

**The Old Ellesmerian Club  
Newsletter # 18  
& Chronicle  
June 2005**



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The Hon. Secretary, The Old Ellesmerian Club,  
c/o 7, Town Walls, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1TW  
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Thank you.





**The Old Ellesmerian Club**

**Newsletter # 18**

**June 2005**

## OLD ELLESMERIAN CLUB

### Administrative Office:

7 Town Walls,  
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**Newsletter No: 18 June 2005**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event:</b>	<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Other Information</b>
08.06.05	Golf Tournament O.E's v. School	Oswestry Golf Club	Barrie Keenan 0151 625 4729	Followed by prize giving & Dinner
19.06.05	Cricket	To be announced	Richard Smail	Cricket World Trophy
26.06.05	Cricket v. Denstone	Ellesmere	Richard Smail	Brewers Cup
10.07.05	Cricket v. Shrops. Gentlemen	Ellesmere	Richard Smail	
16.09.05	Golf Tournament Invitation v College	Ellesmere	Barrie Keenan 0151 625 4729	Informal round of 9 holes. Buffet after.
24.09.05	Channel Islands Dinner	Jersey	Chris Scott 01534 745756	Regional Dinner.
01.10.05	Sportsman Dinner (Re – scheduled)	Ellesmere	The Bursar 01691 622321	Limited overnight accom. available
14.10.05	Executive Meeting	Mere Golf Club	John Harvey 01743 341065	Commences 4.30pm
14.10.05	Manchester Dinner	Mere Golf Club	Ian Johnston 0161 962 4737	7.00 for 7.30pm
13.11.05	Remembrance Sunday Service	Ellesmere	The College 01691 622321	Morning service followed by lunch
25.11.05	West Wales Dinner	Wolfscastle Hotel	Mike Hemingway 01437 720670	Regional Dinner Accommodation available.

## OFFICERS OF THE CLUB 2005

**President 2005:** Lt. Col. Guy Chambers (Wo'72)

**Vice Presidents:** B. Bancroft (1928): Major T.C. Thornton (1935): Revd. Preb R.J. Taylor (1936): Dr. A.W. Baddeley (1937): The Rt. Hon the Lord Dean of Harptree (1936): T.J.L. Carter (1937): P. Scott (1938): T. Hughes (1939): C. Whitehead (1939): J.M. Anderson (1940): Col. W.P. Howells CBE,O. St. J,TD,,DL (1941): R.V. Haygarth (1941): W.A. Pyke (1941): Prof. Sir David Yardley (1943): G.T. Latham (1944): M.U. Newbold (1945): B. H. Keenan (1948): D. Peel (1949) :Prof . G. Pyatt (1950): J.O. Jewiss (1951): N.R. Ainscow (1955): D.J. Hampson (1957): D.R. Leftwich (1957): S.R. Oldfield (1960): I.D.S. Beer (1961/69): R.F. Taylor (1962): Brig D.V. Nicholls (1963): W.B. Beaumont (1963): R.J. Thurgood (1968): J.A. Harvey (1969): D.J. Skipper (1969/1981): P.M. Chambers (1972/89): R.F. Smail (1974): F.E. Maidment (1981/88): Cmmdr. D.J. Freemantle (1989/93): D.R. DuCroz (1988/96).

**Trustees:** B. H. Keenan, D. R. Leftwich, J. Pilkington, D. N. Clay

**Executive:** C.J. Bowley, D.J. Hampson, J.A. Harvey (Hon. Sec.), A. A. Hyde, J.O. Jewiss, R. Jobber, I.C. Johnston, B.H. Keenan (vice Chairman), D.R. Leftwich (Chairman), Miss E. Letts, M.J. McMahon, W. A. Oo, J. Pilkington, A.C. Pyke, C.P. Scott, R.F. Smail, Mrs. H. Smith, D.J. Swinn, R.J. Thurgood (Treasurer), R. Winn, B. Wignall (Headmaster), Lt. T Lowry (Bursar)

## SECRETARIES AND OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

**Chairman:** David R. Leftwich, 18 Canning Street, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 2AD  
Tel: 01244 315888

**Vice Chair:** Barrie Keenan, Ridge Rowans, 25 Wetstone Lane, West Kirkby, Wirral, Merseyside Tel: 0151 625 4729

**Secretary:** John Harvey, 7 Town Walls, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1TW  
Tel: 01743 341065 [j.a.harvey@btinternet.com](mailto:j.a.harvey@btinternet.com)

**Treasurer:** Richard J. Thurgood, Mount Villa, Ellesmere Road, Dudleston Heath Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 3BE [r.j.thurgood@btinternet.com](mailto:r.j.thurgood@btinternet.com)

**Chronicler:** Keith Shuttleworth 'Dol Hafren', Rhos Common, Four Crosses, Llanymynech, Powys, SY22 6RN Home Tel: 01691 831148  
[keith@dolhafren.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:keith@dolhafren.freeserve.co.uk)

**O.E. Chaplain:** Revd. Maurice. W.H. Gray, 6 Teal Drive, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9PX. Tel: 01691 623353

**Examiner:** Mrs. Jo Montgomery Baird, The Bursary, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere SY12 9AB Tel: 01691 622321

## BRANCH OFFICERS

- London:** Chairman: Weenson A. Oo, 5 Duke Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1HP  
Tel: 0208 940 9488  
Secretary: Ross Jobber, Wood Ride, Hunters Walk, Knockholt, Kent,  
TN14 7NW Tel: 0207 545 9837
- Manchester:** Chairman: David Swinn, 102 Grove Lane, Timperley, Cheshire WA15  
6PL 0161 282 7693 [david\\_swinn@hotmail.com](mailto:david_swinn@hotmail.com)  
Secretary: Ian C. Johnston, 18 Kirkby Avenue, Sale, Cheshire, M33 3FW  
Tel: 0161 962 4737
- Liverpool:** Chairman: Barrie H. Keenan, 'Ridge Rowans', 25 Wetstone Lane,  
Wirral, Tel: 0151 625 4729 [barrie@ridgerowans.com](mailto:barrie@ridgerowans.com)  
Secretary: Ralph Winn, 2 Dee Park Close, Gayton. Merseyside, L60 3RB  
Tel: 0151 342 7779 [ralph\\_maryw@tesco.net](mailto:ralph_maryw@tesco.net)
- W. Midlands** Chairman:  
Secretary:
- South Wales:** Chairman: Tom C. Hughes 5 Richmond House, The Croft, Tenby, Dyfed,  
SA70 7HP. Tel: 01834 843343  
Secretary: Mike Hemingway, Rickaston Hall, Pen y Cwm, Haverfordwest,  
SA62 Tel: 01437 720670
- Jersey:** Chairman: Chris P Scott, Hauteville, Rue du saut Falluet, St. Peter,  
Jersey, C. I Tel: 01534 745756 [chris.p.scott@rbc.com](mailto:chris.p.scott@rbc.com)

## SPORTS SECRETARIES

- Golf:** Barrie .H. Keenan, Ridge Rowans, 25 Wetstones Lane, West Kirby, Wirral,  
CH48 7HG Tel: 0151 625 4729 [barrie@ridgerowans.com](mailto:barrie@ridgerowans.com)
- Cricket:** Richard Smail, Mallards, 20 Evans Avenue, Allestree, Derby DE22 2EJ  
Tel: 01332 558310 [rich.smail@btopenworld.com](mailto:rich.smail@btopenworld.com)

## Data Protection

To all members of the Old Ellesmerian Club who are registered with the Honorary Secretary:

Your data is held on the Old Ellesmerian Club (O.E. Club) database under the provisions of the Data Protection Act and will be treated confidentially and with respect for the benefit of Old Ellesmerian Club relations, mailings and networking. The data will be available to Ellesmere College, upon request, the various regional branches, sports secretaries and Officers of the O.E. Club and other Old Ellesmerians who are registered with the Hon. Secretary. Information will not be divulged directly to third parties and private contact details will not be published on the O.E. Club website.

## **OE Club Newsletters & their format**

We are always pleased to receive feedback and constructive criticism on the Newsletters and the presentation of them. The Newsletter was discussed in depth at the Executive Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and it was decided that the format would stay exactly as they are ie as per this copy. Less than half of the membership receive a hard copy of the Newsletter now – all the other members can access it in full colour through the Club Website.

The Committee felt that the Newsletter was a very important medium through which the Club can circulate news and that it was important to publish this news whilst it was still 'current' or relevant rather than to wait for an annual edition where the news could be upto eighteen months out of date. However, they did not think that the vastly increased costs that would be incurred in upgrading the paper or by including colour could be justified, as, for many members, it was a 'disposable, read once' item.

The Committee did accept, however, that there were some members who would appreciate a high quality publication. As such, commencing with this Newsletter, members will be able to order 'specials' from the Secretary. Costs will vary with each publication but the Secretary can now produce, in house, full colour, thermally bound A4 copies on high gloss paper.

Copies of Newsletter # 18 are available at £4.50 each, inclusive of postage. Orders should be placed directly with the Secretary with cheques being made payable to 'The OE Club'.

## **Archival Photographs**

The Hon. Secretary is continuing with his endeavours to scan the collection of photographs from the College Archives onto CD's. The vast majority of the photographs in the collection are unidentified and very few individuals are named. To date some 2300 photographs have been scanned, in no particular order, and downloaded onto a CD – if anyone would like a copy to view and to help with the identification of individuals then they should contact the Hon. Secretary. This is an ongoing project and the assistance of any members of the Club would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, the Hon. Secretary would take this opportunity to appeal for members to send in copies of their privately owned photographs to compliment the college archives, to ensure that they are recorded for posterity and to try and complete the records held. The easiest way would be to send scanned copies directly by e-mail, complete with details of names, locations, dates etc. Otherwise photocopies, with the same details, would be very welcome and the Secretary will then try and ascertain if similar originals already exist in the archives. Only as a last resort should original photographs be sent and then only by prior arrangement with the Secretary. When sending originals proof of posting should be obtained and the package sent to the Hon. Secretary's work address. All original photographs will be returned by way of recorded delivery.

If members of the Club would like to obtain copies of the archival photographs then the Secretary will do his utmost to assist and a small charge will be made for the printing, carriage etc.

Many of the photographs in this edition are untitled and very few individuals are identified. This is a small demonstration of the scale of the problem in the archives! If anyone can help to identify anyone then please let the Secretary have the details. Thank you.

## **The Old Ellesmerian Club A G M**

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Ellesmerian Club was held at Ellesmere College on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005 after the Executive Meeting. The Vice Chairman, Barrie Keenan, opened the meeting

### **Minutes of the 2004 Meeting**

The Minutes of the 2004 Meeting were taken as correct and signed by Barrie Keenan, Vice Chairman. Proposed: J A Harvey. Seconded: M McMahon

### **Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.

### **The nomination of Miss Erika Letts to the Executive was agreed.**

Proposed: J. Pilkington                      Seconded: R. Winn

### **Election of Lt. Col Guy Chambers as President:**

Proposed: J. Harvey.                      Seconded: B. Keenan.

At this point the President took the Chair and gave a brief resume of his time at Ellesmere and his subsequent career. He was in Woodard House from 1972 – 1977 and married Victoria Crossland who was one of the first girls to attend Ellesmere. His father was Bursar from 1973 – 1989 and since the 1920's thirteen members of his family have been educated at the School, including his son and daughter. He is a serving officer, presently based in Shrewsbury but living only a few miles from Ellesmere, and is a Governor of the school. He should, as far as he is aware at present, be able to attend all the Dinners.

### **Appointment of Examiner:**

It was agreed that the Club would retain the services of Mrs Jo Montgomery-Baird, the College Accountant, to act as Examiner. Proposed: B Keenan. Seconded: J Jewiss.

### **Executive Committee Proposals.**

The policies agreed at the 153<sup>rd</sup><sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee were accepted. Proposed: J Pilkington                      Seconded: D Swinn.

### **Re – election of Officers of the Club.**

This was done 'en bloc', all Officers, with the exception of those who had formally tendered their resignations to the Chairman, indicating their willingness to continue to serve.

Proposed: R Winn. Seconded: I Johnston

### **154<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting**

It was agreed that this would be held prior to the Manchester Dinner on Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> 2005 at the earlier time of 4.30pm.

### **AOB:**

The Secretary suggested that it would be appropriate to give the Club Examiner a token of our appreciation for the work she does in examining the Accounts. The Bursar was asked if this would breach any protocols and he indicated that it did not. The suggestion was agreed unanimously. The meeting closed at 4.26pm



## **The Old Ellesmerian Club Executive Committee Meeting**

The 153<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Old Ellesmerian Club Executive Committee was held at 2.15pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005 at Ellesmere College. As the Chairman was unable to attend due to a family bereavement, B H Keenan took the Chair. To allow Miss Erika Letts to attend her nomination to the Executive was formally discussed at the very start of the meeting, as were the proposed increases in Honoraria for the Chronicler and Secretary. All those involved left the room whilst the matters were discussed.

Those present included: B.H. Keenan, J A Harvey, E. Letts, M J McMahon, C.J. Bowley, A.A.Hyde, J.O. Jewiss, I.C. Johnston, J. Pilkington, R. F. Smail, D. J. Swinn, R. Winn, T.Lowry

The Minutes of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Meeting were accepted and B H Keenan signed them. There were no matters arising and the appointment of Miss Erika Letts to the Executive Committee was unanimously agreed by all present.

Barrie Keenan then relayed a resume of the Chairman's Report to those assembled:

a) There needed to be more detailed discussions between the Club, the School and Mrs. Shirley Tolley with regards to the erection of a simple stone 'trig point' on the Terraces. It was envisaged that the stone would be engraved with something suitable as a memorial to Lawson Tolley (M '45), whilst the top of the plinth would show an etched copper photograph of the actual construction process of the Terraces in the last few years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

b) The Lundy Richards Family had agreed to finance the purchase of an 'eternal flame' for the Chapel as a memorial to their father, Thomas Owen Lundy Richards (Wa'43), who had died in 2004.

c) The School had agreed to the erection of a plaque in the new Sports Centre to formally record the substantial financial contribution made by the Club towards the purchase of sports equipment, in memoriam of Captain F. M. W. Harvey VC, MC , Croix de Guerre of the Lord Strathcona Horse.

f) The Steering Group had met earlier in the year and many issues had been discussed in depth. One of the major decisions had been the scrapping of the F & GP meeting prior to the annual Executive meeting – it was felt that there was some duplication in Committees and the matters were under review continuously by the Steering Committee who met several times a year

The Treasurer was unable to attend due to the rescheduling of a very important meeting in London. He had, however, prepared a very detailed and comprehensive report on the Accounts for 2004 and copies of these were circulated to all present. The Hon. Secretary spoke briefly on the main points of the report – subscriptions up, admin. costs, down dinner subsidies greatly reduced and many major projects undertaken on behalf of the College from work on the archives room to a £5000 donation towards the Sports Centre.

Whilst the Club was financially very healthy, we still had to be prudent and there was no spare cash to fritter away. There had been one sponsorship application by Ms. Anna Lea and this had been discussed and agreed by members of the Steering Group – the sum of £300 had been paid to her and she had agreed to make a presentation at a regional dinner upon her return. A colour laser printer had been purchased and all Dinner menus etc were now produced 'in house' at a greatly reduced cost.

In the forthcoming year he had allowed an increase in the honoraria paid to the Secretary (increased to £500 pa) and the Chronicler (increased to £225 pa), this was passed unanimously by all those present at the beginning of the meeting whilst those concerned waited outside the meeting room.

The Accounts had been examined and signed off by Mrs. Jo Montgomery Baird, the College Accountant. Acceptance of the accounts – proposed, J. Jewiss, seconded, J. Pilkington.

The Hon Secretary reported that there were 1755 members registered with him and almost exactly half the membership were now accessible electronically – this meant a huge cash saving for the Club in postage costs etc, but also allowed the Secretary to respond to requests for information or to acknowledge address changes etc far quicker than by any other means.

The majority of the administration was straightforward and it was noticeable that there were now more and more enquiries for information of a genealogical nature from families across the world – the Internet and the School & Club websites allow people to make contact very easily.

A great deal of work had been undertaken in recent months, as and when time had allowed, to scan photographs onto CD's – to date the Secretary had scanned, and logged, in some 2400 pictures but the vast majority were unidentified. He hoped that the membership would assist in putting names to faces, places etc and would be advertising the work in progress in the Newsletter.

The website was a great success but, ideally, it should have more attention – something the Secretary could not do as he did not have, at present, the necessary technical expertise, nor the time. However, the company that created the site update information as and when requested and they have also advised us that the Bulletin board will, more than likely, suddenly take off.

On the subject of the Newsletter, there were several courses of action available and the Secretary felt that the Executive needed to make the decision as to the way forward. All those with Internet access could view the Newsletter in full colour on screen but for those who received a postal hard copy the Secretary had produced a draft of the next Newsletter in several different formats and had had them costed. The cost of colour printing was considered prohibitive and those present agreed that the format and quality of the Newsletter should stay as it was, being modified slightly in that the 'postal' outer sheet would be disposable so that once the recipient had removed this the Newsletter was intact.

Proposed: M. McMahon, Seconded: D Swinn

The Secretary explained that, should any member specifically ask him for a full colour, gloss paper version, with a heat-sealed spine then this could be done. However, he was of the opinion that, although it was not too time consuming an exercise if one or two requested it, that those who did should pay a premium. Further discussion on the Newsletter referred to the content, with KJ Shuttleworth explaining that he felt there was a lack of school news. The Secretary pointed out that he was short of any articles for any future Newsletter.

Mike McMahon suggested that definitive dates for the publication of the Newsletter be agreed and published, with a deadline being published by which time contributions must be received.

There was to be a dinner in New Zealand in October- organised by Matt and Narelle Stone.

Regional reports were received from:

- a) Barrie Keenan confirmed that the Golf would take place on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2005 at Oswestry, with a further match later in the year, at 5.00pm on 16<sup>th</sup> September, at the College v. Common Room.
- b) Ralph Winn reported that preparations were well under way for the Liverpool Dinner on 6<sup>th</sup> May
- c) Cricket - Richard Smail undertook to provide full details for the Secretary to publish in the Newsletter.
- d) Ian Johnston confirmed that all was in hand with regards to the Manchester Dinner on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The Executive will meet prior to the Dinner at 4.30pm.

The Headmaster was not present as he was away at a conference in London but the committee were assured that he would be making a full report on the school, its activities and its future plans at the Liverpool dinner a few days hence. In his absence, the Bursar was asked if there was anything specifically he wanted to report. The Bursar briefly reported on the continuing rise in numbers – currently 475 on the roll, (40% of whom are female) with a predicted September 2005 entry of 500, even possibly as many as 525 and explained how good this was for the school although it did mean there was a huge demand on resources. In addition, the school was very successful in selling itself and encouraging organisations to use its facilities – thus generating some additional £200,000 pa income.

There had been a swing away from the traditional full time boarder with weekly boarding being a tremendous success. There had been massive investment in a new sports centre and other facilities in the past year or so and these were proving to be very popular with the pupils but he was fully aware, in his response to Erika Letts question, that the college must also support the Arts and other faculties. To this effect the current Director of Drama was, at present, putting together a media package, detailing his future vision for the Arts at Ellesmere.

The resignation of Tim Caldicott and Warren Higson from the Executive was noted, with thanks for their efforts in organising the West Midlands Dinner being formally recognised.

Lt. Col. Guy Chambers had accepted the Presidency for 2005 / 2006 and joined the Executive for the AGM later

The Chairman had approached several members with regards to the Presidency for the year 2006/2007 but was unable to report any developments at this present time.

There were no formal nominations for Vice Presidencies

AOB: No matters were raised and the meeting closed at 3.55pm

## **Apologies:**

In the last Newsletter (page 16) we incorrectly referred to the Griff Sheppard Old Ellesmerian Scholarship Fund – the correct spelling should be 'The Griff Shepherd Old Ellesmerian Club Scholarship Fund' and we unreservedly apologise to the family for the error.

**Obituaries:**

The funeral took place on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2005 of one of Oswestry's most distinguished dental surgeons who practised in the town for 35 years. **Tony Wynne Haddon Woodward (WA '31)**, died at his home in Oswestry on January 25, aged 85.

He was educated at Oswestry School and Ellesmere College before qualifying as LDS RCS(Eng) at Guy's Hospital in London and serving as an RAF dental surgeon from 1942-47. He then joined the family practice at Oswyn House in Oswald Road, Oswestry where he worked until his retirement in 1982.

During that time he also worked tirelessly for the benefit of some of the area's medical establishments including becoming a founder member of the League of Friends of Oswestry and District Hospital in 1966; a founder member of the League of Friends of the Orthopaedic Hospital a year later and a founder member of the Friends of the Derwen College, which he chaired from 1968-88. He was also a Governor at the Derwen from 1984 until 2000 and became a Governor of Oswestry Girls' High School in 1963.

He was a member Oswestry Rotary Club from 1965-1982 and also an eminent Freemason in the Lodge of St Oswald from 1942 until he died. Mr. Woodward leaves his wife, Jane, sons Mark and Jonathon, daughters Zoe and Jill and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby 1951 (Photo Ref; # 1077)

Andrew H Clarke, son of **Denis Taylor Clarke (Wa '27)**, sent in this tribute: Denis Clarke died unexpectedly on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2004, age 86, following a routine operation. He attended Ellesmere College from 1927 until 1934.

As an enthusiastic member of the School's Army Cadets and the TA he was drafted into the army at the outbreak of war, commanding a tank regiment. By the end of hostilities he had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He was a great sportsman representing the school at rugby, cricket and cross-country and later captaining Warrington Rugby Union Football Club and Grappenhall Cricket Club. He also found the time to represent Stockton Heath Tennis Club and played golf competitively up until his early 80's.

Denis took over the family Drapery business 'Lee and Clarke' after his father's death in 1940 and managed the business until its sale in the 1970's; he was a well-known and much respected businessman in the Warrington area.

In the years following his retirement, and with his best friend and soul mate - his wife Jean - he became a keen gardener and could be regularly viewed from the neighbours' bedroom windows trimming his beloved conifers whilst hanging on for grim death at the top of his ladders. In fact, on more than one occasion he unexpectedly returned to terra firma more swiftly than expected but fortunately survived the accident if not my mother's wrath!

The thing that we his family, and most other people will remember him for was his ability to make you laugh. He was a wonderful storyteller and observer of people and life in general.

Denis was much loved and will be sadly missed by his wife, family and all who knew him.

**Peter L. Clarke**, himself an OE, also wrote to tell us of the death of his brother. Peter, himself also the father of twin boys, keeps in touch with Neville Cook, John Baldwin (with whom he plays golf regularly), Paul Warbrick and Chris Baldwin – all of them thriving in their different ways.

Following the death of their father, **Geoffrey Watkins Dickinson (Wo' 1939)** on the 8th of October 2004, the family would be very pleased to hear from any of their father's contemporaries. His daughter Vanessa can be contacted on 01495 726343 or [AEDonaldson17@aol.com](mailto:AEDonaldson17@aol.com).



1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby (Photo Ref: # 1078)

**Allan Jones (M ' 48)**, of Sealand Manor Farm, died on Friday, January 28 2005, at The Hospice of The Good Shepherd, Backford, where he was cared for and surrounded by his family. Allan, aged 65, passed away after a long and courageous battle against cancer. He leaves behind his wife Shan, his son and daughter Justin and Emma, and three grandchildren, Sebastian, Skye and Harry. His mother, Hazel, his brother Noel Jones, and sisters Sylvia Hague and Vivienne Rowlands also survive him.

Speaking of their father in a joint statement, Justine and Emma Jones said: 'His greatest gift to those he left behind was his honesty, compassion and kindness. Allan was a truly good man who inspired the same love and devotion in everyone he met. His family and friends remember him for the small things life brings. Often teased for his devotion to hard work, he told the story about how during the harvest, too busy to waste precious daylight hours, he asked his expectant wife to signal him by waving a white hanky out the window,

then picking her up and depositing her at the maternity ward before promptly heading back to finish the harvest! When work was done, his time was spent with his family and friends, teaching his grandson to ride a bike, exploring the far reaches of the world for a perfect game of golf, and making us all laugh till we cried just hearing his infectious laughter at the absurdity of life and death.'

They added: 'A close friend remembers Allan as always having made time to talk, laugh, and give great encouragement to whatever we would be doing. His enthusiasm for making the most out of life will be greatly missed by all who knew him. But his determination to win right to the end is a great lesson to us all, to make the most of what we have got.'

He is remembered locally for the contributions he made throughout his life to the world of farming and shooting. He attended Ellesmere School and was a keen sportsman and a proud member of the Chester City Club. Allan was an accomplished shot and proudly shot for Wales. The Jones passion for shooting led to the creation of The North Wales Shooting School at Sealand that became a world leader in clay target shooting, holding the Rolex British Grand Prix for nearly 40 years.

Allan enjoyed instructing and developed the North Wales Shooting School into new areas of corporate and family shooting. With Sir Jackie Stewart OBE, a life long friend and brother Noel, they originated the highly successful Jackie Stewart Celebrity Challenges that were nationally televised.

Allan, Jackie and Noel went on to create the busiest blue chip shooting school in the world, the Jackie Stewart Shooting School at the Gleneagles Hotel.

He had many friends all over the world who have been tremendously supportive to him and his family throughout his battle with cancer. He fought hard to beat his illness, and will be remembered for his constant strength, dignity and pride. A Memorial Service to celebrate Allan Jones' life was held on Friday, February 25, at St Deiniol's Church, Hawarden. The service opened with

a personal recording of 'Ave Maria' by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa (one of Allan's more famous students). Sir Jackie Stewart, OBE spoke of his memories of Allan and the service closed with a recording of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' by Gerry Marsden, another of Allan's close friends.



Photo Ref: # 1136

News has recently been received of the death, on 20<sup>th</sup> January this year, of **Clive Ryley ('46)**. After leaving Ellesmere he took up articles at an accountant's office in Birmingham, later joining his father's firm Austral Ryley in Bearwood, Birmingham. He ran the firm, along with his partners, until the week of his death. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

We were saddened to hear of the death of **David G Keniston (Wo '63)** from pancreatic cancer. David had lived in Australia since the 1970's. David was Captain of School in 1968, and moved to live in Australia in the 1970's; his son Scott was a gap student at Ellesmere in the mid 1990's. News also reached us recently of the unrelated deaths within a fortnight of each other, of **Gary Ashley (Wa '73)** and his brother **Tim (Wa '76)**.

Yet another untimely death is that of **Robert Malcolm (M '79)**, who died suddenly in November, aged 39. Since leaving College, Rob spent time as a senior sailing instructor, a racing sail designer, and a Production

Planning Engineer with British Aerospace before going off to Glasgow University, as a mature student, to read and qualify in Mechanical Engineering. Subsequently he worked, first as a mechanical engineer with a firm of naval architects, then with Bridgestone Motor Sport as a team leader, travelling to Formula 1 races all over the world. Rob loved sailing, racing Contessa 32's and subsequently owning his own boat, Contessa Catherine. He had been attending a Contessa 32 dinner/dance the evening before he died.



1975 Athletics Team (Ref: # 1757)

**A.R. Rees (Wo '33)** has written in with the sad news of the death of his brother **R S (Ronnie) Rees (Wo '31)**. He writes: 'Ronnie obtained good academic results at Ellesmere and also played rugby for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. After leaving the college he joined the TA and started his banking career but was soon caught up in WW II spending most of his Army career in the Indian Army, achieving the rank of Major. He met his dear wife in India and they were married there. After the war, Ronnie continued with his banking career in India. He became Managing Director of ANZ Bank after holding the position of Managing Director in the National & Grindleys Bank. His family and friends will sorely miss him – he had a great sense of humour and was genuine in all his many kindnesses'.

We have sadly learnt of the death of **John Victor Dakin (M '23)** on 20<sup>th</sup> March this year. John was, as far as the Hon. Secretary can ascertain from his records, the oldest registered 'OE'.

## Common Room News

Your Chronicler has maintained contacts with quite a number of former members of staff, and a number of these visited the College in the summer to help with his valedictory celebrations. So here is the second edition of 'Common Room News' which I hope will interest OE's of various generations!

**Ralph Bates**, after a brief spell at Shiplake College, has for many years been on the staff at Queen's School, Taunton, where until recently he and Penny were looking after a boarding house of some 40 boys.

Much closer to hand are **Peter and Moira Barton**. Peter took early retirement from Ellesmere, in order to have more time to be active in other spheres; they spent some time living and working in the Carribean, but are now well established in their home near Welshpool.

Well and truly retired is **John Wolters**, who after leaving Ellesmere had a short spell in Truro before completing his career at Brentwood School. He and Heather now live very contentedly at Eastbourne.



Photo Ref; # 1754

Since his Ellesmere days in the '60's, **Malcolm Howe** has lived just off the King's Road, Chelsea in London where he has pursued a variety of jobs and interests, including heraldry, where he is an acknowledged expert in certain fields – he has written a number of books and articles.

**Jill Oldfield** taught Chemistry in Leeds for a number of years, but is now doing the same thing in Birmingham. Another scientist, **Andrew Beal**, dabbled with a return to University life, but decided the lure of the classroom was too great; he is now teaching Biology at Kimbolton School, near Cambridge.



Photo Ref: # 1867

From an earlier era, I have heard recently from **Frank Sutterby**, who has for many years been living in retirement in Lincolnshire. From a similar vintage is **Bill Barnett**, who after a number of years as Ellesmere's fund-raiser, finally retired with Felicity to a delightful spot in the south of France.

Also retired, but still active in home renovation and improvement, is **Viv Hony**, who with Marion lives close to Oundle, where he taught for many years after leaving Ellesmere, also being involved in writing a series of Maths text books!

For many years after leaving Ellesmere **Roger Allen** was the Director of Music at the New College choir school in Oxford (the choristers sing in the world-famous New College Choir); however, he became increasingly involved in the work of the University, and he is now music tutor at Pembroke College, and married to Pamela.

When he left Ellesmere, **John Wickson** took up a post at Worcester R.G.S., where he still is, having occupied a number of different posts there; he and his wife Pippa live in the city, and are still very active walkers and lovers of the great outdoors.

Finally comes news of **Mike Marshall** who, since his retirement, has been living at Bourton-on-the-Water in Gloucestershire, where he has become increasingly busy and involved in local affairs, as well as keeping tabs on what is now a four-generation family.

**Peter Knowles** has recently been in touch with the Hon. Secretary and reports that he is enjoying a very active retirement from Sedbergh School. Recently he has dabbled in local politics with Eden District Council and was pleased to come second in the voting – out of two candidates!

**Nigel Ainscow** is very well and still lives in Tetchill, maintaining very close links with the college and many, many OE's. With the help of his local friends he is coping admirably with his much reduced vision. His door is always open to visitors and there is always a warm welcome for OE's. Telephone calls, especially during the evenings are most welcome and Nigel can be contacted on 01691 623429



Photo Ref: # 1879

**Sandy Mackinnon** recently sent a 'round robin' e-mail and has asked the Hon. Secretary to circulate it to a wider audience and the full text is copied below.

*Dear Friends,*

*I very rarely write a letter like this... that is, a general letter to all and sundry... but I hope you will forgive me this once. I receive so many cards and letters and e-mails at this time of year from good friends all over the world and this sort of reply gives no indication at all of how thrilled and touched I*

*am to hear from you. I hope I get the chance to make up for it later in the year with a more personal letter or, even better, a chance to see you again wherever you may be. A student of mine said to me wryly sometime recently, as he glanced around at my living room and all the signs of a fortunate, somewhat self-indulgent bachelor existence... the harp, the paintings, the games and tricks, the wine rack, the remnants of the latest obsession (whatever it was at the time!) "You do lead a charmed life, don't you?"... and I couldn't help agreeing with him. But the greatest blessing by far has been to gather a wide and wonderful group of friends from all over the world who take the trouble to keep in touch and offer their warmth often despite long silences and not even the slightest trace of a Christmas card from my end.*

*I am thinking at this time especially of friends from Ellesmere days, now a seeming distant golden age in my teaching career; of old friends of my parents who through their hospitality stretching back to my first youthful travels I have been fortunate enough to keep in close touch with; of all those people whom I have met on my travels in foreign bars or riverside parks or on walking holidays whose friendship has endured, and, more recently all those at Corio with whom I was lucky enough to share four very good years of teaching and socialising and whose friendship was a lifesaver in the sometimes choppy waters of a busy school life. Another category springs to mind; it is always incredibly gratifying to hear from old students and keep up with their ongoing lives and it is a warming fact to find that some of those people I now count amongst my very best friends were once enduring my endless asides from the syllabus or bad puns in front of a class. Lastly, an unexpected but very heartening side-effect of publishing "The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow" has been the huge numbers of letters from readers all over the world who have been kind enough to write. As you can imagine, the sort of people who like the book are the nicest sort of people (of course), usually with at least a little bit of Mirror dinghy in their blood, and I have*



*treasured the ongoing correspondence with a number of readers, some of whom I have now had the privilege of meeting and others whom I hope to some day soon. If you are in the last category and I have let the correspondence lapse, please take this as an excuse to start up again.*



Photo Ref: # 1779

*I actually have an excuse to send such a round-robin letter to you all as you could regard this simply as a notification of change of address. As some of you will know, I have developed itchy feet once more and after four years at the Corio campus of Geelong Grammar School, set on the shores of Corio Bay and in the shadow of the Shell Oil refinery, I have made the move to the school's bush campus called Timbertop. (Not to be confused with Treetops, the African game-lodge where Queen Elizabeth was staying when she heard of the death of her father and her succession as monarch. My feet have not become THAT itchy... though most people do associate Timbertop with a royal connection, as Prince Charles spent some time here as a student. You'd be amazed the number of people who muddle the two...)*

*That is where I am sitting right now typing this out while a couple of kookaburras are breaking into hysterical laughter outside the window. For those of you who do not know, Timbertop is a very special campus set in quite remote mountainous bushland in the Victorian Alps. It is where all our Year 9 students come for the entire year... that is, 14-15 year old boys and girls... and spend four days in the week doing proper*

*academic studies followed by three days of bushwalking, hiking, camping, skiing in Winter and various high level outdoor activities. The students are not allowed access to phones, the Internet, e-mail or television; they do cross-country runs three times a week, building up to a compulsory marathon at the end of the year; they chop all their own firewood for the water-boilers, they write letters... yes, real paper letters... home to their parents once a week (their only contact) and, on the whole, they grow to love it. This all takes place in the most wonderful setting. Kangaroos hop between the classrooms, wombats bustle about at night, the air smells of eucalyptus, the stars are very bright and there is no oil refinery flaring next door.*

*One challenging aspect of the place is that all staff are expected to join in fully with the same cross-country running programme and almost all the hiking that the students do, so the working week is a full seven days. We only have five days off in a term! The great aspect of all this is that even though one is technically working, what could be better than spending two and a half days a week trekking in the mountains and camping out with kids? I will become superbly fit, recovering the Greek god-like status of my dinghy-journey days, I hope! I too will be running... or staggering... that marathon at the end of this year along with all my students. As you can see, the demands are high but then again, so is the quality of training and care for new staff. We are just in the middle of a very intensive Wilderness First Aid course at the moment, so detailed I think I may well qualify as a doctor at the end of it and finally catch up with all my clever siblings. (I have so far avoided fainting at the sight of fake blood and mangled plastic limbs, so I am ahead of how I reacted last time I did a First Aid course in my first year of my Dip. Ed.) In addition to this, I have just completed an intensive Four-Wheel-Driving course which was even more terrifying than the First Aid and so with all this, am at last getting to do all those rugged bloke-ish things that I somehow missed out on in my distant youth; thundering around off-road in a jeep and*

*performing emergency tracheotomies with a biro and a paper clip. Yee hah!*

*My new quarters are very pleasant and with the help of some very kind friends, I managed to make the move all in one smooth operation; the whole place is set up with all my pictures and paintings, my treasures and tricks and books, all the trappings of my "charmed life" about me, in fact, enhanced by the presence of polished wood floors, a wood-burning stove for winter and a cool reed-fringed dam for swimming just down the hill. For the first time ever, I also have an outdoor area, namely a wide veranda upon which I have established a small garden of pots and troughs full of herbs and marigolds, strawberries and nasturtiums and a small bay tree. I get a ridiculous and inordinate pleasure from watering them each evening and then sitting on the veranda sofa, beer in hand, admiring the smell of wet soil and growing leaves.*

*You can probably tell from these details that I am feeling very happy with the move. Early days yet, I know, but the atmosphere, the other staff and the setting are all conspiring to look very good indeed. The Corio campus will come to be seen in a nostalgic glow in time, I am sure, but for now, I am feeling free of a certain malaise associated with the place that I have been living under for too long now. With the insight that comes from distance and a restful holiday, I see that this malaise was there despite the presence of many fine people and good friends whom perhaps I just didn't make enough effort to see regularly and be nurtured by while caught up in the place.*

*Corio is not completely free of me yet, mind you. As some of you will know, the school commissioned me to set a huge treasure hunt for the school's 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations later this year, similar in style to the one I set as a parting gift for Ellesmere College a few years back. This has been great fun but, as is often the case, I have got rather carried away with the whole thing and it is perhaps a little more complex and intricate than the school imagined. I hope they were not just expecting a few chocolate Easter eggs*

*hidden around the oval, because that's not quite what they're getting! Over the last holidays, spent at Jindabyne being spoilt rotten by Mum and Dad, I spent fourteen hours every single day apart from Christmas Day painting fifteen large detailed paintings full of clues as to the whereabouts of a jewelled chalice that is to be buried somewhere in the vicinity of the school at Easter. It is the largest art project I have ever done... and comes accompanied by a fairy-tale story... and I have certainly been on a steep learning curve. It was exhausting but marvellous to have had the run of Mum's large pottery studio looking out over the lake, and both Mum and Dad patiently letting me get on with the task undisturbed while meals and cups of tea appeared at regular intervals in the background. Another example of the charmed life, I think...*



Photo Ref: # 1540

*On the writing front, I completed a second book last June, another travelogue about my overland trip from New Zealand to England back in 1991, the adventures of which most of you will have heard countless times: getting eaten by Komodo Dragons, swimming illegally into China and being arrested, marrying a Laotian princess by accident, that sort of thing. So far, three publishers and two agents have declined it so I am almost at the stage of considering a re-write. It is currently in letter form and that seems to be the main sticking point, so next April I will try to re-write the whole thing in straight narrative form and try the dreary round of publishers once again. Inevitable as these rejections are for any writer, it is always a little dispiriting. However, to be honest, I have been busy enough and preoccupied enough with other projects not*

*to let this worry me unduly. If any of you DO happen to own a publishing firm however...?*

*Looking at later in the year, my plans at this stage are to travel over to Europe for our mid-year holidays (mid-June to mid-July) with a possible walking tour in Switzerland for part of that time, but would almost definitely try to get to England and catch up with friends whom I haven't seen for too long now. If you are around at that time, perhaps you will let me know where you will be as it would be good to catch up.*

*In the meantime, I will sign off from this over-long letter and work out how to get it from this computer onto the Timbertop emailing system. You will have noticed from the head of this letter that my postal address has changed, and my phone number, but that my email address remains the same which is convenient. Any letters sent to the old Geelong address at Corio will still reach me, of course, as the mail ladies down there know exactly where I am but it may be as well for you to update your address books.*

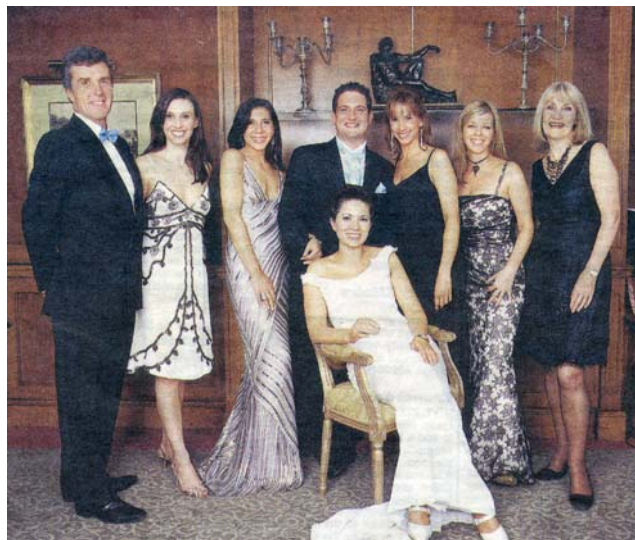
*Thank you again for your friendship and your continued contact. One of the great things about moving is that for a while you are in a limbo between the old routine (stale) and the new one (not-yet-developed.) I am in that free floating state at the moment... no favourite television programmes to waste an evening on, no old familiar evening regular phone calls to make or neighbours to visit... and so the evenings seem long and peaceful and crammed with possibilities. This evening was just such a one, and the thing that crowded into my gorgeous little sitting room after a simple supper was... well, you. All of you. It seems very odd to lump all my friends into one group; long-standing and brand new, English, European, Australian, Argentine, American, students, colleagues, readers, young and old, seen last week or last seen a decade ago. Please be assured that despite the nature of this letter, I hold you each in my mind individually with great affection and pride and look forward to the opportunity to make contact more personally during the year. In*

*the meantime, wish me luck for the cross-country running!*

*With love and best wishes for a blessed 2005 for you and your loved ones.*

*Sandy Mackinnon*

## Congratulations



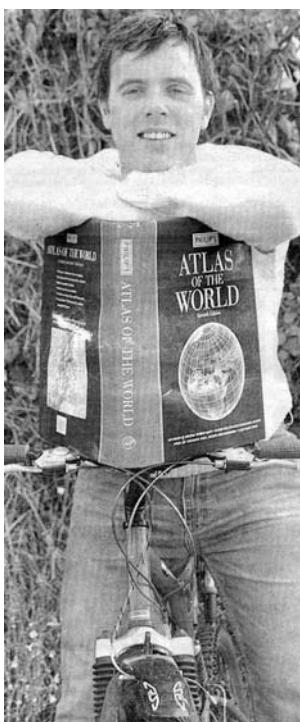
Courtesy Shropshire Star

The wedding in March of **Chris Hawkins (D '86)** to GMTV weather-girl Clare Nasir was front page news in the Shropshire Star – not surprising as the guest list included TV personality John Stapleton together with several GMTV stars. The wedding was held at a London church, and was followed by a reception at the Café Royal. Chris himself works in BBC radio, but it was largely through his ESU scholarship year at Tabor Academy that the drama exchange – still going strong – between the two schools was born.

Not to be outdone, brother **James Hawkins (D '88)** was recently one of only two Britons invited to take part in a charity cycle ride in South-East Asia, aimed at boosting tourism in the area. The ride comprised a gruelling 1500 miles and took 31 days.

We were all pleased when **Holly Keenan (O '87)** married Matthew Smith at the end of July 2004. Holly is a member of the OE Executive, while Matthew has become quite a familiar figure at OE functions – almost an 'honorary' member! The wedding took place

at All Saints, Caldy, Wirral and after a reception at the family home the couple honeymooned in St. Lucia, WI. They are now expecting their first child in September.



James Hawkins  
Courtesy Shropshire Star

Other Ellesmerians who have appeared in the local press include **David Skipper**, Headmaster 1969 – 1981 who recently undertook a 180 mile sponsored walk from Milton Keynes to his home in Welshampton to raise funds for the village church appeal's final £30,000 phase. **Ramesh Sethi**, Head Groundsman at Ellesmere for 13 years upto 1988 before moving to Harrow, graphically described his experiences in Sri Lanka on Boxing Day 2004 when the tsunami waves hit the cricket pitch where he and a team from Harrow were about to start a cricket match. Ramesh, who was accompanied by his wife Sheil and daughter Anu and all the cricketers managed to reach safety. **Jim Mostyn** was the subject of a lengthy article in January 2005 on his 'Crew classes', based at Wrekin College, where he encourages individuals in their rowing training. Jim was due to row the equivalent distance as the London Marathon, and at the same time to raise funds for charity.

**Richard Morris (Wo '82)** has written to College with news of **Rufus Carter (T '83)**, who has recently been made Welsh

Ambassador for Food at a recent prestigious awards ceremony at the Celtic Manor Hotel in Newport, South Wales; as such, this will involve Rufus in a great deal of national and international travel representing Wales and its food.

We are pleased to hear that **Mark Willis (M '91)** and **Philippa Jenkins (O '94)** are engaged, and plan to marry in September.

### Personalalia

We have had an interesting letter from **Peter Lawton**, who was at College between 1924 and 1929 and, at 92, one of the oldest O.E's on the Club's records. He was a member of an unbeaten Under 15 rugby team, and went on to play for Warrington RUFC. Peter qualified in Veterinary Surgery at Liverpool University, and then took a post-graduate degree at Manchester. After 8 years in private practice he became Chief Veterinary Officer with Manchester Corporation.

**A.J.A.Compton (M '29)** has written. He was pleased to have received the last newsletter, and was particularly interested in the 'photo of the then Earl of Cavan digging the first sod for the lower games field. He remembers the Earl reviewing the officer training cadets at Larkhill in 1940.

Another interesting letter has come from **Michael Johnston (T '37)**, who, in his 81<sup>st</sup> year, has emigrated to join his daughter in Australia. He has left his large collection of Art books in the hands of the College Art department, and maintains his link with his old school via the College Lottery. He is most impressed with the latest College prospectus; his last visit was in the time of Ian Beer, when he came to referee the rugby match between the school and the OE's. Michael recalls that the boarding fees in his era were £120 per annum; Food for thought! Michael has also been in touch with Stephen Snelling on the subject of the book about John Brunt V.C. – John being one of his Ellesmere contemporaries. Another near contemporary of John Brunt, and a member of the same house, is **Alfred Cooper (M '38)**; he has sent a newspaper article about the Sherwood Foresters Regiment (of which John was a member) and the plans to

merge regiments with a resulting loss of name; not a popular move, one thinks!

Another OE now living in Australia is **Tom Black (M '48)** who was in his time Captain of Rugby. He is currently 'on tour' in Europe and hopes to visit Ellesmere when he gets to England in April.



Photo Ref: # 1762

Nearer home comes an e-mail from **Geoffrey Ellis (M '40)**. He has written a book – 'I Should Have Known Better' – in which he deals with his work, as a trained lawyer, in the management of the Beatles (hence the title), Cilla Black, Elton John and others. The book is available at bookshops (£16.99) or on Amazon (at a discount).

**Paul Warbrick (T '49)** informs us that he is still living south of Warrington, and has his office and engineering factory in Knutsford. He has recently into the garden artefact business (Stone and Wood Ltd, Knutsford).

A newsy letter has been received from **Nader Etebar (M '65)**, who went on to become captain of School in 1971. After leaving College he studied at the American University of Beirut, then the American College of Switzerland, obtaining a degree in Political Science and Public Administration, before returning to his home country, Iran. He suffered many setbacks on account of the revolution and its aftermath, but is now established with his own international trading companies, based in Teheran and Dubai.

**David Ellerton (T '74)** has recently become General Manager for Virbac, a veterinary

pharmaceutical company based in Suffolk, whither he and his partner Marie will shortly be moving. His contemporary **Hossein Matine-Daftary (Wo '74)** sent a card at Christmas, with no further details except that he hoped to be able to visit Ellesmere in 2005.

Some recent feature articles from the Shropshire Star, concern yet another Ellesmerian globetrotter, this time **Oliver Davies (D '86)**. Oliver began his adventures when he hitched a lift to France some seven years ago; since then he has found himself visiting Spain and Egypt, living with a Berger family of 18 in a mud house on the slopes of the Atlas mountains, and encountering Pol Pot's brother and surviving an unscheduled visit to a minefield in Cambodia, before settling – for the present – at Xian in China. The second article concerns a most extraordinary sport, which goes on in China – Cricket Fighting. This has nothing to do with over-aggressive flannelled fools, but rather the pugilistic activities of insects all of two centimetres long – and the associated gambling (illegal, of course) that attracts hordes of followers. I can send copies of these fascinating articles to anyone who gets in touch.

News of my retirement from College has prompted a number of contacts. One such came from **Dewi Meredith-Jones (Wo '82)**, who is now married and living in London; he recently encountered 'out of the blue' his contemporary **Nick Gibbons (M '82)**.

Another blast from the past came from **Joe Millington (Wa '66)** whom I taught in my first year at Ellesmere, and who played cricket for various school teams – he still plays at his local club at Spalding, where he has taught classics since 1980. He keeps in touch with **Robert Chalmers (M '66)**, whose brother Anthony's untimely death was reported in the last issue.

From the same vintage is **David Alan Halsall (M '66)**. He lives at Lytham, where he is still trying to improve his golf in his spare time from running the family toy business, based in Lancashire and China. From time to time he sees **Bill Beaumont (M '65)**, whose last visit to Ellesmere was in

December, at the opening of the new Sports Hall.

**Nicolette Marcus (O '92)** was married nearly 2 years ago, and is now Nicolette Wolf; she and her husband live in Moseley, Birmingham, where a year ago they established their consultancy Marcus-Wolf Ltd, which helps to support business performance through improving the inter-personal communication skills of senior management. Previously Nicolette had trained in Music and Drama, and worked in theatre and television before moving on to Presentation Consultancy.

**Roland Jones (Wo '82), Anthony Elston (Wo '80) and Richard Downes (D '77)** popped into College in July; all are thriving. Roland is in touch with **Jonathan Gooden (Wo '78), Andrew Shepherd (M '76) and Simon Winn (M '79)**. Other visitors at that time were **Oliver Blofeld** and **Mark Sherwood (Wo '86)**. Oliver now runs a TV production company in Dubai, but he and mark have found time to visit their Woodard contemporary **Alistair Farrington**, who now lives in a lovely house near Tarifa in southern Spain.

**Charles Magill (Wo '92)** has bought a flat in Birmingham, and shares it with **Ben Hartley (M '93)**. They play quite a lot of golf together, though Ben is currently recovering at home from a nasty head injury originally sustained while holidaying abroad.

**Tim Richards (Wo '90)** is now living in Banbury, and works as a solicitor in Warwick. **Martin Noakes (M '87)** is still working in Communications, while his younger brother **William (Wo '93)** has just started a new job with IBM.

I have received news of the **Sharp** family. **Harry (Wo '85)** has just bought the freehold of his house on the Bournville estate in Birmingham; he still works with Vodaphone, and sees James Edwards and Nick Pinfield from time to time. Meantime **Peter (Wo '87)** has decided to sell up in the UK and move to Phoenix, Arizona, where his sister **Sarah (O '86)** lives with her husband and three children; he hopes to start a business that is complementary to that of his brother-in-law.



Photo Ref: # 1860

Another pair of brothers are the **Hares**. **Non (Wo '86)** has just become a proud father, while **Chris (Wo '90)** is working in London – and enjoying himself! Meantime we also have news of the two **Hennesseys**. **Matthew (D '89)** works as a Civil Servant in Manchester, where he is the North-West regional co-ordinator for their Drugs strategy. His brother **Oliver (Wo '91)** has spent a good deal of time studying and teaching in the States; he recently completed a doctorate in Renaissance Studies at the University of Alabama. Of a similar vintage is **Alistair Biggs (D '90)**, who has been working in the army in Germany for the past three years.

**Edward Lea (L '94)** is working in Manchester as a software engineer, while his sister **Anna (O '97)** is enjoying her second year at Oxford where she rows (!) and plays netball for her College, as well as being University co-ordinator for an

HIV/AIDS charity, which will entail her spending the summer doing voluntary work in Africa.

**Lucy Pare (O '95)** has spent some time working abroad; after 2 years nannying she then joined JET – the Japanese Exchange Teacher programme, which involved her in teaching English in Japanese schools.

**Robbie Galloway (D '93)** has been spending some time with crews that service long distance yachts, including, most memorably, the recent record-breaking boat of Ellen McArthur.



Becky Simpson  
Courtesy Shropshire Star

Gap years are very much in fashion these days, and we hear that **Becky Simpson (A '96)** is to spend 5 months of her gap year helping a church in Mozambique, starting this April. She expects to be involved in childrens' and youth work in Beira, the second largest city in the country, and on her return to England will be starting on her History degree course at York University. Contributions to help with Becky's work in Africa will be gratefully received – ring 01691 622859 for details.

**C. Hollway (Wa '27)** has contacted the Hon Secretary with his memories of his time at Ellesmere in the late 1920's.

*I started school at Ellesmere in January 1927. The same term as the Rev. A.V. Billen D.D., and for a few terms experienced the "Tom Brown's Schooldays" that had been*

*the style under the previous Headmaster, the Rev Hedworth. As I started in January, I was a term behind the rest of the class, and so missed the grounding in Latin and French and was totally lost until giving up the subjects.*

*The school (and the parents of scholars too!) were suffering from the depression that followed the '14-'18 war, and conditions were very primitive, gaunt bare brickwork, minimum of heating from an inadequate boiler system with no heat at all in corridors and dormitories. Latrines were two lines of open closets, back to back, one for seniors, one for juniors, with a cavern below which was cleared each holiday by a farmer for manure. I cannot recall epidemics of diarrhoea, but other epidemics of Mumps Measles and chicken pox occurred, in one I was isolated in the sanatorium, which I remember as a quite cosy experience, complete with coal fire. Another health problem that I remember vividly was an inoculation programme for Scarlet fever, the whole school was treated with a large injection of serum, and this meant a large syringe, a large bore needle used for many boys. Most of the boys reacted badly with large painful swellings. Subsequent testing showed the programme to be ineffective, so all was done again, though with smaller doses.*

*The next winter was very bitter, the mere was frozen over except for a small area in the middle kept open by occupation of birds. The canal, also was frozen, and, as at that time it was used commercially, the ice was broken up by towing a specially adapted barge manned by a team of men rocking from side to side while the horse slowly progressed. I developed chilblains on my hands (and feet) swollen like Cumberland sausages that split round the knuckles, very painful by day, and itching unbearably in the evening, they were treated with Iodex and Snowfire ointment and I was given Cod Liver oil but they would not heal until I got home. I could not play games with those hands, and I was reluctantly excused. There was no hot water in the dormitories, just one tap with a zinc sink and a number of hand basins on a wooden bench.*

Another abiding memory of those cold winters was that we had boiled eggs for Sunday breakfast that provided a brief hand warmer before being eaten.

As I grew older I was better able to deal with the difficulties I started with. But I had one lasting handicap, that I suffered from astigmatism with the result that I could not catch or hit a ball neither cricket or rugby. I remember that in the summer term the bigger senior boys would give fielding practice to the smaller, junior boys, they would slam the cricket balls to be caught or stopped by the juniors forming a half circle. In my case it would be stopped painfully on my fingertips.



Photo Ref; # 1523

While thinking of sport, I remember Prosser, the Latin Master and later Headmaster, used to join the Rugby games, and with his size and weight would plough through the opposition, an outcome occurred at the end of term concert when some one (boy or Master?) turned out a Latin ditty to the tune of 'Clementine', I remember one line only "Strongus est and beefy busquey sur et nomen Bullus Prosser"

High spirits were let out when masters supervision relaxed, and I remember a game called 'High cock o'lorum' played in the house schoolroom on wet weekends when nothing else was laid on. Two teams would be picked, one would form a single line rugby scrum against the wall, the other players would stand back then run and jump on the backs of the other team, others jumping in turn, until the load, generally on the last few boys would break them down in collapse, then the teams would change

over. Another game was 'Shove ha'penny' played on the long benches in Big school, a protractor ruler was used to push a penny to hit the ha'penny onwards to the enemy goal, a form of billiards.

A sadistic practise was to initiate new boys by 'Running the gauntlet' round the U-shape of the dormitory from one washroom to the other while the rest of the boys would stand on the bottom of their beds and strike the unfortunate boy with pillows and wet towels. I was not initiated in this way, probably because of my painful chilblains.

A dangerous practice was for school leavers to attempt to throw darts made from one leg of a pair of compasses, with their name on the flight, up into the roof of big hall, at that height many fell back and others must have had a very tenuous hold and could have fallen on some innocent head.

The Masters discipline was reinforced by senior boys, appointed as Prefects, who would meet in regular sessions to hear cases of boys breaking the rules, this 'Prefects Meeting' had authority to use the cane, 4 or 6 strokes would be a regular punishment. I was reported, together with a group of older boys, for breaking bounds, and was given 4 strokes, apart from the immediate pain, the matter was quickly forgotten and no harm done. Within a year or two the Headmaster tightened up the general discipline and abolished the Prefects meeting system. He, also, seemed to obtain more funds from the Woodward foundation and the school was pulled into the twentieth century, with better teaching and so better results. So those memories are of a past era.

I joined the Scouts and learned First aid, and to tie knots under the leery eye of 'Buddle' Atkinson, Mrs Billen showed us how to cook sausages in her kitchen with the extra bonus of eating the product. Then on joining the O.T.C., drilled with rifles under Sgt Cross, a veteran of the war. On Remembrance Sunday we would march to Ellesmere parish church with the school band of bugles side drums and big drum all in uniform and blanched webbing equipment. The service was intensely



*moving, particularly, the hymn "O valiant hearts" and the sounding of "The last post" Chapel was held in the crypt underneath the dining hall, until the first half of the new chapel was consecrated. I joined the choir as a treble then alto, teaching me some element of music under the music master Byng Johnson.*

*Comparing my experience of 70 odd years ago with what I read in current Old Ellesmerian magazines I am amazed at the improvements and the wide-ranging options now available. I hope that all at Ellesmere realise how lucky they are to get such a wonderful education in such stimulating surroundings.*

The Secretary has been in correspondence in recent months with **Eric Llewellyn (T '36)** who has holidayed in northern Cyprus for many years. A casual comment to local friends during a recent trip led him to discover the whereabouts of the **Faiz brothers** who were at the college in 1938. On a subsequent trip, last October, Eric and **Suha Faiz** met up. Suha, it transpires, spends a great deal of each year based in the UK – being based in Salisbury. **Zadat Faiz** the elder brother does not enjoy very good health.



Eric Llewellyn (left) & Suha Faiz

**Ben Swarbrick (M' 98)** has returned from a working holiday in New Zealand and he celebrated with a win on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Lingfield, partnering Samuel Charles to victory. **Jeremy Parker (Wa' 92)** has spent some time in the Army but is now an IT Project Manager with the Manchester Police.

We have just received some information about **Julian Cooper (Wo '81)**, who for the past 15 years has been living and working overseas, most recently in Dubai. After graduating from the Medway College of Art Julian took various jobs in the textile/fashion industry, before leaving UK to join a clothing import and export firm in Bombay. In 2002 he moved to Dubai to set up his own fashion and design studio, which has become a very successful enterprise with clients all over the world. He was married in October 2003.

## Dinners & Reunions

On the last Friday of November 2004, at the Wolfscastle Hotel, Pembrokeshire the O.E. dinner at this cozy West Wales Hotel lived upto the usual expectations, wonderful food, good hospitality and, most importantly, a good gathering of Old Ellesmerians.

Together with the Headmaster and his wife, Anne, the usual crowd of stalwarts, many from well outside the area, together with local O.E.'s, enjoyed a convivial evening.

Tom Hughes, our local Chairman, opened the proceedings in his usual jolly manner before paying tribute to Wyn Jones, who sadly passed away some months earlier. Wyn, like Tom, Peter Howells and Peter Perkins, was a past High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire and he was always a regular at this dinner, along with his wife, Elvira. He will be greatly missed.

To the great amusement of the assembled guests, Martin Anderson made his speech as acting President. Martin, unique in OE circles not only as our archivist but a great raconteur, spoke with slow but accurate deliberation, regaled us with stories of his life at Ellesmere in the dark days of the 1940's and of a particular time when he and a few fellow pupils unexpectedly met up with the Headmaster, Evans – Prosser, while on holiday in Devon – to the dismay of both parties!

Martin was standing in for our President, David Parton, as are others during the year, as David passed away just days after his

election as President for 2004 / 05. David is very much missed by all who knew him and it is right and proper that although not with us in body as President for the year, he is very much in our thoughts.

Thirteen O.E's and their guests attended and it is hoped that more will do so next year when we meet again on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2006 – a pleasant night at Wolfscastle is always guaranteed.

*The following were present:*

*Tom & Beryl Hughes, Brendan & Anne Wignall, Barrie & Avril Keenan, Peter & Joan Perkins, Michael & Alison Hemingway, Graham & Claire Perkins, David Leftwich & Suzanne Radcliffe, Roderick & Judith Stagg, Peter Howells & Jill Wharton, Tom & Joan Platt, Tom & Sue Latham, David & Andrea Peel, Martin Anderson, Richard Oldfield*

Two months later, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2005, the 32<sup>nd</sup> West Midlands Dinner took place at Tillington Hall, Stafford and 44 people braved the weather to attend; Mike Dodd was snowed in, and David Leftwich was unable to attend because of illness in his family.

The Chairman proposed the health of the Queen, and then welcomed everyone, including the whole of the Parton family. Neville Cope proposed the Toast to the Club, and recalled many of his schoolboy days; he then produced his silver bugle and proceeded to play it! As the 'stand-in' President David Peel replied; again we were entertained by funny events and stories of school life. The Headmaster replied to David's toast – to school and staff – and assured us that the school was in good hands and doing really well in all quarters. The Chairman, Warren Higson, then said he would be attending the WMD next year, but not as Chairman. He wished everyone a safe journey home. Sixteen people stayed overnight, with swimming in the morning and a second O.E. meeting over a leisurely breakfast.

*OE's attending the dinner were:*

*Warren Higson (W.M. Chairman), Neville Cope, David Peel, Barrie Keenan, Tim Caldicott, Peter Lole, Tom Latham, Paul Parton, David Bradley, Richard Bradley, Peter Oldfield, Richard Oldfield, Ralph Winn, Tom Platt, Tony Jones, Rodney Stagg, Richard Woodward, Fred West, Ted Fraser-Smith, Tim Leadbeater, John Jeffrey, John Jewiss, Nick Turner, together with Brendan Wignall (Headmaster), Keith Shuttleworth (OE Chronicler) and a goodly number of wives and partners.*

A fortnight or so later, on 16<sup>th</sup> March, five O.E's returned to Ellesmere. All were members of Talbot house in the mid 1940's and, in particular, **Dennis Mottershead** had not been back to Ellesmere in some fifty years. It certainly came as a culture shock to him to experience the modern, relaxed culture – not least of which was experiencing talking on Main Corridor and 'hands in pockets'.

The Sports Hall was another example of the many changes they discovered during their tour, although many old haunts were visited including 5C's classroom and Nanki's room in the Crypt.



From left to right in the Founder's Gate: **Derek Evans (T'47), Dennis Mottershead, David Broadhurst ('45), Ian Johnston (T'46) and Tom Platt (T'49).**

An amusing revelation was the discovery of a total lack of dormitories – the major refurbishment programme of the early 1990's having developed the boarding accommodation into smaller units of accommodation. A trip to the old Library, to discover that it now housed the Common Room Bar was very fortuitous, and those

members of staff who were imbibing at the time made all very welcome!

The voyage of discovery came to an end and the group departed for the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry where they all stayed the night and enjoyed each other's company over a very convivial dinner.

A few days later, some 400 miles north of Ellesmere, the annual Scottish gathering of OE's took place at Tulloch Station, some 18 miles north East of Fort William. This group of OE's take their meetings seriously and devote an entire week to the cause, with some adventure training thrown in for good measure! The week is organised by the College CCF and is run on military lines, allowing cadets to experience winter conditions in the hills under expert guidance.

This year the lead instructor was **Capt. Huw Gilbert (Wa '91)** who worked closely with **Bruce Poll (Derry '82)** who now lives locally and has vast experience in mountaineering and instructing, although he now concentrates his efforts on his property development company. **Dave Gilbert (Wa'62)** ,who has a huge wealth of experience in the Scottish hills, managed to 'bag' his one hundredth Munro during the week. **Martin Digby (M'88)** ,now on the staff at Ellesmere, took an active part in the week and joined the cadets on their three day, two nights under canvas, expedition .

**John Harvey (Wo' 69)** undertook the back up, stores and admin duties for the week, as the School SSI was unable to attend due to illness. Also in the party was Peter Dilworth, father of **Tim Dilworth (Wa'92)** who is now following in his father footsteps and working for Komatsu selling earth moving equipment throughout the UK – in his free time in recent years he has been a UK champion rally driver. The CCF will be back in Tulloch next spring and, hopefully, some Scottish OE's may be able to drop in during the week.

## Watercolours

Limited edition prints of the Nankivell Quad or The Terraces by the artist Jane Carpanini RWS, RBA,RWA. are available to order at £95.00 each. Details can be obtained from the Secretary or the prints can be viewed at [www.contemporarywatercolours.co.uk](http://www.contemporarywatercolours.co.uk)

## O.E. Sport

### Hockey

The annual Hockey fixture between the OE's and the College took place recently. The College team had enjoyed a good season, but was badly depleted on the day because of a seven-a-side rugby tournament and other commitments; as a result a handy OE team ran out 6-0 winners.

Those playing were: *Chris Maltby (goal), Jimmy Mullock, Max Stringer, James Bubb, Tim Downes, Dean Gervis, Jon Slater, Robin Dawson, Tigger Dawson, Dave Marvell, Rob Slater and Neil Owen.*

Ellesmere was honoured to have a representative in the annual Oxford v Cambridge rugby match back in December. This was Neil Toy, whose secondary education was actually at St Kentigern's School, Auckland, but who came over to Ellesmere as a gap student some years ago. Neil was playing for Cambridge, who lost 14-23 on the day.



1st XI Girls Hockey.1996

**Back Row:** J.Mott, S Packham, A.Richards ,O.Russell, C.Bosworth, J. Hollway,F.M.C Bailey. **Front Row:** A. Conway-Wallace, K. Harrell, E. Brookes Smith, H. Conway Wallace, H. Vicary. P. Jenkins, R. Cox.

## OE Cricket 2005

OE cricket started with the annual match v the College 1<sup>st</sup> XI on Sunday 22 May – taking place during the College Open Day. The Cup matches start on Sunday 19 June, with our first match in the Cricket World Trophy. This is closely followed by our Brewers Cup match on Sunday 26 June v Denstone College at Ellesmere. The regular fixture against the Gentlemen of Shropshire is on Sunday 10 July.

We are also planning an extra OE cricket match this year – the idea is a social game in August, in the Shropshire area, possibly over 30's against the under 30's. This game would particularly suit those who haven't played for a while but fancy the idea of socialising and reminiscing rather than winning at all costs. But then again, I'm sure the over 30's would want to show they've still got what it takes while the under 30's would show the old lags a thing or two about fielding, running, throwing.....!!

If you are interested in playing or attending the social match, or details of any of the matches, then please contact Richard Smail on 01332 558310 or email [rich.smail@btopenworld.com](mailto:rich.smail@btopenworld.com)



Meynell house Cricket Team 1946

Photo donated by Reginald T Smith

Back Row: AJ Atherton, EF Phillips, WF Shaw, RD Viney, D Sym, GR Millican. Sitting: DA Whalley, JM Evans, GM Baddeley, TG Archer, PO Olsen, Ground: RT Smith, JC Crossman.

## Visits to Ellesmere

The School is always pleased to welcome O.E's should they be in the area and want to visit. A courtesy telephone call to the School never goes amiss (01691 622321), and will give some idea as to whether the School is fully open or whether there is a particular event on.

Once on site, please report to Reception so that the school is aware of exactly who is on site and ask for *Hazel Harrison*, who will, if she is available, be pleased to assist with arranging a tour of the School.

A 'Visitors Book' is available at Reception for O.E's to sign .

Please remember to sign out at Reception when you leave.

## Ellesmerian 2004

"The Ellesmerian" magazine is only circulated to members who have left within the last five years. Any other member who wishes to receive a copy should submit their request to the Secretary and he will then ensure a copy is forwarded when it is published. Those who specifically requested a copy should have received it recently. The Secretary has some spare copies available on a first come, first served basis only.

## Photographs

Have you recognised anyone in any of the photographs in this Newsletter?

If you can help in any way identify an individual, a team, location or possibly the year then please let the Secretary know so that he can enter the information onto the database being compiled.

Please quote the relevant ref. no from below the photo and then, when identifying individuals, use a simple system such as "Back row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left ....." "

## Message Board

Richard Snow is undertaking some research on **John Brunt** , VC with a view to putting together a small biographical pamphlet . In a message to the Hon. Secretary he asks:

“It seems that there is quite a bit of information in various places which I would like to pull together and I am contacting the different sources. I have been to local libraries around Paddock wood, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. I live just down the road from the Paddock Wood, so have access to the local sites – the John Brunt VC pub, St. Andrews Church window etc. However, I would be very grateful for any help you, or members of the Old Ellesmerian Club, can give me with the Shropshire and Ellesmere connections – photos, newspaper cuttings, personal reminiscences etc. I would be very grateful for any information at all.

My address is: Sunflower house, 1 Cornford Park, Pembury, Tunbridge wells, Kent TN2 4PW. Tel: 01892 – 825428 or e mail to;

[richardsnow@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:richardsnow@tiscali.co.uk)

**David Howell (c 1960/65)** . Brian Cook, who attended Bromsgrove School at approximately the same time is trying to make contact with David. He has already tried the Friendsreunited website with no success and would be grateful for any assistance.

[briancook53@aol.com](mailto:briancook53@aol.com)

## Newsletter # 19

If anyone would like to contribute an article for the next Newsletter then please send copy to the Hon. Secretary as soon as it becomes available.

All contributions gratefully received – by the end of July please.

The anticipated publication will be early September 2005, or possibly before if the news keeps coming in!

## Newsletter # 20

– it is hoped to despatch this in early January 2006.

All contributions to be submitted by the end of November 2005.

### Missing OE's

**Mailings have been returned marked 'Gone Away' or similar from the following OE's. If anyone knows of his or her current whereabouts then please inform the Secretary.**

Band	Duncan G.F.	Mr.	Wakeman	1998
Barker	Nicholas R.L.	Mr.	Woodard	1996
Chong	Sio K.	Miss.	St.Oswalds	2001
Coltman	A. J.	Mr.	Woodard	1958
Daker	Henry J.	Mr.	Talbot	1999
Dobson	Edward J.	Mr.	Wakeman	1999
Edwards	James P.	Mr.	Woodard	1985
Hatton	Rebecca J.	Miss	St.Oswalds	2001
Horsington	Thomas R.	Mr.	Wakeman	1984
Jones	P. J. E.	Mr.	Derry	1989
Kynaston	Oliver G.	Mr.	Talbot	2000
Kynaston	Sara K.	Miss.	St.Oswalds	2000
Leather	Charles C.	Mr.	Lambart	1987
Leech	Jonathan	Mr.	Woodard	1979
Lycett	Anthony S.	Mr.	Woodard	1978
Mobberley	M. C.	Mr.	Meynell	1936
Morgan	Steve A.	Mr.	Talbot	1980
Ng	Betty	Miss	St.Oswalds	1999
Richards	Philip (R.P.M.)	Mr.	Wakeman	1992
Russell	S.C.	Mr.	Derry	1980
Stokes	David M.	Mr.	Talbot	1996
West	G. E.	Mr.	Woodard	1942

Some familiar faces.....



**John Holder**



**John Washington**



**Peter Barton**



**Maurice Gray**



**Robin Jagoe**



**Jane Binyon**



**Olwen Purslow**



**Chris Enston**



**Chris Jobson**