



## OLD WINBURNIANS NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2019

Dear Fellow Old Winburnians,

***Here we are again, happy as can be, All good friends and jolly good company !***

Alas, Summer, 2019, is now but a memory – a happy memory, I hope – and Christmas, 2019, another Reunion and another year are not far removed. Can it really be, you ask ? Yes, I know exactly what you are thinking. Surely it isn't possible that time has flown by so fast. We look in the mirror, a few more lines and wrinkles. 'Do I really look so old?' Yes, I am afraid so. The passage of time is relentless and ruthless. Yet we are still vertical, thank heavens; more or less anyway. So, let's look on the bright side and count our blessings. After all, we are the most privileged individuals ever to walk in England's 'green and pleasant land'. Above all, we have the NHS, a surfeit to eat and drink, we are warm in Winter, our country is not at war, we have our families and friends – and the OWA exists to remind us of the 'happiest days of our lives' !

I am writing at the beginning of October, you will be receiving this Newsletter towards the end of October. We are still somewhat distant from October 31<sup>st</sup>. Boris Johnson is our Prime Minister, the fate of Brexit remains uncertain, only Manchester City and Liverpool can possibly win the Premiership, Jofra Archer is England's Barbadian born new fast bowling hero and John Dacombe is still at large somewhere in the Dorset countryside !

Let me, on your behalf, thank my colleagues in the OWA for all their dedicated work through the year. I hesitate to name particular individuals because each one plays a significant role at different times during the year. However, I must mention my friend, Dr. John Guy, for his invaluable role in assisting me in the production of the Newsletter, and as Membership Secretary. His technical skills are considerable. Very simply, without his support, there would be no Newsletter. Alan Maitland too plays a critical role in his capacity as Treasurer, guarding our funds, as does David Finnemore in his complex Webmaster role seated at his computer dealing with all manner of OWA communication matters domestic and worldwide.

So to Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, at Cobham's and our next Grand Reunion. Do come along if you can tear yourself away from wrapping your Christmas presents and writing out your Christmas cards. You are assured of the warmest of welcomes. If it proves impossible to attend, do raise a glass at 2pm and join us in drinking a toast to 'Absent Friends'. We will be thinking of you, rest assured, wherever you may be.

Happy Christmas and a healthy and fulfilling 2020.

*All the very best, Alan R Bennett*

*On behalf of the Committee*

### **FORTHCOMING REUNIONS**

Christmas Reunion Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
Summer Reunion Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## ATTENDEES AT SUMMER REUNION LUNCH ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019

Mr Alan Bennett		-	Mrs Christine Price	Nee Richmond	55 - 60
Mr Kenneth Bernthal		56 - 63	Mr Terry Randall		45 - 52
Mr Les Bishop		54 - 61	Mrs Betty Read	Nee White	53 - 58
Mr Nick Bishop		60 - 63	Mrs Ann Richmond	Nee Mitchell	55 - 60
Mr Jim Brewster		54 - 57	Mr David Roberts		49 - 55
Mr Peter Clarke		55 - 57	Mr Ian Rogers		45 - 53
Mrs Sue Coombes	Nee Froud	56 - 63	Mrs Barbara Russell	Nee Morris	55 - 60
Mr John Coombes	Guest of Mrs Coombes		Mr Peter Russell		61 - 68
Mr Robert Copelin		46 - 51	Mr Ray Scott		36 - 42
Mr Desmond Cox		47 - 51	Anne Sweeney	Guest of Mr Scott	
Mrs Faith Elford	Nee Hawes	56 - 61	Millie Roper	Guest of Mr Scott	
Mr Roy Feltham		57 - 62	Mr John Singleton		54 - 61
Mr Graham George		65 - 71	Miss Elaine Smith		59 - 65
Mrs Janet Gordon	Nee Daniels	59 - 63	Mr Peter Griffiths	Guest of Miss Smith	
Mr Tony Gould		51 - 57	Mr Derek Stevens		42 - 49
Dr John Guy		63 - 71	Mr Richard Strong		55 - 62
Mr Francis Hackforth		49 - 56	Mrs Jill Strong	Nee Cowdry	56 - 63
Mr Alan Hall		51 - 57	Mrs Cynthia Tanner	Nee Streets	55 - 62
Mr Keith Harvey		51 - 56	Mr Ken Taylor		51 - 56
Mr Bill Haskell		52 - 56	Mr John Taylor		36 - 41
Mr Geoff Hill		58 - 59	Mr Peter Watts		56 - 63
Mrs Carolyn Kamcke	Nee Walkling	56 - 63	Mr Geoffrey Welch		56 - 63
Mr John Boughton	Guest of Mrs Kamcke		Mrs Gillian Bassill	Guest of Mr Welch	
Mr Eric Leeson		43 - 47	Roger Whittaker		58 - 63
Mr Alan Maitland		54 - 59	Maggie Sadler	Guest of Mr Whittaker	
Mrs June Maitland	Guest of Mr Maitland		Mrs Beryl Wythers	Nee Moreton	56 - 63
Mrs Maria Martin	Nee Limm	55 - 60			
Mr Victor Moss		56 - 63			
Mrs Jennifer Moss	Nee Day	61 - 63			
Mrs Diana Moss	Nee Anderson	55 - 61			
Mr James Moss	Guest of Mrs Moss				
Mr Ken Nicklen		44 - 50			
Mrs Fay Nicklen	Guest of Mr Nicklen				
Mr David Park		48 - 55			
Mr Len Pearce		36 - 41			
Mrs Diana Pearce	Guest of Mr Pearce				

## **APOLOGIES FOR SUMMER REUNION LUNCH ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019**

Morgan Antell	Tony Elgar	Alistair Pilley
Jennifer Baker	David Finnemore	Graham Powell
Paul Burry	Janet Finnemore	David Reeks
Eunice Carnall	Doug Frewer	Kelvin Ricketts
Roderic Cheese	Brian Glover	Rainbow Russell
Harry Clarke	Robert (Jack) Hall	Marion Ryder
Michael Coffin	John Harper	David Singleton
Simon Coley	Sue Hatherley	John Taylor
Audrey Cooper	Rob Hussey	Pat Trayler
Guy Corbett-Marshall	Elizabeth Judd	Norman Waterman
Sandra Cox	Mike Kerley	Bill White
Janet Coy	Ron Mansfield	Prof. Bob White
Freda Croasdell	Carolyn Martin	Helen White
Roy Dacombe	David Mason	Ron White
Janet Doolaeye	David Norman	Marion Wimsett
Peter Douch	Christopher Peters	Eddie Wood

### **FULL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Alan Bennett	11 Hawk Close, Pilford Heath, WIMBORNE	BH21 2NW
Tony Gould	1 Manor Cottage, Tolpuddle, DORCHESTER	DT2 7ES
John Guy	"Gateways", Gaunts Common, WIMBORNE	BH21 4JN
Alan Hall	18 Burnbake Road, VERWOOD	BH31 6ET
Bill Haskell	10 Counter Close, BLANDFORD FORUM	DT11 7XJ
Carolyn Kamcke	4 Pine Close, Ameysford Road, FERNDOWN	BH22 9QX
Alan Maitland	Coles Farm, Milborne St. Andrew, BLANDFORD FORUM	DT11 0JL
Ron Mansfield	52 Castle Street, Cranborne, WIMBORNE	BH21 5QA
Betty Read	10 Counter Close, BLANDFORD FORUM	DT11 7XJ
Ann Richmond	70 Erica Drive, Corfe Mullen, WIMBORNE	BH21 3TG
Ken Taylor	31 Canford View Drive, WIMBORNE	BH21 2UW

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

David Finnemore	4 Purbeck Gardens, POOLE	BH14 0QS
Graham Powell	42 St. Peters Court, St. Peters Road, BOURNEMOUTH	BH1 2JU
Derek Stevens	2 Remedy Oak, Woodlands, WIMBORNE	BH21 8NG

## **OLD WINBURNIANS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (16<sup>th</sup> SEPT. 2019)**

### **REPORT OF TREASURER**

#### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM 01/06/18 TO 31/05/19**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Reunions	£3,012.00	£3,048.00	Reunions	£2,836.00	£2,828.00
Subscriptions	£1,030.00	£1,015.00	Newsletter Costs	£1,018.13	£722.31
Raffle Receipts	£424.20	£460.00	Raffle Prizes	£79.95	£81.97
Donations	£60.00	£60.00	Committee Meeting Costs	£5.00	£10.00
School History Sales	£15.00	£15.00	Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath	£30.00	£30.00
			Website Costs	£71.86	£133.57
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£4,541.20</b>	<b>£4,598.00</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£4,040.94</b>	<b>£3,805.85</b>
			<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>£500.26</b>	<b>£131.62</b>

#### **BALANCE SHEET AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2019**

<b>ASSETS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2018</b>		<b>ASSETS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2019</b>	
NatWest Current A/C	£2,836.90	NatWest Current A/C	£3,287.85
LESS unrepresented Cheques	£248.00	LESS unrepresented Cheques	£198.00
SUB-TOTAL	£2,588.90	SUB-TOTAL	£3,089.16
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure	£500.26		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3089.16</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3089.16</b>

***Alan Maitland***  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### **REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (as in membership database on 16/09/2019)**

Total Number of Members	: 292 (last year 298)
UK based	: 239 (last year 243)
Overseas based	: 53 (last year 55)
Members who are former staff	: 14 (last year 14)
Expired subscriptions (since 2018 AGM)	: 2 (last year 5)
New members (since 2018 AGM)	: 5 (last year 6)
Deceased members (as reported since 2018 AGM)	: 9 (last year 8)

Over the 12 months since the 2018 AGM, the following occurred :

- Deceased members : 6 in UK, 3 Overseas
- New members : 4 in UK, 1 Overseas

***John Guy***  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE OWA COMMITTEE TO OUR MEMBERSHIP**

At the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) our former chairman, Tony Gould, said he would particularly welcome contributions to the Newsletter from our members broadly along the lines of : 'Tell us something of your lives since you passed out of the gate at WGS into King Street for the last time'. It was a suggestion unanimously supported by the other committee members. So where do we go from here ?

As your Editor may I suggest initially that we make a special appeal to our overseas members for their stories. Historically, of course, the British have travelled far and wide across the World. Being an island race with a long maritime tradition, the British have probably journeyed – and settled – in a greater variety of locations than any other national group, the most obvious consequence being the happy dominance of English as a world language.

So, Fellow Old Winburnians, ladies and gentlemen, how about putting pen to paper and telling us your stories ? Not too many words, please, since space is inevitably limited, but enough detail to do justice to your lives.

I must confess I have always been fascinated by the often remarkable stories that lie behind individuals finishing their lives in locations sometimes very far removed from their places of birth, their families and friends. When we are young our thoughts are, almost inevitably, entirely self-centred. We are off to see the World, fulfil ambitions, experience life. Few of us look over our shoulders, certainly not in the early stages of our adult freedom. Of course we acknowledge the role our parents have played in our lives, but now it's our turn to live. Before the advent of modern forms of communication, that particular moment when a child left home could prove to be the last time the generations would see one another. Seldom such a dramatic and painful finale to child/parent relationships today, I am relieved to say.

So, dear friends, when you scribble a few words to your Editor, do explain how and why you are where you are and what you have been doing. Was it wanderlust, a particular job opportunity, the climate (after all, the English Winter can be a very protracted affair), pure chance, even love that prompted your departure from these shores ? (I am assuming you were not on the run from the police ! No, surely not, for you are a law-abiding Old Winburnian !).

Finally, to return once more to the subject of family, it was probably only when you had children of your own with anxious grand-parents desperate to see them, or when your own parents' health was failing that the full consequences of being so far removed from 'home', all the implications of separation became fully apparent.

Have I strayed too far from my original suggested theme – what have you been doing with your life (lives) ? In the words of the wonderful composer, Michel Legrand, let's read all about 'The east, west, north and south of your various lives ?'

Dear Friends, I await your responses with great interest. Many of your old pals and acquaintances within the ranks of the OWA will be delighted to learn of your adventures (not least, Tony Gould !). By the way, do you miss Blighty ? **A.R.B**

P.S. Next time around we will focus particularly on members still resident in the UK.

## FLIGHT RE-FUELLING OF WIMBORNE

Wimborne has featured in the national news and on television lately because Cobham plc, the UK aerospace and defence supplier, is threatened by a takeover from a US private equity firm. Cobham is still based in Wimborne and so comforting pictures of The Square and the surrounding area have accordingly brightened up the news media.

Flight Re-fuelling, as it was then called, moved to Tarrant Ruston from Sussex in 1947. It has since expanded due to takeovers and by hard work to be a giant firm in the aviation industry. When I was a pupil at WGS in the 1950s we were conscious of a local manufacturing success, if only because it was a large employer and quite a lot of our friends' parents worked there. It is now listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a constituent of the FTSE250 index. There will be more to this story because the £4billion takeover has been referred to Government, although with only 8% of Cobham's business in the UK, the deal is likely to go ahead. The Cobham family, who own only 1.5% of the equity, are said to be hostile to the development. (I am writing this at the end of September).

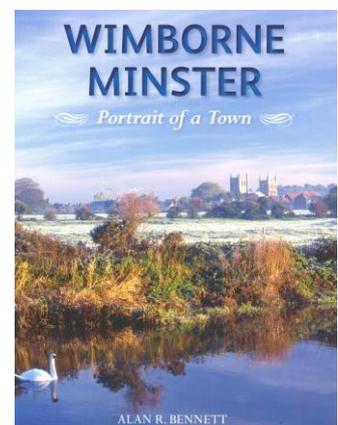
A tangible reminder of our connection with the firm is that we hold our Summer and Christmas reunion lunches at Cobham's former sports club pavilion in Merley, which was created in 1971 on the outskirts of Wimborne. It is now a private company called Merley Cobham Sports Club, although it chooses to continue to call itself by the old name.

**TONY GOULD (51-57)**

*A handsome Christmas present for OWA Members*

### **WIMBORNE MINSTER – PORTRAIT OF A TOWN (2018)**

I am able to offer a signed/inscribed copy to UK members for £20 which includes postage & packing. Alas, I am unable to send copies overseas where the cost of postage alone rises to more than £17. I am donating £5 per copy to be divided between the Victoria Hospital, Wimborne and the Wimborne Dementia Friendly Community. Please indicate any inscription you would like when ordering. My address is on page 3. The book includes more than 100 colour photographs, including one of a recent OWA Reunion by Geoff Hill, a chapter on the OWA and more than 100,000 words on a variety of topics. The dust jacket photo shown here is by Roger Holman, a long-time member of the OWA. You won't be disappointed !



A.R.B

**THE WINBURNIAN**  
**THE MAGAZINE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
**WIMBORNE**

No. 117

December, 1953

**EDITORIAL**

The attitude of a staid male institution to the arrival of thirty young ladies must necessarily be one on suspicion. There was a time in our annals when it was unheard of for any female element to enter into the school life, and many an elderly, and not a few young, eyebrows were raised if a girl was seen on the premises.

Yet, as this term has progressed, we have seen this suspicious attitude develop into one of tolerance, then to acceptance, and we hope that in the future it will be one of appreciation. This lessening of censure appears to be the result of the new First Form boys, who had been used to co-education, having accepted their female form-mates without question, an attitude which has spread throughout the other forms.

The School has been infused with new blood and, though some may doubt the necessity or advisability of such a transfusion, there is no doubt that its advent will introduce a new and previously unknown type of rivalry. Such rivalry is not unknown in the world at large of which the good school should be a microcosm. Male reactionaries should take comfort from the fact that so far neither side has been able to record a decisive victory. P.W.

**TO THE GIRLS – A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER**

I should like, through the columns of *The Winburnian*, to offer a hearty welcome to the first girls to enter the School in its history of nearly 500 years.

You will remember, I hope, at all times, that a school is more than a random collection of children assembled at a given moment to receive instruction. It is a corporate body of people, young and old, consisting of Governors, Staff, Pupils and Old Pupils, bound together by very close ties over the years. That being so, it has its own traditions, handed down through successive generations.

We in Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School are the heirs of a high tradition, and you will find it to be of great benefit to you in providing a background favourable to high endeavour and worthwhile results. It will be your duty to uphold it and to pass it on undiminished in intensity to future generations. It is very difficult to define a tradition, but among the influences handed down in this place you will certainly find these two: first, an atmosphere of study, whereby knowledge is pursued for its own sake, and is known to be its own reward; and secondly, a strong sense of discipline and of service, whereby boys have always been found willing to put school before self, and to give of their best endeavours to serve the School. You girls are called upon to maintain the same high standard of work and discipline, and you can best prepare yourself now for the honourable burdens that await you in the later years of your school life by putting your own wishes in the background whenever you are called upon to serve your House, or your Form, or your Group of any kind, in performing various activities. I am thinking not only of your lessons, in which you have to learn to take a pride, but also of the activities that take place after four o'clock, all of them pleasant in themselves – the choir, a play rehearsal, a House practice for a game, a School match – but most of them making some demand upon your convenience. Well, whatever the activity is, if you are called upon, give all you know to it, at whatever cost to yourself, and the reward you will reap in added enjoyment of your school life is beyond belief. Remember, the School exists to serve you, and will serve you without stint;

but it can only do so effectively if each one of you remembers that she is part of the School, and serves the School to her utmost with all her powers.

Welcome then to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School and be very happy with us. May you not only uphold the traditions of the past, but make your own characteristic contributions of something of value to the School that we could not enjoy without you.

Believe me, your sincere friend, Headmaster, DONALD NEIL.

## **SCHOOL NOTES**

As a result of the arrival of girls at the School there have been four new mistresses. Miss M. Jarman, B.A. (LONDON), teaches English and History, Miss E. Goodfield, B.SC. (BRISTOL), Mathematics. Both are full-time teachers who do their best to help the clumsy (not to say crusty) males to handle young girls. In addition Miss Hodges and Miss Bartlett teach two mornings a week, Gym, and Domestic Science respectively.

## **SCHOOL VISIT TO PARIS**

During the summer holidays an enjoyable week was spent in Paris by twenty-four boys ranging from the First to the Fifth Forms. The party left Newhaven on 6<sup>th</sup> August and after a quiet crossing arrived in Paris the same evening and took up residence at the Lycée Janson de Sailly in the Rue de la Pompe, a short distance from the Tour Eiffel.

While on the boat we had observed, with some misgivings, a party of very sedate young ladies and, upon arriving at the Lycée, we discovered to our horror that they too were to be quartered there. However, since our visits round Paris were made together, we soon adapted ourselves to the situation and some of our members even deigned to consort with them without open hostility. It was at least a foretaste of co-education. Among the places visited were the Bois-de-Boulogne, Notre Dame, Le Château de Versailles, the Zoo at Vincennes, and, of course, an ascent to the top of the Eiffel Tower. A river trip along the Seine was also an enjoyable feature of the visit. Movement around Paris was somewhat restricted by the strike but we were not seriously inconvenienced until the last day, when it looked as though we should have to get to Dieppe by a circuitous route. But, at the last moment, an official train was run out of Paris and we managed to get on it, travelling through the night across the Channel and arriving, very weary, at Newhaven in the early hours of the following morning.

Everyone enjoyed the visit very much and gained a good deal of valuable experience of French life and customs. It is hoped to make a visit abroad an annual event and every boy should try to make at least one during his school career.

## **MORE EXTRACTS, FROM 'THE WINBURNIAN' OF 1954**

### **GIRLS AT THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL !**

On the day we arrived at this ancient Grammar School we felt very forlorn amongst the huge crowd of boys, talking and laughing. Very soon, though, we were led away to the classrooms by a Mistress, who showed us our rooms which were in the New Buildings, to which was being added an upper storey. Some of us were used to mixed classes, but to others it was quite new. We were divided into two Forms according to our initials.

We very soon settled down to the School life, and now we are quite used to the usual routine. The boys have become more or less accustomed to their school being changed into a co-educational one. On the Opening Day of the new extensions we really felt that we were part of the School when being addressed by Miss Sutherland and Mr. Wordsworth, who both said that the Good Lady Meg would have approved of the idea of girls entering the boys' school.

Pearl Sims (1E).

## THE COMBINED CADET FORCE

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) provided a Guard of Honour for Miss Sutherland, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, as she opened the “New Extensions”. The Guard of Honour consisted of thirty Cadets, all with rifles. It was a very smart parade and all who participated are to be congratulated.



[*Photograph by Mr. Pursey*]

MISS SUTHERLAND INSPECTING THE GUARD OF HONOUR

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## MEMORIES OF DEAN PARK, BOURNEMOUTH by PETER DOUCH (58-63)

### INTRODUCTION

Chancing to bump into my old friend Peter in Wimborne recently, we found our conversation turning to boyhood cricketing memories of Hampshire C.C. and Dean Park (Bournemouth). For both of us it was a precious, treasured period in our youthful lives shared with a number of other WGS pupils making their acquaintance with the cricketing heroes of that halcyon post-war era – Hutton, Compton, the Bedser twins, Laker and Lock, and Trueman and Statham, and so many others. Nor was it only boys from the school who regularly attended games. I often saw one of my favourite masters, W.H. ‘Inky’ Stephens, my French teacher who was so wonderfully supportive and helpful to me when I contrived to pass my A-level French in just a year with his guidance. It was in the lunch or tea intervals that many spectators, young and old, took advantage of the opportunity to inspect the square or even enjoy a quick game with bat and ball. Yes, they were among the golden days of our youth.

Following our conversation Peter was inspired to put a few recollections down on paper. I am sure many readers will find the following piece evoking happy memories of their own.

**A.R.B**

P.S. Incidentally, Peter, I WAS present at Dean Park in September, 1961, at that extraordinary game when Hampshire clinched their first County Championship. The occasion has especially poignant memories for me for I went along to the ground with my Father – the last cricket match he ever attended. Early the following June he died just days before my degree from the LSE was confirmed.

### **PETER'S REMINISCENCES**

What do these places have in sporting common : Newport (Mon.), Newport (IOW), Welbeck Colliery, Radlett, York and Sedbergh School. Yes, in 2019 they all hosted four-day first class cricket for the first time due to the Cricket World Cup using the main county grounds.

One name you will not see in any first class cricketing guise, probably never again, and well-known to all of us, is Dean Park, Bournemouth and this set your editor and I reminiscing.

I was lucky enough to play, score, umpire in local cricket and watch Hampshire there. Play for the school against Portchester Road. As one of only three fifth formers in the first team, I was somewhat surprised (or should I have been) that three of the sixth formers who had travelled separately were smelling of alcohol when we arrived for a Thursday afternoon game – no names, no pack drill.

Yes, Hampshire had other grounds of which only Mays Bounty at Basingstoke is likely to supplement the characterless Rose Bowl just off the M27. The county ground at Northlands Road, Southampton was one of the smallest county grounds on the circuit and most years a batsman's paradise. I once saw Roy Marshall, one of Hampshire's great West Indians score 161 against Surrey, all the runs in fours and singles. The United Services ground at Portsmouth, also soul-less, had one of the fastest wickets in the country thanks to the heaviest roller. To see 'Butch' White charge in from the boundary for Hampshire was a thrilling sight for the spectator, if not for the batsmen. Mays Bounty is a typical club ground, ever changing qualities. There I saw Malcolm Nash of Glamorgan (he of 6 sixes in an over fame, hit to all parts of Swansea by Gary Sobers) take 9 Hampshire wickets in an innings with his medium pacers. Five LBW (or LBW Constant, the umpire Hampshire supporters incorrectly claimed), but Dean Park with its pine trees and large houses looking over large hedges was the perfect place for a keen cricketing mad youngster.

Taken by my Father to see Len Hutton bat on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1953 as an impressionable 6 year old, Hutton was 3 not out at the beginning of the second day, but pressure of work for my Dad meant that we did not get there until Hutton had already been dismissed for 27. But a side containing Vic Wilson, later to be Captain, who scored 113, Willie Watson, Norman Yardley, Ray Illingworth and Johnny Wardle could not be sneezed at. In fact, Yorkshire won by an innings and 45 runs.

Hampshire usually played five three-day matches at Dean Park, two at the end of July/beginning of August and two at the end of August; the other in June. So not only did Bournemouth take advantage of the school holidays, they also took advantage of the Northern Industrial Wakes week. So it was not unusual to get attendances in the 1950s of five thousand and one of the opponents was usually Yorkshire and often

Surrey, seven successive county championships in the 1950s. Hotels and guest houses, before the days of regular overseas travel, were full to the brim.

So the bug was within me never to leave. Through my primary school days, armed with my Mum's famous banana sandwiches, a third cousin from London made sure he stayed with us in one of the cricket weeks. By the time I was 14 I was old enough to hop on the fast 24 bus from the Poole Road stop (opposite the Greyhound) which dropped cricket lovers very close to the ground.

It was on one of those trips that I was lucky enough to attend all three days, at the age of 14, Hampshire's most famous matches vs. Derbyshire, when they won the county championship for the first time ever. It took place on 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 1961. For a long time it was felt that Hampshire were not going to win and it would come down to the last match (also at Bournemouth) against you know who, Yorkshire, who were second. So it would have been a title decider and the ground would have been filled to bursting point. But Bournemouth, a spinner's wicket, gave Hampshire an ace up their sleeve in an attempt to bowl Derbyshire out a second time in a short time. Derek Shackleton, the unassuming Lancastrian, or was it Yorkshireman from Todmorden, took 6 for 39 and with the two spinners, Alan Wassell and Peter Sainsbury sharing the other four wickets. They bowled Derbyshire out for a barely unbelievable 111 in 54 overs, in what had been a high scoring game. Derbyshire at one time had been 52 for 8, so nerves were shredded !

Anyone who tells you they were there on this famous occasion, take with a pinch of salt. I must have heard of 1000 who were there, but because it looked as though it was going to be a draw, only 200 were there at the start of play and many of the 800 at the end came along because they had heard the good news. Hampshire won it partly because they were captained by that wonderful old Etonian, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, who would always take risks and when asked about preparations for the team the night before, said as long as his players were in bed by 11, he didn't mind; 11.00am of the morning that is (tongue, I imagine, firmly in cheek).

Too many interesting days at Dean Park after that, but one that sticks in the memory is, home on holiday from the Caribbean on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1975, I was at Hampshire vs. Nottinghamshire in freezing temperatures (snow stopped play for a day at Buxton that year). My Mum made a special trip with hot soup. The next day, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the temperature was 80 degrees Fahrenheit and the rest of that summer is history.

Then sadness. It is rumoured that the trustees of the Cooper Dean Estate fell out with Hampshire Cricket Club, or vice versa. Hampshire had to maintain the ground as their own and with no lasting rights, and owning and maintaining Northlands Road was a burden too many as county cricket when into the doldrums. Bournemouth University leased Dean Park from the trustees and opened it up to club cricket and Dorset County Cricket Club; appropriate as Bournemouth was in Dorset by 1992 when Hampshire played their last match there.

The ground is now owned by Park School, but hopefully there is still the covenant that prevents building development. Probably a sad end to a wonderful story, but great memories will never disappear.

**PETER DOUCH (58-63)**

## THE 'DACOMBE' MYSTERY

The Editor, Dear Sir,

Over the years I have noticed frequent references in your publication to a certain 'John Dacombe', culminating in the recent edition of a picture of him fishing. However, I am a little confused. Are you referring to John (rhyming with Tack) Dacombe, or John (rhyming with Hay) Dacombe ? Because my research has shown that, as well as the different pronunciation of their names, these are two entirely different animals.

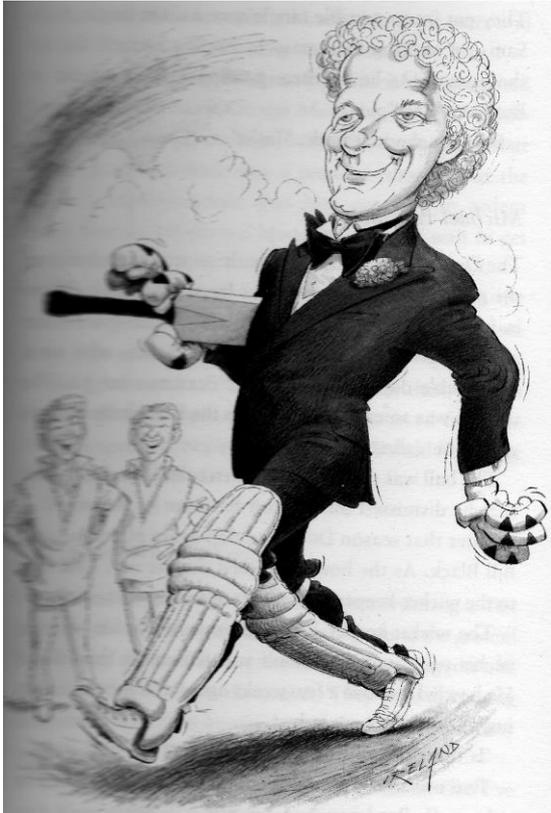
The first is descended from a mediaeval ruffian known as 'Thwackham Dacombe' due to his predilection to beat – or thwack – anyone who incurred his wrath. This aspect of his character has continued down the generations during which time his descendants have been known variously as Crackum Dacombe, Whackum Dacombe, Hackum Dacombe and Smackum Dacombe. So you see, a not very pleasant fellow at all. Sadly the most recent in this line of (rhyming with Tack) Dacombes has inherited this unfortunate gene. His middle name is Bashum, but few people call him that for fear of getting what is known in the vernacular as "a bunch of fives".

However, John (rhyming with Hay) Dacombe, is a very different kettle of Old Winburnian fish. His character is nothing like that of John (rhyming with Tack) Dacombe. This John's Father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all bakers. The current John, who is known far and wide (as far and wide as Alderholt, Damerham and the outskirts of Cranborne) as a real gentleman, continued this line of hard-working bakers when he left school, and added pie-making to his flourishing bakery business. This was so successful that he opened a shop in Wimborne to sell the pies as well as bread, and the crossroads where it was situated became known as Pye Corner. This was not far from the grammar school, whose pupils were his biggest customers, especially for the delicious rolls he baked fresh every day. But one day he left a batch of rolls too long in the oven and they dried into hard, crunchy spheres. Though he didn't realise it, he had invented the Dorset Knob, and the grammar school boys loved them. They kept asking for more, and the rolls became known as Moore's Dorset Knobs and were sold all over the country.

But some people were jealous of his success and they spread the word that he had a few peccadilloes, albeit just small ones. Now anyone accused of having small peccadilloes can be made to feel very inferior, but John was unmoved. He continued producing knobs and pies from his little shop at Pye Corner, and took no notice when he was lampooned in the OWA newsletter. In fact, he claimed that it was not him, but that other John (rhyming with Tack) Dacombe who was so often featured in its pages.

So, Mr. Editor, can you clear up this mystery – are you referring to the nasty John (rhyming with Tack) Dacombe, or the nice John (rhyming with Hay) Dacombe. Please let your readers know in the next edition.

Yours faithfully, **BRIAN DAVIS (45-51)**



Johnny (the very suave) Dacombe (55-62) captured in his cricketing Glory Days. Alas, sadly out for a duck. Bowling figures, 9-0-151-0

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## MOTHER OF A DYNASTY



This painting of Lady Margaret Beaufort, whose son Henry VII became the first of the Tudor monarchs, has been confirmed as the oldest large-scale portrait of an English woman. It was painted by the 16<sup>th</sup>-century artist Meynard Wewyck.

Many thanks to **DAVID ROYCE (58-65)** for sending this to us

## THE REBUILDING OF 'BIG SCHOOL'

[From *The Illustrated London News*, dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 1849]

The Free Grammar School on the foundation of Queen Elizabeth, at Wimborne, Dorset, after fourteen years' litigation, is now in course of rebuilding, in the handsome style in the accompanying illustration.



The corner-stone of the new school-house, with residence for the masters, &c., was laid by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of the diocese, on Saturday, the 27<sup>th</sup> ult.

The Right Rev. Prelate arrived from Dorchester on Friday afternoon, being received at the railway station by Edward Castleman, Esq. (the Registrar of the Corporation), by whom his Lordship was conducted to Allendale House, the residence of that gentleman, where a select party – comprising the official of the Peculiar, clergymen of the Minster, and several of the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood – had been invited to meet his Lordship at dinner.

On Saturday morning, at ten o'clock, the Governors, the clergymen of the Minster, a number of clergymen from the neighbourhood, with the masters and pupils of the school, assembled at the present School-house and proceeded to Allendale-house, where the Governors and Masters were introduced to the Bishop, and formed in procession to attend divine service at the Minster.

After the service, the party walked in the same order of procession to the site of the intended School-house, where excellent arrangements had been made for the accommodation of all engaged in the ceremony and for the public, with a large number of raised seats for ladies, which were occupied by the rank and beauty of the town and neighbourhood. Amongst the gay assemblage we noticed some members of Lord Chichester's family, the Misses Sturt, Sir John and Lady Charlotte Guest and family.

The proceedings commenced by Mr. Castleman, as Registrar, reading an address to the Bishop, in which he traced the origin of the Institution to Margaret Countess of

Richmond and Derby, who left property for the maintenance of a Chantry, and support of a chaplain, who should reside within the College of Wimborne, already in existence, and instruct all comers in grammar. On the dissolution of the College and Chantry, in the first year of Edward VI, their revenues came into the possession of the Crown, and the King was pleased to retain a portion of the College for the service of the Minster and the Grammar School. This continued until the reign of Elizabeth, who, by letters-patent, founded the School, and ordained that its affairs should be administered by twelve governors, of the town and parish of Wimborne, with the advice of the Bishop of Bristol for the time being; its privileges being confirmed by James I and Charles I. The affairs of the Charity being, however, mismanaged, it was certified by the Charities Commission to the Attorney-General; a suit in Chancery was commenced, and, after much delay, a scheme was issued for the better regulation of the Charity. In the new arrangements, Dr. W. Fletcher, the late Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, was selected as Head Master; and the Rev. Charles Scott, of St. John's College, Cambridge, appointed to the second Mastership.

The Bishop replied to the address, his Lordship dwelling upon the paramount importance of laying aright that foundation of religious truth on which alone the superstructure of a liberal education can be successfully raised. "Not in vain, surely (said his Lordship), will this your school be placed in intimate connexion with that temple of the living God, under the very shadow of which it will stand. Herein will be indicated, herein will ever be kept before the view of those who will in this place train and mould the pliant minds of the young, that the commencement of every good impression must proceed from the Grace of God, and that all our aims and all our efforts should tend to the glory of God as their end".

An extempore prayer was then offered up by the Bishop; immediately after which the choristers of the Minster chanted with great effect a psalm.

The Bishop next, assisted by the architects, proceeded, with the usual ceremony, to lay the corner-stone; having been previously presented by Mr. Linthorne, as chairman of the governors, with an elegant silver trowel.

The blessing was then pronounced by the Bishop in a manner truly solemn and affecting.

The procession was again marshalled by Mr. Chislett, the deputy-registrar; and all concerned walked to Allendale House, where the Bishop and a party of clergy and gentry partook of an elegant *déjeuner*.

The choristers dined at the King's Head Hotel, at the expense of the Governors. Nor were the workmen forgotten on this occasion – they were plentifully supplied with old English fare by the respected Head Master of the School, who also gave a sheep, which was roasted whole for the labourers.

The Schools and Masters' Houses are in the Tudor style of architecture, from the designs of Messrs. Morris and Hebson, of London. The plan contains two large Schools, small Library, Muniment-Room, &c.; also, houses for the Head and Under Masters.

The materials used in the erection will be bright red brick, diapered with blue; Caen and Purbeck stone dressings; and covered with tiles and slate.

The works, which are proceeding with despatch, are expected to be completed before Christmas, 1850.

Many thanks to **RICHARD ANSTEY (62-67)** for alerting us to this article

## **MY RECENT TRAVELS AROUND 'BIG SCHOOL' by Dr. JOHN GUY (63-71)**

On a recent visit to Big School I came across the following.

### ***SOME 'ANCIENT CARVINGS'***

Back in the Spring I was contacted by one of the owners who lives in one of the residential properties contained within our old Big School building in King Street. Earlier this year part of the building had to have a new roof, so there was extensive scaffolding surrounding part of the building. This presented an ideal opportunity for a window cleaner to reach the outside of the very top windows to give them a thorough clean. Whilst doing so he discovered some 'ancient carvings' made in the concrete lintel above one of the windows and took the picture shown below.



The carvings show the name '**R A Pearce**' and the dates '**1920 -23 -24**', and next to it '**A M Ruff 1924**'.

If anyone has any information, recollections, or memories connected with the inscriptions, and/or the people whose names are shown, please let us know.

### ***A SUNDIAL***

Today, when one walks through the archway into what used to be the back of the main assembly hall, one is confronted with an expanse of green grass in the middle of which is a sundial (picture shown below).

The inscription on the sundial reads



**'Presented by The Old Winburnians Association 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1936'**

During my days at the school, this sundial stood on a small lawn situated between the two-storey, red-brick and so called 'New Buildings' situated on the northern side of the main playground and the playground itself.



I presume it was put in place to coincide with the opening of the New Buildings by the Earl of Shaftesbury on the date shown (please see the 'History of the School' on the Old Winburnians internet site).

### **A PLAQUE**

Again, when walking through the archway leading towards the sundial, on the left-hand side there is a plaque (picture shown below).

Sadly, any Latin I had when at school has long gone, but I can still just about cope with Roman numerals; the ones on this plaque referring to the year 1849. I don't remember having ever seen this plaque before and have no idea of its provenance. It appears to list persons involved in the creation of the Big School building, which was started in 1849. If anyone can provide any further insight about it, please let us know.



## **AN ORNATE 'STONE'**

As one walks along 'Grammar School Lane' today heading into the main playground, if one turns left to go towards where the entrance to the kitchens were in my days at the school, in the wall of the Big School building is an ornate stone (picture shown below).

Although clearly showing the ravages of time, one can just about make out the following. In the circular 'ribbon' the names are

**MORRIS & HEBSON ARCHS**  
**1851**

This corresponds with the names of the architects shown in the plaque above. In the ribbons below are the words

**J C SMITHER** and **SUPERINT**

although these letters have been more severely eroded, so a couple of them may be incorrect.

I am assuming the stone was laid to commemorate the completion of the building in 1851 (please see the 'History of the School' on the Old Winburnians internet site). Again, if anyone can provide any further information about it, please let us know.



## **THE PIPE ORGAN**

We recently received a letter from OWA member **ALLEN COLE (52-57)**. In it he asks if anyone has any idea what happened to the pipe organ in the gallery of the main assembly hall in Big School. He remembers playing it and getting into terrible 'hot water' after assembly by playing the 'pop song' of the time, 'Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White' by Eddie Calvert. Does anyone remember hearing him play it ?

*Well, Allen, on my recent travels around Big School, I was also invited by the owner of the residence whose property now encompasses the space where the gallery used to be and, at the very least, I can definitely confirm that the organ is not there now !*

**JOHN GUY (63-71)**

## MY DESERT ISLAND DISCS by RON MANSFIELD (49-54)

How do you pick 8 favourites from the many thousands I must have heard in the last 82 years, especially in view of the massive changes that have taken place in the music industry in that time; not forgetting the rock and roll era of my teenage years (happy memories !). However, as a jazz fan, there must be a slight leaning in that direction, but many artistes have made a lasting impression, so here goes (anyone under 65 look away !).



1. LOUIS ARMSTRONG – “When it’s Sleepy Time Down South”.

Seeing him live at the old Earls Court Arena with his All Stars in the 1950s was a memorable experience.

2. FRANK SINATRA – “My Way”.

No apologies for including the Master – no one like him since.



3. ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA – “Mr. Blue Sky”.

Terrific arrangements & immensely listenable (is that a word ?).

4. ANDREA BOCCELLI – “Nessun Dorma”.

Very talented, marvellous voice, and encouraged my love of all things Italian, as well as a reminder of the World Cup !

5. EDITH PIAF – “Non, je ne regrette rien”.

‘Le petit oiseau’ – a troubled life, but, wow, what a voice, heartfelt.



6. DJANGO REINHARDT – “Oh, Lady be Good”.

The Roma Gypsy, who despite losing 2 fingers on his left hand, his guitar playing of rhythmic and intricate music – masterful.

7. QUEEN – “Bohemian Rhapsody”.

How could I leave this out – fantastic and brave.

8. DUDLEY MOORE – “You’d be so nice to come home to”.

Great comedian, but also a very accomplished jazz pianist. (Note: Our well-loved A.R. Maiden said ‘Never end a sentence with a preposition’) !

### MY BOOK

VINTAGE STUFF – by Tom Sharpe

It has to be Tom Sharpe – absolutely hilarious, laugh out loud fun, as are all his books. Difficult to choose one, but I think this was my favourite.

I hope the foregoing will be of interest, and will stimulate your ideas of what your favourites might be. Happy listening and reading !

## NEWS OF OTHER OLD WINBURNIANS

**ARTHUR WHITE (43-48)** : Arthur wrote from Granada in Spain prior to visiting his sister, Mrs. E. Mee, in Wimborne, a few weeks ago. Happily enjoying good health in the Spanish sunshine, Arthur took the opportunity to see his son and various old friends during his stay. I wonder if he sings that splendid old song 'Granada' about his villa popularised by Mario Lanza and Frankie Laine ? Do tell us, Arthur.

**GEOFFREY WELCH (56-63)** : Geoffrey dropped a line from Ware, Herts, reflecting upon the fact that he followed in his Father's footsteps, William Tom Welch (21-27), by attending our old school. Geoff also observed that he would be remembered by Len Pearce through his association with the Congregational Church.

**EDDIE WOOD (47-55)** : Eddie wrote with the sad news that his dear wife, Jose, has not been too well in the past couple of years suffering a series of strokes and he has become her 'official carer'. Eddie added that he missed his trips to Wimborne to our gatherings. We miss you, Eddie, and your lovely lady, Jose. You were fixtures for a number of years at our reunions, old friend. Eddie's address, by the way, is 53, Savernake Avenue, Melksham SN12 7HF. I am sure he would welcome a cheerful card and a few words from old pals. Give Jose a big hug from everyone here at the OWA. Incidentally, Eddie signed himself 'The Forgotten Liberal Candidate'. Could he be referring, I wonder, to a certain WGS Mock Election in which Yours Truly and old friends Brian Richmond and Derek Lawman also participated ?

**RAY SCOTT (36-42)** : It was a special pleasure to welcome Ray and Anne Sweeney down from London at the last Reunion, though Ray did whisper to me that 'It might be our last time, Alan'. I hope not, dear friends, but we shall see. I know it isn't easy for you to get about any longer, but your cheerful smile is always welcome. I think Ray and Anne stay at the Savoy in Bournemouth on their trips south. Is it true, Ray, that you also enjoy a suite of rooms at the London Savoy – or am I imaging things ?

**ALAN HALL (51-57)** : Alan, who ensured we had a quorum at the last recent AGM – a question for you ? Is it really true you won a toilet brush in a recent competition, but quickly decided it didn't meet your needs and requirements, and you reverted to your earlier arrangements ?

**GEOFF HILL (58-59)** : Our ace photographer arrived at the Reunion with a big smile on his face and related some tale of a widow lady who'd recently moved into the house next door to him who shared a similar interest to our hero in crochet and embroidery. You'll soon have her in stitches, Geoffrey, with some of your tall stories ! By the way, did you ever manage to sell that 23-year old Skoda ? How many miles did you say were on the clock – was it 157,000, with its original tyres and clutch ? Was Terry Randall (45-52) really interested ? Am I right in thinking Peter Clarke (55-57) and Ken Taylor (51-56) were also making bids ?

More news in the next Newsletter.

**A.R.B**

## OBITUARIES

### **ANTHONY BRIAN BLETSOE (42-48)**

'Tony' passed away peacefully at home on the 26<sup>th</sup> May after a long illness.



Tony was a very talented man, but also humble. Throughout his illness he was quite remarkable, always jovial and never self-pitying.

Tony was on Windrush as staff sergeant, looked after all the medical supplies and was one of the last to leave the ship when it sank.

Last year he was invited to place the ball on the centre spot at AFC Bournemouth after being a supporter for over 70 years.

During his lifetime he built his own house, which is still the family home, and had a shop in Parley which was the chemist that both Tony and his Father ran for many years. Another achievement was his construction of several 3-wheeler Morgan sports cars which were his pride and joy. A further joy was his love of steam trains and he built several model railways in the garden of his family home. Tony also enjoyed the simple things in life and was a sincere nature lover enjoying all wildlife and bird watching, plus a great love of dogs.



He lost his wife Betty some 6 years ago and leaves his only daughter Elisabeth who lives in Sherborne.

Kindly sent to us by **ANN RICHMOND (55-60)**

*(I would like to add to Ann's tribute by re-iterating what a splendid fellow dear Tony was – immensely kind, thoughtful, highly intelligent and a huge asset to the OWA Committee for many years. A.R.B)*

### **GEOFFREY PETER GREEN (63-68)**

Geoff sadly passed away on the 19th May after a long battle against poor health. He died in Quezon City, Manilla in The Philippines, aged 66 years, surrounded by his third wife, young daughter and his extended family; having worked overseas in numerous countries for the last 25 years. In the UK, he leaves his family of Mum Cynthia, brother Merv and his eldest daughter Karen from his first marriage.

He was born in the Somerset village of Ilchester in 1952, moving to Verwood in 1958 due to his Dad's work. Schooling in Verwood Infant and Primary CoE schools saw him passing his 11+ of the day, entering WGS in September 1963. Interests hinged around the sciences and sports of each term. Having gained his O-levels in 1968, he chose to attend Poole College for A-levels, then entered the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in their apprentice scheme at Rugby, including achieving ONC & HNC qualifications in electrical & radio engineering. Operational deployment with the CAA

lasted many years in the south-west of England. Various jobs in the defence industry saw him expand his skills in system design engineering, software and, latterly, project management; particularly in safety systems in railways (abroad in Hong Kong & Taiwan to name just a few).

Music featured strongly through the years in both playing and teaching the guitar, and studio production of soloist and bands to assist launching them to their dreams. He will be sadly missed.

Kindly sent to us by his brother, **MERVYN GREEN (67-74)**

*(I would like to add that Geoff and I started on the same day at WGS, sitting next to one another in Form 1, as our surnames were closely linked alphabetically. We soon discovered we were born on exactly the same day – I think we worked out I was approximately 6 hours older than Geoff ! Also, co-incidentally, we both have worked for the UK CAA, although not at the same time. JOHN GUY (63-71))*

### **JOHN EDWARD FRANKLYN TAYLOR (36-41)**

Born 21<sup>st</sup> January 1925 at Wimborne Hospital.

John lived at Dogdean Farm in his early years and for rest of his life at Laurel Bank, Furzehill. He was a chorister and attended St. Michaels Church, Colehill until he collapsed at the Christmas Communion some 5 years ago. He then went with Jill (his Wife with whom he had many happy years) to live at Blenheim Care Home in Bournemouth.



John was educated at Wimborne Boys School and WGS. Upon leaving school after gaining his School Certificate, John worked for the Board of Trade and the American Red Cross at offices in Bournemouth.

“Called up” in 1943, John was in various armoured cavalry regiments and was put into the reconnaissance regiment, because of his phenomenal memory for names, places, road, etc., as a radio operator/gunner loader in armoured cars. John was in the second wave ashore on 'D Day' (after having a breakfast of cottage pie at 2 am) where he spent about 10 days in a foxhole with the beach party as the wireless operator. John was relatively unscathed through the rest of the war, although recently showing signs of a scar inflicted by some turf and stone thrown up by a “nebelwurfer” mortar shell at Périers-sur-le-Dan in Normandy. As they were generally operating in front of the 'front line', it was useful that the armoured cars went as fast backwards as forwards ! When the war in Europe finished, John was transferred to Palestine during the formation of Israel, where he spent time visiting the biblical and historical sights with the regimental padre's party on “away days”.

After demobilisation John worked as a book keeper for L.A. Walter, builder of West Moors and, latterly, for Carter and Coley, Accountants in Bournemouth.

Kindly sent to us by **LES BISHOP (54-61)**

*Grateful thanks to Melvyn Gilbert at Minster Press for his help in reproducing this Newsletter*