

December 2004



The Old Edwardians Gazette





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Copy for the next Gazette should reach the Editor by 30 April 2005. Views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Association.

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December 2004
No. 273

The Old Edwardians Gazette

*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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Editorial

Education, education, education . . .

Edwardians of my generation may thank their lucky stars that they were educated not only where they were, but also when. The evidence of constant tinkering with the system, without much by way of generally acclaimed improvement, is found in these pages in references to the Tomlinson report, the Schwarz report, the amount of examination that modern pupils are forced to undergo in this league-table age, the ineffectiveness of much of it, the impact of Health & Safety, the desire of doctrinaire politicians (usually without experience in the field) to interfere for 'social engineering' purposes, and the threat that all of this presents to the standards and standing of our universities. We, in our time, had a much simpler course to run, though one cannot help wondering whether the shift from School Certificate to GCE was beset by complaints of falling standards as more recent administrative moves have been.

The appeal that OEs have received for funds to provide subsidised places for financially disadvantaged boys will yield a drop in the ocean by national standards, but in terms of enhancing the effectiveness of King Edward's it will achieve a lot. The loss of the Assisted Places Scheme, as of the Direct Grant before it, coupled with the determination to maintain the status quo in terms of quality and opportunity, has left what in our schooldays we saw as an endlessly wealthy Foundation in a position similar to that of many a (then) wealthy Oxbridge college: the support of alumni is not only an expression of gratitude but is needed to keep a healthy distance between wolf and door. It has always been the case at King Edward's that merit and potential alone secure entry. As my correspondent Atrabilus Junior pointed out in the last issue, a function of the School we used to know was to liberate its scholars from the mediocrity of their extracurricular worlds. Long may it remain so — *floreat domus!*



The Cover Picture . . .

shows a general view of the festive scene in Big School at the Biennial Dinner. The picture has been kindly provided by Mike Baxter.



Guided Tours

Derek Benson makes it known that he 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.



Burne-Jones stained glass

Derek Benson has a dwindling number of illustrated booklets on the stained glass by Sir Edward Burne-Jones OE in Birmingham churches. This very attractive little publication by Alastair Carew-Cox and William Waters is available to members — while stocks last — at the knock-down price of £1, inclusive of postage. Apply to Derek 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 attendance is cordially invited! Contact either Brian Teare (0121 429 7993) or Brian Creed (0121 705 5564).



Launch of New Interactive OEA Website

With this edition of the *Gazette* we are launching our new OEA website. You should find a letter explaining all about this in the same envelope that brought the *Gazette* to you. The letter lists some of the new facilities we now have available and gives you a personal username and password to access these.

The new website is to be found at www.oldereds.org.uk

Please log on and review/update the information we have there about you, and if you are happy to share this information with other logged-on OEs please follow the instructions in the letter to make this happen. It would also help us considerably if you used the website in future as your way of telling us of any changes of postal or e-mail address or

other personal details. You can update any of your information directly on our database at any time.

If you don't use the Internet, don't worry! The Association will still function in the same way as it always has done for you. We will still happily receive written changes of address etc. from you if you can't get them to us electronically.

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Articles

David W Chalmers (1959) *has been . . .*

Not Quite on TV!

Readers may remember, and indeed may have watched, a series of TV programmes on Channel 4 called 'Salvage Squad'. In January one was screened covering the restoration of a WWII German midget submarine of the Biber (Beaver) Class. The particular one in question was Biber 105, housed in the Submarine Museum at Gosport. A second one is kept at the Imperial War Museum (in 'as captured' and sixty years later condition!) and so it was acceptable to the conservationists to restore one to as near working condition as feasible. The history of 105 is still being researched, but it was photographed on a lorry in Piccadilly in London during a victory parade in 1945, and subsequently was lodged at HMS Ganges in Harwich until that establishment closed, when it was transferred to the museum. During its time at Ganges much of its internal equipment was removed.

During 2003 Channel 4 TV agreed with the Submarine Museum that Biber 105 would be a

good subject for one of their 'Salvage Squad' programmes. The restoration was contracted to Ian Clark Restoration of Winchester and was sponsored by FSL Portsmouth.

Through my membership of the National Historic Ships Committee, I was asked to provide some submarine understanding to the project (I retired as Head of Submarine Technology for the Defence Procurement Agency). As I dug deeper, however, I quickly became aware that the contributors knew very little about submarines, and that the only data available on the boat consisted of some general dimensions, a sketchy arrangement produced for the intelligence community by Chatham Dockyard in 1945 (still marked Secret), some photographs and, of course, the boat itself. On top of that Channel 4 gave us roughly eight weeks to get the boat to a state in which it could be dived and propelled electrically underwater in a dock in Portsmouth Dockyard, with a pilot on board. It seemed that my job would be to make sure that the boat would submerge (submarines only do this under duress) and equally importantly come back again.



To do this I had to draw out the full shape of the boat (by hand) and then carry out some complex calculation of the weight and buoyancy to estimate how much pig-iron ballast would be needed so that with water ballast tanks empty it would float, and with them flooded it would sink! It was probably over 30 years since I had had to do such calculations myself so it was a good bit of retirement exercise! At least I still have my text books and college notes. A photograph of the boat on its trailer shows the extraordinary shape to be analysed. Maths with E.V. Smith has never been wasted . . .

I estimated that 1300 kg of ballast would be needed and that they should add 1000 kg to start with as a check, for which the boat should float at a draught of 840mm. In the event it was very light. An embarrassing pause followed in which it was discovered that pounds and

kilograms had been confused. In due course, with a couple more ballast adjustments, I was pleased to discover my calculations were justified, and we got the boat to dive and surface successfully. Much of this playing around, not surprisingly, did not appear on the programme. Also viewers were not aware that the boat went backwards to start with because the electrical connections were the wrong way round. The second photo shows it going in the right direction.

The pilot was the chief pilot of the rescue submersible LR5 who had dived on the Kursk. He found the Biber easy to control on the surface and to submerge and surface statically, but very difficult to control under way submerged because of the slow response of the control surfaces — and that was in flat calm in dock! Nevertheless he enjoyed driving it and it was difficult to get him to come back. Channel

4 had found a surviving German 'test pilot' who had checked many of the boats before they were delivered, but he refused the opportunity to dive it again!

I was aware of filming going on all the time I was there and watched the programme with interest, only to find I had been edited out together with many of the more exciting bits! I was wearing a blue hard hat and I am told the hat appeared briefly, hence the title of this cameo.

For the historically or technically minded, a few details are of interest.

By 1944 it was clear to the German Navy that the war at sea was not going their way. They were impressed with the apparent successes of the Italian, British and Japanese midget submarines, and particularly the British Wellman 46, one of which they had captured at



Bergen, and set about building a number of classes of their own. Amongst a variety of types was the Biber, designed by Korvettenkapitän Hans Bartels based on the Wellman. Commencing in March 1944 some 324 of these were built by Flenderwerke of Lubeck, the final ones being delivered in November of that year! Technical particulars were:

Displacement	6.3 tonnes
Length	9 m
Beam (incl. torpedoes)	1.6 m
Propulsion	Single shaft, 32 hp Opel petrol engine; 13 hp electric motor with three Type T13/T210 batteries.
Fuel capacity	110 kg
Speed	6.5 kts (surfaced), 5.3 kts (submerged)
Endurance	130 n.m. (surfaced), 8.6 n.m. (submerged)
Armament	Two G7e electric torpedoes.
Crew	One

The torpedoes were slung in cut-outs in the hull and were neutrally buoyant (weighing 1500 kg each in air). They were released mechanically, the action of releasing them starting the motor. They were aimed by the pilot sighting through the conning tower forward port and lining up a pointer on the bow.

Although these boats had some recorded kills, they were far more dangerous to their pilots than to the enemy. Few if any are believed to have returned from their first mission. Biber 90 was captured intact by HMS Ready on 29 December 1944, the pilot having been poisoned by a mixture of carbon monoxide and petrol fumes!

My drawing and calculations have been archived at the submarine museum in case they should want to run the submarine again.



David Little (2001) *writes of a novel academic experience:*

Every year thousands of British university students spend a “sandwich” year abroad, most as part of the Erasmus exchange programme,

choosing between a teaching placement or a year of study at a partner university. However, the new “Double Maîtrise” programme at Cambridge University is one of only two programmes in the country (the other being at King’s College, London) to offer its students two years abroad, with the opportunity to gain both an English BA and a French *maîtrise en droit*. The graduate can then, after taking the necessary qualifying exams, practise law in either country. The requirements of the English and French legal systems dictate the structure of the course, with the student having to complete all the necessary “exemption” subjects demanded by each country as a prelude to legal practice. The second year exams in Cambridge become the student’s finals, and the degree with which he will graduate from the University. In Paris, the student enters the third year of study (*licence*) and completes a mixture of second and third year subjects, then joins the normal fourth year of study taken by French *maîtrise* students. The “Double Maîtrise” student thus effectively compresses four years of French law and three years of English law into a course only marginally longer than that of most English undergraduates.

Practically, what does this mean for the student? Essentially, that the course is tough at every point. At entry level, even amongst Cambridge courses, the “Double Maîtrise” is recognised as being particularly demanding, and competition for the places is fierce. Most French students accepted onto the course are bilingual, the product of French–English marriages and a childhood spent in International schools on the Continent. Fortunately for British students wishing to apply, A-level French is sufficient, or at least was at the time of my application in 2001. Once at Cambridge, whilst the first year is only as exacting as the normal BA Law, the second year is very difficult, and the stage at which students most commonly drop out of the programme. The course is not so demanding as to swallow up the student’s social life, but it is fair to say that your efficiency becomes vital — unless you work well, you can work endlessly. In that sense, it is an ideal preparation for the first semester in Paris, when a full eight hours’ sleep becomes the stuff of legends, a hazy memory of English life

along with Heinz Baked Beans, PG Tips and queuing for buses.

Yet to concentrate on work would be to ignore all that is good about the “Double Maîtrise”. On what other course does a student have the chance to experience two totally different cultures, and to live in one of the most beautiful cities of the world? Few engineers or natural scientists will have the opportunity to walk out of lectures, straight into a café to enjoy a morning coffee in sight of the Eiffel tower, or be part of an 80,000 strong standing ovation for a moment of Zidane brilliance at the Stade de France. Then there are the lesser known delights of Paris, as one older, distinguished member of the Oxbridge Old Boys’ Society was keen to impress on me moments after we were introduced: “Ah, you’re an exchange student over here are you? So, you must be enjoying *les filles* . . .”

KES students interested in the course should consult the www.doublemaîtrise.com website for further information, or feel free to contact me at Queens’ College, Cambridge & Université de Paris 2 (Assas), e-mail drml2@cam.ac.uk



Kenneth McKenzie (1943) *reminisces on*

The Swimming Club over sixty years ago

A short while ago there was a photograph in the *Gazette* of an undefeated swimming team. This summer, while swimming gently in a warm Cornish bay, my thoughts went far back to 1943, when we too won all our matches. On reflection, it was a difficult task, because we had no swimming pool, no swimming coach, and had to practise in the City baths after school. We travelled to all our opponents and so had no supporters to encourage us.

Before World War II we went to the elegant, modern Gala Bath in Kent Street, off the Bristol Road near Holloway Head. We were timed over various distances while we swam around, sometimes colliding with the general public. The price of admission was threepence (old style!) but we were able to take advantage of a special pass issued to encourage

Birmingham children to swim, so it actually cost us twopence!

If you forgot your swimming kit, or were pressed to swim at short notice by an ardent House Captain, you could hire a 'slip' for a penny. This was a minuscule 'one-size-fits-all' piece of navy-blue cloth three inches wide, which just about covered the pubes and was fastened at one hip by two ribbons, like a girl's bikini. (The latter garment, the design of the French Louis Réard, did not appear until 1946. Could he have visited Kent Street before then and seen our tiny garments?) You could also, for a further penny, hire a limp towel the size of a tea cloth. If hard up, however, you borrowed a friend's towel after he had dried himself.

Unfortunately the modern Kent St. pool was wrecked by a German bomb early in the War, so we had to swim at various small, late Victorian-style baths which were even more crowded.

In the warm late summer of 1939 the School was evacuated to Repton. In the rush to go, few boys thought of packing swimming trunks, and so in the fine weather we happily swam naked until schoolbooks began to arrive and, sadly, term began. In the unheated open-air pool boys who practised diving from the top board had to wear or borrow trunks, because they were visible from the adjacent road — we were strictly warned not to offend the ladies of Repton village. A small group of us swam after school until half-term — a stoic act as the temperature (which was chalked up every day on a blackboard) dropped steadily. At 56° we admitted defeat and gave up!

In 1943 nine matches had been arranged with schools around the Midlands, but early in the term three schools cancelled because they could not raise a competitive team. We wondered if they had heard from schools that we had already beaten, or remembered our good team from the previous year. Of the six schools that welcomed us three — Repton, Rugby and Solihull — had unheated open-air pools; the largest of these was that at Rugby, which was 200 feet long. In the relay one's team-mates waiting at the other end looked the size of pygmies. Shrewsbury and Trent College had small enclosed pools built about

1900; Burton Grammar School, like ourselves, had no pool and hired the Municipal Bath in Burton. They were usually our strongest opponents, and were Midland Schools Champions for many years.

I am sure that our times have by now been greatly improved on, but here are some from those distant, rather amateur days when most of us were self-taught. From contemporary records, Trevor Churchman won the 50 yards on four occasions, with a best time of 29.2 seconds; Keith McGowan won the 100 yards three times with a best of 69 seconds, while J. Hodgskin-Brown won everything he entered, recording 2 minutes 32 for the 200 yards Freestyle and 35.5 seconds for the 50 yards backstroke.

On one occasion a while earlier we travelled to Malvern College by train, some of us wearing those bizarre straw boaters which were becoming less popular in the late 1930s. At Malvern station our captain, Bruce McGowan, accompanied by a youth in sports jacket and Oxford bags, led our team down the platform to be greeted by the College captain: "Welcome to Malvern! Gosh! You lucky chaps — I'm amazed you've been allowed out for the whole day without a master." "Not exactly," said Bruce, "may I introduce our timekeeper and sports master Mr John Ounstead!" Rapid apology from the Malvern boy amidst much laughter from all, including JO, who later became a noted Headmaster of Leighton Park School — for an account of Bruce McGowan's career see page 26.

Happy days! A happy band of brothers — literally, with two McGowans and two Baileys in the team.

The incident at Malvern involving John Ounstead reminds me of the first ever KES hockey team's visit to Church of England College, where we were chaperoned by our contemporary Sixth-former R.H. Goodall, who took tea in the mistresses' common room and remained undetected! — BSA



The search for closure

Robin Richardson reviews The Closed Circle by Jonathan Coe, Viking 2004, 433 pp, £17.99.

'Everybody needs closure,' says a character at one point in Jonathan Coe's new novel. 'That's what it's all about, I reckon'. Nearly all the male characters in the book have in common that they were pupils at King Edward's School, Birmingham, in the 1970s. They are now in their early forties and all are seeking some sort of closure. Amongst other things, they seek closure from their own teenage years in Birmingham. The novel is a sequel to *The Rotters' Club* and will be fascinating — though at times painful and embarrassing — for all Old Edwardians, whatever their age.

The Closed Circle is a novel of ideas — political ideas about New Labour, globalisation, terrorism, Iraq, 9/11 and new forms of racism and nationalism. The ideas are in the backdrop and scenery, though, not centre stage. Essentially the book is about people, not theory. One of the characters, it so happens, is trying to write a book full of political analysis. He makes little progress with the actual text and someone who knows him well explains: 'I know you. You can't write about ideas. It's too abstract for you. You're interested in *people*. That's what this book ought to be about, if you're ever going to write it: what drives people to these positions?' She continues: 'And I think that maybe it's started to fascinate you because in the middle of all this you think you're going to find something out.'

Coe too is interested in people and in what drives them. He intertwines a wide range of interlocking personal stories and sub-plots (including a murder mystery) against the background, lightly sketched, of national and international politics. What causes the difference, he wonders, between closures that are liberating and closures that are fearful, mean-minded and excluding? What leads some people to own the past, but others to deny it or to be obsessed by it? Do the stories and struggles of individuals provide insights and metaphors for understanding the world of politics? In the middle of such questions Coe is fascinated to find something out, if he can, in the company of his readers.

Being all aged about 40, the men in the book see in their mirrors and in each other's faces

that they are losing, or have now irredeemably lost, the handsome good looks they had in the sixth form. Most are every bit as obsessed by sex as they were as teenagers, however, and are no wiser, kinder or more considerate in their dealings with women than they were twenty years ago. Most have achieved success in their careers but all are dissatisfied and disappointed and feel in varying degrees incomplete, unbalanced, unrestful, weightless. Their lives are characterised, they feel, by 'coincidence, randomness and chaos', not purposes they can choose or find. Several are keen to be creative with their pens and word-processors but none is able to get anything completed and closed, other than scraps of ephemeral journalism.

Of the characters involved full-time in politics, one is a New Labour MP whose principal political agenda — even, whose sole political agenda — is to please, or minimally to avoid displeasing, Tony. He sets up a think-tank to research ways of extending privatisation into every area of public life. Outwardly, the organisation is transparent and democratic. But within it there is a secret cabal whose task is to pursue and manipulate a hidden agenda. The title of this group is The Closed Circle. Another character in politics is in the outer reaches of the far right. He uses his immense intelligence and articulacy to dream of, and to advocate, a world of closed, self-contained circles in which each so-called race has no contact, interaction or overlap with any other.

The book contains jokes and humour, though not on the scale of *The Rotters' Club*. Mainly the comedy is gentle and affectionate — you smile rather than laugh out loud. At times, though, it is poignant, savage and merciless, and terribly sad. For example, there is a sequence at one point during which the wife of the Labour MP is at home with their two small daughters methodically dressing a Christmas tree. They decide to do the baubles first. The one little girl, writes Coe with careful precision, 'took a silver one and a golden one and hung them from two of the branches, frowning with concentration, her tongue peeping out from between her lips.' He intercuts the close description of the Christmas tree receiving its finery with an

equally detailed description of something happening 100 miles away — the father of the family is making love to his young research assistant, someone closer in age to his two daughters than to himself. When one of the little girls pricks her finger on the tree's pine needles her mother exclaims: 'Careful, love. Those things are sharp, remember?' Coe goes on: 'Ruth looked seriously at her index finger and sucked it until the pain went away. She kept throwing her mother solemn glances, as if rebuking her for not having told her, already, that the world was such a dangerous place. Her mouth quivered and she was on the verge of tears . . .'

Open and closed circles are recurring motifs throughout the book. They include the Rollright Stones in Oxfordshire, the recurring full moon and 'the bubbles of self-absorption' in which most characters are trapped. All the characters need circles that are neither so closed you can't grow nor so open you are frozen by your freedom. They need such circles, yes, but basically can't find, make or sustain them.

A novel is a kind of circle. Like a life or an organisation it has to avoid being so tight and tidy that it closes its eyes to chaos, randomness and coincidence. At the same time its sense of complexity, contingency and incompleteness has to be expressed through a narrative that has a beginning and an end and a forward momentum between the two. How on earth, one wonders as one goes along with Coe's momentum, is he going to manage the last page? How can he make the book's ending both closed and open, both tight and incomplete?

For my own part, I found the last couple of pages both totally surprising and totally predictable — in a word, brilliant. As I put the book down, I wondered with longing whether I would have the good fortune to live long enough to know whether Coe decides one day to add a further volume to *The Rotters' Club* and *The Closed Circle*. And I wondered what — if he does — I would have the good fortune to find out, in and through his company.



ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

Annual General Meeting 2004

The Annual General Meeting was held at 2 p.m. on 15 September 2004 in the Clarendon Suite. The Chairman, Paul Thomson, was supported by twenty-two members: Bernard Adams, Andrew Baxter, Mike Baxter, Derek Benson, John Baller, Gary Bean, Ken Bean, Alan Blower, John Botterill, Gordon Britton, Tony Brierley, Brian Creed, Bill Chambers, Jeff Dolphin, Michael Edwards, Tom Freeman, John Freeman, Stephen Talboys, Brian Teare, David Ward, Max White and Clive Williams. Apologies were received from Gerald Chadwick, John Coley, David Corney, Paul Faber, Bob Garratt, Philip Gough, Gerald Grant, John Hinkley, Stan Kitchen, Eric Lewis, Michael Lloyd (to whom best wishes were sent for a speedy recovery), Bill Traynor and George Watts. The President too apologised for his absence, as he had to attend an urgent meeting of the Secondary Heads Association, and was represented by the Deputy Chief Master, George Andronov.

The Minutes of the AGM 2003 had been published in *The Gazette* for December 2003 and were taken as read. Their acceptance was proposed by Tom Freeman, seconded by Ken Bean, and general approval was indicated.

The Report of the General Committee had been published in *The Gazette* for June 2004 and was accepted in similar fashion.

The Accounts for year end 31 December 2003 had also been published in *The Gazette* for June 2004 and were accepted by general acclaim. Thanks were expressed to Roger Parsons (1968) of the Auditors, Clement Keys, who were reappointed.

In the absence of the President, **George Andronov** addressed the meeting. He spoke of the recently published Schwartz report on university admissions — he resisted calls for further testing of candidates, feeling that there was enough already; he revealed the Chief

Master's coming departure and outlined his achievements; he mentioned the Tomlinson Report on education from 14 to 19; he deplored the bureaucratic complexity of present-day arrangements for school trips, despite which KES had had much success; the Music School was to be refurbished, and the Concert Hall was wonderful, with its new sound system; results at A level had produced 92% at A and B grades, with numerous 'top 5' awards — KES was not an exam factory, and few boys took more than three subjects as quality was regarded as more important than quantity. It was the School's hope that boys would aspire to the extraordinary — witness the remarkable career of the late Dennis Hill. At GCSE 78% of the results were A* or A grades, with ten boys having A* in all their ten subjects; Richard Lau was in the 'top five' in Maths, Chemistry, Geography and Spanish. There had been successes too in the Schools Challenge, the various scientific and mathematical Olympiads, and in the exceptional award of two Arkwright Scholarships for Design & Technology. Sport too had prospered, as had the Arts, both performing and plastic, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. In conclusion, he spoke of the Chairman of the Governors Bob Evans, whose ill health was causing him to retire; his successor was to be Stephen Campbell.

The Officers as listed in *The Gazette* all offered themselves for further service and, there being no other proposals, were re-elected en bloc. In addition, under the scheme whereby committee members retire in rotation, Bernard Adams, David Brewer, Bob Edmonds and John Coley all offered themselves for re-election and, there being no other candidates, were so elected to general approval.

Other Business.

a) The Chairman spoke of the substantial contribution made to the Association over the years by Clive Williams, most notably

in the matter of the parental contribution scheme, which has resulted in about 90% now becoming life members on leaving School. Clive was already a life member, and it would be most appropriate to mark his work by electing him a Vice-President. This was proposed by David Ward, seconded by Tom Freeman, and carried with unanimous enthusiasm.

- b) Numbers for the Biennial Dinner, to be held the following week, were down on previous years, and members were urged to attend if possible.
- c) The proposed Bursary Appeal letters would be in the post in the next day or two. Members were asked seriously to consider the issues and implications.
- d) The Chairman thanked Brian Teare for his work in organising the regular monthly lunches and especially for setting up arrangements for the AGM.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3 p.m.

Derek H Benson
Stephen Talboys
Joint Honorary Secretaries
23 September 2004



Biennial Dinner

The Thirty-sixth Biennial Dinner took place on 24 September. The number attending was distinctly down on 2002 at 104 members, of vintages ranging from the class of 1935 to that of 2004. Guests were The President, Richard Temple Cox and Mark Wagh (who both spoke after dinner), the School Captain and the Presidents of OECC and EFC.



London Old Edwardians

The 2004 Annual Dinner will take place at the RAF Club on 6 December, with **Pal Hoggart (1969)**, Television Critic of *The Times*, as guest speaker.

A social event planned for 2005 is a Poetry Reading and Party on 23 April to celebrate St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday. This will be at Gyfres Farm Barn, Bucks Hill, Chipperfield, Herts., home of **Richard Tipton (1955)**, from whom details may be had: 01923 267664.



Where are they now?

Bill Kentish (1936) would like to contact **Malcolm Holden** (son of **GKF Holden (1935)**). Can anyone help?



The Appeal

At the time of writing there have been over a hundred responses to the appeal for support for bursaries to help replace the former Assisted Places Scheme. Donations and pledges so far received amount to a total of approximately £85,000 over seven years (with allowance for the relief obtainable through Gift Aid). Full fees are at present £7,380 per annum and are likely to rise by about 5% annually, so members may make their own calculation of what this means in terms of bursaries over boys' years in the School. Not a bad start, but there remains a lot to hope for, and your Committee is confident that the support of many more OEs will soon be forthcoming. Just think — there are nearly 3,000 of us, so if everyone gave only £10 a month . . .



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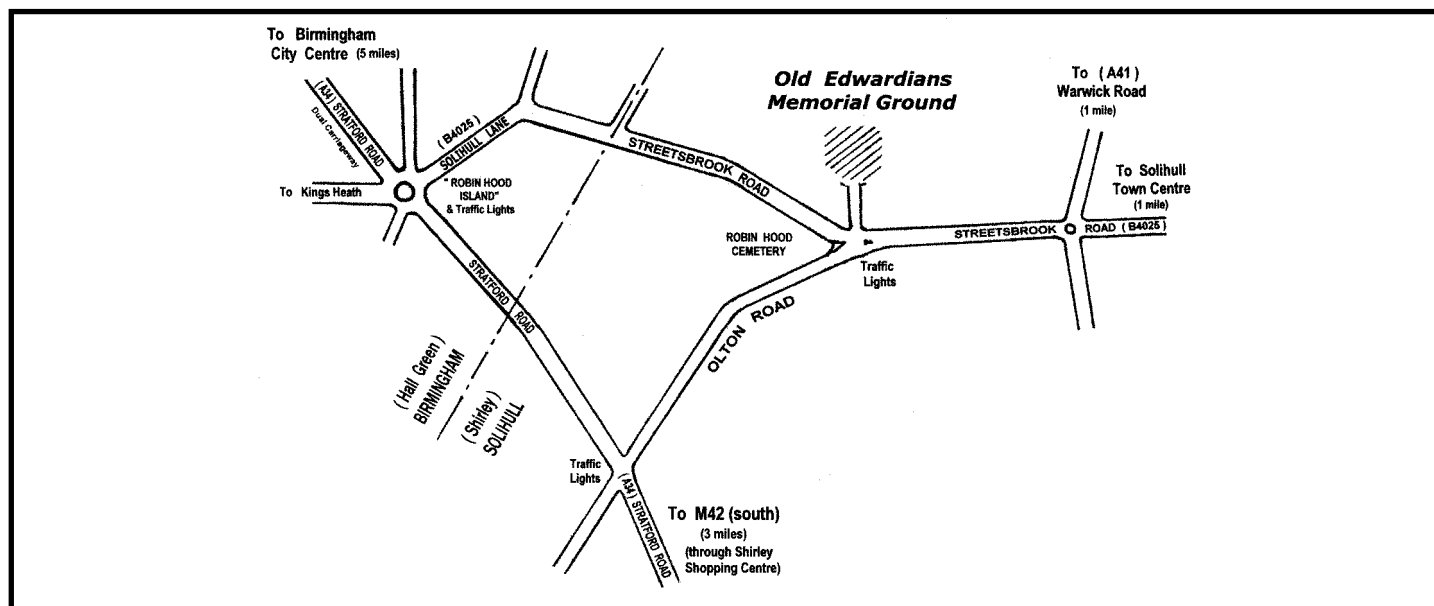
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OLD EDWARDIANS SPORT

Where to find us!

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

The Memorial Ground



Old Edwardians Cricket Club

John Evans (1991) writes:

The 2004 season was disappointing on the field, but the prospects for 2005 are considerably better. The performance of the 2nd XI this season was an honourable exception to an otherwise poor year.

The 1st XI were unfortunately relegated to Division 1 of the Warwickshire League despite finishing fourth from last. Relegation is based partly on geographical spread, so as all the teams relegated from the division above were from the Warwickshire Cricket Board region we were obliged to move down a division. In a season of underperformance the only notable win was over Berkswell by 10 wickets, with an unbroken stand of more than 200 runs by Mike Hughes (1983) and Peter Clare. For most of the rest of the season, failings with bat and ball consigned the team to the lower end of the table. The chances of promotion next season are improving as four new players have agreed to join the club for 2005.

The 2nd XI finished a credible fourth in their

Division despite losing their first three games. Good all-round performances with both bat and ball turned the season around, and at one stage the team was challenging for the top spot. Long-serving Captain Terry McMichael has announced that he is stepping down for next season, and the Club have expressed their appreciation for all his hard work over the years running the 2nds.

The 3rd XI experienced a season of 'what might have been', as they eventually finished a disappointing sixth in Division 1 South of the West Midlands 3rd XI Cricket Championship. Rain intervened on three occasions to prevent what would otherwise have been certain victories, once against the eventual Division winners, Nuneaton, and twice against the bottom club, Sheldon Marlborough. They were defeated on the last ball by Attock and fell four runs short of victory in a drawn match against Moseley Ashfield — never was the margin between success and failure so narrow! There were excellent performances with both bat and ball at times, and congratulations are due to Jaswinder Hunjan for scoring his maiden century for the club against Offchurch on the South Field at King Edward's.

Finally, it was pleasing to see the under-15s performing so well this season and that side contains four or five players who will certainly be ready to step up to the senior sides next season.



T J McMichael, long-standing captain of the 2nd XI, who stepped down at the end of the 2004 season

Edwardian Football Club

John Forster (1963) writes:

At the time of writing, early in the 2004–2005 season, indications are that we are improving.

Our league, Midlands Four West (South), appears to be turning into a two-tier situation, in which there are five teams clearly in contention for promotion while the remainder languish in the relegation zone. Happily, we are in the former category, having beaten league leaders Worcester on our last outing. By the time that this *Gazette* is published we will know the result of a crucial game against Evesham and will be better able to assess our overall position.

Our improvement has been due in part to a small but significant influx of new players, in particular three from Australia. We do not refrain from mentioning the World Cup in their presence! Another contributory factor is that we are successfully generating sufficient money to secure the services of both a coach and a professional physiotherapist. The hope is that we can reduce the number of injuries suffered in recent seasons, as these have proved detrimental to our progress.

Paul McLoughlin, Captain of the Club, reported on our website in October 2004 that

the First XV were bringing through some exciting new players in all positions. This has proved of significant value to the whole of the playing section. Gone are the days, alas, when clubs were able to put out four, five or even six teams every Saturday. Unlike most local clubs, however, we manage to field three sides nearly every week, together with the occasional Veterans fixture.

Our progress in cup competitions continues. In the Powergen Junior Vase we have advanced to the third round, and have drawn Berkswell & Balsall, who we have already beaten in the league. In the North Midlands Shield competition we are scheduled to play Kings Norton at home on the weekend of 18/19 December. Our hopes are that we can go one better than last season's achievement, when we reached the final.

The Team of the Seventies

Yet again Joan Glover managed to attract a wealth of talent from the seventies at the latest Vice-Presidents' pre-match lunch. All resolved to do it again on 8 January, when we again take on Evesham in the league. Where were Bowen, Cole, Everest, Landreth, Parsons and Preece to make up the team?

The Class of '72

On 16 October Richard Berry, having attained

the age of fifty, successfully assembled an array of his peers and mentors at a Reunion held at Streetsbrook Road. A light lunch was available before the friendly fixture against Woodrush. Elsewhere in this *Gazette* is pictorial evidence of the event and of those present, with the exception of Mike Allport, who was called upon to referee the match.

The players have resolved to reinstate the Easter Tour, and next year's invasion of Prague might be of interest to those of us who can still recall the antics of yesteryear. The anthem remains 'What goes on tour stays on tour'.

Our relaunched '100 Club' continues to be popular with the monthly results being published on the website.

Mike Allport continues with the organisation of the events of 'Year 125' in 2007, which is also the time of the next Rugby World Cup.

Streetsbrook Road is now very welcoming, with constant improvements to the facilities. We look forward to seeing faces old and new alike — come whenever you can!



Reunion at Streetsbrook Road 16th October 2004.

Rear Section L–R: Paul Glover, Rick Sheppard, Rich Handley, Roy Clarke, Andrew Burn, Steve Johnson, Ian Metcalfe and current Edwardian FC President Stephen Johnson

Front Section L–R: Andy Lewis, Chris Springall, John Forster, Derek Everest, Derek Benson, Richard Leadbeater, Dave Williams, Tim Wenman, Richard Berry, John Burton, John White and John Holder



Lunch before the match with Worcester Wanderers.

Over forty supporters of the rugby club attended a luncheon before the match against Worcester Wanderers, which was won 7-6 in truly awful conditions. Among those attending were: John Wright, Steve Johnson, Peter Green, John Forster, Roger Brown, Bernie Homer, Philip Gough, Michael Day, Colin Wood, Ron Heath, Roy Stevens, Bas Macdonald, Ian Crawford, Stuart Hardie, John and Aileen Stoker, Andrew and Gill Packham, Paul Thomson, Mike Allport, Brian and Pam Creed, David and Mary Brewer, Gerald Chadwick, Jerry Bayliss, Peter and Maggie Dean, John Park, John and Jan Freeman, Bill and Roberta Shrimpton, Duncan and Joan Glover, Charles and Ella Fentiman, and Andy Yarwood.

These luncheons take place throughout the rugby season. Those arranged for 2005 are on Saturdays 8 January, 5 February and 12 March.

For further details and to make reservations please contact Joan Glover on 0121 777 8907.

Edwardians Fixtures 2005

1st XV

8 Jan	Evesham*	H
15 Jan	Spartans	A
22 Jan	Worcester*	A
29 Jan	Solihull*	H
5 Feb	B'ham Exiles	H
12 Feb	Civil Service	H
19 Feb	Coventry Marconi*	A
26 Feb	Kersley*	H
5 Mar	Old Yardleians	A
12 Mar	Berkswell & Balsall*	H
19 Mar	Spartans	H
26 Mar	EASTER	
2 Apr	Southam*	A
9 Apr	Old Halesonians*	H
16 Apr	Civil Service	A
23 Apr	Woodrush	A

* denotes a league fixture

2nd XV

As for 1st XV with venues reversed, except as follows:

22 Jan	Camp Hill	A
--------	-----------	---

12 Feb	Wyvern	A
12 Mar	POOL	
2 Apr	Yardley & District	H
9 Apr	Wyvern	H
16 Apr	Five Ways 1	H
3rd XV		
8 Jan	Evesham	H
15 Jan	Spartans	A
22 Jan	Camp Hill	H
29 Jan	Shotton	A
5 Feb	Kings Norton	A
12 Feb	Civil Service	A
19 Feb	Coventry Marconi	A
26 Feb	Kersley	H
5 Mar	Old Yardleians	A
12 Mar	Bridgnorth	
	Development	A
19 Mar	Old Saltleians	H
26 Mar	EASTER	
2 Apr	Redditch	A
9 Apr	POOL	
16 Apr	Alcester	A
23 Apr	Aston OE IV	??

SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Speech Day

Speech Day this year was 10 July, and in front of a full Big School the Chief Master first welcomed the principal guest, Professor Michael Sterling, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Birmingham. He outlined the Professor's career from its beginnings with an apprenticeship with AEI, a degree followed by a PhD and a lectureship at Sheffield University. There followed the Chair of Engineering at Durham at the early age of 33, from where he moved to Brunel as Vice-Chancellor before coming to Birmingham. He is Chairman of the Russell Group and has been President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, is a Trustee of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts and President of the Elmhurst School of Dance.

The Chief Master turned to the failure of the Labour government adequately to fund Higher Education. Without proper funding, our universities would cease to be world-class. He supported top-up fees for university students, while pointing out the unfair penalty under which future candidates will find themselves. He referred to the questions of 'fair access' and 'widening participation', and, as was expected of him, referred to Bristol University and the Laura Spence affair. He believed firmly that universities sought the best students for their courses irrespective of their school origin. At the same time, university admission was becoming something of a lottery because of the numbers holding top grades. This generation was already the most examined ever, but it seemed that some wanted even more. He felt that there should be less coursework at GCSE and fewer modules at AS and A2 levels. Pupils were forced to concentrate on passing exams rather than on learning for its own sake.

The past year at KES had been successful in ways too numerous to list here. Sixteen awards, including three Golds, were won in the three Science Olympiads; two fifth formers had been selected for Round 2 of the Maths

Olympiad; two Arkwright Scholarships in Design and Technology. In sport too the School had had an *annus mirabilis*, with the 1st XV and the U19 basketball team in particular doing well in National competitions; individual successes included a trial for the England Schools' U18 for James Metcalfe and victories in the England Schools and International Schools Athletic Board Championships for Greg Divall — and the list went on. Music, art and theatre had flourished, and a special compliment was paid to the production of *Les Misérables*, which the Chief Master felt was the best school performance that he had ever seen. And let not the D of E Scheme and the CCF be forgotten.

Three geographers were leaving: Mr Albrighton returned to Warwick School, Mr Duncombe to be Head of Department at Cheltenham College, and Mr Chamberlain to be Head of Sixth Form at Trent College.

The Chief Master welcomed three new Governors — Mr Michael Price (Deputy Bailiff), Mr John Stevens (Senior Law Lecturer at Birmingham University) and Mrs Gill Ball (Director of Finance at Birmingham University). He spoke of the sad death of Mr Barry Shale and the resignation through ill health of the Chairman, Mr Bob Evans; his recent operation had been successful and good wishes went to him for a necessary second. His successor in post was Mr Stephen Campbell OE. Two more were leaving the Governors, Mr Peter Christopher (Head of Aston) and Mr Reg Parkes (CBI nominee).

New members of staff in September last were **Robert Davies** and **Jonathan Pitt** (Geography), **Sarah-Louise Jones** (part-time Geography), **Roy Atkinson** (part-time Physics) and **Sally Billingham** (part-time Careers). We wish them every success in their work.

The Physics supremacy referred to above was based on Gold Awards in the National Physics Challenge to **David Han** (who was one of the top fifteen in the final) and **Richard Lau**, Silver to **Chris Cheel** and **Wikum Jayatunga**, and Bronze to **Jack Hambleton** and **Shane Murray**. In the Physics Olympiad Gold went to **David Tite**, Silver to **Zhou Fang**, **Matthew Davis**, **Lihan Shao** and **Sareet Shah**, and Bronze to **Sarhadi Abhilash** and **Thomas Cartwright**.

The Debating First Team has at last reached the Grand Final, held at Durham University, and **David Tite** and **Richard Lau** came third. In the National Competition for Junior Debaters **Rousseau Dasgupta** and **Ashvir Sangha** finished fifth.

The Schools' Challenge National Final saw a second consecutive win for the School, this time over Westminster. The team consisted of **David Tite**, **Tom Grant**, **Tim Kovoov**, **Alasdair Morgan** and **Ashvir Sangha**.

The OsKers (KES Oscars!) saw awards to — among others — **Charles Morton**, **Paul Freeman-Powell** and **Andrew Caddy**, after which the audience enjoyed a screening of the DVD of *Les Misérables*.

Rems Week took a large party to the Lake District, based on the Langdale Youth Hostel. A week of hill walking, kayaking and gorge walking ensued, with a talent show on the final evening. **Matt Howes** distinguished himself in a way that remains secret, while **Pranav Pendurthi** clearly had two left legs . . . but a very good time was had by all.

The Junior Play was Roald Dahl's *The Witches*, which played with great success to packed houses. Notable performances were given by **George Bellshaw** and **Simon Worthington** (in drag), **Amy Hirsch**, **David Lester**, **Kristina Johansen**, **Ian Evans** and **Pavan Deu**.

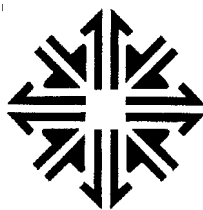


The CCF Annual General Inspection was its usual success. The Inspecting Officer reported that the contingent was 'extremely well run and highly efficient' with an 'impressive standard of drill and turnout' and an 'imaginative, exciting and enjoyable training programme'. Praise indeed — and special commendation was made of the commitment and dedication of senior cadets and officers.



The Chess season ended with a unique fixture — against Old Edwardians. Detailed results are not available, but the match was drawn, and the intention is to repeat it. The School was represented by **Kaiser Malik**, **Dani Malik**, **Andrew Cowan**, **Alex Pahlavi**, **Ameet Ghasi** and **Andrew Atkinson**, the Association by Dave Brelsforth, Dave Thomas, Alan Wright, Lionel Lewis and two others.





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Bryan Homer (1953)

31 May 2004

Dear Bernard,

I would appreciate your allowing me the use of the columns of the *Gazette* in an attempt to obtain assistance in some family research on which I am engaged.

I gained admittance to King Edward's from Farnborough House Preparatory School, which used to stand on the corner of Priory and Pershore Roads before being taken over by (or sold to?) Greenmore College. Together with my elder brother Anthony (1950) and the rest of Farnborough House I was evacuated to Tewkesbury. I can remember our departure from New Street station (tagged and in tears, no doubt) and the house in which we were billeted, though I cannot recall attending a school in Tewkesbury.

This was almost certainly during the 'phoney war' in 1939, as we came back to Birmingham in time to experience the blitz of the city — the very thing that we were supposed to miss by being evacuated in the first place. Whether we returned en masse or by ourselves I do not know.

At present I am finding difficulty in tracing any records that relate to the evacuation of the Farnborough House pupils, or to the policy regarding evacuation followed by the City Council. This is probably because Farnborough House was a private school, and because there must have been a huge amount of administration at both ends of the line (figuratively and in fact).

I wonder whether there are other OEs who attended Farnborough House at that time (the 'Preparatory' title was focused largely on King Edward's) and who could assist me in pinpointing the dates of our exodus from and return to Birmingham. I have, for instance, an undated photograph of my brother, 'Anthony

at Farnborough House', which seems to include one of the Ludlow brothers. It would also be of great interest to hear any reminiscences of Tewkesbury's welcome to the evacuees from Birmingham.

Best wishes,

Bryan Homer



From John North (1954)

22 June 2004

Dear Bernard,

I have just read the letter from 'Atrabilus Junior' in the latest *Gazette*, in which he alleges that the Shell B of '47 would have been 'sadder, though no wiser' if they had had 'the loathsome Codger' as Form Master. I am sure I am not alone in wishing to counter this libellous opinion.

I had the privilege of having Codger as my Form Master when I arrived at KES as a 'Free Place' Sherring. He was nearing the end of his career.

We had difficulty with his first joke:

Lady of the House, interviewing girl for service: What is your name ?

Girl: (mumbles her name)

Lady: Oh well, you will have to work your maximum, won't you?

Codger: What is the girl's name ? (Puzzled silence from Shell A. None of us knew that servants addressed their employer as 'Mum'.)

When Codger tired of teaching us, he dished out old copies of *Punch*. What a marvellous education for boys 'from underprivileged homes'!

Instead of carrot and stick, Codger used chocolate buttons and the slipper — the latter infrequently. We knew where the boundaries were. He must be turning in his grave if he can hear today's anarchic comprehensive classes.

Atrabilus ('black biled') Junior's prose reminds me of a beautiful garden completely overgrown by an impenetrable tangle of weeds (Heligon?) And do I detect faint echoes of the Revd Lunt's pomposity ? A.J. suggests that the *Gazette* could become a 'Literary Quarterly' or 'Serial Novel'. No, no, no! Let the *Gazette* continue in its present ethos and format, with minor improvements. That will, I predict, be the overwhelming view of your correspondents.

Domine salvam fac Gazettam!

Boreus



From John Drew (1936)

21 June 2004

Dear Bernard Adams,

I have been stung into action to send you my particulars (*see N&N — BSA*) by the remarks of Pitt, who refers to the 'loathsome Codger Power'.

Captain Power was my first form master in Shell A in 1932, and I wouldn't like his name to be remembered in this way.

I found him friendly, instructive and approachable to a new boy. He taught me a lot in a number of ways.

Many thanks for an interesting *OE Gazette*.

Best wishes,

John Drew

? The Reference
(in June 2004 *Gazette*)
is not Pitt's is it?
cf. John North letter . . .



From AR Corley (1946),

25 June 2004

Dear Mr Adams,

I would like to express my most sincere congratulations for the discreet way in which you announced the demise of OE(F) in the current issue of the *Gazette*.

De mortuis nil nisi bonum, indeed, but for me, as a Founding Father, it was *Sic transit gloria mundi*. The old Latin tags from some sixty years ago still come in useful, thanks to 'Stuffer' Williams and Freddy Kay in CIUM and Roger 'the Doctor' Dunt in CIV! I was well relieved to escape to the History Sixth and the benevolent but eccentric 'Coco' Copland, where I languished in happy apathy.

I was amused by the apostrophe debate. I have failed to comprehend the arguments of the 'reformers'; if you have any OE(F) letterheads on file you will notice that when I had them printed in 1970 they read *Old Edwardians*, *France*.

It was very sad to read of the death of Peter Jackson. We played many times together for Club and County (North Midlands) and against the All Blacks at Villa Park in December 1953 — the zenith of my own footballing career.

More power to your elbow and your pen,

Sincerely,

A.R. Corley



From Paul Hodgetts (1988)

9 July 2004

Hi Bernard,

Thanks for the *Gazette* — here's a suggestion I've been meaning to make for a while, just never got round to it.

I assume the School Chronicle continues to print valedictions to member of the Common Room as and when they retire, or move on. I think it would interest OEs if these appeared

in the *Gazette*. Apart from the benefit of providing a few pages of copy at zero effort(!), for those of us in our twenties and thirties, few of whom will yet have eleven year old sons, our former teachers represent a strand of continuity with our own time there.

While I'm writing — you've credited me with my father's KSG. You'd better give it back before he notices. I should think I'm a fairly long way down the Pope's good books!

Regards,

Paul Hodgetts

Thanks for the suggestion — that should be a simple exercise in liaison. The Registrar will do penance for the wrongful attribution! — BSA



From C. Alan Parker (1944)

10 July 2004

Dear Bernard,

Your italic note (p.22 of the June 2004 *Gazette*) on the subject of the title of the *Gazette* refers to 'linguistic argument' and 'tradition' as if they were in opposition. They are, in fact, in agreement. The words 'Old Edwardians' are used adjectivally, describing the *Gazette*, not as a possessive noun denoting ownership — i.e., it is a *Gazette* about Old Edwardians and their activity. Please make no change.

With respect to Miss M.E. Bower, who taught English to Form 5B during the 1939-45 War.

Yours sincerely,

C. Alan Parker

Alan makes a good point here, but pundits may agree with me that the use of a plural noun in such an adjectival phrase is unusual, if not irregular — BSA.



From Tom Freeman (1939)

16 July 2004

Dear Bernard,

I think that George Pitt, in his letter to the June edition, misses the point. Our language is awash with nouns, singular and plural, used unapostrophised, behaving adjectivally with the nouns that precede, with the meaning 'of', 'for', 'about' et al., this being especially so in headings and titles. Where would he use an apostrophe in water shortage, arms race, news bulletin, face cloth, shin pad, car rug, rugby lunches, measles outbreak?

Does his query arise from the fact that *Edwardians* ends in -s and is plural? It is a *Gazette* for, from, by and about Edwardians rather than of them.

As for your own suggested solution to the problem that is not a problem, should it not be *Old Edwardians' Association's Gazette*?

Yours sincerely,

Tom Freeman

One could use an apostrophe only in rather few of Tom's examples, as there is no -s in most. The plurality of news (etym. dub., surely?) and measles has been largely forgotten; arm in the sense of weapon is archaic, and its plural arms is here rather a commodity than a plural. I think that my previous comment stands — plural nouns are not, on the whole, used adjectivally, and the exceptions are apostrophised: five days' work etc. An interesting question about Tom's examples is rather which should be hyphenated and why! And the answer to the final sentence, surely, is Old Edwardian Association Gazette — BSA.



From Ian Whatley (1977)

5 August 2004

Dear Bernard,

The most recent edition of the *Gazette* raised

the question of which OE had climbed to the highest altitude. Shortly after 5 pm on 24 May 1996 Bruce Herrod (1976) reached the summit of Mount Everest (see Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* p.291). His radio call from there was the last communication anyone received from him and he is now presumed dead. At school, I remember Bruce as a scout who hiked and scrambled with enthusiasm (and a camera) through many Vikings and PV expeditions. He was also a talented swimmer and a member of the Athletics team, where he specialised in throwing things around.

I wonder if schooling at KES induced some 'need to achieve' which could have played a role in Bruce's taking too many risks in his ascent? The counterpoint, of course, is that Bruce wouldn't have been at KES if he had not been highly motivated. However, I doubt I am alone in feeling barely adequate to blow my own trumpet in the OE orchestra of nights and knobel laureates. You can't have the academic snot beaten out of you for seven formative years without some interesting side effects on your later psyche. My athletics training (4 caps for the US, ranked 65th in the world in 1993) was partially motivated by a feeling that I needed to do something of note to make up for those grade lists posted on the form room boards of Rem R after exams.

Yours,

Ian Whatley

It comes as no surprise that at least one of us has climbed Everest, but how sad that Bruce Herrod did not return. Is Ian right — are our physically more distinguished relatively less distinguished academically? — BSA



From Ian Bond (1979)

27 September 2004

Dear Bernard,

The main purpose of this letter is to inform the OEA of my new address.

The secondary purpose is to say that Peter Harborne was too pessimistic in writing in a recent *Gazette* that he was the only Old Edwardian in the Diplomatic Service — apart from myself, I know of two others (and a former KEHS girl), all of us having left school around 1979–1981. There may well be more.

Since joining the FCO in 1984, I have spent most of my career dealing with the (former) Soviet Union and international security issues, with postings in the UK Delegation to NATO, the Embassy in Moscow and, most recently, as Deputy Head of the UK Delegation to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, based in Vienna. I expect to be heading overseas again next year — I will let you know where in due course.

I still keep some contact with Birmingham - my mother and my in-laws live there (my wife is another former KEHS girl) — and was able to catch up on some of the changes at the school when I met David Rigby in Harborne recently. I am struck, though, by the school's relative lack of interest in staying in touch with OEs. It contrasts sharply with the American school I attended for six months as an English-Speaking Union scholar after leaving KES: twenty-four years later they are assiduous in telling me what is happening at the school, inviting me back for five-yearly reunions and (of course) tapping me for donations. Maybe someday KES will follow their example.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Bond



From John Gossage (1941)

10 October 2004

Dear Editor,

It was good to read Frank Glyn-Jones's reminiscences in the June 2004 issue of the *Gazette* and to be reminded of one's contemporaries and their achievements.

I would like, however, to add to his list of

those contemporaries the name of H.M. James, who went up to St John's College, Cambridge, in 1941 with a Major Scholarship. Horace James was a particular friend of mine. We shared a billet at Repton in the house of a Deputy Housemaster at Repton School, and when it became necessary for the Deputy, Dr Francis, to move temporarily with his household into School House during the Housemaster's absence, we joined Bruce McGowan and Donald Davis, who were already billeted there. As far as I can remember, we spent most of our time there playing table-tennis and a gramophone record of Sibelius's *Finlandia*.

After we had gone our several ways in 1941, I only saw Horace once more, in 1948. About a year later I received a letter from his parents with the news that he had died of cancer. He was a modest young man, of an agreeably placid temperament and with a fine sense of humour. His death cut short what I am sure would have been a brilliant academic career.

Frank Glyn-Jones was the only contemporary who went through the School with me in the same form and the same Maths set each year. He probably remembers the narrow wooden staircase that led to an attic room, lethal if there had been a fire, where we were taught First-year French by A.E. Leeds.

I must point out, incidentally, that as a Scholar of New College, Oxford, I did not go up to Cambridge in 1941.

Best wishes and many thanks
for your good work,

John Gossage



NOTES & NEWS

In memory of **Peter Arthur** and Jean, the Arthur family has commissioned a piece of music from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. *Between Two Waves and the Sea* by Richard Causton will receive its first performance at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on 15 December 2004 under the direction of Sakari Oramo. Peter's daughter Jane, who informed us of this (an OE first?), hopes that there will be some OEs in the audience.



Richard Brookes (1994) read Chemistry as a Scholar of Worcester College, Oxford, and proceeded to a D.Phil. in Theoretical Chemistry which he took in 2002. He is now a master at Whitgift School, South Croydon, teaching chemistry; he is also Assistant Head of Sixth Form. A member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, he plays rugby for the Old Whitgiftians.



Mark Cooper (1983) is now living in Boulogne-Billancourt, France. He has been Sales Director, Mark IV Automotive/Dayco Europe sarl since March 2003. He lists as his only hobby playing trumpet in the Jazz Band *les Blackbirds* since May 2002.



John Drew (1936) made his career in the Army, serving with the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1971, retiring in the rank of Major. During World War II he served in MEF, Italy and NW Europe. Qualifying as an Instructor in Gunnery on the Long Gunnery Staff Course in 1954, he was a Battery Commander in the Malayan Emergency and Singapore from

1958 to 1960. A keen cricketer, he played for the Rhine Army and the Army Singapore and Malaysia, and was awarded the Army Cricket Cup in 1963. He is a member of I Zingari, Free Foresters (Hon. Secretary 1969–94), Royal Artillery CC (Hon. Secretary 1960–71) and Somerset CCC. He is married to Barbara (née Lister) and they have two children, Avril and Jeremy.



Peter Harborne (1963) writes: After 30 plus years in the Diplomatic Service, latterly as ambassador in the Slovak Republic and then High Commissioner in Trinidad and Tobago, I returned to the UK in February, took early retirement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and joined the staff of the Clerk of the House of Commons in April. My new job, along with three other colleagues, is to advise the all-party European Scrutiny Committee, which scrutinises the government's European affairs on behalf of the House, and particularly how the government handles the more than 1,300 documents that the European Commission produces each year. Since only the Commission can propose European law, and over half of our law now begins thus, while the Council of Ministers is increasingly engaged in Common Foreign and Security Policy, it is important and interesting work. My own portfolio includes the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence (common foreign and security and European security and defence), Department for International Development (all European Community technical assistance work) and the 'information society' work of the Department of Trade and Industry.

On the personal side, Tessa (ex-Edgbaston High) and I are coming up to our 28th anniversary, our elder son James gets married

on 10 July, and younger son Alexander will be returning to Birmingham in September to start the final year of his B.Com with Spanish degree at Birmingham University.

Peter adds that he is founder and trustee of Youth Business Trinidad & Tobago, a member of MCC and Queen's Park CC, Trinidad, and lists as interests Sport, Current Affairs and the Arts.



Chris Harper (1992) is married to Lucy and they have a new daughter called Thea, who has introduced a few recent lifestyle changes! He is working for McKinsey and Co in their Manufacturing Practice (still using his degree).



Christopher Hodges (1972) is to be congratulated on his Ph.D, gained at King's College, London, this year — not bad for a fifty-year-old! In 2003 he was Visiting Fellow in European Product Law at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford. He is a member of the Expert Working Group on Product Liability, advising the European Commission, and since 2003 has been Co-Chair of the Working Group on Regulation in the Health Industries Task Force of the Department of Health.



Richard Ledger (1962) read Geography at Christ's College, Cambridge from 1962 to 1965, taking a First, followed by a research degree at Birmingham 1965–69. He has published on *Beach Erosion at Bude, Cornwall* (Transactions of the Royal

Geological Society of Cornwall 1966), and on *Urban Gully Erosion in USSR* (Soviet Studies 1967). He then taught Geography at Bedford Modern School between 1969 and 1997 and has been Lay Pastor of Keysoe Row and Thurleigh Baptist Church since 1983. He served as President of the Bedfordshire Baptist Association in 1980–81. Cricket remains an abiding passion, and at Bedford Modern he ran various age-group teams; he is a member of Bedfordshire CCC and a life member of Bedfordshire Schools Cricket Association. He is a member of the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Geographical Society, and a life member of Peterborough United Supporters Trust. Watching his team is a hobby, as is studying the weather — he has a weather station at home and is a weather correspondent for Anglia TV.



Paul Mustow (1988) has evolved from being a graduate in Geography to being a civil engineer. He has recently moved to the south coast as part of a job move with the Environment Agency, and now helps protect the coast and the Home Counties from flooding. He lives in Amberley, at the foot of the South Downs, where the views are fantastic and the mountain-bike trails more challenging than those in Cambridgeshire. He and Kerry have two sons, Sam and Ted.



Robin Richardson (1954) edited the 2004 report *Islamophobia: Issues, Challenges and Action*.



Raveem Tahir (2000) has recently completed an Undergraduate Masters degree in Physics at The Queen's College, Oxford, and is now at Wolfson College, Oxford, reading for an MSc, to be followed by a DPhil in Atmospheric Physics.



Rob Yeung (1989) is a corporate psychologist, a director of the consultancy Talentspace Ltd., London.



OE Bibliography

Bernard Adams (translator): *The Autobiography of Miklós Bethlen*, pub. Kegan Paul, 2004, ISBN 0-7103-0972-4. *Songbird* (Áron Tamási's play *Énekes madár*) in *Visegrád Drama 2. "ESCAPE"* (pub. Hungarian National Theatre History Museum, 2004, ISBN 963-2172-04-3).

Jonathan Coe: *The Closed Circle* (pub. Viking, 2004, ISBN, 433 pp, £17.99).

Michael Harrold: *Comrades and Strangers: Behind the Closed Doors of North Korea*, pub. John Wiley 2004, ISBN 0-470-86976-3.

Michael is believed to be the only British person to have lived in this uniquely secretive country, where he spent seven years, and he certainly has some fascinating stories to tell! See the publisher's website:
<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470869763.html>

Rob Yeung: *Successful Interviews Every Time* (pub. How To Books, 2004) (Reviewed in *Sunday Times*)





Births, Marriages, Deaths and Obituaries

Births

To **John R.F Evans (1991)** and Alison, in Birmingham on 8 July 2003 a son, Samuel Rhodri Foster — a brother for Rhiannon.

To **Richard Lunson (1989)** and Kathryn in Bristol on 1 August 2004 a daughter, Isobel Grace, sister to Emily (2).

To **Mark Roberts (1978)** and Belinda on 15 May 2004 a son, Ralph, who joins Sophie (15), John (12) and Alice (8).

Marriages

Raveem Tahir (2000) to Khadija Sabir in July 2002.

Deaths

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

G.T. Cooke (1931)

D.O. Cox (1967)

D.G. Dawkins (1934)

K.R. Girling (1945)

H.M. Goodman (1938)

H.B. Gottshcalk (1949)

B.H. McGowan (1942)

A.G. McKay (1939)

M.W. Metcalfe (1973)

W.R. Moody (1925)

H.J. Stokes (1940)

R.W.B. Sutton (1957)

M.H.F. Wilkins (1934)

Obituaries

KENNETH RAYMOND GIRLING (1929–2004)

Edward Lloyd-Hughes writes:

Ken left School in 1945, subsequently training as a surveyor. After passing the first,

intermediate and final examinations of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors he was elected Associate in 1951 as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. He later became a senior partner in the firm of Girling and Hewitt in Dudley, and after some years in that capacity was elected to Fellowship.

Ken was a keen member of the School Scout Troop until 1942, when he joined the Air Training Corps. In later life he became an enthusiastic Rotarian, joining Dudley Rotary Club in 1965. He gave much time and energy to the various social projects undertaken by the Club, in particular a large residential home for the elderly in Dudley. He was involved in the everyday running of the fifty-two flats in this, and later became its Chairman.

He had a lively and independent mind, and will be missed by his many friends. He died in April 2004



HAROLD MAYNE GOODMAN (1921–2004)

MTJ of West House writes:

Always known as Bill, Goodman was born in Harborne and went first to West House Preparatory School (where he was Head Prefect and captain of rugby) before moving to King Edward's, where he was again School Captain and captain of rugby; he also played for the North Midlands Public Schools XV.

On leaving, he briefly joined the family business, Goodman & Co. of Selly Oak, as the fourth generation, but in September 1939 he was called up into the army. Arriving late at Rolfe Street Barracks as he had suffered a car breakdown, he found that he had been posted AWOL! Commissioned into the RASC, he served mainly in North Africa and the Mediterranean region, and was mentioned in dispatches. After a spell in hospital with jaundice he was posted to Naples in 1943 and then to a Captured Vehicle Unit in Rimini, where there were thousands of German lorries, cars and motorbikes. The transverse-engined BMWs proved to be particularly good for

sand-racing on the beach! Demobilised in 1946 with the rank of Major, Bill rejoined the family business — at a wage of £3 10s per week — of which he took control on the death of his father in 1954.

Bill married Pamela during the war, and she later became Company Secretary. In 1983, however, a severe stroke forced her to retire, shortly after which Bill retired himself, handing over the running of the company to his son Jeremy. Bill devoted much time to setting up the Hill Climb Drivers School at Prescott, and was a founder member — later President — of the Porsche Club of Great Britain. In 1974 Bill joined the MAC and from 1972 to 1999 was a regular competitor at Shelsley Walsh with his Porsche 911 Turbo. In 1983 he was appointed Principal of the Prescott Hill Climb Drivers School and became a Director of the Bugatti Trust, and in 1993 Vice-President of the Bugatti Owners Club. Pamela died in November 1990, and a year later Bill married Beryl, whom he had known for over thirty years, and moved to her home at Astley Abbots, near Bridgnorth.

Bill's funeral at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, was attended by many members of the Bugatti Owners Club and by fellow competitors. Our sympathy is extended to Beryl, to Bill's daughter Susan, and to Jeremy, now retired from the family business, who follows his father's interest in motor sport.



BRUCE HENRY McGOWAN (1924–2004)

This obituary is largely edited from that appearing in The Times:

The son of the Vicar of Aston, subsequently Bishop of Wakefield, Bruce McGowan entered King Edward's in 1935. He became School Captain in January 1942 and left in December of the same year for Jesus College, Cambridge, where he read History as an Exhibitioner. His studies were interrupted by the Second World War, during which he served with the Royal Artillery in India and Burma.

Returning to Cambridge after the war,

McGowan married Pat Liggitt in 1947, and after graduating in that year became a schoolmaster. His first post was at King's School, Rochester, where he taught English and Geography as well as History. In 1953 he moved to Wallasey Grammar School as senior History master; he also took an active interest in the stage, encouraging much theatrical activity. In 1957, at the age of 33, McGowan was appointed to the first of his three headmasterships, at the De Ashton School in Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. His time there was a great success, and his vision and energy transformed the school. He and his wife ran the school boarding house, creating a community that appealed in particular to the many RAF families that sent their boys there.

In 1964 he moved back to Warwickshire as headmaster of Solihull School. This was not an easy time for the independent sector, and McGowan served both as a member of the Public Schools Commission between 1965 and 1970 and as chairman of the Boarding Schools Association from 1967 to 1969. At Solihull he instituted entry for girls at sixth-form level and introduced a number of free places. Once more his energy and commitment were to the fore, as, not content to be a figurehead, he involved himself very fully — and physically! — in school activities. Academic standards were particularly important, and during his term of office Solihull candidates gained 96 Oxbridge places, including 29 awards. In his last year all 17 candidates won admission. The boarding side of Solihull was reorganised and a sixth-form centre built, together with a new music school, and links were set up with Mwumba School in Zambia.

In 1973 he made his final move, to Haberdashers' Aske's School. Here too he applied himself to a degree of revision of the existing structures, building fresh links with the feeder primary and preparatory schools and developing a system of busing boys in. When in 1976 the Labour Government abolished the Direct Grant — creating more independent schools than any Act since the dissolution of the monasteries — McGowan was successful in steering Haberdashers' to full independence, once more arranging for the endowment of bursaries. The school was

constantly among the top ten in the league tables throughout his headmastership. Here too he set up links abroad, exchanging pupils with Kimberley Academy in New Jersey.

In retirement he served as Chairman of the Church Schools Company and as a member of a variety of educational administrative bodies.

He is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.



MAURICE HUGH FREDERICK WILKINS (1916–2004)

This obituary is reduced from the very extended one in The Times for 7 October:

Born in New Zealand of Irish parents, Wilkins came to Birmingham in 1923 when his doctor father took a post there. He moved to King Edward's from Wylde Green College, and on leaving read Physics at St John's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1936 — surprisingly enough, with a II/2 in Part Two of the Natural Sciences Tripos. At Cambridge he was very active in left-wing politics, and joined the Communist Party at the time of the Spanish Civil War.

Unable to find a research position in Cambridge, he was put in touch by his tutor with John Randall at GEC, where he had the opportunity to research into thermoluminescence. During the Second World War he joined a group (led by his former tutor) working on the atomic bomb. In 1944 he moved to Berkeley, California, to work on the American atomic programme, the 'Manhattan Project'. Although he saw the need for the Allies to develop the bomb before the Axis Powers did, the destruction of Nagasaki and Hiroshima persuaded him in favour of nuclear disarmament.

After the War he rejoined Randall at St Andrews University to study biological problems from a physical standpoint. In 1946 the group moved to King's College, London, where Wilkins began the X-ray diffraction studies of DNA and collagen which led ultimately to the 1962 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, which he shared with

Francis Crick and Jim Watson, for the analysis of the double-helix structure of DNA. Under Randall's direction the new science of molecular biology was invented, and the group established a world lead.

Wilkins was elected FRS in 1959 and in 1960, together with Crick and Watson, won the Albert Lasker Award. In 1963 he was appointed CBE. In 1970 he became Professor of Biophysics at King's (a post which he held until 1981). His scientific interests were, however, broad. He retained a lifelong interest in optics (while at School he made his own 9¼" reflecting telescope) and in the mid-1960s he became President of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, with a particular interest in the development of biological and chemical weapons. He was an active member of the Pugwash movement, especially effective during the Cold War, and in the 1980s was active in the anti-nuclear movement, lecturing on the dangers of nuclear war and of testing weapons in the atmosphere.

In retirement he wrote his autobiography *The Third Man of the Double Helix*. He is survived by his second wife, Patricia, and four children.

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NOTES & NEWS

Name: Year of leaving:

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.....

Higher Education — where? what? when?

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Publications:

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Profession(s) — what? for whom? when?

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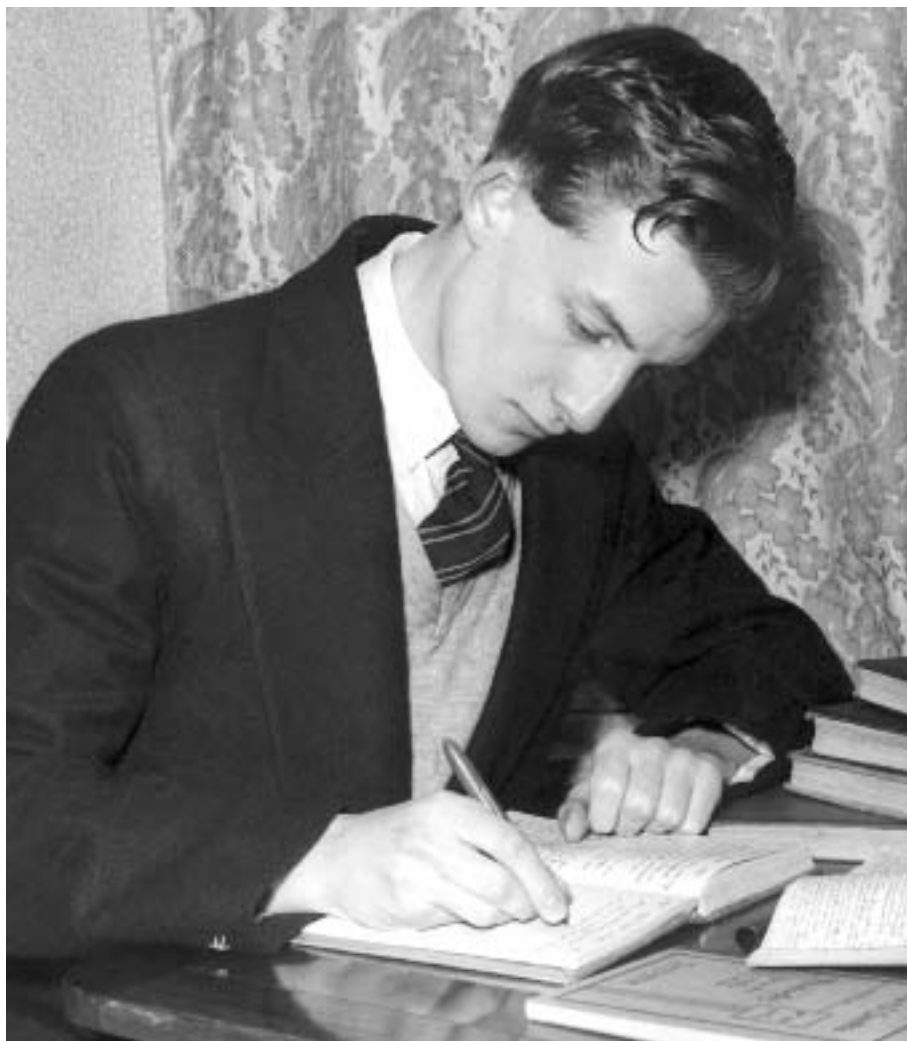
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AT KEGS CAMP HILL AND KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL,
BIRMINGHAM 1947–1953

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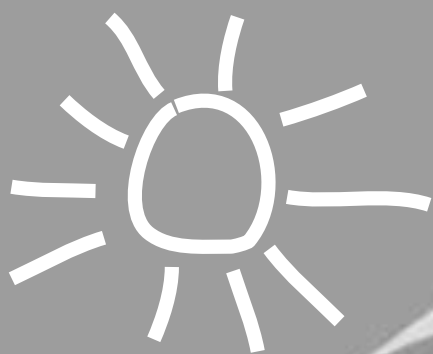
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