



OLD WINBURNIANS NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2013

Dear fellow OWs,

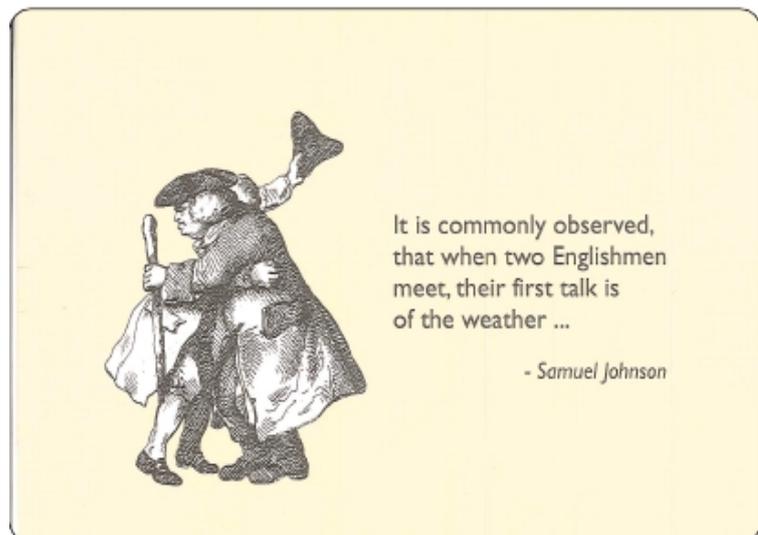
Well, the topic has engaged us for weeks on end - hence the illustration below and the pithy observation by one of my favourite of all Englishmen, the inimitable and magnificent Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-84).

What an interminable winter we have endured. I write in mid-April and, at last, the wind has just began to blow from the south-west - but it's raining! I actually saw two swallows yesterday (April 14) heading inland. After a 5,000 mile journey from South Africa they deserve better than this churlish English reception. Perhaps by the time you receive this Newsletter we will be basking in glorious sunshine - I hope so.

In truth, I have little of consequence to report. By now every paid-up member should have received their copy of A History of Wimborne Grammar School. If we have inadvertently missed anyone do let us know. We hope it meets with your general approval. As you will appreciate, the production and postage costs relating to the distribution of the booklet have been considerable. We hope to recover costs by directing future raffle receipts to OW funds. In addition, any donations from appreciative members further afield will be most welcome.

As ever this Editor welcomes any literary contributions from members for inclusion in future issues, especially those from far-flung quarters of the world.

Do try to come along in July to the next reunion. You may be sure of the warmest of welcomes. If you cannot be with us in person then do join us at 2pm on July 6 when we will be raising our glasses as ever to Absent Friends .



As ever, Alan R Bennett (on behalf of your committee)

FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

Saturday, 6th July, 2013

Saturday, 7th December, 2013

CHRISTMAS REUNION, SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER, 2012

Apologise for any inaccuracies due to late cancellations.

Dr. Gareth Annels, Morgan Antell and guest Ann Antell, Alan Bennett, Tony Bletsoe, Reginald Booth and guest Alice Booth, Rex Breach and guest Cynthia Breach, Jim Brewster, Wendy Bundy (née Baker) and guest Brian Bundy, Paul Burry, Eunice Carnall (née Chadd), Robin Christopher and guest Hazel Christopher, Mervyn Coombs and guest Rosemary Coombs, A. Cooper née Hallett, Robert Copelin, Desmond Cox, Sandra Cox, Peter Cox, Janet Coy (née Dowd), John Dacombe, Peter Douch and guest Josephine Douch, Joyce Downton, Norah Dyson (nee Henfield), Faith Elford (née Hawes) and guest John Elford, Peter Eyres, Olive Foyle, Mervyn Frampton and guest Ann Roome, Edgar Francis, John Froud and guest Rodney Hurford, Brian Glover, Janet Gordon (née Daniels), Tony Gould and guests Richard Swinnerton, Elizabeth Gould and Trudi Swinnerton, Dr John Guy, Frank Hackforth, Lawson Hall and guest Jill Hall, Alan Hall, Bill Haskell, Sue Hatherley (née Bush), Maurice Herridge and guest Kate Herridge, Donald Hibberd and guest Joyce Hibberd, John Hill, Geoff Hill, Rod Hurt, Carolyn Kamcke (nee Walkling), Patrick Keeping, Anne King (née Wall), Alan Maitland and guest June Maitland, Ron Mansfield, Patricia Marshall (née Unsworth), Maria Martin (née Limm), Lorna Miles (née Woodall), Kenneth Moody, Victor Moss, Jennifer Moss (nee Day), Brian Pearce, Len Pearce, Graham Powell and guest Hazel Powell, Christine Price (née Richmond), Terry Randall, Betty Read (née White), Gordon Richards, Ann Richmond (née Mitchell), Ray Scott and guest Anne Sweeney, Roy Sheppard and guest Betty Sheppard, John Singleton, Kenneth Smart, Rodney Smith, Derek Stevens, Margaret Stokes (née Budden), Cynthia Tanner (née Streets), Ken Taylor, John Taylor and guest Jill Taylor, Monica Vacher (née Brown), Norman Waterman, Geoffrey Welch, Stanley White, Prof. Bob White, Helen White (née Filcher), Eddie Wood and guest Jose Wood.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM

Lorna Dyter, Richard Read, John Harper, Frank Shears, Barbara Russell, Rod Cheese, Tony Elgar, David Park, David Roberts, Beryl Wythers.

ESSENTIAL ADDRESSES

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD WINBURNIANS ASSOCIATION

**PLEASE BE SO GOOD AS TO NOTE THAT
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
WILL TAKE PLACE AT COBHAMS SPORTS CLUB, MERLEY,
WIMBORNE ON MONDAY, 9th of SEPTEMBER 2013 at 11.00am**

WHY NOT ARRANGE TO BE IN THE WIMBORNE AREA ON SEPTEMBER 9th?
THE MEETING IS NOT A LONG ONE AND THE AGENDA WILL BE STANDARD
ALTHOUGH OF COURSE THE OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE UP
FOR ELECTION. IN ANY EVENT THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITY
TO RAISE ANY RELEVANT ISSUE.

LADY MARGARET BEAUFORT

FOUNDER of WIMBORNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Professor Michael Hicks of Winchester University delivered a lecture on the founder of Wimborne Grammar School in Sturminster Marshall on Saturday 26th of January. Sturminster Marshall reveres the memory of the Reverend Thomas Mackrell, a leading local figure in the eighteenth century Enlightenment. Accordingly, Professor Hicks delivered his talk in the old school which the Reverend Mr Mackrell founded and which was rescued from destruction by local people. Several lectures are arranged each winter on historical subjects of local interest.

Professor Hicks went to considerable lengths to explain that Lady Margaret did not have very meaningful Dorset roots and, in fact, only came to Dorset once as far as we know. Several former pupils in the audience including Graham Powell, Ken Taylor, Bob White, Alan Maitland and myself were not the least bit put about to hear this and, in fact, we knew this perfectly well. We were always aware that the connection was that Lady Margaret's father the Duke of Somerset died at Kingston Lacey and was, as a consequence, buried in the Minster and that Margaret Beaufort came to Wimborne with her son King Henry VIIth in a kind of legitimation exercise. She founded a school as an act of tribute and piety.



Michael Hicks was much stronger on the amazing and confusing family alliances which resulted in the so-called Wars of the Roses between the royal lines of York and Lancaster. He explained well the weak claim to the throne which Henry Tudor had and that only because he was young, unmarried, unknown and available did he become the candidate of powerful barons who ran the show in England and Wales. He was obliged to agree to marry the Princess Elizabeth of York (the elder sister of the Princes in the Tower) and so united the houses of York and Lancaster in an apparently happy marriage and thus ended the long feud, although Henry Tudor did have to deal with one or two other claimants to the throne during his reign.

So what did we learn about Lady Margaret ? She was obviously tough and strong minded even to the extent of taking a vow of celibacy when still married to Lord Derby her third husband. She was a skilful negotiator and was one of the people behind her son's arranged marriage to Elizabeth of York. We know that she was concerned about rank and precedence at Court disputing her place vis-a-vis her daughter-in-law and her daughter-in-law's mother both of whom were queens, whereas she was merely a countess. A formula was arrived at whereby Lady Margaret was known as "My Lady the King's Mother" in order to get round this difficulty ! Professor Hicks seemed to think we would be shocked to learn that Lady Margaret spent very little time with her son when he was young. First of all, these aristocrats did not really look after their own children but, in fact, she had him shipped off to France and had he not been it seems he may not have survived the slaughter in the Wars of the Roses. So this was yet another astute move by the Countess of Richmond and Derby and nothing Professor Hicks said diminished the reputation of our founder.

An enjoyable afternoon, especially as some of us met in the pub beforehand.

Tony Gould.

GAMES WE PLAYED AT WGS

FROM THE 1939 WGS PROSPECTUS

Athletics

The playing fields comprise five football pitches, separate cricket ground and two grass tennis courts. Rugby and Association Football, Cricket and Lawn Tennis are played, while the River Allen which forms one boundary of the playing fields provides safe bathing, always under supervision. Unless exempted on medical advice, boys are expected to learn to swim. All boys spend two periods a week in the Gymnasium, and voluntary Boxing and Gymnastic Clubs meet after School hours in the winter.

The older boys take part in organised games on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, the younger boys on Wednesday afternoons. The games are carefully supervised and coached by masters, and every boy must take part unless physically unfit. There are three excellent pavilions for the use of the players. Inter-School, House and Form matches are arranged throughout the year, and Inter-House contests are held in Field Sports, Swimming, Boxing, Tennis, Fives, Gymnastics and Shooting.

(Many thanks to Eddie Wood for the following which Derek Stevens passed across to me. Fives was a game few if any WGS scholars would have encountered prior to arriving in King Street. For many pupils, notably those who arrived early at school, the game became a passion. I know many of you will find this account by Eddie absolutely fascinating. Ed)

THE GAMES OF FIVES AT WGS

During a telephone conversation with Derek Stevens covering our overlapping times at QEGS, I happened to mention that I had been fives Champion for my last two years at the school. Derek immediately expounded the possibility of someone with such an “established pedigree in the game” writing a recollection of their experiences of fives at QEGS.

It is nearly fifty years since I last walked on to a fives court, as I finished at QEGS in the summer of 1955. However, an old school friend of mine, Rodney Wiseman (1947-1953), recently visited me during one of his trips to the UK from his home in Vancouver, Canada, and we were able to chat over the game of fives at the school to reinforce and improve my recollection of it. As a further prompt to our memories Rod subsequently provided me with a copy of the entry on Rugby fives in **The Official World Encyclopedia of Sports and Games** published by Paddington Press 1979.

At QEGS there were two Rugby fives courts, open to the elements, located on the western side of the playground adjacent to the gymnasium. My recollection is that the floor size of the courts was slightly smaller than a squash court for which the imperial dimensions are thirty-two feet by twenty-one feet. The front and side grey concreted walls were about twenty feet high topped by about four or five feet of wire mesh. On top of this vertically located wire mesh, I seem to recall, wire mesh also extended horizontally across the front five or six feet. All of this was designed to help prevent fives balls being lost into the Hanham’s estate, not entirely successfully as I recall. A wooden strip affixed across the front wall, about two and a half feet off the floor, indicated the height above which the ball had to be hit by hand during the game. What constituted the upper demarcation of the court on the front and side walls is somewhat hazy. Whether it was the extremity of the solid wall or batons on the wall marking those limits neither Rod nor I could accurately recall. Close examination of school photographs with the fives courts in the background did little to clarify this problem. In the encyclopedia the walls of a Rugby fives court are specified to be coloured black and the floor red, somewhat different to the drab grey of the courts of QEGS. The official fives court size is specified as being twenty-eight feet long by eighteen feet wide and fifteen feet height on the front wall bearing out my long held impression that the fives court is slightly smaller than a squash court.

There is a specially designed ball for use in the game of fives, just under two inches in diameter. It is leather covered with a solid interior of cork and string. In my day these balls were not readily available and were only ever used on special occasions. For every day friendly games we used a more durable solid rubber ball around the size of a golf ball which had a similar bounce to a real fives ball. A fundamental difference between the two balls used was the effect they had on the hands used for hitting the ball. Without gloves, the real fives ball made the hand swell up (this was not painful swelling) whereas the rubber ball appeared to have little effect

on the hands. To prevent the unwanted swelling when playing with a “proper” fives ball the use of padded gloves was essential.

The game of fives at QEGS was taught to new boys by those older boys already familiar with how to play. I cannot remember having seen any written rules governing the game of fives at QEGS but the method of play followed very closely the rules I have recently seen laid down in the encyclopedia. Because there was no official governance of the game at QEGS some of the more obscure rules may have been modified to suit QEGS conditions. Whether points are scored serving or receiving serve and what happens when the score reaches fourteen all are two such possible QEGS deviations from the official rules.

If the QEGS games had followed the official rules then the game would have been played up to fifteen points unless the score had reached fourteen all. In that event the first to reach sixteen points is the winner. Most championship or inter-house matches were the best of three games.

Unlike squash, the official rules for fives indicate only the receiver of service could score points. If the receiver won the rally, he gained a point. If the server won the rally then he became the receiver.

To decide who served and who received, a preliminary rally was held, the winner becoming the receiver and the loser the server.

The service, which started play for each point, was initiated by throwing the ball on to the face wall to bounce on to a side wall (i.e. either on to the left or right hand sidewalls) and then on to the floor from where it was hit on to the same sidewall and on to the front wall. As the ball came into play the opponent could hit the ball before it bounced, or after it bounced, directly back on to the front wall or via the side or back wall on to the front wall. The ball had not to bounce on the floor more than once or the point was lost.

After the service and its return the players strike the ball alternately on to the front wall either directly or after it has hit the side walls. The ball could bounce once before it was struck. Rallies were won by a player when:

- a) his adversary missed the ball, allowed it to bounce twice, hit it below the board line, sent it out of court, or directed it onto the floor before it struck the front wall.
- b) hitting the opposing player when the ball would not have gone “up” on the front wall.
- c) his opponent was hit by the ball before it had bounced
- d) his opponent hit the ball with any part of his body other than the hand.

As in squash, lets were allowed and the point replayed if:

- i) a player was hit by a return that would have gone “up”
- ii) a player was impeded in his attempt to hit the ball
- iii) the striker was hit by the ball after it had bounced (as opposed to losing the point if hit before it had bounced)
- iv) the server changing his mind before hitting the ball calling “no”.

Doubles was played with all the singles rules applicable. The pair who won the original rally could choose to serve or to receive. The receiver remained “in” until his side lost the point. The first of the opposing pair then became the receiver until that pair lost a rally. At this point the second player of the pair became the receiver and continued until the loss of a rally when the right to receive passed to the other pair. The serving side had to change server each time their opponents scored a point. Only the receiver could return service unless he or his opponent decided to play a service which had not first hit the side wall on its way to the front wall.

In the QEGS courts the open space on the back wall offered a tempting target if the ball could be hit through the opening after bouncing in the court. Out on the full through the gap would lose the point as would hitting the ball straight over the back wall. The Rugby fives court shown in the encyclopedia does not have a gap in the back wall, the opening used to enter the court being filled by a door. So this was one variation applicable to the QEGS courts making the game slightly different.

When playing in the QEGS way with a rubber ball care had to be exercised when returning balls that were travelling along the wall as grazed fingers or broken nails could result from injudicious hitting of a ball in this situation. This was not a problem with a gloved hand.

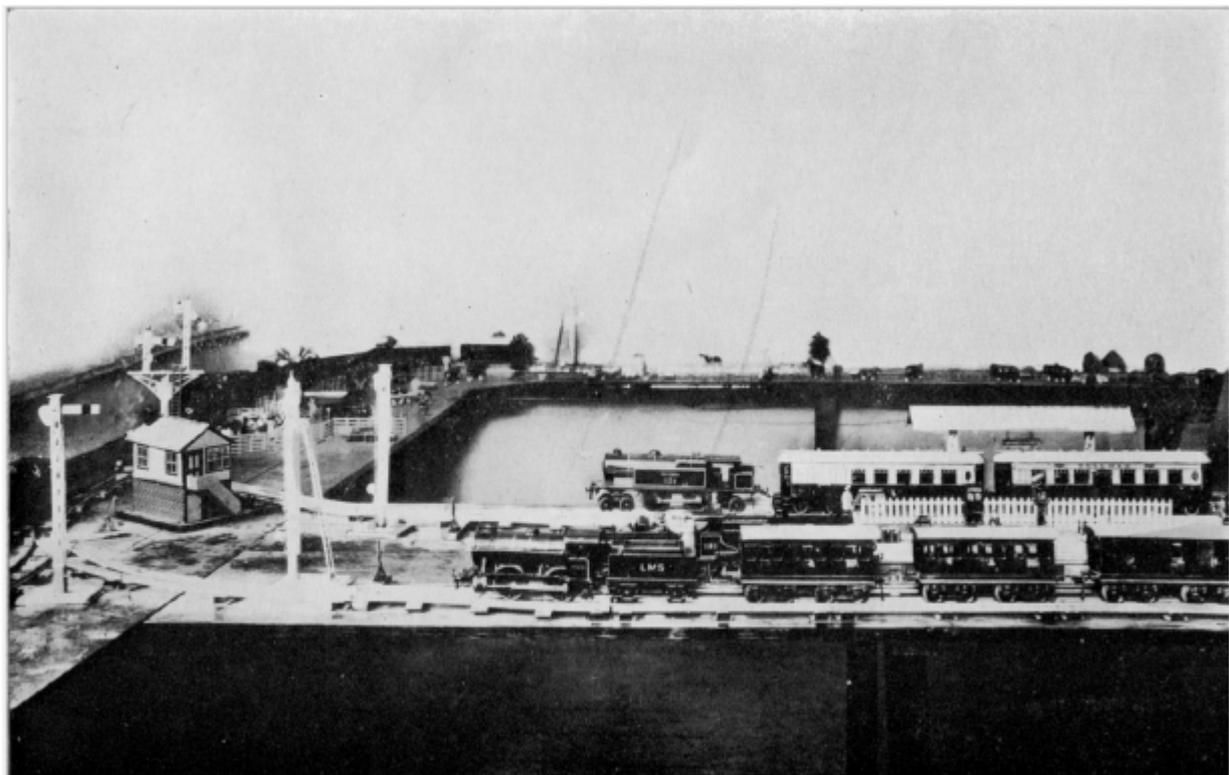
The courts would be in full use in dry weather prior to morning school and during morning and lunchtime breaks. To maximize usage it was normal to play doubles when four players would be on court. This could give rise to a fast and furious game as a lot more of the court would be covered by four opponents endeavouring to return the ball. The courts availability in pre-school time meant that boys turning up for school early had a distinct advantage in gaining court time as was the case for those travelling to school from outlying areas such as Verwood and West Moors. I myself was a local Wimborne boy who often entered Big School for morning assembly as the Minster was chiming nine (I feel I learnt the “just in time principle” so favoured by large companies in this day and age years before I had to apply it). As regarding fives this meant that pupils such as me had to grab as much court time as possible in the break times or after school to improve their ability in the game. Annually, house matches were played, usually doubles, and also individual championships.

The trophy for the senior individual championship was in the shape of a goblet engraved/embellished with leaves and flowers and stood about twelve inches high on its base. It was one of the most attractive cups available to be won in school championships.

In later years I took to playing squash. I considered the experience I had gained playing fives at QEGS helped me adjust more quickly to the racquet game as I was already familiar with the trajectories of balls bouncing off of walls.

Eddie Wood (1947 - 55)

From the WGS prospectus of 1939



HORNBY RAILWAY ROOM.

The Hornby Railway Room in the days when Wimborne still boasted a station, originally linking in 1847 eastwards with Ringwood (for Southampton and Waterloo) and south-westwards with Poole, Wareham and Dorchester. No doubt the Hornby Railway Room was a popular place for WGS boarders to escape from their everyday studies.

BOARDING AT WGS **(From 1939 Prospectus)**

Boarders have always been an integral part of school, and School House is much more than a “hostel” for boys attending the school.

A special feature of the arrangements for sleeping is that each boy has a separate cubicle, large and airy. This gives the advantage of a degree of privacy, and is invaluable from a health point of view. One of the two resident masters has his bedroom in the dormitories. All boarders are in the care of Mrs Airey, assisted by a fully-trained Matron. There is a separate Sick Room.

All boys are weighed and measured at the beginning and end of each term and inspected annually, at no cost to the parent, by a doctor. Special attention is given to the catering. Vegetables and fruit are supplied from our own garden.



A Cubicle



Paradise Dormitory

(Thumbing through my scrapbook I came upon the following newspaper cuttings from years past. Sad, yes, but I feel they will be of interest to OWs reviving memories of long distant schooldays. Ed)

REMEMBERING FORMER MASTERS

Tributes paid to 'Fishy' Maiden (1907 - 99)

By Sharen Green

The Mayor of Wimborne has paid tribute to the man who dragged the town into the twentieth century.

Long-serving councillor Albert Maiden, who has just died aged 91, was responsible for getting a proper sewage system for the Minster town, for building decent social housing and for getting rid of the old workhouse.

He also encouraged aerospace firm Flight Refuelling to come to the town and which is today a major employer.

Cllr Minna Harvey said people were still bringing overnight slops in pails out to the "violet carts" in the mid-1950s.

School teacher "Fishy" Maiden devised a way of getting mains drainage via the back gardens.

It was without any cost to the tax-payer and it didn't disrupt the road system," said Mrs Harvey.

"As chairman of the Urban District Council he got the first council housing and he got the workhouse knocked down and the people rehoused at Allen Court.

"He used to talk about inmates having to use a rope to get to the upper floor of the workhouse."

"There would have no chance for the really ill ones in a fire."

Mr Maiden was chairman of Wimborne council in 1959, 1962 and 1965 and Mayor in 1984, retiring from public life in about 1990.

Mrs Harvey added: "When I joined the council in 1974 he was my mentor."

Birmingham-born Mr Maiden came to Wimborne in 1932.

He served in India and Burma where he monitored radio traffic and broke Japanese codes.

A first-class honours graduate, Mr Maiden taught English at what was then Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

An accomplished tennis player, he was called 'Fishy' because of his prowess at swimming.

He was known for his special love of Elgar's music and all poetry - but especially that of WB Yeats.

He made several pilgrimages to Ireland on Yeats' account.

Mr Maiden was made a Freeman of Wimborne in 1982. He died in Hindhead, leaving a wife, Joyce, two children and grandchildren.



KERSWELL JOHN (JOE)

Peacefully in Wimborne Hospital on 11th January 2000, aged 93. Deputy Headmaster / Senior Maths teacher at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wimborne 1930 - 1971. Beloved Father of Jennifer, John and David and Grandfather to seven Grandchildren. The Funeral service will take place at Poole Crematorium on Friday 28th January 2000 at 11.30am. Family flowers only but donations if desired for the Parkinson's Disease Society may be sent to F C Douch & Son F.D. 7 Leigh Road, Wimborne BH21 1AB.



Five old pals exchange memories of WGS days - and early romances?
 Susan Hatherley (Bush), Anne King (Wall), Patricia Marshall (Unsworth), Nora Dyson (Henfield),
 Betty Read (White).

(2012 Christmas Reunion)

'In the footsteps of Lonnie Donegan' (c 1955) A Salute to Skiffle



Back row left to right:
 Alan Crumpler, Martin Sanders, David 'Dingo' Singleton, Peter Maidstone, Mickey Skinner
 Front row: Geoff Stokes, Robin Christopher and Cledwin Ameson

(Many thanks to Alan Crumpler for this evocative photo)



Five centuries of schooling

It's hard to imagine it on today's National Curriculum but for many years cock fighting was a regular timetable feature in many schools, including Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Wimborne.

In 1654 one Col Bingham penned a letter stipulating that "every Tuesday we must have a cock match at Wimborne. Divers unknown blades frequent the cocking game.

In 1700 Squire John Richards expressed his disgust after attending a cock fight at the Wimborne school. But the savage sport continued at QE for another 100 years after that.

"The sport was popular in schools at the time. In Wimborne it was held on Shrove Tuesday," says a newly-published booklet tracing the history of the former King Street school. "The Master drew names of pairs of boys: after each fight the winning cock was paired with another, until it came down to the last two. The boy owning the last fighting cock standing won the title of Victor and was excused from beatings for the rest of the year. It stopped in Wimborne at the beginning of the 19th century."

The above mentioned Col Bingham is better known as the leader of a Parliamentary group who ejected William Stone from the Minster during the pre-Civil War turmoil of 1638 and installed their own "fighting preacher", Mr Ford.

Stone went abroad for several years, returning after the Restoration in 1660 and later bequeathing his books to form the Minster's famous Chained Library.

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School was founded in 1497 following a visit to Wimborne by King Henry VII and his mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort, whose own parents, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, are buried there.

Lady Margaret, who was only 13 when she gave birth to the future king, later stipulated in her will that Wimborne's Chantry priest should "teach grammar freely to all who come thereto".

The school underwent at least two rebuilds, including one in the 1640s to replace a building described as "ancient and often in decay and not sufficient for the scholars that came hither". Masters of the 18th century included Fill Cox, whose son William, captained a ship transporting convicts to Australia and distinguished himself by building the first road through the Blue Mountains in 1815. Singer and former Neighbours star Jason Donovan is a descendant of William and Fill. This 17th century school building lasted 200 years but in 1846 it was reported that "a considerable portion" was in a "very dilapidated condition and requires rebuilding".

The report added: "A new school can be built for £2,000 in addition to the value of the old materials."

Many of the materials were indeed recycled when the school was rebuilt between 1849 and 1851, during which period lessons were held in rooms at what is now the Albion pub in Wimborne High Street. The Victorian school building was typically grand, built in a style reminiscent of Etonian brickwork with a church like entrance and double turrets. Features inside included an organ loft with organ, a dais for the headmaster, ale and wine cellars and accommodation for borders.

The building survives today as private housing. Of the 89 admissions in reopening year about half were local. The others included pupils from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire "possibly masters' contacts", suggests author Graham Powell.

Thomas Hardy described the school in *Two on a Tower* — written when he was living in Avenue Road, Wimborne — as "a place where they draw up young gamblers' brains like rhu-barb under a ninepenny pan".



The Victorian school building in 1905



The Minister's House and Free Grammar School demolished in 1849

pupils served actively in the First World War, of whom 46 lost their lives.

In 1934 the main body of the school acquired electric lighting for the first time, and the innovation was considered "A great improvement".

By this time the number of pupils had grown to almost 200 and new buildings were added to the King Street site in 1936. As the Second World War got underway in the last months of 1939 staff carried out various work intended to protect themselves and their pupils in the event of bombing raids.

Various parts of the school were reinforced, blackout materials were put in place and buckets of water were strategically placed in corridors and rooms.

Air raid rehearsals were held regularly.

Boys also joined in the Dig for Victory campaign, growing vegetables on an allotment in Julian's Road and creating a garden behind the school tennis courts.

camp" on a farm at Witchampton, where they helped to bring in the harvest. Hoeing turnips was a less popular occupation.

The school welcomed its first girls in 1953, 30 of them along with four female teachers. The school's most illustrious past pupils include actors Richard Todd and the late Lionel Jeffries. BBC announcer Stuart Hibberd, golf commentator Peter Alliss and the distinguished soldier General Sir Dudley Ward.

The Grammar School closed in 1971 following the introduction of the comprehensive system at the former Secondary Modern School at Pamphill.

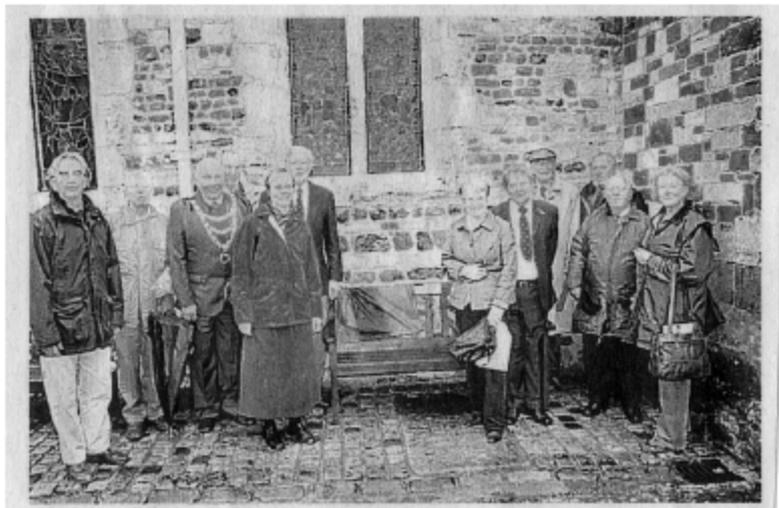
A History of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wimborne, by Graham Powell edited by Alan R Bennett is available from Guliver's Bookshop at £3.95.

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NEW BENCH FOR WIMBORNE MINSTER CHURCH

The Old Winburnians, who are former pupils of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, presented a bench to Wimborne Minster Church on Monday.

The school, which was founded by Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII moved from its premises in the centre of the town in 1971, combining with the secondary school at Pamphill to become Queen Elizabeth's School.

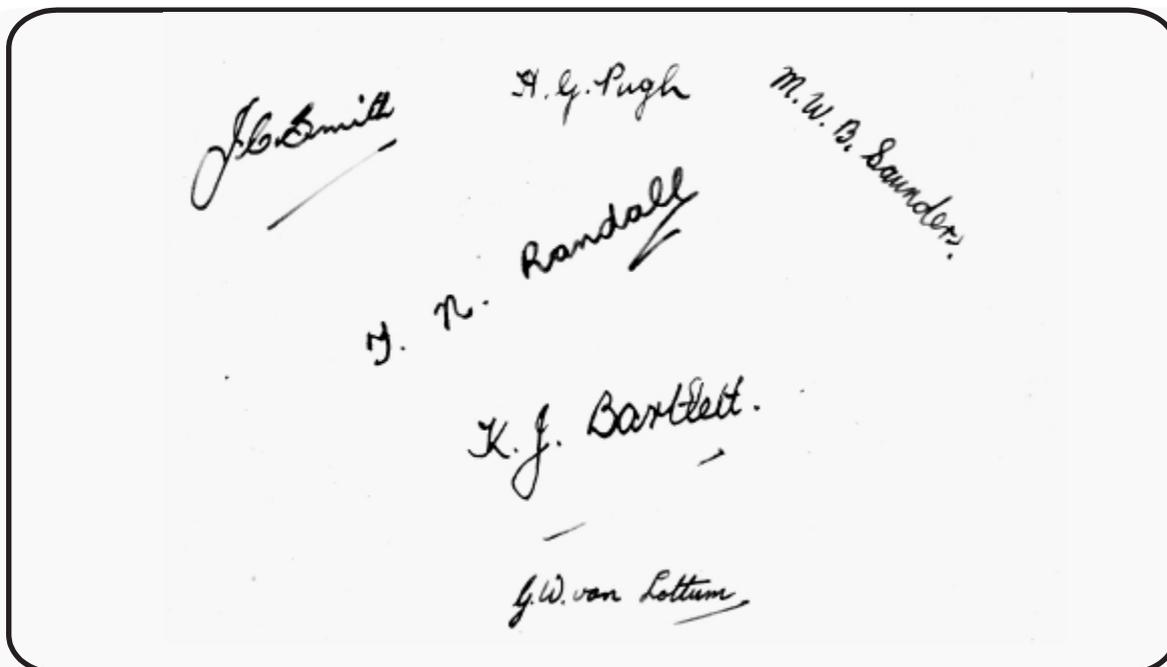


Reproduced by the kind permission of the Stour and Avon magazine

The bench was paid for by an old boy of the grammar school. The commemorative plaque was covered with material in the school colours - chocolate and cerise.

Blessing the bench, the rector of Wimborne Minster commented it was good the bench had been positioned opposite the site of the grammar school.

(In fact, the bench was most kindly presented by the much-loved Doug Williams (1942-48). Many thanks too to Bill Haskell and Betty Read for their work associated with the installation of the bench. Ed.)



(One of the pages from my ancient autograph book which mainly contains the signatures of county cricketers and the wonderful commentator, John Arlott. I obviously greatly respected the following WGS prefects - hence their cherished autographs. One is an OWA member today - namely Terry Randall. Does anyone have knowledge of the others? Ed.)



IVA (possibly IIIA) (c 1952-3)

(l to r - standing)

B.J. Richmond, P. Warner, M. Wilcox, A. Bennett, E. Dennett, R.H. Capron, R. Breach, A. Tesson,
Reeves, A.R. Maiden.

(crouching l to r) D. Roberts, J. Holloway, B.F. Glover, Johnston, A.J. Selby, P. Hatchard,
P. Keeping.

(With thanks to Brian Glover)

**QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL, WIMBORNE
Under 15 SOCCER, 1951**



Mr. W.E. Streets, G.B. Lowman, R.W. Parker, S.F. Christopher, M.F. Wilcox, B.D. Holloway, D.E. Duke, Mr. P.N. Lawrence.
E. Richardson, P.C. Dennett, F. Atyeo (Captain), G.D. Mason, E.J. Dennett
D.J. Park R. Forward

Arms and the Man 1960

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S

GRAMMAR SCHOOL, WIMBORNE

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

presents

Arms and the Man

by

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

1st and 2nd APRIL, 1960



GEOFF
TESSON

ELAINE
HOOKER

DONALD
LEE

MARION
STEPHENS

TONY
ELGAR

BRIAN DAVIS REMEMBERS

(These pieces recently reached me via our highly esteemed Memorabilia secretary, Derek Stevens. Many thanks, Brian. They certainly bring back memories. Ed)

CARETAKERS

Through they were seldom seen together, two WGS stalwarts whose names are linked in my mind like Gilbert and Sullivan or Rodgers and Hammerstein are “Baxter and Steele.”

The two caretakers were always there, not contributing to our education, but always there like part of the fabric.

One or other would shake the handbell to mark the break between lessons - perhaps signalling my relief that I had survived another Joe Kerswell maths interrogation, or my fears of what was to come next period from an exasperated Gunner Holman as he tried to force Latin into my head.

Baxter, tall, lean and a bit scary to an 11 year-old boy. And Steel, rotund and jocular. At least, that is how I recall them at a distance of 50-odd years. Does anyone remember anything more, or know anything about them?

SOUNDS AND SMELLS

Noises and smells are so emotive. They travel down the years and suddenly hit one like a message from a time machine.

Will anyone ever forget the smell in the chemistry lab in New Building? Or any pre-1950 old-Winburnian the whiff from the old biology lab reached through a dark musty corridor that seemed like a walk into a dungeon?

Then there was the dubbin and body-odour stink in the sports pavilion. And what about the muddy, reedy smell as we scythed the river banks of the Allen to make enough space for our swimming sports? At least it didn't smell of the eye-watering chlorine that today's mollycoddled kids endure in their purpose-built swimming pools.

Noises that have survived in my mind for 50 years include the crack of a fives ball against the court walls, the 4pm salvo of crashing deskclids followed by racing footsteps. And the frightening “brain turns to jelly” demand of Joe Kerswell shouting, “Well, what’s the answer Davis?”

But today, if any sound sums up WGS for me, it is the raucous screech of a peacock. Immediately I hear it I am transported back to the lessons that were so often punctuated by that unearthly cry from Sir John Hanham’s garden beyond the playground wall.

OLD MASTERS (AND MISTRESSES)

I wonder how long Tarzan Williams would have lasted if he had been taking up his teaching career in today’s “Let’s sue,” society? Remember being called to the front of class for some misdemeanour and flinching while he pretended to slap your face with his right hand, only to be dealt a brain-shaking thwack from the left? That would be a court case for assault today, and a good chance of compensation. And the end of a good teacher’s career.

Tarzan would be joined by quite a few WGS staff whose punishment repertoire I recall included ear-twisting, a stinging gym-slipper on the backside and a ruler-edge rap across the back of the hand. Joe Kerswell’s black-board-rubber and chalk missiles would never take off today. And I seem to remember that Maggie Holmes had a mean “knuckle to the side of the head” way of dealing with the dim and insolent.

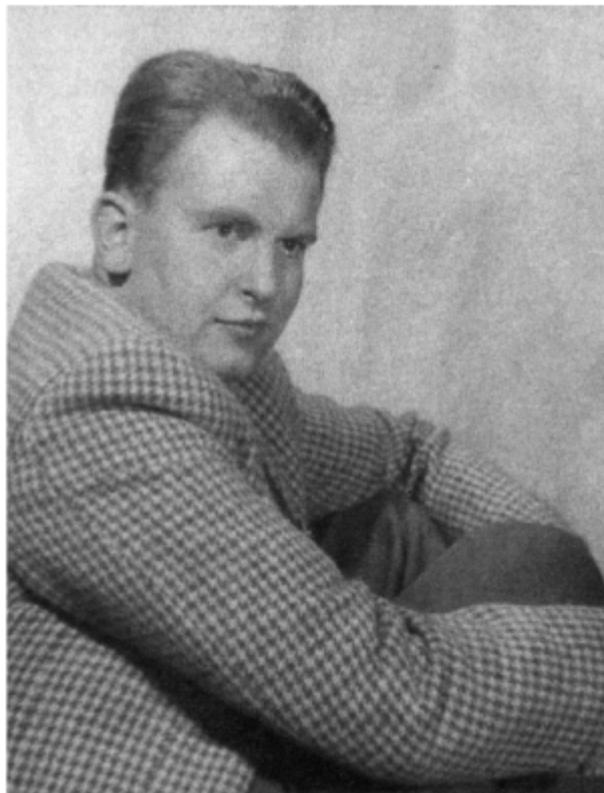
No way today, Maggie.

Brian Davis (1945-51)

OBITUARIES

GERALD IVOR CHAPPLE (1938 - 2012)

(Gerald was a dear fellow, affectionately regarded by so many friends in Wimborne and beyond, not least his cronies in Wimborne Art Club. A familiar figure about the town Gerald took early retirement from BDH and spent much of his time painting and in his garden. I will miss our conversations and his wry humour. I reproduce something I wrote 20 years ago in 'Wimborne Minster, Portrait of a Town (1992)' in a piece on the Annual Exhibition of Wimborne Art Club, held at Church House. Ed)



'Zorba's Mountain, Crete'

'A certain resident (*actually OW Ian Rabbits, now sadly departed himself*) of Crescent Road has long urged his cronies the wisdom of investment in the works of Gerald Chapple, Esq. but, being a most cautious fellow himself, has so far conspicuously failed to set an example for others to follow. Often extravagantly, even recklessly adventurous in his choice of subject, colours, frame, title and price, Gerald is a personality to cherish. Blessed with unlimited private income he would almost certainly have long since migrated to Montmartre or St. Ives, if not St. Tropez, to live the life of the debauched Bohemian. Yet, curiously, this year his offerings are what can only be described as subdued. Is his entry into his sixth decade finally mellowing the lad or, perish the thought, is he going commercial?'
(*Alas, Gerald's splendidly eccentric artistic output will no longer be represented at the annual exhibitions. Wimborne has, with Gerald's death, lost one of its best-loved characters. Ed*)

DOUGLAS LIGHT - WGS 1935 - 41

Doug, who died on February the 6th at the age of 88 was one of those people you could not fail to like. He was a 'day boy', one of the group who 6 days a week walked the length of Leigh Road to and from WGS.

When he left he became an apprentice at Holton Heath and, after studying at Bournemouth College, he qualified as an Electrical Engineer. Thus, when he eventually did his National Service, he became an artificer in the Royal Navy and travelled the world. Later his marine activity was in sailing from Poole with his younger brother Len in a boat they had renovated.

Douglas was a devoted family man and was married to Olive Roper for almost 65 years. They lived at her home in 'Gulliver House' in West Borough. They had two daughters and he was proud of them and his three grandsons.

He worked for BAC at Hurn and from there he moved to a management role at Plessey's where he was responsible for the implementation of postal mechanisation.

Doug developed a love of music and formed a folk group called 'The Wayfarers' which raised money for charities by performing in the area. He was a keen gardener, made wine and was a judge at local shows.

Most days Doug and Olive walked their dogs at Pamphill, thus it was fitting that his funeral took place at St. Stephen's Church, Pamphill, which many Old Winburnians will remember as the half-way point of the cross-country run.

(The phrase '6 days a week' was not a mistake as when Doug was at WGS there were boarders in the school and we all attended lessons for three hours on Saturday mornings. We were given half days off on either Tuesdays or Thursdays 'in lieu' and the alternative afternoons were spent in team sports at the School field.) **Len Pearce (1936 - 41)**

DONALD HIBBERD (1936-43)

I have just (early April) received the sad news of Donald's passing from my old pal Mervyn Frampton (via Ann Roome who attends the same church as did David). A regular at our reunions and a contributor to the Newsletter Donald will be greatly missed. We will include a proper tribute in the next edition.

CORRESPONDENCE

LIZ GOODE (nee Streets) (1958 - 65)

Just a quick note to thank you and everyone else on the committee for a wonderful surprise. The 'History of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School' arrived here after Christmas. I was delighted with it. It was good to see a photo of my father and a copy of the School Song (it is my 'party piece'!!) Life in Menorca continues to be wonderful, though the 'crisis' here is affecting everyone. People do not get the same benefits here as they do in the UK. I wish you well and look forward to July's newsletter.

Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne Minster - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Someone, I cannot remember who (Apologies!) forwarded the following to me - Ed)

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

- Peter Alliss, golfer and TV presenter
- Rt Rev Frederick Hicks Beaven, Bishop of Mashonaland from 1911-25
- William Cox (pioneer)
- Admiral Sir Michael Denny, Third Sea Lord from 1949-53
- Benjamin Ferrey, architect
- Robert Fripp and Gordon Haskell of King Crimson
- Hurbert Greenhall, cricketer
- Cyril Hankinson, Editor from 1935-62 of Debrett's
- Rear-Adm Harold harvey CB
- Sir George Hewett, 1st Baronet, Commander-in-Chief, Ireland from 1813 - 6
- Lionel Jeffries, actor and film director
- Bob Roberts (folksinger)
- Sir Arthur Salter (judge), Conservative MP from 1906-17 for Basingstoke
- Arthur Salter, 1st Baron Salter, Conservative MP from 1937-50 for Oxford University, and from 1951-3 for Ormskirk
- Prof Alan Ward (<http://campus.leeds.ac.uk/newsincludes/newsitem5255.htm>) CBE
Procter Professor of Food and leather Science from 1961-77 at the University of Leeds
- General Sir Alfred Dudley Ward CB CBE DSO, Governor of Gibraltar from 1962-5 and
Colonel Commandant from 1958-63 of REME
- Admiral Sir William Whitworth DSO, Second Sea Lord from 1941 - 44

(With many thanks to Bryan and Jenni at Wimborne Print Centre A.B.)