THE OLD WANDSWORTHIANS MEMORIAL TRUST

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 2024



HERE WE ARE AGAIN!

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BOB ANDREWS



BOB ANDREWS
CHAIRMAN
OLD WANDSWORTHIANS MEMORIAL TRUST

ANGEL VILA & DICK MOODY

It is with great regret that we record the passing of our former Trustees Angel Vila and Dick Moody. I probably met Angel and Dick for the first time in 1973 when I first played for OWRFC as a 17-year-old. Angel left us first on 22nd April, 2024. He was born in Salamanca, Spain in 1933 and came to the UK in 1946. He attended Wandsworth School from 1947 to 1950.



As he had previously decided to leave his body to medical science, his family arranged a 'Celebration of Life' on Sunday 14th July 2024 at Imber Court with many Old Wandsworthians attending as a mark of their friendship and respect.

Angel became a Trustee in 1997, taking over from Ken Dore. In those early years of the OWMT he helped to shape the Trust as it is today. There was a 10-year period when our meetings were hosted by Angel and Sally at his home in Bramble Rise.

Angel resigned in 2011 after 14 years service because he felt he was not contributing enough. Another part of the reason was that he had gone over the handle bars of his bike once too often and Sally had said enough was enough!

Earlier this year in February, as in the previous year, Elaine and I picked up Angel from Bramble Rise to bring him to the DPML at Imber Court. On both occasions that half an hour in the car with Angel was pleasurable and added to my memories of spending time with him.

Now that I have retired I am trying to adopt Angel's dress code of no socks, but as yet I have not progressed to sandals!

Sadly we lost another important member of the Old Wandsworthians family on Monday 9th September, 2024. Dick Moody died at home, surrounded by his family.



Angels 'Celebration of Life' 14th July 2024

He was born 1939 in Neath and attended Wandsworth School from 1954 to 1958.

The funeral was a family affair for invited mourners only on 26th September, 2024 at Guildford Crematorium. Needless to say it was very well attended by his large family, colleagues and long-time friends from rugby as well as other areas of his highly interesting life.

Dick was an original Trustee when the OWMT was formed in 1996; he initiated the newsletter, the Lags Lunch and the book *FROM GRAMMAR TO COMPREHENSIVE* which was a very interesting and informative historical account of Wandsworth School. Dick and Zoe hosted the Trustee meetings at their home in Forster Road for eight years after we needed to move away from Angel's abode.



Dick having a joke with Les at the DPML

Dick attended his last meeting in January 2020 and semi-retired due to bad health.
Over the past couple of years Elaine and I have visited Dick and Zoe at home in Guildford. Dick was always pleased to see us, but became frustrated when he was lost for words.
Dick managed to attend this year's DPML, and it was lovely to see him enjoying the company of his old pals.

I will always remember listening to Dick's anecdotes about his professional life and the world of the Old Wandsworthians.

These two great Old Wandsworthians will be sorely missed!

Bob Andrews



Angel and Dick enjoying the company at this years DPML

OLD WANDSWORTHIANS BLAZER

£130

For more information on ordering please contact: Chris Brown
saintpogo@hotmail.com · 07973 744205



LES HERBERT



LES HERBERT
SECRETARY
OLD WANDSWORTHIANS MEMORIAL TRUST

To all Old Wandsworthians

We find ourselves again at the end of another year which seems to have passed faster than previous ones! It has been quite eventful for me and I guess many of you guys as well. All the Trustees send a warm hello and we hope you and your families are keeping safe. We would like to pass on our condolences to all the families of former Old Wandsworthians who sadly left us this year, not forgetting a couple who sadly left us in December 2023. I always find this time quite difficult, especially as in this past year we have lost so many OWs and friends, but in good old Wandsworthians spirit, we will celebrate their lives and carry on remembering them: -

Archie Preston (Brian)
Passed away 15th December 2023
Glyn Harvey
Passed away 30th December 2023
Mick Munton
Passed away 22nd January 2024
David Munden
Passed away 10th February 2024
Richard Grout
Passed away 22nd February 2024
Angel Villa
Passed away 22nd April 2024
Keith Hylands
Passed away in July 2024
Christopher Fletcher
Passed away 23rd July 2024
Dick Moody
Passed away 9th September 2024
David Hyde
Passed away 8th December 2024

Moving on to happier and recent events during 2024, I am pleased to say the choir group had a gathering this year. This was held at St Cecilia's School in September, and was attended by over 30 former choir members. I believe they all had a great time and there is a report in the newsletter. Next year the choir are planning to hold the event in either September or October ... watch this space.



A fine turnout for the choir reunion lunch

Another great event is the annual gathering of former pupils of the school, rugby club members past and present, choir group and guests, who attend the Dave Pollard Memorial Lunch. This was held on the 8th February and we had a record 140 attending. This leads me nicely onto our next DPML gathering which is taking place on Saturday 1st February 2025 at Imber Court. Details have already been sent out, so why not book your place or even a table and come along to meet up with lots of former pupils and members from all current and past sections of the Old Boys.

There are many smaller gatherings during the year when folks meet and have a few drinks, eat and have more drinks! I attend these on occasion and would personally like to thank people like Tony Watts and Phil Clements for taking the time to arrange them.

The Trustees continue to build our relationship with Saint Cecilia's School by attending events and indeed supporting financially as necessary. During 2024 we attended presentation evenings, the Christmas Carol concert and played a part in mock interviews for their Year 11/12, giving them crucial experience for job interviews. These events and others need volunteers, so if you are interested, please let me know and I will add you to my list.

Our main event is the Service of Remembrance, which was held on Friday 8th November. We had some 20 OWs which included partners and over 140 Year 7 pupils, which went very well. It would be great to see a few more OWs attending, so please look out for the date in 2025. (See report for 2024)

As you may be aware we have been working on our website, trying to improve the layout and also adding more information. Last year I said we had a lot of historical data and photos, which came from former teacher Mr Martin Lince. This has now been completed and you can see the changes on the website. All the remaining material will be sent to the Wandsworth Libraries and Heritage Services where they have more information from when the school closed.

Our grant application scheme is still successfully operating as we support many young people who are the children or grandchildren of former Old Wandsworthians. All applications are sent to me and my details are on the form which can be found in the 'Downloads' section on our website.

Many people are involved in producing this Newsletter and I would like to thank all who have contributed to it this year, but particularly Andy Archer who pulls it all together. I would also like to thank the Trustees for their continued support and hard work in keeping the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust alive and to you for attending and supporting the Trust's events.

If you know of any former pupils, please invite them to send me their details or pass them on yourself with their permission. Also, please send me any changes to your personal details, so I can update my records.

If you have an email address and this newsletter arrived by post, please also send that to me.

Finally, on behalf of myself and the Trustees, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Les Herbert (Secretary OWMT)

THE OLD WANDSWORTHIANS
MEMORIAL TRUST
1996

FUNDRAISING & DONATION SCHEME

The Trust's fundraising and Donation Scheme, which we launched back in 2012, helps with the ever-lengthening list of requests from our members. Apart from having the satisfaction of helping many deserving causes, you will also have the chance to win £250 from our prize draw. The winning ticket will be drawn at the annual Dave Pollard Memorial Lunch.

To help the Memorial Trust Fund, please send instructions to your bank, and set up a monthly Standing Order for £5 by filling in the Mandate which can be found on our website (select Main Heading 'Trust' then 'Trust Info' and click 'Donation Scheme').

This small amount can make a big difference to the Trust's ability to fulfil their grant requests. We thank you for your continued support.

Dick Moody (1939–2024)

The following was taken from an obituary in memory of Dick from the National Geological Society.

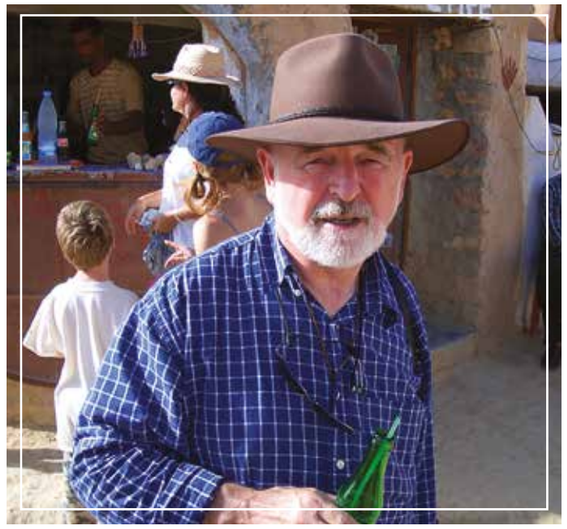
Well-known expert in North African stratigraphy and keen field trip leader, Richard Thomas Jones Moody, known as Dick, sadly passed away on 9th September 2024, just one month short of turning 85. Dick had a long career as a university professor and consultant geologist in the petroleum industry.

EDUCATION

Following his BSc in geology from Queen Mary University of London in 1961, Dick trained as a teacher in Swansea in 1962 and taught for two years at a secondary school. He then became a lecturer in palaeontology, stratigraphy, and sedimentology at then-university Kingston College of Technology. During this tenure, Dick undertook a PhD project on Eocene sea turtles, which was awarded in 1970. In addition to lecturing and PhD supervision duties, Dick designed curricula for BSc and MSc degrees, becoming a professor in 1988. Dick loved to stay in touch with his former students and set up the Kingston alumni, which rapidly achieved a membership in excess of 1,000. There were many happy reunions organised by him at the university or nearby venues in Surrey. Dick retired from Kingston University as Emeritus Professor in 1993 and continued his work with KGS.

KINGSTON GEOLOGICAL SERVICES

In 1986, Dick, ever the entrepreneur, set up a university research and consultancy group known as Kingston Geological Services (KGS), with just two consultants. However, due to his never-ending enthusiasm, innovation and great geological knowledge the consultancy grew rapidly undertaking geotechnical projects, field trips, field mapping, biostratigraphic wellsite, and numerous single and multi-well studies from clients worldwide. Whilst at KGS, alongside Professor Ian Jarvis, Dick undertook early chemostratigraphic studies in the North Sea. An example of one of Dick's numerous field



excursions for KGS involved bringing his own Landrover down from the UK packed to the gunnels, crossing the Mediterranean, travelling through Tunisia, and across the vast expanse of northern Libya to the Green Mountains of Cyrenaica. With his hand-held gamma, tape measure, hammer, field lens, notebook and ever-present Indiana Jones hat, Dick would traverse gorges and hang off sub vertical cliff sections making the most accurate field logs and beautiful field sketches whilst collecting samples to be analysed back in the UK. He would have no problem working in 40-degree temperatures, sitting under a solitary tree for lunch whilst evaluating the data. He was a superb field geologist and had an eye both for the big picture and the smallest of details to interpret the geology.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dick held several voluntary positions including the former Council for National Academic Awards, Earth Science Education Group, the councils of the Geological Society of London and the Geologists' Association. He also served on many subcommittees of international associations and the Royal Society. Dick was the President of the Geologists' Association from 1998 to 2000 and organised two Earth Alert conferences in Brighton and Scarborough and seven technical symposia. In 2007, Dick was organiser for the joint bicentennial dinner of the Geological Society and the Dining Club at the Connaught Rooms, London, where there is a plaque commemorating the Society's foundation.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Dick was the author or co-author of 26 books, including three of the Geological Society's Special Publications. He also produced over 150 petroleum exploration consultant reports. Dick's expertise on North Africa led him to present several training courses for the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain and petroleum exploration companies. He led many field trips for the Geologists' Association, plus over 50 petroleum exploration company field trips in North Africa and Europe. Dick completed eight trans-Saharan expeditions, including one in 1988 accompanied by Sir David Attenborough and was shown finding giant dinosaurs in Niger in the BBC documentary Lost Worlds, Vanished Lives. He was author or co-author of over 80 papers on a variety of geological topics including fossil sea turtles, the Trans-Saharan Seaway, Cenozoic carbonates of North Africa, chemostratigraphy, and history of geology. Dick was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Geological Society in 2013

MOTIVATION

Dick was a world class lecturer. His presentation skills were always well appreciated by his students, with whom he had a palpable rapport. Dick inspired many students to follow up their BSc degrees into graduate studies and develop their all-round geological skills to a higher level. This motivational attribute endeared Dick to many of his students and friends at the Geologists' Association.

Dick was equally passionate about rugby; a proud Welshman who, in 1954, moved from Neath to Wandsworth and played for his school and then, from 1961, Old Wandsworthians. He was a key committee member at the club, holding various positions and continued to be very involved as a Trustee of their charity. Many people will miss Dick's infectious enthusiasm for the game.

Dick leaves behind his wife of over 50 years, Zoe, daughter, Rebecca, son, James, and five grandchildren. Dick will be remembered with great affection by his former students and geological colleagues.

By Stuart Harker, Malcolm Brown, Rob Jones and Ross Sandman

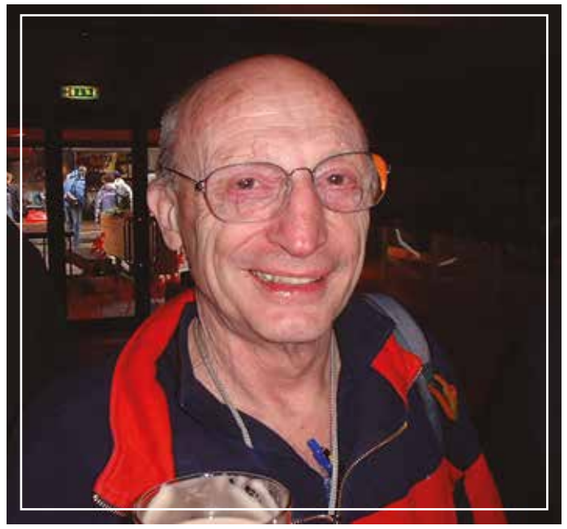






Angel Vila (1933–2024)

The following are extracts taken from the family eulogy about their father.



Dad, Angel Vila-Leimdörfer was born in Salamanca, Spain on April 25th, 1933.

His father was Salvador Vila Hernández, a young Spanish academic and a specialist in Arabic Studies. His mother, our 'Abuela', Gerda, was born in Austria, to a Jewish family. They had met at Berlin University where Salvador came to study for his doctorate. Gerda was also a scholar, specialising in modern languages, speaking six or seven fluently.

In 1934, Salvador became professor of Arabic Studies at Granada University, setting up home with Gerda and Angel and enjoying the happiest years of his life. In June 1936, at the age of 32, Salvador was appointed Interim Rector – the youngest in the university's history.

Then in July 1936, the Spanish Civil War began, a battle between the Fascists, led by Franco's army and the Republicans – a chaotic alliance of moderate democrats, socialists and communists.

That summer, after his appointment, Salvador, Gerda and Angel returned to Salamanca for the holidays. But shortly after their return Salvador and Gerda were arrested and put on a train back to Granada. Salvador and Gerda were separated and imprisoned. Gerda never saw Salvador again. On October 22nd Angel's father and 28 other prisoners were taken to a town on the outskirts of Granada and executed. Gerda had also been sentenced to death but was saved by the intercession of a friend sympathetic to the Nationalists, on the condition that she convert to Catholicism and go into internal exile.

She returned to Salamanca, collected Angel who had been left with his doting aunts and went to live with another of Salvador's sisters, Maria and her husband Paco, in the tiny village of Villanueva de la Vera, in the centre of Spain. That's where Angel lived from the age of 3 to the age of 13 … and he loved it. His friend from those days, Carlos, told the family once that Angel used to walk alongside the soldiers and make fun of them by imitating their goose steps as they drilled in the village square.

While he was spoiled rotten by his aunt and uncle, Gerda did not have such a happy time. Salvador had been seen as the family hero and she always sensed that as a foreigner and a Jew they believed that she had attracted trouble and to some degree blamed her for his death. So, in 1946 just after the end of the Second World War, Gerda took Angel and went to Britian, where her own parents had fled as refugees in 1938.

So, imagine you are a 13-year-old boy who has spent all the life he can remember in a tiny Spanish village running wild and free, doted on by adoring aunts, and you arrive in post-war London. You don't speak English and you move into a tiny flat in ungentrified Putney with a grandfather you don't know, who speaks a language you don't understand. Your mother has been traumatised by the loss of her husband, the death of her mother in 1940 and the separation from her brother who had been sent to Argentina in 1936 to escape the Nazis. And now you are faced with starting a whole new life.
Angel must have picked up English extremely fast, undoubtedly with the help of a brilliant language teacher in the shape of his mother.

He clearly excelled because he soon passed the Grammar School entry exam and started at Wandsworth Boys Grammar School.

There is no doubt that Wandsworth School set Dad on the course that transformed his life in England from tragedy to triumph. It gave him education, rugby and most importantly of all, it gave him friendships which endured for nearly 80 years. It was here that he met John Totham and started a lifelong friendship.

When Angel finished school, he chose not to try for university, a decision that deeply saddened his family. There may also have been another reason, as Angel told his family only a couple of years ago that he had wanted to do National Service, like most of his friends from Wandsworth Grammar. However, to do so he needed to apply for British Citizenship.



Angel enjoying a social gathering with old Wandsworthians

His status at the time was Resident Alien. His application was turned down, a decision that made Dad angry and resentful, and fuelled his general cynicism about the British establishment. He never applied again and retained his Spanish nationality for the rest of his life.

Angel then decided to take on another path which started as a shipping clerk.
He joined Barings Bank as a messenger and clerk. One of his tasks was to deliver bonds to various financial institutions around the City of London. Though he was given the taxi fare for these deliveries, he told me he preferred to use his bicycle instead, which in true Angel style he saw as both practical and economically sound – enabling him to top up his wages in what he considered a perfectly ethical manner.
Over the years at Barings, Angel had moved beyond his bond delivery days and was now a foreign exchange dealer. Eventually he was again promoted and moved the family to Hong Kong in 1983. Angel was given the opportunity to set up the Barings foreign exchange operation over there. He adored the place and threw himself into life with his usual gusto.

He joined the Hong Kong Rugby Football Club and made his usual understated impact on the pitch and outsized social impact off the pitch.

Through work he also made new friends and I am delighted that one of those, John Seal is here with us today.
In the office, he made it his mission to nurture local talent. He disliked the fact that many of his local colleagues were clearly much more capable than he was, but did not get the same opportunities for advancement.

Angel very much believed people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities. He was an egalitarian to his bones and one of his proudest achievements was handing over his operation to a Hong Kong Chinese manager, just before returning to London.

Finally, Dad/Angel was a doer, a participant, he was practical, logical, infuriatingly pedantic at times, a defender of the weak, dismissive of social mores, unconventional, eccentric, witty, mischievous.

Above all he was a fantastic loving father, grandfather and friend. He filled his years with such life and adventure, and we all miss him very much.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

SAINT CECILIA'S 2024

Our annual Service of Remembrance took place on Friday 8th November at St Cecilia's School. We had a number of Old Wandsworthians and partners in attendance and 180 Year 7 pupils, Sixth Formers and teachers.

It was a very tight squeeze to get everyone in the Chapel. The event was opened by Assistant Head teacher James Robinson, who welcomed us to the school. This was followed by our secretary Les Herbert presenting to the pupils a little bit of history as to why there is a group of people from a school which closed over 30 years ago in the room.



He explained that there had been a school on this site for over 100 years and that their school, Saint Cecilia's, was developed on a third of the land, compared to Wandsworth Boys School. This was illustrated in a photo that was taken in the late '90s.



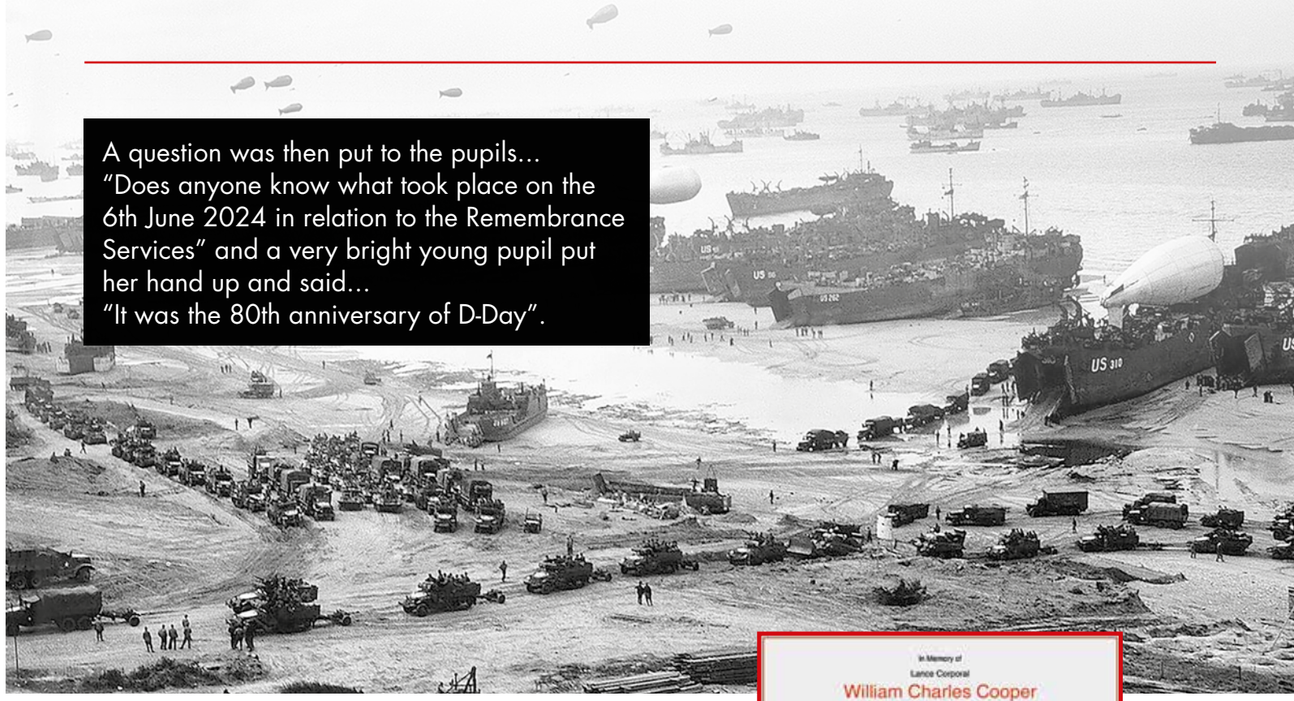
Saint Cecilia's size compared to Wandsworth boys



Private B Smith, 8th Bn East Surrey Regiment, 4th August, 1918, age 32

Following the potted history on the schools, Les went on to talk about the War Memorial and why it is displayed in their school.

Here he showed the students a few original photos of the young men who lost their lives, in both WW1 and WW2. This also involved telling them a little bit about these men and the impact it had on their families.

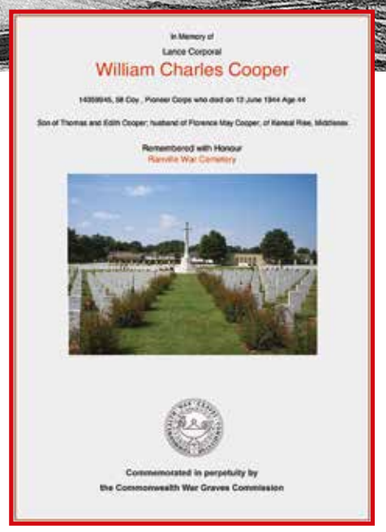


A question was then put to the pupils...
"Does anyone know what took place on the 6th June 2024 in relation to the Remembrance Services" and a very bright young pupil put her hand up and said...
"It was the 80th anniversary of D-Day".

D-Day landings 4th June, 1944

He went on to mention that one of the soldiers named on the memorial was involved with the landings by the British on Sword beach on 6th June 1944. This was Lance Corporal William Cooper of 58th Company of the Pioneer Corps, killed in Action D+6, 12th June,1944, in a village called Tailleville, as the troops were moving to take the towns of Caen and Bayeux.

William Cooper was initially buried in Tailleville where he lost his life supporting the advance. A year later when the war ended, he was moved to the Military Cemetery of Ranville, near Caen. His war grave certificate is shown here.



War Grave Certificate of William Cooper

Les explained what the Pioneer Corps did and how brave these men provided vital support to the troops by the way of clearing beaches for equipment and tanks to land, laying metal tracks, acting as stretcher bearers for the wounded and providing storage and delivery of vital ammunition and supplies. Without these brave men, the efforts of the invading Allied forces may have failed.

There was then a short Q&A session with the pupils asking some very interesting questions.

One in particular made many people laugh, when Les was asked, "If he had any bad experiences in Wandsworth during WW2?"

... So he had too explain that he wasn't born until the mid-1950s!

However, lucky for us, there were two people amongst the OWs, Peter and Shirley Heard, both of whom were young children as the war came to an end. Shirley told how she and the family were bombed out of their home and

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD

AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN

were all very lucky to survive. She remembered being carried out of the ruins by a fireman. This powerful story fascinated the students and brought home the realities of war. We thank Peter and Shirley for sharing their experiences.

Les finished his presentation by thanking all the Old Wandsworthians and their partners for making the effort to come along and support the Remembrance Service and a huge 'thank you' to Saint Cecilia's for allowing us to hold the event.





Peter and Shirley Heard



Guests and Pupils chat after the presentation

We then moved on to the Service of Remembrance, which was opened by Alex Shoderu (School Chaplain), followed by prayers.

Here he asked all present to remember those who have been affected by all conflicts both past and present. Following the chapel service the



6th form pupils on there way to the laying of the wreaths

wreath laying party of the Old Wandsworthians, several pupils and teaching staff moved downstairs to the War Memorial Plaques.

The chaplain led the service and started with a prayer, followed by *A Word of Hope* read by (Jonas Bolton, Head Boy), prayers from Headteacher (Renata Joseph) and the reading of the Commitment (read by former pupil and Trustee Alan Bone): -



Peter with Head Girl Grace Eminson

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD,
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

This was followed by the laying of the wreaths by former pupil Peter Heard (who left the school in the '50s) and on behalf of the school, by Grace Eminson



Alan Bone, Renata Joseph and James Robinson



Some light refreshments after the service

(Head Girl). The last post was then played superbly once again by 15-year-old pupil Félix Steculorum, who has done so for the past four years. There followed two minutes of silence, the Dismissal and final prayers, given by Alex Shoderu.

After the service everybody went to the school refectory for refreshments and for the Old Wandsworthians to meet and talk with some of the Sixth Formers. This is always a great opportunity for all us to tell a few stories and find out more about what these pupils thought of this occasion and what their ambitions are.

On behalf of The Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trustees I wish to thank all Old Wandsworthians and their partners who came along to support this special event and a huge thank you to the school for allowing us to hold the service. In particular we thank Renata Joseph (Headteacher), Alex Shoderu (Chaplain) and James Robinson (Assistant Headteacher).

We look forward to you seeing you all again next year and hopefully some new faces.

The provisional dates are Friday 7th or 14th November 2025.

Warm Regards,

Les Herbert (Secretary OWMT)



Kevin Attwell, Alex Shroder (Chaplin) Alan Bone (Trustee), Grace Eminson (head Girl), Peter and Shirley Heard), Les Herbert (Secretary), Jonas Bolton (Head Boy), Sue Wooldrige, Rodney Vanniekirk, Derek Wooldridge, Madeline Dickson, Peter Rossi, Elaine and Bob Andrews (Chairperson of Trustees), Martin Dickson, Bill Plummer, David Eames, Roger Eales, Renata Joseph (Headteacher)

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

DESERT ISLAND DUBS

COLIN PITCHLEY & JOHN BENTON

Dressed up as Lord Nelson ... one eye, one arm and one a***-ole as my dad used to say. Bound for the clubhouse in Claygate, packed into my old Vauxhall Viva ready to drink and dance the night away to the tunes of our own resident DJs aka Col and JB. What would be their choice of music if they were subjected to the rigour and format of the BBC's *Desert Island Discs* or should I say 'Dubs'! I caught up with Smashie and Nicey at the Kia Oval and over lunch, grilled them both before Surrey were announced County Champions again for the 3rd year running!



Luxury gift item with no practical use:

Colin: A Comfy Chair. (Editor: I think that's practical!)
JB: A Book *Stand up Virgin Soldiers* by Leslie Thomas

COLIN'S MUSIC CHOICES:

1. 'RIDE A WHITE SWAN' by T Rex released – 1970.
Marc Bolan was a local Putney boy and I went to see T Rex play in the upstairs bar at the White Lion pub. What a night and this song has stuck with me. In 1978 the pub was the venue for a Gary Numan gig and on 7th April, 1983 the building was given Grade II status. It later became a number of different chain pubs but as of June 2019, it has been empty for over six years.

Spotify Play list track No: 2

2. HOCUS POCUS by Focus released – 1971.
Bryn and I travelled up to North London to watch Focus at the Rainbow theatre in Finsbury Park and it was superb entertainment. After its closure in 1981 it was occasionally used as an unlicensed boxing venue notably in 1986 when Lenny Maclean beat Roy Shaw in a first-round knockout. In 1995, the building was taken over by its current owners, the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, a Brazilian Pentecostal church.

Spotify Play list track No: 4

3. HIT ME WITH YOUR RHYTHM STICK by Ian Dury & the Blockheads released – 1978.
The Clapham Grand was established in 1900 at the height of the Music Hall scene. Since those days it's tranformed into a cinema, a bingo hall and a nightclub. A mob of us went to the Grand to see the weird and wonderful Ian Drury and this song was his biggest chart hit.

Spotify Play list track No: 7

4. STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN by Led Zeppelin released – 1971.
Having already seen Led Zeppelin twice at Earls Court it was at the O2 with Jon Bonham's son Jason on drums that I remember most. On December 10th, 2007, Led Zeppelin took the stage at London's O2 Arena to headline a tribute concert for Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun. What followed was a two-hour-plus tour de force of the band's signature blues-infused rock 'n' roll that instantly became part of the legend of Led Zeppelin. However, this song is their best ever!

Spotify Play list track No: 5

JOHN'S MUSIC CHOICES:

1. PSYCHEDELIC SHACK by The Temptations released – 1970.
This was a Motown Classic and one of the first records I ever bought. I played it so much on my old record player that I nearly wore out the needle, it has stayed with me as an all-time favourite.

Spotify Play list track No: 3

2. LIVING ON MY OWN by Freddie Mercury released – 1985.
This is a great song and dance track that always gets your toes tapping whatever the occasion, one of the best from the legendary lead singer and performer from the band Queen.

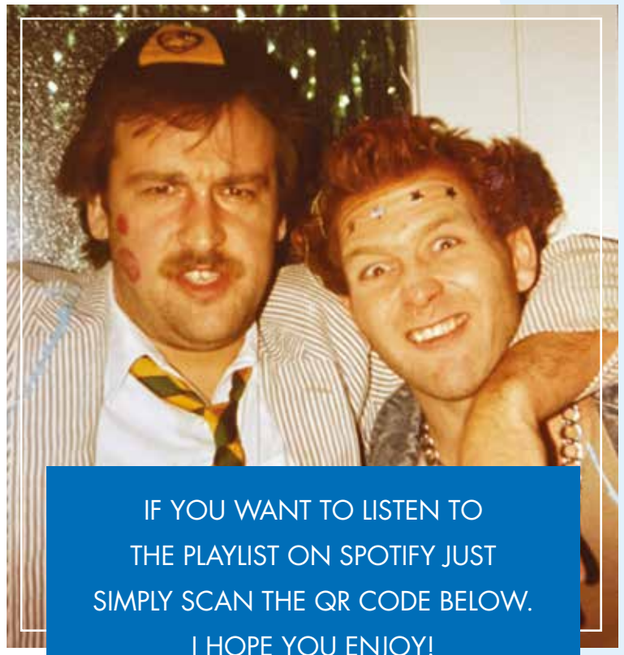
Spotify Play list track No: 8

3. FAITH HEALER by The Sensational Alex Harvey Band released – 1973.
I heard this song when we were setting up for one of our first ever discos at Wimbledon Town Hall and we had just taken delivery of our new psychedelic light system and Bryn played this song accompanied by a magnificent light show, a rock classic!

Spotify Play list track No: 6

4. STREET FIGHTING MAN by the Rolling Stones released – 1968.
What a night in 1982 when the Rolling Stones performed their first ever concert at Wembley Stadium in London and I was there with my mates and remember out of the blue Sully appearing out of nowhere! What a night and what a fabulous song to bring back all those memories.

Spotify Play list track No: 1



IF YOU WANT TO LISTEN TO THE PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY JUST SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW. I HOPE YOU ENJOY!

WANDSWORTH BOYS CHOIR REUNION

SAINT CECILIA'S 2024

After the disappointment of having to cancel the reunion in 2023 it was wonderful to be back together in 2024. Just over 30 of us gathered at St Cecilia's School to enjoy reminiscing. As usual the school looked after us very well and the chef created a splendid meal for all to enjoy.

There was a very positive attitude amongst us all, with lots of laughter and banter. It was good to have John Tobin with us as the only former member of staff. We spared a moment to remember Glyn Harvey who died unexpectedly at the turn of the year. He had been both a pupil and then Director of Music, in succession to Russell Burgess.







The Britten Pears Archive, based at the Red House in Aldeburgh, have now created a section within their archive for items of memorabilia from Wandsworth School Choir members. I gave a presentation with photos about the archive and encouraged everyone to donate their memorabilia now, so that it doesn't get lost when our generation passes on.

Anyone wanting more information about how to donate items to the archive, however large or small, should contact me for more information.

We have recently put together some video recordings of TV programmes featuring the choir. For copyright reasons these are only available to former members for their personal use. Chris Tingley and Andrew Kettle have played an important part in this. We also have a number of audio recordings that are not commercially available.















The choir are very grateful to the OWMT for their continued support of the reunion dinners, which enables them to continue and flourish. I also appreciate the support of Peter Love and Rob Smith in making it happen. The date for 2025 has yet to be fixed but it is likely to be a Saturday in September or October. Any former members of the choir wishing to receiving notice of it should contact me to ensure they are on our database.

Martin Saxby: 13 Ambleside, Rugby, CV21 1JB (m 07961 316555 Email: martin@thesaxbys.org



We are all saddened at the passing of David Hyde who suffered a serious head injury following a fall in early December. David did not recover and passed away in Dorchester hospital on the 8th December. He was the oldest surviving member of the choir, having joined the school the year before Russell Burgess was appointed. David also came to our reunions whenever possible. Our thoughts are with his wife Jennifer and all the family during this very sad time.

THE DAVE POLLARD MEMORIAL LUNCH

IMBER COURT 2024

Our 2024 DPML lunch took place on Saturday 8th February and was attended by some 140 Old Wandsworthians who were treated to lunch and wine courtesy of the Trust.

We were also blessed to share this day with two great gentlemen, who sadly left us this year. Angel Vila and his good friend Dick Moody (both trustees) managed to join us. Here we placed them both on the Old Lags tables, whose average age was around 80! I know both Dick and Angel had a lovely time, as they both spoke with me before they left.









The format for the day was pretty much the same as previous years with the bar open early for pre-drinks. We then went to our tables and our Grand Master of Ceremonies Alan Bone made a short welcoming speech. Apart from giving out information about the Trust, he also had the heavy gang on call, to collect the various fines from many people!

We would like more people to join the scheme which enables us to help our youth, support the school and contribute to some incredibly deserving individuals. If you would like to join please go to our website and print off a standing order, by clicking the 'Donation scheme' on our webpage:

http://www.old-wandsworthians-trust.com/wandsworth-school/donation-scheme/

IT ONLY COSTS £5 PER MONTH

One person in particular this year springs to mind, I think his name was 'Ivan', who just kept coming back for more and more fines, in fact I think he used all his cash up. During this session we also drew the winner of the Trust's sweep stake prize of £250. The lucky winner was Roger Eales. Thank you all for your contributions, it all goes towards a wonderful cause.

For the very first time we had a curry dish, which was absolutely amazing, although one person didn't like curry, so we are booking it again next year! After tea and coffees a large screen appeared and we all settled down to watch the Scotland v England rugby match. Game over and it was back into the bar. I am sure you will agree we were looked after wonderfully well by Imber Court and their staff.







Whilst we had a record number of attendees this year, please think about getting in touch with guys you went to school with and/or played sport with subsequently. We had six people attend for the first time this year and they all met with some old friends for the first time in years! There are a lot more OWs out there too, so please have a think and spread the word.

The 2025 DPML will be on Saturday 1st February

Imber Court Sports Club, Ember Lane, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 0BT
To book your place/s or table, please contact either
Les Herbert via email: leswands@gmail.com (Mobile) 07568168194
or Alan Bone email: alan.bone27@gmail.com (Mobile) 07768287802



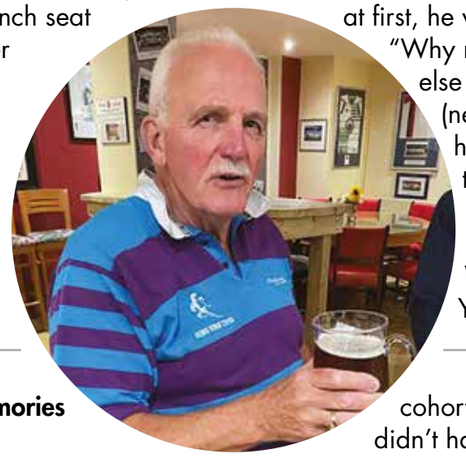
As an Old Wandsworthian networking event it works extremely well and any feedback or thoughts for the future you have will be gratefully received. We ended the day sadly drowning our sorrows, losing to the Scots 30 – 21.
The Trustees look forward to seeing you all again next year where we hope we will be celebrating a win against the Irish. Thank you all for your support.

Pogo and the Ross Interview

ALAN BONE

FOUNDERS ARMS 19TH AUGUST

So, I couldn't get Ainsley Harriott this time, but I did have another fish to fry, and with my old mate Pete Rossi, we find a bench seat looking out over the wide river Thames. A few minutes later Mr Bone arrives and tells me, "That's no good, Pogo. I have a bad back and neck and need a proper chair.'" We re-camp and find a table, Ross grins on! I asked Alan if he would mind being interviewed for the forthcoming Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust newsletter and at first, he was not that overwhelmed. "Why me?" Alan asks. "No one else was interested," Pete adds (neither was the Ross as it happens!)."There's nothing to say!" That's Alan I suppose … very unassuming!



We order our first round of Youngs Original and begin …

Q1: What are your early memories of home?

AB: I am a Putney boy and grew up in a two-up-two-down house in Glegg Place, off Lacey Road. I remember it had all the mod-cons including a portable tin bath that used to be filled by a kettle, an outside toilet, no hot water and no central heating. Dad was a painter and decorator and Mum was, to use an old-fashioned term, a 'char lady'.
We moved when I was quite young to a council flat opposite the Northumberland public house and I stayed there until I was 18, before moving up to Leicester for university where I studied history and economics. I attended St Mary's C of E primary school, but by the age of ten I had an atheist view. Leadership qualities surfaced as I became captain of the football team and was also an ink monitor! For some strange reason I remember Mr Cheng, the main teacher, having a Vauxhall Victor with number plate HAR 1. It was Miss Shaw, Headmistress, who secured me a place at Sir Walter St John's Grammar School in Battersea. I was in the first cohort of final year students who didn't have to sit the 11+. It had been abolished by the ILEA. I turned the placement down because I wanted to go to Wandsworth School as they had now converted to a comprehensive from a grammar school and that non-elitist selection policy appealed and I reckoned I understood the ethos of comprehensive education. Also, all of my mates were going to Sutherland Grove.

Q2: What can you recall about your time at Wandsworth School?

AB: I loved my seven years at Wandsworth and I can honestly say that it changed me as a person from a shy lad to someone who obtained confidence from the school. Wandsworth had everything that a grammar school could offer in terms of facilities, especially as I was fortunate to be placed in the grammar stream and top class of Gamma. I was a bit worried about the first week but luckily I didn't get thrown over the wall which was the dreaded initiation for first-year students. I was happy to wear the maroon blazer, but the cap only lasted a day as everybody decided to ditch it and nothing was said. My old friend from primary school, who had moved away and I hadn't seen for a few years, Roy Whitwell, was also in my form and we played rugby for the school from the outset. As it turned out my love of rugby remains strong to this day and I am still a social member of the rugby club. Rugby was to play a huge part in my life. My favourite subject was history which was taught by John Dixon who made a great impression on me and I went on to study the subject at university. Other teachers I remember with particular affection were Mike Weston who started my rugby education and Derek Williams who was a major influence.
I was not interested in music as such at Wandsworth and the famous choir was not my thing. Looking back, I do remember listening to *A Midsummer's Night Dream* by Felix Mendelssohn at primary school assembly, and this would be one of my *Desert Island Discs* should I ever get invited on the programme!
One of my best memories connected to the school was in the Sixth Form heading up the road to the Friday discos at Whiteland's College where we exchanged views with the girls from Mayfield. I also remember organising Young's Brewery to supply beer for the annual dance in the Old School Assembly Hall, the first-time alcohol was allowed.



First year at Wandsworth school 1965



1st XV beckons

Q3: I remember you as Head Boy when I was a snotty nosed first year, was that stressful?

AB: From recollection I was put forward for the role and it was endorsed by our headmaster at the time, Mr Howard. I really enjoyed the role but one of the most traumatic duties I had to perform was representing the school at the funeral of a younger boy who had been killed after a fight with another student in the playground. The school turned out along Sutherland Grove and as the funeral cortege passed by, we all bowed our heads. This left an indelible memory.
As Head Boy, I was invited to speak to the Old Wandsworthian Association meeting and my subject was 'The 3 P's' – Parents, Pot, and the Pill – and all I can remember was it was nervewracking and in a pub in Kingston (I think Tony Watts was there?)
However the most amazing opportunity I had was to be accepted on the W.H. Rhodes scholarship with another 40 Head Boys from all over England. The scholarship consisted of a three-week goodwill tour of Canada visiting cities like Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Banff, plus a stay in the Appalachian Mountains which was a fantastic privilege and experience. It was the first time I had flown.

Q4: So, before we get to the sporting part of your education, did you enjoy Leicester University?

AB: As you know I attended Leicester University and studied History with Economics as a supplementary degree and loved all three years. And no, I was not able to attend the burial site of King Richard III as he was exhumed around 40 years after I had left the city!
Just an observation about the class system and university education at the time: it was only about 2.5% of students that came from

a working-class/comprehensive background. Today it's considerably more that attend Russell group universities, so I'm happy to see positive change. I really loved my time in the East Midlands and I made many friends, one person being John Fordham who I will talk about later. My first room at halls was shared with someone whose views of the world were totally at odds with mine and soon we agreed to split, but I soon found a more compatible roommate. I was asked to leave the Hall after my first year as I was linked to 'high-spirited' individuals who enjoyed the social life and took part in high jinks, shall we say. I have no regrets and found great accommodation with two other rugby guys (who suffered the same fate at hall).



Head Boy with his deputies Andy Bull and Roy Whitwell 1971/72

However, one of greatest social games I came across on campus was the now legendary '*Buzz*' which developed into '*Fizz-Buzz*' and '*Names of.....*', let the oochi, goochi game commence and so on. I can honestly say I introduced this to the rugby club. The game produced so much fun and laughter over more years than I care to remember. Who remembers the night that a black cat joined the festivities by landing on Ross's head? In a game of Names Of, Phil Clements offered '*Leeky Geekies*' as a famous disease, an absolute classic.
The infamous activity of the three man lift which was brilliantly demonstrated on Terry Mackie (sorry mate) on tour in the Isle of White in 1982 with numerous concoctions being thrown all over him while pinned to the floor by two other men.

Q5: OK, tell me about your life in sport.

AB: When I was at St Mary's Primary School there was only football as a winter sport and I loved it and played for the school team. However, when I moved on to Wandsworth the rule was no football for the first and second years and rugby was compulsory. I had to play rugby and was put out on the wing in week one, but it was really playing on the flank in the second week where the real love of the game started. The under-12 team was taught by Mike Weston and he appointed me skipper and we were lucky to go on tour every year. The first one was a tour to South Wales and I remember it being a great experience playing against boys who had played the game since age five, but we were very strong and shocked the locals with a draw in the first game and wins after that.
I still recall some names from the 1st XV at school – Andy Bull, Gilbert Duce, Chris Ridge, Fred Evans, Kevin Holland and the already mentioned Roy Whitwell. We all loved training hard every week and sometimes music was used to allow us to 'express' ourselves! One game we all looked forward to playing was against Dulwich College because the food after the match was fantastic!
Whilst at school I played for Surrey and for Rosslyn Park Schoolboys.
At Leicester, I played for the 1st XV, Midlands and England UAU (Universities Athletics Union). I always intended to join the Old Boys after Uni but I was offered the chance to play senior rugby with Rosslyn Park. However, after two seasons with England internationals in the back row like Andy Ripley and Bob Mordell, plus being left out of the sevens side who featured in the latter stages of the Middlesex 7's at Twickenham by the coach Phil Keith-Roach for Les Barrow, I decided to move on. Through my contacts at the Greater London Council (GLC) where I was working, I was introduced to Wasps by chairman John Bishop and I went and played there for one season, but I concluded I was not good enough to hold down a regular first team place and so made up my mind to return to the Old Dubs where I spent many happy years.
I was honoured to captain the club in its fiftieth season, 1979/80.



Old Wandsworthians 1973



The SPG, Blackpool early 80's

Q6: The three man lift which was mentioned earlier but not expanded upon as I have signed the Official Secrets Act, brings me to another cherished part of rugby life, 'The Easter Tour'. You attended many of them so is there one story that stands out?

AB: My mate from university John Fordham, a Battersea boy, Fred Evans and Les Herbert made up our little room group on the tour to *Liege*. After driving overnight, we of course went to a pub in the centre of the town where we soon became bosom buddies with a few locals but as we left with them a booze delivery lorry arrived and a bottle of gin was liberated by them which we chose to ignore. When it became time to go our separate ways, we had little idea where we were, the aforementioned bottle was surreptitiously placed in my jacket as a goodwill gift. Whilst walking along the river wall, not to be recommended, en route back to the hotel the police arrived and detained us over the wretched bottle. To cut a long story short the most absurd interrogation followed and we spent the night in the cells ... also not to be recommended.
I will always remember Fred shouting out in the middle of the night, "*What are we going to do?*" and I replied, "*Tunnel!*". We were released the following morning and headed back to the hotel to prepare for our first game in Vise.
There were so many tours all with such memorable moments like ceiling presses of locals in the bar, the SPG group made up of Chris Matty, Vince Weller (sadly much missed) Pete Rossie, Roger Holland, Martin Walpole and Les Herbert, swimming in the sea at Blackpool, and of course endless games of Buzz.

Q7: Great memories Alan, what about your stellar career at Newsweek, working for 33 years where you travelled the world. How did you that job come about?

AB: In 1978, I was working for the GLC and sharing a house with John Fordham in Raynes Park when he spotted an advert for a job at Newsweek which offered a decent salary and a Ford Cortina MK III company car, so I decided to apply. I managed to get an interview and travelled to the office in Slough. I made it to the second interview when alcohol was liberally introduced from the MD's bar after a heavy lunch. In those days in publishing you were required to drink, which sounds so ridiculous now, but that is the way it was. I held my own and duly got the job and I travelled all over the world. I even inherited the infamous bar when I became General Manager of the *Atlantic Edition* many years later. When you are feeling strong ask me about catching crabs in the Yemen, there are many stories from so many terrific days.

Q8: Knowing you are a busy recently fully retired family man, married to Pia with two grown up children, Christopher and Fredericke, why do you still give your time to the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust?

AB: I am delighted to spend time with people, many of whom are dear friends, from the same era and background as myself. It is a unique opportunity to work with Old Dubs for the advancement of the Trust and all the wonderful causes we get involved in. I would like to think our network is still growing and that we encourage new friendships as well as help to cherish existing ones.

Pogo and Pete: **Thanks Alan**.

THE BAYONNE SIX

Ok, I confess, this is a space filler … but nevertheless, a few Old Wandsworthians in the guise of 'Quindubs' (Harlequins and Wandsworthians fans) went on their annual trip to France in early November. For no reason whatsoever, Bayonne was the destination for a cultural visit taking in the delights of the town, but mainly the local bars and restaurants with a little bit of rugby thrown in for good measure. Needless to say, a very enjoyable time was had by all! Andy A





If you have photos of Dubs out and about and would like to see it in the newsletter, please send them with a suitable caption to andyarcher13@gmail.com



MACKIE'S CORNER

For some unaccountable reason the Trustees (well, Chris anyway: half sober) have asked for memories from my 'sporting career'. Let's start with tennis:

Say ten years ago I am drawn in the second round of the Club Champs singles against a 17-year-old hard hitter (when he lands it in court), 'young James'. He has been coached as a kid and leathers it, often against his mum who is Ladies' Captain. I took up tennis in my fifties. After several goes on my part (mum organises everything for him as I found out four texts later) we arrange to play at 4pm on a late July afternoon. It's a record hot day. Twenty minutes late he rocks up, carrying a racquet, nothing else. I have been waiting in the full sun and am already halfway down my water bottle. I ask him if he has water. He looks blank. Do you have tennis balls? I think he is missing Mum. I lend him my spare bottle and we start. He wins the toss and starts serving bombs, all double faults. I win all his first four service games with his doubles. He wins my games with crushing returns. I can't lay a racquet on his shots from the baseline. His serve is up to 22 double faults by the time we get to the 6-6 tiebreak. I am dreaming that I'm in with a chance here. But my illusion is snapped just like the string he breaks at 4-2 to me in the tiebreak.

He looks at his racquet and grunts. We come to the net. Does he have a spare racquet? This guy doesn't even have socks …Would I lend him one of my two other racquets? Look, I am a sportsman, all my life. I offer him my Babolat and after grumbling it's a bit light we start again. He wins the tiebreak 7-4. His double faults miraculously stop in Set 2 and I win 5 points only in going down 6-0. He says it's a great racquet (thanks not mentioned). I ask him if he wants to buy it. How much, he replies? £845, I spit back, through gritted teeth. OK, I'll ask mum, he throws over his shoulder as he trots off, leaving his stricken racquet by the bench. He's a lawyer these days.

Ah, cricket, lovely cricket. I played for London Welsh for 18 years. One time we are at home against London West Indians and it's not going well for us in a run chase. My 13-year-old son, Ed, is trying to hang on as the valiant number 9 for a draw against some hostile fast bowling on a 'lively' Chiswick Poly pitch. Having been dismissed early for not many I am standing umpire and Ed is facing. I think I can smell his fear. First ball he nicks one through slips for four, bowler is furious. Second ball he is hit right on the pads in front of his stumps and I turn down the volcanic appeal: sorry, mate, just too high. Bowler returns to his mark, doing a good impression of a snorting bull. Ed edges the next bouncer to the keeper who drops it. UnChristian language is heard. Man, what am I going to do to get this kid out, or words to that effect. Fourth ball is an absolute jaffa and to most it looks plumb LBW. I shake my umpire's wise old head … explaining it pitched outside the leg stump a fraction.
My Caribbean friends are visibly unimpressed and we have a 'robust exchange of views'. Bowler approaches me menacingly: "Ump, what do I have to do to get this kid out?" "Explain to his mother, who is driving me and him home later?", I plead. Suddenly I see a big arm swing and I brace … he gives me a huge hug and breaks into uncontrolled fits of laughter, he trots back just three paces and bowls a slow full toss which scatters all the stumps.

We lose by 67 runs and rum as well as beer is drunk that night. It's just cricket, lovely cricket.

Georgia Smith



Chichester University
(Daughter of Peter Smith)

Dear Trustees,

I must start by expressing thanks to the association for their financial assistance, which has enabled me to focus on my studies and pursue my musical endeavours. Your support has been invaluable, and I am deeply grateful for helping me pursue my passion for music.

Looking back on the past year, it's hard to believe how much has happened. I've had the privilege of playing in numerous concerts, performing in front of new audiences and honing my skills as a musician. I was looking forward to touring France; I was due to play in several concerts in the Centre-Val de Loire area, culminating in a performance at Chartres Cathedral, unfortunately, these were cancelled due to a scheduling conflict with training camps for the French Olympic squad.

However, this setback only served as a spur to find new opportunities and without this, I may well have missed one of the highlights of my year, when I had the chance to record at Abbey Road Studios, the legendary institution.

It was an incredible experience to walk through the doors and record in the same studios where some musical legends have cut their tracks. The attention to detail, the expertise of the engineers, and the history of the studio all combined to create an atmosphere that was both inspiring and intimidating.

But it wasn't just about the recording process itself – I also had the opportunity to meet Sir Paul McCartney.

As I look ahead to my next year at Chichester University, I am filled with excitement; more performances at bigger venues, playing to larger crowds and I'm eager to tackle more complex and rarely played works. And, fingers crossed, I'm hoping to take my music on further tours into Europe!

Thank you again for being an integral part of my journey so far – here's to many more years of music-making ahead!

Georgia Smith

Will Archer



Winchester University
(Son of Andy Archer)

Dear Trustees,

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the Old Wandsworthians memorial Trust for their support through my first-year studies at Winchester University.

I began my university journey in September 2023 as an undergraduate in Sport and Exercise Psychology. I put the Old Wandsworthians grant towards a Macbook laptop, which I have come to rely on every day for notetaking, as well as creating presentations, collating research data, drafting essays and keeping in touch with my friends. It's been an invaluable piece of equipment, and I couldn't be without it as I work through the modules of my course.

I am thoroughly enjoying the variety and challenge of my degree, and also the wider university experience. Sports Psychology covers a broad range of areas, from the study of team leadership and group dynamics to modules on supporting athletes in elite environments to build their confidence and manage stress and anxiety. I find Exercise Psychology particularly interesting, examining the value of a growth mindset when going into matches and competitions. As I progress deeper into the subject, I am becoming more interested in pursuing a career in this field after graduation.

Winchester is a lovely, historic city and life as a student here is great fun. I am an active member of the 'Mighty Frogs' – the university rugby team and play outside centre for the Winchester Men's 1st XV. We compete regularly in the BUCS league, with varying degrees of success but we always have a brilliant team spirit!

One of my favourite experiences to date was playing in the local varsity match against Chichester University, an annual and much-hyped event. We also competed in the Winchester 7's tournament and were very proud to reach the semi-finals.

I would like to finish by saying once again a big thank you to the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust for their generosity, I look forward to updating you on my progress in my second year of university.

Best Wishes,
Will Archer

Diran Oresanya



Cardiff University
(Son of Femi Oresanya)

Dear Trustees of the OWMT,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the generous bursary awarded to me in September 2023. As a recipient of your support, I would like to inform you how this bursary aided my first year of academic study.

As a Geography and Urban Planning undergraduate at Cardiff University, I have utilised the bursary in several meaningful ways. Firstly, it enabled me to purchase essential textbooks and study materials to fully engage with my course content and gain a deeper understanding of the subject that I am intensely passionate about. Additionally, the bursary covered key computer software purchases required for my coursework, research projects and online workshops, particularly in the current digital learning environment. All of this has allowed me to perform well, achieving a high 2:1 in 4 of my modules and a 1st in my other 2 modules.

Moreover, the bursary has allowed me to participate in various workshops and field trips, such as an expedition to a greenfield site in Newport, South Wales. These events have been instrumental in broadening my knowledge and gaining insights into the latest developments and trends within the urban planning field.

The financial support has also allowed me to engage in extracurricular activities that have greatly contributed to my personal growth and development. I have been actively involved in the Cardiff University Rugby Club, where I have developed leadership skills whilst actively collaborating with peers. With the training ground being 4 miles away from my student accommodation, a share of the bursary went towards transportation cost to and from sports grounds as well as a university gym membership which has allowed me to physically improve both on and off the rugby pitch. This led me to becoming one of the top scoring freshers this season.

Furthermore, the bursary has given me the financial stability to focus on my mental and physical well-being. I have been able to maintain a balanced lifestyle, ensuring that I stay healthy and motivated throughout the year.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. It has been extremely beneficial, contributing to my success this year and I look forward to updating you in the future.

Kind Regards,
Diran Oresanya

Ben Riley



Brighton University
(Grandson of Bob Andrews)

Dear Trustees,

I would like to begin by thanking the Trustees for the grant they were kind enough to give me last year. This fund supported me during my first year at Brighton University in a variety of ways including educational purchases for my studies, deposits for my accommodation and utility bills. The cost of living is certainly something I have never faced before and it is indeed an excruciating expense to a student who cannot work full-time.

During my first year of the B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Business Studies at Brighton I gained leadership, decision making and problem solving skills through a variety of practical tasks. The degree itself has four main modules, Economics, Entrepreneurial Skills, Finance and Human Resource Management. Economics was my preferred module as it explored the social sciences of inflation, consumer spending and market trends. It also explored how a change in economics can dramatically change peoples' lives.

As I was unable to train or play rugby because of my part-time job in Brighton I decided to try another sport which I could fit into my studies in order to keep fit. I have always been interested in boxing so went along to a local club and found something which I quickly grew to love. I learned the basics quickly from good coaching and have since fought several bouts successfully. Next year I intend to get more involved with the club and have been voted onto the Management Committee.

In order to afford basic living costs I was able to find a part-time job at an Estate Agents in the town centre. Although this was the reason I could not play rugby, the job was a fantastic opportunity as I was able to put my new business skills into practice.

After successfully completing Year 1 of my course and passing all the relevant assessments in the modules of work, I have returned home to complete six weeks of contract maintenance gardening in order to help the bank balance revive!

I look forward to the future and would like to thank the Trustees for being part of my journey and helping me along the way through my studies.

Kind regards,
Ben Riley

Tabitha Fletcher



Royal Holloway University

(Grandaughter of the late Chris Fletcher)

Dear Trustees,

Thank you for the grant awarded to me in my second year 2023/2024 at Royal Holloway University of London. Carrying out my studies as a BSc Ecology and Conservation student, receiving The Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust grant has allowed me to confidently apply for my 3rd year field course completed this summer in the Bornean rainforests of Malaysia, offsetting the costs for flights, accommodation and equipment.

Staying at the Danau Girang Field Centre, Sabah, Malaysian Borneo for 12 days we completed and intense routine of either a walk or boat ride at dusk and dawn to see native wildlife and learn identification skills.

Other daytime activities were either practical skills run by our lecturer in preparation for our paired research project, sessions with the locals and resident researchers or joining the existing active research projects (bird mist netting).

We made several trips outside of the centre travelling to key conservation landmarks and areas of importance: the Bornean Sun bear Conservation Centre, Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, nocturnal oil palm plantation walks, Gomantong cave systems and planting trees as part of the Regrow Borneo project.

With help from the OWMT I've seen and learned first-hand the reality of conservation and socio-political challenges of Borneos tropical forests. This has been a big part of my studies and a unique educational experience which I would like to thank you again for.

Sincerely,
Tabitha

Oriane Kirkwood



4th Monkey drama school

(Daughter of Gary Kirkwood)

Dear Trustees,

I'd like to start off by saying thank you to the trustees for the grants and support I have received over the last three years, whilst I've been studying at Fourth Monkey drama school in Finsbury Park.

In my last year not only have I been able to put everything I've learnt into practice, but I have also had the opportunity to work with a variety of different creative directors, who are currently working within the industry.

I played Bedford in *Henry VI Part 1*, directed by Ellie Jones, which was a modern adaptation, based around turf wars in London. I was able to perform at the Arts Theatre in London, with my showcase partner, directed by Jane Jeffery. I'm currently in rehearsals for my contemporary play *13* written by Mike Bartlett and directed by Dylan Brown.

Over the past couple of months, I've also discovered a passion for voice acting. Voice acting has helped me embrace my creative side, which was sometimes restricted from stage and screen acting. I'm able to explore more in-depth character choices, that I didn't think would be possible before. I'm very excited to continue exploring voice acting as my acting career develops. I'm also planning on exploring more theatre opportunities within the National Youth Theatre, as I've been a member since 2021.

Because of the grants I have received, I was able to delve further into thinking what my casting could be for my future career, which is an essential part of an actor's career when auditioning. I have also had new headshots for my graduating year.

Once again I would like to thank the trustees again for the grants and support I've received throughout my BA course; I would not be who I am today without the support I have received.

Oriane Kirkwood

Rebecca Richards



Roehampton University

(Ex-pupil Saint Cecilia's)

Dear Trustees,

A huge thank you to the OWMT for their kind support in my first year of studies at Roehampton University.

I have successfully passed my first year of Business Management and Entrepreneurship. The grant received has enabled me to purchase my own personal laptop which allows me to study in a peaceful environment and has been beneficial for me as I can be in a safe space allowing my creative thoughts to flow and develop.

This opportunity offered me the chance to become more efficient and organised in my studies as I no longer have to rely on other devices to complete my work; I also enjoy reading my course materials from the comfort of my room as it is a space that allows me to comfortably absorb the course materials.

As I continued my second year of studying, I am now a 'Flat Leader' which entails helping Freshers (first year University students) with any queries they have about moving into university accommodations for the first time as this can be very overwhelming. I make sure the moving process is welcoming, relaxed and supportive by sharing my experiences.

While studying, attending lectures and seminars, I still make an effort to attend regular weekly meetings and training which includes student leadership, public speaking and active listening skills and more. I am also proud to be a part of this team as it has positively impacted me as a person as I have become a more outgoing and content individual.

Supporting other students by providing them with advice about my experience in the first year, giving them a listening ear to help with any problems they have within their accommodation or mentally related. This also includes signposting them to specialists who will then give further support and advice. Once again thank you.

Sincerely,
Rebecca

Conor Oresanya



Leeds Beckett University

(Son of Femi Oresanya)

Dear Trustees

I would like to start by thanking you for the grant awarded to me in September 2023. Over the last year, I used it to support myself at Leeds Beckett University (LBU) where I am studying for a degree in Quantity Surveying.

It went towards buying new equipment, drawing material and other necessities which I have utilised all year. Some of the equipment bought is essential to studying for my course. Some of the grant was also used to get me to and from training three, somethings four times a week. Our training grounds at West Park are 5 miles from the main student housing district. There is not a bus service between the two venues, so being able to drive there is essential. Aware of my good fortune, I give many of my younger teammates lifts to and from training as well.

Regarding the rugby season at LBU, I scored 12 tries in the first 12 games and managed to stay injury free. This good fortune lasted most of the season only missing 2 games and finishing on 14 tries in 18 matches. This helped us perform better than last season finishing in the top 8 and earning ourselves a play-off spot in the Super BUCS rugby league finals. Unfortunately, we were beaten in the quarter finals by Loughborough University who went on to win the competition. With our Super BUCS Rugby status retained, once again, we finished the season on a high winning our Varsity game against Leeds University, putting in a dominant display.

Academically, for the first semester I had to re-sit a module that I failed last year, which I have now passed. In the second semester I took the opportunity to improve on a module that I passed from the previous year. I'm pleased to report that I gained a 1st for that module.

Pre-season training will commence in August and on top of the rugby, I will have to combine this with my final year of academic study to ensure that I finish with a good degree. As a result of a heavy rugby training schedule and now back to a full-time study year, I cannot find the time to also have a part time job during term time. So, I really appreciate the support received from the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust. It has contributed to my success so far and I look forward to updating you on my progress next year.

Conor Oresanya

Herbie Archer



Hartpury University
(Son of Andy Archer)

Dear Trustees,

Thank you for your support. During the last 12 months I completed my Master's degree in Applied Performance Analysis in Sport, achieving a Distinction at Hartpury University, whilst also working a season-long internship at Harlequins as a performance analyst. The OW grant from the Trustees went towards travel costs to Hartpury to attend lectures, as well as trips to Surrey Sports Park for my internship.

My Master's degree course at Hartpury allowed me to develop my skills as an analyst through modules including the Fundamentals of Performance Analysis and High Performing Environments. These modules in particular provided me with an insight into the role of an analyst within an elite environment, how to interact with players and coaches, whilst also highlighting the importance of an analyst to a team.

Whilst studying, I was also working alongside the Harlequins first team throughout the 2023/24 season. My roll was to film training sessions, analysing matches, and also aiding in opposition and referee analysis for upcoming fixtures. My internship at Harlequins allowed me to gain valuable experience working in a professional sporting environment on a day-to-day basis, whilst also improving my skills as a performance analyst. One of my favourite experiences from the year was working pitchside, coding match stats for the Big Game 15 at Twickenham Stadium, as Harlequins played Gloucester. I got to experience the changing rooms and now famous walkover to Twickenham. I was then stationed on the bench with the subs for the whole game whilst I coded. Another great experience was travelling to Toulouse to watch the Champions Cup semi-final as Harlequins unfortunately lost 38-26 to Toulouse.

The completion of my postgraduate degree and internship at Harlequins have helped me with the opportunity to be lead analyst at Coventry Rugby Club, providing players and coaches with match analysis, player performance tracking, and data management for the season, whilst also managing a small team of analysts.

I would like to thank the Old Wandsworthians for their support throughout my time as a student for both my undergraduate and postgraduate degree.

Kind Regards
Herbie

Lucy Knott



University of Arts London
(Daughter of Tom Knott)

Dear Trusttees

I was incredibly fortunate to receive the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust grant last winter to assist me with my beach volleyball off-season and pre-season training. I am a beach volleyball athlete who competes in the UK Beach Tour grand slams and 4star events.

My goal (and dream) is to play international pro beach volleyball. I am a student at the University of Arts London, studying BA (Hons) Fashion Sportswear and being a student athlete, this grant allowed me to continue training consistently, whilst having the expense of living in Central London.

With my degree, I am really focusing on sustainable, performance sportswear, looking into fabric technology, innovative designs and sustainable practices. As well as this, the University of Arts London has a large indoor volleyball social and competitive community, and I have started a beach volleyball club to introduce and inspire more participants to play this amazing sport.

I used the grant to my full advantage, entering UK Beach tour tournaments, helping with travel costs and accommodation. Also being able to stay, train and compete in different places, as well as meeting and playing with new and talented players across the world.

The grant has also allowed me to have private coaching sessions with international pro players. This has helped my game improve and move up a level.

I am extremely thankful to have been awarded the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust Fund this year, it has given me many incredible opportunities which I would have not been able to experience and has helped me in my beach volleyball career.

Lucy Knott

CRICKET IN CLAYGATE

...BARMY SUNDAY AFTERNOONS!













THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

ROLL OF HONOUR 1914 – 1918

ASHFORD, C.A., BAIGENT, W.R., BAILEY, W.J., BEARD, H.C., BERWICK, R.G., BIRD, A.P., BLAKE, E.G., BOYCE, A.C., BREWER, R.E, BROTHERSTONE, W.J., BULL, W.J., BULLIVANT, R.E., BUNCE, J.H., BURROUGHS, C.H., CARR, G., CARRIGAN, L.P.S., CASTLE, F., CHAPPELL, F.H., CHICK, G.H., CHICK, ,T.P., CLARKE, A.G., COLLINGS, S.O., COOPER, F.N., CROCKETT, G.V., DABORN, W.G., DAVEY, G.W., DAVIS, H.V.J., DISHER, A.R., EBURNE, T.C., EDMUNDS, R.F., ELLIOTT, F.H., FINLAY, J.D., FORD, J.E., FRASER, F.L., FRINGS, E.F.H., GALLOWAY, R.A., GILLARD, J.G., GILLETT, P.H.P., HALCROW, ,A.P. ,HANSON, F.R., HARDAKER, J.K., HARDING, P.T., HARPOUR, F.C., HAVELOCK, A.C., HEARN, H.T., HENCHER, R.H., HIDER, A.L.G., HILL, H.J., HILL, ,W.S., HOLLIMAN, E.A.J., HOLLIMAN, H.F.P., HOOPER, A.J., HUNT, P.V.B., INGRAM, H.D., INGRAM, S., JEHU, F.H., JONES, R., JONES, S.J., KNIGHTING, G.T. LARKIN, M.J., LEECH, B J., LEGGETT, A.J., LLEWHELIN, E.V., LOVE, C.W.C., MCCLOY, F.C., MAYRICK, R.T., MIDDLEMASS, L.G., MILES, H.G. ,MILWARD, S.L., MILWARD, S.R., MOON, A., PAULTON, W.A., PETER, R.A., PLESTED, H.G., PROVERBS, S.E., RICHARDS, A.G., ROBINSON, H.A., RUSSELL, W., SACH, C.B., SANDERSON, C.H., SCOTT, W., SHARPE, S., SMITH, B., STRICKLAND, C.G., STUART, F., TARRANT, A.H.C., THOMAS, V.G.A., TURTLE, A.E., VENABLES, H.G., WADSWORTH, V.C., WAKELY, D.J., WALKER, A.A., WATSON, F.A., WEEKS, A.A., WESTCOTT, T.W., WHITBY, V.E., WORSDELL, ,C.L.V., YEO, A.H

ROLL OF HONOUR 1939 – 1945

ASHBY, R.F., ASKEY, R.V., BOOTH, K., BOOTH, P.G.N., BRIFFETT, L.H., BRITTAIN, P.F., BROWN, J.E., BULL, P.E., CHAMPION, R.L., COLE, M.R., COLEMAN, C.L., COOPER, W.C., DAVIS, A.P., DORSETT, R.A., DUKES-SMITH, H.F, EAST, O.R., EVANS, G.A., FELGATE, A.C., GENTRY, M.M, GIBBONS, D., GIBBS, S.W.A., GILL, C.F., GRADY, D., HAMMOND, R.A.C., JONES, E.D. JOSEY, D.A., KING, D.M.R., LANDER, J., LETBE, T.J., MATTHEWS, L.S., MCNAB, I.A., MEDLAND, G.G., MORSMAN, J.M., ORMSBY, W.H., OSWALD, J.C., PEPPER, C.W.V., PETTITT, E.C., PLESTED, J.G., RICHARDS, J., RICHARDSON, G., ROBERTS, C.M., ROCHE, R.E., ROWE, G.W., SCOTT, J.A., SETTI, R.O., SHAPCOTT, J., SHAW, F.P.K., STEWARDSON, F.W., SUTTON, A.G., TELFORD, T., THOMAS, R.H., WALLEY, P.K., WEST, R.D., WILLIAMS, C.H.

ROLL OF HONOUR 1971 – NORTHERN IRLEAND

STEWARDSON, D.A. (CAPTAIN)

NEXT YEARS' SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE, WILL BE ON EITHER FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7TH OR 14TH 2025 AT SAINT CECILIA'S SCHOOL.