



FRIENDS' SCHOOL SAFFRON WALDEN
OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

MAGAZINE



with
Annual Report and Accounts

139th Year 2008

April 2009



FROM THE EDITOR

The Association's Magazine and Annual Report 2009 as usual gives you, its readers, a number of items that we are obliged to publish under the Rules of the Association, including the Minutes of the AGM, the financial pages and a list of Officers and Committee members.

There are also the other "regulars": obituaries, family news, news of Old Scholars, cricket, the School staff list, OS Past Presidents, OS reunions, and so on. There is now a Feedback section, which gives readers the opportunity to respond to the Editor with their thoughts about the Magazine.

Last year's Magazine included a look back at *The Avenue* from fifty years earlier, and this was so well received that the Editor has moved on a year and has selected highlights from the 1959 edition. Coincidentally, Lenon Beeson found himself blowing the dust off his copy of *The Avenue* from June 1956, and discovered quite a lot that he felt other OS might enjoy.

John Burley has been in touch from "somewhere in France" (Divonne-les-Bains) contrasting his earlier work on a global scale with the United Nations with his current role on the local *Conseil Municipal*.

Tony Watson has written an appreciation of Martin Holmes's unique contribution to the School's Board of Governors, and Sally Dennis (Tuffin) has given a fascinating insight into her design journey from fashion clothing in the Sixties to pottery in the 21st century.

I've said it before, but if you feel that the OS Magazine could be better, or you have a contribution of your own to make, please contact me by phone, by email or by letter. Don't keep it to yourself, share it. This is **your** Magazine!

Richard Gilpin, February 2009

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THE PRESIDENT FOR 2008/9

Caroline Longstreet, who is this year's President, comes from a somewhat more recent Year Group to that of the Editor. He therefore approached Deirdre Mansbridge, and asked her to explain to Old Scholars what makes Caroline such a special person...



Better known as 'Jac' in her school days at Friends', Caroline Cannon (as she was then) was something of a tomboy and preferred to be known by a less girly name than Caroline. She was a day scholar who got the best possible value for money from what was on offer, as she spent nearly all her weekday waking hours at school, only going home to sleep and eat breakfast. Even on Sundays, her friends used to pile onto bikes and cycle the eight-mile trip to Duxford, where she lived, to spend the day with her and her family.

Many will remember Caroline as a fun-loving prankster and can recall numerous stories of jolly japes. She was always to be found with her friends at the back of the bus on any field trips or away matches so that they could engage in extra-curricular activities, usually involving plenty of noise. They would also plan diversionary activities to execute at the arrival destination, much to the exasperation of the School staff.

Some of the other (printable) pranks included cookery room anarchy involving flour fights, locked larders, buckets and

unwashed equipment being hidden in cupboards. On one occasion, lurking outside Miss Stubbs's office window, she made outrageous and highly unsuitable faces through the window while a friend was being reprimanded. Miss Stubbs had her back to the window and the friend had to feign sudden stomach cramps in order to escape.

Then there was the incident where Caroline and her friend lowered lewd pictures from a first floor classroom window to dangle outside the classroom below to spice up the A Level lesson being conducted there. She was also known to explore various ways of livening up boring lessons with the imaginative use of nearby fire hoses.

Caroline was (and still is) a brilliant sportswoman. Pupils who belonged to Mennell were very grateful to have her on their team, as she excelled in any sport she turned her hand to. However it was hockey where she really

made her mark, playing for the School, then the County and eventually the East of England. She has enjoyed a lifetime of hockey, her love of which was discovered and nurtured at Friends' School. She has recently retired from the game, having endured three knee operations, and will now focus her energy on playing golf – look out ladies, there's a new kid on the block!

Caroline left Friends' School in 1975, went to Hull University to study History and English, and was proud to have graduated at a time when few school leavers, particularly women, went on to University. While she was there, hockey was a key interest, and she captained the Ladies Hockey 1st XI; husband-to-be Neil was captain of the Men's 1st XI.

Following university, Caroline joined the Civil Service to work in the Home Office and rose through the ranks to senior management level. She worked directly with the Home Secretary and several Ministers (Jack Straw is 'a sweetie' apparently!), taking on various high-ranking roles in the Home Office. It's difficult for her School friends to reconcile the fun-loving girl we knew at Friends' with the serious business of dealing with immigration, national security and terrorism.

Neil and Caroline have been married for 27 years and have two children of whom they are immensely proud, Katie (22) and James (20), both of whom are at

University. They share Caroline's love of history, inspired in her at FSSW by 'Squirrel' (History teacher Cyril Mummery). Having lived in Sussex and commuted to London for longer than they care to remember, Neil and Caroline decided in 2002 to move to Taunton in Somerset to seek 'the good life'. It is here that Caroline currently works as Head of External Relations, Corporate Services, in the South West Regional Secretariat.

Now living in a very old listed farmhouse (in need of a lifetime's restoration) on the edge of Exmoor, miles from civilisation but with lots of dog-walking for beloved Archie, they feel they have at last found the right balance in life.

She looks back with affection at her schooldays and the lifelong friendships she made there, as illustrated by a quote from one of her closest friends:

"Caroline was and always will be a special friend; a very lively, warm, humorous, clever and moral person who has never lost her tremendous sense of fun and that brilliant anarchic streak which added colour and vibrancy to our school experiences."

In this, her Presidential year, she plans to work towards giving something back to the school of which she has such fond memories and is looking forward to working closely with the Old Scholars Association and the Headmaster.

Deirdre Mansbridge et al

MARTIN HOLMES (Governor 1989-2008)

*An appreciation of nineteen years of service
to the School's Board of Governors*

Martin was appointed a Governor in 1989 by the Old Scholars' Association, which at that time had the power under the School's Constitution to appoint two Governors. Martin was joined in that year by Sarah Evans as a new Head, following the retirement of John Woods. Martin subsequently took part in the appointment of three new Heads and a few Bursars.

Martin's role as a farmer may have seemed a strange qualification for appointment as the Board's Treasurer but his talents had been honed in Local Government, as a College Governor, and in the National Farmers Union.

His quiet, steady, but determined view of the responsibilities of Governance resulted in his appointment by the Board in 1993 as Treasurer, a post he continued to hold until his retirement in December 2008.

As Martin said to the OSA AGM in 1996: "The role of a Governor is not of an executive nature; it is to set the policy of the School and to consider matters brought before us, giving to the management of the School the advice they need, using the skills we bring from our different backgrounds."

Martin brought many skills to



Martin speaking to the 2008 AGM

the Board, and his support of numerous Clerks of Governors as a Board Officer helped to guide and inform the Board through many difficult decisions.

During his period of service he has helped the School during the financial problems caused by the withdrawal of the Assisted Places Scheme; the re-formation of the Junior School; the considerable changes to the Constitution during and following the transfer of the schools assets by London & Middlesex General Meeting; and the appointment of the School Company as a Trust Corporation enabling it to own those assets.

Martin could be relied upon to represent the School at the annual training days provided by the

Friends' Schools' Joint Council, and later the Governors Conferences. Martin never missed a Committee meeting or Board meeting if he could avoid it, often coming from a College Board meeting during the day to a Committee meeting in the evening.

Martin's service of nineteen years is never going to be equalled or surpassed by any other Governors, since the revised Constitution Rules limit the period of service of Governors to ten years. The fact

that Martin nearly doubled that period of office reflects the esteem and faith of his numerous fellow Governors over that period. It is perhaps some measure of his support to the Board that it has needed two new Governors to replace Martin's role, one as Treasurer and another to retain the OSA link with the Board of Governors.

*Tony Watson, Governor 2000-2010,
currently Clerk of the Governors*

NAOMI SARGANT

*The 2007 OS Magazine carried an obituary of Naomi,
followed by a brief report on her
memorial service in St John's, Smith Square.
She may have gone, but she has not been forgotten...*

Following the service in St John's, Smith Square, a number of friends and erstwhile colleagues took action to create something that would help people to continue to remember Naomi, and this has taken the form of an annual debate.

The first one, with the snappy title *When Will They Ever Learn? Lifelong Learning, New Technology and Social Progress – The Naomi Sargant Memorial Debate*, was held on Wednesday 21st January 2009, at the Channel 4 headquarters in Westminster.

Designed by the Richard Rogers

Partnership, this remarkable building is clad in powder-coated pewter-grey aluminium on a concrete frame, and was constructed between 1991 and 1994. The entrance is approached by a bridge over what appears to be a glass pool, but is actually the roof of an underground studio.

The debate itself was held in an open plan studio on the ground floor, and was chaired by Lord (Melvyn) Bragg.

A panel of high profile speakers included Lord (David) Puttnam (producer of *Chariots of Fire* and other films) and David Blunkett MP. Sir Jeremy Isaacs, the



The Channel 4 building

founding chief executive of Channel 4 from 1981 to 1987, was present in the audience.

The debate centred on the ways in which technology could be used to bridge a number of divides that had been identified in society.

These included what David Blunkett described as the “digital divide” between the young and the old; the rich and the poor; those with fast broadband and those with slow broadband (often an urban/rural divide), and of course those with no broadband access at all.

There was also a divide between the developed countries and those

still developing.

There appeared to be a cultural divide in the UK, in which education was seen as a secret garden. This could be entered by members of an academic élite, but was inaccessible to people without a history of formal learning.

Technology was seen as the key by which the secret garden could be unlocked, but it was suggested that there was a danger that widespread digital access could have unforeseeable social impacts.

The evening was closed by Lord (Andrew) McIntosh, Naomi’s widower, who congratulated the panel and the audience on a lively debate, but drew attention to the one voice that had been missing.

There had been many things that Naomi would have agreed with, and many that she would have violently disagreed with, but if she had been there she would have picked up ideas – and would have made them happen.

The debate had been a fitting memorial to a remarkable and distinguished adult educationalist, a woman whose ideas and vision have marked British society and institutions both widely and deeply.

Richard Gilpin

FSSW Old Scholars

Are you going round the bend, wanting to tell your Year Group what you've been doing?



If so, get ready, get set, and when the starting gun goes off, sprint to your computer and contribute something to the OS Magazine.

Send me news and photographs of you and your friends, your family news (hatch, match and despatch), and your memories:

by post (check new size and weight regulations)
to 67 Coleraine Road, London SE3 7PF,
or by email to richard67gilpin@hotmail.co.uk.
Contributions by 31st December please

Richard Gilpin (1952-60), *Editor*

MEMORIES OF OLD SCHOLARS

Mary Edna Probert (*Fairbanks*) (1923-2008),
FSSW 1937-1940, OSA President 1970-1971

Mary was born on the 27th June 1923 into the Quaker home of William and Edith Fairbanks in Westcliff on Sea, Essex; both of her parents had attended Friends' Schools when they were young, with Edith at Sibford and William at Saffron Walden.

In 1917 Mary went to Saffron Walden where she joined her brother John; David, her younger brother, was to follow later. At the end of her last term she wrote a letter to Coutts Bank in the Strand, London, seeking employment. An interview was arranged and on that day (Mary told me) she was walking down the drive on her way to the station when she was spotted by the Head Mistress, Sylvia Clark.

"So, this is your big day" she said, looking at Mary, "well you can borrow a pair of my nylons for this important interview". On leaving her study Sylvia said to her: "that's better, remember that Coutts is not just any old bank, especially a job in their Head Office. Good luck."

Mary worked at Coutts until in 1945 she got married to Eric Probert – a Friend from Leigh on Sea – at the Southend Friends'



Meeting House. They had three children: Janet, Stephen and Tony, and extended their family informally by paying for the education of Francis Aselma, a Kenyan Friend who was introduced to them through Leigh Meeting. Francis always referred to Mary and Eric as "my mother and father in England".

Mary had a great affinity with children, and in 1941 she started the first children's class at Southend (now Leigh) Meeting,

where she was the convenor until 1968. At the Monthly Meeting level Mary became an overseer, and from many reports she was a very caring person.

To Mary, Quakerism and Friends' School Saffron Walden were inseparable, and she served on the School Committee as her father had done before her. She became Deputy Chairman and was on the Committee when it changed its name to the Board of Governors. Mary and Eric never missed an Old Scholars' Whitsun or Spring Bank holiday at Saffron Walden, and the Old Scholars' Association recognised her tireless work on its behalf by appointing her as its President in 1970.

Mary Wauer (Wanstead Meeting) recalls that Mary's "sense of fun and humour enabled those of us younger to take seriously George

Fox's words to be patterns, be examples...then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone. This enabled us to bond with the Society".

During her last ten years, Mary suffered from an acute form of dementia, initially losing her memory and then, towards the end, her power of speech. For practical reasons, family support during this trying period could not be evenly shared, and much of the burden fell on Tony. He cared for her in an exemplary manner throughout.

To those who knew Mary she will always be remembered as a smiling, happy friendly person. She will be greatly missed.

David Fairbanks et al

David James Pope (1947-2007), FSSW Staff 1972-1976

David was twenty-five when he arrived at FSSW in 1972. Although he came as an assistant French teacher he had many other talents, one of which was Music.

As a boy he attended Ealing Grammar School and was awarded a Music Scholarship to Keble College Oxford, graduating in modern languages. He was a great cricketer at college, but rheumatoid arthritis sadly put a

stop to that. He did however become an excellent cricket coach, and brought this skill with him to Saffron Walden. Being a life member of Middlesex, some of his acquaintances were lucky enough to watch county cricket from the Lords Pavilion.

He was a dedicated French teacher, and this was shown in his end of term individual reports. One of his former pupils wrote of him: "A most engaging man. His French lessons included

meandering through the highways and byways of everything from musicology to moral philosophy, and we are all much richer and wiser for it."

I was at this time responsible for the Second Orchestra and was always looking for interesting music for them. David, under the pseudonym of Osric Fairweather, wrote some delightful pieces for them. He gave every different instrument a tune at some point, so that they all felt important and not bored with "Um pom pom" etc.

He also helped with Junior Opera Productions, sometimes writing special music for them as well. The Sixth Form production of Joseph, in which David specially arranged the original music for that group of students, stands out in many people's memories.

Most pupils were blissfully ignorant of the physical discomfort he endured with his arthritis. When he and I played piano duets in Long Assembly one morning, he had to get up at an unearthly hour to enable his hands and fingers to become mobile enough to play. He has been described by many past pupils as a "teacher musician and friend, a gentle giant, a multi-talented and modest gentleman."

When David left FSSW after four years, he became head of French at Winchester House School, a Prep School near his home in Brackley. He stayed there until 1982, when he went to Ripon Grammar School for a couple of years.

Ripon was not a particularly

happy time for him, and he returned to Winchester House, where he remained until his illness sadly forced him into early retirement in 1998.

At Walden he had not become a member of a church, but in Brackley he became the church organist and later a churchwarden.

David was clearly an admirer of Sir John Betjeman's poems, since he set a number of them to music, including *Distant View of a Provincial Town* and *The Licorice Fields at Pontefract*. Other musical works included theatre music; songs; several orchestral suites; a Bassoon Concerto; pieces for children; and also a 1984 Overture, performed in 1986 by the Oxford Symphony Orchestra.

David paid a fleeting visit to the Old Scholars' Singalong in 2005, but could not stay long as he was playing percussion in a concert that evening. At the end of March 2007 he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. After a month in the John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford he moved to a Nursing Home, where he died in early May.

Finally, a quote from the eulogy at his funeral service: "David had a genuine concern for the well-being, both academic and social, of the young people he taught. His love of cricket was inspiring, and he was a great colleague".

Mary Mileson

Oliver Weaver (1942-2008), FSSW 1952-1960

Oliver Weaver died on the 18th April 2008 aged 66, following many years of suffering. This was due to chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, a progressive condition that attacked his nerve linings and led eventually to total paralysis of his arms and legs. It was this condition that had forced his retirement in the early 1990s when only fifty one years old.

Up to this point he had pursued an extremely successful career as a barrister specialising in company law, having been called to the Bar in 1965 and having become a QC in 1985. During the intervening twenty years he had built up a flourishing practice involving advisory work in chambers and appearances in court.

He acted in a number of high profile cases, after one of which the client of his opposing barrister admitted that although they had thought that they had a strong case, it had been comprehensively demolished by Oliver, who “wiped the floor with our lot and won easily: he was quite brilliant”.

The seeds of his career in law were sown at the end of his first year at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he had arrived with a scholarship in mathematics. His year end results did not quite add up however, and he was allowed to change to law. The only condition was that he studied

during the summer and reached the first year standard in law by the start of the second year. Quite a challenge, but not one to defeat him. Indeed, his upward trajectory took him in 1963 to the Presidency of the Cambridge Union, where he took threats of impeachment with equanimity.

Oliver became the meat in a Tory sandwich by succeeding Kenneth Clarke and preceding Norman Lamont, but unlike them, he had no desire to go into politics. He merely got great enjoyment from the cut and thrust of debate, developing those skills that enabled him to be so successful in court in later years.

His degree at Cambridge had followed eight years at Saffron Walden, where he started in 1952 and went on to a third year in the sixth form, leaving in 1960.

It was during his time at the School that he met Julia (Lou) MacClymont (1955-1960), the younger sister of Sally, who had been at the School from 1951 to 1958. Oliver and Lou became a couple, and got married in 1964 in the chapel of Trinity College once he had finished his degree.

They and their three children had many happy years together in Albury End, near Ware, where he had enjoyed a country life of fishing, racing and gundogs before his active life was compromised by his illness.

On the 30th April when his

funeral was held at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Albury, there were so many well-wishers that latecomers had to stand.

The high turn-out was a fitting tribute to the respect that he had achieved during his journey through life.

My personal memories of Oliver when at FSSW include his creation of a new sartorial style for the winter months, when he insisted upon wearing a large scarf not just out in the freezing Essex air, but also inside the school.

There was an occasion when, as a Labour Party activist (his father Denis was Chairman of the Saffron Walden Labour Party for many years), Oliver went around Saffron Walden stuffing election leaflets through people's front doors. When posting one such leaflet he inadvertently put his fingers through the letter box as well, offering a target that proved to be an irresistible temptation for the owner's dog.

Having retrieved his bitten hand, he later concluded that the dog must have been a Tory.

As a dog-deprived (and hence perhaps rather sad individual!) I often used to take Rusty, the Weaver family dog, for walks around the Saffron Walden countryside on Sunday afternoons. The two of us would return to the Weavery, usually wet, often liberally covered with chalky mud, and always tired out. We were then revived (at least I was) by biscuits and lemonade. My actions

may have saved the family from the cold and mud, but I was nevertheless very grateful for the arrangement.

Peter Fraenkel (1953-60) recalls being introduced by Oliver to the songs of Tom Lehrer – hearing them today still brings back memories of him. He also remembers visiting Oliver's house in the town and borrowing his father's wooden step ladder as a launching ramp for a rocket they had built. The launching pad was set up in a field out of town, but the rocket exploded and blew out several rungs of the ladder. This made it somewhat difficult to use, and Peter was never completely sure how Oliver explained this episode to his father.

They also had some fun heckling at Tory meetings – Oliver's brother Geoffrey was particularly good at that – and although at the time they all thought they were being very witty, Peter now feels that they probably weren't.

From a "hot and sweltering Lagos", Chris Lee (1952-57) remembers an amazing subterranean 'den' in Oliver's back garden, and also Oliver's infectious love of the jazz of Humphrey Lyttelton (who just outlived him). He also recalls the generosity of Oliver and his parents, who welcomed him into their house on his frequent return trips to the School after leaving.

Richard Gilpin

Eric Brown *FSSW Staff 1946-1976*
OSA President 1979-1980



Eric was determined, dedicated and devoted. He had ideas, was creative and made things happen. Setbacks in his work did not disturb his loyalty and service to the School, and while he had more than his fair share of family tragedies, he overcame them without bitterness, cynicism or self pity. He was warm hearted and kind, especially to those who were surrounded by little kindness.

He had returned from Quaker missionary service in Madagascar with two daughters after the death of his first wife, and became the first Bursar of the school under Gerald Littleboy, creating an essential role caring for its finances and property. His marriage to

Beryl lasted over fifty years, and they had three children, Christine, Trevor and Nick, all pupils at the school. Sadly, first Trevor and then Christine died, but Nick's four children were a great solace to their grandfather.

Over thirty years of retirement gave Eric the time to tend his beloved garden meticulously. Always neat, even dapper, Eric's work showed similar characteristics. Simple ideas transformed the work load of others: he introduced tapes attached to socks to that they could be paired before laundry, and thus eliminate the lengthy process of sorting clean socks afterwards. He cared for an elderly neighbour whom others found impossible, and looked after the men and women under his aegis with concern and compassion.

Eric was equally at home when undertaking large projects such as Essex, Crosfield (and its high alumina cement), and the conversions of existing buildings to other use (such as the cafeteria system and the balcony area in the dining hall). School finances were always tight but he kept them afloat, even when fees had to be increased each term in the early 1970s at a time of high inflation.

When Eric came to Walden I was a teenager; twenty years later I returned as his boss!

He was punctilious in creating a proper professional relationship. He loyally adapted to my different concept of being a Head and of the responsibilities of Head and Bursar. It could not have been easy!

Despite ill health for many years, Eric cheerfully ministered to the needs of others when he could, and reached his nineties like his mother and father before him.

John Woods

David Hanson (1943-2008), FSSW 1958-1962

To die two weeks after your 65th birthday seems particularly unfair for a man, but my brother David would have made a joke of it! His sense of humour stayed with him through thick and thin, and hopefully some Old Scholars will remember it too.

He joined me at FSSW in January 1958 (his third year), and my memories of him at School include his being selected for the Small Choir, and proudly watching him sing round the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square. I recall an incident of bravery, reported at the time in the local press, when he managed to push two children out of the path of a runaway car in Saffron Walden.

There was also his passion for cycling. According to some of my school friends he began a trend for shaving his legs, in order to go faster in the many early morning bike races in which he competed.

He became a graphic designer and, for many years, worked for Oxfam in Oxford, teaching himself to grapple with – and master – the



David and Jill in June 2007

new technology when AppleMacs were introduced.

He moved to North Devon five years ago to enjoy the coast, but within a few months was diagnosed with bowel cancer. With characteristic courage he fought it every step of the way, overcoming many operations, and even managed to ride his bike occasionally.

Sadly he lost this struggle on the 25th November.

His wife, children, grandchildren, I and my family take comfort from the fact that he is now free from pain, and a free spirit once again.

Jill Mayer (née Hanson)

Sally Jacob (1916-2008)

Perhaps most remembered as the wife of Barney Jacob (BBJ), Sally was however in herself a very independent person. Neither she nor BBJ were actually Saffron Walden Old Scholars: both came from Ireland, where they had attended the Quaker School, Newtown, in Waterford.

BBJ was a member of staff at Saffron Walden for many years and both he and Sally were very much involved in the life of the School; she also assisted as a member of the house staff for a while.

Sally came to England when she and BBJ were married, and lived in Saffron Walden from that day onwards, enjoying a very active life, full of cultural, political and social interests, in addition to School activities. The two of them were extremely hospitable and sociable, and probably one of the things for which they are both especially remembered by those Old Scholars who knew them were the foregatherings that took place at our house in Summerhill Road. These took place every year at Whitsun OS Weekend, and quite probably also at March Lecture Weekend (when it still existed).

On such occasions they held 'open house' evenings, which were always crowded out with visiting Old Scholars. Endless cups of tea were drunk (great baskets of cups and saucers having been borrowed

from School), accompanied by stories, jokes and laughter; BBJ would usually sing, as he did on many occasions. More than one Old Scholar marriage was initially forged during these gatherings!

Sally was in many ways the manager of our family, but she had in BBJ an extremely domesticated husband. He was a very 'hands on' father to us, and was much involved in our upbringing.

She was a courageous, stoical and very determined person, giving her unstinting support to many people. She married when she was still very young (having left University before taking her degree, in order to do so), and we were all born within five and a half years. Later however, once we were 'off her hands' she completed her degree externally, and taught for some years.

Then, as BBJ become more ill, she carried out private coaching, and adult literacy and remedial teaching from home. BBJ's illness meant that he had to retire earlier than he had wished, and Sally cared for him at home until he died in 1976. This took its toll on her for a while, but she maintained her active and busy life for many years, and was able to enjoy living on her own.

However much she loved Saffron Walden, Ireland was always in Sally's heart and she missed it greatly, a fact that was

often evident in her conversation. She learned Irish when young, and had spent a period staying on the Irish-speaking Blasket Islands (*Na Blascaodaí*) in Kerry when they were still inhabited. Life was very poor and basic there, but she loved this time. She was still able to hold a conversation in Irish some forty years later, after BBJ had died, when we met some Irish speakers in a pub in Kerry!

Sally remained sociable to the end and was always pleased to see people, even though as her memory failed she didn't always remember who they were.

In the last ten years of her life she became much more frail and for some years needed full time live-in care at home, which we were very fortunate to be able to arrange; it was a blessing however that her welcoming and social spirit still remained. She was released from increasing discomfort and confusion when she died peacefully at home, two weeks after her 92nd birthday.

*Ann Jacob (1944-48),
Lynne Bartholomew (Jacob)
(1946-48)
and Lesley Jacob (1953-61)*

Owen Edwards (1931-2008), FSSW 1943-1950

Owen Edwards, who started at FSSW in Autumn 1943, was a good scholar with a passion for railways. In those days, train-spotting did not have the less than ideal connotations that it has today, and he would frequently spend his spare time going off to collect engine numbers.

While maintaining a thorough distaste for all things pertaining to football, the sport of cricket was one in which he had a great interest.

Although his talents as a player were perhaps less outstanding than those of his peers he was an excellent umpire, and presided over many School matches. He

also kept all the scores of Middlesex CCC's matches.

BBJ, whose widow Sally is also remembered in this issue, was football coach for the new brats when Owen arrived at FSSW. Despite (or because of) Owen's hatred of football, Barney had him playing at centre forward, with the perhaps predictable result that Owen refused to kick or pass the ball at all. It is understood that BBJ had some difficulty accepting this outbreak of passive resistance.

Owen left Saffron Walden in 1950 after his A Levels, and went on to Manchester University, but his stay there was somewhat shorter than that of his degree course, and he later declared that it

was probably a mistake to have started it at all.

As an atheist, he refused military service on humanitarian grounds, and this stance led to a few months in prison, during which time he was sent to help with flood relief on Canvey Island.

After his release he joined British Rail, where he spent all of his working life. He married Monica, and had two sons, Barry and Keith.

As well as holding strong views on religion and football, Owen also refused to own or learn how to drive a car, always travelling by train or on his own two feet. In later life he did go by air a few times when travelling abroad.

In retirement he settled very happily in Scotland in Invergowrie, north of the river Tay, where he was able to see the Carse of Gowrie at close quarters. This was an area that BBJ, Owen's football tormentor, had written about on the blackboard in Geography lessons.

As Owen walked along the Tay, he must have recalled how the Carse's southerly aspect, low rainfall and high quality agricultural land made it an important area for strawberry, raspberry and general fruit growing...

*Richard Gilpin, with help from
Donn Webb (1942-49)*

Cicely Hilton Purves (*Rawlings*) (1912-2008), FSSW 1922-1930

When Cicely started at Saffron Walden she initially accompanied her brother Felix. Her recollections of her days at the School were sent to Roger Buss for the Old Scholars' Archive, and some excerpts from these have been reproduced in the Old Scholars' Magazine over the years.

Cicely had fond memories of the School, and during her later years sent photographs to the Archive (one of which, on the inside cover of *The School On The Hill*, included her mother and two cousins by the

hay rick). Other items included her swimming badge and School badge.

After FSSW Cicely trained as a nurse at the Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, and followed this by completing her midwifery. While in Oxford she first met her husband.

He joined the Army on the outbreak of war and they were married on his return from the beaches of Dunkirk. After the war, whenever possible, she accompanied him on his postings abroad, and these included Somalia, Malaya and Singapore. It

was a transient life, with a move every two or three years. This made her an expert in the art of packing the maximum in the minimum space!

In her later years Cicely lost her sight, and when the Old Scholars' Magazine arrived, the first items to be read to her were *In Memoriam* and *News of Old Scholars*.

Whenever she recognised a name, she would reminisce about the person and listen with great interest to the details given of their lives.

Cicely was very proud of her heritage: first that she was a fifth generation Quaker with some of her relatives having attended the School when it was in Croydon, and second that her family had passed down memorabilia from their ancestors.

Her mother's father had not only gathered additional literary material, but had also collated a family tree. The latter identified

her great-great-great-grandfather as a Thomas Jones, one of the "Oxford Six" who were expelled for unauthorised public preaching. His son Samuel was on St Helena when Napoleon arrived, and there is documentary evidence of their having met. In later life, he gave up his living and started attending Quaker Meetings – in full canonicals!

The other connection was with Marie Hilton, who worked with the poor in Stepney Causeway. Supported by the Ratcliff Meeting she and Cicely founded a house with reading room, sewing classes and a soup kitchen. Then, in 1871 she opened the first crèche in Britain.

She later went on to provide an infirmary, a temporary orphan home and a country house. All of this work was supported by donations, mainly from Quakers. She was truly ahead of her time.

Philip and Margaret Purves



The "hay rick" photograph, reprinted from The School On The Hill

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CO-OPTEEES

With the adoption of the new Constitution in 2008, the General Committee can now co-opt up to four Members to serve as required.

This will enable the wider membership of the Association to be represented on the Committee, giving it a more varied range of views and opinions.

**So, members of the FSSWOSA...
This is **your** Association.
This is **your** opportunity to help!**

If you would like to volunteer to become a Co-optee, please contact one of the Association's five Officers:

Chair: Nigel McTear, The Coach House, 90 Newmarket Road, Norwich, NR2 2LB phone: 01603 503442
email: mail@mctear.com

Treasurer: Andrew McTear, Midsummer Lodge, 217 Newmarket Road, Norwich NR4 7LA phone: 01603 507555
email: andrewmctear@hotmail.com

Secretary: Chris Spencer, 28 St Leonards Close, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0JF phone: 01953 602692
email: cmj.spencer@btinternet.com

Editor OS Magazine: Richard Gilpin, 67 Coleraine Road, London SE3 7PF phone: 020 8858 3980
email: richard67gilpin@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes Secretary: Mark Bertram, Old Orchard, Little London, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 0BA phone: 01435 864820
email: mark@bertram.demon.co.uk

CRICKET

The cricket match between the School and the Old Scholars (represented by BATS) is an integral part of the Association's annual Reunion Day.

The following is a report of the match played on Saturday 10th May 2008



This year the annual match was played on a hot day with each team allowed 35 overs. The Old Scholars' side was made up of a mixture of ages, including Tom Johnston, who first played in this fixture in 1958 – half a century earlier. Steve Moody was also the first Old Scholar (*unless of course you know better...*) to fly to the match in his own plane. He had to land at Audley End rather than the School playing field, as the water

tower had not yet been converted into a control tower, and the windsock had not come back from the laundry.

The Old Scholars batted first, but found it difficult to score runs quickly on a soft wicket and against steady bowling from Hall and Taylor. BATS' captain, Simon Clapperton, was the most successful batsman with 37 runs. After he was out, wickets fell with remorseless regularity, and the team were all out for 114. Nick

Batcheler did his bit for the School by getting amongst BATS' tail enders, taking the last four wickets to fall.

When it came to their turn to put willow to leather, the School did not find the conditions too easy at first either, and lost their first three wickets for 27 runs. At this point, just as the BATS players were raising their hopes, Mordini (35) and Bloomfield (33 not out) dashed them by putting together an excellent partnership of 61. This was despite some first-rate accurate bowling by Smart, Noakes and Moody. The School scored the runs needed for victory in the 28th over for the loss of six wickets, and their four-wicket win was ample revenge for their defeat last year.

Once again, thanks go to Nick Batcheler, the School's PE teacher, for all of the organisation, and for a very enjoyable and competitive match.

Scores were:

BATS 114

School 116-6

School won by 4 wickets.

Members of the teams were:

BATS

T Johnston; S Clapperton;
M Lamborn; C Mills; A Griffith;
W Addison; E Addison;



Taking a welcome break: Graham 'Tom' Johnston and former OS President John 'Will' Weinman outside the Pavilion

L Aldred; M Noakes; C Smart;
S Moody.

School

O Harlow; C Hawkins;
D Karatamagoule; R Mordini;
J Bloomfield; S Jackson; A Hall;
R Taylor; N Batcheler; R Smith;
M Pac.

Umpires

M Pim; D Hills.

The attention of Old Scholars needs to be drawn to the fact that BATS – and the annual match against the School – can only survive if new cricketers (preferably young and fit, but sheer enthusiasm can make up for a lot!) join them.

If you would like to play in the 2009 match, to be held at the School on Saturday 9th May, please contact Martin Lamborn on 01494 721006.

BATS CRICKET CLUB REPORT 2008

All good things come to an end, and it was unanimously agreed that 2008 signalled our last Tour to the South Coast in active participation, so ending a continuous span of 42 years.

Over a period of several years it had become apparent that we were failing to attract younger tourists from the School: they have increasingly been needed in order to provide respite for the hard core 60-plus age group, who in spite of ever willing spirits were finding the flesh to be progressively weaker!

It is interesting to contrast the BATS situation with that of the Old Leightonians CC from Leighton Park School, who embark upon a week-long annual tour with active support from a younger element. The team comprises senior Old Scholars and more recent leavers under the direction of mentors from within the School, and this arrangement provides a continuing flow of cricketers.

Nevertheless, the ending of the BATS Tour will provide a welcome respite for those of us who have struggled to commandeer sufficient manpower: ensuring that eleven players are fit and able to take the field on any given day at a variety of venues has not been easy.

Bearing in mind that spouses and families have grown accustomed

to our spending a week away from home at the end of July/beginning of August, it has been provisionally agreed to continue with a tour, albeit in a watching capacity, and plans are afoot in 2009 to arrange visits to the Cheltenham Festival and possibly to New Road, Worcester to enjoy some County Cricket.

The 2008 Tour comprised one match only, at Lymington, on Monday 4th August. This game was to all intents and purposes settled by an excellent unbeaten 115 from one of the Lymington opening batsmen, which meant that at the teatime declaration, BATS were only too aware of the hard task set in order to achieve victory.

BATS made a fine start, with a first wicket partnership of 92 by Hurley and a circumspect Will Moss; the middle-order collapse that ensued was then to a large extent repaired by Charlie Mills and Johnny Coombs, and the final outcome was an honourable draw.

Lymington 232 for 6 dec (*Hurley 3 for 47*)

BATS 215 for 7 (*Hurley 69; J Coombs 47; Will Moss 39*)

Match drawn

The Broadstone fixture succumbed to the weather.

Should any Old Scholars wish to join us in our proposed venture this summer, please contact Dan Hills on 01444 452886.

Graeme (Tom) Johnston

FAMILY NEWS

SILVER WEDDING

4th August 1983

COFFIN - BARNES: Christopher Coffin (1952-59) to Karen Barnes.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

The first two entries as they should have appeared in the 2008 Magazine:

9th August 1957

BUSH - CLOTHIER: Donald Bush (1941-46) to Gillian Clothier at Friends' Meeting House, Uxbridge.

30th August 1957

WEBB - CHUTER: Donn Webb (1942-49) to Patricia Chuter (1946-53) at Willesden Register Office, North London.

22nd March 1958

HILLYER - BARKER: Kevin Hillyer to Ann Barker (1942-47) at Friends Meeting House, Dorking.

5th April 1958

EDWARDS - GRAHAM: Owen Edwards (1943-50) to Monica Graham (*sadly, Owen died in July: see below*).

8th August 1958

CHARLTON - JACKSON: John Charlton to Hilary Jackson (1946-54) at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden.

8th August 1958

DUTTON - JACKSON: James Dutton (1945-52) to Gwyneth Jackson (1945-51; Staff 1954-58) at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden.

5th September 1958

NEEDHAM - HOPKINS: Robert Needham to Wendy Hopkins (1944-50) at Friends Meeting House, Reading.

DEATHS

21st March 2007

WINIFRED PEVERETT (Associate Member)

27th March 2007

RON DENNEY (1950-54)

30th November 2007

EVELYN THOMAS HARRIS (1925-31)

5th January 2008

JEAN HAUGAN (*Rose*, 1939-47)

24th March 2008

BRIAN FRIZZELL (1940-43)

29th March 2008

SALLY JACOB (Associate Member)

1st April 2008

JOAN MARSLAND (*Ormerod*, Staff 1942-51)

4th April 2008

MARGARET BUNTING (*Fathi*, 1942-52)

18th April 2008

CICELY HILTON PURVES (*Rawlings*, 1922-30)

23rd April 2008

OLIVER WEAVER (1952-60)

25th July 2008

JOHN S RICHARDSON (1944-49)

26th October 2008

OWEN EDWARDS (1943-50)

25th November 2008

ROBERT HUDSON (Staff, 1957-64)

29th November 2008

DAVID HANSON (1958-62)

17th December 2008

RUTH BELL (*Steven*, 1936-40)

25th January 2009

ERIC BROWN (Staff, 1946-76)

JOHN DICKINSON (Staff, 1977-97)

NEWS OF OLD SCHOLARS

This section of the Magazine depends upon you to contact me.

If you don't, there can be no news for me to print.

Please send any information about you and your friends to me so that next year there will be even more News of Old Scholars.

Toby Allen (1952-58), although living far away in Honolulu, still keeps in touch. Having rejected any idea of retirement he recently left his job in banking and has gone back to his roots in restaurant management. He admits that he and Lita are suffering from the financial meltdown, and hopes that his friends in the UK are not having too difficult a time with their exposure to the world recession.

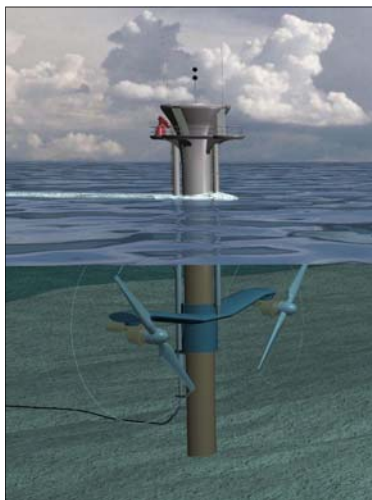
Luke Albarin (1958-61), nicknamed "Tavish" at School (he had come south from his home in the Scottish Borders in order to join the School's Fifth form) left the BBC in 2002 on health grounds, and proceeded to immerse himself in various volunteer outfits. These included NHS organisations, the National Trust, and Citizens' Advice. For a while he ran the NO2ID in Worcestershire (this was the public campaign against the Government's plans to introduce ID cards). As he says in his letter to the Magazine: "it helps to keep the grey cells buzzing".

Michael Barron (1986-88) writes to give a recent change of address. He now lives at 48 Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 2XP.

Peter Fraenkel (1953-60) is a chartered mechanical engineer and Technical Director of Marine Current Turbines (MCT), a company that is at the forefront of developing machinery to harness the power of tidal power.

Readers will be aware of wind turbines and solar panels, as they are highly visible ways of generating renewable "green" energy, but Peter and MCT have looked instead to the potential of tidal movements, which are inherently much more predictable. Winds can disappear for days, but tides keep on going out and coming back in again, and MCT's undersea turbines are less obtrusive than huge windmills.

They are like undersea windmills, use rotors to drive turbines and, rather like icebergs, are largely hidden below the surface.



MCT's first full size experimental project started in the sea off Lynmouth in 2003, and the information gained has led to the world's first commercial scale tidal generator. Named *SeaGen*, this £15 million tidal turbine has been built in the Strangford Narrows in Northern Ireland, where the tides go into and out of Strangford Lough. The site was chosen partly because it offers a very fast tidal current, and partly because it is also reasonably sheltered from adverse weather.

SeaGen has featured in *The Times* of 7th April 2008 and the 26th January 2009 issue of *Time* magazine.

The Editor is hoping that Peter will contribute an article to next year's OS Magazine.

Frances Simpson (Cary, 1968-75) joined the WRNS after taking a medical secretaries' course and working for the BMA. She and her husband, who live in Market Drayton, Shropshire, have five children ranging from fourteen to twenty-four years old. Frances also admits to having become a granny.

Adrian Smith (1952-59) has written to say that a variety of activities have led to him spending an unusually interesting year. His most strenuous week was a walk along the central part of Hadrian's Wall, based at the Centre of Britain Hotel at Haltwhistle (much recommended), and this experience served to confirm his admiration for the Romans as civil engineers. Closer to home, he also visited the recent exhibition on the Emperor Hadrian at the British Museum.

He was at last able to spend a week at Tywyn, in the part of Wales that he first visited at the age of fourteen and where he climbed a mountain for the first time. This time no mountains at all were involved, as he was laid low by Lymes Disease – incurred from a tick bite. Ironically, he had warned other holidaymakers about these bites on so many occasions that he was able to make his own diagnosis. This was actually rather fortunate, since the local doctor had never come across a case before, looked it up in an appropriate tome and then prescribed a drug more often used to treat malaria.

The Night Shelter in Chelmsford, where he has worked as a volunteer for ten years, goes from strength to strength – partly because the need for it is so great. Twice they have had OS as residents. One of them only stayed for one night; the other, who was long term, moved on to one of their four supported houses, where several young adults live together and argue over whose turn it is to clean the kitchen. They also have a Day Centre where homeless and other vulnerable people come to play pool, watch TV, repair bicycles and learn computer skills; facilities such as counselling and chiropody are available. Adrian regards the Centre as his club, and calls in when in town.

He has been much occupied this year with helping to set up a men's

support group called Essex Gay Men's Initiative (EGMI). Dozens of enquiries only translate into sporadic attendance at meetings, and he feels that it is too early to say whether this project will succeed. It is a sign of changing times that much of their funding comes from the social services and the police, who are urging them to extend their activities, and in particular to set up parallel groups for women.

At the invitation of his brother Roger (*see below*), Adrian spent an enjoyable week in the cobbled streets, steps and alleyways of the city of Durham, where he was able to join in the daily life of Hatfield College. He was also able to do two strenuous bike rides along old railway formations which are almost the only traces left of the coal mining industry that dominated County Durham for 150 years.

Underlying this happy round of activities, he feels a sense of sadness that the things he had hoped for, both for himself and the world in general, are not going to come about, at least not in his time. Although a self-proclaimed financial illiterate, he foresaw the present crisis decades ago, and can now only feel anger as he says "I told you so". Along with many others, he hopes that the election of a black President will mark a turning point for the USA, and also perhaps the world.

Adrian's brother **Roger Smith (1956-1963)** is living happily with his Russian wife in Moscow, where he does occasional teaching and continues with research, editorial work and other writing. His recent book *Being Human* will shortly appear in a Russian edition. He and Irina spent the autumn term of 2008 at Durham University (under the auspices of the Institute of Advanced Studies), where he was free to carry out research and attend seminars, on condition that he delivered one in a series of public lectures.



His was concerned with the history of psychology under the Tsars. As later under the Communist regime, scientists and medical men were constrained; they could only quote evidence if it chimed in with the prevailing ideology of the day. It is a myth that science is somehow objective and value-free, because a good deal of faith is involved.

Roger's research has in general centred on the history of the relations of mind and brain, linked to the rich history of views connecting 'being human' and nature as well as a philosophical topic. This led him into the history of knowledge of the brain, of psychology and psychiatry, of the puzzle of human agency in a deterministic world (the problem of free will), of the relationship between the human sciences, the humanities and

the natural sciences, and so on. His research, continuing at Durham, attempts to debate these questions through different kinds of projects in intellectual history.

Chris Spencer (1962-69) has moved from Peterborough to Norfolk, where he now lives at 28 St Leonards Close, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0JF. His email address is: cmj.spencer@btinternet.com.

John Veit-Wilson (1942-54) continues as a Visiting Professor in Sociology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, claiming that he may be pensioned but he certainly is not retired. Last year he was elected to the Academy of Social Sciences, and in 2008 he held a Research Fellowship at the Hanse Institute for Advanced Studies in Delmenhorst, near Bremen in Germany.

He is studying the juridification and justiciability of the right to an adequate income in Germany and Sweden, the only two countries to have such a statutory provision, and is also translating another book of German social policy theory. He has recently worked with the European Anti-Poverty Network of NGOs in cooperation with the European Commission on the case for European minimum income standards.

A PDF of his EAPN piece on *Minimum Income – Myths and Realities*, together with many other of his papers on income adequacy and the meaning of poverty, can be read on his website: <http://www.staff.ncl.ac.uk/j.veit-wilson/>.

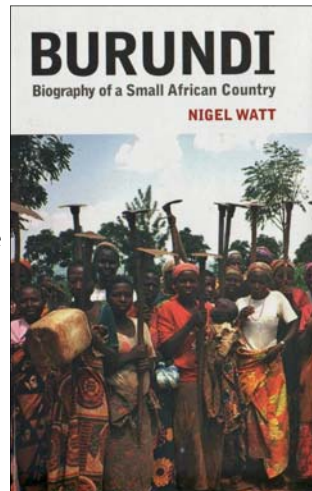
He also continues as a trustee of the Child Poverty Action Group, of which he was a founding member in 1965.

Nigel Watt (1943-53) has been working for several years in Burundi which, until the early Sixties when it achieved independence, had been part of the Belgian colony of Ruanda-Urundi.

His experiences there are the basis for his recently published book *Burundi – Biography of a Small African Country* (published by Hurst & Co), which describes the painful history of this little-known twin of Rwanda.

Burundi is a small Central African country designated by NGOs as one of the most deprived countries on earth, and Nigel traces the origins of its political crises, sheds light on its recent history, and helps to explain its complex ethnic divisions. He says that there is “quite a lot about Burundian Quakers” in it.

Before going to Burundi, Nigel was Director of the Africa Centre in London from 1984 to 1991, and it was there that he succeeded in reaching out to a wider African audience than had been



the case under his predecessor. He also expanded its live music programming, bringing in bands from Africa as well as giving much-needed exposure to musicians based in the UK.

During his time at the Centre, the atmosphere at the Africa Centre became increasingly bohemian, with waves of writers, artists, musicians and academics flowing in and out of the building.

David Wicks (1954-61) lives in New Zealand in the sunny Bay of Plenty, only five minutes from the beach. He is now cutting back on his supply teaching and keeps old age at bay by cycling, walking and working out at the gym. He makes it back to England most years, and normally manages to catch up with "that evergreen cricketer Danny Hills" and sometimes one or two others of his football/cricket and Year Group contemporaries.

Graeme "Tom" Johnston (1955-62), who has been a Rotarian for over twenty-five years, has been given the *Paul Harris Fellowship*. This is the highest award made by Rotary International, and is "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world".

*OS can keep in touch via the message board on the website:
<http://friends.org.uk/fsswosa/membersonly/>*

FEEDBACK

This section features responses to items in the 2008 Magazine.

From Peter Le Mare (1934-39)

Peter was interested by the article by Roger Buss that finally saw the light of day in last year's OS Magazine, and wrote in with some of his own memories of the Tramp.

In this article, published posthumously, Roger mentioned the death of Stanley King-Beer ("Booze" as he was cordially referred to) in Devon in 1939. Peter however felt that there was something that Roger had left out, which was that "Booze" had actually died on Dartmoor during the School Tramp of that year. Peter was a member of that

Tramp and is unlikely to forget that particular day.

He relates that as they had walked across the moor, "Booze" had gradually become quiet, and had ceased to be his usual lively and energetic self. The others hadn't realised (and perhaps "Booze" hadn't either) that they had left the intended route, and that they had strayed out of bounds onto an artillery range. They had been enjoying the walk when suddenly "Booze" collapsed.

In hindsight it was clear that he must have been feeling unwell, and this may have been the reason

why he had failed to follow the correct route. After all, he did know Dartmoor well, having taken previous Tramps there.

Peter cannot remember who the other escorting teacher was, but she sent one or two for help and did her best to revive him, assisted by the rest of the Trampers. An army doctor came on a horse or pony and soon decided that "Booze" had died. His body was laid across the horse and taken to an army depot on the moor. It seemed an ignominious way to remove the body but there was no other option.

The rest of them then walked, subdued, to the nearest railway station and took the train back to Plymouth, where they were staying. Peter recalls that on the train the mood changed and there was a lack of sombreness which seemed strange to him; they were jovial, and even his son Michael (who died recently) took part – an interesting psychological reaction to the earlier events.

Back in Plymouth their escort informed Mabel, "Booze"'s wife, who took the news very bravely. A quiet evening followed and they all prepared to return to their homes, a day earlier than scheduled. Most went via London but Peter took trains to Warrington, where his uncle met him and drove him to his parents in St Helens.

He now wonders if any other Old Scholars remember that Tramp, and would be interested to

hear other accounts of the day. It is with sadness that he notes that Stephen Dunstan, who was also on the Tramp, died last year.

From David Fairbanks (1945-49)

The articles entitled *The School Tramp* and *The Last Tramp of All* also prompted David to write to the Magazine. In his case he read them not just with interest, but also with a measure of regret.

While his brother John had regaled him with tales of the Lake District Tramp that he had enjoyed, David left Saffron Walden when fifteen without ever having been a Tramp.

He wonders why it stopped, and who made the decision to end something that had been such a popular activity (*if anyone knows the answer: please write in, Ed*).

From David Wicks (1945-49)

This is another David whose memories of School Tramps have been jogged, in his case by *The Last Tramp of All*. He recognised himself in the photographs, and while he does recall how incredibly wet that Tramp was, he can't remember much more about it.

David puts this down to banging his head on the beam just above his top bunk almost every morning when he woke up.

He also went on the previous year's Tramp, which was based at the Youth Hostel in Chaddesley Corbett in Worcestershire, and he wonders whether anyone has

archive material of that Tramp
(*answer: it's all in the OS Archive at
the School, Ed*).

From Peter Jamieson (1951-58)

Peter was intrigued by the *Fifty Years On* article, and in particular the purchase of the harmonium. His memory is that the seals had all gone, and that old bicycle inner tubes had to be used as makeshift replacements.

The prefects nearly acquired another one at an auction in the Corn Exchange one a few weeks later, when Peter bid 2/6d. Mrs Keen, the English teacher from 1955-58, happened to be there, and Peter can even now remember the look of horror on her face as he caught the attention of the auctioneer. Fortunately someone else wanted the harmonium even more, and got it for 3/-!

Peter left the School in summer 1958, never had that copy of *The Avenue*, and wonders how to get one (*tricky one Peter: the Archive copies of The Avenue are bound up in hard back, though there may be a stray copy around, Ed*).

From Gillian Hopwood (Godwin, 1938-45)

Responding to the news of the School's Development Plan, Gillian wrote to say that while shuffling papers around she had found the original report for a new Classroom Laboratory Block (prepared by Kenneth Bayes of Design Research Unit in January 1947), together with a cutting from

the 2nd April 1945 *Architect and Building News*.

She was given the copy because she had assisted with the measured drawings in her final year before going to the Architectural Association in September 1945, and felt that the School Archive might be a suitable home for it.

From Jean Wadge (Burman, 1939-44)

Following last year's feature on autograph books, Jean wrote in to say that she remembered Susan Fry, Bernice Luck, Anna Sargant and Mary Balk (incorrectly referred to in the feature as Mary Ball – *deciphering handwriting is not always easy, Ed*) very well.

She also remembered the name Julia Dyer; she is grateful to her for sending those drawings in, and sends her best wishes. Jean is just sorry that she can no longer picture her, and believes they might have been in different classes, or that Julia might have been a day girl. In those days, boarders saw very little of the day girls.

Jean gives a little more information about Mary Balk, who she remembers as lively, happy, and with shiny fair hair. As Jean was miserable at one time, the then Head Mistress, Sylvia Clark, said to her: "Why can't you be cheerful like Mary Balk?". Jean hopes that she's still lively and happy, though she fears that the hair will have changed.

Jean recalls that Bernice had measles at school, and that this left her with extremely bad conjunctivitis. She remembers visiting her in a darkened room, where she was kept for at least a week. Bernice studied Art and became an artist, got married, and went to live in Canada where Jean believes that she went completely blind – a tragedy for an artist.

Jean offers her thanks for a very full Annual Report this year, but is

concerned that there was “not much for the 80 year old plus's apart from the autograph albums”.

So, a challenge there for those of you who were at Saffron Walden in the late Thirties and early Forties: lay off the clubbing and spend a night in, get networking, boot up your computers, and send in things that will be of interest to those of you who are eighty or more years old.

UNRELIABLE MEMORIES

A contributor writing under the pseudonym “A Bumbledinkie”, has sent in what are described as Unreliable Memories. Not liking anonymity, the Editor enquired into the author’s real identity and now publishes the memories without further comment...

Unreliable Memories 1

Like Yorick, ‘Beak’ Frizzell was a man of infinite jest. Indeed from his nickname he could easily have been Mr Punch.

Preferring Rugby to Association he made occasional appearances for the OS against the School as an inside forward – usually with devastating effect.

On one such occasion in a tight game the OS had been awarded a corner.

‘Beak’ took up an attacking position close to a gullible defender - me.

In an apparent act of generosity

he produced from the pocket of his rugby shorts a wrapped toffee.

‘What a nice man’ I thought.

By the time I had unwrapped the sweet, put it in my mouth, the corner had been taken:

School 0 – OS 1,

The scorer: ‘Beak’.

I have always considered this to have been gamesmanship of the highest order.

Far more subtle than the crudities of a Vinny Jones or the downright cheating of a Trescothick Murray Mint.

Unreliable Memories 2

The Ambleside Chronicle - from our own correspondent, April 1947.

CO-ED BOARDING SCHOOLMASTER HELD BY LOCAL POLICE FOR QUESTIONING!

The headline and newspaper are fictions of my imagination – but the incident did happen.

Eric Lenz, a legend among those he taught in the 40s, along with his wife Marie, Brian Stanger and his fiancée Joan, organised a School Tramp in the Easter holiday of '47, camping out in the village hall at Grasmere.

Over ten days we tramped and cycled the surrounding Lake District. We visited Wordsworth's Dove Cottage; climbed up hill sides in, rather than alongside streams; 'Boppy' Miller had expressed a desire to be a missionary, Richard Brown obligingly set him adrift on a log as a practical test for his future vocation.

A rowing boat was hired and used for a day on 'Wild Cat' island – well known to readers of Swallows and Amazons. Its return to Coniston afforded a glimpse of Malcolm Campbell's Blue Bird, holder of the Worlds Water Speed Record.

We had, for me, a moving *al fresco* Sunday Meeting outside Hawkshead, one of the oldest Quaker Meeting Houses; Katie Proctor fell off a ledge to be

completely immersed in the ice cold waters of a tarn.

Health and Safety would have had a field day but there were lambs and golden daffodils everywhere.

Now to the incident in question. The local flea pit was showing a romantic film, *Wet Venus*, starring, not Katie P but an American swimming sensation – a female Johnnie Weissmuller.

The best seats in the house (six old pence) consisted of two seater settees: a boon to those of us who were a couple.

At the end of the performance we gathered outside to collect our supper from the local chippy. It was only then we discovered, SHOCK - HORROR, Eric had been detained by the local constabulary for questioning...

It was a case of mistaken identity, but Eric missed quite a good film.

In the 1950s the School did feature in one of the Sunday tabloids. A lurid tale entitled *Where The Kissing Had To Stop* featuring the School gong – but that's another story...

Michael How (1942-50)

OS REUNION, MAY 2008, CLASS OF '66

A year ago the Association was looking for someone to round up OS from the 1976 Year Group. Unfortunately apathy ruled, but Geoff Thompson did better with his 1966 World Cup Year Group...

It was a great weekend – glorious weather (pretty lucky in the light of what's gone before and since!) and great fun. Attendees included Sue Backhouse (and husband Peter); Ruth Brand; Gavin Brown; Jeremy Buncombe (and wife Isabela for the dinner); Peter Clark (and wife Peggy); Nick Dawkins; Kevan Jackman; Sarah Mays (and husband Johnny); Judy Phillips; Maggie Randle (and husband Henry); Alan Rowntree; John Shippey (and wife Sarah); James Wallis; Sue Watson; and me (plus wife Heather). A few other familiar faces from the FSSW

cricket world – people like Martin Lamborn, Malc Pim, Tom Johnston, Will Weinman etc were also there for the annual fixture. The day started with coffee on the front lawn and the early arrivals then got to go to the School presentation in the new Sports Hall – about 75 minutes but quite interesting (and a few good jokes from the speakers!). Lunch which followed was a BBQ on the field – and by this time the majority of the group had arrived. The intrepid ones (Sue Backhouse and husband) went for the tour round the boarding houses. Tea and cakes on the front lawn then



In the Library, the audience is ready for Matthew Robinson's film to be shown



The 1966 Year Group table at the Eight Bells

took a big chunk of the afternoon. After that the School's Friends and Family day was over, so the OS stayed around just enjoying the company and the facilities.

At half past five we ran Matthew Robinson's movie in the Library to a pretty large audience and then headed down to the Eight Bells, where our group of sixteen met up with the President's group of fourteen for dinner.

An excellent evening was enjoyed and then the hardier souls repaired to the Saffron Hotel for a night cap or two.

On Sunday morning after breakfast, the remaining few reconvened on the school field and took a glorious walk through the countryside. We went down the Avenue on the old cross country route and picked out lots of

housing estates "where once were fields", but we soon reached the Copse. From here we headed through fields down to Newport Road, and then up Summerhill Road back to the School for coffee.

Everyone enjoyed the day – some amongst the group had almost dropped out at the last minute, but without exception were glad they came. It was very easy reconnecting with the friends from the past, and there were lots of things to catch up on! Many others were sorry to miss the event, and there's now a lot of enthusiasm for getting together more regularly – every three years or so – still to be agreed.

Geoff Thompson (1958-66)

Members from the President's 1960 Year Group came back too...

Getting in touch with long lost friends after nearly fifty years is not always the easiest thing to do, and it certainly proved to be something of a problem for the President. When compiling a mailing list, based on the latest database details kindly provided by Debbie Peck, he found to his regret that many from his Year Group could not be contacted at all.

Where others were concerned, a barrage of letters and emails went out, followed by phone calls where appropriate.

Not even Geoffrey Stone was left unreturned, and on the appointed day he was joined by John and Christina Barnard; Mark Bertram; Peter and Anne Fraenkel; Trevor Hurrell; Lesley Jacob; Michael and Sue Sinker; John and Miriam West; and me (plus wife Tricia).

Some of us had been meeting up fairly regularly in mini-reunions, while others had been out of the loop for rather a long time. For all of us it was a great opportunity to

see how well the School had developed and improved through the years, to chat, to find out what we had all been doing with our lives and how we had all got to 'where we are today', and to swap stories. We joined the 1966ers in watching Matthew Robinson's film in the Library, and then potted down to the Eight Bells to enjoy a scrumptious dinner.

We were all together in one room, with long tables for our Year Group and for Geoff's 1966 World Cup squad.

With a certain measure of inevitability the evening had to come to an end, and we all had to go off once again in our different directions, which did leave us feeling a bit sad. It was also something of a shame that for a multiplicity of reasons so many from our year had not been able to come, but for those of us who made the effort, there was widespread agreement that it had been a most excellent and rewarding occasion.

Richard Gilpin



The 1960 Year Group table at the Eight Bells

The following is a list of Old Scholars and others who were present at the Reunion on 10th May 2008, painstakingly assembled from a variety of sources, many of them handwritten.

With apologies from the Editor for any errors or omissions.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Backhouse, Sue (1959-66) | Hurrell, Trevor (1953-61) |
| Barbanell, Derek (1936-45) | Jackman, Kevan (1959-66) |
| Brand, Ruth (1961-66) | Jacob, Lesley (1953-60) |
| Bertram, Mark (1955-60) | Johnston, Graeme (Tom) (1955-61) |
| Bloomfield, Robin (1965-72) | Lamborn, Martin (1957-65) |
| Bolam, Godfrey (1939-44) | Meyer, Mike (1961-68) |
| Bosworth, Yasmin (<i>Slupnicka</i>
1969-76) | Mileson, Mary (<i>Noyce</i> Staff 1952-55,
1963-2003) |
| Brown, Gavin (1959-66) | Phillips, Judy (1959-65) |
| Buncombe, Jeremy (1961-66) | Pim, Malcolm (1960-63) |
| Clark, Peter (1959-66) | Prager, Joyce (<i>Coffin</i> 1947-55) |
| Cutler, Peter (Staff 1966-72) | Rowntree, Alan (1959-67) |
| Dawkins, Nick (1964-66) | Shippey, Sarah (<i>Mays</i> 1959-66) |
| Delves, Margaret (1934-39) | Shippey, John (1959-66) |
| Dickinson, Carey (<i>Hingston</i> 1972-79) | Smith, Adrian (1952-59) |
| Dobb, Keith (1950-57) | Spencer, Chris (1962-69) |
| Dutton, David (1970-77) | Sterling, Nuala (<i>Bradbury</i> 1948-55) |
| Dyer, Charlotte (<i>Hardy</i>) | Stone, Geoff (1953-58) |
| Dyer, James (1985-92) | Stubbs, Jean (1928-36, Staff 1956-81) |
| Foster, Julie (1971-78) | Swaffin-Smith, Sue (<i>Watson</i> 1959-66) |
| Fraenkel, Peter (1953-60) | Thompson, Geoff (1959-66) |
| Gaines, Beth (<i>Skelton</i> 1949-54) | Turnbull, Mike (1961-69) |
| Gilpin, Richard (1952-60) | Turnbull, Jack (1933-35) |
| Good, Adrian (1961-69) | Wallis, James (1959-66) |
| Grigg, Geoff (1961-67) | Watson, Margaret (<i>Pilgrim</i> 1943-54) |
| Haigh, Pauline (<i>Goddard</i> 1938-46,
Staff 1950-54) | Watson, Tony (1944-55) |
| Hartog, Maggie (<i>Randle</i> 1959-66) | Weatherhead, Anthony (1956-61) |
| Hayler, Wilf (1940-48) | Weinman, John (Will) (1957-63) |
| Hills, David (1954-61) | West, John (1953-60) |
| Hugall, Rosemary (<i>Catterall</i> 1968-75) | Westerhuis, Sarah (<i>Watson</i> 1975-82,
Staff 1990-) |
| Hugall, Martin (Staff 1972-) | Wood, Chris (1947-54) |

REUNION ON THE NORTH NORFOLK COAST

A small number of OS from the 57 and 58 year groups have been meeting every summer for the past three years at Blakeney, on the North Norfolk coast. Their 50th anniversary was to be no exception.



Having considered a number of possible venues, including Paris and London, the consensus of opinion among those Old Scholars from 1958 was that the tried and tested would be best.

The atmosphere in North Norfolk seems perfectly to match our requirements, offering a combination of high skies; scenic coastline; marshes offering an abundance of flora and fauna; seal colonies; varied bird life; stimulating walks; and not least, excellent local watering holes offering a variety of local seafood.

Unlike previous occasions when we have been fortunate with the

weather, the forecast for the weekend of 11th to 13th July offered a mixed bag. However, this did not adversely affect a fine group turnout of 23, thanks to the early planning and sustained efforts of organiser Ian Warlow.

There was a special “first timers” welcome for Brenda Wallis (Miles) visiting from New Zealand, and Marygold Baines (Paul) from a little closer at hand, while Mike and Maureen Connolly travelled from Cape Town and combined the reunion with celebrations for Mike’s father’s 99th birthday. Other attendees from all over the UK were Peter Avery; Maxine Webster; Jane Gibb (Pennell);

Cynthia Hursey; Morris and Angela Johnson; Peter and Marian Mercer; Bill Rowntree; Ian Warlow; Sasha Wilson; Peter and Edith Reader; Mike and Ann Jacobs; Roger and Elspeth Baily; and Richard and Jo Higgs.

Other than enjoying the finest fruits that the area can offer over a period of three days, one great School tradition dictated that there had to be a walk. As predicted, weather conditions on what started as a bright Saturday morning did soon deteriorate.

The heavy downpours and slippery going however failed to deter a dozen or so from completing the challenge – although the muddy conditions did necessitate a change of clothing for some before lunching at Cookie's Crab Shop.

Only too soon it was time to say our farewells – and agree to meet up again at the same time next year. Maybe we'll go for a change of venue – but whatever we decide, there will be a lot more fun and reminiscing still to come!

Peter Reader

Ian Warlow had his own thoughts on the occasion, reflecting on what had been a really happy occasion, and a great lift to the spirit.

He personally felt rather guilty at having inadvertently misled the group when he outlined the details of the Anniversary Walk. He had painted a picture of a stroll of about two hours over the gentle salt marsh pathways of Blakeney



Mike Connolly and Ian Warlow

to Cley and back, while suggesting sightings of local flora and fauna.

In the event, the full fury of the English July weather reached its peak at walk time and a resolute party set out with the best foul weather clothing that they could muster. In many cases this turned out to be rather inadequate.

On their return, Ian met a rather bedraggled bunch bringing woeful tales of slides and tumbles in the mud. Despite their experiences they were still in amazingly high spirits and ready for lunch.

The group reached its peak attendance for the Saturday lunch at Cookie's Crab Shop in Salthouse with 23 diners.

Energy and appetite were in good form, full justice was done to the seafood fare, but as this was a non-licensed establishment, personal booze had to be imported. Fortunately, Marygold had come armed with a case of a very refreshing Frascati, glasses and a corkscrew. Positive signs of a good education!

In the bedroom opposite Sasha's room in the hotel where several of the group were staying, were a

couple with two dogs, one of which was called Sasha! What would be the chances of that happening?

After the walk torture Ian felt that the OS Sasha would have been unlikely to have wanted to hear, first thing in the morning: "Sasha, walkies!".

Peter and Edith, who have a boat moored at Blakeney, would normally have tried to get in a spot of sailing during the weekend, but there wasn't enough water in the main inlet during current tides; meanwhile the others on the land were drowning in it!



Bill Rowntree, Mike Connolly, Marygold Baines, Richard Higgs, Edith Reader

Such are the wonderful contradictions of an English summer.

Editor's trivia quiz for film buffs

Who was the star of the film *Paint Your Wagon*:

(a) Lee Marvin or (b) Richard Higgs?

The photos below may help you to decide...



Richard Higgs



Lee Marvin

(Answer in next year's OS Magazine) (maybe)

139th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Richard Gilpin (Presiding)

There were 21 members present.

The Chair welcomed those present and a short silence was observed.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

were received from: Godric Bader, Derek Barbanell, Lenon Beeson, John Bolton, Mike Connolly, Jean Cox, Joy Dupont, David Fairbanks, Judith Foster, Peter Fraenkel, Daphne Francis, Arnold Gillett, Martin Hadley, Jane Heydecker, Trevor Hurrell, David Jones, Jane Laing, Tony Newton, Malcolm Pim, Farrand Radley, John Wadham, Gerard Wakeham, Tony Watson, Joan Zanelli.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 November 2007 had been recorded in the Yearly Magazine sent to members. The meeting agreed that these were a true and accurate report.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

OBITUARIES: The Secretary read the names of those whose deaths have been reported during the last year: C David Allen, Margaret Bunting (Fathi), Rayleen Eaton (Calvert), Owen Edwards, Brian Frizzell, Evelyn Harris, Jean Haughan (Rose), Robert (Bob) Hudson, Sally Jacob, Joan

Marsland (Ormerod), Winifred Peverett, Mary Probert (Fairbanks), John Richardson, Patricia Roberts (Drewery), John Soar, Oliver Weaver.

REPORTS:

(a) Chair (Nigel McTear):

Nigel said that it had been another steady year. The changes to the Constitution and Rules were now in effect. The Spring Reunion in May had ended with dinner at two long tables at the Eight Bells, with nearly twenty diners from the President's yeargroup of 1960, and the 1976 yeargroup, who were turning 50 years of age. Nigel hoped that the idea of seeking specifically to bring together those turning 50 and 60 each year would gather in strength.

(b) Secretary (Chris Spencer):

Chris reported the membership figures, kindly provided by Debbie Peck at the School. Today, membership stood at 1,111, of whom 992 were living in the UK and 119 overseas. There had been 45 new members during the year, predominantly school leavers, and 7 losses reported to Debbie. This figure, being less than recorded deaths, is bound shortly to increase.

Martin Hugall pointed out that practically all leavers accepted the OSA's offer of ten years' membership for £25. It would be important to ensure that these OSs were invited to extend their membership before the ten year period elapsed.

(c) Treasurer (Andrew McTear):

Copies of the accounts for the year that ended on 31 March 2008 were circulated. The Association remained in good financial health. There was an £80 deficit on the year, after the OSA had made two gifts, totalling about £3,400, to the School – four large flatscreen televisions, and the repair and framing of old embroidery samplers that were now on public view. The Association was still carrying a cash surplus of about £10,000, which was better kept as cash than invested in present circumstances of turmoil. The value of the other investments, in common with the whole market, had obviously fallen. The audit of the accounts is awaited. It had not proved practicable for the auditors, Charles Mills and Graeme Johnston, to meet at the School today, but they would do so shortly and the accounts would be signed off before being published in next year's Magazine. A third auditor, Christopher Hickling, would also this year review the audit process over the last five years, as the Rules require.

(d) Old Scholars' Representative on Board of Governors (Martin Holmes):

This year had been Martin's last as a Governor but he had been unwell for much of it and so preferred to leave the Head to describe the School's progress. Instead, he wanted to range over a longer period. He started at the School 63 years ago, became an Old Scholar 54 years ago, and had attended 51 AGMs. *[He did not mention it, but he was President in 1986-7].* He had been a Governor for 20 years and Treasurer for 15, and found it always interesting. The Governors' job is to set policy and not interfere operationally. The worthy Friends of old had been superseded by individuals with skills relevant to the Board's work. He had met the last eight Heads, and worked with four of them and with three Bursars.

Martin thought that the value-added tables were what counted for most in judging a school's real success, and showed the extent of staff effort. He found school leavers nowadays are very good: once a year a group of senior pupils joins the Board for a discussion and achieves a high standard of discourse. They also play a considerable part in running the School. Martin thought the ultimate accolade was to hear a prospective parent, having just been shown round the School by a boy or girl, say that they would like their offspring to develop into

“as nice a person” as the pupil who had just shown them round.

Martin thought his yeargroup, 1955, was a sensible lot, and he had hugely enjoyed their recent 70th birthday reunion at the House of Lords. He concluded by thanking the Association for being such an agreeable body over such a long time.

The Chair, on behalf of the Association, thanked Martin for all that he had done: he undoubtedly deserved a long-service medal. But he remained an OS and all hoped that he would continue to come to the Association’s reunions.

(e) Editor (Richard Gilpin):

Richard said that this year all had gone smoothly and as programmed, and the Magazine and Annual Report reached members three weeks before the May reunion. The quality of production was good and the cost slightly less than last year. The biggest glitch was an editorial error of his own which married two Golden Wedding couples to each other’s wives, for which he apologised. Richard thanked all contributors, and urged Old Scholars to find it within themselves to send him material for next or future years. Everyone has a story to tell.

(f) Head (Graham Wigley):

Graham pointed out that a great deal of information about life at

the School and its progress could nowadays be gleaned from its excellent website. But he welcomed the opportunity to give Old Scholars a brief update.

“Development. The School’s plans to develop the site continue to move forwards, despite planning permission for our original scheme being refused last November by Uttlesford’s planning committee. This was particularly discouraging since the Council’s planning officers had recommended approval. Since November 07 we have been working towards finding a development partner and hope to submit a revised scheme in the future, bearing in mind the current economic climate.

Academic results summer 2008.

I am delighted to be able to report another very good set of public examination results. At ‘A’ level sixth formers achieved a 100% pass rate, with 60% of those grades at A/B; 82% were at A-C. At GCSE 91% of all Year 11 students achieved 5 or more A*-C (62% nationally).

We continue to believe strongly that students should attempt examinations even if they are unlikely to attain the very highest grades, unlike some schools who ensure impressive ‘headline figures’ by weeding out candidates who are ‘borderline passes’. When comparing predicted results with actual grades, we add about 0.7 of

a grade on average to every subject at GCSE, which is a truly impressive statistic. Young people achieve well at Friends'. Junior School results are equally impressive. Last year's SAT results at Key Stage 2 showed that all pupils achieved at least Level 4 in maths, English and science, with many achieving Level 5. To put that in context, an average pupil will achieve Level 5 in Year 8, not Year 6.

Quaker life. The Quaker life of the school continues to flourish and our very special ethos and 'feel' is still commented upon by visitors, parents and pupils. Boarders continue to enjoy their half-termly evenings at the SW Meeting House. Boarders' evening meetings have been lively and interesting with Quaker pupils taking a lead in preparing the evening. One pupil has been running a group at British Yearly Meeting; others have attended Quaker events for young people such as the week which we host here in August. We now have a (long overdue) Quaker Notice Board on Centre Corridor which is kept up to date by two sixth formers. A group of sixth form pupils have organised a weekly Meeting for Worship for those who wish to enjoy a longer meeting than the school day allows. We continue to be an outward looking school and raised almost £7,000 across the school supporting many local, national

and international charities.

Inspection report. As you know we were inspected last year and we are delighted with our report. It shows Friends' as a very good school, but one which is not resting on its laurels and which is working through an 'improvement' agenda. Teaching and learning are good, pastoral care is excellent. Particularly pleasing was the section headed 'Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development'. This, in the words of the report 'remains an outstanding feature of the whole school'.

We fulfil our central aim of 'enabling each individual to embrace the values of tolerance, understanding, equality and compassion'. Inspectors reported a 'strong sense of identity and self-worth'. Students are 'confident and at ease with staff and one-another'. Year 13 students 'were clear that there was a strong sense of Quaker values and ethos at the top end of the school that had developed over time.' 'Engagement with social concerns shines through in many different areas'. And most importantly, 'Pupils feel valued and are encouraged to value their neighbour in return.' The report is available on our website (Parents section).

Sports news. The sporting life continues to thrive throughout the school; the Junior School cricket,

athletics, football and cross-country teams compete regularly in the region and with a good deal of success. Despite our relatively small numbers we certainly 'punch above our weight' and achieve some super results. Perhaps more importantly, many youngsters have the chance to take part. The same is true in the senior section of the school. In addition to our regular fixture list we have pupils taking part in hockey (boys and girls), rugby, athletics, tennis, cross-country and athletics at county level.

Early in October our two equestrian teams performed superbly in show jumping and dressage at the Felsted School Inter-School Competition.

Out and About. During a very successful Activities Week in June Year 7 all became boarders for the week and enjoyed sailing, trail bike riding, climbing and other activities at local centres over four days. Year 8 went to Normandy, Year 9 went either to north Wales on a water sports break or undertook D of E training. All Year 10s undertook a fortnight's work experience and Year 12 went to the West Country and Exeter, visiting universities and the Eden Project.

So far this year, Year 6 have once again visited Snowdonia and Year 5 have enjoyed their residential trip to Norfolk. I am delighted that our Duke of Edinburgh's Award activity is now based in

school where we have more control over training; this remains a very popular activity. Four members of staff have attended an 'Outdoor Leader' training weekend which will allow them to take expeditions. We have about 25 Year 10 on the 'Bronze' course, 16 Year 11s on 'Silver' and a 'Gold' sixth form group. Year 9 will sign up for 'Bronze' in the new year.

Looking ahead, staff are planning music trips to the West Country in January, with a different Year 5 to Year 8 group touring the west of England in the summer. Plans are also afoot for an overseas orchestra tour. We are fortunate to have some very accomplished musicians throughout the whole school, including, for instance, a member of the National Youth Choir.

I hope you agree that all this adds up to a happy, vibrant school that offers opportunities and celebrates achievements that go far beyond the narrowly academic."

In answer to questions, Graham said that he and other Heads of Quaker schools kept in touch. The financial meltdown was worrying and the School was marketing hard, was carrying out a parental attitude audit, and deliberating in a fundraising group that it had set up. The meeting was surprised to learn that Leighton Park nowadays had only 2% Quaker pupils while FSSW was 8-9%. At the end of a

lively discussion about climate change, Martin Hugall explained that papers were nowadays set for pupils specifically to develop their ability to present balanced arguments.

The Chair invited acceptance of the six reports received: Jeremy Edwards proposed, Mary Mileson seconded and nobody dissented.

RECENT CHARITY COMMISSION GUIDANCE ON INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Last year the OSA Committee asked the Head to prepare a paper explaining the current situation regarding changes in the charity law, how this was impacting on Friends' School and how the OSA might best support the school in the future. The Committee has yet to study the paper in detail but Graham Wigley gave this overview.

“The Charities Commission and Central Government. The government, working through the Charities Commission, has increased its pressure on Independent Schools over the last two or three years. Although the ‘threat’ of introducing VAT on school fees (charities are largely VAT exempt) has receded, new legislation through the Charities Act (2006) has led all schools in the sector to reconsider their position. Despite the fact that education has

been seen as a ‘charitable activity’ in law since Tudor times, this is now subject to closer scrutiny. It was reported in yesterday’s Times Educational Supplement that four Scottish schools have failed to pass their ‘public benefit’ test because of low bursary levels. This is very worrying.

All registered charities (of which Friends’ School is one) must have charitable purposes or ‘aims’ that are for the public benefit. Although nothing has changed in this respect as a result of the 2006 legislation, the Charities Act explicitly includes public benefit in the definition of charitable purpose. Thus the School must demonstrate explicitly that our aims are for the public benefit. Previously, this was assumed to be the case by dint of the fact that we were a registered charity advancing education or religion or relieving poverty. Charity trustees (governors) are required to have regard to the Commission’s public benefit guidance and to report on the school’s public benefit.

Charitable purposes are set out under 13 different headings, but as far as the school is concerned the two key ones are the advancement of education, and of religion (as Friends’ is a registered Faith School). Three other headings apply in lesser degree - the advancement of citizenship or community; of the arts, culture heritage; and of amateur sport -

although these are not specifically covered in our Charitable Aims (ie the criteria against which the level of our public benefit will be measured).

Public Benefit. There are four main principles of public benefit: there must be an identifiable benefit; the benefit must be made to the public, or section of the public; people on low income must benefit; and any private benefit must be incidental.

Particularly from the second of these, the school must ensure that the opportunity to benefit ‘must not be unreasonably restricted’ by geographical or other restrictions or by the ability to pay any fee charged. Thus, it is not unreasonable for our charity to charge fees, but we must make as much provision as we can to allow that part of the public who wish to access it, to be able to do so even if they can’t afford it. In other words, we must offer sufficient bursaries so that no one feels that they cannot apply because of a lack of money.

The School is now obliged to keep a Public Benefit register. The ‘education’ aim should be self-evident and we can point to the Inspection report, since it is externally validated as evidence of what we do. Similarly, we can point to what we achieve as a Faith School under the ‘advancement of religion’ portal, including to those

who are not specifically Quaker, but who benefit from being at a Quaker school.

We can also list other public benefits, for example, outside organisations using our buildings, swimming pool, courts and pitches; charity work done by pupils; local community contributions, like junior choir singing in local hospital; helping first year teachers to qualify, so saving the state the cost of training them; and so on.

Bursaries. The Charity Commission is especially likely to focus on bursaries. Our Governors have moved to reduce the level of scholarships (which reward parents, irrespective of their financial status) with bursaries, which target the less affluent. This sits well not only with Charity Commission considerations, but also with our Quaker ethos and foundation and the Quaker ‘Equality’ testimony. We are not a wealthy school and we do much to support those in need.”

Graham thought that the Old Scholars Association has the potential to make a major contribution in many ways, and he looked forward to discussions with the Committee about how to take some of this forward.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Bertram said that all of the Officers and Committee Members were content to serve for another year. Nigel explained that, while the Governors no longer included an OSA member ex-officio, several Governors were OSs, and he hoped that one of them would attend future AGMs. A President to succeed Caroline Longstreet in November 2009 had not yet been appointed: it was hoped that the name would be announced in the next Magazine.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jean Stubbs said that she did not know, and had been unable to find out, whether her old friend, Mary McGowan, was alive or had died. She would be in her late nineties, suffered from dementia and was in a nursing home. Jean thought it wrong that lives such as Mary's should be officiously extended.

The Chair conveyed the meeting's sympathy to Jean for the worry that she was enduring.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next AGM would be held at the School at 10.15 on Saturday 14th November 2009.

The business of the meeting being thus concluded, Richard Gilpin handed over the Presidency to Caroline Longstreet, who invited him to deliver his Address.

Richard gave both a lucid and humorous review of his whole career and an absorbing insight into the preoccupation of its most recent phase, the study of Archaeology.

Edited highlights of his Address appear on the following pages of the Magazine.

Nigel thanked him on behalf of all present for the interest and wit of his talk.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting have noted that an Address was given by the outgoing President. The full text of this would take up far too many pages, so the Editor has taken the liberty of condensing it a bit. The President has indicated that he has no objection.

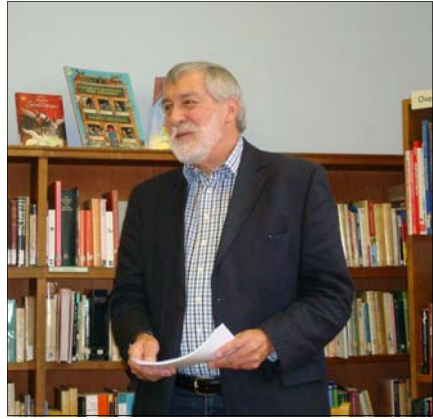
Ladies and gentlemen. In the past, many Presidents have used this occasion in order to look back at the years they spent here.

I have revisited my old school reports however, and it is clear from them that I was a truly terrible disappointment to of those who had the misfortune to teach me.

My conclusion is that the finer details of my time here are perhaps best left alone, and that the summer of 1960 is the best point at which to start. That was when I passed my three A Levels.

To suggest that Kenneth Nicholson was surprised would be a gross understatement. As Frankie Howerd once said, his flabber had never been so ghastrated.

All of my subjects were however at the lowest possible passing grade. This meant that while my harder-working and academically more successful classmates went from Saffron Walden into Higher Education, my path from School took me to the London School of Printing and Graphic Arts. I became friendly with a fellow student named Martin Lee, and one of his sisters (after a few years and a certain amount of friendly



The President in full flow

persuasion) agreed to marry me. Since then, Tricia and I have enjoyed bringing up our two children, Rebecca and Sam, and three years ago we became granny and granddad.

After two years, my Diploma in Printing Administration allowed me to go into the printing industry and tell other people how to do their jobs. The fact that they had a lifetime of experience and didn't need a young whippersnapper to tell them anything meant that my introduction to industry was distinctly less than smooth.

I learned how to plan and control production, and worked in a number of different factories,

mainly in London. In order to make things happen at the right time and in the right sequence, I frequently had to run from one department to another, or from one floor to another, and my exertions led to me being known as Galloping Gilpin.

The factories I worked in had small printing presses for things like business cards, medium sized presses for brochures and posters, and massive rotary presses the size of five double-decker buses lined up end to end, which were used to print magazines. The presses were, that is. Not the buses.

After a few years, it seemed to me that helping to *create* magazines would be much more interesting so I found myself a job in magazine publishing.

Printers have traditionally viewed publishers as something of a nuisance, while publishers have traditionally blamed printers for any mistakes and errors that have been made.

When I started in publishing, this atmosphere of mutual suspicion led to me being seen as a sort of double agent by printers and publishers alike, but it was in fact my experience in printing that gave me the production skills I needed as a publisher, and that was the work that kept me extremely busy until I was in my forties, when I hit the proverbial mid-life crisis.

I had been working for a number of years as the Production Manager of a medium sized family

firm in Croydon which published business-to-business magazines, most of which were leaders in their rather specialised fields. We were well-organised, adequately paid, and worked happily as a team.

I was made a Director, and given a seat on the Board. So far so good.

What happened next was not so good. The family shareholders put the Company up for sale, and it was bought by a large group, which had achieved success through a ruthless approach to the publishing of commercially popular magazines. They decided that the same strategy could be used for business magazines, and brought this hard-nosed approach to their dealings with the people who worked for them.

After a couple of years under the new owners, things came to a head. At the time I was Publishing Director of a small group of magazines, including our most profitable title, *Plastics and Rubber Weekly*. This had the distinction of appearing on an early edition of *Have I Got News For You* as its guest publication.

I had a happy team, and we made substantial profits: the best in the company. Our new owners wanted more however. And more.

It became clear to me that if I wanted to work with them on a long-term basis, I would have to change myself into a completely different person, and become part of a machine that I felt was

characterised by corporate greed. I was not prepared to do this, so off I went into the wilderness.

While there, I started working for Vu Khanh Thanh, the director of the An Viet Foundation, a small organisation dedicated to helping Vietnamese refugees to become happily settled in the United Kingdom. After setting up a Vietnamese education and training project in Thamesmead, I moved up to north London and spent a number of years acting as Thanh's bridge to the wider English speaking community. I worked for An Viet Housing Association, and had to learn how to deal with the builders we employed. When I met up with them on site, I had to wear a hard hat. In view of the awkward questions that I sometimes came up with, the hard hat was mainly needed to protect me from them.

One day the Housing Corporation forced An Viet to become the subsidiary of a larger refugee organisation and, from my perspective, history was repeating itself.

All of my Vietnamese friends left, and I moved on as well, to a housing association that provided social housing for refugees from all countries.

Then, in 1999, I went off to University aged 57. That was my age: UCL was even older.

I do not propose to go into my experiences at Uni in too much detail. There are many tales I could tell you about my life as an

undergraduate and then as a post-graduate student, but maybe I should just say that this was a brilliant time.

I now do part-time work as a volunteer at the Museum of London in the Barbican, where most of my time is spent coordinating special events and helping visitors, with occasional special projects thrown in.

That part of my Address was all about me, and that is all you are going to hear about me, because my second theme is the subject that I read at UCL.

Archaeology.

Why did I choose it?

I really don't know. I didn't know anything about the subject at all, but when I read all the way through the UCAS book of University courses, I didn't seem to know anything about any of the others either.

Having watched TV programmes on which I had seen the odd archaeologist however, the answer became clear. It had to be my subject, if only because when I looked in the mirror, an odd archaeologist seemed to be looking back at me.

What is archaeology though?

One definition is: "archaeology is the sole discipline in the social sciences concerned with reconstructing and understanding human behaviour on the basis of the material remains left by our prehistoric and historic forebears."

Is archaeology really a science though?

I would ask the older members present to recall the words of Maureen Lipman in her famous 1980s TV commercial for British Telecom. She was talking on the phone to her son, who had failed all of his exams except pottery... and sociology.

“He gets an ology and he says he’s failed.” “You get an ology – you’re a scientist”.

Going into greater detail, archaeology has been described as a “borrower” subject, in that it has created itself by borrowing from many subjects that have been around for a great deal longer. It borrows from just about every scientific discipline you can think of. Here are just a few:

Geology, ecology, biology, zoology, anthropology and social anthropology. Even palynology. This is nothing to do with a certain Alaskan hockey mom. It is in fact the study of pollen.

Archaeology uses a number of ‘ographies such as geography, topography, cartography, ethnography and aerial photography.

It also calls upon expertise from metallurgy, anatomy, statistics and linguistics.

It has even created an ‘ology all of its own. This is dendrochronology, which is the science that can establish the year and even season in the past when a tree was felled, through the analysis of its rings. It has also created the discipline and specialised techniques of Forensic

Archaeology, which helps investigators across the world to recover evidence from crime scenes.

So, as an archaeologist you know what you are trying to do, and its disciplines have given you a very large and effective tool kit to help you to reconstruct the past, but where do you find your evidence?

The answer to that question is that in many situations you are standing on it. I don’t mean that to be taken literally, although a misplaced boot has been known to turn a small piece of pottery into several much smaller pieces, as if by magic. I mean that it is buried in the ground underneath you.

You can find your evidence when excavating in the sands of Western Asia, in the City of London, in the green grass of the English countryside, in the overgrown jungles of Mexico, and in shipwrecks lying in the sand and silt at the bottom of the sea.

Finding a site is in fact the first stage in the process of archaeology. Many sites, such as Stonehenge, Ancient Rome and Macchu Picchu are well-known and fairly obvious, but when the majority are well hidden, what do you do?

You may identify one from patterns in fields of crops that have been captured by aerial photography. At ground level a detailed confirmation can be reached by using geophysics and ground-penetrating radar, and a decision to excavate may be made.

Science crops up again.

The next stage should be a controlled and selective excavation, which can be put in hand where this is practical. Unfortunately there are many places where archaeologists would love to dig but just can't do so. This is often because something rather important – such as a listed building – may be smugly sitting there, and spoilsport authorities refuse to let it be demolished by a crowd of trowel-happy archaeologists.

After a site has been identified it is fully surveyed using GPS and TSTs (Total Station Theodolites). A JCB is sometimes used to start the excavation by taking off the topsoil, after which your traditional archaeologist's trowel comes into its own.

As soon as you discover any evidence of human activity, you have to record it. This usually involves a written description, together with plans and section drawings.

The sequence in which finds are discovered is one of the key principles of archaeology. Unless there is an indication that the site has been disturbed in the past, you may assume that the top strata are the more recent, and the bottom strata are the more ancient. This allows archaeologists to calculate a dating sequence on a relative basis: "the pot we are digging out of this trench now must be older than the one we dug out yesterday".

After a find has been recorded

and lifted, you clean it up, mark it with a unique reference number, and send it off for conservation. This can take months or even years. The *Mary Rose*, which was raised from the Solent twenty-six years ago, is still undergoing conservation treatment in Portsmouth.

The fun bit of archaeology for many people is interpretation, which is what you do when you are trying to make some sense of what you've found. With the evidence at your disposal, you can let your imagination run on a bit, and have a stab at reconstructing a past society or culture.

Before you can start your interpretation however, you have to analyse your finds and the context in which you found them, and this is where archaeology is very different from treasure hunting.

The treasure hunter usually uses a metal detector, and just wants something valuable that can be sold. The archaeologist is looking for missing bits of a jigsaw puzzle.

The archaeologist wants to establish a find's position in its stratified dating sequence, and see any relationship that may link it to other finds in the same assemblage. The context in which the find has been made is all-important.

When you analyse your finds, you will want to arrive at an absolute date, using techniques such as radiocarbon dating, pollen dating, thermoluminescence,

electron spin resonance, and — dendrochronology.

After a fair bit of work you've analysed your finds, you've dated them, and you understand how they relate to the context in which you found them. You have facts at your fingertips.

This means that you can at last try to work out what they mean, but you will still need to know about what else has been found that has come from this place, this area, this time period. You will need to know the interpretations that other archaeologists have made. When looking back into the past, you will also need to forget the culture of the twenty-first century, and try to use fresh eyes to look at a world that may have been very different to the one you live in.

Reliance on your own experience can lead you to completely misinterpret what you are looking at.

I would like to tell you a little story to illustrate this.

A man from an extremely reclusive and unsophisticated rural community in America had to leave his home in the country for the day and go up to the big city with his son. The two of them parked their horse and trap outside a tall new office building, walked up half a dozen steps and went into the reception area.

While they were sitting there, waiting for someone to come and talk to them, they saw an elderly lady walk slowly across to a pair

of steel doors. She pressed a button, and the doors opened. They closed behind her, and a number of lights flashed. After a minute or so the doors opened again, and a beautiful young girl came out, sashayed across the floor, and went off down the steps.

The father considered these events, turned his head, and said: "Son, go get your mother."

I hope that story gives you a lift.

By now you will have gathered that there is more to archaeology than working in the dust of summer and the mud of winter. The later procedures of analysis and interpretation are an intellectual pursuit that is carried out in the laboratory, the library and the study.

In the real world, the archaeologist doesn't quite have the glamour of Indiana Jones, and is unlikely to get involved in the dangers of an Agatha Christie book such as *Murder in Mesopotamia*. The experience of digging knowledge from the earth can however still be exciting and rewarding.

In conclusion, I would like offer you some words of great wisdom from Agatha Christie, who said that:

"An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have. The older she gets, the more interested he is in her."

Richard Gilpin

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2008/9

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INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

as at 31st March 2008

	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Members subscriptions		6,697		6,292
Investment income				
Life fund	1,277		1,282	
Accumulated	534		376	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		1,811		1,658
Donation received		150		-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		8,658		7,950
Expenditure				
Annual Report		3,725		4,410
Outreach directory		-		2,369
Notices -				
Annual General Meeting	275		300	
Spring reunion	275		250	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		550		550
Annual gatherings -				
Annual General Meeting	-		-	
Spring reunion	970		-	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		970		-
Committee members expenses		71		366
Gift to School		3,424		-
Bank and credit card charges		-		-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total expenditure		8,740		7,695
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(82)		255
Accumulated fund brought forward		11,963		11,708
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Accumulated fund carried forward		11,881		11,963
		<hr/>	<hr/>	

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31st March 2008

	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
Funds				
Life Fund		10,393		10,393
Accumulated Fund		11,882		11,963
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		22,275		22,356
Represented by				
Life Fund				
Investment at costs		5,297		5,297
Cash at bank		5,096		5,096
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		10,393		10,393
Accumulated fund and five year appeal				
Cash at bank	12,447		15,400	
Investment at cost	6,595		6,595	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	19,042		21,995	
Less: Annual Report creditor	(4,500)		(4,908)	
Subscriptions in advance	(2,385)		(2,255)	
AGM notices accrued	(275)		(500)	
Outreach Directory accrued	-		(2,369)	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		11,882		11,963
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total net assets		22,275		22,356
		<hr/>		<hr/>

Auditors' report

We have audited these financial statements in accordance with approved auditing standards. We agree that the statement of recommended practice for charities does not apply to these financial statements. In our opinion the balance sheet and income and expenditure account shows a true and fair view of the affairs of the Association at 31 March 2008, and of the results for the year ended on that date. We have verified the assets of the Association. We have not been able to confirm that the terms of all the trust funds have been observed.

Charles Mills Graeme Johnston

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

as at 31st March 2008

	Cost	Market Value	
		2008	2007
	£	£	£
Accumulated Fund			
Newton Income Fund (1,400.23 units)	3,301	8,402	8,376
Legal & General Group plc 608 Ord 2.5p	294	809	984
Neptune Multi Manager Income (3,872 units)	3,000	5,971	6,342
	<u>6,595</u>	<u>15,182</u>	<u>15,702</u>
Life Fund			
Barclays Bank plc 2,648 Ordinary shares	69	12,962	19,410
Legal & General Group plc 9,000 Ord 2.5p (5 for 2)	228	11,970	14,571
Newton Income Fund (2,347.53 units)	5,000	14,086	14,043
	<u>5,297</u>	<u>39,018</u>	<u>48,024</u>

Notes on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008:

1. The accumulated fund includes a legacy from Dorothea Waring given in 1951 of £1,431 for the general purposes of the Association.

Owing to difficulties in arranging a meeting including the Association's auditors and its third auditor the above Accounts had not been signed off before the Magazine had to close for press.

The Treasurer advises that the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008 and those for the year ending 31st March 2009 will be audited together ahead of the November 2009 Annual General Meeting.

THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD



Old Scholars seem to be scattered all over the world, and it is great when they get in touch. Here is a letter from John Burley—somewhere in France...

It has been some time since I last wrote to the OSA Annual Report, so here is an update of news, together with some thoughts on a life of international and local service.

A few years ago, I retired from the United Nations after a career of 32 years working on development issues, based in New York and then Geneva, with quite a bit of travel in between. My last job was as a Director in the UN Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) whose *raison d'être* is a deliberate bias in favour of developing countries. Working for so long for the UN was a tremendous privilege and a wonderful experience. I saw what could be achieved when nations agree to cooperate for the sake of everyone, and what was lost when narrow national self-interests took over.

Of course the UN is not as effective as it should be. This is so

for two reasons: internal, namely its inefficient management; and external, namely the nature of inter-governmental organizations whose real practical usefulness depends hugely on member governments providing resources and ceding authority. It may be platitudinous to say that effective multilateral cooperation is absolutely essential in today's world of common problems needing common solutions, but it happens to be true.

My family moved to Geneva some twenty years ago. In fact we live just across the border in France, in the small, delightful spa town of Divonne-les-Bains. I now have French nationality as well, thanks to my wife. Earlier this year, I was invited to join the *Conseil Municipal* here in Divonne, as part of the French "*élections municipales*": unfortunately, there wasn't much of a campaign as the mayor was returned unopposed.

In small French towns, local concerns take precedence over the traditional battle in national politics between the "centre-right" and the socialists. It is fascinating to help run the commune, where I am involved with the many practical issues of the local

economy, the environment and local finances.

Divonne is extraordinarily well equipped for its small size (population about 7,500) with numerous leisure and sports facilities – the baths, a large lake, an Olympic-size swimming pool, a golf course, a race course and a casino from which the town has benefited for many years. However, Divonne’s casino is now on a downturn, so we are therefore faced with the invidious decision of whether to increase taxes or to cut services.

One of our current issues is whether to accept a proposal to establish a popular game known here as “paintball” on a site on the edge of the lake. The project will certainly attract young people, but we have also to ensure that the peaceful environment of the lake is not too disturbed. It has certainly been an exciting entry into local politics!!

There are interesting similarities and differences between these two parts of my life, between “thinking globally” at the UN and “acting locally” in the commune of Divonne. Both require the identification of the common good, the search for consensus, the mobilisation of political will and the use of inevitably limited resources. But in the UN, results are often imperceptible and drawn-out, whereas one great advantage of local politics is that one knows pretty quickly whether the local population is satisfied or not!!

I have always felt that my desire to be involved in public service, whether international or local, stemmed in large part from my years at Saffron Walden. I could not agree more, when reading the OSA annual reports, with those fellow Old Scholars who recall the Quaker traditions of liberty, individuality and personal growth. This was also very important for me. Even more however, I was exceptionally lucky to have been at the School during the time of a truly remarkable Head, Kenneth Nicolson, and to have benefited from an equally exceptional group of teachers, among them Cyril Mummery, John Evans and Iorwerth John (and many others).

For me, this unique combination of understanding the uses of history and the rigours of mathematics proved a winning match, and I therefore feel very lucky in having received the benefits of a Saffron Walden education. I hope too that some of this has passed on to our two daughters, who went to international schools in New York and in Geneva and to universities in France, Scotland and the US; they have subsequently developed, in their own way, careers of service to others less fortunate than themselves.

We have now settled in Divonne, and anybody from the OSA passing through Geneva is most welcome to get in touch.

John Burley (1955-62)
john.burley@wanadoo.fr

MR BEESON TAKES A WALK DOWN THE AVENUE

Looking through his dusty cupboards one day, Lenon Beeson came upon an old copy of The Avenue. He found quite a lot in it that he wanted to share with today's OS...

I think I started my analysis of *The Avenue* of June 1956 (when I left the Walden staff) before Richard started his review of the 1958 issue. I fear that the delay is due to age and incompetence! I found the task nostalgic, but it was so interesting to recapture the life of the School in the Fifties – not long after the War.

There were black and white photos, fastened with now-rusty staples, in the middle of the Magazine. These had been contributed in the main by Susan and Maurice Haselgrove, and by Christopher Lee. One of Susan's showed BBJ playing conkers with Brian Hosking, while Christopher's was allegedly of a garden seat recently given by Gerald and Gwen Littleboy. The seat was overwhelmed by roughly twenty scholars, nearly all boys. It should be said that, as one would expect of FSSW courtesy, three of the five seated figures were girls. The contrast with the splendid House of Lords colour photo in the 2007 OSA Magazine is remarkable.

The earlier photo does show a Head Boy (David Burnett) and a future member of the House of

Lords (Matthew Evans). Myrtle Wyatt is in this photo, and elsewhere is winning yet another race! For some strange reason, I recognise the faces of those days more easily than those of 2007.

I can only select a few of the written contributions in the 1956 *Avenue*. Peter Avery, Peter Jameson and Adrian Smith wrote about branch railways, pieces that would embarrass Dr Beeching. Jennifer Dollin produced a moral tale of a missionary priest in Africa that could be relevant today, and also reported on the meetings of the Senior Literary Society. An enormous range of scholars appear and reappear in reports of sports, drama and school societies – ranging from Natch to Debating. In a small school, most people took many roles, and obviously the "joiners" figure largely in the Magazine. On the other hand, *The Avenue* encouraged the individualist to participate. Parn Taimsalu wrote a well researched piece about Mars before he went on to Imperial College, London. He was, I believe, a refugee from Poland. The year's staff drama production, *Alice in Marsland* also seems to reflect current interest in planets.

This particular generation does seem to have maintained its links very well, aided by electronic communication initiated by some creative individual! Music and Sport must be among the most valuable linking activities. The Football First XI (Captain: Alan Pike), in Jeff Follett's excellent account, scored 102 goals, with 52 against. The Under 13's lost only two of eight games, scoring 33 and conceding only 16 – the best junior side JEF could remember. In this team, many individuals are praised, among them Wicks, Mitchell, Osborn, Hills, Hartstone and the current OSA Editor, Mr Richard Gilpin! Among the girls, in this invidious selection of names, Myrtle Wyatt, Rosemary Scott and Judith Allen were awarded Hockey Colours. In Music, Jennifer Dollin figures again in Richard Sturge's summary – he remarked that "musical friendships are renewed year by year". The truth of his statement was borne out when Mary Mileson (Noyce) was President of OSA in 2004-05. Nuala Bradbury is just one of many who commented on the delight of singing together in the choir again at Walden in that year. Music was also a major contribution to the School's reputation, not just in Walden and Thaxted, but as far as Trafalgar Square, and in the Combined Friends' Schools Concerts. Musicians appeared elsewhere in *The Avenue* – Barbara Comber left to get married, much praised by

Richard Sturge. Malcolm Harvey, whose beautiful precise skills we all remember, was reported doing National Service in the Royal Engineers Staff Band.

Another huge asset for the School's cohesion was the "multiple siblings" phenomenon (singleton scholars please forgive me). There were Old Scholar families – look at the list of former Presidents in OSA report – Day Scholar families, staff families. Random examples, successively, might be Skeltons, Whitlows and Jacobs, Bradburys and Joneses. Such families extend friendships, even with the other side of the world, as is the case with the Dunstan brothers. It would be unjust, however, to think that a unique individual, unmentioned in 1956, did not matter.

A perfect example is an Austrian refugee, Sylvi Wakefield, who lived with her elderly guardians in an oil-lit farm on the Chesterford road. She travelled by school bus or an awkward bike journey, with morning and evening chores to do, unable to take part in sports or School societies. Yet her immaculate work and active participation in lessons was a great example and spur to scholars. In trying to confirm the accuracy of my memory, I have been in touch with her partner David. Sylvi died in 1991 in her beloved home in the Lake District. She and others were at Walden because of Friends' age-old concern for refugees, and the attitude of Fifties' scholars was a

vital part in the acceptance of people like Sylvi. That same attitude was evident in the acceptance of some particularly deprived children from Local Authorities.

An essential part of the School's academic life and its ethical values was the Library – new Committee members were quoted as Nedda Bradbury and John Edwards, replacing Isobel Jones and Dilawar Chetsingh. Irene Chedd, Kenneth Nicholson, Nigel Weaver and Reg Reynolds had given books. Purchased additions included the “controversial” *Morals without Religion* by Margaret Knight, and a volume on *Statistical Method*, both perhaps ahead of their time? A novel by Richard Church echoed the production of his play *The Prodigal* by the School Dramatic Society – scenery by Joan Hughes, Stage Manager Lenon Beeson, production by Ken Whitlow. The list of actors – if the Editor can afford the space (*he can, Ed*) – should be given in full. Brian Gatward, James Munro, Ursula Jones, Karin Fernald, Bryan Newton, Elizabeth Weaver, Jane Evans, “cheerful rogues” Timothy Lampard and David Cadman, finally Dennis Lindsey. How sad that Dennis left so early – so many talents but evidently unhappy. We can only hope that there were few who were so disenchanting.

The inclusion of a Neville Shute novel *Requiem for a Wren* in the Library was criticised in a piece by Richard Fisher and Isobel Jones, in

reporting on a defeated motion in the Debating Society – “Women's magazines do more harm than good”. John Edwards reported on a UNICEF meeting in Cambridge where Danny Kaye praised its work. Kenneth Nicholson had organised a discussion for sixth-form boys on Pacifism. In one session, Canon Sinker had explained his views about “a just war”. Jean Scott wrote about German roads, Rosanne Bristow on Toledo, Jennifer Pike on Paris. The Fourth Form, perhaps with the help of Margaret Yapp and Jean Alderson, had produced Martial Translations of Latin verse – pretty spicy. The artistic, intellectual and ethical aspects were well served. The amatory aspect cropped up frequently in the verses from *Alice in Marsland* – two quotations only here, attributed to Agnes Horlick:

*Then the pallid moon discovers all the
ghosts of former lovers
Who once walked the Avenue
They whisper soft of bygone days
When they promised to be true-ue,
As hand in bony hand, a melancholy
band,
They haunt the Avenue.*

and

*The couples who stand and drape the
walls
of Centre Corridor
Shall have a Paul Jones in despite of
their groans
and swap partners each weekday at
Four.*

Our Editor, Richard Gilpin, will wonder how much longer I can go on. Mind you, it's his own fault, since this copy of *The Avenue* includes his own rather long poem.

I was only in the school for six years, but the same applies to most readers. Where staff is concerned, I have deliberately not mentioned any members because you will have your own views. What I can say is that when my wife and I had to suggest an educational fate for our two daughters when we later wrote a Will, we chose Walden – though whether such finance might have been possible was never tested. I had respect and often affection for almost all my colleagues, from gardener to Heads – hierarchical though that sounds.

In *The Avenue*, the Boys' Reading Club reported that a young Language teacher from Herts and Essex High School gave an introduction to a Russian novel; she and I had married in the Meeting House in 1954. Many scholars, this time mainly girls, had signed the marriage certificate. Kathleen Lonsdale, School Committee member, and I had both been His Majesty's prisoners on conscientious grounds, and for me it was marvellous to join a group who could understand and even sympathise. Mind you, Grethe Hansen seemed to blame me, in a poem dedicated to me called *24 Lines*, for the very existence of Maths, Physics and

Chemistry – though I was glad she knew the height of a hurdle (second in under 13s) and the structure of materials in her pads (goalie, under 13s). I hope she enjoyed whatever life she chose! (*The poem is reprinted in full following this article, Ed*).

It would be such a comfort to my conceit to distil from my experience a theory of school management for the world to consider, in general, modern schools tend to be larger, to be more economic. Boarding is expensive, and perhaps less favoured in Britain. It is good to know, from the 2007 OSA report, that the present School is growing and prospering. It is sensible to be content that the Fifties' School, partly due to the families that chose it, thrived.

We didn't solve the world's problems – one of our Charities was *Wells For India*, still needed I fear. Nevertheless, the work of an international charity like Médecins-sans-Frontières, and its award of a Nobel Peace Prize is evidence of progress.

In OSA 2007, the Editor printed the French girl's description of Fifties' scholars as unusually tolerant, and by coincidence the 1956 copy of *The Avenue* contained an essay by Jane Evans entitled *Tolerance*. Perhaps this quality may eventually reach the Middle East.

Lenon Beeson (Staff 1950-56)

For the enjoyment of today's readers,
here is the poem from 1956 by Grethe Hansen (1954-61)

24 Lines

(Dedicated to Mr Beeson)

I go to sleep in Geometry,
Arithmetic's a bore
In Algebra I just can't think
For ten minutes or more.

A line or two, a smudgy blur,
Triangle ABC,
Now find the angle BCA
Does not seem right to me.

If x is three and y is four,
If z is ninety-two
Find xyz and take away
xy plus fifty-two.

The length and breadth are multiplied,
Together with the height,
To get the volume of the thing,
On paper – black and white.

Now physics thrill me to the core,
Though I don't understand,
If water's temp. is 302°
Why bother with the land?

Just take a lot of CO₂
Shut the windows and the doors.
Why fag with stupid Chemistry
If the choice of life is yours?

When writing his article about the 1956 issue of *The Avenue*, Lenon Beeson discussed the phenomenon of "multiple siblings" and in this context mentioned the Bradbury family.

Along with his typescript he also sent a photocopy of Maurice Haselgrove's 1956 photograph of the three Bradbury siblings, Nuala (1948-55), Nedda (1949-56) and John (1951-58), on the Sports Field.

They were very close in age, and for some years were all at Saffron Walden together.

As Lenon says: "the delighted mirth on the faces of all three, Nedda in sports attire, John in the



middle, was caused by the latest Tannoy announcement. *Nuala* had just been announced as the winner."

Could this be a case of what Lenon Beeson might call "multiple siblings confusion"?

OLD SCHOLARS REUNION WEEKEND 2009

Since 2007, the Old Scholars' Association has encouraged two Year Groups to come back on Reunion Day. This new tradition will continue in 2009.

Despite last year's abject failure with the 50ish OS (Year Group 1976), those turning 60 (Year Group 1966) responded well, and the Committee has been encouraged to repeat the exercise. This year the spotlight moves on one year and homes in on the 1967 and 1977 Year Groups.

As before, the OS Reunion coincides with the School's Friends and Families Day, which this year falls on Saturday 9th May. It will be a lively day, and the School will be buzzing with present scholars, parents and Old Scholars.

Details of the programme will be finalised after this issue of the Magazine has gone to press, but highlights will include Assembly in the Sports Hall, with speeches and presentations of awards; picnic and BBQ lunches on the Sports Field (or inside if wet); activities and displays in Departments; tours of the boarding houses; music and drama performances; and the annual cricket match in which a team representing Old Scholars will take on the School.

Later in the day, the School's caterers will be serving Dinner.

This facility will be targeted at the 1967 and 1977 Year Groups,

together with classmates of the current President, Caroline Longstreet (Year Group 1975), but all Old Scholars will be welcome. Information, including cost implications, will be published on the Old Scholars' website, which can still be found at

<http://friends.org.uk/fsswosa/>.

Owing to its comparatively early press date the Magazine is unable to give up-to-date details, and members are advised to visit the OS website in the weeks building up to the 9th May 2009.

Old Scholars in the 1967 Year Group (you know who you are) should contact the Association's Secretary, Chris Spencer (phone: 01953 602692, email: cmj.spencer@btinternet.com).

Old Scholars in the 1977 Year Group (you know who you are too!) should contact the Association's President, Caroline Longstreet (phone: 01984 667460, email: caroline.longstreet@tiscali.co.uk).

Those of you who have returned to the School in recent years for the May Reunion will know full well what a great day it is. Those of you who haven't yet done so are strongly urged to come along: whatever effort you have to make, it will be worth it.

FROM FABRICS TO POTTERY

Those Old Scholars who were at the School between 1951 and 1954 may remember Sally Dennis (Tuffin).

What they may know little about is the design journey that took her from fashion clothing in the Sixties to pottery in the 21st century.

The year 1954 is lodged in my memory, since it was my daunting first day at Art School. That morning I had cycled from Romford to Walthamstow along roads that in those days were peaceful. The South West Technical College and School of Art stood back from the road in huge grounds. It was an intimidating building, approached by a wide, steep bank of steps, through huge columns into the busy vestibule. Quite a change from the intimacy of Walden.

I was sixteen, and remember asking if we were allowed out at lunchtime! On registration day I had to choose my preferred craft subject: *lino* or *dress*. Not knowing what *lino* meant I replied "dress", thus sealing my fate as a dress designer.

The days were divided into two classes, with another session in the evening.

We were taught to draw the skeleton and body for anatomy, and studied sculpture, painting, architecture and history of art. In line with my preferred subject I learned much about sewing, pattern cutting and fashion drawing. Our tutor, Daphne Brooker, was an inspiration,

pushing us as hard as she could.

After four years I gained a National Diploma in Design. Five students in our year were awarded places in the Fashion School at the Royal College of Art; this was a real achievement, as there were only ten places available. The College was a beautiful house in Ennismore Gardens, Knightsbridge, and within walking distance from my basement flat in Queensgate.

It seemed as though all the fashion students carried an umbrella and a Harrods carrier bag. Women were not allowed to wear trousers, and we had to wear skirts (preferably pencil shape with a kick pleat at the back). It seemed a little like a finishing school for young ladies!

Fortunately for us however, Janey Ironside had just been appointed Head of Department, and she had a fresh vision together with a rigorous work ethic.

We were bombarded with tutoring from interesting people: Bernard Nevill introduced us to the library at the Victoria and Albert Museum, while a wild Czech woman taught us couture construction and how to drape fabric on a dress stand. We visited

the London and Paris dress shows twice a year. Mary Quant and her husband, Alexander Plunkett-Greene, were just two of our many stimulating lecturers.

All this inspired Marion Foale and me, and at the end of three years – full of vim and vigour – we left the College. Fearless and confident, we formed our own company, *Foale and Tuffin*.



1960s publicity shot for Foale and Tuffin

Although we had very little business sense or experience, our innocent optimism and enthusiasm carried us through.

Using our sewing machines, given to us as twenty-first birthday presents, we worked at home on the kitchen table. Initially we made clothes for friends and private customers and then, armed with a hand-drawn catalogue of ten designs, personally visited manufacturers and stores. I remember Susan Small advising us to “go home and get married” as

women did not run businesses! However, Woollands' 21 shop had just opened in Knightsbridge, and they welcomed us with open arms. Marion and I each made three dresses and delivered them (by bus) to the store. The orders multiplied and soon we had to use an outwork factory to help us cope.

Publicity was plentiful and free. The 21 shop advertised in fashion magazines, and our mentor Marit Allen, the editor of *Young Idea* in *Vogue*, regularly featured our designs.

James Wedge, then the milliner for Liberty, offered us his office in Carnaby Street, where the rent was just £6 per week. Then the shop below became vacant, and we opened the first women's boutique in Carnaby Street.

We dressed many media people (nowadays called ‘celebrities’), who were mostly young and ‘swinging’. On one memorable occasion the phone rang, and a broad Liverpudlian voice asked if we were open on Saturdays. My emphatic “no” was met with a coaxing “this is Paul McCartney”, at which point I suggested that he “pull the other leg”. Eventually I was persuaded that it was indeed Paul, and on that particular Saturday we opened our doors! Paul, in a voluminous bright orange shirt, cut a larger than life figure in our very small office. Jane Asher, his then girlfriend, had modelled our clothes for a shoot in *Vogue*, and he wanted to order

them for her. On leaving, he sprinted to his car, which was instantly surrounded by screaming girls.

It was a colourful, eventful time. Money was never our motivation: we were driven by exciting new opportunities, and thrived on a lifestyle that embraced music, painting and travel. A bonus was a regular sortie to Paris for our shoe supply, and we even managed to persuade a boutique on the Left Bank to stock our clothes. In retrospect, a considerable achievement.

We now occupied three floors of a small Georgian house in Ganton Street and showed two collections a year. The first floor was our showroom, lined in mirrors and with an open fireplace. Buyers from *Browns*, *Harrods* and many British boutiques visited. Then, following an article in the US magazine *Time*, the Americans came. With great excitement, and not a little apprehension, Marion and I packed a collection into two large suitcases and took our first flight to New York.

We booked into the Algonquin Hotel and showed from there. On our first night we realised that we could barely afford to eat, with a hamburger costing the equivalent of five English shillings! Fortunately, fate offered a helping hand when Ossie Clark, a friend from the RCA, introduced us to John Klass, an American dress designer. This was the start of a great friendship and a fun time.

At one point we used John's flat to make samples for the American company, *Puritan*. They were about to open *Paraphernalia*, a boutique on Madison Avenue, and we were commissioned to make two collections a year for them.

Later, a group of us visited New York, attracting press headlines such as "Swinging London hits New York". The party included Patti and Jenny Boyd (two of our British models), James Wedge a milliner, and Sally and John Jess who made handbags and shirts. Marion, Sally Jess and I travelled on the liner *France* (we had chosen the ship for its fantastic menu!) and spent five days relaxing, swimming and eating.

Well rested, we prepared for the opening celebrations for *Paraphernalia*. The actress Susannah York opened the boutique: we had recently dressed her for her latest film *Kaleidoscope*, and similar clothes were for sale in *Paraphernalia*.

There was a great deal of publicity and a good deal of partying surrounding our visit. I remember one occasion when we were all dancing at a nightclub, where we saw Teddy Kennedy. He was protected by some very grey men in suits, and looked somewhat out of place.

These were the early Sixties and we caused quite a stir walking down 5th Avenue in our decidedly 'Swinging London' mini skirts and boots. This was obviously a very new look and it turned out to be

unacceptable to many Americans. I remember a woman spitting at us in disgust.

The Seventies, the decade of flower power and love, proved to be a catalyst for Marion and me. We married and each had two children. Marion went north to Nuneaton, while I went south to Somerset with Richard. Then with Monica, a friend from *Foale and Tuffin*, I started *Tuppence Coloured*, a mail order business selling pre-cut, ready to sew, children's clothes.

Following an editorial in the *Daily Telegraph*, the Royal Mail van backed up to Monica's cottage door and threw out a huge sackful of letters with orders. The business had taken off!

Five years later a serious car crash grounded me and Richard for quite a while, and it was during this period that we received a call from Stoke-on-Trent telling us that the prestigious *Moorcroft Pottery* was in receivership.

This horrified Richard, who was a huge fan and friend of the Moorcroft family. What happened next was that we bought a third of the shares in the company and then spent two days a week in Stoke, working on designs and establishing a Collectors Club. Coming from a textile background, I found that working in a pottery was quite an adjustment. However, with help from Walter and John Moorcroft and the wonderful Stoke decorators, we



Moorcroft Pottery days

gradually developed a style, using the principles of dress pattern cutting to make the drawings fit the pots.

We commuted between Somerset and Stoke for eight years, making the samples at our home with an assistant. In the early Nineties our partnership with Moorcroft came to an end.

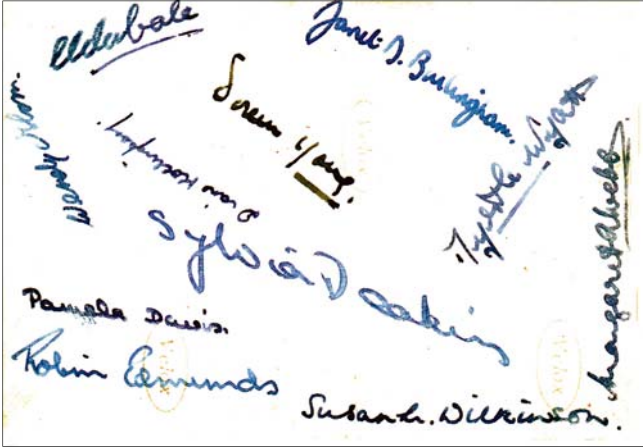
Richard and I continue to produce pottery in Somerset, where I design under my maiden name for our company, *Dennis Chinaworks*. There are many good art schools in this area, and we have had no trouble in building a young, talented team of twelve, producing studio pottery.

One of the company's highlights is to produce a collection each year for a *Bonhams* sale, and every summer we host a Gala Day for our collectors. This year (2009) is the *Chinaworks'* sixteenth year, so we must be doing something right!

Sally Dennis (Tuffin) 1951-54



Sally with her friends
in 1952...



...and again
(a few years later), in 1998

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Highlights from the July 1958 issue of The Avenue were published in the 2008 OS Magazine under the heading Fifty Years On. With a slight change of heading, it is now time to give similar treatment to The Avenue, 1959...

The School in the Fifties was clearly the place for a budding epidemiologist to carry out research.

Following the major disruption caused to the 1958 scholastic year reported in the 2008 OS Magazine, *The Avenue* of 1959 notes that the next Easter term was also affected, being cut short by a week due to an epidemic of a bug described as “Haemolytic Strep”.

The Avenue itself, while remaining Strep-free, was hit by an attack of a different kind – a printers’ strike – and this delayed its publication until the Autumn Term.

Plus ça change.

After a brief appreciation of the life of Reg Reynolds, *The Avenue* devoted twenty or so pages to a nestful of fledgling travel writers (if you can come up with a better collective noun, please make your suggestion). Moira Lawrie, Barbara Cutts and Mary Cuthbert described their various experiences in Paris, while John Bradbury and Sally MacClymont reported on time they had spent in America.

Germany was the chosen destination for Lesley Jacob (visiting some Germans who she

had encountered on the previous year’s School Tramp in Somerset), Mary Busch (on the Sauerland), and Daphne Griggs (on the Möhne Valley – target of the Dambusters in World War II). Isla Williams had been to Cyprus, and Philip Houlder gave an essay on his participation in a course in Rome for Classics teachers, provided by the Ministry of Education.

Meanwhile, in his report on the Brussels World Fair, Frank Benatt felt that the picture of a prosperous happy world painted by this giant exhibition papered over the fact that two thirds of the world’s population was starving in a world in which international brinkmanship was “a sport as popular as cricket”.

Rather closer to home, Penny Clackson (in preparation for a BSc in Sociology) found herself on a working holiday in a Youth Club in north London. This was Hoxton Hall, where 99% of the teenage members had already either received a prison sentence or had been “had up for unruly behaviour”.

The subject of railways was well covered by contributions from Harry Frost, Peter Southgate and Adrian Smith, while two Johns –

Elsley and Raven – described their experiences on a Field Studies course at Juniper Hall, Box Hill.

The Avenue also published photographs, and the 1959 issue included an image showing the back of the School.



One does wonder however whether the Editor at that time smelt anything fishy about John West's contribution. Even a quick glance indicates that it must have been taken from the top of the Water Tower, a structure that was well known to be "out of bounds".

Culture was also prominent in *The Avenue*.

Music was represented by a report from Trevor Hurrell on his experiences with the National Schools' Festival Orchestra, in which a week's concentrated practice and rehearsals led up to a concert in the Royal Albert Hall.

In this the orchestral works were conducted by Malcolm Arnold, and the choral works by David Willcocks.

Trevor was enthusiastic about the former, but rather less complimentary about the latter.

A summary of the year's music at the School was provided by Adrian Smith, who noted that

"music in the Spring Term was, of course, interrupted by illness".

Drama was given a good coverage, and there were the usual reports on the activities of School societies such as Senior Lit, Young Farmers, Girls' and Boys' Reading Clubs, Girl Guides, and so on.

Oliver Weaver (whose obituary may be found elsewhere in the Magazine) offered a short report on the Debating Society, in which he listed the motions debated.

One of them was "This House thinks that something ought to be done about the weather", and the Magazine Editor recalls Peter Fraenkel making the suggestion that the "something" could include putting mountains on wheels. They could thus be moved around, to allow areas of rainfall to be targeted for maximum effect. The practicality of the engineering needed to achieve this objective was not immediately clear however.



The current Editor himself contributed a short account of the Sixth Form talk given by the current Home Secretary and MP

for Saffron Walden, the Right Hon RA Butler, illustrated by a photograph of the speaker and Kenneth Nicholson strolling together past the front of the School.

This 1959 issue concluded with reports on hockey, football, cricket and athletics.

The final page however contained a recruitment

advertisement for the National Coal Board.

This stated that "Coal provides 82% of the total energy requirements in Britain...the demand for coal will continue to be high for many years to come".

Once again, *The Avenue* proved to be a veritable mine of information.

Richard Gilpin

Stewart Main (1948-55), described in the December 1955 issue of *The Avenue* as "the best wicket-keeper we have had for many years", has written to the Editor with some kind words, despite having been his bedroom prefect around 1954-55.

He also enclosed a photograph of the 1952 Under 14 cricket team, reproduced here after fifty-seven years.



The back row, from left to right, is made up of:
John Edwards, Brian Newton, Benji Bell, Donald Atkinson,
Brian Gatward, John Cornell and Paul Miller.
The front row features Stewart Main (in the pads), Alan Pike,
Geoffrey Weaver, Teddy Dunstan and Harvey Collett.
The team's scorer, Alan Milne, is at the very front.

THE SCHOOL'S GOVERNING BODY JANUARY 2009

- Ann Brereton *A member of Saffron Walden Friends' meeting. She trained as a teacher and subsequently worked with parents whose children had special educational needs.*
- Sheila Brignall *A local Quaker whose son and daughter both attended the school. She works in the charity sector in Cambridge and is a non-executive director of a water company.*
- Sue Collins *Has been involved with FSSW for more than 35 years as staff wife, parent and part time piano teacher. A trained primary school teacher, she is now Assistant Clerk to the Board.*
- Jane Dawson *Has been a Quaker for 25 years and on the Board since 2007. She is currently Project Manager at the national volunteering charity, TimeBank.*
- Martin Dickinson *A Quaker and recently retired Head of Ackworth. In 2010 he will take over as Clerk.*
- Sue Fellows *A Quaker who has been on the Board since 2006. She is a librarian at North London's Middlesex University.*
- Katie Frost *Works in the Quaker Communications Department at Friends' House in fundraising. She is concerned with governor recruitment.*
- Chris Hayward *An accountant by training, he has two sons in the Junior School. He has recently succeeded Martin Holmes as Treasurer.*
- Tim Holding *A Quaker, he was Senior Lecturer at Colchester School of Art from 1964 to 1993. He is a Professional Painter, Sculptor and restorer of vintage vehicles and musical instruments.*
- Douglas Kent *A chartered surveyor specialising in the conservation of old buildings, he is particularly interested in helping the school in matters to do with its building fabric.*
- Lorraine Sheldon Lee *Attended the school from 1975 to 1980, she has worked mainly in the voluntary and charity sectors, largely in youth work for Quaker residential events.*
- Jenny Marks *Governors' Secretary for 3 years, Jenny brings her experience of marketing, public relations, and an ongoing commitment as Company Secretary of her family business.*
- Mario May *A teacher and a Quaker. Joint warden of Letchworth Friends' Meeting House.*
- Shaun O'Callaghan *A chartered accountant with four children in the junior school, he is the director of a leadership research business, based in Saffron Walden.*
- Tony Watson *Tony joined the Board in 2000 and has served as its Clerk since 2005. His training and experience as a solicitor have been of great service to the Board's concerns over the past eight years.*
- Alison Whitfield *An Old Scholar and parent of scholars past and present, she was formerly a nurse, and her particular interest is in child protection and pastoral matters.*
- Barry Wilsher *A Quaker since 1970, his three youngest children are former pupils. Barry's working life was spent as a professional actor.*

STAFF LIST JANUARY 2009

Senior School

<i>Head</i>	Graham Wigley, BA (Nottingham), MA (Open Univ), NPQH, PGCE
<i>Bursar</i>	David Wood, ACIB
<i>Senior Teacher</i>	Martin Hugall, BSc (Bristol), PGCE
<i>Assistant Head (Curriculum)</i>	William Mullen, PhD, BSc (London), CChem, MRSC
<i>Assistant Head (Pastoral and Marketing)</i>	Sarah Westerhuis, BEd (Brighton Polytechnic), MEd (Cantab)
<i>Head of Sixth Form</i>	John Searle-Barnes, BA (London), MA (Lancaster), PGCE
<i>Year Head Year 7</i>	Alison Ainsworth, BA (Leeds), PGCE
<i>Year Head Years 8 & 9</i>	Jennifer Allwood, BEd (Bedford)
<i>Year Head Years 10 & 11</i>	Richard Moss, BTEC (Norfolk College of Arts and Technology), PGCE
<i>Art</i>	Serena O'Connor, BA (London), PGCE Phillip Richardson, Dip AD (Chelsea), ATC (Sussex), PGCE Matthew Miller, BA (Buckinghamshire), BTEC, PGCE +
<i>Artist in Residence</i>	Iona McCuaig, BA (Glasgow School of Art)
<i>Business Studies</i>	Carolyn White, BEd (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), MEd (Chelmsford)
<i>Careers</i>	Julie Anderson, BEd (Herts College of Ed)
<i>Critical Thinking</i>	Brigid Vousden, BA (Univ of Wales, Lampeter), MPhil, PGCE +
<i>DT – Product Design</i>	Jessica Armitage, BA (Central St Martin's College of Art), PGCE Richard Twinn, BA (Middlesex), PGCE
<i>DT – Food</i>	Catherine Whyte, BEd (Bath College of Higher Education) +
<i>Drama</i>	Richard Smith, BA (Trinity College, Carmarthen), PGCE Shelley Dowsett, BSc (University of London, Barking), GTP
<i>Drama Assistant</i>	Neil Hobson
<i>English</i>	Gillian Kinnear, BA (Loughborough), PGCE Sue Lock, Cert Ed (St Osyth's College) + Joanna Matthews, BEd (South Glamorgan) + Heather Carter, BA (Portsmouth), MA (Open), PGCE
<i>ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)</i>	Sarah Joseph, BA (Hull) PGCE Jane Henfrey, BA (Hatfield Polytechnic) PGCE +
<i>Film Studies</i>	John Searle-Barnes, BA (London), MA (Lancaster), PGCE
<i>French</i>	Gisele Searle-Barnes, Licence, MA (Lyon), PGCE Jane Pearce, BA (Aberystwyth), PGCE +
<i>Geography</i>	Alison Ainsworth, BA (Leeds), PGCE Hannah Sargent, BSc (Sussex), MSc (Bristol), PGCE
<i>German</i>	Peter Fasching, BA (London), PGCE Gisele Searle-Barnes, Licence, MA (Lyon), PGCE Jane Pearce, BA (Aberystwyth), PGCE +

<i>History</i>	John Searle-Barnes, BA (London), MA (Lancaster), PGCE Charlotte O'Neill, BA (Anglia), PGCE Jennifer Allwood, BEd (Bedford)
<i>ICT</i>	Carolyn White, BEd (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), MEd (Chelmsford)
<i>Library</i>	Judith Brown, BA (Middlesex), MA (Open Univ), PG Dip ILS
<i>Mathematics</i>	Mark Caddy, PhD, BSc (Warwick) Richard Moss, BTEC (Norfolk College of Arts and Technology), PGCE Geoffrey Curtis, BSc (Bristol), PGCE + Carolyn White, BEd (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), MEd (Chelmsford)
<i>Music</i>	Gavin Greenaway, BA (Anglia Polytechnic University), PGCE Martin Wilson, BMus (RNCM Manchester), ARCM, ALCM Mary Richardson, BA (Leeds), PGCE, Dip ABRSM + Jason Meyrick, FTCL, LRAM, LTCL, Professional Certificate + Alison Townend, BA (Anglia Polytechnic University), LLCM, LGSM, LTCL + Nicky Ogden, BA (Lancaster), PGCE, LRAM + Edward Dodge, MA (Cantab), GRSM (Manchester), ARMCM, PGCE + Philippa Hopewell, BSc (Warwick), CTABRSM + Steven Hynes, BTEC National Diploma +, Louis Thorne, BSc (Leeds) + Mark Townend, GRSM, LRAM, Dip RAM + Sarah Clark, BTEC National Diploma (Guildford) + Angela Lesslie, BMus (Royal College of Music), PGCE + Amy Klohr, BA (Yale University), LRAM +
<i>Physical Education</i>	Nicholas Batcheler, BEd (Otago NZ), Dip Teaching (Dunedin College of Ed NZ) Jennifer Allwood, BEd (Bedford) Raymond Mordini, BPHE (Western Australia) Shelley Dowsett, BSc (University of London, Barking), GTP
<i>Psychology</i>	Glyn Huskisson, BA (Open University) +
<i>Religious Studies & PSHE</i>	Helen Golden, BA (University of Kent), PGCE +
<i>Science</i>	Christine Sleight, BEd (Nottingham), CPhys, MInstP Martin Hugall, BSc (Bristol), PGCE Julie Anderson, BEd (Herts College of Ed) William Mullen, PhD, BSc (London), CChem, MRSC Philip Dant, BSc (Southampton), PGCE Raymond Mordini, BPHE (Western Australia)
<i>Speech and Drama</i>	Susan McConnel, BDS (Otago NZ), ALAM, LRAM +
<i>Study Centre – Learning Support</i>	Heather Carter, BA (Portsmouth), MA (Open), PGCE Heather Douglas, BSc (Sussex), MSc (Edinburgh), DipSpLD (Dyslexia) Brigid Vousden, BA (Univ of Wales, Lampeter), M.Phil, PGCE Caryn Pepper, Teresa Shepherd, Jane Bull, BSc, TaCert III Fiona Glickman, BA, MA (Sussex), Max Ford, BA (London), PGCE + Rosie Holt, BSc (Bangor), Katherine Wiseman, BA (Chichester)

	Jacqueline Parnham + , Matthew Pack
	Louise Plant, Jennifer Kirby, BA (Leicester)
<i>House Staff</i>	Barbara Askew
	Stephen Staerck, Cert Ed (Sussex Univ), Adv Dip Counselling & Welfare (London Univ)
<i>Gap Students</i>	Jack Grant (PE and Boarding)
	Rhedell Penning (PE and Boarding)
<i>Assistant Bursar (Finance)</i>	Abigail Portway, BSc (Cardiff), ACA
<i>Accountant</i>	Ann Boatman
<i>Marketing & Admissions</i>	Sarah Westerhuis, BEd (Brighton Polytechnic), MEd (Cantab)
	Kirsten Batcheler, BA (Otago NZ), Dip Teaching
<i>Head's PA & Admissions</i>	Alison Stanbury
<i>Secretary</i>	
<i>Clerical Staff</i>	Kathrin O'Sullivan, Lynn Robinson, Anne Fear, Karon Chappell
	Marion Grainge +, Debbie Peck +, Sonia Hood, BSc (APU) +
<i>Technicians</i>	Oliver Hoar, (Computers & Audio Visual) +
	Barbara Nicholson, (Science) +, Lynn Cargill, (Science) +
	Lucy Mordini (Art) +, George Barrow, (DT) +, Juliet Clark, (Science) +
	Michele Thomas BSc (Bath College Higher Ed) (Food) +
<i>Medical</i>	Louise Burgess, BA (Manchester), RGN +
	Helen Martin, RGN, RMN +
<i>Matron</i>	Judy Camp
<i>Resident Tutors</i>	Sonia Hood, BSc (APU) +
	Jane Manley, BA (Lancaster), PGCE
	Patrick Manley
<i>Catering Manager</i>	Dionne McCreery
<i>Cleaning Supervisor</i>	Barry Melhuish
<i>Maintenance</i>	Ashley Daley, Andrew Sully, Dean Camp
<i>Gardens & Grounds</i>	Matthew Wright, Simon Keyte, David Allison
<i>Medical Officers</i>	Clive Paul, BSc, MBBS, DRCOG, MRCP (London) +
	Cathy Cowley, BMedSci, BM, BS, DCH (Nottingham) +

Junior School

<i>Head of Junior School</i>	Andrew Holmes, BEd (Kent), Cert Ed (Bristol)
<i>Deputy Head</i>	Sally Meyrick, BA (Warwick), PGCE
<i>Head of Early Years & Infants</i>	Sally Manser, Cert Ed (Saffron Walden College)
<i>Junior Department</i>	Susan Westgarth, BEd (University of East Anglia, Norwich)
	Kate Richardson, BSc London, PGCE
	Jacqueline Branch, Cert Ed (Portsmouth College)
	Jane Manley, BA (Lancaster), PGCE
	Deborah Ballingall, BEd (College of St Mark & St John, Plymouth)
	Sue Powell

<i>Infant Department & Early Years</i>	Sally Manser, Cert Ed (Saffron Walden College) Claire Milner, BSc (Manchester), RN (Child) Lucy Nicholson, MA (Edinburgh), PGCE
<i>Learning Support</i>	Janet Bethune, BSc (Sheffield), Cert SpLD (OCR) +
<i>Teaching Assistants</i>	Lucy Barnes, Ta Cert III, Beverley Young, Dip CLA Fd Cindy Monk, Cert Ed (Cambridge Inst) Zoe Copping, BTEC Nat Dip Social Care Lorraine Harlow, Sue Louden, Maeve Wigley, Andrea Owen, Amanda Cameron, Sarah Goodwin
<i>Nursery Coordinator</i>	Tiffany Johnson, NNEB (Bristol)
<i>Nursery Assistants</i>	Catherine Armstrong, NNEB (Harlow) Jane Baird
<i>Music</i>	Martin Wilson, B.Mus (RNCM Manchester), ARCM, ALCM + Nicky Ogden, BA, (Lancaster), PGCE, LRAM + Philippa Hopewell, BSc (Warwick), CTABRSM + Alison Townend, BA (East Anglia), LLCM, LGSM, LTCL + Angela Lesslie, BMus (Royal College of Music)* +
<i>PE – including Swimming</i>	Raymond Mordini, BPHE (Western Australia)
<i>Speech and Drama</i>	Susan McConnel, BDS (Otago NZ), ALAM, LRAM +
<i>Secretaries</i>	Rachael Longmuir Maureen Graham

Senior School Specialist Subject Teachers teaching in the Junior School:

<i>Food & Design Technology</i>	Catherine Whyte, BEd (Bath College of Higher Education) +
<i>Modern Languages</i>	Peter Fasching, BA (London), PGCE Gisele Searle-Barnes, Licence, MA (Lyon), PGCE
<i>Physical Education</i>	Nicholas Batcheler, BEd (Otago NZ), Dip Teaching (Dunedin College of Ed NZ) Jennifer Allwood, BEd (Bedford)
<i>Learning Support</i>	Heather Carter, BA (Portsmouth), MA (Open), PGCE

+ Part-time



FRIENDS' SCHOOL SAFFRON WALDEN OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Past Presidents

2008-09	Caroline Longstreet BA Hull	1962-63	* Donald Peverett ARPS
2007-08	Richard Gilpin MA Lond	1961-62	* Jennie Ellinor MA Dunelm
2005-07	John Weinman	1960-61	* Richard Eric Holttum MA, DSc Cantab, Hon ScD Singapore, FLS, VMH
2004-05	Mary Mileson GRSM, LRAM	1959-60	* Walter W Baldwin MA Oxon, BA Lond
2003-04	David Hills BEd Sussex	1958-59	* Hilda Shippey MBE
2002-03	Hilary Halter BA	1957-58	* Basil G Burton
2001-02	Tony Newton (Lord Newton of Braintree)	1956-57	* Bernard B Jacob MA Cantab
2000-01	Simon Clapperton	1955-56	* Eric Peverett
1999-00	Wilfrid Hayler MCLIP	1954-55	* Kathleen E Skelton
1998-99	Mark Bertram CBE, MA Cantab, RIBA	1953-54	* Reginald W Montford
1997-98	Sarah Westerhuis BEd Brighton, MEd Cantab	1952-53	* Gerald Littleboy MA Cantab
1996-97	Nigel McTear ASFA, ALFP, CFP	1951-52	* Henry B Rowntree BScEng Manc, CEng, FICE, FIWE
1995-96	Tom Robinson	1950-51	* Reginald A Reynolds
1994-95	Judith Foster	1949-50	* Leonard Copeland Watts ACGI, CEng, FIMechE, PPIHVE
1993-94	Malcom Pim Dip Soc Admin (Lond), CQSW	1948-49	* William R Bennett
1992-93	David C R Hadley BSc Lond, AIA	1947-48	* Margaret G Yapp BA Brist
1991-92	Roger C R Bertram MA Cantab, MB, BChir	1946-47	* Frank A Cadman FRICS, FAI
1990-91	Jean R Plant BA Lond	1945-46	* G Stanley Pumphrey BScEng Manc
1989-90	Patrick C B Coleman BSc Manc	1943-45	* Anthony Skelton
1988-89	Katia Herbst MA Newcastle, PhD Lond	1942-43	* Harold B Holttum
1987-88	E Anthony Watson	1941-42	* Arnold Brereton BA Lond
1986-87	Martin Holmes	1940-41	* Annie Murray
1985-86	Derek C Barbanell BSc Lond	1939-40	* Paul V E Mauger RIBA, FRTPI, DipTP Lond
1984-85	* Iorwerth John BSc Wales	1938-39	* Norman S Eames FIMT
1983-84	John F Cadman DLC	1937-38	* Charles Danels
1982-83	Graham Errington FCA	1936-37	* Amy Montford BA Lond
1981-82	Jack Turnbull OstJ	1935-36	* Charles M Ball
1980-81	* Margaret R Ball FSBT, FIPS, AISW	1934-35	* Stanley G King Beer BA Cantab
1979-80	* Eric Brown ACIS	1933-34	* J Owen Clover
1978-79	John C Woods BA Manc	1932-33	* Thomas Francis
1977-78	Michael Connolly FCA	1931-32	* Gertrude Rowntree
1976-77	Brenda Burns DipPE Dunfermline	1930-31	* John H Quinn
1975-76	Joy Dupont GRSM Lond, ARCM	1929-30	* J Penrose Whitlow BA Vict
1974-75	* Richard A Wright BA Cantab	1928-29	* Alfred T Carr
1973-74	Alan G Risdon	1927-28	* Howard Diamond FCA
1972-73	* R Raymond Dobbin	1926-27	* Florence D Priestman BA Lond
1971-72	* Richard L Sturge BMus Oxon, ARCM	1925-26	* James Watts
1970-71	* Mary Probert JP	1924-25	* Leslie R Hart BSc, PhD Lond, CChem, MRIC
1969-70	James E Dutton BA, DipAgric Cantab	1923-24	* Violet M Tozer
1968-69	Alan W Thompson FCA	1922-23	* W Arnold Green MA, BSc St And, AMICE
1967-68	* Cyril A Mummery MA Oxon	1921-22	* James S Lidbetter BA Leeds, MA Cantab
1967-68	H A Farrand Radley MBE, MA Oxon, FInstAM	1920-21	* Lucy Fairbrother
1965-66	Alan P Carlton Smith MA, LLB Cantab	1919-20	* Gunnell C Green
1964-65	* Kenneth L Whitlow	1917-19	* C Brightwen Rowntree BA Lond
1963-64	* Muriel J Rigby		



FRIENDS' SCHOOL SAFFRON WALDEN OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Past Presidents (continued)

1915-17	* M Ethel Crawshaw Morland	1902-03	* Bedford Pierce MD, FRCP Lond, MRCS Eng
1914-15	* Henry Bedford Lemere Hon FRPS	1901-02	* Samuel Bland JP
1913-14	* Leonard A Farrington	1900-01	* Bedford Marsh JP
1912-13	* James Backhouse Crosfield	1899-00	* John Butler
1911-12	* Frank Rivers Arundel	1898-99	* Alfred Sawyer
1910-11	* James Tyler Harrod BA Lond	1897-98	* Isaac Sharp BA Lond
1909-10	* James T Fairbanks	1896-97	* Bedford Lemere
1908-09	* Charles Milnes Willmott	1895-96	* John Farley Rutter JP
1907-08	* John Edward Walker	1894-95	* John G Armfield
1906-07	* E Arthur Williams BA Lond		
1905-06	* Joseph W Martin		
1904-05	* Mary A Townson		
1903-04	* William Robinson		

* Deceased

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2009

Saturday 9th May Friends and Family Day

Saturday 14th November Annual General Meeting

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

Following Will Weinman's year as President, the Editor's wife, who is a Speech and Language Therapist at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, and the Chair of a Special Interest Group for Speech Therapists, asked him to give a talk at one of her study days.

Professor John Weinman (or Will as he was known at school) works at the Institute of Psychiatry at the University of London, where he is based at the Department of Psychology at Guy's Hospital. He very kindly agreed to give a most interesting talk to the Special Interest Group entitled: *The Patient's Perception of Illness and Treatment: a basis for predicting and improving illness outcome?*

The work that Will does at Guy's is looking at the patient's response to illness: why do some patients cope well with illness, while others have major problems in coming to terms with what has happened to them? The research has shown that often it is not the severity of the illness but rather the patient's perception of that illness that affects outcome.

Will and his colleagues have devised the *Illness perception questionnaire: a new method of assessing the cognitive representation of illness*, and this has been particularly useful in the work they have done at Guy's Hospital in assessing the outcome following Myocardial Infarction (MI, or heart attack).

One of the questions that they have been asking is whether early

intervention that modifies illness representations can result in improved recovery. They have been working on a heart attack recovery project that is based on the scores of the questionnaire and working out a personalised recovery plan, challenging any negative pre-conceptions that the patient may have.

The research is encouraging, but may not work for all patients, and has no significant effect on medication adherence. Other work that the team are doing at Guy's is looking at non-adherence to taking prescribed drugs: the WHO estimated (2003) that 30-50% of medicines prescribed for long term illness are not taken as directed. They are also looking at Illness Perception in carers and also in Health Care professionals.

In conclusion Will said that Illness Perception provides a way to improve our understanding of how patients respond to illness and treatment, and it provides a basis for novel interventions to facilitate illness adaptation/ recovery and to improve adherence and quality of life. This was an excellent talk and one that gave the therapists much food for thought.

Tricia Gilpin

A WAY FORWARD

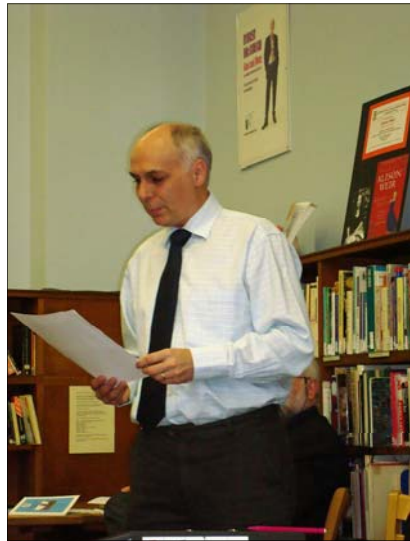
The School is going from strength to strength, but its future depends on its ability to respond to changing circumstances. Graham Wigley feels strongly that Old Scholars could play a uniquely valuable part in ensuring the future success of the School.

Graham added to the address that he gave to the Annual General Meeting by drawing attention to a key objective of the School. This was to widen access to potential pupils through the provision of bursaries, and he drew attention to the potential of the Old Scholars' Association to help the School in this area.

The School was very grateful to the Association for the donations it had been making, such as £3,000 for new televisions, but the Association's criteria stated that money should only be given for items that the School needed over and above the 'essential' items that it would normally fund. This meant that it was difficult for the School to come up with things for the Association to provide.

He suggested that while the Association jealously guarded its independence, it was relying substantially on the School to provide secretarial support and to maintain and develop its database.

He urged the Association to consider as soon as possible whether it could allow the School to be more active in promoting the fundraising potential of the Association's membership. He



hoped that the Association's Committee would decide to allow the School to make a direct approach to members in connection with the School's plan to develop bursaries and other capital projects.

In particular, he urged the Association to consider whether its current funds could be utilised more usefully to support the financial needs of the School. A Fundraising Group had already established, and as this was considering ways of accessing funds, it was likely that the fundraisers would make contact

with the Association at some stage.

Such opportunities for support from the Association would include School access to the membership database; a will-writing service linked to legacy giving; optimum utilisation of existing Association financial resources; an Association scholarship; specific capital projects; the use of professional expertise to help fundraising efforts; and help from Old Scholars with industry links leading to possible sponsorship.

Graham concluded by hoping that he had clearly demonstrated changes in the climate regarding the proof of Public Benefit by

independent schools in general, and Friends' School in particular. It was not a wealthy school and, although it did exceptionally well to support those in need, this was somewhat at the expense of general School development: bursaries were funded generally and not out of a discrete 'pot', separated from income.

He felt that the Old Scholars' Association had the potential to make a massive contribution in many ways in this area, and he urged Old Scholars to consider the advantages to the School that would accrue from a closer working and financial relationship with the Association.

In his report to the Annual General Meeting, the Treasurer made reference to gifts that had been made to the School by the Association.

These included four large flatscreen televisions, which were items that the School would not have been able to fund from its own resources. The photograph below shows one of the televisions after installation, and a group of boarders benefiting from it..



EPITAPHS

Friends have never been particularly comfortable with epitaphs, and Quaker faith & practice gently suggests that all should be done to ensure uniformity and “guard against any distinction being made...between the rich and the poor”. What do Old Scholars think about epitaphs?

An epitaph is usually a commemorative inscription on a tombstone or monument, and is often a single pithy statement, either by or about the lately departed. The tombstone has been described as “the best blank canvas the world has to offer”.

I suspect that Friends have always been a little bit suspicious that an epitaph may be used as a conclusive opportunity to commend oneself to the Almighty, or simply a chance to settle old scores in stone.

Having said that, our heritage would be much the poorer if there were no epitaphs.

Many commemorate famous people, but there are a host of epitaphs for those who have never been in the public eye.

Among the famous, Sir Christopher Wren’s epitaph, in St Paul’s Cathedral, states: *Lector, si monumentum requiris circumspice (Reader, if you seek his monument look around you).*

William Shakespeare’s is: *Good friend for Jesus sake forbear to dig the dust enclosed here. Blest be ye man yt spares thes stones and Curst be he yt moves my bones.*

You can almost hear Sir Winston Churchill declaiming his out loud: *I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter.*

Rupert Brooke’s of course is poetic: *If I should die, think only this of me: that there’s some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England.*

Joseph Conrad’s carries the flavour of much of his writing: *Sleep after toyle, port after stormie seas, ease after warre, death after life, does greatly please.*

More recently, Robin Cook’s headstone was engraved with: *I may not have succeeded in halting the war, but I did secure the right of Parliament to decide on war.* In life, Robin was known for his dissatisfaction with Tony Blair’s decision to go to war in Iraq; in death, his wife and children have chosen to commemorate his views into the distant future.

On a slightly lighter note, comedian Groucho Marx added a bit of typical humour to his memory with: *Excuse me, I can’t stand up.*

On a similarly Tinseltown theme, Mel Blanc, the Warner Brothers voice of Bugs Bunny, chose the fittingly final: *That’s All Folks!*

Many readers will know that Spike Milligan's self-written epitaph is: "I told you I was ill". What is perhaps less well appreciated is that for years his grave was only marked by some plants and a small statue, because his family had been unable to see eye to eye about his epitaph.

Relatives finally reached agreement, but the inscription then had to be written in Gaelic on the instructions of the Chichester Diocese, apparently so that it would not offend anyone. In reality his epitaph is therefore: *Duirf mé leat go raibh mé breoite*. Those fluent in the native Irish tongue are presumably harder to offend than English speakers.

A lawyer, probably unknown to many, has a clever epitaph. If more widely published, it might well offend members of the legal profession. It reads: *Sir John Strange. Here lies an honest lawyer. And that is Strange*.

Many non-famous people are commemorated in Postman's Park, in the City of London. Set into a wall under a wooden canopy is the Watts Memorial. It was established by the Victorian painter GF Watts, who was concerned that while London had many monuments commemorating the deeds of the great and famous, the heroism and self-sacrifice of ordinary people remained unrecognised. No one else seemed interested, so he arranged for the design and manufacture of a number of glazed tiles, and 53 of them are

mounted on the wall of the Memorial. The earliest were designed by the *de Morgan* factory, the later ones by *Doulton*. All are both beautiful and touching.

Many of the heroes and heroines are children. All are ordinary people. The plaque dedicated to Edward Morris is typical, and who can say that it should not have been erected?



A final, slightly odd, example is one that the Editor found while on an archaeological dig in Pembrokeshire. It is in the graveyard of the Church of St Brynach, Nevern, and commemorates the imaginatively named James James, who died in 1856.

His epitaph, which should perhaps be read aloud in the tones of Sir Laurence Olivier playing Richard III, runs as follows:

Reader: Prepare for thou art also to Die.

Was it genuinely meant to prepare people, or was it saying "watch out boyo: you're next"?

In conclusion, perhaps Old Scholars might agree that the issue of epitaphs should be decided by individuals on the basis of "in essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity".

Richard Gilpin

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Payment by Standing Order through your bank if possible please – easy to administer, impossible to forget, and simple to cancel should you wish to do so.

Otherwise, send a cheque payable to FSSWOSA.

I wish to apply for membership of the Old Scholars' Association.

My details are as follows:

Name _____ Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Phone/Fax _____ Email _____

Years at School _____ Year Group* _____

*Year Group is the year in which you left or would have left 6ii, even if you did not stay on to the end.

I understand that £10.00 will be deducted by standing order mandate now and on 1st April each year (*delete NOW if applying between January and April*).

I agree/do not agree for my details to be available to other members.

Please complete and send this form to:

OSA Membership Secretary,

Friends' School, Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3EB

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

TO:

Name of your bank _____ Bank plc

Address of your bank _____

_____ Post code _____

PLEASE PAY TO BARCLAYS BANK, SAFFRON WALDEN (Sort code 20-74-05) for the credit of FSSWOSA A/c number 20389609

The sum of (in figures) £ _____

(in words) _____ pounds,

now and on 1st April each year until further notice.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS please): _____

A/C Number (Your Account number at your bank): _____

For other methods of payment, including the use of credit and debit cards, please contact the OSA Membership Secretary at the School, or the School's Accountant.

