

# OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

(formed 1926)



## NEWSLETTER 2012

### 1. OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2012 - 2013

**PRESIDENT** - D. Norman, MA (Oxon),  
M.Univ (Open)

**VICE-PRESIDENTS:**

R. Arnold  
T.W. Birdseye, JP  
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, BA(Hons)  
D.A. Day  
J.H.D. Fozard  
A.A. Hurst, BA (Hons)  
N.C. Kelleway  
A.L. Murray  
M. Wren

**CHAIRMAN** - M. Skelly, MA (Open),  
BA (Maynooth)

**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, BA (Hons), (Editor)  
J. Harrison  
A.A. Hurst, BA (Hons)  
Father J. McCollough  
School Head Boy,  
or his Deputy

**HON. AUDITOR** - A.R. Millman, FCA

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

**2. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2012  
7:00 PM FOR 7:45PM AT AZURRO RESTAURANT, 326 LONDON ROAD,  
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, ESSEX, SS0 7JJ  
DETAILS ON PAGE 5.**

**\*\*\* Follow the OWA on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/OldWestcliffian> \*\*\***



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**NB:** *All articles for next year's Newsletter should be received by our Honorary Secretary by the end of March 2012.*



**2. O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

**7:00 PM FOR 7:45 PM AT**

**AZURRO RESTUARANT  
326 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 7JJ**

**COST £26 (£15 FOR STUDENTS IN FULL TIME EDUCATION)  
TICKETS WILL NOT BE ISSUED**

**DRESS - LOUNGE SUIT, ASSOCIATION TIE (£6, Available from Asst. Sec. - see page 35)**

**MENU**

**Please see page 7.**

**Choose on the night.**

**Vegetarian meals available.**

✂ .....

**REPLY SLIP: O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

**FROM: Name: .....**

**Address: .....**

**Postcode: ..... Phone: .....**

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

**TELEPHONE : 01702 714241**

**PLEASE RESERVE ..... PLACE(S) FOR :**

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

**TOTAL: £ \_\_\_\_\_**

**\* PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR YEARS AT SCHOOL. THIS IS IMPORTANT.**

**CHEQUE PAYABLE TO 'OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION'.**

**TICKETS WILL NOT BE ISSUED.**



# **AZURRO RESTAURANT**

## **Three course 'Menu Speciale'**

### **APPETIZERS**

#### **▼ Zuppa del Giorno**

*Home made soup of the day*

#### **Cocktail Scogliera**

*Fresh poached salmon & prawn cocktail served on a bed of shredded lettuce with chive mayonnaise*

#### **▼ Gnocchi Genovese**

*Potato dumplings served in a creamy pesto sauce with diced tomato and parmesan shavings*

#### **▼ Melone Fresco**

*Fanned melon served with seasonal fruit and coulis*

#### **Pollo Indiana**

*Strips of chicken dipped in paprika crispy fried and mixed with spring onions and curried mayonnaise*

#### **Funghi Romagna**

*Grilled flat mushroom topped with blue cheese and crispy pancetta*

### **MAIN COURSES**

#### **Spezzatino di Manzo**

*Strips of beef braised with red wine, bacon, mushroom, roasted garlic and tomato sauce presented with mashed potato*

#### **Pollo Bosciaola**

*Pan-fried breast of chicken served with a mushroom cream sauce*

#### **Anitra Orientale**

*Half crispy roast duckling, glazed with honey and finished with orange, ginger scallion sauce*

#### **▼ Risotto ai Funghi**

*Risotto cooked with wild mushroom and parmesan cheese*

#### **Maiale All'agro**

*Pan-fried escalope of pork served with capers, lemon juice butter sauce*

#### **Salmone al Pesto**

*Oven baked salmon steak served with a cream pesto sauce*

**All main courses served with vegetables and potatoes**

### **Selection of Desserts**

### **Coffee and Delights**

**▼ Suitable for vegetarians. No animal products.**



**3. (i) TO: HONORARY SECRETARY O.W.A. - TERRY BIRDSEYE**

**OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION**

**Careers Guidance Support Form**

In a new venture for the Association we are setting up a careers advice network. The intention is that both current pupils and Old Boys can tap into the wealth of knowledge about careers and universities held by us, the membership of the OWA. Those seeking advice will be able to search anonymised data and then submit pertinent questions for direction to the appropriate alumni by an intermediary at the School. In order to set up and sustain the network we are asking willing Old Boys to supply a brief resume of their career history below, or alternatively at [www.tinyurl.com/OWACareers](http://www.tinyurl.com/OWACareers).

Name: .....

Years at WHSB: .....

University, Subject, Degree Level, Dates 1:

.....  
.....

University, Subject, Degree Level, Dates 2:

.....  
.....

Profession(s)

.....

Email Address: .....

By signing below I consent for these data be kept on record and be used solely to match those seeking careers advice with those offering it.

Signed: ..... Date: .....



### 3.(ii) NEW MEMBERS

P.B. Coffey	(46-51)
R. Barrett	(89-96)
S. Haywood	(37-42)
D.M. Holt	(48-55)
R.L. Turner	(54-61)
B.R.W. Hulme	(53-59)

***Total 6***

### 3.(iii) DONATIONS 2011-2012

R. Chestney  
T. Dickinson  
Major G.W.J Fey (*Deceased*)  
B. Gilbertson  
D.M. Holt  
F.W.J. James  
M.A. Johnson  
Father J.K. McCollough  
His Hon. G. Rice  
D.H. Row  
G. Robinson  
P.V.J. Sanders  
D. Sherringham  
Dr. J. Wells  
J. Weston

## 4. HONORARY TREASURER

### Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

	<u>2011</u>		<u>2010</u>
INCOME			
Life subscriptions	460		170
Interest received	1		4
Profit on ties etc	58		99
Donations / raffle	1,183		631
Surplus on function	241		124
	<hr/>	1,943	<hr/>
			1,028
EXPENDITURE			
Printing, postage & stationary	1,129		560
Sundry expenses	30		45
	<hr/>	1,159	<hr/>
			605
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£ 784	£ 423
		<hr/>	<hr/>

### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
ASSETS		
Stock of ties	562	708
Cash at bank	9,638	167
Cash at building society	2	8,543
NET ASSETS	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 10,202	£ 9,418
	<hr/>	<hr/>
FINANCED BY		
General fund brought forward	9,418	8,995
Surplus for the year	784	423
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 10,202	£ 9,418
	<hr/>	<hr/>

*C.R.N. Taylor, FCA*  
**Honorary Treasurer**

*A.R. Millman, FCA*  
**Independent Examiner**

## 5. PRESIDENT

Last year I had the good fortune to both be elected Mayor of Southend on Sea and to receive an honorary degree. But as I told the Association dinner last year, there is no honour I value more than having been elected President of the Old Westcliffian Association. I am sure I am not alone in thinking that as each year passes the more I realise quite how much I owe to our school, which I always say, managed to give me an education in spite of myself! I was a source of continual frustration to my teachers and the then Headmaster, Henry Cloke, who told me that if I actually did some work I could get into the London School of Economics or even Oxford. It was not until my early 20's that I realised the wisdom of Henry's words and fulfilled his prediction by eventually going to both.

My story I believe illustrates the great strength of WHSB, in that it encourages all who enter its doors and not just the academic high fliers, to be the best that they can be. This proud tradition has been sustained by the retiring headmaster Andrew Baker, who leaves us in July after 23 years of service. I have had the good fortune as a school governor to see and to admire the way in which he has run the school. He has achieved not just an outstanding academic record but also inculcated our pupils with high moral standards and a sense of social responsibility, rare in modern education. Andrew has been one of the School's great Headmasters and the OWA will wish to join me in wishing him well in his retirement. At the same time we offer our best wishes to his successor Michael Skelly who already has a strong record of commitment to the School. We look forward to working with him.

At last year's OWA Annual Dinner I expressed the view that the Association ought to be more than a social organisation. I feel sure that there are many members who will share that view and who would like to put something back into the school from which they gained so much. OWA support for the school could take many forms – from financially supporting a particular project to mentoring students for whom choosing a career in the present age is an increasingly important task. Having now retired from the Mayoralty of our home town I hope to devote more time in the coming year, to discussing with the Committee, the School and fellow OWs how best we can contribute to the school as we move towards our Centenary.

As I write the Association is without a Secretary since, unfortunately, Elliott Ward has been obliged to give up owing to the joint pressures of a demanding job and a part time Masters degree. I thank him for his service and wish him good luck for the future. I am greatly indebted to two OW stalwarts, Terry Birdseye and Roland Darvell for all their efforts in keeping the show on the road.

As you will know, Mr Baker's retirement dinner took place at the school in July. So the OWA have branched out this year and are dining on the 14th September at one of the town's best Italian Restaurants, the 'Azurro' which is on the London Road, close to Hamlet Court Road. The restaurant is offering us a splendid choice of six starters and six main courses which you can select on the night. Our guest speaker will be old boy Ric Morgan former Head Teacher, Actor, Radio Presenter and Local Councillor. I hope as many members as possible will join us for what I am sure will be an enjoyable evening. I look forward to seeing you.

With all good wishes  
David Norman

## 6. CHAIRMAN

As this is the last article I shall write for the Old Westcliffians' Newsletter before leaving the School at the end of the present academic year, it seems fitting to offer some of my general perspectives after over twenty-two years in Headship. The School has received from OFSTED public recognition as *Outstanding* on four occasions and many people have asked me how the School's success might best be explained. The enquiry itself is flattering but the question is one to which no Head can respond with certainty. In a sense, I think what we have achieved (and that achievement is of the School as a corporate body rather than of the Head) has been the product of a rugged individuality. I have ten considerations. I believe each to be important.



First, I hope we have had a clear sense of purpose. We have not succumbed to any 'child-centred' conception of education but have wanted boys (and now girls) to broaden their knowledge and understanding in the many different fields of human endeavour. Yes, we have always sought to cover the requirements of public examination syllabuses but, more importantly, we have sought to introduce pupils, following Matthew Arnold, to 'the best that has been thought and said in the world'. There is too much reductionism in the practice of education today. There is too great a willingness to set aside what is more worthwhile and uplifting because it is felt too demanding. Grammar School pupils relish the opportunity to engage with ideas and abstraction. Moreover, once intellectual curiosity has been aroused, examination outcomes take care of themselves.

Second, we have been familiar with, but not subservient to, a rapidly changing educational agenda. Today, the impetus to intervention in education in pursuit of improvement is relentless; 'initiatives', 'strategies' and fashions abound; in a world in which change is constant, it is easy to lose sight of what matters and must endure. We have made it our purpose to know the present agenda and never to overlook it. But the challenge for any intelligent and thinking School is to interpret the agenda and to draw intelligently upon it while refusing to be deflected from what we know is of value.

Third, we have always been willing to take a stand. Today, the pressure in education towards 'compliance' with the received wisdom is immense and whether the mantra relates to 'inclusion' or to 'collaboration' or to 'equal opportunity', the expectation is that Schools will pursue 'implementation' more readily than they will enquire what the big idea might actually mean and whether it represents the wisest course to follow. At times, we have needed to detach ourselves from the prevailing wisdom better to affirm our own values. It is a position which might not always have served our immediate popularity but it has made for a better School.

Fourth, we have always sought to appoint teachers with a genuine interest in their own subjects and I have been delighted to welcome to Westcliff so many teachers who have found meaning in their own academic work and have wished to impart their enthusiasms to others. To have as the first objective of recruitment policy, the attraction of those whose essential interest is children seems to me misguided. A teacher is someone in whom some part of the human inheritance is alive. That teacher will have a natural and spontaneous wish to impart his or her enthusiasm to others. But if teachers are not themselves the masters of a discipline and they are

teaching only because of their 'love' of children then, very quickly, they will flounder in Grammar Schools when they find themselves unable to interest, provoke and challenge our best and brightest.

Fifth, we have retained in our daily life a strong focus on teaching quality. Of course, teachers need to be able to express their own individuality but Schools need to have clear understandings on what is good teaching and to ensure that those understandings are practised across the School. Schools have many teachers and it cannot be the case that pupils' daily experiences are shaped entirely by the casual and individual preferences of teachers themselves. Having common understandings is essential and without those understandings, pupils' experiences can become fragmentary rather than elements within a structure which has meaning and coherence.

Sixth, the School must be seen as a corporate body. The whole must be more than the sum of the parts and there must be, in staff and pupils alike, a sense of shared identity. The School must come together each day; the School's ethos must be articulated and reinterpreted in the light of both change and circumstance. Pupils must receive consistent messages and opportunities to give expression to the School's values must never be neglected. Pupils should be able to 'feel' what the School is about and if a School's 'teaching' is sometimes at a tangent to the values coming to pupils from other sources, then that is only to the good.

Seventh, a School must be a provider of wider cultural opportunities. A good curriculum, properly conceived and taught can do much to enrich pupils' experiences and extend life chances. But the School curriculum must never be all that a good School has to offer. The quality of interpersonal relationships is always paramount but Schools must provide as well a wide range of cultural opportunities, not least because without such initiatives many young people will enter adulthood linguistically, artistically and culturally impoverished. I am deeply indebted to my colleagues at Westcliff who have offered so much to pupils outside the teaching day and given pupils these wider experiences, interests and perspectives which make for richer and more fulfilling lives.

Eighth, good Schools depend, in no small measure on individuality and creativity. But in the day-to-day life of a School, giving attention to detail and maintaining systems honestly and consistently such that pupils feel secure in their world and appreciate that its standards will be fairly and consistently applied, are matters which are far from peripheral to the pursuit of excellence. Whether in relation to routines or disciplinary standards, or over our expectations covering language or courtesy in interpersonal relationships, defining a standard and then not deviating from it under the pressure of events, is something which in no small measure defines what good Schools are about. Pupils are sensitive to these corporate structures and they are more comfortable in Schools where contours are clearly drawn. Pupils dislike, and very properly, the arbitrary and the unpredictable. They respect rules which have a rational foundation. Moreover, any School whose corporate life is conducted on these principles is inculcating the ethic of personal responsibility. Because Schools are communities, through their corporate life, they can offer an education in citizenship but they cannot do that if messages are mixed, principles unclear and their application only sporadic.

Ninth, I believe we have been able to benefit from the simple fact of our selective intake. In saying this, I imply absolutely no disrespect to Heads working in other Schools for many of whom I have an unqualified regard. But it has been my privilege to be the Head of a Selective School and I should be failing in my duty to its pupils if I did not recognize that having a selec-

tive intake makes more possible the promotion of an internal life in which scholastic, cultural and personal values can be given full expression. So many of my colleagues at Westcliff have worked in these vineyards daily. Pupils have gained immensely from their endeavours.

Finally, we have believed in both leadership and the maintenance of high expectations. Excellence can never be generated, in education or in any other walk of life, by following the crowd. At times, it is necessary to stand apart from the culture of the moment. It is important to set high expectations and to encourage pupils to raise their own expectations. The best teachers extend an invitation to pupils to follow where they have led. No coercion is necessary. The invitation is sufficient in itself. But it matters too that teachers are critical of the shoddy and the second-rate. Of course, encouragement matters and must be given. But young people have resilience and self-respect and if they have served up something less than their best, we perform no service to them by pretending otherwise. In dealing with the young, honesty is the first and last principle.

Teaching is a noble profession. To work daily with the next generation has been a privilege of which I have been conscious throughout the forty-three years of my professional life. Education is both a trust and a responsibility. All at Westcliff take pride in what, working together as a community, we have been able to achieve. The School can look to the future with confidence but without complacency knowing what it must do to be true to itself and to serve its pupils.

A J Baker  
June 2012

## 7. IN MEMORIAM

David Brown	
M.S. Brown	
D. Cartwright	
C.J. Chatten C.B.E.	22/05/2011
N. Cooksley	
N. Kitchener	
Brian R. Cole	28/07/2011
Frederick Peter Cook	30/05/2011
R.A.B. Crowe	17/04/2011
Major Godfrey Fey	20/03/2012
K.J. Forder	
M. Hale	
Ian Harper	19/05/2011
Vic Lowen	
David Tanner	09/06/2011
Wing Cdr Richard F.B. Powell	09/02/2012
Geoffrey Scrivener	June 2012
Colin Walden	09/04/2010
D. Whitworth	

## 8. OBITUARIES

*Brian R. Cole*  
*Ronald A.B. Crowe*  
*Major Godfrey Fey*  
*Wing Cdr Richard F.B. Powell*  
*Geoffrey Scrivener*

### **BRIAN R. COLE**

*(28/07/2011 ~ WHSB: 1946-1951)*

Sadly my husband, Brian Cole, passed away on July 28th after a long and difficult illness.

He was proud to be an Old Westcliffian and enjoyed attending dinners and concerts at the school. He also enjoyed his time as a neighbourhood engineer.

Thank you  
Rhona Cole

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### **RONALD A. B. CROWE**

*(17/04/2011 ~ widely known as Jim Crowe)*



#### *Head boy became top rugby referee*

A FORMER head boy at Westcliff High School for Boys who became an international rugby referee has passed away, aged 90.

Ronald Arthur Braybrooke Crowe OBE, widely known as Jim Crowe, loved his rugby but his playing days were cut short in the late Forties by a knee problem.

By then he had met his wife-to-be Sylvia who he dated for nine years before they got married in 1956.

Mr Crowe went on to carve out a successful career from rugby.

His son, Nick, explained: "He switched to refereeing because of injury. It was unusual for a referee to be aged in his late 20s in those days, but he quickly rose through the ranks to referee, international matches."

Most of the glittering prizes in refereeing soon followed including being in charge of one Wallabies match, two All Blacks' matches and officiating in France, Belgium and Spain.

For 16 consecutive years he was in the middle at the Middlesex Sevens and his crowning glory was running the line at Cardiff Arms Park when England beat Wales in 1963 - a feat not achieved again by England for another 28 years.

A Westcliff boy through and through, Mr Crowe joined his local rugby club - then the Old Westcliffians, today Westcliff Rugby Club - and was also a member of Southend

Rugby Club. He was a former president and life member.

He was also on the RFU laws panel well into his 80s and even assessed the capabilities of other referees.

His last match as a ref was in 1980, aged 60, and was a regular at the club until a couple of years ago.

He first lived in Tintern Avenue, Westcliff. He left Chalkwell Hall School for Westcliff High and by 1938 was head boy and had won colours for his cricket and rugby skills.

His education was cut short by the Second World War as he was about to set off for Cambridge University to study modern languages.

Nick, the couple's only child, added: "He spent the war as a coder working for the Royal Navy and afterwards joined Customs and Excise as an executive officer. Throughout his life he remained an exceptionally good linguist, but rugby was always his main love, although he liked classical music too. He also loved life."

He worked at the VAT office overlooking Victoria Gateway until he retired in 1981. He got an OBE for services to Customs and Excise.

*By Mike Miners (Echo)  
mike.miners@nqe.com*

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## **MAJOR GODFREY FEY**

*(20/03/2012)*

Godfrey Fey, who rose to the rank of Major in 1963 and enjoyed a distinguished military career during and after the Second World War, died in March at his home in Winchester. Major Fey attended Westcliff between 1934 and 1939. He saw service in the Middle East, Hong Kong and in the Normandy Landings and played a role too in the liberation of France. His whole future thinking and consciousness was shaped by the War.

The experience of those years – tragedies as well as triumphs – never left him.

He was a man who, in style, language and bearing, embodied the finest of our military traditions. He was entirely comfortable with the hierarchy inseparable from military life and rose himself to positions of command and authority. He remembered vividly those alongside whom he had fought and would recount with an unflinching command of detail, his own exploits and adventures. He had an immense regard for leaders such as Churchill and Montgomery and I sense, although he never put it quite in this way, felt that his greatest contribution to the cause of human freedom and the promotion of civilized values had been made in the War years.

He retained a great affection for his School and after the War returned for many years to the Annual Service of Remembrance, booking himself into the Westcliff Hotel, taking a taxi to the School gates in good time and presenting himself on the platform wearing the medals reflecting his distinguished service which meant so much to him. He found those Services profoundly moving but never failed to be uplifted by the sight of his old School, more than sixty years on, coming together in sombre mood to remember the fallen. Over the last five years, as Godfrey's health and mobility declined, he was no longer able to make the journey but he sent to us a vast archive of memorabilia drawn from the War years together with his own vivid recollections of the service he had given. As his life drew to a close, we received in January the Supplement to the London Gazette of Friday 3 May 1963 in which his elevation to the rank of Major was recorded. He banked both his memories and his treasures with his old School.

Godfrey took great pride in being, for a number of years, President of the Old Westcliffian Association. He was a great patriot and a man who was intensely loyal to institutions to which he belonged; School, Army and Regiment. He believed profoundly in

the values of liberty, tolerance and the rule of law and, with every fibre in his being, loathed the tyranny against which he had fought. I think he knew that his life was drawing to a close and the correspondence I had with him across the closing decade of his life I hope meant something to him just as it reminded me of how much Godfrey in his life had given and how much he wanted to be carried forward by later generations.

Andrew J. Baker

*(Originally published in the Westcliff Diary)*

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### **WING CDR RICHARD F.B. POWELL**

*(09/02/2012)*

I wanted to advise the Association that my father, Wing Commander Richard (Dick) Powell, a formal pupil, passed away on February 9th this year. His date of birth was October 30th, 1920.

I know that he would have wanted me to let you know.

Regards

Frances Travers-Wakeford

(Daughter)

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### **GEOFFREY SCRIVENER**

*(June 2012)*

My Father, Geoffrey Scrivener, who is a member of your Association has recently died at 102 years of age.

He attended Westcliff High School during it's co-educational phase in the early 1920's where he met my mother.

Peta Bruce

(Daughter)

## **9. NEWS OF AND FROM OLD WESTCLIFFIANS**

### **HARRY BACON**

*(1944-1952)*

Dear Elliott,

It was good to meet you last Friday and to hear from you & David Norman that the future direction of the Association is under review.

Congratulations on the arrangements for the dinner although it was disappointing that only 70 members attended. Your suggestion that dinners should be on Saturdays seems eminently sensible as some may be precluded at present by the need to leave work early and/or travel long distances.

May I offer up the following suggestions for the committee's consideration:

1. Members are more likely to attend if they can be assured, prior to the event, that some of their contemporaries will be present. Would it be possible to launch a website wherein members could give advance notice of their intention to attend and invite others of their year to share a table. Perhaps design of the website could be a challenge for the School's computer nerds.

2. Once at the dinner, there should be some means whereby we can identify our former colleagues. I counted some 8 familiar names on the lists posted on the wall but after 60 years faces change, often beyond recognition and I found only 3. Encouraging people to wear a lapel badge with their name and dates would help. Also, a copy of the list on every table would enable us to peruse it more thoroughly. Perhaps speeches, excellent though they were, might be curtailed a little to allow an interval for circulation and reunions.

I was delighted to hear both David & Derek Wyatt recall fond memories of Henry Cloke. I am in his everlasting debt for the encouragement and practical help he gave me while I was recovering from illness. Soon after I

left the School he 'instructed' me to revive the defunct association. In those pre-computer days it was a challenge but we did organise several dinners at the Middleton Hotel in Southend and with the generous help of Harry Ashley (printer) we launched the annual newsletter.

Warm regards,  
Harry Bacon

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## DAVID BECKETT

For many years I have wanted to get down to the OWA annual thrash but once again circumstances prevent. A lad in my class at Westcliff, Colin George stood as the Labour Candidate for Southend East and nearly got in when the popular Sir Stephen Macadden was asked to stand down in favour of a tory Scot who had lost his seat. (Elliott, your parents may remember - if not try your grandparents.)

I'm not sure when dates are fixed but an early idea of the rough date would be of benefit.

Ever,  
David Beckett

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## PETER BONE

### *One of coalition's more vocal members*

Prime Minister's Question Time in the House of Commons is usually a very serious affair.

So, when Peter Bone, the Conservative MP for Wellingborough, and a former Southend councillor, asked his question recently it certainly provided some light relief.

Mr Bone seemed to suggest to David Cameron that he was getting some 'aggro' on the home front over the UK's membership of the European Union and asked the Prime Minister if he would please his wife

and order a referendum about the UK remaining within the EU.

The Prime Minister said he sympathised with him, but 'No' he couldn't please Mrs Bone and order a referendum.

Since then Mr Bone has emerged as one of the more vocal MPs over the Coalition and has put up a spirited defence in particular over Andrew Lansley's NHS reforms.

Mr Bone was born in Billericay and



was educated at Westcliff High School for Boys. He qualified as a chartered accountant and the website says that he became press secretary to Paul Channon, who was MP for Southend West for many years.

In fact, Mr Bone became a prominent member of the Conservative party in Southend West and was deputy chairman of the association, based at the Iveagh Hall in Leigh Road.

He was also a prominent businessman in the town and in 1995 the Daily Mirror described him as Britain's 'meanest boss' when he defended paying a 17 year-old trainee 87p an hour.

He was elected a councillor for Southend, representing Blenheim ward, in 1977 and served for eight years until 1986.

His ambition, though, was to become an MP and, having cut his 'political teeth' in Southend he moved away and contested the parliamentary seat of Islwyn in the South Wales industrial valleys at the 1992 General Election against the leader of the Opposition Neil Kinnock.

Peter Bone's 6,180 votes remains the

best Conservative result in this Labour stronghold. He subsequently fought the European Parliament election in 1994 for Mid and West Wales coming third.

He was then chosen for the seemingly safe Conservative seat of Pudsey following the retirement of the veteran MP Giles Shaw at the 1997 General Election but lost following a swing of 13.20% to the Labour's Paul Truswell, compared to a national swing of 10% from Conservative to Labour.

In the 2001 General Election he fought the ultra marginal of Wellingborough, where the sitting Labour MP Paul Stinchcombe was holding on with a majority of just 187, having defeated the veteran Tory MP Peter Fry in 1997.

Stinchcombe held on to his seat by 2,355, a swing of 2.1 % to Labour compared with a national swing of 1.75 to the Conservatives.

However, four years later, in the 2005 General Election, Peter Bone ousted Stinchcombe in Wellingborough with a majority of 687 votes, a swing of 2.9% compared to a national swing of 3.1% to the Conservatives.

He obviously nursed the constituency well because in 2010 he returned a landslide victory - increasing his majority to around 11,800.

He has established himself at Westminster where he is regularly one of the ten most active MPs, in terms of questions asked and other contributions.

However the quality of those interventions was questioned in a 2006 Times article which said that he was one of three new MPs specifically mentioned who boosted "their ratings on the internet by saying very little, very often."

Amongst his 109 'speeches' was one which ran to three short sentences in which he told fellow MPs that the sub-postmaster in Little Irchester had "the only business in the village".

The website quotes that he is rated as one of the Conservatives' most rebellious MPs - a reputation he has lived up to in re-

cent controversies involving the NHS and the Coalition.

He is married to Jennie. They have three children, Alexander who is at Warwick University, Helen who is studying for her A levels at Wellingborough School, and Thomas who was born in January 2001 and who is said to keep both Peter and Jennie on their toes.

He is, of course, not the only Old Westcliffian to have made a name for himself at Westminster.

John Hutton, who was MP for Barrow for many years, was in Tony Blair's Cabinet -and was elevated to the House of Lords and it was his report on teachers' pensions that has led to the threat of recent industrial action.

Then, of course, there is David Gold, who became Lord Gold of Westcliff-on-Sea at a ceremony at the Palace of Westminster this year, and will help to examine and scrutinise proposed Government legislation.

Lord Gold, 59, is the third Essex appointment to the House of Lords in the last 12 months, and followed two other people prominent in Leigh - Angela Smith, who cut her 'political teeth' fighting Southend West for the Labour party, and Sue Nye, an aide to former Prime Ministers.

*(Summer Times, July 19, 2011:  
Report by Michael Guy)*

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## **JOHN BUNDOCK**

It may be of interest to you to know that four Old Westcliffians are serving as clergy in the Guildford Diocese.

The Right Reverend Ian Brackley is the Bishop of Dorking.

The Reverend John Fellows is the Rector of Compton, Shackleford and Pepper Harrow.

The Reverend Nicholas Whitehead is the Rector of Shere, Albury and Chilworth.

Canon John Bundock is Vicar of Bram-

ley and Grafham and Rural Dean of Cranleigh.

At one time John, Nick and I were Rural Deans together, three of the twelve in the diocese.

Best regards  
John Bundock

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**PETER J BUXTON O.B.E.**

(1971-1978)

Regrettably I will not be able to attend the dinner however I thought you may be interested in some news. I have just been promoted to the rank of Surgeon Commodore and have taken up a new appointment as head of the Defence Medical Group. The Defence Medical Group is a tri-service component of the Defence Medical Services which is responsible for the Royal College of Defence Medicine in Birmingham (which treats all the wounded service personnel returning from operations); the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court (where they are rehabilitated) and all military medical personnel serving in the UK (with my remit stretching from Inverness to Truro).

We are required to prepare and deploy all hospital based personnel for operations throughout the world, often at very short notice, as well as treat all those service personnel injured on operations and I am the Formation Commander for in excess of 2500 personnel. My Headquarters is in the Midlands at Whittington Barracks which is close to Lichfield.

Peter  
PJ Buxton OBE  
Surgeon Commodore Royal Navy

**BRIAN CULLEN**

(1948-1953)

**Annual Newsletter**

Gentleman greetings.

As a enjoyer of the above mentioned magnum opus I have become almost suicidal at not having received this year's thrilling episode. Please sooth my fevered brow and assure me that my wait is only a short one. My time left on this Planet is but limited.

Sincerest regards  
Brian

*Reply from RTD:*

Cheer up Brian, you are likely to survive for a great deal longer than I. The newsletter is going to be late and that is a fact which hurts us more than the collective angst of the Association. You may well receive it in two parts but you may like to know, in advance of the first part, that the AGM is on Thursday June 8th at the school and the dinner is on Saturday 15th September (oops, actually it's Friday 14th) at a surprise location. As this latter information is as yet a secret you are assured that there will be a letter coming.

Best wishes  
Roland Darvell

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**BARRY GILBERTSON**

Your records will show that I am a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers. I retired, aged sixty, from PwC on 30 April, and now practice on my own account. I have attached my latest bio details... I should like to craft a short article having retired, but am unsure how to write it to demonstrate how my career has gone, without being immodest.

Ideas ?

Please pass my congratulations on to Andrew Baker and the team on being awarded Academy status. A great achievement. I spent a couple of years on the Governing Body, but had to step down on the collapse of Lehman Brothers, as my role at PwC required me to focus more than full time on the Administration of the bank.

I was delighted to read of David Gold's elevation to the peerage. David and I, together with David Milne vied for top spot in forms 1D through 5D, all except one year when I had a disastrous set of exams. Any chance you could let me have David (Baron Gold)'s email address or perhaps you could forward my details on to David, as it would be great to catch up.

best wishes  
Barry Gilbertson

## ***Professor Barry Gilbertson***

**BARRY GILBERTSON CONSULTANCY**  
**Non-Executive Consultant to Knight Frank**  
**Partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers 1996-2011**  
**President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors 2004/5**  
**Founder Chairman of Non-Administrative Receivers Association**  
**Founder Fellow of Institute of Continuing Professional Development**  
**Counselor of Real Estate**  
**United Nations Real Estate Advisory Group 1998 - 2004**  
**Founder Deputy Chair of World Assoc. of Valuation Organisations 2002-4**  
**Bank of England Property Forum 2003 - 2010**  
**Visiting Professor at Northumbria University**  
**Trustee and Board Member, College of Estate Management**  
**Fellow, The Royal Society of Arts**  
**Member of MENSA, Listed in Who's Who since 2006**  
**Honorary member of Romanian and two South African Professional Bodies**  
**Honorary member of The Association of Property & Fixed Charge Receivers**

Aged 59, Barry practises as the eponymous Barry Gilbertson Consultancy, having been with PwC since 1992, and previously the managing director of a commercial and residential property investment &



development company. From January 2011, Barry is also a non-executive consultant to three organisations, Knight Frank and two other businesses. Barry is acknowledged as an expert in property turnaround, a leading fixed charge receiver, and specialises in *strategic solutions for real estate within a business context*.

Barry is a regular and entertaining speaker who has spoken at conferences, and lead or worked on projects, in **30 countries**, as well as all four countries of the United Kingdom. Barry lectured at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, and chaired an international panel at the Global Cities Symposium at Harvard University. Barry has spoken five times for the United Nations in Geneva, Rome and London. Recently, one listener from an audience of 280 wrote, unsolicited, to observe

“I must say your presentation was the best I have ever heard”.

Barry was a monthly opinion columnist for Estates Gazette for two years, is a respected commentator on business issues affecting the property industry, including retail property vacancies, has been published well over 100 times, in UK and 14 other countries, and is a regular commentator on the property markets on TV, radio, broadsheet press media, professional journals and via the internet. Barry was only the second UK real estate professional to be peer-elected to the Counselors of Real Estate - an internationally eminent group of only 1200

real estate practitioners worldwide, demonstrating “the highest levels of knowledge, experience, competency, integrity and judgement in the real estate arena.”

In July 2001, after three years chairing the RICS Strategy & Resources Board, RICS Governing Council passed a resolution recognising Barry’s “outstanding and visionary leadership”. As President 2004/05, Barry lead a profession of more than 113,000 members worldwide – RICS had, then, a turnover of c£32m (now £40m+) employing over 450 staff. At the end of his Presidency, Barry received a formal citation of his “innovative, clear and energetic leadership of the profession”.

In 2002, Barry was instrumental in the creation of The World Association of Valuation Organisations, as the global voice for the valuation profession, in education and development of the profession, working with IVSC. From 2003 2010, Barry was a member of The Bank of England Property Forum - a committee advising the Governor, and the Monetary Policy Committee, to improve the Bank’s understanding of financial developments in the UK’s property markets.

Barry is a Visiting Professor of The Built Environment at Northumbria University. Barry’s 2004 inaugural professorial lecture was *Business Ethics*, the 2005 lecture “*Working Together*”, 2006 “*Thesis ideas*”, 2007 “*Property : Goldmine or Landmine?*”, 2008 “*The Credit Crunch – has it taken the biscuit ?*” 2009 “*Roots, Shoots, Fruits : Hold or Sell property in today’s business climate*” and 2010 “*The Keys : what to do next in the property market ?*”. Barry has been a Visiting Lecturer at 16 universities, including four of the world’s top 12 universities – Cambridge, UK, Cornell, USA, in Beijing and in Shanghai, China. An audience member said recently ... “*Barry has such presence due to his clear and known expertise – he’s not a professor for nothing*”.

At **PwC**, Barry contributed his leadership, mentoring and coaching skills, together with his experience and expertise, to

lead the real estate (lending values c£8bn) work-out of Lehman Brothers within Administration. Other notable cases include Wembley Stadium, Enron and in 2009/10 Barry ran Rock, a property company, in Administration, in New York City, USA. At **Knight Frank**, Barry is advising the Commercial Board, and the Corporate Recovery Team.

Barry is a very good communicator and advises corporates strategically where real estate is material to an assignment, especially in “business workout” scenarios, and within **Barry Gilbertson Consultancy** he facilitates vision, strategy & business plan development. Barry is well known for his research, articles and presentations on retail store closures within the current recession. A client recently commented “*A very reassuring mix of experience, intellect, confidence and humour.*”

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## JOHN HOLMES



*John earns university honour*

A FORMER Leigh resident will receive an honorary degree.

Radio and TV presenter John Holmes, above, 64, who grew up in Chapmans Close, Leigh, and went to West Leigh School and Westcliff High School for Boys, will receive the Doctor of Letters degree from the University of Nottingham, where

he studied in the late 1960s.

Mr Holmes, whose father Percy owned furniture company Holmes Bros, in Leigh Broadway, will return to his old university on Friday, to collect his accolade for his work in broadcasting.

Mr Holmes began working for BBC radio as a trainee in 1969. He has worked for the BBC in Nottingham and Bristol. He currently lives in Nottingham and is filming a series of his walking show Holmes and Away.

The dad-of-three and grandfather-of-five is also a founder and chairman of skin cancer charity SKCIN and is patron of child adoption charity Family Care.

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## **CRAIG HUDSON**

Just a quick note to thank you for an excellent evening on Friday. It was a treat to explore the school and I am still stunned by the development, given I've not seen the place in twenty years. What I'd have given to be taught in that music department! Superb.

Following on from the discussions re: using technology to boost the OWA's effectiveness and involvement, there is a clear route that cannot fail to succeed when handled correctly in Facebook as I'm sure you know. I've cc'd Claire Thompson on this e-mail because Claire is an expert in how to get the most out of Facebook for the smallest investment in time and money. A discussion with Claire before you start on this area may well make your life an awful lot easier - I can't recommend her advice highly enough.

Thank you again for the reunion dinner, I look forward to more involvement with the OWA going forward.

Regards  
Craig Hudson

## **PETER KNILL**

*(1958-1963)*

Thank you very much for the catch up letter and the resulting email with the newsletter, it made very interesting reading.

I was one of the pupils at the school under Mr Henry Cloke, very much feared, and although in retrospect, I must have been a complete pain in the posterior, I did manage to avoid the cane!

I was at the school from 1958 to 1963 and left with no exam results. Perhaps a secondary modern education would have been better suited to me as I went into the motor trade as an apprentice at Woodyatts (Vauxhall) in Westcliff and have now just retired from the motor trade as a main dealer service manager. We moved from Southend in 1975 and have lived in Leicester ever since. I have been back on a couple of occasions to attend the Westcliff High School Lodge but that is about the sum total of my connections with the old school.

I look forward to reading about the events and personalities in the newsletter and please pass on my regards to any other old boys who were in 5E at that time!

Peter Knill

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## **ALAN MARTIN**

*(1954 - 1961)*

An old friend of mine passed me a copy of the latest Newsletter and it was a wonderful read, spotting names which brought back memories of my years at the school.

Gordon ("Piggy") Bareham's letter in the last issue reminded me of my cricket days when Gordon, a fine fast bowler, sent down deliveries to me in Priory Park to toughen up my batting which helped me get into the Junior and Senior teams at the school, under the captaincy of Stephen Hasler.

My main sport at the school was hockey, under the guidance of Mike Loader (so sad to hear of his current illness) and I enjoyed some great times playing alongside Peter Wright (our captain), Garth Scholfield, the late Henry Whalvin, and Ian Towler, who went on to play hockey for Wales. As West House captain, I had to participate in all the other sports, running the 400 metres, losing to Bill Kenlyside, and sprinting down the wing in the House rugby matches.

As to life after I left Westcliff High, I went to Nottingham University graduating in Industrial Economics. I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in the City after being articled to an Old Westcliffian, Leonard Moore, and then in 1972 moved into commerce. I held various senior financial roles in companies engaged in marketing, retailing, property and finally joined a speciality food distribution group in 1992 where I stayed until I retired in 2009. I still carry out some part-time consultancy work as well as enjoying retirement with my family. Whilst I moved to Hertfordshire in the late 70's, I have always kept in touch with the Southend area where I still have some friends, although most of them have now moved away.

One of my other interests is music and my love of jazz enabled me to join up with another couple of Old Westcliffians, Peter Toynton and David Woods, both contemporaries of mine. We played in a traditional jazz band which performed in several venues and pubs around Essex during the late 60's and 70's and recently we had a reunion where we tried to recreate our earlier triumphs. We have never aspired to the achievements of Gary Brooker of Procul Harum, who, I remember when I was a prefect, I placed in detention for jumping the queue in the school canteen.

I can say that my school days at Westcliff were some of the most enjoyable days of my life and I still keep in touch with several other old boys, including John Pearce, a very talented cricketer in the Graham Gooch

mould, and also Terry Gregson.

Best Wishes  
Alan Martin  
November 2011

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## TONY MULLORD

(1948-53)

### Tracing Schoolmates 1948-54

I am trying to trace some schoolmates whom I knew at WHSB between 1948 and '53. I wonder if they are members of the OWA .

I would be most interested to hear from anyone who has news of and/or contact details for the following:

'Sam' Frederick Bartram '48-'53

Len Hooker '48-'53

Bill Boucher '48-'53

Tony Simons '49-'54

Many thanks,  
Tony

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## JOHN NICHOLSON

I have been most interested in the newsletter from the OWBA .

Although not strictly a member as I was from WHSG, my husband taught at the boys school from 1964/5 (John Nicholson, Economics and French) and my father was Spike Limbird, mentioned in the letter from C. Zucker.

My father was immensely proud of Five Arts and would have been tickled pink to hear that they are still managing to meet occasionally. I think they were the first form he was responsible for when he came to WHSB with Henry Cloke from Eastbourne Grammar, almost directly from the Burma railway and Changi Gaol. My father died in 1984.

I hope they enjoy their next meeting, and would be so glad if you would pass very best wishes on to the Five Arts group. Many other names are familiar, but as anyone who was at the schools at that era will recall, fraternisation wasn't encouraged!

Angela Nicholson ( nee Limbird )

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## IAN OSBOURNE

Many thanks for the latest edition of the newsletter, which I always read with great interest.

Terry, what is this about you moving on? You may recall that we met up, for the first time since leaving school in 1962, just a few years ago. I have been living in Spain for the last 9 years, but have now just returned "home" and am living in Thorpe Bay.

I had been hoping to meet up with you again, but it seems that , as I have returned, you are leaving !!

Anyway, I wish you well in your new life, and if I am not too late, maybe we could meet up again if you have not already left.

Kind regards  
Ian Osborne

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## JAMIE REEVES

*(Lost Contact - 22/03/11 - Singapore)*

Jamie Reeves (born 5 March 1953) is a regular football pundit on ESPN STAR Sports coverage of the English Premier League. He was formerly a semi-professional football player in England's Southern League, Isthmian League and Essex Senior League, and won the FA Vase twice (in 1979 and 1984). He then moved to Singapore where he played in the FAS Premier League, before becoming a television pundit.

Born in Essex, United Kingdom, Jamie attended the Westcliff High School for Boys, where he developed an interest in both Cricket and Rugby. He received a Bachelor's degree in Economics at the University of Leicester in 1973, and a Master's in Quantitative Social Science from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1975.

After his graduation, he switched to soccer at the age of 22. He was soon spotted by his local semi-professional team and quickly moved through the ranks of non-league soccer, culminating in a winning appearance (4-1) at Wembley Stadium in 1979 for Billericay Town in the FA Vase. Five years later he reappeared at the same venue in the same competition, this time winning 3-2 with Stansted in what The Times described as "the biggest upset in FA Vase history".

After 13 years playing semi-professionally in the Southern League, Isthmian League and Essex Senior League, Jamie hung up his boots, and within a year moved to Singapore. He briefly came out of retirement for one season in the FAS Premier League (the forerunner of the S. League) for the now-defunct Tyrwhitt Soccerites. He established a reputation for scoring with headers, and at the end of the season was named the league's second best player of the year by the Straits Times.

First appearing on TV in May 1992, working in the studio on the FA Cup Final between Liverpool and Sunderland, Jamie went on to do commentary work on the Malaysia Cup and the S.League before joining ESPN Star Sports. There, he has commented on the Chinese Super League, the K-League, the UEFA Champions League, the Asian Games, the Asian World Cup Qualifiers, and the Tiger Cup, as well as dabbling in La Liga and Serie A. He first worked as a studio pundit on the Premier League in the 2000-2001 season, and has been heavily involved with that league ever since.

Since 1989 he also worked as an Economics lecturer (notably at Raffles Junior College in Singapore). He currently leads

the Raffles Institution Humanities Programme, and does media work on the side.

Reeves is married with two children.

*Information found on:*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamie\\_Reeves\\_\(footballer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamie_Reeves_(footballer))

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## **DEREK ROW**

(1946-1951)

I have today received my copy of the OWA Newsletter thanks to the good offices of my old friend Glen Hogben. I found the contents very interesting.

Although not a computer buff, and not wishing to teach Grandmother to suck eggs, whether (if it has not been tried before) an insertion by the OWA in Friends Re-united on the web would illicit some responses from those members AWOL.

I much regret that although the menu for the annual dinner is very tempting I will

be unable to attend as my wife and I will be out of the country on that date, nevertheless would take this opportunity that you have a joyful and successful evening.

Yours sincerely

Derek Row

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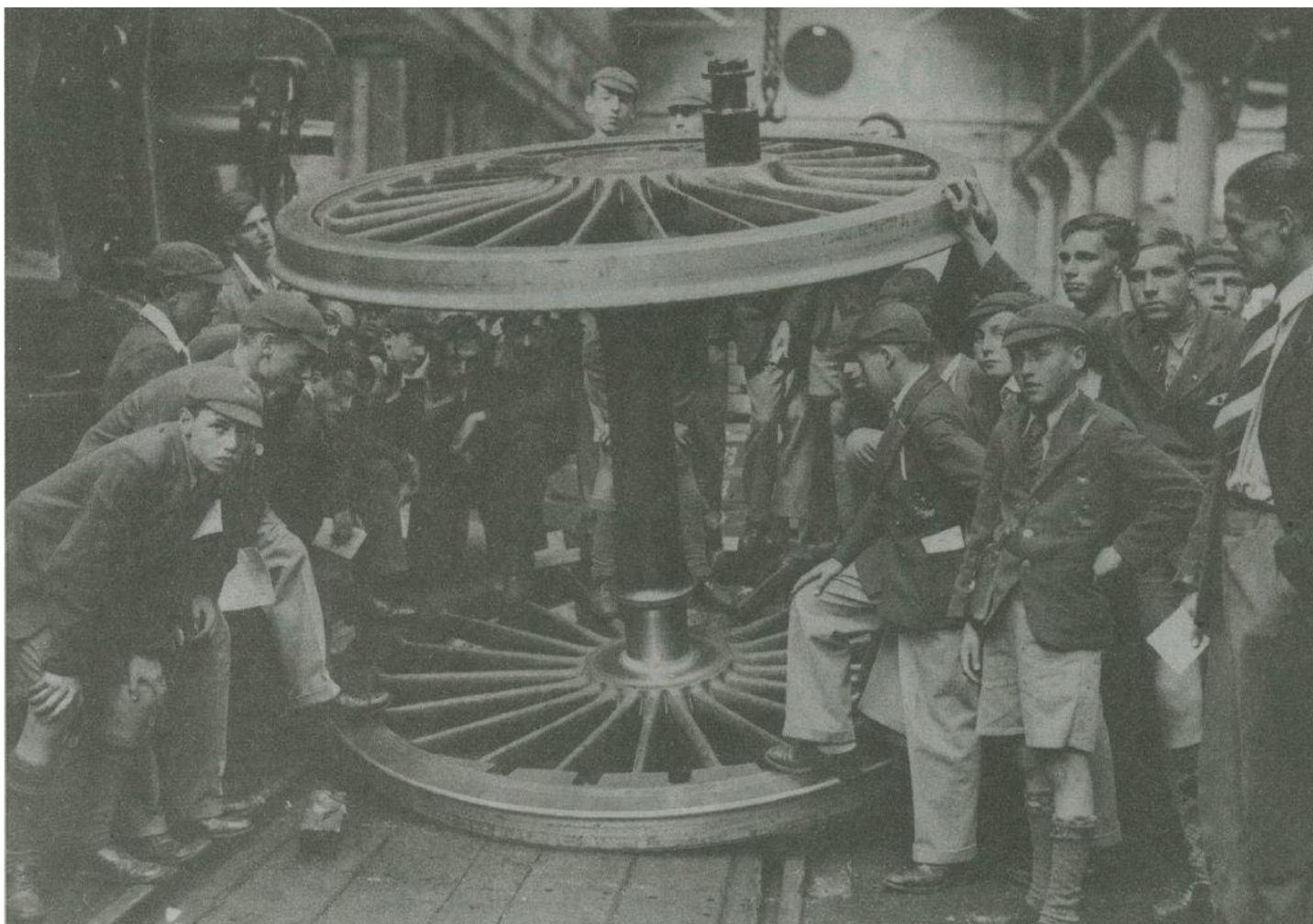
## **JEFFREY SMYTH**

(1953-58)

*Graduated from Westcliff High School in 1958, and taught there for a year as a supply teach.*

### **Schoolboys from Westcliff-on-Sea visit the LMS engineering works in Derby**

I thought you might find it interesting that on Wednesday, July 6, The Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper, ran an article on Derby. 'The town that steam built', in connection with the loss of an order by



Schoolboys from Westcliff-On-Sea visit the LMS engineering works in Derby, England, in this 1934 file photo. HARRY TODD/GETTY IMAGES

Bombardier for the Thameslink rail project.

The article was accompanied by a large photo (*see page 28*) with the caption:

“Schoolboys from Westcliff-on-Sea visit the LMS engineering works in Derby, England, in this 1934 file photo.”

About 20 lads in their Westcliff uniforms are standing around a set of wheels. Some of your members may remember the visit.

Jeffrey Smyth

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## **KEITH STEPHENS**

I very much enjoyed the excellent recently e-mailed newsletter. The sight of many names has triggered memories of schooldays in the 40s.

September 1945 saw me in 2A, in the same form was Brian R. Bishop. Thirty-one of us sat in alphabetical order. Those seated on the other side of the classroom were something like: Ackland, Barclay, Bishop, Browne, Cooper, Crittenden, Doughty, Doust.....My side included: Sains, Seyfried, Stephens, Ulrich, Walker, White. Air raid shelters remained tunnelled under the lawns on the south side of the school building.

Eric Ayres was Head Master. Mr. H. King our form master taught Maths, H.I. Brown taught History, "Moke" Morris Geography, "Black Harry" Smith Chemistry, and A.E.Cowan French (I believe that he was the father of John Cowan whose letter is on page 21 on the newsletter)

Prefects, I remember, wore short gowns and they also used slippers to punish wrongdoers. I can't remember when this stopped but two names in the In Memoriam list (page 13) A. J. Webster and P. W. Robson remind me of the sixth-formers that I regarded with some awe. G. Rice and E. Greenfield were two others.

Sport was always given priority in my life. The 1946 season saw the return of 1st Class cricket and the county championship. Living near to Southchurch Park, I keenly

watched every day of Essex v. Warwickshire and Essex v. India. H.P.Crabtree scored 793 runs at an average of 49.56 in 1946. He opened the Essex innings against Warwickshire, a match Essex won by an innings and 20 runs. Against the Indian tourists he scored 118 in the Essex 2nd innings in a match won by India by one wicket.

The Spring term of 1948 was important for W.H.S.B. A new Head Master, Henry Cloke took the reins. H.5. "Daddy" Smith was now teaching me maths, in my opinion the finest example of a schoolmaster. In 4 Science I dropped Geography and History in favour of music and Latin taught by John Bates and Harry Harden respectively.

Mr. Midgely never had the misfortune of teaching me, but I remember well he and Black Harry performing a memorable Two Gendarmes Duet.

Three other names bring back memories, Jim Harrison one of the best rugby players in my year, Kenneth Zucker in my photo album as a member of the school hockey team and Bob Smith who worked alongside me for British Gas.

Best Wishes  
Keith Stephens

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## **JOHN TWITCHEN**

Thank you for the 2011 Newsletter. There's some great stuff in it. At one point you had me crying with mirth recollecting some of the old characters referred to.

Keep up the good work!  
John

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## **MAJOR PHILIP WAND F.C.A.**

It was great to receive your newsletter. Just returned, 6 months USA and Paris.

I particularly enjoyed Michael

Feltham's letter but will now add a few more even older memories.

Claude Webber and I joining 2B as new boys.

His later offer of one shilling donation to the Swimming Pool Fund if all class spelt separate (or is it seperate) correctly.

The swimming periods and annual race 25 yards against the masters.

The compulsory cross country runs in the fields behind the school in all weather.

The unforgettable scene at school grounds. School v Essex Club & Grounds.

The great H.P. Crabtree (sports master elite) bowled first ball.

The passage outside W.G. Williams office - where you stood awaiting a caning. Long thin cane behind the curtain at the back (six of the best for trying to climb dividing girls school wall) and the sympathy shown by Secretary Williams.

I have even late memories.

1941/42 as an army gunner on merchant shipping on convoy duty, our head quarters was W.H.S. We all slept on the floor in the hall when waiting between boats.

Luckily I stayed a short while. Organised a rugby team and played the local police on the rugby field, kept in fine condition by PTE Sir Percival Gull who told me he was a Cashier Guards Officer and personal friend of the Colonel. We played golf together, 9 holes at Belfairs.

Captain of Police Sgt Broad. I believe his son was a pupil.

Later I was commissioned, promoted to rank of Major – good old Essex Regiment. My army career is another story.

Keep up the good work – I am sure we all look forward to the newsletter. I am interested if any of my lot 1929/1935 are still around.

Sincerely,  
Phil.

## WESTCLIFF BOYS - 1940

### Operation Piped Piper

On a hot June day in 1940, over 500 boys from Westcliff High School left Southend station for a long journey northwards. Their destination was the Herbert Strutt school and a temporary home as an evacuee in Belper.



**Norman Charles** was 12 when he arrived on that hot June day. He remembers eventually settling down with a family whose father was a Boiler Maker for the locomotive works in Derby and travelling miles on biked with friends. He says " every local person I met up with went out of their way to be kind and helpful".



**Ed Doughty** remembers arriving as a 14 year old, and being billeted with three other boys in a house on Belper Lane, where they were looked after by a hard working lady called Mrs. Winton. Tin baths in front of the

fire and freshly baked bread are just a few of Ed's fond memories. He can be seen in the picture to the left, the lad in the front row with his legs crossed.

*For further details, please refer to the following website:*

<http://reconnaisancedvm.weebly.com/evacuees.html>

## **10. OLD WESTCLIFF LODGE NO. 5456**

The Lodge was formed in 1934 by School staff and prominent Old Boys living locally. It meets at Saxon Hall in Aviation Way 200 yards from the Rugby Club. The current Master is Bernard Arcscott son of Sidney.

If you are interested in learning more please contact the Lodge Secretary Tony Lister on 01702 558625 or Roland Darvell on 01702 476161.

R.T.D.

## **11. WESTCLIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

We did it. We got up to the lowest rung of the national leagues thanks to a superb performance the season before.

Players and supporters knew it would be hard. It was hard. Several of the teams we played in National League 3 London and South East are semi-professional and they looked and played like it. We remain amateur.

Even so we only dipped into the relegation zone once for a week or so and we fin-

ished a creditable 10th - though we did rise to the dizzy heights of ninth for a week. This secured our place for next season.

Some of the journeys were long - Havant in Hampshire, Bracknell in Berkshire, Sunbury of the far side of London and Luton in Bedfordshire.

Director of Rugby Bob Smith, a former pupil at WHSB said before the season stated that we would be on a learning curve and we certainly were - the standard in this league is not surprisingly higher than London 1 North and some of our opponents had been in this league for a while or had come down from higher up.

Though the team does not revolve around one man it was tragic that for the first season at this level we had to do without the services of another former WHSB pupil, winger Paul Radley. A persistent hip injury prevented us and our opposition from seeing one of the fastest wingers and best finishers around.

At times the pack found itself heavily outweighed or out shoved but led by another ex-WHSB man Simon Jones, they knuckled down and several times took on heavier opponents and emerged with the spoils.

It was good to see our youth policy, set up a number years ago come to fruition. In several matches there were 13 home-grown players of the squad of 18 we are allowed per match.

We also took the opportunity to blood some of the colts in both the 1st team and the Lions (2nd) XV. Unlike many clubs in this league, we are not packed with overseas players. We do have a couple of South Africans in the squad and one Georgian who has been invited to train with the Georgian international squad in the run-up to the next world cup.

A very, very satisfying season all round as from the second team downwards, silverware was gathered and league titles pouched. We are now regularly running a fifth team again and who knows, if we can attract a few more players, we can go back

to the heady days when we ran seven senior sides.

Further down the age scale the Colts did themselves proud in various cups and we took a number of county cups and other trophies both in and outside Essex. The enthusiasm at junior level is such that several age groups had to have two teams. The difficulty was what to call them. It was decided on A and B but there is no difference between them and players are interchanged as and when required.

The Lions are one of the most powerful sides around at that level and once more took the league title. Their only loss was, of all things, against rock-bottom Brentwood.

The game at A XV, Extra A XV and B XV is still very social even though most of the games are now league ones. There is still a place for the bloke who misses a simple kick, drops the ball or has to have a smoke at half-time.

Ties with the school are still strong with many current and recently left pupils playing for us, though for the latter category, we do lose most of them to university for much of the season.

Sadly we lost one of our most famous members of recent years, R A B "Jimmy" Crowe, top line referee and laws expert. The funeral was packed and representatives from the Rugby Football Union at Twickenham joined those from county unions and players of all generations and many clubs to pay tribute.

As usual the home league fixtures were supported by sponsored lunches and as is so often the case, the one hosted by Dick Smith, Alan Noakes and John Wilkins brought ex-players back from far and wide.

Many familiar faces from yesteryear were seen in the club during the season, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Phil Polatch, Brian Scarsbrook, Mike Turner, Tony Lister, Dave Shaer, Ivor Cleverley, Nick Gape and Gus Chesney to name a few.

Things are going well with the clubhouse too. It is now well established on the circuit of places that can be used by outsiders

for functions and the hard working bar staff are just that and handled many a busy session in the season just finished. We are fortunate too in having a group of excellent chefs who provide the lunches and players meals.

A major feature in the future will be the expansion of Southend Airport. There is every chance the owners will want to take some or all of our site so the executive committee is monitoring the situation very carefully.

Geoff Sawyer, press officer WRFC

## 12. EDITOR

The unusual circumstances which delayed the production of this newsletter may result in a few 2012 Newsletters not arriving at the intended destination.

Should you know of anyone not receiving their Newsletter, please ask them to get in contact. They can either email their details to [owa@ashphoenix.co.uk](mailto:owa@ashphoenix.co.uk) or contact the Hon. Secretary.

We apologise to relatives of any deceased member who received the newsletter in error. Please contact us so that we may correct our records and avoid future embarrassments.

A note to all members, should your postal or email address change, please notify us as soon as possible by emailing [owa@ashphoenix.co.uk](mailto:owa@ashphoenix.co.uk) or contact the Hon. Secretary.

It is essential to the ongoing life of this news channel that it reaches all our members; that is its *raison d'etre*. We want your news and we want it to get its widest readership. Please keep in touch.

Our sincere thanks for your contributions so far.

Very best wishes.  
Roland Darvell

**EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY, OR IS IT EVERY FACE!**

Who is who? What have they been up to? Do you know? If so, why not write in and tell us.

- Back Row (left to right): 1) ..... 2) ..... 3) ..... 4) ..... 5) ..... 6) .....
- Middle Row (left to right) : 7) ..... 8) ..... 9) ..... 10) ..... 11) ..... 12) ..... 13) .....
- Front Row (left to right): 14) ..... 15) ..... 16) ..... 17) ..... 18) .....



**THE PREFECTS, 1945.**



### 13. (i) 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.

Our Annual Reunion Dinner is held in September.

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

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### 13. (ii) The Old Westcliffian Association

\*\*\* Please make ALL cheques payable to '*Old Westcliffian Association*' \*\*\*

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

NAME: .....

YEARS DATES AT SCHOOL: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

..... POSTCODE: .....

TELEPHONE NUMBER: .....

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

#### Send Membership cheques to:

Terry Birdseye  
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Mobile: 07752 192164  
Email: owa@ashphoenix.co.uk

#### Send cheques for ties and cuff links to:

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8 Orchard Grove  
LEIGH-ON-SEA, Essex, SS9 5TR  
Tel: 01702 521877  
Email: dick.arnold@virgin.net

