THE FARNHAMIAN



JUNE 2008

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THE FARNHAMIAN

June 2008

INTRODUCTION TO THE FARNHAMIAN - VOL 15

I find it amazing that this is the fifteenth edition of the modern Farnhamain magazine, and since taking on the job of editor in 1993 almost 700 pages have been printed regarding the past, present and future of the Old Farnhamians. In the beginning it was difficult to fill the pages, but now it would be possible to produce two issues in twelve months as the information just pours in steadily. This edition is typical, with a mixture of details from the early 1900s and current information about pupils of the former Farnham Grammar School.

This issue deals with some changes, starting with a new ownership at Morley Road, a new Principal at Farnham College, a new Oldest Living Old Boy and the sad passing of that great stalwart, Roy Robins, and that well known Old Boy, Hugh Johns. This time there is no Annual Dinner at Farnham Castle, 45th Southampton Luncheon or Anniversary Garden Party to celebrate and record, but there are some new Farnhamian Awards to the partnership schools of Farnham College, a new venue for the Southampton Luncheon, a new style Farnham Lecture and a change of President.

Out new President is Brian Williams, one of the 'younger' members, whilst Clive Beal takes over as toastmaster from Peter Clark, who has done such a great job over recent years. It is pleasing to see new faces taking part in the continued success of the Association and one hopes that more of the younger set will come forward to help.



2007 FARNHAM LECTURE: L to R: Dick Sheppard (Bells Piece Chairman), Cyril Trust, Carole Cockburn (Town Mayor), John Crotty, Sir Peter Anson, Bryan Dutton (Speaker), Tony Gatfield, Mike Yeadon (Bells Piece), Lady Elizabeth Anson.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2008

Approximately two dozen Old Boys attended the meeting, which began with the traditional period of silence while Old Boys who had died in the past year were remembered. The loss of Roy Robins is regarded as the passing of one of the most loyal and enthusiastic members.

Cyril Trust, the President, read out the Chairman's Report for the year and highlighted the many activities that the Association still keeps alive. In the absence of Tony Harland, the Membership Secretary, the current list was read out and showed that the total had grown to 341 members of which 207 were Life Members and 184 were Annual Members. The recent increase in subscriptions appears to have altered the balance of the membership, but not affected the numbers overall.

Stephen Pritchard, the Treasurer, gave a resume of the accounts and after a successful year the balance at the bank etc., had risen to £5,449. The impact of the George Baxter Memorial had affected the figures but the Association was still very sound financially.

Ian Sargeant advised that over the past year the Leaving Scholarship Trust had given grants to 9 students and so far this year a further 3. The transfers of money from the 400 Trust were invaluable and on the night a further £400 had been passed over to him.

Cyril Trust, Chairman of the 400 Trust, advised that the Farnham Lecture had been successful and the £900 plus taken in tickets was an all time high. As agreed two thirds of the money will go to Bells Piece and the same scheme will operate for 2008 with the lecture being given by Dr. Hugh Bethell MBE, who is the founder of Alton Rehab and a specialist in cardiac rehabilitation. The new Partnership School awards had been a great success and Ash Manor, Weydon and Heath End will receive the same sponsorship again in 2008. The College Awards' Scheme resulted in 24 Old Boys, or their families, giving sponsorships.

The Annual Dinner would take place at the college on Saturday 15th March and to date over 70 members had paid for a place at the tables. The 75th Dinner at Farnham Castle in 2007 had been a great success and in keeping with this special occasion.

Cyril Trust advised that his fifteenth magazine was almost complete and should be available late May/early June. He advised on a regular flow of information to fill the annual edition.

The Southampton Lunch had been a success at its new venue of the Woodlands Lodge Hotel and the 2008 event would be at the same place. Numbers continue to increase and are over 40 on a regular basis. It was agreed that Sylvia Backhurst would be asked as guest of honour.

Ian Sargeant advised that the website continued to attract people and he was congratulated on the first class website. As our College Representative he explained the details of the recent take-over by Guildford College and felt that the high academic results would be maintained. A meeting between Old Boys and the new regime needs to be arranged.

The Election of Officers resulted in some younger members taking part and the new President will be Brian Williams. The members thanked outgoing President, Cyril Trust, for a successful term of office.

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND OF THE OLD BOYS

At the end of July 2007 Farnham College was merged with Guildford College and this change resulted in the Farnham Principal, Sally Francis, leaving the college and working as an educational consultant. Sally was a great friend to the Old Farnhamians' Association for ten years and she will be a sad loss to the relationship between the college and the Old Boys.

Sally Francis was appointed Principal of Farnham College in September1997, taking over a successful college that had been well managed by her predecessor, Kathleen Kimber. She has worked in the area for many years teaching chemistry and sociology at Queen Mary's College at Basingstoke. She then moved to become Deputy Principal of Shrewsbury Sixth Form College for nine years before returning south to take up the position at Farnham.

At Morley Road she inherited a college which had been able to retain the high academic standards set in the days of Farnham Grammar School, and over the past ten years the school has produced students of a high quality with the college overall becoming one of the more successful in the south of the country. During her time she managed to oversee some changes in the actual facilities at the college, but it was obvious that without more financial input to improve the range of subjects on offer it was becoming difficult to attract students.

In the last three years competition from other colleges at Alton, Guildford and Godalming in particular has increased, and the fight for students became even more difficult for Farnham. The lack of students affected the finances of the college and planned improvements had to be postponed, therefore making it even less competitive with the other colleges and Farnham was caught up in a downward spiral. The entire future of the college was at risk and the governing body and Sally Francis were forced to look for a solution to this problem.

It became clear that the only way to overcome the problem was to join with another college which could provide the financial stability, arrest the downturn in student intake and provide the capital to improve the facilities at Farnham for the future. After considering several options it was agreed that the most viable and sensible plan was to merge with the far larger and very successful Guildford College. Guildford had already merged successfully with Merrist Wood, an agricultural college near Guildford.

After some weeks of negotiations the merger was agreed by the education authorities and on 1st August the two colleges merged. The Farnham College 'brand' would remain and in the early days a large investment was made at the Morley Road site to improve facilities for the students. At the same time a huge advertising campaign was undertaken to attract more students and after only a few months there were positive signs that the 2007 intake would show a great upturn from the previous years.

The intention is to retain the high academic standards of Morley Road, but offer this to a larger number of students in the area. The work of Sally Francis and her staff would be much appreciated and it is with great regret that many people have had to say farewell to this busy and likeable lady. Sally had always supported the Association and attended many of their events. She was elected as a life vice-president of the Association and it is hoped that she will remain in this position. On behalf of all Old Boys, we wish her well!

ANNUAL DINNER - 2008

After the 2007 celebrations at Farnham Castle, where the Old Farnhamians' Association held their 75th Annual Dinner, this year they returned to Morley Road and the site of the former Farnham Grammar School. Almost one hundred Old Boys attended, coming from all over the country, to spend time with former classmates and have a meal and a drink recalling the 'good old days' at the school.

This year saw some changes in personnel, and in particular the introduction of Clive Beal as the toastmaster for the Association in place of Peter Clark, who has held the position for many years and is now well into his 80s. Peter has been an excellent toastmaster and all will miss his announcements, his jokes and his insistence that everything must run smoothly. Clive had a daunting task taking over the role and made an excellent job on this first occasion in charge.

There was also a new President in Brian Williams (his profile is in this issue) and he is one of the younger brigade who again will bring new life to the position. He took over from Cyril Trust in January and this was his first event as President.

The dinner was held in the restaurant at Farnham College with a first class meal provided by the college caterers, Catering Academy. As usual the evening began with all those present standing to honour those Old Boys who have died over the past twelve months. Familiar names like Roy Robins, Hugh Johns, Des O'Sullivan, Roger Diamond and Ivan Bowler were added to the list on this occasion.

After the meal Mike Mehta, the first speaker, was introduced to give a toast to the school, which he did with a mixture of nostalgia and humour. He cleverly recalled his days at the school by presenting this as if it were Alistair Darling delivering his budget. The script was refreshing and showed his affection for the old school, where he was one of the last pupils to attend as a grammar school boy.

Following the toast to the school came Tony Rayer, who offered the toast to the Association. Clearly a man of history, he spoke of the early days of Farnham Castle and its links with the old school. He felt that the Old Farnhamians' Association fulfilled its role by giving Old Boys the opportunity to relive their days at school. He finished with three jokes that he felt would amuse the members and sat down to great applause.

Brian Williams introduced himself as the new President of the Association and thanked Peter Clark for his sixteen years as toastmaster and Cyril Trust for his three years as the previous President and his continued help in many aspects of the Association. He then produced one of his old school reports from the 1960s, when he attended the school, and read the various comments by teachers regarding his progress on the different subjects. Clearly Mathematics was his strength and he has recently retired after a career as a mathematician. Much of the time was spent at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough in the field of aerodynamics.

ANNUAL DINNER - 2008

Brian said that being elected President of the Association was a great honour and he looked forward to his three year term in that position.

The speeches were followed by the passing round of the loving cup, a tradition of the annual dinners, and the roll call given by local historian, John Chuter. As he read out the years the members waited for the oldest member in the room to stand and finally Ray Kirk stood when the year reached 1932. He was followed by several Old Boys in their 80s, a group who entered the school in 1948 and celebrating sixty years since they met, and finally Mike Mehta who entered the establishment as a grammar school and left it as a college. He was one of several attending who had experienced the changeover in 1973.

As is the tradition the evening ended with everyone standing to sing the School Song, followed by the National Anthem. The chorus of the former, enabled members to shout out their house names as loud as possible.

The time had come for the Old Boys to disperse and they left the school telling old pals that they would see them again at the 2009 dinner or maybe at the 2008 Southampton Luncheon in October.

The thread that keeps this organisation going strong after so many years is something special and a tribute to the foresight of former headmaster Frank A.Morgan, who began the modern Old Farnhamians' Association in 1925. Little did he realise that after all the years the bond between former pupils and their old school is as strong as ever.

Attending:

C.J.Batterbury; C.R.J.Beal; J.Bentick; B.E.Bone; R.Bowtell; H.Brindley; J.A.L.Chuter; P.J.Clark; D.C.E.Coakes; J.A.Cockle; J.G.Cooke; M.J.Cox; J.A.Cope; P.Cope; J.H.Crotty; D.Cutler; M.Da Costa; B.Daniels; G.J.Edgell; R.G.Edgell; K.Elkins; C.R.Fitch; A.Gatfield; R.Golding; D.Grimes; H.Groves; B.A.Hall; A.D.Harland; W.Herrington; G.H.A.Hewes; R.H.Hewes; G.Honey; G.Hooker; D.P.Hughes; G.V.Hunt; P.Huntingford; R.D.Jones; W.R.King; R.Kirk; B.F.Lake; D.E.Lampard; G.F.LeVey; F.H.Loveless; M.J.Lock; A.Lovell; R.Luckhurst; D.R.Lucas; W.Luff; A.R.Matthews; E.Mayne; M.Mehta; K.Mentzel; J.Mitchell; A.L.Moore; K.R.Mortimer; J.D.Munday; P.Mylles; C.Nash; D.S.Nunn; M.N.Owen; S.J.Owen; J.Peace; J.Pesterfield; D.J.Phillips; R.M.Phillips; B.Philpott; D.Poleglaze; A.J.Rayer; I.C.Sargeant; J.H.Sherwood; R.D.Short; C.C.E.Slyfield; D.T.Smith; A.R.Spink; R.Stenning; M.E.H.Sturt; T.Tidd; J.Travers; C.D.Trust; T.Tubb; H.J.Upfold; M.Watts; R.Welland-Jones; B.R.Williams; M.A.Wingent; M.Wood.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE 2008 FARNHAM LECTURE HOW OFTEN? HOW HARD? HOW LONG?

BY DR. HUGH BETHELL MBE ON 29TH OCTOBER AT FARNHAM COLLEGE

A NEW SCHOOL SONG?

At the 75th Annual Dinner held at Farnham Castle, the guests were entertained by a ladies singing group called In-Accord. As well as a programme of popular songs the leader, Sue Lampard, worked with the Editor to present a song especially for the Old Farnhamians and for the occasion. The Great Hall was filled with the sound of the Old Boys heartily singing this song and one wonders whether it could become a regular part of future annual dinners.

OLD FARNHAMIANS 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SONG (to the tune of Tom Pearce)

- 1. The old boys, the old boys, are all gathered here, Farnhamians splendid in all their best gear, To celebrate sev'nty five years of good cheer ...chorus
- 'Twas in twenty-five when the boys club began, Farnhamians fine, when they started the clan. Tradition and hist'ry a part of each man ...chorus
- 3. The venues for dinners have changed over time. One to recall made from some cheap old iron; that great British Restaurant we used in its primecharus
- Farnhamians famous there have been a few. Ron Ridout, his textbooks in numbers just grew. His Guinness World Record we now all can view ...chorus
- Distinguished Farnhamians of which we're proud. The George Cross, the VC plus more from our crowd. Our President Cyril to 'Liz' went and bowed ...chorus
- 6. Tonight we'll have roll call and sing our school song. The Loving Cup passes amongst all our throng. Beware at the end though, the froth may just 'pong'. ...chorus
- 7. So here's to Farnhamians over the years. Our friendship is strong through our laughter and tears. We toast to the next sev'nty five years and 'CHEERS'! ...chorus

CHORUS :-

And remember the masters, Charlie Evans, Curly Carroll, Harry Beeken, Johnny Horner, Buzz Varey, Ned Godsil, Bill Wickens, Mew Munton, and old Fagend Wills and all, and old Fagend Wills and all!

MAKE SURE THAT YOU TRY TO ATTEND FUTURE ANNUAL DINNERS AND BRING ALONG AN OLD CLASSMATE AND ENJOY AN EVENING OF NOSTALGIA. THERE ARE MANY FORMER PUPILS WHO DO NOT ATTEND AND IT IS UP TO YOU TO PERSUADE THEM TO JOIN YOU FOR A SPECIAL NIGHT OUT.

2007 SOUTHAMPTON LUNCHEON

On 17th October 2007 forty three Old Boys gathered in the New Forest for the 46th Annual Southampton Luncheon. After many years at the Busketts Lawn Hotel a change was required, as that hotel had closed at the end of 2006, and The Woodlands Lodge Hotel was chosen as the replacement. What a good choice that was, with the new venue offering first class service in a traditional setting. The actual meal was excellent and overall the event was a considerable success.

There were two overseas visitors this year, with Norman Paget flying in from Baltimore USA on the day before and Mick Barham in the country from his home in Adelaide, Australia. It was also good news to see that there were six members at Southampton for the first time and all of them from the 'younger' section of the Old Boys.

Cyril Trust, the current President, welcomed all those present to the new venue and surprised those present when he produced the 'Cock House Shield', the prize for the top house annually at the former grammar school. This was an item of memorabilia that had been lost since 1973 and only recently came to light when a former master advised the Association that he had held it for safety sake all of those years.

The President informed the guests that the recent merger between Farnham and Guildford College had not appeared to have affected the close relationship between the college and the Old Boys. The Farnham Lecture, which will be given by Bryan Dutton, Director General of Leonard Cheshire Disability, would be held there in November and the Annual Dinner in March 2008 and regular meetings of the association would continue to take place at Morley Road.

The sponsored awards given by Old Boys to current students of the college would continue and in future a Farnhamian award would be given to each of the three partnership schools in Farnham, namely Weydon School, Heath End School and Ash Manor School.

The lunch was again most relaxed and informal and enjoyed by all attending. For Old Boys wishing to meet old pals in pleasant surroundings and accompanied by an excellent meal, then the 2008 Southampton Luncheon is a must.

Attending:

C.D.Trust; B.E.Bone; A.Gatfield; B.Webberley; M.Barham; T.Tidd; J.C.Crotty; M.E.H.Sturt; J.Bateman; J.Vick; A.D.Harland; D.E.Bowtell; D.Phillips; J.Bentick; R.E.Common; D.Lucas; D.Nunn; S.Armstrong; K.E.Mentzel; B.J.Daniels; D.Cutler; G.LeVey; N.D.Paget; G.Hooker; K.Mortimer; J.Hibberd; R.Luckhurst; T.Withall; I.C.Sargeant; D.Roe; C.Nash; J.Cope; M.Wood; C.Slyfield; R.D.Short; P.Clark; D.Buckell; G.V.Hunt; J.Mitchell; M.Horner; D.E.Lampard; P.Read; P.Huntingford.

THE 2008 SOUTHAMPTON LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD AT THE WOODLANDS LODGE HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2008. PLEASE ENTER IN YOUR DIARY AND JOIN US.

2007 FARNHAM LECTURE

HEAD OF WORLD'S LARGEST CHARITY FOR DISABLED GIVES AN OUTSTANDING LECTURE

In spite of the pouring rain and competition from England versus Croatia at soccer, the 2007 Farnham Lecture entitled 'Leonard Cheshire Disability' was attended by well over one hundred people. Speaker Bryan Dutton CBE, the Director General of the charity, was introduced by Cyril Trust, President of the Old Farnhamians' Association and Chairman of the Farnhamian 400 Trust. He proceeded to give a fascinating insight into this huge operation.

He told the audience about Leonard Cheshire and his courage in the RAF in World War Two, then how he started the charity at Le Court near Petersfield. He was still the only person to have been given the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery in wartime, and the Order of Merit, the highest award for contribution to humanity. From small beginnings the charity moved abroad, with centres in India and South Africa, and now has a presence in well over 50 countries in the world. The speaker showed a short film of their work in Kenya, where they had pioneered 'inclusive education' providing hundreds of disabled children with proper schooling alongside mainstream children. This scheme was being adopted in other countries and at last governments are recognising that disabled people have a contribution to make to the community. Each country is responsible for its own Leonard Cheshire scheme with the formula and know how provided by the British headquarters.

The charity is now the largest for disabled people worldwide and in the year 2006/2007 had an expenditure of £143.4 million. In the United Kingdom alone it supports 21,000 disabled people with a combination of residential care, day services, care at home services and supported living services. Bryan Dutton regards the organisation as innovative and many of their initiatives are taken up by government sooner or later.

Bryan Dutton explained that the time had come to identify the name of Leonard Cheshire with disabled people more clearly and only recently the name and logo had been altered to 'Leonard Cheshire Disability'. A campaign had begun this November on TV, radio and in the press to announce the change and a sample of the adverts, incorporating the popular Aardman Animations, was shown to the audience.

Question time included several interesting comments, with an appeal from local psychologist, Dr. Leigh Clare, for advice regarding disabled people who like herself suffered from vestibular. People, with disorders like this and balance problems, are looked upon as malingerers with little help available and would the Leonard Cheshire organisation include this area in its portfolio. Bryan Dutton explained that there was a difference in physically disabled and mentally disabled and the former had been their main area of work, however they were now expanding into the problems of mental disability and perhaps they could assist.

Cyril Trust closed the 19th Annual Farnham Lecture by thanking the speaker for an excellent and informative talk. This was the first time the Old Boys had combined with a charity to present the talk and two thirds of the money taken at the door will be given to Bells Piece, the local Leonard Cheshire home.

2007 FARNHAM COLLEGE CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

For the first time under the Guildford College control, the awards' evening was more professional than usual and the levels of achievement were higher than ever. Many of the sponsors from the Old Boys and their families attended the ceremony and Farnham Town Mayor, Carole Cockburn, gave a first class speech after she had presented the awards.

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

Fergus Hibbert

Ben Attwood The Cyril Trust Award for services to the College.

Mariam Chokr The Roger Edgell Award for outstanding endeavour.

Sakhawatul Chowdhury The Dudley Backhurst Award for

outstanding achievement in Science.

Sophie Colley The John Wills Award for outstanding achievement in Art.

Hayley Court The John Travers Award for outstanding achievement in Art.

Antony Daly The John Crotty Award for endeavour and progress.

Oliver Doorenbos The Paul French Award for outstanding achievement in

The Paul French Award for outstanding achievement in Physics, Biology and Chemistry.

Jade FlemingThe Ian Sargeant Award for outstanding endeavour.Jamie ForemanThe Graham Blunt Award for outstanding achievement in Maths, Physics and English.

Rebecca GregorThe Don Homer Award for excellence in Drama.Toby HarrisThe Tony Rayer Award for outstanding endeavour in Media.Joshua HedgmanThe Maurice Jeffreys Award for outstanding achievement in English Literature, Geography, History and Law.

The Ron Short Award for outstanding achievement in ICT, Business Studies and Economics.

Katie PhippsThe John Aylwin Award for outstanding achievement in Art and Design.Fergus SimpsonThe Alan Lovell Award for outstanding achievement in GeographySam StatonThe Geoff Hooker Award for outstanding achievement in Maths.Harriet StillThe Chris Nash Award for outstanding achievement in Maths, Physics and English Literature.

Simon Stubberfield

Hannah Styles

Anthony Thomas

The Bryan Bone Award for outstanding endeavour.

The Roy Robins Award for outstanding endeavour.

The Wally Walsh Award for outstanding achievement in Physics.

Laura Walters The John Cockle Award for outstanding achievement in English. **Eleanor Watson** The Michael Horner Award for outstanding achievement in

French, Biology and Chemistry.

Sophie Willis

The Stella & Tony Bolt Award for outstanding endeavour.

The Sturt Family Award for outstanding achievement in Physics, Maths and Geography.

Andrew Duncan The Sir John Verney Award.
Melanie Main & Fergus Simpson The John Goddard Awards.

Tom Corry The F A Morgan Award for excellence in Drama.

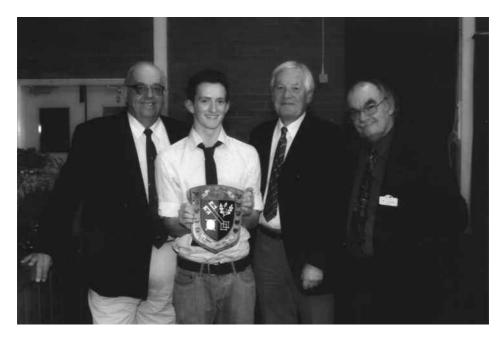
Nathan Jones The William Stroud Award for excellence in Drama.

THE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS' AWARD SCHEME

In recent years the Farnham College Awards' Scheme has proven to be highly successful, with individual Old Boys providing sponsorship for the students at the college. There are now 24 awards given out each year under this scheme and it has helped strengthen the bond between the Old Boys and the College. Once again on December 13th 2007 there will be a hall full of students, staff and parents to see the more successful boys and girls receive their awards and this type of event would be difficult to fund and run without the help of the Association.

Such was the success of this scheme it was agreed by the committee of the Farnhamian 400 Trust that it should be expanded and begin to include the partnership schools to the college. These are Heath End School, Weydon School and Ash Manor School. The headmasters of these schools were delighted with the approach from the 400 Trust and in the autumn of 2007 a Farnhamian Award was included in their ceremony. On each occasion two members of the Trust attended and met the staff and governors prior to taking part in the evening.

The first event was at Heath End School and the 400 Trust was represented by Cyril Trust (Chairman) and Tony Gatfield (Secretary). The guest of honour was Peter Gordon, who is a director and top disc jockey for 96.4 Eagle Radio, and the school captain and house captains actually took over the presentation announcements with the guest speaker handing out the prizes. The Farnhamian Award was a new shield and was presented to David Pallant, who was the top performer in the school for GCSE results.



Cyril Trust (Chairman), David Pallant, Tony Gatfield (Secretary), Vic Duckett (Former Town Mayor)

THE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS AWARD SCHEME

Following a successful evening at Heath End School the 400 Trust was represented by John Crotty and Roger Edgell at Ash Manor School. Here the guest speakers were international rugby players from Harlequins, with Ceri Jones (Wales) speaking and Steve So'oialo (Samoa) handing out the prizes. The Farnhamian Award was given in conjunction with the Headmaster's Award for Endeavour and was won by Pramin Raut, whose father was a member of the Ghurka Regiment.



Roger Edgell (Secretary), Pramin Raut, John Crotty (Former President)

The final awards ceremony for 2007 was held at Weydon School, where the 400 Trust representatives were past chairman, Mike Horner, and our treasurer, Stephen Pritchard. This school is a specialist school for Science and Mathematics and the new Farnhamian Award was given to the top student in Mathematics for the year. The winner was Leroy Chew and our Treasurer not only handed over the award but was asked to say a few words to the audience. For the occasion the guest of honour was Katherine Merry, who won a bronze medal for the country at 400 metres in the Olympic Games. She not only handed out the prizes but spent part of the day training budding athletes from Weydon School.

THE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS AWARD SCHEME



OFA Treasurer Stephen Pritchard presents the Farnhamian Trophy to Leroy Chew

OFFICERS OF THE OLD FARNHAMIANS' ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION:

Brian Williams (President & Chairman); Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer); Keith Mentzel; Roger Edgell (Secretary); Tony Harland (Membership); Alan Lovell; Bill Luff; Bryan Bone; Tony Gatfield; John Travers; John Crotty; Mike Horner; Ian Sargeant; Robin Welland-Jones; John Clarke; Mike Mehta; Wally Walsh; Brian Daniels; Keith Mentzel; David Grimes; Chris Slyfield; Cyril Trust; Chris Nash; Ray Cleminson; Peter Mylles.

FARNHAMIAN 400 TRUST:

Cyril Trust (Chairman); Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer); Tony Gatfield (Secretary); Brian Williams; Mike Horner; John Crotty; Bill Luff; John MacLaughlin; Roger Edgell; Chris Nash

LEAVING SCHOLARSHIP TRUST:

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

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

Sub-Lieutenant EDWARD GEORGE WOODHATCH H.M.M.T.B. 621 Royal Navy

Edward George Woodhatch first went to school in Aldershot at the Stanley House Preparatory School. When his family moved to Frensham he was about 10 years old and he entered Farnham Grammar School. He was the son of Henry George and Mabel Annie Woodhatch and he had an elder brother named Eric.

When Edward left the Grammar School he was 18 years old and was called up for the Services and volunteered for the Royal Navy. After basic training he was posted to the destroyer H.M.S.Quantock in which he served for only a few months. He was then recommended for a commission and was eventually posted to Motor Torpedo Boats as a Sub-Lieutenant at Great Yarmouth.

H.M.M.T.B. 621 was part of a flotilla of motor torpedo boats, which were stationed at Great Yarmouth. This port was for many years a naval base and from here, and Lowestoft nearby, small ships such as destroyers, frigates, armed trawlers and motor torpedo boats operated against German ships from the Channel ports.

On the 3rd November 1943 Edward George Woodhatch sailed with his flotilla of motor torpedo boats to engage German ships in a close and hard fought series of actions off the Dutch coast. In the course of these engagements one of the motor torpedo boats was sunk and others badly damaged. The British had five fatal casualties, and Edward George Woodhatch died on this day. He was 22 years old.

His body was brought back to Great Yarmouth and then buried with his comrades, with full military honours, in the Naval Cemetery at Caister-on-Sea.

The following was written in the Farnhamian magazine by Headmaster F.A.Morgan:

"Edward George Woodhatch was one of the salt of the earth - gentle and modest, yet promising fine things. A first-rate youngster who has paid the full price of War".

PRIVATE JOSEPH ALAN DEREK WOOD Royal Army Medical Corps

Joseph Alan Derek Wood was the son of Joseph Herbert William and Sella Hyslop Wood, with the family living in Weydon Hill Road, Farnham. It is believed that his father was an insurance broker who worked in the City of London for Lloyds Bank .

When Alan Wood left the Grammar School he was employed by the Royal Insurance Co., also in London, and he frequently took the London train with his father. Alan Bacon, a school friend and still an Old Boy, also worked at this time in London and he remembers the happy times they had catching the 0758 train in the mornings to Waterloo. Alan Bacon also recalls playing games on Langham's recreation ground after homework with a number of school friends including Alan Wood, William Dimmock, Phillip Greenway, Geoffrey Lawrence, Cyril Merricks and others. All died in the war. Alan's sister Hazel went to Farnham Girls' Grammar School.

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

JOSEPH ALAN DEREK WOOD (continued):

Just before or shortly after war was declared Alan Wood volunteered for the Army. He had strong moral feelings with regard to the taking of life so he enlisted as a stretcher bearer in the City of London Field Ambulance Service. It appears that his unit were first posted to Egypt, where they still used horses, possibly for operations in rough mountainous terrain.

With the entry of Italy into the war on the side of the Germans it seems that Alan Wood's unit was posted to Greece with the British Army, which was sent to resist the German invasion. The British and Greek armies were forced to retreat to the south and eventually were evacuated by the Royal Navy in Crete. The German airborne invasion of Crete commenced on May 19th 1941 and resistance by the British, Greek and Australian troops continued until the end of May. The Allied Commander, Major General Freyberg, then decided that evacuation had become inevitable. A large number of allied troops escaped from Crete on British warships, although many were sunk in this rescue operation. Although the conquest of Crete was a German success their airborne forces suffered enormous casualties and were never used in a similar role again. Alan Wood was taken prisoner early in June 1941.

It was not until nearly the end of the war that Crete was liberated by the 2/4th. Batt. of the Hampshire Regiment, which was a local Farnham unit. A letter from Alan Wood to his family on 26th June 1941 stated that he was setting up a camp hospital. It is not known whether this was the Garrison Hospital located at Heraklion to look after casualties from the British, German, Australian, New Zealand and Greek forces.

Alan Wood died on Friday 15th August 1941 at the age of 21. He is buried in Suda Bay War Cemetery, Crete (Grave reference 8. B. 18.)

WIREMAN GEORGE ALFRED TILLEY Serving on H.M.S. Acheron - Royal Navy

George Alfred Tilley was born on 15th May 1920 and his family home was Clare Lodge in Ewshot. His father was Arthur Tilley, a chemist and well known owner of chemist shops in Farnham. The family moved to Longley Road in Farnham and operated chemist shops on Station Hill and in West Street. George first attended the C of E Infants School in West Street and in July 1929 entered the Farnham Grammar School. His sisters Phyllis and Rosemary were educated at the Girls' Grammar School.

From an early age he was interested in radio technology and designed and built his own radio sets. On leaving the grammar school he worked for his father before becoming an apprentice electrical engineer with the Farnham electrical contractor, Thomas Hill. When the war began he volunteered for the Royal Army Corps of Signals, but surprisingly received his call-up papers for the Royal Navy asking him to report to the Naval School of Signalling at Portsmouth. On completion of his training he was promoted and posted to H.M.S.Acheron, and after only a few days at sea his ship was struck by a mine and sunk. George Alfred Tilley was 21 years old when he died on 17th December 1940. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

THE SCHOOL CUPS ATHLETICS - 220 YARDS INTERMEDIATE (PRESENTED BY GRAHAM ARCHER (1943-1950)



1950	M.W.DAWSON	1961	R.F.BARNETT
1951	J.MELVILLE	1962	G.R.MONK
1952	J.MELVILLE	1963	P.J.BARNETT
1953	V.F.ALDRED	1964	A.J.KETTLE
1954	B.FITZPATRICK	1965	T.A.BROWN
1955	J.DURRANT	1966	N.P.HALL
1956	J.W.FURLONGER	1967	N.P.HALL
1957	R.A.MINGAY	1968	D.P.EVERITT
1958	R.D.JARVIS	1969	B.J.PUNTER
1959	R.I.HILL	1970	A.M.BRAGG
1960	G.R.GREEN	1971	T.M.SAUNDERS

THE SCHOOL CUPS SWIMMING OPEN MEDLEY (GIVEN BY JOHN WELLS/CHARLES WELLS/WILLIAM JAMES WELLS) 1914



1953	M.E.BRAZIER	1964	J.P.HUGO
1954	M.E.BRAZIER	1965	J.P.HUGO
1955	B.R.DUNN	1966	G.D.ROBERTSON
1956	B.A.HARMS	1967	P.WITMOND
1957	F.ROBINSON	1968	S.A.M.JARVIS
1958	B.A.HARMS	1969	G.A.LAWRENCE
1959	F.A.BARKER	1970	G.A.LAWRENCE
1960	F.A.BARKER	1971	G.A.LAWRENCE
1961	T.F.GERMAN	1972	M.LOWRY
1962	T.F.GERMAN	1973	D.J.GRIMES
1963	J.P.HUGO		





Brian Williams is honoured to be President of the Association and hopes to see the Association continue to prosper in the future years. Brian was born in Grantham, but started his schooling in Ruislip and St Nicholas Grammar School in Northwood. The family moved to Farnham in 1960 and Brian joined form 4P and Morley House, whilst his brother, Colin, joined 3P. After leaving school, Colin has lived and worked in Canada running a large engineering consultancy.

Brian enjoyed his five years at Morley Road. He grew so fond of area, than he now lives in Trebor Avenue and remembers the cross-country run each time he leaves home. He enjoyed sport but his academic record exceeded any sporting achievements. He remembers receiving the

form prize from Field Marshall Montgomery. He was made a School Prefect and deputy Head Boy. He managed to win the Bournemouth Scholarship to Southampton University to read mathematics, but decided to take a year's break to work at the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) before attending university.

Brian joined the RAE as a Scientific Assistant in the Space Department in February 1965 and was employed to measure the performance of solar cells and to learn how to programme the Argos computer, which filled a room but had the processing power of a current pocket calculator.

Whilst at Southampton University, Brian was able to spend his vacations working at the RAE and its sister establishment the National Gas Turbine Establishment. His interests turned towards aerodynamics both of aircraft engines and wings. Brian graduated from Southampton with a 1st class honours degree in mathematics and was fortunate to be able to join the Aerodynamics Department at the RAE in September 1969. He was able to use his mathematical skills to develop a method for calculating the flow about wings with high lift devices. The method is still used for wing design at Airbus. His work on high lift wings was also recognised by being awarded the Busk Prize by the Royal Aeronautical Society on two occasions. Brian also enrolled at Reading University on a part-time basis and was awarded a PhD for developing numerical methods for solving aerodynamics problems in 1980.

At times work at the RAE was sponsored by the Government, besides his individual research Brian was able to lead research programmes in both industry and the universities. He maintained a strong link with university research throughout his career and has held a visiting professorship at Surrey University since 1991. Brian also managed for Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council a programme of aerodynamics research from 1995 to 1999. He also joined the Mechanical Engineering Panel for the Research Assessment Exercise in 1996, which involved assessing the research in each university in the country.

BRIAN WILLIAMS (1960-1965)

In 1989, Brian was appointed a Senior Principal Scientific Officer and asked to run the Basic Aerodynamics Division at RAE. This entailed managing the research programme in the UK and co-ordinating the UK research with our European partners. This lead to many fascinating research projects and the establishment of many friends from the aeronautical research establishments across Europe.

Throughout all this exciting research work, Brian was supported by his wife Yvonne, who he married in 1980. We have two daughters, Louise and Anna. Louise practises as a vet in North London, whilst Anna is an Account Development Manager for a leading international beauty company.

Meanwhile major structural changes were taking place at RAE as it became the Defence Research Agency (DRA) in 1991 on the first steps towards privatisation and many organisational changes. The sudden attention to cost and profit, meant that Brian became a profit Centre manager in 1991, but he still found the technical work more interesting and challenging and became the Technical Manager for Aerodynamics in DRA and its subsequent re-incarnations. For his technical work Brian was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and a Chartered Mathematician in 1992 and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1995. In recognition of his work at DRA he was appointed a Senior Fellow in 1999.

Throughout his career, Brian was always delighted to meet three of his contemporaries at school, Howard Torode, Robert Frampton and Richard Potter, as theirs careers wove through RAE and the Ministry of Defence.

Brian took retirement from QinetiQ, the final privatised form of RAE, in 2006. However he still manages to keep in touch with academic life through the visiting professorship at Surrey University and reviewing research proposals for the EPSRC.



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ROBIN BURNS-TEACHER (1967-1997)



I was known (obviously) as Robbie and to one set of sixth form geographers as "Ferret". This, I discovered some years later, was apparently because when asked a question I would reply "Ferret around in that cupboard for (name of geography book) and look it up".

I first saw Farnham Grammar School in the summer term of 1956 when I played cricket for Godalming Grammar School. I was born in Leicester before the War and my father's employment moves in the 1950s caused me to attend three grammar schools; in Leicestershire, Yorkshire and Surrey. I returned to Yorkshire to take a degree in Geography and the Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Leeds University and my first post was at Tadcaster Grammar School at which the first form field trip was to the local brewery!

After two years I went to Malaya to teach in a British Army school for three years and was able to travel extensively in the Far East during the holidays. I had imagined that schools would be interested in a travelled geography teacher when I returned to England, but they were more interested in out of class activities and educational philosophy. One lady

ROBIN BURNS-TEACHER (1967-1997)

governor, struggling with the concept of "Integrated Studies", suggested that I might link up with the Domestic Science department when I was teaching wheat farming in the U.S.A. so the girls could make bread!

Two years after my return to England I succeeded Tony Moore in Room15. In addition to teaching Geography I ran the Duke of Edinburgh Award group of the Combined Cadet Force. Peter Larby persuaded me to take a referees' course so Saturday morning matches could be taken with some confidence, and eventually became Careers' Master. In addition there was the social life of Thursday evening staff badminton in winter and cricket in summer.

Chris Chapple succeeded Doug. Leuchars as head of Biology in 1968 and in 1969 there was the joint sixth form field course to South Wales. Chris had studied at Swansea and was able to organise accommodation in a hall of residence at the university. Lower sixth geographers from Farnham Boys' Grammar School and Farnham Girls' Grammar School and biologists from the Boys' school studied rivers, industry, glaciation and marine features and organisms for a week. And the tradition of "Mumbleing" was initiated. On the morning of the return journey all the students got up early (some had probably not gone to bed!) and walked to Mumbles Head to watch the sun rise.

AND THEN came the college and the ladies from Menin Way. Geography was a popular A.Level subject at Farnham Girls' Grammar School and with the intake from surrounding "feeder" schools there were four sets in each of the first and second year sixth forms. The junior forms were phased out and many new A.Levels appeared to the detriment of Geography, which eventually came down to two sets in each year. I inherited timetabling from Donald Nicolson, examination organisation from John McLaughlin and took early retirement in August 1993.

However I stayed on in a part-time administrative capacity until 1997.

I therefore slipped gradually into retirement, teaching part-time in a private college in Guildford, coaching private pupils, marking A Level papers for the Edexcel Examination Board and maintaining my membership of the local Geographical Association. Away from the academic my main interests are amateur dramatics and cricket. I appeared twice on the stage at the College in "A Winter's Tale" (the cast included Jeremy Hardy) and "Charlie's Aunt" but I usually kept such activities well away from Farnham, being a member of local groups in Guildford.

I started cricket scoring while I was still playing, and score at levels ranging from the local I'Anson League through M.C.C., county youth sides to junior internationals. I also teach people how to score.

Then there is always the dog to take for a walk!

DANNY BRIGGS (1950-1955)

In the 2007 magazine the editor remarked that 'it must be a really hard life' for Danny Briggs in Malaga, living in the sunshine all year round. Danny handed over his profile when attending the 75th Annual Dinner and having read it I must confess that he has earned a few years in the sun.

Danny Briggs left school in 1955 with one 'O' Level, one scar on his head from a falling goalpost and one scar on his knee from an archer's misaim. In addition a certificate for swimming a mile, a bronze medallion for life saving and a Queen's Scout certificate.

What was I going to do for the next 50 years? I had no idea other than that I was not signing for National Service after being in the School Cadet Force. Options were to continue education and make up for wasted years or to join the Merchant Navy, which counted as National Service. I ended up doing both, passed a written and medical examination with Caltex Oil Co., and signed an apprenticeship as an Engineer Cadet Officer.

During my 5 years I spent time at Kingston College (now Surrey University) passing an Ordinary National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in 7 subjects; spent 2 years at shipyards and architects' offices on the river Mersey, unfortunately being forced into the first ever apprentices' strike. I did manage now to pass my 'O' Level in English Language. The balance of the time was spent in various oil tankers running between the UK, Texas and Trinidad, the Mediterranean ports, Suez Canal, Persian Gulf, Malaya, Singapore and the Baltic ports. During this period I worked a 7-day week on shifts and was also continuing with a correspondence course.

In July 1960 I joined British India Steam Navigation Co., first as a 5th Engineer Officer on a cargo ship from the UK to Australia and back, and then to Calcutta where in January 1961 I caught the train and travelled for 48 hours to Bombay.

In 1961 I was promoted to 4th Engineer Officer, spending the year on the 'Daressa', which was a passenger/cargo ship running on a continuous time-table from Bombay to Basra return, and all ports in between along with 3 sister ships. During this period a fellow officer was Robin Knox-Johnston (now Sir Robin) who, with his brother, did his first sail from Bombay to the UK with the initial help of fellow officers who helped prepare his boat. One ship, the 'Dara' was blown up in what was part of a smugglers' warfare and is now in the foundations of the newly built Dubai.

1962 was spent on various cargo ships and also at Southampton College, where I passed my 2nd Class and part A of the 1st Class Marine Engineers' Certificate.

In January 1963 the river Thames froze, I joined a P & O ship as a passenger for 3 weeks to Bombay. Here I joined the 'Chyebassa' as 3rd. Engineer Officer and was promoted to 2nd Engineer Officer in July. This was a true cargo ship running continuously between Basra and Japan and many ports in between. Approximately 3 months each year were spent in Japan, where we carried out repairs, passed Lloyds' Safety Certificates and over one period we converted the engine from running on diesel oil to running on thick heavy oil.

DANNY BRIGGS (1950-1955)

During this 3 years we were involved in opening up trade with China and also got involved with the India/Pakistan war when our Indian crew went on strike and had to be replaced before going to Karachi. The next 3 years was spent on relief work around the coast of the UK, when regular officers could have some leave. This gave me almost a year on School Cruise ships where as well as keeping the engines etc., running I also had to do a fair amount of entertaining.

Towards the end of 1968 I was seconded to the Royal Navy, serving on the logistic ship 'Sir Tristam' being based at Marchwood, Southampton. Most of the time at sea was spent on warfare trials preparing the ship and men for any emergency. Here I was promoted to acting Chief Engineer Officer; this ship was damaged in the Falklands' Crisis.

I now got married and left Britain for India in 1968. The following year saw a new start in life when I became a director of Wrenbridge Ltd., which became mine in 1972. Here I had DIY/hardware shops and a garden machinery centre in Guildford. After now working once again 7 days each week and doing the paperwork in the evenings I eventually sold out, keeping the machinery centre and having weekends off with my family.

I was now persuaded to join Guildford Chamber of Commerce, spent 16 years on the committee and 2 years as President and became involved in Guildford. The following is a list of my involvement:

- Became Vice-Chairman on the Access for Disabled committee, where also I helped start Guildford Shopmobility.
- Sat on the town council retail committee.
- Became Group Scout Leader of the group that I had been a scout with.
- Became Chairman of the Crime Prevention Panel, setting up certificate courses for youth groups and setting up SPLASH.

(Here for 10 years I helped organize summer activities for bored children, gave talks to other countrywide organisations, including one talk sharing the platform with Princess Anne). For this I received 2 Commendations from Surrey Police.

- Sat on 2 local police/community liaison committees.
- Chairman of the local church finance committee and supervised its works and maintenance, including the building of a new hall.
- Received an Achievement Award from Surrey County Council and a Business Award for disabled access/employment.

In December 1996 I purchased land in Spain. The house was designed and built and I moved in on my 60th birthday. My private pensions started and I put more trust into my staff and commuted for 7 years.

In August 2004 I ended my business connections and fully retired to enjoy the garden and its views, joined by my wife Judy and regularly my son and daughter, their partners and 5 grandchildren.

A VISITOR FROM DOWN UNDER

In August 2007 the Editor was telephoned by a former classmate from the Farnham Grammar School and asked if he could join the Association and also attend the 2007 Southampton Luncheon. The Old Boy was MICK BARHAM (1948-1953), who left this country over thirty years ago to begin a new life in Australia.

Mick entered the grammar school in 1947 and joined Harding House, where he proved to be a first class sportsman, particularly at football. He played cricket for his house and also did well in the annual Boxing competition and was a member of Bill Wickens' gymnastic team. In the 1952/53 season he played for the School Second XI at football.

Leaving school he entered the RAF for 5 years and worked on gas turbines in this country and in Germany. A few months before his demob he married local girl, Molly Hockey, his long term girl friend and after some consideration they decided to try life in the new world. Mick had worked as a car mechanic on leaving the services and managed to obtain work in a similar position in Adelaide, where they began their life in Australia. They found a home and in fact still live in the same house to this day, having brought up two girls during those years.

After some time working with cars Mick began to suffer back problems and decided to try some other form of employment. A small supermarket chain had begun to break up its network and sell off the units separately and Mick and Molly decided to borrow from the bank and begin the seven day a week life of running a small supermarket. They found that this life suited them and after some years sold the business and purchased a larger shop some 250 kms north of Adelaide. Keeping their house in the city they lived six days each week in a mobile home close to the store and returned to their house to keep the garden up and generally make sure that the place did not deteriorate. This move proved to be very successful and although life was hard they managed to put themselves in the position where retirement at 60 was possible. They sold again and returned to their original home to begin a more relaxing lifestyle.

Mick and Molly travelled to the United Kingdom in 1997 for their first holiday in the 'old country' and in 2007 were here again for a few months to see family and friends. They have also been to other parts of the world and make sure that they enjoy retirement to the full.

In Australia Mick became very interested in wood working and joined a local club and from there a small group got together to spend time making toys for handicapped children from toddlers upwards. They provide several hundred toys each year and this year they have been given some financial assistance via a government grant to enable them to purchase, in place of scrounging, materials to increase their output. The group keeps busy during the year and one of the wives has named them 'The Toy Boys'. Mick has a large workshop at home and spends much of his time there. Mick is also a member of a local four wheel drive club. In the coming winter months there is a trip planned to cross the Simpson Desert, much too hot any other time of the year, so he will be joining other friends with his 4x4 motor vehicle living close to nature for a few days. It can be a very rugged existence and one has to be sure that they take items necessary as they have to be self sufficient including accidents etc. on these long trips.

A VISITOR FROM OZ

Molly, on the other hand, spends time with her children and grandchildren who live close to them and also keeps up long standing friendships with others who have made Australia their home. This includes several from the Farnham area and two of their closest friends are Peter and Rita Downham, who both attended the local grammar schools in the 1940s. There are also other Farnham people nearby and they keep in contact and one old girl, Phyllis Grindley (whose brother Vic is also an Old Boy), has visited them many times.

Whilst in Australia Mick has put his experience at football to good use and over the years has managed several local teams in what is a cricket dominated country. He still has an interest in the national game at home, but like many of us feels that there is too much money in the game. Also the introduction of so many foreign players will only harm the quality of the national team in the long term.

Like all meetings with Old Boys after so many years the conversation is all about 'Do you remember?' or 'Whatever happened to...?' Meeting Mick and Molly Barham was just the same and it is amazing what you recall on such occasions. They have made a life for themselves half way across the world, but still like to return to see old friends and family. They find that Farnham has changed greatly during their time away although they still are pleased to regard it as their original home.

Mick will stay here until October and attend the Southampton Luncheon. Here he will meet more old classmates and will enjoy an afternoon of nostalgia before he returns to his home.



Mick & Molly Barham on their visit to Farnham. He does not appear to have aged much!

IN RETIREMENT

The magazine has always given details regarding the careers etc., of Old Boys, but as the overall age of the Association increases most of the members are in retirement and now lead a new lifestyle. They say that most retired people are busier than when they were employed and this new section of the Farnhamian will hopefully give details of some of the things that retired Old Boys are doing with their lives.

We may as well start with the Editor! CYRIL TRUST (1948-1953) finally retired at the age of 63 and had already become a school governor and a member of the local Museum Society in preparation for the days when he would have more time available. On retiring he became Chair of Governors of the school in question and held this position for 6 years, whilst he also became chairman of the Farnham Museum Society and has held that position for over 5 years. He has belonged to a local fund raising group called The Hedgehogs for almost 30 years and is regularly involved with the Farnham Carnival, Farnham fashion Show etc. He also edits this magazine (this is the 15th) and is currently Chairman of the Farnhamian 400 Trust and just completed 3 years as President of the Association.

In an attempt to keep fit he swims 1000 metres every Tuesday morning and visits the Rehab gym every Thursday. At least it keeps the joints working!

He has been married to Pauline for 38 years and has two sons, Richard and Robin. He enjoys travelling and in retirement has been to New Zealand, Australia, California, Alaska and many European countries. He belongs to the National Trust and enjoys good music of all kinds. In 2006 he became a grandparent for the first time and dotes on his grandson James. Cyril leads a busy life for sure!

TONY HARLAND (1943-1951) was with the Midland Bank all of his working life and has been retired well over 10 years. Tony has always loved sport and still plays cricket for Waverley CC as well as travels through Hampshire to watch the county team play. He loves his football and divides his support among several teams, including Aldershot, Barnet, Brentford and Reading. Tony is one of life's relaxed characters and still smokes his pipe and takes things at his pace. He is long time secretary for his cricket club, long time membership secretary for the Old Farnhamians' Association and regularly supports the Annual Dinner, Southampton Lunch etc.,

Tony continues to live in Farnham with his wife Christine.

Former President, MIKE HORNER (1943 -1948), is another very busy Old Boy and his year usually begins with an extended visit to New Zealand to see his two sons who live there. He returns to the UK and begins a weekly regime of three or four rounds of golf. This keeps him in good shape, but he also belongs to the Bourne Club and plays regular tennis and has that look of fitness about him even in his 70s. He is a great supporter of the Old Farnhamians and has been President for 3 years and now sits on the General Committee and the Farnhamian 400 Trust. He enjoys the Annual Dinner and the Southampton Lunch. He is becoming involved in Probus (an organisation for ex businessmen) and has a circle of friends in

IN RETIREMENT

Farnham which gives him an active social life. For many years he worked in Malaya at the highest level and is now enjoying retirement to the full.

Mike is married to Maureen and they live in South Farnham. In November 2008 they will celebrate 50 years (Golden Wedding) together.

Someone who has used retirement to get involved in something new is MAURICE JEFFREYS (1948-1953). After a career in marine insurance in Hong Kong and the City of London Maurice moved from his Surrey home to Chagford in Devon, where his wife's family lived. Here in this picturesque village he has taken on the following roles:

Chairman of Chagford branch of the British Legion.

Trustee and Committee Member of the Friends of St.Michael Trust (Church).

Past Chairman and current Treasurer of Okehampton Probus Club.

Vice President of Chagford Cricket Club.

Vice President of Chagford Agricultural & Horticultural Society.

Councillor on Chagford Parish Council.

He also belongs to five(5) Masonic Lodges in Exeter and three(3) in London.

To enable him to relax he also belongs to:

Okehampton Golf Club.

Chagford C.C. Golf Society.

Chagford Bowls Club.

Secretary of Manaton Rifle Club.

Maurice also acted as a consultant to his former company until the end of 2006. Now that is what I call making the most of retirement!

The recent revival of Aldershot Town Football Club has resulted in many former pupils of the grammar school taking up their places in the stands and supporting the club that they used to follow over fifty years ago. BILL LUFF, TONY GATFIELD and TONY HARLAND attend most home games and DEREK ELSTOW travels from the Newbury area each Saturday to urge on the local team. We hear from MIKE PRENTICE in Canada that his first job every Saturday is to log on to the soccer results for this country and find out the Aldershot result. He recently sent a message across saying how he hoped the current team would soon return to top class football and proceeded to name all eleven players from the early 1950s seasons. Another great fan is DOUGLAS LUCAS, who was ecstatic at the Southampton Lunch about the draw for the F.A.Cup which put his local side, Salisbury FC, against his long term love of Aldershot FC.

If Aldershot FC do manage to gain promotion to the Football League I can see the crowd being swelled as the many Old Boys pick up their red, white and blue scarves and their rattles to cheer on the modern local team.

A SCHOOL HOLIDAY IN 1948

The details below were unearthed by ALAN LOVELL (1947-1953), and he felt that the costs shown sixty years ago would surprise some of the readers. It also shows that three years after the Second World War we still required ration books.

DATES - TUESDAY AUGUST 3RD to THURSDAY AUGUST 19TH (both dates inclusive) TIMES OF DEPARTURE - WATERLOO 9.0. p.m. -SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS 11.45.p.m.

The time of departure from Farnham station will be given later as it is not quite certain yet as to whether the F.G.S. party will be travelling via London, or from Farnham direct to Southampton (via Winchester) or not.

PRICE - an inclusive charge of £5. per boy for the complete holiday is being made. This means that boys of over 14 benefit quite considerably, (since their railway fare is half of an adult's) in order to balance things up a little.

All money should be paid into the undersigned by JUNE 20TH.

N.B. In the case of this being so when money is sent by post, a stamped address envelope must also be enclosed.

ADDRESS - this is the same as last year, since we shall be camping on exactly the same site, but for newcomers, here it is again:-

FARNHAM (with PURLEY) GRAMMAR SCHOOLS' CAMP,

At. SAINTS FARM, St. Martins, GUERNSEY, C.I.

LIST OF KIT REQUIRED BY EACH BOY - Kit bag (or suit case); 2 or 3 blankets; Handkerchiefs; Pyjamas; Shirts and collars; Shorts; Sweater; or Pullover; 1 Undervest; Socks or Stockings; Shoes or Boots; Ration book; Gym Shoes or plimsolls; School tie; Bathing costume; 2 Towels; Hairbrush & comb; Toothbrush; Soap & Flannel; Bootbrushes; Mackintosh or overcoat; GROUND SHEET; (a few of these may be hired at 2/for the fortnight - early application is necessary). ENAMEL (if possible) WARE:- which should be plainly marked; 2 large plates; 1 fair size mug; small soup basin; knife, fork & spoons;

OPTIONAL KIT - note paper; pencil; pocket torch; diary; cards and indoor games in case of wet days.

The clothes as printed above are regarded as being extra to those worn on the outward journey.

POCKET MONEY & EXCURSIONS - the former is left entirely to the discretion of the boy (or parent), about £1 to £2 is about an average boy's spending money, but many do with less. This can be placed in the camp bank during the holiday, and taken care of by those in charge. The latter are all optional, but it is assumed that most boys will want to take advantage of these. There are usually about 4 or 5 motor excursions and average about 2/6 each. Therefore it is advisable for boys to book for some or all of these when paying in their money, and include the amount extra for the number of trips that they wish to make. It is not possible at this stage to give any particulars as to any possible Sea Trips; but as a guide, last year three of these were made as follows:- Jersey 15/- (7/6 half); Sark 6/- (3/- half); Herm 5/- (2/6 half). PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE THESE WITH THE PAYING IN MONEY.

RATION BOOKS - will be required (not emergency cards) but as last year, they will not be collected until just after landing at Guernsey. Please pack these at the top of your kit. DETACH PERSONAL POINTS FIRST. SUFFICIENT ORDINARY POINTS must be left in the book for the period of two weeks, for our use on the Island.

PLEASE FILL UP THE FORM AS BELOW AND RETURN IT IMMEDIATELY TO THE UNDERSIGNED EITHER AT FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL OR TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

We begin with front page news from the Alresford Diary giving details of the efforts of **ROY ROBINS** (1926-1931) to open a local museum. In October 2005 Roy, with others, founded the Alresford & District Museum Trust and have been searching for funds ever since to obtain a suitable building and staff to have a local museum to house items of local interest over the years. They have asked the local community to come forward with items, which tell the story of the history of Alresford and hope that the local council will offer a building for the museum. The article finds that the energy of this Old Boy is remarkable and one can only wonder how many of us will be like that in our 90s.

(The above was written in May 2007 and only a few days later Roy Robins suffered a stroke and died early in June. He was committed to this project in the same way that he had been committed to the Association for many years)

We received a request for help from a lady living in Witney who was writing a book on the history of the George Cross. She had researched SIDNEY WILTSHIRE (1923-1925), who received this award, and even met some of his family in New Zealand where he lived for many years. We were able to assist with information about his school days and look forward to seeing the book with a full version of the life of this brave man.

A modern trend is for people to try to trace their heritage via Internet, and on several occasions the editor has been contacted by relatives of former pupils of the Farnham Grammar School asking for help in finding some facts about their father or grandfather for example. In May 2007 came a call from a gentleman who said that within his family it was stated that one relative on his mother's side had been expelled from the Grammar School after throwing an inkwell at a master and could I offer any details. Apparently this took place in the mid 1800s and I explained that I had no information going back that far. He proceeded to tell me that tracing his family had proved interesting and he had proof that one of his ancestors was the last highwayman to be hanged in Marlborough. In reply I told him that my great grandfather had spent time in Bodmin Gaol for smuggling. I am not sure that I wish to know other facts about my family tree!

We received a message from the Wessex Cancer Trust advising that when collecting items for their charity auction they had found six medals won by a Farnham Grammar school boy for athletics. The name on the medals was J.C.KINGCOME (1923-1932), and was the son of H.C.KINGCOME, who was a well known teacher at the school for many years. The Editor had corresponded with Jim Kingcome in America in the 1990s and these medals were won by Jack Kingcome, his elder brother. At one stage the father and two sons were at the school at the same time.

The medals are for the following:

440 yards Under 11 1st 1922 High Jump Under 11 2nd 1922 Cross country 1925 1st Under 14 220 yards Under 11 1st 1922 Long Jump Under 11 1st 1922 Cross country 1926 1st Under 14 yrs 6months

After discussing the matter with the committee for the Farnhamian 400 Trust, it was decided that we would offer £25 for the memorabilia and subsequently the offer was accepted and the medals are now back with the Association. The Kingcome family were important in the history of the old school and we are pleased to have these items in their memory.

The 2007 magazine prompted **TOM GODDARD** (1947-1952) to write and ask for more information about Barbara Wills, the widow of former Art Master John Wills. It is clear that this excellent teacher had a great influence on the life of this pupil and Tom felt it was time to write to the Wills family and express his thanks for all the encouragement he had received from the first class teacher. He also included some samples of his latest project entitled 'Pictorial Envelopes'. These are specially decorated envelopes with a wide variety of subject matter shown, including postcard type cartoons, animals, birds etc. A photo also shows Tom selling them from a stand at a location near his Hereford home.

Tom recalls classes with Eric Munton, and his amazement with GUNTHARD KLEIN when he gave the answer to a mathematics problem almost immediately, whilst the rest of the class struggled. 'Mew' Munton thought this was a trick of some kind and began to bombard the German with more difficult mental arithmetic, only to find the correct answers coming back in a flash. Tom thinks that Gunthard had a special short-cut method but 'Mew' could not fathom out what it was.

It is some time since we had some details of that famous Old Boy, **JEFFREY TATE** (1954-1961), so a visit to the Internet helped fill in some of his latest news. In 2002 he received high acclaim in both Paris and Australia for 'Wagner's Party' and received the 'Franco Abbiati Prize' for this work. He became conductor at the San Carlo Opera House in Naples and in 2005 was promoted to musical director.

He has clearly spent a great deal of time in the recording studio and the list of CD's where he has conducted the orchestra is impressive. In 2006 he produced for EMI albums of '100 Best Opera Classics', 100 Best Mozart Works' and '100 Best Classics Vol.2.' In 2007 he completed '100 Best Sacred Works', '100 Best Beethoven Works' and two albums of music by Haydn'. The success story continues to run for this former pupil of the Farnham Grammar School.

The editor was recently sent a cutting from the 'Surrey & Hants News' dated April 8th 1986, which linked the well known celebrated tenor, Sir Peter Pears, with the Farnham Grammar School. He was born in Farnham in 1910 at the home of his parents in Searle Road and attended York House Preparatory School on Station Hill (now the Tasty House Chinese takeaway). This school was run by the Misses Nellie and Emma Stroud, sisters of William Stroud the former headmaster at the grammar school. In the 1950s music teacher, ALAN FLUCK, presented work by Sir Benjamin Britten at the Church House and he was encouraged by both the composer and Sir Peter Pears, his constant companion. This famous singer clearly remembered his roots in the town.

Yet another celebrity from the old school in the news at the beginning of August 2007 was GUY BELLAMY (1948-1952), who had a new book accepted for publication. This was his thirteenth book and is entitled 'A Year in Suburbia', and will no doubt have healthy sales for this author who lived in Farnham for many years and now has his home in Glastonbury, Somerset. Guy's best known novel was 'The Secret Lemonade Drinker' and was based in part on Farnham, and his previous book was 'The Man Who Won' published in 2005.

In August 2007 Farnham College merged with Guildford College and this resulted in some changes of personnel, including the departure of SALLY FRANCIS who had been Principal at Morley Road for ten years. The merging of the colleges should give Farnham a stronger unit, with a better financial base, and enable it to grow and attract increased numbers of students. During the past decade Sally has ensured that the academic standards of the college have remained very high and she always wanted to maintain much of the standards of an institution with the history of Farnham Grammar School. It is with much regret that the Old Farnhamians' Association says farewell to a lady who has worked well with the organisation and was always aware of the need to preserve the history of the old grammar school. IAN SARGEANT (1955-1962), was the Chairman of the Governors when the colleges merged and has given more details, plus his personal viewpoint, in a separate article within this magazine.

The search for the Oldest Living Old Boy continued in 2007 and a claim was made by GEORGE HOPKINS, who left the school in 1931 and was 93 years of age in March 2008. Checking the authenticity of this resulted in trying to contact members who were at the school in the late 1920s and early 1930s and this lead to a long telephone conversation with MAURICE BINNING (1934-1939) who lives in Poole. Firstly he assured me that the details in the current membership list were incorrect and he left school in 1939 and not 1929 and was currently 84 years old when we talked.

He began to tell me something of his days at the school and his career afterwards and it is worth recording in this magazine. He entered the grammar school in 1934 and was in Massingberd House, where he entered the Boxing Tournament, Athletics and Cricket House Teams at various levels. His main sporting activity was Rifle Shooting, and he represented his house throughout his time at the school, becoming a steadily improving shot. He excelled at Mathematics and Physics and these subjects were to prove important in his future career. In 1939 he gained his General School Certificate and left the school to work for a short time at the Post Office.

Whilst at the school he played the organ at the local Methodist Church and on one occasion had to ask permission from F.A.Morgan to take time off to play at a funeral ceremony. He says that he travelled from Poole to Farnham for some years and attended the church, where he made the acquaintance of the current organist. He was another former pupil of the school, our website whizz kid, Ian Sargeant.

Maurice joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough as a Laboratory Assistant in the Materials' Department and stayed there for four years. He belonged to the ATC and had always wanted to become a pilot and was eventually taught to fly Tiger Moths, with a view

to entering the RAF in wartime as a qualified pilot. The RAE fought to retain his services but after a year he joined the RAF, only to fail the eye test and have to settle for the role of a navigator. He trained in South Africa and was given a commission and returned home to join those brave night fighters flying regularly over Germany. Maurice says that his time on these missions was spent with no particular escapades to report.

He was demobbed after the war and returned to the RAE, where he worked on the Concorde project, among others. He became interested in local opera in Farnborough and was the treasurer of the local society for many years. He recalls that Harry Beeken was a regular visitor to the shows. He finally decided to move with his wife to Poole in Dorset and live closer to his family and enjoys his time on the coast. Maurice says that he has not attended Old Boys' events and is probably too old to begin now. If he ever decides to come along one day to the Southampton Lunch or the Annual Dinner he would be most welcome!

In September we heard from PETER DOWNHAM (1943-1948) and his wife Rita who still live in Adelaide, Australia, and are enjoying their retirement. What a topsy-turvy world it is when they are worried over the lack of water in Oz, while we are suffering from awful flooding in parts of this country. Is it global warming or not? Peter has two major passions in life, with one being his involvement in Bowling and the other in tracing his Family History. He is currently Vice-President of the Southern Branch of the Bowls' Past Presidents Association and once again the Vice-President of the Justices' Bowling Club. He plays the game all year round and feels that the exercise is good for his ageing joints. His duties as a JP have diminished of late.

Peter spends hours researching his family history and finds old death and birth certificates offer interesting information. His favourite ancestor to date is his great, great, great grandfather, who after joining the 1st King's Dragoon Guards at 16, charged with the Heavy Brigade at the Battle of Waterloo.

Like many retired people Peter and Rita still like to travel, and in October 2007 plan to holiday in China visiting Beijing, Shanghai and X'ain in particular. Christmas will be spent in Adelaide with son Gary and his family who currently live in Perth.

Peter still likes to read the magazine, while Rita has several former classmates at the Farnham Girls' Grammar School who correspond with her. We wish them continued health and happiness!

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This extract from the 'Surrey & Hants News' dated 30th December 1985 was given to the editor recently and probably sums up what teachers in general feel about their careers after retirement.

'A TEACHER'S LAMENT'

(written by the late and respected Michael Foster, English Master, Farnham Grammar)

A WONDERFUL parody of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poem appears in a new book this week. Imitations of Immortality (Viking, £12.95) edited by E.O.Parrott. It was written some years ago by Michael Foster of Broomleaf Road, Farnham, who only recently retired after teaching at Farnham Grammar School for over 30 years.

If you can keep your head when all about you Are losing theirs and aiming things at you; If you can leave a class to work without you And guarantee they'll keep hard at it, too; If you can mark and not grow tired of marking, Of counting money, writing your Reports; If you can stand the end-of-term sky-larking, And still have spirit left to watch the Sports; If you can talk, nor lose your voice with talking, Give punishments without a biased mind; If you can stop an idle mob from squawking At every doubtful meaning they can find; If you can dream - and not make dreams your master; Or talk with Heads - nor lose the common touch; If you can save your subject from disaster By tactfully not plugging it too much; If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken Twisted and laughed at by moronic fools; If you're prepared to watch equipment broken By 'scholars' who have scant regard for rules; If you can fill the unforgiving minute With ninety seconds' worth of distance run, Teaching's for you, and everything that's in it, And - which is more - you're welcome to it, son!

CHRIS JENKINS, who left the school in 1975, saw the recent profile of former teacher, John MacLaughlin, in the magazine and decided to make contact with him. Part of the letter gave details of his interesting career since leaving what was a grammar school when he began and a college went he left. On leaving he went to Oxford University in 1977 and here he obtained a 'second' in PPE as well as having two career paths in mind, one in the City and the other on the river as a cox.

The City career went well, working as a fund manager and investing in numerous stock markets around the world, never the UK. He ended up at Rothschild as a Director, running

fund investing in emerging markets and growth companies around the world. He even married another fund manager, Gwenda. In 2003 his portion of Rothschild was sold to the Halifax or HBOS and as fund management is a young man's game he opted to leave the City.

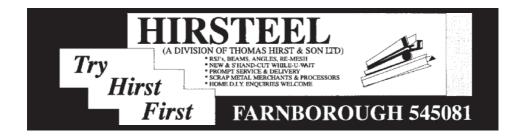
His rowing career also went well at college, captain of boats in the first year, then into the university crews, but never the 'blueboat'. Chris feels that he would have had to attend a rowing school if he wanted to obtain a blue. After leaving college he joined Guildford Rowing Club and a couple of years later was asked to cox London Welsh. This crew represented Wales at the 1986 Commonwealth Games and Chris began as cox, then captain of Wales from 1985 until 1993. In 1993 he was coxing at Leander and faced the choice of coxing or work and the latter won. So ended his coxing career.

In 2003 Chris and Gwenda decided to move back to Wales and they now live on the side of a mountain in the Brecon Beacons with their three children all under 10. As for work he combines business and sport and became involved with the Commonwealth Games' Council for Wales. This body is responsible for sending the Welsh team to the Games. He was asked to be Finance Director and went to the Melbourne Games as head of HQ. In 2006 they won some funding to employ Chris as Executive Director, a job he finds very enjoyable. When writing in November 2007 he was in Nigeria, who had bid for the 2014 Games along with Glasgow. Each country has a vote and they send one person to evaluate the bid and Chris is working on the 2008 Youth Games in India and the 2010 Games in Delhi.

Apart from this busy working life he still finds time to be Chair of Governors at a local Primary School.

News from former Head Boy at the school, **PETER CRANSWICK** (1952-1960), who has now retired. After leaving the school he attended Nottingham Teachers' Training College and then taught History and Geography for 29 years and became Senior Teacher at the Player Comprehensive School in Nottingham.

Peter is married to Kate and lives in Lowdham. He played village cricket for Caythorpe C.C. and hockey for South Nottingham Hockey Club. He was Assistant Southern Secretary for Nottingham County Hockey Association for 29 years and for the last 14 years has been secretary of the Midlands Men's Hockey League. Peter still runs three times a week and enjoys the popular races such as the Oxford Town 10k and Nottingham's Robin Hood Half Marathon.



At the 2008 Annual Dinner the Editor met **DAVID T. SMITH (1943-1950)** who agreed to send in his profile covering the years after leaving Farnham Grammar School. What an interesting career it is!

David went to University College, Southampton (now the University of Southampton) here he was awarded a B.Sc. in Physics and Mathematics in 1952, Honours in Physics in 1953 and a Diploma in Electronics in 1954. He met his future wife, Anne, there and they married in 1956. After Southampton he worked for Bristol Aircraft Company (as it was then), but after six years in industry he was ready for a change.

In 1960 he was appointed to the Physics Department of the University of Oxford to run the Electronics' Instrumentation group in the Clarendon Laboratory, and he worked in that department until his retirement in 2000. It was his responsibility to advise research physicists, and to design highly specialised electronic equipment needed for their work. This was built by his team and the work has been very satisfying.

In the early days he was involved mostly with instruments for magnetic resonance, very low temperature physics (Oxford had an entry in the Guinness Book of Records for achieving the world's lowest temperature), and high magnetic fields (they still have an active high-field laboratory with the best facilities in the country). In the late 1960s he gained a M.Sc. for his work on stabilising a high-power generator used for driving electromagnets which gave the highest steady field available in the UK. In later years laser physics took a lot of his time. He became a Chartered Engineer and in the 1980s he was given a D.Phil. degree for his research into low-frequency noise in electronic components. (Understanding of noise is important as it limits the accuracy and sensitivity of measurements). In the 1990s, he designed some satellite electronics for measuring trace gases in the upper atmosphere, especially greenhouse gases.

From time to time he was involved in projects outside mainstream physics, and he always welcomed these. Nowadays, red tape associated with funding makes this much more difficult. Projects included a special electronic organ for the Music Faculty to demonstrate alternative ways to tune a scale. The way in which scales are tuned involves physics and maths as well as music theory. He also designed a light-weight high voltage supply for a tsetse fly trap for members of the Zoology Department for use in insect surveys in Africa. An interesting project was the design of an early calculator for the blind sponsored by the R.N.I.B., and later he adapted measuring instruments for use by a blind physics student. He was also involved with the beginnings of the Oxford Instrument Company, and designed all their early electronics. He spent some time in university physics' laboratories in Oporto in Portugal, and Sao Carlos and Brasilia in Brazil.

Since retiring in 2000 David has continued to give advice and help in the laboratory, and is currently assisting with the development of high-sensitivity detectors for the Radio Astronomy group. He likes to keep physically active and in the Oxford tradition he rode a bike to work for forty years. David and Anne have two children - a daughter who is a G.P. in Devon, and a son who is a Chartered Accountant and Finance Director. They have five grandchildren.

THE OLDEST LIVING OLD BOY

After the passing of Fred Elmslie it has taken time for us to search for the current oldest living Old Boy and after a few attempts we feel that A.J. (Jim) Hall, who lives in Poole, will receive the honour of this position. The following article was sent to the Farnham Herald in September 2007 to announce the new name.

'In a recent issue of this newspaper the question was asked in the 'Letters to the Editor' section, 'Who is the oldest living Old Boy of Farnham Grammar School?' A search of the membership has resulted in the award going to A.J. (Jim) Hall who was 94 on 30th August 2007 and who entered the school in 1925.

Jim left the school in 1932 and began working at the War Office, involved in the financial side of the armed forces and stayed with this employer, and later the Ministry of Defence, for all his working life. For the first four years he was at Aldershot and this enabled him to play cricket for the Old Boys, rifle shoot with Humphrey Elphick and play the violin in the Norman Patrick dance orchestra. In 1936 he began travelling the world, including periods in China, Egypt, the Middle East, and Hong Kong where he met and married his wife Barbara over 67 years ago.

In 1954 Jim became heavily involved in the negotiations with President Nassar of Egypt over the financial aspects of the British Army withdrawal from that country. He recalls that the solution to this problem was achieved when he remembered some basic mathematics from his old master, Eric Munton. Three years later he found himself in Amman looking after the financial interests of the War Office during the negotiations for a Treaty of Friendship with Jordan. He remembers celebrating the successful outcome of these talks over a huge lunch with King Hussein where he was served with platters of whole sheep (including the head and eyes).

Jim returned to England eventually and worked at the War Office and then the Ministry of Defence as a Head of Division until he retired in 1973 after 41 years in the Civil Service. Jim and Barbara then moved to a penthouse flat overlooking Poole Harbour and thoroughly enjoy these days close to the sea. He still attends the Old Boys' Southampton Luncheon each year and in 2006 gave a brilliant after dinner speech about his time at the school and the fact that wherever you are in the world you are close to another Old Boy of Farnham Grammar School. During the war he attended a meeting of the Middle East Command and found former classmate, Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Smallman, later to be Mayor of Farnham, sitting across the table. When involved in the rebuilding of the war damaged Guards' Chapel in Birdcage Walk he worked with another Old Boy in Bruce George, who was the architect. For a time he had another former pupil in David Horry working at the War Office and giving them the opportunity to have lunch together on a regular basis.

So our 'Oldest Living Old Boy' is a distinguished member of the Old Farnhamians' Association and let us hope that he holds the honour for many years to come. Jim Hall has led a humdrum life, but as the former Headmaster F.A.Morgan commented on him some years ago, 'He had that kind of brain'.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS THE SEARCH FOR THE OLDEST LIVING OLD BOY CONTINUES

Having found the Oldest Living Old Boy in Jim Hall we placed the details in the Farnham Herald, as it is of interest to local readers. Within hours of doing this we received a reply from a Mrs Jean Allen advising us that her uncle Philip Spencer had been a pupil of the former grammar school and he was 103 years of age. This resulted in an exchange of letters and brought to light some interesting facts about her family, which contained seven former pupils of the school. This information is part of the history of the school and I am recording the main facts below as part of the 'News of the Old Boys' section in this magazine.

JOHN ELLIOT SPENCER (1861-1949) (always known as Elliot) attended Miss Alexander's School in Castle Street before entering the Grammar School. He often talked about the fun the boys had when he attended the school in temporary premises in the alley opposite the school – now Timber Close. A good skater, keen cyclist and swimmer, a Rotarian and active member of the Congregational Church, he succeeded his father John Spencer in the family drapery business in the Borough, which he passed on to his sons Harold and Philip,

FREDERICK SIDNEY SPENCER (1870-1928) youngest brother of J.E.Spencer, educated at the Grammar School during the 1880s. Employed by a bank before going to New Zealand in the 1890s where he remained for the rest of his life.

SONS OF J.E.SPENCER:

SIDNEY JOHN ELLIOT SPENCER (1893-1917) attended York House School in Castle Street followed by the Grammar School. Employed by Parr's Bank in the City and enlisted in 29th Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He went to France in 1916, was wounded at Possiers on the Somme in August 1917, returned to France to rejoin his pals, who incidentally he never found, and was killed on 28th February 1917 with no known grave. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial as well as the War Memorials in Farnham.

(EDITOR: The school magazine dated January 1917 records that Sidney Spencer and his brother were both wounded and home, and one of them visited the school. In the April 1917 issue the headmaster, Rev. Samuel Priestley gave the following tribute:

S.Spencer was reported killed on February 28th. The Chaplain wrote to his family saying, 'You can be proud of your son; he has left an honoured name behind him in the regiment'. His C.O. sent warm words of appreciation for his splendid work. He had volunteered at the beginning of the War and went out to France with the Royal Fusiliers in 1916. He came home with wounds in August and was out in France by January. He was the eldest of four brothers we have had here. Excellent boy and excellent worker, he also was a keen sportsman and did yeoman service in the cup games for the Town Team.'

HAROLD COOPER SPENCER (1896-1983) this was the father of Jean Allen and he attended York House School in Castle Street followed by the Grammar School from 1904 until 1912. He commenced an apprenticeship at Griggs' Outfitters in Surbiton but enlisted in 1915 in 9th Battalion Queen Victoria Rifles. He was wounded in September 1916, and later commissioned into 49th Division Machine Gun Corps. After the war he continued his

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

apprenticeship at Plummer Roddis of Brighton joining the family drapery store in Farnham with his brother Philip in 1924. He played tennis, golf and later bowls and was a member of Toc H, Round Table and 41 Club. Also a founder member of the Blood Transfusion Service and served with the local Observer Corps in World War 2.

PHILIP BERTRAM SPENCER (1904- He attended Miss Aylwin's School before attending the Grammar School from 1912 until 1919 and then moving on to Bishops Stortford College from 1919 until 1921. He was apprenticed to Greens of St Albans and Plummer Roddis of Brighton before returning to Farnham in 1924 to join the family drapery business. Philip played rugby and tennis and was a keen hiker, a member of Toc H and life-long member of the United Reform Church. In World War 2 he served in the local Fire Brigade before joining the Royal Armoured Corps, training as a tank driver before being posted to India. In 1948 he married Doreen Wells and lived in Great Austins until two years after Doreen's death in 1984. He moved to Guildford at the time of his marriage to Joan Lockwood and currently Philip and Joan live in a local nursing home. AS YOU CAN SEE PHILIP IS STILL VERY MUCH WITH US AND MUST BE THE OLDEST LIVING OLD BOY CURRENTLY.

NORMAN ARTHUR SPENCER (1909-1989) was privately educated by Miss Wright-Robbins and then attended the Grammar School from 1918 until 1923 before going to Bishop Stortford College. He was articled to Sir Thomas Frank in Liverpool in 1927 and became a member of the Institute of Highways Engineers working for a number of Borough and County Councils until his retirement in 1974.

(EDITOR; magazines show that the Spencer brothers belonged to Morley House)

GEOFFREY MILES KING (1926-1993) was the late husband of Jean Allen and attended St. Polycarps' School followed by the Grammar School which he left in 1943. He was Secretary of the Old Farnhamians' Association in the early 1950s and played for the OFA Football Team for a number of years. He was employed by BP all his working life.

HUBERT LIONEL KING (1921-2005) was the brother of Geoff King and also attended the Grammar School in the 1930s. He carried on the family hairdressing business in South Street for many years.

CHARLES SPENCER KING (1960 The son of Jean Allen and Geoff King who attended the Grammar School from 1971 until 1978 and was therefore one of the last Old Boys and one of the first students of Farnham College. He graduated from Southampton University and is now a Det. Inspector with the Metropolitan Police.

All of this history from one enquiry, regarding our oldest living Old Boy. Also included was a photograph of Philip Spencer in his Grammar School cap and perfect for our memorabilia collection. My thanks to Jean Allen for the information and she told me that Philip Spencer had read the correspondence and enjoyed the memories of life at Morley Road in the early 1900s. I just wonder how many more stories like this are out there!

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

In September 2007 the nightly BBC show 'The One Show' screened a visit to Brookwood Cemetery by John Sargent, their well-known correspondent. As he walked through the largest cemetery in Europe he was accompanied by an expert, who was former Farnham Grammar School pupil, JOHN CLARKE (1971-1978). John has written several books on the Brookwood Cemetery and finds the place of great historic interest and told John Sargent that he found the place 'addictive'. The editor has been lucky enough to spend several hours at the site near Woking with John as the guide and would recommend a visit to others, who will be amazed at the famous people who are, or have been, buried there.

The editor has lived in Farnham all of his life and on many occasions has walked into Bridge Square and observed an advert painted in the walls of the Farnham Maltings which says: SAMPSON SAMPSON – LICENSED MALTSTERS. Early this year he received an e-mail from Melbourne in Australia asking for help in tracing a **JOHN SAMPSON**, who had returned to Farnham after the Boer War and then disappeared. There was a history of the Sampson family going back to 1684 and John was the son of Sampson Sampson and attended the Farnham Grammar School *circa* **1860-1870**. John was at the Relief of Mafeking and took part in several battles before being wounded in the left thigh, shoulder and back. He came home in 1902 and it appears that he lived at Rose Cottage, Wrecclesham for a time. The editor awaits the arrival of a CD covering the full history of the Sampson family.

Among details sent regarding the Sampson family is a cutting from the Surrey Advertiser dated 3rd February 1872 reporting on a visit to the school by examiners. 43 boys were tested on Divinity, History, Geography, English and Arithmetic, which every pupil was required to pass. French, Latin, Book-keeping and Drawing were also included as specialist subjects. The school reported that only one boy failed to pass the exam. The article finished with the following words, 'We are glad to hear that some of the difficulties under which the school has long laboured, are likely to be removed shortly, as the plans of the trustees for the new school buildings have at length been approved by both the government departments which have had the criticising of them'. As we all know Morley Road was finally erected in 1906.

How many former pupils of the school recall the relief when entering Trebor Avenue towards the end of the annual cross country event? Races have been won and lost as boys raced down the unmade up road and staggered across the finishing line outside the school. Interesting to find out after all these years where the name of the road came from. I always thought it had something to do with mints! According to our new President, who lives in Trebor Avenue, the road was named after the builder of the houses in the avenue. He was Robert Wilkinson, and of course Trebor is his name backwards. It has taken me seventy years living in Farnham to discover this, and by the way the road is still without tarmac!

It was interesting to read that in the New Year's Honours List was the name of Dr. Geoffrey Jenkins, who gave the Farnham Lecture in 2005 on the subject of Global Warming. Geoff was awarded his MBE for services to science over many years and we now have the speakers for the last four lectures with either the CBE or the MBE. For 2008 the speaker has the latter and this indicates that we are attracting speakers of the highest calibre, and in keeping with the constitution of the 400 Trust.

As we went to press for the 2007 magazine we heard news from France that A.J.C.CLARK (1939-1945) had died from cancer. He had fought the disease for some time and conquered an earlier attack, but it finally killed him.

Tony Clark, with his brother Richard, attended the school during wartime and they became well known sportsmen competing for Massingberd House and the various school teams. Both were excellent shots with the rifle and after leaving school took part in major tournaments. They were also first class cricketers and played for the school First XI and later for the town of Farnham. Tony managed to take part in many sports at the school and won awards for Diving, Breastroke Swimming, Long Jump, High Jump, Hurdles and Boxing. He also ran for the school at the Surrey Secondary School Sports.

The Clark family for many years ran 'Sports & Radio' in the Borough and many of us would go there for anything electrical. Richard died a few years ago and Tony moved to France for the latter part of his life. Both Clark brothers will be remembered by many Old Boys of the school.

Once again it is with much regret that we have to advise of the death of one of the truly great Old Farnhamians. ROY ROBINS (1926-1931) had a stroke in June 2007 and subsequently passed away at the age of 92 and only a few weeks after sitting at the top table at the 75th Annual Dinner at Farnham Castle. Not only was Roy an important member of the Association he was a member of the Robins' family who were involved in the town of Farnham for many years. The Robins' family moved to Farnham from Dorset and set up a number of businesses, including Robins' Removals, Farnham Dairy, a haulage business and a sand & gravel business. They also became road makers and some were named after sons in the family, including Alfred Road, St George's Road and at one time William Road.

Roy was born in May 1914 and entered the grammar school in 1926. He joined Harding House and his main sport was swimming and diving and he represented the school in the Surrey Sec. Schools' Swimming Competition. He loved Maths and Science and gained his University of London matriculation.

He first worked in Guildford training to be an architect; however he wanted to be more practical and became assistant to the resident engineer for the Liphook Sewerage Scheme. From here he moved to work with the family firm, then to Hambledon RDC and later to Farnham Urban District Council. During this period he met his future wife 'Freddie' and they married in 1939. In 1942 he passed his exams to become a chartered surveyor.

The Second World War arrived and Roy was accepted for a commission in the Royal Engineers. He was posted to North Africa and then to Italy. With his road building experience he was in charge of mine sweeping, bridging and repairing roads so that the Allied Forces could use them in their advance. In 1945 Farnham UDC asked for his return to the town to help design new housing schemes. The Six Bells' estate was the first that he designed. He now had new daughter, Sally.

In 1946 he became Assistant Planning Officer for Farnham and oversaw many developments in the town. He was studying engineering and in October of that year became a Qualified Engineer. In 1948 he moved to Gloucester as Area Planning Officer and in 1955 moved to Scotland to become Deputy County Planning Officer for Ayrshire. In 1966 he became Deputy County Planning Officer for Dorset and the following year became a Fellow of the Town Planning Institute and later a Civil Engineer. He was also chairman of the South West Region of the Planning Institute.

In 1974 Roy decided to take early retirement and set up in private practice in the village of Alresford. He continued with various projects until the day he died. In 1978 he became a member of Winchester County Council and held the position for 8 years and during this time he became vice-chairman of the Planning Committee and chairman of Land Sub-committee. During the last Conservative Government he was asked to work as an inspector by the Department of the Environment.

Roy was chairman of the Alresford Society, which is a local conservation group, a member of the Alresford Historical & Literacy Society and the Art Society. He was working hard to try to open a museum in Arlesford and was very close to getting a building to hold local artefacts.

In 1990 his wife 'Freddie' died, but he has 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. His daughter Dr Sally Giles lives in Farnham.

Roy was one of the stalwarts of the Old Farnhamians' Association and had been on the general committee for over 30 years, including being President for 2 years. He was one of the founder members of the Farnhamian 400 Trust and also a committee member of the Leaving Scholarship Trust. His cousin Sydney Robins was a grammar school governor and a cousin, Fred Simmonds, collected a card index of the Old Boys and this is now in the hands of the Association.

Roy Robins was loyal to his country, his village and his school and moves were afoot to have him rewarded for his work over many years for various organisations. He will be sadly missed by the Association, and as the Editor of this magazine and currently President of the Association I will personally find him a great loss.

In June 2007 we received news from South Africa of the death of IVAN DADSON, (1935-1941). He had a fall whilst in Johannesburg and the result was his death on 21st April. Ivan joined the Royal Navy after leaving school and remained in the service until 1956. He was demobbed in South Africa and married there. The couple had three children. He worked as a rigger for Dorman Long and moved to various sites all over South Africa. He finally settled in Durban and lived there until his death at the age of 80 years.

At the end of June 2007 the death of a well-known Old Boy was announced in the national press. **HUGH H.L.JOHNS (1936-1939)** died at his home in Wales at the age of 83 years. Hugh had an interesting career as a reporter and commentator and it was as the latter that he became a household name.

Hugh entered the grammar school in 1936 and joined School House. He was an excellent athlete and represented his house in the winning sprint relay team and the relay hurdles' team. He boxed for his house and eventually played soccer and cricket for the School First XI. The magazine states that 'Johns is a good, hard working half back and should do very well in the future'.

On leaving school in 1939 he became a sub-lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm during the Second World War. He then became a sports' reporter locally and in 1956 he moved to the sports' staff of the 'Southend Standard'. In the 1950s he was secretary of the OFA and involved in the Association. In 1961 it was reported in the magazine that he had moved to Old Woking and was working on a London newspaper, particularly on soccer.

His TV career spanned four decades and he covered an estimated 1,000 games, including four World Cup finals. He was a regular on the Big Match and Star Soccer in the 1970s, but also commentated on boxing, bowls, snooker and darts. Hugh was presented with a 'Golden Microphone', a lifetime achievement award for his services to soccer in the Midlands' Region. The award was handed over by Brian Clough, the Nottingham Forest and Derby County manager.

In 1991 he was semi-retired and at the age of 75 years was Press Officer for Masonic Lodges in Wales. He was a member of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England, Province of South Wales Eastern Division.

His wife Joan died in November 2003. They had been married for 53 years.

At the end of August 2007 we heard of the death of ANTHONY BARNES (1933-1939) who had been a member of Morley House and represented them at cricket, boxing, swimming, rifle shooting and athletics. His main sport was boxing, although he did play for the School Second XI at cricket. He passed his general School Certificate in 1938 with exemption from matriculation.

A few days afterwards we heard of the death of **GEORGE W. COMER** (1926-1931) who belonged to Childe House and again was a good boxer. He passed his General School Certificate in 1931.

In October 2007 it was reported that HARRY GLOVER (1941-1946) had died. He was a member of Morley House and clearly enjoyed sports, representing his house at Swimming, Boxing, Athletics and Rifle Shooting. He passed his General School Certificate in 1946. The Glover family ran the specialist military uniform outfitters in Queens Avenue, Aldershot for many years and the local newspapers said that Harry was 78 when he died.

Early November 2007 we received news of the death of **DES O'SULLIVAN** (1944-1950) after a short battle with leukaemia. Des entered School House at the old grammar school and was not a great sportsman, but more successful with his studies. He did play cricket for the School Colts and was an excellent chess player. He won a form prize in 1949 and passed

his School Certificate in 1950. He was a good table tennis player and followed Aldershot FC for many years.

He had a career in banking and worked in the Basingstoke area eventually becoming a manager. He retired in his early 50s and enjoyed retirement with his wife Beryl and their two children. Des regularly attended OFA events and was a very popular Old Boy. He will be sadly missed!

The following is an appreciation of Des O'Sullivan by former FGS pupil, Basil Frost.

'I was devastated to receive a telephone call from Tony Harland advising me of the sudden death of Des O'Sullivan. It will be a great loss to Beryl and his family and to everyone who knew him.

My first meeting with Des was on my first day at the grammar school. His opening or early remark was to express his disappointment that I was not black as he understood that I had come from South Africa. Well the second part was true, as we had been evacuated from Palestine, where my father was in the army, when the situation in North Africa appeared that the Axis forces would soon be in Egypt and beyond.

My brother and I (H.C.) were late coming to the grammar school whereas the senior brother David (D.C.), who did not travel to Palestine with us, had all his secondary education at the Farnham Grammar School before the war.

Friendship developed and on many Saturday afternoons we would cycle to see the "Shots" at the Rec. and later matches at the London grounds.

Later on our way to work, for different banks, we travelled from Farnham to Aldershot together where he changed for the connection to Camberley and I then joined Sid Emerson and we travelled on towards London. I was called up for National Service in the Pay Corps and after basic training was posted to the District Pay Office in Aldershot only to meet up with Des a few months later when he was posted to the unit. I reached the dizzy heights of Corporal and didn't I let him know it!

After National Service the bank moves started and we lost contact and it was not until a few years later when I wrote a tongue in cheek letter to the Institute of Bankers' Magazine, which he saw, and contact was resumed. We have been in contact on and off ever since, mainly after OFA Dinners and at Christmas when we exchanged gossip about people we had met at the dinners. We always meant to meet up, more than the one occasion we managed, but, unfortunately, it was always a 'must contact Des this week' and now it is too late.

Des never denied the rumour that he wrote the letter (anonymously) to the Farnham Herald complaining about the nude dummies in Elphick's windows. They published his letter!

Friendly, irrepressible and good company he will be sadly missed.

Mid November 2007 we received news that **ROGER DIAMOND** (1957-1964) had died after a battle with cancer. Roger was a member of Childe House and had quite a list of sporting achievements while at the school. He always performed above average in the Cross Country Event and had a go at the Hop, Step & Jump and high hurdles in his early years, but his

main strength was field events. In 1961, 1962 and 1963 he was first in Putting the Shot and 2nd, 1st and 3rd for the Discus in the same years. He was a member of the Athletics' Committee for the school and also excelled in other sports. He won his weight at boxing in 1961, played soccer for the School Second XI and even managed 3rd at the backstroke in the 1964 Swimming Gala.

In 1964 he obtained his GCE (Advanced Level) in Applied and Pure Mathematics.

In early December 2007 it was announced that **PEGGY LEWIS-JONES** had died and I feel that this should be recorded in the Farnhamian as she was a great supporter of the Old Boys over many years.

When preparing the 1997 magazine I wanted to include a profile of Stanley Lock, the popular Science Teacher, known to many as 'Pecker'. To help me I spent time with his daughter Peggy, who had married into the Lewis-Jones family who part owned the well known local garage, Swain & Jones Ltd. Every year since I have sent her a copy of the magazine and every year she writes to me regarding people who she knew in the old days of the grammar school. She lived for many years next door to her greatest friend from their days as Farnham Girls' Grammar School who was Violet Ridout in those days, daughter of teacher Nick Ridout and sister to Ronald Ridout. Both ladies attended the 85th Anniversary Garden Party in recent years.

Peggy was one of the sweetest people I have ever met. Many will mourn her passing.

In mid-December 2007 we heard of the death of well known Old Boy, GEOFF WOODS (1954-1959). Geoff was born in 1943 and entered Harding House when he came to the grammar school in 1954. He was a good sportsman and ran well in the cross country races, boxed each year and reached the semi-finals in 1955. He was an excellent rifle shot and in recent years joined with Jerry Neave and Martin Lee in the relaunch of the Old Farnhamians' Rifle Club, acting as the Treasurer. In 1958 he joined the Air Training Corps, becoming an instructor, flying in a number of aircraft, and also became a glider pilot.

Geoff entered the motor trade after leaving school and joined Haslemere Motors in Aldershot, becoming a senior member of the company audit team. In 1970 he joined Renault UK, where he graduated from being Representative for Northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, to include most of Europe. During 1992 he moved to Audatex (UK), a company providing a comprehensive range of computer software for the motor trade.

He was initiated into the Old Farnhamians' Masonic Lodge in 1970 and held all the progressive offices before becoming Worshipful Master. He received Provincial Honours in 1992 and was again promoted to Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon in 2001, having assisted the Lodge whenever his circumstances allowed.

Geoff was married to Linda for well over 25 years and was always very proud of their twins. Yet another loyal Old Boy to leave us!

In January 2008 we received our first advice that another Old Boy, who attended the school in the 1930s had died. MALCOLM (Mick) RANSOM JONES (1932-1939) was 85 years old and lived in New Milton and records show that he entered the school in 1932 and became a member of School House.

He was an accomplished sportsman and won many events for his house at boxing, athletics, rifle shooting and cricket. He played chess and cricket for the school and in one School Colts' match took 6 wickets for 32 runs and scored 26 runs himself.

He left the school as the Second World War began and spent five years in the RAMC, being demobbed in October 1946. His time was spent mainly in Burma and other parts of the Far East and his experiences had a profound effect on his life. He returned to work for Thames Conservancy as a river purification officer and overall worked for what became the Thames Water Authority for 35 years. He became Chief Inspector of the Oxford area in 1974. He met his wife Pamela in 1947 and they married in 1950. In the early years of their marriage Malcolm and his wife lived at Widmer End in Buckinghamshire. Both Malcolm and Pam were active local Conservatives and school governors and he went on to become a county councillor. He retired in 1985, having reached the post of chief inspector of scientific services.

Malcolm and his wife Pam were staunch Conservatives and on moving to Hampshire he became a county and district councillor and she sat on the town council. Both were enraged when in 2001, after 45 years service to the party, he was de-selected by the Tories because he was considered too old at 74 years of age. He unsuccessfully stood as an independent in a bid to hang on to his seat.

The couple celebrated their golden wedding in 2000, but unfortunately Pam died in 2004. They had three children and four grandchildren.

In January we received news that IVAN BOWLER (1944-1949) had died from a liver complaint. Ivan will be remembered for his prowess at the piano and his work with the school orchestra. He had hoped at one stage to become a concert pianist, but felt that he did not quite make the grade and instead turned to teaching. He worked in Portsmouth and then in Dorset before entering into a partnership with Old Boy, Roy Mead, running a private school at Lewes in Sussex. After two years he purchased a private school at Chichester and over the years developed a successful school for children from 3 to 16 years of age. Being one of the 'old school' he clashed with Ofsted and could not accept all of the ideas of modern education and finally closed the school. He still retained the buildings and four years ago was persuaded to open a nursery school, which became a great success and will continue to operate in the future.

It was only in recent years that Ivan began attending the Annual Dinner and the Southampton Luncheon and he was always delighted to spend time with his old classmates. After each event he would write to the editor and thank him personally for organising things. Ivan Bowler was from the old school in more ways than one and a true gentleman.

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.

We look forward to the Sixteenth Edition of the 'Farnhamian' from

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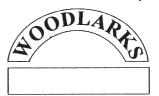
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