

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

(formed 1926)



NEWSLETTER 2009

1. OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2008 - 2009

PRESIDENT - A.A. Hurst B.A. (Hons)

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

R. Arnold
R.J. Baker
A.P.W.W. Bowen
H.P. Briggs
H.W. Browne C.B.E.
A.J. Burroughs
Dr. P.L.P. Clarke
R.T. Darvell
D.A. Day
Major G. Fey
J.H.D. Fozard
N.C. Kelleway
A.L. Murray
M. Wren

CHAIRMAN - A.J. Baker, MA

HON. SECRETARY - T.W. Birdseye, JP
HON. TREASURER - C.R.N. Taylor, FCA
HON. ASST. SEC. - R. Arnold

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

A.J. Burroughs
R.T. Darvell
J. Harrison (Editor)
Father J. McCollough
Robert Bradshaw (School Head Boy),
or his Deputy

HON. AUDITOR - A.R. Millman

Hon. Sec. - Terry W. Birdseye
810 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3NH
Telephone / Fax - 01702 714241, Mobile - 07752 192164
E-mail: owa@ashphoenix.co.uk

2. A.G.M. - THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2009 - 8:00 PM AT SCHOOL

**3. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2009
7:00 PM FOR 7:45PM AT SCHOOL
DETAILS AND REPLY SLIP ON PAGE 3.**

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1. Officers & Committee 2008 - 2009.
 2. Annual General Meeting, Thursday 9th July 2009, 8:00 pm at School.
 3. O.W.A Annual Reunion Dinner, Friday 18th September 2009 - 7:00 pm for 7:45 pm at School. (Please arrive at 6:30 pm if you wish to look around the school.) Details and reply slips on page 3.
 4. (i) Honorary Secretary.
(ii) Members' Addresses Unknown.
(iii) New Members.
(iv) Donations 2008-2009.
 5. Honorary Treasurer:
Income and Expenditure Accounts for year ended 31st March 2008.
 6. President.
 7. In Memoriam.
 8. Obituaries.
 9. News of Old Westcliffians.
 10. Old Westcliffian Lodge No. 5456.
 11. Westcliff Rugby Football Club.
 12. Editor.
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3. O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2009

7:00 PM FOR 7:45 PM AT
WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS
(Please arrive at 6:30 pm if you wish to look around the School.)

COST £26 (£12 FOR STUDENTS IN FULL TIME EDUCATION)
TICKETS WILL NOT BE ISSUED

DRESS - LOUNGE SUIT, ASSOCIATION TIE (£6, Available from Hon. Sec.)

MENU

Homemade Soup

.....

Roast Lamb

Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables

.....

Summer Pudding with Ice Cream

.....

Cheese Board

.....

Tea or Coffee

.....

(Vegetarian Meal available on request)

✂

REPLY SLIP: **O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2009**

FROM: Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode: Phone:

TO: **T.W. BIRDSEYE - 810 LONDON ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA, ESSEX, SS9 3NH**

TELEPHONE / FAX : 01702 714241

PLEASE RESERVE PLACE(S) FOR :

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR DATES AT SCHOOL</u>	<u>COST</u>
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)

TOTAL: £ _____

CHEQUE PAYABLE TO 'OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION'.

PLEASE INFORM SECRETARY IF A VEGETARIAN MEAL IS REQUIRED.

4. (i) HONORARY SECRETARY

I can report that we have had another excellent year. The Association is in good heart with robust finances. You will see from the accounts that you continue to be generous with your donations for which I thank you.

I thank my committee for their generous advice and help particularly Jim Harrison who does such splendid work on putting together the newsletter.

Alan Hurst, our President, mentions in his note that we must find ways of encouraging school leavers to join the Association. I echo these sentiments. Although we were met with courtesy and enthusiasm at a school leavers assembly in 2008, very few pupils actually joined the Association. We must think of new ways to expand our membership since we lose track of so many members throughout the years, mainly through not being informed of changes of address. Please look through these lists of lost members and let me know if you have any information that you can pass on to me.

Please keep your letters, e-mails and news items coming. They are the lifeblood of the Association and are all printed in the Newsletter. We are always anxious to hear news of OWs wherever they may be and whatever their achievements, which over the years have been considerable.

I heard recently that Gary Brooker, who many of you of a certain vintage and persuasion will remember as a member of the group Procul Harum, received the MBE for services to charitable works.

Phil Lane, a former member of Staff, Chief Executive of Paralympics GB has been awarded the OBE in the Queen's Honours List for services to the last two Olympic Games in Athens and Beijing, and the last two Winter Olympics.

I believe that the 2008 annual dinner was a success. I certainly enjoyed it and I have had many positive comments. The 2009 Dinner will, again, be at the school and the application form appears on the page 3. Andrew has kindly agreed to arrange another tour of the school before proceedings commence.

Please let me know of anyone who is not receiving the Newsletter. Our main delivery is now by e-mail, but you can secure a postal copy by paying a minimum of £5 which will last for a few years. This new policy has saved the Association a lot of money and has enabled us, for the time being at least, to keep the life subscription at £10.

Lastly, I offer my thanks to Andrew Baker, the Head Master, without whose support as Chairman my job as Secretary would be almost impossible.

Terry Birdseye

4. (ii) MEMBERS' ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

In order to maintain accurate and direct contact with each member of the O.W.A. we need to be informed of any change of address by the member concerned.

In 2005 we received many returned Newsletters - 'no longer at this address, address unknown'.

Do you know the present address of any member on either of these lists?

If so, it would be greatly appreciated if you would be kind enough to contact him and please ask him to forward his current address to Terry Birdseye, Honorary Secretary.

2005: J.R. Atkins, B.G. Beard, S. Bishop, K. Bowman, A. Brittain, M. Bumpus, D.A. Caldwell, S.E. Cannon, T.N. Channing, Rev. K.W. Costin, B.D. Cotgrove, M.A. Cross, K.A. Dann, R.K. Dibble, N. Faraday, M. Fawcett, D.J. Feakes, K. Flynn, R.A. Gilbert, B.H. Gilroy, B. Gooch, Dr. A.B. Gozzard, D.J. Grellier, T.J. Grove, C. Harris, P.M. Hart, J. Howard, S.C.J. Katwala, D. Kerry, I.G. Loutsis, J.D. Lumb, G. McMahan, T. Manning, K.R. Mansell, A.L. Martin, S. Mathulscothanan, R. May, S. Myles, D.R. Newham, D.J. Noonan, J.W. Payne, A. Perry, K. Philbrick, D.G. Pierrepoint, M.R. Pool, R. Priestley, J.R. Randall-Paley, M. Ryman, P.W. Self, P.J. Sheldon, D. Sherwood, K. Solomons, P.G. Solomons, M.G. Smith, W. Smith, J. Sullivan, R.C. Stovel, C. Street, L.M. Taylor, L.R. Thake, P. Tooth, J.M. Turner, S. Waterman, P. Wilding.

In addition, from previous years, we have lost contact with:-

R. Anderson, N.P. Banks, T. Broad, A.O. Bull, B. Charlton, N.L. Davison, M.C. Gibbs, T. Gladwell, W.D. Gorrod, C. Grenleaf, C. Heaton, R. Hills, L. Jeseoph, H. Johnson, G.S. Jordon, R.J. Kidson, A.J. Laux, S. Lister, M. R. Luckford, R. McKoewn, C.C. Oakley, P.G. Pooley, M.K. Raver, P. Roy, P.A. Slight, V.J. Smith, J. Somers / S.Somers, E.S. Underwood, G.M. Veasey, C.L. Wayment, R.E.

Whyatt, I. Woods, S.F. Wray.

In 2006 we lost track of :-

R.B. Archbold, A.J. Ashby, C.P. Baines, R.D. Barnes, J. Barnes, P. Barnett, H.R. Bayly, M. Beattie, P. Bending, N.M. Bisatt, L.P. Blower, A.C. Bloyce, S.H. Bridge, J.W. Brown, P. Bulman, N.J. Burns, A. Clark, N. Clark, M. Clements, R.L. Coakes, P.A. Collins, G. Cook, D.R.J. Coppin, I.R. Cosgrove, E. Crease, S.J. Creed, G. Cook, R.A. Crooks, P. Darragh, M. J. Dowsett, R.C. Eichert, G. Farrow, A. Fernandez, S. Franklin, C.J. French, C.N. French, H.P. Gadd, S. Gibson, A.T. Girling, S. Goodfellow, A.P. Goodin, J. Gowings, D. Greenbaum, M. Greenberg, D.J. Gribbon, I.G. Hagen, R. Hagen, I. Hinde, J.P. Howell, K.Y. Hui, D.J. Hutchins, A.C. Izod, M.W. Jagers, N.M. James, N. Jones, F. Keenan, M.T. Lander, J.B. Lester, D. Lewis, P. Lewis, N.G. Lusignea, Dr. J. McGladdery, M.J.C. Meaden, J. R. Monk, R. Monk, A.J. Moss, R.S. Oswald, F.C. Patrick, M. Payne, G. Pike, N.J. Reeves, R.J. Reeves, B.W. Rickard, A. Roberts, K. Roberts, M.S. Robins, M. Rumble, G. Sainsbury, P. Sanders, J.E. Sayers, G.L. Scholfield, J.A. Silcock, I. Souter, C.D. Taylor, A. Telling, I.S. Towler, M. Treanor, T.R. Wagstaff, D.L. Ward, P.J. White, A. Wilkinson, M.J. Wood, G. J. Young.

In 2007 we lost track of C. Hardy.

In 2008 we lost track of :-

N.P. Aplin, M. Ayres, L.A. Barrett, P.J. Batchelor, T.J. Blake, M. Brigden, M. Bumpus, D. Burford, T. Chaudri, P.A. Cook, G. Courtney, I.R. Crossley, R. Crumper, T.C. Curl, S.M. Davids, R.J. Dinkin, S.J. Fennell, G. Fry, A.M. Girnary, K.G. Hastings, J.F. Haywrod, I.J. Hoskison, M.J. Hume, R.W. Hurst, M.W. Jagers, T.F. Jones, C.R. Kerr, B. Lind, R. Mathieson, R.D. McConnell, J. Michaels, S. Mills, A. Mudd, M. Orton, R.D. Padwick, C.S. Patel, N.J. Pointer, J. Porter, J. L. Porter, J.C. Postle, M. Reid, R.J. Rove, C. Sheaf, R. Simmons, M. Solister, J.P. Telling, T.R. Wagstaff, R. Winnington, R.C. Webb

T.W.B

4.(iii) NEW MEMBERS

P. Adamson	43-46
I Bird	73-80
J. Bird	01-08
J. Bost	01-08
M. Chambers	77-82
L.B. Cotgrove	52-59
M.J. Cozens	47-49
K. Dupuy	
M. Gledhill	56-62
B. Hutson	98-05
J. Knock	(Staff)
C. Maddin	64-70
B.A. Maczka	66-71
J.N. Neal	77-84
C. O'Connell	60-47
S.J. Papworth	63-68 (rejoined)
P.J. Parrish	(rejoined)
J.J. Smyth	
P. Tarrant	66-72
D.G. White	43-46
A Wilkes	78-85

4.(iv) DONATIONS 2008-2009

G. Brown
Dr P.L.P. Clarke
S. Connor
R.A.B. Crowe
R. Gerhardi
C. Hodgkins
P.B.C. Hurrell
F. James,Hurrell
F. James
Prof. K. MacKinnon
Squad Leader D. Mills
P.J. Parish
Wing Commander R.F.B. Powell
Prof. R.G. Priest
B.S. Reynolds
His Honour G. Rice
G.F. Smith
J. Western.

5. HONORARY TREASURER

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

	<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>
INCOME			
Life subscriptions	170		410
Interest received	166		90
Profit on ties etc	95		209
Donations / raffle	677		1833
Surplus on function	338		490
	<hr/>	1,446	<hr/>
			3,032
EXPENDITURE			
Printing, postage & stationary	419		1,132
Sundry expenses	65		52
	<hr/>	484	<hr/>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£ 962	£ 1,848
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2008

	<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>
ASSETS			
Stock of ties	330		536
Cash at bank	110		84
Cash at building society	7,721		6,579
	<hr/>		<hr/>
NET ASSETS	£ 8,161		£ 7,199
	<hr/>		<hr/>
FINANCED BY			
General fund brought forward	7,199		5,351
Surplus for the year	962		1,848
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 8,161		£ 7,199
	<hr/>		<hr/>

C.R.N. Taylor, FCA
Honorary Treasurer

A.R. Millman, FCA
Honorary Auditor

6. PRESIDENT

The year 2008 - 2009 has been one of success for the Old Westcliffian Association. I understand the number of members joining has increased over the previous year and we have continued to keep contact with a large number of old boys not only in this Country but throughout the world.

At the end of the summer term in 2008 Terry and I attended a School leavers assembly at the school. Our purpose was to instill enthusiasm to join the Association from those about to leave. Whilst our approach was well received I am uncertain whether we have reaped a full reward. We must endeavour to consider ways to encourage those leaving the school to take up membership as soon as they can in order to strengthen our younger membership.

November, as is our custom, I laid a wreath on behalf of the Association at the Southend Cenotaph.

The highlight of the year was the annual dinner. After the disappointment of 2007 I believe everybody considered 2008 to be a great success. It was held back at the school and I believe over 90 diners attended. The food and whole function was provided by the Bank Restaurant, Leigh on Sea. I heard no word of criticism either as to the quality or the size or the portions. I was personally able to meet friends I had not seen for 4-5 years. This is very much the strength of the annual dinner. We hope to build upon the success of last year's function this coming September.

I continue to be fully appreciative of the honour to be your President and I hope the Association can move forward with increasing strength and vigour.

Alan Hurst

7. IN MEMORIAM

John H. Bermon	06.03.2008
John Cannell	02.07.2008
D.F. Dines	2004
R.J. Foord	
William Douglas Foordam	18.12.2008
Harry F. Game	
Pat Hall	July 2008
John P. Maidment	Spring 2008
A.M. Mott	24.09.2008
R.H. Neagus	August 2006
John Porter	13.06.2008
A. Riches	
David Roberts	05.11.2008
Alan Saunders	2007
Howard Stone	04.11.2008
D.G. Sutton	(Died in Australia)
The Revd Mark N. Williams	April 2008

All will be sadly missed.

8. OBITUARIES

JOHN H. BERMON

(29/12/1936—06/03/2008)

John Bermon or JB as I invariably called him, had known each other for just about 60 years and we were both looking forward to celebrating our diamond jubilee of extreme good and very close friendship this coming September and had planned to mark this momentous occasion in some special way which almost certainly included a certain amount eating and drinking.

We of course first met at Westcliff in September 1948 as young ingenuous first year students. JB had passed the 11 plus after being at that rather posh refined Junior establishment called Alleyn Court and I was a back street oik from West Leigh.

John was the archetypal Jewish lad, strong and quietly proud and secure in his reli-

gious heritage, and I was an Alter boy and server in the local 'smells and bells' parish church, which was a very high Anglo-Catholic establishment.

As you can readily see we were a strange combination but we very quickly became firm friends, and always remained as such. Rugby of course was the initial meld, and very recently I found a photograph of the school Junior XV of 1951/2 with JB sitting proudly next to Henry Cloke as the vice-captain of the side. I think I should say that the ball was very firmly between my feet, sitting on the other side of Henry. We played a lot of rugby together both for the school and some representative games and of course as we got a little older, for a certain Old Boys side.

After the 5th Form we both entered Lower Six Arts with a view to studying for A levels and moving on to higher education. John, (or more likely his mother) however had more positive ideas. In 1953/4 he left Westcliff and became an articled clerk to Louis Goldwynn, a friend of John's mother Mary, who was a senior partner in a well-established firm of Chartered Accountants in London. John became a fully qualified chartered accountant in 1959 and in the early 1970's became a partner, and subsequently senior partner, opening a Southend office, and turning Goldwynn's into a major financial force in this area.

John has been generous in producing children, Mark, Paul, and Susan from his first marriage and Greg and Kate, from his marriage to Sue. I am pleased to say that the ethos of rugby continued in his sons, all playing for the Old Boys and Paul was a very active open side wing forward who punched well above his weight, (sometimes I have to say quite literally).

After his family, and shouting at the television screen at the woeful inadequacies of the current English rugby side, probably the most important aspect of JB's life was Freemasonry. He was initiated into Lodge of Probity in 1965, becoming a joining member of Old Westcliffian Lodge No. 5456 in 1978. He

was Worshipful Master of the O.W's lodge in 1991/92 and had the supreme pleasure of initiating his son Mark into the lodge in 1992 and also his son Greg in 2003.

He was a founder of Aeronautical Lodge and of the Southend Daylight Lodge and an honorary member of Wakering and Barling Lodge and also Centurian Lodge and for all his great work in Craft masonry, was awarded Provincial and Grand Lodge honours. He was also chairman of the board of directors of the Southend Masonic Centre for ten years and supervised and drove through the transition from Woodgrange Drive to Saxon Hall in Aviation Way.

In other degrees he was even more important, attaining the rank of Very Worshipful Brother, but as my knowledge is very limited in these side orders, I could not possibly comment.

There is so much more that I could say about JB, all of it praiseworthy and complimentary. It cannot be denied that he was a man of strong opinions and was forthright at times in expressing them. He could be a grumpy old grouch and very occasionally Victor Meldrew was his obvious soul mate, but John's assistance to people in need was always forthcoming, unstinting and unquestioning, and in my opinion this world will be a far poorer existence without him.

Brian Scarsbrook

JOHN CANNELL

(02/07/2008)

TRIBUTES have been paid to Southend teacher John "Jake" Cannell who passed away on July 2 at the age of 80.

Mr Cannell taught at both Westcliff and Southend high schools for boys.

Many former pupils and past colleagues will remember the important role played by Mr Cannell between 1951 and 1988.

His son Mark Cannell, 46, from Inver-

rie, Aberdeenshire said: "It is with great sadness we announce my father's sudden and unexpected death.

"His selfless concern and interest for the educational and social well-being of all those he taught and mentored will be remembered with appreciation, affection and respect by all."

After National Service in the Royal Army Education Corps where he was assigned to the Signals Squadron in Berlin, Mr Cannell went on to teach physics and mathematics at Westcliff High School for Boys from 1951 to 1959.

In 1959 he moved to Southend High School for Boys as head of the physics department. He became a senior master, and house master, positions he maintained until his retirement in 1988.

Following his retirement, Mr Cannell occupied himself with a diverse range of activities. He was an active member of St Aidan's Church parish council, a volunteer at Southend Museum, a member of the Manchester Drive Allotment Society and of Rochford Hundred Historical Society.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Inge.

A service of celebration and thanksgiving will be held on Thursday at 3pm, at St Aidan's church, The Fairway, Leigh, to which all friends, colleagues and former pupils are welcome to attend.

Evening Echo

WILLIAM DOUGLAS FORDHAM
(*B.Sc. PHD. CCHEM. FRCS – 18/12/2008*)

Dick Arnold informs us that his good friend and one-time neighbour, W.D. (Doug) Fordham, at WHSB 1936-42 went to Leicester University then at the end of the war was posted to Farnborough Air Department and worked on jet engine development in Sir Frank Whittle's Department and then in industry after the war.

His elder brother Basil Fordham was also an O.W.

R. Arnold

DAVID ROBERTS
(*05/11/2008*)

David was a pupil at Westcliff, September 1938 - July 1945, part of which time he was evacuated with the School to Belper, Derbyshire.

He returned to teach at Westcliff after achieving excellent results at Queen Mary College, London.

He taught Mathematics and made invaluable contributions in Careers Guidance, Sports Day, and to the life of the School in general.

He was an excellent colleague to work with.

Jim Harrison

ERNIE SMITH
(*08/04/2009*)

It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of my father, Ernie Smith, who died peacefully on the 8 April at Ipswich Hospital.

He will be remembered mainly for his long association with the Old Westcliffians Cricket Club and I intend to write a fuller account of his life in next year's newsletter.

Andy Smith (1961 - 1967)

JOHN STALLARD
(*23/10/2007*)

Thank you for the Old Westcliffian Association newsletter 2008. Sadly I must inform you that John passed away very suddenly on 23rd October 2007, two days after celebrating, with

his family, his 80th birthday, and a few days before we were due to visit our son and young great grand-daughter in Sydney.

John very much enjoyed his time at Westcliff and he made some very good and lasting friends. Renewing acquaintances through 'Friends Reunited' we met up with John White and his family in Canberra, and several other 'Old Boys' settled more locally.

He loved to reminisce and speak of his school days, and his autobiography bears testimony that those years were obviously a very positive and influential time of his life. I wish you a very successful reunion dinner in September and thank you, on John's behalf, for services rendered.

Yours sincerely,
Sylvia Stallard

HOWARD STONE

(11/09/1917—04/11/2008)

TRIBUTES have been paid to a leading Southend businessman who died at the age of 91.

Howard Stone played a leading role in the Southend business community for more than 50 years, building an empire of 29 HW Stone electrical stores.

He was also a director of Southend United Football Club and was one of the founders of Essex FM.

Born in West Ham on September 11, 1917, Mr Stone moved to Thundersley with his family when he was six.

A pupil at Thundersley Primary school and later, Westcliff High School for Boys, he was a keen sportsman and talented tennis player.

During the Second World War he served in the Fleet Air Arm and served on HMS Formidable. While on leave he met his future wife Eileen at a dance, and the couple married on March 1, 1948.

He took a prominent role in the local sporting community during the 1960s and

1970s, captaining Southend Golf Club before moving to Rochford Golf Club, where he played for more than 40 years.

Daughter Elaine Tucker said: "Sadly mum passed away in 1998 and dad missed her terribly, but he tried hard to make the best of it. He was a very determined person in everything he did, whether it was sport or business."

Friend Howard Southwood added: "I knew Howard for over 40 years and he was a tremendous friend, a real character. His death is a real blow to all his family and friends and he will be sadly missed."

He leaves four children, Elaine, Trevor, Graham and Tracy, and seven grandchildren.

Mr Stone passed away on November 4 after a short illness. His funeral service will be held at Southend Crematorium on Thursday, November 13 at 2pm.

Southend Echo

10/11/08

9. NEWS OF OLD WESTCLIFFIANS

HARRY BACON

In his application for our Annual Dinner 2008 Harry included these points of interest.

My years at the School spanned two intakes as I was set back due to health problems. The only person I know who will be attending is Mike Cornish (1944 intake) so I would be pleased if I could be seated near to him.

I believe September 2008 will be the 60th anniversary of Henry Cloke taking over as Headmaster. If I am correct, I hope there would be some reference to this on the night. I, for one, owed an enormous debt to Henry.

Incidentally, Henry always supported the Rugby Club but by 1952 he was concerned that it had subsumed the OWA which was virtually non-existent. I had just left the School so he asked me to track down as many as I

could by trawling the School records and arrange a reunion dinner to revive the Association. If you ever feel that your job as Hon. Sec. is easy to the point of boredom, just try organising the next dinner without a computer based database!

I look forward to meeting you and others next month, September 2008.

Warm regards,
Harry Bacon

GEOFFREY BROWN
(correspondence 12/06/08)

It is some time since I last sent a donation to the O.W.A. and as I do like to receive the newsletter in paper form I am enclosing a cheque for £20.

I notice that you have lost touch with many members including the Reverend Stephen Bartlett. I keep in touch with his mother who is now 95 but still retains a very sharp brain. She tells me that Stephen is now living at 51 Finstock Road, London W10 1NU (she was not quite sure of the last part of the postcode).

In your recent newsletter R.A.B. Crowe suggests that a list of Old Westcliffians who have received knighthoods might be compiled. In case you do not already have a note of it, my brother, Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, received his in the 1979 New Years honours. He was at Westcliff from 1934 to 1939. I was there from 1934 to 1938. We had both been at Sutton Grammar School (he for 1 year, I for 4) before moving to Westcliff.

Yours sincerely,
Geoffrey Brown

RODERIC BUTTIMORE

After leaving the school, I spent three years studying mathematics at

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, followed by a year of teacher training at Goldsmiths College, both in London. I then spent a year teaching at Westcliff High School for Girls. During my time at Imperial, I had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and while working at the girls' school, I decided that I would like to perform missionary service (it was the only job I could find with longer hours and less pay). In 1992 I was dispatched to St.Petersburg, Russia, for a two year period of service. It was an interesting time; the food queues had just disappeared, but there was still only a limited amount of goods in the shops, and if we saw something we wanted, we bought it immediately, rather than wait for a shopping trip, as there was no guarantee that anything would be in the shops the next day. During my time there, I was pleased to renew my acquaintance with Michael Clark, who had taught me Russian at the school and who was there, I think leading a school trip.

Returning home, I returned to WHSG as a supply teacher, but when a permanent post came up I decided not to apply, but to change careers to accountancy. In 1996, I began working for a Southend practice, qualifying as an ACCA in 2000, at the age of 30.

I continued working locally until the end of 2001, when I was offered a post as an audit manager by Moore Stephens Vladivostok, in the far east of Russia. I spent two years living in Vladivostok, during which time I visited Moscow, Siberia, Holland, Latvia and Tajikistan, while performing audit work. At the end of 2003, I decided to return home, but failing to find an employer locally, I went freelance and sub-contracted my services to Moore Stephens CIS, a company operating throughout the former Soviet Union. Since that time, I have worked in many parts of Russia, in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan and with the continual improvements in communications, I have even been able to perform assignments for companies in the far east from my home in Thundersley.

Going freelance also gave me the chance to separate my work and social lives and I

married Anna at the Southend Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in August 2006. It is sometimes difficult when I am away from home for weeks at a time, but when I am working at home, my office is in the next room to hers, so we probably spend more time together than families with more conventional jobs. We live together with Anna's three children from her first marriage.

If there are any old school friends wanting to look me up - we are in the phone book and I would love to hear from you.

Kind regards,
Roderic Buttimore

DR P.L.P. CLARKE

(correspondence 26/08/08)

I enclose a cheque for £10. Always willing to contribute, I gather however from your remarks in the newsletter that I wouldn't receive the newsletter unless I became technologically proficient or paid my way – which I am pleased to do. The good news is that we are negotiating for a new computer which, all being well will be less recalcitrant than the present veteran.

I was very sorry to read of John Bermon's death: news of it had not reached me. John was Vice Chairman of Governors towards the end of my headmastership and was most supportive, as he was at a time of personal tragedy before my departure.

All good wishes to you and the association: it's pleasing to see it thriving.

Yours sincerely,
Peter

DAVID CLOUGH

(David wrote as follows on 20/11/08)

I enclose a copy of the letters page of 'Peoples

Friends'. The letter about the school is in the centre. The initials 'TH' do not recall anyone to me. I was in the 6th form when at Belper so did not know many in the lower forms by name.

The original article about Belper was in a copy about 5-6 weeks ago. We passed it on to our daughter who passed it on... etc, so is not available. It was a good article about the town but no mention about WHS.

Hope all this is of interest.

FOND MEMORIES:

I was most interested in Sally Wragg's feature in the 'Friend', and I would like to add another historical event to this pleasant town.

In May 1941, I, along with four other schoolboys from Southend-on-Sea, descended upon the town as evacuees.

We went to the local Strutt High School, which we thought was a lovely stone building, and we particularly loved the hills because it made a change from generally flat Essex.

The people were very kind to us, and it is a period of my life that I recall with absolute happiness.

Mr T.H., Canada.

GODFREY FEY

In the hope that it might encourage Old Boys to write about ex OWs I sat down and wrote the enclosed for the 2009 edition of the OW newsletter. It's "all me own work, Guv'nor"! A bit of nonsense may stir others to write about themselves.

**An O. W..'s Lament Or
the paucity of news about Old Westcliffians**

*I wonder what happened to Trueblott,
Lived somewhere in Leigh, I believe,
Was exceedingly good at math'matics,
If the answers were stuffed up his sleeve.*

*Last seen, if I remember,
Somewhere near Stow on the Wold,
Married a very rich girl, they do say
Not a bit like the Trueblott of old!
Bit of an Odd Ball. Sang falsetto, until
his operation!*

*What ever became of old Choodhull?
Was jolly good at math'matics
Took the part of Falstaff, for a bit of a laugh,
The enthusiasm of a fanatic.
His rendition of Richard of Gloucester.
Dressed as Olaf a Norwegian Viking,
The report by the Chemistry Master was,
"In no way at all to my liking!"
There's a 'ham' actor on the TV just like
old Choodhull,
Of course, he's on after the nine o'clock dead-
line!*

*I never hear much of Drooks Minor.
P'raps just as well I am told.
Went off to Oxbridge one Monday
But left the next day with a cold!
Put his foot in it as was his rule,
Conferred with the Dean, in language ob-
scene,
Calling Baliol, a "Bally Old Fool!"
They say he's still around. Lives in the
Latin Quarter of
Canvey Island. Didn't he get mixed up with R.
A.D.A., or was it Radar!*

*I never did hear how Fred Masticks,
Who joined the Staff by mistake,
Took an immediate int'rest in graphics,
Dynamics and icing a cake!
Word had it, his methods were novel,
At full moon to take up the strain,
He ran round the Quad, gave the School Sec.
a prod,
And left by the very next train.
'Tis said, he went on the wrong line to
Great Wakering.
And not by the scenic route. His passport was
impounded by an
unusual sect of monkey-wrench fanciers.*

So come on you Old Boys of Westcliff,

*Let's know who did what where and when.
The square on the hypotenuse ""
Will make a good start with your pen.
The Editor expects lots and lots of news ""
So sit down and drop him a line,
It'll give great enjoyment to others,
And renew old acquaintances. Fine!
"" Apologies to WS Gilbert!*

*What about all the quiet, young O.W.s?
What happened to them?
P'raps, best not to ask!*

G. F. (Ret'd) with a bad limp!

Godfrey Fey

JOHN FOZARD

Ode To Westcliff High School for Boys

*Westcliff Grammar, School of fame,
Academic Excellence the name of the game,
Its Westcliff Boys who set the pace,
Athletically with speed and grace,
Fide-et fortitudine,
The motto stands out loud,
And every boy stands up to say,
Of our school we are proud,
Other schools across the town,
Attempt to no avail,
To emulate the Westcliff boys,
But miserably fail,
We have indeed our staff to thank,
For tireless dedication,
Providing for each Westcliff boy,
Unequaled education.
The debt is such, we owe them much,
Which money cannot pay,
But luckily indeed for us,
There is another way,
When each old boy recalls with joy,
A story that will last,
An anecdote from times remote,
From school days in the past,
The memories of that event,*

*Which raised a hearty laugh,
Provided accolade indeed,
For Westcliff's Super Staff,
Thus the toast is to the school,
Let all the pupils cry,
You'll not be taken for a fool,
If you went to Westcliff High.*

By John H D Fozard
02/01/2009

DARREN GREENWOOD

I would be grateful if you would kindly pass the following information on to the Old Westcliffians:

Darren C. Greenwood 1982-89

A Senior lecturer at Leeds University, had been awarded a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Leeds University. His Thesis was on 'Measurement Error in Nutritional Epidemiology'. He had previously obtained his Bachelors at Southampton University (Mathematics) and Masters at Leicester University (Medical Statistics with I.T.)

Regards,
Mr and Mrs Greenwood

FRED GRISLEY

I was greatly looking forward to the Reunion Dinner last year, not having seen the School for 60 years. At the last moment I had to cancel due to a family bereavement.

So here is at least one Old Boy who hopes the venue for 2009 will be the same.

Many thanks for the refund, safely received and banked.

Sincerely,
Fred Grisley 1945-49

KEN MacKINNON (1944 – 51)

I am very grateful to Terry Birdseye and Jimmy Harrison for keeping me up-to-date on WHSB and OWA matters in recent years – on the occasion of Jimmy putting me up when I revisit to conduct the annual Folk Carol service in Leigh just before Christmas (now in its 31st year!).

My home has been at Ferintosh in the Black Isle 12 miles north of Inverness since 1985, when I relocated to undertake a major research project in Scotland, and to be closer to my family. Since taking an early retirement in 1991 from Hatfield Polytechnic, I have remained active in the social research field and have continued to undertake research and consultancy jobs. I have also managed to stay employed by the Open University, and I have a couple of professorships with the Universities of Aberdeen and Hertfordshire.

During the past year I have been appointed as a board member to a Scottish Government board concerned with language policy, and by OFCOM to another concerned with media policy in Scotland. This latter job also includes being a director of a new television channel, BBC Alba (on Sky 168 and Freesat 110). These provide me with some new directions (and income) in my old age.

So I still get out and about the country on various jobs of work and I still maintain a caravan for holidays. I have a daughter and four grandchildren living close nearby, a son who is a head teacher over near Skye, and another granddaughter who has recently commenced as a solicitor with the Scottish Government in Edinburgh.

I am always pleased to make contact with any former school-fellows and old friends. Mike Cornish and Keith Clough have put a lot of us in touch with one another through the V/VI Arts/Science Class Register. Just before Christmas I found myself being treated by one of our local doctors whom I recognised, through his very close likeness, as a son of Donald Mack (whom I only recently realised had also lived in these parts for

years!).

Good to have news in last year's Newsletter also of Ian Hoskisson and Jack Steinert. And here's hoping that we all manage to avoid the obituary columns for some good few years yet.

Ken MacKinnon,
07.01.09

STEPHEN JOHN PAPWORTH

This may seem strange, but I believe that you should have a record of me as a life member, probably at an address that we moved to from the Southend area in 1968, that 15 Parsons Mead, Eaton Norwich (NOR55D, but that was changed later to a modern style of postcode).

For various reasons I have not been in contact about changes of address but hearing the School mentioned as the venue for Any Questions the other week has prompted my letter to you.

My present address is as above, and my time at WHSB was 1963 (First year Mr Parsons) to 1968 when I moved to City of Norwich School for the sixth form. I then went on to Gloucestershire College of Art and Design in Cheltenham and became a Chartered Architect in 1979. If anyone is interested I could add the detail to date.

Could you please resurrect my membership and any magazine, e-mail or whatever subscription that is current.

Many thanks,
(Stephen) John Papworth

GORDON RICE

Many thanks for the association's newsletter 2008 which I found interesting and nostalgic. Please accept the enclosed towards the cost of producing them.

PAUL SANDERS

I am so pleased that Percy introduced us a few days ago and many thanks for sending me copies of the 2007 and 2008 newsletters to add to my collection. As you know, I slipped off your radar on my return to the town in 2006 after 12 years in Norfolk.

As ever, the newsletters are a good read and I particularly enjoyed Andrew Baker's deliciously non-politically correct piece in the 2007 issue.

Although I was not one of the brighter stars of WHSB (1949-54), like many others I owe a debt of gratitude to several teachers including H.I. Brown (for precise note-taking skills as well as history) and M.S. Smith (for any analytical skills I may possess as well as mathematics).

We were the last intake to join the school in the Second Form (there being no First Form but an Upper Third to compensate) but, after a prolonged illness, I returned to WHSB in the First Form in 1950, thereby not only remaining in the same intake for a further year but, apparently, going down. Is this a record?

I look forward to attending the 2009 Reunion Dinner and, in the meantime, enclose a cheque for OWA funds.

With kind regards,
Paul V.J. Sanders

A.F. WILKINS

Recently the 'penny has dropped', that I am no longer receiving the OWA newsletter.

I remember receiving advice from the Association that Life Members needed an additional £5 to cover the increasing cost of postage and I fully intended to send a cheque, but so far have been unable to trace the counterfoil. Quite possibly your letter got submerged with junk mail and remained unanswered.

I enclose herewith a cheque as follows;

a new Life Member tie £6, a 70th Anniversary tie £6, extra cost of postage £5.

I trust that I will be reinstated on the mailing list (I have no e-mail address).

I hope to be in Leigh w/c 07/09/08 for a few days, but not long enough to attend the Dinner on 19/09/08. I would be willing to collect the ties to save postage if convenient.

It is a shame that the attendance is so poor – less than 1% of the total no. of Old Westcliffians turn up.

Did anyone try a suggestion I made some 10 years ago, which was to circularise the students in the school leaving year, when their enthusiasm is usually at its highest and suggest that each form should elect a coordinator and a deputy who would arrange an annual party?

How many times have you heard the excuse "that there was no one I knew went last time"?

I would be interested to hear your comments.

Sincerely yours,
A F Wilkins (1938-44)

10. OLD WESTCLIFFIAN LODGE NO. 5456

The Old Westcliffian Lodge will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary on the 25th July 2009 at the School and it is a testament to the Founders who included the first Headmaster of the School, that the Lodge continues to flourish.

There are five meetings each year held at the Southend Masonic Centre in Aviation Way except for July when the Lodge meets at the School. This is an eagerly awaited event that attracts many visitors and brings even more opportunity for fellowship and fun.

The Worshipful Master for 2008-2009 is Colin Bott with Martin Smith and Greg Bermon as his Wardens.

The Lodge is open to all Old Westcliffi-

ans who have been pupils at the School, or who are or have been staff or governors of the School.

Anyone who would like more information about the Lodge or Freemasonry in general should contact the Lodge Secretary, Tony Lister, who will be pleased to assist, on 01702 558625.

Tony Lister

11. WESTCLIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Well, we did it. Our hardworking 1st XV has taken us up into London 2 North - the highest the club has ever been up the league ladder. We went up as champions of London 3 North East.

Steering from the back room was our director of rugby, Bob Smith (WHSB 1973-77). His direction and his contacts in the larger world of rugby and business benefited us and we were delighted with the results.

Was there a rude awakening coming? Yes but not from the way we played. We knew it would be hard, expected it to be hard and it was all that and more. We won our first game and were confident of taking more points and at least staying up a season. But then our old bugbear injury struck - and struck - and struck. We were losing games by a few points but losing players faster. The injury list grew and grew - at the time of writing, the end of February, we are having to play backs in the forwards and some of the boys were playing third team rugby earlier in the year. While the injury situation is more serious at the top, it is affecting teams lower down - recently the Extra A had to take the field with two front row forwards as a centre pairing and didn't the opposition enjoy that when they found out.

Sideliners include the skipper Sam Newbury, Simon Jones and Matt Evans

Lady Luck did smile on us in one instance - in their wisdom the authorities have decided to re-jig the leagues and we have been told there will be no relegation this year - a blessing as we have slipped from mid-table to second last.

The Lions, who by modern definition are members of the 1st XV squad, have had to call off some games because of the shortage of players but still managed to reach the semi-final of the county 2nd XV cup where they crashed out to Barking 2nd XV - almost all of whose players had played for Barking 1st XV up in National 3 South. Even so they are high in the 2nd XV merit table and the A XV and Extra A XV's are high in theirs.

As usual many of the games in the lower reaches are played for fun rather than points and in the junior ranks the teams are raking in the silverware and the Colts XV made it to the semi-final of the county cup before falling to Chelmsford by the only try of the game. With so many junior teams - right down to Under-7's the field is almost covered with games on the full-sized and mini-pitches

We have twice had Martin Johnson, the England team manager as visiting coach for the youngsters. For all of you who played a good few years ago, memories will come back when you visit our website. By the time you read this, I should have started an occasional series of match reports from 50 and 25 years ago. Having looked at the feasibility of this and found it would work, it was good to see that many of those mentioned back in 1959 still come to the club occasionally - Jim Harrison, Ian Francis and Brian Scarsbrook among them.

Off the field activities are still going strong and there has been a revival of interest in darts with special evenings being set aside for contests between members. As usual, the club is making money through being hired for private functions by people from outside.

Another delight for us is that two members have been decorated. Phil Lane, former 1st XV skipper and master at the school was made MBE for his work as chief executive of the British Para-Olympic Association and Rob Moore got the Military Cross for an exploit in the Middle East but this was tempered by the loss of Lieutenant Aaron Lewis in Afghanistan.

It is a thriving and vibrant club - we have even got a new master at the school playing for us - utility back Tom Lemon. Elliott Harvey is playing and working in Italy after trying his luck in the national leagues with Barking and Southend. His brother Lewis is now playing and working in Brazil after a spell in Costa Rica that saw him unofficially become a "test" cricketer in an international game.

Links with WHSB are still strong with many boys playing for the school and us the next day. As usual vice-president/sponsors lunches are the time to catch up with old friends and you don't have to be either to attend. Get in touch with the Club for details.

Geoff Sawyer
25/02/09

12. EDITOR

Thank you to members who have sent in reports for this year's newsletter.

We look forward to a good gathering at the School on the occasion of our Annual Reunion Dinner on Friday 18th, September 2009.

Many, I know, will be in touch with contemporaries to encourage them to join us on this occasion.

Very best wishes,
Jim Harrison

13. THE OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed in 1926 to enable pupils to have a means of keeping in touch with staff and colleagues.

The Annual Newsletter forms a good link between members at home and abroad.

The AGM is usually held in June at the School.

Our Annual Reunion Dinner is held on the third Friday in September.

We welcome a growing membership and our Honorary Secretary will be pleased to welcome new members on receipt of an application.

J.H.

..... ✂

The Old Westcliffian Association

Application for Life Membership Subscription	£10
Life Members' Tie	£6
70th Anniversary Tie	£6
Cufflinks in Presentation Box	£12

(Please make cheques payable to 'Old Westcliffian Association')

NAME:

YEARS DATES AT SCHOOL:

ADDRESS:

.....

..... **POSTCODE:**

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, AN ADDITIONAL £5 SHOULD BE SENT FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTER MAILINGS.

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