



# oldARDINIAN

Number 27 - Lent Term 2009

## F1 Hero remembered

**Mark Keatley-Palmer (JH & E 68-78) reports:**

On Sunday 25th January, almost 50 years to the day after his tragic death, 600+ people gathered at St Andrews Church in Farnham for a memorial service to celebrate the life and achievements of the Farnham Flyer - Mike "Snowball" Hawthorn.

From the opening bars of the 1st hymn, He Who Would Valiant Be, it was clear that this was to be a special service. Seating for 600 had been provided, but given the numbers standing, many more had come to remember the 1st British F1 Champion & OA.

As well as his old friends, work mates from the Tourist Trophy Garage and the public, I spotted Damon Hill, Sir Sterling Moss, Tony Brooks and Norman Dewis in the congregation. Norman co-piloted Jaguar no 8 (Mike was in no 6) as part of the Jaguar team at the 1955 Le Mans race and during the service shared some highly entertaining recollections of his time spent with Mike. Particularly amusing was the occasion when Norman - who was supposed to be driving but, who Mike decided was driving too slowly and had forced into the passenger seat - witnessed Mike's response to being stopped by Italian police for exceeding the speed limit (surely not!). Mike cheekily suggested that his speeding was necessary, only because he needed to get Sterling Moss (Norman) to the airport in time to catch his plane! Those of you who were fortunate enough to know Mike would, I am sure, recognise his mischievous sense of humour in this story and not be at all surprised to learn that he got away with it!

After the service, nearly 70 cars worth between £35 - 40 million - many with direct links to Mike - and including Jaguars, Ferraris, AC's, Bentleys, Astons & Sunbeams (see web link below), were paraded round the closed streets of Farnham. The large crowd were treated to Sterling spinning the wheels of his Jag right under the noses of the Boys in Blue! After a few laps the convoy made its way to Mike's grave where many wreaths were laid.

I made my way home, having 1st been hooted at by Sterling for being too slow at a roundabout, reflecting on the appropriateness of the day - we celebrated Mike's short life with laughter, speed, happiness, an ear splitting cacophony of sounds and a strong aroma of oil and petrol combined with overheating racing engines! Smells and noise that could only have been produced by the array of exotic machinery that Mike found fame in, but that sadly claimed him as well.

<http://retrorides.proboards86.com/index.cgi?board=general&action=display&thread=53682>

## From your President

I start this message with a huge thanks to all involved in organising the 'Evening with Ian Hislop (JH & A 67-77)' in January this year at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine. Special thanks must go to Ian himself (I hope he reads this) for giving up an evening to entertain us. For those who have not yet had the opportunity to visit St Katharine's there is a forthcoming jazz evening in June. For further details go to [www.rfsk.org.uk/jazz](http://www.rfsk.org.uk/jazz). **David Driscoll (A 57-61)**, the Education Tutor and OA, would welcome any OAs visiting London and a reminder that they have comfortable en-suite rooms should you find yourself in the capital.

Earlier in the day, the Old Ardinian Society held their AGM at the same venue. A full copy of the minutes will be posted on the website in due course, but the 'highlights' of the meeting were: thoughts and discussions on increasing the subscriptions; the Old Bird and the new web site. Thanks were also offered to all concerned with the School's Sesquicentenary events during last year and a big thank you was also given to **Tony Waitson**, the school bursar, who retires this year, for all his assistance, support and input over the time he has been at the college. I wish his successor well and look forward to meeting him.

I am also pleased to announce that **Martin Palmer (G 83-85)** has shown an interest in becoming the OA Music contact. Any ideas how we can best use his skills and contacts? Further volunteers are **Chris Ellis (JH & H 68-76)** who will be taking over as rep' in the US (East), and following her move down south, **Fenella Holmes (C 83-85)** will be taking over from **Mark Keatley-Palmer (JH & E 68-78)** in the South East (Mark will continue with his Curry Evenings). Welcome to them both. Still looking for a Veterans rep' though!!!

With the regions in mind, I rolled up to the first (of many I hope) curry evening organised by **Mike Lakin (JH & G 73-81)** in central London during February. Although only six OAs attended, it proved a highly enjoyable and talkative evening. This is the second OA Curry Club evening running and it is proving to be a successful format for a casual meeting of old boys and girls. Regional reps take note!

A reminder of OA Day (Sunday 17th May) - Moving the day to a Sunday has been a bold move and I hope that more of you will think about coming along with your family. (But remember to book this year) Nobody can do anything about the weather, but the school are due to provide some excellent entertainment, which deserves our support. Squash and Tennis players Contact **Lucy Tardrew (82-84)** and let's try and get some teams together to play the school!!

As a result of this change of day, the Society AGM 2010 will take place on the 13th November in London. A committee meeting will take place on the 17th May at the school; so if you have any points you would like brought to our attention please submit them to me. Unfortunately, being a Sunday, the OA Lodge will not be able to hold an official meeting on the 17th but it is hoped that members will come along and support the day.

Finally, an invitation to use the new web site to advertise any events involving OAs - please inform Michael or Hugh our Web Managers, who continue to do sterling work on our behalf. It may surprise you to find out that you live near to more ex pupils than you think.

See you on the 17th May.  
**Chris Wilson, OA President**

## OAs Day and Bunbury Cricket Day SUNDAY May 17th

The cricket match mentioned in the last issue IS HAPPENING. So OAs Day promises to be a great event - BUT, YOU NEED TO REGISTER!

The day is FREE for OAs but the school needs to monitor numbers & issue the appropriate tickets and parking badges. A letter about the event has been sent in a separate mailing. Please respond promptly if you are attending.

For further information please contact Gesa (details on back cover) at the school. Thank you and hope to see you there.

The next Old Ardinian will be published in July 2009. Please submit copy to **Mark Keatley-Palmer by Monday 1st June**. [mark@sycamoredesign.co.uk](mailto:mark@sycamoredesign.co.uk)

# LETTERS

**Peter Wraight (47-54) following his attendance at the German Reunion (see article), wrote to Gesa:**

I would just like to say thank you for your arranging of the recent reunion which I really enjoyed. It was lovely meeting you and your colleagues, always appearing in the past in the Old Ardinian, but being unable to put faces to people, somewhat frustrating. Now I know you.

I think it must also be said that one tends today to look upon European youth as being something to be collectively mistrusted when it comes to taking over from their peers sometime later. After meeting the "young" OAs at this reunion, both boys and girls, I do not have this feeling any longer.

I think you all at Ardingly have done a wonderful job and would wish that your success continues, as I am sure it will.

I hope that you all arrived home safely and not too tired, although I had the impression that the party might go on for a long time.

Please be kind enough to pass on my thanks and best wishes also to Jane and Pam.

Once again thank you very much and I look forward to meeting you again in the near future.

**David Brook (A 50-55) writes:** I am amazed that nobody involved in the redesign of the pelican icon, which I presume had to be approved at several levels, including the highest, in order to be adopted, seems to have been aware of its meaning.

Our pelican is supposed to be "vulning" itself, pecking its breast to feed its young with its own blood. (Wikipedia tells me the legend may have arisen because the pelican used to suffer from a disease that left a red mark on its chest. Alternatively it may be that pelicans look as if they are stabbing themselves as they often press their bill into their chest to empty their pouch. Yet other possibilities are that they often rest their bills on their breasts, and the Dalmatian Pelican has a blood-red pouch in the early breeding season.) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelican#cite\\_note-NSS-0](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelican#cite_note-NSS-0)

However this may be it is a Christian symbol of some power and is relevant to Nathaniel Woodard's vision and Ardingly's explicit 'mission statement'. The new image, which removes its young from under its breast, is a triumph of ignorance and graphic design over meaning; it empties the symbol of any significance. Why have a pelican at all, if not for that? It's not as if there were flocks of them on the terrace or nine-acre. It is ironic that a recent Ardingly Annals contained a mini-sermon from the school Chaplain on this very subject.

**Brian Frow (JH & H 64-71) remembers:** There was mention in the last Old Ardinian about memorable lessons and health & safety. I can certainly think of H & S issues, or more correctly

the lack of, some of which seem unbelievable in the current over regulated environment we find ourselves in today.

**Electricity** - In my time the electricity supply was extremely fragile to say the least. In particular, during school plays all non-essential appliances had to be turned off, which in JH meant the electrical heating serving the 4th form rooms/ hobbies block. November evenings in those days could be fairly cold. I know one year the electricity board had to turn out and change the circuits that fed the supply to the substation at the top of the of the Farm Hill. Some of the wires were red hot. The flashes, as the circuits were changed, were quite impressive. Another year at assembly **Chris Bulteel** reported that during the school play with parents present, a boy was fiddling with a plug at the back of the Under. There was an enormous bang and it caught alight. A fire extinguisher was grabbed, fortunately not water filled, and the fire was put out, with the parents still thinking it was part of the play! To be fair to **Mr Bulteel**, he had a sense of humour, and he praised the quick response in dealing with the problem, as well as telling us not to do it again. Perhaps someone at the play could elaborate. Until the main light switch was replaced in Crosse House, luckily during my first term in senior school, somebody almost on a daily basis received an electric shock.

One evening **Alan Thompson (H 64-69)** was on top of a ladder changing a fuse on the landing outside Rhodes/Lea Houses. There must have been a thirty to forty foot drop. We were rushing downstairs to supper clambering through the ladder. It was a miracle it was not knocked over.

In my time **Cedric Pearce (A 66-70)** and **Alan Thompson** were the school electricians. How long boys were allowed to continue maintaining the electricity supply I would be interested to know, likewise when the general upgrading to the supply and rewiring took place. With IT, let alone anything else electricity usage must be substantially greater.

**Estate Work** - Gloves were the protection given to us whilst working on the estate. For several days we used a chain saw to cut down trees in the plantation. The only reason why it was removed was we kept on breaking the chain! Cutting the grass around the swimming pool we used fly movers; even in those days we were not covered under the College insurance. Conversely, **George Markwick**, PT Master who supervised us in Estate Work was very strict when boys used the trampoline in the gym for obvious reasons. Today I am very concerned when I see children jumping on unprotected trampolines in their gardens, perhaps the only occasion when health and safety is more lax.

**Swimming Pool** - **Dusty Miller's** note produced in about 1960 survived most of my time in Ardingly. It started, 'The fewer the rules the better, but we don't want accidents.' Basically there

were few rules other than no horseplay near to diving boards, and two people had to take it in turn acting as life guards, wearing the infamous red blankets. How long prefects were allowed to supervise swims? I cannot see it happening today.

There were some risks taken during my time on health and safety, but there were very few accidents. I felt we benefited by being allowed to take a responsible 'can do' approach to life. Also it was much more fun!

**Nick Brown (E 67-72) remembers:** The letter on teaching before the nanny state (see previous issue), brought back memories & inspired me to write. After a 12 year gap working for a church I returned to teaching in 2006. I am now teaching Science and RE in an 11-16 comprehensive school in Chulmleigh in Devon. I find the relentless increase of Health & Safety regulations quite alarming, and in many cases quite illogical. It is almost amusing that I have to insist that all pupils wear our rather old and cloudy safety goggles for virtually every practical using chemicals, even though these goggles obscure their vision, hinder them from seeing clearly what you want them to see, and increase the number of times things are knocked over! At a recent meeting at a neighbouring school we were told "it will not be long before Bunsen burners will be banned for pupil use"!

I was taught A level Physics by David Harris, and although I struggled with the subject at school, I believe a great testimony to the effectiveness of David's teaching is that when I had to take a subsidiary Physics course at university I found it all very easy. The teacher who inspired me with a love and interest for Chemistry was Gerry Orpwood. I still tell my classes today of the lesson when Gerry had us all stand at the top of the fire escape that was at the side of his lab. Down below was a bucket of hydrochloric acid, into which Gerry dropped pieces of sodium and potassium. The resulting explosions were spectacular, but did not find favour with **Nigel Rammell (E 55-60)** teaching in the Physics lab below! I have never again seen this done, not even on video. The inevitable response from my classes today is "can we do that sir?", to which my reply, quite truthfully, is "it's more than my job's worth"!

Another story I frequently use when taking lessons about the evils of smoking is my own school experience when in Remove. With 3 or 4 others we had purchased cigarettes from the shop in the village and gone down onto the old railway line where I smoked the only 2 cigarettes I have ever had. While we were there a group of 5th formers set light to an old hut. The fire brigade arrived and spotted us. When we were called into **Christopher Bulteel's** study we decided it was best to admit to smoking to prove our innocence over the charge of arson. We did this with some exaggeration of the effects of smoking, trying to persuade him we had all been very sick. He still decided to cane us, and we were called in one at

a time, to each receive 6 of the best. I was first, and clearly remember Mr Bulteel stubbing out his own cigarette before wielding a rather twangy and painful cane. Whatever the rights or wrongs of corporal punishment, it hurt so much that I never risked smoking at school again, and thankfully never became addicted!

**Ed comment** – how about some more reminiscences or better still confessions!

**Mike Lakin** (JH & G 1981) writes:

At the OA AGM and associated 'Evening with Hislop' in January, I was reminded of the innately friendly nature of OAs and though no one was there from my year (I left in 81), I thoroughly enjoyed the company of several OAs from years above me, over more than a few glasses of wine. This almost certainly helped unlock many hidden memories and the many amusing stories and reminiscences, which flooded back as if they all happened last year albeit more like 24+ years after leaving the College! **Mark Keatley-Palmer** (JH & E 68-78) our immediate Past OA President, happened to mention that he kept in regular touch with several of his peers and quite often met them for a curry in Crowborough, central to where they are all based. I was encouraged and as a result, decided to try something similar, but here

in London and can report that the first (so called and very informal) London Old Ardinian's Dining Society (LOADS) successfully met for a few beers at the Lamb & Flag in Covent Garden on the 24th February followed by a curry. (See report on back cover)

**Where is MICHAEL (Taffy) WATTS?**

**Richard Crosby** (G 55-63) is searching for information! I have not been in touch with Ardingly since leaving in 1963. My Housemasters were **Michael (Taffy) Watts** and **Nigel Argent**.

I would like to know of any news concerning **Michael Watts**, who effectively got me into Cambridge in the first place, and his sister **Helen Watts** - an internationally recognised contralto who sang in Wagner's Ring Cycle under Sir George Solti.

**Ed comment** – If anyone can help, please email me at [oa@sycamoredesign.co.uk](mailto:oa@sycamoredesign.co.uk) and I will pass it on to Richard.

**Jan Eike Thole** (H 01-06) reports on the OA German Reunion in Munich:

40 OAs met in Munich for the 3rd OA German Reunion. The beginning of the evening was spent in a traditional Bavarian Brauhaus "Brewroom" with a delicious meal and sufficient drinks for everyone.

Unfortunately, **Mrs Humphreys**, **Ms Collier** and **Gesa**, all of whom represented the College, had to catch an early flight back to the UK, otherwise they could and hopefully would have participated in the Pub Crawl which, for some of the German OAs, ended at 6am.

**Max Lobermeyer**, the OA German Rep, welcomed all former students and thanked **Gesa** for organizing such a great event. He also extended a very special welcome to **Peter Wraight**, the oldest OA at the reunion, who had been to Ardingly from 47-54!! Peter had moved to Germany in the 1970's

Altogether, it was a fantastic evening with lots of reminiscent and nostalgic moments. Since the evening was such a great success, **Gesa** and **Max** are in the process of planning the 4th OA German Reunion in Ardingly in Spring 2010.

We hope to see as many as possible of you there for a drink at The Oak in Ardingly - please make sure you check your letterbox for news!

## THE OAs – NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEM!

**Michael Stables** (JH & F 55-62), our West Midlands rep, reports:

My wife and I decided to undertake a trip to New Zealand to spend last Christmas with our daughter, Lizzy. She had been there for 6 months whilst on a years trip round the world on her own. I decided to investigate contacts with OAs through the Society, that might be out there and who I had not spoken to for many years. The result was wonderful – and everyone I spoke to or emailed were contemporaries of mine both in JH and Senior School nearly 50 years ago – even though they may not have been in my own immediate circle of friends at school. All were most generous and kind and interested.

We went first to California where I discovered and exchanged emails with **Michael Strong** (JH & A 54-64), I also was able to make contact with **Pete Tidy** (JH & G 58-64), a close and old chum at school, in New Orleans. Both offered their generous hospitality to my wife and I and our daughter. In Australia we made contact with **Robert Vincent** (JH & B 55-65) who was kind enough with his wife to meet with and host our daughter on her travels; in addition I also exchanged (as did our daughter) emails with

**Richard Abbott** (JH & A 54-62). I also made contact with **Steve Dinsdale** (D 58-63) who for the past 35 years has been resident in New Orleans, and whose son in NYC has even offered advice and help to our daughter.

It is difficult to take on board that all of us were at school at the same time so many years ago and even now with such a lapse of time each one was so interested and generous in offering to help not only my wife and I, but also our daughter as she went on her journey. We particularly loved New Zealand and Australia having never visited before – and I even managed a day at the

Sydney Test Match. San Francisco was great, but we had been to the US several times before. Perhaps Ardingly was a pretty good place to be schooled after all! We returned via Hong Kong but I was unable to discover any Ardinians there although I'm sure they exist!

The OAs society clearly has an ever-expanding database of pupils and I do recommend any OA to use the same to make contact with old friends and even distant contemporaries – you might be very and pleasantly surprised!!

### CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED! OAs have your say...

- Letters • Who's Who Feature • Births / Marriages / Obituaries
- Sport / Events / Music • Regional & International gatherings
- Nostalgic memories / Photos (300dpi minimum)

Readers who have contributions to make to the newsletter should send it to: [oa@sycamoredesign.co.uk](mailto:oa@sycamoredesign.co.uk) or call Mark on 01892 511165

# OUR MAN IN GAZA!



**Chris Gunness (JH & G 67-77) writes:**

I joined the BBC in 1984 and after 23 years I needed a change! On 4th January 2006, I headed to the Middle East as spokesman in the United Nations negotiations office in Jerusalem. The night I arrived, the then Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke changing the political landscape dramatically.

Within weeks, the Hamas movement won a sweeping victory in Palestinian elections and the prospect for negotiations suffered another set back. With little in the way of peace prospects in the air, I moved as spokesman for the UN Human Development Agency, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA. It's an organization that since 1950 has brought relief and social services to Palestine refugees living in camps across the Middle East region.

My job takes me to Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The profile of UNRWA rose unexpectedly with the 22-day war in Gaza during which about thirteen hundred people were killed, the majority of

them civilians including many women and children. I was based throughout in Jerusalem, working the studios to make sure that the voices of the voiceless could be heard. During that time, our own beneficiaries (about two thirds of Gaza's 1.5 million population who are refugees), the non-refugee population, our own staff and our facilities were hit. Fifty three of our buildings, including our main compound in Gaza City and several schools where hundreds of displaced from the fighting had taken refuge were hit. Some, such as our main warehouse in Gaza City was hit with white phosphorous, were completely destroyed. Throughout the conflict UNRWA continued to administer services in Gaza - food distributions, primary healthcare and transporting medical supplies to the sick, the wounded and the dying.

The war has left an indelible mark in all senses. The craters, the bullet marks, the many ground zeros, the psychological scars on the women and children, even on the next generations will be hard to remove. But UNRWA is a human development organization pledged to doing just that. We educate two hundred thousand children in Gaza very day, we distribute food to 900,000 and we bring primary health care to a million Gazans. In our schools, hundreds of UNRWA psycho-social counsellors are doing what they can to inculcate a sense of normality. That perhaps is our greatest challenge, to remove the legacy of bitterness and hate.

Chris is very happy in a relationship, is based in Jerusalem and travels all over the Middle East - Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza. He is still in contact with **Ian Hislop (JH & A 67-77)** and **Adam Blackwood (JH & G 68-77)** (though not for far too long!)

## Old Ardinians Reunion in Munich - November 29th

**Max Lobermeyer (CD 99-00) reports:**

Forty Old Ardinians met in central Munich for the third OA Reunion in Germany. People travelled from all over Germany and again different year groups came together. It was a wonderful evening that reunited all of the attendants in good memories of the college. It was good fun catching up with old friends, for many of which the reunions are the only occasion where they meet. We were hosted in an authentic Brauhaus with good beer, a lot of noise and Bavarian traditional food. After the official part many of went on to a unique pub (following a special recommendation) where we enjoyed some more drinks and rounded off the evening.

The only English, and oldest, OA that attended was **Peter Wright (47-54)** who has lived in Germany since the 1970s. He commented in an email after the reunion *'I think it must be said that one tends today to look upon European youth as being something to be collectively mistrusted when it comes to taking over from their peers sometime later. After meeting the "young" OAs at this reunion, both boys and girls, I do not have this feeling any longer. I think you all at Ardingly have done a wonderful job and would wish that your success continues, as I am sure it will.'* That said - we can only respond: what a good evening, making a good impression while having a lot of fun!

The next reunion is planned to take place at the college in England. It is time to leave Germany to go back to our English roots. Watch out for news on this event. If you are a German Old Ardinian and do not already receive newsletters from me, please send me your contact details.

Gesa, Max and Peter Wright (see letters)



## REGIONAL & SPORTS NEWS

**John Beaty (F 46-50)**, our OA rep for the Antipodes (Oz & NZ) sends a "Happy New Year from Melbourne"! He tried very hard to get an OA cocktail party going in Melbourne in October 08, but unfortunately the numbers were insufficient to make it viable. He appreciates that organising any function for people who are spread over thousands of kilometres is almost impossible, but he believes it would be possible to organise occasional gatherings in Melbourne and or Sydney. He will keep trying! But, to do this effectively he needs a much better database than he currently has. So, he needs your help, having written to a number of people but received few replies... John asks if OAs who live in Australia & New Zealand, either temporarily or permanently would please contact him, by email or letter and give him your email address and/or contact phone number. This will make communication much easier. His details are: John H Beaty OBE, 1 Chateau Grove, Beaumaris, Victoria 3183 Australia, 0400 988 208 or [jhbeaty@iprimus.com.au](mailto:jhbeaty@iprimus.com.au)

**Lucy Tardrew (82-84)**, our Squash & Tennis Rep, asks OAs who would like to play either sport in a match against the school on OAs day, to get in touch - PLEASE!

**Andrew Greves (D58-62)**, our Football President, is always on the lookout for young players with legs that work and feet that are capable of putting a football in the back of the net - preferably the oppositions - please give Andrew a call.

# Where are they now...

**Charles Elford** (JH & B 76-84) I can still smell the Under when we rehearsed 'Tin Pan Ali' and 'The Crucible'; that smell of dust and timber, stage flats and those cigars **Mr Temblett-Wood** (54-91) used to smoke. I didn't follow my passion straight away though. On leaving Ardingly I did a foundation course at Wimbledon School of Art then on to London's Mime Centre; did various jobs plus a stint on a summer camp in Vermont teaching ceramics. The following year I started a 3-year course at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama.

As an actor, I did various bits and pieces; a very tacky panto in Kilmarnock, modelled on the Alternative Hair Show (don't ask), bit parts in 'The Bill', 'Eastenders' and 'Take the High Road' (all the grim ones) as well as lots of fringe theatre (again, all the grim ones), 'extra' work and a 9 week tour of Scotland and the north of England dressed as Tony the Tiger (again, please don't ask – suffice to say, I lost a stone in weight and haven't eaten Frosties since – seriously, I am a phobic now). I supplemented my meagre acting income with a meagre market research interviewing one. I hadn't realized acting was more a lifestyle than a job and I made a tough decision as I approached 30. I gave it all up.

As a Training & Recruitment Manager (market research in various London sweatshops), I got a mortgage and a flat in South London. I self-funded my 3 year Human Resources training and leaving market research behind me forever, started working at the Personnel Department of the Museum of London which I loved. After 2 years of fixed term contracts there, I moved into the voluntary sector starting as HR Manager at Carers UK, a charity that supports and campaigns on behalf of (unpaid) carers. I sold my flat and moved to very trendy Whitstable, Kent. I commuted into London for 2 years (2 hrs door to door) and things were really looking good but then, my partner of 9 years started to get ill. Very slow and subtle it was. Eventually we got a diagnosis. The beautiful name didn't really reflect the ugliness of the thing. Astrocytoma is an aggressive tumour with hundreds of spreading tentacles that grow into every nook and cranny of the brain. After a horrific 9 months of watching this bright, funny and talented musician's physical and mental decline, John died. This was April 06, a few months before what would have been our 10th anniversary. A year later and 5 years after starting at Carers UK, I left to join a homelessness charity in Kent and in March, I'll have been HR Manager there for 2 years.

God, how depressing this all sounds! If you're still with me, it gets better. In fact, compared to where I was as I approached 30, things couldn't be more different or exciting for me now, but I had

to go through all of that in order to get to where I am now. All of that qualified me to write the book and put me in this exciting place.

On 7th April 2004 an article by Norman Lebrecht (BBC broadcaster, novelist and Assistant Editor to the Evening Standard) was published, marking the release of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Violin Concerto. The article and brief biog gripped me. How had I not heard of Coleridge-Taylor before? I won't go into his whole life here but I recognised a great story when I saw one and knew there was a screenplay in this - I couldn't believe it hadn't been done. So I wrote the screenplay. Then I realized it would be a lot more marketable if there were a book. So I wrote the book and **Black Mahler: The Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Story** was published in April 2008.

I'm still enjoying the wonderful journey that that article in 2004 kicked off. Norman Lebrecht, said of the book '*It's an incredibly human story which would translate extremely well to film.*' The website is [www.blackmahler.com](http://www.blackmahler.com) and it has loads of reviews and endorsements, historical info, pictures, a BBC Radio interview etc and if you want to get in touch (please do) my email address is on the website on the Contact Us page (it says 'Contact Us, but it's actually just me). And if you want a great read, buy the book.

I get 63p for each copy sold and I need enough to get to Vegas – but that's another story....

So there you go. That's where I am now. Do I miss acting? No. Would I have had things any different? No, I don't think so. Otherwise, I wouldn't be where I am now and I like being here. It's a really good place.

**Chris Ellis** (JH & H 68-76) our **NEW US & Canada** (East) representative writes: I moved to the USA in 1984. First to Houston, then to Washington DC, then to Paris Virginia, then to Woodstock, Vermont, before finally settling in Charlottesville Virginia in 1995!

Having settled I got married in January of '07, to Kimberly, bought a house in the city in June of '07 and now we are expecting our first child in June of '09. The pregnancy has settled down for the present, after a trying few months for Kim. We are going to start getting things moved around in the New Year.

I have been in the food and beverage industry since leaving Ardingly in '76, as a chef, food and beverage manager and now a sales representative for a wine distributor- and am enjoying the perks!!

I have not heard of any OAs, being in this area, but would be interested to see who is here – please do contact me.

**Peter Tuck** (D 37-41), our **US & Canada** (West) rep writes: I am well and have been since 2 days before 9/11 when I had open heart surgery (eight hours on the table) as a result of a leaking aneurysm. Am very lucky to be alive, thanks are due to the wonderful skills of a Canadian medical team.

My wife, Barbara and I immigrated to Richmond,

BC in 1981 soon after my eldest daughter married a fully-fledged Canadian. Happily they produced two granddaughters who live just one block away. My youngest daughter lives in Selsey, Sussex and also has two children.

I could 'rattle' on for hours but appreciate the fact that so many boys (and girls) have left Ardingly since my departure in 1942 and I do not wish to take up too much space with my ramblings. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the OA Society for electing me President in 1971, also the OAF (President for 11 years) and a Vice President of the OACC. Sadly my only regret is the almost total collapse of the OAF and OACC, especially after we managed to have our own Football Pitch and pavilion. This was very largely possible due to the wonderful effort of a certain **Andrew Greves** (D 58-62), who, as a few of you may know, is the present President of the OAF. Good luck Andy... keep trying!

Let's end on a lighter note... During the war the school was advised to provide a night time Fire Watch team (senior boys). All went well until one night the 'TUCK' shop was broken into! Perhaps the boys were hungry for something to eat. The head man 'Tilt' called an emergency Assembly and we all wondered what was going on. Soon we were told what had happened and he told the boys to own-up. Silence prevailed. Many years later following an OAF match and a few 'jugs' the subject came up as to who it was and to my great surprise one of the players (no names) owned up and said 'Yes, Peter, it was me'. Boys will be boys I suppose!

Finally, if any of you are over this way please get in touch. (details on Back Cover)

## OA WEBSITE...

Registrations for the OA website are still coming in, if you haven't already done so, please visit [www.OLDARDINIANS.COM](http://www.OLDARDINIANS.COM) and join our on-line community. Check out your "Year Cloud" and discover how many of your old friends are there! As the use of the site grows we will be uploading details of events and OA activities – make a point of coming back to see what is scheduled.

## OAs ON FACEBOOK...

I am happy to confirm that the Ardingly Group on Facebook, started by **Jan Thole**, has nearly 700 OAs registered on it, see <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?pwstfdy=2f8b656490b91c248fd33d5be22d1b99#/group.php?gid=2217839749> to join this group.

Jan has agreed to join our growing group of "techies" in the "Who's Who", so if you need to reach him with any questions please do!

# ARDINGLY COLLEGE LODGE

**Paul Wolff (JH & G 54-62) Lodge Secretary reports:** The Lodge has met twice since the last Old Ardinian was published. These were our 359th and 360th regular meetings - yes, Freemasons take keeping their lodge records very seriously. Our archives make fascinating reading, and they are currently being assessed at the request of UGLE, the United Grand Lodge of England, with an eye to preserving the history of all lodges under the English constitution (the Masonic constitution, that is). We'll be letting the School have sight of our records, too.

Both our December 2008 and March 2009 meetings were held, as usual, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen St., London WC2. Our meetings always start between 5 and 5.30, and by 7.30 we are usually at our regular Italian restaurant for the serious business of refreshment, and that friendly and cheerful conversation with our guests that is a hallmark of the Lodge. At the March meeting we were delighted to be joined by six visitors who were the current Masters of six other public school lodges - the Old Cheltonian, Old Cliftonian, Old Wellingtonian, Old Pauline, Old Denstonian, and Old Tauntonian Lodges. It was especially pleasing to have Richard Raven with us from Denstone, in Staffordshire, because as you readers of this Old Ardinian will surely recall without prompting, Denstone College is a sister Woodard School, and School Lodges do provide an active channel for keeping in touch with each other.

At our December meeting we were delighted to elect Ken Woodford - W. Bro. Ken Woodford, LGR, to give Ken his Masonic title - to honorary membership of the Lodge, in recognition of Ken's extensive and exceptional services to the Lodge in many different offices and not least as Treasurer from 1985 to 2001.

The current Master of Ardingly College Lodge, Mike Byford-Bates, met the Headmaster at Ardingly in January and in a constructive meeting discussed ways of further strengthening the long-standing links between the Lodge and the School, including the potential for the Lodge to make a suitable small award or fund available for charitable student purposes.

Our next meeting will be at Ardingly College, and while the date is not quite set in stone, we aim to be meeting on Saturday 16th May, the day before the scheduled OA Day and Bunbury cricket match which at the time of writing are set for the following day, a Sunday. We look forward to meeting and seeing as many there as possible, especially any Masons of other lodges who would like to visit us. Anyone who would like to make contact for any reason, please feel free to get in touch with me using the email or telephone contact points shown, or with any other Lodge member who you may already know.

And keep an eye open for links to our new Lodge web site from [www.oldardinians.com](http://www.oldardinians.com)!

## OLD ARDINIAN GOLFING SOCIETY - from Bill Maingot

### 2009 MEETINGS

West Sussex GC, Pulborough	Thursday 23rd April
Piltown GC, Nr. Uckfield	Monday 8th June
The Berkshire GC, Ascot	Wednesday 15th July *
Walton Heath GC, Tadworth	Thursday 24th September

### OTHER MEETINGS

Grafton Morrish Qualifying Round	Saturday 9th May at Knole Park GC
Public Schools Putting Tournament	Wednesday 3rd June at Royal Wimbledon GC

\* Please note that this date is a week earlier than that shown in the report of the 2008 season published in the Michaelmas edition.

**The golfing society consists of players of all ages and abilities who enjoy each others company and of course the golf.**

**Guests are welcome at all meetings and any OA who is interested in becoming a member should contact the Hon. Secretary Bill Maingot.**

# Obituaries



Captain Richard Max Kohler, RN

**Richard Max Kohler (JH & F 45-53)  
6th May 35 - 22nd June 08**

It is with great regret and much sadness that I have to report the death of Max Kohler on 22nd June 2008. He and I joined the senior school on the same day, joined Dartmouth Royal Naval College on the same day and then joined our first ship, HMS Glasgow a cruiser and Lord Mountbatten's flagship in the Mediterranean, on the same day. He and I lived in neighbouring villages in West Sussex and we were life long friends even if our naval appointments kept us apart, it was a big navy then. I remember him at Ardingly being an Electrical Pioneer and very expert with school-made dimmers for the stage lighting.

Max's younger brother, **Paul** (JH & F 46-55) was also at Ardingly with us.

Max had a varied, interesting and distinguished naval career; he rose to the rank of Captain. After he was promoted to this rank the naval publicity department featured his career, to that point, in a double page advertisement for recruiting young men to be naval engineers. I think he got a good bit of good-natured teasing about it from his colleagues but it was a very interesting list of appointments. I wonder if the navy asked his permission to use him; he was not much amused.

After gaining his engineering degree he was in the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle to gain his watch keeping certificates and then was the Deputy Marine Engineer Officer of the ocean going survey ship, HMS Vidal. Next came an appointment to HMS Bulwark, a recently

converted Commando carrier. This took him to the Far East on an arduous programme of operations. In contrast Max then specialised in diesel submarines, serving in three, which included two years in the Royal Canadian Navy.

By this time Max had married a childhood sweetheart, Diana, and started a family: Christopher and Sarah. The story goes that on return from submarine patrols Diana made him change out of uniform in the garden shed, she did not like diesel oil smells and certainly not in the house.

Max was selected for the nuclear courses at Greenwich and Dounreay and went on to the naval team to build the Polaris submarines HMS Renown and HMS Revenge; He was responsible for reactor testing and seeing them "go critical". Later he was Senior Engineer in HMS Repulse for a refit, testing and deployment on patrol.

After staff jobs in Submarine crew training, he was the senior Engineer of a helicopter cruiser and in the MoD as an appointer – planning the careers and appointments of engineer officers. When a Captain he became Nuclear Power Manager at HM Dockyard, Rosyth, with a staff of 375, responsible for refitting, setting to work and refuelling Polaris submarine reactor systems.

Later he was a senior appointer and used this to gain him a traditional "perk" at the end of his appointment; he appointed himself to the job he wanted. He became Commanding Officer of the Royal Naval Air Station, Lee on Solent, HMS Daedalus. This was very enjoyable work and his residence was Sir Thomas Lipton's house that the yachtsman and tycoon had built with fine views of The Solent and Cowes. What Max and Diana did with all the nine bedrooms I do not know?

His was an interesting and enjoyable career indeed. After the navy Max became the Southern Region Director of the Heart Foundation for which he worked with great effort and enthusiasm but ironic tragedy struck for he developed heart problems himself, He bore this cheerfully and with determination to survive.

Marriage to Diana was loving and successful though tragedy struck when their son, Christopher, was afflicted with kidney disease at age 17 and after a long, brave struggle finally died aged 27. Seven years ago Diana was diagnosed with cancer and after courageously battling her way through treatment died in August 2007. Max was left with his loving and supportive daughter, Sarah, who survives him.

Simon Crosse (Headmasters Son) reports:

**Oswald Shuffery – former Master**  
(1902 – 2008)

Oswald died in October 08 at the great age of 106 years. He taught French at the College

during the war when my father was headmaster.

He moved on to teach at Monmouth School where, much to his delight, he was able to coach a rowing four, He must have made a great impression since, at his 100th birthday, the whole 4 turned up to pay their respects.

He spent his childhood in a remote parish in Yorkshire (Hatton Gill) and Ardclyff) where his father was rector for 40 years. This gave him a deep love for the peace and quiet of country life. He developed a keen interest in fishing and walking the Yorkshire Dales. There was no public transport where he lived; travel was by horse and trap. The nearest village of any size was 20 miles away!

On leaving school his intention was to follow his father and be ordained. He started a course of theology but soon became disenchanted and fled to Paris. Here he attended the Sorbonne and gained a degree, later moving to Switzerland where he developed skills in mountaineering and skiing.

He came back to England just before WWII and then became engaged to be married. However when the war came his fiancée moved to South Africa and they lost contact. Finally they were reunited after 40 years and got married. They had 10 happy years together in Norfolk before his wife died. He remained in Norfolk teaching at The Paston School until he retired.

He was a scholarly man with a wide knowledge of English and French authors. He had many interests and talents and was a gifted violinist, playing in the Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra for many years.

He will be remembered for his gentle wit and sense of humour, and he was a great host and connoisseur of good food and wine.

Bob Lee (B48-52) has supplied the following for his brother:

**Michael M Lee (A48-52)**

The elder of the identical Lee twins, passed away after a short stay in hospital suffering with cancer, on the 12th December age 73.

Michael enjoyed his time at the school; he was appointed a house prefect in his last year. Cycling was one of his interests, and he joined the Cycling Club and took part in the many rides when Michael Watts was the Master in Charge. Later on he spent time learning the art of printing whilst with the Printing Society.

In our early years at the school we often swapped ties and changed classes and dayrooms, which mostly went undetected. Dormitories were a bit more difficult so we kept away from that option. The playing fields were another fruitful area for identity swaps. When we were caught out it was usually a case of some stern words, sometimes ending up with a

smile. On a few occasions litter collection was demanded or weeding the paths!

After Ardingly, he joined a well-known children's clothing company in the city of London. After a few years he changed direction and entered the oil industry with Mobil, selling oil to domestic users, then in time changed to the Industrial side of the company where he was to remain, covering parts of London and Surrey, he lived near Dorking.

One of his main areas of enjoyment was world travel. In the early 1960's he and Graham Neill (B48-52) went on holiday to Moscow, which at that time was considered a bit of an adventure. His world travel enjoyment was spread over a considerable number of years. Michael's other interests were buses and meeting visitors to London, both overseas and UK residents. For some years during weekends or holiday times he drove tourist sightseeing double deck buses in London.

Michael leaves two sons and three grandchildren.

Keith Hawes (JH & A 49-56) writes:

**Betty Kenyon**, the widow of W. Kenyon (E circa 1920) died earlier last year in the Isle of Man but no further details are known. She had a nephew **Graham Kenyon** (E 56-60) who I understand has also died but again I have no further details. Bill Kenyon was a great benefactor of the school in the immediate post-war period when it was going through great financial difficulties. He and his wife were regular supporters of OA Cricket Week. After his death she presented a seat in his memory that stood on the northeast corner of the Green near the tree that was also planted in his memory. I remarked some time ago to **Tony Waitson**, that the plaque associated with the tree had disappeared for the second time; it was previously found with the groundkeeper because the first tree had died but I don't know how it disappeared the second time. I hope that it can be replaced.

Peter Verrall (F 40-44) informs us that:

**Keith Parvin** (40-44) had passed away. Keith was at Ardingly at the same time as myself and I last saw him just over two years ago when I went and stayed with him and Helen for a few days after attending a conference in Ballarat. The highlight of the trip was to go to his Lodge and to deliver a lecture with him present. Sadly he had not been well for many years.

# OLD ARDINIAN SOCIETY WHO'S WHO 2009



**ARDINGLY**  
old ardinians

## ACTIVITY

President of OA Society  
Dep. President of OA Society  
Llangalanga Scholarship fund (Kenya)  
Lodge Master  
Lodge Secretary  
Minutes Secretary  
Music  
OA Newsletter Editor  
OA Trust  
OA Mission (St. Katherine's Trust)  
OA Scholarships  
School link  
Treasurer  
Veterans  
OAs Photographer  
Web Managers

Ardingly Facebook Group

## SPORTS

Cricket (President)  
Football (President)  
Golf  
Hockey  
Netball  
Shooting  
Tennis & Squash

## REGIONS

Australia / New Zealand  
Germany  
Hong Kong  
South Africa (Cape Town)  
USA (Mid West)  
USA / Canada (East)  
USA / Canada (West)  
UK - East Anglia  
    Northern  
    South East  
    South West  
    West Midlands

## CURRY CLUBS

London  
South East

## CONTACT

Chris Wilson  
**SITUATION VACANT!**  
Harry Vialou Clark  
Mike Byford-Bates  
Paul Wolff  
John Deane  
Martin Palmer  
Mark Keatley-Palmer  
Bill Maingot  
David Driscoll  
David Petitpierre  
Gesä Paulfeierborn  
Nick Greenwood  
Adrian Arnold  
Emma Duggan  
Hugh Letheren  
Michael Nash  
Jan Eike Thole  
Antonia Moll

Robin Whitbread  
Andrew Greves  
Bill Maingot  
**SITUATION VACANT!**  
Carrie Walshe  
Mike Lakin  
Lucy Tardrew

John Beaty  
Max Lobermeyer  
Mark Sharp  
Max Ellwood  
Timothy Day  
Chris Ellis  
Peter Tuck  
Peter Newnham  
**SITUATION VACANT!**  
Fenella Holmes  
Chris Sumner  
Michael Stables

Mike Lakin  
Mark Keatley-Palmer

## PHONE

07857 858705  
  
01264 773674  
01273 846010  
01235 850520  
020 8325 8605  
  
01892 511165  
01444 482116  
020 7790 3540 (6)  
  
01444 893014  
020 89956725  
020 87886151  
  
01425 474570  
01438 714825  
+49 (0) 176 831 944 56  
0781 383 5674  
  
07768 977155  
01865 750900  
01444 482116  
  
01444 892011  
020 85661778  
07973 737400  
  
03 9583 9991  
+49 179 4514967  
+852 9665 2387  
+27(0) 21 8581256  
773 612 4821  
011 434 975 6046  
(604) 241 0763  
01502 475116  
  
01132 688066  
01803 200200  
01386 841638  
  
020 85661778  
01892 511165

## EMAIL

chriswilsonkempton@hotmail.co.uk  
  
vialouclark@onetel.net  
mikebyford-bates@tiscali.co.uk  
paul@wolff.co.uk  
johndeane@mac.com  
  
mark@sycamoredesign.co.uk  
bill@maingot.co.uk  
Ddriscoll@stkatharine.org.uk  
dpetitp@telus.net  
gesa.paulfeierborn@ardingly.com  
nickg@haighomes.org.uk  
adrianarnold@madasafish.com  
emma@emmaduggan.com  
OAManager@hotmail.com  
OAManager@hotmail.com  
Janeike.Thole@gmx.de  
Antoniamol@googlemail.com  
  
robin@robinwhitbread.com  
andrew.greves@btinternet.com  
bill@maingot.co.uk  
  
lakinmj@compuserve.com  
lucy@ashdownimaging.co.uk  
  
jhbeaty@iprimus.com.au  
max@lobermeyer.de  
mark@marksharp.com  
maxellwood@gmail.com  
timday10@mac.com  
cjmellis1984@yahoo.com  
lizbeth.hamilton@telus.net  
p.g.n.@btinternet.com  
  
fenella@fenellaholmes.com  
chris.sumner@palacetorquay.co.uk  
mikestables@btinternet.com  
  
lakinmj@compuserve.com  
mark@sycamoredesign.co.uk

## CURRY CLUBS

London – **Mike Lakin** (JH & G 73-81) reports 6 OAs, myself, Mark K-P (JH & E 68-78), Chris Wilson (F 73-79) our current President, Nick Greenwood (G 60-63) our Treasurer, Liz Creber ne Grey (C 76-78) and Graham McBain (JH & G 68-78) who attended all seemed to pick up on and continue from where we left off from the night in AGM in January! All have confirmed how much they enjoyed the evening since, so I plan to organise the next LOADS (London Old Ardinian's Dining Society) evening in May or June.

I bumped into Chris again recently and he commented that he was surprised that the conversation was constant from the moment we all met

at 18:30 until we all parted after the curry around 22:30!

If any OAs in or near London would like to be kept informed of the next LOADS event, please feel free to contact me via email (see above)

South East – **Mark K-P** (JH & E 68-78) reports that the SE group continues to meet, with hilarity guaranteed, 5-7 times a year. With an average of 8, but as many as 16, attendees, we enjoy much laughter & recollections throughout the evening. Any OA in the Crowborough area wishing to attend should contact Mark who will add their name to the e-mailing list (see above for details).

www.ouldardinians.com 01580 201777

www.ardingly.com 01444 893000

Old Ardinian Society c/o Hopbine House, Vineyard Lane, Ticehurst, East Sussex TN5 7LP

Ardingly College, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6SQ Registered Charity No.1076456