

O.E. Chronicler:
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Newsletter No: 28 March 2010

Date:	Event:	Venue:	Contact:
30.04.10	Executive Meeting	Ellesmere College	Richard Morris 01948 830275
	Annual General Meeting (Approx 4.00pm)	Ellesmere College	Richard Morris 01948 830275
07.05.10	Liverpool Dinner	Heswall Golf Club	Ralph Winn 0151 342 7779
13.05.10	Golf Charity Day	Llangollen Golf Club	Richard Morris 01948 830275
16.06.10	Golf Meet	Oswestry Golf Club	Tom Latham 01925 754358
Sept 2010	Sports Festival	Ellesmere College	Richard Morris 01948 830275
25.09.10	Jersey Dinner	Greenhills Hotel	Chris Scott 01534-745756
22.10.10	Manchester Dinner & Executive	Stanneylands Hotel Wilmslow	Ian Johnston 0161 962 4737
14.11.10	Remembrance Sunday (with lunch)	Ellesmere College	Lesley Farrar 01691 622321
26.11.10	West Wales Dinner	Wolfscastle Hotel	David Leftwich 0151 638 7460

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB 2010

President 2009/2010: John Harvey (Wo '69)

President Elect 2010 / 2011: Ian Johnston (T '46)

Vice Presidents: Major T.C. Thornton (1935): Revd. Preb R.J. Taylor (1936): Dr. A.W. Baddeley (1937): P. Scott (1938): T. Hughes (1939): C. Whitehead (1939): J.M. Anderson (1940): Col. W.P. Howells CBE,O. St. J,TD,DL (1941): R.V. Haygarth (1941): W.A. Pyke (1941): Prof. Sir David Yardley (1943): G.T. Latham (1944): M.U. Newbold (1945): I.C. Johnston (1946): B. H. Keenan (1948): D. Peel (1949) :Prof . G. Pyatt (1950): J.O. Jewiss (1951): N.R. Ainscow (1955): D.J. Hampson (1957): D.R. Leftwich (1957): S.R. Oldfield (1960): I.D.S. Beer (1961/69): R.F. Taylor (1962): W.B. Beaumont (1963): W.R.A. Woodward (1966): R.J. Thurgood (1968): J.A. Harvey (1969): P.M. Chambers (1972/89):G.P. Chambers (1972): R.F. Smail (1974): F.E. Maidment (1981/88): Cmmdr. D.J. Freemantle (1989/93): D.R. DuCroz (1988/96).

Executive: S. Bradshaw, N.Churms, D.Bradley, G. Fennell, D.J. Hampson, J.A. Harvey , J.O. Jewiss, R. Jobber, I.C. Johnston, B.H. Keenan, R.R.Morris (Chairman), W. A. Oo, A.C. Pyke, P.Russell, A. Salt, R.M.A.Sampson, C.P. Scott, R.F. Smail, Mrs. H. Smith, D.J. Swinn, R.J. Thurgood.

Ex officio: The Headmaster, The Financial Controller, The Director of Operations, The Treasurer and The Administrator

SECRETARIES AND OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

Chairman: Richard R Morris, Willington Lodge, Horseman's Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire. SY13 3BZ Tel: 01948 830275
willingtonlodge@hotmail.co.uk

Vice Chair: John Harvey, 7 Town Walls, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1TW
Tel: 01743 341065 j.a.harvey@btinternet.com

Richard J. Thurgood, Mount Villa, Ellesmere Road, St. Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 3BE r.j.thurgood@btinternet.com

Administrator: Lesley Farrar, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9AB
Tel: 01691 – 622321 lesley.farrar@ellesmere.com

Treasurer: Mrs J . Montgomery Baird, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9AB Tel: 01691 622321

Chronicler: John Harvey, 7 Town Walls, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1TW
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Chaplain: The Revd. Stephen Agnew, The Vicarage, Claines Lane, Claines, Worcester WR3 7RN revsmagnew@yahoo.com

BRANCH OFFICERS

- London:** Chairman: Richard Sampson, Cherry Tree Cottage, Paddock Lane, Dudleston Heath, Ellesmere, Shropshire.
Tel: 07729 740215 rmasampson@gmail.com
Secretary: D Leftwich, 25 Mosslands Drive, Wallasey, CH45 8PE.
Tel: 0151 638 7460 wirralbservices@btconnect.com
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rossandhelenjobber@yahoo.co.uk
- Manchester:** Chairman: David Swinn, 32 Kenilworth Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 5FB
0161 282 7693 david_swinn@hotmail.com
Secretary: Ian C. Johnston, 18 Kirkby Avenue, Sale, Cheshire, M33 3FW
0161 962 4737 member@johnston1836.orangehome.co.uk
- Liverpool:** Chairman: Barrie H. Keenan, 'Ridge Rowans', 25 Wetstone Lane, Wirral,
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Secretary: Ralph Winn, 2 Dee Park Close, Gayton, Merseyside, CH60 3RB
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- South Wales:** Chairman: Mike Hemingway, Rickaston Hall, Pen y Cwm, Haverfordwest,
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0151 638 7460 wirralbservices@btconnect.com
- Jersey:** Chairman: Chris P Scott, Hauteville, Rue du Saut Falluet, St. Peter,
Jersey, C.I 01534 - 745756 chris.scott@csjconsulting.co.uk

SPORTS SECRETARIES

- Golf:** Simon Bradshaw, West Oakfield, Oakfield Road, Childer Thornton,
Cheshire, CH66 7NX. Tel: 0151 339 5091
simon.bradshaw@williambradshaw.co.uk
Assisted by:
Tom Latham, 9 Hartley Close, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0JJ
Tel: 01925 754358 geraldlatham@btinternet.com
- Cricket:** Richard Smail, Mallards, 20 Evans Avenue, Allestree, Derby DE22 2EJ
Tel: 01332 558310 rich.smail@btopenworld.com

November 20th 2009 – Presentation to eight members of the support staff

260 years of loyal service to the College.



Left to right:

Guy Chambers (Trustee OE Charity), **Anne Knowles** (Manager, School Shop), Nick Pettingale (Director of Development, Ellesmere College), **Carol Thomson** (Headmaster's P.A.), **Keith Tomkins** (Asst Catering Manager) Paul Russell (OE Executive), **Ian Morris** (Head Groundsman), Ian Johnston (OE Executive), **Lydia Tabbron** (Reception), Barrie Keenan (OE Executive), **Brian Davies** (Maintenance Department), Richard Morris (Chairman OE Executive), **Sue Hinks** (College Housekeeper), John Harvey (President OE Club), **Chris Jones** (Maintenance Department), Richard Thurgood (Treasurer, OE Club), Martin Anderson (OE Executive & Archivist), David Leftwich (Chairman, OE Trustees), John Jewiss (OE Executive & recently retired Governor of the College)

Visiting the College:

O.E's are always welcome at the College but, where possible and as a matter of courtesy, visits should always be by prior arrangement – you are asked to contact the Lesley Farrar, the Development Office Administrator on 01691 622321.

By 'planning ahead' the College can welcome you and make your visit far more enjoyable - arranging an escorted tour if they are able. All visitors to the College should report in at the main Reception in the Founder's Gate. The College itself has a duty to know just who is on its premises at any time and all visiting OE's are asked to understand that, due to enhanced security arrangements and also because the College is let out to so many external organisations during holiday periods, it is no longer possible to simply wander around the school at will.

The Development Office:

In recent months two new posts have been created at the College. **Nick Pettingale** is now in post as 'Director of Development' and he has been joined by **Lesley Farrar** who is his P.A. and Administration Assistant to the OE Club. They are both based in new offices in the complex of offices along from Ante Chapel on the way to the sickbay (or 'The Barn' to those who remember it by that title!).

In effect, following the recent retirement of John Harvey as Hon. Secretary and Richard Thurgood as Hon. Treasurer, this means that the bulk of the administration of the Club will be managed by the Development Office at the College. John will be continuing as 'Chronicler' compiling the Newsletters and working on the Archives alongside Martin and Georgina Anderson, whose work to date has been invaluable

In the first instance all Club related correspondence should be addressed for Lesley's attention either by e mail to: Lesley.farrar@ellesmere.com Telephone : 01691 – 622321 or by post to: The Development Office, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9AB



Nick began his career as a Graphic Designer, specialising in company branding and point of sale material for businesses across Europe. During his design career he visited friends in Ethiopia at the time of the '85 famine which set him on a path of charity work and fundraising. After helping to establish two charities there and a UK based charity focussed on disadvantaged young people in the Midlands, he renewed his business career operating at board level in three national and international companies.

He is looking forward to his new role at Ellesmere saying: 'It is refreshing to work in such a friendly place, which has managed to hold both entrepreneurial, innovative thinking and traditional values together, and to be part of a school which deliberately focuses its resources on the individual child achieving their best, rather than a set of league table results'.

Nick is also a Director and Trustee of World Emergency Relief and is Chairman of the Institute of Development Professionals in Education. To relax he loves the gym, water colour painting, fine wines and cooking, although not all at the same time. He remains passionate about issues of justice and social inclusion.

Lesley is PA to Nick and Admin Assistant to the OE Club. Lesley's career began in accountancy, working for a variety of employers from small enterprises to multi-nationals. Lesley has had the good fortune to be able to take a couple of career breaks, the first over 20 years ago when her employer gave her a two year (and 3 month!) leave of absence to work for VSO in Kenya, an experience which Lesley described as life changing. The second career break was much more recent, this time Lesley returned to college to take a legal qualification (Institute of Legal Executives), for no other reason than curiosity about the English Legal System.



“I have what you might call an enquiring mind, although you might just call me nosey, I love to learn and I am passionate that everyone should be given the chance to gain knowledge. I have been lucky enough to teach for a short time, whilst in Kenya, where the desire to learn drives children to walk many miles, barefoot, to school. I hope I can bring a very wide range of administrative talent to my new role, working alongside Nick and the OE to support them and the College in their ambitions.”

You should have received a questionnaire from Nick in the past few weeks as he and Lesley seek to gather data that will help the College better serve you as Old Ellesmerians. It is planned that during the autumn term a new interactive section of the website will be launch which will enable you to search for long lost friends and also join professional networks of fellow OE's.

If you would prefer to do this on line then click on the link below and chose the Former Pupils Questionnaire <http://www.ellesmere.com/downloads/questionnaire>

O.E.Chronicle

Editor:

John Harvey

with thanks to Keith Shuttleworth and other contributors.

The 'Ellesmerian' Magazine:

The **2009 Ellesmerian** was sent out to those members who registered their interest with the Secretary. The magazine, and several back issues, can be viewed as .pdf files on the College website – please visit www.ellesmere.com. Please remember that the '**Ellesmerian 2010**' will only be sent out to those who have left within the last five years – if any other member would like a copy then they should advise the Development Office at Ellesmere College by 1st October 2010 so that sufficient numbers can be ordered.

Personalia:

The OE Club always takes an interest in its members and, from time to time, makes a financial contribution to individuals to assist them in a particular way. This year the Club have offered financial support to **Lucy Ryvar, Jenny & Sian Corish**. There is no specific criteria that has to be met by any applicant, every application is discussed and decisions are made taking many things into account – not least of all if the Club has any spare funds available! If any member of the OE Club would like to make a formal request for financial support they should, in the first instance, contact the Chairman. In return for support the Club asks for reports on how the funds have assisted and, wherever possible, for the individual to attend a regional dinner or other OE gathering to make a short presentation.

Jenny & Sian Corish

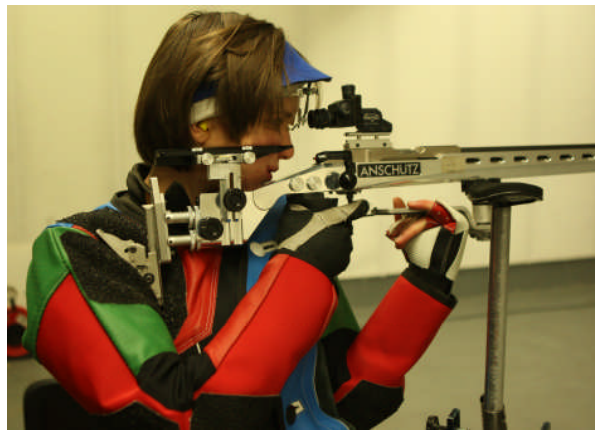


“We have both represented Great Britain and Wales for nearly 10 years at rifle shooting, competing at Commonwealth Games, World Student Games, two World Championships and several European Championships.

We have recently returned from competing at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships where we won the silver medal in the pairs match for the 3 position rifle event. Jenny also won a bronze medal in the individual 'badge' match. Visiting India was certainly an interesting experience and we all

had to watch our feet around the range as it was not finished yet with open manholes and scattered piles of rubble everywhere! This competition is the test event for the Commonwealth Games (to be held at the same venue in October) so hopefully the range will be finished by then and we both are hopeful with regards to the selections which will be made in May.

We both train at Croydon rifle and pistol club in Beddington Lane, whilst Sian also trains at Havant rifle and pistol club when not at home. We combine our shooting training with cardiovascular and strength training at the gym and on the road taking the dog for runs.



Over the last few years we have been lucky to have the support of both Elite Cymru (Welsh Sports Council) and British Shooting. They have provided us with both financial and medical support. However following the UK sport funding cuts earlier this year funding for shooting has been substantially reduced with the national squad being cut from around forty-five to five athletes. With equipment also in need of upgrading and costly ammunition and petrol bills to pay taking part in sport at this level is very expensive.

We were both extremely grateful for the grant given to us by the OE Club. It that enabled Sian to get a much needed new shooting jacket and contributed towards Jenny's new barrel".

Selected through the 'Sporting Giants' campaign back in November 2007 for tall and talented individuals in sport; Old Ellesmerian, **Lucy Ryvar** became a full time athlete over night and joined the GB Rowing World Class Start Programme which is funded through the National Lottery and sponsored by Siemens.

In 2008, Lucy won Silver at the National Championships of Great Britain in the Women's Elite Quad event and Gold at the Fours Head of the River race; a 7.5km course on the Thames tideway in the Senior 2 Women's Quad event sculling faster than the 40 other crews in that same category.

Having never rowed before joining World Class Start and never having trained to such an intensity as twice a day, everyday. Taking up the technical and physical aspects of rowing was a steep and demanding challenge for Lucy, overcoming damaged disks in her spine and a fractured rib.

However, Lucy has a great rowing machine time for the 2km test of 6 minutes 40.5 seconds. As one of the top times for all women on the Senior Women's GB Rowing Squad, Lucy has known she has the ability to go far through applying this power effectiely into her single scull boat over time and aims to represent Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympics.

Following 6 months of intense rehabilitation with her back injury over the 2008-09 winter, in the summer season, Lucy went on to win Gold at Women's Henley in the Rose Maygothling Senior Double Sculls, setting a new course record of 5 minutes 28 seconds, and improved on the preious years result at the National Championships, winning Gold in the Elite Quad and a Siler

in Elite Single Sculls. Following this success, Lucy was invited to race for her home country of Wales, at the Home International Regatta winning silver in both the Women's Quad and Women's single Scull categories.

Now, with yet another winter out of the boat following a viral infection, Lucy hopes to be able to build her training up again and to compete at the World Championships at the end of the year which is to be held in New Zealand on Lake Karapiro.

Robin Breese Davies sent in his final update on his three and a half year motorbike trip around the world in August 2009 – safely home in Wales.

“After 3.5 years travelling around the world, five continents, fifty countries, 110,000 miles, 110 border crossings, the most northern & southern roads in the world, from +50 to –30 degrees centigrade, altitudes of 5000m to –100m, 1208 days or 174 weeks later, we have done it! We have returned home safely, proud, happy and with smiles on our faces. We both agree that it has been the best period in our lives to date and that the trip has given us more friends & memories than we could have hoped for in our life time. There were definite challenges & tough points but looking back we can only take positives from those experiences.

My last update was written just before leaving Australia for Asia, we both admitted that we were a little unprepared for this leg of the trip, our 3 months in Australia was so fulfilling it occupied our time so much that Korea & Japan seemed like the distant future. Even though there were difficulties with the customs on arrival the people of Seoul could not do enough to help to get our Asian adventure started and eventually got us on our way. Korea & Japan alone rival any European or African country with history, culture, cuisine and that was evident to see everywhere. The people were extremely interested in our trip but sometimes could not grasp our reasons for wanting to experience their culture & country but this did not stop the incredible generosity & hospitality we received.

After Japan Mother Russia was looming and we knew that we had to be prepared for anything, our arrival in Vladivostok by ferry went surprisingly smooth and all paperwork for the bikes were produced in a couple of hours so our Trans-Siberian journey was underway. We were expecting tough roads, drunk truck drivers, mosquito infested wild camping and no amenities all the way to Mongolia over 8 days. The roads were a lot better than expected and the roadside cafes were great, we made good time and managed to avoid all the vodka we were being offered at every fuel stop!

Mongolia is a unique country, simple as that. No walls, fences, hedges or boundaries just open country for you to travel where you like, though the people thought we were aliens and stared at us with open mouths as we passed. The wild camping every night was an absolute highlight of the trip and even though we thought we were in the middle of nowhere someone would always come over and look on as we made camp for the night. Rik's frame snapped right in the middle of the country but we managed to hold it together with cable ties & tyre levers. Because of visa reasons re-entering Russia after Mongolia we had 10 days to cross the world's largest country, visit its sights and nurse two very tired bikes. From Vladivostok to St Petersburg via Mongolia we clocked up 8,000 miles in three weeks, 3,000 of those miles were unpaved, without doubt this pushed our endurance levels more than any other part of the trip.

Entering Europe for the first time since April 2006 was a breeze, no thorough customs check, no visa required, a quick glance at our passports and perfect tarmac, we thought Finland was Heaven. The bikes needed a lot of work and the guys at a local motorcycle club gave us the perfect workshop space, place to sleep and company. Refreshed, clean & well oiled we were on our way to Nordkapp to complete our last geographical landmark the most northern road in the

world. The Norwegian coastline blew our already high expectations away but then the £7 pint brought us back down to earth!

The rest of Europe turned into an amazing combination of visiting old & new friends. It was the best possible way of finishing our dream trip and cemented our conclusion that we have been so fortunate to visit so many natural wonders but the true highlight of our trip is the people we met along the way.

On a personal note I have to say a massive thank you to Rik, to be able to do such a trip is one thing but to do it with a best friend has made it so much more complete, the old saying "happiness is only achieved when shared" describes my emotions perfectly.

The future? At the moment we are really happy to be back home with our family & friends and reflecting on our amazing memories. Another trip? Definitely.....

Thanks for all your support, generosity & love over the last few years".

w.thebigbiketrip.com

[Visit thebigbiketrip.com YouTube](#)

Guy Jackson (Wo '73) writes: "I'm married to Sharon and live in Dockenfield, a lovely Surrey village just south of Farnham. I have two boys, Tom and Harry aged 12 & 11 respectively and they attend a local Prep school at Hindhead. Harry won a sports scholarship based on his tennis and rugby. I work in the city as the Chief Compliance Officer to a small Emerging Markets Asset Manager. Supporting our children at various sporting events seems to be our main hobby. I'm not in contact with anyone from Ellesmere and main social contacts remain friends made at Reading University where I read Law, local friends and colleagues."

Frank Bridgeman-Sutton (Wo '78) has taken up a job teaching in Qatar whilst **W (Bill) S Whitehead (Wo '48)** contacts us from BC, Canada to say that he has now fully retired from working as a physician and previously as Vice President of the Workers' Compensation Board of BC and has moved to Qualicum Beach to fully enjoy his retirement. Also across the pond, in South Carolina, is another 'long lost' OE, namely **David Hadley (M '60)** who visited the College this September – his first visit back since leaving in 1966. After leaving Ellesmere in 1966, David went onto Leeds University to study chemistry, graduating in 1969 and then moving onto work for ICI in its commercial sales division before joining the RAF for five years. He moved to Bristow Helicopters in 1975 and stayed with them for 12 years, operating mainly in UAE & Qatar before going back to University – this time at the University of Hartford, Connecticut where he studies for his M.Sc. Accounting. Upon graduating he worked in accountancy for 17 years, being the Tax Auditor for the State of Connecticut before retiring to sunny South Carolina in 2007. He would very much welcome hearing from any contemporaries to share memories and fill in some gaps ! He can be contacted at ghadley@sc.rr.com

Simon Winn (M '79) wrote in with family news. "I have been Vicar of St Joseph the Worker, Northolt for the past eight years and also serve as Director of Ordinands for the Bishop of Willesden. Last year after 10 years in ordained ministry, I enjoyed a refreshing sabbatical and did some fascinating 'fieldwork' on church-based community development projects on the south and west sides of Chicago, followed by a family trip to New Zealand. I am married with two secondary school age children and still try to keep fit these days by playing for a very lowly ranked hockey team at Eastcote Hockey Club and assisting with coaching my son's cricket team at Ealing Cricket Club. Being a Vicar with parish responsibilities, I cannot get to the College next Sunday for David Skipper's memorial service, which I greatly regret. My thought and prayers will be with everyone gathered to honour a fine headmaster who I remember for his encouraging, compassionate and pastoral approach to school mastering. David and my father Richard played rugby together for the Oxford University side in the early 1950s and dad was

confident that he was sending me and my brothers to a well-led school when he chose Ellesmere. My brother **Jonathan Winn (M '82)** is married to Charlotte and they live in Highbury, London, with their two young children Gwendolen and Joshua. Jon has his own chartered surveyors business, *Walter Winn*, which specialises in London property. My youngest brother **Matthew Winn (M '83)** lives in Cambridge with his wife Emma and works in the NHS as managing director of Cambridgeshire Community Services and is chair of the NHS Confederation's Primary Care Trust Provider Forum. He is also a trustee of *Connect*, the National Aphasia Charity. Before moving to his current post Matthew was programme director for integration across adult services in Southwark PCT and Southwark social services".

Andrew Collinge (L '69), internationally renowned hairdresser to royalty and many 'stars', recently returned to the College as guest of honour at a Parents' Society Ladies Luncheon attended by around 200 guests. In excess of £1,000 was raised at the event for the charity, 'Self Unlimited' of which Andrew is Chairman.

Niall Washington - Jones (T '61) has generously sent in two of his exercise books from 1963 for retention in the College archives. He writes: " I was at Ellesmere College junior School with Mr. Birkett 1958 – 1961 and then in Talbot house with Ian Beer from 1961 – 1964. I went on to become an international mountaineer and also a Prep school Headmaster, owning my own school in Kent for 20 years. I am now retired to NZ, to a remote part of the High Country, where my wife is the village nurse and our ten year old daughter attends the Primary School. I spend my life hunting deer and mustering cattle on horseback – I was always a bit of a cowboy! I enclose two exercise books from the 1960's. Across the miles and years, my best wishes to Ellesmere College." Also in the southern hemisphere is **Stuart Towers (M '36)** who sent a postcard whilst on his travels during October. He passed through the township of Kinglake where **Mike Cameron (Wa '55)** lives and which was devastated by the bush fires in February 2009 but was unable to meet up with Mike at the time.

James R.A. Moore (M '69) writes : "I am still a GP in Cornwall where I have been for 22 years – it doesn't really seem possible. I live with wife and four children near Plymouth. My wife runs a riding school so I live with 40 odd horses! I sail whenever possible and took part in this years Fastnet race - but job, family and so on get in the way of serious yachting! I still see **Andrew Jackson (T '69)** regularly - he is soon to take over as head of the BBC Natural History unit in Bristol! Don't see many other OE's but enjoy reading about the old place when the newsletter arrives"

Terry Thornton (Wa '35) has recently helped with an 'internet' search by the family of **Peter Beck** who entered the College in July 1939 having been evacuated from Prague in the 'kindertransport trains' but admits to being of little help as they overlapped only by one year. If any one else can help the family with memories or information from that time they should contact Anne Skinner 01449-612286. Her address is: 2 The Pippins, Church Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 4BQ. Terry was full of news of the Sym family as he mentions that his grand daughter, Rosie, has become engaged to James, the grandson of **Donald Sym (M '40)**. **Alan Sym (M '40)** & **Donald** are now both retired from the family firm of Forrest & Sym and their sons **Philip (M '67)**, **Richard (M '69)** & **Jonathan (M '71)** have now all followed into the firm. Philip's daughter **Bryony (St.A '02)** will shortly be passing out from Sandhurst to join the Military Police and Terry recalls that Jonathan was Captain of the 1st XV Rugby with an undefeated season.

Another correspondent has been **M.G.Thomas v. (T '39)** who recalls his time at Ellesmere with his brother **W.A.Thomas vi.** Before he went on to join the Army before being commissioned in the 7th Queen's Own Hussars at the age of seventeen and a half. **Trevor Green (M '57)** has been in touch - he will be retiring at Easter and moving from Chester. **Peter J Denham (Wa.**

'62) has also made contact with us. Peter lives in Brisbane Australia and is now retired after a career in the Australian Regular Army and working with Charitable groups.

With thanks to Keith Shuttleworth for the following news:

Charles Magill (Wo '92) – living in Birmingham and starting his own business in January 2010. **Anthony Lewis (M '93)** – still working as a detective in the Police force – due to take his Sergeant's exams in March 2010. **Richard Carew (D '86)** – completed his curacy at Beverley Minster last year, but stayed on to run the parish during an interregnum, thus gaining valuable experience; now looking around for a suitable post for his first living.

James Carew (D '87) – still working as a researcher in the fruit industry, and based in Kent. **Richard Davies (D '78)** was married in Shrewsbury Castle a year ago. **Roland Jones** – reports a quieter year for him. Still in London, in the legal profession, living with wife Hannah and son Toby.

Toby Glover (Wo '85) – moved to Australia in December. Visited College last summer. **Jethro Glover** – now working in Hong Kong. **Simon Montgomery (Wo '87)** – his recruitment business affected by the recession, but showing signs of recovery. He is due to be married in 2010.

Andrew Jenkins (Wo '89) – recently moved from Scotland, now Director of Music at St Felix's School, Southwold in Sussex. Will be taking a choir trip to Salzburg in February. **Mark Woolfrey (T)** still living with wife and two daughters in Gloucestershire. Work now involves the occasional trip to Caernarvon, so he hopes soon to revisit old haunts!

Tim Goode – was ordained at Southwark cathedral in June, and is now working as a curate at Croydon Parish Church. **Nicholas Goode (Wo '88)** – continues his career as an actor, much assisted by his ability as a violinist. Recently moved from Oxford to London. Presently appearing in 'Macbeth' which has just moved to the Barbican after touring on the continent.

Patrick Keith (Wo '90) recently took up a pupillage with Birmingham City Council; still does plenty of travel, skiing, walking and cycling, and recently went with **Alistair Biggs (D '90)** for three weeks to Vietnam.

Tony Jenkins (Wo '61) has been in correspondence with Keith Shuttleworth and wrote: "The reason why I write now is to inform you that I have been elected a F.R.Hist.S. It is conferred for 'original contributions to the study of history' and it happened on July 1 this year (2009), I seem to remember. I've published five books and almost 30 academic articles, the two books which counted most being in the field of 18-19th church history. In my present post, Professor of History at Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts, I have a little free time in which to pursue research currently in the fields of 19th-century missionary history, and post-war government institutions in US-occupied Okinawa. I am fortunate this year to have three M.A. students, one of whom is a Japanese civil servant who took early retirement. He is an invaluable source of information.

My history masters at Ellesmere were numerous, Ron Birkett (who introduced me to Justinian), the unfortunate J.S. Kendall who recognised and encouraged my interest in history, Cecil Howard, that King's man who was perhaps the doyen of Ellesmere history dons and second master under Ian Beer, then the young, efficient and aspiring A.H. Beadles (fresh from the tutelage of Robert Blake, later Lord Blake, at Christ Church), and finally the brilliant Mel Jones who was far more inspiring as a master than some of the Oxford history lecturers whom I encountered soon after. Mel stood me well in some of my university essays, and as a model in my own teaching, though I know I do not reach his standards. My interest in history was born

before I entered Ellesmere, but I am glad to say that that interest was not snuffed out there, very much the reverse. I look back on that with some gratitude.”

Another correspondent with KJS was **Madin Khan (Wo '80)** who now lives in Twickenham with his wife and two young sons. After leaving Ellesmere, he studied dentistry at Guy's, London for five years and eventually bought a dental practice from one of his lecturers! A family outing to Alton Towers in February involved a slight detour to the College for his first visit back since leaving

LAWSON W TOLLEY (1936 – 2003)



The Old Ellesmerian Club would like to place on record our deep appreciation to the entire family of Lawson Tolley, in so generously donating sufficient funds for the manufacture of the solid oak display cabinet, now mounted on the wall adjoining the Headmaster's Stalls at the entrance to Chapel, which contains St Oswald's Mace, ceremoniously and historically carried by the Prefect of Chapel during School Services.

This cabinet complements the character of the building, and will be a forceful, affectionate and permanent memorial to his love of Ellesmere.

Lawson entered Junior School in 1945, and was a member of Meynell House between 1948 and 1953. He enjoyed a most active and successful business career, and continued his association with Ellesmere when he became President in 1991. Again, our thanks to his family for their generosity, to which the College wish to be closely associated.

Obituaries:

DAVID JOHN SKIPPER (MEMORIAL SERVICE)

ANDREW SKIPPER'S ADDRESS:

“It seems some time since many of us met, in sad, but uplifting circumstances at my father's funeral. I thanked so many for coming to Welshampton to bid my father farewell on that occasion, and today I am happy to do the same as we have gathered to celebrate my father's life. So, on behalf of my mother and my brothers and sister, I welcome and thank you all.

At the risk of sounding like a groom at a wedding, there are first however a number who I should thank particularly. My father would expect it; he was precise in his deathbed "suggestions" for a memorial service, and the College has done him proud. So, many thanks to the Headmaster, Chaplain and assembled O.E.'s who have permitted and helped make the occasion; and to Antony Dowlen and the choir (with my oldest friend Stephen) who I know were determined to put on a good show, with support from Roger Allen and to Keith Shuttleworth for his organisation. Dad was especially keen that Jonathan Baker, the eminent head of Pusey House in Oxford and OMT should speak, and that Katie should "sing something" as he put it. Thanks to you all.

So to my father. For those Classicists present, I will try and avoid the "catalogue of ships".

David John Skipper was born on 14 April 1931 in London and spent his early years in North Kensington, where his grandparents ran Sheppards undertakers on the Portobello Road. In 1938, with the outbreak of war apparently imminent he went with my grandmother and aunt Jill to the village of Mortimer. Dad writes that they went with his mother, rather than his school mates, as my grandfather:

"was determined that as far as possible we should remain as a family protected from the wicked ways of the world (and we knew just how wicked it was because Sunday by Sunday we were told so by the Pastor at Talbot Tabernacle ... a remarkably self-satisfied puritanical independent chapel, with a vision to save the world from sin and around which the whole of our lives revolved)".

My father's Christian beliefs underpinned everything he did, embedded from his time at the Tabernacle with his family. However, since the first line of his self-penned CV is "confirmed member of the Anglican Communion", and he ended up as head of a Woodard School, I think it is fair to say that he moved on. He was always a determined and committed Christian, but with a fierce independence of thought and spirit that always asked questions, hated pomposity and sought understanding through study, prayer, service and experience, not by rote. A conservative non-conformist with a touch of irreverence I like to think.

In fact war was postponed, and trusting Neville Chamberlain, the family went home. When it started for real, my father moved again and spent what he described as the happiest year of his life in Middle and Over Wallop, in the countryside where he developed his passion for nature, his butterflies and moths (and ultimately his New Naturalist series collection, or collections as I am reminded). From here the family moved to Chorley wood in Herts, and father to Watford Grammar School, where he was a pupil during the war, and where he excelled academically, winning a place reading Chemistry at Brasenose College Oxford, and at sport where he won the Inter-County Schools long jump. He also and as importantly made lasting friendships, and met my mother; and John and Margaret, Tony and Mary, June and Lesley were close friends to the end. He was sent to BNC with a letter from his Senior Science Master commending him as "an intelligent boy, well spoken and well mannered, with an attractive, vivacious personality, certain to be a good mixer in undergraduate life".

The move to BNC must, however, have been extraordinary, as he mixed with a completely different set, many older from National Service, and many from different backgrounds. He won a blue at Rugby and gained a second class degree (like me he never confessed which end of the spectrum as he insisted that "all cats look grey in the moonlight"). Following Oxford he spent 3 years from 1953 with the RAF on Short Service Commission.

My father married my mother on 6 August 1955, and joined the staff at Radley College in 1956, being master I/C Rugby football and OC RAF section of the CCF. I was born in 1961 and Jona in 1963. Again, Radley, a traditional English public school, must have been a different world to my father, but he accepted the challenge with relish.

It was the Oxford RAF and Radley period that saw his Rugby flourish. My father had an enviable rugby career. He played for Oxford, the RAF Southern Counties, Moseley and Richmond. Moseley and Richmond were top first class clubs and my grandmother and Judith proudly collated the newspaper cuttings of matches where the slight, speedy winger was featured. He is pictured being chased down in a match against the All Blacks, and he played against most leading sides of the day, including the Wallabies. It was sad that he could not attend this year the Old Blues reunion he regularly organised, but it went ahead on 4th September, and a glass was raised to his memory.

In 1963 we moved to Rugby, and for 6 years my father taught chemistry, coached Rugby football, ran the Corps (and Tim and Lucy were born).

It was this period, teaching under Walter Hamilton, that I remember him recalling most, when I believe my father was most influenced as a teacher, and when probably he had most fun in his career. He happily recounted 2 pieces of advice from the Headmaster which merit repetition:

"If you become a Headmaster, never trust a man who comes to your study and says that he has come as a matter of principle"; and "Boys go through many phases and they're all bad".

He wrote about his time at Rugby with fondness and was the successful coach, with Ian Barlow, of an unbeaten XV in 1967, and the head of the CORPS, whilst in an unusual move for the time also setting up alternative activities for those not of a military bent. His relationship with RSM Potter was I suspect legendary and the RSM was certainly memorable to me even as a youngster and subsequently as a schoolboy at Rugby. My favourite memory from Dad is of RSM Potter addressing the contingent with vigour:

"I want you all to shout. I want you all to shout because it gives you confidence. And I want you all to be confident because if you're confident you'll get a good job. And I would like you all to get a good job. One day one of you would make a good Prime Minister. And Gawd knows we need one!"

(remembering that the only OR Prime Minister was Neville Chamberlain of course).

Dad loved teaching and had many friends from Rugby, and all his schools, and many are here today with much better stories than mine, though I have never quite worked out the background to Keith Maclennan (my former Greek master) arriving at hospital shortly before my father's death and pronouncing "Hello Badger"!

As someone in management myself, I suspect that life became a bit more serious when he moved to Ellesmere, my father's first headship where he was inaugurated 40 years ago in 1969 on the feast of St Michael and All Angels. However he was completely dedicated to and loved the school, and, as John Walters has written, following his friend and Cambridge adversary, and Schoolmasters Teammate, Ian Beer, was determined to develop a modern educational establishment catering for a wide range of abilities in a caring, pastoral atmosphere focussed on the chapel, ideally integrated with the local community (something Nathaniel Woodard may not have contemplated given the situation of many of his schools!). He raised funds for the arts centre and for scholarships giving wider access to a private education, and worked with Bangor University to establish a specialist dyslexic unit.

In 1982 he moved to Merchant Taylors' Northwood, a totally different school, primarily of day boys.

Merchant Taylors', founded by one of the senior Livery Companies, presented different challenges. My father arrived after what had been described as a "very bad period", with prep school relations poor and a number of structural changes needed (a euphemistic management phrase). It was a great school, but clearly required some work, and my father introduced a new House Tutor system, requiring every boy to do 5 or 3 years to O Level, (having suffered the "accelerated" route myself at Rugby I can commend him for this), and overall infused the school with a direct personal approach based on his own beliefs. This was in the context of a more multi-cultural environment that he had been used to at Ellesmere, which inevitably I suspect meant a less smooth spiritual ride. I am told by David Mash his 2nd master that he continued to explode things regularly in Chemistry lessons (a feature of his career), to raise money and build

up the school, with new sports hall and swimming pool. He (as did we all) loved the house at Merchant Taylors, and its asparagus bed tended by Ken, was supportive of his staff, and, was in contradiction of Walter Hamilton, "always optimistic about boys". This optimism appears to have resulted in a sixth form Common Room, allowing boys to organise themselves which the recent obituary quaintly described him saying: "It worked reasonably well, even if the presence of a colleague was found to be necessary when large numbers of boys were involved." The mind boggles!

In 1991, at the required, but probably now illegal, age of 60, my father retired to Woburn, where he was church warden of Aspley Guise and set up and ran the PGCE long distance learning course for South Bank University, again focussing on learning disabilities. When finally he retired from this he moved back to Shropshire, to Welshampton, where he committed himself wholeheartedly to the community which he loved, as church warden, Chair of the Ellesmere Patients Group and Welshampton School and continuing as fund raiser culminating in his well-known Canalotto walk raising funds for St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Welshampton. This feat is soon to be repeated by Tim in Canalotto 2, all donations gratefully received!

During his career he was governor of many schools, including Abbots Bromley and Quainton Hall and a number of prep schools (suggesting that relations were improved). He was Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Merchant Taylors Company; at 6's and 7's with Martin Penney his friend and second master at Ellesmere, a Skinner. He was Chairman of the Society of Schoolmaster's charity, represented the Bishop of St Alban's on ACCM selection for 15 years and raised hundreds of thousands for charity and his schools. He was even in earlier times a regular commandant at Crusader Camp (winning kipper eating contests). A full life, of service, commitment and fun.

What does all this mean? At the funeral, I wanted to show what he meant to my family, and I make no apology for repeating some of what I said then. My father was a mixture of chemist and artist, conservative and non-conformist; a great collector but a man who lived in a state of managed chaos and who whilst being a great leader, owed much of his success to and relied on my mother, who supported him and each school in all his posts through more than 50 years. We should all thank her today. He gave freely of his time and money, as a matter of duty and pleasure and as a sign of his commitment to his family, his community, his church and his beliefs. He had a sense of humour and was humble, treating all people with equal respect. He was a simple, modest and trusting man (sometimes indeed to extremes), who had many enduring friends, and cared for them all. He has left us all with happy memories, and we rightly celebrate his life today."

Just as we went to print with Newsletter 27 we heard of the death, in November 2008, of **Arthur W. Wright (M '59)**. We have also been informed of the death, in July 2009, of **Nick F Pearson (Wa '55)** and of a very local OE, **John H Benson (M '39)**, who passed away on 13th January 2009. **Peter J.R. Bennet (Wa '61)** passed away on 28th June.

Another O.E, **His Honour Peter Northcote (M '35)** also died on 28th June 2009. Peter was born in Herefordshire in 1920 and educated at Ellesmere before going to Bristol University where he read mathematics. His further education was interrupted by the dark days of 1940 which saw him commissioned into the KSLI and, after a period with the 'Shropshires', seconded to the Burma Rifles and a posting in Burma, entailing a hazardous journey by troopship before finally entering the Irrawaddy Delta and making his way to Rangoon to join his new regiment.

This was not to be as the Japanese had taken Rangoon. A light weapons exchange ensued between the ship and the enemy on the shore, during which the tide went out leaving the ship stranded on a sandbank. Fortunately, the enemy had not yet brought up their heavy guns and

the ship and its company survived the onslaught until it refloated at high tide – damaged, it made its way to India.

Peter joined the 15th Battalion of the Rajput Regiment, Indian Army, first serving on the North West Frontier fighting marauding Afghans – he commented more than once how little things seemed to have changed! He then took part in the war Burma, returning home as Major Northcote, one of the now diminishing band of Burma Star veterans.

He met Pat in Shrewsbury, where he came to be demobilised from his mother Regiment. They married and a happy family life saw the birth of two sons as he embarked on a distinguished legal career. A period in London ensued before the family set up home in Shrewsbury.

Two great tragedies befell the family. His son Robin, a successful antique dealer who had based himself in St.Quay Portrieux, France was killed by a drunken driver while he and his wife, Katherine, were expecting their first child – Sally Jane Northcote – who was born four months after her father's death. A few years later their other son, Peter, died at the family home in Wroxeter after a serious illness.

Peter and Pat were friends to many, particularly to those in adversity. They enjoyed hosting parties and had very busy social lives, playing important roles in the community. Peter was appointed Master of the Shrewsbury Drapers Company and successfully led the organisation through some very lean times to make it the thriving charity it is today. He and Pat helped to form the Boy's Adventure Camp for under-privileged inner city children and they were active supporters of the Shrewsbury Helping Hand Association.

Both before, and after, Pat's death in 2000 Peter travelled frequently to France to maintain his grandfatherly contact with Sally Jane and her French family. By now he was living in Wellington, amongst many friends.

Recent years saw him becoming increasingly infirm but he showed great courage, managing to live on his own whilst suffering decreasing mobility. He accepted only the minimum of help but retained his razor sharp mind and his wit – even in his final days in hospital we are told he was happily dispensing legal advice to the staff who cared for him. This was so typical of him.

This truly lovely gentleman died peacefully in his sleep and he will be sorely missed. His funeral took place at St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury on 16th July 2009.

Robert Harding (Wa '41) wrote in at the end of July to inform us of the recent death of his great friend and contemporary **Deryck Holland (Wa '37)** on 27th June 2009. On leaving Ellesmere, Deryck joined the Royal Navy but, shortly afterwards, he was granted a discharge on compassionate grounds following the untimely death of his father. Deryck then took over the family business and ran this successfully until his retirement. Throughout his life, he was actively involved with Shenstone Car Club, concentrating on rallies especially the Tulip, RAC & London rallies. He kept in touch with many of his old school contemporaries and had happy memories times of his time there. Deryck leaves a widow, Sheila and a daughter, Katie.

The following notice appeared in the Whitchurch Herald on 3rd September 2009: “ A young fundraiser has been found dead at his home near Wem.**James Edward Barry Hawkins (D '88)** lived at Lodge Farm, wolverley, Wem, Shropshire and was the youngest son of Barry and Elaine Hawkins of Wem Motors.He was found dead on Monday, August 17.An inquiry was opened on August 21 and has been adjourned to a date to be fixed.He leaves a sister Jayne and brother Robert.

James was a well-known man, with many friends and had close links with the Herald due to his numerous charity cycle rides throughout the world. He emailed us with updates from his travels which we published as diaries in our paper. One of his major trips got under way when he was invited to take part in a 1,500-mile bike ride in South East Asia. He went with his friend and co-cyclist Stephanie Scott from Shrewsbury who cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats with him. The pair were the only UK cyclists to be invited to take part in the event, which was devised by governments in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar in a bid to boost tourism.

James, who worked in therapeutic child care, sent us e-mails from various points such as Bangkok, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Laos and Cambodia."

James left Ellesmere after completing his GCSE's in 1993.

News has reached us of the death on 6th October 2009 of **C P Morgan (Wa '42)**. We have also been informed of the death, in October 2009, of **Bruce Walton (Wa '42)**.

Ian Johnston (T '46) sadly informs us of the recent death, on 14th November 2009, of his good friend **Dennis Mottershead (T '47)**. Ian writes: "Dennis Mottershead entered Talbot House in 1947 and left some eight years later. He will always be remembered for his enthusiasm for all forms of motor sport including Ariel Square 4 motor bikes which he had learnt to drive while on holiday.

On leaving Ellesmere he served his time as a motor engineer with Fraser Nash in London before moving north again where he worked at Manchester Garages, a Ford dealer in Stockport. In 1970 Dennis emigrated with his wife Judith and two children, Melanie and Richard, to the Province of Alberta in Canada, spending the rest of his life working in the motor trade.

He continued to return to the UK, visiting Ellesmere some three years ago, the first time since leaving the College. He was stunned by the changes that had taken place.

For the last three to four years Dennis's health had deteriorated and it is understood that his untimely death in a motor accident in Canada was the result of a heart attack."

Stephen Clegg (T '55) wrote in at the beginning of February: "Bad news, I'm afraid, about my dear elder brother **Paul Clegg (T '47)** who preceded me at College and died suddenly, but after a lengthy illness, on Saturday January 16th at the age of 72. He entered 'The Zoo' in, I think, 1947 and left the Sixth Form and Talbot House in 1955 to read Geography at Hull University. I started at College in the September of the same year, so we never quite overlapped. I also was in Talbot House and left for St Andrew's University (also Geography!) in 1963.

Paul's career was a varied affair, and included spells in teaching, sales (Lancashire carpets and Cheshire salt) and shipping brokerage. It was in Hull that he developed his lifelong interest in ships and the sea and his final career development was as an freelance commercial shipping journalist - which afforded him the opportunity to travel all over the world in the comparative luxury of the Owner's Suite on many a container ship. His other interests including bird watching, stamp collecting and the Church. He was twice a Town Councillor in Ashburton, Devon, and served as a Churchwarden at St Andrew's Church, Ashburton, where he is buried close to our mother and father. He is survived by his divorced wife, Jean, and their daughters, Susan and Phillippa, who each in turn have two daughters."

As we go to print, we have heard of the death on 21st February 2010 of **William AGG Goodwin (M '33)**. His funeral took place on 6th March at All Saints Church, Sanderstead, Surrey.

It is with great sadness that we report the recent death of **Heather Caldecott** at Nightingale House Hospice, Wrexham on Sunday 29th November 2009. Heather will be remembered by many, many OE's for the care and concern she showed to them when she was 'on duty' in the school medical centre

On October 13th 2009, there appeared an 'In Memoriam' announcement in the Daily Telegraph:

*"The Leader of the House of Lords and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Dean of Harptree (**Paul Dean M'36**) in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster".*

Regional Dinners

Jersey Dinner 26th September 2009

A small, but no less select, band of OE's gathered at the Greenhills Country Hotel and Restaurant on the evening of 26th September for the eighth Jersey Dinner - a thoroughly enjoyable evening of good food and good company in very pleasant surroundings. The President, John Harvey (Wo '69), attended and we were also pleased to welcome Brendan and Anne Wignall.

Many memories were stirred by the table mats, printed from the College archives and showing most of those attending in their youth! The majority of photographs were of sports teams and there was a suggestion made on the evening that those attending next year (the dinner is always held on the last Saturday in September) could demonstrate their sporting prowess and enter an OE Club relay team in the Jersey Marathon that is always held the morning after this Dinner! Watch this space.....

The following OE's attended:

John Harvey (Wo '69), Chris Scott (T '66), Nigel Simpson (M '56), David Leftwich (M '57), Paul Slous (L '76) and Mike Richards (M '67).

As ever, our sincere thanks to Chris and Veronica Scott for so ably organising this event.

Reunion at Soughton Hall, Northop, Flintshire

17th September 2009

Eleven Old Ellesmerians and their partners met for lunch at Soughton Hall, Northop, Flintshire on 17th. September 2009. They were all at Ellesmere during the 1950's and several were in the same form in 1955 / 56. Many had not seen each other for over fifty years. A great afternoon was had by all.

The photograph was taken by Barry Morris and shows the aging OE'S from left to right:- **Peter Coates, Barry Dearden (T '51), Clive Griffiths (T '54), David Mullock (Wo '53), Fred West (Wa '53), Rob Home (T '54), Barry Morris (M '55), Bill Burgess (T '54), John Newport, John Latham (M '55) and Ian Dutton.**

The event was organised by Rob Home and his wife Beryl.



**Manchester Dinner
Friday 9th October 2009-11-29**

The Manchester Dinner was held at Mere Golf & Country Club on Friday 9th October. Despite the credit crunch, Ian Johnston, The Area Secretary, was delighted that, on the day, some seventy three OE's and their guests sat down to the dinner. It was pleasing to see new names on the list of those attending and particularly to see three younger members of the OE Club, namely Paul Russell, Neil Churns and Guy Fennell, all of whom have recently been elected to the Executive Committee. It was especially pleasing that our most senior member, George Fairley, Talbot 1933, attended.

David Swinn, our Chairman, opened proceedings by asking the Headmaster to say Grace. David then welcomed the attending members and thanked the Secretary and his wife for their hard work in drumming up support.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by the Head Girl, Rebecca Britton (Meynell) and the OE Club was proposed by Freddie Herzog the Head Boy (Wakeman/Lambart) who spoke extremely well and showed no form of nervousness, explaining that he was not noted for his sporting activities at the school but was a thespian, which obviously gave him confidence.

The response and toast to the School and Staff was made by our President, John Harvey, (Wo '69) who entertained us with snippets of information gleaned from the archives - much to the amusement of those present. The word "expelled" never seemed to be used but the result was the same!

Responding, the Headmaster, having corrected the opening Grace, gave us his "State of the College" and the results of recent inspections by Ofsted and other authorities. He was pleased to report that the school was full to capacity but there was no room for complacency and indeed having just returned from the Headmasters' Conference he was leaving that evening for Bulgaria and a further trip to Thailand was planned for November.

Next year we will be moving the Manchester Dinner to Stanneylands Hotel, Stanneylands Road, Wilmslow, SK9 4EY, and this will take place on Friday 22nd October 2010. Overnight accommodation can be provided on request.

West Wales Dinner Friday 13th November 2009

The West Wales Area Dinner was held at the Wolfscastle Country Hotel, Pembrokeshire on Friday 13th November 2009. Twenty-eight attendees braved flooded roads, high winds and diminishing visibility to make the pilgrimage to this superb hotel nestling under Carreg Treffgarne rocks. After meeting up for convivial conversation in the hotels' bar, guests were welcomed into the hotels' festively decorated Allt-yr-Afon Restaurant for a fine spread and good wine.

Grace was said by Barry Keenan (T '48), the Loyal Toast proposed by Gerald T Latham (T '44). The Chairman, Michael Hemmingway (T'65) made his address and introduced Nick Pettingale, newly appointed Director of Development at Ellesmere who on this occasion also represented the Headmaster who was overseas on business. The toast to the O.E. Club was proposed by our President, John Harvey (Wo '69). Our guest speaker Dai "the Vet" Thomas injected some local farming humour to the event and proposed the Response and Toast "School and Staff". The closing Grace was said by our archivist Martin Anderson (Wa '40) after which the evening continued in the hotel bar to the early hours.

On Saturday morning after a hearty breakfast and under clearing skies fourteen OE's and partners departed Wolfscastle in convoy bound for nearby Goodwick (Fishguard) Harbour. The last time such an invasion of the harbour was mounted it was 22nd February 1797 whilst Britain and France were at war! The French with 1,400 men decided that invading Fishguard would be a good idea but after sampling the locally available wine the invaders were in no state to fight and surrendered.

Paul Russell had arranged for security and customs clearance (surely a first for an OE event) for a rare visit to the "North Breakwater" protecting Fishguard harbour. The breakwater at is an immense structure stretching 2,000 feet into the Irish Sea, the Paddington to Fishguard railway line running along it to the lighthouse.

The harbour was opened on August 30th, 1906 after the Great Western Railway company blasted away 1.6 million tonnes of rock which was then used to make the breakwater. It is now owned by Stena Line and is the base for their year round ferry service to Rosslare using the super-ferry "Stena Europe". The harbour was featured as the location for filming of "Moby Dick" starring Gregory Peck whilst nearby Lower Town was used for Dylan Thomas' "Under Milk Wood" starring Richard Burton, Peter O'Toole and Elizabeth Taylor.

The group walked down the northern facing seaward side of the structure, which comprises of thousands of enormous concrete blocks, each the size of the average domestic room, which have been haphazardly placed to protect the main breakwater from the ravages of winter gales. Upon reaching the 46' octagonal lighthouse at the end, return was via the former railway track-

bed along the South side. Back on terra firma the group went on to view the RNLI all weather Trent class lifeboat, the Blue Peter VII.

The previous days' storms meant that the lunchtime ferry crossing had been cancelled, the vessel still in Ireland. However, as compensation the "Royal Yacht" Hebridian Princess was alongside having put into the harbour due to a medical emergency on board during the previous nights force 11 gale. After a lengthy discussion with a member of the crew it became apparent that even a group of OE's with security clearance were not going to get aboard whether they had been invited into the port or not!

Moving onto the Harbour railway station Paul Russell gave a brief explanation of the method of working for the Fishguard Harbour line. It was whilst in this process that a member of "Special Branch" became curious but was rebuffed by Mr. Mike Hemmingway, our own former member of the local Constabulary!

The party said their farewells to the port and retired for refreshment on the cliff top at the Fishguard Bay Hotel before returning for an informal dinner of local fare at Wolfscastle. Goodbyes were said late morning Sunday after breakfast and everyone set off into the glorious Pembrokeshire sunshine.

Attendees;

John Harvey – President, Michael and Alison Hemmingway, Nick Pettingale – Director of Development, Ellesmere College, Martin Anderson, Dai Thomas – Guest Speaker, Barrie and Avril Keenan, David and Andrea Peel, Tom and Sue Latham, Peter and Joan Perkins, Graham and Clare Perkins, Tom and Joan Platt, John and Irene Platt, Geoff and Wendy Hilton, Ian and Brenda Johnston, Charlie and Judith Stagg, Paul Russell, David Leftwich.

Midland Dinner 26th February 2010

The 37th Anniversary Midland Region Dinner of the Old Ellesmerian Club was held at the Park House Hotel, Shifnal, Shropshire with some fifty-five OE's and their guests making the pilgrimage to this Shropshire retreat.

Guests gathered before Dinner in a private bar before being called through to the Dobson Suite that had been beautifully presented. The traditional Grace was said by David Peel (T '49) and the Loyal Toast was proposed by Gerald T Latham (T '44). The Chairman, David Leftwich (M '57) made his address and invited Wing Commander John Jewiss (T '51) to propose the toast to 'The OE Club'. The response and toast "School and Staff" was made by our President, John Harvey (Wo '69) and this was responded to by Nick Pettingale, Director of Development at College. Nick was representing the Headmaster who was overseas on college business. He had been well briefed for the occasion, going as far as to welcome "5C" separately before talking about the many recent achievements at the college and the bright future ahead. The closing Grace was said by Ian Johnston (T '46) and the evening continued in the hotel bar to the early hours.

On Saturday morning those who had stayed overnight enjoyed a hearty Shropshire breakfast before venturing in five vehicles into the morning drizzle the short distance to the UNESCO world heritage site that is historic Ironbridge. The Gorge was entered after passing E-On's Ironbridge "C" (Buildwas) 1,000MW coal fired power station (capable of supplying 750,000 homes) and after leaving the vehicles at the Wharfage a pleasant riverside walk was enjoyed taking in the historic town and Abraham Darby III's Iron Bridge and Tollhouse (1779). The bridge being the world's first cast-iron bridge and the universal symbol of the Industrial

Revolution. Refreshment was taken in one of the many tea shops, some members of the party also taking the opportunity of visiting Eleys famous Pork Pie shop.

Departing Ironbridge a splinter group set off for Much Wenlock which claims to be the birthplace of the modern Olympic movement whilst the majority motored the short distance down the Gorge past Bedlam Furnaces and the Hay Inclined Plane to Coalport China works. The works were in use from 1796 to 1926 manufacturing fine bone china and it is now one of the ten museums of the Gorge and home to the national collection of Caughley and Coalport china.

Arrangements had been made in the evening for the remaining group of fourteen to dine in a most unusual and thoroughly splendid local pub/ loft restaurant "Seven". This gem of an establishment provided excellent food with service to match. With low beams separating the loft restaurant into cosy corners, everything has to be carried into the "loft" from the kitchen downstairs. Applying equally to guests and to the waiting staff it certainly helps to be a Limbo dancer to negotiate the many beams! "Seven" claims to be one of Shropshire's top ten places to eat. Goodbyes were said Sunday morning after breakfast with everyone setting off into the winter sunshine.

Attendees;

John Harvey, Nick Pettingale, David R Leftwich, Keith Shuttleworth, Paul Russell, Richard Rowley, Richard Jones, David & Robyn Mullock, Barrie & Avril Keenan, Tom & Sue Latham, Tom & Joan Platt, Ted & Judy Fraser-Smith, Peter & Rachael Hellberg, Quentin & Adele Dodd, David & Andrea Peel, John & Irene Platt, Tony & Mary Hinchliffe, Tony & Diana Shepherd, Charles & Wendy Dakin, Roger & Cath Bell, David Wolverson, Tim Wolverson, Geoff & Wendy Hilton, Rod [Charlie] & Judith Stagg, Fred Parrott & Anita Boardman, David & Diane Bradley, Ian & Brenda Johnston, Robin & Siobhan Huxley, Mike & Lynda Turner, Fred West & Marg Parton, John & Felicity Jewiss, Neville & June Cope.

Apologies were received from;

Tony Jude, Bill Rucker, David Swinn, Barry Morris, Tony 'Jinker' Jones, Michael Heath, Fred Williams, Michael Dod, John Williams, Ron Jones, Tim Leadbeater, Simon Turpin, Richard Oldfield, Alfred Cooper, Robert Walker

OE Sport

A message from Simon Bradshaw: I am delighted to introduce my successor as the OE Golf Secretary, please welcome Gerald Latham (Tom). Tom is a past recent Captain at Lymm Golf Club in Cheshire. A fine and well established course. To many of you Tom needs no introduction he has been helping out in many different disguises throughout the OE system. He is a person to which I believe all OEs are extremely grateful due to the unstinting work that he puts in to the Club in general. Due to business audits June has been a problem time for me for the last couple of years and it is important that the Golf Day continues as it has done for sixty odd years. I will be continuing, with the permission of Tom, in organising our competitive competitions so you have not heard the last of me! In the meantime preparations are underway for the Golf Day next year which I believe is Wednesday, 4th June 2010. You will no doubt receive confirmation of this directly from Tom.

The Public Schools Old Boys Golf Association arrange the Grafton Morrish Tournament and notification has been received for next years event which will be held on 8th May 2010 at Olton Golf Club. Anyone interested in this event should contact Simon Bradshaw on simon.bradshaw@williambradshaw.co.uk Tel. No: 0151.355.9300 Mobile: 07950.036277

Charity Golf Day

Hosted by

Richard Morris and Robert Taylor

In aid of

The Lady Taverners – Chester and North Wales Region

At Llangollen Golf Club

On

Thursday 13th May 2010

Mid day tee off times

£50 per person or £200 for team of four players
(includes bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf and two course evening meal)

Please complete the form below Players names Handicap

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Please make cheques payable to '**LADY TAVERNERS Ltd**' Registered Charity No 306054
I would also like to sponsor a hole at £50 each **Yes / No**
I will be happy to bring a raffle prize **Yes / No**

Email address for lead player _____

Contact telephone / mobile _____

Please reply to:

Gemma Thomas on email gemma.thomas@mcwgroup.co.uk telephone 01978 340347

Post cheques and completed forms to:

Richard Morris, MCW Group, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham LL13 7YP

Or contact Richard Morris on 07801 592120 or home telephone 01948 830275

Or contact Robert Taylor on 07947 359969 or home telephone 01829 271374

“Giving young people, particularly those with special needs a sporting chance”

For more information: www.lordstaverners.org



OE Club Ties.

We are pleased to be able to announce that we have secured stocks of the traditional OE Club ties, both the 'Raven on blue background' and the 'Oxford Blue and silver striped'.

Both ties are 100% silk and are 'adult' size.



These can be obtained from :

John Harvey, 7 Town Walls, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1TW

£12.95 each or £25.00 for a pair.

All prices are inclusive of UK postage charges.

Please make your cheque payable to 'The Old Ellesmerian Club' – we regret we are unable to accept credit or debit card payments