

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



**OLD SENNOCKIAN
NEWSLETTER**

EASTER 2006

EDITORIAL

Once again we have managed successfully to organise a full year of events, and it has been a pleasure to meet up with so many of you at these social occasions. An increasing number of OS have returned to marvel at the recent changes that have taken place around the school, and we intend to encourage further visits by holding more events at the school thereby enabling a social occasion to be combined with a tour of the school and perhaps just a little nostalgia. Founder's Day is an excellent opportunity to see the school and we welcome any of you who are interested in seeing the school to join

us on that day. Hope Pym is in the office, continuing the maintenance of the database and the production of the OS Newsletter, and I am most grateful for the enthusiastic and tireless support that she gives to the OS. We would welcome your news, comments and articles, and please do let us know when you change address/telephone numbers. You can phone us on 01732 467708, e-mail: os@sevenoaksschool.org or write to The OS Office at Sevenoaks School, TN13 1HU.

We look forward to hearing from you, or even better, drop by and see us!

Ray Hackett

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD

The Michaelmas Term saw the arrival of the first two Sevenoaks pupils whose education is being made possible through the generosity of the Hands's Family Trust, and of our first Findlay sports scholar, Sam Stevens. I am delighted to report that the Bursary Fund has received gifts amounting to over £750,000. In addition to several one-off donations, some parents have decided that, having accepted the award for their child, they feel financially able to return the value of the award to the Fund to help extend the number of bursaries available to others. One young Old Sennockian, who received a scholarship herself felt able to give something back to the school and has set up a banker's order for a modest but hugely welcome monthly payment to the fund to help someone else. I am very grateful to all who have made donations to the Bursary Fund. The success of the superbly equipped Sennocke Centre has seen increasing use by a wide section of the school community during the last 12 months; it has now been in operation just over a year. Not only has the facility been properly integrated in the daily programme and given huge enjoyment to many of the students and staff but has I am sure contributed to the general fitness and well being of all who use the centre on a regular basis.

The Development Director provides more detail about the next phase of our development plan. Greatly encouraged by the success of The Sennocke Centre and the generous support that it received, the masterplanning project which I referred to last year was commissioned by the Governors and me and is now complete. The result is that today we are beginning the next phase of the development plan, the construction of a performing arts centre. This facility will replace and enhance the existing facilities for music and drama in the school. There will also be a project to start a programme of improvements to our boarding facilities. The challenge will be to raise the money to pay for these plans.

I have particularly enjoyed attending Old Sennockian reunions during the year in England and overseas. The first in the UK was a well supported dinner for those who left ten years ago, at Simpson's in the Strand, London, on 4 November. I also enjoyed reunion receptions at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and St Edmund Hall, Oxford. On 20 May there will be a joint reunion for Old Sennockians at Newcastle and Durham universities. I have been delighted to meet Old Sennockians living and working in Brussels and Hong Kong. Some of those in Hong Kong had not been back to the school since they left over thirty years ago. The presentation they received provided pictures of the campus today and our plans for the future. It is lovely that some of those attending the reception are not only giving serious consideration to sending their children to Sevenoaks, but are

recommending the school to their friends. While I attended the Simpson's dinner in London, Mike Bolton together with the Development Director attended our second transatlantic reception reunion at the Harvard Club in New York, providing another opportunity for alumni to meet and hear about the school's achievements and future plans.



Fred Hofmann, Ben Baglin, Katy Ricks at Simpson's

This year is the thirtieth anniversary of girls arriving at Sevenoaks School as part of the student population. In 1976 there were seven girls; today there are 504. How things have changed! We hope to hold an event to celebrate the arrival of girls at Sevenoaks: do let us know if you are interested.

On the academic front we achieved stunning examinations results with a ranking of second in the Times results table at A level / IB, and eighth in the GCSE results table. I am delighted to be able to announce that this year we have 48 students holding offers to Oxford and Cambridge with 90% of other students gaining a place at their first choice university.

This year we have again achieved an extremely high level of choral and orchestral achievement. The Director of Music has been awarded the National Schools Chamber Music Founder's Trophy for his distinguished service to music. We were delighted that **Emma Johnson** accepted our invitation to return to the school during the Lent Term to hold a master class in the Aisher Hall. Several major drama productions took place in the Sackville Theatre, including Timberlake Wertebaker's *The Love of the Nightingale* and Goethe's *Faust* in German.

Many of the sporting highlights have been covered elsewhere in the newsletter but I must congratulate the U14 girls' hockey team for its national success, coming second in the finals.

The new format for Founder's Day was a great success and proved highly popular. I hope OS will take the opportunity to attend on Saturday 24 June. You will be very welcome.

Katy Ricks

MESSAGE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

When Hope Pym asked me to write my contribution for this year's Newsletter, I saw that it was exactly the first anniversary (12th March) of the opening by Dame Kelly Homes of The Sennocke Centre.



What a hugely successful and welcome facility this has already become. One feature remains to finally complete the centre – the addition of a climbing room. I am sure it will happen; we are waiting for a benefactor. As the Head has mentioned, the masterplanning architects produced their report and this has been considered. The plan looks at the school's development over the next twenty plus years.

While we acknowledge that many of our buildings have served the school extremely well, some of those that we wish to replace were built 30 years ago and the facilities installed such as acoustics and other technical systems have become outdated and uneconomic. The Aisher Hall was built in 1967, the Marley 1977, and Sackville Theatre providing audience space for 210 in 1981, when drama was only an extra curricular activity. The next phase of the plan looks to redevelop the area around what will be a newly landscaped pedestrian Flat, replacing the old squash courts and changing rooms with a performing arts centre accommodating a central foyer area, an auditorium for music with a capacity hall for 500 people and a theatre for drama with seating for 250 people. The site of the Aisher Hall might see a building, currently with the working title of the Hub, providing a focal point for visitors to meet before moving on to an appointment on campus, arrival and reception areas, space for examinations, an exam office, careers department, learning support and areas for parents evening. Another project around the Flat will be a science centre bringing together for the first time the three

sciences – chemistry, physics and biology.

Consideration is being given to consolidating boarding on the land surrounding Park Grange, by building three boarding houses: a new GIH, School House and Johnsons. Over the 20-year period, adjustments will also be made to bring design technology into the main campus and concentrate several subjects such as humanities and language in their own buildings. It is a comprehensive plan providing an excellent blueprint with which to move forward.

The Acorn Fund continues to receive significant donations large and small, and all are extremely welcome. Since we began fund raising in 2003 we have raised just over £4,502,000 from over thirteen countries. While donations continue to be received for the sports centre, we are also receiving donations for other projects in the development plan such as the Bursary Fund and for the next flagship project – the new performing arts centre. Work has already begun on this project; a detailed written design brief is being drawn up for the architects and others involved in the design and construction of the building. Consultation with the local authority is also underway.

The question is : 'What can you do to help?' We ask all Old Sennockians to consider giving something back to the school. Any donation, whatever the size, particularly one supported by a Gift Aid declaration, is very welcome. If every recipient of the OS newsletter gave just £25 a year for five years, and supported their donation with a Gift Aid declaration, the school would benefit by almost £1 million. It would make a real difference. **We cannot achieve any of the projects in our plan for the continuing development of the school without your help.** I recently asked members of the alumni to consider giving a donation to the Acorn Fund based the equivalent of two bottles of wine (£15) or a tank of petrol (£50). If one half of OS on the database each supported the first of these proposals and the other half supported the second proposal, their donations would raise about £185,000. Please give it a thought.

Finally, I mentioned last year the Legacy campaign. I am pleased to report that a further six people have indicated that they will remember the school in their Will. If you are considering leaving a bequest to the school it would be helpful if you would let the Development Office at Sevenoaks know your intention.

John Walton

OLD SENNOCKIAN SPORTS CLUBS

The Festival of Sport

The Old Sennockian Festival of Sport is now in its fourth year. Conceived as an opportunity for OS to play a variety of matches against the school and staff, it has now taken on a further dimension as an opportunity for recent leavers to come back to the school and be with their friends before departing for university. This year had the added bonus of the newly opened Sennocke Centre as a venue for squash, tennis, badminton, basketball and recreational swimming. In addition to netball and

girls' hockey there was also a girls' soccer match overseen by John Burger, thus balancing the boys' events. Nine Old Sennockian teams played the school. The morning began with tennis organised by Pat Morecroft at the Post Office Courts. Two matches were representative of the best spirit of the Festival, one of mixed doubles combining OS and current students, and the other played by four recent girl leavers who had been away on gap years and reconvened for the day. The Sennocke Centre was open for business at 11am. Badminton was organised

by Steve Owen and supported by Jill Hackett. Doubles was preferred as being slightly less exhausting than singles, but a competitive yet friendly atmosphere led to some exciting matches. On the other side of the hall was a basketball match organised by Tim Lewis and **Richard Challis** won by the school 42-30, followed by netball (ably assisted by Kelly Ives as she continued to coach the school team) won by the OS 17-13.



OS Netball Team

Andrew Presland organised a round-robin squash with a handicap point system. This allowed David Franklin, the present number two, to win the competition, very closely followed by **Neil Raja** and **Sahil Sharma**. The major spectator event was the rugby in the afternoon, featuring many of the recently returned players from the Australia tour and new arrivals to the school v recent leavers organised by **Alfy Weston**.



The result was 10-5 to the school. Goals for the school were scored by Sam Stevens, the Findlay Sports Scholar, and Johnny Recaldin. **Angus Wight** scored for the OS. The referee was Sean Holden. The result of the girls' soccer v a combined women's staff and OS was 1-0 to the OS and Staff, whereupon most of the OS girls trooped off to the astroturf for a final girls' hockey v OS. The school v recent OS Soccer captained by **Lucian Weston** was held on the running track and won by the school 3-1.

Refreshments for the players and the 250 spectators were provided. Thanks to all for their efforts and support. The Festival of Sport is well on its way to becoming a school tradition

Sailing

After the Athens Olympics, **Christina Bassadone** teamed up with Saskia Clark, a competitive rival only two years ago. Team Bassadone-Clark with their drive, determination and professionalism ended up an impressive and close second place on equal points with the overall winners at the 470 World Championships in San Francisco. They are set to compete in the 2008 Beijing Olympic games.

Ian Walker, Britain's America's Cup skipper in Auckland two years ago, has joined Italy's +39 team as tactician to Iain Percy ahead of the 2007 event. Walker, the double Olympic silver medalist, will join the crew for warm-up regattas in Sweden and Italy in the next couple of months.

Knole Run

The top three in the boys' team race were the same as last year, with Winchester winning, followed by St Alban's and Judd. Adams Grammar School, making its debut, came 4th and won the McGregor trophy. Sevenoaks were led home by Tom Morris (57th). The Sevenoaks team finished 12th of the 45 teams starting the race. Sevenoaks School won the Girls' Knole team event for the 4th time in six years beating Downe House. And finally, it was pleasing to see **Jeremy Banks** running so well on his way to winning the Bourne Cup for the OS. The races were staged in Knole Park with kind permission of Mr Robert Sackville West and the National Trust.

1st XI Cricket v MCC

Paul Downton once again captained the MCC team. Former Kent 2nd XI, Durham University and Sevenoaks Vine batsman Jamie Ford scored a high quality century to entertain the crowd on a chilly, damp day at Solefields. With several fourth years on a field trip Alex Kirkpatrick and Joe Corneille from the successful U14 team made their debuts. Both bowled promising spells, while Jamie Dunnett bowled 14 overs of good outswing, only taking punishment towards the end of Ford's innings. In reply the 1st XI was no match for a strong MCC bowling line-up, including **Will House**. U15 Henry Wardley top scored with an aggressive 24, but the MCC were not to be denied. The school played the OS on 26 June, the following day. The school 1st XI started this match needing one more win to equal the record of 10 set in 1970 by **James Graham-Brown's** side. It was appropriate therefore, that James should be playing for the OS team. OS captain **Chris Fletcher** won the toss and elected to bat. **Ben Spokes** and James put on 50 for the first wicket before

going in quick succession. **Stuart Seldon** and **Mike Soulsby** went cheaply before the **Shirreff** brothers, **Neil** and **Simon**, took centre stage with an unbroken stand of 135. Neil reminded us all of what a mercurial player he had been, bringing back memories of his 157 against Ardingly in 1995. The OS finished their 40 overs on 217 for 4. The 1st XI started well through openers David Franklin and Sam Cox, the latter finishing with 47. Duncan Burden and Henry Wardley contributed useful 30s in the middle order before this summer's leaver **Matt Glenny** produced an astonishing run out followed by a reaction catch at gully to change the game. The tail went quickly leaving the 1st XI all out, 60 runs short. Leading wicket takers were Chris Fletcher and **Guy Alexander** with 2 wickets each, **Richard Hughes**,



James Graham-Brown, Nick Tunnell

Neil and Simon Shirreff, and **Sam Wilkin** with 1. The 1st XI ended the season with an outstanding record; P 13, W9, L4 and D2. **Nick Tunnell** had done an excellent job as captain.

We were joined by many OS for tea, including **Kim Taylor**, **Brian Gibbons**, **Sheila Rogers** for **John**, **Peter Prodger**, **Robert Lark**, **John Cutting**, **Brian Sedgwick**, **Sandy Bell** and **Chris Crang**, as well as former Master IC Cricket, **Ian Walker**. **John Lark** and **Colin Smith** had already joined us earlier in the week. We will be offering the same hospitality on Sunday 25 June in 2006, when we will be delighted to host OS cricketers, both familiar and distant, once again.

Chris Tavaré

OS Golf Society

Our traditional curtain-raiser at Littlestone in early April was extremely well supported. The weather has usually been kind to us in recent years and indeed there was no rain. Instead, a sea mist tested our memory of the course layout (even if we were unable to hit the ball along the selected line, we mostly found the ball) both morning and afternoon, clearing just in time before play was to be abandoned. **Jeremy Smith** was the overall winner having hit the ball straighter than most (all along the ground) and putted in 'all our yesterdays' mode, with **Peter Hollamby**, **David Caldwell** and **John Cannon** joint runners-up. The second event, the invitation match against Wildernesse, was played in glorious conditions and provided a light workout for our younger members, who dispatched the home club with deceptive ease. Clearly it put them

in the mood for the Grafton Morrish Qualifier at Knole where we again qualified for the finals, this year led by a storming performance from **Paul Kempton**/**James Howie** and **Simon**/**Jon Barker**. May Bank Holiday weekend took us to Royal Ashdown Forest with a select band, i.e. a slightly disappointing turn-out. The morning singles on the Championship Course resulted in a win for **Brian Sedgwick**, by a single stroke from James Howie, who was on his first visit to the course – well done to both. The afternoon's Texas Scramble on the Hotel Course was again enjoyed by all and notable for a (10 birdie) sub-60 score from **Jin Cheong** and Jeremy Smith. The match against the school took place in early June at Wildernesse GC and resulted in a narrow win for the school, the deciding match being settled on the 18th green by Brian Fougard and Ray Hackett. Thanks to Paul Kempton for arranging the match and acting as our school liaison officer – it is a pleasure to meet the boys and girls taking a break from their studies and to hear that golf is assuming greater importance at the school. Mid-July took us to Royal Cinque Ports, Deal for our annual match against **Robert Lark**'s crack squad, who once again proved unbeatable on their home turf. The traffic jams in the centre of Dover caused a rather staggered start, and we never really recovered. A good lunch restored our confidence, and we shaded the afternoon foursomes to limit the damage and salvage some degree of respectability. The Autumn Meeting at Rye in September was enjoyed by all, although we did come under some pressure to satisfy the Club Secretary's requirements to conduct the entire day at a canter. An earlier morning start time and a degree of restraint at the lunch table should ensure a smoother passage this year. We were exceptionally pleased to welcome back **Mark Doorbar** and **Sean Gilchrist**. Winner on the day was **Nigel Henson**, with **Colin Gellatly** (at his first OS meeting) and **Chris Horncastle** joint runners-up. The end of September brought the Grafton Morrish finals at Hunstanton and Brancaster. The team of Paul Kempton/James Howie, Simon/Jon Barker and Jin Cheong/Jeremy Smith, ably supported by our nutritional coach **Richard Kempton**, enjoyed the charms of seaside golf with the practice day played in a flat calm and the first day of the competition in a hurricane, whereupon Wrekin, spurred on by Jin Cheong asking which part of Scotland they came from, proved too good for us. Simon and Jon Barker returned to the scene of earlier triumphs with a 4/3 win in the top match, but we failed to add to their 'point', thus qualifying for the "Plate" Competition with Eton and Millfield the following morning.

Jeremy Smith, Secretary

The Society enjoyed a small increase in membership during the year and greater numbers of participants at meetings. Thanks to those who recommend our activities to their fellow OS and to those who

continue to support the Society with their annual subscription despite their inability to attend the events – it does make a difference.

2006 Fixtures

31 March	Spring Meeting Littlestone
9 April	Invitation Match v Wildernesse
13 May	Grafton Morrish Qualifier
26 May	Summer Meeting Ashdown Forest
Mid-June TBA	OS v School Wildernesse
22 July	Invitation Match v Cinque Ports,
8 September	Autumn Meeting Rye

OS Soccer

The Old Boys avenged their previous defeat at the hands of the Staff in September 2004 with a comfortable 4-1 victory on 13 March 2005.



Tom Mitchell with the Cup

Goals from **James Edmonds**, **David Stubbs** (2) and **Martin Cosgrove** put the OS into a commanding 4-0 lead before the Staff claimed one back. With **Dave**

Gellatly in goal playing behind a solid defence of **Palmer**, **Mitchell**, Edmonds and **Moses**, it gave a midfield of Cosgrove, **Metcalfe**, **Donoghue** and **McKay** the freedom to create for and support, the strike force of Stubbs and **Fraser**. After Stubbs had opened the scoring with a well taken goal, the highlight of the match came via a wonderful strike from outside the area by James Edmonds, curling the ball into the top corner from 30 yards. Further goals from Stubbs and Cosgrove wrapped the game up for the OS, before a late penalty made it 4-1.

Real Tennis

Simon Mansfield (Johnsons 67-70) is looking for OS who are Real Tennis players to join him in a team for next year's Henry Leaf competition. Though Sevenoaks does not have a Court, Tonbridge is now hoping to build one, and Simon occasionally plays at Fairlawne, a private court near Plaxtol. Please contact him. Hazardahalf@aol.com.

Sportsman & Sportswoman of the Year

This year marks the introduction of a new and prestigious event, The Sportsman & Sportswoman of the Year Presentation Dinner on Saturday 9 September 2006 in the school dining room. This coincides with the OS Sports Day on Sunday 10 September. Guest speaker will be Bob 'The Cat' Bevan. A number of tickets will be made available to OS, and their spouses, who have represented the school at 1st team level in any major sport. Tickets will be £30 each.

If you would like to get together a group from your team, or just come individually, please write to Chris Tavaré for details at the school's address or email cjt@sevenoaksschool.org.

NEWS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

1930-1939

Terry Blackman (Wordsworth 30-33) writes of his career in the Royal Engineers. He was transferred to Royal West Kents and seconded to King's African Rifles in 1943. He returned to the UK and the Royal Engineers and had many postings including Christmas Island 1958-9 where four atom bombs were exploded. His last posting was Major, Officer commanding BFPO London which is the Forces Postal Classified mail to Army, Navy and Air Force. He also served in Kenya during the Mau Mau uprising.

1940-1949

Gerald Bingham (School House 40-44) writes from New Zealand that he would like to have word of

Neville Bowling. Could any OS who has information please contact the OS office.

Duncan Pollock-Gore (School House 42-45) has retired from farming largely because of the growing bureaucracy and a government that kowtows to Brussels. He sends his best wishes to his contemporaries.

Gordon Hillier (Hardinge 42-48) visited the school in November enroute to see his son **Robin**, in Tunbridge Wells. He had not seen the school properly since his son was a student and was very interested to revisit the familiar and have a look at the sports and art facilities that have been built. He fondly recollected walking to Wally Hall, where his sister was a student, to take art classes under the guidance of Miss Gash. He spoke of his two particular friends, **David Brearley** and **Mike Ellwood** and the loss of **John Rogers**, a friend from their earliest days at school.

1950-1959

Tony Newson (Wordsworth 45-50) came by the OS office in April 2005. He has lived in Durban for the last 30 years. He chiefly remembers his schooldays being rather straightened and chilly, where he excelled in Latin and Greek which have stood him in good stead as he has learned to speak Swahili and Zulu with ease. The visit was capped by a very good lunch at the Royal Oak.

Christopher Ward (Johnsons 50-53) writes, 'Unfortunately chronically severe osteoarthritis in my spine and neck precludes attending reunions unless they are on the doorstep. But I occasionally meet up with **Allan Wright** and **David Greene**.'

David Russell (Wordsworth 51-56) besides being a pupil at Sevenoaks and founder of the school sailing club, was the first Director of Physical Education and a Housemaster of Wordsworth. He also coached the 1st XV, and he taught **Ernie Groves** and **Brian Scragg** to sail. The early records of school sailing were closely linked with the Chipstead Sailing Club founded by David's father. On the rugby front he was very much involved with the Sevenoaks trip to Australia in the 70s and later to Collegiate School in the 80s. In between those times he returned to England where he taught and coached at the Kings School. For the past three years he and his wife have been working for VSA in Tonga and started a tutor scheme there.

1960-1969

Peter Perchard (Johnsons 57-60) has written *Cricket* published by Wayland and co-authored *Virgin Warrior*, a rock opera based on Joan of Arc. (www.virginwarrior.co.uk)

Colin Ball (Hardinge 1954-61) son of **George Ball**, School Marshal for many years, completed his five-year term of service as Director of the Commonwealth Foundation in December 2004. He has returned to live and work in Brisbane, Australia.

Richard Martin (Wordsworth 54-61) retired from teaching in 1996 but has been working as a researcher and administrator for his local MP since 1998.

John Hedley (Wordsworth 58-62) trained as an airline pilot after leaving Sevenoaks. He began at Elstree Flying School with **Richard James**. He later returned to Canada, his birthplace, and joined Canadian Pacific Airlines that later became Canadian Airlines and was subsequently taken over by Air Canada. He was Captain of 747s and rose to be the most senior pilot in the company before retiring in 2004. He lives on Vancouver Island in Canada. He and his family are frequent visitors to Sevenoaks where his sister Anne and brother-in-law David Clark live.

Robert Thorne (Sackville 58-63) was touched by the

coincidence that he had been a founder member of the Voluntary Service Unit, and now Sevenoaks girls in the VSU are doing the shopping for his mother.

Jo Marriott (Wordsworth 59-64) is an evangelist church pastor of Plant Out community church on a local council estate in Bexhill on Sea. He has been there for the last ten years involved with helping the poor folk who have been struggling in the drug scene or just out of prison. It is exciting to see God at work.

David Morton (Grote 58-64) has been with the UN World Food Programme for many years working in Africa, Asia, Bosnia, and has completed four years in North Korea. He is now the Director of Transport/Logistics at the agency's headquarters in Rome.

Peter Wild (Wordsworth 56-64) telephoned the school in the hopes of getting in touch with **Bob White**. Unable to see Bob, he nonetheless came by the school and had a tour of the old art building and courtyard where he happily recalled his final year art show.

Nigel Tucker (Wordsworth 59-65) writes, 'I loved the School, starting with the freezing parade at the start of life as a new boy in shorts outside School House right through to my later years with **Gert Sommerhof** and **Willie Bleyberg** in Park Grange. We learned to dream of the gardens outside the windows – of fumbling the flowers – during English lessons with **Alan Hurd**, who I am pleased to hear is still going strong. My sister Diana Tucker joined as secretary under **Miss Day**. She has happy memories, mainly of the prefects, who were so attentive.

Richard Townend and I were close friends, and we used to play at his house at Park Grange and recite long tracts of the Goon Show with **Susanna** his sister. Their parents were so kind to many of us. **George Tester** was a mentor for me throughout my years, encouraging me in to play the piano. The vision of him cycling up the High Street with his horn-rimmed spectacles jammed on his nose will endure. My uncle, **Wilfred Franks** (born 1908) was an OS as was my great grandfather, **William Franks**, who must have been at the school in the 1860s or so. I went off to St Andrews, and met my wife there. After graduating in Physics with 1st Class Honours, I worked at my PhD and moved on to a very varied computing career, doing signal and image processing until finally moving out to New Zealand two years ago. Any Old Sennockians visiting the country will be most welcome – just email us first on nigel.tucker@paradise.net.nz'

Simon Skudder (Johnsons 63-66) writes, 'I was very sorry to read about the passing of **Brian Townend**, **Mr Gilbert** and **Sue Taylor**, whom I remember fondly, one for giving me an understanding of Latin and participatory music (oh that glockenspiel!) and another for my lasting interest in detail drawing and wood, and whose techniques I still pass on to others.'

1970-1979

Richard Bremner (Fenton 65-71) writes, 'After 28 years in the software industry I finally quit. I was no longer enjoying it and decided to start my own business as a home handyman – doing what I enjoy. The total change of lifestyle took a bit of getting used to, but now it seems quite normal.'

Guy Liddell (Johnsons 64-71) is providing programme management services to a huge 18-month project to completely replace the IT systems and infrastructure required to support the transition of a region of TRANSCO to the private sector.

David Woodgate (Fryth 64-71) still keeps in touch with **Mike Allin**, **Paul Mason** and **Rob Jones**. He remembers with affection being taught history by **Ernie Groves** who had taught his father, **Ernest Woodgate**, the same subject in the 30s. Ernie Groves, a true gentleman whose charm drew instant respect from those he taught, remembered his father and refused to call David anything but Ernest.

Simon Mansfield (Johnsons 67-70), a keen real tennis player, is interested in entering a team into the Schools Tournaments each year. He currently plays for Queens, Hampton Court and Hurlingham, and is also governor of the Chase (Manhattan Bank) Alumni in the UK. From his years at Sevenoaks, he only really keeps in touch with **John Bevertton**.

Paul Greengrass (IC 69-73) was awarded two Baftas in April 2005. One was for *Omagh*, a drama documentary about the Omagh bombing, and the other was the Alan Clarke award for his contribution to documentary.

Richard Clemmow (Caxton 68-73) producer of *Soul of India*, and executive producer of *Breaking the Silence: Truth and Lies in the War on Terror* and *D-Day in Colour*, was appointed Head of Factual Programming at TW1 last December. He won an Emmy for *Watergate + 30* in 2004.

Mark Harding (Sackville 70-75) described himself in the *FT* in April 2005 as a manager of legal risk rather than a legal adviser, in examining how the role of in-house lawyers has changed within British companies. Mark is general counsel at Barclays Bank.

Andrew Kennett (Taylor 69-76) was awarded the CBE on 18 March 2005 for his work in the 1st Mechanised Brigade in Basra.

David Becker (Grote 73-77) writes, 'Perhaps this is the moment to capture some 20 years in a few sentences. Notwithstanding the introduction of seven girls in my last year, my enduring memory is of the wonderful times in the Art Room with **Bob White** at its helm steering naively rebellious A level students through to decent grades. My experiments with Art and the convivial environment that Bob engendered have proved to be among the most valuable skills in life. The academic knowledge and worldly advice that Bob infused in students has equipped me for a varied (and successful) career in

design. At 18, not knowing what an earth I was to do, I was nonetheless aware that my path lay somewhere in the arts, so on leaving school I studied 3D Design at Middlesex Polytechnic. After three somewhat delinquent years I fell into the visual effects department of the BBC designing all manner of effects, props and nonsense for television programmes. These included updates to Daleks, Dr Who's new tardis console, special effects for Top of the Pops, bits and pieces for Tomorrow's World, feature pieces for dramas, and best of all, pyrotechnics. In 1992 with wife and three-month old boy we travelled to Australia. Initially this was to be a two-year escape, but it has proved rather more long term. My experience with studio lighting, though peripheral, brought about an unexpected change of direction. In 1993 I found myself at Philips Lighting as manager of the Lighting Application Centre, a facility for advancing lighting excellence in architecture. I became director of an international building services design company, and two and a half years ago established my own operation, PointOfView. www.pov.com.au. I'm married with two children, and have a couple of station wagons, a 20-year-old Ducati, a road racing bicycle, a house near Manly and a photographic darkroom inspired all those years ago by the art room at Sevenoaks School.'

John Holmes (Groves 70-77), formerly exams administrator for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, is training to be a primary school teacher.

Andrew Maclaren (Grote 75-77) writes, 'I once won for the school the Kent Golf Championship, with **Derek Pegg**, **Gareth Davies** and the late **Richard Taylor**. I was pleased to see that the old school qualified for the Grafton Morrish, well done.'

Andrew Cheung (Johnsons 74-78) writes, 'I visited the school in March last year, just when the snow was starting to fall and noted the new, faster electric train, the much larger rebuilt Sevenoaks station and the much higher ticket price. Also I noted that the fountain in front of the old School House has now moved next to Johnsons where I used to live. My old gardening patch is still there, but the tulips and daffs that I planted 20 years ago had vanished (perhaps they were not up yet). It is a pity that the little forest beyond Park Grange where my brothers used to board was cleared. Where do Park Grangers go for a fag during pre-break? The old dining room complex has been rebuilt, but the pine tree outside the library still stands, now much taller. I believe the graffiti carved by someone I know upon the briefcase rack twenty years ago is still there. I am now living in Hong Kong, in medical general practice. I used to be a committee member and later editor of the school stamp club the SSPNS, I am now the chairman, editor and webmaster of the famed Hong Kong Philatelic Society. (www.hkpsoc.com)'

Tim Hucker (Fenton 72-78) is currently working as

Financial Controller of the Leisure Pass Group, a company which runs smart card tourist passes for various cities around the world. He has been married for 16 years to Gill, a psychiatrist. They have two girls, Sarah (11) who's just started at St Dunstan's, and Jessica (6).

Anton LaGuardia (IC 77-79) is the diplomatic editor of *The Daily Telegraph*. His most recent book is *War without End: Israelis, Palestinians and the Struggle for a Promised Land*.

Matthew Lee (Grote 72-79) writes 'I was very sorry to read of Fuzz's death. As well as Music he taught Latin – he taught me for three years in the early 70s. I still remember our games of fizz-buzz (counting round the class in Latin) with pleasure. He was such an amiable, larger than life figure, and the only person I've ever met with hair growing on the end of his nose. I begin to appreciate now what a rich variety of characters the Sevenoaks School staffroom contained in the 70s. I was pleased to see **Dr Govan** is gracing your Golden Oldies gatherings along with **Alan Hurd** and **Mr Theaker**, and I still find it hard to believe that **Mr Guyatt** is of that age already. God bless him for sixth form film club on a Saturday for those of us bad and worse at games.'

1980-1989

Tom McLeish (Fenton 73-80) immensely enjoyed his visit to the school to address the sixth form scholars last year. On that occasion, he was able to meet up with **Bill Hewlett** again, and they have initiated a professional collaboration.

Dexter Dias (Fenton 74-81), author of five crime novels including *False Witness*, has been counsel since 2004 to the much-publicised public inquiry into the prison service after the racist murder of a young offender at Feltham Young Offenders Institute (The Zahid Mubarek Inquiry before the Hon. Mr Justice Keith). He is currently representing Zahid Mubarek's family on his own, without a QC.

Jeremy Perks (IC 75-82) has been living in the Far East for over 12 years. He was married to Magda on the Great Wall of China in August 2004. His best man was **Jonathan Keating**.

Gavin Milverton (Grote 75-82) writes 'I live in the South Island of New Zealand. On a clear day my view extends over 100 miles to the Kaikoura Ranges. I am, in a bizarre twist, a member of a Maori tribe. My iwi is Ngaruahine, and my hapu is Kanahi, if anyone asks. I'm a long way from Sevenoaks, but have very fond memories.'

Annette Davey née Verle (GIH 82-84) left project management when her son Thor was born and has opened an internet based business selling gifts to grandparents. She and her husband Giles are delighted with their new daughter Mathilde who was born in October.

Graham Dixon (Caxton 77-84) is Dean of Education at DeVry Metro University D.C. in Virginia.

Justin Giffin (Hardinge 77-84) has been living in Kyoto for 12 years. Having started as a teacher of English he now does some teaching, rents out mobile phones to visitors, trades in collectible telephone cards and conducts blessings for newlywed Japanese. rentafonejapan@dream.com

Poo Teck Wong (IC 84-86) is Development Manager with Walt Disney Imagineering HK, working on the development of one of the two hotels in the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort which opened in September 2005. He usually comes back to England every two to three years and stays in London with his sister. He is planning a round the world trip after the opening of the resort to visit family and friends. His parents still reside in Malaysia, his brother and family live in Singapore, his eldest sister and family in New York, his middle sister and family in London and youngest sister and family in Hong Kong.

Roger Deuce (Fryth 81-88) despite never attending a single German lesson while at Sevenoaks, now lives in Cologne and has become a fluent German speaker. Though the travel necessary to undertake his job as Senior Produce Engineer for a Canadian multinational is unrelenting, he still finds time to compete in yacht racing events in both UK and Mediterranean waters.

Gina Muysken née Bent (Caxton 86-88) had a daughter, Kitty Eloise, on 16 March 2005.

Seema Alibhai (GIH 86-88) writes, 'After nearly a decade providing you all with breaking news at CNN, I have a bit of breaking news myself: I DID IT!! I have finally made the plunge into the big bad world of total self-indulgence where I will be travelling, writing a book, travelling some more, lending my talents to some not-for-profit work either in Africa or Asia and on occasion popping back to London to annoy all of you with my wonderful stories and delicious tan.'

Murray Barnett (School House 85-89) is the Senior Director of ESPN International, the sports TV division of the Walt Disney Company. He is responsible for global rights and programme sales and ESPN channels in Africa and the Middle East.

David Baumslag (Tammadge 83-89) writes, 'Having completed a PhD and worked as a philosopher for a few years, I have turned my back on the university world and am now working for Capital One in Nottingham as a senior business analyst. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who was at Sevenoaks with me.'

Tamasin Reid (Caxton 87-89) co-partners Stillsets in Los Angeles which does prop styling and sets for print photography. www.stillsets.com.

1990-1999

Claire Bonham-Carter (Fenton 88-90) writes, 'I am still working at Faber Maunsell, advising developers on how to build more sustainable buildings. It's a great job I believe in strongly, but I am rather too

busy for my liking. I flew to Dublin to do a pitch for a job, but that's about as glamorous as it gets. I'm also a director for Homes for Islington – the organisation set up by Islington Council to manage its housing stock – interesting, frustrating, challenging and somewhat time consuming for a voluntary spare time job. Otherwise you'll find me rock climbing and running, growing veg in my garden and recently, and somewhat bizarrely, knitting.'

Lotta Hagstrom (GIH 89-91) still had itchy feet. So after a brief stint in the UK to take her ICE professional review, she has moved to New Zealand to work for Babbage Consultants. She would love to see friends from Sevenoaks if they are in this part of the world.

James Loudon (IC 89-91) says hello to his old friends with whom he hopes to cross paths in the not too distant future. When in Shanghai, all Sennockians are welcome to contact him.

Elisabeth Lutzow (GIH 89-91) writes 'I moved to Switzerland in September 2004 with Cameron Dewey. We married in London at the Swedish Church on 5 February 2005. I am still in touch with the old Sevenoaks gang, **Francesca Tronchetti-Provera** (née **Malgara**), **Karla Zerressen** (née **von Keudell**), **Olivia Hirschberg** and **Jeany Cronk** (née **Radmer**). They all came to celebrate my wedding.'

Julie Norstrand (GIH 89-91) has settled into life in the Boston, Mass, area. She is working for her PhD in Social Work at Boston College.

Christopher Peters (Hardinge 86-91) married Hilary Ward, a nurse from Dublin, in August 2003. **Mathew Craine** was the best man and **James Davies**, **Alex Hook**, **Tony Pagett**, **Dawn Draper** and **Helen Russell** were in attendance. He and Hilary had their first child, Oliver in March 2005. He is always happy to hear from OS.

Mariko Tsushima (GIH 89-91) visited the school and her former guardians in June for the first time in 15 years. She now teaches English to 12 and 13-year-olds in a boys' boarding school in Japan.

Chloe Moat (Sennocke 90-92) is working for a German/Danish company that designs, makes and installs wind turbines. She runs their service department for the South of France. She is still based in the Béziers area and living with her partner David and four year old son, Rémy. She writes that it would be nice to keep in touch with some old Sennockians from her year, especially those in France.

Sarah Tomlinson (GIH 90-92) has returned to the UK with her husband and two sons to run the family's children's day nursery in Tonbridge. She had been living in France since graduating from Leeds and retains close relationships with her friends and family in Biarritz, Brittany and Paris.

Ross Wilkinson (Plender 87-92) is leaving the Army after eight years and has enrolled at St George's Medical School.

Sarah Hart (Tammadge 91-93) returned to work in

August as deputy editor on *Slimming Magazine* following the birth of her daughter Elizabeth Daisy in December 2004. Her husband Mike is deputy editor at *Golf Monthly*.

Bjorn Hoffmann (Wordsworth 86-93) and Cathryn have another son, Charlie, born 1 September 2005.

Rachel Lankester (Groves 88-93) recently returned from four years working with an International Adoption Agency in Hong Kong and plans to continue studying Contemporary China Studies, an MA programme in Hong Kong. She would be very interested to hear from any old classmates and exchange news. kidsinasia@hotmail.com

Felicity Powell née **Allum** (Tammadge 91-93) writes, 'Darren and I married on 4 December 2004 at St Cuthbert's Collge Chapel, Auckland. My brother, **Nick**, was master of ceremonies and **Kim Culver** was my bridesmaid. We returned to the UK in 2005 for a wedding blessing and were pleased to catch up with several OS friends.'

Geoff Streatfeild (Tammadge 88-93) appeared in Julian Jarrold's *Kinky Boots* and Woody Allen's *Match Point*.

Isabelle Overbeck (Sennocke 92-94) has recently moved from Paris to Munich to work at Hiscox in the art insurance sector.

Georgina Rich (Amherst 87-92) opened in a new four hander play, *Honor*, on 7 February at the Wyndhams Theatre, starring Diana Rigg, Martin Jarvis, Natascha McElhone, and Georgina, in her West End debut.

Chris Rodgers (IC 92-94) conducted *The Combustible Alarms*, an 18-piece jazz orchestra, playing music by Chris Rodgers and others at the Bedford in Balham this past September.

Bas Wels (Johnsons 89-94) writes, 'Since leaving Johnsons in 1994 I went to university in Utrecht to study Chemistry, and in May 2004 I received a PhD in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Utrecht. I currently work at Mercachem, a start-up company specialising in contract research for the pharmaceutical industry, based in the town of Nijmegen. I live with my girlfriend in Utrecht and can be reached at bas.wels@gmail.com'

Antonia Blackwood (GIH 93-95) married Ryan Grisard in Alexandria, Virginia in June. **Estelle Levin**, **Mark Bell** and **Tanya Malcolm** attended.

James Baggott (Grote 88-95) married Alison Lynsey Pope in August 2005 at Dulwich College having been engaged since August 2001. **Richard Hitchcock** and **Barnaby Chesterman** attended. Alison works for the DTI in Human Resources and is nearly qualified as a CIPD professional.

Estelle Levin (GIH 93-95) writes, 'I live in Washington, DC, and work at the World Bank. **Tanya Malcolm** is in New York – she's a political risk consultant on post-Soviet central Asia. And **Antonia Blackwood** is in DC too, and working for Refugees International. It's great that we're all in the same part of the world.'

Kate Norman (GIH 93-95) is working in East Timor. **James Parsons** (Tammadge 90-95) writes, 'I've been working with 10-12 year olds at a summer school near Brighton; I run the Crazy Comic Club, teaching the kids exactly that. I'm working on my self-published books (tasteless, libellous, horrible, but also hopefully quite funny) and teaching, going to a few festivals to run workshops during the summer. I believe Ollie and Graham are both still in the art department in some shape or form. Please pass on my very best wishes to them both.'

Rupert Russell (Hardinge 88-95) was in New York in June and July performing to record crowds in *The Hollow Men*, a British comedy foursome composed of David Armand, Rupert Russell, Sam Spedding, and Nick Tanner.

Mike Haskamp (IC 94-96) included **Jose Briano**, **Toby Engelmeier**, **Simon Brocklehurst**, **Ezra Effendi**, **Rupert Evill**, **Kim Housego**, **Raphael de Selys**, **Taek-Szen Low** and **Floris Vermeulen** from IC at his wedding to Sara Newbold on Cape Cod last summer. **Lee Johnstone** (Grote 91-96) lives and works in Petersfield, Hampshire. He is engaged to Emma McDonagh. They hope to be married in the summer of 2006.

Arabella Koerfer (GIH 94-96) moved to Barcelona in September 2005 and then to South America.

Hilke De Smedt (GIH 95-97) left her job in December 2004 and spent the first four months of 2005 working on a cattle, sheep and rice estancia in Uruguay. Following this she is doing an internship for three months on a game reserve in Malawi. After that, who knows?

Gerald Fong (IC 96-97) writes 'I am happy to report that I have completed my Masters in International Business at the University of Sydney in July. University life was more relaxed as a graduate student. Having graduated with a Chemical Engineering degree in 2003, the addition of a Masters in International Business was seen as helpful in my long term career prospects. I am now working as a chemical engineer with Dupont Australia in the suburb of Sydney.'

Melanie Thein (Sennocke 93-97) completed a BSc in Biochemistry followed by an MSc in Biochemical Research at Imperial College. She then went to Glasgow to do a PhD in Veterinary Parasitology and is now working as a post-doc researcher near San Francisco.

Julie Aspden née Batley (Sackville 93-98) is completing her PhD in the Biochemistry Department at Cambridge. She still plays squash and has taken up real tennis for fun, but spends most of her free time in Cambridge playing ice hockey for the university team and was privileged to be president of the club this past year. She married Andy Aspden at Selwyn College, Cambridge. They hope to move to the US in the summer. She is looking for a post-doc research position in the RNA field, in the Boston area or at Yale. Andy is writing his thesis in fluid

dynamics and also looking for post-docs.

Milla Mackley (Fryth 94-99) won the chef competition on the F word (picked by Gordon Ramsay out of 1000 applicants) and is starting work at Claridges.

Sophie Webb (IC 97-99) has just completed her MSc in Management at Bath.

Lizzie Cookson (Sackville 96-99) got a first at Exeter in English and Classical Literature. She has embarked on a Law conversion course.

Laura Fantacci (GIH 97-99) has been a junior fashion editor on *Happy Magazine* since December 2004.

Claire Le Hur (Sennocke 92-99) is a boarding house tutor at Rugby, teaching Greek, Latin and Classical Civilisation as well as coaching the U15b hockey team. As she says, there is a lot going on and term had not even begun.

Melissa Sharp (Park Grange 97-99) having left Oxford with a 1st, is now in her second year of a PhD in Chemistry at Bristol University. She also enjoys playing football for the university's 1st team.

Andrew Smith (Fryth 92-99) graduated with a first in European Politics from Nottingham in 2004. After a stint as an English teacher in Peru, he spent four months in Brussels working for the British Council. Since January 2005 he has been working for the Home Office.

Andy Titterell (Groves 97-99) was selected for the 20-man England A Squad which is a back-up for the Six Nations rugby tournament.

Benny Yeung (IC 97-99) completed a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical and Process System Engineering at Edinburgh University in 2002. He started working in spring 2003 for a local garment company which has their production plant in China and is gaining a lot of knowledge about working in China.

2000-2004

Midge Adams (ex-staff 91-00) has started a new career as costume and set designer. She has designed for Worth College and has recently spent a month in Singapore designing and creating costumes for *Cabaret* and is designing *Tess of the Durbervilles* for the United World College of Southeast Asia.

Stephan Bocklet (IC 98-00) writes, 'In 2005 I received an MPhil in Economics from Oxford, Hertford College, where I had previously studied for a BA in PPE. In my final year I also taught undergraduate students in Economics as a Stipendiary College Lecturer at Wadham College. In August 2005 I began work as an investment banker at the London office of NM Rothschild & Sons.'

Chris Brough (Grote 94-00) was awarded a first at Exeter College, Oxford, in Earth Sciences as well as winning a half blue for badminton. His dissertation on mineralogy has been put forward for publication. He found the course pressurised and hard work but ultimately very enjoyable. He plans to go to Cape Town University for the next 18 months for a

research project.

Katie de Wit (Groves 98-00) had a slight change in direction after graduating from Jesus College, Cambridge, and is now studying for an MA at Manchester in International Relations. Following this, she hopes to learn French in Paris.

Pavla Kopecna (GIH 98-00) graduated in History from Clare, Cambridge, coaching tennis during the summer 2004. She has moved to London and started the L'Oréal Management Graduate Scheme, focusing on internet marketing and communications. She travelled in Russia during the summer of 2005.

Amy Rogers (Fryth 98-00) won top prize in *The Times* Law Awards competition for her essay *Terrorism and Human Rights*.

Patricia Scheickl (Park Grange 98-00), having finished university, works for Ernst & Young in Berlin in transaction advisory services.

Katherine Martin (Wordsworth 94-01) qualified in July with a BSc in Physiotherapy from Southampton. She travelled in South America over the summer before starting her junior hospital rotations for the next two years. She was involved at university as the main organiser for the RAG events and raised £3,500 for the Southampton Universities Fashion Show.

Ronald Crocker (Hardinge 96-01) was an assistant musical director on *Billy Elliot*. He was the director for a new musical, *This Time Next Week*, for the Stephen Sondheim Society in 2005.

Jamie McVinnie (Hardinge 94-01) has been appointed an organist at St Paul's Cathedral for September 2006.

Christopher Robinson (Johnsons 96-01) is in the selection process for Anglican Ordination. He married **Amy Arthur** in July 2005.

Alexa Scoones (Tammadge 94-01) has finished the first year of a two-year law conversion course in London.

Ben Bishop (Sackville 97-02) writes, 'I'm now in my third year of uni and decided that I would do an exchange to Canada for a year. I'm studying at Waterloo University, near Toronto, which is great fun; although some of the North American clichés have come to be very true. My tourism lecturer suggested that Nepal was by the sea. I am not the only one of my friends who is not quite ready to join the real world. **Johnny Chatterton** is also doing an exchange and has gone to Grenoble for the year.'

Krishna Gandhi (Sennocke 97-02) is studying European Studies, with French and Italian at Royal Holloway College, University of London. She is spending the third year of her degree abroad on the Erasmus/Socrates exchange programme. The first part of the year will be spent in Florence studying at the Università di Firenze, discovering the beautiful Renaissance city, sampling fine Florentine cuisine, and enjoying the laid-back Italian way of life. She will spend the second part of her year in Alsace, studying at the Institute of Political Science at

Strasbourg, taking advantage of the Institute's proximity to the European Parliament to further her knowledge and understanding of the EU.

Michelle Munn-Mace (Sennocke 98-03) writes 'I restarted university at Bath in October 2005, as King's in London was not a success. During my time off, I worked as a sales assistant, a receptionist in a solicitor's office in Tunbridge Wells and kept up the languages by studying German, and starting Russian. I have travelled through Europe twice, by car from England to Romania, where my parents are currently living. We have been helping poor families in Romania by distributing clothes and toys collected by ourselves and with the help of the Catholic Church in Sevenoaks. At Bath, I will be pursuing European Studies with French and Spanish (a four-year course with a year abroad) which I am very much looking forward to.'

Ian Ogilvie (ex-staff) received the MBE in October 2004 for services to the Voluntary Sector and in particular the Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen.

Oliver Burch (Austen 97-04) writes, 'I am attending St Andrews, my final degree will be Behavioural and Environmental Biology. I am a member of fencing, cornucopia (the fine dining society), and the film society. Next term I intend to join more, as I could not do as many as I would want due to my academic timetable. University life it is good and there is a great community feel. However there is no clubbing scene, and not many bands tour up here. Fortunately this is balanced out by the large number of balls and other events. As well as the bop (Union club night on a Friday) there have been at least five balls, a jazz and swing dance night and various ceilidhs. When the craving for city life hits, Edinburgh is an hour or so away by train. I am thoroughly enjoying St Andrews, and I would be more than happy to correspond with anyone thinking of applying and answer any questions they might have.'

Priya Parikh (GIH 02-04) is studying Chemical Engineering (though she might switch to pure Chemistry) at the University of California at Berkeley. Berkeley is a very research oriented university, and opportunities for students to get involved in research are fairly easily available. Since she intends to end up doing research in the pharmaceutical industry (quite possibly in oncology), Berkeley is an excellent choice. The town of Berkeley is just a half hour by the BART (equivalent of the London Underground) into San Francisco. Berkeley is an extremely large public university (roughly 35,000 students in total, counting both undergraduates and graduates) with a large ethnic diversity in the student and teacher population.

Paul Craig Waller (Caxton 03-05) writes, 'I am studying History at the University of York. The course so far has been good, it's not too challenging

at the moment thanks to the IB, though the course has a lot more variety. York has too many societies, but you are guaranteed to find something that will interest you. I have joined the History Society, which makes interesting trips around the city of York and one a big trip abroad on a student budget. In addition, I am learning salsa dancing, which is hard work, but you meet lots of interesting people outside your college and your course. In addition to all the societies there is a massive Sports Union. I joined the Ski and Snowboard Club; we go on trips to the dry slope every two weeks, and there are Christmas and Easter trips to the continent. Again it is very cheap. The accommodation is awesome; this is not an exaggeration. If you join James College (like me) you are pretty much guaranteed an en-suite shower room, the only disadvantage is that this is the only college without a bar. So you have a choice as to what is more important to you. By the way it's £1.60 for a pint at the college bars. Cooking for yourself is really fun as well, especially if you find a master chef living next door. York University is great.'

Emma Jones (Caxton 03-05) writes, 'Settling in to Hertford College, Oxford, was very much helped by an action-packed and well-organised Freshers' week, and funnily enough once the workload began to pile up a sense of routine was established, which gave structure to the days. I'm thoroughly enjoying the Geography course so far and with a mixture of pride and resentment am telling old school friends how many essays we've managed to squeeze into half a term. The accommodation was a pleasant surprise, being somewhat more homely than anticipated. None of the rooms is en-suite, but there are washbasins in each room and a bathroom between three. In terms of extracurricular events, Freshers' Fair provided a plethora of activities ranging from windsurfing to wine tasting. Time management is crucial however on such a busy academic schedule, and the discipline ingrained by the IB has definitely been invaluable. I am currently only focusing on one activity, University Blues level tennis, which occupies three two-hour sessions a week. I had visions of maintaining old hobbies such as MUN and singing, as well as acquiring new skills such as ballroom dancing, but the reality is somewhat different. I have nothing but praise for my college

and university experience so far. Hopefully things will become even more enjoyable as Oxford begins to feel more like home.'

Adam Montanaro (Tammadge 98-05) writes, 'I'm at Durham, first year, studying combined Social Sciences (Sociology, Anthropology and French) which is a fantastic course because it's interesting, varied and in all honesty pretty easy so far. I'm having a brilliant time in Van Mildert College which is the best college in Durham as it has the most recently refurbished accommodation and a real community spirit. I am playing college table tennis and badminton and am unbeaten in both. I am also in the tennis, poker and football supporters clubs. Durham, "University of the Year" according to *The Sunday Times*, is an incredibly friendly place.'

Casper Ter Kuile (Tammadge 00-05) writes, 'Warwick is all I thought it would be. Union democracy has proved a big interest, and I have been voted on to Union Council. I'm also a student-staff liaison committee representative for my course, which means that I meet with staff to ensure good relationships between students and staff. I was also in the PR team for One World Week which is the largest student-run international event in the world and took place at Warwick in January 2006. I'm involved with Amnesty International, Trampolining, History Society, Choir, Musical Theatre Warwick but most of all People and Planet. This is a student organisation which works on HIV AIDS, Trade Justice and Fair Trade, and Environmental issues. So far, I have met up with my MP to discuss Trade Justice at the Mass Lobby in November. A similar event is taking place in Brussels, where we will be speaking to a number of MEPs which I'm very much looking forward to. For People and Planet I'm organising a Hunger Banquet where 100 people are split randomly into three groups. Ten people will be served a lovely meal which we, in the industrial western world are used to, 30 people will have to queue to receive a simple vegetarian curry and the other 60 will be crammed on the floor eating a small bowl of rice with their hands. This will demonstrate the difference in living conditions we experience. As for my course, all is going to plan, but as this year does not count towards my degree, I'm allowing myself some time to get involved with as much as I can.'

STAFF VALETE

Richard Atherton

'Athers', as he was affectionately known to many staff in the common room, came to Sevenoaks from St Paul's School, São Paulo to teach Mathematics in 1997. His genial, approachable manner quickly made him popular with pupils and staff alike. The students loved Richard's lessons. His quirky, mathematical mind stretched and entertained the

most able students, and his caring, understanding manner got the best out of even the most numerically challenged pupils. His lessons always 'buzzed' with lively debate and challenging problem solving. Richard was an excellent Middle School Tutor. He understood young people and could communicate with them. Richard's work as Director of IT was absolutely outstanding improving the efficiency of

the grades and reports process incredibly. Moreover, Richard was always approachable when asked for help on any aspect of computing. If you emailed him with a request, within 30 minutes you got a simple reply offering a solution. Richard, a talented sportsman and games coach, was in charge of a very successful boys' hockey 1st Team and the tennis 1st Team. Everyone he coached enjoyed his training sessions. He was also the key organiser of Wednesday night staff soccer. Someone once described Richard as 'a man of the common room', a member of staff who gave a great deal to his colleagues and for this he will be greatly missed. He leaves us to join St George's School, Rome, as Deputy Head.

Alex Smith

Sue Austin

Sue taught at Sevenoaks for more than ten years. She began by teaching French throughout the school and was particularly good at inspiring those who found modern languages difficult. However, this was never going to be a sufficient challenge for Sue, who soon became Head of Additional Languages solving the unsolvable timetable combinations for small groups of students who studied 12 different languages. From this administrative tangle Sue moved on to become the school's IB co-ordinator, a post she held for six years. When she took on the job only half the Sixth Form took IB exams, but this year there were more than 200. Her terrific organisational skills ensured the smooth running of the final IB exams, the submission of Extended Essays and Theory of Knowledge work along with the completion of CAS hours. Additionally she began what is now PROMO when, with just a few students, she led a summer project to the orphanage at Lasi in Romania. Today more than 70 students volunteer for this project which visits the children every year. She will be remembered as the most caring person. Her contribution to VSU was enormous; she drove minibuses, helped organise Christmas parties and worked hard with the team who visited Valence School. She introduced Ab Initio Italian to the Sixth Form and instigated the annual study trip to Italy. We shall miss her running across the campus to her next meeting, and we shall miss her superb organisation, but most of all we shall miss her cheerful smile, kind words and good company. We wish her well in her new post at the King Fahd School in London.

Brenda Walpole

Helen Carmichael

Helen joined the Classics Department at Sevenoaks in September 2001 after gaining her PGCE qualification at the University of Surrey. This was her first appointment as a Classics teacher although she had spent some years teaching EFL in Turkey. In

her time many a pupil was won over to Classics by Helen's unconventional and original approach to the teaching of the subject. Quite what would be on the agenda for the day's lessons would always be a matter for conjecture: would it be making the thyrsus wands with which Bacchantes would go about their frenzied business? Would it be acting out some of the gorier scenes from Livy's History of Rome? Or would it be trying out for sound some of the more obscure metres of Latin lyric poetry? During her time at Sevenoaks Helen discovered a real talent for direction and production of plays. Among other successes, she worked alongside Jim Grant in that memorable production of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* two years ago, and last year she put on a powerful and challenging production of *Guantanamo*. She was also a devoted resident house tutor in Park Grange, giving generously of her time to her tutees. Helen has developed a significant interest in the Arab world and the Middle East, and she leaves us to take up an MA course at SOAS in Middle Eastern studies.

Simon Carr

Edward Coles

Ed came to Sevenoaks School in September 1998 straight from Electronic Engineering at Durham University and his PGCE. His unassuming nature and quiet efficiency allowed him to settle into the Electronics and Design Department quickly. He taught all year groups and made an impressive contribution to curriculum development in the Junior School. Ed was particularly interested in outward-bound activities and over the years involved in the CCF, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the climbing club and a variety of sporting activities. In his last two years he was resident tutor at Johnsons. Perhaps the most satisfying contribution he made to the co-curricular life of the school was his involvement in the trip to China and Tibet in the summer of 2004. He leaves us to take a place in the largest Electronics Department in the UK at the Army Military College where they certainly will benefit from his considerable expertise.

David Fenwick

John Hewitt

John joined Sevenoaks School in 1992 as the Director of Sport. His determined, professional approach to the PE department made him highly respected. He was very much a teacher of Sport who enjoyed being out on the games field. He would draw the best out of the most talented rugby players in the 1st XV, and do the same with the less able in the school's C teams. John coached the 1st XV for ten years, producing some excellent teams and developing the skills of the school's best rugby players. Following the completion of his MBA, John joined the Economic and Business Studies Department teaching IB and A

Level. His qualities as a Head of Sport enabled him to make the transition successfully and bring much to the department. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed his classes and his innovative approach to lessons. In 1999 John was appointed housemaster of Lambardes. He and his wife Lynne did a superb job looking after the youngest boarders in the school. The charity sleepover, international evening and all those house trips have left good memories for everyone involved in the House. John is an honest, honourable man who would always do his best to support his colleagues. His great sense of humour and charm will be greatly missed at Sevenoaks. He leaves us to join Churcher's College in Petersfield as Pastoral Deputy Head.

Alex Smith

Peter Lloyd

Peter retires from Sevenoaks School after 33 years of distinguished service. He was an outstanding Biology teacher who drew the best out of more students than I am sure he would care to remember. His very distinctive style in the classroom combined a straightforward approach and a demand for high standards while maintaining a very strong sense of discipline. As a colleague I always got the impression pupils loved being taught by him. Peter was Housemaster of Johnsons from 1978 to 1983. He and his wife Viv ran an honest, happy boarding house. When he left Johnsons, Peter went on to be Head of Biology, a post he held for 22 years. He ran a department blessed with many excellent teachers and managed them in a way which allowed them to express their own talents, but also keep a clear direction for the department. Peter was an excellent rugby referee who took charge of many games from the young U14 age group right the way up to the 2nd XV. He was someone who had great confidence in his own ability, and this always came across in the way players respected him. Peter was someone senior management would turn to when they needed a difficult problem sorting out. He took charge of Digweed and latterly organised internal examinations. He was an extremely keen and talented golfer, a single handicap player, who confidently plotted his way around Knole Park GC, and he successfully ran the school golf team for a number of years. Peter left quietly in June slipping away undemonstratively, but the important mark he left on the school will be with us for many years to come.

Alex Smith

Neil Morgan

Neil Morgan joined the school from Cardiff University in September 1970, having just completed his doctorate in Reaction Kinetics. He was born in South Wales, the son of a miner, and attended the local grammar school before going up to university. Neil joined a very different school from today, a very much male-dominated institution. There were no women on the staff, and the

introduction of girls was seven years away. Most of the masters wore gowns to teach in, and the lower school boys had straw biffs. Neil soon made his mark in a hugely able Common Room and in a department which included such legendary figures as **Jack Robinson** and **Willie Bleyberg**. He quickly became an outstanding Chemistry teacher, demanding the highest standards from his pupils and inspiring many to go on to university to read sciences. The present strength of the sciences at Sevenoaks owes much to his wise leadership and the standard he set as Head of Department and later as Head of the Science Faculty. Neil's skills weren't just confined to the Chemistry laboratories. He was the all-round schoolmaster and at the centre of school life for over three decades. A keen sportsman, playing squash and tennis, and he kept wicket for the staff team for many years. But as a Welshman, his real passion was rugby. He was a key member of **Mike Williams'** coaching team which took the school on a ground-breaking tour to Australia in 1976 and later around the world to New Zealand, Fiji and Oman. He was also in charge of school tennis when the only courts were behind the old Post Office, but the school still managed to have the strongest team on the circuit. Neil was also a much respected tutor and in the 80s assisted **Peter Hullah** in running the International Centre. More recently he succeeded **Tony Theaker** as Senior Master, where his long experience and knowledge of the school proved invaluable to Katy Ricks. Neil retired in July after 35 years loyal and dedicated service to the school.

Mike Bolton

David Sweetman

In his teaching, David Sweetman is the perfect role model, for boys in particular. He mixes easily the sporting and the academic, and is equally at home talking about rugby and literature. David joined us from the American School of São Paulo in Brazil. When we received his CV and references, they were so good that we knew we couldn't pass up the opportunity to employ him. Since then, David has more than proved himself: in the classroom, where he's a Head of Department's dream – being equally adept with Year 8 and Upper 6th; on the sports field where he excels as a coach of rugby and football; and in the wider life of the school where he's been an incredibly dedicated Middle School tutor, and an immensely popular colleague. Aside from his novelty ties, there is nothing showy about David, nothing self-promotional. He just gets on with his work, quietly and efficiently and does an outstanding job. He returns with his wife, Sonia, to teach in Brazil. He intends to spend some time writing, too. David is simply a really nice guy. We will miss him personally and professionally. We will miss his sweeping haircut; his ties; his extravagant hand gestures as well as his deep and sensitive intelligence.

Chris Greenhalgh

TIMES PAST

Wang-y-Tong

In an age obsessed with imaginary travellers and with fictional Chinese philosophers visiting England from the Far East, a real Chinese boy lived in Knole and studied at Sevenoaks. Yet the historical records are strangely silent on the figure of Wang-y-Tong, otherwise known as Wang Atong, or Warneton. By all accounts, Wang must have been an improbable anomaly. He arrived in England in the mid-1770s, when the taste for chinoiserie was beginning to wane. He was most certainly the first Chinese boy to be brought to England. 'Acquired' by the 3rd Duke of Dorset, he was sent into Sevenoaks to receive a classical education, and subsequently served as page to the Duchess of Dorset or one of the Duke's many female companions. But what exactly did the Duke seek to achieve by bringing a Chinese boy all the way to England? What was Wang? A prized domestic curio? A rare anthropological specimen?

We can only speculate from a portrait still hanging in Knole House. The most resonant image we have of this pioneer cultural hybrid was done by Sir Joshua Reynolds, then England's pre-eminent portrait and history painter and art theorist. If not exactly lavish or prestigious, it would certainly have



been a costly and very unusual commission. The portrait is set in a picturesque villa evocative of a Chinese garden, Wang is dressed in a pseudo-Chinese costume, clasping a fan in his hand and perched cross-legged on a chinoiserie settee. On the surface, the entire project appears to be an Orientalist urge lubricated by an aristocrat's

spending powers. After all, what more could a sinophile possibly achieve or hope to acquire after having procured a live Chinese subject—than to have him idealized in painting: a memorial to one's own vision of Cathay?

Yet, the portrait itself yields more to the careful eye. In the context of the norms of eighteenth-century portraiture, Wang's body language and seated posture was unprecedented. First, Reynolds' subjects were almost never painted sitting down, let alone sitting cross-legged. Moreover, Wang's left-hand is gripping firmly his lower right leg, which would clearly have been an unsettling violation of the codes of stylistic decorum and presentation in portraiture. And although his dress is clearly a concession to chinoiserie—the miniature fan and hat for example—the accuracy of his facial features and complexion registers on many levels the jarring shock of the real: here, there is no concession at all to the porcelain-white skin and exaggeratedly elongated and ovalish Chinese faces so typical of the chinoiserie aesthetic in pottery and painting. Therefore, while the generic signs of chinoiserie taste are present, Reynolds' close attention to Wang's facial likeness and his unusual sitting posture emphatically underlines the absolute otherness of its subject. There is a decided ambivalence in the portrait between fulfilling British preferences and preconceptions about China, and in doing justice to the proper physiognomy of its human subject. This raises larger questions about how eighteenth-century viewers might have reacted to the painting. Would they have been shocked by Wang's posture and facial likeness? How would Reynolds' portrait of Wang have influenced English perceptions of China? Could Reynold's portrait have reaffirmed China's inassimilable foreignness vis-à-vis England and Europe? Might it have been indicative of the growing tendency towards empirical description and disenchantment in the treatment of China and of foreign cultures in general?

However we might choose to unravel the rich layers of cultural meaning embedded in Reynolds' portrait, at present we can only wonder at Wang's own thoughts and experiences. What became of him? Did he eventually return to China? If he did, what views on England did he bring back there?

Seng Ong

Brothers

In 1934 three sets of four brothers took a curtain call at the end of the school play in December. For Mr **Higgs-Walker** this was symbolic of his success as Head: families choosing to send all their sons to the school, and the school involved in the single effort of drama. Of these brothers, the **Loughlins, Evans'** and **Westwoods**, two Westwoods and one Loughlin

remain. Here is an extract from a letter by **Bernard Loughlin**.

'I was very fortunate to be at the School in the heady days of the early 30s especially at the time of the 500th anniversary in 1932 which was highlighted by the 1st XV being undefeated in two successive seasons. This was not really surprising, as, after the Great Depression began in 1929, when it was almost impossible to get a job, boys stayed on at school, and two of the team celebrated their 21st birthdays before they eventually left.

I believe it was also in 1932 that Mr Higgs-Walker was elected to the Headmasters' Conference, which meant that Sevenoaks was to become a fully fledged public school and could drop the word 'grammar' from its name. The Johnson brothers financed the Johnson Hall building which contained not only a new assembly hall, but a fully equipped stage and Green Room for the school plays, and a new and larger library underneath the stage.

I started in the second form – there was no first form – accompanied by my extremely brainy younger brother, **Hubert**, and we were in the same forms throughout. He was later to become a very young head boy. Instead of going to Oxford or Cambridge, as he was expected to do, he went to the Lillian Baylis Drama School where Olivier and Gielgud were the rising stars, and the students were used as cheap labour for the crowd scenes. He was later severely wounded at the siege of Tobruk and spent two years as Garrison Adjutant in Cairo. Later he joined the invasion of Italy after hedgehopping the islands of the mid-Mediterranean and was fatally wounded at the crazy landing at Anzio, across an open beach. My brother **Geoffrey** had an even more bizarre career. After he left school, he worked as a freelance photographer, and then joined the staff of the first glossy magazine, *Picture Post*, whose pages were liberally scattered with scantily clad young women. He was called up in 1940, and enrolled in the smallest Army unit – the Army Film and Photo Unit. There were only 65 of them working, mostly independently, wherever they were sent, to film the action. They were all Sergeants and had no officers to order them around. They also had the highest mortality rate in all the forces. He spent two years with Marshal Tito in the Balkan mountains. Tito had been the world's most wanted murderous bandit, with a huge price on his head, but was by then a hero. Many years later, Geoffrey showed me some photos of the atrocities Tito inflicted on German prisoners. Geoffrey later spent six arctic winter months holed up in the monastery during the siege of Monte Cassino in Italy. At various times he was with Churchill at the Casablanca and Yalta conferences and finished up at the peace conference in Vienna, where he met and later married an Austrian interpreter, who is still living in Bromley with their three sons. My youngest brother **Harold** failed the forces medical and spent the war in a

prison factory, although later he became a regional manager for a firm of manufacturers. I was left behind in Belgium in May 1940, and spent 5 years as a POW under the auspices of Stalag XXIIB in East Prussia now Poland again.

I recently had a phone call from **Ron Rogers** who saw me in a photo in Johnsons Hall taken in 1929 at the opening. I was reminded of his father who was an Army Sergeant-Major, semi-retired. He was in charge of the 4th Battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment HQ at the Drill Hall in Argyle Road in Sevenoaks and also part-time gym, PE and boxing instructor at the school. He later became our TA instructor when several young Old Boys joined the Regiment in 1938 on the German invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Anything you manage to put into print will of course be read by my two sons, **Hugh** and **Timothy**, who will probably make fun of me.'

Fifty Years On



From the top: Michael Morelle, Bob Southby, David Greene, Peter Ridout, Charles Hopkins, Colin Richardson, Jeremy Clifford, David Stuart-Smith, Roger Huddleston, Michael Constable, Kim Taylor, Sue Taylor

1955 was a pivotal year in the life of the school with the death of 'Ma' Thornton who ran the tuck shop, the creation of a new day house, Sackville, an exceptionally good season of cricket, the presentation of Speech Day prizes by Sir Harold Nicolson, and it was the first year of **Kim Taylor's** tenure following 29 years of the **Higgs-Walker** headship. From the Old Sennockian News March 1955:

We are pleased to be able to report that the change in the Headmastership of the School has been accomplished without any of the riots, revolutions and bloodshed that usually accompany such major events in the Latin-American States. Mr Taylor appears to be emulating certain other distinguished Old Sennockians in that he is now squarely seated in the saddle and guiding the School with a firm rein. Now those of us who were not of his generation at School have got to know him better, we are all the more convinced that the Governors have chosen the right man for the job, and we wish him a long and successful career at the School.

Bob Ogley (Hardinge 51-55), who has followed the changes at the school and in Sevenoaks both as editor of *The Sevenoaks Chronicle* and columnist, commented recently on the farsightedness and inspiration of the Governors in appointing a 32-year-old untried Head. Bob reckons this was a turning point in the direction of the School.

Michael Burden (Wordsworth 53-55) was aware of the change in the school, 'I left Sevenoaks in July 1955 and hung up my biff for the last time. That academic year had been the first of Kim Taylor after the long reign of "Jimmy" Higgs-Walker, an elderly gentleman, who drove an old Rolls-Royce. A strict disciplinarian and cricket lover, he would drive up the tree-lined avenue to Solefields where the whole school would be assembled to watch a cricket match. Under Taylor there was a clear change of emphasis to a more academic lifestyle though discipline remained pretty tough. Sport was still played at a good standard with a team each for rugby, hockey, athletics and cricket. Among the teaching staff, I particularly remember "**Tibby**" **Mason** and **Duncan Townson**.'

two years before. My parents, who ran a small general store in the Crampton's road area of the town under the shadow of the local gasworks, could certainly not have afforded the fees although they had made much sacrifice to pay the much lower fees at the local preparatory school for several years. Looking back after all these years, my two-year setback was a blessing in disguise since it meant that I had to suffer only three years under the oppressive headship of the snobbish and draconian Higgs-Walker and not five. The arrival of LC Taylor in autumn 1954 was too late to be of much benefit to me, but it is obvious that credit is due to his stewardship in laying the foundations for the dramatic progress that the school has achieved in the past fifty years. Although many of us can claim little if any direct involvement, I nonetheless can now hold my head up when I admit to attending the school all those decades ago. At the time, however, I could not wait to get away as far as possible from the place and with the encouragement of the careers' master **Carol Forder**, managed to get a banking job in Southern Rhodesia. On my return I signed up and served four years in the Army, in both the Airborne Brigade and later as a young officer in the infantry. By and large I had a marvellous time and served in Cyprus, Aden, Oman, Kenya and Hong Kong. Whereas I had only modest success at school it had nonetheless taught me much self-reliance and an ability to take risks and swim against the tide.'

Rodney Newman (Johnsons 52-55) writes, 'My abiding memory of school in 1955 is of Johnsons House Rugger B Team, known as The Red Sock Grapplers



*Lower Modern Language Sixth
Back row: Timothy Langdale, David Cassiot, Andrew Bremer, David Brewer
Middle row: Timothy Pearce,
Front row: Peter German, Brian Osborne, Roger Newton, (?)*

Michael Holmes (Hardinge 51-56), former leader of the UK Independence Party, writes 'I arrived at the school for the autumn term in 1951 as a 13+ scholarship boy paid for by the Kent County Council, having failed miserably in the 11+ exam



The Red Sock Grapplers with Ernie Groves

and **Ian Forbes** running down the Dukes Meadow pitch. Instead of handing off in the approved method with the palm of the hand, he was using what was known at the time as the commando chop now referred to as the karate chop. Ian was, as I remember, about six feet tall and well built. Needless to say he received very few tackles, and that season (1954-55) we won the inter-house challenge. For outstanding performance a player was awarded the

title of Red Sock Grappler and entitled to wear the school scarf as a hat. For even greater achievement one was nominated as a Black Boot Bully and could wear the CCF beret without badge.'

Charles Hopkins (Hardinge 48-55) was the son of **VG Hopkins**, one of the Science and Maths Masters. Having been on holiday in Scotland when war was declared, he stayed there when his father joined the RAF. After the war, his father was appointed Senior Science Master of Physics at Sevenoaks, and Charles was brought down from his school in Hawick. Charles did his best to disguise the fact that he had any connection to VG Hopkins when his father was 'wheeled on' to teach Biology. Being the son of a Master did not grant any privilege either. One night his father took him to the cinema where he was spotted by a prefect whose brief was to report to the Head any schoolboy seen in the town in the evening. VG Hopkins had been a 'Tail-end Charlie', a rear gunner in a Lancaster bomber, given a six weeks' life, but had somehow survived and went on to become a Squadron Leader, an armaments expert, and one of the first to go into Belsen. He accompanied the CCF to the RAF base in Little Rissington in Oxfordshire in 1954-55 where they were taken up in a Dakota.



Peter Gardner, Michael Constable

They were issued with parachutes, but as there were not enough to go around, Charles, his father and another schoolboy did not get one. **Michael Morelle**, while showing some younger boy how to pull the rip cord, managed to inflate his, so then there were four of them without parachutes. On the flight, the port engine started belching smoke, and the pilot feathered it, saying that these Dakotas worked perfectly well on one engine. Then the starboard engine began to puff out smoke, and the pilot reactivated the port engine. The boys with parachutes were terrified, thinking that they would have to jump out in mid-air, knowing nothing about anything, whereas the non-parachutists were, quite frankly, happy, accepting that they could do nothing about it. Later Charles realised that they were flying too low for parachutes anyway.

By Train to School

I started at Sevenoaks School in September 1942 at the age of 11. My memories of the journeys to and from the school are, if anything, more vivid than those of the school itself. There was a perfectly good bus service, route 401, from mid-Eynsford to mid-Sevenoaks, but the Kent Education Committee in their wisdom provided free rail travel instead. This meant a long walk at either end.

We wore straw boaters, known as 'biffs' reminiscent of Henley regatta on a warm summer day. They were our headgear throughout the year and were very good at keeping snow out of one's eyes during a blizzard. A small band of us, **Alan Andrews, Doug Andrews, Terry Rose** and **Barry Boulton**, wearing our biffs, would gather at Eynsford Station in the mornings.

Barry and I had already met, and he had a long running battle of wits with Bill Blake, Eynsford's legendary porter for many years. One day Barry turned up with a simple bell circuit which he had made on a small piece of board. When Bill went along the platform, Barry imitated the ringing of the station telephone. Bill dashed back only to find that there was no one on the other end of the telephone line. This worked beautifully a couple of times, but obviously had a limited shelf life, and it was not long before Bill knew what was going on and plotted his revenge. At that time porters used oil lamps to signal to the driver that the train was ready to depart. Bill opened the top of his one day and said to Barry, 'I bet you can't blow this out in one puff.' Barry rose to the challenge, soot shot up out of the lamp, and he instantly acquired the blackest of faces. We spent the rest of the journey to Sevenoaks licking our handkerchiefs and rubbing his face in the hope of making him presentable for morning assembly, but could manage nothing better than a curious streaky appearance.

The trains had separate compartments with no corridors, and could be locked from the outside by a special square ended key inserted into a hole in the doorframe. Somehow Terry Rose acquired such a key, and we could lock ourselves into an empty compartment. At Shoreham and Otford, people would impatiently rattle the door handles, but we would ignore them and continue to enjoy our seclusion.

One day a man we had not seen before boarded the train at Otford. Soon after the train left the station he opened the window and waved a white handkerchief as a final tender farewell to his wife standing by their home which stood on its own across the fields. From Otford onwards that train was full of pupils going to various schools. Diverse though they were in gender, size, age and uniform, every single one of them had a white handkerchief. Eventually the train sported a sea of white handkerchiefs along its whole length, all furiously waving to the lady of the house.

At Tubs Hill Station a small lad of school leaving age was appointed ticket collector. He had the extraordinary idea that he was going to look at our season tickets, which no one had ever bothered with before. By now, a younger boy, **David Handley**, had joined us. He was a good match physically for the new ticket collector, so we would dispatch him first from the train to engage in an instant wrestling match while we filed through. When we were well

clear he would break off from this scuffle and rejoin us. A few years ago my wife met David who told her he was recently retired as Deputy Chief Constable of Hertfordshire. So I now have these two irreconcilable images of David – the distinguished public servant, custodian of law and order, and the lad who, at my instigation, began regular illegal brawls with an employee of Southern Railways.

Brian Hussey

TIMES PRESENT

Winner of the Turner Prize

Simon Starling (Caxton 81-86) was awarded the prestigious Turner Prize on 5 December 2005 at the Tate Britain. Starling is fascinated by the processes involved in transforming one object or substance into another. One of the works in the show, *shedboatshed*, was a German shed which the artist dismantled, used the wood to construct a boat that was sailed a short distance on the Rhine to Basel and re-formed into a shed once on dry land. Another exhibit was a makeshift motorised bicycle that Starling rode across the Tabernas desert in southern Spain. The bike was powered by hydrogen that reacted with oxygen in the atmosphere to produce water as a by-product. The artist then used the water to create a painting of a cactus he had seen en route.

The Gang of Four is Back

The original line-up of Dave Allen, Hugo Burhnam, **Andy Gill** (Hardinge 67-74) and **Jon King** (Wordsworth 66-73) are back again. The band played their first show together for over 20 years in the UK in January 2005 followed by shows in Europe and the USA. They returned to London in September to play in the Barbican's Don't Look Back series. Sennockians from the class of 1974 will not forget the school ball where Andy and Jon played reggae with **Tom Greenhalgh**, **Kevin Lycett** and **Mark White**. The gang was formed in Leeds in 1977 and their first debut album *Entertainment!* was released in 1979.

Windsurfing

Robby Swift (Grote 90-97), national windsurfing champion, two-time winner of the UK Windsurfing Association's International Freewave Windsurfer of the year and International Sailor of the Year hopes to win a World Cup title after coming third in the Supercross extreme racing competition last year. Supercross is a slalom event in which the competitors have to jump over metre high obstacles and perform forward loops while executing three turns. Not content with becoming the best at his sport, Robby is also big-wave surfing. Too dangerous for competition, this is the sport made famous by Laird Hamilton. Robby may be the first

Englishman to have ridden 'Jaws', one of the greatest waves in the world. Where else but in Hawaii?

Blue Man Falling

Frank Barnard (Grote 50-54) has just had his first novel published. *Blue Man Falling* is an exciting account of RAF pilots caught in France in 1940 during the German invasion. Having worked in television and journalism, Frank finally gave up the day job at age 50 to commit himself to writing fiction. In an interview with *Writer* magazine he was asked:

'How difficult (or easy) was it to get this book published?' Barnard replied, 'Easy, but that doesn't take into account forty years of other attempts when it proved to be downright impossible. As I say, it was pure luck that something I wrote landed on the desk of someone who took the trouble to read it and thought he spotted some talent there. But it was a long time to wait.'

Expert advice from two distinguished pilots and much time spent researching the facts mean that the book has the ring of thrilling authenticity. Frank's next book *The Stone Pilot* will be published in February 2007.

Every Shakespeare Play

2006-07 will see a once in-a-lifetime experience when the Royal Shakespeare Company mounts a 12-month festival devoted to every word written by Shakespeare. To accompany the festival is the launch of the RSC edition of the complete works, edited by **Jonathan Bate** (Wordsworth 71-76) of Warwick University who says, 'Compared with previous editions, our glossary takes a much less coy attitude to the sexual innuendo and wickedly playful language of the plays.'

Winning Essay

From the Times on-line: **Amy Rogers**, a history graduate from Cambridge scooped the top prize of £3,500 in this year's The Times Law Awards competition. Amy is a graduate diploma course student at City University. She plans to take the Bar Vocational Course with a view to going into public law. "Law is a great career choice – it will keep challenging you for the rest of your life," she said. "And I would like to go to the Bar because you think on your feet all the time; and there's a great atmosphere around the courts and in chambers."

OS EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Golden Oldies

The Golden Oldies met on a glorious June day and were entertained royally by the school. Drinks with



Katy Ricks and lunch in the dining room were followed by a tour of the new Sports Hall, guided by Mike Bolton, that well-known athlete. We were all struck by the size and scope of the facilities in the Sennocke Centre, and some had to be restrained from diving into the pool or pedalling in the Fitness Centre. It is a terrific addition to the school, and the pupils are lucky indeed. The sadness for all was the death in the early summer of **Liz Cooper**, one-time Head's secretary and a guiding light in the early years of the Golden Oldies. Thanks to the school for their continued hospitality.

Tony Theaker

Founder's Day

The school celebrated Founder's Day on 25 June 2005. OS were invited back to visit the school, attend the Service and Prizegiving, bring a picnic, join other OS for a drink in Manor House and take tea at the afternoon cricket match, MCC v School. The success of this event could be measured by the enthusiasm of the guests who attended. The OS, wives and children ranged from **Ron Rogers** (27-31), who was very helpful and amusing in identifying OS in some rather dusty sports photos, to **Jonathan Ruprecht** (92-97). Three OS were found in the library gathered around a school photo from 1946 attempting to identify staff and friends. **Brian Hussey**, **Barry Boulton** and **Philip Whitbourn** all successfully identified themselves. Old photos like this are becoming rare, and the OS office and archive would be grateful for any, particularly if the subjects can be identified and explained. OS are again warmly invited to Founder's Day in June 2006. An invitation will be sent out in the spring to OS living nearby.

Johnsons Reunion

Over 30 Old Johnsonians and their wives met at the Polhill Arms on 16 April for the 10th anniversary

lunch organised by **Clive Hutchinson**. Grace by **David Greene** preceded an altogether jolly lunch.



Clive Hutchinson and Peter Gould

Clive continues to be the perfect host and, in addition to photographing all present, had brought the album of the previous year just to show everyone how they had not aged a bit. The 80th anniversary of Johnsons is scheduled for October 2007. Johnsonians should start thinking about coming and inform Clive or the OS office.

London University Reunion



Jean Pierre O'Brien, Charlotte Jeffries

OS and staff attended the annual London Universities reunion on 24 November at the Tower Tavern in Clipstone Street by the BT Tower. It was a great opportunity for OS currently at London University, King's, LSE, Imperial, City and Royal Holloway to meet up and exchange gossip and a perfect venue to engender a warm and convivial atmosphere.

Bath and Bristol Reunion

Ray and Jill Hackett travelled to the Avon Gorge Hotel overlooking Clifton Suspension Bridge on

Saturday 21 May. Twenty-six students from the nearby universities braved the dreadful weather to enjoy a cheerful meeting beneath umbrellas overlooking the magnificent Gorge. It provided the perfect opportunity for the students to catch up with each other and swap personal details, discuss courses and, for many, plans for the future. The venue was perfect (paradise on a sunny day), and it is hoped that from now on the students will always meet up on 'Cup Final Day' at the Avon Gorge Hotel.



James Laurenson, Krissie Ducker, Emma Blackmore, Ray Hackett

1995 Tenth Reunion

The reunion for the class of 1995 was held at Simpson's-in-the-Strand in November. The moment the first guests arrived, **Sarah** and **Jane Howard** accompanied by **Ed Gandon** and **Sam Hart**, the evening started to hum. They were joined by 60 of their former classmates to celebrate ten years since they had all been together at Sevenoaks. The event owes its success to the skills of Ed Gandon, **David**



Alessandro Passotto, Giorgio Alvera, Fred Hofmann, Marco Alvera, Jaccopo Moggi, Bruno Scaroni

Cockram, **Fred Hofmann** (who persuaded at least half of Italy to attend) and others who rallied their classmates to come. Katy Ricks, welcomed them and **Ben Baglin**, who had flown in from New York that morning, made a graceful reply on behalf of the class. The last guests left at midnight.

Cambridge Reunion

Despite the fog and freezing cold, the reunion at Emmanuel College was a great success thanks to the warmth and engaging nature of the OS. Thirty-five former students turned out including three who were writing the final drafts of their PhD dissertations to welcome Katy Ricks, Arabella Stuart, Ray Hackett, Mike Bolton, Gerda Frank Gemmill and Steve Owen. The Head greeted the students and gave a brief update on the masterplan. She also expressed her expectation that these gatherings would increase even further in number as 48 Sevenoaks students have been offered place at Oxford and Cambridge for 2006.



Alex Rackwitz, William Lloyd

Oxford Reunion

Thirty-nine OS attended the reception at Teddy Hall on 1 March 2006. Katy Ricks welcomed them and described the new master plan for the flat and surrounding buildings. Steven Owen, Peter Kino and Ray Hackett were delighted to see their former students all looking so well. There was an excellent representation from the class of 2002 thanks to networking. The OS office does not always have names of students who have stayed for a fourth year or are engaged in a masters programme. If you would like to come to an event like this, let us know.



Claire Jeffery, Emma Jones, Emma Kenny

Central London Party

Around 30 Old Sennockians dropped in to the Founder's Arms on the southbank of the Thames by the Tate Modern on 10 June 2005. This annual informal gathering is gaining in popularity. It was great to see young, and some not so young, Old Sennockians exchanging memories and catching up

on the latest news. There was a lot of cross pollination of ideas, and business cards seemed to be very much in evidence. The evening started at 6pm, gathered pace and when Ray Hackett and Paul Harrison left to catch the midnight train there were still a dozen or so Old Sennockians supporting the bar. It was suggested that we should consider meeting on a more regular basis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Johnsons Reunion

The Spring Reunion will be a luncheon, held on 29 April at the Polhill Arms commencing at 12.15. If you are an Old Johnsonian and have never attended a Johnsons Reunion before, contact the OS office for details on 01732 467708.

Canada World Tourists will challenge the Australia Tourists who are celebrating their 30th anniversary.

Sportsman & Sportswoman of the Year

A presentation dinner with a guest speaker will be held on 9 September at the school. See page seven.

Durham and Newcastle Universities Reunion

All OS at Durham and Newcastle are invited for a drink on 20 May from noon to three.

OS Festival of Sport

The Festival will be held on 10 September from 11am onwards and will include Netball, Hockey, Rugby, Football, Tennis, Badminton and Basketball.

Central London Reunion

The next informal meeting is scheduled for Friday 9 June at 6pm at the Founder's Arms on the Southbank.

Tenth Reunion Dinner for 1996 Leavers

There will be a reunion dinner on 3 November at school for 1996 leavers.

Founder's Day and Prizegiving

OS are invited to visit the school and have a drink at the OS office on 24 June from 11am onwards. Bring a picnic and stay for the cricket MCC v 1st XI.

London Universities Reunion

All OS attending university in London are invited for a drink on 23 November at the Tower Tavern on Clipstone Street near the University of London.

OS Cricket Match

This year's OS v the School will be on Sunday 25 June at 2pm on the Solefields pitch.

Cambridge Reception 2007

Cambridge OS are invited to a drinks reception at Emmanuel College on 31 January 2007.

Whitney Buccaneers

The Whitney Buccaneers' cricket extravaganza will be held on 22 July at Underriver Cricket Club. The

Oxford Reception 2007

Oxford OS are invited to a drinks reception at St Edmund Hall on 28 February 2007.

MARRIAGES

Felicity Allum (Tammadge 91-93) married Darren Powell on 4 December 2004.

Amy Arthur (Park Grange 96-01) married **Christopher Robinson** (Johnsons 96-01) on 23 July 2005.

James Baggott (Grote 88-95) and Allison Pope on 26 August 2005.

Murray Barnett (School House 85-89) and Sarah Cox on 5 November 2005.

Julie Batley (Sackville 93-98) married Andy Aspden on 10 December 2005.

Antonia Blackwood (GIH 93-95) married Ryan Grisard on 18 June 2005.

Kirsteen Bull (Grote 93-98) married Vlada Rakin on 22 October 2004

Jenny Enderby (Plender 92-99) married Aaron Northup on 16 July 2005.

Celia Fellowes (Wordsworth 90-97) married **Ke**

McDonnell (Fryth 92-97)) on 17 September 2005.

Michael Haskamp (IC 94-96) married Sara Newbold on 27 May 2005.

John Holmes (Groves 70-77) married Rebecca Whitlock on 15 May 2005.

Annabel House (Sennocke 89-94) married **Martin Cosgrove** (Taylor 87-94) on 19 February 2005.

Hayley Jenkins (Fenton 93-00) married Stephen Smith in September 2005.

Nicki Johnson (Groves 87-94) married James Daw on 28 May 2005.

Elisabeth Lutzow (GIH 89-91) married Cameron Dewey on 5 February 2005.

Kelly McGoldrick (Sennocke 93-00) married David Williams on 12 November 2005.

Chloe Moat (Sennocke 90-92) married David Finot on 17 September 2005.

Rob Moses (Caxton 89-94) married Clare Griffiths

on 11 June 2005.

Elizabeth Nelson (GIH 93-95) married Stanley Harris in 2004.

Jessica Norrie (GIH 91-93) married Max Latimer on 2 July 2005.

Hasit Patel (IC 91-93) married Rajul Shah on 27 August 2005.

Andrew Penfold (ex-staff) married Sharon Kemp on 25 October 2004.

Rebecca Poulton (Fenton 87-93) married Andrew Finlay in September 2005.

Danielle Radmer (Park Grange 91-93) married

Martin Bass on 17 September 2005.

Mary-Jane Ritchie (GIH 96-98) married on 20 November 2004.

Nicky Robinson (Park Grange 88-93) married James Hope on 1 April 2006.

Ashley Spalding (Sackville 88-93) married Kevin Claffy on 9 October 2004.

Eleanore Ward (PG 93-98) married Martin Browning on 23 July 2005.

Rebecca Yarnold (Fryth 00-02) married Christopher Todd in July 2005.

Louise Yates (Tammadge 95-01) married Mark Austin on 9 July 2005.

DEATHS

Gordon Anckorn (Fenton 23-27) died on 16 July 2005.

Dennis Bloodworth aka **Pal** (Johnsons 32-35) died on 14 June 2005.

John Frederick Day (Johnsons 45-49) died on 30 January 2006.

Bernard Dowding (Fenton 44-48) died on 12 October 2005.

Anthony Fatayi-Williams (IC 95-6) died on 7 July 2005.

Ross Antony (Mungo) Fitzpatrick (Johnsons 64-69) died on 3 December 2005.

Gabriel Bulloch 'Gib' Henderson (Johnsons 51-52) died on 3 August 2005.

John Hennessey (Staff 68-89) died on 30 November 2005.

A. Joe Hill (Grote 28-34) died on 25 August 2005.

John Humphrey (1942) died on 28 February 2005.

Gordon Mead (Fryth 69-76) died on 30 December 2004.

Nicholas Mead (Fryth 75-80) died on 5 December 2005.

Donald Pankhurst (Wordsworth 31-36) died in 2005.

William Douglas Park (School House 25-28) on 24 August 2004.

Andrew Pascall (Sackville 82-89) died on 10 November 2004.

Richard Saunders (31-34) died in 2001.

Charles Stubbs (Wordsworth 27-30) died on 24 December 2005.

Richard Waters (Park Grange 82-87) died in November 2005.

Deryck Westwood (School House 28-34) died in July 2005.

Philip Whale (Hardinge 32-38) died on 12 July 2004.

Malcolm Wilmott (School House 46-49) died on 8 September 2005.

Ernest Woodgate (Wordsworth 29-33) died on 9 March 2004.

OBITUARIES

Gordon Anckorn 1913-2005

Gordon Anckorn was a photographer, aviator, archaeologist, historian, member of the Magic Circle, lecturer and a reporter for *The Sevenoaks Chronicle* for nearly 50 years. One of his most significant contributions to the town was the more than 1000 photographs of the Sevenoaks area dating from the 1930s which he collected and preserved. His exploits and adventures were renowned. According to *The Sevenoaks Chronicle*, he personally disinterred the skeletons of eight Saxon warriors which lay in the path of the bulldozers preparing the way for the Sevenoaks bypass. With a colleague Gordon was also a pioneer in aviation archaeology investigating Battle of Britain crash sites. The two men and their enthusiastic team excavated everything from Rolls-Royce Merlin engines to personal photographs of the crews. Expelled from Sevenoaks at age 14 for (allegedly) smashing a bottle of red ink over a commemorative stone due to be blessed by the Bishop of Rochester, and then a few months later expelled from Judd for hitting a teacher who was

bullying a friend, he joined *The Chronicle* still in his teens. Gordon was also an amateur boxer, known as Scottie and often topped the bill at village hall bouts. He retired to King's Lynn in 1976 with his wife and was soon collecting photographs and writing books on the area.

Dennis Bloodworth 1919-2005

Dennis Bloodworth attended Sevenoaks between 1932 and 1935. A captain in the Intelligence Corps, he joined *The Observer* as assistant to the chief Paris correspondent after the war and was posted to Saigon in 1954. He spent the next 32 years covering events in Southeast Asia. Mark Frankland wrote in *The Independent* that, 'he (Dennis) made his name as the Far East Correspondent of *The Observer* soon after the birth of Communist China. In 1955 he was the first British journalist allowed into Mao's kingdom. In 1967, after extensive travel and study of both language and culture, he wrote *Chinese Looking Glass*. Learned, witty and highly readable, the book used the Chinese past to illuminate the Communist

present and became a Western bestseller'.
Dennis wrote the following to OS News, March 1955.

The Observer lifted me out of Paris after the Geneva Agreement was signed and sent me out here to see how it worked out. I flew out at the beginning of September and found plenty to do. For the first few weeks, I stayed in Chochinchina (a separatist French-controlled government for South Vietnam) covering the revolt of the Army against the Government. I then went to Haiphong and so to Hanoi to see Ho Chi Minh's troops march in and Nehru arrive for his visit. After that, I took six days leave in Hong Kong, spent a few more weeks here in the South, and then went back to Hanoi for four weeks – the only non-communist British correspondent in the Vietminh zone. I was lucky enough to get an interview out of Ho Chi Minh at an intimate little tea-party given by Pham Van Dong, the Vietminh Foreign Minister, in Bao Dai's former palace, and to be able to speak to both of them on other occasions. Ho Chi Minh, thin as a rake, smiling but wary, smoked like a chimney all the time and spoke in confident if broken English, occasionally lapsing into French. Of all the Vietminh big wheels, he is the one who knows how to handle people and he radiates personal charm. Xmas and New Year passed off joyously enough in the cold and alien Communist capital, thanks to the Canadians on the Control Commission, and the virtually outlawed British Consulate-General, who between them set a cracking pace and even organized a midnight service read by a tough horny Canadian Colonel while the British Vice-Consul accompanied by hymns on a broken-down upright (if that is not a contradiction in terms), sang a solo. All this in a chapel the size of a pocket handkerchief. Turkey and crackers for Xmas lunch and Cookie poured so much brandy on the Xmas Pudding (having never seen such a thing before) that we nearly blew up H.B.M. Consul-General's residence.

On 1st January, Ho Chi Minh made his first public appearance and there was a vast parade, with Vietminh troops goose-stepping past the saluting base, covered in captured equipment. Now I am back in the Saigon steambath and looking forward to New Year, which lasts nearly a week and for which I shall go to Cambodia to watch the Royal dancing girls perform against the background of the vast and enigmatic ruins of Angkor Vat. I do not know how long I shall remain out here. Laos calls, and Siam. I should also like to shoot a tiger from the smug safety of an elephant's back up at Dalat. All I do know is that I must get back to London by July to take my car out of the country before I get stung for import duty.

The last copy of *The Old Sennockian News* was forwarded to me here and I much enjoy reading it. Now that you have my address I look forward to getting the next issue promptly. If you happen to write to any other Old Sennockian in South East Asia, please do give him my address and say there is a glass waiting if he passes this way.

Dennis Bloodworth
Hotel Continental, Saigon

He was the author of ten books of non-fiction and four of fiction. OS will remember him as Dennis Pal which was the name of his stepfather.

John Marston Cartwright 1929-2003

John, or JC as many will remember him, came to Sevenoaks School in autumn 1940. He was an average scholar, but enjoyed History, which kept him in Jimmie's good books, and also rugby and swimming. On leaving school in 1946 he joined BOAC for a year and then the RAF for his National Service. In 1949 he was hired by McVities as a salesman. His commitment to work and his larger than life personality made him very successful and well liked. He married Beatrice Bowyer in 1955 and had four children, Richard, Alan, Robert and Rosalind. All of them did well at school and three were Head Scholar at their schools. He was justifiably very proud of his family and his seven grandchildren.

He later joined Colour Processing Ltd as a Sales Executive and travelled extensively in the UK while living in Shirrell Heath on the outskirts of Southampton. He was active in the local church, and would travel miles with friends to see big band music played in the Glenn Miller style. Tragedy hit the family in 1988 when Robert collapsed and died due to cardiomyopathy during his first term at university. John then became a regular and considerable fund-raiser for the British Heart Foundation.

John died in May 2003 after a long period in residential care following a series of strokes, which left him partially paralysed and later barely able to communicate with visitors. It was a very sad ending to such a great personality, and he is much missed by friends and family.

A Service to celebrate his life was held, after the funeral service, and was attended by **Guy Durdant Hollamby, Ian Carmichael, John Breething, Pat Johnson and Stan Kerr.**

Stan Kerr

John Frederick Day 1933-2006

Linguist, soldier and writer, John died in January. Having embarked on a career which included a stint in the Foreign Legion and being appointed an honorary Lieutenant in the Royal Jordanian Army, he continued to pursue his passions. He was selected for the Possibles v Probables at Twickenham in 1955 and co-chaired RAF Halton Racing and Rally Car Club, in 1955 winning La Rallye des Routes du Nord and in 1956 the Novices Goodwood Trophy. Nine years ago he was lucky to rediscover Gwenda Millin whom he had known since they were both 14. A new life began. He had several stories published and his main interest was military history (he was at the time of his death halfway through his 'epic' on the Battle of Waterloo). He became an Associate of the Institute of Linguists in French and did some interpreting including in Court. One of his last requests was that the School Song should be played at his funeral. He leaves behind two sons, a grandson,

Gwenda and her son and grandchildren.

Bernard Dowding 1931-2005

At school Bernard was good at sports, gaining his cross-country colours, and playing in the school 2nd XV. His interest in the school continued after he left, and through the years he maintained friendship with a small group of friends called the *Six*, comprised of **Michael Barclay, David King, Eric Mason, James Ogilvie** and **John White**. 'Thinking of Bernard, always with pleasure recalled, we shall hear his spasms of hearty laughter, baying out over all else, usually following a period of lighthearted discussion, and his retort, *Now listen here, chaps, let's be serious about this*. We shall miss him, yet remain the *Six*.' Following service in the RAF and work in Blue Circle he was accepted for training for the Methodist Ministry. He entered Richmond College in 1955, began work in 1958 and was ordained in 1961. He served the Methodist Church in eight circuits, mainly in the southern half of England, before retiring in 1995. Settling in Dorset he became involved in the local community, acting as Clerk to the Milton Abbas Parish Council and working in a voluntary capacity for the Dorset Wildlife Trust. He co-ordinated and finally produced a report, *The Living Churchyard*, for that Trust. Bernard was married in 1958 to Jill Curnow. They had three daughters, Sue, Heather and Pauline. Jill died in 2002.

John Curnow

Anthony Fatayi-Williams 1979-2005

Anthony joined the Lower Sixth at Sevenoaks School as a boarder in the IC in 1995 following GCSEs at The British School in Paris. At Sevenoaks, he studied for A-levels in French, Economics and Mathematics. He played rugby and was a member of the CCF. He received a degree in Economics from the University of Bradford and was working as an engineering executive in London. His grandfather was Nigeria's former chief of justice. On 14 July 2005 it was confirmed that Anthony had died in the London bomb explosion on the number 30 bus on 7 July. His mother, Marie Fatayi-Williams, not knowing whether Anthony was alive or dead at that time, stood near Euston Station and addressed the passers-by with a passionate lament. She said 'We cannot live in fear because we are surrounded by hatred.' She spoke so emotively of the disappearance and possible loss of her son that pedestrians were moved to tears.

Ross Antony (Mungo) Fitzpatrick 1951-2005

Mungo Fitzpatrick, called to the bar in 1972, practised on the South Eastern Circuit and for the last five years almost exclusively in Leicester. He was a Common Councilman for the City of London, Freeman of the City and Churchwarden at St James'

Piccadilly, though he had to give it up when it became too left-wing for him – he was always a true blue. In his funeral address, Carl Gaskell said that Mungo was one of the 'characters' of the bar – always with a fund of stories about the great advocates, and cases, of the past. It was a joke that he seemed to have been called, not in 1972, but in 1872. He died of cancer. He leaves his wife and mother.

Gabriel Bulloch Henderson 1935-2005

Gib Henderson with his pronounced Scottish accent, shock of unruly fair hair and the most dreadful handwriting, invaded Johnsons in 1951 to be followed shortly by his brother **Morton**. A fine sportsman, although perhaps mildly tempestuous on the rugby field, always believing that the actual boots should be his target in bringing an opponent down, instead of the more refined and gentlemanly methods taught at school. He also thought walking sticks were great for hockey practice in Oak Lane. He gained his rugby XXX Cap and was a School Gym Blue. A successful scholar too, Gib followed in the family tradition and qualified as a Chartered Accountant, but decided that a business and entrepreneurial career would suit him best. He prospered and had owned hotels and other properties. It was during this period that he met and married Ailsa. Unfortunately, he was dogged by ill health and had major heart surgery followed by other surgical procedures on a regular basis. Despite these setbacks, Gib remained wonderful company, stoic, uncomplaining, determined to live life to the full. He was a loyal, energetic and warm friend.

John Clifton

A. Joe Hill 1917-2005

Joe Hill was a member of Grote from 1928-34. He received his commission in the RAF in 1938 and completed his flying training in 1939. Posted to Blenheim Squadron, he was shot down over the Norwegian coast in June 1940 and spent five years in a POW camp. He retrained after the war and was granted a Permanent Commission. His various flying and staff postings included CO Southampton University Air Squadron. He took early retirement in 1957 and became a member of the Baltic Exchange as an air broker, retiring in 1982. Widowed in 1991, he had two daughters and six grandchildren. In a letter to the OS office in 2003 he describes his progress following a knee and then hip replacement, anticipating when he would again be driving and sailing his ancient Fisher '75'.

Gordon Mead 1958-2004

Gordon Mead (Fryth 69-75) died at his home in Scotland. His house overlooked Loch Leven, and he was immensely proud to enjoy every day views that

most experience for only a few days a year. He loved the relaxed community in which he lived and was devoted to the two children he raised there. He was the parliamentary candidate in his constituency for the Monster Raving Loony Party in the Westminster election of 2001 and the Scottish Parliamentary election of 2002. He stood more to enrich the social life of his community than in the hope of winning the seat.

Adam Mead

Nicholas Mead 1962-2005

Nicholas (Fryth 75-80) who died in Thailand, was in his way as unconventional a figure as my brother Gordon. Quiet and detached at school, he was also quiet and detached at work where he was sometimes successful but never content. Ultimately he nursed our mother when she fell ill and after her death went to live in Thailand. Many of my friends who met him in his later years were surprised that so retiring a figure was at the same time so intelligent and so very attentive to the needs of others.

Adam Mead

Donald Pankhurst 1919-2005

Donald Pankhurst was awarded a scholarship to Sevenoaks in 1930. He left in 1936 and joined the Post Office in Sevenoaks with his lifetime friend, **Bill Orton**. He and Bill joined the Royal Signals when war broke out and returned to the Post Office when they were demobbed. He transferred to the Admiralty and then to the Department of Health until his retirement in 1984. He was awarded school colours in Rugby. He remembered **Ernie Groves** and kept in touch with him while his son **Roger** was at the school.

Roger Pankhurst

William Douglas Park 1912-2004

After school at Melbourne Grammar, William came to Britain in 1924 and was sent to Sevenoaks School and King's College. During the war he worked as a specialist in emergency surgery during which time he gained the Fellowship of the Royal College. He subsequently moved to Connaught Hospital, Walthamstow where he was an orthopaedic surgeon. A true general surgeon throughout his career, he had interests in orthopaedics, upper GI and cardiac surgery. He was the Consultant General Surgeon King George's Hospital, Ilford. William was involved as a tutor at the Royal College along with teaching duties at the Royal London, Whitechapel. His many interests outside medicine included playing and following cricket, tennis and latterly snooker. He will be most fondly remembered as an artist. He was a superb self-taught woodcarver which led to a commission to make a matching pair of crested clocks for the Royal College of Surgeons

committee room. They are there today. His oil paintings adorned his home, often of Scottish scenes painted on frequent visits to the Isle of Skye by him and his wife Pat where they had a keen interest in Clan Donald Society activities. After his retirement in 1977 he was fortunate to enjoy good health and was able to carry on these many interests until a couple of years before his death. Predeceased by his wife, he leaves two daughters, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Richard Pertwee, grandson

Andrew Pascall 1969-2004

Andrew made a slow start at Sevenoaks School – indeed there was doubt that he would make the sixth form. However thanks to his class teacher **Casey McCann** who gave him the required 'kick up the pants' he not only reached the sixth form but also achieved some respectable A Levels. He made many lasting friends at Sevenoaks. After attaining a diploma in Business Studies at Birmingham Polytechnic, he had various jobs while living in London. At 24 he made a major career decision to be a Building Engineer. He enrolled in South Bank University for a four-year degree course, persuaded Kent County Council to give him a grant, and finished with a good degree in 1996. He was then snapped up by a Building Services consultancy and in 1997 joined the WSP Group – a major player in the Building Services industry – where he rose to Associate Director with imminent prospects of further promotion. In 1999 he married Sarah in her home town of Newcastle and in 2001 their son Thomas was born, followed in 2003 by a daughter, Catriona. Following the removal of a melanoma from his leg in 2001, two years later the cancer metastasized. He set about fighting this horrendous disease with huge determination, undergoing every possible form of treatment. Sadly, he died at home in Edinburgh in November 2004. His family will never forget the courage both he and Sarah showed, and the help and support given to him by so many friends. His early death was a tragedy, but as **Mark**, his elder brother, wrote,

We have experienced together the warmth of our parents' hugs, the delight of getting our first bikes, the euphoria of being drunk, the elation of being kissed by a pretty girl, the thrill of skiing out of control, the joy of falling in love, the triumph of becoming a boss, and the joy of holding our new child for the first time. These memories will not be taken away. You lived life to the full; you have not missed out.

Patrick Pascall, father

Charles Stubbs 1915-2005

Charles Stubbs was born in Sevenoaks in June 1915. After attending Sevenoaks School and the subsequent outbreak of war he joined the RAF and married Joan in 1942. They had two daughters Toni and Peta. He qualified as a chiroprapist in 1951 and had a surgery in Sevenoaks until 1971 when he

moved to Cornwall and continued in that profession. He returned to Otford in 1992, following the death of his wife, and made new and renewed friendships in the area. He was in the St John Ambulance for many years and received their highest honour in 1967. He was also a member of the RAF Association. Interest in motor racing and rugby, which he played, continued throughout his life. He will be missed by the Otford Luncheon Club and Darby and Joan and many friends.

Toni Johnston, daughter

Malcolm Wilmott 1932-2005

Malcolm Wilmott had been a member of School House from 1946-49. He took a degree in English from

Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and remained in the States for the rest of his life. He taught English at the King and Low-Heywood Thomas School, a private secondary institution, in Stamford Connecticut, for 35 years, and still found time to pursue his hobby as an automobile enthusiast. He participated in car rallies and sports car races in England and the States. In recent years his interest lay in restoring antique Jaguars and taking part in Concours events. He was a member of the Goodwood Road Racing Club and the Jaguar Club of Southern New England. His wife, Phyllis, and son and daughter survive him.

The Advocate Newspaper, Stamford, Conn.

LETTERS

Dear OS,

So many pages of Old Sennockians, containing regrettably very few names known to me. The only names to which I can assign faces and mannerisms are those mentioned in **WG Orton's** obituary – namely **Cleaton-Davies**, my housemaster, **Ernie Groves**, saturnine **Jocky White** in his basement laboratory, and, of course, **Jimmy Higgs-Walker**. I doubt if girls in Johnsons join the queue under the watchful eye of Mr Groves down the passage to the morning baths, which got warmer as more bodies passed through. I used to quite enjoy the runs in Knole Park – never took them seriously – picked the odd flower, watched rabbits until the day I entered the final stretch along a sort of valley and found not another runner in sight. Horrorstruck I put on speed, thinking I had loitered too long, to such an effect that I came in first and never enjoyed a race again. I actually did come first and got my pink colours.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Arrol, a survivor (Johnsons 28-34)

Thank you for the notice re the Founder's Day celebrations. My best wishes go to you on 25 June. I shall be with you in spirit, though not, I am afraid, in the flesh. Being on the other side of the planet (New Zealand) makes it difficult for me to attend. At 75 I am no longer, very enthusiastic about long air flights – 13 hours non-stop to Los Angeles alone. My wife and I paid a visit to the school in 2000. Her reaction on seeing the old School House building, where I was a boarder during the latter stages of World War II, was *Grim*. Indeed, in 1944 it was rather grim, and I remember being very cold, hungry and homesick for much of the time. (My parents were in the Middle East throughout the war.) How things have changed: co-ed, international and so many options in the educational field. Sevenoaks School has done exceptionally well and I am proud (now) to be an Old Sennockian. The absence of girls in my day bred in me a deep interest in classical music. The local girls' schools used to attend musical

occasions in Johnsons hall, and I used to go more to ogle the young ladies than to listen to the music. I became sublimely converted and am eternally grateful as such music has been one of my greatest forms of entertainment. I have to acknowledge, although I did not enjoy much of my time at Sevenoaks School – I was hopeless at sport – I learned to value, enjoy and communicate in the English language and also to develop a lifelong love of history – two teachers stand out: **Ivan Cole** and **Ernie Groves** – both had an enthusiasm for their subjects which was infectious. Several other teachers who returned from serving in the war helped me to rise, in one year, from a total academic failure to success in the Oxford and Cambridge School Certificate exams. I went on to become a Master Mariner in the P & O Company and later, after emigrating to New Zealand, an ordained Anglican Priest and Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at the local St John's Theological College. I am now retired, happily married for the second time to a lovely Kiwi woman and have two sons and three grandsons, all in Auckland.

So all in all I remember Sevenoaks School with appreciation and, in my later years, with affection. Yours most sincerely,

Jeremy Shaw (School House 44 – 1947)

2 April 2005

Firstly, congratulations on the Newsletter. I have some appreciation of the effort involved from being the editor of an annual magazine for the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust. I was particularly interested in the news of **Derry Stallard**. Like him I am car crazy, my father having had a succession of sports cars throughout my childhood. My chance to move away from sensible motoring came when my sister-in-law offered her 1965 Triumph Spitfire to my daughter. We rebuilt this from a 'basket case' over 11 months, and I took it over a year later when my daughter gained a company car. Since then I have enjoyed many notable motoring events which have included shared driving with my son or daughter

at Castle Combe, Silverstone, Donnington circuits, Prestwich Hill climb and Kames sprint circuit. I have fond memories of Jimmy's Rolls-Royce as on one occasion I cleaned and re-gapped the spark plugs for him which led to an effusive description of my engineering skills in the reference he supplied for my application for a Rolls-Royce apprenticeship.

Peter Sherrard (School House 42-48)

Many thanks for the Newsletter received yesterday. As always I found it most interesting, though once again the news of the deaths of friends of many years ago comes as a shock. I remember **Ernest Bensted** and **John Rogers** well, though it is many years since I had any contact with them. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that my brother **Alan**, 79 years old in August, was elected Fellow of the British Academy for his work a few years ago. This is a rare honour which you may care to note. He is still active doing research in Local History and writing articles for learned journals. I still have all my old reports, not by any means all of them complimentary. **James Higgs-Walker** was such a character – an autocrat of course and representative of an age now gone. He could, however, relax and pull your leg. 'Everitt, you have a refreshing lack of tact,' he once said. It is still true perhaps.

Robin Everitt (Grote 35-42)

21 Nov 2005

I read with interest the views and memories of my contemporaries that appear from time to time in the Newsletter. Your letter reminds me that I should perhaps revisit my own recollections and valuation of my own days at Sevenoaks. To have a true picture of life at Sevenoaks requires an understanding of the ethos under which it and most independent schools of that era operated. Those who write to express their unhappiness may not have realised that the achievement of happiness featured pretty low down on the list of objectives of regimes based on rigid Victorian values underpinned by a firm belief in Original Sin. From day one it was impressed upon you that life was a serious matter where it was your duty to make the best of your abilities, to act always as a responsible member of society and to conform with the standards imposed from above. Praise was limited, shortcomings attracted sanctions. Every moment and aspect of school life was regulated and supervised. Discipline in itself was not overly repressive – but there seemed an awful lot of it. Given the multitudinous regulations it was virtually impossible to avoid clashes with authority and the ensuing sanctions.

My own school career judged by its own standards was relatively successful, but nevertheless, I recall it as a very challenging and pressurised experience. Ideal training for those of us destined shortly to join the armed forces or for those who in earlier days were sent out to govern the Colonies, but offering

less opportunity for development of intellectual curiosity and individual thought which frustrated some – including members of the teaching staff. Conformity was everything, spontaneity was not encouraged. Even the theatre critic from a London paper sent down to review the major cultural event of the year – the school play – was moved to remark that 'the discipline of the performance came across the footlights with an almost physical force'.

Undoubtedly the dominant influence in those days was the authoritarian Headmaster, **James Higgs-Walker**. He worked tirelessly to ensure that Sevenoaks survived the economic storms of the 30s and the post 1944 upheavals of the Butler Act which enabled it to develop as it has today. He could be arrogant, aloof and capricious, but his heart was set on enhancing the social, athletic and academic status of the School in that order of priority. Much of this escaped the notice of the mass of the school who saw him as a distant figure to be feared rather than admired. Locally he was criticised for seeming consciously to detach himself from the community which also deprived the School of contacts which could have provided some stimulus to its somewhat claustrophobic environment. No one who went through those years at Sevenoaks could fail to be affected by the experience. Non-participation was not an option. I am extremely grateful for the efforts of all those members of staff who gave so generously of their time and expertise and enabled me to survive and even flourish. My particular thanks would go to **Jack Robinson**, **Messrs Rich**, **Rollett and Parks**, **Leonard (Joe) Brown**, **Ernie Groves**, that charming Old Etonian aesthete '**Pansy**' (named for the author of our history text book) **Pakenham** and last but not least the formidable Jimmy Higgs-Walker.

I hope that this does not come across as an unduly dismal account of school life as I knew it. There was much to be valued, but also a sense of lost opportunities. By the time I returned to Sevenoaks in the late 40s for some brief spells of teaching it was apparent that the leadership needed to respond more positively to the changes in post-war society and educational practice. The fact that the School was able to respond in such a remarkable way owes much to the building blocks that were already in place.

At Chris Tavaré's invitation I was able to visit the cricket last summer. I have it in mind to visit the School in the not too distant future – if only to be able to enter the Royal Oak by the front door without furtive glances at the Headmaster's study.

Best wishes,

Brian Gibbons (Hardinge 35-42)

Notes

Several Old Sennockians have been corresponding with the OS office about their time at school in the thirties and during the Second World War. These letters have a life of their own and are too interesting

and interconnected to be published singly in this newsletter. It is the hope of the OS office to collect these recollections into a booklet that can be published. To enable discussion of these years, there is going to be a luncheon reunion for former students who attended Sevenoaks between 1935 and 1950. The date has yet to be fixed; however, anyone interested in being invited should contact the OS office either by email or in writing.

Sevenoaks School, A History by **Brian Scragg** is available from the Bursar for £23, including p&p. Published in 1993, it covers the nearly 600-year history of the school up to **Richard Barker**. It is profusely illustrated with maps, drawings and photographs. Please make your cheque payable to Sevenoaks School and send to The Bursar, Sevenoaks

School, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HU, giving your name and address, or, for details of how to pay by credit card, email jb@sevenoaksschool.org

In common with all HMC Schools, OS can join three clubs in London, which also have wide-ranging reciprocity agreements, with a minimum of formality and cost. Under the J7 scheme, a fee of £185 will cover Old Boy OS up to the age of 25 at the East India Club in St James's Square. The Lansdowne Club, off Berkeley Square, offers membership to OS of both sexes, with special arrangements for Old Sennockians. The University Women's Club, in Audley Square, accepts only women. Details of all three clubs can be obtained from Hope Pym at the OS office. Tel: 01732 467708; email: os@sevenoaksschool.org

Can you help?

To help us improve the records held on the database we are looking to make contact with OS whom we appear to have lost. In this edition of the newsletter we are looking at two specific sections of the alumni constituency. This is the 30th anniversary of girls arriving at Sevenoaks School. In 1976 seven girls came as day students. We lack contact details for the three listed below:

Jane Higgins

Amanda Wilkins

Anne Worsdall

Between 1977 and 1980 a further 121 girls came to the school. We have lost contact with the 37 below:

1979

Anne-Nicole Leonard
Deborah Williams

1981

Vanessa Alchin
Hayley Elston
Suzanna Elston
Charlotte Benson
Anne-Maria Bowden
Emma Brown
Alison Jane Butler
Deborah Fazan
Shelley Hennell
Catherine Judge
Jennifer Mackenzie Ross
Melanie Prytz
Monica Torry
Ruth Turley
Vassiliki Vontsa
Tanya Walker

1982

Caroline Albany-Ward
Lucy Gibbeson Chapman
Claudia Bowden
Susan Colley
Belle Henson
Kinnary Patel
Elizabeth Sheldon
Elizabeth Stevenson
Penelope Taylor

1980

Muna Rashia Abdulla
Jane Austen
Judith Andrews
Caroline Burrows
Rosamund Burton
Lucy Curtis
Alisa De Torres
Fiona Dixon
Emel Kahya
Carmen Yuen

We are also looking at the United States and have no contact details for the following:

1981

Bashar Al-Tabbaa

1982

Peter Steven

1987

Hessam Kalantar

1988

Charles Burgis
Stefan Josef Monauni

1989

Adrienne Russell

1991

Graham Cloke
Stephen A B Jones

1993

Piyush Sharma

1998

Kirabo Clement Jackson

1999

David Yuuki Scheurl
Catriona Ward

2003

Vanessa Leigh

Wir möchten alle Old Sennockians, die in Deutschland wohnen, darum bitten, uns Ihre Adresse, Telefonnummer und E-mail zuzuschicken, und auch alte Schulfreunden informieren, dass wir auch von ihnen sehr gern ihre Kontaktdetails hätten.

Write to: Old Sennockian Society, Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HU

Or email: os@sevenoaksschool.org