Time flies and it is hard to believe that we are now eight years into the new millennium. This year has been the year of the computer. More invitations were sent by e-mail and we received many replies in return. Similarly, electronic messages have been flying backwards and forwards between those involved in the creating of the newsletter - all very useful, as you can work away in your dressing gown, with a cup of tea at 7.30 in the morning - until that new fangled piece of technology decides to go-slow or, even worse, break down! It is definitely to be hoped that 'virtual reality' reunions will never take the place of the real thing and that we will continue to meet up annually with old friends to reminisce face to face about old times and past misdemeanours and the reunion is an occasion looked forward to by many as a chance to renew old friendships.

My thanks go to everyone who sent in news. Whatever the length of your item and however it arrived, your contributions are very much appreciated, but my especial thanks must once again go to Valerie for her continued encouragement and support. Thanks also must go to Mrs Lenton for allowing us to invade the school every year and to the staff who help both in the run-up to the Reunion and on the Day itself.

We hope everyone will have a happy and memorable day.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Association is now in its 93rd year, and continues to do well. The committee has met four times since last March and we were pleased to welcome Colin Cairns as a new member to the January meeting. Jennifer James (Bond) has processed the reunion replies and Shelagh Rothero (Jacques) has edited the newsletter. These are both time consuming tasks and I thank Jennifer and Shelagh for giving us so much valuable time. I also wish to thank the other members of the committee who have worked so hard to ensure that the reunion is a success. If any member of the association wishes to join the committee please let me know, we will welcome you with open arms.

At last year’s reunion we presented a cheque for £1000 to Jane Brown, the School Librarian for books and teaching material for the School Library and a cheque for £100 to the School for prizes. These cheques were possible because of the donations made by the membership. Thank you for your generosity. We hope to make similar donations at this year’s reunion.

In 2007 the Old Paludians’ Prizes for Head Boy and Head Girl were presented to Jamal Hussain and Natasha Kainth.

Finally, I wish to thank our President, Mrs Lenton for allowing us to come into School for the Annual Reunion and for her continued support throughout the year.

With best wishes to you all

Jean Tyler
Chairman
FAMILY GROUPS
In response to a request in last year’s Newsletter from Jean Tyler asking if anyone knew of large family groups who had attended the schools we have received information relating to two families.

The first group of ten members was sent in by Joyce Egelstaff (née Walker), and is as follows:
- John Egelstaff (1940-41) m. Joyce Walker (1937-42)
- Peter Egelstaff (1939-43) m. Joy Salter (1938-43)
- Dennis Egelstaff (1939-45) m. Sylvia Burden (1939-45)
- Peter Raymond (1941-47) m. Audrey Egelstaff (1942-47)
- Jane Egelstaff (1961-67) daughters of
- Sue Egelstaff (1962-68) Joyce and John

The second group was forwarded by Barbara Hillier (Colgate 1940-46). There are twenty names on her list which shows the relationship of each person named to herself.
- Donald Colgate (1913-15) - father
- Matthew Colgate (1914-19) - uncle
- Mabel Colgate (1920’s) - aunt
- Roger Colgate (1950-56) brother
- Anne Hillier (1964-70) daughter
- Margaret Urwin (Hillier) (1965-72) daughter
- Janet Boothroyd (Hillier) (1969-76) daughter
- Mark Colgate (SGS) nephew and son of Roger.
- Brian Barnes (1948-55) cousin m. Sue Barnes (Pattemore) (1952-59)
- Patricia Rees (Barnes, 1952-59) cousin m. John Rees (1949-56)
- Andrew Rees (SGS) son of Patricia and John
- Jane Maybury (Rees) (SHS) daughter of Patricia and John
- Coral Colgate (Nixey) (SHS 1936-41) sister-in-law
- Audrey McGarry (Hillier) (SHS) sister-in-law
- Elaine Kirby (Hillier) (SHS) sister-in-law
- Alison Woodward (Kirby) (SHS 1971-78) niece
- Louise D’Alberto (Kirby) (SHS) niece

Jean wrote:
I thank Joyce and Barbara for sharing this information with us. I always knew that there must be some large groups about but I have to say that I hadn’t expected to find one with twenty members. Is this the largest group or is there one even larger? Please get in touch and let me know.

THE ARCHIVES Our Archive is developing into a remarkable record of the story of the Schools’ history thanks to the continuing support of former pupils and staff. New contributions are always welcome and once again we are grateful to all those who have donated memorabilia this year. As usual,
we never cease to be amazed not only by the variety of the donations but the fact they are in such excellent condition after what can sometimes be 75 or even 80 years!

We appreciate and will look after everything we are given. Regrettably, however, lack of storage space does make it difficult for us to display as much material as we would like. The Archive room is high on the ‘must see’ list for those attending the Reunion each year. **David Rogers - Archivist.**

**STAFF NEWS**

Stella Saunderson (1947-85) Just thought I’d write to say how much I enjoy reading the Old Pals Newsletter and that I appreciate the hard work that goes into it. I continue to run into ex-SHS girls when shopping in Taplow. I don’t walk very well these days but use a trolley to keep upright. I am still singing with the Slough Philharmonic Society but think I might soon have to give this up. There are more ex SHS girls there too.

Margaret Roberts (Oates, 1947-52). I am sorry that I will not be with you on 15th March but I shall look forward to reading the Newsletter – there are still a few names that I recognise from 55 years ago!

Maureen Hancock (1950s). Maureen has settled in her home in Co Kerry and it is still raining! There’s such wonderful scenery and you can walk alongside the Atlantic Ocean. Unfortunately Maureen has had a couple of falls which has made things a bit difficult since her family are still in UK. However she is getting back to normal and sends everyone her good wishes for the Reunion - enjoy the craic.

Joyce Sprigg (Patrick, 1953-57) a member of staff teaching chemistry in the 1950’s sent news from South Adelaide, Australia. She wrote that the ten year drought has caused a lot of concern, and mentions that they are considering installing a desalination plant. She continues to co-ordinate the low vision support group with the Royal Society for the Blind. The group has speakers, bus-trips and lunches together. This year she is producing ’Cinderella’ in Olde Tyme Music Hall style as part of a revue at church. She writes that the enthusiasm and fun make up for the shortage of talent. She sends her good wishes to all who remember her.

Betty Symmons (60’s-70’s) I have very much enjoyed reading through the Old Pals Bulletin, and I do hope that I filled in the necessary form when it came, to continue to receive it. I cannot remember doing so, but although there is no hope of my ever attending a reunion again, I would be very sorry to lose touch with the school. I was on the staff of Slough High for 11 years, but as I was only ever part time there are probably few people who would remember me. But I remember THEM!! And I do like to read news of them. I left Iver Heath after living there for 50 years to move into sheltered accommodation near my son who is Vicar of the neighbouring parish here in Bristol. Best wishes for all you do.

Janet Sumner (1961-80) Sorry I can’t be with you. Hope that you have a good day. My very best wishes to all.

Mrs Purdue (former High School Matron 1964-80). I am really sorry I cannot attend the reunion. I was Matron at the High School for 16 years and have many happy memories of my time there. Unfortunately my husband John, whom quite a few staff and girls will remember, suffered a severe stroke three years ago and is very disabled. He has been in a nursing home since the stroke but fortunately is only about a mile from home. Apart from arthritis I keep very well. My daughter lives not far away while the three boys are scattered around the south east. My very best wishes to anyone who remembers me and also to the Reunion.

**IN MEMORIAM **

Mollie Randall (1939-44). Her daughter Rosemary writes to tell us Mollie passed away in September last year. She goes on to say her mother always spoke very fondly of her time teaching at Slough during the war, recalling both the incredible cold and the enthusiasm and resilience of the girls she taught, and I know that she valued staying in touch with the school. **Our condolences go to Rosemary, her brothers and all the family and friends - Ed.**
**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.

**1930s**

Irene Anderson (1931-38) Sorry not be with you and would love to hear news of Gabrielle Moody.

Cecily Earl (1933-38) Sorry not to be able to attend but age is catching up with me.

Mrs Doreen Pearce (Currie, 1934-40) Unable to attend but please send my best wishes to all of my friends in our age group.

Jean Bostock (Burnett, 1936-41). I am pleased to say that after a long illness my mobility has gradually improved but sadly, not to the point where I could undertake the journey to the reunion. My best wishes to everyone especially any other octogenarians who might still be around!

John Ware (1936-41) I am sorry that I will be unable to attend the Annual Reunion but send my best wishes for a happy and successful day. I am keeping in good health and still working happily in my practice.

Betty (Iris) Hull (Burnett, 1937-42). The year between Reunions seems to flash by. Fatigue and reduced mobility resulting from a stroke in 2005 mean that I shall have to miss the event again this year, unless someone can tell me where to buy a magic carpet! I send nostalgic memories and affectionate greetings to all friends of school, hockey-and-tennis playing days. My sister Jean Bostock (Burnett, 1936-41) has recovered well from chemotherapy and now has a good health prognosis. She will be visiting me soon and we are both looking forward to many conversations beginning "remember when" - nice to recall those happy days.

Charles and Islay Cox (Charles 1937-42, Islay [Lovegrove] 1937-43). Thank you for the invitation but we regret we will not be able to attend. Old age makes it just too difficult but we wish you all a Jolly Reunion and also a happy new year for all members of the Old Pals.

Audrey Fenn (Eustance, 1938-41) Audrey’s daughter, Katharine wrote to tell us that for the time being Audrey is living in a convalescent home at Rustington in Sussex, after having various joint replacement operations. It's a super place, more like a seaside hotel, with large gardens going right down to the sea. If you have access to the internet you can look at its website – www.rustcon.co.uk. Audrey apologises for not sending any Christmas cards this year but she was still sorting herself out - she would love to hear news from old friends. Please contact her via The Old Paludians Association.

Beryl Smart (Bigg, 1938-45) I am unable to come to the Reunion this year but send my best wishes. I do appreciate receiving news of old friends and am grateful for all the hard work of the committee. I still keep myself busy and active being involved in many village activities and with my 12 grandchildren.

Margaret ‘Micki’ Vale (Flinn, 1939-43) Not much news except I'm still alive! Cruised the Med last year and spent a super long weekend in Venice with old school friend.

Joyce Amoroso (Kirtland, 1939-45) Just to say I am semi-disabled now and have difficulty in walking having broken my coccyx. Also, my husband Kit is not in the best of health. I would love to see you all - please give my regards to all who knew me.

Christine Gibbons (1939-45) I'm sorry that, yet again, I cannot make the Reunion. I am social secretary for the local Conservative Association and we have a function that day. Hope all goes well.
**IN MEMORIAM**

George Pontin (1931-36). Everyone will be saddened by the news of George’s death on 19 January at the aged of 88. He was an enthusiastic Old Paludian for many years - he supported most of the events and always attended Reunions. He was famous for his ‘bird seed holders’ which he made and was able to raise a considerable sum of money for charity and the RSPB. He always generously donated several to our raffles on Reunion Day. In 2001, at the age of 80, he surprised everyone by becoming engaged to Nancy and we were always pleased to welcome her to our Reunions. His passing is the end of an era and our annual get-togethers will never seem quite the same without him. *We extend our condolences to his family, Dorothy, Lynne and Bill and, of course, to Nancy at this very sad time.* - Ed.

Margaret Gillett (McGillivray, 1932-37). Sadly we have to report the death in April last year, of another Old Paludian at the age of 85 years. Margaret had been an enthusiastic member of the Association for a long time and always loved to read the latest news of all her contemporaries regretting their ever-decreasing numbers. In March last year, Margaret and her husband Jim celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with a lovely party. Poor health had prevented her from attending more recent Reunions. Margaret’s brother William was at SGS (1931-38) and in 2005 she gave a donation to the library in his memory - it was to be a book about mathematics since he excelled at this subject. We will miss her regular newsy items in the Newsletters and send our thoughts and condolences to her husband, Jimmy: 'she was a jewel and a role model'. *Our thanks also go to Warwick Dyer for passing on this information-Ed.*

Gordon Moore (1935-1940) In January we heard that Gordon had died in 2003. Although this was some years ago we felt it important to pass the information on in this year's newsletter.

Bill Omer (1936-43) passed away suddenly on 17th October 2007 following a heart attack. On leaving school he took up an Engineering Cadetship and joined the Army as a Royal Signals Officer. He was then posted to Germany at the end of the war. He gained a First Class Honours degree in Electrical Engineering and for a while worked in a telecommunications company in Taplow. He eventually moved into teaching and initially joined East Berks College as a lecturer in Electrical Engineering followed by an extremely successful post at Slough College from which he eventually retired. He had many interests, the main one being Amateur Radio which had been his passion since boyhood. He was also a very good watercolour and pencil artist and loved the coast and countryside. He will be sadly missed by many. *My thanks go to his daughter Sue Wright, for sending in this information - Ed.*

Irene Elfer (Bubb, 1937-42). Elsewhere Rene’s death has been reported by her sister Muriel (1946-53). In 2003 Rene wrote to the Old Paludians asking if we could put her in touch with any of her former classmates - we found several for her and she was thrilled to bits. All 3 Bubb sisters were members and, although unable to attend Reunions, Rene always waited for those phone calls or emails as soon as the Reunion was over so that she could hear all about it, who her sisters had met and what photographs they had taken. The Newsletters were eagerly awaited each year. She wrote in 2005 to say she always kept busy with her large family which included 5 great grandchildren yet still found time to do voluntary work three days a week at the local hospital for over 30 years. In USA they use their volunteers much more than we do in England and they have more responsibilities, almost like our Nursing Assistants. She became very interested and knowledgeable in nutrition, not cookery, but food values, the effects of different foods on the body, additives, what to eat & what not to eat. Indeed, she was a cadet in St. John Ambulance when she was very young and continued until she went to America. *Old Paludians of all generations send their condolences to Muriel and Christine and to all the wider family. Her life was truly one of service to others - Ed.*

Phyllis Prismall (Rivers, 1937-43). We are sorry to learn that Phyllis’s husband John passed away in hospital on 7 January after a short illness. Phyllis’s many friends will be saddened by the news and we send our condolences to her and the family - Ed.

Roy Turvey (1939-44) Roy died in August last year. He had great affection for his school days and donated much of his SGS memorabilia to the Association. Although he didn’t attend the reunions he was always interested in our activities. *We extend sincere condolences to Marjorie and family Ed.*
Alan Brimmer (1938-44). Sadly we report the death of Alan in June last year at the age of 82 years. He was still living in Slough and his funeral was attended by many Old Paludians. By profession he was a designer and manufacturer of laboratory equipment, particularly for ICI. We extend our condolences to friends and family - Ed.

Jean K Jones (Grant, 1938-42) Betty Hull wrote to tell us of the death of her friend Jean at the end of 2007. Jean always looked forward to the arrival of the Newsletter - she said it was such a welcome sight as it arrived with the post. She was our ‘sole representative’ on the continent of Africa, living in Bergvliet which is in the southern suburbs of Capetown and looked to be a glorious location from the postcards she sent each Spring regretting she could not make the journey to attend Reunions having reached the ‘golden oldie’ stage. It is sad to learn of her passing and our thoughts go to her family as well as to Betty and Jean Bostock who corresponded with her through the years. - Ed.

**1940s**

Nancy Evans (Pardoe 1941-43) Sorry not to be present but ill health prevents - I had a stroke in 2006.

Fred Collins (1941-1947)- We have recently been to Mojave, California and what a great trip we had! The Oregon Coast, Napa Valley, the Grand Canyon, Joshua Tree National Monument, Yuma, Sedona, Route 66, etc, etc. Prior to going to S.G.S., I attended Farnham Royal C. of E. School with Bill Eastwell and also Mavis Admans (Westbrook). I met them both a few years ago when I attended a reunion and it was great to see them again after so many years. My greetings to you and all those at the Reunion this year.

Gwen Gale (Knight, 1941-47). ‘Soldiering on’ is the appropriate term! It was good to hear from so many friends at Christmas and I hope to attend the reunion in the morning. All good wishes.

Ivy Bordon (Jardine, 1941-49). Sorry not to be at the Reunion but it is my granddaughter’s wedding that day. Do hope you are all well.

Stuart Callaway (1942-46) Regret unable to be at the Reunion but will be on holiday at this time.

Dinah Batty (Kleeman, 1942-47) I shall be unable to attend the Reunion as I only come to Slough occasionally when I have appointments at Hammersmith Hospital. Unfortunately, my next appointment is not until the middle of April. With best wishes.

Wendy Martel (Watson, 1942-1950). Sorry I don’t make it to the reunions now but I’m very crippled with arthritis and don’t get around much. I remember with fondness my time at SHS. The soup, which we all pretended to hate, the air-raid shelters alias ‘the bumps’ and the staff- Miss Bishop, Miss Bruckin, Miss Reakes and Miss Halden with ‘Danny Dog’. I was able to see Miss Crawford at the last one I attended. Wendy wrote a very long and interesting letter full of lovely - and amusing - memories from her time at SHS, where she eventually became Head Girl. It is a small world - her grandson now attends a school in Cheshire where another ex-Old Pal now teaches ! - Ed.

Alan Mabbott (1942-50) I met up with Reg Ohlson last year and we chatted about old times for nearly two hours! We managed to identify almost everyone in an old school photograph.

Sylvia Douet (Blackman, later Murphy, 1942-47). Thank you so much for the invitation to the Old Paludians reunion, I doubt very much that I will be visiting England from Canada this year, but perhaps another time I will attend one of the reunions. At 77 I’m being optimistic, but one never knows. I thought I might mention that I have written a book called ‘A Case of Tea’. It can be accessed at the following web-site: https://www2.xlibris.com/bookstore/bookdisplay.asp?bookid=34491. Also there is a book in Slough Library called ‘Bygone Days Fondly Remembered’ edited and published by Pocol Press in the USA, which has a short story of mine in it. I hope this is of interest to you. Thank you for this information and please accept our congratulations. You are never too old to start a new career - that’s my policy anyway! - Ed.

Marie and Elwyn Dyer (Marie [Colbourne] 1943-47 and Elwyn 1943-48). Their great adventure began on 23 September 2007 when they left their home in Stoke Poges for Australia. They had decided to emigrate to be nearer family and were both excited yet apprehensive. After staying temporarily with
family they have now moved into their own home in West Pymble which is a suburb in the Upper North Shore area of Sydney - roughly 11 miles NW of the City itself. They have settled in extremely well, loving every minute. Marie writes: Each day is like a holiday and everyone is so friendly and helpful. Although Elwyn had been back in the UK for 20 years, he felt so much at home after just a few days. My biggest surprise is seeing how ‘green’ Sydney is - most of the roads are tree-lined on both sides - large mature trees providing shade, improving the visual appearance. ‘The Bush’ isn’t something in the Outback as I was led to believe but also covers rain forests which predominate along the 3000 miles of the Eastern seaboard. These dense forests intrude into all the suburbs along the coast and it is possible to drive for miles along good roads with the Bush on either side. In this North Shore area the terrain is steeply undulating with numerous hills and valleys so that you can cross road bridges and look down onto the tops of the forests! The word ‘Shore’ is misleading in that we are some miles from the sea but we much prefer walking - there is so much to explore. I feel so at home and have no regrets over our decision to come here. We send greetings to all our friends. Thank you for all your many years of loyalty to the Old Paludians and we will be so pleased to send the Newsletters each year. It sounds great and we wish you lots of happiness Down Under - Ed.

Barbara Price (Brook, 1943-48) Regretfully I shall be unable to attend the Reunion this year due to a holiday commitment.

Ann Roberts (Brooks, 1943-48) Unable to attend as I will be moving to Shropshire.

Margaret Paine (Paine, 1943-48). Time flies - I realised the other day that most of our intake will be seventy five this year and eligible for a free television licence! I still play scrabble and have a lot of fun with friends when we exchange our many ‘senior moments’. After last year’s reunion I had a phone call from Doris Holmes (1943-48) in Canada. I hadn’t spoken to her for fifty eight years and we spent a whole hour on the phone-it was a lovely surprise! I also visited Sheila Barnes (Simpson, 1941-47). We hadn’t seen each other for sixty years and we had a good old gossip. Welcome to Thelma Bannister who will be joining us at the reunion for the first time since 1948. I should like to wish all the very best to our friend Ann Roberts (Brooks, 1943-48) who is moving to Shropshire. It isn’t just your generation who suffer from ‘senior moments’. Us youngsters from the fifties have the same experiences! - Ed.

Annette Chant (Pountain, 1944-48) Greetings from Bournemouth! Deryck and I celebrated our Golden Wedding in 2007. Life is still busy especially in the summer with a full programme of Lawn Bowls. Best wishes to everyone and especially those who were with me at school. Really these years pass far too quickly!! It is now 60 years since I left SHS. What a thought!! If only one’s age didn’t pass at the same rate!!! I’m sorry not to attend but I do hope you enjoy a very happy meeting.

Robert Neale (1944-52) Sorry, won’t be at the Reunion: it’s a bit far from New Zealand!

Joan Jones (Eyre 1945-50). Unfortunately I will be ‘down under’ for the month of March - perhaps 2009?

Don Wells (1945-52) I won’t be at this year’s Reunion but hope to attend another year. Last year was my year of TV fame - an appearance on ‘Eggheads’ and another on an obscure gap-filler called ‘Win my Wage’, where I was quickly sussed out as someone whose wage wasn’t worth winning! Will it be ‘Who Wants to be a Millionaire’ in 2008? Good luck with all your ventures! - Ed

Pat Mills (Hunt 1945-52).Thank you for your E-mail. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Reunion this year. I hope you all have a most enjoyable day. With all good wishes.

Muriel Aird (Bubb, 1946-53) Unfortunately, my younger sister, Christine Robilliard (1956-60) and I will not be attending the Reunion this year as my husband is having major surgery at the end of February. He will not be well enough to be left especially as I would be away overnight. This year has been very sad for us as my sister Irene Elfer (Bubb, 1937-42) died earlier this year in New Orleans. It was a great shock to us all as she had been fit and well and very active until about six weeks before. The operation appeared to have been successful but a few days later complications set in and she died very suddenly. Rene was a G.I. bride in 1945. Widowed seventeen years ago, she leaves four children, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Christine and I wish you all a very enjoyable day and hope we will be able to join you next year in happier times. We are very sad to hear the news
about Irene - she was an amazing lady and will be missed by many. We send our best wishes to your husband and hope that he will soon feel better - Ed.

Roy Arnold (1947-52) I regret I shall not be at the Reunion as I shall be attending an SGM of the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers at Lords Cricket Ground on that day.

George Lake (1947-52) I regret I will be unable to attend this year because I will be on holiday in France. I send my regards to all from years 1947-52, particularly Barry Garner, who, I believe, is in Australia.

Winifred Trotter (Maddern 1947-52) I emigrated to Australia in 1952 at the age of 16. I went with my father and mother plus seven sisters and one brother. We donated a large Bible to Slough High School and I always wondered if it is still there. This had been a family Bible but as no-one had written anything in it and it was too large and heavy to take with us we gave it to the school. My husband also came from Slough and we have been married for over 50 years. When I was on a holiday in England I tried to visit a former pupil and friend Barbara Ginn. Her mother told me that Barbara had recently died of cancer. We spent a pleasant afternoon together. Best wishes to everyone.

Peter Ward (1948-54) I very much enjoyed coming to last year’s reunion but sadly will not be able to attend this year due to a long standing engagement. I now live in Somerset and having taken early retirement in 1993 I now play the double bass in New Orleans style jazz bands all over the West Country. I have kept in touch with Chris Martin (1950-1954) and Dennis Jones for over forty years and I look forward to meeting up with everyone again in 2009.

Julia Wilson (Ewens, 1949-52) I am so sorry that I am unable to attend the Reunion but family commitments fill the calendar. However, I do wish you all the usual happy day and hope to see you all next year.

Philip Seal (1949-53) I regret I won’t be at the Reunion as I’m currently slightly ‘immobile’. I send my best wishes for a successful day.

Len Jackson (1949-54) Hello Slough from a very cold Chicago - as I write this in February with 10 inches of snow on the ground outside! Unfortunately Donna and I will not make it across the pond for the Reunion this year. However we send you our very heartfelt best wishes and will try to make it in 2009 for our sixtieth anniversary year of joining our wonderful school. You will be in trouble, Len, if you don’t make 2009 - Peter and Valerie take no prisoners!! Best wishes from us all - Ed.

Peter Burgess (1949-1954) SGS Upper V B - and the gang have now located over twenty of their class and hold mini-reunions twice a year at Chipping Norton in March and October. A major reunion is taking place at Beaconsfield on the 19th March 2008 at the Greyhound Bar where it is hoped that everyone will attend including representatives from other classes in the upper fifth year of 1954 when most of us left school. In 2007 we found Nick Hammans, Tony Bradbury, Jack Rixon and Terry Clegg, however, we are still searching for David (Nick) Walton, Peter Ashley, Bob Freeman, Nick O’Brien, John Dilly, Gordon Hamilton, Johnny Hinds (Wraysbury), Mick Brent, Ray Hester, Gordon Hanson, John Fox, Stan Balls, Jeff Thompson, Rod Braybrooke and Tony Chadburn. We will keep looking as next year will be our sixtieth anniversary of joining our wonderful Slough Grammar School. Jeff Parker (1949-54) Sorry not to be over from the US this year but my sister Norma (1951-56) will be visiting at that time. Best wishes.

Marian Payen (Scull, 1949-55). Thank you for the kind invitation to the Reunion but unfortunately I am unable to attend as I will be singing in a performance of Handel’s ‘Messiah’ on that day.

Valerie Storie (1949-55). Another year has flown by - much of my time is taken up with family history, both my own, as secretary of Berkshire Family History Society and as chairman of the Windsor Branch. I am also heavily involved in Slough Community Transport and wonder why I seem busy. For the first time ever, I won a competition last year - was I the only entrant? Organised by the Slough Library, my prize was an old photo of Slough (which I had to choose from a very large number in their archives) this was then framed and the presentation was at Cippenham Library. A few prints of old maps of the area were also added in. My hopes of a winning streak came to nothing however! Next year will see a special anniversary - it will be 60 years since I first entered the hallowed portals of Slough High School - elsewhere there is an advert calling all ‘49ers to rally to
the cause. Please come to the Reunion and let’s HAVE A PARTY before we are all too ancient! Whether SGS or SHS this means you - what better way to mark the first day of Spring. See you there. **Congratulations on winning that competition, Valerie. Talent will out! - Ed**

**IN MEMORIAM**

**John Keeping** (1943-1949) **Ann Neale** (Keeping 1945-59) passed on the message about her brother’s death from cancer last June. After leaving school John started work at Glaxo, and obtained his BSc at Brunel University (formerly Acton Technical College). He went on to gain an MSc and to obtain a post at Oxford University as a microbiologist in the Dyson Perrins Laboratory from which he retired in 1998. He loved his garden and greenhouse, in which he spent many hours. He will be greatly missed and friends and contemporaries will be saddened at the news. **We extend our condolences to his family - Ed**

**Faith Ridgwell** (Jones, 1944-46). With sadness we record the death of Faith who died at the end of January - she had been a pre-nurser at the High School towards the end of the War. **Ken Bryant** (1936-41) remembers Faith from their schooldays - Ken would be walking to Lascelles Road and would pass Faith, who lived nearby, walking in the opposite direction on her way to junior school across town. On leaving SHS she worked at ICI and eventually married Dennis. They celebrated over 50 years of happy marriage and have a son and daughter. Faith’s death was both unexpected and very sudden after a fall and she will be greatly missed by her family. **We send our deepest sympathy to Dennis, to son Mark and daughter Sally - Ed.**

**Richard (Dick) Robotham** (1945-52). It is with sadness that we have to report Richard’s death last year after a long and distressing illness. Dick was the middle one of three brothers whose attendance at the Grammar School spanned several decades. He and his younger brother John became Old Paludians in 2003 at their brother Frank’s insistence when all three attended the Reunion that year! **Together with many friends, we offer our sympathy to Frank and John and the family - Ed.**

**Barbara Mead** (Phillips, 1946-53). It is always very sad to report the death of someone from one’s own era at school. Barbara died in September 2007. She had been living in the Dordogne area of France for 9 years with her husband John. Prior to retirement she ran a B & B in La Roque Gageac, Dordogne. Many will remember her long dark curly haired plaits. I believe she won the “Best Head of Hair” competition at the annual fair at Agars Plough. She is interred at Limeuil Bas, France. **Our thanks to Paula Atherton who sent this information – Ed..**

**Brian Hannay** (1947-52) Ann Hannay passed on the news that her husband Brian had died in January this year. At one time the family lived in Wales where Brian was the area manager for Finish Dishwasher Powder. They then moved to Devon. Brian and Ann had been married for forty nine years and had a son and daughter. Brian was a great golf enthusiast and an avid reader of detective stories. **We extend our sympathy to Ann and the family - Ed.**

**Ann French** (Hendey, 1947-54). It is with much regret that we have to report Ann’s death last year after a number of years of ill-health. Ann devoted her whole working life to teaching both in the UK and abroad whilst her husband was serving with the RAF. Her first teaching post was Head of Home Economics at Slough & Eton C of E School where the Headmaster was Mr Arnold Boul, husband of our much loved Mrs Joy Boul. Ann’s last post was Head of a well-known Stage School. After her retirement Ann spent a considerable time working at her computer and produced some very attractive laminated bookmarks (SGS, SHS and OP) for sale at Reunions to help our funds along - she also designed some notelets. **She was a true friend of the Old Paludians and it is with sadness that we send her husband Don, her sister Margaret and all the family our sincere condolences - Ed.**

**Janet Stephens** (Pavey, 1948-52). Although Janet died in 2004 we did not find out until after the reunion last year. **Our thoughts are with her family and friends - Ed.**

**Robert (Bob) Giles** (1948-55). Bob and his twin brother Chris graduated in Economics from Manchester University in 1958 and both entered the teaching profession. A while later, Bob became increasingly aware of a calling to the priesthood. He went to train at Ripon Hall in Oxford, was ordained first as deacon in 1966, and subsequently as a priest in the Manchester diocese. After
several postings his interest in youth work led to him becoming Diocesan Youth Officer for the Archbishop of York in 1979. He met Joan at Leicester University; they married in 1965 and had 4 sons and a daughter. Joan's training in special educational needs also necessitated various moves and they finally settled in the small village of Broughton in Northamptonshire. Bob became Rector of Broughton benefice and Rural Dean of Kettering. He retired from this work in 2002 and he and Joan went to live in the village of Staverton, near Daventry. Bob now looked forward to having time to develop his great interest in model trains, both inside and outside and spending more time with his twin Chris who lived in Dorset. Tragically Chris was killed in a road accident in the autumn of 2002. Fate then dealt him another tragic blow when he was diagnosed with a tumour on his tongue in 2006. Bob showed immense courage in dealing with his illness but sadly he died in October 2007. Bob was a very special man whose Christian faith was an inspiration to his many friends and family alike. We send our thoughts and condolences to Joan and family in their great loss. We have the full text of a very moving obituary for Bob but with great regret it has been necessary to shorten it. If any of his friends would like the full version, do please get in touch and I will gladly send it on. Ed.

**1950s**

Val Parkes (Ford 1950-56) Unfortunately I am unable to make the Reunion again this year because of family commitments but would like to send best wishes for a good day. Val is searching for some old friends-please see Lost & Found section for more information - Ed.

Margaret Evans (Garrod, 1950 – 1957) Sorry, I am unable to attend the reunion this year.

Sylvia Legg (Naylor, 1951-56) Wrote from Australia: I regret I won't be in the UK at all this year so won't be attending the Reunion.

Jacky Flynn (Aubrey, 1951-58) I will be away on March 15th as I am going to Australia and New Zealand for an extended holiday. Regards to all.

Carolyn Mason (King, 1952-58) Sorry I can’t be with you but I am working on another book and have two young kittens that I feel I can’t leave at the moment but hope to be with you next year.

Jim Lindop (1952-60) Sorry but I will be unable to attend the OPA Reunion this year as I will be in Tahiti on that day and the free buses do not operate from there! Best wishes.

Betty Lambourne (Milsom, 1953-58) What a disappointment to find this year’s Reunion coincided with the next concert by The Royal Free Singers, a 150 strong Windsor based choir, of which I am Concert Secretary. Although it is an evening concert, to miss the afternoon rehearsal is a "no-no". Last year's Reunion was great fun: from expecting just one member of the "Class of 53", Jackie Dibling (Hales), throughout the day others turned up, Pat Oldcorn (Horwood), Valerie Gomershal (Watts), Linda Willis (Partleton), Avril Sutton (Esson), Jackie Matthias (Brown). Jackie and I, who arrived in time for coffee, were joined by two "old boys", John Hines and Michael Taylor, who had travelled from Ireland and the USA for the Reunion. Unfortunately they did not meet any of their old classmates, but nevertheless still enjoyed the occasion. I send you all my very best wishes for an enjoyable day and would like to thank the Committee for their hard work in organising this year by year. I am sorry I cannot be with you, but look forward to 2009.

Alan and Pat Parsons (1954-60, Pat [Boulton, 1953-61]) We had a very brief visit England in October 2007. Pat attended a conference held at the York University Campus. A big thank you to Linda Hunter (Gamble) for yet again looking after us when we arrived after the long haul flights from Auckland. We were pleased to meet up with Stella Rowlands who attended our wedding many years ago. Both are friends from school days. On the way back we took a side trip to Guatemala mainly to see the Mayan ruins at Tikal and find out more about the culture. Both of us continue in our medical posts though Alan has just cut down to half time. He also goes to Vietnam each year to do voluntary work helping develop the medical services for children there. We now have three grandchildren - the first real Kiwi in the family. We enjoy reading the Old Pals newsletter each year - so thank you to those who help produce it. We are pleased that our NL goes all over the world and is so well received. All good wishes to you both - Ed.
Jennifer James (Bond, 1955-60) I have been on the committee for the Reunion for the last couple of years which has been fun, and, as I find it interesting to see news from people I remember, I thought I would offer something about me. I married an Australian 35 years ago, we have 4 children and have lived in Ascot for the past 31 years. Our eldest child, Caroline, is head of modern languages at a mixed comprehensive and, if all goes well, will have our first grandchild in August. Our second child, Timothy, works in finance and has finally proposed to the girl he met at university and they are to be married this December. Son number two, Christopher, trained as a ballet dancer and has spent the last 9 years as a dancer but has left the company to work in the music industry. Our youngest, Stephanie, works from home on an on-line fashion magazine she created 3 years ago featuring independent designers - you can find this at www.neetmagazine.com - and designing websites. I retired 2 years ago although seem to be very busy with voluntary work and helping my husband in his business.

Ruth Sheppard (Clark, 1955-62). I will be at this year's Reunion and am looking forward to seeing friends again. Life has been happier this year but just as hectic! I am still very much involved with the care of our grandson Max, now 2½, as my son and his wife are finalising their divorce. I will have just finished taking part in 'Salad Days' in Maidenhead along with my husband John in which we both have principal parts. Singing in various groups and as a soloist takes up most of any free time that I have, along with quilting for our growing throng of great-nieces and nephews.

Christine Elbourne (Hampshire, 1955-63) I'm sorry not to be able to get to the reunion yet again. I shall be tied up with A and AS French orals, which start even earlier this year. Best wishes to any of my contemporaries and staff attending (our year seems particularly well represented in the Old Pals hierarchy!). This year will see a big change for my husband and me - retirement looms! Nigel has been a priest in the Church of England for 39 years, and I shall have completed 37 years working for JMB/NEA/AQA and 20 as a magistrate. We shall be moving to the house we bought in Normandy six years ago, where we hope to enjoy lots of music and travelling, as well as settling into the French lifestyle which we have always loved. We shall see more of our son, who works for the chamber of commerce in Le Havre, and shall be making regular trips back to England to see our daughter and other friends and family. So perhaps I'll make the reunion another year!

I exchange Christmas cards every year with Mr Evans (Clifford Rowe Evans), who was a friend and colleague of my father at the Grammar School, where he taught woodwork during and after the war. He's now 95! Best wishes to everyone for a successful reunion.

Bob Moss (1956-64) met one of his contemporaries, Michael Taylor, at a presentation about Stalin at the Cheltenham Literature Festival last summer. He (Michael, not Stalin) still lives in the Slough area and was hoping to attend the 2008 reunion, though is now unable to do so. However, he does plan to join the small but growing number of 1956 entrants who get together for a summer barbecue, which is being held in Windsor this year. Roughly a quarter of all 1956 arrivals are now once again in touch with each other. Does Bob have special antennae trained to seek out ex-SGS? - Ed.

Shelagh Rothero (Jacques, 1957-63) Sorry not to be at the reunion this year but we shall be at a wedding in Ireland. My best wishes to everyone and I hope you all have a lovely day.

Christine Seaville (Herman, 1957-62) I cannot make the reunion unfortunately as I will be in the UK in July this year. My best wishes to ALL for their hard work.

Roger Columbine (1958-65) Please proffer my apologies for the meeting in March, unfortunately it clashes with a prior engagement and my wife and I are away at that time. I hope the meeting is a rousing success and wish all present a delightful afternoon.

Jackie Barlow (1958-63) Once again, I enjoyed attending the last reunion and look forward to this year’s. I continue to enjoy retirement. I keep busy and the time seems to pass by very quickly!

Carolyn Boulter (Blatch, 1958-64) a former Head Girl at SHS, wrote to tell us that she is to become High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire on April 3rd this year. We are delighted to hear such good news and we offer our congratulations and very best wishes - Ed.

Michele Bovey (Sothcott, 1958-65) At the moment, I'm not sure that I can get to the reunion, but hope you all have a wonderful day. I am still working for Judith Durham of the sixties folk group, The Seekers, and quite often do work for `the boys` - the other three members of the group. I am also 'ghosting' the autobiography of an actor, but sadly am not allowed to say who it is. Hard work and
great fun, though (and no verb in that sentence!) I enjoy meeting up with Miss Anne Harris (geography) once a year and her friendship reminds me of the good times at school. My best wishes to everyone who knew me and if Edwina Pace (nee Wright) is reading this, please will you get in touch, I would love to hear from you. Thanks to all concerned.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Beryl Walker (Wagstaff, 1950-54). Beryl’s sister, Joyce May (Wagstaff 1953-60) passed on the sad news that Beryl died in 2006. She had many interests throughout her life including golf and bowls and had worked as a teacher in the Red Cross since 1971, where she inspired many future nurses. ‘To a great lady, your memory will live on in all who knew you’. Beryl’s family sent a copy of her very moving eulogy which sadly we were unable to include in full here. If anyone would like to have a complete copy of this it can be forwarded on request - Ed.

Len Felix (1952-57), Jack Freer (1952-57) sent an email informing us that Len had recently passed away. Our condolences go to his family and friends – Ed.

**1960s**

Yvonne Davies (Ranscombe, 1962-69) Sorry I cannot attend the Reunion but I wish you all well and wish to be remembered to anyone who remembers me!

Ian Lucas (1962-70) Joined BBC from school, spending 27 happy years with them in Facilities Management, and was Facilities Manager for Broadcasting House, Television Centre and White City, before heading up their Risk Management department. Then worked in Real Estate for Nortel Networks, managing their Maidenhead Office Park complex before a short spell with Moonlite, an events company based in Aylesbury. Finally spent five years heading up FM for the British Film Institute at their National Film Theatre / IMAX complex on the Southbank in London before deciding on early retirement in late 2007. Married Dee in 1973 and have son and daughter. Continue to reside in Eton. Been playing drums with three bands since 1969, and currently recording second CD with ‘Everwhile’. Happy to hear from other students from that period, especially those who played in the successful school 2nd X1 Football Team that I was fortunate to captain in the late Sixties.

Sally Lovelock (Fryett, 1965-72) Best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable day but regret I am unable to attend this year because have a choir rehearsal and concert that day. Would love to hear from any contemporaries of mine. I still teach piano!

**IN MEMORIAM**

Stephen Callacher (1964-1971) We have been informed of the death of Stephen Callacher. After SGS, Steve went to the University of St Andrews and subsequently taught Maths for many years at Dover Boys Grammar School, where he was well respected by pupils and colleagues alike. His friends and colleagues have set up a website in his memory. Ian Cairns wrote: Although Steve did not belong to the OPA, nor are we aware that he attended any reunions, he was well-liked and respected by his classmates from school days. We are all saddened to hear of his passing at such an early age.

**1970s**

Kate Baerlocher (Flynn, 1974-80). Unfortunately I won’t be attending this year, as I’m in the middle of a CELTA (Certificate of English Language Teaching to Adults) course. Maybe next year! Best regards.

Caroline Crampton (Day, 1975-80) Thanks for the invitation to the reunion, but I’ll be working that day and unable to attend. I do appreciate the contact though. I hope all goes well. All best wishes.

Rosy Eade (Roberts, 1978-82) Sending all good wishes for another successful reunion as I am unable to attend.
Jennifer Ediss (Lynch 1970-77). We moved to USA eight years ago where my husband works for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and I am teaching French in a small private school. I also tutor in German after school. I enjoy doing some translation work when the opportunity arises. In terms of hobbies, I play the piano, do a little gardening and enjoy going for walks. I would like to get in touch with Mrs Margaret Moynihan, my former German teacher. I hear that she is also living in the USA now. I would, of course, love to hear from other classmates and teachers, who knew me.

Anyone out there from **1980s** or even the **1990s**?

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

We warmly welcome all those who have become Life Members over the past year. 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. On the other hand, don’t let distance put you off, we regularly have members from USA and Europe as well as all over UK join us on Reunion Day. Letters giving news of the Reunions are sent out by post or email each January to all members and others who have shown interest or made contact during the previous year. *If anyone has been omitted, our apologies and the omission will be rectified next time - Ed.*

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2007 – 2008**

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**MEMBERSHIP RECORDS**

Valerie Storie is now the Membership Secretary and continues her excellent work maintaining the records in our database. New applications for membership should now be addressed to her (see back page) as well as notification of any changes of address/email.

**# NOTE:** Details of members’ names, addresses, years at school etc., are held in a computer database strictly in accordance with the rules governing Data Protection. Your attention is drawn to this fact. Such information is used solely for mailing and Old Paludians purposes and is not divulged to other organisations. Should you have any objection to this we can arrange for your name to be removed and any correspondence will be dealt with by hand. This is your right under the Data Protection Act and we will assume you have no such objection unless otherwise informed.
# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: A number of our members have included addresses etc asking for friends to make contact. We do encourage this and many friendships have been renewed. However we are bound by the Data Protection Act and all we ask you to do if you wish to make contact is to give me a quick phone call or drop me a line/email and I will let you have the address and/or phone details. Please don’t be put off from making contact but we want you to be safe and enjoy your friendships without worry. My details are at the end of the Newsletter - or contact Valerie, the Membership Secretary. Perhaps next year we can have a few stories about your renewed contact and how those years just rolled away once you got talking.

OUR WEBSITE Our website continues to be instantly available 24 hours a day wherever you are in the world. We have no doubt that it is possibly the largest and best dedicated school site of its kind in Britain and thanks are due to our excellent Webmaster, Ian Cairns. Why not have a look at <www.oldpaludians.org>? For a few months now, we have been missing our photograph section due to technical reasons when 'the plug' was pulled on us without any notice at all. Work is afoot to reload these as 'Wiki' webpages, where authorised visitors can edit the names on the photos themselves. Hopefully, this will reduce the current backlog of names that have been awaiting posting on the website. If you feel you are able to help, please have a look at the new Wiki section, which should be ready shortly, and see whether you can assist the identification of the people on the photographs - the backlog of names will be incorporated in due course.

😊

We’ve found:

Peter Burgess (1949-1954) has now located over twenty of his class from 1954 for further details see the news section from the 1940s.
Edwina Pace (Wright, 1958-63) - who joined as a new life member last year.

....and

The Langley Boy
A Trilogy, Part 1
by
Charles Tyrie

A recollection of memorable events and life at Slough Grammar School in the 50’s with cameo descriptions of the masters and their affectionate nicknames.

Available at the reunion
OR
at www.Authorhouse.co.uk, price plus p&p £13.95.
but…..

We’ve lost touch with:

Fred Collins (1941-47) would like to hear news of John Fry, Lesley Darkes, Terrance Wherlock, Tony Fisher, Gordon Duncan and anyone else from Form Upper VB of his year.

Huw Willetts (1972-79) is looking for Richard and Joanne Summers

Peter Burgess (SGS 1949-54) is still looking for anyone who was a member of Form Upper VB in 1954 and has not yet been added into his merry band.

Peter Jones (1951-57) would like find Tony Rowe, Chuck Jones and Michael Cousins

Michele Bovey (Sothcott, 1958-65) - if Edwina Pace (Wright) is reading this, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me through the Old Paludians. Thanks to all concerned.

Margaret Paine (Paine, 1943-48) is still looking for anyone who started at SHS between 1941-1943.

Betty (Iris) Hull (Burnett, 1937-42) would like news of Brenda Parsons (1938 - 42).

Val Parkes (Ford, 1950-56) wrote to ask if anyone has any news of the following people from her year: Gloria Coulson, Nina Ringrose (Ollis), Margaret Garrod, Ann Norton. If so it would be great to have news of them after such a very long time!

Charles Tyrie (1953-60) is looking for Robert D Franks– does anyone know his whereabouts?

1949-2009

And where were you in 1949? If you started at SHS or SGS that year then next year we will be able to commemorate our 60th anniversary. Say it quickly and it doesn’t seem too bad.

We have all reached that certain age – some a year or so more – and let’s face it, it really doesn’t seem that long ago. We all look exactly the same if you ignore the lines and greying hair, not to mention a bit of weight!

Let’s have a real Reunion to remember – boys and girls – AND CELEBRATE!

Please keep the 21 March 2009 free and tell your friends. Most of us will know others who don’t come to Reunions but PLEASE, PLEASE make next year the exception. If you joined the ’49 set a bit later when you moved perhaps, then this includes you too. Let’s show them how to party and renew all those friendships we may have forgotten about as the years rolled on.

Contact: Valerie Storie or Peter Burgess. Our details are in the Newsletter in the 1940’s section.

(Peter already has the nucleus of his group – a dozen UVB boys regularly meet up and there’s 20 more out there – so come on, girls, we can beat that!!!!)

Let’s all join together one more time for a diamond party!

● ● ● ● ●
Important date for your Diary

The Old Paludians Annual Reunion
2009
will be held on
Saturday 21st March

The format will be similar to this year. Invitation letters will be despatched by the end of January 2009.
The Old Paladians Book

School Ties

Further recollections of the Old Paladians

Published in 2005 to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Old Paladians.

Once again Old Paladians have drawn upon their memories - 180 pages of schooldays, perhaps in times of war or national strife, perhaps special personal occasions that stay forever in the mind. Maybe starting school as timid pupils or leaving school as confident young adults. Friendships that have passed every possible test of time and are still fresh today - places - hilarious memories - poignant memories. They are all here, recorded forever and giving an intriguing overview of school years against a background of the social life of Slough. It is a 'must have' for all members and will make a special present for families and friends. The order form is once again re-printed below. Copies have been read and passed along to family, friends and colleagues all over the world. Don't miss out - make sure you have your own copy!

*************************
School Ties - further recollections of the Old Paladians

I wish to order ...... book(s) **SCHOOL TIES** which I will collect @ £10 each

I wish to order ...... book(s) to be sent by post @ £11.50 each

I wish to order ......book(s) to be sent overseas @ £13.00 each

TOTAL ENCLOSED

£........................

NAME  (please print) .................................................................

ADDRESS ...................................................................................

.........................................................................................
If you would like to order a copy of 'School Ties' please complete and return the form above to:

Mrs Jean Tyler,  

Cheques made payable to 'The Old Paludians' please.