



OLD FARNHAMIAN'S' NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024 - AN 'ALUMNI' EDITION - NUMBER 04/24

www.farnhamians.org/ofa

www.blunderbuss.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

ROGER EDGELL

This re-badged edition of the former OFA Newsletter is the first following OFA closure. It provides the opportunity to confirm the ongoing commitment to education at The College and the environs of Farnham from the 400 Trust and provides the reader with information about the Activate Learning Alumni process which Farnham College, as a part of that organisation, is beginning to embrace.

Also in this edition, there is an update on the 400 Trust Sponsorship Awards Scheme, together with more details about acquisitions to the Memorabilia Facility in Room 304 at The College and a roundup of the contributions from former OFA Members.

THE MAKING OF A MUSEUM – Cont'd

ROGER EDGELL

Updates beyond the 'Opening' – THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITING

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 Shoulder, the current Principal of The College has agreed the following arrangements with the 400 Trust (through Roger Edgell) for visitors to Room 304 in Morley Court; the list of provisional dates below will see Roger Edgell in attendance from approximately 10.30 am on the day and if you wish to visit do please contact Roger at rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk or telephone on 01264 332766 and he will make arrangements for your visit – these dates also provide the opportunity for small groups of visitors should you wish to have a re-union in conjunction with your visit.

Monday February 5th, 2024, from 10.30 am

Monday March 11th, 2024, from 10.30 am

Monday April 8th, 2024, from 10.30 am

Monday May 6th, 2024, from 10.30 am

Monday June 10th, 2024, from 10.30 am

Monday July 8th, 2024, from 10.30 am

Monday September 9th, 2024, from 10.30 am

Monday October 7th, 2024, from 10.30 am - I will place The Memorial Crosses in situ in the foyer at Morley Court on this day

Monday November 18th, 2024, from 10.30 am – I will pack away The Memorial Crosses to Room 304

Monday December 16th, 2024, from 10.30 am

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; or maybe just bring it along when visiting.

THE ACTIVATE ALUMNI PROGRAMME: https://bit.ly/Activate_Alumni



Grateful thanks to Anisha Bryan (Alumni Officer) who provided the insight for this piece.

“Activate Alumni is our alumni network that we formed in February this year (2023), for former students of all seven of the Activate Learning colleges, including online learners and apprentices. The idea of the alumni network is to provide our former students with lifelong learning opportunities and celebrate their achievements beyond their time at college.

Our alumni community is all about building lasting connections, providing lifelong learning opportunities, and giving back to our former students. Our students are at the heart of everything we do. AA aims to celebrate and recognise the achievements of our students beyond their life at The College.”

You can find out a more information here: https://bit.ly/Activate_Alumni

Neil Shoulder, current College Principal added:

“The Alumni process is something that Activate Learning is already operating and refers to previous students at any of our colleges. There are some pledges from these individuals to support our work with time, especially talking to students about careers or offering work placements if appropriate.

This process has been established over the past year.”

Farnhamian Magazine readers from the Cyril Trust era, may recall that the 400 Trust actively supported a previous College Director, Jonathan Stewart, in his quest to achieve a similar regime at Farnham College during his tenure from 2013 to 2015.

Readers are advised to visit the Alumni website for more information.

What is Activate Learning? A general resume from the Alumni website:

“We recognise not all our former students are familiar with Activate Learning. We’re an Ofsted rated GOOD further education group which has grown over the past 10 years to include eight campuses across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Surrey. We also deliver Higher Education programmes, Apprenticeships, Adult Education and employability training.

If you studied at Banbury and Bicester College, Bracknell and Wokingham College, City of Oxford College, Farnham College, Guildford College, Merrist Wood College or Reading College, that makes you part of Activate Alumni! “



And speaking of potential Alumni’s – this photo from c. 1990 at the College has found its way to me - please let me know if you recognise anyone.

LOSSES since 2023 edition of the newsletter:

ROGER EDGELL

*Nigel Burlinson (1949 - 54)	Gerald (Gerry) Meaden (1955 – 62)	Ray Bowtell (1942 - 47)
Rupert Heritage (1957 - 62)	Roger Remington (1957 - 62)	Peter Wisbey (1950 - 56)
Nick Blackman (1971-78)	KA (Tony) Holmes (1943 - 48)	John L Vick (1941 – 48)

Rev. John Innes (1967 – 73: Staff School & College) – died 4th January 2024

This short but significant list contains two of my contemporaries from School – Rupert Heritage went on to become a dedicated Metropolitan Police Officer rising to the rank of Superintendent – his most notable contribution to policing being his work on ‘Offender Profiling’, which was carried out as part of the training programme at Bramshill Police College, Hartley Wintney. Rupert was always to be found in goal in the School play area twixt the Woodwork Shop and The Chemistry lab of Leonard Evans in early morning pre-school games of ‘puck’ – he was built for the role.

Roger Remington was influential in the OFA Rifle Club and together with Geoff Woods built the club into a formidable unit – together they always supplied the OFA Secretary with a strong report in each copy of the original Farnhamian. Roger attended the final OFA Lunch just a few weeks before his untimely death.

Ian Sargeant writes about Roger Remington:

‘Roger was on my lunch table when I was in the 6th form, along with Richard Lord, Russ Wooton and one or two others in the 4th form. They were hilarious mealtimes with lots of water being splashed around. I remember Russ telling the others not to waste water by drinking it. I renewed our contact at a recent lunch and reminded him of those times. Yes, he was a good shot and leading member of the Rifle Club. So many memories.’

Grateful thanks to Ian Sargeant (‘OFA Webmaster’) for recording these details on the Website.

***Times Obituary for Nigel Burlinson can be found here: [Times Obituary](#)**

Source: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nigel-burlinson-obituary-3jhjxb9nf> Contents of this page copyright © 2023 - The Times [UK newspaper] This content is displayed in accordance with the Fair Use Doctrine of the USA specified in Title 17 U.S.C. § 107 - United States Copyright Act of 1976

Glenn Honey (1945 – 50) writes about Tony Holmes – ‘sad occurrence, Tony Holmes died this week after a prolonged illness. He was a contemporary of mine from our Odiham days. We went to infants’ school together, then local prep school followed by FGS, also Cubs & Scouts. Been in touch ever since.’



Many tributes are arriving in respect of the recent sad loss of **Rev. John Innes (left)**, and I will endeavour to publish as many of these as is possible in the next issue.

John was an admirable addition to the fine batch of Masters who were such a strong feature of the School teaching regimes under both FA Morgan and George Baxter.

Picture courtesy of Mike Mehta.

David LeClercq – son of AG LeClercq – the first entry on the left School Honours Board in Morley Court:

The 2023 edition of the Newsletter contained a significant piece from David LeClercq and David has returned this year to provide more detail in respect of the life of his father AG LeClercq – a file can be found in Room 304 containing this new material which comprises details of his father’s ‘jottings’ in respect of his time as a School Monitor of the School Sports, together with a ‘Pocket Stamp Album’ – a quite remarkable addition to our memorabilia collection; included below is the picture of David visiting previously.

David writes: ‘You will recall that I showed both you and Brian (Williams), a small notebook which my father had entered all the participants in a sports day event, alongside many old stamps in the late 1890’s.

I believe that you have a copy where I extracted the details in a manageable form.

What I would like to do, is to donate this to your records complete as original.

Therefore, if you would kindly give me your address, I will post secured for your signature on arrival.

If this is ok, I will arrange forwarding in the next few days.

My Father would have been supremely proud that it has lasted for so long and ended up in the place where it was where he wrote it up - must be of great historical value after 124 years being in the Le Clercq Family.

if you do include it in your newsletter in the future, please be good enough to let me have a copy.

It may be worth valuing some of the stamps for there may be one or two of value.

I didn’t want to disturb the original by removing stamps. as it had lasted all these number of years unaltered.

Enjoy going back in the past watching my father totalling up all of the 6p’s! – Ed that’s ‘tanners’ to us all!’



MICHAEL OVERBURY (1965 – 72) continues to correspond with Roger Edgell about his organ recitals – please contact Roger if you wish to be updated on these events rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk



Sweet was the song
the Virgin sang.mp3

Michael sent Roger E the following item at Christmas - Christmas Greetings!

I am playing, recording here attached, the anonymous and beautiful Lute-Book Lullaby from William Ballet's compilation in the early seventeenth century. Featured is the lute stop on my harpsichord.

Best wishes for 2024 - Michael

OFA 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. Ian is always willing to publish contemporary events and I can only suggest that organisers take advantage of this.

On November 16th, 2023, a presentation took place in Morley Court; Ian Sargeant received a Companion Award – the picture below shows Ian receiving his award from Gary Headland DL, the CEO of Activate Learning – item taken from The Farnham College site within the Activate Learning Community.

Many congratulations Ian.



Today, (Nov 16th, 2023), Farnham College celebrated its 50th anniversary together with Ian Sargeant, Chair of Farnham Educational Foundation.

Ian visited the campus to receive a Companion Award as a celebrated former alumnus (1955–62) and contributor to the local community.

He was also honoured with mounting the plaque in the hallway of Morley Court to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Farnham College.

Gary Headland DL, CEO of Activate Learning, said: "Today we recognise two things. One is Ian Sargeant's great contribution to service and community, alongside the celebration of fifty years of Farnham College.

"Ian has been a servant of Farnham for a long time and has made an immense contribution to this community. As the Chair of Farnham Educational Foundation, our partner organisation, he has helped us, supported us and challenged us in equal measure.

"Ian is a great inspiration, and we want to thank him for his service."

Former 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.

First up are a series of photographs from the 50-year Party, celebrating the commissioning of The College, held at The Barley Mow, Tilford on Sunday 30th July; despite the lacklustre weather, it was well attended and Mike Mehta reports that people very much enjoyed themselves.

Attendees: Courtesy of Mike Mehta

Anthony Baines, Hugh Batchelor (Staff), David Bathurst, Richard Bayliss, Mark Bravery, Sheila Brinkworth, Linda Brooks, John Bush, John Clarke, Martin Collier, Helen Collett, Jenny Commerford (Staff), Donald Donaldson, Chris Fitch, Jill Goddard, Geoff Gullon, Adrian Harding, Paul Hobbs, David Hughes, Jerry Hyman, Sarah Jackson, Jon Knight, Janet Jude (Staff), Gillian Mansfield, Marianne Mathews, Michael Mehta, Lesley Powney, Mike Seignot, Chris Stacey, Adrienne Tayler, Howard Thompson (Staff), Julian Walden, Katherine Wallis, Karen Welch, Robin Welland-Jones, Karen Worcester.

* Also, present Pete, Gillian Mansfield's husband (not FGS).



And some were in the pub!

First up from the assembled folk on the day, Martin Collier (1971-78) with former staff master, Hugh Batchelor. From speaking with Hugh, he left the school to go to South Africa, in the autumn term 1971.



Former staff teacher Jenny Commerford receiving the prize for winning the quiz we ran on the day, from David Bathurst (1971-78).

Next Up - Jon Knight (1971-79), Jill Goddard (1972-79), Mike Mehta (1971-78)



John Bush with his hand-painted car!



Karen Welch (foreground, background, Sarah Jackson (1972-79), John Clarke, Chris Stacey, Mark Bravery (all 1971-78).

Chris Fitch (foreground), Robin Welland-Jones



Jenny Commerford on the left and Janet Jude, right. Former languages teacher Janet was on great form telling me exactly how the cake should be cut and divided up!

Below: Left to right: Jon Knight (1971-79), David Hughes' wife 'Spud' (former FGGS), Linda Brooks, Mike Seignot (seated, who came prepared for rain).



Left to right: Sarah Jackson (1972-79), Paul Hobbs (1971-78), Lesley Powney (1971-78), with granddaughter Harper.



Left to right: Martin Collier, Mark Bravery, Helen Collett (all 1971-78).

Next, sadly Mike can id the front row but not the back!

Left to right, former music master Howard Thompson, Katherine Wallis (1972-79), Sheila Brinkworth (1972-79), David Bathurst (1971-78), Gillian Mansfield (1971-78).



And finally, Mike is in on the act – cutting the cake with Janet Jude – not sure about the T Shirt Mike – more a ‘one off’ I would have said!!



Mike Mehta adds – *‘In going around the guests (and indeed rounding some of them up from the pub!), I was caught up in various snippets of conversation.*

Chris Stacey brought old boy Nicholas Andrew Howen RIP to my attention - he is in the roll call for 1971, although Chris advises that he perhaps only stayed for one or two years at the School.



**Human rights
Obituary**

Nicholas Howen obituary

Campaigning human rights lawyer with a

There is a full obituary for Nicholas in The Guardian (and also The Times, edition March 18, 2010).

Until Chris told me, I was unaware of his passing. He clearly achieved a great deal in his relatively short life

18 May 1960 - 26 January 2010.

In other sad news, we heard from Janet Jude that former teacher of geography Janette Pawley (later Mrs Janette Lloyd) is presently in a care home and in a very poor state of health indeed.'

And John Clarke adds - *‘2026 will be the 50th anniversary of our O levels and the great drought (as opposed to 2023's great deluge).*

Thank you, Mike, John and all.

Mike's second offering shows a group and a celebratory drink at The Beerex Festival (The Maltings)



Left to right: Mike Mehta, Martin Collier, Chris Stacey and John Clarke, all from school years 1971-78.

FURTHER NEWS FROM MIKE MEHTA:

I had a visitor: Keith Harvey geology master 1974-96.

He was in good form. Now age seventy-four. On what felt like the one dry day of the month so far, we went for a gentle stroll around the village here in Cornwall taking in the parish church.

Keith was very keen to buy some genuine Cornish pasties which he duly did, eating them the next day and has reported they were much enjoyed!

Keith is hoping to revisit a glacier in Norway, inside the Arctic Circle, in the New Year.

Keith tells me he has been visiting this glacier over many years and recording its receding size over time.

More about Keith can be found in 'The Farnhamian' magazine, edition of April 2019.





It is always good to see FGS old boy David Child competing on the running circuit and in good shape too.

He completed the 'Cocking 10k Trail Race' earlier this month, the day before his birthday.



Mrs Rosa Knowles, also known as Frau Knowles to her students, celebrated reaching her 100th birthday on the 10th of February.

Mrs Knowles taught German at FGGS in 1971 and subsequently at the College after the schools merged.

Mrs Rosa Knowles – 100 Years old – February 10th, 2023

Mike Mehta's great chum and former GC Member **JOHN CLARKE (1971-78)** continues to add detail to the Blunderbuss website and readers are encouraged to visit this from time to time.

Sticking with reunions, **ROBIN WELLAND JONES (1969 – 74)** sent me the following photograph of a reunion of the FGS 1969 entrants.



Robin writes: Left to Right - Jim Peters, Chris Fitch, Dave Greentree, Rod Bennett, Mike Seignot, Robin Welland-Jones, Keith Ryan, Steve Pritchard, Dave Hughes, Neil McCabe and Hugh Groves

'11 of us 69ers met for lunch at the Queens Head in Farnham on Thursday 7th September.

A good time was had by all, and we intend to repeat this and gather together as many as possible for next year' – nice to see some OFA ties on view Robin!!

COLIN FISHER (1954 - 59) writes:

'I've e-mailed this 1959 photograph to the Old Farnhamian's website a couple of times now and never knew its fate.' So here it is. Thank you, Colin.

The year is 1959. The place is Farnham Grammar School.



Long before the words 'political' and 'correctness' became conjoined, we would greet the new day by saluting the assembled past headmasters of FGS whose pictures adorned the walls of Room 'B'.

L-R: Tim Cole, Colin Fisher, Peter Sharman. The 'Obergruppenführer' at the back is Chris Mullins.



Peter Sharman makes like 'Eros' on the FGS main gate pillar. Or is he calling for help?



Colin Fisher takes diabolical liberties with Len Evans motorcycle combination. But will he get away with it?...



...No he won't. Lookout. Run for it. Retribution is at hand. Len Evans 'creeps up' to apprehend the guilty party



A happy band of brothers outside Room 'B' in 1959.

Back row L-R: Geoffrey 'Minnie' Martin, Ray Watkins, Simon Davis, Chris Mullins.

Front row L-R: Peter Sharman, Colin Fisher, Joe Gallagher, Roger Stenning.

All photos are by Joe Gallagher except this one which was taken by Len Evans.

Photos rescued from certain oblivion and transferred to electronic medium by Peter Sharman

GLENN HONEY (1945-50) writes

The attached photo illustrates an event in Farnham in 1931, when our Father (brother Roger & me) force landed a Vickers Virginia in Farnham Old Park. If he had not survived neither of us would have been to FGS.

The bottom Photo was taken by Chris Shepard of The Farnham Herald (I think he was an Old Farnhamian) I added Rogers face in the top right corner as he was in America. Apart from two local chaps (4th. & 9th. from left) who made a search and located the actual crash site, all are all direct descendants from our Father. All the others are my family.



FROM RECENT 'PEEPS INTO THE PAST' THE FARNHAM HERALD: 8th June 2023: Original in Room 304.

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8th June 2023 15

Tracing back 400 years: The origins of a grammar school

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the comprehensive education system, which brought about major change for schools around the country.

Last week in *Peeps*, we looked at the history of Farnham Girls' Grammar School, which disappeared with the changes.

This week we put the spotlight on the boys' school - Farnham Grammar School - that also ceased to exist, being merged with the girls' school to form Farnham College.

Unlike the girls' school, which was in existence for little more than 70 years, the boys' grammar school could trace its roots back more than four centuries to 1560 (a fact that tells us much about attitudes regarding the education of girls!)

In that year an application for a licence to build a school in Farnham is recorded to have been made, while the first evidence that it was built is a record of a yeoman donating 20 shillings "to the maintenance of the school of Farnham" in 1585.

It is possible, however, that the origins of the school go back much further to 1351 when a chantry was established at Farnham Castle, later being transferred to the parish church.

Chantry priests often took on an educational role, teaching the urban poor and rural residents, and when the chantries were closed by Edward VI, some of them are known to have become grammar schools.

Whatever its true roots, during the 17th century records show the school was receiving various gifts and bequests from benefactors, including Dr Harding of Frensham - president of Magdalen College, Oxford - who left rent of £10 annually to the school.

It appears the school was at this time sited next to the parish church as

a court record from 1657 states John and Nicholas Brown had to sell land they acquired dishonestly and pay the money raised to "the schoolmaster of the town of Farnham... teaching the Latin tongue in the schoolhouse adjoining the church of Farnham".

Despite the donations, by 1758 the school building was dismantled and the materials sold to allow for the enlargement of the churchyard, so it may have been at this point the school was relocated to West Street where the Bishop of Winchester, George Morley, had left the schoolmaster a dwelling, a garden and several tenements some 78 years earlier.

The next century and a half saw various ups and downs. In 1788 there were just eight boys and in 1800 there was controversy when a new schoolmaster arrived from London bringing 12 pupils with him - and refusing to teach any others.

Things improved by 1872, when a new dormitory and schoolroom were added, while the school was partly rebuilt in 1893 by several old boys.

A newspaper advertisement from 1883 boasted the school "offers an education which is a suitable preparation for commercial life or for entrance into the learned professions," and that in the past year 50 certificates had been gained by pupils in the Cambridge Local Examinations, the examinations of the College of Preceptors for teachers, the Department of Science and Art and the Society of Arts.

The school remained in West Street until 1906 when the building was sold to Surrey County Council to house the girls' grammar and new premises were built for the boys in Morley Road.

This followed the introduction of the 1902 Education Act under which funding of grammar schools



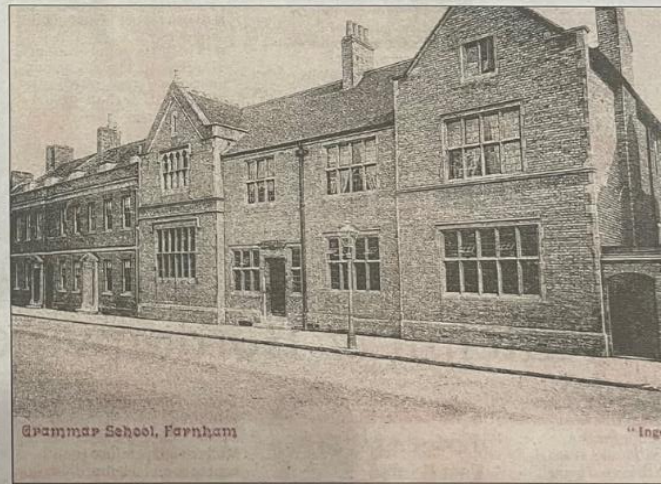
became the responsibility of newly-formed local education authorities that were also empowered to establish new secondary schools.

Entrance to the school was subject to the payment of fees or by scholarships awarded on merit until the common entrance examination (more commonly known as the 11-plus) was introduced under the 1944 Education Act.

Farnham Grammar School ceased to exist as such in September 1973 when it was merged with Farnham Girls' Grammar School to form the town's first sixth form college - Farnham College - on the Morley Road site.

Peeps would love to hear from the last year group to pass through grammar schools in the area.

Please email peeps@farnhamherald.com with your memories and any photographs.



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Photo below supplied by Mike Mehta showing Rev John Innes and **John Whapshott (1969-73)**.



Rev John Innes with John Whapshott: 26th October 2023

Sadly, we lost John, a much loved and revered School and College teacher on Thursday 4th January 2024.



And finally, Mike Mehta called in to see John Crotty at Christmas – John being the good sport he always was, obliged to have a photo taken adorned with his Santa hat !!

Spotted in an Antique Shop in Bourne Mill in October – thanks to Elizabeth Allford on College Reception.



Interesting price tag – the actual sign has all sorts of connotations, I guess!!

NEWS FROM FARNHAM COLLEGE

ROGER EDGELL

At the time of writing, it is now possible to confirm that the College Sponsorship Awards Scheme devised by Cyril Trust is now discontinued – all sponsors have been contacted and the vast majority wished their existing donations to be committed to the 400 Trust General Account.

In its time the Scheme provided an average of 35 awards per year to the College students and over time these awards amounted to in excess of £40,000 – the Scheme had clearly run its course, but this in no way should detract from the vision that Cyril had engendered into the annual presentation events at the College – he clearly would have wished to express his grateful thanks to all the past contributors to the scheme.

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 – the College Staff held a short and relevant service in Morley Court to commemorate the occasion of Remembrance Day.

Mike Mehta made the following note available:

'I posted a notice regarding the crosses and there was one written response which may be of interest. Charles King writes 'SJE Spencer was my grandfather's eldest brother. He was a Private in the Royal Fusiliers and was killed at Sailly-Saillisel on the Somme in early 1917. No known grave, commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and also on the memorial in Gostrey Meadow'.

**FURTHER NEWS: THE 400 TRUST****ROGER EDGELL**

With the formal closure of the OFA, the work of the 400 Trust will now concentrate on the management of the Memorabilia Facility in Room 304 (Morley Court) at The College, together with providing the necessary function contained in its constitution for the 'Old Boys' and College students.

The 400 Trust personnel comprise:

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

As an adjunct to this Newsletter, I have added an Appendix, shamefully lifted from the Activate Learning website, where the reader will see detailed a 'timeline' of history of The School in Farnham and its path to College formation in 1973 and beyond.

Please be advised that the 2025 edition of this Newsletter will sadly be the final one that I will be putting together – time has marched inexorably on, and I will take the necessary steps to ensure that the legacy of the spirit of the newsletter and the accompanying commitment to all that I have been involved in at Morley Court prevails for as long as is possible.

My best wishes for a safer 2024 and my kindest regards to all

Roger Edgell

rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk

APPENDIX:

ORIGINS and DEVELOPMENT PATH OF FARNHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL & FARNHAM COLLEGE

“1351 Ancient chapel/chantry established at Farnham Castle – unfortunately no documentation of this exists

1560 Application for a licence to build a school at ‘Farnham, in the County of Surrey, England’

1578 Robert Horne, Bishop of Winchester, set up a scheme for the erection of a school in Farnham – possibly a revival of the fourteenth-century chantry school as mentioned before

1585 Richard Searle donates 20 shillings ‘to the maintenance of the school of Farnham’ – proof that it had been built

1611 Dr. Harding of Frensham – President of Magdalen College, Oxford – left rent of £10 annually to the school

1650 Henry Massingberd endowed the School in or around this period

1657 First actual mention of the school is as a result of a court held in the Manor of Farnham – John and Nicholas Brown had to sell land they acquired dishonestly and the monies paid ‘the schoolmaster of the town of Farnham....teaching the Latin tongue in the school house adjoining the church of Farnham’

1673 School is mentioned in John Aubrey’s ‘Perambulations of Surrey’

1680 George Morley, Bishop of Winchester, left the Schoolmaster a dwelling in West Street, a garden and several tenements in Farnham

1758 School dismantled and materials sold – it had been decided to enlarge the church yard. No mention of what happens to the school itself; that could well have been when it moved to West Street

1788 Things were dire – just eight boys at the school

1800 Rev. S. Locke arrived from London and brought 12 private pupils with him; he would only teach these boys and not any of the other school pupils

1823 Rev. H. A. Austen is Headmaster, brother of Jane Austen

1849 School reorganised as a grammar school in line with the Grammar Schools Act of 1840

1872 A new schoolroom and dormitory were added to the school

1893 School partly rebuilt by several old boys; Paxton Watson was the architect and Tompsett and Kingsham the builder

1897 Farnham Council granted Mrs. G. Swayne a licence to start a school at 74 Castle Street. Named The Modern Commercial School for Daughters of Tradesmen, it was very small but was set to grow

1901 Rev. T. Gardiner set up a committee to found a secondary school for girls in Farnham. On 23rd September 1901 the new Grammar School for Girls, Farnham opened at 74 Castle Street. Later generations would celebrate this date as Foundation Day

1903 Charity Commissioners asked to sell the buildings in West Street (FGS) to Surrey County Council for use as the girls' grammar school. In November, the Morley Road site was purchased for the boys' school

1904 Farnham Grammar School for Girls in East Street officially taken over by the county, the first grammar school in the county to be integrated into the new state system

1906 Farnham Grammar School is established and opened under a charitable trust – Farnham Grammar School Foundation Trust. The girls also moved into their new accommodation in West Street

1908 The name of the girls' grammar school was changed from Farnham Grammar School for Girls to Farnham Girls' Grammar School - the Headmaster at FGS (boys) thought that the name of the girls' school was too similar, and people might think that the schools were linked, which was not the case

1938 February – permission given for new girls' grammar school to be built in Farnham. Work starts in April; architects are Jarvis and Richards, who were commissioned to build the new technical college in Guildford

1939 Farnham Girls' Grammar School relocated to Menin Way – opened by Duchess of Gloucester on 20th July. Accommodates 330 girls and cost £50,000 to build

1940 Greycoat Hospital School from Westminster evacuated to FGGS via Brighton

1943 Greycoat girls return to their school in Westminster

1944 Common entrance examinations (11+) meant that the school no longer offered scholarships or took fees – entrance to the school was through academic prowess

1973 Farnham Grammar School merged with Farnham Grammar School for Girls to create the first sixth form college in Farnham. The new college retains its voluntary controlled status and reforms as the Farnham College Foundation

1985 Farnhamians' 400 Trust charity formed to celebrate 400th anniversary

2007 Farnham College merges with Guildford College. The Trust was re-designated as Farnham Educational Foundation

2010 Planned maintenance of the old school building reveals that the Bell Tower is in a dangerous state; a large crane removed it to safety pending repairs

2011 An innovative multi-touch surface computer made from recycled components showcased the talent of Farnham Sixth Form College ICT students to the world when the UK hosted WorldSkills in London.

2012 Science students from Farnham Sixth Form College enjoyed an amazing expedition to Indonesia.

2013 Farnham Sixth Form College celebrated 40 years as a Sixth Form College with a special event. Current and previous students and staff, together with the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Dame Sarah Goad, Mayor of Waverley Councillor Patricia Ellis, Deputy Mayor of Farnham Councillor Jeremy Ricketts and members of the Old Farnhamians' Association and Farnham Educational Foundation, gathered together for the occasion. A time capsule filled with specially chosen artefacts was buried and a red oak tree was planted in the grounds.

2014 Photography student Rachel Benton became a runner up at the 2014 Sony World Photography Awards, one of the world's leading photography competitions.

Student Jessica Keene was awarded the prestigious John Verney Award for her endeavours and achievements on the Applied Art and Design course at Farnham Sixth Form College.

The University of Cambridge awaits two students from Farnham Sixth Form College who achieved exceptional results in their A Level exams.

2015 A Level Biology students visited the Royal Holloway University of London to find out about rare diseases, what causes them and their treatment, as part of Rare Disease Day 2015.

A Level Chemistry students from Farnham Sixth Form College participated in Round One of the 47th International Chemistry Olympiad where they competed against thousands of students from across the country to win silver.

Students from Farnham Sixth Form College's Media and Film department visited the Sky headquarters to take part in their Sky's Careers Lab day.

Students from Farnham Sixth Form College performed their first ever Variety Show.

Oxford University awaits outstanding student Phoebe Hobbs, who achieved exceptional results in her A Level exams. Phoebe, 18, from Farnham will be studying Biochemistry at Oxford after gaining A*A*A*A in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.

Farnham Sixth Form College was honoured to welcome twenty teachers from China who visited the College to engage with students and staff alike, in order to give them an insight in to the schooling system in Britain.

2016 Creative Media Production (Games Development) student, Alex Johnson, partook in four days work experience at the Neurotherapeutics group, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, UCL to help design an app for stroke patients.

36 Media and Film Studies students attended 'Media Live! An Educational Film Studies and Media Conference' designed for students aged 16-18 in Paris.

Students at Farnham Sixth Form College were given the valuable opportunity to put questions to the Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP ahead of the UK's European Union Referendum.

A Level Chemistry students from Farnham Sixth Form College recently participated in Round One of the 48th International Chemistry Olympiad where they competed against thousands of students from across the country to win gold.

Holly Mayes, a Media BTEC student, was nominated for the 'Outstanding BTEC Media Student of the Year Award' for her hard work in Media. Holly made it through to the final judging stage, along with 33 other students from across the country.

A Level student Jeffrey Wing Hon Chan was awarded this year's prestigious John Verney Award for his endeavours and achievements on the Art and Design course at Farnham Sixth Form College.

Farnham Sixth Form College hosted a Garden Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, and to raise money for Challengers.

Cambridge University beckons for outstanding student Natalie Rees, who achieved exceptional results in her A Level exams.

2017 The National Centre for Diversity (NCFD) recently announced that the Guildford College Group has not only achieved the Investors in Diversity Standard at Stage 2, but also features at number 22 in the UK Further Education Top 50 Organisations and at number 57 in the Top 100 Index.

THE Rotary Club of Farnham has volunteered its business acumen to students at Farnham Sixth Form College, as a proud supporter of the college's Young Enterprise team.

2018 Oliver Penny, 16 from Fleet, recently gained a Silver Medal in the under 81 kg category at the Cadets British Judo Championships. This achievement automatically gained Oliver a position in the 2018 England National Judo Squad."