



OCA NEWSLETTER NO 300

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The Quarterly Journal of The Old Chelmsfordians Association
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IN THE BEGINNING

To mark the achievement of reaching Number 300 we looked back to the start of our newsletter story to January 1969 when Eddie Gardner wrote *“Way back in the 1949-1952 era, the Association produced a Year Book for the information and amusement of members. In these days of high costs and insufficient income, such a publication is not possible. Nevertheless, it has been felt for some time that members deserved more than the occasional notice and brief report in “The Chelmsfordian”. Here then is the first of a new-style Newsletter, which it is hoped, will be produced six times a year. Apart from reports of Association and Sports and Social activities, we wish to include news about Old Boys of all ages”.*

Many things have changed since that time, 2nd class postage was a pre-decimal 4 old pence - a mere groat - or 1.5p decimal compared to today's 85p, Chelmsford telephone numbers were still only 5 digits before the '2' was added at the front and locally you didn't need to dial an STD code to make a call. Mind you, phones were still attached to walls in those days! The School Roll was nearer 600 than today's 1150 with most pupils living locally and going on to work in Chelmsford and able to enjoy the facilities offered at Lawford Lane, both sporting and social. Today's pupils can be studying as many 'A' levels as the 1969 cohort sat at 'O' level and many more now go on to University and, with a very much wider catchment area, many inevitably leave Chelmsford for good. However, one thing that hasn't changed over the last 55 years is the life-time commitment of so many members to the Association and we hope that since Eddie's death in 2002, he having edited the first 202 issues of the newsletter, that we have managed to continue his work in bringing you news, albeit now only 4 times a year, of the Association, our Sports teams and Old Boys of all ages. An amazing journey that hopefully has still some way to run!

AN INTRODUCTION BY OUR NEW PRESIDENT – SARAH BOWERMAN

It's a great honour to become Club President of the Old Chelmsfordians Association having taken over this role from Dave Grainger at the Annual Dinner on March 23rd. I may be the first lady to have this honour but I really want to be seen as representing the sterling efforts of the clubs many, many volunteers.



I have lived in Chelmsford since 1992 having spent my childhood on our family farm in Cheshire. I loved academia and gained a BSc from Oxford Polytechnic, an MSc from Wye Agricultural College and an MPhil from UCL. I eventually settled in Chelmsford and have worked for Essex and Suffolk Water for most of my career. In 2000, I met Mark, aka 'Baz', who played football and cricket for the OCs. As a keen sportsman myself (previously hockey and now parkrun and long-distance running), I was happy to embrace the life of a cricket spectator. I was made very welcome as a quiet observer but knowing how clubs are run, I was soon involved in making teas and generally helping out and from 2017, became the 3rd XI's regular tea lady.

Our two boys, Matt and Tom joined KEGs in 2015 and 2017 respectively and both became Tindal House Captain in year 12. Throughout their time there, I have been an active member of the PTA, organising events, fundraising and, as a family, hosting the annual school quiz.

Both Matt and Tom developed a love of cricket from an early age and as soon as they were able to start playing, Mark became youth coach and shortly after that I became one of the club Youth Welfare Officers.



Volunteers are the backbone of all amateur sports clubs and the OCs is no exception. I would like to say a massive thank you to all members who help to keep the club running smoothly – from the groundsmen, bar staff, committee members, team captains and managers and those who ensure the clubhouse upkeep and the Friday gang, and now fundraisers – the sports simply could not happen without you. A special mention and thank you from me to Jez Crook who has been a fantastic advocate and ambassador for the club and has tenaciously and tirelessly submitted applications and secured grants and sponsorships for our fundraising.

It's really exciting to be the club President at a time when our teams in all the OCs sports – football, cricket, tennis, table tennis, summer hockey and golf are in such great shape, the grounds look superb and in a year when we are going to transform the face of our changing facilities. We have a large membership and if we all do our bit to help the fundraising, I am confident of reaching our target of £300,000+.

I am looking forward enormously to the coming year and take great pride in representing the OCs at functions and ceremonies throughout my time in office.

CHANGING ROOM PROJECT UPDATE FROM JEZ CROOK

Our £300,000 changing room project is just like the song 'Old man river' - it just keeps rolling along.



We've made more progress since the last update. We've secured a £50,000 interest free loan which is great, but we need to pay back £10,000 a year for the next 5 years. This will be a challenge as the OCA's annual income only covers the annual expenditure despite everyone who works at Lawford Lane being unpaid volunteers. We are working hard to increase our income and are now letting our halls more than we ever have before which is helping, but there is still more to do.

We have been running a very successful Crowdfunder campaign, which has now reached £25,000, including £6,000 from Sport England Active Together. 128 people have so far supported the Crowdfunder and quite a few past and present members/players have donated £1,000 each. Given that we currently have more than 1000 OCA members and another 500 sports-playing members we would hope that more people can support this project to help us get up to (and even over) the £30,000 mark. If all our present members/players donated just £10 then we would easily reach the £30,000 mark and cover the interest free loan as well so if you haven't donated yet, please do so today. Thanks!

We hope to hear from the Football Foundation in the next 6 weeks if our application for £200,000+ has been successful. In the meantime, we must carry on doing all we can to make sure we have enough funding so that this essential project can be completed.

Our Crowdfunder has now closed, but you can find all the details about the project by following this link <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/old-chelmsfordians-changing-room-refurbishment> whilst details on how you can donate can be found on the OCA website.

[Old Chelmsfordians Association - Old Chelmsfordians Sports and Social Club See Crowdfunder page for an update! \(old-chelmsfordians.co.uk\)](https://www.old-chelmsfordians.co.uk)

Thanks to everyone who has already donated and thanks to everyone who will donate soon. We are truly grateful for every bit of financial support you can provide.

'200 CLUB' AND 'DEVELOPMENT FUND'

With this proposed redevelopment thought is being given to the future of both these funds with a view to them providing ongoing monies for the future maintenance and improvements at Lawford Lane. Meanwhile they continue as they are with new members always welcome.

The current monthly subscription for the 200 Club is just £1.10, which can be paid annually @ £13.20, with half the money received from members being 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.

The Development Fund 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 HEADMASTER WRITES

The Spring term of 2024 seemed somewhat short but certainly did not lack intensity. One of the highlights was without doubt the whole school production of the musical "Parade". Some outstanding individual performances were complemented by fantastic ensemble singing and acting, with the stage and technical teams also excelling themselves. Particularly thanks are due to Mrs Garnish, Mr Worrall, Mrs Khoo and Mr Leverett for all the work they put in to make something of such high quality possible. Because of the show, the concert was moved to 17th April at the start of the Summer term – amongst a range of wonderful performances it is worth singling out David Ball, from our sixth form, who performed a movement from Dvorak's cello concerto with the school orchestra.

In sport, as readers may be aware, basketball has become a particular strength of the school, and for the third year running our senior team made it to the final of the Essex Cup. Having come out winners in both of the

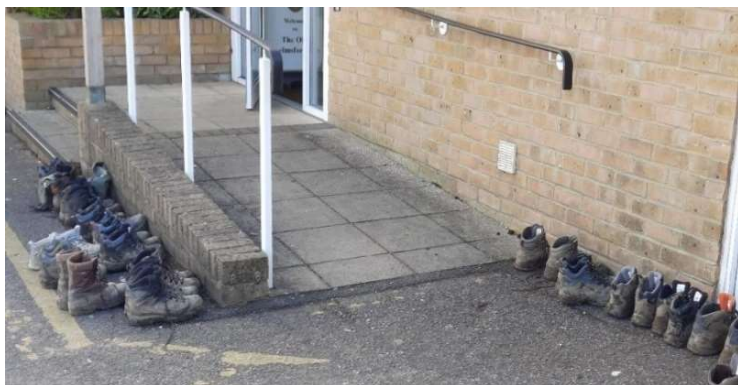
last two years, it was disappointing that this year was different, but nevertheless the team were a huge credit to the school in both their performance and the manner in which they represented KEGS.

The trips and visits programme has been as active as ever. Some recent highlights include a team going to Mogonjet, our partner school in Kenya, a senior classics trip to Rome, a junior classics trip to Pompeii and the CCF Easter Camp. We also welcomed our French partner school visitors during last term and there have been a wide range of DofE expeditions, lecture trips, competitions, theatre and museum visits and sports fixtures.

Finally, any piece written in April would be incomplete without reference to the conclusion of the house competition. For 2023/24, Tindal were deserved and clear winners, their organisation and house spirit seeing them to the title as the Spring term came to an end. The cup was presented in final assembly with red ribbons suitably attached. That final week also saw a wonderful effort for charities week, with over £4000 being raised by students. Indeed, as an outgoing team of prefects and house officials make way for those new into roles, I want to end by paying tribute to our young people, to their spirit, energy and good humour – and to what they give to the school and the wider world.

Tom Carter.

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



The Headmaster mentioned above the various DofE expeditions taking place and we were delighted to be able to open our doors again on Sunday March 24th as a base during the day for the various groups of pupils from the School who were taking part in their Bronze Award Duke of Edinburgh training walk. The scheme is run within School by Lucy Fryer and other staff and, whilst the weather was much kinder than in 2023, it was still very much ‘boots off’ for the debriefing session on their return.

We also heard from the School’s archivist, **Barbara Gray**, that her husband Michael had received an enquiry from an Old Boy about the **Rev A H Franklin** who taught RE at KEGS before leaving in 1971; was he the same Rev Franklin as the Rector of Great Leighs?. Barbara added ‘So far I have drawn a blank apart from the brief report of his departure with no record of his arrival in the Chelmsfordian magazines. We suspect he probably was the same man but have no proof one way or the other. Michael briefly co-existed here at KEGs but not long enough or close enough to have any information. I’ll carry on the hunt but wonder if any of your records/acquaintances might help’.

We recalled an article about the Reverend but were more than a little surprised when our research into this took us all the way back to the October 2011 newsletter when we included this piece: -

Steve Little (1960-1968) also informed us that he has just discovered that Gus Rendall, a friend of his daughter who he has known for over 15 years, is the grandson of the Reverend Franklin who taught at the School during Steve’s time. Steve thought that he had lived in Swiss Avenue but was corrected that it was Waxy Wheatley who lived there and Gus further updated Steve on those Latin and Greek teachers of old:-

I saw my mum last night and Grandad never lived in Chelmsford so think you are mistaken about that bit. He moved straight to Great Leighs from London and after Great Leighs he moved to Felsted where he was the vicar of Felsted Church and taught at the local school. He lived there until he died in his 90s. I can't remember the exact year he passed away but it would have been about 1995/96. My Grandma (who was 16 years younger) stayed in Felsted for a while before she had to go into a home and my mum moved her down to live in Molesey where there is a nice home for widows of servicemen. She passed away about 4 years ago. He did indeed sink in the 1925 University boat race!!! Sadly, his oars ended up back at the college he attended in Oxford. I have been meaning to ask them if I could have one of them back for years. You may not know that

he served as the chaplain in the 8th army during the 2nd World War - mostly in Africa but also Europe. I still have his old forces newspapers, including his handbook for the invasion of Sicily. He was a very keen chess player and devoted to his allotment. He also made the best homemade bread and raspberry jam!! I've just realised that it was the other classics teacher, Nigel Wheatley, who lived in Swiss Avenue. We were good friends with the family and I saw his son who is an actor playing at The Rose Theatre recently - we had a good chat – and Nicola, his daughter was a great friend of our family'.

Ed - My own recollection of the Reverend's arrival at School was his two-tone convertible Ford Consul which seemed at the time a most unlikely mode of transport for a Reverend. This was put to his daughter who remembered the Consul well with its coral-coloured roof and advised us that this was known in the village as the 'passion wagon'!

FOLLOWING ON

We were delighted to receive this response from **John Lines** (1940-1949) in Australia to an article in the last issue:-

“This 'ageing' correspondent has fallen into the 'irregular' category but the January blast from the past by **Murray Brazier** certainly brought back memories. His recollections are much sharper than mine. I knew nothing of the family tragedy he mentioned but, as one does, I have now investigated and can confirm it. What follows is for the over-eighties by the way!

Both Miss Winchester and the wandering barrage balloon were revelations. Miss Timberlake and Miss Baggs rang distant bells. The context escapes me but the latter persuaded me to take up the violin. I avoid the word 'learn'. After three years I managed to pluck a vague resemblance to 'Twinkle, Twinkle'. But not while holding the bow.

There was no mention of Mr Powley who had the most exquisitely neat handwriting on a blackboard I have ever seen. Most of the time I had no idea what it meant. I doubt I have actually used a squared 'x' since. And where, may I ask, were 'Connie' Alderton and 'Tusker' (or more cruelly 'Isaiah') Lee? The former strove valiantly to bring a little gracious art appreciation into our less than gentle wartime lives while the latter constantly encouraged the latent essayist dormant within us. This may have been more successful than he ever dared to imagine.

I was stunned by Murray's revelation that entry to the senior school depended upon being good enough. I have always believed this just happened automatically requiring no effort on my part. Now you tell me. Those who allegedly saw a modicum of scholarship would have been appalled by the subsequent failure to perform as predicated.

I have now passed the point at which you even care what day it is but I suppose it is just possible I was a child prodigy. I certainly intend to advance this proposition during future discussions with our great-grandchildren. They Google everything I claim and it would be helpful if our esteemed editor could place a suitably confirming anecdote on our website.

Murray did not mention 'Bruiser' Findlay but aforesaid youngsters are dubious anyone could have been as fearsome as I make him sound. They only half-accept my assurance he was not a rapper. I have yet to introduce them to 'Pussy' Johnson - who certainly could rap - or 'Copper' Smith - who created my obsession for Australia without which they would not be here.

I was surprised to learn that 'Mickey' Ellis (a) saved a lad from drowning and (b) took the arm of an army officer. In the High Street no less (the arm-taking I mean). I can but hope said officer was not infantry. If memory serves - it probably does not - Ms Ellis described me as 'neat and controlled' in one term report. This was obviously a scholarly euphemism for 'untidy and lazy'. Strangely perhaps, for the remainder of my many

years, it was rarely necessary to climb up a rope. Outside Loughborough, there is seldom one hanging around when you actually need it.

As for 'Sooty' Sutcliffe, I never witnessed the 'severe' bit. Quite the reverse in fact. My recall is that every sixth-former wanted to be in her Latin class. While we juniors could have done without the Latin, we simply adored her. Grace Kelly arrived a little later. *Maiores longinquo reverentia* perhaps?

There is no doubt that tears were shed by (and for) Madame Giraud on her return to France c1946; I do not think she was a mademoiselle and apologise if the spelling is wrong. Most of the school was truly saddened when she was farewelled at morning prayers. Murray may remember that Madame expected us to remember our marks. French lessons were invariably *viva voce*. After your attempt to use the foreign language in answer, she would say (in English) "Take three marks" if you were right or, far more likely, "Take off five marks" if you were wrong. At the end of the week, we were asked what marks we had been given and miraculously the class average was generally 98 and occasionally 98.5. Invariably charming, and really very motherly, Madame never complained and apparently trusted us completely. She must have done. I passed French! *Donc là.*

I only remember Mr Danvers as 'Mr Danvers'. While I did not realise it at the time, he somewhat anonymously provided an essential carpentry framework that proved very useful in later years. I have never cut myself, or anyone else, with a chisel. He may be just a name but this is not true of 'Jock' Carruthers whose arrival after the war was a belated bomb shell. He made an explosive - if controversial - mark on KEGS and I am exhausted just recalling his energy and enthusiasm. For anything and everything. Nobody, but nobody, has since persuaded me to stand on a stage and sing 'I am Antonio and I come from Barcelonio'.

Thanks for the memories, Murray. Without exception, they were infinitely better teachers than many of us may have appreciated and I remain deeply indebted to them all. Even if someone writes in to say I have got all the names and all their subjects wrong. *Djäpana*".

Other recent overseas correspondents have been **John Barton** (1960-1964) from Australia, **Michael Madden** (1950-1954) and **Colin Burgess** (1966-1972) from America and **Nigel Stuckey** (1958-1964), from Swakopmund which Google, rather than School geography lessons, suggests is in Namibia, who mentions his contemporaries Bob Juniper and Malcolm Marshall.

John Barton had also asked if we had any knowledge as to the present whereabouts of **Dave Warder** who was a contemporary at School and despite making enquiries, we have so far drawn a blank.



However, **Dave Gill** did forward this photo of the 1963 School Hockey team in front of Westfield House which included Dave Warder. From left to right are Colin Smith, Peter Taylor, Dave Warder, Dave Gill, Nick Moody and Ian Stabler with front Alan Fountain, John Townend, Bruce Simpson, Mike Weston, Howard Swan and Wil Barry.

We had enquired of John whether he was aware that his brother Andrew (1960-1967) lived in the same road in Shenfield as Roderick Greig whose article in the last issue attracted the attention of **Steve Middleton** (1962-1969).

“Thanks as always for the newsletter. I particularly enjoyed the section about 'historic KEGS'. The boarders were still in residence when I was there, presided over by a resident master who had a seemingly tiny study/bedroom up a flight of stairs. I'm not sure how many boarders there were by the early 1960s, but there were a couple in the classes I was in. Very interested to see the picture of a Transitus class, one year ahead of me and several wearing short trousers. I can't remember anyone in my year who hadn't graduated to long trousers. Times changed so quickly. A few years ago my mother gave me the cap I wore in the first years at KEGS. She'd found it when clearing the house prior to going into a small flat. I remember that the caps were quite exotic for older pupils, with tassels and all kinds of special adornments. Those all went in one wholesale change. I spent the first year at Friars then we all walked in a crocodile to the Broomfield Road site in our lunch hour. Would that be allowed now?”

We have in the past mentioned the author, **John A Baker**, and local readers might be interested to know that the Chelmsford Museum is currently showing an exhibition entitled “**Restless Brilliance: The Story of J.A. Baker and The Peregrine**”. The exhibition is the first to explore the life and legacy of the legendary nature writer and conservationist and is co-curated with the University of Essex and features more than 60 items from the university's Baker archive, including personal letters, photographs and detailed ornithological diaries whilst also drawing on contributions from well-known modern-day naturalists, such as Chris Packham and Sir David Attenborough, as well as from residents and local artists, as it seeks to highlight the influential author's legacy today. This continues until November 3rd with the museum being open daily from 10am to 4pm, November to March, and 10am to 5pm, April to October. As part of the exhibition the museum is also organising a series of walks, led by David Simmonds, through 'Baker Country' visiting sites listed in the author's diaries and identified in his seminal 1967 work *The Peregrine*. Those interested in joining one of these walks of approximately four and a half miles and starting in Little Baddow should visit David's website at www.jabaker.co.uk.

Paul Biddlecombe (1960-1967) was just one of many OCs who contacted us on the success of former KEGS schoolboy **Ollie Bearman** whose motor racing career we reported on in the last newsletter and who was announced as a late replacement for Ferrari's Carlos Sainz ahead of the 2024 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix on March 9th. Ollie became the youngest driver in the team's history and just missed out on a top 10 in Qualifying, but rebounded to finish seventh on his Formula 1 debut. As we said before, certainly one to watch!

MEETING OCs IN STRANGE PLACES

We heard from **Kevin Menhinick** (1970-1972) of this chance encounter: “While attending the recent second Test match in Visag, India, I got chatting to a man around the pool by the name of **Richard Silcock**.

It transpired that he grew up on the Woodhall Estate and attended KEGS in 1971! Although a sports fan, he said he never joined the OCA as he wasn't a very good sportsman and isn't in contact with any former pupils.

He said he was in the same year as Jez Crook and that the only other pupils he remembers were Jez's brother Tim, former professional footballer, Mark Dziadulewicz and the journalist Simon Heffer.

Richard said that he now lives in Felsted, is the local postmaster and owns the village stores. Anyone passing by would receive a warm welcome, I'm sure”.

We also learned of a chance encounter by our dentist whilst attending a christening near Portsmouth. In conversation afterwards it transpired that the rector at Emsworth was **Andrew Sheard** who was at school from 1971-1978.

Brian Greatrex (1948-1955) responded to Terry Allen's encounter with John Cable in the Canaries by advising us that both **John and Richard Cable** (always known as Dick) were both good musicians. John usually played for morning assembly in the old school hall and Dick played Clarinet in the School Orchestra in the days of Tom Wright and Connie Alderton. I never progressed beyond the recorder myself although I do play percussion now in the back row of Caprice and enjoy it. We all sang together in St Peter's Church Choir, of which I still have photographs although that church is long since demolished.

COFFEE MORNINGS

These continue each third Thursday of the month and that held on April 18th also hosted a reunion for a group of nine who started life together at School in 1949. This had been organized by Frank Easton to include a fish and chip lunch before a guided tour of the School by Lindsey Thompson, the School's PR and Marketing Manager and Head's PA. Seventy five years on, the extent of the new buildings on the old canteen field was something to behold along with the 450th Anniversary additions including the Music School in 2001 and the later additions of the Sixth Form Centre and Sports Hall with the latter conjuring up comparative memories of the 1950's gym with the wall bar surround and a few ropes suspended from the ceiling!



Our photo shows the group (left to right) Brian Hill-Cottingham, Keith Crook, Brian Kettle, David Butt, Barrie Davey, Francis Greatrex, Frank Easton, Roger Godden and Rex Hobbs. Brian Greatrex who was a year earlier also popped in to meet the group and our new President, Sarah Bowerman, also spent the morning with us and enjoyed hearing from the group of School in the fifties.

John A Baker, mentioned above had started work at the age of 18 at

L.P. Foreman, then willow tree growers and cricket bat manufacturers and by co-incidence. some lively discussion ensued about Foremans between Frank Easton and Terry Mynard (1934-43) who both had family connections with the company. If other year groups would like to similarly meet, we would be delighted to host them.

Another of our coffee morning regulars **Peter Crisp** was a member of the Corps of Drums who visited Denmark in 1950 and performed at the Tivoli Gardens. On that trip the Corps were presented with a bearskin which was subsequently worn by the mascot but which has now seen better days. OC, **Stephen Foakes** (1961-1967) who has been assisting with the band has done some research with a view to restoring or replacing this and through a Danish friend has discovered that a new one from the company that makes the bearskins for the Danish Guards and the Tivoli Youth Guard would cost in the region of £1,850!

David Butt had earlier donated another couple of Pussy Johnson's pictures to add to our growing collection in the snooker room and **Christina Brazier** had also presented one drawn from the bedroom window at 40 Duke Street looking down Fairfield Road across towards the Waterhouse area in 1924. A related conversation with **Chris Horne** (1952-1958) confirmed that he too has some of Pussy Johnson's watercolours which he

says “he purchased at the sale following his death. My reason, apart from wishing to have something to remind me of a very well-intentioned Schoolmaster trying with little success to teach me Latin, was that they were mainly painted when he had visited Kent before the Second World War on a holiday trip – then almost abroad of course! Despite having lived on the other side of the river in Kent for the past sixty years I still look at the Essex cricket scores first!”

OCA WILDLIFE JANUARY – APRIL 2024

Early morning listeners to BBC Essex on Friday, February 2nd would have caught **Brian Terry** in conversation with Alex Stevanovic talking about grassroots football and the challenges of keeping grounds maintained and playable during the recent wet winters we have been experiencing. Brian, who with Chris Flint, have been winners in the past of various groundsmanship awards for the football pitches and cricket wickets at Lawford Lane, suggested that this was made possible at the Old Chelmsfordians because of the large number of volunteers he could call on to prepare the pitches both before and on the day and that despite this winter’s seemingly endless rain added that we had probably cancelled less games this season than in a normal year – a great tribute to all involved!

We were approached late last year by **Madhu Angra**, the Chelmsford Centre President of the Sri Sathya Sai



Organisation to see if we had space to plant a number of trees at Lawford Lane as part of their worldwide initiative to plant 10 million trees to celebrate the upcoming Bhagawan’s Centenary birthday in 2025.

Their UK target is 10,080 trees and on their behalf we sourced 9 trees locally which the group contributed to financially and by organising this working party to help our Friday Gang plant them on February 23rd around the perimeter of the field.

Madhu, in thanking us, suggested that whilst their volunteer’s knowledge of tree planting might have been limited, they had all enjoyed the day and felt that they had been able to contribute to this global project and that having helped plant the trees with tender loving care they were looking forward to seeing the trees grow and blossom.

Meanwhile Nick Green has reported that the weather remained mainly wet and continued to break records!

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

Summer migrant birds include Chiffchaff, Whitethroat and Blackcap with

Butterflies: Brimstone, Peacock, Orange-tip, Small Tortoiseshell and

Plants: Snowdrops, Daffodils, Primroses, Crocuses and Blackthorn hedges in full blossom

Nick can be contacted on nick7green@aol.com.

OBITUARIES

We were notified of the death of Lieutenant Commander **Alan Bax** who joined the School in the autumn of 1942 but left to join HMS Ganges in 1947 as a boy seaman. He went on to become a pioneer in the



development of nautical archaeology, his interest first sparked in 1965 after an expedition to the Shetlands which recovered silver and gold coins from the Dutch East Indiaman *de Liefde* lost in 1711.

He went on to join the Mary Rose Committee and is pictured second left with Margaret Rule, Bill Majer and Alexander McKee. Margaret Rule went on to call Alan Bax ‘godfather to most underwater projects in the United Kingdom’ and in 1971 they were instrumental in finding the wreck of the *Mary Rose*, Henry VIII’s flagship, which sunk in 1545.

Being a trained shallow water diver, he was determined to improve the circumstances in which underwater wrecks were examined and conserved and in 1971 he used his full naval retirement gratuity in helping set up SNAP, the School for Nautical Archaeology Plymouth at Fort Bovisand at which some 2000 divers were subsequently trained, learning about underwater archaeology, photography and medicine on courses which became the templates for worldwide programmes.

It is suggested that he always regretted that he never found a business which would enjoy the acronym of CRACKLE and so link with SNAP and another business he owned called POP, Plymouth Ocean Products!

We spoke to **Ralph Archer** (1942-1947) who had joined KEGS at the same time as Alan and he remembered him leaving school to join the Navy whilst another of their immediate contemporaries was Dr Brian Judd whose distinguished academic career we reported in the July 2023 newsletter.



We have sadly received news of the deaths of two wives of members who at the time spent a lot of time at the club with their husbands. Ann, pictured left, wife of former President, Dave ‘Sammy’ Salmon who was ever present in the early years of Lawford Lane and who took on the role of Fete secretary. Ann’s funeral was held at Writtle Church on April 15th with many members present at the Church and back at the club for the wake afterwards.

Kevin Menhinick advised us of the death of Norma on March 20th from a combination of pneumonia and leukaemia at just 71 and ten years on since first being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease. Norma was a regular supporter of the various OCs cricket teams that Kevin played for bringing their son Matthew along with them before he too started playing for our sides – much to the delight of grandparents Len and Vera.

Mark Allison advised us of the death of one of the club’s young, popular footballers, **Greg Maile** (Mayo), who died suddenly following treatment for cancer from which it was thought he was making a good recovery and we also learned from Steve Little of the death of **Peter Beesley** who had played in goal for our football teams in the 1960s.

We also heard from Steve Little that one his contemporaries from the early 1960s at School, **Nick Chandler** had died having spent the last two years in a care home. Nick’s sister Cath had kept this group informed of his ongoing condition and had always managed to paint a very bright and positive picture of his life. In announcing his death she wrote “He was still very happy and had been all through the time of his dementia illness. This is something for which I am eternally grateful. So many become miserable and have what could be perceived as a very hard time but Nick was only ever happy and looking for a laugh or making jokes,

however appalling! He brought light and laughter with him wherever he went and I can see him now, walking away with that funny little gait, chuckling to himself..."

Gerald Webb advised us of the death of **Alan Webster**, a boarder at School from 1965-1969 and, like all boarders, a member of Tindal house. His funeral had taken place in Somerset at the beginning of March.

To the families and friends of all we extend our condolences.

FROM OUR MAIL BOX

"I got your email from Angus McCallum, who was in the year below me at KEGS, and whose late father, Bill, taught me English. I was at KEGS from 1972-79 and when I left to go to university, I decided I could not afford the OCA subscription on a student grant (remember those?). I have lived in the US for the last 23 years and it's always fun to tell people that my school was founded more than 200 years before they became a country! I occasionally recognize names in the newsletter that Angus shares so I guess I should face up to my financial responsibilities and join the OCs in my own name. Could you let me know how I can go about that? Thanks, **Gareth Nevitt**

Richard Watts wrote: "I wonder if any of my contemporaries (1964-71) can provide an answer to a question which has puzzled me over the years. We sometimes trouped en-masse to the Girls School to watch films in their hall. I can only recall 3 - Kathy Come Home, Taming of the Shrew (Taylor and Burton) and Targets. The first 2 I can understand but Targets? Given the other films available in the late 1960s why this rather violent anti-gun film? Did the school think they would forestall an "If" scenario!?"

Tim Watt (1957-1965) wrote with a change of home address and added " Always interesting to read the magazine, particularly when it touches upon those, be they fellow pupils or teachers, from my era, so many thanks for your continuing work. .Hope to communicate shortly on the subject of Eddie Daines who, though quite a bit older than him, was a very good friend of my father's during my childhood and my time at the school.

Peter Self contacted us to say that "being about to downsize house I have my father's Old Chelmsfordians jacket which I would like to donate to you if you have a museum. He was Cecil William Self and at the school in the 1920's and paid for Life memberships for my brother and I when we left the school (me in 1964)". We have now taken delivery of this and will add this to our archive..

We have also heard from **Matt Spencer** (1982-1989), **Alex Sadler** (1998-2005), **Ian Trotman** (1964-1971), **John Kettle** (1962-1969), **Kevin Brazier** (1977-1985) and **Chris Horne** (1952-1958) with either changes to their home or email addresses or with the request to convert from hard copies to save the postal and printing costs.

FOOTBALL **THE 2023-2024 SEASON – RESULTS TO DATE**

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

27/01/24	Away	Runwell Sports	Drew 2-2	Home	Runwell Sports	Lost 4-1
03/02/24	Home	Kelevdon Hatch	Drew 1-1	Away	Emerson and Upminster	Lost 4-1
10/02/24				Home	Springfield Res	Lost 3-0**
17/02/24	Home	Basildon Town Res	Won 3-0*	Away	Manford Way	Lost Home w/over
24/02/24	Away	Shenfield A	Won 4-0			
02/03/24	Home	Leigh Ramblers	Drew 1-1	Away	Pitsea Town	Lost 6-1
09/03/24	Away	Leigh Ramblers	0-0 Won Pens 3-2*	Home	Takeley Development	Lost 7-3
16/03/24	Home	Bishops Stortford	Won 3-0			
23/03/24	Home	Shenfield A	Drew 2-2	Away	Basildon Town	Drew 0-0

30/03/24	Home	Canning Town	Drew 4-4
06/04/24	Home	Rayleigh Town	Drew 0-0
13/04/24	Away	Wakering Sports	Lost 4-0*
20/04/24	Home	Catholic Utd	Drew 3-3

League other than * Senior League Cup **Shepherd Neame Trophy

Currently: 5th of 14. P22 W 8 D 9 L 5 GF 54 GA 49 Pts 33 12th of 12. P19 W1 D2 L16 GF 21 GA 61 Pts1*

Saturday 3rd XI Mid Essex League Premier Division

27/01/24	Away	Brentwood Athletic	Lost 9-1
03/02/24			
10/02/24	Away	Sandon Royals	Lost 1-0
17/02/24			
24/02/24	Home	Blackmore First	Lost 4-1
09/03/24			
16/03/24			
23/03/24			
30/03/24	Away	Benfleet Res	Lost 6-0
06/04/24	Away	Hannakins Farm	Lost 5-0
20/04/24	Away	Blackmore	Lost 2-1

4th XI Mid Essex League Division 3

Away	Springfield	Won 1-0
Home	Witham Town	Lost 4-3*
Away	Emerson and Upminster	Lost 1-0
Away	Beaulieu Park	Drew 1-1
Home	Emerson and Upminster	Won 2-0
Home	Epping Town	Lost 4-3
Away	Durning First	Won 5-0
Home	Beaulieu Park	Won 2-1
Away	Broomfield	Lost 4-2

League other than * Div 3 League Cup **Saturday Junior Cup

Currently: 10th of 10. P16 W1 D0 L15 Goal Diff -50 Pts 3 7th of 10 P18 W7 D2 L9 GD -9 Pts 23

Saturday Vets Essex Veterans League Division 1 East

27/01/24	Home	Beacon Hill	Lost 3-1
03/02/24			
10/02/24	Home	Sporting Woodham	Lost 3-1
17/02/24	Away	Hornchurch	Lost 1-0
09/03/24			
16/03/24	Away	Atletico Trotters	Lost 3-1
23/03/24			
30/03/24			
06/04/24	Away	Beacon Hill Rovers	Lost Home w/o
13/04/24	Home	Halstead Town	Lost 7-0
20/04/24	Home	White Notley	Won 7-1

Essex Vets Over 45s Premier Division

Away	Frenford	Lost Home w/over
Away	Harold Wood	Lost Home w/over
Away	Broomfield	Lost 7-1
Home	Sungate	Lost 4-1
Home	Frenford	Lost 4-0
Away	Herongate	Lost 1-0
Away	Chapel United	Won 4-3
Away	Shenfield Assn	Lost 5-1
Home	Harold Wood	Lost Away w/o

All League

Currently: 7th of 10. P16 W5 D1 L10 GF 30 GA 35 Pts 16 10th of 10 P16 W1 D3 L12 GF17 GA 43 Pts 5*

Essex Vets Over 45s Division 2 (East)

27/01/24	Home	Leigh Town	Lost 2-0
03/02/24	Away	Ravens Legends	Lost 2-0
17/02/24	Home	Woodham Radars	Lost 4-1
24/02/24	Home	Bocking Vets	Won 3-2
09/03/24	Away	AS Rawreth	Lost 4-2
23/03/24	Home	Pavilion United	Lost 6-3
06/04/24	Away	Leigh Town	Lost 10-1
20/04/24	Away	Grays Athletic	Lost 2-1

Sunday XI Chelmsford Sunday League Div 3

28/01/24	Home	Dynamo Citra	Won 3-0
04/02/24	Away	East Hanningfield	Lost 4-0*
17/03/24	Away	Chelmer Wanderers	Lost 4-2
24/03/24	Away	East Hanningfield	Lost 3-2
31/03/24	Away	Maldon Social	Won Away w/o
14/04/24	Away	Dynamo Citra	Won 6-0
21/04/24	Away	Hannakins Farm	Lost 3-2

All League except *Peter Gillott Trophy

Currently: 8th of 10. P18 W6 D3 L9 GF 41 GA 56 Pts 21 8th of 12. P18 W6 D1 L11 GF 36 GA38 Pts 17*

CRICKET

The weather needs to improve dramatically otherwise some of us (myself included) might be wearing thermals when the cricket season gets underway, for some of our teams, with friendlies on 27th April, *writes Baz Bowerman.*

League matches begin on the Saturday afterwards and, despite having written this last year, I have legitimate grounds to write this again - we have more teams playing this season than ever before. We now have five league teams, having entered another team into the T Rippon Mid-Essex Cricket League; a friendly Saturday team; a Sunday friendly team; a ladies team; and three youth teams (U11s, U13s and U15s). That's eleven teams. Our 'expansion' can be verified with a quick perusal of my 2005 fixture card (now a relic as we live in a digital world!), which shows that we ran four teams 19 years ago - three league teams and a friendly team.

So, there will be plenty to read about in the next newsletter when details and performances of note for all our teams for the first two months of the season will appear.

TENNIS

The section chairman, Jane Gray, writes;-

The increased rainfall this winter meant that our league teams struggled to complete all their fixtures but all made a creditable effort and were rewarded with some excellent final league positions. Most notable was Mens 3 who topped their division to gain promotion, with honourable mentions to Mens 1 who came second in Division 1, Ladies 2 (second in Division 3) and Ladies 3 (a very close third place in Division 4). Summer league competitions have just started and we are hoping for some sunshine!

Junior coaching courses have been well attended throughout the winter and continued in the Easter holiday courses despite the cold, windy conditions.

Membership renewal is well under way (annual subs date from 1st April) and we're looking forward to a good summer of league tennis as well as club tournaments.

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

TABLE TENNIS

Chelmsford & District Winter League 2023/24

Excellent news on the table tennis front with our A Team successfully defending their Division 1 title in the Chelmsford & District 2023/24 Table Tennis League. Mainstays of the team were captain, Paul Lucas (71% win rate), Mark Mulley (82%) and Matthew Mulley, the Chelmsford League Individual Tournament winner who, remarkably, won all twenty-three of the matches he played. Honourable mentions should also be given to other squad members who all achieved over a 50% win rate – Keiran Lally, Scott Dowsett, Adam Buxton, and Brandon Crouchman. The squad will be looking for a hat-trick of titles next season.

In Division 2 our B team again successfully completed their annual battle against relegation finishing a place above the drop zone, albeit by a relatively comfortable nine points. As in previous seasons this was mainly down to the efforts of Mick Richardson (70%) with the occasional assistance of the author (33%) and Mick Hayes (20%).

In Division 3, the C Team flattered to deceive and, having been well placed in third at the mid-point of the season, fell away to finish sixth. Captain, Richard Baxter (69%) had an excellent season and was well supported by Richard Upson (50%), Tom Barker (44%) and Luke Richardson (36%).

The D Team in Division 4 had a very consistent season finishing in fourth place. The whole squad contributed will with Farooq Ahmed leading the way with a 77% win rate. He was ably backed up by David Bishop (56%), David Newman (50%) and Russell Hall (49%).

Finally in Division 5, the E team with one game to play currently sit tenth of eleven but a draw or win in their final game will see them climb two places to eighth. There is no relegation to worry about in this division. Stalwart Stuart Wintle (51%) has been overhauled by Matthew Porter (62%) in the second half of the season. Honourable mentions also go to Suzanne Shaw (41%) and Mike Morecroft (21%) for important contributions during the season.

Central Essex Summer League 2024

Table tennis resumes at the beginning of June 2024 with the Summer League, and it is hoped that we will be entering at least the four teams that took part in the 2023 version of this event.

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....

If Eddie Gardner's desire in Issue Number One was to bring you reports about Old Boys of all ages as well as news of Association and Sports and Social activities, we hope that with the foregoing 7853 words we have fulfilled that desire in Issue Number Three Hundred.

Over one hundred names mentioned of current and former pupils, staff and other OC members aged from 16 to 96 in this issue spanning ninety years of first-form entry to the School as well as news of sports and other Association activities.

As always, 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 the Secretary/Editor as below.

Many thanks for your contributions to this issue and we look forward to receiving your further news for Number 301 in July.

...A VERY LAST WORD

Please support our fundraising campaign for the changing room project by going online or by contacting Jez Crook – the details are all laid bare on Page 3!

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