



OLD FARNHAMIAN'S NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

CYRIL TRUST

Owing to rising costs and falling membership, the final magazine in its booklet form was sent out in January 2020. The original magazine was printed in December 1912 and appeared regularly until 1973, when the Grammar School became a Sixth Form College. The Old Boys remained in contact via a newsletter until Cyril Trust resurrected the original magazine in 1994 and edited an issue each year for over 25 years.

There is still input from Old Boys across the world and this new style newsletter will keep the membership informed of same either through the post or electronically via e-mail. The Newsletter will be distributed digitally to Members so please ensure an e-mail address is available to you; please continue to send in news as usual to Roger Edgell at rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk – thank you.

THE MAKING OF A MUSEUM

CYRIL TRUST

For several years the Editor of the magazine and the 400 Trust have asked various head-teachers at the College if a room could be made available to install a museum in memory of the former Grammar School. Neil Brookes, the current Head of Campus has now agreed to let us use one of the rooms and Roger Edgell has taken on the job of organising shelving, erecting it himself, and started to take in memorabilia from various sources. He must be applauded as this is a huge task but knowing how meticulous he is I feel sure the end result will be worthy of the old School.

In the final magazine readers were asked to contribute any items that they felt worthwhile and I hope that they respond to this request from Roger; the Cyril Trust household, for one, will be pleased to see the heaps of paperwork etc. leave the house now that a new home is available.

NEWS OF THE OLD BOYS

CYRIL TRUST & ROGER EDGELL

At the end of November 2019, the Farnham & District Museum Society organised two lectures at the Garden Gallery at the Museum of Farnham entitled "Characters of the Town". The organiser was Pat Heather, generally regarded as the major historian of Farnham, and after introducing the lectures she handed over to a small number of people to select and talk about people they considered as "characters".

The Editor of The Farnhamian was asked to speak for 20/30 minutes and his choice was former Headmaster of the Grammar School, George Baxter. Not only did George take over successfully from the legendary F.A.Morgan, but he expanded the buildings and intake of the School.

As well as being Head he involved himself in the town of Farnham and sat on many organisations, was a governor to several schools, and well respected in the town generally. In 1973, when the Labour Government decided to ban Grammar Schools, George resigned his position at FGS and worked for the county in an advisory capacity. He became more involved in the Old Farnhamians and was highly thought of. In later years

he became a customer of the editors' by having Meals On Wheels and we spent quite some time discussing the School and Education in general. He was quite a character!

The final magazine left unanswered the fate of one of our most famous Old Boys. **TERRY HUGHES (1953-1958)** lived in Montecite in America, which was devastated by floods and mudslides, and we wondered if he had escaped uninjured, since his home was sited at what might be termed 'ground zero'. Another Old Boy, **JOHN DAVIS (1958-1965)** was in touch with Terry and promised to investigate for us.

Mid December 2019 we heard from John that he had finally contacted Terry. Over a telephone call Terry explained that he had not lived in Montecite for ten years and therefore had not been affected by the floods and mudslides of the time. He and his wife lived in Santa Ynez, a valley some twenty miles north of Santa Barbara. Beautiful area, with many wonderful wineries.

Terry is pushing 80 years of age and is still working in the field of entertainment with his friend Matt Le Blanc.

During the phone call he said that he owed his career to Alan Fluck, former Music Master at the School. He has great memories of the Grammar School, including boxing for Childe House.

The couple plan to meet in the new year and will send to the editor an update on their careers and hopefully a photograph of the occasion.

NEWS FROM FARNHAM COLLEGE

CYRIL TRUST & ROGER EDGELL

Early in December (2019) the College held a special lecture giving the students an insight into the coming General Election. Representatives from the three major political parties were asked to take part and begin their talk with the detail of their party manifesto.

Farnham were lucky to attract the Liberal Democrat candidate for South West Surrey, Paul Fellows, the Conservative candidate and current Member of Parliament Jeremy Hunt, and the Labour candidate Tim Corry was represented by Natasha Fletcher and Dave Shurlock.

The Performance Hall at Morley Road was packed with over 200 students. Each speaker stressed the importance of voting and democracy and gave their reasons why they would serve the local area better than the other candidates.

The event proved fruitful for both speakers and students, with the candidates trying to attract young people who will be voting at the next election and the students a taste of politics in this country. Student, Joe Murphy, said that the lecture had made a large impact on him. "I thought the hustings event was a great opportunity to speak to the candidates and get our voice heard."

College Head of Campus Neil Brookes, said, "Ensuring that every young person understands the democratic process and knows their right to freedom of speech and to express their views, is a key component of the College's duty to embed British values into our curriculum".

"I was so impressed with the questions from our learners to the candidates and everyone involved really valued the opportunity."

At the end of the lectures the students were asked to place a vote for the candidate who had impressed them the most. The Liberal Democrats obtained 56% of the vote, the Conservatives obtained 22.5% of the

vote and the Labour Party represented by Natasha Fletcher and Dave Shurlock obtained 19% of the vote. A few days after the event the national poll did not reflect this result at all.

At the time of writing, the format for the Awards evening for 2020 has yet to be determined and those Sponsors contributing will be contacted as soon as further information is available.

OBITUARIES:

CYRIL TRUST & ROGER EDGELL

The first name to be recorded on the new style Newsletter is that of **W.R. (BILL) KING (1938-1942)**. Bill was a member of Massingberd House and researching his school record shows that he did not excel at any sport and achieved nothing exceptional academically. However, he was a popular Old Boy and until recent years attended the various functions of the Association. Roger Edgell recalls that Bill once owned a Haze Grey Morris 1000 which Roger purchased from Tilthams of Ash as his second car in 1968 – the logbook stated that Bill was the previous owner.

One of our most well-known and successful Old Boys was **JOHN CHUTER (1935 -1941)**. John died a few days before Christmas at his home in Frensham. He entered the Grammar School during wartime and soon showed that he was successful at many sports and also academically. He was a member of Childe House and during his time at the School was captain of the School Cricket Team, played football for the School Second XI, was a member of the House Rifle Shooting Team and finally became the School Captain.

In 1943 he joined the 2nd Lothians and Border Horse Yeomanry and fought at the bloody battle of Monte Cassino. After serving in Italy and Africa he came back home and entered Goldsmiths Teachers Training College. He was lucky enough to be asked to join Frensham School. In 1952 he married and moved to what is now Waverley Abbey School. In 1969 he moved to Rodborough School and retired in 1982.

John became a Waverley Borough Councillor and Frensham Parish Councillor. He was a member of the bowls club for many years and also a steward for the l'Anson Cricket League. He belonged to Probus, Old Farnhamians and Frensham Local History Group.

In mid-January we heard of the death of **R.I.(DICK) HILL (1955-1962)**. Dick was a member of Harding House and belonged to a team of excellent athletes at the School He regularly featured as one of the top ten in the annual cross-country races. In 1961 he became vice-captain of the School Cross Country Team and in the same year was elected School Cricket Captain. He was also a member of the School Football First XI

In 1961 he was appointed Prefect and was considered a highly successful pupil both academically and in his **sporting** endeavours.

DEATHS since 2019 Annual Lunch when last we were all able to meet – see website for further details:

George A Bacon – died April 2015 RCC 'Rusty' Moorcroft (1959 – 66) Peter Read (1941 – 47)

John McLaughlin (1971 - 92) – Former Deputy Head & Vice Principal of Farnham College

John Cherryman QC (1941 – 51) David Gudgeon (1945 – 50) Peter Caird (1953 – 58)

Dudley Coakes (1955 – 61) Bill King (1938 – 42) Dick Hill (1956 – 62)

George Hunt (1953 – 60) Simon Granville Jones (1966 – 70) David Palmer (1962 – 70)
Derek Bowtell (1945 – 52) Cyril Trust MBE (1948 – 53) Philip Sturgess (1964 – 72)
Donald Nicolson (1940 -42) and (1950 – 87) as Latin & Classics Member of Staff
Tim German (1957 – 62) Richard ‘Gil’ Potter (1957 – 64) Robert Galfskiy (1957 – 62)
James Anthony ‘Tony’ Gathercole (1961 – 66) Member of Staff
Michael Talbot Smith (1954 56) Member of Staff

DOES ANYBODY REMEMBER THE SCHOOL PRAYER

CYRIL TRUST & ROGER EDGELL

At the 1998 Annual Dinner George Baxter, the former Head of the Grammar School, had a short conversation with one of his old pupils, **MARK BOOKER (1964-71)**, who now lives in Kent. They discussed the School Prayer that was used at assemblies most mornings and the origin of the text, and neither knew a great deal about it. To both of them even the words were hazy, and Mark followed up the meeting by sending to his former Head the wording he recollected. The version both Mark and George feel was correct is as follows;

School Prayer

Oh Lord, the resurrection and the life of them that believe who art always to be praised, as well in the living as in the dead;

We thank thee for our founder William Edington and all our benefactors, John Childe, John Harding, Henry Massingberd and George Morley through whose goodness we are brought up here for the attainment of Godliness and good learning;

Keep we beseech thee O Lord, us they children, from all uncleanness, untruthfulness and cowardice and give us grace to grow up into honourable men;

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever;

AMEN

Perhaps a reader could advise Roger whether this text is correct and who wrote the prayer and in what year?

From the 1912 First Farnhamian

ROGER EDGELL

Dr. Harding of Frensham left money by will in 1611 to an already existing School. Other benefactors about that time are George Morley, Bishop of Winchester (1662-84); John Childe, a gentleman of Farnham; and Henry Massingberd, who, originally a poor boy of the town, became a rich London Merchant.

Recent generations of boys will remember the names of these Founders in the School Prayer.

On the subject of The School Prayer – Covid 19, having seriously affected Remembrance Day activity enabled Roger Edgell to place crosses for former pupils of FGS who fell in the two World Wars in the foyer below the Memorial Tablets in Morley Court – this is the main entrance that you all knew to The School above the School Steps – see photo below – our thanks to The College for allowing us to do this as an act of Remembrance in such an unprecedented year.



CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FORMER OLD BOYS:

ROGER EDGELL

Here follows a series of contributions from old boys – my thanks and appreciation to those making same.

Geoff Harnett, Paul Blowfield & Rick Hill all corresponded about a 6th Form photograph from 1970.

The upshot of a whole series of reminiscences and nostalgia is the tabulation of the photograph set out below by Paul Blowfield – as you can see Paul has kindly identified each person in the photograph by writing in red ink across the faces – my thanks to Paul, Geoff and Rick (who set the ball rolling) and also to our Webmaster Ian Sargeant who followed this all through and has set the final item on the website; if my memory serves me right Mark Westcott had entered this photograph in the Farnham Herald sometime back and the copy was signed by all attending – this will be available to view in due course, Covid permitting, in the Museum being established at The College.

- 1 DAVID PALMER
 - 2 JOHN HEROD
 - 3 MALCOLM ROCHEFORT
 - 4 PAUL BLOWFIELD
 - 5 BRIAN GRAY
 - 6 MAJOR FORSHAM (6TH FORM TUTOR)
 - 7 CHRIS FAIRCLOUGH
 - 8 BERNARD BRETT
 - 9 VICTOR HUGO
 - 10 ANDREW EVERETT
 - 11 CHRIS FOSTER
 - 12 ROBERT REEVES
 - 13 SIMON BARNELL
 - 14 KEITH EDMONDSON
 - 15 MICK DAVIES
 - 16 ROBIN LARBY
 - 17 COLIN DIXON (RIA)
 - 18 JOHN GIBBONS
 - 19 STEVEN FRANCIS
 - 20 DAVE HIGHTON
 - 21 TIM ELLWOOD (RIA)
 - 22 JIM GOEBEL
 - 23 KEITH SIMPSON
 - 24 MARK WESTCOTT
 - 25 LEWIS SCARD
- PTD



Photograph courtesy of David Bewley:

- 26 GEOFF HUTTON
- 27 CHRIS BRISTON
- 28 ~~ANDREW NICHOLSON~~ JEREK CRANHAM (NOW DECEASED)
- 29 ANDY GREEN
- 30 BARRY OSBORNE
- 31 ALAN COOK
- 32 GRAHAME SHERFIELD
- 33 GEOFFREY FOOT (NOW DECEASED)

NOT IN PICTURE

- ANDREW NICHOLSON
- DAVID BEWLEY
- DICK HALL

GEOFF HARNETT also kindly provided a profile of his time at FGS, his working life and his retirement to the Algarve. His immediate family still reside in the UK – space is restricted in this edition, so more in the next issue.

MIKE MEHTA (1971-78) was always a willing contributor to the 'Trust' series of Magazines, and I am delighted to advise that Mike has kept up his offerings of the Class of '71.

This coming year (2021) Mike and his contemporaries reach the age of 60 years and Mike celebrated in December 2020 by completing his 100th *Parkrun* – congratulations Mike.

The photograph below shows Mike, together with his daughter Vicky on the right and Mike's wingmen are David Childs (*inappropriate red shirt ex FGS 1970 – 77*) and a walking friend and keen runner Mike Darke; Mike has also advised that David Childs has subsequently contracted Covid 19 and thankfully following hospital treatment is recovering well and our wish I am sure is that this continues to a full recovery.



Mike, together with **David Bathurst**, has also advised that a 50th Anniversary Reunion Party will be held for the 1971 intake and the following item sets out the aims of the event to be held at Farnham College on Sunday 4th July 2021.

Calling all those who attended FGS & FGGS in 1971

2021 sees the 50th anniversary of the 1971 intake coming to FGS & FGGS for the first time. To Mark the anniversary, there is to be a reunion party and meal at Farnham College on Sunday 4th July 2021.

More details will be available nearer the time but please make a note of the date – Mike, David, Julian Walden and John Clarke look forward to seeing you – John will also place information on the Blunderbuss website.



The FGS and FGGS Classes of 1971, '60th Birthdays BBQ'; 16th August 2020

Following fourteen months of preparation, due to Covid-19 postponing the original date in mid-June, the much-anticipated '60th Birthdays BBQ' took place on Sunday 16th August. The venue was the Barley Mow PH Tilford, which had kindly agreed to provide a bespoke barbecue in a private area of the garden, together with a marquee at the rear overlooking the river.

Former students from FGS and FGGS classes of 1971 attended to celebrate their collective 60th birthdays.

Rev. John Innes had been cordially invited to say a few words and to say grace, which was very warmly received.

He was given a small gift as a token of appreciation. It was a poignant occasion as John is shortly to move from his long-standing home in Upper Hale to Wiltshire and in effect this was John's farewell to his students from his time teaching RE throughout the 1970's at FGS and latterly Farnham College.

A highlight of the afternoon was a school quiz devised by David Bathurst.

The quiz was fiendishly difficult. The prize of some well-chosen nostalgic confectionery from the 1970's including Cadbury's *Curly Wurly* and Fry's *Chocolate Cream* as sold in the school tuckshop at the time, was

awarded to the winning table comprising John Clarke, Jon Knight, Chris Stacey and Andy Vincent. The runner-up prize went to Mike Mehta and Gill Mansfield.

The weather was dry and warm allowing several of those attending to continue with the celebration on Tilford Green into the evening, long after the event had drawn to a close.

Those in attendance: Francis Arnstein, David Bathurst, Mark Bravery, Linda Brooks, John Clarke, Jill Goddard, Chris Hand (music teacher), Adrian Harding, Paul Hobbs, Rev. John Innes (RE teacher), Janet Jude (French teacher), Charlie King, Jon Knight, Gill Mansfield, Carol McMahon (chemistry teacher), Mike Mehta, Lesley Powney, Chris Stacey, Andy Vincent, Julian Walden, Robin Welland-Jones.

MICHAEL OVERBURY continues to correspond with Roger Edgell about his seriously disrupted (by Covid) organ recitals – please contact Roger if you wish to be updated on these events rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk

Our diligent Webmaster **IAN SARGEANT** continues to place material on the website and readers might appreciate knowing about a couple of fairly recent exchanges with OFA Members:

- **MARK LAMBERT**, son of **FRANK LAMBER(1934-38)** contacted Ian about his father and Ian was able to highlight Frank's contributions to School Life, which in his time was that of a most bright pupil and School Captain. For readers Mark provided Ian with a resume of his recollections of Frank's life: He recalls "Frank was a very private man and not one to volunteer unprompted information about himself, even to his own children! However, he was clearly very proud to be awarded a county scholarship to go to FGS, and greatly enjoyed his time there. He attended several reunions before he died in 2005. I found him in one the photos he donated - 1939. This was his last year at the school when he was school captain, and he is seated in the middle where the "important people" all seemed to be. Not a naturally frivolous or jokey type, in the photograph he is wearing a rather serious expression which he would have felt appropriately represented the solemnity of the occasion and the seriousness with which I believe he would .have regarded his role and responsibilities at the school. He certainly was sporty - I have a large collection of his diving medals dated from 1933, and one of the few stories he did tell me about was losing a boxing match to great rivals, Guildford. He went on to study chemistry at Queen Mary College, but as Mile End Road was a favourite target of the Luftwaffe, his class was evacuated to Cambridge and he was "billeted" at Kings College. He met my mother Peggy at Bletchley Park. She was a Wren and a fast, accurate touch typist responsible for transcribing encrypted German codes into Turing & Flowers electronic computer, Colossus. What Frank was doing at Bletchley is, unfortunately a secret that I will probably never discover, but I think I can make a guess that it some form of activity that helped the war effort."
- **DAVID PARKER (1966 – 73)** advised Roger and Ian that he was in the process of digitising colour slides of his cruise on the SS Nevasa in 1970 and some of these featured former FGS contemporaries – David has kindly offered these to Ian for the website so if you recall this event, please access the website where, in due course, you will find a record of the times – thank you David & Ian.

Martin Collyer, brother of **GRAHAM COLLYER (1955 – 60)**, emailed Roger Edgell about the School Reports of their Father **JACK COLLYER (1920 – 25)** – having scanned them all Martin wanted to make them available as a contribution to the memorabilia collection being set up at the College.

The reports show that the Headmaster at commencement of Jack's time at the School was Captain JR Stickland and FA Morgan was the Headmaster when Jack's time at FGS was at a close; these will be available to view in due course in Room 304 Morley Court, Farnham College.

As a thank you, Roger forwarded the final Magazine produced by Cyril Trust to Martin and Graham and Martin ensured that Graham's email address in France was made available to Ian Sargeant since Graham is a website member.

COVID & THE OFA LUNCH*

ROGER EDGELL

As readers might imagine Covid impacted significantly on the planned OFA Autumn Lunch in 2019, through 2020, and the date for meeting up is now planned for Wednesday 6th October 2021 at The Bush in Farnham.

*NB – Details to follow.

FURTHER NEWS RE COLLEGE AWARDS

ROGER EDGELL

With Covid ravaging the education system across the country, it will come as no surprise to all that the Annual Awards Evening, normally held in December, could not go ahead this year; however, your 400 Trust Chairman **BRIAN WILLIAMS**, together with Treasurer **STEPHEN PRITCHARD**, ensured that the 400 Trust/OFA Awards were in place as and when the event is able to take place – in total a commendable 39 awards have been made available to The College and, at the time of going to press, it was anticipated that an internet style event was in the planning for the early part of 2021. Well done Brian and Stephen.

REJOINDER

ROGER EDGELL

The reader will have appreciated, I am sure, the considerable effort that Cyril Trust put into the revived Farnhamian Magazine from 1994 through to 2020 – a quite remarkable contribution to our OFA nostalgia and increasingly, over time, news relating to Farnham College in respect of both organisation and student population well-being; it will come as no surprise that even as his time with us was drawing to a close he still found time to commence contributions to this piece.

As part of Cyril's legacy, members should feel free to forward news of old boys and former members of Staff to me and I will endeavour to keep members updated with an Annual Newsletter; this of course can never replace the style and professionalism of our beloved Farnhamian, but I sincerely hope that in some small way it provides the reader with that ongoing nostalgic contact that we have all come to value.

Roger Edgell

rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk

January 2021