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from The president

I know I speak for many OE's when I say that I was very saddened to hear the news of the passing of Eamonn Harris and Ken Carter, both of whom gave such a great deal to many pupils who attended the school. A fuller tribute will be found elsewhere in this and future editions of the magazine but I wanted to express my own personal gratitude to two very significant QE people.

The end of 2019 saw the passing of Eamonn Harris, Head Master from 1984 until 1999. He was a formidable and important presence who put down the foundations for much of what QE has achieved over the past thirty years and I am so pleased that Neil Enright is arranging for a memorial service to be held at the school on Saturday March 21st at 2.00 p.m. *(Now unfortunately postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions - Ed)*

Ken Carter passed away at the beginning of January and was a pupil at the school who went up to university before returning to QE to teach Modern Languages. I first met Ken when attending to be interviewed for a post in the English Department in May 1976 and he took me on a tour of the site. I can still vividly remember the esteem in which he was held by his colleagues and pupils. He did a great deal to help me during my first few years as a new member of staff and I am certain that many OE's will also remember him with great affection.

I happened to come across a photograph of members of the Common Room and support staff that was organised by Martin Gould in 1971, shortly before the school admitted its first comprehensive intake of pupils. Daren has been kind enough to include it in an enlarged version on page 11 because I thought many OE's will recognise and remember a number of familiar faces. As I looked at this photograph, I was immediately struck by how much has changed during the past fifty years or so. The obvious thing to note is that there were just over forty members of staff working at QE in those days whereas Neil Enright is now responsible for three times that number. Like most secondary schools in England and Wales, the whole scale of the operation today is on a different level and so makes far more demands of those who are in leadership roles.

This is also true for classroom teachers whose everyday life now is very different from the way it was for many of those in this photograph. I do wonder what notable people such as Bernie Pinnock, Eric Shearly, Gilbert Smith and others might have thought of successive governments'



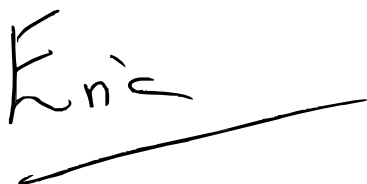
from the president

demands that have been made of teachers over the past few decades. Sadly, these bureaucratic demands often seem to serve little purpose other than to add to a mountainous pile of data and it is easy to imagine this taking those who work in schools away from their core function of teaching children.

The lack of proper funding is also a cause of real resentment in many schools at the moment. Nobody could possibly argue that it is surely laudable to want to drive up standards, but it is ironic that as more is expected from state schools, the level of funding is certainly not commensurate with those demands. It really is no coincidence that many doctors and nurses would say precisely the same thing about the NHS. In 2017 we were told by those politicians who wished for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union that there would be better funding for our medical and education services after Brexit. I await with great interest to see if this becomes the reality.

Despite this, the school continues to flourish as well as ever and I do know that many we see sitting or standing outside the main entrance in 1971 would be delighted to know of QE's enormous success in every way. For example, it was an absolute pleasure to read on the impressive website that no fewer than forty students are holding places at Oxbridge colleges for next year and many others are heading to prestigious Russell Group universities. This is an astonishing record which could only be achieved through strong and effective leadership, a dedicated teaching and support staff and the help of that wonderful organisation that is the Friends of Queen Elizabeth's.

I want to finish with a word of thanks to Peter and Mary Yates and Mike Harrison who arrange and organise the Forty Society lunches. It was a great pleasure to attend the October luncheon and I look forward to future events and hope to see many of you then.



Eric Houston



what's in a name

Ray Knight

In particular, a place name. Is it for example, Boreham Wood or Borehamwood, where I grew up? Does it matter at all? Occasionally the local paper, in a slow, probably non-existent news week would try to re-ignite the controversy, in a desperate bid to create some headlines, usually if British Rail altered the spelling in the latest timetable or London Transport changed it on the bus destination blinds. But did it really matter, did anyone really care?

The stranger thing is that I do not recall anyone complaining that what were usually referred to as Elstree studios, those belonging to MGM (now demolished), ATV (now BBC, and the site of the Eastenders' set) or ABPC (still in existence under different ownership, making a living from Star Wars as I understand it) were all in Boreham Wood (or maybe Borehamwood). Elstree is obviously a shorter name, definitely sounds posher and takes up less space on a sign, but the studios were definitely in that place beginning with a B.

When I went off to university in 1969 however, which I mentioned in a previous piece, I learnt that the name of a place can mean all sorts of things to all sorts of people, depending on how you spell it. It was, to put it mildly, a bit of a shock in the summer of 1969, to receive a kind offer from the New University of Ulster to come and study in their campus in Londonderry. More than a shock though, it was a bit of challenge to say the least. I first had to confront my ignorance and find it on the map. I knew it was in the north of Ireland, and there was a border there, but as to which side of it Londonderry lay I hadn't a clue. I had heard of Londonderry – wasn't there a song, an air about it that everybody knew? I even recalled recent images of police firing water cannon at demonstrators on the TV news bulletins. I also knew there was an Irish football team called Derry City. But did these names refer to the same place? Yes, I was ignorant but at least I got to do some research, and after discovering that it was a single geographical entity with alternative spellings, and after talking it over with my parents, friends and headmaster I decided to seize the moment – *carpe diem* as I might well have learnt from my intensive study of Kennedy's Revised Latin Primer.

July 1969 came and went, and rolled into August, when the news headlines became much more sombre – citizens rioting and their cities ablaze as people were burned out of their homes, and troops being sent in to restore some kind of order. My family did question me as to whether I wished to proceed but whether out of ignorance or out of bravado or bit of both, I had my mind made up and early October found me descending the gangplank from the Heysham ferry one cold, dark morning, crossing a cobbled street to the waiting double decker bus that would whisk me to York Street station, for the train to my future.

So I arrived in Londonderry Waterside station, and crossed the River Foyle on the Shantallow bus, to the centre, little knowing that as well as crossing a river I had, to some extent crossed a political divide, from the mostly Unionist side of the river to the mostly Nationalist side. And it was not long before I started referring to the place as Derry. It would be tempting, if a little pompous at this juncture to ascribe this to a conscious political decision, made after long and

news & views



careful consideration of the political situation and the rich tapestry of Irish history but that would be just a steaming pile of bovine manure; it was nothing more than a case of linguistic laziness, Derry being 6 letters and two syllables shorter than the full version. The name Derry itself is the anglicised version of the modern Irish name Doire which will be found on road signs on the other side of the border.

It could be argued therefore that which version you use could mark out your ethnic or religious origins, or your politics, but it is hardly a definite indicator. Nowadays, in deference to political sensibilities it has largely been renamed, in writing at least, to Derry/Londonderry, though even that has been re-interpreted by local wags as Stroke City, which conveniently avoids treading on any cultural or religious toes by placing the emphasis on the newly acquired but necessary punctuation mark. The Department of Transport has yet another version on their road signs – L'derry which covers all points and saves on paint.

So it was that in August last year, I returned to Derry for a week, this time in a Loganair 40-seater plane direct to Derry Airport, for the purpose, with a number of friends, of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our arrival. We came across a city much changed from 1969, mostly for the better, but we also remembered the tragedies that befell the city during that half century. Our visit coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Bogside, which marked the first intervention of the army, and which was said to herald the beginning of what became known, rather euphemistically as “The Troubles”, a masterful piece of understatement.

The occasion was commemorated but even after 50 years there are still raw nerves, with the recognition that those events have shaped Ireland both sides of the border, and Derry in that

respect is a microcosm of that history. During the years I was there, shops, pubs and hotels were blown up and yet the changes in the city centre arguably are more a result of subsequent massive commercial development, and while street art in the form of the murals for which Northern Ireland is so famous still abound, they reflect those changes, albeit the more political ones being confined to their respective neighbourhoods.

My alma mater is, to give it its full name, Magee University College, and provided a selection of humanities courses from 1968 to 1972. It was founded in 1865 as a result of a bequest by a Maria Martha Magee, with the intention initially of providing instruction for budding Presbyterian clergy, and has struggled to maintain its existence ever since; seen in the political context from its founding to the present day there are the makings of another deeper study. Suffice to say that when we returned in August we found the place vastly increased in size and thriving.

As for the rest of the city, the original double decker bridge that spanned the Foyle has been joined by a road bridge outside the city and a footbridge within, while the famous city walls, the most complete set in the United Kingdom are accessible throughout now that the security situation is much improved, while the remaining railway station was in the process of being refurbished and extended.

This leads me to offer a travel tip for those who are unaware of the beauty of that part of the country. The train journey from Coleraine to Derry is listed as one of the most scenic in all of



Europe, crossing then skirting the River Bann at Coleraine down to Castlerock, plunging into a tunnel, emerging the other side just spitting distance from the north Atlantic, then into the flat countryside of Magilligan, almost cutting the corner off the main runway of Derry airport then trundling alongside the River Foyle giving a stunning view of the hills of County Donegal across the estuary, until coming to rest in Waterside Station.

You will probably have noticed that I have stuck with the 'Derry' name throughout this piece – this is still partly due to verbal brevity, but I now take the view that I will call a place by the name which most of its inhabitants use. Whether or not that is a political decision, I'll leave that to you to decide, but whatever you call it, the city and its hinterland on both sides of the border, which you only notice from the changes in road signs and markings, are well worth a visit. It would be utterly pointless to try to predict the weather but the beauty of the whole area and the hospitality of the people can be guaranteed. You won't regret it.

Ray Knight



news & views

From the Editor:

All good things must come to an end I guess. Since I received a kind offer many years ago from Sir Leslie I have, for your express delectation of course, been shamelessly plundering his wonderful 'Kindly Call Me God' collection of travel tales. But the tales are not, alas, infinite and I find myself struggling to bring you something new (or forced, day-time TV style) to regurgitate past offerings in the hope that you may have forgotten them. This is not as poor a practice as it might seem – dear old Jim Ormesher at QE once suggested that I re-read War and Peace every summer, assuring me that I would find something new in it every time. I was outraged at the time, casting my eyes over a long and voluminous reading list for university. I couldn't imagine having any time to re-read anything. I still feel roughly the same today, the sense of the books I have not yet read once and the lack of time for such makes me wince at the thought of re-reading books I have already read.

Any road up, I bring to you what may be the last plundering of the good ship Fielding, unless we start to serialise 'The Bees'. I think it's a fitting final piece. My grateful thanks to Sir Leslie for his patronage, the OE equivalent of the butt of canary wine is on the way...

epilogue

By Sir Leslie Fielding

In my last year at Cambridge, sitting quietly in the College library, I finally made up my mind. An academic career would take several more years to get off the ground. The little family business was on the edge of bankruptcy. My tentative vocation as an Anglican priest and perhaps as a Religious had imploded, in a spiritual and psychological crisis comparable to, but fortunately much less intense than, that experienced by Karen Armstrong. It was time to leave academia and indeed England and to make a fresh start.

It was certainly time to travel to the Ends of the Earth, to escape what I had been and to discover what I should now become. And remember that, fifty to sixty years ago, in the austerity of the post-war period, overseas travel was a rare privilege for the few, not – as today – the resort of the many. When I flew to Teheran in 1957, I had never travelled by air before, nor even been further east than Rome.

By happy outcome of a series of examinations and interviews, I joined the Foreign Office in 1956. There I was to find myself a round peg in a round hole. There were of course processes of adjustment – some of them laborious and painful – and difficulties and even dangers along the road. But almost all the time I was as happy as a sandboy.

Leaving the FO for 'Brassholes' in 1973 seemed the right way to go at the time. I saw our national future as an integral part of Europe rather than as an ex-Imperialist offshore island. It was also hard to resist when Christopher Soames and David Hannay beckoned – and Ted Heath and Dennis Greenhill prodded. But, sad to say, I confess that I hated the European Commission to begin with. This was mistaken of me and even perhaps a tiny bit babyish too, because initially I had more to learn than to impart and it was hard and humiliating work. In the event, I ended up with a deep respect for the Commission – or at least for its external affairs side. And I began enjoying myself fully as much as I had done in 'The Office'.



Deciding to quit the Commission was difficult, therefore. People seemed to want me to stay on – possibly, if I wanted the job, as Secretary General of the European Commission (the job eventually taken by David Williamson, a well-qualified candidate from the Cabinet Office); or, after another couple of years, as the successor to Roy Denman as the EC Ambassador in Washington. At the same time, and as an alternative, I was invited to think about putting my hat in the ring to succeed Arthur Dunkel, as Director-General of the GATT – I was well-known and reasonably well liked in Geneva and it was arguably time for someone from a Member State of the European Community to take the helm there (as Peter Sutherland and Pascal Lamy, both ex-Commission, were eventually to do).

But none of this appealed. My wife, an Oxford don before marriage and still engaged in writing and research in medieval history, wanted us to return to England after the nine years we had spent together in Tokyo and Brussels. We had the children to think of (their schools, but also their cultural identities). I myself felt that I had probably had enough of abroad, after 24 years of it – and of spending half my days, latterly, on aeroplanes and half my nights arguing and negotiating.

So it was back to 'Blighty'. But what to do? Certainly not the City – and I eventually contented myself with only a couple of non-executive industrial directorships, just to keep me in gloves and scent. Not disappearance to our house in Shropshire – I was still too young (only 55) for total immersion in 'Country Life'. Maybe something academic, my wife suggested? But not, I thought, a Head of House at Oxbridge (though first one, then another, came calling), because there would not be enough to do and transition from jet set Eurocracy too abrupt. So, out of the blue, I replied to an advertisement for Sussex; and managed to make it, from their final shortlist.

But the challenge (not to say the shock) of re-entry into the UK in a vice-chancellorial capacity was considerable; and I cannot claim that I did not subsequently wonder whether I had done the right thing. I certainly needed every diplomatic resource I could muster. There was the 'Yoof' problem; but also, difficulties with the dons. Sussex was (as it still is) a remarkable institution of higher education; but, in 1987, the 'vibes' were not too good where collegiality and common purpose were concerned. Because, to some extent, the place had lost its way.

The first and foremost of the new, so-called 'plate glass' universities of the early 1960s, endowed with a splendid new campus designed for it by Basil Spence, headed by the charismatic figure of first Lord Fulton, and then of Lord Briggs, designing a 'new map of learning' developed by bright young academics fleeing the stultifying conservatism of Oxford (Sussex in the sixties was known as 'Balliol by the Sea'), and enjoying the ample state funding of yesteryear, life for the much envied and eulogized University of Sussex had flowed along like a song.

But then, times began to change. The bright young things grew old; some of the best of them moved on; other new universities – rivals, as well as copies, of Sussex – sprang up like mushrooms; the Treasury started to turn the funding taps and demand economies and new-fangled efficiencies. Things began to slide downhill. Yet there persisted, in a few areas on campus, traces of a collectivist instinct worthy of a Stalinist tank factory; a deep mistrust of the capitalist model, and of all Conservative governments, where education was concerned. The 'avatars of the status quo', as I later called them, joined the Marxists and Anarchists in the refrain 'we've been robbed'. They called for a return to what they saw as their former freedoms, in the form of feed-on-demand public funding, without public accountability. The necessity to make changes in order to survive in a changed, less clement environment was not readily

accepted in some quarters. So, by the early to mid-1980s, running the place, for my immediate predecessor, must have been like wading through a sea of treacle; any notion of top-down reform, anathema.

Time, therefore, for an outsider and a new broom, Time for Fielding. Time, even for 'kick-ass' – although I did not fully realise it, on first appointment.

I gave it my best shot; located and empowered, within the university, well-disposed academics willing to help secure a change of course; called in top class people from outside, where necessary, to advise; mobilised the excellent but under-used and even partly ostracised corps of administrators; introduced new concepts and mechanisms of governance (delegating authority where it was safe to do so, but never without accountability and oversight); turned the finances round; recruited extra lecturers for an enlarged student body and an expanded research programme; founded two new postgraduate institutes (medical research and contemporary European studies) and erected various new buildings – mostly good quality student accommodation on campus; developed cooperation with the (in part, very good) local Polytechnic; explored academic synergies with other universities in the South East.

Just for the fun of it, I gave honorary Doctorates to, among many other national heroes and celebrities, my friend Terry Waite; my former Ambassadors Mary Soames, the Sussex alumnus Thabo M'Beki, later President of South Africa (but maybe Sussex should keep quiet about the latter!) and the splendid Soviet dissident academician Andrei Sakharov. I also attended – and where necessary and unavoidable, even spoke at – the regular national meetings of the 'Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals' – invariably well chaired by competent and shrewd leaders, but, collectively, an underwhelming, institution. Its membership fell into three categories of roughly equal size: those who would probably have been almost equally successful in another career; those who made me wonder why they had been appointed vice-chancellors at all; and finally those who were essentially preparatory school headmasters. My ambition, naturally, was to escape from the second category, to join the third!

Having got almost everything sorted, in just under four years – albeit with indispensable back-up from the late Tony Trafford, an innovatory, national-rank, medical consultant and Tory politician, who chaired the mostly lay University Council; and with the affectionate patrician support of the philanthropic Charles March, later Duke of Richmond, our Chancellor – I surprised myself and left the University after five years, despite having been cordially invited to stay a full ten-year course.

Why? I now regret my decision – I should have seen everything through to its ultimate end, to ensure no unravelling; and led the institution upward and onward. Building on our strong school of biological science and the new medical research institute, I should have liked to have set up a full-blown medical school, in concert with the major hospitals in the area (something that my successors in office eventually managed to pull off). And I had other agendas, among them more quality time on fund-raising. Also, now that my face fitted there, a higher profile nationally, on the dreaded Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

But, there were family reasons. The children needed different schools, in other parts of England. As her health was not of the strongest, my wife wanted to return home to Shropshire, while she could still enjoy life in the dark-panelled manor house which had been her parents' home. I really had done all I had been first called upon to do. And I had become just a tiny bit bored. To quell my doubts, I reasoned that it was time to pick up the priesthood thing again – if only as a rural lay reader in the diocese of Hereford. To say nothing of getting in some good



shooting – not an activity either possible or desirable, at Sussex.

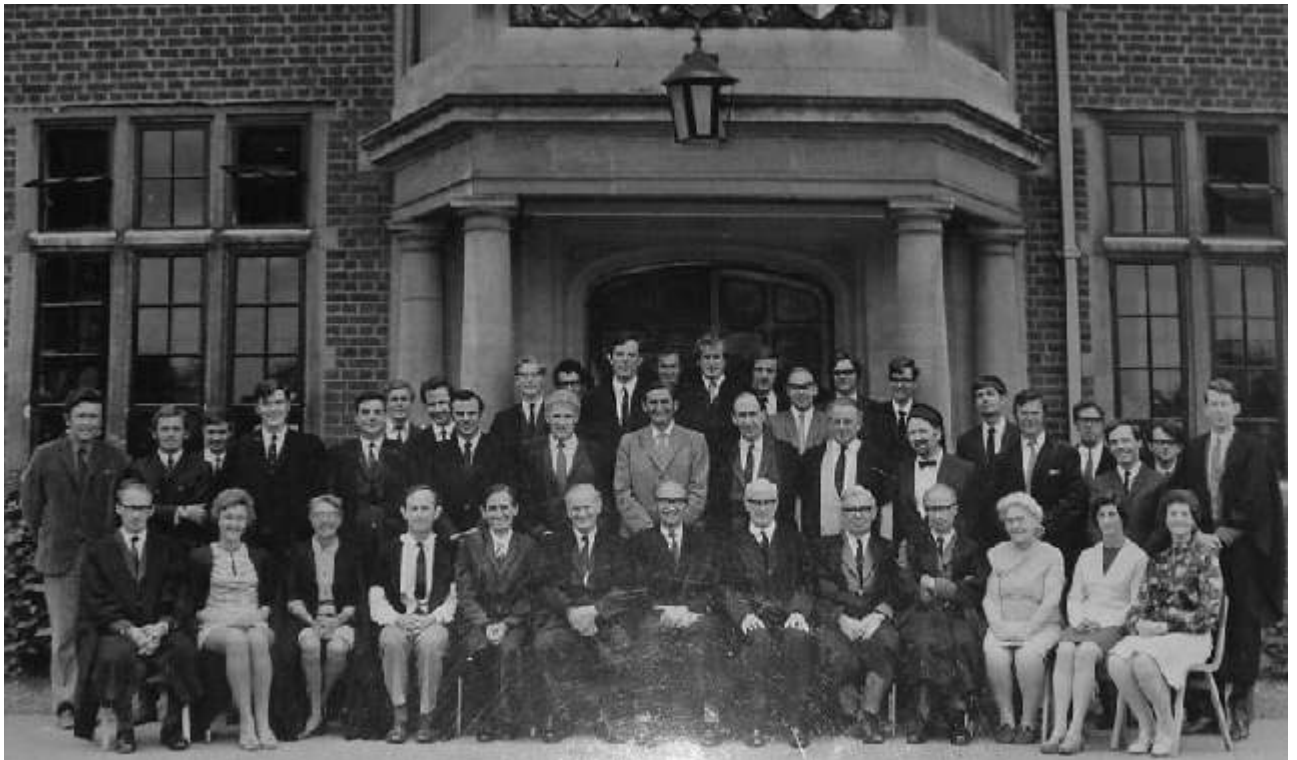
So it was a case of home is the sailor, home from the sea and the hunter home from the hill. My wife and I kissed everyone goodbye and left Swanborough Manor forever. It was nevertheless as Hilaire Belloc wrote:

'When I am working in the Midlands / That are sodden and unkind...
The great black hills of the South Country / Come back into my mind'

Whatever may be true of the Midlands, the Marches, at least, are mostly not sodden, and only rarely unkind. But I confess that the South Country does come back to mind; and I did go back regularly to the University of Sussex. Although neither yet a rich man nor one grown old, I bear in mind Belloc's memorable conclusion:

'If I ever become a rich man, / Or if ever I grow to be old,
I will build a house with deep thatch / To shelter me from the cold,
And there shall the Sussex songs be sung / And the story of Sussex told.
I will hold my house in the high wood / Within a walk of the sea,
And the men that were boys when I was a boy / Shall sit and drink with me'

Sir Leslie Fielding



*QE teaching and support staff circa 1971 - as referenced by Eric in his Presidential piece on page 3
how many can you name? (Ed)*

cricket in yorkshire

Sidney Freedman

How strange that David (Lowen) thinks I am too modest! After all, I spent a whole evening over dinner at a restaurant in Strasbourg telling him what a good cricketer I was. Modesty is definitely not one of my very few failings. So let me tell you how I took the wickets of three Yorkshire captains in one day's play.

It was on a cricket tour of Yorkshire. Our first match was against Sir William Worsley's XI at Hovingham Hall in the North Riding, a grey stone manor house approached through an avenue of trees. We parked our cars in the coach house, on the far side of which was a rose garden and beyond that a cricket pitch. Sir William in his time had captained Yorkshire and was then currently chairman. Three former Yorkshire captains were playing for him, Bryan Sellars, Billy Sutcliffe, and Ted Lester – he captained the Colts, Yorkshire's 2nd XI and had been for many years the mainstay of Yorkshire's middle order batting. I claimed the wickets of all three.

To Billy Sutcliffe I sent down perhaps the best ball I've ever bowled, a leg cutter. He was a good enough batsman to nick it to first slip, who could not have seen the ball until it passed the wicketkeeper. He caught it in one hand low to his left, virtually sitting in mid air with his legs straight out in front of him. I could see the studs on his boots. A brilliant catch.

Oh! Perhaps I should mention that there was no sightscreen at my end.

One of the nice things about the Yorkshire tour, was that we were put up by members of the club who lived there. I stayed with a fellow barrister, David Savill, who rented one wing of a large country house, Farnley Hall, the ancestral home of Guy Fawkes. David's part of the house was Jacobean, all dark wood panelling and bulging banisters on the stairs. The central part of the house was the oldest dating back to the fourteenth century with flagstones on the floor. The west wing was built in the eighteenth century was the part of the house occupied by the owners. Huge mahogany doors opened silkily on brass hinges. A circular staircase swept down on both sides of a large hall.

The drawing room was long and chintzy, with windows overlooking the gardens. The wall opposite was covered with paintings, watercolours. David asked me what I thought of them. I said that they were very good. For once in my life I said the right thing. Apparently, Turner had gone to spend a weekend at Farnley and stayed for two years. During that time he painted watercolours of the surrounding countryside and, by way of thanks for their hospitality, left them all to the family when he left. The collection is famous.



one of our own

David Carter

In response to Daren Norris's request for articles for the Elizabethan, I thought I would offer this article about my father Frank Leslie Carter, who attended the school 1920–1930. Several of our ancestors attended the school in the 18th and 19th centuries, in fact the land on which the mulberry tree stands at the old school was purchased from our family, who were market gardeners.



Father was a keen sportsman, he played rugby and cricket for the school and later played for Saracens. He worked for William Berk's chemical company, where he met my mother. After he and another member of staff missed work on a number of Mondays due to injuries sustained on the pitch, the firm put it to them that their priorities should be reviewed. He accordingly took up rowing and tennis.

By 1938, he could see that the situation in Europe was deteriorating, and thought he should prepare by joining the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR). They trained on HMS President, a sloop that had been used as a Q-ship in the First World War. At the outbreak of war, the reservists were called up, those from London going to Chatham Dockyard. From there, they were allocated to ships, father going to HMS Letitia, a

Donaldson Line passenger ship taken over by the Admiralty for use as a troop ship operating between Glasgow and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Long times in port in Halifax enabled him to take up rugby again, this time playing for United Services.

Father was selected for officer training and went to HMS King Alfred which was actually Lancing College taken over by the Admiralty. He passed out as a Sub-Lieutenant and joined a Motor Launch ML 231 protecting Scapa Flo.

In 1942 Father was promoted to Lieutenant and given command of a Harbour Defence Motor Launch HDML 1301, which at the time was under construction at the yard of William Blackmore & Son, Bideford, North Devon. He was able to oversee construction and have minor adaptations made. Bideford is famous for its very restricted 24 arch bridge. As Blackmore's yard was upstream of the bridge, the first challenge was to get through it. As you can see from the photo it was successfully achieved in January 1943 and the boat was completed at Appledore.

There was then a period of trials to check that the boat was satisfactory and train the crew. At this time they were based in Padstow, Cornwall. The boat was commissioned in April 1943 – a week after I was “launched”. In May the boat sailed in a small convoy of coastal craft from Milford Haven to Gibraltar and on to Malta. This was a long voyage for a boat designed to patrol harbours and work inshore as a submarine chaser.



In Malta the forward gun was changed from an erratic 2-pounder to a 20mm Oerlikon capable of being used against aircraft as well as surface targets. It was also fitted with radar. This was to prepare for the invasion of Sicily in July. The voyage there was very rough. I have an IWM film of the boat completely covered by a large wave. The headwinds were so strong that aircraft bringing in paratroopers mis-judged their position and dropped the men into the sea. Sadly many were lost.



The boat's role in the invasion was to act as a signpost indicating the safe i.e. swept channel to the beaches using the radar apparatus to avoid showing lights.

In September, the boat performed a similar role in the invasion of the Italian mainland at Salerno. The winter was spent in Naples where they carried out a number of roles, including ferrying senior officers between ships, dropping small depth charges as there was a fear of attack by miniature submarines or frogmen. They did not catch any of the latter, but did stun large numbers of fish which could be traded with other ships for extra supplies, or with the locals for services such as food or laundry. Another task they were given was to intercept a runaway torpedo which had been inadvertently launched. It was circling round putting larger ships in danger.

By early 1944, the allies had taken Sardinia and Corsica. The coastal forces moved initially to Maddalena, an Italian Navy base on an island north-east of Sardinia. They operated from there until the port of Bastia in northern Corsica had been cleared of obstructions – sunken ships, dock cranes etc left by the departing Germans. From there they were able to support the landings in Anzio and harass enemy shipping using the Ligurian Coast and the Piombino Channel behind Elba.



It was eventually decided to land a force on Elba. This force was to be Free French Army and Goums – French colonial troops from Algeria and Morocco. They would be transported in RN and USN landing craft supported by coastal forces. The shallow waters precluded the use of larger craft. ML 1301's task was to tow assault craft carrying “Battalion de Choc” (commandos) ahead of the main invasion fleet and land them.

Unfortunately just as they released the assault craft (large rowing boats) a German Flack Lighter came upon them. (F-lighters are large flat bottomed barges of 300 tonnes armed with 3 x 88mm guns – about 4 times the size and fire-power of a HDML.) ML 1301 opened fire on the F-lighter to draw attention away from the vulnerable assault craft. In this they were successful – but at a huge cost. Lt Carter was killed and 5 of the crew injured.

The official reports read:

Copied from Report of Proceedings on Operation Brassard LC (H) 315 Part I narrative

Para 14 – One of the F-Lighters then encountered ML1301 which had just released the 9 MCAs making the most westerly landing. ML1301 came under heavy cannon and machine-gun fire to which she replied. The Captain was killed, First Lt and 5 ratings injured. F-Lighter then passed into Golfo di Campo without sighting the landing craft. The F-Lighter appears to have rounded Elba to the west after encounter with PT Boats.

Copied from Appendix I to Report of Proceedings on Operation Brassard LC (H) 315 - Landing of the Battalion de Choc.

Para 11 – At 11.15 (2315 hours) ML1301 and ML 1254 were in position showing lights to 16 LCs landing troops from LCI (L) and ML.

Paras 12 to 15 – ML 1254's activities.

Para 17 – During all this time ML 1301 and her 9 LCAs and 2 LCS (M) for Louise Green were not having such an easy time. They led off from position (R) at 2350 hours and the approach to this dispersal point was not entirely to plan. The only exception was PT 211 who was well over to eastward but as the details of the land were clearly visible this caused no difficulty. The Folboat was in the correct position.

Para 18 – At 0055 ML 1301 was lying pointing roughly North-West having released the LCAs at 0040 in position 9 cables 1980 centre of Louise Green, when a vessel was sighted off the Port Bow steaming South-East about 2 cables distant. It looked like an F-Lighter and this was confirmed a second or two later when German voices were heard. Guns were trained on the enemy but it was hoped they would not see them.

“The enemy opened fire about 10 seconds after we first sighted him with intense 20mm and machine gun fire. At the same time, fire was returned and many of the ship's company reported hearing screams as Orlikon bursts found their marks. The enemy disengaged and when last seen was steaming for Golfo di Campo. At 0105 hours, course was set for position (R) as I considered it paramount import to report presence of the enemy and secure medical assistance”. (Lt Spencer)

It has now been established that the enemy never sighted the LCAs and did not realise the Island was being invaded until 0347 hours when the alarm was given.

Para 24 – Just after the Squadron Officer had left, ML 1301 arrived alongside. Lt Spencer gave us the full story and reported that the CO was dead, the First Lt and 4 seamen wounded. Miraculously no major damage sustained by hull or engines. All casualties were transferred to LC (H) 315 and Sub Lt Rossiter, one of SNO (L)'s staff and one signalman lent to him. ML 1301 then proceeded to the LST to gather up the 14 LCV (P) she was to lead to Kodak Green Beach.

ML 1301 survived the war and was converted for use as a survey launch, gaining the name “HMS Meda” being only one of two which were named. It was paid off in 1966 sold and later became a private yacht in Gibraltar. I was reunited with the launch in 2000 and learned to sail it. I had the pleasure of bringing it back from the Mediterranean in 2007. That is another story.

David Carter



from the Headmaster

Celebrating an Oxbridge record as we commemorate the life of Eamonn Harris and plan for the future

Queen Elizabeth's School is currently enjoying a vintage year, albeit one tinged by the sadness of the passing of former Headmaster Eamonn Harris. We got off to an excellent start, still savouring another outstanding set of summer examination results. The good news continued as QE was named the country's leading state school by the Sunday Times's respected Parent Power survey. We have now held the top spot in this table for five of the past seven years. In fact, Parent Power revealed that not only were we the top state school, but were among a mere handful of top-performing schools of any stripe, selective or comprehensive, state or fee-paying. Nationwide, just four independent schools matched QE's 95.7% figure for the proportion of A-levels passed at A*-B.

We have now demonstrated extraordinary long-term excellence in our A-level results: 2019 was the 14th consecutive year in which the benchmark figure for the proportion of examinations awarded grades A*-B has remained above 95%. At the same time, however, we are not standing still. The proportion of A* grades at A-level in 2019 was 45.3%, second only to 2018's best-ever figure of 46.9%. At GCSE, 79.4% of exams taken were awarded A* (or the numerical equivalent) – a School record and exactly 30% higher than the figure ten years ago.



While the media focus is inevitably on GCSE and A-level results, it should be noted that we celebrated our strongest-ever AS results. This has converted into 40 Oxbridge offers – a School record. Twenty-seven are from Cambridge, the remaining 13 from Oxford. The offers span a variety of subjects, from Modern Languages to Medicine, and from Natural Sciences at Cambridge to Politics, Philosophy & Economics at Oxford. They include our first organ scholarship in living memory.

My predecessor, Dr John Marincowitz, would, I am sure, agree with me that the foundations for the exceptional successes achieved during our respective tenures were laid under the leadership of Eamonn, who was John's immediate predecessor. Through a combination of clear-sighted vision and indefatigable resolve, between 1984 and 1999 Eamonn and his team wholly transformed this School. Not only do all of us at QE today owe him an immense debt of gratitude, but so do generations of alumni, many of whom have been in touch with messages of appreciation since receiving their invitations to celebrate his life and contribution to the School at this term's Memorial Service.



The School's current accomplishments also owe a great deal to the support of Old Elizabethans keen to give something back for all that they have gained from QE – including, of course, many who were pupils during Eamonn's time. For example, old boys turned out in force to support our inaugural University Mock Interview Evening. This was very well-received by our sixth-formers and proved invaluable in preparing them for the university application process, giving them an opportunity to formulate their ideas and then articulate them under the pressure of a formal interview situation. The alumni in attendance held their own reunion event at the School on the same night.

QE Connect, our new online community for Old Elizabethans, has been launched and has received a good response in its early months. One of its main functions is to allow OEs to network directly with each other, both socially and professionally. Another is to increase opportunities for engagement between alumni and current pupils, encouraging OE involvement in School events as well as facilitating mentoring and other forms of 'giving back'. We have already begun developing the platform – it is now available as an app for Android and Apple's iOS – but there is much to be done, and the greater the number of OEs who engage, the better the experience will become.

People from across the wider Elizabethan community seem to be enjoying interacting with our new QE Instagram and Facebook accounts. As well as keeping our supporters up-to-date with news, these social media platforms are, like QE Connect, useful for publicising our events. The busy Autumn Term saw us welcoming many alumni through our doors once again for an OE programme that began with a successful Old Elizabethan Association Annual Dinner, closely followed by the Year 11 Careers Convention and ending with the Carol Service in the parish church, at which I was delighted to welcome three of the last four School Captains. Since then, we have continued to welcome OEs for ad hoc visits.

The ongoing programme of improvement to our facilities begun during Eamonn's tenure continues. Our project to build a new Music School to accommodate our booming Music department is on track, with construction work due to start this July.

We are now in the last year of the current School Development Plan, covering 2016–2020. It is still proving highly relevant. For example, it was with Enhancing future prospects in mind – one of the plan's four priority areas – that we launched our University Mock Interview Evening.

Thoughts are, however, turning towards establishing priorities for 2020–2024. Alumni engagement and involvement is likely to be one theme within the new School plan, which we are now actively working on, following a formal consultation exercise with parents and a voluntary pupil survey, both of which yielded very positive results. We will seek to build on the School's current strong position in order to drive further development and ensure that QE produces 'confident, able and responsible' young men fit for the 2020s. The 2020-2024 period is personally significant for me, since within this time I will mark a decade of my headship and two decades since I first began working at QE. It also includes the huge milestone of the School's 450th anniversary. As a key constituency within the wider Elizabethan community, we look forward to our alumni being actively involved both in the renewal of our mission through the new plan, and in the special celebrations that will mark that anniversary.

Neil Enright, Headmaster



The new Mayes Building - An evolution

Just to keep you updated on the goings-on behind the main School building and the transformation of the old building



As it looked recently – still retaining dowdy elements of its past but now joined to newer buildings

*Danger – mercy killing in progress!
The old building starts to disappear!*



The building surrenders without much of a fight – perhaps sensing its coming upgrade?

The architect's impression of the external view of the new Mayes Building



Architect's impressions of the inside of the building.

O.E. FORTY SOCIETY

Secretary: Peter "Scotty" Yates
peter_mary_@btinternet.com

Despite it being Hallowe'en (it should have been Brexit Day as well until Parliament intervened), there was a feel-good factor as OE members gathered on 31st October 2019 in the Pavilion. Forty-seven OEs had subscribed to the Autumn Lunch although some late cry-offs meant forty-four sat down to a superb three course meal with wine. This was the best attendance for years.

The Association's new President, Eric Houston, chaired proceedings with aplomb after a seamless takeover of the Chairman's baton from Ken Cooper. Allowing a minute's silence for recently departed OEs, the gathering enjoyed their food and wine (latter courtesy of Keith Jackson) which helped the conversation flow. The Secretary welcomed everyone: in addition to the President, there were three Past Presidents. Mary Yates conducted a very successful raffle, raising almost £300.

After the meal, the Headmaster, Neil Enright, entertained everyone with a talk of his (and the School's) current and future programmes, including:

Early November, he will visit St Albans' School to enjoy the Centenary fixture between the Schools: see the Headmaster's separate Report.

A planning application had been made on the Fives' Court to form new Courts to be used by the School and the Community

Richard Newton (OE) had been digitising School records and photographs (the latter along the top corridor)

The 450th Anniversary will be in 2023 and a lot of archival research is in hand

QE Connect provides online service links with OEs, including assistance on university applications as well as building on and retaining the OE community

The Treasurer (Mike Harrison) announced a contribution towards the Friends of QE.

The Spring 2020 Lunch will be held on THURSDAY 23rd APRIL (see separate Application Form). - *now sadly cancelled - Ed*

Peter "Scotty" Yates , Hon Secretary
Tel:01920 484382

Jan 2020



Elizabethans

clubs and societies

O.E. forty society autumn luncheon application form

(All former Pupils who left QE School during or before 1980 are eligible)

Thursday 23rd April 2020

12.15 for 12.45pm at the

**Old Elizabethans (Barnet) Memorial Pavilion,
Gypsy Corner, Mays Lane, Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 2AG**

Please reserve me a place

Name

(Years at School:

Address

..... Postcode Tel. No

Any Dietary Requirements:

Please return form as soon as possible to: **Mike Harrison,**

12 Greenbanks, Melbourne, Royston, SG8 6AS

Alternatively, telephone: **01763 261775** or email: **mhdunbanking@gmail.com**)

Preferred method of payment by BACS (Bank Transfer) to Barclays Whetstone (Sort-Code 20-95-61 Account Number 60356662) but ALSO CONFIRM in email to Mike Harrison separately. Payment by post or BACS: please send your cheque, in the sum of £27.00 made out to “The OE Forty Society”, with your application no later than Saturday 18th April 2020.

[NB – For OEs who use the online banking service, please ensure payment is made to the OE Forty Society Bank Account as stated above – some members have made payment to the Association or 200 Club – fortunately, Martyn Bradish is an honest Accountant but monies should not be sent incorrectly].



o.e. cricket club

President : Tristan Smith email : smitrist@aol.com
Club website : www.oeccbarnet.co.uk

The 2019 Saracens Hertfordshire Premier Cricket League finished disappointingly for the club with the 1st XI being relegated on the final Saturday of the league season. They finished well ahead of bottom placed Totteridge Millhillians II, but couldn't avoid the drop as Berkhamsted ended up 4 points above them. This means the 1st XI will be playing in Division 2B for the 2020 season.

However, both the 2nd & 3rd XI consolidated their positions in Division 6B and 10B respectively, with the 2s finishing 86 points clear of relegation and the 3s ending the season in a respectable mid table position.

The club though did taste success with the T20 side winning the Herts Sunday T20 Trophy. Finals Day was held in September at Broxbourne CC with the hosts , Northchurch, St Albans and ourselves making up the semi-finalists . Led by Dominic Goring the OEs defeated Northchurch in the semi-finals and then beat Broxbourne in the final. What was especially encouraging for the club was the side consisted of 7 players aged 22 or under.

Our Sunday Friendly XI , led by Tom Spenceley, was a great success as we saw a number of colts being introduced into adult cricket and all of them benefiting from the experience.

The Colts section, under the supervision of Steve and Vanessa Michelin, continues to thrive and a huge thanks goes to both them and their team of coaches, who put in many hours of hard work to provide coaching and cricket for dozens of enthusiastic boys and girls.

A successful Awards Day , including a BBQ, was held at the club last September.

The 2019 awards were as follows :

1st XI Player of the year :	Kazi Hoq
2nd XI Player of the year :	Tom Spenceley
3rd XI Player of the year :	Rob Dunn
Young Player of the year:	Eddie Hildebrand
Clubman of the year :	Nav Parkar
Presidents Trophy :	Jonathan Smith

The 2020 season will see a number of changes at the club, both on and off the field, in what will be another challenging year of league cricket. Most notably Jonathan Smith has stepped down as Chairman and Secretary . After many years of tremendous hard work and dedication a massive thanks goes to him. During his time as Chairman the club has made significant progress, including all three Saturday league teams playing at their highest levels in the club's history. The club have also competed in the Final of the Herts 50 over competition and twice finalists in the T20 Trophy, winning the latter in 2019. The Colts section has gone from strength to strength, with many boys going on to play senior cricket for the club. He will certainly be a hard act to follow and in recognition the club has made Jonathan an Honorary Life Member.



Also stepping down are Nigel Wildman , who has given many years' service as Fixture Secretary and myself as Treasurer.

Taking over the helm as Chairman is Robert Jones, who has been a member of the club for 30 years and returning as secretary is Jonathan Mackman. The new treasurer is Jon Scott, whose 2 sons Zac and Toby both play for the club. The new season will also see the return of Nav Akhtar as head coach and he will be assisted by Steve Michelin, who remains as Colts co ordinator. The committee also includes Nav Parkar - Director of Cricket, Matt Holland - Cricket Operations and Vanessa Michelin as Social Secretary.

On the field the 1st XI will be captained by Dominic Goring, fresh from his success as T20 skipper. Hopefully he will bring stability to the role , following last season which saw 4 different players captain the 1st XI.

Saq Parkar is continuing as 2nd XI captain, with Tom Spenceley taking over from Robert Jones as 3rd XI captain . The Sunday T20 side and Sunday Development team will also have a new captain with the talented Charlie Busby taking over the reins.

These are exciting times for the club and I personally wish them all the best for the coming season.

Preparations for the new season are already underway with weekly winter net sessions for both colts and adults commencing in January at the Ashmole Academy.

With the new season just around the corner the club are always pleased to welcome new players, umpires, scorers and spectators to Gypsy Corner. If you wish to get involved in any capacity please do not hesitate to contact me. As usual details of all our Saturday league matches can be found on the Hertfordshire League website - www.hertsleague.co.uk

Tristan Smith

the world's easiest quiz

Kindly provided by Sidney Freedman (Passing requires 4 correct answers)

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?

Check your answers below!

- 1) 116 years 2) Ecuador 3) Sheep and Horses 4) November 5) Squirrel fur 6) Dogs
7) Albert 8) Crimson 9) New Zealand

What do you mean you failed???



Barnet Elizabethans Rugby club limited

Hon Secretary: Nigel Moore

*47 Garthland Drive, Barnet, EN5 3BD, Telephone: 020 8441 7534, email: njlmoore007@yahoo.co.uk
(Club website: www.barnetrfc.com)*

The Centenary Year is over: after a well-attended Anniversary Ball in September, a closely contested 100th Birthday match against St. Bartholomews Hospital, in front of a large crowd of all generations, in October, and the publication, in November, of “100 years of Rugby in Barnet”.

To OEs who paid £15 for the book and those who were given it as a Christmas present, I wish to express the joint disappointment of a number of those who contributed articles or photographs, with memories, although many items were not included in the publication or, at least, significantly reduced in their content. The contribution of many eminent OEs towards the formation of Barnet RFC in 1919 and in subsequent years, as well as building up numbers within the OE family, leading to the establishment of OERFC officially in 1936 (there had been unofficial matches prior thereto), and for the following 61 years, was immense. We all know who they are although much of their efforts are not recorded or recognised in the book. We will always remember them, particularly the late Jack Parsley, Bill Jopling, George Heard, John Stephens, Bernard White, Bill Smith, John Fuller, Bob Parker, Dennis Newell and many more past and present, plus M.W (Bill) Lattimer and his five fellow OEs in 1919 (see below).

A few snippets from the book:

1919

A letter was published in the Barnet Press with a plea made for a town Rugby Club for many sporting activities “to improve the nation's physique” after five years of the Great War. In May, former pupils of QE School held their AGM, the first since the War: during that meeting the matter of an Old Boys Rugby Club, open only to OEs, was raised and approved, subject to deliberations of a sub-committee to progress the matter further: the six were Messrs M.W. Lattimer (Headmaster), H.A. Dalton, J.L. Howson, R.J. Sim, J.A. Strugnell and H.M. Williams all of whom agreed, unanimously, that an open (to all) Rugby Club be formed in which anybody living in the district could participate. As a measure of their enthusiasm they decided that the first season should commence at the start of September that year, once a ground was found, kit too, a suitable strip and, of course, players. On 25th July 1919, as the Barnet Press reported, a sizeable group of OEs and others convened a public meeting to secure the co-operation of local people interested in rugby football.

Matters progressed swiftly thereafter: the Chairman maintained that rugby football played a large part in getting the country through the War as Germans were incapable of playing a game that demanded the qualities of a true sportsman. The said Mr. M. W. Lattimer continued to help and support this ambition, coupled with sheer determination and enthusiasm. By 3rd October 1919, at Barnet RFC's first AGM, the Club was officially established with a new ground, two teams formed, a full fixture list for both XV's and new kit.

The first fixture was on 24th October against St. Bartholomews' Hospital which Barnet won 53-0 scoring fifteen tries (three points for a try in those days) and four conversions. The Barnet Press match report was full of praise although the reverse fixture, on 14th February 1920, St. Barts won 12-8. The end of season statistics read: Played 20, Won 13, Lost 5, Drew 2.



Elizabethans

2019

A youthful St. Bartholomews' Hospital side beat BERFC 14-10.

The current League season started with a 0-44 defeat to Hendon, who have gone onto be unbeaten at the turn of the year. Until the beginning of December, our 1st XV had won their next seven matches and another just before Christmas to end 2019 in third place, one point behind St. Albans although ten points adrift of Hendon.

The 2nd XV has also performed well with more wins than losses. The same applies to the Junior Section teams with the U14s having the best record. The Mini Section does not play in Leagues although many “friendly” fixtures are played as are regular training sessions.

The Club is in good hands as it enters its second century of rugby football.

Peter “Scotty” Yates

January 2020

The date of the AGM is Wednesday 10th June 2020 in the Clubhouse, Byng Road, Barnet, EN5 4NP. Details, in due course, from the Hon. Secretary as above.

editor’s note

As I am sure you will be tired of hearing, we are in strange and challenging times. I would have said unprecedented but I was reminded recently of a flu pandemic which impacted UK lives in the late 50’s. Nevertheless we are all doing what we can and this is a rambling but sincere form of apology for your late receipt of The Elizabethan. Our embattled printers have been on lockdown since March and are only now venturing back to some sort of normal working. You will see immediately that there is more than the usual abundance of red herrings; the Forty Society application form, various references to ongoing events in the Dates for the Diary for example which are now not going on etc. I have chosen to leave much of this unchanged – personal idleness is a factor, yes, but I also want this information to remain at large so that we try to move on as quickly and as seamlessly as possible. That’s my story anyway and I’m sticking to it!

We do plan to issue the Autumn edition as normal (you will also no doubt be tired of hearing that we do not really know what the ‘new normal’ will be...). I will need the usual contributions for that issue and ask you in the usual way for any contributions by end July. Regarding the AGM the Association Committee will be discussing (by Zoom meeting!) the possibility of holding a virtual AGM at some point this summer. I appreciate that while the AGM is sparsely attended it is of interest to many of you who send me apologies and your comments. This virtual AGM might be a chance for more members to join in. Look out for announcements!

This nasty virus will no doubt take a further toll on our numbers than the usual spoils of winter afford. We have been sorry to lose some major Elizabethans this year – some of whom are recorded warmly elsewhere in this issue, and some of whom are yet to be fully addressed. I thank many of you for your support in rendering proper tribute to our fellows and hope that we may count on ourselves and those emerging now from the School to fill their shoes in respect of their commitment and affection for the School and the Association. Paul Roethenbaugh OE, who, despite dwindling eyesight, regularly writes to me with obituaries and observations, included a tribute to Roger ‘Arky’ Smith in a letter earlier this year: ‘He (Roger) will be well-remembered playing rugby at QE, for the OERFC and later for the famous Extra A XV, For a while, he was a member of the OE Committee as Editorial Secretary of the then OE Newsletter and chaired the Association sub-committee which in 1972 published Mr E H Jenkins’ book ‘Elizabethan Headmaster’, carrying out nearly all the work himself’. I am aware that more famous (notorious?) former pupils – Wilfred De’Ath, sometime author and broadcaster and contributor to the Oldie, and Tim (Lord) Bell, advisor to Margaret Thatcher – have recently passed away. After brief thought and as a personal mark of respect to others I have elected not to include any tributes. I hope you will understand.

I wish you all a safe and healthy summer.

Daren

daren.norris@ntlworld.com



friends of the memorial playing fields update

For most of 2019, the Friends' Committee has been frustrated. Its Constitution states they can only discuss financial support on specific prospective projects referred to them by the Playing Field Company. Although we are aware of likely projects, none has been submitted formally. However, in December, the PFC decided to release the log-jam by giving Jonathan Smith authority to submit such matters, being a PFC Director as well as one of the Friends' Committee, although he is not a Trustee so cannot be Judge and Jury.

Our finances suggest we will be able to support at least one of the likely projects so as to improve the facilities of the Clubhouse or the Playing Field (or both).

If you wish to subscribe, please contact Tristan Smith on smitrist@aol.com. The subscription is £50 annually, payable in two half-yearly instalments.

Sadly, we lost Michael Woolf, one of our leading members and principal proponent for our cause. We hope to find a replacement at the AGM on Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 19.30 in the Pavilion.

*Peter "Scotty" Yates
Hon. Secretary (01920 484382)
January 2020*

STOP PRESS: since preparing the above, the Trustees have been asked to consider an application to replace the Pavilion windows with double glazed units.



obituaries

With the ravages of coronavirus still largely ahead we note here a severe winter for the OE membership. We must work hard to fill the shoes we are losing here. I am as ever indebted to many OEs – Paul Roethenbaugh, Bob Thorogood, Alan Solomon and Scotty Yates in particular (and the Times newspaper) for enabling me to give our alumni the tributes they so richly deserve.

John Kolbert

QE 1951-58

John was born in 1940 into a musical family (he showed particular aptitude for the flute). He also excelled in woodwork (with support from his grandfather, formerly right-hand man to the architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. John attended QE with his elder brother Colin, and word has it that having been asked to operate the school printing press (as a possible escape from the drudgery of sport) John was then interviewed for a place at Cambridge by Fairfax Scott, the then university printer.

After completing a History degree at Magdalene College, John moved to GCHQ where he said he 'acquired six diplomatic passports and an interest in Russian submarines...' In 1965 he applied for a post at the University of Keele, where he might well have remained, organising a succession of illustrious concerts (Dame Janet Baker appeared), had it not been for a litigious squabble with the University over his well-liked book detailing its modern history and his fateful meeting and marriage in 1969 to Mary Campion.



Always able to bring positives, John used the company he had founded to print his own book to publish the memoirs of a group of Czech war veterans he had met in Prague. Inspired by their heroism, John became the honorary secretary of the Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries Abroad, campaigning on their behalf for a permanent memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire and on a wider basis for the memorial to Czech allied forces at Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire.

In later years John was devoted to Mary, who, as a senior lecturer in Biology at Keele, diagnosed her own leukemia from a demonstration prick of blood on a microscope slide. He retired in order to fulfil her wish to visit gardens in Madeira, Singapore and Japan.

Memories of Roger (Arkie) Smith-

a k a Hon Member for Mansfield

obituaries

Yet another member of that august group of fifteen OEs, the Royalists, has departed this life. If you don't know of the Royalists you have not been paying attention. Just as a reminder though, the menu of our Annual Dinner explained:-

“The Royalists” was originally formed by certain members of the Old Elizabethans Rugby Football Club with the object of continuing during the summer, some part of the atmosphere that prevailed during the playing season.”

Roger was an athletic, rangy, blond youth and a capable runner and rucker player. He played mainly fly half or fullback and was a great team asset. He had an extremely accurate long kick which was much appreciated by we struggling forwards in making ground towards our opponent's goal line. He could easily make their 25 from inside his own. (25 yards for those who only know of 22 metre drop outs). Good conversion rate too I recall.

At school it seems he didn't especially win the favour of his Headmaster, one Ernest Harold Jenkins, for reasons unknown, but possibly due to his schoolboy mischievous nature. Did he ever lose it? All that was put right subsequently when Roger, who was in publishing, helped an appreciative EHJ to produce and distribute his 'History of the French Navy'. (Google it.) Arkie spent much time travelling abroad, selling books (it's rumoured). He was a linguist and became a fluent and colloquial speaker of the French language.

Summer holidays were often spent with a group of friends and their families (many of whom regathered at his funeral) camping near the beaches of the South of France. Happy times indeed with the parents and kids in the sea and sand and bistros, sometimes with clothes on. All before the EU of course! This ability to converse in French was never more apparent than when Roger's fluency came to the fore one evening during a meal in a cafe. A waiter was overheard saying untoward things about ze Ingleesh customers. Roger picking up on it gave him a mother and a father of a b.....g in the vernacular! Wonderful!



Roger 'Arky' Smith (holding ball), Captain of the 1959-60 OE 'A' XV

The annual summer garden parties have always been a favourite event for the Royalists. On one occasion (hosted by Don Christie – Gloucester) Jim Staton – Thorndene – turned up with a mega box of cherries. Later in the day this became a competition to see who could spit their cherry stones the furthest. Roger won by a distance. (Is this where the term spit of land originated?)

Shirley and he moved to Orford which is a delightful village in Suffolk. His funeral in the ancient church of St Bartholomew was a great send off ably contributed to by Nick who warmly gave us Roger's family's memories and by Caroline with a lovely solo choral piece.

The sense of 70 or so years of sporting and social camaraderie has been so valued and it would be good to think that such friendships are still being formed these days.

Doug Scott - Meadway - sums Roger up thus: noisy, extrovert, open, honest, prodigious drinker, generous host and good friend. An epithet of which to be proud.

Bob Thorogood - Eastwood



Michael Woolf

QE 1948-54

The Association very sadly lost one of its most prominent members in October 2019. To the names of OE stalwarts such as Jack Parsley, John Fuller, Cyril and Jimmy Winchester, Eric Shearly and many others who did so much for the Memorial Playing Field at Gypsy Corner and who are no longer with us must be added the name of Michael Woolf. He had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease some years before, which he found immensely frustrating over the last four years of his life as it took its toll.

I first knew Mike as my Patrol Leader when at the age of 11 I joined the 4th New Barnet Scout Troop, which was based at Beaufort Lodge Prep School in Somerset Road, New Barnet, which we both attended. I therefore agreed to put together this tribute, but could not have done so without the considerable input of his family and a number of others.

Mike was born in Hackney on 2nd February 1937 to Ernest and Doris Woolf, and had an older sister, Diana. He was brought up in the Jewish religion and was barmitzvah at the age of 13. The family celebrated the main Jewish festivals and Mike continued to observe these until the death of his father in 1990 but, although proud of his Jewish roots and culture, took no further part thereafter in the religious element of Judaism. He continued his involvement in the Scout movement, becoming Scout Master of the 4th New Barnet for some years. He was in Leicester House at QE, and after leaving school in 1954 did his National Service in the RAF, mainly in Germany, and played rugby for his station. He was encouraged to start a correspondence course in order to become a Chartered Surveyor, and obtained a position in the City Surveyors Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, which later became part of the international firm DTZ. He moved to Browett Taylor in Lincoln's Inn Fields, where he qualified as an FRICS and worked for many years, ending up as sole Partner, before merging the practice with Allsop & Co. But he did not take kindly to the strict systems of a much larger firm, and left after two years to set up his own surveying practice from home in Berkhamsted in 2000, later to become an expert in the niche market of mooring rights on the Thames in London.

Mike and I were ushers at each other's weddings. He and Inge married in 1963 and had their children Ben and Tirrie in 1966 and 1968. Mike always took a great interest in their growing up, watching them through teenage years and early adulthood, enjoying seeing them settle down with their respective spouses and, to his great joy, supplying him with four grandchildren. He was so proud of them all. He was a governor at Westbrook Hay Prep School in Hemel Hempstead, where his surveying expertise was invaluable for the many ambitious building projects that now grace the school, culminating in the Performing Arts Centre of which he was particularly proud. His interests extended to all the arts, particularly music and opera, as well as travel, and he and Inge were able to make these activities an important part of their 56 years of marriage.

Mike played for the OERFC for many years. Martyn Bradish has fond memories of him playing for the 'B' XV over 40 years ago when he was the regular fly-half (probably towards the end of his playing days) and "brought skill to our game that exceeded our general level", but he had also played at scrum-half for the more senior teams. Martyn adds that "he was convivial, generous in his support of everybody, and helped to swell the sales at the bar". Bob Thorogood remembers that he was always a pain to the opposition and had his own way of needling them; "on one occasion I think it got to one of them when he was tip tackled and dropped on his head.



The following fracas would have seen several red cards if it were today! I would add that he could also be a pain to his own side, especially if you were in the forwards. He did have this habit of booting the ball to the other side of the field from the one I was on.” Doug Scott recalls a rugby club Easter tour to the West Country; the hosts were a club based near Bath who had hired the Roman hot baths in the city for the after match bath ! The photo shows Mike on Doug's shoulders preparing to do battle with Martin Douglas – Paul Douglas and the legendary Bill Smith are also in the photo.

But rugby was not his only sport. He and I both played at the Gloucester Lawn Tennis Club in New Barnet (as did his father). He was a good squash player; Ben told us at the funeral that he considered it a mark of achievement if he could finish a game and beat his opponent without breaking sweat and needing to remove his special “squash jumper”. He was a passionate skier - he invented the “slow-skiing movement”; anyone seeing his traversing technique would be impressed by his ability to defy gravity. His favourite part of skiing was lunch, and his passion for organising the holidays drew in all sorts of friends and family. He was also a keen cyclist, but would insist on riding on the pavement ! He and I would go to Lord's on occasions to see Middlesex v Sussex; he was a member of Sussex CCC – quite why I don't think I ever established.

After hanging up his rugby boots Mike devoted much of his energy to the Playing Field Company and Gypsy Corner. David Perkins tells me that he (Mike) first became a shareholder in 1973 and was certainly on the Board by 1975, a position he held for 40 years, and served as Company Secretary from 1997 until 2013. He put tremendous effort into the running of the pavilion and ground, and was involved in the negotiations with Barnet Borough Council in 1989 for the grant of the new 125 year lease. It was during the time he was Company Secretary that there was a proposal to sell the ground in which Mike was closely involved, although he personally opposed the idea. But the proposition was soundly rejected at an Association EGM which attracted a record attendance. In his later years and concerned as he was about the future of the Memorial Playing Field, even though it was many years since rugby had ceased to be played there (after the merger of the OERFC with Barnet RFC), it was his initiative that resulted in the establishment of the Friends of the Memorial Playing Field in 2016. This enterprise, which seeks to preserve and improve the ground for the benefit of local football clubs as well as the OE Cricket Club, is a fitting tribute to Mike's concern that future generations of local youngsters should be able to take part in sporting activities, and to his dedication to the OEs.



When Mike and his contemporaries were playing for the OEs in the 1960s, rugby at that level was a social occasion as much as a sport. No seriously hard training sessions or league tables ; even the work of putting up the goalposts at the start of the season and taking them down at the end turned into a party. Mike and others felt that the camaraderie of the rugby season which they all enjoyed should continue after it ended, and he called a meeting of those of like mind in a Barnet pub, the King George, in 1962. This was the formation of the strictly unofficial offshoot of the OEs which became known as the Royalists, the maximum number of whom was set at 15 with membership being by invitation only. Their meetings were always held at pubs with a regal name. Activities were extended in later years to an annual garden party for their families which included a cherry stone spitting competition (!), and an annual dinner to which other OEs and guests were invited. This was always a raucous, noisy and fairly boozy gathering (everyone stayed overnight at the hotel) with the opportunity for the “choir” to

reprise their collection of rugby songs. The hotels were perhaps not quite prepared for what transpired when Mike, in the suave, urbane manner of a professional gentleman, approached them to book a dinner for such a respectable sounding group as the Royalists ! But Mike went further. He felt that the Annual Dinner warranted an announcement in the Social Column of the Daily Telegraph, and the paper duly printed it. This brought an approach from a Russian prince (!) on behalf of an organisation called “The Monarchists”, who wanted to make contact with a group of obviously like-minded worthies !

For many years Mike used to order tickets for the annual Varsity Match for a number of Royalists; this expedition was highly organised, beginning with lunch at a restaurant en route to Twickenham and finishing at The Original Maids of Honour tea rooms in Kew Road on the way home. And he also arranged a number of boat trips on the Thames for the Royalists.

He was very committed to Queen Elizabeth's, and with others gave career advice to sixth formers. But Mike was also involved with comedy at QE for the benefit of OEs. Kevin FitzGerald recalls a Royalists Variety Show in the mid-1960s in the School Hall on the evening of Founder's Day. In one of the skits Mike was an oriental “memory man” complete with spectacular turban and flowing robe, seated at a cloth-covered table to answer obscure questions from a plant in the audience. At the end he got up to walk away, revealing that the robe was just a “front” and he was in fact wearing short shorts. Moving off, he “accidentally” pulled the cloth off the table, revealing an accomplice underneath with the answers to the questions.

Mike's legacy is the friendships that grew up around him and because of him, and which endured among many OEs for nigh on 60 years. Not least among these is the lifelong friendship he enjoyed with his second in command in his patrol in the Scouts, and another OE, the late Richard Beacham. Ben told us at the funeral that Mike had a number of idiosyncrasies, including being a lover of lists – for everything. The family placed some of these in his coffin just in case he might have need of them ! But Ben was grateful for his clear thinking, wise counsel, insight, cool head under pressure, patience and irrepressible sense of humour.

Rest in peace, old friend.

(With grateful thanks to the family, Martyn Bradish, Kevin FitzGerald, David Perkins, Doug Scott and Bob Thorogood for their contributions)

Alan Solomon

Members will be aware of the passing of Eamonn Harris and Ken Carter in recent months. I am not sufficiently prepared to publish fitting tributes to both as yet and hope to return to this in the September issue. I have received some touching memories of both and would ask members to contribute any reminiscences we might include which I would prefer to a more formal obituary.

We have also been advised of the passing of Tom Kikuchi (QE 1999-06), John Macleod (QE 1951-58), Bruce Richards (QE 1934-43), Anthony Tribe (QE 1949-57) and Risaan Udayakumar (QE 2010-17). We will as ever take any opportunity to publish fuller obituaries and thank OEs in advance for any details they may be able to provide.

Ed



2020 AGM agenda

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE
 OLD ELIZABETHANS' SOCIAL CLUB, 200 CLUB and
 THE OLD ELIZABETHANS (BARNET) ASSOCIATION
 TO BE HELD AT THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD PAVILION, MAYS LANE,
 BARNET ON WEDNESDAY 15th APRIL 2020 AT 8.00 P.M.**

GENERAL APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

to be advised to the Association Honorary Secretary please

SOCIAL CLUB AGENDA

- 1.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD ON THE 17th APRIL 2019**
(available at the meeting)
- 2.00 MATTERS ARISING**
- 3.00 SECRETARY'S REPORT**
- 4.00 ACCOUNTS**
- 5.00 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
 - i) Chairman
 - ii) Secretary
 - iii) Treasurer

All are prepared to stand - other nominations may be made at the meeting.
- 6.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

T G R Smith, Secretary, March 2020

200 CLUB AGENDA

- 1.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD ON THE 17th APRIL 2019**
(available at the meeting)
- 2.00 MATTERS ARISING**
- 3.00 SECRETARY'S REPORT**
- 4.00 TREASURER'S REPORT**
- 5.00 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**
 - i) Secretary
 - ii) Treasurer
 - ii) Committee - present incumbents K Jackson and R J Gibson

Nominations may be made at the meeting.
- 6.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

ASSOCIATION AGENDA

- 1.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD ON 17th APRIL 2019**
- 2.00 MATTERS ARISING**
- 3.00 REPORTS:**
 - .01 HONORARY SECRETARY
 - .02 HONORARY TREASURER
 - .03 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
 - .04 THE OLD ELIZABETHANS (BARNET) PLAYING FIELD COMPANY LTD
- 4.00 PROPOSED CHANGES TO OE ASSOCIATION - BASED ON THE COMMENTARY AND AMENDMENTS CIRCULATED FROM MARTYN BRADISH AND PUBLISHED IN THE ELIZABETHAN**

Association business



5.00 OPEN FORUM - ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE ITEMS

6.00 ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

.01 OFFICERS:

- SECRETARY - present incumbent (D G Norris)
- TREASURER - present incumbent (M Bradish)
- MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - R Knight
- EDITORIAL SECRETARY - present incumbent (D G Norris)
- SOCIAL SECRETARY - present incumbent (S D Lincoln)

Nominations are sought for any Officer position, provided that nominees agree to stand.

.02 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

K R Cooper, K Jackson, J Smith, M Gallucci and A Solomon, all of whom are prepared to stand for re-election. Other nominations may be made up to the time of the election provided that nominees agree to stand.

.03 NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT, HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS AND VICE PRESIDENTS - nominations are invited

7.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.00 DATE OF 2021 AGM: To perpetuate the third Wednesday in April = 21st April 2021.

D Norris, Honorary Secretary, March 2020

minutes of 2019 AGM

HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2019 AT 8.00 pm

AT THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD, GYPSY CORNER, BARNET

PRESENT: M H S Bradish (Chairman), D G Norris (Hon Secretary) and 6 other members.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: R Davies, J Hobson, N Enright, D Smedley, P Mackay, T Smith, N Watling, P Yates, R Rudman, B Coleman, A Cheason, R Thorogood, J Hanson, R Walsh, R Jack

1.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING Approval of the Minutes was proposed by K Cooper and seconded by J H Smith and agreed nem con; signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2.00 MATTERS ARISING Covered elsewhere in the agenda

3.00 REPORTS:

.01 HONORARY SECRETARY : D G Norris gave the following report:-

Good evening to you all

The Secretary's report traditionally begins with several votes of thanks.

Thanks to you all for attending – Mays Lane is long, without many pubs to stop at and the Memorial Pavilion not easy to reach, even on a balmy evening like this

Thanks too to all those who have taken the trouble to reply with proxy votes. It shows that there is still a beating heart in the OEs and a desire to move forward.

Thanks to all the Committee for another year of faithful and active service. Martyn continues to give large amounts of his time not only to chairing the Committee but filling the Treasurer and Membership Secretary posts. This sort of commitment, over many years now, has, to be frank, kept the Association alive (even if we accept that it has been more life support than active engagement). I would like to minute my and your thanks to Martyn for his service.

You will see that we are doing what we can to streamline the dynamics of the Association and making meeting quorums and numbers easier to operate. More of this later.

While regular and increasingly piteous pleas for additional support in executive posts



have fallen on deaf ears (and this deafness may be part of the age dynamic of the Association today!) we have recently received an offer of help which after careful review and some therapy we will try to develop. I am reminded of the office secretary's scream in Ghostbusters 'We've got one!!' – now we have to make it look as though we were expecting support all the time...

The Association continues to offer both Fellow and Member options to alumni though sad to see the effect of GDPR regulations on our wider numbers. The effort to develop the Elizabethan community has been negatively impacted here (as it has at the School too). Anno Domini remains a clear concern and while the Forty Society and the Annual Dinner provide excellent forums for Old Boys to meet up, we have to accept that new members are not keeping pace with the regular and sad disappearance of older OEs. For these two areas of OE life thanks must go to Peter Yates and Mike Harrison who continue to manage a thriving Forty Society and to Simon Lincoln who has stewarded a superb Annual Dinner again this year.

We have offered the usual two issues of The Elizabethan over the year which have been generally well received. More thanks (this time from the Editor) to the usual suspects for their generous contributions in keeping the publication afloat.

In such a significant centenary year we have made an increased donation to the Royal British Legion and presented a wreath to the School in memory of those OEs who have fallen in war.

The Chairman expressed the Association's considerable gratitude to Daren for his efforts.

.02 HONORARY TREASURER : Martyn Bradish presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018 including exaggerated costs of bulk covers for several issues of The Elizabethan and postage for GDPR letters to members. MB thanked Alan Munro for examining the accounts. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by KR Cooper, seconded by K Jackson, and agreed nem con.

.03 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY : M Bradish reported on a reduced number of Fellows – currently standing at 545. We currently have 513 Members

.04 THE OLD ELIZABETHANS (BARNET) PLAYING FIELD COMPANY LTD : J Smith reported progress in extension of the kitchen and toilets with plans to update the men's toilets too. The new ground management company is working well and proving cost effective. In terms of tenants, football will go up to 4 teams on a Saturday in the coming year, with the ever popular Soulstice set to repeat in June. The ground is in excellent condition, due in part to the absence of intensive football. The Astroturf project remains ongoing at this time. The PFC is always looking for events to supplement income.

MB expressed grateful thanks to the PFC for their efforts.

4.00 PROPOSED CHANGES TO OE ASSOCIATION - The proposed changes to the Association as published in the Spring 2019 Elizabethan were read including a letter from A P Mackay. Discussion followed of consequences of dissolution and the security of the MPF. A vote followed including 14 proxy votes and all proposals were passed

5.00 ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

.01 OFFICERS: The only nominations received were:
SECRETARY - D G Norris
TREASURER - M H S Bradish
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - M H S Bradish
EDITORIAL SECRETARY - D G Norris
SOCIAL SECRETARY - S D Lincoln

All nominations were passed nem con for of all the above.

.02 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

KR Cooper, K Jackson, J Smith, M Gallucci and A E Solomon all re-elected nem con. Ray Knight will attend the next committee meeting with a view to joining formally soon.

Ken Cooper was elected as an Honorary Member in grateful recognition for long and invaluable service to the Association. This was proposed nem con with acclaim. MB confirmed that Eric Houston has graciously agreed to accept the nomination of Association President. This was proposed and agreed nem con.

**The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.
NEXT AGM WILL BE HELD ON 15th APRIL 2020**





dates for the diary 2020

event	date, time & place	contact
Association AGM	15th April at 8.00pm OE MPF Pavilion	Martyn Bradish mb@bradish.co.uk
OE Forty Society Lunch	23rd April at 12.45pm OE MPF Pavilion	Mike Harrison 01763 261775 mhdunbanking@gmail.com
OE Golf Society Meeting	12th June Hadley Wood GC	Ian Louis-Ferdinand ianlouisferdinand@googlemail.com
Founder's Day and Fete	20th June The School	
OE Forty Society Lunch	22nd October at 12.45pm (TBC) OE MPF Pavilion	Mike Harrison 01763 261775 mhdunbanking@gmail.com
FQE Quiz Night	9th November 7.30pm start The School	Alan Solomon alansolomon1@gmail.com
OE Annual Dinner	16th November 7.15pm for 8.00pm The School	Simon Lincoln 07957 170 630. stlincoln@sc33.org.uk http://www.fqeshop.co.uk

dates for the diary



