

The
Old Paludians Newsletter

Founded 1915

March 2000

This year sees the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the Old Paludians and to mark the occasion a book entitled **Recollections of Slough Secondary School and the Old Paludians ... as remembered by Peter Bennett and others** is published on Reunion Day. Details for its purchase are given at the end of this Newsletter. Those contributing accounts of their memories are marked thus †.

This year we are pleased to welcome **Mr David Rogers** and **Christopher Theobald** to the Reunion. Mr Rogers is a senior member of staff at SGS and has done much to collect and look after the archival material as well as helping with the displays. Christopher, a sixth former, is also very much interested in the historical aspects of the School and helps with the archive collection. The Old Paludians are very grateful for their interest and help. We are always pleased to welcome our President, Mrs Lenton, at our Reunions each year and we thank her for her continued support.

****STAFF NEWS****

Miss Stella Saunderson (1947-85). Says "...it is such a pleasure reading all the news of our ex-pupils and the greetings they send. Thank you for putting it all together in the Newsletter".

Miss M L White (1947-71). Enjoys living in Kirk Hammerton and is still able to play an active part in the life of the village despite being visually impaired. Continues to tend the garden and does some painting. Enjoys outings to the moors and the sea although she had no actual 'holiday' last year. At Christmas, Miss White received a letter from **Mrs Fraser** (née Slattery) who is in West Heidelberg in Australia: she also heard from the **Pywell** twins in Vancouver who retired from nursing last year and now wonder how they ever found time to go to work! Sends best wishes for a lovely day on 11th March.

Mrs A Beck (1958-75). Sends greetings to all who remember her. Has a friend living nearby who remembers teaching **Peter Burgess** at SGS 1949-54.

Miss Anne Harris (1961-69). At last, our date does not clash with the Mothering Sunday weekend so we look forward to seeing Miss Harris at the Reunion.

Mrs J Sumner (1961-80). Will be thinking of us on Reunion Day and sends best wishes.

Mrs Gillian Dibden (1986-88 Upton Grammar). Sorry not to be with us this year – will be travelling to Paris to check out venues and hotels to use when she takes 2 choirs there in July for a concert tour. It may be of interest to anyone living in the Winchester area to know that on Saturday evening, 29 July, the Berkshire Youth Choir and the Berkshire Girls Choir will be giving a concert in Winchester Cathedral. Good wishes for a lovely Reunion Day.

Good wishes from: Mrs Bettridge, Mr & Mrs Binstead, Miss Booth, Miss Camp, Miss Haywood, Mrs Hudson, Miss Wykes (SGS and SHS).

Hoping to attend the Reunion: Mrs Cater, Miss A Harris, Mrs Pritchard, Mrs Purdue, Miss Rowland, Miss Saunderson and Miss Shaw. We also hope to see Mrs Boul.

****1910s****

Fred Lucas: It is a great privilege to write about Fred this year. He was born on 12 March 1899 and in January 1912 he attended Slough Secondary School on its opening day – a brand new school and probably a rather apprehensive young lad. In due course he left school and was in the Navy during the Great War where he saw action at the Battle of Jutland in April 1916 aboard HMS Iron Duke – he described the action in a letter sent to the School a couple of months afterwards. He later served King and Country again during WWII. Fred now lives in a Retirement Home in Gloucestershire, near his son who is a retired doctor. On the day before the Reunion last year Fred celebrated his 100th birthday in great style – there were greetings from the Queen, the Secretary of State and many others including the Old Paludians and the School. He had one big worry whilst the party was in full flow – would he miss his Quiz Shows on TV!! This year he will celebrate his 101st birthday and has sent greetings to the Association which are reproduced on the cover of the book which is published on Reunion Day. A Very Happy Birthday to our oldest member - we salute you.

****1920s****

Molly Page (Sands 1921-28). Now at Tithe Farm Rest Home in Stoke Poges. Son Graham keeps in touch with us and Molly enjoys hearing from friends.

Mrs G M Bennett (Knight 1922-26). Living now at Burnham Lodge, Parliament Lane, Burnham. Settled in happily and looks forward to family visits.

Rinah Kew (1923-29). Sorry not to be with us on 11 March and sends good wishes. We were very sad to learn that Rinah's sister **Mary Williams** (Kew 1921-26) died shortly after last year's Reunion. Mary was always interested in the activities of the Old Paludians and in the 1920's and 30's was an enthusiastic member of the O.P. Tennis and Hockey Clubs. At the first Old Paludians (Girls) meeting in 1936, Miss Crawford, newly appointed Headmistress, consented to be President, Rinah was the treasurer and her sister Mary was a member of the Committee.

Alfred Sands (1925-31) and **Bob Sands** (1923-28). Both will be attending the Reunion this year, also **Harold Waite** (1926-32).

Jean Bailey (Sands 1927-33). A sister of **Alf** and **Bob** and will be attending this year.

Good wishes from: Joyce Predde (Hobson 1929-32).

****1930s****

George Pontin 1930-35). George has recently moved to a bungalow but still manages to make his bird feeders – major production now takes place at the home of his sister **Margaret Majewski** (1946-50) who has more room!! Looks forward to the Reunion.

Hilda Halls (Milcoy 1932-37). Sorry that it is too far to travel to Slough from Cornwall these days – both Hilda and her husband are well and send good wishes to us all.

Len Thorne (1934-36). Unable to attend the Reunion as he is recovering from extensive surgery last autumn followed by a nasty dose of 'flu after Christmas and so is 'confined to camp' until fully fit again. Much saddened by the death of his old pal **Fred Deeks** (1931-36) to whom he pays a moving tribute below. Sends best wishes and hopes we have a good day.

Dr Jack Brittain (1934-39). Looks forward to coming to the Reunion and says that recollections of those days make growing older a little easier!

Denis & Gwen Kent (Denis 1934-39, Gwen née Pugh 1935-40). Denis was an oilfield engineer and he and Gwen travelled the world for Shell Oil Co. Now live in Beaconsfield and have two grandchildren. Guy is at Eton as a premier scholar and Lucy, at present at St George's Choir School in Windsor, has won a scholarship to St George's Girls School in Ascot, starting in September.

Jean Bostock (Burnett 1936-41). Slowly recovering from breaking her leg two years ago. Misses her collie dog who was put to sleep at Christmas after 12 years. Still enjoys voluntary charity work, now with Imperial Cancer Research and has recently become a volunteer Room Steward at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, the ancestral home of the Curzon family since the 12th century. Sister **Iris Hull** (1937-42), known as **Betty** enjoyed a wonderful holiday in Cyprus in November after a difficult time with the birth in September of her

newest grandson, Nicholas, who is brain damaged. Jean and Iris sadly lost their beloved mother in May shortly before her 95th birthday. On a lighter note – does anyone have a photo of Iris taken in 1941 and/or 1942 when she won the School Tennis Tournament?

Richard Ford (1936-44). Has to attend a fixture at Burnham Beeches Golf Club as past Captain so cannot be with us. Sends good wishes.

Ivy Harris (Cook 1937-43). Attended the High School both at William Street then Twiches Lane when the new building was finished just as WWII broke out. A special bond developed between the girls who went through their schooldays at such a momentous time in history. Ivy and some of the others have held lunches at various times to mark their 'special' anniversaries. Numbers are dwindling unfortunately but whenever they get together they re-live those happy times and all are teenagers once more!

Phyllis Prismall (Rivers 1937-43). Has been in hospital receiving treatment but is now home recuperating. Hopes to be able to attend the Reunion. *We wish her well.*

Paddy & Pam May (Paddy 1937-44). Really hoping to make it to the Reunion this year and looking forward to meeting old friends.

Olive Ferguson (Thomas 1937-45). Missed last year's Reunion due to a course in Cambridge but the dates have worked out better this time.

Jean Kathleen Jones (Grant 1938-42). New Life Member. Emigrated to South Africa in 1951. Spent 43 years in Johannesburg before retiring to Cape Town in 1994. Has a son, daughter and two grandsons. Hobbies – bridge, gardening, keep-fit classes, reading and letter writing. Hopes to meet up with **John Mabbot** (1935-41) next time he is in Cape Town – hopefully at Easter. Would love to hear from anyone who remembers her.

Vic & Muriel Benbridge (Vic 1938-43, Muriel née Cooke 1940-46). Unable to attend the Reunion this year as Vic is unwell with fibrosis of the lungs and hasn't been out since Christmas. *We send very best wishes.*

Audrey Tarrant (Elderfield 1938-44). In October 1998 Audrey and Phil celebrated their Golden Wedding with a Freighter voyage from N America via the Panama Canal to Brisbane for a holiday with their daughter who lives on Australia's Gold Coast – they were away 6 months in all. Audrey had quite a surprise last autumn when her phone rang and a voice introduced himself as an Old Paludian from the war days. It was **Fred Collins** who, as a new member, was interested to know about any Old Pal living on the west coast of Canada especially Vancouver Island. Even though they hadn't met before, they did meet up last year and had several hours wallowing in nostalgia and have kept in touch since. Although not able to attend the Reunion, she has asked Fred to tell her all about it when he returns home from his trip.

'Micki' Vale (Flinn 1939-43). Has enjoyed two cruises this past year, one along the Amazon and the other, last August, to the Ukraine on the Black Sea where she viewed the total eclipse of the sun. Enjoyed an exciting trip to Buckingham Palace to see her son receive an MBE from Prince Charles. Sends love to all.

Betty Absolon (Chapman 1939-45). Unable to attend this year. Has been pleased to see Mrs Lenton on TV's "South Today" on several occasions. Sends good wishes and hopes to attend again next year.

Pat Musgrove (Foy 1939-45). Still working and has twin great-grandsons aged 3 months. Keeps in touch with **Barbara Palmer-Hall** (Gibbons). Sent some 1945 snapshots of the 1st year Sixth Form and 1st XI Hockey Team.

Tony Stevenson (1939-45). Married Kate after completing his National Service and has one daughter who teaches English and drama in Suffolk. Retired in 1991 as Sales Manager for a Swedish firm. Currently plays golf, duplicate bridge, loves travel (including an annual trip to USA) and wine tasting! *Tasting ??* Unable to attend this year – golfing in Florida.

New Life Member: Dennis Ridgwell (1937-41).

Good wishes from: Esmé Holloway (Berendt 1930-33), **John Dean** (1930-36), **Marjorie Cruse** (1931-35), **Margaret Black** (Sands 1932-37), **Peter Renacre** (1932-37), **Joan Clack** (Waite 1932-38), **Daphne Dhaliwal** (Hook 1932-39), **Gabrielle Moody** (1933-37), **Yvonne Green** (Tuddenham 1933-39), **Eileen Mallin** (Emery 1934-37), **Dennis Neale** (1934-40), **Margaret Gillett** (McGillivray 1932-37), **Mary Adams** (Harvey 1935-43), **Betty Bristow** (Hathaway 1936-40), **Arthur Day** (1936-42), **Edna Parrett** (Hearn 1937-43), **Margaret Hall** (Bowles 1938-43), **Pamela Main** (Sheppard 1938-43), **Alan Brimmer** (1938-44?), **Olive**

Hannam-Harris (Cooke 1938-44), **Mary Annis** (Greet 1938-45), **Betty Britten** (Boys 1939-42), **Pamela Green** (Dear 1939-44), **Jean Bignell** (Climer 1939-45), **Betty Foster** (Thomas 1939-46).

****IN MEMORIAM****

Fred Deeks (1931-36). Friendships from schooldays endure for a lifetime and such a friend **Len Thorne** (1934-36) recalls: I found myself in Form 4a and sitting next to Freddie – there started a friendship which stood the test of time for over 65 years and only ended with his death last September. With Freddie's folks at the Post Office in Burnham Beeches in those days, we spent many happy hours roaming through the woods. Although he passed exams which would have taken him on to University, circumstances did not permit so Freddie became a laboratory technician at Hanovia then moved to High Duty Alloys who were, by then, engaged in important war work keeping our fighters and bombers in the air. The war over, Freddie married Dot and as the years went by the family grew (3 sons and now 4 grandchildren) – their Golden Wedding was celebrated in May, 1996 when they were surrounded by loving family and friends. Whenever we met in later years, we would enjoy playing crib whilst the womenfolk chatted – I never won!. Freddie was outstandingly intelligent but always quiet and retiring, he was a kind and modest man, a very good friend and a very real gentleman in all senses of the word. Freddie will be sadly missed and will never be replaced.

Ernest Evans† (1931-36). Just a few days after Ernie was in touch with us sending his good wishes, we heard the tragic news he had died on 4th February. He wrote very amusing reminiscences of his days at the old Secondary School for the book and **John Gunn** (1931-36) writes about their lifetime friendship: We both started at Slough Secondary in September 1931 – that first day a Book of Common Prayer was on each desk, John looked at Ernie, pointed to the instruction "a man may not marry his grandmother" and said, "Who would want to". At this, both boys giggled, they became friends and continued to giggle through the years. After service in the RAF during WWII Ernie worked in the Air Ministry and distinguished himself by becoming a barrister by studying part-time. His talent to amuse was legendary and his repertoire included sketches based on an interest in Olde-Time Music-Hall. After being a widower for some time, he married again and life was good. He was looking forward to a trip to Australia when the news of his totally unexpected death shocked everyone. *We extend our sincere condolences to Ernie's wife and all the family.*

Thomas Paxton (1935-39). Sadly, Tom also died last year. He had been a pilot in the RAF during the war after which most of his working life was spent in the world of insurance, namely Sun Alliance Co. There were three sons, Michael (Old Paludian himself), Christopher and Peter and he lived in Worthing with his second wife. *We send our sympathy to Michael and all the family.*

Cedric Eustance (1938-42). His sister **Audrey Fenn** (1938-40) writes: Cedric died of cancer at the age of 68. A keen member of the CCF, he was commissioned in the Gordon Highlanders, serving during the war in Britain and the Far East. After the war, most of his career was spent with BAPCO, an oil company in Bahrain, followed by assignments all over the world with other oil companies. Sadly missed by family and friends.

Barbara Holmes (Mickleburgh 1938-45). Barbara died last year and her funeral was attended by a number of Old Paludians. It was a lovely service with wonderful music and the duet from the 'Pearl Fishers' was especially moving.

Natalie D'Albon (1939-42). Natalie will be remembered by many pupils who were at SHS in the late 1930's. She always had a great sense of humour and **Daphne Botting** (May 1936-42) remembers her as a lively girl with a penchant for the mischievous. On leaving school she went into nursing and later hoped to study medicine (her late father had been a GP). Sadly she contracted TB and spent 2 years in a Swiss sanatorium. In her thirties she opened the first Charity shop in Kensington selling items made by the disabled. The Duchess of Gloucester visited several times and then arranged for Natalie to take a selection of her items to Buckingham Palace. She opened a residential home for children in Kew, later re-locating to South Croydon. Many of 'her' children kept in touch long after they had moved on, and indeed, a number of them attended her funeral. She was secretary to the Girl Guide Association in London - another interest - and she made a collection of Guide uniforms through the years. Natalie will be sadly missed.

****1940s****

Yvonne Wagstaff (Hutchins 1940-46). Was awarded an M.A.(Hons) degree at Surrey University in September. Now writing a book about Slough in the 1940's, a sequel to her "Sunshine Slough in the 1930's". If anyone would like to discuss this period with Yvonne, please ring her on [REDACTED] or e-mail on [REDACTED] she will be delighted to hear from you (Will also be at the reunion).

Rosemary Kemp (Newman 1940-48). New Life Member. Lives at West Wickham near to **Margaret Black**

(Sands) and **Joyce Egelstaff** (Walker).

Fred Collins† (1941-47). A new Life Member, Fred went to Vancouver with his parents – who were Canadian – just six months after leaving school. Has many memories of SGS, the staff and the boys. On a visit to UK a few years ago he went past the site and was surprised to see *girls* coming through the gates!. Married with one daughter and one son and five grandchildren. After a life in banking he retired in 1990 and has since travelled extensively, both independently and through a Rotary Friendship Exchange programme. His life's interest in aviation means he has had a Cessna 180 since 1974 and regularly flies it – has taken the family the length and breadth of N America. He is also an active radio ham – operates as **VE7EMU** on all ham bands – are there any Old Pals out there who are also radio hams? Combining a trip to Portugal with a visit to UK and is thrilled to be attending the Reunion with his wife Mary – hopes to meet up with friends from schooldays. Now lives in Parksville, Vancouver Island, BC – would welcome contact with any 'boys' from SGS, fcollins@nanaimo.ark.com is his e-mail address.

June Ginger (Hunt 1941-47). Will be visiting UK again in April for a tour of Islay, Colonsay and Jura – hopes to meet some of us for lunch despite it being a 'flying' visit. *We were sorry to learn of the death of her sister Heather last year.*

John Tebbitt† (1941-47). After studying for six years with the Open University, John has become a B.A. (Hons) – and how he wishes he could go back in time and confront his former masters wearing his gown and hood!! Will be unable to attend this Reunion as he is away on his travels.

Michael Shave (1941-49). A New Life member, also his brother **Neville** who is a couple of years younger. Mike plays table tennis for the Bucks Senior Veterans and has just won a Tournament. He is also a cricket umpire to County standard having given up playing a few years back. Both brothers are actively involved in the organisation of the Farnham Common Cricket Club and have been for more years than they care to remember! Send good wishes and they hope to attend the Reunion after lunch.

Shirley Knight (1942-48). Has moved to Winslow (Bucks). For the sake of family historians, this is a move back to the area of Knight ancestors! Back in the 1820's the Knights moved from Newport Pagnell to Stoke Poges. Winslow is about 7 miles from Buckingham where David Cook married Elizabeth Lucas in the early 1700's, although the church has been rebuilt since then. In answer to queries about **Eileen Swallow** – known as **Peggy** – the sad news is that she died peacefully on 30 January at the home of her friend in Queensland, Australia. Eileen married Shirley's brother and had been in Australia for some years. Shirley was in weekly telephone contact during her illness.

Barbara Smith (Hubbard 1942-49). Barbara's husband Jack suffered a stroke in September and after 11 weeks in hospital he returned home where she now looks after him. *We send him very best wishes.* Barbara hopes to attend the Reunion in the afternoon.

Margaret Paine (Paine 1943-48). Scrabble, gardening and dog-walking are still high on the agenda! Her daughter's (**Judy Farrow** Paine 1975-80) twins are nearly three and Margaret enjoys their company together with her other grandchildren. In touch with 16 of her 'year' but still anxious to trace the whereabouts of others – see **Lost & Found** on back page. If you have any news please telephone XXXXXXXXXX

Anne Letchford (Reeves 1943-49). Unable to come last year because she was enjoying a marvellous holiday with her husband, Bill, in Australia staying over in Thailand and Singapore. Also had a holiday in New England in the 'fall' where the colouring in the trees was fantastic even if the food wasn't!. Highlight of the year was the birth of a granddaughter, Catherine Anne, in January – she is beautiful and everyone is thrilled. Will be attending the Reunion this year.

Ron & Pat Fidler (Ron 1943-49, Pat Beard 1945-48). Away in Tuscany so unable to attend but send best wishes for an enjoyable and successful day.

Mary Haydock (File 1944-51). Had a wonderful holiday in October visiting her youngest son and family (Kelly 4 years old and Megan 9 months) in Guam. Spent some time in Hong Kong and now settling into her new home in Bury St Edmunds. Still golfing and hopes to start bowls soon. **Elizabeth** (Brown 1946-49) is here from New Zealand for a visit.

Susan Cooper-Cronyn (Cooper 1944-52). Son (Jonathan) and daughter (Kate) are both married – to super people. Is now a step-great-grandmother! Had a new book for children published in 1999 called 'King of Shadows' set in the Globe Theatre in London in 1599/1999 & where a lovely launch party was held for the UK edition of the book. Brother **Rod** (1949-56?) lives in Sussex and edits 2 magazines.

Muriel Aird (Bubb 1946-53). I should like to send best wishes to anyone who remembers me from our school days and to say that it is never too late to join the Old Paludians, as I have just done. The decision to join at this late stage of my life was prompted by my niece in America. Quite by chance she had been in contact with my old school friend Doreen Jones – now **Paula Atherton** – on the Internet. It's a long story but eventually Paula 'phoned me and we've had several conversations catching up on our news, having not met for over 30 years!. We look forward to doing so at the Reunion – and hope we recognise one another!!

Paula Atherton (Doreen Jones 1946-53). Has three daughters and in December her first grandchild (Samuel Alexander) arrived amid great excitement. Has contact with **Pam Crouch, Sheila Underwood, Dorothy Baker, Olive Lees, Brenda Wakefield, Glenys Jones** and recently **Muriel Bubb**. Interested to know if anyone has news/heard of **Margaret Nunn** (1946-53), Paula remembers she had an older sister, **Christine**, and she possibly went to W Africa.

Anne Stephens (Hales 1946-53). Hopes to attend the Reunion with her sister **Jackie Dibling** (Hales 1953-59), and cousin **Daphne Botting** (May 1936-42). Fingers crossed as Anne's son and daughter-in-law are expecting a baby in March!

Anne Barnard (Stavert 1947-51). Received a letter from an 80 year-old Old Paludian who had learned about Anne from an earlier Newsletter and remembered her as a baby in a pram! They will meet for the first time since then at this year's Reunion.

Malcolm Hellings (1947-52). On 11 March Malcolm and Julie celebrate their Wedding Anniversary and so have a big celebration booked in London.

Maureen Lessels (Clancy 1947-53). Sorry to miss the Reunion but will be in Copenhagen to celebrate her birthday. Was recognised on a tour around Windsor Castle last year by **Janet Bell** (Price 1947-53?). Is a Practice Manager for the village GP's. Has 4 daughters, 11 grandchildren and celebrates her Ruby Wedding this year.

John Alder (1949-54). A New Life member – recently retired from a Canadian bank having been with them for 27 years throughout the world but mainly in the Caribbean. Now living on the Costa del Sol, Spain and met up with another Old Pal, **Ian Bryant**, who lives a mile up the road. Hopes to be able to make a Reunion or two someday.

Peter Burgess (1949-54). His book "Slough – A Century of Change" compiled with local historian, Dr Judith Hunter, was published last year and in case any Old Paludian living away from Slough would like to buy one, Peter is bringing a few along to the Reunion and will donate £1 from each sale to our Funds. The book contains 128 pages with 217 b/w photos of Slough and its surroundings.

Penny Gniel (Norcott 1949-54). Still in Greenock, South Australia. Found herself profiled in her local newspaper last November - she rescued an Embden goose from being a Christmas dinner in 1998, made friends with him and finally became his legal owner last March. Now completely domesticated he follows Penny everywhere, loves riding in the car and when she takes her two (rescued – what else) dogs for a walk Goosey Gander Henry goes too. He has a great sense of humour and loves to sit on her lap. Penny is now quite fluent in goose-speak although G-G-H is very intelligent and seems to understand everything she says.

Valerie Storie (1949-55). Enjoyed catching up with the 49'ers last year as they celebrated their 50th anniversary of starting at Twinches Lane. Conversations flowed as if there had never been any gap between meetings – in some cases it was actually 45 years!! Still involved in family history and will be meeting a 'new' cousin this May – all the way from Canada. Manages to attend most WI meetings in Cookham and is still Secretary of the Slough Community Transport scheme for the disabled.

New Life Member: **Mike and Neville Shave** (both early 1940's), **Martin Haisman** (1948-54),

Good wishes received from: **Colin Marler** (1940's), **Pauline Parsons** (Marler 1940's), **Joyce Cooper** (Hearn 1940-45), **Audrey Walden** (1940-46), **Vernon Wardall** (1941-46), **Colin Thompson** (1942-48), **Dawn Dudbridge** (1942-44), **Roy Buckland** (1943-48), **Jenny Harman** (Pugh 1943-48), **Michael James** (1943-48), **Elaine Kirby** (Hillier 1943-48), **Faith Ridgwell** (Jones 1944-46 – pre-nursing group), **Graham Holmes** (1946-52), **Peter Dunage** (1947-50), **Janet Stevens** (Pavey 1948-52), **Maureen Berry** (Thompson 1948-53), **Ron Millis** (1948-53), **Gill Roast** (Pegg 1948-54), **Rose Stewart** (Phillips 1948-54), **Caroline Lovegrove** (1949-55), **Morag Norman** (Cameron 1949-54), **Eileen Pearce** (Kitch 1949-54), **Jean Pritchard** (Wisbey 1949-55), **Malcolm Stewart** (1949-56).

****IN MEMORIAM****

Denis James (c.1944-51). Denis died last October and **Barry Serjent** (1943-49) remembers him from schooldays when they were both 'pillars' of the SGS Dramatic Society. Just over 50 years ago they were both in a production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" brought to mind vividly as Barry has been appearing in that very play at his little theatre in Wembley and had hoped Denis might come to see him. Denis became a schoolmaster and was very involved in Slough, becoming a councillor and later deputy Mayor. His funeral was attended by many friends and civic dignitaries – his work for the people of Slough will be long remembered.

Derek Webb (1948-53). Sadly passed away last September aged 62 years after a long and difficult illness. He was passionately fond of all sport but will be best remembered as a goalkeeper and administrator with the Old Pals Hockey Club in the 1960's. Derek also played cricket for a while as an enthusiastic wicket-keeper and tail-end batsman. **Ken Martin** recalls that in later life, Derek took up bowls and played successfully with a local Maidenhead club. His cheerful presence will be sadly missed by all his Old Pals friends especially at Reunions and Cricket Club functions which he enjoyed attending.

****1950s****

Eileen Brooke (Sirey 1950-56). New Life Member and will be attending her first Reunion. She says it will be quite an experience meeting up with girls and staff 50 years after their first meeting! Became a qualified teacher in 1960 – taught in Middlesex and Berkshire. Married Geoffrey in 1968 and children Richard and Caroline were born in 1970 and 1973 respectively. Retired in 1996 and moved to Ilminster in Somerset. Keeps in regular touch with **Pamela Mackey** (Shelton-Smith 1950-56) and **Daphne Osborne** (Smith 1950-55). Now attends the local 'Active Retired Keep Fit' classes which are great fun.

Ann Reed (Howell 1951-56). Attended her first Reunion last year with friend **Valerie Henry** (1951-58). She realises that next year will see the 50th Anniversary of 'her group' starting at the School and hopes to gather a party together – see block notice below.

Diane Selman (Dall 1951-56). Now living in France but will be attending the Reunion.

Clive & Marjorie Toogood (Clive 1951-56, Marjorie Smith 1950-55). Clive is taking a day off from Sandown Racecourse so that he and Marjorie can attend the Reunion. Marjorie will be one of those celebrating their 50th Anniversary of starting at the High School.

Carolyn Mason (King 1952-58). A New Life Member – has lived on the Isle of Wight since 1975 and now writes poetry (as Carolyn King). Son Simon got a First in History at Oxford and is now Head of Sixth Form in a Leeds Comprehensive school. Daughter Joely is in publishing, travelling throughout Wales and the south of England although she lives in Cardiff. Carolyn hopes to attend the Reunion.

Christine Wilson (Adams 1952-58). Remembers being a very proud member of the SHS 1st XI hockey team who won all their matches! Would like to hear from former friends, particularly **Brenda Lord** (Hammond).

Ian (Jim) Lindop (1952-60). Very much younger than the rest of his year at School so he played about and earned the nickname 'Loopy Lindop', later shortened to 'Loop'. The excellent grounding he had in languages helped in becoming a well-seasoned business traveller and setting up in business. After a few ups and downs is now a Consultant to overseas glass companies who have business in the UK. Married **Sue Carter** (SHS) and they now have their first grandchild. Always looks forward to meeting old friends at the Reunion.

Anthony Lucas-Smith (1952-60). Works with the Open University and has asked us to mention it in the Newsletter!! As he says, you will see details of OU successes elsewhere in these notes. Many congratulations to all those who have put in the time and effort for worthwhile results and it all proves that 'it is never too late'.

Avril Sutton (Esson 1953-58). A New Life Member who will be attending the Reunion with **Linda Hunter** (Gamble 1954-58).

Theda Bramble (1954-61). Says she enjoyed last year's Reunion – the first she had attended in a very long time – looking forward to this year's event. Still living in Slough and teaching at Eton End PNEU School in Datchet. Would be pleased to hear from anyone at SHS at the same time as her.

Lesley Teasdale (Gerrish 1954-62). Following her husband's retirement, most of her time will now be spent

at their home in France although they still have a house in Brussels.

Celia Johns (Nelmes 1955-62). Has made an extremely good recovery from two hip replacement operations and can now do things which were extremely painful or impossible before – like standing to sing in a concert. Recently finished six years of hard work with the Open University and is now the proud possessor of both a BSc (Hons) and a Music Diploma. Sends good wishes to all who remember her and looking forward to seeing everyone at the Reunion. *Congratulations on your successes.*

Pauline Moses (Turner 1955-62). Pauline and her husband, Raymond, resigned their posts as Head teachers in their respective primary schools in Sittingbourne in August 1998 and moved to St Mary's Bay, Romney Marsh. Both are teaching part-time and enjoying a less stressful routine. Pauline keeps in touch with **Mrs Boul** and would like to hear from friends from the High School days.

Debbie Wright (Bishop 1956-62). Recovering from a lengthy illness and is now at Lingfield, Surrey, in her new job at a Quaker establishment. *We wish her well and hope to see her at the Reunion.*

Christine Elbourne (Hampshire 1956-63). Her father taught Latin at SGS for 30 or so years until his retirement in 1969! While studying for a French degree at Durham she met her husband-to-be Nigel and they married in 1967. An assistant chief examiner for A-level French oral exams and has been a magistrate for 12 years. Nigel became a priest and is Rural Dean of Congleton and honorary Canon of Chester. Daughter Kate is a silversmith and son Julian teaches English in Le Havre and is married to a French girl.

Christine Seaville (Herman 1957-62: 3rd form entry). At the moment lives in Victoria, BC, Canada although she is trying to return to Alberta. Saw her first OP Newsletter last year – and recognised some of the names. Sees the **Pywell** twins and has some news via them. Would love to hear from anyone who knows her, via e-mail vicseav@uvic.ca and sends best wishes. *(Valerie will know new e-address if the move takes place.)*

Barbara Story (Beaufoy 1959-66). Will be at son's school on Reunion Day, helping to raise funds for the Parents Association – Royal Grammar School, Guildford. The money will be used for equipment, special projects, research etc. Sends special good wishes to **Anthony & Barbara Mayo** and **Vanessa Fry** (Mattingly) and hopes to see us next year.

Good wishes from: **Valerie Cowdery** (Wallis 1950-55), **Pamela Green** (Maton 1951-56), **June Hole** (Bates 1952-56), **Pam Millis** (Pywell 1952-56), **Colin Dutton** (1952-57), **Wendy Heath** (1956-59), **Carolyn Clarke** (Lloyd 1956-63), **Ann Davis** (Whitefield 1956-63), **Howard Smith** (1956-64), **Annette Walker** (Penton 1957-62).

REUNION 2001

Are **you** in contact with, or have any information on girls from **Miss Cooke's** GCE 'O' level class of 1956? Very few joined the Old Paludians so I am desperate for help from any other source!

Please contact: **Mrs Ann Reed (née Howell)** at .. or contact Valerie Storie - Secretary. Thank you.

1960s

Anne Hillier-Rogers (Hillier 1964-71). Lives in Cheshire with her husband, son and daughter. Teaches maths at Altrincham Boys Grammar School. Plays second violin in the School Orchestra (Mrs Faultless would have been proud!) Was in Slough recently to celebrate her mother's 70th birthday. (Mother **Barbara Hillier** (Colgate 1940-46) and sisters **Margaret** and **Janet** all attended Slough High School.)

Capt. Laurie Brokenshire, RN (1966-71). A New Life Member – he sends good wishes to all.

Rev. Ruth Pyke (Braddock 1968-75). New Life Member – after leaving SHS went to Bath where she read for a BA in music. Now living in St Albans, married with four children and has recently been ordained as a priest in the Church of England. Would love to receive news of any girls or staff she knew from those days at school. Sends good wishes to all.

New Life Member: **Vivien Purdy** (Fowle 1964-69), **Ian Cairns** (1964-71), **Tim Keohane** (1964-71), **Gary Sander** (1964-71), **Colin Cairns** (1965-72).

Good wishes from: Sue Page (Mossman 1966-72).

****1970s****

Sandy Dale (1971-78). Following a serious illness and the death of her mother, moved to Cornwall. Enjoying living in such a quiet place – great walking to the beach and chatting to the local people. It was the right move despite little furniture and still unpacking!! Hopes to attend another Reunion one day.

This year a group of 'girls' are celebrating their 25th Anniversary of starting at SHS. Besides the news items below, those attending are **Diane Gallo** (Edworthy), **Amanda Johnston** and **Alison Duchezau** (Bowater).

Susan Jones (Hames 1975-81). Living in Earley near Reading. Can't believe that it is 25 years since she began at SHS. Has four children now (9, 7, 7, and nearly 2) and still works as a part-time police officer on the Domestic Violence Unit. Husband **Dean** (SGS 1973-79) also in the Police Force will be promoted to Inspector this year. Keeps in touch with four or five class friends and hopes to meet with even more as they celebrate their Anniversary year. Has heard from **Ruth Jackman** who is getting married this coming May.

Janet Smith (Shepherdson 1975-81). Can hardly believe that it is 25 years since she started at SHS in **Miss King's** class. Still teaching in a 'tough' school in the West End of Newcastle. Children, Joshua (6) and Esther (4) talk of following Janet and grandma (**Mary Shepherdson** née Clements 1949-56) into teaching, otherwise they will become nurses like their Dad! Would like to hear from 1975 classmates. Janet's sister, (**Helen Hodge** (Shepherdson 1977-83) had a third baby boy on 9 December, brother for Louis (5½) and Theo (3). Mary, Janet and Helen send their good wishes to all.

Good wishes from: Alison Woodworth (Kirby 1971-78), **Rosy Eade** (Roberts 1978-82).



Overleaf you will see the form to complete should you wish to order a copy of the book published to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the Old Paludians.

**Recollections of Slough Secondary School & the Old Paludians
as remembered by Peter Bennett and others**

A number of Old Paludians put pen to paper with their memories for the Grammar School's '**Sixty Glorious Years**' Exhibition in 1996 and it was the idea of Peter Bennett and the Committee to expand these into a book. It is in three sections: firstly, memories of the forerunner of today's School followed by the story of the Old Paludians Association and lastly, highly personal recollections of some of the members themselves. Together, these form part of the social history of the times - there were the horrors of two world wars, the split of the Old Paludians into 'boys' and 'girls' sections seemingly forever and then the gradual coming together again. Now, in the year 2000, the Association continues to grow, former pupils of all ages remember their schooldays with nostalgia and friendships forged long ago are still flourishing or being renewed.

... it's funny ... it's poignant ... it will make you think ... and remember ...!



We've lost touch with:

We are looking for news of the following: the address of **Peter J Taylor** who left S.G.S. in 1971 and went to Oxford (believed to have had a sister Elizabeth who went to Bath Uni)– Gwen has had an enquiry from Exeter College: Paula Atherton is looking for **Margaret Nunn** (1946-53): Margaret Paine anxious for news of **Brenda Joiner, Fuchsia Williams, Joyce Werrell, Joan Williams, Barbara Brooks & Audrey Bateman** - all 1943-48 era. Fred Collins would like to have news of **John Fry, Leslie Darkes, Gordon Duncan, David Pentelow, 'Ginger' Lane, Terrence Wherelock** and other classmates. Does anyone have a new address for **Terry Knight** (1952-60), **Leslie Greenaway** (1954-61), **Jennifer Bereska** (Wincomb 1956-63) or **Mrs J Busby** (Staff : 1943-47) or any other information as their 'January' letters have been returned.



But we've found:

During the year we have received news of many former pupils of both the High School and Grammar School – and earlier - and they have all become Old Paludians: we now number over 600. The School has its own web-site www.sloughgrammar.berks.sch.uk which includes a section on the Old Paludians and this has proved useful. We often have letters asking for news of former classmates, addresses of classmates being sought etc – and most times we can oblige. So thank you – *and keep looking.*

We have details and addresses on file or know how to find them, so please contact Gwen or Valerie if you wish to get in touch. Likewise, if you see a familiar name and would like details, Gwen or Valerie will be pleased to help.

The Old Paludians:

- Chairman - Kathy Clark
- Secretary - Valerie Storie
- Treasurer - Gwen Gale

✂ ✂ ✂

Recollections of Slough Secondary School and the Old Paludians as remembered by Peter Bennett and others. If collected from Valerie or Jean Tyler, the book costs £5.50, it is soft backed and illustrated.

For postal orders, please complete the form and send to:

Mrs Jean Tyler, [redacted] ☎ [redacted]

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