



## OLD WINBURNIANS NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2015

Dear fellow OWs,

I write these words one week before our General Election. I suspect many of you will have been as dispirited as myself by the level of debate and the barrage of promises made daily by the parties. Do 'they' really expect us to believe them as 'they' bid to out-do their opponents with ever more expensive commitments - when the national cupboard is bare. As for the language of the debate it is replete with clichés and 'sound-bites' dreamt up by 'advisers'. How many of our politicians actually appreciate the English language and its richness? Mr Albert Maiden would surely have hung his head in despair if he'd been obliged to listen to so many of them. Of course, by the time you read these words 'it' will be all over - or will 'it'? We shall see.

This morning I walked around Badbury Rings. A couple of days ago I walked up the Stour beyond Eye Bridge and through Cowgrove - many will remember our cross-country runs, no doubt, with mixed emotions! Beautiful countryside, pleasant sunshine, but a dearth of wildlife. As a bird-watcher it is depressing to record the greatly reduced number of migrants - few swallows or martins, scarcely a warbler, no yellow wagtail on passage, one solitary cuckoo calling plaintively for a mate - such a contrast with my (and your) youth. And Vaughan Williams would neither have seen nor heard much evidence of 'larks ascending'.

But enough of the negativity! I remain thankfully vertical and brimming with energy - four or five generations back my forebears were in all probability incarcerated in a workhouse if they had not already been transported - and, extraordinary to relate, AFC Bournemouth have secured promotion to the Premiership. (See back page). So there is much to celebrate.

I hope you enjoy the 'mix' of nostalgia, news, celebrations, humour, etc in this issue. And don't forget to raise your glasses at 2pm on 4th July to toast 'Absent Friends'.

Alan R. Bennett

(on behalf of the OWA committee)

### FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

SUMMER REUNION Saturday 4th July 2015

CHRISTMAS REUNION Saturday 12th December 2015

SUMMER REUNION Saturday 2nd July 2016

## CHRISTMAS REUNION 2014

Morgan Antell and guest Ann Antell, Alan Bennett, Tony Bletsoe, Reginal Booth and guest James Booth, James Brewster, Eunice Carnall nee Chadd, Roderick Cheese, Sue Coombes nee Froud and guest John Coombes, A. Cooper nee Hallett, Robert Copelin, Desmond Cox, Sandra Cox, Peter Cox, Janet Coy nee Dowd, John Dare, Joyce Downton, Norah Dyson nee Henfield, Faith Elford nee Hawes and guest John Elford, Peter Eyres, Mervyn Frampton, John Froud and guest Rodney Hurford, Brian Glover, Janet Gordon nee Daniels, Dr John Guy, Alan Hall, Bill Haskell, Sue Hatherley nee Bush, Maurice Herridge and guest Kate Herridge, John Hill, Carolyn Kamcke nee Walkling and guest John Boughton, Hilary Kemp, Alan Maitland and guest June Maitland, Ron Mansfield, Patricia Marshall nee Unsworth, Maria Martin nee Limm, Carolyn Martin nee Rodgers, Kenneth Moody, Victor Moss, Jennifer Moss nee Day, Diana Moss nee Anderson and guest James Moss, Derek Noon, David Park, Brian Pearce, Graham Powell and guest Hazel Powell, Christine Price nee Richmond, Terry Randall, Betty Read nee White, Ann Richmond nee Mitchell, David Roberts, Ian Rogers, Ray Scott and guest Anne Sweeney, John Singleton, Rodney Smith, Derek Stevens, Margaret Stokes nee Budden, Ken Taylor, John Taylor and guest Jill Taylor, Geoffrey Welch, Stanley White and guest Ann James, Ronald White, Prof Bob White, Helen White nee Filcher, Bill White and guest Marion White, Eddie Wood and guest Jose Wood, Beryl Wythers nee Moreton.

### APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM

Lorna Dyter, Roy Dacombe, Peter Douch, Tony Gould, Len Pearce, John Harper, Cynthia Tanner, Paul Burry, Doug Williams, Pat Keeping, Frank Hackworth.

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### ESSENTIAL ADDRESSES

Chairman	Tony Gould	1 Manor Cottages, Tolpuddle DT2 7ES
Vice Chairman	Patrick Keeping	17 Wellers Close, Totton, Southampton SO40 3PA
Secretary	Ken Moody	Flat 8, Wickham Court, 9 Eastwood Ave, Ferndown BH22 9LQ
Treasurer	Alan Maitland	Coles Farm, Milborne St. Andrews, Blandford DT11 0JL
Membership	John Guy	Gateways, Gaunts Common, Wimborne BH21 4JN
Newsletter	Alan R. Bennett	11 Hawk Close, Pilford Heath, Colehill, Wimborne BH21 2NW
Web Site	David Finnemore	4 Purbeck Gardens, Poole BH14 0QS
Memorabilia Secretary	Derek Stevens	2 Remedy Gate, Woodlands, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 8NG
Publicity Secretary	Betty Read	15 Allenview Road, Wimborne BH21 1AT

### FULL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alan Bennett	11 Hawk Close, Pilford Heath, Wimborne Dorset BH21 2NW
Tony Bletsoe	6 Belle Vue Walk, West Parley, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 8QB
Tony Gould	1 Manor Cottages, Tolpuddle Dorset DT2 7ES
Bill Haskell	15 Allenview Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1AT
Carolyn Kamcke	4 Pine Close, Ameysford Road, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9QX
Patrick Keeping	40 Hamtun Close, Totton, Southampton, Hants SO40 3PA
Alan Maitland	Coles Farm, Milborne St. Andrew, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0JL
Ken Moody	Flat 8, Wickham Court, Eastwood Ave, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9LQ
Len Pearce	28 Merley Ways, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1QW
Don Phillips	6 The Gables, 21 Manor Close, Wimborne, Dorset BH22 9FH
Betty Read	15 Allenview Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1AT
Ann Richmond	70 Erica Drive, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3TG
Ken Taylor	31 Canford View Drive, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2UW

### CO-OPTED MEMBERS

David Finnemore	4 Purbeck Gardens, Poole, Dorset BH14 0QS
John Guy	Gateway, Gaunts Common, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 4JN
Rodney Hurt	66 Greenway Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5BD
Graham Powell	42 St. Peters Court, St Peters Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 2JU
Derek Stevens	2 Remedy Gate, Woodlands, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 8NG

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE OLD WINBURNIANS ASSOCIATION -  
MONDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE OLD WINBURNIANS ASSOCIATION WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE  
AT COBHAM'S SPORTS CLUB, MERLEY -  
MONDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER at 11.00am**

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME AND SO WHY NOT PLAN TO BE IN  
THE WIMBORNE AREA ON THAT DAY!?  
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR LUNCH AT COBHAMS.**

**THE METING IS USUALLY QUITE SHORT. ANY ISSUE MAY  
BE RAISED AND WE WOULD WELCOME POINTS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER  
"ANY OTHER BUSINESS". THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE UP  
FOR ELECTION OR RE-ELECTION. WHY NOT BECOME INVOLVED BY  
STANDING FOR THE COMMITTEE. YOU MAY NOMINATE ON THE DAY  
OR IN WRITING TO OUR SECRETARY, KEN MOODY PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**

**TONY GOULD, CHAIR of the OWA**

**DONATION TO JULIA'S HOUSE**

Members will be interested to learn that a donation of £200.00 was made to the local children's charity, Julia's House, as a result of the raffle organised at the last reunion. This charity which cares for terminally ill children is a most deserving recipient of OWA's generosity.



'When the nation was at war' (See other pictures on page 9)

## NEWS TO CELEBRATE

(I know all OW's would like to send their congratulations to Tony and Liz on this happy landmark. AB)

PUDDLETOWN & TOLPUDDLE AREA PARISH MAGAZINE NOV 2014

### Tony and Liz Gould's Golden Wedding Anniversary

The residents of Tolpuddle need very little excuse to hold a party, but it was a particular pleasure for a large number to gather in Tony and Liz's garden on Friday 5th September to celebrate the couple's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The weather was fine, the drink and the conversation flowed, and it was a pleasure to join with so many friends to share this happy occasion.

Tony said a few words recalling their special day 50 years ago, and Sheralyn King rose to the occasion by responding, despite having been given about 4 seconds notice.

Congratulations and thank you to Tony and Liz - we look forward to the next milestone, which I see will be an Emerald Anniversary (at 55 years).

Roger Harcourt



#### TONY'S REFLECTIONS ON THE HAPPY OCCASION

"Liz and I met about five years after I left WGS. She was a friend of my sister Vivien Pittam as she now is (QEGS 1955 - 59). Never really thought I would get married at 24: I was not keen on having a girlfriend when I was at school

We have three daughters, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild."

*(Any other events of a similar significance are welcome. They do represent cheerful news in contrast to the sad necessity of relaying the passing on of OWs.)*

## MICHAEL FOOT (1946 - 53) - A NOSTALGIC VISIT

At the beginning of February the OW webmaster (David Finnemore) was contacted by QE School. The forwarded e-mail message was as follows:- "Michael Foot, my father is now widowed and lives in Sherborne. My sister and I are planning to take him to Wimborne for the day on Wednesday, 11th February, to say goodbye to his old haunts, home and school. It would be wonderful if someone from the Old Winburnians was to . . ." Consequently, David alerted the Sec & Derek Stevens, (DFS) and also mentioned it to Len Pearce (LP) (as a Minster Guide).

Thus, DFS & LP met up with Michael and his daughters at the Minster, as arranged. DFS was delighted to accept a substantial amount of memorabilia from Michael and, with LP, the little party toured the Minster for some time.

During the course of the next few hours the two OWs discovered that Michael had been a Choral Scholar at QEGS and, as such, sang in the Minster choir and subsequently became a Server and Bell Ringer.



At QEGS Michael excelled at sport and enjoyed a good relationship with the Headmaster, J.C. Airey. When he left, the Head, by then J.D. Neil wrote, *showed himself a good worker, with high ideals and serious purpose. He had an outstanding athletic record having captained the Cricket XI and the Tennis VI, and vice captained the Soccer XI, in which he kept goal for three years. In 1952 and 1953 he played for the County Grammar Schools Team in Soccer and Cricket. He also played Rugby and Fives with distinction*". Michael was also a Prefect and a

Sergeant in the Cadet Corps. He left the School in the Lower Sixth to carry out his National Service, before going to King Alfred's College at Winchester for teacher training.

With his school sporting background, once in the army, Michael became a PE Instructor and he used this aptitude when he left King Alfred's to secure teaching posts at Hendon and Melksham. He finally served 22 years at Clayesmore School organising PE, Games and being active with the Combined Cadet Corps

After lunch, DFS took Michael & his daughters to Deans Court Lane - past the sites of Mr Holder's cycle shop and Mr Herridge's sweet shop - well patronised by former pupils. Then, with LP, the party went through the open arch where once stood the doors to the Old School and Michael was able to see the lawn which now covers the site of the Big School and the Memorial Sun Dial now in the centre which he remembered well. He was also shown the surviving walls of one of the Fives Court.



DFS & LP then led the way to Allenbourn Middle School - built on part of the School playing field - the scene of many of Michael's sporting activities. From there, his daughters took him to Kingston Lacy House, back along Pamphill Green - and down to Eye Bridge, along the route of the old cross-country run. Even then he wanted to see more, so he was taken to Stapehill to see his old home.

Michael married in 1965. His wife was a teacher at the famous girl's school Roedean, near Brighton. He retired to Sherborne in 1991.

Len Pearce (1936-41)

## HOLY CROSS ABBEY (Stapehill)

(I saw the following piece by Roger Holman in our local magazine, and thought those of our readers who grew up in the Stapehill area of Wimborne would find it of interest. Stapehill Abbey was for 200 years the largely self-sufficient home of a silent order of nuns who spent their lives in prayer and meditation just a couple of miles to the east of WGS. It's curious to reflect that we students spent our lives as noisily as Messrs. Kerswell, Maiden and Streets permitted while these virtuous ladies lived in a silent world of contemplation. As readers probably know the nuns finally left Stapehill some years ago and the abbey and gardens became a local visitor attraction. However, it closed about five years ago and is currently for sale.)

# More memories of Holy Cross Abbey

*Readers continue to send in their memories of the Stapehill Abbey - which was called Holy Cross in the days when it was the home of Cistercian Trappist nuns.*

**Roger Holman** whose father founded Holmans in Wimborne, and who is now a renowned photographer said: "I think it must have been in the 50s/60s that our shop received a call from Stapehill Abbey requiring someone to fix their public address system. I remember thinking it seemed a little unusual because as far as I was aware, talking was something they didn't much engage in.

I decided to go myself rather than send an engineer as I was a intrigued to see what the inside of an abbey was like.

When I arrived I was greeted by a delightful nun whose surname coincidentally was the same as mine. She was the one who was designated to deal with the outside

world and had a great sense of humour.

She showed me the offending piece of equipment which was quite biblical in age being used to relay messages/ services to the sick room. I looked at it and decided I needed a small screw driver and told her I would get one from the van. With that she put her hand inside her habit, smiled and immediately pulled out the required tool. I had the distinct feeling that had I required a pipe wrench she would have found that there as well! Having effected the repair she showed me around the abbey and it brought home to me what a Spartan life they lived. Over the years I met my namesake there a few times and always found her happy and cheerful. I would have loved to have asked her about her life before she became a nun but the opportunity never seemed to present itself."



**John Dacombe (1956 - 62) (photo below) sends greetings to all OWs and offers the following mischievous observations on your Editor**

For any disbelievers I must reiterate that Alan and I are the best of friends. My name is John Dacombe and I have no connection to the Dacombers of the cycle / tv shop family though I do know them all. If I had a pound for every time I was asked that I would be a very wealthy man. At school my nickname was 'Dooby' which is still used on occasions nowadays - much to my wife's annoyance!

Alan has taken the liberty of mentioning me on several occasions in the Old Winburnians magazine so I would like to seize this opportunity to take my revenge.

Alan, as you know, is a man of culture much influenced by the classics in both literature and music. You know the stuff - Shakespeare, Mozart etc. He is a great lover of cricket like myself and was a keen supporter of Hampshire county cricket club. (Until, John, Hampshire CCC moved all their fixtures away from Dean Park, Bournemouth, to Southampton).

It is rumoured that because of his cultural background he is now writing a musical with Paul McCartney called 'Hey Jude the Obscure'. Another project is a stage version of 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' where Alan is said to be technical director of the love scenes!! Apparently he has been seen walking around Dorset in a gamekeeper's uniform so he can get a feel for the play!!!

I hope after this short article Alan and I will remain firm friends and we will still share the occasional leg pull with one another over our remaining years.

(Just for your information, Mr. Bennett, my one O'level was English Literature so I am myself a man of culture!)



P.S. I am still a great admirer of Mr Neil!!!! And to this day remain angry that the school never awarded me my colours for cricket. Also that my name was never put up on the Honours Board for my one O'level!

*(As our readers can see from this most recent photograph of John he remains as engagingly eccentric in his choice of dress as ever - and still enjoys a pipe of the finest bacey! AB)*

**FINGS AIN'T WOT THEY USED TO BE! (With acknowledgements to Lionel Bart)**

After John's reference to my interest in cricket I offer a few 'umble reflections on the modern game. Since all male Newsletter readers did play cricket at WGS and, in quite a few instances, represented the school, I thought my words might stimulate some debate.

One of the greatest pleasures of my childhood was watching county cricket at Dean Park, Cavendish Road, Bournemouth (when the town was still in Hampshire). Indeed, having passed my 11+ at Lytchett Minster School, I even persuaded the headmaster, Chas Burton, to grant me permission to 'skip' my remaining days of the Summer Term to attend Bournemouth Cricket Week and watch my beloved Hampshire CCC.

How many headmasters today would be so understanding, I wonder? Good old Chas! (though he was a formidable figure, as several other OWs from Lytchett and Upton will well recall.) At Dean Park I saw all my boyhood heroes, Hutton and Washbrook, Compton and Edrich, May and Cowdrey, Laker and Lock, Tom Graveney and Trevor Bailey, Trueman and Statham and, of course, the splendid Derek Shackleton (later cricket master at Canford School), Roy Marshall and so many others. In later years I watched cricket at Hampshire's other grounds - Southampton, Portsmouth and Basingstoke - besides Lords, the Oval and Edgbaston. I loved the 3 day County Championship and the spirit in which the game was played and the Sunday afternoon John Player league. Hampshire captains embodied the best of that spirit, Desmond Eagar, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, Richard Gilliat, my old friend and racing partner Nick Pocock and latterly Mark Nicholas. Until the last few years and the introduction of central contracts ordinary county grounds hosted all the 'stars' of the game. Three day matches were played, for the most part, on 3 day pitches. Runs and wickets were hard earned. Facilities were often minimal - no grandiose, expensive grand-stands (except at Test Match venues of course) which are sparsely populated for most fixtures today. Dean Park provided a few marquees where you could buy a cheap cup of tea or glass of beer and a sandwich. Most spectators wanted little more.

Alas, the modern game is too often characterised by loathsome, juvenile 'sledging' (especially at Test Match level), the one day game is played in hideous, pyjama-like apparel and teams bear childish names (like Hampshire Hawks). The 4 day game is characterised by monumental scores, boringly accumulated on bland wickets with defensive bowling and fielding and watched all too often by the proverbial one man and his dog.

In short, the cricket of the 21st century is barely recognisable as the game I enjoyed as a boy and young man. Who will remember the details of the surfeit of one-day internationals relentlessly played across the globe in years to come? Or the large number of cricketing 'mercenaries' now playing for the counties? And who can possibly welcome the name-calling and verbal abuse prevalent in much of modern cricket?

I suppose many of the cricketers I idolised as a boy had experienced the war and the 'austerity' of the post-war years. Flying a bomber over Germany or spending years as POW in German or Japanese camps provided them with a sense of perspective lacking in many contemporary players. Money had also not yet corrupted the 'spirit' of the game. As my title states 'Fings ain't wot they used to be'.

Maybe I'm now just an 'old fogey'? Surely not?! If I am, I wonder how many other 'old fogeys' harking back to the 'golden days' of our youth exist in the ranks of the OWA? More than a few, I suspect!

P.S. I wonder too how our games masters (Messrs - Jayne, Holman, Hoare, Streets to mention but four who refereed or umpired our matches) would have felt if we had indulged in gamesmanship, cheating, verbal abuse of opponents and the like. No boy would surely ever have represented the school again.

Alan R. Bennett

### WGS CRICKET 1959 ( The Players)

#### PLAYERS

- § S. Coley (Captain): Always steady and reliable. Useful opening bat.
- § D. Scrase (Vice-Captain): Excellent team man—always willing to attempt the impossible.
- ‡ R. Christopher: Limited success with the bat but became useful change bowler.
- ‡ N. Waterman: Very good slip fielder. Opened the innings late in the season.
- ‡ W. Cottrell: Good stolid type of wicket-keeper capable of getting runs.
- \* R. Nex: Good, able, all-round cricketer.
- \* A. Elgar: Good, opening, left-arm bowler. Had little chance to show prowess with the bat.
- \* G. Egerton: Useful all-rounder—has a pleasant approach to his play.
- \* P. Charman: A real trier during the past two-and-a-half seasons.
- \* M. Frampton: A capable player promoted to opening batsman late in the season. Awarded his Colours after three seasons in the First Team.
- J. Kerswell: His first season in the team. Has style and ability as a batsman. Capable of many runs once settled, and is a safe fielder. A certainty for Colours next season.
- P. Cox: Chosen primarily as a change bowler—may become next season's wicket-keeper.

(An assessment of their virtues printed in The Winburnian of that year)

	§ Colours 1957.			‡ Colours 1958.		* Colours 1959.		
	Innings	Not Out	Highest Score	Times	Highest Score	Total Runs	Average	Catches
Coley ...	11	3	25	117	14.62	1		
Christopher ...	11	0	28	63	5.72	1		
Cottrell ...	10	1	44	151	16.8	3		
Nex ...	11	0	73	210	19.0	3		
Charman ...	8	0	30	50	6.3	0		
Egerton ...	7	1	22*	57	8.1	1		
Scrase ...	9	1	58	101	12.5	6		
Frampton ...	6	0	16	46	7.7	1		
Elgar ...	7	2	13	32	6.4	2		
Waterman ...	7	3	37*	83	20.7	3		
Cox ...	5	3	16*	30	15.0	0		
Kerswell ...	9	3	61*	183	30.5	5		

## WIMBORNE SQUARE - THEN AND NOW



(Reproduced by kind permission of F.Frith & Co)



(I thought readers would be interested to see the contrast - the early years of the 20th Century and 2015. My good pal and distinguished OW, Roger Holman, took the photograph at my request of Wimborne's new 'cafe culture'.

Thank you, Roger)

## A LITTLE CULTURE FROM OUR LADY MEMBERS (taken from The Winburnian)

### RONDEL

Welcome, dear Spring, with your flowers so bright,  
Gladden each garden bed charming and gay,  
Make us feel happy and bright every day,  
Chase away darkness and let us have light,  
Make each day sunny for children to play.  
Welcome, dear Spring, with your flowers so bright,  
Gladden each garden bed charming and gay,  
Give us all peace and then will come right,  
Make us all good in this Spring month of May.  
Oh, it is nice to have Spring here to stay!  
Welcome, dear Spring, with your flowers so bright,  
Gladden each garden bed charming and gay,  
Make us feel happy and bright every day.

Eunice Chadd (Carnall) 1956  
(1955 - 62)

### LIFE SENTENCE

Two of our masters taught my Dad;  
What a job they must have had!  
Now they're teaching me as well,  
Life to them must be just swell.  
  
This happened many years ago  
In the year of so and so  
When boys were boys, so I've been told;  
This makes me think they must be old.  
  
For all the trouble they have taken  
Their nerves must be quite badly shaken;  
I think a further line of brats  
Would be enough to drive them scats

Janet Horsey (Finnemore) 1956  
(1960 - 67)

### CATS

The other day, as I walked into Wimborne Recreation Ground, I was halted by the sight of a pathetic little bundle of feathers lying on the path just inside the gates. Flies were running into the little bird's eyes, eyes that had once shone like glossy black mirrors as it trilled and warbled from the highest point of a fir tree, outlined against the sky. The bird's slightly spread wings and half-open beak told of its last agony. It was a robin. What would harm a *robin*?

I walked on, fiercely hitting the ground with a dog's lead. The answer to my question was, of course, a cat. Oh, those cold-blooded, pretty pussies! Those hypocritical green-eyed monsters. They sit by the fire, blinking their deceitful slits of eyes and growing fat on the tit-bits given to them by doting old women. Then they must kill birds! They torture them for a while: then do not bother to eat them. With a sleek grace they creep up on their unsuspecting victim - and another of nature's creatures is killed without cause. A bird that, perhaps, was thrown crumbs by children. A bird which sang from the now vacant tree.

If I had authority I would have all newly born kittens painlessly destroyed. How playfully they chase after cotton reels by day! How cruelly they hunt by night! I have respect for birds and animals of prey, for they hunt for food. Cats hunt for fun. Fun!

They are selfish animals and we are selfish to keep them, for we only like to look at them and feel the softness of their fur as we stroke them.

Janet Pursey (Doolaege) 1959  
(1958 - 65)

(Your Editor, dear Janet, acknowledges the regrettable pursuit of birds by cats - but, as a life-long cat-lover, I also recognise their magnificence, intellectual and athletic! A.B.)

**'NEDDY IN HIS STUDY' by Luke Hindmarch**

(In its day Wimborne Grammar School has produced many distinguished pupils, academic, sporting and artistic. I recently received that which you see reproduced below - a drawing entitled 'Neddy (J.D. Neil) in his Study' by Luke Hindmarch, circa 1956. I will leave our readers to pass judgement on Luke's artistic prowess. How does it compare, let us say, with Tracy Emin's 'Unmade Bed' or some of the other work in the Tate Modern? I also have in my possession a set of lines, laboriously written by Luke (obviously not handed in to the master who set them however!) which reads 'I must remember my prep'! Luke has recently joined the ranks of the OWA. We welcome you warmly and look forward to seeing more of your masterpieces, Luke. A.B.)



## CORRESPONDENCE

*(It was a pleasure to receive the following email from Paul which I am delighted to reproduce. I am sure Paul would be pleased to receive news of and from old pals. Contact our webmaster for Paul's email address AB)*

### **Paul Cox (1958 - 61)**

I joined QEGS just after the start of the Autumn Term in 1958 and left after completing one year in the Sixth Form during the Summer of 1961. I now live in Western Brittany, France, and in October took a short trip back to the UK to stay with some friends in Weymouth. Upon leaving for the return trip back to France they gave my wife and myself a book called *Dorset Journey* written by Alan R. Bennett. It did not take long for me to realise that the author was an Old Winburnian and I logged on to your Web Site and immersed myself in all the site contained, bringing back many memories of both Staff and Pupils I had known. In all the time since leaving school in 1961 up to my leaving the country in 2001 I only ever really came across two 'old boys', Dennis Cole, through business, and Tony Elgar, through golf. During the intervening years, Dennis was a member of the OWA and he always tried to persuade me to join the Society. For some reason, I never got around to it and honestly don't know why. He stressed that they were always most interested in knowing what happened to past members of the school, and it is this fact plus the recently aroused nostalgia that has led to this email.

I thoroughly enjoyed my three years at the School and only left to take up a job offer which I couldn't refuse, therefore not completing my A Levels. The thing I am proudest of in my time at the school was obtaining my colours in Rugby, Football and Cricket and, as your review of the Past Years shows, in 1961 I was Captain of the Football Team, which was then run by Mr Swinnerton.

I joined The Marley Tile Co. for whom I worked for ten years as a Sales Rep. in the Salisbury area. During this time I married in 1967 and my wife and myself purchased a bungalow from Harry J. Palmer sited just across the river from QEGS Sports Field, which I thought somewhat apt as I had spent many hours playing on it the various Sports for the School. Subsequently I decided to start up my own Roofing Business but, constrained by a Contract with Marley, had to move away from Wimborne which occurred in 1977 and started up working around the Yeovil, Sherborne area, living firstly in Sparkford in South Somerset, and later in Evershot in Dorset. In early 2001 I sold my business and took early retirement moving to Wales where we enjoyed 9 happy years, until the weather (Welsh rain? 'It falls like bad news', I seem to recall someone once writing. A.B.) finally defeated us! And we took the gamble of moving to Brittany, a move we do not regret.

Sport-wise I played cricket for Broadstone, Wessex Wanderers and Poole, once scoring a 100 for WW on the Hanhams Cricket Ground in Wimborne (now apparently no more) with another OW "Pickles" Small behind the stumps for Wimborne muttering that I was playing for the wrong team!! In 1973/4 I was chosen to represent Dorset at Golf and later played for the County Seniors in three South West Tournaments. It was during my time playing on the Golf Courses of Dorset that I would often run across Tony Elgar, now a distinguished OW, who was one year older than me and Head Boy in 1961 at School.

I hope the above comes as just a background of one person's life and perhaps fills in a few details for anyone who might enquire as to my whereabouts, etc. Looking at the Obits I am truly saddened to see old friends like Owen Swinnerton and Micky Nock have passed on and you are all to be commended for keeping the spirit of the School alive. Best Wishes to all OW and good luck in the future.

### **BRIAN EVANS (1944 - 51)**

Forgive me for not playing a more active role recently. Since relinquishing the OW's Treasurer's post some years back, age has caught up with me. I have very recently had a successful fourth hip operation in the Royal Bournemouth Hospital . . . Yes I know, I have only two hips! How many have reminded me of the obvious.

A month has passed since the operation and I'm daily regaining strength and mobility.

I was delighted to see included in the last OW's Newsletter publication a photo of the entire cast of the 1951 'Twelfth Night'. Just to add to the mix: I played Maria and stood centre stage with Sir Toby Belch, aka Ken Bartlett, and Sir Andrew Aguechweek, aka N.J. Twinkle, standing either side of me. The production was such good fun, ably produced by Mr. L. Mottram, with the stage set designed by Mr. Bennett, Head of Art, who sadly died shortly afterwards with polio. A sad loss to the school and teaching profession.

I wish a Happy New Year 2015, and may the O W's newsletter continue to flourish.

*(Thanks, Brian. You must feel like cheering after your latest successful operation 'Hip, hip, hooray!' Sorry, I couldn't resist it! A.B.)*

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### **ROD WISEMAN (1947 - 53)**

(It's always good to hear from Rod who writes from British Columbia, Canada. Thank you, Rod, for the postcards to add to my collection. I will include a couple of lines from his latest message which may interest some of his old pals keen to get in touch.)

This is to let you know I am online at [rwiz@telus.net](mailto:rwiz@telus.net). Alternatively I would welcome letters at 7720 Barrymore Drive, BRITISH COLUMBIA V4C 8G5 CANADA.

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### **KENNETH BARTLETT (1944 - 52)**

A welcome letter from the greatly respected WGS sportsman and former Head Boy, Kenneth. It seems our mutual friend, Terry Randall, has been encouraging his old pal to come down to our next Reunion. Kenneth writes ruefully that while 'the spirit remains willing, the flesh (more specifically, the eyesight) is no longer what it was in the days of yore!' Anyway, you must know, Kenneth, you will be very warmly welcomed by your many friends if you can make the journey to Wimborne once again. Bon voyage!

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Alas, Kenneth's reference to the infirmities occasioned by the passing of the years is increasingly a feature of many OW lives. The inevitable consequence is that for many of our esteemed members the journey to and from our reunions is more and more difficult. Nonetheless, we do hope to see you in good numbers this summer. Maybe booking an overnight stay at a local hotel would be a possible solution. It would ease the burden of travel and give you a chance to look around old haunts.

### 90+ (and still going strong!)

On the opposite page you can read an account by Ray Scott of his celebratory party organised by his lovely partner, Anne Sweeney, both of whom are regulars at our reunions. Ray's celebrations remind me that we do have others in our ranks who have passed the same landmark this year - namely John Taylor and Len Pearce. Looking through our records I am delighted to provide some additional names - members already en route to even greater ages (and possibly telegrams - what does our Majesty actually send these days?)

Trevor J. Brooke Dew	(1934 - 39)	Raymond Moore	(1933 - 38)
Robert Hall	(1934 - 41)	Charles Palmer	(1932 - 37)
Maurice Herridge	(1935 - 39)	Kenneth Palmer	(1934 - 41)
Ken Holloway	(1932- 38)	Harry Wells	(1935 - 40)
Richard Jeffery	(1936 -42)		

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Though our records are reasonably accurate sometimes subscriptions do lapse and we cannot always be absolutely sure of members' intentions - for example, it is possible 3 other OWs, a Mr Edwards of Lyme Regis (1933 - 40), William Godfrey of Wareham (1932 - 38) and Norman Kearn of Holt, Wimborne (1934 - 38) may also be alive and have just forgotten to renew subscriptions. Our membership secretary, John Guy, and Alan Maitland, our honourable treasurer, would be grateful if anyone has news of any of those individuals I have mentioned. Thank you in anticipation. A.B.



Could the 3 young rascals in the foreground possibly be Ray Scott, John Taylor and Len Pearce? The card dates from around 1900 - so it's possible - or are my maths astray? J. Kerswell declined to enter me for GCE Maths! A.B.

## CONGRATULATIONS

2015 has been quite an eventful year, at least for some of us. Three of us, John Taylor, Leonard Pearce and myself celebrated our 90th birthdays - of course there may also be other Winburnians.

We three celebrated in various ways. My first five minutes of fame, came on the Sunday morning in St John's Church, Palmers Green, when the vicar called me to the front of the church and announced I was celebrating my 110th birthday - he likes to joke.

On Sunday afternoon Match 1st - my partner Anne Sweeney had organised a party for me. 130 of us sat down to dine. Our guests included the Bishop of Edmonton, six other Clergy, two doctors and several nurses. We were obviously well covered should a spiritual or medical catastrophe occurred.

Highlight of the afternoon was a recording Alan Bennett had made telling stories of my youth (not altogether true) at the Grammar School. Other speeches and dancing followed and it was a truly memorable event. I had requested no presents (what would one do with 130 bottles of aftershave?) and the guests were invited to give a small donation to St John's where Anne and I met. Much

to our surprise this raised £1300 and will cover the cost of new service books.

At this age one's mind goes back to earlier days. I was born in Eastbrook, Wimborne on 20th February 1925. My cousin Molly Dean who lived a few shops away was born 24 hours earlier. My brothers Rodney and Roy also attended QEGS. Living in the same street were Alan Evans and Ray Lush and Maurice Herridge was only a few doors away. My father always visited Maurice's father's shop every Saturday night after he closed his Jewellers Shop to buy tobacco for the week.

I knew all the shops in East Street and King Street at that time including Mr Mansfield the butcher, Evans newsagent, Evans Cycle Shop and Dean Outfitters (my uncle), Cull and Lush grocers and many more including my grandfather's sweet shop on the corner of East Street and High Street, which I visited quite regularly on my way home from the King Street Infants School.

From there I went to the Boys School in the recreation ground. At eleven I passed the scholarship and joined the Grammar School.

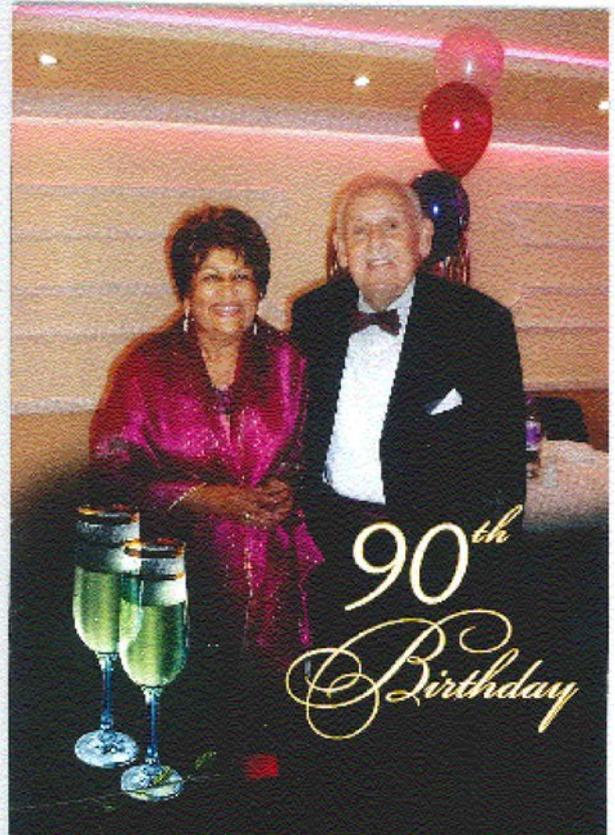
After leaving the above I joined the Bournemouth Daily Echo in the Advertisement and Commercial department. While there one day travelling home in the car and wearing my Grammar School scarf I offered a lift to a young lady who accepted. This eventually resulted in 53 years of happy marriage with Vera. Vera was a twin with her sister Eileen and their father was Stanley Barrow who had the baker's shop in West Street.

My career remained with local newspapers up and down the country. For four years I worked for Woodrow Wyatt the MP who was a leader in colour printing in newspapers. I was General Manager of the Swindon Echo and Marlborough Times. With Woodrow Wyatt life was anything but easy.

Until 1957 when I joined Accurist Watches and stayed with them until retirement in 1997.

My taste in music is very varied. It is difficult to choose eight records for Desert Island Discs.

On the classical side I enjoy the Pearl Fishers duet and Walford Davies 'Solemn Melody'. On the lighter side I enjoy Dean Martin's 'Little Old Wine Drinker' (although I am almost teetotal). Phil Harris 'Woodman spare that tree' Tammy Wynette 'Stand by your man' and Charles Trennet 'La Mer' Val Doonican 'Walk Tall' Frankie Valli 'Big girls don't cry'.



Ray Scott (1936 - 42)

## OBITUARIES

### **Anthony Keith (Tony) Cater (1936 - 39?)**

Tony died in mid January after spending a short while in hospital at Shoreham to where he had retired, to be near his sister.

Tony's family moved to Bournemouth in 1931 from New Malden, Surrey, where his father was a pharmacist in order to start a Chemist's shop. Initially Tony attended a prep-school where a Drama Teacher spotted that, even then, he had acting potential and entered him for the Bournemouth Drama Festival, where he won Bronze and Silver Medals in the under 14's and another Silver Medal in the 'Open' section against adults. Six months later two representatives of the J. Arthur Rank organisation called at Bournemouth Pharmacy and offered two years free schooling if Tony could be taken on and make films - an offer which his father brusquely rejected. However, Tony's talent subsequently found an outlet in Kenya.

In consequence, Tony was sent to Wimborne Grammar School as a boarder, where the Headmaster, J.C. Airey, is known to have shared his father's distaste for the acting profession.

Tony 'thought the world of Motty', who sometimes invited him to join his family for lunch and he had a great respect for Mr. A.R. Maiden.

Pre - WW2 the family moved to Africa but the Pharmaceutical business failed and Tony was sent to a boarding school in Nairobi, from which he ran away and secured work in a goldmine.

In 1940 Tony joined the transport section of the East African wing of the British Army where he ended up driving 80 ton trucks through Somalia towards Abyssinia. After the war he joined the Tanganykian Government rehabilitating ex-service men. He returned to Nairobi when he lost his first wife in childbirth, where his brother-in-law introduced him to the hospitality industry and hotel management. Tony remarried and managed hotels in Rhodesia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea and Australia. The marriage ended in divorce and he left behind 3 children with whom he is still in touch and returned to Rhodesia. Here he re-entered the hotel trade, married Jeanne who was 'the love of his life' but, when Robert Mugabe took over, they decided to return to the UK.

Here they worked as 'Butler and Cook/Housekeeper' at a number of 'up-market' properties. Jeanne's health gradually deteriorated and Tony was devastated when she died about 10 years ago. He constantly mourned her passing and never completely recovered from his loss.

Len Pearce (1936 - 41)

(Our condolences to the members of Tony's family. He enjoyed a life rich in variety and achievement. And I wonder if the offer from J.Arthur Rank might have led him to a career in films as distinguished as those of Lionel Jeffries and Richard Todd?)

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### **MERVYN COOMBS (1941 - 7)**

(My thanks to my old pal, Merv Frampton (1947 - 54) for supplying the following sad news.)

I write to inform you that sadly Mervyn Coombs passed away on Tuesday, 4th November, 2014. He and his wife Rosemary were regular attenders at Reunions and the last one they attended was in the Spring of 2013.

I was Mervyn's best man at his wedding in 1958 and I have obviously many happy memories of our friendship.

I hope to attend his funeral in due course and will convey condolences on behalf of the Association. Rosemary's address is 124 King George Avenue, Millbrook, Southampton SO15 4LA. (Thank you, Merv. Naturally we all send our condolences to Rosemary and, if anyone wishes to write to her, I am sure she will appreciate such letters)

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### STAN WHITE (1942 - 46)

(I received the following news from Alan Maitland.)

Stan has died recently (March, 2015). He was always at the Reunions and attended the last one in December. His wife Greta died a few years ago. We send our condolences to Stan's family.

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(I thought it might be appropriate to reproduce a review of the celebrated school production of 'Iolanthe' which featured in the Winburnian (No 122 July, 1956) for it includes the names of many of our current members. It will be a trip down Memory Lane, I am quite sure, for all those who participated in some capacity in the production. Sadly, a number of the individuals mentioned are no longer with us but, in reprinting the piece, we will recall their happy faces in that period of their school lives.)

### " IOLANTHE "

To choose an opera for this year's School Play was ambitious—to choose "Iolanthe," the most difficult musically of all Gilbert and Sullivan, might appear over-ambitious. The ingredients necessary for success would seem to be, abundant musical and dramatic talent, some trained dancers, a first-rate orchestra, opulent costumes and striking décor. Any member of the School would know which of these the School lacks. The success of the final performance was therefore a tribute to the triumph of the enthusiasm and hard work of all concerned with the production over so-called necessities.

Among so many performers it is impossible to comment on all. Two were outstanding:— Susan Bush as Phyllis gave a delightful performance; she has a charming true soprano voice and a naturally graceful stage presence. A. R. Tesson as the Lord Chancellor, although lacking a real singing voice, brought life to the play whenever he was on the stage and followed worthily in Sir Henry Lytton's footsteps. The Arcadian Shepherd, Strephon, half a mortal, half a fairy, is a difficult baritone part for a boy, and A. Cole began rather woodenly, marring his true singing voice at times with harshness, but he improved with each performance. His rivals, the Earl of Mountararat (D. M. Singleton) and Earl Tolloller (D. J. Lawman) provided good comic relief and earned their applause for their rendering of the famous trio with the Lord Chancellor. Private Willis, the bashful future spouse of the Fairy Queen, was manfully played and sung by M. P. P. Aiken. What the Chorus of Peers lacked in musical talent they made up for in zest and strength and provided a colourful scene.

As the Fairy Queen, Pat Parker produced an unexpectedly pure and powerful voice, but most of the girls are a little too young to sustain full length musical rôles.

The School was fortunate to have, for the two evening performances, the assistance of the Poole College Orchestra, and by Saturday night there was complete harmony between all the players both on stage and in the orchestra pit, as well as with the audience who seemed delighted to have Gilbert's witty words and Sullivan's tuneful melodies revived for them.

Much valuable help was given by many behind the scenes—its unobtrusiveness being part of its value.

The opera was indeed a success, and much of the credit for this must go to the Producer, Mr. Pursey, who, like another character, "in his turn played many parts", being accompanist, producer, musical arranger and finally conductor. The cast knows what it owes to him—it was his enthusiasm which made the performance possible and his motto, obviously filched from his favourite opera, "Nothing venture, nothing win."

M.J.

THOSE RESPONSIBLE:—

THE LORD CHANCELLOR	A. R. Tesson
EARL OF MOUNTARARAT	D. M. Singleton
EARL TOLLoller	D. J. Lawman
PRIVATE WILLIS (of the Grenadier Guards)	M. P. P. Aiken
STREPHON (an Arcadian Shepherd)	A. Cole
QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES	Jeanne Fletcher and Pat Parker
IOLANTHE	Janet Dowd and Pearl Sims
CELIA (Fairy)	Jean Brett
LEILA (Fairy)	Mrs. E. Jones
FLETA (Fairy)	Sally Harris
PHYLLIS (an Arcadian Shepherdess & Ward in Chancery)	Susan Bush
<i>Chorus of Fairies</i> —Jennifer Bartlett, Barbara Boys, Monica Brown, Sandra Cox, Jennifer Dryden, June Haskell, Dianne Hoare, Anita James, Rachel Kettle, Dorothy Meech, Christine Richmond, Susan Sims, Pat Sheppard, Marian Stephens, Pat Unsworth, Ann Wall, Elizabeth West, Elizabeth White, Jeannette Worbey.	
<i>Chorus of Peers</i> —M. P. P. Aiken, B. H. Antell, B. K. Brewer, J. E. Brewster, R. J. Christopher, S. F. Coley, W. Cottrell, A. T. Domoney, A. A. Elgar, H. A. Elson, C. I. Gosling, I. M. Howard, A. J. R. Jones, P. R. Kingswell, A. S. Maitland, G. Tesson.	
Stage Manager	E. Selby
Assistant Stage Manager	H. Prewer
Lighting	D. V. Ryley, J. E. Ryley, P. Rose
Prompt	B. J. Richmond
Call Boy	K. Taylor
Scenery	Designed and constructed by Miss R. Thorpe and Mr. J. J. Woolley, assisted by M. Drew, M. Thorby, B. D. Walker, G. Wood, A. J. Chubb, T. Short.
Costumes	by Brighton Theatrical Costumiers, 34, Upper North St., Brighton.
Fairy Costumes	made by the girls of the Chorus, assisted by Miss E. Goodfield, Miss H. A. Hallett, Mrs. J. Maiden, Mrs. M. Pursey, Mrs. H. Clarke.
Wardrobe Mistress	Miss E. Goodfield
Make-up	Miss M. Jarman and Mr. L. H. Mottram
Producer	Mr. D. E. Pursey

STOP PRESS

'The boy's dun grate!' (with apologies to A.R.M!)

And so he has. Eddie Howe, a Verwood boy who attended QE School at Pamphill, has just led AFC Bournemouth to the Premiership. Playing attacking, attractive football Eddie's team has covered itself in glory by becoming Champions of the Championship. With his great pal, Jason Tindall, Eddie has achieved the unimaginable. It is a magnificent tribute to his leadership, the players and the whole team around him at the club. Matching his footballing feats Eddie has emerged as an admirable role model for the young people of the district. Modest, articulate, and courteous (like another of my sporting heroes, the recently retired jump jockey A.P. (Tony) McCoy), Eddie is destined for great things in the future. Meanwhile, we look forward to next season. One OW, in particular, Tony Bletsoe (a season-ticket holder, no less) is reported to have been seen doing cartwheels in the Ferndown district. Take care, Tony, you won't want to miss the opening game!

