



OCA NEWSLETTER NO 298 OCTOBER 2023

The Quarterly Journal of The Old Chelmsfordians Association
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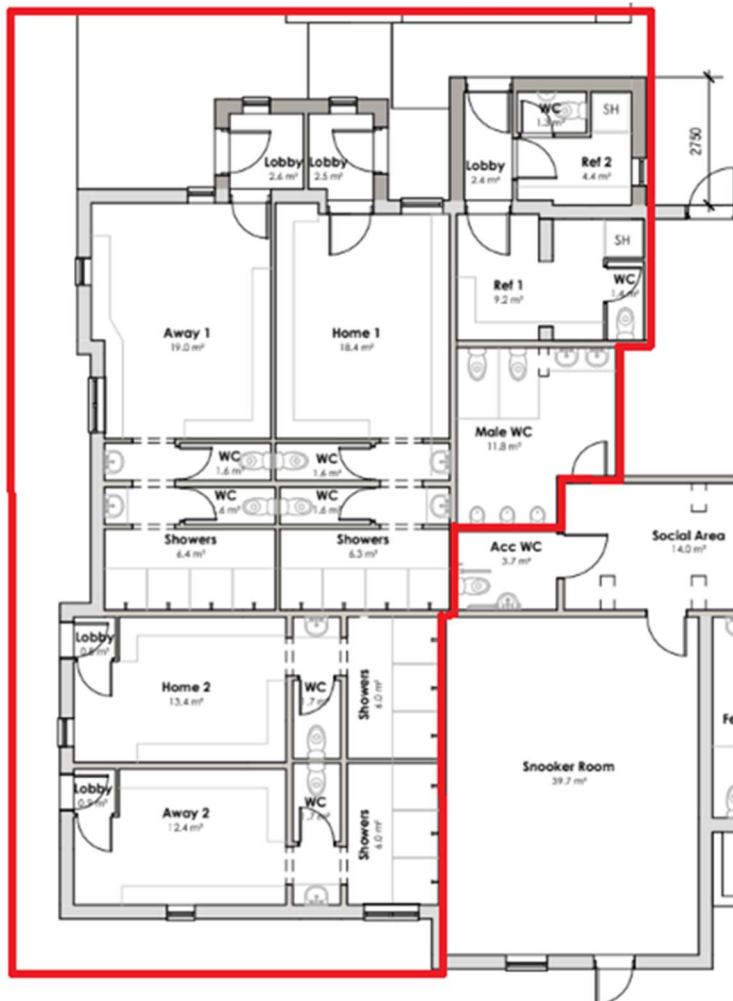
For an exciting Christmas Draw
announcement, please see Page 2



Past-President, Jez Crook, asks “How can you help?”

These are exciting times at the club ... but when aren't they we hear you ask!

Not only have we had fantastic success with our football and cricket teams in the last year, we are now embarking on an ambitious refurbishment programme to bring our changing rooms into the 21st century. Yes, we know that we've been in this century for more than 20 years but our changing rooms are more than 40 years old, and (like myself) they are starting to look rather worn out.



In the last 3 years we have been working with the Football Foundation to redesign our changing rooms so that they meet the requirement for the Olympian League Premier Division, which is Step 7 of the National Ground Grading regulations. To do this we need larger changing rooms with toilets and showers en-suite; separate changing/ toilets/showers for males and females; extra changing for officials; and, possibly most important of all, a new drainage system so that Brian Terry doesn't have to rod the pipes every week!

Though this project is likely to cost well in excess of £100,000 we are very hopeful that the Football Foundation will provide a grant to meet more than 50% of the cost. This means we must raise the remaining funds if we are to make the most of this great opportunity to modernise a deteriorating part of the club.

As with all projects of this type, we need the help of the members to make it happen. So many of us have enjoyed the facilities at the OCs over many decades and supporting this project is a great way to give a bit back. A few ideas for how you could help are listed below:

- Make a donation to the project development fund and use Gift Aid to boost your contribution (we already have several thousand pounds pledged in this way).

- Contact companies who may be willing to sponsor an aspect of the project in return for publicity or as a charitable donation.
- Find out if your company has a matched donation scheme.
- Organise a fund-raising event.
- Source some high value auction items from colleagues, suppliers and local companies, like a week in a villa.

If you would like to support this project or if you would like to get involved in helping us to raise the funds or if you have any questions, please get in touch with [Jez Crook \(jnc.edu@gmail.com\)](mailto:jnc.edu@gmail.com).

We will keep you updated in future newsletters and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you so much! Let's do this!

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Another way you can help raise funds for the club whilst helping yourself to a seasonal bonus is by entering our Christmas Draw. To save the considerable expense of printing tickets and posting these to all members we invite you to again send us your 'tenners', either by cash or cheque or by making an online bank payment, upon receipt of which your name will be added to the draw. This will take place at the Clubhouse at 1pm on Sunday December 17th when, again, 50% of the proceeds will be handed back in prizes. Cheques should be made payable to 'Old Chelmsfordians Association' and sent to George Heseltine at 30 Trinity Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6HS whilst on-line payments can be made to our MetroBank account, Sort Code 23-05-80, a/c no 32067964, a/c name Old Chelmsfordians Association with your name and 'Draw' as reference for us to pick up. Obviously, there is no limit on the number of virtual tickets you may wish to buy and there are no counterfoils for you to complete either! We look forward to your continued support.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Lawford Lane on Monday November 27th at 7.30pm. We do hope that some of you will be able to join us to meet up with the Club's officers and other members and to hear first-hand of the future plans of the Association.

FRIDAY GANG

Following on from our lead article in the last issue celebrating 'Our memorial sports field at 75' we received some interesting feedback from members who had been unaware of the circumstances of its purchase after the second world war. Since that time, the ground and buildings have been largely maintained by volunteers with much of this work being done by members on a Friday morning. The current group are dwindling numerically - and ageing all too fast - so if you would like to join this hard working, but very sociable group you would be most welcome.

THE HEADMASTER, TOM CARTER, WRITES

After a Summer which saw the return of international trips, such as World Challenge and the West Indies cricket tour, the new school year began in September with plenty of optimism for what 2023/24 is going to bring. We welcomed a number of new staff: Ms Seaward and Mrs Owen (both Biology), Mrs Khoo (Music), Ms Benson (English), Ms Mason (Geography), Mr Jordan (Physics) and we also welcomed back Ms Haley in the Pupil Support team. The pupil roll stands at 1134.

The results season in August had brought pleasing news – results were very similar to their pre-Covid levels in 2017, 2018 and 2019. At GCSE, Year 11 achieved 71% of results at grade 8 or 9, which was better than any of the pre-Covid years; 87% of results were at grades 7,8 or 9; and out of a cohort of 149, twenty students achieved at least ten grade 9's. We also congratulate students in Year 9 or 10 who took GCSEs early. In each

of these year groups, 84% of grades in early GCSEs were at grade 8 or 9 which represents an outstanding set of outcomes. At A level 26.6% of results were the very top A* grade and 86.4% were at A*-B. Out of 191 students, 15 achieved the remarkable feat of 4 A* grades in their A levels and 31 achieved 3 or more A* grades. However, we congratulate all student on their results, which represent very considerable amounts of hard work throughout the last two years. As in previous years, a large number of our students are moving on to courses at top universities – and 27 KEGS students achieved the grades to move on to Oxford or Cambridge. However, what matters most is that young people have the opportunities to commence the next stage of their lives, following their personal interests or aims, after the challenges which the last few years have presented.

Within school the extra-curricular programme feels full of life and energy. In the Music and Drama departments preparations and rehearsals are well under way for a musical in the Spring. The languages department has taken Year 8 to Alsace for a week. The CCF had a full inspection on 25th September – and the Autumn camp in early October was much enjoyed and blessed with extremely fine weather. October of course also brings Edward VI's birthday and our commemoration assembly, followed by a meeting of the Foundation in the library at school.

Later in the term we will mark some of the important moments in our school calendar: remembrance, house music, the winter concert, the carol service, prize giving. And another generation of KEGS pupils will, I hope, understand some of the living traditions which have such an important role to play. I hope as well that KEGS will help to reinforce the importance of a life lived with integrity, with hard work – but also with a sense of fun, enjoyment and appreciation of the opportunities that there are in the school.

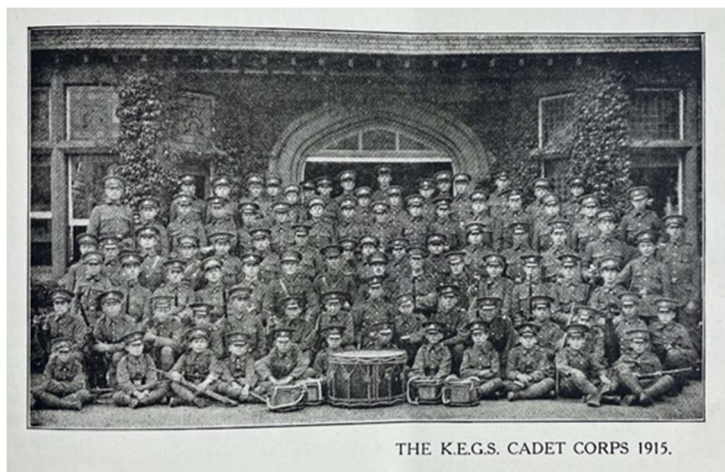
OTHER SCHOOL-RELATED NEWS

Present at both the CCF Inspection and the Foundation meeting mentioned above by Tom Carter were three former 'bandsmen', Stephen Foakes, John Aldridge and George Heseltine, who have all maintained an interest in both the CCF and Corps of Drums since being members themselves whilst at School. Both units had struggled for a time during and after Covid but are now attracting more recruits and the trio were delighted to be able to present Major Alison Brown with a cheque for £3000 on behalf of the Foundation Governors to purchase new equipment for the Corps of Drums and to help with the ongoing tailoring costs of restoring some of the older tunics.



CORPS OF DRUMS

John Baker (1955-1962) has written “While tidying up recently, I found I had a KEGS brochure which I had completely forgotten about. Amongst much interesting information there are photographs of the Cadet Corps (dated 1915) and of the Drums. I assume the latter photo is earlier, since the band are not badged, whereas in the 1915 photo the corps seem to be wearing Essex Regiment cap badges. Presumably by 1915 it had become the cadet detachment of the 5th Battalion. I recall reading that the Corps was originally attired in the field grey uniforms of the volunteer regiments, and this seems to be confirmed by the dark sergeant's stripes.





Grey was given up during WWI to avoid confusion with the enemy and the narrow, unpainted side drums were (I think) those still in use for training recruits around 1960.

The prospectus is undated, but it names Thomas Hay as Headmaster [i.e. pre-1928], and I suppose it is close to 1915. It must be pre-1919, the year when several of the older masters in my time (not listed in the booklet) were appointed after the War. Squier is Second Master, and there are eight assistant staff (three of them women, which indicates wartime). Interestingly, four of the teachers were B.Sc., only one B.A., and five non-graduates. School fees were £3. 15s. 10d. a term

over the age of 12 (plus £13. 6s. 8d. for boarders); there were only two governors' scholarships (which covered the fees). I note that woodwork was already compulsory ('It develops the hand and eye, and encourages the constructive powers of the brain') and that 'All the boys have drill regularly, whether in the Cadet Corps or not'.

While we are in nostalgic mode, I see that the late ex-Bugler Banes's 1962 Hornchurch medals are currently being sold on eBay. This kind of thing makes one feel very old. Which one is!"

John later wrote "One thing leads to another. When I was finding the right place on the shelves for the brochure, I found an old volume of the Chelmsfordian with the attached photographs. From the first one I



learn that the Corps was originally attached to the 2nd Volunteer Bn of the Essex Regiment, so a renumbering must have happened later. The volume ends in 1906, before the Drums were founded in 1908. But the 1904 photograph demolishes my theory based on the absence of badges - the Corps was Essex Regt from the start. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing!

The youngest cadets look a lot younger than in our day - which perhaps they were. It is appalling to realise that our own period of service in the CCF was closer in time to these chaps than to those of today!

I also see that one of the first Corps reports said they were led on a route march by the 'Mid-Essex Band', whatever that was, in red coats. Soon afterwards they discussed forming their own bugle band, but my recollection is that it didn't happen until 1908. If they get the chance, members will enjoy looking through these magazines, which are very evocative of the time. (Some of the content I find evocative of the 1950s as well - they were, after all, closer to 1904 than to 2023, though of course two world wars had intervened.)

Michael Wood (1982-1989) who was copied in to this correspondence replied that "I can confirm the affiliation was with the 2nd Vol Bn, the boys wearing the 2VB pattern white metal cap badges on the grey uniform. The Territorial Force Act 1907 saw the 2nd VB become the 5th (TF) Bn in 1908, and by 1910 for sure the corps was formally affiliated with the 5th (and the standard Essex Regiment bimetal cap badge worn). Presumably for 1908 - 1910 there was at least an unofficial connection and support if not more. It is interesting to see some of the boys wearing the short-lived and unpopular "Broderick" cap with no peak. Not all regular units had them and it is very unusual to see a cadet unit with them.



I too am interested to hear that 'Boots' Banes's Hornchurch medals are up for sale. Presumably the swagger stick shown in your photo of **Terry Mynard** in 1935 was at that time of the Essex Regiment pattern. I have never seen one for the school itself. Of this photo John Baker commented "Wonderful photograph - so that's what our uniforms and caps looked like when they were new!".

We are sure that John Aldridge and Stephen Foakes will be interested too, whilst finding tailors capable of restoring the existing tunics.

CROQUET

Possibly a first in our many years of reporting but our congratulations to **Walter Hall**, a former Chairman and still member of the School's Foundation Governors, on winning croquet's All-England Handicap Final.

Fourteen finalists from the north (Ashby), south (Ryde) east (Maldon) and west (Glamorgan) gathered at Ryde on the Isle of Wight in September on what was to turn out to be the hottest day of the year there (at 33.2 degrees C).

Throughout the weekend all-play-all 91 games with all four lawns being monitored by an experienced referee familiar with Advantage (as opposed to extra strokes) play, enabling the manager to concentrate on the efficient running of the event. With no time limits initially in place, it became apparent that the very late finish on Saturday would necessitate a change of plan on the second day and a one-hour time limit was introduced.

By the end of day one Walter Hall (Maldon) was the only undefeated player with 7 wins and despite a change in the weather conditions on the Sunday, considerably cooler and with the threat of showers, Walter continued his winning streak and by lunchtime he was 3 wins clear of his closest rivals who then caught up to within 1 in the afternoon session before Walter clinched the final against Dee Dennis (Watford) with his magic touch returning to secure a 7-5 victory and with it the championship. Well done indeed!

MEETING UP

John Aldridge and George Heseltine, both seated on the right, were also present at this mini-reunion at the Brewhouse & Kitchen next to the railway station on August 14th with Paul Crichton, Paul Snowden, back in the UK from his home in Japan, and Dick Hickman. Having barely met up since the mid-1960s, Paul Snowden suggested that ‘*none of us looks a year over --er-- the mid-seventies*’ and John Aldridge added that, on reflection, the photo ‘posed the cream of international academia on the one side of the table whilst those with more humble educational achievements occupied the other!’ Nevertheless, he added ‘we remain all of one mind about what KEGS did for us and so many others.’



Paul Snowden subsequently suggested “If you need to reduce the proportion of articles on soccer in the newsletter, you might like to report that after retirement from two years as Chairman of the Board of management for the Tokyo campus of Lakeland University (Wisconsin, USA) I received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters, which somewhat unfortunately is abbreviated as "DHL". Perhaps I should reverse it, in the style of "PhD", to the less confusing Latin-style "LHD".

Paul Crichton had joined KEGs after his family moved south from Scotland and got an open scholarship in classical studies (Latin and Greek Language and Literature, Ancient History and Philosophy) at Lincoln College, Oxford and went on to teach English as a Foreign Language and Latin at various schools and universities in London and Germany. He then went on to medical school at the University of Munich and after qualifying as a doctor, worked for two years in neurology, one year at the teaching hospital in Großhadern in Munich and the following year at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queen Square in London. He did his training in psychiatry, first at Charing Cross Hospital and then at the Maudsley Hospital, both in London and then took a post as Consultant Psychiatrist at Guy’s Hospital in London followed by head of the Department of Psychological Medicine at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Chelsea, London, and in Sutton in Surrey, where he did liaison psychiatry and cognitive behavioural therapy with people with cancer. After the Marsden he worked part-time for the Ministry of Justice, sitting on Mental Health Review Tribunals, work he continues to do. Additionally, Paul went on to study for a BA and then a PhD in philosophy at Birkbeck College at the University of London and subsequently rewrote and considerably adapted his PhD dissertation on *Self-Realization – An Exploration* as a book for philosophically interested readers who have no formal training in philosophy. The book is called *Inner Necessity and Self-Realization – Thinking About How to Live*.

International academia indeed!

During the visit Paul Snowden was able to pass on another copy of his ‘Legends’ booklet to John in which he had adapted a piece about a one-handed pitcher to a one-footed footballer in recognition of the fortitude of John’s younger brother Michael who had a leg amputated whilst at School. Despite this Michael never gave way to his disability and carried on keeping wicket for the School cricket team, played in the School’s football team and continued his studies and earned a place at Leeds University to study law, where he also took up rowing. Sadly, the cancer that he had experienced returned and he died at home in 1966.



Dick Hickman played a lot of cricket at Lawford Lane but says that “whilst interested in reading Martin Beagles report of the President's Day match from whenever which I apparently played in, I have absolutely no recollection of the day!!!!” Mention of the Hickman family will immediately conjure up memories for many members of Saturday mornings spent in the sound booths of James Dace in New London Road listening to the weeks new record releases either before or after meeting up in the Oasis Coffee Bar further up the road. This photo of the Prefects of 1965 was subsequently unearthed and the names gathered with Michael and the two Pauls sitting alongside each other in the front row.



Front row, left to right: Howard Swan, Michael "Stumper" Aldridge, Paul Snowden, Paul Crichton, N. H. "Pod" Fanshawe, Rob Weston, Malcolm Smith, Bob Chapman, Gordon "Smelly" Young

Middle row: Brian "Fuzz" Cousins, Dick Hickman, Will Sellers, Johnny Horner, Melvin Thompson, Terry Ketley, Paul Chrstophers, Chris Weekes, Mick Ganley, John Jeffrey, Richard Standeven (?)

Back row: Rodney Floyd (?), Dudley Burton, John Snowden, Ron Laborde, Vince Bramhall, Pete Colebourn, Nigel Norman, Brian Axcel

A month earlier on July 14th and in the Ale House on the other side of the railway station a younger group from the mid-seventies met up for their second meeting of the summer. Arranged again by **Ian Hennessey**, Dave Vickery was one of those present having travelled down from Sheringham and a happy couple of hours were spent recalling names and faces from schooldays of both boys and masters.

Steve Little has given early notice that his year group from the early sixties will be meeting up on Friday December 1st for their traditional pre-Christmas meet at The Banker in London and he will send out details to those interested nearer the time.

He adds that he is still writing but reserves this for the winter months – “I am currently writing about my experiences in 1950s Chelmsford and those of you from Kings Road School and the Woodhall Estate are featured (this follows from the 60s stories contained in Days We’ll Remember All Our Lives).

In the trilogy of More Than Just A Life and Joining Forces (already published) I will restart, in 2024, the third book provisionally called Imperfect Hell set during WW2.”

CATCHING UP

Following on from previous correspondence we have now heard more from **Peter Bish** (1945-1953)

“In June 1941, my mother brought me from London to Broomfield, Essex to stay with her second cousins. World War II had a major impact on our lives. I was only 6 years old and the Broomfield School would be my sixth one. I had 5 years there when I sat for a place at KEGS. I was fortunate to be the only pupil from Broomfield to be admitted to KEGS that year and during my first 5 years there, my abilities with arithmetic and physics helped with keeping a respectable Annual Report. There was a change of Headmaster in 1949 and we now had the Oxford & Cambridge Joint Board for the annual Matriculations exams after which I was then able to have subsequent exams reduced to maths, more maths, and physics.

My school life changed when the exam results showed that I had qualified for a Government Scholarship which would enable me to have enough income to attend college. Mr. Fanshaw recommended that I apply to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and needless to say, I was overwhelmed, not to mention excited!

One day in December, I went up to Emmanuel to take the Scholarship exam and a few days later, on Christmas Eve, I received a telegram from the College to advise that I had been awarded an Exhibition in Mathematics. That October I went up to Cambridge to begin my college life with the KEGs story all but over. However, a couple of days later, I received word that KEGS Annual Prize awards were being held on October 12th and I was invited there to receive the Silver Medal.

This really took me by surprise, I never thought of being the top student at KEGS. It really still is my very top event in my life. My family was relatively poor; I started out in left field so to speak, and I still am amazed about my growth from a pupil who did not know anything about Grammar schools to reaching the top. In wanting to keep this brief I hope that my little piece of history might encourage others to look to the future in a different way.

Having graduated from Emmanuel College in 1956 with a Bachelor of Art's Degree in Mathematics, which was upgraded to a Master of Art's Degree 3 years later, I obtained employment with the MOD Civil Service and spent 29 years, including 3 years at the British Embassy in Washington D.C., putting my mathematics to very good use.

Mary Jane and I married in Wandsworth on 5th August 1983 and have just celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary here in the USA, having moved to Arizona on retirement from the MOD, London, in early 1984, to take up a mid-level directorship with a defence contractor in Tucson .

My second retirement came in 1993, since when we have had more time to entertain the friends from England and Scotland who have visited over the years. Our current pastimes include tomato growing in our large, 24ft x 12ft, greenhouse and caring for a number of abandoned, homeless cats that find their way to our door, working closely with private individuals and local pet shelters to protect these and find safe homes for them.

It is a long time since my KEGS days (1945-1953) and my award of the Silver Medal, which I still have in an album. I remember many of my former classmates and sincerely hope they have done/are doing well.

Ed: The Silver Medal would normally have been presented to the Senior Prefect but I can find no mention why Peter was awarded this instead of either Capon who was Senior Prefect at the start of 52/53 or Barry Sydenham who took his place later that year.

Michael Madden (1950-1954) responded to our obituary of Vic Barker in the last issue with a request that we convey his condolences to Vic's widow, Pam (nee Wisbey). Having been 4 years behind Vic at School and leaving in 1954 to move to America with his parents, Michael hadn't known Vic but recognised the Wisbey name. “As I recall from my time at KEGS, there were four boys from the area of Wood Street/Galleywood Road who started in September 1950. I was one of them living on Campbell Close off

Wood Street. There were 2 boys who lived on Wood Street close to Galleywood Road: Dick Horsnell and John Kelly. The third boy had a last name of Wisbey and lived on Galleywood Road. I think his first name was Roger (this I am not sure about). I do remember that when we had Track and Field sports day in the Spring of 1951. Roger Wisbey showed up with track shoe spikes. The rest of us wore sneakers (trainers). Roger, with his track shoes, left the rest of us in the dust in the 100 yards event”.

We passed this on to Pam who replied to Michael that her family had indeed been friends with the Horsnells and that her brothers were Laurie and Ray with Ray (rather than Roger) being the one who excelled at athletics. Having married Ruth (Sharman) he went to live in Australia in 1970 with their 3 children where they stayed, Ray sadly dying in 2014.

The Chelmsfordian records that Ray Wisbey, in the 1954 Sports Day, 14-15 years class, not only won the 100 yards but also the 220yards, 440 yards, High Jump and the points cup for 13-15year olds. Those spikes obviously worked!

We heard further from Pam that she had uncovered a couple of Pussy Johnson’s paintings that Vic had bought back in October 1989 when the club sold a total of 369 Oils, Pastels and Water Colours that had been left to us and from the proceeds of which sale the snooker table was purchased and housed at Lawford Lane in the Pussy Johnson room. Several of these paintings have come back to the club and are now hung in the snooker room and Pam also had the Essex Chronicle cutting regarding the three day sale, which was overseen by Ralph Norton, and a copy of the catalogue which we will add to our archive.

Murray Brazier (1940-1949) was interested to read in the March 2023 issue of the Essex Family Historian an article by Colleen Devonish headed “A World-Renowned Naturalist”

‘I was recently introduced to the books of an Essex author, John Alec Baker (1926-1987) who has a world-wide reputation as a naturalist writer. I must admit that I had not heard of him before or knew of his writings about Essex wildlife. I have to thank David Simmonds, who visited the Little Baddow History Centre, for making me aware of this talented author who resided in Chelmsford.

John was the son of Wilfred S Baker and his wife Pansy (nee Collis). His father worked as a draughtsman at the local electrical engineering company, Crompton’s. John was born on the 6th August 1926. He was educated at Trinity Road Primary School and King Edward VI Grammar School both in the county town. At the age of 18 John was employed by L P Foreman of Roxwell Road, Chelmsford. L P Foreman were originally



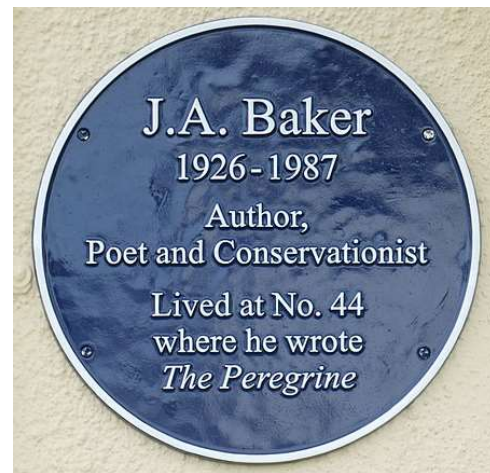
willow tree growers and cricket bat manufacturers and had been established in the outskirts of Chelmsford by Luther Foreman in 1886. J A Baker married Doreen (nee Coe) at Christchurch, Chelmsford on October 6th 1956 and they lived in central Chelmsford. Doreen was the daughter of Reginald Coe who according to the 1939 Register, worked at the local ball bearing manufacturers, Hoffman Bearings, which was the first UK ball bearing manufacturer established in 1898 and situated in Chelmsford.

John is renowned for his books. ‘The Peregrine’ written in 1967 and ‘The Hill of Summer’ in 1969 which are now widely regarded as two of the greatest natural history writings of the twentieth century. In addition, he was a conservationist and a poet. After the publication of ‘The Peregrine’ he gave up paid work altogether and lived on National Assistance and money from awards. One of the awards he received was the Duff Cooper Prize.

Unfortunately, John suffered from ill health and died in 1987 at the age of 61.

There is a J A Baker archive at the University of Essex. Chelmsford Museum has an exhibition board about his life. For those readers that would like to know more about this talented man see <https://jabaker.co.uk> or read his biography 'House of Sky' by Hetty Saunders.

Our member, Bryan Clark, currently lives in a house owned by John A Baker and his wife and had thought it would be nice to apply for a blue plaque to be affixed to this. However, this had already been attended to at 44 Stansted Close where it was thought he had actually written the Peregrine.



MOVING ON

Allan Smith (1992-1999) has suggested it is time for to him to become paperless and save the trees so would be happy to receive digital versions of the newsletter in the future.

John Wheeler (1974-1981) has informed us that "For the second time in my life I have escaped Essex. My partner and I have moved back to West Yorkshire where we began our married lives in 1990 – in fact we are renting again while waiting to buy a place nearby, and also in the Wakefield district near to the rented miners terrace we had back then – all very nostalgic, especially the hills and countryside, although we are past running up and down them now, and settle for walking and cycling instead! Equipped with new 'equipment' I'm happy to receive the newsletter on line.

OBITUARIES

John Powling (1937-1943) with whom we had a lot of correspondence and from whom we received copies of his various books on his life in farming and seed production. We were delighted through the newsletter to be able to put him in touch with several of his former classmates.

Doug Rollings who was at School in the early fifties and whose company was responsible for the building of our new hall in the mid-1970s. We will be forever grateful for the cost-savings Doug made on this project which came in from memory at a miserly £13,000. Doug was a larger than life character and this was reflected in the celebration of his life held at Great Baddow Church on September 7th and afterwards at Pontlands Park where several of his school colleagues were present including Malcolm Tippet and Barrie Davey although Rex Hobbs who had been was Doug's best man and a friend for some 75years was sadly away and unable to attend.

On a happier note Rex let us know that Una and **Peter Watson** (1949-1954) had visited him recently from Ayrshire and would like to receive newsletters in future.

Ted Caton (1945-1950) who will be sadly missed as our coffee morning organiser and for his good company at these. Ted's funeral will be at the Chelmsford Crematorium at 12.30 on Monday November 6th with a wake at the OCs clubhouse afterwards.

We have also learned of the recent deaths of **Denis King** who was at School from 1942-1948 and **Graham Dines** at the age of 68.

To the families of all we extend our sincere condolences.

'200 CLUB' AND 'DEVELOPMENT FUND'

Recent winners of the 200 Club were £200, Ian Brown and Peter Greenwood; £100, Steve Young and Alan Friend and £50, Andy Davy and Dave Irwin. Winners in recent Development Fund draws were £75, Robert Terry, Stuart Watson and Stuart McNeill, £50, Brian Terry, Tom Iliffe, Andy Lee, Paul Hampel, Andy Cook, Dawn Crisp and Nigel King, £30, Paul Taylor, £25, Pete Ellwood, Adrian Raison, George Heseltine, Adam Dessouki, Chris Flint, Mark Allison, Alan Ball, £15, Mark Bowerman, Alan Friend, Simon Moore, Damian Lee, Carl Lodge, Jason Steadman, Eileen Terry, and Dave Irwin.

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.

FOOTBALL

One of the county's longest-established charity competitions, recently held its latest trio of finals at Burnham Ramblers' Leslie Field. The Burnham & District Charity Competition, established in 1921 and first won by Ramblers the following spring, toasted its 101st year with finals in each of its three divisions and we are



delighted to report that our Old Chelmsfordians team defeated Beacon Hill for the Division Three Cup which is open to veterans' sides. The primary purpose of the competition is to raise money for charity and having initially split the monies between various good causes it was decided, some five years ago, to concentrate on just one charity since when some £16000 has been donated to the Essex Air Ambulance.

The OCs team were, back row left to right, Fraser Watson, Abdul Tankara, Rob King, Matt West, Chris Moore, Gareth Payne, Kieran Ahern and Eddie O'Neill with front row, left to right, Andy Martin, John Taite, Jamie Saunders, Lee Wild, Nick Wright, Damian Lee, Ben Sanders and Gareth Walsh.

THE 2023-2024 SEASON – RESULTS TO DATE

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

12/08/23	Away	Rayleigh Town	Lost 4-3	Away	Runwell Sports	Lost 3-2
19/08/23	Away	Springfield	Won 3-1			
26/08/23	Away	Canning Town	Won 4-3	Away	Takeley Devs	Lost 2-1
02/09/23	Home	Leigh Ramblers	Won 3-1	Away	Collier Row	Lost 5-1
09/09/23	Away	Sungate	Lost 4-1	Home	Emerson and Upminster	Lost 3-1
16/09/23	Home	Old Southendians	Drew 3-3	Away	Bishops Stortford	Lost 3-0
23/09/23	Away	Bishops Stortford	Won 3-0	Home	Herongate	Lost 4-1
30/09/23	Home	Runwell Sports	Drew 2-2			
07/10/23	Home	Colne Athletic 2-2	Lost 10-9 Pens*	Home	Basildon	Lost 6-0
14/10/23	Away	Toby First	Won 4-1			

League other than * BBC Essex Premier Cup

Currently: 5th of 14. P9 W 5 D 2 L 2 GF 26 GA 19 Pts 17 11th of 12. P 7 Lost 7 GF 6 GA 26 Pts 0

Saturday 3rd XI Mid Essex League Premier Division 4th XI Mid Essex League Division 3

09/09/23				Home	Broomfield	Lost 5-1
16/09/23	Home	Brentwood Athletic	Lost 6-0	Away	Great Baddow	Lost 4-2
23/09/23	Away	Fleet	Lost 3-0*	Home	Sandon Royals	Lost 2-1**
30/09/23	Away	Hutton	Lost 4-2	Home	Witham Town	Lost 4-1
07/10/23	Home	Rawreth Lane	Lost 4-0			
14/10/23	Home	Benfleet	Lost 5-1	Home	Great Baddow	Drew 3-3

League other than * David Strachan Cup **Patron's Plate

Currently: 10th of 10. P 4 Lost 4 Goal Diff -16 Pts 0

10th of 10 P 4 W 0 D 1 L 3 GD -9 Pts 1

Saturday Vets Essex Veterans League Division 1 East Essex Vets Over 45s Premier Division

16/09/23	Home	Stanway Pegasus	Lost 4-2	Away	Blackmore	Drew 4-4
23/09/23				Home	Chapel United	Lost 3-2
30/09/23	Away	Chigwell	Lost 3-2*	Home	Paringdon	Lost 6-1**
14/10/23	Away	White Notley	Won 4-0	Home	Shenfield Assn	Drew 2-2

League other than * Vets Cup **Vets Trophy

Currently: 5th of 10. P2 W1 D0 L1 GF 6 GA 4 Pts 3

7th of 10 P3 W0 D2 L1 GF 8 GA 9 Pts 2

Essex Vets Over 45s Division 2 (East) Sunday XI Chelmsford Sunday League Div 3

16/09/23	Away	Woodham Radars	Lost 6-0	10/09	Away	Moulsham Athletic	Lost 3-1
23/09/23	Home	Hannakins Farm	Drew 2-2	17/09	Home	Burnham Ramblers	Drew 3-3
30/09/23	Away	Hale End Athletic	Won 4-1	24/09	Home	East Hanningfield	Lost 3-2
07/10/23	Away	Pavilion	Lost 3-2	01/10	Away	AFC Ingatestone	Lost 3-1
14/10/23	Home	AS Rawreth	Won 6-2	15/10	Home	Maldon Social	Won 4-1

All League

Currently: 4th of 11. P5 W2 D1 L2 GF 14 GA 14 Pts 7

10th of 12. P5 W1 D1 L3 GF 11 GA13 Pts 4

CRICKET

The 2023 cricket season will surely go down in the record books as one of the club's best ever, writes Baz Bowerman.

After a seventh place finish in Division One last season, the **first eleven** were expected to build on what was seen as a year of consolidation. This year, at the halfway stage of the season, they were top of the division and I am delighted to report that they continued their winning ways, only tasting defeat once during July and August. It meant that they secured the Divisional title and can look forward to a return to the Premier Division next year, when they will seek to win the top-flight title for the first time since 1988.

The **second eleven**, unlucky to be relegated last year, were always in contention for a high finish in Division Four. On the eve of the last set of fixtures, they were in fourth place and needed a maximum-points win to give themselves any chance of finishing in second place, which would guarantee automatic promotion. They duly delivered the maximum 26 points and waited anxiously to find out if the other results had gone their way. Unbelievably, and dramatically, they achieved the feat, finishing on 298 points with Chelmsford Spartans finishing on 297 points along with Purleigh, also on 297 points.

I reported in the last issue that the **third eleven** (playing in Division Eight) had found some form after a dismal start to the season. The winning ways continued, to the extent that having only won one game before 10 June, we only lost one game after 10 June (and even that defeat was by just one wicket to the divisional winners). It meant that we rose from second from bottom to joint third at our highest, eventually finishing the season in fourth place.

The **fourth eleven** built on last year's debut season in Division Eleven and only tasted defeat three times, resulting in a second place finish. This was an excellent end to the season for this team, which combines youth and experience and who play their home games at Bedford Fields. Special mention goes to Owen Raisborough, who scored his maiden ton in August and followed it up with another one a week later!

It meant that our four senior league sides all finished in the top four of their respective divisions, with the ones, twos and fours all securing automatic promotion. What an achievement!

The **fifths** enjoyed an excellent summer and, like the fourths, once again followed their trusted formula of matching experienced senior statesmen with enthusiastic youngsters who are keen to learn the finer points of the game from their elders. They bettered last season's win tally by one, winning 13 of their games, with the unofficial 'home of cricket' (Admiral's Park) once again providing the backdrop to their home games.

Our **women's team** once again made their regional finals but were unable to advance to the final. I am sure they will come back better and stronger next season.

We also had four youth teams playing this season. The **Under-15s** and **Under-13s** both experienced their first year in their respective age groups, playing league cricket. The Under-15s won half of their games and finished fourth in their division, whilst the Under-13s finished as runners-up in their division. Both teams performed admirably and will undoubtedly be even more competitive next season as they will have a year's experience in that age group under their belt.

We also had an **Under-17** team this year that played friendly games, and a fledgling **Under-11** team that played softball matches as an introduction to the game.

Finally, this year we also had a **Sunday XI** for the first time in many a year, under the stewardship of Matt Bowerman, which played friendlies against local teams.

Thanks are due to all who made this a season to remember – too many to mention, but special gratitude to Chris Flint, Brian Terry and John Hodges for their much-appreciated work at making Lawford Lane one of the best places in Essex to play and enjoy sport.

Top performing run scorers and wicket takers for the whole season, for each team, were as follows:

1s: Ajai Ajith 700 runs / Faz Rehman 26 wickets

2s: Jamas Hodiwalla 457 runs / Harry Arnold 30 wickets

3s: Matt Cranfield 254 runs / Mark Shelley 18 wickets

4s: Owen Raisborough 355 runs / Olly Speakman 13 wickets

5s: John Waring 291 runs / Ian Scarse 31 wickets

Women: Zaynah Rehman 78 runs / Serena Mahandru 4 wickets

Sundays: Matt Bowerman 138 runs / Toby Wallis 13 wickets

Under-13s: Joseph Le Roux and Aarshya Patel 106 runs / Joseph Le Roux 9 wickets

Under 15s: John Waring 100 runs / Samuel Cant 7 wickets

Under 17s: Ishan Namjoshi 50 runs / Michael Bird 3 wickets

Results and performances of note for the second half of the 2023 season were as follows:

First XI : 11 wins / 3 defeats in 2023: finished 1st

8 July - OCs 317-7 (Rohan Odedra 120) **beat** Gt Totham 1s 136 all out (Toby Wallis 3-16)

15 July - OCs 194 all out **beat** Writtle 1s (181-9) Sils Joseph 3-28)

22 July – rained off

29 July - OCs 271-6 (Rob Lee 67*) **beat** Terling 1s 267-9 (Faz Rehman 4-32)

5 Aug – rained off

12 Aug – OCs 191 all out (Matt Bowerman 68) lost to Springfield 2s 206 all out

19 Aug – OCs 286-5 (Ajai Ajith 76, Rohan Odedra 68) **beat** Ilford Catholics 1s 106 all out

26 Aug – rained off

2 Sept – OCs 239-7 (Ajai Ajith 104, Dom Norman 64*) **beat** Rayleigh 1s 159 all out (Adam Wallis 3-21)

Second XI : 10 wins / 5 defeats in 2023: finished 2nd

8 July – OCs 226-7 (Jamas Hodiwalla 66) **beat** Rayne 1s 225-7

15 July – OCs 286-8 (Prab Bagga 135, Will Davis 71) lost to Purleigh 1s 290-7 by 4 runs

22 July – rained off

29 July – OCs 242 all out (Luke Scoble 51) lost to Beaulieu Pk 1s 255-8 (Chris Gregory 3-32)

5 Aug – rained off

12 Aug – OCs 213 all out lost to Chelmsford Spartans 1s 250-8

19 Aug – OCs 70-6 **beat** Boreham and Roxwell 1s 67 all out (Harry Arnold 4-22)

26 Aug – OCs 112-2 **beat** Rayleigh Fairview 1s 110 all out (Luke Scoble 3-11)

2 Sept – OCs 231 all out (James Hodivala 83) **beat** Bentley 2s 140 all out (Harry Arnold 6-22)

Third XI : 8 wins / 5 defeats in 2023: finished 4th

8 July – OCs 189-8 (Matt Cranfield 60) **beat** Bentley 3s 187-6 by 2 wickets

15 July – OCs 182-5 (Matt Robson 72*, Mark Bowerman 52*) **beat** Rankins 2s 178-6 (Ross Cant 3-14) by 5 wickets

22 July – rained off

29 July – OCs 176-5 (James Brown 61) **beat** Sth Loughton 2s 172-9 by 5 wickets

5 Aug – rained off

12 Aug – OCs 186-5 (Vish Rodage 52) **beat** Navestock 2s 183-5 by 5 wickets

19 Aug – no game

26 Aug – OCs 140 all out lost to St Andrews 1s 141-9 (Tom Bowerman 4-10) by 1 wicket

2 Sept – OCs 142-4 (Vish Rodage 67, Matt Cranfield 58*) **beat** Danbury 1s 140 all out (Kieran Shelley 3-16, Mark Shelley 3-34)

Fourth XI: 12 wins / 3 defeats in 2023: finished 2nd

8 July – OCs 179-7 (David Tant 77) lost to Sth Loughton 3s 180-5

15 July – OCs 113-2 (Jack Lindsell 64*) **beat** Eastwood 3s 112-8

22 July – OCs 80-2 **beat** Basildon and Pitsea 5s 77 all out

29 July – OCs 89 all out lost to Basildon and Pitsea 5s 90-5

5 Aug – rained off

12 Aug – OCs 175 all out lost to East Hanningfield 3s 182-7

19 Aug – OCs 263-3 (Owen Raisborough 111*) **beat** Tillingham 3s 43 all out (Matt Robson 4-9, David Heard 3-4)

26 Aug – OCs 283-5 (Owen Raisborough 120*) **beat** Hornchurch 5s 143-8 (Samuel Cant 4-33)

2 Sept – OCs 105-1 **beat** Rayleigh 6s 104-9 (Paul Osborne 3-30)

Fifth XI : 13 wins / 12 defeats in 2023

8 July – OCs 197-5 (Scott Shelley 50*) **beat** Gt Baddow 88 all out (Ian Scarce 4-16)

15 July – OCs 148-7 lost to Witham 4s 150-1

15 July – OCs Extra 5th XI 81-1 **beat** West Mersea 3s 78 all out (Zach Davis 4-15)

29 July – OCs 117 all out lost to Herongate 299-6 (Steve McLean 3-36)

30 July – OCs 89-7 **beat** London Saints 86-9

12 Aug – OCs 168-2 (Jez Crook 51*) **beat** Maldon 5s 166-8 (Alexander Robertson 3-38)

19 Aug – OCs 155-7 beat Benfleet 5s 128 all out (Steve McLean 3-3)

26 Aug – OCs 178-2 (Scott Shelley 50*) **beat** Rayleigh 6s 60 all out (Pete Greenwood 3-21)

2 Sept – OCs 115-3 **beat** Benfleet 5s 114-9 (Ian Scarse 3-17)

9 Sept – OCs 162-8 lost to Rayleigh 5s 222-7

16 Sept – OCs 225-8 (Jack Lindsell 50*) lost to Westcliff 226 all out (Ian Scarse 4-41, Alexander Robertson 3-33)

Women's XI:

20 July – OCs 99-9 lost to Sudbury 134-7

Sunday XI : 3 wins / 2 defeats in 2023

9 July – OCs 218-9 lost to Bentley 219-4

23 July – OCs 166-4 **beat** Bentley 165 all out (Toby Wallis 6-23)

13 Aug – OCs 243-9 (Matt Bowerman 65*) **beat** Hatfield Peverel 187 all out

27 Aug – OCs 192-4 (Jake Edwards 50*, Michael Bird 50*) **beat** Hatfield Peverel 191-7 (Toby Wallis 3-33)

17 Sept – OCs 207 all out (Tom Bowerman 51) lost to Galleywood 229-7

U13s : 7 wins / 3 defeats in 2023

9 July – OCs 84-3 (Oscar Owers 31*, Aarshya Patel 30*) **beat** Writtle 82 all out

16 July – OCs 174-2 (Aarshya Patel 33*, Samuel Cant 31*) **beat** Terling 55 all out

20 July – OCs 98-6 **beat** Broomfield 69-7

27 July – OCs 87-7 (Joseph Le Roux 30*) **beat** Galleywood 86-3

3 Aug – OCs 52 all out lost to Gt Baddow 89-5

U15s : 2 wins / 3 defeats in 2023

11 July – OCs 115-9 (Jack Brown 33*) lost to Broomfield 174-6

U17s : 1 win / 1 defeat in 2023

20 July – OCs 119-4 (Ishan Namjoshji 30*) **beat** Gt Baddow 118-4

3 Sept – OCs 113 all out lost to Gt Baddow 136 all out (Michael Bird 3-7)

TENNIS

The section chairman, Jane Gray, writes;- The summer has seen a mixed bag of weather conditions and it seems only fitting that our winter leagues start this week just as the temperature reaches 25 degrees. The final summer league tables have yet to be published but we are optimistic that we could see three teams out of nine win their respective divisions which could well be a club record. Top prize goes to our Mens 3 team who had an ‘Invincible’ season in Division 4, winning all 12 of their matches and only conceding 10 sets all season (whilst winning 86!).

Our club tournaments saw the introduction of a mixed Junior Singles trophy alongside five other adult categories. The majority of finals were played on a very hot Sunday in September with player welfare a key concern as temperatures rose. I’m pleased to report no-one suffered any adverse effects and there were some very closely fought matches. We have some new names to add to the Honours Board but, as I write, the Mixed Doubles final is still to play.

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

TABLE TENNIS

Central Essex Summer League 2023

The 2023 Central Essex Summer League concluded in mid-August 2023 with four OCA teams participating this year.

The OCA A team found the going very tough in Division 2 and finished bottom of seven. This was a very strong division this year and Richard Baxter did well to win 3 of the 8 games that he played.

Our two teams in Division 3 fared much better with the B Team finishing in third place and the C Team in fifth position. The B team had a remarkable season in that they won all of the six games they played but had two teams placed above them. The format of the League rewards teams with a point for every individual game won, which can turn up the type of anomaly our B Team suffered from this year. Mick Richardson can feel particularly hard done by, having won 11 of the 12 matches he played.

Our remaining team (D) finished third in Division 4 winning three and losing three of their matches. Farooq Ahmed led the way winning 6 of the 8 games he played.

Chelmsford & District Winter League 2023/24

The main season got underway on 17 September 2023 with five OCA teams entered – one in each of the top five divisions.

Reigning Division 1 Champions, OCA A, are going to find things much more difficult this season with a much-improved Chelmsford A squad likely to push them all the way. After the first four games of the season, Chelmsford A are 4 points clear of OCA A who although winning two of their matches handsomely have suffered two narrow 6-4 defeats as well.

In Division 2 our B team, who have narrowly avoided relegation in each of the last three seasons, have had a solid start to this year’s campaign and sit 5th of 11 teams having won two and drawn 1 of their opening 4 games. This is largely thanks to Mick Richardson who has lost only one of the 12 games he has played so far.

In Division 3, the C Team are handily placed in 4th place having won all of 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 6 matches he has played.

In Division 4, our D Team are also fourth having won two of their opening three fixtures. A very strong Galleywood C squad looks likely winners of this division but the second promotion place is up for grabs and OCA D has as good a chance as any to fill this position. The squad of Farooq Ahmed, Dave Newman, David Bishop, and Russell Hall look well-equipped for a good season.

Finally, the E Team have also made an encouraging start in Division 5 and sit in 3rd place having won two and drawn one of their opening 3 games. They have a game in hand over both teams above them. The ever-green Stuart Wintle and a returning Matthew Porter both have 67% win rates.

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

Coffee Mornings continue on the third Thursday of the month from 10am until noon. The Christmas meeting on Thursday December 21st should include the traditional fish and chip lunch. It would be good to see some new faces and anyone interested in making this a class reunion should contact George Heseltine.

The date for the 2024 Annual Dinner has been arranged as Saturday March 23rd

Please remember to apply for your Christmas Draw tickets. Details on Page 2

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 should be published during January 2024 so plenty of time for you to comment on this one or to write your pieces for inclusion in this.

Meanwhile, our very early good wishes for Christmas and the New Year

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