

The
Old Paludians Newsletter

Founded 1915

Website: www.oldpaludians.org

March 2004

GENERAL NEWS

We would like to thank everyone for their wonderful generosity. The Old Paludians' gifts have enabled us to help future generations by giving books and other items to the Library, Speech Day prizes and items suggested by Mrs Lenton that contribute to the well-being of the present School. In particular, our special gift to mark the 90th anniversary of the School was the Commemorative Clock. At last year's Reunion the two oldest members present, Rinah Kew and Connie Edwards, assisted by the current Head Girl and Head Boy, unveiled the Clock now in pride of place between the Honours Boards in the Hall; it has simple wording and a matching surround. Our grateful thanks to everyone.

Regular readers will recall that next year we will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of our founding in July 1915. We will be looking to make it a special occasion and it was suggested that we produce a further book of recollections to continue and complement Peter Bennett's work. So please send us your memories: 'pen portraits' of people such as friends, teachers etc, maybe a description of an event - whatever you wish with a photograph if possible. Jean Tyler and David Rogers will co-ordinate the items. With 90 years of history behind us, there must be so many stories, anecdotes and memories. They don't have to be from long ago, just reminiscences that would otherwise be lost in the mists of time. Obviously the Book will be published next March so please let us have your contributions by the end of September.

Reading through the contributions, it is obvious there have been several mini-reunions during the year - sometimes members won't come along because there may not be anyone from their era. If you know just one person, that person will know others and so on - this is the way to ensure there is a crowd of your fellow pupils present and thus add to everyone's enjoyment. It is surprising just how far members will travel to meet up with friends.

Once again our thanks go to Mrs Lenton for having us invade her School and thank you to the staff who help both before and on the Day itself. It is a day that is looked forward to by many - a chance to meet up with friends and we hope everyone will enjoy themselves.

I apologise unreservedly for any errors and omissions in this Newsletter - these are entirely mine. It is a big undertaking but a very enjoyable one and I know from the many comments received that it is well-read and it gives everyone pleasure. Thank you for your support and all your contributions. I hope to be able to continue so please keep your news coming in. Valerie.

STAFF NEWS

Mrs N Boul (1936-45, 1950-73). Mrs. Boul is now at a nursing home in Woking. She broke her leg a year ago and spent two and a half months in hospital. She sends best wishes.

Miss G E Booth (1942-72). Best wishes for 2004.

Mr and Mrs Binstead (SGS 1945-77 and SHS 1947-76). Both are well – see also notes for Elisabeth in 1955. *Mr Binstead has several 'honourable' mentions in this year's newsletter – see Malcolm Hellings and Len Jackson, both from the 1940s era – Ed.*

Miss Margaret Rowland (1945-78). It has been a very eventful year for me. I had long admired a bungalow along the road from me – in fact I'd had my eye on it for years. It suddenly came on the market, and I was invited to see inside – I was very impressed, having almost as much space as my house. Eventually all the legalities were sorted out and I moved in August. I had lots of help and it was soon 'home'. House warming had to wait as in November and December I had two cataract operations; all went well and there was an added bonus – my colour vision is now far more sensitive. *Miss Rowland is very adept with the computer, too – Ed.*

Miss Marguerite L White (1947-71). The past year has been rather difficult for me and I still depend on lifts if I go to church or anywhere in the village. I can still potter in the garden and was able to enjoy the glorious summer and autumn we have had here. I've never known the trees so brilliant. I sat on the patio till the end of October. I was taken to my sister-in-law's 90th birthday last October. I was photographed as the oldest one present holding my great, great nephew aged 3 weeks and 1 day. I heard from **Miss Slattery** (Mrs Fraser) in Australia and from the **Pywell** twins. They have retired from nursing but are staying on in Canada. I shall be present with you in spirit and hope all goes well. Have a successful year and my good wishes for 2004 to any Old Pals who remember me.

Mrs Maureen Hancock (1950s). Spent from June to December at my 'other' home in a wonderful part of Kerry. It is peacefully quiet and near to the sea – got back just in time for Christmas. Good wishes for an enjoyable day.

Mrs Joyce Sprigg (Patrick 1953-57). *From Australia:* Our visits to SE Asia have been curtailed by terrorism, Sars virus and now bird 'flu! We did see the Great Right Whales in the Australian Bight last August. Up to 70 females and calves gather here away from the killer whales and sharks and it is a wonderful sight. Once fully weaned they return to the Antarctic. We also saw communities of sea lions basking in the sunshine. In September my sister and I went to the far north of South Australia to the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary – 6000 sq km of arid wilderness between 1500-1800 million years old. Once as grand as the Himalayas but now eroded to some 2000ft, these are some of the oldest rocks in the world. It is part of the northern Flinders Ranges. Locally the Vision Impaired Support group continues to flourish – we organise speakers, trips and the occasional party. It has been said "the vision may be impaired but they can certainly talk" !!!! The drought has broken in at least two-thirds of Australia after 3 years – the farmers have gone quiet!. With all good wishes for the Reunion. *Thank you for your lovely letter and I am sorry I had to shorten it – the holidays sounded fantastic. We send you our greetings – Ed.*

Mrs Valerie Benjamin (Orme 1961-63, 1970-76). As a member of Staff of SHS it would be nice to have a meeting with old colleagues and pupils. Are many still in touch?

Miss Anne Harris (1961-68). I shall not be able to be with you on 20 March as I have recently had my second hip replacement in less than a year and Norfolk is rather a long way from Slough for me to drive so soon. I wish you all well. Please give my greetings to any who remember me. I was pleased to call and see **Miss Sanderson** last summer; it was good to catch up on news. Thank you for all everyone does on our behalf.

Betty Symmons. I have moved from Iver Heath and look forward to reading the newsletter.

***IN MEMORIAM ***

Miss Connie Shaw (1951-74). It is with much sadness that we have to report the death of Miss Connie Shaw on 20 February. She had become increasingly frail over the past few months with several spells in hospital and was re-admitted soon after Christmas. Connie came to the High School in 1951 and taught RI until she left in 1974. She then went to the Selly Oak College of the Ascension and from there she spent a lot of time in Africa, particularly at Manzini where she taught at St Michael's School. After retirement she then worked for the Council of Swaziland Churches and she travelled extensively whilst in Africa. Having finally returned to Slough, she continued to go on occasional missions abroad and was a lay reader for several local churches in and around Slough. Reunions will not be the same without Connie for she attended regularly despite her mobility problems latterly and she had been delighted her cataract operations last year had enabled her to see properly again. Her funeral, on 2 March, was attended by many Old Paludians and representatives from other organisations with which she was associated.

Mr Glen Fallows (SGS 1960-89). After his National Service with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Glen Fallows went to Cambridge in 1952 and took his MA at Pembroke College. His first teaching post was at the Licensed Victuallers' School for Boys, and in 1963 he joined the English Department of Slough Grammar School, later becoming Head of Department, the post he held until he retired in July 1988.

During these 25 years he instilled in his pupils a deep knowledge of, and love for, English language and literature. He was a highly regarded member of the Staff at SGS (from 1982 until 1990 known as Upton Grammar School) both for his outstanding and imaginative teaching and for his unstinted involvement in numerous school activities and educational outings. But he was, perhaps, mostly remembered and admired for his many play productions which were as varied as Journey's End, Juno and the Paycock and the tragedies, histories and comedies of Shakespeare.

He was widely admired as a man of great erudition, with a sense of humour and an excellent turn of phrase. He had a keen interest in Music and especially the Fine Arts – and was an active painter himself. In addition he was a staunch supporter of Milton House as a vigorous cheer-leader, "Come on, Milton, let's have another one.!" Sadly he died early last May, but his memory will remain in the minds of so many Old Paludians. *Thank you to Mr Painter, Mr Roberts and Mrs Holgate for this tribute – Ed.*

Mr W Ian James (SGS 1968-85). David Rogers writes: "We were saddened to hear, just before Christmas, the news of the death, at the age of 84, of Mr W. Ian James. He was appointed to Slough Grammar School for Boys in 1968 as Head of Modern Languages, continuing in that role in Upton Grammar School until his retirement in 1985. He became a Senior Housemaster, and was Teacher-Governor for many years. Ah, yes! With a proud war record, he was a strong and vigorous teacher, a skilled and successful manager and someone who, both in school and retirement, seemed indestructible. We send our condolences to his widow and family"

Editor's Note: Sometimes we are unaware of the passing of members and are informed too late for inclusion in the Newsletter for that particular year. Even if a considerable time has elapsed we like to include notes about those who have died because their former colleagues, school friends and contemporaries like to recall happier times. The gift of a book is given to the School Library in remembrance: each book has a special nameplate recalling names and years at the School and in this way their presence lives on in a practical way. Where possible the Librarian tries to match the interests of the member with the subject matter of the book.

****1920s****

Mrs G M Bennett (Knight 1922-26). Gwen says her sister will be 94 in August. She is content and settled in the Nursing Home and looks forward to visits from her family.

Robert Westmore (1927-32). We have heard that Bob has died in Hamilton, Canada in June 2003 – he had lived in Canada for many years and he wrote of his time at the Secondary School and his subsequent achievements in Peter Bennett's book.

****1930s****

Peter Bennett (1930-36). Peter is still in Oxford House, Slough and is settled. In spite of mobility problems and difficulty with one hand, he is well in himself. He is busy setting down on paper his wartime memories and hopes to have a small tape recorder shortly to make his task easier. He would love to have more visitors so anyone with an hour or two to spare will be assured of a welcome. *We send our good wishes, Peter, and look forward to reading some of your memoirs – Ed.*

Marjorie Cruse (1931-35). For six years I have been in sheltered accommodation in Gerrards Cross. Not a lot has happened over the past year – I am nearly 84 now and my small poodle is nearly 14 so neither of us are in the first flush of youth!! It's rather difficult to get around and many contemporaries are no longer with us. Buses are awkward to manage now so I will think of you all on 20 March enjoying yourselves and look forward to reading the Newsletter. Best wishes for 2004.

John Gunn (1931-36). Advancing age means I don't get about much and so will be unable to attend. Are there many of my year still able to be there? If so, I send best wishes to them and, indeed, to all of you. My youngest brother, **Colin**, who was at SGS about 1939-44 and in Australia for 40 years, unfortunately died in Brisbane last August. Three of my brothers and I were at the School although Colin was the only one in the new buildings. I am in touch with **Mary Shirland née Jennings** who lives in Pennsylvania. We have always corresponded and she is still very active enjoying various outdoor pursuits especially ornithology – she's quite an authority apparently. *Do you recall the paintings.... John remembers being in the huts at the SSS and on the walls were 4 watercolours by the artist William Callow. He was a famous artist 1812-1908 and his works command good prices. They were thought to be originals, so what happened to them? Can anyone remember – did they go to Lascelles Road, did they remain with the girls – where are they now? Please see "IN MEMORIAM" below for a tribute to Colin – Ed.*

Gabrielle Moody (1931-36). I like to keep in touch with the news but at 85 I find travelling difficult. Best wishes to everyone who remembers me especially when I was Secretary.

George Pontin (1931-36). I am looking forward to the Reunion and meeting everyone again. I will be with my fiancée Nancy. She was poorly before Christmas so we had a quiet time and cancelled a lot of parties but she is well on the way back to her normal self. Kind regards to everyone.

Margaret Gillett (McGillivray 1932-37). **Warwick Dyer** (1933-39). Both are unable to come along on 20th but send best wishes to everyone. Margaret writes that she and Jim 'jog' along day-to-day at 81 and 85 respectively, trying to keep their heads above water! Warwick had major heart surgery early in January and is making good progress. She hopes he will be back to his old self shortly and will visit him soon. *Our best wishes go to Warwick for a full and speedy recovery – Ed.*

Joan Clack (Waite 1933-38). Apologies and best wishes for a successful day. Still busy keeping up with the garden, allotment and Red Cross work. Greetings to those from my years who may be reading this.

Cecily Earl (1933-38). Sends best wishes for a successful Reunion.

Len Thorne (1934-36). My sight is improving after a cataract operation but I am awaiting new glasses and then hope to be back to normal. Sadly I have had to give up flying since last August. Kind regards to all and best wishes for a successful meeting. *Len will be 84 in April. All good wishes from the Old Paludians – Ed.*

David and Ann Neale (David [1934-40] and Ann [Keeping] 1945-50). Please convey our warm greetings to all who remember us. We continue as a large family, now in South Woodford, together with our elder daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren. David's mobility has now become quite limited (a vertigo situation is better as far as nausea is concerned, but balance remains a problem), and we apologise for our absence on 20th March. We also regret missing out on our annual visit to Gwen Allen last summer.

Mavis Mackinnon (Cooper 1935-41). My apologies for not being able to attend. Have a good meeting. I still visit my younger daughter, Sandy, in Chicago although flying after 9/11 has its anxious moments. Thanks to **Gwen Gale** for the good work done by her – a hard act to follow.

Jean Bostock (Burnett 1936-41). Sorry that circumstances prevent me from attending the Reunion this year but I send my best wishes to all, particularly the dwindling numbers from my school years. As always, I shall look forward to reading the Newsletter.

Allan Burney (1936-41). A very belated thank you for the 2003 newsletter. It made most interesting

reading. It was great to get in touch with **Gerry Lines** (1936-41, see below) and we have exchanged E mails.

After so many years except for the names I put to the 1936 photo I do not remember other names mentioned in the newsletter except for **John Mabbot** (1935-41) whose face I can still picture. I remember clearly that he lived opposite the school in Lascelles Rd. Memory is a funny thing In my day when you entered the main door the school hall was straight ahead and to the right of it was the honours board. The first name was **Gecks** (he was possibly head boy around 1936/7) he was the UK schoolboy high jump champion and introduced the style known as Western Roll to the UK..

*Thank you, Allan for your 'stroll back in time! **Joseph Gecks** was mentioned in Peter Bennett's book (p23) – he jumped 5ft 7½ins at the All England School Sports in 1936 tying for 1st place. He was also the High Jump Champion at the AAA Junior Championships the same year with a height of 1.72m in 'new money'. He served in the Royal Artillery during the War and reached the rank of Captain. He returned to work for Shell and went to Malaya. He was chosen to represent Malaya in the 1948 Olympics but he declined saying the honour should go to a native born Malayan. I wonder if anyone has news of him? If so, please get in touch with me. Ed.*

Gerry Lines (1936-41). Has been in touch with several classmates – lives in Canada.

Pamela Spencer (Westcott 1936-41). Unable to attend because my husband is unwell.

John Ware (1936-41). Once again I'm unable to attend the Reunion but all best wishes for a happy and successful day. I am still working in my practice in Burnham and keep in good health. Still in touch with quite a number of Old Paludians, ranging from the antique and decrepit to the more modern versions!!

Arthur Day (1936-42). The world gets smaller as time goes by. An old friend from Farnham Common came to see me towards the end of last year – I am in Teignmouth. Her husband **Doug Hall** had been at the SGS with me. She was accompanied by **Margaret Paine**: it was then we discovered Margaret was an Old Paludian same as me and also **Joy (Hall)** had been at Montem School same as me. **Gerry Lines** (Canada) also got in on the act – his name had been passed to me by **Ken Bryant**. What a tiny world – now I have several people twisting my arm to come to the Reunion – I will try!!!! *Remarkable set of coincidences – Ed.*

Joan Hedge (Stutt 1936-44). My husband Leslie has unfortunately died. He was at the Slough Secondary School and then the Grammar School – I am not totally certain but I think his years were about 1932-37/8. *We are sorry to learn about Leslie – please accept our condolences – Ed.*

Rene Elfer (Bubb 1937-42). I will be unable to attend the reunion again this year, maybe next time. I would still like to hear from some of my classmates, 1937-1942 at Slough High School for Girls. I have been in touch with **Reg Cox** and am enjoying corresponding with him, also with **Islay (Lovegrove) Cox**. It's nice to reminisce about our days at school and about what we did afterwards. I have been in Louisiana since 1946, I have four children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren, the youngest is five years old, so they keep me young. The weather is usually warm or hot here, but we have had a cold winter this year, frost several times as well as cold wind and rain. My sister, **Muriel Aird** (1946-53), will not be able to attend this year and I have always enjoyed her reports of who she talked to and what they are doing now. *See entry for Muriel below.* I think you all do a wonderful job of keeping the Old Pals going, I'm sure it is almost a full time job, but the results are appreciated so much by everyone. I hope it can go on for many years. I will look forward to the newsletter, it is always so welcome, thanks for a job well done. *So pleased to hear how you are getting on, Rene, and for the kind words. You certainly have to keep on the ball with all the great grandchildren, how lovely for you – Ed.*

Iris (Betty) Hull (Burnett 1937-42). Tony and I had a month-long holiday in Malta last Easter and were greatly impressed with all the Easter ceremonials. Also went to Crete in October where the 30°C left us rather unprepared for the 3° of frost when we landed at Bristol on our return. Tony has had a few hiccups in health lately but we keep going with delivering meals-on-wheels and church work taking most of our time and energies. Best wishes to all "golden oldies" who remember me. Long may the Old Paludians prosper! Best wishes to **Gwen** on her retirement.

Frank Robotham (1937-42). Frank and his two brothers, **John** and **Dick**, will all be attending this year's Reunion. *Is this a record – to have a family of 3 siblings present at one gathering? – Ed.*

Faith Atkinson (Stewart 1937-43). We had a mini-Reunion last May. Six of us, Ivy, Mary, Betty, Pam, Barbara and me met for lunch at Burford in a small country pub. Some others were unable to come, due to holidays or last minute hitches, but we hope to arrange a repeat fixture before too long when a few more might join us. We all had a really happy time and, as you can imagine, plenty to talk and laugh about. Best

wishes for 2004. *It is so good when groups of old friends are able to join up after a long gap – I am sure you all felt like teenagers again as the years dropped away. Hope you meet again soon - Ed.*

Paddy May (1937-44). Both Pam and I look forward to seeing all our 'old' friends again in March. Thank you for all the hard work the Committee undertake – best wishes to all.

Edna Parrett (Hearn 1937-43). I hope you have a happy and successful day.

Jean K Jones (Grant 1938-42). Thank you for sending the Newsletter, but now they sadden me as I shall never be able to come to England again (sob!, sob!). Every good wish to all. *We send our greetings to Jean who still remains our sole representative in South Africa - Ed.*

Margaret Hall (Bowles 1938-43). Margaret's daughter has let us know that since December, Margaret has been in a Nursing Home with Parkinson's Disease. *We are sorry to hear this and send best wishes to her.*

Audrey Tarrant (Elderfield 1938-44). Not able to attend the Reunion but send good wishes to all who may remember me back in the early 40s. Now, 60 years later, and with 4 grown-up children and 4 grandchildren, husband Phil and I are still enjoying our retirement on Vancouver Island and celebrate our 56th Wedding Anniversary mid-March 2004. Last year, in your Newsletter, I offered for anyone visiting this fascinating Island, to pop in and visit us for a 'cuppa'. You quoted we live *30 miles south of Victoria* and added *Hope you get lots of visitors*. The beautiful city of Victoria lies at the south end of Vancouver Island, and I am concerned there may be a crowd of Old Paludians still splashing about looking for the Tarrants to offer them a 'cuppa' – why – because we live 30 miles NORTH of Victoria in the village of Cobble Hill. Needless to say I still have my tea kettle ready and on the boil! Our tel: [REDACTED]. *Ooops – now I know why so many people with wet hair glare at me – sorry, Audrey. As usual, Audrey sent some lovely photos of herself and Phil in their beautiful 2½ acre garden – Vancouver Island is almost as large as England and there is always something new to explore on the Island. Congratulations from us all for your Wedding Anniversary.*

Daphne Anderson (1938-46). Dates clash again – awaiting a cataract appointment.

Betty Britten (Boys 1939-42). My best wishes to **Gwen Gale** retiring after doing a valiant job for a long time.

Joyce Amoroso (Kirtland 1939-44). I am sorry I won't be able to attend the Reunion due to the travelling involved. Still get a lot of pain making a journey from Lincolnshire very difficult – and then I would have get back again!. Apart from the legs, Kit and I keep fairly well with Kit nearly 80 now. He is very fit for his age which is marvellous as he has to help me a good deal. The family are all fine with the "grands" doing well, 1 degree, and 6 'A' levels most with top grades – we are very proud grandparents. I do miss coming to Reunions but *Anno Domini* has caught up on me. Best wishes to everyone who knows me.

Mollie Randall (Macrae 1939-44). I am not able to attend Reunions – the distance from my village near Cambridge is too daunting. I keep well but only semi-mobile. I still keep busy with church meetings, bridge three times a week and a U3A play reading group besides other social contacts. I was 91 in January but last year my eldest son John and his wife organised a great family reunion for me, about 30 came aged from 3 to 80+. A great time was had by all. Best wishes for many successful Reunions. *Mollies hopes to write some of her memories for next year's Anniversary book – Ed.*

Norman {Monty} Reeves (1939-45). Joined as a new Life Member at R2003. I attended my first Reunion last year and wish I had started earlier! Have one son and one daughter – after my first wife died, I remarried 14 years ago. My career was in Rubber and Plastics as a chemist and I ended up as Technical Director of Bestobell Aviation supplying all sorts of high performance polymer and metal constructions for the aviation industry. I now live near Ringwood. Looking back, I remember there was strict segregation between the SHS girls and the SGS boys in the forties. We joined the Slough Youth Centre and started a drama group, rapidly followed by the junior section of the Slough Centre Tennis Club – and equally exciting but more dangerous, mixed hockey. Problem solved!! I wonder why I remember more of the girls' names than the boys – odd that! I was nicknamed after Montague Norman who was the Governor of the Bank of England at the time and it has always stuck. I hope to be along and meet up with everyone again this year.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Mollie Greenwood (1937-39). *Mollie's sister Marjorie writes:* Mollie died in December 2002 aged 80. Up until her sudden death she enjoyed reasonably good health apart from her mobility. She really enjoyed her days at SHS; she made many friends among the pupils and staff and she counted Miss Crawford a friend also. She appreciated the help and encouragement she received both in school and on the playing fields for games. On going through her papers I found letters, cards and photographs that she received over the last 63 years. Many were as recent as 2002 and from her SHS friends. When she returned from the special Reunion in the 1970s she was full of joy about meeting her friends again. She went to Training College and took up her first teaching post in Manchester and was always anxious that every child in her care achieved their potential. Mollie became a Deputy Head in Manchester, then Head at a school in Eastleigh in 1965. Three years later she became Head at Swain House Junior School in Bradford, a school where she had taught on school practice in 1942. She helped guide the School in becoming a Middle School with over 600 pupils. She retired in 1985. Her ambition to be a teacher dated from the age of five and at her Memorial Service many tributes were paid to her dedication and inspiration from pupils, staff and parents. It was a happy occasion, full of joy and laughter – a tribute to a life fulfilled. *Thank you, Marjorie – I am sure many of those at SHS in those early years will remember her – Ed.*

Colin Gunn (1939-44). The sudden death of **Colin** is reported; he had lived in Australia for 40 years and died in Brisbane last August. He was very talented and had a distinguished career designing and building hydro-electric and other power stations. He was also amazingly fit so his sudden death was a shock to everyone. *We thank John for telling us about Colin who is survived by his wife Pamela and three children. We send our sympathy to all the family both in Australia and in UK. There will be members who will remember him and all the Gunn brothers. News of his death was also sent in by Julie Peake (1950-57) whose husband John had worked with Colin for 40 years. Thank you John and Julie – Ed.*

****1940s****

Nancy Evans (Pardoe 1941-43). Nancy is able to keep in touch with **Miss Eileen Tucker** (SHS 1943-52) and visits her from time to time.

Fred Collins (1941-47). We are planning a trip to England in March, just in time to attend the AGM of the Old Paludians! If it all comes together, we look forward to seeing you and also some of the other special people from the very dim and distant past. I thought you might be interested in this photo taken of me piloting my Cessna 180 on December 17th 2003, the 100th anniversary of the first flight by the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk. I just had to go up for a short flight to celebrate the occasion. I flew over the east coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia and took with me an old Royal Canadian Air Force bomber pilot from WW2, who flew 35 missions over Germany and was awarded the DFC. He has just lost his licence last year due to medical problems at the age of 83. I just hope I can keep my licence for that long! Look forward to seeing you.

Gwen Gale (Knight 1941-47). I would like to thank all the members for their support and friendship during the years I was Treasurer. My best wishes to everyone. *We, in return, would thank Gwen for taking on the job of Treasurer at a time when it looked as if the Old Paludians was in dire straits and in danger of folding. Together with Kathy Clark, who was Chairman, the Association was picked up by its boot strings and within a few years became a thriving Association once again thanks to their hard work. Gwen's meticulous book-keeping is legendary and she has looked after our finances with great dedication. We all send our best wishes to Gwen with the hope that her health soon improves – Ed.*

June Ginger (Hunt 1941-47). Best wishes to everyone and thanks to Gwen and Valerie for all their good work. *Many thanks for your remarks. June lives in sunny California – Ed.*

Ron Harris (1941-47). Members may like to know I am in touch with **Dave Smith** (D J Smith) who was at SGS 1942-47. Dave now lives at Pendeen near Penzance in Cornwall. His sister **Marion** was at SHS 1943-48 and is living in Mousehole, Cornwall. *Many thanks, Ron, for these details which are most useful – Ed.*

Audrey Bedford (Nickless 1941-48). Best wishes to everyone. John and I are both well. We went to Venezuela again in May/June last year and to Kansas in September to visit friends. My elder brother **Ron Nickless** died in November – many will remember him playing cricket in the First XI for Slough and then playing hockey. More recently he was involved in the sale of the old cricket ground in Slough which is now the home of the Bowls Club.

Ivy June Bordon (Jardine 1942-49). I hope to attend the Reunion – I have to go to Bulgaria in March but no

date for the flight at present. Sadly **Dorothy's** health is poor these days so we take one day at a time. I would thank you all for all the hard work and for the super Reunions so far. *At the time of writing, Ivy's sister Dorothy Jardine (1929-34) is in Upton Hospital. We send our greetings to her – Ed.*

Peggy Rapley (Haskell 1942-49). Best wishes for a successful meeting – sorry I cannot attend.

Ann Gillett (Hartley 1943-48). Sorry I won't be able to be at the Reunion but I will be visiting my sister in Florida (**Edith Sally [Billie] Hartley**), her 2 daughters and grandson. Our darling mother died in October, having achieved 100 years; in fact she visited USA last March to see her great grandson and celebrate her centenary. This was as well as a party back home since the actual day was in April.

Mike Limmer (1943-48). Unable to attend, as I will be away on holiday.

Margaret Paine (Paine 1943-48). Not long ago we had the Millennium and now it's 2004 – where does the time go? I recently heard from **Ann Gillett** (Hartley). *See above.* I also have the address of **Milly Porter** (43-48) who lives in Australia and caught up with **Valerie Jones** (Mallin) who now lives in West Wales and may be persuaded to come to the Reunion for the first time. It is nice to have had our regular group who attend increase by 4 in recent years – not bad as we left school well over 50 years ago – but sadly down one this year (*see below*). If you know of anyone else who started in 1943 – if you can remember that long ago !! – please phone me on 01753 643740. I was accompanying a friend who was visiting her friends in Devon and discovered that one of them was an Old Paludian – **Arthur Day** (1936-42) who is now in touch with others and hoping to attend the Reunion this year. It's a small world. Life and family are still keeping me busy but I get frustrated not being able to do so much in the garden.

Molly Smith (McKeown 1943-48). Greetings to all who know me. I will be away on holiday on Reunion Day.

Don Bargent 1943-50. New Life Member. Went into RAF from school – 1950-52. ICI Paints Division in Slough 1952-59 and then went to Mars Confectionery also in Slough 1959-86 and have been retired since 1986. Interests include: Golf, Travel, Photography and Computers. Married Josie in 1955 with our 'big' anniversary in 2 years time. Married daughter Sandra lives in Wallingford. Would like to contact school friends from the Sixth Form years 1948-50 and before.

Annette Chant (Pountain 1944-48). Greetings to all on 20 March – sorry not to be there.

Susan Cooper-Cronyn (Cooper 1944-52). It was with deep regret we learned of the death of Susan's husband in June 2003. We send our sympathies to Susan in her loss.

Joan Jones (Eyre 1945-50). Unfortunately I have an AGM at the Town Hall and as secretary I have to give a report on that day. *But so much more fun with us, Joan -Ed !*

Barbara Rigby (Kent 1945-50). Sorry I can't attend – we are away the week before and only return on that Saturday. Hope all goes well.

Trevor and Christine Taylor (Trevor 1945-51) and Christine [Scott] 1950-55). *My apologies to Trevor for calling him Trevor Scott last year. It was entirely my fault and maybe I should just take more water with it. Sorry Trevor – Ed.*

Mike Turner (1945-52). *Valerie writes:* I keep in regular contact with Mike Turner, who received a brief mention in the Newsletter last year. After serving 42 years in the Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea Police Forces, Mike retired to a small property in the Atherton Tablelands, back of Cairns, in the Far North of Queensland, and when not contesting with nature over the occupation of his property, spends a lot of time exploring by himself in the remote areas of Queensland, which is about the size of France. Apart from the coastal strip from the New South Wales border to Cairns, it is pretty empty, and contains the Great Barrier Reef, the largest area of rain forest outside the Amazon Basin, and a lot of savannah and desert, also many mountains, including Mounts Bartle Frere and Bellenden Ker, which are in Mike's backyard, so to speak, and exceed 5,300 ft. in height. One of his recent trips was from Cairns to Cape York, a round trip of about 1,800 miles through rough and mostly uninhabited country. The Cape York Peninsular is supposed to be the last great unexplored area of Australia, but probably Arnhem Land and the central deserts would dispute that claim! He sent me an account of this journey, which I found most interesting and entertaining reading, and I intended to include part of it in this edition of the Newsletter, but the original was too long, and no matter how hard I tried, I could not reduce it to a size compatible with space limitations and retain sense and continuity. If any member would like a copy of the original, please contact me and I will provide a copy. Mike was one of the gang who built the facilities at Taplow, and was responsible for the construction of the

famous or infamous cricket square, with its severely sloping outfield. Once a year, Mike meets up in Cairns with fellow OP **Ken Wallis**, who lives in Sydney, but comes through on his way to Mornington Island in the Gulf for his annual barramundi fishing trip. If anyone wishes to contact Mike, he would be pleased to hear from any Old Paludians. He is at [REDACTED], or e-mail [REDACTED]. *As you have guessed this was penned by Mike. Please get in touch for the full 7 page version of the trip to Cape York, this is the real "I'm a celebrity...get me out of here" country and makes fascinating reading. Thanks Mike, see you in July - Ed.*

Don Wells (1945-52). Sadly Don lost his wife Margaret in May in very sudden and unexpected circumstances. She was an instructor of tai chi and is missed by so many people. We send our condolences to Don and their two sons, Bruce and Stewart. He will be at his first Reunion this year.

Muriel Aird (Bubb 1946-53). I am so sorry that I shall be unable to attend the Reunion this year. My husband has been very seriously ill and although he is much better, he is neither fit enough to make the long journey with me nor to be left alone. During his illness, I have kept our dancing business going, still teaching ballroom dancing here in Weymouth and running dances in our beautiful Pavilion on the seafront. I hope you all have a lovely day and will look forward to receiving the Newsletter to catch up on everything. My best wishes to everyone, I will be thinking of you! *Good wishes to your husband for a speedy return to health-Ed.*

Anne Stephens (Hales 1946-53). We shall be away on holiday over the Reunion weekend – the only time we could get a flight. My husband is fit to fly now after his quadruple heart bypass last year so we want to go somewhere warm. I wish you a successful Reunion and good wishes to my contemporaries.

Philip Seal (1947-51). *I won't be attending this year, as I'm to take things easy for a while having just had an Angioplasty operation. In itself a modern slick operation with only 24hrs in hospital but I had to wait 18 months for it and have to take life a little easy whilst the heart now catches up, then I can resume gardening. Currently no lifting /carrying allowed. Hope all goes well for the Reunion and looking forward to the Newsletter. Get well soon – Ed.*

David Ewen (1947-52). New Life Member. Will be at the Reunion.

Malcolm Hellings (1947-52). Some thoughts from 1947! We were in the 'coke burning stove' huts – they were very cold in winter so overcoats and gloves were the order of the day. Can anyone remember the origin of our form master's nickname – *Dagwood* Binstead? He taught chemistry and was a strict disciplinarian. Bert Charman, the caretaker, had an old car jacked up in his garden for months – possibly waiting to be repaired (*or just no petrol – Ed?*). I can still see Mrs C dishing out prunes and custard and, although no-one would have dared asked for seconds, there wasn't much that would have encouraged such a thought anyway! Our local MP, Ben Levy, brought his glamorous actress wife (Constance Cummings) to Speech Day. Do you remember Vincent Evans, Art, and how he would show us the finer points of the *off drive* and *late cut* in class since he was very keen on cricket. Strange, he never played in the staff v pupils annual match?? In 2B I sat beside **Bob Gale** who was very good at everything – we were both keen on collecting train numbers in the good old days of steam but we went our separate ways in the second year. What became of him, I wonder? 'Nobby' Clarke was our headmaster, I remember the feats of Don Luck, our PE teacher, cream buns were 2½d but Travel Week was the best. We went on a visit to Intertype on the Farnham Road in Slough and 4 or 5 years later I went there to work beginning a long career in the printing industry. There was Ben Llewellyn, the GAD, Max Wall, Maxie Miller, Nick Cave and ... I recall...oh, so much from those days, it's just like yesterday. By the way, can someone tell me why I am upstairs, I'm sure my wife asked me to fetch something from the garage !!!!! Taffy H. *See also Len Jackson's poem below remembering the same names. Wonderful memories – thank you – Ed.*

Gerry Lake (1947-52). Passed on 4 names, all have become new Life Members. *Many thanks – Ed.*

Muriel Aird (Bubb 1947-53). Unable to attend this year and sends good wishes. *See her sister Rene's entry above (Effer 37-42 - Ed).*

Michael and Shirley Redford (Michael [1947-53] and Shirley [Collins] 1949-55). Our first grandchild, Emily May, arrived on 3 February and everything else took second place! Unable to attend the Reunion this year as we shall be in Devon. Hope all goes well and hope to see you in 2005.

Barry Garner (1947-55). Regretfully I will not be in the UK at this time. A pity because I would really enjoy attending and catching up with colleagues. My best wishes for another successful 'get-together'. *Barry is in Australia where he is a Professor at the University of NSW.*

The Fortyniners, from afar they came Cippenham Upton Lea.
Windsor House, Montem , Farnham, Wexham and Chalvey.

Eleven : wary, unsure, and into the huts, some stoking, they came

They gave us a motto " Ad Astra " " What's Latin ? "

Malcolm Doyle (1948-52). We are sorry Malcolm is unable to come this year especially as his trip last time was cancelled at the last minute. We hope to see him in 2005

We learned, we played, cross country "oh no!!", cadets, and some just grew.

Andrea Burn (Screen 1948-54). Sorry I can't attend – I will be in Portugal. Hopefully will be there next year.

Five years, ten years, for knowledge and wisdom, we travelled.

With creepers, d.a., thru fag smoke we went.

John Alder (1949-54) will be making my wife's Reunion in conjunction with my final year's (1954) 50th anniversary dinner being arranged by **Peter Burgess**. I look forward to meeting old friends for the first time since leaving school. They haven't changed a bit - have a great time – Ed.

In Fifty Four we left for the bigger school. Life.

They gave us another motto, "Sicitur Ad Astra" [such is the way to the stars]

Peter Burgess (1949-54). Planning a big UVB49 Reunion this year - it marks 50 years since we left the airy portals of SGS for the big, wide world - all the gang are meeting up for lunch the day before the Reunion and it will be a great get together especially as **Len** will be joining us from across the Big Pond. We will miss **Jeff** who had hoped to come from USA. I am in touch with **Keith Ball** (Canada), **Ernie Bevan**, **Joe Blott** (Jersey), **Brian Dilnot**, **Brian Duckett**, **Tony Patmore**, **Brian Pither**, **Mick Vockins** and **Eddie Woolford**.

Thank you, Cave, Wall, Binstead, Knobby Clark, Evans, et al.

Laini, French, Chemist, the "Cane", Art, Doris, gym, even the Ball.

To laugh, reminisce, share our joys, and tell tall tales along the way.

When we leave, there will be no tears, but the lump in the throat will tell it all.

Two have 'come to light' this year - **John Hughes** and **Richard York**. Seven have eluded us – see the ☹️ LOST section at the end. My picture history book of *Slough – a Century of Change*, is still available from me by post at £10 (incl postage) from 1 [redacted] ([redacted]) or I may have some copies with me at the Reunion.

And it is there in the high woods that I would wish to be.

Len Jackson (1949-54) that will be coming from Chicago this year and he has written a poem to mark the occasion, dedicated to

[unknown]

Thank you, Len, and I know how much the friendship of these Reunions means to you. I am honoured too, to have an honorary membership of the your UVB, though I drink less!!!! Ed.

Pamela Marson (Jervis 1949-55). Attending in the afternoon – no news apart from a new fifth grandchild.

Morag Norman (Cameron 1949-54). The farm is now fully organic – we have Gloucester Old Spot pigs, sheep and chickens as well as growing produce for the Farm Shop - and we had a mention in Rick Stein's new book! Lambing starts soon – a very busy time.

Jeff Parker (1949-54). Had hoped to come from California but his wife is unwell. We all hope she improves soon and send our good wishes – Ed.

Penny Schick (formerly Gniel, née Norcott, 1949-54). Penny continues to decorate exquisite eggs mainly using the eggs from her own 2 lady geese – the wife and daughter of Goosey Gander Henry! Occasionally she will buy emu or ostrich eggs. Still rides her lovely Arabian mare several times a week.

Valerie Storie (1949-55). I did a short Open University course last year on 'Writing Family History' which continues to be an abiding passion. In May I will have completed 3 years as Chairman of the Windsor Branch of Berkshire FHS which is both enjoyable and challenging. As Slough Community Transport has now become a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, this means I am now a Company Secretary – it also means I can go to prison if the required reports are not submitted at the correct time! Still go to WI when I can and I have been doing a short Writing Course at Slough Library since January.

John Hughes (1949-57). New Life Member. For 33 years I was a G.P. in Stratford-upon-Avon but retired in 1998. Married to Hazel. Retirement has been a full and interesting period of our lives and we both find our days so busy we have a job to fit into the calendar all the things we would like to accomplish! Attending my first Reunion and I look forward to meeting old friends.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Rosemary Barron (Brian 1942-48). We were told in May 2003 that Rosemary had died in February.

Valerie Burridge (Dyke 1943-48). Margaret Paine writes "Valerie sadly passed away suddenly soon after attending the last Reunion. She joined the Old Paludians a long time ago and attended many Reunions. Valerie had worked at Pinewood Studios for many years where she met her late husband Stan, eventually helping him with his accounting post with the film industry that took them on location to Germany for a while. Valerie and Stan had two daughters; she enjoyed her painting and was a member of her local art group. She will be much missed by our group of friends especially."

Caroline Lovegrove (Duckett 1949-55). Last March Caroline retired from all her many positions at St Mary's in Slough, the local Deanery and the Citizen's Advice Bureau as she was intending to move to Cheltenham. She received gifts in recognition of her lifetime of dedication to the Church and a special lunch was given for her at the end of March. Tragically she suffered a stroke during the meal but was making progress during the following week. She had learned of the birth of a new grandson when suddenly on 7 April she suffered a second stroke and the medical teams were unable to revive her. She is survived by her two sons, Martin and Raymond to whom we sent our deepest sympathies. *Our thanks to David Jewell for this sad report – Ed.*

****1950s****

Pamela Mackey (Shelton Smith 1950-56). Best wishes for the Reunion – I hope the day goes well.

Jean Tyler (Ireland 1950-56). It has been an interesting experience going into school to help with invigilating for the exams and helping with Industry Week. I hope more members will sign up as volunteers.

I have been told that some people do not come to the reunions because they are concerned that they will be the only one attending from their year. I am therefore suggesting that all of the members who started at SHS in 1950 (my year) make an extra special effort to come to next year's reunion. See you there!

Ian Simmons (1950-56). Apologies for not being able to come to the March Reunion – signed up to give a lecture in deepest mid-Wales.

Julie Peake (Albrow 1950-57). Julie sends news from Australia - After training to be a primary school teacher at Goldsmiths' College in Lewisham I taught in the East End of London for two interesting years. In 1961 I married John, who hailed from Melbourne, Australia and moved there a few days later. We had three children, Jane, Andrea and David while in Melbourne and then John was transferred to Queensland in 1967 where we have been ever since. Once the children were at school I returned to teaching and after 32 very enjoyable years I retired but still teach as a relief teacher from time to time. John and I both finished our careers in Mackay, a sugar town in the tropics, and then we moved to Buderim. This is a delightful small town only ½ hr drive North of Brisbane, 5 minutes from wonderful surf beaches and 30 minutes from the mountains. We have two daughters and 5 grandchildren in Brisbane, our son and family (3 grandchildren)

are in Chicago but saw them when attending my sister's wedding in July on the banks of Lake Tahoe (**Elaine** (SHS c '56-63).

Despite being away from Slough for 47 years I have maintained contact with quite a few of my school friends and have seen them all on more than one occasion. **Gillian Stewart** (Rider), **Alyson Coney** (Skinner), **Sue Cheale** (Clarke), **Jill Mansfield** and **Angela Clifford** (Rix) in UK and **Jacky Brinkman** (Hoskins) in Canada. I do enjoy reading The Old Paludians Newsletter each year. I wish you all the very best for a successful Reunion again this year. Who knows, I may be in England again when a Reunion is being held. Greetings to all my old school mates. Whatever happened to **Margaret Curl** and **Mervina Ridgeway**. Does anyone know?

Gillian Watts (Rawlins 1951-55/57). Unfortunately I am unable to come – yet again – due to illness, maybe next year. Please keep me informed and best wishes. *Gill is involved in Raintree House Holidays which offers holiday accommodation in homes let by their owners for the summer. Contact 01841 520130.*

Pat Greenfield (Gaskell 1951-56). Now living in ACT Australia but will be in UK & will attend the Reunion.

Norma Meyrick (Parker 1951-56). Coming to this year's Reunion and I know how much my brother **Jeff** had looked forward to linking up with the UVB 49 lads – he lives in California. It's been a good year for me and husband John, we have good health and we're really enjoying retirement. Delighted to have 'found' **Elizabeth Card** née Wilson – we used to cycle home together from SHS along the Farnham Road.

Ann Reed (Howell 1951-56). Some of us enjoyed meeting up at last year's Reunion - a highlight of the year, though, was in May when **Pamela** (née Higgins) visited England from her home in America. Several of us met for lunch and spent a lovely day with her, reminiscing and sharing memories. We hope to repeat the experience this year with **Pat** (née Gaskell) whose home is in Australia. Pamela recently told me she has traced **Winnie Jones** from our class of 1956, who now lives in France. What great news, as that just leaves two to complete 'the pack'. Namely **Jeanette Farmer** and **Valerie Lewis** – does anyone have any idea where they might be? On the home front, our family are thriving and enjoyed the wonderful summer. We are still having good experiences sharing our home here with students from the local Maritime College. In France, our second son and his wife are settling into a new home, so I hope to visit them this year.

Clive & Marjorie Toogood [Clive (1951-56), Marjorie (Smith 1950-55)]. Sorry we cannot attend again – Clive will be working at Ascot Races that day. We are just back from 5 weeks in New Zealand. Our regards to all others to have a good day.

Sue Cheale (Clarke 1952-56). Having been retired for over 4 years, and with the passing of my father and father-in-law, we took the opportunity to begin 'seeing more of the world'. We set off in early January, first stop Singapore. After 6 relaxing and interesting days we headed for Sydney where we enjoyed seeing all the sights. On 23 January we touched down in Brisbane and were met at the airport by **Julie Peake** (Albrow) and John who took us to a hotel overlooking the Expo '88 site where we met up with **Alyson Coney** (Skinner), who had spent two weeks with Julie and John as part of her 'round the world' trip. She had spent a month in S. India, where she was born, and had visited all the places where her mother, **Gwen (Sands)** had worked as a missionary. Alyson was then heading for New Zealand and the Cook Islands before visiting her daughter and cousins in the States.

After a busy week with Julie and John in Buderim, north of Brisbane, we continued our journey visiting Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef, Ayers Rock and Melbourne, where we stayed with my 3 cousins. We returned via Kuala Lumpur where we stayed in the Mandarin Oriental, right next to the twin towers and the Telecom Tower. We have not yet heard from Julie since our return but look forward to hearing that her hip replacement on 11 February was successful.

Ron Tandy (1952-56). New Life Member. I attended SGS from 1952 to 1956, I then completed an apprenticeship at Modern Wheel Drive, Slough, from 1956 until 1961, I then worked as a Draughtsman at Armstrong-Whitworth's until 1963 when I entered the Merchant Marines as an Engineering Officer. In 1968 I emigrated to the USA and worked as a Design Engineer until 1974 when I became a Chief Engineer at an Oil Tool Design Company. From 1983 until my retirement in 2002 I was Chief Engineer with a Bearing Manufacturing Company building Main Propulsion Bearings for the US Navy. I have been returning to the UK both for business and pleasure but this is the first time my trip will coordinate with the Old Pals Reunion. Looking forward to renewing old friendships and checking out who has lost the most hair and gained the most weight, I know I'm in the running. *Ron currently lives in Southern California doing consulting work for a UK company and will be returning in March for a business meeting – we look forward to welcoming him to his first Reunion – Ed.*

Carolyn Mason (King 1952-58). Sorry I won't be able to attend this year's Reunion – particularly as I ought to be able to since my main news is that I retired in June 2003. However, my main conclusion is that it is isn't really retirement but just a change of career (to one of Poetry). The only problem is that the new career doesn't pay! Still living on the Isle of Wight and later in the year my next poetry collection will be published. *Carolyn was in teaching and I did warn her last year that she would find she had no more spare time than before! Good Luck with the next collection – Ed.*

Jim Barker (1952-59). Unfortunately I will be in Australia on a short assignment otherwise I would have been there. 'Hello' to anyone who remembers me.

Stella Holmes (Ward 1953-57). Unable to attend the Reunion -- prior holiday arrangements. (= '49 intake)

Jean North (Ewen 1953-57). New Life Member. Sorry I cannot make the Reunion but supervising the grandchildren! My brother David Ewen (1947-52) will be there so I am represented!

Betty Lambourne (Milsom 1953-58). New Life Member. As a result of last year's Old Pals Reunion, four of us met in London last August to mark 50 years since we started at Slough High School, myself, **Pat Oldcorn** (née Horwood), **Anne Jerram** (née Smith) and **Christine Axford**. It was 30 years since we had all met together (with the exception of Pat and myself), and we enjoyed exchanging news and stories of our schooldays, experiences since leaving school, and general chat over lunch, and laughing over the old school photos. We are all looking forward to meeting again on March 20. We would love to hear from the rest of the group, if anyone knows their whereabouts, **Jane Bate, Brenda Nash, Susan Lloyd, Dilys Powell, Linda Partleton, and Pat Horsham.**

I retired last May from my post, over 14 years, as Mayor's Secretary of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, having worked for fourteen Mayors, and various changes of political control. I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement and being able to spend more time on my various interests, music (I am a member of two choirs, the Royal Free Singers and Voices Anon), photography (I recently joined Maidenhead Camera Club), cycling (I have been a member of Thames Velo Cycling Club for over 15 years) and walking.

Pat Parsons (Boulton 1953-61). News about Pat and husband **Alan** (1954-60) from **Linda Hunter** see below. A late update from Linda gives news that Suzanne, Pat and Alan's daughter, was expecting twins early this year making them first-time grandparents.

Judy Dean (Finn 1954-61). Unable to attend but hope you have a successful day.

Jennifer Brooks (Hudson 1955-60). Unable to make the Reunion – **Kathleen Marlton** (née Goldsmith), **Sue Phillips** (Payton), **Maureen Rouse** and I will all be in Paris. To celebrate our *special* birthdays this year, we will be re-living a school trip to France in April 1980. On that occasion, accompanied by **Miss White** and **Mrs Boul**, we never made it to the top of the Eiffel Tower, so, we will being off on the Eurostar train and will at last be able to see the view from the top of the Tower. *What a lovely idea and enjoy your day in Paris. Definitely no contest with Lascelles Road – Ed.*

Elisabeth Harvey (Binstead 1955-62).). I married an Australian (Vern Harvey) in 1971 and we lived in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) for six years and then Melbourne, and now Sydney for over 25 years. We have 4 children ranging in ages from 31 to 23, and three grandchildren. I was deputy head girl in my final year at school (1961-62) under Lesley Gerrish, with Margaret Arthur (I think) as the other deputy. (I still have my deputy head girl's badge pinned through the corner of a photo of Miss Crawford!) I met Janet Addis (Say) a few years ago - she was then living in Auckland. *Yes, still in NZ. Glad to have news from you - Ed.*

Celia Johns (Nelmes 1955-62). Since last September I have been on secondment to Business in the Community, am frantically busy and enjoying every minute. Not bad – just turned 60 (where do the years go) and a new job! My daughter expects a new baby in April, small Jack wants a brother so we are not sure what will happen if it's a girl. Looking forward to seeing good friends at the Reunion and my best wishes to those unable to attend.

Ruth Sheppard (Clark 1955-62). I am looking forward to seeing friends again. It's been a busy year with lots of musical shows and concerts. Our son, David, was in Iraq for 3 months and will have left the Army by the time this Newsletter goes to print. It was an incredibly anxious time. Still quilting for numerous great nephews and nieces, coming at regular intervals.

Peter Steinwender (1955-62). Peter is looking for 'lads' from his year. We have been able to put him in touch with **Colin Timms**. Can anyone else make contact? Please let us know.

Colin Timms (1955-62). Unable to attend as he will be rehearsing a performance of the St John Passion in Symphony Hall, Birmingham – he is the conductor of the University Choir and Orchestra who will be performing the next day in celebration of the 319th birthday of Bach. Best wishes for a successful Reunion.

Linda Hunter (Gamble 1956-59). I was away for last year's reunion but it was good to catch up the news via e-mail and to read about teachers and old school friends. I was away for five weeks during February and March (2003) with my husband who was fulfilling business commitments in Australia and New Zealand. While in NZ I was able to spend sometime with **Pat and Alan Parsons** (Pat was formerly Boulton), both referred to in the current newsletter in the 1950s section. I was bridesmaid to the two of them in 1966 and we still correspond regularly, as well as visiting each other as often as possible in view of the immense distance between us. Pat and Alan, both doctors, are still working very hard but manage to fit in the most hair-raising adventure holidays including a trip to the Antarctic and canoeing on the Zambezi. Pat intended to celebrate her birthday in 2003 by taking the whole family kayaking in Tonga! Over Christmas I heard from **Caryl Erdos** (Walford Evans) who gave news of **Mary Searle** and **Pauline Hillier** (Heseltine). They met up after 30 years and I hope to join them later for another mini-reunion. Met **Margaret Painter** (Butcher) in a car park after playing in a golf match last year – where will Old Paludians turn up next?

David Garrod (1956-63). New Life Member. Apologies as I have another engagement in Derbyshire and so unable to come to the Reunion.

Robert Moss (1956-64). Last May I received a note from my sister with an intriguing snippet – she had found a book on Birding (feathered ones) in a bookstore in Victoria BC – it was written by **Mark Cocker** and it mentioned SGS and Dr Long. Apparently Mark had been late back after lunch and blamed it on sighting a rare bird but Dr Long didn't go along with the excuse. I wonder if anyone can remember Mark or knows any more. In September 2003, 5 of the 1956 intake **Alan Alderman, Roger Fountain, Robin Hannigan, Tony Mayo** and myself met up for a weekend's walking on Exmoor and an inspection of the local hostelrys. A convivial time was had by all and a repeat is planned for 2004. *How much walking did you do – Ed ?*

Maureen Rouse (1957-61). I am sorry I am unable to attend the AGM on March 20th. I have a prior commitment. I have renewed friendships with three members. We were in the same year at SHS and are planning a joint birthday celebration this year. Best wishes to everyone. *See entry for Jennifer Brooks – Ed.*

Christine Seaville (Herman 1957-62: 3rd Form entry). I have moved from Alberta to wonderful Victoria, BC which is paradise. Flowers are out here (mid Feb) and in fact the climate is much like England. The move has helped me keep my sanity. The **Pywell** twins (whom I met at SHS) and I are driving to Indian Wells, California on March 11 to watch the Masters Tennis tournament. I have also made contact with a couple of classmates **Janet (Say) Addis** and **Annette (Penton) Walker** thanks to the Old Paludians. Annette was my tennis partner in the SHS tennis team. Also heard briefly from **Desne Hartwright** (Clarke).

Robert McGoun (1957-64). New Life Member and will be attending the Reunion.

Jackie Barlow (1958-63). I will be unable to attend the reunion but wish everyone well for the occasion. I am still working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, currently based at the Governor's Office in Anguilla (West Indies). *Jackie is currently Staff Officer to the Governor – enjoy the weather – Ed.*

Ronald Ferris (1958-64). New Life Member. I will be at the Reunion.

Jennifer Ballard (Biss 1959-62). Moved into a flat of my own at beginning of Feb this year and if I did my job the way the banks, phone companies, insurance companies etc do a very simple thing like change an address, I'd be out of a job!! What a complete nightmare. Still enjoying my work though.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Keith Halstead (1952-60). I very much regret that I failed to insert the following note about Keith in last year's Newsletter – I had written to his widow when we were notified. His name is included in the Roll of Honour read out at this year's Reunion. Keith died on 22 February 2003 – he was a pupil of the Grammar School between 1952 and 1960. My sincere apologies to Frances.

Susan Young ((1955-60). Sadly, Susan died on 15th March 2003, just before her 60th birthday. She had been severely disabled for many years and gradually suffered increasing ill health. In 1990 she needed to have both her legs amputated above the knee. In spite of this she managed to achieve many things including flying in Concorde and riding in a hot air balloon. With the help of a friend/carer she travelled to many places. In 1997 she was voted Express Woman of the Year. She had many talents including beautiful embroidery. *Thank you to Renée Edwards (née Gostick) for this report. Susan's death was just prior to last year's Reunion and we were able to remember her in the Roll of Honour but the news came too late for inclusion in the Newsletter – Ed.*

****1960s****

David Upton (1963-70). Not only is David the accompanist for the Windsor and Eton Operatic Society but is a published author. His book, *The Lost Holmes*, is an ingenious pastiche bringing together the melodrama of a Conan Doyle short story with the complexity of an Agatha Christie whodunnit in a heady mix of dramatic action, convoluted clues and intriguing red herrings. David is the son of the late Mary Upton who taught at the High School.

Richard Lewington (1964-67). New Life Member. Richard is currently in Ecuador with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Looking for **Roger Chilcott** – see 'Lost' section at the end of the NL.

Anne Hillier (1964-70). I am still living in Alderley Edge, Cheshire and teaching maths at Altrincham Boys Grammar School. Best wishes to all.

Valerie Greenfield (1965-71). At last I am attending a Reunion. I am still working as a family law solicitor in Greenwich. Judy and I had a wonderful holiday in Kerala, in South India at Christmas. We spent Christmas Day on a houseboat floating on the backwaters. My sister, **Deborah**, now lives in the pretty Somerset village of Wedmore – her children are now 13 and 8 years old. My other sister, **Janice**, is currently taking 6 months unpaid leave in New Zealand where she is doing a lot of walking and cycling. Looking forward to meeting up with people I haven't seen for years on the 20th – hope I'll recognise them.

Sally Lovelock (Fryett 1965-72). Sorry I am unable to attend but hope you all have a very enjoyable day.

Laurie Brokenshire (1966-71). Now retired from the high seas, Laurie will be at the Reunion this year.

Di Aldrich (Veevers 1966-73). Jerry and I are enjoying our secondment near Dallas, Texas. I am using the time as a sabbatical to learn as much about US business and culture. Apart from being a part-time journalist, I volunteer with the local Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis. Where we live is the fastest growing county in the US so there is plenty happening.

Keith Langham 1966-1974). Unfortunately, living in deepest Northumberland, I don't think it will be possible to attend. I have found the website fascinating and will continue to visit it. Mind you, as my old dad used to say "Nostalgia isn't what it used to be". Best wishes to anyone senile enough to remember me!!

Lesley Ashton (1967-74). Many apologies that I cannot be with you. However, I will be away with my Guides for the weekend. I am currently Division Commissioner for the Guide Movement in the Slough area. A challenging, yet fulfilling role that complements my day job of teaching boys!

Chris Fothergill (c.1968-74). Chris is an artist of some repute. After early travels abroad, he was educated at Slough Grammar School. Always drawing and painting through childhood, Chris also had musical interests, and from 1974-77 studied Musical Instrument Technology at the London College of Furniture. The following ten years were spent working tuning and restoring pianos, but the drawing and painting would not go away. In 1987 Chris moved to Northleach, where he and his wife Gill established a Gallery to form a basis for their creative pursuits. In addition to painting in watercolour, Chris has produced a varied output, from cartooning and illustrating to letter carving and sign-making. In 1996 he was commissioned to design and carve a town sign for Northleach, which was well received and led to the commissioning of a new sign for the village of Yanworth. Chris had hoped to join us for the Reunion as it is 30 years since he left SGS but

will be painting in Italy.

Christina [Tina] Francis (Burrell-Davis 1968-75). Tina is now Head of Infants at The Maris School, Sunninghill.

****1970s****

Sandy Dale (1971-78). Life in Cornwall is wonderful and I'm in the middle of getting a lot of alterations done to my house. I look forward to getting the newsletter as I'm not going to the reunion - too far away!

Alison Scarborough (1975-81). New Life Member. Alison contacted us with the following query: "I would be interested to know if any former pupils of Miss Waller, who was the music teacher at the time, remember performing *Christmas Jazz*. I am particularly interested in obtaining a copy of the sheet music for this." *If anyone can help please contact me as per the details given at the end of this Newsletter. Thank you – Ed.*

****1980s****

No news from any of the Old Paludians from this era.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2003/2004

(Oops - some are out of date order - sorry!!)

1930

Norman (Monty) Reeves 1939-45

1940

Stuart Callaway 1941-47
 Valerie Jones (Mallin) 1943-48
 Don Bargent 1943-50
 Jean Thomas (Thoms) 1944-52
 Richard (Dick) Robotham 1945-52
 David Ewen 1947-52

* Julia Wilson (Ewen) 1948-52
 John Hughes 1948-56
 Ernie Bevan 1949-54
 Brian Duckett 1949-55
 Jean Pritchard (Wisbey) 1949-56

1950

Chris Penman 1951-55
 Margaret Newbury (Sabey) 1951-56
 Jean North (Ewan) 1953-57
 Betty Lambourne (Milsom) 1953-58
 Jane Brookling (Lake) 1953-59
 Joyce May (Wagstaff) 1953-60
 Clare Fear (Wignall) 1955-60
 Patricia Loveday (Coleman) 1955-60
 Robin Hannigan 1956-61

* Peter Steinwender 1955-62
 Ann Hermsen Wilkinson (Tiunan) 1956-61
 John Robotham 1955-62
 David Garrod 1956-63
 Robert McGoun 1957-64
 Keith Rowe 1957-64
 * Elspeth Christie (Adcock) 1958-60
 Ronald Ferris 1958-64
 Ron Tandy 1952-56

1960

Don Bull 1961-68
 Ray Bowyer 1962-69
 Yvonne Davies (Ranscombe) 1962-69
 Peter Rainey 1962-69
 Michael Lewington 1963-71

* Richard Lewington 1964-67
 Julie Stark (Reynolds) 1966-71
 Gillian Lockwood (Harris) 1966-73
 Stephen Mulcahy 1966-74

1970

Alison Scarborough 1975-81

1980

Nicola Brennan (Parnell) 1986-92

- Indicates membership too late for inclusion in last year's Newsletter

WELCOME TO ALL NEW LIFE MEMBERS

We welcome all those who have become Life Members. Our website will keep you fully informed of news, dates of events etc. and for those of you within striking distance of Lascelles Road we hope to see you at our Reunions and other functions. Letters giving news of the Reunions are sent out by post or email each January to all members and others who have shown interest and made contact during the previous year.



We've lost touch with:

Rene Elfer (Bubb 1937-42). From Louisiana, USA, Rene is still hoping to catch up with anyone in her years and would love to hear from them – see her entry above.

Fred Collins (1941-47). From Canada, Fred continues to seek **Terry Wherelock, Gordon Duncan, Tony Fisher, John Fry and Lesley Darkes**. Can any help with this – if so you will make Fred very happy – Fred will be at the Reunion this year or please contact Valerie.

Don Bargent (1943-50). New Life Member. Would like to contact school friends from the Sixth Form years 1948-50 and before.

Terry Smith an Old Paludian who would have left school in 1951. **Richard Harrington** is looking for him.

Peter Burgess and the Upper VB boys (1949-54). We are searching for as many of our group as possible – does anyone know where **Gordon Hamilton** is now? Where are **Nick Walton** (year above us), **John Spinks, Kevin Melia, Bob Greenfield, Peter Ashley** and **John Dilly**? Please tell me if you have any information (01905 610329). Why not come and join us for our mini-reunions!!

Julie Peake (Albrow 1950-57). Despite living in Australia, Julie is in touch with a number of friends from school but wonders what became of **Margaret Curl** and **Mervina Ridgeway**. Does anyone know?

Norma Meyrick (Parker 1951-56). Has anyone any idea of the whereabouts of **Daphne Balmer** or **Jill Goodwin** - they are both on the Form V M photo.

Ann Reed (Howells 1951-56). Ann is still trying to track down **Jeanette Farmer** and **Valerie Lewis** in order to complete the list of her 1956 class. Can they be found in time for this year's get-together when **Pat** (Gaskell) **Greenfield** comes over from Australia.

HELP! There was a letter recently in the local paper from a master teaching German at SGS, **Mr G P Sonnex**. He wondered what had happened to two of his first pupils to have passed A-level German. We know one has died but the other is ----- **Franks**. He has unfortunately forgotten his first name. Were **you** doing your A-levels in 1959, do you remember -----**Franks** and do you know where he is now? If you can help please let us know and we can pass the message on.

Betty Lambourne (Milsom 1953-58). After the successful mini-reunion last summer, Betty and her friends are wondering what happened to the rest of their group – does anyone know the whereabouts of **Jane Bate, Brenda Nash, Susan Lloyd, Dilys Powell, Linda Partleton**, and **Pat Horsham**? Please get in touch with Valerie if you have any news.

Peter Steinwender (1955-62). Peter is looking for 'lads' from his year. Has been put in touch with **Colin Timms**.

Robert Moss (1956-64). My sister, in Canada, came across a book written by **Mark Cocker** and it mentioned SGS and Dr Long. Mark is an authority on birds, an author of several books on the subject as well as a lecturer. I wonder if anyone can remember Mark or knows any more.

Christine Seaville (Herman 1957-62: 3rd Form entry). Living in Victoria, B.C. Canada and would love to hear from anyone in her years at the High School. Has recently made a few contacts.

Richard Lewington (1964-67). Can you please help me find **Roger Chilcott** (1964-67). We were good friends for 20 years and he was best man at my wedding – but we have lost touch. I really would like to find him again so if you can help at all, please get in touch with Valerie as shown below.

Please get in touch with the Editor if you can help with *any* of the above queries – contact details below.



But we've found:

I have to report on our **most spectacular success ever!** Last year we carried a special appeal from Peter Sargent (*an Old Boy of Bodmin Grammar School*) now living in Manitoba, Canada. He was searching for **Sandra Bridgeland** who came to SHS in early 1956 from *Bodmin Grammar* and stayed only until she had completed her GCE exams that summer. Although positively identified in the 1956 school photo, no one knew what happened to her as she had been at SHS for such a short time. I had a gut feeling that we could find her for Peter despite other queries being made over several years including newspaper appeals etc. Peter and I worked together on this one – he did most of the hard slog through records – and in early September I received a joyful email saying “*We’ve done it!*” The outcome has been a number of Sandra’s early school friends (before she came to Slough) have all been put in touch also. *Well done, Peter. Ed.*

Norma Meyrick (Parker 1951-56) has been put in touch with **Elizabeth Card** (Wilson 1951-56) thanks to **Joan Astill** (Chennells).

Jennifer Brooks (Hudson 1955-60). Has been put in touch with several of her year – see above.

It has not yet been possible to arrange a date with the School for the 2005 Reunion – when it has been decided, then the date will be posted onto the website. Hopefully this will be known by the late summer.

Our Website: www.oldpaludians.org This continues to grow and there are over 300 photographs available for viewing as well as all the latest news etc. In the 3 years it has been on-line, we have averaged 10 hits per day. Our thanks to Ian for the past year, which hasn't always been easy.

Editor's Note: In the printed version of this Newsletter, I included a few thumbnail photographs. Unfortunately, these have had to be omitted in this email version since it would be far too large a document to transmit. There were only about 6 or so - if you would like them, please get it touch and I will put them on one page and post them, via Royal Mail. Thank you for all your contributions - Valerie

The Old Paludians: 2004 -2005

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