



OCA NEWSLETTER NO 299 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

The Quarterly Journal of The Old Chelmsfordians Association
Memorial Sports Field, Lawford Lane, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 2NS
Phone: 01245 420442 : Website: www.old-chelmsfordians.co.uk
Secretary and Newsletter Editor : George Heseltine : 01245 265962 : heseltineuk@aol.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

In wishing all members a very Happy New Year we would like to add our thanks to all of you who entered the 2023 Christmas Draw. Receipts were £1305 and six winners were drawn at the clubhouse on Sunday December 17th. First prize of £300 went to Paul Hampel with John Escott, £150, Donald Kelly, £100, John Aldridge, £50 and John Palmer and Robert Ball, £25.00 each, being the other winners. It is now three years since we decided to do away with sending tickets out to all members to save the cost of printing and postages (and your having to fill in and return the many counterfoils) and a total of over £4000 has been received from you which, after giving half back in prizes, has produced a net profit to the club of £2000. Thank you all.

CHANGING ROOM REFURBISHMENT

Past President and Project Manager, **Jez Crook** writes that the tenders are out! and the culmination of 4 years hard work is hopefully coming to an end. There are now just 3 more steps before we find out if we can go ahead with our changing room refurbishment.

1. Hopefully the tenders will come in at a price we can afford. We would love them to be below £200,000 and they must be below £225,000. We open them on 14th February so that is going to be the most nervous we have ever been when opening an envelope!
2. If the tenders are affordable, we will then complete our application to the Football Foundation. We are hopeful that they will fund 75% of the project, but until we get their agreement, we are still left nervously waiting.
3. If we get the 75%, that leaves 25% to find. **This is where you can help.** Obviously, club treasurer Alan Ball is squeezing every last penny out of current funds, but this will not give us enough. Although we have already received a number of donations ranging from very welcome tens of pounds up to £1,000, there is still much to do to reach 25% of the overall cost. We will soon be launching our Crowdfunder which is our big fundraising push. If we raise £10,000 through donations from club members and others, Sport England will match this, and if we raise an additional £5,000 there are other companies that will hopefully match fund that. We will be contacting you all soon and hoping that you will show your generosity and support the club. 50 people donating £200 will get us to our target and I know there are lots of us who have benefited from the OCs for years who could make this happen. So, look out for the Crowdfunding information. A successful outcome will transform the club for decades to come and you can help make it happen! Thanks so much.

ANNUAL DINNER

Again, Jez who is also organising the 2024 Dinner, informs us that tickets are coming out soon!

On Saturday 23rd March the OCA Annual Dinner will once again be held. After some innovative changes last year, we will be mixing some of those with some of our traditional elements. A first for the club will see

current President Dave Granger oversee the inauguration of our first female President, Sarah Bowerman. We will also be delighted to welcome back Nigel King as our toast master. He is sure to provide us with his usual charm and wit and also lead us in singing both the OCA and school songs. Plus, we've promised to shorten the length of the speeches! There will also be an update on the changing room refurbishment and lots of free wine, so do come along! More information coming soon but should you need to contact Jez his email is jnc.edu@gmail.com.

THE HEADMASTER WRITES

The second half of the Autumn term of 2023 saw the traditional run of significant events. In music, Tindal triumphed in the house music competition (for the first time for some years) – and the winter concert was a lovely event, soon followed by the carol service, with the choir in excellent voice – and for the first time prepared and conducted by Mrs Khoo. For Prize Giving, we welcomed former KEGS student Dr Chris Smith, a leading virologist and now famous broadcaster who spoke about various scientific points as well as handing out the prizes.

Then, having gathered almost all of the school for the remembrance assembly in November, we did manage to assemble everyone for final assembly on the last day of term, for a rousing rendition of “Hark the Herald Angels” before we finished for the holidays.

The end of each term can also bring departures – and last term we were very sorry indeed to have to say goodbye and thank you to Dr Arif Nikmal. As well as being an excellent scientist and teacher, Dr Nikmal had huge concern and care for his students, particularly taking an interest in supporting Muslim students at KEGS. We miss him – and I hope that one day he may return from working abroad and find himself at KEGS again.

The start of this term has brought mock exams – first for Year 11 and soon for Year 13. We certainly feel that both year groups have considerable talent – and will be hoping for some strong results in the Summer. Ahead of those exams, we have just recently heard news of at least 32 KEGS students (there may be more to come) who have been given offers for places at Oxford or Cambridge. Oxbridge is not what matters most – it is far more important that each young person finds the path beyond school that reflects their choices and interests – but it is still pleasing to see that level of success – and we suspect that this may well constitute a school record.

The Spring term has also brought house drama (won by Holland) and a number of other events, including the Careers carousel on 24th January. As last year, 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. 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.

Looking ahead to February we are delighted that we are again sending a group to our partner school in Mogonjet, Kenya. And in March, we have our whole school production – the musical “Parade”. It will, I am sure, be something for both audience and participants to enjoy and remember!

I wish all readers well for 2024, Tom Carter.

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

As mentioned above by the Headmaster, the guest at prizegiving was old boy **Dr Chris Smith** (1985-1993) who, as well as being a leading virologist, is founder and presenter of The Naked Scientists podcast and the related BBC radio programme 5Live Science. He will also be recognised by many for his regular contributions on TV and Radio during the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic explaining the spread of the pandemic, answering listener questions and commenting on scientific and medical developments. It was suggested by several of the ‘older’ former pupils present that their learning of the sciences might have been

greatly improved by listening to some of Chris’s podcasts instead of sitting through those physics, chemistry and biology lessons in the various school laboratories.

We were delighted that one of the prizes he presented during the afternoon, the **Richmond Cup**, went to **Christine Aldridge** to mark her long association with the School as both a parent and governor. The cup had been given to the School by the family in memory of the late **Bryan ‘Ricky’ Richmond**, who himself served KEGs magnificently throughout his lifetime as a management and foundation governor and as the school’s first bursar and who was, of course, a legendary pillar of the Old Chelmsfordians throughout his life. The cup is awarded in recognition of “*outstanding and sustained service to the school*” and we can think of no more worthy a recipient of this than Christine.



IS THIS A RECORD?

We were delighted to receive from **Pam Barker** a further collection of Chelmsfordian magazines and this press cutting from the Essex Chronicle together with two of Pussy Johnson’s paintings that her late husband, Vic, had bought at the art exhibition and sale we held in October 1989. These we will add to the collection we have in the snooker room at the club which was part funded by the sale of these works and named after him.



Pam also passed on a copy of this LP, recorded over 2 days in November 1982, to celebrate 50 years of the School orchestra. This featured Anthony Marwood on violin and Timothy Carey on piano and was directed by Peter Cross with assistance from Roger Bome, Andrew Smith and David Sparrow. All familiar names in connection with the long history of excellent music-making at KEGs. We subsequently heard from **Gordon Taylor** (1956-1962)

that he had a copy of the Corps of Drums LP recorded on Westfields in the early sixties which he was offering first to us before otherwise testing the market on eBay with the view to possibly becoming a millionaire! We spent a very happy afternoon with Gordon and his wife when collecting this before Christmas, reminiscing as one does of long remembered friends and the many club characters he had played sport alongside and otherwise remembered from schooldays and at Lawford Lane over the past seven decades.

These records still play well and along with the ‘Midas KEGs 78’ LP mentioned in a previous newsletter can be borrowed should anyone be interested in listening to them.

We also heard from **Chris Pain** (1951-1958) who expressed his sadness at learning of the death of Doug Rollings adding “I remember him as a lively rogue in my year, often in the odd scrape! I was always envious of the Norton Dominator that he rode around Chelmsford at great speed!” Chris also mentioned that he too has one of Pussy’s paintings that he would be happy to donate back to the club and we look forward to receiving this and seeing him at a future coffee morning.

THE CLASS OF 1960 ... AND MORE

Steve Little (1960-1968) wrote that “Friday 8th December 2023 marked the 25th anniversary of the annual reunion of the ‘Class of 1960’ with a gathering at The Banker pub in London. Our venues have changed occasionally over the years but this one seems to suit us with 14 in attendance this year including 12 from the 1960 intake of 98, plus 2 from adjoining years. The Class of 60 all reach 75 in this school year so it was fitting that we could mark the occasion with such a convivial liquid lunch. Over these years, 35 of the 98 have attended at least one gathering, plus some who live abroad keep in contact via email. Sadly, some have passed away since we started and, even before the reunions, we learnt of those who had died some years before. Nevertheless, we reminisce of good times at KEGS, with those that attended Kings Road Primary (having known each other for close on 70 years) having a special bond. We have been delighted to have join us a throng of old boys from the years around us and firm friendships have been established or maintained. Not a year goes by without the constant chatter over a pint of what school life was like in the 1960s and sharing life’s experiences since we left school. We are proud to be true ‘Old Boys’ scattered around the UK and abroad and we hope, as ageing takes its toll, we can maintain this bond and continue to enjoy each other’s company”.



Many of Steve’s group are pictured in this photo of the transitus class 2T, supplied by Cliff Reeves with names added by Richard Frost. (Pearl and Richmond were absent)

From top left: Foster (standing) Dowsett Rippingale Mason Farthing Holmes Walker Giachardi Smalley Martin Spurling

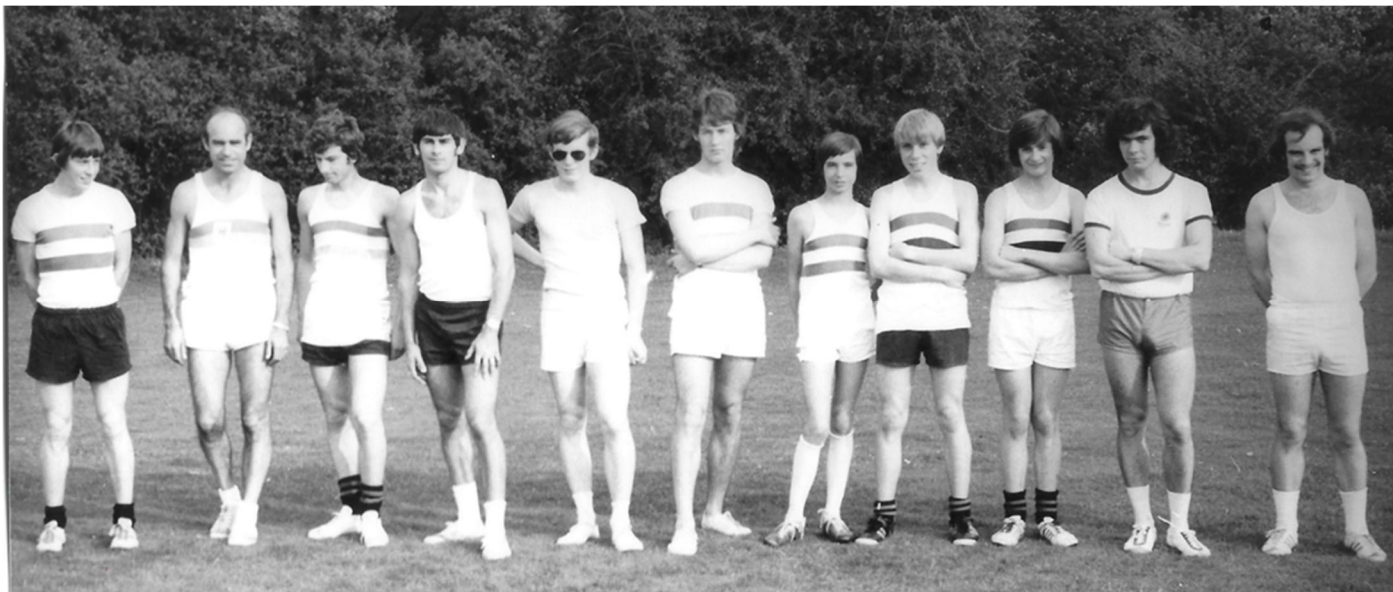
Middle row: Mulqueen Hewitt Biddlecombe Wood Gunn Moon Mowat Frost Fitzgerald

Bottom row: Cronin Gymer Hughes Le Feuvre Reed Ansell McHugh Wheeler Cornwell Weston

Frank Easton, (1949-1954), along with contemporaries Rex Hobbs and Barrie Davey is planning a get together for ‘the survivors of the class of 49’ and is suggesting arranging this at the April third-Thursday coffee morning at Lawford Lane on the 18th. Frank has contacted those for whom he has details but should you still have to respond or if anyone else is interested in meeting up, which could include a Fish and Chip lunch, please let Frank know - frank.easton1@btopenworld.com.

*We have heard from Frank of the recent death of **John Sachs**, one of his year group, and hope to publish an appreciation of his life in the next newsletter. The daughters of **Doug Rollings** are also compiling their tribute to him and again we hope to have this for inclusion in the April issue.*

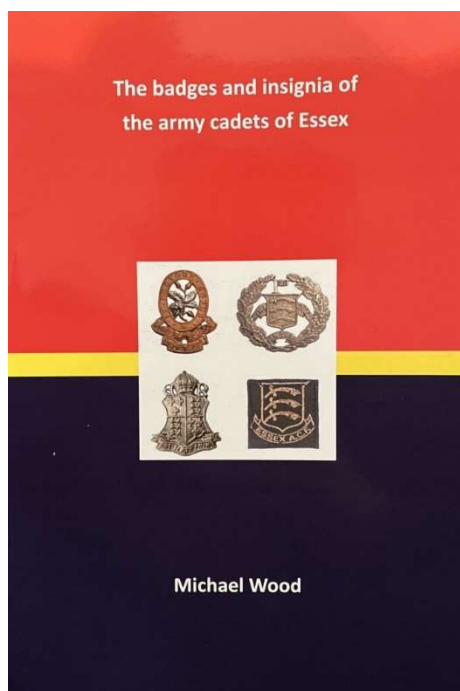
Another of the ‘Class of 49’ is **Brian Hill-Cottingham** and having stumbled upon this photo recently of the cross-country teams for a fixture between the School and the OCA sent a copy on to Brian (second from left) for old times’ sake. The other OC members were John Archer, who having been at School as a pupil subsequently returned to teach PE, Rodney Floyd, (4th and 5th from left) and Steve Robbins and Dick Dawson on the extreme right.



Brian responded “Nice to hear from you with this wave of nostalgia from 60 plus years ago! I vaguely remember the event starting in the field opposite the Fire Station alongside the River Can down Waterhouse Lane, out to Writtle, then Lawford Lane and on to Admirals Park, Park Avenue, Swiss Avenue and in at the top of Westfields. I ran that course many times and Nigel Fanshawe often acted as starter and sometimes took photographs - this may have been one of them”.

THE SCHOOL CCF AND CORPS OF DRUMS

We regards the Corps of Drums LP mentioned above we were delighted to spend a morning recently with **Michael Wood** (1982-1989), a regular correspondent with us regarding the history of the School CCF and Corps of Drums and who, whilst visiting England from home in Australia over Christmas, was doing more



research on the CCF and Corps and related items such as the Dains Medal. He had also visited the Essex Regiment Museum at Oaklands Park and had spent time at the School with both Major Alison Brown and Barbara Gray, the School’s archivist, and took home a vast amount of information from the Chelmsfordian magazines and other archive material for future research. Michael has recently published this book on the Badges and Insignia of the Army Cadets of Essex and has previously produced a similar book for the Essex Yeomanry. Michael, who served with 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron from the mid-1990s to 2005 has, since leaving the Squadron, acted as honorary historian to the Essex Yeomanry Association. As an avid collector of militaria himself, in particular those associated to the EY, he has published these books in the hope of providing more information on this subject for both badge collectors and historians alike.



A BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Past President, **Terry Allen**, informed us of this holiday story -

“Diana and I were recently on the beautiful island of La Gomera in the Canaries, one of the Holiday Property Bond (HPB) sites that we like to visit. Halfway through the fortnight we went on an island tour, just 6 couples in a small coach.

After stopping for lunch at a restaurant in a small village, I was standing outside waiting for the others and just happened to start chatting to another chap, as you do. And that’s when we found out we’d both attended the same school.

Well, his name was **John Cable**, he left KEGS in 1951, which makes him 90 years old. He had lived in Fourth Avenue and attended Kings Road Junior School. This story is full of coincidences, as Diana and I lived in First Avenue for about 10 years and both our girls went to Kings Road.

So, there we were in the middle of La Gomera exchanging memories of KEGS - admittedly nearly a generation apart, I wasn’t born until 1952 and left KEGS in 1970.

We met up again after dinner one evening and I learnt a lot more about John. Following school, national service beckoned and he became a signaller mostly based in Germany. Then after university, he became a Maths teacher before working as a Schools Inspector and later with Ofsted, when it was first introduced.

John said he was a wicketkeeper, turns out he was captain of the School 1st XI and played a few games for the OCs. He was a Mildmay House Captain, as was I, and we were both fortunate to win the House Competition in our respective years

John lives near Godalming now with wife Liz. He mentioned Barry Godden as one of his long-time pals and had on the odd occasion travelled up to the Club for one of the monthly coffee mornings. He had a younger brother Richard, who was also at the School, but I don’t know any other family background.

Other old boys may remember the Cables and John, if you get to read this, perhaps you could fill in some of the detail?”.

*The Chelmsfordian shows that **Donald Kelly** and **Richard Higgins** both left School from VI Science at the same time as John in 1951 and we wonder if they can shed any further news.*

FOLLOWING ON...

Our report of the meeting in the last issue with the two Pauls, Snowden and Crichton, Dick Hickman and John Aldridge drew some interesting comment including the correction from John that it was, of course, the Orpheus Coffee Bar (not Oasis) in New London Road.

Chris Weekes (1958-1965 - Strutt Prefect and squaddie in the CCF) wrote-

“Thanks for another great read and at last news of some very distinguished people from my year - Paul Snowden, Paul Crichton and Dick Hickman.

Paul Snowden's amazing academic career in Japan following on from his passage through the O and A levels of the old British system which he found so easy by comparison with the less gifted mortals.

Paul Crichton's incredible double career from linguist to medical man at the very top level. I remember playing rugby with Paul who exhibited a physical toughness which was disguised by a lovely soft lilting Scottish accent. During his time as Head Boy, we had a Burn's Night supper in the school hall complete with piper and with Paul resplendent in his kilt which I wonder if he still has. We had all the usual gastronomic

delights including a few wee drams and the obligatory HAGGIS which I was responsible for buying from somewhere in Edinburgh and which was delivered by post to my house in Great Baddow. I cannot remember who did the cooking but it all went splendidly including a rendition of a Burn's night poem by Paul himself. Does he remember this event of almost 60 years ago?

Dick Hickman was definitely renaissance man being a good sportsman and very competent musician. Like so many others, Dace's was the focal point of my Saturday morning visit to Chelmsford to listen to the latest records many of which I still have in my 45 and LP collections.

It was also good to see the 1965 Prefects photo with us all on it. I can confirm that the names as published are indeed accurate. I wonder where they all are now? Perhaps you could put out an APB in the next newsletter.

Finally, such a wonderful tribute to Michael Aldridge with whom I was privileged enough to spend a few years of real friendship before his tragic death in 1966. The Aldridge family were always so kind to me and even though 60 years have passed I have not forgotten that period of my life.

Once again George thanks for making my day after reading this newsletter, all the best to everyone”.

Vaughan Richmond in Fuerteventura, **Pat Jones** in Australia and **Alan Evans** in Ireland also commented how pleased they were to read of this gathering and to see the photo of the group in the Brewhouse and we were delighted to have been able to put **Robert Coward** back in touch with Paul Crichton.

...AND 'STRIVING' ON

James Hyde who was at School from 1996-2003 has written “Back in 2018 when our company, James and James, joined the Sunday Times Fast Track 100 for the first time, I signed up to a charity event at the awards. Delayed by over 4 years due to Covid, I've finally taken part in Strive Bhutan, a 100+ mile trek across the Bhutanese mountains for Big Change. Big Change funds small scale education start-ups that all have the potential to make a big difference to the education of future generations and whilst my own fundraising page has now closed if anyone would like to donate, they can still do so directly at <https://www.big-change.org/>

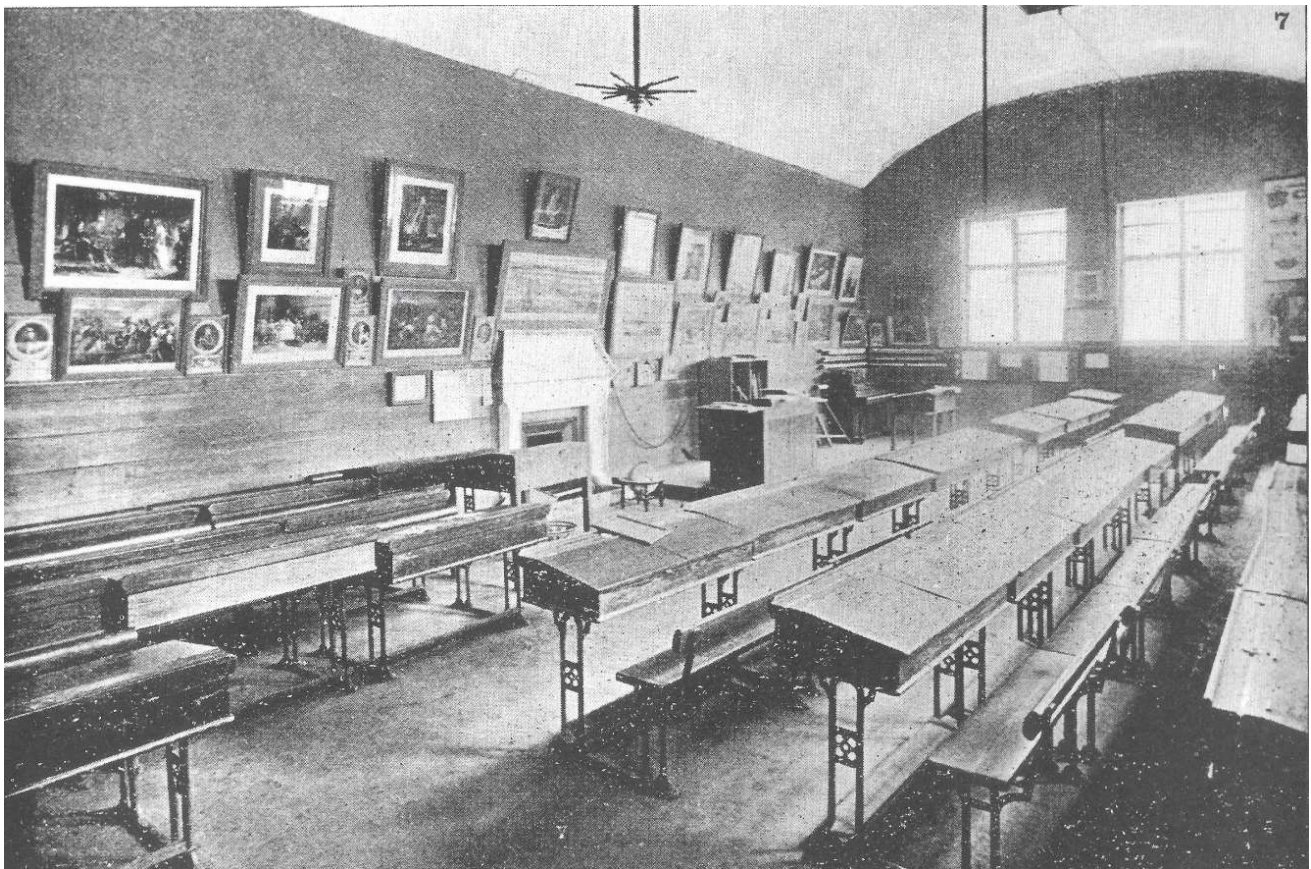
Our photo shows James on the ten-day trip of which Richard Branson, on his Virgin site, had reported last November “We've wanted to do a Strive Challenge in Bhutan for a few years now. Hugging the eastern edge of the Himalayas, Bhutan is one of the most beautiful countries in the world, and its landscape makes for the most wonderful adventures and this trip included hikes to sacred sites, ancient trails through forests and valleys, treks across mountain ridges, rafting down rapids, jumping in rivers, cycling through farming villages, and meeting the most inspiring people (including the king!) along the way. On top of that, Bhutan's unique approach to measuring the collective happiness and wellbeing of its population (its Gross National Happiness) aligns wonderfully with Big Change's mission to transform education, so that all young people are set up to thrive in life. In case you're not familiar with it, the Strive Challenge takes place every year to raise funds for Big Change and brainstorm ways to achieve education transformation while also pushing our bodies to the limits and to date Strive has raised £8 million for the cause. Big Change was founded by a group of friends including my nephew Noah over 10 years ago with this very purpose and I'm so proud of what the charity has achieved in this time – backing 60 early-stage ideas and leaders that have gone on to support 200,000 teachers and adults, unlock £60m in funding, and impact 8m young people”.



A LITTLE HISTORY

We were delighted to hear from **Rod Greig** who I first met in September 1957 when, as a first year **Heseltine**, we were squeezed together alphabetically on adjacent desks between **Green** and **Hodkinson** in Tommy Wright's 1A form-room. Rod had recently come across a paper entitled 'Education in Essex 1710-1910' which was published by the Essex Record Office in 1974 (and then available at 90 pence) which contained these three photos of the school facilities from about 130 years ago together with the accompanying texts which he thought might be worthy material for the newsletter and of interest to those of us who remembered the boarding house still in use, with all boarders being members of Tindal House, and today's pupils whose numbers in October 2023 had swelled to 1134!

The first showing the '**Schoolroom of the Old Grammar School in 1888**' carried the text (reproduced from the Chelmsfordian of April 1900) "Like other schools, King Edward's had a difficult time in the mid-19th century. There were only 13 scholars in 1848 and the school was closed for two years in the 1850s. In 1867 however, it was reported as 'one of the better schools', fulfilling its trust, with a marked preponderance of day boys (75) over boarders (15). JC Buckler made a drawing of the exterior of the school in 1827. The old classroom shown (48 feet by 21 feet) was in the same buildings, situated in Duke Street near the parish church (now the cathedral) and on part of the site of the present County Hall. These buildings dated mainly from the alterations and extensions of Lord Fitzwalter and Richard Benyon in the 1730s and 1780s respectively, and also included a master's house, a large garden and 'convenient out-buildings'".



The text for the second, '**Chelmsford, dormitory of 1892 building**', reads "In 1892 new buildings were completed for King Edward's in Broomfield Road, to replace the 18th century ones which then became part of the County Laboratories and the Pupil-Teachers' Centre. The boarding department in the new buildings had dormitories for 24 boarders. There were apparently 30 boarders in 1905, but only 13 were from outside the county and the total number of boys had increased to 147. Professor Sadler reported in 1906 that the majority of boys came from private schools or straight from home, but 'a large number' (actually as many as 48) came from public elementary schools and 10 from other public secondary schools. There were 17 scholarship holders in the school at that time".



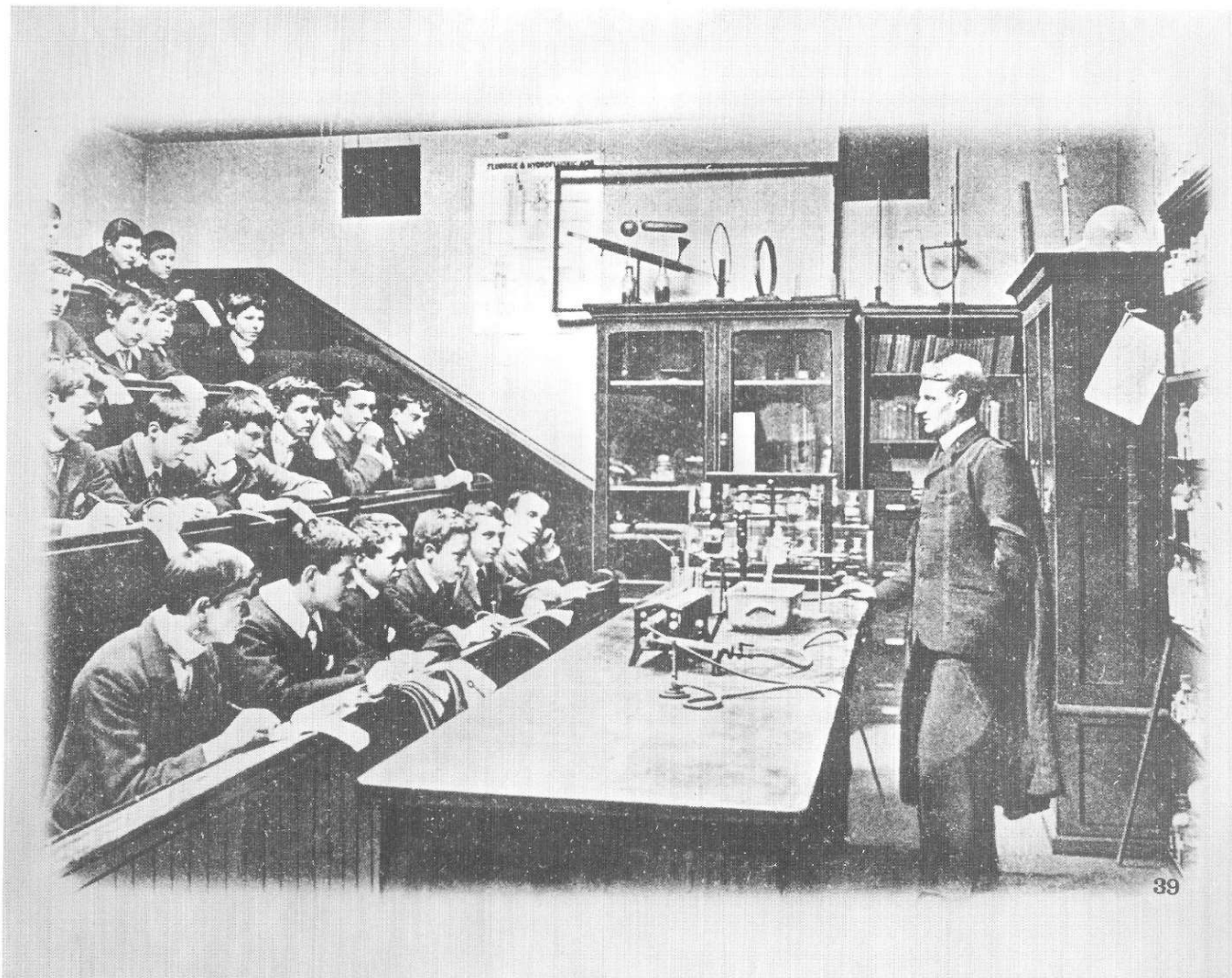
The third photo entitled **‘Organised Science School at King Edward’s, Chelmsford’**, carries the text

“Grants for science teachers and laboratory accommodation were made by the Technical Instruction Committee to some of the old endowed schools, to ‘organized science’ and technical schools at such places as Southend, Walthamstow and Leyton, and to the Countess of Warwick’s own (short-lived) school at Bigod’s Hall near Great Dunmow designed to give secondary education to rural pupils of up to 17 years which would equip them to obtain better financial returns from agricultural pursuits.

King Edward’s at Chelmsford received a grant of £120 for teachers’ salaries; in 1899 the Senior Science Master, at £140 a year, had the best salary of the assistant staff, and an ‘Agricultural and Assistant Master’ received £130. At the same time an organised-science school costing £800 was added to the buildings with the help of a grant of £570. This department included a lecture theatre (shown in the photo), a Physics laboratory, a Chemistry laboratory, an optical room and a balance room. Evening classes for adults were also held there.

Meanwhile in 1892-3 the Technical Instruction Committee had launched a scholarship scheme for pupils of 12-14 who had reached Standard VI, tenable where possible at the endowed grammar schools, most of which had been reorganised by this time and offered ‘foundation scholarships’ of their own. The number of county

scholarships was inadequate. From 1895, not counting the few continuation and intermediate scholarships for established pupils, there were 20 minor scholarships (12 for boys, 8 for girls) varying in value from £10 (day scholars) to £35 (for boarders), but the number of candidates was soon over 300. In 1900 there was controversy because Chelmsford elementary schools did not do well in the scholarship examinations. At King Edward's itself the proportion of boys from public elementary schools was high but in the county as a whole the number of pupils receiving free education at the grammar schools, only rose from 174 to 362 between 1867 and 1905.



Cricket followers could well know the name of **Rod Greig** as he was a long-time servant of the Essex County Cricket Club and part of the Chairman's report to the 2017 AGM records that "In 2017, Rod Greig, having served for 24 years, retires from your committee. Rod is one of those guys who quietly and efficiently



undertakes his role as Committee Member, and you would be hard pushed to find a more loyal, and willing individual. During his 24 years, Rod has served on all sub-Committees, managed some of our younger age group sides, acted as the Liaison Manager for the Bangladesh touring side, operated the scoreboard, driven the Club Transit van and just about anything else requested of him. A true Club man and great guy. On behalf of everybody associated with Essex Cricket, I would like to express our sincere thanks to him for his time and effort in supporting the Club". Rod was also a member of Hutton Cricket Club and in 2023 received the Dudley Fiddes award for his 'Outstanding Contribution' to the club when he retired from the Committee after many decades of service as a player, umpire, and volunteer.

OCA WILDLIFE NOVEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024



With Spring on the way and our hedgerows soon to be filled with primroses and snowdrops, our regular correspondent, **Nick Green** writes: “The BBC reported that the period July-December 2023 was the wettest ever recorded and October-December the sixth wettest with eight storms between 25th September 2023 and 2nd January 2024!



Local birds recorded: the usual suspects Carrion Crow, Magpies, Jay, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Green & Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Kestrel, Blackbird, Song Thrush, a few winter Redwings, Robin (a songster all year), Dunnock, Greenfinch, Chaffinch plus 2 Little Egrets flushed from the One Bridge Stream on the eastern perimeter by the tennis courts.

In the vicinity: Writtle University College: Bullfinch, 17 Siskin by Titchmarsh Lake

The American Northern Waterthrush is a very rare vagrant to the British Isles with less than 10 records. The species breeds in woodland bogs, swamps and thickets in northern parts of North America (Canada to New Jersey) and winters south from Florida to Central & South America. The species is like a pipit but has a longer, narrow pale eyebrow and has heavier head and bill, a shorter tail and has a characteristic habit of bobbing its rear end. The legs are pale pinkish and the underparts whitish/yellowish with heavy black streaking. Characteristically it runs along the water's edge, calling frequently “chink”.

Imagine the surprise of Simon Wood, President of the Essex Birdwatching Society (EBWS), when he saw one in his Heybridge garden on two occasions late on 3rd January 2024!! A first record for Essex and just the eighth for Britain! Presumably one of the recent fast-moving storms deposited the



bird in Essex. Simon and EBWS Vice Chair Steve Grimwade were both interviewed on BBC1 Look East on Friday 5th January! I am actually an EBWS Vice President and saw the bird on 4th – by the 22nd, some 3,000+ twitchers had visited the site! For those interested, the Essex Birdwatching Society web site is www.ebws.org.uk and Nick can be contacted on nick7green@aol.com.

‘200 CLUB’ AND ‘DEVELOPMENT FUND’

New members are always welcome - the monthly subscription for the 200 Club 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.

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.

Mark held a Development Fund draw just before Christmas and the lucky recipients were Brian Terry, Adam Dessouki, Chris Flint and Andy Cook, £50.00 each, Robert Terry, Tom Iliffe, David Saltmarsh and Nigel King, £25.00 each whilst Andy Bell, Pete Ellwood, Mark himself and Paul Hampel won £15.00 apiece.

As we go to press, we have heard from **David Saltmarsh** thanking us for his 'surprise' winnings and for the continued receipt of our newsletters. He added 'My former school friends all seem to have disappeared and I wonder if anyone else of the 1941 Form 1A intake is still around? On the other hand, I am always pleased to see that the School continues to send boys to Selwyn, my college at Cambridge from 1950-53. Despite both having some health problems, my wife Mary and I, both now in our 94th years, manage to soldier on!

COFFEE MORNINGS



These continue on the third Thursday of the month at 10am with a regular group of 'ageing' coffee drinkers who all also enjoyed a fish and chip lunch at the Christmas gathering. Sadly, missing from this was **Ted Caton** whose death we reported last time since when we have heard from several of our number including Peter Crisp and Colin Beeton with their sadness at hearing this news and conveying their best wishes to Ann. Ralph Archer recalled that his wife Jill had started school at Moulsham Infants on the same day as Ted more than 80 years ago and the two families had remained friends to this day. Sue Barnes also expressed her sadness recalling that Ted was a stalwart of the Coffee Mornings which she had happily attended with her mother Margaret when the opportunity arose, sharing happy memories of her father, Teddy Barnes, with others present from the early days of Lawford Lane in the late forties and early fifties. As reported elsewhere Frank Easton should be joining the April gathering with some

of the class of 49 and other year groups would be similarly welcome. We could certainly do with some fresh faces to add a fresh perspective to our meetings.

One of our 'ageing' regulars, **Murray Brazier** (1940-1949), reported sight in the Sunday Telegraph that a former KEGs pupil was making his name in motor racing. **Oliver James Bearman** is a British racing driver who is set to compete in the 2024 FIA Formula 2 Championship for Prema Racing having been the 2021 Italian and ADAC Formula 4 champion.

Having quit School at 16 and despite initial resistance from his mother, he left home in Chelmsford and moved to Modena, a dozen miles north of the Ferrari headquarters, to join the Ferrari Driver Academy of which he is still a member and currently the reserve driver for Scuderia Ferrari in Formula One. In October 2023, he made history by becoming the youngest British driver to step foot in an F1 machine at a Grand Prix weekend when making his F1 debut in Mexico City - and, at just 18 years old, he quietly impressed.

Competing for the American outfit Haas, Ollie Bearman finished 15th in first practice, only 1.6 seconds slower than triple world champion Max Verstappen, and three tenths adrift of Nico Hulkenberg – a veteran of 200 grands prix – in the other Haas. He was also speedier than Fernando Alonso, the double world champion who had won his first title in 2005, when Ollie was barely three months old. Obviously one to watch!



Murray also put pen to paper with some memories of his own time at KEGs. "Sometime in the summer of 1940 I recall sitting an exam which I must have passed because that September I started at the KEGs junior department at Westfields, a three-form school that, if you were good enough, got you into the senior department in the main school when you were eleven.

Westfields had Mr Powley as headmaster with Miss Brown and a couple of other female teachers. A few of the other lads I can recall were John Lines (he finished up in a senior post in the Australian security forces), Michael Stone, Stansbridge, Patoux (his father had something to do with the Sandon Egg farm), Gannon, and Purdie.

It was the time of the Battle of Britain and we had a concrete shelter just away from the School buildings. An RAF Barrage Balloon was based at Westfields too which one day broke away with the dragged cable doing a lot of damage along the Broomfield Road. Our PE teacher was Miss Ellis who on one occasion, when at the swimming pool, dived in to aid a lad in distress and who, on another occasion, I saw in the High Street on the arm of an army officer!

After three years we lined up to be taken across to the senior department – a big day. One of our number was missing – his father had been due to go to court on a serious matter but had murdered his wife and his family before taking his own life - hence we were one short!

Before going up to the senior department we had a medical and I was found to be short-sighted and so wearing specs when I went up - maybe the only one - so I did not get involved in any sports due to my wearing glasses.

In the seniors we were taught Latin which I did for three years but not to the end of my time as a senior. For French we had a rotund French lady teacher who seemed to take a dislike to me – and me to her! I have not liked the French ever since!

As it was wartime many male teachers were away in the services so we had many female teachers – Miss Baggs (geography), Miss Winchester (?) for Chemistry, Miss Timberlake and Miss Sutcliffe, a severe young lady who was our form teacher and who we reduced to tears when we gave her a small gift when she left to take up another job.

I failed to get Matric Exemption when taking School Certificate due to the lack of French (!). However, I did get it next time so was able to start work at the County Surveyors Highways Department and was in that line of work for the rest of my working life”.

MOVING ON

Since the last issue we have heard from Jim Allison, Rod Greig, Michael Hindmarch, John Hodges, Jeremy Pruce and Adrian Raison with either a change of email address or with the request to receive the newsletter electronically. Thank you all.

FOOTBALL THE 2023-2024 SEASON – RESULTS TO DATE

A strange time for our teams with the two-week shutdown at Christmas/New Year, a run of cup competitions, a couple of weekends of bad weather with no scheduled fixtures but, hopefully, now time to shine!

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

21/10/23	Home	Harold Wood Ath.	Won 5-4	Away	Hullbridge Sports	Lost 4-1
28/10/23	Away	Leigh Ramblers	Won 3-2	Home	Manford Way	Lost 5-2
11/11/23	Away	Kelvedon Hatch	Lost 5-2	Home	Pitsea Town	Won 4-0
18/11/23	Home	Springfield	Drew 2-2	Away	Galleywood	1-1 won Pens 4-3*
25/11/23	Away	Old Southendian	Lost 6-1	Away	Runwell Sports	Lost Home w/o**
02/12/23				Home	Collier Row	Lost 3-0
16/12/23	Home	Sungate	Lost 2-1	Away	Something from Nothing	Won 3-2*
06/01/24				Away	Cressing United	Lost 5-1*
13/01/24				Home	Hullbridge Sports	Drew 2-2
27/01/24	Away	Runwell Sports	Drew 2-2	Home	Runwell Sports	Lost 4-1

League other than * Essex Saturday Junior Cup **Reserve League Cup

Currently: 7th of 14. P14 W 6 D 3 L 5 GF 36 GA 38 Pts 21 : 11th of 12. P13 W1 D1 L11 GF 16 GA 44 Pts4

Saturday 3rd XI Mid Essex League Premier Division

21/10/23	Home	Hutton	Lost 1-0*
28/10/23	Away	South Woodham	Lost 2-0
04/11/23	Home	Fleet	Won 1-0
18/11/23	Home	Shenfield	Won 2-1**
25/11/23	Home	Sandon Royals	Lost 2-1
02/12/23	Home	South Woodham	Lost 4-2
16/12/23	Away	Unitey FC	Lost 4-2**
06/01/24	Home	Hannakins Farm	Lost 5-1
13/01/24	Home	Hutton	Lost 4-2
20/01/24			
27/01/24	Away	Brentwood Athletic	Lost 9-1

League other than * League Cup **Saturday Junior Cup
Currently: 10th of 10. P11 W1 D0 L10 Goal Diff -34 Pts 3

4th XI Mid Essex League Division 3

Away	Epping Town	Lost 5-0
Home	Springfield	Won 1-0
Away	Witham Town	Lost 5-1
Away	Rayleigh Town	Lost 2-1
Home	Durning	Won 3-1
Home	Rayleigh Town	Won 2-0
Away	Springfield	Won 1-0

8th of 10 P11 W4 D1 L6 GD -13 Pts 13

Saturday Vets Essex Veterans League Division 1 East

21/10/23	Home	Hornchurch	Lost 3-1
28/10/23	Home	Atletico Trotters	Won 4-1
04/11/23			
11/11/23	Away	Sporting Woodham	Lost 5-1
18/11/23	Away	Halstead	Lost Home w/o
25/11/23	Home	Runwell	Won 2-0
02/12/23			
16/12/23	Away	Great Baddow	Won 4-2
06/01/24	Away	Stanway Pegasus	Drew 2-2
13/01/24			
20/01/24	Away	Spa Park	Lost 2-0*
27/01/24	Home	Beacon Hill	Lost 3-1

League other than * League Cup
Currently: 6th of 10. P10 W4 D1 L5 GF 21 GA 20 Pts 13

Essex Vets Over 45s Premier Division

Away	Sungate	Lost Home w/o
Home	Broomfield	Drew 1-1
Home	Herongate	Lost 3-0
Home	Harold Hill	Lost 6-1
Home	Shenfield Assoc	Lost 3-1*

9th of 10 P7 W0 D3 L4 GF10 GA 19 Pts 3

Essex Vets Over 45s Division 2 (East)

21/10/23	Away	Bocking	Won 3-2
28/10/23	Home	Grays Athletic	Drew 2-2
04/11/23	Away	Horndon	Won 2-1
25/11/23	Home	Ravens Legends	Drew 3-3
09/12/23	Home	Hale End	Won 6-2
13/01/24	Away	Shenfield	Lost 3-1*
27/01/24	Home	Leigh Town	Lost 2-0

League other than *League Cup **Peter Gillott Trophy
Currently: 5th of 11. P11 W5 D3 L3 GF 30 GA 26 Pts 18

Sunday XI Chelmsford Sunday League Div 3

22/10/23	Home	Chelmer	Lost 7-1
29/10/23	Away	Dynamo Citra	Won 6-3*aet
12/11/23	Away	FC Vilomah	Won 5-3**
19/11/23	Home	Hannakins Farm	Lost 2-1
26/11/23	Away	Burnham Ramblers	Lost 5-0*
03/12/23	Home	Moulsham Ath	Won 3-1
17/12/23	Home	Broomfield CSL	Lost 2-1
07/01/24	Away	Beaulieu Park	Won 5-1**
14/01/24	Home	AFC Ingatestone	Won 4-3
28/01/24	Home	Dynamo Citra	Won 3-0

8th of 12. P12 W4 D1 L7 GF 24 GA28 Pts 12*

CRICKET

Although they might seem a long way off at the time of writing, the first cricket pre-season friendlies will be upon us before we know it, *writes Baz Bowerman*. To get us all into some sort of form, our winter indoor net sessions for colts and adults begin on 21st February, at the KEGS Sports Hall.

I am also pleased to report that we received good news during the close season that our application to enter another team into the league was successful, and we will now have five league teams competing in the T Rippon Mid Essex League in May. An update on our expectations and pre-season preparations will appear in the next newsletter.

TENNIS

The section chairman, Jane Gray, writes:-

As predicted in the October newsletter, the tennis section enjoyed a successful summer league. Our Mens 2, Mens 3 and Ladies 3 teams all won their divisions albeit by a very small margin for the Mens 2.

Winter leagues and winter coaching sessions are all well under way with some inevitable disruption from the weather. Time will tell if all our teams manage to fulfil their winter fixtures

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 Table Tennis League Individual Closed Tournament

Finals Night for the Chelmsford League Individual Closed Tournament was held at the OCs on the evening of Monday 15th January 2024 with the Mayor, Councillor Linda Mascot and Mayor's Consort, Mr Ian Mascot, in attendance.

The blue riband event, the Men's Singles was won by Matthew Mulley, a member of the OCA A team squad that won the League last season. He beat Duncan Taylor of Writtle TTC 11-7, 11-5, 3-11, 11-9 in a closely fought contest. Matthew is the first OCA winner of this title since Martin Cole in 1993/4. Matthew then teamed up with his brother Mark to lift the Men's Doubles Crown with a 11-4, 13-11, 8-11, 12-10 win over Paul Davison and James Donald (Danbury TTC).

Chelmsford & District Winter League 2023/24

We are now just past the half-way point in the Winter League with our five teams, performing well in their respective divisions.

Reigning Division 1 Champions, OCA A are well placed to retain their title as they currently sit top of the League and eight points ahead of Chelmsford A in second. Matthew Mulley, winner of the Individual Tournament (see above), is currently unbeaten in the 17 League matches he has played to date. He has been superbly supported by brother Mark (82% win rate) and captain, Paul Lucas (65%).

In Division 2 our B team appear to be dicing with relegation once more, as they sit one place above the drop-zone. However, the bottom two teams are becoming tailed-off, with Chelmsford D 14 points adrift of safety and Danbury G 16 points short. Survival once more is therefore within our B Team's grasp, and this is mainly due to the efforts of Mick Richardson (70%).

In Division 3, the C Team sit handily placed in 3rd, 5 points behind second placed Buttsbury A but having a game in hand. The division is headed by a very strong Galleywood A side who are almost certain to win the title so it looks like a battle for the second promotion place between our C Team and Buttsbury A. Richard Baxter (81%), Richard Upson (67%), Tom Barker (47%) and Luke Richardson (41%) have all contributed to an excellent overall season to date.

In Division 3, the C Team are also handily placed in fourth position having won all their opening 3 matches. They have a game in hand over two of the teams above them and, if they can maintain this form could be a serious challenger for promotion come next April. Richard Baxter has had a perfect start to the season winning all six matches he has played.

The D Team in Division 4 have pushed themselves into third place, albeit that they have played a game more than the teams immediately around them. This is due to a real team effort from Farooq Ahmed (77%), Dave Newman (57%), David Bishop (54%) and Russell Hall (43%).

Finally, the E Team in Division 5 currently sit in eighth out of twelve but with games in hand over most teams above them. Stalwart, Stuart Wintle (56%), Matthew Porter (56%) and Suzanne Shaw (50%) have all had an encouraging first half of the season.

Interested in playing table tennis for the OCA?

If you are interested in playing competitive table tennis for the OCA 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

Coffee Mornings continue on the third Thursday of the month from 10am until noon and everyone is welcome. If you would like to organise a Year Reunion to coincide with one of these coffee mornings, please contact the Secretary, details below. The bar can be open and a take-away-type lunch organised.

The date for the 2024 Annual Dinner has been arranged as Saturday March 23rd and more details will be forthcoming from Jez Crook.

With postages now at 75p for second class, many times what they were when Eddie Gardner started writing our newsletters, 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.

The next newsletter, Number 300, should be published during April 2024 so plenty of time for you to comment on this one or to write your pieces for inclusion in this landmark edition.

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