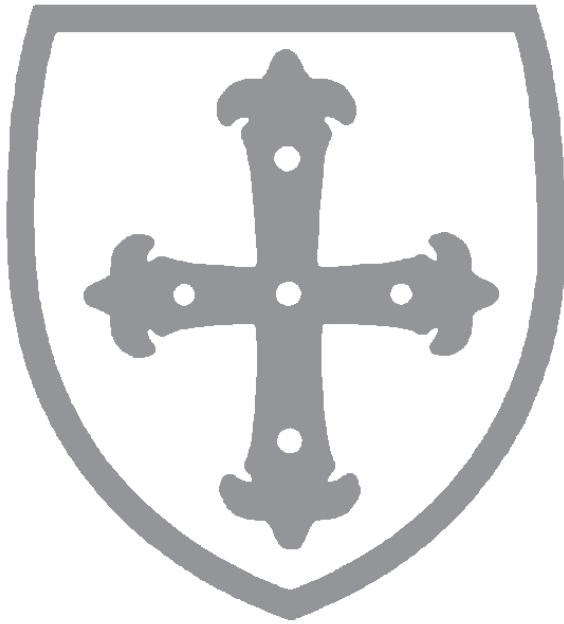


OLD WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



OWA Officials 2008-2009

President: Dr P T Warren, CBE

Senior Vice-President: N L Platts

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Elected Members of Committee: R C Blundell, M J Irwin, C E M Jones

Editor of OW Newsletter: R C Blundell

Editor of OW News in The Whitgiftian: N L Platts

OLD WHITGIFTIAN NEWS

Quod et hunc in annum vivat et plures

Edition No: 4

Covering 2008-2009

Editor's note:

This is the fourth edition of Old Whitgiftian News and it takes us through from January 2008 to the end of August 2009 (to coincide with the School and OWA year end). Although *The Whitgiftian* magazine has now reappeared from a period of hibernation, this publication seems to provide a broader look at OW news than can be included in either *The Whitgiftian* or the regular OWA Newsletters. OWs interested in more frequent information on the School's progress may also care to look at the termly newsletter, *Whitgift Life*, which is available on the School website (www.whitgift.co.uk).

This edition of OW News records the remarkable success of OWs in the public eye, notably **General Sir Peter Wall, David (now Lord) Freud** and **Gerry Grimstone**. We can take great pleasure in the success of these OWs and their Whitgiftian association. At the same time we receive news of the death of OWs; our sadness is modified by the information that we glean from obituaries and appreciations. Often OWs, even contemporaries, know little about the doings of other OWs and it is fascinating to see the mark that so many make in their lives. This edition has obituaries of well known names, **Martin Turner, Derek Rokison, Sir Bernard Crick, Mark Shivas** – but the obituaries of, for example, **Dr Kenneth Easton, Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Paul Houghton** and **Peter Miller**, who were probably known to few OWs, are equally fascinating.

In the last edition I mentioned that we would no longer have an overseas correspondent. This turned out to be a short term arrangement and now I am pleased to say that **Terry Brown** (1959-64) has agreed to take on this role and can be contacted at t.brwn@blueyonder.co.uk. Alternatively, OWs overseas (and remember we do want to hear from you - not just when you move house) can send letters and messages directly to the Clubhouse either by traditional or electronic means (the e-mail address is clubhouse@owa.org).

The Subscription Treasurer continues to make a plea for those OWs who still pay their subscription by standing order to consider a transfer to direct debit. Standing orders cost the OWA both time and money because each one requires manual identification and data entry; direct debits are processed automatically and incur lower bank charges. The necessary form may be obtained from the OW Clubhouse or downloaded from the website: www.owa.org/downloads.

Nigel Platts

Presidents:



Dr Peter Warren, CBE (1947-56)

Has been President of the OWA for the year to 31 August 2009. He has been tireless and dedicated in that role and has demonstrated the meticulous care of the scientist (he is a distinguished geologist) and the pragmatism of the high level administrator (he was the Executive Secretary of the Royal Society for a number of years) in dealing with the issues that arise in running an active Association and sports club.



Nigel Platts (1955-64)

Will be the next President of the OWA, an accountant and, for many years, a partner in KPMG. He is now a non-executive director and runs a medical charity. He was treasurer of the OWA for several years, was a playing member of the OWCC and organiser of the successful junior cricket at Croham Road and now is a member of the OW Golf Society. He edits Old Whitgiftian News.

Reunions

OWA Day, principally thanks to the enthusiasm of OWA Chairman **David Stranack** (1949-55), was revived for 2008 and 2009. The 2009 event was a triumph of the will for President **Peter Warren** who masterminded a weekend that started with the Annual Dinner (held for the first time at Croham Road) and continued on Saturday with a special visit to the School's magnificent *Hidden Treasures from the Mary Rose* exhibition. Well over a hundred OWs and their families enjoyed this special event which concluded with a splendid lecture from **Dr Steven Gunn** (1971-78), historian and fellow of Merton College, Oxford. Steven presented a fascinating perspective of life in Henry VIII's England in a way that informed but did not overwhelm the audience. Steven's distinction as a historian of early Tudor history is demonstrated by his published works: *Early Tudor Government 1485-1558* and *War, State and Society in England and the Netherlands 1477-1559*.

The Annual Dinner at Croham Road was a success and those who attended were astonished by the high quality and sophistication demonstrated by the OW Club's new chef, Ricky Woodall. As always, it would be good to see more representation from younger members. Comments about OWA Day 2009 cannot fail to mention Peter Warren's efforts in arranging an OW "sports day" at Croham Road after the Mary Rose visit: it was a Herculean task that received only modest support, partly, it must be said, because the weather deteriorated dramatically.

Regular reunions of School generations at Croham Road have continued to attract a good response, particularly from the older generations. It has become normal practice to coincide one such reunion with the School's Remembrance Day service. One very successful innovation was a lunch for Past Presidents and current Vice Presidents of the OWA. This event was attended by over forty Past Presidents and current Vice Presidents, representatives of the School and the Chairman of the Court of Governors. The day was particularly enlivened by the arrival of Vice President **Dr Richard Bateman** (1967-74) in his helicopter. Both the cricket and rugby clubs have shown significant initiative and imagination in their social events: as an example, the presence at the cricket club of former Pakistan test player Saqlain Mushtaq as player and coach has resulted in a number of celebrity cricket events both at Croham Road and at the School's Cricket Festival. The dinners of the sports clubs remain well attended and attract high profile guest speakers. There have also been regular reunions of OW interest groups and regional reunions in East Anglia and Sussex.

Special mention must be made of the 1959 Prefects who celebrated the passing of a half century with a happily nostalgic dinner in Belgravia organised by **David Mash** (1952 -60) and the 44 Club formed

by those who joined the First Form in 1944. The 1959 Prefects dinner was attended by 19 (including one from New Zealand and one from Canada) of the 23 Prefects of that year (three were unable to come and one has died). The Upper Vth Reunion, organised by **Peter Warren**, continues to flourish well over fifty years since its members left School. **Roy Lewis**, CBE (1941-50) wrote to tell of the 2008 reunion of the 1949 Prefects in Blakeney, Norfolk and the 2009 reunion to be held in September. The 2008 reunion saw fourteen Prefects and their wives dine with the Headmaster and his wife and Mollie Percy as their guests and included a presentation to **Ian Beer**, CBE (1942-49), in recognition of his leadership and the friendships that he built among the Prefects.

Nick Lowe (1969-76), **Tim Forbes** (1955-60) and **Ian Lucas** (1943-51) (photograph below) were able to meet and show OW solidarity at the first match of the School's 2009 rugby tour at Dilworth School, Auckland. They were handsomely entertained at the school and enjoyed watching both Whitgift touring sides win. In May 2009, **Colin McKinnon** (1964-72) wrote from Melbourne to tell of an OW reunion in Australia "Last November, four Whitgift contemporaries gathered in a Sydney pub to catch up and reminisce -- a trio of superannuated second-row forwards and an OW hockey player. These were **Robert McIntosh** (1967-72), Executive Director, Asia Pacific, CBRE Hotels; **Jerry Curtis** (1968-72), Technical Support Manager, Symantec Australia; **Martin Turner** (1970-72), General Manager Global IT, Futuris Automotive; **Colin McKinnon**, Editor, Training and Development, The Age. Curtis and McKinnon formed the second-row of the Whitgift 1st XV in the 1971 centenary season and were, with McIntosh, stalwarts of the OWRFC at Croham Road. Turner played hockey for the school and the OW hockey club. McKinnon and Turner live in Melbourne and Curtis and McIntosh, now also brothers-in-law, having both married sisters of the prolific OW Nash family, were based in Sydney. Since early this year, McIntosh has moved to Singapore with his family. I have also been visited in Melbourne over the past couple of years by **Phillip Mills** (1964-72), Deputy Chairman of U.K. Water, and **Nigel Brown** (1964-72), Managing Director of St Martin's, the property investment arm of the Kuwait government. All of which goes to show that Melbourne really is on the way to everywhere when OW friends wish to meet up."



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Other OWs should remember that small group reunions are well worthwhile. The OWA will always be happy to help with contact addresses.

Trustees or Vandals?

The Times chose to publicise the launch of their online archive with a reprint of the edition of 30 November 1922. The eagle eye of our President Peter Warren spotted an article that was of great interest to Whitgiftians. When we look with concern on how Croydon appears today and the positive influence on future development that can be played by the Foundation as major landowners in the centre of the town, it is no bad thing to remember what *The Times* said nearly eighty years ago:

"It is often difficult to decide the claims of historic interest and ancient beauty against those of modern utility. The issue has been raised once more in an acute form at Croydon, where for years there has been an agitation to demolish what is almost the sole surviving piece of dignified architecture in the place – namely, the red-brick Elizabethan hospital of Archbishop Whitgift's foundation – in order that an important but entirely modern thoroughfare may be widened. The other day, as we have shortly reported, the Croydon town councillors decided to pursue a long canvassed scheme and to seek Parliamentary sanction for it. A few courageous voices, it is true, were raised against the project, but the councillors, as a body, apparently show no appreciation for the past associations of their town, or for the intrinsic beauty of Whitgift's building. It must be allowed that the hospital stands in an awkward place, where there is a confluence of busy traffic, a tram line, and a slope opposite the hospital which would make an alternative widening considerably more expensive. No one, however, who goes to Croydon can fail to perceive that here is a building which, in the interests of history and beauty, ought

to be preserved at any cost, and that its proposed erasure will become the concern of a wider public than the local. It is not as if Croydon were rich in antiquities, for the town has little now to remind its inhabitants of its not inglorious past. On the other hand, the buildings near the hospital are, even for a modern suburban shopping centre, singularly devoid of taste or meaning. It is against the general corruption of style in modern commercial architecture that many of the most thoughtful minds of the day are endeavouring to protest, and, in contrast with this degeneracy, every single example of older building, however plain, stands as an object lesson and a rebuke. But, as one town councillor said on Monday, “we cannot see sentimental objection stand in the way of the progress of a great town” and another is reported to have said, the hospital were “certain embellishments” taken away “would be an extremely ugly building”. If the former remark is brutally candid, the latter shows such a complete lack of discernment that it is to be hoped, for the sake of the town, that the speaker is not truly representative of the aesthetic competence of that body. It would seem, however, that there has long been something highly distasteful in Whitgift’s modest and well proportioned quadrangle that challenges the town council to have done with it forever. If it is to disappear, a remarkably well preserved specimen of a collegiate building of that period, of which there are none too many, will be destroyed. Artistically it is much more worth saving than many ruins which are scheduled as ancient monuments, if only because it stands in the middle of commonplace surroundings, and puts to shame by its mere presence the gaudy products of modern commercialism. Though the traffic difficulty is not lightly to be dismissed, there ought to be ways of diminishing it, and if the town councillors could be induced to see the spiritual value of such a relic’s continuance, they would not err in going about in the most circuitous ways in order to avoid the name of vandals.”

We are indeed fortunate that the vandalism proposed by those councillors did not take place but it is a salutary reminder of the power and short sightedness of politicians, local and national – most of the “modern” buildings of 1922 have long gone, with few regrets, but the Hospital of the Holy Trinity still stands as a monument to the vision of John Whitgift and the common sense and sensitivity of people like The Times correspondent.

A Victorian OW in Africa

Colonel Alfred Tomlinson (1883-85) was one of three brothers to attend the School, the others becoming respectively an accountant and a veterinary surgeon. He is one of the subjects of a monograph about the British South African Police recently written by Frederick Punter. Tomlinson’s father was in the Indian Civil Service and, on leaving School he returned to India and took a commission in the Malabar Volunteer Rifles. However, early on he moved to Africa and joined the Bechuanaland Border Police and subsequently the Mashonaland Mounted Police. Alfred Tomlinson’s career becomes interesting at the end of 1895 when he was a participant in the notorious Jameson Raid, a critical flash point in the build up to the Anglo-Boer War. During that War, Tomlinson served at the relief of Mafeking, a moment of great rejoicing in Britain. In 1911, Tomlinson was present in London as part of the British South Africa Police contingent at the Coronation of King George V. In the First World War Tomlinson became the first commanding officer of the Rhodesian Native Regiment and fought in German East Africa. This campaign, fought so far from the Western Front, is known principally as the background to the celebrated film *The African Queen* and was also the setting of William Boyd’s novel *An Ice-Cream War*. Tomlinson is mentioned several times in the leading history of the campaign, *Tip and Run* by Edward Paice, where his performance is viewed as substandard, particularly in his choice of defensive location at the siege of Moritz Mission in 1917. In Tomlinson’s defence, he was seriously ill with blood poisoning, the commander of the German regiment was an outstanding soldier, British reinforcements, which were only six miles away, failed to appear and, after all, he had been a policeman for most of his career. None of this is commented on by Edward Paice. After the War, Tomlinson became Commissioner of the British South Africa Police and after retirement secretary of the Automobile Association of Rhodesia. From 1937 to 1946 he was Sergeant-at-Arms of the Southern Rhodesian parliament. He died in 1961 at the age of 91 and his ashes were interred in the cloisters of the Anglican Cathedral in what is now Harare.

A Whitgiftian link

The Sunday Times column “Did you know?” included an interesting item entitled “The real Daniel Plainview”. Those who have seen the film *There Will be Blood* will know of Daniel Plainview as “an explosive connoisseur. A murderer, turn of the century oil tycoon and doting – then bitter – alcoholic father”. This character is based partly on Edward Doheny, an oil baron and one of the period’s most powerful men. He was one of the first to find oil and became fantastically rich. The Whitgiftian connection is that the final scene of the film is shot in Doheny’s mansion, where Doheny’s son Ned died in mysterious circumstances in 1929. The mansion was the first major commission undertaken by the OW architect **Gordon Kaufmann** (1903-04). The house has featured in many films over the years including the recent Batman series and in classic Hollywood movies such as *Citizen Kane* and *The Big Sleep*.

OWs in the News

Jonathan Gill (1998-05) is a member of the band JLS that were runners up in the 2009 series of television’s *X Factor*. The band has already had chart topping success and won MOBO awards, but it is interesting to read that Jonathan, who read theology at King’s College, London saw a possible future as a professional rugby player until he was injured on a School tour in South Africa.

The Times “Business Big Shot” for 19 May 2008 was **Julian Heslop** (1964-72), the chief financial officer of Glaxo Smith Kline, whose advice in 2007 to HM Revenue & Customs was to take a cautious approach in formulating policy for the taxation of British based companies overseas profits. Subsequent Government proposals on taxation prompted Shire, the country’s third largest drugs company, to announce plans to move domicile to Ireland and approach endorsed by several other major companies. Julian’s important role as a spokesman for major businesses has led to his appointment as a member of the Treasury’s multinational forum on tax. Of his career, *The Times* writes: “Crunching numbers and integrating businesses are what has made Mr Heslop, 54, tick during his ten year career with GSK”. Two other OWs have also recently featured as “Business big shots” in *The Times* – **Gerry Grimstone** (1960-67), Chairman of Standard Life, in connection with his role as adviser to the government on future privatisations an area with which he was closely involved as a Treasury assistant secretary in the 1980s and **Andy Duncan** (1973-80), Chief Executive of Channel Four, as he talked of his aim of merging Channel Four with BBC Worldwide.

Sir Bernard Crick (1939-47) – at the Channel Four Political Awards ceremony in February 2009, his former pupil the Rt Hon David Blunkett received the Hansard Society Democracy Award on behalf of Sir Bernard, who had died two months earlier. The award celebrates individuals or organisations which have advanced understanding of, and engagement in, parliamentary democracy. David Blunkett paid tribute to the work of Sir Bernard, in particular the influential Crick report which led to the introduction of citizenship as a national curriculum subject to teach young people about active citizenship.

David Freud (1961-68) – author of a report on how to reduce welfare dependency and adviser to the government has been appointed by David Cameron, Leader of the Opposition, to be Shadow Minister of Welfare Reform and to sit in the House of Lords. David Freud was for eleven years a journalist, principally at *The Financial Times*, where he wrote the *Lex* column, and then became an investment banker at S G Warburg specialising in flotations and privatisations. After his retirement in 2005 from Warburg’s (by then known as UBS Investment Banking), he became Chief Executive of Portland Trust (2005-08), a not for profit foundation dedicated to the pursuit of peace in the Middle East, of which he remains a trustee and director.



David Elliott (1955-62) retired in April 2009 after more than a decade as the very successful Chief Executive of the Royal Albert Hall. He was the subject of a profile in *The Daily Telegraph* in August 2008 in which he marvelled at his luck at being in charge of a “national treasure”.

When Royal Mail wanted someone to explain the mythical creatures featured in stamps issued in June 2009, they turned to **Neil Gaiman** (1974-77) to write the words. The presentation pack of six stamps

shows representations of giants, dragons, mermaids, pixies, unicorns and fairies.

The tragic death at sea of **James Meaby** (1980-88) and friends (referred to last year) was the subject of a lengthy article in the *Financial Times*.

Patrick Adamson (1957-61), Chairman of MT I Network, advisers on crisis management in the shipping industry, has become a fairly frequent contributor to television news features about how to counter piracy.

Those who watched the 2008 Lord Mayor's Show on television will have enjoyed an interview with **Paul Champness** (1958-63), in 17th century military attire as Captain of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company. Paul continues the family tradition – his father **Geoffrey Champness** (1923-25) was an earlier OW Captain of this group of veteran HAC members.

Honours, Awards and Appointments

Life Peerage: **David Freud** (1961-68) has been ennobled as Baron Freud of Eastry in the County of Kent

KCB: **Lt Gen Peter Wall**, CBE (1965-73)

OBE: **Nigel Turner** (1958-66), Director of Human Resources at the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust - for services to human resources in the National Health Service and the community in London.

Honours from other countries:

Professor Armand de Mestral (1953-59) – Member of the Order of Canada (CM). He has been, for over thirty years, Professor in the Faculty of Law at McGill University and from 2003 has held the Jean Monnet Chair in the Law of International Economic Integration

Academic, administrative, legal and business:

Dr Robin Moffatt (1938-45) – President of the Medico-Legal Society.

Simon Featherstone (1969-76), formerly HM Ambassador to Switzerland, Programme Director for the UK presence at the Shanghai Expo 2010. This World Expo, which will run from 1May – 31 October 2010, is expected to generate the largest number of visitors in the history of world fairs.

Alastair Lack (1956–63) - as Chairman of the Arts & Library Committee he is a member of the Committee of the MCC.

Professor Peter Grant (1947-55) – Darwin-Wallace medal of the Linnean Society of London for major advances in evolutionary biology.

Jonathan Horne (1952-57) – Master of the Guild of Art Scholars, Dealers and Collectors.

Alastair Lyons, CBE (1967-70) – Deputy Chairman and Senior Non Executive Director of Bovis Homes. He is also Chairman of Admiral, the insurance group.

Dr Brian Stanley (1963-71) – Professor of World Christianity and Director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Nick Russell (1958-63) – has just retired from Imperial College, London and is now Emeritus Reader in Science Communication. Earlier in his career he was a freelance journalist writing on science and science education and from 1995 onwards at Imperial developed postgraduate courses to help scientists become professional in their communications skills.

Professor Ian Graham (1958-63) – of Trinity College, Dublin, is Chairman of the European Society of Cardiology Joint European Cardiovascular Prevention Committee.

Malcolm Kelland (1974-82) is Associate Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Stavanger in Norway. His book *Production Chemistry for the Oil and Gas Industry* was published in June 2009.

Professor Dudley Shallcross (1977-84) – 2009 Royal Meteorological Society Award for the promotion of meteorology and allied disciplines to students and the public.

The success of former members of staff continues: **Andrew Grant** (Staff 1983-90), Headmaster of St

Albans School, was Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference 2008-09. His successor is **David Levin** (Staff 1974 -75), Headmaster of City of London School. **Michael Gibbons** (Staff 1997-01), former Second Master at the School, is to move from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield, where he has been Headmaster for 8 years to become Headmaster and Chief Executive of The Grammar School at Leeds (the school formed from the amalgamation of Leeds Grammar School – boys – and Leeds High School – girls). **Gareth Lloyd** (Staff 2001-04) took up the post of Headmaster of Ratcliffe College, near Leicester with effect from September 2009.

The Services:

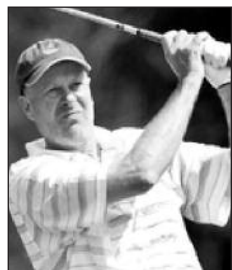
Lt Gen Peter Wall, CBE (1965-73) – Promoted to General and appointed Commander in Chief Land Forces with effect from July 2009. He was appointed KCB in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2009.

Neil Sexton (1978-85), formerly officer commanding 9 Regiment Army Air Corps and latterly deputy head of army public relations, has been promoted to Colonel and appointed Assistant Director Operations at Joint Helicopter Command, based at Wilton near Salisbury.

Michael Procter (1993-2000), **Charles Lee** (1998-03) and **James Walsh** (1996-03) have been commissioned from Sandhurst into the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, **William Holloway** (1996-03) into the Royal Tank Regiment and **Greg Vosper** (1997-04) into the Mercian Regiment.



Sport: (see also Universities)



Andrew Stracey (1965-72), a stalwart of the Halford Hewitt golf team and former Cambridge Blue, has had remarkable success in seniors' golf in 2009. He was winner of the Irish Amateur Championship held at Bangor in May and a week later was runner up (to his clubmate from Littlestone Golf Club) in the English Amateur Championship held at Moor Park. On the strength of these performances he was selected for the England team which went on to win the European Seniors Team Championship at Ascona, Switzerland for the first time in many years and for the England team for the home internationals against Ireland, Scotland and Wales at Westport, Ireland. His triumphant season continued with a leading role in the Kent team that won the inter-county seniors' championship at Tandridge.

A remarkable try scoring season for London Irish resulted in **Adam Thompstone** (1999-06) being nominated for the award as Guinness Premiership Young Player of the Year for 2008/09. His powerful running has been seen regularly in televised matches and his ability to beat his man or, as against Northampton, run straight over him has been commented on by the pundits. **Adam** and **Richard Thorpe** (1988-03) both played in the London Irish team that lost 9-10 to Leicester Tigers in the Premiership Final.



At the end of the 2007/08 rugby season, **Danny Cipriani** (2001-07) was voted PRA Young Player of the Year. A swift, many would say too swift, return to international duty after serious injury saw him playing for England in the autumn 2008 internationals. He was out of favour for the Six Nations' Championship and did not feature in the England team in summer 2009, playing instead for England Saxons. He was on standby for the British and Irish Lions tour of South Africa but was not called upon.

Matthew Spriegel (left) (1998-05) made his first class cricket debut for Surrey during the 2008 Whitgift Festival and had a successful season both in four day and one day cricket. In the last four day match of the 2009 season Matthew made his maiden first class century against Glamorgan. In addition, **Laurie Evans** (1998-04), who has captained Surrey 2nd XI, **Jason Roy** (2004-08) and **Tom Lancefield** (2001-07) have made first team appearances

for Surrey in 2009. Laurie and Matthew had a swift, unbroken partnership of 72 in seven overs in Surrey's one day match against Derbyshire on the first day of the 2009 Whitgift Festival. The victorious team in Surrey's last fixture of the season, a Pro-40 match against Leicestershire, included Matthew, Jason and Tom, surely a first for Whitgift. Jason, who had just left School, had the distinction of being 12th Man for England in the 2008 Oval Test Match. He also received comment for his remarkable batting in the School's 2008 match against MCC. The MCC Cricket Annual 2008 describes his innings thus: "Jason Roy conspired to produce surely one of the most destructive innings ever seen by a schoolboy against the MCC. The School knocked off MCC's runs in just 27 overs with Roy's 171 not out coming in just 94 balls with twelve sixes and fifteen fours..... (MCC's earlier) forceful batting ... paled into insignificance when compared to the onslaught later on".

Rory Burns (2001-06) and **Freddie van den Bergh** (PW) have also provided Whitgiftian representation in Surrey's 2nd XI which won the County Championship.

Mark Potton (2000-08) of East Grinstead HC was selected to play as goalkeeper in the England hockey team.

Victor Moses (2004-07) and **Lee Hills** (2000-06) have both continued as first team players at Crystal Palace. Victor's possible future as a Premier Division player remains a subject of interest to the sports' press. Both Victor and Lee have played for England Under 19.

The various OW sporting teams continue to thrive. Season 2008-09 was frustrating for the rugby club in that they lost the play-off match that would have given promotion to the London Leagues and finished as runners up in the Surrey Bowl knock out competition. On a very positive note, however, junior rugby was reintroduced at Croham Road and has proved extremely successful. The hockey club lost numerous players and had to settle for life in a lower league, where they performed well. Football had a "tough season" and the 1st XI was relegated. In cricket, the 2008 season which again saw a frustrating failure of the 1st XI to achieve promotion did offer some consolation with the 3rd XI gaining promotion. By contrast, the 2009 season has ended with the long anticipated promotion of the 1st XI – the result of great efforts by both players and committee. It is to be hoped that this success will attract more of the excellent cricketers produced by the School to the club. Although the 2009 Cricketer Cup first round match against Eton Ramblers resulted in defeat, the loss was narrow and indicated that it may be possible in future seasons to put out a much more competitive side in this prestigious competition. We still await success in the Halford Hewitt golf competition. In 2009, our excellent team comfortably beat Ampleforth in the first round but then failed narrowly against Charterhouse.

Universities

The 2008 Varsity Rugby Match was memorable not only as a thrilling match won narrowly by Oxford but for the remarkable performance of **Tim Catling** (1997-2005) of Pembroke College who, in winning his first blue, scored a sensational hat trick of tries. This was the first time that an Oxford player had achieved this feat since just after the First World War and the first time for a player from either side since the early 1930s. Post match newspaper reports were keen to ask why this remarkably talented player had not so far made the grade with a leading professional club and noted that he had been in the same School team as **Danny Cipriani**. Quite what they would have said if Tim had not been late tackled when likely to score two further tries is interesting.

Ross Broadfoot (1996-2003) of St Edmund's College, who won a blue for Cambridge in the 2007 University Match, was unable to play in 2008 because of injury.

Adam Healy (1997-2005) played in the successful Oxford Greyhounds team (university second team) that beat the LX Club, their Cambridge counterparts. **William Hall** (1999-2006), with **Alex Cheetham** (2000-07) alongside him in the front row, captained the Cambridge Under 21s to victory against Oxford at Twickenham in the game that preceded the Varsity Match.

Publications

Books with a Whitgiftian interest

A Million Bullets – the Real Story of the British Army in Afghanistan deals extensively with the action

of **Major Jon Swift** (1983-91) and his Fusiliers at Now Zad which is described as “the longest defence of a static trench position in British army history”.

Special Forces Heroes by Michael Ashcroft tells many tales of intrepid deeds by British special forces and includes a section on the exploits of **Bruce Ogdan-Smith** (1931-34) who famously explored the D Day beaches six months early in order to check their suitability for landing a huge allied invasion force.

Freud's War by Helen Fry is a study of the family of Sigmund Freud before, during and after the Second World War and, in particular, their service in the British army. It includes a postscript by **David Freud** and a description of his childhood in Selsdon which included a dramatisation of the Iliad involving his school friends.

The Arts and Entertainment

Neil Gaiman (1974-77) is the author of the book (and screenplay) of *Coraline*, the first stop-motion animated feature in 3-D. *The Sunday Times* film reviewer described the film as “destined to be a classic” and awarded it five stars. The Times featured an interview with Neil in its Book Section on 1 November 2008. Neil was described as “the haunting writer adored by kids, adults and Hollywood”. The interviewer found that “his wild imagination knows no boundaries” and described him as “one of the biggest things to hit children’s publishing since J K Rowling”.

The latest album from **Tarik O’Regan** (1989-96), *Threshold of Night*, was nominated in two categories in the 2009 Grammy Awards: best classical album and best choral performance. The album had already been judged “best liturgical composition” in the 2007 British Composer Awards.

Mark Stanford (1996-2003) made a successful foray onto the stage at The Kilworth House Theatre playing the lead, Bobby Child, in an acclaimed 2009 production of *Crazy for You*, the Gershwin musical.

Mike Upton (1953-61) has published his third novel *Arrow of Truth*, a tale of business and betrayal and is anticipating the publication of a fourth book *The Boss*.

Bill Wood, the School archivist, has been researching the career of the late **Eric Gray** (1909-17), a leading film photographer. He was the stills photographer on many well known productions from the early 1930s to the end of the 1950s including *The Admirable Crichton*, *Moulin Rouge* and *A Matter of Life and Death*, which is included in most lists of the best films ever made.

Miscellaneous

Nick Arding, OBE (1971-79) retired in 2005 in order to train as a science teacher after a distinguished 23 year career in the Royal Marines. During his service career Nick won the Sword of Honour at the Commando Training Centre, saw active service in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Afghanistan, was awarded the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland’s Commendation, the Queen’s Commendation for Valuable Service and an OBE and reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 2003, he led the Royal Navy expedition to Everest and, as a result of his part in the rescue of two civilian climbers from another climbing team, was awarded the Royal Humane Society’s Bronze Medal. He now uses his experience of military life and teaching as a basis for running courses on team building and leadership..

Peter Kennett (1950-56) wrote to say that he was pleased to read of the School’s successes in the Whitgiftian and talks of his career in geology that started through the enthusiastic encouragement of Dr Bob Jones. As a geologist, Peter was in Antarctica with the British Antarctic Survey from 1960-65. Subsequently, Peter taught geology in schools until retirement in 1999 since which he has provided continuing professional development to science teachers under the auspices of the Earth Science Education Unit. The most remarkable information that Peter provides is that he has discovered that a mountain in the Antarctic Peninsula had been named after him. Peter offers a challenge to enterprising Whitgiftians to climb Mount Kennett (“not particularly dramatic, although a bit higher than Ben Nevis” Peter’s words).

Mount Kennett, 67degrees 3 minutes south 65 degrees 10 minutes west, rising to 1360 metres on north side of Fricker Glacier – named after Peter Kennett, BAS geophysicist and a member of the Larsen Ice Shelf party 1963-64 – taken from the Gazeteer of Antarctic Place Names.

Among items acquired by the School's archive during the last year is a South African War campaign medal awarded to **Thomas Graves** (1874-80) of the 19th Hussars. He was one of four brothers to attend the School in the late 19th century. The School has also added to its collection of Goss china bearing the Whitgift crest: the basis of the existing collection was a generous donation by the late Derrick Byatt (1938-46). A fine oil painting of the old School in North End was received from the estate of Robert McCann (1924-32).

Mention of the archive brings a reminder that both School and OWA receive quite frequent requests for information about relatives who were (or were thought to have been) at the School. Recent examples have included:

a visit from Professor Sean Morrow from Pretoria researching the lives of **Godfrey Wilson** (1919-27) and his wife Monica. The Wilsons were well known anthropologists and authors. Godfrey Wilson died while serving with the South African army during the Second World War. His father, the eminent Shakespearean scholar **John Dover Wilson**, was a member of the School staff in 1904/05; an enquiry from a Dutch collector of school prize books about a copy of Samuel Smiles' *Self Help* awarded to **J Bentham** (1897-04) as a prize for mathematics in 1899.

The website of the Frank Buttle Trust, the largest UK charity providing grant aid solely to individual children and young people in desperate need, gives an interesting summary of the life of its founder **Frank Buttle** (1890-95), who trained as a solicitor but then went to Durham University and to Downing College, Cambridge before becoming ordained in 1906. He was vicar of St Chad's, Haggerston, a Grade 1 listed Anglo-Catholic church in the East End of London, from 1937-53, when he died. In 1950, the *Sunday Dispatch* wrote of him: "People who do not know the Reverend William Francis Buttle feel sorry for him as he trundles his ancient bicycle through London's East End or shuffles along the grey streets in shoes several sizes too big for him and clothes from which the linings hang in ribbons. They do not know that he has amassed a fortune of £700,000, and that he will never touch a penny of it for himself. Canon Buttle, at 72, is the Church of England's most fantastic parson – solicitor, real estate operator and shrewd share speculator – a legendary figure who some call a miser. In 30 years he has built up two fabulous trusts which he claims will one day educate, maintain and send out to life 1,000 children a year who are either illegitimate or from broken homes". Frank Buttle was perhaps the first person to challenge the abuses of baby farming and to offer the practical alternative of adoption. It was he founded the national Adoption Society, which by 1930 had arranged 3,000 adoptions; increasingly he found that there were many who could not be adopted and he looked for ways to help mothers bring up such children. It was his aim to raise £1 million and by the time of his death he was only £80,000 short of that target – later in that year the target was reached, his two trusts were amalgamated and became operational. Frank Buttle's Trust now helps thousands of children, young people and families annually. This was a truly great and inspirational OW.

It was interesting to review the biographical notes of those who took part in the 1959 prefects reunion referred to earlier. An analysis of eighteen responses revealed two dentists, two school masters (Shrewsbury and Merchant Taylors), a comprehensive school headmaster, another headmaster (King's School, Chester), a ship broker, a chartered accountant, two university lecturers, a quantity surveyor, a professor of psychology, an international insurance broker, a horticulturalist, a chemical engineer, a patent agent and two solicitors. The range of careers and the fact that at least twelve of the group went to Oxford or Cambridge demonstrates what a talented set of prefects they were. The remarkable selection of post retirement activities to which they all refer in their notes is a further tribute to their skills and resilience!

Deaths

We have, with regret, to record the deaths of the following OWs reported since the preparation of the previous edition of OW News:

ABBOTT – On 3 July 2008, Jeffrey Sutton ("Jeff") (Staff 1958-62) aged 74

ARNS – On 22 July 2008, Dipl.Kaufmann Harald (1949), aged 78

ASHE – On 8 January 2009, Rev Francis Patrick Bellesme (1926-34), aged 93

BALL – On 24 February 2009, George Alfred (1949-54), aged 71

BARNIKEL – On a date unknown, John Neville (1933-38)

BLICK – On 30 December 2008, Ian Hammond (1933-39), aged 86

BRADSHAW – On 13 June 2008, Jonathan Charles (1965-72), aged 54, father of JRM (1990-98), JGC (1996-04) and RJS (2001-09)

BULL - On 16 March 2009, Richard Martin Drury (1948-54), aged 71

BYE – On 14 January 2009, Colonel Francis Clifford Edward, OBE, Royal Marines (1934-40), aged 87

CANNON – On 31 March 2008, John Francis Michael (1941-48), aged 77

COWARD – On 28 August 2009, John Humphrey Arthur (1943-48), aged 77

CRICK – On 19 December 2008, Professor Sir Bernard Rowland (1939-47), aged 79

CRUMBIE – On 7 February 2008, Squadron Leader Gerald Colin (1950-57), aged 67

DARRELL – On 22 October 2009, Dr John Hockley (1942-49), aged 78

DAVIES – On 3 March 2009, Rev Anthony (1942-49), aged 78

DDUNGU – On 2 March 2009, John (2000-06), aged 21

EASTON – On 10 February 2001, Dr Kenneth Charles, OBE (1935-39), aged 76

ENSOR – On a date unknown, David Richard (1951-55)

FAGG – On 22 June 2008, Norman George (1938-44), aged 80

FISHER – On 1 June 2008, Paul Leonard (1951-58), aged 67

GARRATT – On 4 February 2008, Roy Percival (1934-37), aged 86

GILL – In November 2007, Michael P (1952-59), aged 67

HADDLETON – In April 2008, Peter (1952-59), aged 67

HORSMAN – On a date unknown, Michael (1944-50)

HOUGHTON – On 5 August 2009, Dr Paul Winchester (1924-30), aged 98

HOUSE – On 1 July 2009, John Russell (1935-43), aged 84, brother of M M (1943-50)

HUGGETT – In July 2006, Colin Arthur (1945-51), aged 72

HULSE – In April 2008, Eric Cecil (1922-29), aged 96

HUNT – On 3 March 2008, Michael Penn (1934-40), aged 84

HUNTER – In August 2008, Donald Matthew (1931-37), aged 87

JOYCE – On 10 July 2009, Peter Antony (1988-96), aged 31

KERR – On 12 January 2009, Dr David Leigh (1933-41), aged 85

LONG – On 26 February 2009, Roy Kenneth (1945-54), aged 74

MARJORAM – On 11 April 2009, Richard William (1947-53), aged 73

MELTON – In October 2007, Peter Ernest (1936-43), aged 82

MILLER – On 1 April 2009, Peter Norman (1937-44), aged 81

MONTEATH – On 20 September 2008, George Dewar, OBE (1927-36), aged 91

NELSON – On 12 December 2008, James Lawrence (1928-30), aged 91

NEWINGTON – On a date unknown, Maurice Newington (1927-34), aged 93

NEWMAN – On 27 October 2008, Gordon (1935-42), aged 83

NORTH – On a date unknown, Roger Marsden (1943-50)

PALMER – On 17 July 2009, Andrew David (1947-53), aged 73

PETERS – On 4 July 2008, Kenneth Neville (1941-45), aged 81

PROCTER – On 21 October 2008, Gordon Heslop (1936-42), aged 84

QUARMBY – On 5 February 2008, Michael Christopher (1929-38), aged 88, brother of the late A C (1922-30)

RAPLEY – On 24 September 2008, Nicholas Peter (1984-89), aged 37

ROKISON – On 25 July 2008, Derek Graham, President OWA 2003 (1943-50), aged 75, brother of KS (1947-53)

ROLLINSON – On 9 January 2009, Dr Denys Hugh Leonard (1933-40), aged 85

ROSE – On 12 May 2009, Neil Stewart (1957-64), aged 62

ROSS-GOWER – On 14 February 2009, Edward L (1941-50), aged 78

SHIVAS – On 11 October 2008, Mark (1948-56), aged 70, cousin of Q Bristow (1945-53)

STOKOE – On 6 December, Geoffrey 2008, MBE, TD, JP (1922-28), aged 98

STURGES – On 23 October 2007, John Leonard (1939-44), aged 78

TREASURE – On 8 February 2009, Sydney Dennis (1940-44), aged 80

TURNER – On 7 April 2009, Martin Frederick, President OWA 1967 (1931-40), aged 86

WAKEFIELD – On 12 January 2009, John (1931-36), aged 88

WATSON – In 2008, Frank Richard (194-43), aged 81

WILLIAMS – On 10 February 2009, Gerwyn (Staff 1954-84), aged 84, father of RG (1956-64) and MO (1961-67)

WILD – In May 2008, Professor John Paul, AC, CBE, FRS (1935-41), aged 84

WOOD – In July 2009, John Geoffrey (1957-65), aged 62

Obituaries

Martin Turner (1931-40)

Surrey County Cricket Club lost one of its former Presidents, Martin Turner, last April. His term of office at The Oval was 1986 – a year when Pat Pocock led the county to third place in the championship and our Under 25 and Young Cricketers' XIs both won their competitions.

Martin went to Whitgift School from 1931 to 1940 where his sporting prowess soon became evident culminating in the captaincy of the School, the 1st XI cricket, the 1st XV rugby and the athletics team. When he left Whitgift he volunteered to become a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm and, as a sub-lieutenant he had a distinguished career – on one occasion flying solo from Colombo to Calcutta via Madras and Vizag and then the return journey.

Demobbed in 1946, he went up to St Catherine's College, Cambridge where he obtained his rugby blue which led to him playing for Blackheath and Surrey before gaining two England caps in 1948 as a try-scoring winger. He served Surrey rugby for many years before becoming Surrey President in 1973 – to this day he is unique in having held both the Surrey rugby and cricket Presidential positions.

On the cricket field Martin played for his Old Whitgiftian club from 1947 to 1962, being captain from 1950-58. He was a very strong hitting batsman who is still the only person to have hit the church way over long-on and the road adjoining the club! His substantial club cricket experience led to him being asked to join the Surrey County Cricket Club Sub-Committee that played an important part in securing greater liaison between the county and the many clubs in Surrey. That contribution was significant in his elevation to the Presidency in 1986.

His friendship and sense of fun are much missed by his Surrey associates and not least by his family.

Raman Subba-Row, CBE (1943-50) in the Surrey County Cricket Club 2009 Handbook

Martin Turner was a whole-hearted and devoted Whitgiftian, who represented the rugby and cricket clubs with great distinction. Not surprisingly he was a popular and charismatic President of the Association in 1967. He was a charming and witty after dinner speaker who entertained with an inexhaustible supply of anecdote and joke. He spoke little about his wartime experiences but he was one of the few pilots in his squadron to survive the War. He was a player who put back much into the sports that he loved – after his playing days he became a top-class rugby referee, who reached the international panel, and he then served on the committee of the Rugby Football Union and as an international selector. Of this most sociable man, one Old Alleynian was heard to say “whenever I put on a dinner jacket, I always meet Martin Turner”. The high regard in which Martin was held was

demonstrated by the enormous turn out for the rugby match played in his memory at Croham Road: the renaming of the Lounge Bar as the Martin Turner Bar will be a lasting tribute to him.

Gordon Procter (1936-42)

Fast-driving advertising man who entered an air-race on a bicycle



Gordon Procter, who has died aged 84, was one of the advertising industry's most flamboyant figures, with a bubbling enthusiasm for fast cars. As a young man he was an amateur driver for Ford of Europe in the Monte Carlo, and also took part in circuit races at Brands' Hatch. A *Daily Telegraph* photograph once showed him driving his company car in a race at Goodwood with two wheels off the ground. This earned him a reprimand from his boss, Alfred Pemberton, but also a bonus sufficient to buy another car for racing while retaining the company car for business.

Procter also took delivery at Silverstone of a new V8 Vantage, which had been run-in, and after a preliminary spin round the track, drove it in the Aston Martin owners' club annual St John Horsfall meeting. An advance story in *Autosport* about a madman planning to race his brand new company car, capable of doing 170 miles per hour, ensured a large crowd. It was not disappointed when he overtook a DB5 Vantage, driven by Win Percy, the former British touring car champion, on the penultimate lap. The advertising men present noted that Procter won the Driver of the Day in a car numbered 208, the frequency of Radio Luxembourg, his firm's client and the meeting's sponsor.

The son of a commodities broker, Gordon Heslop Procter was born at Wallasey, Cheshire on October 11 1924 and went to Whitgift School, Croydon, before being trained as an RAF pilot in Arizona and posted to the Glider Regiment, which needed replacements after the Arnhem operation.

With 10 hours glider training he was given a Horsa to carry a captain, eight soldiers and a Jeep across the Rhine in Operation Varsity on March 24 1945. He landed near Wesel with his passengers unhurt – though some had blacked out – and saw Americans emerging from their glider in looted black top hats, donning steel helmets and making a charge at a German machine gun in a farmhouse.

Expected now to fight as infantry, for which he had been issued only with a Smith & Wesson revolver, Procter dug a trench, where he took part in a game of cards until a player was shot through the head. He watched a GI who gave the wrong password being fired on by an American patrol, which then stripped off his smock to reveal a German uniform underneath. He next encountered a prisoner with a bundle of Dutch guilders which he confiscated. On returning to England Procter shocked his mother when he rang; she had been told that he had been killed.

After the war he developed a taste for the high-spending life, funding it through stints at the Samson Clark and Alfred Pemberton agencies before founding Gordon Procter and Partners. He used his love of fast cars to initiate a sponsorship deal between Saudi Airlines and Frank Williams's Formula One team, which later won the world championship.

In 1969 Procter entered the London-New York air race from the top of the GPO tower in London to the Empire State building. While some competitors were deadly serious, he began on a tandem, switched to the Tube and finished in a NYPD helicopter after crossing the Atlantic by a DC8 owned by Capital Airways (another client), which broke the speed record for its category.

Procter later raced a 34ft Class 1 offshore powerboat, driven by a helicopter engine, and, together with his wife, Floss, entertained regularly on his motor cruiser White Swordsman in the Solent. When his two daughters asked for ponies he gave them little race boats, and his son a go-kart.

Gordon Procter's last major campaign was to raise money for a replica of the Horsa glider he flew as a memorial to those who took part in the Rhine crossing. He died on October 21.

The Daily Telegraph, 28 December 2008, reproduced with permission

Dr David Kerr (1933-41)



Labour politician who juggled his duties in the Commons with the demands of his medical practice

Kerr in January 1969: he campaigned on issues such as illegitimacy, cervical cancer and smoking in cinemas

One of the most horrendous moments of my life was one morning before 9.30 in 1965 when the ICI chairman, Sir Paul Chambers, had authorised MPs (whom he had accused of being unfit), to use the squash courts in the basement of ICI's Millbank headquarters. My squash partner, opponent, and friend, Dr David Kerr, the MP for Central Wandsworth, collapsed in a heap on the court. For a dreadful moment, I thought he had died; squash for those over 40 could be a killer. To my relief, he picked himself up, told me to go to the shower room to fetch the glucose and needle which he always carried with him, and injected himself. Minutes later he was better, having resolved his hypoglycaemic problems. A more sensible, cool and collected person is difficult to imagine. All too briefly, from

1964-70, Kerr was a Member of the House of Commons. Of all medical doctors whom I knew over 43 years in the House, none brought a better knowledge of practical medicine and the workings of the health service, other than, perhaps, the present independent member for Wyre Forest, Dr Richard Taylor.

David Kerr's antecedents were mostly Russian Jews. His father, Myer, would tell him that the Tsar's secret police were not nice to the cultured and commercially successful Yiddish community in Minsk; Fiddler on the Roof was a Kerr favourite. His mother, Paula, was one of many Horowitzes endowed with outstanding musical talent and dexterity. They sent Kerr to Whitgift, a public school in Croydon, where Jewish boys thrived. Kerr spent the war at the Middlesex hospital medical school, winning in 1941 the Royal College of Surgeons' MacLoughlin scholarship. During the Blitz and later, he served in the London ambulance service during attacks by V1s and V2s.

Kerr was rejected by the RAF for national service on account of his diabetic condition. On qualifying he joined a practice in Tooting and came to the attention of Dr David Stark Murray, then a considerable figure in the Labour Party, and on Conference platforms. In 1957 Stark Murray was instrumental in his being chosen as honorary secretary of the Socialist Medical Association, a position he held from 1963-1972, when for the next nine years he became vice-president. In 1958 he was elected to London County Council as a member for Wandsworth. Subsequently he was selected as the Labour standard-bearer for Wandsworth Central – a seat that neither he nor Labour headquarters expected to win. The sitting member was Michael Hughes-Young, who had been Conservative deputy chief whip since October 1959. Kerr won by 20,581 votes to Hughes-Young's 18,336, with Ronald Locke gaining 4,369 for the Liberals. It was one of the victories that allowed Harold Wilson to become Prime Minister with a wafer-thin majority.

On 9 November 1964, before he made his maiden speech, Kerr asked a parliamentary question: "What about the unprecedented need for occupational health services for the House of Commons? Would the minister take an early opportunity to inspect the present facilities available, in company with an expert on occupational health services, and acquaint himself with the fact that the only means of keeping the House going is a copious supply of cascara tablets?" If the House of Commons developed medical care, it was largely because of Kerr's efforts, arriving as he did to be shocked by a level of medical

provision which he said would be unsatisfactory in any factory in the land. Now there is a full-time doctor available in the House of Commons – but in 1964 Kerr spent a great deal of his time ministering to the emergency medical needs of his parliamentary colleagues of all parties.

I remember well Kerr's maiden speech on 17 November 1964. He chose to make it on the subject of the problems of immigrants, and particularly those who went as students to the Balham and Tooting College of Commerce; Kerr argued the case for full-time welfare officers. It stuck in my mind as a Scot that in the course of the speech he said: "Our immigration problems – and I say this meaning no offence to anybody in or out of the House – are contributed to as much by immigrants from Scotland and the north-east of England as from Jamaica. I have often felt that if all Scotsmen wore their kilts there would soon be a 'Keep Britain Trousered' movement." Kerr ended up by saying that it had been his pleasure for six years to share the benches in County Hall with an able, courteous, intelligent, forthright and conscientious member of the council who was a West Indian. He wondered if it was too much to hope that in the not-too-remote future we should accept on the Labour benches somebody of similar origin, who would make similar valuable contributions to the work of the House. Kerr always believed that the sooner immigrant minorities were represented in the House of Commons the better.

One of his many medical campaigns concerned cervical cancer. Others concerned dental health, doctor's accommodation for good practices, treatment of epileptics, children in care, smoking in cinemas, homosexual offences, prostitution and illegitimacy. On 12 February 1965 he was the first MP ever to initiate an adjournment debate on illegitimacy. I remember him telling the House that in Britain as a whole in 1962 there were just over 60,000 illegitimate children born; in 1963 over 64,000; in 1964 it was estimated that there would have been born 68,000. Kerr was compassionate and put forward a number of constructive proposals as to how to improve society's attitude to the illegitimate. On behalf of the Home Office Alice Bacon thanked him for raising an important problem, causing great concern to all responsible local authorities, social workers and parents.

In 1966 Judith Hart, then a rising star in the Wilson government and Minister of State of the Commonwealth office, chose her fellow left-winger Kerr as her Parliamentary Private Secretary. It looked as if he would be on course for a ministerial career. But it was not to be. He indicated that he would not be standing at the next general election. This was partly because of seat redistribution in Wandsworth and the creation of a new constituency in Tooting. But more importantly, he had told his medical practice partners that he would do only five years, and if it turned out to be more he would resign from the practice. Kerr told me cheerfully "I think that I am a better doctor than politician!"

He was a highly respected general practitioner in Tooting, juggling being a Councillor and MP at the same time. Much loved by his patients, he retired in 1982 and became chief executive of Manor House Hospital – the trade union hospital – from 1982 to 1987. Moving out of London to Welwyn Garden City, he served on Hertfordshire Council from 1989 to 2001. His energies for the service of his fellow human beings were prodigious.

David Kerr, doctor and politician: born 25 March 1923; Secretary, Socialist Medical Association, 1957-63, vice-president 1963-72; Councillor, London County Council for Central Wandsworth 1958-1963; Councillor, London Borough of Wandsworth, 1964-68; Labour MP, Wandsworth Central, 1964-70; Private Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1967-69; Governor, British Film Inst., 1966-71; Visiting Lecturer in Medicine, Chelsea College, 1972-82; Director, War on Want, 1970-77, Chairman 1974-77; Chief Executive, Manor House Hospital, London, 1982-87; Councillor for Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire County Council, 1989-2001; married 1944 Aileen Saddington (marriage dissolved 1969, two sons, one daughter), 1970 Margaret Dunlop (one son, two daughters); died Ware, Hertfordshire 12 January 2009.

Tam Dalyell -The Independent, Friday, 23 January 2009, reproduced with permission

Dr John Paul Wild, CBE, AC, FRS (1935-41)

Distinguished scientist and former Chairman of CSIRO.



Dr Wild was one of Australia's most respected and inspirational scientist and engineers best known for his contributions to Solar Science. He was part of the team that built and operated the original solar radiospectrographs and later the radioheliograph at Culgoora in NSW. The radioheliograph was a ground breaking instrument producing real time images of solar activity across a range of altitudes from the Sun's surface. In the late 1960s and early 1970s the Culgoora group led the world in solar research, attracting prominent solar physicists from around the world.

J. P. Wild was born in Sheffield, England in 1923. He was educated at Whitgift School and Peterhouse, Cambridge (he was later an honorary fellow of his old college) where he read mathematics and physics. In 1947, after graduation and wartime services as a radar officer with the Royal Navy, he joined the Department of Radiophysics at the then CSIR with his to be life-long colleague and

fellow Yorkshireman John Bolton. Thus began a story of scientific discovery about the universe through the radio 'eyes' of the new breed of electronic astronomers.

Dr Wild successfully applied his considerable initiative and expertise to the development of ground breaking technology for industry and the community. As Chief of the CSIRO Division of Radiophysics from 1971 until 1978 he led the team that developed the Interscan aircraft landing system that was adopted in 1978 as the international standard. Colleagues appreciated his generosity in sharing ideas. He was extremely approachable and had the magical ability to reduce the most complex of concepts to simple terms understood by all. His colleagues appreciated the fact that when these concepts were realised in practice he never failed to acknowledge the role they played in developing them.

As Chairman of CSIRO from 1978 to 1985, Dr Wild was a national science leader. He led the Organisation through the restructure designed in 1978 to modernise the Organisation and bring it closer to the industries and community which it serves. He recognised that CSIRO needed to adapt and provide scientific and technological leadership in a changing world. And, as he wrote in 1984 'Yet, whatever the changes, one characteristic must remain inviolate: a high standard of excellence and originality. Without excellence and originality, research achieves nothing.' During this period he was instrumental in securing funding for major national research facilities including the oceanographic research vessel, the Australian Animal Health Laboratory and the Australia Telescope, and he established a new Division of Information Technology.

The importance of Wild's work was widely recognised. He was appointed CBE in 1978 and AC in 1985, was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1964 and of The Royal Society in 1970 and among numerous awards from learned societies around the world was the recipient of the Royal Medal of The Royal Society, the Hendryk Arctowski Gold Medal of the US National Academy of Sciences, the Hale Medal of the American Astronomical Society and the Herschel Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society.

He has left a rich inheritance which will continue to bring enormous benefits to Australia.

Adapted from the newsletter of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

Reverend Patrick Ashe (1926-34)

Peace Maker and Humanitarian

The Reverend Francis Patrick Bellesme Ashe, who, in 1967, with his wife Marion, and fellow parishioners in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire determined to rescue orphans in Saigon during the Vietnam War, leaves a legacy of peace building in some 26 countries over more than four decades.

Motivated by his Christian faith, and ignoring those who said he would not succeed, Pat Ashe, himself a father of seven, led his team to support hundreds of children abandoned and lost in the debris of war.

Confident in their Christian conviction that this was God's calling to them, Project Vietnam Orphans set up orphanages and schools in the heart of the Saigon battleground, and were instrumental in saving numerous young lives. As the city finally fell, many children were famously airlifted to the UK and new adoptive homes as part of his life saving mission. For Pat Ashe, the simple creed was that children should live without fear, want or deprivation. For many years he led a double life - running the large and busy parish of St. Mary's, Leamington, whilst heading up PVO, as CORD was then known. After Vietnam, the charity worked with refugees from the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia, changing its name to Christian Outreach. Later the words "Relief & Development" were added and the name CORD was adopted. Today the organisation employs some 800 people globally, many of them refugees.



Regarded as an inspirational humanitarian, Pat Ashe was born on 15 January 1915 in Boudja, Smyrna, Turkey, the youngest son of the Rev. Robert Pickering Ashe and Edith (Blackler) Ashe. He was taught by his mother until he was nine years old, and learned to speak colloquial Greek. In 1922 Smyrna was taken by the Turkish army. To avoid the pillage and massacre, the British subjects were taken off by the Royal Navy to Malta, where they stayed for some six months as refugees.

R.P. Ashe was then offered the Chaplaincy of Cartagena, Spain, where they stayed for two years, and Pat learned to speak Spanish. On their return to Smyrna, they found that all their belongings had been looted. In England, Pat attended Whitgift School, Croydon before reading Modern Languages and Theology at St. John's College Cambridge. He spent a year at Westcott House Theological College, and in 1938 taught at Adisadel College, Cape Coast, and Gold Coast. While he was there, the Second World War broke out. He returned to England via the Sahara, and was ordained in 1939 in the Diocese of Southwark, serving his title at St. Mary's Church, Woolwich under the Rector, Cuthbert Bardsley, later Bishop of Coventry. Towards the end of the war he joined the Friends Relief Service, and the team was sent to Cairo where he first met Marion (Johnston) Bamber, the daughter of the Very Rev. Francis Johnston. The team was sent to Samos working under the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. On his return to England, Pat was made the Bishop of Southwark's Chaplain to Youth.

He and Marion married in Southwark Cathedral in 1950, and Pat was made Vicar of Blindley Heath, Surrey. He served as Vicar of Otley, Yorkshire, Vicar of St. Mary's Leamington Spa, and Rector of Church Stretton, Shropshire. He resigned his living in 1974 in order to concentrate on the work of Project Vietnam Orphans; and the couple moved the family home to Godalming. Pat retired in 1980, becoming Hon. Domestic Chaplain to Loseley House, and Chaplain at St. Francis, Littleton.

Regarded as a devout and spiritual person, the Rev Ashe was a mild and gently mannered man; a persona which belied a stubbornness based on his conviction of what was right. On moving to Leamington Spa, with the highest immigrant population in the area, he ran foul of the Keep Britain White campaign for his anti racist stance. His deep faith and belief in the power of prayer strengthened his determination to succeed despite enormous obstacles. Pat Ashe remained at the heart of CORD until his death. Hundreds of thousands of people who have had to flee for their lives from violent conflict, have been helped and supported to a new life by the organisation which he founded.

The Rev Ashe died peacefully after a short illness on January 6 in a Surrey hospital, just five months after losing his wife, Marion. He is survived by his seven children and 19 of his 21 grandchildren.

Newsletter of Christian Outreach Relief & Development ("CORD")

Surgeon Lt-Cdr Paul Houghton (1924-30)

Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander Paul Houghton, who has died aged 97, performed life-saving surgery on two wartime admirals who both went on to high appointments; he also found himself trapped below decks after his ship was torpedoed.

In January 1943 on the battleship Nelson, flagship of Force H, Houghton examined the South African born Vice-Admiral Neville Syfret in his sea cabin. Houghton found him looking ashen and diagnosed a burst appendix. Syfret had been in pain for four days and was ill with shock. Peritonitis had set in. Houghton decided to operate at once in the battleship's sick bay.

Afterwards Syfret was nursed in his cabin aft, where the surgeon and Nelson's principal medical officer waited for the anaesthetic to wear off, larking about with the admiral's hat in the meantime. A sudden roar from the patient, who had begun to come around early, put an end to their japes: "Take that bloody thing off".



A few days later senior officers gathered anxiously to ask Houghton whether the admiral was medically fit to command. None of them wanted to go near their irritable senior, so it fell to Houghton to relay the news that the Admiralty had ordered Syfret to haul down his flag and return home to convalesce. Houghton supervised Syfret's evacuation, by ship's crane, to the hospital ship Oxfordshire, while the admiral insisted upon the honours due to him and held his hat on his stomach as his stretcher was slung between the two ships. Though the surgeon's skill had undoubtedly saved Syfret's life, Houghton realised that his good deeds were likely to go unrewarded. "No hopes of a medal for me," he predicted, and Syfret indeed went on to become a member of the Board of Admiralty.

Paul Winchester Houghton was born on September 30 1911 in west London and educated at Whitgift School. As soon as he was old enough, his mother marched him up to Bart's hospital to "do medicine".

In 1938 he joined the RNVR after his father warned: "Here we go again." Houghton received no naval training and when he arrived at the naval hospital at Haslar at the outbreak of war found "a mob of doctors" being sent to sea as fast as possible, sometimes even without uniform.

He worked in a naval hospital at Lowestoft before joining the destroyer Zulu in 1941, in which he took part in Atlantic convoys. As ship's doctor he was to treat everything from tuberculosis to burns victims. Missing limbs, head trauma, flash burns and splinter wounds from blast damage were among the worst casualties, but the most horrendous were survivors of Ark Royal who had flayed themselves while sliding down her barnacled hull as she sank.

It was difficult enough in the small Zulu for Houghton to treat the wounded, and often he could only give palliative care to those men plucked from the rough seas. Even in the much bigger battleship, Nelson, which he joined in 1942, Houghton was surprised by the lack of facilities to care for injured men.

In Nelson Houghton was appalled to be issued with long knives, saws and tarred string for tying off blood vessels, all in a brass-bound box, apparently as issued in the days of Nelson himself. He promptly wrote to the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, asking for modern equipment. This earned him a reprimand for not using official channels, but soon so much equipment arrived that he was able to share it with other ships.

On September 27 1941 a torpedo blew a hole "the size of a double-decker" in Nelson's bows. The lights went out and Houghton and his assistants were stranded in the forward dressing station. Using a torch to check around him, he found that the bulkhead was holding against the water, but was alarmed about an hour later when he realised that the deck was sloping to the extent that he could hardly walk up it.

He then heard a terrible roaring overhead, only later learning that this was his friend, the second-in-command, Commander George Blundell, organising men and machinery to haul the ship's vast anchor chain along the deck to the stern of the ship and use its weight to help trim Nelson so that the torpedo hole could be brought above the waterline. It was some while before Houghton was released: "The relief was wonderful when the watertight door was opened and the light came in." Nelson returned to

Gibraltar drawing 40 feet at the bows and consequently capable of only 14 knots.

In late 1942, while Nelson was in the Mediterranean, Houghton was secretly consulted by Rear-Admiral Philip Vian, one of the war's most distinguished fighting admirals. Vian was run-down and had been relieved of command of Force A based at Port Said. Houghton's examination revealed a large subcutaneous cyst under matted hair, which had been hidden for some weeks and become infected. In Houghton's opinion it was life-threatening.

The episode was hushed up at the time, but Houghton performed emergency surgery, dressed the wound and made the admiral his private patient. Vian made a complete recovery and went on to command part of the invasion fleet on D-Day.

After the war Houghton worked at Shrewsbury General where he treated a pretty former Wren, Jean Hallam Swift, who had injured her hand in a yachting accident and was an orthoptist at the hospital. After two brief meetings she also became Houghton's patient. He quickly proposed, asking: "What about you and me getting moored alongside?"

He was subsequently appointed consultant at Worcester in the new NHS, rapidly building a reputation as a fine general surgeon and as a man who kept patients informed of their prognoses. His watchword was "Never destroy hope." Houghton's calling was buoyed by his strong Christian faith. He would pray under his breath at work, but could send the surgical trolley flying as he got to work in a crisis.

Retiring from the NHS at 66 he fulfilled a long ambition to work in mission hospitals in South Africa and the West Indies. Aged 75 he went as an emergency locum to Nazareth hospital, where he was awestruck to be in the town of Jesus's upbringing.

Paul Houghton, who died on August 5, is survived by his wife and their daughter and son.

The Daily Telegraph, 22 October 2009, reproduced with permission

Derek Rokison (1943-1950)

Derek Rokison was a well-known and well-loved figure at Croham Road for many years.

He left Whitgift in 1950 having shown himself to be an outstanding all-round games player, not only on the cricket and rugby fields, where he fulfilled the dual roles familiar to the vertically-challenged of wicket-keeper/batsman and scrum-half respectively, but also on the fives and squash courts. He was also a member of the shooting eight, both in the small bore range and at Bisley.

Like others of his generation, he was taught in his later years at Whitgift by masters who had served in the Second World War and, as a result of encouragement from "Bert" Parsons, joined the Royal Fusiliers for his two-year National Service. With typical versatility (and a result of a loss of papers) he was sent to Officer Cadet School at Mons and commissioned into the Royal Artillery and thence seconded to the Mauritian Guard, which unfortunately at that time was serving in the Canal Zone of Egypt.

At school, Derek had not been a great achiever academically and, like many of his contemporaries, did not seek further academic distinction at university. Returning from Egypt with a stomach bug which thereafter plagued him for most of his life, he embarked on a career as a ship broker on the Baltic Exchange in London, of which he became a popular and successful member. He was ideally suited to a business environment where success depended to a large degree on being well-liked, respected and trusted as someone whose word was indeed his bond. During his long career on the Baltic, he was for many years Chairman of the Baltic Exchange Motor Club, being a rather successful driver in amateur car rallies, and served as Captain of the Baltic Exchange Golfing Society.

Having the good fortune to have parents who by this time lived in a house backing onto the OW Club at Croham Road, Derek was always a keen Old Whitgiftian, being a regular member of the cricket and rugby first teams and later sharing his experience and enthusiasm with younger players in the more junior sides. He also served for many years on the Committee of the OW Benevolent Society.

Derek had always enjoyed a busy social life, but he soon married Gillian, who became a familiar figure at Croham Road doing all that old boys' wives do! Their first marital home was at West Wickham, where he became Chairman of the West Wickham Round Table. During his term of office, typical of his generosity to others, he and a few of his colleagues organised a Ball at the Royal Festival Hall in

aid of the Lady Hoare Thalidomide Fund raising a substantial sum for that deserving charity.

After West Wickham, Derek and Gillian returned to South Croydon and Derek's sporting and social life was very much centred at Croham Road, and Croham Hurst Golf Club, where Derek served as Captain for an extended spell. Subsequently, he also became a popular captain of the OW Golfing Society.

At both locations, his sense of humour and talent to amuse was manifested for many years. He participated in regular Saturday evening cabarets at Croham Road, overcoming his lack of stature to give a brilliant impersonation of Tommy Cooper and starring in "Il Lavatore" in a Peter Sellers-like role. At Croham Hurst, his golfing talent was eclipsed by his annual performance as host of the Fish Supper.

Derek always supported and encouraged younger talent and, after his playing days were over, not only served on a number of Club Committees, but continued to be a regular supporter on the "touch-line" at Croham Road, at Haling Park and at the Halford-Hewitt.

He was never shy of expressing his sometimes reactionary opinions. On one occasion, many years after he had retired from playing for the rugby club and despairing of the new-fangled practice of place-kicking a rugby ball with the side of one's foot, he went home to dig out his old rugby boots and returned, winning the rugby club goal-kicking competition to prove a point.

He was immensely proud when his substantial contribution to Whitgift and the OW Club was recognised by his election as President, an office which he carried out with energy and distinction.

When Derek retired from shipbroking, he and Gillian bought a small jewellery business in South Croydon, which gave him the opportunity, which he always relished, of chatting to his customers, many of whom were Old Whitgiftians.

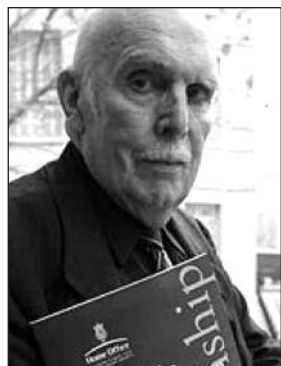
In later life, he suffered from poor health for many years, and eventually he and Gillian retired to West Wittering where he died, after a stroke in the summer of 2008.

Although small in stature, he was in many ways a giant of a man. He was an "all rounder" in many senses of the word – talented, warm-hearted, generous and amusing. The enormous turnout for his Memorial Service from the City, Croham Hurst, and in particular from the OW Club was a tribute to one who will be missed by many, and in particular by his family – Gillian, his son and daughter, Neil and Siri, his four grandsons and his younger brother.

Appreciation by Derek's brother, Ken Rokison, QC (1947-53)

Sir Bernard Crick (1939-47)

Political philosopher who called for parliamentary reform and wrote a biography of George Orwell .



Sir Bernard Crick, the political philosopher, who died on December 19 aged 79, was best known as the author of *The Reform of Parliament* (1964), in which he argued that the workings of Parliament needed to reflect the dominant role of political parties in the constitution; he was also the biographer of George Orwell.

The Reform of Parliament arose out of Crick's interest in the links between politics and freedom. As a post-graduate student at Harvard he had been influenced by the debate between those American scholars who wished to make political studies more objective and scientific, and those who argued that it was impossible to divorce fact from value. Crick was firmly of the latter view, and in an earlier book, *In Defence of Politics* (1962), had argued that politics could exist only in societies in which the facts of diversity of opinions and interests were accepted as permanent and legitimate. Politics, according to Crick, is by its nature messy and complex, and requires some tolerance of differing truths and a recognition that government is best conducted amid the open

canvassing of rival interests.

But politics did not happen by default; it needed constant application and effort: "Men who cease to

identify or to value politics,” he argued, “lose or threaten freedom... The price of liberty is even higher than eternal vigilance. As Lincoln said, it involves eternal action.”

Crick believed that the British were in danger of losing their basic liberties because of complacency, ignorance and an adherence to outdated parliamentary traditions which no longer reflected modern conditions; he urged not only the need for parliamentary reform, but also the introduction of politics and citizenship into the school curriculum. In *The Reform of Parliament* Crick demonstrated how the rise of mass parties had profoundly altered the working of the constitution. Citizens increasingly looked for political satisfaction to parties rather than to their individual representatives in Parliament; governments were no longer controlled by Parliament but by general elections. This, Crick argued, had reversed the classical constitutional theory of representative government. The theory which now best fitted the facts was that Parliament no longer acted as an effective check on the executive, but as a body which influences the electorate. If general elections are the basic check on government, he concluded, the election must be seen as a continuing campaign in which Parliament is the permanent hustings. To fulfil this role MPs should be full time, be properly remunerated and have better research back-up. Moreover, there should be more powerful select committees to probe and analyse the doings of Whitehall in a thoughtful and systematic way. Crick’s arguments had a profound influence on the development of the parliamentary committee system and helped pave the way for improvements in pay and support services for MPs. He himself, however, came to believe that this approach was largely “a waste of time and effort”. In the late 1980s he told a conference that he was no longer arguing for “the sovereignty of Parliament mitigated by prudence”, but instead believed that liberty would best be protected by a Bill of Rights or the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

Bernard Rowland Crick was born on December 16 1929 and educated at Whitgift School, then at University College, London. He studied for a PhD at the London School of Economics, where he came under the influence of Harold Laski, from whom he acquired a commitment to democratic socialism. It was often said of Crick, though, that he was more a socialist in the heart than in the head. In 1975 he confessed to being a “banker’s order member of the Hampstead Labour Party. It saves the annual crisis of conscience.”

After completing his PhD at Harvard, in 1957 Crick became a lecturer in politics at the LSE and a year later published his first book, *The American Science of Politics*, a critical study of how the idea of a “science of politics” had come to dominate the imaginations of American students. Nevertheless, he praised the American belief in the importance of training for citizenship. In 1965 he was appointed Professor of Politics at Sheffield University and the next year became joint editor of the Left-leaning *Political Quarterly*, whose editorial pages he sometimes used as a platform to air his views on current affairs. In 1974, for example, he attacked the Labour leader Harold Wilson for giving a life peerage to his secretary Marcia Williams, accusing him of showing “an insensitivity to public anxieties almost incredible for a leader of the Labour Party, and a personal use of office of a kind more like monarchy than cabinet government”.

He returned to London in 1971 as Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College, where the next year he founded a new department of politics, based in an elegant Regency house at 10 Gower Street, once the home of Lady Ottoline Morrell.

As a member of the council of the Hansard Society, in 1976 he chaired a Hansard working party which discovered that 44 per cent of school leavers thought that the IRA was a Protestant organisation and that one in four associated nationalisation with the Conservatives. The working party report, published in 1978, argued that politics should be introduced into the classroom to make young people politically literate.

In the late 1970s Crick was invited by George Orwell’s widow, Sonia, who had been impressed by a review he had written in the *New Statesman*, to write an authorised biography of her late husband. Orwell had requested that no biography be written, but his widow decided to go against his wishes after the publication by an American academic of a biography which she regarded as unsatisfactory. Crick’s biography, *George Orwell: a Life*, was published in 1980 to mixed reviews. Critics complained that Crick’s concentration on the “externalities” of Orwell’s life — the story of how his books came to be written — made a fiercely passionate, deeply imaginative man seem humourless, sexless and bloodless.

Furthermore, Crick was accused of letting his own prejudices obtrude so that the book said as much about him as it did about Orwell. He used the royalties from the hardback version of the book to start the George Orwell Memorial Trust, and in 1993 he launched the Orwell Prize for political writing. He was chairman of the judges until 2007 and chairman of the trust until earlier this year.

Crick retired to Edinburgh in 1984, and was elected an honorary Fellow of Edinburgh University. His subsequent publications included *Socialism* (1987); books of collected essays; *Crossing Borders* (2001); and *Democracy* (2002). After the general election of 1997 he was appointed by the incoming Labour government to chair a commission on the teaching of citizenship in schools. Its recommendations formed the basis of changes to the national curriculum. He later advised the government on the integration of immigrants.

Bernard Crick was knighted in 2002. He was thrice married, and with his first wife, Joyce Morgan, had two sons, who survive him with his partner, Una MacLean.

The Daily Telegraph, 22 December 2008, reproduced with permission

Mark Shivas (1948-56)



A film and television producer, his was the hidden hand behind a raft of classics of the modern era

Mark Shivas: 'a serious player who didn't take himself seriously'

In television's early days, the producer did everything from choosing the play or the topic to calling the shots as the show went out on the air. Only with the spread of video pre-recording in the 1960s and the adoption of film studio practices did the role of director emerge. It was he or she who now framed every scene you saw. So what was left for the producer to do? The short answer was that his remained the main creative responsibility. Producers still chose or commissioned the script, supervised the casting and determined the whole tenor of the final work. But few exercised this function with

the instinct, understanding and tenacity brought to it by Mark Shivas, who has died aged 70 of cancer.

No better example springs to mind than one which Shivas himself instanced on these pages earlier this year when paying tribute to Anthony Minghella (obituary, March 19). In 1985, Minghella, then known only as an occasional contributor to television series, brought him the script of a serial about a failed marriage and access to children. The father was allowed only one or two visits a week, when he would take the children to the park - hence the title, *What If It's Raining?* It was not the most alluring of subjects, but Shivas saw instantly that it was recognisable, touching and wryly funny. He put it into production there and then for Channel 4. At the time of its screening (July 1986), I described the programme as "at once the truest and truest, freshest and stalest, most boring and most gripping fiction of the summer. The voices ... utter dialogue so natural, so free from added it must come from the wholefood counter at Sainsbury's. *What If It's Raining?* brings back to television some of the old virtues which have been blotted out by the lurid super-soaps."

Born in Banstead, Surrey, where his father was an English teacher and his mother a librarian, Shivas was educated at Whitgift School, Croydon, and read law at Merton College, Oxford. His initial contact with the scenic arts was as a critic and assistant editor for *Movie* magazine (1962-64), which also paid some attention to television, especially the spontaneous real-life drama which, despite being known as cinema-verité, was seen chiefly on television. A high point of his time on the magazine was interviewing Claude Chabrol.

In 1963, he landed a job as assistant to the head of the story department at Granada Television, followed by his appointment as a director-producer (1965-68), with a sideline as one of the presenters of *Cinema*, Granada's weekly review of new movies. At BBC Television, he was a producer of drama (1969-88), head of drama (1988-93) and head of films (1993-97). His last full-time appointment was with Southern Pictures (1979-81), though he continued to produce cinema and TV films, particularly for Channel 4.

For the BBC alone, the enduring achievements bearing his credit include *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* (1970), Dennis Potter's *Casanova* (1971), Jack Rosenthal's semi-autobiographical *The Evacuees* (1975), Frederic Raphael's *The Glittering Prizes* and Geoffrey Household's *Rogue Male* (both 1976), Tom Stoppard's hilarious football-and-politics fusion, *Professional Foul* (1977), *Telford's Change* (1979) by Brian Clark, and Marjorie Wallace's uplifting and moving story of a thalidomide child, *On Giant's Shoulders* (1979). More recently came *Cambridge Spies* (2003), examining the milieu of Burgess, Maclean, Philby and Blunt.

For Channel 4, a landmark ahead of *What If It's Raining?* was a co-production with RTE in Ireland to yield *The Price* (1985), a subdued six-part thriller about an industrialist kidnapped and held to ransom by the IRA.

In the cinema, Alan Bennett's very funny tale *A Private Function* (1984) was set in the austerity years immediately after the Second World War, when rationing was even grimmer than it had been during hostilities. Maggie Smith presided imperiously over the apportionment of a deceased pig - "very British", said a bemused American critic. The flawless little romantic fantasy *Truly, Madly, Deeply* (1990), written by Minghella, starring Juliet Stevenson and Alan Rickman, was released successfully on the cinema circuit, with a television airing for the BBC's Screen Two series almost contemporaneously.

Other feature films ranged in mood from *The Witches* (1990) to *Enchanted April* (1992), or from the harrowing account of Siegfried Sassoon's mental plight from his time in the trenches of the first world war in *Regeneration* (1987) and Esther Freud's tale of two sisters and their hippy mother on the road from London to Morocco, *Hideous Kinky* (1998), to *I Capture the Castle* (2003), from Dodie Smith's novel (and West End matinee dramatisation) set in a dotty English stately home.

Over the years Shivas won three Baftas, two Emmys and a Prix Italia, this last for *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*. Italy was one of his abiding passions, as were swimming and cycling. In 2005, he set up his own production company, *Headline Pictures*. He leaves his civil partner of 11 years, Karun Thakar.

Philip Purser in The Guardian, 16 October 2008, reproduced with permission

Peter Miller (1937-44)



Motor sport competitor, manager and journalist who wrote a number of books about the sport and was a charitable benefactor

Peter Miller was passionate about motor rallying and racing, a field in which he worked successfully for many years before turning his hand to writing books about the sport he loved.

Born in 1927 in Purley, Surrey, Peter Norman Miller was educated at Whitgift School in nearby Croydon. From school he went straight into the Royal Tank Corps, serving as a commander in Italy, Egypt and Palestine between 1944 and 1948. On demobilisation he began writing for regional newspapers and became a noted sportswriter, particularly for *Nice Matin* in the South of France. It was through the French racing drivers Louis Chiron and Jean Behra that he was first introduced to motor racing.

A passion for the sport in which he would forge a distinguished career ensued, and in 1952 it led to his appointment as team manager to Norman Garrad in the Rootes Motors competition department. He also drove for Rootes, twice competing in the Alpine rally, then one of Europe's toughest and most important rallying events. The last of which, in 1953, co-driving a Sunbeam Alpine with the American John Fitch, earned the duo a coveted Coupe des Alpes for finishing without any penalties, while also being placed 20th overall and sixth in class.

For the 1958 motor sport season Miller moved to Aston Martin Lagonda, first as assistant racing manager to John Wyer and then, from late 1956, as racing manager where he oversaw Stirling Moss, Tony Brooks, Peter Collins, Carroll Shelby and Reg Parnell.

In September 1957 he was married to the model Angela Lane and the following year he left Aston Martin Lagonda to pursue a freelance career in America, based in Miami and New York, where he worked in the race administration department of the Sebring 12 Hours in Florida, as well as racing in

numerous Sports Car Club of America events in Austin Healeys, MGs and Porsches.

In late 1960 Miller returned to Britain to resume his earlier career as a writer. Within two years he and his wife had their first child, whose Godfather was the two-times world champion Graham Hill.

Subsequently, Miller also became the public relations manager for a London-based company, which resulted in him travelling the world.

In 1989 he and his wife moved to Spain where they lived for three years. But on their return journey by road in 1991 an accident left Miller with a disabling back injury. Nonetheless, he worked as a postman for the next eight years while also finding time to be the London editor of *Auto Visi* for three years and the founding editor of *Racing Mechanic* in 1999. He went on to pen a regular column in *Classic Car Weekly* and to become a contributor to *Aston*, the annual publication of the Aston Martin Heritage Trust.

Miller was also the author of many books about motor sport, the first of which, *The Fast Ones*, was published in 1962. Subsequent titles included *Aces Wild: the story of the British Grand Prix*, *Men at the Wheel*, *From Start to Finish* and *Conte Maggi's Mille Miglia*, while more recently he was writing a biography of the Italian ace *Carlo Pintacuda*. A life member of Club Mille Miglia, for which he regularly contributed to the *Giornale di Brescia*, and a celebrated speaker on Italy's famous 1,000 mile race, Miller remained an avid follower and supporter of motor sport.

As well as being a collector of motoring and motor sport memorabilia, he was also a generous benefactor of charities that included BEN, the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Katherine House Hospice. Miller, who lived in Banbury, Oxfordshire, had great charm, politeness and good humour. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Peter Miller, motor sport manager, journalist and author, was born on April 28, 1927. He died on April 1, 2009, aged 81.

The Times, 25 April 2009, reproduced with permission.

Brief lives

John Cannon (1941-48)

John Cannon, a distinguished botanist and one of Cecil Prime's numerous pupils who made their mark in academia, was Keeper of Botany at the Natural History Museum from 1978 to 1990. In 1962, at a relatively early stage of his career, it was John's role to escort the Queen Mother round the Gallery that, for the first time, gave prominence to botany in a museum that was largely devoted to animals. It was John who had prepared much of the artwork and factual data on display: such was the Queen Mother's interest in John's work that the visit lasted twice as long as expected. Whilst he progressed towards his ultimate role at the Museum, John continued research on Africa and later Central American flora. As an administrator, John was seen by many of his staff as the architect of the current system of research and curation throughout the department. John was President of the Botanical Society of the British Isles (1983-84) and of the Ray Society (1986-88). Among his numerous publications was one, *Dye Plants and Dyeing*, written jointly with his wife Margaret and published in 2002. John was active in the village life of Rodmell and was a Church Warden and author of the history of the village church.

Adapted from Watsonia, the Journal of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, February 2009

Michael Quarmby (1929-38)

Michael Quarmby, brother of the late Alan (1922-30) left School to read classics at University College, London. He served in the Second World War as a Captain in the Dorset Regiment in North West Europe and finally in Palestine. In early 1945 he was involved in heavy fighting in the Reichwald and at the Rhine crossing for which he was awarded the MBE. After the War he joined Dunlop and worked for that company as a purchasing manager throughout the world, including a three year stint in Brazil.

Neil Rose (1957-64)

Neil Rose died suddenly on 12 May 2009 at the age of 62. Neil worked for the Bank of England from leaving School until his retirement at the age of 55. He was a magistrate in Uckfield and Lewes for 25 years and latterly President of the Rotary Club in Wadhurst, an active member in Wadhurst of the History Society, the Dramatic Club, the Church Fellowship and the Parochial Church Council. His

particular passion, however, was railways and he was a volunteer on the Kent & East Sussex Railway from 1974 until the day of his death. He was involved in all aspects of the railway from the house journal, to acting as a signalman or guard and being a director of the Tenterden Railway Company Limited and Chairman and Treasurer of the Norwegian Locomotive Trust. He even became the “Fat Controller” at “Days out with Thomas” events and at Christmas time donned a red suit and white beard. Everything he did was carried out diligently and competently with charm, courtesy and humour.

Adapted from the magazine of the Kent & East Sussex Railway

George Monteath, OBE (1927-36)

George Monteath, who has died at the age of 91, left School for Imperial College from where he graduated in 1939. He served as a radar officer in the Royal Air Force during the War and then joined the BBC Research Department in 1947. His early work was on theoretical and development work on transmitting aerials. He was head of Transmitter and Aerial Section from 1959-61 when he became Head of Television Group, where he was concerned with the introduction of 625 line television and colour. In 1967 he returned to radio as Head of Radio Frequency Group where he was instrumental in expanding the UHF transmitter network and the reorganisation of LF/MF broadcasting. In 1977 George Monteath was awarded the higher degree of D Sc (Eng) by London University for published work on telecommunications including his book Application of the Electro-Magnetic Reciprocity Principle. From 1976 until his retirement he was Head of the BBC Research Department; he was awarded the OBE in the New Year’s Honours List 1977.

Adapted from an appreciation in BBC Engineering

Dr Kenneth Easton, OBE (1935-39)

The death of Dr Kenneth Easton in 2001 has only recently come to notice. He left School to study medicine at King’s College London and Westminster Hospital. Called up in 1945, he was sent, with other senior medical students, to the liberation of Belsen, an experience that marked his whole life. He completed his National Service in the Royal Air Force at Catterick and decided to make his career as a GP in that area. In 1967, after many years of dealing with the numerous road accidents that occurred on the A1 near Catterick, Kenneth Easton, with the support of local colleagues, set up the Road Accident After Care Scheme, covering 1,000 square miles and using the services of 34 volunteer doctors. The aim was to improve coordination between the emergency services in an area that was distant from hospitals and to help save lives on the spot and improve the chances of the seriously injured. Similar schemes were soon established elsewhere in the country. The idea of immediate care came to be seen as applicable to other medical crises and a new area of research and practice opened up; it took many years of lobbying and lecturing to gain acceptance in the medical profession and with government but by 1977, with the support of rigorous scientific evaluation, the British Association of Immediate Care Schemes (“BASICS”) was founded with the support of the Royal College of General Practitioners; Easton was the first chairman. Immediate care was established as a regular part of medical education and BASICS thrived – a tribute to Kenneth Easton, whose work was recognised in 1974 by the award of the OBE.

Adapted from an obituary in the Independent, 15 March 2001

John Russell House (1936-1943)

Russ died peacefully in Delta Hospital, Vancouver aged 84. When he left school he went straight into the RAF and was trained as a pilot in what was then Southern Rhodesia. When he was demobbed he spent a brief period in Oxford on a University short course and entered into the Advertising Profession until 1953 when he decided it was not for him and he emigrated to Canada. Before he left he played rugby for the Old Boys in both the AXV and the 1st XV as a speedy winger. He joined the RAF Reserve and spent as much time as he could flying at Redhill. His great love was Wimbledon and every year he spent the nights of Wimbledon fortnight on the pavement. His favourite poem was “IF” – because of the words that were written over the door of the men’s dressing room at Wimbledon - “If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster – And treat those two impostors just the same “ Russ and I together with Phil Coleman formed the CHS Press and until 1953 became the OW printers. He was a very popular and engaging character and when he left was very much missed by all who knew him.

He crossed Canada and ended up in Vancouver and decided to train as a Chartered Accountant. He spent a brief spell in practice before joining Revenue Canada as a Tax Inspector where he spent 26 interesting and happy years, retiring in June 1986. During his early years in Vancouver he joined Jericho Tennis Club, was on the Board of Directors and served as President for one term. He was also the OW overseas representative for British Columbia. He thoroughly enjoyed his retirement and we became used to his annual visits and stories of most of the World that he managed to visit. He will be greatly missed by his wonderful and devoted wife Donna their two children, son Marshall and daughter Shannon and two granddaughters Brianna and Teagan and his brother Michael (OW). It has been a great privilege to have had Russ as a friend.

Appreciation by John Straw (1941-47)

Harald Arns (1949)

Harald Arns, who has died at his home in Neuss-am-Rhein at the age of 78, was the first German exchange student to attend the School after the Second World War. He spent two terms in the VIth form in 1949 and lived with the family of **Leonard Rogers OBE** (1942-50) who, in turn, spent time at school in Neuss. The English grandmother of Harald Arns was killed in an Allied bombing raid on Solingen and during the War, he and his Jewish mother were hidden and cared for the Black Forest. In his business life Harald Arns held a Dipl. Kaufmann, equivalent to an MBA, and was employed in the cement industry. His achievements included the Presidency of the Rotary Club of his city, a role previously held by his father.

Staff Obituaries

Jeff Abbott (Staff 1958-62)

Few assistant masters, even at the great schools, receive the accolade of an obituary in The Times. Jeff Abbott did, but then he was no ordinary schoolmaster. That obituary was based on his time at Uppingham and is worthy of repetition: it ignores his time at Whitgift and the influence that he had in his short time at School.

Jeff Abbott, “the Major”, was the Mr Chips of Uppingham. He was the father figure, mentor and legend for generations of Uppinghamians, He continued to care for them after they had left the school, and they kept in touch with them. He taught his children Roman stoicism, good manners and Britishness. They never forgot him.

Jeffrey Sutton Abbott was born in 1933. He was the star of Newbury Grammar School, playing rugby for Berkshire and winning a major scholarship to Trinity College, Oxford to read Mods under Tommy Higham and Greats under James Holladay. From him he learnt his love of Rome. *Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* was one of his favourite books. He played at No 8 or lock for Oxford and the Harlequins, and was fast, clever and brave. Although a giant, he was not quite big enough to win a cap for England, though he came close. He was also a thespian for the dramatic society and the Trinity players. In later life, he and his friends re-enacted *The Four Men of Sussex* around the inns of the Downs, setting a table with jugs of ale between the audience and the players for all to help themselves *ad lib*. And his performance as Badger in *The Wind in the Willows*, whacking the weasels, gave a taste of his later ironic use of the cane as schoolmaster.

At Uppingham, he taught English and classics in a memorably individual style. He was housemaster of West Bank in 1968-83. Innocents imagined that his house flag displayed crossed hockey sticks. In fact, Abbott had designed crossed canes, and a sun with flails coming out of it. He chose St Francis Xavier as his house saint because St Francis introduced the scourge to Japan. It was irony. He was a beating housemaster but was in turns both frightening and funny. He was a gentle father figure to unhappy small boys without male role models. He created West Bank's wonderful garden, “the Dell”, where he would teach his class whenever weather permitted, or even if it didn't.

The crusty codger carapace was partly a jocular act. He hated ships and pretended to be terrified by mobile phones. He held that the Greeks were nowhere near as good as the Romans, and he thought that a healthy respect for all things Roman would teach our current masters a thing or two. He stood for Parliament for UKIP, not entirely as a joke, though he managed to get many laughs and jokes out of his campaign. But beneath the bluff exterior, the Major had a bottom of good sense. “Be precise,

concise and concrete,” he advised his boy essayists. And “No essay is complete without a quote from *Alice (in Wonderland)*.”

He loved going to Devon for bridge and beer-drinking. Every year he went to Scotland for the Melrose Sevens and the Edinburgh Tattoo. He was the subject of a cricket book by J S Finch called *Game in Season* subtitled *Mr Abbott’s Sporting Tour*, which is regarded as a classic.

Abbott was a regular correspondent to his old boys with newspaper cuttings, encouragement and jokes. He was a great schoolmaster who influenced his country more than most schemes of political improvement.

He is survived by his wife Angela, and by the three children of his first marriage to Jo Philby, and three step-children.

Jeff Abbott, schoolmaster, was born on October 22, 1933. He died of cancer on July 3, 2008, aged 74.

I was disappointed that this obituary, admirable as it might be, made no mention of his teaching before Uppingham. I wrote this tribute for The Times:

Jeff Abbott made an impact even before he started at Whitgift, his first teaching post. The headmaster, Geoffrey Marlar, announced to an assembled school that the new classics master would not be starting for a few days because “he has yet to be released”. Visions of an absence caused by the prison authorities rather than the mere administrative inconvenience of ending a period of national service thrilled and entertained a teenage audience.

We were hardly disappointed when we met the man. Even among the impressive group of scholars and athletes that taught us, he stood out with his light-weight suits, tailored in Hong Kong during that national service, a Harlequins or Vincents’ tie round his neck and the bulk of a back row forward who would return from weekend duties as Harlequins captain with noble wounds suited to a Roman warrior. Once, famously, he was pictured in the national press as he administered a mighty haymaker to the London Irish forward McSweeney: Jeff’s stock was never higher with his pupils.

He taught Latin, often to those who had been baffled by the more conventional style of other distinguished members of the classics staff, and thrilled us by announcing that all must use cribs for Latin literature and that he would dictate his own translation where no published version was readily available. His racy version of Ovid’s *Tristia* remains with me still – Ovid, exiled to Tomi, reveals that, while missiles thrown over the walls by the natives would regularly hit the inhabitants “even within the walls we are beset by a motley bunch”. Learning was not like that with more traditional members of staff. A lesson with Abbott was thrilling and unpredictable: he might go back to his flat to change his suit, leaving twenty basically idle boys sitting and working quietly for fear of his wrath if he returned and found the mayhem that usually ensued when a master left us to our own devices; he might demand that we run round the quadrangle for a complete lesson because we looked sleepy; at least once he decided to beat us all because “I don’t like the look of you”; but we admired this giant of a man who charmed with his humour, amazed with his knowledge and entertained when he spoke at the debating society. I remember particularly when he started a speech, screwed up his notes, spoke ad lib and then recovered the notes from the waste paper bin “in case I find them useful next time”. Surely, also, it was not just chance that only a year or so after his arrival the School rugby XV was all conquering and the pack of forwards looked notably uncompromising.

Later in his career Jeff Abbott sought to become a headmaster, but he was deemed to be a throwback to an earlier age, unsuited to the child-centred world of the 1970s. We shall never know whether he would have made a good headmaster, but to me and others he was inspiring and effective, mixing sound scholarship with shrewd insight. My final report from Abbott before I attempted Latin O Level was: “Pompous and self opinionated, but will pass” – he was, of course, right on all points.

Nigel Platts

Gerwyn Williams (Staff 1954-84)

Rugby full-back who helped Wales beat the All Blacks

Shortly before Gerwyn Williams died, the Welsh Rugby Union went some way to reuniting him with one of his most treasured possessions. His first Welsh international cap, which he won when he made his debut for Wales against Ireland in 1950, had been proudly presented to his old school, Port Talbot

Grammar, many years before. But Williams's cap went missing some time in the Sixties. More than 40 years later, the WRU took the decision to offer him a replacement and it arrived in January as he entered the last throes of his battle with cancer.

Williams was a classic full-back who featured in one of the greatest victories in the history of Welsh rugby, the 13-8 win over New Zealand at Cardiff Arms Park in December 1953 which remains the last victory by Wales over the All Blacks. By that point, Williams had already played a part in two Grand Slam campaigns. While the try scorer Ken Jones and his provider Clem Thomas always take the headlines for creating that piece of history, the Wales skipper Bleddyn Williams never forgets the key role played by his namesake." Gerwyn was a very good full-back – neat and tidy in everything he did and very sound under the high ball. While Ken Jones ran in the try that helped us to win that game, it was Gerwyn who helped me in the closing moments to hold up the New Zealand outside-half Brian Fitzpatrick and save a try," Bleddyn Williams recalled.

A talented all-rounder at Port Talbot Grammar School, from where he won a Wales Under-15 rugby cap against England and a Welsh Schools cricket cap, he went to Loughborough College after serving in the Royal Navy between 1941-46. While he was at Loughborough he won the College welterweight boxing title and played in the College XV with his future Welsh international team mate Ken Jones. But it was from London Welsh that he won the first two of his 13 caps. He made his international debut in the Triple Crown decider against Ireland in Belfast, having joined an unbeaten Welsh team halfway through the 1950 Five Nations championship. Wales were hoping to take their first Triple Crown in 39 years and the 25-year-old full-back got embroiled in a nail-biting affair.

There was no score in the first half and then a try for Wales by Ken Jones was cancelled out by a home penalty (both were worth three points at the time). Three minutes remained when Malcolm Thomas was sent racing to the left corner on a quest for glory. He dived for the line, was bundled into the corner flag, yet credited with the try by the Scottish referee RA Beattie. Wales had ended the long wait for the Triple Crown and Williams had got his career off to a flying start.

The Grand Slam game against France was a formality, Wales winning 21-0. Williams retained his place for the next 10 matches. Included in that run was a full house of four victories in the 1952 Grand Slam and an appearance against the South Africans in 1951. In fact, Williams played four times against the Springboks, for Llanelli and the Barbarians, and also in the only side to beat them on their tour, London Counties. Williams spent three seasons at Stradey Park playing for Llanelli and at the same time launched his teaching career at Ardwyn Grammar School in Aberystwyth. He spent two years there before moving on to Harrow County School in 1952, where he made an immediate impact by coaching the 1st XV to its first unbeaten season.

His playing career, at both international and club levels, came to an end when he dislocated his shoulder in the opening championship fixture of the 1954 Five Nations against England at Twickenham. He picked up the injury in the first-half trying to stop Ted Woodward scoring England's first try. He had treatment at half-time and bravely returned, but Wales went on to lose 9-6 and Williams was forced to retire from playing. Not that he ever left the game. That year he became an Assistant Master at Whitgift School in Surrey and remained there for 30 years, the vast majority of that time as Chief PE Master.

In 1968 he helped to coach the Cambridge University team that won the Varsity Match at Twickenham and he also wrote four books on rugby – Modern Rugby (1964), Schoolboy Rugby (1966), Tackle Rugger This Way (1968) and Tackle Rugger (1975).

Gerwyn Williams, rugby union player and coach: born Glyncorrwg 22 April 1924; married 1944 Josephine Sangwin (two sons); died Clare, Suffolk 10 February 2009.

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Although this obituary gives a fine summary of Gerwyn's distinguished career as a Welsh rugby international and as a member of the 1951 London Counties side that was the only team to beat the touring Springboks, it does not reflect the immense influence that he had on rugby at Whitgift. Gerwyn revolutionised the coaching of rugby both at the School and on a wider stage and was a mentor to many of the talented players that he nurtured. Gerwyn encouraged excitement and exuberance in the School's rugby - there was a level of imagination in his coaching that saw its fulfilment in the performances of the School 1st XV (notably Mike Wilkinson's all conquering side) and in the OWRFC when his pupils later graduated to Croham Road. Of all his triumphs as a coach, those who saw it will not forget his

particular delight when the School won the Public Schools seven a side competition in 1967.

Correspondence

Roy Lemberger (1956-63) – After not seeing Roy’s name for well over forty years, it was a real pleasure to read his letter published in *The Times* of 11 June 2008. Writing about reports of relocating cast iron lampposts to gentrify an area at the expense of their original site, he noted that residents of Wallsend had been upset when granite kerbstones were removed to help give an “olde worlde” character to the more affluent conservation area of Tynemouth, where he lives. He went on to suggest, with tongue in cheek, that this was the way forward for recyclers, since, after the departure of the Romans, it was not long before the stones of Hadrian’s Wall started to appear in local buildings.

Peter Gerosa (1939-45), a former Under-Secretary at the Departments of the Environment and Transport and thereby an expert on the art of drafting documents, took *The Times* to task in September 2008 over an aspect of poor grammar that results “in a nasty jolt to the reader’s system”. Others may not be as sensitive, but it is good to know that the pursuit of proper English construction is safe in the hands of at least one OW.

David Talbot (1949-54) writes to say that he much enjoyed his visit to the School on OWA Day 2008 – his first visit to the School, other than to watch his son in theatrical performances, since he left. He has happy memories of VIth form history lessons in the then Headmaster’s house with Messrs Hussey and Edge. He has found his *métier* in retirement after a career in teaching and as an education officer, in being a volunteer interviewer in the Croydon area for a national archive, the Second World War Experience Centre, based in Leeds (coincidentally the home of his late father the celebrated BBC correspondent Godfrey Talbot). David has conducted over 1,100 oral recordings. One of the most outstanding was with his former German master **John Chester** (Staff 1947-73) who was born Hans Ulrich Koestler. David wonders how much of John Chester’s dramatic experiences in India during the War were included in the Whitgiftian obituary. David mentions that he is still keen to collect more memories, even from those like himself who were only youngsters during those far off days.

Finally, **David German** (1949-55) writes to say that there are OWs who, despite the passing of the years, still enjoy the age old sport of running. David says that he is a member of Langport Runners in Somerset and that he would love to hear from any other OWs who are still active (*as runners, I presume, Ed*). David’s e-mail address is davidgerman555@btinternet.com.

Editor’s note: It is fascinating to hear news of the careers of OWs, particularly after many years of silence. Readers, please do not hesitate to make contact and let us know what you have been doing for the last ten (or sixty) years.

