



OLD FARNHAMIAN'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022 - COVID Edition

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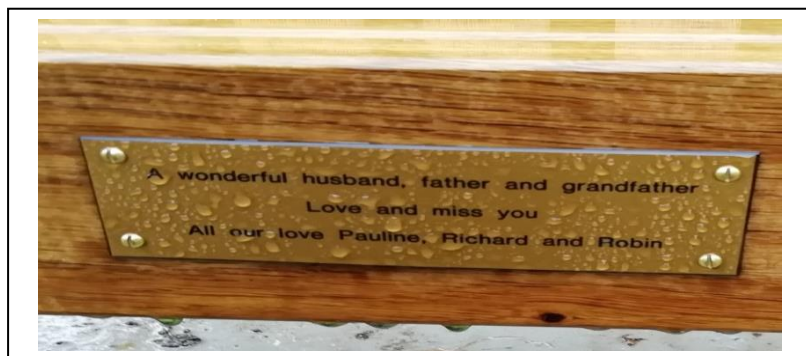
INTRODUCTION

ROGER EDGELL

This 'Covid stricken' edition of our Newsletter seeks to remind us of the resilience of the OFA and the 400 Trust in dark times – this edition features our efforts to complete the setting up of our memorabilia facility in Room 304 at The College, together with contributions from those of you (thank you) who have made time to put something together for our collective enjoyment. The item on Room 304 includes our latest acquisitions of memorabilia – a good number of these were courtesy of Josh Godfrey, The Curator at The Museum of Farnham, but others were a great surprise and a wonderful addition to our collection.

A first simple task is to record the siting of a bench in memory of our beloved Cyril Trust in Farnham Park – we are grateful to Geoff Hooker who came across the bench whilst out 'exercising' – the pictures were obtained from Pauline Trust.

CYRIL'S Bench at Farnham Park – thanks to Geoff Hooker



Grammar Schools – Cyril's Legacy

Fair to say, from my personal perspective, that Cyril's true legacy of spirit was in his undying lament at the closure of Grammar Schools – I have come across a good deal of material on the subject during the past 12 months, which, I am thinking will never go away; those of us who so valued our time at Farnham Grammar School will have no difficulty in identifying with such sentiments.

Can I remind readers that 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.

Update & Opening

The reader will recall the background to this item - for several years Cyril Trust via the 400 Trust had sought a room at The College which could be made available to install a museum in memory of the former Grammar School; Neil Brookes, the current Head of Campus had acceded to this request and on the 15th December 2021 a small opening ceremony was undertaken at The College.

The room in question is Room 304 Morley Court which former pupils will recall was the room opposite the main doors as you entered the rear of the main building crossing the black and white tiled floor.

I would encourage those of you who still want to donate material to this facility, please do get in touch with me on rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk.

Ian Sargeant posted the following record of the event on the OFA Website: December 15th, 2021

“There was a small gathering of old boys to witness the opening of a room assigned by the college as available for the creation of a mini-museum of memorabilia relating to Farnham Grammar School. The preparation of the display was largely the work of Roger Edgell.

The brief ceremony consisted of an introduction by Roger and some words by Rev Andrew Tuck, including a brief prayer of dedication and thanks for blessings and benefits received by the many thousands of boys who had passed through the school over hundreds of years.

Mrs Pauline Trust, widow of the late Cyril Trust, whose contribution to the collection of items over the last years of his life made this possible, cut a ribbon to open the room and the company entered to enjoy viewing the display of old photos, books and records. The room will be open for visits by old boys and available for students at the college to consult under arrangements to be decided with the college.”





Picture from Left to Right: Robin Trust, Tony Gatfield, Pauline Trust, Brian Daniels, John Crotty, Mike Mehta, Andrew Tuck, Stephen Pritchard and Roger Edgell – Ian Sargeant had had to leave by this time.

Recent acquisitions to the facility have been – Cricket Scorebooks from the mid 1960's, Alan Fluck's French recording from 1962 and the WW1 Photo album in memory of Pte Louis Chattaway entitled 'Farnham in the First World War', together with a range of material from The Museum of Farnham.

ANNUAL LUNCH: Wednesday 6th October 2021 – The Bush Farnham – Website entry from Ian Sargeant

"Few of our big lunches have been as eagerly anticipated, or approached with such apprehensive expectancy, as this landmark meal. It was more than a nourishing and enjoyable culinary experience; it was a sign that life might be reasserting itself to the way we had enjoyed it in the previous decades of our existence. It was almost exactly two years since our last encounter with each other in the jovial conviviality that characterises our association's events. But the first item on our agenda – which only had two items on it – was to mark solemnly the passing of many of our number as our president read their names to a quietened room.

Item two was simply a good meal and much bonhomie amongst friends we had known, in many cases, since childhood. *The OFA lives!*"

Ian Sargeant: Wednesday, 06 October 2021

Attendees:

Gordon Andrews, Simon Lord, Trevor Andrews, Bob Luckhurst, Hugh Batchelor, Geoff Martin, Clive Beal, Bob Matthews, Rod Bennett, John Matthews, David Blunt, Ted Mayne, Neil Brookes (College Guest), David McManamon, James Jagger (College Guest), Keith Mentzel, John Clarke, Keith Mortimer, Ray Cleminson, Chris Mullins, John Cope, Norman Paget, Paul Cope, John Parker, John Crotty, Jim Peace, Brian Daniels, Dennis Phillips, Dave Edgell, Stephen Pritchard, Roger Edgell, Roger Remington, Dudley Elmore, Ian

Sargeant, Martin Ewbank Smith, Martin Seignot, Rob Frampton, Mike Seignot, Bob Golding, John Sherwood, Barry Hall, Roger Shipton, Bob Hewes, Neville Timmins, Tony Homewood, John Travers, Glenn Honey, Mick Watts, Chris Jarvis, Julian Walden, Maurice Jeffreys, Les Webb, Brian Lake, Brian Webberley, Stephen Linney, Robin Welland Jones, Richard Lord and Brian Williams.

DEATHS since 2021 Annual Lunch when last we were all able to meet – in due course see website for further details of next Lunch October 5th, 2022, at The Bush, Farnham:

Gerald Toogood (1949 – 56)

Danny Briggs (1950 – 55)

Peter Naylor (1942 – 48)

David Buckell (1940 – 46)

Malcolm Lee (1958 – 63)

David Titchener (1971 – 78)

W John Kilgour (1952 – 58)

Gerry Le Vey (1946 – 53)

William H Sturt (1948 – 55)

Chris Nash (1955 – 60)

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

ROGER EDGELL

And in this first case a former Member of Staff : Rev John Innes Retires After 64 Years – John has been a regular attendee at OFA gatherings

Following on from a successful Reunion of the '71 Crew in August, the **Farnham Herald** reported (17 September) on the retirement of John Innes as Vicar.

'FAREWELL TO VICAR AFTER 64 YEARS' – Item from The Farnham Herald

The Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale said farewell at the weekend [30 August] to the Reverend John Innes, 88, who is moving away for “the next stage of retirement” after 64 years of ordained ministry in the Church of England, and a side line in visiting Communist Eastern Europe in the 1960s and 70s, including being in Prague as the Soviet tanks rolled in to crush the Prague Spring rising in 1968.

John Innes was born in Scotland and was educated at Marlborough College. He studied history at Oxford and, after National Service in the Tank Corps, studied theology at Cambridge.

He was ordained in 1956 and, after a time in London and Walton-on-Thames, came to the Farnham area in 1967.

He was chaplain of Moor Park College, a Christian adult education college, then priest-in-charge in Tilford until his retirement in 1997.

He also taught Russian and religious education at Farnham Grammar School until 1996.

Since 1997 he has been a minister in the three churches which make up the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale - St John's, St Mark's and St George's.

At the same time, John went back and forth to Eastern Europe at a time when Christian faith was partially forced underground by the Communist regime.

He was influenced by Eastern Orthodoxy which he perceived as having a mystical aspect to its theology which can be lacking in the West, and he has a particular interest in Eastern Orthodox icons.

He accompanied groups on tours of the Soviet Union and visited churches and monasteries, taking back information to Christian groups who could then arrange to take Bibles and other books to those who wanted them.

He published a handbook of open churches in Leningrad (St Petersburg) and Moscow, and it was probably his knowledge of these churches which led to him being denied a visa in 1976.

“I was with a school group and had a sketch on me of a town with the churches on it and a border guard saw it. He was very courteous and shrewd but the next time I applied for a visa it was denied. I didn’t blame them.”

He also visited other parts of Communist Eastern Europe and remembers the Soviet invasion of Prague in 1968.

“There was an extraordinary feeling in the air,” he recalls. “You felt you could throw yourself in front of a tank.”

John Innes has been a regular lecturer with U3A over the years and, despite ill health in the past couple of years, continued to conduct services in Badshot Lea and Hale.

Covid-19 prevented him doing so in person, but he has been preaching up to the end, delivering his last sermon online on August 30.

The Tuesday before John and Sue Innes left the parish, Revd. Alan Crawley, joint rector of the parish, presented them with a gift from the parish, a book which John described as a foundation classic on the study of icons: *The Meaning of Icons* by Vladimir Lossky and Leonid Ouspensky.

Alan said: “Thank you so much for all you have done for the parish. There are so many things that I know both of you have done - the pastoral visiting, the magazine, the church cleaning, the sermons, the groups, and I suspect I don’t know the half of it.

“From Lesley, my wife’s and my point of view we value all of those, but the thing we value the most is the support you have given us over all that time.”

Our warmest OFA wishes go out to John in his Wiltshire retirement and also to John Clarke, both of whom have been unwell in recent times.

NEWS FROM FARNHAM COLLEGE

ROGER EDGELL

At the time of writing, the format for the Awards evening for 2021 had yet to be formalised and those Sponsors contributing will be contacted as soon as further information is available.

THE FALLEN

ROGER EDGELL

Once again, this year, Roger Edgell was able to site the memorial crosses in the foyer of Morley Court for the period leading up to Remembrance Day and beyond. Just a few days later, Roger was to learn that James Jagger, Deputy Head of Campus at The College had held a short service for the students which was accompanied by a Power Point presentation looking at ‘Why We Should Remember’ – see below.



James Jagger and The Students of The College Remembering The Two World Wars:

REMEMBRANCE DAY



What are we remembering on Remembrance Day?



Remembrance Day

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the Great War ended.

The first Remembrance Day was held in 1919 to commemorate the end of the war.

King George V initiated a 2 minute silence to remember those who had given their lives.

Originally this day was known as Armistice Day.



FARNHAM COLLEGE DEATH TOLL WW1 AND WW2



WW1 72 DEAD



WW2 62 DEAD

In modern times

On Remembrance Day today we think of all those who have lost their lives in conflict.

Conflicts which include WWI, WWII, the Falklands war, the Gulf war and the Iraq war.

It also includes the recent war in Afghanistan.

Why wear poppies?

The poppy is an international symbol of remembrance.

Poppies were the first flowers to grow in the former battlefields in Belgium and France where many soldiers are buried.

Their paper thin petals were the first signs of new life and renewal.

They inspired John McCrae, a Canadian doctor, to write the famous war poem – *In Flanders fields*

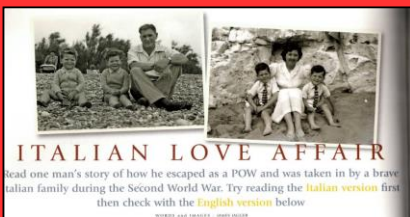
Plenary

Remember- those who have given their lives that we might have peace

Be thankful- for our freedom from war and conflict

Respect- Treat others as you would like to be treated

Be hopeful- that our freedom from war, conflict and Covid restrictions would continue



ITALIAN LOVE AFFAIR

Read one man's story of how he escaped as a POW and was taken in by a brave Italian family during the Second World War. Try reading the **Italian version** first then check with the **English version** below



Like me, I sincerely hope the reader is grateful to learn that our history features so strongly in today's curriculum at The College – thank you James - RE

In view of the above it seems appropriate to replicate here an excerpt from The Farnhamian Dec 1946:

Headmaster's Address to The School - REMEMBRANCE DAY, NOVEMBER 11th, 1946.

Yesterday the nation observed Remembrance Day, the day which our people dedicated to the memory of those who died for us. But I think that a school also should have its day of remembrance. That is why I would like to address some special words to you to-day.

I expect you know why the poppy was chosen as an emblem of our remembrance-because, at one season of the year, the fields of Flanders, the scene of our bitterest losses in the First World War, were thick with a carpet of poppies. Also of course they are the colour of the blood of sacrifice. There are two other things worthy of notice.

First, the poppy that we wear at this time is artificial and will outlast the real poppy, whose life is so brief: here is a hint to us that our memory should endure. Then also from the juice of the natural poppy comes oblivion. Here is a warning to us. How easy it is to forget. To-day is so near, to-morrow so pressing, and yesterday so far away! It would be terrible if we said to our glorious dead: "But we are already forgetting you. You are already beginning to be just a list of names." That is why we must cultivate our memory, water it and keep it green. And so, we set aside one day in the year when as a people we think of those who laid down their lives for us. For truly it is easy to forget, but if we let our thoughts dwell on 'all our yesterdays', it is surprising how much of them rises up clearly before the mind's eye. In the First World War, 70 boys of this School and one master perished while serving their King and Country. In this last war, 60 laid down their lives; - **NB – this number is now 72 with the addition of WH Bastow in December 2018.**

Thus, in the two wars 130 of our boys went out, never to return. I do not know whether you are like me, but statistics raise no spark in my mind. Yet, when I look at you here assembled, and think of nearly half of you being mown down, as it were, by a pitiless scythe, then I can see and feel what these figures mean; but perhaps they mean more to me and to us masters than to you. For all the Old Boys fallen in the last war were known to us. Most of them had been at the School since I have been here, and the rest came into close contact with me :In the Old Farnhamians' Association.

When I look at the list, each name recalls a memory, brings up before my eyes a definite person, who lived and breathed and had his being within these walls. Such a varied crowd of young men! Some clever, and even brilliant-men who would have gone far in life. Most of them ordinary fellows like you and me. But all of them with features and characters and individualities of their own. Some of them I can remember vividly on the playing field or in the gym, others I can still see sitting in their class-rooms or moving about the School. I think I could spend hours talking about them. I only wish it were possible to have a group photograph of them all, this representative company of young England. One thing I personally cannot 'do'. I cannot read out the list of their names. It would, I think, be too painful an ordeal for any Headmaster or master. The usual phrases are "They died for us," "They sacrificed their lives," "They were heroes." .Are these phrases true? Or are they just lip-service? "They died for us."

Of course, they did. It was their lives which were the price paid for our present freedom. Can anyone doubt that life for us in England, had it not been for them, would now be unspeakably terrible, with a future even more unspeakable? At first sight, this seems only another way of putting it. But let us think what it means. Their lives. Most of them were not much more than 25 years old. According to the psalmist, the days of man are three-score years and ten; and we all know that, even when a man reaches the biblical limit, he generally

clings to life. He has not even then had enough of it. Yet these young men gave up the prospect of 40 or 50 or perhaps 60 years of life. True they thus escaped, it may be, much trouble and disappointment and suffering. But they also forfeited a rich variety of joys, pleasures and experiences. Let it not be forgotten that they need not have done this. We know that, during the last war, men were called up and directed into the Services when they reached a certain age (though a considerable number of our young men anticipated the call). But let it always be remembered that the penalty of death had been abolished for those who deserted in the face of the enemy or played the coward.

So, if a man decided to escape the rigours of war, although no doubt he paid the price of shame and suffered in other ways, he did not forfeit his life. These young men of ours then, could have said: "We will pay that price of shame. But we will save our skins. We want that extra 40, or 50 or perhaps 60 years of life." To their eternal glory and our immeasurable gain, they did not think like this. They went straight on-and fell. Let us therefore not mince words. If ever men were heroes, these were they. You may have noticed - I wonder whether you have-the inscription on the Memorial Plaque of the First World War. SED MILES, SED PRO PATRIA. Perhaps when we come to put up our second memorial plaque (and our last, please God!) one of you boys will suggest a suitable inscription-it may be in our own language, since Latin is becoming increasingly the luxury of the few. "What have they done?" it may be asked. "They sacrificed their lives."

May I explain those Latin words to you. They are the words of a Roman writer who was thinking of one who had died in battle. His idea was that bitter and terrible though death must always be, yet it loses some of its sting in the case of a man who was a soldier, a man who died for his fatherland. "But he was a soldier; yes, he died for his Country."

This morning, the mood which I think we all have is one of proud and thankful remembrance, coupled with tender sympathy for the parents, brothers and sisters and perhaps wives and sweethearts of these young men. Others no doubt will prefer to dwell on the haunting problem of war which still has not been solved. Others, in the conference chamber, in the press, from the pulpit, on the wireless or in daily discussion will be pondering how we can avoid a repetition of this horror, which, among other consequences, would cause another tragic gap in the ranks of the Old Boys of this School. But there is one thought on which I would like to end this talk of mine. One of the worst effects of the First World War was the loss of men who, had they lived, would have had so much to contribute to the rebuilding and the enriching of our national life.

Between the two wars, we suffered an almost overwhelming handicap because these men were not among us to give of their best in skill and effort and service. In the last war the losses were, thank God, not so great. But they were, alas, great enough. And, if you will let me say so, it is for you, the younger generation, to make up for that loss, as best you can, by seeing to it that, when you go out into the world, you are equipped in mind, body and character to fill the gap, even though it will mean shouldering a burden heavier than you would normally expect. We are indeed "compassed about by a cloud of witnesses."

If it were possible for the spirits of the departed to speak to us from beyond the grave, I believe that these Old Boys of whom we are thinking would say to you, their successors in the School, something like this: "We were cut off, School, not very long after we had started in life. Think of us sometimes and think of those we left behind. 'There were good things in that old life of ours, good things in that old country. May you have better luck than we had, may you prove better men than we were; and, when it is your turn to come our way, may you leave dear England better than you found it. I like to think that these young men are watching. Over to you, School, over to you!'

Pretty poignant stuff I am sure you would agree - RE

OBITUARIES:

GERRY LE VEY (1946 – 53) from his son Peter Le Vey: Gerry would have been among the youngest boys to have received the address of his Headmaster (FA Morgan) above:

“Gerry, as he preferred to be known, was born in Tidworth in 1935. We do not know a lot about his early life. His father was in the Royal Army Pay Corps, and he spent a lot of time abroad including during WW2.

After he left school, he undertook National Service in the Army and spent some of his time in Cyprus. On leaving the Army he joined Marks and Spencer’s as part of their management trainee scheme. During this period, he lived in Worcester Park in Surrey and this is where he met his wife, Mary. They lived opposite each other and played tennis at the local club. They married in 1958 and stayed together until Mary’s death in 2017. They had two children, Peter who was born in 1959 and Tony who was born in 1961.

Gerry decided to leave Marks and Spencer’s in 1959 and joined Goodlass Wall as a sales representative selling Valspar paints. He was responsible for part of the East Anglia region and moved to Wroxham near Norwich. During this period Gerry and Mary developed an interest in singing and joined a local Gilbert and Sullivan society where they performed in many local concerts. Gerry was a keen classical music fan for all his lifetime and had as an extensive collection of recordings.

In 1967, Gerry changed jobs and became a sales representative for Michelin who moved him to Yorkshire. He moved to live near York and remained there until his death. During his time with Michelin, he was initially a salesman selling truck and car tyres however later in his career he became truck tyre specialist handling technical matters on truck tyres for large fleets in Yorkshire and north Lincolnshire.

When he moved to York, he initially took up golf, where he reached a respectable 18 handicap. As a youngster he had built and flown free flight model aeroplanes and when one of his friends expressed an interest in this he returned to making and flying planes and this became his passion for a number of years. He reached his pinnacle as a model airplane flyer in 1980 when he represented Great Britain in the European Championships in the then Yugoslavia and this was one of the highlights of his life.

He also continued his singing in York and when a choir was formed in 1971 to celebrate the 1900th anniversary of the founding of the Roman City, Gerry joined this choir. They undertook two major concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in York Minster and the Royal Festival Hall in London and were involved in a number of records. He continued to sing in a number of choirs in York for many years including the York Musical Society and York University choir.

He retired from work in 1993 and spent some of his retirement travelling with Mary visiting Australia, New Zealand and many European countries. They also went on a number of cruises including one through the Panama Canal. Gerry always enjoyed driving and, in his retirement, he acquired two classic cars, a Triumph TR6 and TR7. These were his pride and joy and he used to love going out in the summer with the roof down through the countryside in the north of England.”

The following items are a record of Gerry’s time at FGS which have been forwarded to Peter Le Vey, the first piece being a report in the Farnham Herald of the 1953 School Concert, which was held during Gerry Le Vey’s final year at Morley Road.



"Herald" Photo 6541

A CREDITABLE EVENT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL CONCERT

In the series of evening concerts given by Farnham Grammar School the one which took place at the F.G.G.S. Hall, Menin Way, last Saturday was something of an event. The concert was sponsored by F.G.S. and was given by the joint orchestras of Tiffin's School, Kingston-on-Thames and Farnham Grammar School, the F.G.G.S. choir and pipe group, and Mr. G. D. Carroll (baritone) — over one hundred performers all told.

Under the baton of Alan Fluck, Farnham's talented music master, the fifty-piece orchestra began with Purcell's Suite from "The Virtuoso Wife," orchestrated by Holst, comprising two minuets, a slow air and an allegro. The orchestra gained more and more assurance throughout the Suite and became most spirited in the final movement. This was followed by a group of three songs by Schubert, "Das Wanderer," "Nacht und Traume" and "Der Musensohn," and all three were well managed by Mr. Carroll, accompanied by a very able Alan Fluck.

FINE SINGING BY GIRLS' CHOIR

The orchestra were heard again in the Gayton Suite by Eric Thiman under Tiffin's orchestra conductor, Denis Bloodworth. To complete the first half we were treated to some excellent singing by the F.G.G.S. choir. Their diction was good and presentation most pleasing under the delicate conducting of Miss Ena Phillips in "The Shepherd's Shrena" by Stanford and two songs by Elgar, the well known "Lullaby" and "Fly, Singing Bird," with Margaret Brown playing a violin obligato in the latter. Pavane by D'Arbeau, the March from "Scipio" and Minuet from "Samson" by Handel were next played by the orchestra under the

direction of Denis Bloodworth, and, from this group, the Pavane was most impressive.

Miss Betty Fernley then conducted the "unusual" item of the evening. This was the F.G.G.S. pipe group and its programme was made up of three Welsh airs arranged by Megan Williams, "O London is a fine town" arranged by Miller, a traditional piece "Berceuse D'Auvergne" and a Purcell Minuet arranged by Olsson. In the two latter pieces some larger pipes were incorporated in order to provide a three and four part harmony and, in each of the pieces, the pure tone of the pipes made exquisite listening.

OPERATIC ARIAS

Now saw the return of Mr. Carroll in three operatic arias. He was much more at home here than in the earlier lieder and enchanted us with some beautiful singing. The first aria was "O del mio dolce ardo" from Gluck's opera "Paride ed Eleni" and was followed by the famous "Vesti la Giubba" from "I Pagliacci" by Leoncavallo. Mr. Carroll's last aria was the Canzonetta from Mozart's "Don Giovanni." This last piece was so well applauded that it just had to be sung again. Alan Fluck once more accompanied extremely well, especially in the difficult staccato piano part of the Mozart.

Forsaking the piano for the baton, Mr. Fluck conducted the orchestra in a Minuet by Elgar, the Barcarolle from "Tales of Hoffman" by Offenbach and the Prelude to Act IV of "Carmen" by Bizet to conclude the programme. The Bizet was played with such youthful enthusiasm and vigour that the audience demanded it just once more before they went home.

WEEKS OF PREPARATION

When you hear one or two of the stories behind this concert I think you will agree that it was something of an achievement.

The event needed weeks of preparation and advance organisation, including the arrangement of trav-

elling facilities, rehearsals and meals. The goodwill and spirit which sprang up after the meeting of the two orchestras was most marked. The combined orchestras had only one rehearsal together before the concert and their previous separate rehearsals had been conducted during their own time! Now for some observations on the performers.

The self-confidence and aplomb of the two leaders, Micael Prescott, of Tiffin's and David Bassett, of Farnham, and the obvious musicianship of the former were outstanding features. There was a professional-like touch of the Tiffin's timpanist, Welford. Their 'cellist, Gough, is twelve years old and he taught himself to play the cello three years ago. Who noticed the lovely tone he extracted from his instrument while playing the solo passage in the Celtic Lament movement of the Gayton Suite? Another youngster is Paul, who has been learning the oboe during the last three months!

TAUGHT HIMSELF TO PLAY HORN

From Farnham we have young Sones with a "Thurston-like" tone developed in one year's playing and Keith Mentzel, who has taught himself the horn in nine months!

The girls' pipe group is of all ages and Saturday was the first time it had performed in public. The girls make their own pipes of bamboo wood and have to tune them very accurately.

In these days of well-known girls' choirs, the Farnham girls compared quite favourably with some which are heard on the radio. Their performance showed they had worked extremely hard in the rehearsals.

Last, but by no means least, is Mr. Carroll who, it will be remembered, reached the finals of the Mario Lanza contest recently held throughout the whole country. Here, then, is music which must be encouraged and in Farnham we have had something started which must be repeated more and more in the future. Well done!—D.A.B.

FOOTNOTE

This concert will be repeated at 7 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday), at Tiffin's School, Kingston-on-Thames. If anyone is interested they will be most welcome.

Remembering the recent carol service at the parish church and this week's concert, one wonders what the Grammar School will pull next out of its musical hat. We have heard rumours of a new opera.

Following is a list of the performers (Tiffin's boys without initials):—

Orchestra: 1st violin—D. W. Bassett, J. J. Rhind, T. R. Andrews, J. Melville, A. K. Common, S. R. Allen, J. H. Weston, E. J. Wells, Prescott, Worthington, Polden, Joynes; 2nd violin—J. Marshall, E. Sloggett, P. A. Harding, J. A. Johnson, A. Amor, H. Jordan, Watson, Davis, Williams, viola—G. F. Le Vey, D. Cutler, Wilson, Norracot, West; 'cello—M. J. Garside, Gough; double bass—M. W. Dawson, D. Lea, Wooden; flute—J. Kilgour, W. Comley, Gipton; oboe—Paul; clarinet—A. Sones, P. Hutchinson, Beeson; bassoon—Fair; trumpet—F. Callaghan, H. J. Uptfold; horns—K. I. Mentzel, Smith, Partridge; trombone—C. E. Payne; timpani—S. J. Bevan, Welford; percussion—E. B. Waide, M. E. Brazier, Harris.

F.G.G.S. choir: B. Caplin, S. Carr, J. Collins, A. Emmings, J. Ford, M. Hutchins, D. Lee, M. Longhurst, E. Jordan, Janet Ricketts, A. Mancey, E. Mander, P. Money, M. Powell, D. Prout, A. Ralph, M. Randall, S. Renton, J. Ogbourn, E. Stranack, Jennifer Ricketts, J. Sorg, V. Watkin, J. Wood, J. Balls, E. Barnard, J. Bassett, J. Beeken, P. Pouiter, V. Wetton, M. Clarke, G. Creasey, S. Davis, C. Edwards, M. Etherington, B. Gardner, M. Ginever, M. Grey, M. Ralph.

F.G.G.S. pipe group: V. Wetton, J. Cox, A. Chandler, V. Watkin, A. Tudd, U. Payne, J. Hollingdale, D. Myall, V. Jordan, J. Withers, J. Bampfylde, K. Godsil.

SCHOOL ORCHESTRA 1949

First Violins: D. Bassett, D. Bowtell, J. M. Cotterill, D. R. Higton, D. Wilkinson, J. H. Wisdom. Second Violins: S. R. Allen, J. Bassett. P. R. Chandler, A. K. Common, D. Cutler, G. Hunt, J. Marshall, C. Payne, G. Le Vey, D. Phillips, E. Wells, D. Wyllie. Viola: J. O. Hutchinson. Cello: Mrs. Evans. Double Bass: G. D. Blunt. Percussion: D. Wilding, A. T. Holt. Piano: I. F. A. Bowler. Trumpet: Mr. W. F. Wickens.

MEMBERS OF ORCHESTRA 1950

First Violins: J. M, Cotterill (Leader), D. Bassett, J. Bassett, D. A. Bowtell, P. Chandler, D. I. Higton, D. J. Phillips, D. L. Wilkinson, D. O. Wyllie. Second Violins: G. V. Hunt (Leader), S. R. Allen, D. A. Andrews, J. M. Bridger, A. K. Common, R. T. Creasey, D. Cutler, S. J. Ellis, C. D. Inglis, G. Klein, J. Marshall, C. E. Payne, J. J. Rhind, E. J. Wells. Violas: J. O. Hutchinson, G. Le Vey. Cellos: G. D. Blunt, D. J. Mansell. Double Bass: M. J. Garside. Trumpet: W. F. Wickens. Timpani and Piano S. T. Holt, I. T. Randell. Percussion: S. J. Bevan, A. Harris.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA 1951:

First Violins: J. M. Cotterill (Leader), J. M. Bassett, D. A. Bowtell, P. R. Chandler, R. T. Creasey, D. I. Higton, D. J. Phillips, D. L. Wilkinson, D. O. Wyllie. Second Violins: D. W. Bassett (Leader), S. R. Allen, D. A. Andrews, J. M. Bridger, A. K. Common, D. Cutler, J. Marshall, J. Melville, C. E. Payne, J. J. Rhind, H. Springate, A. J. Tull, E. J. Wells. Cellos: M. J. Garside, G. E. Page. Double Bass: P. J. Knight. Trumpet: Mr. W. F. Wickens, P. Callaghan. Piano: A. T. Holt, D. I. Higton. Timpani: S. J. Bevan, A. T. Holt. Percussion: A. Harris, P. W. Sindle. Viola: G. F. Le Vey.

‘O’ Level Results: G. F. LeVey (E, EL, H, F, M, Mu,)

‘A’ Level Result: ; G. F. LeVey (French)

Assistant Cadet Signal Instructor’s Certificate. Cpl R. B. Coveney, Cpl G. F. Le Vey.

Joined OFA on leaving School - G. F. LE VEY (1946-1953), 10 West Road, Barton Stacey, near Winchester

DAVID TITCHENER (1971 – 78) from Mike Mehta and John Clarke at Blunderbuss

From my exchange of correspondence with David's brother Nigel, David studied physics at Exeter University and later gained a PGCE. He taught at Frome College for many years. Further details have been posted by Frome College on their website.

David was site supervisor and Science teacher at [Frome College](#).

The College has left a book of condolence in Frome Town Hall. Members of the community can leave messages between 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-4.30pm on Fridays.

‘Titch’ joined Frome College in 1987, and over his 34 years of service to the college he taught and supported many, many individuals. The College looks forward to celebrating his life and the energy he invested in the college site to make it so beautiful.

Chris went to the same primary school as I did – even though I was two years his junior I was aware of his impeccable temperament and kindness to others.

At Ash Walsh Memorial Church of England Primary School, to give it its full title, Chris was taught by almost the identical set of teachers that I had the good fortune to encounter – he would always talk about them all with absolute respect; Mr Hunt took Chris for early morning, before school, running training and relay practise at Shawfields Recreation Ground – at times the Headmaster, Mr Durbin, would just turn up to watch.

Ash Walsh School actually had three locations: the main school in Ash Street, The Clinic in Shawfields Road and The Chapel in Ash Street – living as Chris did in Ash Street, next door to The Garden House Shop near The Kings Head pub, I was not aware that he attended The Clinic, as I did, since it was only a stone's throw from our family home in Attfield Close – my mother could see me in the playground from the kitchen window. Having said that, Chris did attend The Chapel where he was taught by Mrs Prescott, a fairly stern lady, whose hair was always tied back and in his final year, like me he attended The Chapel to be taught by Mrs Woodward; she was always called Margaret, but Chris knew that her real christian name was Margherita. Other teachers we recalled with fondness were Mr Pooley (who seemed to be the only other male teacher apart from Mr Hunt), Mrs Townsend, Mrs Quirk and Miss Wilson – the latter being a name I had forgotten but in visiting Chris just a few months ago he called out her name as I was leaving No. 22 – I just knew he would remember her name.

On passing his XI plus examination in 1955 Chris journeyed off to Farnham Grammar School (FGS) – I know from experience that the Ash Walsh teachers were always very proud of their pupils who made it to the Grammar School - Chris was no exception – like me, he always wanted to go to FGS.

At FGS he was great friends with other athletes, and I do mean athletes, not just footballers – people like John Matthews, Bryn Carr and Lyn Gardiner; Chris was in Massingberd House, which had sort of maroon shirts in games – later after Chris had left FGS Massingberd House adopted yellow shirts; the significance of the maroon shirts was that it was in fact 50% of the school quarter colours – the other 50% being the light blue (sky blue) of School House.

The family will have a good deal of knowledge of Chris at both FGS and of course his dedication to the Old Farnhamians' Association (OFA), where he would always provide sound counsel for me in my former duties as Secretary and later as President; after OFA meetings we would always spend time chatting before we went home – if he was ever later than you expected Judy it was almost certainly due to the fact that he and I had become engrossed with topics from Middlesbrough Football Club (his team) to Civil Service Contracts, Processes and Procedures; after OFA Dinners he would always take home a floral decoration for Judy.

I am going to so very much miss my great chum, Chris Nash – the kindest of men, who it was my absolute privilege to have known.

Roger Edgell – November 27th, 2021.

Tribute to Chris Nash by Ian Sargeant – taken from The OFA Website

Chris Nash was in the same FGS school year as I. We were both put in Form 1P under the kindly form master John Wills in September 1955. Thirty excited 11-year-olds, most of them not previously known to each other, quickly mingled and made friendships.

Chris was not a noisy boy but slightly retiring, though very sociable and approachable. We were always good friends though not close. Since he lived in Ash, travelling in by train every day, we did not often meet outside of school hours. He played football and performed well in athletics. And he was clever, getting good O-Level results but not going onto A-Levels. He told me in recent years that his father drummed into him the importance of taking full advantage of the opportunity being offered to him by going to Farnham Grammar School and closely followed his progress.

But when he left after 5th form our paths separated in 1960 with just meetings at OFA events. We started to meet more often when I returned to live in Farnham in 1992 and to become re-engaged in local matters. Chris had pursued a career at the RAE in Farnborough whilst I had become an accountant and worked abroad till our return. However, our view of the world was very similar, and we enjoyed discussing a wide range of topics on which we would draw very similar opinions, admiring the same public figures and ranting against others.

Chris was, from my perspective, very shrewd. He took a strong interest in financial markets and made some very good calls.

We frequently travelled together to OFA events, particularly in recent years when his health was deteriorating. We were both trustees of the Old Farnhamians' Scholarship Trust. He talked a lot about his family. He was devoted to Judy and their daughters.

Sadly, Chris's health went through a prolonged decline, which he bore stoically. Judy's support was magnificent and unstinting, and our heart goes out to her in her loss. We will all miss Chris as we share the grief of Judy and the family.

Ian Sargeant – Wednesday, 22 December 2021

Stella Bolt (nee Davies) – from both the OFA and Blunderbuss websites – a true friend of the OFA

We are extremely sad to record the death of Stella Bolt, a former President of the FGGS OGA. She had been unwell for a few weeks and was admitted to Frimley Park Hospital. Her health deteriorated further, and she finally slipped away on 2 February. Stella was a significant contributor to the Sponsorship Awards Scheme for The College students via the 400 Trust making a very generous three awards per year, one in the name of Tony Bolt, the second in the name of Ian Bolt and the third in the name of the Davies Family, who lived opposite the School where school tennis activities took place.

Gerald Toogood (1949 – 56) from Jon Wonham (1949 – 55)

A pupil (Gerald Toogood) who attended the School at the same time as me, in his case 1949 - 56, died on 30 November 2020 at Waterloo, Ontario. He was 82.

Gerald was Emeritus Professor of Chemistry of Waterloo University, Canada, where he served much of his career. He is survived by his daughter Anita, a sports physiologist and recreation manager at Calgary.

The name Gerald was shortened to Gerry in his Canadian domicile.

More details of his death can be found on the internet.

He was taught Chemistry by Leonard Evans at FGS; Leonard being proud that he had advanced to full professor (one of a number of his pupils elevated to university chairs).

Gerald was a keen and accomplished FGS sportsman and particularly shone at football as I remember.

I'm sure there will be other Old Farnhamians who will remember his time at the school and be saddened by his passing.

Obituary of Gerald Edward Toogood from Canada publication

Gerald (Gerry) Edward Toogood passed away on November 30, 2020, in Kitchener, Ontario.

Gerald is survived by his daughter Anita in Calgary, sister Jean (Robert) Buckingham in England (nieces Nicola and Joanne), sister-in-law Doris in the USA (niece Kathy and nephews John and Tom) and cousins Sheila, Anne and Mary (Gray), Ann, Alan, Christine, Jim, Ted and Angela (Toogood) in England. He is preceded in death by his wife Patricia (Ely) Toogood, brother-in-law Charles Ely, parents Leslie and Edith (Jones), and cousins Richard & Vivien Kent.

Gerald was born in Frimley, England to Leslie and Edith (Jones) Toogood on April 9, 1938. He attended Farnham Grammar School (England) and graduated in 1956. He was the first person in the family to attend university and went on to earn a BSc (Hons) and subsequent PhD in Chemistry from the University of Nottingham in 1962. After graduation, Gerald took a position at the Argonne National Labs in Chicago, USA. There he met and married Patricia. In 1964 the couple moved to Canada where Gerry joined the Chemistry Department at the University of Waterloo. Daughter Anita was born in 1970. Gerald worked at UW until his retirement in 1996 but during this span was a visiting Professor/Fellow at Universities in Australia (Western Australia), England (Warwick, Durham), USA (Virginia, Ohio State) and Canada (Simon Frasier). From 1992-1998 he was Director of International Programmes for the Science Faculty of the University of Waterloo. Gerald earned fellowships to the Canadian Institute of Chemistry and Royal Society of Chemistry. He enjoyed travelling (especially driving to all parts of North America), reading, birdwatching, meals out with friends, creating cryptic puzzles, and sport (Football [Soccer]; Cricket; Ice Hockey).

DOES ANYBODY REMEMBER THE SCHOOL PRAYER - REPRISE

ROGER EDGELL

Feedback – a number of our younger members cannot fully recall The School Prayer so I have left this item in text for further comment if anyone can help – clearly some text in The School Prayer got lost in the ether over time.

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

Thus far, **ANDY FRISH (1966 -73)** has responded from Hahndorf in South Australia with the following:

School Prayer Recollection:

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 **sometime Bishop of Winchester 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. **Help us to walk in thy ways 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

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

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FORMER OLD BOYS:

ROGER EDGELL

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

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 (1955 – 62)** continues to place material on the website and readers are encouraged to furnish Ian with relevant details at www.farnhamians.org/ofa or info@farnhamians.org.

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 for this Newsletter.

This time round Mike and his willing band of contemporaries set up the usual annual re-union which was held on the 4th September 2021 – there is a good deal of material relating to this event – space is limited this time round so this will be kept in abeyance for future publication.

In the previous Newsletter Mike advised that a 50th Anniversary Reunion Party would be held for the 1971 intake to be held at Farnham College on Sunday 4th July 2021; inevitably Covid impinged on this planning and the event eventually took place at Farnham College on Sunday 26th September 2021.

The event turned out be a resounding success and the artwork and photos of the event are shown below, courtesy of old boys Mike Mehta and John Clarke at Blunderbuss.

50 Year Party: 1971-2021 Gallery

This gallery includes pictures from the FGGS & FGS 50 Year Party which took place in the College on Sunday 26th September 2021.

<http://blunderbuss.org.uk/50%20year%20party%20programme.pdf>

This link above shows the programme for the event, this includes roll calls for boys and girls, the order of events, RIP and thanks. An insert included the words for “Jerusalem” and the FGS School Song.



A convivial 50th birthday event enjoyed by all as shown by this snap of the dining area at The College.



The superb celebratory cake was cut by special guest Julia Wilson (nee Beeken). Julia attended FGGS from 1947-55 and her father Harold “Harry” Beeken taught English at FGS having been appointed in 1930.

MIKE MEHTA (1971-78) finishes off this (his) section for us with a photo of himself and **DAVID CHILD (1970 -77)** battling it out on a new year sprint at the end of a run-on New Year’s Day – David’s performance is creditably strong since he recovered from a stroke the previous year – he pipped Mike by one second as the camera angle clearly shows.

Congratulations to both!

As ever Mike thank you for your contributions.



GEOFF HARNETT (1964 – 70) 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 was restricted in the last edition, so with Geoff’s approval I set out his recollections below:

"Although I left in 1970 it was because I did a second year in the 5th form as my O- level results weren't good enough for me to stay on in the 6th form. My father was a great friend of George Baxter through the Rotary Club and I think it was because of their friendship George gave me a second chance to get better results (which I didn't) - hence I left FGS in 1970 initially working as a branch clerk for Equity & Law in Farnham. I was rather lucky that in 1973 - my mother saw an advert in the Telegraph for a trainee money broker in the city which I applied for and got. I took to it like a duck to water and six years later, having moved companies a couple of times, I was Managing Director of another broking house and bought the company I had started in. In 1999 we in turn were taken over ourselves. This company became EXCO Plc and in 1983 it was floated on the London Stock Exchange - by this time I was one of the MDs under our CEO John Gunn.

In 1985 after a boardroom coup led by a group of non-executive directors, John left the company and I, together with six other directors decided we didn't want to continue under the new CEO and left to set up our own money broking company. We commenced trading in February 1986 with 18 staff. We were extraordinarily successful and over the next 10 years swallowed up most of our competitors and did a reverse takeover of an already listed Plc, so we were listed on the stock market. However, by 1997 we employed over 4000 people worldwide and were trading in a lot of off-balance sheet products which I didn't really understand. So, I decided it was time to go since my health hadn't been too good and I had very high blood pressure. This, together with the fact that both of my parents died within a year of each other in 1996 and 1997 aged 66 and 72 respectively, which of course is no age really these days, made the decision easy. So, on my 45th birthday in December 1997 I retired.

The company continues to this day and, through several mergers and takeovers, is a multi-billion-pound Footsie 250 company.

My wife Wendy and I live full time at our beautiful home in the Algarve overlooking the Atlantic Ocean having sold our property in Farnham in October 2020. Life here is great and we immerse ourselves in many local clubs and activities. I have just retired as Chairman of Floresta Parque Golf Club after six years in the role and have been chairman (twice) of the Algarve 41 Club (ex-Round Tabler's), Vice President of the Algarve Wine Society and Vice Chancellor of the Chaine Des Rotisseurs and belong to various other organisations.

The only downside to living in Portugal is that since the Covid Pandemic started we haven't been to the UK to see our children, grandchildren and friends although one of our sons, his wife and our granddaughter did come out for 2 weeks in July 2021. We are very much looking forward to travelling to England for an extended stay in the summer and have just booked our first cruise since Covid struck for later in the year.

So hopefully we will be back to normality if such a thing is possible these days.”

FURTHER NEWS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE OFA

ROGER EDGELL

Inevitably these past two years of OFA functioning have been substantially impacted by Covid and we should be particularly mindful of this for our President Gordon Andrews, whose normal two-year period of 'office' has also been duly impacted; our next AGM perhaps should address the future of the OFA.

Sadly, it is clear that the OFA is no longer an effective organisation, as our rapidly reducing numbers make it impossible to provide for the General Committee as contained in our constitution. Of course, we must remain justly proud of those and their work that have gone before, but the professional dissolution of the OFA should now be tackled; otherwise, the inevitable demise will set in and the OFA becomes just a 'lunch-club' for the few.

The 400 Trust will continue its work apace in the years to come and provide the necessary function for the Old Boys; it now has Room 304 at Morley Court to operate in.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Gordon, his Vice President Ray Cleminson, our diligent Secretary Brian Williams and our hard-working Treasurer Stephen Pritchard who have all contributed significantly to the serious debate about the future of the OFA these past two years.

In this regard then, I cordially advise Members that **the Annual Lunch planned for Wednesday 5th October 2022 at The Bush in Farnham** should, in my view, be our final formal lunch; I will be circulating menu choices later this year for what will be our 89th annual gathering (a splendid achievement) so could I ask those of you who are fit enough at this stage to register your wish to attend to me via rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk in order for me to set the event up with the Bush, at which it is my intention to include The School Song, The Roll Call and, subject to Covid, The Loving Cup, together with an address from The President. Thank You.

REJOINDER

ROGER EDGELL

As part of Cyril Trust'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 and in view of the foregoing item this publication will be effected in future in the name of the 400 Trust; 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.

Finally, to those of you who have suffered immeasurably in these Covid stricken times, I offer my sincere best wishes for a brighter 2022 and beyond.

Kindest regards to all

Roger Edgell

rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk

January 2022