

THE FARNHAMIAN



THE 75TH ANNUAL DINNER AND THE
GEORGE BAXTER MEMORIAL EDITION

JUNE 2007

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THE FARNHAMIAN

June 2007

INTRODUCTION TO THE FARNHAMIAN - VOL 14

What a year for milestones! In October 2006 we celebrated the 45th Southampton Luncheon and in March 2007 we gathered for the 75th Annual Dinner at Farnham Castle. The highlight of the year in October 2006 was the George Baxter Memorial Ceremony at Farnham Maltings, where over 100 members of his family, friends, former staff, and representatives from the many organisations that he had belonged to over the years, including the Association, gathered to pay a suitable tribute to a former Headmaster and a well-respected man of Farnham.

The Farnham Lecture gave an insight into the effort required to obtain, and then present, the 2012 Olympic Games in London. One of the better lectures so far. The Southampton Luncheon attracted 40 members, and for the 45th the Guest of Honour was Graham Backhurst, son of one of the original founders of this event. Busketts Lawn is to close as a hotel and we must find a new location for 2007. The Farnham College Awards' evening attracted well over 20 sponsors from the Old Boys and ensured that the students were rewarded for their efforts during the year. Without the support of the members the evening would not be possible.



FORMER STAFF MEET TO SALUTE GEORGE BAXTER

Messrs: John Innes; Jimmy James; Hugh Batchelor; Tony Moore; Robbie Burns
Chris Chapple; Peter Larby; Stanley Owen.

75TH ANNUAL DINNER - 2007

For this special occasion in the calendar of the Old Farnhamians' Association, 127 former pupils of the Farnham Grammar School gathered at Farnham Castle for their annual dinner and evening of nostalgia. The toastmaster, Peter Clark in his striking red uniform, began the proceedings by asking the guests to stand while the President read out the names of those Old Boys who had died during the previous twelve months. This was followed by the Rector of Farnham and former pupil of the school, Andrew Tuck, saying grace.

The dinner presented by the Castle Caterers was demolished as usual and for this special evening entertainment came from the lady barber shop singing group of 18 ladies called In-Accord. Under the direction of Sue Lamport they sang songs from every decade since 1930 and brought the house down with a special Old Farnhamians Song written specially for the dinner. The Great Hall rang with applause and the delighted guests demanded an encore.

After the toast to the Queen, Geoff Hooker offered a toast to the School and recalled his days at Morley Road under the leadership of F.A.Morgan. He spoke of some of the legendary teachers and how they had help give him an excellent education to begin life as an adult. He felt that modern schools do not produce such camaraderie as the old grammar school and he had been privileged to attend such a fine school. The response from the guests clearly endorsed this.

Following on was ex-President John Crotty with a toast to the Association. Here we had one of the stalwarts of the organisation for many years who explained how the Old Boys had survived the change from grammar school to college and praised the various former presidents who had helped to keep the Association alive for many years after the school closed in 1973. The membership still increases and he felt that the excellent website provided by Ian Sargeant and the magazine by Cyril Trust had played major parts in the success of the Old Boys. Some mention was given regarding the possible merger between Farnham College and Guildford College and the Old Boys must wait to see if that affects the links with the school.

The final speech came from President, Cyril Trust, who began by reading the list of apologies and good wishes for the evening. He then welcomed to the castle four guests from overseas. He asked Bill Bodkin from Portugal, Danny Briggs from Spain, Michael Prentice from Canada and Norman Paget from America to take a bow. He also welcomed former teachers of the old school, Stanley Owen, Robbie Burns, Hugh Batchelor and Tony Moore to stand and take the applause from the guests. He said that of the former staff under F.A.Morgan, only George Carroll and Don Nicolson were alive and both had sent their apologies and best wishes.

He continued by reading a letter from a former German pupil, Gunthard Klein, who attended the school in 1948 and wrote how the school embraced him even though a few years before he was an enemy. He said that he still had many long-standing English friends and wished all those assembled an enjoyable evening.

75TH ANNUAL DINNER - 2007

The President then quoted a few anecdotes from his days at the school and one or two humorous tales since he had begun writing the magazine for the organisation. This was his last dinner as President and during his term in office he had been lucky enough to have the 80th Anniversary Garden Party, the George Baxter Memorial Project and now the 75th Annual Dinner. Like the former speaker he said that it was up to the younger element to take the Association forward.

The President advised that the 2007 Southampton Luncheon would be at a new venue in the New Forest as the hotel that had been used for many years had recently closed.

The Farnham Lecture would be given by the Director General of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation later this year and once again this promised to be an important event in the town of Farnham.

Cyril Trust finished by saying that the Old Farnhamians' Association remains strong and still has many years to run. It is down to the younger members to make sure that the town does not forget that such an excellent grammar school once existed high on the hill looking across Farnham.

The roll call was then taken by John Chuter, with the guests standing for those years that they attended the school, and the loving cup was passed along the tables, as is the tradition. Finally the evening ended with the School Song and the National Anthem.

This annual dinner had been at the Bush Hotel, Memorial Hall, British Restaurant and the School over the years, but Farnham Castle proved something extra special for this nostalgic occasion. Long may the Old Farnhamians live!

Attending:

P.Clark; R.Burns; H.Batchelor; A.Moore; S.Owen; C.D.Trust; R.Robins; R.Kirk; J.Chuter; J.Bentick; T.Tidd; J.Wilkinson; K.Anderson; J.Mitchell; A.J.Rayer; J.H.Crotty; P.Read; J.Munday; G.V.Hunt; D.O'Sullivan; P.Ford; S.Armstrong; A.D.Harland; W.Bodkin; R.Hewes; G.Hewes; R.Hack; R.Parker; J.Kite; R.Bowtell; J.Vick; D.Buckell; M.Coleby; B.E.Bone; J.Travers; M.Prentice; B.Webberley; H.Brindley; B.Hall; A.Lovell; D.Nunn; G.Hooker; D.Cutler; K.Mentzel; E.Buer; W.Herrington; T.Tubb; D.Phillips; G.LeVey; P.Still; N.Paget; B.J.Daniels; W.Luff; A.Gatfield; J.Cockle; M.E.Jeffreys; N.Timmins; J.Cooke; J.Fisher; D.Bowtell; D.Briggs; P.Mylles; D.Pollard; R.Luckhurst; K.Elkins; J.Peace; T.Withall; G.J.Woods; J.Neave; K.Mortimer; N.Newitt; C.Mullins; H.Upfold; M.Constantine; T.Homewood; E.Grimes; G.Honey; S.Lord; M.Westcott; D.Wyers; R.Edgell; R.Edgell; A.Matthews; M.Watts; J.Matthews; D.Coakes; R.D.Jarvis; A.Tuck; M.Sturt; B.Philpott; J.Hibberd; D.King; I.Sargeant; D.Roe; C.Nash; C.Slyfield; R.Stenning; C.Beal; M.Little; A.Wyers; M.Da Costa; M.Booker; M.Bond; N.Wood; W.Walsh; J.Sherwood; H.Torode; R.Golding; R.Jones; M.Seignot; M.D.Seignot; H.Groves; M.Owen; M.Mehta; J.Saunders; C.Fitch; J.Clark; R.Welland-Jones; R.Bennett; S.Pritchard; D.Hughes; P.Cope; J.Cope; R.Frampton; R.Diamond; D.Eppel; N.Hague.

75TH ANNUAL DINNER - 2007



Organising Committee for Annual Dinner were John Travers, Cyril Trust, Bill Luff, and Tony Gatfield. Fifth man, Roger Edgell, was still selling raffle tickets at the time.



Former Teachers , Tony Moore, Stanley Owen, Robbie Burns, Hugh Batchelor.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2007

Over twenty five Old Boys gathered for the review of the past twelve months and the meeting began with the traditional period of silence as the President read out the names of those members who had died during the past year. The agenda then covered the various items as follows:

Membership: Tony Harland advised that there had been a small decline in the number of members and there were now 171 Life Members and 168 Annual Members bringing the total to 339 overall. Recent years had seen a gradual increase from the 269 members listed in 1995. It was proposed that the membership should be asked to consider an increase in membership fees as from January 2008, this being the first increase for well over 10 years.

Treasurer: Stephen Pritchard advised that total cumulative funds stood at £5102 compared to £10,114 at the end of last year. Adjustments would improve this total, but the effect of the subsidising of the 2005 Garden Party, the George Baxter Memorial and the forthcoming 75th Annual Dinner has depleted funds. Stephen will prepare the proposal to members to increase annual fees. A vote of thanks was made to the Treasurer for his continued excellent handling of the OFA finances.

Leaving Scholarship Trust: Ian Sargeant advised that over the past year the Trust had helped 14 students and the scheme was very active now. Funds transferred from the 400 Trust had helped and he thanked the Trust for a further £140 that evening.

400 Trust: Cyril Trust advised that the Farnham Lecture had been excellent but the attendance very poor, especially from younger people. The event produced a profit of almost £400. In 2007 it is planned to offer the lecture in conjunction with the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, with speakers from Bells Piece in Farnham and from a victim of the London Bombings. Income would be shared with Bells Piece (2/3rds) and the Trust (1/3rd). Final plans and dates are to be agreed. The College Awards Scheme was again successful with 24 Old Boys and relatives offering sponsorship to current students. This had brought some £600 to the Trust via Gift Aid. The plans to help with a booklet on the 'First 30 years of Farnham College' appeared to have come to a halt and on the advice of John Clarke it has been decided to cancel the project and ask for the £500 contribution from the Trust to be returned.

Annual Dinner: The 2006 event was successful, although the numbers were down to below 90 members. The meal was first class and with the help of the raffle the dinner made a profit of £229. The plans for the 75th Annual Dinner at Farnham Castle are well advanced and Cyril Trust advised that with the help of a small committee he had most things in place. There will be some entertainment, a photographer to take pictures and have them available on the evening for sale and a commemorative gift for all members attending. The secretary advised that half of the 128 tickets had been sold in the first 10 days and felt that the final number will see all seats taken.

The 2008 Annual Dinner would be on either 15th or 22nd March 2008

The Farnhamian: Cyril Trust advised that the 2007 magazine was on schedule and once again should contain many items of interest. The edition should be available mid-May.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2007

Southampton Lunch: Cyril Trust advised that Busketts Lawn, where the event had been held for almost 20 years, had been closed down and is due for re-development. With the help of Peter Clark a new venue has been found and Cyril has visited the hotel to view what is available. He advised that he thought that the Woodlands Lodge Hotel would be first class and has booked for Wednesday 17th October 2007.

OFA Website: Ian Sargeant advised that there have now been over 14,000 'hits' on the site and clearly it was working well. He would like to improve it but time is a problem. Ian was complimented on this excellent website and his administration of it.

OFA College Representative: Ian Sargeant is now the chairman of the College Governors and explained recent changes that are under discussion at the College. To help with the financial stability of the College it is planned that it merges with Guildford College late in 2007. There is still much to discuss, but Ian advised that the future of Farnham College would be more secure if the plan came to fruition.

George Baxter Memorial: One of the major events in the recent history of the OFA and very successful tribute to George Baxter, the former headmaster of the Grammar School. Cyril Trust advised that the Baxter family had been very pleased with the bust and many of the organisations attending had written with their praise of the event and the memorial in general. The bust has now been secured at The Farnham Maltings and is there for members to view.

The meeting concluded with the annual election of officers and all general committee members have agreed to stand again for a further term. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected and thanked for their efforts over the previous twelve months.



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2006 FARNHAM LECTURE

The 2006 Farnham Lecture presented by the Farnhamian 400 Trust at Farnham College in October proved to be the most professional, and possibly the most interesting, to date. The talk was entitled 'Winning the 2012 Olympic Games for London' and the speaker was Simon Clegg, Chief Executive of the British Olympic Association. Sally Francis, the College Principal, welcomed the audience and the speaker introduced by Cyril Trust, Chairman of the 400 Trust and President of the Old Farnhamians' Association. Cyril said that the last Olympic Games held in London in 1948 was the same year that he entered Farnham Grammar School, and he still remembered the feats of Emil Zatopek and Fanny Blankers-Koen. No doubt the 2012 Games will have its own heroes for the people to follow.

The speaker began with a short presentation of the structure of the British Olympic Association and brief clips of former British Olympic champions e.g. Mary Rand, Lyn Davies, Sebastian Coe, Sally Gunnell, Denise Lewis and Kelly Holmes were among the household names shown. He then began to show how his organisation had begun to prepare the bid over seven years ago and finally produced a report of over 150,000 words saying why it was a good idea for this country to attempt to win the Games for Great Britain. The report showed that it would help modernise the infrastructure of the East London area, bring new housing, new jobs and new stadia to London. It all made sense!

There were many people to persuade and Simon Clegg undertook this task in conjunction with the Project Leader, Barbara Cassani, who had been instrumental in bringing the Atlanta Games to America. Initially they needed the support of Ken Livingstone and his London team and he stated that he was not interested in sport in the least, but if it was good for London then he would support the bid. From that day the Mayor has been a great supporter and done everything possible to help Simon Clegg and his organisation. Other organisations needed persuading and finally it was down to the Tony Blair government to give the seal of approval. This meant giving its agreement to underwrite the costs of the project financially and after some discussions the Government approved it.

Having achieved this support from the British, it was now time to try to influence the 102 members of the International Olympic Committee who actually voted for the country who would host the Games. There was considerable opposition from Moscow, Madrid, New York and Paris and initially Great Britain were not considered a possibility. However, by this time the project was being headed by Sebastian Coe, who had a great influence worldwide and gathered around him fellow sportsmen and women such as Sir Steve Redgrave, Denise Lewis and David Beckham. Gradually they won over the IOC members and in Singapore their bid was accepted and the Games were secured for London in 2012. A considerable achievement for all concerned!

Simon said that much of the required publicity to support their commercial plans was diluted by the London bombings in early July 2005, soon after the winning of the bid. This resulted in making it more difficult to attract sponsorship for the Games, but since then the aim to raise the many millions needed has moved on a pace.

2006 FARNHAM LECTURE

Simon Clegg then presented another film showing the plans for the Olympic area and the work required to have the project ready for the opening in July 2012. The village for the 10,600 athletes would become housing for the London people afterwards and the support for the athletes, totalling well over 200,000, would bring business to the hotels of the city and business in general. The plans were mind blowing!

Events would not only be restricted to the new stadiums but well-known venues would be included in the plans. Wimbledon, the home of tennis, would be used, Lords, the home of cricket would be used and Bisley would host the shooting. The mind boggled when he announced that Horseguards' Parade would be the home for the Beach Volley Ball competition. The parks of London would be alive with daily entertainment, with pop groups and stage shows every night of the Games. London would be presenting the 'Greatest Show on Earth'.

When Simon Clegg first obtained the position of Chief Executive someone said that it must be a great job, as it only required 17 days work every four years. After listening to this lecture one could only admire the energy and commitment of this man.

He has set a target for him and his team to be fourth in the medals' table in 2012, which would require 18 gold medals from the UK team. Quite a target, but reachable if the youth of today take up the challenge and begin to put their energy into one of the many sports involved. The audience showed a great lack of young people to listen to the plans for one of greatest events in their lifetime, and if they would only show more interest and commitment then it is possible for one of those gold medals to go to a Farnham boy or girl.



GEORGE BAXTER MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The article in the 2005 magazine gave details of the project to commission a bronze bust of George Baxter and hold a memorial ceremony to unveil the finished work. Over the following twelve months the project continued to progress, although it did have some problems. The original commission was on Sheila Mitchell, a well-known local sculptor and sister of Old Boy, John Mitchell, but Sheila unfortunately died quite suddenly when half way through the work. Fortunately her family approached a leading sculptor in this country and great friend of Sheila Mitchell, and Faith Winter took over the project for the Association. Faith is well known for her work on the Falklands Memorial, 'Bomber' Harris and locally the statue of George Abbot at the top of Guildford High Street.

The contributions from the various organisations, where George Baxter was involved, continued to come in and contributions from the appeal to the members of the Association helped swell the fund. To give an idea of the response for contributions, there were over 40 individual cheques from members of N.A.D.F.A.S. and almost 60 donations from Old Boys.

As planned the unveiling ceremony took place at Farnham Maltings on the afternoon of 10th October 2006 and well over 100 people attended the occasion. The list shown below gives an idea of the influence George had across Farnham and the decision to have a lasting memorial to him was applauded by all those who attended. The Baxter family were out in force and came from across the country to see this appreciation of their father, grandfather, uncle or brother.

The President opened the proceedings and explained the reasons for the ceremony and handed over to Sir Ray Tindle, who gave a short speech regarding George and unveiled the bust. The Reverend Andrew Tuck, Rector of St. Andrew's Church and former pupil of George Baxter at the grammar school, gave an excellent tribute to the headmaster of the School for well over 20 years. The President brought the ceremony to a close, and all present enjoyed an hour at a light reception funded by the Old Farnhamians' Association.

The bust was fixed into the chosen site afterwards and is now on show at the Maltings for the people of Farnham to see. It will remain there for the foreseeable future and any Old Boy visiting the town should try to see this excellent work of art.

For the record the following organisations contributed towards the project. Others were unable to do so as they are charities themselves and do not have money available for this purpose.

N.A.D.F.A.S. (National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Society)

Farnham Rotary

Farnham Youth Choir Trust

Barfield School

Farnham Society

St Polycarps School

Probus

Farnhamian 400 Trust

GEORGE BAXTER MEMORIAL CEREMONY

As can be seen from the list below several former staff, who worked under the leadership of George Baxter, attended the ceremony with their wives. It was something of a reunion for them after many years.

Attending the ceremony:

The Baxter Family: Mr & Mrs Ian Baxter; Simon Baxter; Nicholas Baxter; Mr & Mrs D.Moore; Mr & Mrs C.Pegrum; Mr & Mrs M.Pegrum; Michael Pegrum; Olivia Pegrum; Mr & Mrs C.Stratford; George Stratford; Annabel Stratford; Harry Stratford; Yvonne Andrews; Geoffrey Baxter;

Ex FGS Staff: Mr & Mrs Tony Moore; Mr & Mrs Stanley Owen; Mr & Mrs Robbie Burns. Mr & Mrs Peter Larby ; Mr & Mrs Chris Chapple; Mr & Mrs Jimmy James;

Farnham Society: Michael Blower; Ronald Broughton; Dr.Gordon Harris; Max Lyons;

National Trust: Tom Ayres; Mrs Sheelagh Greentree.

N.A.D.F.A.S.: Col. & Mrs R.P.Norton; Mrs Frances Ashworth; Mr & Mrs R.Burder.

The Treloar Trust: Lady Maureen Allan.

Farnham Rotary: Mr & Mrs Michael Conoley; Mr & Mrs Robin Crawford; Mr & Mrs Keith Mentzel; Mr & Mrs Patrick Lloyd.

Pierrepont School: Mr & Mrs H.Batchelor

St.Polycarps School: Lawrence Henry

Churches Together in Farnham: Mr & Mrs Roy Graham; Rev. John Innes.

Farnham Youth Choir: Mr & Mrs Andrew Owen; Chris Mansell;

Farnham Visitors Council: Andrew Lodge; Sir Ray Tindle

Farnham Maltings Association: Laurence Kinney

Farnham Town Council: Ann Mansell

Farnham College: Sally Francis

Farnham Castle Briefing Centre: Mr & Mrs Edward Milam

Museum of Farnham: Anne Jones

Farnham Music Festival: Julia Wilson

Barfield School: Mr & Mrs George Hampson

Farnhamian 400 Trust: Mr & Mrs Cyril Trust; Maurice Sturt; Stephen Pritchard; John Crotty; Tony Gatfield; Michael Horner;

Old Farnhamians' Association: Bryan Bone; Mr & Mrs Brian Daniels; John Cooke; Phil Dunford; Mr & Mrs Roger Edgell; Graham Glazier; Howard Torode;

Alan Lovell; John Hirst; Bill Luff; Mr & Mrs John Mitchell; Chris Nash; John Travers Mr & Mrs Terry Tidd; Wally Walsh; Mark Westcott;

Farnham Grammar School: Richard Jarvis

Special Guests: Charles Bone; Faith Winter; Rev. Andrew Tuck

Press: Monica Jones (Farnham Herald); Mr & Mrs E.Parratt (Farnham Diary)

The Association would like to thank the following for their help in making the project a success.

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GEORGE BAXTER MEMORIAL CEREMONY



L to R: Charles Bone (Artist); Cyril Trust (OFA President); Faith Winter (Sculptor)



Ian Baxter and Gill Pegrum with the bust of their father, George Baxter MBE.

THE BEGINNING OF THE SOUTHAMPTON DINNER/LUNCHEON

It seems impossible to allow the forty-fifth anniversary of what is now the Southampton Luncheon to pass without comment, and from the many meticulous records kept by Dudley Backhurst the following may be of interest to the reader.

In 1962 a meeting was held by Old Boys, Dudley Backhurst, Leslie Luff, John Stroud and Freddie Grinstead, and between them they decided to try to launch a dinner for former pupils of the Farnham Grammar School who resided in the Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire areas. Invitations were sent out and the first ever Southampton Dinner was held at the Dolphin Hotel in the centre of Southampton with seventeen members attending. Clearly the plan had the approval of the Headmaster and staff at the school as the guest list included Eric Munton and George Baxter.

The following attended that initial event: Andrews F; Ashton; Backhurst; Brooker; Fisher S.H; Godsland; Grinstead; Horry; Hutchings; Kuchemann; Luff L; Morice; Penrose; Piper; Stroud L.J; Baxter G; Munton E.

The meal was followed by a toast to the School by Lesle Luff, with George Baxter responding and the Chairman for the dinner was John Stroud.I imagine that nobody present realised at that the event would still be taking place forty-five years later. The Dolphin Hotel was to host the event until 1990 and the highest number sitting down was twenty-five in 1972, 1973 and 1981.

At this stage it was decided to switch the event to lunchtime, as it was thought that more members would be able to attend and Busketts Lawn Hotel in the New Forest was chosen as the venue in 1991. Since then this hotel has looked after the luncheon and gradually the numbers attracted to this lovely part of Southern England have increased. So far 2003 boasts the highest attendance when forty-nine came to pay tribute to Dudley Backhurst, who was the last of the original four to die. In fact the number is now regularly in excess of thirty-five, and rising.

Several Old Boys attend the Southampton event each year, but do not travel to the Annual Dinner at Farnham. This makes it possible to meet new friends when taking the journey to the New Forest. There are many who make the journey each year and until his death David Horry had attended all thirty-eight meals in his lifetime. The following will give some idea of those who have attended most:

D.C.HORRY	38	J.D.BACKHURST	37
J.H.CROTTY	34	L.J.STROUD	30
B.J.DANIELS	24	J.BROOKER	23
L.DOWSETT	23	A.D.HARLAND	23
G.BAXTER	23	F.GRINSTEAD	21
D.A.BOWTELL	20	R.ROBINS	20
A.J.RYALL	19	E.MUNTON	19
E.F.HUNT	19	P.J.CLARK	19
J.E.GODDARD	18	G.W.S.MORRIS	18
T.TIDD	18		

LONG MAY IT CONTINUE!

2006 SOUTHAMPTON LUNCHEON

The 45th Old Farnhamians' Southampton Luncheon in October 2006 completed a very busy ten days for the Association, following the successful George Baxter Memorial Ceremony and Farnham Lecture. Once again the luncheon was held at Busketts Lawn Hotel in the New Forest with the guests coming from across the South and West of England and with forty-two attending was the second highest total for the event.

As usual the room was full of chatter as these former pupils of Farnham Grammar School came together for an afternoon of nostalgia. This is not a very formal event, with the minimum of speeches and plenty of time to recall old times at school and remember absent friends. The setting at Woodlands helps make this a special annual event and once enticed to attend initially it seems that members of the Association make sure they return each year.

Cyril Trust, the President, said a few words after the meal and mainly reviewed the success of the programme for the year to date. There was still the College Awards' Ceremony to come in December 2006, and he looked forward to seeing all those present at Farnham Castle on Saturday 24th March 2007 for the 75th Annual Dinner.

He welcomed Graham Backhurst as the guest of honour, and whose father Dudley was one of the four initiators of this luncheon in 1962.

The President pointed out that the Association had been remiss in forgetting that on 28th April 2006 it had been the 100th anniversary of the official opening of the Morley Road complex. With the 80th anniversary of the Association in 2005, the 45th anniversary of the Southampton Luncheon in 2006, and the 75th Annual Dinner being planned for 2007, this important milestone had been missed.

To end the luncheon on a high note the President asked Jim Hall, who with Roy Roberts, was an Old Boy enjoying his 90s, to say a few words. This former army officer stood up and gave an electrifying speech and recalled the many times during his life that he had met Old Boys across the world at the strangest times and in the most unlikely places. He said that within minutes of meeting an Old Boy of the grammar school one soon resorted to being a schoolboy once again. The school had bred a camaraderie amongst its pupils and this Southampton Luncheon was a good example of this.

A very enjoyable affair and an event that becomes more popular each year.

Attending:

Peter Clark; Michael Horner; Roger Edgell; Clive Beal; Maurice Sturt; Bryan Bone; John Travers; Terry Tidd; Maurice Jeffreys; Graham Backhurst; Roy Common; Cyril Trust; Derek Bowtell; Ian Sargeant; Chris Nash; David Nunn; John Crotty; Tony Gatfield; Brian Daniels; Brian Webberley; Tony Harland; Julian Bentick; Stan Armstrong; Keith Mentzel; Bob Hewes; John Mitchell; John Cockle; Neville Timmins; Geoff Hooker; John Vick; Derek Roe; Denis Lampard; Jim Hall; David Cutler; Gerald LeVey; Graham Hunt; Des O'Sullivan; Peter Ford; John Cope; David Buckell; Roy Robins.

2006 COLLEGE CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

The profile of this event continues to improve and in 2006 a full hall at Farnham College heard of the progress of the college in general and saw many of the students receive awards for their hard work. The guest of honour was Steve Markwell, who had worked in marketing for several major companies and who passed on some good advice to the students. Sally Francis, the Principal, announced plans for a new structure for the college by forming a close relationship with Guildford College.

Again the Old Boys sponsorships enabled the following awards to be made:

Christopher Boddington	<i>The Paul French Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In Mathematics and Science
Simon Bristow	<i>The Roger Edgell Award</i> for exceptional Achievement
Victoria Burke	<i>The Sturt Family Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In Business Studies and English
Sam Charman	<i>The Stella & Tony Bolt Award</i> for exceptional Achievement in Art & Design
Sue Ciechanowicz	<i>The John Crotty Award</i> for endeavour and progress
Abigail Colley	<i>The John Cockle Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In English
Jacob Craigie	<i>The Graham Blunt Award</i> for exceptional Achievement in Mathematics & Science
David Hawkins	<i>The Maurice Jeffreys Award</i> for endeavour in Mathematics
Holly Hibbert	<i>The Alan Lovell Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In Geography
Harry Hook	<i>The Cyril Trust Award</i> for service to the College
Oliver Horncastle	<i>The Wally Walsh Award</i> for exceptional Achievement
Stephanie Kelly	<i>The Michael Horner Award</i> for endeavour in Travel And Tourism
Emma Kirrage	<i>The Don Homer Award</i> for excellence in Drama
Samuel Owen	<i>The Bryan Bone Award</i> for exceptional Achievement
Verena Partridge	<i>The John Aylwin Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In Design
Kayleigh Pennington	<i>The Ian Sargeant Award</i> for endeavour in Physics
Jacob Snitter	<i>The Tony Rayer Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In Media
Hugo Staton	<i>The Chris Nash Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In Science & Mathematics
David Stirton	<i>The Roy Robins Award</i> for exceptional Achievement
Jessica Thomerson	<i>The John Travers Award</i> for endeavour in Art
James Tonkin	<i>The Dudley Backhurst Award</i> for exceptional Achievement in Science
Ellie Trezise	<i>The Ron Short Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In Science
Philip Varlow	<i>The Geoff Hooker Award</i> for exceptional Achievement in Mathematics
Rachel Walker	<i>The John Wills Award</i> for exceptional Achievement In Art & Design

FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL WAR HEROES

(Taken from the REMEMBRANCE BOOK written by Henry Ellwood)

HOWARD EDWIN WINTER (1936-1938)

Howard Edwin Winter was the son of Edwin and Ellen Elizabeth Winter of Aldershot. His family home was Elgar House, Avondale Road, Aldershot and his father at one time was Chairman of the Farnham Urban District Council. His father was the proprietor of a grocer's shop in Badshot Lea and represented the parish for many years on the Council.

Howard had an elder sister called Winifred who attended the Farnham Girls' Grammar School. She left in 1928 and trained at Goldsmith to become a teacher and she was an accomplished violinist. Over the years she contributed a great deal to the musical life of Aldershot and was a founder member of the Aldershot Festival. She was a conductor of the Laverock Singers and later the Trinity Singers. She was a very enthusiastic member of the Methodist Circuit Choir. Winifred died in 2003 in her early 90s.

Entering the Grammar School in 1936 Howard soon proved to be a first class athlete. He played soccer for the school and on leaving in 1938 played for the Old Farnhamians' Association at both soccer and cricket. Before joining the Navy he was training to be a traveller for E.A. Underwood of Aldershot and in the early part of the Second World War he served with the Home Guard.

After training in the Navy he first served on ships doing convoy duties in the Atlantic and Pacific and for a time was serving on an Australian warship named HMAS Birnie. When the Japanese entered the war at the end of 1941 it is believed that Howard was stationed in Singapore and at Christmas that year his sister Winifred received a greetings card from him addressed from HMS Sultan. It is not known whether this was a ship or a shore-based establishment. When the Japanese advanced through Malaya, and Singapore surrendered, it is believed that he escaped to Batavia on the Island of Java.

He gained a passage on a ship called HMS Anking, which was bound for Australia, and on board was another Farnham man, Gordon Phillips who had survived the sinking of the battleship HMS Prince of Wales. On Wednesday 4th March 1942 the HMS Anking, which was a cargo ship hired by the Royal Navy to be used as a depot ship, was torpedoed by the Japanese off the coast of Java and sunk. Both Howard Edwin Winter and Gordon Alonzo Bernard Phillips were killed.

Howard Winter (Service No. P/MX 80886) was 21 years old when he died. His name appears on the Gostrey Meadow Memorial, the Badshot Lea School Roll of Honour and the Farnham Grammar School Roll of Honour.

He wrote to the School magazine in 1941 saying, "I am certain that the sacrifice of such old pals as Heath-Brown, Nolan and Allen will not have been in vain".

Howard Winter is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.
Panel 69: Column 3:

FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL WAR HEROES**(Taken from the REMEMBRANCE BOOK written by Henry Ellwood)**

DONALD STEVENS (1932-1934)

Donald Stevens was born in Farnborough on August 8th 1919, the son of Herbert Lawrence Stevens and Beryl Marjorie Stevens. After the First World War the family moved to Felixstowe and Donald attended school there from 1926 until 1931. His father was an aeronautical engineer and took up an appointment as the Deputy Director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, with the family home being in Menin Way, Farnham. His father had been a test pilot at Farnborough during the First World War.

There were four children in the family and in age order they were: Joan, Donald, Jack and Margaret. All four children attended the Farnham Grammar Schools. In his first year at the School Donald had the honour of winning the School Sport's Cup, but he unfortunately contracted rheumatic fever and this illness restricted him to no sports and only half days at school. On leaving the Grammar School he continued his education at Bradfield College, where he excelled in Mathematics. He was also allowed to play a limited amount of football. From Bradfield College he moved to Downing College, Cambridge, where he played football for the college.

Donald was awarded a BA Hons. Degree (Cantab) Mechanical Science Tripos whilst at Cambridge. Downing College had also been attended by his father and brother Jack. On passing his degree he took up employment with Rolls Royce solving mathematical problems in aero engines. He then had great difficulty obtaining his release from Rolls Royce to enter the Royal Air Force and train as a pilot. After his initial induction he was posted to Los Angeles in the United States for pilot training, where he passed out as top cadet on the course. He received further pilot training as a fighter pilot flying Hurricane aircraft.

He was then posted to Moreton-in-the-Marsh and his duties were to teach bomber crews in fighter attack evasion. With a special camera he would carry out mock attacks on bombers and record their success in avoidance. It is believed that when carrying out these duties he crashed into a mountain and was killed on Saturday 10th June 1944, just a few days after the D-Day landings. He was 24 years of age and his body was cremated in Woking (St.John's) Crematorium, with his name shown on Panel 5 of the memorial and his ashes were scattered in the Byron Garden under the cherry tree. His Service No. was 150017.

Donald Stevens name is on the Gostrey Meadow Memorial and the Farnham Grammar school Roll of Honour. In 1945 the 'Farnhamian' magazine recorded that whilst he was only at the Grammar school for two years he had made a lasting impression. He went to Cambridge and seemed certain to build a distinguished career.

His brother, Jack, served in the Royal Engineers during and after the war and then became Head of Mathematics at Bedford Modern School. His sister Margaret lived in Dorset and elder sister Joan in Farnham.

FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM No.6.

As you will see from the obituaries this year the Association lost one of its oldest members in Lorrie Dowsett. Some photos of him were sent to the Editor by his brother Douglas and there will be many of us who remember him, especially those who attend the Southampton Luncheon regularly.



Lorrie in his beloved countryside in 1986.



Ray Bowtell, Brian Daniels, Derek Bowtell, Roy Robins, Lorrie Dowsett 1989
Southampton Luncheon

**INTER HOUSE - LAWN TENNIS CUP
GIVEN BY PAUL M. GROSS (1937)**



1953:	MORLEY HOUSE	1954:	MORLEY HOUSE
1955:	MORLEY HOUSE	1956:	MORLEY HOUSE
1957:	CHILDE HOUSE	1958:	CHILDE HOUSE
1959:	MORLEY HOUSE	1960:	MORLEY HOUSE
1961:	MORLEY HOUSE	1962:	MORLEY HOUSE
1963:	MORLEY HOUSE	1964:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE
1965:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE	1966:	MORLEY HOUSE
1967:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE	1968:	MORLEY HOUSE
1969:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE	1970:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE
1971:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE		

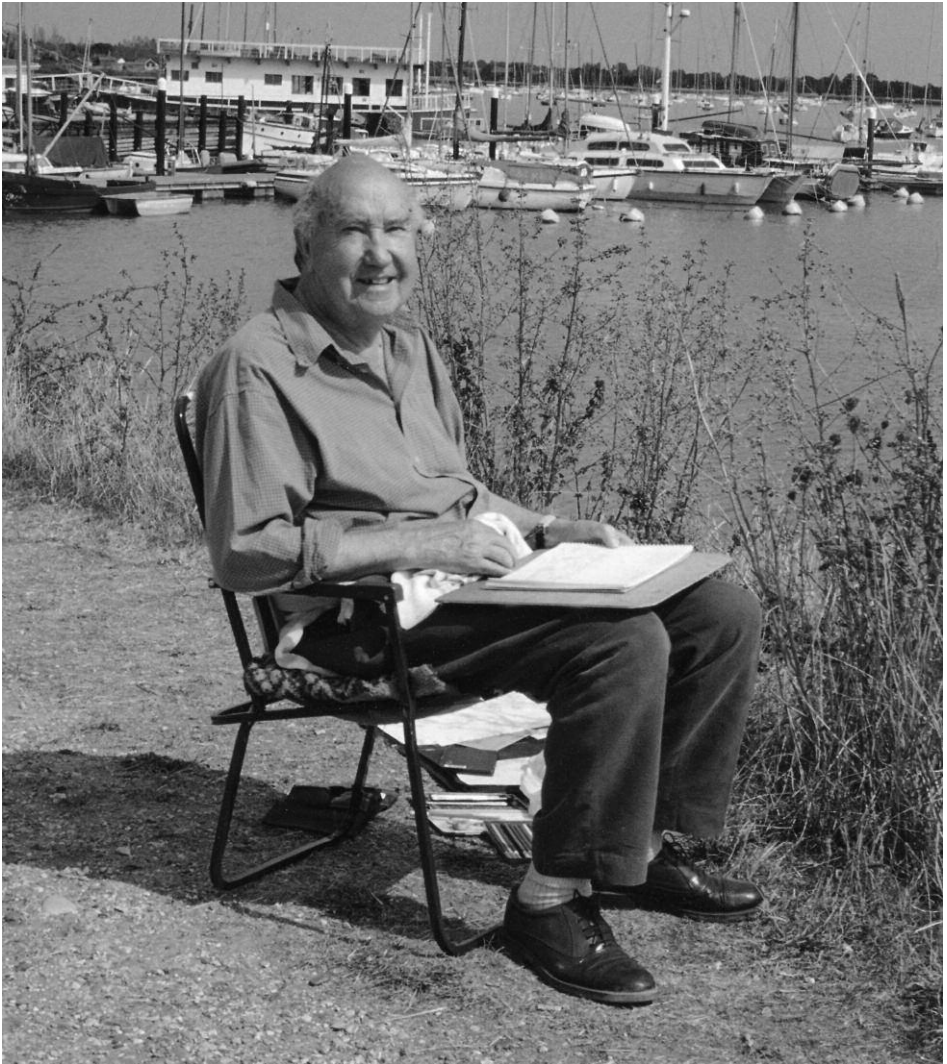
**SPORTS CHALLENGE CUP
GIVEN BY H.W.DOMAN.**



1899:	FORM 4A	1900:	FORM 4B
1901:	REMOVE	1902:	BOARDERS HOUSE
1903:	TOWN HOUSE	1904:	TRAIN HOUSE
1905:	TRAIN HOUSE	1906:	TRAIN HOUSE
1907:	BOARDERS HOUSE	1908:	BOARDERS HOUSE
1909:	BOARDERS HOUSE	1910:	BOARDERS HOUSE
1911:	BOARDERS HOUSE	1912:	BOARDERS HOUSE
1913:	DR HARDING'S HOUSE	1919:	SCHOOL HOUSE
1920:	MORLEY HOUSE	1921:	CHILDE HOUSE
1922:	MORLEY/CHILDE HOUSE	1923:	HARDING HOUSE
1924:	HARDING HOUSE	1925:	HARDING HOUSE
1926:	HARDING HOUSE	1927:	HARDING HOUSE AND MASSINGBERD HOUSE
1928:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE	1929:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE
1930:	MORLEY HOUSE	1931:	MORLEY HOUSE
1932:	MORLEY HOUSE	1933:	CHILDE HOUSE
1934:	SCHOOL HOUSE	1935:	SCHOOL HOUSE
1936:	SCHOOL HOUSE	1937:	SCHOOL HOUSE
1938:	MASSINGBERD HOUSE AND MORLEY HOUSE	1939:	CHILDE HOUSE

THEN AND NOW

TONY MOORE - TEACHER - (1961-1968)



At last we have persuaded this popular former teacher to give us a few details of his life and he writes as follows:

‘I was at school not far from Farnham, at the Grammar School in Henley. There followed, after national service in the Army, the most enjoyable of times at Keble College, Oxford with much sport (rugby, cricket, tennis) and a modicum of work, finishing with a fourth year Diploma of Education. Then my first teaching post came along at Wellingborough School taking Geography, Latin, Games - it meant moving from the South of England to

THEN AND NOW**TONY MOORE - TEACHER - (1961-1968)**

the Midlands! There I was fortunate to meet the delightful and attractive Barbara, a matron at the School, who became my wife - we have just celebrated our Golden Wedding (August 2006). This entailed a move from bachelor quarters to a house in Milton in order to teach at Northampton Grammar School. What Staff versus Boys rugby matches we had there with two English internationals in our Staff side - Health and Safety would not think much of that now!

Despite an indifferent testimonial from the Head at Northampton (reported to me by a colleague), I had the great good fortune to be appointed next to the Staff at Farnham Grammar School by George Baxter. There followed seven highly enjoyable years for us, living in Upper Hale and bringing our family total up to five wonderful children - they are a terrific bunch of people. At School, the Duchess of Gloucester came to open, what to all of us at the time, was a large and impressive new extension. I coached some talented cricket First XI's (Edgells, Green, Wood et al) and the staff excelled themselves with their plays and sketches written and acted by Mike Foster, Doug Leuchars, myself, Don Nicolson, Jimmy James, Derek Friggins - what fun we had!!! Ned Godsil and Harold Beeken were a great help to me and we all had some great and varied times together. The Music Festivals organised by Alan Fluck were also a highlight of those times, held in the Parish Church and supported by young composers, some of whom have since become world famous in their profession.

Promotion took me to Colchester and the headship of a small international school at Copford. After four enjoyable and varied years there, Barbara and I had the opportunity to take over Colchester High School for Boys, which lead to twenty-two very fulfilling years, watching the school grow to include girls in the Lower School up to 11+ (we still have selection for Grammar Schools in Essex), and develop to over 400 pupils, aged 3 to 16. I was appointed to the Independent Schools Inspectorate. This involved joining teams to inspect independent schools, of all sizes from Prep to Public Schools, which turned out to be a fascinating part of my working days.

And so to retirement, still near Colchester, and involvement with our local church, golf, painting, and just pottering. We keep in touch with Farnham through former colleague Stanley Owen and enjoy attending Old Farnhamians' Annual Dinners when possible.'

This profile leaves very few of the former staff of the Grammar School to contact, but we hope that there will be one or two more for future magazines.

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THEN AND NOW

JOHN VICK (1941-1948)



Once again we feature a member of a well-known Farnham family, who for many years ran a successful business in the town. The name of Vick Brothers is a part of the history of Farnham.

John Vick became a pupil at the Farnham Grammar School in September 1941 when he joined form 1c, the preparatory form prior to joining form 1 in the following year. Like many Old Farnhamians he has fond memories of the school. In his early days he was very keen on sport until being instructed by the Headmaster, Mr Morgan, to reduce his involvement and get down to studies. He passed School Certificate with exemption from Matriculation and the advice given was obviously heeded! During his years at the school he became firstly a member of the school scout troop and subsequently a member of the school Army Cadet Force, where he obtained Certificate 'A' and "rose" to the rank of Lance Corporal as a Bren gun instructor for the young recruits.

On leaving school he attended Guildford Technical College, where he studied Accountancy, Economics, Company Law and Commercial Law comprising the Sale of Goods Act, Bills of Exchange Act, Cheques Act and Contract Law - probably the forerunner of Business Studies

THEN AND NOW**JOHN VICK (1941-1948)**

courses which we are familiar with today. His intention, following completion of the course, was to travel abroad and obtain employment with a major industrial company. However, shortly after completing the first year of the course and passing intermediate examinations he was advised that deferment from National Service would not be granted. However, on being ordered to report for a medical in Kingston he was promptly rejected for National Service owing to health problems, which came to light. His parents would not allow him to recommence studies until the medical problems were resolved and after a short while, and being unable to sit still at home, he suggested to his father that he would like to work for him part-time to assist in the engineering and motor business based in Aldershot, which his father had founded at the turn of the century - a well known local company called Vick Bros. As his health improved he became more and more involved with the business and became so absorbed with it that he stayed with the company for the rest of his working life. He was appointed a Director of the Company in the mid 1950s and Managing Director in the early 1960s. Following the death of his father in 1965 he was appointed Chairman and Managing Director.

John acquired other businesses, firstly Cranstone & Son of Firgrove Hill, Farnham and also another Public Company based in Trowbridge, Wiltshire and hence had three Ford Main Dealerships in the group. He was responsible for designing, with architects and other consultants, new premises at both locations. In the late 1960s owing to current trends, forecasts of population and retail sector growth he decided to establish a presence in Farnborough and took over Tower Hill Garage in Cove. It quickly became apparent that Farnborough was the growth area and on making a presentation to Ford Motor Company it was soon agreed that a new facility should be established in that area. Following discussions with the local Council two sites were acquired aggregating to 5 acres, one to house a Group Head Office and Showrooms and the other to house car and truck workshops, a body repair shop and Parts Department. After spending some time in designing these new facilities they were finally opened in 1973 and the former premises in Aldershot sold. The new facility in Farnborough was hailed as the most modern Ford Main Dealership in Europe by Ford Motor Company and the facility was visited by many Dealers from various parts of this country and also from Europe.

Right from his early days in the business, John attended meetings of the Ford Dealers' Association in London and in 1975 was elected Chairman of the Association, a post that he held for two years. At the same time he was appointed National Chairman of the Ford Dealers' Associations, which required him to attend Association Meetings throughout the country and many meetings with the manufacturers in this country and abroad. He also served on a national Petroleum Committee with Shell.

As for other activities, John joined the Rotary Club of Aldershot in 1969 and, following moving the Head Office to Farnborough, he joined the Rotary Club of Farnborough where he served as their President in approximately 1982 and was a member of the Rotary movement for over fifteen years in aggregate. He was also a member of the Aldershot Chamber of Commerce for many years and just prior to moving the main business to Farnborough he served as their President.

THEN AND NOW

JOHN VICK (1941-1948)

John is married to Tilly and they have two children, a son who lives in Shropshire and a daughter who now lives in Yorkshire, and between them they have 8 grandchildren. It is interesting to note that the Farnham Grammar School was indirectly responsible for introducing John to his future wife. Tilly was the Administration Sister and Tutor at Alton General Hospital and although she lived very close to John and John's parents they had never met as they both worked long hours in their respective fields of work. There was an Old Boy of the school in Alton General Hospital by the name of Peter Carpenter, a tall, lanky fellow who had a lovely personality and he was in the same form as John during their school days. Sadly he was very seriously ill and he had asked his nurse to make contact with me as he wished to see me, and although he did not know my address he knew that I lived near Farnham at Crooksbury Hill. The nurse contacted Tilly, as she knew that Tilly lived in that area. Tilly called to see John who, of course, agreed to visit Peter in hospital. Shortly after his visit Peter died. However, John and Tilly met on many occasions and, as they say, the rest is history - they married the following year.

John sold his Companies in 1984 and following retirement moved to Devon with Tilly early in the following year.

MEMBERSHIP

While each year sees the death of a handful of Old Boys the membership of the Association moves steadily forward, in spite of the fact that the school closed over 30 years ago. Taken from the annual general meeting figures given by the Membership Secretary, the following shows the progress in recent years.

Year	Life Members	Annual Members	Total Members	Year	Life Members	Annual Members	Total
1995	163	106	269	1996	176	119	295
1997	179	118	297	1998	176	132	308
1999	172	146	318	2000	171	156	327
2001	156	169	325	2002	158	169	327
2003	163	168	331	2004	165	165	330
2005	169	164	333	2006	164	177	341
2007	170	169	339				

OFFICERS FOR THE OLD FARNHAMIAN'S' ASSOCIATION

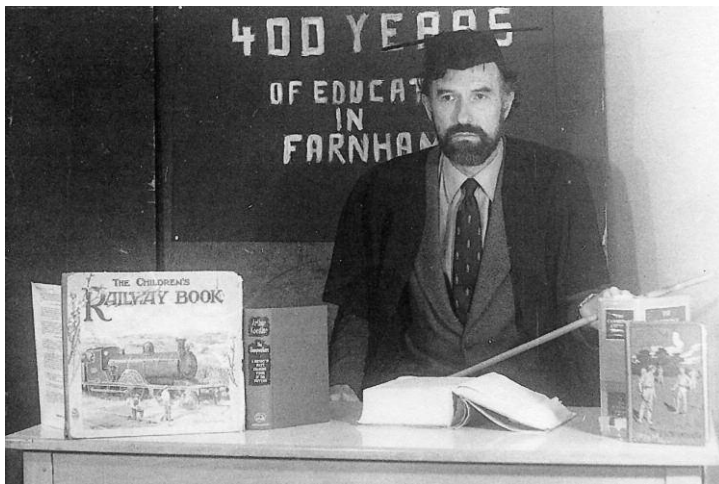
General Committee: Cyril Trust (President); Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer); Tony Harland (Membership); Roger Edgell (Secretary); Alan Lovell; Bill Luff; Bryan Bone; Tony Gatfield; John Travers; John Crotty; Maurice Sturt; Mike Horner; Ian Sargeant; Robin Welland-Jones; John Clarke; Mike Mehta; Brian Daniels;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

Farnhamian 400 Trust: Cyril Trust (Chairman); Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer); Tony Gatfield (Secretary); Roger Edgell; Maurice Sturt; Mike Horner; Bill Luff; John MacLaughlin; Roy Robins; John Crotty.

Leaving Scholarship Trust: Brian Daniels (Chairman); Ian Sargeant; Mike Mehta; Phil Dunford; Chris Nash; David Grimes.

THEN AND NOW

JOHN McLAUGHLIN (1972-1993)



THEN - John McLaughlin at the Great Fete in 1978.

John McLaughlin was born in Brighton in March 1935. He attended Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School from 1946 until 1954 and has many very happy memories of those years. From there he went to Hertford College, Oxford to read History from 1954 until 1957. The following year he studied for an Education Diploma.

In 1959 he began his teaching career at a boys' grammar school in Essex. From there he moved in 1962 to a very large comprehensive school in Coventry and broadened his teaching experience considerably. He arrived in Surrey in 1965 as Head of History at Oxted County School. In his seven years there the school expanded greatly and changed significantly from grammar to bilateral to being fully comprehensive. When he left he presided over a large Humanities Department.

Farnham Grammar School saw his arrival in January 1972 as Deputy Head and he had five terms in that role before the College opened in September 1973.

John admits that what attracted him to the post was the prospect of the creation of an open access Sixth Form College and consequently has always harboured a tiny feeling of guilt with regard to the Old Farnhamians' Association.

In his twenty-one years at Morley Road as Deputy Head/Vice Principal, although his main role was administrative, dealing with all aspects of the internal organisation of the institution and with the interviewing of prospective students, he always ensured that he stayed in the classroom for a third of his time. Apart from History he taught a range of General Studies, also Media Studies and Sociology with memories of teaching Geography in his early Grammar School days.

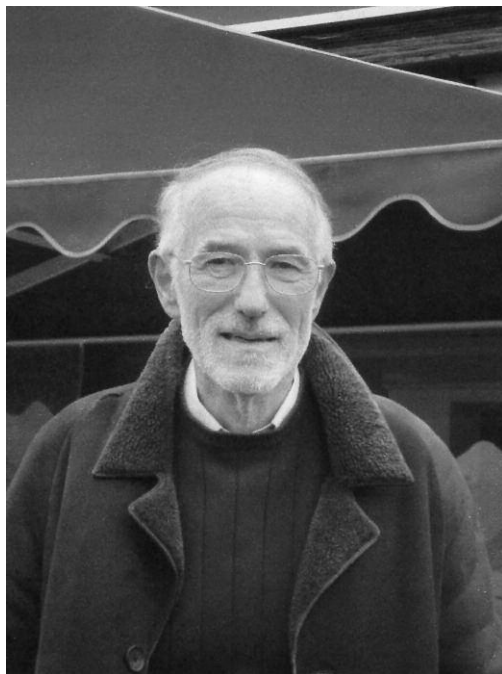
THEN AND NOW**JOHN McLAUGHLIN (1972-1993)**

Some of the many highlights of those years that stand out in his memory include the The Great Fete of 1978, which celebrated 400 years of continuous secondary education in Farnham and the transport of six packed coaches of enthusiastic student supporters to the English Colleges' Football Cup Final at Barnsley, which Farnham won 1-0.

John thoroughly enjoyed his working life, but to his surprise, retirement has proved even better. He has continued to travel very widely, often with the Historical Association. For some years he has participated closely in an equine support group. Locally he is involved in charity work and the U3A, where he has lectured, and plays table tennis. He is the travel scribe for the William Cobbett Society. Bridge takes care of at least one afternoon a week and the theatre, cinema and London galleries are a constant lure for him.

Since 1997 he has been a Trustee of Farnham College, having been persuaded to join by the late Alan Smallman from whom he took over as chairman in 1999. He is also a member of the Farnhamian 400 Trust Committee and helps greatly with the link between the College and the Old Boys.

Gardening, cooking and walking are the therapies that keep him sane, but his compulsion to buy books is hard to overcome.



NOW - John McLaughlin, who in his own words looks 'semi senile and geriatric'.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

When designing the programme and the poster for the 2006 Farnham Lecture it was made clear that we would not be able to print the famous five 'Olympic Rings', even though the speaker was Chief Executive of the British Olympic Association. Anyone wishing to use this logo has to pay a substantial amount in sponsorship and these days the costs of presenting the Games is covered by sponsors. The Editor recalls that in the 1990s he began negotiations for such a sponsorship for the Atlanta Games, only to find that the sum of £250,000 was the smallest sponsorship on offer and companies such as Pepsi Cola and MacDonald's would be paying £6 million for the opportunity to show the logo on their products. However, our former President, **JOHN CROTTY (1942-1948)**, who helps design the programme etc., tried again and eventually we were allowed to show the Olympic Rings on our paperwork. This is quite a coup for the Old Farnhamians' Association - thanks to John!

Since the Grammar School and College have been at Morley Road the building and surrounding playing fields have been an integral part of the local community. Many people would walk their dogs around the soccer pitches and the site was open to the people of the town. In the local press issued in April 2006, the College was accused of turning the site into a 'fortress' and introducing new security systems that would prevent anyone wandering inside the college perimeter. Sally Francis, the Principal, explained that in recent years the buildings had been subjected to various acts of vandalism and the time had come to prohibit people using the grounds for their 'entertainment'. Just another sign of the violent times that we live in, and the majority having to pay for the mindless behaviour of a few. In the Farnham Herald the following week that old firebrand, **HANS HOLM**, objected strongly to this move by the College.

When we received news that **J.E.M. MOULD (1924-1931)** had died in 2006 we began to gather information about him in order to print a comprehensive obituary to him in the magazine. Using the 'Google' website we asked for data on Air Commodore Mould and details came back regarding research into the 'feeding habits of common crossbills - 1974'. Both the Editor and John Crotty felt sure that the author of this was not our J.E.M.Mould, but after asking his family it was confirmed that he had a great interest in birds and had written the article. The original obituary did not include this information and this puts the record straight.

In May 2006 we heard that after fighting cancer for some time and returning to the stage and radio in particular, **BILL WALLIS (1948-1955)** unfortunately collapsed on stage at Bristol. Bill was playing Titus Andronicus at the time and was carried off the stage with a strangulated hernia. After a few weeks we are told that he has since recovered and is once again acting on stage etc., I am sure that all those who know Bill will want to wish him better health in the future.

At the 2006 Annual Dinner it was good to see a number of new faces. One of these was **BRUCE PHILPOTT (1944-1949)**, who lives near Hindhead, and he has kindly brought us up to date with his career since leaving the Grammar School.

'Entering the School in 1944 I joined Harding House and during my time was a moderate sportsman. I was a strong runner, if the distance was under a quarter of a mile, I boxed, shot

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

a rifle, joined the Combined Cadet Force and played chess. I had decided to take up medicine as a career, but the lack of biology was a distinct disadvantage. I therefore missed the Sixth Form and moved to Guildford Technical College, where after a year I obtained an Inter, B.Sc., which got me to Charing Cross Hospital Medical School after another year. The waiting year was spent at St. Lukas Hospital as a Nursing Auxiliary - a fascinating experience and great fun as, the staff were very kind to a young and inexperienced student. What more I was paid the princely sum of around £4 per week.

It was a better time then to be a student as a County award paid one's fees and a fairly tight living allowance.

My time at The Cross was interrupted by a diagnosis of pulmonary TB on an X-Ray, which meant six months off and eighteen months of medication and injections. I never was able to plunge the needle in but had to do it very slowly - good practice though!

In 1956 I qualified and was able to marry Jeanne, after an engagement of three years. We had to live apart for two more years whilst I did resident posts, the last of which was my first year as an anaesthetist. I started this with an elbow in plaster as I had been Father Christmas and was rather too vigorously wheeled around the hospital by my keen colleagues. Only a crack, but quite sore!

We went to Bristol for the next four years - first to the B.R.I. and then to Frenchay Hospital. Whilst in Bristol our son was born. Back to London for two years at St Thomas's when our daughter arrived. I became Senior Registrar at The Cross and was upgraded to temporary Consultant at The Cross and the R.N.O.H. whilst the holder was in Africa. On his return I reverted to being Senior Registrar, but obtained three sessions at Moorfields. After a few months a post came up at Guildford, which I was lucky enough to obtain. I worked there until I left the National Health Service and also worked at Mount Alvernia and King Edward VII at Midhurst.

I finally retired completely at the age of sixty-nine. This was about right, as the day after I completed my final list I fell asleep at the wheel of the car and demolished a hedge!

I hope we see Bruce at more OFA functions in the future.

On the front page of the Farnham Herald dated 1st June 2006 there was a photograph of well-known Old Boy, **TONY HARLAND (1943-1951)**, and the headline 'Harland walks out for 1,500th time'. This referred to the match between Waverley C.C. and Oakley, Basingstoke, when Tony played this innings at the age of seventy-two.

The article said that Tony is 'Mr Waverley' to most opposing teams, having kept the wandering side going through good times and bad. He had served the club in most capacities, continues to be the secretary, and as one of the keenest cricketers you are ever likely to meet, is not too enthusiastic about the idea of hanging up his boots.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Many of us who were at the School during his time remember Tony as the First XI goalkeeper and he still retains his interest in soccer from the stands. However, it is at cricket that he is well respected locally and tells the editor that he still makes double figures with the bat regularly as well as taking the odd wicket when bowling. Have we a more active sportsman over the age of three score and ten among the membership of the Association?

Note: We have since heard that old pal ALAN LOVELL has written to Wisdens, the most important book for all cricketers, with these details and maybe Tony will be featured in a forthcoming edition. If so, this local sportsman will be on record for all cricketers throughout the world to read about. Fame at last Tony!

The receipt of the 2006 magazine prompted former pupil and teacher, **DONALD NICOLSON (1950-1982)**, to make contact and discuss certain items. Don still lives in Cambridge and after some years has given up his studies in Greek. He says that in recent years he has passed his GCSE in Italian and is now working on Spanish. It appears that he can write in all of these languages, but is not so fluent when speaking them. He advised that at the age of 81 he is still reasonably fit, although he did suffer a slight stroke two years ago. The journey to Farnham is tiring now, but he hopes to be at the 75th Annual Dinner at Farnham Castle.

The George Baxter Memorial Fund received responses from various parts of the globe and just showed how popular and respected this former Headmaster was. Cheques were received from **NORMAN PAGET** from Baltimore USA, **TERRY HUGHES** from California USA and **MICHAEL LOCK** from New Zealand.

Following the item in the 2006 magazine regarding **W.G.RUSHTON (1919-1923)** his son has now sent to the editor an autobiography of this Old Boy. There is a chapter about his days at the Grammar School and he begins by saying 'When I first went to the school the headmaster was a nice old man called Stroud, but he was only temporary and the next term a much younger man came as head, he was very sarcastic and overbearing and I didn't get on at all well with him.'

(Editor: I imagine he is referring to William 'Billy' Stroud and Captain Stickland)

He says that he played outside right for the School Under 14 Football XI and they won the local division for the Surrey Secondary Schools Cup. In his final year he was voted in as Captain of Childe House and that year the house won the Victor Ludorum Cup at the School Sports.

The modern schoolboy goes to school by car in the main and the following shows just how different this was in the early 1900s:

'When I became a day boy, to get to Farnham from Lindford needed a 2½ mile cycle ride to the station, the train, which was a little loop line, one of two carriages which only ran to and fro the next station Bentley, which was on the main line. So you changed at Bentley and waited for the main line train to Farnham, which was the next station. The train took nearly an hour, so in the evening coming home after school the train left Farnham just after five, add an hour and then I had to cycle home. I would get home about seven o'clock, have my tea

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

and then I was supposed to do three hours homework. I am afraid that most of my homework was done in the train.'

We heard from **JOHN COOKE (1948-1953)** that on a visit to friends at Chalfont St Giles he accompanied them to their local Roman Catholic Church Festival and found that the Parish Priest was an Old Boy. It was in fact **KEN PAYNE (1941-1946)** and John is hoping that he will become a member of the Association and will attend the 75th Annual Dinner in 2007. Ken was asking if anyone knew the whereabouts of a contemporary of his, **RICHARD DANIEL PARSONS**, (whose father is said to have invented the Steam Turbine). Can anybody help?

Having read the 2006 magazine Ken sent us details of his career since leaving the school and as you can see it has been exceptional. Born in 1930, he was educated at Farnham Grammar School followed by time at Woking County Grammar School, University College, Hull, and Seminaire St Sulpice, Paris. He won a Diploma in Education at Hull and a B Sc at London.

His career, after education, began as an Education Officer in the RAF from 1953-55, and then spent five years in Paris at the Seminaire St Sulpice. He then had the following positions: Curate, St Gregory's, Northampton - 1960-65; Chaplain, Royal Air Force-1965-69; Parish Priest: SS Philip & James, Bedford-1969-75; St. Joseph's, Aylesbury-1975-86; Promoter of Clergy in-Service Training & Retreats-1977-94; Dean, Northampton Cathedral-1986-99; Parish Priest, St. Aidan's, Little Chalfont-1999 to the present time.

Over the years he has written publications - 'Stretch Out Your Hand' (1998), 'Shades of Welcome' (2002), 'What Shall I Say?' (2005), as well as various articles. He was the Founder and Chairman of Missionaries of the Poor Supporters' Association and Chaplain for Teams of Our Lady (1999-to date)

In spite of all this workload Ken still follows his interests in travel, walking, photography and swimming. Yet another Old Boy to follow a career in the church.

Once again it was good to hear from **BARBARA WILLS**, the widow of former Art Master John Wills, and know that at the age of 86 she is still well and living in Rochdale. Every year she comments on the magazine and for 2006 she recalls four of the six Presidents in the introduction and Julia and Diana, the daughters of Harold Beeken. She also remembers John Crowhurst (did he live at Bridgefield?), and was sad to hear of the passing of Gordon Webberley. She remembers the death of Michael Kilburn and how devastated his parents were, and says that one of the hardest tasks undertaken by her husband was to tell a pupil that his father had died.

Barbara advises that when closing the patio door recently the handle came away in her hand and she had a bad fall. There were no broken bones, only bruises, and she hoped that she would be well again very soon. Wonderful to hear from her again!

I am delighted that Barbara has agreed to a sponsorship for Farnham College and there will now be a 'John Wills Award for Art & Design' in memory of a first class teacher and artist.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

It is clear from some of the memorabilia left by **SYLVIA MORGAN** that as a young girl she acted like so many others and kept an autograph book. Hers was dedicated to members of either the First XI Football Teams or First XI Cricket Teams and the pages show the autographs of many well-known pupils of the school.

There is a small photograph of the 1929-30 Football XI, who were winners of the 'Chapman Cup' awarded by the Surrey Secondary Schools League, complete with the autographs of each team member. Among these are Norman Patrick (member of the Patrick family who have been stonemasons and undertakers in Farnham for many years), Jim Kingcome (his father was a teacher at the school and Jim died in recent years in America), Gordon Morris (that longstanding Old Boy who only died a few years ago) and Eddie Glynn (our toastmaster for many years prior to Peter Clark).

Other signatures include the following: J.W.Mack, who played football and cricket for the school in 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931. Jack Gwilliam, who became a well-known actor. L B Benge, captain of the 1926 First XI Cricket Team. J H Cooke, captain of 1927 First XI Cricket Team and captain of the 1925-26 First XI Football Team. E J Purcell, captain of the 1925 First XI Cricket Team. F W (Freddie) Grinstead, who was one of the four Old Boys to begin the Southampton Luncheon.

The book is full of other former pupils, many with their rank in the forces, and who would think that after 80 years their signatures given to a young girl would still be available in the memorabilia of the old school.

Once again the receipt of the 2006 magazine has provoked **DANNY BRIGGS**, who left the school in 1955, to write and comment on certain items. He feels that the boys from the 1948-53 class must have been extremely good, or not entirely telling the truth, when only 2 out of 10 admitted to having the cane from the Headmaster. Danny is sure that during his five years at the school almost everyone in his class received at least one 'beating'.

He has also enclosed a copy of his report for the Autumn Term 1952 and feels that the remarks added by F.A.Morgan are worth quoting. They are as follows:

'I am very pleased (underlined) to see this report. He has not been brought to my notice over this term for unsatisfactory work or conduct. Bravo! For this relief, much thanks'. Danny feels that such comments would not be allowed on a current report, which he understands children have to fill in themselves.

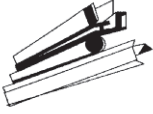
He promises further comment on the magazine, which he enjoys reading at his home in Malaga, Spain.

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NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

On a recent visit to New Zealand to see relatives **ALAN LOVELL (1947-1953)** was introduced to a couple living in Palmerston North. During the conversation the man explained that prior to moving to New Zealand he had worked in the West Surrey area as a 'carer' to **RONALD RIDOUT**. Alan is hoping that the couple will send him more details for the magazine, but so far nothing has arrived in the post.

In January 2007 the Tory Party had arranged for local MP, Jeremy Hunt, to give the first Annual Farnham Lecture at the Church House in the town. It was not until mid-January that someone pointed out that this was the title of the Old Farnhamians' Annual Lecture, that had been given for almost 20 years, and consequently the Tories made contact asking for permission to use the title. They were advised that the title could be used, but it had to be made clear in the programme and the press that it was nothing to do with the OFA Lecture, which was not political. The Farnham Herald advised the Farnham readers that this was the case.

In the March issue of the Farnham Diary the following article appeared under the headline 'Bill's Latin prep. marked - again'

'A former pupil at Farnham Grammar School has had to consult one of his old teachers 50 years after he left the school. Actor **BILL WALLIS (1948-1955)**, who was school captain in the 1950s, has been filming *The Other Boleyn Girl*, with Scarlett Johansson. He plays Archbishop Cranmer and all his dialogue is in Latin.

Worried in case he might be asked to ad lib, he telephoned **DONALD NICOLSON**, who had taught him Latin at the school. Bill, who has just celebrated his 70th birthday, was given the information which he needed and the film will be released later this year. Mr Nicolson, now 81, was on the teaching staff of the Farnham Grammar School from 1950 until 1982 (by which time it had become Farnham College) and was the first former pupil to go back to the school as a teacher.'

Once again we hear from **JOHN COOKE (1948-1953)** telling us that on reaching the age of 70 he was given a 'special holiday' by his employers, Saga Holidays. As a thank you for his years of service they gave him a heavily subsidised four-week holiday in New Zealand. How many of us had such generous employers?

The 75th Annual Dinner was sold out within a few days of tickets becoming available and several Old Boys were unable to attend the event at Farnham Castle. One of these was **GUNTARD KLEIN (1948-1950)** who wrote to the President and asked for his good wishes to be read out at the dinner. His letter offers an insight into a German boy coming to school in England just a short time after the Second World War and he thanks the humanity and open mindedness of F.A.Morgan for his acceptance at the school. He recalls that after a few weeks he was asked to don the British Army uniform of the Combined Cadet Force saying 'Sir, after all, I am a German'. The head went into a huddle with other masters and advised, 'If your father has any scruples, you need not wear the uniform, but must take part in the exercises.' Fortunately the father did not mind and Gunthard joined the rest of the class in khaki. He finishes his letter by saying that he had a remarkable and wonderful time of almost 2 years at the school and found many friends for life - over decades now. 'Thank you very much! Farnham did me good!

SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIRST XI's OVER FORTY YEARS APART



Winners of the 'Chapman Cup' - 1922-1923

Back Row: Young; Tebbutt; Thompson; Larn; Shipley; Case.
 Front Row: Mr. Kingcome; Parker; Webb; Elmslie; Brindley; Tribe; Mr. Ashton



School First XI - 1964 - 1965

Back Row: Andy Kettle; David Marshall; Roger West; John Terrill;
 Peter Turner; Roger Moorcroft.
 Front Row: Nicky Ghost; Melvyn Green; Roger Edgell; Martin Little;
 David Edgell; Richard Wills; Nigel Ghost.

MEETING AN OLD BOY IN THE CAPITAL OF CANADA

The following article was submitted to the Farnham Herald in July 2006, as it included reference to a former reporter. They printed it in part during August.

In the past three or four years the current President of the Old Farnhamians' Association, Cyril Trust, made contact with Michael Prentice, a former class mate at Farnham Grammar School. Michael has lived in Canada for the past thirty years and having begun his journalistic career at the Farnham Herald he has worked for the Ottawa Citizen for most of those thirty years.

Cyril and his wife recently holidayed in Eastern Canada and felt it was too good an opportunity to miss and arranged to meet Michael and his wife Marie-Louise. On the day in question a rail trip from Montreal to Ottawa resulted in the meeting, after fifty three years, on the platform of the capital city of Canada. The day together was full of nostalgia, with exchange of news about various classmates and friends and Cyril felt that several people in Farnham would be interested to hear about this former Herald sports reporter.

Having learned something about journalism at the Farnham herald, whilst other Old Boys Guy Bellamy and Keith Dolley worked for the Surrey & Hants, Michael went to London to begin a career with Reuters. Here he concentrated on sport and after some time he decided to broaden his interests, learned French, and moved to Reuters in Paris. Here he covered events such as the French Open Tennis and the Tour de France, as well as becoming involved in some international headlines. He feels that the high spot of his career was when he was asked to cover the Mohammad Ali versus George Foreman fight in Zaire (mainly because this is a French speaking country). The morning after the fight, a radio reporter and Michael managed to obtain an exclusive interview with the champion on the way to the airport and thus scooped other newspapers. Michael still has a copy of the taped interview.

It was time when Michael had decided to drop out of sports and he took a position in Washington, working at the White House during the Nixon administration. As you can imagine these were exciting times and he enjoyed the work.

He then decided to leave Reuters in 1976 and move to Canada and looked for work in the capital city, managing to get a position with the Ottawa Journal. From here he moved to the Ottawa Citizen and stayed there until his retirement. During his time he has had several important interviews and includes Margaret Trudeau (wife of Premier Pierre Trudeau) and the Queen among the best. He talked at length to the Queen about horse racing and was asked by officials to move along, as he was taking too long over the conversation.

In the early days in Canada he lived in a small village outside the centre of the city called Wakefield, which was easy for travelling into work and close to some spectacular ski runs. He met his second wife, Marie Louise, twelve years ago when she visited Canada on holiday. She comes from The Hague in Holland and they eventually married in Delft and moved to their present home in Kanata (the original Indian name for Canada).

MEETING AN OLD BOY IN THE CAPITAL OF CANADA

When he retired the Citizen printed a special front page all about Michael Prentice and his life in newspapers and this was framed and hangs above his desk. He still writes some articles for the Citizen as well as columns in two magazines, which come out each month. He regularly attends important functions in the city and is held in high esteem by politicians and councillors of Ottawa.

When at the Farnham Grammar School his first love was Aldershot FC and he still looks at the Internet each week to see their results. Michael does travel to the UK once or twice each year to see his mother in Eastbourne and his brother, and is hoping to come over in October 2006. He would like to attend the Farnham Lecture and the Southampton Luncheon and meet up with more of his old classmates.



Cyril Trust with Marie Louise & Michael Prentice

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

The local museum at Ash issued a special edition in July 2006 to commemorate those men from the village who had died at the Somme in July 1916. Six men are listed, with one being **THOMAS WILLIAM OSGOOD**, who was an officer in the Royal Field Artillery. It was reported in the Aldershot Gazette and Military News dated 28th July 1916 that Thomas had been educated at Farnham Grammar School and had worked for some years at Messrs. Dennis. The Surrey Advertiser dated 3rd August 1917 advised that his name had been on the Farnham Grammar School Roll of Honour.

This was the letter sent to his parents by the officer commanding his battery, “ With the deepest regret I write to inform you of the death, this day, in action of your son Thomas William. He was killed instantaneously by shellfire, so did not suffer at all. He was an excellent officer and a very capable one; recently I applied for his promotion to Lieutenant. He was actually acting as Captain of the battery. We have all liked him very much, and extend to you our sincere sympathy. Your son was buried this evening by our chaplain and a careful and exact record of the site has been made.”

Thomas died on 19th July 1916, aged 31, and is buried in Quarry Cemetery, Montauban, Somme, where his gravestone is inscribed “His life for his country. He freely gave. A noble life. A hero’s grave”.

Our series on those Old Boys who died in the Second World War continues to recall brave men who were educated at the school. I am pleased to be able to include details of this Old Boy who gave his life over ninety years ago.

In the 2006 magazine we quoted from a letter sent in by **JOHN CROWHURST**, where he referred to another Old Boy who lived opposite the Kilburn family in Bridgefield, Farnham. We have now received a letter from that Old Boy, who is **BASIL FROST (1946-1949)**, who writes from his home in Marlborough, Wilts.

‘I was born in Bridgefield and our neighbour was Harry Beeken, who moved in about the time that I was born. I remember little about Michael Kilburn other than the racing bicycle referred to by John but do remember his mother calling him in from activities further down Bridgefield, which was undeveloped in those days, with a cry of ‘cooee’. Why do such memories linger after all these years?

Basil continues by saying that he is the youngest of three brothers who attended the Farnham Grammar School. D.C. (David) attended before the Second World War and joined up a short time after leaving the school. His other brother H.C. (Harvey) and Basil went with their parents to Palestine in 1939, their father being in the Army. Later they were evacuated to South Africa and returned to the family home in Bridgefield in late 1946 and they entered the Grammar School soon afterwards and their time was somewhat limited. Basil was aware on the return home that Mrs Kilburn’s condition had deteriorated, so can add little to what was reported by John Crowhurst.

Both of Basil’s brothers are sadly deceased. D.C. stayed in the Army after the War and H.C. qualified as a Chartered Accountant and was in practice in Tavistock. Basil joined the

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Midland Bank after leaving school and served in branches mainly in and around Hampshire, including a long spell in Farnham. Soon after retiring he became involved with Talking Newspapers for the Blind, which still occupies him today.

One of the venues on the 'Jeremy Hardy Autumn Tour 2006' is Farnham Maltings and clearly this well-known comedian is making a name for himself. Of course **JEREMY HARDY (1973-1979)** is a regular on the radio and has undertaken a nationwide tour from early September until mid-December 2006. Critics clearly approve of his humour as follows:

The Guardian: 'Hilarious, casual but crushing comments on class, politics and the dreary, unfriendly place that is England...Britain might just have found its very own Michael Moore'.

The Independent: 'He remains admirably spiky and uncompromising as well as a genuine commentator - very, very funny, catch him while you can.'

A humorous letter to the editor from **ROBIN WELLAND-JONES (1969-1974)** at the end of 2006 is worth printing in full and will give the reader a chuckle no doubt. Robin runs his own company designing and erecting timber buildings by the way.

'I suppose it is not surprising that having been born in, and lived around, the town all my life that I should continue to bump into "new" Old Farnhamians on a fairly regular basis. But recently it seems to be happening on a somewhat spookily regular basis.

So far this year:

Got a call from a London based architect. His client, a wealthy businessman, (we like those) has just sold his business and bought a huge pile adjacent to, and surrounding Odiham Castle. He would like a large barn style building to house the estate machinery. Got chatting, he would send me some plans, swapped names, he being one "Mark Westcott". That wouldn't be the **MARK WESTCOTT** who was school captain at FGS in the late sixties, berating and intimidating us poor thirteen year olds for not wearing our caps and giving us five hundred word essays on the inside of a ping pong ball. Yes.

Well 45 minutes later after much reminiscing and remonstrating I have talked him into coming to next year's dinner and, I got the barn-building job! Who says the old school tie doesn't work?

Got a tricky job to quote for in Little Austins, protected trees, difficult planning situation, we need a "piled raft" on which to build our barn styled garage. I flick through the Yellow Pages, to find a company that sounds just the job, make the call, the boss is out, here's his mobile number, his name is **DAVID GREENTREE**. There can't be many David Greentree's in Farnham. Yes, the very one from my year at FGS, haven't seen him for twenty-five years. Met him on the site just around the corner from his mum's house in Greenhill Road, (ah! the cross-country run). I got the job, he got the job! The OST (old school tie) strikes again.

Got an enquiry from a "wealth management specialist" (you never know, I might need him one day). He and his wife (late forties) have just bought a house in the area and have seen an

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advert for a new “home office” building that we have just started to market. I went round to see them, worked the charm. A few days later Mrs Wealth Management and I are driving off to view some of our buildings, chat, chat, chat.

(Me) “Are you from around these parts?” (always worked for me).

(Her) “Oh yes, my father taught at Weydon School” (so did my mother).

(Me) “Where did you go to school?”

(Her) F.G.G.S. (Oh my God) “How old are you?” she says, straight to the point, clearly worried.

(Me, blurring panic) “Forty-eight, how old are you?” (I know you’re not supposed to).

(Her) “Forty-seven” (really worried)

(Me) “It’s OK, you were the year below me, I wouldn’t have been interested”

Ice broken, deal done, another notch on the OST.

Tonight, Friday, left the office at about 7.00pm, headed into Farnham for a pint. Met a mate at the Hop Blossom, he introduced me to the couple he was with, clearly locals, never met them before.

OR SO I THOUGHT!

Usual stuff, what do you do? What do you do? Oh that’s interesting, what d’ya say your name was.

Martin, **MARTIN WISDOM**.

‘ere didn’t you go to the Farnham Grammar School?

Yeah that’s right.

Here we go again! I haven’t seen him for 32 years.

Sorry Robin, but according to the speech by Jim Hall (aged 93) at Southampton you will spend your life bumping into Old Farnhamians.

In the last magazine we heard of **JOHN COCKLE (1948-1953)** studying for a belated degree. We are pleased to announce that at the age of 70 he has obtained the degree and is now an MA (Literature). Well done John, what next?

It occurred to the Editor early in the year that while we have celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the Association, the 45th Southampton Luncheon and the 75th Annual Dinner, we had completely forgotten that the school at Morley Road opened on 28th April 1906 and last year was the 100th Anniversary. This was conveyed to a local newspaper who asked if an article could be submitted regarding this opening ceremony.

The Editor supplied a lengthy piece for the Farnham Diary, only to be contacted and asked to look at the photographs accompanying the words. The paper wanted to take a blow up of the actual key used by the Archbishop of Canterbury to open the school doors and under a microscope it clearly showed that the engraving on the top of the key read FARNHAM GRAMMER SCHOOL.

The article appeared in the newspaper in February with headlines of ‘Sack the spell-checker-Did Archbishop note the ‘grammer’ howler at opening of FGS in 1906?’

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The day after the 2006 magazine went to the printers we received the sad news that **LORRIMER (LORRIE) DOWSETT (1926-1931)** had died in a local Guildford hospital. Lorrie lived in Dorset and regularly attended the Southampton Lunch and many of those Old Boys who are 'regulars' at this event will miss him. In fact of the forty-four meals at Southampton Lorrie was present on twenty-three occasions.

He was born in Camelsdale on 25th February 1915 and after a few months his father joined the Army, which resulted in his mother and himself moving to Worcester to be with her family. His second brother, Harold, was born there in 1917. In 1919 his father was discharged from the Army after the First World War and the family was reunited and moved to Haslemere in Surrey. Lorrie went to the Haslemere Infant School, which was then the Church of England School in Chestnut Avenue, and from there he gained a free place to the Farnham Grammar School.

In 1928 he caught Rheumatic Fever and was very seriously ill, causing him to miss one year's schooling as he spent many months in a heart hospital near London.

Lorrie had entered the Grammar School in 1926 and became a member of Harding House. Apart from running in the 1928 Steeplechase, records show that he had little success as a sportsman. In 1930 he won a prize as a junior for his drawing and in 1931 he took the Examination for Commercial certificates held by the Royal Society of Arts and obtained passes in Arithmetic (Senior Grade), Book-Keeping, Geography, History and Elementary Mathematics.

On leaving school in the early 1930s he worked at an estate agents initially and then moved on to the Rating Office of the Haslemere & District Council where he became Rating Officer from 1939-1944. In 1944 he chose to move to Dorset to establish a smallholding and Youth Hostel. The hostel remained open for twenty-five years and was very popular and he made many lifelong friends amongst the hostellers.

His main interests were, writing (which included plays and books), silent and early 'talkie' films (he became an established authority on these) and Natural History of all types (especially the study of insects). He was always very artistic. He edited the school magazine, wrote plays and performed them, wrote articles for 'The Countryman' and 'Old Film' magazines and several of his books were published. His younger brother, Douglas, recalls that in his childhood elder brother Lorrie made silent films as a hobby and also gave film shows to children. These were in aid of the Children's Corner in Guildford Cathedral during the 1970s and 1980s and he raised considerable amounts of money towards the cost of the proposed new Guide hut by showing silent films in the old Guide hut.

He loved living on the Down in Dorset, where a tame pheasant met him on the track home and a chaffinch and a wren were regular visitors inside his house. In recent months his health failed and reluctantly he agreed to leave his beloved Dorset and move back to Haslemere with his brother Douglas.

Douglas wrote; 'Lorrie was a talented and contented person with a dry sense of humour; he was a very private, yet sociable person and we shall all miss him'.

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An old friend wrote: 'For me he was an inspiring example of an independent spirit, of simple country living, of being a writer, of being able to be himself and make his own way both solitary and in company. I used to look forward to his annual letter with a sense of 'that's alright then, Lorrie's still ticking.' I am glad to have known him and sad for his parting.'

Perhaps this is not the place in the magazine for humour, but the following obituary was sent to the Editor by a friend and raised a chuckle.

'Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Cokey" died peacefully at the age of 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And then the trouble started...)

GORDON PETER BRIAN WEBBERLEY (1941-1948), died on the 27th May 2006 after a yearlong illness. He entered the Farnham Grammar School in September 1941, where he was a member of Morley House of which he eventually became House Captain. He took his G.S.Certificate in 1946 (Distinctions in English and Mathematics) and H.S.Certificate in 1948 (Physics, Chemistry, Applied & Pure Mathematics). In this year he became School Captain. Throughout his time at school he participated in swimming, athletics, boxing and rifle shooting and was the first holder of the Waverley Cup for .303 rifle shooting. He was a member of the school choir and orchestra. He also became vice-president of the Debating Society and vice-editor of the school magazine. He won various reading prizes and won the George Sturt Prize. He enjoyed being a member of the Combined Cadet Force and became a Lance Corporal, then Sergeant and finally C.S.M. As can be seen from the foregoing he fully entered into the life of Farnham Grammar School.

He was an active member of 3rd Farnham Scouts, going on camps most years, including to a Jamboree in Sweden in 1947. Along with other FGS boys he took part in many Gang Shows.

Gordon joined the Royal Artillery for his National Service, where he was selected for Mons OCTU and passed out as a Second Lieutenant. He saw service in Germany as well as the U.K.

With the family background of military service it was hardly surprising that he had an interest in military history, particularly World War 1 and World War 2.

On completion of two years National Service he took and passed the H.M.Customs and Excise Officer Grade exam in May 1951. His work took him to various places in the UK, including Birmingham, London, Southampton and Glasgow, attaining the position of Principal. His final position was Controller of Office Services at New Kings Beam and Dorset Houses, and he retired in 1990.

Throughout his working life Gordon was an enthusiastic and talented potter, having started at Farnham School of Art in 1961. He exhibited regularly at Farnham Art Society and was a committee member until 1984, the last six or seven years as vice-Chairman. At this time his

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work took him to Scotland. On returning to England in 1987 he settled in Bromley, but still managed to get to Farnham most Friday evenings for pottery at W.S.C.A.D. and more recently at West Street Pottery in Wrecclesham, while he still continued to exhibit with F.A.S. Along with ceramics he also exhibited paintings and etchings until 2005.

Other interests included a great love of bonsai trees, which he had been growing for over thirty-five years, and an enjoyment of good food and wine (especially French). Despite all this he still found time to take a Diploma in Egyptology at London University.

On August 18th 2006 **BRIAN PAGET (1940-1947)**, a member of the well-known Farnham Grammar School family, died at Leatherhead in Surrey. Brothers Keith and Norman also attended the School, while sister Yvonne went to the Girls' Grammar School.

Brian was a member of School House and during his years at Morley Road took an active part in many sporting activities. A regular among the leading runners in the Cross Country Race, he played cricket for the School First XI, Soccer for the School Second XI, and represented his house at Rifle Shooting, Boxing and Long Jump.

He became a Lance Corporal in the Combined Cadet Force, a Sub-Prefect and in 1946 passed his School Certificate (with exemption from Matriculation).

On leaving school Brian worked for Aldershot Borough Council (with Fred Foley and John Crotty), however he did not enjoy good health and retired early to live in Leatherhead. He became a freelance writer for many years.

Brian's funeral was on 4th September 2006.

On 9th October 2006 The Times newspaper printed an obituary of one of the most successful former pupils of the Grammar School, being **PROFESSOR CHARLES REES (1939-1944)**. Charles was a member of Childe House and entered into the life of the school by taking part in several sports and having an excellent academic record.

In 1942 he won a form prize for good work and also won his weight at Boxing. In 1944 he lost in the final of the Boxing, was a member of the House Shooting Team and won the 4 x 110 yds sprint relay as part of the Childe team. In the same year he won the William Stroud Prize, The Memorial Prize for Chemistry and passed his General School Certificate with exemption from matriculation.

On leaving school he had a highly successful career and the details are covered in the following obituary from The Times:

“Charles Rees was one of Europe's most outstanding organic chemists and, although well past retirement, he was active in his research until a few weeks before his death. His field was heterocyclic chemistry, which is the study of molecules containing rings made up of carbon atoms interspersed variously by other atoms such as nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur. Such molecules are of great importance and are all-pervading in modern life, but particularly in biology and medicine.

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Rees's forte was the synthesis of hitherto unknown systems and the understanding of how such systems behaved and how they are put together, thus bringing order and predictability to a complicated field. He also made extraordinary discoveries in the field of reactive intermediates, a species that did not obey what were perceived to be the laws of chemical bonding. These species, having lifetimes in chemical reactions of a millionth of a second, not only provide the clues to the details of the pathways taken in chemical reactions but can be tamed to produce new as well as known systems.

His encyclopaedic knowledge and gifted insight were remarkable. Time and again in presentations by others puzzled by a chemical conundrum Rees would spring to his feet and explain it all. These attributes put him in great demand as a consultant to industry. He was much involved in research leading to cimetidine, the first of the new generation of peptic ulcer drugs. This was a heterocyclic chemical which, he delighted in pointing out, had put hundreds of specialist surgeons out of work, saved the NHS a billion pounds and given enormous relief to countless people. Such was his expertise that he was in industrial demand right to the end, his last consultancy arriving in his 79th year, paralleling his leading appearances at international scientific conferences.

Rees was the best and most effective type of academic, refusing to succumb to the exhortations of politicians that academics should turn themselves into pseudo-industrialists. Rather, he showed by example that his job was to make discoveries that no one knew were there to be discovered; to use his knowledge in inspiring the young and assisting the real industrialists to reach their targets in the marketplace. Indeed, inspiration of others was another of his immense talents. He was one of the most brilliant lecturers in the world of chemistry. His students adored him and his peers listened with admiration.

Charles Wayne Rees was born in Cairo, where his father was a serving soldier. The family eventually settled in Aldershot. He matriculated at Farnham Grammar School, thence to RAE Farnborough, where he was employed as a lab technician. Coming up the hard way, he studied for the higher school certificate at night school and was subsequently admitted to read chemistry at what was then University College, Southampton. He obtained a first in the external honours' degree of London University and his PhD at Southampton. His first academic post was as assistant lecturer at Birbeck College, which was followed by a lectureship at King's College, London.

At the time King's was a hotbed of talent under the leadership of Donald Hey. As chair of chemistry, Rees went to Leicester in 1965, then to Liverpool in 1969, where he became Heath Harrison Professor in 1977 and finally to the Hoffman chair of organic chemistry at Imperial College in 1978, subsequently becoming emeritus.

He was a delightful, amusing and charming man with a mischievous sense of humour. He and his wife Patricia, were generous hosts and generations of students will remember their kindness and hospitality. He delighted in his knowledge of the organic chemistry of the grape, as he put it. He published more than 500 original scientific papers, several key books and received many honours and prizes. He was elected FRS in 1974 and received the CBE in 1995. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

Charles Rees was born on October 15th 1927 and died on September 21st 2006.

OBITUARIES

On the 8th November 2006 **ALAN J. BARTER (1936-1944)** died after a short illness.

Alan was a member of School House and entered into most sports, with boxing and rifle shooting his strongest. Academically he did well and won Form Prizes in 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942. He passed his General School Certificate (with exemption from London Matric.) and gained distinctions in History, Mathematics and Chemistry. He was an active member of the Combined Cadet Force and became a sub-prefect.

He gained his Higher Schools' Certificate in his final year at the school and went on to the University College of London, where he graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1947. After National Service in the Royal Engineers he took a Graduate Apprenticeship with the Brush Electrical Engineering Co. Loughborough, in the Traction Machines' Department. He participated in the design of the 'Brush 2' (Class 31) locomotives for British Railways. In 1960 he moved to BR Southern Region, where he was involved in the design of the 'Tadpoles' for the Reading to Tonbridge line, flood train operation on the Mid-Kent line, 'de-icing' units for the Bournemouth electrification, and the electrification of the Isle of Wight Railway. He then transferred to Maidstone to become Divisional Traction Engineer (SE). Up until his death he still maintained an active interest in various Railway Associations.

Alan's father initiated him into St Bartholomew Lodge No 5269 in 1947 and he reached the Chair in 1957. On his return South he joined the Old Farnhamians' Masonic Lodge in 1960. His main Masonic activities centred in Clerkenwell, where he was VGO to several Lodges, but he still found time for the OFL and would participate whenever called upon. Alan became Worshipful Master of the Old Farnhamians' Lodge for 1971. He was a well-respected freemason throughout the South of England.

Alan and his wife, Barbara, had two sons and four daughters and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2002.

On the 5th December 2006 we heard that one of the great characters of the Association had died. **ALLAN J. RYALL (1924-1930)** was a great supporter of the Old Boys for many years and in recent times had sat at the top table at the Annual Dinner and proudly called the traditional Roll Call. He followed George Baxter, who had this role for 50 years, and made a first class job of it. Allan had served on the General Committee for many years and was President of the Association for 1983-84.

Before entering the grammar school he attended Elmsleigh Prep. School when it was run by Mrs William Stroud. He entered the school in 1924 and came under the headship of Captain Stickland for a short time prior to F.A.Morgan taking over. Allan was a member of Harding House and took part in several sports, although his love was tennis. He obtained General School Certificate of University of London with exemption from Matriculation in seven subjects and after attending a Commercial College for a time he joined a local firm of solicitors.

OBITUARIES

The Second World War saw him in the RAF and heavily involved in Radar. After four years away in various parts of the world he returned home and joined the Inland Revenue. He worked in several offices and in 1964 went to the Land Commission and in 1969 to Customs & Excise. His final 7 years at work were with Kingston VAT office, partly taking prosecution cases in the Magistrates' Court. His career had taken him to homes in Epsom, Gosforth, Thorpe Bay, Surbiton and back to Farnham. In 1972 he married Marjory and they settled in Grayshott initially and finally at Headley Down.

Allan joined the Association in 1936 when a life subscription was 4 guineas. He was on the General Committee on and off from 1958 and served on the 400 Trust and the Leaving Scholarship Trust. He helped with the printing of the History of the School and the birth of the Farnham Lecture. We say goodbye to one of the most respected Farnhamians who had been involved in the Farnham Grammar School for well over 80 years.

As the year closed we heard of the death of **DOUGLAS PULLEN (1947-1955)**, who died of a massive heart attack in Baltimore USA on 17th October. The attack was at his home in Bermuda where he lived for some years. On leaving the School Douglas became an active Old Boy, however this waned after he immigrated to the Caribbean in the 1960s.

Douglas joined Harding House when starting at the school and became an active pupil, more an academic than a sportsman. He joined the Debating Society, was Hon. Sec. for the Chess Club, acted in the school plays and received a prize for an English essay. He did become a member of his house rifle shooting team and was active in the Combined Cadet Force. He became a Sub-Prefect and in his final year a Prefect. He passed three subjects in the GCE (Advanced Level).

Early in 2007 we heard that **DAVID POOK (1955-1960)** had died of cancer on 13th January. David had fought this illness for several years and it came as a surprise to learn that it had returned after a few years in remission. David belonged to Harding House when at the school and became well known locally as an active member of Farnham Lions.

In February we received news of the death of **FRANK HILL (1947-1953)**. Frank was a member of Harding House and played soccer for the School Second XI and was also a member of the house rifle shooting team.

At the Annual Dinner the editor was advised that **ALAN KING** had died in early March. He attended the school in the 1940s and was not a member of the Old Boys' Association.

Our thanks to the following who continue to support the magazine by sponsoring the charity adverts: John Hirst, Ray Kirk, Stephen Pritchard, Alan Lovell, Mike Horner, Chris Hone, Robin Welland-Jones, Simon Granville-Jones, Cyril Trust.

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.

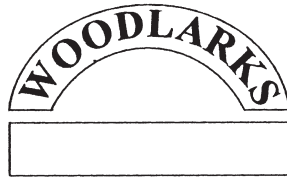
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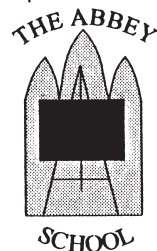
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Southampton Luncheon 2007

Wednesday 17th October 2007

At The Woodlands Lodge Hotel,
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For details please contact

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Telephone: 01252 338858

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Old Farnhamians' Association

Annual Dinner 2008

Saturday 15th March 2008

At Farnham College,
Morley Road, Farnham
For details please contact

Roger Edgell

Telephone: 01264 332766