



## OLD WINBURNIANS NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2025

***Dear Fellow Old Winburnians,***

In my last letter to our splendid, widely scattered membership, I took as my theme an Early Autumn. Dare I this time assume an early summer ? I write after several warm, sunshine filled days but I am almost certainly tempting the gods. Will the deckchairs spend much of the summer strategically placed on the lawn or will they remain mostly in the garage ? Isn't it curious that when we moved into our houses and bungalows so many years ago we used to put our cars in the garages every evening. Now those same garages are full of gardening tools and cardboard boxes of household junk we don't quite know what to do with. After all, we might want some of those bits and pieces another day – though we almost certainly won't. As for our cars they reside mostly in the drive. How often do we wash them these days or do we rely on the carwashes peopled by Romanians who send their earnings back to the land of their birth ? 'No one tells me anything', as Old Jolyon used to say in that excellent BBC production of *The Forsyte Saga* half a century ago with the wonderful Eric Porter, Susan Hampshire, Kenneth More and others speaking the King's/Queen's English with clarity and understanding. Speaking of which, how many of you find anything to laugh at in TV comedies these days ? Remember *Dad's Army*, *The Likely Lads*, *the Two Ronnies*, *Barker and Corbett* who could make you laugh with no accompanying foul-mouthed expletives and the like ? *Gavin and Stacey* was, at least, often very funny though I doubt Messrs Maiden, Kerswell and their colleagues in the staff room in King Street would believe the language employed.

Anyway, whatever the weather, we must weather the weather, whatever – so here we are again reflecting on our good fortune that we are at least vertical and looking forward to our next Reunion in July when we hope as many of you as possible will be present at Cobham's. At least those dreadful new headlights now fixed to so many cars do not dazzle us as badly in the summer so driving is a little easier – how did the Ministry of Transport ever come to sanction them ?

To conclude, a special vote of thanks to my old pal, John Guy, for all his brilliant work in assembling this Newsletter. Wishing you a very happy UK summertime and the best of the weather wherever in the world you happen to be.

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



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**FORTHCOMING IMPORTANT  
OWA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Summer Reunion	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Annual General Meeting	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2025
Christmas Reunion	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 2025

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**FULL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Alan R Bennett	11 Hawk Close, Pilford Heath, WIMBORNE	BH21 2NW
Janet Coy	2 Durrant Road, Lower Parkstone, POOLE	BH14 8TP
Anthony Elgar	4 Garden House, Cuthburga Road, WIMBORNE	BH21 1GS
Anthony Gould	1 Manor Cottage, Tolpuddle, DORCHESTER	DT2 7ES
John Guy	"Gateways", Gaunts Common, WIMBORNE	BH21 4JN
Bill Haskell	54 Ryan Court, Whitecliffe Mill Street, BLANDFORD	DT11 7DQ
Alan Maitland	Coles Farm, Milborne St. Andrew, BLANDFORD	DT11 0JL
Ron Mansfield	52 Castle Street, Cranborne, WIMBORNE	BH21 5QA
Betty Read	29 Pembroke Court, West Street, Wilton, SALISBURY	SP2 0DG
Ann Richmond	4 Three Lions Close, WIMBORNE	BH21 1EP
Rainbow Russell-P	Orchard Cottage, Waddon, WEYMOUTH	DT3 4ER
Ken Taylor	31 Canford View Drive, WIMBORNE	BH21 2UW

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

David Finnemore	4 Purbeck Gardens, POOLE	BH14 0QS
Graham Powell	42 St. Peters Court, St. Peters Road, BOURNEMOUTH	BH1 2JU

**EXPECTED ATTENDEES AT THE CHRISTMAS REUNION LUNCH ON  
7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

Mr Morgan Antell	52 - 58	Mr Geoff Hill	58 - 59
Mrs Ann Antell	Guest of Mr Antell	Mr John Pearson	Guest of Mr Hill
Mr Alan Bennett	49 - 56	Mrs Guilia Holland	Née Griffiths 58 - 63
Mrs Wendy Bundy	Née Baker 54 - 59	Mr Mick Felton	Guest of Mrs Holland
Mrs Eunice Carnall	Née Chadd 55 - 62	Mr Andrew Jones	53 - 60
Mr Robin Christopher	52 - 59	Mr Alan Maitland	54 - 59
Mrs Hazel Christopher	Guest of Mr Christopher	Mrs June Maitland	Guest of Mr Maitland
Mr Peter Clarke	55 - 57	Mrs Diana Moss	Née Anderson 55 - 61
Mr Robert Copelin	46 - 51	Mr James Moss	Guest of Mrs Moss
Mr Desmond Cox	47 - 51	Mr David Park	48 - 55
Mrs Janet Coy	Née Dowd 53 - 58	Mr Ken Parratt	63 - 68
Mrs Freda Croasdell	Née Millard 61 - 66	Mrs Betty Read	Née White 53 - 58
Mr John Dacombe	56 - 62	Mrs Irene Whittle	Guest of Mrs Read
Mr Stuart Dean	56 - 62	Mrs Ann Richmond	Née Mitchell 55 - 60
Mr Tony Gould	51 - 57	Mr Ian Rogers	45 - 53
Mrs Elizabeth Gould	Guest of Mr Gould	Mrs Barbara Russell	Née Morris 55 - 60
Dr John Guy	63 - 71	Ms Rainbow Russell- Pritchard	Née Lynne Russell 66-71
Mr Robin Harris	51 - 56	Mr John Singleton	54 - 61
Mr Bill Haskell	52 - 56	Mr Timothy Spall	58 - 61
		Mrs Helen White	Née Filcher 55 - 60

**APOLOGIES FOR THE CHRISTMAS REUNION LUNCH ON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

Jennifer Baker	Maurice French	Christine Price
Richard Bathurst	Carol Griffiths	Terry Randall
Kenneth Bernthal	John Harper	Peter Russell
Nick Bishop	Keith Harvey	Marion Ryder
Paul Burry	Robin Hussey	David Scrase
Rod Cheese	Christopher Hyde	Jill Strong
Harry Clarke	Mary Hyde	Richard Strong
John Clode	Caroline Jennings	Peter Watts
Michael Coffin	Elizabeth Jones	Michael Wallis
Sue Coombes	Hilary Kemp	Geoff Welch
Audrey Cooper	Carolyn Martin	Prof. Bob White
Janet Doolaage	Jenny Moss	Havilland Willshire
Tony Elgar	Vic Moss	David Woodhead
David Finnemore	Christopher Peters	
Janet Finnemore	Graham Powell	

## SERVICES OF REMEMBRANCE 2024 by Dr JOHN GUY (63-71)

Once again this year the OWA was represented in two main acts of remembrance in Wimborne. The first was at QE School's service of remembrance which took place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. This enabled us to pay our respects at those memorial plaques which used to hang on the wall in Big School, but now have pride of place on the wall of the main assembly hall at QE School, Pamphill.

The second was in the traditional Remembrance Day Parade and Service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November around the centre of the town and in the Minster, part of which was the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial on the Minster Green.



*[Wreaths outside the main entrance to QE School]*



*[Display of Remembrance in the main entrance lobby of QE School]*



*[QE School Head Boy Jake (right) & his Deputy Harry]*



*[Wreaths at the Wimborne Minster War Memorial on Minster Green]*



*[All photographs by Dr John Guy]*

**MEMORIES OF MUSIC AT QUEEN ELIZABETH'S  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN THE 1950s**  
by  
**ANDREW JONES (53-60)**

***I thought it was about time I wrote something for the 'The Old Winburnians' magazine as I have always enjoyed reading your witty contributions and the various other bits of information regarding the history of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School of which we all have fond memories. I have written about my time at the school in the fifties which, as you will know, wasn't so long after the war and certain aspects of the curriculum left much to be desired, not least with the teaching of music which, as you well know, is something I know something about since I had the pleasure of teaching this subject at St Michael's Middle School all those years ago.***

When our school was disbanded as a grammar school in 1971 the Wimborne area of schools became a three tier system of education and I was fortunate to be appointed the first Deputy Headteacher and Head of Music of the new middle school at St Michael's, Colehill.

I am afraid to say that music at the grammar school was very much a Cinderella subject in the nineteen fifties taught by any teacher who could play the piano or play the violin, hence, the orchestra was run by the Geography teacher, a Mr Barnaby who played the violin and many of the music lessons were given by 'Nobby' Clarke who could play a tune or two on the piano ! I remember the music lessons during my second year as being very boring when we were issued with a copy of a BBC publication called 'Singing Together' which had pictures of the instruments of the orchestra and for most of that year we had to draw the instruments and copy the descriptions of each instrument into a booklet ! When I was in the fourth year I remember Mr Pursey, who could play the piano, and he thought that a grammar school should have the ability to put on a musical so, he decided to stage 'Iolanthe' a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. He knew he could perhaps conduct an invited orchestra but he didn't have a clue how to produce or direct the action. I was one of the peers and I must have said that my mother was a professional dancer and a choreographer. She ended up producing the show and was one of the fairies on stage and she was well in her forties at the time ! I think most thought it was a successful production.

I had the privilege of playing the organ for the 1997 service in the Minster which commemorated the 500 anniversary of the founding of the grammar school by Lady Margaret Beaufort in 1497 and at that service I was asked by one of the Old Winburnians to play William Walton's Crown Imperial as a recessional piece and afterwards, as I was walking down the aisle, an elderly gentleman applauded me and asked me where I had studied music. I told him that music at the grammar school left much to be desired when, at that moment, I recognised the person as John Emery who transformed the teaching of music at the school in the late fifties so, I then blurted out "until you came !" I was sorry I didn't recognise him and that he didn't recognise me because he tutored me when I was doing my O-level Music and, later when I studied Music at A-level. John Emery was an inspirational music teacher and one whom I tried

to emulate as Head of Music at St Michael's. He produced operettas such as Benjamin Britten's 'The Little Sweep' and he much improved other aspects of music too such as the standard of playing in the school orchestra in which I played the violin (an instrument which our friend Alan Bennett thinks I used to play outside the old work house to earn a few bob !) After John Emery, Grant Bocking was appointed as Head of Music and the wind band in particular scaled new heights by winning a number of awards. Certainly, music was no longer the Cinderella subject that it was in the nineteen fifties.

As an aside to the above and as I said earlier, when the grammar school was closed and the Wimborne area was organised as a three tier system, many of the staff of both the secondary modern school up at Pamphill and of the grammar school decided to retire but those who wanted to continue teaching could choose as to where they wanted to teach within the three tier system and this applied also to the teachers who taught in the junior schools which now became first schools. "Frosty" Hoare, as many of us remember, applied to St Michael's for the post of Head of French and Tom and I, over the years, became professional colleagues and when he sadly died at a relatively young age in the early eighties I was the Acting Head of St Michael's. I played the organ at his funeral and I wrote and gave the eulogy too ! I think when I first met him as a very shy and quiet 11-year old in 1953 he would have thought the idea of me being, in effect, his boss at some future date as quite impossible. None of us knows what the future holds and, no doubt Tom didn't know either ! Many believe in karma; what goes round comes round again !

I still live in Corfe Mullen but I'm not that parochial as I've done much travelling since retiring in 2001, however, I still have fond memories when all those years ago I joined my fellow grammarians on one of those brown Bere Regis coaches wending my weary way from Corfe Mullen to Wimborne ready to experience those boring music lessons again.

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[A couple more vintage Bere Regis coaches seen here in Dorchester]

Source : Countrybus

## HOPE OF KEEPING QE SCHOOL LINK

*(Reproduced from an article by "Quarter Jack" which was published in the Wimborne & Ferndown Journal, dated Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1969)*

**The decision to close Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in the early 70's is being received with mixed feelings. Traditionalists, recalling its founding by the "good Lady Meg" in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, are particularly upset, but it is possible to over-emphasise tradition.**

Today's needs are surely more important than tradition, and what used to serve as tolerable, if somewhat uncomfortable, accommodation for a school of 140 boys, a third of whom were boarders, is ill equipped to provide anything like reasonable facilities for the present mixed school of more than 600 pupils.



*[The East Borough annexe of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wimborne]*

Indeed, it has already overflowed to premises in East Borough, where almost a third of the pupils are taught in additional classrooms and a newly equipped laboratory. This involves pupils going from one set of premises to the other which is hardly an educational advantage. Clearly something had to be done, and during the last few years there has been considerable discussion about the best solution.

### **Proposal**

What has emerged, arising from Government policy, is the proposal to establish at least three comprehensive schools in this part of Dorset – one in enlarged premises at Pamphill Secondary Modern School, and one each at the present Modern Schools at Ferndown and Verwood. Whatever one's personal views about the virtues (or otherwise) of comprehensive schools, it is certain they will be large, offering, it is hoped, facilities in teaching staff, equipment, opportunities for the fullest development of the abilities of each individual pupil. Many of the present pupils at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School will, it is presumed, eventually move to the comprehensive at Pamphill, depending, it seems, on where they live. Others presumably, will transfer to Ferndown or Verwood.

Former pupils who are members of the Old Winburnians' Association and present pupils who transfer, will be pleased to know that the link with their old school is not to be completely broken, for it is understood that the new comprehensive school at Pamphill will be known as The Queen Elizabeth School. It is to be hoped that the present headmaster, Mr Whitmore, and many of his staff, will be available to guide the new school's first steps.

## **Speculation**

Interesting, if somewhat complex, is speculation on the future of the Old Winburnians Association. At present there are about 400 members, some of them women who began to join in the late 50's. The Association was founded in 1896, and at the initial meeting at Holborn Restaurant, London, the old minute book records that as part of the entertainment following the speeches "Master Stuart Hibberd and a fellow pupil 'rendered a duet'."

*This must have been one of Mr Hibberd's first public appearances before he gained world fame as the voice of the BBC's chief announcer, especially during the last war.*

Initially meeting in London, the Association soon moved to Wimborne. Annually it arranged sporting fixtures – cricket, soccer, and rugby – against the school, and a dinner at various places in the town: the King's Head Hotel, the Crown, the famous Gush's Restaurant, and at the school itself. Attendance fluctuated, and as members are widely scattered, many overseas, and only a few live within relatively easy access of Wimborne. One year there would be 80 at the dinner, another 25.

The future of the Association (whose president has always been the headmaster) is problematical. A questionnaire has been sent to about 350 members still living in this country in which they are asked to give their views on the various possibilities open. So far there has been a response of about 25 per cent, which does not seem to indicate an overwhelming enthusiasm for continuance.

## **Legendary**

A pity if the Association just fades away, for its activities have been more or less continuous for nearly 75 years – even during the war years. The first secretary was Mr C R Fowler, who died in 1929. He was a man of many parts who has become almost a legendary figure to those, old boys and others, who knew him.

*He had two famous brothers, the Fowlers of the Oxford Dictionary and "The Uses of English", and he did much research himself to assist in the compilation of these notable publications. A man of few words, he was clearly an authority on their origin and derivation.*

A man, too, of great versatility, he taught physics, chemistry and carpentry, and was a superb classical scholar. Boys looked with admiring awe at his vast 20 stone floating gracefully in the quiet waters of the Stour, parasol in one hand, a copy of Homer in the other, while he gave sonorous voice to the lines of the Iliad.

## **Salute**

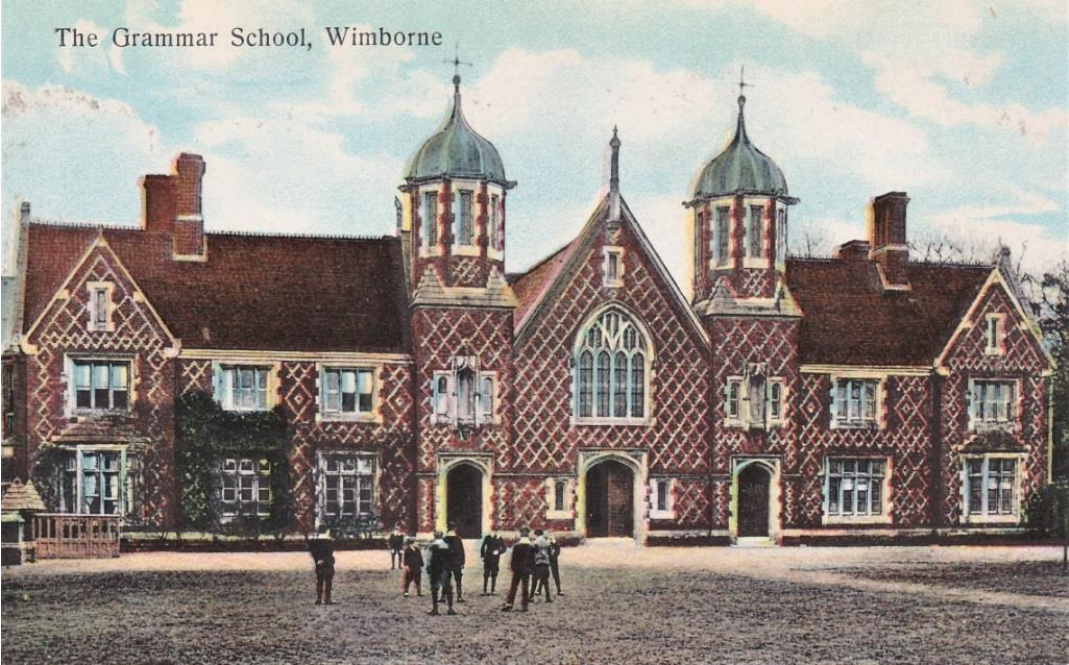
So as the old school begins to pass, it is better to salute rather than mourn. The school has a proud record, as the rolls of honour on the walls of the hall testify. Many former

pupils have gained eminent positions in the world of scholarship, the Services, science, business and the arts.

“As the older order changes, giving place to the new,” one can only feel confident that, with more space and all the facilities provided by modern teaching methods, there is a good future ahead.

***(Many thanks to Roger Wilson (59-67) for sending us a copy of this article Ed.)***

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*[Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wimborne at King Street]*

**WIMBORNE SCHOOLS – ANCIENT & MODERN**



*[Queen Elizabeth School, Wimborne at Pamphill]*

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE WIMBORNES by DAVID WOODHEAD (59-66)

A mystery to me, during teenage bus trips from Wimborne into Bournemouth, was the apparently pointless bridge over the stretch of road between Canford Magna and Bear Cross. When I was told that it was part of Lord Wimborne's private road, that was the end of my curiosity. I never wondered who this Lord Wimborne was, nor why he was so invisible, never opening local fetes in Wimborne, nor handing out prizes at school speech days, for example.

These questions only surfaced for me a mere 60 years later, a consequence of reading the diaries of the American-born socialite and Conservative MP for Southend, "Chips" Channon, the second volume of which covers the period 1938-43. The diary describes Channon's involvement on the fringes of high politics, mixed in with a social life centred on a constant round of lunches and dinners with the socially elevated at the Ritz, Dorchester and Claridge's, as well as in grand houses. (These meals, the menus for which, frustratingly, are not revealed, appear to have been largely unconstrained by rationing). His feelings, mostly for other men rather than for his wife (who had left him), are another recurrent theme.

### "Old Wimborne"

In the entry for 24 March 1943 Channon discusses the death of one Phyllis de Janzé. Channon gives a colourful, and far from consistently positive, assessment of this lady, noting her alleged promiscuity and the fact that she was for "long Old Wimborne's mistress". He is referring here to the first Viscount Wimborne (1873-1939), and I assume that he is described as "Old" to avoid confusion with his successor. Born Ivor Guest, he had been an MP before being appointed a peer in his own right in 1910, as Baron Ashby St Ledgers. He then served as a member of Asquith's government and, in 1914, succeeded his father to the barony of Wimborne. From 1915 to 1918, he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Although this was apparently a largely ceremonial function, there was some controversy over his role in dealing with the Easter Rising. However, on his retirement from Dublin, he was honoured by having the Wimborne title advanced to a viscountcy.



[*"Old Wimborne" in 1906 already beginning to look the part*]



*[A superbly sultry Alice Wimborne, 15 years before her encounter with "Chips" Channon, photographed by Cecil Beaton in 1928]*

He was matched in his infidelity by that of his wife. She too crops up in Channon's diaries, for example on 21 July 1943, when at a dinner at the Spanish Embassy he encounters "mad sultry old Alice Wimborne.... Three years of content [sex with] Willie Walton, the composer, has done her good; she was amiable and in good looks and well-dressed." One might deduce from this that Channon believed that her relationship with Walton had only begun after her husband's death, whereas it is understood to have got underway in 1934. In any event, there was a significant age gap between them; Alice was born in 1880 and Walton in 1902.

### **Who were these people ?**

The Guest family that acquired the Wimborne titles came from near Merthyr Tydfil, where they had expanded the family iron foundry business into what was to become, by the middle of the nineteenth century, the world's largest producer of iron. If the Guests helped to make the industrial revolution, the industrial revolution certainly made them. (The name lived on in Guest, Keen and Nettlefold – now GKN). The family, the head of which became a baronet in 1838, purchased Canford Manor in 1846 for £354,000, a phenomenal sum at the time. They had the house modified by Charles Barry, the architect of the post-fire Houses of Parliament. The Guests had something of a reputation as model employers, largely as result of the attractive housing, now known as "Lady Wimborne cottages", built for workers on the estate. The family's wealth gave them an entrée to the highest levels of society, as if the nouveaux riches were acceptable, so long as there were riches enough. So, the second baronet married a daughter of the Duke of Marlborough, which happened to make their offspring cousins of Winston Churchill. Sir Ivor (the name borne by all the eldest sons of the family) was elevated to the peerage in 1880, as Baron Wimborne of Canford Magna. The couple's eldest son was the individual dubbed "Old Wimborne" by Channon. He married Alice Grosvenor, who was part of the extended family of the Dukes of Westminster, in 1902.

### **Canford sold**

Early in the twentieth century, "Old Wimborne" purchased the manor house of the Northamptonshire village of Ashby St Ledgers, hence the title he chose when elevated to the peerage in his own right in 1910. In 1923, Canford School opened in the premises of Canford Manor, so presumably Viscount Wimborne, as he had now become,

had decided at some point, probably once the First War was over, to dispose of the Manor and to use the house in Northamptonshire as his country base. (He would also have had the use of his London residence, Wimborne House, next door to the Ritz, where he was born and would die).

As for Alice, she and Walton remained close until her death in 1948. She was an inspiration for his Violin Concerto (1939) and he would spend much time with her at the Northamptonshire house. The house was restored by the present Viscount Wimborne early in the present century.

Whereas his ancestors tended to spend their early lives in the military before moving into politics, this 4th Viscount, who was born in 1968, has followed a very different path. He has been nominated for a Grammy as a record producer and for an Emmy as a composer. He has worked with a vast array of artists, including Beyoncé, and his most durable working relationship is perhaps with Grace Jones. He has a keen interest in the environment and has been responsible for the planting of over 4 million trees in the UK.

It is in the anachronistic nature of the hereditary honours system that, even today, it is his son, born in 2016, five years after his sister, who will inherit the title.

### **Postscript**

It is now clear why the Wimbornes did not make much of an impression in the mid-twentieth century town – they had decamped a long while before. This was in line with the peerage's fondness through the centuries for moving around, as if obeying the spirit of the famous injunction: "Gloucester, get thee to Essex". It would be interesting to know the extent to which they involved themselves in the life of Wimborne when they were in residence at Canford.

One possible line of enquiry emerged from a photo in the last edition of *The Old Winburnians*. This showed the crowd gathered in Wimborne Square to hear the result of the December 1910 General Election. This made me want to know the result, and research revealed a situation that would have brought tears to the eyes of the town's equivalent of Brenda from Bristol (who, it will be recalled, was caught by TV cameras bemoaning the excessive amount of electoral activity in the 2010s). For there were two general elections in 1910 – and that was not the whole of it, for Wimborne.

At the time, Wimborne was part of the East Dorset constituency, which also included Poole. In the January 1910 election, the seat was won for the Liberals by Freddie Guest, but in May he was disqualified because of irregularities committed by his election agent and debarred from standing in the resulting by-election in June, so his elder brother Henry stood instead and achieved a similar result. At the end of the year, Asquith wanted to force the issue of the planned curbs on the powers of the House of Lords and called another election. This time, Freddie was eligible to stand and carried the day again. So the voters of Wimborne, who would certainly not have included anyone called Brenda, were called to the polls three times in the year, with pretty much the same result (more or less 52%/48% in the Liberals' favour) each time.

It will have been guessed by now that these Guests were younger siblings of the brother who would be given a peerage in that same year. To the extent that they served as the local MP would have meant some engagement with Wimborne, but whether in those days they would have felt the need to “nurse” the constituency between elections is not known, and in any case their primary interest would have been in Poole presumably. I cannot find a Guest Road in Wimborne, the existence of which might have suggested that the family had left some sort of mark on the town – there is such a road in Upton, probably on or near land that was part of the Canford estate when it was much more extensive than it is today.

Freddie Guest certainly made an impression more generally, serving in Lloyd George’s administration, and also winning a bronze medal with the British polo team at the 1924 Olympics. After losing the East Dorset seat in 1922, he flitted around both geographically and politically, ending up as the Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake (the political affiliations of the Guests tended to follow those of cousin Winston). When he died in post in 1937, he was succeeded in the seat by none other than his brother, Henry !

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**THE JERRARD FAMILY – OTHER OCCUPATIONS (not BUTCHERS)**  
**by PAT TRAYLER (née BROWN) (62-69)**

The Jerrard Family came to Wimborne and set up as butchers. This turned into a large family business, but as the family grew and were long lived, there was not the need for more butchers in Wimborne. Several of the males moved away to set up as butchers elsewhere in places such as Corfe Mullen, Poole and Wyke Regis. Others turned to farming, which could work alongside the butcher business. Those that took out leases on farmland gave them the title of yeoman. Apart from the farming there were tithes to pay to the landowners with portions of crops and meat. Other members of the Jerrard family were put to apprenticeships. Here are two Gerrards (spelling used) that had apprenticeships and move away from Wimborne but did not forget their families.

**Christopher Son of William apprenticed to a Tanner**

One product of the butchery business was a lot of hides. In the early days small tanneries worked alongside the small abattoirs, but as time went on the tanneries combined and moved away from the farms and houses. The impression of a tannery was of a very messy smelly business. It was then a surprise to find one of the younger Jerrards as an apprentice to a tanner. Tanneries work much the same way now as then. However in those days the demand for quality leathers was greater as there were no alternative fabrics for footwear, clothing, horse paraphernalia and furniture. Most of the official records for Court and Government were made on vellum, a fine leather made from calf skins. The potential for making money was there. A young man who knew his leathers and how to market them could get on in life.

Christopher Jerrard must have made a good living from the tannery business. He married but had no children and had leasehold properties and lived in Holburn. When he died he was styled a "gent" in his will.

**The Will of Christopher Jerrard / Gerrard 1723**

Let me be buried with my father and mother in Wimborne church Dorset at such charge my executrix thinks fit after that all my estate that I have in the world let it be in what kind whatsoever I give to my dear wife Elizabeth Gerrard whom I make my sole executrix of this my last will. The house that I live in and all the goods in it with my rings and plate I give to her for her life after her decease to my relations I don't (sic) say how or to whom it shall be given for I leave that to her to whom I give her full power to dispose of all the rest of my estate by will at her death to my relations as she pleases except four of them and those four of mine that I desire her not to give a farthing to for reasons best known to myself are Christopher Gerrard son of my brother John, William Gerrard and Christopher Gerrard son of my brother William, and Elizabeth Willis daughter of Mary Hillary and for preventing all trouble that may happen, my will is that my executor shall not be accountable to any of my relations for any act she shall do, on witness Christopher Gerrard of St Andrew Holborn have put my hand and seal 15 Aug 1723 Witnesses – Squibb Elizabeth Squibb and Mary Whiton.

Christopher had kept in touch with his family in Wimborne and the entry in the church records showed he had come back to be buried. "Christopher Jerrard gent buried in Wimborne.1727 The Great Bell for Christopher Gerrard 2/6, and grave 6/8".

### ***Money Problems***

The reason for cutting out four relatives from this will could be that the South Sea Bubble burst in 1720 and against all advice they had gambled heavily. A similar will was made by the Reverend Derby of Wimborne, cutting out all his older children because of their disobedience. The youngest daughter, who was too young to make investments inherited everything.

Although he had moved away, Christopher the tanner and gent held a lease on property in Wimborne. On his death his widow Elizabeth of Holborn was named as holding the lease on the property in Wimborne.

The story continued with the will dated 1732, of Elizabeth Jerrard widow of Christopher Jerrard. I bequeath unto Mary Gerrard widow of my late husband's brother John Gerrard deceased the sum of £50. I bequeath unto Christopher Gerrard Sarah Gerrard, Mary Gerrard and Elizabeth Gerrard children of my late husband's said brother John Gerrard the sum of £200 apiece. I do also give unto the last named Sarah, Mary and Elizabeth Gerrard £100 to be divided between them to make amends and in satisfaction of the loss they have had by their brother Christopher and not to be sued or presented by them in any form for the debts owed. Elizabeth also bequeathed money in various amounts between £50 and £500 to her late husband's relations. Other moneys were given to her own relatives, servants and friends. The house she in Hand Court, Holburn went to her niece who had been a servant and help during Elizabeth's last years.

The quantities of money bequeathed indicates the wealth accumulated by Christopher in the tannery and leather trade. Elizabeth went against her husband's wishes and left money to three nieces to save them from debts. She blamed their brother Christopher but did not want him to be an embarrassment with debt problems so left him some money that was held in a trust fund.

### **Another Christopher Jerrard/ Gerrard**

This Christopher Gerrard was the son of John Jerrard. He was apprenticed to a goldsmith and on completion of his apprenticeship was free to marry Ann Burrell in St Giles Middlesex 1720. Christopher had a good business in the silver market and had his own mark, and his silverware has appeared in Google images. In 1765 Christopher Gerard master goldsmith took on an apprentice Jane Minsall for a Premium of £31 10s. Christopher was granted Freedom of the City.

## **The Will of Christopher Jerrard, silver smith of Ropemaker Alley in the parish of St Luke Middlesex**

To my loving wife Ann Jerrard all my leasehold estate lately purchased of James Turner of Newingham in the County of Middlesex, Gentleman, consisting of six tenements situate lying between Ropemaker Alley in the parish of St Luke Manor of Finsbury, Morefield London. To enjoy the same and every part and parcel thereof with appurtenances thereunto belong for and during the term of her natural life or the expiration of the said lease.

If Ann died the estate passed to his brother John, butcher of Wimborne and his male heirs. Failing that the estate would pass to his three sisters. The residue of my estate of whatever nature or kind whatsoever and wherever I give to my executrix Ann my loving wife.

Signed 12 Nov 1738 and witnessed by Mary Ridout, William Golby, S Ridout and Thos Fox. The will was made well before the death, so Christopher either had a health problem or was just well prepared.

Probate was granted to Robert Jerrard, nephew and next of kin 1st Aug 1772. Ann Jerrard and John Jerrard had both died in the lifetime of said Testator so Robert son of John of Wimborne was next in line.

### **John Jerrard – Hosier**

One of the occupations taken up by the Jerrard family was that of hosier. This name derives from the word 'hosa' meaning a seller or maker of clothes for legs and lower body. Fashions, seasons and status dictated the quality and type of legwear. In early days the lower status workers had hand knitted socks made from worsted (coarse) wool in drab colours of grey or beige. Some workers wore felted socks which offered some protection from elements and from injury from their implements and risky jobs. The better off had a choice of fine wool, silk, or cotton. For a long time the dealers in the markets wore garish tights with a short jacket with a frill. In Tudor times men wore "tights" under their breeches. These were joined at the back and tied on the waist. A codpiece then provided modesty and allowed easy access for having a pee. Many early paintings have the gentlemen in red leggings and decorative garters. Clergy and more serious gentlemen wore more subdued colours. The Yeomen of the Guard at the Tower of London retained the ceremonial uniform set by Henry VIII, but as shown on TV, wore modern red tights under their breeches, rather than the open fronted ones. Garters were decorative. It was emphasised that the Yeomen do not wear a codpiece. When the Cavalier look was in fashion with large boots, thick socks were popular for comfort. The ladies at this time wore long socks held up with fancy garters and gored decorative pieces were let into the ankle of the sock. For men the wearing of breeches with tights and shoes remained popular for a long time.

In 1589 William Lee, an English clergyman invented a knitting machine for stockings and socks, but Queen Elizabeth declined to give him a patent as this could affect the cottage industry. William then went to France where the machine became popular and

then found its way back into England. The design was based on the "French Knitting" that made long woollen tubes using a cotton reel or hollow doll, with four pins. Wool was wrapped round the pins to form the base stitches then a fine needle hooked wool over the base stitch to form a new stitch. Repeat until bored or the tube a useful length. The tubes could be coiled to make dolls, table mats, and artworks whatever took the imagination. In lockdown I was making repairs and wanted some piping to edge a cushion. No shops open but a length of narrow wool tubing sewn on fitted the bill.

The mechanised version of circular knitting uses the same principles of winding yarn around the stitch formers and then creating a new stitch by drawing the thread through, dropping the first stitch. The process involves a handle operating cogs which drive the mechanics. Similar machines are in use today, making tubes which have heels and toes finished by hand. There is a version for children for making scarves and hats.

Poole produced silk stockings in the 1750s. There was a mention of a silkworker in Wimborne in the National Archives albeit for a Removal Order. Wimborne in the 1750s had a good reputation for worsted stockings and many women and children were employed in the industry. Other types might be ordered via the hosier.

There are several records for John Jerrard, hosier. A sad record was that his wife Mary was found dead by hanging in 1745. A Precept (Order) was made to the Constable to summon a Jury so the Coroner Nicholas Russell, gent, could hold an Inquisition, The judgement was that she had hanged herself. Mary was given a Christian burial so it was not called "suicide". The Great Bell rang for her. John was a son of William Jerrard and Elizabeth Derby (several spellings). Benjamin Derby of Wimborne Hosier Grandfather of John left a Will dated 1702. He left to son Benjamin his meadow next Walford Bridge named Long Mead and lying towards Bingham's Grounds to his wife Joan. Then he left money to his son in law William Gerrard and his wife Elizabeth (nee Derby), and Grandchildren Elizabeth, William, Christopher, and Hannah/Joannah Gerrard. There was no mention of John the hosier The most likely explanation is that John had been apprenticed to Benjamin Derby so would not feature in the will but had inherited the business. He had "hosier" attached to his name in several records suggests he was qualified and ran a good business. The will of Benjamin indicated money could be made from hosiery. Later John, styled hosier was support for his sister Elizabeth Rawleigh on the Administration paper for her deceased husband, Michael. John paid for a seat in church and often changed his place. He made a reasonable living from the trade.

Moving on. The Georgian ladies wore patterned socks with very vibrant colours and had tall wigs. The Pantomime Dames used this as a template for over the top dresses, massive hair, and striped socks with garters. The Literati preferred blue dyes of woad and indigo.

Natural dyes had been used for centuries with no complaints. However in the mid 1850s aniline dyes became available and the use of these very bright colours caused painful irritation for some sock wearers. The matter was brought before the

magistrates with evidence that the bright orange dye was to blame in socks that had red and light brown stripes, transversely with bright orange and bordered with violet and black. The magistrate showed surprise at how far the taste for gaudy hose went. Not all wearers had problems and the magistrate had suffered no harm from his colourful socks. The Lancet deduced that sweaty feet caused a chemical reaction. The Midlands had cases in socks in the Marquis of Hastings colours where aniline dyes were a problem. Picric Acid used in the manufacture took the blame. Sir William Crookes argued that Picric Acid for aniline yellow was safe and had been used for 20 years. Workers did not suffer blisters, just had yellow skin and green hair. The argument was that a lot of alkali was added to the picric acid and inadequate washing caused the irritation. He warned that the mixture was explosive and one factory had been destroyed. Sock wearers might have the added excitement of exploding toes. The recommendation was for owners of gaudy socks was to wash them thoroughly. It took twenty years to stabilise the synthetic dyes.

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**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**(Ed.)**

**HEALTH CERTIFICATE**

***(Fascinating to see the range of medical conditions mentioned – I am quite certain many of you will be consulting your medical books/phones, whatever, in respect of one or two of those named.***

**Ed.)**

**Wimborne Grammar School.**

**HEALTH CERTIFICATE.**

To be filled in by a Parent or Guardian and sent with the Boy on the first day of term or posted on the previous day.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge \_\_\_\_\_  
has not during the holidays now ending, been exposed to any infectious or contagious disease, or entered any  
house where such disease has existed. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian.

Date Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1940

The following regulations as to proper quarantine should be observed :

Influenza	10 to 21 days	Small Pox	6 weeks	Rose Rash	10 to 14 days
Scarlet Fever	4 to 8 weeks	Chicken Pox	3 weeks	Mumps	14 to 21 days
Diphtheria	21 days (if mild)	Typhus	14 days (if mild)	Whooping Cough	6 weeks
Erysipelas	3 to 4 weeks	Enteric	6 weeks	Ringworm	until restored
		Measles	2 to 3 weeks		

Next term commences 12 JAN 1940

Boards return \_\_\_\_\_

J. C. AIREY, Headmaster.

## MEMORIES OF THE CADET CORPS

***Further to our request in the Autumn 2024 newsletter for some names to go with the faces shown in this picture, we are especially indebted to Mike Clift (44-50) and Terry Randall (45-52) who were able to "almost" complete the set.***

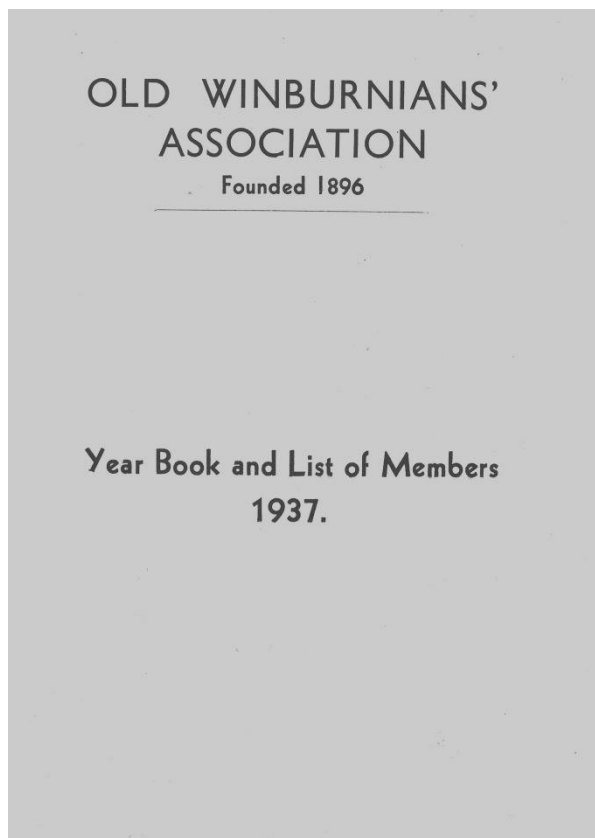


***If anyone can please provide the details of the names shown as "?????" to enable us to "complete the picture" that would be great ! Many thanks.***

***Ed.***

## OLD WINBURNIANS ASSOCIATION YEAR BOOK AND LIST OF MEMBERS 1937

*(We thought members would find the following information of interest, not least the price details Ed.)*



**OFFICERS: 1936-7.**

**President:**  
The Headmaster, J. C. Airey, Esq., M.C., M.A.

**Vice-Presidents:**  
Rev. A.D.H. Allan, M. A., George Habgood, Esq., J.P.,  
H. W. Rake, Esq., W. Jones, Esq., B.Sc., W. A. Meadows, Esq. B.A., M. J. Raymond, Esq., LL.B.,  
Capt. R. Coombes, R.N.R.

**Elected Members of the Committee:**  
Capt. R. Coombes, R.N.R., (Chairman), Messrs. F. F. Gibbs, W. H. Warren, R. L. Small, G. C. Swain,  
C. J. Bradley, R. J. Evans, L. W. Taylor.

**Hon. Auditors:**  
G. C. Willis, Esq.

**Hon. Treasurer:**  
W. A. Meadows, Esq., B.A., 37, The Avenue, Wimborne.  
Phone: Wimborne 23.

**Hon. Assistant Treasurer:**  
S. J. B. Cull.

**Hon. Secretary:**  
G. R. Inkpen, 42, St. Catherine's, Wimborne.

**Hon. Assistant Secretary:**  
A. E. Warren, Sturminster Marshall, Wimborne, Dorset  
Phone: Sturminster Marshall 1.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:—**

Ordinary Membership	...	...	...	5/- p.a.
"    "	(first 5 years after leaving	...	...	2/6 p.a.
"    "	School)	...	...	10/- p.a.
Full Membership	...	...	...	7/6 p.a.
"    "	(first 5 years after leaving	...	...	
"    "	School)	...	...	

Total Number of Ordinary Members	...	203
Total Number of Life Members	...	45
Grand Total	...	248

Among the list of members' names that follow – too many to reproduce here – but a couple of interesting ones – a certain R.A.P. Todd (1935) (Richard Todd) who is living at Clevedon Lodge, Rowlands, Wimborne and no fewer than 5 Bishops – 4 of them at 37 Grove Road (what a clever family !)

**OLD BOYS' CLOTHING PRICE LIST.**

Ties	...	...	3/-
Woollen Scarves (7ft.)	...	...	9/6
Silk Squares	...	...	9/-
Blazers of good quality woven material stamped buttons	...	...	33/-
Blazers as above with lined sleeves and Cloth buggy	...	...	35/-
Sweaters, heavy quality material	...	20/- to 22/-	
"    medium    "	...	15/- to 17/-	
"    lighter    "	...	10/- to 12/-	
		(according to size)	
Old Boys' Badges	...	...	3/6
Cricket Colours	...	...	5/-

The above may be obtained, post free, from the Secretary within a few days, except blazers, in which case each blazer is made to measure and this takes a week or two. Self-measurement forms may be obtained from the Secretary. In case of sweaters please state chest measurements, quality and whether plain or cable stitch.

**Cash with order in all cases.**

G. R. INKPEN,  
42, St. Catherines,  
Wimborne.

**A VISIT TO LES BISHOP (54-61)**  
**by ALAN R BENNETT (49-56)**

It was last Autumn that I called by on my old pal and his wife Christine, to discuss the extraordinary entry I came upon in the OWA Year Book & Members for 1937 in which I noted the considerable number of Bishops represented in its pages living at 37 Grove Road. Following our conversation Les promised to provide further information relating to his clearly academically gifted family and their association with our old school in King Street. What follows is the account Les kindly later provided. I doubt there are many – if indeed any – other families similarly represented. I am sure our readers will be as fascinated as I was to read my old friend's record of their achievements in our local community and beyond.

There was another reason for my call upon Les and Christine's hospitality. Harking back half-a-century to my return to Dorset, Friday nights for many of us were gatherings at the nearby Barley Mow public house. Exchanging gossip, reminiscing, enjoying the occasional glass of something alcoholic – though never to excess, I would add – they were always convivial occasions, sometimes repeated on Saturdays. Les would usually arrive, often with Arthur Bishop of Dorset's police force bringing with him a certain Ian Rabbitts of Crescent Road, Wimborne, and an address in Harrow, not far from where a certain Ronnie Barker lived, if I remember correctly. Ian too was once a student of Messrs Maiden, Kerswell, Holman, Streets, etc. He now worked for the Inland Revenue but came back to Wimborne by train every other weekend or so before being picked up by our old pal Les Bishop. Of course, nothing lasts forever and, as the years passed and partners and children came along, so those weekend gatherings at the Bailey Mow slowly, imperceptibly, 'fizzled out'. I am absolutely certain my readers will have experienced similar happenings in their own lives. That's life, isn't it? Seldom if ever planned but things change, don't they? So what am I coming to after this nostalgic ramble through the past. Just to say, after my call that late Autumn afternoon last year, Les kindly sent along his family history as it related to our school in Grammar School lane.

This is the very sad part of my piece. Les and Christine told me when I was talking to them that their daughter, Elizabeth, was very ill with advanced cancer. A couple of weeks after our meeting Les rang me to give the dreaded news, Elizabeth had lost her battle with cancer and passed away. Everyone of you reading my words will understand the acute sadness that engulfed the Bishop Family and all their friends not long before Christmas. My own daughter Fleur was very upset. She said, 'Dad, though Elizabeth and I were separated by a couple of years at Queen Elizabeth's we always smiled and waved at one another whenever we passed'

To lose a child is a heart-breaking event and I know all my readers will share the sadness that has filled the lives of Les and Christine since that moment. There will be other readers, I am sure, who have experienced similar events. At moments like this we join together as one big family.

**THE BISHOP FAMILY**  
**by LES BISHOP (54-61)**

The list below is what I can remember of my relations. The Bishop family, who lived at 37 Grove Road, Wimborne in the 1930s.

Grand Pa Earnest Bishop, The Rating Officer for Wimborne Urban District Council (UDC), lived with Grand Ma Bishop, née Osman, who died when I was very young. They had 10 children – 5 boys and 5 girls. All of the boys attended QEGS, Wimborne, during the 1920s and 1930s, with all being in the Minster Choir; Earnest and Charles were also bell ringers.

List in order of seniority.

Earnest – latterly lived in Julians Road and was the rating Officer for Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District Council (RDC). He was married to Freda, née Stroud, they had 2 children, both attended QEGS. Ian gained a bursary to Sherborne School, attended Sandhurst and was in the army where he had a certain Idi Amin in his unit of the Kings African Rifles. Maureen worked for Lloyds Bank in Wimborne and then Plymouth.

Sydney – worked for Bournemouth Gas and Water Co., latterly Southern Gas as Commercial Conversion Manager. His uncle, Alfred Osman, was manager of Wimborne gas works. Sydney moved to the Portsmouth area and latterly lived on Hayling Island with wife Doris and 3 children.

John (Jack) – joined the RAF, spending the war in the USA on training establishments and latterly as the Station Warrant Officer (SWO) at RAF Benson, before retiring and moving to Woolston, Southampton with wife Ina and 3 children.

Charles – worked for Bournemouth Gas and Water Co., latterly Southern Gas, in Customer Services. He lived in Hayes, Wimborne with wife Joan, née Taylor (formerly Head Girl at Parkstone Grammar School), and 2 children, Leslie and Mary, both of whom attended QEGS.

Arthur – worked for local solicitors prior to joining Dorset Police, retiring as Chief Superintendent of the Poole Division. He was then Security Manager of Southern Electric. Latterly he lived in Wimborne with wife Gwen and 2 daughters.

The Girls – Helen, Agnes, Rene, Winifred and Edna mostly went to Minster Girls School, or Parkstone Grammar School. Agnes and Rene had sons who attended QEGS.

Agnes – married Fred Gibbs, who latterly was Head of Lytchett Matravers School, they had 3 sons and lived in Lytchett Matravers.

William (Billy) attended QEGS, graduated from the Southampton Institute of Education and was Chief Education Officer for Richmond-on-Thames and, latterly, Secretary of the Royal Society of Arts; he lived in Cheam.

Peter who worked for Aish Electrical in Poole and, latterly, as Chief Engineer at Bournemouth Echo; he lived in Kinson.

David who attended QEGS and joined Dorset Police retiring as Chief Superintendent of the Chesterfield Division of Derbyshire Police; living in Ripley.

Rene – who married Tom Cornick from Holt, had 2 sons and lived at Beacon Hill.

Eric, who attended Poole Grammar School (PGS), worked for British Drug Houses (BDH) Poole and returned to PGS as a Chemistry teacher.

Michael – attended QEGS and joined Dorset Police, retiring as Desk Sergeant at Bournemouth.

In addition, Charles' brother-in-law, John Taylor of Furzehill, also attended QEGS from 1937 to 1942 prior to joining the army. He was in the second wave ashore on D-Day. After the war he worked for accountants in Bournemouth.

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***(Please note, we have decided to postpone the inclusion of the next part of our "Tribute to Len Pearce" until a future edition of our newsletter***

***Ed.)***

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## NEWS OF SOME OLD WINBURNIANS

### **MALCOLM McNEILL (59-66)**

***(Malcolm writes from his home in the USA.***

***Ed.)***

I thought perhaps QEGS folks might be interested in what happened to a Wimborne kid who liked to paint pictures.

Art teacher Ms Thorpe did her best, but it was going to the school library one day and picking out a book, that wasn't required reading, that decided my future. I was mesmerized by 'Brave New World' and when Mr (Bob) Briggs saw me reading it in the schoolyard during breaktime, he suggested I might also like '1984'. I'm indebted to him. I've not stopped reading books ever since and books of words and images defined my life as an artist. I will never forget that. Thank you, Bob.

***To see how Malcolm's career as an artist evolved, go to his internet site using the link shown below :***

<https://www.malcolmmcneillimages.com/>

***Here is an extract from that site :***

"Malcolm Mc Neill grew up in rural southern England and began painting and selling images of wildlife as a teenager. Anatomical study and self-taught taxidermy instilled a 'realistic', one-to-one style image-making consistent with his intended career in Natural Science. He was accepted by Reading University to study Biology, but based on the quality of his images, the Head of the Department suggested that Art might offer a more interesting career path.

During his four years at Hornsey College of Art he began to focus on the possibilities of sequential imagery and wrote his graduation paper on 'The History of Visual Narrative'. In his final term, he also helped start *Cyclops*, 'England's First Adult Comic Magazine'. He continued to approach image making from a realistic, 'scientific' point of view and it was that perspective that would come to define *Ah Pook is Here* – his first project after art school and longest of his career. He met author WILLIAM S BURROUGHS through *Cyclops* and the image style was key to initiating the relationship and for revealing the deeper significance of the collaboration that followed."

### **CHRISTINE SHORT (née ELLIOTT) (69-76)**

***(Christine has recently written to us with a short tribute to remember her Dad.***

***Ed.)***

I've been meaning to write to you for ages about my Dad, Donald Richard Elliott, an Old Winburnian from 1943 to 1947. He was a very successful haulier in Northbourne. Our family business was M Elliott & Sons Trans Ltd. He died in February 2012 of cancer.

He often spoke of his teachers, of swimming in the river and where they ate at lunchtime during the war. He could still conjugate verbs in Latin ! During the war, my grandmother often had to write a letter saying Donald had had 'a bilious attack' and couldn't be at school – but really he was a 'mate' on one of our lorries !

His close friend at school was Tony Meyer, whose parents ran the 'Churchill Arms' in Alderholt. Tony became a beef farmer in Hereford and had 4 daughters.

### **LINDA BERENBRINCK (née KING) (57-64)**

***(A sad letter from Linda prompted the following.***

***Ed.)***

Linda's husband Peter sadly passed away last September so for the past 8 months Linda has been adjusting to a much changed world. Fortunately her family in the form of Richard and Sarah, Frank and Sheila, have provided invaluable support in recent times. I know all our readers and her old friends in the UK send their warmest good wishes for the future. On a personal note I remember Linda as a tiny little girl who lived in a bungalow just across the lane from where I lived so many years ago. In fact she didn't even begin at WGS until the year after I actually left the school. What a tribe we were from Sandy Lane, Upton – myself, Linda, David and John Singleton, Dennis and Margaret Randall, John Hill, Margaret ?? and Geoff Stokes – have I missed anyone out ? Few roads/avenues/lanes about the wider locality can have been represented all those years ago. In the meanwhile, Linda, we will be thinking of you in the months and years ahead as you adjust to a life without your best pal Peter.

### **JANET DOOLAEGE (née PURSEY) (58-65)**

***(A welcome letter from Janet. We hope very much you are able to come across to our next Reunion in July. Your many friends will be delighted to see you !***

***Ed.)***

Dear Alan,

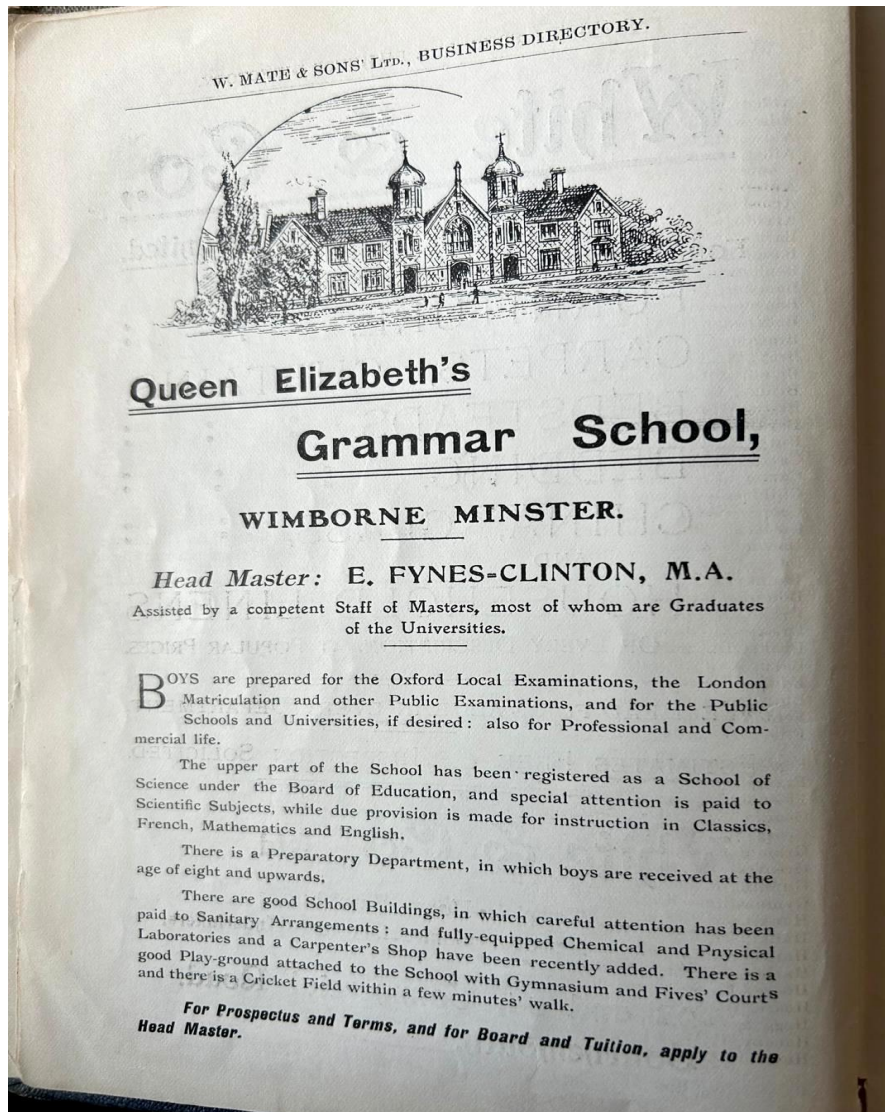
Your article on Eye Bridge in the last newsletter brought back many memories. Countless times, I walked the same route as the cross-country runners in the days when one could wend one's way through the allotments to the Stour. My dog used to swim across the river at Eye Bridge. I also remember the dredging, a hugely destructive mistake, not recommended nowadays. It is heart-breaking to note the decline of wildlife and of birds in particular, which is apparently just as bad all over the country, and indeed most of the world. Industrial agriculture has been a disaster. I also take a dim view of the luxury housing estate where the allotments used to be, built foolishly (in my opinion) on a flood plain, since major flooding events are much more frequent than they were in the past – but the Hanhams must have made a packet of money out of it.

Hey-ho ! The world is in a mess. So what else is new ?

**PAUL MASON (66-74)**

**(On a recent trip from his home in the USA to the UK to visit family, Paul met with some friends, one of whom had recently visited an old house in Southbourne. There they came across an old directory of local businesses and on one of the pages was the advertisement shown below. Many thanks, Paul for sending us this copy.**

**Ed.)**



**BRIAN RICHMOND (49-56)**

Brian, who will be 87 this summer, is planning to step down as a guide at Stratfield Saye this summer after an heroic half-century – or thereabouts – as a guide. No longer able to demonstrate the Iron Duke's riding prowess to visitors on a Copenhagen look-a-like gelding, Brian and his good lady Sue are going off on cruises all over the place. Brian retains his keen interest in Poole Pirates speedway team though he has also given up his own riding ambitions and has sold his collection of vintage motorbikes. 'I'm afraid I will never be able to emulate my old hero Ken Middleditch now. One has to

recognise the inevitable', he says. Besides which Sue no longer enjoys being a passenger behind him ! The passage of time catches us all out, I'm afraid. Anyway, Brian and Sue take solace in their family and their varied adventures. Good to hear from you, old friend ! And when are you going to write that Dennis Wheatley historical novel ?

### **BOB WHITE (51-57)**

'Professor Bob', in his Christmas card 2024, recounted a painful and wretched time in his life with many hospital visits for a series of problems which are now hopefully resolved. As previously recorded Bob's 'flying days' are now a thing of the past so my grand-daughter no longer hurries into the garden to wave at passing planes hoping to catch a glimpse of our aeronautical hero of yesteryear. Bob's concluding words were 'I hope to be at the Summer Reunion !' We hope so too, Bob. Meanwhile we all treasure our memories of you downing those Messerschmitts and Heinkels a few years back. We send our greetings, old friend !

### **DEREK LAWMAN (51-56)**

In his Christmas card Derek recounted some of his physical discomforts not least 2 broken hips and his wife Karen's various medical challenges. It ain't easy growing old, is it, as no doubt many of our readers would also testify ? Happily Derek continues to derive enjoyment from his musical collection – 'Frank, Tony, Nat King Cole, Jack Jones and many others' and watching some of the great films of the past, especially cinematic recreations of Thomas Hardy (whatever would the old man have made of today's world ?). Derek and Karen are both very fond of Westbourne and, of course, it is a convenient location in many ways and not a great distance from civilisation. Living in the wilds of Dorset does present many problems for people as they get older, not least getting to hospitals and shops. Anyway, we all send our greetings to Derek and Karen and wish them all the best for 2025.

### **GEOFF HILL (58-59)**

When last we conversed at length at the Christmas Reunion Geoff was enthusing about the imminent publication of a collection of his old photographs including, I understand, the Kray twins, Barbara Windsor, Sid James, Tony Hancock, Christine Keeler, Hattie Jacques, Bessie Braddock and other celebs from Soho in the Sixties – St Anne's Court in particular. He was agonising over whether he should also include a self-portrait in a swimsuit but fearing it might overexcite our lady members.

Geoff was also contemplating a return to his trade as a motor dealer specialising in Skodas and Ford Anglias. If any of our readers contact Geoff he will provide full details on request. Whatever would we do without Geoff's enterprise ?

## OBITUARIES

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

***(We received the following from Mike's sister, Barbara Russell (55-60)***

***Ed.)***

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

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

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

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

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

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

***(In my early years at WGS compulsory boxing tournaments still took place annually. Though I arrived at the school a year after Michael, 'Slogger' Jayne (PE master) decided that our weights clearly matched, these being approximately 4 st 12 lbs against 5 st 4 lbs, and we fought 2 x 1 minute rounds in one lunch hour in the Gymnasium with 'Slogger' as the referee. Michael 'Mouse' Morris and myself Alan 'Tiddler' Bennett agreed beforehand we would simply jig around the ring for the prescribed time without inflicting serious physical damage on one another (a bloody nose was the most likely outcome). At the end of the contest, watched by a 'full house' of other boys 'Slogger' decided 'Mouse' was the winner on points. It was an episode Michael***

***and I both laughed about on many subsequent occasions. I wonder what the contemporary world would think of compulsory boxing events being staged in a modern state school between 11-12 year olds ? A mother suing the Education Authority for allowing her precious little child to be 'traumatised' by such a happening ? How times change !***

***Michael, old friend, we'll all miss you ! And share a laugh – remembering !  
Ed.)***

**RAYMOND WALTER WHEELER (Ray) (43-47)**

***(We received the following from Ray's daughter, Susan Barnes Ed.)***

My Dad passed away at the age of 94. He thoroughly enjoyed reading the newsletters that you sent. Thank you very much for sending them. I thought you might like a brief history of Dad's life for your next newsletter. After leaving the school Dad worked in a bakery which he thoroughly enjoyed. He worked there until March 1948, when he received his national service call-up. He spent time in Southern Rhodesia as a cook. After being de-mobbed, and returning to the UK, he applied to join the merchant navy and made his first trip the week of Christmas 1950. He spent 2½ years with the Cunard Steamship company which cemented his future as a caterer and his love of travel.

In 1952, he returned to Wimborne to run the family hotel, the Greyhound, as his father was dying. After the funeral, he saw an advert for a catering person to supervise a holiday camp kitchen at Butlins Holiday Camp on the east coast of England. He took up the position in May 1952. It was at the holiday camp that he met my mother and decided he needed a more permanent job so they could marry. In 1954 he took up the position of a baker/confectioner in Otford, Kent and married my mother. Unfortunately, he developed an allergy to flour and looked for alternative work.

He again returned to Wimborne to run the family hotel for a couple of years. Then, he returned to London and after two months of training in a liquor store, he was offered a position of running a wine shop in Hitchin. After a couple of years my parents began to look at other options as the flat above the shop was becoming too small. My parents now had two children, my brother Stephen and me.

They opted to become £10 Poms and moved to Geelong, Victoria, Australia in October 1964. Fourteen months later they moved into the first home of their own. For the remainder of his working life, my Dad found work as a foreman in a baker's shop, as a canteen manager, as a small business owner (cake shop) and leasing a kiosk over the summer. Upon my Dad's retirement, they moved to Port Macquaire in New South Wales where they lived for nearly 20 years until ill health forced them to move back to Victoria to be



*[Ray (on the right) with daughter Susan and her husband Ross on Christmas Day 2024]*

closer to family. They made five trips back to the UK and also visited Europe, Egypt and the USA. When health issues became a concern they took to cruising and made several trips. My Mum passed away in 2019 and my Dad lived a further 5 years in a nursing home in Geelong. Some of his final words were that he had a good life and was grateful for all his friends.

**MICHAEL WELLS (45-50)**

***(We have received the sad news that Michael died back in late 2024. We are most grateful to his wife, Patricia, for letting us know.***

***Ed.)***

**ROBERT (BOB) BRIGGS (former staff member, 63-89)**

***(We have received the sad news that Bob died in January 2025. We are most grateful to his daughter, Helen, for letting us know.***

***Ed.)***

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*[Grammar School Lane – perhaps your last view from the school on the last day of term ?]*

Source : Wimborne Camera

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