



**Friends' School Saffron Walden  
Old Scholars' Association**

**MAGAZINE**  
and  
**Annual Reports and Accounts**  
**136th Year—2005**



May 2006

## Friends' School Saffron Walden Old Scholars' Association Past Presidents

1894-95	* John G Armfield	1951-52	Henry B Rowntree BScEng Manc,CEng,FICE,FIW
1895-96	* John Farley Rutter JP	1952-53	* Gerald Littleboay MA Cantab
1896-97	* Bedford Lemere	1953-54	* Reginald W Montford
1897-98	* Isaac Sharp BA Lond	1954-55	* Kathleen E Skelton
1898-99	* Alfred Sawyer	1955-56	* Eric Peverett
1899-00	* John Butler	1956-57	* Bernard B Jacob MA Cantab
1900-01	* Bedford Marsh JP	1957-58	* Basil G Burton
1901-02	* Samuel Blash JP	1958-59	* Hilda Shippey MBE
1902-03	** Bedford Pierce MD, FRCP Lond, MRCS Eng	1959-60	* Walter W Baldwin MA Oxon, BA Lond
1903-04	* William Robinson	1960-61	* Richard Eric Holttum MA, DSc Cantab, Hon ScD Singapore, FLS, VMH
1904-05	* Mary A Townson	1961-62	* Jennie Ellinor MA Dunelm
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1906-07	* E Arthur Williams BA Lond	1963-64	* Muriel J Rigby
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1911-12	* Frank Rivers Arundel	1968-69	Alan W Thompson FCA
1912-13	* James Backhouse Crosfield	1969-70	James E Dutton BA, DipAgric Cantab
1913-14	* Leonard A Farrington	1970-71	Mary Probert JP
1914-15	* Henry Bedford Lemere Hon FRPS	1971-72	Richard L Sturge BMus Oxon, ARCM
1915-17	* M Ethel Crawshaw Morland	1972-73	* R Raymond Dobbin
1917-19	* C Brightwen Rowntree BA Lond	1973-74	Alan G Risdon
1919-20	* Gurnell C Green	1974-75	* Richard A Wright BA Cantab
1920-21	* Lucy Fairbrother	1975-76	Joy Dupont GRSM Lond, ARCM
1921-22	* James S Lidbetter BA Leeds, MA Cantab	1976-77	Brenda Burns DipPE Dunfermline
1922-23	* W Arnold Green MA, BSc St And, AMICE	1977-78	Michael Connolly FCA
1923-24	* Violet M Tozer	1978-79	John C Woods BA Manc
1924-25	* Leslie R Hart BSc, PhD Lond, CChem, MRIC	1979-80	Eric Brown ACIS
1925-26	* James Watts	1980-81	* Margaret R Ball FSBT, FIPS, AISW
1926-27	* Florence D Priestma BA Lond	1981-82	Jack Turnbull OSTJ
1927-28	* Howard Diamond FCA	1982-83	Graham Errington FCA
1928-29	* Alfred T Carr	1983-84	John F Cadman DLC
1929-30	* J Penrose Whitlow BA Vicit	1984-85	Iorwerth John BSc Wales
1930-31	* John H Quinn	1985-86	Derek C Barbanell BSc Lond
1931-32	* Gertrude Rowntree	1986-87	Martin Holmes
1932-33	* Thomas Francis	1987-88	E Anthony Watson
1933-34	* J Owen Clover	1988-89	Katia Herbst MA Newcastle, PhD Lond
1934-35	* Stanley G King Beer BA Cantab	1989-90	Patrick C B Coleman BSc Manc
1935-36	* Charles M Ball	1990-91	Jean R Plant BA Lond
1936-37	* Amy Montford BA Lond	1991-92	Roger C R Bertram MA Cantab, MB. Bchir
1937-38	* Charles Danels	1992-93	David C R Hadley BSc Lond. AIA
1938-39	* Norman S Eames FIMT	1993-94	Malcolm Pim Dip Soc Admin (Lond), CQSW
1939-40	* Paul V E Mauger RIBA, FRTPI, DipTP Lond	1994-95	Judith Foster
1940-41	* Annie Murray	1995-96	Tom Robinson
1941-42	* Arnold Brereton BA Lond	1996-97	Nigel McTear ASFA, ALFP, CFP
1942-43	* Harold B Holttum	1997-98	Sarah Westerhuis BEd Brighton, MEd Cantab
1943-45	* Anthony Skelton	1998-99	Mark Bertram CBE, MA Cantab, RIBA
1945-46	* G Stanley Pumphrey BScEng Manc	1999-00	Wilfrid Hayler ALA
1946-47	* Frank A Cadman FRICS, FAI	2000-01	Simon Clapperton
1947-48	* Margaret G Yapp BA Brist	2001-02	Tony Newton (Lord Newton of Braintree)
1948-49	* William R Bennett	2002-03	Hilary Halter BA
1949-50	* Leonard Copeland Watts ACGI, CEng, FIMechE, PPIHVE	2003-04	David Hills BEd Sussex
1950-51	* Reginald A Reynolds	2004-05	Mary Mileson GRSM LRAM



\* Deceased

## **A Message from Mary Mileson**

In the last Editorial, Roger Bush mentioned that he hoped to hand over to a new and younger editor this year. As you will notice, this has not yet happened; in fact for this edition you have an even older one! Very temporary, I can assure you.

Thank you to all those of you who have sent in articles and snippets of news for the Magazine - please do continue to do so as every item long or short adds up to a more interesting read. There is also a new Outreach Directory being published at the same time as this magazine.

Please do notify the school ([jennymarks@friends.org.uk](mailto:jennymarks@friends.org.uk)) if you change your address as they now have the Old Scholars' Database.

Pam Tracey has been the Membership Secretary since 1993 and was involved before that in corresponding with the Old Scholars. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her a long and happy retirement. She will now be able to enjoy all the hobbies she didn't have time for!

We are very sorry to lose our OS Archivist Roger Buss (1945-51), who has done a magnificent job for the last ten years. He has produced some really fascinating exhibitions at OS Reunions; the most notable being the 2002 Tercentenary; such a very special year. Last year, 2005, when I was President, Roger compiled a Dissertation on the History of Music Teaching at Friends' School during the last 125 years (copies available) and this was accompanied by a Power Point presentation at the Reunion in May. We wish Roger and Judith well in their move to a lovely ground floor flat at Castle Hill in Saffron Walden.

Roger Bush has edited the last 5 issues of this magazine for which we are all very grateful. He has produced some excellent issues, and now that he has moved house, has also retired from this editorship. For this issue and for one year only I have been helped by "committee" - not an ideal method. Please, somebody come forward and take on this thoroughly enjoyable job!

Mary Mileson

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## Music in May - the 2005 Reunion

The office of President in most organisations is not a challenging task. Some elderly worthy member, with a long period of service, is chosen as figure-head, so as to leave real leadership in the hands of Chairman or Committee. Not so for FSSWOSA! The President has the task of organising the Old Scholars "bit" of Friends and Family Day, providing the inspiration and the theme, and somehow dovetailing the activities with the School "bit".

This year Mary Mileson achieved a miracle, gathering together a large number of willing performers to rehearse and present a concert to an appreciative audience. Some participants certainly left home at six o'clock to be at the first rehearsal, while the indolent, like me, could arrive casually at eleven for coffee. Even so, I failed to keep a programme so that I cannot give a complete list of the music. Certainly, there were motets by Edmund Rubbra, who had composed some music for the celebrations of 1952, the year of the school's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Handel's Hallelujah Chorus drew full voice from the choir, which included present Scholars. There was invaluable help also from present music staff.



*Ian Rowe conducts the choir*

For those who don't believe in miracles, it is worth trying to analyse the success of the day. Music is a communal activity as well as a private passion. Perhaps performers lose their skills and competence with increasing age, even singers, but interest and appreciation continue. I think Mary said there were choir members in their eighties, others pre-teen by appearance. Mary's long connection with the school, going back to 1952, gave her the Presidency and the chance to call on old loyalties. As I looked at audience and performers, it seemed to me that a large proportion were from the fifties generation, when Mary was in the first flush of youth and I in the second. Then I had to remember that I could only identify and name those from that generation, and my evidence was useless. If there is

a list of those who attended, the theory could be tested. Probably, as Roger Bush pointed out last year, those coming back to School are likely to be the newly-retired Old Scholars, whose family responsibilities are lighter.

Our archivist, Roger Buss, had provided a splendid display of the history of music in the School. Dates, programmes, photographs and names enabled us to put our particular years into context. The musical heroes of our generation - Richard Sturge, Barbara Comber, Joy Ashford, Agnes Horlick and Mary herself - took their place in a long tradition which Roger traced back to its beginning. The School Committee and Head decided on the title of Director of Music in 1935 to give music a larger place in the curriculum, and each decade will have had its heroes. It is wrong, probably, to select names of staff, and certainly wrong to omit scholars like Malcolm Harvey who led the school orchestra in the fifties. Many choir members of that time had survived to sing this year. Wholesale participation, from Headmaster to juniors, was to the great credit of Richard and his colleagues.

The two centres of the day - Assembly Hall and Sports Hall - were not the sole areas of importance. Many of us had a picnic lunch together in the Library and tea in the Dining Room. The disadvantage with music is that it is hard (but not impossible!) to carry on private conversations, but I am glad we had time to eat and talk. The Library played its part before tea, when we were able to watch the FA cup final I sat behind the 2004 President, David Hills, reflecting on another communal activity that Friends' School did not neglect.

Many of those present live fairly near Saffron Walden, and come fairly often. Personally, I was glad to see, also, two from further afield - Stewart Main from Yorkshire and Keith Dobb from Kent. Alison Reynolds was another welcome presence - she joined the music staff after I left, but I met her in the late fifties at Old Scholars' occasions.

A personal memory - in July 1956, one of my last tasks was to supervise "Boys Prep", in Room 9 as I remember. That year was the bicentenary of Mozart's birth, and on that particular evening there was a radio performance of Mozart's version of Handel's Messiah. One of the boys loaned me a radio with earphones, and the assembled crowd tolerantly allowed me to listen in peace.

I hope other correspondents will give better detail and appropriate thanks to the organisers of other parts of the day. There is a long tradition, not only of music, but of the Presidency itself: whether or no the day was a miracle, Mary deserves our congratulations and thanks for continuing both.

Lennon Beeson (Staff 1950-56)

Mary Mileson says "I have 3 CDs left of the Rubbra Motets. If any one would like one - no charge - just let me know."

## Old Scholars Present on 21st May 2005 included:

Peter Arter (Staff 1974-88)  
Roger Bailey (1950-55)  
Tim Baker (1950-55)  
Lenon Beeson (Staff 1950-56)  
Mark Bertram (1955-60)  
Robin Bloomfield (1965-72)  
Elizabeth Black (Friend and Parent 1975-80)  
Sally Brown (Fisher 1955-59)  
Roger Browning (1931-38)  
Elizabeth Bryan (Paul 1946-53)  
Roger Bush (1941-48)  
Roger Buss (1945-51)  
Elizabeth Cave (Weech Staff 1967-70)  
Veronica Chamberlain (1966-71)  
Rosemary Chubb (McClelland 1960-67)  
Janet Claxton (Hunn 1948-55 Staff 1971-88)  
Martin Claxton (1975-82)  
Andrew C!ymo (1944-54)  
Margaret Collison (Shepherd 1949-55)  
Harriet Conway (Wiseman 1960-66)  
Madaleine Combie (Madalena 1968-70)  
Rita Cox (Miles 1948-55)  
Peter Cutler (Staff 1966-72)  
Shirley Dannatt (Pyne 1945-51)  
Carey Dickinson (Hingston 1972-79)  
Keith Dobb (1950-55)  
Edward Dodge (Staff 1979-???)  
John Dodsworth (Staff, Junior School)  
Jenny Edmunds (Scrivener 1957-63)  
Rosemary Edwards (Scott 1952-57)  
Claire Evans (Holmes 1968-75)  
Robert Fearn (1985-89)  
Clare Rook (Bantry White 1953-59)  
Judith Foster (1947-53)  
Harry Frost (1952-59)  
Claire Fulleylove (Copeland Watts 1968-75)  
Alex Garden (Grounds 1971-78)  
Loveday Giles (Price-Smith 1957-64)  
John Gillett (Staff 1960-86)  
Diana Golding (Weeden 1944-54)  
Adrian Good (1961-69)  
Geoff Grigg (1961-67)  
Maggie Griffiths (Staff 1997-2002)  
Louise Groves (Burke 1989-1996)  
Pauline Haigh (Goddard 1938-46 Staff 1950-54)  
Julie Harris (Foster 1971-78)  
Ben Hartley (1987-94)  
Kate Harvey (Ludgate 1972-79)  
Ann Hillier (Barker 1942-47)  
David Hills (1954-61)  
Judith Holt (1961-68)  
Susan Hourizi (Haselgrove 1948-55)  
Rosemary Hugall (Catterall 1968 - 75)  
Martin Hugall (Staff)  
Lesley Jacob (1953-61)  
Margaret Jacob (Gray 1949-54)  
Alison Johnson (Reynolds Staff 1956-60)  
David Jones (1942-49)  
Jo Jones (Atkins 1966-73)  
Anita Joysey (1970-76)  
Helen Knowles (Burgess 1966-72)  
Rosemary Lovegrove (Shepherd 1952-59)  
Michael Meyer (1961-68)  
Mary Mileson (Staff 1952-55, 1963-2003)  
Tim Mileson (1969-76)  
Kathryn Moncheur (Edgley 1969-76)  
Steve Moody (1968-71)  
Andrew McTear (1973-80)  
Nigel McTear (1973-80)  
Gill Myers (Scrivener 1959-65)  
Susie Naylor (1985 - 92)  
Tony (Harold) Newton (1948-55)  
Tony Osborn (1947-53)  
Ingrid Osborn (Davies 1950-55)  
Peter Palmer (1955-62)  
Sue Palmer (Higby 1957-62)  
Joan Pearce (1955-62)  
Dick & Joyce Perry (Staff 1963-68)  
Jean Plant {Alderson Staff 1954-67)  
Ken Plant (Staff 1955-67)  
David Pope (Staff 1972-76)  
Joyce Prager (Coffin 1947-55)  
Jayne Prince (1993-95)  
April Pufffleet (1955-62)  
Helen Rees (Pitstow 1970-76)  
John Robertson (1948-55)  
Frances Rothwell (Shepherd 1957-64)  
Georgina Rose (Benson 1971-78)  
Ian Rowe (Staff 2002-04)  
Alan Sillitoe (1947-55)



Michael Snelgrove (1948-54)  
 Nuala Sterling (Bradbury 1948-55)  
 Jean Stubbs (1928-36, Staff 1956-81)  
 Caroline Taylor (Casson 1968-75)  
 Alice Thomas (Kendon 1942-49)  
 Janet Thomas (Willson 1961-67)  
 Jack Turnbull (1933-35)  
 Mike Turnbull (1961 -68)  
 Helen Tye (Wood 1969-76)  
 Jill Verran (Baker 1948-55)  
 Jane Wade (Morris 1948-54)  
 Margaret Watson (Pilgrim 1943-53)  
 Tony Watson (1944-55)  
 Antony Weatherhead (1956-61)

Audrey Williams (Gentle 1946-49)  
 Wendy Whitmore (Osborn 1949-54)  
 David White (1942-47)  
 Caroline Williamson (Timpson 1960-67)  
 Angus Willson (1966-73)  
 Rosalind Willson (Rumsey 1949-51)  
 Chris Wood (1947-54)  
 Fiona Wood (Adler 1963-73)  
 Victoria Woodward (1989 - 95)  
 Edwin Wrigley (1941 -48)  
 Ruth Wrigley (Comber 1940-48)  
 Sarah Westerhuis (Watson 1975-82, Staff)  
 Janet Yule (Ludgate 1952-59)



*1950s Group at the May reunion: Back row Ingrid Osborn (Davies), Jill Verran (Baker), Margaret Collingson (Shepherd), Michael Snelgrove, Martin Holmes, Tim Baker, John Robertson, Wendy Whitmore (Osborn), Tony Osborn, Nuala Sterling (Bradbury). Middle row Mary Mileson (Noyce),*

*Joyce Prager (Coffin), Janet Claxton (Hunn), Rita Cox (Miles), Tony Newton, Diana Golding (Weeden), Margaret Jacob (Gray). Front Row Susan Hourizi (Hazelgrove), Alan Sillitoe, Jane Wade (Morris)*

## **Music At Walden: FSSW OSA Reunion 21 May 2005**

What a special day this was and such fun. Roger Buss's fascinating historical perspective 'Music making in Walden and beyond' - the photographic reminiscences and letters from absent friends - Mary Mileson's (Noyce) brilliant idea as President of OSA of holding a concert 'singalong' with the school choir and Old Scholars as a focus for the Reunion - and Music Director Ian Rowe's discipline and encouragement at our efforts.

Arriving at School at 9.15am there were already rows of parked cars on the field and an air of mixed excitement, anxiety and anticipation. Many, no doubt, had already made efforts for some individual practice and a few had man-



aged the Friday night school choir rehearsal.

This concert was launched with 3 rehearsals the first altogether in the Hall at 9.30, then an optional group at 11.00 - a real boost with Margaret Collinson (Shepherd) breaking down parts of the Rubbra and Mendelssohn in Richard Sturge fashion only to rejoin them to better effect. A final rehearsal held at 1.00 led on to the performance.

Apart from the school choir and several other groups of Old Scholars there were 19 people from my year (the leavers of 1955 had enjoyed a remarkable period of musical success and enjoyment under the guidance of Richard Sturge who had been an inspirational choir master, Mary (Noyce) had been a Music teacher and Choir member during that time). We had not sung together since those years.

The Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah was a fine rousing start with Martin Wilson on the Trumpet and Edward Dodge at the piano, followed by 'And the glory of the Lord'. Then on to Brahms' Requiem 'How lovely are thy dwellings' an emotional favourite for so many of us.

The Rubbra 2<sup>nd</sup> motet was challenging but lovely to participate in with the lovely soprano voice of Bethan Waters soaring over the top of the chant. I am not sure we quite matched up to the Gonville and Caius 1990's recording at St Cross!

Edmund Rubbra (1901-86) composed 3 Motets, Opus 76, written and dedicated to FSSW at the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1952. The 2<sup>nd</sup> motet 'There is a spirit' contains writing of the Quaker James Naylor (1616-1660) combined with a biblical passage from the Beatitudes. The former is given to a soprano solo and the latter to the choir in a chant like fashion. The choir develops the theme and the Soprano ends with an ecstatic solo 'Praise the Lord O my soul'.

That challenge over, Ian Rowe mopped his forehead in mock relief - real enough from us - how much could be achieved in one day!

The final pieces of the Baal choruses from Mendelssohn's Elijah, the solo by Daniel Mead, were the rousing end to this concert warmly appreciated by the audience, the Headmaster and our President 2005.

Many of us found it an amazingly moving experience which I have reflected on frequently this past year. How it was precisely 50 years since the leaving class of '55 had sung together, yet how the presence of Richard Sturge - his driving love of music and the discipline required had followed us over the years - many taking part with that same enthusiasm ever since in other choirs and lands. In Ian Rowe and his choir we experienced the same drive and enthusiasm which was a joy to perceive.

Nuala Sterling (Bradbury, 1948-55)

## Music Memories

I suppose my main comment has to be the influence of Richard Sturge. What a great choirmaster he was. His influence lived on with many of my year group and several of us still sing with local choral societies. In my case I joined a choir straight after leaving school, and I've been with one group or another ever since. Richard was able to inspire even the 'unmusical' members of the school. 'Small Choir' was the ultimate achievement, and I remember how thrilled I was when one Sunday after tea someone rushed up to me and said 'Mr Sturge wants to see you in the hall.' This could only mean one thing - I was 'in'.

Regarding the Rubbra, those beastly grey dresses which we had to make, and for those of us, like me, who were totally incapable, it was a nightmare. My buttonholes all went terribly wrong, and I think I bribed another girl to complete the job. It is the only garment I have ever attempted to make. That summer I slept in Croydon House, where Ruth Comber was in charge. You may recall the Motet which has a sustained drum roll as the only accompaniment. Miss Comber had the onerous task of the three minute (?) drum roll on the kettle drum, and she kept us awake on many evenings as she practised 'against the clock'! Perhaps that's how she acquired the name of 'Comber-Bomber'?!

Jill Verran (nee Baker: 1945-55)

## Margaret Shepherd

Writing about oneself is daunting and rather self-indulgent and why should anyone be interested? But for those who may be a little bit curious to know how Maggie Shepherd turned out, here goes.

When I left FSSW in 1955 I went to the Royal Academy of Music for 3 years to study piano and cello and then to train to teach music in secondary schools. My model teacher has always been Richard Sturge and I found the teacher training good in theory but hopeless for me in practice.

I suppose music has been the constant strand in my life and it has been a passion (you could probably call it a mission) to pass on to others my love and need to express and experience its endless glories and to enable them through playing and listening to have similar experiences. When parents said that I taught children to love music as well as to play it I hoped I was on the right track. And playing and singing have always been as important to me as teaching and have kept me going through bad times as well as good ones. I have played and sung in a wide variety of ensembles from string quartets (starting with Malcolm Harvey, Suzie Haselgrove and Diana Weeden at FSSW) a semi-professional chamber orchestra and a full symphony orchestra, accompanied many people at concerts and in exams, and conducted string orchestras. All the playing and carrying heavy instruments around has taken its toll and severe deterioration and nerve damage in my neck and spine mean I no longer play, but again, thanks to Richard Sturge

who nurtured a love of singing, that part of my life continues. I no longer take part in amateur operatics but did recently pass the re-audition to stay in the Huddersfield Choral Society for another 3 years. For about 20 years I was in a Gilbert and Sullivan Society and sang the mezzo soprano roles in Iolanthe, Gondoliers, Ruddigore, Yeoman of the Guard and many others and had a lot of fun. For all these good experiences and for a career where I ended up advising other teachers how to deliver the music curriculum I have to thank FSSW for its forward looking and effective policy on music teaching and in particular Richard Sturge, Mary Mileson (who taught me cello and piano and enabled me to go to the RAM) and Barbara Comber (who introduced me to chamber music). Both of my sisters, Rosemary Lovegrove and Frances Rothwell, made the most of the music at FSSW and twice we have all taken part in performances together. Once was in the joint schools performance of the Verdi Requiem in 1963 and again last May at the Old Scholars' Day which Mary Mileson organised when we all sang in the choir. What a memorable day that was!

What about the other parts of my life? Well in 1963 I married and my husband's work took us to different parts of the country, ending up in Huddersfield in West Yorkshire, which is how a London/Essex girl came to be an honorary Yorkshirewoman. Unfortunately our marriage ended but we have three children and six grand children. The music tradition of the family continues as they all play instruments and some of them sing. Kate is married to Keith Wright who is assistant organist and choirmaster at Durham Cathedral. Deborah and her husband and family live in Cambridge and my grandson, who now has my cello, plays in a string quartet club which coaches 25 children's string quartets! My son, Andrew, lives and works close to San Francisco and later this year many of us are going to his wedding which will be in the high mountains of the Sierra Nevada just outside Yosemite National Park.

So there you are. If anyone I knew at FSSW wants to email me on [margaret@mcollinson.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:margaret@mcollinson.fsnet.co.uk) I'd love to hear from you.

Margaret Collinson

### and on another personal note....

I would like to pay a tribute to Richard Sturge who gave me a love of so much music through Choir and Small Choir. How else could I have sung wonderful music in Saffron Walden and Thaxted churches and in Chapels round the town, and carols one Christmas in Trafalgar Square.

Chris Noble (1945 - 53)

## Memories of a renegade musician, 33 years on...

The story of music in a school must rightly be concerned with the long term, the big events, the sweeping changes, the teachers who, over many years of loyal service, made it all happen, and the scholars with whom they worked. This 'macro' view needs to be balanced by the 'micro' one which takes in the invaluable work done by instrumental teachers, year in, year out, with just one scholar at a time. It must also include the many musical activities, on and off the 'fringe', initiated by the scholars themselves. Of all these I hope and trust that there will be many memories on May 21-22: the act of reuniting in musical performance many years on will, I am sure, be a very moving experience.

This writer comes nowhere near a place of importance in any of the above categories, and can claim to have been only a very small and very temporary fly on the wall of the musical history of F.S.S.W. He stayed at Walden for just thirteen terms, then moved on to other things in other schools before (in deference to aching joints) taking early retirement. Only now that he has time to look back does he fully realise how much fun the music was at the school, and how very generous the music staff were in encouraging him to participate. Though he has continued to compose, accompany and conduct, it has seldom been *quite* as enjoyable as it was at Friends', and never has it been more so. Yet the fun certainly did not preclude depth. Some of the most intense and lasting musical events of his life date from those four-years-and-a-bit. Moreover - and this is the *only* justification for the bit of autobiography that follows - the effect of all the music at F.S.S.W. was to get him on his musical feet again.

Why a 'renegade'? Well, (if I may revert to the first person) I began my Oxford studies in Music, supported by a scholarship which I think I gained largely on the basis of a few scores that I wrote in the sixth form. It took me a year to discover that I was no musicologist (my fault, nor Oxford's!) and that in the attempt to *become* a musicologist I was falling steadily out of love with music - not only reading about it, but also singing, playing and listening. Nearly everybody I knew who really *enjoyed* music seemed to be reading Nuclear Physics or Forestry (I did not know at the time how commonly this is the case). Though suffering nothing remotely as dramatic as a breakdown. I was aware of being in a very tight cul-de-sac - from which I was rescued, late in the summer vacation, by my college's wonderful Warden. If, he said, I wanted to write, conduct and perform music (and I did), there was little future in persisting with a course that seemed to be taking me 180 degrees in the wrong direction. If, he continued, I wanted to teach in schools (and I did), what subject would I happily teach? French, I thought: I had greatly enjoyed A-level, and my sixth-form teacher had tried to direct me towards it as my university study. Perhaps he had a sixth sense about these things, because he was also devoted to music and organised outings to Sadler's Wells and Covent Garden. It should be possible, continued the Warden, to offer musical interests as an amateur, extra-curricular contribution: in any case, none of it was as important

as marrying the right woman (I have still to verify the latter statement from personal experience, though I live in hopes). So Modern Languages it was: the traditional blend of 'lang. and lit.' but with excursions into theoretical linguistics of the Chomskyan variety which was just filtering through from the States (M.I.T.) to British universities.

Oddly, soon after the change of subject I began writing music again. Only on a small scale and in satirical vein, but at least something - a song for the Liberal Club revue, a Toy Symphony for the Music Society, and a curious piece called 'Bicyclic Variations' (on 'Daisy, Daisy') for soprano saxophone, tuba and piano, written for a concert of comic and curious music at the instigation of Philip Wilby (now a *real*, well-known composer and academic).

The chance to do some research arose at the end of my graduation year. My feet now firmly planted on the safe ground of French, I approached music from a new angle; I would study the language, style and semantics of what critics said about music, and try to establish if it had any actual meaning. I chose as my field the writings of French critics at the time of their first encounter with Wagner (many of the critics were also poets, novelists and painters, and - in case anyone is interested - their reviews were often awash not only with the expected value-judgments but also with synaesthetic imagery). From the Bodleian, the Taylorian Institute and the British Museum Library - and with a grant to burrow away at the Bibliotheque Nationale - I collected a vast number of photocopied late nineteenth-century reviews, which nowadays could be typed into a computer and then micro-electronically sifted and sorted while I had a cup of coffee, but which in those days had to be typed on to endless 6" x 4" file cards which even today occupy a tea-chest in the garage.

Just as I was getting to the interesting bit, rheumatoid arthritis came on the scene, and after an autumn and winter spent in getting diagnosed and stabilised and commuting to physiotherapy between long library sessions, it was time to look at future plans afresh. The medical advice was that, since the future couldn't be predicted, it might be a good idea (since I wasn't interested in a *university* career, even in the unlikely event of somebody offering me a job) to get started on a career as a schoolteacher, which I knew was what I wanted to do. At around the same time, the BBC screened a programme about Leighton Park, which was the first contact I had with Quakers or their schools. So I wrote a letter ...

... and started at Walden in April 1972, armed with a note from my doctor which said that I couldn't coach rugby, football, swimming or athletics, but should be able to get about the site and probably wouldn't walk off with the silver. I realised at once what a good department I had joined (with Brian Lightfoot, Margaret Vokins and Jean Stubbs) and what a marvellous staff room it was, with help and advice always available but never given censoriously or obtrusively - *and* a second breakfast at morning break. The intangible things are, of course,

easier to see at 57 than at 24: those years remain very vivid, and perhaps I shall try to write about them one day.

I remember being quickly 'netted' for Big Choir, and meeting the music staff - in those days, Richard Sturge, Mary Mileson and Sue Betts. I found myself in a Bass department composed of other staff, sixth-formers and 'day-parents', and, week by week, grew increasingly jealous of Mary's accurate, helpful and unflustered accompanying (as any choral trainer will admit, such accompanists don't grow on trees). My mistake was to admit to having any notes above middle C. In times of tenor-drought I was drafted across to that section, levering my sit-up-and-beg baritone as far as the top A in the Hallelujah Chorus. (Such heights are now far beyond my range, but I seem to be acquiring compensatory notes below the bass staff.) As well as the 'Messiah', I recall performances of the 'Song of Destiny' and Bach's Ascension Cantata. Most memorable of all was the visit of choirs from other Friends' Schools, who joined us in performances of Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius', firstly at Thaxted Church and the next day at the Friends' Meeting House in Euston Road. No concert that I have sung in since then has matched those two for intensity of musical expression and the feeling that, despite the many weeks of rehearsal, we were actually discovering the music's meaning, with all its original force, as the performance proceeded. Richard was indeed a remarkable conductor.

I also have fond memories of Small Choir carols at Finchingfield and Newport churches: intimate, understated concerts that felt as if they were candlelit even if they weren't, and the perfect antidote to the razzmatazz of 'Xmas' that we would face when term ended a few days later. I was delighted when Richard asked me to write a short piece for the occasion: I was also greatly touched by his faith that I would come up with something!

I think it was Mary (displaying similar faith) who first asked me to write something at Walden. There was a Little Suite for the Junior Orchestra, which I believe we played at a music festival, I can't remember where. In my last term, there was another suite for the same orchestra, based on American folk songs. Did we really fire a starting pistol several times in the 'Ballad of Jesse James', or was that when I dusted the piece off for performance at a later school? I do remember that we had a splendid young oboist, Jonathan Black, who accordingly had some prominent solos! In my fourth year, Richard asked me for a piece to be played by the Senior Orchestra, so (ever ready to beat the drum for my department) I produced a 'French Suite', based on folk songs, which we performed one hot Sunday afternoon at the Meeting House in town.

Sue Betts had moved on, to be followed by Rosemary Hughes (now Adams). A graduate of York, which is usually at the musical cutting-edge, she brought not only a fine solo voice but also a knowledge of experimental composition techniques which showed to great advantage in the score that she wrote for "The Birds' (the Aristophanes play, not the Hitchcock film, which Bernard

Herrmann had got to first in any case). With Mike Collins as producer, she conducted some fine performances of Richard Rodney Bennett's children's opera "All the King's Men", a Civil War story about what was then state-of-the-art seige technology. Somewhere around that time the Junior Choir performed, to great effect, 'Hip, Hip, Horatio.' I remember too the many capable 'cellists whom Rosemarie taught.

Mention of "The Birds" reminds me that this was the era of Mark Miller's productions. He asked me to produce scores for two plays, and the scores were as different as the plays. "She Stoops to Conquer" was largely pastiche 18th-century music with a few contemporary jokes thrown in. When it came to 'Hamlet', I was asked to keep it atonal and to use plenty of percussion. I didn't keep entirely to the brief: Ophelia drowned in D flat major and Hamlet's corpse was carried off in B minor, but the rest was not only atonal but actively unpleasant: I wrote most of it in the gaps between a series of dental appointments and believe that the extensive excavations served to put me in the appropriate state of mind. Each of these projects drew heavily on the performing talent of both orchestras and (in the case of 'Hamlet') the ability of several sixth-formers who declared themselves unmusical to hit percussion instruments at the right moment. We had some more sixth-formers well-skilled in sound technology, and both of the play scores were recorded for the production by Tony Jewell.

It was always fun to write for uncommon (not to say bizarre) combinations of instruments; I remember producing a 'Rumba' for flute, double bass and piano, for Pippa Bush and Bron Lewis, and a 'Tango' for oboe, 'cello and piano (who asked for that?) In retrospect, I wonder if Morning Meeting was *quite* the venue for such works, and when I recall an arrangement of 'The Drover's Dream' for Junior Choir I shudder at the note of levity that it must have introduced to the quiet, Quakerly proceedings.

Mention of Mark Miller brings back other occasions. Saturday night in the winter terms was also Film Night. In those days the films turned up on huge spools in strapped-up brown boxes. Mark had the novel idea of hiring a collection of comedy 'silents' - Laurel and Hardy, Buster Keaton *et al.* - and asked if I fancied playing cinema-piano accompaniments. On the spur of the moment, I could think of only two tunes that I associated with silent cinema; one of them was called 'Hearts and Flowers' and the other one wasn't. There followed a highly enjoyable afternoon when a panel of sixth formers joined me in a preview of the evening's show, pooling their wits to come up with a sequence of music for each film. During the show one of them sat by me, hissing the name of each tune when it was time for a switch. Mark also cornered me into writing two plays for what was then called the third form. The author's name was mercifully kept secret on each occasion. He then asked for a pantomime and received what might be called an anti-pantomime, its rhyming prologue splendidly intoned by Cyril. Five songs, closely modeled on recent trends in pop music, punctuated what might, with



charity, be called the action; these too were recorded by Tony Jewell in the main hall. I think it was Chris Lyons who did a plausible imitation of Maurice Chevalier (or was it Charles Aznavour?) And Emma Majdalaney did a more than passable Cilla Black.

One summer term the entire Sixth Form decided to stage 'Joseph and the Amazing ...' and resolved that it would be a Scholars' production in its entirety. So it was, in every way, until it came to arranging the songs. I was elected - very temporarily and, I am sure, as the last resort - an honorary sixth-former and conductor-arranger. The difficulty was that neither the classically-trained instrumentalists nor those who played 'pop' could produce a complete orchestral sound on their own. The problem wouldn't occur to-day, perhaps, but in the early 1970s the 'crossover' musician was a largely unknown figure in schools (professional orchestral players, mind you, knew all about crossing-over and were minting money by playing for George Martin's Beatles and the film studios!) As I recall, the F.S.S.W. 'Joseph' was scored for string quartet with additional 'cello; flute; bassoon; recorder group; orchestral percussion; piano; electric guitar; acoustic guitar and drum-kit. I believe we paid the necessary royalties, but I was rather relieved that neither author nor composer came to hear the orchestrations.

And then I 'moved on', as most young teachers automatically do (though it isn't always explained why : maybe we owe it to our first school to go and make our second lot of mistakes somewhere else). Looking back twenty-nine years, I am astonished - and grateful - for the opportunities that F.S.S.W.'s music staff and scholars put my way; I am quite certain that this sort of encouragement of a young interloper simply doesn't happen in the vast majority of schools. As a school magazine editor in later years, I have often written or proof-read valedictory articles which thank a departing teacher for his or her contribution to sports, the arts, the libraries, the boarding houses, the debating societies, whatever. It is seldom mentioned how much the sports, the arts, the libraries, whatever, have contributed to the member of staff. The music at F.S.S.W., whether or not it was realised at the time, picked me up at what was a physical 'low' and a musical trough, and got me to the point, not (heaven knows!) where I was a good composer or conductor, but simply where I could try to be musically useful, and to echo the remark of Malcolm Arnold that 'music is a social gesture of friendship, the strongest there is.' And it was such fun.

Even with the passage of time, we don't always realise these things; and when we do realise them, not all the people you want to thank are still there to be thanked. At least I can say 'thank you' now.

David Pope  
Staff 1972-1976

# Joint Quaker Junior Schools' Choir - Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006

The Joint Quaker Junior Schools' Choir was a huge success on April 1st. Three schools took part: Bootham Junior, Orchard House(Sibford Junior) and Friends' Junior. They met up at Saffron Walden on Friday teatime, producing a remarkable concert at 7pm on Saturday evening. The children and their teachers worked extremely hard, with a well earned break midday on Saturday to have fun and ride on the Miniature Railway at Audley End and enjoy a Disco after the concert in the evening.



The Concert Programme was an interesting mix, including songs from the Quaker Song book, Disney Mania, Yellow Bird etc. Each school sang on their own as well, and Friends sang 'I Ask', especially written for them by Janet Wheeler with words from 'Quaker Faith and Practice':

*"I ask for daily bread, but not for wealth, lest I forget the poor.  
I ask for strength, but not for power, lest I despise the meek.  
I ask for wisdom but also for humility, lest I scorn the simple.  
I ask for clean name, but not for fame, lest I disdain the lowly.  
I ask for peace of mind, but not for idle hours, lest I fail to listen to the  
call of duty."*

Guest soloists were Melinda Hughes and Daniel Mead who sang an Opera Spectacular, and with the choir a Gilbert and Sullivan item and Kalinka, a Russian Folk Song. Even the audience participated in the chorus of Lord of the Dance.

A very memorable occasion for both the audience and the participants. Hopefully this will be repeated in the future with more Junior Schools joining in, and different schools hosting the occasion as the Senior Schools have been doing over the years.

# Presidential Address 2005

## Mary Mileson

### *President 2004-5*

My first contact with Saffron Walden was receiving a Valentine card with a Saffron Walden postmark on it in February 1950. I was living in Loughton at the time with my parents and travelling up to the Royal Academy of Music each day. I thought that the card came from Geoffrey's best friend whom I also knew very well, and he lived in Essex; but in fact it came from my future husband, who at the time was a farm student on a farm near Buntingford in Hertfordshire. He had a rather old motorbike, made in 1929, and to confuse me had gone over to Saffron Walden after work, posting the card at the top of the High Street. He then discovered that the front wheel bearing of the bike had collapsed, so the return journey was somewhat marred by having to nurse the bike all the way back to Buntingford, a distance of some 15 miles. Was I worth it? Apparently so!

My second contact was two years later in the Spring of 1952 when I came for an interview at Friends' School for the post of 'Cello and Piano Teacher. It sounded just the sort of job I would enjoy, as my main interest was instrumental teaching. My original idea of a musical career was to be a 'cellist in an orchestra' it sounded exciting and would involve travelling to interesting places, but my parents had been adamant about a Graduate Degree, (which I did achieve for them) so that I could command a good salary. The good salary turned out to be £36 a month, which in those days was to me a lot of money. I treated myself to a radio and record player with my first earnings.

I was delighted to be offered the post at Friends' School, and Jennie Ellinor invited my mother and myself to attend the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in the summer term. We were most impressed with the production of *The Gateway to the Past* and I looked forward to joining the school staff that September.

Not long after joining the school a local musician by the name of George Barker founded an orchestra and I became a founder member. Ruth Clark, later to become a violin teacher at FS also joined; her son Nick you may recall introduced *The World at One* for many years. George was a great character, wore a red and white spotted 'kerchief round his neck at rehearsals but was a notable musician. I later taught his son Jeremy the Double Bass. When he had learnt for a short while he was accepted into the Essex Youth Orchestra as at that time they were short of Double Bassists and providing that he could hold the instrument up the right way he was in! So much for my teaching! I think it was in 1954 that George's orchestra did a very memorable performance of Handel's Opera *Acis and Galatea* in the Great Hall at Audley End House. Quite an experience for me and I can remember being perched rather precariously near the stairs one side of the stage. 'Cellists like to sit comfortably when they are performing! Later this orchestra was named *The Uttlesford Orchestra* and Ruth Clark led it for many years. Jeremy plays the

Double Bass in it, so it is good to hear of one's past pupils continuing with their music.

My family were all very fond of music. My father had a good tenor voice, and when he was a clerk in the Westminster Bank in Winchester in the early 1920's he sang in Sir Malcolm Sargent's Choral Society and his Amateur Operatic Society. Of course he wasn't a Sir until many years later. I have a lovely photograph of my father dressed up as a Peer in Gilbert and Sullivan's Opera Iolanthe. His elder sister Millicent was a remarkable pianist, played by ear and could not read music. She played for the silent movies in their home town of Andover before she married and went to live in America. During the Second World War some of you may remember that a lot of families sent their children over to America away from all the bombing. My six cousins and I were due to go, but then some of the boats with children on were sunk and so we did not venture. I was very disappointed as I loved to hear Auntie Milly play; however when her husband died many years later she returned to England and we had many musical gatherings. Name a song and off she would go in any key that suited the voice singing it. That is something I cannot do; put a piece of music in front of me and I can sight read it, also memorise but not play by ear.

My mother was the daughter of a Congregational Minister and they lived down in Somerset. At the age of eight she was sent to boarding school as her father had a breakdown and her mother had to work; she became a Court Dressmaker in Albemarle St London.

Stella went to Milton Mount College which was a school for Congregational Ministers' daughters in Gravesend. She was an only child and loved the company there. I was eight when the Second World War started and we were living in Newbury, where my father was in the Westminster Bank. I was also an only child and had been going to the Newbury Girls' High School, so when I became eleven my parents thought that boarding school would be a good idea even though they knew they would miss me dreadfully. Milton Mount College had now moved to Worth Park near Crawley in Sussex, but the Canadians had taken over the beautiful building of the Montifiore family for the duration of the war and so the school had evacuated to the Imperial Hotel Lynton in glorious Devon. I loved it there.

That is where my interest in music was encouraged. I had already learnt the piano for a few years. The school was small, nearly two hundred girls, and



had a little orchestra with violins, one viola, a small number of woodwind, but no 'cellos; so it was suggested that I might like to learn this cumbersome but beautiful instrument. I started on a threequarter size 'cello and really enjoyed it, then later a full size one was found in Barnstaple for the princely sum of eight pounds. It is worth well over £7000 now.

We often had musical evenings at home or with friends - no television then - and I remember one disastrous occasion when (no car, no petrol) the three of us were walking to a friend's house for the evening and my father was carrying the 'cello. He did actually learn one for a while a few years earlier. Up the steps he strode, tripped, and the neck of the precious 'cello was broken off. Oh dear - the tears streamed down. However the 'cello was taken to London to a notable stringed instrument repairer, who worked a miracle and I was happy again. Much later it was treated to a completely new neck and became a very lovely instrument.

Having spent fifteen years at Newbury and risen to the exalted post of Chief Clerk, my father asked for a move for his last six years before retiring, and was sent to Loughton, a smaller Branch where we could live over the Bank in quite a pleasant house. It was built on the corner of a road leading up to Epping Forest and must at one time have been part of the grounds to the dear old farmhouse next door where the Milesons lived. Mr Mileson, Geoffrey's father was an architect and an Ecclesiastical surveyor to a number of village churches around Saffron Walden, including Radwinter and Debden. When I heard that I was going to teach at Friends' School Saffron Walden he offered to take me and my luggage, including the 'cello, incorporating it in a visit to Debden Church, so I arrived in style for my first post. Those were the days of the 'Squash', Liverpool Street to Audley End. Not many staff or pupils arrived by car.

Most of my first experiences at Friends' School Saffron Walden are in 'The School on the Hill', so I will not repeat them apart from saying how happy I was there from 1952-1955.

You have no doubt worked out by now that I married 'the boy next door', who had by 1955 when we married acquired his own small Dairy Farm called 'Oak Hall' in Epping Forest Buckhurst Hill. We had a herd of Guernsey cows, some pigs, some chickens and a cocker spaniel called Susan.

In the autumn of 1956 a wealthy business man, who had started by selling second hand bicycles in Leytonstone High Road, and then moved onto cars and then property, approached Geoffrey's father who owned the farm, with an offer to buy. He required the farm to build a big house for himself, and land for his horses. By the summer of 1957 the deal had gone through, and we were looking for another farm. One at Little Braxted near Maldon was favourite, but the elderly couple who owned it put the price up in negotiations, so that deal was dropped like a hot potato, so an offer was made on the next farm on the list, at Saffron Walden. Saffron Walden again! All was not plain sailing however as

three people made the same offer, but my Saffron Walden luck worked, and the owners chose us, partly because we were going to milk cows there.

Our elder son Christopher was born while we lived at Oak Hall, and our younger son Timothy soon after we had moved to Saffron Walden. I enjoyed helping on the farm, but with two small sons my work was slightly curtailed, mainly looking after calves.

I taught a few private pupils while the boys were small. My parents retired to Saffron Walden, having taken a liking to it when visiting me earlier and they enjoyed looking after their grandsons. Teaching from a farm had slight drawbacks especially in midwinter. A family of four brought their wellingtons to piano lessons and while one had a lesson the others played around the farm with the dogs and cats. The kitchen floor gained rather a lot of muddy boot marks and straw on those days.

Something I did not mention in the 'School on the Hill' was how much I enjoyed accompanying; whether it be for instrumentalists in the Associated Board exams, (where one had to be alert if they left out a bar or added one) or the pianist in a chamber music group such as Schubert's Trout Quintet. Some special occasions were when pupils like Malcolm Harvey, Margaret Shepherd and Celia Pitstow, to name but three, auditioned for the RAM or RCM. They all succeeded and became excellent musicians. Then there were the Musical Dramatic Productions such as 'O What a Lovely War', 'Godspell' and others which were hard work but great fun.

In the 1960s there were the Sir Robert Mayer Children's Concerts in London which I enjoyed taking groups of pupils to; then later in the 1970s the Opera Matinees for children at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden which were also a great treat.

I was a 1<sup>st</sup> year form teacher (now called year 7) for some years with Peter Arter. Each summer we would take 1x and 1y on an outing, often to the Greenwich Maritime Museum and Park, via the river trip from Westminster Pier. One year I had gone to buy the boat tickets at the pier and Peter had allocated two boys to carry the two stash bags containing fifty two packed lunches from the coach to the boat. We were all aboard and the boat slowly moving away from the pier when we saw to our horror two stash bags sitting on the pavement above us! Too late, we could not turn back, what do we do now? Fifty two hungry children. Help! Luckily Peter and I had plenty of emergency money between us and when we reached Greenwich he rushed to a bank and obtained a lot of small change so that we could give every one some money to buy refreshment at the Museum. On returning to Westminster Pier some hours later we spied a stash bag on the pavement. Alas! No sandwiches - only plastic cups and some squash!

Giulia Rowland came to teach the piano at FS in the 1970s. She was a delightful and talented pianist. About the same time Helen James joined the school to teach the violin. Helen's husband Ifor James was an internationally known

French Horn player who came from the North of England where they have these wonderful Brass Bands. He gave the school a treat by bringing his Bessies of the Barn Band here to give a concert. I'm sure that they inspired some budding brass players in the school that day.

Giulia piano, Helen violin, and myself on 'cello, decided that we would form a piano trio, and we became known as The Walden Trio. It was great fun and our first concert was at Saffron Walden Music Club. Evening Meeting was another venue and then we were invited to Welwyn Garden City Meeting House, Bury St Edmunds, and Leicester Meeting Houses. This lasted for quite a few years until Giulia and Helen left the school.

I had the good fortune to be in at the commencement of Friends' Junior School at Gibson House. Starting with fifteen pupils in 1992 it has grown rapidly, and at the end of the last academic year there were over a hundred and eighty pupils. About eighty percent of these learn one or sometimes two musical instruments. The choir joins with the Senior School choir to perform 'The Spirit of Christmas' in St Mary's Parish Church each year. Next April there is to be a combined Quaker Junior Schools weekend here to perform songs and a short Cantata to parents and friends. So you can see there is plenty of musical talent to harness and hopefully this will continue up through to the Senior School later on.

Now Geoffrey and I are thoroughly enjoying our retirement at Sewards End. He has taken up gardening instead of farming and I appreciate playing the piano purely for pleasure. We have been sailors ever since the 1960s when a farming friend introduced us to this fascinating hobby. We started at Pin Mill on the River Orwell with a day boat called Curlew; Geoffrey steered from the stern and kept dry, and the boys and I got wet with spray! Next we had a small boat we could sleep on called Seamew; then a racy one called Stella Lucia which we had for twenty one years. Great fun; we actually won some races with her. Now we have a boat called Havelda, a Peter Duck Class, solid sturdy and very comfortable. Some of you will remember the Arthur Ransome books and Peter Duck. His was built in 1947 but is still about. All have been wooden boats as Geoffrey enjoys the maintenance of them. We celebrated our Golden Wedding this August with our family and friends; a very happy occasion.

This last paragraph sums up my long connection with Friends' School Saffron Walden, quite a lot of it by chance. Having left to get married in July 1955, when the Small Choir sang so beautifully at our wedding, Richard Sturge asked me back for one day a week as the school had no 'cello teacher, so I filled the gap for two terms. Then when we moved to Rowley Hill Farm in 1958 I still kept in touch and in 1963 was again invited back by RLS to teach piano for two and a half days a week. 1968 saw me becoming a full time music teacher again; individual 'cello and piano, class work, orchestras and later accompanying the choir on Wednesday evenings. Our boys were twelve and ten; Christopher had started at Newport Grammar School and Tim was ready to start at Friends' School the



next year. In 1988 I returned to individual teaching, mainly in the Junior School when it opened, phasing out the Senior School, and thoroughly enjoying the challenge of teaching four to eleven year olds. Finally I retired in July 2003 having had a very long and happy association with the school and gained a great fondness for it. It has been a great honour to be your President this year and I have really enjoyed my time in Office. We had a wonderful Reunion here in May with singing and recalling many happy memories. Over the years I have made some good and lasting friendships and met a great number of interesting people. Sadly some have passed away but their knowledge, friendship and experience will always be remembered.

Little did I realise when I received my Valentine card in 1950 what a significant part of my life Saffron Walden would play.

## Have with you to Saffron Walden

*Gwyneth Dutton (FSSW 1945-51) sent a cutting from the East Anglian Daily Times to Roger Bush. It deals with a curious connection between Saffron Walden and the word "balderdash", and Roger has summarised it as follows.*

"Have with you to Saffron Walden." No, not an invocation from an exasperated parent to a child. It's the title of a work described as one of the "most dramatic muggings in literary history". Its author was Thomas Nashe (1567-1601), poet and pamphleteer, better known for the much-anthologised 'Spring, the sweet Spring, is the year's pleasant King'. The target was Gabriel Harvey, Cambridge academic and a member of a wealthy Saffron Walden family whose house once stood in Market Place.

Though the house is no more, its splendid carved fireplace is in the Town Museum. Carolyn Wingfield, the Museum's curator, followed up a lead given in the opening titles of a recent TV series *Balderdash and Piffle*. It seems tha Nashe had a long-running battle with Harvey, in the course of which he described him as having a brain stuffed with balderdash - the earliest use, it is thought, of the word in its modern meaning. It all ended up in a celebrated libel case after Nashe published a mock biography of Harvey.

Now, about that word 'Piffle'. Could that, too, have some link with Saffron Walden? I think not.

Roger Bush

# BATS Cricket Club

Due to unforeseen circumstances, only two matches took place during the 2005 season.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June, the annual fixture with **Clavering** on their picturesque Village Green produced 487 runs, the contest finishing as a draw, although Clavering enjoyed the better of the proceedings. Clavering batted first, and in the early stages they got off to a slow start, being pegged back by excellent bowling spells from Richard Carter, and latterly from Andy Marshall. When it appeared as though the home side would be dismissed for a modest total, our old adversary, Mick Miller, took full advantage of some wayward deliveries by the support bowlers, which put a gloss on the total before the teatime declaration.

BATS in reply, started extremely well, and Tom Johnston and Charlie Mills put on 62 for the first wicket, before Mills in attempting another big hit, departed from his crease, and was stumped for 30. Johnston continued in more circumspect vein, until he was fourth man out with the score on 120, for 58 (2 x 6's and 6 x 4's). Wickets tumbled thereafter at regular intervals, and despite some lusty blows from Malc. Pim, the innings had lost momentum and we finished 54 runs short of the winning post.

**The 39<sup>th</sup> annual South Coast Tour**, now of 3 days duration, was disappointingly curtailed by heavy rain, which accounted for the Monday fixture against Lymington, and due to an unfortunate mix-up in communications, we were unable to fulfil the Wednesday match against Broadstone.

On the Tuesday, the Bashley game was also rain affected, and in view of the adverse condition of the main pitch, we were obliged to make use of the all-weather surface on an adjoining ground. The more traditional amongst us have little or no experience of performing on a matting wicket, although Will Moss appeared to be perfectly at ease in compiling a most useful 34. Ben Livings, however, batted sensationally, and he despatched the ball to all parts in making a magnificent unbeaten 133 (7 x 6's and 14 x 4's), an innings which was only 4 runs short of the individual Tour scoring record. Bashley took only 28 overs to surpass our seemingly competitive total, losing only 4 wickets in the process.

## RESULTS:

Clavering      220 for 9 dec (R Carter 3 for 45; A Marshall 3 for 38)

BATS              167 for 9 (G Johnson 58; C Mills 30)

Match Drawn

BATS              218 for 6 dec (B Livings 133 n.o.; A Moss 34)

Bashley/Rydal      223 for 4

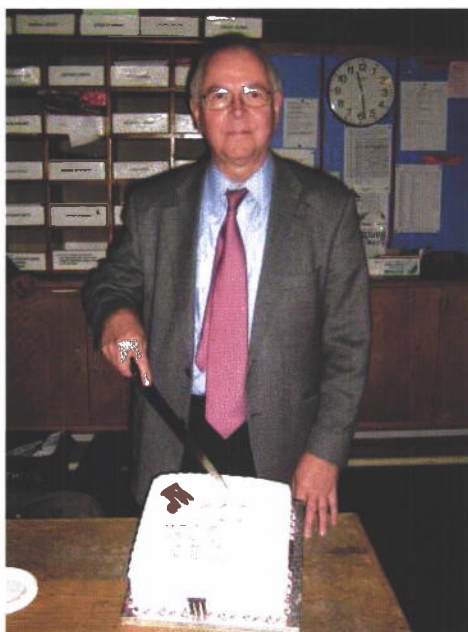
Bashley/Rydal won by 6 wickets.

Unfortunately, the annual Old Scholars versus School game in May also fell foul of the inclement weather, and the only consolation was that we were able to watch the FA Cup Final on a TV set thoughtfully installed in the Library.

2006 heralds the 40<sup>th</sup> annual South Coast Tour (Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August), a momentous achievement, and some members of BATS CC when it was first formed in the early 1960's are still wielding the willow. Please take note of the dates, and it is hoped that many of you who have been associated with BATS over the years will join the Tour, either in a playing, umpiring, scoring, spectating or socialising capacity. For further details, contact Graeme (Tom) Johnston, 15 Cromer Road, Aylsham, Norfolk, NR11 6HE. Day-time telephone number 01263 735046.

## 100 Not Out!

Martin Hugall received a surprise '100 Not Out' cake from the staff at the end of the Autumn term to celebrate his completion of 100 terms at Friends' School, and still counting..... Martin joined the staff in September 1972.



## Friends' School Music Department

Many thanks to the Old Scholars for the wonderful gift of a new I Book G4 Laptop and Ozonic Keyboard which we now have installed in the Music Department. It is a fantastic addition to our Music Technology suite and is currently being used for GCSE and A Level composing and recording work. This new equipment will be used to record forthcoming concerts and extra-curricular events. Once again many thanks.

Gavin Greenaway  
Head of Music

## A Small 1958 Reunion

In late October/early November 2005, Maureen and I (who, incidentally celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary on 8 February 2004!) were over in the UK for a family visit and had made up our minds that we just had to come over to Walden during our stay and to meet up with old friends. On 29 October 2005, Tony & Margaret Watson very kindly hosted a small gathering of some old School friends and acquaintances at their lovely cottage home in Duddenhoe End.



*Back row: Tony Watson, Sasha Wilson, Beryl Brown, Peter Mercer, Mike Connolly, Peter Reader, John Jacobs, Jane Gibb (Pennell). Centre: Parma Jacobs, Eric Brown. Front: Margaret Watson, Marian Mercer, Edith Reader.*

A short while afterwards, I met up with another old classmate - Peter Jamieson (1958) - whom I had not seen or been in touch with since the day we left School in 1958! We spent a very happy couple of hours in a wine bar near Liverpool St Station reminiscing, inter alia, about our superb (??!) rendering of "Underneath the Arches" performed at our Leavers' Farewell Concert.....!!

The photo confirms that we haven't aged a bit.....well, not much, anyway!



Mike Connolly (1951-58)

## All change at the Top.

Andy Waters took up his appointment as Head of Friends School in September 2001 having been selected in November 2000. He succeeded Jane Laing following her retirement after five years as Head and previously the Deputy Head.

Andy Waters has lead the school through its ISI inspection in the Spring term 2002, and the Tercentenary in September 2002 . During the last five years the Senior School has grown by forty per cent, and exam results have improved in each year.

Last year Andy Waters discussed with Governors his future career. The School has extensive plans for the renewal and restorations of buildings, and the Head will be expected to take a big part by making sure construction work does not interfere with the teaching of children in the school. Andy felt that it would not be fair to his successor to take over the School in a couple of years time when it is hoped that construction of the new school buildings will be in progress. Andy Waters accepted an offer, last November, to become Headmaster of Grenville College in Bideford, Devon, as from September 2006. So we will say farewell to the Waters family at the end of the Summer term, hoping that they will enjoy the wonderful scenery of North Devon. Both Bethan and Ryan will be missed but will become Old Scholars and we hope we will see them at OSA functions in the future.

Andy's departure was announced to Staff, pupils and parents in November last year, and the Board appointed a Search Committee to find a successor. The post was advertised in early January, both in the Times Educational Supplement and on their web site with a link to the School Web site. This has proved an excellent way to promote the School, as we received over seventy requests for details. We also made the details available on the school web pages. As a result forty three applications were received by the closing date of January 27th.

We were very pleased to read in the applications that the School has a good reputation throughout the world of Education, having had applications from as far as China, Columbia, Norway and Germany, as well as all over England!

The Governors selected ten candidates for interview on February 8th and 9th. The interview process involved the Candidates being seen by six Governors, a tour of the school, and meetings with the Head, Bursar, Junior School Head, and Development Director. A final interview for four candidates took place on February 24th & 25th, and Graham Wigley was finally selected as the new Head.

For the last six years Graham Wigley has been Academic Deputy Head at Wakefield Girls High School, an 11-18 GSA independent day school, part of the Wakefield Grammar School Foundation, which provides education for boys and girls from ages 3 to 18. Previously he had extensive pastoral experience at Framlingham College, a co-educational 13 - 18 HMC boarding and day school where he was Senior Housemaster, and taught English for 13 years. He studied at Not-

tingham University, Cambridge University, received his Masters degree from the Open University and has been awarded the National Professional Qualification for Headship.



*Graham and Maeve Wigley*

Graham and his wife Maeve, have two sons, Chris 21 and Adam 17. He is a keen sportsman involved in cricket, rugby, and hockey and he has completed several London marathons. He enjoys listening to a variety of music and is a member of a local amateur choir.

Graham is looking forward to leading a school which values reflection, questioning and debate as a way of securing the highest standards both inside and outside the classroom. He says that his vision of education emphasises respect for each individual within the community, both pupils and adults, and he is keen to play a pivotal role in creating an environment in which pupils of all ages can grow and develop safely and enjoy high quality educational provision. He is 'looking forward to joining a school with such a fine history and such an exciting future'.

Tony Watson,  
Clerk of Governors.

# Memories of Old Scholars

## Ralph Erskine

(1914- 2005)

FSSW 1925-1931

*Ralph Erskine CBE FRS ARIBA, the distinguished architect, urban planner and FSSW Old Scholar, died peacefully aged 91, on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2005, in his hometown of Drottningholm, near Stockholm, Sweden.*



Ralph Erskine was brought up in Mill Hill in north London, his father was a Scottish Presbyterian who worked in a shipping office and his mother was one of the first women to gain a university degree, though she chose to remain a housewife. Both his parents were members of the Fabian Society, a society dedicated to the promotion of a socialist state by evolution rather than revolution, other members included Sidney and Beatrice Webb and Bernard Shaw.

Although Ralph's parents were not Quakers they sent him to the Friends' School in 1925. As an adult Ralph regarded himself as unreligious and a socialist, however he became committed to Quaker principals and beliefs and his time at the school had a strong influence on his character and his work. Ralph met his future wife Ruth Francis while he was at Friends' School. They met at the age of 13 when Ralph was introducing a shy friend to her, and were a couple whilst still at school. Ruth was one of four children who all went to Friends' School, her sister Joyce was later to marry Charles Woodhouse, another old scholar who taught music at the school for many years. At school Ralph was taught the violin by Noreen Wright who formed the school orchestra in 1928. Ralph became leader of the orchestra and played with Farrand Radley. Later Noreen Wright helped Ralph to join the Ernest Read Orchestra while he was studying in London.

Ralph left school in 1931 and returned to London, at first he studied surveying but soon decided it was not the work for him. He decided to become a 'good' architect, as he had discovered that although many architects were out of work, good architects were in short supply. In 1932 he began studying at the Regents Street Polytechnic whose principal was Thornton White. Students spent three years studying classical architecture and then spent another two years developing their own ideas. Many students left the course because of the economic de-



pression but Ralph stayed on for the full five years. During the 1930s most building design in England was very traditional, after qualifying, Ralph's interest in modern architecture meant that he wanted to work for a more progressive firm, but he was forced to do work for more traditional architects. During this time he completed a two year evening course in urban planning in a year.

He became interested in northern Europe especially Sweden where modern architecture was making more of an impact and politicians were intent on creating a novel, less inequitable society. Ralph first came to Sweden in May 1939, with his bike, sleeping bag and haversack. He came by boat to Denmark and then cycled to Sweden, sketching modern buildings that he saw on the way, talking to people and often sleeping in barns. He was delighted by Stockholm where one could go bathing in the middle of the city, in water as unlike the stinking Thames as could be.

After a week in Stockholm his money had nearly gone, luckily he found work with the architects Walkje and Odeen in the city. As things were looking good he asked his fiancée Ruth to join him, they were married at Stockholm City Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1939 and left at once to go sailing. Two days later war began in Europe, they returned to Stockholm where Ralph discovered he no longer had a job at the office. Ralph's time at Friends' School influenced him in his decision not to fight for his country, he volunteered to join the Friends' Ambulance service, as some of his friends did. He was returning to England via the port of Petsamo on the north of the Scandinavian Peninsula, but fighting cut off his route.

Once Ruth was married to Ralph she complemented him for the rest of her life. When he was under stress, she was calm; she always backed him up, looked after his considerable correspondence and created a comfortable home. She had trained as a secretary in London and she always helped in the office, though when their four children were small she put them and the house first. She regarded herself as architecturally unqualified and during intense intellectual discussions she would take the point of view of a user of architecture with lively, down to earth comments.

During the war Ralph designed a number of timber houses and a leisure centre in Stockholm. In the winter of 1941-2 to save money Ralph and Ruth built their own small 'Box House' as cheaply as possible in an isolated spot in Lissma, they lived in this tiny house for four years. Publicity about this minimal house led to more commissions and their economic situation improved. After the war Ralph and Ruth decided to stay in Sweden despite the offer of work in England. Ralph set up a practice in Drottningholm, working with Aage Rosen, a Dane who was his right hand for nearly 40 years. The two men complemented each other excellently, one a loquacious visionary, the other practical and a good listener. He entered many competitions and was frequently successful with his designs. The Ski hotel in Borgafjall in Lapland (1948-50) was one of the most skilful and innovative of his buildings. The long roof doubled as nursery ski slopes, until the snow built up to transform them into part of the mountain landscape.

By 1955 Ralph's success meant that his house, which he was using as his office was becoming more and more crowded. Because office space in Drottningholm was scarce he came to England and bought the Thames Sailing barge Verona, which he intended to use as his office in Sweden. He sailed her to Pinmill in Suffolk, where she was refitted, so she was fit to cross the North Sea. On 26<sup>th</sup> June 1955 they set sail for



Sweden with a crew of five. The voyage was eventful, the navigator (a former naval captain) felt that Verona needed ballast, the skipper (who had his own sailing barge) said they didn't. They motored across the North Sea in a calm and passed through the Kiel Canal. Once in the Baltic they met bad weather, the engine stopped working and the barge under reduced sail was hard to manoeuvre and nearly turned over at times. After a week of storms and calms they reached Rago outside Nyköping.

After this Verona's hold was converted into an open office and she was moored in Drottningholm close to the Erskine's home. The influence of the Friends' School and the Quakers meant that Ralph avoided bureaucracy and a formal hierarchy. Work was done in self organizing teams, in which each member was responsible for certain parts of a project's economy and administration. At times the lack of formal hierarchy led to confusion with jobs being done twice, but it created a very positive working spirit. Ralph's endless stream of new ideas sometimes caused his employees to make sure that final drawings were done when he was in some distant part of the world at a conference or holding a lecture. The office worked as a single large family with employees from all over the world sitting at the table as Ruth poured the afternoon tea. The office employed many young architects who later built up their own successful practices.

In June the office packed up and Verona sailed out to the Skerries, to Rago. The office moved into the loft of the boathouse, while the architects and their families stayed in local farm houses and their outbuildings. Work usually began at 8 and finished at 6 with a long break in the middle of the day when people would go swimming, sailing or canoeing. In fine weather Ralph would break off early and take them all sailing, if it rained he would set an example by working late. In the evenings Ralph would entertain everyone playing violin, lute, accordion or mandolin, at times everyone would join in and sing folksongs. In 1963 a new house and office was built in Drottningholm, Verona was used as an annex to the office for a further ten years, but the office no longer moved out to the skerries during the summer.

In the late 1950s Ralph studied the buildings of Lapp and Eskimo people, learning how to build an igloo and spend a night in it. These studies became the basis of housing projects in two Swedish mining towns, Kiruna and Svappavaara, north of the arctic circle. In 1973 he designed another arctic town at Resolute Bay in Canada.

In Britain admiration for his buildings came gradually, in 1967 he was asked to

design a range of buildings for Clare Hall, the Cambridge postgraduate college. This was followed by his much admired and highly original Byker housing scheme near Newcastle upon Tyne which was begun in 1969. Ralph opened a small office in a disused undertakers in Byker and encouraged tenants to come and say what they wanted by simply leaving the office door open. Byker's most distinctive feature is its wall, a sinuous building more than a kilometre long designed to protect the housing from a proposed motorway that was never built and to act as a wind break, an idea first used at Svappavaara. Byker as a whole was planned to give all the flats and houses a south or south-west aspect.



In 1988 he was asked to join with developers Ake Larson and Pronator in designing an office block at the centre of the new Hammersmith roundabout in west London, this is now known as the Ark. In 1997, he won a competition against 400 others, to design the millennium village, alongside the ill-fated dome in East Greenwich, in south-east London. His master plan called for a social mix of expensive freehold dwellings alongside cheaper rented properties; the use of modern

building technologies to reduce the dependence on environmentally damaging brick; energy and water efficiency; cycle ways, rows of trees and gently curving streets. Inevitably his vision was diluted by disputes between developers and architects, but the characterful houses are very much his work. The village continues to be developed under the design direction of his partners, Johannes Tovatt and Geoff Denton.

Ralph Erskine's career included frequent lecture tours to the US, Canada and Japan. He was made an honorary fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1966 and of the Swedish Royal Academy of Arts in 1972. He was appointed CBE in 1979 and was awarded the RIBA Gold Medal of Architecture in 1987. His wife Ruth died in 1988.

Ralph Erskine was a true humanist. His buildings radiate optimism, appropriateness and wit, which endear them to many. His philosophy of work accommodated the climate and the context together with the social and humanistic needs of people. He was concerned that the expression of buildings should engage the general public interest, generate a sense of ownership and appeal to genuine participation.

Tim Mileson (1969-76)

## Rachel Whall (nee Haigh)

1964-2006

FSSW 1975-82

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Rachel "Rae" on 3<sup>rd</sup> February from cancer. Vanessa and I have tried here to put down some of the happier memories that we have of Rae, from our school days at Friends and from friendships that have endured well beyond those days.

For me, Jane (nee Golding) it was possibly her sporting achievements at Friends' School where Rae really left her mark. She was my 'right wing' during all the years that we played 1<sup>st</sup> XI hockey together which made my job fairly easy, really. With Sarah (Watson/ Westerhuis) and Deirdre Mills somewhere in the centre all I ever had to do in any game was pick up the ball, wallop it forward to the centre for them to collect or whack it out to the wing where Rae would swoop past at great speed, pick it up and score! Her hockey-playing ability was recognised, too, by the fact that she was regularly chosen to play at county level.

Most of us probably also remember her great achievements on the running track. She was so swift that there remain to this day records set by Rae which have not yet been bettered. Personally, though, it was infuriating because every time I was in one of the races on Sports Day and up against Rae I knew that there was very little chance of my coming in first!

However I, Vanessa (nee Collings), having spent most of my time avoiding the sports fields, remember Rae for the amiable, fair, enthusiastic and totally modest friend and person she was. Rae was also a superb artist, a skill she continued to use after school - illustrating a book her mother had written, often painting wildlife and later, diversifying this interest in wildlife to learning the art of taxidermy.

I digress ... after a very happy time at FSSW Rae left to attend College, which was followed by a happy time spent in Cambridge working and sharing a house with friends, including Rebecca Nash (who sadly died 11 years ago, also of cancer). During this time, Rae visited Africa - via an overland land rover journey, enjoyed a full social life with old and new friends and family, she joined the TA and discovered the more adventurous side of herself. During this time Rae met her husband, Raymond, and through their two sons, Gregory and Douglas, she became an active member of the Fulbourn village and school community.

Rae, who was from a local family, many of whom have either attended or taught at Friends School, enjoyed her School life and appreciated so much of what she learnt during her time at school. The friendships she built up during her years at the Friends School were reflected by the many Old Scholars who came to remember her at her Memorial Service on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2005. She will be missed by many.

Jane Pearce (Golding 1975-82)

Vanessa Smith (Collings 1975 -82)

## Sleeping With Fish

*In this extract from his book 'A Fascination for Fish', Old Scholar and pioneering aquarist, David Powell (1944) recalls some of his early fishy experiences.*

“The earliest sign, and one I can’t remember, was told to me by my mother. Born in South Africa in 1927 to American parents, my mother and father took me, at about age four, and my older sister to the seashore town of Durban for a day at the beach and to do some fishing. Somehow, and no doubt with my father’s help, I caught a fish, perhaps my first fish. That night I insisted on sleeping with it under my pillow and my tolerant mother agreed. While this may have been a little out of the mainstream for so-called “normal” kids, I see it as an omen, a sign of a born biologist. After all, didn’t Jane Goodall sleep with earthworms under her pillow?

As a boy growing up in England I was constantly drawn to water and to the local pond to catch newts, water boatmen and dragonfly larvae to keep in jars in my room. Using a primitive microscope I was fascinated by the beating heart and developing brood of babies inside the tiny female water flea (*Daphnia*). Off I would go on my bicycle with my fishing rod to explore the streams and lakes within a wide range of home or school. This was the early 1940s and England and Germany were at war. Practically all food except bread and cabbage was strictly rationed and my fishing efforts, while fun for me, contributed significantly to our table.

My first job, at the age of fourteen, was at a canoe and punt rental operation next to Oxford University’s Magdalen College on the river Thames. I kept the boats clean, bailed out water and chauffeured people on leisurely cruises up the river in a punt, one of those long, narrow boats that are propelled by pushing against the river bottom with a long pole. Many times during those years, I reread Isaac Walton’s *The Compleat Angler*, written in 1876, and relished both the fish lore and the poetry.

My mother had a tendency to believe in the latest educational theory she had just read. As a result of her avant-garde thinking, my sister and I had atypical school careers. We were sent to a succession of drastically different schools: a nudist school where, weather permitting, the teachers and students were naked; a strict Church of England Presbyterian school; and a school in Wimbledon that had a philosophy similar to the well-known Summerhill where the only rule was not to hurt anyone.

Fortunately, I ended up in a fine Quaker school but by then I had become somewhat of a rebel and troublemaker. The Friends School in Saffron Walden was in the south of England and at that time the air Battle of Britain was at its height. Planes from all countries—Germany, England and America—were being shot down, some within easy bike-riding range of my school. Before long I began experimenting with explosives taken from the machine-gun cartridges of downed

planes. One night I set off a homemade "bomb" in the school's goldfish pond. A geyser of water and goldfish shot twenty feet into the air. Frantically scooping up a few of the fattest ones my accomplice, unnamed of course, and I ran before the school staff discovered the origin of the loud noise. Sneaking into the Chem lab we cooked the goldfish in a pan over a Bunsen burner. To us perpetually hungry, growing boys who were enduring the wartime food rationing, these fish tasted delicious, seasoned as they were by the excitement of the adventure.

My experiments with explosives grew in magnitude until a concerned classmate tipped off the headmaster. I was called in, given a stern lecture on the dangers of my activities and expelled from school for a month. There were more signs of my biological bent when, as a sixteen-year-old, I became fed up with some of the stuff on the school's curriculum. What earthly use were French or calculus going to be to me when I was out in the world earning a living? I wanted to quit school and get a job somewhere working with fish. The understanding headmaster talked me out of it. Acknowledging that I wanted to work with fish, he explained that without some sort of degree I would end up cleaning fish tanks for the rest of my life. Years later, I got a kick out of his statement when after earning a master's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), I was indeed doing just that, cleaning fish tanks along with my other tasks at Marineland of the Pacific.

At age eighteen I graduated from the Friends School and was now subject to the draft into the military. Fortunately, I had both American and British citizenship and I signed up as a mess boy on an American freighter returning in convoy and under nightly attack by German U-boats from Liverpool to New York. The remainder of World War II was spent on Liberty ships in the Pacific ferrying war supplies to the battle zones of Guadalcanal, New Guinea and the Philippines. When the war ended I served as a medical technician in the U.S. Army for a year and a half on Okinawa.

This military service qualified me to take advantage of the G.I. Bill's free education for service personnel. I enrolled at UCLA, finally able to focus on what I wanted to do. Although the U.S. Government covered school fees and books I still had to work to cover living expenses. I had a wide variety of part-time jobs from night clerk at a Sunset Boulevard motel, the graveyard shift at a gas station, a very disturbing job as night attendant at the Veteran's Psychiatric Hospital and a job caring for the live Maine lobster-holding facility at a Malibu restaurant. For two summers I worked as a seasonal aide for the California Department of Fish and Game catching, measuring, tagging and releasing yellowtail from sportfishing boats out of Long Beach and San Pedro harbors. It was great work but it gave me a taste of the bureaucracy in a government agency."

Although I have officially retired from the Monterey Bay Aquarium <http://www.mbayaq.org/> I still consult there on occasion on our white shark project. I have also been busy on other public aquariums around the world. In 1995 I went

to South Africa to help design the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town, <http://www.aquarium.co.za/>

In 2002 I worked on the uShaka Marine World in Durban <http://www.ushakamarineworld.co.za/> which opened to the public last year. Currently I'm involved in design of two aquariums in Mexico.

As you can see, following my dream and "messing about with fish" has really enabled me to make a contribution to the millions who visit public aquariums to learn and enjoy the fascinating ocean life that shares this planet with us. I am indebted to Friends' School Saffron Walden's headmaster Gerald Littleboy for impressing upon me how important an education would be for me to achieve my dream. I was young and not very smart back then and he helped to set me straight.

David Powell

## Honours

### Howard Newman

Howard Newman (1969 - 74) a director of A James (Jewellers) Ltd, Church Street, Saffron Walden, has been elected as an Assistant to the Court of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, formed in 1631. the Company's Museum at the Guildhall, City of London, has an important collection of clocks and watches, books and manuscripts.

### Peter Davis

Peter Davis (1956-61) was awarded an OBE in 2005.

### Colin Watts

Colin Watts (1964 - 71) has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Colin is Professor of Immunology at the School of life Sciences at the University of Dundee, and says that, "it's a huge honour for a scientist and of course it all started in those science classes at FSSW."

## Wedding Anniversaries

### Diamond Wedding

7<sup>th</sup> October 1944 TURNBULL - REYNOLDS. Jack Turnbull (1933-35) to Joyce Reynolds at West Ham Central Mission Baptist Church, London.

### Golden Weddings

19<sup>th</sup> November 1955 NEWMAN - WRIGHT Brian Newman to Olive Wright (1942-47) at Abbey Lane Congregational Church, Saffron Walden.

5<sup>th</sup> August 1955 MILESON - NOYCE; Geoffrey Milesen to Mary Noyce (Staff 1952 -55 and 1963-2003) at St John's Parish Church Loughton.

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries

8<sup>th</sup> February 1964 Mike Connolly (1951-58) married Maureen Winifred Hewison at St Peter's Church, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.



## Deaths

### 2005

26th February	HANNEKE GIBBERD (1984-88)
16th March	RALPH ERSKINE (1925-31)
5th July	ROBERT NICKALLS (1935-40)
28th August	CONSTANCE NEWBERRY (1920-25)
7th October	MARGERY ROUTLEDGE (Ellis 1938-40)
11th October	EDWARD SPACKMAN (1951-58)
2nd December	JOAN HAYLOCK (Land 1927-33)
3rd February 2006	RACHEL WHALL (Haigh 1975-82)

## News from Old Scholars

**Inge Newman (Westerhuis 1984-86)** is busy keeping up with Joshua 9, Benjamin 7, and Oliver 5 and their many activities.

**Pippa Bush (1966-73)** writes from France, "I am snowed under with work, and wrestling in particular with a book on genocide for publication in the UK (Hurst). I am longing to finish as I think it has been depressing me!"

**Tessa Brown (Staff 1976-88)** writes, "I am still teaching! For the last 8 years I have taught in the London Borough of Newham, that bit on the right of the map in Eastenders and the site for the 2012 Olympics. My job is to teach any child aged 5-16 who cannot attend school for medical reasons. It is very rewarding, varied and challenging but I really do enjoy it so much. It must be good to have kept me in teaching! Sometimes the children have cancer and the courage they show and the medical knowledge I've gained has come in useful as the very early stages of breast cancer were discovered in a routine mammogram. I feel so fortunate for it to have been discovered so early."

**Tim Mileson (1976)** is still in contact with **Anita Joysey (1976)**, when he visits his mother Mary, who now lives in Swards End, Anita often comes for lunch and recommends Mary's salmon and her flapjack. They often visit **Robert Haigh (1976)** who is still farming the family farm in Swards End.

**Margreet Westerhuis (1984-87)** has been appointed the European Pilot Label Director for Fresh and Wilds. They are owned by a big American Company called Whole Foods Market. She is involved in the Organic Food Industry.

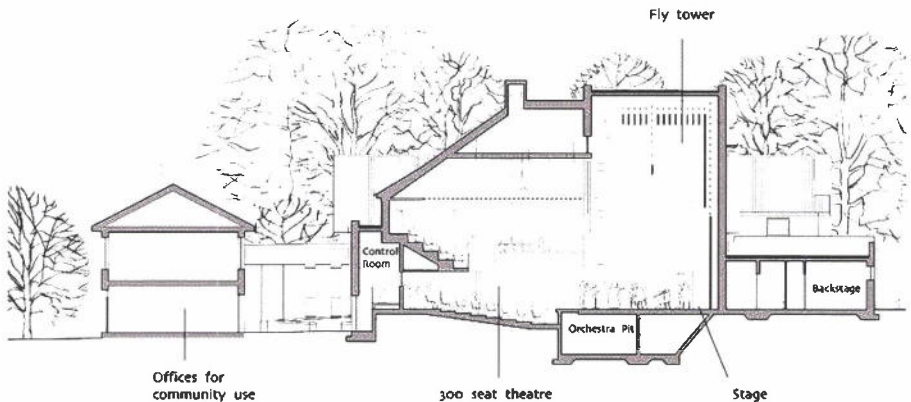
**Andy Nicholson (1961-63)** has contacted us to say that he is currently based in Malawi with an Irish NGO called GOAL as their Country Director working in the humanitarian sector.

**Barbara Munro (Allison) (1958-65)** writes in an email that "my husband and I have just returned from visiting our son who works in the British Virgin Islands. We decided to spend a few days on Dominica on the way home. Imagine our surprise when the manager of the hotel we stayed at said that he was also an old scholar but that he had lost contact. His name is Mark Steele (1975). The hotel was wonderful!"

## The School's Development Proposals.

Following a year long period of consultation the planning application was submitted in April and is expected to go to committee in the Summer.

The School has applied for permission to build a new Junior School, a new boarding house, a sixth form centre and a 300 seat theatre and performing arts complex. The plans also include extensive renovations and conversion of the main building back to teaching, communal and resource space. To support this exciting project we have applied for permission for a mixed residential development with a total of 163 dwellings – 52 detached, semi-detached and terraced family houses and 112 apartments on 3.31 hectares of land: this includes 41 affordable or key worker dwellings. The plans are available on the School's website.



*Section through the Performing Arts Centre*

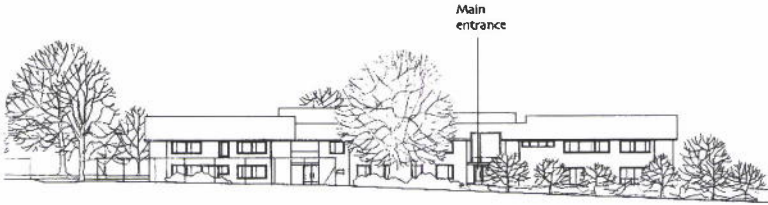
We have altered our plans considerably during the last year, to include extra traffic calming and control measures, sustainable housing, reduced the height of apartments and other measures in direct response to comments. A full briefing outlining the feedback we received and our response is available from Sarah Westerhuis at the School.

If we are successful, we expect construction work to start in 2007, with the new Junior School being built first; other new buildings and main school renovation work will be phased over three years. Our architects Tim Ronalds Associates are specialists in building schools and theatres: they are highly experienced and expert in working within school communities - they understand about building a new school within an existing site and they, along with the School's development team, will plan each part of the building project to ensure that the day to day running of the School is not interrupted or disrupted as the new school is built.

The School will appoint an external project management team and an inter-

nal project liaison officer to ensure that everyone is consulted and informed of all the key stages.

The building work will be managed in phases, with access and works fenced off to ensure both pupil safety as well as site security. The whole School will be significantly more secure and private once the land is sold because the School site itself will be fenced off from the housing development, and access onto our site will be reduced to the formal entrances and exits as shown on the plan.



*Drawing showing the front elevation of the Junior School*

Uttlesford District Council will consider the application over the next two months and there will be a hearing at the end of that period in which the School will have a chance to make its case. If there is anything you wish to know please do get in touch with Sarah Westerhuis. [sarahwesterhuis@friends.org.uk](mailto:sarahwesterhuis@friends.org.uk)

The Development has been managed by a project steering group of Governors, staff and consultants. The School is grateful for the valuable contribution of Old Scholar Mark Bertram to this group.

## **Donations and Legacies**

In the course of the last year, the School has worked with the Charity Commission to rationalise a number of small bursary and scholarship funds. Some of these go back many years and their original purposes (Marriage Gratuities for Young Women and Apprentice Fees, for example) were no longer applicable. As a result of this exercise, we have created the Friends' School Saffron Walden Bursary and Scholarship Fund, with the express object, "to further the education of pupils attending the School through the provision of bursary assistance on the grounds of financial need and by the award of scholarships."

The Board of Governors wishes to extend the availability of bursaries and scholarships throughout the school and intends that this restricted fund will be the platform for this. Any Old Scholar who might wish to make a donation or to leave a legacy to the School can now direct it specifically to that Fund.

Further information about this and other ways in which the generosity of Old Scholars can continue to support the School can be obtained from Jane Corwin, the Bursar.

# Staff List

Head:	Andy Waters BEd (London), MA (Hertfordshire)
Bursar :	Jane Corwin BA (Aberystwyth), ACIB
Senior Teacher:	Martin Hugall BSc (Bristol)
*Assistant Head (Curriculum):	William Mullen PhD,BSc (Lond), CChem, MRSC
Assistant Head (Pastoral)	James Askew MA (OU), BA (Dunelm)*
Head of Sixth Form:	John Searle-Barnes BA (Lond) MA (Lancaster) *
Boarding Co-ordinator:	Brian Thomson MA (St Andrews) CertSecEd (Jordanhill)
Development & Liaison Director:	Sarah Westerhuis BEd (Brighton Polytechnic), MEd (Cantab)
Year Heads: Years 10 - 11	Marianne Rochford BA (Newcastle) *
Years 7 - 9	Alison Ainsworth BA (Leeds) *
English	Gillian Kinnear BA (Loughborough)* Andrea Harrison BA ( London )*+ Sue Lock Cert Ed (St Osyth's College)
Library:	Janice Weatherall M.A. (Dundee) DipLib (Belfast) +
Drama:	Richard Smith BA (Trinity College, Carmarthen)*
Drama Assistant:	Robert Pepper
E.S.O.L.	Michelle Gillmore BA (Portsmouth)*
History:	John Searle-Barnes BA (Lon) MA (Lancaster) * Marianne Rochford BA (Newcastle) *
Business Studies:	Carolyn White BEd (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
Geography:	Alison Ainsworth BA (Leeds) * Guy Martin BSc (North London), *
Religious Studies + PSHE:	Helen Golden BA (University of Kent)*+
Modern Languages:	Gisèle Searle-Barnes, Licence, MA (Lyon)* Peter Fasching, BA (London) * James Askew MA (Open University), BA (Dunelm)* John Piper, BA (London) +
Mathematics:	Diane Gillanders BA (Leicester) * Richard Moss BTEC (Norfolk College of Arts and Technology) * Geoffrey Curtis BSc (Bristol) *+
Science:	Christine Sleight BEd ( Nottingham), C.Phys, M.Inst.P. Martin Hugall BSc (Bristol) * Leonard Mead BA (York) DPhil (York)* Julie Anderson BEd (Herts College of Ed.) + William Mullen PhD BSc (London) CChem MRSC Geoffrey Curtis BSc (Bristol)*+
ICT:	Carolyn White BEd (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
Art:	John Cowell BEd (Exeter) Cert Ed (Chelsea and Plymouth) Phillip Richardson Dip AD (Chelsea) ATC (Sussex) * Serena O'Connor BA (London) *+
Artist in Residence:	Madeleine Boase BA (Manchester Metropolitan)
DT - Product Design:	John Cowell BEd (Exeter) Cert Ed (Chelsea and Plymouth)
DT - Food:	Catherine Whyte BEd (Bath College of Higher Education)+ Rosamund Burlinson BA (Open University) CertEd (Worcester College) +
Physical Education:	Nicholas Batcheler BEd (Otago NZ) Dip Teaching ( Dunedin College of Ed. NZ) Jennifer Allwood BEd (Bedford) Nigel Donachie BEd (Tasmania)
Film Studies:	John Searle-Barnes BA (London) MA (Lancaster) *

# September 2005

Music:	Gavin Greenaway BA (Anglia Polytechnic University) * Martin Wilson ARCM, ALCM + Mary Richardson BA (Leeds) Dip ABRSM *+ Jason Meyrick FTCL LRAM LTCL Professional Certificate. + Edward Dodge MA (Cantab) GRSM (Manchester) ARMCM *+ Alison Townend BA (East Anglia) LLM LGSM LTCL+ Nicky Ogden BA (Lancaster) LRAM*+, Philippa Hopewell BSc (Warwick) CT ABRSM+ Daniel Meades DRSAMD ARCM+ Lorraine Daniels ATCL, LTCL+ Mark Townend GRSM, LRAM Dip. RAM.+ Steven Hynes+, Louis Thorne+
Gap Students:	Nick Guthrie (PE & Boarding), Marlugu Dixon (PE & Boarding).
Speech and Drama	Susan McConnel BDS (Otago N.Z. ), ALAM, LRAM +
Careers:	Julie Anderson BEd (Herts College of Ed.) +
Study Centre:	Heather Carter BA (Portsmouth) MA (Open) * Vivien Spencer DipSpLD (Hornsby), RGN
Learning Support Assistants:	Nell Hibbert CertEd DipSpLD (Dyslexia Inst.), DipAMBDA+ Caryn Pepper+, Heather Douglas, MSc (Edinburgh)+, Jean King+ Brigid Vousden, BA (Univ of Wales, Lampeter), M.Phil*+ Teresa Shepherd+, Ruth Wathen+
Head of Junior School:	Andrew Holmes BEd (Kent), CertEd (Bristol)
Deputy Head:	Sally Knight BA(Warwick)*
Head of Early Years & Infants:	Sally Manser CertEd (Saffron Walden College) Robyn Doyle BA, CertEd (Canterbury, NZ) Claire Milner BSc (Manchester), RN(Child)
Junior Department	Susan Westgarth BEd (University of East Anglia, Norwich) Kate Richardson BSc (London)* Jacqueline Branch CertEd (Portsmouth College) Jane Manley BA (Lancaster)* Deborah Ballingall BEd (Coll of St Mark and St John, Plymouth) John Cowell BEd (Exeter), CertEd (Chelsea and Plymouth) Peter Fasching BA (London) John Piper BA (London) + Catherine Whyte BEd (Bath College of Higher Education)+ Rosamund Burlinson BA (Open), CertEd (Worcester College) + Janet Bethune BSc (Sheffield), LD (OCR) + DipSpLD (OCR)
Learning Support:	Jane Bull+
Learning Support Assistant:	Elsebeth Parry+, Sally Day, Lucy Barnes, Beverley Young+, Tiffany Johnson+
Classroom Assistants:	June Linscott NNEB (Tottenham College)
Nursery Co-ordinator:	Catherine Armstrong, NNEB (Harlow), Sandra Budd, NNEB (Ware), Jane Baird,
Nursery Assistants:	Nigel Donachie, BEd (Tasmania)
PE/Swimming:	Martin Wilson ARCM, ALCM
Music:	Nicky Ogden BA (Lancaster), LRAM*+ Mary Richardson BA (Leeds), DipABRSM *+ Philippa Hopewell BSc (Warwick), CT. ABRSM+

Junior School Secretaries:	Christine Noakes, Rachel May+
House Staff: School	
- Boys:	Brian Thomson MA (St Andrews) CertSecEd (Jordanhill)
- Girls:	Moirra Thomson MA(Aberdeen) Cert.Pr.Ed.(Falkirk)
- Sixth Form:	Barbara Askew
Assistant Bursar:	David Wood ACIB
Accountant:	Ann Boatman
Marketing Manager:	Paula Hall BCL/LLB (Dublin), PG.DipMM.
Clerical Staff:	Helen Turner, Kathrin O'Sullivan, Lynn Robinson, Anne Fear, Carole Springthorpe+, Alison Stanbury+, Marion Grainge+, Jenny Marks+.
Technicians:	Barbara Nicholson (Science)+, Lynn Cargill (Science) +, Nicholas Brucher (ICT, AVA), Louise Plant (Art)+, Rosie Juhl (Food Tech)+, George Barrow (DT)+
Medical:	Ann Livesey RGN+, Sharon Rose, RGN +
Matron:	Judy Camp+
Laundry:	Tanya Russell +
Catering Manager:	Gary Oakshott
Cleaning Supervisor:	Barry Melhuish
Maintenance:	Ashley Daley, Andrew Sully, Dean Camp.
Gardens & Grounds	Matthew Wright, Simon Keyte
Medical Officer:	Robert W Howlett, MA, MB BChir, DRCOG, MRCGP

\* Post Graduate Certificate of Education + Part-time

## 136<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Mary Mileson (Presiding)

There were 26 members in attendance.

1. The President welcomed those present and a short silence was observed. The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting as follows: 'The Annual General Meeting of the Old Scholars' Association will be held at the Friends' School Saffron Walden on Saturday 19 November 2005 at 11.30'.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from: Daphne Francis, Wilfrid Hayler, Hilary Halter, Jane Laing, Farrand Radley, Adrian Smith and John Bolton.
3. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2004 had been recorded in the Yearly Magazine sent to members. The meeting agreed that these were a true and accurate report and accordingly the President signed them.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:** None.

5. **OBITUARIES:** The President read the names of those whose deaths have been reported during the last year: Ralph Erskine, Hanneke Gibberd, Raymond McLeod, Constance Newbery, Robert Nickalls, Margery Routledge (nee Ellis), Edward Spackman, Margaret Wright (nee Deakin). A short silence was observed.

6. **REPORTS:**

*Secretary*

*(Nigel McTear):* This was the Secretary's ninth report to AGM. It had been another steady year, with the marvellous high point of the President's Concert Day in May. The General Committee had met twice. It had, in continuation of the musical theme of Mary's Presidency, donated £1,000 to provide a new computer for the Music Department and £500 to the Junior School to start a Quaker Junior Choir for a concert next April. The transfer of administration workload to the School was going well, and Jane Corwin would report on that. The Committee had been unable to fulfil its earlier hope to bring to AGM proposals for changes to the Constitution to reflect the changed administration circumstances, particularly on the structure of the General Committee which could be slimmed down in recognition both of its reduced workload and of the difficulty in recruiting Committee members.

The Secretary was sorry to have to report the retirement of no less than four Officers from their roles: Hilary Halter as Webmaster, Pam Tracy as Membership Secretary, Roger Buss as Archivist, and Roger Bush as Editor of the Magazine. They had served on the Committee for a total of 45 years!

Hilary Halter joined the Committee in 1995 at the invitation of Tom Robinson to help Wilf Hayler (the then Editor) to modernise the Annual Report, and has stayed with the new Magazine for the last nine issues. She has also been supporting the database and website for almost as many years, and was a much-loved President in 2002-3. But the highlight of her time with the Association was her responsibility for putting together, editing and producing the Tercentenary book 'The School on the Hill'. This was a real labour of love, which she said was 'the most creative thing that she had ever done'. With help from Charles Davy, Roger Bush, Wilf Hayler and many others, Hilary created a landmark publication which has been universally admired and treasured.

Pam Tracy has been actively involved since 1983 and took over from David



Tulk as Membership Secretary in 1995. She has been one of the hardest working Officers of the Committee. The workload amounted to two or three days a week in April and May, when subscriptions are collected and recorded, and also in November and December when the financial information has to be reconciled for the Treasurer. Pam's accuracy and perseverance have been a huge boon, and she has said that she has got genuine satisfaction from doing the job properly – and without recourse to a computer. Her most memorable moment was the rush of new applicants in the Assembly Hall on the Saturday of the Tercentenary Reunion.

Roger Buss has served on the Committee in different guises since the 1970s. His most recent spell started in 1994 when he became Liaison Officer in Judith Foster's year as President and, in the following year, Archivist in succession to Richard Wright. He has worked tirelessly since then for the good of the archives, which are now in good order, well housed and capable of impressive display with new equipment. Roger has much enjoyed dealing with all the requests for information from Old Scholars and their families, and contributing an archival column to the Magazine. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the exhibition of the School's history that he prepared, involving long hours over several weeks, for the Tercentenary celebrations.

Roger Bush took over the editorship of the Magazine from Wilf Hayler and has produced the last four issues to a consistently high and much appreciated standard, with sterling assistance from Hilary on layout and printing. Being Editor is not easy, and it carries a real responsibility to deliver the goods and on time, but Roger has succeeded on every count.

The meeting strongly applauded the retiring Officers, individually and collectively.

### *Membership Secretary*

*(Pam Tracy):* Pam said she was very pleased, but in many ways quite sorry, to say that this was her last report to an AGM: she had handed over to Jane Corwin and Jenny Marks at the School the previous day. She wanted to say a big thank you to past and present Committee members for their support, help and friendship over the last 12 years.

The year beginning 1 April 2004 started with 1066 members. During that year we gained 35 but lost 34 members – 5 through decease, 4 through resignation and 25 lapsed, leaving our membership at the end of March 2005 at

1067. Since then we have gained another 37, 33 of whom are school leavers, but lost 61, bringing today's membership down to 1043. Most of the losses over the last two years have been people who joined in the flush of Tercentenary enthusiasm but have not continued their subscriptions.

Over the next few years our membership should start to increase again as roughly 30 school leavers join each year and there will be fewer lapses for a while as the 5 year leavers have now finished and the new 10 year subscription will not run out until 2010/11.

### ***Treasurer***

***(Andrew McTear):*** This was the Treasurer's 16<sup>th</sup> report to AGM and covered the year ending 31 March 2005. It had been a normal year, with no exceptional items. The finances were in good health, with a surplus after normal recurring expenditure of about £2,000. Subscription income was running at about £6,700.

On the Balance Sheet, cash had increased by about £2,500 to a total of about £15,000, which was higher than appropriate. An investment of £10,000 was under contemplation by the Trustees but had been delayed by uncertainties caused by Friends Trust Limited's wish to withdraw from the investment loop.

The Auditors were in course of auditing the accounts.

### ***Old Scholars' Representative on Board of Governors***

***(Martin Holmes reporting on his own behalf and that of Andrew McTear):*** Numbers in the senior School were going up, which certainly helped the finances, and the School broke even last year. There was a current debate on what best to spend the little spare money. It was important to get this right. In parallel, the Development Project was proceeding and it was intended to submit the application for planning permission in the spring for some new School buildings and for housing that would be necessary on School land to be sold to provide the funds to design, construct and furnish them. There had been extensive consultations but some planning uncertainties still existed.

### ***Editorial Board***

***(Secretary on behalf of Editor):*** The General Committee had agreed that this

year's Magazine, pending appointment of a new Editor or, would be produced by Jenny Marks at the School and Mary Mileson.

***Head's Report  
(Andy Waters):***

The Head was pleased to welcome members. He wanted, once again, to thank Old Scholars who continue to support the work of the School in so many ways, in thoughts, words and deeds. Their contribution, particularly that of Committee members, was greatly appreciated. As evidence of the duration of some of these contributions, he had noticed that Roger Bush and Roger Buss had signed the OS Attendance book in 1957 – 10 days before he was born!

**Staff.** There were 13 new staff in the past year, including Gavin Greenaway as Head of Music and Dilly Boase as Artist in Residence, and the School had extended a warm welcome to all of them. Each new staff member had had induction sessions at departmental, pastoral and whole-school levels. A mentor has also been appointed for all new staff, and written progress reports received by the Head. There had been two resignations. Changes in responsibilities affecting six staff took place with effect from the beginning of September and were working well. There had also been some increases in the hours of several other part-time staff to meet the timetable needs of a two-form entry throughout with extended three-set teaching for the enlarged Y9 cohort. ICT and Food Technology are both now GCSE subjects in Y10 and Y11 with correspondingly larger timetables.

**Exam results.** Staff and Old Scholars should be very proud of a record performance at both GCSE and A Level this year, giving the School the best exam result statistics it had ever had. 'A' Level results had a pass rate of 100%, up on the five year average (96.4%) and above the national pass rate (96.2%). Over half of the results (51.7%) were A and B grades, a huge increase on last year and above the national average (46.6%). UCAS points average of 291 per pupil was down 20 on last year, but up from 250 to 278 in tables where General Studies is excluded. The School did not appear in the Times League tables because of the single-figure cohort, but would have been around 730<sup>th</sup>.

The GCSE results were also outstanding, with a 99.7% pass rate, and

88.6% of pupils gaining 5 or more A\* - C grades (83.9% last year). This is well in excess of national standards (53.7%) and raises the five-year average by nearly 7% to 78.1%. The school gained a place (735th) in the Times GCSE League tables because of the proportion of A\* and A grades, 28.2%. The value-added statistics were again very good; a fantastic 80% of the children gained grades at or above their Yellis predictions. Exceptionally good press coverage was received. However, only around one-third of the year group has stayed on to 6i; as a result, although the Sixth Form will be larger than in 03 and 04, it will still number just under 40 this year.

**Pupil numbers.** We began the year with 382 pupils, 160 in the Junior School and 222 in the Senior School. This figure shows whole-school growth of 16% in four years. Overall Senior School numbers have risen from 160 in 2001, an increase of 39% in four years, but boarder numbers have fallen from 73 to 51 in the same period, a fall of 30%. Day numbers have risen from 87 to 171, a rise of 97%, in the same period. These figures should be seen against a backdrop of a 2.1% fall nationally in independent places (2% fall in day places and a 3% fall in boarding places from 2001 to 2005). Our major growth remains in Y7 – Y11, rising by 58% in four years (118 to 186).

15 new pupils joined Y8 – 6i, 9 as boarders; Y7 had a further 34 (2 boarders). This meant that a total of 49 new pupils (11 of them boarders) started in the Senior School; 22% of the school was new. Staff have been reminded of the time and energy that goes into re-recruiting the best part of a quarter of the Senior School's population each and every year. Sixth Form numbers still remain a concern although they have now improved for the last two years in succession.

Old Scholars may not be aware of a substantial shift in boarding and day trends. In September 2001 the School had 12 day children to every 10 boarders. We now have 33 day children to every 10 boarders. The shape and 'feel' of the School has shifted quite dramatically; perhaps we should no longer think of ourselves as a boarding/day school, but as a day school with a small but vitally important boarding community.

Numbers for September 2006. Two Open Mornings had been extremely successful with record attendances. We currently have a higher numbers of enquiries and registrations for September 2006, both day and boarder, than we have had at this time of year since my appointment. I would expect Senior School numbers to exceed 230 by that point, showing growth of around 45% in five years.

**Website.** Martin Hugall has continued to work very hard on an outstanding site. The new departmental pages contain considerable extra information for students and parents. The Staff page can be found at [www.friends.org.uk/staff](http://www.friends.org.uk/staff); report templates, reporting and parents' meetings schedules and important dates for staff are available there. Calendar, term dates and contact details are on the parents' page at [www.friends.org.uk/parents](http://www.friends.org.uk/parents). A large number of reports (with photos) for trips and events have been added to the site, and the weblinks database has been further developed and is now searchable.

**Training courses, conferences and meetings.** The database for training and courses has been updated, and it now records over 500 courses attended by academic and pastoral staff during the past four years and three months. I have been elected to membership of the SHMIS Heads' Committee and the SHMIS Education Committee with effect from September 2005 and have attended meetings of these committees, as well as the Autumn Meeting for all SHMIS Heads (accompanied by Jane Corwin) and the Quaker Heads' Conference at Woodbrooke, (accompanied by Martin Hugall).

**Charitable work.** We have held two Austerity lunches, each raising over £200, in favour of Farm Africa and Peace Direct. We had a non-uniform day on November 18<sup>th</sup> to support Children in Need, and we propose to support Quaker Homeless Action again at the end of term. This will be done through clothing collections and a monetary donation. We also sent a further £500 (September) to our 'twin' school in Sri Lanka and have had contact with the Field worker who will report on how the money was used. Our charitable donations this term should exceed £2,000.

**This term.** There has been a great deal of activity so far this term. Highlights include German exchange visitors here, Quaker Pilgrimage, Y10 Geography Field Trip to Lake District, Sixth Form Dinner, Parents Evenings for Year 11 and 6ii, Y10\11 History Battlefields trip, two Art trips to Kettles Yard, Open Morning, Work Experience presentation, Sixth Form Leadership day, Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition, International Evening, Bowles Rocks weekend for Sixth Form, UK Maths Challenge, Y8 Geography Field Trip to Epping Forest and an Autumn Music Evening. There have also been in the region of fifty fixtures in hockey, rugby, and basketball, and tournaments attended in cross-country and hockey (District Championships). Our best runners took a 1<sup>st</sup>, a 2<sup>nd</sup> and two 4<sup>th</sup> places at different age groups in the cross country.

## **7. SCHOOL'S PROGRESS IN TAKING ON SOME OF THE OSA WORKLOAD**

Jane Corwin, the School's Bursar, gave an overview. She thought that the handover was proceeding well. The OSA database was now with the School and rendered consistent with the School's format. Almost all of the membership records had been absorbed within the School's systems. The website was running well, and made clear who were the OSA contacts within the School. Martin Hugall pointed out that the website also now had more modern, searchable class lists and a link to details of the development project. The Outreach Directory was soon to be updated and reprinted, either by itself or as part of the next Magazine. The School would take over the technical aspects of producing the next Magazine but needed a flow of potential material for which the OSA would have to remain primarily responsible if the Magazine was properly to reflect its interests. The General Committee had discussed establishing more targeted events in the School for members of the Association, for example for each yeargroup as it reached 60. Similar ideas would be welcomed. The Secretary suggested that this idea might come to fruition at 2006 Friends and Families/May Reunion.

A discussion followed. The School was not being paid to do this work but its expenses were being reimbursed by the Association. The School had had to invest a good deal of time in setting up its internal arrangements but that will lessen as they bed down. There was a concern that the School would take the OSA for granted. The Secretary described how School/OSA relations had always been close, in the nature of both their objectives, and there were undoubted advantages for the School too. Many other schools and their OS associations had come closer together in this way. There was general support for the developments.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mark Bertram, Nominations Co-ordinator, described the difficulty of interesting members in joining the Committee. There was a strong need for younger Officers but a dearth of interest being shown: the reasons for this were well understood. On the other hand, there was a need to streamline the Committee in conjunction with amending the Constitution and we might be able to design a neater and more modern form of Association that would hold more appeal to potential participants.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No further topics were raised.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next AGM would be held at the school on Saturday 18 November 2006.

## **11. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT ELECT for 2005 - 2006**

The Committee had been unable to elect a President-Elect but hoped to do so shortly.

## **12. INSTALLING OF PRESIDENT FOR 2005 – 2006**

Mary Mileson relinquished the Chair and handed over the Presidency to Will Weinman (as he wishes to be known throughout his presidential year). He thanked Mary for her enthusiastic year on behalf of the Association, and was proud to be following her as President. Will invited Mary to give her Address, *[see page 18]* for which he later thanked her for being so warm, evocative, personal: it was a lovely address.



## Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2005

	2005		2004	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Members' subscriptions		6,748		6,631
Investment income				
Life fund	1,063		1,119	
Accumulated	312		420	
Donations		1,375		1,539
Profit on sale of investments		0		3,978
School on the Hill publication (net)		31		313
		8,184		12,461
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Annual report		4,313		4,159
Outreach directory		0		1,349
Notices				
Annual general meeting	258		250	
Spring reunion	292		399	
		550		649
Annual gatherings				
Annual general meeting	0		0	
Spring reunion	-231		308	
		-231		308
Committee members expenses		1,075		572
Gift to school		400		375
Bank and Credit card charges		238		0
		6,345		7,412
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		1,839		5,049
Accumulated final brought forward		9,026		3,977
Accumulated fund carried forward		10,865		9,026

## Balance sheet as at 31 March 2005

	2005		2004	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds</b>				
Life fund		10,393		10,393
Accumulated fund		10,865		9,026
		21,258		19,419
 <b>Represented by</b>				
Life Fund				
Investment at costs		5,297		5,297
Cash at bank		5,096		5,096
		10,393		10,393
 <b>Accumulated fund and five year appeal</b>				
Cash at bank	10,212		7,787	
Investment at cost		6,595		6,595
		16,807		14,382
<b>Less:</b> Annual report creditor	-4,313		-4,486	
Subscriptions in advance	-1,391		-870	
Bank charges accrued	-238		0	
		10,865		9,026
 <b>Total net assets</b>		21,258		19,419

### 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 2005, 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 31 March 2005

	Cost	Market Value	
		2005	2004
	£	£	£
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>			
Newton income fund (1,400.23 units)	3,301	6,635	5,887
Legal and General Group plc 608 ord 2.5p	294	677	576
Quilter Global Income Units Funds (3,872 units)	3,000	5,202	4,556
	6,595	12,514	11,019
<b>Life Fund</b>			
Barclays Bank plc 2,648 ordinary shares	69	14,418	12,690
Legal and General Group plc 9,000 ord 2.5p (5 for 2)	228	10,192	8,527
Newton Income Fund (2,347.33 units)	5,000	11,125	9,870
	5,297	35,735	31,087

Notes on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005

- The accumulated fund includes a legacy from Dorothea Waring given in 1951 for the general purposes of the Association

### Membership Gains and Losses 01.04.2004 to 31.03.2005

Total as at 1st April 2004	1067
Gains	42
Losses	68
Total at 31st March 2005	1041

#### Reasons for losses:

Lapsed	52
Died	6
Resigned	5
Total	63

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due on 1st April  
Under 21 £5 Standard £10 Joint £15

*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 did/would have left 6ii even if you did not stay on to the end.

I understand that £5.00/£10.00/£15.00 (delete TWO) will be deducted by standing order mandate now and on 1st April each year.

I agree/do not agree for my details to be circulated 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 1 APRIL EACH YEAR UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: (Block capitals please) \_\_\_\_\_

A/C No (Your account number at your bank) \_\_\_\_\_

