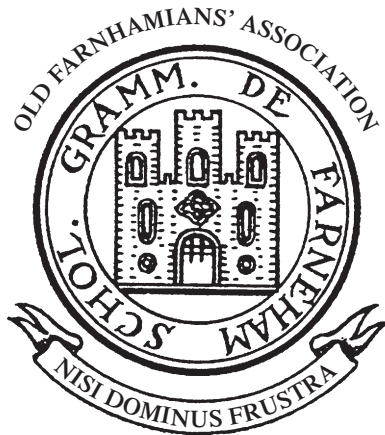


# THE FARNHAMIAN



JUNE 2011

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# THE FARNHAMIAN

June 2011

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE FARNHAMIAN - VOL. 18

This issue records many items of interest and shows how strong the organization continues to be, even though it is almost forty years since the Morley Road School ceased and became Farnham College. The re-siting of the George Baxter bust, an exhibition of memorabilia at the Museum of Farnham, sponsorship of a floral display to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and another special display at Farnham Library promoting the OFA in the town. All of these examples show that the Old Farnhamians' Association is very much alive.

In the past year we broke new ground by holding a garden party for both Old Boys and Old Girls and indications are that both organisations would like a repeat sometime. From this special event came an invitation to the Editor to speak at Old Girls' Association AGM, which proved to be very enjoyable.

After the sad passing of Phil Spencer, we have managed to find a new Old Boy to take up the mantle of The Oldest Living Old Boy, and we hope that Harold North will be with us for some time to enjoy this honour. We have applauded John Crotty on achieving his thirty-ninth attendance at the Southampton Luncheon, which is a remarkable record for an event in its forty-ninth year.

The Farnham Lecture given by David Victor-Smith was excellent, but sadly the audience was poor and hopefully future lectures will attract more Old Boys. Autumn arrived, and with it the various awards' evenings at Farnham College, Guildford College, Heath End School, Weydon School and Ash Manor School. All were grateful for the support from the Old Boys and this scheme helps reward the high performing students in the district.

At the turn of the year we held the annual AGM and with it the appointment of a new President to take over from Brian Williams. Brian has performed the role in a professional manner and the new President, Bryan Bone, will have a hard act to follow. We all wish him well in his three years as our President.

When planning the lay-out of this magazine there have been several pages put aside for the usual obituaries, but during the past twelve months the organisation has unfortunately said goodbye to quite a long list of Old Boys. This has resulted in the issue being slightly larger than usual and I hope that it is not a sign of things to come. As the days since our old school closed extend towards forty the list of former pupils also ages and it is to be expected that slowly but surely the Association will see a fall in membership. We must ensure that this process is as slow as possible and we need to find new members, whilst the older ones need to make sure that they stay fit and well. There is no reason why the OFA cannot keep going for many years to come.

## 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On a cold January evening well over twenty Old Boys attended the AGM for the Old Farnhamians' Association held at Farnham College. The following are the main items covered on that occasion:

**Chairman's Report:** Brian Williams chaired his final meeting, after three successful years as the President of the Association. He was pleased that membership had increased slightly during his time in office and the managing of the various events was now in the hands of more members, instead of just a few. He thanked Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer), Roger Edgell (Secretary), Ian Sargeant and Cyril Trust for their support over the three years. The latter thanked Brian for his efforts as President.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stephen Pritchard said that over the past year outgoings had been more than the income and the Annual Dinner had resulted in the first loss for this event for many years. Overall he felt that the Association was in a stable position and lack of bank interest was a major problem. He also asked the members to address the advancing problem of the termination of the use of cheques and they would have to move to an internet account in the next two years. This would completely alter how the Association handled its finances.

**Leaving Scholarship Trust:** Ian Sargeant said that over the past year only two students from the college had requested financial help. There were still substantial funds available and the trust would endeavour to see if more students would like assistance.

**Farnhamian 400 Trust:** Cyril Trust reported that during the year the Trust had held an exhibition at the Museum of Farnham and Farnham Library and both had received great interest. The George Baxter bust had been moved to the new site at the Library and it was probably better situated than before. The Trust had also contributed to the Battle of Britain memorial plot in the town. The Farnham Lecture was probably one of the best to date and David Victor-Smith and some of his singers were excellent. Cyril was critical of the lack of support from the Old Boys and hoped that in 2011 the lecture, which will now be in June, will receive more support. Tess Burrows, well known mountaineer and adventurer will be speaking about her exploits in the Amundsen Omega 3 Race to the South Pole. The sponsorship of awards to Heath End School, Guildford College, Ash Manor School and Weydon School were well received, and the Farnham College Awards sponsored by Old Boys and their families had now reached a total of 26 awards. More would be welcome.

**Farnhamian Magazine:** Editor, Cyril Trust, reported that the 2011 edition was almost complete and only required the AGM report and Annual Dinner report before printing. It was planned for the magazine to be ready to post during May.

**Southampton Lunch:** Cyril Trust announced that plans for the 50th Southampton Lunch were well advanced and he hoped for over fifty members to attend and promised something special to mark the occasion. Several members of the committee remarked that this event went from strength to strength.

**OFA Website:** Ian Sargeant, Webmaster, said that the site continued to grow and the people using it were also increasing. The number of 'hits' now exceeded 40,000 and all present felt that this was a first class website.

**College Representative:** Ian Sargeant reported that relations between the Old Boys and Guildford College were excellent and the academic results at Farnham were some of the top in the country. The number of students attending Farnham had increased once again and the future looked bright for this Farnham centre for education.

**Bryan Bone** was elected as the new President, with Ian Sargeant as Vice President.

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## 2011 ANNUAL DINNER

Once again Farnham Castle received over eighty Old Boys to celebrate the 79th Annual Dinner of the Old Farnhamians' Association and the occasion was a milestone in the history of this enjoyable evening. It is almost forty years since the closing of the Grammar School and the membership is slowly ageing and less inclined to venture out on a dark and cold night. With this in mind, it is planned that the 2012 dinner will be at lunchtime at the castle and hopefully encourages more members to attend.

This year there were no overseas visitors to welcome, but the class of 1948 was typical of the distance that Old Boys travel to meet old friends. Local Farnham members, John Travers and Cyril Trust, were joined by Maurice Jeffreys (Devon), John Cockle (Dorset), Trevor Andrews (South London), John Cooke (Northamptonshire) and Neville Timmins and Bill Luff from Hampshire. This is their annual get together and an opportunity to catch up on news and recall memories of days at Morley Road.

The meal itself was first class, as always from the castle, and one would have to look far afield to find a venue to equal the Great Hall. With the castle on the school badge, it is the place for this historical association to meet and enjoy themselves.

Those who read the article in the 2010 magazine know that an entertainer has been part of the programme on many occasions and this year the Old Boys welcomed Tegan Creedy, one of the students from Farnham College. Tegan was voted 'Young Musician of the Year' at the Farnham Music Festival in December 2010 and listening to her clear soprano voice one could see why. This attractive young lady enthralled the audience with her singing.

After a suitable break the speeches began with the Toast to The School by John Cooke. He spoke about having the opportunity to enter such a good school and felt that his time at the Grammar School had stood him in good stead during his career. He recalled teachers who he liked and others that he did not, but felt that, unlike today, the masters really cared for their pupils. He said that over the years one would meet former pupils of the school in various parts of the country and told of meeting former pal, Paddy Langdown, and striking up a relationship again many years after leaving the school. This speech was greeted with applause by all present, as they could relate to what had been said.

Dennis Phillips, former President of the Old Boys, proposed the toast to the Association and started by saying that this was his 55th annual dinner (which must be a record). He told of the beginning of the OFA under F.A.Morgan and the steady growth over the years. In 1973 the old school closed and became Farnham College and he recalled former headmaster, George Baxter, telling him that he felt that perhaps the Association would last a further 20 years. Dennis said that this figure has been doubled and there are still many more years for the Old Boys to meet, thanks to younger members taking over the tasks of organising events such as the dinner, Southampton Lunch, Farnham Lecture etc. He praised the team who had arranged the evening and in particular the work of Secretary, Roger Edgell.

## 2011 ANNUAL DINNER

Finally the new President, Bryan Bone, replied to the two toasts and said how proud he was to have been elected to this treasured position. He again, praised the various people who manage the events for the Old Boys and with the younger element taking up the baton felt that the Association still had much to look forward to. He asked members to support the dinner in 2012, the Farnham Lecture on 3rd June and the 50th Southampton Lunch on 12th October. Again this speech was well received and Bryan can look back on a very successful first Annual Dinner.

The evening moved towards its end with the Roll Call, the passing of the Loving Cup, the School Song and finally the National Anthem. Old Boys gathered up any raffle prizes and walked out into the castle courtyard to start their journeys home, all having something to tell friends and relatives about the 79th Annual Dinner. They had met with former classmates and exchanged stories and realised that the Old Farnhamians' Association is something special and not seen at other schools in the United Kingdom.

The evening managed to bring together former staff of the Grammar School and it was good to see Hugh Batchelor, Tony Moore, Stanley Owen and the Rev. John Innes sitting down with some of their former pupils. Indeed a special evening!

### ATTENDING:

G.Andrews: T.Andrews: H.Batchelor: C.Beal: S.Bell: P.Blowfield: B.E.Bone: R.C.Bowtell: D.Coakes: J.Cockle: J.Cooke: J.A.Cope: P.Cope: J.Clark: J.H.Crotty: B.J.Daniels: P.J.Dunford: D.J.Edgell: R.G.Edgell: K.Elkins: D.Everitt: C.Fairclough: P.Ford: D.Foster: R.A.Frampton: G.Frost: R.Frost: A.Gatfield: T.German: R.Golding: D.Grimes: G.V.Harnett: G.Hewes: R.H.Hewes: G.L.Hooker: M.Horner: D.P.Hughes: Rev.J.Innes: M.J.James: M.E.Jeffreys: R.J.D.Jones: R.Jones: R.J.Kite: F.Loveless: W.J.Luff: A.R.Matthews: M.Mehta: K.E.Mentzel: R.C.Moorcroft: A.Moore: K.Mortimer: C.Mullins: P.Mylles: C.Nash: M.Owen: S.J.Owen: J.Peace: J.Pesterfield: D.Phillips: R.Phillips: B.Philpott: D.Poleglaze: P.C.Read: D.Roe: I.C.Sargeant: J.Saunders: M.Seignot: A.Spink: D.Stoddart: M.E.H.Sturt: N.Timmins: H.Torode: J.Travers: C.D.Trust: H.Upfold: J.Walden: W.P.Walsh: M.Watts: R.West: J.Wilkinson: B.R.Williams: M.A.Wingent: T.Withall.

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## THE NEW FOREST WELCOMES THE OLD BOYS - 2010 SOUTHAMPTON LUNCHEON

Almost fifty former pupils of the Farnham Grammar School gathered at The Woodlands Lodge Hotel in the New Forest to celebrate the 49th Southampton Luncheon held by the Old Farnhamians' Association. The guests came from across the South and West of the country in the main, whilst Norman Paget flew in from Baltimore USA and Danny Briggs from Malaga in Spain.

Cyril Trust, the organiser of the event, began the proceedings by congratulating John Crotty on his record breaking total of attendances at Southampton of 39 luncheons and asked all those present to sign a commemorative card for him. As usual the room buzzed with nostalgic chatter as the Old Boys revisited school days and swapped their favourite stories about days at Morley Road. The Woodlands Lodge Hotel has now hosted the annual luncheon for three years and the quality of the food and service improves each year, making this a first class event to support. It is little wonder that the numbers grow each year and it attracts Old Boys from far afield.

The organiser gave the usual notices, highlighting the revised positioning of the George Baxter bust at Farnham Library and their sponsorship towards the Battle of Britain memorial plot in Gostrey Meadow. He hoped that the members would support the Farnham Lecture, which will be given by David Victor-Smith, former Head of Music at Farnham College. He also advised guests that in 2012 it would be the 100th anniversary of the first Farnhamian magazine, and it was hoped that members would contribute to making this an edition to remember. Next year the Old Boys will celebrate the 50th Southampton Luncheon and the guests were promised 'something special' on Wednesday 12th October 2011.

Again, this event was enjoyed by the guests and goes from strength to strength almost forty years after their Grammar School closed forever. It is unlikely that the founders of this event, Messrs. Backhurst, Stroud, Grinstead and Luff could have imagined that the original lunch for four would grow into such a major gathering of Old Boys in the depths of the New Forest. It was also good to welcome several wives of members to Woodlands for a lunch of their own in the hotel conservatory.

Attending:

Gordon Andrews; Clive Beal; Hugh Batchelor (staff); Julian Bentick; Bryan Bone; Derek Bowtell; Danny Briggs; David Buckell; Peter Clark; John Cockle; Roy Common; John Cooke; John Crotty; David Cutler; Brian Daniels; Roger Edgell; John Falkner; Peter Ford; Bob Hewes; Glen Honey; Tony Holmes; Geoff Hooker; Graham Hunt; Peter Huntingford; Maurice Jeffreys; Denis Lampard; Gerald LeVey; Douglas Lucas; Bob Luckhurst; Keith Mentzel; Keith Mortimer; Chris Nash; Norman Paget; Jim Peace; Richard Phillips; Stephen Pritchard; Dennis Phillips; Peter Read; Derek Roe; Ian Sergeant; Maurice Sturt; Cyril Trust; John Vick; Brian Webberley; Brian Williams; Tim Withall.

***DO NOT FORGET TO JOIN US AT SOUTHAMPTON ON WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2011 TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHAMPTON LUNCHEON.***

## 2010 FARNHAM LECTURE

### 'BALANCING THE SCALES' - FORTY YEARS IN FARNHAM MUSIC

*Article submitted to the Farnham Herald.*

The twenty-second Farnham Lecture, given by David Victor-Smith, founder and leader of the very successful Farnham Youth Choir, was described by Cyril Trust, chairman of the Farnhamian 400 Trust and the organiser of the event, as 'just magical'. Presented at the Performance Hall at Farnham College, a good sized audience were entertained by an interesting and thought provoking talk by the leader of this choir, with vocal support from almost twenty singers.

David Victor-Smith outlined his early life at home and at university and explained how his love of music grew throughout this time. He met his wife, Jill, who shared his passion for music, and he amused the audience by playing tracks of both him and his wife singing at an early age. After their marriage they arrived in Farnham over forty years ago and David initially led the choir at the Thomas the Bourne Church as well as teaching music at Ash. He eventually took the position of head of Music at Farnham College and in 1984 David and Jill founded the Farnham Youth Choir.

Over the years the choir has become one of the most successful in the country and he believed in offering young people the opportunity to sing all types of music and in a variety of languages. To emphasise this point he asked the singers to perform sections of their favourite songs and the listeners sat in wonder at the beautiful singing of songs from Hungary, Latvia, America etc. He also linked the lessons to be learned by a good singer in a choir to the lessons in life in general. Young people needed to have the discipline, the work ethic, the confidence and ability to be a team member in life as well as in a choir. He gave an example by saying that a young person would not be overawed at an interview with a prospective employer if they had sung in front of thousands of people.

The speaker was critical of some of the modern pop music and the young age that some singers are marketed to the public. Young voices could be ruined for ever if they are subject to being asked to sing over heavy backing groups and he believed that voices must be nursed in the early years. He felt that whilst he liked almost all types of music the overpowering rock and pop market tended to offer young people a restricted choice of music and listeners missed the opportunity of hearing other types available. He asked his singers to sing a variety of songs, from complicated choral singing to an Abba song, and showed that people should try to hear a complete spectrum of music.

David Victor-Smith said that as the Farnham Youth Choir became more successful it brought many rewards. The choir had sung at the Royal Albert Hall and the Festival Hall, they had sung in China, Australia, Italy and many other countries and were regularly asked to sing at venues across the world. He had worked with many top composers, conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and received a MBE from the Queen. They now have several CD's on the market and a busy programme ahead with their next concert at St. Andrew's Church on 16th October.



## 2010 FARNHAM LECTURE

The speaker had given a thought provoking lecture, and the listener could hear that he stood up for all types of music for everyone and not just the narrow choice on offer by the TV and radio. Here is a man who loves his work and has the ability to get the best out of his singers. It is unlikely that Farnham College has ever hosted such lovely music, and the audience sat spellbound and listened to the fruits of his labour. As the organiser said at the end, “This has truly been a magical evening”.

The 2011 Farnham Lecture, presented by the Farnhamian 400 Trust, will be given by mountaineer and adventurer, Tess Burrows, on Friday 3rd June 2011, when she will speak about taking part in the Amundsen Omega 3 race to the South Pole at the age of 60. It is hoped that moving the annual lecture from October to June will encourage more people to attend what is now a major lecture in Farnham.



Members of the Farnhamian 400 Trust with the speaker for the 2010 Farnham Lecture.

Left to Right: Tony Gatfield (Secretary): Chris Nash: Cyril Trust (Chairman):  
David Victor-Smith: Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer): Mike Horner.

## THE OLD BOYS AND OLD GIRLS ENJOY 'AN AFTERNOON OF NOSTALGIA'

Both the Old Farnhamians' Association and the Old Girls' Association have been in existence for many years, but it is rare that they combine to enjoy an event and meet to recall the old days at Morley Road and Menin Way. Saturday 19th June 2010 saw former pupils and staff of both Farnham Grammar Schools meet at the home of Ian and Margaret Sargeant, both former pupils, to enjoy an afternoon renewing old friendships and recalling school days.

A committee steered by Jill Goddard, Gill Picken, John Clarke and Cyril Trust had planned this unique event and the general opinion was that the garden party was a great success. Two marquees on the lawn, and a large patio, provided the room for the display of food, whilst the bar was well run by David Picken. Guests arrived from across the south of England, with Maurice Jeffreys from Devon, Sylvia Backhurst from Southampton and Dennis Phillips from Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire. Well over eighty people mingled and enjoyed their time together re-telling old stories and wondering what happened to other former class mates.

Mid way through the proceedings Ian Sargeant welcomed everyone present and said a few well chosen words. This was followed by the cutting of a special celebration cake by Brian Williams (Chairman of the Old Boys) and Pat Atkinson (Chairman of the Old Girls) and Cyril Trust presenting Margaret Sargeant, Jill Goddard and Gill Picken with an orchid each.

Although fraternisation between girls and boys from the schools was frowned upon, it was clear that several former pupils had ended up married to each other after finding their partner at school. Many guests have expressed a desire to repeat this type of combined event and it is hoped that this can be achieved sooner rather than later.

### Old Boys Attending:

Maurice Jeffreys; Dennis Phillips; Peter Read; Derek Bowtell; Chris Nash; Wally Walsh; Ian Sargeant; Cyril Trust; John Clarke; Ian Pearson; Mark Booker; Brian Williams; Geoff Hooker; Martin Da Costa; Derek Skillin; John Crotty; Bryan Bone; Richard Phillips; Robert Frampton; Ian Permain; Neville Timmins; Maurice Sturt; Jim Peace; Mike Horner; John Saunders; Mark Westcott; Frederick Lassam; Julian Bentick; Robin Welland-Jones.

### Husbands of Old Girls:

John Turnbull; Mike Wooding; John Lloyd; John Schofield; David Picken.

### Old Girls Attending:

Julia Wilson(Beeken); Diana Owen(Beeken); Pat Frampton(Cooper); Jill Wells(Permain); Anne Wilde(Burrough); Lesley Wood (Osborne); Jane Gates(Hurdle); Jill Goddard; Sarah Philpott(Cranswick); Pat Atkinson(Turner); Margaret Sargeant(Morris); Gill Picken(Baston); Molly Skillin(Hitchens); Claire Choudhury(Booker); Liz Reynolds(Hogg); Stella Bolt(Davies); Christine Sturt(Little); Rowena Angell(May); Sylvia Backhurst(Dubut); Gladys Rummery(Sheath); Katrina Hitch(Burchell); Doris Wooding(Leitch); Ann Elms(Tomalin); Helen Lloyd(Ord); Sara Mark(Hogg); Trish Auchingloss(Lomas-Farley); Alison Schofield(Staff); Ann Turnbull(Chant); Veronica Sawyer(Edwards); Rosa Knowles(Staff); Helen Rainford(Baird); Brenda Broomhead(Davies); Carol McMahon(Staff); Georgina Crawley(Staff);

**THE OLD BOYS AND OLD GIRLS ENJOY  
‘AN AFTERNOON OF NOSTALGIA’**

Jean Allen(Spencer); Joy Hartley(Ogborn); Linda Brooks; Rosemary Hales; Pamela Braithwaite(Dare); Marion Howells(Daniels).

Wives of Old Boys:

Joan Crotty; Yvonne Williams; Margaret Hooker; Mrs Frederick Lassam.



Celebration cake made for the Old Boys/Old Girls Garden Party



Left to Right: Jill Goddard: John Clarke: Margaret Sargeant: Ian Sargeant: Pat Atkinson: Brian Williams: Cyril Trust: Gill Picken: Alison Schofield.

## PROMOTING THE OLD BOYS IN FARNHAM

As the Association continues to grow, the articles in the local press increase and in the past year some special events have helped spread the name of the OFA throughout the town of Farnham. The first item to be highlighted in the Farnham Herald was the re-siting of the bust of George Baxter, former headmaster at the Grammar School. After three years at the Maltings the bust was moved to a more permanent place at Farnham Library and is now on view to the many visitors to Vernon House. Below, shows the bust in its new position.



Steve Sansom (Chief Librarian), 400 Trust Members: Bill Luff, Cyril Trust, Tony Gatfield.

At about the same time, during the months of April and May in fact, the Museum of Farnham held an exhibition of memorabilia from Farnham Grammar School, in conjunction with an exhibition about Harold Falkner, who was a former pupil of the school. This was well attended, but just showed how little we have to remind us of the many years that the school stood in Farnham. Even more unfortunate was the lack of memorabilia relating to the Girls' Grammar School and therefore the school at Menin Way was not represented at all. Hans Holm from London, our greatest critic in the local press, wrote his usual barbed comments and obviously did not realise the lack of items to display and what a good job the museum staff had made of the exhibition overall. The main cabinet is shown on the next page and those who saw it felt that it gave local people a flavour of this old school.

## PROMOTING THE OLD BOYS IN FARNHAM

Early in 2010 Farnham Town Council decided that they wished to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, by planting a special plot in Gostrey Meadow, close to the Farnham monument to men who were killed in the two World Wars. It relied upon local businesses, groups and organisations to sponsor the garden, and in return the names of the sponsors would be shown on a plaque for all to see in the future.

After some consideration it was decided by the Farnhamian 400 Trust to become one of the sponsors, taking into consideration the number of Old Boys who died in the wars serving in the Royal Air Force, and in particular those who died and took part in the Battle of Britain. The garden, with the plaque, attracted many supporters and on 5th July representatives of the sponsors gathered in Gostrey Meadow for an unveiling and a photo shoot. As well as the sponsors the Town Mayor and several councillors were present.

The photo below shows the plot and the plaque which includes the name of the Old Farnhamians' Association.



The Battle of Britain flower bed and plaque listing all sponsors in the town of Farnham.

## PROMOTING THE OLD BOYS IN FARNHAM



The cabinet at the Museum of Farnham displaying memorabilia from the Grammar School

In August it was the turn of the Old Farnhamians' Association to put on a small display at Farnham Library. It is common that an area is available at the library for local groups, schools, organisations etc., to have a display to show the public what is available in Farnham. For the two weeks involved the OFA chose to introduce a new leaflet to accompany the variety of photos etc., showing just what the former members of the Farnham Grammar School do in the town. The Farnham Lecture is an important part of the town programme, the various awards to local schools, plus Farnham and Guildford Colleges, and the regular 'special events' e.g. Opening of the George Baxter bust, OFA/OGA Garden Party, 80th anniversary Garden Party.

The more that the Old Boys announce their presence in the town of Farnham the more the former Grammar School and its traditions will be remembered. The search for memorabilia of the school, particularly old photographs, school caps, school medals and memories from pupils must continue and be recorded in the magazine and the website.

***The appeal for memorabilia continues and any reader who has something to offer should contact the Editor and give details. Help keep the old school alive!***

## PROMOTING THE OLD BOYS IN FARNHAM

The Farnham Library offers local organisations the opportunity of advertising forthcoming events and the Old Farnhamians' Association took their two weeks on display to promote the 2010 Farnham Lecture that would be taking place in September. It also showed the public the regular events that are presented each year and again promotes the Association generally in Farnham.



Old Farnhamians' Association display during August 2010.

With all of the promotions shown here and regular press coverage for the Farnham Lecture, Annual Dinner, Southampton Lunch and 'special' events like the OFA/OGA Garden Party the former Grammar Schools of the town will continue to be remembered. It is probable that the Associations are the strongest in the country and it is unlikely that other schools retain the communications that are available to the former pupils of the two Farnham schools.

In the next two years there are several milestones to reach e.g. the 50th Southampton Lunch, the 80th Annual Dinner, the 100th Farnhamian magazine, and no doubt the local press will give each of these, valuable space. In 2013 we reach forty years since the schools closed and we will make sure that the story continues.

## THE MASONIC HALL AND FARNHAM HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS

In September, Farnham celebrated National Heritage Week by opening many of the older buildings in the town for the public to visit free of charge. This gave people the opportunity to explore places where they live and learn more about the history of the town, and in 2010 the locals were out and about in force.

One of the places that the Editor had never seen was 42 Castle Street, or the Masonic Hall, and because of its association with the Old Farnhamians' Association a visit was made on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Although the original structure was an outbuilding or barn belonging to Farnham Castle, seat of the Bishops of Winchester, the current building was believed to have been rebuilt in 1753. Over the years it was used for many purposes and early in the twentieth century Surrey County Council became interested and for a number of years, cookery classes for the girls of Farnham Grammar School were held there and carpentry lessons given to the boys of the Grammar School. Several former pupils recall those days, when the building was in a ramshackle condition with gaping cracks in the floorboards which some boys enlarged with their chisels in order to pour sawdust into the concoctions being prepared by the girls below.

The building became the Freemasons' Hall in 1951 with local lodges, including St. Andrew's, the Mother Lodge of Farnham (1864), holding their meetings there. As Freemasonry developed in the town several more lodges were formed, one being the Old Farnhamians' Lodge, which began in 1953. The first secretary of the new lodge was George Bacon, the well loved English master at the School, who originally was a member of the St Andrew's Lodge. The building is now home to nine Masonic Craft Lodges, and various other orders including Mark Master Masons, Royal Ark Mariners, Holy Royal Arch and Knights Templar.

Around the walls of the historic meeting room are the wall boards of the lodges and the names of the various Masters through the years. The list for the Old Farnhamians' Lodge includes many well known names associated with the School and the town of Farnham. On duty was a current member of the lodge, who enthusiastically explained the history of the lodge, the general ethos of freemasonry and made the visit even more interesting. Unfortunately, he explained that he had not been a pupil of the Farnham Grammar School and since the closure of the school in 1973 the members who were former pupils had slowly decreased. The current membership was twenty-five and he thought that only two of these had attended the School, and they were both elder members.

It seemed to me that it was a pity that this lodge, which sprang to life from the Old Boys of the School, continued to be a force in the town and could soon have no former pupils among their membership. When I first began to produce the magazine in 1994 I was asked to include a recruitment advertisement for the Lodge by Gordon Morris, one of their stalwarts for many years. I think it time that this appeal should be repeated and hope that some existing members of the Association are interested enough to make an approach.

*If you wish to know more please contact John Mitchell on 01252 722485*



**FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL WAR HEROES**  
**(Taken from the REMEMBRANCE BOOK - NO.2.**  
**written by Henry Ellwood)**

**CAPTAIN PERCY A. STOVOLD**

Percy Angel Stovold was born on 9th March 1879 and lived with his family at Broomleaf Farm in Farnham. His father was Richard Stovold, who was a farmer, and his mother Sarah was previously named Angel. In his will it stated that his sister was Gladys Angel Browne Percy was educated at Farnham Grammar School and after leaving became a Varnish Maker's Manager and lived at 86 Castelman Gardens, Barnes, Surrey.

He served for four years with the 1st Surrey Rifles (21st County of London) as a private soldier in the Territorials. He first enlisted on 3rd September 1914 as a private in the 18th Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He was discharged on 17th May 1915 on being commissioned into the 2nd Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.

It was reported that Captain Percy Angel Stovold was killed in action on the eastern outskirts of Delville Wood. He had a dragon tattoo on his left arm. His brother was Major H.W.Stovold who served as an electrical engineer in the Indian Army.

When war broke out on August 4th 1914 the Queen's 2nd Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment was stationed in Pretoria in South Africa. It embarked immediately to form part of the 7th Division in England and then landed in Zeebrugge in Belgium by early October 1914.

At the end of October it joined the regiment's 1st Battalion at the Battle of Ypres, where in only a few days the 2nd Battalion suffered the enormous casualties of 676 men. In 1915 the 2nd Battalion fought at the Battle of Aubers Ridge, Festubert and Loos. In 1916 it entered the Battle of Somme, where it fought for a long continuous period. In 1917 the Battalion fought at Bellecourt, Broodseinde and Passchendale. In November 1917 the 2nd Battalion was transferred to the Italian Front and fought at Piave and Vittorio Veneto and it stayed in Italy until the end of the war.

Percy A. Stovold was killed on Friday 1st September 1919 during the Somme offensive. He was thirty six years of age.

During the war over twenty men from Farnham were killed in the 2nd Battalion Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. Percy Angel Stovold is remembered on the Gostrey Meadow Memorial and is inscribed on the Farnham Grammar School "Roll of Honour".

He is buried in Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France. Grave Ref: X1.D.7.

**SECOND LIEUTENANT LESLIE ROBERT CROFT**

Leslie Robert Croft was the son of Major and Mrs Croft of the Manor House, Upper Hale Road, Farnham. He attended the Farnham Grammar School and it is believed that he is the first Old Boy of the school to be killed in the war. His death was reported in the Farnham Herald and at the time Mrs Croft was the only one of the family living at home. Her husband Major Croft, together with her daughter and elder son were all away serving on military

**FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL WAR HEROES**  
**(Taken from the REMEMBRANCE BOOK - NO.2.**  
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or nursing duties. It was reported that Leslie and his brother had both joined the Army in the ranks, but both had been quickly commissioned. He was originally reported wounded, then missing, but later as killed.

The 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment was part of the regular Army and was included in the first British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) sent to France. Because of their heavy losses at the first Battle of Ypres the B.E.F. was afterwards sometimes referred to as the "Vanished Army". Their casualties were enormous. The B.E.F. originally consisted of just over 100,000 regular soldiers, about half of the regular army, and they landed in France a few days after war was declared. On 17th August 1914 the B.E.F. was concentrated in the line at Mons and then took part in the famous Battle of Mons, Le Cateau, and the general retreat from Mons to the South of the River Marne. These British regular soldiers became known as the "Old Contemptibles". On the 6th September 1914 the Battle of Marne took place and then the British and French advanced to reach the River Aisne by 12th September. By the 14th September the Battle of Aisne ended and by the end of the month the front was at stalemate. On 3rd October the B.E.F. was transferred to the north and Flanders, where they received reinforcements in time for the first Battle of Ypres on 10th October, which lasted until 22nd November 1914.

The 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment was in the 2nd Brigade of 1st Division of the B.E.F. First Corps. They took part in the Battle of Mons, Le Cateau, the retreat from Mons, Battle of Marne, Battle of Aisne, Flanders and the First Battle of Ypres.

The 30th October 1914 was the second day of the Battle of Gheluvelt in the Battle of Ypres and the British First Division was in the line, which included the Menin Road. Heavy fighting took place in this area along the whole line and there were numerous casualties. It is believed that Leslie Robert Croft may have been killed opposite Zandvoorde. He is commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 20.

He is believed to be the only man from Farnham to have been killed in the war while serving with the 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. He is included on the Gostrey Meadow Memorial and is inscribed on the Hale Memorial.

**SERGEANT HERBERT JULIUS CAESAR**

Herbert Julius Caesar was the son of the Headmaster of Hale School. It is understood that he attended West Street School and then went on to Farnham Grammar School. During the war he spent four months in France and Flanders, but was discharged and sent home with T.B. Before the war he lived with his wife Edith and their two children in South West London. The family home at Dairy Villas is now known as 53/55 Upper Hale Road and now adjoins the hairdressers shop.

**FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL WAR HEROES**  
**(Taken from the REMEMBRANCE BOOK - NO.2.**  
**written by Henry Ellwood)**

The following are details of the funeral of Herbert Julius Caesar obtained from the Farnham Herald.

“Amid many manifestations of regret and sympathy, the funeral of the late Sergeant Herbert Julius Caesar took place on Sunday afternoon. The coffin, enveloped by a Union Jack, was taken into St.Mark’s Church on the previous evening, and a short service, attended by the widow and the immediate relatives, was conducted by the vicar (The Reverend J.du V. Brunton). The obsequies were quite simple in character. The first part of the burial service was held in St.Mark’s Church, and was conducted by the vicar, assisted by the Reverend A.H.Starey, and Mr. Brunton performed the last rites in the cemetery, in the presence of a large number of sympathising parishioners.

The family mourners were: Mr.E.Caesar (father); Mr.P.J.Caesar and Lieut. Frank Caesar (brothers); Mrs.Oldham; Mrs.A.R.T.Baker; Miss Grace Caesar and Miss Edith Caesar (sisters); Mrs.P.J.Caesar and Mrs Frank Caesar (sisters-in-law); Mr.Andrew Baker (father-in-law); Mr.W.Baker; Pte.A.R.T.Baker R.G.A.; L/Cpl. Albert Baker R.E.; Mr.H.E.Bide and Mr.G.C.Oldham (brothers-in-law); Mr.Andrew Caesar of Liphook (uncle); Mr.Ross Caesar; Mrs. Ross Gatfield; and Miss Mary Caesar of Elstead (cousins).

Amongst those present were: Mrs.Brunton; Miss Bacon; Miss Wallace; Mr.C.R.Mansell; Mr.H.W.Trim; Mr.W.Swansborough; Mr.R.J.Turner and Mr.G.Hunt.

Beautiful flowers were sent from many relatives and friends, including those sent by the boys of Earlsfield School, where before Army service he was a school teacher.

The family wish to thank the many friends who have written expressing sympathy with them on their bereavement”

Herbert Julius Caesar was in the Royal Army Medical Corps. An Army level Medical Staff Corps was created in 1855 to supersede the various Regimental Surgeons up to that time. In 1884 the Army Medical Corps was restyled to include both the Medical Officer Staff and the Hospital Corps.

Members of the Royal Army Medical Corps served in permanently sited hospitals, such as the Cambridge Hospital in Aldershot, in field hospitals and clearing stations, and served in field ambulance units. Each of the Infantry Brigades had three field ambulance units in support.

Herbert Julius Caesar was born in Upper Hale and served in the 1st London Sanitary Company of the Royal Army Medical Corps. His service number was: 528016 and he died at his home on Tuesday 5th March 1918. He is buried in Farnham (Upper Hale) Cemetery. Grave ref: D.2812. He was 35 years of age when he died.

He was the son of Eli and Margaret Caesar of Upper Hale.

## HAVE WE FOUND THE ORIGIN OF THE MASSINGBERD NAME?

Most of the history of the Farnham Grammar School was unearthed by former teacher, Ned Godsil, who spent hours delving into the past and accumulating data from a variety of sources. Prior to his death he discussed some of data with the Editor of the magazine and one area that always puzzled him was the origin of the name Massingberd. It was clear that the House names came from Thomas MORLEY, Bishop of Winchester, Dr. John HARDING, a local man, John CHILDE, a Gentleman of Farnham, and SCHOOL was for those boys who lived close to the school. But who was Massingberd? In those days there was no internet and genealogy was in its infancy, and tracing the past was very time consuming and laborious. Ned had traced a Cecilia Massingberd, who came from Tooting near London, but had no link to Farnham or the Grammar School.

The Editor was on a cruise early in 2010 and attended a series of lectures by Paul Blake, a well known genealogist. The sixth talk covered an example of tracing a family tree and he chose Charles Darwin as the example and proceeded to trace his family before and after his time. Along the way the name Massingberd appeared and I asked Paul if he could provide more information about this name and he promised to send me details as soon as he had time to research the chain. In July a six page e-mail arrived with a huge amount of information relating to the Massingberd dynasty and perhaps giving us some facts about the links between them and Farnham.

The paperwork is headed **MASSINGBERD OF GUNBY**, with Gunby being a town in the county of Lincolnshire. The ancient and eminent family of Massingberd has been seated in the county of Lincoln for many centuries (for the early descents refer to the account of the Massingberds of Ormsby, vol.i.p.663). Sir Thomas Massingberd, Knight, representative of the family in the sixteenth century, wedded Joan, younger daughter and heir of John Braytoft of Braytoft Hall, and, receiving with her a considerable estate, made that seat his chief place of residence. Surviving his wife, Sir Thomas became, in the reign of Henry VIII, a knight of St. John of Jerusalem. Thomas Massingberd had nine grandchildren, with boys Thomas, William, Oswald and John and girls Grace, Anne, Ursula, Edith and Elizabeth. It is recorded that Oswald was a goldsmith in London, who resided in Farnham in Surrey. He married Mary Slighwright, a daughter of a barrister of Gray's Inn. John became an eminent merchant of London, a treasurer of the East India Company, who married Cecilia Pellit, daughter of Thomas Pellit, merchant of London. Is this the Cecilia Massingberd tracked down by Ned Godsil? Is Oswald the original benefactor of the Grammar School and the reason for using his name for one of the houses?

Some readers may recall Hugh Massingberd who was a journalist for the Daily Telegraph and famous for his obituaries. He was born Hugh John Montgomery at Cookham Dean in Berkshire. His father, John, was a member of the Colonial Service. His mother, Marsali Seal de Winlaw, was a schoolmistress who married John Montgomery, after her first husband died in 1942 in the service of the RAF. Through his father, Massingberd was the great great grandson of Charlotte Langton (nee Wedgwood), she being the sister of Emma Darwin (wife of Charles Darwin) and grand-daughter of the potter and philanthropist Josiah Wedgwood.

John and Hugh Montgomery took the name Montgomery-Massingberd in 1963 so that they might take a tenancy at Gunby. Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd later changed his name to Hugh Massingberd during the early 1990s.

OLD FARNHAMIAN'S' CHALLENGE CUP FOR SHOOTING  
BEST SHOT OF THE YEAR  
- PRESENTED BY MAJOR H.C.PATRICK - 1927



1928	E.C.PATRICK	1969	R.REMINGTON
1929	R.H.MEDDOWS-TAYLOR	1970	R.REMINGTON
1930	H.ELPHICK	1971	R.REMINGTON
1931	R.H.MEDDOWS-TAYLOR	1972	R.REMINGTON
1932	H.WILKINSON	1973	R.REMINGTON
1933	H.ELPHICK	1974	R.REMINGTON
1934	R.H.MEDDOWS-TAYLOR	1975	R.REMINGTON
1935	H.ELPHICK	1976	R.REMINGTON
1937	S.C.HALL	1977	R.REMINGTON
1965	J.J.NEAVE	1978	R.H.MACKEITH
1966	M.W.R.LEE	1979	R.H.MACKEITH
1967	M.W.R.LEE	1980	M.J.WADDELL
1968	M.W.R.LEE	1987	S.J.CANE

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 CADET CORPS' SHOOTING CUP


1920	HARDING	1941	CHILDE
1921	MORLEY	1942	CHILDE
1926	CHILDE	1943	CHILDE
1927	MASSINGBERD	1944	MASSINGBERD
1928	SCHOOL	1945	CHILDE
1929	MORLEY	1946	HARDING
1930	MORLEY	1947	CHILDE
1931	MORLEY	1948	CHILDE
1932	CHILDE	1949	CHILDE
1933	MASSINGBERD	1950	CHILDE
1934	HARDING	1951	CHILDE
1935	MORLEY	1952	HARDING
1936	HARDING	1953	HARDING
1937	MASSINGBERD	1954	CHILDE
1938	MASSINGBERD	1955	SCHOOL/MORLEY
1939	SCHOOL	1956/57/58/59	HARDING
1940	CHILDE	1960	MORLEY
		1961	MASSINGBERD

## THEN AND NOW

## TERRY VENABLES (1946-1953)

The editor of this magazine met Terry Venables at the Farnham Castle Annual Dinner in March 2010, when this Old Boy was visiting this country from his home in Melbourne, Australia. They had not met since 1953 and Terry was delighted to meet old friends and readily agreed to provide this profile.

Terry was born in Ash and travelled to Morley Road each day with several other local boys. He became a member of Massingberd House and it was clear that he was destined to have a very successful sporting future, even in those days. In 1948 and 1951 he was the runner-up in the boxing finals at Aldershot, but in 1949 he began to build a reputation as an excellent cricketer. That year he played for the Under-14 School team, in 1950 for the Colts' School team and in 1951 the School First XI, and in 1952 was elected a member of the School cricket committee. Almost parallel to this was his success on the football field, resulting in playing for the School First XI, joining the school football committee and being awarded his School colours, all in 1952. He often took place in the annual cross-country run, won the occasional medal at the athletics sports' day and also played several times for the School Chess team. Truly, an excellent sportsman!

Academically Terry did well and in 1951 received a prize for French and finished his time at school with good results in the General Certificate of Education.



Neville Timmins, Maurice Jeffreys, Terry Venables, Cyril Trust, John Cooke  
at Farnham Castle

**THEN AND NOW****TERRY VENABLES (1946-1953)**

After leaving the school in 1953, having studied GCE Advanced Level, he applied to the Metropolitan Police Hendon College, his father's dearest wish. However, he missed the intake application that year and was advised to re-apply after completing his National Service. Terry worked for the next year as a Washer at the Hale Laundry, where he had worked during the school holidays.

He joined the Royal Air Force in November 1954 and completed training at Hednesford and Hereford, before being posted to Headquarters No 3 Group Bomber Command at Mildenhall as a Clerk/Typist. In 1955, he badly dislocated his knee playing football and spent much time in hospital and rehabilitation.

During National Service he became disillusioned with the thought of a life of discipline and uniform, and decided not to pursue a career in the police force. Instead, in November 1956, he visited the Employment Exchange in Aldershot and was sent to Timothy White's warehouse in Aldershot as a trainee Works Study Engineer. He eventually progressed to be Work Study Manager/Office Manager.

In 1965, he joined a company study team investigating the feasibility of purchasing a computer and undertook training in computing. In 1967, the decision was made to proceed and he was invited to join the new department in the Leeds Head Office in the position of a Programme Systems' Analyst.

In 1968, the world fell in when Timothy Whites "merged" with Boots, who proceeded to dismantle the company. He was offered a position with Boots and visited Nottingham for discussion. However, in the meantime, he had a friend who had worked as a school teacher in Australia and extolled the virtues of that country. After an interview in London with a director of Myer Melbourne, a large department store chain, Melbourne won over Nottingham and he became a £10 immigrant.

Terry set sail on the Castel Felice in June 1969 and commenced work in Melbourne in the Myer flagship store as a Merchandise Statistician, as they were still conducting computer feasibility studies. After some months of indecision by Myer, in November 1969 he joined Joseph Lucas, manufacturer and supplier of automotive accessories, as a Systems' Analyst.

In 1970, his fiancée, Ann Jay from Bisley, joined him and they were married in Melbourne. Their son, Graeme, was born in 1971, and subsequently has become a bank manager and mortgage specialist.

In June 1975, Terry's father died, and following problems with his mother he decided to return to England in late 1975. Early in 1976 the family lived in Tongham and Terry joined Sherwood Medical at Crawley as a Senior Systems' Analyst. In August 1976 fate intervened when his mortgage application for a property in Crawley was rejected following a survey. His wife persuaded him to purchase a Post Office/ General Store in Maidenhead, where he stayed until late in 1977, when his mother announced that she was going to re-marry.



**THEN AND NOW****TERRY VENABLES (1946-1953)**

This was the catalyst for the Venables' family to return to Australia and Terry was offered his old job back with Joseph Lucas in Melbourne when he returned in January 1978. However, on his return, a friend told him that IBM were looking for experienced computer technical staff to support their sales team and Terry joined them for a very enjoyable and educational two years. After some time he missed the systems design aspect, and, in 1980, joined Composite Buyers, a wholesale grocery company, as Project Leader, specialising in inventory management/order processing systems.

In 1981, he re-joined Myer as a Computer Consultant, firstly setting up Data Administration for a large corporate database and later developing an inventory management system for Target, a subsidiary company. On completion he was invited to transfer to Target to manage the system and in 1984 the family moved to Geelong, which is one hour west of Melbourne. He stayed at Target until December 1993 when, one morning he walked out of the gymnasium and fell 'dead' in the car park. He was revived by a vet and the speedy arrival of an ambulance and, after stabilisation at the Geelong Hospital, was transferred to the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne for a quadruple bypass. After a full recovery, he decided to retire from working. He is proud to say that he was elected a Member of the Australian Computer Society (MACS) in 1979 and of the British Computer Society (MBCS) in 1989.

On the sporting front, Terry has always been active. After playing for the School First XI and Farnham Schoolboys at football he played for Ash United, Frimley Green and finally Camberley, until, following persistent knee dislocation, he was forced to retire in 1959. He then took up refereeing and, after achieving Grade 1, refereed senior football in Surrey and Leeds, and subsequently in Australia. There he refereed in the Victorian State League and was appointed to the FIFA referees list in 1976. On returning to Australia he was invited to referee in the newly formed National League, but, owing to work constraints he was forced to decline and required to surrender his FIFA badge. He continued to referee in Victorian senior football until 1984 after completing twenty-five years.

After playing for the School First XI at cricket, Terry played for Frimchett for several years, becoming only their second player to score a century. 115 against Farnborough in 1959. He also played table tennis for Ash and Aldershot Town as well as golf at West Surrey. In his newly adopted country he continued to play table tennis and golf for a number of years, until knee arthritis forced him to retire. On retiring from work he took up lawn bowls and still plays, with some success at local level. Sporting activities have been somewhat curtailed following recent hip and knee replacements. Other leisure activities, particularly since retiring, have included worldwide cruising (well into double figures), computing, contract bridge, caravanning and reading (history and mysteries). Terry has been involved in Freemasonry as Lodge Master and currently Probus membership.

Terry Venables re-joined the Old Farnhamians' Association several years ago and has great pleasure in receiving the annual magazine and reading about news of the Old Boys. In 2010 he took the opportunity to visit the United Kingdom and attended the Annual Dinner at Farnham Castle. He much enjoyed meeting a number of old friends, some he had not met for over 50 years, and particularly five members of the class of 1946.

**THE OLDEST LIVING OLD BOY****HAROLD NORTH (1925-1932)**

Since the recent passing of Phil Spencer at the age of 105 we have been searching for the former pupil of the Grammar School who could take on the mantle of the 'Oldest Living Old Boy'. As is often the case, we think we have found him purely by accident and it seems as though Harold North, who left the school in 1932, is the man concerned at the ripe old age of 97 years.

Our Secretary received advice from a relative of Harold North that owing to poor health he had moved into a nursing home in Dorchester. The editor followed up this advice and soon received an e-mail from Graham North, the son of Harold, from his home in Australia. Since then there have been several messages to and from the other side of the world and we now have more information about Harold North.

Harold North was born in 1914 and entered the Farnham Grammar School in 1925. He became a member of Morley House and old magazines show that he entered into many of the school activities. He took part in the boxing, swimming, cross country and was part of the Morley Rifle Shooting team. In 1932 he played football for the School Second XI, cricket for the School First XI and was part of the School Rifle Shooting team.

In 1928 he received a subject prize for Reading when a junior, and in 1931 another subject prize for Reading when a senior. He was an active speaker in the Debating Society and narrowly won a debate when he proposed 'The Homework for Secondary Schools should be abolished'. In 1930 he became Assistant Editor of the 'Farnhamian' magazine and in 1932 he appeared as the Queen's Counsel in a play called 'The Playwright'.

In 1930 he received a special prize for Matriculation and he finished his time at the School by getting the London University Higher School Certificate (Group B). His younger brother Geoffrey, who is 91 years of age, also attended the School. Harold enjoyed a lifelong friendship with Ray Gates, who was one his classmates.

On leaving the School, Harold entered the field of optics and worked in Whitley's, the large departmental store in London. In 1938 he married a Portsmouth girl called Mildred Massingham and they moved into a flat in Brixton, which was then a reasonable suburb of the capital city. His son thinks that in these early days Harold was a technician making or repairing spectacles.

Sometime in 1939 the couple moved to Guernsey in the Channel Islands and Harold worked for an optician in the largest town of St Peter Port. While in the Channel Islands he wrote to the school magazine as follows:

'My time is fully occupied with business and my garden. This war has had little effect so far on Guernsey. Prices have soared, a black out is enforced, and rationing is on the lines of that in England, but otherwise our life has been little disturbed. Our States (the Island Parliament) decided early to waive the very old established rights of the Island for the duration of the war and offered the Island man-power and resources to the motherland. Very shortly afterwards a Conscription Bill on the lines of England's was introduced, but has not yet (April 1940)

**THE OLDEST LIVING OLD BOY****HAROLD NORTH (1925-1932)**

been implemented. Under the bill I am liable for military service with the armed forces of Great Britain at home and abroad.

Life over here (war apart) is an unhurried passage through time, with the main interests of everyone centred on the tomato industry. The climate, the scenery and the general mode of life are very much to my liking.....I feel curiously at peace in an atmosphere of crop-growing. We have a comfortable home and a large garden. A considerable area I have

devoted to the popular bulb-growing industry, and I now have thousands of tulips in bud, almost ready for market. Unfortunately the irises have not been so successful, but for a new venture I am not disappointed. The rest of my garden has been variously devoted to vegetables and flowers, and the latter are now making a brave splash of colour in the spring sunshine.'

Late in 1940 the couple were forcibly evacuated back to England with (so the family story goes) only a few hours notice before the German troops landed. They left with very little and during the occupation all their home etc., disappeared. On arriving in Weymouth, Mildred went to live with relatives for the remainder of the war and Harold enlisted in the Royal Air Force.

In December 1940 Harold was in the RAF and worked as an Instrument Repairer on the strength of his knowledge of optical instrumentation. In July 1941 he was in the north of the country on toughening -up courses, while his brother Geoffrey was an LAC in the RAF serving somewhere in the east of the country. Geoffrey was enjoying life and did not seem to mind celebrating his 21st birthday with a cocoa in the canteen.

By December 1941 Harold was a corporal in the RAF Technical Branch, while brother Geoffrey had been accepted for an air gunner's course. In July 1942 Harold called at the School whilst on leave to see his son and heir who was six weeks old. He reported that his brother was now on an air-gunner's course. By early 1944 Harold was a corporal with RAF Squadron in the Middle East and Geoffrey was now a Flying Officer in the RAF and had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). Later that year Harold reported that life was uneventful and only relieved by a long and full season of good class cricket. Harold had met old pal, Ray Gates, and Geoffrey had completed a Gunners Leaders' Course. Geoffrey wrote that he was a gunner with Bomber Command and had completed over 50 'ops'.

June 1945 saw Harold at a staging post somewhere in Greece, which he found a change from 18 months in the Egyptian sand. He had been on leave in Palestine and Syria and found them both extremely lovely. Ray Gates was in Austria in charge of a refugee camp for young women, having come through the Italian campaign safely.

After demobilization Harold decided not to return to Whitley's and the couple settled for running a residential guest house as an interim measure. They took over the running of the Blacklake Hotel towards the end of 1945, which is a guest house between Farnham and Tilford. It was a massive struggle with rationing and shortages of everything and the residents were from wealthy backgrounds and expected the very best. Blacklake had been the home

**THE OLDEST LIVING OLD BOY****HAROLD NORTH (1925-1932)**

of James Barrie and his wife Mary Ansell and was where they took the children of friends, the Llewelyn Davies, for holidays and where he had the inspiration to write 'Peter Pan'.

By late 1947 the work became too much for the family and Mildred had a series of nervous breakdowns and they sold the hotel and moved to a house in the Bourne area of Farnham. Harold began to travel to London every day to study for his qualification as a fully fledged optician and having achieved this in late 1948 the family moved to a new home in the village of Kempshott, near Basingstoke. Harold began his business and now had a suite of offices in Basingstoke in company with a dental surgeon, an accountant and an insurance firm. By this time Geoffrey was married, had a daughter of 10 months, and was with his pre-war company of wholesale cloth merchants.

The optical practice, which proudly displayed the brass plate 'H.S.North-Opticians' had humble beginnings and it involved a great deal of time and effort to build the business. Basingstoke was still a small town, but as it grew so did the business. Harold and Mildred entered into local organisations, with Harold joining Rotary and Round Table and Mildred joining the Women's Institute. He also became a leading influence in a cricket team made up of local ex-RAF personnel, and captained the eleven for several years. On reaching the age of 40 Harold had to leave Round Table and turned more to the local Rotary group. His son feels that here his father suited the creed of Rotary - service above self - which fitted his outlook for the business.

The optical business slowly grew and subsequently the family fortunes improved, although Harold had no great ambition to greatly expand He worked six days each week all his life, but still found time for pastimes and recreation. He took up social golf at the Basingstoke golf club and was a lifelong supporter of the National Trust through his love of the English countryside. His other passion was cricket and he allowed himself the indulgence of taking a day off once or twice during the summer to travel to London and see Surrey play at the Oval.

In 1965 son Graham moved to Australia to work and live and consequently only remained in contact by letter or an occasional visit to England. He and his wife have three children, who in turn produced six children, giving Harold North three grandchildren and six great grandchildren

Harold retired, or more accurately semi-retired, in 1973, and sold his practice and house in Basingstoke and purchased an old cottage in Okeford Fitzpaine in Dorset. Here he spent time modernising the house and indulging in his passion for gardening. He had a large area for growing vegetables and fruit trees and grew most of his own food. He worked part-time for a number of years with a local optician in Blandford Forum and with other organizations that required the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

## THE OLDEST LIVING OLD BOY

## HAROLD NORTH (1925-1932)

Harold always loved to travel and on obtaining his first car in 1956 he would take the family the length and breadth of this country. On retiring he began to travel extensively in Europe, with France being one of his favourite destinations. With their contacts in Rotary and the WI they both had a network of people to visit in almost any country and Harold did not hesitate in taking the car across the Channel and driving all over the Continent. He taught himself sufficient French to enable him to explore the rural back roads and villages and refrained from using the motorways or visiting the major cities.



Harold North at the age of 95 years.

Mildred passed away in 1991 at the age of eighty after a long illness triggered by a stroke that left her wheelchair bound. Harold looked after her for the final two years of her life and after her death soon sold the cottage and moved to a smaller house and garden in the nearby village of Shillingstone. Here he could maintain contact with his circle of friends in the Blandford area and once again began organizing the new home and garden.

By 1999 he had reached the age of eighty-five and decided to sell everything and move to a residential home in Sturminster Newton, again close to his contacts in Blandford. He was still driving and able to walk around his beloved English countryside. At the age of ninety he finally decided to hand in his driving licence. At ninety-three he showed signs of dementia/Alzheimer's and moved into hospital, where the staff could care for his medical, physical and psychological needs. Harold North currently resides in a nursing home in Dorchester and he is welcome to enjoy his time as 'The Oldest Living Old Boy'.

*Note: Geoffrey North lives in a home in Kings Lynn and is 91 years of age.*

## 2010 CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

On a cold December evening, with snow falling outside, students, parents, Old Boys and members of the families of Old Boys gathered at Farnham College for the annual awards' ceremony. This year there were twenty-six awards sponsored by the Old Boys and their families, and the College Principal and special guest, former world champion racing driver Damon Hill, thanked them for their valued support. Clearly the College is performing well with excellent results, and the students were applauded by the guests as they entered the hall. The individual awards sponsored by Old Boys and families were as follows:

<b>Rebecca Archer</b>	The Sturt Family Award for outstanding achievement in Computer-Aided Design.
<b>Dan Ashby</b>	The Tony Rayer Award for outstanding achievement in Media.
<b>Luke Avis</b>	The Bryan Bone Award for outstanding achievement in English.
<b>Melina Avis</b>	The Maurice Jeffreys Award for outstanding achievement in Business Studies.
<b>Natasha Bacon</b>	The John Travers Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Aidan Cordner</b>	The Roy Robins Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Tegan Creedy</b>	The Ron Short Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Tom Dawes</b>	The Paul French Award for outstanding achievement in Maths And Science.
<b>Josh Dixon</b>	The Don Homer Award for outstanding achievement in Drama.
<b>Stephanie Evans</b>	The Ian Bolt Award for outstanding endeavour and progress.
<b>Joanna Fitton</b>	The Dudley Backhurst Award for outstanding achievement in Science.
<b>Hayley Girdler</b>	The Audrey Edgington Award for outstanding achievement in Hairdressing.
<b>Renu Gurung</b>	The Dudley Backhurst Award for outstanding achievement in Science.
<b>Jacquie Hull</b>	The Mike Horner Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Isabella Hutchins</b>	The Roy Robins Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Charlotte Johnson</b>	The Don Homer Award for outstanding achievement in Drama.
<b>Callum Knight</b>	The Ian Sargeant Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Saurav Limbu</b>	The Graham Blunt Award for outstanding achievement in Science.
<b>Philippa Marsh</b>	The John Crotty Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Elizabeth McKenzie</b>	The Don Homer Award for outstanding achievement in Drama.
<b>Charlotte Newlyn</b>	The Tony Bolt Award for outstanding endeavour and progress.
<b>Mason Niall</b>	The John Aylwin Award for outstanding achievement in Design And Drawing.
<b>Tym Olczykowski</b>	The John Wills Award for outstanding achievement in Art and Design.
<b>Fallon Parker</b>	The Peter Read Award for outstanding achievement in Drama.
<b>Ramuna Pun</b>	The Brian Williams Award for outstanding achievement in IT.
<b>Florence Reynolds</b>	The John Mew Award for outstanding achievement in English Literature.

## 2010 CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

<b>Dominique Shaw</b>	The Geoff Hooker Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Dan Thody</b>	The Chris Nash Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Molly Tuppen</b>	The Cyril Trust Award for exceptional achievement.
<b>Jonathan Waller</b>	The Maurice Jeffreys Award for outstanding achievement in Business Studies.
<b>Ashley Warner</b>	The Alan Lovell Award for exceptional achievement.

Other awards relating to the former Grammar school were as follows:

### The John Goddard Awards:

<b>Hannah Fox</b>	For coaching in Gymnastics.
<b>Adam Hopwood</b>	To assist towards a sailing career.
<b>Zoe Palmer</b>	For vocal coaching sessions towards a career in opera singing.
<b>Josh Hancock</b>	F.A.Morgan Prize for Drama.
<b>Ruby Rowell</b>	William Stroud Prize for excellence in Maths.

Again the Old Boys and their families helped make this event possible and there is still a need for more sponsors, especially now that education finances have been cut. This scheme is certainly in keeping with the aims of the Farnhamian 400 Trust by assisting local education.



Damon Hill and Cyril Trust present the Ian Bolt Award to Stephanie Evans

## 2010 PARTNERSHIP AWARDS' SCHEME

The Awards' season began with Heath End School holding their Awards' evening at the end of October and once again Tony Gatfield and Bill Luff, represented the Farnhamian 400 Trust. As usual, this school organizes a very professional event and fully involves the Head Girl and Head Boy in presenting the winning pupils with their awards. This year the guest of honour was Trudy Thompson, founder and CEO of the Bricks and Bread Sustainable Living Centre in Aldershot. Our representatives were asked to present the Millennium Award for Excellence, which is the title of the Old Farnhamians' Award, on stage to Stephanie Armstrong. She was voted the top pupil at the school and her examination results reflected this.

A few days after the Heath End Awards was the new Farnhamian sponsored award introduced in 2009 and given to the top Farnham College student at the annual Awards' Ceremony held at Guildford College. Farnham is now part of a large group of educational colleges which includes Guildford, Farnham and Merrist Wood, all coming under the leadership of Guildford. The Farnhamian Award goes to an exceptional student and for 2010 Mike Horner and Bryan Bone presented it to Megha Rai, who arrived here from Nepal and progressed through GCSE's to A Levels with incredible drive, focus and perseverance. She has gone on to study Biomedicine, having achieved an A\* in Maths, an A in Biology and an A in Chemistry. She was fully involved in college life - was an advocate for the Nepalese cohort and an active member of the Student Council. Megha has now progressed to university and travelled many miles by train to be at the ceremony to receive her award.



Bryan Bone, Megha Rai, Mike Horner, Fred Carter (Principal of Farnham College)



## 2010 PARTNERSHIP AWARDS' SCHEME

The next Awards' evening involved John Crotty and Stephen Pritchard at Ash Manor School, where again the Farnhamian Award is regarded as the major award in the school. The Guest of Honour this time was Sir John Rowling, who was a teacher for 40 years, the last 19 years as a Headteacher of Nunthorpe Comprehensive School, Middlesborough. Nunthorpe became a Beacon School, then a Leading Edge School. Examination performance at GCSE improved year after year, making Nunthorpe the highest achieving 11-16 state school in the North of England.



John Crotty with Connor French, the Farnhamian Award winner from Ash Manor School

The final Awards' evening saw Cyril Trust representing the Farnhamian 400 Trust at Weydon School at the end of November 2010. Here again the evening was well planned and smoothly run by John Sawyer, the teacher who has been in charge of awards for many years. This time the special guest was Alan Chambers, polar explorer and motivational speaker, who gave a series of talks to the England World Cup winning Rugby team in 2003, and subsequently to the England Cricket Team led by Michael Vaughan. Alan was the leader of the first British team to walk unsupported to the Geographic North Pole from Canada.

The Farnhamian Cup was awarded to Camille Cobbold, for her excellent achievement, and is a young student who has now moved on to Farnham College and is already winning prizes there.

## 2010 PARTNERSHIP AWARDS' SCHEME



Cyril Trust presenting the Farnhamian Award to Camille Cobbold

There is no doubt that all the schools involved in this scheme are grateful for the support from the Old Farnhamians' Association and after only a few years, the awards are regarded as the premier award for most pupils at the schools. This support to local education is indeed in keeping with the ethos of the 400 Trust and one hopes that the scheme will be in operation for many years to come.



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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

We begin this year's news with an e-mail from **MIKE MEHTA (1973-1978)** who wondered if anybody had seen an article in the Daily Telegraph headed 'The lost art of distilling unwelcome character analysis into a school report'. The following comments were listed:

"My teenage son's English report consisted of three words "This brooding presence".

"He sometimes catches one's train of thought; usually by scrambling into the guard's van".

"Henry Ford once said history is bunk. Yours most certainly is".

A Latin report; "This boy would do well on the land-if properly spread".

"Effortless progress, in every sense of the word".

A chemistry master's report: "I believe he plays the oboe".

Some additional contributions:

From a history report; "When the workers of the world unite, it would be presumptuous of Dewhurst to include himself among their number".

"By trying to educate Glyn, we are depriving some Welsh village of their idiot".

"I'm pleased to inform you that Jones's education hasn't gone to his head".

And regarding a student suspected of copying and cheating "Jenkins is forging ahead this term".

EDITOR: I wonder what F.A.Morgan meant when he wrote on one report the word, 'Yes'.

Early in May we heard from **PETER DOWNHAM (1943-1948)** and his wife Rita (formerly Old Girl, **RITA STONE (1945-1950)**, who live in Australia. They met at school and in 2010 celebrate their 57th Wedding Anniversary. They decided to tour Tasmania, and found the country very similar to New Zealand, where they have spent holidays in the past. Apparently many of the structures, fine buildings and bridges were built by convicts and it is the current fashion to claim a convict in the family. Looking through the Tasmanian telephone directory and seeing the many Downham's listed, Peter and Rita are wondering!

Both were impressed with the untouched wilderness, which was saved some years ago from the logging industry. The great Huon pines take 500 years to mature and the wood is greatly treasured for boat building. It sounds like a special holiday and on behalf of all the Old Boys and Old Girls we offer them both our congratulations on their 57th year together.

Readers of the Old Boys news will know that Aldershot FC have one of their greatest fans in **MICHAEL PRENTICE (1948-1953)**, who lives in Ottawa, Canada. He says that early in May he realised that the team would be in the play-offs and could end up playing at Wembley Stadium. He searched the website to find a cheap flight and booked a seat to fly to London a few days before the game on 30th May and fly back a few days later. To see his beloved team at Wembley was beyond his wildest dreams, until he realised that they had to overcome another contender on a home and away basis before they were included in the final game at the home of English football. When this dawned on him he hastily cancelled his seat, with no financial loss, and waited to see if the trip would come to fruition. Alas, the Shots lost the final game and remained in Division Two for another season. Perhaps you will make it next year Mike!

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

We seem to have begun this section of the magazine with news from overseas and on the day the 2010 edition was printed we received an update from **JOHN MEW (1937-1942)** who lives in Ottawa, capital city of Canada. He says that he and his wife live quietly, with very little travel, except to visit their family and sadly 90th birthday parties and funerals for the dear departed.

John worked for twenty-six years for Transport Canada and recently he has been asked to give a eulogy for one of his old workmates. There was a large turnout of folks from his old department and the event was a bit like 'old home week' as they gathered and reminisced. All present agreed to meet again before more 'fell off their perch' and a luncheon has been arranged for the Airworthiness Branch on 20th June 2010, which also happens to be Father's Day.

John is pleased that the pupil who won the John Mew Award at Farnham College had written to him thanking him for the money given and telling John that she was hoping to be accepted at Cambridge University. As well as the certificate and the cheque, John has sent over copies of his life story entitled *Old Men Forget* and these are given to the winner of his award.

John keeps in regular contact and in recent years has rekindled his interest in the former Grammar School and the Old Farnhamians' Association. We sincerely hope that we will be hearing from him for many years to come.

As soon as she read the first few pages of the 2010 magazine, **STELLA BOLT (Secretary of the Old Girls' Association)** telephoned about the photo of the masters and school cricket teams contributed by Julia Wilson. If you look through the various players you can identify them as either pupils or masters, except one person. Sitting between Harold Beeken and Wendall Evans is **LIONEL DAVIES**, father of Stella, and owner of the house and tennis hard courts opposite the school gates in Morley Road. It appears that on the actual day of the Masters versus the School, captain, Harold Beeken found that he was one man short and rushed across the road and asked Lionel if he would make up the eleven. As you can see he did this and it was another occasion where he helped the school as well as providing tennis courts for the school players.

We also received an e-mail from the Spencer family, thanking us for the kind words written about the Oldest Living Old Boy, **PHIL SPENCER (1912-1919)**, who died in 2009. The school photograph shown in this issue was unearthed and as far as we know we do not have a copy in our memorabilia. Phil is actually the boy lying down at the front and marked with an arrow. Another boy is also marked and he is **AUBREY 'PILLS' HOLLOWAY**, who married Phil's sister, Hilda. It is also thought that the master directly behind Aubrey is a Mr Wood (nick named 'Chips').

After a short search we found that Harold North took over the mantle of the Oldest Living Old Boy at the young age of 97. His story is in this magazine.

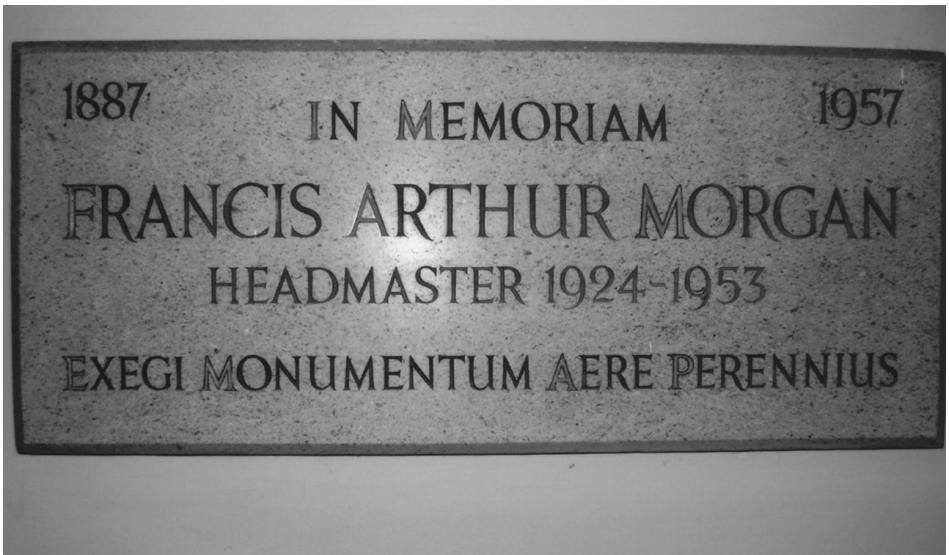
FAMILY ALBUM NO. 10. FROM THE PHIL SPENCER COLLECTION



## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

One of the great pleasures of editing this magazine is the continuous link with the past and the re-kindling of old memories by people who have been associated with the school for many years. Within a few days of sending out the new edition I received a reply from **BARBARA WILLS**, the widow of former Art Master, **JOHN WILLS**. The Wills family came to Farnham, and John began a long career at the Grammar School in 1939, with only war service interrupting almost forty years at Morley Road. In 1990 they left the town to live in Rochdale, and in recent years Barbara has been in a nursing home outside Manchester. She still remains in contact with former staff and pupils at the old school and her recall of names and events is outstanding. From the 2010 issue she remembers Bryan Bone, Tony Tubb, Stephen Pritchard, who are all still members of the Association, as well as Clifford Wilkinson, Ray Beadman and Ray Kirk, who are no longer with us. It is with much sadness that we have to announce that Barbara died in mid- September 2010, not long after celebrating her 90th birthday. Yet another link with the past is broken.

Arriving at the school for the June committee meeting we were advised that the usual room was not available, owing to the examinations taking place the following morning. After some discussions we were offered the staff room (at the top of the stairs in the old block), and spent a few hours sitting in comfortable armchairs, instead of the usual plastic upright chairs used by pupils. Looking around the room it was a surprise to see the plaque shown below in memory of Frank Morgan, the most influential of headmasters. It is good to see that Farnham College still included some of the past and one wonders when another head or principal of that calibre will pass through the gates again.



A free translation of the quotation on the plaque, from Horace is:  
 “I have finished my task - a memorial more enduring than brass.”

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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Among those named in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours List was **W.G.LITTLE**, who left the school in 1940. George, as he is known, lives in Dartington in Devon and has received the MBE for his services to the local community. Many congratulations from all members of the Association!

Over the past year we have been very successful in sending out old magazines to pupils who had either lost their copies or just wanted to revive old memories. It seemed sensible to offer these to members instead of dumping the three or four hundred editions held in store. In July 2010 we received a call from **A.L.(TONY) BROWN (1944-1948)** asking if we could possibly send him copies of the magazines from his time at the School and as he lived locally the Editor decided to deliver them personally. Tony lives in Pump House Cottage, which is a charming place to live overlooking St Andrews Church in Farnham, and over an hour there was much to talk about. Of course it was an excuse to obtain a profile for the Farnhamian.

Tony was born in Ash, Surrey in 1932 and came to the Grammar School in 1943. He joined Massingberd House and records show that he was not a great sportsman, although he did regularly take part in the School Cross Country Races and in 1947 was a member of the House rifle shooting team. On leaving school he joined Barclays Bank, before any career was interrupted by National Service in the RAF. In 1952 he left the bank in favour of the Southern Electricity Board, where he was first a commercial clerk and later a cartographer. In 1960 he married Judy and in 1962 they opened their first Wimpy Bar in Aldershot. Hard work brought its rewards, first with a move back to Ash, and then, in 1965, to Compton Way in Moor Park, Farnham. Sadly Judy died in 1974.

Alone for the first time ever, Tony moved to Castle Street in the centre of the town. After fighting depression for two years he embarked on a construction programme of his Aldershot property and opened a discotheque in December 1977. He soon discovered that it was not his scene and sold out within a year of opening. In 1979 he grasped the opportunity to buy the derelict Hop Blossom pub in Long Garden Walk in Farnham and the venture was hugely successful and was described in the 1980 edition of *The Good Beer Guide* as a 'superb addition to the town's ale pubs'. Tony sold out to Fullers in 1983 and after a long travelling vacation in the U.S.A. settled down to retirement in the shadow of Farnham parish church.

Following the loss of his mother in 1988 Tony acquired an apartment in Palma de Mallorca, using all his inheritance from her estate and enjoyed several trips there annually. He also used to visit the U.S.A. each year and considers Charleston, South Carolina, to be his spiritual home. Back here he lives a quiet and uneventful life through choice and still actively supports LEPRO. Tony is a past member of Aldershot Round Table and Rotary Club.

In 1998 he saw an appeal by LEPRO (The British Leprosy Relief Programme) in the local press asking for people to cycle in India to raise money for a leprosy hospital in the state of Orissa in India. Tony decided to take part in the ride and in the attempt to raise money for the cause.

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

To help his campaign he managed to obtain air time on the BBC programme *The Late Shift*, which is a phone-in radio programme going out nightly from 10pm until 1am on BBC local radio. He raised a considerable amount of money and in January 1999 joined other cyclists travelling to India and cycling over 300 miles to raise more money. Tony received letters of congratulations from Virginia Bottomley MP and The Queen.

Tony is now well over eighty years of age and does not enjoy the best of health, but the editor found the hour spent in his company most enjoyable, talking about the old school, old classmates and Farnham in general. I feel that we will hear more from him in the future!

As readers of the 2010 magazine know from his profile **JOHN FALKNER (1948-1953)** has not enjoyed the best of health in recent years and the Editor was delighted to hear from him with some heartening news. In February 2010 he was invited to go on a test programme at the Newport Hospital on the Isle of Wight, where the Baksi clinic was undertaking a new approach to diabetic treatment by insulin. Dr. Baksi is the foremost diabetic expert in the country and since starting the treatment John has made great progress. He is now leading more of a normal life and hopes to travel to Southampton later in the year for the annual luncheon.

Yet another Old Boy made contact from Australia, with interesting news from **DR. CYRIL PAYNE JP (1948 -1953)**. Cyril was offered the OAM (Order of Australia Medal) this year, but decided to decline the offer as he feels that his charity work does not require any reward. He did, however, accept an invitation to Government House earlier in the year 2010 to meet, and indeed shake hands with, HRH Prince William. Cyril says that our future monarch is a charming man.

He is still heavily involved in music and still conducts various bands and groups as well as introducing and producing "Bandarama" (a brass band programme) on the radio. Moe RSL Brass Ensemble, which Cyril conducts, is recording two CD's in the summer of 2010, one entitled 'An ANZAC Tribute' and the other 'A Special Christmas Feast'. Both recordings are set for release on 11th November. This particular ensemble has been invited to Singapore and Indonesia in July 2011 and the cost would be considerable. Cyril feels that the trip is in jeopardy owing to the economic climate affecting the funding.

Cyril is still heavily involved with his church and regularly conducts church services in the local community. He plans that in September/October 2010 he and his wife can enjoy a break in New Zealand for several weeks. It seems that he will have earned it!

In the middle of August 2010 we saw **GEOFF HARNETT**, who left the School in 1970, in a well known Indian restaurant in Farnham. He spends a great deal of time in Portugal and he and his wife had flown over to attend the wedding of their daughter. In the same week the local press announced the 60th wedding anniversary of **JULIAN BENTICK (1939-1942)** and his wife Pat. Congratulations to both couples!



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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

At the spring Garden Party, combining the Old Boys and Old Girls, the Editor was asked if he would attend the Autumn AGM and Reunion of the Old Girls' Association and give a half an hour talk as part of the proceedings. I therefore report that **CYRIL TRUST (1948-1953)** agreed to this request and it was an honour to attend this annual event. The meeting was held in the main hall at Menin Way and over thirty ladies listened to a talk about 'Special Needs in Education'. Probably the highlight of the afternoon, and certainly something that the Old Boys cannot compete with, was the superb array of homemade cakes available after the meeting was closed. Just like the Old Boys, and their affection for Morley Road, it was clear to see that the Old Girls regard Menin Way in the same way.

In November 2010 the Farnham Herald included in their obituary columns the name of Ron Hack, and immediately several local Old Boys assumed that this was one of our longest serving, and popular members. A phone call to the editor from our own **RON HACK (1932-1937)**, confirmed that at 90 years of age he was still very much with us and hoped to be at the 2011 Annual Dinner. For many years Ron has worked with the National Trust at Ham House, Richmond and advises that he is still a guide and at Christmas will be involved in running a small railway for children. Apart from the odd aches and pains, Ron says that he is in good health, and we all wish him well for years to come!

The Museum of Farnham hosts a series of seminars, which cover various aspects of Farnham throughout its history. In November 2010 the subject was 'Farnham in the Great War', and running the two hour session was **MAURICE HEWINS (1949-1954)** and his wife Judy, who are experts in the subject of the 1914-1918 War. They regularly visit the battlefields in France and Belgium discovering what happened to Farnham born soldiers, and research how the war affected the people of the town in general. The original lecture was over-subscribed, and Maurice and Judy repeated it a few days later and have a date at Farnham College to offer the seminar to the students. The editor of this magazine assisted with the lectures, by speaking about the role of many Old Boys in this tragic war.

In January we were told by several people that they had seen former teacher **GEORGE CARROLL (1948-1957)** on television speaking about his role as a bomb disposal expert on the island of Malta during the Second World War. By the end of the month we received an e-mail from Susan Hudson, who is George's daughter, telling us of a new book that has been published about the exploits of her father. Her message read as follows:

' I thought the Old Farnhamians would like to know that the wartime exploits of my father are the subject of a recently published book, 'UXB Malta' by S.A.M.Hudson. Having already served through the first London blitz, former Lieutenant Carroll was posted to be the sole Army Bomb Disposal Officer for the whole of Malta. A year later, as the island became the most bombed place on earth, he was one of only two officers and 30 sappers tackling hundreds of unexploded bombs, from 1kg to 1800kg. The squad dealt with over 7300 bombs in two years.

One of his former pupils, Clive Oliver (1947-52), contacted me after reading the book to tell me that he remembered his chemistry teacher Mr Carroll telling pupils a brief anecdote

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

from his experiences of bomb disposal. Perhaps others would like to know the true extent of the reality behind such stories. Any readers who would like details of the book please log into the following website: [www.uxbmalta.blogspot.com](http://www.uxbmalta.blogspot.com)'

Susan said that her father is now 92 years of age and sadly too frail to travel to the Annual Dinner. He passes on his best wishes to all former pupils and staff of the old school.

***NOTE: Susan has advised that her father appeared on Channel 4's 'Blitz Street' in May, then on BBC London News in September, talking about the London Blitz where he served from September 1940 to January 1941, when he was posted to Malta.***

The 28th January edition of the Farnham Herald featured an interesting article about a re-union between Old Boy, **ROGER 'RUSTY' MOORCROFT (1961-1966)**, and Dario Gradi, who manages Crewe Alexandra. In the 1960s Rusty played football for Surrey Grammar Schools under Dario's managership, and they were re-united when Aldershot FC played Crewe. Over three seasons (1963/4, 1964/65 and 1965/66) Rusty played against ten counties and was selected for the England Grammar Schools' Second XI team, eventually making the full squad. He played against future stars, Trevor Brooking and Frank Lampard Sen. when they played the West Ham youth team. Rusty says "I remember so clearly Dario picking me and Martin Little up from Farnham Grammar School in his Austin Healey 3000".

Rusty also played cricket for Farnham and then Frensham, and for many years played football for Sutton FC. He moved on to Woking FC and then played four happy seasons at Alton Town. It was a memorable day for Rusty as he watched a great match which Aldershot won 3-2.

In February the editor took part in a seminar entitled 'Farnham Schools & Teachers', which was presented by the Museum of Farnham. The two hour sessions covered the history of St. Polycarp's School, Frensham St. Mary's School and the Farnham Boys' Grammar School, plus memories from other local schools. Around thirty people attended each seminar and what emerged was the clear difference between education in the mid 1800s and today. Some areas were almost barbaric, but discipline was instilled into the pupils as well as a work ethic. Over the past one hundred and sixty years much of both has been lost.

A letter from a relative of **REV.SAMUEL LOCKE (HEADMASTER FROM 1800-1823)** enquired about her great, great uncle and what information did we have about him. This Head was notorious in Farnham and the people of the town posted leaflets around the town asking him to resign his position. He eventually left the house and school in West Street and at that time there were no pupils remaining and it was almost the end of the Grammar School. His relative advised that he was chaplain to the Duke of Kent at some time and seemed generous by purchasing her great, great grandfather a commission in the Indian Army in Madras. It seems that Samuel Locke was not all bad!

## FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM NO.10.

This photograph was sent in by John Cooke (1948-1953) and shows the local ATC (Air Training Corps) in Farnham. Among those present are several former pupils of the School.



Former pupils of the school are as follows:  
 Back Row: 4th from the left - DAVID WHEELER  
 2nd from the right - JOHN TRAVERS  
 Front Row: Far left - HARRY SLINGO  
 3rd from right - TONY DELVES  
 2nd from right JOHN FALKNER  
 Far right - JOHN COOKE.

John explains that several boys did not wish to join the Combined Cadet Force at the School and opted to become a member of the ATC. In some cases it was because they preferred this arm of the Royal Air Force, in other cases it was because they did not wish to go through the army training in the CCF. He poses the question 'Does any reader recognize any more former pupils in the photograph?'

## OFFICERS OF THE OLD FARNHAMIAN'S' ASSOCIATION FOR 2011/2012

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Cyril Trust (Chairman): Tony Gatfield (Secretary): Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer): Bill Luff: Mike Horner: John Crotty: Bryan Bone: Brian Williams: Roger Edgell: John McLaughlin.

### LEAVING SCHOLARSHIP TRUST:

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

## OBITUARIES

While the 2010 magazine was at the printers we heard of the death of **PETER DAVID CLOUGH (1956-1962)**. Peter, who died on 16th April 2010, was a member of Morley House and will be missed by his contemporaries.

An earlier death has come to our attention with the passing of **GORDON COLEMAN (1952-1955)**, who was another Morley House member. Gordon is recorded as taking part in the school cross country and the boxing and he died on 19th March 2010.

In early September 2010 we received details of the death of **ALAN J. BARTER (1952-1957)** who died after fighting cancer over an extended period of time. Alan became a journalist after leaving the School and became one of the most respected men in the profession. The obituary printed in the News of the World on 10th September 2010 tells of his successful career and what his colleagues thought of him as a man and a fellow journalist.

‘News of the World journalist Alan Barter died this week after a long, brave and relentlessly cheerful battle with cancer. He was a sub-editor at the News of the World for 16 years, but Alan, 70, would much rather have been known by the job description of tabloid hack. He was proud to be a veteran of this newspaper, as well as The Sun and The Mirror and he felt there was no higher title, no greater calling than what he always referred to as hacking..... the transformation of raw copy into dramatic, witty, gritty stories.

Alan joined The Sun in 1977 and was among its brightest stars. He taught one of The Sun’s first women sub-editors Patsy Chapman to write tabloid style, but insisted on calling her Fred “, because she’s one of the boys”. Patsy, who also edited the News of the World, said:” Come a big story, a bombing or a train crash, Al Barter would be one of the elite. His words could not be faulted for accuracy, emotion and colour.”

He was known as much for his rebellious streak as his talent and took particular pleasure in goading bosses every time they passed the sub’s desk, giving them outrageous nicknames which he used to their faces. His antics once resulted in him being fired, but he was reprieved when Larry Lamb, the first editor of The Sun, told the trigger-happy executive: “you can’t do that...he is a necessary evil”.

Alan’s first Fleet Street job was at the Daily Mirror in the mid-60s. His chief sub-editor Vic Mayhew said: “He was an instant star with great charisma”. No story was too great or too small to benefit from Alan’s meticulous care. He made funny stories, funnier, and sad stories more poignant.”

Alan went on to buy and edit the weekly News Revue but later returned to Fleet Street to work for the News of the World, where he quickly made an impression with his eccentric dress sense, big belly and even bigger laugh. For several years he was the newspaper’s Irish chief sub, and his work on a popular feature series Great Irish Heroes led to him co-authoring a book of the same name.

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He enjoyed nothing better than hard work, and the worse the copy, the better he loved it, because it gave him a chance to work his magic, turning it into “loony, Lovely gear”. Alan was 69 when he gave up work but right until the end he was an inspiration to younger colleagues, or ‘the nippers’ as he called them, always making time to offer advice and practical help.

News of the World Editor, Colin Myler, said: “In a world increasingly short of real characters, Alan shone like a beacon. He made people smile and they loved him for it. We shall miss him and his immense talent, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family”.

Alan was a devoted husband and a proud dad and is survived by his wife Jane, and their children Oliver, Sophie, Rupert, Imogen, Eloise and Dominic.

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In September we heard the sad news of the death of **MRS BARBARA WILLS**, wife and widow of John Wills, the well-respected and well-loved former Art Master of both the Grammar School and Farnham College. After John retired, the family moved to Lancashire and after the death of her husband Barbara remained in contact with many former members of staff and Old Boys of the Grammar School.

In recent years her health had not been good as she approached and passed 90 years of age, and she moved into a retirement home in Manchester. In the final days she was moved to a Manchester hospital, but all treatment failed. Her grand-daughter says that just before her death she said that she looked forward to returning to her room at the home, where she could sit and view the many sketches, drawings and paintings done by her talented husband.

The Wills’ family wishes to continue with the sponsorship of the John Wills’ Award, given each year to the top student in Art at Farnham College. I am sure that many Old Boys will recall this legendary master and the wonderful supportive wife that Barbara was to him. The magazine always sparked comment from her and all of the readers will miss hearing news from her in the future.

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Also in September 2010 we received news from Old Boy John Edmunds that his brother in law **BRIAN C. SMITH (1950-1955)** had died on 29th August. We have written about the life of Brian in a recent magazine, but we give below an obituary written by brother-in-law John.

‘While at Farnham Grammar School, Brian was a sea cadet at TS Swiftsure, where he developed a love of all things nautical. He became an Officer Cadet with Ben Line Steamers mainly in the Middle East at one time delivering equipment and seeing the Christmas Islands nuclear tests. Brian left Ben Line as Second Mate and joined a Greek ship trading around South America.

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Now married, family commitments meant leaving the Merchant Navy and a period as a Police Constable in Portsmouth ensued, where he received a medal for life-saving. However, the sea still called and Brian joined Texaco's tanker fleet for 15 years and got his 'Master's Ticket' in 1971. A move to World Wide Shipping saw 10 happy years as Master of the MV Suva before he took over as Master on the Sea World - the largest tanker afloat in the World at that time.

At the age of 60 Brian decided to hang up his sea boots and worked at the Hydrographic Office updating Pilot Charts until retiring 6 years ago. At 6 feet 2 inches and an impressive girth, Brian was every inch a Sea Captain. An interest in food continued with his gastronomic advice being sought by the family, particularly in bread-making.

Brian's four children and five grandchildren were delighted with the model railway layouts at home in Chard and his wife Sue (my sister) had to dust very carefully. A new model wooden boat stands testimony to skills honed from 'Poppa' Brink's woodwork class and a mathematical approach that 'Joe' Godsil would have been proud of.

On the 10th December 2010 **ALAN MORGAN (1937-1943)** died at his home in Suffolk and yet another excellent sportsman from the School passed away. Alan was a member of Childe House and right from his first year at the school in 1938 he was recorded as losing in the Boxing Finals and representing his House in the Swimming Gala.

He began to succeed in other sports and in 1939 ran the 440 yds for the House and played cricket for them. The following year he was a member of the Childe Rifle Shooting Team and came in 12th in the Cross Country Race. In 1941 he became a Sub-Prefect, won his weight at Boxing, played for the School Cricket 2nd Eleven, came 9th in the Cross Country and represented Childe House at 440 yds, 880 yds and the One Mile in Athletics.

In 1942 Alan represented his house in five events at the Athletics and in his final year he became School Captain, House Captain, joined the Swimming Committee and was promoted to Sergeant in the Combined Cadet Force. Again he won his weight at Boxing and amazingly represented his House in seven events at the Athletics.

We know that on leaving school Alan completed two years of his articles with the Surveyors of the Farnborough (Hampshire) Urban District Council. He served in the Army during the Second World War in Greece and a letter from him to the school informed the staff that he was leaving for Burma to build bridges. We would be interested in knowing more about his career after leaving the School and perhaps one of our readers could oblige.

When one looks back at your years at the school there are always certain characters who remain fresh in the mind, even after so many years. To the editor, one of these Old Boys was **VERNON 'BUNNY' SNELLOCK (1945-1953)**, who sadly died on 14th November 2010. My memories of Bunny were mainly about his prowess as an all round sportsman at the school, and it is worth recording the extraordinary range of sports that he attempted, and in many cases succeeded in making his mark.

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His first recorded event is in the 1946 Boxing Tournament, where he was beaten in the first round. This did not deter him and he tried again in 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950, being beaten in round one each time, except for 1948 when he reached the semi-final. Finally, his persistence paid off and he won the title in 1952 and was runner-up the following year.

In 1946 he entered the annual cross country race and came 18th in the Under 12 event. In 1947 he was 8th, 1948 he was 3rd and in that year represented the school against King Edward's School, Witley. In 1950 he was a senior and finished 8th, in 1951 he was 4th and in 1952 a poor (for him) 20th.

In the summer he turned to the swimming pool and in 1948 came 2nd in the Diving and the following year came 2nd in the Farnham & District Swimming Gala. In 1950 he joined the Swimming Committee and in 1951 came 2nd in the Diving and in 1952 he won the Diving at last.

Perhaps he was at his best on the Athletics' field and in 1946 he won the High Jump. Three years later he came 2nd in this event as well as 2nd in the 880 yds. In 1950 he won the High Jump and represented the Farnham Schools at Imber Court. He began to diversify into other events and in 1951 won the 440 yds, Putting the Shot, came 2nd in the High Jump and won the Victor Ludorum as the best all round athlete at the school. He joined the Athletics' Committee and at the Farnham Sports won the 440 yds and Putting the Shot as well as coming 2nd in the 110 yds Hurdles. In 1952 and 1953 he was virtually unbeatable at the Athletics' Sports Day, winning the 220 yds, High Jump, Javelin, Shot in 1952 and the 220 yds, 440yds, High Jump, with 2nd in Javelin in 1953. In both years he won the coveted Victor Ludorum, the all round prize.

In 1950 he became a member of the Morley House Rifle Shooting Team and remained in that team each year until leaving the school.

Not only was Bunny involved in the more popular sports, he became secretary of the school Tennis team in 1952 and skippered a Boys' Bowls team against the masters in the same year. He became Morley House Captain in 1951, a sub-prefect in 1952, and secretary of the Scientific Society in 1952.

Research shows that little is recorded about his academic history at the school. He will be remembered as one of the finest sportsmen produced by the school and perhaps a reader can advise on the details of his career after leaving. Bunny lived in Somerset when he died.

After two Old Boys with excellent records as sportsmen we turn to one who was much more of an academic. **P.J.HOLMES (1939-1947)** only took part in the annual Cross Country and for his final three years at the School was a member of the Massingberd Rifle Shooting Team. All other notable achievements point to a first class pupil, with Form Prizes in 1941, 1942, and 1944. In the latter year he became Chairman of the School Chess Club.

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From 1945 onwards he acquired many awards for his academic work, starting with the Michael Kilburn Prize for Mathematics, seven passes in the General School Certificate and joining the Debating Society Committee. In the same year he became a Sub-Prefect and a Sergeant in the Combined Cadet Force.

In 1946 he won the George Sturt Prize, became a Prefect, joined the School Magazine Committee and passed four subjects for Higher School Certificate, including a Distinction in Pure Mathematics. That same year he became CSM (Company Sergeant Major) in the CCF.

In his final year he again won the George Sturt Prize, a Special Prize for Mathematics and won an Open Exhibition in Natural Science at Queen's College, Cambridge.

Here was a brilliant pupil and we would like to know more about his career after leaving the School.

Just before Christmas Ian Sargeant, our webmaster, received details from Australia about the death of a former pupil of the Farnham Grammar School. It referred to an obituary in 'The Telegraph' for Group Captain DENNIS LYSTER (1919-1924), who died in June 2010 and was clearly something of a hero in the Second World War. The article was as follows:

' Group Captain Dennis Lyster, who died aged 99, was a pilot who flew on the RAF's first strategic bombing operation of the Second World War and completed 61 further missions, winning the DSO and DFC.'

On the night of May 15/16 1940, Lyster's Hampden bomber of 83 Squadron was one of 99 aircraft that took off to strike industrial targets in the Ruhr following the German advance into the Low Countries- the first attack of the conflict on the factories feeding the German war machine. Within a few days, the Hampdens were called on to assist the beleaguered

British Expeditionary Force in France and Lyster bombed elements of the German advance including the railway system used to bring up reinforcements. Following the Dunkirk evacuation, the bomber force commenced a campaign against German industry, ports and oil installations.

Lyster attacked Scharnhorst at Kiel on 1st July, but once the Battle of Britain was underway the Hampdens were increasingly allotted targets associated with an anticipated German invasion of England. Lyster laid mines at the entrance of the port of Lubeck, bombed the docks at Stettin and Hamburg, and the submarine base at Lorient. When reconnaissance photographs identified a build-up of invasion barges at the Channel ports, Lyster and his fellow crews bombed those gathering at Antwerp and Ostend. By the end of October, he had completed 39 bombing operations, including a visit to Berlin, and was awarded the DFC.

The son of a farmer, George Dennis Lyster was born on 16th April 1911 at East Oakley and attended Farnham Grammar School. He was deeply interested in machinery and drove early tractors and maintained the farm's electricity supply with a single Blackstone 110 volt generator.



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The annual visit of some Bristol fighters to his father's farm made Lyster determined to be a pilot. He took lessons in early 1930 and his first solo flight created a stir. After getting lost, he landed at a nearby RAF airfield where he bought fuel for two shillings and sixpence and asked for directions home.

Lyster joined the RAF in January 1935 and completed his pilot training at the RAF flying school in Egypt before joining 83 Squadron to fly the elegant Hind biplane bomber. Re-equipped with the Hampden in late 1938, the squadron settled at Scampton near Lincoln. Lyster had always had a deep interest in navigation and at the end of 1940 attended a specialist navigation course before returning to No 83 as a flight commander. The navigators on Hampdens were usually inexperienced pilots, so Lyster keenly monitored their efforts. Isolated in his pilot's cockpit, he had a map strapped to his knee and carried his own sextant on his long-range operations. He was thus sometimes able to correct the efforts of his 'navigator'.

Over the next few months he attacked numerous German cities, flying inadequate and unheated bombers in all weathers on sorties that were often in excess of seven or eight hours.. After completing another 22 operations, Lyster was rested and became an instructor at a bomber training unit. He was assessed as exceptional and was awarded the DSO. For the remainder of the war, Lyster remained a bombing instructor but, on the night of 1st June 1942, he was co-opted to take part in the second of the Thousand Bomber Raids when Essen was the target. For his services as a chief flying instructor he was awarded the AFC. After the war, he completed the RAF Staff College course at Haifa before joining the staff of HQ Middle East Air Force in Egypt.

Whenever Lyster was given a ground appointment he made strenuous efforts to fly as often as possible. In February 1948, he took a Spitfire from Fayid in Egypt to the South African Air Force base at Waterkloof near Johannesburg, a flight which involved 10 refuelling stops. He then demonstrated the aircraft at airfields in South Africa and in Northern and Southern Rhodesia.

Lyster converted to jets in 1951 and in January 1953 was appointed to command the Examination Wing of the Central Flying School. It was the responsibility of Exam Wing, or the "trappers" as they were irreverently known, to test and standardise the flying instructors of the RAF. They were also in great demand by overseas air forces and the wing made annual tours worldwide. In October 1954 Lyster, flying his own transport aircraft, led a team to Ceylon, Australia and New Zealand to test the instructors of those air forces. At the end of his period in command, Lyster was classed as an A1 instructor of exceptional ability and was awarded a Bar to his AFC.

He commanded the fighter airfield at Stradishall in Suffolk, where he flew the latest jets, and his final appointment was at Headquarters Fighter Command. He retired in January 1961 having flown 64 different types of aircraft. After leaving the RAF, he renovated a row of fisherman's cottages in West Bay, Dorset. With his son he purchased a dairy farm near

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Honiton when he became involved in farm management. He was well known in the area for loud thuds as he dynamited tree stumps to clear his land. A skilled horseman and shot, he maintained a deep interest and love for the countryside and for nature. He finally settled on a farm at Sidbury in Devon, amazing his family and friends when he persuaded a surgeon to fit him with a replacement knee when in his mid-nineties. He was a long standing supporter of the British Legion.

Dennis Lyster died on 24th June. He married Molly Richardson in 1935; she died in 1983. He later married Pauline Broadburn. She survives him with a son from his first marriage.

*Editor: Researching old magazines shows that during his time at the school D G Lyster was only mentioned once, when he came 86th in the annual cross country race. Within his first year after leaving, he wrote to the school saying that he wished that he could return.*

*The researcher from Australia was David Kennedy, the son of an RAF colleague of Dennis Lyster, who was trying to trace his own father's life and career. He passed on the following information regarding Dennis.*

*Flight 1958. Page 786*

*Birthday Fly-past.*

*With the Queen taking the salute from the balcony of Buckingham Palace, 116 Javelin of RAF Fighter Command are to fly past at 1300 hours on Her Majesty's official birthday, June 12th. The aircraft, in 4 boxes of four in line astern, will be led by Group Captain D.G.Lyster, Commanding Officer of RAF Stradishall with Wing Commander G.A.Martin (C/O of 89 Squadron) as deputy leader.*

*OBITUARY: Whittemore, Jean (Pueblo Chieftain), aged 87, died 28th August 2004 in Manzanola, Colorado. She was born on 17th February 1917 in Hampshire, England. Survived by her brother G/C. Dennis Lyster of Sidbury, Devon, England.*

On the 2nd January 2011 one of the younger Old Boys, **BRIAN JOHN DART (1962-1969)**, died. Brian was a member of Massingberd House and his record shows that he was a first class cross country runner at the School. In the Under 13s, Junior, Intermediate and Senior races during his time at the School he always managed to finish in the top ten, with only a 20th place in 1965 spoiling that record. He was also a good swimmer and was 2nd in the Diving in 1965. He was also a member of the School Scout Troop.

As 2010 came to a close we heard of the sad passing of **MICHAEL CONSTANTINE (1950-57)**, on Wednesday 15th December. Several of his former classmates at the school attended his funeral on 23rd December and the following is a tribute to Michael from Derek Pollard and Tony Homewood.

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**MICHAEL CONSTANTINE (1950-1957)** died peacefully at his home in Liss, Nr. Petersfield in December. He had been suffering from cancer for the last three years, and finally lost his battle against the ailment.

Michael left Farnham Grammar School after 2 years in the sixth form. Having acquired his interest in Chemistry at the hands of Leonard Evans he continued his studies until he attained Professional Qualifications with the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

He started work with the Beecham organisation, and was employed in scientific research into the development of antibiotic drugs. A subsequent career change took him into the manufacturing and distribution of pharmaceutical products. He subsequently became a qualified inspector in Quality Assurance. This latter occupation necessitated travels to many parts of the world, enforcing the strict manufacturing procedures demanded for drugs that were produced for importation into the United Kingdom.

He had many recreational interests. Music was a great passion, with an appreciation of all genres from Rock to Classics. He was not content to merely listen. He had a fine collection of acoustic and electric guitars and strove to perfect his playing skills. Apart from foreign cars, he had a life long obsession with powerful motor cycles, participating enthusiastically in both road and track events. 'No one knows how old you are with a helmet on'. Even during his illness he achieved an ambition to travel Route 66 on a Harley Davidson. He had fond memories of his years at Farnham and was immensely proud of the School. He was a regular attendee at the Annual Dinner and will be sadly missed by his contemporaries.

Michael may not have been an exceptional sportsman, or a brilliant academic, but his life was a fine example of the qualities that FGS endeavoured to instil in all its pupils. He was honest, loyal, modest, witty and compassionate and is sadly missed by his family and friends.

Just prior to the printing of this magazine we heard of the death of **MICHAEL COLWILL (1936-1942)**, although he died in September 2010. Research by the editor and memorabilia supplied by Michael's trustees showed that this former Grammar School pupil had an eventful life and was well worth telling in some detail. His obituary will therefore be printed in the 2012 magazine and will be a very suitable article for our 100th anniversary issue.

In mid-February we also heard of the death of **STAN ARMSTRONG (1943-1948)**, who did not recover from an important operation, and sadly passed away near his home in Monmouth. He was a great supporter of the Old Boys and for many years a regular at both the Annual Dinner and the Southampton Lunch. We have asked his good friend, Keith Mentzel, to help prepare a suitable tribute to Stan, which will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

As we go to press we hear the sad news that **PETER CLARK (1938-1943)** has died in a hospital near his home in Southampton. One of the characters of the Old Boys, and our Master of Ceremonies at Dinners and Lunches for many years. Within 24 hours of this news we were advised of the sudden death of **TONY RAYER (1942-1947)**, at his home in Farnborough. Both great losses to the Association, and again we will give a full obituary in the next magazine.

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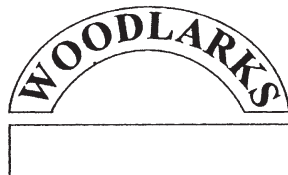
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