



OCA NEWSLETTER NO 295 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

The Quarterly Journal of The Old Chelmsfordians Association
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OUR ANNUAL DINNER –SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2023

George Cristin-Marks and his events team have asked us to pass on this information to all members with the request that you save the date.

“We wanted to share the exciting news that we have a date in the diary for our next Annual Dinner! This year the Dinner will be on Saturday, 15th April. We'll be launching tickets very soon, but please do get in touch if you are interested in coming - we're very happy to help you reconnect with your year group with a space put aside for the group and to help in contacting ex-classmates! If you have any questions, please do let us know on: - old_chelmsfordians@outlook.com”.

THE HEADMASTER, TOM CARTER, WRITES

The Autumn term of 2022 certainly saw the greatest degree of normality since the Autumn term of 2019.

House music played to a full hall (Mildmay came out winners), foreign trips began to pick up, we welcomed our German partner school back to KEGS, we had a full programme of sports fixtures and clubs and societies are flourishing. In music we even have a new ensemble (a big band) to go alongside the existing 4 other ensembles plus the choir. Musical participation across all age groups is as high as it has ever been – and the concert and carol service were both excellent. Near the end of term, for Prize Giving, we were delighted and honoured to welcome back Nick Alston - the current High Sheriff of Essex and someone who will be well known to many readers – as our guest of honour.

Then, following the staff departures which I wrote about in the last newsletter, at the end of term at Christmas we said goodbye to Fran Newby, who has taught Chemistry as well as Maths for slightly more than nine years. We are extremely grateful to Dr Newby for his expertise and dedication and for the service that he has given to the school, both in academic lessons and also in his support for Emerge, the KEGS Christian Union.

Moving on to this term, it was an absolute pleasure to see the Careers carousel happening, in person, in the Hall on 19th January. We are particularly grateful to alumni of the school, parents, friends and all those who were willing to give their time to speak to current students about different career areas. Making significant choices about what to study and what to embark on can be somewhat daunting at times. The opportunity to hear first-hand from those who have gone through those decisions before and lived the opportunities and realities of different careers is invaluable. I am very grateful to all those who gave their time.

Looking ahead to February we are delighted that we are sending a group to our partner school in Mogonjet, Kenya. This link is cherished by both schools. The pandemic made any sort of visiting impossible for a while, but a group from KEGS will be setting off in February and we look forward very much to getting photos and first-hand reports from Kenya. Then in March, we have our whole school production. After a musical last year, staff and students are working hard to prepare a production of the play “A monster calls”. It will, I am sure, be something for both audience and participants to enjoy and remember.

I wish all readers well for 2023.

Tom Carter.

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

The popularity and ongoing success of Music in School, mentioned above by the Headmaster, has often been written about in our newsletters so we were delighted to discover, in a box of long-playing records left at the Club, a copy of 'Midas' Golden Hits' which was recorded with the original cast on stage at KEGs in March 1978. Many of our current members were part of this production, Gerald Malton as Midas, Adam Singfield, Apollo and Raymond Perrier, a Cup-bearer. The stage production was by Michael Gray with choreography by Audrey Hartley whilst the musical director was Peter Cross to whom we have lent this recording for his enjoyment...once he can locate a record player on which to listen to this vinyl masterpiece!

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Our 'virtual' Christmas Draw was another huge success with donations from members amounting to just over £1200 which enabled us to give £600 back in prizes. Our thanks to all.

Winners, drawn at the clubhouse on Sunday December 18th, were Brian Saunders, C.E. Wright, Maurice McNally and Richard Everitt.

'200 CLUB' AND 'DEVELOPMENT FUND'

We also held a 200 Club draw for the October, November and December quarter before Christmas and the winners of this were former staff member Les Retford, Martin Larcombe and Frank Easton.

New members are always welcome - the monthly subscription is just £1.10 and half the money received from members is paid out in winnings whilst the remaining half of the subscription helps boost club funds. More information is available from the organiser, **Adam Dessouki**, at adamdessouki@gmail.com.

Our other fundraiser is organised by **Mark, Turbo, Allison** who suggests 'It is very easy to join at just £5.00 a month and the more people that get involved, the higher the monthly prize pot becomes'. Mark can be contacted on mark.allison@pinnaclegroup.co.uk.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS



In true festive spirit, our President, Jeremy Crook, and Treasurer, Alan Ball, arranged a collection from Club members for the local food bank over the Christmas period.

An astonishing £550 was raised through the generosity of members and two car-boot loads of food were suitably delivered to the Centre.

Our photo shows Jez and Alan with their loaded trolleys on one of their several trips to the local supermarkets.

We join them in thanking everyone who contributed to this worthy cause".

WILDLIFE AT LAWFORD LANE

Nick Green reports that the Met Office stated that 2022 was the fifth warmest year on record though the snow and freezing period before Christmas would have lowered those averages! Another frosty period was experienced in early January.

Local birds recorded were the usual suspects, Carrion Crow, Magpies, Jay, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Robin (a songster all year), Dunnock, Greenfinch and Chaffinch,

Close by in Admirals Park was a Drake Teal in the December cold snap and a recent sighting of a Kingfisher whilst the fallow field close to Writtle University College boasted 4 Yellowhammers, 2 Linnets and a Reed Bunting in January whilst another member, Dawn Crisp noted 2 Little Egrets in the roadside ditch opposite the Uni buildings.

Nick is always happy to hear from you with your own sightings or questions at nick7green@aol.com.

Following on from his 'Notable Events' published in the last issue, Nick has again gone down memory lane to Saturday March 19th, 1985, when he suggests he reached the pinnacle of his footballing prowess as a regular member of the Saturday 6th XI...by scoring his one and only hat-trick for the club. He recalls this as a proud moment for someone who previously had only scored the occasional goal and who was moved about in the team line-up from right back to right midfield and occasionally to right wing which demanded a far greater level of fitness. The opposition that day were Sedgwick Reserves on their pitch somewhere on the outskirts southwest of Witham and whilst not able to find the names of all the players that day, Nick recalls the other scorers included (Nick??) Ward 4; D. Marsh; M. Marsh, Alan Dann and Steve Brewer. Happy memories.

In looking for the team sheet for that game Nick unearthed this photograph of the rescue party that assisted half a dozen or more drivers off the temporary carpark used at Ricky Richmond's memorial service at the club on November 14th 2014. Much was written at the time of those proceedings conducted by Ricky's son-in-law and our current President, Jez Crook, and of Ricky's service to both School and Association over his lifetime, but Nick had jotted down his own thoughts on a memorable, though tiring day which accompanied this photo and which we precis here.

The day had started to torrential rain which showed no sign of abating so Nick wisely changed into walking boots and wet-weather gear.

Having arrived early at the club he just had time, in a short dry spell, to put up three previously cleaned nest boxes before assisting Callum McClean, Bernie Oram and the ever-present Brian Terry to martial cars on to the main carparks before sending some onto the waterlogged playing-field and when this was full to an overflow spot on farmland off Lawford Lane.

Having dried themselves off and cleaned themselves up as best they could, they were then able, belatedly, to join the service and to catch up with those others present afterwards.

All was well until guests started to leave. with those on the field and farmland finding it impossible to get any tyre grip on the sodden ground.....and calling for help.





Initial attempts by Nick, Bernie, Callum and Brian to hand-push the cars off the cloying clay proved ineffectual and the club tractor, with first ropes and then chains was called in to play and after a lot of wheelspin and mud showers, excellent teamwork prevailed and all the stranded cars were pulled clear and freed.

Grateful drivers made generous donations to their rescuers – money that went into Ricky’s charity box rather than over the bar as intended – and after further changes of clothes a well-earned beer or two was enjoyed with the remaining company into the early evening.

Ricky was of course a renowned joker and prankster and the overriding thought of the day was just how much he would have enjoyed the chaos caused on the day – his day – whilst his family and friends rejoiced in his having this one last laugh at our expense in the warm evening sunshine after the earlier rains!

CORPS OF DRUMS

John Baker wrote “I was interested to see the fine photograph taken in the garden of the Judges' Lodgings c. 1964. The judge in the centre is Lord Parker of Waddington, then Lord Chief Justice - I remember meeting him in the 1960s.



The arms on the trumpet banners must indeed be those of the high sheriff. Judges' arms were not used on trumpet banners because the judges represented the sovereign - and because the trumpeters were employed by the sheriff. (I amassed £1. 11s. 6d. in all, from two sheriffs, not to mention three luncheons, during my brief career as a professional musician.) It was common for armigerous sheriffs to have their trumpet banners framed as a memento of their year of office, and they turn up occasionally at auctions.

I had dinner recently with Judge Gratwicke, honorary Recorder of Chelmsford, who is collecting pictures relating to Chelmsford assizes to adorn the corridors of the court building. If there are any more assize photographs out there, I would be glad to collect them (or good quality copies), since I don't necessarily need the originals, and forward them to His Honour.

John Aldridge, on being copied in to this correspondence, suggests that although the photo was supplied by Bob Parsons it belonged to his younger brother, Dick, who appears in the photo on the left and who it was thought knew all the judges in this photo by name.

Dick too has suggested that the trumpet banners were probably those of the High Sheriff and John believes that they have such arms related to the role and if so, wasn't certain who the High Sheriff was that year.

If this picture were c1964 this could have been Brig Edward Joseph Todhunter of Threshers, Harlow whilst earlier High Sheriffs in the early 60s were 1960, Charles Hubert Archibald Butler of Shortgrove, Newport, 1961, Christopher William Oxley Parker of Faulkbourne Hall 1962, Douglas Gurney Pelly of Swaynes Hall, Widdington and 1963, Col Hugh Edward Hunter Jones of Felix Place, Kelvedon.

CONGRATULATIONS



We were pleased to receive this photo and to hear from Kevin Menhinick:-

“I don’t know if it’s been brought to your attention, but **Nelson Swinney** celebrated his 100th birthday last October. John and Paul organised a celebratory lunch at the Packhorse Inn in Moulton, near Newmarket, to mark the occasion, and various OCs luminaries such as Steve Wilson, Paul Hampel and Andy Cook were among the guests.

Despite his advanced years, Nelson is still working two/three days a week for Paul at Tristel in Newmarket in the Credit Control department. What an amazing man!”

We were subsequently delighted to be sent a clip of an interview that Nelson and Paul had with Radio Suffolk to celebrate this milestone birthday in which Nelson discussed his boss and his ongoing employment!

Sight of the plane on Nelson’s place-mat reminded us of this earlier photograph of Nelson with the family at Duxford Airfield on the occasion of his 94th birthday, marked with a thrilling flight for Nelson in a T9 Spitfire.



‘Spitfire’ Nelson had wanted to be a pilot and enlisted as soon as he was old enough but because he had poor eyesight, had to settle for being an engineer on Spitfires and Hurricanes after joining the RAF in 1941 and was shipped out to Libya where the war in the Western desert was at its height.

PUPILS AND CLASSES FROM THE PAST THE EIGHTY- AND NINETY-YEAR OLDS



In the last issue we carried an appeal from **Geoff Patient** for news of any of his contemporaries from 1952/53 who would this year be reaching their eightieth birthdays with a view to holding a reunion to celebrate this achievement. Whilst there are still plans to get a table together at the Annual Dinner or some other gathering, we were delighted to welcome five of this group to our Christmas Coffee Morning and our picture shows Ben Cardwell, Roger Gaffney, Geoff himself, Brian Richardson and Edward Turner. Some had not met since leaving School and a happy time catching up was had by all, despite the troubled journeys those coming in on the A12 from Suffolk had had to endure whilst Chelmsford's traffic was equally unhospitable following an accident at the Army and Navy roundabout. Happily, the journeys home after a fish and chip lunch were far easier.

Ben Cardwell had previously supplied this information about himself: - "How interesting it was when I made contact about a possible reunion of my years at KEGs that I was asked if I had played any sport. I was not all that good at hand/eye coordination so the answer had to be no. But wait a minute, I came to the school late (3rd year in old money) and I also had to go to synagogue on a Saturday morning.

However, when older, I did play for Brentwood colts at rugby and I was a founder member of the KEGs Lions rugby team and arranged a match with Colchester Royal as I had gone to school there. In fact, it was me that suggested we call ourselves the Lions. (Not very original). I did go back once for a CCF reunion, I was a CSM, but there was nobody there that I knew.

One feature of my life at KEGs was the punishment regime. I knew the quad like the back of my hand as I was told to stand there so many times. I tried to ignore the looks I got from members of staff and other boys.

In those days there was detention on a Saturday morning. That meant a train journey for me. I lost my Geography exercise book. Boys used to stuff them down their socks to act as pads when playing games. Steadman had me in for a lot of lunch hours copying out somebody else's book. As you might imagine I did not choose geography for one of my options. I wasn't very good at completing my Latin homework and I do not remember how many tickets Pussy Johnson gave me. It was wondrous how he would slide up and plonk it on my desk. Those that had them might remember that each lesson for a whole week had to be signed by the teacher who taught you and your parents had to sign that you had done your homework each night. My parents never saw the ticket as I would sneakily forge my father's signature.

And then, of course, there was the cane. I got it once for not wearing a tie! and another time because I was accused of being the ring leader in the disruption of Quirk's English classes. It wasn't the pain that distressed me, although Bruiser Findlay did not hold back, it was the humiliation. It can't all have been the fault of the school as KEGs was my fourth grammar school, having passed my 11+ in Hong Kong, from there to Colchester Royal and a year back home at Sullivan Upper School in Holywood, Northern Ireland. I was reprimanded in each one and I'm afraid it also happened at University. Strange that I went into teaching and was the caning deputy at a boys' secondary school and eventually became a school inspector!"

Ed Turner also made contact with Geoff: - "Having seen your item in the latest Newsletter, I felt I must write and make contact. I have to be honest that I cannot put a face to your name, but as you will agree, it has been 60+ years! Whilst you have remembered my name from Transitus days, I wonder whether you too can put a face to my name?"

I have attended the OC's Annual Dinner for many years, and the only other regular attendee from our 'years' is Roger Gaffney, with intermittent appearances of Peter Woodward (Woody), who I met infrequently on business matters whilst in practice in Chelmsford. The same can be said of Richard Butt, for I had dealings with the firm of Butt, Reeve & Simpson. Jimmy Simpson died several years ago but Bryan Reeve is still with us.

My time in Transitus was short for this was the period that puberty set in and academic studies were not the most important thing on my mind! Although I enjoyed and did quite well in athletics (I won a House cap), I was useless at other sports, and completely put off boxing as Peter Pike showed the rest of the class how to get round a south-paw's defence (mine!). The remaining time at KEG's was unremarkable, and I left after the 5th Form.

Being the second of six children, my parents could not afford for me to go to University, so I remained in Chelmsford and joined Michael Copsey (ex KEGs) in his Chartered Surveying practice in Brentwood, where I stayed until I qualified and then moved on to Hilbery Chaplin in Romford as the Office Manager. Head-hunted by two other property-based companies, and then a Developer as the Company Surveyor, until the property market went into chaos. After this I decided I had to work for myself and opened in Chelmsford with an existing practice as Partner in 1975. This was my life until I sold the business out in 2007, and became a man of leisure.

My contact with KEG's continued however, and I took Ray Knappet's place on the School's Management Governors, serving as Premises Governor for 17 years up to my retirement at the end of 2019. I wanted to see the last project, the Sports Centre, successfully completed, before standing down.

I never married, but have the benefit of the many nephews and nieces of my brothers and sisters - at least you can hand them back!

Please count on my support if you organise a re-union at Lawford Lane, and I shall be pleased to hear of any others of our age group that contact you. Also, to learn of your years between school and retirement!

Geoff, who had also heard from sports journalist **Martin Rogers** down under in Australia had contacted Ted and Ann Caton about attending the Christmas gathering adding 'I am 80 now, and as old friends pass on, it gives you the urgency to enjoy life in the company of our peer group, so I look forward to meeting you'.

He also replied to Ed:- What a pleasure to hear from you and your brief history, there always seems to be an affinity and common interests with our peer group, in spite of over 60 years lapse of infrequently seeing any of our 1953 intake at KEGS.

Like you my parents couldn't afford University for me and Nigel Fanshawe was not impressed when I left prematurely. My father managed Tom Green's pork butchers shop in Moulsham Street and my own early career was varied.

Port of London Authority at London Docks for 2 years, Bank of Australia for 2 years, local family garage in Hutton for 6 years and married the owner's daughter.

Subsequently I spent the next 40 years selling Cranes and Construction Equipment and was Sales Director for 20 of those years. During the 80s and 90s my Company were one of the sponsors of the Chelmsford Hockey Club where, amongst other OCs, I regularly met up with Roger Gaffney and Peter Woodward.

In retirement I enjoy my grandchildren and golf and look forward to meeting up at the OCs on December 15th.

Donald Kelly had written on receipt of the last newsletter saying how much he still enjoyed receiving and reading these, although with the regret that the names of those he recalled seemed to get fewer and fewer. He subsequently wrote "I was recently re-reading The Chelmsfordian from March 1945 and it reminded me of the Autumn Term 1944 when I was one of the new boys who joined 25 others in Form 1B. We'll all be in our late 80s now and soon to be celebrating our 90th birthdays so I'd be glad to hear through you from any other surviving class mates from that war time era.

By a strange coincidence we then heard from Judith Needham who wrote "I came across your website whilst looking up KEGS on behalf of my father-in-law, **Duncan Needham**, who was a pupil there in the 1940s. Now approaching his 90th birthday he often regales me with tales from those times and I'm sure he would be fascinated to receive your newsletter although I'm afraid he would require a paper copy if that is possible as he doesn't use a computer.

On checking our records, we discovered a W.D Needham at School from 1944-1950 with a home address at the time of The Homestead, Oxney Green, Writtle and replied to Judith of Don Kelly's current interest in hearing from class mates of the mid-forties, adding that we were still in touch with Brian Churcher and Peter Joslin, and sending on a copy of the Salvete pages of the 1944 intake that Donald referred to in the March 1945 Chelmsfordian. These included the likes of Ken Brewer, Willie Hunter and Gavin Morella who all played a part at the club together with Les Ketley and Ricky Richmond, both Past Presidents and stalwarts of the Association.

Judith confirmed that 'Duncan' was indeed 'Walter' although she was unsure when he started using his middle name and added that "Duncan's career was in teaching. He spent many years as bursar at Riddlesworth Hall school in Suffolk and a spell as an Ofsted inspector just before he retired. He lived in Suffolk for most of his adult life but is now in Deal on the Kent coast. He was married to Janet, a home economics teacher, for 56 years until her death in 2017. They had four children – three girls and a boy – and there are 7 grandchildren. Duncan's main hobby in retirement was building boats which he used to sail on the river Deben at Woodbridge. Duncan is looking forward to celebrating his 90th birthday in May 2023."



Having supplied these photos of Duncan as both schoolboy and as he is now, she suggested that he would really enjoy hearing from any of his contemporaries and that talking to someone from his childhood, after all these years, would be a wonderful thing for him.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

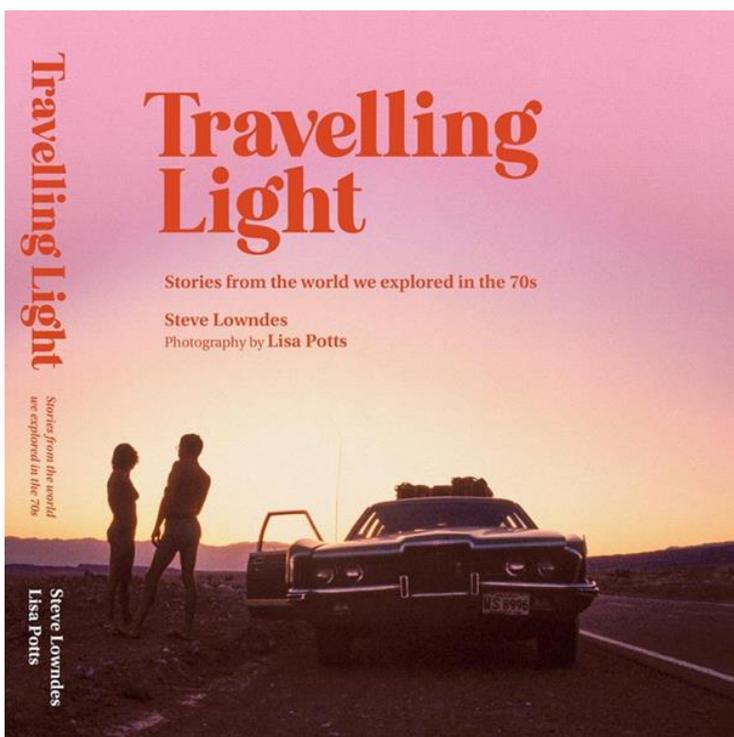
We are always pleased to hear from members and following our last newsletter had a global response with **Mike Madden** (1950-1954) enquiring from America if we still celebrate Guy Fawkes Day in England and on reading the last line of the October issue whether we have now taken to the American 'Merry' Christmas rather than the English 'Happy'.

Stephen Jeffers (1959-1965) wished us a Very Happy Christmas from beautiful Palm Springs, California suggesting that it was '74 degrees today and that thankfully the US midterm elections are over!'

Nigel Stuckey (1958-1964) confirmed he was Still here! in France with the only thing of note to report being 'the staggering news of the arrival of fibre to our sleepy hollow. From the 0.5 Mbps we have had to tolerate since the dinosaurs left, we now have 300 Mbps!! and Websites come up before I've even pressed the keys!'

Another of our members from overseas and living in New Zealand is **Steve Lowndes** who joined the School in the second year in 1959 and may be remembered by contemporaries as the Mildmay House Captain. He has sent us a copy of his book 'Travelling Light' which chronicles his various journeys around the world, initially on his own and then, after a chance meeting in 1969 at a dusty bus stop in Bolivia, a decade travelling with his new companion, Lisa Potts, through Pakistan, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Iran, America, Canada, Indonesia, Australia and more. A fascinating story from 'the days before credit cards, mobile phones or internet cafés, when the journey itself was the point of the experience, destinations being vaguely on the other side of the planet, and getting there simply taking as long as it takes. No plans, just you, your passport, a change of clothes and the appeal of the unknown, the thrill of taking on whatever tomorrow brings'.

Having settled in New Zealand during the winter of 1979, Steve has subsequently enjoyed a chequered career. Five years as a builder's labourer were followed by fourteen years as the director of the Akaroa Museum during which time he wrote three short histories of Akaroa, Banks Peninsula and the Hurunui. He then went into local government serving on various boards and councils and retired in 2019 as the Chairman of Environment Canterbury. Writing and painting have been Steve's twin recreations and he is currently working on another book, a biography of a man called Henry Head Alexander, who was born in Chippenham, travelled around the world seven times and spent many years in New Zealand before dying in Melbourne in 1925, aged 90



OBITUARIES

In the last issue we briefly mentioned the death in October of **Dave Matthews** (1952-1960) and in sending us the funeral details, Steve Little added that “I played much cricket with Dave on Saturdays and more so on Sundays and each year from 1975 to 1999 we played together in Terry Ketley’s XI (of mainly OCs) against his local club near Maidstone. I kept wicket to Dave’s bowling quite often and secured many a stumping!

He was the slowest left arm spinner I ever kept to or saw. He could bowl the normal spin ball but occasionally the Chinaman with a huge loop – the batsmen’s eyes lit up as they charged at the ball which then spun the other way and yours truly had the easiest of stumpings. Dave, whilst a bachelor all the years I knew him, was very popular with the wives and girlfriends as well as his fellow players. A joy to be with and a thoroughly good bloke.”

We have also heard from Duncan Bilney of the death last July of his father **C.A. Bilney** who attended the School from 1945-1950 and who had been a member since October 1950. He would appear to have stayed local all his life, his membership card showing his first address as North Avenue before moving to Beeches Road in Chelmsford and later to Maldon Road, Bicknacre and finally to 'Woodstock' in Woodham Ferrers.

Geoff Woods has kindly sent us these details about his father **John H Woods** (1945-1952) who died in June 2022.

“He grew up in Springfield and went to the Grammar School to the age of 18 as you know. After doing his national service, and after working in a bank for a short while, he got a job with the Essex River Board. He married my Mum in 1958 and moved to Cornwall in 1962, having got a job with the civil engineering contractor Gleasons. He worked as an engineer on a few jobs including Siblyback Reservoir on Bodmin Moor and Stithians Reservoir in west Cornwall, before landing a post with the Cornwall River Board as a land drainage engineer. He would work for them in their various guises – South West Water Authority and finally the Environment Agency – until he retired in 1993 at the age of 59.

He had a keen interest in the outdoors and particularly his garden. He was lucky to own a cottage on Bodmin Moor with an acre of mixed garden and woodland. He kept a rain gauge in his garden and sent rainfall measurements to the Met Office for several decades. He served on his local parish council for many years and had a keen interest in politics. He was a steward at Lawrence House Museum in Launceston, alongside Jake Jackson (see below). He also enjoyed painting.

He had a keen interest in sport (which he passed on to me) and played hockey and tennis at local club level. He liked hill walking and we spent hundreds of hours together walking on the moors or along the north Cornwall cliffs. He also enjoyed watching rugby and athletics on the telly and is survived by my Mum, Avril, who still lives in the same house, my sister, Lisa (born 1962) and myself (born 1965).

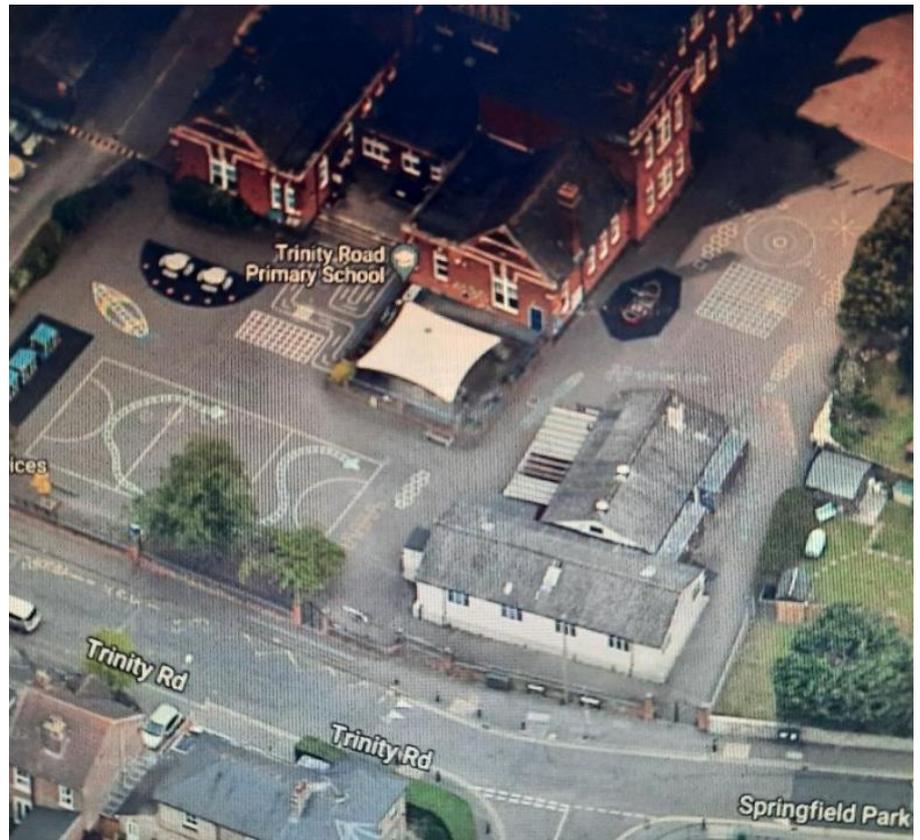


In the picture attached, Dad is in the middle row on the far left – I think it was probably taken some time in the late forties. Among his friends at the Grammar School were the Courtman twins, Donald and Dudley, and Roger Leigh. Another ex-KEGS pupil and teacher living locally to Mum and Dad in Cornwall was ‘Jake’ Jackson. He is a couple of years younger than my dad and taught both me and my sister at Launceston College in the seventies. My sister is still in touch with him”.

The Chelmsfordian records that John was awarded both 1st XI Hockey and 1st XI Football Colours whilst at KEGs and from our memory, whilst living in Springfield, attended the Trinity Road Primary School.

At that time many of our members lived in the Hill Road/Queens Road/Trinity Road (which has recently received a makeover as a Healthy School Street) and the Springfield Park area and passed the 11+ exam from this school to move on to KEGs.

We are sure that many of these readers will be saddened to hear that the original kitchen and canteen buildings they once used, shown here to the front right of the playground, have recently been demolished to make way for the development of 2 new classrooms, a new kitchen and dining hall and a toilet block to enable a full two class entry of 60 children in the future.



We were sorry to hear from his wife Joy, that **Roger Bome** had died at the end of November. He had attended the school from 1948-1955 and it was possibly here, under Tom Wright, that his interest and life-long love for music started. He was a member of the Caprice Wind Orchestra which Joy had started and which is now run by their son David, who also attended KEGs from 1980-1982. Over the years, the orchestra has raised a huge sum of money for different national and local charities and for which Joy was awarded an MBE. Having handed the baton over to David, Joy then formed the All Saints Orchestra, centred on her home Springfield Church, for the benefit of local musicians, both wind and string, to play together and we were delighted to host the orchestra's inaugural concert at Lawford Lane in the Spring of 2016. This was not only a family affair with daughter Helen joining Joy, Roger and son David but had a strong KEGs connection too, with Peter Cross and Kathleen Tuckwell also performing whilst Brian Greatrex, with whom Roger had been at School, part of the behind-the-scenes team. Roger can be seen with violin on the extreme left in the window.



Until Roger's health began to fail, he and Joy were regular members of the club Coffee Morning group and during one of these meetings, discussion turned to the Schorndorf exchanges organised by Tom Wright, and Roger mentioned that he was in possession of a collection of photos, newspaper clippings and other items that had been kept over the years by **Graham Rogers**. He had been at KEGs from 1949-1955 and had been one of the party who went on the first concert trip to Germany in April/May 1954 and Roger subsequently submitted this piece for use in the newsletter.

“In the Spring of 1954, **Tom Wright**, a music and history teacher at the school, took 27 members of his senior orchestra, together with 14 girls of the High School choir, on a concert tour to Schorndorf and surrounding towns in southern Germany. They stayed with families in each of the eight towns in which they performed and it was an extremely hectic schedule but their concerts were very well received. The towns visited were Schorndorf, Aalen, Ulm, Nürtingen, Stuttgart, Goppingen, Neuffen, Winnenden, and Esslingen. This visit was to prove the first of regular exchange visits between KEGS and the Max Planck Gymnasium in Schorndorf which lasted some thirty plus years. My wife Joy (nee Sparrow) and I became very involved with this exchange when **Peter Cross** succeeded Tom as music master at the School and we still keep in touch with our friends in Germany.

Peter Cross was in turn succeeded by **David Sparrow** who was given numerous photos and press cuttings from this first visit and who passed them on to me as he thought they would be of more interest to Joy and myself. These I have now passed on to be kept at the OC's clubhouse in Lawford Lane so that others of you can look at them at some time.

As mentioned, this collection was compiled by **Graham Rogers**, who sadly died in November 2013, a Marconi man who went on this visit and I am sure many of you reading this article will remember him. I have been able to identify the following from the photos. Twiggy Wood, (to become ambassador in Vienna), Michael Cooper-Cox, (to become Head Boy), Jon Sachs, Walter Landers, Joe Clark, Dick Cable, Ian Middleton, Jim Foulkes and Connie Alderton, another member of staff.”



As mentioned there were several press cuttings amongst this collection and the local newspaper reported that *“Musically, socially and even internationally, this grand piece of pioneering work promoted by Mr Tom Wright, music master at the King Edward VI School, was an unqualified success.”*

Another cutting headed “German Mother Wept as British Children Played Anthem” suggested that one of the most prized mementoes bought back from the trip by Tom Wright was a letter written by a German mother who had attended one of the concerts in Stuttgart *“I was present yesterday evening at your concert. I don't want to say anything about your music, which, as it came from you to me, gave me the very greatest pleasure. It is hard for me to find words to express what I want to say. I have not heard the German national anthem since the end of the war, and last night I heard it for the first time again, played by an English orchestra. I was not ashamed of my tears, and I must say I feel full of hope that on the basis of music a real understanding between the nations would be possible”*

Tom spent his entire working life at KEGs having initially been appointed in September 1930, after leaving Oxford University with a good Honours degree in Modern History, “to teach History and German and to be form master of Vb”. He retired in 1968 having laid the very strong foundations of music at KEGs and retained his interest in the School and its music until his death in 1990. He is still fondly remembered by the many hundreds of boys he taught and inspired, especially by those he introduced to music.

From this collection, which included Graham’s Identity Card for the trip, we read that a total of 13 concerts were given in the 8 towns to a total audience of more than 5000 children and adults and that the whole tour was a huge success.



COFFEE MORNINGS

These have continued on the third Thursdays of the month and as mentioned earlier, numbers were swelled when we welcomed Geoff Patient and his group to the Christmas coffee morning with a fish and chip lunch. Should other year groups wish to similarly join us at one of our gatherings for coffee, a catch up and a guided tour of the facilities at Lawford Lane, they would be most welcome. Being predominantly made up now of those in their 80s and 90s we seem to have missed out on those retirees of the last 15-20 years or so. New members of whatever age would always be welcome and we are very much cheaper than Costa and other coffee shops!

Our regular gatherings are held between 10am and noon on the third Thursday of the month and further information is available from Ted Caton on 01245 256790 or at ted@hausgisela.plus.com

CRICKET

As we move out of the latest cold snap, it is nearing the time for many of us to retrieve the cricket kit from storage, writes Baz Bowerman.

February sees the beginning of our indoor net sessions, which will again take place at the KEGS indoor sports hall facility. Once we finish the indoor nets, the evenings will be lighter and our activity will move outside. An update on the progress of all of our teams will appear in the next edition of this newsletter.

FOOTBALL

A strange season to date with play initially interrupted by the December snows before the league shutdowns over Christmas and New Year and later the January frost which got deep into the ground making play impossible.

**Sadly too, the Sunday 1st team has withdrawn from the league for want of regular players.
Results for the games which have been played to date are as follows:-**

Saturday 1st XI Essex Olympian League Senior Div 1 2nd XI Essex Olympian League Senior Div 3

05/11/22	Away	Corinthians	Won 4-1*	Home	Buckhurst Hill	Lost 2-0*
12/11/22	Away	Colne Athletic	Lost 2-1**	Home	Basildon Town	Lost 4-1*
19/11/22	Home	Herongate Athletic	Won 3-2*	Away	Toby Reserves	Won 4-1*
26/11/22	Home	Beacon Hill Rovers	Won 6-1****	Away	Corinthians Res	Won 9-1*
03/12/22	Home	ACD United	Won 6-1*	Away	Hullbridge Sports	Won 3-1*
07/01/23	Away	Manford Way	Drew 1-1*	Home	Chingford Athletic	Lost 4-1*
14/01/23	Away	Wakebury First	Won (3-3) 4-1 Pens***			
28/01/23	Home	Beacon Hill Rovers	Won 2-1*			

*League, **Premier Cup, ***Senior League Cup, ****Reserve League Cup

League Position to date 3rd of 11
P 11, W 6, D 2, L 3, GF 31 GA 22, Pts 20

League Position to date 8th of 10
P 12, W 4, D 2, L 6, GF 24 GA 22, Points 12 Adj

Saturday 3rd XI Mid Essex League Division 1

05/11/22			
12/11/22	Away	Stock United	Won 2-0*
19/11/22	Home	Fleet First	Lost 4-2*****
26/11/22	Away	Boreham FC	Won 4-1*
03/12/22	Home	Boreham FC	Won Home W/o*
10/12/22	Away	Emerson and Upminster	Won 4-0*
07/01/23	Home	Beacon Hill Rovers	Lost 4-2*
14/01/23	Home	Fleet FC First	Won 2-1*

*League, **Patrons Plate, ***League Cup, ****Junior Trophy, *****Junior Cup

League Position to date 1st of 10
P 9, Won 6, Drawn 1, Lost 2, GD +7, Pts 19

League Position to date 8th of 10
P 8, Won 3, Drawn 0, Lost 5, GD -8, Points 9

Saturday Vets Essex Veterans League Division 1 East

05/11/22	Away	Great Baddow	Lost 3-2*
12/11/22	Away	Great Baddow	Lost 3-2***
19/11/22	Home	Old Barkabbeyans	Lost 3-2**
03/12/22	Away	Shenfield Association	Won 4-3*
10/12/22	Home	Springfield	Won Home w/o*
07/01/23	Away	Swansong	Lost 5-0*
14/01/23	Home	White Notley	Won 4-2*
28/01/23	Home	Catholic United	Drew 1-1*

*League, **League Cup, ***Veterans Cup

Over 45s Premier Division

Home	Frenford	Lost 6-2**
Away	Herongate	Drew 1-1*
Home	Frenford	Won 2-1*
Home	Shenfield Ass	Lost 5-0*
Away	BSC	Won 7-1*

League Position to date 2nd of 9
P 10, W 6, D 1, L 3, GF 25 GA 20, Pts 19

League Position to date 8th of 10
P 6, W 2, D 1, L 3, GF 10 GA 11, Points 7

Sunday 2nd XI Chelmsford Sunday League Div 4

30/10/22	Away	Hannakins Farm	League Cup	Lost Home Walkover
13/11/22	Away	Writtle Sunday Reserves	League	Lost 5-1
20/11/22	Away	Essex Police	League	Void
27/11/22	Away	FFB(S)	League	Lost 6-2
04/12/22	Home	Woodham Radars	League	Lost 6-0
08/01/23	Home	Dynamo Citra (S)	League	Won 4-2
15/01/23	Away	Beaulieu Park	League	Won 2-1
29/01/23	Home	Melbourne	League	Lost 1-0

League Position to date 7th of 13

P 11, W 3, D 1, L 7, GF 18, GA 34, Pts 10

TENNIS

The section chairman, Jane Gray, writes with their news:-

We waited a long time for the publication of the final summer league tables but it was worth the wait!

Our Men's first team won Division 1 for the first time in anyone's memory, with several other teams (Ladies 1, Ladies 3, Mens 3 and Mixed 1) all achieving high positions in their division. There may well be some promotions for next summer!

The winter leagues have been hampered by poor weather and the many winter bugs that have been circulating - the fixture pile up for the last two months of the season is pretty heavy so we are hoping for some reasonable weather in order to complete all our matches.

Nine members ventured out for our Christmas social on 27th December and enjoyed a good morning of tennis in unexpectedly pleasant conditions.

The new courts have bedded in very well and all members are enjoying the excellent playing conditions and receiving many complimentary comments from visiting teams.

New members are always welcome, whatever your standard of play, please visit our website www.chelmsfordiantennis.co.uk for membership information.

TABLE TENNIS

Chelmsford District Table Tennis League – 2022/23 Season

The main Chelmsford League season has just passed its halfway point and we have some very encouraging news to report concerning our A Team in Division 1.

Having not won the top division in the Chelmsford League since 1994/95, the A Team currently sit top of the league by a clear 19 points having won 9 out of the 11 matches they have played. The three main players in the squad all have spectacular win percentages. Matthew Mulley remains unbeaten having won all 21 matches he has played, brother Mark has won 90% of his games, and Paul Lucas 89%. If these three players remain fit and available for the remainder of the season then the A Team should become champions for the first time in 28 years.

Our two teams in Division 2 continue to perform contrary to expectations. The stronger B Team squad is currently bottom of the 12-team league and are 8 points from safety. Gareth Joice (67%), Berti Makoli (62%), and Kevin Worthington (58%) all have excellent win records but have not played in enough games for this to have materially affected the teams league position. If these players can turn out more in the second half of the season, then the B Team should have a good chance of avoiding relegation.

By contrast, the C Team in Division 2 is comfortably mid-table (6th of 12) largely due to the exploits of ever-present Mick Richardson who has a highly creditable win rate of 68% in the first half of the season.

In Division 3 the D Team have pushed themselves into promotion contention by winning their last three games. Richard Baxter is their leading player (81%) and is admirably supported by Tom Barker (55%) and Richard Upson (50%).

Our remaining two teams both compete in Division 4. The E Team is currently 5th of 10 thanks mainly to the consistency of Farooq Ahmed (81%) and David Newman (56%). However, the E team is in a relegation fight and is currently one place above the relegation places in 8th with only 1 point more than the Hatfield Peverel D Team in 9th. David Bishop (62%) is vital to this team's hope of survival.

Interested in playing table tennis for the OCAs?

If you are interested in playing competitive table tennis for the OCAs we accept new members at all times of the year so please contact David Porter (by email to DJPEssex@aol.com or on 07885 467935). All standards of player can be accommodated across the teams we enter in both the main Chelmsford League which runs from September to the following April and the Central Essex Summer League which operates in June and July.

AND FINALLY

As mentioned on Page 1 the Annual Dinner date for 2023 is Saturday April 15th, in the main hall at Lawford Lane – George Cristin-Marks and his events team have this in hand and more details can be obtained from them at old_chelmsfordians@outlook.com

Our thanks as always to all members who have contributed to this issue or indeed, just been in touch over the last couple of months. It is always good to hear from you.

The next newsletter should be published late April/early May so plenty of time to write your pieces for inclusion in this.

Any members wishing and willing to receive the newsletter by email or wanting to advise us of any change to either their home or email address should contact George Heseltine as below.

**George Heseltine: 30 Trinity Road : Chelmsford : Essex : CM2 6HS
Phone : 01245 265962 Email : heseltineuk@aol.com**