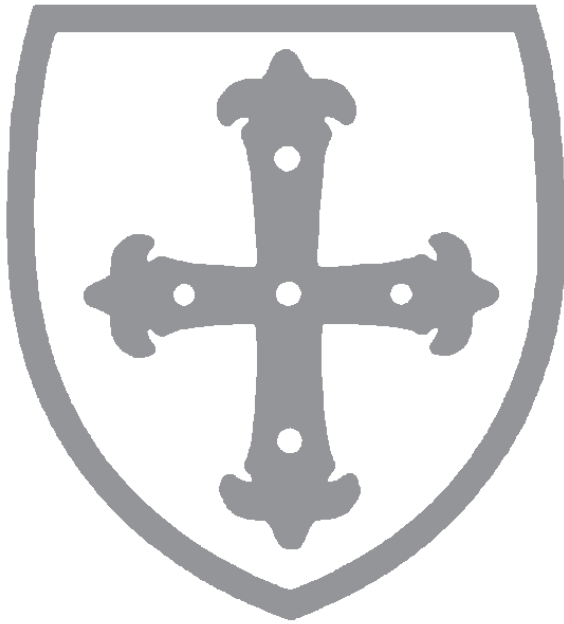


OLD WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



OWA Officials 2009-2010

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Editor of OW News in The Whitgiftian: N L Platts

OLD WHITGIFTIAN NEWS

Quod et hunc in annum vivat et plures

Edition No: 5

Covering 2009-2010

Editor's note:

This is the fifth edition of Old Whitgiftian News and it takes us through from September 2009 to approximately the end of August 2010 (to coincide with the School and OWA year). This publication aims 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 should also look at the termly newsletter, *Whitgift Life*, which is available on the School website (www.whitgift.co.uk).

The national profile of the School has been enhanced by the success of the School's rugby XV and also by the annual appearance of county cricket on North Field – the magnificent half page photograph in *The Times* taken during the Surrey match against Worcestershire reminded OWs how privileged they were to play their sport in such splendid surroundings.

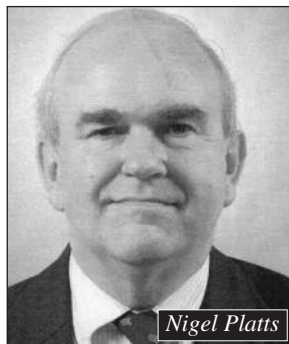
Those many OWs who were present at Twickenham in March to see the School win the *Daily Mail* Under 18 Cup will not need to be told of the School's extraordinary sporting prowess. This has been recognised by the judges of the *Daily Telegraph/Aviva School Sports Matters* choice of Whitgift as Independent School of the Year. The School's successes are not limited to the sports field; the production of *Carmen* was a splendid example of the remarkable achievements of present Whitgiftians, of whom there are now 1280, more than 50% more than when many of us were at School. OWs have many reasons to celebrate successes like the Twickenham victory, but arranging that more than 1,000 OWs were in the stands at Twickenham required high powered organisation from a number of determined OWs among whom **Sam Barke** (2000-05) should be singled out for special mention. With young OWs like Sam around and the appointment by the School and Foundation of such a popular and well known member of Staff in **Philip Fladgate** as Alumni and Development Officer at the School, there is every prospect of an exciting future for the OWA.

This edition of OW News reports on the many successes of OWs in public life and records also the lives of some of those now sadly deceased. Although the internet makes following up the activities of OWs less of a challenge than in the past and the social networking sites help OWs keep in touch with each other, there remains a place for traditional communication. So, may I remind you that **Terry Brown** (1959-64) has the role of Overseas Correspondent and can be contacted at t.brwn@blueyonder.co.uk. OWs (and remember we do want to hear from you - not just when you move house) may also 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. The OWA website is currently being redesigned: once this exercise is complete it will again be possible to download the form from the website: www.owa.org/downloads.

Nigel Platt

Presidents:



The President of the OWA for the year to 31 August 2010 has been **Nigel Platts** (1955-64) an accountant and, for many years, a partner in KPMG. In retirement, Nigel lives in Sanderstead and the Lake District, is a non-executive director of the Crown Agents, runs a small medical charity and is a Governor of the School. He is a member of the Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers.



The President for 2010-11 will be **Ian Flanagan, OBE** (1948-54). Ian, a chartered surveyor, was for many years a partner in the celebrated firm of Hillier Parker. He has also been a

governor of Croham Hurst and Woldingham schools and one of the first non Old Blue governors of Christ's Hospital. Ian is much involved in charity work, particularly for Perennial, the charity of the horticultural industry. He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners in 1996/97 and was awarded an OBE for his services to Perennial.

Reunions:

In the absence of a major event like the *Mary Rose* exhibition in 2009, it was decided not to hold an OWA Day in 2010. Many OWs had returned to the School for a reunion on Remembrance Day in November 2009 and it was felt that another School based event would be too much. The November Reunion was very successful with some 160 OWs attending: most then moved out to Big Side to watch the School beat John Fisher School as part of their triumphant progress in the *Daily Mail* rugby cup. Many who attended later admitted that it was their first visit to the School since they left fifty or sixty years ago – it was a splendid event and reflected the tenacity of **Gerald Bowthorpe** (1949-56) in its organisation.

The Annual Dinner was held at Armoury House for the first time since **Freddie Percy** (1922-30) was President. The superb venue attracted the largest attendance for many years and on a warm June evening we enjoyed an excellent dinner with a guard of honour provided by **Paul Champness** (1958-63), **Peter Holmes** (1954-61), **Patrick Marsland-Roberts** (1953-60), **Brian Kay** (1948-54), **Ron New** (1954-60) and **Peter Todd** (1952-59), all OW members of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company. It was a particular delight to welcome Wulf Bodenstein, who came to the School as a German exchange student in the early 1950s through the efforts of that extraordinary school master, **John Chester** (1947-73). There were excellent speeches from **Roger Oldfield** (1961-66), **Antony Percy** (1956-65) and, from the School, **Philip Fladgate**. The President also spoke. It was good to see a significant number of younger OWs at the dinner.

Regular reunions of School generations at Croham Road continue to attract a good response, particularly from the older generations. The dinners of the sports clubs remain well attended and attract high profile guest speakers. Special mention must be made of the very successful reunion for retired and long serving members of the School staff which was held in May 2010. As ever, the Upper Fifth of 1952-53 continued its long and well supported run of reunions and the 1949 Prefects again met up some sixty years after they left School. Another significant reunion this year was that of the 1960 Prefects, on which **Peter Stevens** (1951-60) reports:

Following the example set last year by the prefects of 1958/59, their successors re-united on Saturday 17 July at lunchtime in the Horse & Groom, Belgravia's most select pub (which, not usually doing business on Saturdays, was opened especially for the occasion by its director, Aiden Ganly).

This was for many of the group the first encounter for 50 years, and despite the circulation beforehand of a copy of the "official" picture taken with the Headmaster (but not including all our number) several people had expressed fears about an inability to recognise old friends. In fact we seemed to have aged fairly well, as the accompanying picture shows. Most of the group looked as though they were still at or close to their collar and waist sizes when they were at school, and hair loss was less than might have been expected. This is possibly a demonstration of the rejuvenating effects of a life spent (misspent?) in the law, since we numbered two judges, both still serving (Mitchell and Patience), three solicitors (they retire earlier-Ash, Rhodes and Trembath), one JP (Mash) and even one law-maker (Freeman). Other shared attributes that more or less guarantee eternal youth were that three are now resident, full or part-time, in California (Higham, Jarvis and Kibble), and several have strong thespian connections, two full-time (Blackmore and Jarvis), at least one part-time (Mackmin). Others who had journeyed far to make the occasion were Davies (Scotland), Potter (France) and Forbes (New Zealand – and things do not come much farther than that). Lives spent close to academe included Davies, Emeny, Lambert and Mash, while those who seemed to have seen the business benefits of modern technology ahead of many included Higham and Parsons.

The event had been organised by Tim Forbes, showing that such modern technology can overcome the handicaps of living at the outer limits of civilisation. In fact he had assembled the entire cast list within a few months of the previous year's meeting bar Justin Parsons, who remained elusive until well into the year; ironically, having finally been located, poor Justin had to cry off shortly before the day, but it is hoped that some of us who live within striking distance will meet him before too long. Sadly one of our original number, Richard Arscott, died in a road accident some years ago.

The picture shows that the 1960 lot, which included 5 from the previous year, were joined by another from that year who did not overlap; but because Chris Etherington's late father, Maurice ("Fritz"), was such an influential figure for so many of us, Chris had a special invitation so that we could tell him that to his face.

It was a wholly delightful occasion. Tim had chased everybody to provide brief "lives" – brevity has strange connotations in California – so that we could catch up on our pasts before we met, so that we could talk about the present and the future without having to cover history repeatedly. A number of people had brought photographs and other memorabilia of our school days, none more than Bruce Claxton, who seemed to have a veritable trunk-load of material. The sun shone, so we were able to drift outside into Groom Place. The food was excellent and the pub's staff made us totally welcome (a touch of Irish hospitality there). The beer was not bad, either. Will we meet again? You bet! In 5 years' time we will all be together again, same place, about the same time, still bounding with youthful vigour, still proud and glad to have been at Whitgift.



The rogues gallery shows the following:

Back row, from left to right; Roger (Lord) Freeman, Chris Etherington, Richard Emeny, Lawrence Davies, Michael Mackmin, Steve Potter, Martin Jarvis (OBE), Tony Mitchell (J), John Trembath, Robert Ash, Ashley Climpson, Johnny Wright, David

Rhodes, John Blackmore. Front row, from left to right: Robert Kibble, David Mash, John Higham, Andrew Patience (J), Peter Stevens, Roger Lambert, Tim Forbes, Bruce Claxton.

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

Military OWs from the Victorian Era

In the late 19th century, the School was small and had no great military tradition. Of the 1,147 OWs recorded as attending the School between its reopening in 1871 and 1892, only 20 were shown as joining the army. Yet a number achieved some distinction: the career of **Major General G W Barber**, CB, CMG, DSO (1878-82) was reported in *The Whitgiftian* a few years ago, while **Colonel C M Goodbody**, CIE, DSO, and no less than five mentions in despatches, (1890-93) of the Indian Medical Service is also worthy of note. Three other military OWs are of more than passing interest:

Lt Col William Selby, DSO (1879-85), trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital and was subsequently a surgeon in the Indian Army. In the 1890s he served on the North West Frontier in the Chitral, Samana and Gulistan campaigns, in the Tirah campaign, where he was awarded the DSO, and in the Dargai campaign of 1897-8, where he was mentioned in despatches and recommended for the VC. He became Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy of India and Principal of King George's Medical College, Lucknow, where he died in September 1916.

Brigadier General John Evatt, DSO (1875-80) was commissioned into the Dorset Regiment in 1881, transferring to the Indian Staff Corps in 1883. He served in Burma, 1891-92, with the Tlang-Tlang and Tashon Columns (medal with two clasps); took part in the operations on the North-West Frontier of India, 1897-98, serving in the Mohmand and Malakand operations in Bajaur; also with the Tirah Expeditionary Force (medal with two clasps). He served in British East Africa in 1898, taking part in the expedition against the Ogaden Somalis (medal and clasp). For his service in Uganda in 1898-9, when he was in command at the capture of Kabarega and Mwanga, Kings of Unyoro and Uganda, he was mentioned in despatches, received a clasp, and was awarded the DSO. Evatt was again in command in the Nandi Expedition in Uganda in 1900 (mentioned in despatches and medal with clasp) and raised and commanded the first Indian Contingent for Uganda; commanded the Uganda Military Force; raised and commanded the 2nd Battalion 39th Garhwal Rifles; became Substantive Colonel 23 November 1907, and Temporary Brigadier General, Commanding the Madras Brigade until 1910. He retired from the Army 23 April 1913, with the rank of Brigadier General, and was appointed Colonel of the 39th Garhwal Rifles in 1914. Evatt was re-employed in 1914, and appointed Brigade-Commander (mentioned in Secretary of State's Despatch 1917). He subsequently served as Deputy Assistant Censor, 1916-17, and as Area Commandant in France in 1917.

Major General Sir Charles Maynard, KBE, CB, CMG, DSO (1880) was educated for a short time at the School before moving to St Paul's as a Foundation Scholar. Subsequently he was a prize winner at Sandhurst before joining the Devonshire Regiment with which he served in the Burma Campaign (medal and clasp), 1889-92 and the Tirah Campaign, 1897 (medal and two clasps). In the South African War, 1899-1902, Maynard served as Press Censor, from 11 September 1901 to 31 August 1902, was present at the Relief of Ladysmith and numerous other operations for which he was mentioned in despatches, received the Queen's Medal with six clasps, the King's Medal with two clasps, and was awarded the DSO. Prior to the First World War he had several appointments at the War Office and served in the War in various Staff posts. Maynard was Brigade Commander, 82nd Infantry Brigade, British Salonika Force 1917 - 18 and as Major General was Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces at Murmansk which engaged the Soviet revolutionary army in 1919. For his various services he was appointed CB 1918, CMG 1918, and KCB 1919, received the 1914 Star, and was five times mentioned in despatches.

Common to the careers of each of these men was the recurrent theme of “small” imperial wars in the late 19th century. It is disturbing to note that significant parts of Selby, Evatt and Maynard’s active service some 120 years ago were in areas where British servicemen are fighting today.

An OW Centenarian

Frank Hutchinson (1922-27) celebrated his 100th birthday on 15 July 2010. He may well be the last OW who completed his School career before the move to Haling Park. Frank has written down some memories of his time at School, which reveal a mind as sharp as it was when he experienced life in the North End School. One surprise is that his first teacher, in 1922, was a young lady, another is that **Mr Arnott** taught Latin by the “direct method” which meant that boys spoke Latin to each other rather than merely translated texts. Frank also delights in telling how **Mr Kitchener**, Head of the Lower School, asked him as part of the entrance exam: “Walter Raleigh went round the world three times and died on one of his trips; on which trip did he die?”

OWs in the News



Paul Champness (1958-63) became an unexpected object of attention for the national press and television when the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited Armoury House to review the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company. Major Champness, Captain of the Company, attempted to sit next to the Queen for an official photograph but found it a struggle in his 17th century armour. In earlier centuries an assault on the monarch would have been a capital offence; Paul’s brush with the Queen merely raised royal smiles and innumerable facetious words in the popular press.

Paul Champness on parade

Matt Lacey (1997-2004) has become something of a sensation on YouTube, where his sketch Gap Yah has attracted over two million hits; viewers laugh (and squirm with embarrassment) at his portrayal of Orlando, a student “enjoying” the opportunities of meeting new experiences on his gap year. Matt, a member of the comedy sketch theatre group *The Unexpected Items* says of his character “Depressingly, there are a lot of these people and I even have elements of them myself”.

Jonathan Gill (1998-2005), as part of the band JLS, has won two BRIT music awards as well as having three number one singles and a best-selling book written about the rise of the band to stardom from its first appearance on *The X Factor* in 2008.



Graham Leeke (1948-56), who is a Parish Councillor in Bishop’s Tachbrook, Warwickshire, has been awarded first prize in the inaugural National Association of Local Councils Councillor of the Year Award. This award is made to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to their local area on behalf of all members of their community.

The BBC Promenade Concert on the evening of 14 August 2010, part of the Bach Day, included the world première of *Latent Manifest*, composed by **Tarik O'Regan** (1989-96) and commissioned by the BBC. The piece was described by the music critic of *The Times* as “a beguiling response to response itself – a mirage of intimations and allusions to his own experience of hearing Bach’s third solo Violin Sonata”.

For **Danny Cipriani** (2001-07), rugby season 2009-10 was difficult, as further injury ensured that there was no immediate recall to the senior England squad, despite some fine performances after his return to the game. Danny, though, was rarely far from the headlines (and not only on the sports pages) and by the end of the season had made the highly publicised decision, as his contract with London Wasps came to an end, to move his rugby career to Australia as a player for Melbourne Rebels, the new franchise joining the existing Super 14 Southern Hemisphere competition in the 2011 season.

A number of OWs have recently been featured in newspaper interviews and columns. Among those who often appear in the press, **Derren Brown** (1981-89) has been the subject of interviews in *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Spectator*. The author **Neil Gaiman** (1974-77) wrote about “The first Twitter book club” in *The Guardian*. **Tosh Masson** (1996-2003), a nominee for the British Asian Sports Awards and the only British Asian playing professional rugby, was the subject of an article in *The Independent* entitled “The only Sikh in pro rugby – get a load of Tosh” while the *Sports Journalists’ Association* celebrated **Leonard Barden** (1940-47), as the author of a weekly chess column in *The Guardian* which has run in an unbroken sequence for 54 years, a world record.

Addition to the Roll of Honour 1939-45

Lt Thomas Pollard (1930-33). From time to time information is received about an OW killed on active service whose name is not included on the School War Memorial. The latest example is Thomas Pollard, who was at the School for three years but who spent most of his schooldays at George Watson’s College in Edinburgh. At Watson’s he was CQMS in the OTC, a member of the 2nd XV and of the school golf team. He left school to train as a chartered accountant. At Edinburgh University he was in the STC. He volunteered for military service in 1939, was commissioned in the Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery and, at the age of 23, died in Normandy on 2 August 1944 of wounds received in action. Information about Thomas Pollard was uncovered by chance by **Colin McKinnon** (1964-72), who was carrying out research. The names of Pollard and a number of other OWs not included in the original list of casualties have now been recorded on the School War Memorial.



Honours, Awards and Appointments

Queen’s Birthday Honours 2010 - MBE – **Jonathan Horne** (1952-57), for services to the study of ceramics. Sadly, Jonathan died only a few days after the announcement of this award.

Lord Freud (1961-68) has been appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Welfare) in the Department of Work and Pensions in the new government.

Rt Rev Colin Buchanan (1944-53), former Area Bishop of Woolwich and now Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Bradford - Honorary President of the Electoral Reform Society.



Keith Lindblom, QC (1966-74) has been appointed a Justice of the High Court. Mr Justice Lindblom has been appointed to the Queen's Bench Division.

Simon Featherstone (1969-76), formerly Ambassador to Switzerland and latterly in charge of the hugely successful British participation in the Shanghai Expo 2010, has been appointed UK High Commissioner to Malaysia. The success of the British



presence was summarised in an article in *The Times* which emphasised the remarkable impact of the innovatively designed Pu Gong Ying (Dandelion) pavilion which attracted over seven million visitors in the six months of the Expo.

Warren Tucker (1973-80), Finance Director of Cobham plc, has been appointed a non executive director of Reckitt Benckiser plc.

David Hughes (1965-72), for many years a senior partner at Arthur Andersen, has been appointed a non executive director of the Highways Agency, the organisation responsible for motorways and trunk roads.

Neil Gaiman (1974-77), "commonly known as the rock star of the literary world", was awarded the Booktrust Teenage Prize 2009 for *The Graveyard Book*.

Andy Duncan (1973-80), formerly of Channel Four, has been appointed Chief Executive of H R Owen plc, the luxury car dealer. The company specialises in the sale of such marques as Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Bugatti and Ferrari.

Richard Cienciala (1973-80), formerly Deputy Director of Provider Development in the Department of Health, has been appointed Deputy Director of the UK Office of Life Sciences, a major new initiative of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. He is also Deputy Director of the Cross Government Obesity Programme.

Sam Sharpe (1972-80), formerly Director of Finance and Corporate Performance in the Department for International Development, has been appointed Director of DFID India based at the British High Commission in New Delhi.



Ed Dubois (1964-71), the well known yacht designer, has been appointed a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Professor Dudley Shallcross (1977-84), of Bristol University has been appointed Director of the AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust.



Dr James Kitchen (1995-2002) joined the Department of War Studies of King's College, London in October 2009. James is based at RAF College, Cranwell where he lectures in Air Power Studies. His DPhil from Oxford examined the roles of morale and military identity in the British imperial army that served in Egypt and Palestine during the First World War.

Grant Eustace (1954-62) won an award in the World Media Festival (for the fifth successive year) for a script on Battle of Britain commander Sir Keith Park.

Ssegawa-Ssekintu Kiwanuka (1997-2005), a PhD student at Cambridge was a runner up in the Early Career Researchers prize of the Sensors for Water Interest Group for his paper *Ultrasensitive Real-Time Detection of Heavy Metals in Liquids*. This multi-talented OW (*see sport below*) also had an important role in a 2010 Cambridge production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The Services:

General Sir Peter Wall, KCB, CBE (1965-73), Commander in Chief Land Forces, has been appointed Chief of the General Staff with effect from September 2010.

Brigadier Duncan Francis, OBE (1969-77) has been appointed Military Attaché in Beijing where he replaces another OW, Brigadier Rudi Wertheim (1967-75).

Major Peter Stitt (1982-90) and Major Jon Swift (1983-91) have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Both Peter and Jon serve in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Alistair Smith (1998-2006), formerly of Durham University, has been commissioned into the Royal Dragoon Guards.

Publications

Books with a Whitgiftian interest

Disturb'd with Chaces is a book on real tennis written by **Brian Rich** (1938- 45), former world over 50s champion in that sport.

Spedan's Partnership: the story of John Lewis and Waitrose – **Peter Cox** (1955-64) traces in his book the remarkable success of a business where all the employees are partners.

Confessions of a Conjuror – **Derren Brown** (1981-89), described by Amazon as “Britain’s best loved illusionist” takes the reader “on a journey to the centre of his brain” in his idiosyncratic self portrait. Al Kennedy writing in *The Guardian* Books of the Year column says “It combines a playfully baroque prose style with pinpoint observation and almost excruciating levels of self-examination, if not loathing. It’s a fascinating experience”.

In his lavishly illustrated book *Mr Hamilton's Elysium: The Gardens of Painshill*, **Mike Symes** (1954-62), who teaches an MA course on Garden History at Birkbeck College, London University, describes the construction of the gardens at Painshill, an eighteenth century work of art to rival Stowe and Stourhead, its subsequent fall into disrepair and the restoration over the last thirty years for which he has been instrumental.

Thanks to the diligent research of **Antony Percy** (1956-65), the Dictionary of National Biography now includes an entry on the life and work of the OW architect **Gordon Kaufmann** (1903-04), whose

impact on the 20th century landscape of the USA was significant. Kaufmann's masterpiece, the Hoover Dam, is shortly to be flanked by a new bridge to ease congestion on the old road across the dam.

Mike Upton (1953-61) continues his prolific writing career: since his first novel in 2006, he has published three more novels and one book of short stories. Two more novels are scheduled to appear in late 2010.

Those who have read the remarkable books by David Kynaston *Austerity Britain* 1945-51 and *Family Britain* 1951-57 will recall the author's extensive use of the resources of Mass Observation, which recorded the thoughts and opinions of a wide spectrum of society in the 1940s and 1950s. One of the correspondents quoted is Madge Martin, described as "wife of an Oxford clergyman". The Oxford clergyman was **Canon Philip Martin** (1924-32), at that time Vicar of the University Church. Later Canon Martin became Canon Residentiary at Wells Cathedral (*Editor's note - is there a better job in the world - a magnificent Cathedral Close in a delightful town with a lifestyle drawn from a novel by Trollope?*)

Sport

In **Victor Moses** (2004-07), Whitgift has produced its first Premier League football player. Victor, voted Coca Cola Football League young player of the month for December 2009, was transferred from Crystal Palace to Wigan Athletic in January 2010 for a fee of £2.5m. Victor has also been involved as part of the England Under-21 squad and was capped in August 2010 in the match against Uzbekistan.

On the rugby field, **Dominic Lespierre** (1998-2003) became another OW international when he represented Guyana in the IRB Sevens competition in Las Vegas; he scored tries against France and USA.

OW representation in the higher echelons of rugby continued to be significant. **Adam Thompstone** (1999-2006) started the 2009-10 rugby season in the great form for London Irish that he showed the previous year with a hat trick of tries against Leeds; injury then intervened and most of the season was lost for him as it was for **Tosh Masson** (1996-2003) of Harlequins. **Richard Thorpe** (1998-2003), also of London Irish, was named by **David Hands** of *The Times* as one of his "Guinness Premiership XV of the season so far" in his mid-term report published on 2 January 2010. **Mark Foster** (2000-02) was a member of the Exeter Chiefs side that won the play off against Bristol Shoguns to bring promotion to the Premiership for the first time for Exeter. **Neville Edwards** (1999-2006) is with Esher in the RFU Championship. **Truman Sullivan** (2000-06) of Bath University has played a number of times for Blackheath's first team in National Division One. In National Division Two, **Lewis Brown** (1996-2003) is playing prop for Ealing Trailfinders and **Ross Broadfoot** (1996-2003) is with Richmond. From those who left School in the summer from the Daily Mail Cup winning team, **Marland Yarde** (2008-10) is already in the England Under 20 Squad and the first team squad at London Irish, **Eddie Peglau** (2008-10) is with Leeds Carnegie and **Jamie Stevenson** (2002-10) is playing for Westcombe Park in National Division Two.

The 2009 Varsity rugby match saw Whitgift representation for both light and dark blues: **Ross Broadfoot** (1996-2003) was in the winning Cambridge team, while Tim Catling (1997-2005) was in the Oxford side. Although Tim failed to reproduce his phenomenal scoring performance of 2008, that amazing day was recognised when he was voted Oxford University's sportsman of the year. Subsequently, Tim was selected to play for the Barbarians in the Mobbs Memorial match (and scored a try) against Bedford.

In addition to the two blues, **Alex Cheetham** (2000-07) was a bench reserve for Cambridge. On the same day at Twickenham, **Miles Daly** (2003-08) and **Chris Hall** (2001-08) represented Cambridge in the Under 21 match.

After a rugby season in which he terrified opponents by his sheer size, **Laurence Okoye** (2003-10) left School and moved onto the international athletics scene. He won the English schools discus championship and then took part in the World Junior Championships in Canada. Laurence did not

match his best throws of the year but still achieved sixth place, a remarkable achievement for one so new to competition at that level. Laurence's career in athletics offers a tantalising prospect of future success.

It can safely be said that in no previous cricket season have four OWs scored first class half centuries. **Matthew Spriegel** (1998-2005) continued in 2010 to be a regular in the Surrey cricket team: he scored



two first class centuries and took useful wickets. He was joined in the side towards the end of the season by **Tom Lancefield** (2001-07), who was top scorer with 74 against Worcestershire and by **Jason Roy** (2004-08), who scored a spectacular 76 on his first class debut. Jason also became the first Surrey player to score a century in a 20/20 match (against Kent).

In addition, **Laurie Evans** (1998-2004), who scored heavily throughout the season for the 2nd XI, made 98 (run out) for the first team in their match against Bangladesh. In the latter part of

the season, Laurie moved to Warwickshire, where his first innings was a century for the 2nd XI – he later played in a County Championship game for Warwickshire.

As well as the four Whitgiftians who have played for Surrey during 2010, both **Rory Burns** (2001-06) and **Freddie van den Bergh** (2003-10) have been highly successful in Surrey's 2nd XI. Rory also had the distinction of scoring a century against Surrey 2nd XI when playing for their Hampshire equivalents and played for the MCC Universities team.

At the end of the season, Matthew and Jason both received recognition at the Surrey CCC Awards Dinner. Matthew received the Peter Frost Fielder of the Year award and Jason's 20/20 century was the "Marston's moment of the year". Jason was also chosen by the Supporters' Club as Young Player of the Year. Meanwhile Rory received a Walter Lawrence Trophy for his score of 230 not out for Cardiff MCCU against Oxford MCCU. For the 2011 season there will be five OWs with professional county contracts.

Richard Potton (2000-08) and **Simon Ogden** (1993-2000) were members of the East Grinstead hockey team that won the national indoor title.

Alex Mullins (2000-08) and **Graeme Jordan** (1998-2004) represented Oxford in the varsity hockey match; **Paul Hicks** (2002-09) was in the losing Cambridge team.

It has not previously been recorded that **Ian Kibble** (1995-2002) of Hampstead & Westminster Hockey Club has represented Wales in full internationals.

Ssegawa-Ssekintu Kiwanuka (1997-2005) won his bout as a light heavyweight for Cambridge in the boxing match against Oxford.

Mark Coppel (1997-2004), now a professional golfer, has had success on the Euro-Pro Tour, coming equal second with a three round 12 under par score in the Brooks Brothers Classic at Five Lakes Golf Club.



After his amazing 2009 season, **Andrew Stracey** (1965-72) continued as a seasoned international in amateur seniors' golf. In the 2010 English Championship, held at Carlisle, Andrew was 12th out of over two hundred entrants.

Dudley Tredger (1994-2001 and Staff from 2007) won Bronze in the Mens' Epée and Gold in the Mens' Epée Team event at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships held in Melbourne at the end of September 2010. In the same

Championships, **Maiyuran Ratneswaran** (2000-08), the British Universities and Colleges Sabre Champion for 2010, won Silver in the Mens' Sabre and Gold in the Mens' Sabre Team event.

OW Sports Clubs

The various OW sporting teams continue to thrive.

Season 2009-10 was again frustrating for the rugby club in that, for the second successive year, they lost the play-off match that would have given promotion to the London Leagues. The second and third teams, however, are to be congratulated on winning their leagues. Junior rugby continues to prove extremely successful.

The hockey club, so close to closure a year or so ago, had a great season and, after finishing as runners up in the Surrey First Division, won the play offs and were promoted to the Hampshire/Surrey Regional League for 2010-11.

Football had a disappointing season and the 1st XI was relegated.

Cricket season 2010 proved satisfactory for all teams, with the 1st XI making a good, if inconsistent, start in Division 1 of the Surrey Championship. It was a great pleasure to see a number of new OW faces in the team and to read Surrey second XI team lists with **Laurie Evans** and **Freddie van den Bergh** both shown as "Old Whitgiftians Cricket Club". It is to be hoped that this success will attract more of the excellent cricketers produced by the School to the club. The 2010 Cricketer Cup showed how Whitgift can produce a genuinely competitive team as we reached the quarter finals for the first time in many years. Victories over Merchant Taylors and Dulwich (the latter by a resounding nine wickets) both featured centuries from **Laurie Evans**. Although we lost against a very good Wellington side in the third round, there are genuine hopes for further progress in future years. **Sam Woodward** (1996-2003) now on the School staff, has been a powerful influence in putting together a much stronger team.

We still await success in the Halford Hewitt golf competition. In 2010, our excellent team lost narrowly to Malvern in the first round. In the Grafton Morrish, another major old boys competition, we qualified for the 2009 final rounds as the sixth of nine qualifiers from the London region: we lost in the second round of the knock out stage to Glasgow Academy, the eventual runners up, but then were runners up to Oakham in both the Solihull Salver and Committee Bowl. Whitgift went to the finals of the 2010 competition as the leading qualifier from the London region but failed to progress. There was success, however, in the Solihull Salver and the Committee Bowl both of which were won.

Miscellaneous

Douglas Johnston (1956-64) reveals through *Friends Reunited* that, after leaving school and failing to get into the RAF, he spent "38 quite happy years sculling about in the nether regions of Croydon Council". Following retirement, Douglas married for the first time (gaining step-children) and now lives in a country village of 135 people in Normandy. He reports that "the efforts of Messrs Branston, Axton, and Percy to get some French into my skull were not entirely unsuccessful, and their efforts have certainly smoothed my path". Douglas goes on to say that "most of my adult life has been dominated by the theory and practice of target pistol shooting" and states modestly that he has been fairly successful, shooting in the World Championships of 1974 and 1986. He is now the *Armes Anciennes* pistol champion of the department.

The recent Daily Telegraph obituary of Simon Scrope had an interesting Whitgift slant. He was a member of the ancient Scrope family and his mother was an Egerton, daughter of the Earl of Ellesmere, and related to the current Duke of Sutherland. Other than the fact that the obituary is fascinating, particularly for those interested in heraldry, it recalls the School's most notable seventeenth century alumnus **Scrope Egerton, Third Earl and First Duke of Bridgewater**. A review of the obituary reveals clearly how the aristocracy/gentry ensure that their bloodlines are restricted!

Deeban Ratneswaran (1998-2006) led a group of medical students from King's College London in a research expedition which climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. The aim was to investigate the effects of low oxygen on the body and thereby to look to improvement in intensive care medicine: research has already been presented to national and European conferences. The Whitgiftian Benevolent Society made a contribution to the expedition costs.

Bob Stanley (1976-83), of the band *St Étienne* and now a regular writer in *The Times*, speculated in Times Two on why so many new band names “sound as if a cat has sat on the keyboard”. He points out that while the name of his band was easy to understand, based as it was on the dedication of its founders, **Pete Wiggs** (1976-84) and Bob, to *le football*, many others chose names that were unpronounceable while some like *The Pendletones* had to change their name - to the *Beach Boys* - before anyone would listen to their music.

Stuart Wynn (1997-2004) was a member of the Southampton University team in *University Challenge*. He scored most of his team's points but they did not progress to the next round.

An eagle eyed correspondent spotted an OW involvement in a recent television programme entitled *The Private Life of Pigs*. This programme featured an appearance by **Professor Donald Broom** (1953-61), the first Professor of Animal Welfare at Cambridge University and now an emeritus fellow of his college, St Catharine's.

If ever evidence was required for the power of the internet, the Editor's search for his old friend **Crawford Walker** (1955-59) provides it. Crawford moved with his family to Canada in 1959 when his father, a professor at London University, was appointed to a position in Edmonton, Alberta. After the usual desultory schoolboy correspondence withered, contact was lost for over fifty years despite some unsuccessful attempts at tracing him. Eventually an e-mail to Professor Walker's former department produced a positive reply and Crawford has been found. He has recently retired as a doctor and anaesthetist in Nova Scotia – a visit is being arranged.

The message is do not give up on trying to contact with those old friends, even though many years may have passed.

Deaths

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

ALLEN – On 18 October 2009, Hon Richard Anthony (1961-68), aged 59

BACON – In July 2008, Richard Anthony (1940-47), aged 78

BARNIKEL – In April 2009, John Neville (1933-38), aged 89

BEEK – On 20 February 2010, Canon Michael Peter (1938-45), aged 82, brother of DJ (1940-49)

BLAIR-FISH – On 8 September 2010, Canon John Christopher (1932-39), aged 90 brother of PR (1932-34)

BLICK – On 31 December 2008, Ian Hammond (1933-39), aged 86

COATMAN – In April 2009, Andrew Frederick (1975-81), aged 45

COOK – On 30 October 2009, Dennis Frederick Leat (1930-38), aged 80s

DAVIES – In January 2010, Allen James (1936-41), aged 80s

DOWNEY – On 14 February 2010, Air Vice-Marshal John Chegwyn Thomas, CB, DFC, AFC (1929-37), President OWA 1980-81, aged 89, brother of JTC (1929-32)

EVANS – On 29 January 2010, Peter Graham (1942-48), aged 78

FRANK – On a date unknown, Jonathan (1945-50), aged 70s

HAWES – On 25 August 2010, John Frederick (1942-46), aged 81

HOLLIDAY – In 2007, Basil George (1932-38), aged 87

HORE – In August 2009, Harold Richard (Staff 1970-1982), aged 89

JOHNSON – In August 2010, Neville (1932-39), aged 88

JORDAN – On 2 December 2009, George Henry Sydney (1929-37), aged 90

KOOYMAN – On 3 October 2010, John Anthony (1943-48), aged 78

LLOYD-WILLIAMS – In January 2010, Timothy Richard (1947-54), aged 70s

MANKTELOW – On 4 July 2010, David Brian Saxby (1940-48), aged 80, brother of Rt Rev MRJ (1938-45) and PAR (1942-49)

MARTIN – On 30 December 2009, Peter Francis (1936-39), aged 83, father of TP (1967-74) and IP (1971-78)

MELLOR – On 23 October 2010, Jeffrey Duncan (1927-36), aged 93, father of MJ (1962-69)

MILLER – In October 2010, John Rory Thomas (1959-66) aged 63, brother of DPH (1954-62)

MONK – On 5 July 2010, Rear-Admiral Anthony John, CBE (1933-40) aged 86 brother of LA (1932-40)

MORTON – In May 2010, Geoffrey Francis (1931-36), aged 90

MORTLEMAN – In 2008, John (1937-43), aged 83

NEWINGTON – On 21 October 2009, Maurice (1927-1934), aged 93

NOBLE – On 29 April 2010, James David (1998-2005), aged 23, brother of EH (1993-2000)

NUNN – On 14 January 2010, Arthur David (1950-59), aged 69, brother of CM (1953-58)

PULLEN – In January 2010, John Hindley Roberts (1937-43), aged 83

SAUL – On 19 January 2010, John Derek Gillert (1937-44), aged 83

SCHLAEFLI – On 18 May 2010, Lt Col Robin (1931-38), aged 89

SQUIBB – On 21 April 2010, David Philip (1946-53) aged 74, brother of JP (1943-49)

SHERMAN – On a date unknown, Nigel Anthony (1965-70)

STEPHENS - On 29 December 2009, John Richard (1950-56), aged 70

UWINS – In 1999, Stewart Edward (1942 – 1948), aged 68

WESTCOMBE - On 23 October 2009, Laurence Michael (1927-33), aged 93

WHEELER- In 2009, John James Buckerfield (1926-28), aged 96

WITH – On 18 March 2010, Patrick Thomas Miles (1931-38), aged 89

WOOD – On 23 May 2010, John Gifford, TD (1920-27), aged 99

WORSELL – On 19 June 2009, Cyril Samuel, TD (Staff 1941-1977), aged 96

Obituaries



Air Vice-Marshal John Downey (1929-37) - Spitfire pilot

Beginning his wartime career as a Coastal Command Spitfire reconnaissance pilot, John Downey progressed in 1943 to command Liberators, with which he served until the end of the war on operations including U-boat interdiction flights to protect the Normandy landings and, towards the end of hostilities, patrols off the Norwegian coast during which he and his crew attacked three U-boats.

In the immediate postwar period he and the crew of the Avro Lincoln Aries III, which he captained, hit the headlines for their circumnavigation of the globe, from a UK base via East Africa, Australia, Hawaii, the US, and Bermuda. In later staff and Ministry of Defence appointments he was involved in the many arguments and decisions about the shape and size of

Britain's air force in an age of shrinking defence resources and an increasingly polarised geopolitical scene.

John Chegwyn Thomas Downey was born in 1920 and educated at Whitgift School from where, after a brief flirtation with working in a bank, he joined the RAF on a short service commission in 1939. After basic training and a short spell with 208 (general reconnaissance) Squadron, flying Ansons, he was selected for photoreconnaissance in high-performance Spitfires, a job requiring superlative flying and navigation skills.

Based at St Eval, Cornwall, with a dispersed operational flight, he was involved in reconnaissance flights over Brest, where the German battlecruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau lurked behind their formidable anti-aircraft defences. With the Navy anxious to make sure that these two dangerous commerce raiders did not escape undetected, Downey was involved in almost daily low-level, high-speed — and highly dangerous — passes over them to obtain photographs.

A spell in Gibraltar followed where, in stark contrast, Downey found himself in charge of a flight of reconnaissance Swordfish, a biplane whose design and performance owed more to the First World War than the Second. After a period as an instructor of trainee navigators during 1942, Downey returned to the front line with 224 Squadron flying the Consolidated Liberator, one of Coastal Command's most formidable weapons in the battle against the U-boats, with its long range and good weapon load.

Based again at St Eval, Downey and his crew patrolled south of Brest in the days leading up to D-Day, June 6, 1944, to catch U-boats entering and leaving the Biscay ports. When D-Day itself loomed they were withdrawn to the Channel, flying at a few hundred feet above the water to act as a "cork" against any possible U-boat penetration of the invasion fleet. This was gruelling, unglamorous work, but prevention was the key, not exciting duels against individual submarines. No U-boats did in fact disrupt "Operation Neptune", the assault phase of the Normandy landings.

When the Allied armies became sufficiently established ashore not to be worried about the U-boat threat to their supply line, the Liberators of No 224 were redeployed to RAF Milltown on the Moray Firth, where they patrolled Norwegian coastal waters from the Norwegian Sea down to the Skagerrak. During the northern winter this meant flying up to 14 hours in darkness at only 500ft above the sea, but the Liberators took their toll of U-boats attempting to break out from Kiel and the Baltic. Downey and his crew attacked three U-boats, sinking one and damaging another. In 1945 he was awarded the DFC.

In 1946 he was granted a permanent commission. In 1949 he joined the staff of the RAF Flying College, Manby, Lincolnshire, a newly-created advanced tactical training establishment. It was from Manby that he took off the following October to captain the Lincoln Aries III on its global flight of 29,000 miles during which the London-Khartoum record was broken. For this Downey was awarded the Air Force Cross.

Among subsequent appointments he was head of the Near East Defence Secretariat in Cyprus, 1969-62, a period which saw the first of Iraq's threats to the sovereignty of Kuwait in 1961. When, after threats from Iraq's leader General Qasim, tanks massed on Kuwait's border that summer, Downey was at the heart of activating the contingency deterrence plan in which an armoured brigade group was staged by air and sea to Kuwait via Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus to join the Royal Marine commandos who had already landed there from the carrier Bulwark, at that time fortuitously in the area, on her way home from the Far East.

He retired as Deputy Controller of Aircraft Research and Development at the Ministry of Defence.

He is survived by his wife Diana, whom he married in 1941, and by a daughter and two sons.

Air Vice-Marshal John Downey, CB, DFC, AFC, Deputy Controller of Aircraft (C), Ministry of Defence, 1974-75, was born on November 26, 1920. He died on February 14, 2010, aged 89.

The Times, 2 April 2010, reproduced with permission

David Squibb (1946-53)

Inspirational music teacher who created and nurtured a boys' choir that became internationally acclaimed

David Squibb devoted his life and career to the promotion of music in schools and thanks to his talent, dedication and inspiration elevated the boys' choir at Trinity School in Croydon to international renown. He joined the school as director of music in 1964 and, in his 37 years there, he developed music to a level where the Trinity Boys' Choir was in constant demand for film and television work as well as concert appearances. Nor was this success earned at the expense of academic or sporting achievement.

David Squibb was born in Surrey in 1935 and educated at Collingwood School, Wallington and at Whitgift School, Croydon. Having been a prize-winning piano scholar at the Royal Academy of Music, he undertook National Service in the Royal Marines Band Service and in 1960 was appointed as the youngest professor at the Royal Marines School of Music, Deal. As a civilian, he had also worked as a freelance journalist, presenting a variety of radio programmes for the BBC.

Soon after taking up his position at Trinity, he founded and directed the boys' choir and its varied live performances included Christmas concerts at the Royal Festival Hall, the Proms and a long list of engagements at local, national and international venues.

The choir also amassed a formidable list of film and TV credits, including the soundtracks of films such as Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life* (1983), *A Christmas Carol* (1984), *Another Country* (1984), *The Last Days of Patton* (1986), *Lord of the Flies* (1990) and a remake of *101 Dalmatians* (1996).

The choir has an extensive discography of its own but can be heard with the National Philharmonic Orchestra on recordings of the operas *Mefistofele* and *La Bohème* and a number of other recordings, including Monty Python's *Contractual Obligation* album.

On television the Trinity Boys' Choir appeared in *Bing Crosby's Merrie Olde Christmas* in 1977, Crosby's final television appearance (David Bowie was also a guest) and in the song *Tomorrow Belongs to Me* for *Spitting Image's* general election night programme in 1987. It even featured in TV adverts for Birds Eye Peas and Hellmann's mayonnaise.

The children's opera *Bang!* (1975) was written for the choir by John Rutter, with whom Squibb and the choir worked many times, and its performance of Richard Rodney Bennett's children's opera *All the King's Men* was televised in the early 1970s. It later took part in professional operas at the Aldeburgh and Athens festivals and achieved particular acclaim in performing as the fairies in Benjamin Britten's adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Glyndebourne, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the English national Opera. As proof that other aspects of school life were not neglected, half of the strapping pack in the unbeaten rugby XV that year also sang in the fairies. The choir toured with Glyndebourne and performed at the Opéra Comique, Paris, the Aix-en-Provence Festival and in Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Squibb also fostered church music through Trinity Choristers, boys of the school who were members of their own church choirs, which held annual courses in cathedrals as well as singing in local churches. Trinity Choristers regularly performed in Christmas carol services broadcast by the BBC and Capital Radio in London.

In addition to choral music, he recruited talented musicians to the school staff to help him to establish a comprehensive structure for teaching and performing instrumental music. His own experience in the Royal Marines led him to found the Trinity School Concert band which, as well as playing regularly in theatres and concert halls, played to Christmas shoppers in Croydon every year.

Yet Trinity is not a specialist music school and throughout Squibb's time attracted pupils from a wide cross-section of the community. As the school's reputation grew, children from musical families were attracted but there was always a large contingent without any significant experience.

Squibb believed passionately that participation in music would benefit everyone, that the highest professional standards could be reached and that the disciplines learnt were of benefit to a pupil's total experience.

He directed his own church choirs, wrote reviews in music journals and for the local press while working to foster musical education wherever he could. In retirement, he became chairman of the Croydon Music Festival and regularly adjudicated at other festivals. During his holidays in the Dorset village of Glanvilles Wootton, he played the organ at the village church.

A few weeks before his death, a celebratory gathering to honour his work was held at the school. Half of the former pupils who gathered were professional musicians, including leaders and directors of national orchestras, solo instrumentalists, solo singers and directors of music at other schools.

He met his wife Shirley in Surrey in the early 1960s and they married in 1964. As a professional soprano soloist and former student of the Royal Academy of Music herself, she gave his career tireless support.

Away from music he had a lifelong passion for steam railways and was an enthusiast of the Great Western Railway. His office walls gave little indication of his musical achievements but displayed a certificate for driving a restored steam locomotive.

His wife predeceased him in 2002 and he is survived by three sons.

David Squibb, music teacher, was born on 28 November 1935. He died of cancer, aged 74, on 21 April 2010.

The Times, 26 May 2010, reproduced with permission

Jonathan Horne (1952-57)

Jonathan Horne, who died on June 25 aged 69, was an expert in English pottery and one of Britain's most successful dealers in ceramics, about which he wrote a number of books.

Starting from a market stall, Horne became one of the biggest dealers in English pottery, and a familiar figure at important antique fairs in London and New York. But he also cultivated the domestic market, attending smaller fairs in the English provinces. He drew on his profound knowledge of 17th- and 18th-century English and continental pottery known as delftware, itself a result of his own personal experiences of finding broken fragments of Staffordshire earthenware and stoneware. At his shop in Kensington, west London, he sold many of his own discoveries and his exhibitions, with their scholarly catalogues which were regarded as valuable

reference tools for the trade, attracted an annual pilgrimage by collectors and museum directors. At auctions Horne would watch the room, poker-faced, conveying his bid with the slightest twitch of a catalogue. John Sandon, Bonhams director of British and European ceramics, remembered that once Horne had reached his limit, "he just stood still and that was it; but whenever a really special piece came up Jonathan was rarely beaten".

Jonathan Kenneth Horne was born on November 13 1940 at Wadebridge, Cornwall, the son of the playwright Kenneth Horne, who had West End hits with comedies including *Love In a Mist* and *Fools Rush In*. When the family moved to



Croydon, Surrey, Jonathan attended Whitgift School. In 1953, when he was 13, he helped to excavate the remains of a Roman villa near his home, work that fostered his interest in history and archaeology. This interest deepened when he persuaded his first employers to dig beneath a property they were going to redevelop, and discovered some Roman pieces and fragments of delftware. He

started a collection, and abandoned a management training course at Selfridges in favour of making a living out of bygones and antiques. In 1968 he opened a stall at the market in Portobello Road, west London, selling general antiques and bric-a-brac, and in 1976 set up a small shop in Kensington Church Street, dealing in early metalwork, art works and carvings, but specialising in early English delftware and continental pottery, and particularly tiles. By then he had joined the British Antique Dealers' Association (Bada), and became its chairman in 2001, having led a successful programme to mark the millennium by encouraging antique dealers to participate in exhibitions. Horne believed such exhibitions allowed dealers to demonstrate their knowledge and enthusiasm, which in turn drew people into their shops.

In 2006, following the death of his friend and rival Alistair Sampson, Horne merged their two businesses, trading as Sampson and Horne from premises in Mount Street, Mayfair, before his own ill-health forced a move to a smaller shop in Brooks Mews. In 2008 his own exhibition, *Pirates of the East End*, featured artefacts recovered from the homes of 17th- and 18th-century privateers in Limehouse. He took a great interest in archaeological digs within the Square Mile of the City of London, and as Bada chairman attended banquets at the ancient headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, revelling in the medieval sound and spectacle of trumpets and drums.

For many years he was a member of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers, the Lord Mayor of London's personal bodyguard, and rose to the rank of Elder Drumbeater. His other offices included Freeman of the City of London, liveryman of the Stationers' Company and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He was a founder and vice-president of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology and, having helped establish a new City of London guild for scholars, historians and connoisseurs of the decorative arts in 2005, served as its Master in 2008. In the recent Birthday Honours he was appointed MBE for services to medieval English ceramics.

Jonathan Horne is survived by his wife, Rachael, and their three daughters.

Daily Telegraph 12 July 2010, reproduced with permission

Rear-Admiral Anthony Monk, CBE (1933-40)

Tony Monk, who has died at the age of 86, was a Vice-President of the OWA and a regular supporter of OW functions. He was a charming man, whose self effacing manner gave no indication of his distinguished service career. After leaving School he entered the Royal Naval College Dartmouth and, as an engineer officer, went on to RN Engineering College Keyham. He served in the Second World War in the Pacific Fleet and after the War undertook flying training and the Long Air Engineering Course at Cranfield. Much of his career was in the area of aircraft and carriers. From 1963-65, he was Assistant to the Director-General Aircraft and Squadron Engineer Officer Aircraft Carriers (in the rank of Captain from 1964). Further appointments led to roles as Director of Aircraft Engineering, Command Engineering Officer to Flag Officer Naval Air Command and Superintendent of the RN Aircraft Yard, Belfast. He received the CBE in 1973. In 1974 he was promoted Rear-Admiral and was Port Admiral Rosyth from 1974-76. His final Naval appointment, from 1976-78, was as Rear-Admiral Engineering to Flag Officer Naval Air Command. In retirement, he was for five years Director-General of the Brick Development Association and from 1984-87 Appeals Organiser of the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund.

Tony Monk is survived by his wife Elizabeth and by four sons; a daughter predeceased him.

Derek Saul (1937-44)

Derek Saul, who has died at the age of 83, was born in Purley in 1926. After School he went up to Hertford College, Oxford to read modern languages and then served for three years in the Royal Navy. Subsequently, he was articled to the firm of Cheesewright Murley and trained as a notary public. He did not choose to become a partner in the firm but instead became a freelance translator especially on legal matters for a range of clients including the United Nations. As a freelance, Derek travelled

extensively on United Nations matters particularly to New York, Geneva, Vienna and Delhi. Although he was a legal specialist he relied heavily on his linguistic abilities: he spoke Spanish, Portuguese, German and a number of Indian languages. Derek Saul was a polymath who advised the International Court of Human Rights in The Hague, he was a passionate lover of London who lived for over sixty years in W1 and also had a house in Sardinia. He enjoyed the company of a huge circle of friends around the world.

This appreciation comes from Colin Mead (1946-53) and other friends of Derek Saul.

John Gifford Wood (1920-27)

Gifford Wood was born in Streatham on 3 September 1910, his father being Assistant Metropolitan Electrician in what is now BT. He received his early education locally, moving on to Whitgift School, Croydon when he was 10. It was while he was there that his interest in music was kindled, encouraged by his father's purchase of a gramophone a few years later, and he sang in the school concert choir.

When he left school in 1928, Gifford spent a year teaching in a small school in Broadstairs, Kent before going up to St Peter's Hall, Oxford to study English, one of the first students to study there. Following his graduation in 1932, Gifford joined the staff of Monkton Combe Junior School, Bath where he taught a range of subjects and was Scoutmaster of the very successful 3rd Bath troop. At the outbreak of the War Gifford tried to enlist, but as a schoolmaster he was in a reserved occupation and was not able to do so until 1940. However he joined the Auxiliary Fire Service and the local Home Guard and spent many nights on the top of Brassknocker Hill.

Gifford joined the Royal Marines in September 1940, and following training, was posted to Egypt, travelling round the Horn rather than through the Mediterranean. After the Japanese joined the war, the regiment were posted to Ceylon, where Gifford was promoted to Captain. Early in 1944, after nearly 2 years in Ceylon, they returned home; on this occasion they took the shorter route through the Suez Canal and Mediterranean. During this leave he got engaged to Joyce Rogers whom he had met while teaching at Monkton Combe, where she was a housekeeper. His next posting was to N Europe following the Normandy landings. He was married on 19 April 1945 just before the end of the war.

Following demobilisation, Gifford moved to Tonbridge where he taught English and Geography at Tonbridge School for 26 years, during which time he was also involved in the CCF, latterly as CO, and was housemaster of Welldon House for 13 years. After his retirement, he continued to teach sixth form options in such diverse subjects as gardening, wine tasting and the history of the war and also taught Geography at Kent College.

In retirement he continued his interest in music, wine-tasting and gardening and played bridge on a regular basis. Gifford Wood died on 23 May 2010 under four months from his 100th birthday.

This appreciation comes from Miss Jane Wood, Gifford Wood's daughter.

David Manktelow (1940-48)

David was the second of three sons of the distinguished civil servant Sir Charles Manktelow who were at School in the 1940s. He was a keen cricketer and rugby player, Captain of Tate's house, a School prefect and CSM in the corps. After National Service in the army, he trained at the Royal Dick Veterinary College in Edinburgh and began practice at Market Rasen in Lincolnshire although his main work as a veterinary surgeon was based in Haverhill in Suffolk from which he retired in 1989.

For over thirty years David lived in Linton, Cambridgeshire, where he was known as a character with forthright views and a wicked sense of humour. Family and golf were his great interests: he took much pride in his two sons, Andrew (and orthopaedic surgeon in Nottingham) and Colin (an investment manager in Cambridge) and his six grandchildren, whilst he will long be remembered at Saffron Walden Golf Club for "the Manktelow shot" at the 18th hole!

He died of cancer, cheerfully, borne on 4 July 2010.

This appreciation of his brother comes from Bishop Michael Manktelow (1938-45).

Peter Evans (1942-48)

Peter (“Piggy”) Evans died on 29 January 2010 aged 79. He left School after taking his matriculation to work in a number of banks, including a spell in Kenya when a frequent companion was John Smiddy (1941-47). On retirement he settled in Essex and threw himself into community affairs becoming an active member of the Liberal Democrats and serving on their constituency committee. He was a parish and town councillor for over twenty years and for several years was a county councillor: he was Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford.

At School he showed some talent as a middle distance runner, a sport which he kept up after leaving. As his stamina reduced, he became a crafty table tennis player.

Throughout his life, Peter retained a deep interest in Whitgift affairs and frequently demonstrated an extraordinary memory of his fellow pupils. A name only had to be mentioned for an immediate response on the lines of “Smith, John Peter, 1944-50, Dodd’s, solicitor”. He rarely missed an East Anglian Group Dinner and, although his later years were troubled by ill-health, he retained his impish sense of humour and love of good wines.

This appreciation comes from Peter Evans’ friend and contemporary Roy Lewis (1941-50).

Lt Col R Schlaefli (1931-38)

Born in Streatham in December 1920, Robin spent his boyhood near Croydon, Surrey and was educated at Whitgift School where he learnt to play the flute and be part of the drum and fife band. In August 1940, he joined the Army as a private Soldier in the Essex Regiment and nine months later became a 2nd Lieutenant in the Queen’s Royal Regiment. Attached to the Indian Army from early 1942, he served with the MG Battalion 11th Sikh Regiment in India and in the 1944/45 Burma Campaign. There after a year as Adjutant, he became a Major commanding a Vickers machine-gun company and was mentioned in despatches.

After the War, he qualified as a teacher and was a Regular Officer in the Royal Army Educational Corps from 1953 to 1973. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1967, specialising in the resettlement of all ranks in the three services. His last Army appointment was Commandant of the famous Resettlement Centre in Aldershot, where students ranged in rank from Seaman to Admiral, with equivalents from the Army and Royal Air Force.

Teaching in State Secondary Schools and lecturing at the Junior Leader Regiment, RCT in Taunton was followed, in the four years before final retirement, by managing the Taunton Deane Youth Training Scheme for disadvantaged school leavers.

In his long retirement he has enjoyed singing with the Taunton Choral Society and Somerset Opera Group and has been a flautist with the Somerset Orchestral Society. Music has been an enduring love and he was a member of the Royal Choral Society previously for many years. His skill and love of writing led him to pen his early memories (some of his time at Whitgift) and life as a soldier in India and Burma in the published book, ‘Emergency Sahib’. He has given much pleasure to many in his joy and use of words.

Robin was a member of Gideons International. His Christian Faith was of prime importance and he had been a member of the Holy Cross Church Council which he had represented on the Wells Deanery Synod. He was ecumenical by nature and respected all of any faith with a personal and affectionate understanding for Sikhs.

He lived for 30 years in the village of Middlezoy on the Somerset Levels with his wife Delia, and leaves behind daughter Sarah, sons Max, Crispin and John, along with 4 grandsons and 3 granddaughters.

This appreciation comes from Robin Schlaefli’s widow, Mrs Delia Schlaefli.

Peter Martin (1936-39)

Peter Martin, who has died at the age of 83, was a consulting engineer. He founded, and was later Chairman of, BMMK & Partners, which was involved in engineering design and construction management in many parts of the world. His career as an engineer started with army service in the Royal Engineers, following which he obtained his degree at Imperial College London and then, in due course, became a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and an Associate Member of the Institution of Water Engineers. Peter's interests, both professional and social, were wide ranging. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Arbitrators, member of the Royal Engineers Association and sometime Chairman of the Blythe Sappers, a freeman of the City of London, liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers and a court member of the Worshipful Company of Constructors. For many years a resident of Sanderstead, he was active in the Residents' Association and an elder of the United Reformed Church. Whilst he travelled the world on business (many world trade missions, in particular with the World Health Organisation), he still managed to play golf and to ski, obtain a private pilot's licence and set new words to old music for the Church.

Peter was married to Ruth for 57 years. Their two sons, Tim and Ian were both followed their father at the School and their daughter, Sally, was at Croydon High.

This appreciation is based on details provided by Peter Martin's son, Ian (1971-78).

Laurence Westcombe (1927-33)

Laurence Westcombe was by profession an electronic engineer. After School he worked for Tannoy, which encouraged his early interest in radio. After his marriage in 1948, he joined Smith's Industries in Basingstoke where he specialised in quality control for aeronautical instruments. He developed numerous successful modifications to complex systems including the resolutions of problems that arose with aircraft auto-pilot instruments.

Laurence retired in 1981 and took up ballroom dancing for which he gained bronze, silver and gold awards. He spent many years tracing his and his wife's family trees in France and thus became something of an expert in translating old French.

Laurence died in October 2009 at the age of 93, leaving a wife, two children, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

This appreciation comes from Laurence's wife, Mrs Marcelle Westcombe.

Patrick With (1931-38)

Patrick With, who has died at the age of 89 was School Captain and captain of rugby. The War, in which he served as an officer in the army, ensured that he did not progress to Cambridge where he might reasonably have expected to win a Blue. Patrick played rugby for the OWRFC and always looked back with fondness on his days at School retaining many items of memorabilia including his captain's notebook detailing School matches and postcards relating to selection for important OWRFC matches against such sides as London Scottish and Wasps. These items will be added to the School archive.

Canon Michael Beek (1938-45)

Michael Beek, who was in Tate's house, went on from School to Emmanuel College, Cambridge and then to Lincoln Theological College. Ordained in 1952, he was a curate in Mitcham, became vicar of Higham and Merston in 1958 and Rector of Gravesend in 1966. Canon Beek was appointed Rural Dean of Gravesend and then of Tunbridge Wells and was an Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral. In 1983 he was appointed Vicar of St Peter and St Paul's, Bromley and retired in 1992. On moving to the Diocese of Norwich, he served as Rural Dean of Hertsmere from 1993-97.

George Jordan (1929-37)

George Jordan won a scholarship to the School, which he entered in 1929. He left in 1937 and joined the civil service in which he remained, except for wartime service as a navigator in the RAF, for his working life. During his career he took on roles of increasing responsibility and was involved in the start of using computers for office automation via LEO (Lyons Electronic Office) and operations research in industry. George led the team that negotiated independence for Malta and was part of teams that provided economic advice to Prime Ministers Wilson and Heath. He was Under Secretary to the Treasury.

George was a keen rugby player both at School and subsequently for the Civil Service. He later became a rugby referee. He travelled frequently to Australia and South Africa to watch cricket and rugby and was a member of Surrey CCC. George was an opera lover and a keen bridge player. His investigation into the history of the Jordan family back to the early 1600s became a published book and a fine legacy to his family.

This appreciation comes from George Jordan's nephew, Roland Ford.

David Nunn (1950-59)

Most of David Nunn's contemporaries will remember him very well as having one leg significantly shorter than the other and having to wear special boots with one made up with extra inches in order to balance him. This condition is easily corrected today but then it had to be endured. David did this remarkably well, ending up in the hockey 1st XI, playing on the left wing with considerable skill and determination. Despite this handicap he also managed to play the organ rather well and his friends will remember him playing his party piece, Karg Elert's Chorale Prelude on "Nun Danket all Gott", with some verve. He was in the Prefects' Room while Martin Osborne was Captain of School and left in 1959 to read German at King's College London.

After King's, during which time he had spent a year at Frankfurt am Main, he returned there to spend four years at the Interpreters' Institute, training translators and interpreters and teaching American and British history. In 1967, he accepted a research fellowship in lexicography at Bangor, and was soon appointed a lecturer in German. Along with a colleague he was able to introduce a new course covering linguistics, translation, interpreting modern German history, German politics and current affairs, and contemporary literature, all taught through the medium of German. He published two books. In 1995, he took early retirement on health grounds and first spent a year in Portugal, then taught German in Hiroshima and English in Thailand. However in 2001 he was diagnosed with cancer and returned to the UK, buying a flat in Cheltenham and undergoing major surgery in 2002. The operation was successful but the cancer then spread and his mobility was seriously impaired. He found being grounded a great frustration – having travelled so widely including countries behind the Iron Curtain and Brazil. He died in January 2010 at the age of 69.

This appreciation comes from David Nunn's friend and contemporary David Mash (1952-60). David Nunn, brother of Malcolm (1953-58), was the son of Arthur Nunn, Headmaster of Sherborne Preparatory School in Beddington which was the first school of many OWs in the 1950s and 60s.

Canon Christopher Blair-Fish (1932-39)

Christopher Blair-Fish left School in 1939 and went up to Lincoln College, Oxford as a scholar. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery during the War and was ordained and served as Vicar of St Mark's, Surbiton from 1955-72 and was Rector of Chipstead from 1973-89. He was also an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral from 1979-88. During his time in Surbiton he was much involved in the formation of a local branch of Samaritans in the Kingston area, whilst in Chipstead he was held in great affection as an active priest who developed one of the first Ministry Teams in the Diocese.

In his spare time he was a lover of the Scottish hills and mountains and was a Munro "Compleatist" (number 575 – 1988).

He died at the age of 90, after a long illness, on 8 September 2010.

Nigel Sherman (1965-70)

Nigel Sherman died some twelve years ago of a rare form of stomach cancer. News of his untimely death was recently received from his contemporaries Simon Allen (1964-72) and Colin McKinnon (1964-72). Simon summarises Nigel's life as follows: Nigel was a good squash player and a keen exerciser in the gym. As a drummer, he was keen on music of all kinds from Jethro Tull and Frank Zappa to Beethoven. He lived in Fulham with his partner Anne and they gave splendid dinner parties: Nigel was a gastronome with a great knowledge of wine. Nigel loved cinema, theatre, historical, political and classical books, all of which fed his love of political debate and a cynical sense of humour. He taught English as a foreign language and spent a third of each year in Italy: travel was important as was the world of fashion, particularly when it involved Paris, New York or Milan.

Correspondence

The report in the last issue of *OW News* about **David Talbot** (1949-54) and *The Second World War Experience Centre* archives elicited a letter from John Rogers (1942-50) who noted that one of David's interviews was with **John Chester** (Staff 1947-73) and recalled the latter's profound influence on him. John wrote of Chester's profound knowledge of German language and culture and mentioned that he also taught Russian to Vth Form linguists. It would appear that when Chester was given the task of interrogating Japanese prisoners of war, there was only one person who could teach him Japanese – a Russian woman living in Madras. Chester therefore took it on himself to learn Russian and Japanese simultaneously. John Rogers went on, thanks to Chester, to read German and Russian at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Rev Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne (1947-53) wrote in with a copy of his report on his 2009 visit to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in his role as adviser to the Melanesian Brotherhood, the largest religious order for men in the Anglican Communion, founded in 1925 by a Solomon Islander. Brian has written the history of the Brotherhood, of which he was Chaplain and Tutor from 1968-73, *The True Way of Service: the Pacific Story of the Melanesian Brotherhood 1925-2000*. Brian's month long trip seems to have been challenging as he travelled extensively by land, sea and air round the South Seas.

If you read *The Times* diligently you are not likely to go long without seeing a letter from **Richard Tweed** (1954-61), certainly one of the most frequent correspondents on that celebrated letters page: whatever the subject Richard has an opinion, expressed in a pithy style which suits editorial requirements. We look forward to the collected "thoughts of Tweed" being published in a handy volume!

Another regular correspondent in *The Spectator* and *The Times* is **Dr Peter Urben** (1956-64). Most recently he has addressed the vexed subject of Mozart's nationality.

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.

