

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

(formed 1926)



NEWSLETTER 2013

1. OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2013 - 2014

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

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

R. Arnold
T.W. Birdseye, *JP*
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
A.A. Hurst, *BA (Hons)*
N.C. Kelleway
M. Wren

CHAIRMAN - M.A. Skelly, *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, *BA (Hons)*
J. Harrison
A.A. Hurst, *BA (Hons)*
Father J. McCollough
I.R. Osborne
School Head Boy,
or his Deputy

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - A.J. Clarke
email: owa@ashphoenix.co.uk

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

2. AGM 15TH JULY 8 PM AT THE SCHOOL

**3. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2013
6:15 PM FOR 7 PM AT THE SCHOOL.
DETAILS ON PAGE 3.**

***** 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 2014.*

3. OWA ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2013

At the School: WHSB, Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0BP

6:15 PM FOR 7 PM OR 5:30 PM SHOULD YOU WISH TO LOOK ROUND THE SCHOOL

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 39)

MENU

French Bread and Butter

or

Homemade Cream of Parsnip Soup

or

Homemade Individual Steak & Brentwood Gold Ale Pie

served with a Rich Gravy

Carrots, Peas & Mash Potato

or

Vanilla Cheesecake served with Fresh Strawberries & Couli

or

Platters of Cheese & Biscuits

Cheddar, Brie & Stilton

or

Tea or Coffee

(Vegetarian Meal available on request)

✂

REPLY SLIP: O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2013

FROM: Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode: Phone:

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

TELEPHONE : 01702 714241 / terry.birdseye@gmail.com

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.

4. (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.

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:

4. (ii) HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

I can report that we have had another good year with our finances in robust health thanks to your generous donations. Please continue to support the Association because the life subscription and your generosity are our only source of income.

You will see elsewhere in these pages that we are launching a 200 Club with periodic draws. This fund will be used to support specific projects associated with the school, the first being the Combined Cadet Force. I hope that this will be successful since it will be a tangible way of targeting help to the school, so please support this new venture. It is the brainchild of our President, David Norman but will be lead by Ian Osborne, our newest member of the Committee, to whom I extend the warmest of welcomes.

During the past year we have seen the sad loss of fourteen OWs and our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

This year our AGM will be on 15th July at 8 pm in the school. Please come along if you can, it will not last long but we could do with you boosting our numbers!

This year the annual dinner will be back in the school hall with a new caterer, FUUD, providing the meals. Our speaker will be Peter Bone, MP for ~Wellingborough and an OW. Peter is something of a maverick in the Conservative Party and some would say the torch bearer for old fashioned real Tories! It promises to be an excellent evening. Last year the Dinner went on for too long, so this year we are starting earlier i.e. 6:15 for 7.00 pm and it will be on Saturday 14th September, again a change to the weekend. There will, again, be an opportunity to look round the school.

Last year we wrote to all school leavers and eighteen joined. This is a reasonable success rate but I feel that we have to make it easier for youngsters to join. I have made the OWA website my absolute priority for 2013. It is absurd, that in this era of electronic communications we do not showcase a functioning website. My predecessor Elliot and his friends started the project and with the Headmaster's help we will bring it to fruition. I intend it to include electronic means of joining and ordering of ties and cufflinks and a host of other goodies including back numbers of the newsletter.

This year we have struggled for articles for this publication. Without your input this newsletter will not survive. I am constantly being told that it is the best thing that we do so *please* contribute, with photographs if possible, in 2014, in order that it may continue.

To all those that have sent in articles, some from far flung lands, I thank you and keep them coming.

For many years now, this newsletter has been printed by Alison Clarke who runs an IT business called Ash Phoenix. I am sure you will agree that it is a very professional publication and this year Alison has taken over the editorship for which I thank her. Long may our alliance continue.

In closing I wish to thank the committee for all their support. To the new Headmaster, Michael Skelly, I extend the warmest of welcomes as our Chairman and my deepest thanks for his magnificent help to me so far.

To the members, I extend my thanks for their support and wish you all happiness and good health.

Terry Birdseye
Secretary

4.(iii) NEW MEMBERS

Tony Axe	(47-53)
Alex Baker	(05-12)
Andrew Bauld	(06-13)
Nigel Blackaby	(70-77)
James Bromfield	(06-12)
Joshua Bunn	(05-12)
Alexander Calvert	(05-12)
M.J. Champion	(07-12)
Joseph Daly	(05-12)
Rory Datta	(06-13)
Robert Eve	(61-68)
Stuart Gallagher	(05-12)
Oliver Gill	(05-12)
Michael Grace	(05-12)
William Hanson	(05-12)
R. Hayes	(59-65)
Liam Hunt	(05-12)
M. Kudlick	(45-50)
Dr. David Lubel	(71-78)
Jack Maleary	(05-12)
Oliver Maynard	(05-12)
Dr. Stuart J. Miles	<i>Rejoined</i>
Daryl Peagram	(87-89)
Connor Pearce	(05-12)
George Pearson	(05-12)

Joe Phillips	(05-12)
V. Rev. Mgr. G. Read	<i>Rejoined</i>
D. Reader	(05-12)
Billy Sales	(05-12)
David Schofield	(10-12)
Tate Sharman	(05-12)
Matthew Shaw	(05-12)
George Skinner	(06-13)
Ben Slack	(05-12)
William Strickland	(05-12)
Valentine E. West	(40-45)
Jack Whitear	(05-12)
Robert Whitmell	(06-13)

Total 38

4.(iv) DONATIONS 2011-2012

A.J. Ashby
Geoffrey Brown
Trevor Cass
Geoff Dignum
Michael Grace
F.W.J. James
A.E. King
Father J.K. McCollough
Major Philip Wand
John Western

5. THE 200 CLUB

In common with many other Associations and Charities, the Old Westcliffian Association proposes to introduce a '200 CLUB', whereby up to, say 200 members would each pay a monthly amount of £3 and in return a monthly draw would then take place and up to 50% of the monthly contributions would be allocated by way of prize money, and cheques would be sent to the winners. The remaining 50% would be retained by the Association and used towards its core purpose of financially supporting the School with its specific projects, and would be used to top up the newly created 'Old Westcliffian Fund'.

The Scheme would be classed as a private society lottery, open only to members of the OWA, and therefore would not require to be licensed by either the Gambling Commission or the Local Authority.

If you would be interested in participating in this scheme, then please complete the application form and Bank Standing Order form on page 9, and return them to :- David Norman, President of Old Westcliffian Association, c/o Westcliff High School for Boys, Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0BP.

Subject to there being sufficient interest from members to support this scheme, we will notify those members who have responded in due course of a proposed start date, at which time the Bank Standing Orders will be processed and the amount of the prize money which will be allocated will be decided.

We hope that you will find this proposal interesting.

THE OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION '200 CLUB'

APPLICATION FORM

I, of
.....
who attended the School between and wish to apply for membership of the OWA 200 Club. I understand that this is only open to members of the OWA, and I enclose my completed Bank Standing Order form, which is only to be processed upon notification that sufficient numbers of members have applied.

Signature : Date:

BANK STANDING ORDER FORM

TO: The Manager,
..... Bank

Address :
.....

Date:

Please pay the sum of £3 per month to THE OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION No.2 Account, sort code: 55-50-28 account number: 61980781, commencing on * , and monthly thereafter until further notice, and debit my account accordingly.

* **Date to be notified. Please leave blank.**

Account Name:

Sort Code:

Account Number:

Signature:

6. HONORARY TREASURER

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2012

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>
INCOME			
Life subscriptions	130		460
Interest received	-		1
Profit on ties etc	82		58
Donations / raffle	800		1,183
Surplus on function	34		241
	<hr/>	1,046	<hr/>
			1,943
EXPENDITURE			
Printing, postage & stationary	577		1,129
Sundry expenses	45		30
	<hr/>	622	<hr/>
			1,159
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£ 424	£ 784
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
ASSETS		
Stock of ties	464	562
Cash at bank	10,160	9,638
Cash at building society	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS	£ 10,626	£ 10,202
	<hr/>	<hr/>
FINANCED BY		
General fund brought forward	10,202	9,418
Surplus for the year	424	784
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 10,626	£ 10,202
	<hr/>	<hr/>

C.R.N. Taylor, FCA
Honorary Treasurer

A.R. Millman, FCA
Independent Examiner

7. PRESIDENT

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the Association for a further year. I am also fortunate in being the first President for some years to also serve as a Governor of the school. This gives me a great opportunity to see the work of the school at first hand and to be proud that WHSB continues to uphold the highest standards, being prepared to embrace the new whilst maintaining traditional values.

There have been times in the past year when, sitting on the platform, at Assemblies, I have reflected that the young men and women who pass through the school today are facing a much tougher and more challenging future than most of us faced when we left. WHSB continues to encourage all its students to “be the best that they can be” both academically and in a way that encourages them to be good citizens with high moral values. An indication of the loyalty that the school engenders is the fact that there are no fewer than 10 Old Westcliffians on the staff out of a total teaching complement of around 60. The school was the first Grammar School in Southend to achieve Academy status, but this is not a panacea. The new Headmaster faces a great challenge in maintaining and modernising the fabric of the school parts of which are approaching their century. In addition the school must see that all its students are equipped to the highest standards in areas such as I.T. In these austere times therefore the school will need the help of former members as never before. That is why I recommended to the Executive of the OWA that we should set up an ‘Old Westcliffian Fund’ to support specific projects designed to enhance the school. All Old Westcliffians of whatever generation will be invited to support the fund by way of donations or legacies. We also intend to establish a 200 Club with the intention of providing a regular stream of income to the Fund. It is intended that the first beneficiary will be the school’s Combined Cadet Force (CCF). This is the first of its kind in the school since the Second World War. It is proving very popular with students but the CCF is greatly in need of equipment.

I would like to invite all members to contribute to this Appeal which enables us to put back something into the School which many of us owe so much. Cheques should be made payable to the ‘Old Westcliffian Association’ and sent to the following address: David Norman, President of Old Westcliffian Association, c/o Westcliff High School for Boys, Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0BP or using the form on page 9 should you wish to do so.

Finally I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Association Annual Dinner on Saturday, 14th September. We are back at the School again this year so you will have a chance to see and hear about many new developments in the great institution that is WHSB.

Best wishes
David Norman
President

8. CHAIRMAN

It is a great pleasure to be invited to make a contribution to the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA) newsletter. Since taking over as Headmaster in September last year I have had many enjoyable and informative discussions with Old Westcliffians. I have a long association with the School having begun my teaching career here back in the early 1990s and I consider it an enormous privilege to have been appointed Headmaster of the School. I have always recognized that Westcliff is a School rich in tradition with a fine academic, cultural and sporting record however, in my conversations with Old Westcliffians, I have been struck time and again by the deep affection which so many former pupils possess for their old School. Unfortunately, too many have lost touch with their School and the OWA has been the poorer for it. I am aware that the new President of the OWA, Cllr David Norman, has plans to reverse this trend.

The School is keen to see the OWA grow and for it to play a more significant role in supporting the School. Cllr Norman has proposed the establishment of an OWA fund to support the School and in particular the School's recently established Combined Cadet Force.

The CCF Returns to WHSB After Sixty Years

Nearly sixty years after the cadet force ceased at Westcliff, it has returned under the command of Lt Bleakley. Currently, there are twenty-five Army cadets and it is anticipated that the number of cadets will expand to seventy-five within the next year. The MoD has provided generous support in establishing the Westcliff Contingent, however in times of austerity we will need to raise further funds if the CCF is to expand so that we can offer this wonderful opportunity to more pupils at WHSB.

The CCF promotes values such as courage, discipline, respect for others, integrity, loyalty and a selfless commitment, all of which enable pupils to develop into well-rounded and responsible citizens. The CCF operates within a structure of military discipline and it is designed to instil important life skills. Whilst the reintroduction of the CCF at Westcliff is recent, I have already had the pleasure of witnessing a developing confidence and maturity in the pupils who participate, which I believe result from their learning to respect, tolerate and work alongside others in the CCF.

Involvement in the CCF has taken our pupils somewhat out of their comfort zone to meet new challenges and to explore their potential. They are participating alongside fellow pupils in demanding activities and expeditions which, I am confident, are bringing different dimensions to their lives and broadening their horizons. Important life skills such as leadership, organisation, planning, communication, competition, resilience and perseverance quickly develop and these can greatly enhance examination performance and academic achievement. Pupils learn to solve problems and test solutions, all of which develop patience, creativity and teamwork.

The Role of Westcliff in its Local Community

Last September I had the honour of addressing Old Westcliffians at the annual OWA dinner. This was a splendid event and I hope that we shall be able to attract greater numbers to the next annual OWA dinner in September 2013 when the venue will be the School Hall. During my address, I highlighted a variety of priorities for the School across the next five years and I also had the opportunity to share some thoughts on education policy with Old Westcliffians. First and foremost Westcliff is a Grammar School and during my near twenty years working in Grammar Schools, I have seen children from low income families rise to become captains of industry and people who shape public policy. It is no exaggeration to say that Westcliff has opened doors of opportunity and transformed the lives of generations of young men, and more recently young women in the Sixth Form. Unfortunately, this is an opportunity offered to only a few and I believe that this means the country is failing to make the most of its potential and that with the

growth of global competition we will pay a heavy price in the end. I am an advocate of selective education and I strongly believe it is a successful means of increasing social mobility. I am aware that, in general, opinion remains much divided over selective education but I am far more concerned with the outcomes for pupils than defending a philosophical position.

I believe Grammar Schools provide able pupils, regardless of their circumstances, with the opportunity to access the top echelons of Higher Education and so move to successful careers in the private or public sectors. Unfortunately Grammar Schools have too few friends and I believe there are a number of significant limiting factors preventing able children from deprived post codes applying to Grammar Schools. It was for this reason that I established the Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children (WCGC) when I returned to the School as Deputy Headmaster in 2010. This programme provides enjoyable and stimulating courses in a range of subjects (including English and Mathematics) to encourage able local primary school children to consider the benefits of a Grammar School education.

I know that Old Westcliffians will understand that a School is a community. This School has strong local roots and is keen to serve its local community. These roots play a large part in defining who we are and what we stand for. By far one of the greatest strengths of this School is its pupils and I am particularly keen to ensure that the School does not lose touch with Old Westcliffians as they move on to Higher Education and their various professions. This is important to me, not least, as I would like to keep our former pupils informed of developments at WHSB and to have the opportunity to invite them back to the school for special events and to provide inspiration to our current pupils as they make their own future education and career plans.

How Can Old Westcliffians Get Involved?

With this in mind, I would be grateful for your assistance with two matters. Firstly I would appreciate an indication from you as to whether you would be happy for me to arrange for your name to be added to a database of Old Boys, to whom we can email details of WHSB news and events from time to time. In seven years from now we shall be celebrating the School's centenary and I hope that a thriving OWA will play a significant role in our celebrations. Secondly, I would be most grateful for your assistance in building our database of Old Boys. If possible, I would appreciate details from you of names and email addresses of between 1 and 5 Old Boys with whom you have kept in touch. Having received these details I will send a similar communication to these contacts requesting their permission to add them to the database. The details should be emailed to office@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Thank you in anticipation of your endeavours to support the school in this way, and I hope I shall have the opportunity to welcome you back to the School for a visit in due course.

It is a joy to be Headmaster of this fine School. We have a tradition of encouraging individuality, strong values and independence of mind amongst our pupils. Many years ago, as a young teacher in his first few weeks in WHSB, I had to stop a young boy in the second year for running in the corridor. Having been corrected he raised his head and offered me an apology explaining that he had been 'quick walking' rather than 'running' although he fully appreciated that I may have thought otherwise and accepted that he should face the consequences of his actions. Not knowing whether to laugh or reprimand him further I decided to let him off the hook. The last time I heard from this pupil he was undertaking postgraduate studies in Economics at the University of Warwick. In hindsight I should have realized that his excuse had all the hallmarks of a budding economist. Twenty years on I have many such stories, all of which remind me what a privilege it is to work with such splendid pupils and staff at this wonderful School.

Michael A Skelly
Headmaster

9. IN MEMORIAM

Archie Bowen (former President)	20/11/2012
Fred Caine (35-42)	26/07/2012
Barry Campany	October 2012
John Fozard (former President)	18/10/2012
Cedric Hodgkins	2012
Peter Hurrell (former Secretary)	03/05/2013
Tony Lister	27/01/2013
Michael Loader (former Master)	09/10/2012
Colin Lovett	23/05/2012
Alan Murray (former Secretary)	31/01/2013
Anthony Pendrey	19/08/2012
Chris Sharples	January 2013
Roland Stock	14/03/2013
Derek White	2013

All will be sadly missed.

10. OBITUARIES

*Fredrick Caine
Barry Campany
John Fozard
Michael Loader
Colin Lovett
Alan Murray
Anthony Pendrey
Chris Sharples
Ronald Stock
Derek White*

FREDRICK CAINE

(26/07/2012 ~ WHSB: 1935-1942)

My father Fred Caine passed away on 26th July in Ipswich Hospital after a short illness, aged 88.

He was tremendously proud of having passed his 11+ and getting a place at the Grammar School, and often spoke of his time there. He was evacuated with the school in 1940 not long before his School Certificate, and his time

in and around Belper was material for a fund of stories, memories and continuing friendships.

Even while in hospital in his final illness he could recite poetry and drama speeches he learned at school 70 years before, so his time at school could definitely be said to have had a lasting impact!

He enjoyed a long professional career as a Chartered Accountant in the City, until he retired to Suffolk in 1980. As the son of a win-dowed mother in the difficult 1930s, he was al-ways very clear that his scholarship to the Grammar School gave him the start in life that he would not otherwise have had.

He had not been able to attend any Old Boy events as far as I am aware, but always enjoyed receiving the magazine and catching up on news and names. The latest magazine contained items and photos from the evacua-tion in 1940 which particularly interested him.

Yours sincerely
Sarah Banks

F.W. (Fred) Caine (24/02/24 – 26/07/12) came to Westcliff from St. Mary's C of E School in 1935 and was subsequently evacu-ated to Belper in Derbyshire during the War. In those troubled times, of course, the mod-ern transition to University was out of the question for many, and Fred qualified as a Chartered Accountant in the City. He married Patricia in 1951 and they had three daugh-ters, Helen, Sarah and Isobel. In 1980, he and Pat retired to Darsham in Suffolk.

Both in Southend and Suffolk, Fred will be best remembered for his commitment to the Methodist Church, having joined Leigh Wesley Church after the War. He was a su-perb Local Preacher for some sixty years with one of those unswerving, inspiring faiths and fine deliveries that stick firmly in the minds of all those lucky enough to have heard him. It's easy to imagine his pride and pleasure when Helen became a Methodist Minister. He also was a leading light in the highly acclaimed Wesley Dramatic Society,

with such stars as Peggy Mount.

When he lost Pat in 1995, he decided to soldier on independently in Suffolk, where he remained active and involved until a final short illness in mid-2012.

Fred's legacy is one of unpretentious service to the Church and the wider community. Those of us who knew him, first as our Sunday School Teacher at Wesley, owe a great deal to his no-nonsense transmission of his Faith to us. The wider Methodist Circle have lost a true stalwart and a saintly man.

Gerald Harnden

BARRY CAMPANY

(October 2012)

I got a copy of your latest newsletter reminder from a very old friend, Neil Clark, and was sad to see two names I knew. Chris Sharples was 2-3 years older, a very popular lad and fine rugby player from memory.

Barry Campany was in my, and Neil's, class for several years although we lost touch after school. My abiding memory of Camps was kindness and good nature. Always happy to share any money he had he was especially generous with his cricket bat. A lovely Gray Nicholls, he always lent it to me in preference to using it himself even if it meant him using a school bat if we batted together. Lovely lad. I hope he had a good life.

If you think it appropriate, I'm happy for the above to be passed to his family/friends. (I do remember Barry had a brother, Mike).

Regards
Mal Croughton

JOHN FOZARD

(18/10/2012)

At school I got to know John very well. Although we were in the same year together he

was in a higher class than me but we shared certain interests and were in the same School House. John was keen on rugby and generally played in the full back position, he was also very good at athletics where he excelled in the high jump. We were in the pre Fosbury Flop era and the recognised style was then known as The Western Roll which John excelled. (I could only manage The Scissors jump, a basic form of high jump). Out of school we both went to the Youth Club at St. Michaels church in the Leigh Road. Here we learnt to play table tennis and amongst other things we learnt Ballroom Dancing! I left School in 1956 to begin work for Barclays Bank at their city office in Fenchurch street. John stayed on to study A levels in order to go to University and study Geology. I lost touch with him at this point in time but later met up with him when he was a successful dentist in Rayleigh. I still don't know what happened to the Geology! The two photographs enclosed are:-

1) Taken outside the shops along The Ridgeway Chalkwell (circa 1954-5) L-R, Roger Thompson, John, ? Rix, and ? Shelley. All Westcliff High boys except for Shelley.





2) Taken in St. Michaels Church grounds- a Bazaar, overmanned but John, centre stage, looking resplendent in his school uniform.

Jim Dennis (1951-56)

When we left WHSB in 1958 we decided to have a holiday together in Paris by getting there on the cheap on an old wartime Dakota aircraft from Blackbush aerodrome. Our mothers, both very proper and conservative (with a small c) ladies were terrified that we might succumb to the temptations that they believed were on every street corner in Paris. Our fathers, on the other hand, were not the slightest bit worried because they knew that even though we were staying at the home of John's French pen friend we did not have enough money to take the metro too often and would have to walk everywhere and they knew that sin in those days was the privilege of the rich and not realisable for young people like us. We did however, manage to get tickets for standing at the back of the Folies Bergeres with all the other paupers and were able to boast to our friends that we had been there.

One favour that John did for me at that time was to chat up a girl in whom I had stated an interest in a jazz club in Southend.

He did not even give me a chance to do it myself as he considered himself far better qualified, having, he insisted, had far more practice. She later became my wife.

As a local dental practitioner, he loved his work and was professional, enthusiastic and successful. After a spell at the late Sydney Klynman's practice he set up a new practice in Rayleigh High Street with Percy Lerner and a few years later they moved to new premises opposite the Paul Pry. His personal success as a dentist was accompanied by enormous dedication to his profession. He was a past chairman of the South East Essex section of the British Dental Association and was to be its secretary for over 20 years. He was honoured by being elected Chairman of the Essex Branch and was made an Honorary Life Member of the British Dental Association nationally - a huge honour within the profession.

He served for many years as a governor of Westcliff High School for Boys for which he had a great affection because it was that school which he knew gave him his opportunities in life and he wanted to put something back. He was also a past president of the Old Westcliffian Association. He was a past member of Leigh-on-Sea Round Table, Rayleigh Rotary Club, Southend Business Luncheon Club and Westcliff Hard Courts Tennis Club. He lived a full and active life and had many friends as illustrated here today. That Parkinson's Disease afflicted and eventually killed him was the great tragedy of his life and our condolences go to Jeanette and his children.

I would like to finish by quoting from a letter of condolence to Jeanette from one of the many friends who are here today. "John was the least aggressive and courteous of men who took great pride in his family as well as his wider circle of friendships and his loyalty to those whom he saw as an integral part of his life was unflinching." That was the John Fozard that I too will always remember.

Best Wishes
Howard Briggs

John Fozard was our family dentist and did a fabulous job - calm, professional and talented. I remember him always putting us at ease. Fillings still firmly in place 30 years on!! A true professional - thank you.

Julie Rogers

MICHAEL LOADER

(09/10/12)

I have the sad task of telling you that Michael died peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday 9th October 2012.

Apart from his Alzheimer's there were no other obvious causes and hence there was a slight delay in being able to make this announcement and to confirm details of his funeral.

On Tuesday 23rd October 2012 there was a celebration at St Boniface Church, Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire. His cremation took place privately.

Regards
Roy Loader

ALAN MURRAY

(31/01/13)

Alan was born in Leigh-on-Sea on 3rd April 1931 and like so many OWs his education commenced at West Leigh School and like so many of his era, following the outbreak of the second World War mass evacuation from this corner of the country saw him spending some time away from the district. Following cessation of hostilities he returned to the town and entered WHSB mid way through the academic syllabus leading to the London General School examinations in which he was successful in June 1948.

He was a good all round athlete, playing for the 1st XV Rugby side and the 1st XI cricket team. The former School magazine

QUEST records that he was first in the 1948 Senior Cross Country race also gaining firsts in the Senior Hurdles and the Senior ½ mile at the School's Annual Sports Day of that year.

After his spell in the 6th Form he was called up for military service and spent 2 years in the RAF.

His business life in the Insurance world was with Thomas R Miller of Lloyd's of London with whom he was very successful until retirement.

Sporting activities continued after leaving School, playing rugby for the Old Westcliffian Rugby Football Club 1st & 'A'XV'S and cricket for the Old Westcliffian Cricket Club.

Reaching the end of his Rugby playing days did not keep him off the pitch as he then became a referee with the London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees where he was also an assessor.

He completed at least 2 full marathons.

He was a keen member of the Southend Operatic Society.

He was Honorary Secretary of the Old Westcliffian Association for 10 years and an active member of St. Barnabas Church, Hadleigh.

He died on the 31st January 2013. Following a Private Cremation a Memorial Service was held on the 19th February 2013 at St. Barnabas Church, Hadleigh at which a good number of OWs attended.

To his wife Jean and their four daughters we extend our sincere condolences.

With best regards
Alan Burroughs

ANTHONY PENDREY

(19/08/12)

A RUGBY club has paid tribute to a former vice president killed in a bike crash.

Anthony Pendrey, 55, died instantly when his Vespa moped was in collision with

a motorbike on the Temple Farm industrial estate, in Southend, on August 19.

He played for Westcliff Rugby Club and had been a member since he was 16. Mr Pendrey, from Southend, played as a hooker for many years and was honorary vice president.

A statement on the website said: "He was a committed member and honorary vice president."

Vice president Geoff Sawyer said: "Tony was a very good hooker and played many times for the 1st XV. He was a pupil at Westcliff High School for Boys and joined Old Westcliffians at the age of 16. He stayed with us through thick and thin and played on when we changed the name of the club to Westcliff.

"He retired far too young and I was trying to get him to come back and start playing again.

"I had not seen him for a couple of months, but a mutual friend kept us in touch. He was one of my mates, famous for moaning at things but always being there to help and seeing things through.

"I for one will miss him, and those of us at the club who knew him are shocked at the news of his death."

Echo (28/08/12)

CHRIS SHARPLES

(January 2013)

There have been very few members whose devotion to our club has extended into six decades, and very very few members who have pursued their mission to make this club as successful as it currently is with such single-minded zeal and determination. Chris Sharples, who tragically passed away earlier this month after a period of declining health, was such a member.

Chris involved himself with all walks of club life from a young age, first playing for the 1st XV in the early sixties and continuing for

well over a decade, captaining the 1972-3 side, many of whom are sitting here this afternoon. A strong, perceptive and aggressive scrum-half, Chris loved his rugby and his positive style encouraged many others. Chris continued to play lower down the sides after finishing his 1st XV career and was one of the chief architects of the momentous plan for the OWRFC to leave their base in the London Road and move to a new ground. Elder members will recall the difficulties involved with this venture, with obstacles seemingly being thrown up randomly over a period of several years. Chris's determination to overcome these obstacles was largely instrumental in assisting us in our move to Aviation Way in May 1984.

The early years of the club were of course euphoric, before euphoria gave way to despondency as enthusiasm and numbers dwindled, and the real spectre of insolvency appeared on the horizon. The efforts of Chris and a few other members pulled us through this perilous position, and set the foundation for our more recent successes. Chris was club chairman for several years and was elected President of the club in 1991, replacing Howard Briggs. He was deservedly elected an Honorary Life Member in 1994, an award that was probably overdue.

It would be untrue to pretend that everything was always sweetness and light - Chris was a strong character who spoke his mind, which led occasionally to a fraught atmosphere. In spite of this, there is not the slightest doubt that Chris was a doer, rather than a non-doer, and he spoke his mind mainly out of the frustration he felt on being hindered by those who didn't possess his forthright wish and impatience to do the best by the club.

Chris was of course known to everyone, not just within our club, but also among many senior clubs across the county - he was a naturally friendly and garrulous player, and forged many friendships amongst rugby players over a large radius. Chris's enthusiasm for all things Westcliff continued right up until the end of last year, although his visits to the club became less frequent as his health declined. He

was a staunch supporter of all club functions and would always gladly muck in with some of the less fashionable duties such as cleaning the club and working behind the bar. It is ironic in the extreme that his death fell just before the "Smith lunch", for it was of course on this occasion that Chris probably felt at his most content, in the company of his playing contemporaries, some of whom had travelled half way across the globe to be there. Many an afternoon would be spent in happy reminiscence, as Chris would continue to look on proudly at the way in which the club had progressed.

Chris's funeral took place on Tuesday 22 January at 11.20 a.m. at Southend Crematorium and afterwards at The Westcliff Hotel. Our sympathies go to Marilyn, Adele, Lora and Iain and their families.

HAPPY MEMORIES:

I first Met Christopher Sharples in 1952, when my parents had moved from Epping to Chalkwell.

In fine weather I would walk from the bottom of Chalkwell Avenue, to Chris's home in the Meadway and together we would wander – as ten year olds could in those far off halcyon days – through Chalkwell Park to Chalkwell Hall School.

Chris was always immaculate in his appearance: and his Mum ensured he was "Well Scrubbed", if you know what I mean!

He was a bright and chirpy chap, always ready with a schoolboy howler and in class, attentive and determined.

Chris's neighbours and chums he used to play with, whose huge garden backed onto his parent's house, were the Lintotts, the owners of the SMAC group; and had the distinction of enjoying a hard tennis court, replete with high wire fencing, so the occasional game of tennis – if it might be so dignified – was useful, when the boys were home from boarding school.

After he married Marilyn Dawes, the daughter of "Sunny" of local coach-building

fame, and as is so often the way, our paths rarely crossed, however, we used to bump into each other here and there.

The last time I met Chris I was returning from the City, half asleep on the train and when I stirred saw this man grinning at me from the opposite seat and we caught up on far too many years; this was in the early 1980s. I was rather concerned at his appearance: the fresh face and sparkling eyes had vanished and fairly obviously, life had taken its toll.

However, I shall retain and cherish my earlier happier memories of Chris and I as carefree ten and eleven year olds, wandering through the park, the air crisp, the sun glancing through the trees and all was right with our World.

Michael Feltham
(February 2013)

Chris was always someone whom I looked up to other than literally.

One of my endearing memories of Chris Sharples was when he was captain of the rugby club. At the time he was a very senior Old Westcliffian and I was just establishing myself in the first team.

We were in the old dilapidated changing rooms at Belfairs when Chris began delivering a passionate and serious team talk to prepare his troops for the forthcoming fray. He had not been going for more than a few seconds when I burst out laughing. He gave me a piece of his mind and started on his delivery once again. Within a few seconds I was again laughing out loud at which Chris started to get very cross.

In those days, each team was responsible for washing its own kit and the job the previous week had fallen on a group of players residing at Maida Vale which I believe included John Elford, Alan Noakes and Mick Madden. Having had the kit washed they had taken it upon themselves to adorn the number 9 shirt with sets of sergeant's stripes to which

Chris was quite oblivious. The sight of him addressing his men so seriously wearing his badge of office had been too much for me.

When he saw the reason for my mirth he did become a little calmer and indeed played the match so attired. I recall that there were mutterings on the touchline that day from the Allickadoos that the captain should not have taken to the pitch so attired.

Yours
Noel Kelleway

RONALD STOCK
(10/01/1920—14/03/2013)

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of my father Ron Stock, who died peacefully in his sleep at home, aged 93.

He was a pupil at the school from 1931 to 1937.

On leaving school he joined the Prudential Assurance Company at their head office in Holborn where he spent his whole working life, qualifying as a certified accountant and rising to become group chief accountant before retiring at the age of 60.

In 1938, like many expecting the war, he joined the London Field Regiment of the Territorial Army and was in the Royal Artillery during the conflict itself. He saw active service in North Africa, as part of Operation Torch, and was wounded twice. He was later in India and had been promoted to Lieutenant by the end of the hostilities.

In his later years he often spoke of his wartime exploits, finding one incident particularly memorable. Stationed near Brighton and on guard duty following a briefing on identifying enemy paratroopers, he captured at gunpoint 2 of such, disguised as nuns, only to find that they were in fact genuine nuns.

He was a keen yachtsman, joining the Essex Yacht Club in 1935 and becoming their longest serving member, a fact of which he was very proud, and took up bowls at the Essex County Bowling Club when he felt he

was no longer up to racing boats.

Ron was the first of 3 generations of Westcliffians, followed by myself and my sister Clare (at the girls' school) and 3 of his 5 grandchildren, Dominic, Paul and Joe Morris (the other 2 attending grammar schools in Surrey).

He will be missed by his widow Gloria, his family and friends.

Simon Stock

DEREK WHITE
(2013 ~ WHSB: 1941-1946))

At school 1941-46, served in the RAF, worked for British Telecom and was at one time Chairman of Hadleigh Conservative Club.

11. NEWS OF AND FROM OLD WESTCLIFFIANS

ANTHONY AXE
(1947-1953)

I recently signed on again for the Association following a gap of about 50 years. I was fossicking around the net and fell over a collection of memories from former OWs, most of them post-60s; something from the Jurassic 50s seemed to be demanded, so I started by buying the tie. I was at the School 1947-53 under Henry Cloke and his 2 i/c Harry Harden.

English came from Bunny Croston, and Mr Midgley, of whom we were all wary. At the final Assembly of the year he could be persuaded (easily) to sing Simon the Cellarer and Black Harry Smith would give us Ruddigore, after which Peter Willison would play the Entry of the Queen of Sheba while we

left - no, I didn't understand it, either. The terrifying H.Ivan Brown would give us North House rugby players a Ferguson-style gee-ing-up before Chris Tansley led us out into the rain: sports were usually vigorous rather than skilled and I still bear the scar of being hit with a baseball bat (accidentally!) by Pete Vanderpump. I went into the Army and spent five years shoving trucks and tanks around Scotland and Germany (oh, the glamour) before leaving to carry on the family business of Intellectual Property law in the City. I've lived away from the area for most of my life and have met no OWs elsewhere, although I do have nieces who attended the Girls' School and seem to have flourished; of course, in the 50s we were allowed no contact of any kind with the girls, which suited us (or most of us) just fine - we knew nothing and cared less but things did change, I promise you.

I'm now comfortably retired in Twickenham, where the rugby would probably be considered of reasonable quality even by Claude Webber and Stan Beaumont and I'm gratefully far-removed from the horrible sounds of Harry Brownley's Hoe-Downers.

Tony Axe

DANIEL BLUNDEN
(1953-1957)

I am writing from our flat in Southern Spain. It is a sunny day and we have just returned from the lakes at El Chorro, well worth a visit. We spent three hours walking mostly uphill!

Whilst I knew that Archie, Barry and Tony had died I had no idea that Alan Murray, John Fozard and Chris Sharples had passed on. Alan Murray was a member of the Lodge and I did not really know him apart from LOI and Lodge. John Fozard was in partnership with Percy Larner in Rayleigh (both fantastic dentists) and apart from being

at school with him we were members of the Southend Business Luncheon Club for a number of years and before that had played table tennis at the Old Southendian Tennis Club (of all places!) in Crowstone Road. Chris Sharples and I were both patrol leaders in the 3rd and 4th Westcliff Troop, St. Saviours, Westcliff with other Westcliffians, Garth Schofield, John Dangerfield and Mini McClure.

What does concern me is that these deaths have occurred and that I was unaware of them until too late.

As you know Tony was in my class at school. He had been Junior Deacon or Senior Deacon when I came into Masonry, but then disappeared to Chicago for a couple of years. By the time he returned to the UK I had almost caught him up and he placed me in the Chair. Unfortunately it was impossible to return for the funeral because we were entertaining guests during that week. The same thing happened when Dennis Johnson died, when the situation was even more difficult because one our guests Tony Membery was in a wheelchair at that time. Fortunately I was able to get my sister to deliver the eulogy. It was always Tony L's hope and mine that Tony M would join the Lodge but it was not to be.

Kindest regards
Daniel

MICHAEL COCKS
(1948-1955)

I have just received your request for "articles", as I am about to fly off to South Africa.

I was a pupil from 1948 to 1955 and after national service went to Peterhouse Cambridge.

As the citation for the Houlder Cup makes clear I became a stockbroker and stood for the SDP twice in Taunton.

In 1991 I qualified as a commercial

diver to try to make the industry safer; I run a trade union for divers I am still diving, just, at the age of 76.

Citation for the Houlder Cup:



Following early retirement, Michael Cocks had his first dive in a Falmouth dive tank in 1989. Since that time he has been on a personal crusade to promote commercial diver safety and at the age of 54 qualified as a HSE Part 1 Diver.

At the time he was concerned that the onshore diving industry was almost unregulated. So he began working for the Professional Divers trade union and, with the support of the late Cdr Jackie Warner, Dr John King and Dr John Bevan, launched onto his crusade to ensure there were the same controls for onshore diving as in the North Sea.

After twelve commercial diver deaths in one year and active personal lobbying, the HSE expanded the authority of the highly experienced Offshore Diving Inspectors to cover onshore operations. As a result UK onshore diving has become amongst the safest in the world.

In 1994 he began writing on diving safety issues for the Commercial Diver magazine, the forerunner of Underwater Contractor International and is now a regular contributor to the latter. With a view to improving global diver training standards, he has visited and dived at forty commercial diver training schools around the world.

He continues his international diving school visits and advises divers and their

families in their fights for compensation following accidents. He is a strong campaigner for the facts of diving accidents and incidents to be made public so that lessons can be learned

Best wishes,
Michael Cocks

GEOFF DIGNUM

What a shock to so many names of OWs known to me amongst the departed. Barry Campany was a long-standing friend, as well as a contemporary at the Rugby Club. Back in the '70s, when he was working in West London and I in East London, we had frequent Friday lunchtime meetings at the City Barge pub. Tony Lister and Chris Sharples are two that I well remember from the OWRFC - Tony often played second row behind me. John Fozard was a Prefect at the School, and when he practised as a Dentist he lived next door to my family in Mount Avenue. May they Rest in Peace.

In recent years, I have been involved in Community Health Councils, which became Patients Forums (or should that be FORA!!). Subsequently I continued being involved when these were "translated" into Local Involvements Networks (LINKs). LINKs are now reaching their "sell by date" under reforms to the NHS. I'm undecided whether to go on with this latest incarnation!

I'm sure that is quite enough from me, so will close.

Regards,
Geoff Dignum (aka DIG)

TIM DOUST (1945-1953)

I was at Westcliff from 1945-53. I thought I would amuse myself sharing a few memories

of those days. There were air-raid shelters dug into the slopes of the playing fields. One treat was the occasional showing of black and white comic films in the dining hall. We had the Brown Cup in those days. Does it still exist? Where everyone had to do just one thing in athletics. I was in West House and we never won anything except when all the other houses had cheated by having lads run in several races. So they were all disqualified and we got the tea! Mr Brown's son was in our class.

Are there still others who remember H I Brown, the old Moke, Harry Harden, Daddy Smith, Limbird in the Biology Lab, Davies the Spanish teacher playing Mozart and Chopin on the grand piano in the lunchtime? Do kids still play the games we played then - fivestones, conkers, tuppennyhapenny football on the teachers table, cotton-reel tanks(!). We even had a game invented by Tate and Lyle to protest against the proposed nationalisation of the sugar industry in which you lost when your dice ended up showing the letters S T A T E . Those were the days when there was a genuine Labour government determined to get its hands on the commanding heights of the economy! I wonder if there is a copy of that game still in existence.

We were the top stream but we behaved very badly - one game was for one lad to hide in the corner of the classroom behind a desk and whenever the teacher went in that part of the room we burst out laughing. He never found out why! Little things pleased. Another trick was to inch our desks forward whenever the teacher turned to write on the board. He could never work out what was happening until after ten minutes of inching nearer we were completely surrounding the table and with a great shout he told us to get away which we did with great noise and confusion. When it rained we could stay in and amused ourselves lining up desks on either side of the room and throwing plimsols across the room to be met by raised desk lids. I can't remember whether we ever broke the windows behind us but it was a near thing. I remember one day watching in horror as a

few lads rocked H I Browns historical glass-fronted cupboard back and forth until it nearly swayed off its base. I don't know why we behaved so badly. Does anybody get up to such things these days?

In the sixth form some of my friends got milk off young kids and heated it on a bunsen burner in the Biology lab with coffee and sold it in the break time. A few of us stayed on a third year in the sixth form. Philip Crittenden and I had as our base one of the little rooms beside the stage and because Howard Eggins was in the biology lab at the far eastern end of the school one evening after school we rigged up a private telephone line between our two rooms. Our last little bit of fun was to propose as our leaving gift to the school a cup to be competed for between the Boys School and the Girls School next door. We thought it could have included chess, tennis, hockey and other things. We put this idea to Henry Cloke the Head and he must have passed the idea on to the headmistress next door because a few days later we were summoned to his office where he rejected the idea furiously. Obviously the headmistress had not been impressed by his even considering the idea! So we gave some French Dictionaries to the School Library instead.

Philip and Howard have both died now - Philip after a distinguished career as a secondary head and Howard after a spell in Ibadan University (where he distinguished himself by trying unsuccessfully to stop people beating their donkeys in the street) went on to Aston University and became a world expert in Mycology (fungi lichens and so on!). He even had an annual lecture named in his honour. He also worked hard creating opportunities for youth employment in the West Midlands and took the trouble to go down to Cornwall and bring H I Brown back home for a holiday after his wife had died. He was a man of great energy and commitment.

Tim Doust

ERIC FINCH
(1957-1963)

I officially retired last September from Trinity College Dublin, but I retain my links with the College and the School of Physics through some lecturing and other activities. To mark this event Jean and I went on a 'big' holiday to Australia, which included travelling in some luxury across the continent by rail from Perth to Sydney on the Indian-Pacific express. Some day I'll even travel as far as Westcliff to see you all again!

With best wishes,
Eric Finch

COLIN FORD
(1953-1955 / 1957-1960)

I was very sorry to hear (from Geoff Thompson) of the death earlier this year of Chris Sharples. He was one of our 'set' in the fifth and sixth forms. Sadly, I had not seen him for many years.

In 2010, I attended the annual OWA dinner at the school. Passing through the familiar front doors I was met by the Head Boy who asked me when I was at WHSB. I told him I finished 'A' levels and left the school exactly fifty years ago. He looked at me somewhat blankly. Later, I reflected on the meaning of the term 'fifty years'. I thought, had I in 1960 asked the same question of an Old Boy and he had given my reply, it would place his leaving the school in 1910 – an Edwardian; the same era as 'Downton Abbey'. I suspect I would have had the same reaction as the 2010 Head Boy! I concluded that 'fifty years' is only truly comprehended by those who have accumulated that personal experience.

When I left WHSB in 1960 I embarked on my boyhood ambition to become a pilot in the Royal Air Force. Three years later, in 1963, after a full training as a fixed wing pilot and then conversion to helicopters, I

found myself flying on my own over the jungles of the Malaya and Borneo.

We all know how fast technology moves and today's helicopters are light years away from those that we flew. It might be helpful, therefore, if I give a thumbnail sketch of the Whirlwind 10 and our operating environment. The Whirlwind 10 was solid and reliable, but it was not at all sophisticated. It had a single turbine engine and there was a 'gizmo' to control the engine, so we did not have to manually maintain the rotor RPM with a motorbike twist-grip throttle. But that was about it in labour saving devices. There was no autopilot and there was no stability augmentation on the flying controls (all helicopters are inherently unstable). The collective lever (which in effect sets the overall power output of the main rotor) could be locked with a friction ring. However, the cyclic stick (which determines the direction of the thrust of the main rotor) was 'fully floating' without feel and so it was 'hands on at all times'. As I enjoyed photography, I often flew with my trusty Asahi Pentax SLR slung around my neck. I developed the knack of jamming the lever under my left leg and holding the cyclic between my knees for the short time I needed to frame, focus and take the shot. A bit hairy but it worked.

Our navigation aids consisted of an altimeter, an airspeed indicator, a compass and a wristwatch - there was no clock. But of course, we always had the Mk1 eyeball. The maps varied from pretty good to downright useless. For example, rivers indicated with two banks were accurate; single line rivers could be questionable; dotted line rivers were simply the cartographer's best guess. Deep in the interior, maps became white sheets of paper with graticules. They were often stamped 'No topographical information available' or had vague hachuring marks to indicate mountains. My favourite map – which I still have – is one based on maps of the Japanese Army Staff 1944.

Our radios were aviation frequency VHF and UHF - so we could not talk to the army. Also, when we were about 20 mins out

of Brunei we lost radio contact with the world. It was a single pilot operation, but sometimes we carried one of our groundcrew, which was good because we then had someone to talk to. It was hot and it was humid. And the weather - using modern parlance - was frequently very challenging. All of us who flew there have more than a few horror stories about the weather. Sometimes we would fly day sorties from our main base; sometimes we would detach to a forward operating base; and sometimes we would simply mooch off for a few days, live with army in the jungle, do their bidding and then come back when the aircraft needed a service. Between mid 1963 and late 1965 things did change. Maps improved courtesy of the Canberra Photo Reconnaissance effort and the introduction of HF radio significantly improved our safety.

So how did we novices cope? Well, we were young, with very little experience of anything much really. I had about 350 hrs total in training including 100 hrs on helicopters (50 hrs of which were on the Whirlwind). We were pretty much thrown in at the deep end and I will be the first to admit that I did make mistakes - but I learned from them pretty damned quickly. Based in Singapore I did 'month and month about'. In Borneo, especially out of Labuan, I had fantastic and demanding flying in a beautiful, unspoilt land and there was very little opportunity to spend money. In Singapore, I flew mainly Search and Rescue and I had some very interesting trips - and of course, I had two months salary to blow up in one month which was not at all difficult in downtown Singapore. Looking back, I was given the flying and the life that very few young men have the privilege to experience.

Now, fifty years later, a book has been published which sets out to shed light on the politics of Indonesian 'Confrontation' 1962-66 and on the little known period of associated military operations. 'Borneo Boys' is based on the collective memories of helicopter crews who were there and has been written by Roger Annett (an RAF transport pilot

engaged in airdrop supplies in Borneo). It is published by Pen & Sword and is now available from Amazon.

Best wishes
Colin Ford

MATTHEW A. JOHNSON
(1981-1988)

Doubling the number of Old Westcliffians recently or currently leading one of the UK's diplomatic posts abroad (Stuart Jack retired from the Diplomatic Service following the completion of his tour as Governor of the Cayman Islands in 2009), Matthew Johnson left Accra in 2012, after a four-year tour as Deputy High Commissioner, and transferred to lead the UK's representation at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg later that year.

Matthew, who becomes UK Permanent Representative and Ambassador, will be in Strasbourg for four years. He described the move back to multilateral work, and a sharp focus on promoting and protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as a significant change from his recent bilateral diplomacy, and an opportunity to work in a more 'political' environment as the UK Coalition Government manages its relationship with the European Court of Human Rights and wider Council of Europe. While most of the UK's relationships with "Europe" revolve around the Brussels-based institutions, Matthew expects an increasing focus on Strasbourg, particularly the Court, in the run-up to the 2015 General Election.

Matthew

ALAN KING
(1937-1944)

I believe I promised I would write back in 2011, and of course I did not keep that promise. Many apologies! Blame it on my nocardiosis... Perhaps I did mention that a

previous mention of me in the newsletter drew no response for I was listed as Alan Lunes... never mind... here's another shot.

I am wondering if any old 1944 sixth formers are still around for the only OW I am still in touch with is Howard Higgins, who joined WHS with me in 1937 then left in 1940 because he did not migrate to Belper. (He ended up a member of Lloyds.)

French Master Duncan decided in 1938/9 that I would not get anywhere with languages but I read French and Spanish at Cambridge 1947-50, worked at a college and attended the University in Clermont-Ferrand 1950-51. (I also did four months at universities in Spain - meeting at the Uni of Saragossa my Munich Uni German wife.)

After that:

- 1951-54 Teaching French and Spanish at Lord Wandsworth College, Long Sutton & CCF.
- 1954-61 French & CCF etc at Bristol Grammar School.
- 1961-65 Took over Mod. Languages Dept. from John Edney at King Edward VI School, Nuneaton.
- 1965-70 Head of General Wingate School in Addis Ababa Ethiopia - W.H.S. was the first school to join my G.W.S. Scholarship fund in 1965.
- 1971 After helping out with French at Nuneaton Girl's High - Teaching Certificate at Moray House, Edinburgh.
- 1972-74 Head of Colston's School in Bristol.
- 1975-88 Head of Languages (usually 7 & 8, one or two years 9 or 10). Matriculation College, Launcerton, Tasmania. (Now called L'ton College).
- 1988 Retired to Adelaide in South Australia and have been living happy ever after, heeling parrots, volunteering and serving on the Board of Adelaide and Monarto Zoos and having 3 sons become 1) an Oz Ambassador, 2) a Consultant Physician, an anaesthetist and part-time inventor.

Potted CV: cheery memories of WHS in

Belper then back in Westcliff - fire watching and playing a tuba in the A.T.C. Wing Band.

With very best wishes
Alan King OBE, MA, FZS

JOHN McCOLLOUGH

(1956-1961)

Just a line to congratulate you on the Newsletter which you pulled together in such a short time. It's a big task and so easy, I should imagine, to overlook something. But you didn't.

Much appreciation of all your efforts.

All the best,
John

GRAHAM PARSONS

(1956-1959 / 1961-1964)

I'm Graham Parsons, the younger brother of Brian who is still well and lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada. I live south of Saskatoon in Regina the capital of the Province. I am now an economist who writes odds and sods of legislation, most recently the Saskatchewan Greenhouse Gas Management and Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change Act. I led the privatisation initiative in the 1980s, worked in Panama on mining projects, Vietnam on river dykes, an irrigation strategy for the Yukon, an agriculture strategy for Canada, an 86km canal and lots of other fun things, hopefully, but not always, in locations with a good beach.

Life in the Prairies is always a challenge. This year the snow banks on the driveway are six feet high and still growing. Fortunately we leave this weather this year around this time to go to Maui for a six week reward to living through another horrible winter. When we get back I will put my winter car away and get out the convertible for six months.

Time passes quickly as we all age but the memories are all good. I still remember crawling into Tosser Day's history class through the open window to take my seat at the back because I had slept in after parking my Standard convertible down the lane. I did very well in that class and can only put it down to the extra sleep.

Not many Old Westcliffians pass through Saskatchewan, although I do still talk to my brother and Andrew Rainbow my best man at my wedding who lives in Hamilton Ontario. Interestingly, my son went skiing in Banff many years ago and met two Old Westcliffians on the chair lift. He thought they sounded like me and when he asked them where they were from it turned out they went to Westcliff High School for Boys. I guess there may be an Old Westcliffian accent that was installed in either the milk or the buns.

I am still married to Penny and we have three children and four grandchildren and will look forward to playing with them all in Maui. I do believe that Shakespeare had it right by returning to our second childishness in our old age. Lets go play. Keep well and have fun in the sun. I will.

Graham Parsons

ANDREW RAINBOW

(1956 – 1962)

I was in the same year as David (Nugg) Norman and at some point we were in the same class. We met up a few years back at the Cockle Sheds in Leigh. Please can you send me the email address for David Norman or ask him to contact me.

I am planning a trip back to the UK from Canada and would like to attend the Annual Dinner on Friday 14th September 2012. I was a student at WHSB from 1956 to 1962, commencing in 1956 in second year. I left after the 6th form in 1962 and immigrated to Canada in 1967 (see below my career path from the August Edition of the In-

ternational Journal of Oncology - <http://www.spandidos-publications.com/ijo/41/2>).

Dr Andrew Rainbow is currently Professor Emeritus in the Biology Department at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. He grew up in Leigh-on-Sea, a small town that started as a fishing village on the estuary of the river Thames in the county of Essex, England. After attending the local Grammar School he entered the Victoria University of Manchester



graduating with an Honours degree in Physics in 1965. Following a Masters Degree in Radiation Physics and Radiation Biology at Guy's Hospital Medical School, University of London in 1967, he came to Canada and obtained a Ph.D. in Biology at McMaster University in 1970. While studying for his Ph.D. he was a Research Fellow of the National Cancer Institute of Canada.

After obtaining his Ph.D., Dr Rainbow became a medical physicist at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal with concurrent positions at McGill University and Dawson College. In 1972 he returned to Hamilton as the Medical Physicist to the Hamilton and District Hospitals with concurrent appointments at McMaster University and Mohawk College of Science and Technology. From 1984 to 1993 he served as Professor and Director of the Regional Radiological Sciences Program, Department of Radiology, McMaster University. He was appointed a Fellow of the Canadian College of Physics in Medicine in 1981 and served on the Fellowship Examination Committee of the College from 1985 to 1987. He also served as the College representative on the Conjoint Committee for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Diagnostic Imaging and Medical Radiation Technologies, Canadian Medical Association from 1992 to 1996. He was Chair of the Division of Medical and Biological Physics of the Canadian Association of Physicists in 1984 and served on the Radiation Regula-

tions Committee of the Association from 1981 to 1987. He was a founding member of the Physics Advisory Committee to the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Commission of Ontario and served from 1983 to 1988 and 1992 to 1998. This Committee helped formulate regulations to mandate maximum allowable radiation exposures to patients undergoing diagnostic radiology procedures in the Province of Ontario. He served as Acting Director of the Institute for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, McMaster University, in 1994 and Chair of the Department of Biology, McMaster University, from 1996 to 2000. From 2000 to 2011 he was a Professor of Biology and an Associate Member of the Department of Radiology and the Department of Medical Physics and Applied Radiation Sciences at McMaster University.

Dr Rainbow has established an international reputation in radiation biology and DNA repair. His research laboratory has been continuously supported by the National Cancer Institute of Canada with funds from the Canadian Cancer Society since 1972. He has pioneered the use of viruses as probes to study radiation-induced DNA damage and repair in human cells. Work from his research laboratory has resulted in more than 100 scientific articles, several book chapters and reviews with over 2,000 citations. His research objective is to understand the molecular mechanisms for DNA repair and their role in human cancer as well as to improve protocols for radiation therapy and chemotherapy of cancer. In addition and along with members of the Hamilton Regional Cancer Center, Ontario, he has carried out research on the photodynamic therapy treatment of cancer. He was a Visiting Scholar in the Cancer Research Campaign Laboratories, Department of Zoology at the University of Cambridge, UK, in 1983; Visiting Professor in the Departments of Haematology and Radiology at the Flinders University of South Australia in 1988; and Visiting Scientist in the Queensland Institute of Medical Research at The Bancroft Centre, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia in 1994.

Dr Rainbow has a continuing interest in education and since obtaining his Ph.D. has taught courses in medical physics and radiobiology to graduate and undergraduate science students, to students in radiography and radiation therapy and to medical residents in radiology and oncology. In his research laboratory he has mentored the work of 33 graduate students (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) and 3 post-doctoral fellows. He has had the pleasure and privilege of working with many outstanding graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, research assistants, colleagues and collaborators throughout the world.

Best wishes
Andrew

JACK RILEY
(1939-1943)

Just made it..... I returned from hospital yesterday. Happily they had salvaged something from the dross which was your scribe who had found a chest infection found him unable to breathe, a pacemakered heart unable to compensate and a hasty need for an ambulance. Now back in the bosom of the family and on the 'weak but willing' list.

Fortunate at 86 to be still around though which will identify me as one of the 'evaporees' and hence one of the Belper Brigade. If World War Two vets are any yardstick there can't be all that many of us about. I still manage to keep active and am president of one section of our local Lawn Bowls Club and run the Monday Night sessions.

I am also Chairman of UKMAMSOBA which embraces RAF:RCAF:RAAF: and RNZAF and has a very active website based in Canada.

And I still live in Hervey Bay, Queensland, which those readers who are wide awake will realise has been a little damp this year. Still Westcliff web feet are a given.

Take care all, Go well
Jack Riley

GEOFF SIMONDS

(1948-1954)

I left Westcliff in 1954. Have memories of Arnold Azulay; Phil Chapman; John Robison (he & I did a lot together but lost contact when I went North) the Asher brothers; and others whose names are less clear (senility setting in?) Would like to hear from anyone who remembers me, or the above.

I went to Charing Cross Hospital (then in the Strand) via The Northern Poly as I had to do 1st MB. I qualified MB BS; LRCP MRCS in 1960, unusually being appointed Casualty Officer as first job then a couple more 'House Jobs' one at Fulham where they literally built the New Charing Cross Hospital around me.

In January 1962 I went to Manchester University to teach Anatomy for a couple of years ; moving to Liverpool in 1964 , to do General Surgery – FRCS soon after; then into orthopaedics getting the Mch Orth i.e. orthopaedics (Liverpool) in 1968.

Was appointed Consultant at Doncaster Royal Infirmary in 1972 - a very busy mining town; but close to the better parts of Yorkshire for 'breaks'.

Orthopaedic Surgeons then did everything in the Limbs and Spine and even the occasional head injury but as time went by I was allowed to concentrate on Paediatric Orthopaedics and the Hip & Knee in Adults as well as Trauma which then - we all did.

I was Director of the department from 1990 onwards and retired in 1996; moving to Stow-on-the-Wold in 1994.

Married Mary in 1960 (Charing Cross Hospital where they were very relaxed about married Junior Doctors!! unlike most London Hospitals) and we are blessed with four children and eleven grandchildren. Keep very busy with local clubs and societies.

I lost touch with the OWA when I moved North: but bumped into Dudley Mills (? '48) in the Parish Church here who put me back in touch: intend to get to annual dinner soon but as all my family in Essex and around have long since passed on I have little

other reason to come to the area.

Geoff Simonds

PAUL SKELTON

(1989-1996)

I attended WHSB from 1989-1996 and am always interested to hear news of the old place. I wondered whether you were able to put people into touch with other students/teachers from 'back in the day'? I'm not sure if Tim Peet is one of the members of the association but I'd be keen to drop him a line: he was my French teacher all the way through school and was my favourite teacher who was instrumental in my lifelong love of foreign languages. Would be good to know what he's up to these days (I know that he was at St Thomas More for a time). If anyone is able to help on this matter please feel free to email me at paulskelton@yahoo.co.uk.

Keep up the good work and I hope this email finds you well.

Kind regards

Paul Skelton (previously of "East")

IAN SOUTHGATE

I remember many happy years at Westcliff and in particular Graham Walkington who arranged and ran the Golf Team. We were very lucky to have some fine players in the early 70's and enjoyed a fair amount of success. Peter Bax and Alan Witzenfield spring instantly to mind. Peter only last year helped Hertfordshire to victory in the English County Seniors Team event.

Having left Thorpe Hall after 30 odd years I returned to Southend Golf Club at Belfairs and started to build a Cadet Section. I was delighted when 3 WHSB students turned up for Saturday afternoon coaching and have to say that one of them, Sam John-

son, shows real potential.

The reason for writing is simple. If any of our 'Old Boys' have children or Grandchildren that would like to try golf but find the cost prohibitive please bring them along to Belfairs on a Saturday at 2.00 pm. Clubs and balls are provided if required and the sessions are free. We will be starting in mid May, weather permitting, and details can be found on the website www.southendgolfclub.co.uk or on Facebook.

Kind regards,
Ian Southgate.

KEITH STEPHENS (1945-1952)

I intended to write to the Association when the 2012 newsletter arrived. Apart from thanking you for another very interesting publication I would have apologised for my non-attendance at the dinner. My wife and I have regularly visited the St. Ives (Cornwall) Arts festival which takes place every September. It was a pity that the newsletter came after the A.G.M. I usually attend; I would like to know the date of this year's meeting if the newsletter is too late again.

I was sad to hear of the death of Alan Murray. I met him at the A.G.M. in 2011. He looked very sick. I didn't know him well but I do remember him. He was a prominent sportsman and personality a few years ahead of me at school.

The school photograph of June 1948 includes Alan Murray, dressed in shorts, sitting on the grass. This large photo hangs on the wall in my den, I enclose some photos I took of it, I am sorry about the quality but nevertheless they may be of interest. I name the staff from left to right as far as I remember them: Miss Williams (school secretary), unknown, Mr. J.W. Bates (Bertie), Mr. Woods (Jasper), Mr. Davies (Tud), M. Petitgas, Mr. Thake, Mr. Limbird (Spike), unknown, Mr. C.K. Davies (Taffy), unknown, unknown, Mr. C.F. W.

Webber (Claude), Mr. Davenport, Mr. H. Smith (Black Harry), Mr. H.S. Smith (Daddy), Mr. Henry Cloke (The boot), Mr. Midgely, Mr. A. E. Cowan, Mr. Harry Harden, Mr. H. Ivan Brown, Mr. A.W. Bateley (Gus), unknown, unknown, Mr. Cunnington, unknown, Mr. H.King (Six foot of misery), Mr. George E. Price, unknown, Mr. H.G. Robinson (Bloggs), Mr. Morris (Moke), Mr. H. Brownley and an unknown lady. Alan Murray can be seen in to the left of centre in No.1, a boy wearing a light jacket is next to him.

I will never forget 1948. Thousands of cricket lovers, including many Westcliff pupils watched Don Bradman's powerful, all conquering, team score 721 runs on Saturday May 15th in Southchurch Park. I was there with my box brownie and autograph book. The main run-getters were, Bradman 187, Brown 153, Loxton 120, Siggers 104, Barnes 79 and Hamence 46. Essex had bowled out this great team in one day! On Monday we all came back to see Australia win by an innings and 451 runs. It may not go down in the annals of cricket as a great match but for a 14-year-old schoolboy it was magical.

The Prefects 1945 was the title of a photograph you included in the 2012 newsletter. This I assume was taken in the summer of 1945. Most of them had left by the time I arrived in the autumn. The Headmaster is Eric Ayres, who left in 1947. No.11 I'm sure is Mr. Roberts who came back to the school as a teacher. No.4 is Peter Robson a very good sprinter. I think No.1 is Edward Greenfield. He became the chief music critic of The Guardian, succeeding Sir Neville Cardus.

I have a photo of the school tennis team of 1951. Mr Roberts i/c tennis is in the centre. The team is K.Green, G.Collinder, D.Bibble, A Bond, J.Baker and K. Stephens.

Entering the school for the first time after many years I was struck by the honours boards carrying names of my contemporaries. K. R. Clough, I played hockey and worked on the Christmas post with him; D. Whitworth, star of the school chess team; Peter White, he and I attended an international youth camp in Germany; D.L. Pegrum, a talented cartoonist, his

drawings of Thomas Hardy characters were memorable; Alan Sayers, he and I were in John Bates music set; Timothy Doust who went on to read history at Leicester.

I was lucky to be a pupil at Westcliff High School for Boys, long may it thrive.

Yours sincerely,
Keith Stephens

(Editor: Keith, please accept my apologies for not being able to include the photos of 'June 1948' in this newsletter due to loss of quality when scanning. I notice that these photos were taken with a digital camera and suggest, with your permission, that the digital versions (IMG_2900.JPG, 2901, 2910, 2903, 2906) are emailed directly to anyone interested.) Requests can be emailed to owa@ashphoenix.co.uk..

NEIL STRETTON

(1964-67)

Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of my 1st Year at WHSB. I entered Form 1E, and I was fortunate enough to progress to the dizzy heights of Form 2C, the following year.

Not having attended any of the Old Boys' Dinners to date, perhaps 2014 should be the year I break the habit. What about some of my classmates of that time joining me? I've very briefly made contact with Charles Scott and Chris Thorne, but nobody else. Jack Gorner, John Pitt-Stanley, Paul Bateman, Ian White, John Farmer, Doug Edsall, and a host of others, where are you now? See you in '14, maybe? And what about our teachers....I'm hesitant to enquire, especially having read, one or two issues ago, about Michael Loader's unfortunate illness. Who remembers Messrs "Fanny" Knight, Coates, Leggat, Thorougood, Levell, Welsh. I meet a relative of John Allpress from time to time, but I've yet to meet my old geography teacher.

So, what have I been up to in the mean-

time? Well, retirement, as some of you will know, *is* HEAVEN!! Given good health, that is, of course. I do what I want to do; even more importantly, I don't do what I don't want to do! How can anyone beat that!

A few years ago, I wrote that I was globe-trotting, courtesy of my motor race marshalling, which I have been doing for 40 years. Abu Dhabi, South Korea, Dubai, Canada, Australia, and my favourite... the USA. I doubt that I would have visited most of these countries, had it not been for motor racing. In April, I'm off to California to marshal at the Indy Car event at Long Beach...then it's back to "feet - on - the - ground" events in the UK; mostly at Brands Hatch. I'll spend a few months being a spendthrift before jetting off to Austin, Texas, for the F1 Grand Prix in November.

I'm currently Chairman of the SE Region of the British Motorsports Marshals Club. If anyone reading this is sufficiently mad enough to want to give motor race marshalling a try (no matter what your age!!), then we conduct "Taster Days" at Brands Hatch and Snetterton. There you get an opportunity to see if marshalling is for you. Standing around for hours on end; rain pouring down. But hey! You've got the best seat in the house... for free!... and, if you're still working 9-5, Monday-Friday, it sure takes your mind off work! It's a great stress-buster.

If you want to know more, I can be contacted at neilstretton@yahoo.co.uk. If not, I hope to see you in 2014.

Best wishes
Neil

MIKE TOOBY

(1957)

Good morning from Western Australia.

I left WHS in 1957 after a rather undistinguished academic career' but with a few sporting honours. I had a very satisfying career as a Landscape Architect, first in Scotland, but since 1971 in Western Australia.

My wife Pam, also a Landscape Architect worked with me' but more importantly, produced our three fine sons. They were born in Scotland, but are now very proudly Australians and thriving in their various professions.

As we approach our 50th anniversary this year, Pam and I live in a fairly hectic but happy retirement in a small village just outside Perth. We have never once regretted our decision to migrate, but still harbour many memories of our younger days, mine including my years at WHS.

For the record, my Uncle, now dead, was Bernard Croston, who was both a pupil in the 1920's and a teacher in the 50's and early 60's. His wife Kitty, died last year aged 97.

Mike Tooby

VAL WEST
(1940-1945)

Below is a picture of the 1942-3 Rugby team with signatures. The teacher on the left (his right) was Claude Webber. I am the one in the back row at the other end.



After finishing school I worked at the branch of (I think) Barclays bank in Southend High Street. For three days , when I decided that cancelling cheques standing at a table, that must have originated in Dickens period, banking was not a career that I could enjoy. Then I moved to E.K. Cole to work as lab. assistant.

Next 2 years 3 months in the RAF, several places in the UK, Singapore, then Butterworth, up near the border of Siam, as it was then. This was during the Emergency, so called, not exactly a pleasant time.

After that I worked at the Southend Gas Works (also now defunct). During this period I, with a number of others who had done their service, went evenings and part time to study Chemistry. I met the girl, who, perhaps in a moment of weakness, agreed to marry me and that we would seek a new life in Canada. Since 1955 we have lived here, raised three sons, all now past 50, 4 grand kids, and 2 great grandsons. I worked for 36 years for Unilever, and now we are retired in our modest home in Scarborough, a suburb of Toronto.

To anyone who can still recall that brilliant I wasn't. After several years of evenings & weekends I completed an undergraduate degree (BSc.) at the University of Toronto, became a Member of the Chemical Institute of Canada, and a Chartered Chemist of the Province of Ontario. My life in a capsule nearly!

Warmest Regards
Val West

KEITH WHITE

Greetings from Bermuda and many thanks for keeping those of us overseas in touch with the OWA.

I have been lucky enough to have lived in Bermuda since 1973. This November we will host the 25th Anniversary of the World Rugby Classic ,this tournament has brought

some of the world's greatest rugby players to our shores including JPR Williams, Willie John McBride, Andy Hayden and Martin Johnson. If you love rugby early November is a great time of year for a visit to Bermuda !!

It was sad to learn that Chris Sharples has passed but I do have some happy memories of some of the Old West-cliffian rugby matches that we played in together. These were back in the 1960s. In particular there was a period when Chris and I both worked in London - for Sun Life and Sun Insurance respectively. Although these were separate insurance companies a combined team was fielded for the prestigious Preece Rugby Cup. In those days Chris was very valuable to a scratch team as he could play well in any position in the backs- from scrum-half to the wing. Chris was always an excellent representative for the OW RFC and he was a delight to be around both on and off the playing field.

Freemasonry, is alive and well in Bermuda and plays an important part in the social fabric of the Island's 60,000 population. We have twelve Craft lodges and a handful of Royal Arch Chapters representing the three Constitutions of England, Ireland and Scotland. A few years ago we constituted the Bermuda Council of Knight Masons #97 for which I am the Scribe (Secretary). The Grand Council have indicated that later in 2013 a Council (possibly #103) will be likely be formed at Saxon Hall in Southend. I hope to attend that meeting and who knows I may meet up with some OW Lodge members at that time!

Best wishes,
Keith P.White

KENNETH ZUCKER
(1946-1953)

I do not know how things are arranged now but in those days (I am writing about 1949)

everyone in the two top classes when they came to their fourth year in the school were given a choice of Arts or Science. People who were hopeless at Science chose Arts but in case they hoped they were getting away with it a science Master was put in charge of their form with express instructions to propel them by whatever means through physics O level. It could then be claimed that they had been given a rounded education.

So we came under the aegis of Jim Limbird . Always known as "Spike" with piercing eyes, he made up for his shortness in height with a hefty whack across the back of the head which was then an accepted teaching aid. To one recalcitrant pupil I can recall him saying "Bruno you are getting a personality and I do not like it".

We regarded Spike with great affection and at the end of our fifth year when some of the class were due to leave school he organised a farewell dinner in the School Dining Room. It went so well that the following year he suggested a Reunion of everyone who had been in his Arts class – bringing back those who had left to join those who had stayed on.

This on 18 December 1951 was the first of our reunions. It, too, was held in the School Dining Hall. The photograph shows twenty three present in addition to Spike.

First Reunion 18 December 1951



T. Davies M. Avril J. Horsnell R. Clift M. Warwick
C. Tansley B. Coker R. French
R. Tomkins S. Flude I. Cobham M. Turner M. Howard
B. Lamport J. Mayer B. Puxley
B. Bruno K. Zucker C. Timms Mr. J. Limbird
T. Lipman M. Hogg B. Flack
D. Turner

By 1952 we had graduated to the Roadhouse in Belfairs. We simply called ourselves "Fivarts". We have had many Reunions since then - to begin with every year, then sporadically but more recently every two years. We have used other venues but for a considerable time we have met in our initial venue - the Roadhouse (still there under the guise of "The Old Vienna"). Jim Limbird presided at every Reunion until 1983. He died the following year.

Our guests at our Reunions included Henry Cloke, the Headmaster in our days, and Harry Harden, Keith Davies and H.C. Davies former masters. The Reunions have seen us through National Service, university, work and retirement. Three members have died - Chris Tansley, Terry Lipman and Ivor Cobham. We last met (for the first time away from Southend) in May 2012. Out of a possible fourteen nine of us were present.

Reunion 23 May 2012



K. Zucker B. Coker J. Horsnell M. Turner
M. Hogg B. Puxley I. Meads R. Clift
T. Davies

All being well we will back in Southend for our next Reunion in May 2013 - sixty two years after our first Reunion.

Is that a record?

Best wishes
Kenneth Zucker

12. OLD WESTCLIFF LODGE NO. 5456

The Old Westcliffian Lodge was formed in 1934, and its membership consists of former pupils and current and former staff and governors of the School. The Lodge meets five times a year, the summer meeting having been held at the School since 2000. With Lodge members having all attended the School either as pupil or staff, there is a common bond that ensures the Lodge has a degree of camaraderie that isn't necessarily present in other Lodges. If you are interested or curious about Freemasonry or the Old Westcliffian Lodge in particular, why not contact one of the Lodge members. We list below three Lodge members with their contact details and years at the School so that you will be likely to speak with one of your contemporaries.

Terry Birdseye (1957-1962) 01702 714241
Arthur Millman (1967-1973) 07973 145978
Greg Bermon (1988-1995) 07772 296230

13. WESTCLIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

This has been a hard season. We are clinging on in National 3 London and South East but have spent a lot of the season in the relegation zone but it is by no means certain that we will go down a league - the season extends well into April and certainly not after a magnificent performance against Guernsey that has given us hope.

The players and coaching staff knew we were venturing into unknown realms when we started to play at this level. We did enough last year to retain our status but it was hard. It has been the same this season even though for a short while, we topped the league after a 55-19 thumping of Tring.

League leaders Dorking lowered our colours 12-39 but the game was a lot closer

than the score suggested and we had them defending desperately on some occasions.

Many of the teams in this league pay their players - we are one of the few purely amateur clubs at this level. The bugbear has been injuries, loss of players for many reasons and the straight rub of the green - going down 39-45 against Barnes after a magnificent come-back for example. In this league, bonus points are awarded for various achievements but our collection of these seems at the time of writing (March) to have dried up though we have come very close to picking one up in some close defeats.

In the senior Essex cup we downed Romford & Gidea Park 7-55 in the quarter final. Connections with the School are still strong, with many of the senior players at all levels having learned the game there. Elliott Harvey and Simon Jones have been 1st XV regulars for example. As before a number of junior players play for WHSB one day and for the club the next.

Many of the Colts XV have come to us from the School and they are showing their ability by reaching the quarter-final of the National Colts Cup - a competition that takes them around the country.

The Lions (2nd) XV are continuing to power their way through the season and the other sides are all handily placed in their leagues.

Returning to the subject of travel, Nick Crowe has compiled a list of the clubs we have played since the leagues came in. Included on the list are Ampthill and Luton in Bedfordshire, Diss, North Walsham, West Norfolk and Norwich in Norfolk, Bracknell in Berkshire, Beccles, Newmarket and Ipswich in Suffolk, Canterbrigian and Ely in Cambridgeshire, London Irish and Dorking in Surrey, Havant in Hampshire, Welwyn Garden City, Tring and Stevenage in Hertfordshire and Canterbury and Tonbridge Judians in Kent. Join Westcliff RFC and see the world.

On a sadder note, we have lost several members this season including Ceddy Hodgkins, Barry Cornell, Tony Pendrey, Barry

Campany, John Fozard (a former president of the OWA), "Jumbo" Bowen (also a former president of the Association), Neville Moss (Club patron and former mayor of Southend), Chris Sharples, Tony Lister and Alan "Charlie" Murray.

The club has attracted a number of players who have or are making their marks around Britain and the world. Sam Reynolds is now with Tynedale in National League One, Joe Vandermolen, after a session with Southend is now with Bedford in the Championship, Jackson Wray is a regular in the Saracens 1st XV, Duncan Richardson is now playing in France, Joe Maiava is playing provincial rugby in New Zealand, Jaba Kikvidze is also in New Zealand preparing for the 2015 world cup - he was invited to train with the Georgian national team.

Max Crumpton is now with the Saracens Academy and played for the club against Leicester. He has represented England Under 20 and has been on loan to Old Albanians.

Geoff Sawyer, press officer WRFC

14. EDITOR

A big thank you to all of those who have contributed to the Newsletter. Great work by both Michael Hughes and John White for revealing the names of the 1945 Prefects shown on page 38.

Please keep sending in your news and photographs. The preferred method to use is email but we are also more than happy to receive letters via the post.

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 or contact the Hon. Secretary. Also, please keep us informed of email and postal address changes.

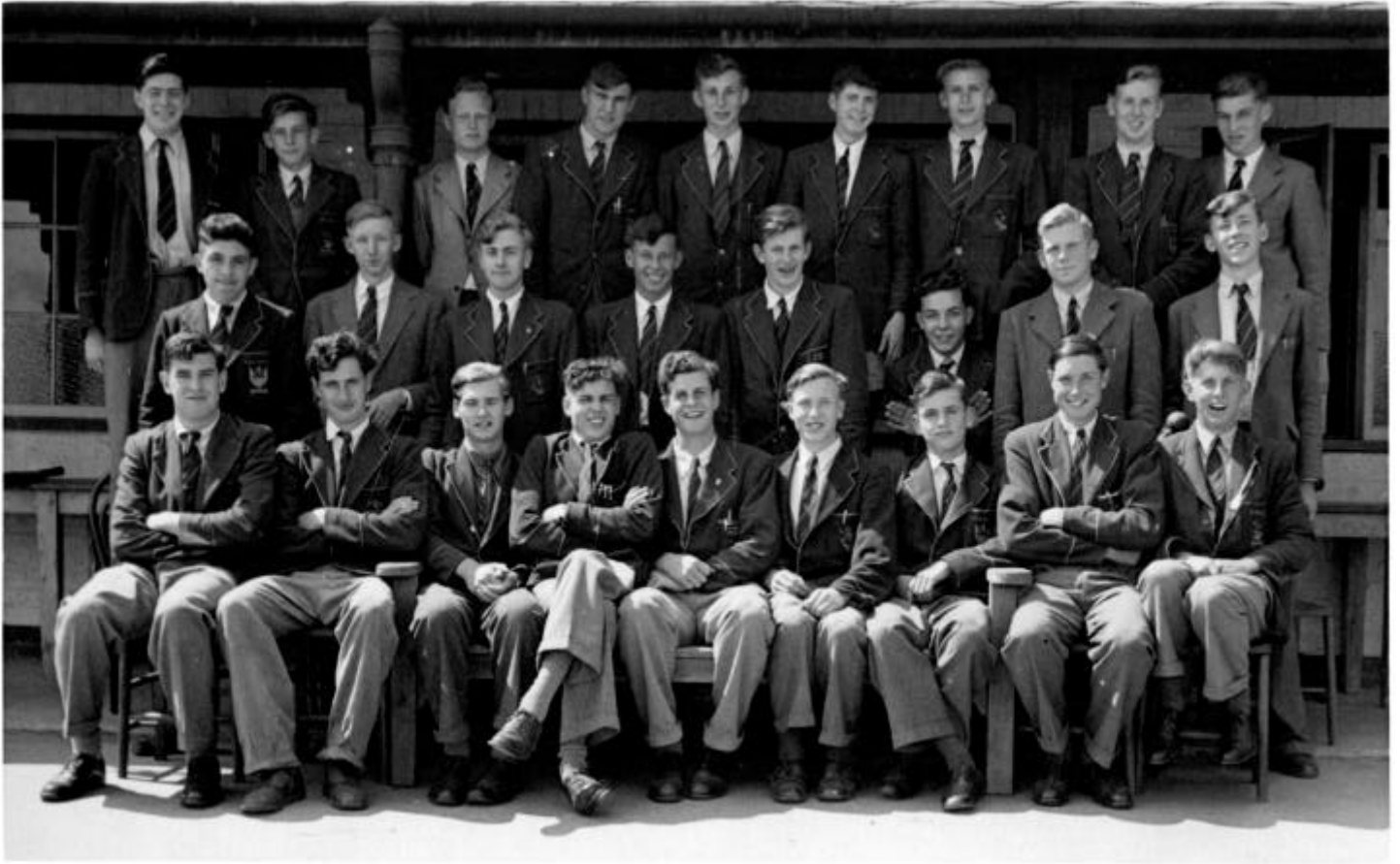
I look forward to hearing from you.

Very best wishes.
Alison Clarke
owa@ashphoenix.co.uk

PREFECTS 1949-1950

(Imagines provided by Peter King)

A story waiting to be told! It would be nice to hear from you.



Westcliff High School for Boys. Prefects 1949-50.

Back Row.

*Mr. Gladdery. Ball. Whitworth. Bowthorpe. Dibble. Dough.
Watkins. Pheby. Barclay.*

Middle Row.

*Steinert. Keeling. Mc. Kinnon. Abercrombie. Edge. Williams
Parsonson. Wilde.*

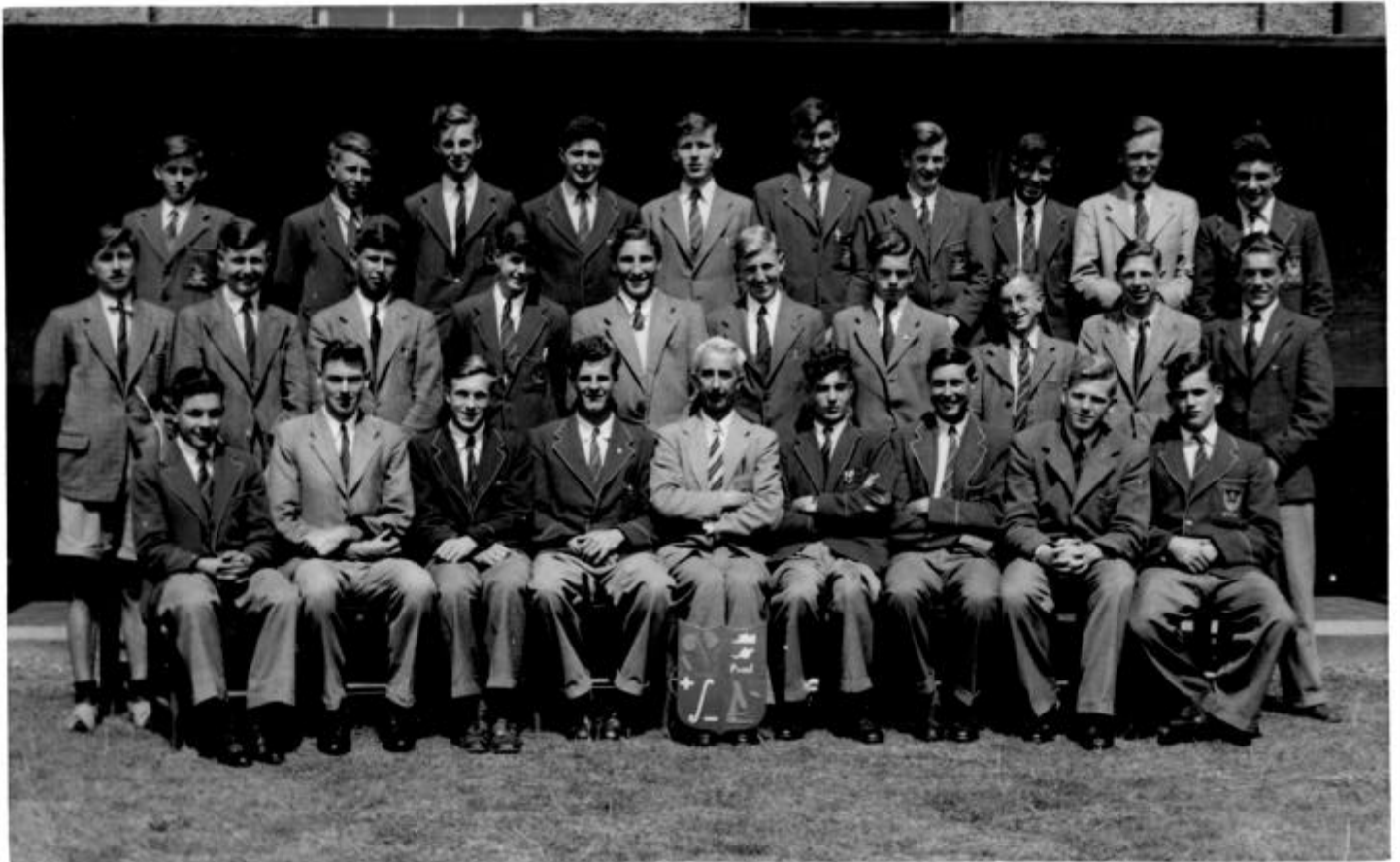
Front Row.

*Groom. (SOUTH HOUSE) CAPTAIN. Searey. (EAST HOUSE) CAPTAIN. Harper. Fisher (VICE-SEN. CAPTAIN).
Smedley (SOUTH HOUSE) CAPTAIN. Buttonmore. Bartley. King. (WEST HOUSE) CAPTAIN.
Murray (NORTH HOUSE) CAPTAIN.*

6Sc 1949-1950

(Imagines provided by Peter King)

A story waiting to be told! It would be nice to hear from you.



Westcliff High School for Boys. 6 Sc. 1949-50.

BACK ROW.

BALL. MURRAY. DIBBLE. McGLADDERY. WILDE. BOWTHORPE.
EDGE. ABERCROMBIE. WHITWORTH. STEINERT.

MIDDLE ROW.

ELEY. LEWELLYN. BROWN. CLOUGH. KAISER. COLLENDER.
GREEN. THORN. GARROOD. SARGENT.

FRONT ROW.

WILLIAMS. RUSSELL. BUTTIMORE. SMEDLEY. Mr. WEBBER.
FISHER. KING. PARSONSON. BARTLEY.

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

Back Row (left to right): 1) E.H. (Ted) Greenfield 2) 3) Fred Reeves 4) D. Robson
5) Bob Nicholls 6) John White

Middle Row (left to right) : 7) Michael Hughes 8) John Terry 9) A.D. Wallis 10) G.K. Rice
11) Dave Roberts 12) John Stallard 13) Tom Young

Front Row (left to right): 14) Phillips 15) Ron Jeanes 16) Eric Aryes (HM) 17) Lionel Koppen 18) Vincent Watson



THE PREFECTS, 1945.

IDENTIFIED

- 1) **E.H. (Ted) Greenfield** : Cambridge and then a distinguished music critic. Awarded the O.B.E.
- 2) **Unknown** : Do you recognise him? What became of him after leaving school?
- 3) **Fred Reeves** : PhD at Imperial College. Worked at Shell, mainly in USA as a geologist. Now deceased.
- 4) **D. Robson** : Later Head Boy, then Cricket Captain.
- 5) **Bob Nicholls** : Worked as a professional photographer with Vickers Armstrong.
- 6) **John White** : Graduated at Imperial College. Joined Schlumberger for many years before moving to Australia. Then became head of the Petroleum branch at the Bureau of Mineral Resources in Canberra.
- 7) **Michael Hughes** : Read French and German at St. Catherine's Cambridge then went on to teach at Solihull School and St. Dunstan's College, retiring in 1987. At school was a keen cricketer (1943-5 XIs). Played at a paltry level at Cambridge, in the RAF (National Service) and for undistinguished clubs but derived great pleasure from the wonderful game. Was rather a better golfer.
- 8) **John Terry** : Worked for Weir Pumps in Iraq
- 9) **A.D. Wallis** : Organ scholar at Queens' Cambridge. Subsequently music master in independent schools.
- 10) **G.K. Rice** : Brasenose, Oxford. Well documented career in Law.
- 11) **Dave Roberts** : Became a member of staff at WHSB teaching science.
- 12) **John Stallard** : After graduating became a chemist at Johnson & Johnson.
- 13) **Tom Young** : What became of him after leaving school?
- 14) **Phillips** : West House Captain.
- 15) **Ron Jeanes** : Head Boy and Cricket Captain.
- 16) **Eric Aryes (HM)** : 1945 Headmaster.
- 17) **Lionel Koppen** : What became of him after leaving school?
- 18) **Vincent Watson** : What became of him after leaving school?

15. (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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15. (ii) The Old Westcliffian Association

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

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