in the Old Edwardians in the mid-1950s. I well remember that in a match against Clifton, for which club the future international John Currie was playing, I soared into the air to take the ball from my illustrious opponent in the lineout. The height that I attained had nothing to do with my ability but more with Roger's prowess at lifting, which was, of course, strictly illegal in those days. This incident typified for me Roger's sense of fun, which I am told was later seen when, as a Lieutenant RA, he instructed his gunners to dig up fresh potatoes in a field and replace them with tins of Pom.

Roger left KES in December 1950, having represented the school at rugby, tennis and cricket (a very fast opening bowler), and proud to have been appointed a school prefect by Tom Howarth. He was articled to become a chartered accountant, and qualified in 1956. National Service in the Gunners followed, before he entered the family firm in the wholesale food business. In 1970 he moved to IBM, where he remained until his retirement in 1990.

During all these years his involvement in sport was paramount. He was a member of Edgbaston Priory Tennis Club for over fifty years, but his first love was rugby. He played for the Old Edwardians in four decades, beginning while still at school and playing his last game when he was forty-seven. He captained the club for several years in the 1960s, and also played for the Combined Birmingham Old Boys and Greater Birmingham. He went on to serve on the North Midland Committee for almost forty years and was County President between 1989 and 1991. A fellow committee member has said that "he

always spoke with an authority and eloquence that were possessed by few others. His views were sought and respected and his wise counsel was sorely missed when he stood down." After rugby there were the challenges and the pleasures of marathon running in London, skiing in the Alps and sailing amongst the Greek islands, in addition to tending his lovely house and garden near Henley-in-Arden, which frequently resounded to the strains of grand opera, played loudly.

The last time I saw him was at his small cottage in Languedoc in September 2004, nine months before he died. Although he had had several major operations he was the Roger we had known fifty years before. Full of fun, enjoying his early morning walk amongst the vines, and loving their produce in the evenings, when only the best was good enough for him. Supported by his devoted wife, Sheila, and his three children, he was thinking of others to the very end, and when it came a significant chapter in the history of the School and the Old Edwardians came to a close.



## JOSEPH ERIC LEWIS (1922–2005)

Eric Lewis was an immensely proud Old Edwardian who left school in 1938. He served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and spent part of the war in Burma. He qualified as an accountant and spent most of his working life with the chemical company Albright and Wilson, where he was Organisations and Methods Manager and was responsible for the introduction of the first computers in the late 1960s.

He was keen for his son Andrew to follow in his footsteps to KES, and became more involved in the activities of the School from 1965. A few years later a chance meeting with Mike Day on a train to London resulted in Andrew playing for the 'A' XI from the age of 13. Eric's interest in his son's activities and also in the game of cricket led him to attend many matches as a spectator before being persuaded to do "something more useful" and to commence umpiring. As with everything he did, he took this new interest very seriously and attended the necessary courses to become qualified. In 1973 the retirement of Dudley Cockle created a vacancy as School 1st XI

umpire, which Derek Benson invited Eric to fill. He fulfilled this role for more than twenty years before making way for a younger man. His umpiring activities saw him become secretary of the Midland Counties Cricket Umpires Association and enabled him to stand in many county second XI matches. He was involved in organising the umpires for the first two ICC International competitions in 1979 (won by Sri Lanka) and 1982, and he had the honour of standing in a number of these international matches. In 1982 he had the distinction of being one of the MCC's "Cricketers of the Year", an honour that many distinguished cricketers have not received.

Cricket aside, Eric was a keen Old Edwardian and regularly attended the Biennial Dinner and also the monthly lunches and the AGM. He also enjoyed the trips organised to locations such as the House of Commons and the walks arranged by the Ramblers.

His umpiring resulted in his wife, June, becoming a cricket widow, and so she took up bowls. Eric then joined her at Handsworth Wood Bowling Club, where he played with great enthusiasm and dedication, serving as treasurer for many years.

His pride at being an Old Edwardian was second to none and it was fitting that he was able to pass on his regards from his hospital bed, through his son, to Old Edwardians attending the barbecue at Streetsbrook Road the day before he passed away.

He remained cheerful to the end despite being restricted in his mobility for the last few years, and died after a short illness. He is survived by his wife June and his son Andrew, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



## DENNIS HANNAN (1915–2005)

*Dennis's death was noticed in the June 2005 issue. This obituary has been kindly supplied by his elder daughter Sheila Broome:*

Born in Erdington, Dennis was the second of three brothers. He was a pupil at KEGS Aston from 1926, before moving to New Street in 1928. There he was briefly a contemporary of Enoch Powell, whom he recalled as a very serious boy whose name dominated prize-giving ceremonies!

On leaving School Dennis joined the Road Transport & General Insurance Company in their central Birmingham office, studying at the same time for the examinations of the Chartered Insurance Institute, of which he later became a Fellow, as he also did of the Institute of Export.

During the War he was commissioned in the Royal Corps of Signals, reaching the rank of Captain. He served in the Middle East, returning to England via Sicily, Italy and Austria.

There followed a further short period with the Road Transport & General, after which he joined the Marine Insurance Company as Manager of their Birmingham Branch Office in Newhall Street, where he remained until 1961. During this period he was a regular speaker on marine insurance at meetings of the local branch of the Chartered Insurance Institute, where his talks were appreciatively received.

In 1961 he was promoted to a Head Office post with the Marine's parent company, Navigators & General, and moved to London. There he joined Eagle Star as Agency Manager in a mid-60s take-over. In 1968 he returned briefly to the Midlands as Training Officer at Eagle Star's new head office in Cheltenham; this he found particularly satisfying, but he was moved in yet another take-over and reorganisation to an administrative post in Sutton, Surrey. In his last few years he returned to Eagle Star headquarters as Administration Manager, more than happy to be back in his beloved Gloucestershire.

Retiring in 1980, Dennis remained in Cheltenham, where he was busily involved in charity work as a member of the local branch of Lions International. He drove the Lions Bus until his late 70s, taking groups of 'old people' (many of them much younger than himself!) to club meetings, outings, etc. and regularly taking special needs children to a local school, where he was very popular.

He was also involved in the running of his local PROBUS club and was a keen supporter of Cheltenham RFC. Cricket was another great love, although after many years in Gloucestershire he was never quite sure whom to support when the county team played Warwickshire! He had a keen interest in music and theatre, supporting the CBSO and

Cheltenham Everyman Theatre, although his childhood musical activity ended when his mother gave his violin to a church jumble-sale. He felt that this was perhaps a fair comment on his playing!

Dennis spent his last four years in the excellent care of Donnington Nursing Home, near Newbury, where he died just after his ninetieth birthday after a brave battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Dennis was a devoted husband and family man. He met his wife Maisie when they both worked at Road Transport & General, and their fifty-five years of marriage ended with her death in 1994. He is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



## **NATHAN JOSEPH (1939–2005)**

*Obituaries appeared in The Times, The Guardian and The Independent. Tony Trott writes:*

Those who were at KES in the fifties will remember Nathan Joseph, who died on 30 August aged sixty-six. I remember him at School principally as a Sixth-former in the History Sixth, small, compact, with a lively mind, one who worked enthusiastically. Beneath a slightly self-effacing exterior fizzed much energy and vitality, which broke the surface in two memorable performances in School plays. He played the rabble-rousing tribune Brutus in *Coriolanus* with a gusto that communicated alarmingly well the character's essential nastiness, and the following year transformed himself convincingly into a slightly pompous pedagogue to play the 'maître de philosophie' in *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. There was perhaps more than a delicate hint of his form master in the performance.

Nathan left KES to take up an Exhibition in English at Queens' College, Cambridge, **not** a Scholarship at King's College as the obituarists in at least two quondam broadsheets reported. It is important to get this right, because Nathan hated his time at Cambridge. He found his supervisor *non simpatico*, the Tripos a restrictive hindrance, his lodgings unfriendly, other undergraduates cliquish and snobby, and

the doors of the dramatic societies closed to him. No, as far as he was concerned Cambridge was not a success.

After leaving the university Nathan spent a year (as he put it) 'bumming around the USA' before making up his mind that what he had to do was to make some money. His father had died while Nathan was still a small boy and this, in addition to creating a trauma which lasted for many years, provided the spur for Nathan to succeed as a businessman. While in America he had observed that many recordings of jazz, folk and blues music were not available in the UK, and on returning to Britain he set up a company to import such recordings. This was the beginning of his very successful company Transatlantic Records. He soon expanded what was simply an import company by seeking out and recording on his own the most lively and imaginative (and usually unrecorded) performances in the country. He had a keen sense of what was genuinely fresh and alive and quirky, and it was this creative side of business that really interested him. He had the real entrepreneurial instinct and was bored by the details of day-to-day business routine. His search for the new and innovative was his distinctive strength as a businessman; usually it brought success, occasionally not, but the risk-taking was for Nathan an essential aspect of business. As a result of his restless determination to innovate many subsequently big names — not least Billy Connolly, whom Nathan recorded in a double album after urging him to give up playing the banjo and tell stories instead — were launched into the big time by Transatlantic Records. He said that his policy was to record 'Whatever I like', and his tastes led him to record not only new groups and musicians, but the likes of Connolly and the poets Adrian Mitchell and Christopher Logue.

In the late seventies Nathan withdrew from Transatlantic Records and became a theatrical agent and producer. His interest in the theatre had been lifelong, and as in the record business he had an extremely keen eye for talent, whether in an actor, director, a set designer or a lighting designer. He saw that the latter category was undervalued and underpaid, and did much to support young lighting designers and indeed other youngsters fresh from drama schools and just starting out on a career in the theatre. Collecting a team to

put on interesting and imaginative productions was for Nathan an exciting and creative exercise. His support for young talent and for regional theatre took him all over the country as he always went to see the work of his protégés, wherever it was. There were many such on his books, as well as some well-known names, for example the dramatist Arnold Wesker. Following up his protégés brought him back several times to Birmingham. He knew another reason, however, for visiting the iron heart of England, and it illustrates his readiness to take on challenges outside his usual field. He addressed himself with energetic enthusiasm to the rejuvenation of the family firm, which he transformed from a small-scale scrap-metal business into a highly successful modern waste-disposal operation, which he ran for several years before selling it.

Nathan retired in 2000 after a highly successful business career. One reason for this was that he wanted more time for other interests, thinking and writing poetry being high on the list. His poetry was a constant preoccupation, and he took it seriously. (Many of his poems can be read on his website.) Another interest was watching Test matches, and he thought nothing of jaunting off to watch the England team abroad, particularly in the West Indies. There he loved wandering about in the crowd and responding to its colour and vitality. He never, in my experience of him (which was social rather than professional), lost the slightly tentative and modest manner that he had at School, and I think that those who were present at the OE Dinner seven or eight years ago, at which he spoke, will bear me out. His manner was certainly not that of a hard-drinking company boss. Socially he was amusing, enthusiastic, informative, thoroughly entertaining. It is particularly sad that illness caught up with him so soon after he had retired and prevented him from the prolonged enjoyment of the interests and pleasures, shared with his splendidly lively wife Sarah and his two sons Girem and Joshua, that he had been looking forward to.



## **DENIS LEONARD ROBINSON (1917–2005)**

*This obituary is edited from that appearing in The Birmingham Post:*

Born in Erdington, where he first attended the National School, Denis next went to KEGS Aston. From there he won a scholarship to KES where he shone both academically and on the sports field. His lifelong tendency to push himself to the limit left him with a noticeably misaligned nose — the result of a number of accidents on the football field — but, together with his qualities of faithfulness and perseverance, led to a highly successful career.

On leaving School Denis joined the Wesleyan & General Insurance Company, remaining with them for the rest of his life and working up through the ranks to become Managing Director. In retirement he continued to serve as Deputy Chairman. His early upbringing in the traditions of Primitive Methodism left him with very clear views on ethical and moral matters. The welfare of his subordinates, and the ideas of fair play and equality of opportunity were of the greatest importance to him. Even so, when as MD he found himself called upon to play in the in-house table tennis competition he took it seriously, practised — and won! In salary negotiations with the unions, however, he would not accept for himself anything out of line with what was negotiated for his staff.

The attention to detail that was a pillar of his professional career was also to be seen in his garden, the tending of which provided a release from the tension of business life.

He served in the War with the Royal Artillery, seeing action with the 8th Army in North Africa, Greece and Italy. As an NCO he once more showed his concern for fairness, sometimes standing up for his men against senior officers and having a certain disregard for petty regulations. He was eventually commissioned and ended the war as a Lieutenant. Not only did his love of sport continue during military service, but he also wrote home a significant corpus of informative letters which are still extant in family hands.

Education was another topic that interested Denis greatly. He served as a governor of KEGS Aston and was instrumental in spearheading the Save Our Schools campaign of the 1970s, which aimed to retain selective education; this, he felt, offered students from less privileged backgrounds the best possible

opportunity. As Bailiff to the King Edward's Foundation in 1981–82 he maintained this principle, seeking to increase the number of scholarships available.

Family life too was a passion with Denis, and he valued highly the time that he could devote to the younger generation. He and Barbara had five children and a number of grandchildren; she and they survive him.



## **WILLIAM RENNIE SMITH (1933–2004)**

**DC Ward (1952)** *has supplied the following obituary:*

As a young World War II evacuee in Scotland, William Rennie Smith took the KES entrance exam in the birching room at Kilmarnock Academy. He arrived in Shell A in September 1945 to the tender mercies of Captain Power. I can imagine, though I do not know, that his nickname of Haggis may have been planted on him by Codger. It stayed with him until the sixth form, and the slowly delivered deep Scots accent remained with him throughout his life. Rennie was physically strong. His active life was curtailed recently by two recent severe bouts of fibrosing alveolitis and he died at 70 in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital on 6 October 2004.

Smith's period at KES spanned the regime of three Chief Masters: Morris, Howarth and Lunt. He was a quiet, independently minded boy, successful at his studies without being swottish, and not above the occasional practical joke. His room at home in Hall Green was a riot of Meccano, chemistry sets and the like. It was no surprise that his engineering talent, developed in the Science VI under the redoubtable 'Henry Hall', led to the award of an Open Exhibition at St John's, Cambridge, in 1952. I travelled up with him to St John's that year as the other freshman from KES. A lifelong friendship had begun.

Rennie specialised in Civil Engineering. Though he played little part in sport at school, he responded readily to the call of the river at Cambridge, explaining that he had found the ideal — a sport which was entirely sedentary. He rarely missed a visit to the annual Putney to Mortlake event, and after retirement to Suffolk he pursued his watery interests,

becoming a proficient sailor and Commodore of the Woodbridge Cruising Club.

After National Service in the Royal Engineers, Rennie came to specialise in heavy electrical engineering as a result of his work with BICC both on the electrification of the rail line from Southend to London and later on the development of insulators at the company's laboratories at Prescott. It was from there that in 1969 he joined British Rail's R & D Division in Derby as their Head of Electrification. His group was tasked with solving the electrical problems of current collection and insulation for advanced passenger trains projected to run on the West Coast main line at speeds up to 150 m.p.h. Tilting trains posed a particular challenge.

Rennie became a Member of the IEE in 1970, and a Fellow in 1978. At BR he headed a section of two dozen engineers. This might surprise those who knew him at school as a retiring boy. His boss told me that he was enormously respected for his experience and practical grasp of all engineering aspects. His colleagues warmed to his commitment and enthusiasm, his quiet humour and his gentle but strong style of encouragement.

After 13 years with British Rail Research in Derby, Rennie was selected to represent the UK at Utrecht in the European Railways' Office of Research and Experimentation. ORE's task was to enable the railways of Europe, through mutual consultancy, to spread best technical practice for the advantage of all. Smith's responsibilities there called for a combination of diplomacy, committee skills and engineering flair. It was a task he loved, and his colleagues much appreciated his humour, his understanding style and his command of French, German, Italian, Spanish and of course Dutch. Before his retirement, he became the organisation's deputy director. One is tempted to trace Rennie's linguistic fluency to its early flowering in the Classical Upper Middle and Fifth forms, when he won the form prizes. Was he the only classicist to select for his prize a 1946 book about progress in science, featuring articles on penicillin and electronics?

Rennie was generous with his resources, and always ready to offer a quiet helping hand to those in distress. With his wife Jeananne —

his childhood friend whom he married after his Cambridge days — he enjoyed the travelling, cultural and social activity afforded by his international appointment. Theirs was an extremely close and happy marriage. Three sons and a daughter all hold responsible posts in industry, the Army and the teaching profession. At one period, all four were choristers in Derby Cathedral. There are five grandchildren, all of whom greatly miss his sense of fun.



## **ALAN HAROLD WILLIAMS (1927–2005)**

*This obituary is edited from that by Alan Maynard, published in The Independent:*

Alan Williams was for over 40 years a Professor of Economics at York University. He was a fine scholar, a principled researcher and a stimulating teacher and lecturer, with an eclectic vision of the social sciences, and economics in particular. When asked about his hobbies, he would always include teasing. Wont to assail his colleagues and students with impudent notions of elegance and novelty, he also liked to tease us all into challenging and changing the status quo, both in academic ivory towers and in the corridors of Whitehall. His lifelong belief in the power of logic and economic analysis as an instrument for improving social welfare resulted in his producing radical and innovative work in local government finance, water regulation and, most importantly, in health economics.

Born in Birmingham, he graduated in Economics from Birmingham University, then spent some time studying the Swedish public finance literature. In so doing he forged links with colleagues who later, in 1977, recognised his contributions to economics by awarding him an Honorary DPhil from Lund University, where to his delight this honour was marked by cannon fire.

His first academic teaching post, from 1954, was as a Lecturer at Exeter University, where he did pioneering work on the economic theory of local government finance and produced a textbook, *Public Finance and Budgetary Policy* (1963), exhibiting prodigious and mind-boggling mastery of three-dimensional geometry. In 1964 Professors Sir Alan Peacock and Jack Wiseman recruited Williams to the new university of York. Wiseman's libertarian free-market approach contrasted nicely with Williams's egalitarian perspectives, creating a remarkable teaching environment for students and staff and causing Enoch Powell on one occasion to question how his libertarian colleagues could tolerate such socialists in their midst. In 1966, Williams was seconded to the Treasury as Director of the Centre for Administrative Studies. During this period he was dispatched to the Ministry of Health to inject some economic rigour into hospital planning processes. He found no evidence of planning when he arrived in the ministry, but met some intriguing physicians, including Professor Archie Cochrane, who later pioneered the evidence-based medicine movement, and Professor Sir Douglas Black, who chaired a report on health inequalities. His exchanges with them convinced Williams that much of medical practice and health care planning was evidence-free and a suitable subject for analysis by a principled economist fully supportive of the principles of the NHS.

He returned to York and focused on the economics of the water industry, while continuing to work in health and maintaining his contacts with Cochrane and Black. His teaching remained in public finance where he inspired generations of graduate students. However, during the 1970s he was increasingly seduced by the challenges of the NHS and its role as a means of improving the health of the British population. He became the guiding light of health economics not just

in York, but nationally and internationally. His "corruption" of many fine young minds created an international York "mafia" of health economists. His work with the Merrison Royal Commission on the NHS in the late 1970s frustrated and exhausted him but provided the launch pad for his most famous work in health economics. His pioneering work on the measurement and valuation of health underpinned his advocacy of the concept of the Quality Adjusted Life Year (or QALY) as the best outcome measure in healthcare priority setting. This is now the central element of the work of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence.

In the last decade, Williams focused on the integration of equity concerns into cost-effectiveness analysis. In his seventies he argued with groups of senior citizens, advocating discrimination in favour of the young in NHS rationing. His concept of the "fair innings" suggested that those who had experienced this luxury should give up resources to fund the care of the young. In 2002, he was the first health economist to be elected a Senior Fellow of the British Academy.

Alan Williams encouraged generations of students and academic colleagues to tease out better solutions to the problems facing their societies, in particular their healthcare systems. He never intimidated and always brought new perspectives to the intriguing problems that populate not only the funding and provision of health care, but also the broader issues of improving population health by redistributive policies outside the NHS.

Alan Williams married June Porter in 1953. They had two sons and one daughter.



## **MG CONEY (1949)**

Information of the death of MG Coney has come to hand too recently for an obituary to be prepared; this will appear in the June 2006 issue.

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Publications: .....

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Profession(s) — what? for whom? when? .....

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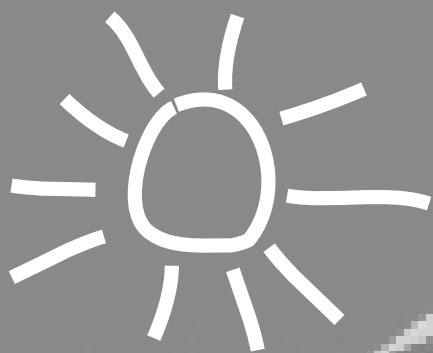
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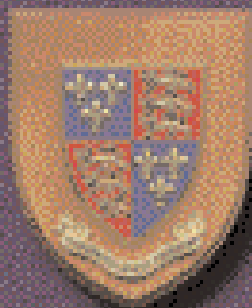
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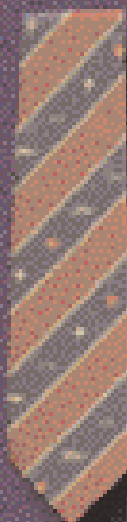
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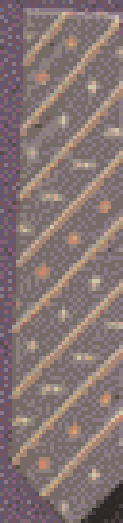
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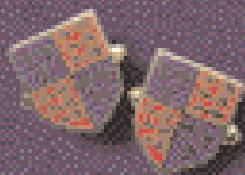


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