

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

(formed 1926)



NEWSLETTER 2010

1. OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2009 - 2010

PRESIDENT - A.A. Hurst B.A. (Hons)

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

R. Arnold
A.P.W.W. Bowen
H.P. Briggs
H.W. Browne C.B.E.
A.J. Burroughs
Dr. P.L.P. Clarke
R.T. Darvell
D.A. Day
Major G. Fey
J.H.D. Fozard
N.C. Kelleway
A.L. Murray
M. Wren

CHAIRMAN - A.J. Baker, MA

HON. SECRETARY - T.W. Birdseye, JP
HON. TREASURER - C.R.N. Taylor, FCA
HON. ASST. SEC. - R. Arnold

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

A.J. Burroughs
R.T. Darvell
J. Harrison (Editor)
Father J. McCollough
Michael Huband (School Head Boy),
or his Deputy

HON. AUDITOR - A.R. Millman

Hon. Sec. - Terry W. Birdseye
810 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3NH
Telephone / Fax - 01702 714241, Mobile - 07752 192164
E-mail: owa@ashphoenix.co.uk

2. A.G.M. - WEDNESDAY 7TH JULY 2010 - 8:00 PM AT SCHOOL

**3. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2010
7:00 PM FOR 7:45PM AT SCHOOL
DETAILS ON PAGE 3.**

CONTENTS

1. Officers & Committee 2009 - 2010.
2. Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 7th July 2010, 8:00 pm at School.
3. O.W.A Annual Reunion Dinner, Friday 17th September 2010 - 7:00 pm for 7:45 pm at School. (Please arrive at 6:30 pm if you wish to look around the School.) Details and reply slips on page 3.
4. (i) Honorary Secretary.
(ii) Members' Addresses Unknown.
(iii) New Members.
(iv) Donations.
5. Honorary Treasurer:
Income and Expenditure Accounts for year ended 31st March 2009.
6. President.
7. Chairman.
8. In Memoriam.
9. Obituaries.
10. News of and from Old Westcliffians.
11. Old Westcliffian Lodge No. 5456.
12. Westcliff Rugby Football Club.
13. (i) The Old Westcliffian Association
(ii) OWA application form - Please use or use details for members you know who may wish to join.

NB: *All articles for next year's Newsletter should be received by our Honorary Secretary by the end of February 2011.*

J.H.

3. O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2010

7:00 PM FOR 7:45 PM AT
WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS
(Please arrive at 6:30 pm if you wish to look around the School.)

COST £26 (£12 FOR STUDENTS IN FULL TIME EDUCATION)
TICKETS WILL NOT BE ISSUED

DRESS - LOUNGE SUIT, ASSOCIATION TIE (£6, Available from Hon. Sec.)

MENU

Homemade Soup

£0.00

Roast Beef

Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables

£0.00

Fruit Salad

£0.00

Cheese Board

£0.00

Tea or Coffee

£0.00

(Vegetarian Meal available on request)

✂

REPLY SLIP: **O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2010**

FROM: Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode: Phone:

TO: T.W. BIRDSEYE - 810 LONDON ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA, ESSEX, SS9 3NH
TELEPHONE / FAX : 01702 714241

PLEASE RESERVE PLACE(S) FOR :

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR DATES AT SCHOOL</u>	<u>COST</u>
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)

TOTAL: £ _____

CHEQUE PAYABLE TO 'OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION'.

PLEASE INFORM SECRETARY IF A VEGETARIAN MEAL IS REQUIRED.

4. (i) HONORARY SECRETARY

It is that time of the year again when I have to put pen to paper. The seasons seem to fly by with increasing rapidity. I should like to thank all those members who have written to me, some from far flung shores. It is good to hear from you all and your letters are published in this newsletter.

I must thank Andrew Baker for his continuing support as Chairman and indeed my fellow committee members, particularly Jim Harrison who edits the newsletter.

There must be some Old Westcliffians who are reading this who are not members, I would urge you to join, so that you may enjoy the camaraderie that a school Association brings.

The Dinner will be on 17th September at the School. This year the speaker will be The Rt. Hon. John Hutton, former Defence Secretary and an Old Westcliffian. We haven't broken through the one hundred barrier for some years. It would be great to do so this year. Please support us.

I am constantly being told that the newsletter is the best thing that we do. It does, however, come at great cost to the Association. To all those members who have sent donations, I thank you. If you have not, please re-consider.

The Association is, however, in robust health. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to meeting with some of you at the Dinner.

Terry Birdseye

4. (ii) MEMBERS' ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

In order to maintain accurate and direct contact with each member of the O.W.A. we need to be informed of any change of address by the member concerned.

In 2005 we received many returned Newsletters - 'no longer at this address, address unknown'.

Do you know the present address of any member on either of these lists?

If so, it would be greatly appreciated if you would be kind enough to contact him and please ask him to forward his current address to Terry Birdseye, Honorary Secretary.

2005: J.R. Atkins, B.G. Beard, S. Bishop, K. Bowman, A. Brittain, M. Bumpus, D.A. Caldwell, S.E. Cannon, T.N. Channing, Rev. K.W. Costin, B.D. Cotgrove, M.A. Cross, K.A. Dann, R.K. Dibble, N. Faraday, M. Fawcett, D.J. Feakes, K. Flynn, R.A. Gilbert, B. Gooch, Dr. A.B. Gozzard, D.J. Grellier, T.J. Grove, C. Harris, P.M. Hart, J. Howard, S.C. J. Katwala, D. Kerry, I.G. Loutsis, J.D. Lumb, T. Manning, K.R. Mansell, A.L. Martin, S. Mathulscothanan, R. May, S. Myles, D.R. Newham, D.J. Noonan, J.W. Payne, A. Perry, K. Philbrick, D.G. Pierrepoint, M.R. Pool, R. Priestley, J.R. Randall-Paley, M. Ryman, P.W. Self, P.J. Sheldon, D. Sherwood, K. Solomons, P.G. Solomons, M.G. Smith, W. Smith, J. Sullivan, R.C. Stovel, C. Street, L.M. Taylor, L.R. Thake, P. Tooth, J.M. Turner, S. Waterman, P. Wilding.

In addition, from previous years, we have lost contact with:-

R. Anderson, N.P. Banks, T. Broad, A.O. Bull, B. Charlton, N.L. Davison, M.C. Gibbs, T. Gladwell, W.D. Gorrod, C. Grenleaf, C. Heaton, R. Hills, L. Jeseeph, H. Johnson, G.S. Jordon, R.J. Kidson, A.J. Laux, S. Lister, M. R. Luckford, R. McKoewn, C.C. Oakley, P.G. Pooley, M.K. Raver, P. Roy, P.A. Slight, V.J. Smith, J. Somers / S.Somers, E.S. Underwood, G.M. Veasey, C.L. Wayment, R.E. Whyatt, I. Woods, S.F. Wray.

In 2006 we lost track of :-

R.B. Archbold, C.P. Baines, R.D. Barnes, J. Barnes, P. Barnett, H.R. Bayly, M. Beattie, P. Bending, N.M. Bisatt, L.P. Blower, A.C. Bloyce, S.H. Bridge, J.W. Brown, P. Bulman, N.J. Burns, A. Clark, N. Clark, M. Clements, P.A. Collins, G. Cook, D.R.J. Coppin, I.R. Cosgrove, E. Crease, S.J. Creed, G. Cook, P. Darragh, M.J. Dowsett, R.C. Eichert, G. Farrow, A. Fernandez, S. Franklin, C.J. French, C.N. French, H.P. Gadd, S. Gibson, A. T. Girling, S. Goodfellow, A.P. Goodin, J. Gowings, D. Greenbaum, M. Greenberg, D.J. Gribbon, I.G. Hagen, R. Hagen, I. Hinde, J.P. Howell, K.Y. Hui, D.J. Hutchins, A.C. Izod, M.W. Jaggars, N.M. James, N. Jones, F. Keenan, M.T. Lander, J.B. Lester, D. Lewis, P. Lewis, N.G. Lussignea, Dr. J. McGladdery, M. J.C. Meaden, J.R. Monk, R. Monk, A.J. Moss, R.S. Oswald, F.C. Patrick, M. Payne, G. Pike, N.J. Reeves, R.J. Reeves, B.W. Rickard, A. Roberts, K. Roberts, M.S. Robins, M. Rumble, G. Sainsbury, P. Sanders, J.E. Sayers, G.L. Scholfield, J.A. Silcock, I. Souter, C.D. Taylor, A. Telling, I.S. Towler, M. Treanor, T.R. Wagstaff, D.L. Ward, A. Wilkinson, M.J. Wood, G.J. Young.

In 2007 we lost track of C. Hardy.

In 2008 we lost track of :-

N.P. Aplin, M. Ayres, L.A. Barrett, P.J. Batchelor, T.J. Blake, M. Brigden, M. Bumpus, D. Burford, T. Chaudri, P.A. Cook, G. Courtney, I.R. Crossley, R. Crumper, T.C. Curl, S.M. Davids, R.J. Dinkin, S.J. Fennell, G. Fry, A.M. Girnary, K.G. Hastings, J.F. Haywwod, I.J. Hoskison, M.J. Hume, R.W. Hurst, M.W. Jaggars, T.F. Jones, C.R. Kerr, B. Lind, R. Mathieson, R.D. McConnell, J. Michaels, S. Mills, A. Mudd, M. Orton, R.D. Padwick, C.S. Patel, N.J. Pointer, J. Porter, J. L. Porter, J.C. Postle, M. Reid, R.J. Rove, C. Sheaf, R. Simmons, M. Solister, J.P. Telling, T.R. Wagstaff, R. Winnington, R.C. Webb

T.W.B

4.(iii) NEW MEMBERS

B. Alexander	57-61
P.J. Archard	53-60
Dr C. Barkei	00-06
R. Bevan	94-99
<i>(Staff, Head of Mathematics)</i>	
R.G.R. Chapman	42-47
M.J. Ford	57-62
J. Houlding	49-53
M.J. Hughes	38-40, 42-45
C. Jakes	54-59
J. Mather	09 - <i>(Staff)</i>
B. Pearson	59-63
B.S. Reynolds	64-70
G. Robinson	53-58
J. Schooley	00-07
A. Shah	01-08
A. Sharpe	01-08
L. Tregidea	01-08

4.(iv) DONATIONS 2009-2010

A.J. Ashby
Dr C. Barkei
Roy G.R. Chapman
Dr P.L.P. Clarke
David Clough
T. Collins
R.A.B. Crowe
Godfrey Fey
M.J. Hughes
F.W.J. James
Noel Kelleway
C.J. Lane
Father John McCollough
D.A.T. Sherringham
Geoffrey Smith
J.F. Western

5. HONORARY TREASURER

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

	<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>
INCOME			
Life subscriptions	180		170
Interest received	167		166
Profit on ties etc	102		95
Donations / raffle	779		677
Surplus on function	708		338
	<hr/>	1,936	<hr/>
			1,446
EXPENDITURE			
Printing, postage & stationary	1,032		419
Sundry expenses	70		65
	<hr/>	1,102	<hr/>
			484
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£ 834	£ 962
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

	<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>
ASSETS			
Stock of ties	401		330
Cash at bank	141		110
Cash at building society	8,453		7,721
	<hr/>		<hr/>
NET ASSETS	£ 8,995		£ 8,161
	<hr/>		<hr/>
FINANCED BY			
General fund brought forward	8,161		7,199
Surplus for the year	834		962
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 8,995		£ 8,161
	<hr/>		<hr/>

C.R.N. Taylor, FCA
Honorary Treasurer

A.R. Millman, FCA
Honorary Auditor

6. PRESIDENT

I remain impressed by the dedication of the Officers of the Association and the Committee Members. Without the work of our Secretary Terry Birdseye the tasks facing the Committee would be very much more formidable than they seem. Attracting younger members remains a continuing problem. Your Committee will be debating this, and related matters to the future progress of the Association, at a Special Committee Meeting. By the time the newsletter reaches you the conclusions of that Meeting will be available. Whilst those of us of a certain age appreciate the format of the formal dinner, it may be that additional ways and approaches will need to be considered for younger prospective members.

The main event of the year was again the Annual Dinner. This was the second occasion, within recent times, it has been held at the School. We went further on this occasion by holding the event in the School Hall itself. This is much more atmospheric than in the more modern dining hall. Despite the increased difficulties of preparing and serving the food, our caterers, the Bank Restaurant of London Road, Leigh provided us with a superb meal which was enjoyed by all of those present.

Our speaker, Robin Bevan, was an Old Westcliffian and also the Headmaster of Southend High School for Boys. He gave a thought provoking and amusing speech which allowed him to make certain observations, in his opinion only, of the respective merits of the two Schools.

Unfortunately the numbers for the dinner last year were down by about 15 members. We are for the coming dinner to try once more to increase numbers by way of Ancient and Modern. Accordingly letters will be sent to members of the relevant postal districts together with the more modern form of email. It is hoped in this way to reach the desired target of at least 100 diners.

Our Guest Speaker for this dinner will be an Old Westcliffian the Rt.Hon. John Hutton M.P. John has spoken at the School for Speech Day in the recent past and this will be a welcome occasion to see him back at the School.

As with every year that passes we lose old friends and members and we pay tribute to them and hold them in our memory.

I continue to appreciate the great honour of being the President of the Association.

Alan Hurst

7. CHAIRMAN

ASPECTS OF OUR WORLD TODAY

The English tradition is one of liberty, individuality, tolerance and open dissent. We have given a lead to other nations in the fight against tyranny and oppression and some of our greatest writers, and not least, George Orwell, have articulated in language it would be difficult to surpass, the essence of English civilization and have warned against any courting of latter day alternatives. The past is still with us. The dead still speak. We cannot simply look the other way.

And yet we are beset, as never before, by a wave of versions of political correctness which beat

down upon us and before which our expected response is, hideous word, 'compliance'. For today, 'compliance', rather than scholarship or even decency, is what Schools, Grammar Schools and the Education system are supposed to be about. What was once the Department for Education has now become the absurdly styled Department for Children, Schools and Families and the orthodoxies daily visited upon Schools by that many-tentacled bureaucracy have almost nothing to do with the values of education and learning for its own sake which Grammar Schools have always espoused. These were the values and which brought many of us into Education. Today, they have gone to be replaced by a wave of sticking plaster solutions, each addressing some ministerially perceived obsession of the moment.

Hence, once upon a time, Schools, and no doubt life itself, were regarded as a proper arena for a bit of rough and tumble. Things would go wrong. Accidents would happen. Injury would be suffered. None of this was by design; it was simply inseparable from life and if Schools were about preparing young people for life, it was as well that they were not places in which all risk was banished. But today, the Health & Safety industry has taken over. Whatever is done in Schools, and more especially outside Schools, needs to be the subject of a 'Risk Assessment' and such is the concern of many Schools over H&S that when the snow comes, Schools are promptly closed for fear that some child (or member of staff) might slip and some legal action ensue. Moreover, many parents themselves have fallen victim to this mentality. One parent recently refused to allow his Sixth Former son to make a journey to Westcliff of around 500 yards by foot because after a recent fall of snow the pavements (never mind the roads) had not been gritted. Adversity is part of life. And so too is teaching young people to come to terms with it and overcome it. Today's orthodoxies promote very different perspectives.

But then there are further dimensions. Some years ago, a young girl, Anna Climbie, died in horrific circumstances and, three years ago, Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman were murdered in Soham by Ian Huntley. Education has paid a monstrous price for these tragedies. Today, the **central** concern of most involved in recruitment to Schools lies not in the academic calibre of applicants, their ability to relate to young people, or their capacity to put across their subject in a stimulating and engaging manner. The field of enquiry, almost the only field of enquiry relates to whether a candidate may have perpetrated some indiscretion. Of course, to be a teacher is to be in a position of trust in relation to those who are potentially vulnerable and the highest personal and ethical standards must always be expected. But when a potential employer's enquiries into whether a particular candidate is, or is not, safe to be placed in a position of care and responsibility in relation to children, displaces in significance any enquiry relating to a candidate's academic profile or teaching skill, then we have the world very seriously turned upside down.

Present attitudes relating to what is called Sex Education fall into a similar category. I always understood that personal relationships preceded sexual activity and at Westcliff we like to explore the responsibilities implicit in personal relationships (between friends of the same sex or those of a different sex) before we consider sexual intimacy. The concern of the Department for Children, Schools and Families is very different. First, there is an insistence that we must not be 'judgmental'. Second, we must make teenage pregnancy and the avoidance of sexually-transmitted diseases, our overwhelming concern. Implicitly, we must accept that sexual activity will take place rather in the way that handshaking with a friend might take place and our overwhelming concern must be to ensure that our strategies to contain the potential consequences of such activities are fit for purpose. Moreover, if any School seeks (as we do) to approach the issue from the viewpoint of Relationships and Sex rather than Sex and Relationships, then we are

vulnerable to a charge of negligence and conspiracy against the best interests of young people.

The vogue to political correctness in Education, and in our world more generally, is probably the most insidious and sinister of the forces we face. There is today, to borrow a phrase from John Stuart Mill, a 'deep slumber' of decided opinion on matters where we need not slumber, but vigorous debate. In too many instances, it is only permissible to think what we are bidden to think and to express views which we are bidden to express. To depart from the orthodoxies readily packaged and labelled for us is to risk professional ostracism and oblivion.

Orwell was right to provide the warnings he did against a totalitarian world in which our thinking would be done for us. That world is now uncomfortably close and nowhere is it closer than in Education. I hope that at Westcliff we are never slavishly deferential to prevailing orthodoxies and I hope we will always seek to preserve for each of our students the precious right to dissent and to pursue his own individuality provided that that is not something developed at the expense of others.

A J Baker
March 2010

8. IN MEMORIAM

Bob Baker	1932 - 2009
Roger Stanley Cantwell	1922 - 2009
W. Doug Fordham	
S. Arthur Hands	Died April 2009
The Right Reverend John Howe	
M.N. Morley	
Brian A.J. Normington	
	26.11.1931 - 06.04.2010
K.F Parnis	Died 16.11.2009
Andrew Simon Riches	
	06.03.1962 - 04.03.2010
Stan Room	
J.R. Sheavil	April 2010

All will be sadly missed.

9. OBITUARIES

Bob Baker
W. Doug. Fordham
S. Arthur Hands
The Right Reverend John Howe
Brian A.J. Normington
Andy Riches

R.J. (Bob) BAKER

(15/01/1932 — 10/11/2009)

It is with great regret that the passing of Bob Baker has to be recorded. Having died on the 10 November 2009 and following a private committal at Southend Crematorium a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for his life was held at the Crowstone Christian Centre (Home of Crowstone St George's United Reform Church), Westcliff-on-Sea where he had worshiped since marrying Mary in 1960. He also served as an Elder at this church.

Bob's connection with Westcliff-on-Sea High School for Boys commenced in September 1943. He was successful in passing the London General School Certificate in Summer 1948 after which he took employment with The New Zealand Shipping Company where he became very involved with the Marine Personnel side of the business. His time with NZS was interrupted by National Service which resulted in him spending 2 years in the RAF. In the days of the 'Rangi' passenger ships their homeward voyages from New Zealand to London were interrupted at Plymouth, the near Continent

and even Southend to enable Bob to board to prepare for the paying-off of the large number of crew and the closure of the Board of Trade Articles of Agreement. Over the years he developed an excellent working relationship with Ship Masters, Officers and Ratings. Keen to improve his business capabilities he successfully became an Associate and subsequently a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and an Associate of the Taxation Institute. His qualifications led him to becoming Company Secretary to Dodwell & Co Ltd, a long standing British company with influential merchants in Hong Kong, Japan and other areas in the Far East apart from acting as Ships Agents for leading British and foreign Shipping Companies in that part of the world. The Inchcape Group took over Dodwell and in the fullness of time Bob departed from the shipping scene and in the early 80's joined the James Abbott Partnership where Roy Chapman (WHS 1942-1947) was a Senior Partner. He was called upon to help set up Countrywide Surveyors which necessitated him working in Brentwood.

Apart from his business acumen Bob served the local community in voluntary capacities for many years. He was a founder member of the Saturday Morning Club for the Elderly and Disabled, run jointly by St Saviour's Church and Crowstone St George's United Reform Church. Set up in 1972 it is still running today, 38 years on. He became a Founder Member and Trustee of the Inter Church Care Home in Palmerston Road, Westcliff-on-Sea which sadly closed its doors in October 2009. For 9 years he was Administrator of Elkington House Home for the blind in Westcliff-on-Sea.

On the social side Bob was a lover of music and singing joining the Little Theatre Club in the late 1950's and playing the lead in some of their productions. Later in life he very much enjoyed the years spent as a member of the Southend Bach Choir. He played Cricket and Rugby for the Old Westcliffians in the 1950's and served on the Association Committee, part of the time as Assistant Secretary. He was elected a Vice President of

the Association in 1995. Becoming a member of the Essex County Bowling Club provided him with exercise when older and he also enjoyed playing friendly Table Tennis and he was also a member of Leigh-on-Sea Probus Club.

Apart from his wife, Mary, he also left 2 loving daughters and 6 grand children. Through this newsletter condolences are expressed to all on behalf of the Association.

Alan Burroughs

A REMINISCENCE OF BOB

Bob and I joined Westcliff at the same time in 1943 and after leaving came across each other on National Service in the R.A.F. and, surviving that, met from time to time on other occasions. My abiding memory of him, however, is the sort of odd thing that is retained whereas other, perhaps, more significant moments are forgotten.

It can be a bit of a shock at the age of 11 or thereabouts to change from one type of school to another where life can be very different from that to which one is used and I remember Bob in class one day early on at Westcliff putting up his hand, not 'may I be excused', or to ask a question or indeed to answer one but to fiddle with the cord controlling the opening and closing of a window, quite innocently and probably almost unaware of what he was doing. Before he or anyone else could say 'The Baron' he was out of his desk and out of the room where he stayed for the rest of the lesson.

An odd memory, I know, but one I'll always fondly associate with Bob.

Norman Lawrence

DOUG FORDHAM

(18/12/2008)

W.D. (Doug) Fordham at WHSB 1935-42,

died 18/12/2008. (*Short note appeared in last year's Newsletter.*)

Doug passed the Scholarship for Westcliff High while at Leigh Junior School. He was a member of South House and popular with his contemporaries. Played tennis for the School. Doug was a keen member of the Gilbert and Sullivan shows put on by the boys before the war. At a time when few went on to University, mainly due to the war he left six science to go to Leicester University, where he graduated with a science degree. From there, at the latter part of the war, instead of entering the forces he was recruited to the Farnborough Air Establishment and worked under Air Commodore Wittle on jet aircraft development. Subsequently Doug entered industry and obtained his doctorate.

Doug's elder brother Basil who died a few years ago was also a pre-war O.W. He served in small ships in the Navy during the war and was commissioned and awarded the DSC. He was a Customs Officer until retirement.

My family and Doug's were close friends and neighbours. The Fordhams lived on the Undercliff Gardens and had a large garden with a tennis court. As a small boy I spent many happy hours playing there. When I started at Westcliff the school was still at Belper, Doug was by then a fifth former and he was instructed by both sets of parents to keep an eye on me (now a days I think a mentor). So, when I started, my first day, he told me not to buy a new cap or rugby boots but to go and see Daisy and say you have lost them. She has got a lost property box, it's only a halfpenny each item.

I duly went to the Office in Strutts School and knocked on the hatch which slid back, bang! Daisy looked down at me, "Please Miss, I lost my cap and rugby boots" (seconded day a school!). She pointed down. I selected a well worn cap and grubby old boots that fitted and handed over my penny. Not a word from Daisy, the hatch closed — she knew.

Many years later at an O.W. Dinner Daisy Williams approached, "Hello Arnold".

"Hello Miss Williams", I croaked, nearly adding "Sorry Miss". Oh! she remembered. Thanks Doug!

Dick Arnold

ARTHUR HANDS

(04/2009)

Death of Cricketer Arthur Hands

(from Leigh Times - May 2009)

Members of Leigh Cricket Club have been mourning the death of one of their most popular members, Arthur Hands at the age of 88.

He served in a number of positions with the club and played as batsman and wicket-keeper.

He was also chairman of the Southend Cricket Umpires and Scores Association.

PS: He was at one time involved with 6th Leigh (St. Margarets) Scout troop and also served in the Navy during the war.

Dick Arnold

THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN HOWE

(Published by the Telegraph - 04 May 2001)

The Right Reverend John Howe, who has died aged 80, narrowly missed appointment to the Archbishopric of Canterbury when Dr Michael Ramsey retired in 1974.

Howe was at that time Secretary of the Anglican Consultative Council, and was both well known and highly regarded throughout the Anglican world as a leader who combined broad vision, theological skill and strong administrative capacity. He had also been consecrated a bishop in the Scottish Episcopal Church, and it was thought that he would bring an unstuffy, non-Establishment outlook to a post which has significance far beyond

the shores of England.

Related Articles:

- The Right Reverend Jonathan Bailey
- Church of England bishop accused of trying to set up rival church
- The Rt Rev David Young
- Thee Right Reverend John Yates
- The Right Reverend Bill Flagg

Michael Ramsey himself recommended Howe as his successor. He had been one of his pupils at Durham in the 1940s and the two men had worked closely together for several years in London. Ramsey was no great admirer of his colleagues on the English Episcopal bench, including the then Archbishop of York, Dr Donald Coggan, who was the only other serious contender for Canterbury.

Although Howe was also strongly supported by a number of other senior churchmen, in the event Donald Coggan was appointed. Both the Queen and the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, thought him to be more of a national figure than Howe could ever be, and he was popular with members of the Royal Family, who had found his homely piety far more attractive than Ramsey's intellectual approach to Christianity.

In the 1970s, a non-Establishment background was more of a handicap than it was to become 20 years later and, although Howe at his best was a fine preacher and speaker, there was an unevenness about his public performances and he could sometimes seem rather dour and dull.

Having missed Canterbury, he had the opportunity to succeed Coggan at York. He was not the first choice for the northern archbishopric, which had been declined by Robert Runcie of St Albans (and later of Canterbury); and by this time there was a question mark over Howe's health, so he felt obliged to say no, remaining in the post which had brought him into the limelight yet which eventually took him into obscurity.

John William Alexander Howe was born in Kent on July 14 1920. He went from West-

cliff High School to St Chad's College, Durham, where he read Theology and prepared for Holy Orders. From 1943 to 1946 he was a curate at All Saints', Scarborough, and then spent the next four years in West Africa, as Chaplain of Adisdel College, Accra. Besides teaching African students, he continued his own studies and in 1948 completed a Durham BD.

On his return to Britain in 1950 he was appointed Vice-Principal of Edinburgh Theological College, then a flourishing institution, and he served also as an Honorary Chaplain of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. During this time his gifts became more widely recognised and in 1955 he was elected Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.

Howe proved to be a popular and effective bishop of a diocese that was small enough for him to be able to pursue other interests without neglect of his chief pastoral responsibility, and his contributions to the Lambeth Conferences of 1958 and 1968 led to his appointment in 1969 as Executive Officer of the Anglican Communion.

It had already been decided that the ever growing number of Provinces worldwide required a much more effective co-ordinating body, and when the Anglican Consultative Council was established in 1971 Howe became its first Secretary-General.

This involved him in much travel and diplomacy. In April 1977, he accompanied Archbishop Donald Coggan to Rome on an official visit to Pope Paul VI, and in the next year went with him and other Anglican leaders to the inauguration of Pope John Paul II.

Also in 1978, there was the Lambeth Conference, held for the first time at Canterbury. Howe served as Conference Secretary, becoming closely involved in the preparations for it and being prominent in its plenary sessions. But the Conference turned out to be something of a disappointment, being too large and its agenda too ambitious for a three-week gathering. None of the blame for this attached to Howe, though, since his task had been to carry out the instructions of the planning committee.

Howe remained in office until 1982, after which he spent two years on a research project which led to the publication in 1985 of *Highways and Hedges: Anglicanism and the Universal Church*.

From 1985 to 1991 he was an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Ripon, after which he retired completely to Leicestershire. Howe became an Honorary Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, in 1969, and in 1974 was awarded an Honorary DD by the General Theological Seminary in New York. A Lambeth DD followed in 1978.

He was unmarried.

BRIAN A.J. NORMINGTON

(26/11/1931 — 06/04/2010)

Brian's wife Bette and family were with him when he died of Leukaemia in a Jersey hospice on 6 April 2010.

He entered Westcliff High School in September 1943, gaining a Matriculation in Summer 1947, thereafter continuing for 2 years in VI Arts. He held an Army Commission during his National Service and professionally spent his business career in banking. As a result of Lloyds Bank posting him to Jersey he set up home there where he and his wife continued to be domiciled in retirement.

Prior to Westcliff his elementary education was received at Netherfield, a small but successful private school in Westcliff where many Westcliffians received excellent primary education in readiness for the 'High School', both before and after WW2.

Alan Burroughs

ANDY RICHES

(06.03.1962 — 04.03.2010)

Andy would have celebrated his forty-eighth birthday on the occasion of the club's last home league match against Ruislip on Satur-

day 6 March. It was, therefore, quite depressing to stand up and give a short eulogy to a silent lunch gathering on behalf of a man whose life had been tragically cut short two days before, as a result of an horrific crash on a notorious black spot on the road between Durban and Johannesburg.

Andy's farewell lunch at the club was in January, shortly before his departure to start a major new job in South Africa, which he was clearly very much looking forward to. We were sorry to see him go, especially in view of the tremendous work he had put in since the previous AGM on the sponsorship front. Always a persuasive sort of guy, Andy had enjoyed huge success, in the company of several other club stalwarts, in ensuring that our sponsorship provision matched the aspirations of a club in our position. The club has been buzzing all season, mainly of course due to the successes on the pitch at all age levels, but also significantly as a result of the work done behind the scenes. Andy worked energetically to raise extra funds on the numerous occasions when the assembled company, many resplendent in hideous blazers, would arrive in anticipation of another excessive afternoon's wassailing, with a home victory in between.

Andy attended Westleigh Junior School and then joined Westcliff High School in 1973. He was a talented sportsman in whatever discipline he chose to turn his hand to and he joined the Old Westcliffians RFC Colts team in the late seventies. Before long, he had gravitated to the Lions XV, and shortly afterwards made his debut in Alan Noakes's highly impressive 1st XV. Playing generally at full back, or occasionally on the wing, Andy was a regular member of the side for several seasons, before the demands of his job caused him to move up to London. The trek home each week was to prove too arduous, and Andy joined Old Reendonians, who at that time were probably one of the strongest Old Boys sides in the South-East.

It is a fitting testament to the impression he made that Rick Compton last week received an e-mail from the Reeds chair-

man, announcing that they would be holding a minute's silence before their home match against Streatham-Croydon.

Andy's grin was infectious and he was very much a club man, even in the early days - he worked eagerly on the Entertainments Committee in the old clubhouse, also acting as Team Secretary. He also appeared as Tiger Lily in Ric Morgan's Club pantomime 'Peter Pan', demonstrating a singular lack of either singing or acting talent, but enjoying the craic anyway. Off the field, Andy enjoyed the lifestyle of a bon viveur, especially after he discovered kebabs and curries. A genuine party animal, and eccentric entertainer, he was in his element on tour. Many members will have their personal reminiscences regarding Andy's conduct at such events - a well-known adage states that what occurs on tour stays on tour, so my personal reminiscences are better kept that way. Andy also enjoyed tours with the Lloyd's RFC, and the Ruislip President remembered Andy's trip to the States with fondness, when we were chatting a fortnight ago.

I think it true to say that if Andy had an enemy, I wasn't aware of it. He first travelled to South Africa on business nearly two decades ago, but would make a beeline for the club whenever he returned - quite simply because he loved the atmosphere and the people involved. In his role over the past season, Andy took the opportunity to become more involved with the "younger generation" of club members whom he had not previously met - his parting words in the match programme in January, just before his departure, emphasised the depth of his admiration for the way in which the whole club, from minis upwards, were going, and how proud he was to be a part of it, however small. He was too modest a man to acknowledge how big a part in making this club what it has become in the past thirty years he has played.

Nick Crowe

10. NEWS OF AND FROM OLD WESTCLIFFIANS

EVACUEE RECALLS WARTIME MEMORIES

(Published by Laura Hammond—28/10/2009)

The quiet Derbyshire countryside was the perfect peaceful haven for children to escape the turmoil of war.

The rolling hills and fields provided a stark contrast to the sound of bombs, the sight of wrecked buildings and the daily threats which their parents were enduring back at home.

But as youngsters arrived at railway stations around the county it may not have seemed that way. They were scared, alone, and did not know if they would ever see their families again.

Around 600 boys from the Westcliff High School, in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, were sent to Belper in 1940.

It was part of a mass operation to clear people from the south-east of England, which was seen as a clear target for attacks from German forces invading France. Nearly all children and people with non-essential jobs were encouraged to get out of the area as quickly as they could.

Ed Dowty was among the youngsters sent from the school in June 1940, when he was 14.

He said: "We just had to pack up and go. We all assembled at school and we were taken to the train station. We didn't know where we were going.

When we got there we all got sent to this person or that person. I was sent to a family behind the Market Place and then to a woman up Belper Lane. My brother came and joined me when he started at the grammar school.

"It was a bit exciting because the house we stayed in didn't have a bathroom. Just a tin bath which was put in front of the fire, and there was still an outside privy, but there

was an inside water closet as well. We had a bathroom in our house at home."

Ed, who is now 83, and his schoolmates stayed in the town for two years. They had lessons with schoolmasters who had travelled up with them from Southend, in church halls around the town, including the Central Methodist Church in Chapel Street.

He added: "I don't think we were encouraged to fraternise with the Belper children, especially girls. Back in Southend we had rules that when we were wearing our school uniforms we were not to talk to girls unless we were related to them, so our social skills with girls weren't very good."

The school was sent back to Southend en masse in 1942. Ed, who now lives near Kings Lynn, went to join his parents who had since moved from Southend to Mansfield.

He said: "My brother and I were lucky. We went to see our parents about once a month. Most of the other boys couldn't do that because we weren't allowed home. I don't think being away from my parents had much of an impact on me. I never worried about what would happen with it all. I saw it as an adventure."

During school holidays the Westcliff boys would join their teachers on cycling or walking excursions around the county.

Schoolchildren in Belper seemed to accept the sudden influx of new faces fairly well. Their lessons at Herbert Strutt Grammar School and Long Row school were kept as normal, and they only came into contact with the boys from Southend in the street.

Some people left the town with nothing but fond memories, and some people formed friendships which lasted across the miles and through the decades.

When children arrived in Belper with nothing but an ID tag, a suitcase and a gas mask they did not know what to expect. Certainly they did not think they would stay in the town for so long and become part of the community.

But now, 70 years since the start of the war, people still remember the effect the evacuation had on their lives.

Sarah Laman from Fleet Arts, which is running a project on the evacuation, said: "We've had a quite a few people coming to us who had evacuees staying with them, or some people have said they remember their grannies having people."

"It must have been very strange for the children."

She added that more memories were needed for the project, which is called 're: connaissance'.

For more information call Sarah Laman or Jane Milward at Fleet Arts on 01773 820484.

Alan Burroughs

WARTIME MEMORIES CAPTURED BY PUPILS

(by *Michelle Archard*)

DOZENS of photographs and moving anecdotes of wartime evacuees from Westcliff are featured in a special new DVD.

The film includes reminiscences from former pupils from Westcliff High School for Boys who were evacuated to Derbyshire during the Second World War.

The Westcliff boys went to Herbert Strutt School in Belper where they also joined the local scout group. The new DVD has been produced to mark the centenary of the Derbyshire school.

Gerry Crane, from Westcliff, was one evacuee and he met his future wife Jeanne Halifax and they were later married in Belper.

He died a few years ago, but Jeanne still lives in Derbyshire.

Directors Lloyd Johnston said: "Strutts was home to hundreds of evacuees from Westcliff High School for Boys. This influx of genial young men into the town caused many a heart to flutter and romances to flourish. One such love was between Jeanne Halifax and Gerry Crane from Westcliff.

"We've been amused, amazed, and

moved to tears by some of the stories we've been told. The hardest job has been to condense around 25 hours of filming as well as rare cine footage from the Fifties into the final 50-minute film.

"I'm absolutely delighted with the finished DVD which includes dozens of photographs from private collections, dating from 1910 to the present day."

The DVD called 'Reflections 1909 - 2009' is available now priced at £14.95 and may reignite some memories of older people who were evacuated to the north of England.

It is available from www.strutts.net or call 01773 599993.

DR P.L.P. CLARKE

I enclose a cheque for £15 as a contribution to the cost of the Newsletter which, stubbornly enough, I still prefer to receive via post, and which I always find of great interest.

Best wishes. Yours sincerely,
Peter Clarke

ROGER CROOKS

I guess you lost contact when I moved abroad to Sydney in 2003.

I believe that I have life membership but if not please let me know and I will contribute £10 subs.

I will be attending this years dinner on 18th September, with Frank James.

For the record, I recall that I attended WHSB from 1961 to 1968 and then qualified as a Chartered Accountant in the City. I married Joy (nee Lay), who attended WHSG, in 1974 and we shortly went to Cape Town under contract with PW & Co for 3 years. On our return I worked in the City and then locally for C E Heath. In 1983 I started work for Jardines and then for a consultancy specialising in collecting reinsurance debts

which involved many challenging and eventful trips to the Far East, Middle East, Europe and USA. From 2003 to 2006 we were seconded to work in Sydney and enjoyed watching the Rugby World Cup on our doorstep. We have two daughters, both married, who have started producing delightful grandchildren for us. We have lived in Leigh most of the time where I have been very involved locally with Westcliff and then Southendian Hockey Clubs, racing Shearwater Catamarans, and as a member of Priory Round Table. We regularly meet up with Howard Deck and keep contact with Dave Bartlett and Andrew Archard from my form.

Kind regards,
Roger Crooks

GODFREY FEY

Wearing The Old School Tie

The effects of the Great Depression was fading away and things were looking better in the mid- 1930s. This was the time that altered my way of academic life. It was rather a shock from my earlier seat of learning at West Leigh School, when I was accepted into WHS(B). The new School did not have *teachers* but *masters* who wore long black gowns and referred to us by our surnames and not by our baptismal names.

Surprise No.2 came next. I was now in class 2A under one, "Jasper" Woods, who told us to sit down in our own desks in alphabetical order of our surname. No longer was there the chummy relationship between teacher and scholar. This situation seemed like sorting out the Christians in the Coliseum in Rome before the next fight with the lions. Surprise No.3 was that, having sorted out everyone into surname order, the first lad stood up and was told that he was "North" for some inexplicable reason. The next lad was informed that he was "South". The third pupil was to be "East", and the fourth in line was "West." However, the fifth lad was also

given the title "North" presumably because the powers that be had run out of colours! We now had to remember not only the surnames of other members in the Class, sorry Form, but also their *House* colour.

The mystery was later explained as follows. When the School left its residence in Southend and moved to pastures new in Westcliff, it also split into all-male and all-female schools - and never the twain should meet, - even if they were twins! The colour originally meant to indicate from which direction one lived but, as Leigh was expanding in all directions the N, S, E, W, procedure came into being. I ended up in East House, colour pale blue stripes on a dark blue background tie and rings on the rigger jersey. The colour apartheid lasted for as long as I remained at the School. "So why all this rigmarole?" I hear you ask.

Well, shortly after W.W.2. came to an end I was posted to Woolwich Barracks, then the "home" of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. (Fifty years later this "home" was moved to Salisbury Plain as, I understand, the residents of Woolwich were pretty fed up with the young Boy Soldiers trying to play the bugle on Woolwich Common.) I was living in Mess in barracks, and having no proper job - other than watching new recruits march up and down - I used to sneak up to London as often as possible. My batman, one Gunner Willie Warren - the Artillery did not have Privates as the lowest form of humanity as with the infantry regiments, but Gunners. Those private soldiers who moved up the promotion ladder were not called Lance Corporals bearing one stripe on their arm, but Lance Bombardiers, (two stripes made his rank a Bombadier) - but I digress. Anyway, gallant Gunner Warren had the uncanny habit of using tin upon tin of shoe polish and Brasso for buffing up my service dress buttons, but also he had not only the ability to "borrow" my kit on the pretext that it needed a visit to the cleaners.

It was on one of those "sneaking up to London" days that I decided to go up to Town wearing "mufti" (civilian clothes.) This was

devilishly cunning as, when not in uniform, I did not have to return the salute from every soldier, sailors and airmen, but those of the opposite sex uniform. This also enabled me to keep my right arm for lifting up the odd glass or two of foaming nectar in the many hostelries in the City of London. On one particular day when being in Town was "just the thing," I found that the devil of a batman had purloined my regimental tie. That was a tragedy fit only for "bounders!" - to be regimental tie-less. I did, however, come across my old faithful "House Tie" - the tie with the azure blue diagonal lines on a dark blue background. As I began sauntering along the Strand from Charing Cross station I felt that odd sensation of being followed. You know, that creepy feeling when the hair in the back of ones neck starts to do the rumba. The "follower" overtook me. I turned round and saw a delightful old fellow in civilian clothes - or "tinker's mufti" - as was the "in phrase" had it at the time, who was waving his Old Etonian tie in my direction, saying "Floreat Etona."

Now it so happened that, at some time earlier I had lived in Mess with several Old Etonians, Old Wellintonians, Old Harrovians and Old Uncle Tom Cobbleyans, to understand that the old gentleman assumed that as our two ties were identical, I must be an Old Etonian. That conclusion then took on a new slant. (It was not uncommon for out of work scoundrels to have a pocket full of regimental and/or Old School ties, to spot a tie on a stranger, select a duplicate one in his 'collection' and saying that he was an Old So-and-So down on his luck and a fiver would be able to put him back on to the paths of righteousness.

After "Nice to see you again, Dear Boying" from the Old Etonian, he said, "My Dear Boy. Come along and have lunch with me, where's it to be? My Club in Pall Mall, or over there at Simpson's in the Strand?" As it happened, Simpson's in the Strand was something of a second home to me where young subalterns spent most of their idle hours - but that's another story. Following an

excellent lunch that was further punctuated with such questions as, "And how's Old 'Topsy' Turvey" - or some such name, and "Did Old Jimmie marry the gal, in the end?" or, "was I doin' anythin' next week so as to join the annual shoot?" And did a have a gel? Got a young filly of a niece who needs some-one like you?" I replied something along the lines of "Well, thank you, but my diary's a little full at the moment." And so we chatted on until tea was being served. I bade him farewell a little later and said that I would give his best wished to 'Goldie Gorlstone: or some such name, and ended that "we'd keep in touch".

Some months elapsed when I was again in town and, dashed me, if I didn't bump into the Old Gentleman again. His eyesight or his memory had worsened as we passed one another without so much as a "Well. Hello. Again". One thing I do remember is how like his world was as portrayed by the author P.G. Wodehouse. There really were people like Bertie Wooster, and Jeeves and the go-ings on at Blandings Castle, and how my East House tie gave me a delightful day in Town.

Maybe other OWs may have similar experiences when "wearing the Old House / School tie! "

Godfrey Fey

BRIAN GILROY

Although my attendance at WHS was a very short eighteen months or so, from 1950 to 1952, the memories completely supplant those of my previous school, Kilburn Grammar. Henry Cloke was an inspiration to me (as to nearly every one with whom he was associated) and I covered five years neglected education in the space of those eighteen months. The 2009 Newsletter includes names which reinforce those memories.

After leaving WHS I played rugby for a while with the Old Boys and achieved the

dubious distinction of rising, in successive weeks, from the 5th to the 1st and then all the way down again. Perhaps they were a bit short of players then! Anyway please will you email me with club's secretary details so that I can order a tie.

My application for life membership is enclosed. Please also send me the listed bits and pieces. My cheque value £50.00 is enclosed which I hope will cover postage and packing.

Thank you again for contacting me - Dudley Mills deserves a pint.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Gilroy

ROGER GLADIN

I was in D stream from 1948 to 1953 with form master Taffy Davis (Davies?)... he taught Spanish. I was in East house and played rugby for the school. With Doug Dettmar we painted some of the annual school play scenery. I have had no contact with any of my old WHSB class or school friends until this year. Over many years I have wondered what became of them and also about trying to look them up for contact. Not until writing this year to the school and receiving a very immediate, friendly and helpful response from Terry Birdseye and then Alison Clarke and then you Jim, I then had success. From a list of names that I submitted to Alison and then her answers, I am now in contact with Brian Cullen in New Zealand ('48 to '53).

On leaving WHSB I was a regular soldier in the Glosters then the TA/TAVR. Afterwards I worked for P&G, Mobil, BOC and in later years a local large garden centre. I'm now on my own and retired doing some local charity work. My memory is bad but things come back...

I have regular contact with a number of my ex army mates. The following is a list of names from WHSB school days I would like

to catch up with as well:

Brian Gooch (close class friend), Brian Levy, Charlie Thorne, David Barker (close class friend), Doug Dettmar (close class friend), Flynn, Jimmy Jewel, Gus Bridger, Norman Cooper (close class friend), Ken Pilgrim, Stew Stewart (close class friend), Thorpe, Troy, Willy Wolveridge (close class friend).

(My contact details - phone: 01525 758476, email: r.gladin@ntlworld.com)

I wrote to WHSB in 2003 recalling summer holiday school camps that were organised by the school. I went to two, Maids Morton (Bucks)... (near me know) and Louth (Lincs). The secretary (Mary Watson) couldn't find any records of such things. Has the OWA got anything on this please!!??

Best regards,
Roger

LLOYD JOHNSTON

It was nice speaking to you (Terry Birdseye) today about the Westcliff High School for Boys evacuees during the second world war.

I am a professional film maker and was asked by film producer Rosemary Timms to write and direct a film about the Herbert Strutt School in Belper, Derbyshire. The school had been open a hundred years and the pupils have only just moved into a new building. The magnificent old school building is being kept open by a voluntary group who are running it as a community, business and events centre and are restoring the building to its former glory when it was a grammar school.

During world war two the Westcliff High School for Boys were evacuated to Belper and attended the Herbert Strutt School. The documentary film has ex pupils of that time talking about the war years and the evacuees and the events that occurred during that time. It seems that quite a number of the girls of the Herbert Strutt School

married boys from the Westcliff High School. As well as ex pupils memories there are photographs and old cine footage all of which might be of interest to members of the Old Westcliffians.

The DVD was launched last week with a limited edition run and I am pleased to say that is selling fast to ex pupils around the world. Profits from the film are going towards the upkeep of the school building.

I attach a press release for the DVD and an order form to give you more information on the film.

The volunteers who are running the school building have a website which is: www.strutts.net which also has more information about the DVD.

If you or any of your members wish to know more about the film please do not hesitate to contact either me or the producer, Rosemary Timms whose email is: rhtimms@btinternet.com

Regards,
Lloyd Johnston

'Reflections 1909 - 2009'

Memories of Belper's Herbert Strutt School (Press Release - 23 November 2009)



Just in time for Christmas, a limited-edition DVD is released to celebrate the centenary year of the iconic Strutts building in Belper. This evocative documentary contains a treasure trove of memories from a century of school life at Herbert Strutt's, with contributions from pupils to prefects, and teachers to dinner ladies, including Reginald 'Dixie'

Dean - at 106, even older than the building!

Often humorous, sometimes sad, but also tremendously entertaining, the film goes on sale from Saturday 5 December.

The splendid Grade II listed building has played an important part in the lives of thousands of people over the past hundred years. Many former pupils have gone on to make significant contributions and reach international recognition in various fields. Amongst the best-known are actors Sir Alan Bates and 007-Timothy Dalton, Blue Peter presenter Simon Groom and Sir Ralph Robins of Rolls Royce.

Strutts on Derby Road in Belper will open specially from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 5 December to sell the DVD - hot off the press, an ideal Christmas present! (Then on sale from Strutts reception weekdays 9am to 12 noon.)

All are welcome on the day to enjoy excerpts from the film and join us for seasonal refreshments. Profits from the sale of this DVD will benefit the Belper Strutts Society.

Filmmakers Treacle City Films have again succeeded in involving over a hundred people during the making of this DVD. It follows their drama documentary 'Spinning Down the Derwent' featuring Gwen Taylor in 2008.

Director, Lloyd Johnston said "I've been amused, amazed, and moved to tears by some of the stories we've been told and the hardest job has been to condense around 25 hours of filming as well as rare cine footage from the 1950s into the final 50 minute film!

I'm absolutely delighted with the finished DVD which includes dozens of photographs from private collections, dating from 1910 to the present day.

I hope that everyone will enjoy its additional features too. Viewers can use the Pause button to freeze the action on the slide show or browse on the long, panoramic school photos."

Strutts is now a Community, Conference and Events venue for Belper, a town at the heart of the Derwent Valley Mills World

Heritage site.

Lloyd Johnston

J. LANE (1936)

Enclosed is a cheque for sending the newsletter by post as I have no truck with new fangled inventions!

I was most amused to read Norman's description of my bowling. Today, alas, I doubt whether I could project a ball the length of the pitch.

Yours,
J Lane

GRAHAM LUFFRUM

Thank you for sending me the e-newsletter, which will help me at least a bit to keep in touch with my old school.

I noticed in it the references to Henry Cloke and it is largely thanks to him that I eventually finished up living here in Slovakia.

After taking the Cambridge entrance exams and before going up to university he suggested that I went to work as a temp in the actuarial department of the then Guardian Assurance Company. This he arranged through one of the then school governors, who was one of their actuaries. Thus started my career in the actuarial profession, which since the demise of the Iron Curtain has taken me on business to Siberia three times (and twice I had problems getting back home) and various other places in Russia, together with most of the former Socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It was on one such trip to Slovakia that I met my wife to be and finished up emigrating in 1998.

In recent years I have been alternating retirement with work on aid projects helping to build up the actuarial profession in Bosnia and Herzegovina and most recently in

Ukraine.

Best regards
Graham Luffrum (1958 - 1965)

DENIS (DUKE) SHERRINGHAM

I regret to inform you that, all being well, my wife and I shall be "on the High Seas", on the occasion of the 2009 annual reunion. It happens that we shall be sailing on the date of a rather special birthday, for my dear wife. No! Not her twenty-first!

I am sad because it will be the third dinner, in a row, that I have missed. In 2007, I received no notification. Last year, I was taken to hospital and spent the evening of the dinner on Sportsmens' Ward (where else?!) after rupturing a leg muscle above the knee, which completely immobilised me.

Please offer my sincere apologies to all my old pals, and everybody else (old enemies, included!)

I enclose a donation of £25.00 to the Association, in acknowledgement of all the effort put in by the officers of the Association, to keep us all in touch!

Yours very sincerely,
Denis (Duke) Sherringham

PHILIP WAND

Thank you for the OW newsletter.

Regrettably more and more of the names in your 'Obituaries' and 'In Memoriam' bring me past memories.

By chance I found an original photo of Class 2B (1929) with Claude Webber as form master (he had just joined the school).

At the back of the photo every classroom member signed his name. Should any relative or even one of the members like to have a copy, I will arrange to forward one.

Here is the list: JH Green, J Ewans,

AD Fell, F Martin, H Copping, KW Costin, M Davies, DW Donald, D Forgan, JVS Bedford, A Fleming, A Setford, DE Brooke, B Chesney, RG Senior, H Merry, EF Richard, F Potter, G Coleman, RR White, RV Reeve, JS Pratt, HS Bannister, AJ Fletcher, F Read, G Scoltock, V Work.

I'd greatly appreciate a line or call from anyone still with us!

Sincerely,
Philip Wand

R.F. WILKINS

As requested in the Newsletter of 2009, I enclose the addresses of two OWs, MJ Hughes (1938-45) and TC Collins (1938-43).

I am sure both of the above would like to receive a copy of the Newsletter and so enclose two lots of £5 to cover additional costs of postage etc.

I am trying to whip up additional support for the 09 annual dinner. It would be nice to exceed the 100 mark.

Although, I am sure that Southend High have little of value worth passing on to us, I hear that at their annual dinner, they designate certain tables for different age groups. This may be useful to us octogenarians, whose days of scrambling for seats are over.

I enclose my cheque for £62 which will cover Dinner reservations for MJ Hughes and myself.

Wishing you every success for the 2009 Dinner.

Yours sincerely,
R F Wilkins

11. OLD WESTCLIFF LODGE NO. 5456

The Old Westcliffian Lodge having cele-

brated its 75th Anniversary last year with a special meeting at the School that included the Annual Cluster Meeting of Essex Old Boys Lodges, it moves on with confidence to meet the challenges of the current economic climate.

It is not widely known that the Masonic movement is second only to the National Lottery in the distribution of charitable funds for worthy causes. At present the Lodge, along with all the other Lodges in Essex, is busy saving and collecting on behalf of the Freemasons' Grand Charity which regularly donates large funds to any natural disaster zone in the world like Haiti or Chile as well as hospices, air ambulances and a host of other deserving institutions.

The Lodge have four meetings each year held at the Southend Masonic Centre in Aviation Way and in July there is our summer meeting at the School. This is an eagerly awaited event that attracts many visitors and brings even more opportunity for fellowship and fun.

Through the generosity of Archie Bowen, a long standing member of the Lodge and a Past President of the Association the Lodge is the proud possessor of a new Lodge Banner which is displayed at all of our meetings. The old Banner has been donated to the School and we thank Mr. Baker for his interest and for his kindness in allowing us the use of the School premises in July.

The Worshipful Master for 2009 - 2010 is Martin Smith ably assisted by Greg Bermon and Bernard Arscott as his Wardens. The Lodge is open to all Old Westcliffians who have been pupils at the School, or who are or have been staff or governors of the School.

Anyone who would like more information about the Lodge or Freemasonry in general should contact the Lodge Secretary, Tony Lister, who will be pleased to assist, on 01702 558625.

Tony Lister

12. WESTCLIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

The difference between this season and last is phenomenal. Back then with a huge injury list and hardly any victories we thought our stay in the highest league we had ever been in - London 2 North – would be short and not so sweet.

We were saved by yet another re-organisation of the leagues and no team went down, so we lived to fight again.

The injured players came back, new ones came in and we took off. For much of the season we have led the new London 1 North but at the time of writing, are firmly in third place with only major disasters hitting the teams above us - Civil Service and Staines - likely to give us promotion into a big regional league this time round.

However, we are well satisfied with the progress we have made since the dark days and finishing third - assuming we do - in is a major achievement.

It confirms that we are the highest ranked amateur team in the county having won eight and lost one of the games against Essex clubs in this league. Only the semi-professional set-ups at Southend and Barking are ahead of us.

In fact teams at all levels of the club have done magnificently with the Lions taking top spot in the BL Office Merit Table division 2, meaning promotion to the top flight and are in the league's cup final. The A XV are in their cup final and the Extra A in their plate final.

The Colts XV and the Under 16's are in cup finals, the Under 15's are in the semi-finals and the Under 10's are county cup champions with the Under 11's and under 12's being beaten finalists. The Colts also reached the last 16 of the Colts National Plate, losing out to Blackheath.

So many pupils of WHSB go on to university,

the link with the school is under a bit of pressure but is still strong.

Some pupils who don't go for further education and many who do, opt to play for us. By the time you read this the WHSB Under 15's will have played in the final of the Essex Schools cup and many of the pupils at all levels play in our youth section.

A master at the School, Tom Lemon joined us and immediately made his presence felt at 1st XV level. Sadly he accepted a new job in Fiji and will leave at the end of the summer term.

Ex-pupils are still appearing every week in senior XV's and we were delighted to welcome back Elliott Harvey from working and playing in Italy. Paul Radley is still running in the tries on the wing.

The vast majority of the 1st XV and many others in the senior squads have come up through our mini and youth system - a massive tribute to those with the foresight to start youth rugby here all those years ago.

Off the field things are as lively as ever with home league matches being supported by sponsored lunches.

It is good to see so many ex-players of not that long ago turning up. As usual the lunch sponsored by Dick Smith, John Wilkins and Alan Noakes drew people in from all over the place though sadly the game was off due to snow and that also stopped Gus Chesney arriving from Dorset, Dave Gray from Tyne and Wear and Mike Fahie-Wilson from Suffolk.

But our former England Under 23 triallist Nigel Parkes jetted in from Bahrain where he and his family now live.

Sadly we have lost three former players this season. Barry Bridge, a former club secretary emigrated to Australia in the late sixties. He linked up with Peter Hurrell to form Bridge Hurrell Solicitors, who for 30 years acted for us.

Tim Squires was at the school in the late sixties and early seventies. He went to Oxford University and only injury denied him a blue. He was a first teamer as a teenager and an outstanding sevens player for us and was a member of the "Magnificent Seven" that carried all before them for a few years.

He returned to Westcliff to be head of modern languages and also taught in Banbury, Dagenham and Newport Pagnell where he worked with Caroline Wilkins, wife of John.

Andy Riches had not long moved to South Africa where he started a new job. He died after a road crash on a notorious black spot.

Another to have come through the youth system, he held several jobs while with us and recently was a director with responsibility for sponsorship.

An excellent rugby player whichever of our teams he played for, he was mostly known for his prowess at first team level.

A little known fact of his sporting life was that he played lacrosse for Southend Stingrays in that club's short but spectacular life.

In a game against Hitchen he defied the coaching book and according to the opposition was going to be an easy mark. They never caught or even touched him. He scored four goals and laid on two more.

A party animal par excellence and a great tourist wherever the club went, he was immensely popular and was a regular at the club until departing in January.

We will miss all three.

So the club is thriving both on and off the field though with the expansion of the airport in the offing, we do not know yet what will happen in Aviation Way.

Come on, come and see us!

Geoff Sawyer, press officer WRFC

13. THE OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed in 1926 to enable pupils to have a means of keeping in touch with staff and colleagues.

The Annual Newsletter forms a good link between members at home and abroad.

The AGM is usually held in June at the School.

Our Annual Reunion Dinner is held on the third Friday in September.

We welcome a growing membership and our Honorary Secretary will be pleased to welcome new members on receipt of an application on, or as on the application form below.

J.H.

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The Old Westcliffian Association

Application for Life Membership Subscription	£10
Life Members' Tie	£6
70th Anniversary Tie	£6
Cufflinks in Presentation Box	£12

(Please make cheques payable to 'Old Westcliffian Association')

NAME:

YEARS DATES AT SCHOOL:

ADDRESS:

.....

..... **POSTCODE:**

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, AN ADDITIONAL £5 SHOULD BE SENT FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTER MAILINGS.

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