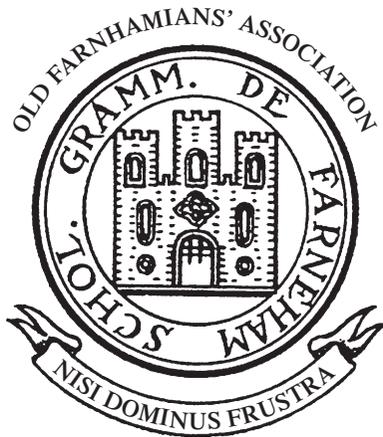


THE FARNHAMIAN



March 2017

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THE FARNHAMIAN

March 2017

The year 2016 saw several changes to the Association, beginning with the hand-over of the position of President by Ian Sargeant, who has held the position very successfully for two years, to long serving Secretary, Roger Edgell. Roger will serve two years, and he will then pass the position over to Richard Phillips, who is now Vice-President of the Association.



It was also decided that after over fifty Southampton Lunches the venue and title should be altered. The original concept was to have an annual get-together for former pupils of the School who lived in Hampshire. In recent years the number attracted by the lunch has dwindled and for 2016 the event was re-invented as The Autumn Lunch and held closer to, or in the town of Farnham. The Farnham Lecture has been a part of the programme for the Old Boys for over twenty-five years and again the numbers attracted have dwindled. By combining the lecture with Farnham College for the Magna Carta Lecture in 2015 it perhaps pointed the way to a more successful event and in 2016 the College and Old Boys presented “The British Monarchy” by well-known expert Dickie Arbiter, who had been the Press Secretary for the Queen for over twenty years.

Probably one of the most successful events ever presented at Morley Road was the Old Boys, Old Girls, College and Educational Foundation combining to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday. The event on the lawns of the College attracted 150 people who were mostly former pupils of the Grammar Schools. This was the highlight of the year for many.

2016 PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON



Bryan Bone: John Crotty: Ian Sargeant: Mike Horner: Dennis Phillips: Brian Williams
All the above Old Boys are former Presidents of the Old Farnhamians' Association

The annual gathering of the Old Farnhamians' Association at the Surya Hogs Back Hotel took place on 19th March 2016, attended by over 70 former pupils of the Farnham Grammar School. The slight decline in numbers could be traced to the known absence of several Old Boys prevented by circumstances from attending but whom we can normally count on and we trust will return next year. Given that an Old Boy of the School cannot be less than about 54 years of age (FGS gave way to Farnham Sixth Form College in 1973), a decline was always foreseeable. The showing was considered a good number and the enthusiasm of those present and the pleasure they were clearly experiencing in being together with old friends made the event extremely worthwhile.

The opening item was the sad naming by the President of 15 Old Boys who had died since the last lunch. The excellent meal was then served and, following the loyal toast, the roll call took place. The oldest former pupils were John Wilkinson, Denis Lampard and David Buckell who entered the School in 1939. There was continuity until 1978 when the last Old Boy had left what, by then, had become Farnham Sixth Form College.

President Ian Sargeant then welcomed Dr. Jason Jones, Director of Farnham Sixth Form College, to the lunch and invited him to become an honorary member of the Association,

2016 PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

presenting him with an OFA tie and cufflinks. Dr. Jones, who arrived less than a year ago into his position from a preceding career with the sixth form sector, spoke to the members about his plans and hopes for the College.

The College continues to deliver a mainly A Level curriculum (approx. 75% of students across a range of 30 A Level subjects) with outstanding results that surpass those of other local competitor colleges. He mentioned some of the challenges the College faced, including the impression some local people seem to have that the College was an FE College delivering only vocational education, which is, of course, totally incorrect. The small size of the College with approximately 500 students, possibly the smallest sixth form college in England, gave it a great advantage to students of being able to deliver a friendly and supportive education within an intimate environment where everybody knew everybody else's name. He hoped to correct false impressions and ensure that people knew where Farnham Sixth Form College was and what a good institution it was, offering a pathway to the best universities and professional training. It was considered one of the best college buildings to be found and could absorb up to a total of approximately 650 students before expansion of the buildings would be required.

There was a toast to the old School proposed by Old Boy and former school captain, Derek Bowtell, followed by a toast to the Association by David Macmanamon. Both speakers described their careers and spoke of their fond memories of the old School. The President replied to the toasts and thanked those who had given excellent support to the running of the Association as well as everybody present for making the event possible.

Then came the traditional passing round of the Loving Cup, the singing of the School Song and the National Anthem accompanied by the only pianist in the room, who happened to be the President. Another happy and memorable occasion!

ATTENDING:

G.Andrews: T.Andrews: H.Batchelor: C.Beal: R.Bennett: P.Blowfield: B.Bone: D.Buckell: D.Bowtell: R.Bowtell: J.Clark: D.Coakes: J.Cotterill: R.Cleminson: P.Cranswick: J.Crotty: D.Cutler: D.Edgell: R.Edgell: K.Elkins: C.Fairclough: J.Fisher: C.Fitch: P.Ford: R.Frampton: A.Gatfield: H.Groves: A.Hayward: R.Hewes: J.Hibberd: M.Horner: D.Hughes: M.Jeffreys: J.Jones: R.Jones: R.Kite: D.Lampard: G.LeVey: S.Linney: R.Lord: S.Lord: W.Luff: J.Matthews: E.Mayne: D.MacManamon: K.Mortimer: C.Nash: J.Neave: J.Peace: H.Pearson: J.Pesterfield: D.Phillips: R.Phillips: D.Poleglaze: P.Read: W.Roffey: I.Sargeant: M.Seignot: M.D.Seignot: R.Shipton: J.Sherwood: C.Slyfield: P.Steadman: H.Torode: J.Travers: D.Tye: H.Upfold: M.Watts: J.Walden: W.Walsh: M.Westcott: R.Welland-Jones: J.Wilkinson: B.Williams: N.Wood.

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 21st April 2016, twenty members of the Association attended the Annual General Meeting. This would be the end of the Presidency for Ian Sargeant and the end of 14 years as the Secretary for Roger Edgell, who will now serve two years as the President. The meeting began with all those present standing to honour those Old Boys who had died in the previous twelve months. After reading out apologies, the President gave his annual report highlighting some of the events and thanking various members of the committee for their support during his term of office. This was followed by the membership Secretary announcing that the current membership is 308.

Stephen Pritchard, the long serving Treasurer, talked through the accounts with those present and explained that the Association was in good financial order. An appeal to the membership for help to raise funds was successful and overall had raised almost £3000.

Ian Sargeant reported on the Leaving Scholarship Trust and in the last year only two students had asked for financial help. It was hoped that with the help of the new Director this could be improved in the coming year.

Cyril Trust advised that after 14 years as Chairman of the 400 Trust he had decided to stand down. Brian Williams will replace him and the first event will be the Farnham Lecture with Dickie Arbiter, press secretary to the Queen for 20 years, talking about the Monarchy. The 2015 lecture by Sir Andrew Carter had been excellent, but once again the sale of tickets was poor. The 2015 College Awards' Sponsor Scheme had provided 40 financial awards to students and the College was grateful for the help of the scheme. The Partnership Award Scheme needed reviewing and Brian will speak with the Director of the College. More memorabilia of the former Grammar School had been sent to Surrey History Centre & Farnham Museum.

Roger Edgell reported that both the Southampton Lunch and the Annual Lunch had been successful. It was felt that as the number of Hampshire Old Boys had now dwindled to 10% of those attending, it may be wise to move the venue closer to Farnham. He was pleased with the first class support from the Hogs Back Hotel and had booked for 2017.

Reports followed by Ian Sargeant regarding the Old Boys' website and the progress of Farnham College. Once again academic results for the college were excellent, but students remained difficult to attract in numbers.

The election of officers took place and in the main existing members wished to continue. Former staff member Hugh Batchelor will be invited to join the General Committee and as stated above Brian Williams will become Chairman of the 400 Trust.

Overall the Association is in good shape when one considers it is well over 40 years since the closure of Farnham Grammar School. The year ahead looks encouraging!

QUEEN ELIZABETH 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GARDEN PARTY

The original buildings which are now home to Farnham Sixth Form College in Morley Road were opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1906 and this year celebrated its 110th birthday. Over the years the site has paid host to many special occasions, including a visit and lecture by Field Marshal Montgomery just after the Second World War, the opening of the new classrooms by the Duchess of Gloucester, a visit by Mike Hawthorn who was World Champion Racing Driver at the time. We are now able to add to that list the celebrations eg. the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, which took place on Sunday 5th June on the College lawns.

The event was presented by a combination of the Old Farnhamians' Association, Old Grammar School Girls' Association, Farnham Educational Foundation and Farnham Sixth Form College, with invitations open to former pupils of the old Farnham Grammar Schools. The original plans hoped that 120 people would be attracted, but as the word spread the final number present was close to 150 people. Many former pupils travelled from all over the country to be with old friends and classmates, while one who lived in Thailand arranged to be home for the event, one who lived in Switzerland did the same, a former teacher came from France and one made his usual annual pilgrimage from Baltimore in America.

Among the guests were relatives of former pupils who formed the nucleus of the centre of Farnham. Pullinger, Sturt, Bone and Goddard are all a few of the many businesses spawned by the Grammar School.



QUEEN ELIZABETH 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GARDEN PARTY

The event was organised by a committee chaired by Old Boy, Cyril Trust, who has been responsible for many events in the town over many years. Old Boys and Old Girls worked hard to prepare the dining areas, which included the College dining room and a huge marquee supplied and erected by The Hedgehogs. It was encouraging to see almost a dozen current students helping set up and run the day and their Student Management Team turned out in full to make sure the day was a success for the College.

Walking through the areas one was surrounded by Union Jacks. Tablecloths, serviettes, table centres and souvenir programmes all promoted this special year for the monarch. Included in this was a large birthday cake, baked by the daughter-in-law of a former teacher at the school and waiting to be cut by special guest, Wendy Craig, chief executive of Tindle Newspapers.

Arriving at the reception guests received a souvenir programme, a name badge and were taken to their tables by students. Inside the dining room stood a bar, again run by an Old Boy and students, who offered a free drink on entry. Alongside was a Royal Raffle table with all prizes associated with the Queen and royalty in general. Another table advertised two new books about the school for sale, as well as promoting the Farnham Lecture in September, which also has Royal connections. Finally a table for Disability Challengers, who received the proceeds of the event.

At 1.00 pm, Dr. Jason Jones, the relatively new Director of the College, welcomed all the guests, and then an excellent buffet was available by kind permission of the Old Girls. With so many classmates and friends meeting under one roof, the atmosphere of nostalgia took over and the marquees rang out to the chatter and laughter of the guests. It was very much an occasion of "*Do you remember when?*" By 2.30 pm the guests had literally eaten into the spread laid out and it was time to cut the beautifully decorated celebration cake. Wendy Craig made a first class job of this and guests waited to see if it tasted as good as it looked.

As the lunch came to an end the College Director asked all guests to stand and drink a Toast to the Queen. All very patriotic, and why not on such a wonderful milestone for the monarch.

As the guests relaxed with their slice of cake and coffee, advancing down the steps into the dining room came the ladies of that excellent a capella harmony choir, In Accord. For the occasion Sue Lampard, the leader, had arranged a programme made up of a song from each decade of the Queen's life. Nine songs in total, starting with *Bye Bye Blackbird* (1920) and ending with *Skyfall* (2012). Sue included highlights of each decade as she introduced the songs. This excellent choir finished by singing the National Anthem. Beautiful singing as usual!

QUEEN ELIZABETH 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GARDEN PARTY

Following the entertainment was the drawing of the Royal Raffle and guests received some gifts which will recall the occasion. Thanks to the efforts of the students the raffle raised over £300 in total.

At 4.30 pm Dr. Jones closed the afternoon and thanked everybody for supporting the event. For some former pupils guided tours of the College had been arranged and some present had not entered a classroom for many years. Once again, nostalgia ruled!

Overall, a highly successful afternoon for the College and for Farnham. But there was more to come! A few weeks after the event a special presentation of the proceeds was arranged. On Monday 4th July, Rhiannon Hopkin, Fund-Raising Officer came to the College and received a cheque for £1200 from the students who volunteered on the day. In attendance was Dr. Jason Jones representing Farnham College, Patricia Atkinson representing the Old Girls' Grammar School Association and Cyril Trust representing the Old Farnhamians' Association.

It is a pleasure to report such a successful event and the co-operation between the organisations who presented it.



Above is the main marquee on the lawns at the rear of the College buildings. This housed half of the guests, with the other half seated in the College dining area. The weather was perfect on the afternoon and guests above could dine, chat and overlook the town of Farnham from this vantage point.

QUEEN ELIZABETH 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GARDEN PARTY



Jill Goddard (left) with some former classmates from one of the final intakes to the School.



A cheque to Disability Challengers by students, Jason Jones, Patricia Atkinson & Cyril Trust.

FARNHAM LECTURE 2016

The twenty-eighth Farnham Lecture took place at Farnham Sixth Form College on the Sunday afternoon of 25th September 2016. It was attended by around eighty people and the lecture was given by “Dickie” Arbiter, former press secretary to the Queen for over twenty years. His subject was entitled “*The British Monarchy – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*” and it was clear from the start that he was an expert in the subject.

Dr. Jason Jones, Director of Farnham Sixth Form College introduced the speaker and his talk began with a resumé of the English monarchs from the House of Hanover to the current House of Windsor. One theme that ran through this part of the lecture was the large number of illegitimate children that the Kings produced.

He then explained that he began his career as a journalist and after ten years in this role he was asked to cover the royalty. This led to an invitation to join the royal household, as the press secretary to Queen Elizabeth. He first met her at Balmoral when she took him to a lodge for a lunch with the Duke of Edinburgh and a Lady in Waiting. He was amazed to find that the Queen did the washing up after the meal and he was asked to dry.

The speaker then explained some of the duties that involve the Queen and throughout he praised her dedication and hard work. She was aware of what goes on in this country and is a knowledgeable person on world affairs.

The difficult period when the marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana broke down was covered and he explained that much of the reason for this was the spotlight that shines on the royal family in modern times. The press, TV and media in general thirst for the most intimate information and this puts huge pressure on the people. The current Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are typical and live under great pressure at all times.

“Dickie Arbiter” travelled with the Queen on her visits to countries across the world and in almost all cases she is welcomed by the leaders and people. In particular she is loved in the Commonwealth countries like Australia, New Zealand and Canada. While some politicians would like to become a republic and move away from the Queen, the ordinary people are loathe to do this and remain loyal to the crown.

The speaker then moved on to the future and was convinced that the Queen will not abdicate and will remain head of the royal family until her passing. This was her pledge at her Coronation. The structure of the royal family was secure with Prince Charles the successor, followed by William, Duke of Cambridge, and now his son George. How long this type of structure will stay in place is something he would not speculate on, but as far as we are concerned royalty is prepared for the foreseeable future.

As well as the Duke of Edinburgh, who in his mid-nineties is still a wonderful supporter to his wife, Princess Anne, Prince Edward, Prince Andrew and others help her share the enormous load of attending functions and overseeing various charities. He was particularly

2016 FARNHAM LECTURE

complimentary about Prince Harry, who he thought had great charisma and a great desire to do well. Harry had been involved in some dubious actions and the speaker said that this was normal for a young man in his early twenties.

Taking questions the speaker explained that the Queen is non-political and does not vote or pass comment on any particular political party. This does not apply to all other members of the royal family and those who work closely with the Queen. They choose who to vote for.

During his talk “Dickie” Arbiter explained that he had a weakness for gaudy neck-ties, similar to the one shown in the photograph on the programme for the lecture. He had been able to acquire these free of charge for over twenty years now it seems. John Ward, current Mayor of Farnham, complimented him on the tie and the speaker removed it and presented it to the mayor. Almost immediately Brian Williams, organiser of the event, handed over an Old Farnhamian neck-tie to the speaker as a little thank you for an excellent lecture.

The event was held on behalf of Disability Changers, who raised well over £150. No plans are place for the 2017 Farnham Lecture, but “Dickie” Arbiter will be a hard act to follow.



Brian Williams: Mike Potter: Dickie Arbiter: Jason Jones: Roger Edgell: John Ward & wife.

AUTUMN LUNCH 2016

Fifty-five years ago, four old boys from Farnham Grammar School initiated an annual lunch in the New Forest. The Southampton Lunch was for former pupils who lived in Hampshire, but soon it became popular with local Farnham members, and many travelled south to meet old pals.

The time has come for a change as the numbers dwindled and members did not wish to travel so far. It was decided to re-invent the popular lunch and move it to The Bush Hotel in Farnham. In early October, 38 members of the Association attended the initial lunch and the change of venue breathed new life into the event. The meal was excellent and this will become an annual meeting for the Old Boys.

Norman Paget managed to include the lunch into his holiday from America, and this is typical of the camaraderie in the Association and the love of the old school at Morley Road. Do modern schools encourage such loyalty and do pupils retain friendships?

Of course grammar schools were closed in 1973 and the Old Farnhamians is a slowly dying organisation. How ironic, that in 2016 our new Prime Minister is advocating a return to grammar schools. She would certainly get 38 supporting votes if she keeps her promise!



Roger Edgell (President): Clive Beal: Cyril Trust: Norman Paget: Brian Williams.

FROM THE SCHOOL MEMORABILIA

Details relating to the Grammar School continue to arrive and are catalogued and saved at either the Museum of Farnham or the Surrey History Centre at Woking. Some items are worth printing and here are articles that may interest the reader.



A PRESS RELEASE FROM RAF GUTELRSLOH – FROM THE 1950S

Little did Flight Lieutenant Gavin Mackay of 3(F) Squadron, based at Gutersloh, realise when he climbed into the front seat of a two-seater Harrier recently, that he had become involved in making aviation history.

Sitting in the front seat was Flight Lieutenant Bill Brewer, an instructor and examiner from 233 Operational Conversion Unit, RAF Wittering, who was about to start counting the last sixty minutes of his 1000 hours flying in 2-seater Harriers, the first pilot in the world to do so.

Forty-four year old Bill was born in Farnham, Surrey and attended Farnham Grammar School (where he was a member of the CCF), prior to taking an apprenticeship in the RAF in 1949. He was commissioned as a pilot in 1953, and apart from Harriers has flown Hunter and Gnat. Between 1955 and 1958 he served with 118 and 4 Squadrons at RAF Jever.

Bill is married and lives with his wife Pam and two teenage children at Bourne, Lincolnshire, and has been with 233 OCU since 1970.

FROM THE SCHOOL MEMORABILIA

No.25, WEST STREET, FARNHAM.

Before the School moved to Morley Road it was housed in West Street and the above address was the home of the Stroud family and a number of boarders. In 1881 the British Census showed the following people living at this address.

CHARLES STROUD – HEADMASTER: LAVINIA STROUD – WIFE OF HEADMASTER:
MARY STROUD – DAUGHTER: WILLIAM STROUD – ASST. MASTER AT THE
SCHOOL: SARAH STROUD – DAUGHTER: EMMA STROUD – DAUGHTER:
CORDELIA BIDDICK – SISTER IN LAW: WILLIAM WESTCOTT – ASST. MASTER AT
THE SCHOOL: (MARY, SARAH AND EMMA STROUD WERE EMPLOYED AS
TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL)

BOARDERS: CORDELIA STROUD – DAUGHTER & SCHOLAR: MARY BIDDICK –
NIECE & SCHOLAR: JOHN BRAITHWAITE: FREDERICK CORDERY: JOHN BISHOP:
JOHN HAYES: JACOB COURTNEY: WILLIAM WALLS: THOMAS CORDERY:
HERBERT JULIUS: CHARLES WATNEY: WILLIAM EMUS: ARTHUS HART: HENRY
VOSE: MAURICE RANDALL: FRANCES MESSINGHAM.

FARNHAM CARNIVAL – MAY 5TH-11TH 1929.

In modern times the Farnham Carnival is usually held on the last Saturday in June, but a programme handed to us by the Sylvia Morgan estate, shows that in 1929 the event lasted six days and involved a number of events. May 9th was Children's Day and the afternoon programme featured the local Athletic Championships, the band of the King's Dragoon Guards and a Gymnastic Display by the boys of Farnham Grammar School. The programme has 60 pages and is clearly used by local businesses to promote themselves and their companies. Page after page is devoted to names that are synonymous with the Grammar School. The following show how strong the former pupils were in Farnham: Bide: Lionel Smith: Spencer: Elphicks: Rangers: Borelli: Patrick: Bentall: Robins: Chitty: German and Heath & Wiltshire.

The proceeds of the event went to Trimmer's Cottage Hospital, which at the time had the following available for the sick:

Three Beds for Men and One Cot: Three Beds for Women and One Cot: One Private Ward.

ALDERSHOT NEWS MARCH 14TH 1919:

The meeting of Old Boys of Farnham Grammar School, held at the school on Wednesday week, to consider the proposal to set up a memorial to the late headmaster (the Rev. S. Priestley) and to the Old Boys of the school who have fallen in the war, proved very successful, those present giving full support to the scheme, which was enlarged to include a memorial to the late Mr. Charles Stroud, who was for so many years Headmaster at the School.

FROM THE SCHOOL MEMORABILIA

Mr.A.J.Nash C.A. (Chairman of the Governors) presided, supported by the Joint Hon. Secretaries (pro.tem.), Dr. G.F.C.Wallis, Messrs. W.H.Johnson and A.E.Loe (who initiated the scheme), and Mr.G.F.Falkner (one of the Governors), Mr. Ernest Crundwell. C.C. (Governor), and Mr and Mrs Patterson were also present.

During the course of the meeting it was stated that a minimum of £3000 was aimed at, and it was resolved to perpetuate the memories of the late Mr.C.Stroud, the Rev. S.Priestley, the Old Boys who fell in the recent war, and one Old Boy, Donald Hoey, who lost his life in the South African War, the main part of the memorial to take the form of leaving scholarships.

Mr. G.F.Wright consented to act as Hon. Secretary to the Fund, and the following were elected to the Committee, with power to add to the numbers: Messrs. A.J.Nash, F.L.Borrelli, C.Crosby, J.H.Goddard, F.P.Adams, G.F.C.Wallis, W.H.Johnson, A.E.Loe, and H.Falkner. It was also resolved to ask Mr.G.E.Alexander to act as Hon. Treasurer to the Fund.

In the evening a re-union dinner for Old Boys was held, when Mr.A.J.Nash presided, and Dr.G.Brown occupied the vice-chair. During the evening it was resolved to revive the Old Boys' Association.

An intriguing item of memorabilia that has arrived is a Harrods' Order Book for Wholesale Customers Only. It contains counterfoils of orders placed in this famous London store by Mrs F A Morgan for the years of 1945/46/47 and one wonders whether the goods were for the pupils, the staff or for the Morgan family. Of course, these were years just after the Second World War and a time of food shortages, which were overcome by the use of coupons. Each item of purchase was given a number of coupons and one had to buy goods using the necessary number of coupons. For the month of February 1945 the order for the month was as follows:

3lbs Best Pure Coffee

3 x 6 Harrods or McDougall's S.R.Flour

1/4lbs Mixed Spice

Bottle of Mint

Bottle of Pineapple Essence

Bottle of Almond Essence

100 tablets Adexolin

100 tablets Saccharine

1 Large Jar of Vick

Bottle of Famel Cough Syrup

Innoxa Mousse

Yardley's Hand Cream

6 Tins of Peas

4 Tins Pork Sausage meat

2 Tins Evaporated Milk

2lbs Cheese Biscuits

Strawberry, Raspberry or Blackcurrant Jam for Preserve ration for the month

1 tin Baking Powder

Bottle of Onion Salt

6 packets Saxa salt

Caraway Seeds

FROM THE SCHOOL MEMORABILIA

EUSTACE WILLIAM WOOD – (1905/6 – 1910/11)

In January 2016 the editor received a letter from a gentleman named Bryan Beggs who had several photographs of his wife's father when he was at the Farnham Grammar School in 1908. Bryan offered the photos to the Association and some of them are shown in this issue.

With the photos was a profile of Eustace Wood, who was born on 9th November 1893 at Newport House, Newport, Isle of Wight and was the youngest of five children of Arthur Wood and Fanny, nee Wainscott.

It is probable that he entered the new school at Morley Road in 1905/ 1906 and on leaving five years later went to work in the family business of Arthur Wood & Son (Agricultural Engineers) of Pyle Street, Newport.

On his eighteenth birthday (1911) he commenced a three-year contract of employment with Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies in Ipswich earning 7 shillings per week as a "turner and fitter".

He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery (Special Reserve) on 5th September 1914, probably due to his love and familiarity with horses (his family had their own stables at Newport House). He became 'Gunner Wood' No. 14361 at Woolwich on 8th September, however there is evidence that he did complete his employment contract on 9th November, and this must have overlapped in some way with his service training because he was listed as 'Driver Wood' at Woolwich on 10th October 1914. He embarked for France on 9th January 1915, serving with 33rd Brigade of 8th Division.

Eighteen months later he was recommended for a commission and attended the R.F.A. Officer Cadet School at Exeter on 15th July 1916. He was sent back to England for an operation on 31st July 1917 and was admitted to the Countess of Pembroke's Hospital, Wilton House, on the same day. He was not fit to return to France until March 1918.

He survived the war and the devastating 'flu epidemic' of 1918 (being hospitalised at Osborne House, Isle of Wight from December 1918 until January 1919). He was demobbed on 9th April 1919.

Readjusting to 'normal life' took some time and he finally married Margaret Ivy Gray in Newport on 17th December 1931. They had two children, Diana (1937) and Elliott (1942).

He did not serve actively in the Second World War, but was an Air Raid warden in Newport. When invasion threatened he remained in the Isle of Wight but moved his family to Oxford for about four months. He continued to manage the family "business" in Newport until his retirement in 1963, upon which he and Margaret moved to Ryde.

He died peacefully at his home on the 3rd November 1974 and Margaret only out-lived him by two months.

FROM THE SCHOOL MEMORABILIA

EUSTACE WILLIAM WOOD.



FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL SPORTS DAY – 1908



As well as races for the pupils the event also included the above Animal Race where the pupils ran with their pets.



The Hurdles Race which was won by Eustace Wood. Note the old fashioned hurdles!

FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL SPORTS DAY – 1908

The Parents Race. No ladies included it seems!



The start of the 440 yards Race. We have no records to say who won the various events.

THEN AND NOW PETER FORD (1944 – 1949)

Peter Ford is a regular at the annual Southampton Lunch and in 2015 the editor finally persuaded him to send in a few words about his days at school and afterwards. He was born on 27th April 1932 and initially went to Park School in Aldershot. He then moved on to The Oaks School in Aldershot with one of his classmates being John Cherryman.

Peter entered the Farnham Grammar School for Boys in 1944 and became a member of Massingberd House. From the start he showed that he was a very good sportsman and in his second year became a member of the House athletic team taking part in the sprints, high jump, long jump and relays. Academically in 1945, he won the prestigious Arthur Job prize, named after a former pupil who had died bravely in Hong Kong.

In 1945 he played cricket for his House and for the School Under 14s team and the following year he played for both the School Colts and School Second XI at football. He continued to play cricket and football for his House and the School teams while still helping in the House Athletic Team. He played football for the School at every level and this was clearly his major sport and a major contribution to Massingberd House.

In 1948 he won his School colours for football and the following appeared in the school magazine:

Ball-control of any high order was again conspicuous by its absence, except in the case of Ford. who might well have been taken as a pattern by the rest of the team. He alone seemed always to have plenty of time in which to do as he wished with the ball – always a sure sign of a good-class footballer.

Peter is proud of the fact that he played football locally up to the age of forty-six.

On leaving the School he began work experience with Alan Percy Tice at Badshot Lea, following an arrangement with Headmaster F.A.Morgan, allowing him to take up a place at Sparsholt Agricultural College at Winchester. While at Winchester Peter continued to box for the college until he was 23 years of age.

On leaving this college Peter took several herdsman posts until marrying Dorothy and obtaining the tenancy of a council farm at Kingsworthy for the princely sum of £101 – 3 shillings per annum for 36 acres, house and farm buildings.

In time Peter and Dorothy moved to another farm to begin a partnership with two neighbouring farmers, trading as Sherborne St. John Farmers Limited. They decided to retire in 1982, sold their stock and moved to Hook where they set up a landscape business.

Peter Ford and his wife have two daughters and four adult grand-children.

Peter finishes by saying that he has many happy memories of Farnham Grammar School.

THEN AND NOW

A PROFILE OF PETER SINGER (1937-1940)

Peter Singer and his wife Hanna are one of the newer sponsors for the College Awards' Scheme and sponsor the "Hans Holm Award" in memory of a well known Old Boy and brother to Hanna. I asked Peter if he would provide a profile and these are his own words.

"I was born in 1923 in Nuremberg, Germany, of Jewish parents who sent me to school in England in 1936. From September 1937 until May 1939 I was a boarder at Farnham Grammar School. My recollections of that time are rather blurred, but I remember afternoon runs, movement somewhat impeded by gasmasks in their cardboard boxes slung across our bodies.

Passionately interested in planes then, and for the rest of my life, I have vivid recollections of sketching planes with my friend Geoffrey Boulding, a fellow pupil with whom I am still in touch. To this day I have a tiny scale model I made of a Westland Lysander, nestling in an Oxo tin.

I quickly learned English and the fact that the plural of house is not hices. Mr Morgan, the headmaster, was a very fair-minded man and would not let me take German as a School Certificate subject. He thought this would give me an unfair advantage. I am eternally grateful to him for being instrumental, with the assistance of Lord Nathan of Churt, in enabling my parents to follow me to England in the nick of time.

Not yet naturalised – this only happened after the war – I had to give up my bicycle and Meccano set while still at school as I was classed as an enemy alien. Luckily I was too young to be interned.

After achieving my General School Certificate I briefly took an engineering course. This was followed by a period in Warrington where, as part of the War effort, we extruded steel bars. I then worked in Earls Court overhauling Sabre engines which were used in the powerful single-engine Typhoons of that time. It was round about this time that I became a shop steward.

When the war was over, I joined CCD (Civil Censorship Division) in Kassel, Germany. This was an American army unit where one of our missions was to find the war criminal, Martin Borman. We never did find him, but I was successful in learning to drive.

Back in England, I used my engineering experience working for Lindicator, a line indicator for typists. This was followed by my main job as buyer in a handbag firm in Muswell Hill. In later years we changed to injection-moulded footwear and I became purchasing director until my retirement.

In 1954 I met Hanna Cohn, my future wife, whose brother, Hans, later known as Gerald Holm, was by strange coincidence, at Farnham Grammar School after my time. We have

THEN AND NOW**A PROFILE OF PETER SINGER (1937-1940)**

twin daughters and have now been married for 60 years. Readers of the Farnhamian will know that my brother-in-law died in 2011.

My hobbies over the years have been photography and – surprise! – making and flying model aeroplanes. I joined a model-flying club until I had a slight stroke on 2004. Prior to that, when I was in my seventies, my family gave me a birthday present of a flying lesson at Elstree aerodrome. I was bitten by the bug and continued with weekly lessons until I had done my solo.”

Researching Peter in old magazines shows that in 1940 he won the Form Prize and also a special prize for Drawing. Quite an achievement for somebody who only learned English in recent years!

THE OFFICERS FOR THE ASSOCIATION DURING 2016**OLD FARNHAMIANs’ GENERAL COMMITTEE:**

Roger Edgell (President): Stephen Pritchard (Treasurer): Brian Williams (Secretary): Brian Williams (Membership Secretary): Cyril Trust: Michael Mehta: John Clarke: John Crotty: Michael Horner: Peter Mylles: Bill Luff: Tony Gatfield: Keith Mentzel: Brian Daniels: Wally Walsh: John Travers: Robin Welland-Jones: David Grimes: Chris Nash: Ray Cleminson: Martin Collier: Julian Walden: Hugh Batchelor: Ian Sargeant: Richard Phillips: Bryan Bone.

FARNHAMIAN 400 TRUST:

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

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WEBMASTER FOR OLD FARNHAMIAN WEBSITE:

Ian Sargeant.

EDITOR OF FARNHAMIAN MAGAZINE:

Cyril Trust

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

The 2016 magazine included an article regarding four former pupils of Farnham Grammar School who were members of the Royal Society of Chemistry. This article provoked the following comments from one of our oldest members, **JOHN MEW (1937-1942)**, who writes from his home in Ontario.

“A word to the wise on the subject of Royal Societies. The oldest and most prestigious is the Royal Society that grants Fellowship (FRS) to distinguished scientists from all areas of science, engineering and medicine. Sir Eric Keightley, James Kendall and Charles Rees were all appointed to the Fellowship of the Royal Society.

The Royal Society of Chemistry was formed in 1980 from the merger of the Chemical Society, Royal Institute of Chemistry, the Faraday Society and the Society for Industrial Chemistry.

Charles Rees was the President of the Royal Society of Chemistry from 1992 to 1994.

Eric Keightley was President of the Faraday Society from 1938 to 1945 and the President of the Chemical Society from 1950 to 1952.

James Kendall was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh from 1949 to 1954. He wrote several books, including “Great Discoveries by Young Chemists” 1953, Humphrey Davy, 1954, and Michael Faraday, 1955.

Ernest Braude was a refugee from Germany and could not have spent much time at Farnham Grammar School. He spent most of his academic career at Imperial College, becoming Professor of Organic Chemistry in 1955, but dying unexpectedly in 1956 at the age of 34. He would almost certainly have had a distinguished career like the other three Old Boys, but this was not to be, and he thus did not become an FRS, although he did win the Meldola Medal in 1950, awarded by the Chemical Society to a British chemist under 32 years of age for promising original investigations in chemistry. He published many scientific papers, but no general books like James Kendall.”

These Old Boys began their interest in Chemistry at Farnham Grammar School and clearly they were taught by the masters in this subject. Typical of the old School high standards.

John Mew and Charles Rees were great friends and worked together at the R.A.E. in Farnborough. Charles was the best man at John’s wedding but they lost contact when John went to work in Canada.

Although **TONY TUBB (1945-1951)** died in early October 2015 his memory lingers on. The previous magazine explained the problems he had when his house was destroyed by lightning and he had to wait seven months for it to be re-built before moving back in mid-September of that year. The reality of this was brought home by Channel Five, when they showed a new programme entitled “*Horrible Homes and Sinkholes*”, which covered people’s disasters

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

with their homes and the Tony Tubb story was included. His home was virtually destroyed and it was sad to see him talking about how he could never replace family photos etc that we all hoard over the years. However, he was still able to smile and look forward to moving back, and it was tragic that only three weeks after doing this he fell and consequently died.

As usual, one of the early contributors to the magazine is **MIKE MEHTA (1971-1978)**. He recalls that cross-country running under PE master Roger Grogut was not greeted with much enthusiasm during his time at Morley Road. Many years later he has taken up regular running and with former class mate **HELEN COLLETT** puts his best foot forward on Saturday mornings. They took part in Rushmoor's "Parkrun" in September 2015 finishing 45th and 77th out of a field of 174 runners. Mike forgot to say in which order they finished!



NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

As 2015 came to a close the editor celebrated as usual, but this time Old Boys were involved. A local concert for charity, featuring a well known Farnham Showband, provided an excellent show with an orchestra, guest singers and musicians. At the interval the grey haired double bass player approached the editor and introduced himself as **JOHN HIRST (1954-1959)**. John has supported the annual magazine for many years by sponsoring the advert for his company, Hirsteel Limited, and clearly he is enjoying retirement by playing with the band and raising money for worthwhile causes.

The editor and his wife then went to a hotel on Hayling Island to celebrate the New Year and as they watched a firework display just before midnight a couple in evening dress greeted them and he introduced himself as **ROD PARKER (1942-1947)**. The magazine has already included a profile of Rod and he looks well as he approaches the mid-80s.

It seems that former pupils of the old School know how to enjoy themselves and it is special to meet them and talk about old times, especially at Christmas!

An article arrived in January from **TOM GODDARD (1947-1952)** who is still producing some excellent drawings at his home in Hay-On-Wye. He still does his Sunday displays in the summer and gives away specially designed envelopes that he produces. Tom estimates that in the past fifty years he has designed over 3000 different envelopes. He sent a selection to the editor and they are quite remarkable.

Tom asked for the following to be included in the magazine as it relates to his first day at Farnham Grammar School.



The above drawing was sent by Tom to accompany his article. You can see the quality!

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

“In 1947, three boys at Ash Common School passed the eleven-plus exam, but I was the only one to choose Farnham. So when I walked from the station that first time, fresh from my thirty-minute bus and train journey from Ash, I was in a crowd, but still alone. On arrival, I felt too new to do anything but stand meekly in the narrow part of the yard leading up to the, as yet, unopened door. As I stood there, idly looking around at the windows of the soon-to-be-known Physics Lab, a man’s head suddenly popped up from nowhere. I looked away in embarrassment.

“I’ve just seen my first Master”, I thought. When I dared to look again, the Master was still there, but by now a Dickensian glower was definitely fixed on me. Then, a split second later, it happened. This Master pulled an idiotic, cross-eyed face at me. I looked away again, but this time absolutely shocked! I sneaked another look later, but the Master had gone, and I was left wondering what kind of school I was about to join. It only took me a few days to work out that the miscreant “Master” had, in fact, been George Boyce, school caretaker.”

Once again we heard from **LES PHILLIPS (1937-1944)** who told us that he hoped to attend a meeting on 1st February 2016 on an anniversary event of SOAS (School of Oriental & African Studies) and to which he applied while at the Farnham Grammar School VI Form, 1943 subject H.S.C. results. Recently when he happened to read there was going to be an event regarding Japanese wartime activities, he followed up the newspaper article and got in touch with SOAS, since when there have been numerous messages backwards and forwards

Early on Les sent them every bit of his SOAS and Japanese documents, dictionaries, course work, photos etc. The parcel cost some £8 - £9 and weighed some 9 kilograms or thereabouts. They were happy to receive it, and as, apparently the only surviving military wartime serving member coming to light, I have specially been invited to the organising panel’s get-together before the main event starts. There are six civilian members of the panel, but only two of wartime. I know the name of one, but had no connection with either.

At the time of writing Les was not sure if he could attend the event and we must wait to hear what happened. If you look at his dates at the School you will see that he is around ninety years of age and clearly still involved in certain projects. The life story of this Old Boy is still available from Roger Edgell (Secretary of the Association).

As well as being the President of the Association and looking after the excellent website, **IAN SARGEANT (1957-1962)** has been featured in the local press involving himself as the Chairman of Farnham Rotary. This is one of several groups in the town who do some marvellous fundraising in order to help local causes. At the end of August 2016 he handed over the role of President and the local press reported that during his year in office the organisation had raised over £30,000 for local causes. Ian has always been a busy person and must be congratulated for this recent role.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

The article in the 2016 magazine has prompted **DEREK POLLARD (1952-1957)** to write and confirm that he was also awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC). The award came in 1970 and Derek says that Chemistry Master Leonard Evans was his inspiration. This highly regarded Fellowship was one of several awards achieved by Derek, and joins his OBE, BSc (Hons. Chemistry), PhD (Physical Organic Chemistry), Doctor of Humane Letters (Honorary), CChem, CSi, FRSA. He also holds emeritus positions in a number of UK and USA academic institutions.

His career in Chemistry spanned 25 years, with his practical involvement ceasing when he went to the body which became the present Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and then to the Open University as a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Team operating their Worldwide Validation Service responsible for some 100,000 higher education students. He lectured in Chemistry at various parts of the University of London, and ran a research division specializing in the use of radioactive isotopes in the study of reaction mechanisms, supervising doctoral students, publishing research papers and consulting in industry and the Health Service, where the use of radioactive isotopes in diagnosis and treatment was in its infancy.

In the 1960s schools were encouraged to teach practically about radioactive materials. To do this, teachers needed to take a course of study in the safe handling of the materials. Having a fundamental belief that Chemistry should be taught as a practical subject his unit devised a course for this purpose. He had mixed emotions when he found himself lecturing to a group of teachers among which was one Leonard Evans!

Although not a President of FRSC as those highlighted in the 2016 Farnhamian, Derek has chaired several national bodies. These were primarily concerned with UK quality assurance and accreditation in Higher Education, including the Government group which introduced the Foundation Degree, The UK Council of Validating Universities, the review of Professional Accreditation of Youth Workers, the Board of Academic Governors of Richmond University (USA) and the implementation of the EY's ERASMUS Programme for student mobility across Europe. Quite a long way from his academic origins in Chemistry. But many chemists have gone on to positions as Deans and Vice-Chancellors.

Derek was a member of Morley House, played the French horn in the orchestra and became Sub-Prefect, Prefect and School Vice-Captain. He recalls that when he left the School, George Baxter (Headmaster) commented, "Pollard, thank you for being a valuable School Vice-Captain, but you must not be disappointed if you do not manage to get a degree." Derek says that he became good friends with George later and teased him unmercifully!

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Derek gained his Queen's Scout while at the School and has gone on to be Scout County Commissioner for Surrey, Chief Commissioner for England and Chairman of the World Scout Movement's Constitutions Committee in Geneva.

This is a remarkable career and well worth recording in the Farnhamian!

One of the profiles in the new book written by the editor, entitled '*Farnham Grammar School Goes Abroad*' included a profile of **STAN LYONS (1953-1958)**. Stan moved to America and built a successful business but felt it time to bring people up to date with his life. He had a quadruple coronary heart by-pass in 1997 and after some time returning to managing his hardware store found that the stress was too much and decided to retire in 1998. The business was transferred to his son and nephew and Stan and his wife Leila had a long vacation in England visiting family and friends. They have travelled extensively and Leila won a trip to the Australian Open Tennis Tournament which gave them the opportunity to visit Australia and New Zealand. They have five grandchildren with three living in the USA and two living in Norway. Therefore regular visits to Norway and England are made.

Stan keeps busy with home improvements and helping family and friends. Sounds ideal!

The Editor and his wife were very pleased to celebrate the Golden Wedding of **MAURICE HEWINS (1949-1954)** and his wife, Judy, at the end of May 2016. In retirement the couple spend a great deal of time as volunteers at the Rural Life Centre at Tilford. Maurice is very knowledgeable about hop growing and gives talks to local organisations about this subject. He is also an historian about Badshot Lea, the village where he has lived most of his life. And has written several books about the history of what was once a major hop growing area in Farnham.

While everybody was celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday, we are advised by **CYRIL PAYNE (1948-1953)** in Australia they were doing the same, but the celebration was Anzac Day in memory of the lives lost at Gallipoli etc. Cyril, who leads his own Brass Ensemble, held three services with two including the ensemble. He says that bookings ahead are brisk and the next big event will be Remembrance Day and Services. Bookings for 2017 include a tour of Tasmania and Cyril says that at 80 years of age it is tiring. He still hopes to find time to travel to the UK around May/June this year.

For the past three years **TONY HUGHES**, who entered the School in 1957, has travelled from his home in Australia to visit relatives and friends in the UK, and makes sure that he has a reunion with other classmates from the 1957 intake. The get together is always at the Good Intent, Puttenham, and is well attended as you can see from the photograph taken at the May 2016 reunion. Long may this annual event last!

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS



The Class of 1957:

**Clockwise: Bob Gibbs: Roger Edgell: Tony Hughes: Howard Torode:
Bob Frampton: John Sherwood: Clive Beal: Tim German: Richard Phillips:
David McManamon: Wally Walsh.**

Towards the end of July 2016 we heard from **JOHN VICK (1941-1948)** who moved to the West Country after retiring from managing the Vick Brothers' Group in the Farnham area. The name Vick became synonymous with the Ford range of vehicles and in the mid seventies John was appointed Chairman of the London & District Ford Dealers' Association and simultaneously the National Chairman of the Ford Dealers' Association UK. This required attending meetings with fellow dealers all over the country and regular monthly meetings with the Directors of Ford. After many years living and working locally John moved to a property near Honiton and eventually moved to a smaller property in Ottery St. Mary with his wife Matilda (Tilly) and they entered village life. John played golf two days each week and also began to enjoy the game of bowls.

As they approached their eighties both John and Tilly began to have health problems. Tilly had back problems, which deteriorated over the years and eventually she lost the use of her legs and is now either bed or wheelchair bound. John had major heart surgery at the Royal

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Brompton Hospital and of late began suffering from Rheumatoid arthritis. He is receiving treatment for this type of arthritis which affects every joint in the body.

Doctors advised the couple in 2014, that in view of their health problems they should move into a "Retirement Village" in Exeter. This development includes 2 and 3 bedroom houses (referred to as "cottages"). 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, a Club House with restaurant and bar, swimming pool, coffee lounge, and soon a Doctor's surgery which will open one day each week. John and Tilly live in this village and fortunately their daughter, Susan, lives nearby. They have two carers visiting four times each day to take care of Tilly's needs. John hopes to play bowls again as the arthritis improves.

This loyal Old Boy has now passed his mid-eighties, but still shows an interest in the Association. He has earned a quiet life and when the weather is fine and his wife feels like going out they make the most of the Devonshire countryside.

Another Old Boy who lives in the West Country and has made contact with the Editor is **GLENN HONEY (1945-1950)** who has a home at Saltash on the borders of Devon and Cornwall. Glen writes that he, and his wife Margaret, are very fit, despite being in their eighties. They owned a yacht and cruised for some 30 years, both locally and further afield in US waters and up to Russia.

They have now sold the yacht and taken up cruising in somewhat larger vessels, and their last trip was up to North Cape in Norway, then further North to Spitsbergen (80 degrees N), then on to Iceland, Southern Greenland and returning to Tilbury via the Orkney Islands. In total they covered 6300 nm and it was a wonderful 27 day cruise in the excellent ship, the "Black Watch". They are now booked for a 16 day cruise in April 2017 from Falmouth to the Amalfi Coast and back.

Glen and Margaret's son Peter and family (wife, son & daughter) live in Isington near Bentley and their daughter and family (husband and 2 sons) live at Grayshott. This brings Glen and his wife often to the local Farnham area.

It is a very long time since Morley Road days. Glen was very keen on shooting and managed to win the spoon at School in 1948 or 9, for which he was awarded his House colours. He used to practice in the RAF range in the evenings where he used high velocity .22 ammunition, which was very good, and not like the poor ammunition used at the School. He bought a box from the RAF and took it to School to try it out on the rifle range during the dinner hour. The results were unforeseen, there was a hammering on the range door and a prefect came in shouting at us to stop shooting! Apparently the bullets were passing right through the butts and the cricket team were all lying on the ground under fire. Glen did not make any comment,

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

but did not use his own ammunition after that, even though the butts were beefed up very quickly after the event. So much for Health and Safety!

Glen hopes to attend the 2017 annual lunch and many old pals will look forward to meeting him again.

The major event of 2016 was the vote to either leave the EU or stay. This was front page around the world and provoked our man in Ottawa, **MICHAEL PRENTICE (1948-1955)** to write to Boris Johnson, our new Foreign Secretary. This rather saucy e-mail read as follows:

“Dear Boris,

1. Thank-you for getting our country back – assuming that we do!

2. I loved the Churchill book, but there are a couple of howlers in it that I expect have already been drawn to your attention. In my edition, Ottawa is mis-spelled Ottawa. It’s my adopted home town, so I should know. Reuters’ legendary Paris bureau chief, Harold King, made the same mistake when reporting on de Gaulle’s infamous visit to Canada (“Vive le Quebec LIBRE!”). Perhaps more embarrassing to you is the other howler. You mention “those 165 senators who refused to throw Britain” a life jacket. There are 100 members of the United States Senate, but I believe there were only 96 or 98 at the time of the vote to which you refer. No doubt it was a slip of the pen, but I daresay most Americans wouldn’t be so lenient. And a quibble: You mention that the boat carrying Churchill docked “on” 79th Street. I’d like to have seen it; there must have been quite a scraping sound. It docked “at” 79th Street. As in, say, Broadway “at” 64th Street. Or “on” the Hudson River “at” 79th Street.

3. Ottawa has been my home for 40 years, but I’m British, well, English, as the day I was born in Farnham, Surrey. I wanted to vote in the referendum, but was denied because I have lived abroad for more than 15 years. I subsequently learned from an old school chum, Lord David Lea of Crondall, that the Government promised, before the referendum, to change the law after the referendum so that I would be eligible to vote in future elections. Is this true? If not, why not? If it’s true, are you committed to giving me back my right to vote?

Thank-you,

Michael Prentice

PS: Great job in the last TV debate before the referendum! But you didn’t have a lot of competition with the trio fielded by the other side.

The following reply came from the Personal Assistant for Boris Johnson.

Thank you, your kind e-mail has been brought to the attention of Boris Johnson MP. Mr Johnson was delighted to see that you had taken a great interest in his book. He has asked me to send his good wishes and to thank you for taking the trouble to write to him.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Our Old Boy in Canada replied as follows.

“Many thanks. Delighted to receive this, and so promptly, too. An afterthought: my heroes, in no particular order, are Gracie Fields, Maria Callas, Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill, Alfredo di Stefano, Ranjitsinhji, Harold Larwood, Mozart, Jackie Robinson, Col. John By (Royal Engineers), Howard Carter (archaeologist), and Muhammad Ali. If the Prime Minister and Mr Johnson can get us out of the EU successfully, they’ll be added to the list.

Best Wishes,

EDITOR: I am not sure I would have had the nerve to write this to the new Foreign Secretary.

In May 1916, a group of local farmers held an agricultural jumble sale and general fair in Castle Street to raise funds for the Red Cross. But amid the turmoil of the First World War, the people asked if it was appropriate to hold that kind of event. So, the programme for the event included a two-minute silence “as a token of respect to the memory of those who had fallen during the War, to the Wounded Prisoners and to those who are fighting for their country”. The event was reported in the local and national press and was later suggested to the Home Office. 3 years later, the nation held a two-minute silence on November 11th 1919, for the anniversary of Armistice Day and the silence has become an international symbol of honour and remembrance. The original document was unearthed by Farnham Maltings at the National Archives and research by the Museum of Farnham suggests its proposal of a two-minute silence was the first of its kind in the world. It was decided by several local organisations to hold a replica event on Sunday May 1st 2016. The Museum of Farnham decided to hold a three month exhibition entitled “*Time to Remember*” and the curator telephoned the Editor of the magazine to advise that much of the information came from the book entitled “*FGS in Wartime*” and could they sell the book at the exhibition. **HAVE YOU BOUGHT A COPY YET? CONTACT THE EDITOR AND HE WILL POST YOU A COPY.**

LIST OF OLD BOYS ATTENDING THE INAUGURAL AUTUMN LUNCH

J.Crotty: G.Andrews: D.Cutler: G.LeVey: D.Phillips: N.Paget: B.Daniels: G.Hooker: N. Timmins: J.Travers: B.Bone: C.Trust: W.Luff: A.Gatfield: P.Mylles: J.Peace: K.Mortimer: R.Luckhurst: G.Martin: E.Mayne: I.Sargeant: D.Roe: C.Nash: R.Stenning: R.Matthews: B. Hall: R.Phillips: B.Williams: H.Torode: R.Frampton: C.Beal: D.McManamon: R.Edgell: D.Edgell: S.Linney: J.Cope: R.Welland-Jones.

THE END OF AN ERA

On Saturday 24th September 2016 the editor of this magazine was invited to the Annual General Meeting of the FGGS-OGA (Farnham Girls' Grammar School Old Girls' Association) and found the afternoon a very bitter-sweet affair. As usual the finger buffet was excellent and this was followed by the traditional raffle. However, as the AGM took place the end result was the decision to close down the Association owing to general lack of support.

Farnham Girls' Grammar School began in 1901 with The Reverend Thory Gage Gardiner the founder, and like the school for the boys closed in 1973. For many years the girls were forced to follow the boys around various buildings in the town, until on the 20th July 1939 the school at Menin Way was opened. The OGGa was started in those early days and over the years have held a Spring Reunion Party and an Autumn AGM/Bufferet Lunch. Like the boys the school at Menin Way produced some first class students, with many making their way to universities. Like the boys, who had headmaster F.A.Morgan as the driving force, the girls had Miss Inman, the legendary headmistress. The closure of both of these excellent schools in 1973 was a blow to Farnham, and almost fifty years on the politicians are still fighting over whether grammar schools should return or not. The Association will issue a final newsletter, and it is a tragedy to see such a fine organisation come to a close. One day, in the not too distant future the Old Boys will have a similar problem as age overtakes them.



Patricia Atkinson who has been an excellent chairman of the OGGa in recent years.

THE END OF AN ERA



Anne Blunt, widow of Old Boy Graham Blunt, Molly Skillin, widow of Old Boy Derek Skillin, and Valerie Wilson (nee Wooderson) are all sad to see the end of the OGGA.

The OGGA and OFA have moved closer together in recent years and have presented several joint ventures for the former staff and pupils as well as for the people of Farnham. One of the first was the highly successful “Magna Carta” Lecture in 2015 and in 2016 they combined with the Farnham College to present “The Queen’s 90th Birthday Garden Party”.

It is hoped that future events arranged by the Old Farnhamians’ and Farnham College will attract as many Old Girls as possible. There has always been a bond between the boys’ and girls’ schools and many marriages resulted from the joining of pupils from Menin Way and Morley Road.

The editor of this issue wishes the Old Girls well and hopes that during the years ahead they will meet up with old classmates and friends to keep the spark alive. As he left the final meeting he could see a few tears in the hall as those present saw the end of a wonderful institution. I am sure the readers of this magazine will wish all Old Girls well and wonder when their time will come!

REMEMBERING AN OLD FARNHAMIAN

The death in 2015 of Bill Bodkin provoked a great amount of comment among Old Boys, with most expressing their sorrow in the passing of one of the stalwarts of the Association for many years. The editor received a letter from **JOHN CROWHURST (1942-1949)** which gave a particular view of his memories of Bill and the words are printed below as a tribute to an Old Boy.

John's letter says that Bill's death brought back many memories of childhood into youth. He grew up in Bridgefield with so many other boys who attended the Grammar School, walked the same road, and wore the same cap. He started at the age of nine in the first year after the Second World War.

"Bill Bodkin and I lived near to each other in Bridgefield with Harry Beeken between us. I met him probably in 1941, but not later than 1942. The Bodkins had an air raid shelter in their garden so it was unlikely to be 1940.

With other boys gathered around Bill's back door we exchanged names, John, Keith, Patrick, John, Arthur and Robin. With Bill's turn, William Francis Ambrose, we all looked at him in wonderment. Names beyond our imagination which set him apart from us I guess.

Bill went to a private school. The rest of us to the East Street Council School, in the summer over the meadows, over the river, up the sewage farm lane past Dudley Backhurst's house and the big walnut tree in the corner of the Dolly's nursery.

In the air raid shelter Bill had the trappings of Empire given by a neighbour; a cork helmet, a pith helmet and a camel gun twice as long as we were tall.

In the elm wood behind Bill's garden was a disused pig sty. Without parent knowledge we dug a tunnel under it into a bank. All in sand and in retrospect quite dangerous.

After air raids we would pick up shrapnel in the road along with the tinsel dropped to disrupt radar.

One morning in 1945 Bill's dad called us to the tailor's shop. Dad looked after the customers in front while his brother, Howards' father, ran the work room. From an old building at the back we pulled out a fantastic toboggan. Back seat rest. steering brakes, three or four crew. Bill took the position of steersman. It was used in the steep meadow at the end of Broomleaf on the other side of the railway. Different tribal territory! Giving instructions, even orders, while gesticulating with one of his two crutches was Clifford Williams.

Bill was more suited to academic life than me. At school he went to 1A, me to 1C, and that is where in later years we drifted apart.

We were in Frank Knight's bell ringing team. We went to the Guernsey camp, sailing from Weymouth. Bill was very sick, very ill, green, rolling on a bench to the motion of the ferry.

REMEMBERING AN OLD FARNHAMIAN

We tied up at St. Peter Port. Bill suddenly made a 110% recovery as if nothing had happened. An amazing transformation I well remember.

I well remember the winter of 1946 when the ink in the huts froze and the School closed at mid-day. The snow turned yellow from pollution. Bill's toboggan out in the afternoon. Bill wearing his cork helmet at the V.E.Party.

In 1972, stopping in Farnham on my way to Stockholm, I went to see Bill at Leighton's the opticians. I had not seen him for twenty years. He examined my eyes, it was his last day there and a day or so later came to my mother's house with my new glasses. His first customer for his own practice in Basingstoke. Now for payment! No NHS history! Bill asked for my war time identity card. My mother found it. Thirty years old! Bill took the detail, said he would get payment. I have often wondered if Bill ever got paid.

John Crowhurst travelled to Farnham in November 2015 to attend a reception arranged by the sons of Bill Bodkin in memory of their father. About fifty people attended to say farewell to a much respected and loved Old Farnhamian.

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We have already given details of the death of **RON HACK (1932-1937)** in this issue and the funeral in Kent was followed by a memorial service in Farnham where Ron was born and lived for much of his life.

On the 6th September 2016 a short memorial service took place at St. Peter's Church, Wrecclesham, when his ashes were placed in the Hack family grave. One or two old friends from Farnham attended, as did the current Master of the Old Farnhamians' Masonic Lodge.

The Old Farnhamians were represented by Roger Edgell, Cyril Trust, Wally Walsh, Chris Nash, Bryan Bone and John Travers. Also attending was cousin, Gladys Sheath (Rummery), who for many years was the Treasurer for the Old Girls' Grammar School Association.

Ron was a great supporter of the Association and attended events until recent years when he entered his nineties. At the age of almost ninety-six he was also the Oldest Living Old Boy as far as we can see.

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF ADVERTS IN THE 2016 MAGAZINE

Simon Granville-Jones, John Hirst, Cyril Trust, Stephen Pritchard, Chris Hone, Robin Welland- Jones.

FARNHAM COLLEGE SPONSORED AWARDS CEREMONY – 2016

On Friday 25th November the awards' season begins with the Guildford College Group ceremony at the G-Live Centre in Guildford. As usual one or two students attending Farnham College receive awards for being the top student and for 2016 the cheque for £100 sponsored by the Old Farnhamians' went to **Jade Hall for A Level Graphics**.

Farnham held its own awards evening on 15th December and the awards were as follows.

Laura Cook	Audrey Edington Award for Hairdressing
Charlie Castillo	Bryan Bone Award for English Literature
Oliver Hyam	Derek Skillin Award for Geography (Surveying)
Jasmine Reed/Lucy Mills	Don Homer Award for Drama
Amber Edgar Plummer/Amy Rimmer	Dudley Backhurst Award for Chemistry
Bethany Sully	Geoff Hooker Award for Mathematics
Ben Hacker	Gerry LeVey Award for Team Player
Thomas Pagulatos	Graham Blunt Award for Science
Scarlett Hatchwell/Lucy Rodger	Hans Holm Award for English & Journalism
Isabel Mabbutt	John Edmunds Award for English
Lily Bohling	John Mew Award for English Literature
Shivani Bathia	John Terrill Award for Mathematics
Hannah Jones	John Terrill Award for Sport
Nicholas White	Knotts Family Award for Engineering
Liam Trussler	Maurice Jeffreys Award for Business Studies
Joshua Brown	Paul French Award for Mathematics & Science
Rebekah De Antiquis	Peter Read Award for Drama
Edward Hartz	Robert North Award for Science
Liam Frend	Sturt Family Award for Computer Aided Design
Catherine Bookham	Tony Moore Award for Geography
Joel Lodder	Chris Nash Award for Photography

FARNHAM COLLEGE SPONSORED AWARDS CEREMONY – 2016

Jessica Staker	Cyril Trust Award for Student Management Team
Melissa Bensley	Ian Bolt Award for Science
Emilio Hidalgo	Ian Sargeant Award for Music Technology
Helayna Wass	John Crotty Award for Graphics
Leanne Fitz	John Travers Award for Student Management Team
Jennifer Gibbon	Michael Horner Award for Student Management Team
Jenna Manning/Alice Proctor	Roy Robins Award for Outstanding Achievement
Catherine Bookham	Tony Bolt Award for Student Management Team
Laura Franklin	Keith Mentzel Award for History
Aliena Ive Prior	David Milburn Award for Most Promising Student
Jasper Sandford McFadden	Brian Williams Award for Information Technology

The Student Management Team for the year was particularly strong and all members took an active part in making the Queen's Birthday Garden Party a great success. They also gave up their time to help in other areas e.g Open Evenings, Parent's Evenings.

The Guildford College Awards Evening at the G-Live Centre had Dr. Jason Jones from Farnham College as the Master of Ceremonies and as usual this was presented by him in a professional way.

The Guest of Honour at Guildford was Kamal Hyman and at Farnham it was Hannah Fox who was a former student at Farnham Sixth Form College.

The search continues for more former pupils or staff of the Farnham Grammar Schools or Farnham College to join the list of sponsors for the current students. Anyone wishing to learn more about this should contact the editor of this magazine on either of the following:

E-Mail: cyriltrust@btinternet.com

Tel: 01252 338858

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During the time that the 2015 magazine was being proof read and printed we heard the sad news that **BILL BODKIN (1943-1950)** had died at his home in Portugal. Bill was a valued member of the Old Boys' Association for many years and will be missed by many friends in Farnham.

Bill was born in the town in 1933, and after early education at Miss Murrell's he entered the Grammar School as a member of School House. He was an excellent sportsman and his main strengths were in the swimming pool and on the rifle range. He became a Sixth-Former and in 1950 entered Northampton Polytechnic, which is now City University in London. After 3 years he became a Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers and a Fellow of the British Optical Association. At the end of this he joined the RAF and was based in Lincolnshire.

On leaving the services he joined G.C.Bateman in Farnham and stayed with them for 20 years, finally managing their Farnham and Alton branches. In the early 1970s he went into partnership and bought a practice in Basingstoke, where he remained 15 years before selling the business to Leighton's, a well-known group. He worked with the new owners for a few years before retiring in 1996.

During his time living in the Farnham area he was on the general committee of the Old Farnhamians, became the Secretary for many years, and the President in 1987, 1988 and 1989. He also belonged to Round Table and was the Chairman for a period before moving to the 41 Club.

Bill and his wife became interested in living abroad and initially bought a small house in Portugal. They eventually moved to one or two other locations before settling in the Algarve. Their final home was altered by a young Portuguese architect and they spent many years enjoying the sunshine and the local way of life.

Bill sometimes travelled to England to attend the Annual Dinner and to meet old school pals. His health deteriorated and he died in October 2015. He was buried in Portugal.

On the last day of 2015 we lost one of our most loyal members when **RON HACK (1932-1937)** died at a nursing home in Kent at the age of 95. It is likely that Ron was the oldest living Old Boy at the time.

Ron was born in Wrecclesham in 1920 and attended the local school. In 1932 he became a fee paying pupil at the Farnham Grammar School where he managed to get an excellent General School Certificate. While at school he was a keen tennis player at the Wrecclesham Club and in 1937 was one of the founder members of the Wrecclesham Youth Club.

On leaving school he worked as an apprentice pharmacist for Boots and from 1941 he attended Guildford Technical College and the Chelsea Polytechnic to study Pharmacy and try

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to qualify as a pharmaceutical chemist. From 1945-1947 he served in the Royal Navy and on being demobbed returned to Chelsea Polytechnic to complete his studies and become a Ph.C.

He was now married with a family and took a position with Watney, Combe & Reid in London. To be closer to his work he moved to Worcester Park, where he lived for the remainder of his life. In 1952 the company amalgamated with Mann, Crossman & Paulin and Ron became chief chemist for the next twenty years. He became involved in the design and planning of new laboratories and did this until 1981, when he retired early.

Ron became involved in many projects when retired. He took up archaeology; he became warden of a 54 acre farm for the Woodland Trust and in 1998 became a steward for the National Trust at Ham House, Richmond. For eight years he was a volunteer driver for Queen Mary's Children's Hospital, Carshalton and in 2001 became involved in model railways.

Ron joined the Old Farnhamians' Lodge in 1954 and later became Master of the Lodge. He travelled to Farnham regularly to attend Old Boys' events, Masonic events and listen to lectures arranged by Farnham & District Museum Society. Ron always had a smile on his face and was a popular member of the Association. Like so many, he will be sadly missed!

Late in January we heard of the death of **NORMAN SEYMOUR DAVIES (1931-1936)** who died at the age of 95 on 16th January. His sister, who sent us the sad news, is Stella Bolt, the current President of the Old Grammar School Girl's Association.

The Davies family are well known in Farnham, owning a newspaper shop in Castle Street and later Lionel Davies making tennis courts available to the School at his house just across from the School gates. Members of the family were great tennis players as well as fans of the sport. Norman was a member of School House and regularly boxed for his House and took part in the Annual Cross Country Race. In 1936 he won a special prize for Drawing and later a General School Certificate Prize for Geography. Norman's funeral took place at Shoreham.

The life of this Old Boy proves very interesting, and below are the highlights from the tribute to him read at the funeral by his son.

Norman was born on 7th March 1920 in Farnham and entered the Grammar School in 1931. On leaving he joined the Post Office and then enlisted in the 7th Royal Hussars as a Tank wireless operator at the start of the Second World War. He fought in the North African campaign and in the jungles of Burma, which were particularly difficult. He was posted as missing for several months. He was one of the few who managed to escape the enemy by walking for many weeks through the difficult terrain, finally reaching the safety of the Indian border. He then fought in the Italian campaign, as tank commander, during which time he

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was decorated with the Military Medal, the second highest award for gallantry. Norman was a true war hero.

The following citation was signed by Lieutenant Col. Congreve, Commander of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars:

'During operation in Italy this NCO's leadership, bravery and coolness under fire has been an example to all. He had his tank knocked out by an S.P. gun but stayed in position observing and reporting on the enemy's movements. The following month, when crossing a river, his Stuart tank was blown up on a mine and his operator wounded, he showed complete disregard for his own safety, and although the crossing was under mortar fire he evacuated his crew and the kit off the tank. During recent operations he has commanded a troop of 25 men, acting as infantry. Conditions at times have been most trying and difficult, but by his coolness and leadership he has inspired confidence in his men.'

Norman spent five years fighting in the war during which time he was never able to return home.

After the war he returned to the Post Office. His obvious qualities of leadership, diplomacy and empathy led to rapid promotion at Farnham, Alton, Banbury, Luton and finally Brighton. During his long and successful career at the Post Office he introduced many innovations, including the adoption of post codes and mechanisation, as well as promoting Philately. His concern for his workforce was the essence of his management style. He was promoted from Assistant Head Postmaster at Brighton to Head Master at Brighton and became the youngest ever Head Postmaster Class 1.

Norman married Elsie and they had three children. He was interested in sport, excelled at tennis, cricket and soccer and later on at golf and bowls. He enjoyed painting, gardening and over the years was a member of Round Table, Rotary and Probus. In retirement he devoted more time to the church and wrote two books on the history of Shoreham Methodist Church. Norman and Elsie travelled a great deal in later years, but the family home at Corner Cottage was the centre for the family on any special occasion.

Norman organised 3 parties for his 90th birthday, but the last two and a half years he spent in Caer Gwent Nursing Home. As well as his children he had 9 grandchildren and 10 great grand children. He was a most popular man and will be missed by many people.

A few weeks after his death we heard that **VIC WYATT (1947-1950)** had died on 2nd December 2015. Vic and his brother Brian attended the School at the same time and both made their mark academically and on the sport programme. Both were members of Harding House and lived at Weybourne while they were at Morley Road.

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In 1948, Vic began to show how good he was at various sports and played cricket for the School Second XI, Football for the School Colts and Second XI, and boxed for his House. At the annual Sports Day he came third in the 880 yards and the One Mile and third in the Cross Country.

The following year he again came third in the 880 yards and the One Mile, but won the Cross Country. He was a member of the school magazine committee and received an award for good work in the Higher School of Education exams.

In 1950 he played football for the School First XI, won both the 880 yards and One Mile at the Athletics. One of his friends was Guy Bellamy, who later became a well known author and journalist, who wrote a poem about the 1950 Annual Sports' Day, including the following verse:

“It seems the masters had a job.
To keep all Harding quiet.
For both the 880 and the mile.
Were won by Victor Wyatt”.

After leaving school Vic and his pals, Ian Bolt, Michael Prentice, Brian Wyatt all lived in a flat in North London.

Vic did his National Service in the Navy, during which time he learned Russian and was monitoring the Russian fleet in the Baltic. He then attended Queen Mary College in London where he completed his BA. He worked for a couple of years for the Prudential in London but soon tired of that and went to work for the Glass Makers' Federation, where he enjoyed using his writing skills.

About this time he met his wife, Judy, and decided to become a teacher of English. He taught for while at Bungay High School and then he and his family (one boy and two girls) went to Uganda where he taught Ugandan children for several years. He later taught in Brunei and Cyprus and his final overseas assignment was teaching adults in Riga, Latvia.

Throughout his life he was a strong supporter of the Peace Movement and organised coach trips from Norwich to the various Peace Marches. One of his proudest moments was when he was arrested at a nuclear submarine base on yet another Peace March. Vic provided the Farnhamian magazine with details of his arrest and entitled it “Life in the Faslane”.

Vic's son Matthew lives in Australia and his two daughters live in Norwich, as does his widow. He had four grandchildren and of course adored them all.

Again, an Old Boy with quite a life story to tell. Many of his old pals will miss him!

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In February we were advised that probably our oldest living Old Boy had died. On 3rd December 2015 **W.N.B. (Bruce) GEORGE (1928-1932)** celebrated his 100th birthday and on 27th January 2016 he passed away. Bruce was a qualified architect with his own personal practice. One of his claims to fame was the designing of the rebuilding of the Guards' Chapel in Pall Mall, which had been destroyed during the Second World War. His other work included the Wellington Barracks in London as well as a number of hospitals and university buildings in England and Scotland.

Bruce was born in India, but when his father died he moved to Surrey in the late 1920s. Our records show that he was a member of School House and a good sportsman.

The life of Bruce George was printed in the Daily Telegraph in February 2016 and included details of his life as an architect and his remarkable story of over three years as a prisoner of war in the notorious Japanese prison camps.

For a full version of this obituary please log into the Old Farnhamians' Association website www.farnhamians.org/ofa

On 17th February **MICHAEL LEISHAM (1947-1952)** died peacefully and his funeral took place at Aldershot Crematorium on the 8th March 2016. Michael lived in St. Georges Road, close to the School, and married the daughter of a grocer, Brenda Bacon, who had a shop in that road. On leaving the School he joined the Thames Water Board and eventually became Chief Project Engineer for them. At the same time working there his two of colleagues were fellow Old Boys, Alec Goolding and Roy Remington.

Later in life Michael joined the Farnham Society, which was initiated by George Baxter, and became particularly involved in the George Sturt Appreciation Society. Sturt was a well known local author and attended and taught at the Farnham Grammar School. As far as we see Michael never joined the Old Farnhamians' Association.

We are sad to report the death of **DEREK ELSTOW (1948-1952)** on the 9th February 2016. Although he was not a member of the Association, he had many friends who were in his class and who will miss him.

Derek was an only child and attended Hale Primary School before entering the Grammar School. He was a member of Morley House and proved an excellent goalkeeper at the School. On completing his time at Morley Road he undertook an apprenticeship with REME, based in Aldershot, and was one of the top apprentices on his course. He went to work with Solartron initially and then moved to Sperry Flight Systems at West Drayton and later at Basingstoke.

His job took him abroad quite regularly and he worked in the Middle East and America. On one visit to Yugoslavia he was arrested for taking photos of aircraft, and this became a

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favourite story. He was a member of the 'Harrier Jump Jet' project and had the privilege of experiencing test flights. Derek retired aged 68 and spent his retirement as a lorry driver for Matthew Hall Contract Cleaners before starting his own contract cleaning business.

Derek played football for Ash and was a life-long supporter of Aldershot FC and held a season ticket right up to his death. He enjoyed golf, music, photography and his large family. He was married three times and had five children, resulting in eighteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Derek was known as 'Dekko' to his old classmates and 'Del Boy' to his friends. He lived in Thatcham, Berkshire, and he was always a very sociable man and enjoyed a large circle of friends. His health began to suffer in 2015 and he was diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus. He fought the disease for many months and slipped peacefully away on 10th February 2016.

Somewhat belatedly we heard in February that **DAVID W. CHITTY (1938-1945)** had died in October 2012 at a Basingstoke Hospital. The Chitty name is well known in Farnham and David was an excellent student and sportsman during his time at the Grammar School.

He was a member of Morley House and excelled at almost every sport on the programme. He was in the semi-finals of the Boxing in 1938 and won his weight in 1941, 1943 and 1944 and became Boxing Captain in 1944. He played Cricket for his House, Colts, School Second XI and School First XI. He played football for his House and in 1943 became a member of the School First XI. He ran each year in the Cross-Country and won the senior race in 1943. He was exceptional at Athletics and won many events over the years. He represented the School at the High Jump at the Surrey Secondary School Sports at Imber Court and finally became a member of the Morley Rifle Shooting Team.

In 1944 he was a Prefect, Boxing School Captain, Athletics' Committee Member, Football Committee Member and School Assistant Librarian. For the summer term he was School Captain.

On leaving the School he did his National Service and was stationed in Germany, working at the docks in Hamburg. On returning to England he went to Farnham Art School for a while and then joined Aylwin's architectural practice for a year. He went on to Brighton College to study architecture and after qualifying he joined an architect's office in Crawley Town working on the New Town.

In 1951 he married Janet Lowe from Farnham Girl's Grammar school. They had two sons, Gary and Mark, and one daughter, Juliet. In 1957 the family immigrated to Lagos, Nigeria and David (known as Jack) worked for the Public Works Department. His most significant work being the new National Nigerian Post Office, a multi story building in Lagos.

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In the early sixties he separated and returned to England. In 1968 he married Barbara Hare, also an ex-Farnham Girls' Grammar School girl. They had one son, Adam, who now works in Australia. David continued working for a large Nigerian based building company called Hammond & Sons while setting up a practice in Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

He was a keen home brewer of wines and beers and a stamp collector specialising in Nigeria. Throughout his life he loved cricket and often went to the internationals at Lords with his son Gary. In the 1970s David and Barbara left Kenilworth to set up home in Newnham and then Rotherwick, neighbouring villages in Hampshire where he retired. At this time he took up art classes producing some fine abstract paintings.

On April 22nd 2016, **ROY COMMON (1945-1950)**, one of our most loyal Old Boys died at a nursing home in Fleet Hampshire. He had been well up until that day and his family were present at the end. Roy and his brother Alan were at the School at the same time for a few years and were both members of Childe House.

Records show that Roy was not a great sportsman, although he did run in the annual cross country on occasions. Like many pupils, he left the school to begin National Service, which he described as the biggest waste of time ever!!!

He then moved to Hampshire and Isle of Wight constabulary in 1953 and began a career with the police force until 1985. He served in the police force in Petersfield, Aldershot, Hartley Wintney, Basingstoke, on the Isle of Wight, and finished his career in Fareham.

Roy married in 1960 and they had four children, three sons and one daughter. The couple divorced in 1974, and Roy remarried in 1978 and stayed with his second wife until his death.

After retiring from the police force he was a traffic warden for ten years until he finally retired at the age of sixty-five. His son says that his family and friends have forgiven him for this!

In retirement he enjoyed days out at National Trust locations, holidays in Cornwall, and his garden. He also enjoyed walks along the beach and the odd ice cream.

Roy moved into a residential home in 2013, and when his needs increased he moved into a nursing home in Church Crookham, near Fleet, for his final years. He died of old age and complications with his diabetes, which affected him for his final couple of years.

Being a Hampshire man, Roy was a great supporter of the annual Southampton Lunch. He was a quiet un-assuming man, quietly spoken with a subtle sense of humour. Yet another loyal member of the Association who has passed away!

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ROY COMMON – (1945-1950)

It looks as though Roy is celebrating something. Like many Old Boys he reached a ripe old age! His brother Alan is still a member and lives in Canterbury.

We heard via the local press of the death of member **DAVID (E.D.) MILBURN (1938-1944)**, aged 88 years of age, on 21st August 2016. The following obituary is taken from School records and details from his family who still live in Farnham.

David entered the School and became a member of School House. From the start he was one of those pupils who would prove to be an exceptional sportsman and he excelled in several areas. As early as 1939 he was selected for the Cricket Colts' XI, and during his time at Morley Road played for the Second XI and then the First XI, winning his colours in 1943.

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Over the years he topped the batting and bowling averages and in his final year scored a century against a Farnham XI. He followed the same path at Football playing as an inside-left and won his colours for this sport in 1943/44 season. In 1940 he joined the School House Rifle Shooting Team and became one of their finest shots. He was an excellent diver at the Annual Swimming Sports and won the event on three occasions. He also took part in the Annual Boxing and won his weight on two occasions. At the Annual Athletics he ran for his House at several distances as well as winning the High Jump and the Hurdles some years.

As well as the above he became a Sub-Prefect in 1944 and finally School House Captain in the same year. Academically there is little to show, although he did win a prize for Tidy Work in 1940.

He took part in many sports during the rest of his life and probably his prowess at cricket was the most successful. His son-in-law read a moving tribute to David at his funeral and the family agreed to have part of it repeated in this magazine. The editor found the eulogy so moving that it is shown below in its entirety.

"I am Jason Molle, David's son-in-law and married to his eldest daughter Jane, or Millie. It is a great honour to speak today about a truly special person, a gentle, generous, kind and loyal man, a most loving father, grandfather, husband and friend – David Milburn.

I first met David when Millie and I returned from the Caribbean en route to Kenya. Considering I was a serious boyfriend and staying at Dorma for the first time, I was given a good scrub, haircut and strict instruction to watch my table manners, and with some trepidation I met Mr Milburn for the first time. What I encountered and so many will attest to, was a sincere, generous, dependable loving man and a true gentleman with whom I shared many wonderful times together.

David was born in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire. His father died when he was just 3 years old and his mother then returned to Farnham to be with her family. It was a much smaller town then, a close knit community where everybody knew everybody.

David went to the Grammar School where he excelled at sport-boxing, athletics, swimming, football, and his great love, cricket. They were the war years and each day during assembly, the Headmaster would read out the names of past pupils who had enlisted, some of whom were never to return, and David was eager to join up as soon as he could. At 16 he joined the merchant navy, seeing enemy action in the North Atlantic convoys. When the war ended, he joined the British Tanker Company carrying oil from the Middle East, his first taste of the Arab world. He joined BP and worked in the London office for a number of years. During this time, he played cricket for Farnham Cricket Club and also enjoyed playing football for Woking FC. By the mid-1950s, he was given the opportunity to work abroad, firstly in Aden,

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followed by Kenya, and then Benghazi, Libya, where he met Rita and they were able to spend their first five years of happy married life.

They returned to the UK in 1967 and David spent several years at London Office until 1977 when he was given the opportunity to work abroad again, this time Abu Dhabi. They spent five wonderful years living the 'expat' life of sun, sea and parties, all the time enjoying golf. They returned to the UK in 1982 when David retired, and having been an overseas member at Farnham Golf Club for 20 years, he was able to take up full membership. Rita joined also and they spent many, many happy times there. At this point in his life, he also discovered a passion for cooking, probably inherited from his grandmother, and many of you will recall many delicious meals at Dorma.

For 20 odd years he very happily organised twice yearly golf tours with a group of friends to his beloved France. One of his chums from this group, the very dear, late, Keith Jackson who gave a speech at David's 80th birthday, said, and I quote:

"David's love of sport has been a fundamental part of his life: football, boxing, cricket, and golf are all sports in which he has excelled. They have one thing in common – they are each governed by a set of rules. As a boxer, you don't punch low, – as a footballer – you don't dive – as a cricketer – if you nick a catch, you walk, and as a golfer – you never improve your lie.

David recognised in every situation that such rules are to be respected and not broken. This attitude pervaded all aspects of his life, not only with sports but also with his family life and his working life, as many of you will know from personal experience, his relationship with his friends – 'he never let you down'.

David was a true gentleman, as so many of you have said in your cards and letters, and a family man, and Dorma Cottage, his home for over 50 years, was always open to all. Many of Jane's friends will remember trips to the pub with David, his culinary skills, raiding his wine and port collection and dancing to the likes of Nat King Cole, the Bee Gees, Barry White and Frank Sinatra. As children, Jane and Sarah fondly remember the impromptu parties at Dorma, mostly after David and his friends had played golf, been to the pub and decided on one more for the road!

In Abu Dhabi, the girls remember him driving them up and down the channel in the boat each weekend whilst they water skied: in Amsterdam, he introduced them to jazz: in France, to wine and food. Although a man of few words, he always loved meeting the girls' new friends.

He was a proud grandfather to Max, Kate, Megan and Thomas. He was a fabulous taxi driver, airport liaison officer, and they will miss his lemon tart and the jangling of his pockets as he fished around for some pocket money to give them!

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We will miss him beyond measure – his warm cheeky smile, the twinkle in his eye, his touch, but we all know, and he will agree, that he had a very good innings.

Certainly a fine tribute to an Old Farnhamian!

It was reported later in the summer that **CHARLES L. AUSTIN (1941-1947)** had died. He was a member of Harding House and there are little records to show his progress at the School. In 1946 he reached the semi-finals of the Boxing and ran regularly in the Annual Cross Country Races. In his final year he passed his General Certificate of Education.

Early in September 2016 we heard of a tragic car accident which resulted in the death of **DUNCAN MCGREGOR (1955-1962)**. Driving from Dorset to his new home in Plaistow, Sussex, his car left the road and Duncan did not survive the subsequent crash.

Although he was a popular former pupil of the School he did not belong to the Association. He was a bachelor, although Bridget was his partner for over 43 years, and built an impressive collection of vintage cars, including a Lagonda, and an Invicta with a value of over £1 million. Duncan was a member of Morley House and a good athlete, running sprints at the Annual Sports' Day and the Annual Cross Country Races. Academically he gained seven 'O' Levels and two 'A' Levels. His brother Andrew followed him to the School two years later.

His official eulogy consisted of five pages and if the reader would like to read the tribute in full please go to www.farnhamians.org.ofa and log into Obituaries. I have chosen one written by Chris Nash, an old classmate and friend.

“Duncan was born on the 25th May 1944 in Haslemere. He was the elder son of Ian and Grace McGregor. His younger brother Andrew followed him to Farnham Grammar School. Their father was a motor engineer and ran a garage in Churt. This was to have a profound effect on Duncan's future life choices. The family later moved to Farnham where Duncan attended West Street School. He was a notably bright pupil and passed his 11 plus exam at the first attempt. This enabled a choice of the Royal Grammar School in Guildford or the Farnham Grammar School. He chose the latter because it was only 200 yards from his family home in Great Austins. He proved a very able pupil and was upper-set in all subjects. He was a member of Morley House and played centre-forward for the School and was a member of the Sanders Cup winning team.

Outside of the School he was avidly following his interest in the world of mechanics, civil and transport engineering. He was always “hands on” too, moving on from disassembling and rebuilding racing bicycles and lawn mowers to small motor cars. So keen was he to start driving that he booked and passed his driving test on his 17th birthday. This enabled him to drive to school in his converted A35 van. The van brought him into contact with the law for

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the first, but not only, time. Vans were subject to a lower speed limit than passenger cars and when stopped for speeding Duncan argued that a higher speed limit applied because the side windows he had fitted to the van made it a car. The police were not convinced and his licence was duly endorsed.

After A Levels in Pure-Maths and Physics, he took a degree in civil engineering at Kingston Polytechnic (now part of Surrey University). This enabled him to secure a post with West Sussex CC Engineering Department based at Chichester, where he spent his whole career. He worked on many of the South of England major road and bridge schemes, including M23 and M25. He was a practical engineer and liked to get out of the office as much as possible. He did not embrace modern technology, preferring his meticulous pencil and paper notes. Computers were an anathema and his home telephone was still operated by dial.

From the 1960s he started to accumulate a noteworthy collection of vintage cars and sports-cars. Over several decades he acquired and expertly restored an Invicta, AC Ace, AC Greyhound, Aston Martin DB4 and 2 Frazer Nash cars. The Invicta took him some 30 years to restore and had been raced at Brooklands between the wars. It took pride of place. He never intended his vintage cars to be museum pieces but something more practical for everyday motoring. He chose an Austin-Healey Sprite for himself and it went through many complete re-builds and eventually clocked up 500,000 miles. Of course, running his fleet of cars, plus two railway steam engines and a canal narrow-boat was expensive and his solution was to obtain the permission of a local farmer to live in a tent on his land. This continued for some time until his finances improved. He was well known for his frugility, but only to himself. Though he was always busy he gave generously of his time to help others. He was a modest man, patriotic, and proud of Britain's engineering legacy.

He was a polymath, and interested in music, the countryside and good ale. He was keen on New Orleans and Dixieland Jazz and in particular the trumpeter, Cuff Billett. He always listened to Radio 3 Jazz and Alan Fluck, music teacher, introduced him to classical music, again on Radio 3.

Duncan loved the countryside and lived most of his adult life in Graffham in West Sussex. His motoring interests took him far and wide and he could be relied upon to find good ale. He was well known in the world of vintage cars. He never married, but was a partner to Bridget Cobb for over 40 years and treated her children as his own.

Duncan remained in contact with former classmates and always attended their annual re-union at The Good Intent, Puttenham. At a packed "Celebration of his Life" held at St. Giles, Graffham the congregation of over 200 people heard of a man who many considered was unique and irreplaceable. There is little chance we will ever see his like again."

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