



OLD FARNHAMIAN'S' NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025 – A FAREWELL EDITION - NUMBER 05/25

www.farnhamians.org/ofa

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INTRODUCTION

This re-badged edition of the former OFA Newsletter is the second and final following OFA closure. It provides the opportunity to confirm the ongoing commitment to education at The College and the environs of Farnham by the 400 Trust and provides the reader with information about the in-time planned movement of the 400 Trust into a more secure resting place with the Farnham Education Foundation (FEF).

The 400 Trust has over time been the fund-raising charity of the OFA and its structure and 'ring-fenced' funds have now been passed to the FEF for continuation of its fine legacy. The four Trusteeships, formerly held by Brian Williams, John Crotty, Stephen Pritchard and Roger Edgell, have now passed to the FEF.

Also in this edition, there is an update about acquisitions to the Memorabilia Facility in Room 304 at The College and a roundup of the contributions from former OFA Members.

THE MAKING OF A MUSEUM – Cont'd

Updates beyond the 'Opening' – THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITING

The reader will recall the background to this item - for several years Cyril Trust via the 400 Trust had sought a room at The College which could be made available to install a museum in memory of the former Grammar School; the following arrangements have been agreed with The College for visitors to Room 304 in Morley Court in 2025; the list of provisional dates below will see Roger Edgell in attendance from approximately 10.30 am on the day and if you wish to visit do please contact Roger at rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk or telephone on 01264 332766 and he will make arrangements for your visit – these dates also provide the opportunity for small groups of visitors should you wish to have a re-union in conjunction with your visit.

Monday February 10th, 2025, from 10.30 am

Monday March 3rd, 2025, from 10.30 am

Monday April 7th, 2025, from 10.30 am

***Wednesday May 28th, 2025, from 10.00 am**

Monday June 16th, 2025, from 10.30 am

Monday July 14th, 2025, from 10.30 am

Monday September 8th, 2025, from 10.30 am

Monday October 20^h, 2025, from 10.30 am - I will place The Memorial Crosses in situ in the foyer at Morley Court on this day

Monday November 17th, 2025, from 10.30 am – I will pack away The Memorial Crosses to Room 304

Monday December 15th, 2025, from 10.30 am

I would encourage those of you who still want to donate material to this facility, please do get in touch with me on rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk; or maybe just bring it along when visiting.

LOSSES since 2024 edition of the newsletter:

Bryan Bellars (1971 – 78) – died 12th January 2024

RH ‘Bob’ Hewes (1941 – 50) - died 28th January 2024

Robert J Harris (1957 – 64) – died 16th March 2024

Robin S ‘Robbie’ Burns (Staff 1967 – c88) – died 13th July 2024

Michael J Grocott (1955 – 60) – died 2nd November 2024

Arthur W ‘Jimmy’ James (Staff 1960 – c79) – died 12th November 2024

John Travers (1948 – 53) – died 5th December 2024

Christopher AJ Beadel (1947 – 51) – died 3rd January 2025

This short but significant list includes one of my contemporaries from School – Robert Harris.

Robert Harris, 1946 – 2024



Roger Edgell writes:

‘Pam and I were privileged to visit Robert & Finola in August 2022 – Robert was his normal, gracious self that I remembered well from School – it was lovely to meet his charming wife Finola, in Bantry near their idyllic home in Ballydehob, West Cork.

At School, Robert (a West Street boy), was always passionate about canals and waterways per se, and he would talk endlessly about them as we chatted in John Wills’ Art Room in 1963 and 1964 – Robert went on to be an Architect but his real love I suspect was just nature et al – his Roaringwater blog that he edited each week with Finola was quite a publication to uncover in recent times for me.

Robert had been a naturalised Irish resident for the final 10 years of his life.

He is now lost to us, but I will always have the enduring memory of Robert and his book ‘The Architecture of Canals’, a contributor being Howard Diamond, twin brother of Roger ‘Digger’ Diamond, which Robert published at the age of 23 – a copy of which resides in the 400 Trust Memorabilia Facility in Room 304 at Farnham College.’

Grateful thanks to Ian Sargeant (‘OFA Webmaster’) for recording the above details on the Website.

“We are heartbroken. Our dearest, kindest Robert slipped away from us yesterday. My husband, my blogging partner, my companion in all our adventures, the love of my life.

I don’t know what the future holds for Roaringwater Journal, but I do know that all our readers will join me in raising a glass to the memory of this wonderful man – architect, folklorist, writer, musician, historian and proud citizen of Ireland.”

Finola Finlay – Roaringwater Journal

LOSSES since 2024 edition of the newsletter: Cont'd

Also lost to Farnham this year was Graham Thorpe – a former pupil of Farnham College – Roger Edgell has placed the record below in the appropriate file in Room 304.

Graham Thorpe | 1969-2024 | ECB Obituary

"He brought much joy to fans of English cricket, and that will live with them forever as they remember a man who gave so much to the game."

The England and Wales Cricket Board is incredibly saddened by the passing of former Surrey and England left-hander Graham Thorpe MBE.

Assured and classy, Thorpe made 100 Test appearances, scoring 6,744 runs at an average of 44.66. He looked at home on the international scene from the very beginning, marking his first appearance in 1993 against Australia and becoming just the 14th Englishman to score a century on Test debut.

By the time of his retirement in 2005, Thorpe was widely recognised as a one of his generation's leading batters, capable of unpicking even the most daunting bowling attacks.

Proficient against both pace and spin, many fans will remember both his mastery of the turning ball in the sub-continent and his ability to flick the short ball off his hip with style and panache.

His 2003 fourth Test innings against South Africa was arguably his most memorable moment – though Christchurch, Colombo and Lahore all warrant a mention. The previous year, Thorpe had taken a break from international cricket. On his return, he was simply sublime – securing a century and a series draw on his home ground against all the odds.

During a 17-year career with Surrey, he achieved significant success and – when not with England – formed part of one of English cricket's most formidable domestic sides. In white-ball cricket, he amassed 82 ODI appearances for England to stand alongside his century of Tests.

Thorpe was awarded an MBE in 2006, and post-playing turned his expert eye to coaching. A stint with New South Wales preceded a spell working with England's next generation, the England Lions, before becoming the ECB's batting coach and in turn Assistant Coach to the England Men's team. He was part of the coaching staff who helped take England Men to World Cup success in 2019.

ECB Chair Richard Thompson said: "Having known Graham personally for his whole career it feels impossible to reflect upon everything he did for English cricket. Graham has been a totemic figure in our game – his achievements and his impact mark him out as one of our greatest-ever batters.

"Words alone will likely never do justice to his skill. Many fans will remember him standing out and fighting back in an era when England teams often came up against incredibly strong teams.

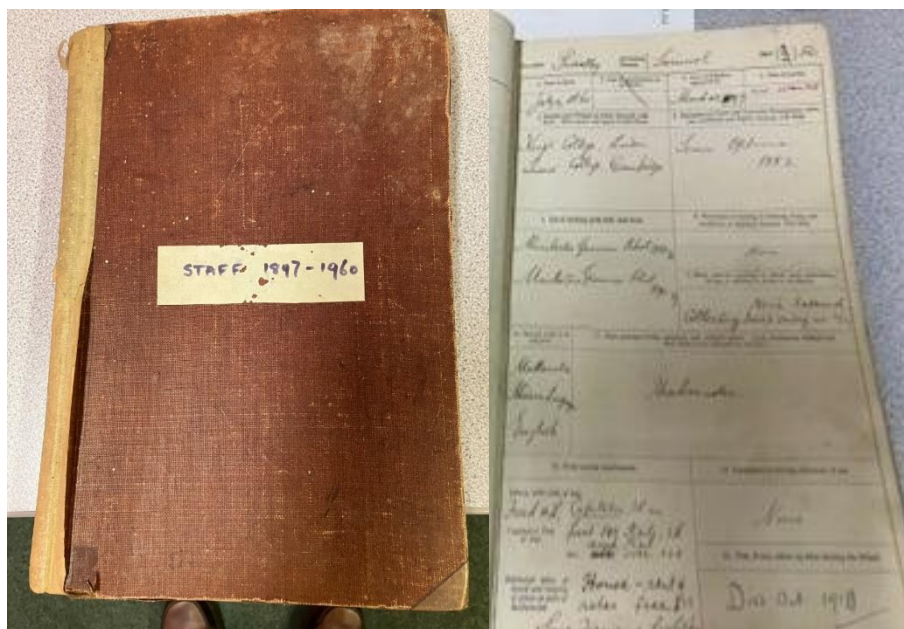
"I always thought it fitting that he would go on to be an England coach in an era of much more success, playing his part in guiding the next generation to Ashes and World Cup success.

"We will miss him, I will miss him, and cricket will miss him. He brought much joy to fans of English cricket, and that will live with them forever as they remember a man who gave so much to the game.

"My thoughts are with his wife Amanda, father Geoff, and his children who are now all coming to terms with such a devastating loss."

ACQUISITIONS TO THE MEMORABILIA ROOM IN 2024

Firstly, a wonderful record of Staff Members from Samuel Priestley in 1897 to Tony Moore in 1960.



This amazing ledger will be kept in pride of place on the desktop in Room 304 for all visitors to see - entry for Samuel Priestley is shown above – a full list of the entrants (102 in number) is set out below:

Name:	Role:	Dates: From / To:	Planning to:
1. Samuel Priestley	Headmaster	1897 – 1918 (Died)	
2. William Stroud	2 nd Master	1876 – 1922	Retire
3. George Brown	Science	1893 – 1919	Retire
4. Charles Dodson	History/Geography	1906 – 1909	Plymouth College
5. John Eldon	French	1906 – 1911	N/A
6. Edgar Eynon	Humanities	1905 – 1909	Broadstairs, Kent
7. Frederick Kerlake	Maths/Book Keeping	1906 – 1910	Neath SS Glam.
8. Violet Williams	Preparatory Dept	1903 – 1921	N/A
9. William Allen	Drawing/Art	1905 – 1927	N/A
10. William Madden	Classics	1909 – 1911	N/A
11. Stratford Levinson	History/Latin	1909 – 1910	Louth GS Lincs.
12. John Anderson	English/Geography	1909 – 1910	Soton GS
13. Percy Dannatt	History/Latin	1910 – 1911	N/A
14. James Cotton	Mathematics	1910 – 1911	N/A
15. Claude Stephenson	History/Latin	1911 – 1911	Hillingdon Park S
16. Paul Watts	General Studies	1908 – 1909	Morpeth GS
17. Llewellyn Jones	Geography/Science	1912 – 1912	Leeds University
18. Frank Griffen	History/Latin	1911 – 1911	Odiham Elem'y School
19. George Williamson	French/ Maths	1912 – 1912	Haberdasher Askes S.
20. Edwin Ashton	English/Latin	1912 – 1912	N/A
21. Hedley Kingcome	Commercial Studies	1912 – 1939 (Died)	
22. Frederick Scott	History/Latin	1912 – 1912	Enfield Secondary School

ACQUISITIONS TO THE MEMORABILIA ROOM IN 2024 - Cont'd

23. Gilbert Rideout	Geography	1912 – 1947	Retired
24. Herbert Wood	History/Latin	1913 – 1918	Killed at Peronne on Act S
25. John Withenshaw	French	1913 – 1944	Retired – Died 1970
26. Edward Dean	Vocal Music	1900 – 1936	N/A
27. Edward Green	Physical Education	1907 – 1914	Did Not Return After War
28. George Baigent	Carpentry	1909 – 1925	N/A
29. Maurice Hamill	French	1915 – 1917	Reading School
30. Joseph R Joseph	History/Latin	1915 – 1915	WW1 Killed In Action
31. Bertram Colgrave	History/Latin	1915 – 1916	Merchiston Sch Ed'burgh
32. Edward Mills	Latin/Gen Studies	1915 – 1916	N/A
33. Mary Woollard	History/Latin	1916 – 1917	N/A
34. Theodora Sproule	Latin/History	1917 – 1919	Tonbridge Girls School
35. Harry Durrant	Geography/Latin	1917 – 1920	Vicar Of Copnor Ports'th
36. Jennie Charlton	French	1917 – 1919	W Hartlepool Girls School
37. John CR Perceval	General Studies	1917 – 1919	N/A
38. William Osborne	English/History/Latin	1919 – 1920 (Died)	
39. John R Stickland	Headmaster/Maths	1919 – 1924	Private Company
40. George Bacon	History/English	1919 – 1949	Retired
41. Sgt Major Gillespie	Drill Instructor	1917 – 1918	Recalled to 11 th Hussars
42. Henry Shelton	Science	1920 – 1924	N/A
43. William Owen	English/Maths/Hist'y	1920 – 1923	N/A
44. Stanley Horner	French/Classics	1921 – 1950	Retired
45. James Pendlebury	Maths/Physics	1921 - 1921	N/A
46. Eric Hunt	Classics/English/Hist'y	1921 – 1924	N/A
47. William Norris	Physical Training	1920 – 1927	N/A
48. Sgt Livingbird	Physical Training	1920 – 1920	N/A
49. Stanley Lock	Science/Maths	1921 – 1949	N/A
50. Elizabeth Wilson	Physical Drill/Gym	1917 – 1919	N/A
51. EK Addison	Physical Drill/Gym	1919 – 1919	N/A
52. Doris Brown	General Studies	1921 – 1935	N/A
53. George Ashton	Mathematics	1922 – 1927	Monmouth GS
54. Robert B Varey	History	1924 – 1963	Retired
55. Francis A Morgan	Headmaster/Classics	1924 – 1953	Retired
56. Hedley Vallins	English/Latin	1924 – 1929	Holy Orders
57. Henry Court	Handicrafts/Science	1925 – 1948	N/A
58. William Wickens	Physical Education	1927 – 1953	Retired
59. Eric Munton	Mathematics	1928 – 1960	Retired
60. Frederick Lerigo	Art/English	1929 – 1933	Oxted County S.
61. Frederick Dyer	English	1930 – 1930	Sutton County S
62. Harold Beeken	English	1931 – 1967	Retired
63. Walter Tomlinson	Chemistry	1935 – 1947	N/A
64. Richard Latham	Music	1936 – 1936	N/A
65. William Webber	Music	1936 – 1937	N/A
66. Evan P Evans	Vocal Music Studies	1937 – 1937	N/A

ACQUISITIONS TO THE MEMORABILIA ROOM IN 2024 - Cont'd

67. Francis Crute	Class Singing	1935 – 1948	Organist Paignton
68. Edward Godsil	Maths/English	1940 – 1971	Retired
69. John Wills	Art	1940 – 1979	Retired
70. L Winter-Knight	Science/Maths	1942 – 1945`	Wartime App't
71. Elsie George	French	1945 – 1945	Supply London
72. Leonard Evans	Chemistry/Maths	1946 – 1973	Retired
73. Charles Nutbeam	French	1945 – 1946	Salesian Coll Batt'sea
74. Dr Iso Richards	Science	1945 – 1947	Chicago College
75. George Carroll	Maths/ Sciences	1947 – 1954	Heath End S School
76. Henry Beadman	French	1947 – 1961	Poole College
77. N. Wendell Evans	Geography	1948 – 1957	Eastergate School
78. Edward Brink	Woodwork	1949 – 1967	Retired
79. George Read	Music	1950 – 1951	Windsor Royal School
80. Michael Foster	English	1950 – 1982	Retired
81. George Wilcox	French	1950 – 1956	Varndean S Brighton
82. Benjamin Brister	Physics/Maths	1951 – 1960	RGS Guildford
83. Donald Nicolson	Latin/Maths	1951 – 1982	Retired
84. R Alan Fluck	Music/RK	1952 – 1971	Youth Music Ad'tor
85. Patrick Ramm	Maths/Latin	1953 – 1955	Sts Claires/Saviours
86. David McK'ie- Smith	Physical Education	1954 – 1958	County Sec Sch Evesham
87. George Baxter	Headmaster	1953 – 1971	Field Officer Surrey SC
88. Edmond Barbier	French	1954 – 1956	N/A
89. M Talbot Smith	Physics	1955 – 1956	Staff Lecturer BBC
90. Peter Smith	Mathematics	1955 – 1955	Redhill Tech'l College
91. Peter Larby	Maths/Physics	1956 – 1973	Eggars School Alton
92. Clifford Edwards	Chemistry	1956 – 1960	Chepstow GS
93. Cyril Rundle	French	1956 – 1965	Further Ed Oxford
94. Hagen Menuge	French	1956 – 1958	Guildford Tech College
95. Peter Gotham	Mathematics	1957 – 1957	N/A
96. Geoffrey Gilham	Geography	1958 – 1960	Torquay GS
97. Ramon Beesley	Chemistry	1959 – 1962	N/A
98. Neil Payne	Physical Education	1959 – 1966	British Columbia
99. Arthur James	English	1960 – 1979	N/A
100. Edward Dudman	Maths/Physics	1960 - 1962	N/A
101. Derek Friggens	Mathematics	1963 – 1973	Sandown Sch IOW
102. Tony Moore	Geography	1960 – 1967	Own School In Colchester

NB: Additions with no information, save that which is set out in Farnhamian Magazines:

103, Stanley Owen (1960 – 73), 104, Anthony Gathercole (1961 - 66), 105, John Leach (1961 – 66),

106, Douglas Leuchars (1962 -68) & 107, EC Fox (1963 – 66).

ACQUISITIONS TO THE MEMORABILIA ROOM IN 2024 – Cont'd

Next up a set of A3 size (i.e. the 1918 equivalent) publications about the Great War printed around 1918 et seq. There are nine in total and anyone wishing to see more of these documents should contact Roger Edgell, but be warned, they all seem to have a decidedly Russian content and connotation about them.



These publications are in two sets, Volume 1 alluding to The Great War In Europe and Volume 2 dealing with the worldwide conflict; they were published by The Amalgamated Press Ltd of Faringdon St, London EC4. Copies were also printed in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Canada, price circa 8d.

The items held in Room 304 shown above are:

Europe Conflict Context:

Part 63 - Russia In Wartime by John Foster Fraser inc. The Heroic Story Of The Dardanelles – Front Cover Alexandra Feodoronova, Empress of Russia;

Part 71 – Women’s Supreme Work In The War – Front Cover HM The Queen Mary;

Part 138 – Everyday Life On The Western Front – Front Cover Gen. Sir Hubert dela Peer Gough KCB;

Part 142 – Russia’s Tragic Struggle To The Eve Of Revolution – Front Cover M Sergi Dimitrievich Sazonoff, appointed Russian Ambassador In London January 1917;

Part 145 – Russia In The Throes Of Revolution - Front Cover M Miliukoff Minister For Foreign Affairs In The Provisional Russian Government.

ACQUISITIONS TO THE MEMORABILIA ROOM IN 2024 – Cont'd

Worldwide Conflict Context:

Part 193 – The Collapse Of Russia by HW Wilson – Front Cover Commander Lockyer Lampson;

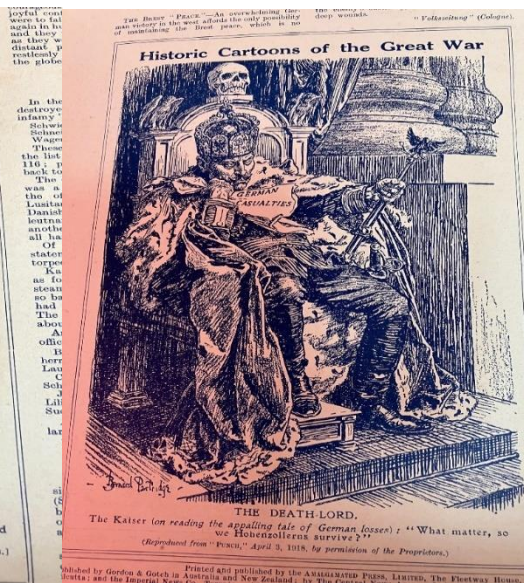
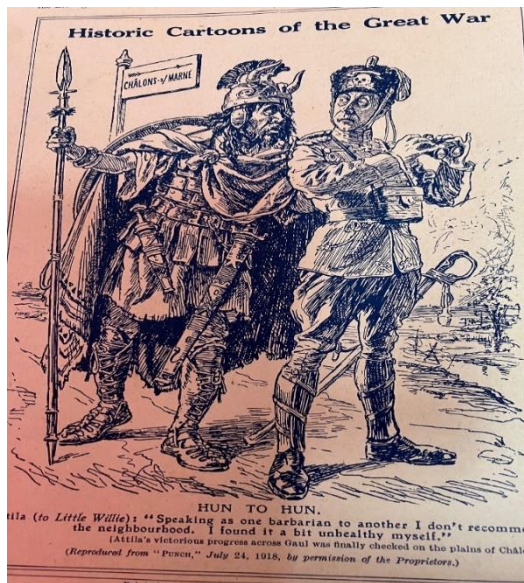
Part 194 – The Break Up Of Russia by HW Wilson – Front Cover Fighting Britons Show Cossacks How To Use Machine Guns;

Part 214 – The Great Battle For Amiens – Front Cover Major Gen Carey;

Part 216 – The Great Battle For Amiens – The Final Phases – Front Cover Highlanders Holding An Outpost Line In France.

These items can be found in the Room 304 Library Section, alongside the Commonwealth War Graves Commission account of 1916: The Somme together with Three Volumes of 'Surrey In The Great War'.

And finally, a series of WW1 Cartoons from Punch of the day, again with a decidedly Russian bent!! These were set out on the back pages of The Great War publications listed above.



ACQUISITIONS TO THE MEMORABILIA ROOM IN 2024 – Cont'd

Additionally, the card record system operated by The School setting out the details of attending pupils is now in Room 304 – the individual details comprise a record of the pupil, his home address and his starting and leaving dates – thankfully there is no record of any pupil being thrashed within an inch of his life; during 2025 Roger Edgell will be collating all this 'delicate' material to be left in a well-ordered manner – interestingly some FGGS pupils' records are also available in this collection.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

MICHAEL OVERBURY (1965 – 72) continues to correspond with Roger Edgell about his organ recitals – please contact Roger if you wish to be updated on these events rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk



@Festive
Frescobaldi.mp3

Michael sent Roger E the following item at Christmas 2024 - Christmas Greetings!

Festive Greetings, a *Canzona* by Frescobaldi, and a reminder about my Bingham Concert and the Come-and-Sing-and Play **Mozart** . . .

Best wishes for 2025 - Michael

Webmaster **IAN SARGEANT (1955 – 62)** continues to place material on the website and readers are encouraged to furnish Ian with relevant details at www.farnhamians.org/ofa or info@farnhamians.org. Ian is always willing to publish contemporary events, and I can only suggest that organisers take advantage of this.

Former GC Member **MIKE MEHTA (1971 - 78)** was always a willing contributor to the 'Trust' series of Magazines, and I am delighted to advise that Mike has kept up his offerings of the Class of '71 for this Newsletter.



First up a photograph from the 90th birthday Party for **Chris Beadel (1947-51)** - the cup was a gift from Mike.

Chris was Mike's next-door neighbour in Hindhead.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS - Cont'd

Mike advised of the two principle social events in year for the 1971 intake - Saturday 22nd June at the Duke of Cambridge PH Tilford and Saturday 6th July at the St. Blaise Centre, Boxgrove.



Saturday 22nd June 2024, FGS/FGGS Reunion

Thankfully, Mike advised, we were blessed with t-shirt weather in marked contrast to the decidedly chilly weather at last year's reunion event.

Several former staff attended.

Left to right:

Linda Fox one-time head of student services and head of maths and science and language teacher Jenny Commerford.

Jenny is seventy-eight and is still taking a regular yoga class in Aldershot.



By happy coincidence **David Child (1970-77)** joined Mike for Saturday 20th July 'Parkrun' in Blandford Dorset.

The results are in:

David was placed 48th out of 187 runners and Mike was 77th.

Not too bad for old boys both born in 1959.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS - cont'd

PETER BARNETT (1959 – 64) has been in touch to report a setback for his family who now reside in Wongawallen, Queensland, Australia – for two years Peter and family have been tidying up after a wrecking cyclone in 2022 – Peter is now back in circulation and is happy to hear from contemporaries – his brother **ROGER BARNETT (1957 – 62)** is alive and well and lives in Western Australia.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS - Cont'd

JOHN DAVIS (1958 – 65) and his family were subjected to the traumatic fires in Ojai, California seven years ago when John's house was the 'last main standing' in their neighbourhood – at the time John advised that although they were 'ashed out', he and his family were all well. Fast forward to current times and John has been back in touch to advise that the apocalyptic fires now raging in Pacific Palisades were impacting John's former home there 20 years ago. This time round John was able to update me on the address of **TERRY HUGHES (1951 - 58)**, whose former home in Montecite was engulfed in floods a few years back – Terry, readers may recall, was a TV producer in the UK on shows like *The Two Ronnies* before departing to the States to advance his career.

On July 8th, **MARK BOOKER (1964 -71)** and his crew of '64 visited The College as part of a reunion event – Mark sent me the following note after the event.

"Hi Roger, I was sorry to miss you yesterday, having set out from Tunbridge Wells before 9.15 in expectation of having at least a quarter of an hour overlap with you but in the event constant road works delayed my arrival until 11.15 (return was even worse taking 2.5 hours - I shall come by train next time and be free also to drink some alcohol for a change!). I was warmly welcomed by Elizabeth and had time to wander round Farnham until 12.30 when we all met up at the Lost Boy. I was interested in the large new district at Brightwell but what is happening on the former ugly Woolmead site which I remember going up in the 60s after destruction of many nice buildings on East Street?"

We were a couple of people short as Geoff Lawrence had a serious stroke the previous week from which we hope he will fully recover, having been very fit previously. Also, Guy Vernon, having described his detailed visit to all former FGS sites since medieval times on Google Earth and Streetscape, decided not to attend in person! It was great to get together again after 3 years and we now hope to meet annually and to get in touch with a few more of our 1964 intake, perhaps with your help? News was exchanged about some absent friends we are in touch with, Tim Lowry in Scotland (who has managed to get down to past reunions) David Jarvis who now lives in California and Jack (John) Pezzey who recently retired as an Academic in Australia, having settled there decades ago.

We very much enjoyed our visit to Room 304, particularly, following the progress on the School Photograph of masters, we knew from the 1948 photo right through to the last one in 1977! You have established a fine museum of the history of the school to which I will discuss adding some memorabilia of my own with you. I could not see whether you have securely kept the tape I donated with its tapestry of school life from 1967-71 and also significant speeches from "Fatty" Tice, some leaving speeches from masters, and of course George Baxter's very moving leaving speech to the boys in 1970. I had all this transcribed from reel to reel to cassette tape in the 1990s and gave OFA a duplicate. It now needs to be edited onto digital medium and could be set up perhaps on a continuous loop for visitors as one finds in some museums.

Finally, we were able to wander round the old building which is in fine fettle and take a couple of group photos around the old main entrance; I have dropped a line to thank Elizabeth at The College and hope we may be able to pay a return visit next year.

With many thanks again for your help in setting up our visit, Mark"

Those attending on the day were: Mark Booker, Martin Da Costa, David Everitt, David Foster (son of Mike Foster), Derry Ivison, and Mark Westcott (1962 intake).

NEWS OF OLD BOYS - Cont'd

The 'Class of 1969' held their annual get-together at the Queen's Head PH in Farnham, on the 10th of September: those attending were:

Sandor Szarvas, Neil McCabe, Jim Peters, Keith Ryan, Chris Fitch, Hugh Groves, Peter Brinkworth, Steve Probert, Robin Welland-Jones, Steve Prichard, Rod Bennett, Mike Seignot, Graham Talling, David Grimes.

Thanks to **CHRIS FITCH** and **ROBIN WELLAND JONES** for the details.

The '57ers had two reunions in year -the first at The Good Intent, Puttenham on the 24th of April 2024, where they were joined by **IAN SARGEANT (1955 - 62)** our Webmaster guest and that 'youthful trio' from 1959 of **David Edgell, Bobby Simpson and Roger Shipton.**



L To R: Wally Walsh, David McManamon, Rob Frampton, Brian Williams, Clive Beal, Ian Sargeant, Bobby Simpson, Bob Gibbs, John Sherwood, Roger Shipton & David Edgell – Roger Edgell on the lens!!



L To R: David Edgell. Bobby Simpson & Roger Shipton – the 'youngsters from '59'

NEWS OF OLD BOYS - Cont'd

Below, the 21st May saw the 57ers meet up again, at The Squirrel, Hurtmore this time to chat with **Ray Cleminson and Doug Ellis**, who was over from Sweden.

L t R; Wally Walsh, Clive Beal, John Sherwood, Brian Williams, Roger Edgell, Doug Ellis & Ray Cleminson.



A date for the diary this year is **Wednesday 28th May 2025**, when the 57ers will again meet up at one of their haunts, following a planned visit to Room 304 – this year **TONY HUGHES (1957 – 62)** will be over from Australia; Roger Edgell will be in touch with invitations in due course.

Other reunions anticipated this year will be from the intakes of '62 with **Graham Glazier, Barry Elson and Charlie Backhurst**, the 69ers with **Chris Fitch and Robin Welland Jones** and of course the '71 intake which also includes ladies from FGGS and The College, spearheaded by **Julian Walden and Mike Mehta**, the first of which will be on Saturday 21st June at The Duke Of Cambridge, Tilford from 12.00 pm – all are welcome!

NEWS OF OLD BOYS - Cont'd



The picture above of 'Four Farnham Men' was sent in by **DAVID McMANAMON (1959 – 63)** – it turns out that **DAVID BIDWELL (1948 – 53)** was his OFFICER COMMANDING at 6 Field Workshop in Buller Barracks in Munster, West Germany.

David writes, "this photo, from April 1973, was used for an article in the Farnham Herald. Bob Petherick is on David Bidwell's right. To my left is the Workshop ASM (WO1 Artificer Sergeant Major) whose name I have forgotten."

Both David's have responded with recollections of their Life at Welbeck College after FGS and David Bidwell was in fact one of the first entrants to that establishment.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS - cont'd

An Anecdote: During 1962, our talented Music Master of the day, **REGINALD ALAN PAUL FLUCK (1952 - 71)**, set about making some recordings of 'French Lessons' – I suspect I have got your attention reader.

The recordings, a 10-part set of which two have found their way into Room 304, were of the wafer thin 7" 33rpm variety usually found in Cornflakes packets as an inducement to purchase.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS - cont'd

Alan required an accordion player to intersperse a few chords twixt and amongst the dialogue content of the recordings – step forward OFA stalwart **WALLY WALSH (1957 – 63)**, the organiser of so many OFA Dinners gone by and an accomplished accordionist.

If any reader out there has any further knowledge of these recordings, would they be kind enough to let me, Wally or Ian Sargeant know – suffice to say also, if anyone would like to hear these 'scratchy masterpieces' from years past, please let me know and I will endeavour to send an MP3 file by email for your 'delight and delectation' (apologies to Lionel Sachs) – each recording is of approximately five minutes duration.



And finally, **Wally Walsh** visited **John Crotty** at Hatch Mill Nursing Home in Farnham just before Christmas; this followed a fall which required John to be hospitalised at Frimley Park. John has also had visits from a number of other old boys including **Ian Sargeant, Walford Taylor, Stephen Pritchard, Mike Mehta and Roger Edgell** with apologies for any missives.

NEWS FROM FARNHAM COLLEGE



Activate Learning wished to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of Farnham College and combined their financial contribution with those from Sony and the 400 Trust to buy trees and shrubs for a new hedgerow in Farnham Park – pic left.

Thanks to the efforts of a team from Motion in Guildford pic below (<http://motion.co.uk>) who were volunteering as part of their corporate Green Week just before Easter, all the shrubs have been planted and the first stage completed to put in place a fence to prevent deer from helping themselves to the young shrubs. Huge thanks also go to the Park Ranger, Nick Macfarlane, who was incredibly helpful and accommodating.

As Nick said, just like the planting of College Copse all those years ago, the College has again helped shape and benefit the landscape of the park for generations to come.



Thanks to Jill Goddard and Mike Mehta for this item carried out on the 19th of March 2024.

THE FALLEN

Once again, this year, Roger Edgell had permission from The College to site the memorial crosses in the foyer of Morley Court for the period leading up to Remembrance Day and beyond – he was accompanied by **Brian Williams (1959 – 65), 400 Trust Chairman, Mike Mehta (1971-78) and 400 Trust member Julian Walden (1971-78)** who did the honours on the day – see photo L to R below.



FURTHER NEWS: THE 400 TRUST

With the formal closure of the 400 Trust and the movement of its operation to the charge of The Farnham Education Foundation (FEF), its work programme will now be concentrated on the management of the Memorabilia Facility in Room 304 (Morley Court) at The College, together with providing the necessary function contained in its constitution for the 'Old Boys' and College students, albeit now under the FEF umbrella.

REFLECTION:

Valete: The Farnhamian 400 Trust or is it just 'au revoir';

The Old Farnhamians' Association, a strongly representative body of former pupils of The School, together with former members of staff of The School determined to celebrate the 400th anniversary of The School by establishing the Farnhamian 400 Trust charity with four purposes in mind:

1. To establish an annual or otherwise periodic lecture (to be known as The Farnham Lecture) for the benefit of the residents of Farnham and for the advancements of education and learning generally, on such subjects as the Trust Committee may decide;
2. To collect and preserve documents and information relating to the history of Farnham Grammar School and later Farnham College;
3. To engage in and commission research into the history of Farnham Grammar School and later Farnham College;
4. To pay expenses for students, ex-students or ex-staff of Farnham Grammar School and later Farnham College, in respect of educational study approved by the Trustees.

The 400 Trust Committee personnel composition on closure was:

Brian Williams – Chairman & Secretary & Trustee, Stephen Pritchard – Treasurer & Trustee, John Crotty – Trustee, Roger Edgell – Trustee, Gordon Andrews – former President of the OFA, Ray Cleminson – former Vice President of the OFA, Julian Walden – 400 Trust Committee Member.

For the record, in respect of item 1. above – here set out below are the details of the Farnham Lecture:

Date	Topic	Speaker(s)
1988	Talking Music	Jeffrey Tate/Alan Fluck
1989	Improving Towns & Cities	Francis Tibbalds
1990	Met In Five Islands	Barry Hall
1991	Getting Sporting Fit	John Matthews
1993	Waste: Everybody's Business But A Local Issue	Paul Lankaster
1994	Best Local policing For Best Value For Money	David Williams
1995	The Future Of Television News	James Mates
1996	The Recovery/Renewal Of Community/Role Of The Church	The Rt Rev John Gladwin (Bishop of Guildford)

FURTHER NEWS: THE 400 TRUST – Cont'd

1997	Living On One's Wits	Jeremy Hardy
1998	Education For Sustainability	Jonathan Porritt
1999	A Day In The Life Of A Political Cartoonist	Patrick Blower
2000	Travels Of A Plantsman	Roy Lancaster
2001	Farnham's Time Team	David Graham
2002	The Eden Project – My Leap Of Faith	Paul Travers
2003	Politics, People & Principles	Virginia Bottomley MP
2004	Newspapers Today	Sir Ray Tindle CBE
2005	Global Warming	Dr Geoffrey Jenkins
2006	Winning The Olympic Games For London	Simon Clegg OBE
2007	The Leonard Cheshire Charity	Bryan Dutton
2008	How Often? How Long? How Hard?	Dr Hugh Bethell MBE
2009	Who Care About The History Of Farnham?	Ann Jones BA AMA
2010	Balance The Scales	David Victor Smith MBE
2011	South Pole	Tess Burrows
2012	A Musical Phenomenon	Caroline Redman-Lusher
2013	The Health Of The Nation	Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP
2014	The History Of Farnham Castle	David Graham
2015	Education In The United Kingdom – A Personal View	Sir Andrew Carter OBE
2016	The Magna Carta Project	Dr Sophie Ambler
2017	The British Monarchy	Dickie Arbiter
2018	Happy Space	Tegan Creedy & Team

The list above represents a wonderful legacy of its time, and some old boys will have attended a considerable number of these events, the vast majority of which raised funds at very little outgoing expense to the 400 Trust.

IN CLOSING

Please be advised that this the 2025 edition of this Newsletter will sadly be the final one that I will be putting together – time has marched inexorably on, and I have taken the necessary steps to ensure sustained commitment to all that I have been involved in at Morley Court should prevail for as long as is possible - here below are a series of photos showing how Room 304 currently looks.



IN CLOSING – Cont'd



IN CLOSING



My best wishes for a safer 2025 and my kindest regards and grateful thanks for all your past support.

Roger Edgell - rogere1946@hotmail.co.uk

January 2025