

# The Old Paludians

Founded 1915



# Newsletter

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

March 2017

## EDITORIAL

A belated Happy New Year to all Old Paludians. So much seems to have happened nationally and internationally since last year's Newsletter; I have my opinions on much of it but here is not the place to state them, so let's just be parochial and stick to OPA issues.

There are several new features in this year's Newsletter. Firstly, there is the survey of members' views on the way ahead for the Association. The results of the questionnaire, which was coordinated by Ron Fidler, are summarised below together with a chart and table showing reunion attendance. Please note that there are also two appendices at the end of the Newsletter providing details of those who attended the 2016 reunion and those who have sent apologies for this year. The idea here is that readers may spot a familiar name and be more inclined to attend future reunions if they realise that an old friend/acquaintance is a fellow member. Another "first" in this year's edition is the two interviews with "famous" Old Pals - or as the website puts it, "Old Paludians who have achieved wide recognition by the public". This idea was suggested by former SHS Head Girl Angela MacTavish (1952-59). Two former pupils kindly agreed to be interviewed: Philip Hinchcliffe (1956-63), a television producer for many years, probably best known for producing "Doctor Who" in the 1970s; and Susan Cooper (1944-52), a children's author whose most widely read book is "The Dark is Rising". Readers should find their comments and memories interesting - and in time travel there is even a link between the two! As for the past two years, there is an article about a teacher who was well-known to several generations of students: Mr G A Dickinson (GAD), whose excellent tuition of mathematics (not to mention impressive moustache) was supplemented by introducing many boys to the game of bridge. Mr Dickinson's daughter Glenys has added a few extracts from her father's own school reports which, apart from the humorous aspect, reflect how in those days teachers were not unduly concerned about the negative effect which their criticisms might have. Judging by his subsequent academic success, the comments acted as a spur rather than a deterrent. Also included in this year's edition is the prize-winning essay written by a UCGS pupil Miranda Crawford in 2016.

I hope readers won't object to these "new" items - after all, the questionnaire did indicate that you didn't particularly want any new features! I can assure you that the remainder of the Newsletter follows the same format as in previous years. Many thanks to all those who took the trouble to write in with information or updates about themselves - some of the entries are quite touching. They form the backbone of the Newsletter and there are probably more people out there interested in your news than you might think!

Finally - are there any sticklers for correct grammar in the audience? In writing (and editing) I have always tried to observe those time-honoured rules of grammar which were taught at school, eg. don't begin a sentence with "And"; don't write a sentence without a verb; place your possessive apostrophe before or after an 's' depending on whether a noun is singular or plural, and so on. However, I am never quite certain whether school subjects, eg. history, geography, economics, should be written with a small or capital letter. Most Newsletter contributors spell them with capitals - for example, "I studied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at school". Personally, I would write these words with small letters unless they form part of a title (eg. BA Hons in Art History) but it seems I am in the minority. The problem is compounded by the fact that language subjects are written with a capital, so that a mixture of the two looks slightly odd, eg. "I studied French, history and Latin at 'A' level." Are there any Henry Watson Fowlers out there who could supply a rule of thumb? (and don't say, what does it matter.....?)

**Bob Moss, Editor**

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## OPA "Way Ahead" Questionnaire Results

The following paragraphs summarise the results of the questionnaire sent to members in 2016. Many thanks are due to **Ron Fidler (1943-49)** for organising the survey and collating results.

### Summary

246 replies were received. Many only partially completed the questionnaire.

47% of the 2016 attendees did not return the questionnaire.

### Responses

**Q: Why do you come to the annual reunion?**

**A:** 65% said to meet old friends. This figure may be understated, as the wording of the question was a little ambiguous. Lowest reasons were for OPA and UCGS updates.

**Q: Why have you not attended recent reunions?**

**A:** Over 100 said they either lived too far away or had mobility problems (or both).

56 said they came but did not see anyone they knew. They could be persuaded to come again.

**Q: Do you want the following (items listed in the answer below) to be part of the programme in the future?**

**A:** By 2:1 respondents wanted a "formal AGM", although some suggested less formality.

Buffet lunch was preferred over a pre-ordered lunch by 3:1.

Support for the raffle was 2:1.

The opposite was true for the bring & buy sale, with 2:1 not wishing to have it.

A strong majority wanted to retain the website/archive and UCGS activity updates, but the latter to be shorter.

**Q: What is your view of the Annual Newsletter?**

**A:** The Newsletter is extremely popular, especially with those who are unable to attend the reunion.

Respondents did not want any increase in the frequency (5:1) or the inclusion of other features (7:1).

In addition to the news about members, the Newsletter should include (particularly for the members not attending the reunion): treasurer's report, website/archive update, UCGS activities update and a list of the previous year's reunion lunch attendees. The purpose of the latter would be to encourage readers who see the names of friends to come to the next reunion.

It has been suggested that in 2017 a full list of members be included (without contact details) to encourage people, through Ian (our webmaster), to get in touch with past friends (*not included this year but under consideration for the future - Ed.*)

**Q: What is your preferred means of communication?**

**A:** 98 stated a preference for letters, 135 for emails and just 1 for social media.

**Q: Do you want a reunion in 2017?**

**A:** A large majority (3:1) wanted a reunion in 2017.

The most popular months were March, April and May in that order.

The majority (76) who answered the question preferred an all-day format, with some suggestions that it be shorter. 51 opted for afternoon; only 5 for evening.

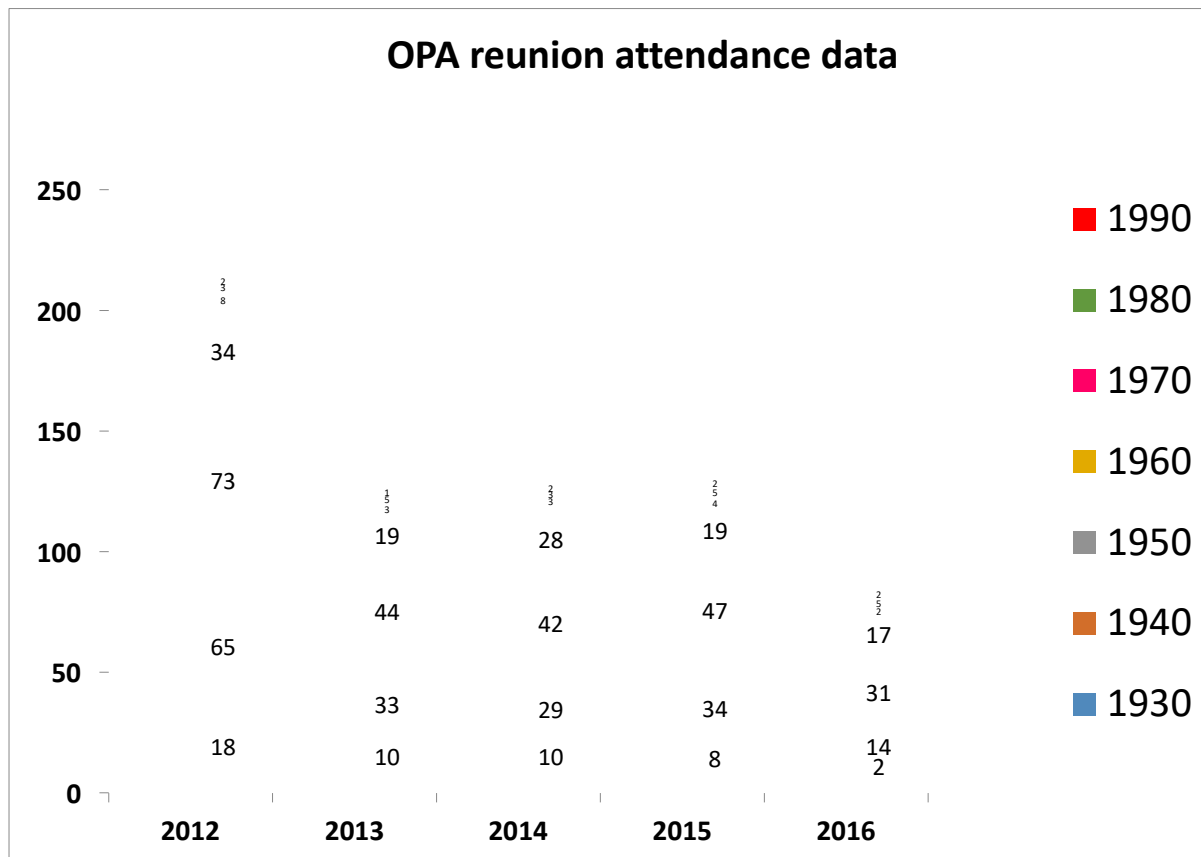
By 7:1 respondents wished the reunion to be held at UCGS.

There was fairly even support for licensed (29) and non-licensed (37).

**Q: Would you like changes to the OPA reunion programme?**

**A:** Only 15% expressed any interest in increasing links or combining activities with UCGS. This will need more consideration with the principal/staff/students.

**Ronald Fidler 16/11/2016**

**OPA REUNION ATTENDANCE CHART AND TABLE****ATTENDANCE TABLE**

Year group	Reunion year				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>1930</b>	18	10	10	8	2
<b>1940</b>	65	33	29	34	14
<b>1950</b>	73	44	42	47	31
<b>1960</b>	34	19	28	19	17
<b>1970</b>	8	3	3	4	2
<b>1980</b>	3	5	3	5	5
<b>1990</b>	2	1	2	2	2

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

### School in the top 2%

Following a recent report published by the Department for Education and the schools' watchdog, Ofsted, staff at Upton Court Grammar School are celebrating having been ranked in the top 2% of all schools nationally for progress across all subjects at GCSE in the summer 2016 sitting.

The report, called "Raiseonline", provides contextual information about students, such as prior achievement, ethnicity and whether English is a first or second language. The report assesses how well schools have done to promote learning and uses new government measures such as "Progress 8" and "Attainment 8", which reflect, respectively, how much progress students make from their starting points across eight subjects at GCSE and how good their results are.

This report places Upton Court Grammar School in the top 2% of schools for progress overall and states that the school's students make, on average, 0.7 of a grade better progress than would be expected based on prior attainment than if they attended elsewhere. There are over three thousand secondary schools in England, placing UCGS in the top 65 schools for progress. This data confirms that the school provides an outstanding standard of education for its students, which is a testament to the quality of teaching, leadership, resources and parental support.

### AD ASTRA principles

Much has changed about the school since its inception but the Ad Astra values are held as dear as ever. Students are reminded of them by the displays around the school, the page in their planner and assemblies focusing on the key characteristics that reflect our aims.

- **Aspirational** Aiming high with a desire to achieve
- **Determined** Focused on overcoming challenges and obstacles
- **Adaptable** Being flexible to adjust behaviour and methods to changing situations
- **Self-managing** Organising and independently taking charge of own learning
- **Thinker** Formulating original ideas and opinions to search for understanding
- **Resourceful** Using a variety of materials creatively to meet challenges
- **Active** Participating independently and interdependently in an energetic and engaged manner



### The growth of the Trust

Since the last reunion the Upton Court Educational Trust, which was set up by the school to provide support and to work collaboratively with other schools, has grown. We expanded in November, when Trevelyan Middle School joined us. We look forward to working with the governors, staff, parents and children at the school to improve outcomes and bring about success.

### Progress of the new building

Last February work started with the demolition of the old canteen. Since then Bowner and Kirkland, the EFA (Education Funding Agency) contractors, have been working at a pace to meet all the deadlines. As a consequence,

the building is making excellent progress and will be ready for us to use from 18<sup>th</sup> April, when Phase 1 of the project concludes. This new building will host the new hall, state-of-the-art spaces for creative subjects such as technology, art, music and drama, as well as a dedicated floor for maths, and excellent spaces for business studies, computing and RS. At the time of writing this we are de-cluttering and soon the crates will arrive for us to pack. Phase 2 will start after Easter and will focus on the refurbishment of the 30s block, bringing it back to its original glory. This will include the demolition of the additions made since the sixties at both ends of the building, including the hall. The Old Paludians clock and the boards will be moved into its new location in the large hall. This phase is due to be complete by the end of the year and the building will be ready for us to return for a bright start to 2018.

## PORTRAIT OF A TEACHER - MR G A DICKINSON



( For the information on Mr Dickinson, aka GAD, I am indebted to his daughter Glenys. Ed.)

George Arthur Dickinson was born in 1913 and died in 1994. His father was a master cabinet maker and his mother a wood carver. They lived in Lincoln until he was 18 years old, when they moved to Liverpool, interestingly enough living in two houses in Penny Lane, numbers 71 and 111. He attended Lincoln School, where he gained a higher school certificate in physics, maths and chemistry, and proceeded with the school's maths prize to Liverpool University. In 1934 he graduated with a BSc, followed by an MSc in 1936. At the same time, he gained a book-keeping certificate from a course he attended at Liverpool's School of Commerce.

His first teaching job followed quickly in 1937 with a post at Dorchester Grammar School. During this time he had an article published in the "Mathematical Gazette" re. Wallis's Product for  $\pi/2$  (*don't ask me - apparently one John Wallis came up with the formula back in 1655 - Ed.*). He joined the RAF as a flight-lieutenant in Exeter at the start of the war and trained WAAFs, one of whom was Ruth; they married in 1943. They were later stationed in Norfolk. After his discharge in 1946, they stayed with his parents for a short while before he was accepted to teach maths at Slough Grammar School. The rest is history, as he remained there until he retired.

He had two daughters, one now living in Newcastle and the other in Devon, and was blessed with four grandchildren. Ruth survived him by 12 years. He had many diverse hobbies: stamp and coin collecting; playing bridge at county level; sewing dresses for his two girls by machine; gardening; walking (particularly on the Devon moors); making binary computers; and experimenting into trying to prove there was a fourth dimension! He also gave private maths tuition, for which he usually did not charge. He had a particular love of old cars, which if still kept today would be worth a fortune. He taught both daughters to drive, initially on the school field when they were under age for the roads! He had a book on geometry published in 1967 and in the '80s used to set "Brainteasers" for the Sunday Times Magazine, which they seemed to appreciate and corresponded with him regularly.

Once retired he concentrated on his hobbies and took up golf, working part time at Stoke Poges Golf Club. He enjoyed good health until he caught pneumonia at the end. He had been a chain smoker in his early years, until one day he calculated that he could have bought two Roll Royces with the money he had spent on cigarettes! He never smoked again.

He was a most committed school master, remembered fondly by several generations of pupils, some of whom have contacted his family since, remembering his support and dedication and wishing to say "thank you" for the impact he had on their lives and careers.

...and what sort of student was GAD himself? Alumni of SGS are virtually unanimous in describing GAD as one of

the most likeable, professional and effective teachers at the school, so it is both interesting and amusing to read the following quotes from his own school reports:

**Mathematics reports, 1928 - 1929 (Aged 15-16)**

"Very untidy, otherwise quite good. He will improve considerably when he learns to take pains. It is high time that he settled down to good hard slogging at it. He has done much more work this term but is not yet up to the standard of the group."

**History, 1929 - 1930 (Aged 15-17)** - obviously not his best subject.

"Shows a rather supercilious attitude. Considers, I think, this subject a waste of time! He must learn to widen his interests."

**English 1929 - 1931 (Aged 15-17)**

"Not sufficient care in revision and polish. Spends so much time on other things that his work suffers. His ideas are a little cheap and his style flabby - he lacks reading and real thinking. Essays show little beyond a crude common sense. He is still satisfied with cheap expression."

**Headmaster's end of term report in 1930**, when he was 17 years old: "He should be more responsible and dignified at this age."

*(Fortunately, he was a little kinder with his comments on my own reports, even though I was no mathematical genius. Ed.)*

**Andrew Hudson (1951-59)** writes: Why do we remember GAD so well? **John Pickering (1951-58)** recalls "his imposing appearance in terms of his height, hunched shoulders, flowing gown and handlebar moustache." He did not teach me mathematics until I was in the third-year sixth. I had passed O-level with Mr "Pop" Saunders and A and S-level pure maths with Mr Richards. GAD taught me higher mathematics and applied mathematics, which I did in one year. He also gave a few of us an informal course on analytical geometry, just for the fun of it. John Pickering recalls that, once he had places to read Economics at University, GAD gave him a couple of sessions on calculus. Dr Long wouldn't condone combining a science (maths) with an arts subject (economics) - such was the rigidity and lack of foresight of that regime! This willingness to go beyond the call of duty was characteristic of many of the staff at that time.

GAD also introduced a number of us to contract bridge and formed a school bridge club. Some members were invited to play at the Slough Bridge Club, at that time located at the North Star in Langley. GAD directed the play and Mr Mills, who taught me A- and S-level physics, and "Pop" Saunders were a regular partnership. GAD taught us ACOL based on a point count: A = 4, K = 3, Q = 2 and J = 1. With his regular partner he played the Vienna System, an early highly conventional system, devised in 1935 by the Austrian Paul Stern. The Vienna System evaluated bridge hands: A=7, K=5, Q=3, J=2, 10=1. This mathematical complexity probably appealed to GAD. I played at Slough Bridge Club with **Alan Cordery (1952-59)** - I encountered him many years later when we met by chance at a tournament in Surrey. Brian Odell partnered me at the University Bridge Club in Cambridge and I played bridge for my college. In later life, for many years, I played in tournaments across the South of England. So GAD gave me a hobby which long outlasted the mathematics.

(Andrew regrets that he will be unable to come to this year's reunion - he will instead be attending John Pickering's Golden Wedding celebrations).



## INTERVIEWS WITH FAMOUS ALUMNI

### A. SUSAN COOPER

Susan Cooper Cronyn, who writes as Susan Cooper, is an author of children's literature best known for "The Dark is Rising", though this is actually the second in a series of five books and she has written a number of others too. "The Dark is Rising" is set in the Dorney/Burnham area and although written primarily for children is also perfectly readable for adults who enjoy fantasy fiction. I thoroughly enjoyed it anyway! Susan attended SHS between 1944-52 and currently lives in Massachusetts, USA. Her responses to questions concerning her SHS days are given below.



**Q: Overall, did you enjoy the time you spent at SHS?**

**A:** I don't have a single bad memory of SHS; it was a great school, thanks largely to its amazing headmistress, Joan Crawford.

**Q: Did you find your education a valuable preparation for your career as a writer and did it influence your choice?**

**A:** I didn't really choose to be a writer; it was an accident of birth. Writing was the thing I most enjoyed and that I assumed I would do for the rest of my life (though I did waver for a few months when I was about 13 and had a crush on the physics teacher). But SHS made me a much better writer than I might have been, because the teaching of the English language was so good, and there was so much overall emphasis on literacy - every subject except maths and science required the writing of essays.

**Q: What did you think of the standard of teaching in those days?**

**A:** They were all good - from this distance I couldn't tell you whether they were strict, but they were demanding. The only one who failed to bring her subject alive was the Latin teacher, who probably had the biggest challenge, poor lady. So did a young teacher who filled in for her, one term; her name, I swear, was I (for Ivy) Boreham. And she did. Such courage, to take up teaching without changing a name like that.

**Q: Were you involved in many non-academic activities?**

**A:** I played hockey with more enthusiasm than skill, but I certainly wasn't an athlete. Most of my exercise came from riding my bike two and a half miles to and from school. I belonged to assorted clubs, including the Drama Society, and in my last year played the lead in the school play, "The Scarlet Pimpernel." There's a picture of me in it somewhere at my website, looking dashing. But I was truly terrible, because the stage wasn't miked and I hadn't a clue how to project - nobody beyond the second row could hear a word I said.

**Q: What are your best and worst memories of school?**

**A:** Well, school dinners were pretty awful because those were the years after 1945 when austerity was even

tighter than it had been during World War II. Gristly stew, and squishy swedes.....My best school memories are all courtesy of Miss Crawford. I was a year younger than most people in my year, but I was bright, and she was absolutely determined that I should go to Oxford or Cambridge. When I failed Latin (of course!) in the Oxford entrance exam, she persuaded my parents to let me stay on for an extra Sixth Form year and try again, and to my astonishment she appointed me school captain, known then as Head Girl. "We were wondering if you'd ever come out of your little shell, but you have," she said. Then she arranged for the wife of the local vicar, in the village where we lived, to tutor me in Latin at weekends - and I went to Oxford, which utterly changed my life. THANK YOU, Miss Crawford.

## **B. PHILIP HINCHCLIFFE**



Phil Hinchcliffe began his studies at SGS in the same year as me, 1956. From there he progressed to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he studied English. He is best known as a former producer of "Doctor Who", though he is associated with a number of other popular TV programmes such as "Target", "Private Schultz", "Taggart" and "Rebus". His daughter Celina also works in television as a sports presenter. Phil responded to questions as follows:

**Q: Overall, did you enjoy the time you spent at SGS?**

**A:** Yes, very much. I always looked forward to every day.

**Q: Did you find your education a valuable preparation for your career as a television producer and did it influence your choice?**

**A:** In those days a career in "the media" was not a recognised option like it is now. My interest in literature was fostered and I think I had a vague notion of doing something with "the written word". Getting to Cambridge from SGS helped because that was a good jumping-off point to break into TV.

**Q: What did you think of the standard of teaching in those days?**

**A:** I think we were very fortunate in our era (1956 to 1963) because the school was probably at its peak. The teaching, with a few exceptions, was excellent. There was a fruitful mix of pre-war masters and a younger intake. In the sixth form I have fond memories of Mr "Max" Wall for French and Mr Madge for English. Dr Long the Headmaster may not have been everyone's favourite (he deservedly delivered six of the best to me when I was going off the rails a bit) but he commanded respect and was supportive to me in my final years. Remember, masters still wore gowns in those days. The school had a recognisable ethos.

**Q: Were you involved in many non-academic activities?**

**A:** I did a lot of sport - football, athletics, cross country, basketball - and I was always in the Art Room when I could be. I was press ganged into two French plays but acting was not my forte! However, I learnt to be a team player and also how to lead, attributes important in all walks of life but especially so in TV production.

**Q: What are your best and worst memories of school?**

**A:** I loved school dinners particularly anything with custard and still do! (*Always thought there was something not quite right about him...Ed*). I have fond memories of cross country and athletics competitions and getting a taste of great literature in my English, French and German classes. I also remember being excited as a junior to discover some sixth form jokers had hoisted Dr Long's little Austin car overnight onto the roof of the boys toilets: and the famous occasion at speech day when another brave prankster dangled a giant spider from the ceiling above Dr Long's head.

**Q: What do you think of the crop of TV programmes currently on offer?**

**A:** My favourite TV programmes nowadays (apart from sport, which I watch avidly) are the best US cable series such as *The Sopranos*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Wire*, *Mad Men* and more recent ones too. Also any truly ambitious documentary series, for instance *OJ: the Making of America*. It's a sad fact but in my opinion the Americans have been producing far better long form fiction than we have for many years. They seem to be willing to work on a larger canvas and they have the writers with the expertise to create compelling drama with a psychological depth our writers struggle to match. British TV output is also too dependent I feel on superficial reality shows. It would be nice to see more resources devoted to quality drama and comedy. Luckily today I am retired, so I can sit back and pontificate without having to get up every day and compete in the trenches!

## UCGS PRIZE-WINNING ESSAY

**Helen Hastings** (UCGS staff) writes: The following essay won first prize in the UCGS competition of 2016. It was written by a year 8 student, **Miranda Crawford**. Her essay was inspired by the image below.



This year entrants were scheduled to write their essays on Tuesday Feb 28<sup>th</sup> during their period 3 lesson. The themes were very different from last year and many of the images were taken by the photographic GCSE group from the school.

### Natalie

"Please mind the gap between the train and the platform edge."

The disembodied voice echoed through the less than full chambers of the train station. At 11:23 pm on a Tuesday, the only noises came from the vendors packing away, the steady 'beep' of a reversing truck and the sharp 'clacking' of Natalie Anestone's Ted Baker burgundy heels on the marble floor.

A communications manager for Harthing Investment Cooperation (HIC), Natalie stepped into the carriage as she always did: with confidence. Despite the heavily humid July air and the wind of passing trains, her ebony bun had not a hair out of place, nor were her immaculate nails chipped. Placing her cup of strong black coffee on the empty seat beside her, Natalie pulled out her iPhone 6 from her jacket and scrolled through her messages. At once, the air of maturity and sophistication dropped along with her shoulders. She bit her dark red lips and blinked back the build-up of salty tears that would no doubt have come cascading down her face.

At 26, Natalie had reached a high level in business. One of the most admired and respected members of HIC, she would glide through work with a smile on her face and coffee in her hand. But, as she stared at the small green bubble below her boyfriend's name, bearing the words: "Soz hun, going out 4 the night," everything she had ever worked for just broke down. The build-up of stress she had long grown used to living with took its toll and Natalie felt its harsh weight crush her shoulders once more. She closed her eyes partially and, through a haze of tears, envisioned The Room.

Though The Room was empty, save for a wooden box in the centre, a thousand shadows danced on the walls like puppets - flickering as their master twitched the strings. Though its peeling paint and rotting floorboards made it seem ancient, The Room was completely devoid of life. No cobwebs adorned its dusty corners, no rats skittered between the beams. And the box...Natalie knew its four corners like the back of her hand. She had learned every scratch, every blemish in its unpolished wood. She remembered each and every speck of rust on its hinges yet - yet she could never open it.

These visions of the strange, unexplainable box had long stopped scaring her. Since the disappearance of her parents, Natalie had returned to this room each time she felt a sharp tug on her heartstrings. She had told no-one - who could she tell? From the age of nine Natalie had had a deep phobia of doctors. She hated the idea of

psychotic psychiatrists - with their soothing remarks and plastic smiles - writing down every word she said like some kind of experiment.

"The next station is Staines."

Natalie jumped and returned to the carriage. With heavy lids she rose from the chair and took a deep breath. The box was no different. She was no different. It was all going to be okay.

"Nat? I'm home!"

Four hours later, back at their apartment, Sean called out through the dark hallway. "Nat?"

"Where have you *been*?" Natalie hissed as she hit the light. Her mascara was smudged and her hair messy; a grey blanket slumped around her shoulders. Sean took a step back but stumbled, tripping over a shoe rack.

"Hey, I told ya I was just going out to see my mates for a bit..."

"A bit?" Natalie shrieked. The box inside her head started to rattle - she had never been this angry before. She took in Sean's unbalanced state, his dirty clothes and sweaty pink face. Her breathing grew ragged; for once she allowed her anger to rise up in her, to overpower her. It felt good. Strong.

"You're drunk again! I spend my days working my backside off and you go out to the *pub* the only time I get to see you!"

"Well - I...I have a job too ya know..."

"Oh yeah," Natalie sneered, "At the *Newsagent's*."

Sean's face turned white, then red as his eyes narrowed. "I've had it," he said quietly, "I can't stay in here with a madwoman."

Sean moved out three days later. Natalie's rage had gone with the photos she removed and all she felt was remorse. This...*thing*. It was ruining her - eating away at the Natalie Sean knew and loved. But she wouldn't let that stop her. With the aid of some strong coffee, a new handbag and several hours of Pilates, Natalie was back on track. After a week, she had a meeting with her boss: Andrew Miggot.

Andrew was a small man, thin and weedy with a large nose and very few teeth. As Natalie entered his office, she was immediately overpowered by the scent of fake roses and air freshener.

"Miss Annestone," Mr Miggot started, "I'm afraid, er, due to your recent fragile state, that I am going to, um, demote you."

Fragile?

Inside her head, Natalie's box shuddered - as if the monster within felt her humiliation. Her judgement was clouded momentarily as she gripped the edge of the table so hard her knuckles whitened.

"Fragile?" She whispered.

"Yes, yes, fragile dear," Andrew said absent-mindedly fiddling with his papers.

"I'm...not...FRAGILE!"

The monster roared as Natalie rose from her seat, her eyes livid and nostrils flaring. She grabbed Mr Miggot's paperweight and threw it at the window, all common sense gone, for the box was opening and the monster was in control.

She ran out of the office and onto the street - not thinking about where she was going and not stopping as a car screeched to a halt and a van came rushing into her head on...

Natalie Annestone lay in hospital, surrounded by the doctors she despised. Her dwindling state of consciousness allowed her only to catch fragments of the conversation between two police officers by the foot of her bed:

"And her house?" ... "No family...yes...I heard...parents...yes" ... "But the house... oh right?" ... "Completely empty except for a wooden box" ... "Yes, and it was open."

## **\*\*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\*\***

**Anne Harris (SHS Staff 1961-68)** - As I wrote last year, I shall unfortunately be unable to attend reunions any longer due to problems of distance and age. However, I was particularly interested to read the reminiscences by the late Connie Edwards. She wrote of Miss Bruckin as a young teacher. It is thanks to her encouragement that I applied for and accepted the post of geography teacher. Miss Bruckin had resigned from SHS and joined the Education Department at Reading University when I began my teacher training year there after graduating at Leicester. She was my first supervisor and advised that, if a post were advertised at SHS, I should apply because it was a very good school. Otherwise, I would not have considered that area. I shall always be grateful for the experience I was given there in many areas and went on to become a deputy head and later gain a headship as Miss Owen, who joined SHS after Miss Crawford retired, had predicted! It is so good to know that the school continues to thrive.

**Mr G H Painter (Headmaster SGS/UGS 1967-88)** - At the time of publication Mr Painter was unable to say whether he would be attending the reunion. However, he would like to send best wishes to all who remember him (*for whatever reason!* - Ed.).

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

**Joan Burrell-Davis (Royle, SHS Staff 1967-70)** - Joan's daughter **Tina Francis (Burrell-Davis, 1968-75)** informed us that her mother, a former reunion attendee until mobility problems intervened, had died on July 11th 2015. Tina kindly provided the following obituary:

My mother was born Joan Royle in 1921 in Barnes, SW London, her father being a solicitor (later Hammersmith town clerk) and her mother a teacher. At school she particularly enjoyed languages, history and English. In 1939 she achieved her Higher School Certificate, with distinction in English, French and history, and in 1940 obtained an open exhibition to Somerville College, Oxford, where she studied modern history. Between school and Oxford she worked in the Women's Land Army. Also at Oxford was a young man named Richard Morgan, who was awarded a war degree after 4 terms and left to join the RAF. Joan gained her degree in 1943 and in January 1944 she and Richard were married. Tragically, he was killed in his Spitfire just 3 weeks later. Joan then joined the Red Cross as a hospital welfare officer, working first in India then Singapore. During this time she met a young army officer, Derek Burrell-Davis, and in 1946 they were married. Joan worked in the Ministry of Education and Derek in film-making/television, living first in London, then Manchester, then London again. Three children were born during this time - a son and two daughters. In 1966 the family moved to a house at Dorney Reach. In 1970 Joan and Derek were divorced and she moved to a house in Burnham. She then started work as an Education Welfare Officer ("School Board Lady") and gained a qualification in social work. She also started teaching contract bridge, a game she had played for many years. In 1979 another tragedy struck when her son Richard died of Hodgkin's disease at the age of 27. In 1995 she became a regional organiser for the War Widows; also, an advocate for Age Concern. In 2001 she moved to Binfield to be nearer her daughter and grand-daughters. She was still very active with voluntary activities, bridge and holidays. However, she became increasingly frail and after a fall, bedbound, but remained in her own house with carers coming in to help. Right to the end she was a brave, cheerful and independent-minded woman.

**Judith Broadgate (1970s/80s)** - in November 2016 we learned of the death of Judith, a former teacher at SHS and UGS. **David Rogers** and **Shelagh Whitehouse** write:

Ex-pupils of the time will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of Mrs Judith Broadgate. A teacher of physics, maths and computing, she taught initially at Slough High School, making the transfer in 1982 to Upton Grammar School. She will be remembered as a lively and popular teacher with a great sense of humour. She was an involved supporter of a wide range of school activities, ranging from the energetic (skiing, Snowdonia and Lake District trips) to the happily useful (community service and old people's parties). She left UGS for Langley Grammar School and remained there until retirement.

**Margaret Paine (1943-48)** adds: Judith died suddenly in her sleep on October 8th 2016. I attended her funeral in Beaconsfield, where I met **Barbara Dixon (1956-63 and staff)**, **Mrs Pilgerstorfer (SHS)** and **Mrs Snow (SHS)**.

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

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

#### **GIRLS**

**Iris (Betty) Hull (Burnett, 1937-42)** - Every year I receive the invite for the reunion with a little heartache - for good times long gone and the realisation that I'm a year older and a year less mobile. Does anyone remember me? My only claim to fame is as school tennis champion in 1941 and 42, at the age of 15 and 16. I am still (at the age of 90) a very good armchair player and can be heard shouting advice from my chair. Is there still a tennis championship competition? Ah well, happy days. Good memories to all you young things. I'll be there when I can find a magic carpet!

**Mair Platt (Williams, SHS 1939-45)** - My husband James and I moved to Cirencester 18 years ago. I am now in South Cerney, 2 minutes away from my daughter, where I have been for 6 years. Having lived in Farnham Common in the same house for 40 years and in Slough and Burnham since the age of 6, I have always tried to maintain contact with my High School friends with whom I played hockey (Old Pals Ladies) and mixed tennis and hockey. I played tennis at Windsor Lawn Tennis Club, Taplow Tennis Club, Slough Centre Tennis Club and Windsor Sports Club. When I moved here, I joined Cirencester Tennis Club and subsequently South Cerney Club. I still played until I was 82 years old and even then stopped only because I slipped on ice four winters ago and injured my shoulder. I should like to hear from any of my old friends. I still am in touch with **June King** and **Daphne Middleton (Shefford, 1939-45)**.

#### **BOYS**

**Dugald/Jim Ross (1939-44)** - Jim supplied a number of comments related to the 2016 Newsletter - relevant page numbers are those from last year's issue:

P. 5 re. Mr James Reeves: I remember "Gaffa" Reeves well as a good English teacher and our music teacher - he played the piano in the music room and crashed it with both hands when dissatisfied with our performance - then he left.

P. 9 re. Daphne Middleton (née Shefford): We did maths and applied maths for Inter-BSc during WWII in the old High School and "Sheff" was well-known! (*Jim didn't explain for what - Ed.*)

P. 12 re. Derek Elliott, Arthur Hancock and Ken Martin: Del Elliott worked in our Pre-Treatment Lab at ICI. Arthur Hancock was our best helper in Purchasing and Ken Martin played summer evening cricket on Lascelles. What a page of memories all on page 12!

Ps 10 and 18 re. George Power and John Ray: I was born at 84 Wellesley Road, John Ray at number 88 and George Power at 86. John's father was headmaster in one of the Farnham Road area schools, where his mother also helped out. John would have joined the Grammar School in 1944 and may not have returned to the UK very often, although he obviously did well in New Zealand.

I found all the news fascinating and would like to thank everybody for their hard work and hope the Old Pals may continue.

(P.S. Re. my name: No-one could spell or pronounce Dugald and my second name is James, so "Jim" was born at ICI in 1944).

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

**Delsa Brooks (White, 1934-41)** - Delsa, a former Head Girl at SHS, died in May 2016. Her husband Victor has provided the following obituary for the Newsletter:

*A Lass Unparalleled.* Delsa was born in 1923 in Wraysbury and attended Slough Secondary School (subsequently High School), where she was Head Girl in 1939. She then studied at the University of London and was awarded a BA in Mathematics. Teaching at several schools followed for the next ten years. At this point Delsa decided upon a career change, left the teaching profession and attended a secretarial college. This was followed by employment as a personal assistant in the financial department of a London teaching hospital - this kept her busy for several years. In 1962 Delsa married Victor Brooks, moved to Camberley and was employed by the Royal National Institute of Blind People on a voluntary basis, translating maths and technical books into Braille. After 17 years Delsa and her husband moved to Appleshaw village, where Delsa returned to the teaching profession, teaching maths and English at Andover College for several years. Throughout her long life Delsa had several hobbies, including tennis and hockey and above all gardening; with a deep knowledge of plants, she created a wonderful garden at "The Spinney" (in Appleshaw). After many happy years, Delsa died peacefully in 2016 in Appleshaw from old age, leaving me wretched indeed. She died childless and her ashes lie in Appleshaw cemetery.

**Hilda Murphy (Wingrove, 1936-41)** - Hilda's son Bob informed us that his mother passed away in 2016.

**Olive Harris (Cooke, 1938-44)** - Olive's sister **Muriel Benbridge (Cooke, 1941-46)** wrote to say that Olive passed away on 10th May 2016. She was apparently in the same form as **Mary Annis (Greet, 1938-45)**, **Mary Lucas**, **Yvonne Yates** and the above-mentioned **Iris Hull (Burnett, 1937-42)**.

**Betty Absolon (Chapman, 1939-46)** - Betty's daughter Christine Absolon wrote in 2016: "My mother Betty Absolon (nee Chapman) attended Slough High School, I believe from 1939 to 1946 as she was born in 1928. Sadly, she died on 6 June 2016, aged 87. I know that, even though she no longer attended reunions, the Association had meant a lot to her over the years and that she had kept up with surviving school-friends through exchanges of letters and Christmas cards until the most recent times, when she was too frail to do so."

**BOYS**

**Reg Cox (1934-40)** - Reg's wife Doreen informed us in September 2016 that he had recently passed away. She subsequently provided notes on which the following short obituary is based:

Reg would have attended Slough Secondary School and then Slough Grammar School for Boys. After school he spent a year working in an office before joining ICI Paints Division at Wexham as a laboratory technician in the Research Department. He held various positions within the company and was working in Resin Technology at the time of his retirement. Reg received a long time service award for 40 years at ICI. He met his wife Doreen at ICI and they married in 1952. They were both keen cyclists and walkers and had many lovely holidays touring in Europe and the UK. They have three daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In retirement he became a lecturer and examiner for St John's First Aid at Work candidates, something he had been interested in at ICI. He and Doreen enjoyed walking with group members of the Ramblers Association and visiting properties belonging to the National Trust. Reg was also a keen gardener.

He once composed a poem entitled "Ships", which was published in the first edition of the Swan Magazine in 1937. Reg looked forward to and enjoyed attending our reunions and will be much missed by all who knew him.

**John Firth (1935-40?)** - **Peter Firth (1957-64)** writes: "My father's cousin, John Bernard Firth (1924 - 2016), died in November 2016 at the age of 92. I don't think he was an Old Paludian but I believe he went to Slough Secondary School (as I think our school then was). I suppose he was a pupil from about 1935 to 1940 (*so he would have been present at the change from SSS to SGS - Ed*). He had been quite active driving and gardening his allotment until he broke his hip last summer and sadly spent his last few months in hospital. In World War II he



joined the RAF and was a flight engineer in 50 Squadron. He flew in Lancaster bombers until he was shot down and became a prisoner of war."

### **\*\*1940s\*\***

#### **GIRLS**

**Myra Levien (1940s)** - Many thanks for your recent communication regarding forthcoming reunions. I am unable to attend because at the age of 87 and currently living in Somerset it is all too much for me - unless you know of another person living in Somerset who has an available seat in a car. I vividly remember an uncomfortable meeting with Miss Crawford, who berated me for my involvement in the 1945 election, which was my most exciting experience to date. Telling me forcibly to remove 'Vote Labour!' from my schoolbooks - helpfully reminding me that they were not my books - Miss Crawford pointed out that I knew nothing about life and even less about politics. Yet when Ben Levy became the MP he invited me to lunch at the House of Commons - what could be better than that? I could go on and on but realise you have better things to do than read about my past! (Not really - I'd have liked to hear more! Ed.)

**Gwen Gale (Knight, 1941-47)** - grateful thanks to those who are helping to keep the Old Pals flag flying. I still try to keep in touch with my 1941 group, although we're all getting older! They are: **Jean Jones (Lunn, 1941-46)**, **Ruth Edgar (Oates)**, **Annette Chant (Pountain, 1944-48)**, **Audrey Walden (1940-46)**, **Yvonne Wagstaff (Hutchins, 1940-46)**, **Pamela Knowlton (Maisey, 1941-46)**, **June Ginger (Hunt, 1941-47, in USA)** and **Betty Wess (Cohen, 1941-46)**. Among friends from other years are: **Mair Platt (Williams, 1939-45)**, **Vera Ormond (Steptoe, in Australia)**, **Shirley Knight (1942-48)** and **Muriel Benbridge (Cooke, 1941-46 - lovely singer, now living in Herefordshire)**; also **Nancy Evans (Pardoe)**, whose daughter sent a card and nice photo at Christmas. I have lost touch with **Kathy Clark (Jamieson, 1942-48)**, no reply to Christmas card. Has anyone heard from her recently? Good wishes to all and I hope to attend the reunion from 2 pm.

**Margaret Paine (née Paine, 1943-48)** - My youngest son has reached 50, grandchildren have all left school - three at university and one doing 2-year course in judo. I feel the time has come to step down from the committee after 69 years - not all on the committee but at least 40 plus. At the High School we did all the sandwiches and teas, at least that has changed. Have attended more reunions than I can remember and will carry on if able; have enjoyed every one. Most of my year are unable to attend now but at 84/85 years I am still in touch with seven: **Anne Letchford (Reeves, 1943-50)**, **Ann Gillett (Hartley)**, **Audrey Gamester (Lines, 1943-48)**, **Thelma Ricketts (Banister)**, **Joan Power (Williams, 1944-48)** and husband **George Power (1948-43)**, **Audrey Higgins (Slaughter, 1943-50)**, and **Jill Sayer (Emmett, 1943-48)**, who though blind attends reunions with her daughter. **Joyce Head (Maton, 1943-48)** sadly passed away last October. **Jean Porter (Currie, 1943-49)** is not well and has gone into a care home.

When sending Christmas cards to staff and the over-90s I heard back from **Hilda Halls (Milcoy, 1932-37)**, who wishes to hear news of **Barbara Hillier (Colgate, 1940-46)**, as she hasn't heard from her for the past two years (I have passed this message on to Barbara - Ed.). She also mentioned **Marjorie Cruse (1931-35)**, who is in a care home now. Please contact me (01753 643740) if you know of any 90+ ex-pupils with whom I can get in touch.

**Mary Esling (Testar, 1946-52)** - see "Ron Esling" in 1940s Boys section.

**Jean Jackson (Gouldthorp, 1947-1952)** - I look forward to receiving the Newsletter. Sadly, there is now nobody from my year at the annual meetings. I felt a bit sad last year and decided I would go no more. I've been a regular attendee for more than 60 years. I send apologies for my absence and good wishes to you all.

#### **BOYS**

**Ron Fidler (SGS 1943-1949)** - Ron joined the OPA committee last year. I asked him to provide a short CV - he has obliged as follows:

"I was born in Stoke Road, Slough in 1933, attended Thomas Gray Elementary School and entered SGS via a

scholarship in 1943. In 1948 I obtained London Matriculation Exemption and stayed on another year, mainly to captain the cricket team! I started my first job in August 1949 at Shell Petroleum, London, and completed two years National Service in the RAF. I played both cricket and hockey for the Old Pals and Bucks. In 1955 I joined Black & Decker, Harmondsworth, as an accountant. In 1959 I married **Pat Beard (SHS 1944-1949)**. Qualified as a chartered secretary at night school. In 1962 I moved to Italy as finance director of a newly acquired Italian industrial power tool company, later became managing director and introduced the DIY concept to the Italian market. In 1975 I moved to Brussels as president of the European Group representing 60% of B & D corporate earnings. Signed "Workmate" agreement with the inventor, Ron Hickman. In 1981 I moved to the US as president and chief operating officer responsible for worldwide sales of \$1.2 billion and 18,000 employees. Returning to the UK in 1983, I joined a venture capital business in Hungerford with two partners, investing £20 million in over 50 small/medium-sized companies. I am still chairman of this business and also of a company supplying CCTV and Wi-Fi to Glastonbury, Winter Wonderland and other festivals."

**Ron Esling (1944-52)** - Ron writes: "It may be of interest to a small number of Old Pals from the late 40s and early 50s that Ron Esling and **Mary Testar (1946-52)** celebrated 60 years of marriage on 11th August 2016. Sadly, Mary now suffers from dementia. Ron and Mary first met at the Christmas dance at the High School in January 1952 but their first date on 6th February, 65 years ago, was cancelled by the death of King George VI and consequent closure of all cinemas, theatres and public places of entertainment. Ron used Ann Forster as a go-between to get a message to Mary. Ann attended the wedding in 1956, which took place at St Giles Church, Stoke Poges. Ron and Mary have now retired to a bungalow in Saxmundham."

**John Alder (1949-54)** - I have recently returned to the UK permanently after 46 years of banking and retirement. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend this year's reunion due to a few ongoing health problems. Best wishes for March 25th.

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

#### **GIRLS**

**Wendy Martel (Watson, 1942-50)** - in January 2017 we were informed that Wendy, who was Head Girl at SHS between 1949-50, had passed away. Her son John kindly provided this obituary:

"Wendy Martel died on January 9th at the age of 84. She was a former House Captain and Head Girl at Slough High School before doing teacher training in London. Her first post was at The Orchard Secondary School in Slough as an English teacher. She married my father, Dave Martel - a geography teacher at The Orchard - in 1961. She loved music and was in several Gilbert and Sullivan productions. In 1966 the family moved to Sonning Common, where both of my parents taught at Chiltern Edge School. Unfortunately, my father developed multiple sclerosis and my mother took early retirement to care for him. After he died in 1984, she did the same for her mother and father. I in turn became her full-time carer as she became frail from arthritis. My sister Kate is a GP in Manchester and her two boys are both studying engineering at Nottingham University. Fortunately, she was sharp-witted throughout her life and loved reading, cryptic crosswords and television quizzes. She died after complications from surgery following a fall last year."

**Pat Fidler (Beard, 1944-49)** - Just before the Newsletter was due for publication **Ron Fidler** (see above) wrote with the sad news that his wife Pat had died in Wexham Park Hospital on March 9th 2017, after a short illness. They met through cricket when he was playing for Farnham Royal, where Pat's father also played, and had recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

**Ruby White (How, 1944-49)** - Ruby's daughter Sue Bailey wrote to say that her mother had passed away on January 28th 2017. The funeral took place at Caversham Crematorium on February 16th. Sue kindly provided the following obituary:

"Our lovely Mum, Ruby, grew up in "Mays Cottage", within the grounds of the Admiralty Compass Observatory (ACO), where her father worked. She knew every part of Ditton Park (*between Langley and Datchet - Ed.*), the

woodland and fields that surrounded her home and this knowledge of wild flowers stayed with her. She grew up with her life-long friend, Pam, spending many school years together and remaining close even when they lived further apart.

Within the ACO, Ruby was asked to score for their cricket team, which is how she met Dad (**John White, SGS 1939-44-ish**). The headline in the local paper, announcing their marriage, read: "He bowled the maiden over". They were a devoted couple, eventually celebrating 50 years of marriage. After we children were born, Mum learned to drive and she loved it. Dad called her "Lead Foot Lil", as she did like a bit of speed! They also enjoyed ballroom dancing, so when "Strictly" started, Mum was a fan. She often discussed the results with her wonderful neighbour, Jenny. In the seventies, Dad and my brother Steve took up rifle shooting and Mum decided, "If you can't beat them, join them". They had a wonderful time competing in local and national championships and on the way made many friends.

Having lived in Ditton Cottage for 40 years, it was a great wrench for both Mum and Dad to move to Twyford. Mum coped with it well and loved her little house, refusing to move even in later years when she became poorly. When Dad passed away it was one of the hardest things that Mum had to deal with. However, her amazing strength and independence carried her through. She was so strong, keeping on with her shooting for a while, gardening, baking, reading and many other hobbies. She loved her family, keeping in close contact with us all, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her dear cousin Peggy, who she always said was like a sister to her, and many others.

In her latter years Mum suffered with severe health problems but regularly astounded us all with her courage and bravery. Doctors and consultants were amazed at her powers of recovery and what she pushed hard to achieve. She strove to remain as independent as she could, still making cakes for everyone, even though she was unable to eat and enjoy them herself. Her Christmas cake was the best! We will all remember her love, humour and strength and that she was so proud of us all. We miss her and are proud to call her Mum.

Mum had two friends from the High School that she kept in touch with: **Anne Payne (Ashley, 1944-50)** and **Molly Poole** (nfi). She also talked fondly of the school reunions that she attended with Dad."

**Janet Cleeton (Bowles, 1949-54)** - Just before the Newsletter was due for publication we received news from Geoff Cleeton (possibly Janet's husband) that she had died on 26th October 2016 after suffering from dementia.

## BOYS

**Vernon Price (1940-47)** - The following message was received from Vernon's wife **Mildred Price (Thomas, SHS 1944-49)**: "My husband, Vernon Gordon Price, who was a member of the Old Paludians, died on July 16th 2016 after a long illness. He was 87 and we had been married 63 years."

Subsequently, Mildred provided the following obituary:

Vernon came to live in Slough at the age of two, when his family moved from South Wales. At the age of eleven (1940) he joined the Grammar School, where he remained until he was eighteen. He was in the school cricket and football teams. He left the Grammar School just before taking the exams for Higher School Certificate. Although he applied for a deferment from national service, it was not allowed and he joined the army. After initial training, he joined the RAEC (Royal Army Educational Corps) and went to Germany. Having enjoyed this teaching experience, he decided on demobilisation to go to teacher training college for two years. His first post was at Langley Marish Primary School for five years, followed by three years at a school in Bracknell. Now being married with two daughters, he moved with the family to North Devon, where twin sons were born. After five years he became deputy head of a brand new school specifically built to enable team teaching. He ended his teaching years as a headmaster at a village school in Herefordshire and then retired to West Wales in 1986.

**Edgar Dunster (1944-48)** - **Andrew Hudson (1951-59)** writes: "My cousin **Edgar Dunster**, who died on 10 September 2016, aged 83, attended Slough Grammar School from 1944 - 1948. He was noted for his athletic achievements and is mentioned in "The Swan" after being chosen to represent Bucks in the long jump at the 1947 All-England Inter-County Athletic Championships, which were held in Hull. After a career in engineering at G.D. Peters and Crane Packing, Edgar worked for many years as a volunteer with the Samaritans. His contemporary, **Dick Hall**, attended his cremation in Slough."

**\*\*1950s\*\*****GIRLS**

**Carolyn Mason (King, 1952-58)** - is sorry she can't make it to the reunion but sends good wishes to all old friends. She writes: "After another year of surgery and ongoing problems from a second hip replacement, travelling (and life!) is difficult. I had another good poetry year, with prize-winning invitations to France and Italy - but wasn't able to make the journeys, or even one to Stoke Poges for the "Thomas Gray Tercentenary" competition event, where I was again a prize-winner. Lots of publications, though, and poetry events here at home on the Isle of Wight. . . I've lived here for 40 years now. My son will be 50 this year and daughter 46; they're in North Yorkshire and Wales. Where does the time go?!"

**Linda Hunter (Gamble, 1956-60)** - Linda supplied a photograph (below) of herself with contemporaries. She writes: "The ladies in the photograph are, from left to right: **Pat Parsons (Boulton, 1953-61)**, **Avril Sutton (Esson, 1953-58)**, **Gill Adams (Gaffney, 1953-58)**, **Linda Hunter (Gamble, 1956-60)** and **Ann Cottee (Giles)**. We were all at SHS in the 1950s. I joined the class from another part of the country in 1956 but the other four started there in 1952 or 1953. We all stayed until the 6th Form. The reason for the reunion was that Pat Parsons came over to this country from New Zealand, where she has been resident for the past 30 years. She was married to **Alan Parsons (SGS)**, who died a few years ago. Pat, like her husband, was a doctor and she came over here accompanied by her daughter Suzanne and her family, to attend her medical school 50th anniversary in Bristol. The five of us have kept in constant touch during the 55+ years since we left the High School and those of us in the UK frequently meet up. Three of us have been out to New Zealand to visit the Parsons family. Avril and I hope to attend the reunion in March but the other two residents from the UK are not available on that day. I don't know if you can use any of this information for the Newsletter but it proves that we are still alive and very much in touch."



**Michele Bovey (Sothcott, 1958-1965)** - News: it's never too late; at the age of 70 I have just finished five years of classical singing training. For the last 20 or so years I have worked for/with The Seekers, the 60s Australian folk group, who have just sung their last Farewell, as Judith Durham, the lead singer, is recovering from a brain haemorrhage. It's been the best job in the world, and the hardest! I shall always be in touch with them and will go to Australia this year to spend time with Judith. I'm still in touch with about ten girls from my form; it's great to be a 12-year-old again!

## BOYS

**Ian Simmons (1950-56)** - Ian recently passed his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and wonders if there are other octogenarians from his time at SGS (1950-56) still hacking it out there. In 2016 he was awarded the University of Durham Chancellor's Medal for scholarship undertaken in "retirement" and added it to his Fellowship of the British Academy and the Victoria Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. A career in academic geography was surely sparked off by the teaching of Don Purvis, though it has to be admitted that being cast by him in the major role of "The Miser" was one of the factors leading to total failure in 'A' level Chemistry!

**Michael Rosteghin (1956-62)** - I lived in Uxbridge Road, Slough, about 15 minutes walk from SGS. I don't remember much about the school but do recall the electric shock machine, or should I say electro-therapy machine. (This comprised a small box containing a dynamo, which generated electricity when a handle was turned. I believe it was intended for medical purposes. Michael brought the machine to school and a group of boys would form a ring with hands joined, the two lads nearest the box each holding a metal tube. When the handle was turned, a small electric current would travel round the group. Why.....Ed.). I left in June 1962 and started training as a manager with Woolworth's in Slough. In 1964 I joined British Railways. I spent most of my leisure time in Windsor, where there was a very vibrant music scene in the 60s. I met my future wife Tricia in 1967 and we married in 1969. We had our first son in 1970, our second son in 1974 and third son in 1978. Looking for a higher income, I left British Railways and joined an airfreight company in Colnbrook. After 5 years I left and joined another airfreight company in Staines as a driver but was made redundant after 8 years. I then started work with a parcel company, where I stayed for 17 years until retirement. Sadly, after a month my dear wife passed away and five months later I took on a part-time job as an online courier, which I still do now.

(PS. Michael also remembers the trick of giving the prefect on gate duty in the morning - watching for latecomers - a false name in an attempt to avoid detention. To this memory Edward Lucas-Smith [1956-63] adds: "I seem to recall that in the 5th Form we created the personae of Forbes, Brampton and Clegg, all of 5C - useful pseudonyms to be used when late and on other appropriate occasions. Indeed, Clegg made it onto the register of Mr File's General English class, although he was always absent when work was to be handed in! Ed.)

**John Overton (1959-67)** - In July 2016 I was licensed as non-stipendiary Associate Priest to Buxton with Burbage and King Sterndale Team Parish, Diocese of Derby.

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

## GIRLS

**Vivienne Tebbutt (Smith, 1951-56)** - Vivienne's husband Robert has informed us that she died on 17th May 2016. He did not wish to supply an obituary but did mention that Vivienne was interested in theatre and drama.

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

## BOYS

**Michael Frankl (1964-72)** - On 27 February I took part in the recording of a heat of *Brain of Britain 2017*, which is a BBC Radio 4 quiz programme. It will be broadcast on 27 March and repeated on 1 April; from 27 March until the end of April it will be available to stream or download as a podcast. Until it is broadcast, I am unable to reveal how I did.

**Laurie Brokenshire (1966-71)** - Ian Cairns writes: "Laurie has asked me to apologise for his absence from this year's reunion. Friends and contemporaries may know that he was diagnosed with Grade 4 GBM (terminal inoperable brain cancer) last Easter. He has now completed his various courses of chemotherapy but is increasingly unwell. He is still able to undertake occasional sea swims in the Solent, with a swim buddy in attendance. He was able to attend last year's reunion, where he was delighted to see old friends who were able to be there as well. Last summer, he

and his family managed to raise well over £43,000 in 3 weeks for various charities through a sponsored sea swim ending at Plymouth. Our thoughts are with Laurie, Ethel and all their family at this difficult time."

## GIRLS

**Sally Dodd (Kreamer, 1966-73)** - Sally writes that her younger sister **Beverley Hall (Kreamer, 1967-72)** died last year in New Zealand, where she lived. The Kreamer family used to live in Eton Wick.

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

## BOYS

**Paul Donovan (1968-75, Head Boy at SGS in 1974)** - It is with great sadness that we learned of Paul's death. The following paragraph appeared in the newsletter of St Augustine's Catholic Church, High Wycombe, on Feb 12th 2017: "As you know, Fr. Paul had been unwell since Christmas. His illness was eventually diagnosed as lymphoma and renal cancer and although he had become quite weak and obviously unwell, investigations were being made about an appropriate treatment plan when unexpectedly early on Wednesday morning Fr. Paul died. It has been a great shock to all of us. Bishop Peter, Deacons Michael and Brin, Ann and myself had all seen Fr. Paul at different times throughout the day on Tuesday and spent time chatting with him. It is obviously a very sad and difficult time in the parish, so please hold each other in prayer during these days. Fr. Paul's funeral will be here at St. Augustine's. Eternal rest give unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace."

## **\*\*2000s\*\***

## GIRLS

**Emma Flint (2007-14)** - I hope everyone is well. I just wanted to let you know that unfortunately I am unable to come to the reunion this year, due to family commitments, but that I hope it goes really well. Also, I am sorry that I have not been able to contribute very much at all in the past year due to my studies. As I am graduating this year and moving on to clinical school, which will be a full-time job, with very little holiday, I am likely to get even busier, so I think it might be best if I resign from the committee this year.

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:

**Rosemary Bishop (SHS 1960-67)**

**Chris Hill (SGS 1975-81)**

**Neil Hines (SGS 1964-71)**

**Sohalla Kiani (SHS 1981-87)**

**Ken Kilminster (SGS 1964-72)**

**Glenys Laws (Dickinson, 1959-65)**

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/16

The Old Paludians Association made a loss in 2016 of £739 (2015: £1,948). The loss was driven by the storage costs of £939 (2015: £854), which will be reduced in 2017 as soon as the archives are moved to storage in the school.

The Reunion Day income and expenditure were balanced out. Similarly, donations of £1,169 were passed on to UCGS, mainly to support the library. Other overheads, such as printing and postage, were funded by the proceeds from the raffle and bring & buy.

The balance of the Old Paludians Association's funds at 31 December 2016 was £1,636 (2015: £2,375).

As a result of the continuing losses, the Committee has resolved that in future the expenditure of the Old Paludians Association should not exceed its income.

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2016

#### INCOME

#### EXPENDITURE

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>		<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Reunion Day income	£867.50	£2,264.50	Reunion Day expenditure	£858.00	£2,842.20
Donations	£1,168.99	£974.50	Donations to UCGS	£1,100	£1,100.00
Subscriptions	£20.00	£40.00	Flowers & Gifts	£25.00	£60.00
Raffle	£274.00	£274.50	Stationery	£15.98	£27.96
Books	£265.00	£1,511.00	Books	£240.00	£1,680
Bring & Buy	£61.20	£112.19	Printing	£179.16	£174.90
Other	£105.18	£0.00	Postage	£143.88	£339.48
			Computer	£0.00	£45.57
			Storage	£939.28	£854.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,761.87</b>	<b>£5,176.69</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,501.30</b>	<b>£7,124.21</b>

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Brought forward from previous year	£2,374.93	£4,322.45
Income for period/year	£2,761.87	£5,176.69
Expense for period/year	-£3,501.30	-£7,124.21
Loss for period/year	-£739.43	-£1,947.52
Carried forward to next year	£1,635.50	£2,374.93

Accounts prepared by Michael Frankl (1964-72)

Accounts examined by: Ron Fidler (1943-49)

**THE OLD PALS COMMITTEE 2017**

<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>
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<b>Chairman:</b> Vacancy	
<b>Minute Secretary:</b> Marie Hughes	Tel: [REDACTED] Email: <a href="mailto:mariehughes@oldpaludians.org">mariehughes@oldpaludians.org</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b> Michael Frankl	[REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED] Email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@oldpaludians.org">treasurer@oldpaludians.org</a>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b> Michael Frankl	Email: <a href="mailto:memsec@oldpaludians.org">memsec@oldpaludians.org</a>
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Emma Flint (standing down)	Tel: [REDACTED] Email: <a href="mailto:emmaflint@oldpaludians.org">emmaflint@oldpaludians.org</a>
Alan Forbes	Tel: [REDACTED] Email: <a href="mailto:alanforbes@oldpaludians.org">alanforbes@oldpaludians.org</a>
Shirley Lane (standing down)	Tel: [REDACTED]
Margaret Paine (standing down)	Tel: [REDACTED]
David Pritchard	Tel: [REDACTED]
David Rogers	Tel: [REDACTED]
Jean Tyler (standing down)	Tel: [REDACTED] Email: <a href="mailto:jeantylers@oldpaludians.org">jeantylers@oldpaludians.org</a>



**APPENDIX 1. LIST OF MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE OPA 2016 REUNION**

First Name	Last Name	Maiden Name	School(s)	From	To
John	Bambrough		SGS	1951	1958
Jackie	Barlow		SHS	1958	1963
Brian	Barnes		SGS	1948	1955
Sue	Barnes	Pattemore	SHS	1952	1959
Robert	Bolland		SGS	1960	1967
Theda	Bramble		SHS	1954	1961
Laurie	Brokenshire R.N. C.B.E.		SGS	1966	1971
Jane	Brown		UGS	1984	1990
David	Browne		SGS	1964	1996
Jim	Butcher		SGS	1951	1956
Colin	Cairns		SGS	1965	1972
Ian	Cairns		SGS	1964	1971
Sheena	Cater		SHS/UGS	1977	1989
Marian	Challis-Warren	Hughes	SHS	1948	1952
Sue	Cheale	Clarke	SHS	1952	1956
Desne	Clarke	Hartwright	SHS	1955	1962
Andy	Dawson	Lloyd	SHS	1958	1963
Jackie	Dibling	Hales	SHS	1953	1959
Patrick	Donachy		UGS	1980	1986
Paul	Donovan		SGS	1968	1975
Colin	Dutton		SGS	1952	1957
David	Esling		SGS	1946	1954
Ron	Fidler		SGS	1943	1949
Emma	Flint		SGS/UCGS	2007	2014
Alan	Forbes		SGS	1949	1953
Michael	Frankl		SGS	1964	1972
Donald	Fraser		SGS	1953	1958
Valerie	Gomersall	Watts	SHS	1953	1958
Gwen	Gale	Knight	SHS	1941	1947
Margaret	Galloway	Joel	SHS	1949	1957
Adrian	Greene		SGS, UGS	1980	1986
William	Hannigan		SGS	1956	1961
Marie	Hughes		SGS	1975	2002
Jean	Jackson	Gouldthorp	SHS	1947	1952

Celia	Johns	Nelmes	SHS	1955	1962
Vivienne	Jones	Hardy	SHS	1958	1960

Valerie	Kershaw	Speed	SHS	1949	1954
Richard	Knight		SGS	1964	1971
Betty	Lambourne	Milsom	SHS	1953	1958
Shirley	Lane	Hope	SHS	1952	1958
Sally	Lovelock	Fryett	SHS	1965	1972
George	Lucas		SGS	1938	1943

Angela	MacTavish	MacTavish	SHS	1952	1959
Carol	Mansfield	Mansfield	SHS	1958	1965
Kathy	Marsden	Clark	SHS	1961	1966
Andrew	Morton		SGS	1960	1968
Robert	Moss		SGS	1956	1964
John	Naylor		SGS	1950	1955

Pat	Oldcorn	Horwood	SHS	1953	1959
Edwina	Pace	Wright	SHS	1958	1963
David	Page		SGS	1984	1990
Margaret	Paine	Paine	SHS	1943	1948
Jean	Porter	Currie	SHS	1943	1949
David	Pritchard		SGS	1951	1954
Will	Pyke		SGS	1964	1971
Janet	Quinton	Boulter	SHS	1953	1959

Sue	Riches	Ryan	SHS/UGS/SGS	1985	2012
Geoffrey	Riglar		SGS	1955	1960
Mary	Riglar	Bowen	SHS	1953	1960
Pam	Robinson		SHS	1950	1955
Mary	Shepherdson	Clements	SHS	1949	1954
Ruth	Sheppard	Clark	SHS	1955	1962
Les	Smith		SGS	1936	1940

Peter	Taylor		SGS	1963	1970
Jean	Tyler	Ireland	SHS	1950	1956
David	Upton		SGS	1963	1970

Judith	Watson	White	SHS	1949	1957
Pauline	Watson	Howse	SHS	1964	1971
Joan	Wells	Snapes	SHS	1952	1957
David	White MBE		SGS	1946	1954
Shelagh	Whitehouse		SGS	1992	2008

Chris	Wood		SGS	1963	1970
Jenny	Wood	Hill	SHS	1967	1974

## APPENDIX 2 - APOLOGIES FOR INABILITY TO ATTEND IN 2017

Listed alphabetically below are the names of those who have apologised for being unable to attend this year's reunion, with explanations and additional comment in some cases.

1. **Mavis Admans (Westbrook, 1942-49)** - Regrettably due to family commitments I am unable to attend this year's reunion.
2. **Daphne Anderson (1938-46)** - Too old!
3. **Lesley Ashton (1967-74)** - Many apologies, I was marking A level papers for international candidates at that time and must have missed the invitation - then I went away for 2 weeks.
4. I find the reunion difficult as nobody from my era ever goes and it isn't at my old school, so no memories there either. So I won't be there but have a good meeting
5. **Paula Atherton (Jones, 1946-53)** - I am sorry I am unable to attend the reunion this year due to worsening of my rheumatoid arthritis.
6. **Jennifer Ballard (Biss, 1959-62)** - Unfortunately, at the present time, it is unlikely that I will be able to attend, due to either being abroad or being in surgery in UK - at the moment, which is unclear! (waiting news of a surgery date) Best wishes to everyone and if I can make it, I will let you know nearer the date.
7. **Christine Anne Banks (Shuker, 1965-70)** - Apologies, I will be unable to attend this year as away on holiday
8. **Don Bargent (1943-50)** - Sorry for my late reply but I will not be able to attend as I am away on holiday.
9. **Jackie Barlow (1958-63)** - This is to let you know that unfortunately I have another commitment on 25 March, arranged well before I was aware of the reunion date for this year, so will be unable to attend - maybe next year! Thanks to everyone who keeps the organisation going forward.
10. **Sue Barnes (Pattemore, 1952-59)** and **Brian Barnes (1948-55)** - Very much regret unable to attend this year. Have a good reunion. Best wishes to all.
11. **Clive Beenham (1946-52)** - I will not be coming to the reunion - a little bit too far away.
12. Doreen Bevan (on behalf of **Ernie Bevan, 1949-54**) - Ernie will not be able to attend your next meeting as he is currently undergoing cancer treatment. He sends you all his best wishes and looks forward to seeing you at a future gathering.
13. **Claire Brereton (1966-73)** - I have 2 daughters, now aged 18 and 20. We migrated to Australia in 2001 after coming here for my sister Margot's wedding (she married an Aussie) and falling in love with the place. I was on the wanted skills list as an IT manager, which helped. Our daughters were 2 and 5 when we arrived, so they have basically grown up here. I come to the UK most years and try to combine business with family visits. My mother and father are in their 80s, still going strong, and live in the Slough area. When I was in UK in November I met Ron Fidler to talk about the survey. I had two younger brothers at Slough Grammar, Giles and Clive. I think they are both on the honours boards.
14. **Irene Brooks (Cox, 1956-61)** - I am unable to come this year as I will be away.
15. **Gerald Bull (1955-63)** - I am very sorry but I am unable to attend this year's reunion. Will try next year!
16. **Judy Carter (1962-69)** - I regret that I will be unable to attend on 25th March, as I am working nights.
17. **Annette Chant (Pountain, 1944-48)** - Message says: "Annette Chant has quite severe dementia and I am afraid cannot respond to your communications."
18. **Jane Clark (Nolan, 1974-79)** - Sorry I am not able to come to the Old Pals reunion. I live in Carlisle, so a bit of a distance for travel.
19. **Susan Cooper Cronyn (Cooper, 1944-52)** - I'm sorry, I can't get to Britain for the reunion on March 25.
20. **Jean Croft (Kirton, 1948-52)** - Sorry I cannot come but do enjoy the Newsletter.
21. **Richard Croker (1956-63)** - Apologies for my absence. I will unfortunately be away at end of March. I am sure it will be a great event.

22. **Robert Curry (1955-60)** - As I am recovering from a cancer operation, my attendance at the reunion is in the lap of the gods. If my fitness level is good, I will attend as I would very much like to see any of my friends from this era.
23. **Sandra Dale (1971-78)** - I'm afraid I won't be able to attend, as I have other commitments and it is a long way to go from West Cornwall. I hope you have a good event.
24. **Margaret Day (1959-66)** - I am unable to attend the reunion on 25<sup>th</sup> March because of other engagements.
25. **Rosemary Dickens (Bowles, 1952-58)** - My husband was diagnosed with cancer in October last and has been undergoing chemotherapy treatment, just finishing this round last week, so I have been preoccupied with taking care of him and attending the hospital with him.
26. I would dearly love to come to the reunion but it simply is not possible. I hope that it will be a good day for you all and I will be thinking of you.
27. **Barry Eaglestone (1960-67)** - I will not be attending the reunion but wish everyone an enjoyable and successful day. Please pass on my best wishes to Mr. Rogers with thanks for everything he did, always with energy and enthusiasm, on our behalf. Do feel free to pass on my details should there be anyone who knew/remembers me from that period.
28. **Jennifer Ediss (Lynch, 1970-77)** - I won't be in the UK at that time. Enjoy the reunion!
29. **Anthea Fowler (Bailey, 1950-56)** - I am very sorry but I will not be able to come to the reunion. My husband Keith and I live in France and we are coming to the UK for Easter but will not be there in time for the 25th. I wish you a very happy day and please pass on my good wishes to anyone who remembers me. I am still very much in contact with **Janet Rogers (Badnell)** and **Maureen McIlvean (Dean)** and we meet up quite regularly.
30. **Margaret Galloway (Joel, 1949-57)** - I am unable to attend the reunion on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017 as I am receiving chemotherapy (until the summer).
31. **Barry Gates (1954-60)** - Further to the annual reunion invitation: I am resident in the Netherlands these days and not able to attend; however, I would be happy if my contact details can remain on the mailing list.
32. **Sylvia Gibbon (Smith, 1940-45)** - I am unable to attend the reunion as I am now 89 and dodderly.
33. **June Gibson (Williams, 1952-57)** - Hello. It is kind of you to invite me to OP reunions but I fear I will be unable to attend this or any future occasions. Apologies for that. Would you kindly remove my name from your invitation list, please? I do wish everybody well for this and future reunions. May the younger Old Paludians take up the baton! (June added that her best friend at SHS, **Pat Hoskins**, who married Roy Cardric, had passed away in the early 2000s. Pat's older sister **Jacqui Hoskins**, who also attended SHS, married a Canadian and moved to live in Canada, is now dead too. June has lost touch with Roy Cardric.)
34. **Martin Haisman (1947-53)** - Thank you and keep up the good work!
35. **Cliff Hillman (1943-48)** - I regret I am unlikely to be able to attend the reunion as I return from holiday in Madeira on the day before and consequently am unlikely to have the time available. As we are usually away in Madeira each March I have not been able to attend reunions for a number of years but in view of my advancing age I sincerely hope to attend again in the future. I was a classmate at the school with **David Jewell**, who was such a stalwart Old Pal but sadly is no longer with us.
36. **Sheila Hughes (Webb, 1945-51)** - Thank you for the invitation to this year's Old Paludians reunion, I am sorry I am unable to attend but would like to continue to receive newsletters.
37. **Alan Jervis (1952-59)** - I had been waiting to see if my health improved but I still don't feel up to making the journey, so I am afraid I must give it a miss this year. I hope it all goes off well.
38. **Lyn Jones (Williams, 1954-61)** - I am not able to make the meeting but still like to have Old Pals news.
39. **Trevor Lewis Jones (1949-54)** - Gwen Sargent writes: I have just been speaking to my brother, who has also received his invitation to the reunion. Unfortunately, he is also unable to attend this year but cannot e-mail you because his PC has broken. He has asked me to convey his apologies. Have a successful day!
40. **Mary Kiff (Franklin, 1963-70)** - Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this year due to a family event. I hope it is a great success. Best wishes and thanks to the committee and organisers.
41. **Ken Kilminster (1964-1972)** - I have many happy memories of my attendance at Slough Grammar School during the 1960s and early 1970s and look forward to meeting fellow "old boys" at future reunions. After

leaving Slough Grammar School in July 1972 I spent a thoroughly enjoyable six months working for Gerry Anderson's company at Pinewood Film Studios before "getting a proper job" at the Tropical Products Institute. I worked as an analytical chemist researching into food protection and storage in the tropics for nearly 25 years where Peter Tyler was a colleague. After (unfortunately) redundancy ended my career, I spent a few years self-employed working as a consultant and then had a very rewarding 10 years in a local grammar school working as a support to teachers and students. I am now retired but keeping myself as busy as possible, doing the things I did not have time for whilst working! I am looking forward to catching up and sharing memories.

42. **Sylvia King (Hernaman, 1946-51)** - I regret that I am unable to attend the reunion again this year as it is too far to come. However, I look forward to receiving the Newsletter in due course.
43. **Shirley Knight (1942-48)** - Sorry, will not be able to attend. No longer driving and Slough has never been easily connected by public transport to the north of Bucks. It could be interesting to see if anyone from my generation still attends but I suspect unlikely.
44. **Hannah Laidley (2004-11)** - I am still at university so I don't often have time to join the events but I enjoy getting the news about what's going on.
45. **Sylvia Legg (Naylor, 1951-56)** - I'm very sorry but as I live in Adelaide, South Australia, I am unable to attend the reunion for 2017. Best wishes for a wonderful get-together.
46. **Sylvia Lewis (Preston, 1943-47)** - Sorry, ill health.
47. **Jim Lindop (1952-60)** - I regret that I will be unable to attend this year. In theory, March is better for me than July but this year I have other commitments on that date.
48. **Ann Lock (Dickson, 1949-54)** - Sorry I have not replied but my husband has been very ill and passed away in January. The funeral was not until February. At the moment due to illness I am confined to the house. I hope all goes well for the reunion and hope to catch up next year.
49. **Barbara Longman (Wardall, 1937-42)** - I will be 91 on that day. Not many of us left now!
50. **Sally Lovelock (Fryett, 1965-72)** - I have been waiting to hear about a date for a forthcoming operation and I will have to decline on this occasion. I hope it all goes very well.
51. **Alison Marvin (Thompson, 1964-71)** - Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend reunion this year due to a family commitment.
52. **Ken McKay (1965-74)** - Just a quick note to let you know I will not be able to attend the annual reunion this year as I will be on an Asian business trip at this time.
53. **Daphne Middleton (Shefford, 1939-45)** - Many thanks for the latest communication about the Old Pals reunion. There really is no point in me coming, all my old friends are not here anymore. Plus the Grammar School was not a patch on the High School! I would still, however, like to receive the Newsletter.
54. **Jim Moss (1969-76)** - Alas, I am unable to attend the reunion on March 25th, mostly because I live in Canada. Will have to leave support to my big brother, Bob Moss. Good luck with the event, of course.
55. **Linda Osborn (Handcock, 1955-62)** - Please accept my apologies. I have another engagement that day.
56. **Edwina Pace (Wright, 1958-63)** - Sorry I can't make it this year - I will be away that weekend. Look forward to next year's!!
57. **Val Parkes (Ford, 1950-56)** - I am sorry that yet again I shall not be able to attend the reunion. As I only have an iPad I am not able to complete the form - sorry! I do hope you have a very successful day and send best wishes to anyone who remembers me. Also, my sister Sue and brother-in-law Bob Gedge would like to say hi from Vancouver.
58. **Julie Peake (Albrow, 1950-55)** - As I live in Australia and have no plans to come to the UK this year, I will not be able to attend the reunion on 25 March. I hope you and all the other Old Paludians have a great day.
59. **John Pickering (1951-58)** - Please accept my apologies for missing the reunion on 25 March. My wife and I are holding a celebration of our Golden Wedding that day! I'm not sure whether I can access and reply to your questionnaire. In case I fail, may I suggest it may be worthwhile thinking about what you want the Old Pals to be. There does not seem to be any social or sporting activity for people of a younger generation offered by Old Pals. Do too many move away from the area after A levels to make anything viable? Could you invite people from other grammar schools who move into Slough to work to join? What do other schools experience with their alumni? Just a few random thoughts! The Newsletter is of interest, so I hope that

will continue, but it needs younger people to contribute too.

60. **Jean Porter (Currie, 1943-49)** - Mark Currie writes: I am the nephew of Mrs Jean Porter. Jean is now living full-time in a nursing home, so will be unlikely to attend any function at this time.
61. **Viv Purdy (Fowle, 1963-69)** - I am very sorry I shall not be attending this year. We now live permanently in France. Best wishes for the Reunion Day.
62. **John Rees (1948-56)** and **Patricia Rees (Barnes, 1952-59)** - Please accept our apologies for this year. Circumstances are such that we can't be in two places at once!
63. **Margaret Roberts (Oates, 1947-52)** - Thank you for your email. I will not be attending the reunion. I taught at Slough High School from 1947 to 1952, when I got married and left. They were very happy years. I am 91 years old and there will be very few people who will remember me or I them, so please take my name off your list. I have always enjoyed reading news of ex-pupils but 65 years is a long time! I hope you will have an enjoyable and successful meeting. With very best wishes.
64. **Maureen Rouse (1957-61)** - I had requested to have my name removed from the register and was assured this would be done. I am disabled and with poor mobility, so I have had to limit functions I can attend.
65. **Stella Rowlands (1954-61)** - I regret I am unable to attend the Old Paludians reunion on 25 March as I now live in Herefordshire. I do hope the reunion goes well on 25<sup>th</sup>.
66. **Gwen Sargent (Jones, 1953-59)** - Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend this year's reunion lunch, as I will be travelling and not quite sure where I'll be on the day. I hope your new arrangements in response to your questionnaire are a great success and set the trend for future meetings. I'll be thinking of you all.
67. **Christine Seaville (Herman, 1957-62)** - I will not be in England this March so cannot attend. However, I would like to thank the committee for their continuing work and time well spent. My grateful thanks to all. I actually came to the UK 3 times last year (my Mum died), so who knows when I'll come again. All the best for a successful meeting and convivial occasion.
68. **Diane Selma (Dall, 1951-56)** - Unable to attend due to the health of my husband.
69. **Gerald Shaw (1938-44)** and **Stephen Shaw(1963-70)** - Stephen writes: "Unfortunately neither my father Gerald Shaw (fully occupied with hospital visits to his wife) and I (who have just recovered from hospital) are able to attend.
70. **FD (David) Short (1939-44)** - Just to let you know I am unable to join the AGM & reunion lunch on 25<sup>th</sup> March. It clashes with an orchestral rehearsal in which I am obliged to play. A pity to miss it, although with a birth date of 1/3/28 there are not many friends to catch up with!
71. **Brenda Smith (Dilley, 1962-69)** - Regret I won't be able to attend this time but hope to do so one of these years.
72. **Howard Smith (1956-64)** - Things seem to get busier and busier or maybe it's just we need more time to do things. Anyway, we will not be attending this year. Personally, such gatherings do not appeal but I would not wish to detract from you young people enjoying yourselves.
73. **Ann Spracklen (Bond, 1952-57)** - Unfortunately my health has deteriorated considerably these past few months .... I have battled with cancer for many years. I think it is very unlikely that I will be able to attend any more reunions.
74. **Mike Taylor (1946-51)** - Thanks for your memo; however, I did send you an email earlier advising I would be unable to attend, as I am now 81 yrs old and live in New Zealand. Much as I would like to be there, I am not visiting the UK this year. Anyway, I was looking through some old boxes in the shed and came across my old school reports (along with a stack of unpaid bills but we won't go into that!). The first one is for Autumn term 1946, I was 11 years and 6 months old, Mr Wharmby was my form master and we were in the old sheds down the road a bit. Heated by one coke stove at the far end of the building. The bigger you were, the closer you got to the stove, all us weeds were miles away from it and froze in winter. Comments from the masters ranged from 'erratic' to 'most unsatisfactory'. My last report is for the summer term 1951, when Mr Cave was my form master. All the best for your hard work and kindest regards.
75. **John Tebbit (1941-47)** - Thank you for the invitation to the reunion on March 25<sup>th</sup> this year. Unfortunately, I will be away in Somerset that day and will therefore be unable to join in the fun.
76. **Molly Vandersluis (Akerman, 1944-51)** - I am replying on behalf of my mother, Molly Vandersluis, who has asked me to let you know she will be unable to attend your reunion on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

77. **Audrey Walden (1940-46)** - After a back operation two years ago I am unable to use trains or buses. I only travel locally by taxi. It is sixty years since I left Slough and apart from a few visits in the sixties I have never wanted to return! I have fond memories of Slough High School and I expect my brother Malcolm who went to Slough Grammar School enjoyed his time there - he lives in Ottawa and has been in Canada since 1957. All the best for a happy day. I just live too far away to come to the reunions, so you will not be seeing me! However, best wishes to everyone and I do hope that the day is a great success. Shall be thinking of you all.
78. **Peter Ward (1948-54)** - Regret unable to attend the reunion due to other commitments.
79. **Beverley Warner (Bayliss, 1951-56)** - Am sorry, I will not be in the country at time of meeting. Thank you for the invitation.
80. **Don Wells (1945-52)** - Sorry I won't be there. My best to everyone, even those who remember me.

### APPENDIX 3 - MINUTES OF 2016 OPA AGM

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Old Paludians Association, held at Upton Court Grammar School on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**Welcome:** Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada, President of the Association, took the chair and welcomed members to the meeting.

**Apologies:** Apologies had been received from many members but the following were read out: Mr G. Painter, Mrs M. Lenton, Mr David Rogers and Mrs Marie Hughes.

**Roll of Honour:** Patrick Donachy read 21 names of those members who had died since the 2015 reunion.

**Treasurer's Report:** Shelagh Whitehouse referred to her report and the balance sheet which had been published in the 2016 Newsletter.

#### **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.

The Committee had recommended that the fee for new joiners should be increased from £5 to £10. This motion was proposed by Shelagh Whitehouse, seconded by Ian Cairns and agreed by the members. There have been about 10 new members each year.

A cheque for £1,000 was presented to the President for the purchase of books for the library and a second cheque for £100 for the purchase of Old Paludians prizes. The President told the meeting that three prizes for the Old Paludians Association essay writing competition will be presented at the prize-giving before the end of term.

**On Line Archive:** Ian Cairns reported: The website continues to grow but not as fast as in previous years. There a few new photos, and one new scan of a Swan magazine, thanks to Philip McGoun. In addition, my available time was reduced due to the need to rotate the chairman role. I also receive all emails for the unfilled Committee roles and distribute them around the Committee.

We welcome any new photos that members can provide, ideally scanned and emailed to me; with names where these are available.

#### **Election of Officers:**

Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Michael Frankl to take over from Shelagh Whitehouse
Editor	Bob Moss
Webmasters	Colin Cairns and Ian Cairns.

Committee: Jane Brown, Patrick Donachy, Emma Flint, Alan Forbes, Marie Hughes, Shirley Lane, Margaret Paine, David Pritchard, David Rogers and Jean Tyler.

**Any Other Business:** Ron Fidler questioned whether the present structure of the Association was the best for the future. There is a changing profile of members and younger people are not joining when they leave school.

Mrs Hernández Estrada said that younger people keep in touch with the School via 'e' methods, whereas the present Old Pals Association is a face-to-face organisation. It was suggested that a small core of people form a committee to explore and find a way forward for the future; possibly to simplify the AGM and meet for an informal get-together reunion. If money is collected for the School, a treasurer and bank account will be needed.

The following members offered to join the steering committee: Ron Fidler, Pat Oldcorn, Angela MacTavish and Patrick Donachy. A questionnaire will be prepared and sent to members.

Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal joined the gathering at this stage and was present to hear the presentation given by our President and Principal of UCGS together with the Head Boy Kiran Handa and Head Girl Ellie Dennison.

Mrs Hernández Estrada spoke about the changes taking place in education nationally and the situation at UCGS. The new building which is under construction will be commissioned for use after Easter in 2017.

The Head boy and Head girl spoke about their experiences as senior members of the School and their expectations of their future studies.

**The Old Paludians Annual Reunion 2018 - Saturday March 24th is under consideration for next year's meeting**