

The *Old Paludians* *Newsletter*

Founded 1915

Website: www.oldpaludians.org

March 2011

On behalf of the Newsletter we welcome Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada, and wish her many happy and fruitful years as Principal of Slough Grammar School. We also thank her for allowing us once again to invade the building for our annual reunion, in this 99th year of school history.

Sitting down to write this editorial, I find that for once I am lost for words! Perhaps that is no bad thing since the contents of the Newsletter will more than compensate and I am sure everyone will find something of interest and value inside.

Once again my thanks go to Valerie Storie and Jean Tyler for their patience and support, to the staff who help both in the run-up to the Reunion and on the Day itself and to everyone who sent in news. Whatever the length of your news item and however it arrived, your contributions are very much appreciated. We hope everyone will once again have a happy and memorable day.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Last year, we celebrated with Mrs Lenton the completion of her years as Principal of Slough Grammar School and as President of our Association. At the Old Paludians Reunion in March we presented her with an inscribed cut glass rose bowl and a bouquet of roses. We also enjoyed a special cake topped with a sugar-iced photographic portrait of our President which the caterers produced for us.

Those of us who attended the School on the 3rd July enjoyed a celebratory tea party organised by Mrs Theobald. Tributes were given by Christopher Theobald, a former pupil, Bob Greenwood a former deputy head and myself. We ran a raffle on the day which raised just over £100 for the purchase of books for the library to celebrate Mrs Lenton's years in School.

In the Autumn Term some of the committee met the new Principal, Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada, who has kindly agreed to be our President for the coming years. I welcome her contribution to this Newsletter and thank her for agreeing to speak to us at our Reunion on 19th March 2011. We are looking forward to working with her and the School.

In 2012 it will be 100 years since the original school, Slough Secondary School, opened in William Street, Slough in January 1912. In celebration of the centenary we are working on two projects. One is to publish a book of photographs depicting the history of the Schools. The other is to prepare a special exhibition to be held in January.

Once again thank you for your letters, emails and donations, without you there would not be an association. In addition I wish to thank the committee for their continuing support, especially members of the book committee who have spent time selecting appropriate

material. Special thanks are also due to Shelagh Rothero who has produced another edition of the newsletter. She has told me that after the 2012 edition she wishes to resign as editor which means that we are looking for someone who will take over this task for 2013. Shelagh does not live in Slough, most of the contact is by email with the occasional phone call, which means that location is not an issue. If you are interested and willing to take over this role do please contact Shelagh to find out more.

We are always looking for assistance with our projects and I would welcome more help with both the book and the exhibition. If you have experience of this work and could give of your time and expertise please contact me.

With best wishes to you all

Jean Tyler

Editor's Note: The centenary exhibition is due be held in the Slough Museum, but there is a possibility that the museum may be closed owing to government cutbacks. Further details available later.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRINCIPAL, MRS MERCEDES HERNÁNDEZ ESTRADA

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I have enjoyed my first term as Principal of Slough Grammar School. Its commitment to excellence is dear to my heart and the fulfilment of every student's potential is admirable as it will enable learners to face future challenges with confidence.

This is truly a world class international school with a world class curriculum which develops internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. This mission is one that I embrace as a Principal and transmit to staff, students and parents.

It has been a long and busy term. The staff of the school and I have been heavily involved in the preparations to re-open in January as an Academy. The final letter with confirmation arrived Christmas Eve and we are delighted with the prospect of becoming more independent and able to make choices that are right for your children and the community we serve.

At the end of the autumn term we said a very sad good-bye to much valued members of staff whom some of you will remember. We hope that their memories of their farewell will be lasting and in particular the students walk through will stay with them for a long time. Calculations say that collectively, they have given well over a century of dedicated service to the school.

Firstly Charlotte Phipps, who, now a mother, will be enjoying parenthood. Jane Brown, a former student of the school and more recently, librarian, has decided to spend more time with her children.

Richard Sanford, Head of Year Seven, Head of PE and cricket coach extraordinaire will be leaving to work at Bradfield College. Richard always has such a positive outlook and a cheery demeanour.

Pete Rieley joined the school in 1973, before many of the staff were even born! In his time at Slough Grammar, he has run the library, been Head of the Maths Department and of course co-ordinated the Sixth form students visiting University open days.

Dave Thompson, who also joined in 1973, has been another stalwart of the school. He has in his time been Head of History and Head of Year. In later years he is probably better known for his work regarding the preparation of UCAS applications and the mysteries of the timetable.

Their wisdom and dedication will be missed for a long time. However life goes on and new staff have joined this term and will now have the opportunity to leave their mark.

We have occasion to be proud in January when the league tables were published. Slough Grammar School has done exceptionally well, with GCSE results placing the school in the top 150 schools nationally. This ranking is even better if we focus on the recently introduced English Baccalaureate and makes us the joint top school in the area. These achievements are a testament to the hard work and commitment of students, parents and staff.

We are not complacent and look ahead at how to support those currently preparing for challenging exams. Developing independent and resilient learners is one of the key areas of the Strategic Plan, so is the development of the site and facilities. We are planning to improve the Sixth Form study areas, as well as the dining and sport facilities. With the PSA focusing on fund raising for outdoor seating areas I am confident you will soon see positive changes. I am keen to hear from you to discuss what contribution, if any, the Old Paludians would like to make.

Now that we are an academy, it is also time to commission our new website which should be fully operational in March as well as starting the development of a parent portal. Keeping us all in touch and well informed about the school is our main purpose.

It is also true to say that the up and coming Centenary will give us the platform to reflect on the illustrious past and plan for a glorious future. I am very excited with the prospect of leading the schools during this period of celebration.

I am honoured to join the Old Paludians Association and look forward to working with you to retain the memories of this outstanding school as well as helping our current students benefit from what this very special school has to offer. By doing so we will ensure long lasting memories for many generations to come.

****STAFF NEWS****

Rev Ivy Halden (1941-74) recently celebrated her 97th birthday. However, she recently had a bad fall and is now in Wexham Park Hospital with the possibility of being transferred to St Luke's, Maidenhead. We offer belated birthday greetings and best wishes for a speedy recovery. *Our thanks to Ann Seller (Woodrow, Veronica, 1946-53) for passing on this information.*

Miss Booth (1942-72) Miss Lana Booth, the Head of Games at SHS from 1942 to 1972 will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on 18 April 2011. We believe that she is the first member of staff to have reached this milestone and to mark the occasion the Association will send her a card and a box of chocolates (apparently she is a chocoholic). We hope that some members who remember her will send their own greetings. They should be sent to Miss Booth's niece who will take them into the nursing home where she lives. The address is Mrs Val Sturgess, [REDACTED]. We wish her and her family a wonderful day.

Margaret Rowland (1945-78) I don't expect to get to the reunion this time but I send good wishes to you all. I am sorry not to meet those who remember me. I have finally sold my car and although I am quite mobile and active at home, I find walking outside difficult and standing or sitting around tiring. I get lifts to Sainsbury's so still occasionally meet ex-pupils there, but I now do on-line shopping as well. **Cherry Knott** (who was at SHS in the late fifties/early sixties) recently sent me information about a book she has just published after years of research. It is called 'George Vernon 1636-1702 *'Who Built This House'* Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire. I have been in touch with Mrs Sumner and Miss Booth recently. I enjoy having visitors and entertaining or hearing about my relations especially my young great-nieces and nephews. Apart from using and playing on the computer I still manage to do

most of the Daily Telegraph Weekend General Knowledge Crossword and am surprised at the strange facts that surface.

Mrs Anne Chedlow (1947-54) Again this year I'm afraid I shall not be with you for the Reunion, but I do look forward to the Newsletters and to hearing about old friends. Sadly the number of ex-members of Staff from my era grows smaller but there is great pleasure in following the fortunes of Old Girls - some of whom still write to me. I continue to enjoy life in this pleasant and lively village (Hundon in Suffolk) and I send you all my good wishes for a happy Reunion.

The following members of staff have been in touch and send their good wishes to all who remember them:

Mrs Margaret Roberts (Miss Oates) (1947-52), **Mrs Betty Symmons** (1962-82), **Mrs P Purdue** (1964-80), **Mrs Ann Orchard** (1969-85), **Mrs Catherine Bowater** (1973-95).

David Whitehouse (1976-2007) David has recently come home after spending some time in hospital. We send our very best wishes to him and his family at this time.

****IN MEMORIAM ****

Mrs Hilda Day (1972-84), physics teacher, who sadly died earlier this year aged 84. *We send our condolences to her family and friends.*

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****

Joyce Preddle (Hobson, 1929-32) I have not attended a reunion for some time and as I am now in my 97th year I don't travel very far. My two younger sisters also attended the school - one of them (**Peggy Hobson**) was Head Girl in 1936. Best wishes to all.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Alice Lang (Hoby, 1927-33) died on 8th November 2010 shortly before her 95th birthday. Since she was a Quaker there was a Service of Remembrance, rather than a funeral, at The Friends Meeting House in Bewdley, Worcestershire. We offer our sincere condolences to her family and our thanks to her son **Robert Lang** (1959-67), for passing on this sad news. *Robert included a message to anyone who remembers him from his time at school. He retired after 35½ years of teaching and has been a green keeper for the last 4½ years - Ed.*

****1930s****

Peggy Needham (Nicholls, 1931-36) I am unable to attend the reunion this year. I spent my middle years at SSS in the 'B' stream (mixed) and it was good to meet up with 'the boys' when I came to the reunions in the 80s. I am still in touch with **Margaret and Jean Bayly**, **Mary Jennings** (who lives in the U.S.A.) and **Joan Yeatman**. Many thanks for keeping the Old Paludians going.

Allan Burney (1936-1941) I am just about alive and kicking and in touch with **Gerry Lines**, (1936-41) who lives in Ontario. Gerry's daughter wrote to tell us that Gerry has been suffering from Parkinsons disease but is doing well. Sadly, his wife, Joan, passed away in

February this year. *We offer our deepest sympathy to Gerry and his family at this sad time and our thanks to his daughter Jennifer for passing on this information.*

John Ware (1936-41) I am sorry that I can't be at the reunion on 19th March but I send my best wishes for a happy and successful day. I shall be 85 next month and am still working in my accountancy practice - and still enjoying it!

Ivy Harris (Cook, 1937-43) still meets up with old friends from her schooldays: **June Hamilton** (Lewis, 1938-43), and **Mary Annis** (Greet, 1937-44). All are in their mid-eighties which Ivy refers to as 'a dangerous age'!

Phyllis Prisnall (1937-43) is unable to attend the reunion this year as she is housebound following a series of strokes. *Our thanks to Ivy Harris (1937-43) for passing on this information.*

Joyce Amoroso (Kirtland, 1939-45) I send my best wishes to all who remember me. I have moved from Spalding to Netherfield in Nottingham to be near my daughter.

Ken Bryant (1936-41) Ken has been a member of the OPA committee for over 20 years and is an excellent source of information about Old Paludians. *Thank you Ken, for your invaluable support this year - Ed.*

Betty Foster (Thomas, 1939-46) Sorry I am unable to attend this year-distance and 'old age' are not a great help! Greetings to anyone who remembers me, especially the '1939 intake'.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Leonard Hampton (1932-37) Len left school to work at Horlicks, Slough but subsequently joined the RAF where he became a Flight Lieutenant. In civilian life he taught children with disabilities and took part in local politics, becoming Chairman of High Wycombe Council in 1987. He died on 11th December, 2010 shortly before his 90th birthday. *Our thanks to Ken Bryant for passing on this information*

Peter Renacre (1933-37) Peter left school to train with Crane boilers in London, joining the RAF in World War 2. He returned to civilian life in 1947 and worked in the family firm, 'Renacres', Ironmongers, until they closed to make way for a new office block. He retired to Lincolnshire where he passed away in January this year. *Once again, thank you to Ken Bryant for passing on this information.*

Patricia Shaw (Turvill, 1936-41) Patricia died unexpectedly at her home in Windsor in August 2010. She had lived life fully to the end. Our deepest sympathy to her family and our thanks to Andrew Shaw for this information.

Mary Adams (Harvey, 1936-42) Mary was a Girl Guide and Sunday School Teacher as well as a keen member of the Old Paludians. She always felt that she had had a first class education, and was lucky to have been at SHS with Miss Crawford as Headteacher. She left school to work at the Pest Infestation Laboratory where she was encouraged to undertake further education. She was awarded a degree in Geography and Botany and eventually became a geography teacher.

Frank Robotham (1937-42) Frank was the eldest of three brothers who attended SGS, the late Richard (1945 - 1952) and John (1955 - 1962). The larger than life Frank (known to many contemporaries as Jumbo) will be remembered as an outstanding sportsman who played football, hockey and cricket for the School and was awarded School Colours for all three sports three years in a row before he left aged 16 years. He became the regular football goalkeeper for Slough United at the age of 15. After the war he played for the Old Paludians at cricket and hockey as well as representing the county at hockey and rounded off his active sporting career playing cricket for Richings Park and Burnham cricket clubs until well into his late thirties. In 1944 he received his conscription papers. Sadly for him he was

sent to the mines as a Bevin Boy, a time of his life about which he spoke very little, and may have contributed to his ill health in later years. Frank designed the Old Paludians Clubhouse at Popes Field, Berry Hill, Taplow which was a self build project by members and opened on 7th June 1958. Professionally he worked in the planning departments of local authorities. He was a talented artist and his drawings of Bray Church and York Minster were on the Order of Service for the Celebration of his life held at Bray Church and attended by a large congregation including some of the Old Paludians who had been at school with him. He will be missed at our annual reunions and we send condolences to his wife Pam and brother John.

Thelma Kyte (Roberts, 1938-44) Thelma left Slough High in 1943 to look after her father after the death of her mother. When she married Frank in 1953, they flew to France for their honeymoon which was unusual in those days. She had many interests, one of the main ones being her life-long association with the Girl Guides. She became Treasurer to the Trefoil Guild and continued in this post until her death in 2010. Her other passion was driving her car which she was able to do after passing her test at age 51! She was well loved by her family and was funny, kind and friendly to all. *Thelma's daughter, Fiona Wright very kindly passed on this information*

Joyce Haggerty (Newstead, 1939-45) Joyce's sister **Edna Cull** (Newstead, 1945-50) passed on the news that Joyce died on 17th October 2010. Joyce worked at the school for a while as a lab technician before joining the Civil Service. Latterly, one of her greatest pleasures was driving her car and she especially loved to visit the Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park. Joyce attended the reunions regularly and both sisters were present in March last year. *Our thanks also to Pamela Kelpin (Brown, 1939-46) who wrote to tell us this sad news, as Joyce was a close friend of hers.*

****1940s****

Reg Ohlson (1940-48) Thank you for the invitation to the 2011 Reunion. I truly enjoyed the past two reunions which I attended but, with a very full schedule planned this year here in the U.S., I have decided to forego the 2011 event and use my BA Miles to attend the 2012 Centennial. I send my very best wishes to all those I spent time with in the past two years and hope to see you all again in 2012.

Ron Fidler (1943-49) I am very sorry but I will not be able to attend the Reunion this year as I shall be on holiday in San Diego. Unfortunately there was an unavoidable clash of dates. Through the Newsletter may I wish you another successful day and I shall miss seeing friends of long standing, thus avoiding the use of "old"! I expect to be back with you next year. Have a great day!!

Gwen Gale (Knight, 1941-47) I was pleased to hear from the 1941 usual suspects last Christmas and also from Joyce Preddle (Hobson, 1929-32) now in her nineties. Thanks to everyone who sent a card. I hope to be at the reunion for an hour before lunch and I look forward to the Civic Society stall. Best regards to all.

Margaret Paine (Paine, 1943-48) 2010 was not a good year for us. My daughter **Judy Farrow** (Paine, 1975-80) was diagnosed with breast cancer but is now nearing the end of her chemotherapy treatment. I had to spend three weeks in hospital in July, including one week convalescing in an old people's home. I quickly concluded that I am not yet ready for that! Things are improving now and I am able to enjoy my walks in Burnham Beeches as well as regular games of Scrabble! I should love to hear from anyone unable to make the reunion.

Annette Chant (Pountain, 1944-48) Best wishes for a successful reunion. Thank you to everyone who keeps this event going. I should like to send my good wishes to all who remember me.

Robert Neale (1944-52) Many thanks for the invitation to the 2011 Reunion. I'm afraid I'm too far away to accept. But I wondered whether it would be worth letting the Old Paludians know that I have appeared in the New Zealand 2011 New Year's Honours List as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) 'for services to education and the community.' *We all offer Robert our congratulations on receiving this well-deserved recognition - Ed.*

Julie Yahle (Neal, 1945-54) is unable to attend this year.

Edna Cull (Newstead, 1945-50) I have recently returned from a rendezvous with my family in South America (they live in New Zealand). I live in Northumberland at present but shall probably be moving back south fairly soon and hope to be able to attend the 2012 reunion. May the sun shine for you all on 19th March!

Ann Seller (Woodrow, Veronica, 1946-53) is unable to attend the reunion this year for reasons of ill health.

Muriel Aird (Bubb, 1946-53) Unfortunately I will not be attending the Reunion this year. I am in the middle of a long course of chemotherapy with all the rather nasty side effects, so travel & long days away from home are impossible at the moment. Fortunately, I keep up with two classmates, **Paula Atherton** (Doreen Jones, 1946-53) and **Julia Wilson** (Ewens 1948-52). We have regular phone calls & e-mails and Paula and I have even Skyped! Best wishes to all for a happy Reunion day.

Eric Simpson (1947-52) I am unable to attend this year's reunion as I have already booked a holiday to Egypt. Many thanks for the news letter. My regards to everybody and best wishes for a good meeting.

Maureen Lessels (Clancy, 1947-53) I am sorry I cannot be at the reunion this year. I have so many happy memories of my time at the school and think with affection of **Miss Saunderson**, **Mrs Binstead**, **Miss Robertshaw** and especially **Miss Crawford** and her wonderful assemblies. I loved being in the choir with **Miss Eileen Tucker** and the way she used to play 'Anchors Aweigh" as we walked out of the school hall on the last day of term. Best wishes for a happy day.

Denis Delaney (1949-54) We left Slough three years ago and are thoroughly enjoying our idyllic lifestyle in Valencia. At the time it was a huge wrench as we had lived in Slough for over sixty years but at present have no wish to return. We feel we very much part of the local community here. My wife has become a successful teacher of English and we both speak Spanish reasonably well. And - a bonus - as this is an orange growing region, we often find bags of oranges on our doorstep! *This sounds idyllic- Ed.*

Valerie Storie (1949-55) Sadly I have to tell you of the death of Peter Burgess. I was able to put him back in touch with his great friend **Len Jackson** (1949-55) in Chicago and, being of the same era, I was awarded honorary membership of the UVB - I have the t-shirt to prove it! Lennie and Peter then remained in close touch and exchanged several visits (*see below*).

****IN MEMORIAM****

Robert Berryman (1942-46) Bob's father was a farrier, 'Corporal of Horse' in the Horse Guards and as the Household Cavalry travelled around a lot, Bob had been to eleven schools before he was eleven years old. He passed the Scholarship so was sent to live with his grandmother in Datchet for the rest of his schooldays, which were spent at SGS. When he left school he joined ICI, then spent two years on National Service in Egypt with the Royal Engineers. He returned to ICI where he worked as a site engineer. He enjoyed music and for a while joined the Slough Town Band. He sailed with the ICI Sailing Club and is remembered by the SOAP's (Sailing OAP's) as a gentle giant and trusted friend. After retirement he built a Canadian canoe which was launched at the Sailing Club in 2008. After the Service and

Committal at the Crematorium, his family and friends left to the tune of 'Life on the Ocean Wave' played by the Band of HM Royal Marines. His sister was the late **Jean Cartright** (Berryman, 1944-49). We offer our sincere condolences to Bob's wife June and the family.

Dr Jim Hobbs (1948-56) worked in a GP practice in Woodley. When he retired he became a keen golf player and became Captain of Sonning Golf Club in 2010. He died on November 1st 2010 whilst participating in the game he loved, at a golfing weekend in Sussex. Some five hundred people attended his funeral in Woodley Church, including a number of Old Pals and ex-players from the Old Paludians football teams, with whom he had played for over 25 years. We offer our deepest sympathy to Jim's family at this sad time. *Thank you to his brother-in-law, Clive Toogood (1951-56), for passing on this information.*

Peter Burgess (1949 -54) We learned with great sadness that Peter died on 22 February after a short illness - his funeral took place on 8 March and many of his Old Paludians friends were present. Over the past few years Peter had located over 30 of his school contemporaries and especially 20 or so Upper Fifth boys (UVB) from UK, Spain as well as US. Twice a year a mini-reunion was held in the Cotswolds when a large (and lively) group of UVB boys would talk over old times. Peter was a family man and also had many other interests. He loved modern jazz, enjoyed the railways and was an avid collector of postcards - this last interest led to Peter writing a book "Slough - A Century of Change" with Dr Judith Hunter. However, the Old Paludians Association always remained dear to his heart. Peter, we will miss you. *Thank you to Valerie Storie and Alan Forbes for this tribute. We send our heartfelt condolences to Margaret and the family at this very sad time - Ed.*

****1950s****

Anthea Fowler (Bailey, 1950-56) Unfortunately I am unable to attend the reunion this year. We live in France and will actually be travelling on that day to come to the UK but will not arrive until Sunday morning. Please pass on my good wishes to all from years 1950-57 who will be attending and I do hope you have a very successful day. I certainly hope I will be able to come to next year's very special reunion. With good wishes to you all.

Jill Mansfield (1950-58) **Caroline Smith** (Menniss, 1951-58) has written to say that Jill is now profoundly deaf and no longer able to manage at home. Caroline is dealing with her correspondence and will be pleased to answer enquiries from former school friends. *Please contact through Valerie Storie, Membership Secretary - Ed.*

Sylvia Legg (Naylor, 1951-56) Thank you to everyone for organising yet another reunion. Unfortunately I cannot attend this year as I live too far away (Australia), but I send my very best wishes that it will be the usual big success. It would be lovely to be there in person and to chat to some of the friends I made whilst at SHS, but at least I can keep in touch with them by email and I am thankful for that. After all your snowy weather thought you would like to know how we are faring down under. We are having beautiful deep blue skies and perfect summer weather while poor Queensland is suffering horrendous floods covering an area the size of France and Germany put together, Western Australia is enduring a drought and Tasmania had snow over the high ground during Christmas. Strange, isn't it? No wonder our cricketers found it hard to hit the ball and bowl straight!

Ann Reed (Howell, 1951-56) So sorry that I am not able to attend the Reunion this year, as I shall be in the middle of a house move. I wish you a happy and successful time and shall hope to see you next year when I am settled. Please convey my good wishes to all those present, who may know me.

David Harding (1951-58) I was one of five State Scholarships awarded to the pupils in the school in 1958 on the basis of A level and S level results (my own success was largely down to

the inspiration I gained from the teaching of GAD Dickenson). I read Civil Engineering at Kings College London 1958 to 1961 and went into an Engineers Office for one year, leaving to go to St Edmund's Hall Oxford to do a Diploma in Education prior to a career in teaching. I worked on the South Coast, in Lancashire and Nottinghamshire then finally as a Head teacher in Surrey before retiring in 2000. I now live in Steeple Morden, a small village fairly close to Cambridge. I was Deputy Head Boy in 1957 (with **Chris O'Donoghue**) when **Jimmy Barker** was Head Boy. All three of us played football for the School 1st XI under the guidance of one Mr Gibbs, of Slough Town fame.

Norma Meyrick (Parker, 1951-56) I shall not be able to attend this year as I have a prior engagement - I shall be on holiday in Gran Canaria. Best wishes to all at the reunion.

Jennifer James (Bond, 1955-60) I have just a little bit for the Newsletter. Our eldest daughter had her first child - a boy called Gethin - just over two years ago and her second - a daughter called Bronwyn - last October. Our son-in-law is Welsh hence their names. We get to see them reasonably often and it is certainly different looking after one's grandchildren rather than one's own children but is also such fun. I was also pleased to meet up with my cousin **Ann Spracklen** (Bond, 1952-57) at the last reunion having been able to make contact through Friends Reunited. We hadn't seen one another for about 40 years as Ann and her husband had moved to Canada. We both had busy lives and just lost contact. In the summer of 2009, following my Friends Reunited email, when Ann and her husband were over for a rowing festival, we met for lunch at 12.00 noon at a nice pub near Marlow and were still there at about 4.30 pm talking over the past and all that had gone on in our lives!

Carolyn Mason (King, 1952-58) Apologies, - I'm afraid, that I can't make it to the Reunion - again this March, but am still suffering the after-effects of an unfortunate hip replacement and am finding it difficult to travel. I hope it will be a very successful and happy day and here's hoping I can attend next year!

Ruth Sheppard (Clark, 1955-62) I am hoping to attend the reunion this year but I am slowly getting used to the shock of losing my husband, John, suddenly, just before Christmas. It will be good to meet up with old friends from my year. I gave another song recital in October and am still keeping up all singing and sewing activities. My 5½ year old grandson keeps me otherwise out of mischief. *We are sorry to hear the news about John and I am sure all your friends will be thinking of you at this sad time - Ed.*

Bob Moss (1956-64) In July last year a small group of the SGS 1956 intake enjoyed a barbecue hosted by **Howard Smith** at his home in Henley. In attendance were: **Alan Alderman, Roger Fountain Brian Harden, Edward Lucas-Smith, Bob Moss and Peter Virgo** This has become an annual event and we will always be pleased to welcome old boys of similar vintage. Anyone interested should contact Bob via Valerie Storie, membership secretary.

Alison Elliott (Furniss, 1958-65) So sorry I'll be unable to attend the Reunion. It once again clashes with our local Magistrates' Training Day, - as it invariably does. Please give my apologies and best wishes to anyone I know. Thank you for all you do.

Vivienne Jones (Hardy, 1958-60) I left SHS to follow a full time secretarial course at East Berkshire College in Windsor. I had some interesting jobs including working for a Windsor Solicitors, British Airways and as a Secretary to the Clerk to Justices in Windsor. I have lived in Windsor and Datchet and am now in Bracknell. My children are now 43, 41 and 34 with the youngest living in Australia. I worked for 18 years in the NHS and in the course of my work met Jean Tyler! I am now retired and belong to the U3A. I enjoy walking, gardening and travelling.

Jennifer Ballard (Biss, 1959-62) Sorry to say I will not be able to attend the 2011 Reunion, as I will be in Cyprus (again!), but I send my best wishes to the Committee and all my former school-mates for the occasion.

John Overton (1959-1967) We moved from Slough in January 2010, and it took several weeks to get a telephone line, and a further week to gain on-line access to internet and e-mail. We are now settling very happily in Buxton, where the pace of life is gentler than it was where we used to live, within a stone's throw of the School. Unfortunately, I am unable to come down for this year's reunion, but will hope to be able to come to the centenary celebration next year.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Margaret Pritchard (Lees, 1951-56) Keith Petty wrote: It is with regret that I have to advise you of the death of my wife's (Olive) younger sister Margaret in March last year. I think she lost the will to recover after losing her husband. Although she had many friends and family, she had no children of her own. She delighted in other people's though and supported many children's and animal charities, leaving her remaining cat to me!

John Ridgley (1954-61) Sadly John died on 15th February 2010 after a short illness.

Carolyn Clarke (Lloyd, 1956-1963) Carolyn left the High School in 1963 and studied Occupational Therapy at Dorset House, Oxford. She married in 1967 and finally settled in Herefordshire in 1972. Carolyn started and ended her working life as an OT first with geriatrics and finally with acute psychiatric patients in Hereford. In between she managed to own and run a cafe, run the school meals service at the local primary school and be a houseparent to 30 teenage girls at a boarding school in Hereford. Even in retirement, she helped at the local playgroup. In 2007 it was discovered that she had bowel cancer. In her periods of remission, she and her husband cruised the West Indies, sailed in the Queen Mary, explored the Nile and stayed several times in Brittany. She was determined she was not going to let illness stand in her way. Carolyn passed away very peacefully, at home on 19th December 2010. Carolyn was adored by her family. Her sister Andy still lives in Burnham. Over 250 people came to a thanksgiving for her life in Bodenham Church, on Saturday 8th January 2011. Our thanks to her husband Bob Clarke and her sister **Andrea Dawson** (Lloyd, 1958-63) for passing on this sad news. *Carolyn was certainly an amazing and energetic person, who I am sure will be fondly remembered not only by her family and close friends, but also by a whole community. We offer our sincere condolences to her family at this sad time - Ed.*

Wendy Heath (1956-59) Wendy passed away on June 4th 2010. She was a keen participant in amateur dramatics and was a member of The Manor Revellers, the group based at The Manor Care Home. She also used to help out at the local Animal Rescue. *Our thanks to Nicola Webber, from the care home, for sending in this sad news.*

****1960s****

John Treble (1960-68) I am afraid that I will be unable to attend the reunion this year but will make every effort to come to the Centenary Reunion in 2012.

Judy Carter (1962-69) Last October, **Yvonne Davies** (Ranscombe, 1962-69) and I, to celebrate our 60th birthday (we discovered on our first day at SHS that we shared the same birthday) took a 3 week trip on the Queen Mary. We sailed from Southampton to New York, then up the east coast, via Newport R.I., Boston, Bar Harbor (where we were treated to excellent navigational skills in getting us ashore on the tenders through a crowded anchorage in thick fog caused by the cold Labrador current - anyone remember that from geography?), Saint John N.B. and Halifax, Nova Scotia, before returning to New York and finally

Southampton. It was the trip of a lifetime, but I am now saving hard for my 65th celebration which I hope will take the form of a round the world trip on one of the Queens. On a personal note, I still work 4-8 shifts a month at my old unit in Bristol to keep my hand in. I thoroughly enjoy my bus pass - the buses even run to time! The relief of not having to find a parking space is wonderful. This year I will be officiating at my 24th Wimbledon. I hope to keep going for a little while longer - to get the plaque for the wall! Best wishes to all. *Keep up the good work at Wimbledon - maybe Andy Murray will win this year - Ed.*

Claire Brereton (1966-73, Head Girl 1972-3) I shall not be attending the reunion this year as I live in Australia, but thank you for the invitation.

****1970s****

Tim Hall (1977-83) I am now self-employed web-designer, musician and writer. Since I left school I have worked in a wide range of interesting and unusual musical fields. In 2006 I won and held the Glastonbury Bardic Chair (Ynys Witrin). My book 'Python 3 for Absolute Beginners' (Apress) was published in 2009. I still occasionally perform with the group 'Silver on the Tree', which I recently discovered is also the last title in a series of books written by former SHS pupil and Head Girl - **Susan Cooper** (1944-52). *The name alludes to the Silver Branch which was the ancient Bardic staff of office, according to the group's website <http://glastonburymusic.org.uk/sott/> - Ed.*

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

NON-MEMBERS

From time to time we hear news of the passing of non-members, which we include in the newsletters as there are bound to be members and friends who knew them.

Ethel Walker (1931-36) died in December 2009. *Our thanks to Peggy Needham (Nicholls, 1931-36) for this sad news.*

Vic Buckingham (1936-41) a new name added to our Roll of Honour. Vic lived in Canada but sadly died in December 2009. *Our thanks to Ken Bryant for passing on this information.*

Our thoughts go to all those mentioned in our 'In Memoriam' lists and they will be sincerely remembered at our annual reunion.

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 2010 - 2011

<p>1940s David Esling 1946-54 Ed Dunster 1944-49</p>

<p>1950s David Harding 1951-58 Robert Keenan 1951-1956 Vivienne Jones (Hardy) 1958-60</p>
--

1960s

Paul Hodgson 1963-70

Chris Wood 1963 70

1970s

Tim Hall 1977-83

Peter Rieley (STAFF) 1973-2010)

1980s

Sara Bryant 1980-84

Glen Davies 1980-84

Tina Metcalfe (Holloway) 1980-84

Andrew Flannery 1980-86

Mark Conroy 1980-84

Adrian Greene 1980-86

Patrick Donachy 1980-86

Dion English (Langley) 1981-86

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

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

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 Storie, the Membership Secretary*

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 Webmasters, **Ian and Colin Cairns**. Why not have a look at <www.oldpaludians.org>? As promised, we have now reloaded all our photographs and added some new ones - approx 418 in total and more to come! These will be found in the area marked "Wikispaces Photos". Within a short period, you too can be editing the names on these photos or just browsing them and this year has seen the arrival of many new 'Wiki' editors. If you feel you are able to help, please have a look at the new Wiki section, and see whether you can assist the identification of the people on the photographs - the backlog of names will be incorporated in due course.

OUR WEBSITE CDROMs We have for some years been producing a CDROM of our website, containing all the photos and all the names that we have, as at the production date. This has been helpful when most Old Paludians had slow dial-up connections to the Internet and wished to avoid downloading all our large school photos. However, the CDROM was fixed on its production date, and could only be replaced - not updated. Nowadays, many Old Paludians have fast broadband access to the Internet, and it is little trouble to download the latest photos/latest names straight from our website - so the CDROM has slightly less usefulness.

Our new Wiki website has altered the format, and we continue to research the easiest way to incorporate this new format onto our CDROM. Unfortunately, we have still not yet completed our research. The result is that although we are always pleased to receive indications of interest, we are unable to fulfil any orders for CDROMs for the near future.

THE ARCHIVES: We are very sorry that there will not be a display of archive material at the reunion this year. We have however been working hard on the book of photographs which we are aiming to publish to commemorate the centenary next year. We hope to make up for this with an exhibition to be held in January 2012, which was the month when Slough Secondary School opened its portals in 1912. We are still looking for photographs, particularly for Slough High School from the years 1970-82. We would be grateful if anyone could help by loaning or donating such items. If you are able to help please contact any member of the committee. Many Thanks, **David Rogers** (Archivist).



We've lost touch with...

Gabrielle Moody (1931-36)

Suzanne Davies (Wall, 1966-71)

John Draycott (1976-79)

Warwick Dyer (1932-39)

David Ewen (1947-52)

Rita Hinton (Ashley, 1951-57)

Pauline Parsons (Marler, 1946-53)

Jane Pounds (Brazell, 1940-45)

Clive Richardson (1969-76)

Audrey Tarrant (Elderfield, 1938-44)

Barbara Thorp (1933-39)

... and

Alan Baker (1954-61) would like news of **John Mearns** (1954-61); **Paul Franks** (1955-1962) and **Karen Gundel** (SHS, 1955-1962).

Myra Levien is looking for **Elizabeth Hall**, **Barbara Roper-Lowe**, **Gillian Beer**, **Angela Jacques** and **Joan Butler** and anyone else who remembers class 2A (1942).

Tim Hall (1977-83) would like news of **Mr Bower** (Head of Music)

but...

We've found:

Angela Jacques (1941-48) Jean Tyler remembers her as a really lovely person and a very able sportswoman who played hockey and tennis for many years. She trained as a games teacher and taught at several different schools in Slough. Sadly she developed arthritis which crippled her in her later life, and our records show that she died in December 2002.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Slough and District Civic Society

I am sure there are many Old Pals spread about the world who are still interested in what is happening in their old home town. The Slough and District Civic Society is a collection of local people who are concerned with all things to do with the town. Our constitution says that the objects of the society are to stimulate public interest in the history, the architecture, in what our council are planning for the town, and generally to concern ourselves with the well-being of Slough and its citizens. We have regular away visits and talks on local topics and the society has a newsletter which is published each month. The newsletter tries to highlight

local issues and I think that we can say that in some way over the last year or so we have had a small influence over what happens in the town. Well I like to kid myself that it the case. Our council were hell bent on pulling down the town hall, one of the few buildings left in the town to have any sense of history, but have now been persuaded to save this building and use it instead as a school. We have been fighting to get the local war memorials cleaned up and the council now have agreed to carry out this work over the next couple of years. Of particular interest to Old Pals I am sure is the fate of the old pavilion in Lascelles Park. It has been allowed to rot away over the years. It is owned by the council, and we are pressing the Town Hall to restore the building. Consequently, in the last few weeks workmen have appeared on the scene and something is happening there.

We need to boost our membership and that is why I am writing this note today. Membership costs £12 a year and for that we would e-mail you our newsletter each month and of course you would be welcome to any of our evening talks or away day visits. Have a look at recent editions! Please feel free to contact me through the Old Paludians and I will e-mail copies by return. A bigger membership will mean that we have a little more clout when raising local issues. We in the society all care about what happens in the town and I hope we can persuade others to share in that concern.

We will be there at the Grammar School on 19th March. **Malcolm Hellings (1947-52).**

(For further information please contact Malcolm through Jean Tyler or Valerie Storie)

Grammar School Documentary

Last year, Emily Sivyer, a researcher for Testimony Films, Bristol, wrote asking if there were any ex-pupils who would be willing to be interviewed about their grammar school experiences for a programme she was researching entitled 'The Grammar School'. She was particularly interested in the various changes which have taken place over the years:

'Dear All,

I should like to say thank you so much for all the help, contacts and information for the BBC4 grammar schools documentary. I was also keen to get in touch regarding another angle that we want to cover in the programme. In order to illustrate how beneficial a grammar school education was to many people, we would like to interview someone who reached the top of their profession, whether in Law, Politics, Technology and the Sciences, Music, Art etc. and who have been publicly celebrated for their achievements. I would be delighted to hear back from any of you who know of any notable/famous alumni. I have been scouring the Internet, but I would really value your ideas, if you can think of any one that really illustrates this point of coming from a humble/modest background, and through grammar school education rose through the ranks and became very successful, please let me know.

Just to keep you all up to speed with progress... after speaking with many of your ex-pupils I heard some really great stories, and some really interesting points have been raised about grammar school education. I have been very moved by some of the accounts of former pupils who say how much they owe to the amazing opportunities they were given at grammar school.

I want to thank you all for helping me so much and want to extend my best wishes to you all and hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes, Emily'

Testimony Films is run by noted social historian Dr Steve Humphries who has made several critically acclaimed and award winning documentaries over the last 15 years, namely *Veterans: Last Survivors of the Great War* (BBC1), *Ground Zero* (Channel 4). *The 50s and 60s in Living Colour* (ITV1), and *Britain's Love Story* (ITV1).

If you would like to contribute, please contact Jean Tyler

We've had a request from Rob Bowater who is researching a book on RAF Squadron 263: I wonder if you may be able to help me. I am currently researching the history of No.263 Squadron during the period they flew the Westland Whirlwind fighter. There were only 114 of these aircraft built and they served between 1940 and 1943. One of the pilots whom I am researching is **Derrick Ellis Prior** who was I believe, an Old Paludian. He was killed in a flying accident in December 1941 aged just 21. I have details on how he died, but unfortunately I have been unable to find a photograph of him. Would you have any such photo in your archives that I could purchase. The book I am writing is not a glorification of war, but a tribute to the 250 pilots who flew the Whirlwind, many of whom, like Derrick, died whilst doing so.

Derrick Ellis Prior's name is recorded on the WWII Roll of Honour at Slough Grammar School. *Derrick has been identified on the 1934 SSS school photo, but if anyone has any further information, I am sure Rob would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Valerie Storie, Jean Tyler or myself for his contact details - Ed*

Important date for your Diary
The Old Paludians Annual Reunion
2012
will be held on
Saturday 17th March

Further information will be available in January 2012 as we shall be celebrating our centenary

THE OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION: SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/10			
Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	£20.00	Refreshments	£1,643.50
Donations	£3,249.00	Donations to Slough Grammar School	£1,100.00
Coffee	£0.00	Telephone	£0.00
Lunch	£41.00	Postage	£374.38
Tea	£0.00	Printing	£304.00
Raffle	£281.00	P&P for Book	£0.00
Book P. Bennett	£0.00	Stationery	£168.39
P&P for Book	£0.00	Bookmarks etc	£0.00
Bookmarks etc	£21.00	Flowers	£99.91
Bank interest	£2.15	Computer	£33.34
Computer	£0.00	Other	£110.00
Other	£114.50		
TOTAL	£3,728.65	TOTAL	£3,833.52
		Brought forward from 2009	£3,718.20
		Income for yr ending 31/12/10	£4,100.54
		Expense for yr ending 31/12/10	£3,841.89
		Profit for yr 2010	£258.65
		Carried Forward to 2011	£3,976.85

Kindly prepared by **Shelagh Whitehouse** (Staff, 1993-2008)

THE OLD PALUDIANS COMMITTEE: 2010 -2011

President	Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada Principal, Slough Grammar School
Chairman	Jean Tyler [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]; email: chairman@oldpaludians.org
Treasurer	Shelagh Whitehouse [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]; email: treasurer@oldpaludians.org
Membership Secretary	Valerie Storie [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]; email: memsec@oldpaludians.org
Archivist	David Rogers [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]
Webmasters	Ian Cairns [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED] email: webmaster@oldpaludians.org email: iancairns@oldpaludians.org Colin Cairns [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]; email: colincairns@oldpaludians.org
COMMITTEE:	Jane Brown [REDACTED] Tel : [REDACTED]; email: janebrown@oldpaludians.org
	Ken Bryant [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]
	Marie Hughes [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]; email: mariehughes@oldpaludians.org
	Jennifer James [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]; email: jenniferjames@oldpaludians.org
Newsletter Editor	Shelagh Rothero [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]; email: editor@oldpaludians.org
Old Paludians website	www.oldpaludians.org
School website	www.sloughgrammar.berks.sch.uk


~~~~~ **School Ties** ~~~~~

**Further recollections of the Old Paludians**

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

Once again Old Paludians 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 Paludians**

|                                                                        |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| I wish to order ..... book(s) which I will collect @ <b>£10 each</b>   | £..... |
| I wish to order ..... book(s) to be sent by post @ <b>£11.50 each</b>  | £..... |
| I wish to order ..... book(s) to be sent overseas @ <b>£13.00 each</b> | £..... |
| <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>                                                  | £..... |

NAME (please print) .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

..... Post code .....

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

**Mrs Jean Tyler, [Redacted]**

Cheques made payable to 'The Old Paludians ' please.

\*\*\*\*\*

© Old Paludians Association  
The Old Paludians Book