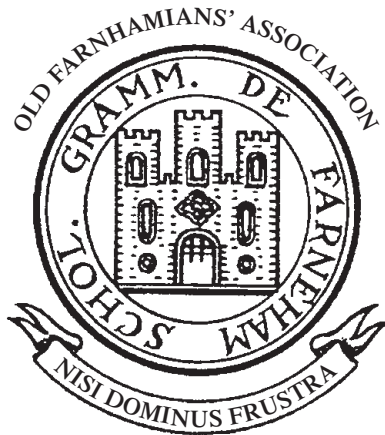


# THE FARNHAMIAN



JUNE 2004

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# THE FARNHAMIAN

June 2004

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE FARNHAMIAN - VOL 11

This past twelve months have provided some memorable moments, although it has been a period when over twenty former pupils of the old School have passed away, including several long-term supporters of the Association. Following the death of Dudley Backhurst last year another former School Captain in Bevan Waide died suddenly. Several who attended the School in the 1920s and 1930s died including, Don Homer, Sidney Wiltshire, Len Saltmarsh, Paul Keyworth and Freddie Wimbledon. That legendary master Leonard Evans left us early this year and the Great Hall at Farnham Castle was filled for his memorial service. More recently, Graham Blunt was a great loss to the Association and 400 Trust in particular.

The Memorial Southampton Lunch on behalf of Dudley Backhurst, one of the founders of this event, attracted fifty Old Boys. It was a first class luncheon, with Sylvia Backhurst and Sally Francis, the College Principal, joining us. The Farnham Lecture, given by Virginia Bottomley, attracted over 100 people. The 2004 lecture will be given by Sir Ray Tindle, who owns over 150 local newspapers. This event moves from strength to strength with first class speakers now coming to Morley Road.

The 2004 Annual Dinner filled the College Restaurant with almost 120 Old Boys and was the largest gathering, outside of the Millennium Dinner, for many years. It was good to see so many younger faces at the table. Finally the website grows each year, thanks to Ian Sargeant. Over 200 former pupils can read the latest on their old school.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOHN CROTTY

Time flies. Next January I will be handing over the reins and whilst this could be an opportunity to review the past two years I am more inclined to look ahead to the remainder of my final year and beyond. Nevertheless I am moved to mention the response of members to the Dudley Backhurst memorial luncheon last October. There is little doubt in my mind that this annual gathering will continue well into the future.

The recent Dinner was a great success. A capacity attendance, fine food and a rousing reception for George Baxter, determined to perform his 50th Roll Call despite his frailty. The preponderance of first-timers was from the 'younger' end, due both to the web and the efforts of some of our more recent recruits.

The President is no longer necessarily the Chairman of the Farnhamian 400 Trust and that busy man Cyril Trust, recently awarded the MBE, is the first elected to that position. The Farnham Lecture continues to attract substantial audiences and is at present the main source of income for the Trust. It has also been progressing with its gathering and display of school and OFA memorabilia. The death of Graham Blunt, a school chum of mine, was a cruel blow.

I have enjoyed my stint in the chair and have appreciated the labour of the supporting officers and the enthusiasm of the General Committee. The Association has endured and flourishes today some thirty years after the last boy joined the school. Whilst we cannot be thought of as unique I do believe that we are a very special institution, which is not only to our credit but honours those before us who attended and staffed the Farnham Grammar School.

## ANNUAL DINNER - 2004

The 72nd Annual Dinner of the Old Farnhamians' Association, held at Farnham College, proved to be one of the most successful for many years. It is now thirty-one years since the Farnham Grammar School closed and here we had one of the largest number of Old Boys at the dinner for the past twenty years. Almost 120 former pupils travelled from all parts of the country to meet old friends and relive old memories over a meal and a glass or two of wine. The evening began on a low note as the names of members, who had died in the past year, were read out.

This year Peter Read, who left the School in 1946, proposed the toast to the School, and gave a catalogue of reminiscences. He talked of the school during the Second World War and how frequent air raids got the boys off lessons. He recalled a mass of aircraft over the school for the D-Day landings and the news of the dropping of the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb. He recalled old masters like Brian 'Buzz' Varey and Bill Wickens and thanked the school for teaching him a good set of values that have stayed with him over the years. He apologised for reading from a script, but as an actor in a recent Harry Potter film he was used to projecting himself this way.

Robin Welland-Jones, one of the younger members, gave the toast to the Association and had the guests laughing at his memories. His school record consisted of getting eleven detentions in a 9-week term as well as holding the record for the shortest time in a class before being thrown out. Exactly three seconds! His parents were both teachers and they attended parents' evening to apologise to the staff for their son. He was at the Grammar school when it became a College in 1973 and with the arrival of females went any chance he had of doing well at O'Levels.

John Crotty, the President in his final year, replied to both toasts and as usual offered a witty speech. He said that during the past year the Farnham Lecture by Virginia Bottomley, and the Southampton Lunch, with a record of fifty attending, in memory of Dudley Backhurst had been great successes. The website had expanded and this had helped swell the membership and he thanked Ian Sargeant, who operates this new innovation, for all his work. He also thanked several committee members for their support and in particular Cyril Trust, who had recently been awarded the MBE, and Peter Clark, who once again did such sterling work as the Master of Ceremonies. He hoped that the many younger members would continue to take the Association forward.

Finally the doors opened to former Headmaster, George Baxter, who had been determined to be at the dinner to give the roll call. This most popular of teachers had undertaken this task since his arrival at the school, and this was his fiftieth dinner. As he read out the years the Old Boys stood up, and it was remarkable that Allan Ryall was the first man on his feet, having started at the School in 1924. To see George Baxter, who is now in his nineties, brought a real moment of nostalgia to the guests as they stood and applauded this legendary member of staff.

The dinner finished with the School Song and the National Anthem and the promise that most present will return next year. The Association is something special and will go on for many years yet. It is something that Farnham can be proud of!

(submitted to the Farnham Herald on 22nd March 2004)

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**ANNUAL DINNER - 2004**

Attending: M.Gaukroger: L.Caine: P.Dunford: K.Goodchild: G.Oldham: A.Rigby: P.Blowfield: M.Rochefort: S.G.Pritchard: R.Welland-Jones: C.Fitch: J.Clark: J.Bradshaw: J.Collier: A.Gathercole: C.Levy: M.Pound: E.Savage: A.Everett: D.Hughes: D.Grimes: S.Hughes: M.Owen: M.Mehta: S.E.Linney: G.Glazier: M.Da Costa: M.Bond: D.Poleglaze: W.Walsh: B.R.Williams: C.Wright: P.Clark: D.Stoddart: A.Jarvis: A.Culshaw: M.Booker: R.Diamond: R.Phillips: R.Frampton: H.Torode: L.R.Dowsett: A.J.Ryall: S.J.Owen: J.Crotty: T.Phillips: G.J.Woods: D.Blunt: I.Sargeant: D.Roe: C.Beal: D.Edgell: J.Cope: R.Kite: C.Mullins: M.Watts: C.Nash: J.Matthews: D.Coakes: R.Edgell: P.Daniels: P.Cope: B.Daniels: D.Nunn: J.Cockle: M.Jeffreys: J.Mitchell: N.Timmins: B.Webberley: M.Hewins: G.Hooker: T.Homewood: B.Bone: J.Cooke: C.Trust: W.Luff: J.Travers: H.Brindley: P.Mylles: M.Constantine: R.R.Kirk: J.Bentick: J.Chuter: R.E.Hack: T.Tidd: W.King: I.Bowler

P.Read: R.Parker: A.J.Rayer: R.Hewes: W.Herrington: A.D.Harland: G.V.Hunt: M.E.Sturt: K.Anderson: D.Cutler: D.Phillips: T.Tubb: A.Lovell: P.Huntingford: J.Vick: D.Buckell: D.Chitty: R.Bowtell: S.Armstrong: D.O'Sullivan: J.Munday: M.Horner: P.Ford: E.Grimes: G.LeVey: K.Mentzel: P.Still: D.Lucas: G.Baxter: R.Robins.

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**ALL CLICKS LEAD TO [www.farnhamians.org/ofa](http://www.farnhamians.org/ofa) IAN SARGEANT**

As an increasing number of old boys become familiar with the Internet, our web-list grows steadily. A common situation is probably an old boy, perhaps on the other side of the world, who has completely lost touch with us. He now has an on-line computer and starts surfing the worldwide web. It suddenly occurs to him that he can look to see if there is anything about his old school on the web.

How does he set about this? If he has heard of Friends Reunited, he may go to that website and search for FGS, and quickly find it. If he looks carefully at the displayed web page, he will see an "Alumni Site" and, with one click, he will enter our website.

Alternatively, he may put the words "Farnham Grammar School" into a search engine such as Google, and again he will be only a few clicks from entering our website. Of course, if he is a full OFA member, he will already know that we have the website and simply enter the above address to find us.

It is old boys out of touch who have mainly visited our website. There are almost 250 old boys who have signed up for access to the special secure pages that give news of other old boys and a list of e-mail addresses. About 2/3rds of these appear to be non-members of the OFA. Of course, we exhort them to become paid-up members and, as an inducement, offer them access to the new "Members Library" of school magazines.

This brings me to the latest project for our website - an enduring resource for ourselves, local historians and future generations of our families. It is the entire set of *Farnhamian* magazines, from 1912 to 1973, now almost complete. Most of the magazines are already available for download from the website. They display as very clear images of the original magazine pages, but with the added advantage that you can search for names etc., within each edition.

There is some very good material in our old magazines. For example, I never knew F.A.Morgan, but after reading some of his editorials and special articles, I find myself admiring him as a man of great wisdom with wonderful insight into the mind of the schoolboy. A rich vein of very special literature awaits you in the old magazines - do look!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2004

The 2004 Annual General Meeting began with the President reading a list of those Old Boys who had died during the year. There were more names than usual and included such well-known names as Bevan Waide, George Hone, Graham Blunt and that legendary Chemistry master, Leonard Evans.

One of the early items on the agenda was from Membership Secretary, Tony Harland, who advised that the membership was steady, in spite of many deaths, and there were 165 Annual members and 165 Life members giving a total of 330.

Stephen Pritchard reported on the current financial status of the Association and issued figures up to the end of November 2003. With well over £11,000 on hand the Association is in a healthy position.

Ian Sargeant reported on the Leaving Scholarship Trust, and with some alterations to the scheme there had been an increase in the number of grants given during the past year. The capital of the Fund was recovering from low interest rates and Ian felt confident that the increased number of grants would continue.

Cyril Trust advised that recent successful Farnham Lectures had improved funds of the Farnhamian 400 Trust. This had enabled the Trust to help the College by paying for improvements to the old school doors and to continue to build the Home of Memorabilia. For 2004 the speaker at the Farnham Lecture on Thursday 23rd September will be Sir Ray Tindle, owner of 150 newspapers including the Farnham Herald.

Wally Walsh advised that the 2003 Annual Dinner had attracted 100 Old Boys and was the most profitable to date. This was the result of another excellent raffle run by Roger Edgell and his team. The 2004 Annual Dinner will be held at Farnham College on Saturday 20th March.

Cyril Trust said that the 2004 Farnhamian magazine was progressing well and would be up to the usual standard. Obituaries will take up a large number of pages, but articles from Old Boys, such as Terry Hughes the TV producer, should prove entertaining.

Ian Sargeant reported that the Association website continued to grow in popularity and the number of 'hits' was rising rapidly and the information available was now considerable. The website now had 230 members logged into the programme.

Again Ian Sargeant spoke, this time as the OFA College representative, and advised that a recent Ofsted inspection at Farnham College had proved successful. The College offered 'value for money', but lack of student numbers was keeping finances tight.

The election of the officers followed and are shown later in this magazine, complete with those for the Leaving Scholarship Trust and the Farnhamian 400 Trust.

The attendance for the meeting was approximately twenty-five.

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**OFFICERS OF THE OLD FARNHAMIAN'S' ASSOCIATION FOR 2004**

**General Committee:**

John Crotty (President): Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer): Roger Edgell (Secretary): Tony Harland (Membership Secretary): Wally Walsh: Bryan Bone: John Travers: Peter Mylles: Maurice Sturt: Chris Slyfield: Brian Daniels: Alan Lovell: Roy Robins: Mike Horner: Bill Luff: David Grimes: Cyril Trust: Ian Sargeant: Keith Mentzel: Mike Mehta: Tony Gatfield: Robin Welland-Jones:

**Leaving Scholarship Trust:**

Roy Robins (Chairman): Ian Sargeant (Treasurer): Mike Mehta: Chris Nash: David Grimes: Brian Daniels: Phil Dunford:

**Farnhamian 400 Trust:**

Cyril Trust (Chairman): Tony Gatfield (Secretary): Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer): Roy Robins: Maurice Sturt: John McLaughlin: Bill Luff: Roger Edgell: Mike Horner: John Crotty:



**OLD BOYS ANNUAL DINNER - 2004**

John Crotty (President), Robin Welland-Jones, Peter Read, Roger Edgell (Secretary)

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The 2004 Farnham Lecture will be held on Thursday 23rd September

At Farnham College commencing at 7.30 pm

**THE FARNHAMIAN 400 TRUST**

Presents

**'NEWSPAPERS TODAY'**

Talk given by Sir Ray Tindle (proprietor of the Farnham Herald).

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## THE FARNHAM LECTURE - 2003

For the fifteenth Farnham Lecture presented at Farnham College by the Farnhamian 400 Trust, a part of the Old Farnhamians' Association, local MP Virginia Bottomley offered a sparkling talk entitled 'Politics, People and Principles'. Introduced by Sally Francis, the Principal of the College, Mrs Bottomley began by talking about her early days in politics and revealed that at one stage she was the Labour candidate for her college. Like most politicians she wanted to change the world, and it took some years for her to turn her enthusiasm to good use.

She felt that the individual is important in all aspects of life and referred to several local people who she considered to be among those to have affected lives. Amongst these she named Helen Arkell, who began the Dyslexia Centre at Frensham, Robin Radley for his work at Treloars and elsewhere, Sir Ray Tindle for his support of the local community, Jean Parratt for her enthusiasm for the past and present in the town and Lady Elizabeth Anson, who supported her in the early days as local MP. She paid a special tribute to George Baxter, former Headmaster of Farnham Grammar School, who moved to the town in 1953 and has been responsible for overseeing The Farnham Society and NADFAS. She applauded this former teacher and then congratulated Sally Francis on the excellent results at the College. Teaching was not an easy profession and she quoted, 'For every person who wants to teach, there are thirty people who do not want to be taught'.

Moving to politics she said that she had been influenced by certain politicians over the years and firstly paid tribute to Tory Minister Sir Keith Joseph. His clarity of thought and his ethos on politics guided her and other young Tories in the 1970s. She then turned to Margaret Thatcher, whom she did not always agree with, but admired her for her forceful leadership and showing that a woman could govern a country. After a few years on the backbenches learning her trade Mrs Bottomley was summoned to Number 10 and told by Mrs T that she was to become the new Minister for the Environment. On saying that she knew little about this area, the PM replied, 'You had better read up on the subject then'. Mrs Bottomley said that this appointment involved, 'Rubbish, Rotwielers and Rose Gardens'. Another great influence was meeting Nelson Mandela who she thought was amazing for his forgiving nature after years behind bars under an oppressive regime.

She moved on to policies and here she quoted her time as Minister for Health where it was necessary to push through many hard policies in an attempt to modernise the NHS. It was not always easy to make the right decision and one must discuss with those closer to the problem to obtain the correct solution. Here she objected to the modern desire to run down the civil service and push these experienced people to one side. MP's in general are not managers, but lawyers, professors etc., and if they are to manage a Government Department they need experienced people around them for advice and support. To do away with the civil service would be disaster in her opinion. She said that there was room for policies affecting mental health, which was an area of increasing concern. She also felt that policies must be the result of good consultation and not the whim of a particular person. The result of poor policies has brought lack of respect for and distrust of politicians in general and the advent of low turnouts at elections. It concerned her that at the last General Election the party with



## THE FARNHAM LECTURE - 2003

the most votes were not the Socialists, Tories or Liberals, but the Apathy Party. We must respect the right to vote and use it.

To conclude her one-hour lecture Mrs Bottomley welcomed the growth of women in politics. When she entered Parliament there were only six females and now there are well over one hundred. She feels that women have shown that they can manage and govern at the highest levels and looks forward to even more involvement from them. She also felt that this country should show more sympathy with the ethnic minorities and have more representation in all walks of life. Today the percentage of ethnic people in the police force, hospitals, armed forces etc., is still very small and this should be amended.

She said that her twenty years in the spotlight had been a wonderful experience, but her enthusiasm was beginning to wane and it was time to retire from front line politics. She wanted to spend more time with her family and become even more involved with local bodies. She was delighted that she had been appointed President of Farnham Castle for example.

Mrs Bottomley then answered some very pertinent questions about issues such as our position regarding the European Community, the modern press and spin-doctors and the new laws regarding the House of Lords. She answered all in an honest and personal manner with some replies perhaps a surprise to the enthralled audience. The final words for this most enjoyable and informative evening were given by Leonard Evans, a former chemistry master at the Grammar School and now in his 90s. He said that whilst he had been a Socialist for all of his life he admired Virginia Bottomley as a Member of Parliament and the tremendous work that she has done on behalf of her constituency.

Closing the Lecture, Cyril Trust, Chairman of the 400 Trust, thanked Virginia Bottomley for a first class talk and one that future speakers will find hard to improve on. For the 2004 Lecture Sir Ray Tindle had agreed to speak on certain aspects of the modern press.



Left to right: John Crotty (President), Maurice Sturt (Trustee), Sally Francis (Principal), Cyril Trust (Trustee), Virginia Bottomley MP, Roy Robins (Trustee).

## SOUTHAMPTON LUNCHEON - 2003

### AN OLD BOYS' TRIBUTE TO DUDLEY BACKHURST

*(sent to the Farnham Herald on 16th October 2003)*

Only a year ago Dudley Backhurst organised the Old Farnhamians' Association Southampton Luncheon held at Buskett's Lawn Hotel in the New Forest and sadly this week members gathered in tribute to this ex-Head Boy who died in January this year. Dudley was one of the originators of this popular event held by the ex-pupils of the former Farnham Grammar School and a record fifty people attended a special tribute luncheon in his memory.

Special guests of honour were his widow Sylvia, who herself had attended the Farnham Girls' Grammar School, and Sally Francis, the current Principal of Farnham College. Old Boys travelled from all over the country, with four coming from Devon and Cornwall, whilst one flew in from Portugal to pay tribute to a most distinguished Old Farnhamian.

Old friend, Peter Morice, gave a moving speech in appreciation of a man who had been successful at the many sports he took part in and in a truly brilliant career. Dudley had gained a degree at University, obtained a PHD and then earned a Harwell Research Fellowship before taking a position with British American Tobacco in their research department. He eventually headed this section, and on retiring worked for the Tobacco Advisory Council, addressing the problems of advertising by the cigarette companies and the need to warn the public of the hazards of smoking.

This annual luncheon is always one of the highlights of the Old Boys' calendar and this year it was a very special affair. Some people have spoken about changing the event or even cancelling it, and when put to those present it was unanimously agreed that the Southampton Lunch would remain on the calendar in the future and add to the forty two occasions that it has been held.

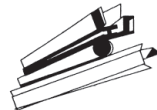
Attending: M.E.Jeffreys: S.,Pritchard: J.C.Crotty: P.Morice: C.D.Trust: W.J.Luff: J.Travers: P.Clark: I.Sargeant: D.Tyrell: N.Timmins: A.Harland: Sally Francis: Sylvia Backhurst: C.Nash: D.Bowtell: D.Nunn: D.Phillips: J.Vick: D.Roe: J.Mitchell: G.V.Hunt: G.Hooker: M.Sturt: G.Blunt: R.Short: T.Tidd: M.Horner: A.Ryall: E.Hunt: D.Lucas: J.Hall: P.Ford: D.O'Sullivan: K.Mentzel: S.Armstrong: M.Comben: L.Dowsett: D.Lampard: P.Huntingford: I.Bowler: R.Hewes: J.Bateman: M.Wilson: W.Bodkin: R.Robins: J.Jennings: J.Cope: P.Cope.

*(The 2004 Southampton Luncheon will be held on Wednesday 13th October 2004)*

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## A SOUTHAMPTON REGULAR

The Dudley Backhurst Memorial Luncheon proved a great success and will no doubt remain on the Association calendar for many years to come. It was begun by those Old Boys who lived in the Hampshire area and attended regularly by a nucleus of people who enjoyed a day out with ex-classmates in a perfect New Forest setting. One of those regulars was Peter Morice, who was attending the occasion for the eighteenth time and kindly gave an appreciation of Dudley Backhurst at the luncheon in October 2003.

Those who attend Southampton do not always come to the Annual Dinner and Peter is one of those who like the more informal occasion. I asked him for his profile and below is the record of his time at the School and his career afterwards.

### PETER MORICE (1937-1944)



Born in Farnham in 1926, Peter joined the local Boys' Grammar School in the autumn of 1937, having previously been to Barfield Prep School. It was something of a change but everybody was most welcoming and he soon made friends, particularly amongst those who, like himself, cycled to school from the local residential areas.

He was put into School House but was probably a great disappointment to his housemates for, although he enjoyed several sports, he was not of a competitive nature. The pleasure for him was "playing the game" and he never cared who won.

This was an attitude he has never been able to change and in his middle years, when his chief leisure activity was sailing, he always far preferred cruising to racing.

Peter worked his way through the School with much distinction and produced a very impressive General School Certificate result, not getting his Matric! However, in the science sixth he found great inspiration from Messrs Munton and Lock who steered him successfully through the 'Higher' exams in 1944. He was very fortunate to have a physicist uncle at Bristol University who had him work with him during the school holidays on some research projects for the war effort. This was all in wartime and he says that he enjoyed the Cadet Corps and Home Guard activities engaged in at school, starting with wooden rifles, but later shooting at Bisley. He had previously spent quite a lot of time in the school's 22 rifle range.

Following his 'Highers' he was selected to go to Bristol University to train for REME and did an engineering degree. By the time he graduated the war was over and again he was directed, this time to a civilian job, to help rebuild the nation's infrastructure in civil engineering. The only trouble was that when they had designed something there was a

## A SOUTHAMPTON REGULAR

shortage of materials to build it and Peter got very frustrated. His professor at Bristol, Sir Alfred Pugsley, found him a job in a research establishment where he set up a new department and laboratory, spending ten happy years developing and testing new ideas, especially pre-stressed concrete. During that time he did quite a lot of lecturing and was bitten by the academic bug. In 1957 he was appointed to the new chair of civil engineering at Southampton University. This gave him the opportunity to set up yet another department, which was again an exciting and rewarding job. The academic environment also enabled him to indulge his interests in music and the visual arts when he became involved in organising concerts and exhibitions of painting and sculpture. Also, being by the sea, having a sailing boat was easy.

Academia often involves a lot of work with government departments and one's professional organisations as well as plenty of travel to other universities about the world. He did quite a bit of all three and had the good fortune to be appointed by the Sultan of Oman to help set up a university in his country. This involved six years of visits for its planning and construction and after retirement he was invited, with his wife, to spend periods in Oman to assist the Vice Chancellor in further developing the university: a fascinating experience.

When Peter retired in 1991 his wife, a scholar of French, changed their life pattern. They now lead a 'double life' spending most of the summer in their restored farmhouse in Gascony and the winter months back in Southampton amongst their long established friends, enjoying the life in what has become an interesting cultural city. They also take lots of opportunity to travel abroad on cruises and to visit countries other than France. Their chief occupations otherwise are painting, writing, music, pottery and DIY, not to mention entertaining, food and wine!



It was during the early days here that the Annual Southampton OFA Dinner was established and he has attended most (when not abroad) of the dinners and, more recently, lunches. It gave Peter Morice a great opportunity to renew old friendships and he was particularly delighted to be able to meet former master, Eric Munton, again who had been so much support to him at school.

Peter agrees that after forty years of either dinners or lunches at Southampton it is an OFA event that should still be included in the programme of events. With the number attending in 2003 reaching record levels there is clear evidence that there is a case. The originators, Messrs: Stroud, Grinstead, Luff and Backhurst are no longer with us, but would hope that we carry on their tradition.

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**FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM No.3.**

This time the photographs come from the Editor (Cyril Trust) and are from the 1948-1953 period. Like many of us one wishes that more photographs had been taken in the early days to record those precious years at school.

Below is a group photographed in the grounds of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. That excellent French teacher, Ron Beadman, took a party from the school to the French capital for a few days to help them improve their French.

From L to R: JOHN WARD: MARTYN BOSWELL: DAVID LEA:  
MICHAEL PRENTICE: DEREK ELSTOW: BRIAN WYATT.



I was part of the three-man team of swimmers to win this cup for the Grammar School at the Annual Farnham & District Swimming Sports. The team was Bob Edwards, Michael Prentice and Cyril Trust. It was a lovely trophy and we each held it at home for four months.



## AN OLD BOY AT THE PALACE

It was Saturday 3rd May 2003 when the editor and his wife were several hours into decorating our living room and we had decided to have a break and open the post. As usual this contained many circulars offering discounts from supermarkets, curry houses and pizza parlours as well as the various banks assuring you that they can offer the best rates for loans etc. There was only one piece of proper mail and that was torn open to reveal a letter headed The Prime Minister's Office, 10, Downing Street, London and written by the Appointments' Secretary for Tony Blair. It informed me that Mr Blair would like to put my name forward to Her Majesty the Queen as a possible recipient of an MBE (Member of the British Empire) and would I sign the enclosed form and return it if I was agreeable to this. My wife and I read the letter several times before realising that it was genuine and then sat back totally gob-smacked!

As we continued to stick lengths of paper to the walls we began to speculate, and firstly wondered 'who would have put my name forward for such an honour?' The letter said that the matter had to be treated in the strictest confidence until the Birthday Honours List was printed on 14th June 2003. Should we tell our sons? As the day wore on the questions grew in number and we considered, Who would present the award? What clothes should we wear? Would we be able to take our sons? Would we meet anyone famous at Buckingham Palace? How could we celebrate? The major question was, "How could we keep this a secret for several weeks without it slipping out by mistake?"

So began a waiting period, where we explored the Internet to find out exactly what is the MBE and who are the people to receive this honour. Some of the England World Cup Winners in 1966, including Nobby Stiles, had received one some months before, but I am no footballer. Looking at the letter it advised that my award was for my services to the community of Farnham, which I imagine means the involvement in The Hedgehogs and its fund-raising no doubt, involvement in The Ridgeway School, Old Farnhamians, Farnham Museum Society and other ventures that I have entered into over the past twenty years. All of these involvements have given me much pleasure, and a reward such as this was far from my mind.

The following six weeks were full of asking oneself questions and trying not to tell anybody of the letter. A week before 14th June it was announced that David Beckham had received an OBE. Had he not been sworn to secrecy? The day prior to the 14th, Arsene Wenger, manager of Arsenal FC and Gerard Houllier manager of Liverpool FC were told that they had received honorary OBE's. So much for secrecy!

I knew that lunchtime on the 13th (a Friday) the press would be told, and the public the following day. On the afternoon of the 13th the Farnham Herald and the Aldershot News telephoned with their congratulations and asked for photos and interviews. Now the secret was out and I began to tell family and good friends and was delighted with the response from them. A good number of people had put together the request for an award and there is no doubt that this news was one of the highlights of my sixty-six years.

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## AN OLD BOY AT THE PALACE

Saturday 14th June arrived and the morning newspapers listed the major award winners. It was now Sir Roger Moore, Dame Helen Mirren, and Jamie Oliver, the well-known chef, had received an MBE. Not bad company I felt. The Daily Telegraph had listed all recipients, including mine, and I found it difficult to take all of this in.

For the next two or three weeks I was inundated with cards, e-mails and telephone calls of congratulations and these included the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, various councillors and local dignitaries. One letter from the Savoy Hotel in London offered a special honours award luncheon with a view of the River Thames. What enterprise!

I had been told that the investiture would be up to five months ahead and sat back to enjoy the news, but no...a letter from the Palace arrived with my awards pack advising that I should attend the investiture on Wednesday 16th July. Panic set in. My wife suddenly sprang into action and scoured local shops to find a suitable dress, coat, shoes and the inevitable hat. I began looking for a morning suit, although a lounge suit was acceptable, and for those who do not know me - then size really does matter! To say the least I am a large person and there cannot be many morning suits countrywide that would fit me well. So it would be a lounge suit! Of course I would need a new shirt, tie, shoes etc., for the day and this MBE was becoming very expensive. Then a card arrived from the official photographer and of course we had to have a video (£94) and a few group photos (£17.50 ea).

The day was approaching and we were almost ready. Both sons would accompany my wife and I and between us the day out would cost a small fortune. I now knew the price of success!

Wednesday 16th July 2003 was a very hot and humid day (over 30 degrees F) and early in the morning we boarded a hired car looking our best for the occasion. By 9.30 am we were outside the Palace and waiting to be thoroughly inspected by the security guards swarming around us. A few weeks before a scare at Windsor had alerted the police and they were making sure this would not occur again. At 10.00 am precisely we moved forward into The Quadrangle and alighted from the car to be ushered into the main entrance hall. Such splendour surrounded us and dotted around the room were Life Guards in full dress with swords drawn and presented. We were ushered up a large staircase and half way up recipients of awards turned right and spectators moved ahead to the Ballroom.

Arriving in the Picture Gallery a small hook was attached to my lapel, which would accept the medal. I joined other MBE's at one end of the room whilst OBE's mingled at the other end. Finally we were all there and the Secretary of the General Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood called us to order and explained the rules for the occasion. We would be taken in small parties to the room adjoining the Ballroom and moved forward to its entrance. Then ushers would move us forward to halfway across the room to wait for our name to be called. For the first time you would be seen by the audience of over 300 people seated around the room. As your name was called you moved forward to the dais, bowed and walked forward to the Queen who would attach your medal to the hook on your suit, ask a few questions and then you would take two steps backwards, bow again and walk out across the opposite side of the room. You were to address the Queen initially as 'Your Majesty' and afterward as 'Ma'am'. All very simple!

## AN OLD BOY AT THE PALACE

At 10.50 am the initial batch of recipients were taken to the Ballroom and we all gathered around TV monitors to see what took place and to make sure we followed the correct pattern. The first three to arrive at the dais knelt before the Queen and she dubbed them with the sword of her father, George VI, and those that followed received either medals, brooches or sashes etc., depending on the award. Whilst the ceremony took place a Guard's Band played a programme of music from the gallery. The numbers thinned down and I realised that it was alphabetical order and T would see me as one of last to go. I was the second to last batch to be called.

Whilst waiting the recipients mingled and talked to each other and I met people who were receiving awards for nursing, working with disabled children, for services to Education, Leukaemia, Congenital Heart Disease, Age Concern. Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Policemen, Firemen etc., and one extremely young Royal Marine received the Military Cross, and talking to some of the 112 recipients that day was quite a humbling experience.

Nerves took over on reaching the door to the Ballroom and seeing the Queen and her entourage, including Yeomen of the Guard, a few yards away. I wondered what my mother and father would have said had they been alive to see this day! Finally it was my turn and I walked out into the huge room and stood by an equerry waiting for my name to be called. 'Cyril Trust' rang out and I walked forward, bowed, and approached the Queen, who is surprisingly small. She pinned on my medal and said 'What services in particular have you given to Farnham?' I replied that I felt it was for my work with local handicapped children and she said 'Wonderful, Well Done!' Two steps backwards, a hurried bow, and off to have my medal packed in its display case and back into the rear of the Ballroom to see the remainder of the programme.

As I sat there I had to admire the Queen, for this was one of 22 Investitures that she would hold in the year, although the Prince of Wales now does some. Each an hour and a half long must be tiring for a lady well into her 70s. I also had to admire the pomp and sense of occasion, which the British do so well. Some would see the end of the monarchy, but it would be a sad loss to this country in my opinion.

We joined the throng making their way to The Quadrangle, where pre-booked cameramen awaited to take your official photographs. Six rows of people and guess what? After two weeks of solid sunshine, it began to rain hard. Umbrellas were issued and we finally posed for the man and made our way to a cab, which would ferry us to The Savoy. Here we saw many who had attended the Investiture and the River Room was full of people recalling their morning at the Palace and celebrating the day. The food was excellent and the service wonderful. And the cost? Well sufficient to say that it was not cheap.

This had been a day to remember and we will look at the medal, the photos and the video in the future. I will never forget the day that an Old Boy went to the Palace.



## THE SCHOOL PLAY

by GEORGE HOPKINS (1927 -1932)

I don't think they've ever had another one. At least not all the time that I was there. Not that it wasn't a success. I suppose it was. Although to be truthful I didn't do much to make it so.

I'll always remember it as being the only time I was rude to a master and got away with it. Mind you this was in the days of corporal punishment. Each master had his own favourite form of corporal punishment. The Headmaster had a bamboo cane, eight feet long, which made a weird swishing noise as it cleaved the air. I know because I had only been at the school three days before I heard (and felt) it. But that was not strictly my fault, but Sammy Kite's. He told me that as the master had forgotten to put our names in the Detention Book we need not go. Anyway "Johnny", who taught French, used to hit us about the head with a half crown.

Now how I reckon on how it all came about was that they were all sitting about 'cackling the fat' in the Maths Room when someone mentioned Amateur Dramatiques. On yes we ought to have an Amateur Dramatique Society. Then "Johnny" volunteered. He, having done it as a child, as they used to in the "Upper Crust" in those days.

John's name was Horner so it was obvious that he was to be called Johnny. Each master had a nickname of course. I am talking of 75 years ago. In retrospect the masters seem all to have been colourful characters. In 1924 it was only 5 years after the end of the Great War and Mr F A Morgan, the Headmaster, saw to it that all his staff had held the King's Commission as far as possible. Only one did not and he had been a Quarter Master Sergeant.

Three of the masters had been severely wounded, but not as badly as Mr Horner. He had his leg blown off on the Somme. He had a cork leg, which he used to kick us with!

I am not getting very close to the School Play am I?

Well Johnny taught French. He has been dead these many years, although he lived to 92, so he won't mind me calling him Johnny. I should qualify that statement by saying that 'Johnny tried to teach French'. I don't think that anyone could have taught Form 2B French, as they were a rebellious and unruly lot. He used to say it's not that you can't learn, it's that you won't learn.

I paid for my inattention because in 1960 in Capri I met up with a beautiful French blonde and for sometime had to go around with a dictionary in my hand. She had been the beautiful queen of a whole "arrondissement" of France. We still write to each other.

Well Johnny knew his subject through and through but could not get us to take it in. I myself thought it an 'army' language and we beat them at Waterloo didn't we?

Some time after I'd left school; while I was on leave from the Navy during the War in fact, in conversation he told me that he had never wanted to be a teacher but was obliged to because with his grave disability he could find nothing else suitable. But he did encourage

**THE SCHOOL PLAY**by **GEORGE HOPKINS (1927 -1932)**

us to naughtiness with his outlandish expressions such as “Get the Moss off you”, “ Body of Bacchus Almighty” and “You are like an animated marmalade on a burning tar barrel!” When in playful mood, and although exasperated most of the time, he did have his playful moods, he used to lick the tip of his nose. Now I have only ever seen two other people able to do this. One was my sister Jean and the other was a chorus girl named Typhenia.

Well “on with the play”. Johnny set up the Dramatic Society and funnily enough the play he chose was “French as she is spoke!”

One day in class, apro pos of nothing, Johnny said, “You are to be in my play, Hopkins”. I did not want to be. To this day I don’t know why he chose me. I suppose I was a bit of an exhibitionist. I know the sole purpose I then thought of going to school was to make my fellow students laugh. However, I could not refuse to take the part. I found to my chagrin that I was to be the first on the stage. I was to be a waiter dusting in the foyer of a hotel before the principal actors, a man and a woman, came on.

Johnny told me I had to be whistling while I dusted. This was terrible because I could not whistle. I thought it was disgraceful that a boy of ten could not whistle. I could not bring myself to tell anyone. Every night after school I would go home and practice. No sound would come. I could make the hole but no sound would come, no matter how hard I tried. I did not know what to do. I felt so ashamed and no one could help me.

The big day came and still no whistle. I was first on the stage and the whole school was assembled to witness my shame. I made the hole all right but no sound came out. I happened to glance up and there in the wings was Johnny whistling away for me ‘like a good un’. “Shut up”, I said. Johnny faded into the background.

Do you know no one ever did say a word to me about it!

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We would like to thank the following for supporting this magazine with their sponsorship: Stephen Pritchard: Robin Welland-Jones: Ray Kirk: Chris Hone: John Hirst: Simon Granville-Jones: Mike Horner: John Crotty: Ian Sargeant: Cyril Trust.

## OLD BOYS SPONSOR AWARDS FOR FARNHAM COLLEGE

It was the wish of Sally Francis, the Principal of Farnham College, to improve the awards on offer as incentives to the students of Farnham College and she approached the Old Farnhamians' Association to see if they could help. After some discussions it was agreed that Old Boys would give their name and a sum of money to a specific award over the next three years. Although it was a rather last minute scheme it was arranged that eleven Old Boys would sponsor such awards for the Celebration of Achievement held at the College on 16th December 2003.

The evening was hosted by Sally Francis and the Guest of Honour was Anne McCabe, who is Education & Marketing Director of Tearfund. The evening included presentations by award winning students on their experiences. Music was provided by former student, Ben Pugsley, who was a member of the award winning Planets group. He delighted the audience with a flamenco piece on his guitar.

The new awards sponsored by the Old Boys were as follows and after the ceremony photographs were taken of students and sponsors, which can be seen on the website.

<b>The Cyril Trust Award for Service in Art &amp; Design.</b>	<b>Jody Sargent.</b>
<b>The John Travers Award for Endeavour in Drama.</b>	<b>Steven Bell.</b>
<b>The Michael Horner Award for Endeavour in Design Tech.</b>	<b>Tom Sommerfelt.</b>
<b>The John Crotty Award for Progress from Foundation To Intermediate Level.</b>	<b>Jane Goodman.</b>
<b>The Roy Robins Award for Outstanding Achievement At AS Level.</b>	<b>Deborah Truscott.</b>
<b>The Ian Sargeant Award for Progress in Maths.</b>	<b>Chung Chai Ma.</b>
<b>The Roger Edgell Award for Outstanding Achievement In History.</b>	<b>Rachel Lloyd.</b>
<b>The Stephen Pritchard Award for Outstanding Achievement in Maths.</b>	<b>Sarah Shepherd.</b>
<b>The Bryan Bone Award for Outstanding Achievement At AS Level.</b>	<b>Megan Pearson.</b>
<b>The Maurice Jeffreys Award for Endeavour in Art &amp; Design.</b>	<b>Jonathan Pink.</b>
<b>The Wally Walsh Award for Outstanding Achievement At A Level.</b>	<b>Harriet Pound.</b>

The evening closed with an address from Anne McCabe and a Christmas drink with mince pies all round.

This was yet another example of the Old Boys' Association and the Farnham College working together and it was good to see former Grammar school pupils giving their names and money to the current students at Morley Road. This was the first time that this partnership has occurred to assist the Celebration of Achievement Ceremony and it is hoped that in the future more Old Boys will come forward and enter the scheme.

Should any readers require more information about this sponsorship please contact Cyril Trust (01252 723352).

FOOTBALL - INTER-HOUSE KNOCK OUT CUP.  
PRESENTED BY MAJOR G.J.JAMES. R.A.



1938/39:	MASSINGBERD.	1955/56:	MORLEY.
1939/40:	CHILDE.	1956/57:	HARDING.
1940/41:	CHILDE.	1957/58:	MASSINGBERD.
1941/42:	NO CONTEST.	1958/59:	MORLEY.
1942/43:	MASSINGBERD.	1959/60:	HARDING.
1943/44:	MASSINGBERD.	1960/61:	MORLEY.
1944/45:	MASSINGBERD.	1961/62:	HARDING.
1945/46:	HARDING.	1962/63:	MORLEY/HARDING.
1946/47:	SCHOOL.	1963/64:	HARDING.
1947/48:	SCHOOL.	1964/65:	MASSINGBERD/ MORLEY.
1948/49:	CHILDE.	1965/66:	MORLEY.
1949/50:	CHILDE.	1966/67:	CHILDE.
1950/51:	MORLEY.	1967/68:	HARDING.
1951/52:	HARDING.	1968/69:	HARDING.
1952/53:	CHILDE.	1969/70:	CHILDE.
1953/54:	CHILDE.	1970/71:	CHILDE.
1954/55:	MORLEY.		

## SHOOTING - R.W.MASON CHALLENGE CUP.



1926:	C.W.MARSHALL.	1944:	A.J.C.CLARK.
1927:	P.W.A.CHUTER.	1945:	E.W.WARING.
1928:	B.D.LEE.	1946:	A.F.RICKETTS.
1929:	F.E.HOBBS.	1947:	K.S.TROLLOP.
1930:	K.W.W.BARTLETT.	1948:	R.E.MEAD.
1931:	W.A.GARDINER.	1949:	J.R.CHERRYMAN.
1932:	A.J.HALL.	1950:	J.R.CHERRYMAN.
1933:	W.A.McLELLAND.	1951:	R.I.H.CLARK & R.A.ARCHER.
1934:	B.G.BARNARD.	1952:	M.E.BRAZIER.
1935:	B.G.BARNARD.	1953:	E.B.WAIDE.
1936:	G.G.NOLAN.	1954:	M.BAILEY/ M.E.BRAZIER J.H.BURLINSON. D.P.ELKINS.
1937:	H.de B.BROCK.	1955:	M.BAILEY/ W.J.HARDING.
1938:	H.de B.BROCK.	1956:	J.A.TYRELL.
1939:	NO CONTEST.	1957:	M.W.R.LEE/ P.J.CRANSWICK.
1940:	R.CHARTERS.	1958:	P.J.CRANSWICK. J.W.DOETSCH/ J.R.EDMUNDS
1941:	G.R.BOULding.	1959:	P.J.CRANSWICK. L.S.BANFIELD/ P.MORRISH.
1942:	L.P.JAMES.	1960:	P.J.CRANSWICK.
1943:	S.A.BIRCH.		

## THEN AND NOW

## JOHN MUNDAY (1946-1952)



Anyone standing at the crease waiting for a ball from John Munday will remember him well. He was a talented cricketer and could bowl at a really fast pace. He was a great competitor at the 'English Game' and at soccer. Readers will find that he also enjoyed a glittering career.

John was born in Hale, but at six days of age the home was damaged and the family moved to Badshot Lea. Here he lived next door to the Emerson family, with four boys all attending the Grammar School. John has one brother, who still lives in Ash Vale.

He started at the Grammar School in 1946 and was in Harding House and one of the stalwarts of the School First XI at both soccer and cricket.

On leaving school in 1952 he worked for a short time for a local accountant and this gave him the opportunity to play soccer for the Old Boys and local cricket. The highlight was playing for a Farnham Select team who played Surrey during Alec Bedser's benefit year. John actually bowled Alec out and also felt he had Peter May caught, only to be turned down by the umpire Boris Karloff, the star of many horror movies. Boris said that the crowd had come to see the England captain and not John Munday and therefore it was not a catch!

Accountancy was not for John and he joined the Fleet Air Arm on a short service commission and trained on the H.M.S. Indefatigable. His first job was 'Captain of the Heads', which meant getting up at 5.30 am and cleaning out the toilets. It was hard work and included seamanship training, watch keeping duties, lectures and a little boxing. After six months he became top cadet of the Home Fleet Squadron and graduated as a Midshipman with six months seniority. Next came flying training in Pensacola, Florida (a great trip across on the Queen Mary) but a normal medical revealed a weakness in one eye and he was returned to the UK and given a medical discharge. John has worn glasses ever since.

Having got the travel bug John looked for work overseas and he joined Cable & Wireless Ltd for their foreign service. Eighteen months training at the company Engineering College in Cornwall followed and he enjoyed the 'university life' and the great Cornish hospitality. Again he played a good standard cricket and soccer until he was asked if he would switch from the latter to rugby. This he did and played for The Exiles as second row in the scrum. Later in his career he toured Kenya and played rugby for Kenya Harlequins and Kenya and also played for Northern Nigeria during another posting. He was founder member of the Barbados Rugby Club in the mid 1960s.

John left the college as a technician and was sent to Kenya for three months' consolidation of training, followed by eighteen months in Muscat, Oman (difficult with no air-conditioning available at that time) and six months in Bahrain.

## THEN AND NOW

## JOHN MUNDAY (1946-1952)

His career now took off and he began a series of postings around the world. He also began to move through the ranks of Cable & Wireless Ltd.

1959/1960	Kenya.
1960/1962	Kano, Northern Nigeria (seconded to Project Mercury to build the Mercury tracking stations prior to the moon flight of Glenn & Shepherd)
1962/1965	Barbados ( Area Assistant Engineer travelling through the West Indies)
1966/ 1969	Kenya (Chief Engineer).
1969/1972	UK Head Office. (various trips including Peru).
1972/1973	Doha, Qatar (Chief Engineer).
1973/1974	Shemlan, Lebanon. ( the Middle School of Arabic Studies - known as the 'Spy School' - following the steps of Philby and Burgess.)
1974/1976	North Yemen (General Manager).
1977/1980	Dubai (General Manager).
1980/1987	Bahrain (General Manager).
1987/1992	London Head Office (1st as Director / Effective Resource Management 2nd as Regional Director/Middle East, Indian Ocean & Africa).
1992/1993	Semi Retired (included spell as Director/India).

The above represents over thirty years with Cable & Wireless Limited and apart from the work John has sent details of life away from the office desk. For example he obviously retained his love of sport and in particular rugby. He suffered a broken nose on two occasions, with the first in Kenya and the second in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria.

Whilst in Peru he took a few days up the Amazon on a telecommunications survey and recalls meeting the natives who were experts with a blowpipe. He also remembers being warned not to put his hand in the water, as it was full of piranhas and taking over the oars from the guide as John and his team feared for their lives.

Cable & Wireless entered into several joint ventures with various countries and John was an important member of the negotiating team. Whilst in the Yemen he sealed an agreement with the Yemen Arab Republic Government, who was represented by the Minister of Communications. The signing ceremony took place in the YAR Embassy in Washington DC where the Minister was attending the International Postal Union Conference.

In March 1981 Cable & Wireless became a forty percent shareholder in Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) with John as General Manager. Later as Regional Director for the Middle East he commented: "One of the strengths of a joint venture arrangement such as we have with Bahrain, is our ability to call on the international resources of the Group."

To finish with John says that along the way he met Joyce, an Irish girl working in Kenya as a radiographer, married in Nigeria and two children were born in Kenya and two in Barbados. This means that in the family there are two Africans and two Bajans. Sadly Joyce died in December 2002 after they had been married 41 good years. John still has his four children, four grandchildren and a fifth grandchild on the way.

**THEN AND NOW****JOHN MUNDAY (1946-1952)**

He lives at Greystones in the Republic of Ireland and plans to move from his house to a local apartment. He has been Treasurer of Greystones PROBUS Club for almost two years. He has a flat in Hersham, Surrey and hopes to travel to the UK more often.

Along the way he became a Chartered Engineer and a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. With retirement we hope to see more of John at Annual Dinners as he now has more time to fly over from his home in County Wicklow to be there.

**RECORD OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Boxing: Won weight in 1947, 1948, 1952.

Took part in Cross Country, Soccer, Athletics, and Swimming.

Cricket: For the School took five or more wickets in 1950 - 2, 1951- 7, 1952 - 7.

Cricket: House record:

	SCHOOL	MORLEY	MASSINGBERD	CHILDE
1948	8 for 17	5 for 32	4 for 10	10 for 6
1949	7 for 5	6 for 17	6 for 2	8 for 9
1950	-	4 for 12	4 for 17	-
1951	-	3 for 0	6 for 8	4 for 14
1952	5 for 8	-	6 for 11	-

**A FAVOURITE STORY FROM JOHN MUNDAY:**

One of my staff in the North Yemen was involved in a traffic accident when two men on a motor bike swerved in front of him, tried to avoid the many pot holes (roads, as we know them were not existent) and fell off their bike. One suffered a broken collarbone and the other cuts and bruises, but the trouble was they worked for the Security Department! I had to attend the hearing and the two men appeared swathed in bandages asking for compensation. I was the sole ex-pat at the hearing and had come armed with a copy of the local rules on Sharia compensation and was able to speak and understand Arabic quite well.

Whatever the size of the compensation it would be shared between the 'judge' and the injured parties and consequently the figure was exorbitant. I refused to pay, quoting Sharia Law, and was told "Pay or go to jail". I refused and was marched off at gunpoint to spend a few hours in a confined space looking down the end of a gun. The British Ambassador finally arrived and we agreed to negotiate and after several weeks the final figure was about a tenth of the asking price.

I wrote to the insurance company involved, prior to my next posting, asking for a generous no-claims bonus for keeping the costs down, but they passed me over to the local agent who was not forthcoming. For some time the father of one of the men stood, daily, outside of the office threatening my life and eventually threw a huge brick through my office window.

John says that in this age of litigation the Sharia Law has some good points. OK it does go to extremes with chopping off heads, hands etc., but it does lay down specific compensation for broken bones etc., saving a fortune in lawyers' fees!



## THEN AND NOW

## DONALD HOMER (1938-1941)



As stated in the obituaries section of this Magazine, Don Homer agreed to supply his profile for the 2004 edition and within a few days had a bad fall, which resulted in his untimely death. I am certain that if he had written his own words this article would have been more colourful and humorous, just like the man himself.

At his funeral he was described as both a flamboyant and colourful man and to his contemporaries at the Grammar School he fitted this description well.

Donald Maurice Homer was born on the Lindford side of Bordon on 30th May 1925 and he was known to have called himself a 'peasant boy' or a 'Hampshire Hog'. His mother was a talented dressmaker and made

shirts for Lloyd George, amongst others, and frocks for the wives of high-ranking Army officers in Aldershot. The marriage of his parents broke down after some years and his mother moved Don and his sister to Weydon Hill Road in Farnham and so it was that Don ended up at Farnham Boys' Grammar School. It was here that his true appreciation of Farnham began and he loved to play cricket on the school fields below the school where he could see over the pretty bonnet tops of the roofs below. It was so aesthetic to Don.

Encouraged by a pre-war team of teachers who supported the arts, Don joined Farnham Urban District Council as a pupil surveyor with the aim to become an architect. In those days there were several people who really cared for the community such as Borelli, Lutyens and Faulkner. Classically trained, these were people who started to preserve Farnham and everyone talked of the environment.

World War Two arrived and Don felt that he had not contributed much in the way of action. He was re-mustered on a pilot-navigator bomber's course in the RAF and ended up jumping off a harbour wall during dinghy drill in stormy weather. A bite from a jellyfish caused blood poisoning. He explained that he felt unwell and was accused of lack of moral fibre. However, he had an abscess on the lower part of the lung and was hospitalised for six months. He was invalided out of the forces and sent to Oxford on an industrial course to learn how to lay out mass-production factories.

Don said that he cheated a little to get to Oxford, as he wanted to do extra-mural studies in Archaeology at the University. He loved collegiate life and used to have chats with well-known author C.S.Lewis and perform with the Oxford University Dramatic Society and other local drama groups. He remembered doing The Insect Play with a very young Ronnie Barker playing the Tramp and Don playing the Mad Inventor. He did not enjoy his work on mass-production and complained bitterly and regularly until a fellow actor suggested that he take a sabbatical and apply to RADA.

**THEN AND NOW****DONALD HOMER (1938-1941)**

At RADA Don trained alongside Frank Finlay and Peter O'Toole and considered these to have been marvellous days in his life. It was whilst at RADA that he met Marion, who became his wife. Don always said that she had more talent than he did. Marion did her singing training alongside Julie Andrews. After RADA they both obtained acting jobs straight away, with Don on a six-month tour of the USA and Marion understudying Claire Bloom on Broadway. After this good start they returned to their London home in Finchley, only to find that the work had become a trifle thin.

It was now that Don's deep-rooted interest in the environment, organic farming and self-sufficiency led him to become involved in a non-profit making environmental trust known as PLOEG, based in Holland. He applied for the post of Sales Director for the North of England, promoting natural organic textiles and furniture. In 1958 they moved to Harrogate, where Marion had family, and stayed there for thirty-four years. Don felt that he flew the flag for this humanist society who were struggling to compete in an increasingly mechanised world. He was passionate about this subject and during his life would never purchase anything synthetic.

Whilst at Harrogate Don and Marion had sons, Miles and Alexis, and they supported the local repertory theatre by appearing in many productions and creating massive stage sets. But Farnham beckoned and after fifty years absence Don returned, with Marion, to his favourite town. When asked why, he replied that he found it cold in the North with all the black stone and the weather and he just loved the green of the South. He said that Farnham had so many acres of natural park around it and to him it was such a treasured place.

The new home was at Potters Gate and Don would point out that there was an old people's home at the bottom of the garden, the cemetery just down the road and there used to be paramedics just up the alleyway. He lost no time in settling in and became heavily involved in the U3A (University of the Third Age), and enthusiastic supporter of several local drama groups, a short story reader on Wey Valley Radio and a regular subject for the students at SIAD (Surrey Institute for Art and Design).

Don Homer loved life and was always enthusiastic about his various projects. He loved working with the young people at SIAD and enjoyed passing on his experience gained on the stage and the radio. He loved the town of Farnham when there was the Castle Theatre, two cinemas and a hospital and felt that now the feeling of being a real community had vanished. Since his return to the town he had become involved in the Old Farnhamians' Association and attended the Annual Dinner and was always available to help with various projects. He was involved in the introduction of the Home of Memorabilia with his flair for display and design.

Don was once asked whether there was anything else that he would like to achieve in life and he replied, "I love cricket. I would like to spend the next ten years just watching cricket, with enough money to buy myself the odd pint!"

Don Homer died at Frimley Hospital on 26th April 2003 and the many people who attended his service at St. Andrew's Parish Church in Farnham offered tributes to this likeable Old Boy.

## THEN AND NOW

## GRAHAM V. HUNT (1943-1950)



Graham Hunt was born at Deepcut, Frimley on 31st August 1933 where his father was a surveyor for J.B.Edwards of Basingstoke. The family moved to Lindford a year later when his father took up the post of Clerk Of Works for the War Department at Longmoor.

In 1943 Graham passed the Common Entrance Exam and started at Farnham Boys' Grammar School in September of that year. He always ran well in the School Cross Country and in 1948-finished 3rd in a large field of seniors. He was a member of the School Cricket Second XI and an accomplished musician, playing violin and became leader of the 2nd Violin Section.

On leaving the school he became active in the Old Farnhamians' Association and was membership secretary for many years. He also played football regularly for the OFA.

He took a two-year course at Guildford Technical College and was successful in obtaining a National Diploma in Building and Civil Engineering. Having been deferred for one year from National Service to complete this course he finally received his call-up papers and was ordered to report to No. 8 Training Regiment at Elgin in the north of Scotland, but within two weeks returned to No. 3 Training Regiment at Morval Barracks, Cove, Farnborough, where he completed his four months basic training in the Royal Engineers.

After two months in HQ Squadron at Guillemont Barracks he received a posting to a Field Regiment in Singapore and on 28th February 1953 set sail from Southampton on the Empire Trooper. He arrived in Singapore on the 1st April (probably the right day for Graham) and after five weeks was sent on detachment with 19 other men to Sarawak in Borneo, where they spent three months blasting forty feet off the tops of the rocks in the river to widen the channel through the rapids for the Borneo Timber Company.

On returning to Singapore he was allowed seven days leave and then sent to Kanga Tebrau in Malaya to erect a Bailey Bridge over the river for the R.E.M.E. when they were being ambushed by terrorists on a rubber plantation. Time was passing quite quickly, it was now October and the group were sent to Ipoh on the Siam (Thailand) border where a bailey raft was constructed to ferry equipment across the lake. After this was completed they returned to Singapore and had a week's leave in Hong Kong.

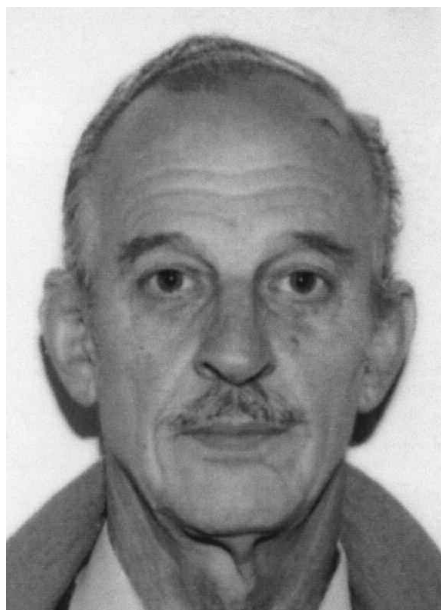
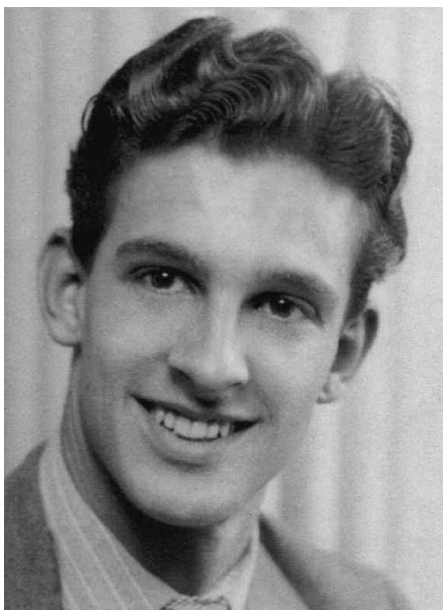
Christmas passed and in the New Year the group of twenty were off again. This time they flew by RAF Valetta from Changi airfield in Singapore up to Penang in Malaya and from there out to Car Nicobar island in the Bay of Bengal where the RAF had a refuelling station. This was the first experience of airfield work that Graham had had. The job was to extend the runway as the first RAF jets (Meteors) were now in service and the runway was too short. This job took about three months and on completion they returned to Singapore by ship,

**THEN AND NOW****GRAHAM V. HUNT (1943-1950)**

with all the equipment on board. With only two months to go before returning home he spent the time in the Regimental Police and was finally demobilised on the 4th September 1954 at Barton Stacey.

It was now necessary to find a job and he eventually started work on Monday 8th November at the enormous salary of £14.00 per month with Henry Cooper & Sons, Chartered Surveyors in Reading. In July 1957 he met his future wife Pam at a dance and they started entering dancing competitions together, winning a few such as the Kent Messenger Trophy, coming second in the Hampshire Championships in 1958 and 1959 and reaching the All England Final of the Butlins Valeta at the Albert Hall in 1959. Graham married Pam on 9th July 1958 and their son was born almost two years later. Graham joined the RAE Symphony Orchestra where he was surprised to find that Mrs Cole, his violin teacher at school, was playing in the first violins and that the conductor was John Cotterill, who had been leader of the school orchestra. The following year he joined the Yateley Light Orchestra and continued to play for both until moving to Devon in 1992.

Between 1954 and 1992 Graham had numerous positions, either as a quantity surveyor or as contracts manager, but in 1977 he started work at Heathrow Airport as a quantity surveyor and after seven years being directly employed decided to go freelance in 1983 until he retired. Reaching 65 he decided to retire but was asked to stay on until the company managing director retired. This he did in September 2002, and at the end of August 2003 Graham finally retired.



## THEN AND NOW

## BRYAN BONE (1948-1952)



Personal profiles usually miss out the bad bits and quite rightly, for who wants to rehearse the dramas of life with the mundane and ordinary. Of course, some things are best left unsaid thus leaving writer and reader uneasy whether the wrong things have been said and the right things left out. Well here goes whether right or wrong., Bryan Bone - Bryn as he was known to his intimates - was born in Hale in 1936 and was the last of three brothers. The house was a happy place with Bryan's father working as a plumber and heating engineer for R.C.Radford Builders and mother keeping a warm, welcoming household and, in addition cleaning and cooking for incumbents at Orchard Lodge and of course Rev. Arthur Jaggs, Vicar of Hale.

In 1948, for the first time a large contingent passed the Eleven Plus and faced the prospect of attending Farnham Grammar School. Coincidentally there were 11 boys and girls who passed the exam in that year, all of whom left the comforts of Hale School and the attention of Miss Love and Mr Gaines, to trek all the way to the School on the hill. Bryan accompanied Bill Luff, Derek Elstow, Les Walmsley and others as the number 15 bus dropped off these aspiring students at Farnham Station where the boys trudged off to Morley Road and thus to school.

Bryan was hopeless at all sport but enjoyed the sheer fun of participating; being in Massingberd House one was in the realms of skill and accomplishment. One event did attract him and that was boxing, and whilst no Bruce Woodcock or Freddie Mills, he entered into the fun of it until Les Walmsley of Harding House, was hit by Bryan on the nose and the fight stopped on a technical knockout. The other activity, which was enjoyed, was the .22 rifle shooting, but he was not good enough for the selectors. In all every sport was enjoyed, but a restless spirit lurked within, so much so that at 16 Bryan applied to the Surrey County Council Agricultural Training Scheme at Merrist Wood. Within six months activity did not match ambition so steps were taken to leave the scheme after one year and to await National Service. After a delay in 'call up' Bryan eventually received notice to attend the Royal Artillery Unit at Gabowen, near Wrexham and in February 1954 he arrived with a trainload of other recruits. It was cold and the snow lay on the ground.

It did not take long, however, after six weeks square bashing, for recruits to be invited to join the Para's or Royal Military Police. It was to the latter that Bryan applied and was accepted, only to find himself at Inkerman Barracks, previously a prison, just outside Woking. What an amazing opportunity! Here he is 200 miles from home, one simple choice and he is whisked away at no cost to a base only 20 miles from home.

Here Bryan enjoyed regular home comforts and continued his courtship of Shirley, who

**THEN AND NOW****BRYAN BONE (1948-1953)**

would become Mrs Bone sometime in the near future. Bryan had the option of joining a signals section or becoming attached to the Para's and learn parachuting, but he did not fancy leaping out of a plane 1500 feet up and chose the signals. He obtained high marks at training and was posted to a signals unit in the Royal Military Police HQ 2nd Inf. Division at Hilden, Near Dusseldorf. On arrival the OC told him that he was responsible for a room full of signals kit and to set up the unit. Working with Bryan was a Trevor Lloyd-Hughes, an officer who later became one of the investigating officers in the 'Kray Case'.

On leaving the Army in February 1957 Bryan joined the General Accident Insurance Co. as an insurance claim investigator. He married Shirley and they set up home in Beckenham, to enable him to commute each day to the office in The Aldwych. Here he attended a 12-week postgraduate course conducted by Dr.Dinsdale at the Chartered Insurance Institute in the City. To brighten the day delegates would attend High Courts in Fleet Street listening to cases on divorce and probate. Whilst at Beckenham a profound change took place in his life, when the Vicar of St.Paul's challenged him to become a follower of Jesus Christ. This he did and has never regretted his decision.

Bryan studied for the Chartered Institute exams and also changed his job and location by joining Cornhill Insurance in Bristol. Shirley suffered a spell of poor health and they decided to move back to Farnham, where Bryan became new business inspector with Eagle Star Group. By this time they had two children.

Bryan qualified as a Chartered Insurance Practitioner and moved to Eagle Star in Guildford. He was acting Branch Manager and now aged 40 and time to review the future. In 1976 he began Bone & Co. Insurance Broker and continued this at the Castle Street, Farnham office for over 25 years. During this period he was President of the Farnham Chamber of Commerce. He also obtained a certificate of teaching in Further Education, a part-time lecturer at Farnborough College and an occasional lecturer at the Chartered Insurance Institute training centre at Surbiton. In 1981 the British Insurance Brokers' Association invited him to write a technical book entitled 'Insurance Broking'. He was also invited to prepare a series of video based distance learning programmes on technical insurance subjects. With the help of the Farnham School of Art and a number of presenters over 40 titles were published covering many technical aspects of insurance. Currently these are being considered for transferring to CDs. Bryan has written many articles for prestigious magazines and journals e.g. Post Magazine, Malaysian Insurance Institute, Bad Homburg Germany Research Papers. Currently Witherby's Insurance Publishers are requesting a technical work on 'Political Risk'. He was also a consultant to UNCTAD, part of the United Nations, responsible for setting up training institutes in Bangladesh, Kenya and Malaysia.

In spite of a heart condition Bryan is engaged in writing a historical novel about David Lloyd-George, has drafted the outline of two other works and completed an anthology of poems. He blames his busy lifestyle on a well ordered loving home as a child, and a well taught and disciplined schooling at both Hale School and Farnham Grammar School. Bryan is currently a member of the Old Farnhamians' General Committee and a great supporter of the Association in general. It is rare that he misses the Annual Dinner and is to be seen at most OFA events.



OLD FARNHAMIANs' SOCCER XI – EARLY 1970s

*Rear: Alan Toogood: Brian Webberley: ? : John Terrill: Hugh Batchelor: David Giles:  
Front: Jeremy Regan: Don Wells: John Tessier: ? : Michael Foster.*



A GROUP FROM THE 1940s

*Rear: Kevin Winstain: Brian Lewis: John Lunn: Ronald Short: Graham Blunt: Hugo Thomas.  
Front: Ken Anderson: Roy Mead: Don Garner: Eric Munton: Gordon Webberley:  
Peter Wilding: Harvey Frost.*

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

A visit at Easter to Ham House at Richmond, Surrey by the editor and his wife resulted in bumping into that ever jovial Old Boy, **RON HACK (1932-1937)**. As explained in his profile in the last magazine Ron works for the National Trust free of charge and this is the place where he spends most of his time. Whilst there were many brochures and booklets about this delightful house available it was interesting to talk to Ron and get some 'extra' information. Where and when will I next bump into an Old Boy? Small in numbers, but everywhere it seems.

The local press announced in May that **ALAN LOVELL (1947-1953)** had finally stood down as chairman of Binsted Parish Council after twenty four years. Other councillors proposed that Alan stay on as leader but he felt that it was time for him to hand over to a new chairman. Alan announced that he had greatly enjoyed the work and councillors thanked him for doing an excellent job over so many years. The newly appointed chairman felt that Alan would be a hard act to follow.

Anyone reading the 'Letters to the Editor' page in the Farnham Herald will know that a regular contributor is Old Boy, **HANS HOLM**, who comments on certain aspects of Farnham life from his home in North West London. He also provides articles of general interest and in November 2003 wrote about **MIKE PAWLEY**, who had died the year before. Mike had worked on the Concorde and missed the special trips available to ex-staff that were on offer when this wonderful aeroplane was taken out of service. Hans recalls that Mike lived in Longley Road, Farnham prior to moving to Filton, Bristol, where his widow, Janet, still lives. He also says that Mike's aunt was Ena Phillips who was music mistress at FGS in Menin Way.

Several Old Boys received an invitation from **BRYAN BONE (1948-1953)** to attend his retirement party held at Farnham Castle during June 2003. Bryan ran his insurance business in the town for over twenty-five years and did much to help local causes during that time and planned to link the party with a fund-raising campaign on behalf of the Second Chance Children's Charity. Unfortunately the plans did not work out and the event was postponed. Bryan is hoping to hold the party at a later date.

At the May 2003 local council elections the Liberal Democrats ousted the Tories and it is expected this will result in changes to the major expansion plans for East Street in the town of Farnham. Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Waverley Borough Council will be **CHRIS SLYFIELD (1955-1962)** who has been involved in local politics for some years. Chris will also head up the Waverley Executive and will personally be responsible for economic development and corporate computing. For many years Chris was the treasurer for the Association and we wish him well in this new role.

Rather belatedly we have received a newspaper cutting from 2001 announcing that **C.W.REES (1939-1945) CBE, EurChem, CChem FRSC, FRS**. Emeritus professor at Imperial College and a visiting professor at Sunderland University, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by Sunderland University. Records show that while at the Grammar School he won several Form Awards, represented Childe House in the Athletics, Cross Country and Boxing (he won his weight in 1941) In 1944 he became a Sub-Prefect. Obviously a glittering career and we would like more information if possible.



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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

On his retirement in the 1970s **GEORGE BAXTER (1953-1970)**, one of the most popular Headmasters of the School, entered into the life of Farnham by joining many local organisations. Invariably he became either the Chairman or the President and his work over many years has been invaluable to the town. In June 2003, and around the age of 90, he decided to stand down as either Chairman or President from some of these organisations and was thanked by the members for all his efforts. The Chairman of the Farnham Decorative and Fine Arts Society (FDFAS) thanked him in the local press as George stood down from his presidency, and the week prior he was also thanked warmly for his work with the Farnham Society. I am sure he will remain involved in both organisations and make a regular appearance, as he does with our Association.

As the 2003 magazine went to press our President received a letter from the Oldest Old Boy, **IAN T. JAMIESON**, advising that early in May he had successfully reached his 101st birthday. Like our President, Ian had spent some time in Zambia and he reminisced that with his wife he was in the country from 1960-1963 with the London Missionary Society helping in the opening years of a College at Serenje. He explained that his wife helped with the married students' families whilst he was the Bursar. To help him with this work he took two bookkeeping aids from his school days with him. Clearly Ian is still enjoying life at Worthing and hopefully we will hear from him again soon.

It was good to receive praise for the 2003 magazine from **MICHAEL PRENTICE, GRAHAM COLLYER AND GUY BELLAMY** who have all been journalists. Graham and Guy are also prolific authors and their opinion is valued. They have promised to send in further articles for next year and I am sure the readers will look forward to reading such interesting items elsewhere in this edition.

The new magazine stimulated a letter from **VIC WYATT (1947-1950)**, who wanted to make contact with Mike Prentice in Canada. At the time of writing Vic had just received a partial knee replacement and was cycling throughout bracing East Anglia, where he lives, to strengthen the new joint. At over seventy he has to be admired for returning to two wheels. He is hoping to visit his brother **BRIAN WYATT (1948-1953)** in Canada and promises to try and extract a few words for the magazine from him.

As the new magazines come off the press a copy is sent to various relatives of former staff and pupils of the Grammar School. For the 2003 issue we received congratulations and thanks from **JULIA WILSON (daughter of HAROLD BEEKEN), MADELEINE GODDARD (widow of JOHN GODDARD), PEGGY LEWIS-JONES (daughter of STANLEY LOCK), BARBARA WILLS (widow of JOHN WILLS) and ELAINE AYLWIN (widow of JOHN AYLWIN)**. It is remarkable that after many years these relatives retain an interest in the old School and recall many of the names in the magazines.

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

In 2003 we advised that contact had been made with **DAVID TYRELL (1948-1952)**, and on a very hot day in July he was met by several of his old classmates. The venue was the Thomas Lord pub in the Meon Valley, a hostelry known for its cricket memorabilia, as the village was the resting place of the man who built the famous Lord's Cricket Ground. Attending a most enjoyable lunch, and meeting David after over fifty years, were **BRIAN WEBBERLEY, VIC BENNETT, JOHN TRAVERS, NEVILLE TIMMINS, CYRIL TRUST, BILL LUFF** and our Membership Secretary, **TONY HARLAND**. School memories and Sport were the main topics of conversation and it is amazing what these old friends remembered about School and House soccer and cricket games. Probably the most amazing news was that the day before the meeting **TONY HARLAND** had played for Waverley CC and was still playing cricket regularly, although well over seventy years of age. In fact Tony was very proud of the fact that earlier in the season he had taken four wickets for fifteen runs in one game. As you can see from the photograph below it was a most enjoyable re-union and David is now a new member of the Association.



Bill Luff, Tony Harland and David Tyrell at the Thomas Lord in West Meon.

For the weeks running up to the return of children to school in September The Farnham Museum held an interesting exhibition entitled 'Back To School.' At least a quarter of the space was taken up with information and memorabilia of both Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools. Included in the display were several old photographs of early days at Morley Road and the curator has agreed to let us take copies of these for our own collection and for use in future magazines. One cabinet covered **C.VARNDELL**, who attended the school in the early part of last century, and included pictures of his makeshift grave at the front during the First World War.

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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

We are regularly contacted by descendants of various Old Boys who are attempting to catalogue a family history. In the autumn of 2003 we were approached by the **BENTALL family** from Basingstoke and the **STICKLAND family** from Lechlade in Gloucestershire asking for any information about their relatives. We managed to advise Peter Bentall that some members of the family did attend the Grammar School in the late 19th century and early 20th century. His great, great uncle Alfred Josiah Bentall was a governor of both the Boys' and Girls' Grammar School and one or more of his uncles attended the school. The Bentall family ran a gentlemen's outfitters in Farnham with premises at the traffic lights in the town and covering what is now the Alliance & Leicester, Abbey National and a card shop. There was also another similar shop across the road in the Borough. The Bentall family regularly advertised in the 'Farnhamian' magazine. Ian Stickland's uncle was Captain John Stickland MA, who was the Headmaster of the Grammar School from 1919 until 1924, when he handed over to Frank Morgan. He was responsible for much of the military influence at the school and the staff contained several ex-officers who had served in the Great War.

We have received information regarding **MICHAEL H.J.KILBURN (1932-40)** who was killed in January 1942. Michael was a member of Morley House whilst at school and was an excellent rifle shot. He left to join the RAF and trained as a bomber pilot. With only two weeks training to complete, his parents received the news that his plane had crashed and their son was posted as missing. Recently a Memorial was unveiled in Braemar, Scotland, by HRH The Princess Royal for the crew of the plane of which Michael Kilburn was a member. His name had been omitted from the original Memorial Plaque as there had been some confusion concerning the members of the crew. This was because the bodies were unable to be recovered for some time and also because the number of the crew for that sort of aircraft was normally two less than there actually were. However, RAF researchers have proved without doubt that Michael was on the aircraft and his name has been added to the Memorial. Any former classmates of Michael Kilburn are welcome to visit the Memorial in Braemar if they so wish.

For those who would like to read the full story of the crash, search for information and the Braemar Memorial please log into the following and you will find the results of the research. You will also see that they are still searching for members of the Kilburn family and if any reader can supply this information please send to the editor.

The website to see the full story is:

[http://mysite.freemove.com/scottish\\_crashsites/wellingtonr1646.html](http://mysite.freemove.com/scottish_crashsites/wellingtonr1646.html)

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*This letter was printed in the Farnham Herald and sent in by **LEONARD EVANS**.*

Sir, On October 22nd two elderly local residents will be remembering the birthday of their grandfather - nothing very special about that. But there is - their grandfather was born 201 years ago (even before the Battle of Waterloo). Dr. Herbert Norman Evans was born on 22nd October 1802. (His father was Assistant at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, at the time). He trained as a doctor at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, took his MD at Edinburgh, and from 1835-1864 lived at Hampstead. There he married the daughter of the head of the practice, Mary Elizabeth Haines, which is interesting because her uncle was Rev. Herbert Haines who wrote the standard monograph on Church Memorial Brasses, with drawings of every single one - this was used by the writer as a boy when he was rubbing brasses.

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

(Leonard Evans continued)

Dr Evans did not marry till he was - 32, but then produced 16 children, seven girls and nine boys (our father was the youngest of the of the boys). For some reason he refused to allow the girls to marry. The youngest of the girls, Gertrude, a much-loved aunt of ours, got engaged, but was ordered to break it off. Being a spirited girl she went off to London and enrolled as a trainee nurse at The London Hospital, a very tough life in those days. After she qualified she became a district nurse in Gloucester and later set up her own nursing home: there was a cholera outbreak in the town and she took in and nursed the sufferers. For this, when she had to retire because of ill health, she was honoured by the town and presented with a very beautiful silver watch, which was in the possession of the family, but has now been handed over to the city of Gloucester museum.

Dr Evans had some distinguished patients in his practice at Hampstead - Wordsworth, Joanna Baillie, poetess and dramatist, Eustace Mills, the original food reformer, and various well-known artists. One of them came to the doctor one day and said: "I'm awfully sorry, doctor, I can't afford to pay your bill, but if you like I will paint your portrait." This was accepted and the portrait painted. The artist was John Constable. Later he also painted the doctor's mother. The letter she wrote to her son at the time still exists: "I fear now I shall not be able to come home till the middle of next week as Mr Constable has begun my portrait for Herbert. Pray tell Aunt Sophy that Mr Constable admires my cap that she made me, he said," "It is an uncommon pretty cap". You know what a strange man he is; he goes on telling all sorts of odd stories." The author knows these portraits well, because they hung over the mantelpiece in his aunt's house a little way up the road from him, one of a bald-headed gentleman and one of a lady in "an uncommon pretty cap". These portraits were stolen in 1985. The one of great grandmother was found vandalised on a rubbish heap next day, and has since been restored. Her name was Deborah and we named our daughter after her. The portrait of the doctor was missing for two years and then it turned up in New York. A dealer brought it over, a prospective buyer was found; the portrait was damaged and the buyer took it to a restorer to ask the price for restoring it. The restorer knew someone who was a collector of Constables and invited him to see it. This collector was suspicious and asked some questions, to learn that it was a stolen portrait. So mother and son hang happily together again.

A former teacher at Farnham Grammar School and Farnham College, I am one of the residents who will be remembering my grandfather. The other resident is my sister Hilda who is well known in Bentley where she is active in the church and the village, and was featured in the TV series *The Village*. Our father's first marriage was childless and when his first wife died he married again in 1911 a young worker in the parish of Charlton where he lived. There were four children from my father's marriage of whom two have died. Hilda was born in 1919 and I was born in 1912 - this means that this year I will be celebrating my 91st Birthday, which marks 201 years since the birth of my grandfather.

Last November we heard again from **MICHAEL PRENTICE (1948-1954)**, who is now semi-retired from his career with the *Ottawa Citizen*, and advises that he only writes a weekly column plus one other freelance piece for the newspaper now. He has lost contact

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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

with most of his old school pals and intends to join the Association to see if he can keep in touch with his hometown of Farnham. Mike was always an Aldershot FC fan and can still recite the 1948 team. He is pleased to see signs of a revival of this former League Club. He can also recall the entire class of 1948 in alphabetical order, which is something few of us can do now. Now that he has made contact we hope to hear from him on a regular basis.

November also saw the completion of the book to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Old Farnhamians' Masonic Lodge. The editor helped with this and the final version should prove interesting to Old Boys, whether they are in the Lodge or not. It contains a profile of all the Masters of the Lodge since 1953, with most being Old Boys. I am sure the following from **CHRIS HONE (1954-1960)** will be of interest to readers of this magazine, considering the influence of the Hone family on the town over many years.

Chris started school at St Christopher's until he was 6 and then moved to St George's in Castle Street. Here he passed his eleven plus for the Grammar School and left in 1960, having passed 8 subjects at Ordinary Level. The original Hone family came from Wimbledon in 1908, when his grandfather, George Hone, decided that Farnham was a good place to live and he moved his entire belongings by horse and cart. He supplied logs, loam and peat to the larger houses in the area and had his yard at the rear of the fruit shop at the bottom of Downing Street. The shop is still run by his grandson today.

The originator of the business died in 1938 and his son, Alfred Hone, took over the business and began to concentrate more on landscaping. Alfred's sister Dorothy ran the shop. In 1951 the business, G Hone & Sons Ltd., moved to Waverley Lane, where it still is, and eventually the boys, George and Christopher entered the business with their father. Later the business split into different companies, with George running Surrey Loams and Chris running Hone Landscapes from premises at the end of Broomleaf Road. Later Chris expanded into property development. Sadly George died in October 2003 as shown in the obituaries in this issue.

Chris keeps in contact with former school friends and is a great supporter of the Farnhamian magazine by paying for an advert each year, which helps towards the costs. He was initiated into the Old Farnhamian Lodge in November 1969 and became Worshipful Master in 1979. He currently lives near the business with his wife, Anne, and their two children Alexandra and Robert. His mother, Daisy Hone, still lives close by. His interests include art, design, theatre, travel, gardening, politics and walking. Like many executives he is currently trying to reduce his working week and spend more time with his family and enjoying his interests.

A copy of the book celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Lodge No 7282 has now been given to the editor and it will be included in the Home of Memorabilia at Farnham College in the near future. Whilst writing about the Old Farnhamians' Masonic Lodge, it was of great interest to listen to a talk on the 'History of Freemasonry in Farnham' by **JOHN MITCHELL (1942-1947)** to the Farnham & District Museum Society in November 2003.

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

It was an insight into this ancient order and included a history of 42 Castle Street, which has been the home for the various local lodges for some years.

In the Farnham Herald dated 31st December 2003 various local dignitaries were asked what they would remember most about the past twelve months. Our local member of Parliament **VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY** gave a list of events that she had attended with the 2003 Farnham Lecture, on behalf of the Old Farnhamians' Association as one of the highlights. This event is becoming an important item on the Farnham calendar, thanks to speakers like this agreeing to speak.

Good to see yet another Old Boy in the New Year's Honours List, This time an MBE was awarded to **DAVID DANBY HILL (1953-58)** for his services to agriculture in the South West of England. This follows the same award to **CYRIL TRUST (1948-53)**, in the 2003 Birthday Honours List for services to the community of Farnham. If one looks through the school records there have been many former pupils who have received similar awards over the years and it may prove a good exercise to try to list all of those concerned.

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Members may care to know that **MICHAEL OVERBURY (1965-72)** has recently released a CD of organ music to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the Priory Church of Our Lady and St. Cuthbert, Worksop, where he is Organist and Director of Music. It is a splendid product on the Calcante label, and comes complete with a letter of commendation from the Archbishop of York. In the shops it cost £14.95, but Michael can arrange to supply members of the Association for £10.00, inclusive of postage & packing.

Anyone wishing to purchase this CD please contact Michael direct at this address:

92 Charles Street, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 1RL

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Prior to the 2004 Annual Dinner the Farnhamian 400 Trust purchased a new display cabinet, to be housed in the old school entrance hall and to contain the ever increasing amount of memorabilia. As the years pass this will prove an even greater problem and it is planned to expand the display areas as much as possible to hold the items. If any reader feels that they have items that could be included in the memorabilia, please forward to the editor.

Another member of the class of 1948 has been tracked down and we have now heard from **ALAN JACOBS (1948-1953)** who currently lives in Rugby. Alan has sent in a very interesting and amusing profile and this will be featured in the next magazine. His letter says that, like Oliver Cromwell he believes in telling it 'warts and all' so I am sure you will find his profile worth a read. He has been in contact with old pal **JOHN COOKE (1948-1953)** and is planning to move shortly to a new life in Norfolk. Slowly the pupils from this period are coming to light and hopefully a number of them will have a reunion sometime in the future.

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## NEWS FROM AN OLD BOY IN AMERICA

For some time I have been trying to contact **TERRY HUGHES (1951-1958)** who built an important career in the world of entertainment after leaving the Grammar School. He was a member of Childe House and records show that he entered into the life of the school by doing well at sport and taking part in the plays presented by the school. He was particularly strong at boxing, and won his weight in 1955 and 1958, and was a member of his house rifle-shooting team in 1956, 1957 and 1958. He also shot for the school team. He was a successful member of the Combined Cadet Force and also took part in the School Sports by throwing the discus.

He played the part of a King in the school production of 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' and was a prizewinner for his Art in the school awards. In 1958 he became a prefect and left the school later that year with a bright future ahead.

On leaving the School he worked for Decca Records in many capacities, including publicity and promotions. During his last year there he started to produce record albums.

Terry then moved to ITV for two years as a scriptwriter and in 1964 joined BBC Television and worked as a Producer/Director for the next thirteen years. Among his shows were 'The Two Ronnies', Michael Palin's 'Ripping Yarns' and many others. He received several British Academy Awards for these shows. In 1977 he was made Head of Entertainment Television for the BBC, a position that he came to dislike as it was purely administrative and he missed the creativity of making shows.

In 1980 he was invited to the USA on a one-year contract and twenty-three years later is still there. He has been producing and directing non-stop since that time and has been fortunate enough to have directed some major hit shows including, 'The Golden Girls', 'Third Rock From The Sun' and 'Friends'. For these productions he has received two Emmy Awards and a Directors' Guild Award.

He has also directed adaptations of Stephen Sondheim's musicals for television, including 'Sweeney Todd' and 'Sunday in the Park with George'. He directed the feature films 'The Butcher's Wife' and 'Monty Python at the Hollywood Bowl'.

Whilst still in England he co-wrote the musical 'Love on the Dole' with former Farnham Grammar School Music Master, the late Alan Fluck, which had a successful run at the Nottingham Playhouse.

Terry now lives in Santa Barbara, California with his wife Margaret. They have two daughters, Emma and Sarah. Emma is currently in England getting her PhD in Criminology. She has also studied at Oxford and Cambridge. Younger daughter, Sarah, works for ABC Television, one of the major networks in the USA.

When Terry is not working (rarely) he breeds and trains horses.

It is good to hear from this Old Boy, who we hope will become a member of the Association in the future.

## AN OBITUARY PROFILE OF BEVAN WAIDE (1947-1954)



Bevan was born Edward Bevan Waide on September 14th, 1936, in East Grinstead. He entered the Farnham Grammar School in 1947 and became a member of Harding House. Whilst at the School he took part in several sports, with rifle shooting his main one. He became House Shooting Captain, then School Shooting Captain. In 1953 and 1954 he became House Captain and in the same years School Captain. He was a Prefect, Chairman of the Scientific Society and on the Debating Society Committee. He was also an active member of the C.C.F.

On leaving the School in 1954 he went to Cambridge University (Emanuel College), where he took his B.A. in Economics, Statistics and Politics in 1959. He did graduate work in development economics at the University of California in Berkeley, receiving his M.A. in 1961.

In early 1962 Bevan joined the Far East Department of the World Bank. He worked initially in the Philippines and Malaysia. He participated in the Rueff Mission, organised by the Bank in 1963 to advise on the economic aspects of the merger of Malaya, Singapore and the British Borneo territories. Bevan was responsible for constructing the first set of national accounts for those territories - Sabah and Sarawak. He later became the senior country economist for Malaysia. In 1967, he moved to the South Asia Department where he worked in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

In 1969, Bevan was seconded to serve as Advisor to the Minister of Development in Tanzania, a post funded by the Ford Foundation. He was responsible for preparing the five-year plan. Because that task was not completed when the two-year limit to his Bank secondment was reached, he opted to resign from the Bank to finish the job. While in Tanzania, he also obtained his pilot's licence and flew frequently to remote areas in the course of his work.

In 1973 Bevan returned to the UK to head the Northern Region Strategy Team, based in Newcastle-on-Tyne, which prepared an economic development plan for the five northernmost counties of England. In 1976, he accepted the offer to return to the World Bank as Chief Economist for the South Asia Region.

In 1979, he was promoted to Director of Development Policy, where he was deputy to Hollis Chenery, the vice president and Economic Advisor to the President, with particular responsibility for the Bank's four research Departments, at a time when the Bank's research work had become wide ranging and productive. He supervised work on two *World Development Reports* in 1980 and 1982. In 1982, Bevan was appointed Director of the Country Policy department, with responsibility for oversight of Bank assistance strategies for the Bank's client countries. In 1984, he was appointed Chief of the Bank's resident mission in India, where he served until 1987.



## AN OBITUARY PROFILE OF BEVAN WAIDE (1947 - 1954)

Bevan retired from the Bank in 1988 to become a partner in the consulting firm of Coopers & Lybrand, specialising in privatisation and public enterprise restructuring in developing countries. Perhaps surprisingly for someone whose whole career had been in public service, Bevan thrived in this new commercial environment.

In 1994, he was seconded to head the privatisation office of the government of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam.

In 1996, he helped to found a new consulting firm - Oxford Policy Management, a spin-off from the University of Oxford (Queen Elizabeth House), which specialises in providing economic, social and institutional development advice in developing countries. Bevan served as non-executive Chairman, and was able to continue to work extensively on projects in the field. He continued to serve as Chairman until his death on 13th March 2003. He died in Coventry Hospital from cancer of the liver, which resulted from a recurrence of melanoma.

A reserved man with a quiet sense of humour, Bevan had a wide network of friends and associates who admired his intellectual abilities and valued him as a friend in equal measure.

He was a member of the Reform Club in London, and was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1989 for services to international development. He was an antique car enthusiast and spent much of his leisure time rebuilding vintage automobiles. He also built flying model airplanes. He loved trekking and made several long trips with family and friends in the Himalayas while in India.

Bevan was married twice. First to Pu-Chin Hseuh. They had two children, Alison Keyes and Stephen Waide. Later, Bevan married Uma Baker and they lived at Napton-on-the-Hill in Warwickshire at the time of his death. Bevan is also survived by his brother, Martin, who was at the School until 1957.

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## OBITUARIES

In the 2003 magazine we promised to print a tribute to **DAVID MORGAN (1935-40)** who died in February 2003. This was submitted by his brother Alan, who also advised that copies of a book written by his brother are still available at £7.50 inc. postage. The book is entitled 'Escape from Singapore and Round the World in a Volvo'. Anyone interested should contact the editor of this magazine (01252 723352).

### **DAVID HIPPISEY MORGAN. 4th February 1924 - 28th February 2003**

David Morgan was a very unique person. A loner who had his own code of conduct and who did not suffer fools gladly. At school he could see no sense in chasing a ball round a field or trying to outrun his contemporaries. He made a point of walking round the cross country run, his excuse being that the first one home only had a few polite claps from masters but, as everyone had to wait until all were back, he had the loudest cheers of everyone. He was of the opinion that if a Frenchman wanted to speak to him then he should learn English and so refused to learn a foreign language.

At 14 he built his first wireless set. At 15 he wired out his parents house for electricity, including the excavation for connecting to mains supply. He then laid an extension to an out-building and commenced charging accumulators for neighbours' wirelasses. This soon spread to repairing sets throughout the village. At 16 he advanced his age by two years and enlisted in the RAF, passing the test for the trade of Radio Mechanic. Eight days after his 18th birthday he was in Singapore when it fell to the Japanese. He then volunteered for the 'suicide squad' to destroy all the radar equipment he was using to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. He was on the last boat to leave Singapore and was in charge of the engine room as he was the only person on board able to operate the ship's diesel engines.

He continued working on RADAR in Ceylon doing double shifts on the masts while they were still operating. This was strictly against operating instructions, but necessary due to wartime conditions. He maintained that his very severe arthritis in later years was due to the microwaves received by his body at that time.

After demob he formed his own engineering company specialising in the manufacture of trailers. The greengrocery stall of Frank Martin, which stood for many years at the foot of Castle Street, was designed and constructed by him. At the age of 40 he sold the world patent rights for one of his inventions and rented out the factory he had converted from a range of Agricultural buildings. He then retired a comparatively rich man. He decided to take a year off and drive round the world. He had driven through Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, India, and on to Thailand. Having got so far he awoke one morning with a hole in the back of his head and his lower jaw in three sections. He had been attacked and robbed. It took 12 months to recover, but then he returned to collect his vehicle and completed the journey around Australia, New Zealand, across America from West to East, and finally Canada from where he returned to England on an icebreaker.

His interest turned to boat building (rather shipbuilding). He disliked the cold and his ambition was to build a ship that he could sail single-handed to a warmer climate. For

## OBITUARIES

(David Morgan continued)

this he acquired a redundant trawler and was converting this to suit his purpose. He was let down by manufacturers of a particular part who were required to pay hefty compensation. David discovered that in so doing they had placed very restrictive covenants on the deal. He instructed solicitors to apply to have these lifted. Unfortunately the appeal failed and he was left to pay the costs of both sides. These were far in excess of what he could pay so he was forced into bankruptcy. A sad end to a remarkable life.

Over ten years ago some very good friends of the editor, who were travelling through Tilford, came across a man trying to start his car in the pouring rain. After trying to help it was decided that the car would not start and they took the man to his home in Farnham. On the way he explained whom he was and that he was an Old Farnhamian and gave his name as **DON HOMER (1938-1941)**. At the Annual Dinner that year I introduced myself to him and over recent years we became quite friendly. It was with great sadness that I heard of his death at the end of April 2003, although I knew that he was not so well. Only two weeks prior to his passing I had agreed with him to print his profile in the 2004 magazine and with the help of his lovely wife Marion this has been done. Don left the School in 1940 and was a most flamboyant character and liked to wear brightly coloured clothes. He always had a smile on his face and will be sadly missed by many people in the Association and in the town of Farnham.

Another well-known name to leave us is **EDGAR JEROME (1936-1941)** who was part of the family that owned a gentleman's outfitters in Aldershot. Many Old Boys have used this well-known shop and bought school uniforms from them, the editor included. Edgar was a first class athlete while at school and represented Morley in the Athletics, Cross Country and Shooting. He had attended the Southampton Luncheon and in recent years the Annual Dinner.

Another well-known sportsman to die in May 2003 was **A.R. (TONY) COBBETT (1936-1940)**. Tony was a member of Morley House and played cricket and soccer for the house as well as the School. Soccer was his favourite game and he played for the School First XI, the Old Boys and became a well-respected player in local Farnham leagues. Always a well-built player he was a formidable opponent on the field.

In July 2003 we heard from the son of **FRANK LAMBERT (1932-1939)** who was head boy in 1939. He was very proud of this, although very embarrassed when he met another former pupil at a recent re-union who recalled that Frank had given him detention on the boy's first day at school. On leaving the school Frank studied Chemistry at Queen Marty's College, London. As this was during the war years, his cohort was evacuated to Cambridge where he was fortunate to be based at King's College. He graduated with a first class degree and went on to a successful career as an industrial research chemist, initially with a paint firm in Newcastle before moving to Ilford Films in Brentwood, Essex. He remained here for nearly thirty years, specialising in polymer research. He is survived by his wife Peggy, two children and five grandchildren. His son says that Frank had very fond memories of his school days and for him Farnham and the school were always special places.

## OBITUARIES

As the 2003 magazine went to press we heard of the sad passing of **E. BEVAN 'BEV' WAIDE (1947-1954)** and could only print a few words about this distinguished Old Boy. Bev was yet another School Captain, holding this position in 1954, before leaving the school to attend Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he read Economics. On leaving University he spent a short time at the United Nations in New York. Old friends and classmates **GEOFF HOOKER** and **BRIAN DANIELS** have prepared an obituary profile, which appears in this magazine.

In the last magazine we reported making contact with the Tyrell Family, originally from Frimley Green, and in this issue we show a photo of David Tyrell meeting some of his former classmates. David has now joined the Association and is meeting old pals frequently now, but elder brother Michael has been ill for some time. In August 2003 we heard that **MICHAEL TYRELL (1946-1952)** had died in the town of Worcester, where he lived with his family. I am sure many readers recall him and it is a sad loss, although he never supported the Association for some years.

In July we heard that **MICHAEL HACKETT (1935-1938)** had died and in August the local press announced the death of **COLIN DIXON (1962-1970)** at the age of 51. Colin had lived in Roman Way in Farnham and was residing in Cambridge at the time of his death.

On 30th September the Daily Telegraph and the Times ran an obituary for a very well known Old Boy - **SIDNEY WILTSHIRE (1923-1925)**. He was 93 years of age and died in New Zealand, where he had spent much of his life. His exciting profile was covered in the 2001 edition of the magazine and he will be remembered for being awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal, which became the George Cross. This is an award for extreme bravery and Sidney Wiltshire certainly showed that in his early years in the RAF. He was invested with the Empire Gallantry Medal by King George V at Buckingham Palace on March 4th 1930. Fourteen years later, he was reinvested with the George Cross by the Governor-General of New Zealand, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Cyril Newall, at Government House, Wellington, New Zealand. In 1960 and 1972, he attended the reunions of the Victoria and George Cross association, on the first occasion as the sole living holder of the GC in New Zealand. A tall, good-looking man with a quiet sense of humour, he spent the last years of his life in Hunterville, on the North Island, where he enjoyed playing golf and was looked after by his wife's niece. Wiltshire married, in 1940, Mrs Gretchen Guy (nee von Dadelszen), who predeceased him.

In the following month of October we heard of the death of **GEORGE HONE (1950-1954)** who came from a well-known local family. Brother Chris still runs the landscape company near Farnham Station and the family also have a fruit and vegetable shop in Downing Street. George was a popular figure at school and was a member of School House. On leaving he entered the family business and eventually broke away to form his own company, Surrey Loams. He was a member of the Old Farnhamians' Masonic Lodge for many years. The report in the local press advised that he had been ill for some time prior to his passing.

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## OBITUARIES

On 21st September 2003 **DAVID HARRISON (1950-1955)**, who lived in Basingstoke, died of a heart attack. We have no other information about this Old Boy.

At the 2003 Southampton Luncheon John Vick advised that his younger brother **DAVID J. VICK (1938-1945)** had died during the summer. He had been a member of Morley House and played cricket for them several times. The Vick brothers are part of another well-known Farnham family, and readers will remember the garage on Firgrove Hill, which stood there for many years.

In late November 2003 we heard of the death of **LEONARD EVANS (1945-1973)** who was a well-respected former master at the School and will be sadly missed at the Annual Dinner and the Farnham Lecture in particular. Mr Evans was known by the affectionate nickname of 'Charlie' and his main subject at the School was Chemistry. His profile appeared in the very first edition of the modern magazine in November 1994 and there is a long letter from him to the local press reprinted in this issue.

Leonard Evans was a well-known Farnham figure and could be seen regularly walking through the town with a helper to guide him, as he had become totally blind at 81 years of age. He is the last of the teaching staff that worked under Frank Morgan during the 1940s and 1950s, and his passing will be regarded as the end of an era by many of the Old Boys. He was always a controversial man and someone who spoke his mind, but always a man who will be remembered with great affection. He is indeed a very sad loss!

A few weeks after his death the family held a memorial service at Farnham Castle, which was attended by well over fifty people, including several Old Boys. A full transcript of the programme is available, and can be obtained by contacting the Editor of this magazine. ie Cyril Trust (01252 723352).

When compiling the 1996 magazine I spent some time with **BARBARA WILLIS**, who was a charming lady and the daughter of George Bacon. She helped me with his profile and since then we have remained in contact, and each year she receives a copy of the new magazine. Some time ago she became ill and moved into a local nursing home, and on November 19th 2003 she unfortunately died. This was another break with the past, although her brother, Alan, is still a member of the Association and lives in Wales. Like her father, Barbara was a gentle person, who was always generous and kind to others.

Yet another Old Boy to pass away in November 2003 was well-known local author and artist, **NIGEL TEMPLE (1937 - 1942)**. Nigel was at the School during the Second World War and was in Childe House. He was a first class athlete and won several medals at the 1937 Sports Day. In 1942 he actually represented the School for the 4 x 110 yards Relay Squad in the Surrey Secondary Schools' Championships.

He joined the RAF and became a meteorological officer and post war he studied at the Farnham School of Art. He gained a National Design Diploma, which sparked a life-long interest in 19th century book production. He married his wife, Judith, in the 1950s and the couple settled in Farnham, living in West Street. He developed an interest in children's

## OBITUARIES

books, which are regarded as being of national importance. Among his favourite artists were William Blake, Samuel Palmer and Graham Sutherland, who were an inspiration for his own widely exhibited paintings.

Nigel Temple was best known for his 1960s work 'Farnham, Buildings and People.' And 'Farnham Inheritance.' After writing these books he went on to gain a degree in architecture at Bristol University. His art collages have been exhibited at the Ashgate Gallery, Royal West of England Academy and Reading University. He also exhibited works at Cheltenham, where he was to live in later life.

Another younger ex-pupil of the School, **GARETH BALL (1963 - 1965)**, died suddenly at the age of 57, on November 21st 2003. Gareth moved to Farnham from Llanelli as a young child when his father, Robin Ball, took a position as a lecturer at the Art College. He spent two years at the Grammar school, where he showed artistic talent, and then moved on to train in sculpture at the Bath Academy of Arts and as a post-graduate at the Slade School of Art, London. Later he worked in a range of mediums, including watercolours and theatrical set design.

He eventually worked as a freelance artist based at Greenwich Bath's Studios and his work included set design for several professional theatre productions. He also painted numerous watercolours, which were exhibited at the Royal Institute of British Watercolours. His career also involved teaching and lecturing at SIAD, Waverley Adult Education and the Guildford School of Art.

In the 1990s Gareth opened a studio at Runfold called Milk Parlour Studios. He became involved in the local rugby scene and as well as being an avid spectator he painted several pictures capturing the movement on a rugby pitch. He became artist in residence at Bath Rugby Club and his work was exhibited at the Rugby Club of London, Farnham Maltings and the Mall Galleries of the Royal Institute of Water Colourists. His liking for painting forms of movement led him to capturing ballet scenes and this resulted in a commission by Sadlers Wells Dance Theatre. Gareth recently collaborated with author, Jonathan Wood, on the book entitled 'A Portrait of Farnham'.

On 8th January 2004, several Old Boys attended the funeral of **HARRY EAVIS (1927-35)** who lived at nearby Grayshott.

On 6th February 2004 it was announced that **PAUL KEYWORTH (1932-1935)** had died. Paul was well known in the town for his record store, camera shop and in recent years the musical instruments shop in Downing Street. The shops were under the name of Lloyd & Keyworth and have been a part of the town for many years.

Only a few days after Christmas we received a follow up article to his interesting piece in the 2003 magazine from **LEN SALTMARSH (1926-1931)**, who attended the School in the 1920s. On 13th February news arrived that he had died in his early 90s and the Association has lost another great supporter. It is hoped that the new article will be printed in the next magazine under the heading of 'Dresden', as it shows just how courageous Len and his crew had been during the Second World War.

## OBITUARIES

Yet another death in February was that of **FREDDIE WIMBLEDON (1921-1927)**, who had been a staunch follower of the Association for many years. Luckily we were able to print that interesting article from him about UFO's in the 2003 Farnhamian and it is certain that this Old Boy had led a very interesting life. We will endeavour to research his career after school and put together an appropriate obituary profile for the 2005 magazine.

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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

We have received details of the life of **HORACE E. BLAKE (1920-1925)** from his family and will be including an article and photograph of him in the next magazine. He was known as 'Mick' and F.A.Morgan wrote the following reference for him in June 1925.

"Horace E.Blake has been a pupil of this school since 1920 . During that time he has acquitted himself with credit. His fine physique has brought him to the forefront in games. His conduct has always been satisfactory. He has the vigour, self-reliance and love of the outdoor life, which sees to mark him out for the colonies; and I judge that it would be well worth while for him to follow his chosen work in life viz. agricultural pursuits in Australia." 'Mick' died in Australia in 1982.

A regular at the Annual Dinner is **JOHN COCKLE (1948-1953)** who travels from Somerset to Farnham each year. John stays overnight with relatives and the following morning is to be seen at The Maltings buying and selling books at the regular Book Fair. He also operates sales of books on the Internet and has a useful income to add to his pension. His love of traditional jazz has stayed with him all of his life and he stills plays the trumpet in a local Yeovil band.

With the passing of Leonard Evans, the only member of staff of the Grammar School attending the Annual Dinner was **STANLEY OWEN (1960-1973)**. Of course George Baxter did make an appearance, but only for the roll call this time. There are only a handful of ex-teachers from the School who are able to attend, and it is hoped that the 2005 Dinner will welcome Stanley once again, plus a few others.

The 'Heavy Mob' of **ROGER EDGELL, WALLY WALSH, DAVID EDGELL, CLIVE BEAL AND DAVID POLEGLAZE** managed to extract £800 from the guests at the Annual Dinner for raffle tickets. Since the introduction of the raffle it has enabled every Dinner to operate at a profit as well as keep the overall ticket price for the evening down. Long may this team of Old Boys keep up the good work!

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As the editor talked with many of the guests at the 2004 Annual Dinner he was given several items to be included in the Home of Memorabilia. These will be very useful now that a large new display cabinet has been purchased by the 400 Trust and placed in the old school entrance area. If there are other readers who have something that they have from their school days and would like to donate it to the exhibition then please forward it to the editor. It is the intention to change the contents of the various cabinets on a regular basis and the more items to show the better.

## AN OBITUARY PROFILE OF GRAHAM BLUNT (1942-1950)



Graham Blunt was born in Mytchett in 1932 and his father was a major in the REME, a position he held throughout the Second World War. He first attended school in Ash before entering the Farnham Grammar School in 1942. On arriving at the School he became a member of Childe House and entered into the many sports on offer. He ran regularly in the cross-country and was also a first class sprinter and long jumper. From an early age his passion was for music and he belonged to the School Choir and the School Orchestra, where he played both double bass and cello in many concerts.

In 1947 he obtained the General Certificate of Education in Mathematics and in 1949 received a Form Prize for reading. In the same year he became a regular member of the Childe House Rifle Shooting Team and also became a Prefect. In 1950 he won another Form Prize for Music and obtained the Higher School Certificate in Physics, Chemistry, Applied Mathematics and Pure Mathematics, exemption from Inter-Science and a County Major Scholarship. He also progressed in the Combined Cadet Force to the rank of Sergeant and gained his Certificate A (Parts 1 & 2).

Soon after leaving the School he entered the Army for his National Service and became an Officer in the REME. On being demobbed he entered Kings College, London to study for a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Whilst there he not only obtained his degree, but was elected President of the Engineering Society at the College.

On leaving university he joined the Ford Motor Company at Dagenham as a Graduate Apprentice and lived at Hornchurch for the four years of the course. He had met Anne Trusler, who attended the Farnham Girls' Grammar School, and was by now a lecturer at Queen Elizabeth College in London, and they decided to marry in 1956. Whilst with Ford Graham began teaching at an Adult Education Centre in Essex and enjoyed it so much that he decided that teaching was the career he wished to follow.

In 1959 he saw an advert for a Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Farnborough Technical College and was successful in obtaining the position. One that he held for over thirty years. Whilst looking for somewhere local to live they drove through the village of Froyle, just outside Farnham, and bought a bungalow. They moved within the village over the years, but still remained in this lovely part of the country. By this time they had David (born 1958) and later Stephen (born 1960) and Sarah (born 1964).

In 1990 Graham decided to take early retirement from his position at the now Farnborough College of Technology, where he was Senior Lecturer, teaching Thermodynamics. He soon became busy and decided to learn Italian and having attended courses in this language joined Farnham U3A, only to find that he ended up as the group leader. He taught at Fleet U3A for a number of years.



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## AN OBITUARY PROFILE OF GRAHAM BLUNT (1942-1950)

Throughout his life he was involved in music and at the Grammar School he belonged to the School Choir and Orchestra. At that time he also sang in the Church Choir. He joined the London University Musical Society, a choral society, and following university auditioned for and was accepted into the New Philharmonia Chorus. With the latter he sang at the Albert Hall, Festival Hall and many venues worldwide, as well as participating in many recordings with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

In his retirement he became involved in the village of Froyle, and probably the best way to explain the past few years is to print below the tribute to Graham in the Froyle Village Magazine written by Geoff Hawkins, Chairman of the Froyle Gardening Club.

### Graham Blunt

Graham and Anne came to Froyle 44 years ago. Whilst driving around trying to get their son David to sleep they stumbled upon the village. It was love at first sight.

Graham loved his garden and was always pottering about in his free moments. He even took on parts of other people's gardens. I think many villagers will have seen Graham pootling down to Flo Roud's, as he had one of the plots in the garden behind the house. Barrow loads of manure going in and fresh produce coming out.

When not in the garden Graham was involved somewhere in the village. His first seems to have been Froyle Singers - conducting them for a number of years from the early 70s. For many years he was on the Village Hall Committee, representing the Garden Club. Between 1975 and 1978 he was Chairman of the Fete Committee, a difficult task at the best of times. He joined the Gardening Club Committee in 1978, and in 1980 became treasurer. He guided us well but was very reluctant to open the purse strings. And as for the balance sheets, well I am still trying to work them out.

And who cannot forget that dynamic duo of Graham and Flo guarding the entrance to the Village Hall on Fete Day? What an imposing sight. I wonder how many people paid twice? In 1993 Graham joined the Panto in the production of Sleeping Beauty. It was with some reluctance that he brought his musical skills to the group, but once committed he guided the chorus to what they were when the curtain came down in January. Graham also led carols at the Christmas Meeting Place. Even Santa had to wait until he had finished.

Now Graham had a dry wit, which was not always understood by some. It would often catch people out. I know, he caught me out on a couple of occasions, but there would be a little twinkle in the eyes when he got you.

I have only touched the surface of what Graham did for the village. For he never shirked his duty to the village, and made sure that others didn't too. I am sure you will all have fond memories of Graham and I hope they will always be with you. One thing for certain, he will be missed, for Graham was always there, for whatever cause.

Graham Blunt served on the General Committee of the Association for many years and was Secretary of the Farnhamian 400 Trust. Here again he will be sadly missed!



This drawing of the doors to the old part of the School appeared on the front cover of a Farnham College brochure dated 1980-81. It was drawn by John Wills, the most popular and talented Art Master from 1939 until 1978, and shows his attention to detail. These are the doors that were renovated early in 2003 with the Association bearing the cost. The result is that they will probably last for almost another century.

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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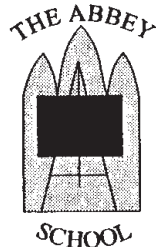
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## Invitation

Old Farnhamians' Association

# Southampton Luncheon 2004

Wednesday 13th October, 2004

At Busketts Lawn Hotel,  
Woodlands, Nr. Southampton

*For details please contact*  
Cyril Trust  
Telephone: 01252 723352

## Invitation

Old Farnhamians' Association

# Annual Dinner 2005

Saturday 9th April, 2005

At Farnham College,  
Morley Road, Farnham

*For details please contact*  
Roger Edgell  
Telephone: 01264 332766