

# OLD WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



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## OLD WHITGIFTIAN NEWS 2010-2011

*“Quod et hunc in annum vivat et plures”*

### FROM THE EDITOR...

THIS is the sixth edition of Old Whitgiftian News and it takes us through the OWA and School year from September 2010 to the end of August 2011 and then adds a few subsequent items that might otherwise slip through the net. OWs interested in regular information on the School's progress should also look at the newsletter, *Whitgift Life*, which is available on the School website ([www.whitgift.co.uk](http://www.whitgift.co.uk)).



Those readers who visit the website will see prominently displayed the comment of Sir David Attenborough made when he visited the School – “You have an astonishing School” and the year 2010-11 certainly demonstrated the aptness of his observation. Success on the sports field, crowned by being voted Independent Sports School of the Year for the second successive year, was matched by achievements in the arts and music and in academic attainment. In the increasingly competitive environment of university entrance it was encouraging to note that Whitgift outstripped its local rivals in Oxbridge entrants for 2011 and was significantly more successful than most of those schools in the rest of the country with a strong academic tradition. A recent issue of *The Harrovian*, the excellent magazine of Harrow School, rightly praised the achievements of the six old boys who are currently playing first class cricket and indicated that this was without current rival. Well, Whitgiftians will be pleased to know that Harrow does have a rival – Messrs Spriegel, Roy, Lancefield, Burns and van den Bergh with Surrey and Evans with Warwickshire can match them.

It was a delight to see that 2012 started with a revival of the idea of a new Royal Yacht to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Alice Thompson of *The Times* noted that there was

already a suitable design (FSP21 – Future Ship Project of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) for a 650ft sailing vessel. The designer is none other than naval architect **Colin Mudie** (1936-39). If you want something done, and done well, then you need an OW!

Many OWs took the opportunity to be at Twickenham in early April to see the School win the Daily Mail Under18 Cup for the second successive year, despite pre match injuries preventing two schoolboy international players from taking part. Once again, the efforts of **Sam Barke** (2000-05) and his team in arranging for so many OWs of all generations to be at the ground (and the pre and post match festivities) should be mentioned.

Most OWs will have read, and many have voted, on the proposals for reform of the OWA. The modernisation of the OWA that is being set in motion reflects a long period of careful thought by a number of very dedicated OWs. The aim is to provide an alumni organisation which can meet the requirements of the 21st century without diluting the strengths of the OWA developed over a century and more.

OW News reports on the many successes of OWs in public life and notes 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:clubhouse@owa.org)).

*Nigel Platts*

### OWA OFFICIALS 2010-11

President: I B Flanagan, OBE, Senior Vice-President: P G Burley, Chairman: N Somers, Deputy Chairman: S G Woodrow,  
Hon. Secretary: D G Pearce, Hon. Treasurer: J S Straw  
Elected Members of Committee: Dr S J Barke, R C Blundell, K Hopkins, J D C Pitt, Editor of OW Newsletter: R C Blundell  
Editor of OW News: N L Platts

# PRESIDENTS

## IAN FLANAGAN & PIP BURLEY

The President for 2010-11 has been **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. He is a member of Tandridge Golf Club and of the OW Golf society.



The President for 2011-12 is **Pip Burley** (1954 - 1962). Although he studied science and maths at school and was set to attend Bristol University to study engineering, he had a late change of heart, embarking instead upon a career spanning music, marketing, advertising, publishing and broadcasting. He has founded three companies including most recently Excelsior, best known for its television dramas *The Darling Buds of May* and *A Touch Of Frost* starring David Jason and *My Uncle Silas* with Albert Finney. In 1992 he composed the music for *The Darling Buds of May* for which he received an Ivor Novello Award. Pip has been involved with the Variety Club since 1995, is a keen member of the Variety Club Golf Society and was Chief Barker in 1999, the charity's 50th Anniversary year. He captained the Old Whitgiftian Golfing Society in 2006-7 and is currently Chair of Governors at the Quest Academy in Selsdon.

## HOW IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF OUR FOUNDER...

*The Times* of 1 June 2011 records that "On this day – in 1599, Archbishop Whitgift and Richard Bancroft, Bishop of London, ordered that a collection of satirical books, including titles by Christopher Marlowe and Thomas Nashe be burnt."

It is worth noting that in 1592, Nashe was part of Whitgift's household in Croydon and there wrote an entertainment called *Summer's Last Will and Testament*. The subsequent burning of his works suggests that the need to keep on good terms with your employer was as powerful then as now.



Thomas Nashe

# REUNIONS



Mollie Percy with her grandsons

There was a very special event on 9 February 2011 when a large gathering met at School for a dinner to honour the memory of **Freddie Percy** (1922-30), that unique Whitgiftian. There were speeches from **Nigel Platts** (1955-64), **John Branston** (Staff 1956-97) and **Tony Percy** (1956-65) but the high point was the graceful speech of thanks from Mollie Percy.



The Annual Dinner was held at the School where a large number, including a good sprinkling of younger members,

enjoyed delicious food (the days of Ma Henry's school lunches are long gone). There were speeches by **Lord Peter Bowness** (1954-61), Dudley Mead (Old Mid Whitgiftian and Foundation Governor), The President **Ian Flanagan** (1948-54) and the Headmaster, who had the opportunity to give an astonishing overview of the remarkable achievements of the School.



Reunions on Remembrance Day in November 2010 and 2011 were very successful – despite that for 2010 being subject to heavy rain, which forced the service to be moved into Big School.



Regional dinners were held by the East Anglia group in Cambridge (Peterhouse – 2010 and Queens' College -2011) and in Lewes by the Sussex group. These events were organised by respectively **John Humphries** (1948-56) and **Alan Cowing** (1953-59).



Regular reunions of School generations at Croham Road continue to attract a good response, particularly from the older OWs. The dinners of the sports clubs remain well attended and attract high profile speakers – the 2011 OWCC Dinner enjoyed a speech from Graham Gooch. **Dr Peter Warren** (1947-56) reports that the Upper Fifth of 1952-53 enjoyed a 58<sup>th</sup> reunion attended by eleven of the twenty one remaining members of that form – they look forward to a 60<sup>th</sup>



PREFECTS (1961-62) REUNION, 19th November 2011

*From left on back row:* Peter Souster, Gordon Brackstone, Iain Aitken, Don Broom, Derek White, Jim Houston, Allan George, Nigel Carter, David Goodwin, Richard Nelmes, David Penfold *From left on front row:* Richard Elliott, Malcolm Newton, John Higham, Paul Hooper, Robert Kibble, Richard Hunt, Michael Stoddart, Bruce Claxton

anniversary reunion (before which a number of Golden Weddings will have been celebrated). In late 2010, **Roy Lewis** (1941-50) was the organiser of the regular reunion of the 1948-49 Prefects which was hosted at School by the Headmaster. There was an excellent turnout of former Prefects and partners (and apologies from a number who were unable to attend) and all were particularly delighted to be joined by Mollie and Michael Percy.



Two other reunions are worthy of especial note – leavers of 1981 staged a cricket match at Croham Road on 6 July 2011 (the intention had been to play rugby but commonsense and rheumatism prevailed) and over forty OWs in their late 40s (some of whom had travelled from as far afield as Germany, USA and New Zealand) enjoyed a convivial day organised by **Ian Phipps** (1973-81) and **Ian Priest** (1973-81).



Then, on 19 November 2011, there was a 50th Anniversary Reunion for the Prefects of 1961/2. In what is becoming something of an annual tradition, nineteen of the Prefects from the 1962 vintage assembled at a pub in Belgravia, London, for a most enjoyable luncheon meeting. “Most of us had not seen each other for 50 years, so after the normal politeness of: ‘You haven’t changed a bit’, ‘Yes, you liar!’, we proceeded to swap tales about our lives and our fond

memories of Whitgift. Attendees had come from Australia, Spain, Canada, USA, Scotland and from much closer to town, of course, to attend this reunion.

We had amongst us a number of distinguished academics, businessmen, lawyers, accountants, publishers and some folks who had lived in Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan, Brazil, Malaysia and Australia – we had begotten over 40 children (with the former head boy, Robert Kibble, even having a 10 year old son), 23 grandchildren and still counting. We held a quiz about trivia facts from our biographies, with the winner getting a prize of a silver engraved pill box – rather than the “silver spoon” that we all agreed we had started out our lives with by virtue of our attendance at Whitgift. We shared some insights into what the school had meant to us – overall we determined that we were a pretty good lot who overall had led rich and productive lives. There were some heartfelt acknowledgements that we owed much of our good fortune to our grounding at Whitgift and our interaction with colleagues there. There appeared to be much goodwill to the concept that we could perhaps all do more, either collectively or individually, in “giving back” to the current student body. Any readers who would like to view a video of the occasion please put <http://gallery.me.com/robertfk1#100000> into your browser, and watch what a bunch of Whitgift prefects look and behave like approaching 70 years of age!”

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

# OWS IN THE NEWS



## SCOURGE OF THE TALIBAN

**Lt Col James Coates OBE** (1981-88) was named by The Daily Telegraph as one of its Top Ten Britons of 2011. James, described as “scourge of the Taliban”, had a high profile part in operations in Afghanistan for which he was honoured with the award of an OBE in the September 2011 Operational awards list. The Daily Telegraph “citation” read as follows:

“The Taliban were firmly entrenched in the Nad-e-Ali district of Helmand, with the population cowed and British soldiers confined to moving within a few hundred yards of their bases, when Lt Col James Coates took over the area. The commanding officer of 3 Para introduced a new tactic called “precision strike”, combining high level intelligence, CCTV camera surveillance and the use of precision missile attacks to wipe out Taliban command while causing minimal civilian casualties. In the coming months, the formerly fractious area will be handed over to Afghan control. British success attracted a host of inspecting VIPs. It was, said Gen David Petraeus, ‘a most impressive way to do business’. Precision strike is now used across Afghanistan.”

## FACE OF THE GAMES

In the year in which the Olympics Games take place in London there are high hopes that Whitgiftian interests will be represented by **Laurence Okoye** (2003-10), already a champion discus thrower (see sport) and featured as a “Face of the Games” where he has been photographed with the Houses of Parliament in the background in the pose of the celebrated Greek sculpture, the *Δισκοβόλος* (*diskobolos*) of Myron.



## THE CULTURAL OLYMPIAD

In addition to the Games, there will also be a “Cultural Olympiad”. **Anthony McCall** (1956-64), a leading New York based *avant-garde* artist, has been awarded £500,000 to create a work (“*Column*”) consisting of a spinning column of cloud in Birkenhead which will be visible up to 100 km away. Anthony McCall is known for his ‘solid-light’ installations, a series that he began in 1973 with his seminal *Line Describing a Cone*, in which a volumetric form composed of projected light slowly evolves in three-dimensional space. Occupying a space between sculpture, cinema and drawing, his work’s historical importance has been internationally recognized in such exhibitions as *Into the Light: the Projected Image in American Art 1964-77* at the Whitney Museum of American Art. McCall’s work is represented in numerous collections, including, amongst others, Tate, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, SFMoMA, Musée National d’Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, and the Hirshhorn, Washington DC.

## A FAMILIAR VOICE OF SPORT

It was a sad day for his many devoted listeners when Whitgift’s greatest sportsman (well, sporting announcer), **Tim Gudgin** (1944-48) read the football results for the last time on 19 November 2011. Tim has been the voice of football results for 16 years and prior to that of rugby union and racing since 1975. At the age of nearly 82, Tim has retired from a broadcasting career that has lasted over 60 years. Other than football results, Tim was known for as his time with *Top of the Form*, a children’s general knowledge quiz, *Housewives’ Choice* and the quiz programme *Quote...Unquote*. In pre Dimpleby days Tim also chaired *Question Time*. In the words of Gary Lineker, Tim has been “one of the most familiar voices in sport” and “a quintessential part of Saturday afternoons in this country”. Tim was toasted by OWs at the Sportsman’s Lunch that preceded the Dulwich match on the day of Tim’s last broadcast.



## A GREAT HOPE FOR BRITISH MUSIC

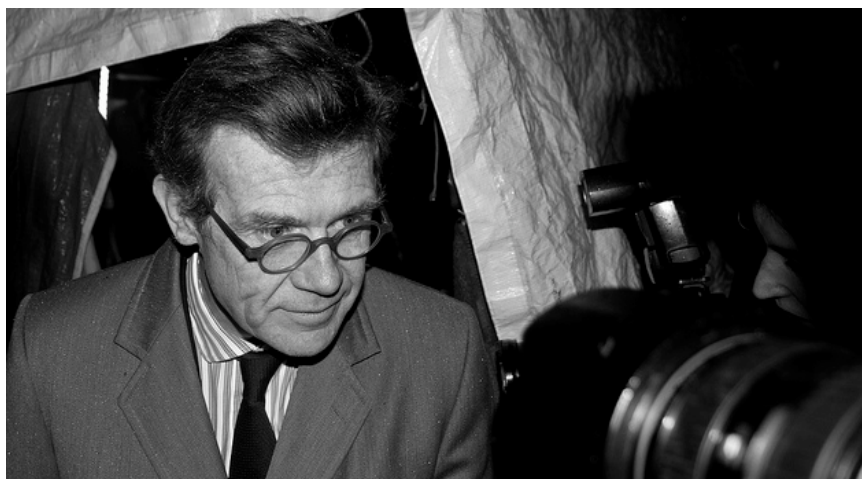
The remarkable career of **Tarik O'Regan** (1989-96) continued with the world première of his chamber opera *Heart of Darkness* at the Linbury Studio Theatre of the Royal Opera House. The opera attracted comments like “audacious”, “a taut evening of music theatre” and the music was described as having “startling beauty”. Tarik was described by the *Daily Telegraph* as “one of the great hopes for British music in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”



**Dr Stephen Gunn** (1971-78) of Merton College, Oxford, who delighted a large OW audience when he spoke about life in Tudor England after the special OW tour of the Mary Rose Exhibition in 2009, has recently been in the news with two well publicised pieces of research. In June 2011, Stephen revealed that Tudor coroners' records gave evidence of a story that could be the real life inspiration for Shakespeare's Ophelia. Jane Shaxspere, possibly a cousin of William, drowned after falling into a millpond near Stratford upon Avon while picking flowers. Stephen Gunn says there are "tantalising" links to Ophelia's drowning in *Hamlet*. This is not the only theory advanced by Stephen Gunn since there is also the story of Katherine Hamlet, who drowned in the River Avon some ten years after Jane Shaxpere. Further publicity for Stephen Gunn's researches, this time into accidental deaths in Tudor England, appeared in *The Times* in December 2011 which revealed that football was second only to

archery as a cause of death – football was, in those days, a violent game with dozens of players per side, "more a fight than a game" in the words of one Tudor author.

**Jeremy Sams** (1967-74), who is enjoying great success as the director of Andrew Lloyd Webber's production of *The Wizard of Oz* at *The London Palladium*, has created a new opera *The Enchanted Island* which collates arias, recitatives and other material mined mostly from Handel, with excursions into Vivaldi, Purcell and the French baroque (Rameau, Couperin, Leclair and Campra), and adds his own original text in verse. The opera is based on the premise that four characters from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are shipwrecked on the island in *The Tempest* and is presented as a Broadway show with baroque music. The première at New York's Metropolitan Opera took place on New Year's Eve 2011 with a cast including Placido Domingo. In June 2012, Jeremy will direct his new translation of Offenbach's *La Périchole* at Garsington Opera.



**Sir Keith Lindblom, QC** (1966-74) was the High Court judge given the task of considering the legal position of anti-capitalist protestors encamped outside St Paul's Cathedral while **Sir Jeremy Cooke, QC** (1959-65) heard the case of the Pakistani cricketers prosecuted for match fixing.



## HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS



*New Year's Honours List 2011 - CMG* – **Simon Featherstone** (1969-76), currently High Commissioner to Malaysia, for his work as Director, Shanghai Expo 2010

Queen's Birthday Honours 2011 – CBE - **District Judge Philip Waller** (1964-71), Senior District Judge Family Division, for services to the administration of justice.

Operational Awards September 2011- OBE – **Lt Col James Coates** (1981-88), Officer Commanding 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Parachute Regiment – for services in Afghanistan.

New Year's Honours List 2012 – MBE – **John Coatman** (1952-59), former Headmaster of St Andrew's Church School, Croydon and Leader Urban Saints Youth Group Croydon – for services to young people.

**Christopher Trott** (1976-84), formerly Ambassador to Senegal, Mali, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, is now Consul-General in Cape Town. One of the highlights of his service in West Africa was receiving honorary citizenship of Timbuktu.

**Steffan Griffiths** (1982-90) – formerly Usher (Second Master) at Magdalen College School, has become Headmaster of Norwich School with effect from September 2011. Among the Governors of Norwich School is the **Very Reverend Graeme Smith** (1959-66), Dean of Norwich.



**Professor Andrew Chesher, FBA** (1960-67), Professor of Economics at University College London, has been elected a Foreign Honorary member of the American Economic Association. Foreign Honorary membership is restricted to 40 economists.



**Professor Ian Graham** (1958-63)

has been awarded an honorary fellowship at Trinity College Dublin. Ian Graham is Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine in Trinity College, Dublin, Professor of Preventive Cardiology in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Head of Cardiology and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Management

at the Adelaide and Meath Hospital incorporating the National Children’s Hospital in Dublin. He is President of the Adelaide Hospital Society. He is presently Chairperson of the Fourth Joint European Societies’ Task Force on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Clinical Practice and of the European Prevention Implementation Committee.

Prof Graham qualified in medicine at Trinity College, Dublin. He trained in the Adelaide and St. Vincent’s Hospitals in Dublin, and at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, England. He held the post of MRC Research Fellow and, later, Director of Research at St. Vincent’s Hospital and was also Director of Research at the Irish Heart Foundation. He is past president of the Irish Heart Foundation, the Irish Hyperlipidaemia Association, and of the Dublin University Biological Association. He founded the Irish Cardiac Surgery Register.

Awards and distinctions have included a Medical Research Council Fellowship, an ISFC Cardiovascular Epidemiology Fellowship, the first Stokes Lectureship in Dublin and an EU Travelling Fellowship in echocardiography at Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Fellowships of the European Society of Cardiology and of the American College of Chest Physicians.

Prof Graham is project leader for the EU Concerted Action Project, "Homocysteine and Vascular Disease", and of the EU Concerted Action SCORE (Systemic COronary Risk Evaluation) Project. He also participated in the EU Concerted Action Project "Common Standards in Computerised Electrocardiography (CSE)". He is a co-author of the current European Joint Recommendations on the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in Clinical Practice. He is a member of the Organising committee of the EuroASPIRE III audit, and of the EuroAction prevention demonstration project.

Prof Graham’s main research interests are in the natural history of coronary heart disease, cardiovascular risk prediction, the evaluation of therapies and defining the aetiological role of new risk markers. He has written extensively in these areas.

**Neil Gaiman** (1974-77) was awarded the CILIP Carnegie Medal for 2010 for *The Graveyard Book*. The Carnegie Medal is the most prestigious UK award for children’s literature and has been awarded annually since 1936. Previous winners include such distinguished authors as Arthur Ransome, Philip Pullman and Sir Terry Pratchett. This is a remarkable achievement, since Neil had previously

received the 2009 Newbery Medal, the US equivalent of the Carnegie Medal, for the same book. This is the first time that any author has achieved this double award. As if these awards are not enough, the book also won the Locus young adult award, the Hugo best novel prize and the Booktrust teenage award. When asked what winning means to him, Neil Gaiman commented: “For my seventh birthday I was given a boxed set of the Narnia Books by CS Lewis. The last of them, *The Last Battle* had the words ‘Winner of the Carnegie Medal’ on it. I did not know what the Carnegie Medal was, but I knew it was something important. It was the first literary award I had ever heard of. And if the Narnia books had won it, then it had to be the most important literary award there ever was. Somewhere deep inside me, but not too deep, a seven-year old version of me is amazed and delighted that he’s written a book that was given the most important literary award there ever was. And nothing you can say about Bookers or Nobels or Pulitzers will convince him otherwise.” As if this was not enough, Neil has also written a recent episode of *Dr Who!*



Neil Gaiman was not the only OW award winner in the area of children’s literature. **Martin Cleaver** (1961-68) received the 2011 Marsh Award for Children’s Literature in Translation for his translation from the Dutch of *Letters to Anyone and Everyone* by Toon Tellegen. The award has been made every two years since its inauguration in 1996 and recognises the translation of an outstanding work of fiction for young readers. It is sponsored by the English Speaking Union. In Martin’s own words “after a long and winding road in communications that finally brought me to the craft of translation, it has been recognised that I do, on occasions, even display some talent in this field”.

**Alastair Lack** (1955-63) is one of thirteen individuals who received the Distinguished Friend of Oxford Award in September 2011 in recognition of their work as exceptional volunteers for the benefit of the collegiate university. Alastair was for a number of years Secretary of the Oxford Society, is a Blue Badge Guide to the City of Oxford and remains a long serving committee member of the MCC.

**Dr Anthony Gaston** (1957-63) – Anthony Gaston, Senior Research Scientist, Environment Canada, has spent nearly forty years as a zoologist in Canada after periods at Cambridge and then Oxford Universities. The principal focus of his career has been study of long-term demographic and behavioural studies of seabirds and he has written four books and countless papers on the subject. He has also

trained many young scientists at Ottawa and Memorial Universities. He is a member of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as a bird specialist and has been a consultant to the Wildlife Institute of India and the World Bank, addressing resource management challenges in India. Anthony received the Doris Huestis Spiers award for 2007 for his outstanding contributions to Canadian ornithology.

**Andy Duncan** (1973-80), formerly of Channel Four and H R Owen plc, has been appointed chief executive of Camelot Group plc, the operator of the National Lottery.



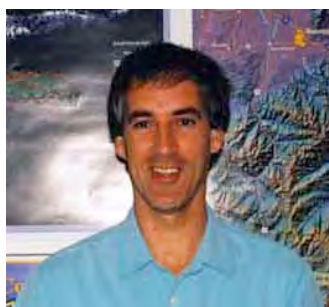
**Andrew Carr-Locke** (1966-71) – formerly Group Finance Director of George Wimpey plc, is Executive chairman of Countryside Properties plc. He is also a non-executive director at Dairy Crest Plc and has previously held non-executive directorships at Royal Mail Holdings, Venture Production and AWG.

**Brian** (1946-53) and **Alan Stannah** (1949-58) welcomed The Prince of Wales to their company where he congratulated them on the production of their 500,000<sup>th</sup> stair-lift and received two examples for his charities.

The election of **Councillor Geoff Austin** (1958-66) as Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Kingston upon Thames, reported previously in OW News, prompted congratulations from **Councillor Stephen Hill** (1962-70) and the news that he is Deputy Mayor of Farnham.

#### **Dr Richard J. Aspinall**

(1966-74) is Director of the Macaulay Land Research Institute and an Honorary Professor in the School of Geosciences at the University of Aberdeen. Richard was formerly Chair of Arizona State University's Department of Geography. Prior to his period in Arizona he was at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, where he was a tenured Professor of Geography in MSU's Department of Earth Sciences as well as Director of the Geographic Information and Analysis Center.



Richard has had a remarkable career both in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. He received his B.Sc. from the University of Birmingham and his Ph.D. from the University of Hull, and spent the first 15 years of his professional career in Hull, Newcastle and Aberdeen. During these years, he developed an expertise in the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing. He went to the U.S. in 1997 to join the faculty of MSU and begin a three year Research Fellowship in Yellowstone Ecosystem Studies in Bozeman, Montana. From 2001 to 2003 he was Director of the Geography and Regional Science Program at the National Science Foundation.

Richard's work includes the investigation of physical environmental processes and geographic patterns in wildlife-habitat relationships and conservation evaluation, assessment

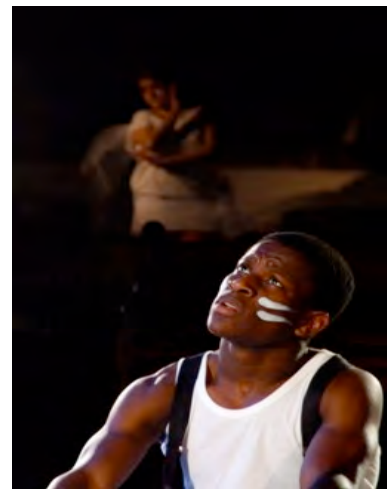
of possible impacts of environmental change on land use, modelling and evaluation of land cover and land use change, resource assessment for land use planning at a range of scales and development of the application of spatial analysis in environmental and socio-economic modeling. Richard also studies some of the basic scientific issues associated with GIS, including data quality, error analysis, and the integration of environmental models with GIS. His research and publications have won him many awards including the Hammer Award from the National Partnership for Reinventing Government for his innovative use of GIS data.

**Dr James Kitchen** (1995-2002) formerly of the Department of War Studies of King's College, is now a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at University College, Dublin.

#### **Ssegawa-Ssekintu**

##### **Kiwanuka**

(1997-2005) was recognised as the UK's most outstanding black student. After a reception where he received his award from London Mayor Boris Johnson, he said "This was a surprise and great honour, not just for me personally, but also for the University, as I have been here since I was an undergraduate. I've been fortunate



enough to have achieved a lot, but I have also had people along the way who have seen something in me and taken a chance. It is true that certain groups have historically been under represented, but this should not be confused with undervalued. I was black when I was offered a place at Cambridge six years ago, I was black when I was given the opportunity of a PhD by my Master's supervisor and unsurprisingly still black and proud to be at Cambridge. I really hope more people from all types of backgrounds apply and see what the number one university in the world has to offer them." While studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as part of a one-year exchange programme with Cambridge University he decided to make the most of other opportunities available to him in the United States. He exhibited his photography in a Boston museum and spent a month in Haiti researching the possibility of using sugar cane charcoal as an alternative fuel; his market research was later used to help win the MIT \$100,000 Entrepreneurship Competition in 2007, as well as the \$200,000 World Bank Global Development Marketplace Competition in 2008. Subsequently he became the youngest ever nominee at the global Institution of Chemical Engineers Awards in 2010 and was awarded third place in the Young Engineer of the Year category. In March 2011, he was also featured in TCE – the UK's most widely read magazine for the chemical and process industries. Despite his stellar academic record and the demands of maintaining it, he was also able to find time for boxing, for which he received a blue and became captain of the university club. His performance as Puck in Shadwell Opera's Edinburgh Fringe Festival version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* received rave reviews, while he is also the

lead vocalist in the “classical-meets-hip-hop-meets-dance outfit” *Clean Bandit*. In his view, "If you are going to do something in life, you've got to do it and want to make an impact."

## THE SERVICES

**Brigadier Rudi Wertheim** (1967-75), late Queen’s Royal Lancers, has been appointed Military Adviser in Islamabad from March 2012.

**William (Billy) Hall** (1999-2006) was awarded the sword of honour on passing out first from the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre at Lympstone in December 2010. The passing out parade was held on the same day as his brother won his Cambridge blue for rugby (see sport).

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS WITH A WHITGIFTIAN INTEREST

**Grant Eustace** (1954-62) - *A Traveller’s Notebook*.

This is a travel book with a difference. This is not a destination book focussing on one specific place or culture. Nor is it a book about one particular journey or expedition. Instead, this book is about the travels over many years by writer Grant Eustace. This is Grant Eustace’s third full-length book, but his long writing career spans virtually every form of the spoken and written word. He has 23 radio plays, series and serials to his credit, and his work ranges from articles to film.

This is a gripping book to read as it recounts events and experiences from many years of travel and Mr Eustace is able to bring examples from two or three different countries for every topic he covers. As an example, when looking at the relatively simple process of checking into a hotel, Mr Eustace tells of his experience of being ignored in Germany, declined in the Czech Republic, taking the French by surprise, insulted in England and greeted by an almost robotic welcome in China.

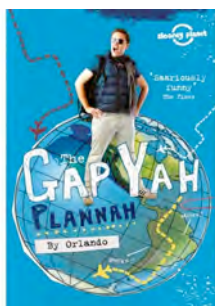
The book flits from country to country, year to year but gives you a true insight into the world of travel and lets you know that being a travel writer or a writer about travel is not quite as glamorous as one would assume.

It is ideal for those with a keen interest in travel, cultures or the wider world. This is a book of experience written by an observer who travels with his eyes wide open and spots what others dismiss.

This review is taken from the *Burton Mail*.

**John Henty** (1946-52) has written a children’s book *Cheshire the Cheese Loving Bear*. His book incorporates a CD narrated by **Martin Jarvis OBE** (1953-60). Proceeds from sale of the book will all go to the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

**Mike Upton** (1953-61) has continued to produce novels – two were published in 2010 and his latest, *Vortex Rising*, in 2011; his eighth novel will be available in late summer 2012.



**Matt Lacey** (1997-2004) – Not content with being a YouTube hit with over 4m hits, Matt Lacey has cajoled his *alter ego* Orlando (“the most popular Sloane since Princess

Diana” according to the BBC) into writing a guide book called *Gap Yah Plannah* described by *The Times* as “saariously funny” and by *The Sun* as “hilarious”.

**Dr Martin Hoyle** (1950-59) is the author of *Six Million Steps*, the account of his walk from his home in Shenfield, where he was a GP, to Jerusalem, a matter of 3,235 miles which he completed in stages over 12 years between 1986 and 1998. Martin published his story in November 2010 to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## SPORT

**Laurence Okoye** (2003-10) made an astonishing break through into senior athletics by breaking the British record for the discus (67.63 metres) and then going on to win the gold medal in the European Under-23 Championships. Laurence did not achieve selection for the World Championships but he remains an outstanding prospect for the 2012 and subsequent Olympics.

It is appropriate to continue with another OW national champion, this time in golf. In early July, **Neil Williams** (1986-90), a regular member of our Halford Hewitt team, won the English Mid Amateur Championship.

A spectacular eagle-birdie finish saw Neil crowned champion at a sun-drenched Ipswich Golf Club at Purdis Heath as he posted a closing 68 for 206, seven under par, and a three-stroke winning margin. “It’s overwhelming,” said Williams. “I’m staggered by it all. I didn’t know I had that finish in me but winning a national title will be something to remember for a long time.” Neil started the final day a shot behind overnight leader Danny Curtis, his playing partner in the final game, and fell further behind with a bogey-five at the first. “It was just nerves but I got it back with a birdie at the second,” he added. Out in 35, Williams suddenly found himself ahead as Curtis was going backwards with two double-bogeys and a bogey in an outward 39. But with another player having set the bench mark at four under with his 64, Williams knew what he had to do. “I found out on the 16<sup>th</sup> tee that a 64 had been recorded which meant I had to birdie one of the last three holes,” added Williams. “I found sand at the 16<sup>th</sup> and made par but I knew I had a chance at the long 17<sup>th</sup>. I hit three-wood, something I’d done all week, then six-iron to 18 feet and made it for eagle. A birdie at the last put the icing on the cake in only his second appearance in the championship and came after a somewhat nervous start. “I was hitting it dreadfully on the range this morning and it wasn’t helped by the three putts on the first,” added Williams, “but I’m really chuffed. I felt I could compete and I had a chance if I could produce my best game.”

**Andrew Stracey** (1965-72), another Halford Hewitt stalwart, is also an OW golfing champion, winning the 2012 President’s Putter, which is contested at Rye every January. On three occasions in the past he has been runner-up, but this time, at the age of 58, he became the oldest ever winner of this prestigious competition for former Oxford and Cambridge golf blues. In 2011, Andrew was runner-up in the Welsh Seniors tournament and again represented England in the Seniors Home Internationals.

**Elliott Daly** (2006-11) and **Marland Yarde** (2008-10) both played in the England Under-20 rugby team that narrowly



lost to New Zealand in the final of the 2011 World Championships. **Jamie Stevenson** (2002-10) played for Scotland in the World Championships and is now playing for London Scottish in the Championship. Elliott has since been playing, scoring tries and kicking some spectacular long range goals for London Wasps while Marland, after a spell with London Welsh, has returned to London Irish. Both players have been included in the 2011-12 England Under-20 squad where they have been joined by **George Merrick** (2009-11) of Harlequins (but for the 2011-12 season on loan to Richmond).

For **Danny Cipriani** (2001-07), 2011 was the year he started playing in Australia for the new Melbourne Rebels franchise. Danny and his team had a generally successful season. He made a Twickenham appearance in the autumn as part of the Barbarian team that played Australia.

Another Barbarian in 2011 was **Ross Broadfoot** (1996-2003) who played in the Mobbs Memorial match against Bedford Blues. For season 2011-12 Ross is playing for Jersey in the National 1<sup>st</sup> Division. **Lewis Brown** (1996-2003) continues to play at prop for Ealing Trailfinders who are now also in the National 1<sup>st</sup> Division, whilst **Mike Canty** (2001-08) and **Truman Sullivan** (2000-06) are both playing for Blackheath in the same Division.

**Eddie Peglau** (2008-10) is now playing for Bradford and Bingley in National League Division 3 North. Five OWs took part in the J P Morgan Sevens competition played in July and August 2011 – **Mike Canty** and **Mark Foster** (200-02) for Exeter Chiefs, **Tom Nicholls** (2004-11) and **Will Robinson** (2004-09) for London Wasps and **Neville Edwards** (1999-2006) for London Irish.

The 2010 Varsity rugby match again saw Whitgift representation but this time only in the light blue interest: **Miles Daly** (2003-2008) and **Chris Hall** (2001-08) both came on as substitutes during the match and thus were

awarded their blues for Cambridge. **Will Smith** (2002-10) played for Cambridge in the Under-21 match.

The recent death of **Bill Morgan** (1950-57) reduces the number of living OW international sportsmen – Bill received a rugby cap for Sierra Leone while working there in the 1960s.

In the 2011 first class cricket season there were no less than five OWs contracted to Surrey and one, **Laurie Evans** (1998-2004), with Warwickshire. **Matthew Spiegel** (1998-2005) and **Jason Roy** (2004-08) were regulars in the Surrey XI. Highlights of the season included Jason's maiden century in first class cricket. Both were members of the Surrey team that won the Clydesdale Bank 40 Trophy at Lord's – Matthew scored the winning runs and also took the key wicket of Marcus Trescothick. **Tom Lancefield** (2001-07) had a season marred by injury but the 2011 season did see **Rory Burns** (2001-06) and **Freddie van den Bergh** (2003-10) make their first class debuts. Laurie played a number of matches for the Warwickshire 1<sup>st</sup> XI and scored heavily in the 2<sup>nd</sup> team; he also fielded as 12<sup>th</sup> man for England in the Edgbaston Test. Jason's successes, particularly in the one day and 20/20 forms of the game – he scored two successive centuries in the CB40 competition - brought selection for the England Performance Programme and the England Lions tour of Bangladesh.

At the Surrey CCC End of Season Awards Night, Jason was voted Young Player of the Year for 2011 by the Supporters Club, while Freddie was voted Pemberton Greenish Academy Young Player of the Year.

**Alex Mullins** (2000-08), **Tom Mullins** (2002-10) and **Adam Jordan** (2000-08) represented Oxford in the 2011 varsity hockey match and have subsequently been joined in the team by **Joe Mills** (2003-11). In the previous edition of OW News, Adam was wrongly included as **Graeme Jordan** (1998-2004), who is actually an OWRFC player! Apologies go to both parties. Adam is Captain of the Oxford team for 2011-12.

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## OW SPORTS CLUBS

### RUGBY

Season 2010-11 again demonstrated to the Rugby Club how difficult it is to obtain promotion from the Surrey League to the London Leagues by narrowly missing out for the third successive year. The Club continues to put out three sides; many other clubs are unable to do this. In addition, junior rugby continues to prove extremely successful.

The new season (2011-12) started with a flourish as an Under 21 team reached the final of the Cronk-Cunis Old Boys Tournament. On the way to the final, lost narrowly to Peter Symonds Old Boys, the OW team beat Norwich, Worth, St Benedict's (the holders) and Tonbridge.

It would be great to see a number of these young players as regular OW players in future.

### HOCKEY

The hockey club, so close to closure a year or so ago, has merged with Croydon Hockey Club with the result that the combined club is running four men's and three ladies' teams. On the pitch results in the first season were mixed, but the merger has worked well.

### FOOTBALL

The Football Club continues to run two sides with some success in the Amateur Football Combination League (Divisions 3 and 8 South). If there was failure to win a trophy on the field in 2011, there was success in winning the award for best hospitality.

### CRICKET

Cricket season 2011 was a little mixed - the 1<sup>st</sup> XI consolidated their position in Division 1 of the Surrey Championship without looking like promotion candidates, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were relegated and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were close to promotion. Junior cricket remains extremely popular and successful in terms of trophies won. The 2011 Cricketer Cup was a great disappointment as we were obliged to concede our first round match against the 2010 champions, Malvern, when heavy rain caused the match to be abandoned in disappointing circumstances. There are real hopes for the future – few sides in the competition can have been as strong as that put out against Malvern (no less than three of the team played first class cricket during the season). From 2012, the team will be known as *Whitgift Mitres*.

## GOLF

The Halford Hewitt golf competition was again a disappointment as we lost to Tonbridge, the most successful side of recent years, in the first round. In the Grafton Morrish, another major old boys' competition, we reached the quarter finals, losing to Merchant Taylors, after beating Winchester and KCS in the earlier rounds of the finals weekend. In the 2011 Cyril Gray tournament for over 50s, there was a win in the Plate Competition beating Wellington, St Paul's, Dulwich and, in the final, Rossall. Pride of place, though, goes to the Seniors Cyril Gray team of **Chris Varcoe** (1948-55) and **Mike Wilkinson** (1953-61). This competition, which involves a team of two with a combined age of at least 140, was won by Whitgift. The

large number of excellent golfers being produced by the School and our existing talented players must surely bring triumph at some stage in a major competition to set alongside the success of the older generation.

## SHOOTING

The Veterans Rifle Club celebrated 115 years of continuous activity in 2011 and reported a high level of activity and no mean achievement. They reported the award to **Guy Hart** (2000-07) of a blue for shooting at St Andrew's University.

## FIVES

The Fives Club was another that celebrated a significant milestone with a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner for players past and present; they also report an active playing season.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

**Derren Brown** (1981-89) was the subject of a Channel Four documentary made by his contemporary **Nigel Walk** (1984-89), which took the viewer behind the scenes and included a visit to the School.



*The Daily Mail* of 3 June 2011 reported that *The Stage* newspaper had described Derren as "undeniably a national treasure" who deserves to be immortalised by Madame Tussaud's waxworks, adding "we are sure it would attract thousands of new

visitors". This was a view looked on with scepticism by the *Daily Mail* reporter.

It was, however, a real pleasure to see that no less an organ than *Private Eye* should acknowledge an undisputed OW national treasure; picture a cartoon of a patient in the psychiatrist's consulting room saying "*The voices in my head – you're telling me that they're all **Martin Jarvis**?*"

A lengthy obituary in *The Times* of 21 May 2011 of the

landscape painter Fred Dubery claimed that he was educated at the School – careful searching of the archives has failed to confirm this statement: if any reader is able to shed further light on this little mystery it would be greatly appreciated. There have been a number of erroneous claims to a Whitgift education in published obituaries in recent years, most notably that in *The Daily Telegraph* relating to Sir Bernard Ashley.

The obituary of Julian Thompson, a board member of Sotheby's for many years, published in *The Times* in February 2011, provides reminders of the life of a distinguished OW, his uncle **Richard de la Mare** (1910-20). Thomson's mother was the daughter of the poet Walter de la Mare and sister of Richard. The de la Mare family lived in Anerley when Richard was at Whitgift. Richard de la Mare is mentioned as a formative influence on Thompson after the early death of the latter's father and is described in the obituary thus: "... his uncle Dick de la Mare, the Chairman of Faber & Faber, friend and employer of T S Eliot, early champion of environmentalism and collector of Japanese porcelain. The inspiration of the oriental art at his uncle's Much Hadham Hall, Hertfordshire, meant that Thompson was already a collector during his prep school days".

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## 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** – In 2010, Kenneth Hugh (1926-33), aged 94

**ALLIN** – On 13 September 2011, Roy Beasley (1940-48), aged 81

**ASPINALL** – On 31 October 2011, Simon James (1969-75), aged 53, brother of Professor R J (1966-74)

**BOWDEN** – On 7 April 2011, Anthony Michael (1953-62), aged 67, brother of JB (1954-57), the late RM (1954-60) and HC (1959-65)

**BRENCHLEY** – On 24 March 2011, Dr Patrick John (1946-54), aged 74, son of R (1916-23), brother of DR (1942-50)

**BROADBENT** – On 7 December 2011, Newton William (1928-36), aged 93, son of F (Member of Staff 1926-53), brother of the late J F (1931-36).

**BUNCE** – On 3 August 2011, Colin Robert Cartwright (1945-53), aged 76

**CANN** – In March 2010, Graham Martin (1969-76), aged 52

**CLARK** – On a date unknown, Frederick William Joseph (1926-31)

**COATMAN** – On 30 June 2011, Robert William, MBE, JP (1938-44), aged 83, brother of JA (1952-59), father of AF (1975-81), President OWA 1983-84 and Governor of the Whitgift Foundation 1970-2003

**COOKE** – On 14 May 2011, Peter Graham, MVO (1942-48), aged 79

**CRISP** – On 5 July 2011 Neil Martin (77-85), aged 44

**DEARSLEY-HITCHCOCK** – In October 2010, Elliott James (1983-89), aged 38

**EDGE** – On 21 December 2010, Christopher Culmer (1963-71), aged 58, son of CWC (Member of Staff 1947-83)

**EVANS** – On 12 December 2010, John Michael Agard (1946-53), aged 76 brother of JDA (1946-55)

**FALL** – In September 2010, Julian Herbert (1935-42), aged 86

**FISHER** – On 24 August 2011, Richard Andrew (1966-73), aged 55

**FRANCIS** – On 21 September 2011, Dr Gavin Torquil (1975-83), aged 45

**GILES** – On 11 November 2010, John Anthony (1942-48), aged 78

**GILES** – On 10 November 2010, Keith Wilson, MB, BS, LRCP, MRCS, FRCS (Edin), FRCS (Lond) (1942-48), aged 80, brother of B S (1941-50)

**GLADWELL** – In August 2009, Professor Derek Channon OBE (1935-43), aged 83

**GRIFFITHS** – On 24 June 2011, Wilfred Henry (1929-36), aged 92

**GUDGIN** – On 14 September 2011, Peter Leslie (1933-36), aged 88, son of L H (1911-15)

**HALESTRAP** – In 2009, Harold John (1927-34), aged 92

**HARRISON** – On 29 December 2010, Peter Way (1932-38), aged 90

**HEAD** – In 2004, John Lawrence Anthony (1954-61), aged 60

**HOCKEN** – On 16 June 2011, Rundle Thomas Spencer (1939-46), aged 83

**HOGG** – In 2010, Spencer Allan (1955-62), aged 66

**HUGHES** - In January 2011, Geoffrey Brian Clifford (1935-39), aged 87

**KEEN** – In March 2011, Michael Anthony, (1951-56), aged 71

**KING** – On 11 July 2011, David James (1947-53), aged 74

**KOOYMAN** – On a date unknown, John Anthony (1943-48)

**LAWS** – On 19 May 2011, Michael David (1957-64), aged 64

**LEGAT** – On 15 August 2011, Michael Ronald (1933-41), aged 88, father of A R (1962-70) and J P (1963-71)

**LENTON** – On 25 June 2011, Mark Andrew (1974-82), aged 47

**LEWIS** – On 11 August 2011, Geoffrey (1949-56), aged 74

**LINDSEY** – In 2010, John Peter Serrell (1956-63), aged 64

**McROBERT** – On a date unknown, Michael John (1941-48)

**MARTIN** – In December 2010, Richard Victor (1941-46), aged 80

**MOLTESEN** – On 24 April 2011, Laust (1942- 49), aged 80

**MORDEN** – In 2005, Michael (1944-52)

**MORGAN** – On 20 January 2011, William Eric Keith (1950-57), aged 70, son of Group Captain S G Morgan (1919-25)

**OSBORNE** – In 2009, Hugh Cecil (1941-46), aged 81

**PACKINGTON** – In 2009, Maurice Irwin (1926-32), aged 93

**PERRY** – On a date unknown, William Francis (1972-79), aged 49

**POLASTRO** – In February 2011, Roland Stephen Anthony (Member of Staff 1990-2001), aged 64

**PORTER** – On a date unknown, Ronald Irving (1937-48), aged 99

**PRIOR** – On 21 September 2010, Arthur Cunningham (1929-38), aged 91

**PRYER** – On 10 May 2011, John Batiste Amherst (1966-71), aged 58

**READER** – On 22 January 2011, Clive Alan (1940-45), aged 82

**RUDD-JONES** – On 22 November 2011, Dr Derek, CBE (1933-40), aged 87

**RYDE** – On 11 June 2010, Alan Kenneth Lucas (1937-42), aged 83

**SAVAGE** – In October 2011, Thomas Edwin (Member of Staff 1960-73), aged 79

**SCOTT** – On a date unknown, Michael Garrath (1938-45), aged 82, brother of GK (1931-35)

**SEARLES** – On 30 November 2011, Peter Walter Albert (1946-51), aged 81

**SKELTON** - On 3 May 2011, John Robert (1931-38), aged 89

**SIMPSON** – In December 2010, Graham (1931-38), aged 88

**STEPHENS** – On 2 September 2010, Robert James (1938-45), aged 82

**TILLY** – On 5 April 2011, Christopher Mark (1944-49), aged 79

**TYLER** – In 2011, Colin John (1944-50), aged 76

**TYLER** – In August 2011, Robert Douglas (1936-41), aged 86

**VAUGHAN** – In March 2009, Miles Kerr (1945-50) aged 75

**WEAVER** – On 22 April 2011, Rev Arthur Kenneth (1927-36), aged 94

**WEST** – On 22 March 2011, Gerald Thomas (1941-49), aged 79

*There are, in addition, three non OWs whose deaths we also wish to record in recognition of the affection in which they were held by so many members of the OWA.*

#### **Mollie Percy**

Mollie Percy, widow of Freddie, mother of Anthony and Michael and the late Val, died suddenly on 13 February 2011 aged 94, only days after she had been guest of honour at a dinner held to celebrate the centenary of Freddie's birth. Mollie made a charming speech at the dinner and the warmth of her reception by all present was a fitting tribute to the great affection in which she was held by so many Whitgiftians



#### **Lord Croham GCB**

Douglas Allen, Lord Croham, although himself not an OW, was well known to many OWs both as a parent of OWs and a neighbour – for many years he lived in a house whose garden backed onto the OW grounds. It was a regular feature of the cricket season to see Lord Croham tending his garden as cricket balls whizzed all around. He appeared as unflappable under the threat of injury as he had been in reaching the highest ranks of the Civil Service, in which he served ultimately as Permanent Secretary to HM Treasury. He died on 11 September 2011 at the age of 93. Lord Croham's collection of books has been donated to the School library by his family.

#### **Joan Ebbutt**

Joan Ebbutt, widow of Mike Ebbutt (1928-36) and mother of Tony (1951-60), died on 13 August 2011. Joan was part of a family well known to many generations of OWs and throughout the Croydon business community.

## OBITUARIES



### **Simon Aspinall (1969-75)**

*Dedicated naturalist, ornithologist and conservationist who compiled the most complete field guides to the birds of the Middle East*

Simon Aspinall was a talented field naturalist with a vast knowledge of birds and ecological systems. He went on to make significant contributions to ornithology and conservation in the Middle East, particularly of the United Arab Emirates.

Aspinall was born in 1958. He grew up in Surrey and his talent for natural history, and particularly birds, was evident as a child. He was educated at Whitgift School and Purley High School. His local bird watching patch was Beddington Sewage Farm. Realising its importance for tree sparrows, he persuaded Thames Water to allow him to put nest boxes around the site. He read environmental science at the University of East Anglia, chosen as it allowed him to spend as much time as possible at Cley next the Sea and on the North Norfolk marshes, the area that would become his home. To his academic studies he brought his already considerable field experience in the habitats of southern England. After university he spent a decade working for the RSPB and the Nature Conservancy Council in Scotland, surveying corncrake, breeding birds on moorland and peat habitats, and raptors. This work concerned the impact of environmental and habitat change on avian biodiversity at a time when this was recognised as having a serious impact on bird populations. It also suited Aspinall's field-based approach to conservation and had the additional benefit of allowing him to spend the British winters travelling the world to find birds as part of his personal ambition to see every bird species in its natural habitat.

Over the next 30 years he travelled extensively on every continent. In 1987 he was assistant warden at the Fair Isle Bird Observatory. This post allowed him to become trained as an A-licence bird ringer. At the end of his birding diary for 1987 he records: "The year will be remembered for its rarities – in species they were rather few but the number of individuals made up for that with one found every 3.2 days." On Fair Isle he also studied its endemic wren sub-species; the interest continued for the rest of his life, leading to

publication of a summary review of his long-term collation of data for the subspecies this year in a project that he shared with his brother (*Professor Richard Aspinall, OW*).

In 1988 he was Rare Birds Warden for the RSPB, monitoring golden eagle, peregrine and ospreys in Scotland. He was also involved in the reintroduction of red kite around Inverness. From 1989 to 1992 he worked with the Nature Conservancy Council and Joint Nature Conservation Committee Seabirds at Sea Team, in partnership with BP and Esso, on projects in the Solent and Poole Bay. This involved identifying feeding, roosting and breeding sites of waterfowl and seabirds, in preparation for drawing up contingency plans for oil spills and to assist in planning future oil installations. He published *Coastal Birds of East Dorset* and *Birds of the Solent* with Mark Tasker and other members of the JNCC Seabirds at Sea Team.

In 1993 Aspinall moved to the United Arab Emirates to join the new National Avian Research Centre, which became the Environmental Research & Wildlife Development Agency, in Abu Dhabi. He was head of the Wildlife Management Unit at the agency until 1997. Based in the Emirates for the next 17 years, he developed a deep knowledge of and affection for, the Middle East while working in bird and nature conservation across the region and into the Caucasus. On arrival in the UAE he soon became involved with Emirates Bird Records Committee and served as its chairman in 2000-06. He became the first person to see more than 400 species of bird in the UAE, finding and identifying 23 species new to the Emirates. He was also the only person to have seen all of the 416 bird species recorded in the Emirates between 1993 and 2010.

Aspinall's success as an ornithologist owed much to his exceptional field craft. His awareness of the environment, remarkable eyesight and keen hearing complemented his understanding of animal behaviour and habits, and of the way they responded to the environmental systems in which they lived.

His ability to predict what species, including rarities, would be present in an area became legendary. Those who went to the field with him recognised that he routinely knew what species would be there and found them before anyone else. When the explorer Sir Wilfred Thesiger visited the Emirates

in 2000 Aspinall accompanied him on a visit to the Empty Quarter south of Liwa, where he proceeded to find a golden eagle nest, complete with parent and chick, a sight that Thesiger had never seen in his time in the desert.

From 1997 Aspinall worked as an independent ecological consultant on projects throughout the Middle East and Caucasus. In 1997-99 he also acted as heritage and environment editor at *Emirates News*, the Abu Dhabi government newspaper. He worked with Unesco as the biosphere reserve assessment programme team leader for Qatar, UAE, Bahrain and Oman and with Bird Life International on plans for nature reserves throughout Arabia, in particular in Yemen, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. He also helped to train local biologists from the UAE, Yemen, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq in bird conservation. He continued to carry out surveys, conducting research in Azerbaijan and throughout the Caucasus, and being a member of the field teams on Socotra, Yemen, in 1999 and 2004. He also served on the IUCN Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas (now the World Commission for Protected Areas) and Commission for Ecosystem Management.

Aspinall's interests in natural history extended well beyond birds. He was deputy editor of *Tribulus*, the journal of the Emirates Natural History Group, from 1997 onwards, and was chairman of the Emirates Natural History Group, Abu Dhabi, from 2002 to 2005. For more than a decade he was the coordinator of the UAE Marine Mammal Database. He also frequently worked with the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey, having a particular talent for spotting fossil and archaeological sites, a skill he had shown since childhood. Notably he found the complete lower jaws of a six million-year-old elephant, late Miocene fossils in the Ruwais region and many potsherds and lithics. He wrote extensively about the birds and natural history of the UAE and Middle East. In 1994, he, Colin Richardson and Peter Hellyer co-authored the UAE chapter in Bird Life International's

*Important Bird Areas in the Middle East*; he updated this assessment in 2006 (*British Birds*, 99:546-561). His first major book on the birds of the UAE was *Status and Conservation of the Breeding Birds of the United Arab Emirates* (1996). This was based on many hundreds of hours of his own fieldwork and motivated conservation efforts in the region. In 1997 Aspinall was presented with the Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed Award for Natural History, the UAE's premier environmental award, in recognition of his contribution. The book was revised twice, the second edition being in Arabic (2003) and the third edition published as *Breeding Birds of the UAE* (2010). He also wrote *Jebel Hafit - A Natural History* (2004) and *The Emirates: A Natural History* (2005), both with Peter Hellyer. In 2010

Aspinall and Richard Porter published the acclaimed second edition of *Field Guide to the Birds of the Middle East*, containing descriptions of more than 820 species, some 120 more than the first edition. In 2011 he published *Birds of the UAE - A Guide to Common and Important Species*, with Salim Javed and Jens and Hanne Eriksen, and the *Field Guide to the Birds of the United Arab Emirates*, again with Porter, the first country guide to any of the Gulf States.

In 2007 Aspinall was found to be suffering from motor neurone disease. He continued to travel for four years after diagnosis, travelling, as he had for all his life, to remote places rich in wildlife. Although the advance of the illness meant that he had to use walking sticks, this did not stop him using inflatable boats in Greenland, canoes in Botswana, and

trekking through Rwandan forests to see mountain gorillas. His determination to continue to live his life was an inspiration to many and typical of his courage and love of adventure and natural history.

Aspinall will be remembered as a sincere friend, a mentor to many, and a shining example of a life in conservation. His contribution to conservation in the Middle East is a legacy that will last for many years. Aspinall is survived by his parents, brother and sister-in-law.

*Simon Aspinall, Ornithologist and Conservationist, was born on 5 February 1958. He died on 31 October 2011, aged 53 (The Times, 3 December 2011, reproduced with permission)*



**Mike Laws (1957-64)**

*Crossword setter for 'The Independent' and former editor of The Times Crossword who also set puzzles for The Listener*

**“Walk miles not carrying a single pound for toasting absent friend (4,4)”**

On the Crossword Centre Message Board, which in its formative days he supported and advised upon, the response to the message announcing the passing of the Inquisitor crossword editor Mike Laws was quick, manifold and consistent in its content. "A convivial companion", "engaging company", "a most kindly guru", "a real one-off", "a true luminary", "a source of great encouragement to solvers and setters", wrote the likes of Independent setters Phi, Spurius, Harbinger, Samuel, Raich, Tyrus/Lato, Bannsider, Eimi, Tees, Nitsy, Columba, Charybdis/Crosophile, Rasputin, Hodge and Quixote. "One of the most important figures in the world of crosswords", and one of the most distinctive-looking, Mike was an enormous influence in his thinking, his approach and his modus operandi. Many will remember him sitting quietly in the corner of one north London pub or another from mid-afternoon, savouring his beer and composing his clues, dictionary open, grids and meticulously kept record books to hand. When I gatecrashed his "office", the three- or four-pint stay never came across as an interruption or distraction – more an opportunity for him to impart sections of his enormous knowledge of the world of Cs: crosswords, coins, Classics and – of course – Courage Best. For "Classics", read: Latin, Greek, and 60s music. Michael Laws was born in London in 1946. His parents, Eric and Ivy, divorced when he was young: he lived with his grandparents until the age of 10, when he returned to his father. Educated at Whitgift School and Christ's College, Cambridge, where he read Classics, Mike became a teacher of English and Latin at Dunstable College, the Arnos School

and Ravenscroft School, where he amused his classes with his wit and word puzzles.

At Ravenscroft he helped start and run a Teacher's Centre in Finchley which catered for "refreshment courses" – special courses, followed by "refreshment". He introduced real ales and became known as The Vampire Hunter as he applied the barrel-tapping hammer to the wooden stake. Such wordplay typified the man's sense of humour and his love of words. During his college years, Mike had discovered crosswords: as a teacher, his joy of words soon led to his becoming an avid solver and then a compiler. Like many, he was hugely influenced by the legendary Derrick MacNutt (Ximenes). His work was published for the first time in 1975 in the magazine *Games and Puzzles*, which he later edited; at various times his puzzles appeared in *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Independent*. From 1995, he was also one of the three setters on the *Mephisto* team in *The Sunday Times*.

In the 1980s, two significant changes occurred. Disenchanted with teaching, he became a postman; and his first marriage, to Judy, ended after 16 years. Mike's crossword output became as prolific as it had ever been, and he became widely regarded for the dry wit, ingenuity and faultlessness of his clue-writing. In the 1990s, he married Julie, an actress, with whom he became very happy. Having given up his postal activities, he devoted himself to his puzzles. Recompense for these was augmented by the compilation and delivery of idiosyncratic pub quizzes in Henley's Bar, the first "office" in which I met him.

From 2000-2002, Mike fulfilled a lifelong ambition when he became editor of *The Times* Crossword, maintaining the high standards of his predecessor, Brian Greer – his own idol in the crossword world. Mike often quoted one of Brian's clues as his favourite: "In which three couples get together for sex (5)". Later, when Brian was Crossword Editor at *The Independent*, Mike assumed the editorship of which he was most proud – the *Inquisitor* in Saturday's *Independent Magazine*. Because of his sense of propriety and insistence on accuracy, he renamed the puzzle, and restored the original numbering system of the paper's early days. Each week he would cut out the puzzle and place it in a folder with all its predecessors, one of a number of impressive collections he leaves. By all accounts, his record collection is enviable, especially the sections containing the likes of the Beatles, Jethro Tull and the Everlys. And he was an expert numismatist, particularly when it came to the designs on the reverse side of £2, £1, 50p and special issue coins: I remember his dismay when the Olympic coins released in 2010 bore "2011" on the obverse.

Mike always defended his practice of compiling and editing crosswords in his pubs. "The pub", he used to say, "is where a significant number of people will bloody well try to solve 'em". In the Springfield Tavern, his last "office", there is a sign behind the bar which bears the words of wisdom: "Everybody here brings happiness – some by arriving, and some by leaving". Mike was predominantly in the former category, although after drinking-up time and with no little bitter left in his pint glass, he regularly sought out a random empty bottle from behind the bar (it could have been a beer bottle, a brandy bottle, a Bacardi bottle...) into which he would decant his drink to have something to refresh his late-night computer work.

## Answers

*Walk miles not carrying a single pound for toasting absent friend (4,4) Anagram (for toasting) of WALK MILES, minus an L (=£); "absent friend" = MIKE LAWS.*

*"A crossword's something to get \_\_\_\_\_ into", he's said (4,4) MIKE LAWS is pronounced (said) "my claws". In which three couples get together for sex (5) "sex" is LATIN for "six" (three couples)*

*Michael David Laws, crossword setter, teacher and postman: born 28 September 1946; married twice (one son, one daughter); died 19 May 2011.*

*Obituary by John Henderson ("Nimrod" of The Independent), The Independent, Saturday 11 June 2011, reproduced with permission*

## **Michael Legat (1933-41)**

*Editorial director of Corgi Books, prolific author of writers' guides and one of the most popular and influential figures in London publishing.*



One of Michael Legat's favourite stories was about the interview he had in 1941 with Mr Bentley, the Careers Master at Whitgift, his Croydon school, who suggested he try publishing. And what did they do in publishing? "They read books and go to cocktail parties," said Mr Bentley, which sounded just the sort of thing Michael had in mind. A telephone call later he was being offered a job as

assistant publicity manager at The Bodley Head.

With a starting salary of 15 shillings (75p) a week, he soon found he was less publicity manager and more office boy, and that cocktail parties were a rare thing indeed. Taken under the wing of the firm's idiosyncratic manager, C J Greenwood, he learned about production, design and typography, royalties and accounts, as well as translating François Boyer's *Les Jeux Inconnus*, an achievement of which he was always especially proud.

In 1946, after three years in the Navy, he decided to become a teacher, only to find that all the teacher-training colleges were full of ex-servicemen like himself. An unsuccessful try at getting into theatre left him no option but to return to The Bodley Head as production manager.

By 1950 he had met and married Rosetta Clark. Hearing that there was a job going with a new firm owned by the American publisher Bantam Books, he applied and got the job at a salary of £900 a year. His colleagues tried to talk him out of it – paperbacks were a long way below the salt in those days – but persuaded by the arithmetic (the salary was three times what he was earning), he took the plunge and in November 1950 joined Corgi Books.

The first three titles – all Bantam hand-me-downs – were *An Affair of State* by Pat Frank, *A Private Killing* by James Benet and *Shane* by Jack Schaefer. During production it was decided to up-price them from 1s/6d (7p) to 2/- (10p) and over the next few days, Legat personally licked and stuck gummed labels on every one of 30,000 covers.

It was an indifferent start, and by the late summer of 1951 things were so parlous that Bantam's president, Ian Ballantine, flew in, appointing Allan Cheek manager, Legat

production manager and Anne Vaisey secretary, with all three responsible for sales and publicity. After another frenetic year, Corgi was still losing money, and Bantam's president, John O'Connor (Ballantine had left the company), and financial director, Sidney B Kramer, flew in, clearly intent upon closing them down. They were persuaded that to succeed, the firm needed to be able to acquire its own books and to retain any profits it made. Surprisingly, Bantam went along with the proposition. New sales and production managers were brought in and Legat was appointed editor.

By 1954, Corgi was riding high on a boom in the sales of war books, which made it possible to expand the list to include romances and Westerns. A year later, however, Transworld, Corgi's parent company, was again on the brink of disaster. For the last couple of years Cheek had been completely misleading Bantam about sales and profits and once again, Kramer flew over. In short order, Cheek resigned and several department heads were replaced, and next, Kramer brought in a new managing director. His name was Patrick Newman.

At last Transworld began to have the kind of success paperback publishers dream of, but in the process Newman had become a persistent thorn in Legat's side. Tempted by offers from André Deutsch and Lord Sidney Bernstein, he turned instead to writing, and *Dear Author*, the first of a very long line of "how-to" books, was published in 1972. Just then, Kramer, now based in London, offered him the job of editorial director at Cassell & Co. It was an uphill and unhappy experience; at the end of his five-year contract he quit and, encouraged by a contract – and an advance – from his friend Ernest Hecht, began work on a novel about the business of winemaking, *Mario's Vineyard*, published in 1980. Four more family sagas followed.

His own take on his professional life is wonderfully captured in a slim autobiography, *They Read Books and Go to Cocktail Parties*. One of the most popular, principled and influential figures in London publishing, Michael Legat was a man very much of the times in which his unashamedly old-fashioned editorial style flourished.

*Michael Ronald Legat, publisher and novelist: born London 24 March 1923; married 1949 Rosetta Clark (died 2005, two sons); died 15 August 2011.*

*Obituary by Frederick Nolan, The Independent, Saturday, 3 September 2011, reproduced with permission*

### **Dr Derek Rudd-Jones CBE (1933-40)**

Derek Rudd-Jones, who has died at the age of 87, was one of the many distinguished biologists who benefited from the teaching of Dr Cecil Prime. He spent most of his school life at Whitgift but moved to Repton at the beginning of the War. He was at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and carried out post graduate studies in the School of Botany at Cambridge before spending some time in Kenya and Canada, the latter as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Saskatchewan. He returned to England in 1953 and his subsequent career concentrated on research into crop protection and pesticides. He was, from 1959-71, Scientific Adviser to the Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council and for four years Foundation Chairman of the British Crop Protection Council (of which he was a Member from 1968-86). From 1971-86 he was Director of the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute and at the same time a Member of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society and a Visiting Fellow of Southampton University. He was awarded a CBE in 1981.



**Robert William Coatman MBE, JP**  
(1938-44)

*The following appreciation of the life and work of Bob Coatman, President of the OWA 1983-84, and Governor of the Whitgift Foundation, was given by Councillor Dudley Mead MBE, former mayor of Croydon and a current Governor of the Whitgift Foundation, at the memorial service.*

“Mr Mayor, My Lord, ladies and gentlemen, in the Conservative Group Room in the Town Hall is a framed copy of Bob Coatman's electoral address for the by-election for Central Ward, subsequently Fairfield Ward. It was held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1966. The address was framed by popular demand from members of the Conservative group. Bob was duly elected and thus began a career of almost 40 years as a councillor. Bob believed in serving the community and as a chartered quantity surveyor, he was a natural to specialise in planning matters. He chaired the Planning committee for 16 years. Bob was deputy Mayor in 1970/71 and Mayor in 1977/78. It was in that year I first met him at an accountants' dinner in Croydon – he was their guest of honour. Bob's council service helped many people and this was recognised by the borough with an exceptional life-long service award in 2006. This was in addition to the award of an MBE in 1993 for services to local government. One of Bob's other passions was the Whitgift Foundation. Bob wanted to put something back into the Foundation and in May 1970 he became a Member of the 'Court of Governors'. He chaired the influential Schools' Committee and eventually became Vice Chairman of the Court. This period of service covered Trinity School becoming independent and Old Palace School joining the Foundation, as well as the building of Whitgift House residential and nursing home and the upgrading of Croydon's historic Almshouses. He retired from the Whitgift Foundation in May 2003 after 33 years. He told me how proud he was to take part on several occasions in the Croydon Corps of Drums or Warlingham Flute Band at the Lord Mayor's Show. This was a remarkable achievement for a guy in his 70's; to march and play the fife for several miles through the City streets. Bob was devoted to his late wife Betty, who died in July 1991, and his five children. We shall all miss him, but we will remember his life and his contribution to Croydon.”

**be Maj., 5th Jan. 1956.  
22925865 Cadet Colin Robert Cartwright BUNCE  
(445428) to be 2nd Lt., 26th Nov. 1955.  
23129791 Cadet Charles Richard Francis HINDS**

### **Colin Bunce (1945-53)**

*Soldier, Sailor and Gardeners' Friend*

Colin Robert Cartwright Bunce, born 3rd September 1934 died suddenly at the helm of his yacht *Altaire* on 3rd August 2011 off Keyhaven, Hampshire. Educated at Whitgift School

1945-53, he was a biologist, one of 'Prime's People', and was known to every member of the CCF as a most resourceful and patient Quartermaster Sergeant. Colin extended his National Service to a full military career, from the East Surreys via Mons Officer Cadet School to the Royal Signals. He retired as a Major after service in Egypt and Germany.

A second career blossomed for Colin as Secretary-Administrator of The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, an organisation founded in 1859 to look after and represent retired professional gardeners. The Society celebrated its 150th anniversary on Colin's watch, which opportunity he used to raise its profile and the needs of impoverished elderly gardeners. In eleven years, Colin initiated help for hundreds of beneficiaries in the form of grants, modest regular pensions or sheltered accommodation. A gift of property in Eyemouth was converted into an Abbeyfield style home for retired gardeners in the Borders and others, restored under Colin's direction, included homes in Cambridgeshire, Sussex and Gloucestershire. Colin also initiated and provided annual holidays for elderly retired gardeners.

A devout Christian, Colin was churchwarden of All Saints Church, Milford-on-Sea and eleven years ago launched and organised an annual Songs of Praise service at Keyhaven, the last of which was on the Sunday before he died, aged 76. Colin was a member of Keyhaven Yacht Club and was active in Milford Probus Club. His recovery from two life threatening cancers which he described as 'miraculous', helped by his wife for over 50 years, Rosemary, sons Nigel and Julian, daughter Deborah and their families.

*This appreciation is by Colin's contemporary and friend, Peter L.G. Bateman (1945-53)*

**Christopher Culmer Edge (1962-1971)** Chris Edge, who died suddenly aged 58, followed his grandfather and great uncles to Whitgift, where his father Bill Edge taught history for 36 years. Chris was always a sportsman, particularly excelling in rugby and cricket, representing the school in both. He was also a keen athlete, swimmer and squash player and became house prefect of Cross's in 1969 and school prefect in 1970. On leaving Whitgift, Chris read

history at Exeter University, where he played cricket for the university, after which he joined the investment bank Lazards. Later he moved into fund management. Chris was a stalwart of the Old Whitgiftian Golfing Society, having been its captain from 2007 to 2009. He was a founder member of the Roehampton Eagle Golf & Sports Society and a member at Royal Wimbledon and Royal Ashdown Golf Clubs. *This appreciation is by Brian O'Luanagh, former captain of the OW Golf Society*

### **Tony Bowden (1954-62)**

In life you learn to appreciate those who can be relied upon not to let you down. Tony was such a friend. Although his interests were not of an academic nature, his school career was lit with sporting achievement. A talented all rounder, he represented the school at cricket, hockey and rugby. Slight of stature until a growth spurt in his teens he was a talented wicketkeeper on the cricket field, an aggressive inside forward at hockey and an elusive scrum half.

As part of the unbeaten first fifteen of 1961 he might on paper have been overshadowed by the stars both in the pack in front of him, or the three-quarters behind. However, without his great talent as the pivot, the story could have been so different. His long dive pass, speed around the base of the scrum, hard tackling and great kicking skill, led to the fluid attacking play so ably coached by Gerwyn Williams. Though serious at times, he could not hide a Whitgift sense of humour and was wonderful company.

His sporting career extended into the OWs where he was part of the successful rugby side of the 1970's and where he met Sue, his wife and mother of Edward, Anne Marie, and Tim.

After a career in the brewery industry, he latterly ran a successful village post office in Surrey. Sadly, having retired only a short time ago he died suddenly after playing golf, a sport he was looking to have more time to enjoy.

*This appreciation is by Mike Wilkinson, captain of the magnificent 1961 rugby XV of which Tony Bowden was a key member. Tony Bowden was one of four talented sporting brothers who represented the School ably in many sports during the 1950s and 1960s.*

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## C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

It has been a pleasure to read letters and memories of OWs – **Grenville Williams** (1940-49) wrote with memories of lodging with Dr Cecil Prime and his family when his family evacuated to Hampshire early in the War. He recalls the gestation of one of Prime's remarkable books *Trees and Shrubs*, which was written with another master Richard Deacock (*my copy is still on my shelves fifty five years after it was a text book at School – Editor*). Grenville spent most of his career as a school bursar in North Wales at Clarendon School, a girls' school now merged with Monkton Coombe School in Bath, and in Hertfordshire. His hobby of railway modelling has allowed him a claim to fame as a specialist on how to use old corn-flake packets to recreate the station at Wadebridge, Cornwall as it looked in 1860!

**Mike Linden** (1938-44) has written with extensive personal and family memories, including his time at School, his subsequent move to the North East and then his working career in New Zealand, where he also played rugby for the Marist club and for Wellington B in representative matches. At that time, the early 1950s, he was the only Englishman playing senior grade rugby in Wellington. In later years, while working in Fiji, Mike became Treasurer of the Fiji RFU.

Pride of place must go, however, to centenarian **Frank Hutchinson** (1922-27) who wrote to inform the OWA that **Surgeon Commander Derek Walker** (1941-44) aged 84 was to marry Mrs Violet Stannard, 94, on 3 September 2011. Great staying power these Whitgiftians have.

*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 to let us know what you have been doing for the last ten (or sixty) years. If possible communicate by e-mail sending photographs if possible. E-mail: clubhouse@owa.org Or write to: The Editor, OW News, The Clubhouse, Croham Road, South Croydon, CR2 7BG*