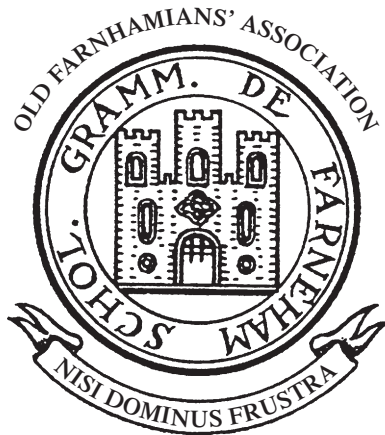


# THE FARNHAMIAN



*Twenty-Fifth Edition  
of the Modern Magazine*

March 2018

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# THE FARNHAMIAN

March 2018

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Early in the premiership of Theresa May the education in this country came under the microscope, when she announced a return to grammar schools. The debate will go on for some time and politicians, educationalists, trade unions and the teaching profession will all put forward their arguments.

In the 1960s the situation was reversed, as the then Labour Government closed down most of the grammar school network, including the two Farnham Grammar Schools', one for Boys and one for Girls. The Headmaster at the time was George Baxter and he was against the closure of the schools and joined The National Education Association with many head-teachers who were like-minded. It was all to no avail and the School closed, George Baxter resigned, and Farnham Sixth Form College replaced the former school at Morley Road.

Some memorabilia from that time has come into the hands of the editor of this magazine and in this issue are articles regarding the origin of grammar schools and what a teacher from the USA reported in the national press about the change from grammar to comprehensive schools. It makes interesting reading and one wonders if 1973 was the start of the country going from the top education system in the world to the twenty-sixth in the world. Today our children are leaving schools, colleges and universities poorly educated and this does not bode well for the future. Of course, as a former grammar school boy from a working class family, I am biased and wonder whether Mrs May can win the battle for improvement. Currently, her plans are put aside as she handles Brexit negotiations.

In this issue we have included some information regarding Farnham College which is a sign of greater co-operation between the Association and the College. Former pupils of the Grammar School may find this of interest as the number of readers slowly diminishes. The College and Old Boys co-operated to produce "Jazz & Comedy at the College", which was a great success and resulted in the proceeds going to the College to purchase computer equipment. This was the fourth event organised by the two and hopefully there will be more in the future.

The President's Lunch and Autumn Lunch were also successful for the Old Boys and the number of former pupils is amazing after so many years. Much of this is the result of the hard work by Roger Edgell and he is to be congratulated on arranging these worthwhile events. This is the 25th issue of the modern Farnhamian and possibly the last by the current editor. It has been a pleasure producing the magazines and the 1000 plus pages involved.

## 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Farnham Sixth Form College again hosted the AGM of the Old Farnhamians, still very active some 40 years after the closure of the Grammar School. As is the tradition the Old Boys stood to pay tribute to those members who had died during the previous year. They listened to a report from the President, Roger Edgell, who said that the Garden Party to celebrate the Queens' 90th Birthday had been a great success and an event to be remembered. He also said that the President's Luncheon and the new Autumn Lunch, which replaced the Southampton Lunch, had both attracted good numbers and were a success. He informed the members of the venture with employability plans for students, whereby the Association was assisting in improving the employability of students by arranging mock interviews, with the interview panel comprising of Old Boys with a vast range of business experience.

Following the report from Roger, was a review from Brian Williams, Chairman of the Farnhamian 400 Trust. Brian highlighted the Farnham Lecture, organised in conjunction with the College, by Dickie Arbiter the former press secretary to the Queen. The quality of the lecture was excellent, but the audience was poor and overall the event did not make any profit. The College Awards continue to be successful and in 2016 the Trust handed over 40 awards to the top students of the College. For 2017 all existing sponsors have agreed to continue with two new sponsors added to the list. Since 2003 this scheme has passed to the College well in excess of £30,000. Brian also said that Cyril Trust had been in contact with the families of the former headmasters, Charles Stroud and Rev. Samuel Priestley. There were plans for the former to have a bench in West Street Cemetery for the Stroud family and the grand-daughter of the latter had given to the Trust the watch used by her relative.

In the absence of Stephen Pritchard, the Treasurer for both branches of the Association it was announced that both were in a good financial position. Cyril Trust said that the 2017 magazine was now with the membership and the 2018 version was more than half completed. The magazine was felt to be up to its usual standard. Ian Sargeant announced that unfortunately his computer files had been corrupted and he had lost some of the data relating to the Association. He will endeavour to replace it and at the same time would update the information regarding the magazines on view. Ian followed with details of the College and said that attracting numbers of students was a major problem. There was great competition from Alton, Farnborough and Godalming, and Farnham must look for ways to attract younger people.

Praise was given generally to Cyril Trust for the highly successful "Jazz & Comedy at the College" stage show in April. The members voted to top up the proceeds to enable a cheque to be given to Dr Jason Jones for £1000.

Dates were given for future committee meetings and again the President urged members to persuade friends to join them at both the Autumn Lunch on 4th October 2017 and the Annual Lunch on 17th March 2018.

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## 2017 PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

Once again the Hogs Back Hotel hosted the Annual Lunch, which this year attracted over eighty Old Boys. The Farnham Grammar School encouraged loyalty and comradeship and this was evident as former pupils travelled from across the country to spend an afternoon with old classmates and old friends.

Brian Williams said grace and the guests stood for a minute's silence in memory of those Old Boys who had died during the previous twelve months.

As usual the event was meticulously planned by Roger Edgell, the current President, and the occasion went smoothly. Again the hotel provided an excellent meal and service. Over coffee Roger proposed the Toast to the Queen and all stood as a mark of respect. This was followed by a few words from Cyril Trust, who advised that there were a few tickets left for the concert to be held at the College on Saturday 1st April. Again, this was a joint venture for the Sixth Form College and the Old Boys. Cyril also told the guests of a recent meeting that he had had with the great-grand-daughter of the reverend Samuel Priestley, who was the Headmaster at the Grammar School from 1897 until 1918. He was the man who introduced the Old Farnhamians' Association in 1899 and began the Farnhamian magazine in 1912, as well as over-seeing the moving of the School from West Street to Morley Road in 1906. The lady had visited the area from her home in Cape Town, South Africa, and presented her great grandfather's watch to the Association.

Derek Bowtell introduced the Roll Call and guests stood as he called out the years. John Crotty began with his year of 1941 and John Clarke and Julian Walden closed with 1978.

The guest speaker was Sally Francis, who was Principal at Farnham Sixth Form College from 1997 until 2007. She recalled her dealings with the Old Boys and appreciated being a life time Honorary Member of the Association. Her speech was typical of this well liked Principal and contained some humorous anecdotes.

Gordon Andrews proposed the Toast to the School and told guests that in his youth he was a sickly child and frequently spent time ill in bed. To keep his mind active he began to explore mental arithmetic and in time could work out difficult mathematical sums in his head. Returning to school he amazed the teachers with his new found skill and gave an example of this. It was an interesting and different toast.

Ted Mayne followed with a Toast to the School and explained that after leaving school he worked for a while in France and learned the language better. On returning home he applied, and surprisingly obtained, a position with the diplomatic corps. This resulted in many years travelling across the globe and he thanked his old school for giving him an excellent basic education.

## 2017 PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

Roger Edgell replied to both toasts with his usual dry wit and explained that the Old Boys were increasingly involved in supporting projects at the Sixth Form College. He was sorry that the current Director of the College, Dr. Jason Jones, could not attend as his wife had suffered an accident the previous evening and was in hospital. On sitting down Vice President, Richard Phillips, thanked Roger for all his hard work on behalf of the Association and the guests applauded their President.

The proceedings closed with all standing to sing the School Song and the National Anthem. MC Clive Beal hoped to see the guests at the 2018 lunch and wished them a safe journey home. All present left the hotel after a most enjoyable afternoon and looked forward to meeting old pals in a year's time at the 86th annual lunch.



Gordon Andrews: Roger Edgell: Sally Francis: Hugh Batchelor (former staff) Ted Mayne: and Mike Potter (until recently the Principal of the Guildford College Group).

### *ATTENDING:*

G.Andrews: T.Andrews: H.Batchelor: C.Beal: D.Blunt: B.Bone: D.Bowtell: A.Chuter: J. Clarke: R.Cleminson: D.Coakes: J.Cope: P.Cope: J.Cotterill: P.Cranswick: J.Crotty: B. Daniels: D.Edgell: R.Edgell: K.Elkins: J.Fisher: P.Ford: R.Frampton: S.Francis: A.Gatfield: R.Golding: H.Groves: B.Hall: R.Hewes: T.Homewood: G.Honey: G.Hooker: C.Jarvis: M. Jeffreys: R.Jones: R.Kite: S.Linney: R.Lord: S.Lord: W.Luff: G.Martin: J.Matthews: E. Mayne: D.McManamon: K.Mentzel: A.Mills: R.Mingay: P.Mylles: C.Nash: J.Neave: I. Pearson: D.Phillips: R.Phillips:

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**2017 PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON**

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**WEBSITE:** Ian Sargeant

**MAGAZINE EDITOR:** Cyril Trust

**SPONSORS FOR 2017 MAGAZINE:**

Stephen Pritchard (Menzies): Robin Welland-Jones (Rookery Barns): Chris Hone (Hone Properties): John Hirst (Hirsteel): Cyril Trust (Ridgeway School): Simon Granville-Jones (Riverprint).

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**THE 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S LUNCH**

**TO BE HELD AT THE HOGS BACK HOTEL ON SATURDAY MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> 2018.  
MAKE SURE YOU ARE THERE TO MEET OLD FRIENDS!**

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## “JAZZ & COMEDY AT THE COLLEGE”

Guests attending the Old Farnhamians and Farnham Sixth Form College show entitled “Jazz & Comedy at the College” received quite a shock as they entered the reception area and were faced with show band leader, Geoff Hiscott, dressed as Headmaster in gown, mortar board and wielding a cane. They were urged to take their seats or get “six of the best” and were escorted to the Performance Hall at Morley Road by current students, Harry Macer and Keira Gaynor dressed in St. Trinian’s garb. This set the tone for a first class evening of entertainment.

Entering the hall pianist Ed Hartz created a delightful welcoming atmosphere before a brief introduction by Cyril Trust, the event organiser. Geoff Hiscott then led his show band into a series of jazz classics beginning with “Take the A Train” by Duke Ellington. As usual his musicians were masters of their instruments and soon had the audience in the swing of things. Guest trumpet player, Tim Eyles, sang a great version of “I’m the King of the Swingers” from Jungle Book to finish the first set.

The first guest on stage was Tegan Creedy, a former student at the College, who began with “Sway” and then gave a beautiful rendition of “Someone to Watch Over Me”. Tegan, who recently obtained an honours degree in Law, has a distinctive voice and the audience sat spellbound as her songs filled the hall. She is an exceptional talent.

Back to the show band and the humour of their leader who soon had guests laughing as he selected certain people to joke with about their school days. More jazz, more speciality songs followed and then Quintessential took to the stage. Sue Lampard and her quintet of ladies produced a lovely blend of voices and sang some close harmony songs, finishing the set with a rousing “Rhythm of Life”.

Nick Ridley with electric guitar followed with “Days of Wine and Roses” and “The Wind Beneath My Wings” and had the guests rocking with a superb version of “Another Brick In The Wall”, the old Pink Floyd hit, with the audience taking part. A perfect choice of songs and some excellent guitar work.

The second half began with more good music from the Otis B. Driftwood Show Band, including a superb version of “Misty” with Clive Pitney on saxophone and Clive Burton on trombone. Back came Tegan Creedy with “Cheek to Cheek” and a really excellent version of “At Last”. Truly a voice to remember and songs to savour.

Geoff Hiscott then introduced members of the Farnham Sixth Form College Music Group who sang and played “Upside Down”, a well known Paloma Faith hit. Catherine Bookham, the leader of the group, accompanied by Hu Shi on piano, then played a beautiful violin piece entitled “Gavi’s Song”, which brought loud applause from the audience.



## “JAZZ & COMEDY AT THE COLLEGE”

Nick Ridley began his second set with the lovely “The Way You Look Tonight” and followed with “This Masquerade”, a George Benson classic. After a quick change into a farmer’s costume he then turned to his banjo and played the old favourite “Ghost Chickens (Riders) in the Sky”, complete with new words. Again, he handed over to Quintessential who sang a ten minute Beatles’ Medley which included 10 of their songs. Finally, after more jazz and comedy numbers from the band, the finale, with the playing of “The Dambusters March” and Peter Townsend parading around the hall complete with Spitfire. It has to be seen to believe this! Sue Lampard closed the show dressed as Dame Vera Lynn and led the audience in singing “We’ll Meet Again”. This was a special evening for the College, the Old Boys and the 150 plus audience. It is hoped that £1000 was raised and will go to the College to purchase computer equipment. Dr. Jason Jones, Director of Farnham Sixth Form College, thanked the organiser, the performers and the helpers and wished everyone a safe journey home. This was a new experience for the College and a possible repeat will be considered for 2018.



Front: Nick Ridley: Headmaster Geoff Hiscott: Cyril Trust (Organiser): Second Row: Sue Lampard (Quintessential): Roger Edgell (Old Boys President): Back Row: Richard Phillips (Old Boys’ Vice-President): Jason Jones (Director of College): Wendy Craig (Chief Executive for Tindle Newspapers): Brian Williams (Old Boys’ Secretary).



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## WAS THE CLOSURE OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS A WISE DECISION?

It is now over forty years since the grammar school system in the UK was replaced by the comprehensive school system and there is still much discussion whether this has proved a successful move or not. The demise of Farnham Grammar School is a typical situation and one must question whether the modern pupils are being educated to the former level. At the 2015 Farnham Lecture Sir Andrew Carter pointed out that this country is now twenty-sixth in the world when compared to other countries. It is up to the politicians to try to alter this situation, but they were warned well before 1973 that the proposed changes would prove disastrous.

Recent memorabilia has been received by the editor of this magazine and it is worth printing a major article from the Daily Telegraph dated Friday 25th February 1966. The following makes interesting reading for former grammar school boys and girls.

### THE COMPREHENSIVE FALLACY

*By JAMES D.KOERNER, formerly of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has been studying the educational system of Britain for the American Council for Basic Education.*

For the past eighteen months I have had the enviable job of travelling around the United Kingdom visiting all kinds of educational institutions and talking with many hundreds of people in and out of the educational service. My purpose has been to look for ideas that we can use in America, but inevitably I have been caught up in the controversies that fill the educational air – especially the whole tormented question of the comprehensive school.

Frankly, I have been disheartened at your failure, if I may address my readers with a collective “you”, to look abroad to see what might have been learned from other people about comprehensive schools.

The United States has probably had more experience with such schools than any other nation in the world, and you could do a lot worse than take a detailed study of that experience. If you did, you might then reconsider your decision to “go comprehensive”, or at the very least you might avoid some of our mistakes.

Faith and doctrine have badly outstripped knowledge in your present politics. Looking at English education in the light of the American experience, I would say that you are going to pay a stiff price for changing your present system to what is wholly comprehensive.

The main problem is that you expect so much of something called a comprehensive school. You expect it somehow to correct all the deficiencies that you have for years refused to correct in the present system.

## WAS THE CLOSURE OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS A WISE DECISION?

### Sweeping Changes

The comprehensive school will rescue, you say, those children who would otherwise have been misjudged at 11-plus: it will make for fluid movement within and among streams: it will equalise and extend educational opportunity for all children: it will allow good students to move ahead as well as they would in a grammar school and at the same time encourage the less able by their example.: it will develop everybody's capacity for intelligence and make the most of Britain's "pool of ability": it will allow economies in buildings and equipment: it will make the service of the best teachers available to all instead of to a narrow band of top students. Most of all, it will overcome social barriers and snobbery and inequality, and put an end to the social divisiveness of the present system.

But the comprehensive school, I regret to say, will not necessarily do any of these things, certainly will not do all of them and probably can never do some of them. Moreover, none of them really has much to do with how schools are organised and administered. Most of the things that need doing in British education could be done through the existing school system. For example, the mistakes inevitably made at 11-plus, which you should have long ago done something about, could be corrected just as well, perhaps better, in the present system as in a comprehensive one, if you could bend yourselves to the task.

The pool of ability could be plumbed just as deeply, perhaps more so, in separate as in comprehensive schools. If that is what you want to do. The "Newsom children" could be educated just as well, perhaps better, in secondary modern as in comprehensive schools, especially if the number of your educationalists, sociologists and politicians would stop telling the modern schools how awful they are and get busy trying to make all of them as good as the best of them.

All this is, however, unrelated to what I take to be the main reason for going comprehensive. Whatever the educational arguments, it is clear to me after listening to the discussion for 18 months that the idea of social equality is what the fighting is mostly about. In my view this is the weakest and less tenable ground on which to base the comprehensive movement in Britain, for two reasons.

First, comprehensive schools, because they are comprehensive, serve relatively small catchment areas precisely in those parts of the country where problems of inequality are greatest – in and around cities. Here the comprehensive school becomes indeed a neighbourhood school. This obviously means that the quality of a given school is often dictated by housing patterns. Housing patterns are becoming more, not less, homogeneous with middle-class parents fleeing the cities to the desirable suburbs and the lower-class families concentrating more than ever in undesirable areas of the cities.

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## WAS THE CLOSURE OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS A WISE DECISION?

The result, as can be seen in thousands of cities of America, is socially homogeneous schools that are called comprehensive. They can be very impressive in, say, an affluent Chicago suburb that may spend £500 a year on each child, and they can be appalling 15 miles away in a downtown slum. The social effect of such schools is to reinforce rather than combat class consciousness.

One can debate the causes and cures for this condition, but the immediate point is that neighbourliness between classes is not a function of the comprehensive school where neighbourhoods are themselves homogenous.

Second, it is very doubtful that schools, no matter how they are organized or what the housing patterns are, can create such a thing as social equality. They can strengthen it, but only if the driving force comes first from the community at large, as it has in the United States. To be sure, there is a wide gap between the theory of American society and the practices we all know about: but equality is still a major characteristic of American life.

### **The Social Pattern**

The egalitarian impulse of American society, its dislikes of artificial barriers and unearned privileges, gave rise to the kind of schools that would reinforce these same convictions. But it probably does not work the other way around. If there is no real consensus in British society in the support of the equality of classes, you may expect organisations so closely related to homes as are schools to do the job. People, not institutions, decide what a community will be.

All this does not argue against comprehensive schools. I am myself a graduate of a typical comprehensive school in a typical city of the American West, and my instincts are with this kind of school. Although we still have serious problems to solve in our comprehensive schools, I would oppose any movement to reorganise our educational system in some other way. I am sure we must solve our problems without the cataclysmic effects of converting to a different system.

But our system is not yours. For Britain I would argue what I can only call the ill-considered, headlong rush into a monolithic system of comprehensive schools that is now being encouraged, indeed commanded, by the Government.

There is a strong case to be made in Britain for maintaining multiplicity in types of schools, for avoiding massive standardisation, for leaving room for heterodoxy and choice and dissent, even within the State system. And surely there is an even stronger case to be made for the survival of those many schools, both independent and maintained, that have earned over many years a reputation for excellence, some of them the envy of half the world.

## WAS THE CLOSING OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS A WISE DECISION?

By all means have comprehensive schools, and don't wait for research to tell you how to do it – educational research is primitive and eminently unreliable. But why assume that one type of school, one of which you have little experience, is so superior that it must prevail at all costs throughout the country? Why are you not content to build comprehensive schools (as we did in America) in new towns, or in places where for special financial or geographical reasons they offer clear and concrete advantages, or in places where existing institutions of established quality do not have to be sacrificed?

### Triumph of Dogma

Instead you seem perversely bent on dismantling the whole system you have been building these many years. Your comprehensive spokesmen seem to be saying that the wisdom of going completely comprehensive in a short a time as possible is so self-evident and incontestable that no reasonable man can disagree. The certitude of your comprehensive zealots awes me.

The greatest problem of the American comprehensive school has been to escape mediocrity – to avoid having the standards and the ethos of the school established by the average instead of the best. Thus it is both bizarre and tragic to see Britain now attacking and threatening to destroy its best schools in the name of comprehension. I was shocked and saddened, for example, by Mr Crosland's recent cannonade against those unique institutions, the direct grant schools.

Academically these schools must be among the best to be found anywhere, and socially they are fully as mixed and democratic as thousands of schools in America. For the English people now, with forethought and deliberation, to set about destroying the flower of their education system seems to me, if I may put it candidly, sheer masochism. It is the triumph of purblind political dogma over educational common sense.

So I hope Britain will think again and perhaps redirect its welcome sense of urgency in education. If I had time and opportunity to say only one thing to Britain, it would be this; My dear fellow, get your priorities right and stop sweating so much about where snobs and rich men send their sons to school, and where many not so rich and not so snobbish, and even Labour lords, send their sons to school. Stop fighting the best of your maintained schools. Stop shooting at the direct grant schools. Stop quarrelling with educational excellence as though it were a reprehensible thing or simply because everybody can't have it.

In short, take the revolver from your own head and save yourself for the greatest of all educational problems that confront you: *How to get and keep first-rate teachers, in decent classrooms, with classes of reasonable size - throughout the country - for the extended schooling of all children.* This is the supreme problem of English education for a long time in the future, no matter how you organise secondary schools.

JAMES D. KOERNER.

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## WAS THE CLOSURE OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS A WISE DECISION?

Accompanying this article in the memorabilia were a number of documents issued by an organisation entitled, "The National Education Association". This was an organization begun by grammar schools, parents etc., to put forward the case against the comprehensive system envisaged by the Minister for Education and his political party. As we all know they failed to stop the changes occurring and many of our finest schools were closed down, among them the Farnham Grammar Schools. Since this great change of direction the standards of education in Britain appear to have slowly eroded, but still politicians from all parties continue to tinker with the system.

*EDITOR: Re-read the article by James D. Koerner and substitute the word "academy" for the word "comprehensive", and ask yourself if we are taking another dubious step.*

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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

When the estate of **TONY MERSON (1961-1968)** had been finalised the Editor of this magazine was given a bag filled with items and paperwork concerning the former Farnham Grammar School. There were many newspaper clippings, with some going back to 1915, several postcards of the School, and two items in particular.

One was a printed list of all former pupils of the School who were serving in the armed forces in 1915. Their regiments are shown and at that time 13 Old Boys had lost their lives.

The other was the original printing block for the first Farnhamian magazines and used by the printer E.W.Langham. The block was designed by D.Warner, a pupil at the School, and used from 1912 until the mid 1940s.

We also received a letter from the solicitors in charge of the estate for **TONY TUBB (1945-1951)** stating that Tony had left £100 to the Association in the expressed hope that the sum will be used to fill the Loving Cup and everyone's glasses at the Annual Old Boys' Lunch. A very generous gesture by Tony, who was a loyal member, and valued his association with the OFA.

At the end of August the Rural Life Centre at Tilford presents "Rustic Sunday" which is a celebration of the former farm and rural life of Farnham and District. For the second year the Public Address system was managed by **KEITH MORTIMER (1952-1957)** who guided the many visitors around the various events on the day. One of the stalls was run by **MAURICE & JUDY HEWINS (1949-1954)**, WITH Maurice an expert on the history of hop growing in the area and Judy demonstrating the making of "corn dollies". Both of these Old Boys spend a day at the centre helping to improve what is now regarded as the major rural life centre in the South of England.

## THE BEGINNING OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

For many years it was thought that the Farnham Grammar School for Boys began in 1351 and developed from a chantry at Farnham Castle. Over the years different people attempted to have this fact confirmed but there was no actual proof that this date was correct.

Former teacher, Ned Godsil, spent a great deal of time trying to find more information and the earliest record that he found was confirmation that a yeoman of Farnham, Richard Searle, gave twenty shillings ‘to the maintenance of the School of Farnham’ in 1585. George Baxter, the Headmaster, decided that this should be regarded as the year that the Grammar School opened and anniversaries etc., have been taken from that year.

Among memorabilia left by Ned Godsil was the following document, which explains where the term “grammar schools” came from.

*“From the early times the Church was closely associated with education and learning. The earliest schools in England were associated with cathedrals and collegiate churches, such as King’s School, Canterbury, founded in AD 598 and St. Peter’s, York, founded in AD 628. About twenty of these schools were established before the Norman Conquest, but in Surrey the earliest schools were the ‘chantry’ or ‘grammar’ foundations of the later medieval period.*

*A chantry was a small establishment endowed with a benefice for a priest to say daily Mass for his patron. Sometimes the priest also taught local children in the parish church. Some of these ‘schools’ gave ‘elementary’ education, while others became ‘grammar schools’ whose chief purpose was the preliminary training, almost exclusively in Latin, of ‘clerks’ for the Church, the State, the Law and other professions.*

*Not all early grammar schools originated as chantries. Some were separately endowed, but they were affected by the Reformation. Edward VI’s Chantry Acts of 1546 and 1548 dissolved many of them. Others were awarded fixed grants of money in return for their lands and, with the depreciation of the currency, became impoverished and insignificant. A few retained their lands or received new ones. For more than three centuries, Edward VI has enjoyed an undeserved reputation for founding schools. In fact, the ‘Edward VI grammar schools’ were simply those existing schools which his officials did not destroy”.*

With the advent of the new Theresa May Government there is talk of expanding existing grammar schools and opening new grammar schools. Whether this change of direction in education in the UK will come to pass is for politicians and educationalists to discuss. The record shown here at least gives the reader an insight into the beginnings of the term “grammar schools.”



## NEWS OF A HEADMASTER'S FAMILY

Over the many years that Farnham Grammar School existed there were a few headmasters who made their mark and stood out as outstanding leaders. The editor keeps in contact with the Stroud family and exchanges information as it arrives, and now from nowhere comes contact with the relatives of the Reverend Samuel Priestley who was head of the school from 1897 until 1918.

He took over the reins from Charles Stroud and was in charge of the move from West Street to Morley Road in 1906. He was also the instigator of the Farnhamian magazine with the first issue in December 1912. He was also in charge during the First World War and it is said that his death in 1918 was the result of his sadness in losing so many of his former pupils in the war. He clearly had a close relationship with the boys and there are many letters on record from the war front to him and his wife.

In October 2016 we received an e-mail from a lady named Marian Ferris, the great granddaughter of Samuel Priestley. It came from Cape Town in South Africa and referred to a watch that her family had found belonging to Samuel Priestley. It had been presented to him from the orphanage where he lived and Marian wanted to know if the Old Boys would like it for their museum.

Of course the answer was affirmative and it is hoped that she will present it to us when she visits this country in the future.



The rear of the watch is engraved Freeman's Orphan School, and was awarded by Sir John Bennett to Samuel Priestley for English Literature in 1874

## NEWS OF A HEADMASTER'S FAMILY

The Reverend Samuel Priestley married Fanny Kimble They had four children: Lance (born 1900): Clem: Jessica (Muffy) & Michael

LANCE: (Oupa) married Jean Kitching. He served in the Royal Marines/Royal Navy and lived all over the world. The couple had one daughter born in Portsmouth, June (1929-2014)

CLEM: Studied at Cambridge and travelled the world teaching. He died in Rhodesia.

JESSICA: (Muffy): Married Eric Faulkner (widowed, no children). Died in 1989, Great Ayton.

MICHAEL: Married Katherine (Kitty, no children) Had no contact with the family since 1980s. He did not come to South Africa.

JUNE: met John Ferris, a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Navy (later the South African Navy) in Simonstown in early 1950s. John Ferris was born in Durban in 1927.

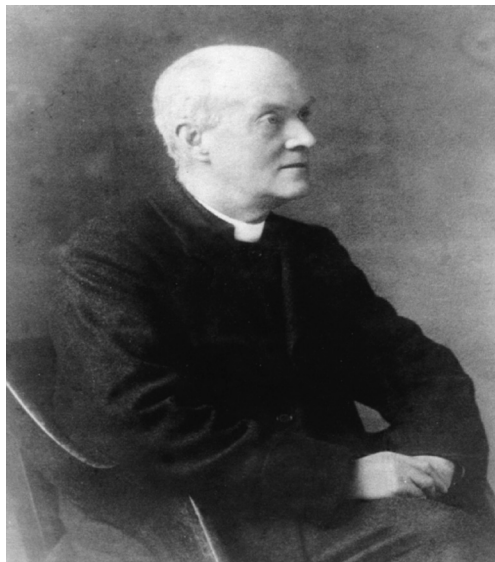
JUNE & JOHN: Had two daughters. MARIAN born in Durban in 1953 and ANNE HAZEL born in Durban in 1955.

MARIAN: married Leon Plutsick and they had a daughter AIMEE born in 1992 in Jo'burg.

ANNE HAZEL: (Annie) married Trygve Hvidsten and had Karl born 1983. Wendy & Robyn born 1986. All born in Cape Town. Annie & Trygve live in Noordhoek in the Cape Peninsular. They are 'twitchers' and do this mainly up north in the bush.

MARIAN: lives in Stanford, near Hermanus on the southern Cape coast.

AIMEE lives in Guildford and Robyn lives in Putney.



## REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER

TOM GODDARD (1947-1952)

*Like many Old Boys we have time to recall events from the past and Tom Goddard has sent in the following article recalling his days employed at a special school in Herefordshire. Tom feels that his love of history was down to the teaching of Brian "Buzz" Varey and his thirst for knowledge a result of attending the Farnham Grammar School.*

"I worked for some twenty years at a Special Residential School in Herefordshire, where the aim was to help disadvantaged "Brummie" (Birmingham) lads who had all suffered badly in their early life and needed all the help they could get with their education. The school was an old Victorian Manor House and, living there so long, I became fascinated with its original occupancy.

The caring for poor disadvantaged children began in the late 19th century. As a young man Frank Matthews would take about thirty slum kids out of Birmingham City and six miles north to Sutton Park for a Sunday of rambles and games interspersed with generous helpings of cocoa and sandwiches. Frank cadged the use of furniture carts because they were not working on Sundays. Another Sunday would be the girls' turn. Frank spent his whole life raising money for disadvantaged children and Bodenham School, opened in 1950, was his finest achievement.

The manor was built in the late 1830s for the newly arrived vicar, Henry Arkwright, who was still in his twenties and fresh from university. Henry was very privileged, being the great-grandson of the Richard Arkwright who revolutionised cotton spinning and began the Industrial Revolution. Henry's uncle, John, owned the Hampton Court Estate, of which Bodenham was a part, and organised the building of the new vicarage for his nephew on the estate. The Arkwright family were still the richest commoners in the land, so money was no object.

The longer I lived and worked at Bodenham School, the more fascinated I became with my environment and the connection with the past. Classrooms in the 1960s had been coach-houses and stables one hundred years before. Haylofts had become bedrooms, and, in the main house, the butler's room was now the school sewing room! The original wine cellar became the coal hole! In the grounds the huge walled garden that had supplied fruit and vegetables for the house had completely overgrown and had been written off for decades.

I was not a proper qualified teacher at the school, but I was expected to do all I could to enhance the general education of the boys and constantly widen their horizons. Thus I was charged with keeping over 120 square feet of pin-board full of interest with poster work on all manner of subjects – the new Sunday supplements were a great source of pictures and ideas as a starting point. I also organised all educational visits, from the making of bridges or buses to the making of a box of matches or nuclear partnership with r power, by way of cider and chocolates, to name but a few.

**REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER****TOM GODDARD (1947-1952)**

It was all carefully planned to boost a boy's experiences and hence his self-esteem as much as his education. One wet Sunday afternoon, I took three boys to the Hereford Records' Office and discovered a wide wealth of information locked away in the Hampton Court Estate records of the 19th century. From the original estate map we discovered long-gone cottages at the edge of the school grounds that had existed 100 years earlier. Out of that came six months of primitive archaeology in which all kinds of things were uncovered by the boys. Among the items were a Bristol Blue Chamber Pot, a George IVth Penny, and some pattens, an iron ring that was fastened under women's shoes to raise skirts above the mud.

I continue to explore the history of the Arkwright family and have old photographs of the various members, old letters, and general memorabilia. I also designed a "First Day Cover" 2009 when Richard Arkwright featured in a stamp issue on "Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution" : it was the Family Tree of the Herefordshire Arkwrights.

I eventually met a surviving member of the Arkwright family. I met David Arkwright at Kinsham Court, here we conversed for an hour or more. This was where his Member of Parliament father had retreated to when the family gave up the Hampton Court Estate in 1906.

*During the meeting with David Arkwright, Tom asked if he could take copies of the family photos etc., and included copies of some of them in the package sent to the editor.*

**AN UPDATE:**

The above article was sent to me by **TOM GODDARD** two years ago and I have found it difficult to find the space in the two previous magazines to print it. He writes every six months or so and in April 2017 informed the editor that he had recently heard that Bodenham Manor, where he had worked for many years, had been demolished. Tom visited the site and found that all had gone except for one building (the equivalent to a Victorian Garage).

Tom says that we are lucky that the old School in Morley Road is still standing and not demolished to make way for a large estate of "little box" houses.

Tom still has his memories and has begun to give talks locally in Hereford. His subject is "Pictorial Envelopes and their History". He says that at his latest talk he received a good round of applause from a sort of 'Meet and Eat Luncheon Club'.

Over the years the Editor has received many of these pictorial envelopes from Tom and the artwork is remarkable. It requires a special talent and a wicked sense of humour and clearly Tom has both.

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## MEMORIES OF A FORMER TEACHER

Towards the end of 2016 there appeared in Farnham and Alton a series of talks and exhibitions about the life and times of W.H.Allen (1863-1943). Firstly a lecture was given at the Museum of Farnham about his life, and in November exhibitions of his work were held over two months at Farnham and Alton. He was a notable English landscape painter and he was invariably referred to as “WH”. Born in London of parents who came from Alton he was for many years Director of the Farnham Art School. He produced literally thousands of watercolours, chalk and pencil sketches, mainly of the landscapes, traditions and people of West Surrey and North-East Hampshire. He also travelled to many countries and produced paintings of scenes from most European Countries. His work was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1927 and he moved from Farnham to Wiltshire in 1932 and is buried at St. Nicholas’s Church, Fisherton de la Mere. He was a follower of the Arts & Crafts group.

So, what has that got to do with Farnham Grammar School? The following appeared in the Farnhamian magazine dated June 1943:

*“And yet another link with former days has been broken by the death of W.H.Allen at the age of seventy-nine years. He was for many years Principal of the Farnham School of Art, and as a visiting master was responsible for the teaching of Art at Farnham Grammar School. A large number of Old Boys will read with regret of the passing of one who, out of a sensitive and cultured personality, not only taught their fingers to draw, but inspired them with his own passionate love of beauty.”*

One of his best friend’s was George Sturt (1863-1927), the well known author and one of only three former pupils of the Grammar School who returned as a teacher. With Sturt he visited local schools teaching woodcraft.

One of his pupils was Harold Falkner (1875-1963), who lived in West Street next to the old School and was responsible for designing about 115 buildings in Farnham. Falkner was the first secretary of the newly formed Old Farnhamians’ Association in 1899 and after leaving school joined Guy Maxwell Aylwin in a successful architect partnership. Later this business was run by John Aylwin, Chair of Governors at the School and President of the Old Boys. Tony Aylwin is still in touch with the Association from his home in Kent.

The Museum of Farnham is exploring the various main streets of Farnham and trying to work out who lived at the houses over the years. The editor will be involved in the history of West Street as Harold Falkner lived at Number 24 from 1883 until he died. Next door at Number 25 is the current Adult Education building which was the home of both the Boys’ and Girls’ Grammar School at various times.

Again the former Grammar School seems to have been a great influence in the growth of Farnham.

## MEMORIES OF A FORMER TEACHER



W.H.Allen (1863-1943) - Art Master at Farnham Grammar School

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Over recent years, when I begin the new magazine I can rely on **MIKE MEHTA (1971-1978)** to provide the first article for this section. This year it is no different and below is a report on his latest activity. The event was in November 2016.

Mike was in the same class as **JON KNIGHT** in 1971, and they decided to take part in the recent cross country event in The Chiltern Hills which was raising money for The Richard Cann Wildlife Foundation. Richard, who died working in Indonesia, was the son of Kate Heathcote, who was at Farnham Sixth Form College at the same time as Mike and Jon.

Mike reflects that the run was a little different to the compulsory cross country runs held at the old School over 40 years ago. Both former pupils completed the distance and raised a worthwhile amount in the process.



## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

**RAY STENNING (1956-1962)** was driving to attend the new Autumn Lunch in Farnham and his thoughts turned to memorable experiences from his days at the Grammar School. Arriving home he put pen to paper and sent in the following article.

“During a trip up from my home in Devon in October I was pleased to be able to attend the OFA lunch in The Bush Hotel in Farnham, where there was the usual chat about our days at the School and people and incidents we remembered. I have a T-shirt at home bought for me by my son which proudly proclaims “The older I get the better I was”, and I am sure that this was the spirit in which much of the conversation was conducted. It was during the lunch that an incident from those days occurred to me and I think it may be of interest to other Old Boys, some of whom may even remember what happened.

It was a lunch time like any other. Form 4 were beginning to congregate outside the old black classroom block containing rooms 6, 7, and 8, waiting for Mr Beasley to take the afternoon register. One of our number, I believe I can remember who it was, but in order to avoid a law suit I will not attempt to name him, had a book of matches and was flicking them around as you do when you are 15 and a bit bored. In one of the wooden planks forming the outer wall of the book and paper store next to room 8, there was a fairly large letter “T” cut which some pupil of the School must have carved out in an earlier age. In his enthusiasm he must have carved right through the wood as what remained was a T shaped hole into which all manner of sweet wrappers, bus tickets and other debris had been deposited over the years.

What possessed the assembled group there back in 1960 is hard to understand when you are no longer a teenager boy, but some bright spark (no pun intended) thought it would be a great idea to pop a lighted match into said T shaped hole. Possibly they wanted to test out the theory learned in Mr Bristow’s Physics lesson that there needs to be plenty of free oxygen to get a fire going, although I am sure there wasn’t any predetermined attempt at a serious act of arson. For a while nothing seemed to happen, then after a minute or so wisps of smoke were seen seeping from between the overlapping, well tarred planks of the store room wall. Looks of bemusement and then horror appeared on boys’ faces and panic began to set in. Would the books catch fire? Would the whole wooden building go up in flames?

On the wall of the cloakroom and changing room nearby there was a drinking fountain and, although it is difficult to remember the facts clearly from over half a century ago, I believe I was the first to think of dashing there and getting a mouth full of water which I returned with and squirted into the T. Others followed and mercifully the smoke gradually petered out and we breathed a collective sigh of relief as, not only had a fire been extinguished, but no teachers had arrived in time and no prefect or other supposedly important (or perhaps sneaky) character decided to report the incident.



## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

In these days of Health and Safety and much coddling of school age kids, I am sure such buildings would be condemned like the old barn of a gym was in our day, but I wonder what would have happened if those books and tarred planks had really caught fire and there had been a major incident. A number of lives could have been significantly affected and I am sure we were all thoroughly thankful for the presence of that old drinking fountain, even if the water from it did have a distinctly leaden flavour about it.”

Owing to the number of obituaries in the 2016 magazine we were unable to print the latest cartoon from **TREVOR ANDREWS (1948-1953)**. Trevor recently moved to Worthing and has become involved in local committees. The first is the Residents’ Association, where he is the Planning spokesman!! (means he has to attend Council planning meetings to speak on behalf of the residents if they object to plans affecting their neighbourhood). The second is a committee that has been set up owing to the huge public anger at the plans for the main trunk road through Worthing on the A27. The Government want to tinker with a few junctions whilst the residents feel strongly that a by-pass is required and not a through-pass. A by-pass has been planned for many years and houses were sold 20 years ago to allow for it to be built. Trevor has offered his services to do any artwork, posters, cartoons etc.

He included in his e-mail his Christmas card that he has designed for the Council showing the Three Wise Men chasing Mary & Joseph saying “Sorry we are late, but we were delayed on the Jerusalem Through-Pass!” Clearly Trevor is enjoying a move to the seaside!

Searching through e-bay the following photograph appeared. These are a set of medals won by a former pupil of the Farnham Grammar School, **DENNIS COXALL (1932-1936)**.



## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

Dennis was born in 1921 and attended the School for four years as a member of School House. He was an all round sportsman and played for his House and the School as well as taking part in many individual events.

In 1934 he came 3rd in the Junior 220 yards and in 1935 and 1936 won, or was placed, in the 110 yards, 220 yards, Hurdles, House Sprint Relay and House Distance relay. Although an excellent athlete his most decorated race was the Three Legged Race with his House pals. He reached the semi-finals of the Boxing, belonged to the House Rifle Shooting Team and always took part in the Annual Cross Country Race.

We are told that he joined the Royal Air Force and flew Mosquitos on "Pathfinder" missions with Bomber Command in World War Two. One wonders how much the medals were sold for.

It was reported in the press that **JEFFREY TATE (1954-1961)** had received a knighthood in the New Year Honours List. Probably our most famous Old Boy the following was taken from the Farnham Herald.

*'Chief conductor of the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra and former Farnham schoolboy, Sir Jeffrey Tate, was knighted for his 'services to British music overseas' in the New Year Honours List. Jeffrey, who is keeping busy conducting Beethoven's Missa Solemnis at the Hamburg Concert Hall with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra and the New Philharmonia Choir, moved to Farnham in 1950, where he attended Wrecclesham Primary School and Farnham Grammar School (where he was head boy), before moving on to Cambridge to read natural sciences.*

*He qualified as a medical doctor at St. Thomas' Hospital in London but never became a practising doctor. Instead he pursued a career in music, studying at the London Opera Centre. He became a répétiteur and coach at the Royal Opera House in London, under the instruction of Sir Georg Solti, and has had a distinguished musical career ever since. He is currently principal conductor of the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, and has been since 2009.*

*Alongside this he is president of the Farnham and Bourne Choral Society, and has in the past, held positions with the English Chamber Orchestra (principal conductor), the RAI Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France and the Royal Opera-Covent Garden. As well as principal guest conductor of the Orchestra Nazionale della RAI, in Italy, he was appointed musical director of the San Carlo Theatre in Naples.*

*Born with spina bifida, a condition where the spine does not develop properly, leaving a gap in the spine, Jeffrey has for a number of years raised awareness of the condition and has been president of Shine Charity (formerly UK Spina Bifida charity) since 1989. He also suffers from kyphosis, a condition of the spine that causes the back to appear more rounded than*

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

*normal. In recent news, by the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, it was announced that Jeffrey will continue his journey as its conductor through to 2019'.*

*Copyright-Farnham Herald-26th January 2017*

I am sure that all Old Boys would like to congratulate Jeffrey on this great achievement!

This magazine contains an article about the Reverend Samuel Priestley, headmaster from 1897 until 1918, and refers to a visit by his great grand-daughter from South Africa. The editor met Marian Ferris and took her on a guided tour of Morley Road, West Street, and finally the Museum of Farnham. She was delighted to hear details of her relative and as promised presented the editor with his watch.



Marian Ferris, Emma Sutcliffe (assistant curator of the Museum) and Cyril Trust (with watch)

We have heard from **MICHAEL PRENTICE (1948-1954)** who has decided to spend time looking into the family history. With the aid of Google he has found that his maternal grandparents lived for twenty-years with the groom for the horses owned by the Duke of Devonshire, and two other members of the family played first-class cricket. As Old Boys approach or reach the magic 80 years of age it is common to look back and trace your roots. One wonders what comes to light looking into the past. Why not try it!

## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

In March 2017 the editor was asked if he would take part in a seminar at the Museum of Farnham with the subject being “Game Changers”. This featured different speakers talking about people who over the years had been a great influence on the town of Farnham.

The editor chose **CHARLES STROUD**, who was the headmaster at the Grammar School from 1853 until 1897, and who was responsible for saving the school from administration in 1861 and grew the number of pupils from less than a dozen to well over one hundred. Those who followed him have much to thank him for, and without him the school would never have become the centre of excellence that it was for so many years.

The editor invited members of the Stroud family to attend and three of them came to Farnham to take part as well as visit the school buildings in West Street and Morley Road and the Stroud family graves at West Street Cemetery. After the editor had completed his profile of Charles Stroud, Jenny Stroud took over and explained to the audience what happened to the various sections of the family. The two hour seminar proved very successful and the Stroud family are now planning to place a bench in the cemetery which will be dedicated to Charles and William Stroud in particular. The editor has been invited to take part in the ceremony.



Jenny Stroud: Patricia Stroud: Robert Stroud. (GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN) with Cyril Trust

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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

We heard again from **LES PHILLIPS (1937-1944)**, who was pleased to read the item about him in the 2017 magazine. He recalls being a Prefect at the School and looking after a young **GRAHAM BLUNT** when he was a new boy. Les has once again made a generous donation to the Association and keeps in contact with former school friends.

The May Bank Holiday in Farnham included the Spring Festival, with stalls and live entertainment in Gostrey Meadow. The first act on stage was the popular Rock Choir, with about 100 singers, mostly female. However, tucked away at the rear of the choir were one or two males, including **BOB FRAMPTON (1959-1964)**. He clearly enjoys singing with this excellent choir and they raise a large amount of money for charity each year. He joins long term singers **GEOFF HOOKER (1948-1953)** and **BRIAN DANIELS (1947-1952)** who have sung for the Rushmoor Male Voice Choir for many years.

It seems to the Editor a good idea to join a choir, enjoy the social side of a choir, and raise much needed cash for charity. If there were enough people interested, we could consider the Old Farnhamians' Choir!!!

Members who have read the book written by the editor entitled "*Farnham Grammar School Goes Abroad*" were probably interested in the chapter on **ANDREW CANNINGS (1955-1961)** Andrew and his wife Hilary moved to Catalonia in Spain when he retired, and he spent time helping to set up a branch of the British Legion for ex-pats in the area. Hilary had taken their six cats with them and began a charity named Pussycat Calonge, with other ex-pats, which looked after the local cat population, whether domesticated or wild. They also became involved with the Anglican Church in the Costa Brava and life appeared to be ideal for a couple in retirement.

In July 2017 Andrew advised the Association that they had decided to sell the Spanish property and return to their former base in the Sussex area near Brighton. They are in the process of settling in and Andrew hopes that he will now be able to meet former classmates etc, starting with the Autumn Lunch in October. He will probably fill in some gaps about life in Spain and we hope to print these in the next magazine.

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As we all know 2016 saw the end of the Farnham Girls' Grammar School Association and the committee at the time discussed what to do with the balance of cash in the account and what to do to have a lasting memory of the Association. The matter was discussed with Sir Andrew Carter, chairman of the South Farnham School Trust, and it was agreed that the girls would commission a well known sculptor to produce a statue of a schoolgirl which would be situated outside the school in Menin Way. More money, than was available, was required for the project and the Old Girls are trying to raise a further £1500. The chairman advises that the money is coming in and the required amount will easily be met by the autumn.

## SIR JEFFREY TATE JOINS THE FARNHAM WALL OF FAME

Walking along South Street in Farnham it is interesting to see that there is a Wall of Fame on the wall of Sainsbury's Supermarket. It was introduced by Farnham Town Council and Sainsbury to celebrate local people who have achieved something special in their lifetime. In the summer of 2017 three new names were added to the list and a ceremony held by the Town Mayor to honour the twenty names on the wall. Each person is remembered by having a black plaque with gold writing inscribed with their name and achievement.

The sad death of Sir Jeffrey Tate was announced in 2017. He was another well known local man made good and the President of the Association asked the Town Council if he could be included on the Wall of Fame. The response was positive and it was confirmed that Jeffrey will be given a plaque and a ceremony held to honour him. It is hoped that Old Boys will attend this ceremony.

Looking through the list of names it shows a connection with Farnham Grammar School, with Harold Falkner and George Sturt former pupils of the Grammar School, and Graham Thorpe a former pupil of Farnham Sixth Form College.

The complete list is as follows:

STEPHEN ELMER – (1714-1796)	Well respected artist
WILLIAM COBBETT – (1763-1835)	Parliamentarian and author of <i>“The English Gardener”</i>
GRAHAM THORPE – (1969- )	Surrey and England cricketer
HAROLD FALKNER – (1875-1963)	Well known Architect
SIR PETER PEARS – (1910-1986)	Internationally known Tenor
WILLIAM (BILLY) BELDHAM – (1756-1862)	Surrey and All England Cricketer
BARBARA INKPEN 1974	Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist in High Jump
MIKE HAWTHORN – (1929-1959)	First British World Champion Racing Driver
NICK CRAIG – (1969- ) 2011	Winner of the Pantaenius UK Yachtsman of the Year
JOHN HENRY KNIGHT – (1847-1917)	Inventor
SHEILA MITCHELL – (1926-2006)	Award winning sculptor
WILLIAM WILLETT – (1856-1915)	Builder and father of “Daylight Saving”
JONNY WILKINSON – (1979- )	England Player/Member of winning World Cup Rugby Team
CHARLES BONE	Painter and Watercolour Artist
HENRY HAMMOND – (1914-1986)	Potter

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## SIR JEFFREY TATE JOINS THE FARNHAM WALL OF FAME

**ARTHUR HACKNEY – (1925-2010)**

Head of Printmaking at  
West Surrey College of Art Design

**GEORGE STURT – (1863-1927)**

Author

**RACHEL MORRIS**

Paralympian – Gold Medal (Beijing Olympic Games)  
Bronze Medal (London Olympic Games)  
Gold Medal (Rio Olympic Games)

**AUGUSTUS TOPLADY – (1740-1778)**

Composer – including “Rock of Ages”

### THE CARPENTERS OF THE GREAT ROOF OF WESTMINSTER HALL - 1395

These people are from all walks of life and it is right that Farnham honours them and remembers them. Sir Jeffrey Tate deserves to be added to this illustrious list.

On 1st September 2017 the name of **JEAN PARRATT**, well known historian, founder of the Farnham Diary and an MBE for services to Farnham was added to the wall. On 7th September 2017 the name of **MADGE GREEN** was also added to the wall for being the driving force behind Farnham In Bloom for many years. Jean died in October 2016 and Madge died in March 2017.

It has since been confirmed that the plaque will be presented by the Mayor of Farnham at a ceremony to be arranged in Spring 2018. There will be a reception at the Town Hall and it is hoped that members of the Association will attend with their wives/partners. More details will be issued when they become available.

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## NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

The editor has received the usual regular e-mail from **JOHN MEW (1937-1942)** in Ottawa advising that he will be renewing “The John Mew Sponsorship Award” given to the top students at Farnham College. John will pay for a further two years, and he has been generous with his award since the scheme began in 2003.

He was interested in the concert at the College as Geoff Hiscott, the leader of the band, is the son of a former workmate of John’s at the RAE Farnborough.

John says he and his wife Margaret are well, with a combined age of 188 years He is the younger of the two and classes himself as a toy boy!

## OBITUARIES

Our first obituary this year is not for an Old Boy, but for an Old Girl who was a special lady. In October 2016 Jean Parratt MBE died at her Farnham home, after many months of illness and discomfort. She was born in London and after living in various towns came to Farnham, where she attended the Farnham Girls' Grammar School. After raising her family she began to work at the Surrey & Hants where her husband **TED PARRATT (1948-1954)** was editor. Whilst with the newspaper she worked with former pupils of the Grammar School e.g. **GUY BELLAMY, KEITH DOLLEY, MICHAEL PRENTICE** and **ALAN BARTER**.

Jean also worked at the Museum of Farnham and was probably the major historian in the town. She leaves a legacy of many books about the people and the places in Farnham. She was very active with the Old Girls' Association and always managed to get good publicity for both the former Grammar Schools. She was known to most Old Boys and always well known to many in the town. At her funeral in November the Aldershot Crematorium was packed with people from all walks of life, gathered together to pay tribute to her.



Sisters Bernie, Jean & Margaret. The mischievous look is typical of Jean.

After the service many people joined the family at a reception at the Princess Royal. It is planned to hold a memorial get together for friends and family in February.

On 5th December 2016 **KEN LOVEGROVE (1941-1948)** died at his home in Aldershot. Ken was a member of Massingberd House and his name appears in magazines when he



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## OBITUARIES

regularly did well in the School Cross Country Races. In 1943 he received a Form prize for Good Work.

Ken was a regular church member attending St. Michael's Church in Aldershot for some time. He later moved to the Aldershot Garrison Church as the Church Organist. On a visit to the Festival Hall in London he fell and hurt a wrist which curtailed his playing of the organ. He never married and lived in the Ash Road, Aldershot for most of his life.

Friends provided the following details regarding Ken:

*“Ken was born at 28 Ash Road in 1929 and his father was a military tailor, salesman and trimmer. He was interested in all things military and had a vast collection of books relating to the Great War and the Second World War. He worked at Lloyds Bank and commuted to London for many years. He worked in various roles which included the foreign exchange and the BOLSA department (Bank of London and South America).*

*He did his National Service in the RAF and his ‘square bashing’ as he called it was done in Manchester and then he was based at RAF Benson in Oxford. He attended the Farnham Grammar School and was a member of the Old Farnhamians. He was proud of the tie for the Association and was wearing it when he was in his coffin.*

*Ken loved music and was a talented organist with his favourite composer being Beethoven. He studied at the Trinity College of Music in London and gained the Licentiate Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music in organ playing. He was responsible for the direction of music at the Royal Garrison Church in Aldershot where he became organist in 1959. He was also choir master. He directed music on many important occasions and among them was the Rhine Crossing Memorial Service in 1969 which was visited by the Queen for the Centenary celebrations of the church the following year. He kept all the service sheets from both weddings and funerals that he played at as well as many letters of thanks and appreciation he had received.*

*Ken did not drive and cycled or walked everywhere. He was well known in Aldershot.*

*He loved animals, particularly cats, and also loved football. He was a regular at Aldershot's Recreation Ground and visited many London grounds, including Arsenal and Chelsea.*

*Although ill towards the end his mind remained sharp and he was eager to talk about life in Aldershot. He will be missed by many friends.”*

Over Christmas 2016 we heard of the passing of **R.A. (TONY) MERSON (1961-1968)**. Tony collapsed at his home in Bridge Square and it was necessary for the emergency services to get him to hospital. Unfortunately he died on entering the hospital and had a cardiac arrest while being operated on.

## OBITUARIES

Tony was born in Mychett in 1950 and attended Ash Vale County Primary School. He had a younger sister, Wendy.



Searching through Grammar School memorabilia it seems clear that he did not take part in sporting events. Academically he was awarded the School Prize for French and the School Prize for Latin in 1968. Apart from this old magazines do not mention his name. He was very studious and spent most his time reading and studying. He did learn to play the French Horn and became a member of the Farnham Area Youth Orchestra under Alan Fluck. At school he studied French, Latin, Ancient History, History and Greek. He lived with his parents until aged 35 when he moved to Tanyard House, Bridge Square in Farnham.

Tony was a great collector and in 1969 he wrote to the magazine asking if any Old Boys would like to join a club in Farnborough catering for the Numismatist. He was Secretary for the club which catered for collectors of coins and over the years he gathered together an impressive collection. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society about twenty years ago. During this period he lived at Boundstone.

Tony became an active member of the Farnham & District Museum Society and for many years was their Treasurer. He loved to research Farnham past and was extremely

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## OBITUARIES

knowledgeable about the town. He was now interested in old postcards showing different views of Farnham and spent hours (and cash!) on e-bay, adding to the collection. It is probable that this collection alone would be worth a considerable amount of money to a fellow collector. He became a member of Surrey Postal History Society and Farnham & District Philatelic Society

Tony worked for Milne Eldridge (Accountants) in West Street for all of his working life and was particularly involved in the accounting for Tindle Newspapers, who had their office next door.

The Farnham Herald printed a full obituary for Tony headed, “Tributes are paid to one of the world’s foremost numismatists”. This quiet man was involved in many activities and leaves behind some important artefacts that he had collected over the years. Around 70 people attended his funeral at Aldershot Crematorium on 3rd February 2017.

On 26th November 2016 we received news of the death of **PETER DADSON**, who left the School in 1938. Peter was born in Frensham in 1922 and was the eldest of two brothers. He was a choirboy at St. Mary’s Church in Frensham for several years. After leaving the Grammar School he joined the RAF, spending a lot of time in the Far East during the Second World War. On leaving the forces he worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

Peter married his wife Lilian in 1946 and they had two daughters and were married for 69 years. Lilian passed away in September 2015. He spent his last day with his family and passed away peacefully with his youngest daughter by his side.

The name of Aylwin has been connected with the Farnham Grammar School for many years with Gus Aylwin being Chairman of the Governing Body and John being the President of the Old Farnhamians’ Association. It is therefore with great sadness that we received the news that **TONY AYLWIN (1945-1951)** the youngest in the family had died while on holiday in New Zealand.

Tony was a member of School House and an above average sportsman. He was especially good at Cricket and Football and played for the Colts, School Second XI and School First XI for both sports. He was also a member of his House Rifle Shooting Team and one year won his weight at Boxing. In 1948 he became a Sub-Prefect and in 1950 became a Prefect. While at the School he lived at 26, West Street where the Aylwin family business was also housed. The family were architects and at one stage Gus Aylwin was in partnership with Harold Falkner. John’s daughter Jo is a well known solicitor in Farnham and still operates from West Street.

## OBITUARIES

In mid-April 2017 we lost one of our staunchest supporters in **GRAHAM HUNT (1943-1950)**. Graham lived in Devon and had suffered from dementia for a while and was unable to attend the more recent events of the Association. The profile of Graham appeared in the 2004 magazine and he had a career as a surveyor. His National Service was eventful and he joined the Royal Engineers working abroad for much of his two years.

He joined a company in Reading and in 1958 married Pam that year. They enjoyed dancing and music in general and Graham played violin eventually for Yateley Light Orchestra, before moving to Devon in 1992. He continued to work until 2002 before he finally retired. Over the years he was a great supporter of the Association and will be missed by many.

On the last two days of May the Secretary received news of two former pupils from Massingberd House who had died. On the 30th he heard of the passing of **CHRIS BALLAMY (1958-1963)**, who lived in Guildford. Chris played football for the School Second XI and also took part in the Swimming Sports and the Cross Country. In 1961 he was awarded a Special Prize at Speech Day for Reading.

Chris chose the motor car industry as a career and had his own company in Woodbridge Road, Guildford handling motor car repairs and MOT's.

On the 31st we heard of the death of **MICK ALLISON (1957-1961)** who also took part in several sports, including Swimming, Boxing and Athletics. On leaving the School he entered the building industry and eventually had his own Farnham Building Company. He was well known and liked in the town and was quite a "character". His nickname was "Muck ole"

Mick will be remembered by many who attended an Annual Dinner at the School and half way through the President's speech decided to "liven up" the proceedings. He then told a very long "blue" joke which had the guests rolling in the aisles, while the top table was not so amused.

The local press announced the death of probably our most famous Old Boy when **JEFFREY TATE (1954-1961)** did suddenly of a heart attack on 2nd June, when he was on holiday in Bergamo, Italy.

Jeffrey was born with spina bifida, an abnormal curvature of the spine, but went on to guest conduct almost every major orchestra and opera house in the world. In April 2017 he was knighted by Prince William at an investiture ceremony in London, in recognition of his 'services to British music overseas'. Sit Jeffrey moved to Farnham with his family in 1950, attended Wrecclesham Primary School and Farnham Grammar School, before moving on to Cambridge to read natural sciences. He later qualified as a medical doctor at St. Thomas' Hospital in London but never became a practicing doctor, and instead pursued a career in music, going on to enjoy a distinguished musical career.

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## OBITUARIES

He was the principal conductor of the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra since 2009, and was also president of the Farnham & Bourne Choral Society, Farnham Youth Choir, and of Shine Charity (formerly UK Spina Bifida Charity).

A spokesman for the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra said “The unique and extraordinary voice of Jeffrey Tate has been silenced, but it will live on in the hearts, thoughts, and memories of countless admirers and friends throughout the world. His music made the world a better place, and we are endlessly grateful for the hours, days, and years we were able to share with him”

Shine, the charity he served for 23 years as president, said in a statement, “*Sir Jeffrey was president of Shine from 1989 until September 2012, an era that saw many important developments in treatment and support for members. Well-liked and deeply respected, Sir Jeffrey will be greatly missed*”.

David Victor-Smith, former teacher at Farnham College and director of the successful Farnham Youth Choir said, “*Jeffrey was a man of incredible talent who never let his physical disadvantages limit his ambition to communicate musically, and as such he was an inspiration to us all*”.

Mid June, the death of **JOHN COMMERFORD**, former teacher at both the Grammar School and the College, was reported in the local press. John taught Physics at Morley Road in the 1970/80 period. He died at the young age of 66.

It was June 2017 when we received news of the death of **JOHN CADIER (1941-1945)**, a long time member of the Association. In fact, John had died on 11th January 2016. He was known to say that spending 7/6d on his Life membership of the OFA was “the best money he ever spent”.

John was born in France and came to this country during the Second World War. He was a great friend of Hans Holm, who was a German, and this friendship was something special. He was taken under the wing of the Morgan family when his parents returned to London and John felt that the influence of F.A.Morgan and his wife and daughter played a great part in his development. John respected Mr. Morgan for his “absolute honesty”.

Three years at University College, Southampton and London School of Economics brought him a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and his first job was with Courtaulds. After a year he became bored and decided to enter the world of textiles, which was a family tradition. He therefore went to Lyon and spent a year behind looms, or in a very smelly dyeing and printing works.

## OBITUARIES

Returning to London, a British affiliate of a French company employed John to sell their wares to garment manufacturers. Later, he was appointed Export Manager and began to travel the world. By 1955, textile exports from Europe became difficult and John looked for a static position where he could settle down after marrying. The large Australian Group, Myer Emporium, had a London office for their purchases in Europe and he was appointed Head Textile Buyer.

In 1956 he married Brigitte, who came from a Lyon textile family, and they settled down in New Malden, Surrey. The Myer Group offered him a job in Australia but he had heard that the Celanese Corporation of America wished to open offices in France and John opened a sales' office in Paris. In time he was offered a position as Marketing Director of the company and moved to Brussels, which both John and Brigitte found marvellous.

By 1970 the company was well established but having problems with patent agreements. It was decided to cease developing the European market and John had the choice of moving to America or somewhere in South America. The major textile company in France offered him a position in their Paris office and he enjoyed the travelling involved and found the work interesting.

Entering the 1980s the industry was under pressure and John was forced to spend three years cutting back divisions and affiliates, closing down mills and laying off people. He was pleased to take early retirement in 1985 at the age of 58 years.

In retirement he decided to follow his interest in Art and attended l'Ecole du Louvre for 3 years. He then attended the Sorbonne for 4 years and gained a PH.D Diploma in the History of Art. John said that as well as the courses he enjoyed seeing the young ladies who were also studying.

Returning to Paris, John and Brigitte lived in an apartment and with no garden they decided to take up golf for exercise etc. Finally they spent later years at their home in Brittany and as well as playing golf enjoyed visiting museums and archaeological sites. As well as having 3 boys and 1 girl they ended up with 7 grandchildren.

Quite a story and I am sure some of the readers of this magazine will remember him at the School.

We were advised that on 17th June 2017 **JEFFREY W. BUNTING (1940-1946)** died. Jeffrey was a member of Harding House and did well at the School. He won several special awards:

1944; Award for Good Work                      1945: Special Award for Music  
1947: Special Award for French.

He passed his Higher School Certificate in 1947.

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## OBITUARIES

He played in school concerts as a part of a Pianoforte Trio and in 1946 was elected as a Prefect. He regularly ran in the School Cross Country event and was a member of the Harding Rifle Shooting Team. He was not a current member of the Old Boys' Association.

On 24th August 2017 we lost another well known Old Boy when **PETER WARMAN (1944-1950)** died in hospital after three years of failing health.

Peter was born in Wrecclesham and attended St.Peter's School and he was in the first intake who passed the Eleven Plus exam for the Farnham Grammar School. He obtained his matriculation at the age of sixteen and after leaving the School joined local accountants Milne Eldridge as a trainee accountant.

He left the company to work in the City of London and qualified in 1956 as a Chartered Accountant. His work included dealing with companies in the film industry. He left the company to do his National Service in the Queen's Royal Regiment, spending most of his time in Germany.

After his two years in the Army he returned to Milne Eldridge as managing clerk. During this period he met and married Sheila in 1961.

He spent a year seconded to the fast growing British Car Auctions and then joined the company, working there for over thirty years. He eventually became Financial Director and was involved in the opening of 14 sites in the UK, a chain of sites in America, and several in Europe. He retired in 1994.

Peter was a first class sportsman, with cricket being his particular love. He played football at several levels at the Grammar School and ran regularly in the Annual Cross Country. He was a member of School House.

He played cricket for the House, School Colts, School Second XI and School First XI. Each year he was a regular wicket taker and in 1948 achieved some remarkable bowling figures in the Inter House Tournament. That year he played for the Junior House XI, taking 4 for 26 (v.Massingberd), 5 for 18 (v. Harding), 5 for 20 (v. Morley) and 6 for 14 (v. Childe). He also played for the Senior House XI that season, taking 5 for 8 (v. Morley), 5 for 12 (v. Childe) and 3 for 26 (v. Massingberd).

In his early days he played cricket for Wrecclesham and in later years was a regular for Tilford. From 1959 until 1966 he was Treasurer for the I'Anson and Miller local Cricket Leagues. Peter was a member of Ascot and Goodwood Racecourses, and with his wife Sheila enjoyed Italian Opera.

Many readers will remember Peter and be saddened to hear that yet another loyal Old Boy has left us.

## OBITUARIES

Thanks to the editors of the Blunderbuss website we are able to give the reader more information regarding **JOHN COMMERFORD (1973-1988)**. John was the Physics Master, first at the Grammar School and then at the Sixth Form College.

John was born in January 1951. He was fast tracked to Penge and Beckenham Grammar School, where he enjoyed tennis and football. His major love all his life was for the game of cricket. He left the Grammar School and went to Portsmouth University to read Applied Physics. His first graduate teaching job at the age of 21 was at Farnham Grammar School, where he succeeded Physics Master 'Dickie' Ward.

John was a very likeable teacher and his students found him a friend and an excellent teacher. In the Sixth Form College he taught 'A' Level Physics, Physical Science and Maths. He took a sabbatical year to study for his M.Sc. and was appointed Senior Teacher at the College.

He was a stalwart of Tilford Cricket Club for over forty years, playing in the First XI, Second XI and the Sunday Eleven. On one occasion he shared a batting partnership with West Indian international, Malcolm Marshall and they amassed over one hundred runs. John's contribution was seven runs!

He played football and tennis for local clubs. His great friend at the College was **ROGER GROGUT**, the PE Master. The two teachers spent many evenings trying out the various beers on offer at local public houses.

In 1988 John left the College and joined the Associated Examining Board (AEB).

Following his death on 29th May 2017, after a long illness, a tribute service was held to honour his memory. There were representatives from the AEB, Farnham College staff and students and fellow cricketers from Tilford Cricket Club.

Clearly a very talented man, who was highly respected and loved by his friends and his students.

In mid September we heard of the sad death of **PETER CRANSWICK (1952-1959)**, who was a well known Old Boy and who had a marvellous sporting record while at the Grammar School.

He first showed signs of his athletic ability in 1953, when he came second in the 100 yards sprint for Under 12 pupils. He was a member of Harding House and became a member of the House Rifle Shooting Team in 1955 and was one of the best shots in the School for the remainder of his time at Morley Road.

In 1957 he finished 12th in the Junior Cross Country and showed what was to follow. He also played Cricket for Harding House. The following year Peter really blossomed and he became



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## OBITUARIES

a Prefect, House Captain, School Athletics' Captain, and a member of the School Football Committee, School Rifle Shooting Committee .

The School was entering a period where it produced several outstanding athletes, both on the track and across country. Peter was 4th in the School Cross Country Race and was selected for the County Cross Country Team. At the Annual Sports he won the 220 yards.

In 1959 he finished third in the School Cross Country Race, Ran for the County Cross Country Team and was a member of the School Committees for Football, Cricket, Athletics and Rifle Shooting. He played Football for the School First XI, was the Captain of the School Cricket XI and improved on his track running by winning the 440 yards, 880 yards and One Mile at the Annual Sports' Day.

In 1959 Peter was elected School Captain and was a member of the team who won the Farnham & District Cross Country Championships. He was then chosen for the District Team to run in the County Championships.

Peter left the School in 1960 and attended Nottingham Teacher' Training College. He settled in Nottinghamshire and taught History and geography for 29 years, and became Senior Teacher at the Player Comprehensive School in Nottingham. He married his wife Kate and they lived in Lowdham. He played village cricket for Caythorpe Cricket Club and hockey for South Nottingham Hockey Club. He was Assistant Southern Secretary for Nottingham County Hockey Association for almost 30 years and for many years Secretary of the Midlands Men's Hockey League.

Even in retirement Peter ran three times each week and enjoyed popular races such as the Oxford Town 10k and Nottingham's Robin Hood Half Marathon.

Peter Cranswick travelled to Farnham most years to attend the Old Boys' Annual Dinner. He had several friends from his days at the School and speaking to them they will confirm that he was a likeable person with great ability to conquer many sports.

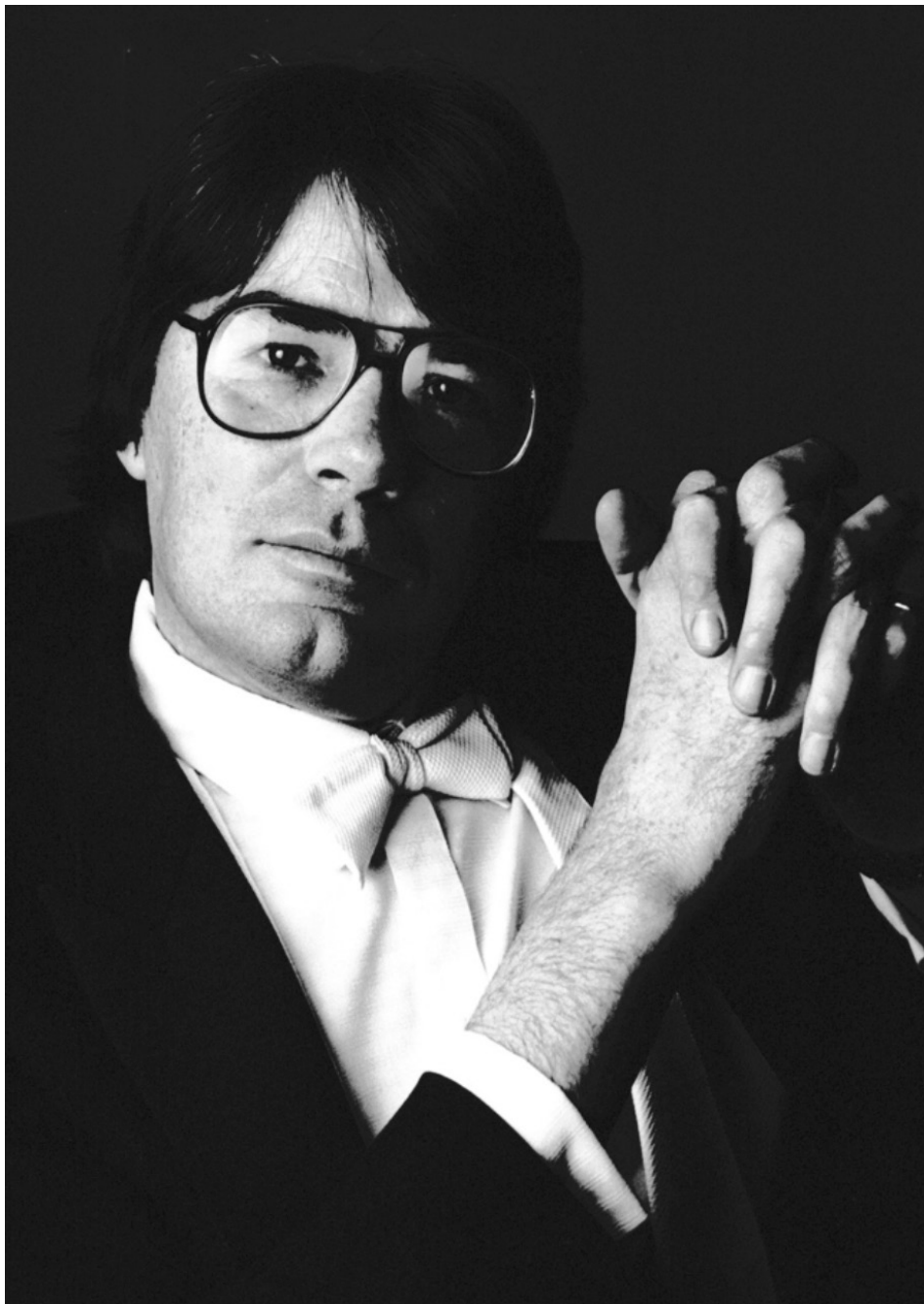
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*HAVING EDITED TWENTY-FIVE ISSUES OF THE MODERN FARNHAMIAN MAGAZINE, THERE IS STILL MUCH TO WRITE ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES AND THE VARIOUS OLD BOYS ACROSS THE GLOBE.*

*I HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO PRODUCE ISSUE TWENTY-SIX OF THE MODERN MAGAZINE AND HOPE THAT SOME OF THE READERS CAN CONTRIBUTE WITH NEWS OF THEIR LIVES OR OF SOMETHING OF INTEREST TO THE READERS.*

*I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!*

*CYRIL TRUST - EDITOR*



SIR JEFFREY TATE – (1954-1961)

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## 2017 AUTUMN LUNCHEON

The Bush Hotel, in the centre of Farnham, played host for the second year running for the Old Farnhamians' Association Autumn Lunch. For over fifty years this event was held in Hampshire as the Southampton Lunch and has now come home to Farnham. Over forty former pupils of the Farnham Grammar School attended and enjoyed an excellent lunch and an afternoon of nostalgia with former classmates.

The lunch began with the Rev. John Innes saying grace as the guests stood.

Traditionally this event does not include formal speeches and the chatter was only interrupted by a few words from Cyril Trust. It is usual that he informs the guests of any news of the Old Boys and he started by announcing that the old school magazine, entitled "The Farnhamian" is ready to print and will be his 25th annual magazine. He then produced the original printing plate used by Messrs. E.W. Langham to print the front cover of the school magazine from December 1912 until December 1948. This has only recently been found and will be placed among the old school memorabilia at Farnham Sixth Form College.

Cyril also announced that after the recent death of Sir Jeffrey Tate, one of the worlds' great musical conductors Farnham Town Council had agreed to add a plaque to this Old Boy on the Farnham Wall of Fame in South Street.

He finished by showing the first photographs of the life size statue of a Farnham Grammar School Girl in uniform, commissioned as a tribute to another excellent grammar school. The statue will be placed at the former home in Menin Way, and is now South Farnham School.

The event was again organised by Roger Edgell, the current President of the Old Boys' Association, and he announced that the Annual Lunch will be on Saturday 17th March 2018 at the Hogs Back Hotel and the AGM will be on 19th April at the College. Again Roger has worked hard to make this event such a success and all present thanked him for organising the lunch. The Hotel must be congratulated for providing an excellent meal and first class service throughout.

Attending:

D.Lampard: J.C.Crotty: M.Horner: G.Andrews: D.Bowtell: D.Cutler: G.LeVey: K.Mentzel:  
D.Phillips: N.Paget: G.Hooker: N.Timmins: B.E.Bone: C.D.Trust: B.E.Webberley: P.Mylles:  
A.Gatfield: W.Luff: H.Batchelor: Rev.J.Innes: K.Mortimer: J.Peace: R.Luckhurst: G.Martin:  
K.Elkins: E.Mayne: A.Cannings: I.C.Sargeant: C.Nash: B.Hall: B.Williams: D.Polglaze:  
H.Torode: R.Phillips: R.Frampton: C.Beal (Master of Ceremonies): D.McManamon: R.  
Edgell: S.Linney: D.Edgell: R.Shipton: J.Cope.

## 2016/17 NEWS FROM FARNHAM SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

As the Old Farnhamians' Association draws closer to the College it seems appropriate to report to the readers of this magazine any worthwhile information relating to the College. We begin by introducing the reader to the current Director at Morley Road.



**Dr. Jason Jones – Director for Farnham Sixth Form College**

Towards the end of October 2016 it was announced that Dr. Mike Potter CBE was to stand down as Principal and CEO of the Guildford College Group at the end of that month. He was thanked for his significant and energetic contribution to the Group by the Chair of Governors.

Peter Brammall has been appointed the Principal & Chief Executive Officer (and Accounting Officer) as from 1st November 2016. He had held the position of Deputy Chief Executive since June 2016 and now moves into the top position. He has considerable experience in the world of education and commercial business generally. No doubt we will be seeing him at Farnham early in his new venture.

In mid December the college held its annual Celebration of Achievement where the top students receive awards for outstanding work. The results for the year had been outstanding and the high standard of students at Morley Road is still to be seen. The following is a report on the event.

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## 2016/17 NEWS FROM FARNHAM SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### FARNHAM COLLEGE CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

The evening began with an introduction by the Director of the College followed by an excellently played piano piece by Catherine Bookham, a current student.

The welcome to the guests was by Peter Brammall, new Principal of the Guildford College Group, who applauded the results and thanked the staff and the students for all their hard work. He also thanked the Old Farnhamians for supporting the College and the event, which would not be possible without their help financially.

Following on was the presentation of the awards, with students receiving special certificates plus a financial reward. These were handed out by the Guest of Honour, Hannah Fox, a former student of the College.

An address was then given by Jason Jones, Director of the College, who thanked his staff, the efforts of the students and the support he had been given since taking up the post. In his opinion the staff was the best team of teachers he had ever worked with.

Hannah Fox, the Guest of Honour, then spoke for twenty minutes explaining her progress in the outside world, after leaving the College six years before. She sought the advice of many people and experimented with several possible careers. The award of several hundred pounds from the John Goddard Award gave her a start, and she built on that. She was always interested in Gymnastics and eventually decided to launch her own company, named Stellar Gymnastics, and made her base Farnham. From a small number of customers the company now deals with well over 200 people and the company is growing rapidly.

She believes that you should follow your instincts and choose a career in something you enjoy and inspires you to work hard. You need to have a career in something that you are passionate about and it showed clearly how this has resulted in success for Hannah. Her talk was an inspiration to all the students in the hall and well accepted by the audience.

Peter Brammall gave a vote of thanks to all and the evening closed with a song from Elizabeth Collins, a current student.

The usual photocall followed, and then a reception on the mezzanine floor area. All present seemed to feel that this had been one of the better awards' evenings and it was hoped to build on this for 2017.

There is still a need for more sponsors and any reader who wishes to help can obtain full details from the editor. (CYRIL TRUST – 01252 338858)

## 2016/2017 NEWS FROM FARNHAM SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

One of the most popular acts at the highly successful “Jazz & Comedy at the College” in April 2017 was the two sets by the College Music Group. Four students sang and played “Upside Down” by Paloma Faith and in the second half the audience were almost moved to tears by the beautiful “Gavi’s Song,” played on violin by Catherine Bookham, and accompanied by Yu Shi. The College continues to produce students with first class musical talent.



At the end of May the Rotarians of Farnham announced that they had volunteered their business acumen to the students at the College as a proud supporter of the College’s Young Enterprise team. The idea behind Young Enterprise is to introduce young people to the process of business by encouraging them to form a team, set up their own company, raise the capital, design, cost and sell a product, set up accounts for the proceeds and break even or make a profit. For 2017 the team designed a number of boxes, whose contents can be adapted to suit the recipient. The initial designs are being sold on line and the team is now exploring other types of boxes to add to the range.

The support of the Rotarians and the Old Farnhamians is an excellent way of teaching the students with the help of experienced former business people.

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## OFA/FARNHAM SIXTH FORM COLLEGE INTERACTION – 2016/2017

Over time, the links between the OFA/Farnhamian 400 Trust and Farnham Sixth Form College have evolved strongly; ever since the closure of Farnham Grammar School in 1973, a feature of OFA existence has been to support, in any way possible, the staff and the students in the day to day life of the College.

The current Director, Dr. Jason Jones, has moved to strengthen these links in 2016/2017, by approaching the OFA for assistance in a revised rationale for the College as it moved towards its ‘Building a Bridge to Business Marketing Campaign’.

As a consequence of this approach Richard Phillips, Brian Williams and Roger Edgell have been instrumental in providing such assistance and in doing so offered Jason an option to further the support by effectively ‘tapping into’ the knowledge base of the OFA General Committee to further benefit the students.

This has resulted in a ‘step-change’ in assistance to the College and the Director was able to identify the following activity where he requested further assistance in respect of the events he had planned – these are summarised here:

- 1. Mock interviews for Year 2 students not applying to university would take place over the course of three Thursday mornings (23rd Feb, 2nd March, 9th March) and would entail students applying (beforehand) for a real job of interest to them (as advertised on Monster.co.uk or the like) followed by a 10-minute interview plus feedback (30 minutes in all) on their appointed day. Their Personal Tutor would work with them on the application and on interview skills: at this point the aim was to bring on board a number of employers and other supportive external parties to do the interviewing; these are the roles undertaken by the OFA and other persons supporting the College;*
- 2. The same as above for ALL Year 1 students (this will include some university admissions staff as interviewers) after Easter; at the time of going to press these arrangements are still in the planning phase;*
- 3. Finally a Careers and Employability Day is envisaged for Wednesday 26th April; this would be for ALL students and would entail a careers’ fair (late morning + all afternoon) and several options for talks in the morning. The day would include some workshop sessions on various employability-related topics; as with (2) above this activity is also in the planning phase.*

The aim of the 1 to 1 interviews was to strengthen the employability skills of the students, to assist them in creating a ‘bespoke’, fit for purpose CV, to allow them time to prepare for job interviews and to receive advice and guidance from industry and business professionals; in essence these were the ‘Terms of Reference’ adopted by the OFA representatives.

Item (1) above has proved to be a successful innovation, with the OFA providing support to approximately 70% of the students going through the Mock Interview Process – apart from

## OFA/FARNHAM SIXTH FORM COLLEGE INTERACTION 2016/2017

Richard, the current OFA Vice-President and Roger, the current President, Stephen Pritchard and Julian Walden have provided strong support and this a most pleasing aspect as the latter two are both Members of the OFA General Committee but also from the ‘junior stream’ of the OFA membership.

Specifically, both Richard and Roger, provided a good deal of detail about the key pointers and pitfalls of ‘Entering the Workplace’ and set the template for the feedback process that the Director felt was so important for the students.

As yet the feedback process from the students remains a matter for the College and the Director has provided the following overview:

*“Without exception, the students who participated in this initiative found it to be an extremely useful and productive experience. As a College we take very seriously our responsibility to not only support our students to fulfil their academic potential, but also to help them develop as employees and, in many cases, employers of the future. The opportunity to augment the College’s employability programme with extremely useful professionals from outside of the education world was most valuable. Following the successes of the first round of mock interviews on 23rd February, many students who had not initially signed up for the experience but subsequently heard from their friends how useful it was, approached managers and requested that they be given the opportunity to take part. Because of the commitment of our OFA colleagues, we are able to accommodate every student who asked to participate, and the three sessions were all a great success. On behalf of the College and our students, I would like to say a huge and sincere ‘thank you’ to the members of the OFA who so generously gave up their time to support this initiative. I very much hope that this will become an annual feature of the College’s employability programme and the work on which we collaborate with the OFA and Farnham 400 Trust.”*

Students for Health & Social Care have visited the local charity Step by Step and have agreed to help with fund-raising. This is a charity for the homeless and the students began their support by holding a bake sale in May, which raised £164.

**AUGUST.** The month when UK students wait to hear their examination results throughout the country. A month of anxiety and hope! Farnham Sixth Form announced that there had been a significant increase in high grades for its A-Level students, with the A to C pass rate was 81.8 percent, four full percentage points above the national average.

Star student was Catherine Bookham, who played the violin so exquisitely at the “Jazz & Comedy at the College” concert earlier in the year. She achieved A\*ABB in 3D architecture, geography, maths and physics and will be moving on to study architecture and environmental engineering at the University of the West of England in Bristol.



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## 2016/2017 NEWS FROM FARNHAM SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Dr. Jason Jones, Director of the College said to the press the following.

*“I am just absolutely thrilled. I am so pleased for all our students – their hard work and determination have paid off and they have achieved some fantastic results. They really deserve to celebrate.*

*I am so proud of both our students and staff, who have worked so well together to achieve such excellent outcomes. At 81.8 % , the College’s A to C pass rate is once again above the national average and this achievement represents our commitment to stretch and challenge our students and ensure that their exam results reflect the very best of their ability.*

*I wish all of our students all the very best in their next steps beyond Farnham Sixth Form College and look forward to hearing about their future successes.”*

### **MORE GOOD NEWS**

Farnham College is surrounded by several sixth form Colleges in Surrey and Hampshire, all trying to attract as many students as possible. The higher the number of students the higher the income from the County, giving the College better opportunities to expand and bring in new ideas. Alton, Farnborough and Godalming are much larger Colleges, but Farnham competes well with them for academic results.

In recent years the intake at Farnham has fluctuated up and down and on taking office the new Director, Dr Jason Jones, began a programme to increase the numbers. Improved marketing helped and in September 2017 the College saw a good uplift in the number of students enlisting. It is planned to continue with this expansion and the Old Boys can play its part by combining with the College on certain events like the “Jazz & Comedy Evening” and lectures by well known speakers. This attracts the public and the press and shows that Farnham College offer a great deal more than just excellent teachers etc. Also the initiative by Messrs Edgell, Williams, Phillips and Walden help both the students and the College in trying to secure a worthwhile job when leaving.

I am sure that the readers of this magazine will help in the future and look forward to continued support for the College.

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As we come to the final pages of the 25th issue of the modern “Farnhamian” magazine, the Editor would like to thank all of the former pupils of Farnham Grammar School and their families for helping with the costs of producing the 1000 plus pages. This has been from sponsorship of adverts or just a donation. The following have been a great help:

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