



# OLD FARNHAMIAN'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023 - OFA CLOSURE EDITION

NUMBER 03/23

[www.farnhamians.org/ofa](http://www.farnhamians.org/ofa)

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## INTRODUCTION

ROGER EDGELL

This post 'learn to live with Covid' edition of our Newsletter reflects on the impact of the OFA's falling numbers and the decision taken by the General Committee in mid-2022 to recommend dissolution of the Association. Over time our decreasing numbers could not support the Committee style structure on which the OFA was founded; with increasing postal costs in these modern times, much is now done via digital and electronic means which in itself can become a chore for those who have not had the time to master them.

As a matter of record then, it is thought pertinent to record here the results of the postal ballot taken in response to the General Committee recommendation that the OFA should be dissolved in accordance with Rule 16 of its Constitution which states:

### 16. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

"The Association shall not be dissolved except after a decision of three-fourths of the members present at a Special General Meeting of the Association specifically convened to decide whether dissolution shall take place. Such a decision to dissolve the Association shall not become operative unless ratified by a majority, by postal ballot, of paid up members of the Association."

Of the 252 postal ballot papers sent out the results are as follows:

- 155 papers were returned of which 4 were not able to support the GC recommendation;
- 97 papers were not returned and as a consequence were deemed to be in support of the recommendation;
- Summary: Members in support of the GC recommendation = 98.4% and those against = 1.6%

This significant size of response to support dissolution of the OFA is a realistic endorsement against the background of issues with which the General Committee was confronted; to survive and thrive as the OFA has, for 50 years beyond the closure of The School, is simply a quite remarkable achievement.

A sad time for us all, yes, but Ian Sargeant, our diligent Webmaster has confirmed that the website will be kept in operation for as long as possible in order that peers and contemporaries may contact each other and also be kept abreast of any events which former members are instigating or involved in – our memorabilia facility in Room 304 will remain intact under the watchful brief of the 400 Trust which will continue for the foreseeable future; Room 304 will now operate as 400 Trust HQ.

Can I remind readers that there is still input from Old Boys across the world and the newsletter will continue to keep the former membership informed of same via e-mail [rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk). The Newsletter will be distributed digitally to former Members who are still interested so please ensure an e-mail address is available to you.

**Please advise me if you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter in future – thank you.**

**Updates beyond the '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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 a small opening ceremony was undertaken at The College.

The room in question (Room 304 Morley Court) has now been adorned with a good deal of additional material ranging from a travelling microscope and a spectrometer used in my time at The School to a whole series of 'pupil leaving records' held in a card record system. These are treasured additions to our collection and to my surprise another acquisition is the FGGS Inter House Netball Trophy – all the pupil cards and the netball trophy were passed to us by John Walker, the new Facilities Manager at The College; if you wish to visit Room 304, please do let me know and I will do my best to arrange a 'term time' visit with The College.

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](mailto:rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk).

**FINAL ANNUAL LUNCH: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – The Bush Farnham**

ROGER EDGELL

**Website Entry from Ian Sargeant:**

"Your Webmaster apologises that this report comes weeks after our historic and highly memorable last annual dinner – the Association's 89<sup>th</sup>. I went on holiday almost immediately after the event and there was no time to process all the photos etc, let alone write up the event in a report.

This was another highly successful lunch with a record attendance for recent years. Our persuasive organiser Roger Edgell arranged for the Bush Hotel to break their own record number of diners in the principal function room and squeeze in 80 fairly rotund old boys.

The spirit of many generations of deceased old boys and staff of the school were surely watching us! We paid respectful tribute to those who have only recently passed away before we enjoyed a very good meal amid a loud buzz of genial discussion and reminiscence. Our President, Gordon Andrews, delivered the last ever President's Address and we sang the School Song in our usual lusty way, a memory we can treasure and revive whenever we're feeling nostalgic as it has been filmed and will remain on this website for as long as your webmaster is extant and in control of his actions.

So, this is the formal end of the association which is now being wound up and no *official* activities or events will take place. BUT this website will continue and can serve as a rallying place. Anyone

wanting to announce plans for activities such as parties, drinks or dinners for old boys is invited to tell the webmaster who will announce it on the home page.

End of an era? Yes, but precious memories will linger and can continue to be recorded so please do not hesitate to send me any material that would interest or entertain us for display in these pages.”

Ian Sargeant  
Saturday, 22 October 2022

**Attendees:**

Gordon Andrews, Hugh Batchelor (Staff), Clive Beal, Rod Bennett, Paul Blowfield, David Blunt, James Jagger (College), Andrew Cannings, John Clarke, Ray Cleminson, Martin Collier, John Crotty, Brian Daniels, Dave Edgell, Roger Edgell, Keith Elkins, Andy Everett, Chis Fairclough, Chris Fitch, Rob Frampton, Bob Golding, David Greentree, Hugh Groves, Barry Hall, Adrian Harding, Geoff Harnett, John Hibberd, John Hirst, Geoff Hooker, Glenn Honey, David Hughes, Chris Jarvis, Roger Jones, Brian Lake, Richard Lord, Simon Lord, Bob Luckhurst, Geoff Martin, Bob Matthews, John Matthews, Ted Mayne, David McManamon, Mike Mehta, Keith Mentzel, Keith Mortimer, Chris Mullins, Andrew Nicolson, Norman Paget, John Parker, Jim Peace, David Polglaze, Dennis Phillips, Stephen Pritchard, Roger Remington, Ian Sargeant, Lewis Scard, Martin Seignot, Mike Seignot, John Sherwood, Roger Shipton, Ray Stenning, Neville Timmins, Howard Torode, Rev Andrew Tuck, Julian Walden, Les Webb, Brian Webberley, Robin Welland Jones, Mark Westcott, Brian Williams and Martin Wingent.



Those, some of whom were Covid victims, who could not make it on the day: Mark Booker, John Cope, Martin Da Costa, Barry Elson, Graham Glazier, Bob Hewes, Tony Homewood, Maurice Jeffrey, Stephen Linney, Mike Prentice, Richard Phillips, Derek Pollard, Malcolm Rochefort, John Travers, Mick Watts and Wally Walsh.

**DEATHS since 2022 Annual Lunch, which were read out at the commencement of proceedings by the President Gordon Andrews.**

**David Cutler (1945 - 52)**

**William H Sturt (1938 - 45)**

**Chris Nash (1955 - 60)**

**Leslie Banfield (1954 - 61)**

**Peter Downham (1943 - 47)**

**Paul Steadman (1955 - 60)**

**John Young (1971 -78)**

**Keith Goodchild (1967 -74)**

**Graham Levers (1965 - 70)**

**John A Crowhurst (1944 – 49)**



**Gordon Andrews**

“Welcome All – it is so good to see so many of you who could make it along today to this our final formal OFA Annual Lunch – the Members attending today total about 30% of the entire current membership – but for Covid affected times we could reasonably have amassed over 90 such gatherings – an incredible achievement for a group whose School closed in 1973.

You will see from our running order today that we will finish with The School Song and The National Anthem – we must be one of the earliest formal gatherings to recognise King Charles III – please remember this when The Toastmaster announces The Loyal Toast.

Over the years, our clubs and societies in the OFA, many of which had their roots in our School Life, flourished under our enthusiastic membership and the supportive actions of the ever present General Committee; my personal thanks to all who have served in this way to make for such a convivial gathering for peers and contemporaries when we meet; it is a testimony I think to the wonderful teaching staff that were assembled under the watching briefs of the two great Headmasters of our time – Francis A Morgan & George Baxter.

The modern Grammar School they steered passed into history in 1973 as it became Farnham College – in 2007 Farnham College was merged into The Guildford College Group and just ten years later The GCG was absorbed into the progressive educational organisation Activate Learning. During these fundamental transitions for The School, the OFA continued to provide the broadest of support to those fronting the subsequent organisations and we must remember this with absolute pride.

GENTLEMEN – please charge your glasses and stand for the Toast To The School – .....‘THE SCHOOL’

But time has marched inexorably on and we all knew I think that this day of reckoning would come ‘on our watch’ – you will see that today, Members have been provided with a Ballot Paper envelope – this is in accord with The Rules Of The Association and I would request that you place your return ballot paper in the box provided in order that our hard working Secretary Brian Williams can complete the necessary formalities

re Dissolution of The Association; Brian will be assisted in the process by our diligent Treasurer Stephen Pritchard – thank you Brian & Stephen.

As we reflect on the closure of the Association, it is purposeful I think to record the work that will continue:

- The OFA Website will remain operational under the watchful and diligent eye of our Webmaster Ian Sargeant – Ian has advised that all future gatherings of peer groups should be offered to him for inclusion on the site and he will do all he can to assist such plans – thank you Ian;
- The 400 Trust will now operate in its new home – Room 304, Morley Court, at The College – we are grateful to Neil Brookes, Head Of Campus and his Deputy James Jagger for their wonderful support in the establishment of our memorability facility there (you will know that this room is dedicated to our former OFA & 400 Trust stalwart Cyril Trust) – James is with us today – James, please pass on our grateful thanks to Neil;
- Sadly, with the passing of Cyril Trust, we no longer have a Farnhamian Magazine to peruse each year, but the Newsletter introduced after the loss of Cyril will continue to be produced for those who are interested.

GENTLEMEN – it is my solemn duty to ask you to please charge your glasses and stand for the final time to mark The Toast To The Association – .....‘THE ASSOCIATION’

Thank you all for your kind attention and I wish you a safe journey home.

After a rousing rendition of the School Song – available on the website with thanks to our diligent Webmaster Ian Sargeant, our long serving Treasurer Stephen Pritchard, rose to express the feelings of all those present on this marking of ‘the end of an era’. Stephen then presented a superb decanter and a bottle of Wesh Malt to Roger Edgell for his efforts over twenty five years in keeping the Association Dinners and Lunches running after which Roger was able to return the compliment with thanks to all who had made his efforts worthwhile during this time, in particular former Secretary and President John Crotty and former Membership Secretary Tony Harland, both of whom did such a sterling job for the Association without the aid of emails, spreadsheets and the like.



**Stephen Pritchard**

My personal thanks to other old boys who have attended in the past but were not able to do so on this occasion – I am indebted to them for their support over the years vis Mick Watts, Michael Ewbank Smith, Tony Gatfield, John Travers, Trevor Andrews, Wally Walsh, John Cope, Paul Cope, Barry Elson, Graham Glazier, Dudley Elsmore, Martin Little, Neil Wood, Roy Wood, Stephen Linney, Maurice Jeffreys, John Cockle, John Fisher, John, Bateman, Tony Homewood, Derek Pollard, Malcolm Rochefort, Martin Da Costa, Mark Booker, Denis Lampard, Richard Phillips, Trevor Phillips, John Terrill, Ray Bowtell, Harry Upfold, Jeremy Neave, Jem Regan, Bill Roffey, Peter Mylles, Ian Pearson, Rob Kite, John Pesterfield, Tony Hayward, Chris Slyfield, Bob Hewes, Maurice Sturt Bruce Philpott and Rev John Innes.....with apologies to those I have failed to list.



And finally....  
A word of grateful acknowledgement from all of you who have attended OFA Dinners and Lunches in the past and who have been so competently served by our long enduring Toastmaster, my best chum Clive Beal – thank you Clive.

A number of poignant letters were received following the event and I am grateful to all of you who took the trouble to supply a record in this way – I re-produce some of them here so that a wider audience can appreciate your contributions:

**SIMON LORD (1966-73) Dear Roger,**

Thank you very much indeed for the typically excellent arrangements which you made for the Last Old Farnhamians' Association President's Lunch on 5 October. It was a very poignant but splendid event and a most fitting way to write *finis* to the long history of Farnham Grammar School and the OFA. Far better to go out with such a large and lively gathering, full of good cheer, than to shrivel up over the next few years. I shall not forget the final rendition of the School Song – never has it been sung more lustily or with more feeling (we must have heard in Morley Road). The whole occasion was organised with your customary meticulousness, and the Bush certainly did us proud with a delicious meal. Moreover, the programme you

prepared so carefully, with all its powerful symbols, will be a lasting souvenir of a sad but very memorable and enjoyable day.

I suppose all of us who attended the lunch felt a mixture of pride, regret and gratitude: Pride in having gone to a first-rate school, which gave us an all-round education the equal of anything offered by more recent foundations like Eton and Harrow; Regret that the School no longer stands “sentinel upon the hill” and the chances we were given there are denied to future generations; Gratitude to the School and the distinguished masters who taught us, and to the Association for perpetuating the School’s spirit for 50 years after its transformation into Farnham College.

Some lines by William Wordsworth (writing of the extinction of the Venetian Republic in 1802) came into my head at the lunch and seem apt:

*“Yet shall some tribute of regret be paid,*

*When her long life hath reached its final day:*

*Men are we, and must grieve when even the Shade,*

*Of that which once was great, is passed away.”*

If the OFA was the shade of FGS, certainly we must grieve, but in so doing remember with thankfulness the tremendous work which you, the President, and the other stalwarts on the Committee over time did to make the Association the fine organisation it was.

With renewed thanks and all good wishes,

Yours, Simon

### **CHRIS JARVIS (1966-73) - Dear Roger**

Thank you so much for the delightful final formal reunion yesterday – pleasant surroundings, good food, and some very quick-witted comedians amongst the Old Boys!

Two things – the request for info/tales of Mr Nicholson, and secondly an idea for possible Farnham Herald coverage.

#### Mr Nicholson

I have to confess that by the end of the third year, when we had the option of Latin, German, or Biology for fourth year, I had had enough of ‘Pyramus and Thisbe’ and their Latin associates. But this was no fault of Mr Nicholson, it was more a case of lazy disinterest by me (a common fault, judging by my school reports).

We had three boys in the class who were good at Latin, and we all copied our homework from them. However, we were no fools, and took pains to disguise the copying by changing odd words here and there and introducing likely errors. To our amazement (and a surge in respect for him), one day he disclosed EXACTLY who had copied from whom, and even the order in which we’d done it. Impressive!

#### Farnham Herald

In summer 1970 (or it may have been 1971, my Upper Sixth Year), at Mr Batchelor's request I wrote the weekly tennis match inter-school report for the Farnham Herald. As the third pair, Ian Crewe and I played eight schools with three matches per occasion – 24 matches – and we lost every single one: at least it made it easy to do the write-up, inventing fresh excuses each time. As I was early yesterday into Farnham, I popped into the Herald and met a lovely guy called Peter (who lives in a house owned by a former FGS master) – he very kindly offered to see if he could track down, from the Herald's archives in Woking, the relevant copies.

Which got me thinking....

Would it be worth sending an article (with photos?) to the Herald, to commemorate yesterday? There are some great tales from the Newsletter (the one that most struck me was the account of sticking paper twists in the Woodwork Shed knotted woodwork, setting fire to them, then snuffing them out – only one day, the fire burnt through, and some resourceful lads went over to the fountain, sucked up water, then ran back and spat it into the fire....). One could preface any article by 'Our thanks to the Herald for being such a good reporter of the school's activities over the years'.

In my own time (1966-73), I think the most memorable thing I recall was when John Pibworth and I did the (painfully weak) jokes at the foot of each page in the School magazine, at a time when we had an extraordinarily dishy French lady assisting with French classes (inter-class gaps were spent in a packed corridor longingly gazing into the Upper Room in the Old Building as she finished her class....). John and I inserted a message that 'If a certain master does not wish his time with Ms. .... to be known about, please leave a fiver in the top left-hand locker'. To our surprise and gratification, we received a five-pound note....

Best wishes, and thanks again for all you've done for us,

Chris J.

### **ANDREW NICOLSON (1963-70) – son of Donald of Latin/Classics vintage**

Dear Roger,

Thanks for organising such a splendid final OFA reunion lunch! I'm fortunate you slotted me in at the 11th hour.

I can't express how moved I was by the long and hearty round of spontaneous applause that broke out as soon as I announced my father's name. It seemed as if he, and the old boys' memories of him, in some way personified the spirit of the School, spanning the post-war era. He was one-of-a-kind, who gave much to the Farnhamian community.

I'd like to seize the moment and see if we can set up a method of receiving anecdotes and memories of 'Old Nick' (for a while in the '60s, 'Batman') from those present, and perhaps other OFA members. It would mean a lot to members of his sizeable extended family, with whom he shared great affection, and not a little learning.

Perhaps just give out an email address, and announce online (Facebook? Newsletter?) that this is open for messages? I'd be happy to draw some together into a newsletter and/or website item. The family has some contemporary and of course later photos of him.



Apart from Classics teaching, he did much else in his time at FGS - German, Chess, Cricket, Magazine, Library, timetabling, even some Maths and Drama... It's little-known that he took classes himself during his FGS career, in Programming, German, New Maths, Pottery and more. Old Farnhamians might even like to read a brief account of his full life after his early retirement. I may also be able to pass some school memorabilia to the College.

My brother Laurence and older sister Helen are his Executors, and I think she wrote a piece for the Farnham Herald, but the reminiscences I received yesterday were more personal to him as a teacher and a man. A few were about how boys got out of doing Latin!

Kind regards,

Andrew Nicolson, '63-'70, Bradford on Avon, 07514 551847, 01225 862039

### **PAUL BLOWFIELD (1963 – 70)**

As someone who has myself served on volunteer committees you have my sympathy, Roger. Not quite a thankless task (thank goodness SOMEONE will do it!) but organising 'events', however small, is akin to herding cats!

We're certainly grateful that you, plus your colleagues and those who went before, succeeded in keeping the OFA going for almost half a century after the demise of the grammar school. A worthy achievement to be sure.

Myself, Malcolm and the others of our 'year' that I referred to earlier have resolved to meet up in Farnham every early September for as long as age and infirmity allows. No doubt many other 'Old Boys' do similar.

In the words of the wonderful anti-war folk song.....

*And the old men still answer the call*

*But year after year, their numbers get fewer*

*Someday, no one will march there at all*

(The Band Played Waltzing Matilda; written by Eric Bogle)

Tempus Fugit, Best regards, Paul

**A Visitor to The College to Meet With Brian Williams & Roger Edgell**

**ROGER EDGELL**

**David LeClercq – son of AG LeClercq – the first entry on The School Honours Board who writes:**

Dear Brian and Roger

What an amazing day for the three of us. Not to be forgotten for a long time and what a coincidence, that I should come up with a much older Speech Day document, a day later than the one presented to you yesterday at your Annual Dinner! –(the explanation here is that my long standing friend Richard Lord provided a copy of the 1963 Speech Day for use in Room 304 at our final lunch – this was significantly

trumped by David’s 1897 Speech Day record!!); please express my sincere apologies to your Club Member who may have been under the Impression that his 60-year-old document was the ‘oldest’ one around’! (Not so as the contents of Room 304 testifies)

Unfortunately, with my latest new camera, I forget to alter the settings for indoor lighting and subsequently, the actual samples are not to my normal quality - old age possibly settling in too fast - hence some converted to B/W. Life is still a constant learning process....

I thank you and Roger most sincerely for your time and your genuine interests.

In the documents and photos, I left with you (these include memories’ of David’s father at work as The Chief Engineer on the construction of one the Dams in the Valparaiso Region in Chile in 1923 – see map below).

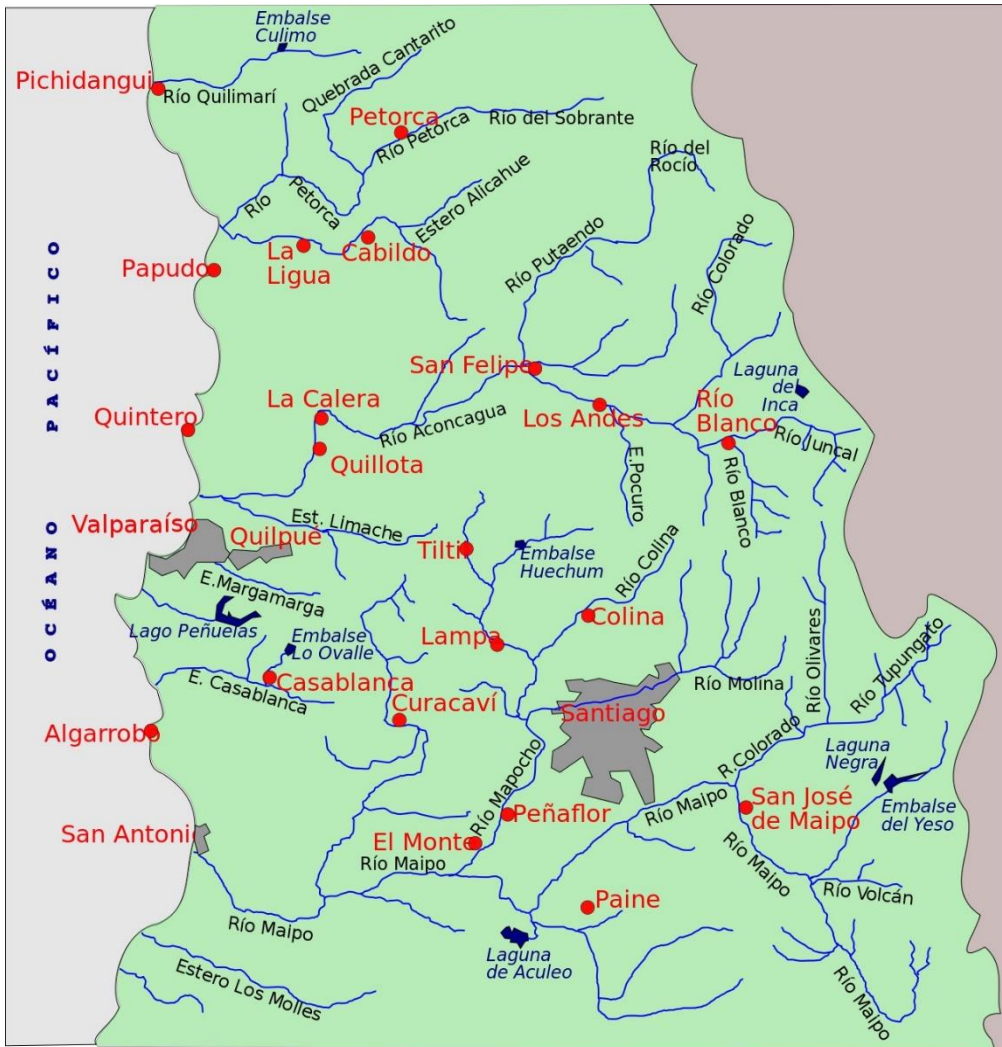
Since arriving back home, I have written a database and started imputing the names of those who took part in the sports activities of 1899. I will let you have a sample to establish whether you, or one of your members will be able to read the content.

There may be some more documents forthcoming which I will pass on in due course.

My kindest regards to you both - David (Le Clercq)

ADDENDUM: A file will be constructed and held in Room 304 detailing the working life of AG LeClercq.





IN MEMORIAM

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 1897.

# FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL, SURREY. SPEECH DAY, July 30, 1897.

H. POTTER ESQ. Chairman of the Governors.  
Head Master, The Rev<sup>d</sup> S. PRIESTLEY, MA.

### The Queen at St. Paul's.

June 21, 1897.  
"From my heart, I thank my beloved people for their love of me."  
Not content, oh Lord, and with me  
The praise be given, that you be loved best  
This day in all your's joys, from strand to strand  
Shines best in glory and in majesty.  
That, borne from every class, you ever see,  
Assess the clustering of your loyal  
Angels, hymn for I see, a whole land,  
Types of a nation's dignity, yet to be.  
Oh, my beloved people, with the praise,  
Years, who have kept the faith, that made your  
Pillars, towering, abideth, through the signs and  
Signs  
True to the real for right, that never dies,  
May God's best blessing rest on you always,  
And keep you constant in your heart's desire  
Reminded from the Queen.

### Recessional.

God of our fathers, known of old—  
Lord of our Empire, in whose hand  
We hold the penicillion over all these  
Islands, Whose wide Earth and sea  
Lies under your high and mighty hand,  
Whose Gift of Heav'n, to us with us, you  
Have not forgot—lest we forget!  
The torch and the standard this  
Will guide us, when the battle's done,  
And the trumpet shall be blown,  
An onward and a onward heart,  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!  
Far-called our empire's each one,  
On storm and flood, on rock and  
Island, all our pomp of power,  
Is low, with Warlock and with  
Judge of the Soudan, quail us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!  
If, thank with might of power, we love  
Your Kingdom that serves you, there is none  
So true, so faithful as the Grenadier,  
Oh lower Soudan without the Law,  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!  
But hearken, hearken that puts her hand  
In rickling life and iron hand—  
All nations that build on dust,  
And quarrel with us, there is none,  
That shall be our and our work,  
The March on the Pyrene, lest!  
Amen.  
RICHARD RIBLING.

### Her Majesty's Letter to Her People.

WINDSOR CASTLE, July 15, 1897.

I have frequently expressed my personal feelings to my people, and though on this memorable occasion there have been many official expressions of my deep sense of the unbounded loyalty evinced I cannot rest satisfied without personally giving utterance to these sentiments.

It is difficult for me on this occasion to say how truly touched and grateful I am for the spontaneous and universal outburst of loyal attachment and real affection which I have experienced on the completion of the Sixtieth year of my Reign.

During my progress through London on the 22nd of June this great enthusiasm was shown in the most striking manner, and can never be effaced from my heart.

It is indeed deeply gratifying, after so many years of labour and anxiety for the good of my beloved country, to find that my exertions have been appreciated throughout my vast Empire.

In weal and woe I have ever had the true sympathy of all my people, which has been warmly reciprocated by myself.

It has given me unbounded pleasure to see so many of my Subjects from all parts of the World assembled here, and to find them joining in the acclamations of loyal devotion to myself, and I would wish to thank them all from the depth of my grateful heart.

I shall ever pray God to bless them and to enable me still to discharge my duties for their welfare as long as life lasts. VICTORIA, R.I.

### The Queen at Kensington.

June 21, 1897.

"I gladly receive my Association with a place which, in the sense of my heart and for companions to the Throne, has had and ever will have with you tender and anxious recollections."

And the dear old home, the towered tower,  
The tower, the garden gate, the lake that were  
My childhood's fairland - the dear ones there  
Who tended me in infancy - the sun  
Of youth when, sitting at my mother's knee,  
I brought out all a Queen, you knew a care -  
The call of duty never that Crown to wear  
I'll see the best of tender memories,  
Tender and sweetest, that around me throng -  
Oh all that then I saw and feel since have been -  
The many, many and you, the dear old home,  
Whom I see my own, and I'm lonely Queen,  
You're I'm lost my people lost me, strong,  
To front on King's eyes with love strong.

With the best wishes of  
Chairman: - Surrey County Council.

And in this first case a former school chum of mine from the 1957 intake – **ROBERT HARRIS (1957-64)**.

Those of you in the '57 intake and beyond will no doubt recall Robert's fine 'ginger locks'; locks became an important part in Robert's life and contemporaries may recall his fascination and more about canals, their construction and their relevance to history; at school I remember that Robert was passionate about the restoration and well-being of the canal network in the country.

I had the great pleasure to meet up again with Robert this last year while we were holidaying in Ireland – Robert has been resident there for twelve years now and resides in Ballydehob, County Cork. Robert and his charming wife Finola Finlay write and publish a weekly blog of matters of interest in their locale; <https://roaringwaterjournal.com>

Following school, at the age of 23 Robert published a book entitled 'The Architecture Of Canals' – a copy of this is retained for posterity in Room 304.

Robert is listed on the Web members site and would be pleased to hear from peers and contemporaries.

**MICHAEL OVERBURY (1965 – 72)** continues to correspond with Roger Edgell about his seriously disrupted (by Covid), but now thankfully back in mainstream fashion, organ recitals – please contact Roger if you wish to be updated on these events [rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.farnhamians.org/ofa) or [info@farnhamians.org](mailto:info@farnhamians.org).

GC Member **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.

Firstly, Mike furnished me with a photo from The Farnham Herald recording a tree planting at The College in June 2022; James Jagger is the current Deputy Head of Campus at Farnham College.



Ian Sargeant, Steven Bell, James Jagger, students Tom Barnsdale, Katie Hurcombe, Komal Sane, Abhijeet Virk, Lady Tindle and Peter Davies at the Farnham College tree planting last Thursday



Mike's second offering shows a group celebratory drink in the beer garden at the Anglesey Arms PH, Halnaker, where they were blessed with fine weather, prior to seeing David Bathurst singing all the Beatles songs from memory and raising over £1,200 for two local charities.

Left to right: Martin Collier, Julian Walden, Mike and Helen Collett (all 1971-78).

Mike then furnished me with this family snap of the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration of much revered member of staff Rev John Innes 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – John's son Mike (FGS 71 – 78) is in the checked shirt on the right.



Mike set up the annual summer get together for the 1971 staff and students at The Duke of Cambridge PH, Tilford Road on the 20<sup>th</sup> August.



Left to right: Colin Elwood, Gillian Elliott (nee Mansfield), Jon Knight, Adrian Harding, John Clarke, Tim O'Dell, Helen Collett and Mike Mehta.

Two interlopers on Norton's made the event at The Duke of Cambridge – **MIKE SEIGNOT** and **ROBIN WELLAND JONES** – both (1969 – 74) FGS pupils, Robin being a GC Member.

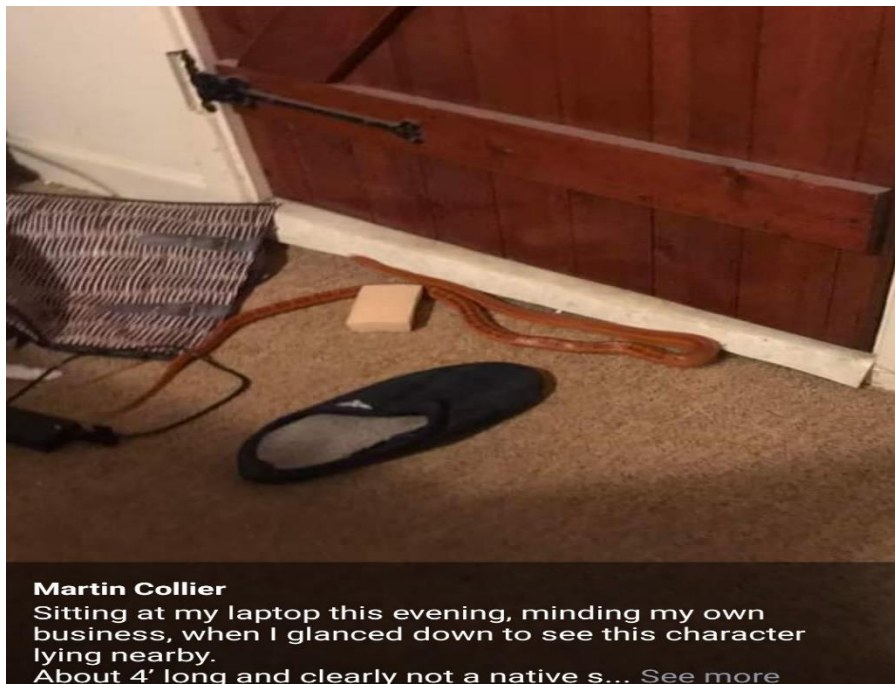


Mike also sent this proud photo (9<sup>th</sup> September 2022) of his son Josh's graduation (PHD Downing College, Cambridge) – the ceremony had been Covid deferred for two years!!



Finally, Mike sent in a most unusual photograph relating to GC Member **MARTIN COLLIER (1971-78)**.

Martin has just completed 40 years at Fenners Chambers and is well versed in dealing with 'snakes in the grass' – imagine his surprise as he was encountered at home in November with the intruder in the picture below:



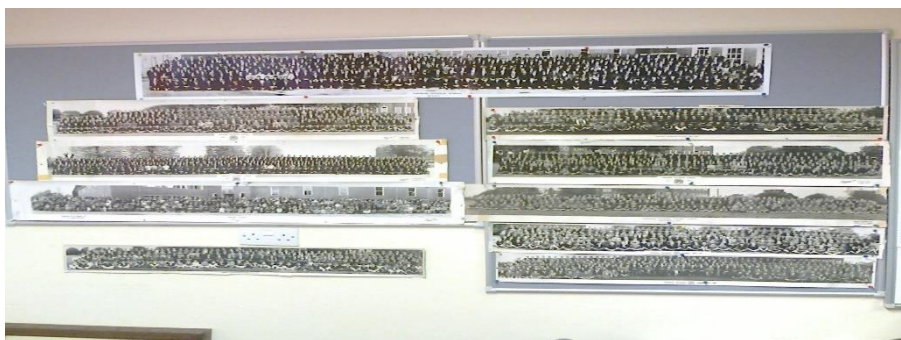
Mike also sent a number of photographs he had taken at the final annual lunch – as ever Mike many thanks for your timely contributions to the piece.



Mike's great chum and former GC Member **JOHN CLARKE (1971-78)** has provided details of his latest sojourn into Great War Connections with Peter Hodgkinson – see link <https://www.fownc.org/gwc/>, together with an excellent review on the Western Front Association's website at <https://www.westernfrontassociation.com/world-war-i-book-reviews/norwood-cemetery-and-the-great-war-reflections-of-military-and-social-history-by-peter-hodgkinson-and-john-clarke/>

Many thanks John – it was good to see you at the final lunch.

Sticking with reunions, **DAVID FOSTER (son of Mike (Mac))** and **MALCOLM BOND (FGS 1965-72)** organised a contemporaries event in Farnham on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – Malcolm called in at Andover and made use of our Dinner Loving Cup and a couple of nostalgic Dinner Albums to supplement the bonhomie on the day – the event was a resounding success and readers should keep an eye on the website for notices of future gatherings. David has since provided a copy of the School panoramic photograph from 1972 and this now displayed in Room 304 – top of picture below.



#### **NEWS FROM FARNHAM COLLEGE**

**ROGER EDGELL**

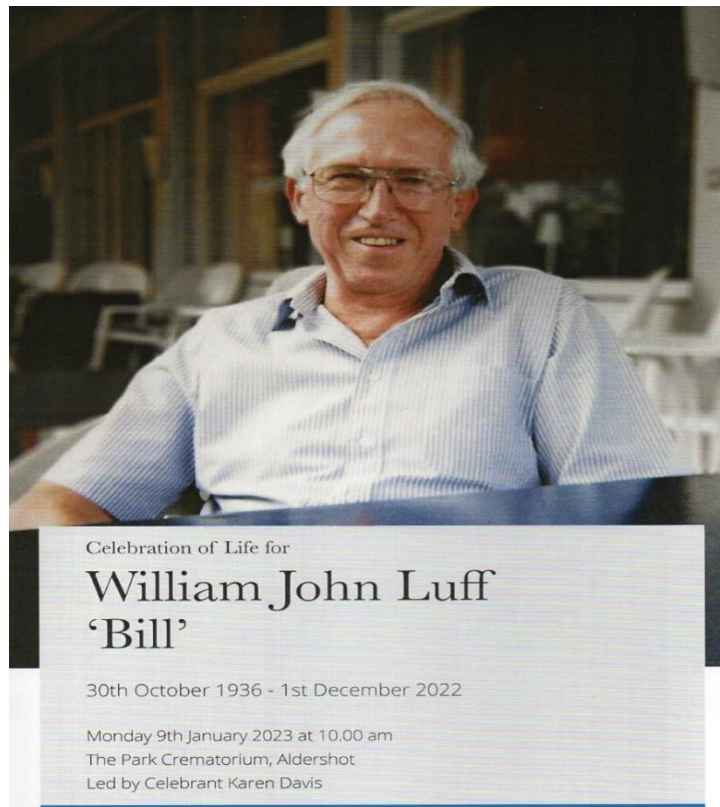
At the time of writing, the format for the Awards evening for 2022 had yet to be formalised and those Sponsors contributing will be contacted as soon as further information is available.

#### **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 – always worth a visit at this time of year.





Bill Luff was one of those chaps who just seemed to be ‘a friend to everyone’ – after National Service Bill qualified as a teacher and took his first appointment at Park Primary School in Aldershot – he never taught anywhere else – his career took him through the Deputy Headship and he was made Headmaster in due course – Bill was a magnificent servant to the OFA and 400 Trust – together with Tony Gatfield he spearheaded the memorabilia collection at The College and he was always the ‘proof reader’ for the Cyril Trust series of Farnhamian Magazines. He also represented the old boys on the soccer field and honed his cricket skills for Hale following his school life; but school life is something that never really left Bill since his greatest pride was to see his Park Primary School football team triumph at the six-a-side National Finals at Wembley. He will be sadly missed by all his OFA contemporaries and connections.





**DAVID CUTLER (1946 – 53):** from Kirsty Cunningham (David's granddaughter).

**David Cutler: Nurture or Nature – Eulogy by Richard Cutler – David's son**

David Cutler was born on 18th November 1935 at his parents' house - 11 Hillside, Langley Road, Farnham. His mother was a cook and housekeeper to a retired colonel who built and paid for their house; £90 in its day.

Dave's early life was obviously near the start of World War II and, living near Aldershot, there was a lot of military activity. Growing up he managed to get into Farnham Grammar School which would play a massive part in his life and he would regularly go to the 'Old Boys do' with his mate Gerry. Planning it weeks before, he was very proud of his roots in Farnham. Both Dave and his brother Mick were christened in the parish church. Regularly on a Sunday his dad, his brother Mick and Dave would cycle out to his grandparents' house, and he would always talk very fondly of these days. Dave would regularly tell us kids and grandkids stories of his life and even though we'd heard them many times before, the joy he got from telling them over and over and the happiness on his face as he recalled those memories was always lovely to see.

On leaving school, he got an apprenticeship at Elliot Brothers in Lewisham, South East London. He had to lodge with the Hasler Family who welcomed him like an older brother to their children Roger and Trevor. Alf their dad worked at Elliot's, so Dave was in safe hands. He must have liked them because he stayed for 17 years!

Dave did his national service with the RAF on completion of his apprenticeship and in the RAF got the job of a Radar Fitter and eventually did Air Traffic Control at Northolt. He was proud of his time in the RAF and would later become treasurer at his local branch of RAFA.

Back at Elliot's after National Service he firstly became a test engineer and then moved on to Export Sales where he often went abroad to seal the deal.

Dave came into our life when he met our mum at Elliot's, and they married in 1980. Dave's approach to Steve and I was kind, and he would try and advise rather than tell us what to do. The guidance he gave us has stood us in good stead. The support was immeasurable and although he's gone, his legacy lives on in us all.

The grandchildren Kirsty, Lindsey, Molly and Ellen simply adored him, and he played a massive part in their lives. He took them everywhere; museums, the beach, swimming, walks with the dogs, zoos. Anything they were doing at school he was always there; you couldn't fault his dedication to being a great family man.

Gary, Dave's nephew, remembers the days out to train exhibitions and his uncle would tell him all the facts and figures about them. He also loved his stories too. When out on these trips they would always have to bring back and soft cuddly toy for his niece Karen.

As a grandad, Dave would answer the many questions his granddaughters would ask. The trips, the holidays, the fantastic breakfasts were all his trade mark. They adored him and have a lovely reminder of those times in their many photographs.

Dave, grandad, uncle, friend. He was always friendly, helpful, supportive and just bloody lovely. We all have memories of David Cutler. We loved you Dave and I hope you're as proud as us to have been a part of all our lives. God Bless.

**JOHN CROWHURST (1944 - 49) from Cheryl Dookie (daughter) who advised the OFA of John's passing on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

Roger E writes "it was my great pleasure to work at EHDC from 1973 through to 1988 – John Crowhurst as a Petersfield Town Councillor was the most thoughtful of local representatives and was prominent in Petersfield at the time of Local Government Reorganisation in 1974. In my time as OFA Secretary we continued to correspond long after I had left EHDC, and I have the fondest memories of contact with him; we would often reflect that combining the two market towns of Alton and Petersfield with their respective Town and Rural Councils, was not always a match made in heaven."

#### **FURTHER NEWS: THE 400 TRUST**

**ROGER EDGELL**

With the formal closure of the OFA, the work of the 400 Trust will continue 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.

The 400 Trust personnel comprise:

Brian Williams – Chairman & Secretary, Stephen Pritchard – Treasurer, John Crotty – Trustee, Roger Edgell – Trustee, James Jagger – College Representative, Gordon Andrews – former President of the OFA, Ray Cleminson – former Vice President of the OFA, Julian Walden – 400 Trust Committee Member.

**My best wishes for a safer 2023 and my kindest regards to all**

**Roger Edgell**

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