



## OLD WINBURNIANS NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2025

***Dear Fellow Old Winburnians,***

Where shall I begin ? It must be the July Saturday of our most recent OWA Reunion. What a heart-warming success it proved to be – well attended, a most convivial atmosphere throughout, lots of lively conversation and laughter, excellent food – and many members staying into mid-afternoon enjoying one another's company. In truth, the Summer Reunion of 2025 proved there's life in the old dog yet – and John Guy tells me we've even recruited new members – not many but some !

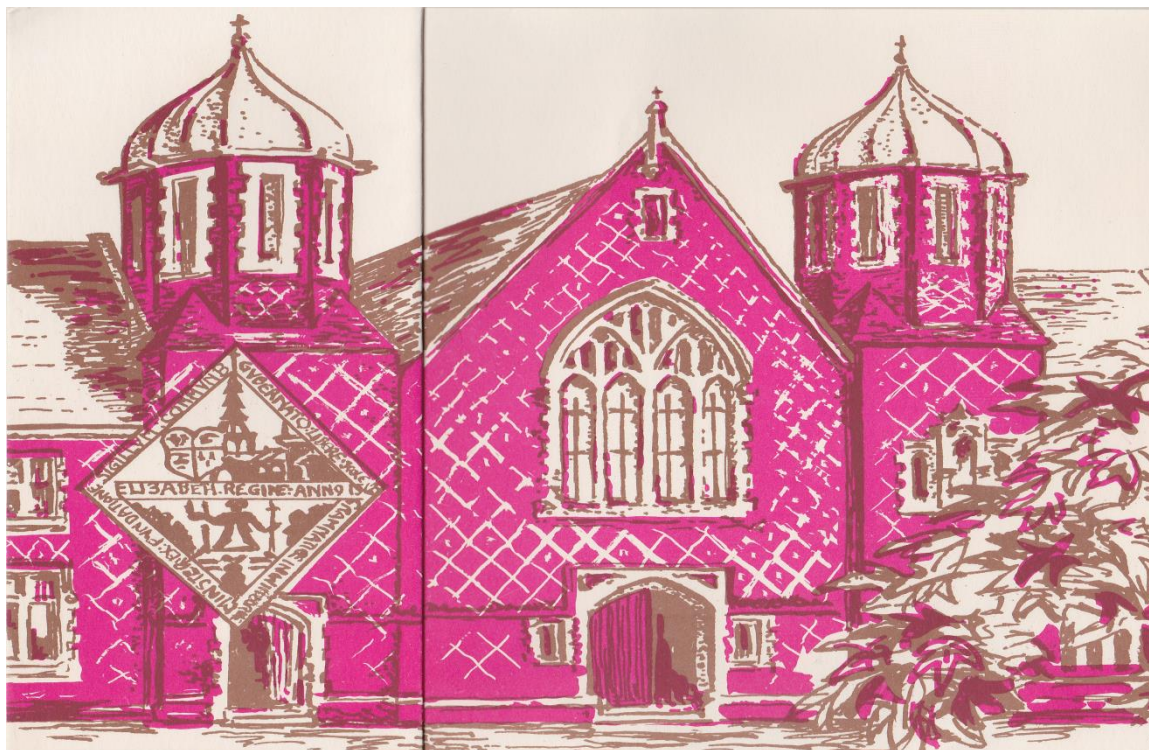
So, here's hoping you, our wider membership scattered across the globe, are still, notwithstanding all the trials and tribulations of advancing age, contriving to find pleasure in your various activities. That is not to say our world looks a very happy place in many regions, does it ? Nor is the story in many of our towns and cities exactly one of unalloyed joy and contentment. Were we the lucky generation, do you think ? Would you want to live in some of our towns and cities now ? Would you want to attend an inner-city comprehensive school ? What are your feelings about some of our great sports today – football and cricket, for example ? They bear precious little resemblance to the games we once knew and loved, do they – and can you pronounce the names of our premiership 'superstars' ? Yet, on balance, we do still have so much to be grateful for, don't we ? The NHS, for all its problems, state pensions, however much some complain, TV and radio, though they don't make programmes like they did ! But think of growing old in the days of Hardy's childhood and before – in Dorset's countryside, no electricity, gas, mains water, phones, post, home deliveries – just isolation and loneliness.

As the comic used to say, Bill Kerr, wasn't it ? 'It's being so cheerful that keeps me going !' Or, as Winston used to say, 'Keep bu....ing on !'

See you in December ! If not, greetings from all of us to all of you ! Long live our memories of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wimborne – staff and old boys and old girls !

P.S. Don't forget to raise a glass on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, as we remember 'Absent Friends'.

***Alan R Bennett***  
***On behalf of the Committee***



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# **FORTHCOMING IMPORTANT OWA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Christmas Reunion	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 2025
Summer Reunion	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Annual General Meeting	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2026

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## **FULL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Alan R Bennett	11 Hawk Close, Pilford Heath, WIMBORNE	BH21 2NW
Janet Coy	2 Durrant Road, Lower Parkstone, POOLE	BH14 8TP
Anthony Elgar	4 Garden House, Cuthburga Road, WIMBORNE	BH21 1GS
Anthony Gould	1 Manor Cottage, Tolpuddle, DORCHESTER	DT2 7ES
John Guy	"Gateways", Gaunts Common, WIMBORNE	BH21 4JN
Bill Haskell	54 Ryan Court, Whitecliffe Mill Street, BLANDFORD	DT11 7DQ
Hilary Kemp	1 Trumpeters Court, West Street, WIMBORNE	BH21 1JS
Alan Maitland	Coles Farm, Milborne St. Andrew, BLANDFORD	DT11 0JL
Ron Mansfield	52 Castle Street, Cranborne, WIMBORNE	BH21 5QA
Betty Read	29 Pembroke Court, West Street, Wilton, SALISBURY	SP2 0DG
Ann Richmond	4 Three Lions Close, WIMBORNE	BH21 1EP
Rainbow Russell-P	Orchard Cottage, Waddon, WEYMOUTH	DT3 4ER
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

**EXPECTED ATTENDEES AT THE SUMMER REUNION LUNCH ON**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025**

Mr Morgan Antell	52 - 58	Mr Victor Moss	56 - 63
Mrs Ann Antell	Guest of Mr Antell	Mrs Jennifer Moss	Née Day 61 - 63
Mr Alan Bennett	49 - 56	Mrs Diana Moss	Née Anderson 55 - 61
Mr Nick Bishop	60 - 63	Mr James Moss	Guest of Mrs Moss
Mr Derek Burt	47 - 52	Mr David Park	48 - 55
Mr Ian Sandy	Guest of Mr Burt	Mrs Lorna Park	Guest of Mr Park
Mrs Eunice Carnall	Née Chadd 55 - 62	Mr Terry Randall	45 - 52
Mr Peter Clarke	55 - 57	Mrs Liz Randall	Guest of Mr Randall
Mrs Elizabeth Clarke	Née Lucas 62 - 69	Mrs Betty Read	Née White 53 - 58
Mrs Sue Coombes	Née Froud 56 - 63	Mrs Irene Whittle	Guest of Mrs Read
Mr John Coombes	Guest of Mrs Coombes	Mrs Ann Richmond	Née Mitchell 55 - 60
Mr Robert Copelin	46 - 51	Mr Ian Rogers	45 - 53
Mr Desmond Cox	47 - 51	Mrs Barbara Russell	Née Morris 55 - 60
Mr Steve Dominy	Guest of Mr Cox	Ms Rainbow Russell-Pritchard	Née Lynne Russell 66-71
Mr John Dacombe	56 - 62	Mr Gary Scammell	66 - 72
Mr Stuart Dean	56 - 62	Mrs Janet Scammell	Guest of Mr Scammell
Mrs Faith Elford	Née Hawes 56 - 61	Mr John Singleton	54 - 61
Mr Anthony Elgar	53 - 60	Miss Elaine Smith	59 - 65
Mrs Dianne Elgar	Guest of Mr Elgar	Mr Peter Griffiths	Guest of Miss Smith
Mr Kevin Froud	70 - 77	Mr Timothy Spall	58 - 61
Mr Tony Gould	51 - 57	Mr Richard Strong	55 - 62
Mrs Elizabeth Gould	Guest of Mr Gould	Mrs Jill Strong	Née Cowdry 56 - 63
Dr John Guy	63 - 71	Mr Ken Taylor	51 - 56
Mr Robin Harris	51 - 56	Mr Simon Thompson	69 - 74
Mr Bill Haskell	52 - 56	Mrs Theresa Thompson	Guest of Mr Thompson
Mr Geoff Hill	58 - 59	Mr Peter Watts	56 - 63
Mr John Pearson	Guest of Mr Hill	Prof Bob White	51 - 57
Mrs Guilia Holland	Née Griffiths 58 - 63	Mrs Helen White	Née Filcher 55 - 60
Mr Mick Felton	Guest of Mrs Holland	Mr Eddie Wood	47 - 55
Mr Alan Maitland	54 - 59	Mr Nicholas Wood	Guest of Mr Wood
Mrs June Maitland	Guest of Mr Maitland	Mrs Beryl Wythers	Née Moreton 56 - 63
Mr Ron Mansfield	49 - 54		

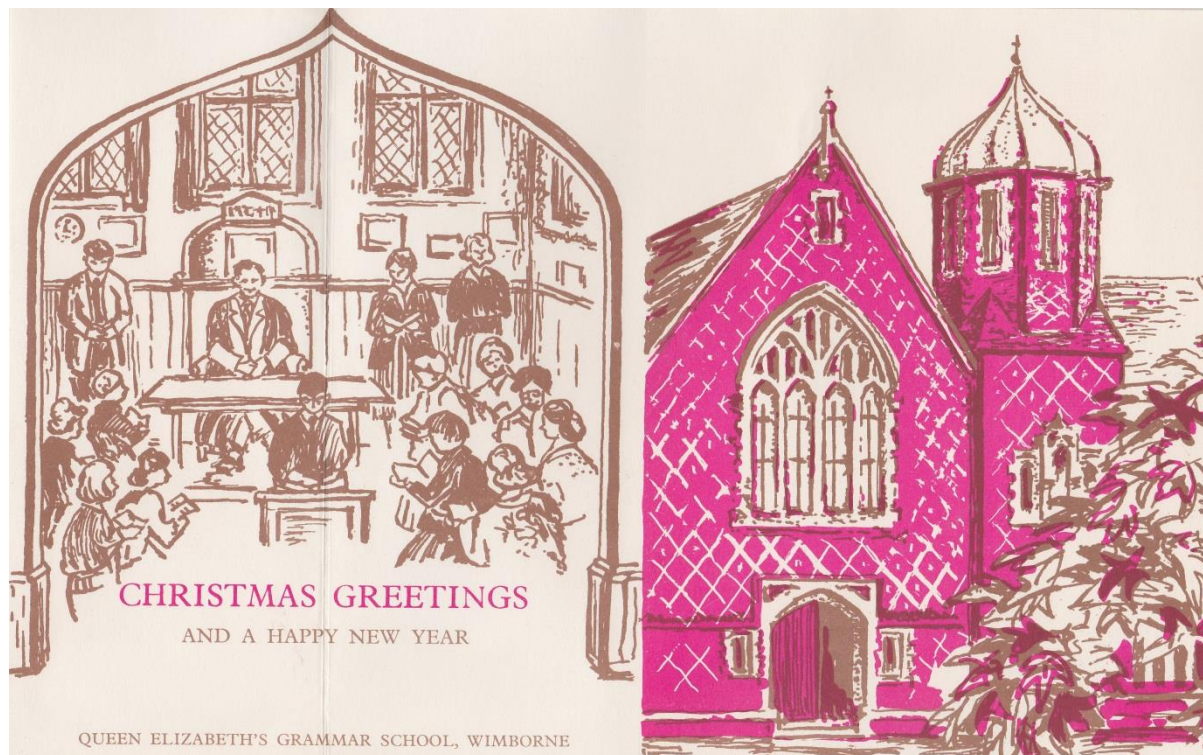
## **APOLOGIES FOR THE SUMMER REUNION LUNCH ON 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025**

David Baily  
Jennifer Baker  
Richard Bathurst  
Kenneth Bernthal  
Trevor Bridle  
Paul Burry  
Rod Cheese  
Harry Clarke  
Michael Coffin  
Audrey Cooper  
Janet Coy  
Janet Doolaege  
David Finnemore  
Janet Finnemore

Carol Griffiths  
John Harper  
Keith Harvey  
Sue Hatherley  
Robin Hussey  
Christopher Hyde  
Mary Hyde  
Andrew Jones  
Elizabeth Judd  
Hilary Kemp  
Mike Kerley  
Brian Langer  
Tony Leigh  
Carolyn Martin

David Mason  
Graham McNeill  
Julia Palmer  
Mark Perkins  
Christopher Peters  
Christine Price  
Stephen Randall  
Peter Russell  
Marion Ryder  
David Scrase  
Geoff Welch  
Bill White  
Roger Whittaker

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***"Christmas Greetings and A Happy New Year"***



# **SUMMARY REPORTS TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPT. 2025**

## **REPORT OF TREASURER**

### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM 01/06/24 TO 31/05/25**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Reunions	£2,449.00	£2,927.00	Reunions	£2,835.00	£2,835.00
Subscriptions	£886.00	£1,105.00	Newsletter Costs	£1,402.15	£2,069.68
Raffle Receipts	£306.00	£342.00	Raffle Prizes	£80.77	£74.40
Donations	£95.00	£90.00	Remembrance	£40.00	£35.00
			Day Poppy		
			Wreath		
			Website Costs	£138.74	£252.28
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£3,736.00</b>	<b>£4,464.00</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£4,297.66</b>	<b>£5,266.36</b>
			<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>-£561.66</b>	<b>£802.36</b>

### **BALANCE SHEET AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025**

<b>ASSETS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2024</b>		<b>ASSETS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025</b>	
NatWest Current A/C	£8,484.99	NatWest Current A/C	£7,923.22
LESS unrepresented	£0.00	LESS unrepresented	£0.00
Cheques		Cheques	
SUB-TOTAL	£8,484.99	SUB-TOTAL	£7,923.33
LESS Excess of Income over Expenditure	-£561.66		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,923.33</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,923.33</b>

***Alan Maitland***  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### **REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (as in membership database on 15/09/2025)**

Total Number of Members : 245 (at 2024 AGM : 248)  
 UK based : 205  
 Overseas based : 40  
 Members who are considered as former staff : 12  
 Expired subscriptions/resignations (since 2024 AGM) : 2  
 New members (since 2024 AGM) : 10  
 Deceased members (as reported since 2024 AGM) : 11  
 Over the 12 months since the 2024 AGM, the following occurred :

- Deceased members : 8 in UK, 3 Overseas
- New members : 10 in UK, 0 Overseas

Details can be found on the Old Winburnians internet site [www.oldwinburnians.org.uk](http://www.oldwinburnians.org.uk).

***John Guy***  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**A MIX OF MEMORIES**  
**by**  
**MARK PERKINS (62-69)**

So, (don't you just hate it when someone educated at a grammar school begins an article or speech with 'so' !) another excellent magazine from the OWs. What a wonderful job is done on our behalf and with each copy I find more memories to recall and share.

My darling daughter, Hannah, would always take an interest in both the magazine and in hearing about my time at QEGS. Sadly, though, at the end of last year she died after being poorly for a long time. My wife, Avril, and I are still finding it hard to reconcile a beautiful and very clever girl no longer able to enquire about a particular person in an article I had read or shared with her.

My heart goes out to Les Bishop and Christine on their own loss – we shouldn't have to outlive our children, should we ?

Then reading about Linda Berenbrinck having to endure her loss too of husband Peter. My sincere condolences Linda. As another Uptonite Linda, I remember you and your brother, Frank. He and I were at infants and junior schools at the same time and I know he and Richard Anstey were great buddies living near one another – heck, there were a lot of you who knew one another at that end of Sandy Lane and who made it to QEGS. At our end of the lane, the water must have been less potent since there were fewer who made the daily journey northwards. Actually you may have been at QEGS at the same time as my brother, John Perkins (58-65).

It was lovely to read the article by Malcolm McNeill. Those of us who found Art our creative outlet knew of his work, especially at parent's open evenings. Amazing work Malcolm on your website. Mabel Thorpe was keen to show what her able students were able to do. Malcolm, do you remember Nigel Cammegh, who would have been at QEGS around 1960/61 onwards. He was another stand-out pupil whom Mabel considered worth encouraging. I actually worked with Nigel for many years in our advertising agency days and my company produced a large volume of graphic work for him in his agency. Both in and around Bournemouth.

For me, Art was pretty much my only subject of note, although I did love both Biology and Geography. Miss Rastrick was an able teacher and I liked her style of teaching. Very formal but well prepared as I recall. Although I didn't shine at A-level Biology, I think it was Art that gave me any chance at all. For revision I would produce dozens of illustrated sheets of animal and plant structures from the notes I had made during lessons.



*[Miss Rastrick in the 1968  
School Photograph]*



*[Mr Barnaby in the 1968  
School Photograph]*

Mr Barnaby was another 'old-school' teacher (maybe someone knows when he started at QEGS ?) and, again, I found his style of teaching reasonable but too much 'copying from the blackboard' for my liking. However, whilst in the 2nd year at the annexe, we had a temporary elderly teacher called Miss Lake, who drove to school in a new Austin A60, and had a small dog which would wait patiently for her all day in her car. I imagine she must have 'walked' it during breaks ! She was brilliant and I learned more in that single year than the others combined. I have often wondered why she was there for so short a time.

Joining the lower 6th in 1967 was the start of a great period of life at school. Bob Briggs was our form tutor and he made a great job of it – a perfect mix of discipline and humour. I admit to feeling sorrow on reading of his death. As we are beginning to feel a little ancient it's natural that we can mourn those who have had positive effects on our lives. In re-reading the journal, it's interesting to see that Malcolm McNeill was also influenced by Bob Briggs. In fact, I am not even sure I recall Bob Briggs' specialisation, but think History might have been contributory.



*[Mr Briggs in the 1968  
School Photograph]*

Soon into our induction to the 6th form we were allocated a common room somewhere in the very heart of Old School, up the staircase opposite the headmaster's study and along a corridor was this room. It may have even been two storey's up. Old dusty furniture and bedlam seemed to be highly reminiscent, whilst I am convinced not a shred of work was actually done there. Perhaps someone who used that room might remind me ?

Onwards towards A-levels and into the Upper VIth. Now a move to the relatively new temporary classroom near Mrs Gray's room and the fives courts. Everything was quite the opposite and this room felt very new to us. Time passed all too quickly and very soon we were engaged in A-level revision and mock examinations. Our classroom time now appeared serious, the new common room saw real work being done, although I tended to leave mine to complete at home – like my revision notes for Biology. I devoted too much time to Art though and really, looking back, was an idle sort of student.

The memories keep flooding back and I could easily continue for pages more, but maybe for another issue I can share further memories. I know I ramble, my dear wife tells me so and I frequently repeat myself. It wouldn't surprise me if I have recounted anything of this previously. My apologies if I have. Having posed questions, I am happy for any replies and have both an email address and website.

Email: [blueskiesartwork@gmail.com](mailto:blueskiesartwork@gmail.com)

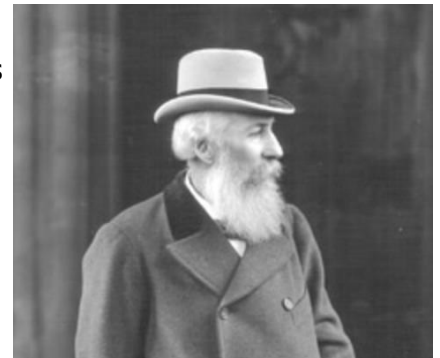
Website: [www.blueskiesartwork.co.uk](http://www.blueskiesartwork.co.uk)

## **MORE ON THE GUEST FAMILY AND WIMBORNE**

### **by PETER RUSSELL (61-68)**

I was intrigued and pleased to read David Woodhead's article (Spring 2025) on Ivor Guest (Viscount Wimborne). While any association of the Guests' Canford Estate with WGS is – mainly for reasons of social class – tenuous or even non-existent, it's good to reach beyond our usual OW interests to the wider community, as Pat Trayler's articles do. Inter alia, (thanks, Bob Briggs !) the near-feudal control once exercised on Wimborne's affairs by the landed powers – for good or bad, relative to us ordinary folk – is key to understanding our place in local history. Pity we weren't taught more local history at WGS ! In this piece, I shall insert some vague links to WGS, or point out their absence.

I'm offering some clarifications from my own latter-day research into Wimborne's railway history, as the subjects overlap significantly. Firstly, to avoid confusion, Viscount Wimborne (1873-1939) to whom David refers – Ivor (Churchill) Guest – was the son of Ivor (Bertie) Guest (1835-1914), first Lord Wimborne. The elder was generally seen with a bushy beard (as here). As David notes, the second Ivor naturally succeeded to the first's



*[Ivor Bertie Guest, first Lord Wimborne, and father of Ivor Churchill Guest  
Source : Family Search]*

title on the latter's death. Varying use of the titles Lord, Viscount or Baron doesn't help to distinguish them! Secondly, the name "Lord Wimborne's private road" for the carriage drive from house to sea begs the questions of the year it was created and to which Lord Wimborne it relates. Thirdly, the nickname "Old Wimborne" seems to apply to the younger Lord Wimborne! The plot thickens; more later.

### **Canford – land and politics**

Being south of the Stour, Canford Estate was within the 20th century boundary of Poole Borough, not Wimborne Urban or Rural Districts, nor the 1974 East Dorset District, nor Dorset County in general. Yet, in the 19th century (and previously), the estate was anyway virtually a law unto itself, with feudal control of land management over a vast holding extending from the Stour to the shores of Poole Bay. I haven't seen a precise map of the full extent, but it wrapped around most of the ancient borough of Poole when that was a much smaller authority by area, extending Canford's reach even across the inner harbour to Hamworthy Quay.

Canford was also prominent politically across much of East Dorset, together with other estate owners such as the Hanhams at Dean's Court (our WGS neighbours, for anyone who remembers balls in the playground flying over the high shared wall, not to be returned), the Bankes at Kingston Lacy, the Glyns (Gaunt's House, 'sponsors' of Glyn House at WGS), the Shaftesburys (Wimborne St. Giles), the Greatheds (Uddens House, Edward being on the provisional board of the Southampton & Dorchester Railway), the Fryers (also Wimborne bankers), the Sturts (Crichel) and so on. Critically, Charles Castleman of Chettle and Allendale House, Wimborne, who was lead promoter in



bringing the railway to Wimborne, was also a Wimborne solicitor and, like his father William and brother Edward, handled much of the estate affairs for these owners. I have no evidence to suggest that any of these people attended WGS, the great UK fee – paying schools being their much likelier alma maters (my Latin 'O'- level again !).

## Railway links

Prof. Colin Divall and I (both OWs of different vintages) have been investigating the role of the Canford Estate and its owners in the coming of the railways to East Dorset. The network was much used until closure in May 1964 by baby-boomer and older OWs, latterly just from Daggons Road (Alderholt), but previously also Verwood and West Moors. For anyone interested in this aspect of Wimborne life, Colin and I have a website at: [www.eastdorsetrailways.org](http://www.eastdorsetrailways.org) – which is trying to capture much of the social and economic context of the railway, as well as its infrastructure and operations. The Guests had a major input in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, not least because the Southampton & Dorchester Railway (opened 1847) and later the Dorset Central Railway (1860) joined on Canford land at Oakley.



*[Charles Castleman, Wimborne solicitor and railway promoter, seen in his later year  
Source : National Portrait Gallery]*

While I have no empathy with the aristocracy (even referring to our school only as Wimborne Grammar or WGS, not the ubiquitous, placeless 'QE' used across so many UK high schools!), as an amateur railway historian, I recognise the need to look at how prevailing political power structures brought about the railway we knew. Unusually, the Southampton & Dorchester was essentially a landowners' line; they owned most of the land over which the railway alignment was planned; they dominated the company board and had influence to push through the required Parliamentary bill. East Dorset had little or no indigenous industry (bar sand, gravel and timber) to offer serious profits to the new breeds of industrial or railway entrepreneurs. The line was strategic, intended to carry on to Exeter, while serving the significant towns en route.

The landed gentry were not the only controllers. I'm also intrigued by 'maverick' agents, from whatever class, who influenced development during the industrial revolution (the era that most appealed to me in 'Gunner' Holman's history lessons !). Charles Castleman had something of that side to him, looking to emerging business opportunities more than his family's traditional rural pursuits. He guided both the turnpike (toll road) development and later the railway in serving Wimborne, and even rose to be Chairman of the London & South Western Railway (L&SWR) with its reach from London to Cornwall. Another railway 'fixer' working south and west of Wimborne was notorious contractor Charles Waring. He seemingly manipulated all the relevant interest groups involved to suit his own ambitions, which included becoming MP for Poole, Chairman of the Somerset & Dorset Railway, and building railways overseas. Such characters had a profound impact on East Dorset's fortunes, and their own.

As a side story, cutting across the influence of all these main movers and shakers, even the legendary Isaac Gulliver – Wessex smugglers' leader bar none – got in on the development act by becoming respectable after 'retirement', marrying into a branch of the Castleman family, buying property and thereby forging links with his supposed 'betters'. We know that the smugglers, gentry, inn-keepers and even churchmen were often in on the game when duty-free goodies were available! Colin and I chuckle at the idea of ill-gotten

gains from smuggling perhaps contributing indirectly to the railway's arrival in Wimborne. I have no evidence that Isaac attended WGS, but he lived in West Borough in his later years (as a blue plaque testifies) !



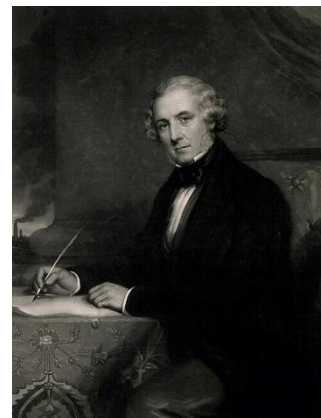
*[Isaac Gulliver, smuggler extraordinary  
Source : A miniature preserved in Chettle House]*

## Key players

I offer some other clarifications to David's article, regarding the Guests' occupation of Canford. John Josiah Guest was indeed the Dowlais ironmaster, owner in the 19<sup>th</sup> century of the world's largest iron producing firm, north of Merthyr. Clearly from 'trade' or 'new money', he married into 'old money' in the form of the enterprising minor aristocrat, Charlotte Bertie from Uffington, Lincolnshire. Charlotte was ambitious, eschewing the conventional life of wife and lady of the manor, and self-educating to help escape her class constraints. The marriage was frowned on by 'her side' but she had found her destiny. She jointly managed the iron works, taking over as John's health declined. More than a century before any serious state welfare provision, she established welfare services for the Welsh workers – not just housing but schools, hospital, etc. She later extended that care to workers on the Canford Estate, some of the credit seemingly 'hijacked' by her daughter-in-law Cornelia under the 'Lady Wimborne' tag, although Cornelia evidently extended and completed what Charlotte had started. 108 cottages and 3 schools were built between 1867 and 1904, those at Canford Magna, Oakley and Longham perhaps being the most familiar to Old Winburnians. Charlotte left Canford as her home in 1856, with eldest son Ivor Bertie Guest coming of age and being given charge.



*[Charlotte Guest, Dowlais iron mistress and philanthropist  
Source : Painting by G. F. Watts, 1854]*



*[Josiah John Guest, Dowlais iron master  
Source : From a painting by Richard Buckner]*

John and Charlotte had bought Canford Estate in 1846 with the iron works proceeds, after seeking somewhere for their later lives. Neither had previous connections with Wimborne, or Dorset. The railway was under construction from 1845 to 1847 and they surely anticipated its convenience for travelling to their extensive London interests. The previous estate owner, William Ponsonby (Baron de Mauley), had sat on the provisional board of the Southampton & Dorchester. The Guests picked up his baton on local railway development, Charlotte more than John. John died in 1852, well before the Dorset Central opened its connecting line from Wimborne to Blandford in 1860, but it's no coincidence that Dowlais iron rails would pass over the later Somerset & Dorset line en-route from Cardiff to Poole and the wider world. Charlotte thus become an experienced and bold negotiator in what was largely a man's world. She had also become a close acquaintance of Benjamin Disraeli.



*[Canford House, a classic view, after rebuilding from 1846 onwards  
Source : From a Postcard]*

Crucial to the 'Lady Wimborne' tag being loosely or otherwise attached to various works across the Canford Estate is the fact that, while John was knighted in 1838, he didn't carry the title Lord Wimborne. That would await Disraeli first conferring it on John's eldest son Ivor as late as 1880. Charlotte was just known as Lady Charlotte Guest. In 1868, Ivor married Cornelia Churchill (an aunt of Winston), who thus became the first Lady Wimborne in 1880. Therein lies the doubtful labelling of 'Lady Wimborne Bridge' and 'Lady Wimborne Cottages', which were Charlotte's initiatives over 30 years previously. Did Cornelia perhaps covet the admiration Charlotte had gained for her philanthropic work, and was she feeding her own ego by retrospectively naming mother-in-law's projects ?

### **What's in a Name ?**

Charlotte would also lead the 1850s part-remodelling of Canford Park to her preferred designs, employing Charles Barry as architect, following his renowned work on the post-fire Houses of Parliament. This included settling a design for the ornate railway-over-roadway bridge carrying the Dorchester line over the West Carriage Drive that leads eastwards from the lodge house on Poole Road (Oakley



*[Canford Estate West Drive Carriage Bridge, 2017  
Source : Photograph by Peter Russell]*



Hill). This bridge was built circa 1853 to replace an 1847 timber structure that, like others on the line, including the trestle-type River Stour Bridge, were proving inadequate for the stresses from the growing weight and frequency of trains. The newer bridge probably attracted various names, but the 'Lady Wimborne Bridge' tag, whenever and by whomever applied, is likely a misnomer, because that aristocratic title was not created until 28 years after construction. One alternative name – 'Canford Park West Carriage Drive Bridge' – is cumbersome, but at least explains its purpose, as an imposing arch under which visitors would pass on approaching. To the London & South Western Railway (L&SWR, 1848-1922); Southern Railway, 1923-47; British Railways, 1948-), it was just the prosaic 'Bridge 77', as numbered in sequence from Southampton. Colin Divall has written in depth on the bridge's history on our website – see the direct link: <https://eastdorsetrailways.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/History-Bridge77-web-v1-3.pdf>.



*[Magna Road Bridge, in a much-damaged state, at the start of demolition, 1987  
Source : By courtesy of Adrian Wills, via Memories of Wimborne]*

There were two other, later bridges seemingly given the same 'Lady Wimborne' appellation, both existing along the Guest's south carriage drive from Canford Park to the sea – the first over Magna Road, the second near Wallisdown. Their exact dates are unclear, but one source suggests 1860-70, again suggesting Charlotte's initiative, not Cornelia's, who did not arrive until 1868. The design, with a single elliptical arch, was relatively modern and, given that the bridges carried the drive over public highways that became increasingly busy during the 20th century, the guidance of the highway authorities might be detectable as regards span and headroom, possibly even the construction specification. In another twist to the bridge namings, the Grade 2 listed railway bridge at Oakley was cosmetically restored in the 1990s by volunteers, and word of mouth has it that one of the leading lights casually applied the name 'Lady Wimborne Bridge' to the project and the interpretation board, whereas the other two bridges might have had more legitimate claim to that title. Were any of the volunteers Old Winburnians, I wonder ?

## **Postscript**

It's not proven easy to bend the Guests' story to our WGS story in any significant way without documentary evidence. Charlotte's published diaries reveal nothing relevant. The family's primary influence and public, charitable benevolence was broadly southwards in the direction of Poole, far more than Wimborne. Were there any links between WGS and Canford School after the latter opened in 1922 ? Given the class divide, it seems likely to have been minimal. I barely knew of Canford's existence in the 1960s and it wasn't a feature of our WGS 1st XV inter-school rugby fixtures, unlike Hurn, another fee-paying school.

Colin and I have been trying to access archives of the local landed families, including the Castlemans, to ascertain their involvement in Wimborne's railway development. A small part of the Guest archives rests with the Dorset History Centre, but the major part remains with the Guest descendants. Rumour is that it moved to their shooting lodge in the Scottish Highlands. The current 4th Viscount Wimborne – a pop music producer-composer – whom David mentions, may be a lead.

### **Selected sources :**

For anyone interested in the Guest's family history in relation to Wimborne:

BESSBOROUGH, The Earl of (1950), *Lady Charlotte Guest, Extracts from her Journal, 1833-1852*, and *Lady Charlotte Schreiber, Extracts from her Journal, 1853-1891*. Both: John Murray, London.

CLARK, Pat (2000), *Lady Wimborne Cottages: The Story of the Canford Estate Cottages*, Dovecote Press, Stanbridge.

GUEST, Revel & JOHN, Angela V. (1989), *Lady Charlotte: A Biography of the Nineteenth Century*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London.

OWENS, Victoria (2020), *Lady Charlotte Guest: The Exceptional Life of a Female Industrialist*. Pens & Sword, Barnsley.

ROWLANDS, Lord Ted (2019), *Revolution and Reform: The Life and Times of Josiah John Guest, Ironmaster and Member of Parliament, 1785-1852*. CAP Books, Merthyr Tydfil.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*From The Winburnian No. 72, Summer Term, 1936*

**(Many of our members enjoy Crossword Puzzles. John and I thought it would be an interesting intellectual challenge for you to attempt to complete the following puzzle printed in the No. 72 edition of The Winburnian, dated Summer Term, 1936. We look forward to receiving your entries. A copy of the correctly completed crossword will be printed in our next edition together with the name/names of all who succeed in this intellectual challenge. It will be fascinating to learn of your responses. Though the puzzle was set 89 years ago the time difference between then and now will pose its own challenges, but do remember it would have been, in the main, 11-18 year-old boys who would have been attempting to complete it !**

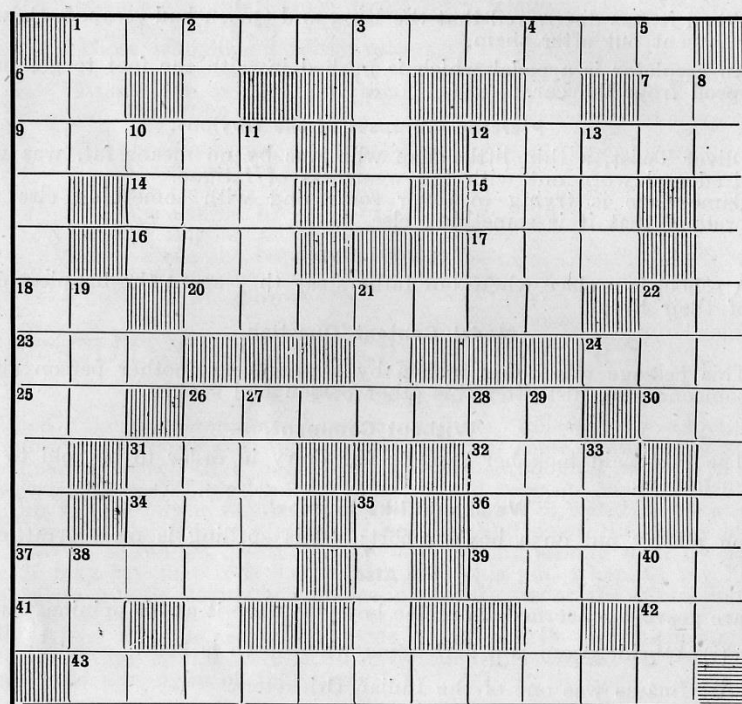
**Good luck ! Ed.)**

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THE WINBURNIAN

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

The anonymous composer of this, our third puzzle, has offered half-a-crown for the first correct solution handed in to the Editor. We think that anyone who does so will earn it!



### CLUES.

#### ACROSS.

- 1.—Dramatist known to Va.
- 6.—Or not.
- 7.—Preposition.
- 9.—“ — into our gates with praise.”
- 12.—Keep your breath to cool this.
- 14.—Terror, Upset?
- 15.—Well-known work of reference might be useful here.
- 16.—If you know a better one?
- 17.—Tiny whig.
- 18.—Sometimes takes the subjunctive.
- 20.—No need to slim.
- 22.—Dorset affirmative.
- 23.—To keep this suffix seems to mean to watch.
- 24.—Connection between poetry and poverty.
- 25.—With 30 makes carpets.

- 26.—One of the things done in the gymnasium.
- 30.—See 25.
- 31.—Often lost.
- 32.—Another five.
- 34.—Conj.
- 36.—Is plural.
- 37.—New suggests a beginner in Latin.
- 39.—To do nothing, go away.
- 41.—Uncome.
- 42.—Sailor.
- 43.—More often heard of than brought, even by shepherds.

## DOWN.

- 1.—Offspring, male.
- 2.—What A does to the bells (2 words 1, 4).
- 3.—Pit found in check.
- 4.—Possible to get into this—with the rent.
- 5.—Hungry again? Then do it.
- 6.—Up at last.
- 8.—The noxious fumes whereof . . . (3 words).
- 10.—Often confused with 19.
- 11.—Film?
- 12.—Metal in this heavy fellow.
- 13.—Queer.
- 19.—See 10.
- 21.—Oxford teacher turns to do this.
- 22.—I wrote much about nothing.
- 26.—He doubtless calls it his christian name, but do the Abyssinians agree?
- 27.—Concludes.
- 28.—This is a tidy calf.
- 29.—In front of 6 down.
- 31.—On the School field.
- 33.—Number of the young masculine negroes.
- 35.—Past-matrimonial term.
- 38.—Does a baby say this upside down?
- 40.—This is idle talk too.

***From The Winburnian No. 127, February, 1959***

**EPITAPH ON AN UNDERTAKER**

I've put folk in their places,  
And left them on the shelf,  
But what I've done for others  
I can't do for myself.

J N Singleton, V Arts.

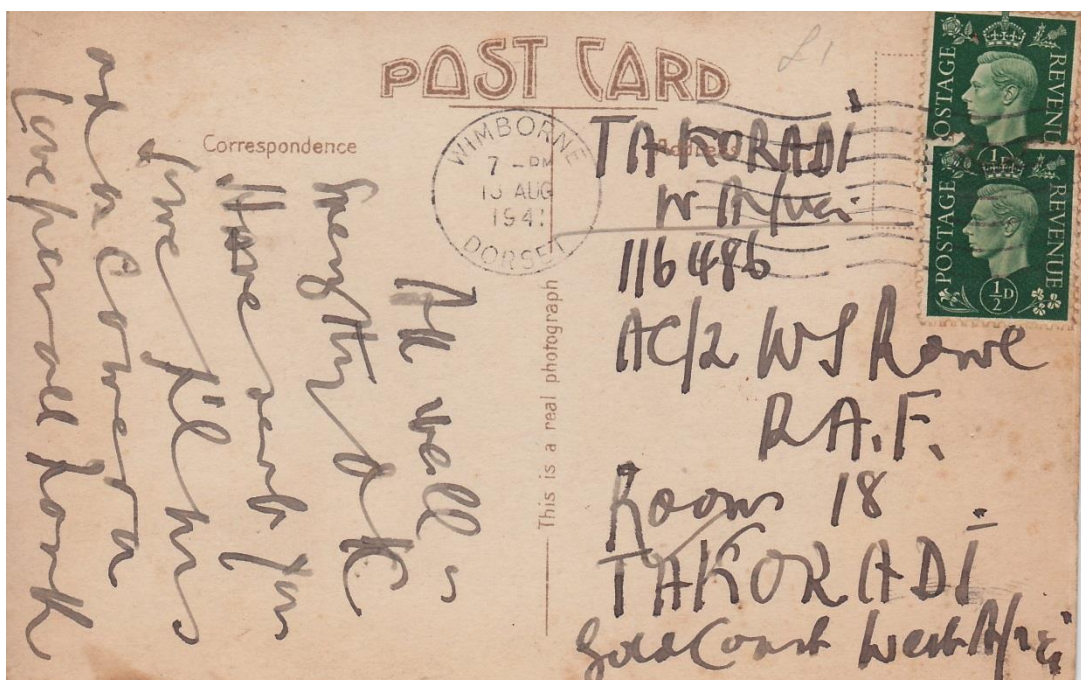
***(Do you remember writing these rather poignant words, John ? How old were you at the time ?***

***Ed.)***



**(An interesting postcard sent in August 1941 to the Gold Coast (Ghana today) in distant West Africa. The photograph of the Minster shows it still had its railings !**

**Ed.)**





## MORE MEMORIES OF THE CADET CORPS

***Further to our request in the Spring 2025 newsletter for some more names to go with the faces shown in this picture, we are especially indebted to Brian Evans (44-51) for providing a couple more. He remembers the photo shoot well, taken down on the school field, close to the River Allen on a sunny, summer Friday afternoon ... the Cadet Corp period ... whilst the rest of the 4th and 5th Years went walking, crocodile fashion. The Cadet Corp experience came in useful when conscripted for National Service in 1955/57.***



***So, anyone, only one more first name to go to complete the set please !***

***Many thanks. Ed.***

## THE ORGAN IN BIG SCHOOL – THE STORY SO FAR

by Dr JOHN R F GUY (63-71)

Occasionally we receive enquiries from some of our members asking 'does anyone know what happened to the organ which was located in Big School at WGS ?' Recently we received such a request from Paul Cumberland (54-59) which prompted me to do some more investigating. After his greatly appreciated help with the Bechstein grand piano which was described in our Autumn 2024 newsletter, once again I turned to our OWA staff member (and former WGS Head of Music), Mr Grant Bocking for help. With a couple of helpful tips from Grant, I contacted Harrison and Harrison, a company which specialises in building and restoring organs. Their origins go back to 1861 and are now based in Durham. After making some enquiries with them, I received a very prompt reply which directed me to the internet site of the 'National Pipe Organ Register (NPOR)'. Sure enough, I found an entry in the register (reference no. N10064) which gives details of our organ – a summary of which is shown below.

### Dorset, Wimborne Minster, Old Grammar School, [N10064]

#### Builder

- **Undated**  
Henry Speechly & Co  
Dalston, London E8  
Rebuilt  
1875 in temporary use in the Minster

#### Case

- **Undated** Position **North side gallery**  
Four square case of 3 flats under cornice

#### Department and Stop list

##### Pedal

Compass-low C	Compass-high f1	Keys 30	
1	Bourdon	16	12

##### Manual

Compass-low C	Compass-high f3	Keys 54	
2	Open	8	
	Diapason		
3	Stop	8	12
	Diapason		
4	Stop	8	42
	Diapason		
5	Dulciana	8	Own bass
6	Principal	4	
7	Flute	4	Tc
8	Gamba	8	Own stopped bass

#### Console

- Console type **Integrated**

#### Further information

- Now removed Musical Opinion, December 1975

Sadly, the fate of the organ after the closure of the King Street site is still unknown !



## NEWS OF SOME OLD WINBURNIANS

**KEN ORMAN (37-42)**

*(Ken writes from his home in Ferndown*

*Ed.)*

Dear Alan,

Thank you for the recent edition of the OWA newsletter. This, as usual, is very interesting, although I personally cannot relate to any of the contributors as some had not seen the light of day when I joined the school in 1937.

It was the contribution by Andrew Jones that caught my attention as it brought back several memories of my time at school. Music has never played a great part in my life, although my wife was musical. So far as I am concerned, it is the words of songs and hymns that mean more to me than the music in which they have been set. Without making to upset you, I have, in the past, made the arrogant and unkind remark that music to me is another form of noise. However, something must've filled through to my daughter, who recently joined the Oxford Studio Orchestra in the first violins, and they played some of the great classical pieces.

My first memory is of the fact that on three occasions during the year we would march over to the Minster and sing Onward Christian Soldiers. On one occasion Mr Airey, in assembly, said that "in that hymn there is a verse which says 'All one body we'." He then said, "we are not one body, half of you are in the Minster and half still in the playground. Please keep in time."

Some may remember that in the loft in Big School there was a pipe organ that had to be pumped by hand. I was friendly with Percy Holloway, who was learning to be a pipe organist, and he often asked me to go with him during the lunchtime to pump the organ while he practised playing it. Although he lived in Verwood, I did not keep in touch with him, but he became organist at St Michael's Church in Verwood until just before his death.

Due to macular degeneration, I'm now dictating my e-mails, so if there are any mistakes in the above, please blame my computer and not me !!

Sincerely,

Ken

## **ROBIN CHRISTOPHER (52-59)**



On a recent visit by Alan Maitland (54-59) to Yorkshire, Alan was able to pay a visit to Robin and his wife Hazel who recently moved from Wimborne to Scarborough to be closer to family.

***(Robin, we all hope you and Hazel have settled in well to your new home. We hear you have already familiarised yourself with all the local golf courses. Hope you are enjoying the bracing Yorkshire seaside air and that it won't cause too many drives to go way off course !! Don't forget us down south and we hope you might still get the chance to attend some reunions in the future.***

***Ed.)***

## **DENNIS DOLMAN OBE (44-47)**

***(Dennis forwarded several interesting pieces of correspondence he exchanged with Mr Mottram (then living at 14 King Street) between the years 1959-1962 – just over 60 years ago. We take pleasure in reproducing one of Motty's letters to Dennis, dated 1959 which reflects the warmth and humanity of one of QEGS's most dedicated and best loved teachers.***

***At a personal level I remember Motty as my Geography teacher when I first arrived at the school and, later, when he assisted Mr Maiden in school drama productions even after he'd left his role as a teacher at WGS. In particular, I recall him applying my 'make-up' when I was playing the role of Cassius in the school performance of 'Julius Caesar' in 1954 along with contemporaries like Derek Lawman, David Park, Tony Elgar, Robin Christopher, David Roberts and Eddie Wood. Forgive me if I have missed anyone out ! I remember asking him about Richard Todd – soon to play Wing Commander Guy Gibson in the brilliant film 'The Dambusters'. As I recall, Motty said he had no particular memory of the young R A P Todd, 'a rather quiet boy, kept himself to himself.'***

***Motty was, very simply, one of the best – and his kindness and generosity of spirit are reflected in his letter to Dennis all those years ago. So, thank you, Dennis, for forwarding the letters you have retained from all those distant years ago ! As for playing Cassius how on earth did I contrive to memorise 496 lines of Shakespeare – could I remember just 10 lines today ?***

***Ed.)***

# Old Winburnians' Association

Hon. Secretary—L. H. MOTTRAM,  
14, King Street, Wimborne 2034

Hon. Treasurer—M. J. HERRIDGE,  
3, Wyelands Avenue, Stapehill, Wimborne

November 2, 1959

Dear Dolman,

How very delighted I was to hear from you! I ventured in July to send you a NEWSLETTER, firstly because I thought it might interest you, secondly because I thought you conceivably might be able to get to Wimborne for some of the Reunion and thirdly because we feel regret when a former Member - especially a keen and appreciated one - kind of disappears from view. This, unfortunately, so often and quite understandably happens, when other interests and so on.....but it is very nice indeed that you have rejoined, and I do hope you may be able to come over - with your good lady - to one of our celebrations one of these days.

I enclose receipt for cheque, for which many thanks. As you have missed the Mags. etc, since the sub. lapsed, perhaps you may allow me to suggest that a more equitable arrangement would be for you to be good enough to consider the sum sent as covering this year and 1960 also - that is, '58, '59 and '60. I enclose a couple of recent Mags. ,of which I have a few copies on hand, and a Year Book. Additions to this are listed in each issue of the Winburnian.

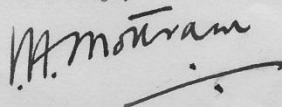
I was interested in your do-it-yourself activities; the same thing happens here, the questionable results being off-set by the fun of doing the job. Latest: to paper a room with joined Ordinance maps - then varnish; a little unusual, if having no other virtue.

I hope that if 'business' takes you to Wimborne at any time, as you recount, that you will spare a few minutes for a call. This shack is within sight of the School. When I so-called worked there, we lived miles away. Such are the workings of Destiny!

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

D.E.Dolman, Esq:



**The letter from Mr Mottram to Dennis Dolman**

**Prof. BOB WHITE (51-57)**

***(It was good to see my old pal Prof. Bob White at the Summer Reunion. Bob has been through many health challenges in recent times and, consequently, unable to attend our gatherings. He arrived with his good lady and a cheerful smile on his face. I reproduce a card he filled in many OWA gatherings ago – I forget the year – when we invited attendees to leave a few personal details. As many of you will remember Bob was an accomplished pilot in his day – as a number of Nazi Luftwaffe pilots would testify. My grand-daughter who is now 9 has given up looking out for Prof. Bob flying over her house in Carshalton en-route to Gatwick or Heathrow since I told her of his retirement. Once again – great to see you in July, Bob. It's what our Reunions are all about – likewise Terry Randall who's had a few health challenges. So many other names I could mention but there isn't the space. So just keep grooving, boys and girls, I'm sure Messrs Airey, Neil, Maiden, Kerswell, Holman, et al would be very proud of you – and I feel sure Mr Neil would even forgive Geoff Hill for all his many school misdemeanours. Perhaps, maybe, if he was in a good mood, that is – though Geoff Hill was in a different category from most school rules offenders ! His early acquaintance with the Krays didn't help, of course ! Cheers everyone !***

**Ed.)**

To help the editor of the newsletter, please complete this card and hand in today or return by post to:

Alan Bennett  
11, Hawk Close  
Pilford Heath  
Wimborne  
BH21 2NW

Name ..... **BOB WHITE** .....

School Year ..... **1951/57** .....

Subsequent Happenings ..... **WORKED AT THE ROYAL AIRCRAFT ESTABLISHMENT, FARNBOROUGH AND SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY. NOW RETIRED BUT ALWAYS BUSY.** .....

Friends met ..... **EDDIE WOOD (FORM PREFET) DON MIBBERD** .....

Anything else of interest ..... **HAVE MET → KEN TAYLOR AND JOHN HILL FROM MY YEAR. GOOD TO MEET OLD BOYS & GIRLS FROM OTHER YEARS AT THE REUNIONS.** .....



## IN MEMORIAM OF LEN PEARCE (36-41)

*(Continuing from the piece in the Autumn 2024 newsletter with our tribute to Len Pearce who passed away in 2023 at the ripe old age of 98 years, we now have a miscellany of extracts from his diaries*

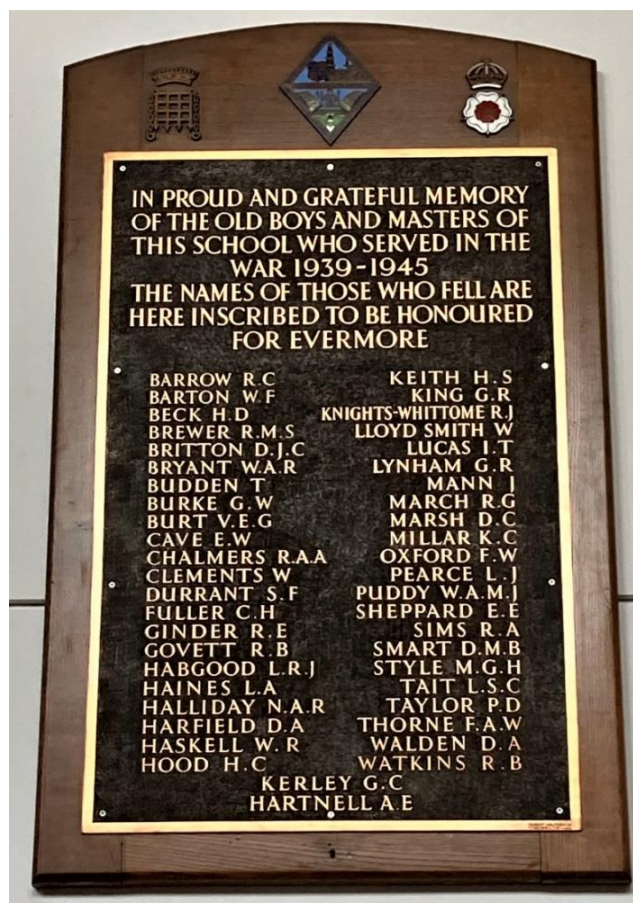
*Ed.)*



The Queen Elizabeth's School on the way to Badbury now contains not only the portrait of "Good Queen Bess", which I have already mentioned, but also two of the War Memorial Boards which were mounted on either side of Big School in King Street. The large one contains the names of ex-scholars who lost their lives as a result of the First World War. The other Board has on it a shorter list of former pupils who were killed

during the 1939-45 War. The list encompasses 44 names and 18-20 of those inscribed were in my year, or perhaps one year either side of mine. There are also the names of some others, senior to me, whom I recall quite clearly. Thus, within a decade, the original form 2A and our contemporaries were partially decimated. Among them was Fred Oxford who, although he lived at the other end of the town, I had known since I was about 5 years of age. We were good friends at school, despite being in different Houses; indeed, we got on so well that many times, both staff and fellow pupils, enquired whether we were related.

Almost daily, I look at a photograph which was taken in 1939. It shows the Grammar School Cadet Corps as it existed in July 1939 and I am reminded of those to whom I have just referred. The Cadet Corps was one of the first of the school activities which I joined and, within a year, there was for me, a spin off which I have never forgotten.





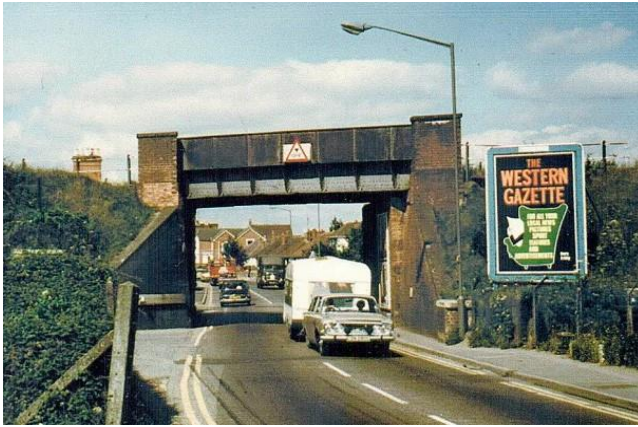
Toward the middle of my first term at the Grammar School, I vaguely heard about the fuss that was created by the new King, Edward VIII, wanting to marry a divorcee, Mrs. Simpson, but the full importance of his intentions came to me when he abdicated on the 10th of December 1936. Instead, it was the coronation of his brother, as King George VI, which took place on the 12th of May 1937. In the spring, members of the Cadet Corps who lived in Wimborne were asked to volunteer for a special activity on Coronation Day. I, and several other boys did so, from whom The Headmaster chose about four of us. Apart from myself, the others were Keith Dark, the son of the Superintendent of Police, John Sibley, whose father was the landlord of The Albion public house in the High Street, the other was, I believe, a chap called Bishop who, I think, came from Corfe Mullen. Just prior to the day we were issued with uniforms and rifles, all of which we kept at home.

On the day itself, we took our places on a carnival float which had been built around one of Sheppard's travelling shop lorries. The vehicle was made to look like a huge crown and, as far as I remember, it was a prize winning entry for both the afternoon and evening processions. During the latter, the float was illuminated for the parade at dusk. There are several pictures of this float in existence, both within the family and even some in an album at the Priests' House Museum. It was Coronation Day that first made me appreciate the effect of a uniform on young ladies since, once kitted out, there was not a lot of point in going off to change. Somehow I seemed to have a lot of female company that day, although I cannot now remember exactly which girls found the uniform so attractive.

At the end of the day, or perhaps it was an evening or so later, I went with my mother and father to Canford School in order to see a fireworks display. I recall that we walked both ways, although it must be admitted that we went via Canford Drive rather than the longer road route. In those days the drive was carefully maintained and the undergrowth was kept under control. Also, there many families walking to the display. It was the first time I had ever been inside the gates of the school and we congregated on the terrace and lawn to the south of the main school building (the home of Lord Wimborne until the early 1920s). All the pyrotechnic show was well worth the walk, but the conclusion took the form of the faces of the King and Queen, outlined in fire, and impressed me very much. I had not seen anything quite like that before.

It was during 1937, as far as I can remember, that I was given a new (but actually a good second hand) racing bicycle. This machine had the characteristic curved dropped handlebars and three speed gears in the hub of the rear wheel, which all added up to a very fast cycle. It was far superior to the single gear, upright bicycle I had been riding for some years. About two years later it proved to be useless for a paper round, but more of that anon.

As usual, the summer holiday was spent in the river, in the school playing fields, at the mill or out in the lorry, with trips to Colehill Firs, etc., and at weekends to Sandbanks. Following a protracted period of relaxation, it was back to school and a change of form room and form designation, to become IV b.



*[Leigh Railway Arch looking Westwards  
Source : Wimborne & East Dorset Railways © Priest  
House Museum]*

During the summer holiday of 1939, a week or two after the Review of the Fleet, I secured my first job – as an early morning newspaper delivery boy for Mr Evans who ran a newsagents' shop on the south side of East Street – it was still a newsagents in 1994. For the previous two years I had ridden a racing bicycle with dropped handlebars, but the machine was useless for delivery purposes. I think it was my father who persuaded Mr Evans to supply me with a robust but orthodox cycle, on which the strong metal carrier for the bag of papers could be carried. At

the outset my 'patch' was Leigh Road to the east of St John's Church, however, after a few weeks, the deliveries around the town were reorganised and, from then on, my first 'paper drop' was to the east of the Leigh railway arch – now demolished.

The newspapers arrived by train at some time after 5.30 am and were taken by Mr Evans or his sister, a Mrs Wallacre, to a shed at the rear of The Griffin Hotel – now the site of a block of flats at the junction of New Borough and Station Road. Six or eight delivery boys and girls turned up about 6.30 am and sometimes the papers were sorted and made up into rounds all ready for us to take away. The papers were not put into round sequence but were always put in the same order, with the folded edge uppermost and one quickly became adept at picking out the correct paper by its size and markings on the exposed edge.

As I have said, my round extended to the east of the town, it embraced the Leigh Park housing estate, the properties around Leigh Pond and went almost as far as 'Brookside Farm', which has since been demolished and replaced by a close of dwellings. I was then required to deliver The Times and The Telegraph to two large properties up North Leigh before returning to the railway bridge and completing the round by delivering sundry papers to the houses on the still unmade road at Beaucroft.

I normally got up about 6 am and, by about 6.30 am, had usually got away from the back of the Griffin Hotel. During the next hour I cycled along footpaths, sometimes even down garden paths and, in that time, delivered between 60 & 70 newspapers, together with magazines on their publication day. Since my last call was at Beaucroft, I always returned home by going over the top and down the hill past the Horns Inn and Walford. For this six days a week job, early in the morning during which I cycled about 5 miles (8 km) in all weathers, I was paid 5 shillings (25p) per week.

The commencement of the War on Sunday the 3rd of September meant that, as the autumn drew on, only heavily shielded lights of quite low power were permitted and, of course, the weather slowly deteriorated. I recall losing a newspaper on a very wet and windy morning when cycling up the slope from Leigh Road toward the railway bridge. The pages of the paper blew onto the wires of the fence at the side of the road and I remember thinking that the scene looked almost like a music score ! On many other

occasions during the winter I arrived back home for breakfast covered in frost or snow. All for about 4p an hour !! At least I was wide awake at school time, unlike some of the other pupils who staggered out of bed so late that they barely got into Assembly in time.

J C Airey, the Headmaster at the Grammar School, was not the type to let a thing like a war upset what he clearly saw as his destiny, namely the education of adolescent boys. After all, he had won a Military Cross in the 1914-18 conflict. Thus, school life continued largely uninterrupted. Of course there were changes, such as the inclusion of gas masks in the luggage which one daily took to school. Eventually, partly due to food rationing I believe and, perhaps by the lack of suitable supervisory staff who were unmarried and could live in, the school stopped taking in Borders and the dormitories remained empty.



Another innovation was the so called School Allotment which came into being as a gesture toward the Dig for Victory Campaign initiated by the Government to reduce the dependence of the country on imported foodstuff. L H Mottram was put in charge of this project, which centred on a plot on the south side of Julians Road, next to the field adjoining the bridge. Once or twice each week, a form reluctantly trailed up the road to do battle. To say that any of us were keen gardeners was laughable. Most of us regarded it as good excuse to be off the school premises. The smokers found places to light up, some, like me who lived in town, took the chance to nip home early ('Motty never missed us !') and all of us used the opportunity to either do 'prep', or crib it !! An attempt was even made to grow food in plots created adjoining the sports pavilions at the school playing field. For me this was ideal as I was able to enjoy many very extended lunch times.

The senior masters all remained. They were Thos W Tapping, Albert Maiden, Joe Kerswell and 'Titch' Drury. The latter was in charge of the sixth form and his principal subject was French.

Tom Tapping, who mainly taught History and Geography, was second in command to the Head in the School Cadet Corps and, in 1941, became the first Commanding Officer of the Wimborne Squadron of the Air Training Corps. By 1945 he had left to become the Headmaster of Barnard Castle School in County Durham. When he left there, he was for several years the Head of Educational programmes at Anglia TV in Norwich and he ended his life in Cromer.

Albert Maiden, 'Fishy' to generations of Winburnians, spent most of his academic life at the Grammar School, where he was the senior English master. Like a number of the staff, he was a 'character'. 'Fishy', although he tended to stride out, usually walked with a stoop and, with a far-away look in his eyes, gave the impression of being aloof. I have never forgotten his English teaching and, decades on, still follow the principles

which he instilled into me. He was quite brilliant. He could recite most of the Shakespeare plays from memory and, as might be expected, he usually produced the School Play. He had an almost photographic memory and I have been told that if backstage someone was trying to remember their lines in the current production, he could always prompt them without reference to the script.

Mr Maiden was known to be keen on politics and it was no real surprise when, after the war, he was elected, as a Socialist, to the Wimborne Urban District Council. During his service on the Council he became Chairman and, when Local Government was reorganised in 1974, he continued to serve on the East Dorset Council, of which he was Chairman on more than one occasion. It would appear that in his old age, his mind is far from what it used to be and, if spoken to in the street, he seldom raises his head to acknowledge a greeting.

Joe Kerswell was, in my time, the senior Maths master. Since I was never very good at this subject I do not think that, at school, I made much of an impression on him. In 1941, he became the Adjutant of the Wimborne Air Cadet Squadron and, after Mr Tapping left, he commanded the unit. After the war he was Deputy Headmaster for a while, but failed to get the Head's job when J C Airey retired. For a while he taught Maths at the Poole Technical College and then retired. Since I then saw 'Joe' in and around the town, I got on quite well with him and we had long conversations. Unfortunately, his wife was killed in a road accident at the junction of Stone Lane and St Margaret's Hill and he continued to live alone. He once told me that, although he had thirteen close relatives (three children, their spouses and their children), not one of them lived in the UK. This was undoubtedly a source of sadness for him. 'Joe' has always been most courteous to Diana and invariably asked about her and our family, and, after years of formality, now addresses us as Diana and Len, the only ex-teacher to do so.



+++++



## OBITUARIES

### **MICHAEL JOHN MORRIS (Mike) (48-53)**

***(We received the following from Mike's sister, Barbara Russell (55-60). We again include this piece in this edition of our newsletter, together with our sincerest apologies to Barbara for the very unfortunate typing mistake (duly corrected) which occurred in the Spring 2025 edition of the newsletter. Ed.)***

Michael was born in Ferndown and lived in the County of Dorset for most of his life. He attended the local Primary School where he successfully passed the 11-plus exam and was rewarded with a place at the Grammar School, an achievement he spoke of proudly for the rest of his life.

Upon leaving 'Big School' he went onto further education at Bournemouth and Poole Colleges of Technology and secured employment at Hamworthy Engineering where he remained until 1987. His role at that time as a Design Engineer came to an end due to the merger with another company and Mike sought employment opportunities in Worcester.

After two years he returned to his beloved Dorset where he established his own business working from home. He established a group of reliable clients and was fortunate to be able to choose projects that suited his skills base. He retired fully at the age of 67.

Mike met his wife, Julie, at Hamworthy Engineering and they were happily married for 52 years. They both enjoyed walking and spent many holidays in the Lake District and further afield in Annecy, France. They particularly enjoyed the times spent in France and Switzerland, and bought a camper van to give them more freedom of choice regarding the duration of those holidays.

Mike was a very enthusiastic amateur photographer and produced some high-quality images taken during his travels. He was also a very accomplished golfer and was a long-standing member at Knighton Heath Golf Club, formerly Northbourne G.C., where he had a single figure handicap.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Julie, his sister Barbara (also a Wimborne Grammar School student), his close family and many friends.

### **ALLEN COLE (51-57)**

***(We received the following from Allen's son, Phil Ed.)***

My dad, Allen Cole, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2025. Through his wisdom, courage and music he left a lasting legacy, even through profound loss.



Allen was a born educator and, as deputy head teacher at Bitterne Manor School in Southampton, he was a guiding light. He didn't just teach lessons, he inspired futures. With steady leadership and endless patience, he helped students find confidence and encouraged teachers to make the school a true community. I'd hear him share stories – how a quiet student finally spoke up, or how he'd sparked a love for learning. To me, he was a mentor, teaching me to embrace curiosity and find joy in small moments, like a cup of tea and a chat about history.

His vision reached beyond Bitterne Manor. He played a pivotal role in enhancing Locks Heath Junior School in Fareham, where his bold thinking left a splash – literally. When the school needed funds for a swimming pool, Allen suggested raffling off a car. People thought he was out of his mind, but his courage proved them wrong. The raffle succeeded, helping build the pool and giving generations of children a place to swim and grow. The Locks Heath swimming pool stands as a testament to his daring spirit.

Music was Dad's heart. For decades, he served as organist and choirmaster at Holy Trinity and St Columba in Fareham, filling the churches with hymns that carried many through joy and sorrow. His organ playing was a gift – lifting spirits at Christmas or bringing peace on a quiet Sunday. At St Columba, he holds the unofficial title of the longest-serving "temporary" organist, starting in 1964 as a fill-in and staying for over 50 years. In 1991, he led St Columba's choir through their centenary, introducing new red robes and a renewed purpose.

Dad achieved a dream that lit up his soul. He played the grand organ at the Bournemouth Pavilion, rising up from the ground as the music swelled, captivating the audience.

Dad's strength shone in how he lifted others, especially in our family. With my mum, Fay, he welcomed his brother's children, Deryck and Debra, into our home, raising them as their own with boundless love. That generosity built a family where love knew no boundaries. But Dad also carried deep sorrow. He dearly missed his daughter, Lesley, after her passing, her memory a quiet presence in his heart. When Fay was taken from us during Covid, the grief was immense, yet Dad faced it with resilience, holding our family close through the pain. He showed that same strength with me. When I was made redundant, I felt defeated, but Dad brushed me off, handed me a suit, and sent me to Fareham's business parks to find a job. His tough love pushed me forward, and I found my way because of him.

He had a warmth that made everyone feel seen, whether guiding a young musician, chatting with a neighbour, or cheering at my school events. He was my hero, not just for his achievements, but for his heart. And yes, he had quirks. Before any car trip, he'd insist we go to the loo, only to stop halfway for his own wee – a break so long we joked he could have washed the car ! He'd also swear he knew the best route, leading us on scenic detours that became our favourite adventures.

**GRAHAM WHITTAKER (66-69)**

*(We have received the sad news that Graham died on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024. We are most grateful to his wife, Sarah, for letting us know.*

*Ed.)*

**DAVID SNELGAR (53-58)**

*(We have received the sad news that David died in May 2025. We are most grateful to his wife, Gill, for letting us know.*

*Ed.)*

**DON LAMBOURNE (38-43)**

*(We have received the sad news that Don, who lived in Australia, died on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025, aged 97 years, 8 months. We are most grateful to his daughter, Wendy, for letting us know.*

*Ed.)*

**Dr JOHN E RYLEY (48-56)**

*(We have received the sad news that John died on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025, aged 87 years. We are most grateful to his wife, Georgia, for letting us know.*

*Ed.)*

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**Wimborne Minster from an original colour print circa 1852**

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