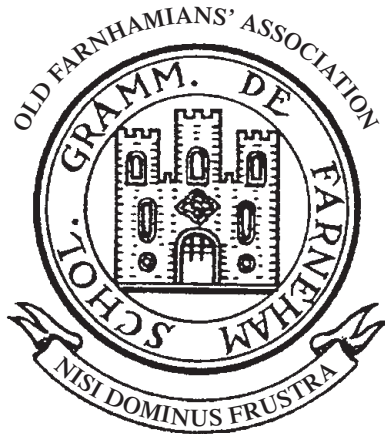


THE FARNHAMIAN



JUNE 2005

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THE FARNHAMIAN

June 2005

INTRODUCTION TO THE FARNHAMIAN - VOL 12

A few days after sending the 2004 magazine to the printers we heard of the death of Sylvia Morgan and realised that this was the end of an era. She was the final link with those heady days from 1924 until 1953 when the influence of the Morgan family was important to the life of the School. Her obituary in this edition gives some insight into the standards laid down by her father and carried on by her.

The Editor was asked to see the solicitors for Sylvia's estate and they handed over three sacks full of memorabilia from the old Grammar School. Reading through the many sheets you could see just how meticulous the headmaster was, and it is good to have the many speeches given by F A Morgan on Speech Days among our records.

Since the last magazine another MBE has come to a member of the Association, and how well it is deserved. George Baxter, former headmaster, was awarded his medal for services to Farnham and the Old Boys helped him celebrate with a special garden party for him. Unfortunately George had been in poor health for some time and in January 2005 he died peacefully at a home in Farnham. He left his mark on the Grammar School and the town of Farnham in general and will be remembered as a kind and generous man who spoke with much common sense. He will be sadly missed by all Old Boys, especially at the Annual Dinner and the Southampton Luncheon.

So here we have the twelfth modern magazine and since 1994 there has been over 500 pages to read. For 2005 we have a similar formula, with news of as many Old Boys as possible and reports on the events associated with the Association. The membership does not fall and thanks to the website the interest in the Old Boys increases. We have more coverage in the local press than ever before and the town of Farnham is well aware that in the past a special school stood proudly on the hill. There is still much to do to make sure that it is remembered well after we have departed.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It was somewhat of a surprise and a great honour to be elected to follow John Crotty as President of the Association for the next term of office. For the record, I will be the second Eleven Plus pupil of the Grammar School to hold this position and I trust that I will be able to follow in the path of the many excellent Presidents of the past.

Already I know that during my term of office there will be the 80th Anniversary Garden Party in July 2005 and the 75th Annual Dinner in March 2007, as well as the annual Dinners, Farnham Lectures and Southampton Luncheons, and it should prove to be an exciting three years. I will try to continue to grow the interest in the OFA and to continue to be close to and support the College. Like John Crotty, I am fortunate to be surrounded by a number of Old Boys with a wealth of experience and a willingness to help and I look forward to the challenge over the coming months.

Cyril Trust

ANNUAL DINNER - 2005

On Saturday 19th March over one hundred former pupils of Farnham Grammar School gathered at what is now Farnham College in Morley Road for the 73rd Annual Dinner of the Old Farnhamians' Association. This was a celebration mixed with some sadness as the guests stood to remember those Old Boys who had died in the previous twelve months, with the list including former headmaster, George Baxter, and former school secretary and honorary member, Sylvia Morgan. Cyril Trust, the new President, announced that this dinner was to be dedicated to George Baxter, who was absent from the event for the first time in fifty years.

After an excellent meal served by the College caterers the toast to the School was given by John Chuter, former teacher, local historian and a life long resident of Frensham. John was at the school from 1934 until 1941 and told of some of the problems of being educated during wartime. He had fond memories of former headmaster Frank Morgan and offered some anecdotes on his days at the school, that he and all those present clearly hold in respect. He recalled that when the headmistress of the Girls' Grammar school complained about the boys gathering outside her school to meet her young ladies, Frank Morgan instructed that his boys should insure that in future they refrain from wearing their school caps and thus avoid identification. John recalled happy school days!

The toast to the Association was given by John Clarke, one of the last Old Boys to attend the grammar school before it became a sixth form college. He is now head librarian at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and an author of several books about Brookwood Cemetery and its rail link to London. John had the guests laughing when he recalled some of the teachers at the school in the early 1970s. These strange people were invariably language teachers and the presence of 'Big Bertha', 'The Wild Man of Borneo' and a master carrying a handbag, resulted in John failing to achieve much success in French or German.

John finished by saying that he was a new member of the General Committee for the Association and said that it was up to the younger members to keep the Association going well into the future. He asked for those present to try to persuade old classmates to join and enjoy evenings such as this.

Cyril Trust, the new President, gave the reply to the toasts and began by welcoming former teachers Hugh Batchelor, Stanley Owen and the Rev. John Innes as well as David Slater, who lives in America and fitted a holiday around the dinner. Cyril felt that for an Association of a school that had closed well over thirty years ago it was getting stronger each year. 2004 had seen a successful Annual Dinner, Southampton Luncheon, Farnham Lecture (by Sir Ray Tindle) and a tribute garden party to celebrate the award of the MBE to George Baxter. The College Awards Scheme was also successful with 18 Old Boys sponsoring prizes for the achievements of the current pupils at the college. He hoped that more members would join this scheme and help to keep the links between the Old Boys and Farnham College as strong as they are today.

He said that the programme for the future looked even busier, with the Annual Dinner, Southampton Luncheon and Farnham Lecture (this year by Dr Geoff Jenkins who is an expert on Global Warming). In addition on 16th July there will be a Garden

ANNUAL DINNER - 2005

Party at the college to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Old Farnhamians' Association and it was hoped that over 175 people, members with partners, will attend for a lunchtime get together. The Association, as we know it, was begun on 28th March 1925 and this milestone should be celebrated and guests were asked to indicate whether they would be able to attend or not as it was expected that the number would easily be reached. Farnham Castle has been booked to hold the 75th Annual Dinner in 2007 and it was planned to hold an event similar to the Millennium Dinner held at the same historic venue.

The President remembered Sylvia Morgan, who had served the Grammar School, the College and the town of Farnham for many years and told the guests that among the memorabilia left by her were old school magazines from the First World War that had been lost for years. The Association now has a copy of every magazine since 1912 giving a complete history of school activities through the years. Her passing was the end of the Morgan dynasty at the school.

The President then asked the members to support his request for the Association to commission a bronze statue of George Baxter in memory of a man, who was another excellent headmaster as well as being dubbed 'The Father of Farnham'. Such a man should have some permanent memorial in the town and it would be right and proper if this was sponsored by the Association.

The dinner finished with the roll call (this year given by Allan Ryall), passing the Loving Cup and the singing of the School Song and National Anthem and once again these Old Boys had enjoyed an evening of nostalgia with their former classmates. In this Association, Farnham possesses one of the strongest Old Boys' network in the country.

Attending:

P.Clark; Rev. J.Innes; S.J.Owen; H.Batchelor; C.D.Trust; A.J.Ryall; J.Chuter; J.Bentick; R.R.Kirk; T.Tidd; R.E.Hack; J.Cope; P.Cope; R.Golding; R.Kite; K.Ravenscroft; M.Da Costa; M.Gaukroger; J.Collier; L.Caine; G.Oldham; E.Savage; D.Grimes; R.Welland-Jones; M.Owen; R.Bennett; H.Groves; C.Fitch; M.Mehta; J.Clark; J.Saunders; S.Lord; D.Pollard; P.Mylles; A.Gatfield; M.Constantine; T.Homewood; C.Beal; R.Phillips; R.Diamond; R.Edgell; J.Sherwood; M.Little; W.Walsh; H.Torode; B.R.Williams; G.J.Woods; J.Hirst; E.Mayne; D.Coakes; A.Hayward; C.Nash; I.Sargeant; C.Slyfield; P.Steadman; M.Watts; D.Roe; G.LeVey; D.Cutler; K.Mentzel; D.Phillips; A.Lovell; D.Nunn; G.Hooker; T.Tubb; B.E.Bone; J.Cockle; J.Cooke; M.E.Jeffreys; W.Luff; J.Travers; B.E.Webberley; H.Brindley; M.Hewins; D.Chitty; E.Grimes; P.Huntingford; W.King; J.R.Wilkinson; D.Buckell; H.Glover; P.Read; R.Short; D.Lampard; C.Batterbury; F.Loveless; J.H.Crotty; D.Slater; J.Mitchell; R.Bowtell; J.Kite; W.E.Herrington; A.J.Rayer; P.Ford; S.A.Armstrong; A.D.Harland; J.Munday; R.H.Hewes; M.Horner; G.V.Hunt; M.E.Sturt; I.Bowler; G.Honey.

THE FARNHAM LECTURE - 2004

An audience of over one hundred people enjoyed a sparkling 2004 Farnham Lecture given by Sir Ray Tindle, head of the Tindle Newspapers Group, at Farnham College, which was formerly the Grammar School. This was the sixteenth annual lecture presented by the Farnhamian 400 Trust, which is an offshoot of the Old Farnhamians' Association, and certainly one of the most informative, interesting and amusing to date.

Entitled 'Newspapers Today', Sir Ray offered an insight into current trends in the circulation of newspapers in this country, and showed that virtually all daily papers sales have fallen dramatically over recent years. There are nine daily newspapers in the United Kingdom and only the Daily Mail is holding its circulation levels. The figures, taken from recent market research, also show that a similar pattern is emerging for the Sunday newspapers. Overall the daily and Sunday market have lost some twenty million editions per day since Sir Ray first entered the industry just after the Second World War.

Tindle Newspapers are one of the main players in the printing of provincial newspapers and now have well over 150 in the group. Sir Ray feels that this is an area of growth and his intuition is confirmed by the figures that show this market has in fact increased by 15% over the past ten years. Not only does he believe that the public want their local news but they want it even more localised than it is at present. This means that a newspaper like the Farnham Herald, which once served a large area, has now been split into six regional editions and towns like Alton, Petersfield and Liphook now enjoy their own Herald. He showed another example of a West Country newspaper, acquired by the group, now has six regional editions and feels that this pattern of making news more localised will continue in the future. People want to know about the local births, marriages and deaths as well as their own football and cricket teams.

Sir Ray touched on the political alignment that some newspapers have and has always made sure that his group do not show any bias towards any one political party. He prints his newspapers for the benefit of all of the people and not just for those with a particular political persuasion. He was also quite scathing towards some news that is printed for maximum sensationalism and felt that the recent editorial and doctored photographs of the British Army in Iraq that were printed by the Daily Mirror were ill advised. Such practice harms the industry as a whole.

He then moved on to a most humorous section of the lecture and talked about the various mistakes that occur in the printing and its effect on the final meaning. He quoted mainly from Farnham Herald faux pas over the years and had the audience laughing with him as he reeled off a variety of printing errors. Several related to the current Mayor of Waverley, Victor Duckett, who was sitting in the front row and laughing both at himself and all the other mistakes being quoted.

So what has caused this downturn in the national press? An increasing number of television channels bring the up to date news to the public, as do the many local radio stations. Tindle Newspapers have entered the local radio market and have several in the group and Sir Ray felt that within ten years there would be over 500 such stations available. The spread of

THE FARNHAM LECTURE - 2004

the Internet also makes news more readily available and this will increase. Some newspapers appear on the web and this, television and radio greatly affect the sale of newspapers now, and will do in the future. Of course this applies mainly to national newspapers and the provincial market will continue to expand in his opinion.

So is there a future for the industry? Sir Ray was positive about this and felt certain that there will be a newspaper industry for many years to come. A great percentage of the public still likes to receive the news through the door and sit down and read it at their leisure, and this will always be the case. He feels that in this country we are lucky to have such a first class free press and whilst on the odd occasion a newspaper oversteps the mark, it is better to have the free press and not have one that is tied by the politicians of the time.

He finished his one-hour lecture with a few more mistakes from the national press and sat down to a great ovation from the delighted audience. He then proceeded to answer some questions, with one asking his opinion on tabloid versus broadsheet. He said that within the Tindle Group there are both and this would remain the same, although he has a personal liking for the broadsheet.

The lecture had been introduced by Sally Francis, Principal of Farnham College, where the lecture was given. She announced that Sir Ray was nervous, but the following sixty minutes contradicted this as the speaker moved through the talk with vigour and enthusiasm. He showed his love for his chosen profession and was clearly proud to be a 'newspaper man'. Taking into account that Sir Ray Tindle had throat cancer some eight years ago and has had to retrain his speaking, this was a brave and remarkable task to undertake. Without doubt this was an evening to remember for those lucky enough to have attended.

Cyril Trust, chairman of the Farnhamian 400 Trust, thanked Sir Ray for the lecture and informed the audience that the 2005 Farnham Lecture will be given by Dr. Geoffrey Jenkins from the Meteorological Office on the subject of 'Global Warming'. Dr. Jenkins is one of the world experts on this ever-important subject.

FARNHAMIAN 400 TRUST

Presents

THE FARNHAM LECTURE - 2005

'GLOBAL WARMING' by Dr. GEOFFREY JENKINS

on Thursday 29th September 2005 at Farnham College - commencing at 7.30 pm

'The Guardian' profile on the speaker in November 2004 said that Geoffrey Jenkins is the man Tony Blair turns to for any information about climate change. Geoffrey was one of the founders of The Hadley Centre for Climate Change and is still working at The Meteorological Office. Not to be missed!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2005

The AGM was held at the College on Thursday 20th January with some 25 members attending. A silence for those Old Boys who had died in the past year was observed.

Membership: Tony Harland reported that in spite of several deaths during the year the membership was up. Some members had also been taken out of the lists, owing to a lapse in payment of subscriptions. This shows that the Association continues to grow.

Treasurer: Stephen Pritchard reported that the accounts were healthy and the overall total of funds was down owing to £1000 given to the College to help refurbishment of the staff room and £1400 to purchase new stock of OFA ties. Combined funds of the Association, 400 Trust and Leaving Scholarship Trust showed a healthy balance.

Leaving Scholarship Trust: Mike Mehta advised that during the year the Trust had given over 12 grants and the requirement for help by students still appears healthy. Grants can be given for some time although there is no income now to swell funds.

400 Trust: Cyril Trust advised that the Trust had completed the purchase of cabinets for the memorabilia earlier in the year. The Farnham Lecture by Sir Ray Tindle had been a great success and made almost £500 profit. There were now 18 sponsors for College Awards and the new ones enabled over £500 to be added to the Trust funds with 28% being reclaimed from the Inland Revenue.

Annual Dinner: Wally Walsh advised that 117 had attended the 2004 Dinner and once again it had been a financial success. The food and service had greatly improved and all present enjoyed the evening. The raffle run by Roger Edgell was now essential to insure the event was run profitably. The 2005 Dinner would be on 19th March.

The Farnhamian magazine: Cyril Trust advised that the 2005 issue was almost ready to print. The report on the AGM and Annual Dinner needed to be included. The new edition would give ample space to the passing of Sylvia Morgan and George Baxter.

Southampton Luncheon: Cyril Trust advised that the increase in numbers for 2003 had been sustained and 41 members attended another excellent event in 2004. The 2005 Luncheon would be on 19th October.

OFA Website: Report from Ian Sargeant stated that the site continued to grow. It was felt by those attending that congratulations should be given to Ian for an excellent website, which was worthy of a much larger operation than the OFA.

OFA College Representative: Report from Ian Sargeant stated that the College results continued to be excellent. Numbers attending had increased and financial pressure had eased slightly. A survey was being done to report on any possible improvements.

Election of Officers followed and John Crotty stood down as President after three successful years. Cyril Trust was elected as the new President. He thanked John Crotty for his first class work and announced the 80th Anniversary Garden Party on 16th July 2005 and the 75th Annual Dinner at Farnham Castle on 24th March 2007.

SOUTHAMPTON LUNCHEON - 2004

In 1962 a handful of former Farnham Grammar School pupils, who mainly lived in Hampshire, met in Southampton for a meal and general get-together. In October over forty Old Boys from the school that closed in 1973, gathered at a hotel in the New Forest to celebrate the 43rd Old Farnhamians' Southampton Luncheon. Former pupils came from across the South of England, one flew in from Portugal and another fitted it into his trip home from life in New Zealand.

So what attracts these Old Boys from far and wide? The venue is charming and the meal is excellent. The event is informal and has the minimum of speeches, and you can spend a few hours with old pals from anything up to eighty years ago.

Roger Edgell, the Association Secretary, talked of the continued increase in interest in the Association, and although the school has been closed down for over thirty years the membership is still rising. The recent excellent Farnham Lecture by Sir Ray Tindle, the Annual Dinner and the Southampton Luncheon are all going strong and the Association is able to help Farnham College in various ways.

Cyril Trust, the event organiser, announced the finding of missing school magazines from the First World War, which were recently found among the papers of Sylvia Morgan, the daughter of the legendary headmaster, F.A.Morgan. He proposed a toast to three members who would not attend this year and are all over 90. Roy Robins and Jim Hall raised their glasses and are also over that magic age.

John Crotty, Association President, speaking at his final event before completing his three years in office, said that the Old Farnhamians continue to grow stronger each year and still have a place in the life of the town of Farnham.

This was another special luncheon and a little piece of Farnham in the centre of Hampshire. These may be Old Boys, but they are still young at heart!

(submitted to the Farnham Herald - October 14th 2004)

Attending: J.C.Crotty: J.Travers: P.D.Clark: M.E.Jeffreys: J.Mitchell: W.J.Luff: B.E.Bone: C.Beal: R.E.Hewes: D.Bowtell: T.Tidd: C.Nash: D.Lucas: J.Bateman: K.Mentzel: J.Fletcher: D.O'Sullivan: G.D.Hunt: P.J.Ford: C.D.Trust: I.Sargeant: I.Bowler: D.Phillips: D.Lampard: M.E.Comben: B.E.Webberley: R.Short: R.E.Edgell: A.Harland: D.Nunn: M.E.H.Sturt: M.Horner: R.Common: R.Robins: W.F.Bodkin: B.Daniels: P.Huntingford: J.Hall: D.Roe.

**MAKE A DATE TO ATTEND THE
SOUTHAMPTON LUNCHEON FOR 2005 WHICH
WILL BE HELD AT BUSKETTS LAWN HOTEL ON
WEDNESDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2005.....DON'T MISS IT!**

OLD BOYS TOAST GEORGE BAXTER

To the delight of many people in Farnham and many former pupils of Farnham Grammar School the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours List announced that an M.B.E. (Member of the British Empire) had been awarded to George Baxter the former Headmaster of the School, It was given to him for all his service to the town over many years, and was a proper reward for all the hard work that he had put in with many local groups and societies over the years.

Unfortunately George will be unable to attend the Palace for his investiture and the award will be presented locally during the coming months. It was agreed that the Old Farnhamians' Association should hold a special celebration for him and on Thursday 24th August 2004 guests gathered at the home of Ian and Margaret Sargeant to pay their respects to this most popular ex-Headmaster.

Members of the General Committee and former staff of the School came with their wives and some special guests e.g. Sally Francis (Farnham College Principal) also attended. John Crotty, President of the Association, expressed the good wishes of all and thanked George Baxter for his wise council and commitment to the interests and well being of the Association. A toast of 'Congratulations George' was repeated with gusto and a very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all concerned.



Among those attending: Mr & Mrs Ian Sargeant: Mr & Mrs J.Crotty: Mike Horner: Sally Francis: Mr & Mrs Roger Edgell: Peter Mylles: John McLaughlin: Keith Mentzel: Mr & Mrs Hugh Batchelor: Mr & Mrs Eric Larby: Mr & Mrs Chris Slyfield: John Dimont: Mr & Mrs Brian Daniels: Dennis Phillips: Dorothy French.

FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM No.4.

In September a large amount of memorabilia from the Sylvia Morgan estate was handed over to the Association by her solicitors and this included several interesting photographs. So that we can all remember her in this year of her passing I am including the picture below taken when she retired and received a gift from the current Headmaster, Paul French, and the President of the Association, John Maxwell Aylwin.



The picture below shows F.A.Morgan receiving a gift from the Association at the Annual Dinner in 1953, his retirement year. On this occasion the presenter is Guy Maxwell Aylwin, father of John.



A LEGACY FROM SYLVIA MORGAN

Prior to her death Sylvia Morgan gave instructions that anything appertaining to the Farnham Grammar School should be given to the Association. In September 2004 the editor was handed three black sacks full of paperwork and over the following week many items of interest came to light, particularly regarding her father F.A.Morgan.

For the past ten years I have delivered a copy of the Farnhamian to the house in Greenhill Way that housed Mr & Mrs Morgan and Sylvia for over 75 years and I often wondered where the name of ‘Bellenglise’ came from. Among the paperwork was this item from the national press, which gave me the answer:

Extract from the “London Gazette” (Second Supplement), 7th March, 1919.

“Lt. FRANCIS ARTHUR MORGAN, 5th Bn., attd. 1/6 Bn. South Staffs R.T.F. For marked gallantry and determined leadership. In the attack on Bellenglise on the 29th Sept., 1918, when all the officers in his company had been wounded in the first few minutes of the attack, he led his company on and captured his objective, after overcoming all resistance in the village.”

There was the certificate from Merton College, Oxford University, given to Frank Morgan in 1911 when he gained his Bachelor of Arts Degree and his commission documents when he became a Second Lieutenant in the Territorial Army. There were several newspaper cuttings and a few photographs relating to the School and the Association, and several files showing just how meticulous he was. After each Annual Dinner a set of accounts was prepared and audited by Eric Patrick. Prior to each Speech Day the Headmaster’s Speech was typed out and went into great detail about the running of the school. With these speeches were the programmes showing the variety of dignitaries who attended the annual event and gave out the prizes. Names such as Field Marshal Montgomery, L.A.G.Strong and Brian Vesey- Fitzgerald.

Sylvia had retained some of the invoices covering food, cutlery and crockery etc. that was purchased for both boarders’ and dayboy’s meals. Many were from William Kingham and one was an order book for Harrods in Knightsbridge. It would be interesting to review these closely to see what sort of meals were on offer to the pupils in the 1920s and 1940s.

One file was for the visit of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery in 1946, when he was at his most popular. I had only seen one photograph of this special day and found a set of many more pictures from that event most interesting. The file contained the guest list, replies from the various parents and dignitaries, the table plan and the seating plan for the address by the Field Marshal from the bottom of the school steps. One photo shows him during his speech, with the large audience seated around him and Farnham Castle in the background. All of the planning was meticulous and done in his own hand, showing that F.A. Morgan was a very precise person.

Clearly at one time in the late 1920s F.A.Morgan was thinking of moving to another school and had prepared his CV for the prospective employers. This, plus three references, is really something to read, and in the reference given by R.W.Mason, the Chairman of Governors at that time, he stated that they did not want to lose him. They must have fought off the attempt to lure him away. What a sensible decision!

A LEGACY FROM SYLVIA MORGAN

Being an ex-Serviceman and surrounded by many staff who had taken part in the First World War, F.A.Morgan made certain that the Ceremony to open the tablet listing all former pupils who died in that nightmare was executed properly and with due respect.

One file is dedicated to this event and in his speech he lists many of those who died, and offered something special to say about each one.

The sacks are full of other examples of F.A.Morgan and his running of the school. It also shows that Sylvia was a devoted daughter and with Dorothy, her mother, earned a place in the hearts of many boys over the years. Clearly Sylvia retained much of the news of the Association and her file contained press cuttings, photos from Annual Dinners and copies of the magazine through the years.

Finally I come to the piece de resistance, from the hoard of memorabilia now made available to us. In one sack was a small attaché case and opening it I found several copies of early magazines. I was surprised to see that most were from a period prior to the time that the Morgan family came to Farnham and presume a predecessor gave them to F.A.Morgan. As you know the Association, and Eddie Glynn in particular, had searched everywhere to obtain a copy of every Farnhamian magazine ever printed and there were still four or five missing. Over recent years the copies found had been bound into volumes and the search for the lost editions was abandoned. Much to my amazement among the copies in this small case were the missing magazines and we now have every copy that was ever produced at the school. These are now included on the website and you have an uninterrupted record of the Farnham Grammar School from 1912 until 1973.

Much of the 'Treasure Trove' highlighted above will appear in the cabinets at the Home of Memorabilia at Farnham College and I hope you will take the time to see them when you next attend an Annual Dinner or any other event at Morley Road.

Sylvia Morgan left us with many memories and now she has left something very tangible for all of us to enjoy in the years to come.

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FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL WAR HEROES**(Taken from the REMEMBRANCE BOOK written by Henry Ellwood.)****JOHN OLIVER LEVISON (1932-1938)**

Staff Sergeant in 2nd Wing, Glider Pilot Regiment, A.A.C.

John Oliver Levison was the son of Arthur John Gordon & Lydia Levison of Farnham with the family home being at No. 80. Weydon Hill Road. At Farnham Grammar School he was a brilliant athlete, excelling in swimming, gymnastics, cricket and football. He was very popular and managed to retain his modesty and endear himself to all. On leaving school he was employed at the Local Council Offices

Originally he joined the Royal Artillery with his great friend, Ray Kirk Later he volunteered for the Glider Pilot Regiment and it is believed that he took part in the "D" Day landings on 6th June 1944. Later he flew a glider at the Battle of Arnhem, where he was killed.

John Oliver Levison had a brother named Phillip who was married to Joyce. Phillip and Joyce had two children, called Jill and Terry, and they lived for many years in Manchester. When Joyce died Phillip moved to Anglesey in Wales. Terry still lives in Manchester but Jill moved to France.

General Notes on 2nd Wing

There is a book published entitled the History of the Glider Pilot Regiment by Claude Smith and the name of John Oliver Levison is included in the Roll Of Honour.

The British Army Air Corps was set up in 1940 and the Corps included Paratroops, Glider Borne Troops, Glider Pilots, and many support airborne units.

Men of the Glider Pilot Regiment were first trained on powered aircraft such as Tiger Moths, and then on Gliders. They were trained at RAF stations such as Ringwood, Haddenham and others.

Gliders from 2nd Wing were used in the invasion of Sicily and one of the more famous actions was Primosole Bridge. They were involved in other Mediterranean Operations.

In August 1943 the Glider Pilot Regiment in England was reorganised and No.1. Wing had four Squadrons designated "A", "B", "D", and "G" whilst No 2 Wing had three Squadrons designated "C" at Rushton, "E" at Ampney and "F" at Broadwell.

The two Wings comprised 1,040 Horsa and 80 Hamilcar Gliders and 1500 glider pilots.

In the Operation "Overlord" all 7 Squadrons operated gliders to carry men of the 6th Airborne Division on 6th June for the "D" Day invasion of France.

It is not known for sure if John Oliver Levison was involved as a pilot in this operation.

The next major operation for the Glider Pilot Regiment was "Market Garden" the Battle of Arnhem. On the first day A, B, C, D, E, and F Squadrons of gliders would land on 17th September 1944, On the second day contingents of all seven Squadrons would land and on the third day contingents of "C" and "G" Squadrons flying Horsas would land at Wolfheze.

John Oliver Levison died on the 19th September 1944 at Arnhem. Glider pilots did not only fly their gliders into action, but after landing would be involved in supporting the troops

FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL WAR HEROES

and in some cases the specialist units. It is not known at present whether John Oliver Levison was killed during the landing, or when fighting with the glider borne troops.

Arnhem was almost a deathblow to the Glider Pilot Regiment.

229 Glider Pilots were killed at Arnhem and 469 Glider Pilots were wounded or made prisoner-of-war.

Information from the British Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

John Oliver Levison died on Tuesday 19th September 1944 at the age of 23 years.

Service Number: 1478958

He is buried in Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Netherlands.

Grave Reference: 17. A. 12.

DONALD WILLIAM LINTERN (1926-1930)

Pilot in 185 Squadron - Royal Air Force.

Donald William Lintern was the second son of William and Eleanora Lintern and the family lived at Weydon House, No. 8. Firfield Road, Farnham. He attended the Grammar School, where he was keen on sport and afterwards played for the Old Farnhamians' football team. On leaving school he went to work in his father's china and glassware shop called Lintern & Peters, which was located in No. 13. The Borough.

At the time he was killed he had two other brothers who were serving in the Royal Air Force and it is believed that both of them also attended the Grammar School. It is also believed that he had a sister named Joice who was educated at the Farnham Girls' Grammar School.

General Notes on 185 Squadron.

185 Squadron was first formed in October 1918 at East Fortune as a torpedo bomber unit for use on board the H.M.S.Argus. The war ended before the Squadron could become operational. In June 1939 the Squadron was equipped with Hampdens and was designated a training unit. In April 1941 the Squadron was reformed in Malta with Hurricanes forming part of the island defences. In 1942 they were replaced with Spitfires and flew sweeps over Sicily and covered the Allied landings in Italy. The Squadron moved to the Italian front to fly fighter-bomber attacks until the end of the war.

On the day that Donald William Lintern died the Squadron was operating from R.A.F.Takali and Hal Far in Malta and were flying Hurricane aircraft.

Information from the British Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Donald William Lintern died on Tuesday 30th September 1941 at the age of 27 years.

Service Number: 60079

He is commemorated on the Malta Memorial. Malta. Panel 1 - Column 1.

ATHLETICS CHALLENGE CUP - VICTOR LUDORUM - UNDER 15
(GIVEN BY MR F A MORGAN - HEADMASTER)



1920	J.V.BRINDLEY	1921	J.V.BRINDLEY
1922	NOT AWARDED	1923	H.W.GRINSTEAD A.PHILLIPS/D.WEEDON
1924	F.H.JENNINGS	1925	NOT AWARDED
1926	J.C.KINGCOME	1927	A.C.BABER
1928	N.F.LOWRY	1929	D.H.JARVIS
1930	W.J.KINGCOME	1931	E.A.THURSTON
1932	R.F.SYME	1933	C.L.LARMER
1934	R.R.KIRK	1935	G.A.D.EVANS
1936	M.C.COLWILL	1937	L.ATKINSON
1938	J.M.HUTCHINGS	1939	P.HEARN
1940	S.C.TILFORD	1941	B.T.KIRK
1942	B.T.KIRK	1943	D.J.SYKES
1944	K.N.ANDERSON	1945	D.J.F.SLATER
1946	P.J.DOWNHAM	1947	R.HUMPHREYIES
1948	J.M.H.COTTERILL	1949	G.L.HOOKER
1950	D.A.WHEELER	1951	B.FITZPATRICK
1952	B.FITZPATRICK	1953	J.DURRANT
1954	J.W.FURLONGER	1955	R.A.MINGAY
1956	W.J.ROFFEY	1957	R.I.HILL/R.A.ARCHER
1958	B.A.HALL/J.R.EDGLEY	1959	R.F.BARNETT
1960	G.R.MONK	1961	J.P.RALPH
1962	A.J.KETTLE	1963	M.H.MOLONEY
1964	M.I.HALL	1965	N.P.HALL
1966	A.J.HEATLEY	1967	R.J.BIRCH
1968	G.EDMONDSON		

THE CRESSALL CUP FOR CHESS



1952/53	MASSINGBERD	1953/54	HARDING
1954/55	HARDING	1955/56	HARDING
1956/57	HARDING/MORLEY	1957/58	MORLEY
1958/59	MORLEY	1959/60	MORLEY
1960/61	MASSINGBERD	1961/62	MORLEY
	MORLEY		
1962/63	HARDING	1963/64	HARDING
1964/65	MORLEY/HARDING	1965/66	MORLEY
1966/67	MASSINGBERD	1967/68	HARDING/MORLEY
1968/69	MORLEY	1969/70	MASSINGBERD
1970/71	CHILDE		



F.A.Morgan at his final Annual Dinner in 1953 with left to right: Sid Robins: John Stroud:
F.A.Morgan: Eric Munton: Fred Foley.



F.A.Morgan in the early 1950s with his staff, with several teachers who had been with him for many years. These included Eric Munton, Leonard Evans, Harold Beeken, Stanley Lock, George Bacon, Ned Godsil and Brian Varey. On the left are his wife Dorothy and daughter Sylvia.

HONOURED OLD BOYS

Graham Collyer, former editor of the Surrey Advertiser and ex-Grammar School pupil, felt that it would of interest if the magazine listed those Old Boys who had received awards over the years. I have looked through the old magazines and compiled the names below, but feel certain that there are many more for inclusion. Perhaps readers could add to the list?

AWARDS FOR FORMER GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOYS

BROCK H. (1929-1938)	MBE	SMALLMAN W.A. (1927-1934)	MBE
SMITHER H. (1922-1933)	MBE	RIDEAL E. (early 1900s)	MBE KCB
PARRATT R. (1945-1951)	MBE	HALLING G.R. (19—1933)	MBE
TRUST C.D. (1948-1953)	MBE	DAINTY P.C. (1923-1929)	MBE
JONES V.C.E. (1924-1929)	MBE	BAXTER G. (1953-1970)	MBE
WAIDE E.B. (1947-1954)	OBE	DREW E.A. (1929-1933)	OBE
LEA D. (1948-1955)	OBE	WILTSHIRE S.N. (1923-1925)	OBE GC
BROWN G.R.B. (1910-1916)	OBE	MARKS J.B. (1902-1907)	OBE
TICE A.P. (1912-1914)	OBE	MORT E.L.	OBE
ELMSLIE A.F.H. (1921-1923)	CBE	MARSH E.G. (1922-1926)	CBE
MOULD J.E.M. (1926-1931)	CBE	TATE J. (1954-1959)	CBE
JUDD C.W. (pre 1914)	CBE	REDMAN H. (1911-1915)	CBE KCB
ROBERTS R. (1940-1945)	CBE	REES C.W. (1939-1944)	CBE
FOLLETT S.F. (1915-1920)	CMG	SALTMARSH L.J.S. (1927-1931)	DFC
LLOYD O.E.P. (1863-1865)	VC	FOSTER M.A.. (1949-1982)	DFC
MORGAN F.A. (1924-1953)	MC	NEAVE E.W.J. (1909-1916)	MC
JOHNSON C.J. (1935-1940)	DFM	PERRY W.H. (1932-1936)	DFM
DAVIES D.L. (1933-1939)	DFC	NORTH G.J. (1929-1935)	DFC
WEBBER R.L. (1931-1940)	DSC	RANCE V. (1920-1924)	DSO
KENNEDY T.L. (1936-1942)	MM	CHAPMAN L.E. (1926-1931)	DF
DAVIES N.S. (1932-1936)	MM	ATKINSON L. (1935-1939)	MC

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
THE OLD FARNHAMIAN'S 75TH ANNUAL DINNER

Will be held at Farnham Castle on Saturday 24th March 2007

MAKE SURE THAT YOU BOOK YOUR SEAT!

THEN AND NOW**ALAN LOVELL (1947-1953)**

Again it is time to have a profile of an Old Boy who has served the Association for many years. In fact Alan Lovell has been a member for over fifty years. He was born locally and his father, Eric, was a respected builder who passed away in October 1946 aged 39 years. This left his widow with Alan (10) and Susan, his sister, (4) to bring up and times were not easy.

Alan was a pupil at Farnham Grammar School for six years, and had particular respect for four teachers at the time - Messrs: Beeken; Carroll; N.W.Evans; and Godsil. His favourite subject, which continues to the present day, was Geography. The arrival of the epidiascope in Room 5 with N.W.Evans for Geography lessons was greatly respected at the time.

Alan was a member of Massingberd House - although cricket mad he personally acknowledges that he was not a great performer in Form matches during the summer months. Fridat afternoon was of course School Cadet time, and the knowledge gained proved to be highly beneficial when it came to National Service time.

On leaving school Alan became a trainee in the Drawing Office of the Engineer and Surveyors of Farnham Urban District Council. When the Council went out of being in 1974, upon Local Government Reorganisation, he was an Asst.Engineer with particular responsibilities for traffic management. For example, the Introduction of the Town centre one-way system in November 1966 and the first part of the Town Area Controlled Parking Zone in February 1967.

His career was interrupted by National Service and Alan joined the Royal Artillery in 1956 and did his initial training at Oswestry and Ionfanau (Merioneth coast) before being posted to Hong Kong for 13 months. The outward journey took 35 days, because the Suez Canal was blocked and out of action, and the ship visited Las Palmas, Durban, Colombo and Singapore. The return journey took 28 days and Alan saw Aden, Gibraltar as well as Singapore and Colombo again. The final five months of service were at Larkhill, Salisbury Plain as part of the Demonstration Regiment, School of Artillery.

In 1974, a major reorganisation of local government occurred with the result that Farnham UDC unfortunately went out of being - he joined the County Engineer's Department at Surrey County Council, and stayed there until he retired in 1996. During the last eight years he held the position of Divisional Traffic Engineer with responsibilities for all traffic management matters in West Area (Guildford & Waverley Areas). In November 1995 he received an 'Award of Achievement' to recognise outstanding performance by a member of the County Council Staff. His personal citation reads:

'Alan is a long serving member of the department's staff, having joined the County Council from Farnham UDC, on reorganisation in 1974. He has specialised in Traffic Management and currently leads the West Area Team in the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders and the promotion of schemes to reduce accidents and relieve congestion on Surrey's roads. His work has entailed considerable involvement with the public and he has been much respected throughout the local community for his commitment and expertise. Alan has devoted many hours of his own time in attending public meetings to offer advice and listen to concerns.

THEN AND NOW**ALAN LOVELL (1947-1953)**

For many years Alan was active in NALGO, culminating in a term as President of the Surrey branch. He also has many outside interests devoted to serving the public, including the role of a magistrate. In view of his many contributions over a long period of time to the effective performance of the Highways and Transportation Dept. he is deemed a worthy recipient of the award.'

(NB; Highways & Transportation Dept was a later name for County Engineer's Dept.)

The citation refers to the many other interests of Alan Lovell and he certainly has given his time and energy to many worthwhile organisations. For example he was a member of NALGO and from 1978-1982 he became President of the Surrey County Officers' Branch, having been Chairman of the Executive Committee from 1975 until 1978. He was also Chairman of the Publicity Committee for NALGO (South East District) from 1981-1984.

From 1973 to date he has been a member of Binsted (near Alton) Parish Council and was Chairman of this Council from May 1979 until May 2003 (24 years). This involvement by the Lovell family was started by grandfather, Frederick Lovell, who was a Member from 1901 until 1918 and Chairman from 1907-1918. He was followed by Alan's father, Eric Lovell who became a Member in 1946, but unfortunately died later that year.

As well as his Binsted role Alan was one of four representatives on the County Executive Committee of the Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils from 1986 to date. He became Chairman of the County Executive Committee in 1998.

Alan is also a member of the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is parish council representative on the Executive Committee (currently vice-chairman). There have been considerable discussions over the past 3 years on proposals for a South Downs National Park (Winchester to Beachy Head, East Sussex). An enlarged East Hampshire AONB would form the whole of the Hampshire section of the National Park, if and when it came into being. It looks a possibility in 2007/2008. Alan has chaired the Planning Advisory Panel for the past four years - considering contentious planning applications and making comments to both East Hampshire District Council and Winchester City Council.

He is also one of three Parish Council representatives on the 'Shadow' Assembly of SEERA (South East England Regional Assembly) since it came into being in 1999. He is a Member of the Regional Planning Committee. The Assembly Area covers Oxon, Bucks, Berks, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West & East Sussex and Kent, which has a population of 8 million people. The South East Regional Plan (to take the place of existing county structure plans) is under consideration at the present time. SEERA has its headquarters in Guildford.

Alan was appointed Justice of the Peace in May 1979. He sat on the Farnham bench from 1979-1992 and South West Surrey bench from 1992 to date. He is an active church-goer and has acted as Server at St. James Church, Rowledge for 50 years (1951-2001) He has been a member of the Old Farnhamians' Association since 1953 and on the General Committee for 12 years.

THEN AND NOW

ALAN LOVELL (1947-1953)

Even with such a full programme Alan still has interests. He loves to travel and with relatives residing in New Zealand and Australia has spent four happy periods in this part of the world. He has an extensive garden and has been a member of the Royal Horticultural Society since 1959. He enjoys watching cricket and has been a member of Hampshire County Cricket Club since 1971. He has been a supporter of Arsenal FC since his school days. He enjoys motor racing and is a member of Goodwood Road Racing Club since 1994 and attends the Goodwood Festival of Speed each year. He also listens daily to Classic FM on the radio.



Alan Lovell receives the Surrey County Council 'Award of Achievement' from the then Chairman of Surrey CC, Mrs Cecilia Gerrard and Chief Executive of Surrey CC, Paul Coen.



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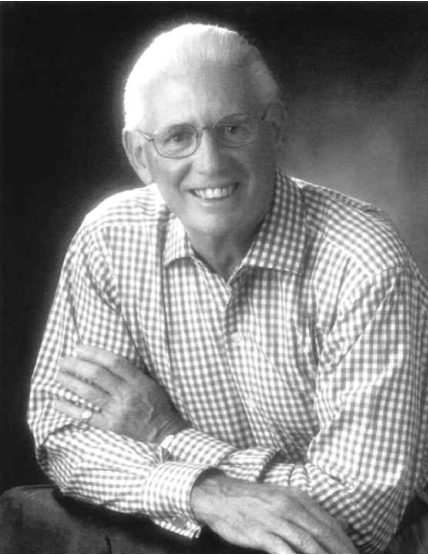
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THEN AND NOW

BRIAN DANIELS (1947-1952)



Had it not been for Grandfather Daniels penchant for gambling, Brian Daniels would never have come to Farnham. The family owned Fellmores Farm and a butcher's shop in Pirbright, where Brian was born, but his Grandfather's weekly activities at the Guildford Market led to the financial demise of the family fortunes and all was sold. As it was said in the family, 'Grandad was in with a bad lot'. Brian's father sought work in Fernhurst, West Sussex, and the grandparents bought the butcher's shop in the Lower Bourne, where Brian's Dad joined the business.

First they rented a house in Broomwood Way until the grandparents retired, then the families exchanged houses and the flint-stoned house with the attached shop on the Frensham Road became Brian's home until his marriage in 1964.

In spite of the war years, life in the village was happy and carefree. Brian was a pupil at the Bourne School and the children were encouraged to cultivate small garden plots in the school grounds. Norman Paget still maintains their sunflowers were the finest in the southeast, and there labours a real contribution to the war effort. Norman's father was, of course, the Headmaster of the school for many years and remembered by former pupils as a strict disciplinarian.

After school activities included cycling around the village and Bourne woods, in gangs. Brian joined the Life Boys in Farnham under the watchful eye of Miss Tigwell of toyshop fame, and also became a chorister at St Thomas on the Bourne, thus beginning a lifetime interest in choral singing.

After passing the eleven plus examination, Brian joined the Grammar School in 1947 with several classmates from the Bourne, including Geoff Hooker and David Nunn, followed a year later by Norman Paget. Norman's brothers Brian and Keith were already at the school. Brian's academic record was average with seven O-level passes, but he did once receive a formbook prize at speech day. Incidentally the book was Wilkie Collins 'Woman in White' which Andrew Lloyd Webber has used for his latest West End musical.

Living near the school, Brian ended up in School House where he took part in most of the activities, if only to gain the odd point for his House. He played cricket at House level and scored the odd six with some haymaking strokes, had a few soccer games with the 2nd eleven and played tennis on the court Mr Davies built in his garden at York Road, under the beady eye of Harry Beeken. Friday afternoons were given to CCF and the field days took place in the Bourne Woods, which Brian knew like the back of his hand, so was rarely captured, also some Old Boys might remember the summer camp at Fingeringhoe in Essex.

THEN AND NOW**BRIAN DANIELS (1947-1952)**

Brian sung with the School choir under Messrs. Crute, Read and Fluck and their musical talents were inflicted on parents at Speech Days. He once spent a weekend with Ray Cheeseman accompanied by Mr Varey at Mr Crute's house in Torquay from which they reckoned they were lucky to return unscathed!! After school came thoughts of a career, and not being interested in the meat trade he sought advice and ideas at the Farnham Youth Employment Office. Banking was suggested, but that didn't appeal, so he was offered a couple of openings in insurance, one in Guildford with the Commercial Union and another in London with a firm of Lloyd's Brokers in the City. Having never heard of Lloyd's or been in the City this sounded exciting and as the salary was £50 per annum more than the CU, Brian asked for an interview and secured the job. Thus began 49.5 years of travelling from Farnham to the Bank Underground via the 'drain' until his retirement in 2001. Incidentally the quarterly season ticket in 1952 cost £6.10shillings and some £2850 per annum when he finished.

Brian started his career as a marine 'scratch-boy'. The job entailed taking lists of cargo declarations around the various syndicates in the underwriting room and getting the underwriters to initial receipt of the list in a little book, hence 'scratch-boy'.

National Service interrupted in 1954 and Brian joined the RAF. The intake comprised of Grammar School boys and after 8 weeks 'square bashing' on Cannock Chase they could choose between becoming radio or radar technicians. Brian chose radar and after another 40 weeks training spent a year looking after the equipment at Bawdsey in Suffolk, very near where Watson Watt had carried out his early experiments with radar.

After National Service he returned to Lloyd's and managed the non-marine claims and subsequently became a non-marine broker for the next twenty years, all with the same firm. In 1976 Brian turned from poacher to gamekeeper and became a Lloyd's Underwriter and eventually a Member of Lloyd's specialising in areas of crime insurance, particularly insuring the jewellery trade, from diamond dealers to jewellery manufacturers and retailers. This involved dealing with most countries in Europe, North America, the Far East and South Africa. It was a very rewarding and interesting time involving several overseas trips.

In 1963 Brian met Margaret Mansey, a member of an old established Farnham family. They were married the following year in St Andrew's Parish Church and moved to the house on Firgrove Hill, where they still reside. Here, their three children grew up. All are married and they have eight super grandchildren. Brian and Meg have always been involved with St Andrew's and Brian has served on the P.C.C., been the secretary and covenant secretary, was Churchwarden for 10 years as well as being a member of the Diocesan Synod. He now just sings with the Church choir.

Shortly after National Service, Brian met with John Cotterill who had formed a small group of lady singers mostly from the Farnham Girls' Grammar School and they were looking for some male voices to join them in order to expand the repertoire. Along with John Wisdom, John Cooke, Derek Bowtell and a few others, Brian joined the group and they gave small concerts and a carol concert each year at the old Castle Theatre. From these small beginnings the Waverley Singers emerged, and John Cotterill lead and conducted the choir for 25 years.

THEN AND NOW**BRIAN DANIELS (1947-1952)**

Soon after John retired Brian left and joined the Rushmoor Odd Fellows Male Voice Choir. Geoff Hooker, Jeff Bunting and Ian Sargeant also sing with the choir and during the season of around twenty concerts, several thousands of pounds are raised for local and national charities

Brian did a stint as OFA Secretary and was President from 1996 to 1998; he has served on the General Committee for many years, and thoroughly enjoys meeting everyone at the Old Boys' Dinner and Southampton Luncheon.

Now in retirement, Brian is an active member of several committees and trusts in the town, which has given rise to making an office in the house to store all the 'boxes of stuff' that comes with every voluntary job. He is a member of Probus and a couple of local societies and still lunches occasionally in the City where he is a member of the Three Rooms' Club. To qualify you must have worked continuously in Lloyd's Underwriting Room for a minimum of thirty years.

He is very supportive and helps Meg with all her activities in the town and so has to be quick with the Telegraph crossword. With only two weeks annual holiday at a stretch whilst working, Brian and Meg have been able to venture further afield in retirement, enjoying the delights of New Zealand and cruising in the Indian Ocean. They often visit Baltimore to stay with Norman and Diana Paget whose friendship Brian has valued and enjoyed since their days at the Bourne School. Brian enjoyed his career at Lloyd's, describing it as being a member of a big boys' club, however it ended on a sour note with the demise of the syndicate and the huge financial losses suffered by most 'Names'. Thankfully that horrendous chapter of Brian's career has now closed and he can concentrate on enjoying a full and happy retirement.

WEBSITE PROGRESS REPORT**IAN SARGEANT**

Our website thrives. As I write this, we approach 10,000 visitors and we have over 250 "web members" since it started nearly 5 years ago. There are other measures that suggest the site is a success - the volume of downloading and the activity within the various pages of the site.

As an experiment, the site displayed some video footage of the OFA Garden Party held for George Baxter in August 2004. This attracted a lot of interest and the "bandwidth" expanded during the weeks after the event very considerably with several Old Boys feeding back to me that they had enjoyed hearing John Crotty and George Baxter making their speeches. If you haven't tried looking at this and you have broadband access, give it a try.

The library of Farnhamian magazines is now complete. Members of the OFA can download any of these files without charge. What I like best about this is the ability to word search, so you can look for references to your own name or that of others very easily. Another new feature is the Notice Board on the home page where important announcements can be made.

I always welcome news for posting on the website in the Members' Section, so please don't be shy.

Website address: www.farnhamians.org/ofa

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

A few days after the 2004 Annual Dinner we received a message from across the world commenting on the report and photographs on the OFA website. This came from **SANDOR SZARVAS (1969-76)** who could not attend the dinner as he was working on a short contract in the Middle East (Iraq to be specific!). He says that he remembers the reunion of old classmates at the 2002 dinner and how emotional he found it. Very strange to see old faces, who were once young, yet still in essence looking the same. He also found the Loving Cup ceremony very moving and almost a religious experience. He says that we are of one body, sharing a common past. These are sentiments that many of us endorse! Sandor wonders if the Robin Welland-Jones toast to the Association had been videoed, as he would like to see it. I think not, but can assure him that it was well worth listening to.

After many years **MAURICE HEWINS (1949-1954)** decided to attend the Annual Dinner, and enjoyed it enough to pay his subscription and join the Old Boys' Association. Over the years Maurice has become a well-known figure in Farnham and has been instrumental in helping build the Rural Life Centre at Tilford, which is a local attraction. He also promotes his local village, Badshot Lea, and has written a book about its history, and has just completed another book about those servicemen from the village who died in the First and Second World Wars. We look forward to seeing him at future OFA events.

The Farnhamian 400 Trust decided to expand the Home of Memorabilia housed in the old school entrance hall and in April 2004 took delivery of another large cabinet to enable the Association to display even more items from the past. This will probably be the final cabinet in the original plan and the next stage will be the cleaning of the Honours Boards on the walls up the staircase. Whilst we have sufficient memorabilia to initially fill the cabinets we are looking for more items to add to the display in the future. Smaller items such as school caps, medals for sporting achievement or house colours would be welcome and please contact the editor if you have anything you feel would play a part in remembering the old Farnham Grammar School.



The new cabinet standing in the old School Entrance Hall

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

As the 60th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War approached in 2004 a book was published locally recording details of all of those Farnham men and women who lost their lives for their country. Their names were listed on the memorial stone situated in Gostrey Meadow and **HENRY ELLWOOD (father of Old Boy Michael Ellwood)** had researched their stories over recent years, planning to write books on those who fell in the First and Second World Wars. Among the names were several who had attended Farnham Grammar School, and Henry regularly contacted the magazine editor to see if any photographs or information was available. As part of the Anniversary celebrations Farnham Town Council have agreed to pay for the printing of several copies, which are to be presented to the families of those listed on the memorial. The Association has obtained a copy and with the author's agreement some of the profiles will be reproduced in the magazine. To begin this new series we have chosen the stories of John Oliver Levison and Donald Lintern. This book on the Second World War will hopefully be followed by the much larger volume on the 1914-1918 War.

Just a few days before the editor moved from 56, Broomleaf Road he was approached by a lady who introduced herself as Elizabeth Bunhill and who said that she had moved to the house, when it was new, in 1948. She explained that she had attended the Farnham Girls' Grammar School and she had four uncles who had all attended the Boys' Grammar School. She asked if I could supply her with information regarding these Old Boys and I duly sent to her all the details I could find from old magazines etc. After a few weeks she replied with more information regarding the uncles:

Their name was Loughlin and there was **F.J. (FELIX) LOUGHLIN - BORN 1903, C. (CYRIL) LOUGHLIN - BORN 1904, E.M. (ERIC) LOUGHLIN - BORN 1911, F.M. (FRANCIS MICHAEL) LOUGHLIN - BORN 1918**. Taking the information from my investigations, and from the mother of Elizabeth Bunhill (sister to the four Loughlin brothers) we have the following.

F.J. (FELIX) LOUGHLIN attended the School during the First World War and was a member of Harding House. He is mentioned in 1919 as a pupil under Mr.G.(Nick) Ridout. After leaving the School he worked for the Westminster Bank for a time and then joined the Army. He was in the Education Department and taught in South Africa as well as in this country. He later went into a private firm doing some sort of clerical work until he retired. He had three children and lived to a good age.

C.V. (CYRIL) LOUGHLIN also attended the School during the First War and there is no information on him as several magazines during that period are missing. He left the School and became an optician and was in partnership with a firm called 'Harwoods' in Camberley. He became ill with a rare condition called Aplastic Anaemia and died aged 57 years in 1962. He was married and had two children.

F.M. (FRANCIS MICHAEL) LOUGHLIN (1931-1935), like his brothers joined Harding House and regularly ran in the Cross Country. He boxed and played cricket for the House and in 1935 won a Form First Prize. On leaving school he joined the Old Farnhamians' Association and in 1936 played cricket for them. He lived with his wife and three children in Little Green Lane, Farnham. He was called up in the Second World War as one of the

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

'Militia' and was in the first batch. He was posted to Singapore and in July 1943 it was reported that he had become a prisoner of war under the Japanese and had a terrible time. He rejoined the Association in 1952 and attended some Annual Dinners. He died in 2002.

E.M. (ERIC) LOUGHLIN (1922-1928) ran in the Cross Country for Harding House and was a member of the Debating Society. He won a Form Prize for Reading and in 1927 a School Prize for Elocution. On leaving the School he joined the Association and was a member of their Rifle Shooting Team in 1931 and their Badminton Team in 1933. He lived at 97 West Street, Farnham during this period and then moved to Menin Way. He attended a few Annual Dinners, but little was heard of him after 1940. He worked for Local Government in Bagshot until he retired and died in 1975, aged 64 years.

I do not know whether any Old Boys still recall this family, but their sister is interested in any information about them. She also wonders whether any members knew her sisters Veronica (born 1906), Joan (born 1908), Gertrude (born 1910) and Angela (born 1915). All are now dead and Christina Bunhill (nee Loughlin) is 88.

On 14th June 2004 the Queen's Birthday Honours List once again named an Old Farnhamian amongst its awards. This time an MBE was given to the most popular and respected **GEORGE BAXTER (1953-1970)**, who was a distinguished Headmaster of the Grammar School. There had been rumours in the town that he been put forward for the award after many years serving the local community on a variety of organisations and groups. George was now in his 90th year and although the award could have come sooner it was well deserved. It was unfortunate that illness prevented him receiving the award at The Palace and in January 2005 he died having little time to enjoy the award he thoroughly deserved.

In the same Honours List was an MBE for **JEAN PARRATT**, an ex-FGGS pupil and local historian who is married to **TED PARRATT** who attended the Grammar School in the 1940s. Yet another well deserved award.

On the 4th June 2004 the following article appeared in the Hampshire Chronicle and refers to **ROY ROBINS (1926-1931)**, one of our longest serving Old Boys.

ROY'S LABOURS REWARDED

Members of the Alresford Society have paid tribute to one of their most loyal and conscientious members.

Roy Robins has been in the society for over 25 years and was chairman for five years. Saturday, May 29th, was his 90th birthday, a fitting occasion on which to honour him. He had been invited to the home of current chairman, Douglas De Lavison, where, unbeknown to Roy, members of the committee were waiting to welcome him.

President, Lord Temple of Stowe, paid tribute to Roy, whose 17 year chairmanship of the planning sub-committee involved a great deal of work and expertise in planning matters to do with Alresford. A planning officer by profession and latterly a consultant in private practice, he passed his knowledge freely to fellow members.

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He also masterminded the society's Silver Jubilee exhibition in 1991. This proved a huge success, enhancing the society's reputation and providing a new look at Alresford for its inhabitants and many others. Roy initiated and directed, with the aid of a county council grant, the transformation of some wasteland at The Soke in Alresford into a pleasant recreation area, which now has flower beds, grass, a path and a bench for people's enjoyment.

Correctness, said Lord Temple, was for Roy a byword and hard work came naturally to him. He wished him a happy birthday and congratulated him on reaching such a superior age. Describing him as a 'friend, mentor and helmsman' for over 25 years, he presented him with an inscribed wooden plaque on behalf of present, past and absent members of the committee.



From me to you...Lord Temple (left) presents the long-service plaque to Roy Robins.

As usual the magazine provoked some response and from our Secretary **ROGER EDGELL (1957-1965)** comes the answer to the missing names in the 1970's OFA Football Team. He says that second from right in the front row is **RICHARD WILLS** and far right in the front row is **MELVYN FOSTER** and not Michael Foster. We are still waiting to hear who the player is, third from the left in the back row.

The Farnham Herald printed an article regarding the frustrations of **TONY RAYER (1942-1947)** who objected to the closing of the Farnham Castle keep mid-week. English Heritage explained that it would only open at weekends and Bank Holidays, when the visiting public came in reasonable numbers. In the same article it was interesting to hear that Tony was now giving hour long lectures on the 'historic ghosts of Farnham' to students at Farnham College, which they later re-enacted at the castle keep as part of their performing arts studies. More about this Old Boy later!

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Details have been sent to us from Australia by the relatives of **HORACE BLAKE (1920-1925)** and his life after leaving the School makes interesting reading.

Horace Edwin BLAKE (April 1920-July 1925)



'After running for his House in the School Sports in July 1925, H.E.Blake left for Australia the following day. Horace Edwin BLAKE (Mick) was the second son of William Henry Blake, sign-writer, 46, Downing Street, Farnham. He arrived in Sydney, New South Wales, on September 15th 1925 aged sixteen years. After spending two years at agricultural college and a further two years, working on the land, Mick gave up those agricultural pursuits.

In 1929 he joined the N.S.W.Police Force and was the longest serving officer when he retired. His forty years of service covered almost every aspect of police work in dozens of locations in New South Wales.

In his first year the young constable Blake risked his life diving repeatedly into a 14foot pit in a vain bid to save a young boy. He eventually brought the drowned boy to the surface. For his bravery the Royal Shipwreck and Humane Society awarded him the bronze medal and certificate.

Mick was always interested in physical fitness - he was a champion swimmer and a lightweight wrestling champion. He played soccer and cricket and was a member of the police physical culture and display squads as an instructor. Mick passed every test of the Royal Lifesaving Association of Australia and was also an honorary instructor to the New South Wales Amateur Swimming Association. An interest in the Police Boys Clubs of N.S.W. continued after his retirement. As President of several of these clubs he continually saw the benefits for local youth and actively encouraged the communities to become involved.

He received five commendations for distinguished work from Police Commissioners and local government authorities as a result of his activities in times of bushfires and floods in various locations. Mick completed his service in Lismore as Inspector of Police, North Coast, N.S.W. and retired to Byron Bay in 1969. He died in 1982 leaving his wife and two children.

On leaving the School he received the following reference from the F.A.Morgan.

'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 seem to mark him out for the colonies: and I judge that it would be well worthwhile for him to follow his chosen work in life viz. agricultural pursuits in Australia.

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Apologies are in order to **PETER MORICE (1937-1944)** for errors in his very interesting profile in the 2004 edition. His original wording indicated that he worked his way through school 'without much distinction' and he produced a very 'unimpressive' General School certificate result. The editor incorrectly stated that in both cases he was a success, but Peter asked for the true facts to be printed. Even with these poor results he seems to have done rather well!

As usual a letter has been received by the editor from **BARBARA WILLS (widow of former Art Master JOHN WILLS)** saying how much she enjoyed the new magazine in 2004. She recalls that the drawing by her husband of the old school doors was requested by the then School Governors as a record in case they were ever destroyed. Like all associated with the School, she was shocked to hear of the death of Sylvia Morgan. After the popular master retired Sylvia would spend many weekends at the Wills home and they were in touch regularly by letter and telephone. Barbara Wills and Sylvia Morgan were friends for 60 years and they attended the Bourne concerts together.

Some months after the death of **NIGEL TEMPLE (1937-1942)** he was honoured by the placing of a plaque on 60 West Street, Farnham, where he lived from 1928 until 1955. He had asked for donations at his funeral to go to the Farnham Building Preservation Trust, of which he was a founder member, and the Trust decided that it was important to have a permanent memorial of him in the town. Part of the money was therefore used to provide the plaque to this local historian, artist and author of 'Farnham Buildings and People' among other books.

As many of you know the late **BOB PARRATT (1945-1951)** was closely associated with R.A.F. Odiham for much of his career. He had been asked some time ago to produce a book on the history of this famous station and he completed it just a few days before his untimely death. We have now been given a copy of this history for the 'Home of Memorabilia' and it will be placed in one of the cabinets at the College. It is an excellent piece of work and a fine tribute to the RAF station and Bob Parratt MBE.

For many years the Association boasted a first class rifle-shooting club, which over the years produced a good number of champions, both local, regional and national. It was unfortunate that the club closed a few years ago and with it a traditional part of the School and the old Boys. In September 2004 it was great to hear from the local press and our website that several former pupils had come together to launch the Farnham Fullbore Rifle Club. All shooting practice will be carried out at the National Shooting centre at Bisley and the club will probably shoot from 300 yards up to 1000 yards. The instigators of this new club are **JERRY NEAVE (1954-1959)** as Treasurer and **BOB GALFSKIY (1956-1960)** as Secretary, **MALCOLM LEE (1953-1958)** as Captain, with the Club President being **GEOFF HARNETT (1964-1970)**.

Jerry Neave began his shooting career in the cadet Force at the Grammar School and went on to win medals in both small-bore and full-bore shooting. Bob Galfskiy was the President of the Old Farnhamians' Association Rifle Club and was the under-18 champion of Surrey at the age of 16. Geoff Harnett has shot for England and the team captain Malcolm Lee has been involved in shooting almost all of his life and currently works as assistant to the

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director of shooting at Bisley and with wife Barbara runs Aldershot Rifle Club.

With such experience at the helm, this new club should become very successful and there is a need for new members, both young and old. Should any reader wish to join this new venture please contact the Club Secretary at Farnham.rifle-club@virgin.net.

During October 2004 the local press announced that Elphicks, the departmental store in Farnham, had been taken over, or 'merged', with another company and the last member of the Elphick family would be retiring. The store has many ties with the old Grammar School and at one time supplied uniforms etc., to the pupils. The original shop was started by George Elphick in 1881 and the family produced one of our most respected Old Boys in **MAURICE ELPHICK (1927-1935)**. The new owners say that they will operate the store with few changes, but the absence of one of the family being involved will mean the links to Farnham may cease.

It is good to see that **GUY BELLAMY (1948-1952)** is once more in print after a gap of a few years. In the Surrey & Hants News he produced an article about the various famous sportsmen who came from Farnham. Guy was always interested in sport and he knew Mike Hawthorn (World Champion Racing Driver), Graham Thorpe (England cricketer) and Johnny Wilkinson (England Rugby Captain). The article also announces that in March 2005 his new novel (his twelfth) entitled 'The Man Who Won' will be published. Any novel from this Old Boy is well worth a read!

In February this year we heard from **IVAN E DADSON (1935-1941)** to advise that after 50 years living in Durban, South Africa, he had moved some 500 kilometres inland to a town named Henley-on-Klip, which was far into the Transvaal. This move was forced upon him by the sale of the Durban retirement hotel that he lived in for many years. He says that he still enjoys the weather, although at times it can be burning hot. He also plays Mah Jong regularly and keeps busy making and flying kites. Ivan was a member of Childe House and represented them at Swimming and Rifle Shooting.

At the 2005 Annual Dinner the toast to the Association was given by **JOHN CLARKE (1971-1978)**, and this brought to light yet another author from the former pupils of Farnham Grammar School. John was in the penultimate intake of September 1971 and stayed through Sixth Form, leaving the then Farnham College in 1978. After University he decided to train to be a librarian and did his professional qualifications at Aberystwyth in 1983-1984. He has since worked at Aston University, Birmingham (1984-1985) ; The Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield (1985-1995) and he is currently the Head of Library Services at Great Ormond Street Hospital & Institute of Child Health (since 1996).

Whilst being a librarian has been his main career he has also written several books and we will cover this side of his career in the next magazine. John has recently become a member of the Association's General Committee and it is good to see some of our younger members becoming involved and ensuring that the OFA is in good hands for the future.

MORE OLD BOYS SPONSOR AWARDS FOR FARNHAM COLLEGE

After the successful Awards' Ceremony for the top students in 2003 the same event for 2004 was held on 14th September and a packed hall saw the various students receive their certificates and cheques. There are now a large number of Old Boys who provide financial help towards this scheme and most of them attended this special evening.

The Principal, Sally Francis, began the evening by telling the audience of the various successes by the college, and many students from the previous year then told of their experiences at home and abroad. The prizes were presented by Vice Chancellor of the University of Surrey, Professor Patrick Dowling CBE, who then praised the College, and in particular Sally Francis, for the continued success. Some of the winners would be going to his University at Guildford and he looked forward to welcoming them at what is now one of the top three universities in the country.

The event closed with thanks from Oliver Skipper, Chairman of the Student Council.

The following were the sponsored prizes from Old Farnhamians and their families:

The Ian Sargeant Award for Progress	Christopher Catterall
The Bryan Bone Award for Exceptional Achievement	Hugh Cummin
The Cyril Trust Award for Service to Music	Laura Eaton
The Ron Short Award for Design Technology	Christopher Franks
The Sturt Family Award for Endeavour in Geography	Joanna Linscott
The Geoff Hooker Award for Mathematics	Laura Magee
The Don Homer Award for Drama	Francesca Miller
The Graham Blunt Award for Science & Mathematics	Sophie Payne
The Roy Robins Award for Exceptional Achievement	Sophie Payne
The Michael Horner Award for Exceptional Achievement	Megan Pearson
The John Crotty Award for Progress	Emma Pink
The Dudley Backhurst Award for Science	Christopher Pittock
The Chris Nash Award for Science	Samantha Spicer
The John Travers Award for Endeavour	Elmira Thacker
The Maurice Jeffreys Award for Business Studies	Lee Tottman
The Wally Walsh Award for Exceptional Achievement	Deborah Truscott
The Roger Edgell Award for Exceptional Achievement	Laura Watts
The Paul French Award for Mathematics	Laura Watts

As can be seen from this list there were four prizes given by the wives of Old Boys who have passed away in recent years. These were represented at the ceremony by Dorothy French, Anne Blunt, Sylvia Backhurst and Marion Homer, who were pleased to see that the names of their husbands will live on through these sponsorships. They all felt that their former partners would have approved.

Again this event brings the College and the Old Farnhamians closer together and it is good to see ex-Grammar school pupils helping the new generation at the College in Morley Road. There are still other sponsorships available for the future and if any reader would like more information please contact the editor of this magazine.

‘WARTS AND ALL’**ALAN JACOBS (1948-1953)**

When we first established contact with Alan after many years and asked him for a profile on his career etc., after school he promised to write this ‘warts and all’. The following are his words. For the record, Alan was a member of Harding House and regularly entered the Cross-Country. He also took part in the swimming gala.

‘My parents having died many years earlier, in 1953 my self-appointed but strictly unofficial “carers”, sold the house and decamped overnight with the remaining assets. This resulted in relocation without prior notice to live with a relative in Holland - where I soon became fluent in Dutch during a brief period at a village secondary school. Months later, another domestic crisis blew up and the next couple of years were spent ‘bumming’ around the Continent grabbing any work I could find - amongst others on farms and smallholdings, in pubs and restaurants, as a cycle repairer and on a mink breeding station. Not having a work permit, I became what would now be referred to as an illegal immigrant - the term had not been invented then and the EEC did not exist in those days! Provided there was a nice warm boiler house or barn to sleep in, I was prepared to take any job, just for bed and board.

Having picked up a smattering in the vernacular of several languages, I eventually drifted back to England in 1957 with no official work history - entirely ignorant of National Service looming. A temporary job as a liftman at a large department store in Guildford meant a UK employment card and eventually conscription. After training, I found myself back on the East German border with a motley collection of individuals as part of what is known as the “Y” Service - a secret and shadowy electronic intelligence-gathering unit, using a derelict ex-Luftwaffe airfield as cover. One notable occurrence during this time was an evening spent in a bar watching Elvis hold court with a bevy of admirers.

After demob, having foolishly declined to pursue a similar civilian role with GCHQ at Cheltenham, I began well-paid manual work, digging water-main trenches for new housing developments. With the onset of winter however, frozen ground meant no work/no pay, so I joined a grocery chain where as key-holder for several shops, and still no fixed abode, I could safely tuck up for the night rent-free after everyone else had gone home. Of course this did not last long and once discovered, immediate dismissal followed. Employment in a distribution warehouse was also terminated, after an “unfortunate alcohol-related incident” (hormones raging) with an office girl at the annual dance. I tend to gloss over this episode!

Then to the Wiltshire HQ of Unigate - living in a caravan on a farm. Over the next ten years, married for the first time with two sons, a gradual progression to more responsible jobs in shipping with a variety of companies in the UK. By the 70s I was in a secure, but terminally boring post with the Courtaulds group in Coventry.

Out of the blue through a friend, came an offer from a major American Oil Company to help drag their European shipping section into the 20th century. If my CV was to be believed (sic), those early days had made me an ideal candidate - a smattering of languages, familiarity with ships’ charters and perhaps of greatest relevance, having worked independently on the Continent - unlike the existing office-based employees.

I would love to claim that this was part of a grand master plan but in reality, Lady Luck had smiled. Soon came the opportunity to shake off the humdrum 9 to 5 lifestyle “enjoyed” by others, and within weeks I found myself alone in the North Sahara winding up an aborted drilling operation.

‘WARTS AND ALL’**ALAN JACOBS (1948-1953)**

Oil industry mantra states that one cannot claim to have “been” somewhere until a second tube of toothpaste has been finished. On that basis, during the following 20 years, I was assigned to projects in more than a dozen, mostly third-world countries all over the globe and visited many more for shorter periods. Whenever a materials-supply issue arose, I became the “trouble-shooter” mobilised at short notice to deal on the ground with problems, such as a blow-out at a remote drilling site, sub-sea and surface pipelines, new build/upgrade of refineries or fabrication of offshore platforms. With these assignments came career mobility and I eventually reached a level of seniority in one of the world’s largest Oil Companies, possibly unequalled by any other employee not having a single academic or technical qualification to his name.

With the increased responsibilities came ample scope to indulge a growing passion for immersion in different aspects of foreign cultures and thus to visit places normally inaccessible to the tourist. Some examples include:-

- Working in San Francisco Bay area at the end of the “Flower-Power era”.
- Retracing Lawrence’s steps up the deserted West Coast of Arabia into Jordan.
- Taking part-albeit unofficially- in the “11 cities race” ice skating marathon in Friesland.
- Journeying south through Venezuela and the Llanos (wetlands) to cross the Orinoco River into the Amazon basin.
- Eating sheep’s innards with the Berbers in the North African desert.
- Directing the aftermath of a collision at sea between a super-tanker and a charter vessel carrying my cargo, in a Singapore dockyard.
- Being held- (and almost reduced to a gibbering wreck!) at sword-point, by the King of Saudi Arabia’s personal bodyguard.
- Climbing in the Andes and exploring the Urubamba River in Peru.
- Swimming among sharks and barracuda on the reefs in the southern Red Sea.
- Catching the ultimate big-game fish off the coast of Columbia - a 250 lb Blue Marlin (Ernest Hemingway where are you now?).
- Taking the controls of a light aircraft over the Hoover Dam.
- Being kissed by Miss World - only a peck on the cheek, but hey.....!
- Travelling in the high altitude cloud forests of South America.

On the debit side, frequent absences from home cost me one marriage - and my career ended with a whimper, following the investigation by the Serious Fraud Office of a multi-million dollar scam - for which several people were imprisoned After three years attempting to prove a negative (theoretically an impossibility!), I was exonerated, but the strain had taken its toll - and that cost me marriage number two.

‘WARTS AND ALL’**ALAN JACOBS (1948-1953)**

Since retirement in 1997 I have:-

- Trekked in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco.
- Explored some of the rarely-visited inland historical sites away from the tourist traps in Turkey.
- Spent a month in an isolated valley on the steppes near the Siberian border in Outer Mongolia with the last true nomads on earth, as a member of an archaeological expedition. It was here that I came across two previously un-recorded 3000 year-old carved “Deerstone” obelisks lying half-hidden in the dust - now officially named “The Alan stones”.
- Back-packing from Land’s End - John O’Groats three times (by the West, Central and eastern routes), including the only unsupported continuous “double” journey (taking 5 months and covering 2562 miles) ever made entirely on foot.



Now happily remarried - I watch rugby and cricket as often as possible - and attempt (unsuccessfully it must be said!) not to bore my friends and family with interminable tales of my experiences. In June 2004 I moved with my lovely wife of eight months Mary, to Norfolk to begin a new chapter.

Hopefully we will be seeing Alan at one of the Annual Dinners in the future. He is yet another of the 1948 intake to be unearthed.

OFFICERS OF THE OLD FARNHAMIANs’ ASSOCIATION FOR 2005**General Committee:**

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

Leaving Scholarship Trust:

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

Farnhamian 400 Trust:

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

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

At the end of October 2004, an article similar to the one in this magazine, entitled 'A Legacy from Sylvia Morgan' appeared in the 'Peeps from the Past' section of the Farnham Herald. A copy was sent to **TONY RAYER (1942-1947)** by his cousin **ALAN LOVELL (1947-1953)** and the reply makes interesting reading.

'What a remarkable legacy the OFA has in the Morgan collection - there must be enough information to fill the magazine for years to come as the article alone recalled many memories.....

First, Monty's visit. It rained all morning and the contingency plan was to transfer to the Farnham Girls' Grammar School hall. Fortunately F A Morgan stood firm and the weather cleared in time. There was a great air of expectancy as we waited on the school field below the school steps. We could see the entourage walking along behind the hedge and waited expectantly for the god-like figure to finally appear. It was something of an anti-climax when, instead of a statuesque soldier, a wizened little man in the familiar black beret led them down the steps. It was still a great occasion and he delivered a speech on leadership. It must have been his specialist subject. More than 20 years later he gave a talk on the radio, which sounded like a recording of his earlier speech.

By far the most interesting speaker at the few Speech Days I attended was Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald. My brother had a keen interest in wildlife and during our time at 47 West Street in Farnham he acquired a jackdaw, two tortoises and a collection of birds' eggs. While playing in the brick works he unearthed a snakelike creature about nine inches long. It was a slowworm and fortunately harmless. As we had no idea how to care for it and remembering Mr Vesey-Fitzgerald's fascinating and extensive knowledge, Nigel and I went to see him. We arrived early evening, quite un-announced, and were invited in by his wife and offered soft drinks and cake, and spent an enthralling couple of hours. The slow-worm was about to give birth, was placed in Gran's old earthenware breadbin lined with earth and bricks and later, as predicted, produced nine off-spring.

Another Speech Day memory concerned Jimmy Aylwin who bunked off school, claiming he was sick. Nemesis soon overtook Jimmy for his father was a school governor and was mystified when Eric Munton offered his commiserations for Jimmy's absence and hoped that he would soon be well again!

Moving away from Farnham I sadly lost touch with many people. I occasionally met John Aylwin in the Wheatsheaf and we linked up in arranging the town's first donkey races at the Brewery Ground. Many years later my wife and I were invited to the home of John and Joan Crotty to inscribe some books that the Association had presented to John Aylwin, though I never met him again.

Co-incidentally I came across a copy of the Farnhamian magazine dated December 1945, which recorded a memorable House cricket match. As the opposition was a poor side, Housemaster 'Rashers' Bacon said "If you win the toss put 'em in first - we don't want to be here all night." Unfortunately they won the toss and put us into bat and the match spread over into the following evening! We scored 116, and all but one of their runs was knocked

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off my bowling. Rayer took 4 wickets for 7 runs and they were all out for 7.

In the 2000 magazine we referred to the same TONY RAYER and the fact that he had started to offer 'Ghost Tours of Farnham'. A recent article in the Aldershot News told of his offer to take up to 40 people, from either a group, club, organisation or company, on this 80-minute tour, with the payments made by the walkers going to a charity of their choice. Those who bid the highest for their place on the tour would make up the forty people. The walk was to take place on Halloween (October 31st) and would include Farnham Castle (haunted by six ghosts) and others of the 28 hauntings in 11 locations around Farnham. A very enterprising way of raising money for charity. But SPOOKY!

The well-known pub in West Meon, called the 'Thomas Lord', has become a regular meeting place for former classmates from the 1948 intake. It is central to Old Boys from Farnham area and the Hampshire area and in November 2004 ten Old Age Pensioners enjoyed a nostalgic lunch. It may be of interest to readers to know what these 65+ pals are currently doing in their retirement. VIC BENNETT has decided that golf is not for him and is a regular bowls player. His daughter lives in Prague and Vic and his wife make sure that they visit this lovely city regularly to see their grandchildren. BRYAN BONE has been researching David Lloyd George and his years living in Farnham and is almost ready to have his book on the subject published. Bryan writes poetry (examples appear in this issue) and spends a great deal of time in Wales researching the Lloyd George roots. NEVILLE TIMMINS is involved in charity work and outdoor activities and has recently organised a large dinner for the local Youth Hostel Association. His wife has now retired and travelling figures high on their list. DAVID TYRELL has now given up his dog handling business and has two large dogs of his own, which take up much of his time. CYRIL TRUST, whilst not writing this magazine and looking after the memorabilia for the OFA, is another traveller. In 2003 he visited New Zealand and Australia and in 2004 he managed to visit Portugal, California, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany and Finland (the last six as part of a cruise). He is still busy with several projects in Farnham. Also in attendance was TONY HARLAND, of goalkeeping fame, who still has the 'soccer bug'. He follows Aldershot FC and the evening prior to the lunch had been to Barnet to see Arsenal FC reserves play. At the end of the season he watches cricket at Southampton, Basingstoke etc., where Hampshire CC play. JOHN TRAVERS crosses the Channel to France regularly to see his son and grandchildren who live there. His other son has now left the Eden Project and is working from Grayshott now. The newest member of the group was TONY GATFIELD who is a little younger than the others and only just begun retirement. Already he is doing a great job as secretary of the 400 Trust and is also an Aldershot FC supporter. Meetings like this are most enjoyable, especially when two former classmates like Bryan Bone and David Tyrell meet after 50 years.

On his journey North to a holiday in Scotland RAY BOWTELL (1942 -1947) reports that he visited the historic city of York, and naturally the splendid cathedral. He could see no mention of previous Archbishops and asked for information about them and Old Boy, Cyril Garbett, in particular. He was given the following details:

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85TH ARCHBISHOP

CYRIL GARBETT (Archbishop of York - 1942-1955) : Born in 1875 at Tongham, Surrey. Son of the vicar and of Susan Charlotte Bowes-Forster, daughter of Lt. Gen. Bowes-Forster. Descended from the fourth Marquis of Lothian. Garbett was a strict disciplinarian in his own life and dependant clergy trainees. Vicar of Portsea and Bishop of Southwark. Translated from Winchester to the Archbishopric of York, "Peripatetic Ambassador of the faith".

Died at Bishopthorpe on 31st December 1955. His ashes were buried in the Lady Chapel of the Minster. Was unmarried and was survived by his devoted sister Elsie.

A little more detail regarding this famous Old Boy, but nothing about his father, as Ray pointed out.

Ray was making for a holiday cottage in Ballater on Deeside, near Aberdeen and realised that this was close to Braemar. Remembering that the 2003 magazine gave details of a monument to lost airmen in the Second World War, including an Old Boy, he visited the site and took the photograph below. One of the crew was **MICHAEL KILBURN (1932-1940)** and the monument shows an amalgamation of the plane engines that crashed in the Cairngorms in June 1942. The organisers of the opening by the Princess Royal in 2003 failed to track down relatives of this brave young man and are still hoping to find someone from the Kilburn family (has any reader relevant information?).

In Speech Day programmes from the 1940s and 1950s it shows that Michael Kilburn Prizes were given for Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

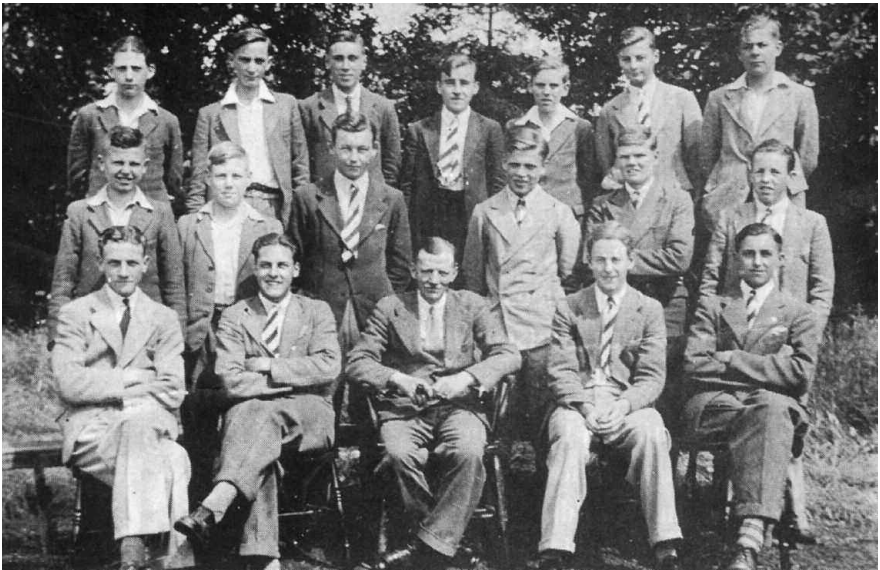


WHO'S WHO?

These are two photographs from the Sylvia Morgan memorabilia and we have little information about the year and the pupils involved. Is any reader able to send us more details?



Is this a cricket team from the 1920s or 1940s?



The above is Form Va taken in 1935 and shows George Bacon at the front. The photo was signed by some of the pupils, including: J.J.Parratt, J.A.D.Wood, J.Stoyle, E.Barker, J.Wells, S.H.Mason, D.A.Harrison, L.M.Roberts, G.J.North, A.E.Job, J.A.Witting. Can anybody match the names with the faces and complete the group names?

POETRY PREVIEW

Bryan Bone (1948-1953) has been writing poetry for some years and is about to have a selection printed. Two poems were inspired by his time at the Farnham Grammar School and he has allowed us a preview.

SCHOOL

B. EDWARD BONE

Indelibly imprinted on my mind
 Are things I learned in my old school
 Of masters grey and old and kind,
 Of Maths and English and Swimming in the pool.

Of fields bright green, and cricket whites,
 The goal posts tall, and playing soccer,
 Masters fleet of foot to keep us in sight,
 Of smelly boots in a wooden locker.

The cycles in a covered way,
 With saddles high and spokes so bright,
 The bike pumps go oft astray,
 While boys in secret their cigarettes light.

When all is done and we leave at last,
 We pin our hopes on a future unknown,
 Then backward glance, a look we cast,
 To ensure we're safe, with knowledge sown.

The day is done, our course is run,
 Now all is judged of what we've done.
 Our old school bright before sinking sun.
 Our peace at last, yes, we have won.

A FOUNDATION

B. EDWARD BONE

A child of tender years I found - at school
 Great were its walls, as high as the sky - to him
 And in comparison, small were his friends - to him.

A distance in time in a nearby place - he knew
 The remembrance of scholastic embrace - he knew
 Its calm, its cool, and its spiritual grace - he knew.

The fields, so green, an elegant balm - he felt
 His house, to which he enjoined his name - he felt
 A sense of belonging and a peace within - he felt

His memories of victories and losses to - he saw
 The cross-country run, the swimming bath race - he saw
 His finger across the page of life he traced - he saw

A FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)

Strong in limb and to the fore stood he - he did
 First in the race and climbing of trees - he did
 Sometimes fighting, sometimes falling and breaking of knees - he did

In awe and respect of his masters - he was
 In reverence to the truth from his pastors - he was
 Strong in truth and upright in life - he was

Now into life's business, win or lose - is now
 School far behind, now doing what you chose - is now
 No time for meditation to depend on your muse - is now

Life journey over, business done - is done
 Brothers and sisters and own blessed son - is done
 Daughters moved on have mothers become - is done.

The turmoil, the grief, anxiety past - is gone
 The anger, the love, the heat and the cold - is gone
 Wealth making and fun loving - is gone.

At rest and at peace from life's worries - at last
 Soul yearning, spirits soaring - at last
 Unclassed from life's chain to my Saviour - at last.



FARNHAMIAN 400 TRUST FARNHAM LECTURE - 2004

Back Row: John Crotty (President): Cyril Trust, Maurice Sturt, Mike Horner.
 Front Row: Janet Maines (Mayoress of Waverley), Vic Duckett (Mayor of Waverley),
 Sally Francis (College Principal), Sir Ray Tindle (Speaker).

AN OBITUARY PROFILE OF SYLVIA MORGAN (1921-2004)

The announcement of the death of Sylvia Morgan on 2nd April 2004 ended an era, which stretched for eighty years. The name and family of Morgan is synonymous with that of the Farnham Grammar School and to many Old Boys F.A. Morgan and his wife and daughter hold many good memories of days at Morley Road.

Sylvia was only a little girl just past her third birthday when she accompanied her father and mother to Farnham when Mr Morgan took over the position of Headmaster of the School from Captain J.R.Stickland at the beginning of Summer Term 1924. They took up residence in the Headmaster's House, which was a part of the school buildings, along with a resident population of some thirty boarders. Sylvia soon found that she had acquired a large number of 'brothers'.

When she reached educational age she attended the P.N.E.U. School situated at the Bourne, and later received personal tuition from two private lady tutors before going to the Farnham School of Art where she became particularly interested in dress design. Any aspirations that she had in making this a career were shattered when in 1941 her father asked her to become his Secretary at the School. Whilst serving her father she was also of great assistance to her mother Dorothy, who was struggling to cope with the problems of feeding and looking after the boarders during wartime. Hard work, considering the strict rationing and shortage of staff.

Mr Morgan retired in 1953 to a house that he had built for himself in Greenhill Road and the house where Sylvia lived until her death. She continued to work as Secretary for George Baxter, the new Headmaster, and in 1957 Sylvia and her mother received a tragic blow when F.A.Morgan died at an early age. She continued in her work until George Baxter retired in 1970 and after one year with Eddie Godsil remained at the school with Paul French until 1986.

In the 1971 to 1973 period the School underwent the great change from a Boys' Grammar School to a co-educational Sixth Form College and her experience of educational administration was invaluable as this change was brought into effect. This change of status produced an establishment for a College Bursar, and Sylvia was appointed to this position in September 1973. She worked in this capacity until her retirement on March 31st 1986 after having served the School and its successor for forty-five years.

Anyone who had reason to visit Sylvia in her office would have appreciated how much the day-to-day working of the School/College centred upon her. It was almost impossible to hold a conversation with her without being interrupted by the phone, a master or a student asking for advice.

Retirement did not bring much rest for Sylvia began a belated political career locally and over the years was elected as a Town Councillor and a Borough Councillor as a Conservative for the Farnham and Bourne ward. She retired from the Waverley position in 1999 but continued to represent the Bourne on the Town Council until 2003. In 2000 she was the Farnham Town Mayor. The latter has a gruelling schedule and almost in her eighties she worked to a programme that most younger people would find daunting.

AN OBITUARY PROFILE OF SYLVIA MORGAN (1921-2004)

Sylvia was known by all as a conscientious, unassuming, straightforward and balanced person. She appeared to be shy, but held strong views and made them known. An intelligent, well-read lady, who was interested in classical music, theatre, literature and gardening. In recent years she began to travel, mainly to see artistic and architectural sites.

Sylvia Morgan died peacefully of cancer after a short illness. She never married and her next of kin is a cousin, Nigel Morgan.

As the editor of the Farnhamian magazine for the past twelve years I have made it my rule that on receipt of the books from the printer I would deliver one copy to George Baxter and one copy to Sylvia Morgan on the way home. She retained a great interest in anything to do with the School and the Old Boys, and would often telephone me with news she had received from former staff or former boys. She was honoured to be asked to open the Home of Memorabilia in 2000 and in recent years she could always be seen attending the Farnham Lecture.

Sylvia Morgan was known and loved by hundreds of former pupils of the Farnham Boys' Grammar School and it is with great sadness that we have to report her passing.

Her funeral was held at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Farnham on Tuesday 20th April 2004

AN OBITUARY PROFILE OF F.C.'FREDDIE' WIMBLEDON (1922-1927)

As the 2004 magazine went to press we heard of the death of Freddie Wimbledon, who for many years had been a member of the Association, and promised to include more information in this edition. Many Old Boys will find the following of interest.

Freddie Wimbledon entered Farnham Grammar School in 1922 and joining Harding House he proved to be a versatile sportsman by taking part in the Boxing Tournament and the Cross Country Run. In 1926 he won a School Prize for Drawing and another in the following year for Divinity. He left the school in 1927 and remained in contact with the school by writing regularly to the Farnhamian magazine. In 1933 he was learning to fly and wrote, "I am not sure whether it will be of use, but I get a 'kick' out of it".

In 1943 he became a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force and on completing an OCTU course was commissioned in the RAF Regiment. He later transferred to Flying Control and advised that he found this very interesting and was enjoying it. In 1946 he was an Acting Squadron Leader and due to be demobbed, but clearly remained in the service and wrote from RAF Gutersloh in Germany in 1954 when he was a Flight Lieutenant. Later we heard that he had been made a Wing Commander.

Soon after he finished his tour of Germany and returned home with his family. He had clearly been interested in amateur dramatics whilst at school and during his tour revived an almost dead dramatic society at RAF Sundem. They put on several shows, including 'Worm's Eye View', 'Harlequinade', 'The Browning Version', 'The Chiltern Hundreds', 'Heaven and Charing Cross' and 'Born Yesterday'.

AN OBITUARY PROFILE OF F.C. 'FREDDIE' WIMBLEDON (1922-1927)

The society entered the International Services Drama League and won both the B.A.O.R.Cup for all three services and the 2nd T.A.F.Shield for the best RAF team with Saroyan's 'Hello Out There'. This led to broadcasting the play from the Cologne Studios, and Freddie also took part in a film of his particular work, which made him realise how hard film actors actually worked.

During his time in Germany he spent his leaves touring Austria, Switzerland and Holland with his family. In December 1990 he celebrated his Golden Wedding. Present were Eddie Glynn, who was his best man, plus old friends from school, Jim Casben and Arthur Denyer.

When the OFA Millennium Dinner was held at Farnham castle he wrote saying that over many years he had spent a small fortune on hearing aids, but with little success. Under the circumstances he felt he could not attend this special occasion.

Freddie remarried, with his second wife being a widow of a Free French Air Force Officer. This resulted in regular trips to France, not only to see relatives and friends, but to enjoy the wine and bringing several bottles back to his home in Chilworth, near Guildford.

OBITUARIES

It is sad to announce that **SQUADRON LEADER (retired) BOB PARRATT (1945-1951)** died suddenly at his Farnham home on 7th July 2004. Bob was a member of Morley House and whilst he did not distinguish himself greatly at school he made up for this with an excellent career in the Royal Air Force. He was commissioned and rose to the rank of Squadron Leader and his career ended with service at Odiham. Here he was involved in a station that operated Chinook helicopters and for his work during his long service career he was awarded the MBE (Member of the British Empire). After retirement he could be seen regularly at the Farnham Conservative Club playing dominos etc., with his younger brother Cliff, also an Old Boy, and old pal **FREDDIE LECLERQ**, yet another ex Grammar School pupil. Bob left his wife Rita and son Greg.

We received news that one of our younger Old Boys **MARTYN POWELL (1954-1959)** died on 6th April 2004.

We were advised by his daughter at the beginning of August 2004 that **MAURICE ARTHUR SHERFIELD (1927-1935)** had died at the age of 87 years. He was a member of the well-known family of local builders and was a Life Member of the Association.

Maurice was born on 5th November 1917 and entered the Farnham Grammar School at the age of ten. He was a member of Harding House and did not have a significant record of sporting achievement whilst at the school. He was clearly a good shot with a rifle and was a member of a highly successful House Team during 1934 and 1935.

OBITUARIES

However, he had an outstanding academic record and even in the early days at Morley Road he won a prize for good Prep. Work. In 1933 he won a Form Prize and a Subject Prize (Manual) and in 1934 he again won a Form Prize for his work. In 1935 he obtained his School Certificate in Geography, General School Examination with a Distinction in Geography and passed his London Matriculation Exam. In the same year he was appointed School Librarian.

Maurice and his parents lived at Weydon Hill Road during school years. His brother **I.G.SHERFIELD (1935-1941)** also attended Farnham Grammar School.

In late August we heard of the death of **A.J. (Tony) TILSON (1946-1951)** and for those attending the School at the end of the 1940s the name is well known for his many achievements in sport. Tony Tilson lived at Elstead and entered the School as a member of Morley House. From the start he showed his prowess at many sports and in 1947 won the Junior Long Jump and was 2nd in the 440 yards at the School Sports.

He also reached the semi-finals of the Boxing that year. The following year he won the High Jump and came 2nd in the Long Jump at Junior level and began to show that he was an above average cricketer. Playing for Morley he took 5 wickets against School and Harding and 8 wickets against Massingberd and was chosen for the School Colts Team.

In 1949 he won the Intermediate Long Jump and was 2nd in the High Jump and broke the Long Jump record at the Farnham & District Sports by over 2 feet. In House Cricket he took 3 wickets against School, 4 wickets against Harding and 5 wickets against both Childe and Massingberd. He was selected for the School Under 15 Team. Later that year he played for the School First XI Soccer Team.

1950 saw him win the Senior Long Jump, take 2nd place in the 100 yards and 3rd place in the High Jump. He was also selected for the Morley House Rifle Shooting Team. Again he created havoc with his bowling in the House Tournament and played for the School at both Cricket and Soccer. That year he was awarded his Soccer Colours.

In 1951 he was Runner-Up in the Boxing and at House Cricket took 3 wickets against Childe, 4 wickets against Massingberd and 8 wickets against Harding.

For many years after leaving the School he played for local teams at both Soccer and Cricket and was a gifted all round sportsman. Old Farnhamian **GRAHAM COLLYER**, has written an obituary in the local press and he says that Tony played for his local village until 1956 and then he and other team members moved to form the nucleus of the Thursley team. For 10 years the team progressed and in 1970-71-72 won a hat trick of titles in the I'Anson League. Tony then moved into a hardware business in Elstead and his son Keith became a member of the Thursley team. In later years he played golf and was a member at Shillinglee.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s Tony played football for Elstead when they won the Guildford League in 1958, 1959 and 1962. He also played a few seasons for Guildford City Reserves. He leaves his widow Joan, 3 children and 10 grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

In August we also lost **ROGER A. SMITH (1945-1949)** who was a member of Childe House and a regular competitor in the Boxing Tournament. He obtained his GCE in Art and this early interest developed further when he was accepted by the then Farnham School of Art. After National Service he did his teacher training at Bournemouth and after several posts secured a position as Head of Art at Mill Chase School in Bordon. Here the art department blossomed under his leadership and he became involved in the design of sets for stage productions. He took early retirement in the 1980s and decided to concentrate on his drawing, painting and printmaking.

His sense of social justice led him to joining the Labour Party and over the years he became an active member of the party. He stood as a candidate at local elections, and regularly had articles printed in the Farnham Herald letters column.

He leaves his wife Noreen, a son and two daughters, and three grandchildren.

In 2003 we saw the return to Farnham and the Old Farnhamians' Association of **JOHN JENNINGS (1941-1947)**, who attended the Southampton Lunch for the first time. A week prior to the same event in 2004 he wrote confirming that he would be attending again and hoped to bring his brother **PETER JENNINGS**. In the few days leading up to the luncheon John died and we have lost another Old Boy who returned to his roots. John was a member of Morley House and a regular in the House Shooting Team, a regular cross-country runner in the top 30, and a competent boxer.

After the death of Redvers Godsland, we took some time trying to establish who was the oldest Old Boy still alive. Eventually we tracked down **IAN T. JAMIESON** who had attended the Grammar School before the First World War from 1913 until 1916, and reached the age of 100 years in May 2002. Since that time John Crotty has regularly written to Ian at his home in Worthing, and it was very sad to hear that on the day John's last letter was received, Ian Jamieson died. He was 102 early in 2004 and was still quite active and lucid until near the end. He was proud of being the 'Oldest Old Boy' and we now begin the search to find out who takes over this mantle. Those attending the Annual Dinner will know that there are several in their 90s and hopefully we will find the man soon.

A sad time for the Bolt family as 2004 came to an end and 2005 began. Before Christmas we heard that the wife of **IAN BOLT (1948-53)** had died and in the middle of January this year his elder brother **TONY BOLT (1947-1952)** also died after a period of poor health. The brothers lived in the Bourne whilst they were at the School and Morley House gained from their prowess at some sports. Their home had a grass tennis court in the grounds and through this sport Tony met Stella Davies, whose father owned the courts and house outside the Morley Road main gates. Stella is well known as the long time secretary of the Old Girls' Association and she was also in hospital before Christmas for a heart operation. All our good wishes go to her and many of us will remember husband Tony, who became a popular councillor in the Farnborough, Hampshire area.

Received late in January was a message from the daughter of **WILLIAM JOHN CLIFFORD (1942-1947)** advising that her father had died on 17th August 2004. She said that he had qualified as an electronics' engineer and moved to Australia in 1965.

OBITUARIES

In the 1999 magazine we were guilty of printing in the stop press that a certain Old Boy had died, and a few days after issue his daughter-in-law rang the editor and said that her father-in-law was very much alive. The error was the result of incorrect information passed to the magazine at the time and an apology was given in the next edition. Unfortunately we now hear that the same person, **JOHN (JIM) CASBEN (1923-1928)**, died on the 31st January 2005 and his obituary is in the local press.

Jim was at the School at the same time as Allan Ryall, Gordon Morris, Roy Robins, Lawrie Dowsett and Ronald Ridout and no doubt is remembered by many Old Boys. He joined Childe House and was an active sportsman, representing his house at swimming, athletics and rifle shooting. In 1928 he won a School Prize for Drawing and the previous year became a corporal in the Combined Cadet Force.

Jim was born in South London in 1911 and the family moved to Ash when he was 2/3 years old. After village school he attended the Grammar School and on leaving took a clerical position with Drummond Brothers, a Guildford machine tool company. In 1936 he married Rose and their first house was in Merrow. They had two sons, Peter pre-war and Derek post-war! He was in a reserved occupation during the Second World War, but joined the Home Guard with one of his tasks to guard the Guildford railway tunnel at night.

At Drummonds his career moved forward and he became Financial Director and then Managing Director of the company. He retired in 1973 and in retirement he followed his love of painting and exhibited at many local and London galleries. Some of his work was used as limited edition prints to enable charities to raise funds. Sadly in 2003 Rose died and by this time Jim's hearing and memory were failing. A short time before his death he fell and broke a hip and was 93 when he passed away. He has left his family and many people around the Elstead area a wonderful legacy of beautiful watercolours.

In mid-February this year we heard of the death of **ROGER M. KEMP (1955-1962)**.

Roger was a member of Massingberd House and a keen sportsman.

THE OLDEST LIVING OLD BOY

With the sad loss of Ian Jamieson we now have to look for our 'oldest living Old Boy' and his successor will have left the School in the late 1920s or early 1930s. Likely contenders are Roy Robins (left 1931), Lawrie Dowsett (left 1931), George Hopkins (left 1931) or Allan Ryall (left 1930). Or could it be Major General Fred Elmslie who left in 1923 and we know is still alive and well. We will try to find the answer for the next magazine.

Our thanks to the following sponsors: Allan Lovell: Cyril Trust: Chris Hone: Ray Kirk: Simon Granville-Jones: Stephen Pritchard: John Hirst: Robin Welland-Jones.



OBITUARY - GEORGE BAXTER (1953-1970)

On the 8th January 2005 a link with the past was broken when George Baxter, former Headmaster of Farnham Grammar School, died in his early 90s. He was the last Head from the old school and had been a driving force in the Old Farnhamians' Association for many years. At the 2004 Annual Dinner he realised his ambition of calling the Roll Call for his fiftieth time.

With the loss of George Baxter and Sylvia Morgan in the last twelve months time is gradually eroding the links with the school that closed in 1973.

OBITUARY - GEORGE BAXTER (1953-1970)

In the 1950s, George Baxter was an icon of authority within an institution we felt very privileged to join. New Boys, such as I was in 1955, were suddenly thrust into a large school, with older pupils who were giants and masters who wore gowns. At the pinnacle of the hierarchy was the overwhelmingly impressive figure of George Baxter who, though only two years in the job, had already gained a formidable reputation. In addition, all our mums thought he was the best-looking man since Rudolph Valentino, which was a bit unnerving in itself.

Some of our nervousness of the school and its headmaster was quickly allayed by George himself. He made it a point to get to know all new boys very quickly by taking a period a week of English, but including some lessons on human reproduction just to fill in the gaps in our knowledge on this relevant subject.

His priority was to know boys individually without it affecting his role as a head who had to take difficult decisions. He was strict on our behaviour and enforced some rules that, even if they seemed pointless by today's standards, had the effect of making us feel part of a special institution.

But, most important of all, he ran a happy school. It was not sweetness and light every day for every pupil and every master, but my verdict after my seven years was that I had both enjoyed my years, particularly the 6th form, and had gained a great deal. I discovered in later years, as my career brought me into contact with hundreds of people of all nationalities, that my school education had equipped me well. George Baxter had played an important part in that.

It was a great delight that, returning to Farnham in 1992 after more than 20 years abroad, I found I was living close to George Baxter and that we were meeting regularly at local concerts and in the activities of the OFA. He became a friend and would enjoy talking about the school years, but always in a charitable way when discussing individuals.

George spent a lifetime of giving. He gave to us, as pupils, he gave to his family and he gave much to the community in Farnham by his participation in local affairs. He thoroughly deserved the accolades that poured on him in recent years and which continue in the aftermath of his passing.

Thanks again, George!

Written by Ian Sargeant

The Memorial Service for George Baxter took place at the Parish Church of St Andrew on Friday 14th January 2005. The church was packed with people from all walks of life in the town and the Old Farnhamians were well represented. The service was given by an Old Boy and former pupil of George, Andrew Tuck, and one of the speakers paying tribute said that George was known as 'The Father of Farnham'. After the ceremony many of those attending joined the family at Farnham Castle for tea and a light buffet.

So ends an era, with all former headmasters of the Farnham Grammar School passing on. George Baxter will stand as one of the greatest of them over the 400 or more years.

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:

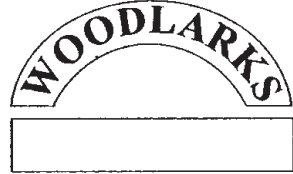
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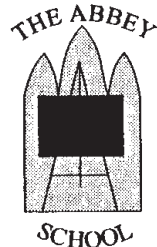
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