

The Old Paludians Newsletter



Founded 1915

Website: www.oldpaludians.org

March 2015

EDITORIAL

It is an honour to be introducing the Newsletter on the occasion of our 100th birthday. Rather than write an editorial, I thought on this occasion it might be interesting to provide a brief history of the Old Pals. Such a summary is in fact already available on our website, but in my experience few members have read it or are even aware of its existence. Therefore I have produced a potted version of the main elements in our story. There is also a brief account of the separate Old Paludians Limited - again, many members will not be aware of the split which followed the division of the co-educational Slough Secondary School into boys and girls elements in 1936. I would also draw readers' attention to the "Archive" section - this contains a number of items which provide snapshots of school life during our first 50 years.

Since the content of this special edition of the Newsletter is more varied than usual, it may be helpful if I add a brief index of items as they appear:

1. The Story of the Old Paludians - page 2
2. The Old Paludians Limited- page 2
3. Message from the Chairman of the Old Paludians - page 3
4. Message from the Principal of Upton Court Grammar School (UCGS) - page 4
5. Message from Mrs M Lenton, Principal of Upton/Slough Grammar School 1988-2010 - page 5
6. Message from Mr G H Painter, Headmaster of Slough/Upton Grammar School 1967-1988 - page 6
7. Article by the UCGS Librarian - page 6
8. Article by the Head of Product Design at UCGS - pages 7 - 9
9. My Time at UCGS - Articles by the Current Head Girl and Head Boy - pages 9 - 10
10. News of Former Staff - pages 10 - 13
11. News of Former Pupils - pages 14 - 27 (1930s - p. 14; 1940s - p. 17; 1950s - p. 21; 1960s - p. 25; 1970s - p. 27)
12. The Old Paludians Website - pages 27 - 28
13. The Old Paludians Archive: The Way We Were - Snippets from the Past - pages 28 - 31
14. The Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts - pages 31 - 32
15. The Old Paludians Committee - page 33
16. New and Lost members - page 34

I am indebted to the many contributors to this centenary Newsletter - they are identified wherever possible. **Bob Moss, Editor**

THE STORY OF THE OLD PALUDIANS

Slough Secondary School began life in January 1912 as a co-educational school sited in William Street. In 1915 it was suggested that an organisation of old boys and old girls should be formed. The headmaster at the time, Mr W. Francis Smith, proposed the title "Old Paludians", based on the Latin word for a slough, palus/paludis, and so the name has remained. In 1920 an Old Pals cricket club was founded, followed two years later by a football club.

In 1936 the school split: the boys proceeded to their new premises in Lascelles Road and became Slough Grammar School, while the girls remained in William Street as Slough High School until their new school in Twinches Lane became available in 1939. In the autumn of 1936 the Old Paludians also divided into two separate organisations. The old girls organised regular annual meetings with many social events, all held at the school by special invitation of the headmistress, Miss J. M. Crawford. They were also active in hockey, tennis, drama and music. The activities of the old boys had been disrupted by WWII but resumed in 1946 and were largely sports-oriented; a hockey club was added in 1948. The old boys re-formed as the Old Paludians Limited, while the girls continued as the Old Paludians Association.

Both sections continued along their respective paths until 1982, when the sale of the Twinches Lane buildings led to the merger of the High School and Grammar School on the Lascelles Road site. The combined school was re-titled Upton Grammar School. In 1989 the first joint reunion of old boys/girls for 50 years took place. The Old Paludians were re-named the Old Paludians Association (Grammar School) and attracted an increasing flow of old boys. The Association was independent of the sport-focused Old Paludians Limited, which nowadays operates under the auspices of Taplow United Football Club.

THE OLD PALUDIANS LIMITED

As noted above, the Old Paludians sub-divided in 1936. When asked by the girls if they would like to continue their combined activities, the boys were very definite in preferring to go it alone!

With the outbreak of the war in 1939, the boys' association was suspended and two masters were left as trustees with the bank account under their control. All the Old Boys were either called up to the forces, in reserved occupations or unfit for military service. The Old Boys Association re-convened in 1946 and both the pre-war football and cricket clubs then began to play once again. They were soon to be joined by a strong hockey section.

Under the dedicated and firm leadership of their secretary, Stan Jones, a concerted effort was made to acquire their own pavilion and playing fields. In 1953, after much searching, the Old Boys Association purchased some six acres of land at Taplow, known locally as Pope's Field. This was later to be increased by another one-and-a-half acres of adjoining land. From then on every available Sunday morning and many evenings saw a motley crew of Old Pals undertaking hard labour, all males except for one lonely female! (*who sadly passed away only recently - see Christine Taylor in the 1950s section. Ed*). Firstly, a crop of hay was taken off the field, a thirty-foot tree was cut down where the cricket square was to be positioned, and the boundary hedges had to be cut and trimmed. Then the really hard labour of building a pavilion was started: foundations were to be dug, footings filled with concrete and bricks had to be laid. Professionals were called in but all the hard labour was voluntary and unpaid.

Eventually, on the 7th of June 1958, the Old Boys were able to officially open their new pavilion, an act undertaken by the president of the county branch of the National Playing Fields Association. As well as the pavilion, there were a football pitch (later to become two), two hockey pitches and a cricket square plus outfield.

However, along the way the Old Paludians Association had had to change its name to Old Paludians Limited (a company not incorporated for profit making). They had been obliged to do this in order

to become a legal entity and were then able to borrow money from a building society to cover the purchases of land and buildings. The Association was wound up at the final AGM in 1956.

The sports sections prospered and in 1960 there were four football teams and four hockey teams turning out each Saturday. One member of the football club had played as a youth international for England and one of the hockey club played for Great Britain in the 1956 Olympic Games (and later, in 1957, for England). On one Sunday afternoon the hockey club supplied every member of the Buckinghamshire A side!

The cricket club once hosted a game whose opponents included Australian cricketer Keith Miller, the film actor Trevor Howard and the comedians Mike and Bernie Winters. The game was umpired by Jon Pertwee. However, from 1980 onwards the sports sections ceased to prosper and first the hockey club and then the football clubs were wound up, to be followed eventually by the cricket club. The reasons were basically a change in lifestyle generally for people and the lack of pupils coming through the school who were interested in playing sport on Saturday afternoons. Also, the club situation at Taplow was too far from the school. The Old Paludians Limited still exists as a company and three of its directors are Old Paludians but the ground and clubhouse are rented out to Taplow Football Club, meaning that sport continues there to this day - the real reason for its existence.

Alan Mabbott

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

THE OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION

I became aware of the title "Old Paludians" at my first school speech day in 1950. The Old Paludians prize was listed on the programme and presented to a senior girl, possibly for "service to the school".

I then learnt that the old girls fielded two hockey teams and two tennis sixes and read reports of their achievements on the back pages of the school magazines, which also included mention of hatches, matches and dispatches. It was always interesting to note that many "old" girls married "old" boys (myself included in 1961).

My first reunions were in 1955 and 1956, when the school hockey teams were invited to join the Old Girls for post-match tea in the school hall. Traditionally, the school played the Old Pals at hockey on the third Saturday of March and the reunion was fixed for this day.

Like many of my year group, I became a life member on leaving school. I did not attend many reunions during the next 40 years but my life membership ensured that the Association kept in touch with me, and following my retirement I attended the reunion in 1996 and subsequently joined the committee and became chairman.

This year we celebrate the Association reaching the 100th year since its formation in 1915. We will remember Mr Francis Smith, the founder, and the many members of staff and former pupils who have worked together over the years to ensure that it has continued until today. Without them there would not be an association in 2015. We are betwixt and between with ways of keeping in touch with our membership. In 2015 we have 200 postal members and over 500 who have email addresses, and of course all former pupils and former members of staff can access our website.

What of the future? It would be a real tribute to former Old Paludians if the Association were to continue for another one hundred years. A challenge for those who follow, but future generations will be able to keep in touch with each other and with the School through websites and social media as well as the traditional letter. Whichever way they choose, I hope they will always

remember that "Ad Astra" has been the motto for more than 100 years.

The Committee are looking forward to meeting many of you at the Celebration Reunion on Saturday 18th July at Upton Court Grammar School. We are aiming to make this an extra special occasion and we hope you will come and support us.

Finally, a thank you to our President, Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada; to our Editor, Bob Moss; and to all the Committee for their continuing support.

Jean Tyler

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MRS MERCEDES HERNÁNDEZ ESTRADA

A special year which marks the Centenary of the Old Paludians Association

This is a special edition for this publication as it marks the Centenary of the Old Paludians Association. There has been a great deal of change in the 100 years since its formation but, surprisingly, some things remain. Education continues to be about developing a knowledge base, the ability to reason and think and the nurturing of the talents and abilities of each student. Upton Court Grammar School has taken from its predecessor schools the mantle of also developing character. We believe in our role to instill a sense of "right and wrong", an inner moral compass that will help young people learn how to conduct themselves through their lives.

In today's climate, schools are under pressure to actively promote British values which have been defined as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

We are a multicultural school and reflect the richness of the world around us. Over a hundred years this school continues to successfully blend tradition with a forward-thinking, internationally-minded educational philosophy that truly meets the needs of young people venturing into adulthood in an increasingly complex world.

As a selective school, we provide academic young people from all backgrounds with the means to compete in the challenging future labour market and become principled and active citizens. We also value personal growth and expect them to act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. I am proud to say that our students understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others. I believe them to be worthy successors to those students that came before them and a credit to the talented staff who have supported them.

Outstanding Results

This year is also special as it started with the school achieving outstanding results at GCSE. Despite the information released by the exam boards about inconsistencies and a tightening of standards, we had a fantastic set of results. The main measure for schools that determines the league table position is the percentage of students achieving 5 grades at A* to C which must include English and maths. Ours was 100%! Consequently, we are rated this year as one of the highest performing schools. According to the "Daily Telegraph" we are ranked 38, which is remarkable when you consider that there are over 3,000 secondary schools in the country.

At 'A' level almost two-thirds of all entries achieved A*, A or B, with most of our students gaining the university places for which they were holding offers, including those with Oxbridge or Russell group university offers.

Loyalty and Long Service to the school

I am sure you would like to know that on the last day of the Autumn Term staff were pleasantly surprised when presented with awards to mark significant milestones in their service to Upton Court Grammar School. Awards were presented to 71 members of staff to mark 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service.

I want to mention a few of these remarkable professionals, who you may know or have worked with, who have accrued such lengthy service to the school:

Dr Hawa with 15 years of service; Ms Mahil with 16; Miss Nathu with 17; Mrs Symmons with 19; Mrs Halloran, Mrs Ghei and Mrs Walsh with 20; Mrs Hasting with 24; Mrs Wardle with 26; Mr Walsh with 29; and ahead of the rest, Mr Gajdus with 33 years of service to the school. Some of you will also know that Mr Gajdus' association with the school is lengthier, as he was himself a student at the school and returned once he graduated to become a teacher here.

It gave me great pride to present these awards, which reflect our appreciation for their dedicated years of service and are a symbol of their personal and professional achievements. We know that their abilities and contributions are an important part of our continued success as a school.

I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their contributions to the life of the school and of all of its members.

We look forward to many more years of working together and to them becoming, in time, members of the Old Paludians Association.

A MESSAGE FROM MRS M LENTON, UGS/SGS PRINCIPAL 1988-2010

My time as Principal of Slough Grammar School

When I retired in August 2010, I did reflect that when I rang up to ask for directions to the school in 1988, the previous Head's secretary told me not to come as they would never appoint me!

My period as Principal was a time of rapid change with local management of schools, so that the budget moved from thousands to six figures, requiring new skills as I became - along with the Governors - an employer of staff and responsible for handling building projects. Autonomy increased when the school became grant maintained. The age range changed to 11 to 18.

The National Curriculum was taught and GCSEs were introduced. League tables showed parents the achievements of their children and allowed them to compare schools. The School gained statuses: Slough Grammar became a Language College, a Science College and a Training School. As Principal at a Language College, I was able to visit and receive guests from twin schools in Europe and the Government sent me to China. We taught the International Baccalaureate.

Schools from 1993 were subject to inspections and I was doubly proud that twice in 2004 and 2008 we were awarded an outstanding grade with no issues to address.

What do I retain of my years as Principal? - the staff I have worked with, who had such commitment and quality; the Old Pals, who retained their affection and support for their old school; and above all the students in my care who developed into such inspirational young people.

Margaret Lenton

A MESSAGE FROM MR G H PAINTER, SGS/UGS HEADMASTER 1967-88

I am sure very few schools have enjoyed a past pupils' association to compare with the Old Pals and one has to admire its development over the years. I remember my first meeting with members soon after my appointment in 1967 and being very impressed by their enthusiasm. They were a most pleasant group who clearly had great pride in their old school. Stanley Jones was their secretary at the time and he later became one of our school governors. He proved to be a valuable link, as did his successors. There have been many occasions when the Old Pals have helped and given support in various ways to the school, sharing their professional knowledge and expertise. An example of this is the excellent work by Ian and Colin Cairns, who have put so much of the history of the association and school on line.

An important milestone for the Old Pals was the purchase of the field at Taplow in the 1950s and the building of the clubhouse. This involved remarkable enterprise and a wonderful 'do it yourself' spirit on behalf of the members. They must have been very pleased with the result. Therefore it was with surprise and sadness that I learned that the facilities no longer host teams fielded by the Old Pals. (*In this context, please note the earlier articles on the split between the Old Pals Association and the Old Pals Limited. Ed*)

The merger of the two schools in 1982 had its consequences overall but I am glad the association continues under able leadership. I do hope the present day pupils value what is available to them, including the opportunity to maintain and strengthen friendships they have enjoyed at school.

I wish the Old Pals many more successful years.

G H Painter

AN ARTICLE BY THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, MRS DEBORAH SAVAGE

The Old Paludians' Donations to the Library

Every year the Old Paludians donate a sum of money to the library to buy books. *In Memoriam* titles are purchased in memory of those members who sadly passed away during the previous twelve months. Sometimes requests are made that books should be purchased to reflect that individual's career or personal interests; on other occasions the choice of subject is left to the school. In either instance, we recognise that this chosen book means a great deal to the family concerned, who often attend the annual gathering to view the newly-acquired titles. Each book contains a dedication in the form of a personalised book-plate recording the individual's time at the school.

Great care is taken in the choices we make so that the wishes of the family are met, but that the chosen book is also relevant to the needs of students attending the school today.

Once all memorial books are chosen, remaining funds are used to buy additional titles that the school wants to add to the library; sometimes these are books requested by staff to enhance studies and encourage wider reading in a specific topic, or the books may have been requested by students themselves. If a student has enjoyed a book by a particular author, they will often ask if we have any more of his/her books in stock, and it is fantastic to be able to have the funds to respond to these requests from students.

Thanks to the Old Pals' donations, I have also been able to purchase copies of books listed on the Berkshire Book Award shortlist - allowing students to take part in this Berkshire-wide vote for their favourite title - and also the collection of short-listed books for the Man Booker Prize, items we would not have been able to purchase without the generous help of the Old Pals. All books purchased with Old Pals funds contain a book-plate recording the fact that the book concerned has been funded by the Old Paludians, which also helps to raise awareness of the organisation amongst all current students at the school.

The library is extremely grateful for the help it receives from the Old Paludians and wishes you all an enjoyable day as you celebrate your hundredth birthday!

Deborah Savage

Librarian and Careers Coordinator

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY; PRODUCT DESIGN DEPARTMENT.

Current members of Upton Grammar School staff with more than 10 years service were invited to comment on their time at the school. The following article was written by Tracy Wells, Head of Product Design from September 2002 to the present:

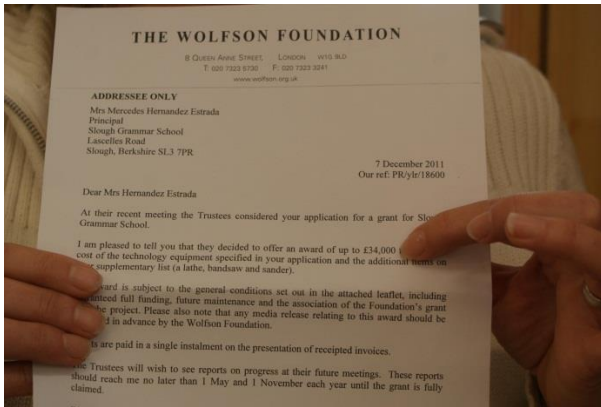
The Product Design Department is a busy, creative and evolving area, popular with students and having high expectations. GCSE and 'A' Level are taken within this department, with an average of 40 GCSE students and 8 'A' Level students per year. High exam results are achieved and many students go on to engineering degree courses after taking the 'A' Level with us.

I have had the pleasure of leading this department for 13 years and heading up the Technology Faculty for nine of those. Over that time staffing has been fairly constant within the department, the environment has been refurbished and new CAD/CAM machinery has been purchased using a grant. When I arrived here I rearranged some of the furniture to create a cleaner and more organised environment and moved some machines into the working area. Schemes of work were changed to help raise attainment and interest in completed projects. The department went on to achieve a very good Ofsted report.

Design Technology was refurbished with Mrs Lenton's approval in 2009, when all rooms were designed for a better learning and teaching environment. In Resistant Materials and Graphics, the second workshop was re-organised to cater for a laser cutter, some new machines and a high-level display shelf, whilst the main workshop had new bench tops, cupboards and display shelves. The workshops look a lot smarter and more purposeful after the refurbishment; additionally, completed work can be displayed on shelves around the top of the rooms, which encourages creativity and helps form a more positive design environment.



In 2012 the department received a grant from The Wolfson Foundation in answer to a bid I wrote asking for help to purchase up-to-date machinery. This grant of £38,000 helped the department purchase a laser cutter (to teach CAD/CAM) and a band-saw and sander for the second workshop. Also purchased were a newer Harrison lathe, bobbin sander and large plotter/cutter for the main workshop. This has helped us enormously with having the second workshop fully fitted out for sixth form work and also to bring the main workshop more up-to-date. The students are now achieving a very high standard of work and have become more CAD/CAM literate. This additionally encourages students towards an engineering career.



MY TIME AT UPTON COURT GRAMMAR SCHOOL, by Sophie Maitland, Head Girl

I was always going to come to Upton Court; I went to look at some of the other grammar schools and to a few private schools, but in my head I was always coming to Upton, and I did; although when I started in year seven, it was known as Slough Grammar. In my six years at Upton Court, I have witnessed substantial change: not only has there been a change in identity but also I have experienced a change in leadership of the school and the construction of a new English block, sixth form centre and canteen.

However, in some areas the school has not changed: it still puts the student first and continues to provide the perfect environment to cultivate and educate students as they transition from adolescence to young adulthood; this focus on excellence in student-focused teaching has helped us all to make the most of the school.

When I first entered the school in year seven, I had little idea on how life would be here; it was big and scary, and I often struggled to find my way to my next lesson. I certainly did not enter with aspirations of going to universities such as Cambridge and Imperial and now I can't imagine aspiring to anything else! As I reflect on my years here, what I love about this school is that, as a student, you don't have your aspirations pre-determined for you when you join. You are encouraged to develop them through the many non-core experiences and in my six years here I have joined copious sports teams, language clubs, student councils, attended speeches and workshops from industry and others; they have helped me to develop a sense of what can be aspired to as well as gain the confidence which one needs to enable that aspiration and achieve the goals we set for our lives.

As I prepare for my AS's and the next stage, I am less clear about what I want to do in the future than I was about coming to Upton Court; but now I have lots of opportunities and choices and still have six months to decide!

MY TIME AT UPTON COURT GRAMMAR SCHOOL, by Joseph Chadwell, Head Boy

As this is a special year for the OPA, it seems appropriate to mention that my late grandmother, Pamela Chadwell (Channon), was an old girl, attending SHS between 1945-48; her sister, Diana, was in the year above. Pam was passionate about local and family history, being an enthusiastic attendee of your reunions in the 1980s. Her research enables me to acknowledge that my grandfather's brother, John Chadwell, walked the same corridors I do while he attended SSS in the 1930s. Jean Tyler tells me the OPA will be remembering Old Boys and former members of staff who served, and in some cases lost their lives in WW1, for the next few years, so it also seems fitting to draw attention to my great-grandfather, Lt. Leonard Chadwell MC. He was the first young man (some would say, *boy*)

from Iver to volunteer to serve in WWI. Enlisting as a private, he gained his commission, being awarded the Military Cross in the final months of the conflict. He survived the war but was deeply troubled by his experiences - like so many others. So I am all too aware of the sacrifices of his generation, including OPs and members of staff. I will remember them. This has been highlighted to me in recent years by topics I have studied in History and Religious Studies.

You will know from Mrs Lenton's (and more recently, Mrs Estrada's) annual reports, that my generation of students are taking advantage of the opportunities and freedom available to us, particularly by securing excellent academic results. But our committed, conscientious teachers do also care about developing us into young adults, with a host of skills and experiences gained through extracurricular activities. When I arrived at Slough Grammar School in 2009, I relished the chance to join new clubs and societies. I joined the school Warhammer Club - a tabletop strategy game, using Lord of the Rings characters; we have been National Champions for several years. Our P.E. teachers have been fantastic in their commitment to making rugby a prominent sport in the school. They also encouraged me to join Windsor Rugby Club, where I now play. This year, for the first time in several years, a First XV was resurrected with players from Years 11-13. The School also enabled me to achieve the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and this year I am going for the Gold award, with three fellow pupils.

Upton Court also offers positions of responsibility, from being a prefect, to student council, to house captain, to a subject ambassador. These have allowed students (including myself) to gain invaluable experience as we train to be leaders and managers, whilst also learning the necessary team-work skills to be successful in the real world. We also have an active public speaking and debating club, competing in competitions against Eton and other top private schools - at times coming out on top.

I have recently returned from a life-changing school trip to Turkey, with ten other students from the Religious Studies Department. We gained an insight into Islam within a different culture and marvelled at the beautiful sights of Istanbul. This has left me breathless and inspired.

I am proud to be living in Slough and it is a privilege to be Head Boy. I am looking forward to becoming an active 'Old Paludian'. Do come up and speak to me, Sophie (Head Girl) and other members of the hardworking Prefect Team who will be helping out at your reunion in July - though I don't expect to meet any of John Chadwell's classmates, who would be 95! Overall, I feel grateful for the academic opportunities and enriching experiences this school has given me. They have developed my confidence and character, encouraging me to "Reach for the stars".

****STAFF AND PUPILS SECTION****

PLEASE NOTE: The paragraphs below are divided as follows:

- 1) **STAFF** - news followed by "In Memoriam" section
- 2) **PUPILS** - listed by decade, with the key date being when each pupil **started** their SHS/SGS education. Each decade is subdivided into "**GIRLS**" and "**BOYS**", followed by a similar "**In Memoriam**" section.

****STAFF NEWS****

Vincent Evans (1895 - 1976) - Since I have received a lot of information recently about Vincent Evans, who was art master at SGS from 1941 - 1961 (his predecessor apparently being one "Wagger" Wilson), I have included a special article about this remarkable artist. He was far more

than the benign figure whom many of us will simply remember as a teacher (*I recall that, whereas most masters would give "lines" by the hundred, Vincent would be more forgiving and only dish out 5 or 10! Ed*). Many thanks to **Andrew Hudson (1951-59)** for providing much of the detail which follows. Andrew writes:

"If you attended Slough Grammar School in the 1940s or 1950s, you may well remember this picture, painted by Vincent and titled "Welsh Family Idyll", which hung on the end wall of the Art Room (*reproduced by courtesy of the City & County of Swansea Glynn Vivian Art Gallery Collection*):



I came across it, along with other examples of his work, on the BBC "Your Paintings" website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/artists/vincent-evans-11682/paintings/slideshow#/7>. It is now in the collection of the Glynn Vivian Gallery in Swansea (currently closed for refurbishment), where it is one of their most admired paintings. I made email contact with David George (*not ex-SGS*), who is researching the work of Vincent Evans, and a fascinating story emerged. To quote David, 'Evans is best known as a miner-artist, having started work in a colliery at 13 years of age. His paintings, engravings, prints etc. on miners and mining are amongst the best examples of the genre. Because he depicted the mines in the early 20th century, prior to mechanisation, his work is of socio-historical importance.'

Vincent Evans was born in 1895 in the small village of Ystalyfera in the Upper Swansea Valley of South Wales. He was one of a family of eight children. It was apparent from an early age that he had artistic talent, but economic necessity required that he began work as a coal miner at the age of 13. Despite this disadvantage, he continued to draw and paint and after some part-time instruction he won a scholarship to Swansea School of Art in 1918. In 1920 he became the first student from Swansea to win a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Art in London, from which he graduated in 1922. From 1923 he taught art at Wanganui Technical College in New Zealand, returning to Wales in 1932. He moved to Slough in 1941 as art master at Slough Grammar School and was then art tutor at Slough College from 1961 to 1968. He died in Slough in 1976.

Apart from his mining scenes, Vincent was an accomplished etcher and portrait artist. His portrait of former Prime Minister David Lloyd George (1934) hangs in the Lloyd George Museum in Criccieth, North Wales, while his portrait of Harold Wilson was accepted by the Wilson family as a gift. A further indication of his standing appears in "The Swan" of July 1947, which notes that 'Again this year, Mr Vincent Evans has had a painting accepted for hanging at the Summer Exhibition of the Royal Academy.' In fact, his work was hung at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition on nine occasions between 1920 and 1973 and his etching of miners was exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1933. He was a War Artist during WWII and some of his work is at the Imperial War Museum. On a more

local level, Vincent painted a picture of the SGS staff-room, which included a number of masters whose faces will be familiar to some:



The location of this painting is the old SGS Staff Room. Suggested identities for the figures in the picture, which may date from around 1947/1948, are:

Front four: Mr Anderson, ??, ??, Maj. Wharmby?

Behind Wharmby - Mr Wall?

Bending over the table - Mr Vivash

The person in front of the back window on left - Mr Collin

The tall one by the front left window might be Mr Smith, who was head of Maths, or Mr Purvis

At the bridge table near the window - Mr Dickinson (GAD)."

(PS. If anyone is aware of any privately-owned works by Vincent, please contact the Editor - the whereabouts of many of his pictures remains a mystery.)

Portrait of a Teacher - Mr Wilfred Hampshire

The name of Mr W Hampshire - known to generations of SGS boys as "Hambone" or "Willy H" - appears in the 1934 Slough Secondary School prospectus along with that of another long-serving teacher, Mr J Collin. By coincidence, both had studied at Durham University. Previously, he had spent a brief spell at the Cedars School in Leighton Buzzard. He was an only child, the son of a headmaster. After studying at Bradford Grammar School, he gained a place at Oxford to read

Physics. Unfortunately, his parents could not afford to pay for him and he opted for a government-funded scheme for future teachers, going on to Durham to read Classics instead. It was there that he met his future wife. During WWII his eyesight was too poor for active service and from 1938-1945 he was the local fire warden. His great hobby, shared with his wife, was music - he was an excellent pianist (one Old Pal recalls him playing the piano in morning assembly in the early 1940s) and learned the cello during the war. His wife played the violin and they both played in a string quartet and in the Slough Philharmonic. Other hobbies were gardening and DIY. Around 1952 he was ill and underwent treatment for a heart condition. He retired early but only enjoyed a few years of retirement before suffering a fatal heart attack in 1973.

(NB. In my time at SGS there was a commonly held view that Mr Hampshire had contracted malaria during WWII, and his occasional absences from school were put down to him suffering "another attack". His daughter Christine, who supplied most of the above information, says that this idea is a complete myth - he never suffered from the disease at all! Ed.)

****IN MEMORIAM ****

Revd. Ivy Halden (1913-2014, SHS 1941-74) - Last year's Newsletter reported that Ivy had reached 100 in December 2013. She survived for a few more months but passed away in March last year. Her funeral was held on March 31st 2014 and comprised a committal at Slough Crematorium with a short service, followed by a full service at the URC Church in William Street, Windsor. **Ann Seller (SHS 1946-54)** has kindly provided the following obituary:

"A few months after a wonderful and well-attended hundredth birthday celebration, including fireworks and readings from "The Wind in the Willows", Miss Halden suffered a stroke and moved to Queen's Court, Windsor, where she died peacefully in March. She taught at Slough High School for 33 years from 1941, becoming Head of English and Librarian, always introducing the most junior pupils to Mole, Badger, Ratty and Toad, allowing us to rest our heads on desks as the afternoon sunshine added a warm glow to her reading. She is of course fondly remembered in her nick-name, "Danny Dog", her adored spaniel whom she occasionally brought into school. She inspired a love of animals and all "God's creatures" with her devotion to the Barnardo Helpers' League, offering small cottage money-boxes for young newcomers to fill. Retiring from teaching in 1974, she felt the call to be ordained and became Minister of the United Reformed Church in Windsor - the first female minister in the area. She was a dedicated member of the Hospital Chaplaincy Team and visited hospitals and nursing homes day and night with her car, which she drove until she was 93. An inspirational role-model, she is remembered with great affection."

Margaret Rowland (1945-78) - Margaret passed away on Easter Monday, April 6th 2015, in Wexham Park Hospital, a few weeks before her 97th birthday. She taught physics at SHS for over 30 years. In retirement she and Miss Saunderson worked for the WRVS at Wexham Park Hospital, helping to man the shop, kiosk or café. Her funeral was held at St John the Baptist Church, Stoke Poges Lane, on April 16th. The "Slough Observer" carried an obituary for her on April 17th, an extract from which runs as follows: "Miss Rowland was born in 1918 in Clapham and was a graduate of Kings College, London. She lived in Stoke Poges Lane for nearly 70 years. She served as churchwarden at St John the Baptist Church in Manor Park and gave enthusiastic support to church life well into her nineties. In 2005 her service was recognised by an invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party. Although she never married, Margaret had a big extended family, with five nieces and nephews, 12 great-nieces and nephews and 10 great-great nieces and nephews." One of the nieces said Margaret was "very intelligent, independent and very caring towards other people", while a fellow churchwarden described her as "a generous soul and a great character".

****NEWS OF FORMER PUPILS********1930s******GIRLS**

Joan Hedge (Stutt, 1936-44) - I would very much like to be part of the celebrations of such a milestone in the school's history. Sadly, I only drive in my local area, so shall only be able to join you in my thoughts. I hope to be able to be kept informed of everything happening via the Newsletter.

Iris Hull (Burnett, 1937-42) - sends warm greetings to friends from the 1940s, especially those who might remember her as a tennis player (not an academic!). She adds: "I would love to meet again, or just correspond. I'm just a grumpy old lady now, wishing I had a magic carpet to come for the special reunion. Will be thinking of you all and remembering....."

BOYS

Gerald Shaw (1938-44) - I am 87 in March, so hope I will make it to the reunion. My son **Stephen (Shaw, 1963-70)**, also an ex-pupil, always brings me. I did once give Mr Rogers an upper 5A register list, 1944, from A to S. I also said during the war in Latin class, "Bombs dropped at Langley!", and we all dived under the desk, whereupon Mr Hampshire said "Who gave you permission to get under the desk?". It eased the situation.

Ron Green (1939-44) - Ron has recently moved from Beaconsfield, where he and his wife Yvonne had lived for 51 years, to Chepstow. The family have all been very supportive over the move, enabling Ron and Yvonne (and the cat!) to settle in quickly.

Dugald "Jim" Ross (1939-44) - Jim has written a comprehensive account of his schooldays - unfortunately its length precludes inclusion here. However, I have extracted a few bits below which relate to school life during WWII. Jim joined ICI after leaving school, married in 1958 and retired in 1985. His son **Andrew Ross (1975-81)** also attended SGS and particularly excelled at cricket. Jim's own footballing days were severely affected by a freakish accident with the above-mentioned art master, **Vincent Evans**, "who knocked me down while I was running through the cloakroom gap, where the floor was slippery from the drinking fountain."

WWII references:

"The black-out meant taking more care, especially when the oil-burning smokescreen was in action and one memorised front gardens and hedgerows just to find one's way home. We had the rocket battery in nearby Petersfield Avenue, which caused more heart attacks when fired than bombs exploding."

"Our contribution to the war effort was limited - I only remember one summer collecting sacks of stinging-nettles for the extraction of some drug."

"There were a few air raid warnings, including two during the School Certificate exams, one fortuitously during a maths paper, so it was off to the shelter! The cadet force received a lot of encouragement from the headmaster, Mr (Major) Clarke, and I later regretted not participating, as it would have helped me a lot during those first weeks in the Army."

****IN MEMORIAM******GIRLS**

Peggy Needham (Nicholls, 1931-36) - Peggy died on April 26th 2014, aged 94. She attended many Old Pals reunions. Her son Peter supplied the following summary of what he describes as a long and mainly happy life: "Mum was born in Slough in 1920 and spent her childhood and teenage years in George Green. She won a scholarship to Slough Secondary School. After leaving school, she worked on Slough Trading Estate and in London, where she met many lifelong friends. During WWII she was transferred to Harrogate, where she met my father - he was there on an army parade. They married at St Mary's Church, Wexham, in 1943. My sister Pamela was born the following year. There followed moves to Barnsley (where I was born in 1948), Tadcaster and Surbiton. In 1964 Mum started a part-time job in C&A in Kingston, intending to work there for a few weeks but in fact staying 16 years until retirement in 1980. Around this time she learned to swim, though could only master the backstroke. She spent her retirement as a housewife, visiting friends, taking holidays and playing whist. In the early 1990s Dad developed dementia and Peg nursed him for many years before his final period in a Kingston nursing home, where he died in 2003. Mum was still pretty active in her 80s and lived a full life until she was around 90 years old, when health issues prevented her venturing far from home in Surbiton. Eventually she was unable to care for herself and moved to a care home in Walton-on-Thames. She died peacefully at Princess Alice Hospice in Esher."

Faith Atkinson (Stewart, 1938-43) - we learned earlier this year that Faith had died back in September 2013. An obituary in the "Shropshire Star" reads as follows: "Atkinson Faith Helen of Edgmond, peacefully at the Severn Hospice on September 21 2013, aged 86 years. Beloved wife of the late Oliver, mother of Ian, Andy, Mark and Kate and a much loved grandmother. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Edgmond, on October 3rd 2013 at 11 30 am."

Joyce Amoroso (Kirtland, 1939-45) - Joyce passed away in Nottingham in June 2012. Described by **Gwen Gale (née Knight, 1941-47)** as the life and soul of the party, she is remembered for taking a leading part in "The Rivals" at SHS. In later years Joyce regularly contributed to the OP Newsletter, firstly from her home in Spalding, Lincolnshire and then after a move to be nearer to her daughter, from Netherfield in Nottinghamshire. She was very proud of her grandchildren and their achievements, which included two attending film and stage school. For many years she and her husband enjoyed playing bowls in their endeavour *to keep the old bodies moving a bit!*

Sheila Elphick (Foster, 1939-46) - we heard in January that Sheila had passed away on December 19th at the age of 86. Her son Neil provided the following information: "After leaving school my mother worked at EMI Research Laboratories in Hayes, where she operated an early computer. She then worked in the darkroom, which is where she met Fred Elphick and they married in 1950. They created the first circuit board using photographic technology. She retired in 1959 and devoted her time to raising me and my sister Lesley. In the 1980s she had a part-time job working in the library at Langley College of Further Education. She was a regular worshipper at the Church of Christ the Worker in Parlaunt Road. She also attended an art class and was an enthusiastic lace-maker. In recent years she had enjoyed cruising with me and we both took up ballroom dancing on board ship. She had a large collection of teddy bears and enjoyed studying the history of London and of the local Slough area."

BOYS

George Milne (1936-41) - George was born in 1925 and died on September 8th 2014. In 1938 his father was killed in a road accident, as a result of which George was forced to grow up rapidly. He looked after the well-being of his mother for the rest of her life. On September 23rd 1939 George went to church at 10 30 a.m. in peace and by 11 30 a.m. it was war! He joined the RNVR (Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve) in 1943 and around 1946 transferred to the Royal Navy, receiving the rank of lieutenant. His naval career took him to many different parts of the world. In early 1955 he was promoted to Lt. Commander. In 1965, after a 22-year career in the Navy, George retired and lived with his mother at Taplow. He found jobs in civilian life, first at the British Institute of Management, then at the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants in London. Locally, he began to take part in church affairs in Taplow and joined the Parochial Church Council. It was at one of their meetings that George met Anne Young, a young widow also resident in Taplow, and they were married in 1976. This marriage provided George with two stepsons and in due course seven grandchildren and one great-grandson. He was very fond of his grandchildren, using his carpentry skills to make them toys. In 2008 he moved to Eton. His obituary describes him as "a true gentleman, a devoted son, a loving husband, a dear grandfather and a great friend."

Leslie Summers (1937-42) - Leslie passed away last year. He was married to Daphne, a former pupil of St Bernard's Convent, for 64 years and had twin daughters. He lived not far from SGS in Marlborough Road and worked in a managerial role for a firm on Slough Trading Estate.

Paddy May (1939-44) - Paddy passed away on August 2nd 2014, aged 87. **Alan Mabbott (1942-50)** writes: "Paddy was the younger of two brothers who were at the school during the 1930s and 1940s. Both excelled at sport. John, the elder, served as a pilot in flying-boats during the war and on leaving the forces joined BEA (British European Airways). He was a founder member of the Old Paludians mens hockey club and played for the county on a number of occasions. He was an excellent tennis player and one year became the Bucks mens tennis champion. Paddy played both football and hockey for the school and was (from memory) the youngest pupil to play football for the school first team, being only in his second year at the time. On leaving school he played for the Old Paludians Football team in the Slough and District Minor League and the Berks and Bucks Minor Cup. This was a young team, composed mostly of school leavers and those waiting to be called up. They won the league and a six-a-side competition and only lost 1 - 0 to Reading YMCA in the final of the cup. Paddy served in the army during the war and attained the rank of sergeant. On demobilisation he went to college and then joined J. Lyons as a manager in their bakery department. He first played for the Old Pals football club, then joined the hockey club, also playing for the county. He left J. Lyons and joined a family bakery business in the north of England. Paddy married his first wife June after leaving the army and they had a boy and a girl. Unfortunately, June became seriously ill and a wheelchair invalid, dying when quite young. Paddy later married Pam, who died a few years before him. Latterly, Paddy himself became quite ill and was housebound in his last year."

Peter Robert Marler (1939-46?) - In August 2014 an obituary to Professor Peter Marler appeared in "The Daily Telegraph", describing him as an "animal behaviourist" and noting his death on July 5th at the age of 86. The obituary states: "Marler had been intrigued by birds from his early years in Slough, where he was born the son of a toolmaker in 1928...while studying at Slough Grammar School, Peter co-founded the Slough Natural History Society." He subsequently became a leading authority on bird song, concluding that it is learned from other birds rather than instinctive, though there are also genetic factors involved, and later worked with Jane Goodall investigating how monkeys and chimpanzees communicate. He is remembered by contemporary **David Morgan (SGS**

1939-47), as the two of them attended Elliman Avenue primary/junior school before progressing to SGS. At Elliman Avenue Peter's interest was more botanical than ornithological - he and David collected wild flowers and displayed them on a "wild flower table" in the school. David also recalls that Peter was generally known as "Bob" at SGS and was noted for his prowess in throwing the javelin. The obituary records that Peter is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters. **Ron Harris** and **John Tebbit** (both 1941-47) also remember Peter, probably because both were (and still are) keen ornithologists. Ron recalls a morning assembly when it was announced that Peter had watched little ringed plovers at Wraysbury gravel pits over a period of time. He had seen them nest in a "gravel scrape" and raise chicks - the first time this had been recorded in England.

****1940s****

GIRLS

Gwen Gale (Knight, 1941-47) - Greetings to all Old Paludians. It is marvellous that we have reached our 100th year and thanks are due to all those who keep us going. I still keep in touch with several of my year: **June Ginger (Hunt)**, in the USA; **Jean Jones (Lunn)**; **Pam Knowlton (Maisey)**, not too well at present; **Annette Chant (Pountain)**; **Audrey Walden**; **Yvonne Wagstaff (Hutchins)**; **Ruth Edgar (Oates)**; **Betty Wess (Cohen)**; and **Doreen Wing (Cleaver)**, now in a nursing home. Many others remember me from my days as treasurer and my Christmas card list is very long. I am looking forward to the book of photographs and hope to attend the July reunion for part of the day.

Jean Denyer (1940s) - Jean's daughter **Deborah Green (née Ison, 1974-80)** would like to know if anyone can help identify her mother from school photographs of the 1940s. If anyone feels they might be able to do so, please contact the Editor.

Beryl Elliott (Artiss, 1943-51) - Moving on to SHS from my junior school in Cippenham, I thought I had come to a very grand place. The High School had parquet flooring, and well-tended shrubberies fronting Twinches Lane. There were rooms with special names, - the Geography Room, the Chemistry Lab, the Library, the Lecture Theatre, the Crush Hall. But the best feature (and not so grand) was the Junior and Senior Bumps. When the new school building was freshly completed and the builders were clearing up, Miss Crawford had decreed that the area where surplus earth had been dumped in mini-mountain ranges should not be leveled but left to grass over as an extra play amenity. Wise woman! Little first-formers played games of follow-my-leader over the ups and downs of the Junior Bumps, while 4th formers with end-of-term exams approaching found a nook in the grassier slopes of the Senior Bumps to revise Latin verbs together.

For the first two years of my time the country was still at war, though by that stage Slough was rarely troubled with raids. A long underground air raid shelter had been dug to the north of the school buildings towards Chalvey Lane, showing on the surface as a zig-zag grassy mound; but that was for senior girls. If the siren was heard, junior forms made their way to the Crush Hall, a broad space designed as a foyer to the main hall, with its windows boarded over for the duration to prevent the risk of flying glass.

In our second year the timetable included physics, and in one of the first lessons our teacher (Mrs Loeb, I think) announced that she was about to tell us something that might not be true for much longer: "the atom is the smallest particle that exists; it is indivisible." The date was probably autumn 1944. Then the war ended - on the morning of 8 May 1945 few girls went to school, and those that did were sent home at once to enjoy the day. War and peace, five years passed, recorded by additions to the markings incised on my ruler with the penknife I always carried in my pencil case; it was easy to change "I" to "II" and then "III" but "IV" brought problems.

And then the 6th form: big tables instead of desks, and a small curtain over the window in the door to ensure privacy. We were no longer obliged to go outside during break times unless we wished to, and at winter lunch times we pushed 4 tables together for impromptu games of table tennis. Summer lunch hours might be spent lounging in a quiet spot next to the air raid shelters. Class sizes for Higher School Cert (the precursor of A-Levels) were small, on my course never more than three, and we were fitted in wherever there was enough room for a few chairs; French 19th century poetry in the Waiting Room, Paradise Lost in the Geography cupboard.

I became a prefect, with a metal badge to pin on, and finally Head Girl. Duties included patrolling the cloakroom areas to make sure younger girls were not loitering inside when they should have been benefitting from fresh air outside. We had our own Prefects' Room, and someone produced fabric to make cheery curtains for the bookshelves. (I think they soon drooped; a visiting and very friendly member of staff commented truly that books themselves were often a good decoration). We relished the feeling of exclusivity, away from the gaze of pupils and staff alike, but behaved for the most part very soberly. It must have been a very special occasion that led us to buy a bottle of cider to share; I don't remember the party, if such it was, but I do remember improvising a convincing excuse for sticky patches on the table when the senior mistress paid a visit!

Margaret Paine (1943-48) - I spent Easter 2014 in Edinburgh with two sons and their families. David attended Herschel High School, graduated at Aberdeen University, was headhunted by Standard Life and stayed with them for over 30 years; now a senior investment manager and travels a lot. Daughter **Judy Farrow (Paine, 1976-80)** and other two sons are local and visit regularly. Now the grandchildren are driving, I have occasional visits from them - always a pleasure. My great-niece **Emily McLean (ex-Upton CGS)** emigrated with family last September and will be starting at Brisbane University shortly. I have 3 grandchildren doing 'A' levels and finishing school this year.

Earlier this year I had a "trip" indoors but no broken bones, just a shock to the system. I am still driving and "Scrabbling" (so brain still working!).

I joined the Old Pals in 1949 and played hockey with them until 1959 (started family). I have spent many years on the committee, originally catering for ourselves, with sandwiches, cakes, vol-au-vents, and sausage rolls all to be made. On moving to the Grammar School we lost our beloved school but have more attendees and now rely on our wonderful caterers.

Memories:

My father had died the year before I started at SHS. Schooldays were happy even though it was wartime and we had to travel from Iver - 3d each way to Slough and 1d from Slough to Cippenham.

Sticky buns and milk at break were well received and school dinners 1s 6d a week, I think. Some of us had a garden where we grew flowers and vegetables.

First school visit was an exchange to Denmark in 1947 by train through Germany, where children were begging for food. I slept in the luggage rack - as you can imagine, very uncomfortable, narrow and made of netting - I remember it well. We stayed with Danish pen-friends.

Valerie Storie (1949-54) - Valerie will be known to most readers through her many years of work on behalf of the Old Paludians. Last year a new bus launched by Slough Community Transport was named after her, a long-standing (since 1997) and popular user of the service. The bus was unveiled during a ceremony at the Duke's Head in Farnham Road, Farnham Royal. So all you bus-spotters - (*there were some in my day, even if they were looked down on by train-spotters - Ed.*) - watch out for a shiny red vehicle with "Slough Community Transport" on the side and "Valerie" above the front tyres!

Valerie herself writes: "My apologies to everyone who missed out on a Christmas / birthday card this year. It has been a difficult time with several spells in hospital, including the amputation of my left leg - still trying to balance properly but I am getting there. I hope to be at the reunion this

special year and hope it all goes well. Thank you to all who have been in touch. The committee work so hard and good luck to you all."

Mary Shepherdson (Clements, 1949-54) - We are intending to move from Boston, Lincolnshire - which is a bit off the beaten track - to Newport Pagnell. We have our bungalow up for sale and plan to move into an apartment. Our daughters live rather far apart and we thought while we were fit and able it would be sensible to move a bit nearer to one or other of them. **Janet (Smith, nee Shepherdson, 1975-1981)** lives in Whitley Bay and **Helen (Hodge, nee Shepherdson, 1977-1983)** lives in Muswell Hill, so North Bucks seemed a reasonable place to go - easier to reach both of them. 2015 would seem to be quite an exciting year for our family. Janet's son Josh will be 21, Helen's middle son Theo will be 18, Helen (sorry!) will be 50, Janet and husband Kevin will celebrate their 25th anniversary and my husband **Colin (Shepherdson, 1947-52)** will be 80. Sounds expensive!

BOYS

David Jewell (1943-51) - David attended the 50th anniversary of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and to his surprise was presented with a certificate of 50 years membership by the president, Dame Celia Hoyle. He was enrolled as an associate fellow in the year of its inauguration, 1964. He looks back with gratitude to his two maths teachers - Mr (Ted) Morgan, officially chemistry, and after the war Mr (GAD) Dickinson, who fired his enthusiasm for the subject. He retired as Head of Mathematics and Computing at Drayton Manor High School, Hanwell, in 1994. At Slough Grammar he was appointed Deputy Head Boy in 1950. He was a keen member of the Music Society, led by Denis James, and assisted Mr Joe Purvis in the production of "*Arsenic and Old Lace*" and two other school plays.

Don Wells (1945-52) - To all my friends who have an interest in literature (that is, earning money by writing): some of you will have heard of my second place in the Flash 500 Humorous Verse competition. Don't snigger, please - it netted me £100 for half-an-hour of most enjoyable work. I've added it to my list of second places: a story about a teacher who really did grow an eye in the back of his head; one for children about the 12-year old Herbert George Wells, who had a time-travelling adventure; and, a long time ago, six years of always coming second to the school swot (I beat him in the seventh). Perhaps that's where I got my eternal optimism. I've always thought of coming second as winning. I've now heard I got second prize (£200 this time - going up!) for my entry to Flash 500's novel comp. (opening chapter + synopsis).
Be lucky. Stay healthy. Have fun!

Alan Forbes (1949-53) - I joined SGS as a "late entry", aged 13, along with others in 1949 and I think there was a special entrance exam. I believe I passed due to my mother having persuaded Mr GAD Dickinson (GAD), who lived three doors along from our then home in Datchet, to give me maths coaching. The first school year was in the Nissen-type army huts at the bottom of Lascelles Road, heated by coke stoves, which some of my fellow students took delight in filling with grass clods, causing a great deal of smoke. Boys will be boys! I realise now that there were some very good, dedicated teachers at the school and on reflection wish I had studied harder and taken opportunities more seriously. However, my time there helped me in later life. I still have my school reports, not all that flattering. Maths was difficult for me and I think dear GAD must have despaired, as one year he reported something like "I have at last come to the conclusion that Forbes has no mathematical ability." At least he was honest and I owe him respect.

David Arthur (1949-56) - hopes to attend the reunion and will endeavour to persuade his sister in Scotland to come too.

IN MEMORIAM

GIRLS

June Barrell (Massey, 1940-46) - an obituary for June appeared in April 2015 in the same edition of the "Slough Observer" as carried the obituary for Margaret Rowland (see "Teachers" section, p.13). June was for many years an active member of the Old Pals. She used to organise parties at the High School for members' children and also visited Miss Crawford at her home in retirement. The "Slough Observer" obituary emphasises June's musical talents: "Actress and singer June Barrell, whose troupe of performers brought music hall entertainment to fans across the country, has died at the age of 85. She was for many years a leading member of Slough Operatic Society, played lead roles in Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals at the Adelphi Theatre in Slough, and appeared regularly with Stoke Poges players. She also formed a semi-professional music hall group called 'the Edwardians' which played at venues countrywide. She designed and made the costumes, choreographed everything and sang many of the saucy songs, continuing into her 70s. In more recent years she appeared with the Datchet Players, one of her roles being in the comedy 'Calendar Girls'. June died at Wexham Park Hospital on Easter Sunday 2015, and her funeral was held at St Mary's Church, Wexham, on April 27th. She leaves her husband Norman, son David, daughter Norma and grandson Jamie." Norma describes her as "a true star, a loving and devoted mother and grandmother."

Sylvia Mary Coates (McLennan, 1942-48) - Husband John writes: "Sylvia, known to her friends as Mary (or in her school days as Mac), died earlier this year. She was born in London in 1932 and soon moved to Slough, where she passed the 11+ and attended SHS. In 1957 she married John Coates and in 1960 they moved to Glenavon Gardens. Children Peter and Elizabeth were born in 1963 and 1965 respectively. In 1970 the family relocated to Kenilworth in Warwickshire. In 1992 Mary became a grandmother, with two more grandchildren following in 1995 and 1998.

A kind and generous person, Mary loved all animals, with dogs her particular favourite. Over the years she provided a wonderful home to dogs of all shapes and sizes and they became treasured members of her family. For many years she was a volunteer at the RSPCA shop in Leamington Spa and organised many fund-raising events for them. Another favoured charity was Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Walking her dogs encouraged Mary to join the Ramblers and for many years she was secretary of her local branch. She enjoyed many long-distance walking holidays with friends. She also contributed to local history groups and was an active member of Friends of Leamington Art Gallery. She was a skilled member of a small group of quilt makers, with some pieces being proudly exhibited at the NEC in Birmingham. Her handicraft skills were well used at Christmas, making crackers for family and friends; likewise, she would make birthday presents for friends and children.

Mary was well-read and loved the arts. She organised trips to ballet and operas and often went to watch films at the cinema with friends. She was young at heart and very proud of the achievements of her family. She was a good friend and held in high esteem by many people in Warwickshire and will be very sadly missed by all who knew her."

Ann Neale (Keeping, 1945-51) - Ann's son-in-law wrote to inform us that Ann had passed away in October 2012. She had been an active member of the Old Paludians since leaving school in 1951 and

wrote obituaries on her husband David and brother John for the Newsletter when they died in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

Gillian Crane (Austin, 1947-54) - Gill died in her sleep on March 19th 2015 at a nursing home in Maidenhead, where she had been a resident for the past three years. **Valerie Storie (1949-54)** writes: "I'd known Gill long before High School days and we were very good friends. She was a talented artist and taught art; she was also an exceptionally talented cook and taught cookery at night school in Slough. I went to her classes for a couple of terms to learn how to make more than jam tarts (SHS style) and I have still got her recipe for spicy apple tart tucked into a cook book - it's a bit bedraggled now but still 'Gill'. She did so much during her life. I was honoured to be asked to be godmother to her daughter Jessica and was so very sad to learn of her death after several years in a nursing home. Gill, I will miss you, as will all your friends."

BOYS

Vernon Wardall (1940-46) - Vernon's wife Ros informed us that her husband passed away on Feb 7th 2015. Vernon was a keen member of the school cadets and was disappointed that a slipped disc prevented him from joining the army for National Service. His career was with the Westminster Bank. He joined the Old Paludians on leaving school and served on the Committee for a few years. We send condolences to Ros, sister **Barbara Longman (né Wardall 1937-42)** and his three children.

Bill Warren (1946-51) - Bill died earlier this year. His wife **Marian Warren (Hughes, SHS 1948-52)** writes: "Bill enjoyed his schooldays at SGS. He went on to study at Slough College and eventually qualified as a chartered engineer. Along with others, he set up Rockwool Insulation in Britain and in due course established Warren Insulation, supplying companies and individuals with relevant products, which grew to 12 units around the UK and France. It was eventually taken over by Sheffield Insulation Group. Bill retired and got involved with the village (Bill lived at Dibden Hill, Chalfont St Giles), became a member of the Parish Council and for several years was their chairman. He still occupied that position when he died unexpectedly after a short illness. He was greatly loved and respected by all, making an impression on everyone who knew him. He was a true gentleman, kind and considerate to all, and my soul-mate - we had known each other since teenage years, when I was a High School girl."

****1950s****

GIRLS

Julie Peake (Albrow, 1950-55) - When I left school I attended Goldsmiths College for two years and then taught in the East End of London. While living in London I met John Peake, an Aussie who was working in England. We were married at Farnham Royal Church and then moved to Australia in 1961. We lived in Melbourne for 6 years and our three children were born there. We then moved to Queensland and have been here ever since. We are both retired and live on the Sunshine Coast in a lovely apartment overlooking the ocean. We have three children and seven grandchildren, all of whom are doing very well. My parents are no longer alive but my brother Robert lives in San Diego and Rick lives near Cambridge [they both attended Borlase]. Elaine went to Slough High School and she now lives in Bend, Oregon. We are planning a "siblings reunion" in Bend in September, so are looking forward to that. I kept in touch with various High School friends and have visited them on

our travels, though unfortunately some are no longer with us. I'm not sure if you have information on any of these girls but will tell you what I know.

Jacky Hoskins (visited her in Canada) - succumbed to breast cancer a few years ago.

Jill Mansfield (visited her in Poole and spent a week in Prague) - developed Alzheimer's and died in 2013.

Alyson Coney (Skinner, 1950-55) (visited her in Yorkshire) - has been to Australia, still hear from her.

Sue Cheale (Clarke 1952-56) - have seen Sue several times and still hear from her. She is very involved with the "Old Pals" and keeps me up to date with the news.

Margaret Salter (Curl, 1950-55) (stayed with her in 2011 in Ipsen) - she told us she was suffering from multiple sclerosis, a dreadful disease, but we haven't heard any more.

Angela Clifford (Rix, 1954-57) - did have non-Hodgkin's but seems to be doing OK.

I lost track of **Mervina Ridgeway**, who was also in our group.

Gillian Rider - also came to visit us in Australia several years ago.

Valerie ? - married my cousin, Gerald Thomas. They came to our Golden Wedding celebration in Broadway and also came to visit us last year.

Unfortunately a trip to England is not in our plans for this year but I do wish you all well for the reunion.

Ann Reed (Howell, 1951-56) - I am sorry I haven't been in touch since I moved house a couple of years ago. It would be good to hear news of the Old Pals, particularly as I am only driving locally these days, so am unlikely to get to meetings in Slough. Some of our old classmates do meet up from time to time. I hope the organisation is still thriving.

Carolyn Mason (King, 1952-58) - wrote mainly to give news of the death of her friend Liz Lepper (see below). She adds: "For myself, I struggle on with a variety of complaints but still enjoy success with my poetry. My son and daughter live far away from the Isle of Wight (where I've lived for 37 years now), so any time I spend with them is doubly precious." Carolyn doubts she'll be able to attend the 2015 reunion.

Diana Davis (King, 1957-52) - Unfortunately I won't be able to attend the Centenary Reunion in July, as I generally have family visits to me over the summer. I'm still living here in the west of Ireland, near Galway, where I have been now for the past 10 years. We had a new addition to our family last September - our daughter in Vienna had a baby girl, Lilly-Joy, a sister for Samuel (2 years) - so I now have 5 grandchildren to cherish, as well as our 3 wonderful daughters who have been such a support for me since my beloved husband passed away 5 years ago. Last year I visited my daughter in Vienna and we spent time travelling through Austria, Slovakia, Croatia and Italy, which was very interesting. Over Christmas I spent time with our other 2 daughters and their families in Cambridgeshire, so my family keep me busy. Best wishes to all and a Happy Reunion!

BOYS

Bob Moss (1956-64) - I hadn't really intended to write anything about myself. However, since only the girls from the 1950s have contributed to the Newsletter, I feel obliged to put down a marker for the "lads". Having received and perused all the Newsletter contributions, I'm aware that my activities are not too different from others of my generation - helping with grandchildren, growing produce on my allotment, DIY, choral singing and long-distance walking. On the latter front, my latest venture has involved the Viking Way, a long-distance route of some 150 miles starting at the Humber Bridge and ending at Oakham in Rutland. I've been doing this with my brother **Stephen Moss (SGS 1961-68)** - we compete with each other to see who can get the most blisters (normally

my prerogative, though he outdid me last time). I also read a lot: back at the start of the new millennium a list was published in "The Times" of the "hundred best crime novels of the 20th century" and my wife Jenny and I decided to read them all. Jenny finished them all long ago but I'm a rather slow reader and at the time of writing it's 99 down and 1 to go ("The Remorseful Day" by Colin Dexter). I also spend time reading Russian novels and short stories, so am very appreciative of the time spent by SGS teachers **Ted Dutton** and **George Avis** is providing a good grounding in the language. I know that Ted is still around and living in the area - anyone have any news of George?

IN MEMORIAM

GIRLS

Christine Taylor (Scott, 1950-55) - Christine died in December 2014, just before her 76th birthday. Husband Trevor writes: "Chris had always led an extremely active life right to the sudden and totally unexpected end. Always a sporty person, she had been a keen squash and badminton player and loved cricket. When I first met her, shortly after the end of my National Service in 1956, she was driving a dumper at Stan Jones Field when the foundations of the Old Pals clubhouse were being concreted. (NB. This was the 'one lonely female' mentioned by Alan Mabbott in the above piece on the Old Paludians Limited. Ed.) She was also the scorer for the Old Pals cricket team. With my cricketing and surveying background, I had found the perfect partner and we enjoyed 55 years of happy marriage. However, when I formed my own construction company, it was a let-down that she never drove a dumper for me! She was nevertheless a great help to me at all times. Always active in our local community, she was a talented flower-arranger at Ley Hill Flower Club, a keen member of the WI and served on Ashley Green Church committee for nearly 20 years. She helped out at Datchet and Chesham cricket clubs, where first I and then my sons played. She is badly missed by our 4 sons, 7 grandchildren and many friends. I am grateful for the support of family and friends such as **Val Kershaw (Speed, 1949-54)**, who have helped me since my loss."

Mary Adamson (1952-57) - we were informed by Mary's sister **Janet Boyd-Livingston (Adamson, 1949-54)** that Mary died just before Christmas 2014, aged 74, after a long illness. Janet writes: "Mary had joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, where she had postings in Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, Belize, Berlin, Bahrain, Nepal, Scotland and Northern Ireland. She was awarded the MBE for her work with the Gurkha regiments, and the Northern Ireland medal when she was based in Londonderry. She left the WRVS in 1986 and joined the "Winged Fellowship" (now "Vitalise"), a charity giving holidays to disabled people and their carers. After retirement she moved to Aldermaston, Berkshire, to be near her sister Janet and family. She will be remembered as someone who lived life to the full, travelling all around the world; a lovely, caring lady who will be sadly missed." Janet hopes everyone has a happy day at the reunion - it is too far for her to travel to attend.

(I have a copy of the Order of Service for Mary's cremation, if anyone would like to see it. Ed.)

Liz Lepper (1953-59) - Carolyn Mason writes: "A sad news item I should have sent in last year: my best friend **Liz Lepper (SHS 1953-1959)** died in September 2013 from throat cancer. Although she lived in Lancashire and we hadn't got together for several years, we were constantly in touch by phone and letter. How I miss her! I'm sure many of our contemporaries will be surprised and saddened by the news: Liz was always so full of life. Her two sons, daughter and twin grandsons have lost a very precious part of their lives."

BOYS

Douglas Garner (1956-63) - Bob Moss writes: "Like me, Doug joined SGS in 1956. It soon became clear that he was one of the very brightest lads in our year and was particularly gifted in the arts. Apart from his studies, he was prominent in a number of school activities: he performed impressively in many school plays - I remember clearly his Figaro in "The Barber of Seville" - was chairman of the Jazz Club and a keen rower. In the 6th Form Doug studied French, German and Latin and duly progressed to study modern languages at Cambridge, though after a year he switched to economics. In 1968 he married Gill, whom he had known for many years, and they had three children - two sons and a daughter. In working life he began in advertising and later became marketing director of a carpet tile company, living in Cheltenham. Outside work he enjoyed gardening, was a keen member of a local choral society and maintained a lifelong enthusiasm for sailing, in which he was joined by several of his former SGS classmates. About seven years ago Doug started showing signs of an illness which turned out to be the grim Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, from which he eventually died on July 18th 2014. His funeral service was held in Cheltenham on July 25th and was attended by a number of former SGS classmates: Ron Brown, Colin Carritt, Roger Fountain, Robin Hannigan, Brian Harden, Phil Hinchcliffe and myself. Old classmates may like to view the video clips and still photographs showing various stages of Doug's life which are available at: <http://youtu.be/WsVhWd70saQ>."

Michael Hatt (1956-63) - Bob Moss writes: "Michael was another member of the 1956 intake. Many readers who may not have known him will remember his father, PC Arthur Hatt, who used to provide road safety advice to local schools. After leaving school, Michael went to work in the South Bucks Area Office of Bucks CC Planning. Indeed, he spent his entire career in local government and was working as a local authority tree conservation officer at the time of his retirement. At school he formed a motor-cycling club; motor-bikes and cars were a lifelong interest and he enjoyed participating in rallies. Other interests were photography and birds, and at one time he held a radio ham licence. Although he did not go directly to university from school, he subsequently obtained an Open University arts degree and achieved MENSA membership. It has to be said that he was always on the chubby side - I remember trotting along with him at the back of the cross-country field, his lack of speed being due to physique and mine to asthma. Later in life he was diagnosed as diabetic and began to suffer foot problems. Nevertheless, he took up tai-chi in retirement and apparently could sometimes be seen in his back garden practising his moves! Everyone who remembers him recalls a mild-mannered lad without a trace of malice. He suffered a heart attack while on a bus, out shopping with a friend, and died in Wexham Park Hospital on July 8th 2014."

Postscript: With regard to Michael's time at SGS, former classmate **Robin Hannigan (1956-61)** recalls the following incident:

"One very cold afternoon, with triple games coming up, it was going to be a GOOD day. We assembled for cross-country and set off into the gloom. At the top of the fields past Lascelles Playing Field Mr Gibbs assembled the shivering classes until everyone stood in a half-moon while he informed us that one of our slightly slower classmates (Michael Hatt), who was last to arrive, would now be the first to set off back to the slightly warmer gym and changing rooms. As Michael set off it was explained that anyone who beat him back to the changing rooms could shower and go home early, while everyone else would have to help tidy up the gym and changing rooms. What a great carrot-and-stick idea, I thought. Blinded by this promise and obviously not very bright, I along with four others managed a lung-bursting run to beat Michael back to the gym. With a huge smile, we approached Mr Gibbs, who had taken the short route back and looked very warm in his track suit. He then announced that he had changed his mind: those back first would sweep the gym, stack the mats

neatly and mop the changing-room floor after everyone else had returned. His name to me now became "Gibbs" rather than "Mr" and I decided I would NEVER TRUST A TEACHER AGAIN!"

Michael Lewis (1956-61) - Robin Hannigan (1956-61) writes: "On February 23rd 2015 I received a phone call from Michael's sister-in-law to say he had died at 1.30 that morning. He lived in Weston-super-Mare and I met him a couple of times in recent years. I indicated I would attend the funeral in Bracknell on March 17th and subsequently did so, representing the 1956 intake. Apparently, Michael worked for the GPO for over 30 years after leaving SGS, retiring early in 1995. He had a heart attack on Feb 19th and was in Southmead Hospital in Bristol when he suffered a second, fatal heart." Bob Moss adds: "I remember Michael mainly for his sporting prowess - he could cross a wet, heavy leather ball from the touchline in football and bowl what seemed very fast at the time in cricket, sending my stumps flying first ball in a house match. I met him once at a reunion about 10 years ago but had not been in touch since."

Peter Virgo (1956-63) - Bob Moss writes: "It has not been a good year for my old classmates and just before the Newsletter was due for publication I was informed of Peter's death by his twin brother **John Virgo (also 1956-63)**. Peter was born in Windsor and along with John attended Thomas Gray School before passing the 11+ and moving to SGS. Both lads also spent many years in the Scout movement, eventually becoming Queen's Scouts. At SGS they studied French, German and Art to 'A' level. The twins' artistic abilities were invaluable, as both were heavily involved in painting the scenery/background for a number of school productions. After leaving SGS they both progressed to Northern Polytechnic School of Architecture in Holloway Road and after 7 years training were awarded diplomas by the Royal Institute of British Architecture. Peter then became employed at Edgington's architect's practice in Windsor, in due course becoming a senior partner. Leisure activities included caving and athletics, and he was involved with the latter for many years, both as a participant (discus thrower) and an organiser of events. Peter was diagnosed with cancer last year but still enjoyed travelling while health permitted. He leaves a son and two daughters, his wife Ann having died 7 years ago. His funeral was held on May 8th at a packed Trinity "Garrison" Church in Windsor, where attendees included former classmates **Roger Fountain, Phil Hinchcliffe, Howard Smith** and myself. Unfortunately, there was a power cut just as proceedings began, affecting both the organ and the microphone; however, we sang "Jerusalem" *a cappella* as heartily as we could."

1960s

GIRLS

Yvonne Davies (Ranscombe, 1962-69) - I was the only pupil from my primary school to obtain a place at SHS. I began my career at the same time as the new headmistress, Miss Owen. The enormity of the move from a village primary school to a grammar school of 600 girls was daunting to say the least. I thoroughly enjoyed my seven years of superb education by such dedicated teachers with such a varied curriculum. During those years I was elected form captain on many occasions and also played "leading lady" to Miss Darling's "leading man" in two 6th Form productions. As Head Girl in 1968/69, I was required to organise rotas for the lower and upper sixth prefects for all the duties which they were required to perform. One such involved standing at a prominent point in the corridor to make sure that the girls walked in silence to and from assembly. The prefects lined up every morning at both forward entrances to the hall and processed on to the stage, where they sat facing the rest of the school for morning assembly. Miss Owen would enter via a side-door and take her place in the middle of the stage. The Head Girl was permitted to enter and exit the school using the main door and not the side-door, as did the rest of the pupils. Apparently, the Headmaster of

my primary school was extremely proud of the fact that he had 2 ex-pupils in the same year serving as Head Girl at SHS and Head Boy at SGS (*I can confirm - he was my father! Ed*). He sent me a congratulatory note. The prefects' "common" room was situated on the first floor overlooking the establishment where my boyfriend (now husband) worked. Great larks!

Anne Hillier (1964-71) - I enjoyed my time at Slough High School and made many friends, some of whom I still enjoy meeting up with at the reunions. I was encouraged and inspired to study Civil Engineering at Leeds University. I worked as an engineer for 2 years and then spent the rest of my working life as a maths teacher, teaching for the last 19 years of my career at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. In retirement I work for "Headstart", encouraging students to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects at university.

Claire Brereton (1966-73) - I was Head Girl of Slough High School between 1972-73. On leaving school I accepted an offer to join the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors (ship designers for the Royal Navy) and was sponsored by them through a degree course in Mechanical Engineering with Naval Architecture at UCL (University College London). Little did I know that I was the first girl that they had ever taken on! I had my 15 minutes of fame when I graced the pages of all the papers from "The Times" to "The Sun", surrounded by cheering sailors. However, shortly after graduating I decided that Naval Architecture was not for me and 'defected' into the fast growing IT industry, working for IBM for more than 15 years. I moved from the South Coast to the Midlands in the mid-90s and married Nick, who has put up with me ever since. We have two teenage daughters (yes, I was a late starter as a mum, as the mathematicians will have worked out). We emigrated to Brisbane, Australia in 2001. Sister **Margot Brereton (SHS Head Girl 1979-80)** came here first in the 90s. I now juggle running an IT consultancy with voluntary IT standards work (which gives me the bonus of lots of global travel). I haven't quite got to thinking about retirement yet; instead, I keep getting pulled into lots of interesting things which seems to make me busier. Travel has been a lifelong interest and I am enjoying continuing exploration of Australia and the whole Asia Pacific region. Very best wishes to all Old Paludians - I will be there in spirit in July.

Janet Boothroyd (Hillier, 1969-76) - I followed a family tradition of attending Slough High School, including: my mother, **Barbara Hillier (nee Colgate, 1940-46)**; three aunts - **Coral Colgate (nee Nixey, 1936-41)**, Audrey McGarry (nee Hillier), and Elaine Kirby (nee Hillier); two sisters - **Anne Hillier (1964-71 - see above)** and **Margaret Urwin (nee Hillier, 1972-76)**; and several cousins, many of whom have been regular attendees at Old Pals reunions over the years. From 1975-76 I was Head Girl. I have very fond memories of my school years, which stood me in good stead for a successful career in hospital pharmacy and later in R&D management in the NHS. I also made some lifelong friends at school (Bobbie Stainthorp (nee Sutton), Tina Vargas and Janice Greenfield).

****IN MEMORIAM****

Gary Sanders (1964-71) - Gary passed away on March 10th 2014, thereby having the dubious honour of being the first entry in the 2015 Newsletter. **Michael Frankl (1964-72)** provided the following obituary:

"Gary Sanders (1964-71) suffered a pulmonary embolism and died in March 2014 at the age of 60. I knew him for almost 50 years. In the first three years at Slough Grammar School we were separated by alphabet, but after that we sat together for form periods in Hampden House. Outside school we were together in the Venture Scouts, we shared a 21st birthday party and I was best man at his wedding. Gary and his wife Angela, whom he met at Abbey National in Slough, introduced me

to my wife Clare on a blind date; Angela had been at East Berks College with Clare. Over the years I followed the development of Angela and Gary's two daughters and Gary's progress up the ladder at Abbey National; he was there for 30 years and rose to be branch manager in Dunstable before finishing his career at the Milton Keynes head office. Eventually he was "delayed" and took early retirement. After that, he worked a little, notably assisting his elder daughter with her burger van, but he mostly enjoyed his retirement, walking regularly up to three times a week and always there for his daughters and later the three grandchildren, as well as his mother who still lives in the same house in Langley. His DIY talent was much in demand. During all this time we were in regular contact, despite the fact that Clare and I lived abroad for several years in the pre-internet age. In the last few years we met up every couple of months to eat together and catch up on family news. Gary leaves behind a big hole in his amazingly close and large family (he was the oldest of seven siblings) and extensive circle of friends."

****1970s****

BOYS

Tanweer Ikram (1977-?) - an article in the Slough Express of August 8th 2014 noted that Tanweer, an ex-SGS pupil and since 2003 a district judge, had been shortlisted for the "Positive Role Model Award for Race, Religion and Faith" category of the 2014 National Diversity Awards. The article quotes his view that there are not enough women or black, Asian and ethnic minorities considering a career in law. He himself is based in Westminster and specialises in extradition.

****IN MEMORIAM****

GIRLS

Clare Seller (1976-79) - Clare died of pneumonia just over a year ago, aged 50. She moved to Slough High School from Langley Grammar in 1976 and loved the time she spent there, making good friends and moving on to the University of East Anglia in 1981. She enjoyed teaching basic English in Reading and became a mean table-tennis champion; she also spent much of her spare time curled up with her cat, Toysie. She chronicled events in her life with poetry and drawings, some of which her mother, **Veronica (Woodrow, SHS 1946-1954)**, has e-published posthumously. To find out more about Clare, go to Amazon JUST CLARE; or you can visit the website www.Lulu.com.

POSTSCRIPT: We were very sorry to hear that **Mel Cuttell, a former governor of SGS**, passed away on December 26th 2014. He was not local, having been born in Derbyshire, but moved to the Slough area after a successful job application. He had many interests, including jazz, gardening, Probus and sport (tennis, badminton, squash). His services to the School were much appreciated.

OUR WEBSITE

At our centenary, it is pleasing to see how far our Old Paludians website has progressed from its beginnings around 15 years ago. We have just under 1100 website objects, representing about 450 photos, 450 text files and 100-200 webpages and downloadable files. Thanks to sterling work by Philip McGoun and Jon Jeffery, who scanned most of the available Swan magazines, and Colin Cairns,

we have grown the website in recent years and it is almost certainly the largest website of its type in the country. I'm going to try redesigning the entry pages to the website to make it easier for members to access information and hope everyone will bear with me while this adjustment happens. Having recently retired, I'm hoping to clear out my study before the Reunion and locate some photos which were lent some while back. In conclusion, I'd like to thank the School and school staff for making computer facilities available at reunions, and everyone who has helped create, maintain and demonstrate the website. I remain open as always to suggestions as to what you would like to see.

Also, please note: In a few weeks, we are anticipating producing an **OPA website quiz** for those of you with internet access (or with grandchildren needing a task), based on the OPA website content - with answers to be delivered to the Centenary Reunion. For early arrivals on the day, there may be time to complete the quiz at the Reunion. A small prize will be awarded for the best result delivered to the Reunion, where the answers will be divulged. Please keep watching.

Ian Cairns (1964-71), pp Ian and **Colin Cairns (1965-72)**, joint webmasters

(NB. *The following website has also been brought to our attention: www.sloughhistoryonline.org.uk*

This site is linked to a Lottery-funded Slough Library project, working from scans of the Slough Observer between 1883-1929. There are apparently 245+ references to the Old Paludians in the newspaper over that period. I have not personally used this facility, so cannot make further comment as to its value. Ed.)

THE OLD PALS ARCHIVE

THE WAY WE WERE

Here are a few items from the past which may provide amusement or food for thought. I am indebted to the following for assistance in identifying these items: **Christine Elbourne (Hampshire, 1955-63)**, **David Rogers (staff, 1963-2000)** and **Andrew Hudson (1951-59)**.

World War I

When the First World War broke out in 1914, Slough Secondary School was just two years old. In its first year there were only 40 pupils, but by 1914 this had risen to around 150. Even so, it was still a small school. Everyone, staff and pupils, knew everyone else: the archives give a strong impression of an extended family, presided over by a genial and respected father figure, Mr W. Francis Smith. Ex-pupils and staff who went to war wrote grateful letters and made visits to the school when they could. In these circumstances, every loss of life was keenly felt by all at the school; it was a matter of pride and agony. How many fell, we do not know. Where we are certain, names are recorded on the present school's memorial. A roll of honour of the "masters and pupils who made the great sacrifice" was read out annually at the Secondary School. Over the years that roll has disappeared. The list given in Peter Bennett's book shows the names of those who joined the colours rather than those who fell. More research on this early period of the school's history needs to be done - I aim to allocate time for this purpose soon. **David Rogers**

From 1915, the year the Old Paludians Association was born:

The Old Students Association (as it was first called) was initiated "at the pupils' request".

The first General Meeting of the Old Students was held, together with a Social, on Saturday March 13th in the School Hall. Socials, when "dancing and music were enjoyed", seemed to become an instant success: a second event was held a month later.

By July 1915 the Old Students Association had adopted the title "Old Paludians".

The first activity held under the banner of the Old Paludians was a garden party at Colnbrook on Saturday July 3rd. There was swimming, boating, tennis and croquet.

A tennis club was started in the Association's first year. Play took place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the School courts on Mondays and Tuesdays. The subscription was 6d.

Cricket matches were played for the first time. The first recorded game was an encounter between Old Girls and Old Boys, with the Girls winning by 6 runs.

A Glee Club was formed by the Old Girls. Their first booked performance was at School Speech Day.

Selected Items from the 1920s:

The big "event" for the school was the death of Mr W. Francis Smith, the first headmaster, and the arrival of his replacement, Mr E. R. Clarke.

Empire Day and Armistice Day were celebrated as "grand occasions" throughout the decade. The latter was marked by a service and address in the morning, following which the governors, staff and entire school proceeded to the Crown crossroads, where they played a major role in the town's commemoration.

In 1927 a party journeyed to Criccieth in North Wales to view the solar eclipse. "Unfortunately," it is recorded, "bad weather prevailed and the only phenomenon observed was the shadow." A good breakfast and a drying of clothes concluded the event.

Sports Days in the 1920s incorporated many interesting events which have disappeared from today's programme. We may recognise the Egg and Spoon Race, the 100 Yards Three-Legged Race, the Tug of War, the Sack Race and the 100 Yards Skipping, but one wonders what precisely were "the Bicycle Test" and "the Potato Race"!

The School Chemical Society made visits to companies on the Trading Estate: the Hygienic Ice Company, Pears Soap Factory, Noakes Brewery (!) and the Maypole Dairy Company. None of these organisations survive there in today's hi-tech world.

Playing for the School's 3rd XI in a cricket match against Eton College Choristers on July 6th 1927, one E. J. Smith took all ten wickets. He clean bowled seven and caught-and-bowled the remaining three. For this remarkable feat the "Star" newspaper later presented him with a Jack Hobbs cricket bat.

From the Prospectus for Slough Secondary School for Girls and Boys, 1934:

"For girls there is a complete course in domestic subjects: needlework, cookery, housewifery and laundry work." (*Ah, the good old days...Ed.*)

"The school fee, which includes the cost of text-books, stationery and games, is £13 13s 0d per annum (£4 11s 0d per term). For pupils whose parents reside outside the administrative county of Bucks, an additional out-county fee of £5 0s 0d is charged."

"No pupil who resides in a house where infectious disease exists can be permitted to attend school."

"The girls require: a hat of navy blue felt, with hat band and badge; a blouse of light blue Tobralco, made with round collar and long sleeves to fasten at the wrist; a tunic of navy blue serge, made with three box pleats, front and back; a belt of black wool braid, 2 inches wide; a tunic of thinner material, navy blue Tobralco, to be worn during the summer term; black stockings; black shoes with rubber soles; a regulation tennis frock, with stockings of an approved light shade, for games."

("Tobralco" was apparently the tradename of a lightweight cotton fabric. Ed)

"There are the following school societies: natural history, chemical, historical and geographical, literary and debating, chess, and the French circle."

"Pupils bringing sandwiches etc. for the mid-day meal have the use of a dining-room. One shilling per term is charged. A hot dinner is provided at a charge of 9d. per day."

Reflections on the End of WWII - "The Swan", July 1946:

"As we go to press, the official Victory Celebrations are in progress. At such a time the thought that must be uppermost in the minds of many who read these lines is the thought of the sixty Old Boys of this School to whose memory and in whose honour it is proposed to erect the Sports Pavilion, for which an Appeal is printed in this magazine. The Pavilion will overlook, in the moving words of the Appeal, 'the playing field on which most of these boys spent many happy hours during their carefree youthful years.' Now, a year after victory, we ought to face the thought which some of us have perhaps shrunk from facing squarely amid the actual shocks of war: the thought that these young men have lost their lives, their hopes and their future in order that we may possess ours."

The Need for Discipline - Editorial in "The Swan", July 1960:

"Freedom of expression does not mean a total disregard of discipline. Lack of it today is undoubtedly a contributory cause towards the unruliness and degenerate condition of the teenage population, despite the cry of horror which the 'child psychologist' might raise on reading such a statement."

School Advice to Prospective 6th Form Students, 1961:

For language students: "Work will have to proceed at a good pace and be maintained conscientiously. We shall aim to produce a few first-class linguists and not numbers of inaccurate and useless dabblers." *(Could this possibly be the voice of Dr Long? Ed)*

Further exhortation in the same document: "Specialist studies and examination success in themselves are not sufficient, as any boy will discover when being interviewed for university entrance or for industrial or Service scholarships. If he wishes to become a whole, integrated person, he must keep his interests wide and varied."

A Regular Old Pals Reunion? - "The Swan", July 1962:

"This year saw the largest gathering of Old Boys in the School's history in connection with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Secondary Education in Slough. This was so successful that many wish to see a regular reunion every five years. But at the moment there is no organisation capable of undertaking this. The Old Paludians, vigorous and enterprising as they are, have neither the resources nor the wide support for this service. Every year nearly a hundred boys leave the School, and yet the membership of the Old Paludians is less than double this number and not

increasing. If friendships made at school are worth fostering, and if a close link between past and present members is a desirable aim, then this does matter and it matters now."

The Growth of School Societies - "The Swan", July 1964:

"On looking back through past 'Swans', one becomes aware of the increasing number of societies. As recently as 1962, there were only 16 societies, most of whom provided in their reports evidence of considerable activity. This year there are reports from 26 societies, some of which do not indicate much activity. It is perhaps permissible to speculate that, with so much diversity of activity in other fields, the growth of societies is outstretching the supply of energy needed to run them."

NB. Singers are still wanted for the Reunion on July 18th. If you can sing one of the parts (SATB) and would like to join a small choir, please contact me asap, preferably by email: editor@oldpaludians.org), stating which part you can sing. I need to know of your interest in advance in order to provide volunteers with music. Bob Moss

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/14

A full copy of the accounts will be available at the reunion. A very brief summary is reproduced on the next page. The main points to notice are:

- Refreshments were kept to a more affordable level;
- Donations to the school were restored to the usual amount;
- 2013 was unusual in not having a claim for flowers /cards at Xmas;
- 2013 had little postage because stamps had been bought in advance. I bought stamps in advance of the scheduled increase in postage again this year.

You will see from the figures that we made a profit of £172.56 over the year.

We would continue to encourage members to receive Newsletters etc via email to enable us to keep costs of printing & postage to a minimum.

Finally, I would like to thank George Lucas for examining the accounts.

Shelagh Whitehouse

THE OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2014

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

	2014	2013		2014	2013
Subscriptions	£45.00	£35.00	Refreshments	£1,950.00	£2,400.00
Donations	£1,264.02	£1,119.52	Donations to Slough Grammar School	£1,100	£600.00
Refreshments	£2,191.00	£1,970.00	Flowers, Gifts & Stationery	£94.57	£25.00
Raffle & Sales	£391.26	£364.75	Printing & Postage	£417.08	£270.00
Books, incl. Postage	£11.50	£39.98	Sundries for Sale	£0.00	£0.00
Bank Interest	£0.00	£0.00	Computer & Other	£168.57	£135.00
TOTAL	£3,902.78	£3,529.25	TOTAL	£3,730.22	£3,430.00

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Brought forward from previous year	£4,149.89	£4,050.64
Income for year ending 31/12/14	£3,902.78	£3,529.25
Expense for year ending 31/12/14	£3,730.22	£3,430.00
Profit or Loss for year 2014	£172.56	£99.25
Carried forward to next year	£4,322.45	£4,149.89

Accounts prepared by Shelagh Whitehouse (Staff, 1993-2008)
Examiner of accounts: George Lucas (1938-44)

THE OLD PALS COMMITTEE 2014 - 2015

President: Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada	Principal, Upton Court Grammar School, Lascelles Rd, Slough, Berks. SL3 7PR Tel: 01753 522892 Email: MHE@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk
Chairman: Jean Tyler	1, Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0DW Tel: 01628 621560 Email: chairman@oldpaludians.org
Treasurer: Shelagh Whitehouse	Orchard End, Bentley Road, Slough, SL1 5BB Tel: 01753 516502 Email: treasurer@oldpaludians.org
Membership Secretary:	Vacancy
Newsletter Editor: Bob Moss	8 Argyll Road, Gloucester, GL2 0QR Tel: 01452 417764 Email: editor@oldpaludians.org
COMMITTEE:	
Jane Brown	Tel: 01753 520117 Email: janebrown@oldpaludians.org
Colin Cairns	Tel: 0118 9414161 Email: colincairns@oldpaludians.org
Ian Cairns (Webmaster)	Tel: 0118 9451121 Email: webmaster@oldpaludians.org iancairns@oldpaludians.org
Patrick Donachy	Tel: 01753 578368 Email: patrickdonachy@oldpaludians.org
Marie Hughes	Tel: 01753 527173 Email: mariehughes@oldpaludians.org
David Jewell	Tel: 01753 523175 Email: davidjewell@oldpaludians.org
Shirley Lane	Tel: 01753 683986
Emma Flint	Email: emmaflint@oldpaludians.org
Margaret Paine	Tel: 01753 643740
David Rogers	Tel: 01628 639403
Alan Forbes	Tel: 01753 539936 Email: alanforbes@oldpaludians.org
David Pritchard	Tel: 01276 67029

NEW MEMBERS AND OLD

We warmly welcome all those who have become Life Members over the past year. Our website will keep you fully informed of news, dates of events, etc, and for those of you within striking distance of Lascelles Road, we hope to see you at our reunions and other functions. On the other hand, don't let distance put you off. We regularly have members from the USA and Europe as well as from various parts of the UK join us on Reunion Day. Letters giving news of reunions are sent out by post or email each January to all members and others who have shown an interest or made contact during the previous year.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2014 - 2015

1950s

Mary Riglar (Bowen), 1953-60

1960s

Barry Eaglestone, 1960-67

Kenny Luff, 1966-73

1970s

Sharon Foster-King (Foster), 1977-83

2000s

Vedika Avadhan, 2007-14

Emma Flint, 2007-14



Lost, Found and Seeking



We have lost contact with the following - does anyone have any news?

Norman Reeves (1939-44), Muriel Chant (Ball, 1933-39), Edna Cull (Newstead, 1945-50), Derek Pomfret (1947-52), Roger Colgate (1951-56)

The Old Paludians Annual Reunion 2016 may be held on a Saturday in March, but only if building works at the school allow.

Precise date will therefore be notified later.