

*The*



*Old Paludians*                      *Newsletter*

Founded 1915

Website: [www.oldpaludians.org](http://www.oldpaludians.org)

*May 2016*

---

## EDITORIAL

Well, now the Old Pals have begun their second century. This year's Newsletter is inevitably slightly shorter than last year's centenary edition but I hope nevertheless that readers will find something to interest them. As last year, I have included - in addition to items submitted by members - articles focusing on two individuals, one a former teacher (James Reeves), the other an ex-pupil (Connie Edwards, who unfortunately died shortly before this Newsletter was due to go to press). Both are significant for different reasons: the one for his literary achievements, the other for being in a position to provide a valuable insight into school life in the 1920s. I would be happy to include similar articles in future editions of the Newsletter, so if any member has a suggestion as to who might represent a suitable subject for such a profile, please let me know.

Many members will have purchased and read a copy of "Ad Astra", the book which was produced to celebrate our centenary last year. There are probably many who, in doing so, have noted faces which they are able to name but which are not identified in the book; indeed, I've been able to come up with some identifications myself. I have include a new section for this and future Newsletters, with the names being listed together with the appropriate page numbers in "Ad Astra". It is also planned to include these additional names on the Old Pals website, where a list will be maintained on a cumulative basis. Please send any such contributions to me and the website manager ([editor@oldpaludians.org](mailto:editor@oldpaludians.org) and [webmaster@oldpaludians.org](mailto:webmaster@oldpaludians.org)).

Readers will note that Connie Edwards concludes her interview by recalling "happy days" at Slough Secondary School. Most members would probably agree - though of course there may be others whose memories are not so happy and perhaps for that reason have not joined the Old Pals. I often wonder what it would be like to attend the present school with a (hopefully) wiser head on my shoulders - as Herbert Asquith once said, "Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life." Many ex-pupils tell me that they feel they left school lacking confidence. On the other hand, some students appear to possess an excess of the quality, though this may be merely a superficial impression. One often hears "celebrities" advising that in life you can achieve anything you really want to - you just have to put your mind to it. I can remember Dr Long dealing rather neatly with this point in assembly one morning: "Most of us will never be able to run a 4-minute mile, however hard we may try," was how he put it. Obviously, confidence needs to be realistically allied to both ones talents and limitations.

Finally, I think it's fair to say that the Old Pals Committee is (unsurprisingly) feeling the effect of Jean's departure - the chairman's function has been shared among committee members over the past year. We have recently lost two members who provided outstanding service to the Association in their time - Valerie Storie and David Jewell - and a number of other members have resigned. No volunteers have come forward to offer their services and it is clear that the Association cannot

continue in its present form without new blood. If this continues to be the case, there may be no alternative to the Association reducing activities or even being wound up, with the loss of over a hundred years' tradition. Please would all members think very carefully about whether they would be willing to share the load? Otherwise our survival will be very much in question. As of this newsletter, we are missing volunteers for the following OPA Committee roles for next year: **Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer**. No Association can continue unscathed with such a large gap at the top of its committee structure.

**Bob Moss, Editor**

## **INDEX TO THE 2016 NEWSLETTER**

**Page 1 - Editorial**

**Page 2 - A Message from our Former Chairman**

**Pages 2-3 - A Message from UCGS Principal**

**Pages 3-4 - Thoughts and Experiences of the Present Head Boy and Head Girl**

**Pages 5-7 - Staff and Pupils Section: Staff News**

**Pages 7-8 - Reminiscences by the late Connie Edwards, our Oldest Member**

**Pages 8-20 - Former Pupils Section**

**Page 20 - The Old Paludians Website**

**Pages 20-21 - The Old Paludians Archive**

**Page 21 - Treasurer's Report**

**Page 22 - Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending December 2015**

**Page 23 - The Old Paludians Committee**

**Page 23 - News Members**

**Page 24 - Lost, Found and Seeking**

**Pages 24-25 - "Ad Astra" Additions**

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR FORMER CHAIRMAN**

Thank you to those members who sent kind messages following my decision to stand down as Chairman last July. I enjoyed my fourteen years as Chairman and thank all the Committee Members for their support during that time. Peter and I are now the grandparents to four and great-grandparents to five, all boys except one, and we want to enjoy their company while we can. I will help at the reunion and will be selling the book "Ad Astra" on the day. Again, thank you for your kind comments. David Rogers and I hope the book will revive memories of your time at school and that you will send them with other comments to Bob Moss for inclusion in the Newsletter.

**Jean Tyler**

## **A MESSAGE FROM UCGS PRINCIPAL, MRS MERCEDES HERNÁNDEZ ESTRADA**

This year, like many other leaders, I have been concerned by the volume of government initiatives and the pace of change. All is up in the air: curriculum, assessment, qualifications, league tables and funding. I wrote to you about the latter last November and shared with you that our school's funding had fallen from £6.7m down to £5.1m between 2010 and 2016. Our next budget statement shows a further decrease of £260k. It is difficult to remain positive about the future of education

when there is so much turbulence, particularly when you add to the mix the crisis in teacher recruitment.

I want to balance this sad opening statement with the news that the new building for our school is progressing well and will be ready for occupation this time next year. The old canteen came down in February, without much effort, to make room for it. The fantastic new three-storey block will be attached to the restaurant/Sixth Form Centre block and will host music, art, drama, technology, computing, some general classrooms and offices as well as a magnificent Main Hall.

At a time when many school leaders and governors are very concerned that, when the Ofsted Inspectors come, they will be looking for "Outstanding" lessons, this continues to be area of strength at Upton Court Grammar School. However, I regularly speak to colleagues working in other schools and hear that they are drawing up lists of "must-have" ingredients for lessons that teachers are issued with and treat as tick lists. It is a sad state of affairs indeed.

I regularly experience "inspiring and vibrant teaching" when I observe lessons and have come to the conclusion that my list is very different from Ofsted's. In the great classrooms that I have seen over the years there is always a judicious balance of fun and fundamentals of learning. Enjoyment, humour and warm relationships abound and so does an unequivocal focus on practising basic and higher order skills. Aspirational teachers accept no less. Excellent teachers create a climate for learning which engenders confidence and motivation among the learners, There is no fear of failure because teacher and pupil alike support one another's triumphs and disasters. Students have opportunities for risk taking and exploration of new knowledge and concepts to spot and encourage their potential.

When I ask students "what makes for effective learning?", they talk about teachers who love their subject and share that passion with students through rich tasks and activities. Pupils are infected by the enthusiasm of their teacher. They deeply respect the teacher who has a breadth of knowledge that they themselves can, at their age, only dream of and aspire to. Think for a moment of the teachers you remember with affection from your own school days. These will be teachers who valued you as a person but also those whose scholarship and knowledge were never in doubt. Memorable classrooms are vibrant spaces where teachers have given thought to learning prompts, keywords, photos, celebrating achievement and displaying high quality pupils' work to which their peers can aspire.

When I wrote "Education at Upton Court is about inspirational teachers and aspirational pupils" for the website, this is exactly the kind of lesson I had in mind and the secret of our success. At times when everything seems to be working against us, I must remind myself of the reason why this job is worth doing. It is not the "politics", it is the "joy of learning" and knowing that we continue to make a real difference to future generations, just as was the case when you walked the corridors of this great school.

### **THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES OF THE PRESENT HEAD BOY/HEAD GIRL**

We began our time as prefects at the beginning of the calendar year. Our team is made up of 35 senior prefects and 14 junior prefects. We are all split into specific sub-groups, who each set up and create events which enhance the school environment to all years.

As a whole group, one of the events we have organised is the annual Valentine's Party, where we hosted 80 OAPs from the local area, providing a large array of exotic foods from all around the world - the guests enjoyed a lovely afternoon with many of the students and teachers from the school. We had a live band, who played for the duration, with the prefect team encouraging some of our guests to dance; a highlight was the dhol (a type of drum - Ed.) player from the lower school who was highly praised. One of the guests described the party as "delightful and well-organised,

with good food and music". The collage of pictures below should provide a reflection of proceedings.

Other events have included raising money to support Children in Need, with a "Guess the Weight of the Cake" competition. Inter-house sporting events have been organised together with the House Captains for the lower school. Fairtrade fortnight is currently underway, with chocolate tasting for the Sixth Form.

We are very excited for the rest of our time as prefects and hope to create a significant impact on our school and to see you at some of those events.

### Ellie Dennison and Kiran Handa



## **\*\*STAFF AND PUPILS SECTION\*\***

**PLEASE NOTE:** The paragraphs below are divided as follows:

- 1) **STAFF** - news followed by "In Memoriam" section
- 2) **PUPILS** - listed by decade, with the key date being when each pupil **started** their SSS/SHS/SGS education. Each decade is subdivided into "**GIRLS**" and "**BOYS**", followed by a similar "**In Memoriam**" section.

## **\*\*STAFF NEWS\*\***

### **PROFILE OF A TEACHER - MR JAMES REEVES**



Those who read last year's Newsletter may recall the article on former SGS art master Vincent Evans, whose reputation as an original artist extended much further than most of us ever appreciated. Once again thanks to **Andrew Hudson (1951-59)**, I have now been made aware of another former teacher who became much better known in his field than many of his former pupils will have realised. **Mr James M Reeves (1909-78)** was senior English master at SGS from 1939 until being seconded to a new teachers' training college at Eastbourne in 1947. By a curious coincidence, he lived in Quaves Road in the house next door to Vincent Evans. Reeves is mainly associated with children's poetry and he subsequently left teaching to concentrate on it, though this decision was apparently also influenced by deteriorating eyesight. He was both an original poet and playwright and edited anthologies of poetry and traditional songs; he also became known as a literary critic and broadcaster. Many of his published poems were illustrated by the artist Edward Ardizzone, whose drawings are probably better known than Reeves' poetry. The two formed a lifelong friendship and collaborated on many publications. Earlier, while studying at Jesus College Cambridge, Reeves had co-founded the literary magazine "Experiment" with Jacob Bronowski, whom he later succeeded as editor of "Epilogue: a Critical Summary". His works are too numerous to list here but anyone interested in his children's poetry may like to read "Complete Poems for Children" by J M Reeves, published in 1973, which contains a considerable number of his works. The "Oxford Companion to Children's Literature" comments that they are "generally regarded as the best British 'serious'

children's verse since Walter de la Mare - though the poems are usually far from serious in subject-matter."

I (the Editor) attempted unsuccessfully to order a copy of "Complete Poems" from my local library, but subsequently obtained one - in perfectly good condition - from an online second-hand book website for the ridiculous price of 68p. The collection is a rather mixed bag but some of them are witty and amusing for the adult reader. Here is an example, with apologies to anyone who has associations with Stoke-on-Trent:

### The Two Mice

There met two mice at Scarborough  
Beside the rushing sea,  
The one from Market Harborough,  
The other from Dundee.

They shook their feet, they clapped their hands  
And twirled their tails about;  
They danced all day upon the sands  
Until the stars peeped out.

"I'm much fatigued," the one mouse sighed,  
"And ready for my tea."  
"Come hame awa'," the other cried,  
"And tak' a crumb wi' me."

They slept a while, and then next day  
Across the moors they went;  
But sad to say, they lost their way  
And came to Stoke-on-Trent.

And there it soon began to rain,  
At which they cried full sore:  
"If ever we get home again,  
We'll not go dancing more."

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM \*\***

**Mrs Anita Taylor (née Whiteside)** - Anita was Head of Biology at UCGS. The school has provided the following obituary:

Anita Taylor was born in May 1960, daughter of Beryl and Samuel Whiteside, in Harlington, West London. She attended Heathrow Primary School and later gained a scholarship to Notting Hill and Ealing High School before going on to Queen Mary's College, University of London, where she read Zoology and Physiology. During her married life, she moved to Slough and enjoyed motherhood with her three daughters, Kim, Zoe and Sian. She encouraged her children to participate in outdoor pursuits, visiting the Lake District every summer for walks, archery and wall-climbing. In the late 1990s she volunteered at a Slough primary school, where her dream to become a teacher was awakened. After completing a teacher training programme, she joined Upton Court Grammar School (known at the time as Slough Grammar School) in 2000 and served as a much loved biology teacher and form tutor for 15 years. She thrived in her laboratory with children, surrounded by roaring

Bunsen burners and colourful solutions, wearing a white lab-coat and a smile. The highlight of Anita's school year was the annual 'A' Level Biology trip to Dale Fort in Wales, where she spent many hours with the barnacles on a sheltered shore. She was a respected teacher and colleague, and touched the lives of thousands of students. She never gave up on any child, and had a unique way of encouraging and empowering even the most insecure of students through to achieving their grades; whilst they may not have liked it at the time, they would always come back a few years later to thank her for the "tough love" which helped them make something of their lives.

Sadly, Anita passed away on 12 May 2015, aged 54. She will be missed by her daughters, grandchildren Ayman, Kaitlyn and Yosef, and will remain in the hearts of countless staff and students of Upton Court Grammar School for many years to come.

**Peter Wills and Colin Thompson** - In September last year we learned of the deaths of two former SGS teachers: Peter Wills, who taught Russian and German, and Colin, a former music teacher. Peter left teaching in order to become a crofter - can't be too many who have trodden that path. Colin remained in the profession and was much involved in local music after his move north to Tynemouth.

### REMINISCENCES BY THE LATE CONNIE EDWARDS, OUR OLDEST MEMBER



The following reminiscences by Connie Edwards (née Smith), aged 106, are based on an interview with her conducted on Friday December 4th 2015 by Jean Tyler and David Rogers. Connie was a pupil at Slough Secondary School between 1920 - 1926. Unfortunately, she died a few months after the interview. Her funeral was to be held at Slough Crematorium on June 6th.

'My father was a railway man and we moved from London when he took up a post in the Telegraph Office at Slough. My first school in Slough was the Tonman Mosley (Junior) School and my time there was not a happy one. The behaviour of some of the boys was unwelcoming. Eventually my father complained to the Head and was told that, if my parents could pay the fees, I could leave immediately and transfer to the adjacent Secondary School. So that is what happened. I was a fee payer throughout my time at the Secondary School, as was my sister. The School made no

distinction between scholarship children and fee payers - it was something that was never mentioned. All pupils were treated in exactly the same way.

"We lived in Kings Road and I used to walk to and from school, often accompanied by my best friend, Madge Weston. We could take a short cut across fields and often did so at lunchtimes, as we went home for lunch every day. The school did employ a cook and lunch was provided. I cannot comment about the food, though, as I never tried it. (*If she had and it was comparable to what we received in the 1950s, I doubt she'd have survived to 106! Ed*). Tuesday was always an interesting day to walk to school, as it was (cattle) market day and the fields and roads in the town would be crowded with animals. Other pupils cycled to school - I remember an occasion when the School made a big fuss about the bicycles not being properly stacked - or came from outlying villages by train, like my friends Mary and **Rinah (Kew, 1923-29)** from Langley. (*Rinah, formerly a regular reunion attendee, passed away in February 2014 at the age of 102. Must have been something good in the air back then....Ed.*)

"My teachers? Yes, I can remember several of them. Mr Smith (the Headmaster) must come first. He was very good and encouraged us in every way. I think he was a great benefit to the school, introducing things like the House system and promoting sports. I was not a great sports-person - I had difficulty seeing the ball and was never a member of any school team. Then there was Mrs Sharpe, the Senior Mistress. She made her presence felt, you could say, and you made sure that you didn't get into trouble with her! (*well named, then - Ed*). Miss Byrne, on the other hand, had difficulty keeping the boys in order. Mr Anderson was involved with Drawing and Botany; Art and Botany were my favourite subjects and maybe a little 'crush' on the teacher had something to do with that! Our French teacher, Miss Etherington - 'Granny', we called her - lived in the same road as us and two of the younger teachers, Miss Bruckin and Miss Sterritt, lodged in that road too. We were very interested in them and used to stand around in the street to see if we could see what they were doing and chat to them.

"I remember particularly when Mr Smith died. As a school prefect I had to go to his funeral, held in St Mary's Church. It was the first I had ever attended and was a big occasion for the town, and a very sad one for the school.

"Overall, though, my days at the Secondary School were very happy ones."

*Footnote: Connie was perhaps being rather modest about her own school achievements. OPA archive material exists for her first year and shows that, although she may not have played in any school teams, she certainly refereed inter-House hockey matches. She also received the W F Smith prize for English Literature, acted as House secretary and was an editor of the School magazine. D. R.*

## **\*\*NEWS OF FORMER PUPILS\*\***

**\*\*1930s\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Hilda Halls (Milcoy, SSS/SHS 1932-37)** - I should very much like to have attended last year's centenary reunion but restricted mobility made the long journey impossible. I doubt whether there

are many of my generation left. I am still in touch with **Marjorie Cruse (SSS/SHS 1931-35)**. There are probably some members from the 1950s who remember me, as I was secretary for the girls' section of the Old Pals for a few years then. Some of the items in "The Way We Were" brought back memories of my years at school, which were spent in the old buildings in William Street. I had 4 years when it was "Slough Secondary School", while my last year was in "Slough High School". I have moved from Cornwall to be near my daughter, as I was finding it increasingly difficult living 300 miles away from her. I am in reasonably good health considering my age (94) but I do have severe arthritis in my bones. I have already had both hips replaced. I think it must be the legacy of all the sport I played - hockey, tennis and squash. I was in the first eleven for hockey at school and together with Marjorie Ford and Joyce Leach played for Bucks Schools in the 1936/37 season. I joined the Old Pals hockey and tennis clubs after leaving school and continued playing until I left Slough in 1960 and moved to Newbury. There I continued playing tennis and took up squash to replace hockey as a winter game. My best wishes to everyone and please remember me to any who knew me, either at school or since.

**Joan Hedge (Stutt, 1936-44)** - in February 2015 Joan noted an obituary in the "Daily Telegraph" relating to a **Nansi Anderson (née Jones)**, who she is fairly certain was the daughter of a Mr Jones who taught at SGS. The family lived in Lascelles Road. Nansi, described in the obituary as "former Principal of the College of Home Economics, Llandaff, Cardiff", died in her 100th year, so she would have started at Slough Secondary School (SSS) around 1927. Joan recalls that her own sister joined SSS in 1930/31 and her brother in 1933, while she herself passed a scholarship to the new High School in 1936. She adds: "Prior to starting in September, I had to have a medical, held at the school in William Street. Mrs Sharp - a formidable lady to a ten-year-old - came by and saw me waiting with my mother. She exclaimed 'Not another Stutt!' - an encounter I've never forgotten." (*This must surely be the same lady mentioned by Connie Edwards above!* - Ed).

**Betty Hull (Iris Burnett, 1937-42)** - After a quiet few months, with nothing much happening, I now have a whole bunch of events taking place in July. I am going to my eldest grandson's wedding in Norwich on July 8th. My own 90th birthday is on July 10th and that is Wimbledon finals weekend, when I am normally closeted with my TV set and "unavailable" to all. Since I'm not clever enough to divide myself into several parts, I shall regretfully have to miss the reunion. I bet nobody would remember me anyway. So many good memories of schooldays!

**Pamela Kilpin (Brown, 1939-46)** - I send you best wishes from Canada for your reunion. I see from the Newsletter that two more of my year have died. during the year - Joyce Kirtland and Sheila Foster. I wonder if there are any left of the Form 1 that started the new school in Twinches Lane in 1939? We had a lot of good times over the years in spite of the War. I still sing with my choir at church and am the secretary of the Stamp Club to which I belong. A bit of volunteering at the local library keeps me busy.

**Daphne Middleton (Shefford, 1939-46)** - Many thanks for the Newsletter. I do not think I shall attend any more reunions. Now June (Barrell) has died, there is no point - we always used to come together, she was my lifelong friend. We did so much together, apart from the amateur dramatics which she was always trying to get me to join - not my scene, as I frequently told her. Also, Paddy May has gone - we did a lot of sporty things - Johnny Rolls and Harry Werrell, there is no-one left apart from Mair Platt, who said when we last spoke that she did not think she could make it. Seems as if none of the Old Pals hockey team are left, or the Tennis 6, so there is no point coming any more. Slough Grammar wasn't our school anyway. They knocked down the High School, which was by far the better (*hmmm... - Ed*). We all had such good times there during the War, when

I was known as "Sheff". (*Interesting that Daphne's memory of the WWII years is similar to Pamela's above - Ed*).

For further references to **Marjorie Cruse** and **Hilda Halls**, see **Margaret Paine's** contribution in the "1940s Girls" section.

## BOYS

**Charles Cox (1937-42)** - Charles wrote to say that his wife **Islay Cox (Lovegrove, 1937-43)** died in 2014 - see her entry in the "In Memoriam" section below. Charles has now downsized and moved to Weobley in Herefordshire.

**David Short (1939-44)** - I was sorry to miss the 2015 reunion - we were attending the Buxton Opera festival. However, we remembered you all on the day. Reading so many names from the past in the Newsletter awakened some memories as well as sadness at the passing of old friends. Vincent Evans, for instance, was a great character. He used to engage some of us for out-of-school tasks (can't remember what!) and we were duly rewarded with mugs of cocoa at his home. Concerts by the Slough Philharmonic were a "must" and it was good always to see Mr Hampshire in the cello section. I read with regret that Jean is standing down as chairman, a post she has filled with much distinction. I myself am doing something similar - having been lead invigilator for exams at LVS (*Licensed Victuallers School - Ed*) Ascot for 27 years, I withdrew from exams in late June 2015. I shall be quite glad to have back the freedom of May and June each year!

**Dugald "Jim" Ross (1939-44)** - I was sorry to miss the 2015 centenary reunion - we were in the throes of moving to Nantwich in Cheshire. We want to be nearer the town centre as our eyes wear out! My thanks to Jean and the Committee members who keep the OPA going; Stanley Jones - who died young but lived across the road from us during the years he revived the association after the war - would have been so pleased with your work. Neither my brother Donald, nor my son Andrew, nor I myself ever joined the Old Pals in our sporting days, now long gone - a pity. Only **David Morgan (1939-47)** and **Norman Taylor (1940-46)** are still alive from our old gang of six. Fred and **Edna Cull (Newstead, 1945-50)**, who worked in the labs at ICI, have now moved to Chipping Norton from Northumberland.

For references to **Reg Cox (1934-40)**, **Roy Slaughter (1935-41)**, **Arthur Day (1936-42)** and **George Power (1938-43)**, see **Margaret Paine's** contribution in the "1940s Girls" section.

## **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

## GIRLS

**Kathleen Bryant (Prior, 1937-42)** - Kathleen died on 7th July 2015, just before last year's reunion, at the age of 88. Her funeral was held at St Laurence Church, Upton, on July 24th. She was the widow of Ken Bryant, an Old Pals' Committee member for many years. She did not attend reunions herself because she found that limited hearing and poor eyesight made it all too difficult. She was a user of the Slough Talking Newspaper. Kathleen loved animals, especially donkeys and foxes. She kindly presented the Old Pals with a book, which Ken had always said we could have after his death, in the form of bound copies of the earliest school magazines (1912 - 1917). We have reproduced the first magazine from Ken's book in the book which we put together to mark the 100 year anniversary of the Old Paludians.

**Islay Cox (Lovegrove, 1937-44)** - Husband Charles Cox writes: "Islay and I enjoyed 67 years of a wonderful marriage, with four children and grandchildren. Islay was at Slough High School when it moved from the centre of Slough. Our morning crossings when cycling to and from school convinced me that she was to be my future wife. She used to teach at Tonman Mosley Junior School (*which was located on the site of the old Slough Secondary School in William Street and closed after WWII - Ed.*). She proved to be an excellent teacher even with less able 16-year-old pupils. Her interest lay in piano music and dancing and she loved animals, but playing the piano was her principal interest. Once the children left education she never returned to teaching and became involved with finance, importing/exporting, sales and office management at our factory in South Wales, which manufactures arboreal tools. On release from the RAF our youngest son took over the firm and we spent twenty years competing and driving small ponies to various traps in the area of the Marches. We lived close to our old school chum Vic Woodford, sadly now departed. His son Neil is a financial manager and well known for his remarkable skill in making fortunes for his investors. (*Yes, I've read about his fund management activities in the press, though sadly have never profited from his advice! - Ed.*) We are now too far from Slough to visit the old school but always enjoy receiving news of Old Paludians via the Newsletter."

(Charles also enclosed copies of two favourable testimonials written for Islay, the first by her headmistress, Miss J Crawford, and the second by the headmaster of Tonman Mosley, Mr J Galsworthy).

**Jean Bignell (Climer, 1939-45)** - Jean's daughter Valerie Carroll wrote to say that her mother had died on 23rd February 2015 after struggling with recurring attacks of COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) for most of the winter. Jean's father Percy Climer was caretaker at SHS in the 1950s until around 1965 and his photograph appears in the collection recently published by the Old Paludians. Valerie has kindly supplied the following obituary: "Gwendoline Jean Climer was born 7.12.1928, the only daughter of Percy and Doris Climer. After leaving school she obtained an indenture with Boots the Chemist. I think she worked in Old Windsor - she once mentioned walking to work but having to watch out at one particular old lady's house, as the old lady would yell and throw out the contents of her chamber pot each morning! (*1940s gardyloo? Ed.*) She went on holiday, probably in the summer of 1948/9, to a holiday camp in Devon, with her best friend Jean Thoroughgood/Grist. There she met and fell in love with Leslie Norman Bignell, just out of the RAF. They married on 25 March 1950 at the church of Upton-cum-Chalvey. I think she worked in the laboratories at James Allen Grammar School in Dulwich before I was born in 1952. My brother Geoffrey followed in 1955, sister Fenella in 1957 and last but not least, Ian in 1967. Geoffrey died in September 1967. We moved around London a lot, ending up in Thornton Heath, about 20 minutes by car or bus to Central London if the roads were clear. Mum ran a playgroup for 15 years at the local church hall. She then worked at a chemist's shop on Norbury High Street. She loved the gossip and was in contact with one of the ladies she worked with virtually until the day she died. When Dad retired they decided to move to Lincolnshire, as Mum's brother Ben lived there. Mum loved the theatre, ballet and poetry - Joyce Grenfell and Pam Ayres come to mind. She used to knit a lot until arthritis set in. She attended "play reading classes", my Dad teasing her that she was turning into a luvvie; then she started craft classes, which she continued until she died. We were all amazed at the beautiful embroideries she produced despite the arthritis."

## **BOYS**

**Arthur Hancock (1935-40)** - Arthur's wife Pauline wrote in May 2016 to say she had received an invitation to the Old Paludians reunion for her husband but that unfortunately Arthur had died on September 30th last year. She kindly supplied the following short obituary:

"Arthur joined the navy after leaving school and served in many places, including at the landings in Sicily and Normandy. After the war he worked for ICI in several departments and retired early. We then moved to Pembrokeshire, where we ran a smallholding and holiday business on the coast, while Arthur continued working as a consultant on the carriage of dangerous goods. He set up the Dangerous Goods Agency, which still exists. We returned to Cookham and he continued working until he was 80. He was a good cricketer - batsman and bowler - played football and at a later age golf.

We have two daughters and two grandsons. Best wishes to you and to the Association."

*(Arthur appears in the top photograph on page 56 of "Ad Astra" - Ed.)*

**Ken Martin (1936-42)** - We have been notified of Ken's death (probably in 2011) by a relative, Christopher Martin. Ken moved from Slough to Amersham. An old photograph shows him in army uniform in Egypt, apparently during National Service. Returning to civilian life, he worked in the radio-chemical industry, followed by a stint in bank security. Apparently, he also managed a pop group! At school Ken excelled at sport, especially cricket, and was one of the founder members of the Old Paludians Sports Association. The Old Pals played a major role in Ken's life. For the cricket team he was a stylish opening bat and acted as secretary, fixture secretary, team organiser and umpire. He also played hockey for Windsor Hockey Club, mainly as goalkeeper. Ken was also noted for his inability to find his way to away fixtures - rather unfortunate, since until the Old Pals club house was built every fixture was away from home! **Trevor Taylor (1945-51)** remembers Ken as "an engaging character with an infectious sense of fun. When I last met him, probably about 10 years ago, shopping in Waitrose, he was still smiling!". Latterly he had been in residential care, where he was popular among other residents and regarded as "a gentleman".

**Derek Elliott (1937-44)** - Derek, who lived in Watlington for nearly 40 years, died at home on 4th Feb 2016, aged 89. He was born at Langley in 1927, the only son of Charlie and Daisy Elliott. After leaving SGS in 1944, he joined the Army for his national service and went to Palestine with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, where he was MT Platoon Sgt and Platoon Cdr. He left in 1947 with an "exemplary" testimonial from his battalion commander. After demob he secured a job with ICI Technical Paints Division, where he stayed for 36 years, meeting his wife Iris there - they married in 1951. They began married life in Maidenhead and had two daughters, then bought a small plot of land, where they built their own house. In 1977 they moved to Watlington, where both Derek and Iris (who died in 2014) were very active members of the community. At 57 Derek took early retirement from ICI and they enjoyed a few well-earned holidays. Derek worked part-time at auction rooms, did a spot of vegetable gardening and for a while was chairman of Watlington Band. However, most of his passion and energy went into the Royal British Legion. Derek was a traditionalist and royalist, loved the armed forces and was enormously proud of being English. He had a debilitating heart attack in 2005 but cared for Iris after she too became ill. He was determined to live independently, did most of his own shopping, washing and ironing and was always smartly attired when out and about. Derek was a very popular figure in Watlington, a true old-fashioned English gentleman and a great role model who will be greatly missed by friends and family.

*(Many thanks to Derek's daughter Jackie for providing this obituary)*

**\*\*1940s\*\*****GIRLS**

**Margaret Paine (Paine, 1943-48)** - As I write (May 2016) I am about to go to Yorkshire for a few days holiday. This year has flown by. The aches and pains are still there and the walking not good but the brain is still reasonable (I think). I still play Scrabble and attend various lunches and meetings. The school-friends I keep in touch with are mostly unable to attend the reunion but I still receive news, which I can summarise as follows (all the ladies mentioned attended **SHS 1943-48**):

**Audrey Gamester (Lines)** - will be going to Malta for a wedding. She has back problems but still does a little tap dancing (with a stick!).

**Joyce (Maton) and Arthur Head (SGS)** - Joyce is mostly housebound and Arthur doesn't get out so much now.

**Joan (Williams) and George Power (SGS 1938-43)**, who regularly attended reunions, are unable to make the journey any more.

**Thelma Ricketts (Banister)** - is no longer driving and retired from teaching piano. Lives in Dorset.

**Audrey Higgins (Slaughter)** - still keeps very well - swimming, badminton and Pilates - we are hoping to meet in Yorkshire, where she lives. Her brother **Roy (SSS/SGS 1935-41)** and sister **Hilda (SHS 1936-42)** are both in a residential home in Beaconsfield. Roy has dementia.

**Anne Letchford (Reeves, SHS 1943-50)**, whom I met at Valerie Storie's funeral, is still living in Burnham. She was going to move north to be closer to her family but decided to stay near friends.

**Jill Sayer (Emmett, SHS 1943-48)** should manage to get to the reunion with assistance from her daughter. Jill is totally blind but still her old self.

The Committee decided to send Christmas cards this year to senior (over 90) Old Pals. I sent about 20 out and received a bit more news:

**Reg Cox (SSS/SGS 1934-40)** - his wife wrote to say Reg would be unable to attend any more reunions due to failing health.

**Arthur Day (SGS 1936-42)** - still lives in Teignmouth with his wife.

**Hilda Halls (Milcoy, SSS/SHS 1932-37)** - I had a very nice letter from Hilda. She was secretary when I first joined the Committee in the 1950s. She was a member of both the Hockey and Tennis Clubs. She is 94 now and has arthritis, which restricts her mobility - both her hips have been replaced and now her knees are affected. She still hears from **Marjorie Cruse (SSS 1931-35)** in Gerrards Cross, whose sight is very poor now. It was lovely to hear from Hilda, whom I remember well.

**Judy Farrow (Paine, my daughter, SHS 1976-80)** and family are all keeping very busy. She meets up with friends from her year. My family are celebrating silver weddings four years running - quite an achievement now!

**Maureen Harris (Reardon, 1946-54)** - Each year I receive the informative Newsletter. I thank you and have appreciated being kept in touch. I am sorry that Jean is retiring as chairman, as I remember her from SHS days. I hope the 100th reunion was a happy and memorable one.

**Beverly Webb (1948-56)** - As Head Girl of SHS for two terms in 1956, I felt guilty at being unable to attend last year's special reunion and AGM, due to ill health. I was one of the Richings Park, Iver, contingent and am still in touch with some of my High School contemporaries from there - namely, **Janet Rutherford (Yates, 1947-55)**, her elder sister **Mary, Hazel Brecknell (Murfitt)**, **Janet Pottle (Osborne)** and **Felicity Knox (Moore)**, who live respectively in Oxford, Christchurch, Derbyshire, Cumnor (Oxon) and North Norfolk. Felicity's elder sister **Lynden** has lived in Oxford since her graduate days. I'm just down the A4 (Bath Road) in Maidenhead. Sadly, the remainder of

our little group - **Beryl Jones (Skillings)**, **Janet Nash** and **Dorothy Wille** (married names not known) - all succumbed to cancer in their forties and fifties. I believe **Brenda Nash** is still going strong but have no recent news of her. My best wishes to all who were able to be present on July 18th and congratulations to everyone involved in the arrangements for the event. I always read the annual Newsletter with great interest and am particularly pleased to know that some of my teachers keep in touch with the Old Pals. Many of my fellow form members still come to mind with affection - **Pamela Field**, **Mary Adam**, **Wendy Dixon**, **Jill Porter**, **Janet Price**, **Janet Millership**, **Beryl Goulding**, **Sally Hammond**, **Maureen Hancock**, etc. - I wonder what became of them all. So sad that those fine premises and spacious sports ground (including the famous "bumps") no longer exist in Twinches Lane, Cippenham, which I left behind nearly sixty years ago.

## BOYS

**Ron Fidler (1943-49)** - I have recently been in contact with **Alan Bugby (SGS 1943-49)**, who coincidentally also worked at Black & Decker (*see reference to Margaret Salter in 1950s "In Memoriam" section - Ed.*). He now lives in the Isle of Wight. Apart from being my contemporary at school, Alan played hockey for Bestobell and HDA against me in goal for the Old Pals. He was quite a robust centre forward. I met up with Alan again when he joined B & D in 1975, where I had been working since 1955. Alan is a very keen county bowls player. He would very much like to hear from any of his old SGS friends (contact email [REDACTED]). I look forward to attending the reunion on July 9th.

**Michael Redford (1947-53)** - Mike wrote jointly with his wife **Shirley (Collins, 1951-55)**. They had hoped to attend the 2015 reunion but Mike was called to Salisbury Hospital for an angiogram and this coincided with the reunion. They sent regards and best wishes.

**Barry Garner (1948-55)** - Barry Garner is the elder brother of the late **Douglas Garner (1956-63)** - both attended Slough Grammar School. Barry left in 1955 to go to Nottingham University, where he studied geography together with former classmate **Edgar Wallner (1948-55)**, who studied pharmacy there. Graduating in 1958, Barry was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study for a PhD degree in the United States at Northwestern University, Chicago. He returned to the UK in 1962 and took up a position as assistant lecturer in geography at Leeds University. He then went to Bristol University in 1964 as a lecturer in geography. He left Bristol in 1968 to take up a position as Guest Professor at Aarhus University, Denmark, where he stayed until 1976, when he was appointed to the Chair of Geography at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. He has remained in Australia ever since, and has been retired since 2000.

(Barry supplied his email address in case anyone should wish to make contact:  
[REDACTED])

## **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

## GIRLS

**Doreen Wing (Cleaver, 1941-46)** - News of Doreen's death was received earlier this year. Her son Clive has kindly provided the following obituary:

"Mum, Doreen Frances Cleaver, was born in Edmonton, North London, in 1931, the eldest of four sisters. The family moved to Slough (Beresford Avenue in Upton Lea), which is where Mum spent the War. She would cycle to the High School every day, come rain or shine, meeting up with friends along the way. It was at the High School that she learned to cook, to knit and to make her own

clothes - skills which stayed with her for the rest of her life. Mum was lucky to have had teachers who made learning interesting rather than a chore. Her enjoyment of History and English in particular turned into enjoyable pursuits later in her life. Her wheels gave her the freedom to explore and during the War she would cycle for miles in the countryside, enjoying the parks, gardens and buildings with an interesting past. This conjured up a life-long practical interest in plants and gardening. Mum hated the War and all its deprivations. But what she disliked most was the dark and dingy air-raid shelter at the bottom of the garden in Beresford Avenue. Once was enough! She refused to shelter in it again and spent every air raid in the comfort of her bedroom, safe from the damp and the spiders but not from Hitler's bombs.

Mum left the High School at a young age, 15 I think. She regretted leaving but at the same time a new world was beckoning. At some point she learned secretarial skills, typing and shorthand, and landed several jobs in well known companies in the area, including ICI and Black & Decker, where she met Alfred Wing, perhaps on the dance floor. They both enjoyed ballroom dancing and big bands and married in 1951, moving to Windsor, where she spent the rest of her life. Mum became a mother to Clive, Martin and Helen and gave up work to look after us. Once we were all at school she took part-time jobs, ensuring she was always back home when three small, cold children walked the mile home from school every day.

When we three had left home, Mum re-started her education. For the next 40 years she attended a large number of courses (WEA, I think), where she learned local and world history, literature, art, architecture and much more. She became a member and office bearer of several local societies, making many friends along the way. Globetrotting became an enjoyable pursuit, often with Dad and frequently with friends. Her favourite destination was Italy for its history, scenery and warmth. But she also travelled as far as China, Nepal, India, Egypt and the United States. She was thrilled to visit the Victoria Falls in Zambia because of its connection to Livingstone and Stanley, favourites from her history class at the High School.

Mum told me how much she enjoyed the Old Paludians meetings. She was amused that she was instantly recognized by friends she had not seen for 50 years and vice versa. She never forgot her time at Slough High School for Girls and the influence it had on her as an adult."

**Peggy Rapley (Haskell, 1942-49)** - Peggy's family informed us that she died at St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton, on June 25th 2015 after several months of illness. Despite increasing pain, she had remained cheerful and alert until the last few days. A Service of Thanksgiving was held at Rowbarton Methodist Church in Taunton on Friday 3rd July, to which any Old Pals who had known Peggy were invited. This invitation was passed on to her contemporaries. School-friend **Shirley Knight (1942-48)** recalls that both Peggy's father and her own were employed in Southall by Price and Co, Bakers, who subsequently opened a depot on Slough Trading Estate, where Peggy's father looked after the collection and delivery vehicles. Shirley also has some interesting memories of the winter of 1947!

**Mary Cane (1942-47)** - Mary died on March 27th 2015, the day after her 84th birthday. Her friend and ex-classmate **Shirley Knight (1942-48)** recalls that Mary's family used to live in a flat above the butcher's shop (possibly called "Wilkins"?) in Stoke Road. Another classmate with whom Mary kept in touch was **Joan Arksey**, who moved to Cumbria and died about 5 or 6 years ago. She was very involved with the Kingsway United Reformed Church; the minister there, the Rev. Linda Hillier, has kindly provided the following (necessarily abbreviated) obituary:

"Mary lived in Slough all her life and spoke fondly of her time and her friends at SHS, where she clearly attained a high standard in every subject, except perhaps PE. She spoke both French and German and kept up a correspondence in those languages with pen pals in various countries. She worked for a number of local companies, including ICI and Bestobell Mowbray, before becoming a

secretary at Age Concern. It is clear she was well thought of by both employers and colleagues in each company and organisation. Mary loved music, having an eclectic taste, and played the organ at Kingsway every Sunday into her late 70s, when she decided that was enough as her fingers had become a little stiff. She also enjoyed singing hymns and carols. For many years she was editor of the church magazine. Good English was very important to Mary and apostrophes in the wrong place annoyed her intensely (*Ah, a lady after my own heart - hope nobody spots one in this Newsletter! - Ed*). She was a real wordsmith and her poetry has been published in local papers, several magazines and a number of books. Mary loved animals, caring for cats and donkeys in particular, and supported a number of charities campaigning against cruelty. She was a hard-working individual, loving and generous, highly respected by friends and neighbours and a credit to Slough High School. She will be greatly missed by many of us."

**Catherine Wiles (Eccleston, 1947-53)** - The following message has been received from **Doreen Holden (Eccleston, 1943-50)**: "I'm sorry to tell you that my sister Cathy died suddenly in November 2015, at the age of 78. Catherine (always known as Cathy) was born in June 1937. We have two brothers, Frank and Dennis. Cathy was in Gray House at Slough High School for Girls from 1947 to 1953. In 1958 she married Colin Wiles, who had been a pupil at Slough Grammar School. They had three sons (Brent, Kevin and Shaun), six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Cathy worked for the Inland Revenue and, for a longer period until she retired, for the Benefits Department of Slough Social Services. She was a very talented amateur painter and won first prize in an artists' exhibition at Slough Social Centre. Cathy and Colin lived for many years in the Farnham Road area of Slough but moved to Spalding, Lincolnshire in 2002."

**Valerie Storie (1949-54)** - Valerie passed away just before Easter 2016 - her funeral followed at Slough Crematorium on April 19th. She had been in Wexham Park Hospital during February 2016 but died at home. Valerie's life could probably fill an entire Newsletter on its own! She lived her whole life in Cippenham and enjoyed a happy childhood. After leaving SHS she proceeded to work at the Road Research Laboratory. Cars were also a personal interest for Valerie, who both organised and competed in CSMA (Civil Service Motoring Association) rallies. Summer 1961 started well for her, with a holiday in Majorca, but in August that year her world fell apart when she suffered paralysis after being shot. So began a new life in a wheelchair. She did subsequently return to work but retired in 1983. Hers was a very active retirement, however, and she pursued many interests - she was president and press officer for the Women's Institute in Cookham, developed her knowledge of both family and local history, learned crochet and calligraphy, and of course worked tirelessly on behalf of the Old Paludians. I imagine she will have been familiar to most of our members, since over the years she had undertaken a number of committee responsibilities - secretary, membership secretary and Newsletter editor. She was a most efficient secretary who set high standards with her agendas and minutes, and as membership secretary she got to know many of the members, especially those living abroad. Many recall her with affection - for instance, **Fred Collins (1941-47)** writes: " She was most kind to me when I planned to attend the Old Paludians AGM for the first time about twenty years ago and got me in touch with a few of my old school-friends, both from SGS and from Farnham Royal Elementary School." She was a very proficient user of the computer and produced excellent Newsletters, which have since become an important part of our Association. We have so much to thank her for; and of course, the way she coped with adversity in her private life must command the highest respect and admiration.

## **BOYS**

**Peter Raymond (1941-47)** - The following obituary was kindly provided by Peter's son Jim: "Peter died in May 2015 at Watford General Hospital, aged 85, from pneumonia. He was born in 1930 in Slough but spent his first five years in Colombo, Sri Lanka, returning to England in 1935 to an English education. A very intelligent boy with a profound interest in aeroplanes, he did very well at SGS until the death of his father the day after Peter's 17th birthday. His promising sixth form career was cut short by the need to find work to support his mother, who had taken over her husband's corner shop in Montague Road. Specifically recommended by the headmaster, Mr. Edward Clarke, he gained a valuable apprenticeship with the Hawker Aircraft Company. Peter's whole working life was spent in the aviation industry. Still looking after his now disabled mother, he studied in the evenings to become a chartered aero-engineer, specialising in structures and metal stress fatigue. Subsequently, he became a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society. This gave him the degree status he might have achieved at university, had he completed his 6th form studies. He went on to work across the industry for BOAC, Fairey Aviation, Rolls Royce and Hawker Siddeley (later British Aerospace) until his retirement in 1991. He contributed to the development of many varieties of aircraft during his career, as different as the Sea Fury, the prototype Harrier jump-jet and the original Airbus A-300. He did his National Service in the RAF but never completed pilot training, although he was actively involved in a gliding club in the 1950s; for his 80th birthday, the family bought him a gliding lesson at Ivinghoe Beacon, which delighted him. Peter's other key interests were choral singing, sailing and motorcycles, which he used as daily transport from age 17 to 64. Peter and his wife, **Audrey (nee Eg elstaff, 1942-47)** both enjoyed attending Old Pals events until quite recently. He is survived by Audrey and their three sons."

**Dr Michael Ford (1941-48)** - News reached us earlier this year that Michael, who was Head Boy at SGS in the late 1940s, had passed away on April 10th. For many years he was a regular attendee at reunions. **Pat Oldcorn (Horwood, SHS 1953-59)** kindly supplied the following obituary: "Mike followed his brothers to SGS in the war years and became Head Boy. He continued his studies at Kings College London. He then joined Perkin Elmer in Norwalk, Connecticut in October 1956 and spent his entire working career with this company. Perkin Elmer Ltd was set up in Beaconsfield in August 1957 in order to provide a manufacturing base in the UK at a convenient location for Mike, who became Director of Research. As an inventor, he filed a number of patents for specialist scientific instruments relating to infra-red spectrophotometers. He gained the prestigious Mullard Award by the Royal Society in 1987. This is an annual award to a person who has an outstanding academic record in any field of natural science, engineering or technology and whose achievement is currently making (or having the potential to make) a contribution to national prosperity in Britain. Mike was married with two sons and a daughter. He was a keen skier, dancer, badminton player and undertook a 100k non-stop Oxfam Trailwalk to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> year. He travelled widely in his working life as Perkin Elmer expanded into Europe but was able to travel even more in his retirement, as he and his wife Linda made lengthy visits to Australia to visit her family. He was a great host and organiser and amassed a wide group of friends all around the world."

**David Jewell (1943-51)** - David died on April 4th 2016 following a fall just before Easter, requiring hospitalisation. His funeral took place on April 15th at St Mary's Church, where **Barry Sarjent (1943-49)** delivered the eulogy. Barry recalls: "David and I first met in a prefabricated classroom at SGS in 1943. Neither of us was mad about sport, though David was always an enthusiastic cyclist and keen swimmer. We both shared a love of the theatre and before long I was helping him put on self-written plays in his aunt's living-room. From there to presenting a series of

concerts in the Church Institute was a big step forward, with profits going to church funds. David was responsible for staging and lighting. Towards the end of our time at SGS the Dramatic Society was revived and David appeared on stage as *Geoffrey Chaucer* in a play about Windsor Castle. He never acted again and happily went off to UCL, where he gained his degree and lit several operas. After National Service in Germany, where David learned to appreciate that country's wines, he began his career as a maths teacher, beginning at Licensed Victuallers in Slough, then at Drayton Manor School in Greenford. His theatrical interests continued in the schools. He met his future wife Sylvia via theatre productions - they married in 1965 and a long, happy life together ensued. They were blessed with two sons, Peter and Michael, and in due course a large family developed, much loved by David. Later he developed a taste for boating and enjoyed many canal holidays. St Mary's Church played an enduring role in David's life - he was a server, vergger and occasional choir member. His faith was absolute and his loyalty unshakeable. Shortly before his death, he commented that "My life's work is done," explaining that he had finally got the lighting in St Mary's just the way he wanted it! He was much valued as an Old Pals Committee member and will be remembered for his expertise with lighting and sound management - on reunion days the PA system was always in his capable hands.

**John Ray (1940s, exact years unknown)** - John spent most of his working life in New Zealand. This year we were informed that he had passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 19th. John had been in a rest home after speech and movement became increasingly difficult. He was clearly much loved by his family and appears to have been an endearingly eccentric figure. A colleague of many years, Arthur Vanner provided a detailed description of John and his work - here are a few extracts:

"John's trademark was his large moustache and flowing hair, which made him an instantly recognisable figure....I always understood that, before coming to NZ, John had been involved in research into the effect of insecticides on insects....Through his research work at FRI (Forest Research Institute), John made a significant contribution to plant protection in NZ, not only in the forest industry but in the country as a whole and most notably in the area of pesticide spray application....It is a tribute to John that in a fast-changing world the systems which he introduced over 30 years ago are still in use today."

"Hidden behind John's moustache was a roguish sense of humour overlaid with a hint of rebelliousness. He was a chemist first and foremost and seemed to enjoy making stinks and bangs...."

"John was a very active person, rode a bike to work every day, was active in Scottish country dancing, tramping and sailing - he greatly admired Sir Francis Chichester and other long-distance solo sailors....He was a master of cooking hot-cross buns (in the laboratory oven!) and produced an eagerly-awaited batch every Easter, using a recipe that his son had been given at primary school." (*Unfortunately, space constraints preclude the addition of further detail - Ed.*)

## \*\*1950s\*\*

### GIRLS

**Diane Selman (1951-56)** - regrets being unable to attend last year's reunion due to her husband's ill health.

**Shirley Redford (Collins, 1951-55)** - see entry for Mike Redford in "1940s Boys" section.

**\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\*****GIRLS**

**Margaret Salter (Curl, 1950-55) - Ron Fidler (1943-49)** writes: "I noticed in last year's Newsletter that mention was made that contact with Margaret had been lost. Sadly, Margaret died on 3rd July 2014 after a long illness with MND. I was at her funeral at St. Mary's Church, Ipsden, on the 16th July 2014. Her husband Paul and I worked together at Black & Decker, where they met. When they got married in 1964 they in fact rented our home in Farnham Common, as at that time I was working in Italy. Subsequently my wife **Pat (nee Beard, 1945-49)** and I spent many happy times with them in Portugal and Greece, where Paul was working for B & D."

**Ann Reed (Howell, 1951-56)** - Ann's son Tim writes: "Ann Margaret Helen Reed passed away on September 25, 2015. Ann was proud to be a student at Slough High School and always looked back fondly on her time at the school. Joining in 1951, she made many close friends at that time - friendships which lasted over 60 years. Ann, married to George, lived in Titchfield in Hampshire for over 45 years and was a wonderful Mum and Grandma. Ann loved taking her dog Esther for walks, and spending time gardening to provide friends and family with fresh fruit and vegetables. Ann's dog Esther is now living with family in France."

**Jennifer James (Bond, 1955-60)** - Jennifer, a former Old Pals committee member, passed away peacefully at home in November 2015. She and her twin sister Pauline were members of the well-known Bond family in Eton Wick, where they lived on a farm. I (the Editor) remember them both as formidable competitors in the annual village gymkhana. Her daughter Caroline has kindly provided the following obituary:

"Jennifer will be remembered by many as someone who enjoyed riding her horse in gymkhanas in Eton Wick or as someone who played a mean game of hockey. She was fiercely intelligent but not always one to conform to the school rules! Her love of reading was much in evidence at school and although she left Slough High School at 16, she completed a part-time English Literature degree at Reading University in her 40s whilst bringing up 4 children. She also wrote poetry. After leaving school, Jennifer trained at Pitman's College and her skills in typing and shorthand proved invaluable throughout her many different roles. After a time at the BBC she decided to train as a personnel officer and went on to work in hotels. Bringing up 4 children didn't leave her much time for employment, but when she did return to paid roles after many voluntary positions in her local community and church in Ascot, she worked as a reporter for the local newspaper and in Sales at the Holiday Inn in Maidenhead. To all that she did, she brought her enthusiasm, hard work and keen sense of organisation. It was a great sadness to her husband, children and 3 grandchildren that Alzheimer's should rob them of such a wonderful woman so soon. She passed away at home after a rapid deterioration following the diagnosis a couple of years ago."

**Dr Jennifer Harris (Stallworthy, 1959-66)** - Jennifer's husband Bryn notified us of her death and kindly provided the following obituary:

"After leaving school, Jennifer attended Birmingham University, where she met Bryn and they were married in 1969. Shortly after the birth of their son, William, in 1972, they embarked on the crazy adventure of going to live in Zambia, where they stayed for nearly five years, and where Stephanie was born. After leaving Zambia, the family settled in Montreal in 1978. Once the children reached school age, Jennifer resumed her university career, at Concordia, doing a combined degree of Theology and Philosophy. Remarkably for a mature student, she was chosen as the Valedictorian for the 1987 Convocation, delivering a speech in front of more than 2000 people at the Place des

Arts. Subsequently, she completed a doctoral degree in Philosophy at the University of Toronto, having won a scholarship from the Quebec Government to do so. Since 2001, she taught humanities at Dawson College in Montreal, a combination of sixth-form college and first-year university, where she was greatly loved by, and inspired many of, her students. As a commemoration, the College has now implemented a Student Award in her name. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011, and despite a long and brave battle, she succumbed on October 28, 2015." Bryn adds that if any of Jennifer's school friends wish to contact him, he can be reached at [bryn@sutekh.org](mailto:bryn@sutekh.org).

## \*\*1960s\*\*

### GIRLS

**Anne Harris (1961-68)** - Thank you for the excellent Old Paludians Newsletter, which I have greatly enjoyed reading. I look back with many happy memories and deep gratitude at my time at SHS. I will not be able to attend the reunion. It's a long way from Norwich to Slough and, added to that, I recently had major hip surgery (with complications). This is the second time. I'm waiting to be fitted with a splint and in time shall know whether I can drive again. I think young but.....! With every good wish and thanks for all the committee are doing.

### BOYS

**Michael Frankl (1964-72)** - After a two-year break, Michael Frankl (1964-72) had another go at *Mastermind*. For the heats he chose as his specialist subject prime minister Edward Heath. In his heat, broadcast last September, Michael was the runner-up with 26 points. As a result he qualified for one of the six highest-scoring runner-up places in the semi-finals. For his semi-final Michael, who now lives in Windsor, chose as his specialist subject Windsor Castle. In his semi-final, broadcast in March, he scored 21 and was placed equal third among the five contenders. (*I notice Michael modestly fails to mention that he scored more points in this contest than a former Brain of Britain! Ed*)

## \*\*1970s\*\*

### GIRLS

**Judy Farrow (Paine, SHS 1976-80)** - for reference to Judy, see Margaret Paine's contribution in the "1940s Girls" section.

## OUR WEBSITE

No news to report.

## THE OLD PALS ARCHIVE

**Please read the Treasurer's report below relating to archive storage costs.** Storage is a serious problem which will need to be addressed sooner rather than later. Several avenues are being investigated but at this time no solution has been identified. We would like to avoid the

destruction of archived material, some of which has been donated to us on the understanding that it would be preserved, so if anyone has ideas the Committee would be pleased to hear them.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/15**

As you can see from the attached accounts, we made a loss of ~£1900 last year. This is made up of archive storage £900, VAT £400, shortfall in donations £300 and centenary gifts £300. Some of this was expected, as we had anticipated making a loss in our centenary year; however, we have the continuing problem of storage costs for the archives. We cannot afford to continue paying for storage. We are hoping that the school will be able to provide some space, but that won't be until the current building work is completed and in any case may not be sufficient. This is now a matter of some urgency and I would appeal to anyone who could help with storage or suggest a solution, to contact us.

Finally, I would like to thank George Lucas for examining the accounts for us. He has been doing them for longer than I can remember and it has been a pleasure to work with him.

**Shelagh Whitehouse**

## *The Old Paludians Association*

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/15

Income			Expenditure		
	2015	2014		2015	2014
Subscriptions	£40.00	£45.00	Refreshments	£2692.20	£1950.00
Donations	£974.50	£1,264.02	Donations to Upton Court Grammar Scho	£1,100.00	£1,100.00
Coffee	£287.50	£214.00	Flowers & Gifts	£60.00	£94.57
Lunch	£1635.00	£1,635.00	Stationery	£27.96	£0.00
Tea	£342.00	£342.00	Printing	£174.90	£137.20
Raffle	£274.50	£265.00	Book AD Astra	£1,680.00	£0.00
Book Ad Astra	£1386.00	£10.00	Postage	£339.48	£279.88
P&P for book	£125.00	£1.50	Telephone	£0.00	£0.00
Bring & Buy, sundries	£112.19	£126.26	Sundries for Sale	£0.00	£0.00
Bank Interest	£0.00	£0.00	Computer	£45.57	£33.57
Other	£0.00	£0.00	Other	£1,004.10	£135.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,176.61</b>	<b>£3,902.78</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,124.21</b>	<b>£3,730.22</b>

	2015	2014
<b>Brought forward from previous year</b>	<b>£4,322.45</b>	£4,149.89
Income for year	£5,176.69	£3,902.78
Expenditure for year	£7,124.21	£3,730.22
Profit or Loss for year	£1,947.52	£172.56
<b>Carried forward to next year</b>	<b>£2,374.93</b>	£4,322.45

Accounts prepared by Shelagh Whitehouse (Staff, 1993-2008)

Accounts examined by George Lucas (1938-44)

## THE OLD PALS COMMITTEE 2015 - 2016

<b>President:</b> Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada	Principal, Upton Court Grammar School, Lascelles Rd, Slough, Berks. SL3 7PR Tel: 01753 522892 Email: <a href="mailto:MHE@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk">MHE@uptoncourtgrammar.org.uk</a>
<b>Chairman:</b>	Vacancy
<b>Secretary:</b>	Vacancy
<b>Treasurer:</b> Shelagh Whitehouse	██ ██████████ Tel: ██████████ Email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@oldpaludians.org.uk">treasurer@oldpaludians.org.uk</a>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b> Patrick Donachy	Tel: ██████████ Email: <a href="mailto:patrickdonachy@oldpaludians.org.uk">patrickdonachy@oldpaludians.org.uk</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Bob Moss	██ ██████████ Email: <a href="mailto:editor@oldpaludians.org.uk">editor@oldpaludians.org.uk</a>
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	
Jane Brown	Tel: ██████████ Email: <a href="mailto:janebrown@oldpaludians.org.uk">janebrown@oldpaludians.org.uk</a>
Colin Cairns	Tel: ██████████ Email: <a href="mailto:colincairns@oldpaludians.org.uk">colincairns@oldpaludians.org.uk</a>
Ian Cairns <b>(Webmaster)</b>	Tel: ██████████ Email: <a href="mailto:webmaster@oldpaludians.org.uk">webmaster@oldpaludians.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:iancairns@oldpaludians.org.uk">iancairns@oldpaludians.org.uk</a>
Marie Hughes	Tel: ██████████ Email: <a href="mailto:mariehughes@oldpaludians.org.uk">mariehughes@oldpaludians.org.uk</a>
Shirley Lane	Tel: ██████████
Margaret Paine	Tel: ██████████
David Rogers	Tel: ██████████
Alan Forbes	Tel: ██████████ Email: <a href="mailto:alanforbes@oldpaludians.org.uk">alanforbes@oldpaludians.org.uk</a>
David Pritchard	Tel: ██████████

## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Raymond Ashley, SGS 1953-60  
 Michael Brown, UGS/SGS ?? - 2008  
 Robert Curry, SGS 1955-60  
 Keith Folker, SGS 1955-60  
 Edward Husbands, SGS 1955-62  
 Edward Lucas-Smith, SGS 1956-63  
 Jean Sylvester (Pickering), SHS 1955-60  
 Molly Vandersluis (Akerman), SHS 1944-51


*Lost, Found and Seeking*


We have lost touch with the following - does anyone have any news?

Gillian **Adams** (Gaffney, SHS 1953-58)  
 Robert **Bixby** (UGS 1981-86)  
 Dawn **Brown** (Edwards, SHS 1966-71)  
 Sarah **Bryant** (Turnbull, UGS 1980-84)  
 Muriel **Chant** (Ball, SSS/SHS 1933-39)  
 Nicola **Clark** (Hodgson, SHS 1967-72)  
 Edna **Cull** (Newstead, SHS 1945-50)  
 John **Ediss** (SGS 1962-69)  
 Jim **Grant** (SGS ?? - 1965)  
 John **Harvey** (SGS 1943-50)  
 George **Hull** (SGS ?? - 1953)  
 Derek **Pomfret** (SGS 1947-52)  
 Angela **Rix** (?? - ??)  
 Lorraine **Romney** (Clements, UGS 1981-86)  
 Susan **Wallis** (Barry, SHS 1961-68)  
 Susan **Watson** (Kent, UGS 1981-86)

but thanks to Ron Green we've re-established contact with:

**Norman "Monty" Reeves (1939-44)**

Also, does anyone have any news of **Margaret Royle (née Wheeler)**, who left SHS in 1963? If so, please contact the editor.

## AD ASTRA ADDITIONS

This new section of the Newsletter will list identification which members have been able to add for the "Ad Astra" book published in 2015. These id's will also be listed on the website. Please feel free to contribute (via the Editor). The relevant photograph is referenced by its page number in the book.

**p. 78**, top - the pupils here were members of the "Cercle Français", which performed two plays, "Le Médecin Volant" and "Le Malade Imaginaire" on March 23rd/24th 1961.

Back row, extreme left - John Virgo; extreme right, from end - Roger Fountain, Bob Moss, Alan Alderman - then three u/i, followed by Clive Burley and Brian Malone.

Front row, extreme right - French Assistant Monsieur Riberol (I think), Derek White-Taylor, Clifford Evans.

The id's are correct, though I'm a little puzzled why not all the cast listed on page 10 of the 1961 edition of "The Swan" do not appear in the photograph (id's from Bob Moss)

**p. 84** - top photo, back row - Mr Avis is in centre, Mr Richards second from right and Mr Myatt on extreme right; front row - on left is Mr Mills and second from right Mr Whatmore (Myatt and Whatmore only arrived in 1959, suggesting date of photo is wrong - Bob Moss)

- p. 85 - top photo - master with back to camera is Mr Madge (id from Bob Moss)
- p. 91 - top photo, L to R - K Wallis, P Hinchcliffe, M Duff, L Greenaway, C Doyle (id's from Bob Moss)
- p. 91 - lower photo - extreme left - John Virgo; number 5 - Phil Hinchcliffe; number 3 - Thomas (first name unknown - id's from Bob Moss)
- p. 94 - top photo - I know most of these, though too many to list here, so will offer for website; the lower photo shows L to R: Chris Hare, Roger Fountain and Tony Mayo (id's from Bob Moss)
- p. 95 - the ? is Mr Mills, who taught physics (id from Bob Moss)
- p. 185 - the lady with June Barrell is Mair Platt, née Williams, SHS 1939-45 (id from Gwen Gale)
- p. 220 - Bob Gale (SGS 1947-54?) is standing on the right end of the back row in the Football XI photo (id from Gwen Gale - no relation - who asks if anyone knows what became of Bob)

*The Old Paludians Annual Reunion 2017 - no date is currently available*