



OLD WINBURNIANS NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2006

I write in early April. A distinctly chill wind is still sweeping the land, night frosts are delaying growth in the countryside and the Grand National takes place on Saturday. A dead swan in Scotland is causing our poultry keepers sleepless nights, Cherie Blair is ringing her hair stylist, while Tony solves all the problems of Africa and Asia during 24 hour visits to those beleaguered continents. Meanwhile, Gordon Brown prowls the corridors of power, wondering when his time will come, and John Dacombe is no doubt still spinning tales in some local hostelry of his bowling feats a hundred years ago. Will young Wilfred Palmer, along with Eric. J. 'Beau' Parke, the OWs resident poets, find another 'improving sort' like Sergeant Cecil to warm his heart and improve his bank balance this forthcoming flat season? Will Derek Stevens master the art of handwriting in 2006? They say it's never too late for all sorts of things though, in Derek's case, I do fear the worst. Will Peter Pardy return to the baking trade and produce some of his magnificent crusty loaves - you left a gaping hole in that department, Peter. Personally, since your departure I rate Dragons of Corfe Castle among the finest. And is Eddie Wood still a Lib-Dem supporter after the shenanigans of the past few months? And why is Menzies pronounced Ming? So many questions, so few answers. As you read this, no doubt the sun will be beating down from azure blue skies and our lady members will be besporting themselves in their bikinis. And you will be making arrangements, I trust, for the next reunion. Come in your droves, fellow members. Let them hear the laughter in the Cornmarket and on Minster Green. I look forward to seeing you in July

Compliments, Alan R Bennett

FORTHCOMING REUNIONS IN 2006

Saturday, July 8

Saturday, December 2

The raffle proceeds from the summer draw will be passed on to the Priest House Museum, Wimborne.

REUNIONS IN 2007

Saturday, 7 July

Saturday, 1 December

THE REUNION ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

The following is a list of those members (and spouses, where known) who attended. Where possible, I have included the maiden names of our lady members:

Peter Beckett, Nickki Beckett, Alan Bennett, Nick Bishop, Barbara Blanchard (nee Boys), Tony Bletsoe, Reg Booth, Alice Booth, Rex Breach, Cynthia Breach, Paul Charman, Pam Charman, Eunice Carnall (nee Chadd), Rod Cheese, Mervyn Coombs, Rosemary Coombes, John Coombes, Brian Cooper, Janet Coy (nee Dowd), Des Cox, Zen Dotmas, Roy Dacombe, June Dacombe John Dare, Bob Downer, Nigel Downton, Joyce Downton, Faith Elford (nee Hawes), Doug Foyle, Olive Foyle, Edgar Francis, Ine Francis, John Froud, Maureen Froud, Brian Glover, Janet Gordon (nee Daniels), John Guy, Brian Hall, Lawson Hall, Audrey Hallett, Len Hawker, Dot Hawker, Bill Haskell, Maurice Herridge, Kay Herridge, Geoff Hill, John Hill, Rodney Hurt, Joan Hurt, Carolyn Kamcke (nee Walkling), Patrick Keeping, Sue Lawrence, Alan Maitland, June Maitland, Patricia Marshall (nee Unsworth), Victor Moss, Jenny Moss (nee Day), Ken Nicklen, Fay Nicklen, Sue O'Connor (nee Froud), Charles Palmer, Marjorie Palmer, Wilfred Palmer, David Park, Eric J. (Beau) Parke, Peter Parady, Brian Pearce, Len Pearce, Diane Pearce, Roy Perry, John Philpott, Margaret Philpott, Graham Powell, Hazel Powell, Christine Price (nee Richmond), Terry Randall, Gordon Richards, Nesta Richards, David Roberts, Betty Read (nee White), Brian Richmond, Kay Scott, Rodney Smith, Frank Shears, Elsie Shears, Ken Smart, Geoff Stokes, Margaret Stokes (nee Budden), Anne Sweeney, Monica Vacher, Neill Tanner, Cynthia Tanner (nee Streets), Michael Wallis, Stan White, Greta White, Geoff Welch, Rob Williamson, Ed Wood, Jose Wood, Beryl Wythers (nee Moreton).

APOLOGIES

The following expressed their regrets being unable to attend: **Peter Eyres, John Flippant, Anne Fox (nee Harper), Richard Ferguson, Mervyn Frampton, Tony Gould, Sue Hatherley, Bob Hussey, Caroline Jennings (nee Bundy), Ray Moore, John Singleton, Richard Wallis, Bob White.**

ERIC J. 'BEAU' PARKE (36-41)

'Beau' sent a poem to **Len Pearce** who duly passed it on to **Yours Truly**. I have pleasure in reproducing the same.

Reunion (December 2005)

*Forthcoming nostalgia? . . . bunions, neuralgia,
We're all getting older . . . the weather seems colder,
Is it worth going . . . this to-ing and fro-ing?
But then, when I get there,
Len, Ray and Doug stare,
"Aren't you the guy with the bighead of hair
Who talked like a yokel,
Decidedly vocal?"
"That's me," I reply, now feeling quite spry,
"My hair's got too thin,
Some you lose, some you win,
The dialect's withered, in fact it's gone flat,
'Thik there gert veller' is now 'that big chap',"*
*We laugh and we joke and we all reminisce,
'remember old Motty, Mrs. Dennis? what bliss!'
My dinner's a winner, it really tastes good,
I eat ev'ry morsel of turkey and pud,
Decidedly happy that i've come along,
'The Seventh King Henry' unites us in song;
The kisses and handshakes, and words of good-cheer,
Feeling quite jolly, "I'll see you next year,"
My bunions, neuralgia and neu-rotic state
Have all disappeared,
Reunions R great!!!*

(A superb effort, young Mr. Parke. John Betjeman would surely have approved!)

MEMORABILIA - A Message from DEREK STEVENS

There are two areas where our store of memorabilia is weakly represented - the mid 1950s and the late 1960s. If there are any venerable gentlemen from the earlier period, or any less venerable gentlemen or ladies from the later era, who are able to help, I would be greatly obliged.

We believe we have the School photos, magazines and play programmes of the 1960s, but no photos of the plays or school sports teams of the period.

Gifts, as ever, are most acceptable but we are happy to make copies from your originals, or to reimburse members for copies they make themselves.

We hope to publish a No.138 of the Winburnian in time for the December reunion if enough worthwhile material comes to hand. Please contact the Membership Secretary if you would like to contribute articles, art work, photos, poems or reminiscences. Even one-liners, with all the appropriate grist to the mill, are welcome. We have an Editor-in waiting, Michael Pollard, who last did the job in 1946 - 48.

I would also like to renew my plea. for any photos of the Annexe in East Borough, when the former Wimborne Union Workhouse was adapted for the junior forms of the school in the 1950s and 60s (to support an article by Sue Lawrence which is on the stocks). Does anyone remember the School flag which used to fly at the School field when school teams were playing and also at the School itself for Cadet Corps inspections? We think it was halved horizontally, cerise above, chocolate below, with WGS in linked colours in gold at the centre - but does anyone have a clear recollection?

Likewise, does anyone have knowledge of the montage over the fireplace in the Governors' Room/Fiction Library/Music room which seems to have been there for yonks? What did it represent? Did it survive into the 1960s?

Lastly, we would like to know more about two of our illustrious old boys - Lt.General Sir John Fryer and Captain Coombs. Sir John, as all OWs will know, presented the portrait of Queen Elizabeth to the School at Speech Day in 1908. (*I think of our current membership, Derek, only you and John Dacombe would have been present at the time*). The bare bones of his career can be culled from the Army Lists of the period. We would like to flesh this out with more personal details, perhaps also to obtain a photo or portrait. Captain Coombs left school in 1888 and sailed before the mast - literally - in the days before steam had entirely ousted sail but, nevertheless, still saw service in WW2 and was Hon.Treasurer of the OWs into the 1960s .

Does any OW know of any of their descendants still in the Wimborne area?

My address and telephone no. are available among the Committee members, should anyone be able to furnish any useful information. I thank you in anticipation of your kind help.

WIMBORNE NEWS

A quiet few months.

I did spot bird-spotter, **Bill Oddie**, in town in the Autumn, filming in the Allen. He and his crew set up in the supermarket car park and filmed Bill standing in the river, groping in the water for local cray-fish. The item was shown recently in one of his programmes.

The major talking-point in the town remains the future of Hanham's cricket-field. The estate wants the cash and Waitrose wants to build a food-store on the site of the cricket pitch, while the cricket club depart for a ground on The Leaze.

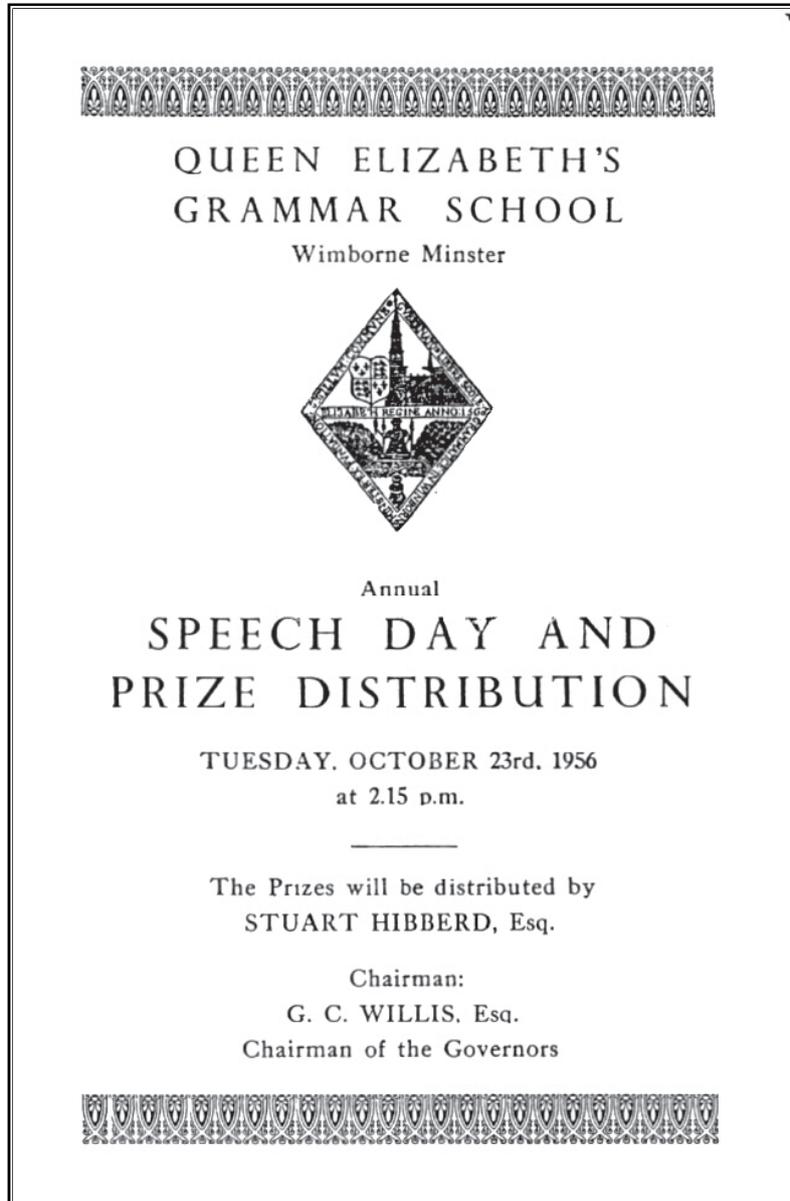
Opinion is sharply divided. The husband and wife team **Anthony** and **Christine Oliver** are themselves divided, Anthony being hostile to the scheme with Christine being in favour. As many of you will know, Anthony, a former Mayor and such an important figure in the life of the town, together with Christine, have played very crucial roles in the success of Wimborne in Bloom over the years. A pressure group opposing the development has been created called Keep Wimborne Green.

I understand the planning application will be made in August by Waitrose. One school of thought believes the town needs the stimulus to trade the supermarket may bring. There is no doubt the town does have a number of shops currently boarded up, but this also reflects the greed of landlords and the high rates making trading profitably a difficult matter. Will another supermarket, built on such an attractive green site in the heart of the town, merely attract more cars and more congestion, especially at peak times of the week? If the proposed food-store car-park is to have a 2 hour waiting limit, how many shoppers will actually make their way into the main shopping centre of the town? Do food-store shoppers leave frozen foods in their cars to amble around the town and buy elsewhere? As the Keep Wimborne Green campaigners argue, the loss of the bulk of the cricket field will be forever, submerged beneath concrete and asphalt. Can Wimborne actually support 2 thriving supermarkets, or will one suffer, leaving the other a vast commercial white elephant in the heart of the town? We shall see.

DEREK STEVENS

STUART HIBBERD

Further to the **Stuart Hibberd** story, **Derek** has confirmed that **Stuart** left QEGS in 1907 before going on to Weymouth College - en route to his distinguished career with the BBC. We also reproduce the front cover of the 1956 Speech Day programme.



FOR SALE AT THE REUNION

Please note that our avuncular Memorabilia Secretary, **Derek Stevens**, will be selling OW ties at the bargain price of £7.00. If any member would care to buy a tie by post, then send a cheque for £7.50 to Derek at the address on the last sheet of the Newsletter. I did hear a rumour that the ties were hand-made by a Bulgarian craftsman, now deceased, in a remote village 400 miles from Sofia - and, therefore, when the present stock is exhausted, no others will ever be available from the same outlet. So hurry now, friends.

Also on sale will be **Diana Moss's** biography of her mother. See the details in the Correspondence section.

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

This edition features 2 stalwarts of the OWs, the ever youthful committee member, **Ken Nicklen** of Verwood, and **Paul Charman**, in more recent times of that very dubious area of London - namely Kilburn. Ken invariably performs heroics with microphones and sound equipment at our reunions, always managing, no matter the vicissitudes of the occasion, a cheerful smile and some awful pun! And so to the word 'vicissitudes' and Paul. Paul relates the story thus: **A.R. MAIDEN AND HIS CLASS TESTS**

'He used to stand the whole class in a semi-circle around the room and give us 'an intelligence test'. On one particular occasion he came to me and said: '*Charman, what is the meaning of vicissitude?*' After a few minutes he got the whole class to join in '*He doesn't know. He doesn't know.*' This was, of course, to the great delight of the class. After explaining the meaning '*the ups and downs of life*', he sent me to my not unfamiliar position at the bottom of the class. Needless to say, I still understand the meaning of the word today. What a man!

Anyway, readers, I hope you will enjoy this section of the Newsletter. It is particularly interesting, I think, to discover the reasons that lie behind the choices of our guests. We may not be able to listen to the music they choose, but I hope some of you will be prompted to seek out unfamiliar melodies and composers suggested by their choices.

KEN NICKLEN (44-50)

My mother often sang around the house when I was a boy. She loved music and had a trained singing voice, usually singing the solo parts in the church choir where I was later to join her. She paid for me to have piano lessons during the war and took me to ENSA and CEMA concerts. It was thus to be expected that my taste in music would be mainly spiritual and classical. My first choice is therefore **Mauder's Olivet to Calvary** which my wife Fay, my mother and I all sang together here at Verwood and also combined with another choir at Bitterne Park, Southampton in the late 1940's. In 1952 I was working for De Havilland and living with my Grandmother in Christchurch. Late one evening I switched on the wireless and heard a song sung by **Lita Roza** called '**Alumtown Jail**' and I found it so touching and memorable that it remains with me to this day!

Whilst serving as chairman of the Weymouth & Portland Borough council's Leisure and Recreation Committee I was the representative on the Board of the Bournemouth Symphony orchestra and went to a great many Concerts. I was particularly impressed by their playing of **Greig's Peer Gynt Suite**, but I shall never forget the frisson of my very first Concert over 50 yrs ago when they played '**DI Ballo**' by **Sir Arthur Sullivan**.

Whilst driving along the River Rhein; passing the Lorelei Rock; I was playing a cassette of **Robert Schumann's Rheinisch Symphony**. The right music for the right place and I found it truly atmospheric! I find it difficult to express my life's love of music in just eight records. Beethoven is so impressive and I love all his symphonies but I must limit myself to his '**Moonlight Sonata**', a piece that I have amused myself with playing on my piano for many years.

From the world of opera I would choose **Vissi d'arte** from **Puccini's Tosca**. I used this powerfully emotive music in an Audio-Visual sequence that I made about the Plague which hit the Peak District village of Eyam in 1665 killing about 75% of the inhabitants.

To finish on a cheerful note I would like the superb **Clog Dance** from **La Fille mal Garde** by **Ferdinand Herold**, a very funny ballet. For my book, assuming this to be in addition to the Bible. I would choose **Mathematics for the Million** by **Lancelot. Hogben**. This book I found so fascinating during a short illness in 1962 and would suggest that anyone with an inquiring mind should discover it.

I would hope that on my desert island the excellent Newsletter could somehow be washed up regularly on the beach in a bottle!

I once built and very successfully raced a sailing boat and perhaps I could find suitable timbers to get back to civilisation. Did I say civilisation? Where everyone is blowing up everyone else!!! Maybe I'll think again about that one!

PAUL CHARMAN (52-59)

1. **Paul Anka 's 'Diana'**

My very first 12 inch 78rpm purchase.

2. **Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, Hymn.**

I was one of the school orchestra under **Mr. Barnaby**. To this day it's still the favourite.

3. **Elvis Presley 'You're so young and beautiful'**

Two particular events lie behind this choice. As a member of the White Eagle Rover crew (like many of my peers, **Scrase, Coley, Waterman, Bishop, Baker, Cottrell** - under the leadership of **Phil Bollen** OW we went on a trip in a coach to Belgium/Holland. One of our number was '**Fatty**' **Foot** who brought along his guitar.

Having stopped in the street in Holland, 'Fatty' went up to a house where a young blonde was looking out of her window and proceeded to serenade her with this song.

Secondly, in February of this year, as a retirement present, my son and daughter bought us a ticket to attend the Tivoli and see the latest **Elvis** impersonator. The last time I was in the Tivoli was to receive cups on behalf of Darby House, '59.

4. **Acker Bilk's 'Stranger on the shore'.**

Memories of Bristol University Rag week in the Vic Rooms where he played his chart-topper. **David Scrase** and **Coley** also attended. Later I lived in Keynsham, quite near Acker, and in my capacity as a private hire, I used to take his wife on shopping trips to Bath and Bristol.

5. **Chris Barber and Otilie Patterson's 'When The Saints Go Marching In'.**

I was lucky enough to see the two of them perform this classic live in concert.

6. **Johnny Cash's 'In San Quentin Penitentiary'**

My workmate at Rolls Royce where I once worked was a **Cash** fan. On nights he used to bring in his player and we would listen to **Johnny C.** all night long.

7. **Shirley Bassey's 'Hey, Big Spender'.**

When I met my present wife, Pam, in the 1990s, she treated me to a front seat in the Royal Albert Hall for my birthday where we both enjoyed Shirley Bassey's fabulous show. At the end she threw yellow carnations to the audience and I managed to catch one. I took it home and pressed it in a book - unfortunately I cannot find the book.

8. **Faure's Requiem 'In Para Disum.**

I do like classics and, whenever possible, I like to listen in the vehicles as I drive. It's very calming in the London traffic. This particular piece was played at the funeral of **Robert Sangster**, the millionaire racehorse owner, at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge. It's a real tear-jerker and raises the hairs on the back of the neck. Carrying out the coffin at the end was something I shall never forget.

My chosen book would be **Faulkner's 'Moonfleet.** Read aloud to us by **Mr. Maiden**, it's set in Dorset. Happy days!

SPRING

*What call for winter to remain,
Now icy winds and drenching rain
Have plagued us for so long?
With no bright sun and no bird song,
Let zephyr's fair now stir the air
Among the restless pines.
And soon, those darling buds of May,
So firmly rapt in sleep,
Shall all reveal their secrets fair
Which they were pledged to keep.
Then Robin who has been so true
To stay with us all winter thru',
Thrushes and blackbirds too
Will call their mates excitedly.
Come, let's build anew, For Spring is due,
Fair Spring is due.*

Wilfred Palmer



CORRESPONDENCE

H.M.HAYTER (24-28)

It was splendid to receive word from one of our most senior members who, many summers ago, lived at Strathmore, Longfleet Road, opposite the old cottage hospital - way back in the 1920s. H.M.H now lives in Sam Allardyce country, Bolton, Lancashire. To be exact, he lives at 175 Bolton Road, Edgeworth, Turton, Bolton, Lancs. BL7 0AF. and he would be pleased to hear from any old chums.

Revd. DEREK A.H. BEVIS (33-39)

It was delightful to hear from Derek who married Daphne from Chalbury and Colehill in 1947. Derek wrote from Guildford, responding to a letter from **TOM EDWARDS**: 'I am sorry to say that I never served with the Chuskas, interesting though that might have been. Instead, I was commissioned into a Gurkha regiment - the 4th. PWO Gurkha Rifles to give it its full title.

As to "what became of him" that can be answered quite briefly. After 40 years in various industries here and overseas, I was ordained and served as a non-stipendiary curate in one of the Anglican churches in Guildford. In 1998, when I was 75, I retired from full-time service and became quite an active part-time minister. I eventually retired completely this August i.e. August 2005.'

LAWSON HALL (58-45)

From Lawson there arrived a photocopy from the Dorset Life magazine, November 2005, which featured a walk through. Broadstone. It was a fascinating piece, written by Marion Watson, in which she wrote the following: 'On the corner of Moor Road and Tudor Road, behind the Conservative Club, lived the family of the BBC radio broadcaster Stuart Hibberd (*see the last Newsletter*).' She also wrote: 'Turning into Macauley Road, looking across Kirkway, is a house where the actor, Richard Todd, lived as a boy. Richard also being a former QEGS pupil. (*Marion Watson thanked Mr. R.M. Impott for his help and information in compiling the article. I would thank both and also Lawson for thoughtfully forwarding the piece to me.*)

GRAHAM POWELL (58-47)

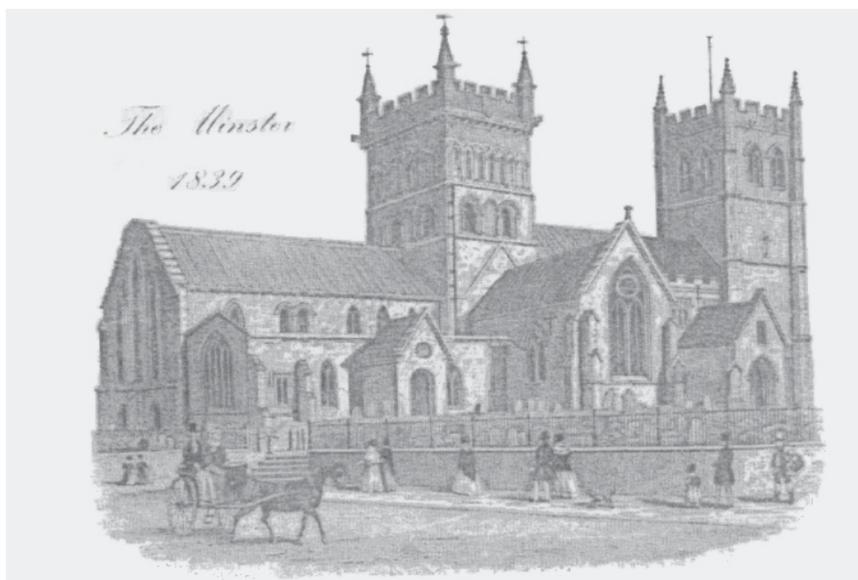
Graham most kindly sent photocopies relating to the Wimborne/ River Allen/Winburnian/Wimburnian topic to which I made reference in the last issue. Graham, ever the painstaking and meticulous seeker after accuracy and precise scholarship, enclosed material from Anton Fagersten's 'Place Names of Dorset'. I can do no better than to reproduce the same.

The Place-Names of Dorset

Al(d)wynesbrigg is the bridge which Leland calls Aleyne Bridge and which is now called Canford Bridge. That bridge, which is one of the largest and most important in the country, is built over the Stour just below the spot S of Wimborne Minster where the Allen joins that river.'

The 13th cent. name *Al(d)wynesbrigg* had in Leland's time consequently been worn down to *Aleyne Bridge*, the name of the bride having thus by chance received a form which showed a striking resemblance to certain well-known English river-names.

A misunderstanding was then near at hand: *Aleyne Bridge* was supposed to mean 'the bridge over *Aleyne*', and the result was a new name (*Alen* 1577) for the river which falls into the Stour just above that bridge.



Wimborne Minster

Wimborne Minster 131 H 3

(aet) *Winburnan* s. aa. 718, 871, 901 ASC', (aet) *Winburnan* s. a. 962 ib,
(aet) *Winburnan mynster* s.a. 871 ASC (E), (on) *Winburnan mynstre* c. 1000 Saints
Winburne, Winborne 1086 DB (-borna Exon), *Winburna* 1154-8
(1340) Ch. *Winburn* 1184-5 P *et to passim* to 1265 Pat
Winburn(e) c. 1165 Osmund, 1214 CIR *et passim*, interchanging (from 1229 Pat)
with *Wymburn(e)*, later *Wymbo(u)rne*
Wymburneminstre 1236 FF, 1244 Ass *et passim* with the additional name
variously spelt *Mynstre*, *Ministre*, *Menstre*
Wumburn Ministre 1256 Pat, *Wymburn Monaster'* 1281 FF1281 FF
Wymburnysmynster 1305 Cl

'TREVOR KIDD (40-50)

It was good to hear from Trevor who described himself as 'a train boy on the old Castleman Line - West Moors to Wimborne - also known as the Corkscrew Line, travelling along with girls to Parkstone Grammar, Molverley and St.Cuthberga's.' (*GIRLS! GIRLS, Trevor! Most of us had little or no contact with the 'fairer sex' until the first battalion arrived in King Street. You enjoyed a very privileged adolescence, Trevor. I trust you took full advantage of your extraordinary good fortune!*)

GERRY DYMOND (41-48)

Gerry wrote a most informative and entertaining letter from Down Under - his address, for the benefit of all his old cronies, is 26 Neville Road, Dalkeith 6009, Western Australia. Complimenting a number of contributors to the last issue he reflected on several. Of necessity, I will give a precis of his observations.

On **PETER ALLISS**: 'Peter's unsurprising aversion to **Mr. Airey**'s style of punishment was well-founded. The corporeal Major had a good swing, no doubt honed by diligent and constant practice. My guess is that he would have made a good golfer. The experience certainly gave me a new perspective on the grammar school as a SEAT of learning.'

On **DIANA MOSS** and her article in the previous edition on the town of Wimborne: 'Two things struck me in particular; firstly, the reference to the railings over the River Allen. Though I walked over the bridge twice daily to and from the station during term-time, I never once noticed the railings. Maybe they were removed for the war effort? Secondly, the reference to the chain library, it was never accessible to us as pupils. However, during a visit to the town in the 1970s, I did contrive a visit, together with my wife, just for 20 minutes. 'Only 20 minutes, sir, and please don't touch anything, will you?' said my guide. I duly rewarded his gesture with a fiver. I contrast this approach with a not dissimilar 'special dispensation' when I was visiting Pompeii. Before being permitted to view some erotic frescos I was obliged to indulge in the 'palm-crossing' BEFORE the visit.'

(I do recall the same 'pornographic' drawings very clearly, Gerry, during a school visit with lads from Poole GS a couple of years ago. The boys enjoyed the experience considerably - many of them, of course, who would today be students at QEGS, had the old school survived the 70s changes.)

On the 'scripta of Robertus Briggs' (See **BRIAN GLOVER**) I found I was able to translate only some of his words, although I made a more creditable effort than the 'Chowbacon' who, required to translate the sentence 'Sic transit gloria mundi', wrote on his exam paper 'Gloria was sick on the train on Monday!'

To conclude with a very practical matter in Gerry's letter, though I do fear it may be rather late in the day when the Newsletter goes out far and wide. Gerry writes: 'Is there any OW, absent from Britain for a period during this summer (in their villa in France or Spain) who would be willing to allow my wife and I to stay/look after/occupy their house during such absence, in return for the use of our granny flat during the Australian summer as an escape from the English winter?' (*I have provided Gerry's address at the beginning of this piece, should anyone be tempted by his offer. I suspect speed is very much of the essence since Gerry wrote to me in late February. I did also arrange with David Finnemore to put 'Gerry's offer on the OW website. Many thanks, David. Let's hope, as my old friend Wilkins Micawber would say, that 'Something turns up'.*)

RICHARD FERGUSON (42-49)

You may recall that Richard furnished us with news of the former QEGS master, **MR. BARKER**, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Richard wrote further on the same topic: 'Alas, Mr.Barker's memory has all but

gone although he can still move around with the help of a walking frame and he can still read without spectacles. Mr. Barker, affectionately known as 'Woofers' to the boys taught French and English and actually lived at the school. (*SEE THE LETTER FROM DOUG WILLIAMS*). Part of his duties, I gather, consisted of supervising the boarders. He did tell me that MR. DRURY drove a grocer's van during the summer holidays. Mr. Barker remained a bachelor.' (*We are indebted to you, Richard, for continuing your investigations. Certainly those students of the war years have followed your news with much interest.*)

DOUG WILLIAMS (42-48)

The ever youthful Doug wrote a complimentary letter, expressing among other things his enjoyment of the Desert Island Discs feature. However, he did lament David Singleton's omission of a recording by **Chris Barber**, particularly drawing attention to the latter's 'Echoes of Harlem'. Doug said he still guards his 50 year-old copy jealously. Further to the Mr. Barker theme, he expressed his amazement that the good gentleman was still with us, describing him 'as a very quiet, far too nice a gentleman to be a teacher'. He vividly recalls that, along with the notorious **Tony Bletsoe** among others, he arranged a special birthday present for 'Woofers' Barker. 'Despite the rationing I managed to secure a very large marrow-bone from the local butcher which we gift wrapped and presented to our French teacher. Mr Barker was very nice about it though Mr Airey was less impressed'. Doug also recalled his own less flattering nickname when he was a teacher - Hitler! (*Was it the moustache, Doug? The jackboots you always wore, or your girl-friend who happened to be named Eva?*)

LEN PEARCE (43-48)

'I will simply reproduce exactly what Len wrote to me.

I thought that the contribution of Bob Briggs to the Autumn Newsletter was brilliant.

My ability at Latin, when I was at WGS (36-41), was abysmal and this was reflected in my reports each term by "B-" & "BC", suitably underlined in red ink by J.C. Airey. It has always been a source of wonder to me that I was never "invited" to "Tipper's" study, to be 'encouraged' to improve my grades.

However, some of the teaching of 'Stinker' Leslie Dennis must have stuck somewhere in my head, since I could comprehend the essence of Bob's explanation of the demise of Latin. I was particularly impressed by his ' machinam electronicam computandi' It reminded me of the occasion in 1939/40, when the form was asked to write the Latin for 'Air Raid Shelter'. I think it wound up as, "A hole in the ground, wherein one sought protection, from objects which fell from the sky". However, the Latin escapes me.

My contemporaries might like to know that Leslie Dennis died in Bristol some years ago and that his wife Dorothy, who took over his post when he was called up, passed away at the age of 60, many years earlier.'

STAN RICHMOND (43-48)

It was a great pleasure to receive a letter from Stan, sent last October out just too late for the previous Newsletter. Much to his delight Stan has, in recent times, met up with **Ray** and **Pam Wheeler** and **Mike** and **Val Riggs**. In conversation with Ray the topic of the 1948 school trip to Switzerland came up, when they stayed in a youth hostel on the shores of Lake Lucerne. Stan would be especially interested to hear from any other OW who was in the party. He would also dearly like to know what happened to 2 old cronies, **Peter Lankey** from Ferndown and **Brian Downer**, who lived in 'the same road as 'Fishy' Maiden (presumably Milton Road). They were both at school between 43-48 and were always top of the class.' Stan also wonders if anyone knows what became of '2 female teachers of my era, **Miss (Mary) Scott**, who taught Biology (I think), and **Miss Holmes** who taught Art and Music.' The latter, it seems, grievously wounded young Stanley when a drawing of a boy on a bicycle, over which he has laboured long and hard, was returned with the dismissive word 'Traced' written on it.

Stan was deeply sorry to learn of the death of **John Striven**, a close friend from boyhood, who lived in Hayes and whose father operated the level crossing for the 'push and pull train' to and from Salisbury.

Incidentally, Stan's life has taken quite a complex route to his present location in South Australia. After leaving school he spent 2 years in an estate agent's office, followed by National Service with the RA Educational Corps. Then began a career in insurance in various towns in the UK. Awarded the Rutter Gold Medal and prize for outstanding results in his insurance exams led him eventually to Adelaide. Married to June for 52 years Stan does not regret the way the gods dictated his life should unfold. Finally, he would be thrilled to receive letters from any old pals. His address is 3/150 Fenchurch Street, Goolwa, South Australia 5214.

RAY WHEELER(43-47)

Ray sent his greetings at Christmas to all members of the OWA Committee and included a special request: 'Pass on all best wishes to the 43-47 mob! i.e. **Hurt, Richards, Philpott, Hall, Lesson** et al! (*The Likely Lads of their day, I am sure!*)

PETER EYRES (44-51)

Though unable to attend the last reunion Peter kindly sent a donation to our funds, for which many thanks. Peter wrote: "When I started in 1944 'Woofers' Barker was teaching French to the lower echelons and 'Tich' Drury taught French at the higher levels.' (*I think we were blessed with some very fine language teachers at the school, Peter. I also remember Mr. Small with huge respect, as well as Mr. Stephens who succeeded him. Both were very kind and painstaking - teachers of the very best kind.*)

BRIAN DAVIS (45-51)

Brian would like us to make it easier to identify former friends at reunions. Aside from the name labels issued on the day, he suggests guests, as they arrive, sign or tick their names on a sheet, conspicuously positioned. Brian finds wandering around peering at labels somewhat disconcerting. (*Point taken, Brian.*) Brian was delighted to make contact with **R. A. 'Bob' Downer**, with whom he worked on the old Wimborne newspaper (*See Tony Gould elsewhere*) after leaving QEGS in 1951. Brian relates that Bob is a very talented accordionist, running a 6 member group called the Stour Valley Accordions who have won the Southern Area Group Championship 2 years running. Last year the group became Intermediate Champions of All Great Britain. (*How about bringing the accordion along, Bob, and giving us a tune or two?*)

MERVYN FRAMPTON (47-54)

An unfortunate clash with the Austin 7 Club's Xmas 'blow-out' meant our Stalbridge colonist, the ever jovial Mervyn, was unable to attend the last reunion. 'My capacity to consume vast quantities of food is diminished since my youth', lamented Mervyn. 'I simply couldn't cope with two Christmas dinners on the same day.' (*Shame on you, Mervyn! In your halycon days you would have polished off three or four such helpings of turkey and pudding at a single sitting - and still asked for more ! I fear you are sorely out of condition, young man.*)

BRIAN GLOVER (49-54)

There were a number of responses to Bob Briggs contribution last time. **Derek Stevens**, describing himself as a 'failed School Cert. 1946 Latin candidate' had a stab at a translation, but I am especially indebted to my old friend, Brian, for the following. Again, I will reproduce it word for word.

'Herewith a translation of the Latin script which featured in the Autumn newsletter. This has been kindly done for me by a good friend, **Mrs Elizabeth Bloxham**, who has included a few notes which I've added below.

Barbarus . . . foreign, strange - (but could also refer to a beard'??).

Demetae . . . a Welsh tribe.

a.u.c. (ab urbe condita) . . . Always refers to 753BC. - the date of the foundation of Rome.

SCRIPTA

Maxima cum maestitia legi in Actis Publicis Veterum Winburniensium epistolam Ricardi Wallis (MCMXXXIX-MCMXLVI aut rectius a.u.c. MMDCXII - MMDCXCIX in qua rogavit quando doctrina Latina in nostro Ludo esset terminata.

Postquam Holmanus, praeclarus ballistarius, linguam Latinam docere desiit, Colinus Powell, vir barbarus gentis Demetarum illud grave munus suscepit, denique a.u.c. MMDCXCVI ego, Robertus Briggs eram creatus ultimus linguae Latinae magister.

Aliquot per annos Latina doctrina floruit adversus incursus rerum recentiorum sed, eheu, a.u.c. MMDCXXLI succubuit ab eis victa qui leges naturae investigabant. ego quidem, quamvis magister Latinae linguae, coepit docere artem per machinam electronicam computandi. Vae victis.

It was with great sadness that I read in the Old Winburnians' Journal the letter from **Richard Wallis** (1939-1946) (or, more correctly 2692-2699 from the founding of Rome), in which he asked when the teaching of Latin was ended in our school.

After Holman, the famous gunner, stopped teaching Latin, Colin Powell, a foreign gentleman of the tribe of Demetae, undertook that onerous appointment; finally in 1963, I, Robert Briggs became the last Latin Master.

For several years the teaching of Latin held its own against the attacks of more modern subjects, but alas in 2741

a.u.c. (1988) it succumbed-vanquished by those who searched into the laws of nature (scientists?). Indeed I, although a Latin master, began to teach computing! Alas for the conquered!!!

(Many thanks to Brian and Elizabeth. We are in your debt.)

TONY LEIGH (49-54)

Tony is particularly anxious to renew acquaintance with his old sparring partners, **Michael Woods** or **Geoffrey Breed**. Can anyone help, please? Tony's address is 1418 Tilman Drive, Richmond, TEXAS 77469, USA. His email address is awleigh earthlink nel. Tony keeps in regular touch with **David Singleton** who of course, lives in Houston. *(Good to know you are in fine fettle, Tony.)*

TONY GOULD (51-57)

It was good to receive a letter from Tony who recounted a tale or two of his minor skirmishes with **Messrs. Maiden** and **Purseley**, suggesting the reason for their disapproving remarks could possibly be attributed to the role his father then played as Editor of the Wimborne and District News. 'Dad was a staunch Tory and he approved capital punishment *(for Socialists, Tony?)* - something that did not exactly endear him to those two worthy gentlemen!'

I reproduce the rest of Tony's letter, as it stands.

'I retired last May having reached what is still the compulsory retirement age of 65 in the Transport & General Workers Union for whom I have worked for thirty years. My wife and I are trying to remove to Dorset but we have not yet sold up here in Kent. It may surprise my contemporaries to know that we have three daughters and four grandchildren, the eldest of whom is twenty and who has just started to read Politics at Sheffield University. I am learning Italian at the local Adult Education Centre and so, fifty-four years after I started learning French with 'Inky' Stevens, I am starting to learn a third language. I was very pleased to meet with **Ken Taylor** and **John Richmond** at the last re-union and hope to be with you all again next year.'

DAVID SINGLETON (51-57)

David provided some up-to-date autobiographical information along with his Desert Island Discs in a letter before Christmas. I enclose it for the benefit of his old fan club members.

'After leaving QEGS I obtained a BSc in London in 1960, followed by a Ph.D in Chemistry in 1965 at Hamilton, Ontario. Joining Shell in 1967 I carried out research until my retirement in 1999 in California and Houston. I was honoured to receive the American Chemical Society's South-west Region Award for Industrial Innovation in 2003. My wife Elizabeth is also a chemist. We have a son, a daughter and 3 grand-children.

These days I am indulging my passion for archaeology and gardening and fine cuisine.' *(Well, David, you enjoyed your early days as a gourmet on our camping expeditions, I seem to recall. Remember those blackened sausages, broken eggs and scorched fried bread in the company of your old cronies? I also recall that your father was a passionate gardener, so that flair is obviously in the genes. Do John and Richard share your enthusiasm?)*

PAUL BURRY (52-57)

Paul wrote from 5 Rue de Tremble, 76660 Fresnoy-Folny, Normandie, la belle France, describing his life there as 'more space . . . less traffic . . . a discernibly more relaxed pace to the day . . . and most welcoming French neighbours.' Looking back across the years Paul recalls 'a trip to France in August '53 with '**Inky**' **Stephens**, **Anthony Smith** and **Pete Moss** (?) among others, and an early return to England, necessitated by the threat of a general strike.' *(Those, of course, were the days when the Communist Party of France, led by Messieurs. Thorez and Duclos controlled the unions and strikes were as common as pimples on our faces.)* Paul hopes to be in England in '06 when he may be able to get along to the summer reunion. *(We shall be delighted to welcome you, Monsieur Burry.)*

DIANA MOSS (55-61) (nee ANDERSON)

'Tales My Mother Told Me', a biography of my mother, by Diana Moss, was published late last year by Bound Biographies of Bicester (Tel 01869 232911). Copies are available in local bookshops and Diana will be selling copies at the next OW reunion. I know we all wish Diana well in her venture into authorship.

DIANA ZILM (nee VAUGHAN) (55-59)

'Having recently retired and moved, I have only just discovered the QEGS "Old Winburnians" web page and have enjoyed reading the Christmas newsletter. Thank you for your services, and please pass on to Alan Bennett that I found the recent newsletter very interesting and, in many places, amusing (intentionally or not!)

(Diana, I am most grievously offended. 'Amusing, intentionally or not'! When I put pen to paper (figuratively speaking, of course) I am the most cunning of animals. I choose my words with much deliberation. To be regarded as 'unintentionally amusing' is to be like the man who walks around with no trousers and wonders why the world is looking at him with curiosity! As Frankie Howerd might have said: 'Woe is me. And thrice woe!' I am mortified, Diana!)

'I am sure that I will enjoy retirement eventually! In the last 2 and a half months we have packed up and cleaned our former home, moved into a smaller house, having to get rid of lots of things but unwilling to do so! We have also got a house we owned ready for sale (which has sold), had a giant garage sale. So, we are still winding down! But I definitely don't miss the day to day pressures of working full time, and I do enjoy being able to stay home all day without feeling guilty, or spend a couple of hours window shopping if I feel like it, etc.

We are off on a week's holiday in the North of Australia - Cairns - in a couple of days, and looking forward to it. I am a bit fearful about how I will take to the weather, which is hotter and more humid usually than Victoria. If the worse comes to the worse I'll stay inside in air-condition comfort!

JANET DOOLAEGE (nee **PURSEY**) (58-65)

Janet wrote from 47 Rue des Ecoles, 78125 La Boissiere-Ecole, la belle France, requesting I print the maiden name of our lady contributors. It is something I always try to do, Janet, but there are one or two instances where I simply do not know. However, I will do my best, I promise. Janet particularly enjoyed **Bob Briggs's** contribution (*as did a number of others*). She was 'just about able to understand it. It was thanks to him that I got my Latin A Level.' (*And it was thanks to your father, Janet, that I secured my German A Level. I will remember the trouble he took and he even invited **Geoff Bartlett** and myself over to your house in Westfield Road for extra free coaching in the holidays. I remember hearing Women's Hour on the radio downstairs. I wonder what you were up to at the time? Your father was a fine man and an excellent teacher and I remember him with great affection, Janet.*)

GEOFF HILL (58-59)

Writing from 47 Queens Walk, Lyme Regis, DT7 3BH, Geoff recalls 'I was the Cockney lad who, in my first week at QEGS, received 100 lines for answering Mrs. Gray's question 'Can anyone describe a polygon' with the quip - 'Please, miss, is it a dead parrot?' I did not incur her wrath a second time!' Describing his brief sojourn at the school as a rewarding experience he added: 'To be taught by the likes of 'Granny' Gray, 'Inky' Stephens and 'Mable' Thorpe will always remain in life's memory, for better or worse.' Geoff would be delighted to hear from any old cronies.

ANNE FOX (nee **HARPER**) (58-62)

Anne has lived in Australia since 1967. She is married with 3 children and 5 grand-children. Like many of our distant members she would love to hear from any of her contemporaries. Anne's address is 53 Gillark Street, Dudley Park, WA 6210 and her email is [annefox 47 Q yahoo.com.all](mailto:annefox47@yahoo.com).

LORNA DYTER (nee **BREWER**) (59-64)

Lorna wished to be remembered to a number of old friends including '**Cora Renson, Shirley Hayter, Hilary Richmond, Felicity Harrison, Susan Lord, Susan Lawrence, Margaret Warren, Jennifer Ealing, Corinne Roper, Joan Beatty, Judy Foster, Maureen Dacombe, Michael Hilton, John Ellis, Fraser Hargreaves, John Worrall, John Bowman, Clive Tennant, Patrick Gough** - there are many more I am sure.

The teachers that I remember are Miss Thorpe (Art), Mr. Swinnerton (French), Mr Maiden (English), Mr Frost (French & boys PE), Mr. Yelland (Chemistry), Miss Rastrick (Boilogy), Bill Streets (Physics), Mr. Cowling (Geography), Mr. Holman (History), Miss Gray (Maths) - a formidable teacher but got me through my GCE maths, Joe Kerswell (Maths), there were others but my memory is not as good as it was.'

Lorna would be delighted to hear from anyone of her vintage. Her address is 21 Nursery Road, Blandford Forum, DT11 7EZ

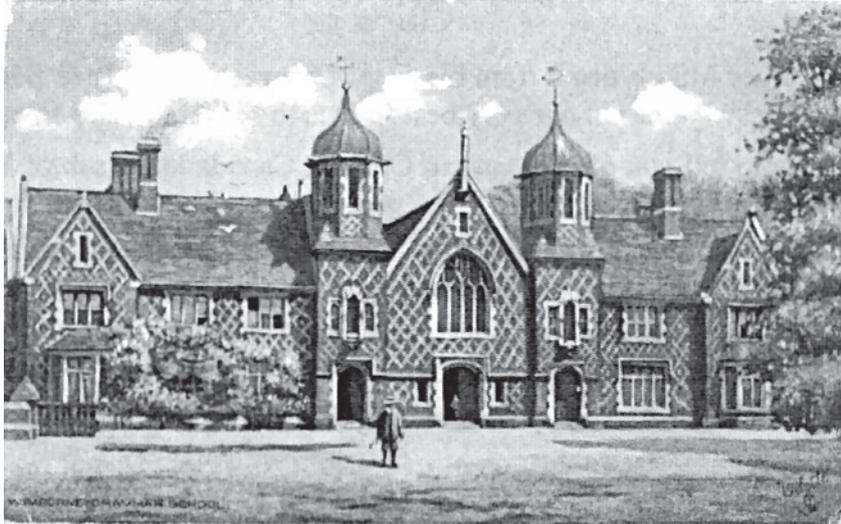
TONY SEYMOUR (67-70)

'Surfing the Internet

I stumbled on your website for old pupils of QEGS. I have scanned through your membership list and recognise a couple of names from that period such as **Robert Antell, Virginia Holly** (didn't know they married!), **Dave Revill** and **Mark and Natalie Norris** (Mark lived opposite my house in West Moors Road, Ferndown).

I was interested to read in one of the newsletters that the golfer Peter Alliss was a former pupil of QEGS. I went to school with his son Gary at Hailey School for Boys, a small private school in Bournemouth where I attended before QEGS. Small world! No idea what became of Gary, didn't follow in his father's footsteps I guess!

I have been living in Australia (first Melbourne and now Hobart, Tasmania for the last 20 years) since leaving England in 1974. Unfortunately attending a reunion is not really an option, I returned to England briefly last year for family reasons and took the opportunity to see the old school. I hadn't realised the King Street building was now apartments, what a difference! I won't bore you now with my anecdotes, but one memorable occasion I recall was the time the school was vandalised (about 1968?) during the reign of 'Neddy' J.D. Neil and we were all sent home for the day. (*Good to hear from you, Tony.*)



OBITUARIES

TONY BRAIN (late 30s - early 40s)

Tony died on November 14, 2005, at the age of 71, survived by his wife Carolyn, a daughter Rebecca and two grandchildren. On December 8 **Graham Powell** and **Keith Davis** attended a commemoration service for Tony in St. Luke's Church, Sway, Hampshire, where he had lived and farmed. Tony was a remarkable man with a distinguished career. Long active in Hampshire Young Farmers Club and the New Forest Show, he was one of the first to introduce artificial insemination into his herds. He set up a caravan park and, thanks to his philanthropic nature, will be remembered long in Sway for the Jubilee Fields. He was a boarder at the school during the war years and will be affectionately recalled as a great prankster and joker. **Keith Davis** was delighted to meet **Terry Harvey**, also a former boarder, at the service and we hope to welcome Terry into the Association.

BARRY BUCKLAND (58-64)

I was able to make only brief reference to Barry's sad passing in the last Newsletter. I am, therefore, pleased to reproduce a letter I received from his brother, Graham, which pays proper tribute to Barry.

'Barry was born in Essex but the family moved to Ferndown in 1953.

Barry attended QEGS for six years and left to take up a farming career which took him to Bude, the Dorset Farm Institute near Dorchester, Basingstoke and finally to Wimborne.

He met his future wife, Jennifer, in 1965 and they married in West Moors. Barry and Jennifer had two sons, Michael and Richard. Barry also had a short time to get to know his first grandson Jack.

In 1969, with family responsibilities in mind, Barry decided on a career in the Police Force and he served for over thirty years, firstly in Dorset and later in Somerset. Following his retirement Barry helped Jennifer with her holiday cottage business but also found time to fulfil his ambition to drive HGV's for a local agency.

When not working, Barry would usually be found helping in the community. Amongst the many things he will be remembered for are the time he spent as a governor and chairman of St Martin's school in Weston-super-Mare, the many groups of volunteers he led for the National Trust, his lifelong attachment to the Blood Donor service (77 donations up until just before he became ill) and the many years he worked for a charity which helped the homeless at Christmas.

Sadly, Barry was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer in September 2004 and died on 6th January 2005.

REX BURKE (48-54)

Rex contrived a remarkably successful business career after only modest achievement at QEGS. In that sense, Rex's success was a valuable lesson to any others who might not achieve great academic distinction. I got to know Rex quite well at school in his later years. His father was a caretaker at the school and Rex was one of a circle of friends that included **Monty Wilcox, Ron Mansfield** and **Yours Truly**. A friendly, courteous, personable young man, few of his contemporaries would have guessed he was to become one of Dorset's most successful businessmen. In the fulness of time he became managing director of the Hamworthy Engineering Group as well as a leading light in various trusts and commercial institutions. Rex died last October and the funeral service was held at the Minster. We offer our condolences to his family.

MIKE QUARMBY(43-48)

We were all saddened to learn of Mike's death from his sister **Maureen Viney** (nee **Bishop**). I reproduced the letter I received from Maureen. We all send our very best wishes to his family and friends.

'It is with sadness that I have to tell you of the death in Ontario, Canada last week of **Mike Quarmby**, much loved brother to both **Ian Bishop** and myself. He will be greatly missed by all of the family.

Mike survived a serious cancer operation in October 2004 and fought hard to regain his health. Sadly, the cancer returned, other complications set in and the battle became too hard for him to manage. He is now at peace.

Mike died just five weeks short of his Golden Wedding celebrations with Barbara. They had a very happy marriage with two children, four grandchildren and one great grandson. They have lived in Canada for over fifty years.

Mike, Barbara and their granddaughter Jessica paid their last visit to England in 2001, meeting old friends and enjoying a family wedding.

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The Newsletter	ALAN R BENNETT - 11 Hawk Close, Pilford Heath, Colehill, Wimborne BH212NW

I would like to thank Bryan and Jenni at Wimborne Print Centre, 16 East Street, for all their assistance and courtesy. Nothing is ever too much trouble. A.B.

Old Winburnians Summer Reunion
at
Cobhams Sports & Social Club
on
Saturday 8th July 2006

MENU

Coffee & Tea on arrival

Roast Topside of Beef with Horseradish
Honey Roast Ham with Mustard
Thai Chicken with Fragrant Rice
Poached Salmon with Marie-Rose
Broccoli and Stilton Quiche
Hot Spicy Chicken Pieces

Tomato, Red onion and Olive Salad
Cucumber and Cress Salad with Dill
Wild leaf Salad with Egg Quarters
Pasta Salad with Pesto
Coleslaw Salad
Potato, Bacon and Spring Onion Salad

Strawberry Cream Gateau

Coffee served from 11.15am
Buffet served from 12.34pm

Carriages 4.34pm

Please return your completed form to:
Betty Read, Treasurer, 15 Allenvie Road, Wimborne, BH21 1AT

.....

Name

Address

.....

I wish to attend the Reunion and require Tickets @ £12.50 each

I wish to pay my annual subscription of £5.
I pay my subscription by Standing order.
(Please delete as applicable)

Buffet Lunches amount due £

Annual Subscription £

I enclose my cheque for £