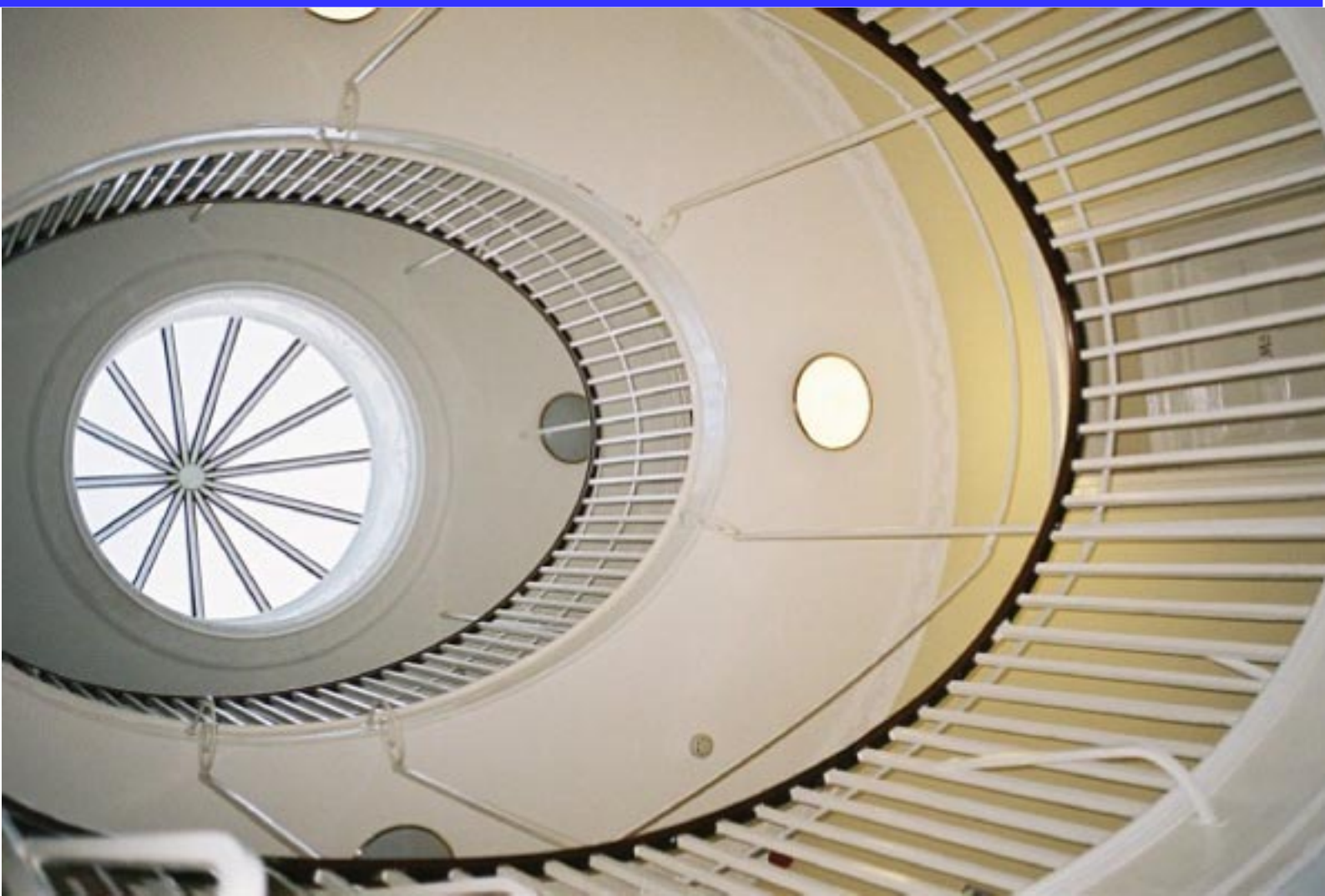


SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



**OLD SENNOCKIAN
NEWSLETTER**

EASTER 2007

EDITORIAL

This year there has been a marked increase in the number of Old Sennockians who have taken up our invitation to revisit their old school. There seems to be a real desire among OS to rekindle and develop their association with Sevenoaks. The school has much to offer. It is riding high in the League Tables, has splendid new buildings, an exciting vision for the future and a well-connected database of over 6,700 OS. There is still the same buzz around the school – the children have not changed. We were

spawned some 13 years ago, and next year we will be reborn as part of an integrated new magazine. My thanks must once again go to Hope Pym who has so diligently and cheerfully toiled at her computer gathering together your gems of news thereby enabling her to produce another excellent newsletter. Please keep in touch and I hope to meet up again with many of you at the various events and reunions that are planned for the future.

Ray Hackett

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD

In its long history, Sevenoaks has excelled at seizing opportunities, and at taking bold, innovative steps. It is in such a spirit that I welcome you to what will be the last edition of *The Old Sennockian* in its current form. I would like to thank Ray Hackett for his work in creating the template and producing the Newsletter since 1994 and Hope Pym who came to assist him. Next academic year will see the publication of a new magazine – title yet to be decided – which will bring together in one readership our alumni, our current students and parents, and those connected with the school. The school consists not just of those currently attending it, but of all those individuals, past and present, who have been part of its history. The new magazine will provide all with news of the school's life each year, both within the school gates and as experienced by Sennockians around the world. The first issue will focus on arts and media, as building work begins on a brand new world-class £13m performing arts centre. We will welcome articles from Old Sennockians, in addition to news from individuals, which we will continue to seek.

The school is riding high, flourishing in its first year as an all IB school – indeed, one of the world's largest and most successful. For the first time, every one of our 420-strong Sixth Form is studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It is an exciting time as we launch an ambitious development plan, which will consolidate and build on the school and our students' success. Results are outstanding, and *The Times* placed us first in its

performance table. So too, is the vibrant programme of activities. Our students are national champions in sailing, swimming and cross-country, national finalists in hockey and shooting. It is characteristic of the Sennockian, new and old, to look outwards to the wider world. I am very proud of our delegations to the Model United Nations, who regularly achieve best delegate award; and of the fact that in 2006 our students raised £18,000 for charity.

Music and Drama flourish. We have enjoyed numerous concerts and productions. Outstanding music scholars Alex Ying and Latifah Hamzah have performed major works, and the Sackville Theatre has hosted *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, and an Indian Kathakali theatre company, boarders' plays, and many other small scale productions. We are all delighted that **Paul Greengrass** was nominated for an Oscar. Current students, Rachel Ashwanden and Sophie Gilpin, the Head of Department, Penny Hargreaves, and I were lucky enough to be shown round his film set for *The Bourne Ultimatum* at Pinewood earlier in the year – just one example of the positive interaction between Sennockians, old and new. It has been wonderful to attend a number of reunions – the Festival of Sport in September, the 10th reunion for the class of 1996, the celebration of girls arriving at Sevenoaks in 1976, the Pipemakers' reception for scholars (30 former scholars attended).

You are always welcome to visit – don't wait to be asked!

Katy Ricks
April 2007

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Much effort has been devoted to tracing 'lost' members of the alumni, improving the OS database and meeting former students and their parents worldwide. As part of the programme of visiting countries that have sent students to Sevenoaks – some as long ago as the early 1960s – receptions have been held by the Head, the Undermaster and me in San Francisco, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong, and in January this year in India. The purpose of these visits is to provide an update on the achievements of current students, highlight events at the school, communicate the Head's vision for the school, and, following completion in 2005 of the sport centre project, give details of the next phase of our development plans. The visits also provide an opportunity to meet parents interested in sending their children to Sevenoaks.

In Kuala Lumpur, Mr Robert and Mrs Angie Cheong and in Mumbai, Mrs Rashmi Jolly and Dr Swati Piramal have very successfully established Friends of Sevenoaks School associations in their

respective cities. Building on the success of these two associations, the visits provide the opportunity to encourage the creation of similar groups elsewhere in the world, developing an expanding network that promotes the school, helps alumni with work placements, job searches and many other activities to the benefit of the school, its alumni and parents. We congratulate our friends in Hong Kong and Singapore who have recently established new groups in these two locations. We are exceedingly grateful to all who support these groups.

The proposed programme for overseas visits and for reunions within the UK over the next year includes:

- Visit to Brussels, Germany and Italy.
- 10th reunion dinner on **11 May** in Sevenoaks.
- The Festival of Sport on **9 September**.
- Reunion lunch for 1952–57 leavers **13 September**.
- 25th reunion dinner on **21 September**.
- The Johnsons reunion dinner on **13 October**.

Next year it is proposed to hold a 40th reunion event for the class year 1968.

I know that many of our alumni, even those living close to Sevenoaks, do not return to the campus for several years. As the Head has mentioned, you are always welcome to revisit the school and see and hear what is being achieved. There is no doubt you should be immensely proud of your old school and what today's students are achieving. If you visit the campus, among the changes you will discover is The Sennocke Centre, a magnificent facility with 25-metre swimming pool with ultra-violet filtration, a sports hall with two basketball and eight badminton courts and eight indoor cricket lanes, three glass backed squash courts, a refurbished tennis hall, fitness room, dance and aerobic suite and many changing rooms.

The next phase of development is already underway with plans drawn up with a view to submitting a planning application later this year. The main focus will be to develop the area around the Flat, and, banishing cars from it, to landscape that space. The school's music is outstanding and we propose to replace buildings that have served the school well for over forty years but no longer provide the quality space and facilities we now require. A new performing arts centre with an auditorium capable of accommodating a seventy piece orchestra, large choir and audience of 500 people on raked seating plus a recital room, additional drama space and about twenty sound-

proofed practice rooms will be built in the area between the Marley Sports Hall and the Sackville Theatre. It will be a facility capable of attracting world-class artists. Completion is planned for 2009. The challenge will again be to raise sufficient money for all the projects to be implemented at a sensible pace. For details of how you could help, please visit the school website and look at the Development section.

I am sometimes asked what we are doing about developing additional revenue streams at Sevenoaks. Our new facilities will be built to conference standard, so we can maximise holiday use. Our growing lettings programme, of course, also promotes the school's reputation more widely.

Since 2002 a bursaries fund has been established which provides bursaries for children who pass the admissions test but who without financial support would not be able to benefit from an education at Sevenoaks School. This reinforces the principle the school was founded upon and also demonstrates a public benefit, as required in the charities bill recently going through parliament. The Bursaries Fund has raised £796,797.

Finally my sincere thanks to all Old Sennockians and their parents who have expressed interest in the development plans and generously shown their support for the next phase of development and to the Bursary Fund.

John Walton

OLD SENNOCKIAN SPORTS CLUBS

The Festival of Sport

The increasingly popular Festival of Sport proved to be a great draw for Old Sennockians who turned up in their hundreds to provide support for a full programme of events throughout the sunny September day. All the matches were played in an excellent spirit, and the spectators were vociferous in their support. Both hockey teams arrived somewhat bleary-eyed for the early morning start. Play began on time at 10am at a fast and furious pace. Eventually the extra fitness exhibited by the school team started to overwhelm a valiant OS who ran out losers by five goals to nil – despite the introduction of all 13 players on the pitch in the latter stages of the game. **Simon Harding** brought a top-class OS Shooting Team, peppered with Internationals, but they needed all their skill to beat a promising school team. Out of a maximum possible score of 600 the OS reached a magnificent 598, and the school were only two dropped shots behind at 596. Everyone agreed to meet again next year for a re-match. The Sennocke Centre was the venue for an exciting basketball match. The OS looked every inch the part, fielding a group of tall, athletic players, but although their enthusiasm was boundless, the



skills of a predominantly IC Team were the deciding factor, and the school ran out relatively comfortable winners, 55–35. The netball match that followed was closely fought, and there was nothing between the teams right up until the final minutes. A couple of late goals enabled the school to gain an advantage, and they held on for victory. The final score was 16–13. Meanwhile on the old tennis courts, a strong OS team were made to work hard for their victory, and the overall result was only decided in the last set with the OS winning four sets to three. The quality of tennis was fantastic, and several OS players were

keen to form a larger team that could play during the year and to expand the matches at the Festival in 2007. The 1st XV Rugby kicked off the afternoon programme, and they had a tough time facing a very strong OS side as they were suffering from a lack of substitutes and injury problems picked up the previous day. The OS ran in nine tries, and the school



picked up a late consolation try. The final score 45–5 to the OS. Simon Harding, fresh from shooting, was the referee. A female staff/OS team took on the girls' soccer team who were ably coached by John Burger. It was an even match when a solitary goal enabled the OS to inch home, 1–0. The final match of the afternoon, the school v OS football was superb. A talented OS team drawn from the past three years appeared to be far too strong (on paper) for the relatively inexperienced school team under the guidance of Nigel Haworth. However, the match was very close, and only a late penalty goal enabled the OS to snatch victory, 2–1. This is the fourth year of the newly enlarged Festival of Sport. Not only does it provide an opportunity for the previous summer's leavers to participate in sporting events – the participation is at a record high – but it is a very relaxed social event for current students, recent leavers and their parents. The generous catering was organised by Pete Hill and the PE department.

Real Tennis

The Old Sennockians trounced the Old Tonbridgians on 30 November at the Harbour Club in Chelsea. Playing for the OS were **Oliver Harris, Rupert Thorp** and **Simon Mansfield**; appearing for Tonbridge were Richard Dalzell, Alex Holbourn and Will Chawner. Rupert's match opened the account in great style, winning 6–1. Simon and Ollie's matches are best forgotten; they decided to put it down to the fact that the Harbour Club is possibly the fastest court in the country. After the first three singles matches, things were not looking at all good for Sevenoaks (at 1–2 down), while Tonbridge players at this point were clearly feeling rather pleased. Then Simon partnered Rupert in the first doubles match, to give Ollie a chance to regroup before he played two in a row; the OS won quite comfortably, 6–2.

Rupert has an extraordinary eye for the ball and is very quick with his interception and cross court smash which he deployed frequently and to great effect. Ollie recovered in his first doubles match, winning again 6–2, now ahead in the match overall at 3–2 with a last doubles match (Ollie and Rupert) to play. However, a minimum number of games in the last match were needed to win overall on account of the terrible losses in the earlier singles. At this point it was calculated that the OS actually needed at least three games in this last match to secure an overall win. The OS started off very poorly, quickly going 3–0 down. Miraculously at that point Ollie found his form again, while Will Chawner (OT) started to tire, taking the edge off his otherwise unreturnable service which had been troubling Ollie all evening, and finally began shooting loose balls into the net. No further games were lost in that match, and to the utter despondence of Tonbridge, the OS won the last match 6–3. The final match score was 4–2 to Sevenoaks. The match was played in great sporting spirit (etiquette is an important part of this kind of games) and all parties had an outstanding time. 'Man of the Match' was most certainly Rupert, who has vowed to spend more time working on his game. I do hope that if there are any other OS Real Tennis players out there (actual, nascent or intending) that you will be inspired to contact me or one of the other players to see how we might increase our number for larger fixtures. Since it is a game played off handicap, anyone can play with anyone else, male or female. We all play at Queens or Hampton Court, but there are 27 courts around the country and it would be wonderful to field a full team.

Simon Mansfield

Sailing



Bevis Field, Jonny Cavill, James Roche, Ed Males, Amy Gunning, Alex Beddoes, Rob Ozanne, Sarah Mann

Eight OS sailors, Rob Ozanne, the Warwick Captain, Bevis Field, Ed Males, James Roche and Alex Beddoes at Southampton, Sarah Mann at Nottingham, Jonny Cavill at Durham and Amy Gunning at Cambridge, competed in the finals of the University Sailing Championships in April 2006 at Cambridge. Unfortunately, Dave Newey, the Southampton Captain, had to drop out at the last minute due to a back injury. Cambridge after three days of gruelling racing in storm force winds beat Oxford 3-0 in the Finals. Amy Gunning is the third OS sailor to win the University Championships sailing for Cambridge in recent years. She has been awarded a Blue. OS Sailors have collected Gold every year for the past ten except 2005.

The 34th Annual Knole Run



Matt Wertheim and Ben Evans

The Knole Run was held on 13 January. **Peter McGregor** and **Hugh Pullan** came to cheer as **Matt Wertheim** and **Ben Evans** ran for the OS. Matt won in 41 minutes, and Ben followed three minutes later. Ben promises to train harder and intends to take home the Bourne Cup next year. Any challengers?

OS Golf

On a perfect evening at Wildernesse, the Old Sennockians Golf Society hosted a 10-a-side match against the staff and students. A friendly but keenly fought contest ensued with the OS triumphing by three matches to two. Max Stoiber partnered by Hamish Jackson gained his first win for the school and masher Griffiths and steady Haworth saw off the opposition. Previously unbeaten Max Beyer, partnered by Alberto Brignone, found the steady play of the OS too much. Poor Robert Shannon had to cope with stiff opposition and Mr Goff as his partner. With the match tied 2-2, it all rested on Fugard and Hackett who, despite coming back from three down twice, finally succumbed at the 17th hole with yet another visit to the trees. The school is very grateful to the Old Sennockians and in particular **Paul Kempton** for organising this very enjoyable event.

Old Sennockians Golf Society Review

The Spring Meeting at Littlestone was well supported (20), and those present were rewarded with a fine day in the Kent countryside. Joint winners were **James Howie**, **Hugh Llewellyn-Jones** and **Richard Kempton**, James winning by virtue of a good lunch and a superior afternoon score. **Brian Keeley** and **Neil Petch-Smith** were top performers in the morning and afternoon respectively. Our next match against The Wildernesse Club was an enjoyable day, so much so that I cannot remember the outcome. A certain amount of juggling was necessary to accommodate last minute withdrawals and an 'unmissable' Sunday lunch, which resulted in an OS debut for **Oli Smith**, who performed honourably, despite unfair comparisons of his golf swing with a caveman killing his lunch. In May the Grafton Morrish Qualifier at Knole Park on Cup Final Day was successfully negotiated by **Paul Kempton** and James Howie, **Simon** and **Jonathan Barker**, and **David** and **Colin Gellatly**, all scoring an equal number of points to qualify for the finals in September. This was Colin's first team debut, and a welcome one. The Summer Meeting at Royal Ashdown Forest in late May was cancelled, as a monsoon enveloped the downs, and re-arranged for a later date, at which a very select band of eight had an enjoyable day. We were very pleased to welcome Ray Hackett after a lengthy absence. Hugh Llewellyn-Jones was leading scorer on the day, closely followed by **Ian Mitchell** and **David Caldwell**. Our next event was a match against the school, played at Wildernesse, organised and hosted by Paul Kempton. The school fielded an intoxicating combination of staff and pupils, and all had an enjoyable evening. We hope to welcome leavers to the Society in due course. Thanks are due to Brian Fougard and Ray Hackett for their efforts in this direction. Our team for the match against Royal Cinque Ports, one of the jewels in our fixture list, bizarrely contained four non-Sennockians (come on, chaps) but an enjoyable day was had by all. The course is becoming ever more magnificent and a treat to play. The Autumn Meeting at Rye took place in idyllic conditions, but was poorly supported with only eleven players taking part. **Chris Horncastle** was the winner with Ian Mitchell and **Robert Ingram** respectively second and third. The Grafton Morrish Finals took place in late September, and we had the honour of leading the tournament off the first tee against St Edwards, Oxford, at Hunstanton. It was a very close match – but we came second. Thanks to those who represented the Society – Kempton/Howie, Barker (x2) and Gellatly (x2) – and better luck next year. Thanks also to those who support the Society's activities despite their inability to join in – they know who they are, and their contributions are very welcome – and to those who made our events so enjoyable. Best wishes for 2007.

Jeremy Smith, Secretary

2007 OSGS Fixtures List

30 March	SPRING Littlestone
28 April	Invitation Match v Wildernesse
12 May	Grafton Morrish Qualifier Knole Park
1 June	SUMMER Royal Ashdown Forest
Mid-June	OS v Sevenoaks School Wildernesse
23 June	Invitation Match v Royal Cinque Ports Deal
5-7 October	Grafton Morrish Finals Hunstanton
12 October	AUTUMN Rye

OS Cricket

The 1st XI v MCC was held on 24 June at Solefields. MCC won the toss and in traditional style decided to bat. Another exhilarating innings of 119 by Old Sennockian **Will House** enabled the MCC to declare early in the afternoon on 209-3. Josh Parker was the pick of the Sevenoaks bowlers taking 2-28 including the always prized wicket of MCC captain **Paul Downton**. The school made a reasonable start and at 77-3 was in a position to make a competitive challenge. However, despite useful contributions by Dan Haley 28 and Alex Kirkpatrick 26 they were

bowled out for 143 with Paul Downton claiming his revenge on Josh Parker and finishing with 4-28. On Sunday 25 June the 1st XI v Old Sennockians match was played. The OS batted first and totalled 180 all out. A number of the batsman 'got in' and in true Sevenoaks style managed to 'get out' when looking well set. **Ben Spokes** scoring 30, **Mark Spelman** 30, **Ed Grant** 24, **Patrick Sutton-Mattocks** 18, **Jonny Recaldin** 13 and **Stuart Seldon** 13. Will Wilkin and Alex Kirkpatrick were the chief wicket takers for the school with three wickets apiece. In an exciting run chase the school finished 11 runs short. An excellent mid-innings stand of 80 between Josh Parker 38 and Sam Cox 40 had put the school in control, but after both were run out the innings lost direction with two further run outs taking their toll. **Chris Fletcher** was leading wicket taker with 3-29.

Both sides thoroughly enjoyed the day and thanks must be given to Chris Tavaré for his excellent organisation once again.

Phil Hulston

NEWS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

1940-1949

Richard Sunnucks (School House 36-44) visited the school for the first time in 50 years to see his grandson, Ben Sunnucks, who is in year eight.

Mike Finlow (School House 39-45) was interested to read **Peter Sherrard's** letter. He cites among his many activities at Sevenoaks: woodwork (with **Charlie 'Chips' Page**), acting, music (he was leader of the school orchestra) with **Ivan Cole** conducting or playing bassoon. He plays the violin and has led his church (St John's, Hartford, Northwich) orchestra since the mid-80s. Before that he was the (reluctant) organist there and plays a bit of jazz organ and keyboard, mainly for charity events. His father, **Percy Gordon Finlow**, and uncle, **Leonard William Finlow**, were founder boarders at School House c. 1910 at the time of Headmaster **George Henry Heslop**. All three came down from Sandbach School where Heslop had been headmaster.

Peter Ware (Wordsworth 41-45) was in the coatings industry in Australia for 45 years in purchasing, having served in the RAF for two years including six months in the Middle East. He and his twin, **John**, took their discharge in Melbourne. He worked with Berger Paints for over 40 years in Melbourne, Adelaide and finally Sydney. Peter and his wife still live in Melbourne. He still maintains contact with **David Cloke** who became a Captain in the Merchant Navy.

1950-1959

John Skinner (Hardinge 44-52) and his wife Sonia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December 2006. She has retired from the Abbeyfield Charity, but John continues to chair the Welsh

branch of the Oxford Society. He heads the local professional businessmen's group. His principal work, however, is organising and leading the History Society summer visits where members have ventured as far as Hadrian's Wall.

1960-1969

Tom Cheney (Hardinge 55-60) writes, 'My initial career was as a solicitor, but I moved into teaching, working for many years in a Rudolph Steiner school in the West Midlands. I am now the Basic Skills Coordinator at Glasshouse College which is a Specialist College for students with learning difficulties (mainly ADHD, autistic and Asperger Syndrome). Among the teachers I remember fondly are **Brian Townend**, **Duncan Townson**, **David Cannuth**, **Geoffrey Hoare** and **Brian Scragg**. **Tibby Mason** never taught me but imparted to me a lifelong interest in ornithology. Fellow pupils I remember are **Oliver Taplin**, **David Cheshire**, **John Guyatt** and **Keith Miller**. Though older than me, **Peter Ridout**, is my brother-in-law.'

Roger Davey (Wordsworth 53-60) went from Sevenoaks to be one of the first undergraduates at SOAS (London University) to study African History, spending part of the second year at the University of Ghana. He then trained to become an archivist, working for six years at Carlisle, and eleven at Winchester, before being appointed County Archivist of East Sussex at Lewes (1982-2000). His Sevenoaks Latin has been well used all his working life, and he is still actively involved in editing and publishing archive material as Chairman of the Sussex Record Society. He is a churchwarden and

occasional organist. His brothers, **Miles** and **Chris**, are both flourishing.

Jo Marriott (Wordsworth 59–64) writes, 'I ended up in 1964 as Head Boy and Captain of the 1st XV Rugby Team. I then joined a family business based in Southwark supplying engineering equipment and manufacturing large hoses for the oil and chemical industry. In 1979 it was discovered that I was suffering from a heart defect. My wife who was attending the local parish church took me to a healing service. I was prayed for and totally healed, having met with Jesus. Within a year we were living at Ashburnham Place, a large Christian conference centre, as part of the ministry team. Ten years later my wife and I were sent out to start a new community church in the midst of a poorly supported council estate in Eastbourne. From that time on the church has steadily grown with many who have spent time in prison or who are coming out of the drug scene, finding God's power to heal them and free them from addictions.'

Fred Bump (64–65) writes, 'Greetings. After Sevenoaks, I returned to the USA and got my degree in Physics from Kenyon College, an MA from Collegiate University, and began teaching at Westport Junior High in Connecticut, one of the ten best in the USA, where I founded the Westport Astronomical Society. I moved up to the High School, taught Physics and Advance Placement Physics. Took a sabbatical and in 1989 I began an MA in Astronomy at Wesleyan but suffered an aneurysm with a 6.25 % chance of survival and 0% chance of coming out of my coma. As you have probably surmised, I did survive – although I have lost most of my memory and much of my thinking power. I no longer teach. I *survive* up here in Vermont where I have ski-patrolled for the last 31 years.'

Will Grut (Fryth 64–69) in 1998, set up Rose Charities, a secular, not for profit organisation working to provide re-habilitation surgery in Cambodia. This NGO now has many projects in Sri Lanka, where it provided port-tsunami pediatric doctors, followed by psycho-social counselling and an eye clinic in Cambodia. Rose Charities, which began as part of VSU at the school, now has a 'family' in New Zealand, Canada, UK, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. www.RoseCharities.org.

Jonathan Pitts Crick (Wordsworth 62–66) writes, 'I have subsequently discovered that I am quite severely dyslexic (this only came with assessment of my son who has a similar problem). Despite failing the majority of my exams (including 2nd MB twice for which I was expelled from med school for a year, and finals once in two subjects), I have had a successful career, undertaking an engineering doctorate in electronic signal processing and becoming a teaching hospital Consultant in cardiology. In most of my work – coronary angioplasts and pathway ablation – my visual/3D oriented mental processes are positively an

advantage over my non-dyslexic colleagues. I think this should encourage dyslexic pupils who may be finding the writing-based educational process rather a struggle. I particularly valued my time spent in the Technical Activities Centre with Dr **Gerd Somerhof** and should be particularly interested to hear from other enthusiasts from the Technical Activities Centre (63–66).'

1970–1979

Chris Nurse (Grote 65–71) recently completed the first ever transparency audit of the Nigerian Oil and Gas sector under the Nigerian Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative.

Humphrey Crick (Fryth 70–75) has published two papers in *Nature* and recently briefed the new Secretary of State for the Environment, David Miliband, on the impact of climate change on biodiversity (especially birds). He adds, 'I will write to **Peter Lloyd** to express my thanks for the help and support he gave when I studied Biology at Sevenoaks.'

Simon Dawson (Johnsons 70–75) is currently on a work placement at SAMS in Blackburn. SAMS stands for Scrap Art Materials Store which aims to take materials from private sector business which would otherwise end up on land-fill sites. The materials range from card and plastic to various cotton fabrics and are used by school, community, art/craft and youth groups in the area. They attempt to find a home for anything that could be used for art or craft. His art can be viewed at www.rue-d-etropal.com.

James Trounce (Grote 70–75) writes, 'I was pleased to read in the latest OS newsletter, that **Stephen** passed on to me shortly before his death, of the Valet for **Peter Lloyd** and **Neil Morgan**. Peter inspired my interest in how things grow, which has been the basis of much of my career, though **Willie Bleyberg** so successfully terrified me into work that Chemistry came out as my best A-level. Neil Morgan taught me what rugby was about, and I now, when coaching, find myself using the same techniques that he used on us.

Jonathan Evans (Wordsworth 69–76) takes over from Dame Eliza Manningham-Buller as Director General of MI5 in April 2007.

Simon Cracknell (Hardinge 72–79) married Margaret Anne Jellis in 2005. They have four children between them, Chris, Hannah, William and Mattie.

James Mann (Wordsworth 72–79) would be interested in hearing from anyone who can remember him and feels inclined to get in touch.

Tony Roper (Fenton 74–79) is now with HSBC with specific responsibility for running the newly launched HSBC Infrastructure Company, a £250m listed company which specialises in investing in long term infrastructure projects.

Howard Thompson (Tammadge 72–79) has been a self-employed builder for the last 18 years or so,

mostly working on renovations and barn conversions. He is now more or less retired but still very busy looking after his small holding in West Cornwall. He has twin daughters born in 1991, both doing very well in the local comprehensive school. Since his marriage he has had the name Howard Thompson-Pentreath.

1980–1989

Sumit Mandal (IC 78–80) is an historian at the Institut Kajian Malaysia Dan Antarabangsa (IKMAS) and is the author of *For the Record: An Anti-War Protest in Jakarta Days before the Bali Bomb Attacks: A Photoessay*, published by Duke University Press.

Mark Shorey (School House 72–80) moved from London to Guernsey following his wife, Helen, who has taken up a job working for the State of Guernsey. He writes, 'I am a full time house-husband and a part-time geophysicist thanks to the wonders of the internet. If anyone who knows me is passing by Guernsey then drop me a line and I can offer you a pint of Guernsey Wyked Ale and a plate of bean jar.'

John Watson (Staff 79–80) has lived in Aberdeen since 1983 with a few months in Glasgow in the late 1980s. Among other things, he has worked in information services, in tourism, in administration, in performing arts education, in library services, in the oil industry and as a translator. He is an active amateur choral singer and a member of the Aberdeen Section of the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and of an Aberdeen-based chamber choir.

Greg Mellish (Boswell 77–82) has taken a sabbatical year to look after his three-year-old son, Rowan. He is able to keep diving and was off the Isle of Wight when he got tail swiped by a nine-meter-long shark. He also got away to New Guinea with Barbara's brother to dive for ten days. They managed 30 dives and got some stunning photos and film. He still gets to Sevenoaks regularly to his parents and friends. He keeps in contact with **Steve** and **Julian Barker** and **Derek Shaw**.

Richard Alexander (Grote 76–83) got his PhD in May 2006, while a book, *Insider Dealing and Money Laundering in the EU: Law and Regulation*, based on his thesis is due to be published by Ashgate.

Matthew Tanner (Hardinge 77–84) is the director of Brunel's SS-Great Britain Trust which was the Winner of the Gulbenkian Prize for Museum of the Year 2006 – the Biggest Arts Prize in the UK. They are now short-listed for the 2007 European Museum of the Year and the UK Visitor Attraction of the Year. For Matthew, the last 12 months have been just outstanding – 12 national awards won, birth of a baby son (following two daughters), and then being honoured with an MBE in the New Year. www.ssgreatbritain.org.

Emma O'Grady née Blackwell (GIH 84–86) is living in Wiltshire, married for ten years to Bruce O'Grady and has three girls ranging in age from one to ten.

Before becoming a mother and after university, she worked in advertising and then studied for her masters in Applied Population Research at Exeter. This took her to Indonesia and a job with UNFPA, followed by work with Marie Stopes International in London, managing their programmes in East Africa and Sierra Leone. She also helps Bruce run a property development business.

Jonas Andreasson (Wordsworth 82–87) and his wife Laura have had a baby daughter Isabel on 9 January 2007 in Rome.

Ben Anker (Grote 82–87) published *Historic Kent* in March 2006 with his wife Zoe.

Chris Kinley (Fryth 81–87) writes, 'Since moving to New Zealand in September 2002 we have settled well in Auckland, enjoying a very different lifestyle from the UK. We are just minutes away from great beaches while only 15 minutes to the city centre and work. We have now explored a considerable part of both islands. The scenery is incredibly beautiful, interesting and varied within a relatively small country. I spent three years working for Telecom New Zealand within their contact centre operations for consumer and small business customers. Amazingly, halfway around the world, I discovered an old school friend in the same company, **William Hippisley**, who works in Wellington in their mobile business. I left Telecom towards the end of 2005. I am now working for ADT Security, part of the Tyco Group, as their Sales and Technical Services Manager for Consumer Security in New Zealand (property security and medical alert services).'

Andrew Evans (Groves 83–88) and his wife Rachel are still living in Sevenoaks with their daughter Kayleigh. He regularly runs in Knole Park and competes in local triathlons.

Plum Sykes (Fryth 86–88) and her husband Toby Rowland had a daughter, Ursula, in the autumn.

Devinia Kakaria née Iswaran (Sennocke 87–89) writes, 'I am juggling working in private practice with the school run, lost kit, cheering at the sidelines of windy rugby pitches, baking cakes for school ballet performances, coffee mornings and dinner parties. My husband and I live in Coombe Hill with our two children Aran (9) and Anoushka (5). I have great memories of the wonderful time I spent at Sevenoaks and would love to hear from anyone who was there with me, especially the other Sennocke Chicks. Where are you now?'

1990–1999

Kevin Brooke (School House 83–90) writes, 'I broke away from London life in October 2003 to work for Aman Resorts, a luxury boutique hotel group with 18 properties around the world. I spent two years as the Front Office Manager at Amangani in Jackson Hole, Wyoming (an amazing part of the world) before moving to Amanyara in the Turks and Caicos Islands where I was part of the management team. I have

been here for over a year now, and I'm really enjoying a job where I can see beautiful parts of the world and work with a variety of people from very diverse backgrounds. I would love to hear from any Old Sennockians. kevinbrooke72@hotmail.com.'

Jon Fisher (IC 83–90) writes, 'Quite a lot has changed for us since I joined a gathering of alumni in a pub on the South Bank in 2005. Chinatsu and I moved back to her village in rural Japan, and I now work from home as a freelance Japanese–English translator, mostly of materials related to international business and finance. I am also helping local farmers of *ume* (a local fruit related to the apricot) explore the market for *ume* liqueur in the UK (watch out for it next Christmas). Meanwhile we have another addition to the family in the form of Rebecca Kurea, who arrived on 3 December 2005 and is naturally the prettiest baby ever born.'

Trevor Payton (Grote 85–90) 'After University I lived and worked in London for ten years qualifying as a Management Accountant. The rest of my time was taken with the London Rowing Club in Putney competing regularly at Henley Royal Regatta. I presently live and work full time in the ski resort of Val d'Isère. Sue and I were married in 2005, and we have a baby daughter, Jessica, born last October.'

Ben Symes (Caxton 85–90) writes, 'Influenced greatly by my time at Sevenoaks, particularly the Sackville Theatre and the Summer Festival, I am developing Truro School's Burrell Theatre. We host touring productions from local theatre companies such as Kneehigh and Miracle Theatres as well as inviting companies from "up-country". I direct and produce numerous productions per year, run the Theatre Studies department and have also acted again recently, performing as Larry in Patrick Marber's, *Closer*. A recent triumph was to take a play I directed to the Cottlesloe last summer. *Broken Hallelujah* by Sharman Macdonald is about young people in the American Civil War and featured in the National Theatre Connections Festival.'

Marcus Toop (Wordsworth 84–90) was married last year to Lucy Preston. They are thinking of heading west to Cornwall. He is happy to hear from anyone from school.

Leanne Vicente née Perry (Caxton 85–91) is married with two children under three (Alisa and Lara) and has been living in Melbourne for the last eight years. She works one day a week for the Centre of International Mental Health at Melbourne University and is aiming to launch a website business for women returning to work after having children. She is still regularly in touch with **Clare Mackenzie** (now Avery), a fellow OS, who also lives in Melbourne and works at Lonely Planet. They travelled to Australia together in 1998 and both never left. She is also in touch with **Sarah Wesley** who is currently in Sydney.

Justin Clackson (School House 87–92) is getting married in May to a Spanish girl called Carolina. He

has been living in Barcelona for over six years now, having set up his own HR Consultancy, and plans to stay for the long-term. He is still in touch with **Richard Brown** and **Boudewijn Toorenvliet** who are going to the wedding.

Tiffany Butterworth (Elizabeth 91–93) was Head of Science at Cumnor House until 2006 when she joined the Engineering Branch of the Royal Navy.

Luds Van Den Belt (WU 89–93) runs Canvaschic, a French camping company which has just been selected as the only property in France to feature in *Green Places to Stay* from Alastair Sawday's publishing. The guidebook champions the authentic and original. It encourages worthwhile projects and people who are making imaginative efforts to reduce their impact on the environment.

Andrew Agnew (Sackville 88–94) has hung up his Army boots and is studying for an MSc in tandem with a new career as a chartered surveyor at Cushman and Wakefield.

Ed Valiente (Fryth 1989–94) writes, 'After three years at Cambridge, my first taste of the real world was as a games tester for Sony, spending eight hours a day playing PlayStation. While originally a bit of fun, I have so far spent ten happy years in videogames. I moved to Helsinki in November 2006 with my (Finnish) girlfriend, and I am currently head of sales and marketing for a mobile game publisher. In my spare time I am learning Finnish and DJing dub reggae. I can be reached at disco45@gmail.com.'

Even Nisja (IC 93–95) writes 'So what has happened in the last decade? In 1997 I left a promising career as an amateur stand-up comic in Oslo and moved to Sweden. I graduated as a dentist in 2002. I met a blonde Swedish girl, fell in love and been here ever since. I am currently working at the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery in Skövde hospital between Gothenburg and Stockholm. If some of the guys from the old IC need surgery on an impacted molar or just want to say hello, please write me a note: hjornetann@hotmail.com.'

Charly Sayn–Wittgenstein (IC 93–95) completed his MBA at Insead in December 2005 and joined Louis Sayn (the family business) in Germany in January 2006.

Alex Lane (Wordsworth 89–96) writes, 'Since leaving Sevenoaks, I joined the TA Parachute Regiment while studying at Hull University. I was in the Paras for three years; my most memorable experience was parachuting into Normandy for the anniversary of D-Day. After a brief stint in the City, I moved to the States where I have been for the past five years, living in Vail and Aspen, Colorado, and now my current home, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. I surf most evenings after work, and at the weekend I fish or play golf.'

Laurel (Smith) Pardue (GIH 94–96) received her BSc and MSc from MIT and is a captain in the United States Air Force. She has been in Liberia as a UN

observer for several months. She plans to return to the US to pursue a career as a musician.

Steve Rowcliffe (Johnsons 91–96) writes, 'I am currently a Biology teacher at the United World College of South East Asia in Singapore. Karen and I have just bought our first apartment on the east coast. Our son Aidan was born on Christmas Eve 2005 and is currently bouncing around and generally being very adorable. We are expecting our second baby (possibly a girl) in January 2007 – and that's where the family stops expanding. I am still playing guitar and had a pretty successful soul group in Chile. Karen sang backing vocals, and we played a lot of venues in Santiago which we loved and where we hope to settle in the next decade or so. I would have loved to come to the reunion and hear news from other alumni.'

Floris Vermeulen (IC 89–96) after graduating from Edinburgh University with an MA in Arabic and Economics, moved via Kent, Tunis, Berlin and Brussels finally to settle in The Hague, close to his girlfriend Beatriz, the beach and the local expat community. Recently he started work in Amsterdam as an internal business consultant for ABN AMRO bank. He would love to meet up and show you around if you're in the area Tel: +31628105911 or florisvermeulen@hotmail.com.

Gemma Baggott (Plender 90–97) has been studying for her CIPD qualification in HR. She is currently part-qualified and intends to be fully qualified by 2007. She is working for the Civil Aviation Authority.

Sef Falemaka (IC 94–97) writes, 'I am a Maths teacher at the school I went to before coming over to Sevenoaks and I also the coach the 1st XV. My team won the nationals this year. I would like to hear from **Rob Baxter, Ed Cooke, Izekor Oahimin-Akhimien, Kitty Jack, Helen Williams and Keith Maclean.**'

Annabel Keech (Wordsworth 92–97) is working in the wine industry, generally enjoying life in London. It would be great to hear from long lost friends – **Kim Housego, Raphael de Selys, Johanna Hennig.** annabel.keech@fglwineestates.com.

Alma Lawrie née Poskovic (GIH 95–97) recently married in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in a stunning ceremony with **Annalisa Ferrari, Mika Miller, Shaby Faltenbacher, Lucy Morris and Mary Clay** attending.

Sarah Bateau née Randall (Fryth 92–97) writes, 'I married Dominic Bateau in April 2006 at the Bristol Zoo. We had a wonderful day celebrating with many Old Sennockians. Dom and I moved to Brazil in August to teach at St Nicholas School in São Paulo.' **Celia McDonnell** (Wordsworth 90–97) and **Kevin McDonnell** (Fryth (92–97) are the proud parents of Edward Robert John McDonnell who was born 20 December 2006.

Charlie Webb (Hardinge 95–97) and **Hattie Webb** (Caxton 97–99) released their long awaited single *I Still Hear It* on 19 June, and it immediately became the BBC Radio 2 'Record of the Week'. This is a big deal and is the dream of thousands of songwriters

and musicians. A week later their album *Daylight Crossing* became the BBC Radio 2 'Album of The Week'.

Jude Haug (Sennocke 96–98) is currently living in Portland, Maine. She graduated with a BSc in Biochemistry and Medical Biology from the University of New England in May 2004. In July 2004, she gave birth to a son, Antonio Joseph, whose father is Cesar Viola. She is in her second year of medical school at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is planning her wedding to Cesar on 14 July 2007.

Lisa McAllister (Groves 91–98) is lecturing at the University of California Santa Barbara while working on her PhD in Biosocial Anthropology. She spent three months in 2005 living with and studying an Indian tribe in the Bolivian jungle as part of her PhD.

Eleanore Browning née Ward (Park Grange 93–98) has just qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant and is now a member of the ACCA.

Peter Wright (Grote 93–98) returned from his second snowboarding season in the French Alps and was offered a position with the University of Southampton as a researcher in Bioengineering, working to develop orthopaedic implants specifically total hip replacements.

Nicki Grant (GIH 92–99) writes, 'Before moving to the Netherlands I worked in London in advertising research for Millward Brown on accounts with Unilever, GSK, Ford and Orange. I am now working for Shell in The Hague in Recruitment, specifically on commercial roles. I am living in the Netherlands with Simon Mann until we both get posted somewhere new (probably in 2008). Hopefully the next location won't be quite so flat, although I do enjoy cycling to work everyday.'

Jo Montagu (Sennocke 95–99) left Oxford in 2002 and went into the wine trade for a short stint in London and before moving to New Zealand. She is now a winemaker and works on the family vineyard Rippon in Wanaka, Central Otago. She married Nick Mills in January 2007. There was a very good UK contingent of family and friends including two OS, **Milla Mackley**, who was one of the bridesmaids, and **Rosie Lough**. She also sees a lot of **Jacobina Plummer** who is a reporter for *One News* in Auckland.

Mary Williams (GIH 97–99) worked for the Glasgow Housing Association before taking time to travel and returning to the Glasgow School of Art to do her Diploma in Architecture.

Patrick Woodburn (School House 94–99) is on a two-year contract in Uganda with the Medical Research Council to help with various clinical trials – currently two to do with HIV and one with worm infections.

2000–2006

Lysette Aubrey (Sennocke 93–00) is at City University doing an MSc. Upon completing her

training she hopes to become a Chartered Health Psychologist.

Georgia Howie (Sennocke 95–00) took a BA in English and Anthropology and gained a CELTA qualification to allow her to teach English as a foreign language. She lives in Cape Town teaching at Interlink Language School.

Paul Campbell-James (Johnsons 97–01) writes, 'I've had a few people ask me to keep them posted on how our Olympic sailing campaign has been going so here's an update. Mark Asquith and I just returned from Miami, where we posted our best results to date. Ninth in the Olympic Classes Regatta was our first time qualifying for the medal race (final race, top ten only) in a truly world class field. Evidently our work with new coach 2000 Olympic silver medallist Ian Barker has been really paying off as we have not only moved forward in the world fleet but also in the British fleet. Our time in Miami has been an eye opener, and with a ton of hard work China 2008 is a real possibility. Results-wise we have been improving fast since starting, yet there is still so much that we have to improve that I'm convinced we can keep this trend going. P.S. Have a look at the Bitter End Yacht Club as we have a few holidays to give out, more details next time. www.beyc.com.'

Maho Imanishi (GIH 99–01) graduated with a BSc in Neuroscience from Brown University in 2005. After taking a year off, she has started at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

Isabelle Risso-Gill (Hardinge 94–01) writes, 'I was accepted on to VSO's Youth for Development programme, which will see me volunteering with an NGO somewhere in the developing world for a year from September 2006, having finished my degree in Social Anthropology with Development at Edinburgh. **Lloyd Wood** is doing wonderful things in the world of theatre (West End, Broadway, Chicago, everywhere) since leaving Cambridge. Recently he directed Ralph Fiennes and was working with Kevin Spacey, and all that madness. He's also an associate director of *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House. **Melissa Darker** is working for a wine merchant in Notting Hill, with plans to move to Paris later in the year. **Gail Glennie** is on the last leg of her world trip and is presently in India.'

Johnny Chatterton (Johnsons 97–02) writes, 'On 25 June 2006 I managed to complete the Mont Blanc half marathon. I was gutted to have missed my target of three hours by just over a minute, but now the pain has receded and I can look back with a smile on what was an amazing experience. The day came around very fast and before we knew it there we were, along with around 1000 other runners, crowded into the central square of Chamonix, trying hard to ignore the monster looking down from over 2000 metres above us. Our run would take 21km to ascend 1300metres (200m more than I thought). The profile was made worse by the fact that over the

first half we only ascended a few hundred metres, so over the last 10km we had a lot of steep hills to deal with. But we made it. I have the photos and a medal to prove it. We stumbled over the finish line close to vomiting, sweaty and gasping for air, only to be presented with the final refreshment station where they had replaced energy drinks with beer. Genius. The bad news is that I am still a long, long way off my target for donations. The problems with my website are fixed. Please go back and try again, if you have any problems let me know. Every little helps whether its £3 or £30 or £300. If I was in the UK maybe you'd buy me a pint to congratulate me. Since I'm not, why not donate the money instead.'

Antoine Martin (IC 00–02) writes 'having spent the summer of 2005 at the Guatemala City Dump helping out on a humanitarian project and returning to Bath for my final year I have just started work with Bloomberg in the City.'

Will Shaw (Sackville 95–02) has been the University Tennis Team Captain for 2005 and 2006 at North Carolina State University. He also represented Kent in the County Cup 2006.

Sana Van Dal (Tammadge 95–02) writes, 'I graduated in Classics from Cambridge in July 2005 after three of the most crazy and fun years of my life and was very sad to leave. I decided to catch up on a living language, much as I loved all that Greek, and went to Laval, Northern France, to be an English language assistant at a teacher training college for six months. I got this job through the British Council. I had such an amazing time. I got on really well with my students who were amusingly all older than me. By day I would be correcting their mistakes, and by night the tables would be turned when they heard my somewhat rusty French. I learned so much through the experience about people and culture and language. I am really glad I postponed the real world for a while.'

Nigel Warne (School House 95–02) received his Commission in the Royal Engineers in December 2006.

Franziska-Sophie Kayser (GIH 01–03) is in her third year at McGill University studying Economics Honours and Mathematics.

Tash Barnes (Grote 97–04) has been awarded a Cambridge Blue for hockey and will play in the 107th Varsity Match.

Karen Apitzsch (GIH 04–06) writes, 'Edinburgh is a beautiful city with a thriving student community. It is neither too big nor too small – the perfect size for a feeling of both security and independence. So far, I am thoroughly enjoying the Economics and Politics course and thanks to the IB, it is not too challenging. In terms of extracurricular activities, there is a plethora of societies and sports clubs to choose from. I play soccer, do karate and am involved with the United Nations Youth and Student Association (UNYSA).

Also, I form a link between staff and students as a course representative and am currently running in the elections for school rep.'

Amandla Ooko-Ombaka (GIH 04–06) writes, 'I'm at Yale, currently thinking about double major in Economics and Maths with International Studies, and possibly applying to Law School when I'm done. The IB at Sevenoaks prepared me well for the academic rigour, but I think it prepared me even more for the "non-school aspects" of attending an American Ivy League college. Yale has surpassed my expectations in all possible ways. I have attended a discussion with Thomas Friedmann (author of *The World is Flat*, *The Lexus* and *The Olive Tree*) on his new documentary, *Addicted to Oil*, and I am hoping to have "breakfast" with Jessica Faieta, director of the office of Mark Malloh Brown, current Deputy Secretary General of the UN. I still dance, only now close to 20 hours a week for two competitive dance groups, the premier hip-hop/contemporary dance group on

campus, and the Yale Ballroom Dance Team. I was also selected for the Model United Nations travelling team. I work in the admissions office as an Undergraduate Recruitment Coordinator. I get paid really well, and interact with the admissions staff and prospective as well as admitted students on such a personal level, that I'm convinced I'd like to be an admissions officer at Yale for at least a year after I graduate before I move on to grad school. I really miss Sevenoaks though. After living in GIH, I suffered "American" culture shock my first couple of days here. Even though my family resided in Wisconsin for 18 months, I still get asked random questions like 'Do you have roads in Kenya?' To which I reply 'No, only footpaths', and then think, my goodness, where have you been like in the past 40 years? But hey!'

Alex Ratcliffe (Johnsons 99–06) played in the semi-final of the amateur cup of the Dubai Sevens.

STAFF VALETE

James Cox

James joined the History Department in September 2003 after graduating from Southampton University the previous year. Having tried his hand at accountancy he quickly decided to teach. James, or Coxy to his friends, threw himself into life at Sevenoaks, coaching the U16B rugby team, becoming a Lieutenant in the CCF and taking on boarding duties in School House. In the Department James has taught all age groups and gained his pupils' respect as an organised and entertaining teacher. I'm sure he will be equally successful in his new post at United World College, Singapore.

David Smith

David Fenwick

When Richard Barker decided to introduce Electronics in 1993 he made an inspired choice in appointing David Fenwick to set up the fledgling department. David was eminently qualified for the task having read Electronic Engineering at Queen Mary College London which, it is said, he chose solely on the grounds that it would enable him to watch Arsenal play football each week. Following two years at Marconi Space Systems working on military communications satellites, he spent a year at the Institute of Education and then six successful years teaching Physics at Alleyn's School in South London. Electronics was taught in relatively few schools at the time and so David was something of a pioneer. He soon transformed an unpromising area of the Design Department, and students making the journey from the main school discovered bright, modern and well-equipped classrooms. Given David's knowledge of the subject, his enthusiasm and insistence on the highest standards, it is not

surprising that he consistently achieved some of the best results in the school and that his students regularly won awards in the Young Electronic Design competition. At the same time as establishing one of the best Electronics departments in the country, David spent seven years as Assistant Housemaster at Johnsons before taking over as Housemaster from Alex Smith in 2002. He and Cindy ran the house superbly and will be much missed. They have decided to work overseas for the next stage of their careers, and David takes up the position of Assistant Head at the Dubai British School. He denies that it will be the stepping stone to further promotion and that his real ambition is to eventually retrain as an electrician. Somehow I doubt it.

Mike Bolton

Kelly Ives

Kelly joined the PE department in 2000 following her PGCE at Avery Hill College. She had taught locally on her teaching practice at Tonbridge Girls' Grammar and had been a gap student at Holmewood House School. She was a teacher who really cared about her students, and she always put a great deal of energy into her games lessons and sports teams. Kelly was someone who believed in good discipline; she had very high standards in terms of behaviour, and this is something her pupils respected. In the PE department she taught everything: hockey, tennis, athletics, but her real passion was netball. Last year the First Team did particularly well reaching the South East finals. Kelly was a great organiser and she administered the complicated arrangements for teas and transport for the PE department immaculately. As Assistant Boarding House Mistress of Sennocke she was popular with the girls

and extremely committed to the success of the House. Kelly has left us to return to her home country of New Zealand where she is looking forward to the birth of her second child.

Liz Joseph

Jason Morrow

When Katy Ricks took over as Head she quickly realised that the co-curriculum had become so large and complex that someone was needed to co-ordinate the whole area of drama, music, sport and exchanges. Jason Morrow, who was Head of Sixth Form at North London Collegiate School, was appointed as Deputy Head in 2002 to take on this task. In a relatively short time he succeeded in giving a sense of coherence to all these areas and won the respect of his colleagues for the way he set about achieving it. He was a careful listener and patient negotiator, and if all else failed he could use his dry sense of humour and Irish charm to achieve what he wanted.

Jason had read History and Modern Languages at Oxford and then went on to the University of North Carolina for two years where he gained an MA, having specialised in the history of the Cherokee Indians. He gave up further research at Oxford to go into teaching. Jason has returned to be Deputy Head at North London Collegiate School; in doing so we lose an impressive History teacher, fine tutor and valued colleague.

Mike Bolton

Phil Shakespeare

Paradoxically, some people are memorable for not being memorable. I think that Phil fits this category because he will remain in the memories of many staff and pupils for what he has worked to put in place, quietly and without fuss, rather than for being 'a personality'. I think this is how he would want it: his is a quiet, undemonstrative character, one which seeks the backroom rather than the limelight, and, though he has a string of achievements to his name, these do not adequately round out what he has done while at the School. They seem what they are – as dry and uninteresting as the wall: tutoring in day and boarding houses; running the Design department for 22 years; being a Deputy Chief Examiner; twice being Chairman of Common Room; setting up and running the Duke of Edinburgh's Award here for 20 years; being a tutor in Design for the Open University; being a good, professional teacher. None of all these, valuable as they are, truly reflect what it is that Phil has done while at Sevenoaks. Phil has been a facilitator *par excellence*. I know him best from the weeks we spent together on D of E expeditions to Wales and perhaps a memory that I have will help crystallise what Phil has meant to so many pupils and staff over the years. Think of a small marquee in a grassy field between the hills of Snowdonia and the sea in Cardigan Bay. It is a

late summer's evening. Inside the marquee are packed weary but exultant pupils, all of whom have just finished their D of E expedition. Their none-too-fragrant scent mingles with that of crushed grass and canvas. They are crowded on to rickety benches, some sitting on the ground, many standing shoulder-to-shoulder, all hushed as one of the senior pupils proposes 'three cheers for Mr Shakespeare'. They come: three rousing, lusty, heart-warming cheers. Then they all file out into the night, talking excitedly among themselves. The last person in the marquee will be Phil, standing alone with his clipboard and a small smile. He knows, as we all know, that what those pupils will remember of their expedition is what happened to them as individuals: the fun, the fury, the fatigue, the achievement. They won't always remember him. Not because he is unmemorable, but because all the background details which he has taken care of to make their achievement possible are unmemorable: the bus-booking, food-ordering, staff-shepherding, loo-roll-distributing sort of things which, when properly done, become insignificant.

Tony Stuart

Andy Skinnard

Andy joined Sevenoaks from RGS Guildford in 1999 as Head of Sixth Form and teacher of Philosophy and Religious Studies. His charismatic presence had a huge impact on the school from the moment he joined. Andy is a kind, empathetic person who has time for everyone. His pupils always spoke warmly of his lessons. He had a great ability to connect with the people he taught and draw the best out of them because of the interesting way he presented ideas and the freedom he gave his students to think and engage with his lessons. He was a highly respected Head of Sixth Form whose leadership meant that so many passed successfully through the senior part of the school. He was much admired for his ability to charm an audience during assembly with wonderfully crafted anecdotes along with his great sense of humour. Andy was someone who could get the very best out of pupils because he was able to make them want to succeed. With the growing numbers of pupils doing the IB at Sevenoaks, the Philosophy Department grew in importance and it flourished with Andy as its Head. Jazz was one of his passions. He is an accomplished pianist and he will be remembered for his outstanding performances with his band, *Butcher's Brew*, which played each year to raise money for the Promo charity. Andy's contribution to the school also came through his work with the Parents' Association where he was the staff representative. He was a very popular member of the staff common room who will be greatly missed by everyone. He leaves Sevenoaks to join Alleyn's School as Assistant Head, Head of Sixth Form.

Alex Smith

Drew Stocker

Drew joined the Drama department in September 2003 from Canford School, and his booming trademark laugh was soon regularly echoing around Sackville and staff room alike. Colleagues and pupils of all ages quickly warmed to his energy, humour and dedication. Drew brought professionalism, valuable practical and technical experience, and tremendous enthusiasm to a department of which he was Head in his last two terms at the school. Pupils of all ages loved his lively practical lessons, while IB, A Level and GCSE students appreciated the assiduous way in which he prepared them for coursework and exams. His creativity as a Director was evident in three memorable productions: *An Evening with Lorca*, an innovative collaboration with the Spanish Department; *The Hypochondriac*, which also received great acclaim in Ibbenburen; and last

summer's impressive *Merchant of Venice*, complete with World War II setting, songs, and in-the-round staging. As well as teaching and directing, Drew was effectively a theatre manager at Sevenoaks, and he used his technical experience to reorganise completely the lighting and sound resources of the Sackville Theatre, enabling the shrewd procurement of new equipment. Outside the theatre, he made many friends, and was a conscientious and caring Middle School Tutor who generated great affection in his tutees. An excellent and at times inspirational teacher, a creative and committed director, and an immensely popular colleague, Drew made an enormous impact on life in Sevenoaks in just three short years. He will be much missed as he moves on to his new post as Director of Theatre at Alleyn's School.

Jim Grant

TIMES PAST

Recollections of a Scholarship Boy

When in 1943 I was awarded a scholarship to the school, I was given a bicycle as a reward. I learnt to ride by going around the front lawn until I fell off, which happened with decreasing frequency until I felt able to venture on the road. For eight years that was my transport to school, twice a day, rain or shine, fog or snow. I soon perfected the art of wearing a biff on a bike – when it was windy it fitted neatly over the headlamp, held in place by the brake cables. When you had a haircut it didn't fit so well, and you needed to be extra-cautious. It was necessary to keep a lookout for the hearse, Jimmy Higgs-Walker's car, as it was a point of honour to raise your biff as you pedalled along – you'd see it coming – ride one-handed ready to doff the hat, only to discover sometimes that you had saluted the mechanic at the local garage.

At the start of my second term I was knocked off my bike by an army lorry, driven by a trainee, as he tried to overtake me at Raley's Corner. **Ivan Cole** came to my assistance, and an ambulance carted me off to hospital where they found that the wheel had passed over my elbow. A consequent weak arm diminished my already low interest in sport, and I never ever represented my house at anything – a record that did not stop my being appointed House Captain – maybe one for the *Guinness Book of Records*. My lack of sporting prowess led to my being School Librarian, a job I enjoyed. One day I was having a discussion with the master in charge of the library about the quality of the book stock. He took a book at random and said, 'This is typical of the sort of useless book that is blocking the shelves.' He took a closer look: 'Oh I see that you presented this book, Brasier.' He quickly found that he had to rush off to a meeting. Once **Jimmy Higgs-Walker** said to me when we were

walking back to the school from Solefields, 'what year did you join us, Brasier?' '1943 Sir' 'That was when we were at the lowest ebb'. I hoped it wasn't a personal reference, and he went on to explain that then we still had Shooters Hill School billeted on us, and all the fit male staff were away at the war.

Jimmy is often described as an autocrat, but I always found him approachable. I used to be the go-between for Jimmy and his doctor, who was also mine, and I passed the surgery on the way home. He explained his worries about his wife's health and her dislike of his fussing about her, so that he couldn't telephone the doctor himself. Jimmy took us for English in the Upper Fourth and he created an interest for me in comic verse, from his memorable lesson on Hilaire Belloc's *Cautionary Tales*. The funniest one was about Jim who was eaten by a lion – funnier still if it had been Jimmy. Jimmy also gave me an excellent tip about getting into Oxford, which ended a run of rejections, and he had planted in the Master's mind the idea that I would make a good oarsman because of my interest in cycling. We often talked about books and the library and he sometimes introduced me to such famous visitors as Glubb Pasha.

There were some interesting staff. **TP Ratcliff** took the whole school for music – his qualification was that he used to lead the community singing at Wembley Stadium. He would parade around the stage circling his arm so rapidly that we feared that it would come out of its socket. I shall always remember '**Chips**' the woodwork teacher for his poetry: *If the glue is thick, It will not stick*. The PT teacher had much energy, and he was reputed to have played an alien sport for Arsenal. Our French teacher, **Mrs Rasmussen**, was adept at persuading us to sit under our desks when the air raid siren

sounded, although the school arrangements were much more gung-ho, as a senior boy was appointed as doodlebug spotter, and only when one was heading for the school would he frenetically ring the bell for us to dive for cover.

Unusually, seven of the scholarship boys came from the same school at Bayham Road in Sevenoaks, thanks partly to an inspirational teacher, Mrs Rhys. We remained good friends while all the other new scholarship boys had to make new friendships. The school rules made us gasp, as we were accustomed to playing in the local woods and on the estates in the evening and weekends, but now we were expected to wear school uniform whenever we were out and we had to be indoors by lock-up, which was 7pm. We did the only sensible thing – we ignored the rules. I think I was the only one who was caught and I suffered a mild beating by the captain of the school.

The interview for the scholarship was conducted by **Ernie Groves** and JHW, who wore their gowns and looked formidable although the questioning was not too rigorous. I remember having to describe my father's job in the RAF which was loading armaments on to aircraft before they flew on sorties, but I'm not sure how that shed light on my suitability for a scholarship. EG had an unusual way of marking work – he would have all the prep laid out on his desk and position us around it. He picked the best and gave it a mark and then the second best and so on until there was only one left. On the first occasion he did this the last one was mine, and EG gave it a generous 5%. I took a bit more care with prep after that and sometimes didn't always finish it before the end of *Dick Barton, Special Agent* – the predecessor of *The Archers*, which was my self-appointed deadline for stopping homework. Scholarship boys dominated the third form but after that we blended in well with all the rest and became indistinguishable.

Holidays were problematic during and after the war years and were usually spent at home. Exploring the locality by walking and cycling were my main interests. The roads were ideal for cycling as there was very little traffic and I went everywhere even into the centre of London through the Blackwall Tunnel (the fumes were hard on the eyes, I had to squint), and I suppose I visited most towns and villages in Kent. We helped with the harvest, fruit, potato and corn, pursued crashing doodlebugs for relics, and I helped excavate the Roman villa at Lullingstone. I took part in the ration book distribution and did some proof reading for the local press (with **Peter Post**), which included *Smoke* by Ivan Turgenev in the Everyman edition. I never want to read it again. Peter and I worked on building sites as well, and there I had the chastening experience of working with a man who was in the firing squad that shot his best friend for cowardice during World War I. Thirty years on he could still talk of little else.

When the time came to move into the sixth form, there was pressure on some of the scholarship boys to leave school and start earning a living. The brothers and sisters of my parents let them know that they thought it wrong for me to carry on studying because I would then leave the area and not be around to look after them when they were old. Fortunately my father was working at the time at Fort Halstead, a secret scientific research establishment, and he came up with the idea that he would arrange an interview with one of the senior scientists there, to see what he thought would be best for me. Predictably, he thought I should stay at school and go to university. I think my dad welcomed a second opinion to quote to the family.

John Brasier (Grote 43-51)



John Worsfeld, Elizabeth Taylor, John Brasier

The Half Moon

There were three **Hannevig** brothers at the school from 1928-1930. Their father, Captain H Hannevig, had been the one time owner of the Half Moon, built in Kiel in 1908. Once owned by a member of the Krupp family, she was seized as spoils of war in 1914 and sold to Hannevig. In 1921, former Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gordon Woodbury purchased the yacht from Hannevig's bankrupt estate for the sum of \$10,000. He renamed her Half Moon, after 17th-century explorer Henry Hudson's ship. The Hannevig brothers left the school in 1930, presumably for Norway where their father and his brother operated ships for the Merchant Marine throughout the war. The eldest of the OS brothers, **Edward Christopher**, became an internationally known philatelist and died in 1998.

Flying First

Researching OS often yields intriguing results. Jamaican internal air service began before World War II when a licence was granted to **Rowley Horne** (School House 25-28) and Dale Scott to operate a *seaplane* taxi service from the Pan American Base at Harbour Head. Horne, who learned to fly at Long Island's Roosevelt Field, was the first Jamaican to fly a seaplane home to Jamaica, landing his 3-place F-2 WACO at Harbour Head on Christmas Eve 1936.

A Mountaineer's Library

In the late 60s, Mr A Stavridi gave his library of mountaineering books to the school. These were shelved in locked glass-fronted cupboards in the ground-floor room of Manor House once the school library. This year the cases were unlocked and more than 150 books collected from 1925-65 were moved to the school archive. The cupboards also yielded mountain climbing memorabilia, newspaper cuttings of Alpine expeditions, postcards, invitations from bookshops and Mr Stavridi's own 'Schweizer Alpenclub' membership card dated 1935. But who was Mr Stavridi and were his books ever referred to? The OS office would be intrigued to hear from anyone who can throw light on these matters.

Notes on the War Years – 1940s

Classes were divided between Classical and Modern. You studied French, Greek and Latin or Mechanical Drawing, Chemistry and Maths. Most overlapped but started as Upper Fourth Classical or Modern, UIVC or UIVM. Universities were few, Oxford and Cambridge required Latin. Further education for the modern side was mostly Technical College or Apprenticeships.

The teachers had gowns and wore them, very old and ragged. **Ernie Groves'** was green with age. We sat in alphabetical order: **Leo Adams-Acton, John Barnicoat, Antony Beaumont-Ford, Alfred Braithwaite, Donald Cook, Michael Down, Clive Evans, Gerald Humphreys, John Landau, John Malby, Nathan Preece, Jeremy Shaw, John Wray and Ken Young.** Gerald Humphreys invented a system of mowing his lawn sitting in a deckchair. Two strings were on the handles of the motor mower. He sent it off and at the end of the row, pulled the strings to turn it back to him. He went on to De Havillands, who built the Mosquito plane out of wood.

French teachers were needed in the Services. We had a French lady who was very good. I admired her, and got A grades. A Frenchman followed her during the war. He had been in the thick of it, or we imagined he had. His hair had gone white in stripes. **Ron Wheeler** followed him. We felt he had been an espionage hero, too – as he had a French wife. He had a car, unusual then, but had to walk to school as there was little petrol on ration. **Ivan Cole**, classics

and music paragon, had a very odd, old car. We took bulbs out of the headlights and put candles in. He took it on the continent and gave us an early insight into arbitrage. Travel allowance was for some years restricted to £100 a year. He showed how he had managed to plan his route so that he could change his currency to his advantage crossing borders. He didn't come back with more than he took out, but an impressive achievement.

Incendiary bombs often failed to detonate. Crashed planes were the source of many souvenir collections. Souvenirs were fair game, but we fell foul if things were taken from ammunition. One of the **Guntrip** brothers was expelled after such an exercise.

Soldiers were always very kind to school children, and generous. They were better supplied than civilians with rations and often gave food and sweets. The Americans, practising with tanks, racing through the Park, gave boys rides. The tanks had no floors, a practical solution to evacuating them in a hurry. It was a thrill to see the grass rushing past just below your feet. Later we saw tanks en route for D-Day with huge chains on long arms on the front. We were intrigued to learn later that they cleared mine fields by flailing the chains, which were far enough extended ahead that the mine exploded without damaging the tank. It wasn't long before this was countered. When the mines were laid, they put them down in pairs. The flail hit the first one, which had no detonator but a fuse to the next one. It did not explode until the tank was over it and its flail exploded the further one. This triggered the fuse and they both went off together, knocking the tank out.

The flying bombs were exciting too, but initial fears lessened when we learned that they were no risk if they kept going. Our car had a sunshine roof and as my father drove he could see one above him, flying in the same direction. When its motor stopped; he stopped, got out and took cover. The buzz bomb went off in a field, no damage.

Major Dick who had lost an eye in Greece had been billeted in our house. He ran the Vehicle Reserve Depot. He left us to stay in Beechmont, a big house nearby. He didn't like sleeping in the house and set up a bell tent in the grounds with a wall of sand bags round it put up by his batman. A doodlebug landed in the grounds with no damage though a huge spike of metal had hit the sandbags he was asleep behind. The next day we were at school when one came down and hit Beechmont again. The house was destroyed and Major Dick who had gone into the house to shave, was killed. The miracle was that about a hundred ATS, lady soldiers, who had just paraded past and marched off to work, all survived.

I hope these papers may be of some use if you plan to go ahead with the projected booklet of memories.

Clive Evans (Fenton 43-46)

TIMES PRESENT

Serving Humanity

26 December 2004, 4 am, my frantic mother is on the line from Colombo, Sri Lanka, saying that she was speaking to my grandmother who lives in the east of Sri Lanka when the phone went dead. The rest of the day will always be a blur to me, confined to my house in Kent on a snowy Boxing Day morning as news kept coming in of the tsunami and family members who had been killed or survived. My grandmother had survived, but we had lost five other members of the family. I think we were fortunate since others lost more.

I took one of the first flights out to Sri Lanka as a volunteer for an NGO. After an arduous 12-hour drive to the disaster area, what confronted us was beyond description. On one occasion, they had run out of burial cloth and had to make do with bed sheets and other bits of material. Eventually the number of bodies became so great, that excavators were used to dig the graves and dump trucks were used to bury the bodies. On average, everyone that day must have individually handled 100 bodies, from young children to pregnant mothers to old people.



Amjad in the centre

I was only able to stay till mid-February when all excuses for leave had run out, and I had to return to the UK. By about April, I was back in Sri Lanka, this time working for Muslim Aid (a British NGO), having packed up my belongings, resigned from my high paying management consultancy job and rented my house. I would be returning to the land of my father, but not as a tourist.

The post-tsunami reconstruction work has been slow and difficult and what makes matters more difficult is the worsening security crisis. In August 2006, a displacement of 40,000 people occurred in the east of Sri Lanka as a result of ethnic conflict. Muslim Aid was one of the first international agencies to respond to this crisis and since then our mandate has expanded to look after those affected by the conflict as well. Handing over 100 houses to tsunami survivors on 26 December 2006 while

gratifying is only the beginning of a journey back to normalcy. It would be easy for us to walk away after this. To stay on is to commit to the empowerment of a nation.

Sri Lanka is staring into an abyss of hopelessness as an ethnic conflict looms and post tsunami rehabilitation is close to a standstill. I cannot but feel that at this moment in time, despite the threats of war and bombs and other disasters, there is no other place that I would rather be, serving those in need, serving humanity.

Amjad Mohamed-Saleem (IC 94-96)

Amjad is the Sri Lankan Country Director for Muslim Aid, a British NGO. Muslim Aid is a UK-based, international relief and development agency working to alleviate poverty and suffering worldwide. Established in 1985, Muslim Aid now supports projects in over 60 countries and has field offices in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan. Muslim Aid is a signatory of the IFRC Code of Conduct of NGO in Disaster Relief, a member of British NGOs for Overseas Development (BOND) and supports the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG). amjad@muslimaid.org. For further details on Muslim Aid, please check out the website www.muslimaid.org.

Committed Filmmaking

United 93, the 2006 film which recounts the crash of the United Airlines plane in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on 11 September 2001 is the work of **Paul Greengrass (IC 69-73)**. A political filmmaker at heart, Greengrass achieved popular success in 2004 with *The Bourne Supremacy*. Only five years since 9/11 Greengrass has been criticised for treading too close to personal and public tragedy too quickly. He responded, 'All across the world, there's this passionate, engaged, divided conversation taking place, and I think that it's time for filmmakers to join that conversation.' To maintain that sense of the commonplace, real military personnel, air traffic controllers, flight attendants, and even an airline pilot were cast to play the roles they perform professionally. The associate producer interviewed many bereaved families, gathering details on what their loved ones wore that day, how they did their hair, what newspaper they would be reading. In many ways this was a drama without a script. Greengrass's aim was to create drama without exploitation and honor the dead and their survivors. Winner of the 2007 BAFTA for best director and nominated for an Academy Award for best director for *United 93*, Greengrass is directing both the next Bourne film, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, as well as *Imperial Life in the Emerald City*, based on a book about life in Baghdad's green zone by Rajiv Chandrasekaran.

Dirty Dancing



Sonia Parsons, Midge Adams, Georgina Rich, Katy Baker, Daniel Bates

The curtain has gone up on the stage version of *Dirty Dancing* in London's West End. **Georgina Rich** (Austen 87–92), RADA graduate, beat 2,500 other hopefuls to the role of Baby, the 17-year-old who falls for a dance instructor during a family holiday. Producers say its £11m advance sales make the musical the fastest-selling show in West End stage history. Benedict Nightingale of *The Times* found himself 'warming to Bergstein's modern fairy story and to the principals: Brown, elegant of mind and spirit as well as body, and Rich, growing in assurance, skill and beauty as she takes her life into her own hands — and, of course, her own feet.' A group of OS who had done GCSE Drama some 15 years ago together went to see her. Georgina was stunning as Baby.

Performing Shakespeare

Michael Boyd, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, has assembled an ensemble company to perform the eight Shakespeare History plays. **Geoff Streatfeild** (Taylor 88–93) who performed minor roles in Boyd's 2000/2001 season of Histories is now playing Suffolk in *Henry VI* and is cast as Hal in the *Henry IVs* to be produced in 2007. 'If I allowed myself to think about it, it would be daunting. But the discipline we're engaged in is to lay one brick at a time, allow plenty of space for each play to take root in its own right, then at the end of it have something much larger than the sum of its parts,' said Geoff in a *Guardian* interview.

Who Needs Planes

Karin Andreasson (Groves 90–96) heard in the course of her job as picture researcher for *The Guardian* that volunteers were needed to test the theory that it would be possible to get to far-flung popular holiday destinations without flying and thereby reducing the carbon footprint. Karin offered to go from London to Koh Chang, Thailand. Her 8,000-mile journey was the stuff of armchair travelers'

dreams. From London to Brussels to Cologne in a day, then a 36-hour journey to Moscow punctuated by a three-hour-long Polish border control stop when all the lavatories were locked, and the shift to a different rail gauge in Russia necessitating raising the carriages ten feet and the journey had scarcely begun. Undaunted, Karin made her way to the Yaroslavsky Station in Moscow to board her Trans Siberian first-class compartment. Her greatest fear was to be sleeping when the train passed sights of interest. Her greatest worry was the food which was terrible. Crossing into China from Mongolia required a second (hair-raising) bogie change. After three days in Beijing, Karin travelled to Hanoi by train and thence to Saigon on what would have been a straightforward 30-hour journey had it not been for a typhoon that delayed her an added 11 hours. Boarding a bus for the first time on her trip, Karin then went to Phnom Penh. She had missed the once-a-week train service to Bangkok and opted for the bus-and-boat route to Siem Riep where there was a window of several hours that allowed her to visit a rainy and empty Angkor Wat. She found herself in a minibus to Thailand where flat tyres held her up sufficiently to miss the last boat to Koh Chang. Ever intrepid, Karin got on a bus, sat beside the driver and reached the coastal town Laem Ngop late that night. By the next morning, after 22 days of travelling she boarded the ferry to her island destination. The total coast of the journey was £2,282 over 13,330km, and she expended 525.98kg carbon dioxide. A one-way budget flight would have cost £575 for 9,860km and expended 1443kg carbon dioxide.

A Thought for Food

The Bloodless Revolution: A Cultural History of Vegetarianism from 1600 to Modern Times is the first historical account of how Eastern philosophy merged with the traditions of Christian asceticism and medical science to give rise to the Western vegetarianism movement. Drawing from the writers of the Enlightenment, **Tristram Stuart** (Hardinge 90–95) examines the 200 years between the 17th and 19th centuries to find the roots of the quest for man's relationship to nature. He expands his net to look at earlier mystics and philosophers and into the 20th and 21st centuries where vegetarianism has become an expression of dissent against a more materialistic society. *The Independent* refers to the book as 'massive and magnificently detailed,' and *The Guardian* wrote, 'Stuart illuminates the vibrant plurality of pro-vegetarian arguments: some cranky, some bonkers and other forcefully compelling ... This is intellectual history at its most scintillating, as passionate and vibrant as any swashbuckling romp or perilous adventure.' Since publication in the United States there has been a five-page feature article on the book in *The New Yorker*.

OS EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Golden Oldies



Jill Theaker, Di Day

The school hosted a lunch for the Golden Oldies in June, and it was a great pleasure to have Kim Taylor with us. We all met again in November and both were most enjoyable occasions, inevitably saddened by the news of the deaths of Tony Cubberley and Paul Fisher. Four of us attempted to get to

Tony's funeral but were thwarted by a major delay on the M25. The Barkers represented all of us. Paul Fisher's funeral in Tunbridge Wells was well attended. We pass our condolences to his wife, Lynette, and his family. We are well established in our social routines now and always grateful to the school for their annual invitation in June. Much is changing in the school, but I firmly believe that it should never lose touch with its past. We have all played our parts at various times, and although little may be remembered of that now, it remains in our bloodstreams. As usual, we send our best wishes to the school, and all OS, and look forward to welcoming new Golden Oldies in their due time.

Tony Theaker

Whitney Buccaneers



Mark Doorbar, Guy Hollamby, Mike Williams

Celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the first two ground-breaking school rugby tours to Canada and Australia were marked by a cricket match in Underriver on 22 July. Once again Bill Belither was instrumental in gathering together the Whitney Buccaneers as they have come to be known. Mike Williams, rugby coach and instigator of these successful tours and his wife, Rose, hosted the barbecue. Mike has gone on to develop a travel company which provides a total service for those

wishing to enjoy the pleasures of touring. About 40 Old Sennockians and their families (some representing four generations) had a splendid day renewing friendships.

Founder's Day



Peter Hughes, Max Lyth, Julian Mack, John McMahon, James Barr

This is the second year that Old Sennockians had been invited to come to Founder's Day, to bring a picnic, have a drink and stay on for the afternoon cricket. The wide range of families and former students, some of whom are current parents, made



Ian Carmichael, Feri Newman, John Comber, Rodney Newman

for a delightful day. A few OS attended the Speeches and Prizegiving and were impressed by this year's speaker, Dr Suwati Piralal and heartened by the Head's praise of Kim Taylor. Di Day, Kim Taylor's secretary, came and was kissed warmly by nearly everyone. The oldest Old Sennockian, Bernard Loughlin, was accompanied by his son Hugh who spoke of riding a pony across Knole Park and tethering it in the field below the Marley Sports Hall. It was a perfect day for old friends and recollections.

Central London Reunion

Jill and Ray Hackett went to London on a glorious Friday evening in June for the Central London

Reunion at the Founder's Arms on the South Bank. This is an impromptu reunion, designed for those working in London who want to stop by for a drink before heading home. News of marriages and job satisfaction laid the basis for an upbeat gathering this year.

Class of 1996 Reunion



Karin Andreasson, Sam DUBY, Penny Cox, Brookie Fraser Jenkins

The Tenth Reunion for the class of 1996, now a fixture in the OS calendar, was held for the first time at the school. Ninety-six Old Sennockians and partners came from Liberia, Bermuda, New York, Munich, Sweden, Milan, Hong Kong and closer to home just for this evening. They were joined by members of staff who had known them. The Head welcomed them and Bill Castell spoke for the class. The warmth of the gathering and the intensity of fellow feeling made the occasion unforgettable.



Adrian Long, Carl Breitholtz

The Pipe Makers Reception

The Worshipful Company of Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders hosted a reception at the Painters' Hall on Wednesday 10 January for 30 former Pipe Maker Scholars. The Head, Mrs Katy Ricks, the Chairman of Governors, Robert Sackville-West, and two School Governors, Sir Michael Jenkins and Andrew Golding were also present. The former Scholars were welcomed by the Master, Richard Tranter, who gave a brief history of the Company since its original formation in 1619 and extended a warm welcome to former Scholars who might wish

to join the livery. Robert Sackville-West replied, thanking the Company for arranging the evening. Not only had the Company provided generous financial aid to enable pupils to attend the school, but it had supported important developments including the annual Adler Concert and the Sennocke Centre. See page 31.

OS University Reunions

Staff members who travelled to recent OS reunions in Newcastle, London, Cambridge and Oxford were delighted by the warm and enthusiastic greetings they received from former pupils and to find them all well established in the next stage of their education. Mike Bolton spoke for all when he told one gathering: 'You are always welcome back, just knock on the door of the SCR.'



Nicholas Kasch, Brian Fugard at Cambridge

Old Johnsonians at Polhill



Michael Coigley, Trevor Chidlaw, Michael Townsend

Thirty Old Johnsonians and their wives met at the Polhill Arms, Halstead, for lunch on 29 April. As in previous years this

venue proved convenient and very popular. One can rely on excellent service, good food and most enjoyable company. The use of a private room has added to making this a convivial meeting place. The 80th anniversary of Johnsons will be held at the school on 13 October. Contact Clive Hutchinson.

San Francisco

Mike Bolton, Undermaster, and John Walton, Development Director, hosted a reception for 20 OS, current and former parents at the Presidio Golf Club in San Francisco on 19 October 2006. Following a presentation of development plans for the school,

two OS volunteered to organise and form the core of the Sevenoaks Club of San Francisco.

First Girls at Sevenoaks School

Thirty years have passed since the first seven girls enrolled in the sixth form at Sevenoaks. To mark the occasion a luncheon was held at Park Grange on 14 September and former students from 1978–82 were

invited. Coming from as far as Washington State, Scotland and Dorset, 32 women including three of the original seven sat down with staff and current prefects to enjoy lunch. Although unable to attend, Mandy Prytz Weaver (GIH 77–79) very kindly provided the wine from her own Churton Vineyards in New Zealand. After lunch there was a tour of the school which few had revisited since graduation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Central London Reunion

The next informal Central London Reunion for OS who live or work in London is scheduled for Friday 8 June from 6pm at the Founder's Arms on the Southbank.

Founder's Day

Founder's Day and Prizegiving is on 30 June from 11am. OS are invited to visit the school, attend Prizegiving and have a drink in Manor House. Bring a picnic and stay for tea and cricket, MCC v 1st XI at Solefields. If you are interested please contact OS office.

Cricket

The OS Cricket Match v the school will be at Solefields on 1 July at 2pm.

Festival of Sport

The OS Festival is on Sunday 9 September from 11am. All OS are invited to watch or participate in

the Netball, Hockey, Rugby, Football, Basketball, Tennis, Squash, Badminton and Shooting.

Johnsons 80th

80 years of Johnsons will be celebrated at a dinner at the school on 13 October. Many Johnsonians have already been contacted by Clive Hutchinson. If you have not heard from him, get in touch with the OS office for details.

Class of 1997 Reunion

There will be a Tenth Reunion Dinner for the Class of 1997 on 11 May at the school.

25th Reunion at School

A dinner for the class of 1982 will be held at the school on 21 September.

50th Reunion Lunch

The Classes of 1952–1957 are invited to a luncheon at the school on 13 September.

MARRIAGES

Andrew Agnew (Sackville 88–94) married Alison MacArthur on 20 May 2006.

Alex Bamford (Hardinge 93–98) married Helen McNeil on 9 September 2006.

Rebecca Barnes (Grote 89–96) married Nick Wilkie on 22 April 2006.

Julia Berry (Hardinge 91–96) married James May on 1 July 2006.

Jeremy Carter (Hardinge 73–78) married Domina Hsueh on 11 December 2005.

Lorna Doyle (Park Grange 94–96) married Chris Hastings on 16 July 2005.

Andrew Evans (Groves 83–88) married Rachel Edwards on 19 November 2005.

Douglas Johnson (Tammadge 91–98) married Naureen Akbar Khan on 7 April 2006.

Victoria Johnson (Tammadge 89–96) and **Alex Ferguson** (School House 86–93) were married on 4 November 2006.

Lee Johnston (Grote 91–96) married Emma McDonagh on 5 August 2006.

Marie Kotschoubey (GIH 87–89) married Serge Maraite on 30 July 2005.

Jess Mann (Caxton 88–95) and **Jas Shaw** (Tammadge 88–95) were married on 8 April 2006.

Tom Mitchell (Tammadge 88–93) married Michela Burlone on 27 May 2006.

Jo Montagu (Sennocke 95–99) married Nick Mills on 6 January 2007.

Caroline Penry-Davey (GIH 91–93) married Dominic Instone on 20 May 2006.

Louise Phelps (Hardinge 94–96) married Matthew Puddefoot on 16 September 2006.

Alma Poskovic (GIH 95–97) married William Lawrie on 20 May 2006.

Sarah Randall (Fryth 92–97) married Dominic Bateau on 30 April 2006.

Sandrine Segers (GIH 88–90) married Christopher Stone in October 2006.

Paul Slater (Groves 88–93) married Lisa Head on 2 December 2006.

Marcus Toop (Wordsworth 84–90) married Lucy Preston on 18 March 2006.

Jolijn Verbeek (GIH 92–94) married Erik Voorink on 17 June 2006.

Liz Ward (Park Grange 94–99) married Mike Stalder on 10 June 2006.

DEATHS

Charles Bailey (Governor 97–06) died on 15 December 2006.

Marcel Bossi (School House 36–37) died in 2005.

Peter Brown (School House 59–64) died on 10 April 2006.

Mike Busselle (Grote 46–52) died on 13 July 2006.

Tony Cubberley (Staff 76–95) died on 26 June 2006.

Oliver Dicketts (Wordsworth 92–95) died on 2 September 2006.

John Dussek (Hardinge 30–38) died in October 2005.

Paul Fisher (Staff 65–00) died on 5 October 2006.

Derek Lamb (Johnsons 50–53) died on 5 November 2005.

Jonathan Langdale (Grote 52–59) died on 23 December 2006.

Matthew Lenthall (Tammadge 78–85) died in May 2004.

Irene Macdonald (Staff 90-91) died on 24 December 2006.

Olivia Mullin née Jeffs (Sennocke 86–94) died on 15 January 2007.

Leslie Orton (Wordsworth 53–61) died on 30 July 2006.

Ron Rogers (Fenton 27–31) died on 17 May 2006.

Michael Smart (Wordsworth 35–39) died on 25 January 2007.

Stephen Trounce (Grote 65–69) died 30 May 2006.

John Westphal (Wordsworth 61–63) died in August 2005.

Cyril Whaley (23–29) died on 19 April 2006.

OBITUARIES

Peter Brown 1945–2006

Peter Brown (School House 59–64) was born in Sevenoaks in 1945 and after attending The New Beacon Preparatory School, went to Sevenoaks School as a School House boarder. He was probably not the model Sevenoaks pupil as he had a life-long aversion to sport, viewing the cross country runs through Knole Park as an opportunity to stop for a quiet smoke behind the bushes. A letter he wrote while at Sevenoaks describes being made a group leader in School House, having to demonstrate how to dissect a rat, rumours of a planned Beatles' visit to Sevenoaks and the 'tremendous amount of drinking' (6–8 pints) that went on in the common room. After leaving school in 1964, Peter initially went to work for Glaxo Laboratories, and then joined John Lewis's computer department in what were the early days of computing, where he continued to work for the next 33 years. Peter was a keen photographer, and a meticulous researcher of family history – and he had a detailed knowledge of Iceland, a favourite holiday destination. After taking early retirement in 2001, Peter divided his time between London and Southwold, a town he had known since childhood, where he was planning to make his home. Peter died tragically and unexpectedly in London in April 2006 and is sadly missed by his many friends and godchildren.

Jill Armitage

Michael Busselle 1935–2006

Mike Busselle (Grote 46–52) who died on 13 July 2006 successfully pursued his chosen career as a photographer which started in his school days at Sevenoaks where using an old Rolleiflex camera he produced a black and white photo of his dad. He established himself in Kingly Court in London in the late 1960s taking portrait photographs (including one of a young Terrence Stamp) and

working for advertising agencies and publishers. *Landscape in Spain*, with commentary by Nicholas Luard, altered the course of his career and established him as a world-class landscape photographer. He went on to do *The Wine Lover's Guide to France* in 1986. He was able to embrace the digital age and wrote *Creative Digital Photography* in 2002. Well liked and adventurous, he travelled to India earlier in the year despite being ill. He is survived by his wife Pat and son Julien.

Peter Kenneth Coleman 1938– 2005

Peter Coleman (Hardinge 49–55) died peacefully at home on 10 November 2005. He was born in Tunbridge Wells and at an early age moved to Sevenoaks and lately lived in Tonbridge. He won a scholarship to Sevenoaks School, and was a choirboy at St Nicholas. Very soon after leaving Sevenoaks School he went for one year's National Service with the RAF. He then spent his career in sales and marketing until his retirement at 64, when he set up his own business which he enjoyed very much. Peter was a much loved man, leaving a wife, a brother, six children, 15 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. His passion was music, and he worked as a drummer with many bands throughout his life. Most recently he concentrated on jazz.

Linda Coleman, widow

Anthony Leonard Cubberley 1939–2006

Tony Cubberley (Staff 76-95) came to Sevenoaks in 1976 as Head of Classics at a time when nationally his subject seemed to be under threat of possible extinction. Undaunted by general trends, he set about revitalising the teaching of ancient languages which for him were most certainly not dead. He also promoted the new Classical Civilisation A level syllabus and organised regular field trips to

important sites of the ancient world, notably Rome and Pompeii. An experienced archaeologist as well as an expert linguist, Tony's enthusiasm rubbed off on colleagues and students alike, and in 1995 he left behind a flourishing department. He went to St John's College, Oxford and the British School in Rome before retiring to Worcester.

Oliver Dicketts 1979-2006

Lance Corporal Oliver Dicketts (Wordsworth 92-95) of the Parachute Regiment was killed following the crash of a RAF Nimrod MR2 aircraft in Afghanistan on Saturday 2 September 2006. The aircraft was thought to have come down due to a technical fault, with the military authorities ruling out enemy action. A member of the CCF and a sportsman with a keen sense of adventure, Ollie left school at the start of his upper sixth year to pursue his passion of scuba-diving. In 1999 he formed part of an authorised support diving team to investigate the wreck of the *Lusitania*, 93 meters down off the coast of Ireland. He joined the Parachute Regiment in 2000 and after completing his training in 2001 was posted to 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment in Dover. In addition to participating on exercises to Kenya and the USA he quickly accumulated a broad range of operational deployments. These included Iraq, Northern Ireland and Afghanistan where his performance was invariably of the highest order. Throughout his career he demonstrated ability beyond his age and rank. A loyal, brave, intelligent and dependable man he was an outstanding soldier with a bright future ahead of him. He will be sadly missed by all who had the good fortune to know him. He leaves his mother and father.

Paul Fisher 1940-2006

Paul Fisher, having read Mathematics at King's Cambridge, decided to train as a teacher and came to Sevenoaks in 1965 where he remained until 2000. He worked with several heads and was at the school when co-education and the IB were introduced. Paul was meticulous with numbers, and his talents were used in a variety of capacities: sports time keeper (20 years), Examination Officer and latterly as an excellent Head of Maths from 1980 to 1992. Outside of his teaching his great love was music, especially opera, but he also took an active interest in steam trains, old buses and walking. He was a member of the Bach choir and produced *Newton - the Musical* under the aegis of the Maths Department. He was a quiet and private man with great personal charm. His friends and former colleagues will certainly miss his support and his readiness to give help and advice. He died unexpectedly from a heart attack following an operation. He leaves behind his daughter, Daphne, and his beloved wife Lynette.

Kenneth Kuhle 1938-2005

Ken Kuhle (Johnsons 51-54) founded The Rhino Ark, a charitable trust in Kenya whose key annual event was the weekend Rhino Charge, a hair-raising off-road orienteering event. In 2000 Ken and his wife Lois left Kenya and relocated to South Africa where they took over the Pumula Game Lodge in KwaZulu Natal, and turned it into Milimani Game Sanctuary inheriting two Bengal tigers rescued from a bankrupt Egyptian circus travelling through Mozambique in 1996. Milimani also became the first official release site of tortoises in South Africa. In 2005 the sanctuary became subject to compulsory purchase, and Ken and Lois had to leave. As they began arrangements for the move, Ken suddenly died of a heart attack.

Derek Lamb 1936-2005

Derek Lamb (Johnsons 50-53) one of the first teachers of film animation at Harvard and a prolific and admired animator, died in Seattle after a long struggle with cancer. He was 69. Lamb began teaching at Harvard in the mid-1960s in what was then known as the Light and Communication Workshops, a division of Visual Studies. Robert Gardner, coordinator of Light and Communications, recommended hiring Lamb. 'I saw Derek's film *The Great Toy Robbery* and knew he had to come to Harvard to counterbalance any tendencies toward solemnity in our proceedings.' Lamb taught at Harvard as a lecturer on Visual Studies until 1970, and returned in 1986 and 1990 as a guest lecturer. Born in Bromley, Lamb began working as an animator with the National Film Board of Canada, producing animated films for them. Working as a writer, director, and producer, he created both experimental and commercial films in Canada, the United States, and Europe. Lamb won two Academy Awards for best animated short films – in 1978 for *Special Delivery* and in 1979 for *Every Child*. He also directed and produced *Karate Kids*, a short, animated film designed to provide AIDS-prevention information for street children. Most recently, Lamb served as executive producer on the Emmy-winning PBS series, *Peep and the Big Wide World*. He leaves his wife, singer-songwriter Tracie Smart, and two sons from an earlier marriage, Richard and Thomas.

Irene Macdonald 1927-2006

Irene Macdonald (Staff 90-91) came to Sevenoaks School Sackville Theatre on an Exchange Programme from The Berkshire School in Western Massachusetts. In her year she was proud to have been involved in nine major productions, including *Guys and Dolls* and *The Music Man*. She would often recall the very talented students who were a pleasure to work with. She was a teacher who knew what hard work was and relished every moment of her time here. Sadly, she died on Christmas Eve, 2006.

Phil Leese

Olivia Mullin née Jeffs 1975 – 2007

The School's Annual Review of 1992–3 commends Olly for her 'positive approach' in relation to her sportsmanship, but it might equally have applied to her attitude towards life. Highly driven, Olly put her all into such diverse interests as hockey trials, geography coursework and snowball fights. Those who shared her company will remember her keen sense of fun, her sharp wit and penchant for practical jokes laced with her warm, distinctive laughter. Olly's mature and confident manner gave her great presence and allowed her to project an occasionally tough shell, shielding an altogether more vulnerable soul. This sensitivity surely contributed with her amazing gift for empathy: She did a fine line in both tea and sympathy, a magic combination for home and love-sick Sennocke boarders. In 1994, Olly embarked on a four year degree course at Kings College London where she met Patrick, whom she married in 1999, having graduated a year earlier with a 2:1 in Environmental Science. She went on to combine a successful career as a Contracts Negotiator at ENI UK in London with a happy family life in Sussex. Olly made a wonderful mother, her caring and maternal instincts coming to the fore with the birth of James (2004) and Sienna (2005). Together she and Patrick were an enviable parenting team.

On 15th January this year, Olly died suddenly and unexpectedly while at work. She leaves a big hole in the lives of those close to her. We remember her

fondly as a caring, wise and loyal friend who showed enormous determination, courage and strength of spirit in all that she did. She always maintained the best of principles: her optimism and generosity of spirit was an inspiration to us all. We miss you, Ols.

Justine Montgomery and Sonia Parsons

Leslie Orton 1942–2006

Leslie Orton (Warnoton 53–61) followed in the footsteps of his father, William Orton (28–34) to Sevenoaks. (The photo below shows the 14 pairs of OS fathers and current sons at the school at the time of Higgs-Walker's retirement.) He was in the CCF, played rugby and cricket for his house of which he was captain 1960–61. After leaving school he went to the University of St Andrews to study Economics and upon graduating, stayed as a research fellow. However, he soon decided that his interests lay in education rather than research and began his teaching career at Dunfermline High School. Within two years he was appointed the first Principal Teacher of Economics in a Scottish state school. After the entry of the UK into the Common Market, a post was advertised for a teacher of Economics in the European Schools, special schools for children whose parents worked in European institutions. Leslie had studied French and German for A levels and had an aunt living in the Netherlands and was always attracted to Europe. With his wife Moraig (a fellow St Andrews graduate)



Fathers and Sons 1925–1954

*Back Row: JRF Martin, WE Witchell, GT Russell, EC Oaten, J Newton, RJ Martin, WG Orton, BH Palmer, RM Palmer
Middle Row: TS Pearce, RJ Cooper, E Groves, HL Whilte, JA Higgs-Walker, T Cleaton, RC Pearce, H Chase, CE Pierce
Front Row: CA Cooper, R Newton, ATR Oaten, LM Orton, R Chase, BG Russell, EJ Witchell, EA Pierce*

and their two children, Keith and Gail, the Orton family moved to Brussels in 1977 where they remained for the next 25 years. Leslie was in his element, teaching a cross-section of Europe's youth. His ex-pupils, many who are now in important positions in all walks of European life, remember him with affection for his skill as a teacher and for his very British sense of humour. He was appointed coordinator for the transition from primary to secondary school a position which he fulfilled with his customary thoroughness. He also helped with a model European Council.

When retirement came in 2002, Leslie and Moraig moved to Lundin Links on the Fife coast, 12 miles from St Andrews. He was soon an active member of the local community and an enthusiastic Rotarian; he was installed as vice-president of the club just before his death. He was a keen gardener, especially of vegetables, and played golf and bowls in the local clubs. Water-colours were another of his interests that he had first taken up in Brussels. With all these activities plus travelling, retirement was proving to be a golden age. However, Leslie was diagnosed with a form of lymphoma in December 2005 and in spite of wonderful treatment at the local hospital and a very brave fight, he died suddenly in July 2006.

Moraig Orton, widow

Ron Rogers 1915–2006

Ron Rogers (Fenton 27–31) was born in Gillingham in 1915. His father was in the Army and soon after World War I was posted to Sevenoaks where the family joined him in 1921. Ron won a scholarship to Sevenoaks and remained a loyal Old Sennockian ever since, writing to the OS Newsletter and maintaining friendships. His working career began in the Health Department of Sevenoaks Council, transferring to Caterham in 1935. He later served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and spent nearly three years on the *Suffolk*. During the war he married Edna, a Wren, and they had two daughters, Kim and Linda.

After the war Ron studied and qualified as a Public Health Inspector, and became a Specialist Sanitary Inspector for Clean Air in Croydon responsible for implementing smoke control areas. He lectured on Public Health as well as Cockney rhyming slang,

trade unions and the British legal system. He joined the TA and was a referee on the rugby field locally and in London. He would take leave at Christmas to be a postman. Retirement at 65 did not deter Ron from working at an auctioneers, then an estate agent until at 83 when he took on Meals on Wheels as a voluntary driver which he did up until several months before his death from cancer. Old Sennockians may remember or have heard tell of his father, Sergeant Major Rogers, who coached boxing at the school in the 1930s and ran the army recruiting office in Sevenoaks during the war.

Linda Crush, daughter

Stephen Trounce 1952–2006

A member of Grote House from 1965 to 1970 Stephen's claim to fame was as a dedicated scorer for the 1st X1 Cricket team for several seasons during the era of Graham-Brown and the Tavaré brothers. One of the unexpected consequences of this, that amused him greatly, was that he appeared in the tabloid press, alongside his friend **Hugh Williams** and others, when the team photo also containing **Tim Laurence** was picked up by the *Sun*. Following a degree in Maths at Leicester University, Stephen went into the fledgling computer industry, working in IT for the insurance industry and more recently in local government. He remained Sevenoaks based and became a staunch member of the Vine cricket and hockey clubs, as well as the Knockers and recently the Old Oaks. He became a very well-respected hockey umpire and was lately involved with umpire development. Saturdays in summer would find him either in the score box at the Vine or donning a white coat to stand in the middle. He did develop significant guile as a slow bowler and took a surprising number of wickets. Though remaining single he took a keen interest in his nephews and nieces, and when visiting Norfolk he would turn up on a wet and muddy touchline to watch my son play rugby as part of a very strong Wymondham team. Stephen was blessed with a phenomenal memory which he put to use in the local quiz league being a member of the winning team on several occasions. His ashes were scattered on the Vine.

James Trounce, brother

LETTERS

Thank you for the 2006 Newsletter. It is upsetting to see all the deaths, mostly contemporaries of mine. **Joe Hill** was a personal friend of my elder brother and worked with me in 1937/8 for Kent County Council. **Donald Pankhurst** was a great friend over our school years, but we lost touch during the war and didn't meet again despite us both working in Sevenoaks. **Charlie Stubbs** the same, but we did play rugby for the town together later. **Philip Whale** lived in my street but we lost touch.

The families at school in Fenton alone included the four **Terrys**, **Ron** and **Leslie Martin**, each excellent sportsmen, alas now passed on. **Alan Davies** and his brother, **Norman** and other **Bradbury**. There must have been more. Three **Combers** in Grote, the eldest earning a scholarship to Cambridge. Two **Clarks** of Wordsworth, one to university, the other like me to local government. The **Pearce** brothers one of whom played double bass. Two **Oatens** (dec'd) **Charles** and **Percy Cavill** (Fenton) excellent

sportsmen. Two **Caves**, two **Whites**, **Best** and **Bob**, sons of **Jockey**, two **Talbots**, **Harry**, later a master and **Ernest**. **Bill Ward** and an elder brother. There must be many more.

Bernard (Bunny) **Loughlin**'s letter was interesting. He referred to various brothers who had a school play connection. I knew all of Bunny's family being in Fenton. The eldest ran in the Cross Country Team with me, played rugby with my elder brother Jim. I have had a long phone conversation with Bunny Loughlin who must have spent as much time in my house as his own as a schoolboy. We and particularly my elder brother were great friends with him. A friend of ours was **Ron Rogers** (see obituary). Ronnie and I, great pals, were married on the same day, met on Waterloo Station on return from our honeymoons! We each played rugby for the town, and were both Public Health Inspectors.

I shall be away for the Open Day in June so apologise in advance

Very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Ron Terry (Fenton 30–37)

25 May 2006

It was nice to receive news from Sevenoaks. It's still hard to believe that I am now an 'Old Sennockian'. It seems only yesterday when I was trying to figure out how to unpack my five suitcases to spend my first night at the IC.

As you know sir, I am on a gap year in Japan. When I finished my exams in May last year, I didn't have much idea how I was going to spend this year. My parents suggested that I should strengthen and solidify my knowledge in various other areas Japan-related, before starting my language degree at Cambridge. This idea came about when I was writing my Cambridge application form, and at the time, I wasn't too bothered with what exactly I would be doing.

So with no idea how I was to 'strengthen' my background knowledge I returned to Japan in June. At this point I applied to a number of universities in Tokyo to do some short one-year courses that I could start in October. However, the deadline for applicants had already passed, and I was told to re-apply in February for entry in April.

So, it seemed as if I was to spend half my gap year stuck on a remote fishing village in southern Japan. This is when I decided to get licences for various skills. Not that I had any particular skill I desperately wanted to acquire, but more so as an alternative to slowly decaying in my house. The first licence I got was a boat operator's. In Japan, you need to be qualified with government issued licences to carry out certain skills or jobs as a profession. The boat operator licence, as the name suggests, gives me a nice little plastic card that allows me to drive boats. The exam is a paper test and a driving test. For the driving test, we were only given one day in which

an instructor taught us all the basics of boat operating. From rope tying, to what to do when someone accidentally falls off board. Having only the day to practise, I reached the day of the exam having mastered nearly none of the required skills. Nevertheless the examiner knows this, and focuses more on whether you are taking the correct safety measure and can somehow operate a boat rather than how good you are. So, after failing to save the floating dummy, cruising terribly off course on the obstacle course, spending far too long undoing a simple knot and nearly falling into the sea when parking the boat, I somehow passed.

The next thing I embarked on was Japanese driving school. In Japan, driving licences are acquired by attending a cram school type crash course in driving. To graduate, you must attend 26 theory lessons and 34 practice sessions, each lasting an hour. The syllabus covers nearly everything from road safety, car maintenance to first aid and practising CPR on a life-size robot dummy. It took me roughly one very stressful month to finish the school. A graduation certificate from a driving school counts as the practical component of your licence, so all you have to do then is take the theory exam at a test centre.

I've also been teaching English privately and at a local academic cram-school. Luckily I was only a supplementary teacher at the cram-school so I haven't been cramming wrong English into the minds of eight-year-olds.

In December I applied to Tokyo University of Foreign Studies to attend a term starting in April but was rejected.

In January I went to Peru to visit my mother's family. I met a couple more new second cousins I'd never met and also accompanied my father on investigations he's making on the coast. I played the vital role of screaming 'wave' whenever one came along. It was good to breathe Peruvian air again. Whenever I'm asked which country I feel most comfortable in, I say they are all my homes and I would like to believe that I have a place in each of them in different ways.

At the moment I'm studying for a few other qualifications. One is a boiler exam, which will allow me to use boilers. Another is a hazardous material handler exam which is needed if I ever get involved with ... hazardous material. On an academic note I'm studying for a Japanese-English interpreter qualification and a Spanish proficiency test.

All in all, it hasn't exactly been the 'adventure' filled, volunteering work in exotic places, gap year that one tends to expect nowadays, but I think in the long term I will appreciate having taken this year out. I'm not the kind of person who's good at making my own schedules and sticking to it, especially when I don't belong to some institution. Therefore, I think for that reason, it's been good to place myself in this somewhat uncomfortable position and figure

out how I should spend completely empty weeks and months. I've heard many people say that once University starts, they get too caught up with the high energy and activities going on around them to slow down and set their own pace. One and a half years at Sevenoaks makes you forget that life isn't in fact what the people around you or your surroundings make it, but what you yourself make it.

Anyway, sir, I've still got a couple more months of this lifestyle, and I wish to enjoy them as much as possible. I hope I haven't gone on too long with my extremely hard to understand sentences. I'm still a little worried I'm going to turn up at Girton, and be told that there's been some mistake and that I don't have a place after all. I'm not sure how well 'I got a qualification in boiler theory' will go down either, when I'm asked how I spent my year.

But as my father says, 'knowledge is useful in all size and forms.'

I hope all is well at Sevenoaks. This time last year I was wondering if life after Sevenoaks really existed. If anything could ever live up to the best two years of my life. I guess I'll have to wait a couple more months to find out.

Yours sincerely,

Yuki

Mutsuyuki Tokeshi (IC 03–05)

Happy New Year.

On a recent visit to the school I was surprised to learn that there were boys who didn't enjoy their stay. I was amazed. I loved it. I was hardly 'academic', but I learnt so much that was to be of value for my future business career. Teachers like Mr **Gilbert** (practical craft skills), **George Alcock** (his patience and final success with me), **Bob White** (convincing me I had a potentially great 'eye') and of course, the inspiration of **LCT**.

I doubt whether any of them would have dreamt that I would go on to run my own advertising agency with multi-million pound global accounts. It just shows how a school like Sevenoaks, with teachers who could see potential, offered more than just 'academic' achievement.

Being selected for the 1st XV at fifteen was unheard of, but it gave me confidence and prestige. Also nightmares. My team mates were the feared Prefects, and the Captain of the School could still cane. Imagine the potential embarrassment apart from the pain. Worse was to come, as I was awarded a 1st XV cap after four games. A fifth former with a silver and red tie was a serious cultural shock to the Establishment.

So for me, very happy days, and I am immensely grateful and proud to have been a Sevenoaks School boy. I am sure there are many more who feel the same, let's hear from them.

Ced Vidler (Fenton/Hardinge 55–61)

Greetings,

I am in Liberia. I'll be there until July when I return to Germany for a few months prior to separating from the USAF. Right now I'm actually in Germany. I came up here to join a bunch of the guys from IC, snowboarding and skiing in Austria and then take care of items at my base. It turns out I am also lacking the documentation authorizing me in Liberia which means I'm presently stuck in Germany until that comes through (hopefully today). It is odd to use the word "stuck" in reference to Germany, but for many of us in Liberia, it grows on you. There is a chaos and insanity that becomes the norm and you begin to identify with it. It is kind of like troops that go out to fight; that becomes what they know, and they remain because it is the environment they are now comfortable with. Liberia is like that. You can tell stories, but it doesn't convey the life. Anyway, I have a nagging suspicion that I failed to ever thank you for your hospitality back in November, thank you tremendously. I am extremely glad I came up to England. Thanks for your work on the reunion. For those of us who have disappeared out to random places, it means a lot to get back in touch with people. I'm getting kicked off the computer now. Best wishes from Germany. I've been meaning to put together an update on what I'm up to and how things are progressing in Liberia.

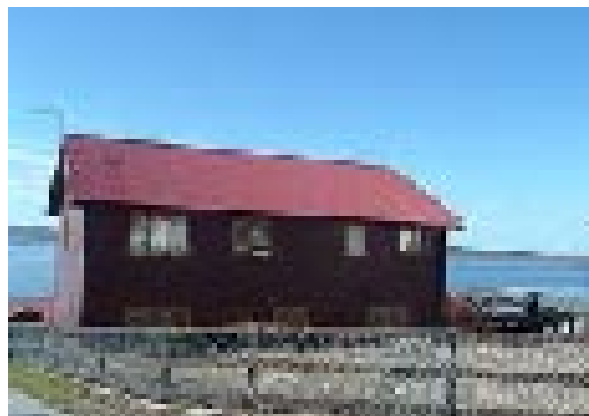
Hopefully I'll get to it soon. In the meantime,

Thanks,

Laurel Pardue Smith (GIH 94–96)

The Falklands February 2007

I am the General Manager for the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, CEO for the Regional Development Agency in the islands. I am here on a three year posting with my wife Ursula that started a week ago. If anyone is passing through they are of course welcome – we have loads of space. Our house



was designed as a concept house to see how energy efficient it could be - so it is rather warmer than the Governor's residence, although not, of course, so grand. Another OS was through here the week before I arrived - **Tim Lawrence** who was the year below me though we haven't seen each other for 30 years. **Mark Brunet** (Wordsworth 65–71)

Notes

The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders (the 'Pipe Makers Tobacco Company') traces its history back almost four centuries to the time when King James I granted its first Royal Charter in October 1619. The purpose of the Livery Companies was to control and regulate their respective industries. For centuries the privilege of the freedom was eagerly sought by all who wished to prosper in the City of London.

The Livery Companies are also significant charitable organisations offering scholarships and gifts to worthy causes. For example, the Pipe Makers support students at the London Guildhall School of Music, plus riding for the disabled and cricket for the underprivileged. The Pipe Makers are particularly proud of their long association with Sevenoaks School supporting Scholars for over 40 years. Today the Livery Companies in the main no longer control and regulate their respective industries. Their primary function is that of a nexus for business people and professionals, facilitated by the many social functions conducted each year. Guests can be invited by Livery Company members to a varied array of formal dinners or lunches in the magnificent surroundings of historic Livery halls in The City.

The Pipe Makers Company enjoys the use of some of the finest Livery halls for its regular dining occasions. Other regular events of the Pipe Makers Company include its involvement in inter-livery golf and bridge competitions and an annual 'social' and shooting competition with the Army's London Regiment. Its annual calendar of events is typically capped with a glittering ladies banquet as guests of the Lord Mayor at Mansion House.

All Sevenoaks Scholars are entitled to apply to join the Company by virtue of their past association with

the Company as a Scholar. It is hoped that, following the reception given by the Pipe Makers Company in January to re-establish contact with its former Scholars, many of the Scholars will take the opportunity to apply for the freedom of the company.

For further information on the Pipe Makers Company and application forms please contact the clerk at the Pipe Makers Company at tobaccoclerk@btconnect.com.

John Alexander, Third Warden

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, stating 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.

