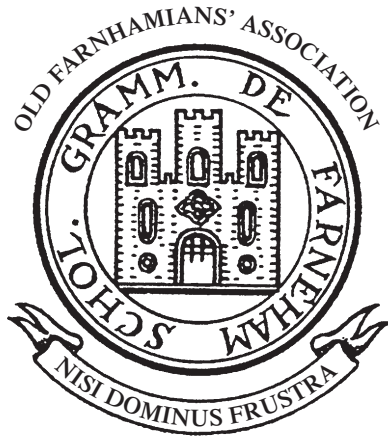


THE FARNHAMIAN



JUNE 2002

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THE FARNHAMIAN

June 2002

INTRODUCTION TO THE FARNHAMIAN - VOL 9

During the days that the 2001 magazine was at the printers we were advised that four of our better-known Old Boys had died. Not a good start to a new edition and a great shame to see the passing of Norman Patrick, Gordon Morris, David Rogers and Paul French. As the year progressed the numbers of Old Boys who had died continued to rise, including younger men like Geoff Crawte and Roger Downham. I suppose it is inevitable that time overtakes us all, but so many in so little time is very sad.

On a brighter note is the news that John Crotty has at last become our President, for no one deserves the honour more than our long suffering former Secretary. It is true to say that without the input by John in the 70's and 80's the Association would have struggled to survive. Here we are into a new millennium and stronger than ever. John will be a popular choice and the position of President will suitably crown his many years with the Association.

This issue is the ninth for the modern Farnhamian and includes a great deal of news. It also has a special piece on George Sturt, one of the most famous scholars at the school, in honour of the 75th anniversary of his death. I hope you enjoy the read and I will be looking for more news for issue number ten.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

JOHN CROTTY

'Always the bridesmaid but never the bride' but at long last kind people have elevated me to a position which I am pleased and honoured to occupy. A key factor was finding a genuine volunteer to take my place as secretary of the Association and I do feel that in Roger Edgell we have a diligent worker and someone who has supported the Association for many years, both on its committees and, via the football club, on the field. I wish him a long and fruitful tenure.

Our retiring president Michael Horner is blessed with an article elsewhere in this edition but I would like to express my own appreciation of his three years service, particularly as I was his sponsor. He had scant knowledge of our ways having been abroad for some years but I was sure that his experience at high level of boards and committees would stand him, and us, in good stead. He was quick to learn and brought a certain crispness to our deliberations. Let us hope I can keep it up.

The Association may well have a limited shelf life but is a long way from its sell by date and is experiencing a revival thanks to the likes of Cyril Trust, Ian Sargeant and the committee members. Our excellent relations with Farnham College are another dimension from which we benefit. I look forward to a busy and rewarding year.

THE 70TH ANNUAL DINNER

Well over one hundred ex-pupils of the former Farnham Boys Grammar School gathered at Farnham College to celebrate the 70th Annual Dinner of the Old Farnhamians' Association, and the general opinion was that this was one of the better occasions. This year members were greeted by a large screen in the College foyer showing old photographs of previous dinners, old football and cricket teams etc., all projected from a lap top computer organised by Ian Sargeant, the OFA website originator. Quite a technological innovation for some Old Boys who attended the Morley Road School in the 1920's and 1930's for example!

The first class meal, prepared by the College caterers, was presided over by the new President of the Association, John Crotty, who had earned this honour after some twenty years as the Secretary. Unfortunately his first task was to read out the list of members who had died since the 2001 dinner with their number running into double figures.

This year the toast to the School was given by Henry Brindley (1951-57), who was introduced as an ex-pupil who had played for the Old Farnhamians' Soccer XI for over 35 years after leaving school. As he said, 'Eat your heart out Beckham!' The speaker amused the audience with many nostalgic moments of his time at the school and as usual tales of former teachers provoked several bouts of laughter. He mentioned many of the legendary team working at the school with Messrs. Brink, Wickens, Beeken, Godsil, Carroll, Foster and Leonard Evans, who sat at the top table and is in his 90's, recalled with great affection.

Following this was the toast to the Association from former Headmaster, George Baxter, a man who has contributed much to the Association over more than fifty years. He welcomed the new President and said that it was a well-deserved appointment. He felt that the Farnham Old Boys Association was almost unique because it continued to grow in numbers almost thirty years after the closing of the school. He applauded the committee and in particular, Cyril Trust, for the continued quality of the 'Farnhamian' magazine.

John Crotty then replied to these two toasts and said that it was an honour to become President. He paid tribute to Michael Horner, his predecessor, and to those who had helped arrange the evening and continue to support the Association on the various committees. There were plans to continue to build on the 'Home of Memorabilia' at the College, and he said that the membership must continue to grow. He was pleased to see the younger element at the dinner with Robin Welland-Jones bringing fifteen of his old class to the evening and hoped that others would do this in years to come.

The new President was clearly enjoying his new role and sprinkled his speech with humour. The members burst into laughter when he recalled a new French master who spoke to the class in fluent French and asked them to translate in writing 'A cheval' (by horse). In unison the entire class of thirty wrote down Ash Vale! The President then advised that future events would include the Farnham Lecture at the College on 27th September. This was sponsored by the 400 Farnhamian Trust and the speaker would be Paul Travers, who is the Media Director for the Eden Project

THE 70TH ANNUAL DINNER (continued)

and he will be speaking on the planning and building of the country's latest tourist attraction and one of our greatest success stories. The speaker attended Farnham College and his father, John Travers, was among the guests. Tickets are already available and an audience of 200 is expected.

The Southampton Luncheon in October was also highlighted and members were encouraged to try this popular event. The editor of this magazine is a great fan of this particular Association event and it is a lovely way to spend a few hours of nostalgia in idyllic surroundings. As usual Dudley Backhurst will be managing the luncheon.

John Crotty ended his reply to the toasts by praising Peter Clark, the Toastmaster, who had now attended over ten dinners in this capacity. The Association had been lucky with their Toastmasters with Jack Wing, Eddie Glynn and Peter Clark holding this position since the 1940's.

It was also announced that the 2003 Annual Dinner would be on Saturday 5th April at the same venue.

During the evening a raffle had been held and this raised over £600 towards the dinner. Thanks must go to Roger and David Edgell for their efforts here.

The evening came to an end with the Roll Call by George Baxter and the passing of the Loving Cup. This was followed by the usual robust version of the School Song and finally the National Anthem. There is little doubt that although the members grow older the Association has many years to look forward to and many years to honour their beloved old school.

Attending;

R.Hack; F.Lambert; D.Homer; R.Robins; A.Ryall; J.Crotty; G.Baxter; L.Evans; A.Moore; H.Batchelor; S.Owen; R.R.Kirk; E.Milburn; P.Huntingford; H.Glover; C.Batterbury; R.Parker; D.Buckell; R.C.Bowtell; M.Horner; J.Mitchell; P.J.Clark; T.Tidd; J.Chuter; J.Bentick; A.Wiseman; P.Reed; J.Vick; J.Bateman; G.Blunt; W.Herrington; M.Comben; M.Sturt; A.Harland; P.Ford; G.Hunt; T.Tubb; D.Cutler; B.Daniels; B.Lake; A.Lovell; B.Bone; J.Cooke; J.Travers; J.Cockle; C.Trust; R.Hewes; M.Cox; D.O'Sullivan; J.D.Backhurst; G.LeVey; D.Phillips; D.Lucas; H.Upfold; R.Jones; N.Timmins; W.Luff; M.Jeffreys; H.Brindley; I.Sargeant; P.Mylles; C.Slyfield; D.Coakes; R.Frampton; C.Balchin; T.German; M.Allison; C.Ballamy; D.Edgell; B.Williams; S.Linney; E.Mayne; C.Nash; M.Watts; D.Fawkes; A.Gatfield; R.Kite; R.Edgell; C.Beal; W.Walsh; D.Poleglaze; H.Torode; R.Phillips; P.Blowfield; C.Fairclough; C.Fitch; M.Owen; M.Seignot; H.Groves; D.Varnum; D.Hughes; D.Grimes; M.Mehta; R.Hall; B.Stevens; M.Rochefort; R.Welland-Jones; J.Gibbs; J.Peters; N.McCabe; G.Kellaway; S.Szarvas; S.Pritchard; I.Simpson; R.Diamond; R.Davis; R.Burns.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2002

The recent Annual General Meeting of the Old Farnhamians' Association was dominated by the election of John Crotty as the new President, after some twenty years as the Secretary. John has done sterling work for the Old Boys over many years and was a very popular and unanimous choice.

Whilst the former Farnham Grammar School ceased in 1973 the Association goes from strength to strength. Even with a large number of deaths in the past twelve months, new members continue to enrol and the membership now totals 325. By using the website 'Friends Re-United' there is more contact with ex-pupils and as a result more new members are attracted.

The accounts were agreed and the financial position of the Association is very healthy. In the next few days the Old Boys will be presenting the College with a new electronic keyboard for use at their lunchtime concerts. All functions during the year had made some profit.

The Leaving Scholarship Trust has been re-vitalised and more grants are being awarded to Farnham College students with financial problems. Small grants are helping to purchase books and equipment required in their education and the Trust hopes that these awards will continue to increase in number.

The 400 Trust is also very active and the 2001 Farnham Lecture given by archaeologist David Graham was well attended and produced a healthy profit. This September the Lecture will be given by Paul Travers, Head of Media for the Eden Project, and a first-hand talk on one of the country's newest tourist attractions should prove very popular.

The Annual Dinner attracted just on 100 members and the use of the new restaurant facilities at the College proved a great success. It is hoped that the 70th Dinner on 13th April will see well over 120 guests. A proposal to move the Dinner from early evening to lunchtime was overwhelmingly defeated.

Cyril Trust, the editor of the Farnhamian magazine, said that the new edition was almost ready and would contain excellent articles by Guy Bellamy, the well-known author, and Michael Leishman, an expert on George Sturt. The 'News of the Old Boys' section would be larger than ever thanks to the website.

Ian Sargeant has been instrumental in expanding the Old Boys website and it now carries a great deal of data, including photographs, and has over 100 members. The activity on the site steadily increases as Old Boys contact friends across the world.

Treasurer, Stephen Pritchard, and Membership secretary, Tony Harland, were re-elected along with the majority of the General Committee. With John Crotty becoming President, the new Secretary will be Roger Edgell. The meeting thanked the outgoing President Michael Horner for a successful three years in office, during which he had overseen the highly successful Millennium celebrations. The evening ended with all those present applauding John Crotty for his many years as a hard-working and diligent Secretary.

THE SOUTHAMPTON LUNCH - 2001

Once again a strong contingent of Old Farnhamians travelled to the edge of the New Forest to attend the annual luncheon at the Busketts Lawn Hotel and they contributed to a record attendance of 34 members from the old Farnham Grammar School. Those present included George Baxter, former Headmaster of the Grammar School, and he was one of at least five octoganarians seated at the table.

The annual event is an opportunity for the ex-pupils to reminisce, and after a first class meal the organiser of the luncheon, Dudley Backhurst, decided to present to the guests some of the history of this event which was in its fortieth year. He explained that four Old Boys met in the early 1960's and decided to launch a dinner for local Old Boys in the South Coast area. He was the only one of the original four still alive. In 1962 the first dinner was arranged and 17 Old Boys attended, with the evening being spent at The Dolphin Hotel in Poole. He then read out a list of those present on that occasion.

As the guests began to get older and travel from further afield it was decided to alter the evening event to a luncheon and the Southampton Luncheon moved to its current venue eleven years ago.

The speaker said that since the event had begun it had been attended by 120 Old Boys overall, with several returning in excess of thirty occasions. The guests came from all age groups and at this particular luncheon the youngest member was Roger Edgell, who had attended the school in 1965, and the oldest was Allan Ryall, who had attended the school in 1924. Dudley Backhurst explained that he had left the school 50 years ago and there were four members present who had left the school before he had started.

He read a letter from the family of Redvers Godsland, who had died in recent years and had been the oldest Old Boy for some time. The words showed that the Grammar School had provided its pupils with a bond for life and proved that 'School friends are friends forever'. He said that the Association was still very strong and events such as The Farnham Lecture and the Annual Dinner at Morley Road still attract good support.

The date for the 2002 Southampton Luncheon was set for Wednesday 16th October at the same venue and no doubt will again prove a nostalgic way to spend an afternoon.

Attending; S.A.Armstrong; P.J.Ford; D.N.O'Sullivan; D.A.Bowtell; K.I.Mentzel; D.J.Phillips; B.E.Bone; R.G.Edgell; C.R.Beal; I.C.Sargeant; G.Baxter; C.Nash; G.L.Hooker; D.G.Briggs; C.D.Trust; D.R.Lucas; B.J.Daniels; L.R.Dowsett; A.J.Ryall; A.J.Hall; R.Robins; T.Tidd. P.Huntingford; P.J.Clark; E.F.Hunt; G.D.Blunt; J.L.Vick; J.S. Mitchell; J.D.Backhurst; M.J.Horner; J.H.Crotty; R.D.Short; I.F.A.Bowler; D.E.Lampard.

THE FARNHAM LECTURE - 2001

The 2001 Farnham Lecture which was presented by the Farnhamian 400 Trust was one of the more successful, with probably the largest ever audience enjoying one of the best and most interesting speakers to date. There is now the problem of following it in 2002 and the Trust will be exploring various avenues to try and offer as good, if not better, entertainment next year.

The following report was printed in the Farnham Herald and was written by the editor of this magazine;

FARNHAM LECTURE A GREAT SUCCESS

On a humid evening an audience of over 150 thoroughly enjoyed the 2001 Farnham Lecture entitled 'Farnham–Time Team' and given by well-known local archaeologist, Dr. David Graham. The lecture was given at Farnham College and the evening began with a welcome to the audience and the speaker from College Principal, Sally Francis.

David Graham began his talk on Farnham and the surrounding areas as far back as a half a million years ago when this country was part of Central Europe and was waiting for the Ice Age to arrive. He showed slides of aerial photography where evidence of the Ice Age could be seen and then began to talk about the Farnham area during the the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age. He had pictures of various artifacts that had been found in this area and again aerial evidence of villages and places of worship. He said that there is still much to be uncovered from these periods and each year there are more and more items being brought to light. Recent archaeological digs at Frensham, Farnham Park and Alice Holt had resulted in a wealth of items being found and 'barrows' (or burial mounds) had helped authenticate the type of landscape from those days.

He moved on to the Roman period and showed some of their road patterns and evidence of houses, bathhouses and religious buildings. At Wanborough there had been the largest find of Roman coins in Europe and Frensham again had produced more coinage. Then came the Saxon period, and again much evidence of a local community and the speaker feeling that somewhere there is a burial ground from this period waiting to be unearthed. In the 9th century the name of Farnham first appears and he then brought things up to date as the lecture came to a close. David Graham, Vice-President of the Surrey Archaeological Society, had covered half a million years in just over an hour and the information from the enthusiastic, and sometimes amusing expert, had kept the audience spellbound. His final words were 'Make sure you keep your eyes open as there is history beneath your feet.'

There was little doubt that the 2001 Farnham Lecture presented by the Farnhamian 400 Trust, a part of the Old Farnhamians' Association, had been a great success. Former Headteacher at Farnham Grammar School, George Baxter, closed the evening by thanking the speaker and saying that David Graham had succeeded in spreading his own enthusiasm for the subject to the audience.



'The Coolibah Tree' - 1960 Production

This photograph was sent in by new member Mike Grocott and shows him here with members of the chorus. No doubt the 'ladies' are actually young men and we would like to know if any reader can recall the names of the chorus in this picture.



'The Lowland Sea' - 1953 Production

This photograph sent in by David Cutler shows several ex-pupils in nautical gear for this Alan Fluck production. Of the main group of four we can identify John Crossingham, Roger Stroyan and Bill Sydenham. But, who are the others?

THE TALENTED MR CHANDLER**GUY BELLAMY**

The boy who sat in the corner of my class at Farnham Grammar School was like a caged animal. Constrained and frustrated, he could only watch hopelessly while the other boys aggravated him with their boisterous behaviour. Pat Chandler had a weak heart. He was excused games and banned from the gym.

His sloping figure was never seen to hurry or exert itself. His only consolation was a violin, which he seemed to carry everywhere. His devotion to this instrument did not endear him to his fellow pupils; when Pat Chandler played his violin, rooms emptied, dogs howled and birds abandoned trees. But he could play any tune you named without reference to the music - pausing only to recommend Gustav Holst's *The Planets* to anyone who would listen. While other boys achieved heroic status on the football and cricket pitches, or kept their amusing assignations with Bill Wickens in the gym, music was all that Pat had.

But then - after four years of introspective hibernation - the miracles began. In his fifth year at the school a series of hospital examinations and tests produced the surprising news that he no longer had a weak heart. He was normal. His heart was fine.

He arrived at school next day with an uncharacteristic grin: horizons were about to open up for him, and he was going to make sure that they did. Specifically, after a lifetime of watching miserably as other boys enjoyed the rewards of sport, he could now take part himself. He was desperate to do so, but at 16 it was a little late to develop the necessary skills at football, or master the finer points of cricket. Pat, nudged by student optimism, made a brave decision. There was one sport he could take up tomorrow without any experience at all - running.

Some of us laughed at this. He didn't look like a runner. He didn't even look like a runner when he ran. But run he soon did. He ran round the sports field on his own, liberated unexpectedly from the static life of an invalid. These lonely trails convinced him that he was a distance man; the sprint wasn't his forte. When school sports arrived, he entered, to widespread amusement, for the mile.

As *The Farnhamian* of June 1999 reveals on page 24, the winner of the mile in 1951 was P.R.Chandler.

It is impossible to describe at this distance the shock that his victory caused. The boys then at school couldn't have been more surprised if the gymnasium had been turned into a strip club. But before people had recovered from this bombshell, an even bigger miracle occurred.

As school champion, Pat Chandler was sent to the Surrey Schools' finals at Motspur Park - and he won that, too. The pleasure produced by having a Surrey champion in the class was greatly enhanced by the abrupt disappearance of the violin from the Chandler accoutrements.

THE TALENTED MR CHANDLER - continued**GUY BELLAMY**

Pat ignored the acclaim that fell on his head and settled down to the unwelcome challenge of O-Levels. But he had one more target in his sights: the school cross-country. This three-and-a-half mile ordeal was the preserve of Mick Doyle who had won the previous year with laughable ease and was so comprehensive a sportsman that he won his weight at boxing during a respite from football and cricket.

One day after school we timed Pat as he ran round the course. It took him 20 minutes and 25 seconds. The time depressed him. "I thought I had done it much faster than that," he said, "but with five weeks' training I should win." His confidence seemed absurd - but the fact was that he had never lost a race!

When the big day arrived on November 1, I was corner boy at the bottom of Trebor Avenue. All eyes were focussed on the top to see who would appear first. And suddenly Chandler was there, coming round the bend in a worse condition than I had ever seen him. As he struggled red-faced down Trebor Avenue, Mick Doyle appeared at the top. He looked much fresher but was a clear 60 yards behind: there was no chance of Pat Chandler being caught. He ran in to tremendous cheers, followed, in order, by Doyle, Tull, Snellock, Coveney, Bowtell, Dow, France, Porter and Gooch.

"It was the bloodiest piece of running I have ever done," he informed his growing fan club. "But I had the right tactics." These tactics, apparently, were not overly sophisticated and seemed to involve no more than running like a gazelle from the start in the hope, dramatically realised, of shaking off the rest.

There was one more surprise in store: Pat Chandler's time was 18 minutes 58 seconds, which beat the school record by 18 seconds.

I have written many newspaper headlines in my life, but **BOY WITH WEAK HEART SMASHES CROSS-COUNTRY RECORD** would have been welcome at any time - although, of course, when I was on *The Sun* a different flavour would have been required. **FIDDLER WITH DICKY TICKER IN STUNNER RUNNER SHOCK** perhaps.

Thirty-five years later, on a snowy evening in March 1986, Pat Chandler reappeared at the Hen and Chicken at Froyle to which four men who were in Mike Foster's very first class had invited their old teacher for dinner.

It emerged over the wine that Pat, who lived in Canterbury, had spent his entire life as a nurse in the National Health Service and had become a tutor. He had married twice, the second time to a Chinese girl with whom he had two sons and a daughter. His heart had caused him problems again, and he endured a heart bypass operation which, he reported, had greatly improved his health.

However, when I had finished this article I tried to get in touch with him, to find out what he had to say about that amazing summer. Sadly, his son Paul, aged 23. Told me that Pat had died in 1998 at the age of 64. He had died after a second heart bypass operation.

FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM NO.1.

Our request for more photographs has resulted in several being sent in by Old Boys and relatives of former Staff and ex-pupils. These will provide a new part of the magazine and each issue will include one of these photographs. It is probable that they have not been available to the Association before and will be new to the readers.

The first one was sent in by Barbara Willis who is the daughter of former English master George Bacon.



GEORGE BACON (1919-1949) was a much loved and respected teacher at the Grammar School, and with F.A.Morgan was the inspiration behind the Old Farnhamians' Association for many years.

This picture was taken at the School Fete on 22nd July 1933 where the proceeds were going towards the fund to purchase the new playing field.

Note the School summer blazer !

A PROFILE OF HUGH BATCHELOR (1964 - 1971)



Although the magazine has profiled many ex-masters from the School there are a number of the 'younger' set still to be seen and included in the Farnhamian. One of these is Hugh Batchelor who left the school just prior to the changeover to a College and is well known to many of our younger readers.

Hugh was born in the New Forest, educated at Brockenhurst Grammar School and went on to gain his degree and teaching qualification in London. His first acquaintance with Farnham Grammar School was in 1958, when he was a Member of the Hampshire Grammar Schools Soccer XI that played Surrey Grammar Schools on the Memorial Field.

After two years teaching in New Malden he was appointed in September 1964 by George Baxter to join the Mathematics Department, led by Derek Friggins, and in addition to teach a little Physics and help with games. Along with Ned Godsil, he was form master of one of the parallel first forms. He thoroughly enjoyed teaching Mathematics throughout the school to sixth form level. The lively and enquiring minds of most of the boys kept him 'on his toes'. In 1965 he married Rita who took up a post teaching at Key Cross School, Tilford.

Junior soccer and cricket XI's were coached by Hugh and later when Harold Beeken retired he took over as master in charge of tennis. Much time was also spent as fixture secretary organising matches for all the school teams. Together with assisting Stanley Owen in a civilian capacity with the Combined Cadet Force, he was well involved outside the classroom. Staff badminton led by 'Jimmy' James and Derek Friggins in winter and the Masters' Cricket XI, with such stars as Harold Beeken, Robbie Burns, Chris Chapple, Mike Foster, David Giles, Peter Larby, Don Nicolson, Stanley Owen and Mike Tarr in the summer were a feature on Thursday evenings.

On Saturday - soccer for the Old Farnhamians, playing alongside stalwarts, Henry Brindley, John Crotty, Brian Webberley and many others. 'We did not always win but we certainly enjoyed our football'.

Three school parties were accompanied on the annual foreign trip at Easter. One was led by Cyril Rundle to the Rhine in 1965. Hugh then organised and led visits in 1970 to the Austrian Tyrol, near Innsbruck, with 40 boys and accompanied by Peter and Pearl Larby. The next year, 31 boys were taken for a combined sightseeing and skiing visit to the Salzburg region assisted by Mike and Eileen Tarr.

Hugh Batchelor left the Farnham Grammar School in 1971, taking a temporary appointment for two terms in Cape Town, before returning to the UK and a Head of Department post at a school in Fleet. In 1983, he moved on to Pierrepont School in

A PROFILE OF HUGH BATCHELOR (1964 - 1971)**(Continued)**

Frensham as a Housemaster and Head of Mathematics until it closed in 1993 when early retirement was taken.

Since then he has been teaching part-time, coaching and examining Mathematics at 'A' Level. In semi-retirement he has had more opportunity to travel with his wife Rita to France, Ireland, Canada and most recently to New Zealand, with stopovers in Singapore and Sydney.

Sporting activity is now limited to golf and the occasional long walk, but he remains a keen follower of Hampshire Cricket and Southampton FC in the Premier League. His family are all keen on sport and have represented their county, Rita at hockey, sons Richard at cross-country and John at soccer, where he was a member of the College XI that won the English Schools' Under 19 Cup Competition in 1985.

In recent years Hugh Batchelor has joined the Old Boys at the Annual Dinner and still keeps in contact with several former masters. With his help it is hoped that the magazine can catalogue the stories of some of these teachers in future issues.



This is a photograph of pupils on a visit to Austria in April 1971 with Hugh Batchelor and his wife Rita at the front and further back Mike and Eileen Tarr. Here the teachers have escorted the pupils to the local saltmines. Clearly life at Morley Road did not change much with time.

OLD FARNHAMIANs - MASONIC LODGE

The newly elected Master of the Lodge is John Wills (not an Old Boy) and he will hold office from March 2002 until March 2003.

The Lodge is still looking for new members and anyone interested should write to John Mitchell. 1. Bishop Sumner Drive, Upper Hale, Farnham. GU9 OHQ or telephone him on 01252 722485. The Lodge meets at the Masonic Hall, Castle Street, Farnham on the evenings of the 2nd Saturday in January, March, May and November.

GEORGE STURT - (1863 - 1927)by **MICHAEL LEISHMAN**

Sturt was born in the family home in The Borough, Farnham; the premises included his mother's newsagent, stationery and bookshop. His father had inherited the Wheelwright's Shop in East Street in 1865. In his autographical *A Small Boy in the Sixties*, Sturt, referring to his father wrote that "probably there were not another dozen men in the town who cared for reading at all".

As a child he was dogged by ill health, asthma and bronchitis, ailments that were to afflict him all his life. Boisterous games were inimical to his temperament, "eventually I grew too self conscious to join in them, and walked away shyly; a veritable fogey... rounders were too competitive for my taste, and drew far too much attention on the individual player". He was, as it were, standing on the touchline - observing. Whilst still at elementary school he attended night classes at the Art School, where his natural aptitude for drawing could be developed and keen observation was essential. In 1875 he entered the Farnham Grammar School, encouraged by one of his former peers who referred to the school as "a fizzing school" - who could resist such a commendation? His academic abilities were well nurtured and by the start of 1879 the 16-year-old was appointed "pupil" teacher to the First Form. His performance as a teacher was such that "Old Buffer" (George Stroud) appointed him as a master to the Fourth Form when their teacher became ill. Three years later the School LogBook shows that Sturt was given "general oversight" of the First and Second Forms.

During the latter part of 1883 Sturt's father's health was deteriorating. The eldest son Frank had tried his hand some four years earlier but the work was not to his liking and after two years had returned to his mother's shop preferring books and stationery. In April 1884 Sturt started working at the Wheelwright's Shop, four months later his father died.

The 'Master' was having to be taught by his men. He was temperamentally unsuited for the task of running the business, especially dealing with canny customers over prices and payments; he referred to them as, "A low mean minded lot, always looking to take advantage of you". In private correspondence it is clear he detested his situation - he wanted to be a writer. He realised he could never be a Wheelwright, believing that to become a craftsman the skills had to be acquired at a young age, and his politics made him uneasy in the role of an employer, "The misery of being a socialist employer of labour" he wrote in his Journals. His achievements at the Wheelwright's Shop were: the creation of a close relationship with his men, they called him by his Christian name and he referred to them as friends of the family; attempting the various skills albeit incompetently, and by listening to his men and questioning them to understand the nature and significance of craftsmanship to rural culture. The business in 1884, - "was old fashioned" - he realised he was working in an environment that had changed little in materials used, methods and attitudes from that of the previous century - it was in essence, pre-industrial revolution.

In 1891 he moved house 1½ miles south to The Bourne, and area which was still predominantly inhabited by labourers and their families - a tight knit community bound together by their poverty and hardships. Many were descendants of 'squatters' who had encroached upon the Common. Because of the late Enclosure (1860) the elderly inhabitants were steeped in the 'Folk Culture' that had continued virtually unchanged until the Enclosure and which was now rapidly disappearing. Some could remember families living in turf huts. It was a serendipitous move, and Sturt was now able to add to his knowledge of artisans, that of rural labourers. 1891 was also a

GEORGE STURT - (1863 - 1927)by **MICHAEL LEISHMAN**

significant year because he was able to appoint a foreman-manager to the business, which gave him a little more time for writing. He also employed a part-time gardener-handyman, Fred Grover and ageing garrulous agricultural labourer with deteriorating health who was living nearby with his wife Lucy. Sturt's ambition had been to be a novelist and in a letter to his friend Arnold Bennett of the 1st June 1896 he justified his use of the pseudonym 'George Bourne', "...my best customers are neither non-conformists etc., etc., who read Henry Drummond, or mere bourgeois who despise art and dislike artists. I can fancy them saying 'If he writes novels, he isn't attending to his business'. I am already suspected of being an atheist and a socialist. To be a novelist might damn me for this world as well as the next !" He was however becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the whole rationale of novels. His first novel was not published until 1898 although written several years earlier, but he had been writing a book entirely on conversations with Fred Grover, who like other locals was completely unaware that Sturt was a writer. The book, *The Bettesworth Book* was published in 1901, and was given a glowing review by Edward Thomas, *The Daily Chronicle's* literary critic, (who later became a major figure in rural literature and a fine poet).

The direction upon which Sturt was embarking became clearer – in 1899 he wrote, "... what is it that I like to watch? That should be the writer's first question: and his second should be, How am I going to show it to the public? How to hold it under the reader's nose, so that he cannot fail to get a whiff of life?" Later he was to write: "I half hope, half fear, that the ordinary suffices me." And then: "For, not to know the poor and to care about them is pretty much the same thing as to not know and care about the English, since the majority of the English are poor."

Memoirs of a Surrey Labourer was published in 1907. It is an account of Fred's every day life, not just memories from the past, and covered the period from 1892 to his death in 1905. *Change in the Village* followed in 1912 and in it Sturt contrasts the pre-enclosure life of labourers with their present counterparts, revealing what had been lost, whilst not providing us with a mythical golden hued 'Heritage' England. He also deals with the conflicts arising because of the incomers, 'Resident Trippers' as he referred to them. The West Surrey hills had become a fashionable area in which to live - 'doing one's thing in the country', cheap land, servants, laundresses and gardeners. This was followed in 1913 by *Lucy Bettesworth* which utilised articles that had appeared in leading magazines and journals. The *Bettesworth 'Trilogy'* provides a unique insight into the lives of Fred who, Sturt was adamant, was representative of his class, and of his wife Lucy, from cradle to grave. There is no comparable document in rural literature.

From 1890 onwards Sturt kept a *Journal* for a number of purposes, including the belief that the effects of environment were paramount in the development of a person's character, and in it we also see his interest in heredity (expanded in his unpublished book *The Democratic Faith*.) It is inconceivable that this latter subject was not discussed with his very good friend Dr. George Brown (Badger) the science master at the F.G.S. who was a weekly visitor during Sturt's many periods of invalidity from 1916 to his death. Sturt had maintained an interest in education, writing papers on the subject as well as being a Manager of *The Bourne School*. The essence of his philosophy of education was incorporated in a school, *Frensham in Mittagong, N.S.W. Australia*, founded in 1913 by his second cousin Winifred West who was also a lifelong friend. The school still flourishes.

GEORGE STURT - (1863 - 1927)by **MICHAEL LEISHMAN**

The publication of *The Wheelwright's Shop* in 1923, the first not using his pseudonym was, ten years later to assure Sturt's place as a fine writer and chronicler of rural life when the 20th century's most influential British literary and cultural critic F.R. Leavis, published *Culture and Environment*. In it Leavis uses 24 quotations from Sturt in developing his argument of the threat posed by: mass production; advertising; and the media, to our society because of the ensuing 'levelling down'. He maintained that it was essential to understand the old 'Organic Community'. As Leavis put it "...If we forget the old order we shall not know what kind of thing to strive towards, and in the end there will be no striving, but a surrender to the 'progress' of the machine." Leavis correctly prophesied that *The Wheelwright's Shop*, "...will in time be recognised as an English classic."

Sturt's writing is distinguished by: its general lack of sentimentality – no golden age; his compassion and understanding of people; his skill as a cultural observer, and his fine use of English.

Farnham's most famous son Wm. Cobbett is known as *The Poor Man's Friend*. With some justification Sturt can be called *The Poor Man's Chronicler*.

Sturt is credited with having been instrumental in the creation of *The Old Farnhamians' Association*. There are only three *Old Farnhamians* listed in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, one of them is George Sturt. He will remain in the new edition with a more perspicacious entry to be published in 2004.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2002/2003

We have been asked by several readers to introduce the annual list of officers, which are elected at the AGM. In the original magazines this list did appear and we will therefore be including these names in future issues.

PRESIDENT; John Crotty.

TREASURER; Stephen Pritchard.

SECRETARY; Roger Edgell.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY; Tony Harland.

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE;

Wally Walsh; Bryan Bone; John Travers; Peter Mylles; Maurice Sturt; Chris Slyfield; Brian Daniels; Dudley Backhurst; Alan Lovell; Roy Robins; Mike Horner; Bill Luff; Dennis Phillips; Cyril Trust; Ian Sargeant; Graham Blunt; Keith Mentzel; Mike Mehta; Tony Gatfield; Robin Welland-Jones.

MEMBERS OF THE FARNHAMIAN 400 TRUST;

John Crotty (Chairman); Graham Blunt (Secretary); Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer); Cyril Trust; Roy Robins; Dudley Backhurst; Maurice Sturt; John MacLaughlin; John Dymott.

MEMBERS OF THE LEAVING SCHOLARSHIP TRUST;

Ian Sargeant (Chairman); Peter Mylles (Treasurer); Bill Luff; Mike Mehta.

INTER HOUSE KNOCK-OUT FOOTBALL CUP (JUNIOR)
In memory of M.C.COLWILL. – killed in action – December 1942



1942/43	MASSINGBERD.	1956/57	MORLEY.
1943/44	MASSINGBERD.	1957/58	MORLEY.
1944/45	HARDING.	1958/59	HARDING.
1945/46	MASSINGBERD.	1959/60	MORLEY.
1946/47	HARDING.	1960/61	MASSINGBERD.
1947/48	HARDING.	1961/62	MASSINGBERD.
1948/49	MORLEY.	1962/63	MASSINGBERD.
1949/50	CHILDE.	1963/64	CHILDE.
1950/51	MASSINGBERD.	1964/65	HARDING.
1951/52	MORLEY.	1965/66	CHILDE.
1952/53	CHILDE.	1966/67	MASSINGBERD.
1953/54	SCHOOL	1967/68	CHILDE.
1954/55	HARDING.	1968/69	CHILDE.
1955/56	MORLEY.	1969/70	CHILDE.
1970/71	CHILDE		

ATHLETICS – 100 YARDS JUNIOR

Given on behalf of J.A.HEATH (1930-38) – killed in action



1942	B.T.KIRK.	1958	D.R.EDGLEY.
1943	G.B.PIPER.	1959	R.F.BARNETT.
1944	K.N.ANDERSON.	1960	G.R.MONK.
1945	D.J.F.SLATER.	1961	J.P.RALPH.
1946	P.J.DOWNHAM.	1962	A.J.KETTLE.
1947	B.PHILPOTT.	1963	M.H.MOLONEY.
1948	J.M.H.COTTERILL.	1964	M.I.HALL.
1949	G.L.HOOKER.	1965	N.P.HALL.
1950	J.MELVILLE.	1966	A.J.HEATLEY.
1951	D.J.FAWKES.	1967	B.J.PUNTER.
1952	B.FITZPATRICK.	1968	G.EDMONDSON.
1953	J.DURRANT.	1969	J.COLLIER.
1954	J.W.FURLONGER.	1970	N.A.LAWRENCE.
1955	B.J.DIDRIKSEN.	1971	T.M.SAUNDERS.
1956	R.D.JARVIS.	1972	C.J.GIBBONS.
1957	R.I.HILL.	1973	M.G.PETERS.

THEN AND NOW - JIM HALL

(1925 - 1932)



Jim Hall was born in Farnham a year before the outbreak of the First World War. He attended the Infants' School by St Andrews Church and West Street Boys' School before moving to the Farnham Grammar School as a scholarship boy in 1925. His parents were confectioners and bakers and had a popular café in West Street.

His progress through the School was uneventful. He was a scholar rather than an athlete, and he chose to study classics rather than science, a decision he has never regretted. He enjoyed football and cricket, without excelling. He was a good shot with a rifle.

1932 was a time of recession and unemployment, and work was difficult to get. The Headmaster (F.A.Morgan) suggested to Jim that he should consider the Executive Class of the Civil Service.

"I think it might suit you," he said. "You have the right sort of brain for the Civil Service." Jim did not know exactly what that was supposed to mean, but it seemed an attractive proposition at nearly £3 a week starting salary and the prospect of overseas service. He left FGS, having declined a County Major Scholarship, with an offer of a job in the War Office; and wondering whether his sort of brain would be of any use there.

He spent the next four years auditing Army accounts in Aldershot. Because his work was so near to Farnham, he was able to keep up his contacts with old friends. He played cricket with the Old Boys eleven; went shooting with Humphrey Elphick at the school rifle range; and played the violin in Norman Patrick's dance orchestra.

In 1936 he was posted to Hong Kong. The voyage, by troopship, took a month. Trooping was a leisurely business in those days. The Far Eastern Audit Office had a total British staff of 8, and the total British population of the colony was similar to that of a town like Farnham. There was no air travel to England, and the sea journey would take a month, the only alternative being 3 weeks by Vladivostock and the Trans-Siberian Railway, a journey reported to be something of an endurance test. There was not an Old Farnhamian within 9000 miles.

In 1937 Jim was detailed to accompany a senior colleague to visit units in North China. They travelled to Shanghai in a small coastal steamer. There had been some pirate activity in the China seas, and there were strong barred wire partitions, manned by military guards, separating the "First Class" accommodation from the steerage passengers, in case there should be undercover pirates among them. The Royal Navy could be seen in the offing from time to time. Nothing untoward happened.

A few days with the battalion in Shanghai, and then on to Tientsin by train – 36 hours chugging across the desert at snail's pace. Eventually Peking (now Beijing), where the Army still provided the British Embassy Guard - shades of the Boxer Rebellion!

THEN AND NOW - JIM HALL**(1925 - 1932)**

Peking was a fascinating city; life in every corner, from the Imperial City, with its brightly coloured buildings and elaborate decoration, to the commercial area to the south where the streets were named after the wares they offered – Silver St. Jade St. Lantern St. and so on. Temples and palaces everywhere and, a day's journey away, the Great Wall of China.

Some sightseeing and back to Hong Kong by the train across the desert to Shanghai and the coastal steamer with the armed guards. Because of the hot monsoon climate office hours were not onerous, and he was able to enjoy swimming, some rifle shooting, and playing the violin in the local Philharmonic Orchestra. It was while following this latter pursuit that he met Barbara, daughter of an Admiralty civil servant, whom he married on his return to England.

In August 1939 he embarked again in the same troopship Dilwara that had brought him to Hong Kong, and looked forward to a leisurely four weeks ocean voyage. All went well until they reached Aden, when a naval escort appeared heralding the shape of things to come. The ship, with its load of soldiers, was thereafter escorted all the way and eventually arrived in Southampton in October 1939, 8 weeks after leaving Hong Kong.

Jim and Barbara were married and settled down to wait for his call-up. However, before that happened he was promoted to the administrative establishment of the War Office in Whitehall, where he remained throughout the war and until 1954, when his turn came for a tour of duty as the Permanent Secretary's Representative at a military HQ overseas, and he was sent to HQ Middle East Land Forces, at Fayid, on the shore of the Great Bitter Lake. There he was immediately involved in negotiations with the Egyptian Government over the financial aspects of the British Army's withdrawal from Egypt, which were ultimately settled at a meeting with President Nasser. Other distractions followed. The EOKA movement in Cyprus continued to add to the Army's security problems. In 1956 there was the Suez Incident. In 1957, he found himself in Amman looking after the financial interests of the War Office during the negotiations for a Treaty of Friendship with Jordan. The ratification of the Jordan treaty was followed by some interesting celebrations, including a traditional Arab meal at the Arab Legion HQ. Later a formal presentation to King Hussein, with lunch in rather more splendid style, with whole sheep (including the head and eyes!) curled up on platters at intervals in the middle of the table. Food was served in the usual way, except that guests were expected to use their table fork to help themselves to meat from the flanks of the nearest sheep.

He returned to England in October 1957, and spent the rest of his career in the War Office, and later in the Ministry of Defence, as Head of Division in a variety of jobs. His career was spent, apart from the first 4 years, well away from Farnham, and he recalls with pleasure occasions when he came unexpectedly across an Old Farnhamian friend. For a while after the end of the war, when David Horry, still in the Army, was working at the War Office, they met regularly for lunch. Later in Middle East Command HQ, Alan Smallman, then a lieutenant colonel, appeared unexpectedly on the staff. And he had much to do with Bruce George, when he was working as

THEN AND NOW - JIM HALL**(1925 - 1932)**

architect for the rebuilding of the war-damaged Guards Chapel in Birdcage Walk. All very welcome and agreeable occasions for going over old times. He retired in November 1973, after 41 years in the Civil Service. He and Barbara now live in their penthouse flat overlooking Poole Harbour. Both are in their late eighties and still find plenty to do, and at moments of leisure there is always the Harbour, with its yachts and endless movement of ferries heading for France and the Channel Islands, to engage their attention.

Let us hope that for some years to come Jim will be able to break away from his lifestyle and come to future OFA Southampton Lunches.

A humdrum life but, as F.A.Morgan said many years ago, 'He had that kind of brain'.

**THEN AND NOW - PETER J. CLARK****(1939 - 1943)**

A regular figure at both the Annual Dinner and the Southampton Lunch is Peter Clark, whose recent claim to fame was in his Toastmaster's red jacket controlling the show at the Millennium Dinner held at Farnham Castle. Peter is a popular member of the Association and as such he has been asked to give us details of his life/career so far. He satisfied this request by handing over a copy of the 'Catering Manager' dated 1995 and the following tells the story so far.

'PROFILE - Professor Peter Clark - Southern Branch'.

Peter Jason Clark - Born 30th December 1927. Started catering in his Grandma's hotel in Worthing, making toast for guests at the age of four. By the time he was ten he was waiting table during holidays. He was also very interested in scouting, football, cricket... and catering. From 1939 to 1943 he was a boarder at Farnham Grammar School (his house was Massingberd), then putting his age on by two years at this point, he joined the Royal Engineers "to see out the War". (He makes no comment about the War!). In 1945, when some things were getting back to normal, Peter played cricket as an amateur for Surrey C.C. and football for Frimley Green F.C. and Aldershot F.C.

He became very interested in politics, was Chairman of Frimley & Camberley District Council and a J.P. He took an active part in the Samaritans, as he did in scouting and flying. Peter became a freelance pilot flying for Laker Airlines, Eagle Aviation, Airwork and Dan Air. In 1953 Peter joined the merchant navy and, having an interest in catering, "went in with both feet", as an assistant waiter - waiter - assistant chef - ship's writer - catering officer - during six world cruises. Family problems brought him out of the merchant navy in 1960 and he joined Petters as catering manager. In that year he joined CMA (Catering Managers' Association) - London branch, as it

THEN AND NOW - PETER J. CLARK (1939 - 1943) - continued

was nearest to Southampton. Peter took the H.C.I examination (now HCIMA) and became a member. He served on local councils for 20 years. He is also a member of Totton Conservative Club, Southampton Samaritans, and the Royal Society of Health and spent many hours working for these organisations.

He also started his own catering business, Clarks Outside Caterers, in 1961. In those days, he says, hotels did not want to do weddings. "We did, and on one Saturday we did fourteen weddings - but never again! One way to make you go grey." In July 1970 Peter married Tina, one of his waitresses, and he calmed down a bit... but he still takes on a great workload. On Royal occasions in the South, Clarks do the catering. He took an M.A. degree, one of the first to do so on a part time course. He followed this by getting a BSc in Catering. In 1970 he helped form the Southern branch of the CMA, where he held numerous positions - secretary - chairman - treasurer - committee member - until 1993. He always said that he would retire from all committees at 65, and this he has done.



With his political connections, Peter was asked to join several Health Committees and committees on Food Safety for the Department of Health, and then on to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries & Food committees. He helped form the Cyprus branch of the HCIMA, also the branches in Malta and Australia and in 1984 was made a Fellow of that Association. In that year he also became a Fellow of the Catering Managers' Association and the Royal Society of Health. Appointments of which he is very proud. His motto in life is; 'You get out what you put in.'

THEN AND NOW - MIKE HORNER

(1943 - 1948)



We now turn to our immediate past President who took over the position in 1999. He has proved to be a most active President and much was achieved during his term of office. Mike Horner was born in December 1931 at Morden in South London. He was an only child. His father had a career in insurance and worked in London. Mike's first school was Merton Road Primary School, but when his father's company moved its head office to Hindhead at the beginning of the second world war the family moved as well and Mike continued his education at Beacon Hill School.

In 1943 he won a scholarship to Farnham Grammar School and took the daily bus to school with Peter Larby as the 'bus prefect.'

In 1944 the Horner family moved to Farnham and lived in Bridgefield, close to the school. Mike was a member of Morley House when the HouseMaster was the famed 'Johnny Horner'. In due course Mike became Assistant House Captain and a sub-prefect, and his main sporting achievement was to become a member of the School Second Cricket XI. Academically he was much more successful and passed his School Certificate with 6 Credits and 2 Distinctions to gain Matriculation.

Mike spent a short period in the Sixth Form before leaving the School and joining a London company to train as a civil engineer. Initially he spent one day a week at Kingston Technical College, but from September 1949 he attended full time and after three years obtained his Diploma in Civil Engineering. During this period his father was transferred to Devon and Mike lived with an uncle and aunt in a lodge at Hampton Court Palace (where in fact his uncle was the vine-keeper).

In November 1952 National Service beckoned and he joined the Royal Engineers initially at Worcester and then on to the School of Military Engineering at Chatham. He was lucky enough to be posted to the Far East where he had his first taste of the 'high life'. In November 1954 he returned to civilian life and joined John Laing, one of our largest construction companies, as a junior civil engineer to gain the five years practical experience necessary to obtain his Membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers. In 1956 on a visit to Farnham he met, again, Maureen, a Farnham girl, and they married in November 1958. Their first home was a Company caravan in Portishead, near Bristol, where Mike was working as a shift manager on a large dock project. Then to Lakenheath in East Anglia, (still in the caravan!) as sub agent on a major airfield contract, but life on the move was not in the long term plan and he joined Devon Contractors in Exeter as a project manager late in 1959. In 1961 he moved to Blue Circle, one of the largest producers of cement in the world, as a senior civil engineer in the design and construction division. Just prior to this move son Nicholas was born.

NOW AND THEN - MIKE HORNER**(1943 - 1948)**

After a period as Resident Engineer in Scotland he moved in 1963 to the technical side of the marketing division of the company. Also in 1963 second son Simon was born and three years later his daughter Susan was born. In 1969 he was asked to travel to New Zealand to review the marketing operations of the local company and with a view to developing further Blue Circle's interests in the country and elsewhere in the region. In September of that year he returned to the London office and was appointed Group Marketing Development Manager, with a worldwide brief. He now began many years of travelling extensively throughout the world to further the Group's interests generally which involved directorships in several of its overseas companies. Airports and hotels became a way of life for Mike Horner.

After 10 years in the position he left Blue Circle and joined Kaiser Cement, an American company. Initially he worked from a Farnham office developing Kaiser Cement's business in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, but after eighteen months he was transferred to Hong Kong as managing director of China Cement (HK) Ltd., where Kaiser, with local Chinese partners, were installing a large new cement plant to service the domestic and local export markets. In 1985 Kaiser sold out its interest to the local partners and Mike opted to leave the company. Shortly before doing so his former employer, Blue Circle, contacted him and offered him the position in London of Director of International Marketing and so the family returned to live in Farnham. In 1987 the company asked him to head up Malayan Cement, their holding company for the Asia/Pacific region, and for the next seven years Mike and Maureen lived in Malaysia, enjoying the lifestyle and developing the Group's business in the region. Clearly these were memorable days.

Mike had planned to retire in February 1994, only to find that when the time came no successor had been appointed so he worked on for a few more months before returning to England and to Farnham. They had retained their house in Shortheath Road whilst they were abroad and now moved back to it and a major refurbishment programme. For 2 years after his retirement Mike did part time consultancy work and gradually wound down towards full retirement from the manic world of big business.

These days Mike and Maureen lead very active lives in the Farnham area. They are both keen golfers and Mike endeavours to play three rounds each week. They also belong to a local tennis club, where Mike usually plays three times a week. Maureen is also an accomplished bridge player and they enjoy the theatre etc. Whilst their eldest son lives locally and their daughter resides in Scotland, their second son, Simon, lives in New Zealand and every January Mike and Maureen visit there. Clearly they love the place and have travelled the Islands thoroughly. They usually combine their annual trek to New Zealand with visits to friends in other countries and this included a visit to Antarctica five years ago.

Mike and Maureen now have 8 grandchildren (7 boys/1 girl). Mike has just passed 70 and last December his family held a large party for him in Farnham where he was joined by many 'ex-pats' from their days in Malaysia, some Old Boys and friends.

During his 3 years as our President he has overseen the very successful Millennium celebrations as well as the opening of the 'Home of FGS Memorabilia.' Certainly a job well done!

THEN AND NOW - TONY HARLAND

(1943 - 1951)



Once again we offer a profile of an Old Boy who has served the Association well for many years on the General Committee and over almost ten years as the Membership Secretary. Quite a task collecting the subscriptions from all over the world!

Tony Harland was born in Aldershot in 1932 and his parents were local. His father worked most of his life for the Midland Bank and Tony was the only child.

He began school at West End in Aldershot and stayed there until he moved to Farnham Grammar School in 1943. It is amazing to know that Tony still attends a regular get-together of his old school after all these years and old pupils meet three times each year.

Tony started his time at the Grammar School in Form 1C and his form master was a Mr Knight. He was enrolled in Childe House. He says that for the eight years at the school he did not achieve very much academic success and only really tried when the subject interested him. This resulted in good marks for Mathematics and English, but poor results for Chemistry and Physics. Even so he still managed to pass the School Certificate.

During his time at Morley Road he developed his love of sport and played for Childe House at both soccer and cricket. Eventually he played for the school first teams at both sports and became Vice Captain of the Soccer Eleven and Captain of the Cricket Eleven. Early in the time at the school he also developed his 'love affair' with Aldershot F.C. and this began many years supporting this local side through thick and thin. If you ever eavesdrop on a conversation, which includes Tony, Brian Webberley, Bill Luff and Brian Lake, you will hear a resume of many matches at the Recreation Ground. They can recall all the team members over the years and most of the goals scored.

In 1951 Tony left the Grammar School and immediately entered the RAF for his two year stint of National Service. He was lucky, and spent most of the time at RAF Thorney Island, which is not far from Portsmouth. Once again he still keeps in contact with a few of his old friends from those days and from time to time they meet.

After his two years he returned to civilian life and had to look for his first job. He then began a career in banking, like his father, and initially joined the Westminster Bank at Farnborough. He remained with this bank for all of his working life and worked at branches at; Basingstoke, Hartley Wintney, Petersfield, Aldershot, Fleet, Alton and finally ended with fifteen years at the Aldershot branch (by this time it was National Westminster Bank). Tony says that he an 'undistinguished career', but worked for some time as a Loans Officer.

During those working years he married Mena (short for Philomena), who was an Irish nurse, in 1963 and they had two children, being Katherine and John.

THEN AND NOW - TONY HARLAND**(1943 - 1951)**

Unfortunately Mena died in 1984 and it was another five years before Tony met his present wife Christine. She was an Aldershot girl and as many will know she became involved in local politics for some time.

Both of Tony's children are married and he now has three grandchildren.

Over the years his love of sport has remained and after leaving the school he played for many seasons for the Old Farnhamians' First XI in his usual position between the goal posts. For one or two seasons he moved to Hale FC and Wrecclesham FC, but his long career was mainly with the Old Boys. Tales of his goalkeeping are rife among old teammates, with most being complimentary. He managed to keep going as an avid supporter of Aldershot FC until they went into liquidation in the early 90's. He is still to be seen most Saturday afternoons during the winter watching from the stands at other local soccer clubs.

Talking to Tony Harland about his career in cricket is quite remarkable and on the day we met to prepare this profile he told me that he was still playing for Waverley CC once or twice a week (does anyone else know of a seventy year old cricketer?). He says that he played for Frimchett when leaving school and it was school friend, Roy Harrington, who introduced him to the Waverley team. This was the same year he left school and Tony is now playing his 51st season!

When asked about his achievements during this marathon career he is somewhat reticent and prefers to tell you about his son John and his prowess with the bat playing for Rowledge CC. However, one of the members of Waverley CC has put all of the results of the club on a data base and you can see just how many matches the team has played and won, drawn or lost. It also shows individual averages for the current season and for the time that a player has been with the club. Looking at these figures one can see that Tony Harland has played 1465 innings up to the end of the 2000 season. He says that there were probably more, as he did not always bat in an innings.

During this time he has scored over 13,000 runs, taken over 1000 wickets and managed to take over 360 catches. This is up to the end of the 2000 season and he is still playing regularly and one wonders what he will achieve by the time that he hangs up his pads, gloves and bat.

Asked if he had any other interests in his retirement he said that he had very little time for anything other than playing sport or watching sport.

Tony Harland smokes a pipe and looks at ease with the world. A popular Old Boy and known to most of the membership.



A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE - BRIAN SMITH**(1950 - 55)**

I left the School in '55, after sitting GCE 'O' levels and obtaining sufficient to gain an entrance to King Edward VII Nautical College, in London. Following a short pre-sea training course there I joined the Ben Line Steamers Ltd, as an Officer Cadet, and spent the next five years training as a Deck Officer in the Merchant Navy, working on a variety of cargo ships around the Far East and, occasionally, elsewhere. There were a few 'high spots' though. During this period I found myself lying at anchor off Christmas Island in the Pacific, in 1956, where 600 Royal Engineers were building the runway for the atomic bomb tests. We were a supply ship on what was known as 'Operation Grapple'. This was where I found the easiest way to build a swimming pool was to bury a charge of explosives on the beach, set the fuse and ...run like hell! The resulting fifteen feet deep hole in the coral sand quickly filled with seawater and the bank of debris thrown up kept the sharks at bay! Not that this was ecologically sound, environmentally, but the Marines were not really concerned with such matters at the time. Later that year in October '56, I was on a ship approaching the shores of Port Said loaded with armoured vehicles, stores, etc, in company with a fleet of warships, prior to the landings during the Suez Crisis.

Studying at the K.E.VII College in 1960, I took my first exams (2nd Mates Certificate of Competency), a four-day set of exams, both written and oral, with a pass-mark of 72%. As one might gather, this was a period of intense studies (something alien to me in the past!) and considerable worry. I kept hearing echoes of Messrs Beeken, Beadman and Evans and their report comments "Could, but doesn't!". As it happened, I did. (Well on the second try!) I then returned to sea in 1961 as Third Officer and spent the next 5 years variously engaged at sea, getting married, studying for yet another exam (1st Mates Cert,) and becoming a father!

Life was never dull. One period of 3 months in the Far East, during the Malay-Indonesian confrontation in '64, I spent many nerve-wracking hours in the company with another officer gathering military information and photographs in Indonesia for British Intelligence as our ship went from port to port. During the latter part of the five-year period I left my original employer, and the British fleet, and sailed as relief Master on a 'tramp' ship with a Greek company under the Panamanian flag for 14 months (one voyage!). 'Tramping' is basically, finding cargoes where ever you can, taking them from A to B and then finding another cargo at B for C, and so on. This is left to the Master on many occasions, when the owners cannot find anything before you arrive at port, and I learned more about the shipping and cargo industries in those 14 months than in all my previous time at sea.

Unfortunately, marriage and long periods of separation do not agree, on occasions, so - for a period of 3 years I left the sea and joined the Constabulary, spending the period in Portsmouth City. I returned to sea a single man again in 1969, took the plunge and joined a tanker company, something no dyed-in-the-wool cargo ship man would ever do! I joined the Texaco fleet as Third Officer, for six-months 'Makee learner'. This was spent on a small tanker, running oil fuel to Sweden through the Baltic, in the winter of '69/70, during which the ice remained until June '70. Not a pleasant experience and one that caused me to grow the beard I still wear. After this I spent 6 months running from Singapore to Vietnam with aviation fuel for the US Airforce. We didn't sleep much, owing to the morning bombardment by the local US

A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE**(Continued)**

Army battery, which began about 4.00 am, or the frequent search for enemy divers alongside by dropping the grenades over the side by our sentries (their answer to anything to do with 'Charlie!'). I then gradually made my way up to Chief Officer (2nd-in-command) by 1971. At that time I stood by the building, in Wallsend, of the 'Texaco Great Britain' one of the largest tankers of the day at 275,000 tons deadweight (weight of cargo carried) and known as a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) and later sailed in her.

In 1974 I re-married. This time to Sue, the sister of a school friend, John (Jim) Edmunds, who, I am sure, is known to many! As a wedding present the company gave us a honeymoon in Spain - but not without 'strings'! We had a flat overlooking the main plaza in the city of El Ferrol, rent free, for 4 months - during which period I was to stand by the building of the 'Texaco Spain'. Another VLCC, in the Astano family shipyard. The same shipyard had built many of the ships in the armada, giving us little confidence in the project! As it happened, our time there was spent exploring Galicia, with my wife learning Spanish. As for myself I used the services of an interpreter.

Back at sea I spent almost 2 years with my wife sailing with me, until 1976 when our daughter was born. In 1977 a son followed. In 1980 I was advised of my forthcoming promotion to Captain, but the slump in shipping and oil resulted in my redundancy 4 years later. After a year running my own business I returned to work for the Saudi Ports Authority as Superintendent of Pilots & Tugs in the Red Sea ports. I spent 3 years working and living in Saudi Arabia with a home in Jeddah and found the work interesting, but fraught with problems. In December '87 I returned to sea with World-Wide Shipping Management Co. Ltd of Hong Kong and after 8 months was promoted Captain. I spent the next 10 years sailing VLCC's world wide, with my wife and family accompanying me on occasions. In '97 for example they went with me to Japan and Korea. I left them at home as the Iran-Iraq war in the Gulf made life dangerous, with many of us coming under fire and unfortunately losing crew. On one occasion our sister-ship 'World Knight' took an Exocet missile in the engine room and lost eleven men.

Life was difficult, as we did not know who would be firing upon us next. Would it be Iranian or Iraqi gunfire? However, there were lighter spots - such as the occasion the Royal Navy sent a team to remove a missile that had hit and penetrated an empty tank, only to find that our Korean crew had been down and removed it, dumping the unexploded warhead over the side because they did not think we wanted it!

In 1997 the spectre of redundancy came again and I changed companies, this enabling me to command the Ultra Large Crude Carriers, 'Sea World' and her sister-ship 'Sea Sovereign', both among the largest ships afloat today, being able to carry over half a million tons each. But, after a year, redundancy arrived and I felt that life was trying to tell me something. I gave up the sea and settled for a 'sea-related' job with the Admiralty locally at Taunton, only twelve miles from home. I now write navigational hand-books, known as Pilot Books, for the Admiralty Hydrographic Office for the use of both Royal and Merchant Navies, along with 13 other retired Master Mariners. Between us we have over 500 years of sea-going experience which the Admiralty want to make use of. It's nice, once again, to feel wanted!

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Shortly after the 2001 Annual Dinner we were contacted via our website by JOHN WHAPSHOTT (1967-74) asking to join the Association. He said that after living in London for a while he is back in Farncombe and working for Ericsson in Guildford. He has stayed in touch with JOHN 'MAD VICAR' INNES since leaving the school and says that he has recently retired and is now living in Upper Hale. John was sorry to hear of the death of Mike Foster and says 'I had an enormous respect for him - he was a very witty man, as well a very intelligent and sympathetic one.'

In late May our Secretary received an e-mail from JOHN FLESHER, who lives in Australia, commenting on how pleased he was to see the Association still going strong. He said that he had been invited to attend a 30-year re-union in 1997 but was unable to attend and he had not been back to the UK since 1993 when his father died.

John says that geology exploration has had a pretty severe downturn over the past few years and after looking at small businesses over the past few years he decided to take the plunge. With his wife Kate, he recently started working from home running a domestic cleaning franchise which covers the northern metro area of Perth and he currently has nearly 400 clients and is hoping to double this in the next 2/3 years. He says it may be a long time before they can leave the business for someone else to manage!... Computers, phones, advertising plus a lot of problem solving is all it takes.

John advises that his oldest son William (23) has been away in the UK and Europe for the past two years and is currently working in London for Citibank and looking forward to going home at Christmas. Youngest son Simon (19) in in his 2nd year at university studying Commerce - Property/Finance and just hoping that he can manage to pass his exams. I am sure John would like to hear from old classmates.

On Tuesday 27th February 2001 the 'Harrow' Group met once again. These are former pupils mainly from the 1955/56 intake and they hold a regular get-together at the 'Harrow' pub in Compton, near Farnham. This annual event is inspired by TONY HAYWARD and CHRIS NASH, who network their contemporaries with the details. I am told that the meeting is nothing elaborate - just a drink together to catch up on news of each other and to enjoy some nostalgic reminiscences. If you look at our website you will see the following enjoying a drink. CHRIS WILLIAMS, GERRY MEADON, JOHN WEAKLY, DUNCAN MCGREGOR, CHRIS SLYFIELD AND PAUL STEADMAN with Chris and Tony.

For many years the 'Frank Scribe' page in the 'Surrey & Hants' newspaper has printed articles to provoke people and provide some controversy and in May 2001 it included a piece from '20 Years Ago' which stated that the Farnham Grammar School had never produced a pupil who had obtained a high position and only served the purpose of producing middle management. The Editor replied to these comments and gave a list of several ex-pupils who had some claim to fame after leaving the school and this was followed by a letter from LEONARD EVANS, our well-respected former Chemistry Master, also objecting to the columnist's point of view. He said that the School had a very happy atmosphere and an excellent staff with a fine academic record. He said that rather than producing middle management it has in fact seen the old boys pursuing many and various careers in very many levels and from different social backgrounds. It is good to see this near 90-year-old ex-master standing up for the Farnham Grammar School, and certainly Frank Scribe got the point.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

We have recently heard from E.A.(Teddie) DREW (1929-1933) telling us about a request that he has had from the Imperial War Museum to give a taped interview on his war time experiences, which included the sinking of the HMS Cornwall. Teddie discovered, when researching this, that there was an account of the sinking of this ship on the Net and written by an 'Upper-Deck type' and he felt that he should write his own experiences of this tragedy as a 'Below-Deck type'. Teddie was an officer in the Engine room of this cruiser when it was sunk by the Japanese and his story is one of death, courage and companionship, and is well worth reading. For those who have the opportunity to use the net I suggest you log into the following;

www.world-war.co.uk/cornwall_loss

You will find this tale of bravery by an Old Boy is quite remarkable.

A recent addition to the ranks of the retired is past-chairman BRIAN DANIELS, who looked the picture of health at a General Committee Meeting. A holiday or two abroad and several hours in the garden provided a good tan for this long-time Farnham to Waterloo commuter. Brian travelled to the City for most of his working life and worked in the world of insurance, at Lloyds in the main. Such was his record with British Rail or South West Trains it was decided that on his final day commuting to the capital the local railway station staff would present him with flowers etc., and have the local press there for the occasion. Brian says that he does not miss the daily dash to the station, followed by the erratic train and underground services. He is finding that a quieter life in Farnham is much more agreeable.

As explained in past issues several magazines are sent to families of deceased Old Boys and staff and letters are received with comments that are worth recording. The 2001 edition resulted in a reply from BARBARA WILLIS, who is the daughter of that much-loved master GEORGE BACON, saying that she had passed her copy to a neighbour aged 94 years of age whose husband was E.WHITMORE (1916-1922) and brother STEPHEN STUART. There is no doubt that the modern magazine still has links with the old Farnham Grammar School, and thanks to Barbara we are able to include in this edition an excellent photograph of her father from 1933.

Once again our Secretary has tracked down a 'lapsed' Old Boy and a new reader of the magazine now is Rev. NICHOLAS WALTERS, who has moved to Godalming. Nicholas thinks that many years ago he received a life time membership to the Association as a birthday present, but this may be a 'senior moment' and he has forwarded his subscription. He has been working at the University of Surrey, Guildford for many years and has recently been in contact with E.W. 'Ted' MAINE, as they share an interest in the plight of refugees and asylum seekers. Nicholas also remembers that during the late 1950's he worked with the then magazine Editor DON NICOLSON, designing a new front cover based on the new blazer badge and using a new style typeface. This was the forerunner to magazines printed in beige and maroon, which many of you still have in your collection no doubt. Nicholas says that the current Farnhamian still looks like an old friend. Quite a compliment!

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

The use of E-mail by members of the Association is growing and the following message was received by our Secretary from DAVID SLATER in America. 'Having perused the latest magazine, imagine my surprise at once again seeing the group picture printed backwards. What do you think the problem is? Possibly the person who sets everything out is ciscelsid, or has mad cow disease, or some other strange malady (Tony Blairitis). All the best, Divad Retals.' This message is questioning the photograph printed in the 2001 magazine, showing a large group of pupils from the 1940's sitting on a grassy bank after their exams. The person printing the photo has produced it back to front and one can see that the boys have their hair parted on the right instead of the left. Apparently this mistake has been pointed out before and most of those involved know of the error. I wonder how many readers spotted the 'deliberate mistake?'

A few weeks after issuing the magazine we heard from BARBARA WILLS, widow of former Art Master John Wills, commenting on certain items that had interested her and provoked old memories. She remembers our current Treasurer STEPHEN PRITCHARD as a 'very nice small boy' and expects that he is still nice. She also enjoyed the article about the old classrooms and recalls that her husband was in one of the rooms in the old Huts. In the next room was 'BUZZ' VAREY, and she says that this well respected History Master would stay with the Wills family whenever he returned to Farnham during his retirement. She also enjoyed the piece on 'Old Nick' RIDOUT and says that her husband was his second in command for Morley House and took over when 'Old Nick' retired. She says it was a sad day when John Wills went with HAROLD BEEKEN to his funeral in Dorset. Barbara still remains in touch with Farnham people and finishes her letter by saying that she had received a telephone call from Sylvia Morgan only a few days prior to writing to me.

Through the wonders of the Internet we have made contact with other ex-pupils of the School and it was interesting to hear from MICHAEL GROCOTT who gave us details of his career, which were not without humour. On leaving the School he went up to St Edmund Hall, Oxford to read English Language and Literature (with a little help from English master, Mike Foster, who had attended the same university). Having got bored with writing essays on literary works, he selected course options as he went along which resulted in him emerging with a profound expertise in Anglo Saxon and Old Norse, which stood him in good stead for his subsequent career in British industry!

Duly equipped for the fray he joined Ilford's, the photographic manufacturers, in 1964 as a management/work study trainee and spent the next couple of years with a clip board and stop watch doing time and motion studies of shop floor operatives, often in partial or total darkness (how you study people working in total darkness is a topic in itself!) This experience of working in the dark has stood him in good stead through the rest of his career.

Having developed a growing interest in training Mike left Ilford's to work in Birmingham for a government sponsored training consultancy, The Industrial Training Service, which had been set up to work with British industry to help improve

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

(MIKE GROCOTT continued)

their approach to training employees following the establishment of Industrial Training Boards with their grants/levy powers in the mid sixties. He spent several fascinating years with them, working on consultancy assignments in individual companies of all shapes and sizes as well as carrying out industry-wide surveys of training practices in industries ranging from ceramics through to 'footwear, leather, fur and skin'.

However he did not see himself as a lifelong consultant and in 1972 decided to move back into industry and obtained a post as a Training Officer with the 3M Company (Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing) at their tape manufacturing plant near Swansea. This was the beginning of many years of interesting and varied employment with 3M.

In 1975 he was offered promotion to a pharmaceutical subsidiary of the group based in Loughborough and shortly after his arrival he became company Personnel Manager (a function in which he remained for the subsequent 24 years!) Over this period the pharmaceutical operation grew rapidly and the Loughborough site soon became the centre for the 3M Health Care business in the UK, and ultimately the European headquarters for this business with several thousand employees spread across most of the principal countries of Europe. By this stage he had become European Human Resources Manager for the operation and soon became familiar with departure lounges of a few good airports. On the positive side he became familiar with the wide variety of cultures and styles in which different nationalities conduct their business and enjoyed many fine evenings out with excellent company. With 3M being an American-owned company he also spent time in the US and gained an appreciation of their outlook on life. He says that he could comment on several irritating aspects of some of the nationalities, but cannot for fear of litigation!

One of Mike's principal work ambitions was to stop doing any as early as possible. The age of 55 was his target and he missed it by one year and retired in 1999 at the ripe old age of 56. Since then he has become a crossword fanatic and enjoys family history research, computing and the Internet. He has ambitions of writing a book about the humorous side of business but feels that he may never actually realise this ambition.

Mike has been married to Mandy (formerly Mandy Park - Head-Girl of the FGGS) since 1965 and have two children, Robin (27) and Sarah (30). He would like to keep more in touch with the old School now that he has stopped travelling and will be a welcome new member of the Association.

We have recently been passed a copy of a 'Recommendations for Honours and Awards' set of papers relating to Old Boy LEN SALTMARSH, and the information makes fascinating reading. Dated 7th June 1945, the request for an award is signed by his Wing Commander, Commanding Officer, Air Commodore and Air Vice Marshal and they are all asking for the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross & Bar) to be given. Len is shown to have flown 99 sorties in all, with 53 operational over France and Germany and a further 46 unspecified, as they were experimental or top secret. There is also a note from the famous Air-Chief-Marshal A.J.(Bomber) Harris advising that

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS**(LEN SALTMARSH continued)**

Squadron Leader Leonard Saltmarsh had been selected and had volunteered to form a new Squadron for the continuation of hostilities against Japan. Although Len and his men left for Malaya they took no further part in the war as the Japanese capitulated with the dropping of the atom bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The papers also give a list of the operational sorties, plus items of particular bravery, and these are yet another fine tribute to an Old Farnhamian at war.

Through the wonders of Internet we have heard from PATRICK (PADDY) LANGDOWN, who was yet another ex-pupil from the 1948 intake. His ambition had always been to become a pilot in the RAF, but his father felt that he should take a 'proper job', just in case he did not like service life. He therefore began training to be a Quantity Surveyor in Chichester but did not like this career and decided to enlist in the service. He was awarded his commission in September 1958 and started pilot training in earnest, finding it not too difficult as he already held a private pilot's licence. He was awarded his wings in 1960 and his first posting was to fly Canberras with 45 Squadron in Singapore.

During his 30 months in the Far East he visited Hong Kong, Okinawa, Burma, Australia, India, Pakistan and other exotic places. After completion of his tour he returned to the UK to convert to Vulcan B Mk 2 and flew with various squadrons, with regular trips abroad for three-month periods and three years in Cyprus. Patrick became an Instrument Rating Examiner and a Flight Simulator Instructor and was Captain of the Vulcan crew which won the 1974 Strategic Air Force Bombing & Navigation Trophy in the United States in competition with their top crews.

On retiring from the RAF in 1976 Patrick and his first wife took a pub in Northamptonshire for a couple of years, but neither the pub nor the marriage proved very successful. He decided to make a career change and joined the Financial Services Industry, which he liked from the start. He was the first person to be awarded the ALIA(dip) and the FLIA(dip) certificates and he also became a FCIFA. He remained in the profession until 1994 when he decided to retire to the Dordogne with Sue, his second wife. They missed their families and in 1999 returned to live in Canterbury where he has become Managing Director for a company providing availability service for the owners of self-catering holiday properties.

Between him and his second wife there are 7 grandchildren and Sue is a JP, whilst Patrick belongs to the local Lions group and enjoys the theatre and golf. He says that he has remained in contact with only one former Old Boy, being JOHN COOKE, who now lives in Wellingborough. Patrick is now another new member of the Association.

We have also heard from PAUL HALLETT (1963-68), a Massingberd man, who left School after the 5th Form and spent two years spells at Welbeck College and Sandhurst. He married in 1973 and has two daughters. Paul left the Army in 1975 and moved to Nottingham where he worked for Boots, NHS and Local Government undertaking internal consultancy, work measurement and Human Resources. He also spent 6 years in the TA. When writing he was 'in between' jobs, was divorced and living with a new partner on the outskirts of Nottingham.

Paul still has friends and relatives in Rowledge, nr. Farnham and has fond memories of the late Mike Foster, who was his English Teacher and Form Master. If any reader wishes to contact Paul please ask the editor for his e-mail number.

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Just prior to Christmas the Head of Music at Farnham College, David Victor-Smith, took delivery of a brand new Yamaha key-board, by kind permission of the 400 Farnhamian Trust. He had asked the Association if they could help with this purchase as the College wanted to hold lunchtime concerts in the new foyer and the sole keyboard that they possessed could not be in two places at once. After some discussion the 400 Trust Committee agreed to donate the new instrument to the College as a sign of their support for the new Morley Road regime.

Here we see the presentation to David Victor-Smith and Principal, Sally Francis, by members of the Committee; L to R; Stephen Pritchard; John Crotty; Graham Blunt; Maurice Sturt; Cyril Trust; Roy Robins.



The 2002 Farnham Lecture will be held on Friday 27th September
at Farnham College commencing at 7.30 pm

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NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

We have also heard from CLIVE BUCKLEY, who left the School in 1963 at the age of thirteen. He moved to Henley on Thames and qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and says that he has worked all of his post-qualification life in and around Oxford. For many years he was in private practice, but about four years ago he joined Cheltenham & Gloucester as their staff surveyor for the Oxford area and has found work much less hassle compared to private practice. Clive is married with three children and currently lives in Abingdon.

Good to hear from JOHN COOKE (1948-53) who now lives in Wellingborough and is a Blue Badge Tourist Guide for the county of Northamptonshire. John writes that after leaving school in 1953 he initially worked in Guildford before joining the RAF for three years and spending most of his service at RAF Steamer Point in Aden. On his return to civilian life he joined Cow and Gate in Guildford and then decided to improve his qualifications by taking a Sociology Diploma Course at Guildford College. He then worked in a residential home for delinquent boys in Essex before going on to University to qualify in Social Work. Whilst in Essex he met his first wife, and together they moved to Wiltshire to further his career and whilst there son Tim was born. Promotion took John to Wellingborough, where he worked as a manager for Northants Social Services and whilst there his daughter Rachel was born.

In 1992 his marriage failed and two years later John took early retirement. He trained to be a Blue Badge Tourist Guide and also worked for Saga Holidays as a Tourist Manager. In 2002 he will become an OAP but has already built up quite a list of interests to keep him busy in the local community. He is a churchgoer, a theatregoer and involved in choral singing and with ancestors of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin coming from the area he is busy guiding American tourists around. He has lost contact with most old schoolmates and is pleased to receive a copy of the new magazine and to re-join the Association after many years. No doubt we will see him at the next Annual Dinner!

An obituary for ROY GATES was sent in by his life-long friend HAROLD NORTH and talks of true friendship from days before they were classmates at the School in 1924. Our Secretary replied to Harold and as a result we have another new member of the Association. Apparently Harold had an opticians shop in Basingstoke which was purchased from him when he retired by well-known Old Boy BILL BODKIN. Harold has paid his £5 subscription and says that we should not expect many more as his date of birth is 19-04-1914, but he hopes to climb the ladder towards becoming the oldest OFA survivor!

In fact he is re-joining, as he was a member for some time after leaving School and still living in Farnham. During that time he shot on the school rifle range and played soccer and cricket for the OFA (all without distinction he adds). He married and left for London and before the war moved to Guernsey C.I. Over five years in the RAF followed during wartime and all thoughts of the Association were swallowed up in the events of the time. Harold says that he is a lapsed Old Boy and feels it is high time that he re-joined the Association. He is most welcome!

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Yet another new contact and again a new member for the Association is DAVID STONE who left the school in 1957. David joined the Farnham Timber Co. after leaving school where he says the job was more slave labour than management! From there he joined local estate agents in West Street, Messrs. German, Addy & Co., and spent three years there until he became bored with office life. He decided to join the Metropolitan Police following contemporaries NORMAN BOLTON and DAVE KING, and such was the size of the force he only met Norman (Bubbles) Bolton once during his many years with the force. David served from 1961 until 1995 before retiring as a Detective Inspector in Fulham and during his time he worked with various divisions, including Heathrow, Hammersmith and at Scotland Yard. He says that his career was always interesting, but he was not sorry to retire as Police Officers have become saddled with too much political correctness and are expected to be more of a social service than a police service.

We have also heard at length from W. (Bill) JOHNS (1949-56) who now lives with wife, Judith, in South Oxfordshire and since 1998 has run his own company, involved in Chemical Engineering software and consultancy. Bill left school and went directly to Imperial College London where he obtained BSc and PhD degrees in Chemical Engineering. In 1963 he joined ICI and spent 10 years with them, becoming Group Technical Manager for the Integrated Process Design Group. Early 1974 he moved to the Eidgenossche Technische Hochschule in Zurich as Reader in Process Systems Engineering and spent 3 years in Switzerland. He returned to become Sub-Dean of Mathematics and Computing at Westminster University and in 1980 moved to South Bank University as Professor and Head of Department of Chemical Engineering. After 10 years at South Bank he moved to become Chief Chemical Engineer for the environmental consulting and software company QuantiSci Ltd in Henley-on-Thames. He remained there until opening his own business.

Bill has been on the Council of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and a member of Engineering & Physical Sciences Council (EPSRC) committees for Design and Process Engineering. Whilst at the school he was captain of the Second XI soccer team and recalls travelling to school by motorcycle. He competed in trials and motor-cross in those days and would like to make contact with old pal Jim Knight. His brother R. (Bob) JOHNS, who also attended the Grammar School now runs his own small software company in Alberta, Canada, after retiring from the position of Head of International Sales for a telecoms company in Edmonton.

Another recent e-mail came from ROD PARKER who left the school in 1947 on gaining entry to the Royal Aircraft Establishment as an apprentice. He says that his entire working life was spent in the Aircraft Industry and was employed by Handley Page, Sperry and BF Goodridge where he was the European Avionics Manager. He recalls that in his class at the school were JOHN CROTTY, KEN ANDERSON, FREDDIE LOVELESS, JOHN VICK and PETER NAYLOR. For the past 15 years Rod has lived in Eversley on the Hampshire/Berkshire border and would welcome correspondence from anyone who attended the school between 1942/47. He also advises that his father, RONALD PARKER, was also at the school and was one of the first scholarship boys to enter. He finished as School Captain and captain of Harding House. He later played soccer for Farnham Post Office.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

It is good to make contact again with one of the school's finest soccer players in DAVID FAWKES, who left the school in 1955 and joined the Kenya Police, as the youngest Police Inspector, during the Mau Mau Emergency. At the end of this he was moved to Nairobi where he continued to play football and represented the National Team in goal. He met his wife Cynthia when she travelled to Kenya to see her brother, who was also a policeman. They married in 1960 and returned to the U.K. later that year to start a family. They have three children, Nigel 40, Paul 39 and Julie 32, as well as five grandchildren. Over the years they have lived in Camberley, London and currently in Cambridgeshire.

They are now thinking of retirement and last year purchased a villa in Florida, some 60 miles north of Orlando, and visit there twice a year. It is a Retirement Village for over 55's with plenty of golf and sun. David and Cynthia will spend Christmas there and report that so far both are keeping well. Maybe we will see David at a Dinner soon.

Another Old Boy from the late 1940/early 1950 period is MICHAEL BARHAM who has e-mailed us from his home in South Australia and given us an update on his life after the FGS. On leaving the school he enlisted in the RAF for 5 years as an aircraft mechanic. Returning to civilian life he had brief periods delivering groceries and milk before being employed by Tourist Trophy Garage as a motor mechanic. After 4 years he moved to West Street Garage, then Colborne Garages Ltd at Ripley and then back to West Street Garages. In 1969 Michael and his wife immigrated to Australia and lived in the N.E. suburbs of Adelaide, where he immediately obtained a job as a motor mechanic. In 1980 he purchased a 7-day convenience store in the western suburbs, at a place called Woodville which was a large industrial area at the time. In 1984 he sold the business and bought a grocery supermarket in the country town of Port Pirie, which was situated 230 kms. north of Adelaide. In 1995 he retired and returned to his original house, which he had retained. In 1997 Michael and his wife had a three-month holiday in the U.K. and he says that the only Old Boy that he met during that visit was BRIAN LAKE, whom he met at a wedding reception in Farnham. As requested we will be sending Michael a copy of the magazine and hope to hear more from him again.

From the West Midlands we hear from FRED GILLSON, who left the school in 1955 returning to his former South London home. After National service (RAOC) he had several office-based jobs before starting to work in the computer industry in 1966. He has remained in this business since and now works as a freelance computer consultant, mainly in the West Midland area. Fred says that he totally lost contact with the school but recalls listening to 'Buzz' Varey reading from Conan Doyles' 'Sherlock Holmes Omnibus'. He also recalls placing a thermometer outside the Physics Room window in an attempt to persuade Mr Munton to let them wear their overcoats in class. He found Mr Brister very sarcastic about his work and got his own back by winning the Physics prize one-year. He will never forget Mr Godsil announcing the death of King George VI, and that one day when walking up the hill to school he saw a partial eclipse of the sun. This is Fred's first contact with the school in almost fifty years and we hope he will write again.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Yet another ex-pupil to make contact with us after almost fifty years is NIGEL BURLINSON (1949-54), who now lives in France and has given us details of his career in brief after leaving the school. Like many of us he had to begin his National Service soon after leaving and spent three years in the Royal Air Force. Returning to civilian life in 1957 he entered the field of Music Publishing & Record Administration beginning at Philips' records, where he remained for five years. He then moved to Northern Songs (The Beatles) for a further five years and then spent sixteen years at Rondor Music (The Carpenters, Bob Marley, Herb Alpert and Supertramp). Nigel moved to France in 1986 and became self-employed as a consultant to BMG, MCA, Warner-Chappell etc. In 1996 he retired to the French countryside, where he lives with his wife Maia.

Asked if he had any claim to fame Nigel replied that he was born on the same day (9th July 1936) as Victor (I Don't Believe It!) Meldrew. Hopefully we will have another new member of the Association from across the water.

Yet another ex-pupil from the website is KEITH ROBINSON (1951-56) who writes from his home in Basingstoke. On leaving school Keith joined Westminster Bank and some 36 years later retired from what is now National Westminster Bank. He began at Farnborough branch and in those days played soccer for the Old Boys with Tony Harland who worked at the bank's Aldershot branch. He can recall some heavy defeats for the team, which included BILL SPENCER, 'TITCH' DAVIS, VIC BENNETT & JOHN CROTTY (Captain). In 1962 he married Shirley and moved to Basingstoke, where he played soccer locally followed by refereeing in the local and Newbury Leagues. A further move to Newbury was followed by a transfer to the City in 1974 and two years later to the Victoria Street as Branch Accountant before going to Head Office in the Organisations & Methods Dept. in 1979. More promotions followed and he became an Establishment Manager from 1985-89, which consisted of travelling to various branches nationwide. Re-structuring of the O & M Dept. in 1989 resulted in Keith becoming Senior Operations Manager with a team of Managers and Asst. Managers responsible for making many changes within the bank during the early 1990's. The work was completed in three years and in 1993 he retired at the age of 52.

Keith and Shirley have three children and now enjoy travelling whenever possible, whilst his other great pastimes are bowls, the computer and recently caravanning. They will celebrate their 40th Anniversary this year by taking a long holiday in Australia. We now have another new member and will see him at the Dinner hopefully.

A rather humorous piece arrived from PETER MAY (1954-59) who is yet another ex-pupil who has had a career in the police and security. He says that in 1954 a letter arrived informing his parents that their daughter had been awarded a place at Farnham Grammar School. He was one of the Guildford boys and made the bus journey across the Hogs Back each day, passing a bus going in the opposite direction containing Farnham boys attending Guildford Grammar School (including the son of his Headmaster, George Baxter). School memories include going to Germany with the CCF and driving a Centurion tank, the Menotti operas, not to mention the two 45-minute bus rides each day with his girl friend who was at the FGGs.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

(Peter May continued) Peter left the school in 1959 and decided that either the police or the army offered a secure career. However, he could not stand the rough army shirts, which gave him a neck rash after every CCF parade, so he applied to join the Surrey Police Cadets. He eventually became a regular policeman in 1961 on his 19th birthday. After thirty years he was a Superintendent and had the pleasure of running the police in his hometown of Guildford. Peter still keeps in touch with ALAN LONGHURST (1953-57) who joined the Metropolitan Police.

Peter is now Director of The Association of Police and Public Security Suppliers, which is a non-profit making trade association working for the part of the UK security industry which supplies equipment and service etc., to the police, fire, prison, customs and other Government-type security agency. Exports feature highly in the work and he has travelled to Japan, South Africa, Mexico and most European countries. He works closely with Government Departments and after the tragedy of 11th September in America aviation security is high on the current agenda.

Outside of work Peter is a founder of the Guildford Barbershop Harmony Club and has been singing barbershop harmony for around 24 years. He was National Chairman in the late 1980's and for the last 12 years has been involved in developing his hobby around the world. He is currently the President of the World Harmony Council, which is an international group of organisations promoting the art around the world. He is an avid gardener and recently won prizes for the best half-plot allotment in Hampshire. Like many Old Boys he has lead a busy and interesting life after his time at FGS.

One e-mail that tickled the fancy of the editor came in early March from our new President JOHN CROTTY, who was on holiday in Thailand at the time. It read; 'Cyril, IF by chance you are looking at your e-mail today would you be good enough to record the video of the England game in France, assuming that you can get the programme on your TV. I can look at it when I get home. Phew it's hot out here! The wonders of modern technology come in useful to even some of us older Old Boys.'

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NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

One of our more senior Old Boys, ALAN RYALL (1924-30), recently came across a very old newspaper called the Sheldrake's Aldershot and Sandhurst Military Gazette dated 11th June 1881, only to find the following advertisement;

<p>FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL.</p> <p>Endowed A.D. 1611. Rebuilt A.D. 1872.</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p>FOR a Prospectus and for the Reports of the Results of Public Examinations apply to the Head Master, Mr. Chas. STROUD Day Pupils attending the School can obtain Railway Tickets at Half-Fares.</p>

Alan says that The Gazette was a weekly broadsheet folded into four and published on Saturday and this particular issue was NO 1137 and he felt that the paper had been going for about 20 years. It does not state how much it cost to be educated at Farnham Grammar School but some other items proved interesting;

Sports Goods;	Cricket Bats - 12/6d, 14/6d, 16/6d, 21/-. Cricket Balls - 7/6d. Footballs - No.5 - 10/6d. No.6 - 12/-. Lawn Tennis Balls - Plain - 6d each. Covered - 1/- each.
Bottles of Spirits;	Port - 2/-. Claret - 1/-. Whisky - 2/-. Champagne - 2/2.
Funerals;	Adult - £9. Children - £1.

Early in 2002 we received letters from ex-pupil IAN T JAMIESON telling us that he had attended the school before the First World War and would be 100 years of age on 2nd May this year. This immediately answered the question 'Who is the oldest Old Boy' and with information given by Ian an article was put into the Farnham Herald under the popular 'Peeps from the Past' columns. Whilst giving only a few details about himself Ian told the story of his best friend and his wife's brother WILFRED JUDD who was at school with him and also a member of Harding House. Wilfred became General secretary of the United Nations Association and was awarded the CBE, whilst one of his three sons (who were not ex-pupils) became MP for Portsmouth, Minister for Overseas Development in the Harold Wilson Government, and is now Lord Judd sitting in the House of Lords and representing them in the European Union. In his spare time he is chairman of the YMCA.

We have only recently heard from Ian, who lives in Worthing, and he explains that plans are well advanced to celebrate his 100th Birthday in May. It is planned for the Mayor of Worthing to present him with a letter of congratulations from the Queen and there will be a gathering of friends and family during the birthday week. On behalf of all Old Boys I wish him well and hope that we will be able to give more details of his special day in the next edition of the magazine.

OFA IN CYBERSPACE**IAN SARGEANT**

The OFA Website has had over 1600 visits since it started in May 2000. An important feature of this is the trend - 1000 of the visits have taken place in about 6 months as old boys have discovered the site and spread the word.

There is another factor. The very popular site Friends Reunited dovetails neatly with a site such as ours - it allows us to have a link from its section on our school and several old boys have re-discovered the OFA this way.

There are now well over 100 "web members", old boys and masters who have registered password access to the member pages where we have news of the old boys, name lists for the school photos etc. Many web members live overseas.

To be the co-ordinator of this site is not just a privilege, it is similar to the interest to that experienced by Cyril Trust, the devoted editor of this magazine. Many old boys have written to me with bits of news and reminiscences, much of which is displayed on the news page of the site. It was exciting to hear that the site had brought together two old boys living in Australia who had no previous idea that the other was living in the same country.

Jon Stratford, one of the Australian contacts, sent me a scanned file of the 1954 school photo and thus started the collection of these photos that has become an important feature of the site. Bob Johns in Canada sent another picture, I scanned the OFA collection, Frank Lambert and Alan Trueman posted their originals for me to scan and we now have a fine, though not complete, collection from the 1920's to the 1970's.

Then the idea of naming everyone in the pictures came up. There is an enthusiasm for this developing with UK members and old boys in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Cayman Islands etc. I suggested, at one point, that I would create a league table showing the number of names identified by each contributor, but this has proved too difficult, as I cannot easily trace the origin of each name I get and it gets complicated when we have an error and must change a name.

A "windfall" occurred in January when Julia Wilson (Harold Beeken's daughter) lent me her collection of programmes and photographs from the plays and operas that were performed in the 1950's. These are very precious memories for many of us and I think many old boys will enjoy seeing these photographs.

The site now has about 200 photographs on virtually permanent display. Some of the photographs display extremely well - on a good computer, they are better than in their original format. I will try to avoid removing the historic photographs, though we will probably need to take down pictures of OFA events after about a year to avoid overcrowding the site.

If you haven't been yet, come and see us on; <http://www.surreyweb.net/farnhamians/>



First XI Cricket Team - 1944

Rear: H.Beeken; R.Roberts; A.Clark; R.Reeve; K.Trollop; G.Brehaut; D.Sykes; F.A.Morgan;

Front: D.Chitty; P.Nash; P.Larby; B.T.Kirk; E.Milburn



A group of former pupils return to see the cricket in 1952

Rear: Bill Bodkin; Tony Naylor; Neville Baigent (not an Old Boy).

Front: Tony Harland; Dan Donovan; Jack Garrett; Tony Searle; Peter Clark.

OBITUARIES

Whilst the 2001 magazine was at the printers we were advised of the sad passing of NORMAN PATRICK (1921-1931) who had been a great supporter of the Old Boys' Association for many years. Norman regularly attended the Annual Dinners until in recent years his poor health made this impossible. In the 1999 'Farnhamian' magazine his profile showed what a remarkable life he had led. The following appeared in the 'Farnham Herald' on 27th April 2001.

NORMAN PATRICK, all-round sportsman, dies at 87.

Norman Patrick, a member of the Patrick family that has been in business in Farnham for more than 150 years, has died at the age of 87. Norman died in Frimley Park Hospital on April 20th, after suffering from pneumonia. He was born in East Street in 1914, and attended the Farnham Grammar School for ten years. Here he shone as a sportsman, playing in the first XI in both cricket and football, was a front-runner in the school cross-country team and was a keen boxer.

On leaving school in 1931, Norman started work at the family business, H.C.Patrick & Sons Funeral Directors in East Street, but still kept up with his sporting interests, specifically lawn tennis, winning the Farnham championships on seven occasions. In 1937, he married his mixed doubles tennis partner, local girl Joan Horne. Later that year, Norman joined the Guildford Territorials in the 318 Battery Anti-Aircraft Division. He was called up at the beginning of the Second World War, joining the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers as a Second Lieutenant.

Norman continued his sporting pursuits throughout the war, particularly in many physical training courses, one of which saw him face Jack Petersen in a boxing match. Petersen was British and Empire Heavyweight Champion. Norman also played tennis at Wimbledon, and once had the honour of playing on the Centre Court. It was at this time that Norman became great friends with one of Arsenal's great captains, Joe Mercer. This brought about a life-long love affair with the Highbury club, an obsession that is continued by his sons.

Norman was transferred to the Isle of Wight to help combat the V1 and V2 firebombs. When the war ended he returned to Farnham where he resumed with the family business. By this time, wife Joan had presented him with two sons Martin and Robin, and a daughter, 'Perly'. He was a founder member of the Farnham Round Table, and continued to play tennis on a local basis. A keen horse rider throughout his life, Norman became a member of the local pony club, taking over as Area Controller after some years. Norman leaves behind Joan, and his three children, as well as nine grand-children.

Early in June 2001 we heard the sad news of the death of former Headmaster PAUL FRENCH (1971-1990), who had suffered poor health in recent years. Paul was born in Haslemere and went to school in Shottermill and Godalming before entering the R.A.F. for his National service. He studied Mathematics and Natural Science at Cambridge, finishing with a B.A. Degree, and then began his teaching career at Maidstone Grammar School. He then moved on to Hemel Hempstead and eventually to the position of Headmaster at Farnham Grammar School in 1971.

OBITUARIES

PAUL FRENCH (continued); Within two years the Grammar School closed and Paul faced the task of re-opening as a Sixth Form College and changing from a 'boys only' stronghold to a college for both sexes. Everything was pioneering, and as Farnham moulded into the desired pattern other Surrey grammar schools followed their lead. The site itself also had many changes and the new library and music block were introduced for example. With the new college established, Paul retired early in 1990, although he still taught part time at Godalming and Alton Colleges. He became very involved in the Farnham U3A (University of the Third Age) and saw it grow to well over 600 members.

Paul leaves his wife Dorothy and four children, all of whom attended the Farnham College. He lived only a few yards from the entrance to the Farnham College and will be remembered for his great contribution to both the Grammar School and the College.

At the end of May 2001 news arrived from Australia that DAVID ROGERS had died at the age of 81. David regularly remained in contact with the Association and during his retirement produced three books covering different stages of his life. His parents owned the well-known Rogers Cake Shop in the Borough for many years and his first book gives us an insight into life in Farnham just after the First World War. David spent 12 years in the R.A.F. and then worked for various companies, before ending up in Australia and settling there for the remainder of his life. He was a great jazz fan and played with some good class bands during the 1950's.

We will miss his letters and his humour and it is sad to see such great characters pass on. The Rogers family will always be a part of the history of Farnham.

As we start this 2002 magazine we have been inundated with news of Old Boys dying and on 1st June 2001 one of our greatest supporters in GORDON W.S.MORRIS (1928-1930) died near his home in Wokingham. For a man who only spent two years at the Grammar School, Gordon remained close to the Association all of his life and served the Old Boys well over the years. He was always at the Annual Dinner and in the recent magazines his name can be seen asking for new members to join the Farnhamian's Masonic Lodge.

He had been asked to write his profile for the previous magazine, but ill-health prevented him doing this and the details of his life are therefore a little scarce. Tracing his earlier days through old magazines we can see that as a member of Morley House he was an outstanding sportsman and played at the back in one of the School's finest soccer teams (Norman Patrick played in goal). After leaving the school he played for the Old Boys and for most of the 1950's he was the Hon. Treasurer for the soccer club. He trained as a surveyor and worked for Bagshot and Aldershot Borough Councils. During the Second World War he was moved to the north of the country and worked as a surveyor for the Ministry of Supply. During this time he was an enthusiastic cyclist and rode for Camberley Wheelers initially and continued this sport whilst in the north. In 1945 he re-joined the Borough Surveyor's Office in Aldershot.

OBITUARIES

GORDON MORRIS (CONTINUED); From Aldershot Gordon moved to Bagshot and then to Wokingham Borough Council. In the 1950's he became self-employed and remained working well past retirement age.

Gordon belonged to the Old Farnhamian's Masonic Lodge in Castle Street and in 1959 was installed as the Master of the Lodge. He was most concerned to see the lack of Old Boys joining the Lodge and in recent years new members were taken in who had no association with the School.

Gordon leaves his son David, who we understand will be taking up residence in the house at Sindlesham in the near future.

We have received words of tribute from Harold North (1924-32) regarding a friend and classmate RAY GATES (1924-30), who recently passed away. He writes;

'Ray and I first met at the Wrecclesham C of E junior school in 1923 and it says much for that small school that four boys were coached and passed the then studentship entry to FGS. There was Ray, Jim Brooker and myself and a boy called George who could not take his place at the Grammar school as his mother was a war-widow and could not afford the expense of uniform, books, sports gear etc. The three of us started the September term in 1924 in the early days of 'Moggy' Morgan's reign. Many times Ray and I have laughed over the idiosyncrasies of the various staff and the different ways they had of taming, let alone instructing, a crowd of healthily disruptive boys. We had then little knowledge or sympathy for the fact that most of them were war veterans with their own health and domestic problems.

After school years I lost touch with Jim Brooker, apart from the fact that he joined the Portsmouth Police and distinguished himself in the annual Portsmouth-Ryde swimming event. Ray joined Prudential Assurance where he stayed all his working life, first at Guildford, then Brighton and latterly London. We always kept in touch, even to the extent of making up a foursome with our respective fiancées for Youth Hostel holidays. War service naturally disorganised our contacts, but not entirely, as by then our wives kept close contact throughout. Ray and I managed a clandestine and totally unauthorised meeting for a few hours in Palestine whilst he was stationed in the Gulf with the Surreys, and I in Egypt with the RAF. In hindsight a somewhat reckless adventure, but we got away with it!

The years following the war saw us both struggling to make a living and rear families, but when we could afford our first small car we again met at half-way points for summer outings with the children. In later years our early Youth Hostel ventures blossomed into joint motor tours all over Europe from Norway to Portugal and Italy. (The acid test of real depth of friendship is for four people to spend a fortnight or more in a car together!). Ray and I with our wives were lucky each to attend the other's Golden Wedding celebrations... just! Still later I was privileged to attend Ray's Diamond Wedding, honoured as the only non-family guest.

I think this potted history of a very close and rewarding friendship of 78 years with a classmate will explain why I shall miss Ray nearly as much as will his delightful wife and five sons.'

OBITUARIES

It was reported in the Daily Telegraph dated 29th August 2001 that well-known actor JACK GWILLIM had died at the age of 91. The following is a shortened version of the obituary of this remarkable man.

‘Jack Gwillim was a character actor who appeared in the West End and on Broadway in a career which spanned half a century on stage and screen. Tall and slim, and with a powerful voice, Gwillim excelled at portraying figures of authority. On screen, he played various types of potentate - majestic, military, civic and clerical - with roles ranging from Poseidon in *Clash of the Titans* (1981) to George VI in *Sink the Bismark!* (1960). He was also a respected exponent of the classics on stage, especially during the last decade of the Old Vic Company. The son of a regimental sergeant major, Jack Gwillim was born at Canterbury on December 15th 1909. Educated at Farnham Grammar School, he joined the Royal Navy at 17 and was posted to the training ship *Iron Duke*. As an all-round track and field athlete, Gwillim played rugby for the Navy and, while stationed in the Mediterranean, became undefeated heavyweight boxing champion of both the Army and Navy.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Gwillim was a serving officer in Hong Kong and China. In 1946 he was invalided out of the Navy as a commander, having been the youngest of the rank at the time of his promotion. After testing for a wireless announcer’s job, a BBC producer who recalled his amateur acting in the Navy suggested he become a professional actor. Gwillim took his advice and spent two years at the Central School of Speech and Drama. This was followed by three seasons, from 1950, with Anthony Quayle’s Stratford Memorial Theatre Company. Apart from minor roles, Gwillim played MacDuff to Ralph Richardson’s *Macbeth* as directed by Gielgud. He then toured Australia, before returning to the West End in Peter Brook’s production of Fry’s *The Dark Is Light Enough* (Aldwych, 1954).

In 1955 he joined the Old Vic Company and played in a host of well known classical plays with actors of the stature of Richard Burton, Paul Rogers, John Neville and Coral Browne. From 1964 he appeared in both the West End and Broadway in a variety of roles and his career included more than 50 film and television credits. His final performance on television was at the age of 90.

Jack Gwillim married firstly, in 1943, Peggy Bollard. She died in 1958. They had a son and a daughter. He married secondly, in 1969, Olivia Selby, who survives him. They had a son.

On 6th February 2001 we heard of the death of GEOFF CRAWTE, after a short illness, aged 56. Geoff was born in Farnham and lived his childhood at the family home in Alfred Road, very close to the school. He went to West Street Boys’ School for his primary education and then to Farnham Grammar School from 1955 until 1961. Geoff was in the school choir, sang in the choir of St Thomas on the Bourne and was an excellent swimmer, winning the Senior Swimming Cup.

From school, he joined the National Westminster Bank and two years later moved to the Electricity Board, where he worked for the rest of his career, rising to be a Quality Analyst in Portsmouth. When he was taken ill in 1994, he was told that his condition

OBITUARIES

(GEOFF CRAWTE CONTINUED); was serious and required an operation. He underwent major surgery and a long period of recuperation. Following this experience, Geoff retired to Honiton in Devon and resolved he would try to help others facing similar challenges, particularly young people. He devoted much of his time during the following 6 years to this task and was a great source of strength and reassurance to many people facing major surgery.

Geoff's work has recently been recognised by the East Devon Special Needs Action Group, where Geoff worked with many youngsters. The Geoff Crawte Friendship Award has been established to recognise the contribution of those who carry out similar work helping others. Geoff married Carol in 1965 and they had two sons and a daughter.

Another younger man was DR. ROGER DOWNHAM (1955-62) who died in 2001 from complications that developed following a road accident. Roger was born and raised in Farnham and lived his childhood in Roman Way. He had his primary education at East Street School and went to FGS in 1955. Roger was a relaxed, jovial and extremely bright pupil with a keen sense of humour and good all-round ability. He played in goal for the school football team, kept wicket in the cricket and won the swimming cup three times.

His career was marked by professional success. He left school to study Civil Engineering at Leeds University and gained his BSc in 1966. At the end of the course, his professor, who was to move to Aston University, invited Roger to continue his studies at Aston. It was here that he obtained his PhD. After his studies, Roger joined IDC Construction, rising to Managing Director and a director of the main board. He had responsibility for many major projects, including the construction in 1980 of the prestigious Cambridge University Press 'Edinburgh Building'. He met the Duke of Edinburgh during the opening of the premises.

After a spell of three years working for IDC in Belgium and two years with Sainsburys as Construction Manager, Roger worked for the Midland Bank in a similar role. During this period he was the Treasurer of the British Council of Offices and an external examiner for Coventry and Oxford Brookes Universities. He retired in 1998, continuing to live at his home in Stratford-upon-Avon, and fulfilled a life-long ambition of buying a large motorcycle. Tragically, this was the indirect cause of his premature death on 8th September. Roger leaves his partner, Sue Main, and 14 year-old son Alexander.

When working with DOUGLAS LEUCHARS (1962-68) in 2000 on his interesting profile he was showing early signs of cancer and was often not too well. However he retained a good sense of humour and joked about certain aspects of his condition. It is with regret that we announce that in January he died of the disease. Douglas had a very interesting career and worked abroad for many years. Within the past year he moved to Northumberland, where he died at the age of 73 years. Yet another former teacher who will be sadly missed.

OBITUARIES

In January of this year we lost one of our most well known members in FRANK PULLINGER, who was a lifelong resident of Farnham and the former owner of Pullinger's Stationers in West Street. Frank spent the early part of his life in Beavers Road and attended the Grammar School before leaving to work in the family shop from the age of 16 until 65. The shop was originally founded by his grandfather George in the late 19th century. There are stories of a herd of sheep being driven through the town to the butcher's and then breaking loose to invade the shop and Lady Anderson sending her chauffeur into the shop whilst she waited outside in the car as he brought various items out for her to inspect.

Frank was away from the business during the Second World War for six years as a result of answering an advert for men between 25 and 50 to form an anti-aircraft battery locally. With other Old Boys RAY KIRK AND MAURICE ELPHICK he formed the 137 Royal Battalion defending the south coast. From here he went to Egypt and Palestine and took part in the victory parade in Jerusalem. From the end of the war until recently Frank remained in touch with his former comrades through the annual re-union dinner held at Farnham Maltings. Returning to civilian life he now managed the shop with the help of his mother and sister. He was a founder member of the Farnham Ramblers and through his love of walking met his wife Mary on a rambling holiday in Somerset in 1955. They had a son Philip and a daughter Anne.

Frank Pullinger died peacefully at home aged 87 and his name and his memory will live on as an important part of the town and the Grammar School.

We have also heard that KEN BAIGENT died some months ago. Ken entered the School on 1923 and was a member of Harding house. He regularly attended the Annual Dinner and he last attended in 1998 when he was the oldest Old Boy there.

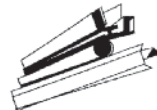
Another Old Boy who joined the School in the late 1920's was COLIN L. LARMER who entered in 1928 and became one of the School's greatest sportsmen. He boxed for his house, Morley, and won his weight in 1934. He played cricket and soccer for the School and was an outstanding athlete. In the 1932 House Cricket Competition his bowling figures were 5 for 7 against School, 4 for 11 against Massingberd and 5 for 8 against Harding. In 1933 in the School Sports he won the 100 yds, 220 yds, 440 yds, 880 yds, the Hurdles, High Jump and Throwing the Cricket Ball.

In the 2001 magazine we wrote of H. F. (Bert) STUART, who entered the School in 1924. Bert was a regular at the Annual Dinner and drove down from the North-East towing his caravan, attended the dinner and then slept in the caravan, which was parked in the School car park or nearby, and on Sunday made the return journey. His family advised us that after the 2001 dinner Bert died whilst making that journey home. He was the first to stand for the Roll Call last year and will be sadly missed.

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OBITUARIES

We received a letter just before Christmas from TERRY CHUBB (1952-59) advising us that his former classmate and great friend DAVID HANKS (1952-59) had died on 28th October 2001. David left the school to join the BBC as a cameraman at the Television Centre. Although he 'belonged' to the drama department he worked in many areas of television including outside broadcast. Those were the days of the mostly live television and life could be exciting. He later moved into vision mixing and although still with 'Drama' his ability to read an orchestral score made him very useful elsewhere. David rose into the ranks of management but he still enjoyed the hands-on task when he could fit it in. He especially enjoyed passing on his skills to the next generation. He took early retirement from the BBC in 1989 after which he undertook an extraordinary range of part-time activities. These ranged from teaching media studies and personnel practice to undertaking part-time chemical analyst for a local market garden as well as much charity work such as recording 'talking newspapers' for the blind. David was a member of the Round Table.

Terry Chubb and David Hanks met in the First Form and remained friends for life. They went their separate ways, but a common interest in the theatre kept the friendship alive with an active partnership in amateur dramatics. This interest, particularly in the lighting department, started at the school with the productions of Alan Fluck and Mike 'Mac' Foster.

David will be sorely missed by his family and many friends for his unfailing friendliness, good nature and willingness to help people.

As this magazine goes to press we have heard that GORDON W.S.MORRIS (1928-30), whose obituary is given earlier, has bequeathed to the Association the sum of £3000. There have only been a few such bequests over the years and it shows that the Old Boys were an important part of the life of some former pupils. The General Committee will have to decide on the use of this kind gift.

We have received a letter from Marion Lillywhite advising that her husband PETER LILLYWHITE sadly passed away in January this year. Peter left the School in 1936 and whilst there he was a member of School House and an exceptional sportsman. He represented the school at swimming, shooting and cross-country running and was a regular competitor in the boxing tournament. He was in the same year and the same house as Ray Kirk and with him the house and the School had a formidable athletics relay team.

Acknowledgements;

The following were sponsors for the various adverts appearing in this issue;

John Hirst; Ray Kirk; Cyril Trust; John Crotty; Stephen Pritchard; Chris Hone; Ian Sargeant; John Mitchell; Bryan Bone; Michael Horner; Simon Granville-Jones.

The advertisements in this magazine require sponsorship to assist with the cost of producing the 'Farnhamian'. Each advert carries a sponsorship of £30 and we hope members will be generous and consider contributing via the Editor:

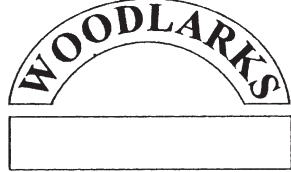
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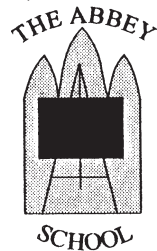
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Old Farnhamians' Association

Southampton Luncheon 2002

Wednesday 16th October, 2002

At Busketts Lawn Hotel,
Woodlands, Nr. Southampton.

For details please contact
Dudley Backhurst
Telephone: 02380 739760

Invitation

Old Farnhamians' Association

Annual Dinner 2003

Saturday 5th April 2003

At Farnham College,
Morley Road, Farnham

For details please contact

Roger Edgell
Telephone: 01264 332766