



## OLD WINBURNIANS NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2005

I write these words on the eve of the 60th anniversary of VE Day, just four days before the General Election and only weeks since the election of a new Pope. When you read these words you will know the result of the General Election, you may have formed an impression of the new Pope and you will have remembered VE Day in your own particular way. Certainly, for some of our older members, VE Day will have evoked memories of old comrades, some still alive, others departed. And old friendships. More on that anon.

Perhaps, first, a few thoughts about the Christmas Reunion would be appropriate. Happily, there was a record attendance of more than 120. From all that I have heard, I believe it may be counted an unqualified success. There was a warmth and conviviality that cheered all the guests and left us looking forward to the next time. It was a pleasure to hear from our visitor from Wimborne's Victoria Hospital and gratifying that Carolyn was able to present her with a handsome cheque on behalf of the OWs. As ever, members of the Committee worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of proceedings - Derek Stevens with his memorabilia display, Gordon Richards with his table arrangements, Ken Nicklen with the microphones, Don Phillips organising the sale of the raffle tickets, Betty, David and Len and others acting in various capacities (forgive me, if I have missed anyone) and, of course, Carolyn playing host to our guest from the Victoria Hospital. It is very much a team effort and I know all OWs appreciate the sterling efforts of the team.

There are a couple of new features in the Newsletter which I hope readers will enjoy - do feel free to write and criticise and tell me of anything else you would like to see included. This is, of course, a Newsletter with a difference in one sense, at least. David Finnemore is enclosing a note advising that for some of those who have been receiving these pages for several years and not contributing to the cost, this will be the last Newsletter despatched. I hope that this necessary reminder will prompt many to reach for their pens and chequebooks. It is an awful shame to lose touch with old friends and our Association. I believe that, as one grows older, the significance of old friendships becomes ever more apparent and meaningful. I referred earlier to the VE Day anniversary. Later in the year we will also remember the ending of the war with Japan. Many students of our school did not return from the war and those who thankfully did will recall the celebrations of 1945 with mixed feelings. Gratitude for their survival, sadness for those friends and their families less fortunate. There is something else. Thanks to the splendid efforts of a handful of OWs in the late 1990s we do have an Association that is thriving. Many schools that disappeared in the upheavals of the 1960s and 1970s do not. It is true that our Association has a limited lifespan, but let us try to make it a success and something that enhances the quality of our life in the next few years. So I would say to those who have neglected to renew their membership so far, reach into your wallets in the next few days and send off the subs that will guarantee you continue to receive news of the OWs. As someone keeps saying - is it a politician or an advertiser? - 'You know it makes sense'.

Compliments, Alan Bennett

### FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

Saturday, July 9, 2005 (details on booking form)      Saturday, December 3, 2005

As usual in July there will be a number of outdoor activities for interested members - depending on the weather, of course.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS from David Finnemore

This is the first issue of the new personal newsletter. It has a new cover sheet, showing your address, any personal messages to you and details of your subscription. I have to confess that until I took over the duties of membership secretary a year ago, I never knew if I paid by standing order, cheque or was one of the 50% of readers who didn't pay at all. From now on there can be no confusion. At the top of the cover sheet there will be an unambiguous message either thanking you for your subscription and noting when it will expire, or a warning that it has already expired and that you will receive no more newsletters. If it has expired you will find a standing order mandate on the back of the cover sheet should you wish to pay by that method. Alternatively, you can send a cheque or put cash direct into the hands of our illustrious treasurer. (Her address is also on the cover sheet.)

It has been a rather long and complex job transferring all the information to the computer and I confidently expect I have made some mistakes. If you think you have paid and the sheet says you haven't, please don't be offended, just send me the details and I'll put it right straight away. Similarly, if your name, address or any other details have changed please return the cover sheet to me and I'll make the necessary alterations.

The committee has clarified exactly when the membership fees are payable. Our year starts on July 4th and if you join between then and December 31st you pay a full year's membership, but if you join between 1st January and 3rd of July you have free membership until the start of the next membership year on 4th July. Membership stays at £5 a year, for home and overseas members. From now on non paid up members will not receive the newsletter and will not be able to attend reunions until they have paid.

Now for the good news.

The OWs website should be up and walking, if not fully running, by the time you read this. Go to: **[www.oldwinburnians.org.uk](http://www.oldwinburnians.org.uk)** (*note the spelling and lack of capital letters*) and you should find some sample pages of the the latest newsletter, details of the next reunion, some photographs, memorabilia, email addresses for the committee and hopefully a full list of members. I would like to expand that section to enable OWs to get in touch with each other but I am wary of infringing both the Data Protection Act and peoples' privacy. At present I have very few email addresses. I would like all those of you with email addresses to email me and make it clear whether you are happy for me to forward emails from other OWs or just to send messages about the OWs. Further details and hopefully a method of doing this, on the website.

Under NO circumstances will I publish email addresses on the website or allow those addresses we hold to be used for advertising by other organisations.

If you find that an old friend is a member you can write to them at my address and I will forward the letter, or if you email me I will add your request and address to the messages on your friend's cover sheet in the next newsletter. Another good reason to ensure you stay paid up and receive your new personal newsletter!

**P.S. TO ALL MEMBERS.** We do not in a number of instances have the dates when you were at QEGS. If everyone, as a matter of course, would kindly enclose them in their next correspondence it would be helpful for our records - also maiden names for our female members. Thank you for your **anticipated** co-operation.

### DATA PROTECTION INFORMATION

1. Over the years, you might have contacted the Old Winburnians and supplied your address etc.. However, details of Old Winburnians have also been gleaned from a variety of sources during this time, thus you are now on our mailing list.
2. Those who have access to this Data Base, which was originally created solely for the purpose of distributing information concerning the 500 years Celebration of the foundation of the Wimborne Grammar School, are an "Ad Hoc Committee" of Old Winburnians and Queen Elizabeth's School . However, the latter has never asked to use the information which the committee holds and the main use of the Data Base is the despatch of Newsletters,
3. At reunions the names and addresses of Old Winburnians are made available to those who attend and, occasionally, such information is passed to those who might wish to be put into touch with other ex-pupils who were their contemporaries. This is on the understanding that such contacts would be solely for the furtherance of personal friendships. The information would not be supplied intentionally to any person for trade or commercial purposes.
4. The current holder of the data base is David Finnemore, Membership Secretary  
4, Purbeck Gardens, Felton Road, Poole. BH14 0QS. Tel. 01202-463889

## **A MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM DEREK STEVENS ON THE SUBJECTS OF O.W TIES AND O.W MEMORABILIA**

I have been requested by the estimable Derek to publicise the availability of a fresh batch of our much sought-after ties. Derek has invested a large portion of his life-savings in procuring these ties on behalf of our membership. He tells me he is reduced to morning gruel of the coarsest quality, supermarket own brand savers' bread and meat only on alternate days with the occasional treat of a herring or Lancashire tripe. Fellow members, if it is only out of pity, please send cheques for a mere £7.50, which includes postage and packing, to our desperate Memorabilia Secretary. The quality of the ties is, Derek assures me, a tribute to British craftsmanship. For those of our members who already have one tie, may I suggest you order another, either to be used as a spare or employed in lieu of a belt to keep trousers suitably hoisted. This next section is from one of Derek's letters. I hope I have quoted accurately but anyone familiar with our lad's handwriting will appreciate the problem. The cracking of war-time codes was scarcely a more difficult task.

*(The lad's actual words):* "As your Memorabilia Secretary I would like to thank **Jill Strong, Lawson Hall, Bill Haskell, Dennis Hames** and, most particularly, **Peter Warren** for contributions to the archive. Peter loaned us 3 family photograph albums from which we were able to select some 24 photos of the sporting activities of three generations of his family while at QEGS covering the periods of 1906-10, 1926-30 and 1961-2.

Can we have more such support, please? A list of outstanding items was published as an Appendix to the Spring 2004 Newsletter and my address and telephone number are set out at the end of this issue together with those of our other officers.

Slow progress is being made but we seem to be absolutely stuck as far as The Winburnian is concerned. We now have a complete run of issues - nos.49 (January 1927) to 133 (our own Millennium issue) but, in spite of pursuing all sorts of avenues, we have been unable to improve on this.

We are still hoping to produce another issue of The Winburnian in due course. One of the articles we have 'on the blocks' is an account of schooldays in the Old Workhouse. We would like to back this up with a photo or two but neither ourselves nor the Priest's House Museum has any. Is there someone out there who can help? Derek Stevens."

### **FROM THE FRIENDS OF WIMBORNE HOSPITAL**

All those who attended our Renunion in December will recall that we held a raffle on behalf of the Victoria Hospital. Guests contributed generously and **Carolyn Kamcke** was able to present a cheque that afternoon to **Mrs June Tripp**, representing the Friends of Wimborne Hospital, for the grand sum of £250.00. A few days later Carolyn received the letter printed below.

Dear Mrs Kamcke

Thank you very much for your cheque for £250 which is a much appreciated donation to the Friends of Victoria Hospital. Please pass on our thanks to all those involved in this generous donation.

The refurbished Hanham Ward is now open, having been changed from a Nightingale Ward to smaller, single-sex wards, plus a recovery and step-down room. It looks absolutely brilliant and the staff are delighted with it. The Friends donated £75,000 to that project.

The modernisation of the Minor Injuries Unit and the Operating Theatre are the next developments to which we have already committed significant support.

As of course you know, the community, through the Friends, has contributed hugely to the support and development of Victoria Hospital and, despite the increased spending of the NHS, this dependence will continue if we are to keep abreast of the advances in healthcare required within the locality.

Yours sincerely, Barbara Gooch, Honorary Secretary

## MUSIC AT THE MINSTER - THE SCUOLA CORALE FROM LUGANO CATHEDRAL

On Friday, 22 July, the Scuola Cathedral from Lugano Cathedral will be singing a programme of music including pieces by Mozart, Handel, Purcell, Palestrina, Scarlatti and Parry. This is an unusual opportunity to hear a choir singing some of the great repertoire of Church music. The leader of the Choir, **Robert Michaels**, owes his musical formation to Canford School so he knows the area well. He has been Choir Master and Organist at the Cathedral for 10 years and has risen to prominence in Church music in southern Switzerland. The choir is made up of young Swiss Italians who enjoy singing and want to share their love of music with other people. Their visit to Wimborne is part of a tour that includes performances at Exeter, Oxford and Ealing Abbey. If Old Winburnians keen on Church music would like to attend, tickets will be £6 for adults. £4 for concessions and under 17s, obtainable at the door, or in advance from the Priest's House Museum.

I feel it is worth adding that **Robert Michaels**, ever since his Canford days, has wished to perform a concert in the Minster and, thanks to the kindness of OW Committee member, **Don Phillips**, and his fellow Rotarians, **Mike Stead** and the **Rev. Holbrook**, this is to become a reality. The Choir itself is unusual in that most of the children have come from poor backgrounds and are united by their desire to sing and develop as young people. Bringing them abroad is part of the drive to give them wider horizons. It is an idea that would certainly find favour with the likes of Jamie Oliver. I am certain that any OW member who can get along to the Minster at 7.30 pm on the evening of Friday, 22 July, will be rewarded with a memorable musical experience.

GRAHAM POWELL

## WINE, WOMEN & SONG

Well, perhaps not quite. Readers will have to provide the wine for themselves and there is only one woman (though Susan is quite a woman!), but there is song. A new feature in our Newsletter? Whatever next, I hear the traditionalists cry. In truth, I felt that in a world where our news is so often dominated by such questionable iconic figures as Becks and Posh, Wayne and Coleen, Peter and Jordan, some of our readers may wish to be briefly elevated to a higher cultural plane. After all, dear old **'Fishy' Maiden**, to take but one of our former distinguished teachers, did devote his life to raising our 'cultural horizons'. Surely we owe it to his memory to introduce one or two more intellectually and spiritually uplifting items in our Newsletter! We were, let us remember, once proud students of Queen Elizabeth's most illustrious Grammar School in the fair town of Wimborne.

In short, dear readers, I have asked two of our members to contribute their eight Desert Island Discs and favourite choice of reading (in the style of the late and estimable Roy Plomley and the present-day Sue Lawley). As the first of our desert island residents I invited our oldest member, **Wilfred Palmer** (1922-28), and one of that pioneering generation of young ladies who arrived at QEGS in 1953, namely **Sue Hatherley** (nee Bush). Incidentally, when first I approached Sue on the topic she commented: *'What a strange request, Alan! I really cannot imagine that anyone would be interested in my eight favourite records without actually hearing them.'* There, young Susan, I suspect you are mistaken. People will be intrigued and, in some instances, will almost certainly be inspired to seek out recordings unfamiliar to them. I have also included the reflections accompanying our guests' choices in the confident belief that such information enriches our understanding and appreciation of their selections.

## MY DESERT ISLAND DISCS - WILFRED PALMER (1922-28)

In choosing my eight favourite pieces of music my sentimental character will be fully exposed!

- 1 My first choice must be **'Myfanwy'**, sung by a Welsh Male Voice Choir, which I would dedicate to my late wonderful wife, Elvira, herself a Welsh girl.
- 2 Next would be the beautiful **Waltz in A Minor by Chopin**, played by **Dinu Lipatti**, to my mind the greatest exponent who died tragically young.
- 3 The third would be **'Danny Boy/The Londonderry Air.'** A wonderful melody which requires no explanation.
- 4 Still in sentimental mood and being, at heart, a Dorset country lad, **Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, The Pastoral.**
- 5 Now, suddenly released from this 'deep trance', **Wagner's Rienzi Overture**, would burst forth. A rousing and inspiring cacophony. Splendid music, in spite of the composer's political leanings.
- 6 Then, remembering a visit to the Paris Opera, an anniversary treat from our daughter who was studying in Paris at the time, the final aria from **Tosca**, sung by **Maria Callas**.
- 7 Winding down rapidly from these dizzy heights my next choice would be **Paul Robeson's 'Ol Man River'**, recalling his courageous stand against McCarthyism in America and his lifelong fight for racial equality around the world.

8 Finally, to completely relax, **Nat King Cole** singing ‘**Smoke gets in Your Eyes**’.

As for my book, so many have given me great pleasure, but I must confess to a preference for fact, rather than fiction. My choice is the complete poetical works of **Rudyard Kipling**, the follies and successes of our imperial past, both poignant and vividly revealing.

#### MY DESERT ISLAND DISCS - SUE HATHERLEY (1953-60)

- 1 First of all it would be **Claude Debussy’s ‘Suite Bergamesque’, ‘Clair de Lune’**. There are many fine examples, often in compilations.
- 2 Next **Sullivan’s** ballet suite ‘**Pineapple Poll**’. (Decca).
3. Thirdly, it would be anything from the musical show **Mama Mia** - good old **Abba!**
- 4 From the definitive **Simon & Garfunkel** (Columbia) the duo’s ‘**El Condor Pasa**’.
- 5 Next the spoken word in the form of **Dylan Thomas’s ‘Under Milk Wood’** with **Richard Burton** (BBC Radio Collection)
- 6 Now it would be **Marcello’s Concerto for oboe, strings and continuo** from **A Roman Christmas, Italian Concertos and Cantatas**.
- 7 This time **J.S.Bach’s St.Matthew Passion, John Eliot Gardiner**.
- 8 Finally **Shostakovich’s Leningrad Symphony No 7**.

Choosing just eight records from a lifetime of musical enjoyment certainly concentrates the mind. Mine are mostly autobiographical from earliest memories of hearing my mother play the piano through young and adolescent years, enjoying a **Gilbert and Sullivan** phase, as well as ballet and opera. Then, of course, there were the Swinging Sixties, part of which I spent in London - fantastic plays, great musicals, the **Beatles, Abba, Simon & Garfunkel** - how to choose?

I had to have **Richard Burton’s** dark brown voice and last year **Ann (Wall), Pat (Unsworth)** and I saw a production of **Under Milkwood** at Poole. **Peter** (my husband) and I really like chamber music and I still sing in a local choir.. I have only just come to appreciate **Shostakovich** - very emotional music - and very Russian. My absolute favourite would be the **Matthew Passion**.

A book? Probably an anthology of poetry appropriately called ‘**Staying Alive**’, edited by **Neil Astley**, published by Bloodaxe Books.

*(May I thank most warmly both our contributors. In the next Newsletter I shall be featuring the favourite musical and literary selections of two more of our members. Ed.)*

#### THE REUNION ON SATURDAY, 4 DECEMBER

The following is a list of those members (and spouses) who attended:

**Carolyn Kamcke, Don Phillips, David Roberts, Derek Stevens, David Finnemore, Graham Powell, Hazel Powell, Reg Booth, Alice Booth, Alan Rowe, Alison Rowe, Alan Evans, Len Hawker, Dot Hawker, Ed Wood, Jose Wood, Michael Wallis, Gerry Dymond, Phyllis Dymond, Stan White, Greta White, Mervyn Coombs, Rosemary Coombs, Ken Nicklen, Fay Nicklen, Norah Dyson, Dennis Moores, Terry Randall, Pat Best, Sue Lawrence, Janice Ricketts, Audrey Hallett, Brian Cooper, Geoff Stokes, Margaret Stokes, Sandra Dickson, Simon Farnell, Betty Read, Sue Hatherley, Ann King, Richard Read, Patricia Marshall, Alan Maitland, June Maitland, Janet Coy, Brian Brewer, Heather Brewer, Kathleen Medwed Hudson, Vic Moss, Jenny Moss, Sue O’Connor, Rod Cheese, Nick Bishop, Janet Gordon, Roger Whittaker, Faith Elford, Geoff Welch, Christopher Barnard, Beryly Wythers, Doug Foyle, Olive Foyle, Ray Scott, Ann Sweeney, Roy Perry, Len Light, Lawson Hall, Frank Shears, Elsie Shears, John Guy, John Horsey, Janet Horsey, Clive Day, Christina Day, John Clode, Jean Morris, Ken Taylor, Paul Burry, Erica Burry, Rosie Durrant, John Moorman, Ann Shapter, Jan Williamson, Barbara Russell, Dave Moss, Cynthia Tanner, Neill Tanner, Eunice Carnall, Reg Carnall, John Dare, Gordon Richards, Nesta Richards, Maurice Herridge, Kay Herridge, Joyce Downton, John Froud, Maureen Froud, Charles Palmer, Wilfred Palmer, John Philpott, Margaret Philpott, Rodney Hurt, Joan Hurt, Ken Smart, Brian Pearce, Merv Frampton, Sue Frampton, Bob Downer, Tony Bletsoe, Brian Hall, Michael Stevens, Brian Richmond, John Hill, Patrick Keeping, Mike Morris, Paul Charman, John Dacombe, Bill Haskell, Peter Douch, Jack Douch, Alan Bennett.**

*(We hope we have omitted no one. We also hope no names are incorrectly spelt. Most ‘umble apologies to any inadvertently offended.)*

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GENERAL WELL-BEING AND HAPPINESS OF SPOUSES AT OUR REUNIONS

Members may be interested to know that this topic was discussed at our last Committee meeting. One or two Committee members were particularly concerned that not all spouses, generally those of the 'fairer sex', were sufficiently considered when organising reunions. Were they happy just listening to conversations about events of 50 years ago involving individuals of whom they had no knowledge? I will not reveal ALL the comments that followed. Some were more brutal than others. However, among the more constructive thoughts were - leave any disgruntled spouse in a nearby shopping centre with a purse stuffed with fivers (would that also apply to any male spouses?), drop them at a nearby tavern with purses similarly stuffed, arrange special activities at the reunion itself i.e. bread or cake making, knitting competitions, exchanging recipes for jam making, invite a male stripper - possibly we have one within our ranks? Upon reflection there are a number of likely lads - all fine specimens of manhood - **Paul Charman**, **Mike 'Mouse' Morris**, **David Singleton** (I am sure he would cheerfully fly over from Texas to 'wow' his old flames), or young **Johnnie Dacombe** - ever the ladies' man! How about it, fellers? Etc. I must conclude by stating that no definitive decisions were made by the Committee. Comments are welcomed!

### CORRESPONDENCE

**TONY-CATER (1935-41)** Not so much direct news from Tony, rather indirectly through the tireless **Len Pearce**. Tony is the younger brother of Ken who died a few years ago. Tony has spent most of his adult life in Africa, including WW2 service with East African Services. Tony won awards for his acting ability at QEGS in the 1930s and would have loved to enjoy a career as a thespian. Alas, this possibility was frowned upon by Tony's father and a certain **J.C.Airey**. However, his talent did find an outlet in Kenya in the fulness of time. In England Tony 'thought the world of **Motty**' (*Didn't we all? Ed*) who sometimes invited young Tony to join his family for lunch. Tony spent some years in the hotel business in Kenya but has retired to Durban with his wife, **Jeanne**, who is unfortunately not in the best of health. Tony's memories of Dorset remain affectionate and he would welcome letters from any old friends. Tony's address may be obtained from the Membership Secretary.

**DIANA ZILM (nee VAUGHAN) (1955-59)** Diana writes from Down Under, lamenting the passage of time and its effects on memory. She does enquire particularly of a certain **Peter Harris** who attended Ferndown Primary with her before QEGS. She recalls Peter's strong Dorset accent and the look he received from their Maths teacher, **Miss Goodfield**, when having explained some point she enquired of him whether he had understood and she received the reply 'Oh, aarh, so it be!' (*Those were the days, Diana! Aaarh!*) Diana would welcome letters from any old pals. (Address from Mem.Sec.)

**DICK JEFFERY (1936-42)** Many thanks to Dick for a most interesting letter in which he recalled Saturday morning school at QEGS - when did it end, he asks? And the bitterly cold winters when the ground was too hard for rugby and it was cross country runs up to Pamphill. Dick recently made contact with **Judy Hutchings (nee Slater) (1957-61)**. It seems Judy has really distinguished herself by securing the *Western Mail Welsh Woman of the Year 'Woman as Educator Award'* - in November '04. It was for her research and the training of others in tackling the difficult task of helping children with behavioural problems and their parents. With her husband Lewis Judy has also established a Horse Riding Centre and Stables on the island of Anglesey - with lots of splendid facilities. Any Winburnians seeking a holiday in that part of Wales would be well advised to contact Judy and her husband. Thanks to Dick for the news and congratulations from us all to Judy.

**PAM & RAY WHEELER (1943-47)** wrote from their new address in NSW, Aust. Somehow I contrived not to mention a communication from Ray in the last Newsletter - maybe it arrived too late into my hands. Anyway, Ray and Pam met up with **Stan Richmond** whilst holidaying in SA - Stan being of the same vintage. In the late summer of '04 Ray and Pam celebrated their '50 Golden Years' with a cruise on the Queen Mary 2 from Athens to Southampton. As Ray commented: 'This will be real nostalgia for myself as I worked on the first Queen Mary in 1950 having left QEGS in 1947 - from an academic education to a fully fledged sweet chef!' (*I hope it all went splendidly, Ray and Pam. I also hope that some time back you did receive from me news of those OWs who are Down Under - I promise I did send them. Incidentally, I will mention Ray's new address, as Ray specifically requested, so that any old cronies can drop a line. It is Unit 2, 5 Wonga Crescent, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.*)

**STAN ORMAN (1941-45)** Stan wrote a cheerful letter confirming **David Searle**'s earlier enquiry regarding his identity. Stan was reminiscing about Melverly School, 'the famous academy of female learning so close at hand'. It seems **Stan** and **Percy Cole** were chosen by **J.C.Airey** to respond to the request by the Headmistress of Melverly for some soccer coaching for 'the infant boy population of the school'. Stan and Percy could scarcely believe their good fortune. The latter, in particular, had a very specific interest in a certain young lady at the school. Furthermore, 'Percy and I were also required to be present on the occasion. of the girls' sports day to, help with the movement of equipment, etc. (*I do wonder about the 'etc', Stan?*) We believed ourselves to be the envy of the entire school population of QEGS. What we also believed to be unknown to '**Tipper**' **Airey** was that, at the end of each football term **Miss Bliss**, the Headmistress, would pay us the handsome sum of ten shillings each. This was with the strictest instruction that we should not tell Mr.Airey!' (*What gloriously wicked memories, Stan. The pair of you almost begin to put Wayne Rooney's amorous antics into perspective . . . . or do I exaggerate ever so slightly?*)

**SANDRA DICKSON (1958 - 65)** It was good to receive word from Sandra (and see her at the Reunion). Sandra has been travelling extensively of late - Barcelona 'on a dance holiday', Rome 'for the cultural bit', Guernsey, Australia at Christmas, besides other points east and west. Sandra was looking forward to renewing old acquaintance at the Reunion with her friends, **Geoff** and **Margaret Stokes**. (*Do you remember those camping summers, Geoff, with John Hill, Yours Truly and Co, on the heathland near Lytchett Bay? And certain nubile village girls? But I had better not go into detail or the lovely Margaret will be demanding details. Awfully sorry if I've dropped you in it, Geoff!*)

**DAVID SEARLE (1941-45)** David wrote from Romney Marsh in Kent. I quote : '**Ayteo, Bletsoe, Quarmby** and **Riggs** were all, I think, contemporaries of mine and Quarmby and Riggs were both choristers. The last time I saw Quarmby was about 40 years ago when he clapped me on the back at Waterloo Station.' David wondered about email, etc. Well, thanks to the sterling efforts of **David Finnemore** all things are now possible. See elsewhere for the particulars of our brand-new web-site. David also chanced to come upon another OW and a great friend of the **Dacombes** clan living in a Masonic home in Chislehurst, **W.F. Vivian**, who attended QEGS between the years of 1928-33. (*I hope the Newsletter reached you safely, W.F.V, and you have now joined our ranks. It is a pleasure to welcome you.*)

**MICHAEL BULL (1943-45)** Michael wrote an interesting letter describing his experiences of the Old Tauntonians Association. Michael was only briefly a member of QEGS before going on to Taunton Grammar School. Michael's letter was prompted by my '**Wilkins Micawber**' piece in the last issue urging our members to pay their subscriptions. We have had a positive response to the appeal so that we currently have a paid-up membership of 250 plus with another 150 we are not sure about. As **David Finnemore** has explained in his enclosure to those 150 or so who have not paid up, this will be the last Newsletter they will receive. We have to be blunt for clearly it is very unfair that a part of our membership subsidises those who do not pay. The picture will be clearer in the next few months. I do not wish to lose a single member but the matter is now obviously in their own hands. David's experience of the Old Tauntonians suggests we could provide an even bigger and better Newsletter if the core membership was prepared to pay a little more and we dropped the unenthusiastic from our mailing list. Likewise, it will be interesting to see what effect David Finnemore's efforts produce for the computer literate. We shall see. Anyway, Michael, thank you for your thoughts.

**RICHARD WALLIS (1939-46)** Richard wrote with the sad news of his brother Peter's death last October. (See the Obituaries for further details). As for Richard he retired a few years ago after a career in teaching that concluded with the post of Head of Modern Languages in Midsomer Norton. He is still fit enough to indulge his passions of gardening, long-distance walking and writing. Richard completed the Pennine Way, the South-West Coastal Walk and the Macmillan Way last year. He has also produced a book of walks in the Frome, Shepton Mallet and Warminster area and is now working on some family history. Richard expressed some curiosity about Latin teaching at QEGS and mentioned the name of **Mr. Hodges**. I do know that '**Gunner**' **Holman** also later taught the subject but when Latin disappeared from the curriculum I am unsure. Did it survive until the school left King Street? Among many other topics Richard lamented the absence of **William Barnes** from the syllabus.

**REX BREACH (1940-55)** Rex wrote a brief note apologising for his absence from the Reunion but he was obliged to travel at short notice to South Africa before returning to the UK in time for Christmas. We look forward to seeing those handsome features in July, Rex. I refer, of course, to your good lady wife. (*Only joking, old chap!*)

**DAVID SNELGAR (1956-58)** David wrote on the subject of membership fees. He said he recalled paying the grand sum of ten shillings and sixpence when **Faith Elford** was the Treasurer but feared he had not paid since that time. He conveyed the most humble of apologies and concluded: 'So I await my Bad Conduct Card to add to the two I picked up in the late 1950s.' (*Shame on you, young David! Perhaps you merit by this time a sound spanking from Faith?! Any response, good sir?*)

**CLIVE DAY (1956 - 63)** A letter arrived via **David Finnemore** from Clive who was in contact with **Jenny Moss** and so inspired to join us. After leaving school Clive studied Physics at university, followed by research and a PhD. Clive spent a number of years working on optical fibre communications at a BT Research Lab in Suffolk. Now semi-retired he is doing work for the Institute of Physics. Clive married a young lady from the Wirral named **Christina** and has enjoyed a number of telephone chats with **Geoff Welch**. (*It is good to welcome you to our ranks, Clive. Do make yourself known to me at the next reunion. I like to match faces and names in this confusing world!*)

**CORA THERIEN (nee RENSON) (1959-66)** Betty Read passed on a letter from Cora who was briefly in England before returning to Canada in early November of last year. Cora has recently retired after 32 years of teaching PE at a High School in Kingston, Ontario. Cora has 2 daughters aged 13 and 21, and a husband with a glass window and mirror business. (*I hope he doesn't have too many accidents with the mirrors, Cora! Anyway, Cora usually tries to get back to the UK every year. We hope to see you one of these days, Cora.*)

**LIZ. E.R. GOODE (nee STREETS) (1958-65)** Betty passed on another letter this time from Liz, daughter of the illustrious '**Bill**' Streets, Science Master at QEGS for many years. Liz was having problems with her subs and inconsistencies with her status and name. Sadly Liz was widowed when her husband died though she retained the surname of Robinson for some time afterwards. Now married again she is Liz Goode and I hope all her membership problems are at last resolved. Of course, we do see her sister **Cynthia** on a regular basis at reunions but Liz divides her time between the UK and Menorca., hence attendance at functions is difficult. Like so many of our members Liz has expressed her pleasure at reading through the Newsletters. 'When I see various names, so many memories come flooding back'. (*It is, Liz, the reason I took on the job after Graham Powell decided to lay down his old quill pen - the thought that a lot of people do derive pleasure from our news information service. Especially our overseas members, those too unwell or incapacitated to get along to reunions, and some of our more aged old friends who have lost touch with former school chums. As for your dear old dad, Liz and Cynthia, if he could see me now hammering away on this machine I suspect a wry smile would cross his face. I fear he thought, from the number of times he sent me out of his classroom, that I was a bad 'un, destined for Dartmoor or a life as a vagrant. I like to think he would be pleased if he knew I was writing about his daughters. 'At least he's done something useful with his miserable life', he would chuckle!*)

**JOHN RIGGS (1948-53)** It was good to receive a letter from John announcing his decision to join the OWs. John has recently undergone a hip replacement operation. (*We hope you are now moving about like a young gazelle, John, and we look forward to seeing you at a reunion. John has also tried to assist me in my pursuit of the elusive Ron 'Manny' Mansfield, an old crony of mine, who is proving as difficult to trace as Lord Lucan. Where are you, old friend?*)

**MERVYN FRAMPTON (1947-54)** I was amused by Mervyn's letter to Betty Read enclosing his subscription headed 'To the Disaster Fund'. It has been a pleasure to see Mervyn and his 'better half' at recent reunions. In his glory days Mervyn was a very fine sportsman and creditable actor. Mervyn lives at the Dorset outpost of Stalbridge, best known for its association with that magnificent old chaser, Stalbridge Colonist. I suppose, in his own way, Mervyn is a Stalbridge colonist. (*How are the natives these days? How about a Kiplingesque line or two on the villagers of this bit of the Empire?*)

**ELAINE SMITH (nee ?) (dates ?)** Elaine scribbled a few lines from Bristol to Betty declaring 'I do so enjoy the Newsletter and the information. One of these days I'll attend a Reunion.' (*Thank you for the kind words, Elaine, and do come along and introduce yourself.*)

**RAY HOLDER (1931-37)** One of our veterans wrote a few lines from his home in Bournemouth explaining that he now finds it too difficult to attend the reunions but enjoys reading about his contemporaries in the Newsletter. (*Sorry you cannot make it to our gatherings, Ray, but it is good to know you are still enjoying life.*)

**CAROLINE JENNINGS (Nee BUNDY) (1953-59)** Caroline wrote from Haslemere in Surrey explaining that 'pressure of work and various commitments left me very little spare time and, I was just never able to attend



any functions'. Now retired from teaching she keeps in touch with an old classmate, **Frances Burden**, and hopes to become a little more involved with us now she enjoys some precious free time. (*We look forward to seeing you in the future, Caroline.*)

**ALAN HOLMES ROWE** (dates ?) I received Alan's card from our splendid Treasurer. Alan began his card with the words 'From your dyslogistic Architect, prompted by the RIBA Stirling Prize'. It seems Alan was nearly involved in fisticuffs at the door at our recent Reunion. A dispute over payment of membership subscription, happily resolved now, I trust. (*Seriously, Alan, when the Committee has been contemplating 'entertainments' at reunions, we have never discussed the possibility of prizefights. Boxing was, of course, at one time compulsory at QEGS when 'Slogger' Jayne was the PE master. I was even obliged to fight two one-minute rounds with Mike 'Mouse' Morris, the previous year's champion shortly after arriving at the school. Mike won. Comfortably. Though 'Slogger' did compliment me on my ability to move out of range of Mike's fists. I really could run in those days! Anyway, I digress. Could we introduce boxing matches at the reunions? Various categories spring to mind - over 70s 'after 2 pints, or 2 glasses of spirits', over 60s 'after Christmas pudding has been served'. Of course, womens' boxing is becoming very popular these days, isn't it?!*)

**A.S.J. FARROW (1942-49)** Young A.S.J wrote a few lines to Betty who passed the note on to Yours Truly. A.S.J is a resident of East Lothian now but was once a 'train boy' with **Derek Stevens** boarding at Verwood. (*What nostalgic memories are thus conjured up - steam trains and a line that disappeared with Dr. Beeching. So short-sighted were those cuts. How we could do with some of these branch lines today. The truly horrendous queues of cars wending their agonising way into Poole and Bournemouth each morning from Verwood and Wimborne.*) A.J.S also recalls that it was a visit to Derek's mother in Woodlands in 1995 that inspired Derek to consider relaunching the present OWs. A visit with many happy consequences.

**JOHN E RYLEY (1943-56)** I am delighted to welcome John to our association. Through a chance meeting in Ferndown library with **John Hill** where a QEGS photograph was on display John has returned to our fold after a long absence. John writes: 'I was sorry to see the old school close as both my father and his two brothers were educated there and my great uncle was a school governor. (*The Ryley family, in my memory, was closely associated for some time with the Post Office in Wimborne Square so I am sure many of our members will recall John and his twin brother who sadly died last year. It is good to renew old acquaintance, John, and I very much hope we will be seeing you one of these days.*)

**LINDA BERENBRINCK (nee KING) (1957-64)** Linda contacted Carolyn from her address in Rheda-Wiedenbruck with the news of the sad passing of her old friend, **Valerie Jones**. She also expressed a particular desire to make contact with **Vivian 'Bim' Alder** - 'She seems to have disappeared from the face of the earth! When her father died her mother moved to Shrewsbury to be near her and Viv's family. (*Can anyone help, please?*)

**NORMAN WATERMAN (1953-60)** It was good to have news of Norman who was Head Boy in his final year and still retains contact with some old friends - **Sue Hatherley, David Scrase, Simon Coley** and **Paul Charman**. A lapsed member, suitably contrite, he is now back with us and hopes to attend some reunions in the future. (*We look forward to seeing you, Norman. Better the sinner who repents . . . and all that!*)

**JOHN L. WOODSFORD (1957-64)** From an exotic address in the Philippines **Roy Sheppard** received an enquiry from John who then passed it on to me. No news of substance from John except that he hopes to be back in the UK next in June/July of this year and seeks membership of our band of brothers - and sisters. **Peter Douch** appears to be the go-between. (*Quite what adventures young John is enjoying in those distant parts who knows? We wait with interest. Perhaps you will even be able to make it to the reunion.*)

**PENELOPE HEATH (mid 1960s)** This is a slightly unusual situation. It is an enquiry about Penelope Heath should anyone know her whereabouts. We have received a communication from QE about Penelope who was, it seems, an exchange partner of a German girl, **Marianne Schroeder**, in the mid 60s. Marianne is trying to resume contact with Penelope who lived in Vicarage Road, Verwood. (*If any reader can help us to locate Penelope on behalf of her, old German friend, we would be grateful.*)

**RICHARD READ (1952-58)** Richard is now the grandfather to nine grandchildren, it seems. Last Christmas Richard and Angie were in Gambia, having earlier visited Costa. Rica, Jordan and Burma. (*Life must be very full, not least of birthdays, Richard.*)

**A.J.S. TONY GOULD (1951-57)** It was delightful to receive a long and amusing letter from my old friend Tony who shortly retires as Senior Regional Industrial Organiser with the TGWU. Tony promises to move back to Dorset after an absence of nearly half a century. Tony reminded me of a bizarre but hysterical episode one Speech Day. He writes: 'I recall your winning a prize for academic distinction and requesting a copy of Karl Marx's 'Das Kapital'. This caused **J.D.Neil** great consternation because the man who was due to present the prizes that Speech Day was an eminent military gentleman'. (*Absolutely right, Tony, and well remembered. The gentleman in question was none other than General Sir Dudley Ward, a very important man in NATO at the time and a former old boy of QEGS. In fact, the book was already purchased and it was only on the morning of the presentation that our Headmaster discovered what was happening. Someone was despatched to the school library to find a book in suitably mint condition that might be substituted for 'Das Kapital'. As, you amazingly recall - with total accuracy - someone found a copy of The Savoy Operas and I received that title from the general that afternoon in the Tivoli. I actually quoted from your letter at the last reunion, Tony, and our audience was suitably amused! I will let Tony continue.*) 'Does anyone know what has become of **'Mac' McCrory** - is he still alive somewhere? I recall with gratitude **'Inky' Stephens** who helped me scrape a pass in French, **Mr. Maiden** for fostering my political development, **Messrs. Pursey** and **'Tarzan' Williams**, and especially **Mary Jarman** and **Miss Rastrick'** Tony still sees **Graham Wood** as he lives nearby and also refers to his sister, **Vivien**, who was also a pupil at QEGS. (*Anyway, Tony, we hope to see you at future reunions and it was good to hear from you after so many years.*)

**J.D. (DAVID) ARMITAGE (1943 - 51)** It was a particular pleasure when my friend, Wilkins Micawber, passed across a letter to me from David Armitage who had responded generously to young Micawber's plea for more funds. I do, of course, remember David well as a prefect when first I arrived at QEGS. David was, along with such figures as **John Bown** and **N.G Trinkle**, one of these who exercised authority with humanity. David retired a few years ago after a career in education having worked in London, Germany, the USA and Bournemouth, including a stint as headmaster. David met his wife in the German town of Hamelin and all 3 of his children were born in Germany. David recalls with both respect and affection a number of his old masters like **Messrs. Mottram, Maiden, Airey** and **Bennett** "who encouraged me and gave me knowledge of Geography, English, Latin and Art. I also gained a basic grounding in German - in the form of German for Scientists - from **Mr. Small**." (*Actually, David, Mr. Small was a brilliant teacher, as I recall, and a very pleasant man. As for my namesake, Mr. J.K. Bennet, sadly he died suddenly after only a brief spell at the school. I seem to recall it was during the Christmas holidays (from polio?) when we were 13 or so. A very sad loss to the school.*) David still maintains regular contact with old QEGS friends, **Tony Harvey** and **Derek Diprose**. In fact, David was Derek's 'best man' some 50 years ago. (*I just don't believe such a passage of time has occurred. It seems only a few summers ago, David, that you came into 1A's classroom during a wet lunchtime to maintain some kind of order among such hooligans as **Brian Richmond, Patrick Keeping, Frank Hackforth, 'Toad' Hatchard** and **Rex Breach!** Anyway, do come along to a reunion one of these days, David - it will be good to see you.*)

### **TORTURE IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE (GLORY FOR A FEW)**

I was reminded by **Dick Jeffrey's** reference to cross country runs of those occasions when, as young Winburnians, we were despatched either across the water meadows of the Stour, or around the lanes of Dogdean near the Horns Inn. Hard frost or flooding were the usual causes that prevented us playing football or rugby. Curiously, these runs always appeared to take place only minutes after we had consumed second helpings of mutton stew or treacle pudding. It was little wonder that within a few yards we were nearly doubled up with agonising 'stitch', though there were a few individuals who seemed to avoid this crippling condition. Perhaps they were simply made of sterner stuff and ran on heroically through the pain barrier.

However, another reason I have included these few lines is to remind members that the old route along the river to Cowgrove and Pamphill and the Vine pub is well worth a return visit. Of course, I appreciate that for many of our membership I am speaking to the converted, but there will be others who come back to Wimborne only rarely. These words may even stir nostalgic memories for our overseas brethren. In short, since the National Trust assumed responsibility for much of the locality there is no doubt the walk between Eyebridge and Cowgrove has become quite one of the best in the Wimborne district. There is a rather fine carving in wood of an otter half-way along the stretch reflecting the evidence of otter activity again in the

vicinity. Kingfishers and Little egrets (once only very rare visitors), buzzards and sparrow-hawks, sedge and reed warblers in summer, together with the commoner species, are almost invariably to be seen by the curious observer. Unfortunately, compared to the days of our youth numbers of swallows and martins are much reduced and I haven't seen a yellow wagtail on spring migration for more than a decade. The pond too at Cowgrove, near **John Lacy's Poplar Farm**, is only a fraction of its former size. However, the walk back along the road to Eyebridge - and the car - is always pleasant. For those with sufficient energy it is only a short climb to the Vine inn for refreshment or one can motor up to the Pamphill Parlour and farmshop. My old friend, the splendid **Jim Richards** and his family, own this popular establishment. I believe Jim once confided he was, in distant days, a student at Poole Grammar but he is a very fine fellow, notwithstanding. Journeying about the highways and byways of Pamphill, either on foot or in the car, certainly does evoke memories of those runs mentioned by **Dick Jeffery**. When I spoke to **Peter Pardy** about them he commented: 'Horrible, weren't they?!' When I asked him who were the finest runners in his day he added, with a wry grin: 'I have no idea. I was always so far behind that I never saw!' As for Yours Truly, I do seem to recall that David Park excelled and a fellow called Perry (was it Don?) but, like Peter Pardy, I was also so far removed from the action that it was all academic. Happy days!

## OBITUARIES

**JOHN SCRIVEN (1942-46)**. It is with much regret that we report the death of John in Norwich recently. John enjoyed a distinguished career in the RAF and in the world of Information Technology. John was a well-regarded OW and we know his many friends and family will mourn his passing. (I hope to write more of John next time).

**ANGUS I.F. McDONALD(1937-42)** (*I am indebted to E.J. 'Beau' Parke for the following tribute.*)

'After a very long illness, bravely borne, Angus died on 13 March in Poole Hospital, aged 79. His funeral at St. Mary's Church, Lytchett Matravers, was attended by 200 people.

Speakers recalled his schooldays at QEGS, his attendance thereafter at Glasgow University, and service in the Royal Navy during the latter part of the war.

He practised as a surveyor when back at Lytchett and he also distinguished himself in service at both the Parish Council and the District Council at Wareham for some 50 years.

With a twinkle in his eye and a merry smile, Angus was not the man to liaise with if you had a bus to catch. His drawn-out tales of derring-do were several and varied, producing many a laugh from such tales.

He did much good for many villagers and his marriage to Marta produced 3 beautiful daughters and various grand-children.

He will be greatly missed in the Parish and Purbeck Councils by which bodies he was paid effusive tributes.'

(Len Pearce adds the following Post-script) 'Mac' was one of the characters of the school and the OWs and he attended most of the recent reunions. He won a bottle of whisky in a raffle a couple of years ago and 'saw off' half of it before the end of the afternoon - with the help of **Maurice Herridge!! Gordon Richards** could probably add to this. (*Editor - When I asked Gordon he couldn't remember anything of the whole afternoon!! I wonder why?*)

**SYBIL HOLMAN** Sybil was the widow of **Ralph 'Gunner' Holman** who was the CSM of the School Cadet Corps in the late 1930s when the QEGS Company won the Lucas Tooth Shield, Ralph joined the school as a master in the early 1950s where he taught History, Latin and Games, later becoming Head of History. Ralph was a familiar figure around the town after his retirement until his all too early death. Sybil, nee Pearce, maintained a close interest in the OWs. (*I am obliged to my friend Len Pearce for this tribute.*)

**EDGAR T.W.BENHAM (1934-39)** (*I thank Greta Adamson and Len Pearce for their information relating to Edgar. Greta was Edgar's step-daughter*). Edgar died on 27 March at the age of 83. At school in the 1930s Edgar distinguished himself by playing the organ for morning assemblies. After leaving school he went to Southampton to join the Ordnance Survey. During the war he was drafted into the Royal Engineers to assist in the making of maps for Europe at war. 'Ben' Benham returned to civilian employment with the OS before entering local government. His final role was as the Tree Preservation Officer with East Dorset District Council. When the distorted remnants of a tree were removed from the front of Allendale House, Edgar rescued it, stripped it and it remains at the front of the Allendale Community Centre.

**JOE MOTTRAM (late 1930s - early 1940s) F.W. 'Jack' Flippant** wrote with the sad news of Joe Mottram's death from cancer in Tasmania early this year. Joe was the younger son of the the much loved 'Motty'. Joe transferred from the British Army to the Australian Army and reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Joe was in his late 70s and had enjoyed a successful career as a horse trainer and breeder and was widely respected in his profession. After cremation Joe's ashes were scattered at the HQ of the RASC (Australia). *(Thank you Jack, for the information. It is so helpful when old friends write in with some biographical details. So many OWs have enjoyed distinguished careers in many differing spheres and it is absolutely fitting that we honour their memory.)*

**VALERIE JONES (1959-64) Linda Berenbrinck (nee King)** wrote with the sad news that Valerie died on 23 April, 2004, in Southampton after a brave struggle with cancer. Valerie was a Welsh girl but arrived in Verwood when her father became a headmaster in the village. After leaving QEGS she studied Sociology at Exeter before becoming a social worker. Eventually she secured a teaching post at Southampton Institute where she stayed for 20 years before retiring in 2003. *(I know all her friends will be deeply saddened by the news. After a lifetime of work it seems particularly cruel to die so young.)*

**PETER WALLIS (1945-50)** Richard, Peter's brother, wrote with the sad news of his death on 31 October, 2004, after a protracted illness at the age of 70. I quote from Richard's letter: 'Peter knew he would not recover but faced the end uncomplainingly and with great bravery. After service in the Army in Germany he worked as a landscape gardener in and around the New Forest. The service was held in Alderholt Congregational Church where he was Secretary. It was attended by many friends from the area where he was well-known and loved. *(We send our sympathy to Richard and family and friends.)*

#### **FEATURES IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Among the features in the next issue of the Newsletter will be further information on **Stuart Hibbert**, the famous BBC broadcaster of yesteryear, from his relative Donald Hibbert.

Details of the Bishop Convention - the extraordinary relationship between one local family and QEGS.

Two more Desert Island guests with their musical and literary choices.

Some memories of the old school in the early years of the 19th century.

*(And possibly) The art of the slow left arm bowler by John Dacombe (if he can still remember!).*

**THE END**