

The *Old Paludians* *Newsletter*

Founded 1915

Website: www.oldpaludians.org

March 2012

EDITORIAL

As you all know, Slough Grammar School is this year celebrating its centenary. In 2015, The Old Paludians Association will celebrate its own centenary. During this time there have been so many changes, both globally and locally. Slough has changed completely since the 1950/60s and those changes would seem even more astonishing to anyone who attended the original Slough Secondary School in 1912.

During the past 100 years not only have we suffered two terrible World Wars- as you will see reflected in some of the many news items sent in - but also Man has taken his first steps on the moon and...computers have arrived on Earth.

Every pupil has access to the latest technology and even Luddites, such as your Editor, find themselves making frequent references to dongles, dingbats and the latest Blu-ray technology (my apologies to those of you who have never travelled this path, but be reassured - you may be better off as it can be infuriating when it fails !). All this has made almost everything accessible to almost everybody, which may or may not be an advantage. We shall see! We are simply left wondering what the next 100 years will bring.

Will it still be considered polite to thank someone for help received? I sincerely hope so! With that in mind, I should like to thank Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada for allowing us to once again invade the building for this, our special reunion.

This is my last editorial, as I am now handing the task over to Bob Moss (see details below). I hope he will enjoy the role as much as I have, as he takes his first steps in this direction! I thank him for his support this year.

Special thanks must go to Valerie Storie, who has always been such an invaluable source of information during the last six years. My thanks also to Jean Tyler and Shelagh Whitehouse, who have been so patient and supportive over the past few hectic weeks; 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 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

Greetings to all Old Paludians in this the School's Centenary Year.

Slough Secondary School opened on the 16th January 1912. This was a very important project at the time and had cost Slough Urban Council and Buckinghamshire County Council a total of £6,365. There were just 50 pupils on the roll. The official opening was performed on March 1st 1912 by Sir Alfred Cripps, MP for Wycombe, and on the 18th December 1912, Rev the

Hon Edward Lyttleton DD, the Headmaster of Eton, distributed the prizes at the first annual speech day which was held in the Slough Public Hall.

From this modest beginning evolved the schools which we knew and today there are 1101 pupils on roll at the School. From the many scholars who have trodden the various corridors of learning we are fortunate to have among our membership former students from Slough Secondary School as well as former staff and students from Slough High School for Girls, Slough Grammar School for Boys, Upton Grammar School and Slough Grammar School.

It is impressive that so many people feel they want to keep in touch. Advances in communication technology have made this possible, because regardless of where they live in the world, members can look at the websites of the Old Paludians Association (www.oldpaludians.org) and Slough Grammar School (www.sloughgrammar.berks.sch.uk). It is planned that our Centenary book of photographs will include images celebrating the past hundred years and of course this special year. It will be available later in 2012 and at next year's reunion. I hope you will support the project and buy a copy for your family archives. Unfortunately, the Slough Museum closed in June 2011, so we were not able to stage an exhibition as planned. However, we hope to put some boards on display in the Slough Library after the reunion, but as there are no secure glass cabinets we will not be able to show off our treasures.

I would like to thank Shelagh Rothero who has edited the newsletter for the last six years and to welcome Bob Moss, who has agreed to take on the task for 2013. Send information for the next newsletter to him. His contact details can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Valerie Storie, who has been a stalwart member of the Committee for many years, has decided to stand down as membership secretary and I extend our thanks to her. I am eternally grateful to the members of the Committee who have helped with the preparations for this year's reunion, especially Shelagh Whitehouse, who has processed the replies. Also, a special thank you to staff at the School who have also helped us with our preparations.

Finally, a thank you to our President, Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada, Principal of Slough Grammar School, who has allowed us to use the School premises for our Annual Reunion and AGM, and for her support during the year. Looking ahead, do note that the Old Paludians Association was formed in 1915, therefore we will be celebrating our own centenary in 2015.

With best wishes to you all,

Jean Tyler

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MRS MERCEDES HERNÁNDEZ ESTRADA

The end of the academic year 2010/2011 came with good news for the school. We have, for some time, identified that some of the school buildings are not fit for purpose. During the course of last year we submitted a number of bids for funding. At the end of July we heard from the YPLA (Young People Learning Agency) regarding the outcome of one of our bids for funding. This bid was put forward by the Local Authority after discussion at a secondary heads meeting. We believed that the endorsement of both of these bodies gave our bid more weight. Slough Grammar School was awarded in excess of a million pounds (£1,077,358). This money is linked to specific priorities and two projects in particular.

Phase 1A - A new large space on top of an existing detached classroom will create a large room with an office and will be fitted out for computer use. This area is for Sixth Form use and provides much needed private study and research spaces. This part of the project was completed in November 2011.

Phase 1B - The proposal is for a detached block comprising 6 classrooms and sited adjacent to the main school for connection into existing services. The design will complement the adjacent buildings and rooms will be equipped for 21st century learning. This building will be completed by 31st March 2012.

Part of the fundraising for equipping these new areas involved the sale of the photograph of Sir John Herschel, which raised £8,000. This was done at auction at Christies and recorded by the BBC. The programme was shown in the autumn.

I was delighted to congratulate another cohort of Slough Grammar School students who set the bar high with a stunning set of results. These achievements would not be possible without the commitment, co-operation and hard work of our students. Their innate goodness, their unpretentious good humour, their thoughtfulness and their ambition for the greater things should be praised. They are a credit to young people and excellent role models.

I do not take for granted the hard work and dedication of the staff who have sustained and inspired these successes and achievements. My gratitude also goes to the parents from whom our students acquire their spirit of goodness and generosity, as well as a positive attitude to their studies.

GCSE Results - This year's percentage of 5 A* to C is 100%, 99% including English and Maths. A fantastic achievement and the best set of results we have ever had!

There are a number of students with stunning results: Rohan Arora gained 9 A*'s and 2 As at GCSE, an A* at A level and 4 As at AS level over the last two years. Haraman Johal achieved 10 A*'s and 1 A. Junaid Khan gained 10 A*'s and 1 A. Baljeet Lakhan was awarded 8 A*'s and 3 As. Aneesha Mahil attained 8 A*'s, 2 As and 1 B. There were 19 students with 11 grades at A* and A and another 10 students achieved 10 A* and A.

International Baccalaureate Results - Another fantastic set of results, with an average point score of 32.4. The grades attained by the IB student give a UCAS average point score of 455, equivalent to 3.2 A* grades at A level per student. Laura Schack achieved 43 IB points and also an A* in her German A level. Hannah Laidley was awarded 41, Michael Njunge 39 and Nathan Young 38.

A level results - Excellent results overall, with Mathematics leading the way with 13 A* grades. Sundeep Hoth, Kavi Bains, Anish Kavia, Shane Mann and Hennapreet Dhaliwal achieved 2 A*'s and one A, while Ben Lawson was awarded 2 A*'s and 2 As.

We also had reason to congratulate Sivaparathy Baskaran, currently in year 13, who received 396 out of 400 in German A Level from the examination sat in summer 2011, which was the highest mark of all candidates who studied German the WJEC examination board.

WJEC awarded Sivaparathy a £50 prize in recognition of her outstanding achievement and she received a personal letter from Gareth Pierce, Chief Executive of WJEC, referring to her outstanding achievement and hard work.

This academic year started with a renewed focus on our strategic plan and its four strands: teaching and learning, innovation and standards, collaboration, and facilities and resources.

The recent changes to the reporting schedule and the introduction of Target Setting Day are clear signs of our commitment to the highest standards and expectations for our students and to working in close partnership with parents. The feedback received so far is very encouraging and we look forward to seeing young people aim high, with coordinated and informed support and encouragement from both school and home.

The school submitted a planning application back in November. The aim of this application is to replace the existing outdated and temporary accommodation with permanent, fit-for-purpose buildings.

If successful, the development will take place in two phases. Phase A will see a new kitchen and dining room with a Sixth Form study area, ICT facilities and toilets on the second floor. This phase will also provide for additional parking and an access road with pick up/drop off points for parents and visitors, both of these on site; this will facilitate the movement of traffic and ease parking.

Phase B will contain a new gym to free up the School Hall currently used as an indoor PE space. It will also have classrooms to replace the temporary huts which are currently sited by the park, as well as avoid lunchtime and twilight lessons. It will also have changing rooms, a staffroom and a meeting room. This part of the development will have its own entrance and welcome office, as we envisage that we may make it available for community use.

In the meantime, we have continued to seek funding from a variety of organisations such as the Wolfson Foundation, a national trust which makes donations to medical research and education, scientific and technological education and youth activities.

We are very pleased that Wolfson has awarded us a grant for a third time this month; this will fund the purchase a new LaserCAM A2-sized Laser cutter, which will provide full computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacture facilities as well as replacing a metal-cutting lathe in the main workshop. The purchase of a large band-saw and sander machine for a second workshop will also expand our facilities. The Graphics department will also benefit from a new Roland CAMM Plotter cutter machine, allowing vinyl to be cut and large nets in card for packaging manufacturing, upgrading the department to having full CAD/CAM facilities.

In 2006, the Wolfson Foundation generously awarded Slough Grammar School £50,000 to furnish a state-of-the-art Biology laboratory, which has since been used extensively by hundreds of students.

We are very excited about this year as we will be celebrating our Centenary. We are planning to run a number of events in school to commemorate 100 years of providing excellent education for generations of young people. I would like to invite you to the first formal event, which will take place on the 29th March from 6pm to 8pm. During this evening, we will reflect on the history of the school and showcase past and present successes as well as future plans. It will be an opportunity to get together as a community and be inspired. I look forward to meeting many of you then.

****STAFF NEWS****

Rev Ivy Halden (1941-74) recently celebrated her 98th birthday. Ann Seller still picks her up from church and drops her off at her home in Mole End. She lost her much adored Pussock (or Saint Pussock as other Rev Gents have called it) in 2010 but is now reconciled to the thought that perhaps they will one day meet again in the hereafter. *We offer belated birthday greetings and send thanks to Ann Seller (Woodrow, Veronica, 1946-53) for passing on this information.*

Joan Camp (1942-48), During her time at SHS she went to the United States as a Fulbright exchange teacher in the first year of that scheme. She is now 97 and lives in Amersham. *The US Embassy is celebrating its many years of exchange programmes and it is well worth Googling 'Joan Camp, Fulbright', where you can see her being interviewed on YouTube.* - Ed.

Margaret Roberts (Oates, 1947-52) I am pleased to say that I am keeping well and looking forward to my annual trip to the Isle of Man in May. Then, in July, I shall visit Windsor and environs courtesy of our local coach firm. This will be only my third trip to this part of the world since I left school in 1952. I expect I will see many changes! My congratulations to the

Association on reaching its 100th anniversary and my very best wishes to anyone who remembers me.

Pat Purdue (64-80) I was really hoping to come this year but unfortunately I am waiting for an operation on my spine, which should be in March or April, so will be unable to travel. Apart from that, I am very well. My four children are fine and I have five great grandchildren. I do hear news of some ex-staff from the school from time to time. My very best wishes for the celebrations on 17th March.

Anne Harris (1961-69) sends her apologies and is unable to attend the reunion

Marjorie Gibbs (1974-80) I shan't be able to come to the reunion this year. I hope everyone has a good time on the day.

Gillian Dibden (1986-89) I am so, so sorry to be missing this reunion, but I am conducting 'The Armed Man' in St George's Chapel, Windsor, with rehearsal at 1.00pm. Have a fantastic day.

****IN MEMORIAM ****

David Whitehouse (SGS, 1976-2007) Dave joined Slough High School in January 1976 as Head of Chemistry. Apparently, this engendered much excitement amongst the girls, as the only other male member of staff was the more elderly caretaker! He soon became Head of Science and in 1982 transferred to Upton Grammar School in this role, when the schools merged. While at Slough High School, he organised annual trips to Snowdonia or the Lake District, and with other members of staff introduced the girls to the joys and tribulations of hill-walking. He also helped at his local scout troop, enjoying canoeing, hiking, orienteering and of course camping in wild places.

At Upton Grammar School, he took electronics courses and learnt about programming and systems management. He started teaching programming and, eventually, computing. Soon running the school systems took over from Chemistry. He finished his career at the school as Systems Manager, managing all the school's administration and pupil computer networks. He always found time to help out staff and pupils as they wrestled with the demands posed by the introduction of computing for learning, teaching and admin and was an immense source of support to colleagues in the early days and thereafter. He was committed to ensuring that systems worked and above all were easy to use. Dave devoted his working life to school and was a very loyal servant. Often in first in the morning and one of the last to leave each evening (not to mention all the work he did from home!), he had a highly developed sense of service for which staff and pupils were very grateful.

After retiring he was able for a short while to devote more time to his twin loves of flying model aeroplanes and walking. Unfortunately, he developed cancer and died in March 2011. He was a man with a gentle twinkle in his eye and possessed a wicked sense of humour. He always put others first and is remembered with great affection and enormous respect.

Miss Booth (SHS, 1942-72) Miss Lana Booth was Head of Games at SHS from 1942 to 1972. (Her 'real' name was Gladys Eileen - I wonder how many of us remember those hockey team lists with her signature at the bottom 'Miss G.E. Booth' and never thought to ponder on the discrepancy between those initials and her name 'Lana'? The nickname 'Lana' came from a song called 'Eileen-a-Lana', released soon after she was born, and stayed with her throughout her life. -Ed) Miss Booth passed away on 24th September 2011. On retirement from SHS, she took up woodwork and travelling and developed a passion for painting. Throughout her time at SHS she inspired a love of games in many of her pupils and their children. Two years ago she moved to a home to be closer to her niece. She celebrated her 100th birthday there on 18th April, 2011 and could still recall many of the ex-pupils who sent cards. We believe that

she is the first member of staff to have reached this milestone and to mark the occasion the Association sent her a Birthday card and box of chocolates, as she loved chocolate....but this box was different...it also was made of chocolate!

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. A book is given to the School Library in remembrance of the individual: 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.

Olwen Holgate (SGS, 1965-86) Widow of Dr Harold Holgate and formerly Deputy Head of English at Slough Grammar School, Mrs Holgate passed away peacefully on 15th April 2011. She is remembered with affection and respect by her family, friends, colleagues and pupils.

David Rogers (Member of Staff, 1963-2000) recalls that she was the first female member of the school's teaching staff. Appointed initially to teach French, she was soon transferred to the English department, where her love of literature and language was a source of inspiration to many. She broadened the subject beyond the classroom by readily involving herself in public speaking competitions, school plays and theatre trips. Small of stature and never raising her voice, she had that certain something that marks out a true classroom professional. She only had to enter a room, or indeed, approach, for a whole crowd of raucous teenage boys to fall into respectful silence. It was always impressive to behold.

Ian Cairns (1964-71) was present during her early years at the school: He remembers her playing Françoise Hardy records in class and discussing lyrics for access to modern French - all very progressive. Her arrival also caused some stir in the 1960s among the all-male staff at SGS - not all positive at the time. However, she faced this down and became a long-time and valued member of the English department. **Tim Hall ((1977-83)** recalls that she very much encouraged him in the art of Public Speaking, which has been of great value in his later life. She encouraged him to read Robert Graves, which helped him on his way to becoming Bard of Glastonbury. *Thank you to David, Ian and Tim for these memories.*

****1920s****

Rinah Kew (1923-29) appears in a photograph of the Hockey Team from that time. She celebrated her 100th birthday in February this year...and...the story continues...the Old Paludians also sent her a box of chocolates in a box made from chocolate! She and **Connie Edwards** (now aged 102) have been regular attendees at our Annual Reunion and we look forward to welcoming them this year. *Note for other chocoholics - these wonderful gifts can be found at www.fillabox.com - Ed*

Joyce Preddle (Hobson, 1929-32) I joined the Old Paludians Association when I left school in 1932. It cost £1.00! My two younger sisters also attended the school - one of them (**Peggy Hobson**) was Head Girl in 1936. I shall not be at the reunion this year but feel sure it will be a memorable occasion and profitable. Best wishes to all.

****1930s****

Marjorie Cruse (1931-35) I am sorry that I am unable to attend this very special function but, as I shall be 92 shortly, I find it particularly difficult to get about now.

Miss Cecily Earl (1933-38) I am unable to attend - sadly, advancing years prohibit it.

Delsa Brooks (White, 1934-41) Sorry I won't be at the Centenary Reunion of the Old Pals. I hope you will have a happy day.

Jean Bostock (Burnett, 1936-41) So very sorry to have to miss all the reunions but, aged 87 with terminal cancer, it is just not possible. Have an enjoyable day on 17th March.'

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. This year he sent in some amusing tales of his time at SGS, such as the occasion when the air raid sirens sounded and everyone dived under the desks. (*I think another old boy mentions the business of diving under the desks. Was this a diverting pastime in those days? - Ed*). He also talked of an irate teacher (one 'Nobby Clarke') bursting into the classroom because the hilarity in the lesson (about Artificial Insemination) had caused parts of the ceiling to fall onto the heads of the class below. *Once again, thank you Ken, for your amusing memories and invaluable support this year - Ed.*

Elinor Gates (Anderson) 1936-42 is unwell and will not be able to join us at the reunion. She has been a keen supporter over the years, as evidenced by photocopies of some programme covers for four events which had taken place at various times:- A Service of Commemoration and Dedication on the 21st Birthdays of SGS and SHS at St Mary's Church, Slough on Tuesday, September 10th 1957 at 11.15am; a lunch held on September 15th 1979, to mark the 40th Anniversary of the new SHS Building; a service of Commemoration and Dedication for the Jubilee Celebration at St Mary's Church, Slough on Saturday, February 10th 1962 at 6.15pm; and finally, a service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Joan Margaret Crawford MA, Founding Headmistress, SHS, 1936-62. This took place at St Laurence's, Upton-cum-Chalvey, on Saturday, March 16th 1991 and was conducted by the Revds R A Ferguson and I. Halden. *Our thanks to John Gates for passing on this information and our thanks to Elinor for saving these mementos - Ed*

Betty Hull (Iris Burnett, 1937-42) Following the death of my beloved other half, Tony, in June 2009, I moved into a retirement flat and am now comfortably settled in. There is a good social scene here and I am not as lonely as I was in the bungalow, although I do miss the space! My sister, **Jean Bostock (Burnett, 1936-41)**, and I often talk about our happy memories of SHS and the hockey/tennis-playing friends at Lascelles. Love and good wishes to them all from the 'Burnett Twisters', Jean and Betty. *This arrived just a bit too late to be included in last year's newsletter. I know that Jean is now not very well, but it is lovely to know that you still share memories of schooldays. This year Betty wrote to say that at the moment she is without a computer (how did we manage without them??) - and sends her best wishes for the reunion - Ed.*

Paddy May (1937-44) Very much regret being unable to attend this year's special reunion, due to old age coupled with my wife's need for constant care these days. Excuse my ramblings but it may be of interest to some members still. My brother **John May** attended the old Secondary School for a few years before being with me for one year in Lascelles Road. He trained as a pilot in South Carolina before America came into World War 2, and was commissioned into the America Army Air Corps before transferring to the RAF. He flew with Coastal Command throughout the war and became a pilot with British Airways until retirement. He was an original member of the Old Pals Men's Hockey Club and represented Bucks at tennis for several years. As for myself - I played Cricket, Football and Hockey for the OPs and for Bucks after military service in Italy and Palestine. Again, I very much regret not being able to join you all on the great day. I'm sure it will be a great occasion. *Paddy has attended our reunions regularly and we shall miss him this year - Ed.*

Pamela Main (Sheppard, 1938-43) Unable to attend due to husband's ill health. Wishing you all a very happy day.

Marian Ivall (Dalton, 1938-44) Marian's niece has passed on the information that Marian is now in a care home and unable to write very well. The Nursing Home address (available from the OPA Membership Secretary) should be used for future correspondence. Marian likes to receive letters and phone calls.

Gerry Shaw (1938-44) I was a pupil during the Second World War and we had air raid shelters in the grounds. One day a bomb landed at Langley and made an absolutely astounding bang. We were in Mr Hampshire's class at the time and we all dived under the desks. I also remember marching, as a cadet, from school to Black Park. I certainly couldn't do that today! *Thank you Gerry for these memories. It must have been an uncertain time for everyone. Many thanks also for your long list of teachers complete with nicknames. If anyone would like further information, please see my contact details at end of newsletter - Ed.*

Betty Britten (Boys, 1939-42) Many thanks for all the years you have all devoted to the Paludians and keeping 'in touch'. We are so grateful.

Jean Bignell (Climer, 1939-45) I am housebound now. Please remember me to anyone who remembers me! Good wishes for the Centenary reunion.

Peggy Needham (Nicholls, 1931-36) How about more news from the 1931-36 years? I am still in touch with **Margaret and Jean Bayly, Joan Yeatman and Mary Shirland (Jennings, 1931-37)**. Greetings to **Hilda Halls (Milcoy, 1932-37)**...we mustn't fade away. Thank you to all who have worked hard to celebrate our Centenary year.

Dugold James Ross (1939-44) was inspired to write his own very detailed account of his time at SGS, after reading 'School Ties'. He remembers how the staff dealt very successfully with the many problems they faced in these war years. He recalls classmates such as **David Morgan**, who always came top of the class, and **Eric Hill**, who was always second. He is still in touch with Eric and also **William Hill** (died some years ago), **Norman Taylor, Tony Witchell**, and **Geoff Taylor**. He recalls that it was **Dennis White** who died in the Korean war and that **Roy Hurn** had become Lt Colonel. Other classmates include **Reg Olsen, Percy Culling, Pesco Scott** and **A.B. Cramp**. He sends regards to the survivors of 'the worst 5A I ever taught' (words spoken by **Mr Smith** in 1944) and hopes to return to visit the school one day.

Pamela Green (Dear 1939-44) Unfortunately, I shall be unable to attend the reunion this year. I wish you all a very happy day.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Fred Esling, (1934-39) died in October 2011. On leaving school he took a Navy apprenticeship, served with them for 30 years and was commissioned in 1951. As an engineer in the Fleet Air Arm he travelled widely, visiting India and Hong Kong, and with the family spent 2½ years in Singapore and 2 years in Malta. After retiring from the Navy aged 50, he worked with the Westland Helicopter Group for 13 years.

Daphne Norman (Claret, 1934-40) passed away in December 2011. She was brought up in Eton, where her father was the Manager of the Eton College Boathouse. During the war she 'served King and Country' as a wireless operator, receiving messages which were then forwarded to Bletchley Park. She married Ken Norman of Norman's Garages and they set up home in Eton Wick, later moving to Burnham, where she lived for 50 years. Ken regularly attended the Reunions until his death in 2009.

John Ware (1936-41) died suddenly at home on 28th September 2011, aged 85. After attending Burnham Infants and Junior School, he became one of the first pupils to attend SGS. From here he took up his career in accountancy, working for MacIntyre Hudson. In

1944 he joined the Royal Signals Regiment, serving in Greece, and after demob in 1947 he became a chartered accountant, which enabled him to travel all over the world. In 1957 he opened 'Wares' hardware stores in Burnham High Street. He later started his own chartered accountancy practice, which became very successful and well-known throughout Burnham. He was a long-standing member of The Old Pals Lodge and eventually became Worshipful Master in 1976. Gardening was one of his relaxing pastimes, raising plants from seed in his greenhouse. We offer our condolences to family at this sad time. *Our thanks to Margaret Paine (1943-48) for passing on this sad news - Ed.*

Bernard Winter (1938-44) Bernard's wife, **Maureen (Ragg, 1949-52)** wrote to let us know the sad news of his death. She said he had such an indomitable spirit that everyone thought he would go on for ever. He enjoyed his years at SGS and always looked back on that time with pride and affection. He attended many OPA annual reunions. *Our thanks also to Ken Bryant for passing on some of 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 Saville Gardens in Windsor Great Park. Joyce attended the reunions regularly and both sisters were present in March last year. *Our thanks to Pamela Kelpin (Brown, 1939-46), who also wrote to tell us this sad news, as Joyce was a close friend of hers - Ed.*

****1940s****

Barbara (Colgate, 1940-46) My father, Donald Colgate, was one of the first to enter the school in 1912, and is one of the first names in the School Log Book.

Sylvia Douet (Blackman, 1940-47) Thank you for the invite. I will be unable to attend. Age, distance and health make it impossible; however, it is good to receive these notes.

Nancy Evans (Pardoe, 1941-43) I am unable to attend the re-union due to a stroke and disability.

Myra Levien (1941-45) I would have loved to be at the reunion in March but, alas, living in Somerset aged 82, I fear the journey is too far for me. I hope that lots of younger members will support what is obviously an historic moment in my old school's history. The headmistress during my time there was the formidable Miss J.M. Crawford!

June Ginger (Hunt, 1941-47) I regret that I cannot attend this year. I send my best wishes to all the lucky people who will be there.

John Tebbit (1941-47) I will be staying for lunch but will leave at about 1.45 as I work in the board-room for Slough Town Football Club when there is a home match, as there is on March 17th

Barbara Price (Brook, 1942 -1946) I am not well enough to attend the reunion, but am still in touch with old school friend **Joan Power (Williams, 1944-48)**. I send my best wishes to the Association for keeping going so long.

Dinah Batty (Kleeman, 1942-47) I am sorry I shall not be able to attend the reunion, as I have just had a major operation and the journey is a bit too far. I wish all who attend the reunion a memorable time.

Mavis Admans (Westbrook, 1942-1949) I very much regret that I shall not be able to attend the Old Paludians Reunion, as I shall be at a family birthday lunch. I shall miss seeing and chatting to everyone and I hope you all have a splendid day.

Margaret Paine (1943-48) Last year we lost one of our dearest friends, **Jean Ison (Denyer, 1943-50)**, and I send my condolences to her husband, Ralph, and family (all Old Paludians). Some of us are still able to get to the reunions. Others have moved away or are just not fit enough to make the journey. Over the years I have been in contact with others from our year - **Doris Holmes**, who now lives in Canada, and **Valerie Mallin**, from West Wales. 2012 is a special year for the 1943 intake, as most of them will be celebrating their 80th birthdays. I joined the Old Pals in 1948 and used to play in their hockey team - what good old days! For many years I was a committee member. I wish our special group of friends very happy 80th birthdays for the coming year and special memories of those who are no longer with us. So, Happy Birthday to all the new octogenarians and may you all continue to have good health.

Jean Schaffer (Coles, 1943-48) I must apologise for not being able to attend this year but one of my grandsons is getting married and I certainly mustn't miss that special occasion. I wish you every success on the day.

Ron Fidler (1943-49) Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Centenary Re-union as I will be cruising on the Mekong River somewhere between Vietnam and Cambodia. Whilst I am sure that I will be enjoying the experience, I am sorry to miss such an important occasion. My best wishes to all my friends who will be attending and I hope it is a very successful day.

Audrey Higgins (Slaughter, 1943-50) So sorry to miss the reunion, but it is friend's Diamond Wedding.

Annette Chant (Pountain, 1944-48) What a celebration ahead! I hope everyone will spend a very happy day with thoughts and happenings from our one hundred years. I am sorry not to be one of the throng! Thank you to the committee for all their 'labour' towards the day.

Mary Langford (Winslet, 1944-49) So disappointed not to attend this year - I am having second knee replaced!

Milly Price (Thomas, 1944-49) We are unable to attend the reunion. My husband (**Vernon Price, 1940-47**) is quite seriously ill at the moment. Maybe one year I will be able to make it again.

Robert Neale (1944-52) Unable to attend, I fear. New Zealand is a bit far away

John Read (1945-51) Thank you for the reminder about the Reunion; unfortunately, I am away and unable to attend. Please accept my apologies.

Don Wells (SGS, 1945-52) I expect to get to the reunion this year, and not just to avoid the disruption of kitchen and shower-room installation in our new home. When we were at school, I would safely wager that thoughts of occupational pensions, level-access showers or sheltered housing never entered our heads. Sixty years later, Yvonne and I have moved fully into that world. We now live close to the centre of Aberdeen in a surprisingly quiet but unsurprisingly friendly building with a name ending in "Court" - a dead giveaway. Its eight floors offer great views over the city and give me a morning workout of 126 steps to climb, interspersed with long corridors along which I lope, soft-soled, trying not to frighten old ladies when rounding blind corners. I really must learn to whistle - much less threatening than heavy breathing. Will **Trevor Taylor** be there, I wonder, or **Brian Pearson, Peter Leech, Mick Groombridge**? Anyone know of **Derek Greenslade, John Killip** or **Gordon Turnbull**?

Be lucky! Stay healthy! Have fun!

Shirley Hill (Barrett, 1945-53) Last year I moved to Eastbourne to be nearer to my family as I get older! Not a year passes without my reflecting with gratitude on SHS and the wonderful staff who taught me there.

Peter Tyler (1946-51) My nagging wife badgered me into writing something for this newsletter. After over fifty years of enjoyment playing music locally and some twenty years working closely on the repair of double basses, I realised how difficult it was for bassists to locate advice and technical guidance on the instrument. So my book 'About the Double Bass' was born. Incorporating excellent photographs provided by Jean (your Chairman), it is now selling to students, amateur and professional players here and abroad. *See website www.tylerbasses.demon.co.uk - Ed*

Anne Stephens (Hales, 1946-53) I have only attended a few reunions over the years, as North Wales is rather remote from Slough. However, as this is a special year, I have decided to attend and I will be staying with my cousin Daphne Botting (**May, 1936-42**) and meeting with my sister **Jackie Dibling (Hales, 1953-59)**. Apart from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, 2012 is a special year for my husband and me. 50 years ago we were married in Windsor Parish Church, so we will be celebrating our golden wedding in June with family and friends. The Old Pals Centenary Reunion is yet another date to celebrate and I look forward to meeting some old friends. I wish you and the committee a very successful day.

Muriel Aird (Bubb, 1946-53) My sister, **Christine Robilliard, (1956-60)** and I hope to attend the Reunion this year but I am still on chemotherapy which, due to its rather nasty side-effects, makes planning ahead impossible. If we do not make it, we hope everyone enjoys the special day and we will look forward to reading the Newsletter. *We hope to see you there - Ed*

Ann Seller (Veronica Woodrow, 1946-53) I spent 10 days in Wexham Park with pneumonia over Xmas and New Year and was very lethargic when I got home. My thoughts are very much on how little we appreciated what all the good ladies who taught us did for us and what a legacy they left us with. Perhaps in the forefront for me are the many wonderful years with the two Miss Tuckers. One is remembered for all the lovely music and singing in buses on the way back from triumphant competitions, the other for the patient unfolding of Virgil, Tacitus et al. A wise thought for young eyes was that once Nero stopped banning a certain book, its sales decreased.

Barry Garner (1947-55) Just to let you know that I won't be able to attend the reunion in March, since I won't be in the UK at the time. Hopefully, one day I'll be able to arrange to be back home at the same time as an OPA Reunion - it would be lovely to be able to attend. Many thanks.

Julia Wilson (Ewens, 1948-52) I shall be unable to attend the Reunion, as I am on holiday out of the country.

Jean Croft (Kirton, 1948-52) I shan't be able to attend the reunion this year, as my car and I are too old to travel far these days. I now live in St Austell, a lovely little town until it was taken over by mobile phone shops! For many years I have been a member of U3A, where my favourite groups are creative writing, art and singing. I was in the choir at SHS and left school the same day as **Miss Eileen Tucker** - such a sweet lady. I am still in touch with **Shirley Jones (Stainer, 1948-53)**, **Sally Hayman (Hubbard, 1948-53)** and **Cathy Ecclestone**. I hope you all have a great day.

John Alder (1949-54) I am unable to attend due to medical appointments here in Spain the week of the reunion. All the best for the day.

Denis Delaney (1949-54) I wish you very successful day.

Valerie Storie (1949-55) Sorry I can't be with you, and sorry I didn't send my usual cards for Christmas 2011. I am currently in hospital but will be thinking of you on 17th March. I

send good wishes to all who know me and hope you will all have an enjoyable and successful day. *We shall all miss you at the reunion and hope to see you next year...but more importantly, I am sure everyone will join me in sending our best wishes for a speedy recovery - Ed.*

****IN MEMORIAM****

Geoffrey Taylor (1940-44) died in May 2009. He very much enjoyed attending a reunion in about 2006. He has written his autobiography (for his grandchildren) and recounted many details about his school days at SGS. He was the oldest of 5 Taylor boys. His brother Ken died in Perth [Western Australia.] in Nov 2011.

Jean Waller (Clancy) 1942 -1947 died on the 20th July 2011. On leaving school, she went to work at ICI in Slough and later became a Primary School teacher in Hillingdon until her retirement in 1970. Her sister is **Maureen Lessels (Clancy, 1948-47).**

Jean Ison (Denyer 1943-50) Jean loved her time at SHS and, as she recalls in her contribution to 'School Ties', had particular affection for headteacher Miss JM Crawford. She also kept in touch with music teacher Miss Eileen Tucker, until the end of Miss Tucker's life. From SHS she entered the Guildhall School of Music with her great friend, Miss Margaret Lawrence, with whom she gave many public performances. She married an ex-SGS boy, Ralph Ison, in 1956 and they were together for 55 years. She died on 20th August 2011 and is sadly missed by her family- husband Ralph, twin sons **Timothy and Christopher (SGS 1968-76)**, daughter **Deborah Ison** (also an ex-SHS girl) and her three granddaughters. *Our thanks to Margaret Paine (1943-48) for passing on this sad news - Ed.*

****1950s****

Pamela Mackey (Shelton-Smith, 1950-56) Last year I became a grandmother for the first time and also had two cataract operations. We still do a lot of volunteer work for the Y.M.C.A. and help with the basketball teams, who compete in the National and South West leagues. I wish everyone an enjoyable reunion and hope the centenary celebrations go with a swing.

Joan Astill (Chennells, 1951-57) It is with great regret that I am not able to make the reunion this year. I would love to have made the effort for this special occasion but we will be travelling back from a holiday that day. Please give my best wishes to all at the AGM who know me. The good news is, I expect my 4th great-grandchild at the end of February.

Norma Meyrick (Parker, 1951-56) Unable to attend 2012 Reunion, as I will be out of the country at that time. Best wishes for a good day.

Andrew Hudson (1951-59) I regret that I shall be unable to attend on 17th March but look forward to reading the Newsletter. As a result of information in last year's edition, I met up with **David Harding** and **John Pickering** at Lords on the Saturday of the Sri Lanka Test.

Ron Tandy (1952-56) With much regret I wish to inform you that I will not be able to attend the OPA Reunion this year. Mrs Tandy wishes to go to Japan this year. I will have to miss out on those Full English Breakfasts for Tofu and Sushi. See you next year. Best wishes to everyone

Mary Adamson MBE (1952-57) Many thanks for all the info but regret that I am unable to attend this year - a pity, as it will be 50 years in September that I started at the High School in form 1Y (Miss Yarwood). My very best wishes to everyone.

June Gibson (Williams, 1952-57) In a previous newsletter it was reported that I was seeking news of my SHS friend **Pat Hoskins** and her older sister Jacqui, who also had been a pupil at SHS. I would never have received news of either of them had Roy Cardrick not subsequently contacted me through Friends Reunited. I had met him when Pat and I were still

in Slough, and later he and Pat had become engaged. Roy gave me the bad news that Pat had died of lung cancer a few years previously, which explained why I had not received a reply from her when I saw she had registered on Friends Reunited in 2001. As a family, they had moved from Wokingham to Devon in the '80s. They had a wonderful life there by all accounts, with their two sons, until Pat's death. Her sister Jacqui had married and moved to Canada in the '60s. Roy had been to Cippenham School. His brother had attended SGS. I was very sorry not to have met up with Pat. Thanks to Roy, I at least know what had happened to Pat. I had left things too late, unfortunately.

Rosemary Dickens (Bowles, 1952-58) I am sorry that I will be unable to attend the Reunion on 17th March. Hope all goes well

Jane Brookling (Lake, 1953-58) I regret that I am unable to attend the reunion this year but wish you all a successful day and will be thinking of you and all the happy times I spent at Slough High.

Avril Sutton (Esson, 1953-58) Since I have unfortunately been unable to attend for some years, I am looking forward to this special Centenary reunion and meeting everyone again. I keep in close touch with schoolfriends **Gillian Adams (Gaffney, 1953-58)**, **Ann Harris (Salter)** and **Linda Hunter (Gamble, 1956-59)** and we all met up in Henley in October to celebrate our Autumn birthdays. Does anyone out there remember us? **Pat Parsons (Boulton, 1953-61)** is a great correspondent of mine but she lives in New Zealand and is regretful that she can't join in the celebrations.

Gwyneth Sargent (Jones, 1953-59) Sorry, don't think I'll be able to attend this year's reunion because we will be right at the end of our annual visit to UK from Turkey, where we live. I hope you have a very pleasant day.

Irene Rogers (Roberts, 1954-59) Please accept my apologies, as I will not be attending. I trust it will prove to be a truly memorable occasion.

Pat Parsons (Boulton, 1953-61) Congratulations on the Centenary - I hope the reunion goes well - sorry I cannot attend but New Zealand is rather a long way away. Your letter reminded me that my mother, Violet **Serjent**, had attended the Slough Secondary School when it was in William Street. **Miss Brucken**, who had taught her, was still there in my first year at Twinches Lane. My memory of **Miss Booth** is a comment on one of my school reports about hockey: 'Could do better if only she would try'. I did however try at tennis and was made captain of the school team. I went on to study medicine at Bristol University and married **Alan Parsons**, who went to SGS and who became a Consultant Paediatrician, having also studied medicine in Bristol. We emigrated to New Zealand in 1983 and continued our medical careers there. Alan unfortunately died of cancer 2 years ago but I have continued to work full-time to the age of 68, although I am now giving some thought to retirement. I really enjoy the annual newsletter, thanks to my mother, who joined the Old Paludians as a Life Member many years ago.

Alan Baker (1954-61) First of all, I am sorry not to be able to share in the 100th Anniversary AGM and Reunion. I have to run another AGM that very same day, near to where my wife and I live in Switzerland. Congratulations, Slough Secondary School, on reaching your centenary. I can think back only as far as when entering SGS in 1954. Departure, in 1961, left me with some very pleasant memories and one or two less so. Some contacts from schooldays were inevitably lost as my career took me overseas, but greetings are relayed to any friends who still remember me. We remain in good health, kept active by life in our Swiss mountains and by babysitting grandchildren in various countries. With best wishes to the "Old Pals" and here's to the next 100 years.

Jennifer Brooks (Hudson, 1955-60) I regret that I will be unable to attend this year's reunion. Wishing you every success on the day. My mother-in-law (**Margaret Humphries**) was an early pupil.

Jennifer James (Bond, 1955-60) Some memories from my SHS days: I used to cycle across the fields from Eton Wick to the school but the M4 would now prevent anyone from using this route. I can remember wearing a scarf or a woolly hat in the winter to keep my head warm but also remember Miss Crawford reminding us that such items were not the uniform so should not be worn. When I left the school I used my school beret to clean the saddle and bridle that I had for my pony. I was very keen on hockey and can remember when there had been some snow and we were told that we should not go out and practice on the grass. I had decided that it wasn't much snow and set off down the corridor that lead to the pitches waving my hockey stick above my head. Suddenly the stick was being pulled from behind me and I thought that it was another pupil. However, that wasn't the case and it was Mrs Boul who went on to give me a detention! Needlework was not my forte or interest and I remember when I was trying to make a summer skirt. I ended up with two panels of the material the right way up and one piece going in a different direction. In the end I hid the skirt in a cupboard and must have made some acceptable excuse to whoever was in charge when asked about its whereabouts. *This last memory made me smile as I had a similar experience with an apron - I had sown all the pieces together the wrong way round!!! Most embarrassing - Ed*

Deborah Wright (Bishop, 1955-62) I finally retired earlier this year and then promptly looked after my ex-husband, who has Alzheimer's, until he was admitted to a home in Cambridge. I bought a bass recorder to celebrate my retirement and play my 4 recorders and my violin in many groups. I also sing in a choir and hold 3 posts of responsibility in my local Quaker Meeting. Both my girls have auto-immune conditions but are managing. I also enjoy visiting my grandsons, one of whom is very musical. Life is good.

Ruth Sheppard (1955-62) I am looking forward to the celebration and to taking part in the choir's presentation. Slough High School, particularly **Miss Marjorie Davidson**, set me on course for what has been central to my life - music, and I will always be grateful to her for that. At time of writing I am preparing to give a song recital in February. This year also marks the 50th since I left school- incredible! In our third year we celebrated S.H.S.'s 21st year and the whole school (apart from the First Years) went to Stratford-upon-Avon by special train to see 'As You Like It'. We also sang at a special service in St Mary's Church, Slough. Best wishes for the next 100 years!

Christine Elbourne (Hampshire, 1955 - 1963) I'm sorry not to be able to join you for this special reunion, but send greetings from my home in Normandy, with especial good wishes to my friends from the 1955 intake. Long may Slough Grammar School thrive!

Ged Bull (1955-63) I very much regret that I will not be able to attend the centenary reunion - unfortunately, we are at the wedding of our friends' daughter at 12pm, so there is no way that I could get there either before or after the wedding. I hope it all goes well.

Linda Hunter (nee Gamble, 1956-59) I cannot attend, because I will be in the United States at that time. Please accept my apologies.

Howard Smith (1956-64) I will not be attending this year but will no doubt hear all about it from **Bob Moss (1956-64)**, whom I will be seeing shortly afterwards. My sister, **Ann Jerram (Smith, 1953-60)**, will also be there and there may well be others from our small subgroup which meets in the summer.

Shelagh Rothero (Jacques, 1957-63) I don't often send in anything for the newsletter, but I felt I should like to share my experiences of the past two years of retirement. Since December 2010 I have 'travelled' the world. I started off in the tomb of Tutankhamun and spent six months in Ancient Egypt. Since then I have been to Afghanistan to help establish orchards and grow strawberries. I have been to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where I was warned that I should always keep my line manager informed of my whereabouts and keep my GPS handy, since there was a chance I could be kidnapped by bandits from over the border. I went to Bangladesh to monitor flooding and even paid a flying visit to Uhlán Bható, where I helped to set up 'water sanitation units'. I was briefly in Haiti, helping with the distribution of food aid, and paid a flying visit to Syria a couple of months ago. Not all my time has been spent in such wild places. I have learnt how to make cocktails in Paris. I know how to place bets in internet poker (not that I would do such a thing- but it might come in useful one day). I have discussed stocks and shares and heart conditions (odd combination, you might say), fashion, textiles and menus, not to mention studied details of the World Speed skiing championships. You might well wonder how I could fit all these exciting activities into an already hectic life...well...I translate (French to English) for charities (hence the 'trips' to Third World countries as well as for any organisation that takes my fancy)...and of course, I haven't actually visited all these places - simply been heavily involved in their minutiae. It has been very exciting, I have met so many interesting people... and 'visited' so many unusual (and scary) places. It's not bad for a 'hobby'!

Christine Seaville (Herman, 1957-62) I still live in Canada, so in all likelihood will not be able to come to England for the AGM. Thanks to all the committee for their hard work.

Sue Clough (Birch, 1957-63) Thank you for the invitation to attend the Reunion, so sorry but I am unable to be there. Have a lovely day!

Philip McGoun (1957-64) I am retired now and have some spare time. If assistance is needed, I would be willing to help with archiving if that is feasible. I know you talked about distance not being a problem these days but with the archive material in one place and me in another, I can see that could pose some challenges. Nevertheless, the offer is there should you wish to make use of it. *Thank you for this kind offer. I am sure there must be something you could do - Ed*

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.

Angela Jones (Drakeford, 1958-65) I regret I cannot attend the Reunion this year but please pass on my best wishes to everyone there.

Gillian Ryman (Moser, 1959-1964) I very much regret I will be unable to attend the reunion. My sister will be visiting from Australia and as we haven't seen each other for nearly 7 years, we will have a lot of catching up to do. I hope the occasion goes well!

John M. Overton (1959-67) It is about 3 years since I was last able to attend an Old Paludians re-union, but I hope and intend to be there this year. Having moved from Slough to Buxton, Derbyshire, in January 2010, we have found that nothing stands still. Last March, I attended a Bishops' Advisory Panel, and was recommended for training for the ordained ministry in the Church of England. I had always thought that this would involve a 3-year part-time ministerial training course. However, I discovered that at my advanced age, Bishops have a discretion to allow a 1-year residential course instead. Thus in September I found myself bound for Cuddesdon (just outside Oxford), and at the time of writing am just over half-way through my course. God-willing, I am soon to be ordained deacon.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Anna Spillett (Goodall, 1959-64) died in September 2011. One of Anna's daughters passed on this sad news. Anna became a civil servant after leaving school, and in recent years was a Care Worker. She has three daughters.

****1960s****

Barbara Blake (Mayo, 1960-67) I am sorry, but I will be unable to attend the reunion this year.

Yvana Reeves (1960-67) I wish you all well on 17th March.

Graham Crawford (1961-69) Sorry, cannot make it this year, hope it goes well.

Ian Lucas (1962-70) Just to say I cannot attend the reunion on 17th March due to a prior recording commitment with my band. I trust the event is a complete success. *Ian is the drummer with the five piece melodic rock band 'Everwhile' -Ed.*

Valerie Greenfield (1964-71) Just to say, I can't come on 17 March as I'm going to a Joan Baez concert. Hope all goes well and hello to anyone who knows me.

Anne Hillier (1964-1971) I retired from teaching maths in 2010 after 19 very happy years at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, which also celebrates its centenary this year. The buildings reminded me of Slough High School for Girls when I first went there. I am as busy as ever and have done a lot of travelling outside school holidays, which has been a joy. I have very fond memories of my school days and all the friends I made there.

Ian Cairns (1964-71, SGS Staff: 2002-2005) Following Mathematics and PGCE at Exeter, I went into the computer industry and saw much of the world during my 10 yrs in full-time employment with ICL. In 1984, I ventured into self-employment for a further 18 yrs, taking on numerous high-stress roles and projects. In 1986, I married Linda, one of my ex-ICL colleagues, and had 3 somewhat numerate children. The downturn in the IT industry obliged my wife and me to look at returning to teaching. However, the combination of classroom stress with the accumulated stress of a career in IT led to a physical health crisis for me, and I found myself in increasing difficulties healthwise. Following a protracted period of recuperation, I have been very fortunate to find a late career opportunity in the water utility industry. In 1999 I joined the OPA Committee and created our website to help enshrine our collective history, memories and photographs into one of the country's largest such websites. Today, my brother **Colin Cairns (1965-72)** helps me maintain this website, and, together with the physical archives, it remains an important focus of an almost bygone world. Our 3 children are now all Mathematics graduates and making their own careers. However, we take great delight in frequent ongoing contact with former colleagues and classmates from schooldays.

Michael Frankl (1964-72) reached the semi-final of *Brain of Britain* on BBC Radio 4. The programme was recorded at Broadcasting House on 24th January 2012 and broadcast on 20th February. It will be available as a podcast **until 26th March**. *Our congratulations to Michael for this sterling effort. I, for one, find most of the questions extremely difficult. Well done - Ed.*

David West (1966-1973) I shall be unable to attend this year's gathering, as I shall be on holiday. Maybe next year!

Niki Clark (Hodgson, 1968-73) As I am unable to attend, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and successful afternoon.

****1970s****

Barry Delve (1976-81) I notice from the latest newsletter that you've lost contact with **John Draycott (1976-1979)** and I just wanted to let you know that I'm still in contact with him. He is alive and very well, is an actor and lives in Manchester, often appearing in small roles on TV.

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.

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

Howard Rosenbrock (1931-37) passed away on 21st October 2010, after his long and successful life. His name is the first one on the Awards Board - he was awarded a County major Scholarship in 1938 - a considerable honour in those days. He gained a place at University College London, graduating in 1941, and went on to command a wireless unit on the India-Burma border. From 1947 to 1962 Howard occupied a number of posts, including a year as a teacher, positions at GEC Research Laboratories, the Electrical Research Association, John Brown & Co and finally Constructors John Brown, where he became Research Manager. In 1955 he received his PhD as an external student from London University, based upon work conducted in industry. He went on to join Cambridge University and in 1966 was offered the newly created Chair of Control Engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). In this capacity he founded the interdisciplinary Control Systems Centre. The ideas that emerged from this work, together with highly practical and effective design methods, exercised a crucial influence on the subsequent development of control theory and practice. In 1979, he stepped down from his position as Head of the Control Systems Centre to pursue his philosophical interests in the impact of automation on society, thus beginning a further long and fruitful cycle of research contributions. His final research work, carried out in his 70s, was to revisit quantum physics from a control theory viewpoint. Howard Rosenbrock received many awards and honours. These include an honorary doctorate from the University of Salford (1987), the IEE Premium, the Heaviside Premium and the Control Achievement Award (all IEE), Control Systems Science and Engineering Award (IEEE), Oldenburger Medal (ASME), Moulton Medal (IChemE), Sir Harold Hartley Medal and Sir George Thompson Gold Medal (both Inst. Meas. & Cont.) and the Nordic Process Control Award. He was also a Fellow of the IEE, Fellow of the IChemE., Fellow of the Inst. Meas. & Cont., Fellow of University College London, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and Fellow of the Royal Society. In his rich and productive life, Howard Rosenbrock produced over one hundred and twenty scientific papers, seven books and about thirty papers on the philosophical basis of science and technology and its wider societal impacts. *Our thanks to his daughter Gina for this account of her father's very interesting life. We send our deepest condolences to his family. Further information about Howard and his research can be found at*

<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?arnumber=05766301> - Ed.

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 the 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 2011 - 2012

1950s

Roger Giles	1955-61
John Diment	1952-57
Marion Diment (Bowler)	1959-63
Reg Fahey	1954-60
David James	1953-60
Jan Green	1955-60

1930s and 1940s

Frank Richens	1932-36
David Short	1939-44
Brian Mann	1949-53
Mary Esling	1946-52
Donald Flower	1943-48

1960s

Julie Thomson (Robinson)	1966-73
Philpi McGoun	1960-66
Ron Smith	1960-67
Mike Kempster	1962-70

1970s

Jane Coulson	1977-83
Sofia Martinelli (Abdeali)	1976-82
Angela Mellish (Spuffard)	1970-77

1980s and 1990s

Kay Fullick	1984-199 ?
Mrs Jenny Coggin (STAFF)	1990 ?
Sarah Bryant (Turnbull)	1980-84
Glen Davies	1980-84

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

Jean Tyler has very kindly temporarily taken over the role of Membership Secretary and is carrying on Valerie's 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 myself or the Membership Secretary a quick phone call or drop us a line/email so we can pass on 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. You will find our contact details at the end of the Newsletter.*

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 500 in total and more to come! These will be found in the new "Wikispaces" area, which offers unlimited space and editing capability. Within a short period, you too can be editing the names on these photos or just browsing them. This year has seen the arrival of many new 'Wiki' editors, making 84 in total. If you feel you are able to help, please have a look at the new Wikispaces 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 was 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: It is sad to record that the bay tree, which used to stand inside the gates of SSS and had for many years been the sole relic of that school, was cut down in October 2011 to allow the development of the centre of Slough. We had hoped that the tree would survive into 2012 so that centenary photographs could be taken, but this was not to be. However, the Council kindly took some cuttings which we are doing our best to nurture, but bay trees are tricky customers and we may not be successful.

Many Thanks, **David Rogers** (Archivist). *I am sure we shall all be keeping our fingers crossed and hoping that some of the cuttings will grow into big strong trees - Ed*



We've lost touch with...

Barbara Riggs (Cooper) 1936 - 42

Katie Longfield (Read) 1956 - 62

Chris Fothergill, Jim Gore and Norman Reeves (dates unknown)

... and

Michael Guest would like news of Deborah Marfleet (Tait) who attended SHS possibly 1960 - 1966

but...

We've found:

...thanks to **Barry Delve (1976-81)** ... John Draycott (1976-1979).

We have also had sad news of **Pat Hoskins (non-member, 1952-57 approx)**, who passed away some years ago.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Grammar School Documentary

In 2010 Emily Sivyver, 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 interviewed Ken Bryant. I don't know if anyone saw the documentary in January - there were two episodes which were very interesting and somewhat nostalgic.

******Important date for your Diary******

The Old Paludians Annual Reunion

2013

will be held on

Saturday 16th March

To be confirmed later

******Reminder******

Centenary celebration
of
Slough Grammar School
Past and Present

Thur 29th Mar

6pm--8pm

******STOP PRESS******

Dear students, Slough Grammar School staff and members of the Old Paludians Association,

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Slough Grammar School, we would like to purchase a time capsule, so that we can put things in it such as articles, school badges over the years, poems etc. In order for this to happen we would appreciate any donations to the box in the reception and your support for our upcoming fundraising events. The donations box will be in reception from Monday 5th.

We hope to complete this project by mid-April, therefore the quicker the donations are made the better.

We shall be getting in contact with the local media regarding this project, however none of this is possible without your support.

Thank you and kind regards,

Jasleen Mahal (VIS) Angela Ananadakumar (VIP) and Nimrita Singh (VIHA)

THE OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/11		
Brought forward from 2010		£3,976.85
Income for yr ending 31/12/11	£3,896.47	
Expenses for yr ending 31/12/11	£3,478.74	
Profit for yr 2011		£417.73
Carried Forward to 2012		<u>£4394.58</u>
Kindly prepared by Shelagh Whitehouse (Staff, 1993-2008) . Examiner of Accounts: George Lucas (1938-44)		

OLD PALUDIANS COMMITTEE 2011/12	
President: Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada	Principal, Slough Grammar School Lascelles Rd, Slough, Berks. SL3 7PR Tel: 01753 522892 Email: MHE@sloughgrammar.berks.sch.uk
Chairman: Jean Tyler	██ ██ Tel: ██████████ Email: chairman@oldpaludians.org
Treasurer: Shelagh Whitehouse	██ Tel: ██████████ Email: treasurer@oldpaludians.org
Membership Secretary:	Vacancy
Newsletter Editor: Shelagh Rothero	██ ██

(retiring)	Tel: [REDACTED] Email: shelaghrothero@oldpaludians.org
Newsletter Editor from 2013 on: Bob Moss	8. Argyll Rd, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL2 0QR Tel: 01452 417764 Email: editor@oldpaludians.org

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Jane Brown	Tel: [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] Email: janebrown@oldpaludians.org
Ken Bryant	Tel: [REDACTED]
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Margaret Paine	Tel: [REDACTED]
David Rogers	Tel: [REDACTED]
Examiner of Accounts: George Lucas	Email: georgelucas@oldpaludians.org
Chairman of Governors: Mrs Angela Best	Slough Grammar School
Old Paludians Website:	www.oldpaludians.org
School Website:	www.sloughgrammar.berks.sch.uk
Slough Grammar School Phone No: 01753 522892	

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🌸🌸🌸 **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) 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 orderbook(s) to be sent overseas @ £13.00 each	£.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED

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.

