



OLD WINBURNIANS NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2011

Dear fellow OWs,

*'If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same.'*

Rudyard Kipling's celebrated lines contain such wisdom they should, I feel, be daily recited in every classroom, sporting changing-room, boardroom and living-room in the land. How much happier and healthier our society would be if everyone acted upon Kipling's words in their everyday lives. And when did I, when did you, first become acquainted with Kipling and the other giants of world literature? The chances are it was in a classroom, possibly poky and draughty and certainly unpretentious, in a building in King Street, Wimborne. Probably the unassuming, bespectacled, gowned figure who opened your eyes and ears to these literary classics was a gentleman called Albert Maiden. He was, beyond doubt, the teacher whose influence shaped this writer more than any other in those far-off days of boyhood and, in all likelihood, many of you. Not all teachers at W.G.S. were outstanding, of course, but all were diligent, honest and thoroughly decent individuals. There was, regrettably, little sense of fun in our lessons. Laughter was a scarce commodity but then it was a very different age with very different values - and there was an order and discipline which is sadly lacking today in many schools. How privileged too we all were to enjoy the opportunities afforded by an education denied for the most part to the earlier generations of our families. We were the lucky ones and I know I count my blessings every day of my life.

Of other matters I was particularly delighted that Ken Moody was able to continue in his secretarial role on our behalf. Ken is the epitome of good-natured, big-hearted, dependable Englishness. There exists also a potential bonus for the rest of the Committee should we ever find ourselves marooned on a desert island. Improbable, I hear you say, but stranger things have happened. I refer, of course, to the fact that Ken is a big boy with plenty of meat on him. Should cannibalism be necessary - and I know as OWs you would wish your illustrious Committee to survive - the options are legion. Roasted, casseroled, curried, boiled, kebabbed, minced, grilled, pickled - I am sure Carolyn K with her Jamie Oliver cookbook under her arm would be able to suggest other mouth-watering possibilities. In short, Ken, we all think the world of you, you must know that!

To conclude, I hope you have all enjoyed a good year and are in the best of health and spirits. To any in our ranks who are unwell or beset with problems, we send our best wishes for improved fortunes in the coming months. I hope lots of you will be with us on December 3. However, if you are unable physically to be with us, do remember to raise your glass, wherever in the UK or across the globe you happen to be, at 2pm when the toast will be 'Absent Friends!' We will be thinking of you.

Alan Bennett

P.S. I would love to know how many of you do join us in the toast in your absence. Drop a line to let us know.

FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

Saturday, 3 December, 2011

Saturday, 7 July, 2012

THE SUMMER REUNION 2011

The following is a list of those members (their spouses and friends, where known) who attended. Wherever possible, I have included the maiden names of our lady members (with thanks to Alan Maitland).

Dr. Gareth Annels, Morgan Antell and guest Ann Antell, Alan Bennett, Kenneth Bernthal, Nick Bishop and guest Isabel Bishop, Tony Bletsoe, Reginal Booth and guest Alice Booth, Jim Brewster, Wendy Bundy (née Baker) and guest Brian Bundy, Mervyn Coombs and guest Rosemary Coombs, A. Cooper (née Hallett), Robert Copelin, Desmond Cox, Peter Cox, Alan Crumpler and guest Maureen Crumpler, John Dacombe, John Dare, Sandra Dickson, Janet Doolaeghe (née Pursey), Peter Douch and guests Josephine Douch and Jack Douch, Joyce Downton, Norah Dyson (née Henfield), Faith Elford (née Hawes) and guest John Elford, Anthony Elgar, Peter Eyres, Edgar Francis, David Fripp and guest Julie Fripp, Gerald Froud and guest Rosemary Froud, Janet Gordon (née Daniels), Tony Gould, Gail Greenfield, Dr John Guy, Lawson Hall, Bill Haskell, Maurice Herridge and guest Kate Herridge, Donald Hibberd and guest Joyce Hibberd, John Hill, Geoff Hill, John Hilton-King, Rod Hurt, Carolyn Kamcke (née Walking), Patrick Keeping, Susan Lawrence, Eric Leeson, Alan Maitland and guest June Maitland, Ron Mansfield, Maria Martin (née Limm), Kenneth Moody, Victor Moss, Jennifer Moss (née Day), Diana Moss (née Anderson), David Park, Len Pearce and guest Diana Pearce, Donald Phillips, Graham Powell and guest Hazel Powell, Christine Price (née Richmond), Terry Randall, Betty Read (née White), Gordon Richards and guest Nesta Richards, John Riggs, David Royce, Peter Russell, Ray Scott and guests Anne Sweeney and Olive Foyle, Frank Shears and guest Elsie Shears, Roy Sheppard and guest Betty Sheppard, John Singleton, Kenneth Smart and guest M Masterman, Rodney Smith, Elaine Smith, Derek Stevens, Margaret Stokes (née Budden), Cynthia Tanner (née Streets), Ken Taylor, John Taylor and guest Jill Taylor, Peter Watts, Brian Webb, Geoffrey Welch, Stanley White and guest Greta White, Prof Bob White, Helen White (née Flicher), Robert Williamson, Eddie Wood and guest Jose Wood.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM

John Harper, Frederick Hetherington-Sims CBE, Ann Richmond, Dennis Dolman, John Woodford, Gerald Crowther, Eunice Cornall, Dennis Hames, Rex Breach, Monica Vacher, Beryl Wythers, Richard Ferguson, Lenna Miles.

ESSENTIAL ADDRESSES

Chairman	Tony Gould	1 Manor Farm Cottages, Tolpuddle DT2 7ES
Vice Chairman	Patrick Keeping	17 Wellers Close, Totton
Secretary	Ken Moody	Flat 8, Wickham Court, 9 Eastwood Avenue, Ferndown BH22 9LQ
Treasurer/Membership	Alan Maitland	Coles Farm, Milborne St Andrews, Blandford DT11 0JL
Newsletter	Alan R. Bennett	11 Hawk Close, Pilford Heath, Colehill, Wimborne BH21 2NW
Web Site	David Finnemore	4 Purbeck Gardens, Poole BH14 0QS
Memorabilia Secretary	Derek Stevens	2 Remedy Gate, Woodlands, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 8NG
Publicity Secretary	Betty Read	15 Allenvue Road, Wimborne BH21 1AT

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL, PAMPHILL

With the work on the rebuilding of QE almost completed the Old Winburnians send their very best wishes to Headmaster, Andy Puttock, his colleagues and students, as they begin a new era in the history of the school. I intend to publish more details in our next Newsletter. Good luck, Andy!

**REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE OLD
WINBURNIANS ASSOCIATION (OWA) BY THE CHAIRMAN - HELD AT MERLEY,
DORSET on 12th OF SEPTEMBER 2011.**

The year 2010/11 has been significant because it has been the year in which we celebrated five hundred years of continuous formal teaching in Wimborne. The terms of Lady Margaret Beaufort's Will stipulated that a school should be established to teach grammar to the poor boys of Wimborne. Lady Margaret died in 1509. The school was built and a schoolmaster appointed in 1511. In a couple of small ways we have tried to commemorate the event.

The 2010 AGM was held at the Cobham's Sports Club Merley on 13th of September 2010. The Committee remained the same in composition as it had the previous year. The members are:-

Len Pearce (1936-41)	Rodney Hurt (1941-46)	Tony Bletsoe (1942-47)
Don Phillips (1945-50)	Ken Moody (1947-52)	Pat Keeping (1949-54)
Alan Bennett (1949-56)	Ken Taylor (1951-56)	Tony Gould (1951-57)
Bill Haskell (1952-56)	Betty Read (1953-58)	Alan Maitland (1954-59)
	Carolyn Kamcke (1956-63).	

There was no change in the officers of the committee.

The basic facts are that during the year six committee meetings have been held, two Newsletters produced, two very successful reunions organised and the un-veiling of a seat took place on July 6th which involved as many of the committee as were available as well as some of our general members and which led to some local press coverage.

The OWA could not continue in existence without the dedicated work of a number of people who need to be mentioned. The public face of our association has been enhanced by Alan Bennett in his capacity as editor of the newsletter which continues to keep us informed and especially those who do not live near Wimborne. The Newsletter has in more recent times included a good deal of new and interesting material including old photographs of Wimborne. Very significant work has been done by David Finnemore who kindly continues in the vital role of honorary web-master. Whilst mentioning David we were pleased to congratulate he and Janet, formerly Janet Horsey, on their recent marriage and especially since they met again through one of our reunion events. Gordon Richards liaises with Cobhams Sports and Social Club and he and his wife have done wonderful work in organising the place settings for our December lunch and, of course, Derek Stevens who has produced so many memorable displays of old photographs and artefacts for our re-union lunches. The hard work is done by the Secretary and Treasurer, respectively Ken Moody and Alan Maitland, in producing minutes, agenda, accounts and keeping up to date membership records so many thanks are due to these two gentlemen because we could not continue without their valuable assistance. Thanks are also due to Betty Read for her help in dealing with the press, she and Bill Haskell for organising the unveiling and also Carolyn Kamcke for keeping in touch with Waitrose store and, of course, Pat Keeping our Vice-Chair and Master of Ceremonies. Last and by no means least, I would like to thank Graham Powell for the hours of work he has put in on research into the history of the school. The document is on the web-site and very impressive too.

As set out above, we commemorated five hundred years of continuous teaching in Wimborne by having a plaque made to record the fact. This plaque is affixed to a seat in the Waitrose store, Wimborne which has been built on the former cricket ground. For those who are not in a position to visit the town regularly there is a leisure area outside the store next the River Allen in which seats have been placed for public use and we were invited to affix our plaque to one of the seats. It was unveiled on July 6th by the Mayor of Wimborne and Carolyn produced a cover in cerise and chocolate which we all recall as the school colours, especially for the unveiling. We also hope to produce a booklet from

the work Graham Powell has done on the history of the school in order to celebrate five hundred years of scholarship. This work is in progress.

Sadly during the year a number of old students passed away. John Webley (1941-47), Philip Warner (1949-54) and Keith Miller (1962-68) who was Head Boy, came to our notice. To those mentioned and to others who died during the year we regret their passing.

Anthony Gould Chairman, 2010-11

OLD WINBURNIANS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Accounts From 01/07/10 to 30/06/11

<u>Income</u>	<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2009/10</u>
Reunions	£3,956.00	£3,853.00	Reunions	£3,996.77	£4,048.34
Subscriptions	£1,200.00	£1,405.00	Newsletter Costs	£1,224.12	£1,122.41
Raffle Receipts	£651.90	£176.00	Raffle Prizes &		
			Charity Donations	£431.71	£35.71
Donations	£8.00	£73.50	Committee Meetings	£94.34	£136.36
Alan Bennett Book Commission £12.00			'Lady Meg'		
			Memorial Expenses	£0.00	£1,404.77
Gross Interest on Reserve a/c	£0.56	£0.47	Memorabilia Costs	£15.00	
			Web Site Costs	£69.75	£0.00
Total Income	£5,828.46	£5,507.97	Total Expenditure	£5,831.69	£6,747.59
			Excess of Expenditure over Income	-£3.23	- 1239.62

Balance Sheet at 30th June 2011

<u>Assets at 30th June 2011</u>		<u>Assets at 30th June 2011</u>	
NatWest Current a/c	£2,614.80	NatWest Current a/c	£2,634.35
LESS unrepresented Cheques	£0.00	LESS unrepresented Cheques	£23.34
	£2,614.80		£2,611.01
NatWest Reserve a/c	£1,093.39	NatWest Reserve a/c	£1,093.95
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income 2010/11	-£3.23		
	£3,704.96		£3,704.96

NB This includes £1818 received for the Summer Reunion



Sam Hanson, musician extraordinaire, with the Editor at last year's reunion.

Report of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th September 2011 at Cobham's Sports & Social Club, Merley, Wimborne.

The AGM was attended by 15 members. 3 apologies for absence were received.

Copies of the Chair's Annual Report and the Annual Audited Accounts were circulated at the Meeting. Both were unanimously adopted. A copy of each is included with this Newsletter.

The Treasurer stated that due to the end of the financial year being 30th June there is a confusing overlap, especially concerning receipt of membership fees (currently some goes into the previous year and some into the next year). The Treasurer (Alan Maitland) proposed that the end of the financial year should be brought forward to the 31st May and the Rules and Regulations amended accordingly. This was Seconded by Ken Taylor and Carried Nem Con.

The Treasurer was unanimously given permission to forward 50% of the donations received to each of the two charities (Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance and Julia's House Children's Hospice) supported during 2010/2011. This amounted to £280 each.

ELECTION OF 2011/2012 COMMITTEE

The following outgoing Committee Officers and Members were re-elected:

Officers

Chair	Tony Gould
Vice-Chair	Patrick Keeping
Secretary	Ken Moody
Treasurer & Membership	Alan Maitland

Full Members and their responsibilities

Alan Bennett (Newsletter), Betty Read (Publicity), Len Pearce (Liaison with Q.E. School), Ken Taylor (OW's Remembrance Sunday Wreath). Also Tony Bletsoe, Bill Haskell, Rodney Hurt and Don Phillips were re-elected.

Appointment of Auditor 2011/2012

Keith Newman (an OW Member) was re-appointed as the Auditor of the OW Annual Accounts 2011/2012. The Chair agreed to send him a letter thanking him for his services.

AOB Doug Williams addressed the meeting, informing them of a teak bench seat which he wished to donate for use by the public. He suggested that it be placed at the south side of the Minster facing directly up School Lane. Doug was thanked for his kind gift. It will be discussed in depth at future meetings as well as with the Minster authorities. It was also suggested that a suitably worded plaque be fixed to the bench, similar to that on the "Waitrose Seat".

At the Committee Meeting immediately after the AGM, the following members were re-elected to the Committee as Co-opted Members with individual responsibilities.

David Finnemore	Web Site
Carolyn Kamcke	Liaison with Q.E. School.
Derek Stevens	Memorabilia and Reunion Exhibitions
Gordon Richards	Reunion Menus and Arrangements

The next AGM will be held on Monday 10th September 2012 at 11-00am.

Ken Moody (Secretary) (1947-53)

Carolyn Kamcke - a thumbnail sketch.

Carolyn was born in Poole and raised in Upton. She was a pupil at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (QEGS) between 1956 and 1963 and although she qualified to attend either Parkstone Grammar School or QEGS her parents decided that Wimborne was a superior school because it was co-educational. Carolyn is at pains to explain that she was not a bookish, studious or outstanding pupil but was always practical. Indeed she still has the waste-paper basket she made in Mr Woolley's class at school. The defining hallmark of her personality is her natural modesty.



As a consequence in conversation she seems to underplay her own achievements. She trained as a domestic science teacher and emerged after thirty-seven years with a great reputation from the school she taught in near Christchurch. This is because during those years Carolyn taught both food and fabric skills and later on science to 11 to 13 year olds. Towards the end of her career she became a special needs teacher. She explains that when she was at school she had always wanted to do "something with cooking" but does not give top marks to the careers advice she received at QEGS. Her teacher training took place in London at All Saints College, Tottenham, and this constitutes the only period she spent living outside the borders of Dorset. After Carolyn had completed her training in the summer of 1967 she returned to her parents home but could not find a job immediately - sounds familiar! She occupied herself with a bit of retail experience and worked in a wool shop in Westbourne. She claims that she was dismissed from this job because she was too honest with the customers - advising them to visit another shop if she did not have something in stock.

Carolyn seems always to have persevered with the job in hand. She recalls that she was brought up with the philosophy that you were expected always to do your best. She married John Kamcke, a Bournemouth man who was educated down the road at Canford School, and they met because he worked for her father in housing development. They set up home in Ferndown where she has lived ever since. Her son Ian was born whilst she was teaching at a time when maternity leave was nothing like as good as it is now. Sadly John died six years ago.

Music has been an abiding interest and credits John Emery with encouraging her through the school choir. She likes the popular classics and is a regular listener to Classic FM. Carolyn belongs to a wine club, enjoys travel and she and John pulled a caravan across Europe to Italy every summer for a quarter of a century. She is a classic car owner and has also had a long association with boating. The last boat was in the family for thirty years, a former fishing vessel which was used by the family for recreational fishing and cruising. It has passed to her son now. More recently Carolyn has been able to re-engage with ballroom and Latin American dancing which she enjoyed when she was younger. Lastly she is involved with motor sport and works on the safety side in the organisation and presentation of stage rallies. How she finds time for the OWA it is hard to know.

Carolyn is mainly known to us through her work with the Old Winburnians Association. She became involved about fifteen years ago and was soon elected vice-chair. She was a member of the quincennial organising committee in 1997 and although still a member stepped down from the Chair in 2009 having completed a very successful period in office which culminated in the erection of the plaque to Lady Margaret Beaufort in the Minster. More recently she opened negotiations with Waitrose for the memorial seat and brought her skills into play by making the cover for the unveiling which is, of course, in the old school colours of chocolate and cerise.

A story of consistent hard work and commitment and all undertaken so modestly.

Anthony Gould (1951-57)

(When I asked Margaret at our last reunion if she'd care to contribute a poem to the Newsletter she smiled diffidently at me. But what a brilliant response by this modest young lady. Ingenious, humorous and demonstrating a very profound insight into human frailties. Congratulations, Margaret! Ed)

OWA Summer Reunion 2011

(With apologies to the composer of the original)

Now the seventh reunion where I have appeared
Was as well organised as in previous years.
At the time that I write I am keen to express
How the efforts put in were a joy to the guests.

We all wandered around with our drinks in our hands,
Dredging memories up through old times' shifting sands;
Then we'd stop for a moment to stare at a name.
(An ogling of chests which attracts little blame!)

Then we find some aged soul and our dates coincide
And we have to accept what we're trying to hide,
That we're all growing old at the same rapid pace
And it's there, written deep, in the lines of the face.

Has this happened to me? Could I not have escaped?
Are my bones prone to breaks and my skin turned to crepe?
Though it's patently clear this is not what I'd thought,
On this great moving wheel we're all equally caught.

Be it known to you all, I'm consid'rably cheered
That to meet with old pals brought less angst than I'd feared,
For it's good to recall who we were in the days
Before time sucked us in to adult's boring ways.

When we just had to "Be" to have fun in our lives:
To learn one or two facts, chase about, or play "Fives".
Let us heed that these memories fade not away.
Thanks to all those who asked us to "Come out to play"

Margaret Stokes (née Budden) (1958 - 62)

(With sincere thanks to all committee and members who make these events possible.)



*(The composer of the original was a Mr. Wilshire
with words written by Charles Fowler)*

A.B.

“Ill Gotten Gains” or “An Opportunity Not To Be Missed?”

Living in Verwood during my 5 years at Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School, following breakfast I would cycle a mile up to the village centre, leave my bike in one of the sheds at Verwood Pottery and stroll across the car park to the cross roads. There with others we would wait for the rather ancient looking coach of Victory Tours, which started its journey at Cranborne and transported us to Wimborne picking up others along the route. (For interest sake for those who travelled on this bus at that time, I think it was usually driven by an older man called Walt, and on less frequent occasions by a younger driver named Gerald.)

During the winter of 1952/53 (or possibly 1953/54) there was a very heavy snowstorm one night, and the next morning there was a chilly stillness with everything carpeted in what seemed like 4 or 5 inches of snow. As was my usual routine, I cycled with greater care than usual to Verwood Pottery and then waited with others for the school bus to arrive. We waited and waited and waited and, after a fairly lengthy period of time, heard voices coming from further up the road which turned out to be boys from the next pick up point. They joined us and after a further period of waiting it was decided that the bus would not be arriving that morning and, one by one, people started leaving for home. Eventually there were just two of us left; Edward Middleton, (affectionately known as ‘Willow’, not only at school but in the Verwood area as well) and myself. I don’t remember which of us had this bright idea but we saw an opportunity to make a bob or two. Situated on the other side of the cross roads was the village newsagent, N. Hopkins, and we young entrepreneurs reckoned that if anybody would be pleased to see us that snowy morning, it would be Miss Hopkins and her staff who we guessed would be having difficulty in getting the newspapers delivered. So, without more ado, we presented ourselves at the shop and inquired whether they would like some help with the delivery of the mornings’ newspapers. We were welcomed so to speak ‘With open arms,’ a trade bike was provided for us and soon we were wheeling the bike, now piled high with newspapers, and making our way slowly down Manor Road. Towards the end of the morning we had completed our round, gone back to the newsagent to return the trade bike and receive our wages; a very satisfying and lucrative morning.

I think we must have decided then that the snow had been so heavy that it would still be pretty thick on the ground for some time, so we returned to the shop the following morning. Once again we were well received and before long we started on our round for the second time, waving goodbye to those boys who were waiting patiently, foolishly we thought, for the bus to turn up. We had travelled about 1/2 mile and almost reached the ‘Monmouth Ash’ public house when, to our horror, we heard the familiar sound of Victory Tours ancient bus slowly approaching. What were we to do? A quick decision had to be made. We couldn’t just abandon the bike and the papers. We did, after all, have some respect and honour for other peoples’ property, so we hurriedly entered a garden hiding behind a hedge until the bus passed by and was out of sight. There was nothing else to do but to complete the round and collect our earnings.

But then another idea sprang to mind and we decided to pre-empt the situation and ring QEGS explaining our absence. Being the senior by 1 year, I drew the short straw, and having worked out our explanation dialled the school number from a public ‘phone box, pressing button A (do you remember the old ‘phone boxes?) when it was answered. Miss Dobson, the school secretary was at the other end of the line (I wonder how many readers remember Miss Dobson? I seem to recall she was a slim, upright lady with her hair tied up in a bun at the back). My explanation went something like this. “Good morning, Miss Dobson, this is Brian Glover from Verwood speaking. I’m ringing on behalf of Edward Middleton and myself to explain why we aren’t at school today and also yesterday. When the school bus didn’t arrive yesterday because of the heavy snowfall, Middleton and I decided that we would aid the community by helping to deliver newspapers for our local newsagent. We thought the same thing would happen today, but the bus turned up whilst we were delivering papers, so there was nothing we could do about it other than to continue the round.” Miss Dobson listened to my explanation, probably working out in her mind that our motive was more for financial

reward than benevolence to the residents of Verwood, and told me that she would pass the message on, presumably informing the headmaster.

To our great relief, when we returned to school the following day nothing was said and we heard no more of the matter. Mr. Neil had succeeded Mr. Airey as headmaster by this time, but I suspect that had Mr. Airey still been at the school things may have turned out somewhat differently. Probably a full explanation would have been required, followed by a stern warning not to repeat this sort of adventure and maybe even sore backsides for an hour or so, together with a certain loss of dignity.

When I left QEGS after 5 years I went to live in Bouremouth and lost touch with Willow, but over 50 years later I learnt that he was very seriously ill. After making inquiries I was able to visit him and his wife in Verwood, just a few weeks before he died. After greeting me at the door of his home and we had settled ourselves in the lounge for a pleasant couple of hours to reminisce over the past years, his very first words were, "Do you remember when we bunked off from school." Happy days!

However, I return to my question at the top of this article. "Ill Gotten Gains". ...or "An Opportunity Not To Be Missed?" Willow and I considered it an 'Opportunity too good to miss'I wonder what you would have done?

BRIAN GLOVER (1949-1954)

(In the previous Newsletter I posed the question of another of our members whose surname was Middleton (Paul) - were you known at school as 'Willow'? In fact Edward Middleton, Brian's friend in the above tale, was the 'Willow' I knew. Mystery solved. A.B.)

MISCELLANEOUS JOTTINGS

Bumping into **Doug Williams (1942-48)** the other early September morning he was just off to The Olive Branch to meet old cronies, **Tony Bletsoe (1942-48)**, **Roy Sheppard (1942-46)** and **Stan White (1942-46)** for a celebratory get-together remembering that it was a mere 69 years ago the four of them began their school lives at WGS. *'There were others, of course,'* said Doug *'but sadly they have mostly dropped by the wayside over the years.'*

Another familiar figure I often meet in the town is **Ken Holloway (1932-38)** who recently celebrated his 90th birthday at Wimborne Football Club. *'They gave me a wonderful party'*, said Ken who was, of course, for many years the splendid secretary of the club, mostly notably in the season 1991-2 when Wimborne won the FA Vase at Wembley.

I wonder how many other old boys are now past their 90th birthday? Do write to let me know so I can include your names. Who, I wonder, will be the first OW Centenarian? Sadly, of course, we lost my old friend and fine amateur poet, Wilf Palmer, a year ago when he was in sight of the winning post. (Wilf would have enjoyed, I know, my racing allusion). It is always possible, I realise, the first to receive a telegram from the palace will be a lady member but, since none are older than 39, that eventuality will be many years hence. I fear also I may not be around to record the achievement!

A.B.

CORRESPONDENCE

BRIAN DAVIS (1945-51)

It was quite a shock to see my poem *That Room* reproduced in the Newsletter in connection with Len Pearce's memories of the biology lab. It had been published originally in the school magazine in 1948 and written after *Fishy Maiden* had explained that a triolet was an eight line poem with the first line repeated as the fourth and seventh, and the second repeated as the eighth. I believe we all had to produce one, and I submitted mine to the school mag. This, incidentally, was probably the first thing I ever had printed, setting me off on a career in journalism. Now retired, the most recent item I have had published is my memory of WGS swimming periods (See below). I sent it as a letter to *Best of British* magazine after one of their writers complained about his school swimming lessons. But these had taken place in a real baths which I reckoned was luxury compared to our introduction to swimming in the River Allen! Does anyone else have memories of those cold, muddy times in the river, the rickety old diving-board and cutting the reeds along the river bank with that dangerous blade? Where was 'elf and safety then?

As clear as mud

HOW I would have loved to have attended Neil Patrick's school with the luxury of swimming in a real chlorinated pool (*Times gone by, April*).

Swimming lessons at my school at Wimborne in Dorset around 1950 took place in the river that ran beside the school playing fields. Actually, they weren't really 'lessons' - those who could swim did and those who couldn't simply wallowed around in the freezing water.

As the day of the annual swimming sports approached it was necessary to cut the reeds growing at the water's edge to ensure the river was wide enough to accommodate the line-up of competitors. This was done by attaching a rope to each end of a long metal blade. Then, with a gang of boys on each riverbank, it was dropped into the water and pulled backwards and forwards to saw through the reeds. These floated away seawards and, once the disturbed mud at the bottom of the river had settled back down, we had reasonably clear water to see our way to the finishing line.

An indoor pool, changing cubicles, proper diving-boards? Neil, I would have swapped with you any day.

GRANT BOCKING (Music Teacher 1967 - 98)

Congratulations on manning such a successful publicity ship as the *Old Winburnians Newsletter* - always informative and suitably nostalgic!

Re: *Borrell Maiden's* nickname:

I understand that, revelling in the eccentricities and idiosyncrasies of the English language and its spelling, he would initiate new pupils into his enthusiasm by presenting them with **GHOTI** written on the blackboard, and asking them to pronounce the word.

Upon all failing to get the message, he would then write:

Enough Women Attention

and then get them to pronounce just the underlined letter or pair of letters, which would produce

F I SH

Then, giving them his characteristic smirk, he would point once again to his initial word.

I'm sure several other correspondents will already have contacted you with the same legend, but there's no harm in gentle re-enforcement!

LIZ GOODE (Née Streets) (1958 - 65)

Thank you for the Newsletter - as always full of interesting articles etc. It was quite emotional for me to see my father's 'history' in print. (Cynthia had told me what she was doing). He was a wonderful father and I still miss my parents.

GRAHAM POWELL (1938 - 47)

(A letter from Graham Powell responding to Cynthia Tanner's fascinating and moving piece on her father 'Bill' Streets, one of the school's teaching institutions?)

It isn't often that one reads an appreciation of a master from the inside, so to speak. I was always amazed at how little 'Bill' used to eat. He was often head of table at the boarder's lunches, where I noticed his abstemious ways. Being a glutton myself, I just couldn't understand it! (It might have been to do with the quality of the food, but I wouldn't have reflected on that at the time).

In a previous number, it was good to read about Mr Jolly. He was a really brilliant pianist.

PAT TRAYLER (Née Braun)

It was inevitable that the postcard on the back of the last Newsletter acted like a magnet! Postcards were used at this time rather like phone calls are today. A card sent in the morning would arrive after lunch. I have seen several postcards arranging visits for the same day. Curiously I spotted a letter in the Times, 16th June 2011, saying much the same thing for 1930. Oh for a reliable and frequent Postal Service now.

EHW could be Elizabeth Henrietta Warren who lived in Wimborne around 1891 to 1910, with the occupation of Keeper of Berlin wool and Fancy Repository. There are two vague addresses for her, namely the High Street and East Street. She was born circa 1849 somewhere near Longham or West Parley, as Elizabeth Henrietta Vine. Elizabeth became a draper's assistant in Christchurch by 1861 but married John Grinsell Warren in 1868 in Weymouth. The pair disappeared until 1891, when they are in Wimborne with a son Robert who was born in Ireland which explains not finding them.

The writing has been dashed off quickly, so the name of the recipient is not clear. It would have helped if there had been some initials. Looking at the 1901 census for Kingston Lacy House and the farms and cottages there was nobody that would fit with the letters that could be Mrs Miles. The directories around this time did not have anyone in the area either. Mrs Miles could be a visitor to the Estate, either friend, relative or living in temporarily as a worker. The tone of the card suggests a meeting for Sunday afternoon stroll and tea with a visiting friend or previous workmate, not normally seen. There are several Miles families in the drapery business and, as Elizabeth had moved around Dorset a lot, she may well have met up with others in the same trade. There was a large Miles store in Poole that had been there for a long time, very old fashioned as I recall. It is possible that the big House at Kingston Lacy was refurbishing and the Miles firm were "living in" until the job was finished. All this is guesswork but why let the truth get in the way of a good story?

The history snippets on the Internet and the list of names on the Roll of Service are enough to drive a curious Family Historian mad. Coupled with the names on the censuses for pupils and staff, I have now added some strange twists to my many threads of the story. I'll send in some of the more interesting things.

I have on the go the stories of:

Mahala Custard who was a servant in the Rev Fletcher household on the 1871 census. She married my Great Grandmother's cousin.

Mary Ann Homer, an inmate of the workhouse in 1841, became a second wife to my Great Great Grandfather.

The Pagets who died in WW1 were the sons of the Reverend Cyril Paget who lived in Holt, the Church being next to the Old Inn run by a relative. The Rev Paget officiated in the marriages of relatives and buried quite a few others.

Then there are the Blennerhassetts. John du Boulay Blennerhassett is on a census as a boarder in the Grammar School. His father and uncle, both Revs, campaigned for allotments for the poor labourers to ease the poverty in the 1840s. One of my families was interviewed by a Commission to assess the plight of the rural poor around this time. The allotment probably kept them from starvation, (although

there may have been a lot of poaching going on). Arthus, a brother of John du Boulay, was the commanding officer of another of my relatives serving in the Stork on the South American Station. His Naval career is interesting.

On the Roll of Service was a Monckton. He was the son of Charles and grandson of Thomas Monckton, who lived close to a Great Great Grandmother. Curiously Thomas and my GG Gran swapped Anns. Charles probably attended QEGS as he became a solicitor (a favourite occupation for OWs), he married Fanny Blount, daughter of the music teacher.

The Druitts were the solicitors for my in-laws. I had occasion to visit their offices in Bournemouth, which felt like stepping back to Victorian times. The founders were descended from the Wimborne Druitts and again were OWs.

The Paper Mill in Wimborne was gifted to the School Governors by QE the First. My papermakers from Wareham found their way to Wimborne to run the mill for a while.

Montague Luff became a solicitor in Wimborne and I see that the firm acted as solicitors for the publican relative at Holt.

This is just the start I feel, on connections with the Old School. It gets difficult trying to stop digging. Some of the poor families living in the Parish of Wimborne have the most interesting stories.

(I have included the whole of Pat's letter, not only because of the fascinating content, but as a stimulus to other members to use the opportunities now available to them on the Internet and other various record offices to research their own families. A.B.)



CHURCH FAMILY (THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH NEWSLETTER)

Some of us had an exciting August . . . as a complete surprise Len Pearce was taken up in a Tiger Moth plane, an even greater surprise was that once in the air Len was invited to take over the controls; he last flew a Tiger Moth in 1944, but Len reckons it is like riding a bike, you never forget. Just shows you can be 80 . . . and still have fun!

NOT TOO OLD AT 86!

From time to time a Tiger Moth aircraft lands in one of the fields near Deans Court ,Wimborne. Martin the pilot is a friend of Sir William Hanham, the owner of the estate who, for some time, has known that I was taught to fly a ‘Tiger’ in the early 1940s whilst in the RAF.



In early August I had a telephone call inviting me to Deans Court where I met the pilot and we had a long chat. The possibility of flying was not discussed and he went away.

About 10 minutes later I was driven in a golf buggy out to the field expecting to be shown his aircraft. Instead, within a few minutes I was kitted out and, for the first time since the Spring of 1944, I was in the cockpit.

Once airborne I heard the familiar, “You have control” and it all came back to me. I flew to the west, then turned back again and Martin took over for the landing.

I never became a pilot (my landings were not good!) and I eventually became a Flight Engineer.

Len Pearce (1936 - 41)

(Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will have noted Carolyn's passion for music. It is with pleasure, therefore, that I include her selection of favourite pieces.)

MY DESERT ISLAND DISCS

My Hundred Best Tunes would be easier!

Book:- Am I permitted The Complete Works of Shakespeare?

What better mix of drama and humour + history and a good selection of poetry.

(We will indulge you, Carolyn, on this occasion!)

1 Shoguns Farewell

Jay Ungar

Having driven Mitsubishi Shoguns for a considerable time have now changed make of car.

2 On The Steps Of Central Asia

Borodin

Just a lovely piece of music.

3 The Armed Man (anything from this)

Karl Jenkins

Had a few jokes with John Emery re him as guest conductor of a performance of this by OW choir and orchestra.

4 The Creation

Haydn

Wonderful memories of the school performance of parts of this.

5 Blue Tango

Leroy Anderson

Used to dance to this in my youth.

6 Moon River

from Breakfast at Tiffany's

More suited to my style of dancing now!

7 The Humming Chorus from Madam Butterfly

Puccini

Wonderful memories of The Arena in Verona.

8 Dance of the Knights, Romeo and Juliet Ballet

Prokofiev

Would like to do choreography for this.

Carolyn Kamcke

SITTEN IN SQUARE

Ah, Wimberne were a quiet place
When we wuz girls and boys.
'Tiz very different nowadays,
'Tiz nothing else but noise.
They lorries and them buses
Cum a-rumblin droo the Square,
They even had newmatic drills
A-clatterin over there.
They do open up the street one day
To fiddle wi a drain;
Next wick the Gas Board come along
And digs en up agen.
Ah! Wimberne were a quiet place,
But that were long ago;
Just what our town be comin to
I'm blowed if I do know.

They even started one-way streets
(Oh yes, they did indeed)
That might have been all right
If they motorists could read.
No entry!" the notice sez,
And there's arrers on the road.
They ought to know what they do mean -
Tiz in the Highway Code.
But they don't seem to take no heed,
And now I do declare
You be riskin life and limb
When you do try to cross the Square.



For at three score years and ten
We bain't as nimble on our veet,
And so we're being cautious like
Just zitten on this zeat.
here! What about they mptor-bikes,
They do drive us almost silly!
Now who told I do to mention that?
I'll bet t'were you, our Lily.

Mrs F. Norman - Allen Court, Wimborne

(I am indebted to Rodney Hurt (1940 - 50) for providing me with this gem. Rod thinks it was originally published in the Echo but the date is unknown as is Mrs F. Norman (possibly the 1950s or 60s). Any news of this splendid lady would be gratefully received. She is surely the Pam Ayres of Wimborne.)

OBITUARIES

ALEXANDER CLIFFORD 'JACKO' BUTLER (1935 - 39)

Cliff, who died on the 2nd of September, lived all his life in the countryside to the east of Cranborne. He was born at Harts Farm, later moved to Church Farm and eventually to Gold Oak Farm, Cripplestyle. As a youngster he walked across the fields to Daggons Road where the Head Teacher recorded - "Many boys absent due to their 'beating' on a local shoo". Ultimately he travelled from the railway station at Daggons Road as a "Train Boy" to WGS where Jacko shone in all sporting activities.

Despite suffering from polio as a young man Cliff continued to play cricket & football for both Aderholt & Cranborne. In the late 1940s, he married his wife Phyllis and they had three sons. Her family home in East Boro, Wimborne, backed on to the School field. He missed her terribly when she died about 5 years ago. He was a founder member & player at Wimborne Rugby Club of which he became President.

Cliff was a countryman through & through. He cared about conservation yet he was keen on hunting with rod, gun or hounds. As a farmer, Cliff had to work hard and he earned the loyalty and respect of those who worked with him. He served on local councils, fearlessly speaking his mind. The more senior members of the OW will remember Jacko as a quick witted, colourful character who brightened their schooldays.

Len Pearce (1936-41)

(We received this sad message from Moira Miller)

KEITH MILLER (1962-68)

Sadly my husband Keith Miller (until recently a member of the OW) passed away suddenly on the 22nd April in Salisbury Hospital after many long years of illness aged 60.

He joined the Grammar School in 1962 and was Head Boy in about 1967/8. He loved his school and never stopped talking about it until he unfortunately got Early Onset Dementia when he was about 45 years of age.

(His funeral service was held at Lytchett Minster Parish Church on the 10th May)

(We send our condolences to Moira, her family and all Keith's old friends. It is clear Keith was a highly regarded member of the school to have been appointed Head Boy. It is a great loss)

GEOFFREY E. HALL (1945-51)

Geoffrey died, aged 76, in hospital in December 2010 from Alzheimer's Disease. The funeral was held in Kent where he lived in retirement after a long banking career.

Geoffrey was born at Woodlands and lived in Verwood for many years whilst at school and was employed by the National Provincial Bank commencing at the West Borough branch in Wimborne and later in Ringwood, Christchurch and Bournemouth.

He was one of the many immediate post-war "Verwood train boys" and like his brothers, Lawson (1938 - 45) and the late Brian (1942 - 48) is best remembered for his success on the sports field rather than the classroom. He played football for the Under 14 XI (in his first year!), the 2nd XI and the 1st XI between 1945 - 50, cricket for the same teams in 1946 - 51 and rugby 1949 - 51.

Geoffrey was one of the very few awarded his full colours in all 3 sports and he also excelled in tennis in 1948, 1950 and 1951. He played football for several years with Verwood F.C. (together with his brothers Lawson and Brian) and also for the cricket X1.

His banking career moved him eastwards at each promotion to Portsmouth, Tonbridge and Hastings until he retired as Manager of the Deal branch.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son and 2 grandchildren.

(I am indebted to Derek Stevens for his extensive research of the Winburnians magazines 1945 - 51 for some of the above information)

Lawson D V Hall

ADRIAN TESSON (1949-55)

I understand from Tony Elgar that Adrian passed away in the late summer. Adrian, best known for his acting skills at school, lived at Holt for many years. With his mop of curly blonde hair and ready smile, Adrian was a very popular figure at school in the 1950's. I hope to publish more information in a later issue.

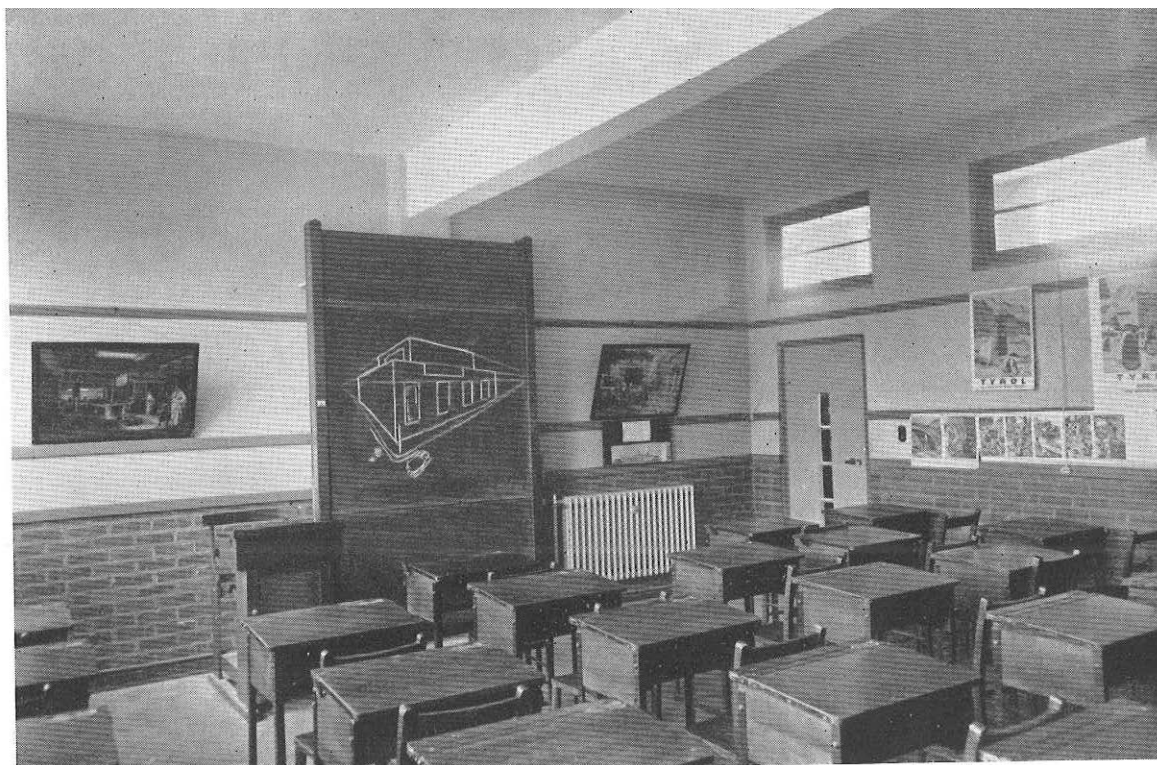


HAPPY DAYS!

(Extracts from the WGS prospectus of 1939 - with thanks to our Memorabilia Secretary, Derek Stevens)

The new building was formally opened by the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, on 3rd December 1936, at an event combined with the School Annual Speech Day. It consisted of three classrooms, Physics and Chemistry Labs with adjacent preparation rooms, cloakroom and boiler room. Classrooms were warm and well lit and boasted revolving blackboards (which were a revelation to us all).

It would appear that the building was actually occupied in its unfinished state from the beginning of the Autumn Term 1936.



A CLASSROOM



CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

DETAILS OF FEES

TUITION FEES PER ANNUM.

	£	s.	d.
For boarders and pupils whose parents reside in Dorset	12	0	0
For other pupils	15	0	0
Text-books (stationery is provided free)	15	0	0
School Subscription (covers all Athletics, use of Libraries and Fives Courts, School Magazine, and membership of all School Societies and Clubs)	1	2	6
Cadet Corps (optional)	7	6	

BOARDING FEES PER ANNUM.

Full Board	60	0	0
Weekly Board	55	0	0
Laundry	3	0	0
Entrance (payable first term only)	1	0	0

DAY BOYS.

Dinners may be taken at the School. Charge per term (5 days a week)	3	0	0
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Further particulars may be obtained from the Headmaster.

DETAILS OF FEES

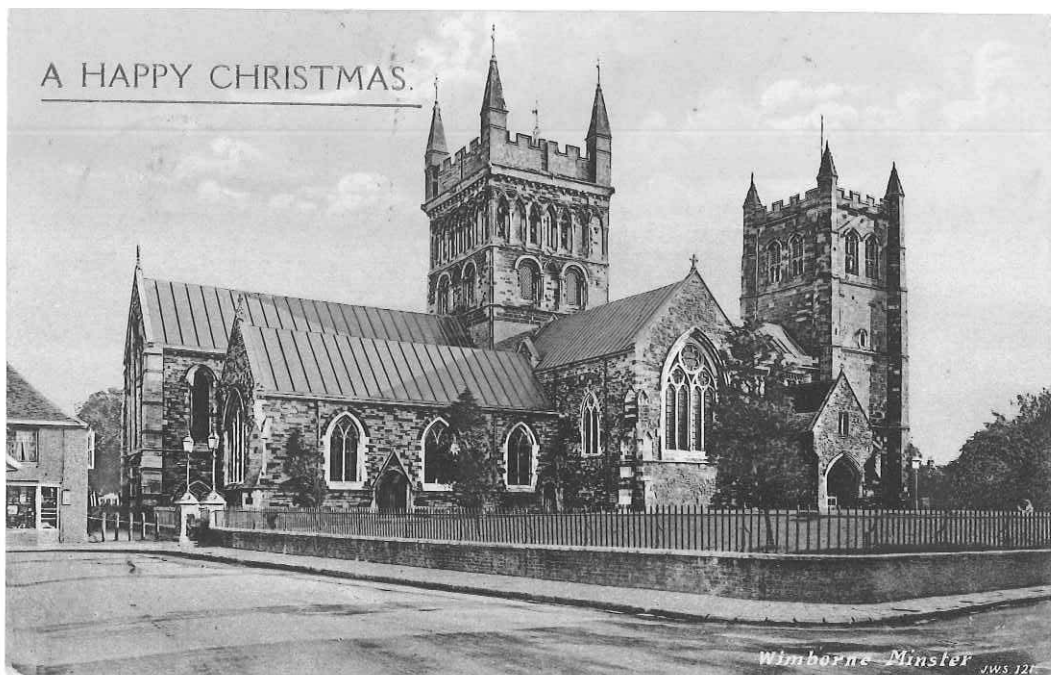


PART OF THE BOARDERS' DINING ROOM

THE GRAND UNVEILING



(photos courtesy of Anthony Oliver, Tony Isaacs and Ken Taylor)



A very Happy Christmas and New Year
(With thanks to jenni at Wimborne Print Centre, 16 East Street)