



OAGS - Stop Press

On Saturday 8th May the OA's played at Knole Park GC in the qualifying round of the South East section of the Grafton Morrish Trophy finishing in first place with 86pts and now proceed to the finals to be played at Hunstanton GC and Royal West Norfolk GC in October. Congratulations to our team of Andrew Smith, Andrew Chettle, Jake Oudes, Rob Gardiner, James Clare and Neil Mather and good luck in the final.

Future Meetings

Piltown GC	Fri 4th June
The Berkshire GC	Wed 21st July
Walton Heath GC	Thurs 23rd Sept

AC Lodge - Stop Press

Future Meetings in London

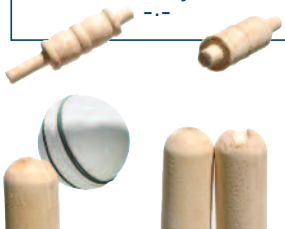
Freemasons' Hall	Wed 27th Oct 5pm
Freemasons' Hall	Tues 14th Dec 5pm

Contact Paul Wolff for information.

During his time as Master of the Lodge, Mike Byford-Bates has visited the lodges of all other Woodard Schools which have associated lodges - Lancing, Hurstpierpoint, Ellesmere, Denstone, Worksop, King's Taunton and Bloxham.

Mike has worked hard to develop relationships between our lodges closer together, and is preparing a guide to the schools and their lodges.

New recruits needed
for cricket team,
come and join us



FROM YOUR President (OUTGOING!)

My last letter as President of the Society is written with the results of the General Election booming from my radio. Remember the excitement of the evening in May! It spoke of a change of Government and I thought that this was appropriate at the time to the OA Society. Our big change is that **Liz Creber** [nee Gray] (C 76-78) the first Lady President of the OA's will take (took) over the reins at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 13th June at the College. I wish Liz every success in her role and hope that her enthusiasm is reflected by more OA's contributing to the running of the Society and joining the various sporting clubs and groups.

Another change is the format of this, the Old Ardinian magazine. My thanks to **Mark Keatley-Palmer** (JH & E 68-78) for his sterling efforts to date. Please let us know your thoughts about this change - you have never been shy from giving us a true picture of how you feel in the past!

Whilst mentioning the 2010 AGM can I take this opportunity to let you know that the OA's will be playing the College on the day as part of the Colleges' Cricket week. This is an ideal opportunity to arrange to meet up with some of your contemporaries, make a day of it, enjoy a barbecue lunch and stay on for a Drinks Reception hosted by the new President in the Old Ardinians Room. Put the date in your diary now (assuming mailing dates allow!). Full details are on the website.

The 2009 AGM was held at The Royal Foundation of St. Katharine on 22nd February. By the time you read this the minutes should have been signed off and posted on the website.

The main points discussed included an appeal to remind OA's to make more use of the website and post information about events they are organising. If you have not visited the site yet, please do and let us know how we can improve it to reflect your views.

A reminder that there are also two OA Facebook groups with over 500 members in each group. Contact details of these groups can be found in the "Who's Who".

We also realised that we need more Year Representatives to canvass and record the views of the younger OA's. In order to try and address this situation some Committee members visited the College in April to



The Outgoing President relaxing after his period of office.

speaking to the pupils leaving this year. There was a mixed reaction to the Society - mainly favourable I hasten to add - but the disturbing fact was

that we appear to lose a lot of students overseas as soon as they depart and that many leave the catchment area with regard to sporting clubs.

We received an update on the appointment of the proposed Director of External Relations from the Bursar. This post has still to be filled but it is hoped that one of his or her roles would be to co-ordinate fundraising projects although at this time the relationship between the Director and the OA Society is still to be determined.

If you would like a copy of the minutes and do not have access to the website please contact the Society by post and we will send them to you.

The evening concluded with the second 'An Evening with...'. Following An Evening with **Ian Hislop** (JH & A 67-77) in 2009 the guest this year was **Sir David Manning** (C 63-67) who presented a very enjoyable discussion on life in the Foreign Office. Wine and canapés followed. I hope that **David Driscoll** (A 57-61) can continue the success of these evenings and I for one look forward to next year - see David's report later in this newsletter.

My thanks, over the past two years while I have been President, go to all the OA's who have replied to my requests for information on various aspects of Ardingly and Old Ardinian life. It is encouraging to see that somebody is reading this and can be bothered to put pen to paper or finger to keyboard. We have had some lively and vigorous replies to certain proposals and I hope you continue to have your say.

Finally thanks to all those who have helped me preside over the Society since I was appointed, if that's the word - press ganged by **Adrian Arnold** (A 39-44) comes to mind! We have a strong and growing Society and I hope you will put your support behind Liz.

Now, how about a Hung Presidency with Lancing?
Chris Wilson, OA President

A plea from the OA Society Committee - please, please, please can any OA interested in becoming a regional rep / playing sport / joining the committee / starting a curry club / helping out in any way... make yourself known by contacting the most appropriate representative listed in our "Who's Who"!!



witter: Liz Creber

witter: What are you doing now?

LC: Looking over the trees of Battersea Park at my desk contemplating my welcome on Wednesday to the 2010 school leavers into The Old Ardinians Society.

witter: Christopher Wilson is retiring as President. Why is your new appointment as President making history?

LC: I was one of the first few girls at an all-boy Ardingly College, which prepared me for a happy and successful career in what was then a largely male dominated world in the City, and I want to give something back as the first President.

witter: Why did you go to an all-boys Ardingly College in the first place?

LC: My school closed down in my GCSE year resulting in shocking results. Headmaster Christopher Bulteel said if I retook all with flying colours I could stay. I never looked back.

witter: What are your weaknesses?

LC: Wine gums, fabulous shoes and a day at the Races!

witter: Did you enjoy Ardingly?

LC: Going from an all-girls convent school to a school with 20 girls and over 400 boys ... what do you think?

witter: Did the girls have preferential treatment?

LC: Too right! We could wear jeans and drove to school. We had a tiny 'Ladies only' changing room – which conveniently doubled up as a smoking room because the Masters weren't allowed in it!

witter: You really enjoyed Ardingly, so why didn't you send your daughter there?

LC: I was living and working in London at that time and a local day school was the right option.

witter: What was the last website you looked at?

LC: The brand new www.ouldardinians.com website of course! All OAs online should register!

witter: What are your plans for The Old Ardinians Society?

LC: To make it easy for OAs to re-establish friendships and to be able to help one another. We have a strong platform for networking, sport or just reuniting friendships. We recently got two Rhodes OAs together who didn't know they lived just a mile apart in the snowy mountains of Australia!



Tony Morton (B 49-54) writes:

I wonder if anyone remembers a Staff Concert given one summer evening in 1955. I can't recall much about it. I had left school the summer before and was doing my National Service. Robert Carrington asked me to come down from Woolwich, (where I was based at the time before being posted to Hong Kong) and sing a song that he and Jean, his very musical wife, had written, at this Concert. It was called, I think, 'The Leaver's Song'. It was sung to a nostalgic, lilting tune that I think Jean had written. I remember this tune well. The words are quite good too, I think, though I can't recall all of them:

It doesn't seem so long since I
First arrived at Ardingly.
And when I think of what's gone past,
I wish today would always last.
But that can't be and now I see
Tomorrow coming all too soon,
So, let me sing
Remembering
All Ardingly within this tune:

O, Ardingly, goodbye!
Am I allowed a leaver's sigh?
For sitting on the Terrace wall
And letting toffee papers fall.
For toasting by the Old E fire,
For wearing dark and banned attire.
For oaks in autumn, daffodils,
For Friday Corps
And Cert. A drills
O, Ardingly, goodbye!

There seemed so very much to do
When I was new
And still it's true! (shades of RWSC's admonitory
method here!)
But when I think of what's gone past
I wish today would always last.
But that can't be
And now I see
Tomorrow coming all too soon
So let me sing
Remembering
All Ardingly within this tune
O Ardingly, goodbye
I'll remember you until I die etc, etc...

I still can't recall the last four or five lines (different to those of verse 1).

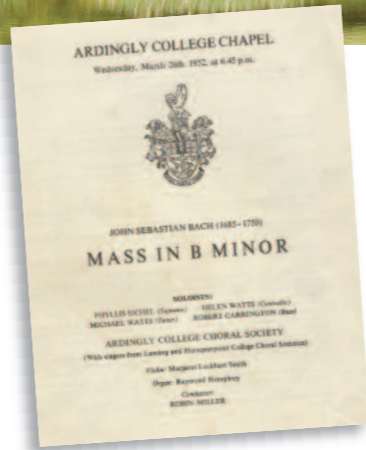
I do remember, however, that the show was called 'Pelican Pie', and the programme featured a dissolute, possibly slightly intoxicated pelican in a mortarboard and school tie sketched, I think, by Mr. Constable, the art master at the time. (As some readers will remember, George Snow was particularly incensed by sweet papers being dropped and he hated dark grey suits spoiling the overall impression of his school).

I think it was at that concert when Michael Watts sang a very funny patter song, also written by RWSC, called 'I've got a little Gadget' which teased GS who, as everyone knew, was very fond of 'gadgets'!

There was another verse to the Leaver's Song, which began: 'O, Ardingly, goodbye! I'll remember you until I die.' but I can't recall the rest - and anyway I might have combined the two verses! Perhaps someone can put me right!

I wonder if the programme is in some archive or other at the school. Probably not, in these clean-sweeping times. Last time I was at the school, I noticed that Mertens had pinched the Hilton Beast!

PS There was also a song (sung by Taffy) called 'Don't let's be beastly to the Bursar!' In it, Taffy wore Elvis Presley style gear and smooched in Elvis style with his microphone! Very funny, much applause! Even GS and the Bursar were amused!



Michael Watts my Tutor and Robert Carrington always took an interest in my ability to sing, passing me on to his own singing teacher, Robert Poole, when I left Ardingly. What I remember about them all was their dedication and professionalism and I am forever grateful for the musical grounding they gave me.

Beati Mundo Corde - Letterbox on Dartmoor...

Our very own Stig, better known as "The Old Man of the Moor" has written:

Following my Boxing Day message to you, the latest development is that on New Year's Day I wended my way out to White Tor and discovered for myself that this Letterbox is indeed on site and in good order.

I was able to establish the precise spot where John Deane took his photograph and he was only about 50 paces adrift of where the box is hidden. It came as a surprise to me to find that Peter Spear had signed the Letterbox book on 28th December, and he made a remark to the effect that he had seen in the Annals that there had been location problems. Peter originally found the box some 10 years ago and has made several return visits. It seems to have had a magnetic influence upon him.

An interesting sideline is that both Peter and Ian Hislop were contemporaries, both starting as they did in the late sixties and both left Ardingly in 1977. It might test Ian's sense of humour to the limit if he were to "have a go"!

Ed's Comment – come Ian... you know you want to!



Coincidentally, **Peter Spear** (JH & C 68-77) has also written:

Just to follow up on recent OA News regarding the Ardingly Dartmoor Letterbox I am pleased to confirm that Beati Mundo Corde is still in place on White Tor as of 28 December 2009, though I sympathise with John Deane and others as this box is particularly well concealed. I first found it over 10 years ago but not without some extra clues. After several unsuccessful attempts, I had left a suitably coded message in one of the other letterboxes to be found more easily on White Tor and the resourceful Old Man of the Moor tracked me down via the OA network and sent me some additional information which enabled me to "sign in" to the visitor's book in the box on my next attempt.

At the time (late 1998) I submitted an account for the OA News but the late Colin T-W perhaps had endured too many of my English essays in the past and as far as I know it was never published, though Nigel Argent wrote to me after his success in finding the box. I'm sure that the Old Man of the Moor will be delighted to know others have tried, and he may well submit further clues as he did for me. If not, I am happy to oblige on request (email preferred [pedro59@gmail.com] as my work keeps me away from home for extended periods).

Best wishes for a successful 2010.

A short history of Letterboxing for those of you who have no idea what the two previous letters are going on about! Supplied, again coincidentally (would I lie to you?), by **Simon Williams** (E 60-65)

Letterboxing started in the UK in 1854 when a Victorian called James Perrott placed a bottle in a seriously inaccessible area of Dartmoor. Since then the pastime has developed and been shaped by technology creating the global hobby of geo-caching.

Letterboxing progressed quite slowly and by 1976 there were still only 15 boxes on Dartmoor. Thereafter the number increased rapidly and rules were created to protect the environment and ensure safety.

Sometime in the 1980's Ardingly College acquired its own letterbox courtesy of the 'Old Man of the Moor' and this was first visited back in 1992 by **John Ridd** (JH & E 70-79).

Ed's Comment – watch this space to see if Simon and others rise to the challenge of finding the box!



Obituaries

Henry Jones (69-87) Music Teacher is remembered by **Martin Cannings** (60-99) Music Teacher, House Master & Deputy Headmaster:

Those who remember him will be sorry to learn of the death of Henry Jones.

Henry joined the music staff as a visiting teacher C. 1969 and became a full time member of the music staff a few years later. For his last few years he reverted to visiting status and left C. 1987.

Throughout that time I, and I know many others, never ceased to admire his ability, the breadth and depth of his knowledge and his great natural musicianship. He was in his element when dealing with musical and able pupils and I am sure that many would testify to his teaching skills. He was, for some time, attached to Lea House and served as a Tutor there.

Outside his schoolwork, at different times Henry ran a small local orchestra, a choral society and he was a church organist. He also enjoyed composition and some of his work has been published.

Over the last six or seven years Henry's health deteriorated and he was recently moved from a care home to a nursing home. His body may have been giving up but his mind was as sharp as ever. He died in December 2009 just short of his 82nd birthday.

Ed's comment - I well remember being taught viola in the old "rat run" of a music school under the New Wing by Mr Jones. Shortly after learning the basics, **Mark Hagar** (JH & C 68-75) and I became, respectively, 1st & 2nd violas in the JH Orchestra. Mr Jones, obviously felt that our abilities were greater than our confidence his judgement... as a result, we agreed to learn by heart, the theme tune for Z Cars and to play this whenever Mr Jones pointed his conductors baton in our direction. The fact that the rest of the Orchestra were playing Handel's Water Music didn't matter to Mark & I, as long as we kept ourselves busy and looked like we knew what we were doing – sadly Mr Jones did not agree and after one performance only my orchestral career was over!

Michael J Earll (JH & D 43-50) His life-long friend **Martin Crocker** (JH & A 42-50) has supplied the following: From my perspective, here in New Zealand, we are celebrating a life ended prematurely.

I last saw Michael and Viviane in 2007, when we stayed at their seaside home. Michael and I relocated and rebuilt a shed on that occasion.

Our life long friendship started early in 1943 at Ardingly College.

Within one year Michael and I plus **Peter Deeley** and **John Hilder** formed the "Crocker, Deeley, Earll, Hilder clique" and that lasted until we four left Ardingly in 1949/50. Christian names were not used at Ardingly.

The four of us kept in touch after leaving Ardingly plus meetings and visits until Peter died unexpectedly in July 2003. Now we are half strength.

The school at war. Being war time one priority was extra food. Most Sunday afternoons in winter and spring we four would move into nearby woodlands with food from Hilder's farm and Deeley's butchers shop (using no food coupons). Cooking equipment was buried in the woods with dry kindling and wood ready for our next visit. Earll and I would steal potatoes from the foodstores - one of us keeping KV (lookout). Some near misses.

At some point in 1944 some V1's came close to the school and we would watch Hurricane aircraft tip the wings of the slow moving V1s.

Athletics. We four were just 'also rans'. Grading meant A or B standards and we four were B, but one year we were all A, no doubt being older and taller. Dusty Miller was not convinced and remeasured the 100 track. It was 90 yards! We were all B standard again.

Food. At one Junior House tea meal mice beat us and ate all the inside of the loaves for our table. With rationing continuing we ate all the crusts.

When visiting Hilder's farm if we ever complained about school food, Mr Hilder reminded us that when he was at Ardingly in the 1890's boys died at the school. So no sympathy from him.

Michael regularly visited my parents and on one occasion when I was in Malaya (National Service), he had to grind the coffee and just kept grinding leaving a heap on the floor. As a youngster he could be an absent-minded, happy-go-lucky character. My guess is, to a certain extent, he remained so throughout his life.

Nearly every year (96-01) he joined us aboard our narrow boat 'Duchess II', on the British Waterways canal network for a few nights. He always came loaded with goodies.

National Service - British Army 1950's. Michael on night guard duty in UK was told to let no one pass if no identity papers. One such person was a long serving officer who told the taxi driver to drive on. Michael immediately put his bayonet through the radiator.

He was later posted to Cyprus!

Michael is survived by his 2nd wife Viviane. Daphne died in 1996. Son Richard lives in the UK and Daughter Penney is in Australia.

Ian Gaunt (F 38-42) supplied by his brother **Gavin Gaunt** (JH & F 38-45):

I am writing to advise you with great regret that my brother Ian died on Friday 20th November after losing a long struggle with Alzheimers disease over the past six years.

He was in his 86th year and for the last few months had been in a care home where he was looked after with great skill and kindness. He died of a chest infection.

He came to Ardingly in 1938, together with myself, into the junior school, he into F Dorm. He was senior prefect in F in 1942.

He joined the RNVR in 1943 as an engineering cadet and was subsequently commissioned into the Fleet Air Arm. In 1946 after demobilisation he studied for his degree, and pursued a career in a nuclear power station in Japan (under GEC) and later worked for Vickers (BAE) on nuclear powered submarines. He travelled extensively for Vickers (BAE) on nuclear powered submarines. He travelled extensively in his work.

In 1955 he married Anne (nee Pike) who survives him together with their four children.

The following OAs, for whom we have only brief notifications, have also passed away:

Martin Edgerton (B 53-58) died in August last year.

David Michael Rammell (E ??-51) died on 14th October.

John Soulsby (C ??-43) died before Christmas.

John Sterling Smith (JH & A 74-82) died at the beginning of February.

Anne Martin has written to inform us of the death of her father **Major John Deane** (dates not known) RIASC, RASC, RAOC who died on 5th February.

Mrs Lake contacted us to say her husband, **Colin Lake**, (F 7-45) died on 18th February.

Michael John Gann (B ??-53) died on 3rd March.

David Trower (F 52-56) informed us that his brother, **Richard Trower** (B 40-44) died peacefully on 6th April aged 83.

David Swan informs us that his brother **Ninian Swan** (D ?-47), a great supporter of Ardingly, died on 29th April.

where are they now?

David Vening (C 50-53)

At best, I could only be described as a reluctant pupil and I left Ardingly at the first opportunity resulting in me becoming "Something in the City". A Bill Brokers clerk to be exact and it was hilarious. Three-piece suits were essential together with either a bowler or Homburg hat when visiting other financial institutions. Senior management wore morning suits and top hats! The office itself had not progressed from Dickens' time with all the clerks perched on high stools at two long desks that ran the length of the office.

This wasn't for me and to my, and probably my employer's relief, National Service necessitated our parting. Conscripted brought me into contact with people who had been less fortunate than me and I quickly found myself writing letters to the families of a number of my fellow conscripts and I remember having to show one lad how to lace up his boots as his mother had always done it for him.

National Service completed and a return to the City definitely off the agenda, I sought employment elsewhere. The Colonial Office obliged and offered me a post in the Northern Rhodesia Police (Zambia). At the whim of the Colonial Office there were two ways of reaching Northern Rhodesia; sea or air. The sea route consisted of a 14-day cruise on a Union Castle Liner and a 4-day train journey from Cape Town to Lusaka. The air route took 25 hours from Heathrow (only one terminal in those days) in a turbo prop Viscount 'plane with 5 refuelling stops. I went by air! I served there for 8 years and could bore you all by recounting many of my experiences whilst policing a country that was moving towards Independence. What I shall say is that policing in that

country was far more dangerous than it is here, even today. Violence is resorted to very quickly, even in minor disputes. Political rallies almost without exception developed into riots as rival political parties clashed, with the police trying to keep the peace with inevitable confrontation resulting. Traffic accidents involving death or injury also provoked rioting, sometimes very serious, which had to be contained before the accident could be dealt with.

Whilst in Lusaka I had met and married the present Mrs Vening. My contract had been broken by Independence so we decided to return to England with our two children where I continued as a police officer by joining the Kent Police. Returning to England was a shock to my system but that was nothing compared to my wife who had been born in India and had lived in Africa since 1948. However we weathered the storm, had two more children and I achieved the rank of Ch/Superintendent. I served mainly in the CID. My four final years were spent investigating complaints made against police officers and disciplinary matters. Although you are distrusted both by the complainant and the officer concerned, it was very satisfying to either disprove the tactical or spurious complaints made or seek out and deal with offending police officers, who nobody wants.

I retired in 1994. The music I learned at Exeter Cathedral and Ardingly has now come into its own. I am Musical Director of the Kent Police Male Voice Choir (see our website). Much arranging, singing, trips abroad etc. We have raised over £150,000 for various charities over the last 30 years. I've come full circle and am content.

Dr. Peter Lane (JH & D 45-53)



For many years after I left Ardingly I had mixed feelings about the school. I left in the summer of 1953. Immediately things began to look up for me. I was expecting first of all to serve in the army for 2 years for my compulsory National Service, but I failed the medical examination!

I wanted to be a veterinary surgeon and wished to enter the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), University of London. I had the academic qualifications but I needed to obtain agricultural experience if I was to stand a good chance of passing the admission interview. So I went to work on a dairy farm near Uckfield. I lived with the farming family. I experienced a steep learning curve, I worked long hours for poor pay and it was cold in the winter, but it did me good. I mixed with country folk and learnt some of their ways such as ferreting, beating for the local pheasant shoot and joining the Young Farmers Club.

In April 1954 I presented myself for interview at the RVC and was accepted. I entered the College in October 1954. Then followed a most wonderful 5½ years. It was an intensive course and I had to study hard but it was fascinating, and the other students were mostly extremely friendly. Moreover, London with all its attractions was on the doorstep. I qualified on 7th April 1960 (a date engraved on my heart) and immediately started work in general practice. I treated all sorts of animals, large and small. I started work near Redhill, Surrey and later moved to Poole, Dorset and to Stafford.

After 5 years I changed direction and joined the German pharmaceutical company, Bayer, as the UK technical adviser. I stayed with this firm for 7 years and then moved to Beecham Pharmaceuticals (now part of Glaxo). After another couple of years I moved to another German company, Boehringer Ingelheim, and finally I spent the last 11 years of my working life with a French company, Sanofi. In this career I visited all parts of the UK including remote farms where I could barely understand what the farmers were saying. Indeed, I once had to take an interpreter with me to a farm in Wales. I became responsible for international matters and travelled all over Europe and to the USA. I had to learn German and spent an interesting month on an intensive language course in Berlin before the wall came down. I also had to build on my GCE 'O' level French.

Whilst with Boehringer Ingelheim I undertook some research work on inflammation in horses in my own time but which the company funded. I submitted a dissertation on this to the University of Hanover and was examined orally in the German language by three professors. I was awarded the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with the grade Magna cum Laude.

I married a German lady, a simultaneous interpreter, in 1972 and we had two beautiful daughters. When my girls were growing up I needed extra money for their school fees so I worked on Saturdays in a veterinary practice for a number of years. After 4 years the practice principal offered me a partnership. I decided to continue with my main career in the pharmaceutical industry, but I have never been sure that I made the right decision.

Unfortunately, my marriage broke down when my daughters went up to university. I was fortunate in that I met and married another lady 2 years later – an Anglo-Polish lady called Danuta.

I retired in 1997 but I came out of retirement in 2001 to work for 9 months on the control of the great foot-and-mouth disease epizootic. I worked in Devon, south Wales, Yorkshire and Durham.

I was hopeless at sport at Ardingly (I did not have good coordination between eye and ball) but in my middle years I took up long distance running and found, to my astonishment, that I was very good at it.

Danuta and I like to go walking and visiting historic houses. I read books that I never before had time to read, I study informally history and psychology, and I like writing. I also spend time gardening under protest.

My daughters married well and I have 2 sons-in-law who are the sons I never had. I have 2 grandchildren with a third on the way. I visit the families frequently and derive a great deal of pleasure from my grandchildren.

I have always been blessed with excellent physical health and long may this continue. The army was wrong all those years ago.



Max Ellwood, our S. Africa rep reports on an OA Cape Lunch, January 2010:

There are very few OA's in Africa as a whole and only ten in South Africa, which, being a large country, makes getting together not at all easy. However, the three members in the Western Cape met for lunch with their wives on Saturday 23rd January at one of our homes in the midst of beautiful views of the Cape Mountains on an equally beautiful day.

It was memorable in so many ways, not only for the 'remembers' of the school years of us three but all of us seemed to have discovered strands of commonality and interconnection there over a meal. The word 'serendipitous' comes to mind! (quote Robin Harper)

We hope to meet the Ardingly cricket team when they visit Cape Town a little later in the year and give them some encouragement against their local opponents, courtesy of Paul Phillipson who coaches cricket for Western Province.

An enjoyable day that we hope to repeat later in the year.



Anyone for Cricket? asks **Tony Gibbs (E45-49)**



Standing l-r - M R Goffin, A K Gibbs, P D Rochez, A C Carpenter (capt), G D R Smith, R G Baiden, A C Hewett
Kneeling l-r - A J F Foot, J T Collier, A J Powell, N J Knight

I know that Rochez died a long time ago and I was not able to find Collier when making my enquiries in 08. Robin Baiden was a previous OA President.

The photo of the 49 School cricket team evokes special memories for five original team members, now living in widespread places as far apart as Dorset and Cumbria, who met at the end of last year for a most enjoyable lunch to celebrate the sixty year anniversary.



Pictured l-r - Tony Gibbs (E), Nigel Knight (A), John Foot (D), Robin Baiden (D), Tony Hewett (A)

Perhaps others will be encouraged to dig out those old School team photos and arrange similar reunion meetings. The Old Ardinian will always be interested to receive reports and photos of such occasions.

Ed's Comment – yes please!!

LinkedIn

LinkedIn Group: Old Ardinians (Ardingly College)
Subject: "What did you actually enjoy about Ardingly?"

I have to agree with Mark - I loved my time at Ardingly. I arrived when I was 10 and stayed till completing my A levels. I moved there from Mexico and, to be honest it was a big culture shock but it was a great time in my life. I have never looked back at my times there with any regret.

Posted by **Stephen Gardner** (JH & AB 90-00)

http://www.linkedin.com/group?gid=1644607&trk=anetsrch_name&goback=.gdr_1273153410699_1

Henning Thole (AB 99-04) founder of top UK tradesman website:

Having left Germany at thirteen to pursue an education at Ardingly, I feel it was one of the most life-changing decisions I ever made. Arriving at 'Shell-level' in '99, I was placed in Mertens House (when it was still in the South-East Wing above the headmaster's office) with the legendary Mr. Mark Robinson as housemaster.

What was initially planned as a 3-month stay designed to improve my English extended to a 5-year stay followed by a prolonged sojourn in the UK. Living in a happy community with my closest friends as well as my siblings, Maren and Jan, made Ardingly a home away from home.

Reflecting on my time at Ardingly, I realise that in addition to improving my English and benefiting from a supportive teaching staff that challenged me to 'think outside the box' and to maximize my potential, Ardingly has been a unique learning experience in many other 'soft' ways.

One of the most inspirational aspects of life at Ardingly was the diverse nature of the international student body. In '99, students from more than 30 different countries studied, played and evolved together in the beautiful grounds of Ardingly College. The rare opportunity to mingle with such a diversified group of young people was an eye-opening experience as it reinforced my acceptance of and respect for different perspectives and attitudes. From an early stage in life Ardingly fostered within me a multicultural understanding of life and I draw benefits from it in my daily interactions with my international team at work.

When it comes to developing team-working skills, Ardingly certainly played a pivotal role in my development. As an active sportsman and a member of the football team, I soon realized that teamwork is the key ingredient for success in any activity. The numerous inter-house competitions in the form of tug-wars, the Steepo or Cricket/Hockey matches between what was then Mertens, Hilton, Crosse and Rhodes also helped to shape a healthy spirit of competition characterized by fair-play and

good sportsmanship. Also, living with my peers in close-quarters has been an exceptional experience thanks to the many memorable experiences that were shared, and the close friendships that were formed and that I continue to cherish today.

My 'Ardingly experience' has equipped me with all the skills needed to be most performant in my present endeavour. In '08 I started my own internet business – www.Mr-Skill.co.uk. It is a platform that allows homeowners to post online any home-based work they need done (e.g. plastering the ceiling, re-painting of rooms) and to automatically receive multiple quotes from tradesmen in their area. Thanks to the competitive bidding process, homeowners can realise savings of up to 30%. Mr-Skill.co.uk works on the principle of accountability through feedback: tradesmen are rated on their workmanship by those who hire them, thereby making it easier to find honest tradesmen who do high-quality work. With a database of over 4,000 tradesmen in the UK, the current aim is to increase public awareness and to encourage increasingly large numbers of homeowners to post their jobs online.



Henning came to Ardingly '99 and finished his studies in 04 by completing the IB Diploma. During his time, he was elected Head of House, House Prefect and School Prefect. He was an integral player of the First XI Football Team and the Cross-Country Team for many years. He went on to read Law with German Law at King's College London, followed by a postgraduate Master degree in Business at ESCP Europe. He set up his own internet business in 08, called www.Mr-Skill.co.uk, which is now one of the top three UK tradesman portals. His email is Henning@mr-skill.co.uk

Dr. Peter Lane (JH & D 45-53) shares this with us:

My confessions relate to my time in JH. The favourite punishment, which was always being meted out, was to put the offender "off tuck." In JH at that time we had a reasonably substantial meal in the early evening which was a high tea with a cooked dish. Those who were "off tuck", had to sit at a special table. They were allowed to eat only bread (just white bread in those days) with one pat of butter and they were allowed tea (which we called "Hoggy" in those days) but without sugar. No talking was permitted. The usual length of sentence was to be "off tuck" for three days.

If I was "off tuck" I used to sneak into the dining hall about half an hour before the meal and I would select a place on the "off tuck" table. I would smear dollops of Marmite on the underneath of the rim of the plate so that they could not be seen. As soon as the meal gong was sounded I would make sure that I was one of the first to enter the dining hall and I would make sure that I sat at the place that I had earlier selected. Then, throughout the meal I would put Marmite on my bread so that I had as tasty a meal as was possible under the circumstances. Of course, I accomplished this task without the duty master seeing what I was doing.

I also indulged in a little mischief at lunch times. We sat at long tables and a matron sat at one end to see that we behaved ourselves. It was compulsory to eat all of one's cabbage but we were allowed to leave some potatoes, which were usually mashed. The cabbage was over-boiled and little boys never like cabbage at the best of times. I would ensure that I had more mashed potatoes than I needed and I would make a pile of these on my plate and pat it down. Then, with my knife, I would burrow a small cave that faced away from the matron. I would slide my cabbage into this and seal the entrance with more potatoes. When I handed in my plate it looked as if I had simply not eaten all my potatoes.

These actions may not seem very daring but we were only little boys.

Ed's Comment – please keep these snippets coming, I promise not to keep them to myself!

And then, Ardingly gave its name to...

Ken Gibbs (F 42-46) writes:

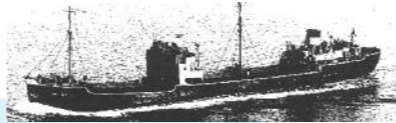
Readers were doubtless interested to learn from Iain Paxton's mention in the last issue of the Old Ardinian that Ardingly has loaned its name to a couple of steam locomotives. But on the subject of transport, how many of you will recall reading their January 1953 Annals about a dashing little collier, the m.v. 'Ardingly' no less? It was all such a long time ago that perhaps it merits reprinting.

The m.v. Ardingly had quite a colourful career. Built in 1951 at Sunderland fr Stephenson Clarke Shipping of Newcastle she was busy transporting Tyneside coal to the South Coast ports until the early sixties, when demand fell due to the rising popularity of oil as an alterative fuel. This trend resulted in a change to bulk cargoes including limestone from Welsh quarries to Belgium and Norway, also consignments of grain to continental ports. Stephenson Clarke eventually sold the 'Ardingly' to Irish owners in '71 who renamed her 'Ballyrobert' and then in '77 to Cyprus where she traded as 'Lucky Trader'. Her luck finally ran out in '82 when she was broken up at Piraeus.

Why you may well ask, did Stephenson Clarke select the name 'Ardingly'? The official answer to this is that it was a company policy to choose Southern County ports and villages for their fleet. And yet it may not be without significance that three sister vessels launched in the fifties were 'Shoreham', 'Lancing' and 'Borde'.

Could Mr Wallace, the OA director mentioned in the '53 article have had an influence? The fact that Colonel Stephenson Clarke, also a director of the company, had purchased the Borde Hill estate back in 1893 could also be relevant. This large property is only a couple of miles from the school.

The identity of 'BEL', the author of the 1953 article presents another mystery. Could it have been B. E. Landymore who was in D from 50-54?



Imagine my surprise when walking along the quayside of Poole Harbour in Dorset last holidays to see a smart looking new collier with the name 'Ardingly' London, painted on the stern. She was discharging small coal to the gas works nearby.

I approached a member of the crew, and told him of my interest in the vessel bearing our school name. At once I was invited to step aboard, and was introduced to the Captain W. H. Alexander, who conducted me over the ship, and gave me the following details. Her D. W. tonnage is 2,000 tons, length 240ft, beam 36ft 4in, and a depth of 20ft. her usual cargo is about 1,860 tons of coal, which is carried from the north-eastern ports to Poole Harbour.

The officers' and crew's quarters are of the latest design for comfort, and on the bridge I was shown the mechanical aid and radar for navigation. A further surprise awaited me; an introduction to one of the directors of the line, Mr P. G. Wallace, who informed me that he was an Old Ardinian of the year 1909 under the headmastership of Herbert Alexander Rhodes.

After a very good lunch served from the ship's galley, we compared the old and new ways of life at Ardingly. He also told me that there are twenty-three ships in the line, and another one now on the stocks will be added to the fleet in the middle of 1953.

The Captain and Mr Wallace extended a hearty invitation to any Ardingly boy to visit the ship, if he will make himself known to the Captain, whenever m.v. 'Ardingly' is in Poole Harbour.



Ardingly College Lodge

The Officers of the Ardingly College Lodge in the lodge room at Freemasons' Hall in London immediately after our October meeting and before we went for dinner!

Back row, l - r: Paul Wolff, Rob Garner, Chris Greenacre, David Macdonald, David Blunt, Chris Wilson. *Front row, l - r:* Terry Scully, Michael Browne, Mike Byford-Bates, John Donegan, David Phythian.

For more information on joining the Lodge, please contact Paul Wolff.

An Evening with... Sir David Manning [r]

David Driscoll [l] (A 57-61) reports:

How were we going to follow last year's very successful Ardingly Evening at St Katharine's with **Ian Hislop** (JH & A 67-77)? This was the question we asked ourselves. Well, we needn't have worried; **Sir David Manning** (C 63-67) made sure of that by treating us to a wonderful survey of the world through a series of international events which Sir David believed had shaped the global situation in which we find ourselves today. It was truly a remarkable tour de force!

Sir David's thorough grasp of contemporary international affairs is the result of a distinguished career as a diplomat that covered more than thirty years. Early on, Sir David had had a posting in Warsaw where he got to know Eastern Europe well in the Cold War, later returning to Russia in the final years of Gorbachev and the period of *glasnost* and *perestroika*. Sir David spoke about when he was Ambassador in Israel in the latter half of the 90's, providing us with his very perceptive observations of Arab-Israeli relations.

Sir David's final posting was to Washington where he was able to build on his already considerable expertise of American affairs. He stressed the importance of Britain maintaining both a good relationship with America and playing its full part in Europe; he also speculated on America's future relationship with China as the latter grows ever more powerful. We naturally discussed terrorism and how this could be prevented. I was struck by one thing Sir David had tried to promote; this was an international initiative towards world-wide education. Unfortunately Sir David hasn't found any backers so far, but I do hope he perseveres.

There were some very good questions from the floor and it was a pity we had to close the formal part of the evening. Except for the wine and canapés waiting for us, there was so much more we could have discussed! Nevertheless, we were enormously grateful to Sir David for the things he shared with us; it was indeed a privilege to have been present.



FULL STEAM ahead in KENYA

Colonel Harry Vialou Clark (A 53-58) reports:

You may remember an article I wrote for this magazine in May 2009 about our plans to build a primary school in a remote part of Kenya at a place called Ndogo ("Steam" in Maasai). It was to be funded by Ardingly College's parents and well-wishers and to celebrate 150 years of our foundation by Nathaniel Woodard. Well... guess what! Graham Turner, a Governor of Ardingly and Fellow of the Woodard Corporation, was the Guest of Honour and handed over this gem of a school in February 2010 to an ecstatically happy community of Kikuyus, Kalenjins and numerous other tribes in one of the most colourful ceremonies in my experience. Andrew, one of four of Graham's children who were all educated at Ardingly, was with us.

This school is small by our usual standards with only about 160 pupils. It is built for 360. My guess is that numbers will swell over the years as the level of academic achievement improves. Will it improve? Yep, definitely! There are many incentives. Not only do they have a fabulous set of purpose-built classrooms, offices and stores but we have converted the 1903 disused railway station buildings into five staff quarters. Never before have we dealt in housing. The quarters have been wired for mains electricity and lights will go on for the first time this month, I am told. We are building a centralized kitchen for the staff that will be big enough for food preparation for children should this desperately poor area ever be blessed with a food programme. The project has included a very large rainwater tank that I hear is now full. The overflow feeds into an old existing tank that collects drops of water from the condensed steam issuing from the volcanic Eburru Hills nearby and keeps the local community alive. The immediate dangers of drought are now over, therefore.

Because of the remoteness of the site and the grave dangers of travel on foot or bicycle through

what the map calls the 'Bad Lands', few teachers were willing to volunteer for a job at Ndogo. Classes invariably started late and finished early and they provided little more than a baby-sitting service. Under-staffing is commonplace in Kenyan primary schools so we have now agreed with the parents that they pay half the salaries for each of two additional qualified teachers and the Kariandusi School Trust pays the other half. Each class now has its own teacher (wow, that's different!) who probably lives on site and is under the beady eye of the new, enthusiastic headmaster, himself a displaced person following the post-election tribal clashes in 2008. He was the first occupant of one of the new quarters.

Hope abounds in full measure. Gesa Paulfeierborn has sponsored a bright, remarkably needy boy who is now studying at one of Kenya's best secondary schools and it is now plain for all to see that other children may also win life-changing Langalanga scholarships on merit. Incentive enough? 6th Formers from Ardingly will continue to visit Ndogo (a safari is planned for July this year) and this marginalized school has now come to the attention of the education authorities.

I have often been fascinated by the long-term effects decisions made by those in authority can have. (I am writing this with pre-election fever at its height!). The recent history of Ndogo is a case in point. It was John Franklin who first decided to help this hopeless community and he found a good excuse to do so. Since then, I am thrilled to report, Peter Green has continued to add his approval and support to our efforts to give future generations of young Kenyans a fair chance in life. Thank you, Peter, and everyone.

If interested, you can read more about what we do in Kenya from www.kariandusi.co.uk and www.langalanga.org.uk



Ndogo Primary School in all its glory. Note the rainwater tank, the old mud buildings and, on the LHS, the completed staff quarters in the old railway offices.



Graham Turner plants a tree at the Handover Ceremony.

OA missionary to India and the Andaman Islands...

Michael Story (JH & H 57-66) living in Finland since 82 and in touch with **Stephen "Joe" Band** (JH & G 57-65) (**Ed's Comment** - any more OAs in Finland, please get in touch!)

I come here most years from January to March/April because I can't take the 40 degree heat of the summers and you can't get around during the monsoon season from October to January because roads get washed out especially in the mountains.

Since 1997 we have brought teams to do village ministry with locals. Our role is to train, motivate and encourage the local Christians who know the languages, cultures and mores of the local communities.

Few people in Europe know that Doubting Thomas was martyred in Madras and that India had Christianity before England was even heard of! Indeed, how many realise that Paul writes of the first British Christians in his epistles?

For the curious; Linus & Claudia, children of Caractacus/ Caradog, King of Britain who brought the Gospel with him when he returned from Rome in 51 AD.

I teach in universities, colleges, schools and to groups of pastors and leaders. Also to groups of doctors and dentists and nursing staff in Christian hospitals. My subject is 'The Bible is True' and this is demonstrated via science, history, archaeology, linguistics, whatever challenges we get are examined in depth and dealt with.

Presumably Nathaniel Woodard would have been chuffed to hear this though many a present-day clergyman cops out at the very idea that Genesis might be true and turns a gentle shade of pink when I ask them why The LORD Jesus quoted so often from it if it's all a load of symbolism and borrowed folklore - ; !

I have long found it intellectually offensive to blithely accept the view that dead chemicals 'somehow turned into' complex self-repairing and self-replicating organisms of monumental complexity. If Richard Attenborough chooses to believe that it's a free country, but to teach it as if its truth is an insult to our intelligence. For those who insist it's even possible, please would they provide me with empirical data showing HOW information is added to DNA so that some godless amoeba can 'turn into' Professor Sir Richard Dawkins? Dawkins teaches that "time and chance" caused simple organisms to 'turn into' complex ones.

Since when has time been anything other than a means of measurement? What creative capacity does chance have? Surely chance is merely a means of measuring probability.

PerLEASE! Is this speculative drivel supposed to be SCIENCE?

The Bible tells us that we were created by an omniscient Being. That mankind was created for a specific purpose and that we ALL answer to our Creator after we move into eternity. Eternity is a VERY long time. Doesn't it make good sense to find out if the arguments in favour of The Bible being true are presented to everyone? Isn't that why Woodard founded our schools?

We are confronted by many conundra these days; here's one to reflect on... The LORD Jesus mentioned Adam and Eve, creation, the flood, Noah, heaven, hell and eternity. Surely He was incapable of sin? Surely He can be trusted to tell the truth? So why do so many people trust TV gurus and mere scientists rather than The Creator Himself?

I look forward to a spirited response in the true Ardingly tradition of free speech and educated debate! Are there any other OAs out there doing missionary work of any kind?

God bless.

OLD ARDINIAN

Who's Who 2010



ACTIVITY

President of OA Society
 Change of Address
 Facebook Group

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

Year Group Rep



SPORTS

Cricket
 Football

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

Crowborough
 Haywards Heath
 London

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 Martin Palmer
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 Emma Duggan
 David Petitpierre
 Bill Maingot
 Gesa Paulfeierborn
 Maxine Harding
 Nick Greenwood
 Adrian Arnold
 Hugh Letheren
 Michael Nash
 Larissa Hunter

Courtney Austin
 Luke Hultquist
 Patrick Griffin
 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
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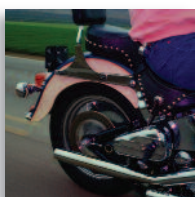
Your contributions
 wanted,
 Have your say!
 --

- 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 them to:
 oa@sycamoredesign.co.uk
 or call Mark on
 01892 511165



With leavers spanning 40+ years, stories were retold, memories were tested and old friends were recalled - the 12 OAs who met up at the inaugural HHCC (Haywards Heath Curry Club) shared laughter, wine and just a few beers over a delicious meal! Please contact Fenella to get onto the emailing list for the next gathering.



Nick (too old to die young) **Tunstill** (D 75-80) is looking for OA bikers!

Calling any remaining or reborn OA bikers. We run regular ride-outs from Haywards Heath and are involved in plenty of other social and biking events.

If anyone still rides (and I know I wasn't the only one who kept a motorbike in the village in the late 70's!),

have a look at our website; www.southeastbiker.co.uk or Facebook Group, or email me: nick@southeastbiker.co.uk

Maybe we could form an Old Ardinian's Motorcycling Society...

www.oldardinians.com
 01580 201 777

Old Ardinian Society
 c/o Hopbine House, Vineyard Lane
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