



# The Old Eastbournian 2016

The Journal of The Eastbournian Society



*'Ex Oriente Salus 150'*

*NKing*

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Our guest of honour is Nasser Judeh (Blackwater 1975-79), former  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs for Jordan



We also look forward to welcoming Headmaster Tom Lawson and  
his wife Jess to their first London Dinner

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**Drinks from 7pm, dinner from 7.30pm. Formal evening wear ('Black tie')**

To book your place(s) please contact Lulu Brown - 01323 451911 or [vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk)  
You can also write to: Eastbournian Society (London dinner), Headmaster's Office, Old Wish Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4JX

# 150th Celebration Lunch

**Sunday 4 June, 12.30pm** College Dining Hall



This year's summer Sunday lunch celebrates 150 years of Eastbourne College in our anniversary year.



All Old Eastbournians, former and current staff, and other friends and supporters of the College are invited to join us, together with their wives, husbands or partners.

Headmaster Tom Lawson and his wife Jess are keen to see as many OEs and others in the Eastbournian Society as they can, so this will be an opportunity to meet them, as well as to reminisce with old friends and acquaintances from College days.

Dress code: Jacket and tie/smart daywear  
The cost is £25 per person for a welcome drink, two-course lunch, wine and coffee

To book your place(s) contact Lulu Brown – [vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk) or 01323 451911.

You can also write to:  
Eastbournian Society (Lunch), Headmaster's Office, Old Wish Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4JX

## The Old Eastbournian Reunion 2017

**Saturday 16 September** for 1969–1983 leavers



This year's cohort is OEs who were (or would have been) in the Upper Sixth in a summer term in any year between and including 1969 and 1983. Members of staff from this era are invited to come along too. Spouses and partners are welcome as your guests.

The day's activities include:

- Lunch
- Guided tour of the College, including the Nugee Building, phase 1 of Project 150
- OE Stags and 1st XV rugby
- Tea
- Visits to former houses
- Evensong in Chapel
- Evening drinks reception
- Reunion dinner (Dress code: Smart)

You can come to as many or as few of the day's events as you wish. There is no charge for any part of the day.

**IMPORTANT:**  
PLACES FOR LUNCH, TEA AND/OR DINNER MUST BE RESERVED IN ADVANCE.

To book your place(s) please contact Lulu Brown on 01323 451911 or [vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk).

You can also write to: Eastbournian Society (Reunion), Headmaster's Office, Old Wish Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4JX



The past 12 months have been a year of change at the College.

Simon Davies moved on after a headmastership of 11 years, during which time we saw major improvements to the school, the most noteworthy of which were the opening of the Birley Centre in 2011, and the instigation of the Project 150 development. Simon also played a major role in establishing the Eastbourne Schools Partnership, and oversaw the merger of St Andrew's Prep into the College charity in 2010. We pay tribute to him on page 18.

In September we welcomed Tom and Jess Lawson and their family to the Headmaster's House. They have already met a number of OEs and former members of staff in their first few months. As we enter our 150th anniversary year, we are encouraged by Tom's words in his message on page 11: 'Playing my part in articulating what is special about the College, preserving its essence, while improving the school and moving it on, is a great privilege.'

There are a number of events taking place in 2017-18 which will mark the 150th anniversary and we would urge you to come along and enjoy the celebrations. Some are listed on page 95 but please also check the events list at [eastbourniansociety.org](http://eastbourniansociety.org) which is regularly updated. And if you are aware of any OE who does not receive this magazine or our monthly email events bulletins, please ask them to get in touch with their contact details.

The other changes this year have been physical ones, as we have seen the first phase of Project 150 take shape. What was a muddy construction site at the start of the year has become not just a new building, but a new heart to the College. Old and new sit alongside each other with a dramatic full-height atrium linking the side and rear of Big School (the College Theatre) with the academic block. At the start of 2017, pupils were making full use of their new maths and English classrooms on the first and second floors. The new pavilion, IT suite and school shop will all follow in the next few weeks. Those of Headmaster John Nugee's generation will be immensely proud that this great man, some say 'our second founder', will be honoured with the naming of the new block as the Nugee Building.

Phase 2 is already underway, with foundations in place and steel girders showing the outline of what will be the Winn Building: the sports hall, swimming pool, dining hall, fitness suites, more classrooms and the new reception. We look forward to seeing its completion in early 2018.

However, despite all these exciting changes, we have not lost sight of our history and what makes Eastbourne College what it is. Which is why we have used the image of the stag on our cover, a symbol of constancy and Eastbournian values for 150 years. People may come and go, buildings may be demolished and replaced by something bigger and better, but the spirit of Eastbourne College, what the headmaster calls the essence, lives on.

We take pride in our heritage and, in particular, in our people. Which is why you will find in this and every edition of this magazine profiles of distinguished Eastbournians, loyal and long-serving staff (both teaching and non-teaching) and obituaries of those who have gone before us – every one of whom illustrates a positive example of endeavour and achievement. They define the essence of this wonderful school.

Ex Oriente Salus.

Joint Editors **David Blake**  
([drblake@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:drblake@eastbourne-college.co.uk))  
**Michael Partridge**  
([mp@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:mp@eastbourne-college.co.uk))

## Limited edition prints for sale



Front cover:  
*Ex Oriente  
Salus 150*  
by Nicola King

Nicola King is a parent of a former College pupil and has kindly donated a specially commissioned painting in honour of the College's 150th anniversary. Two hundred individually signed and numbered limited edition prints are available at £150 each. Nicola has very generously suggested that any proceeds go towards the Project 150 campaign. The painting and prints will be a lasting reminder of this significant date in the College's history.

Your framed print can be reserved by contacting the P150 Campaign Office (Christine Todd, 01323 452316, [ct@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:ct@eastbourne-college.co.uk)).

Printed on Somerset handmade paper 330gsm. Framed in stained/limed solid oak box with archival extra thick mount. Epson 11 colour Giclée. Size including frame: 54cm x 54cm.

We welcome contributions to the magazine, whether items of news, recollections, reports of social gatherings and reunions, or longer articles which may be of interest to our readers. Photographs are welcome too. Please do get in touch with the editors if you would like to submit something and we can advise on the length of the article.



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*For further information:*



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# Chairman's report

2016 was an exciting year in the College's history, and as it drew to a close there was frantic activity at our old school.

**P**hase 1 of the Project 150 development, consisting of the new pavilion and the English and mathematics classroom blocks, was handed over to the College ready for the start of the Lent term 2017.

This new building will be known as the Nugee Building, after our former headmaster John Nugee, who was responsible for re-establishing and rejuvenating the College after the Second World War. Phase 2 will be the swimming pool, sports hall and dining room complex and that too is well underway.

Elsewhere in the report you will read more about the development. Phase 2 will be known as the Winn Building after our former OE Chairman and current President, David Winn, who so generously kick-started the fundraising campaign. It is ironic that a building containing a sports hall should be named after someone who openly confesses to have actually disliked sporting activities. It matters little, as the building will be a fine legacy to his and his family's outstanding contribution to the College.

I would also like to draw your attention to the contribution of Phillip Broadley, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors, and also Chairman of the P150 fundraising campaign. His enthusiasm for the project has been immense and I'm sure David Stewart, our Foundation Director would join me in thanking him.

I learnt during one of the P150 committee meetings that approximately 90% of College property acquired since the school was established, is the result of the generous gifts and donations of Old Eastbournians. P150 is the biggest project ever embarked upon in the College's history and OEs and members of the Eastbournian Society are providing a considerable part of the funding. If you can make a contribution to the project and have not already done so, there is still opportunity to do so.

2016 also saw the arrival of a new headmaster. Tom Lawson, formerly deputy headmaster at Christ's Hospital, joins us at an exciting time and we welcome him and his family. After 11 successful years at the College, Simon Davies, the former headmaster, has moved on and we wish him well. A tribute to him is on page 18.

It was another year of outstanding events organised by the ES office, which are reported elsewhere in the magazine, so I will not attempt to mention them all. The tireless efforts of the office to network with more and more OEs is paying off. In 2015 attendance numbers at ES events came to some 3,500 and this number had already been achieved by September 2016.

There were over 160 in attendance at the OE reunion day in September, for all former pupils up to and including leavers in 1968. I



Hugh Price, centre, at the insurance networking event in November with Henry Williams (Wargrave 2001-06) and Year 12 pupil Ben Foss

attended the occasion and was delighted to re-acquaint myself with many OEs from my time at the College whom I had not seen since leaving in 1966. It is gratifying to learn how many people attend these functions for the first time then continue their involvement



Hugh chats with Johnny Mercer MP at the London dinner in April

with the College by attending yet more events.

In April we held our London dinner at the In & Out Club in St James's Square. Our guest speaker was Johnny Mercer (Pennell 1995-2000) who became the Conservative MP for Plymouth Moor View in the 2015 general election. Without any notes, he spoke eloquently and with passion about Parliament and his hopes for our country. The College's first MP for 45 years was indeed

an impressive dinner guest. I am sure we will be hearing lots more about him as his stature grows in the House.

In May, a memorial service was held to that great Old Eastbournian and master Robin Harrison. Many of us will remember him teaching us rugby and geography with enthusiasm and I was a member of the OE committee for many years while he was secretary. A very large turnout, as one would expect, filled the Chapel to remember him and his achievements, a fitting tribute to a great Eastbournian.

Networking events for the shipping, medical, legal, property, insurance, banking and broking sectors have all taken place in 2016, as has the London business lunch, all aimed at bringing Eastbournian Society members together to share their business connections with others.

A number of P150 receptions were held during the year, in Battersea, the Birley Centre, London's Mayfair and Tunbridge Wells, while David Stewart and David Winn hosted overseas receptions in Singapore, Sydney and Hong Kong. Philip Broadley also hosted a reunion in Bangkok. The effort that the ES office puts in to organising these events is rewarded with the ever-increasing network of loyal supporters.

Pennell House held its own celebration in the dining hall in June, which was very well supported. It was marvellous to see the senior

generations represented by three OEs from the immediate post-war years, 1945 to 1950.

Lulu Brown organised a champagne heritage tour for 38 people in May, and John Thornley has co-ordinated a series of theatre trips, visits and walks, all of which remain popular with former parents and local residents. Dates for 2017 events can be found on the ES website, eastbourniansociety.org.

The Foundation golf day, organised by David Stewart, Christine Todd and Lulu Brown, was held at the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club in July. It raised over £17,500 for the Peter Bibby Award, which finances a bursary to

enable talented local cricketers to join the College. Current recipients are Ben Twine and Joe Pocklington. Such campaigns involving the local community are essential to the future of the College, as we regularly read commentary in the press about independent schools and their ongoing charitable status.

Michael Partridge continues to run the College archives with vigour and, along with David Blake in the ES office, produces this very fine publication. As I have mentioned before, we are the envy of many other independent schools with the outstanding quality of this magazine, which gets better every

year. Many congratulations to them both.

The tireless efforts of David Stewart, John Thornley, Christine Todd and Lulu Brown in the ES office, has made 2016 another memorable year. They must be heartily congratulated on their tremendous efforts, which will continue unabated into 2017. The ES continues to flourish with them; and you can see from the calendar what a wonderful job they do.

As Phase 2 heads towards completion I am delighted to say that Eastbourne College is going from strength to strength.

**Hugh Price (School 1961–66)**  
Chairman, Eastbournian Society

## The Eastbournian Society committee

The AGM of the Eastbournian Society was held on Thursday 29 September 2016. At the meeting the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2015 were approved and the existing officers re-elected unanimously. Tom Lawson takes over from Simon Davies as Headmaster. On the committee, Matthew Pringle has replaced Jane Wilders as the College careers representative.

### Officers

<b>President</b>	David Winn (School 1954–59)
<b>Chairman</b>	Hugh Price (School 1961–66)
<b>Vice Chairman and Treasurer</b>	Darren Meek (Blackwater 1982–87)
<b>Development Director</b>	David Stewart
<b>Headmaster</b>	Tom Lawson

### Committee

<b>Archives (College/OE)</b>	Michael Partridge (Blackwater 1946–51)
<b>Careers (College)</b>	Matthew Pringle
<b>Careers (OE)</b>	Oscar Orellana-Hyder (Reeves 2002–07)
<b>Charity (OE)</b>	Eric Koops (Gonville 1959–63)
<b>Events Organiser (College/OE)</b>	Lulu Brown (Nugent 1980–82)
<b>Events (College)</b>	John Thornley
<b>Events (OE)</b>	Alex Brown (Blackwater 1980–85)
<b>Parents (College)</b>	Alexandra Byatt, Sharon Leek, Dr Alister Scott, Simon Virgo
<b>Sports (OE)</b>	Oscar Orellana-Hyder (Reeves 2002–07)

## The Eastbournian Society Office

The Eastbournian Society team – who we are, what we do and how to contact us



**David Stewart, Development Director**  
David runs the College Foundation and alumni relations. Please contact David if you are interested in making a gift or leaving a legacy, or wish to discuss how you can help with the College's

development projects including Project 150. David has overseen the increasing number of professional networking receptions and visits OEs at receptions in the UK and worldwide.  
01323 452308  
das@eastbourne-college.co.uk



**Lulu Brown, Events Organiser**  
Lulu is an OE and works part-time with events planning, organising and hosting, and you will often see her name as the main contact for booking places at our events. If

you are interested in attending or hosting a business/career networking event, please let Lulu know.  
01323 451911  
vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk



**David Blake Database and Communications Manager**  
David manages the Eastbournian Society database, updates our web pages, processes registrations on the web site and sends emails about future events. He is

joint editor of the *Old Eastbournian* magazine and welcomes news items and photos for the 'News of OEs' section. Please contact David with changes of address or if you would like to contact a fellow OE.  
01323 452262  
drblake@eastbourne-college.co.uk



**John Thornley Eastbournian Society Events**  
John is the Common Room's longest-serving member of staff and a former OEA Secretary. He continues to teach at the College and has a number of other

administrative roles, alongside which he plans, organises and helps host Eastbournian Society events.  
01323 452314  
jt@eastbourne-college.co.uk



**Christine Todd, Foundation and Eastbournian Society Administrator**  
Christine deals with the administration relating to donations, bequests and fundraising. She is a familiar face at the annual

Foundation Day for Devonshire Society members and other benefactors, as well as the Golf Challenge, both of which she organises.  
01323 452316  
ct@eastbourne-college.co.uk



**Michael Partridge, College Archivist**  
All archive enquiries should be directed to Michael. He welcomes gifts of College memorabilia and enjoys responding to enquiries about former staff and OE ancestors. Michael is also

joint editor of the *Old Eastbournian* magazine, and compiles the obituaries and many of the historical features.  
01323 451901 mp@eastbourne-college.co.uk



# Eastbournian Society events

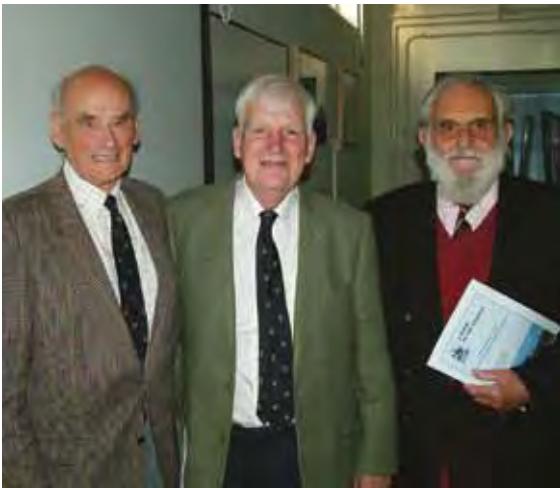
The Eastbournian Society organises a number of social and cultural trips, talks and events to which all members are welcome. A meeting to discuss ideas for future trips is held at the beginning of each term at which suggestions for theatre shows, visits to places of interest, London walks and so on are discussed.

We send regular email updates about future events and the Eastbournian Society website has the most up-to-date listing of what is coming up. Here is a selection of some of the activities that took place in 2016.



## The Patriotic Traitor

The Park Theatre in Finsbury Park was the venue for our trip on Thursday 25 February to see *The Patriotic Traitor*, a new play by Jonathan Lynn about the relationship between Charles de Gaulle and Philippe Pétain.



## Eastbourne College history talk

College archivist Michael Partridge (Blackwater 1946–51) gave a talk on Thursday 28 April in which he explored the history of the College. Michael is pictured here, left, with John Wilmot (School 1954–59), centre, and Julian Paxton (Blackwater 1951–55) on the right. Julian comes from a distinguished OE family, whose members over a number of generations have attended the College, the earliest starting as a boarder in School House in 1891.



## Waste

The first theatre trip of the year was to see *Waste* at the National Theatre on Saturday 16 January. Originally banned by the censors in 1907, this revival of Harley Granville Barker's play about how a scandal affects the political establishment was well received by the small group of society members who went along.

## History of an Eastbourne family

On Thursday 11 February local historian Paul Jordan gave the final one of his set of talks on the history of an Eastbourne family during the twentieth century, covering the years 1966 to 1985.



## The history of phonographs

Local phonograph and gramophone enthusiast Dave Holmewood spoke to society members on Thursday 3 March at the College. Covering the history of recorded sound from the 1880s to the 1960s, Dave brought along a number of devices which he demonstrated to an appreciative audience.



## Funny Girl

*Funny Girl* at the Savoy Theatre on Wednesday 18 May was our next theatrical outing of the year. The musical, based on the life of comedienne Fanny Brice, starred Natasha J Barnes, who was standing in for Sheridan Smith while she took a break from the role.



### Hampton Court Palace

ES members visited Hampton Court on Thursday 16 June and met for lunch before a guided tour around the palace and a chance to look at the exhibitions and gardens.



### 'Mapp and Lucia' walk in Rye

A small group of society members enjoyed a day in Rye on Tuesday 7 June, taking in a guided tour of the buildings and places on which EF Benson based his fictional town of Tilling, the home of *Mapp and Lucia*. Allan Downend from the EF Benson Society was a knowledgeable guide, and took the group to some of the filming locations used in the television adaptations of the books.



### The Unknown East End

The annual London guided walk on Saturday 24 September was an East End tour from Whitechapel to Spitalfields, taking in the Blind Beggar pub with its association with the notorious Kray Twins.



### Reception for parents of new pupils

Some parents of pupils who had just started at the College came to a reception in the first week of Michaelmas term on Saturday 10 September. Eastbourne Society Director David Stewart gave a presentation on the society's many activities, and parents had a chance to meet Headmaster Tom Lawson, pictured here, centre.



### Eastbourne Streetscapes

Paul Jordan gave his second talk of the year on Wednesday 5 October at the Eastbourne Heritage Centre. Paul, pictured right, spoke about the inspiration behind his exhibition of ink and water-colour paintings which depict a number of streets in the town, showing how the buildings have changed over the years.



### Talk on English antiques

ES member Merton Cox, who used to work in Harrods antiques department, gave an illustrated talk on English antiques on Tuesday 8 November at the College, talking about developments and changing styles in furniture and clocks between 1600 and 1700.

### This House

Our final theatre trip of the year was to the Garrick Theatre on Wednesday 7 December to see *This House*, James Graham's play about the machinations of the Parliamentary whips in the House of Commons in 1974.



# Careers and higher education news



The 2016 careers convention in the Birley Centre

Jane Wilders writes:

The careers and higher education department team (Head of Careers Jane Wilders and Head of Higher Education Karen MacGregor) were delighted to welcome Old Eastbournian Jon Bathard-Smith (Powell 1988-93) as a new member of the careers team. Before becoming a teacher Jon studied economics at Cambridge University and then worked in the City for 18 years as a company advisor. He is very knowledgeable about the world of work.

The department moved to a new home in Old Wish Road, and continued to work closely with pupils, teachers, tutors and parents, providing advice and guidance and running a comprehensive careers programme designed to support pupils from Year 10 upwards in making choices affecting their future. These include work experience, choosing subjects, applying to university, choosing courses, apprenticeships, school leaver programmes, applying for jobs, volunteering, gap years, networking, CVs and interviews. If we don't know the answer we'll try and help pupils find it, and pupils are also always welcome to come and just chat through various options.

All Year 11 and Lower Sixth pupils participated in the externally run Careers and Higher Education programme offered by Cambridge Occupational Analysts (COA) including Preview and Centigrade tests and interviews with external careers advisers.

The majority of the Upper Sixth applied to university and approximately 70% are heading off to Russell Group universities. Five places were achieved to study medicine and one for dentistry. The subject list is as expected with the following courses appearing on our list for the first time: multimedia journalism, computer games design and production.

One of the highlights was the growing number of parents, friends and OEs willing to support the work of the careers department. We were fortunate to have a number of interesting speakers for Lower Sixth careers and HE lessons, from sectors including engineering, law, health and pharmacy, and over 50 OEs, parents and friends came to support the careers convention in March by manning a stand and talking to pupils about their line of work. The event was held for the first time in the Birley Centre and we were pleased to welcome a large number of parents who were accompanying their children as they gathered information about routes into professions and relevant courses and picked up personal tips. Roger Salway from Oyster Worldwide attracted a good audience for his talk on taking a gap year and many more gap year and volunteering organisations attended the evening event. Contacts and links were made by a number of pupils which led to work experience placements - something the College encourages from Year 11 onwards.

A number of pupils in the sixth form also attended networking events arranged by the Eastbournian Society, giving them invaluable contacts for the future in areas including medicine, banking, insurance, law and shipping. [Reports of these events are carried elsewhere in the magazine].

In the last week of the summer term, around 40 Year 11 pupils participated in work experience across a wide variety of sectors and locations. The placements were organised by parents and the College and, in many cases, supported by parents as well. This year, in addition to many more local placements, we were able to secure experience for several pupils in leading national businesses, including the Daily Mirror, RFU England, Marsh Insurance and Sky. We are enormously grateful to all those businesses that gave up time and made a huge effort to make our pupils feel welcome, giving them an invaluable insight into the world of work and an opportunity to see first-hand how businesses that interest them operate on a day-to-day basis.

## 2017 Careers Convention

The next careers convention will take place on Friday 17 March 2017 and the careers department and Eastbournian Society would warmly encourage anyone interested in volunteering their time at the convention, in giving a talk or in offering work experience opportunities to get in touch.

Please contact Matt Pringle, the new Head of Careers ([mjpringle@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:mjpringle@eastbourne-college.co.uk)), or Lulu Brown, Events Organiser, Eastbournian Society ([vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk)) or call the careers department on 01323 452211.

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# Helping the homeless in Washington



Photo courtesy of Evan Cantwell, George Mason University

Alice Peck (Blackwater 2003–08) was a Forbes Wastie scholar at the College. In July 2012 she graduated with first class honours for her BSc in politics from the University of Bristol, where she also served as the vice-president of the student union.

Early in 2016 we became aware of an article about Alice published in January on the website of George Mason University in Washington, DC, and we are grateful to the author, Buzz McClain, for permission to reproduce it here.

When Alice Peck came to the United States two years ago from England to work on her master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution, she had visions of using those skills at the United Nations or at a peace-building outpost in an exotic locale.

One afternoon on Washington, DC's Metro changed all that.

'I was coming out of Union Station and was struck by all the people who are homeless right outside of the station,' she said. 'And I was thinking, "Here I am in the capital of the world's wealthiest, most powerful nation and yet..."'

'How is this acceptable?' she wondered.

So Peck, who graduated in December with a master's from George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, decided to study homelessness. She applied her conflict expertise to the subject, framing the condition as a form of 'structural violence'.

'I wanted to find out how certain individuals experiencing homelessness understand and

make meaning of their situation,' she said. She also wanted to understand 'how their experiences relate to the broader structures of society, and the social, economic and political organization of Washington and the United States in general.'

In other words, 'Alice's thesis draws attention to the ways our structuring of space can be harmful to those who live on the margins of society,' said Peck's advisor Tehama Lopez Bunyasi, a professor at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

To do her study, Peck, 25, immersed herself in the world of people who are homeless. Peck, who was raised in a forest in East Sussex, educated at private schools and graduated from the University of Bristol, found herself several days a week at a therapeutic day centre for the homeless in Northwest Washington, DC operated by the non-profit So Others Might Eat.

She often ran the 8am meetings, helped serve meals, hosted a meditation group, played cards and assisted the 50 members typically on hand with the fussy details – such as filling out paperwork – of living in a capitalistic culture with no capital. She even took part in a protest to save a government-subsidized apartment building.

'The form of research I'm doing – ethnog-

raphy – is 'participant observation'. You are there, and you are part of it, but just enough so that you can step back and observe and think about it from a theoretical point of view academically.'

Her blue-sky dream is to 'end homelessness, preserve affordable housing in the city and to find housing for all the people I am working with.'

In the meantime, Peck has been offered a part-time position at the day centre, where she will provide case management, operate therapeutic groups and perform administrative work.

Said Lopez Bunyasi: 'Alice's project has important implications for urban planning in that she is describing, among other things, the great need for the creation and protection of public space where people can simply 'be'.'

Future urban planners might consider maximizing public space where sitting down and resting cannot be criminalized as well as making available public restrooms for the fulfilment of basic needs, Lopez Bunyasi said.

Gone now for Peck, without regret, are the dreams of the United Nations or exotic outposts.

'Academically, I hope whatever I write will have some value,' Peck said. 'But personally, this [experience] has profoundly changed me.'

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# A message from the Headmaster

Headmaster Tom Lawson was appointed in March 2016 and took up the position at the beginning of Michaelmas term.

He joined the College from Christ's Hospital where he was deputy head from 2013.

**T**om graduated from Christ Church, Oxford, in 1997, where he read philosophy, politics and economics. He taught economics and humanities at Winchester College for 15 years, where he was a housemaster for eight years and under master for two years. Tom is married to Jessica and they have two children, Xanthe (8) and Hector (6).

At the time of his appointment, Sir Kevin O'Donoghue, Chairman of the Board of Governors, commented: 'The Governors are very pleased to be able to appoint Tom from a strong and extensive field of candidates who were attracted by the opportunity to lead Eastbourne College. Tom joins us with a wide



range of experience of leadership at Christ's Hospital and previously at Winchester. As we approach the College's 150th anniversary Tom will lead the College as it continues to

provide a broad and distinct education to its pupils while maintaining Eastbourne's ethos and its commitment to serve the wider community.'

The Headmaster writes:

**A**s I sit in the Headmaster's office here at the College, I feel so at home, despite being an arriviste in Eastbournian society. Though fewer than 90 days into doing the job, the community has made such an effort to welcome Jessica and me into the Eastbourne family that it feels like we have been part of this happy story for much longer.

The OEs have played a huge role in making us feel so comfortably settled. Even before I arrived, a governor of my previous school invited me to a Sunday lunch at his home to introduce me to David Thomson (Gonville 1955–60), who still lives close enough to the College to keep an eye on the rugby score and how I am doing.

Forbes Wastie (teaching staff 1961–98) did me the honour of coming to lunch and introducing me to David Winn (School 1954–59) who was full of affectionate recollections of getting up to no good at Eastbourne.

On his travels around the globe, David Stewart was welcomed by Old Eastbournian societies at every metropolis that were the envy of all the other old-boy/girl networks that are around.

Donald Perrens (teaching staff 1946–81) popped in to say hello, and told me that the stand-out characteristic of this school was the quality of the Old Eastbournians. I could not agree more and I try to make it part of my 'stump speech' for prospective parents.

Our girls and boys are good people that other people want to be with. You are unpretentious but civilised; interesting and charming company, and most of all – and this comes out in all the testimonials I receive – you're fun.

As a thriving and happy school, there is so much to consolidate and praise here. Operating a modern school with the expectations of successful parents, burden of bureaucracy, and a crowded marketplace is a sufficient challenge to keep me busy enough. I try not to forget, though, that my purpose is much more than managerial: I am trustee of an idea – Eastbourne College – which is owned by the generations of pupils that have come before and those present and future Eastbournians.

Playing my part in articulating what is special about the College, preserving its essence, while

improving the school and moving it on, is a great privilege. Being receptive to the history of the school and the wisdom that OEs have to offer is one way to keep me alive to the more important things, preventing the everyday business of running the school from becoming dreary.

So thank you, Old Eastbournians, for your support and enthusiasm for this College. I do hope you can come back to events and reunions. You are always most welcome at the College and Jessica and I look forward to meeting you over the coming years.



Donald Perrens, who taught at the College between 1946 and 1981, paid a visit to the school in November with his daughter Pip Kirtley, when they met Tom and Jess Lawson. During Donald's 35-year career at the College, he had been head of science, housemaster of Blackwater, in charge of the CCF, and coached tennis and hockey. He served under four headmasters and was himself acting headmaster in the early 1970s.

# 'Buddy' Featherstonhaugh

Jazz musician, racing driver and Old Eastbournian

Rupert Edward Lee Featherstonhaugh, always known as Buddy, was an unexceptional boy at the College, but became one of the most extraordinary OEs of all time. Married five times, he was a jazz musician of rare talent and a notable racing driver.



Buddy standing second left in a jazz group

Buddy's daughter Sara has recently come to live in Eastbourne and has been a wonderful source of information about her father. According to Sara he was 'a very colourful character who lived his life full to the brim. He was also very, very funny and had the most incredible sense of humour. He often talked fondly about his days at the College'. Buddy died aged 67 when she was 12 and she recalls visiting jazz clubs, such as Ronnie Scott's, with him.

Buddy was born in Paris on 4 October 1909 and, after early education at Ripley Court prep in Surrey, entered School House in 1924. During his three years at the College he was lead player in the College jazz band. The *Eastbournian* of December 1926 records that: 'The musical part of the summer concert programme was provided by the strident sounds of the Jazz Band. The saxophonist was able to vary his playing more than before as he had acquired a 'soprano'.'



Buddy won the Grand Prix d'Albigeois in a Maserati Tipo 26M, similar to this one

The player was clearly Buddy but we may never know who taught him to play; and all this happened, perhaps surprisingly, under Mr Arnold's tenure as headmaster. As Vin Allom once wrote 'Arnold had little music in his soul'. Perhaps that is why he allowed it to happen.

Buddy learned to drive on his father's 1925 Red Label Bentley and by 1927 owned a boat-bodied 1 litre Fiat. He followed that in 1928 with a four-cylinder GP Bugatti and then in 1929 with an eight-cylinder GP Bugatti. By 1931 it was a Eustace Watkins Hornet Special, followed in 1932 by a 1½ litre Alfa. He began racing with the Hornet and by May 1932 he had won two mountain races on the Alfa. Early in 1934 Whitney Straight gave Buddy a trial on a 2.5 litre Maserati; he liked his form and signed him on.

In 1927, just one year after leaving school, Buddy began a notable career as a jazz saxophonist and clarinet player, making his debut with the Pat O'Malley combo at the Brent Bridge Hotel in London. In March of that year, he recorded with Buddy Rose and his Orchestra and again in June with Ronnie Munro and his Orchestra.

He then from late 1928 until 1929 joined violinist Jean Pougnet. He played with Ambrose in 1929 and then, as a tenor saxophonist (1930-32), with Spike Hughes at the Café de Paris - with whom he also recorded no fewer than eight times.

In the early 1930s he also played with Philip Lewis, Benny Carter, Jiver Hutchinson, Billy Mason and Phil Allen and the Twelve Rhythm Monarchs. In 1932-33 he toured with Billy Mason's band, supporting the Louis Armstrong band. In the *Melody Maker* of October 1932 Buddy wrote: 'The biggest thrill I got from Louis Armstrong was not from his singing, nor his magnificent tone on dizzy top notes, but just from the one occasion on which we played over some of the splendid arrange-

ments which he brought with him. It was his swinging of the trumpet lead that stirred me profoundly. He was my ideal of the perfect first trumpet, and my enthusiasm made me play better, I am sure, than I have ever done before or since. Apart from all that, Louis is quite the most charming and unspoiled personality with whom it has ever been my good fortune to be associated. In fact, I think he is the greatest thing that has ever happened, dance music speaking, in this country'.

From 1933 Buddy led his own band, the Cosmopolitans, performing at the Carlton Hotel and the Coconut Grove in Regent Street in April 1935. In January 1934 he joined the Max Abrams band, then Billy Mason again.

Later, in 1935, he recorded with Valaida Snow, Jay Wilbur, Billy Mason, Jack Miranda and the Black Hand Gang.

Concurrently, from 1931, he began a second career: as a car salesman and, more importantly, as a racing driver, performing, usually as co-driver, at Crystal Palace, Donington, Douglas (Isle of Man), Limerick, and other venues.

In 1932 he twice raced a blown 1½ litre six-cylinder Alfa Romeo, winning the handicapped Nottingham Junior and Senior races.

By 1934 he had joined Whitney Straight for a few motor races and won the Dieppe Grand Prix at his second start. He raced in France and Ireland as well as at Brooklands, driving Maseratis and Bugattis at these events. In July 1934 he took over Whitney Straight's old 2.5 litre Maserati and in it won the Grand Prix



The Radio Rhythm Club Sextet - at 78rpm



Louis Armstrong signed and dedicated this photo to Mrs Featherstonhaugh



The Whit Monday meeting at Brooklands on 16 May 1932, the Nottingham Senior Mountain Handicap of 12 miles which Buddy won in the 1½ litre Alfa. Buddy is in no 15, about to pass the Frazer Nash, no 18

d'Albigeois at Albi near Toulouse in France. He also drove a small MG in 1935 and in May won the JCC International Trophy at Brooklands as co-driver to Jock Manby-Colegrave. In 1936 he was again co-driver of the 1.5 litre ERA R1B, taking fifth place at the International Trophy three-hour race at Brooklands.

From 1936 Buddy continued with Reg Leopold's orchestra, Benny Carter, Bert Firman, Hugo Rignold's orchestra and Gerry Moore's band.

But his obsession with motor racing continued and in the 1939 he won the London Grand Prix driving a 3.8 litre eight-cylinder Alfa Romeo.

On the outbreak of war he joined the RAF as a corporal and led the Buddy Featherstonhaugh RAF Sextet, a group which included Vic Lewis, Don McAffer and Jack Parnell, and which later became the Radio Rhythm Club Sextet. They were the resident band on the BBC's *Radio Rhythm Club*, performed for ENSA and made recordings for EMI. In 1945 he appeared with his sextet in the film *Appointment with Crime* which starred William Hartnell and Herbert Lom. Then, leaving the RAF in 1946 as a sergeant, he took his Radio Rhythm Club Sextet on tour to Iceland. He later led the band at the Gargoyle Club in Soho.

A 1946 article by one Dennis May says: 'He is distinguished by a rather drawly habit of speech, punctuated by zestful bursts of laughter, freshening sometimes to gale force. He spends a good deal of time getting on the wrong tramcar, or off the right one at the wrong place. He was associated with the firm of Monza Motor Services from 1936 until the outbreak of war but has no gift for the insides of motorcars'.

In September 1946 Buddy undertook what we believe to be his final motorsport appearance. His beautiful 2½ litre Alfa Romeo won the Supercharged Standard Sports Car event at the Brighton Speed Trials on Madeira Drive at an average speed of 70.34 mph.

He gradually drifted back into music and led his own band in Staines and Twickenham in 1951-52. He also played lead alto with Rae Allen in Birmingham and Manchester in late



Buddy (second left) with Whitney Straight (third left) in 1934

1952. He continued to play with a variety of groups until in 1956 he returned to the jazz scene heading a bop quintet and recorded two albums playing baritone sax and clarinet. In 1957 he led a band on the liner *Orsova* and in 1956-58 toured the Middle East for the British War Office.

He then retired from jazz and spent years in luxury car sales in Warren Street and in Jack Barclay's various car showrooms in Mayfair. Buddy died on 12 July 1976 at Westminster, London, at the age of 67. As his *Times* obituary said: 'he was one of the few modern stylists of real calibre among British jazzmen of his generation'.



On the promenade at Brighton. Probably the 1946 Speed Trials

Buddy's family is also of interest. He was the son of Rupert Lee Featherstonhaugh (1880-1929), who went to Scotland to train in boatbuilding and married there. Little else is known about him. Rupert's brother Harry (Buddy's uncle) had attended the original Ascham and the College (Wargrave 1897-98). Harry was killed on the Somme on 8 July 1916 and is commemorated on the Ascham Arch and in our Memorial Arch.

Buddy's grandfather Henry was a good friend of Bertie, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. For a time he ran a magazine called *Illustrated Weekly News* (not to be confused with the *Illustrated London News*) but went bankrupt in 1868.

Buddy's great-grandfather George William Featherstonhaugh (1780-1866) had travelled to the USA, where his marriage to Charlotte Carter produced Buddy's grandfather Henry. George was a geologist and geographer and while in the USA planned the Albany and Schenectady railroad and held several other posts. Charlotte was his second wife, whom he married in 1831 after the death of his first wife. She was the granddaughter of the famous General Henry Lee ('Light Horse Harry'), revolutionary cavalry officer in the American War of Independence and 9th Governor of Virginia, and the name Lee was given to their eldest child, Georgina, born in the USA in the 1830s: it became even better known later through Charlotte's uncle, General Robert E Lee, the Confederate commander in the American civil war, and was passed down the family. Thereafter members of the family have adopted Lee as one of their Christian names.

Buddy was married five times: first to Marion Paddison in 1935. A son, Ian Grant, was born in 1937 and they must have divorced soon afterwards. Ian lives in Canada. He then married Joan Turner in 1941 and then in 1948 Gwen Young (née Whitmore) with whom he had two sons, Robin and Simon and a daughter Judy. Then came a fourth wife, an actress named Jenny, whose surname we don't know. Finally in 1967 he married Vera Beatrice Henrietta with whom he had three daughters: Linzie Lee (who died in a car accident aged 23), Michele and Sara. Sara visited the College archives in March 2016 and remains in touch with us.

A final question: why did so many musicians choose to double as racing drivers? We can find, among the better known, Billy Cotton, Ronnie Scott, Acker Bilk and Chris Barber. And even James Hunt played the trumpet.

Michael Partridge

#### Sources:

Sara Featherstonhaugh, Buddy's daughter, for help and advice.

Roger Bird, Brooklands Museum Library Volunteer, for information on Buddy's racing career.

Carl Spencer (Powell 1955-57) for information of Buddy's jazz career.

*Jazz Records 1897-1942*, compiled by Brian Rust, 3rd impression 1975. (Loaned by Carl Spencer).

Robert Hall (Wargrave 1955-59), Vice Chairman of the Brooklands Trust.

Paul Jordan, Liz Maloney and Graham Jones (former Director of Music).

# The champagne heritage tour



Day 1 – Lunch en route



Day 1 – The caves at Champagne House Taittinger

The Eastbournian Society organised a three-day champagne-tasting trip in and around Reims from Tuesday 3 to Thursday 5 May

Old Eastbournians, parents (of both current and former pupils), members of staff and other friends of the College all came together to make up the 36-strong party. After an early start on Tuesday, the group were taken by coach to France via Eurotunnel, stopping for lunch in Ardres. This was followed by a visit to Grande Marque Champagne House Taittinger, and dinner that evening at Restaurant L’Apostrophe in Reims.

The second day saw visits to Champagne Tribaut Haut Villiers and a discussion of vinification, and to Champagne Richard-Dhondt where the group learnt about regular and organic vine cultivation.

Lunch at Restaurant Clos-Saint Georges in Ay included tasting of the chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot

meuniere grapes. A return to Reims gave the group the opportunity of visiting the cathedral.

On Thursday, a demonstration of wine barrel making was given at Tonnellerie Hermonville before lunch on the way to Ardres.

The guide throughout the trip was Guy Boursot, who runs a wine shop in Ardres from which a number of purchases were made, before the coach set off for the return trip to Eastbourne.

A selection of photos from the trip is carried here but there are plenty more in our members area on the website at [www.eastbourniansociety.org](http://www.eastbourniansociety.org). To see them you will have to be registered and logged in, but you can easily do this by clicking on the link to ‘Members Area’ that you will find at the top of the home page.



Day 2 – Champagne Tribaut Haut Villiers



Day 2 – Walking the vineyards at Tribaut



Day 2 – Restaurant Clos-Saint Georges



Day 3 – A demonstration of wine barrel making at Tonnellerie Hermonville



## Eastbournian Medical Society

A meeting of the Eastbournian Medical Society was held on Saturday 12 March, a networking event for those working in or interested in a career in the world of medicine.

We were pleased to see eleven current College pupils make the journey up to the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincoln's Inn Fields, where they were able to meet Old Eastbournians in the medical profession.

College parent Scarlett McNally, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Eastbourne District General Hospital and a Council Member of the RCS, gave a presentation on *Surgical thinking: simplicity and streamlining*; and how to prevent dementia, diabetes and failure of the NHS.

Following the networking session, the attendees had a chance to take a private tour of the Hunterian Museum, followed by a buffet lunch.

More pictures of the event are on the website at [www.eastbourniansociety.org](http://www.eastbourniansociety.org). Follow the link to the Members Area to find out how to register and log in to view the photos.



Scarlett McNally (in red), and Dr Aleck Brownjohn (Powell 1958-64) (on right), with pupils from the College



Chris Brangwin

## The Youngest Boy in Wargrave?

Paul Jordan writes: A few months ago the archives received an intriguing email from a Christopher Brangwin. He had attended the College, he believed, from 1946 to 1947 and remembered very clearly being at Wargrave and could describe some of the staff and aspects of the building. He was keen to find out more about his time there, but this enquiry was unexpectedly going to turn into a bit of a Poirot mystery.

We first checked our records but there was no listing for him. We then checked Christopher's age; he was born in 1939 which made him too young to be in one of the College houses (he'd have been only about seven). He had told us that his father had been serving in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and it suddenly occurred to us that perhaps his father was based at the College as part of HMS *Marlborough* (the Royal Navy had taken

over much of the College during the war). Christopher confirmed that his father was indeed based at Eastbourne for a brief period from 1946 to 1947.

Finally came the moment when we were able to put all the pieces together. The probability was that as Christopher's father was based at HMS *Marlborough*, he enrolled his son informally for a couple of terms. Given his son's age, he would have attended the College's new prep school, Ascham, but Christopher remembered being at Wargrave. A 1946 copy of the *Eastbournian* revealed the answer. In the latter part of 1946, Ascham was growing so rapidly that they needed to find extra space for the boys so some were temporarily moved to Wargrave.

The mystery was solved and we feel it only right that Christopher Brangwin should be regarded as an Honorary OE.

## Insurance networking

The annual insurance networking event was held on Thursday 17 November in the City of London.

Old Eastbournians, current pupils, parents and staff attended the evening at Davy's Wine Bar in Mincing Lane.

The guest speaker was Johnny McCord (Gonville 1996-2001), pictured centre, who started his career at JK Buckenham as a junior marine reinsurance broker in 2002. Two years later he moved to ARB International as a marine cargo placing broker.

Johnny was a founding member of Roanoke International Brokers, starting up in 2010. He is currently a marine cargo producing broker but handles various other marine classes too.

Johnny provided a fresh perspective on the marine insurance market with a particular focus on cargo, and spoke about his career progression so far.

The event was also an opportunity for networking for those in the insurance sector, as well as to pass on careers advice to the College pupils who had travelled up to London for the evening.

More pictures of the evening are on the website at [www.eastbourniansociety.org](http://www.eastbourniansociety.org). Follow the link to 'Members Area' to find out how to register and log in to view the photos.



# An actor's life for me



Stuart, known then as John Croall, in the junior XV rugby squad, 1914

Between 1920 and 1939 John was a hugely popular film star. Described as being the equal of Ivor Novello in charm and good looks, from 1920 to 1930 he made 55 silent films in the UK, and over a 50-year period appeared in more than 100 plays. He was also a keen all-round sportsman and, when appearing in film, was physically daring, driving racing cars, fencing and flying a two-seater plane at 3,500m.

Born in Edinburgh in 1898, he and the family later moved to England and by 1911 he was attending Dunstable Grammar School in Bedfordshire. A fellow pupil was Gary Cooper, later to find fame in Hollywood.

The following year he was enrolled at the College. Known at the time as John Croall, he was a house prefect, a 2nd XV colour and a sergeant in the OTC (Officers' Training Corps). He was in School House, 1912-16.



Stuart, third from right, in *Our Betters* at the Globe Theatre in 1923

John Stuart was an OE whose career covered stage, film and television: from the early days of silent movies, then working with Alfred Hitchcock, many appearances on stage, up to his final screen role in the 1978 film version of *Superman*, alongside Marlon Brando.

He later said of his school days that he was scholastically pretty hopeless but loved games, particularly rugger and fives.

After leaving school, Croall joined the family firm of motor body builders, John Croall & Sons, and in 1917, while in Scotland, joined the Black Watch. He left for the Western Front as a private with the Seaforth Highlanders and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant a year later. The experience of the battlefield affected him deeply. He was later to tell a journalist 'For a kid of that age, war is hell'.

Invalidated with trench fever, he was released from hospital on Armistice Day 1918 and re-joined his battalion. Before being demobbed a year later, he had become the battalion entertainments officer, organising concert parties.

Back in England, with a change of name to John Stuart, he embarked on a remarkable film career. His first foray into moving pictures in 1920 was hardly glamorous; filming took place in a converted tram garage in Walthamstow.

But by 1923 he was getting regular parts. He appeared alongside Basil Rathbone in the first filmed version of *The School for Scandal*. In the same year Stuart took the lead in *A Sporting Double*, described by the *Gloucester Chronicle* as a great sporting drama which showed actual scenes from the Football Cup Final and the Derby.

*The Studio* (an arts magazine) sang his praises: 'The rise of John Stuart has been steady and consistent. It is due partly to his natural attributes and personal charm, but much more to his serious regard for his work and his faith in himself.'

But Stuart was not only drawing attention from the British film world. In 1925 he appeared in a British film *Venetian Lovers*. The difference from his other films was that not only did the cast include several European actors but it was filmed in Italy and Germany. The film so impressed the German film industry that they offered him a part in *Bachelor*



Cover star of a film fan magazine in 1927

*Wives*. Stuart was the first actor to benefit from a new artist exchange scheme between Gaumont and the German equivalent, UFA.

In 1926 Stuart appeared in a film entitled *The Pleasure Garden*. His role as the young innocent was not especially challenging and he received modest praise. To tempt patrons to the Picture Palace, Haywards Heath, the *Mid Sussex Times's* description of the plot was succinct to say the least: 'a tale of a good girl who marries a bad man, and it depicts life in the tropics'. More importantly it was the directorial debut of the then largely unknown Alfred Hitchcock.

Stuart's popularity was soaring and in 1927, the John Stuart Friendship Club was established. One fan reported:

'I was once introduced to HRH the Prince of Wales [later the Duke of Windsor], but the 45 minutes I spent with John Stuart far exceeded the pleasure I derived from the Prince.'

Fame had indeed arrived. Listed as a 'professional dancer', Stuart was among dozens of celebrities at the Stage Guild ball and cabaret, held at the Hammersmith Palais in 1928. Among other luminaries were Tallulah Bankhead, selecting the lucky numbers in the draw, and Jack Buchanan who handed out the prizes.

In the late 1920s Hollywood beckoned and Stuart was interviewed by Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks for a possible film role. But nothing was to come of this.

The First World War-inspired film *Roses of Picardy* (1927) must have revived terrible memories for Stuart. During an interview he revealed that his greatest friends had all been killed: 'never in his life had anything hurt him so much as the death of these youthful comrades'. Of the film, one newspaper described how 'one gets a sense of monotony, of helplessness, and above all, futility'. The film is set in the late 1920s and in a particularly poignant scene, Stuart, playing an ex-army officer, arrives after the war at the site of one of the battles. As he surveys the rows of gravestones, a man with a megaphone is announcing to a charabanc loaded with tourists that it is a place in which nothing of importance has occurred.

The introduction of sound in the late 1920s caused panic among some of the biggest stars, their voices not matching their screen personae. But with his pleasant tenor voice Stuart had no problem making the transition. It was during the making of *Kitty* that the director decided to shoot the latter part of the film in sound. There were no facilities for doing this in the UK so the cast travelled to New York, and on to the sound stages of RKO Studios. The world première took place in mid-Atlantic, on board the liner *Majestic*, the ship in which Stuart and his colleagues were returning home.

Despite Stuart's natural apprehension, the *Cinema Times* described his voice as 'screen perfect', suggesting that it resembled that of Ronald Colman. Stuart later said:

'I had no trouble learning my lines, because of my stage experience I found it quite easy'.

He appeared in numerous films following the switch-over to sound. He worked with Hitchcock again in the thriller, *Number Seventeen*, in which he played the hero and appeared as Gracie Fields' Scottish boyfriend Mac in the musical comedy film *The Show Goes On*.

During the Second World War (he tried to enlist but was turned down because of his previous trench fever) he featured in propaganda films such as *Ships with Wings*, 'an epic story of the Fleet Air Arm' and *The Big Blockade*.



Hitchcock's directorial debut, *The Pleasure Garden* (1926), in which Stuart appeared

Post war, he had a steady career in the film industry, from the comedy *It's a Great Day* (a screen adaptation of the TV soap opera hit, *The Grove Family*), to *Sink the Bismarck!* in 1960. His final role was in the 1978 film *Superman* in which he played the 10th Elder alongside Marlon Brando on the Planet Krypton.

Stuart was equally at home on the stage and the screen. His first role, soon after leaving the army,

was as a spear carrier in a production of *The Trojan Women* at the Old Vic, which starred the legendary Sybil Thorndike – a fact he embellished in order to gain his first film role!

Larger roles followed. In 1923 he appeared as Lord Bleane in the first production of the Somerset Maugham play *Our Betters* at the Globe Theatre. *The Stage* magazine said his part was 'sustained very agreeably and naturally'.

Two years later, he played the part of Nural-din in *Sumurun* (a story based on *Tales from the Arabian Nights*) at the London Coliseum. It was reported that he 'recites the prologue

with capital effect'. He not only acted, but was also appointed manager of the Greyhound Theatre, Croydon, for a repertory season in 1928. Just over ten years later, he was to head his own repertory company in Sunderland for three seasons. It was during this run that he took the part of Harry Weston in *White Cargo* – a part that had been played by another Old Eastbournian, Murray Carrington, several years previously (an account of Carrington's career can be found in the 2015 *Old Eastbournian* magazine).

He was busy throughout the 1930s, often in the West End, appearing in a poorly received London show *Finished Abroad*. *The Stage* reported that Stuart, playing the Count Briano Curioni, 'did his best to convert a shadow into a substance'. Other plays included *Public Saviour No 1* which starred Stuart as a young prophet and healer who 'bore himself with dignity' and *What We All Want*, a tour of a farcical comedy.

During the Second World War, he appeared in the propaganda play *Escort*, a naval drama, described by one newspaper review as a 'melodrama of the sea, burning with patriotism, bristling with excitement'. *The Spectator* magazine stated that 'John Stuart convinces us that Captain Ewart, RN, was a true hero'.

He continued his acting career after the war and in 1945 he appeared at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, in a production of *A Doll's House*. One of his co-stars was Angela Baddeley, later to find fame as Mrs Bridges in the television drama, *Upstairs Downstairs*.

His other work at the Devonshire Park Theatre included appearances in *The Bells Ring* (1946), *Dead Secret* (1953), and *The Trial of Mary Dugan* (1956).

Television can also be added to Stuart's career as an actor. From the late 1940s onwards he appeared in a variety of genres from science fiction, for example *Space School*, and children's television, including *The Railway Children* in the 1950s, to popular programmes such as *Dr Finlay's Casebook* in the 1960s and *The Carnforth Practice* in the 1970s.

Stuart died in 1979 at the age of 81. He once said of his multi-faceted career:

'I look back with pleasure on the past. I had a very full and interesting career, all of which I enjoyed immensely'.

Paul Jordan



Stuart in a moment of peril with Anne Grey in Hitchcock's *Number Seventeen* (1932)

The College archives would like to add its grateful thanks to Jonathan Croall, John Stuart's son, for his help and guidance in the compiling of this article. Jonathan's illustrated biography about his father's career has also been of great use: *Forgotten Stars: My Father and the British Silent-Film World*, published by Fathom Publishing, 2013. Details at [www.jonathancroall.com](http://www.jonathancroall.com)



# A Farewell to Simon Davies



Simon Davies completed his tenure as Headmaster of Eastbourne College at the end of the summer term 2016, after eleven years in the role. On Saturday 2 July, Old Eastbournian and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors Philip Broadley (Wargrave 1974–79) paid tribute to Simon at the Speech Day presentations in Eastbourne’s Winter Gardens.

grades to the exclusion of other goals.

At this point I must admit to having a particular interest in reading and watching commencement addresses given at US universities. They are unlike anything we have in the UK and, at their best, they are original and thought provoking. So it was that I came to be watching President Obama at Rutgers University in May this year. I was surprised to hear him say this, part way through his address:

‘Qualities like kindness and compassion, honesty, hard work – they often matter more than technical skills or know-how.’

This sounded very familiar. In fact, rather like ‘pursuit of excellence, participation, integrity, courtesy, kindness, taking care of those who take care of us’: the values of Eastbourne College as Simon encapsulated them in 2006. The rest of the world is finally catching up.

It is never easy to know if ideas promoted at the top of an organization percolate through it. It was therefore very reassuring to me to read the results of part of the leadership day that Year 12 took part in just over a week ago. Teams were asked to come up with a manifesto for the College; they had no idea that I might see the results, still less read one today.

‘Eastbourne College aims to combine individuality with an innate sense of kindness within pupils who are both well rounded and integral. With teachers who are trained to fuel the ambition of their students, Eastbourne College has proven itself to be adept at nurturing both academia and compassion into their pupils.

‘This is possible because Eastbourne College encourages its students to participate in charity work, whether it be for St Wilfrid’s, the Eastbourne food bank or Chaseley Trust. This has a dual effect – we help the community and make a good reputation for ourselves in doing so.

‘Such a reputation is not only built through charity – this school emphasises the importance of courtesy, to the members of the Eastbourne community who share our campus as their home so that our school may be regarded as respectful.

‘Finally, with a consistent host of impressive sport, art, drama and academic endeavours, the school can afford to withdraw from league tables and let our raw statistics speak for themselves.’

Thank you Team Four. It is clear that our values are indeed common to all of us.

Eleven years has seen much tangible achievement. If I can single out a few from many I must begin by our stronger links with our community. It is no accident that the main entrance to the Birley Centre is an outward-facing one on Carlisle Road for the public to use. Simon has been the driving force behind the Eastbourne Schools Partnership, described by the chairman of Ofsted when he visited as a shining example for others to follow. Next, I point to St Andrew’s Prep and Eastbourne College successfully merged some six years ago in a model that allows and encourages St Andrew’s to maintain its own direction. This is a model unlike any other, as experienced ISI inspectors point out, but it is built on trust and confidence.

I would also single out some things that few will know about but are nonetheless of wider importance than just Eastbourne. In 2007, the Charity Commission proposed radical change to the way that public benefit would be assessed in all charities. A robust challenge was essential. Simon prepared a detailed and passionate response that was held up by the Independent Schools Council as a template for other schools to use. More recently, the coalition government proposed changes to the funding of CCFs that, while well-intentioned, would have led most schools to switch to other forms of adventure-based train-

ing. Simon’s response to that consultation was judged by many to have been decisive in the proposals being abandoned. Our CCF continues to flourish and it does so with cadets from Ratton School in Eastbourne within it. These are achievements that do not get wide praise; they are technical and do not lend themselves to *Daily Telegraph* articles. They are vital nonetheless and they come about because Simon cares deeply and profoundly about education.

Eleven years is a long time to be the head of any organisation – be it in government, business, public service or charity. Expectations and pressures on our leaders are ever greater. There is a time to move on, ideally while people still want one to stay. Simon leaves his own enduring legacy on Eastbourne College on which Tom Lawson, our new headmaster, will undoubtedly build. Tom shares Simon’s belief in our values and will undoubtedly build on them in changing times. Such is the way with any dynamic, adaptive and agile organisation. Indeed, Simon has spoken many times about thinking about what his successor’s successor will be building on.

However, there is one aspect of a head’s role that is different from most others. When I have changed jobs I have not needed to change homes, I just move on to the next thing. A head and his family are an integral part of the community they serve. This is especially true here given the location of the head’s house above the shop. Simon tells me that he has lived in Eastbourne longer than anywhere else in his life. Robina and Simon were the first incumbents to send their children to the College. Simon, Robina, Patrick, Tom and Celia: truly a family of Eastbournians.

Simon, I have embarrassed you enough. You want to have the last word. On behalf of everyone I wish you and Robina a fond farewell. Thank you for being our headmaster.

I have to begin my remarks about Simon Davies, our headmaster for the last eleven years, by saying that he would very much prefer me not to be saying anything about him. I doubt you will be surprised by his modesty. I have told him he had no choice but I have promised to be brief.

I first met Simon in February 2005. Governors were interviewing candidates in my offices in London. I went to reception to meet Simon for the first time and he leapt to his feet and promptly showed me the way to my own office. I realized immediately that in front of me was someone who would not be afraid of taking the lead. So it has proved. Simon is a unique character. The past eleven years have been exciting and eventful. They have been energetic and – as with all relationships – occasionally exasperating. However, I would not have wished for anything else. I have seen at first hand on many occasions the care, thoroughness and thoughtfulness with which Simon has approached matters involving pupils, staff and others in our community.

Simon set out a very clear vision in 2005. Governors knew that we were appointing someone with a strong view of what education should be. It was not about league tables. His first challenge to us was to withdraw from the newspaper versions. The decision put us out on a limb at the time but many schools have joined us since. His reasoning was not that the tables did not matter but that they were only a part of what we should be judged by. His view has become more prevalent in recent years for a whole host of reasons: not least the adverse consequences that can follow from a relentless pressure on chasing

## The London business lunch

The annual London business lunch was held on Friday 14 October and, as it had proved to be a popular location last year, the venue was once again the Phoenix, a gastropub in Victoria.

This get-together is a networking event for all members of the Eastbournian Society – OEs, parents and staff – and is an ideal opportunity to discuss business and career development over an informal meal.

This year it was good to see a number of younger OEs attending and making the most of the chance to make contacts and get useful advice on work and careers.



## Shipping industry networking



The Baltic Exchange in the City of London was the venue for the shipping industry networking event on Wednesday 10 February.

A number of pupils travelled up from the College to benefit from the advice and experience of Old Eastbournians currently working in shipping. Leo Askaroff (Wargrave 2001–03) spoke about the importance of persistence and persuasiveness in building a successful career, and the pupils had a chance to make useful contacts as they start considering their futures at university and beyond. We were grateful to Mark Jackson (School 1975–77), chief commercial officer

of AM Nomikos Group, for his support of the shipping events in the past few years. Mark has since been appointed as the new chief executive officer of the Baltic Exchange, more details of which are in the News of OEs section on page 62.

More photos of the shipping event are on the website at [www.eastbourniansociety.org](http://www.eastbourniansociety.org). Please follow the link to 'Members area' where you can find out how to register and log in to see the pictures.

## Banking, broking and asset management networking

The PwC office at More London, overlooking Tower Bridge, was the venue on Thursday 24 November for the financial services networking event, focusing specifically on the banking, broking and asset management sectors, and professional services firms serving those sectors.

We had a good turn-out of pupils from the College, as well as parents and OEs, and it was encouraging to see a number of younger OEs, currently studying at university, come along.

The guest speaker was John Capaldi (Craig 1974–79), pictured centre, who spoke about



developments in the hedge fund industry and how he has progressed his career to date.

John is director of product development at Penso UK; he previously worked at Brevan Howard for five years, and spent eight years at one of the world's leading hedge fund

businesses, FRM, where he was a managing director and head of product management. John started his career at JP Morgan, where he worked for 14 years. The event was kindly co-sponsored by Darren Meek (Blackwater 1982–87), parent and College governor.

## Memories of the College in the late 1950s

Two Old Eastbournians, one who was a boarder and one a day boy, have sent us their memories of life in the College in the late 1950s. Unfortunately we do not have room to include everything they have written, but we present a few extracts here. Copies of their original texts have been put in the College archives, and full versions are available on the Eastbournian Society website.



Tony Hilton at his desk in Blackwater

### Tony Hilton (Blackwater House 1955–60)

In September 1955 I arrived by train at Eastbourne with my trunk and tuck box. John Underhill, my housemaster, met me at the station. My trunk was unpacked and stored, and my tuckbox was installed into my 'toise' (workstation). On arrival at my house, I was introduced to Timothy Nicolls (Blackwater 1955–58) who was to be my 'mater' and show me the ropes. He showed me around the local shops and then the College buildings, explained about corporal punishment and what was in and out of bounds.

As a new boy I had to learn how to make toast and tea to a prefect's specification. The toast had to be evenly brown, and whatever was spread on it had to be spread to the crust. Shoes had to be polished to a high shine, even the welts and under the arches! The toast was cooked on gas rings in the corridor outside the studies, and many carbon sacrifices occurred there!

We went to meet Mr Nugee, the headmaster, in his house in Old Wish Road. After that we set off to buy various necessary textbooks

and collect notebooks and of course the obligatory visit to Mrs Turner at the tuck shop.

As we, Timothy Nicolls and myself, moved around the College sorting out my timetable we met other new boys from other houses doing the same thing. My first lesson was to be in the New Building [now known as the D&T Building], which paradoxically was the oldest classroom block! The classroom was on the ground floor at the corner of the block nearest to Blackwater House, and was below street level. It was to be French with Mr Young. It was also his first class at the College. He was known as 'Monty' on account of his 'bouncy' CCF salute, mimicking that of the great Field Marshall.

When I left in 1960, he bought my old cricket boots for 6d (2.5p), the same price as a bar of Cadbury's Dairy Milk chocolate, then just recently off ration.

In the late 1990s 'Monty' and his wife Lisa came to Australia to meet up with his sister who lives near Wollongong. Tony Booth (School 1957–61) had organized a surprise party and

that was the last time any of us saw him. Apparently he had the cricket boots for many years. A lovely man, much missed.

Michael Birley (Headmaster 1956–70) gave me my first ever photographic commission. He asked me to take his photo in his office, and I used the old Kodachrome, at that time newly uprated from 8 ASA to 10 ASA. I also used bulb flash, so for me the whole thing was a nerve-racking new experience!

In 1959 Chris Hore (Blackwater 1955–60), John Templeton (Blackwater 1955–59) and myself planned a cycle tour of Wales. We met up at my family home at Coventry, and took the Great Western train from Leamington Spa to Chester. We went through Anglesey, and yes, we did camp at the place with the impossibly long name. In a café in Holyhead we heard Cliff Richard and the Drifters for the first time (before they changed their name to The Shadows). At St Davids we stayed with the Birleys and ran on Birley time. (Michael Birley lived in his own time zone, so it was up at dawn, and bed at sunset).

Those days, now long past, are very fondly remembered through rose-tinted glasses, as at the time there were definitely thoughts of absconding, but we (most of us) saw it through to the end, and with hindsight can end on a truly positive note by saying that it absolutely gave us the tools to deal with life and all it throws at you, a really well-rounded education and skill set, and some lifelong friendships. Ex Oriente Salus.



Tony's first photographic commission was this portrait of Headmaster Michael Birley

### Chris Ennals (Powell 1956–60)

Writing this in September 2016, it is exactly 60 years since I entered the College in the Michaelmas term. Earlier in the summer, I had taken the scholarship exam in Big School and had been interviewed by the outgoing headmaster, Mr Nugee. I won an exhibition.

My parents had arranged that I should enter Powell House. Roger Pertwee (Powell

1956–60), a friend of mine at my prep school, Nevill House, had already started the previous term, and I was greatly relieved when it transpired he was to be my 'nurse' or mentor for the first few weeks. Having been joint head boy at Nevill House, and on friendly terms with the headmaster, who had taught me Latin and Greek, it was a sharp plunge to be the small fry at Powell.

In the daily term-time life of the College at that time, was there any real difference

being a day boy as compared to being a boarder? For me, the regime of the first week was quite a shock, and pretty exhausting for a 13-year-old. I bicycled down each morning from Ocklynge; [Housemaster] Teddy Craig was just about finished with breakfast when I arrived at 8am. After a sojourn in the prep room there was a walk to chapel, two classes, PT (physical training) at about 11am in the break, then more lessons, lunch, games, evening classes, tea, evening prayers and

assembly in one of the large rooms at Powell, homework and bicycling home in the dark. There were, however, half holidays. But on Saturday afternoon we had to watch the rigger match if there was one, and we had to attend chapel twice on Sundays – more bicycling back and forth from home! So perhaps the main difference was that if we day boys were sick or just under the weather, we had the loving care of our home environment.

Because of my exhibition I had been put in the ‘fast track’, jumping into the third form, which meant that I would be taking my O levels at the tender age of just 14. I had no worries about the work, except for maths which I was weak at. To my amazement, after two weeks or so, I learnt that I had been awarded three pluses for good work and would have to visit the new headmaster, Mr Birley. I thought the atmosphere of the headmaster’s house was very grand, with tasteful antique furniture. He was extremely pleasant to talk to, and gave me the appropriate measure of encouragement to continue working hard.



**Chris Ennals in his blue serge suit with boater (1956)**

This first term was, of course, the worst. The prep room and the changing rooms were hopelessly overcrowded. I cannot recall having to do a great deal to serve the wants of the house prefects, who were a decent lot. There was no bullying, but a certain amount of teasing and practical jokes in the junior ranks. Teddy Craig seemed to rule with a rod of iron, and everybody knew their place. Every so often, he would launch into one of his ‘pep-talks’ and one could hear a pin drop – sometimes it was difficult to repress the giggles!

Doing lessons, the system was that we the pupils moved round to the master’s classrooms for each subject and there were different levels within the same year. Thus I could benefit from being taught by Mr Howell at the lowest level for maths. He was expert at making maths understandable.

Lunch each day was in the Powell House dining room, and Reeves also ate there. We had visiting masters, and were expected to make polite conversation if we sat down next to them. Thus I often conversed with Mr Bagnall-Oakeley, who was full of interesting comments!



**Tony Finch, Roger Pertwee, David Ward, Tim Jordan and one other relaxing on Powell House balcony (1960)**

Presumably we had time to digest our lunch before walking up to the games fields – rigger in the Michaelmas and Lent terms, with cricket in the summer my first year. I was not particularly fond of either of these major sports. My first field day in the school corps was very hot, and I distinguished myself by fainting on College Field just as the march past was getting under way!

As regards Sunday chapel, even on a burning hot day we had to wear our best blue serge and boater. I remember most the ceremony of the chapel services, with Mr Allom playing a leading part from the choir, but there were also some good sermons. Being confirmed was a rather harrowing experience as we had to learn by heart the 39 articles of the Church of England under the supervision of our housemaster.

What was Eastbourne town like during the late fifties? Physically, the scars from the war bombing had all but disappeared. The main departmental stores were Bobby’s and Plummer’s, with Elliot’s Stores in South Street for food. There were not many cars about, so it was safe to bicycle and I often used the bus.

In the holidays I liked going to the cinema, as we could not do this in term time, and I used to go with my family to the Devonshire Park Theatre, which offered a wide range of plays. On the pier in the summer there was ballroom dancing most evenings with live bands and the

bandstand had brass band concerts almost every day during the season. High-brow tastes were catered for in the Winter Garden, with the visiting London Philharmonic. Thus for a teenage boy, Eastbourne really had plenty to offer in wholesome entertainment.

Later years at the College were spent in the Classical Vth and Vith. We were, I suppose, a rather select bunch of would-be scholars. Our ambience was also rather special as we sat round a mahogany dining room table in the masters’ lodge. Michael Birley swept in and took us through the Iliad of Homer, expecting us to translate fairly fluently. Tony Henderson was in charge of the classics department. He was an inspiring teacher, with great human wisdom. We used to have declamation sessions in the Dell, a tiny amphitheatre behind Big School, where we had to recite by heart some of the famous passages of Socrates and Cicero. And Brian Harral was extremely thorough when teaching us ancient history, and took us up to Cambridge to see a Greek play.

As regards sport, for the summer terms I was now allowed to indulge in tennis, which I had played with increasing passion since the age of ten. Powell House had some good players, and apart from the hard courts there, we had the magnificent grass courts at Devonshire Park to play on. Chris Kirk-Greene, the master in charge, and Donald Perrens often played with the team. I ended up as captain of tennis and played in the Youll Cup in my final summer. I was accepted for a place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in December 1960, and left the College at Christmas.

Looking back on these years, I think Michael Birley gradually loosened up a rather rigid system at the College, based on compulsion rather than choice, especially for the junior boys. Many of the masters had been on active service during the war, and the prevailing notion among masters and parents alike may well have been that boys at public schools still needed toughening up to become future leaders in a Cold War setting.

I have now lived nearly 50 years in Norway, but I still have a soft spot in my heart for Eastbourne and the College as it has now become. My Norwegian wife and I try to visit now and again.



**The College team at the Wimbledon hard courts for the Youll Cup in 1960. Left to right: PJ Stevens (Gonville 1957–62), Mike Dunning (School 1956–60), Graham Boal (Powell 1957–62) and Chris Ennals (captain)**

## The service of thanksgiving for Robin Harrison

A service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Robin Harrison was held in the College Chapel on Saturday 7 May. Following the service, the congregation, made up of Old Eastbournians, former staff, colleagues and friends, attended a reception in Big School, where archive photos and details of Robin's lifelong commitment to the College were on show.



This picture of Robin was on the order of service

Robin was a pupil in Pennell House from 1942–47. He returned to teach at the College from 1953 until 1989, during which time he was responsible for College rugby from 1955 to 1974, head of geography from 1966 to 1979, housemaster of Craig House from 1978 to 1986 and master-in-charge of golf from 1973 to 1989.

In 1976 he was appointed Secretary of the Old Eastbournian Association and continued in this role until 2004.

Robin died on 11 June 2015 and a tribute to him was carried in last year's magazine. At the service the eulogy was read by Forbes Wastie, long-time teaching colleague and friend of Robin's. We are pleased to reproduce it here.

I feel very honoured to have been asked by Liz, Suzanna and Philippa to pay tribute to Robin, a man of many talents, who with great loyalty has served his school for over 70 years in so many different capacities. I count it my good fortune to have known him and to have worked closely with him for over 50 years. He was a country man at heart and when Michael Birley appointed me in 1961 I was given living quarters in the Masters' Lodge alongside Robin and his unique springer spaniel Tigger.

Being a farmer's son I shared several interests with Robin, and for that reason I was made to feel very much at ease and quickly settled to a busy and involved life in a caring and vibrant community. So began a friendship which spans well over 50 years. I have much to be grateful for, he taught me to play golf, fly fishing and fly tying, he introduced me to Scottish dancing with Rivers and Alison Currie and we used to go

pigeon shooting on the Wadman's farm when school duties permitted.

As most of you will know, Robin started his secondary schooling not at Eastbourne but at Radley, the College having been evacuated under Headmaster John Nugee in 1940. Robin joined Pennell House, with Robert Storrs as housemaster, in 1942 a few weeks short of his 14th birthday. It was at Radley that his sporting attributes became manifest. Aged 16 he was playing for the Eastbourne Rugby XV as scrum-half, and was a member of the legendary XV which defeated Radley 4 points to 3 – a dropped goal to a try under the old scoring.

On the return to Eastbourne in 1945 Robert Storrs (or Juggins as he was affectionately known) appointed him head of house, a post he held for two years, becoming head of school in 1946. There was an occasion when he was head of school that he learned that the Royal Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were staying at Compton Place as guests of

the Duke of Devonshire. He wrote inviting them to tea in the prefects' study in the hope that they might ask the headmaster to grant a whole day holiday to mark the occasion. A hand-written letter came from the Duke declining the invitation, and a mystified Mr Nugee, the headmaster, received a letter from the secretary to the Princesses asking that the school be granted a whole day holiday. The headmaster never knew why he had been asked to grant one.

In his 62 years at the College his list of achievements must exceed any that had gone before or since. He was head of Pennell 1945–47, head of school 1947, captain of rugby, (he was a Stag for three years from 1944 to 1947), captain of cricket and shooting, and in athletics ran the 100 yards and put the shot. In his final year he passed the entrance exam for Sandhurst, but he did not take it up, rather from school he did his national service. He had some choice tales to tell about that experience, for he managed to spend most of his time playing sport and becoming expert in cinema projection!

After national service he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where after a year he was awarded an exhibition. He gained his rugby Blue in the 1951 varsity match playing scrum-half to Ricky Bartlett who went on to play for England. He also played cricket for the Crusaders, the university's second team. He graduated in 1952 with a 2.1 honours degree in geography.

After taking a diploma in education and teaching practice at St John's Leatherhead, he joined the staff at the College under John Nugee to teach geography, within the department run by John Underhill who had taught him several years earlier. John Templeton (Blackwater 1955–59) states: 'My future career and interests must be attributed very largely to Robin who opened my eyes to the geography of the world.'

Robin took over running the rigger from Beefy Howell in 1955 until 1974, was head of geography from 1966 to 1979, housemaster of Craig House from 1978 to 1986 and master i/c golf from 1973 to 1989. Peter Henley (Gonville 1968–73) remembers 'being captain of the 1st XV in the first match that Robin had ever lost to Brighton College as player or coach. Afterwards Mrs Harrison advised me not even to speak to him as he was so apoplectic! The team started winning again when Robin got rid of me from the centre of things out on the wing!' Tony Henderson, to mark Robin's retirement from teaching in 1989, said: 'There were giants in the earth at that time and foremost of these giants was RBH, his astounding enthusiasm leaves me open-mouthed.'

The most momentous event in Robin's life occurred in the Easter holiday 1965. For holidays Robin usually returned to his





Many OEs and former members of staff attended the service and reception



Robin's wife Liz and daughter Philippa Love outside Chapel

mother's home in Salcombe, South Devon, it had the quaint address – Poacher's Pocket, Batson's Creek, Salcombe – naturally Robin kept his dinghy moored in the creek, he was a competent sailor too. One fine day he went to Thurleston Golf Club with Tigger to do some practising (dogs were allowed on golf courses in those days). Now a certain young lady taking the day off from her job at Dartington Hall had the same idea and arrived at the same time on the first tee! Robin very politely invited her to join him. Robin was obviously smitten, a matter of love at first sight perhaps, but as Liz has told me recently it was the immaculate behaviour of Tigger which really captured her attention. Later the boys at the College always referred to Liz as Mrs Tigger. At the end of the round Liz invited Robin to a party the next evening and Robin arrived not with flowers or a bottle, as you might expect, but with a saucepan of rice

pudding ready for heating! He always was keen on his food!

All this happened in the Easter holidays of that year and as we gathered to start the summer term Jill and Michael Reading organised a party in Granville at Ascham to celebrate their engagement, and so started the most happy phase of Robin's life. Their two daughters Suzanna and Philippa both came to the College, both are married with children, and as you might expect Robin and Liz have taken great pride in their achievements. Both are here today: Suzanna from America and Philippa from Richmond, Yorkshire.

One of the saddest moments in his life must have been the death of his faithful dog Tigger in 1968, having acquired him in 1956. In the OE magazine of 2003–04 Robin wrote: 'Many OEs will remember Tigger patrolling the touchline in 1st XV matches, inspecting all the other dogs and, presumably, making sure that they were behaving properly. When I was refereeing house matches he always seemed able to distinguish the final whistle from all other whistles, and would shoot on to the pitch to greet me long before anyone else had reacted.' Tigger developed the skill of finding golf balls and was able to distinguish between a lost ball and a ball in play. His record find was 59 balls in one round! He was buried beneath an apple tree behind the cricket nets at Memorial.

It was in 1976 that Robin was appointed Secretary of the Old Eastboumian Association, a task he took on with the utmost loyalty and commitment for 30 years, retiring in 2006. As Michael Partridge recounts: 'He and David Winn did much to revitalise the association, while the annual reunions owed their tremen-

dous success to Robin's careful planning and efficiency.' Again as Tony Henderson observed: 'The College to which he has given so much owes him far more than it can ever repay.'

In full retirement he was able to spend more time with his family, visiting America to see Suzanna and her sons, and Richmond to see Philippa and her daughters, taking great pride in their development and achievements. Golf at the Royal with Liz and with his friends of long standing, Mike Reading, Mike Mynott, Harry Clarke, Peter Pickett, John Clarke, Peter Brooks, Barry O'Sullivan, John Mason, Mike Walter, Iain Paterson, John Boyle and yours truly – fierce battles would ensue, all resulting in who should pay for tea! As a low handicap golfer (3) he was much in demand for the OE golf team.

Trout fishing was a special pastime and he spent many hours perfecting his casting, catching more fish than most and doing good business selling his catches to the local fishmonger. Gardening too kept him busy, taking great pride in his blooms when he was able to prevent badgers invading his garden! He and Liz spent many happy hours together playing bridge in the winter evenings with friends.

Robin was a man of many parts, modest to the nth degree, never seeking the limelight despite his diverse talents, and he was kindness personified, ever ready to visit the sick and suffering. I think he came to see me practically every day when I was hospitalised with infection after a knee operation. Sadly he will not be with us to celebrate the 150th anniversary of this his school, to which he contributed more than most as pupil, teacher and coach since 1942.

# Foundation Day 2016

Major donors and members of the Devonshire Society were invited by the Headmaster and his wife to lunch on Foundation Day, which was held on Thursday 30 June.

This annual lunch is a way for the College to express its thanks for the generosity of those who have pledged a legacy or made a donation towards development and bursary funds.

Following a drinks reception in the Birley Centre, the guests listened to a musical recital by pupils in the Jennifer Winn Auditorium, after which they posed for the group photograph here.

They then headed to the College Theatre for the Foundation Day lunch. Philip Broadley (Wargrave 1974–79), Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors, welcomed the guests, who then enjoyed a superb meal prepared by the College catering team.

They also heard from the Heads of School, Jaspal Singh (Reeves 2011–16) and Tianyu Wang (Watt 2011–16), who spoke about the opportunities they have had during their time at the College, their appreciation of the teaching and pastoral care, and their gratitude to members of the Devonshire Society and other donors for their generosity in supporting the College.



Heads of School Jaspal Singh and Tianyu Wang, who spoke at the lunch

The guests were able to complete their day by inspecting the exhibition about Gp Capt Lionel Rees VC, OBE, MC, AFC, Royal Artillery and 32 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps (Blackwater 1898–1901). The display, prepared by the College archives team, included replicas of Rees's medals and his ceremonial sword which he donated to the College in 1931.



Foundation Day guests in the Birley Centre auditorium



Enjoying lunch in the College Theatre

## Leaving a legacy to the College

The College has been built and developed through the generosity of supporters and benefactors over almost 150 years, with each generation of pupils inheriting the opportunities provided by their predecessors.

The Devonshire Society was created in 2002 and is Eastbourne College's legacy club. Bequests made to the College help fund bursaries, awards and scholarships, as well as providing funds for capital projects.

If you tell us that you plan to make a bequest to Eastbourne College, and do not request anonymity, you will automatically become a member of the Society and will be invited every year with your spouse or partner to a luncheon as a guest of the Headmaster.

More details about leaving a bequest are in the brochure *Your legacy*,

a copy of which will be sent on request. Alternatively you can download or print it from the Eastbourne Society website.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of making a donation or leaving funds for the College in your will, please contact David Stewart or Christine Todd.



**David Stewart**  
01323 452308  
das@eastbourne-college.co.uk

**Christine Todd**  
01323 452316  
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# The London Dinner 2016

Johnny Mercer MP (Pennell 1995–2000) was the special guest at the Eastbournian Society annual London dinner on Wednesday 13 April.



Hugh Price, Johnny Mercer MP and Simon Davies

The dinner, which this year was held at the In & Out Club in St James's, is an occasion for us to celebrate Eastbournian achievement.

Johnny is the Conservative MP for Plymouth Moor View, a seat which he won in the May 2015 general election. He has already made a considerable impact in the Commons with his campaigning for better support for war veterans, particularly in the field of mental health.

Johnny previously served in Afghanistan as a captain in 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery. He won the 'Speech of the Year' award at the Spectator magazine's Parliamentarian of the Year awards in November 2015, receiving much praise for his maiden speech in the previous June.

Johnny gave an amusing and heartfelt speech in which he talked about how College life was beneficial for him in terms of character building, his experiences in the army and how he became an MP, somewhat to his surprise, as he had been told that he would

be unable to win what had been a staunch Labour seat.

The dinner was also a chance for us to pay tribute to Simon Davies, who stepped down as Headmaster at the end of the 2015–16 academic year. Simon was presented with gifts of an Old Eastbournian tie and cufflinks by ES chairman Hugh Price (School 1961–66), who conferred on him the status of Honorary Old Eastbournian.

With almost 100 guests, the dinner was an opportunity for OEs to catch up with old friends and reminisce about their time at the College.

More pictures of the evening are available on the website at [www.eastbourniansociety.org](http://www.eastbourniansociety.org). Click on the link to 'Members area' for details of how to register and log in to view the photos.



# Visitors to the College

It's not just Old Eastbournians who return to the College, but others who have had a past connection with the school, its people or its buildings. The archives department is always willing to show visitors round, and this year has seen a number of them, all with very different memories and stories to tell.

## Kirsten Højfang

Our first visitor provided us with a wonderful insight into College life in the 1950s, but from a different perspective to the usual OE memories.



Kirsten in the former scullery in Wargrave where she used to wash the dishes

In 1952, Kirsten Højfang (née Pedersen) answered an advert placed in the Danish press by the College who were seeking au pairs. She had just finished three years training in a bank and before she qualified she decided to have a year's break, preferably abroad.

She arrived in Eastbourne in the summer of 1952, the College having paid for her passage from Denmark and even supplying a taxi to bring her from the station to the school.

Her duties at Wargrave were varied; she helped set the breakfast table in the mornings and washed the dishes in the scullery afterwards. She also washed the dormitory floors (the boys made their own beds) and the stairwells. Sometimes she would serve the housemaster and his wife, Mr and Mrs Tom Rodd, at table when their maid (who had 'a temper') was off. She described the Rodds as being 'very nice' though Mr Rodd could be 'very absent minded'.

Kirsten had been taught English at school and understood

the Rodds perfectly but she struggled at times to understand the kitchen staff, many of whom spoke with regional accents.

Kirsten's interaction with the boys was limited and very innocent. She remembers leaning out of her bedroom window to watch the boys come in and out of the house and 'flirting' with them when she met them in the hallways or when they came into the kitchen, but not when Matron was around!

During her free time, she would go to the beach or the cinema. On Coronation Day, in June 1953, she was given the day off and watched the service live on a specially installed television in Big School. She later bought a souvenir cup and plate to celebrate the occasion. By coincidence, her husband-to-be was on board a Danish navy ship moored on the Thames.

The College wasn't quite so generous when it was time for Kirsten to return to Denmark; she was supplied with a third-class ticket for the ferry. She recalls that it was very basic accommodation with benches instead of seats.

Kirsten clearly enjoyed her time at the College as she said it 'was the year of my life' and that Eastbourne was a 'very nice town' and a 'very nice place to be'.

## Pamela Collar

Another equally fascinating visitor was Pamela Collar (née Raison). Pam had been a Wren (Women's Royal Navy Service) at the College in the Second World War during



Pam by the HMS Marlborough plaque in the cloisters

its time as HMS *Marlborough*. Her role was to train naval officers in the mechanics of the gyro-compass (used aboard Royal Navy ships). Practical training took place in what had been the Cornfield Garage in Cornfield Road, Eastbourne.

She was billeted in Wargrave where she shared a 'cabin' (dormitory) with four other women, sleeping in bunk beds. According to Pam, the food wasn't very good so her mother sent her home-made marmalade and tins of corned beef.

When she saw College Field during her visit, it prompted a memory of her having to run laps around the field as a punishment for not wearing the appropriate head gear when riding her bicycle along the seafront.

Pam also had a lot of fun. She enjoyed going to dances in the hotels and the Winter Garden and once appeared on stage there as part of an amateur dance troupe. The local 'ack-ack' gun team provided Pam and the other Wrens with 'little white skirts' made out of sheets and put 'Blakeys' on their shoes (pieces of metal put into the soles to prevent wear and tear) so that they could tap dance. Apparently the dancing Wrens even featured on the cover of the *Eastbourne Gazette*. She liked going out with the 'Yanks' and talked of notices put up by them which read '12 Wrens invited to dance - transport provided'.

Perhaps her most striking memory was when she went up on to the tower of the Memorial

Building and saw hundreds of ships, so many that she 'couldn't see the sea'. She was witnessing the preparations for D-Day. Pam clearly enjoyed her visit to the College and walked round part of the site while describing her time there. She stopped off at the plaque in the cloisters which commemorates HMS *Marlborough's* presence at the College and went into Big School to see the HMS *Marlborough* crest which had originally been fixed to the gate pillar outside School House.

## Bob Collins (School 1948-53)

OE Bob Collins came back to the College with several members of his family and was given a tour of



Bob stands in the same place as the photo top left on the next page - 63 years on

School House. Bob had enrolled in Ascham in 1947 and joined School House at the College the following year. He was awarded his coxswain's colours in the 2nd IV in 1949 and was a member of the fencing team in 1950 and 1953. In the latter year, he received the Smallman Chemistry Prize. After graduating in chemistry from Liverpool Technical College, a 40-year career in the chemistry industry followed. He initially worked for ICI before joining the South African chemicals group, AECL. He retired in the late 1990s and has lived in South Africa



Pam in her Wren's uniform



The 1953 fencing team; standing at back: Bill Strong (PT instructor), Bob Collins, Christopher Kirk-Greene (master i/c fencing); seated: David Evershed-Martin (Blackwater 1949–54), Peter Higton (Pennell 1949–53), Robert Jago (Blackwater 1949–54)

since the 1980s. He was one of the South African OE College reps from 1985 to 2013.

We spent over an hour exploring the School House building with Bob, pointing out where the dining hall, classrooms and dormitories had been. In his day, School House was a boys boarding house. We had brought copies of photos of the house from Bob's time there, one of which was of him with the 1953 fencing team. We decided to re-enact the scene and ended up with a great photograph of Bob holding the 1953 photo in the same place that he had stood 63 years earlier!

## Owen Quirk

In October we welcomed Owen Quirk, a visitor from Australia, who is the nephew of Robin Forbes



Owen Quirk with College archivist Michael Partridge

(Wargrave 1952–57). Owen told us that his uncle, who also lives in Australia, had only recently revealed to his family that he had spent his schooldays in Eastbourne at the College. Owen was interested to find out more.

We were able to find photos of the 1957 Wargrave cross country team and also of the 1956 2nd XI cricket team, as well as two



Robin Forbes in cricket blazer, 1955

house groups, all of which featured Owen's uncle. We made copies which Owen will take back to Australia. As we had lost touch with Robin following his move to Australia we hope to reinstate him on our mailing database so that he can resume reading the *Old Eastbournian*.

## Dr Tim Ryder

In September the archives was visited by Dr Tim Ryder and his daughter Penny Burnham. Dr Ryder is the son of Tom Ryder (Home Boarder 1911–15) who was one of the more distinguished

OE's of the early 20th century. Dr Ryder, born 1930, went to St Cyprian's and then by scholarship to Eton, and to Kings, Cambridge. He achieved a double first in classics and then lectured at Hull and subsequently at Reading. Timothy's grandfather and Tom's father Alfred ran a bookshop at 51 South Street, Eastbourne, which operated as the College's stationers and booksellers. Alfred was also a director of the Eastbourne Pier Company and of the Eastbourne Sanitary Steam Laundry. He was involved in 1865 with the erection of the drinking fountain



Dr Tim Ryder and his daughter Penny Burnham

which now stands in Seahouses Square. He was also a member of St Peter's church choir, the local choral society and of the Eastbourne Downs Golf Club, at one time its captain. Alfred's father, Thomas, had been headmaster of Holy Trinity Schools.

Tom, the OE, attended Roborough prep (alma mater of Alec Guinness) and gained a scholarship to the College. The College's ban on the sons of those 'in trade' was lifted on account of Tom's scholastic achievements. The degree of snobbery in the town at that time was extraordinary and is illustrated by an extract from the *Gazette* of the 1890s: 'We must keep Eastbourne select. One encounters so many of the lower classes on the Parade these days - people such as doctors and managers...the motley crowd of non-descripts who saunter along the lower walk'.

Tom attended the College as a Home Boarder (day boy) from 1911 to 1915, finally winning an open mathematical scholarship to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. At the College, he was

a school prefect, 2nd XV rugby player and an accomplished cricketer: in the XI from 1913 to 1915, he was captain in his final year when he scored centuries against the MCC and the Masters, finishing the season with an average of over 50. Only a few weeks after that final year at the College, he enlisted for service in the First World War with the Royal Marine Artillery, was commissioned as a temporary Lieutenant and sent to join 8 Howitzer Section in France, where he served for the rest of the war, being awarded a Military Cross in 1918.

Demobilised in February 1919, he took up his scholarship at Cambridge in October, studying law rather than mathematics and benefitting from the reduction in the length of residence allowed to war veterans. He still had time for sport, playing cricket in the Freshmen's match in 1920 and regularly for his College and other teams, being awarded Crusader colours. He then embarked on training as a chartered account-



Tim's father Tom in the cricket XI in 1915

ant and on qualifying joined a small company, Castleton Elliot, in Throgmorton Avenue in the City, in which he became a partner. Among his customers were Rio Tinto Zinc, De Beers and other British companies in Africa; and also, it is believed, Lord Beaverbrook's brother-in-law, Gerald Sanger, who had served with him in the war and was editor of *Movietone News* throughout the Second World War and then of the *Daily Mail*.

In 1926 he married Enid Mary Sanger and, living at Claygate in Surrey, became the father of two sons, Samuel and Timothy. For some years he remained an active participant in sport, playing football for the Casuals and cricket for Esher CC where he became wicket keeper, captain and later hon treasurer until his death in August 1956.

# Walking for peace from Rome to Jerusalem

Paul Haines (Gonville 1963–67) completed a ‘walk for peace’ to Jerusalem in the second half of 2015. Here he describes how he took up long-distance walking and the journeys he has made



In October 2015, Paul met Syrian refugees on the island of Kastellorizo; Saeed had lost his leg in a car bomb attack

Having left Eastbourne College in 1967, I went on to study and then work as an architect, before eventually working as a set designer with BBC TV for about 20 years. Ill health struck in 1992 and I was retired in 1996. Having lost a job that I loved, I moved to Cornwall, changed my life around, and learnt a lot about living with a long-term illness. In 2010 there was an improvement in my health and I felt I wanted to make up for time lost and I took to long-distance walking.

The walking was along pilgrimage routes in Spain, England, Switzerland and Ireland. I was fascinated by the history and the spiritual significance of the walks. I kept asking myself, who was walking these routes and why were they walking? For myself, walking was a cathartic process and a way to deal with a number of personal issues, but I also had a feeling of being overjoyed and amazed that I could actually achieve these challenges.

After a while the personal reasons for my joy abated and I began to feel a need to walk for ‘something’. Over the years I had become involved with volunteering for the NHS and the Alzheimer’s Society, and saw how much ‘good’ there was in the giving and the receiving of the act of volunteering. I decided to walk to support the Singing for the Brain sessions I have been involved with in Truro, organised by the Alzheimer’s Society.

In 2014, from May to August, I walked from London to Rome on the Via Francigena, a distance of approximately 1,500 miles. I could immediately see the benefit gained from walking for a cause and in particular from walking with a sign on my chest saying ‘Alzheimers’. People wanted to talk, they were

curious. They wondered what I was doing and we were then able to talk about dementia and the terrible effect that it has on so many that are near and dear to us. I also felt aware of a ‘subliminal’ message that I gave to people as I passed them. They saw the words ‘Alzheimers’ on my chest, and as a result I hoped that it would become a more familiar word for them, and not something that some try to pretend isn’t there or that one shouldn’t talk about.

On this walk from London to Rome I came across refugees, both in France and Italy. I also walked for a solid three weeks through



With the Imam of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, January 2016

the First World War front line, with the Somme area central to this. Each day there were about five to six cemeteries. Every day I spent time looking at the gravestones, the registers and noting the ages and the nationalities of those that had died. It was an overwhelming experience and it left a very deep impression on me, making me feel that I wanted to do something to demonstrate how I felt about this senseless loss of life, the futility of war, and the feeling of hopelessness that many feel in working for peace. I can look back now and see that it helped to instil in me an idea that if I wanted to do another walk I would walk for peace.

At the end of July 2015 I started my Walk for Peace from Rome to Jerusalem. Again, this was a distance of about 1,500 miles, and this time I walked with an image on my chest of a dove of peace. The walk turned out to be the most amazing experience, far more than I ever might have imagined. From Rome I walked to Assisi, then to Loreto in Italy. I took a ferry from Ancona to Split, and then walked down the coast of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania. In Durrës, Albania, I followed the Via Egnatia, through Albania, Macedonia, to Thessaloniki in Greece. I stayed on Mount Athos for four days and then went by ferry through the Greek Islands of Samos, Patmos, Kos and Rhodes.

It was near here that I experienced meeting and helping with the refugee situation on a small Greek Island called Kastellorizo. I stayed here for two weeks. (With the island population of 250, at one point there were 750 refugees on the island). I was walking towards the Middle East for peace, and the refugees I met were walking in the opposite direction away from war. This was an extraordinary part of the walk, being thrust in to a situation where I had no experience. I learned so much, about other people, about myself, and I suddenly had first-hand experience of the reality of the refugee situation, and not the distorted view that sometimes we read about in the news.

My route then took me along the southern Turkish coast. I took the ferry to Northern Cyprus, walked from there to Limassol in the south and then by cargo boat to Haifa in Israel. I finished my walk by going from north of the Sea of Galilee, through Nazareth, via Tel Aviv, then to Jerusalem, arriving in time for Christmas in Bethlehem.

The walk was a hard enough challenge in its own right and I had some unique experiences just about every day, but what followed next was even more fascinating. The situation in Israel and Palestine is so complex and fraught with problems and difficulties, and yet there are so many beacons of light. I’m supporting a UK charity called Children of Peace, which helps individuals and groups that are working tirelessly, against the odds, for children in the Middle East. Specifically they help groups that bring children together from both Israel and Palestine. The charity takes no sides and it also sees the important role that children have as the key for peace in the future. During the next few weeks I had the privilege of



Paul's arrival in Jerusalem at Jaffa Gate, being met by Rena Shimoni, the Israeli Regional Representative for Children of Peace, December 2015



Meeting the Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Archbishop of Dublin, January 2016.

meeting some of these groups and individuals. I was overwhelmed and humbled by the experience, and I have come back determined to do whatever I can to help.

There have been three main stages to this Walk for Peace. During the first stage, before leaving, I had talked and written to people from many different walks of life and faiths asking for their Message of Peace for me to take with me on my walk and many of these are now on my website. They include messages from David Cameron, The Queen, the Archbishop of Canterbury and many others.

The second stage was the walk itself. While I walked I carried a book and asked people to write messages of their own. In Milan before I started the walk, I visited the World Expo and came away with Messages of Peace from 120 different countries. I continued asking people along the way and now have two books full of wonderful expressions, hopes, aspirations and desires for peace, along with memories of countless wonderful conversations. I was surprised by the amount of media coverage I had along the way, with TV appearances and newspaper articles in most of the ten countries I walked through.

The third stage is what is happening now. The peace walk continues in many different ways. I've been visiting places, meeting people, talking about the walk, and also organising events. On 21 September 2016, UN World Peace Day, I organized a massed choir singing event in Truro with 20 choirs and people from all faiths and walks of life speaking about peace. This was in conjunction with One Day One Choir, a global initiative for choirs around the world to sing for peace on 21 September.

There is so much that has surprised me about all the walks over these last years, and so much that I have learnt along the way. I was excited at the prospect of what would happen each day, and the unexpected is now almost taken for granted. I would have never expected that in 2014 in Lucca, Italy, I would be talking to Stevie Wonder about the benefits of music for health, or that later that year I would have been asked to talk about pilgrimage walking at a full service at Canterbury Cathedral.

During this last walk I have met countless inspirational people. In Jerusalem, in one day, I met the Archbishops of Jerusalem and Dublin, and the Imam of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and talked with them about peace. More recently I joined the Archbishop of York at the end of his six-month walking pilgrimage in York.

Face-to-face meetings all along the way to Jerusalem were often deeply profound and very moving. It was difficult knowing what to say to people fleeing from war, some who had been tortured, maimed, had family members killed, and earnestly looking in to your eyes

What motivates me to carry on comes as a direct result of the experiences and the people I met while I was walking. I have learnt a lot about the word Peace while I was walking, but I also learnt about Justice, Freedom and Dignity. Peace is a word that is often used and abused. To achieve a lasting peace requires huge amounts of work and commitment, and an acknowledgement that anyone of us can do something, however small.

The lesson I took from my walk was to be 'open', to offer the hand of friendship, to smile, to engage and talk to whomever one



One of the many groups Paul met connected with the charity Children of Peace. Women Wage Peace are very active and have recently organised the March of Hope with Israeli and Palestinian women walking together for peace

for some reaction to the horrors they had witnessed and experienced. As much as possible, I engaged with as many as I could, shook hands, talked, smiled, and kept an open mind to hugely complex issues.

This Walk for Peace has been extraordinary in so many ways. The physical side of the walk seemed of minor significance, mainly because the other experiences were so overwhelming, and they were occupying almost all of my time and mind. I came back, not so much physically tired, but mentally exhausted, and amazed at how much time it needed to process all that had happened in the six months I was away.

can. We are all people of the world and we should be able to live together in peace and harmony. The reality is that the overwhelming majority of us want this. It remains for us all to stay hopeful and to keep remembering, and never forget, that anyone of us can do something.

You can read more about Paul's walk and the charities he is supporting on the following websites:  
[www.peacewalk2015.com](http://www.peacewalk2015.com)  
[www.childrenofpeace.org.uk](http://www.childrenofpeace.org.uk)  
[www.onedayonechoir.org](http://www.onedayonechoir.org)

# Rupert Furneaux, author

In February 2016 the College archives was approached by one Phillip Jeffery to enquire about the life of author Rupert Furneaux (School House 1922–26). We found that he had had a quiet school career and, apart from achieving the rank of lance corporal in the OTC, our record of his schooldays, and thereafter, was nil. He had no Wikipedia entry but on the internet we found his prolific output of books, mainly of historical interest. Further research revealed that he had been the author of about 50 books and that his daughter Drusilla (Dru) was living at Midhurst in Sussex. After making contact with her, she agreed to write the biography which we are delighted to reproduce below.



**M**y father was born on 29 June 1908 on The Mumbles, the Gower Peninsula, South Wales. His parents, Arthur and Mona, had married in 1904 and because of their shared love for the game of golf, had moved there and, along with three other couples, laid out the links golf course at Pennard. This is where an 18-month-old Rupert first held a club made for him; I have the photo to prove it. Golf defined the household, along with dogs, his mother's other passion.

Early schooling was with a series of governesses, who seldom lasted more than two weeks; he was said to have been an adored and over-indulged child, used to getting his own way. He was also an undiagnosed dyslexic (as I was). He read late, and could never read out loud. His choice of books included novels while he was young; Thornton Wilder, Mark Twain, Wilkie Collins and PG Wodehouse were favourites. He had a sense of humour, but it could be rather unkind at times. Slapstick was a favourite throughout his life, and when TV arrived in his life in the 1960s, he loved Arthur Haynes. As a child growing up in South Wales, Saturday morning pictures were the great entertainment. The 'cliff-hanger' thrilled, as the episode ended with something dreadful about to happen to the heroine, to be continued next week when she was rescued by the hero and the villain vanquished. For comedy he loved the work of Chaplin.

He must have been 14 when he entered Eastbourne College in 1922. His parents had moved to Warlingham in Surrey at about that time. He did not enjoy school life; nothing

about it appealed. He did very well in religious knowledge and history. Maths was always very poor throughout his life and, apart from those authors mentioned, he disliked literature and, being tone deaf, disliked poetry and music. I know he won quite a lot of school prizes, but I no longer have them.

All he wanted to do was play golf. A career as a golf professional was not an option in the 1920s for someone from his background, and he was expected to take up his place at Oxford University. In those days entrance to university was more on who you were, than on academic ability. His grandfather had been a classics don there and his translations of the Annals of Tacitus were used until recently and may still be. Rupert's mother died in 1924 and that had a profound effect on him, especially as he and his father were not close.

His dislike of school and the influence of his uncle, FE Smith, 1st Earl of Birkenhead, who held the position of Lord Chancellor, and advised him not to take a degree in law – 'it's so boring' – led him to leave school and take a job as secretary to Lord Waring of the furniture manufacturers Waring and Gillow. Not really how we tend to think of secretaries now. He was more of a 'fixer': appointments, travel arrangements, advising with whom to speak, and arranging the meetings (well, maybe that is how we think of secretaries now!). He went to Cuba, as much of their furniture was made from Cuban mahogany. The perfect little trolley I have my laptop on is one of theirs. Cuba he loved. He found it exciting and full of life and colour. He travelled to the USA which he did not enjoy so much.

After leaving this job he went into the film industry as a producer, working with Alfred Hitchcock, whom he admired greatly. Through him he met actors like Peter Lorre and Anna May Wong, with whom he is said to have had an affair. He lived in London and led a typical bachelor existence: the single man invited to dinner to chat to the single woman. He hated the enforced wearing of evening dress, but loved the food and the company.

1939, war time. Unfit for active service (an ulcer, untreatable then), he went to work with the BBC as a producer, a career which lasted until the end of the war. This was radio

of course, TV having been abandoned for the duration of the war. I think he enjoyed his time there, but not because he thought it was a great place to work; he found it 'stuffy' and old-fashioned, but because he had fun... usually at other people's expense, and sometimes by playing elaborate pranks on his bosses. He was, for his time, a very modern man; he hated formality in dress and speech, and found the morality of the 1930s too restrictive. Moving into the film world had opened his eyes. During this time he wrote his first book, *William Howard Russell, the First War Correspondent*, which was published by Cassells. Their CEO became a good and close friend for many years.

There followed one or two more books before he turned to writing full time. One was *The Other Side of The Story*, on his interpretation of the New Testament, and *The Empty Tomb*. He was a hard-line atheist.

On leaving the BBC he set up his own film company with an Austrian émigré, making industrial films for ICI with such enthralling titles as *Parasitic Roundworm in Sheep*. This was what he was doing when in the

summer of 1947 he met, and within three weeks, married my mother, a 26-year-old divorcée, two of whose children lived with their paternal grandparents or father, and one of whom had

been adopted. He tried to adopt the eldest, a girl, being advised the boy was better off with his grandparents. Even though they were expecting me when they went to court, the adoption was refused. Years later he said how much he regretted it and would like to have adopted them. He loved small children and had an extraordinary

talent for getting on with them. He told outrageous stories, which would have gone down a storm now, but in the 1950s were not considered suitable for young minds.

Unfortunately three events came close to ruining his life in the spring of 1950. His business partner, through neglect or incompetence, left the company and it ceased to exist; his father died very suddenly without warning, causing my mother to have their second child two months early. As she refused to hos-





pital, the child did not reach an incubator in time and died two hours later. He was absolutely devastated. I remember the whole thing to this day and witnessed the suppressed but extreme distress. The marriage deteriorated from that point on.

He went to see the head of Cassells, and it was agreed he would write a book. A long relationship followed; criminology became his main concern at this time, as now that the war was over, people wanted excitement in their reading matter. Volumes 1 to 7 of *Famous Criminal Cases* followed. Other books on murders and the detection of them dominated his work for the next few years and put food on the table, although we were never well-off and went without many of the things that people in the 1950s thought normal. Books for other publishers, history, mystery (*The World's Strangest Mysteries*), battles, and wars (*The Zulu War, The Roman Siege of Jerusalem, The Seven Years War*), many translated into other languages, came along.

His own ancestry, Norman French, led to his book *Conquest 1066*, and he wrote a biography of his well-known ancestor, *Tobias Furneaux, Circumnavigator*. He appeared to be more commercially successful for a time. His output



in the early years was huge, averaging three books a year while doing all his own research. No Google then! In the 30 years of his life given to writing, he had more than 50 books published.

I knew the content of all his books, including the murderers, from a very early age as he would lecture us at mealtimes, often ruining my mother's appetite. Far too much unsuitable knowledge was imparted to me when very young which led to my first school asking for me to be removed. As it was a very old-fashioned girls' school in East Preston, West Sussex, I was only too glad to leave.

We then moved to Hayling Island where he loved to play golf on the excellent links course. He was an extremely good golfer. Playing off minus 2 before the war he was Sussex Amateur Champion in 1939, with an average handicap of 2 or 3, and Sussex Senior Champion in both 1970 and 1972. Golf was the constant passion in his life; writing was to pay the bills. But he never found it easy. As he got older his strength and stamina began to diminish; golf lost its pleasure as he could no longer win, and winning was all; he had no interest in the social side at all.

Tastes in books were changing and lots of

new authors were coming along who made few demands on their publishers and were grateful for any money they were paid. Not so Rupert. The last book he wrote is now lost; it was on the origins of the universe (we are talking 1970s here) and was rejected by all the USA publishers as there was no reference to the universe having been created by a Supreme Being.

We had moved to a beautiful, cold, neglected farm house on the Stansted Park Estate near Rowlands Castle in 1968, the year that I married and left home. My father and mother were divorced in 1976. She immediately remarried; he did not. Although he had been a brilliant father when I was small, a distance had grown up between us as he



was determined to run my life for me, and as I am like him in my desire for independence and self-determination, we had a difficult relationship. He died after a stroke on 16 January 1981 in an unheated house, with no income, and no pension as he had refused to comply with the National Insurance scheme brought in after the war. A life as a successful, published author, yes, but not the commercial success with the financial rewards people would expect today. Not a happy life either really, but like most of his generation, he did not expect happiness or fortune.

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# Project 150 challenges

Throughout the year, there have been a number of fund-raising challenges taking place, involving the whole Eastbournian Society community: parents, Old Eastbournians, pupils and staff. All of these have aimed to raise money towards the Project 150 project. Our thanks go to all of those who have taken part, sponsored or made donations.

## Donors to Project 150 challenges

All those who have made donations towards Project 150 challenges are listed on the Eastbournian Society website; simply follow the link from the Project 150 page. Our thanks go to all of them for their support and generosity.

### The Gonville walk

Over the final weekend of the Easter holiday, the boys and staff of Gonville House challenged themselves to walk 100 miles from Winchester to Eastbourne along the South Downs Way in just 48 hours. As well as raising funds for Project 150, they were also giving half of the proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support.

With senior boys walking for 12 hours each and junior boys walking six-hour shifts, the Gonville House Challenge team walked day and night to complete the 100 miles in just 44 hours. In total 38 boys and 14 staff took part in the walk. For the final leg from Birling Gap to the Western Lawns on Eastbourne seafront, the number of walkers rose to over 70 as the boys were joined by families and friends of Gonville and other Eastbournian Society members. The final total raised was just over £16,000.



The walkers about to embark on the final stretch from Birling Gap

### 150 kilos over 150 miles



Simon on the P150 site ready to roll

On Friday 27 May Headmaster Simon Davies set out on a personal challenge to help raise funds for Project 150 and more specifically to establish the 'Unknown Teacher' room in memory of teachers through the ages who have made a significant positive, perhaps even transformational, impact on those they have supported and challenged. Taking numerical inspiration from Project 150, he called the challenge '150 kilos over 150 miles'.

Having taken an overnight ferry from Newhaven, Simon set off on a solo unsupported cycle challenge from Dieppe early on Saturday morning, braving torrential downpours to arrive in Paris on Monday. He logged his progress on Twitter @EBCollegeLife, reporting at one point on Sunday: 'After lunch, it got VERY wet; forest paths became impassable; map turned to mush; iPhone battery died. Limped into Maison Lafitte at 2000'. Once in Paris, he was joined by College parent Thierry de Bailliencourt (on the left in the photo), who guided him to the Eiffel Tower.

The sponsorship raised almost £11,500 and, with Gift Aid, this amounted to over £13,800. Simon asked those who sponsored the ride to nominate a teacher. He said: 'Each one put forward will have their names recorded in the 'Unknown Teacher' room for posterity. Already there are current and former College teachers on that list as well as teachers from all over the world. Some are still teaching, some are retired and some are sadly no longer with us, but each one is remembered and valued for the impact they had on the lives of the person who nominated them'.



Simon with Thierry de Bailliencourt under the Eiffel Tower

### Vicky's marathon in Afghanistan

Nugent housemistress Vicky Burford spent the Michaelmas half-term break in Afghanistan preparing for, and then running, a marathon, the only mixed gender sporting event in the country. Vicky flew to Kabul on 28 October and then joined a group of international runners in Bamiyan. The entry fees paid by the international competitors enable the Afghan people to take part, thereby promoting running, especially for women, in the country. Vicky had already been on a reconnaissance trip to Afghanistan in 2015, so she knew what she was letting herself in for!

In total, 265 people took part in the marathon and the associated 10km run. The course climbed a total of 772m and took place at an altitude of approximately 3,000m, which made running pretty challenging at times. To Vicky's surprise, she was the first female home and finished the marathon in fourth place overall. She now holds the female course record. During the week, Vicky had the opportunity to visit some local areas, such as the lake at Band e-Amir, the site of the Buddhas which were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, and she also found time to teach a lesson to some refugee children in a cave school.

She believes that, without a doubt, it was the biggest cultural, emotional and physical step into the unknown she had ever taken, but one which was definitely worth it. There can

be a great deal of negative press about Afghanistan, but it is a beautiful country with extremely hospitable people. She is already planning a return visit in 2017 to defend her title.

Vicky set herself the challenge of raising £2,000 for charities which mean a lot to her and, with Gift Aid, the total had exceeded £2,500 by December. Part of the money went towards Project 150, the remainder to Cancer Research UK. She said that memories of her mother and sister, both of whom died prematurely of cancer, kept her going during her long training runs.



Victorious Vicky

## The Over-60s lunch



Speaker Philip Broadley, third from left, enjoys a pre-lunch drink with other guests

The annual Over-60s lunch for Old Eastbournians was held once again at St George's Hill Club in Weybridge on Monday 23 May.

We are grateful to Peter Jamieson (Blackwater 1960-63), the current Chairman of the Club, who kindly agreed to host the occasion on our behalf. This is an opportunity for all senior OEs to meet for a convivial meal and to hear from a guest speaker.

This year Philip Broadley (Wargrave 1974-79), who is the Chairman of the Project 150 campaign committee, focused on how much progress can be made when financial institutions are able to get involved in the developing world. His optimistic view for the future was based on personal experiences in this field and was linked back to the importance of his own formative educational experience at the College.

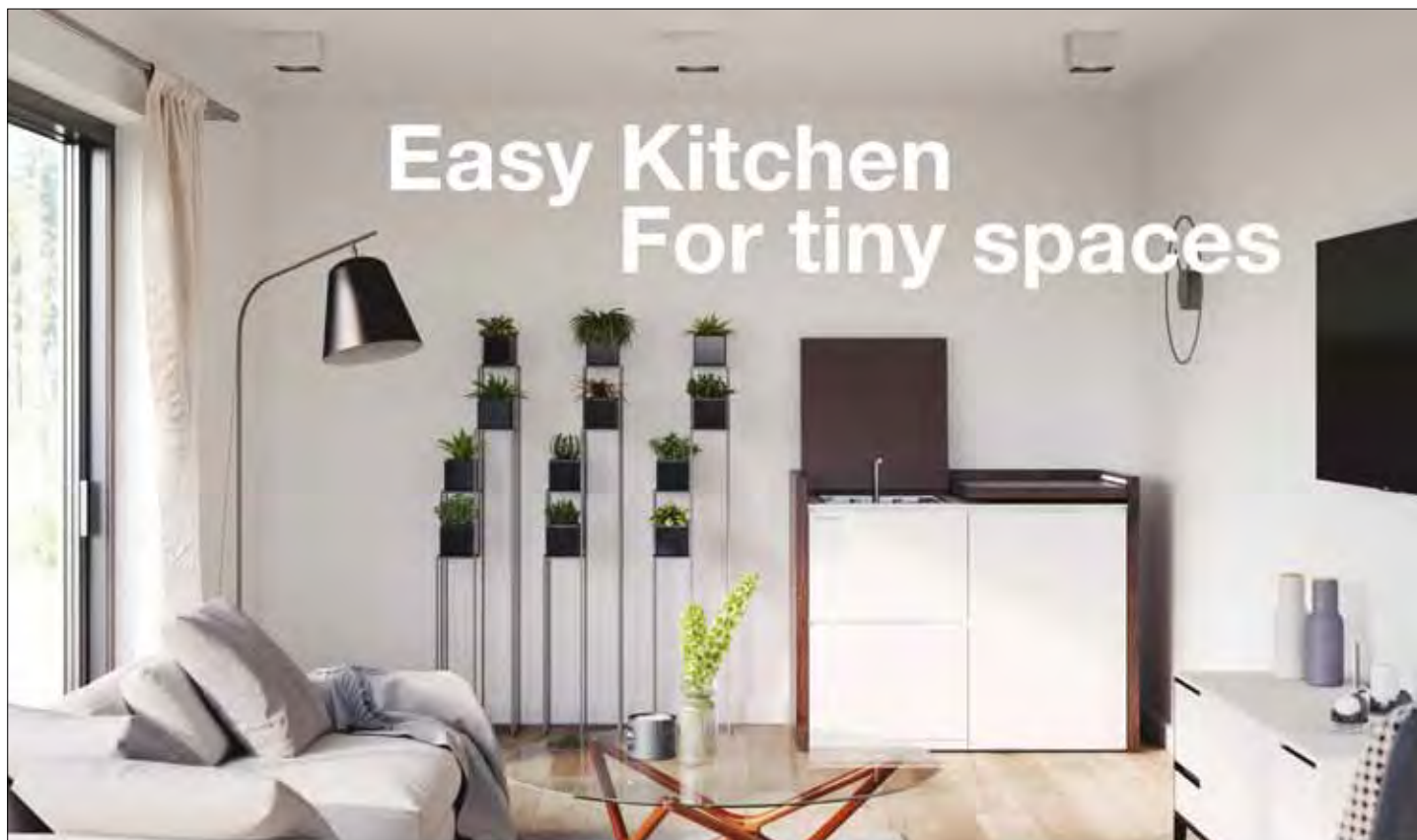
More pictures of the lunch are available on the Eastbournian Society website at [eastbourniansociety.org](http://eastbourniansociety.org), to those who are registered and logged in. Details of how to do this can be found on the Members Area page.

## Property networking

A career and business networking event focusing on the world of property was held in London on Thursday 1 December. A number of College pupils made the journey up to London to join Old Eastbournians, parents and others who were able to share their knowledge and expertise of the property sector.

The event was held at the offices of Aecom in Aldgate, and we are grateful to Tim Mote (School 1983-88) for hosting the evening. Tim spoke about some of the most interesting projects that Aecom is currently undertaking. The company is an American-owned multinational engineering firm that provides design, consulting, construction and management services to a wide range of clients globally and is number 156 on the 2016 Fortune 500 list.

The evening was a great opportunity for pupils to get a greater understanding of a career in property, as well as for OEs to meet and network with others in the same field.



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# Lionel Rees VC and the first day of the Somme

In May RAF Media Operations, in the shape of Sqn Ldr Pawsey and photographer/ interviewer Tim Morris, commemorated the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916, by filming a piece on Old Eastbournian Lionel Rees who was awarded his Victoria Cross on that same day.



RAF cadet George Williams stands by the Bristol Scout replica

Rees was commissioned in 1903 into the Royal Garrison Artillery and in 1912 he learned to fly at his own expense. He first saw action flying the Vickers Gunbus with 11 Squadron RFC in the summer of 1915. His gallant act of bravery, for which he won the VC, came as a temporary major in 32 Squadron flying Airco DH.2 No. 6015. Despite being outnumbered eight to one, Rees engaged the enemy in combat, dispersing the German aircraft and seriously damaging two.

The RAF media team visited the College and met pupil George Williams (Gonville 2011–16), senior RAF section cadet, and Archivist Michael Partridge, who were both interviewed and filmed on College Field. The RAF team were provided with various memorabilia about Rees’s distinguished life, both at the College and afterwards. They also visited the CCF building where his medals and sword are housed.

About a week later, more filming ensued at The Shuttleworth

Vintage Aircraft Collection at Old Warden Aerodrome near Biggleswade in Bedfordshire. A Bristol Scout replica was wheeled out and later flown to form a backdrop for further interviews. The Williams and Partridge families were there in force. The film was offered to a variety of media outlets and did well on social media and local news. The material, which is Crown Copyright, is now in our possession and we have permission to use it. We hope that in due course we may be able to put an edited extract on the Eastbournian Society website.

In a separate event, RAF chiefs paid tribute to Group Captain Rees on 1 July 2016, when a memorial paving stone provided by the UK government was unveiled by Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gwynedd Dr Elizabeth Andrews and Gwynedd Council Chairman Eric Jones, near to Rees’s birthplace at Plas Llanwnda in Castle Street, Caernarfon. It was followed by a flypast by four Hawker jet trainers from RAF Valley.

## Legal networking

Old Eastbournians, parents and pupils with an interest in the legal profession were invited to an informal networking evening at The Bunghole Cellars in High Holborn, London, on Wednesday 11 May.

The guest speaker was Joanna Smith QC, who recently won a Supreme Court case that has changed the law on an aspect of commercial drafting. She spoke about the freedom of working for yourself and the ability to make a difference to people’s lives, saying that, as a barrister, you can become a specialist in a variety of bizarre things in a very short time for each trial.



# The 2016 Foundation Golf Challenge

The 2016 Foundation Golf Challenge saw 21 teams take part at the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club on Friday 8 July.



Following registration, coffee and bacon rolls, the teams set out for a shotgun start at 12.30pm. The day was fine and blustery, but at least the rain stayed away. On returning to the clubhouse the winners were declared as the team from Handelsbanken.

After the prizegiving came the evening dinner and charity fundraising auction. We are pleased that over £17,500 was raised towards the Peter Bibby Award, which funds a bursary for a talented local cricketer to attend the College.

We are grateful for the main sponsorship of the day by M-Tech Systems and the goody bags supplied by Lloyds Bank.

Thanks also go to Christine Todd and Lulu Brown in the Eastbournian Society office for all their hard work in preparing for and organising the day.

The 2017 Golf Challenge will be held on Friday 7 July. If you would like to take part please contact Christine Todd at ct@eastbourne-college.co.uk or 01323 452316.



The winning team from Handelsbanken

## The Peter Bibby Award

This was set up by Peter's family, friends and sporting colleagues to honour and celebrate his life. The aim is to give a local youngster, who has a clear aptitude and passion for cricket, the chance of an education at the College by providing bursary funding. The latest recipient is Joe Pocklington, who joined Craig House in Year 9 in September 2014.

If you would like to donate to the award please contact Christine Todd at ct@eastbourne-college.co.uk or on 01323 452316. You can also donate online via Virgin Money Giving.



Some of the prizes and auction items

## Donors and sponsors

Thanks go to all those below who participated to make it such a successful day - the players, the generous bidders and the companies and individuals who kindly sponsored a hole or donated a prize or an item for the fundraising auction. If you would like to be a sponsor or donor for the 2017 Golf Challenge, please contact Lulu Brown at vlbrown@eastbourne-college.co.uk or 01323 451911.

David Barwell  
 Neville Brauer  
 Club Class Chauffeurs (Jonathan Dow)  
 Deans Place  
 Sue Eccles  
 Edgumbes (Alice Rendle)  
 LJ Edwards  
 Fellows Dental Practice (Mark Fellows)  
 Goodwood (Alex Williamson)  
 The Grove Experience (Gary Young)  
 Holroyd Howe  
 Humphrey & Co (Sue Pocklington)  
 Identity (Michael Gietzen)  
 ITV (David Bergg)  
 John Boyle  
 Kileys Carpets  
 Lloyds Bank  
 Mirren Mace  
 Manor Group  
 Middlesex CCC  
 Miller Bourne  
 M-Tech (Martin Lulham)  
 Oxney Organic Estate  
 PlayerLayer  
 Posturite (Ian Fletcher-Price)  
 Royal Eastbourne Golf Club  
 Sport Arabia (David Hallam)  
 David Stewart  
 Villa Michaela  
 HT White (Chris Lees)  
 Wingrove House (Ben Porter)

## Project 150 – A work in progress

This year has seen the first phase of the Project 150 development completed, and the second phase is now well underway.

**T**he first phase consists of an academic block, the new pavilion overlooking College Field, the school shop, an ICT centre and a full-height atrium, with foyer, bar and toilet facilities, linking the side and rear of the College Theatre with the new building. The second phase will see the construction of the sports hall, swimming pool, dining hall, function rooms, kitchens, senior common room, new reception and other sports facilities including a fitness suite, dance studio and squash courts.

This £33m development is a truly transformational project, delivering a number of long-awaited improvements in the College's facilities in the shortest time possible. Rather than constructing a series of piecemeal buildings over many years, Project 150 has enabled the College to do a lot in one go,

saving in the long-term on costs, disruption and uncertainty.

On 28 January 2016, the foundation stone was unveiled and David Winn OBE, Old Eastbournian, President of the Eastbournian Society, Vice President of the Eastbourne College Charity, and the College's most generous benefactor, used an engraved silver trowel to tap the stone, which recognises his contribution to the College over a number of years. Present at the ceremony were Headmaster Simon Davies, Chairman of Governors Sir Kevin O'Donoghue (Powell 1961–66), Heads of School Jaspal Singh and Tianyu Wang, Jason Griffiths (Regional Director, VINCI Construction UK Ltd), Amy Gordon (Partner, Miller Bourne Architects), other governors and members of staff from the College Facilities and Development departments.

Ten months later, on Thursday 24 November, the 'topping-out' ceremony was held. Headmaster Tom Lawson and senior College staff were joined by representatives from Miller Bourne Architects, VINCI Construction, Northgates consultancy and the Mayor of Eastbourne, Councillor Pat Hearn.

Gary Dixon, Director of VINCI Construction UK Ltd, led the ceremony by placing a tree branch on the top level of the building. He explained that the topping-out ritual is said to date back to pre-Dark Ages Scandinavia, with the practice of placing a tree on the top of a new building to appease the tree-dwelling spirits exiled by its construction.

As Mr Dixon placed the branch, he congratulated the construction team on reaching this significant milestone. He commented: 'They are an excellent team, expertly led by Mike Rozier, supported by Miller Bourne, Gyoury Self, FT Allan and Northgates, and we thank them all very much for their considerable efforts. We hope the achievement of this milestone serves as a source of renewed enthusiasm for Eastbourne College and their students as they look forward to taking residence in what will be a fantastic new facility, a great legacy for the College on their 150th anniversary, and something we are very proud to be delivering.'

These pictures show how the building work has progressed, from foundation stone to topping-out.



December 2015: A large hole appears at the edge of College Field; not the new swimming pool, but preparations for a 'soakaway' to cope with waste water from the new building



28 January 2016: The foundation stone is unveiled. Left to right: Jason Griffiths, Jaspal Singh, Simon Davies, David Winn, Tianyu Wang and Sir Kevin O'Donoghue



February 2016: A massive mobile crane on the left helps put together the fixed yellow crane on the right, dwarfing the Headmaster's House



February 2016: The cleared site in a view from the Birley Centre; the 'pond' in the middle is where the fixed crane is to be sited, once the water is drained



March 2016: The ground floor of the new pavilion begins to take shape



March 2016: Concrete being poured to form the first floor of part of the academic block, in front of the science centre



June 2016: The outline of the three-storey pavilion becomes clearer



June 2016: Foundation work on the sports hall in the foreground, with the academic block taking shape behind the crane



November 2016: Looking up at the atrium skylight



November 2016: Inside the atrium looking out to College Field



November 2016: One of the new classrooms being fitted out



24 November 2016: The topping-out ceremony

## Making connections in the Middle East

Two Eastbourne-based businesses headed by Old Eastbournians have ventured into partnerships in the United Arab Emirates, and all thanks to contacts made through the Eastbournian Society.

With a longstanding interest in developing operations in the Middle East, Martin Lulham (Powell 1991-96), Managing Director of M-Tech Systems, discussed his idea with David Stewart, Foundation and Development Director. David suggested Martin speak with Ed Atkinson (Pennell 1979-84), the OE rep in the UAE. As well as being Sustainability Advisor at Expo 2020 Dubai, among other roles, Ed also sits as a non-executive advisor on the board of Brightstone Middle East, who offer access for companies looking to enter into the UAE and Middle Eastern market.

M-Tech Systems is a dynamic and innovating technology provider delivering a comprehensive portfolio of intelligent services and solutions to both the enterprise and education sectors.

Martin appointed Brightstone Middle East as M-Tech Systems' regional partner in August 2016. The Abu Dhabi-based business are able to provide a deeper insight into operating successfully in the UAE. To date, Brightstone have facilitated numerous meetings across Abu Dhabi and Dubai, introducing M-Tech Systems to multi-national school groups and government bodies.

'We are very pleased to be bringing our operations to Abu Dhabi and the surrounding area,' said Martin. 'After over a decade of experience in the UK across both the education and corporate sectors, we believe we can improve business efficiency, manage strict budgets and simplify IT for corporates and schools in the Emirates, whilst delivering the latest in technological innovation.'

Martin shared news of his expansion with fellow OE Michael Gietzen



Richard Draycott, Managing Director and Co-Founder, Brightstone ME; Michael Gietzen; Sheikh Hamdan bin Saeed bin Tahnoon; Martin Lulham; Ed Atkinson

(Reeves 2001-03), Managing Director of Identity Events, who was also looking to expand his award-winning business operations into the region. Identity, which already boasts a large portfolio of work, have also partnered with Brightstone Middle East for the venture, and the two organisations will now be working together to deliver Identity's events service across the UAE. From their new office premises in Abu Dhabi, Identity will be working across the Gulf states to further their existing

client and supply chain while looking to secure new contracts, business relationships and opportunities.

Identity Events is at the forefront of design, manufacture and installation of brands and signage, with over 30 years' experience in the design, construction and implementation of exhibition stands, conferences and road-shows.

'We are delighted with the new relationship,' said Michael. 'Our partnership with Brightstone Middle East gives us unparalleled access into the region and we are looking forward to benefitting from their expertise and know-how. Identity are fully equipped to provide a bespoke and comprehensive service and we have the experience and expertise to ensure that your next event is a big success.'

Identity Events and M-Tech Systems are steadily moving forwards in their respective partnerships under the chairmanship and guidance of strong Emirati leadership. Both parties are anticipating a long and prosperous future in the region.

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# Old Eastbournian Lodge No. 4946

*Nick Clive-Matthews writes:*

Once again the Lodge has had a very happy and busy year, so busy in fact that we are having to hold an additional meeting in December 2016 to allow us to keep on top of all the work we need to get through. The year began as usual with our Installation meeting in January when we had the great pleasure of seeing James Fok (Pennell 1997–2002) installing Martin Gill (Wargrave 1987–92) as our Worshipful Master for 2016. James, who was our Master in 2014, kindly stood in for Paul Millross who was unwell. As usual there was a very good turn out with some 60 of the Brethren and their guests sitting down to dinner in the College Dining Hall following the meeting, with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Sussex among the official visitors.

Over the years the OE Lodge has welcomed visits from former College pupils who have not been able to attend regularly, often due to Masonic commitments in their home areas, but who make a point of attending one or two meetings a year. One of our regular visitors is Philip Kavanagh (Reeves 1952–55) and, when he found out that his grandson Joey was interested in becoming a Freemason, his first thought was to suggest that he should



**Philip Kavanagh and Joey Williamson-Persh**

join the OE Lodge. Although Joey is not an old boy himself he is the brother of Jasmine Williamson-Persh (Blackwater 2010–12) so has strong links to the College. While Philip's marriage was blessed with three daughters he had no sons which meant that he was particularly delighted to introduce his grandson to the Lodge and at our April meeting Philip was invited by the Worshipful Master to take the chair and initiate Joey into Freemasonry. While it is not unusual for fathers to initiate their sons it is very unusual to see a grandfather carrying out a ceremony for his grandson, particularly with such expertise and aplomb. It was a memorable evening for Philip, Joey



**Geoffrey Diamond**

and the Lodge.

At the same meeting we were also pleased to welcome John Howlett (Blackwater 1971–74) as a joining member. John has been a member of another of the 12 local Lodges for many years but has never had the time to go through the chair and, after attending several times as a visitor, decided that his Masonic future lay with his old school Lodge. John's father was of course John Howlett, Snr (Wargrave 1946–50, deceased) who was not only a leading light of the OE Lodge for many years but also instrumental in moving the Lodge to Eastbourne and ensuring its survival.

One of the greatest pleasures for any Masonic Lodge is welcoming new members into the Craft and this year the OE Lodge was fortunate enough to bring two new candidates into Freemasonry. Following the initiation of Joey Williamson-Persh in April we were very pleased to receive Geoffrey Diamond (Gonville 1997–2002) into the Lodge and into Masonry. Geoff had been proposed by the Lodge Almoner, Forbes Wastie (Staff 1961–98), seconded by the Lodge Organist, John Thornley (Staff) and was a great friend of James Fok, his contemporary at the College. The Worshipful Master invited another Old Pennellian, the



**John Howlett**

Lodge Secretary Nick Clive-Matthews (Pennell 1962–66) to conduct the ceremony and we all enjoyed another excellent evening. At the same meeting the Secretary also reported that the Lodge Chaplain and longest serving member of the Lodge, John Seldon (Wargrave 1949–53) had now moved to Nottingham and in future would only be able to attend the Lodge on an occasional basis. In view of John's many years of service to the Lodge, particularly as Treasurer and Secretary, Hafiz Khandwala (School 1968–73) proposed that John be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge at our next meeting.

At our October meeting it was third time lucky when we finally managed to raise Jonathan Vickers to the Third Degree. Jonathan is now an airline pilot with Emirates Airlines and is based in Dubai, which can make attending meetings a little difficult. We had planned on raising him at the two previous October meetings but in 2014 his wife Claire went into premature labour and presented him with a second baby son William, a brother for Cian.



**Jonathan Vickers, the new Master Mason**

In 2015 his flight schedule was altered at the last minute but this time all went smoothly and Jonathan is at last a Master Mason. At the same meeting John Seldon, who had first been initiated into the Lodge in September 1960, was duly approved as an Honorary Member and Tony Davis, a very prominent Sussex Mason, was elected as our Worshipful Master for 2016. He will certainly have a busy year and the OE Lodge seems to be going from strength to strength.

We meet at the Eastbourne Masonic Centre, South Street, on four Fridays a year, either dining at the College or the Masonic Centre afterwards. We always welcome contact from OEs who would like to know what Freemasonry is all about or are already Masons and perhaps are moving into the area, although many of our members live far away. We are also happy to hear from anyone who has any other connection to the College.

For further information about Freemasonry in general please go to the United Grand Lodge of England website at [www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk), the Sussex Provincial YouTube link which can be found at <http://youtu.be/czXLHUYG6Y> or contact the Lodge Secretary, Nick Clive-Matthews, at [nickc\\_m@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nickc_m@yahoo.co.uk) who will be pleased to give more details about becoming an OE Lodge member.

# Walter Gould May – An OE casualty of the Battle of the Somme



A signed photo of Walter as a young officer

The bronze death plaque

The College archives holds a remarkable collection of memorabilia relating to the short and tragic life of Walter May, one of the youngest OEs to have lost his life in the Great War. This short article will attempt to describe and illustrate Walter's sacrifice on the battlefields of the Somme 100 years ago.

Walter Gould May was born on 27 March 1896. His parents, who had married in 1881, were Walter Arthur May and Catherine Earnshaw Marshall. Sadly both his father and grandfather, Captain Walter William May, predeceased Walter's birth and died within a day of each other in February 1896. In 1911 Walter entered the college as a 'home boarder' (a day boy). He stayed at the College from January 1911 and left in December 1912. By 1915, at the age of 19, he joined the army and was commissioned into the 12th Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment, as a 2nd Lieutenant.

By 1916 he was serving in France with the 1st Garrison Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment at the time of the Battle of the Somme. His role then was in command of a platoon reinforcing the line.

Walter found himself in no man's land assisting badly wounded men to return to the safety of the British lines. His company commander, a Captain Freeman, wrote: 'He has proved himself fearless and plucky. He went many times into no man's land in broad daylight to bring in wounded men who were left without help. He was instrumental in saving the lives of several in this way'. On 3 September, the third month of the battle, Walter was reported missing near Beaumont-Hamel, although he was not officially listed as deceased until May 1917. Walter was just 20 when he died.

The village of Beaumont-Hamel was originally attacked on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The opening phases were part of an attack on a 25-mile front, and at Beaumont-Hamel the intention was to try to take the position where two redoubts and a quadrilateral trench provided the Germans with a very strong position. For the 1st Hampshire Regiment, this was its worst period of the war. Attacks continued and on 3 September further large casualties occurred. In fact, both dates saw the majority of officers and men fall. By the end of the First World War the Hampshire Regiment had lost 7,580 officers and men.

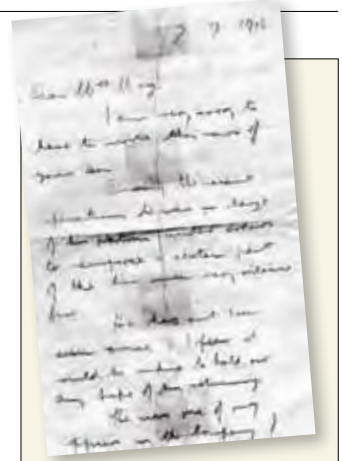
Walter May was buried in the Ancre Military Cemetery, built on the site of no man's land about 2km south of Beaumont-Hamel.

Walter's surviving relatives were two sisters. Christabel Eunice May, born in 1888, lived at 36 Marine Parade, Eastbourne, and never married. His other sister was Cynthia Coppendale May, born in 1893. She married in 1916 and went on to have three children and lived in

Portsmouth. Walter's grandfather had been in the Royal Navy and on retirement pursued an active interest in watercolour painting. He painted some fine coastal and shipping scenes in England, France and Holland.

The College archives holds Walter's war medals, the bronze death plaque (sometimes known as the 'Dead Man's Penny'), regimental and rank badges, uniform buttons and identity disk, which were received by the family in 1921. The death plaque was something devised at the end of the war and sent to the family of every deceased soldier. The College also has a number of photos of Walter, several family letters and a number of items of correspondence from the War Office and a former company commander.

Peter Durrant and Michael Partridge



7.9.1916  
Dear Mrs May

*I am very sorry to have to write this news of your son.*

*During the recent operations he was in charge of his platoon under orders to reinforce a certain part of the line under very intense fire.*

*He has not been seen since. I fear it would be unkind to hold out any hope of him returning.*

*He was one of my officers in the Company I previously commanded and on former occasions has proved himself fearless and plucky. On one particular occasion he went many times into "No man's land" in broad daylight to bring in wounded men who were left there without help. He was instrumental in saving the lives of several in this way.*

*Will you accept my sympathy and also that of all the officers of the battalion in your sad loss.*

E P Freeman Capt  
14th Hants Regt



The grave at Ancre Military Cemetery



The British War Medal and the Victory Medal, awarded posthumously



Walter's identity disk



The Arnold Embellishers is a society that is open to past and present pupils, parents, staff and friends of the College. The AEs act as ‘fairy godmothers’; they try to enhance the life of the school through imaginative embellishments, improvements beyond those that the school might feel essential or affordable.

The Memorial Field lych-gate has a new plaque to record the origins of the sports field there, which was given to the College by Old Eastbournians to remember their contemporaries who gave their lives in the Second World War. This completes a



The plaque at Memorial Field

project championed by the College archivist and recent AE Chairman, Michael Partridge, to honour all known OE war casualties. We are most grateful to the College maintenance department for their assistance in mounting it with a frame.

In the Birley Centre look out for a perspex box which displays one of the 11 Emmy Awards won by celebrated composer and musical director Ian Fraser, formerly Ian Sykes, (Pennell 1945–51) and donated by his widow. An Emmy Award recognizes excellence in the television industry, and corresponds to the Academy Award for film, the Tony Award for theatre, and the Grammy Award for music. The



The Ian Fraser display with Emmy Award and Oscar certificate

display also includes a short biography about this highly-respected musician, together with one of his Oscar nomination certificates and his conductor's baton.

This year we have also funded curtains behind the chapel altar to disguise the new video screen. The curtains mean that it all blends in perfectly; do have a look next time you are in chapel.

We are about to commission new Head of House boards for Nugent and Arnold houses and we continue to sponsor the annual College Young Musician of the Year event.

Two exciting anniversaries loom large in our plans – the 150th of the College and in 2019 the centenary of the Embellishers. Members have big ideas for celebrating both. A sundial has been commissioned from celebrated sculptor David Harber and this will be mounted on the prominent wall of the new Project 150 academic building near the main reception area.

There are plenty of other ideas being discussed for major embellishments over the next couple of years and the committee would welcome any input from members and

non-members alike. College pupils are being invited to enter a competition – The Wetheren Prize, which is held every five years – to design, explain and justify an idea for an enhancement. There is a £150 prize and the chance that, if feasible, the winning design can be created and installed. A recent example of a Wetheren Prize project is the colourful mural designed by Chris Cheng (Gonville 2001–06), now an automobile designer in China, and installed in 2011. The College art, DT and textiles departments are fully behind this competition.

An audit of over 70 embellishments around the school campus was conducted by committee member Roger Fendall (Blackwater 1954–58) and he has placed on all suitable projects the new small AE enamel sign – a small bird, adopted from a drawing of a stint (sandpiper) by our founder, Mr Arnold. So you



The new curtain in Chapel

should begin to see these around the College.

This is a very exciting period for the Arnold Embellishers and new members are always welcome – we have an annual lunch and AGM and newsletters which update members on the committee's work. Please call and have a chat about becoming a member.

Vicky Henley, Chairman

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# Thank you for investing in the College's future

As this article is being written the current generation of Eastbournians are being taught their first English and mathematics lessons in the Phase 1 part of Project 150. This will be formally opened and named the 'Nugee Building' by Tishy Nugee and the Duke of Devonshire on 26 April.

Thank you so much to the 720 of you who have already contributed to the campaign so far. You have helped make this possible. With your donations and pledges we have reached £4.25 million of the £5 million goal.

For those of you who have not been able to attend the presentations, you can see the film about Project 150, which includes a sequence from our new headmaster, Tom Lawson, on the website at [www.eastbourniansociety.org/P150](http://www.eastbourniansociety.org/P150), where you can also find a list of supporters.

With a further 5,300 of you on the database we are hopeful that over the next year we can reach and perhaps even surpass our £5 million target, in the time-honoured manner in which Eastbourne College has built itself over the last 149 years, with a positive and united team effort. Together, we can and will get there!

Phase 2, which will house the sports centre and the new dining hall, will be officially opened in the spring of 2018. In the meantime you are all very welcome to come and have a tour of the Nugee Building. Please contact me at [das@eastbourne-college.co.uk](mailto:das@eastbourne-college.co.uk) or on 01323 452308 if you would like to visit.

A special mention and thanks should go to some individuals who took up the Project 150 Challenge with very successful fundraising results. The boys of Gonville walked the South Downs Way, Simon Davies cycled to Paris, and Vicky Burford (Housemistress of Nugent) ran the Afghanistan Marathon. More details of all of these are on page 32. We look forward to similar imaginative initiatives in the coming year. Please let this office know if you would

like to be involved in a similar venture.

Over the last year, as we have spread the word about Project 150 at different receptions around the world, the unanimous sense of approval from you has been both encouraging and overwhelming. Your feedback and your affirmation of what we are doing means a great deal to those that make the decisions on behalf of the College. With such enthusiasm and interest the school will continue to thrive. Not all of us will be around for the 200th anniversary so please come and join in as many of the 150 celebrations as possible. You are always welcome.

The continuous process of renewal and improvement is the life force of every organisation, and schools are no different. In 2017 the College is in a very different place from our 50th (1917) or 75th (1942) anniversaries when the school's very existence was in question. In contrast today we celebrate our 150 anniversary with Project 150, the most ambitious and the largest development in the College's history; a game-changer which will enable us to provide the best possible education in modern, state-of-the-art facilities for the foreseeable future. Every generation since 1867 has played its part in building the school that exists today. What a fantastic story of achievement it is. Please join the growing list of supporters. If you have already supported, thank you again. We look forward to inviting all donors to Project 150 to the official opening of this landmark development in 2018. Ex Oriente Salus!

I would like to thank the Eastbournian Society committee and the Project 150 campaign committee for their guidance and wisdom. And last but by no means least thank you to my excellent team, John Thornley, Christine Todd, David Blake and Lulu Brown.

**David Stewart, Director,  
Eastbournian Society and Project 150 Campaign**



**Philip Broadley, Chairman of the Project 150 campaign, writes:**

*The great joy of chairing the campaign committee has been in meeting so many OEs from across the decades. While each has his or her own story to tell there is a shared affection for the College and those who taught in it.*

*The most moving story was contained in a letter from an OE, making a donation in memory of his brother, who recalled listening to Churchill's wartime broadcasts while the College's 75th anniversary was spent at Radley. This letter was a powerful reminder of what the College has become since that time.*

*Project 150 completes a 30-year development plan that has transformed the College and will enable future generations to benefit from an Eastbournian education. I look forward to meeting many more of you at the anniversary events over the next two years and I do hope you will want to celebrate the part the College played in your life by supporting our campaign. Every donor will be recorded within the building: a powerful symbol of what collectively OEs and the College's many friends can achieve together.*

## Project 150 receptions



### OEs aged under 35 in London

A group of younger Old Eastbournians met at the Northcote gastro pub in Battersea for a reception on Wednesday 3 February. Hosted by Foundation Director David Stewart and College teacher Jon Bathard-Smith (Powell 1988-93), the event included the showing of a specially commissioned and privately funded film about the project. With almost 40 guests attending, it was good to see so many OEs taking an interest in their old school.



### St Helier, Jersey

The inaugural Channel Islands lunch for OEs and former members of staff was held at the Royal Yacht Hotel in St Helier on Thursday 17 March. It was an opportunity for David Stewart and Philip Broadley, Project 150 Campaign Chairman, to talk about the latest developments at the College including the current building work as Project 150 started to take shape.



### Birley Centre

College parents and local residents were invited to a project 150 reception at the Birley Centre on Saturday 30 April. Philip Broadley introduced a short film about the fundraising campaign which was shown in the Jennifer Winn Auditorium. David Stewart was also on hand to talk about the plans for the new building.



### Tunbridge Wells

Neville and Nikki Brauer were the hosts for a Project 150 reception at their home in Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday 9 June. College parents and other friends and members of the Eastbournian Society were able to hear about the plans for the new building and how they can help to support it.



### Grosvenor Street, Mayfair

20 Grosvenor Street in Mayfair was the venue for the London reception on Tuesday 24 May, and our thanks go to College governor and vice-chair of KPMG in the UK, Melanie Richards, who arranged for the venue to be made available. Headmaster Simon Davies, Philip Broadley and David Stewart spoke about the development and showed the Project 150 campaign film. Pictured here are Neville and Nikki Brauer with David Stewart.

### Hong Kong



The Hong Kong Club was the venue for an Eastbournian Society reception and dinner on Thursday 10 November. David Stewart was on hand with news about the progress of the Project 150 development, and gave an illustrated talk explaining the building

work underway at the College. We are grateful to the ES rep in Hong Kong, Jeremy Newton (Gonville 1964–69), for organising the event, spreading the word and taking bookings, and to Tim Freshwater (School 1958–63) for arranging access to the Hong Kong Club.



## Singapore

David Stewart's next stop on his tour of Asia was the Singapore Cricket Club, the venue for the reception for OEs, parents and other supporters on Wednesday 16 November. David spoke about Project 150 and also played a video message from new Headmaster Tom Lawson and his wife Jessica. Our thanks go to the Eastbournian Society rep in Singapore, Richard Austen (School 1967-72), who also attended.



## Sydney

There was a large turnout at the Sydney reception and dinner at the Kirribilli Club in Lavender Bay on Monday 21 November. David Stewart and David Winn (School 1954-59), President of the Eastbournian Society and Vice-President of the Eastbourne College Charity, were both there to pass on the news about Project 150. Our thanks go to Sam Miller (School 1960-65), the ES rep in Sydney, who organised the event.



## Bangkok

Philip and Gillian Broadley took the opportunity of a brief visit to Bangkok, while on holiday in south east Asia, to host a dinner for Old Eastbournians in Thailand on Tuesday 29 November. They were pleased to be able to entertain Richard Bones, Chris and Carole Cracknell, Liz Cracknell, Wirapich and Vivan Sarakitprija and Pranisa Techasith. The guests saw the video message from Headmaster Tom Lawson and his wife Jessica, and heard about the Project 150 development.

## Fifty years of girls

In two years' time, the celebrations for our 150th anniversary will be coming to an end, but we can then turn our attention to another anniversary, for in 2018 it will be 50 years since the first girl attended the College.

She was Susan Craib, who came for one term in 1968. The following year, several girls joined the sixth form as full members of the College and were based in the old Tenby Lodge. Others, from Moira House, attended as day pupils with rooms at Nugent House.

The archives would like to hear from female OEs who attended the College in the 1960s and 1970s as this is an aspect of the school's history for which we have limited material. We would very much appreciate copies of photographs taken during that period, as well as anecdotes and reminiscences of what life was like as a girl pupil at the time.

Girls featured all too infrequently in



College publications, but we have unearthed this photo from the May 1973 edition of the *Eastbournian*. It is captioned: 'Two of the sixth-formers who took to the air last term for a geographical survey of the coastline and the Downs'.

Are you able to identify the two girls in this photo? Please let us know.

Michael Partridge and Paul Jordan  
01323 451901  
mp@eastbourne-college.co.uk

# OE get togethers

## Oxford University



A group of 31 Year 11 and Year 12 College pupils visited Oxford University at the end of February and were able to catch up with a number of OEs while they were there. They visited the departments of material sciences and chemistry, the Bodleian Library, toured St John's and Oriel Colleges, and had a meeting with an admission tutor. They also had meals in two different college halls, visits to museums and a play at the Oxford Playhouse, and spent time with OEs currently studying at Oxford. Pupils left with a strong feel for life at Oxford, inspired by the surroundings, and better informed about their own personal preparation in anticipation of a potential application.

## Brunch in Dubai



**Ed Atkinson, John Ashcroft and David Stewart in Dubai**

The Delphine restaurant and bar in The H Hotel was the location for an Eastbournian Society reception in Dubai on Friday 26 February. With over 25 Old Eastbournians, College parents and their families attending, it was an opportunity for Development Director David Stewart to talk about the latest news from the College, where the Project 150 development is underway. Our thanks are due to Ed Atkinson (Pennell 1979-84), the OE rep in the UAE, who organised the venue and spread the word about the event to the ES community in the area.



## Rebecca Bartlett wedding

Rebecca Bartlett (Blackwater 2002-2007) was married to Alejandro Paredes at the College Chapel on Saturday 30 July. The Revd David Peat officiated and Alex Eadon, Assistant Director of Music, was the organist. Following the ceremony the reception was held at the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.



The happy couple are pictured here in the cloisters with some Old Eastbournian guests: left to right, Sam Collett (Reeves 2002-2007), Niki Mapouras-Hyder (née Mapouras) (Blackwater 2002-2007), Oscar Orellana-Hyder (Reeves 2002-2007), Alejandro, Phillip Stephens (Reeves 2002-2007), Rebecca, Oliver Ignotus (Gonville 2002-2007), Olivia Hughes (née Askaroff) (2003-2007), Isabella Hightt (Blackwater 2002-2007) and Charlie Hinchliffe (Reeves 2002-2007).

## The Keelings make cricketing history



**Photo: Paul Grover**

Old Eastbournians Jasper Keeling (Pennell 2008-13) and Zak Keeling (Pennell 2010-15) helped make cricketing history by being part of a team made up entirely of the members of one family. The team, consisting of four fathers and seven sons all with the name Keeling, played against Sedlescombe Cricket Club on Monday 29 August. The bank holiday fixture is the legacy of the late Sir John Keeling, who first put together a family team in the early part of the last century. The annual match resumed in 1965, since when the family have been keen to put out a side with just one surname on the team sheet. Jasper and Zak's father Paul, who captained the side, said that he believed it was a world record, although he hadn't yet checked through the whole of Wisden.

And the result? The Keelings bowled out Sedlescombe for 147 in 33 overs, matching the total in their innings in just 25 overs.

## Eastbourne pub evening

A pub evening was held at the Dolphin in South Street, Eastbourne, on Thursday 10 November for OEs, staff, parents and other Eastbournian Society members.





## Golf in Dubai



The annual round of golf in Dubai for Ed Atkinson (Pennell 1979–84), Philip Hanbury (Blackwater 1977–82), Stephen Yorke (Blackwater 1977–81) and Ian Fletcher-Price (Blackwater 1976–80).

## Reunion lunch for 1979 leavers



A reunion for Old Eastbournians who left the College in the summer of 1979 was held on Wednesday 16 November. The group met for drinks at The Surprise, a gastropub in Chelsea, followed by lunch. Organised by Rob McNeilly (School 1974–79), Paul Mansell (School 1974–79) and Richard Vidal (Gonville 1974–79), this was the second reunion for the class of 1979, following the success of the lunch at the same venue last year.

## Fifty years on – a reunion in Chicago



Jim Dickerson (Gonville 1965–66) wrote to let us know of a reunion he had with Maurice Trapp (Gonville 1962–67) and Bert Boltjes (Gonville 1961–67) in Chicago, the first time they had seen each other in 50 years. The three of them had rowed together in the

1st IV in the 1966 season, along with Jake Davis (Blackwater 1961–66), who died in 2010. Under their coach Mr Binnian, they had won a number of regattas, including the National School Boys at Pangbourne. Maurice, who is now Vice-President of New Zealand Rugby, had contacted Jim to let him know that the All Blacks had a date on their Northern Hemisphere tour at Chicago. Jim contacted Bert, now living in Mexico City, who made the trip north for the reunion. They had three days together in Geneva, Illinois, where Jim lives, then went to the match at Soldier Field, Chicago, on Saturday 5 November. The All Blacks were playing Ireland, who won – the first time in 111 years. Jim says: ‘It was a great reunion for me, Bert and Maurice, with so many stories and memories of our time together at Eastbourne, Gonville and our rowing for Binnian.’ They are pictured here, left to right, Bert, Jim and Maurice.

## Visitors to Israel



Charles, left, with Stephen

Stephen Jacobs (Wargrave 1963–68) has been the OE rep in Cyprus and Israel for 25 years, but it was only recently that two OEs got in touch – separately – to say that they were visiting the area. The first was Paul Haines (Gonville 1963–67) who was on his walk for peace, more details of which are on page 28. Stephen tell us: ‘Paul travelled through Cyprus on his way here, arriving by cargo boat from Larnaca, and thence went to Tel Aviv before making his way to Jerusalem, Ramallah and Bethlehem. As fate would have it, due to clashing travel arrangements, we actually never met in either Israel or Cyprus, with communication via phone and email. However, Maya and I eventually did meet Paul over skinny lattes in the Wimbledon SW19 branch of Café Nero. And what a memorable meeting it was.’

The second visit was from Charles Dickson (Wargrave 1965–69), who had travelled from Hong Kong with his wife Bernadette and son Andrew. Stephen met them a number of times. He says: ‘Charles has a compendium of Wargrave house photos and together with mine, we went on a trip down memory lane. Names and faces I hadn’t thought about for almost half a century, and Charles brought me up to date with many of them. Nostalgia revisited. The highlight of our time together was a wonderful fish meal overlooking Herzliya marina, which Maya and I very much enjoyed.’

A final thought from Stephen: ‘Personally, I was delighted to be able to welcome two OEs here. The fact that all of us were at the College around the same time added value to our meetings, but just the opportunities of being able to speak about shared experiences in particular and life in general were much appreciated. I hope that I shan’t have to wait another 25 years to welcome the next OE!’

## Dubai Marina Yacht Club



The College was represented at the UK Boarding Schools Exhibition in Dubai by Pennell housemaster Ben Jourdain and his wife Lydia. While there, they met up with a group of OEs and parents at the Dubai Marina Yacht Club on Friday 28 October.

## The Friends of Blackwater

The Friends of Blackwater had their annual Christmas get-together on Friday 9 December at the Thomas Cubitt gastropub near Victoria. A few of those who attended are pictured here.



Andrew Gaddie (Gonville 1976–81) and Mike Brown (Blackwater 1976–81)



Guy Reynolds (School 1976–81), Nigel Wheeler (College staff 1976–2006), David Oyler (School 1977–82) and Greg Lunn (School 1976–81)

## Keith Norman Smith

Keith Norman Smith, who taught maths at the College from 1948 until 1984, died on 7 July 2016 aged 92. Keith's 36 years of loyal service (followed by further years as our careers and HE master) deserve our respect and thanks.

**E**ducated at Marlborough College, he served in the Royal Navy in the Second World War first as an ordinary seaman on HMS *Collingwood*, then on HMS *Snowflake*, taking part in the famous defence of convoy ONS-5. He next joined HMS *Alfred*, an officer training establishment, and was commissioned as a midshipman RNVR on HMS *Ulysses*, one of the destroyers which escorted the Russian convoy RA/59 in the Arctic.

Through 1943 he was engaged in night patrols in the Channel and in December joined HMS *Zenith* at Dumbarton as a Sub Lt and assistant gunnery officer. In March 1944 he sailed for the Far East in the troop ship HMS *Empress of Scotland*. Arriving in Sydney, Australia, he joined HMS *Quilliam* and was soon in action with the Pacific Fleet off Okinawa. He transferred to HMS *Quality* as navigator and in August arrived in Tokyo Bay for the armistice. Back in Sydney, he soon transferred to HMS *Gould* and then HMS *Fencer* for his passage home and demobilisation.

Following demobilisation, he attended Pembroke College, Cambridge, graduating BA, later MA, and joined the College in 1948. He was at first house tutor in Gonville, then School for a further three years. In 1962 he became housemaster of Wargrave, a post he held until 1975, notable for his introduction of bedsitters. He next moved on to run Nugent, by now a girls house, for a further four years, 1975-79.



Keith with the Arctic Star, which he received in June 2013, shortly before his 89th birthday

Keith ran the naval section of the CCF for many years, sailing for 14 years, junior colts rugby for ten years, and both squash and fives. He played cricket for Dorset Rangers and the Stragglers of Asia and captained the MCC team 1956-62 on its annual visit to the College. He also ran a successful bridge club.

As a teacher of mathematics, later head of department up to 5th form, he was a meticu-



Keith and Myriam in 1967

lous preparer of lessons with an extraordinary concern for detail and an imaginative approach to the teaching of statistics. As vice chairman, he managed the Common Room accounts, compiled GCE statistics and from 1990 to 1996 was a devoted membership secretary and treasurer to the Arnold Embellishers. Keith finally retired from full-time teaching in 1984, but continued to tutor maths at Rannie's (Eastbourne College of Domestic Economy) as required, as an examiner for the Cambridge Board and to support the Friends of Eastbourne Hospitals. Following his retirement, Keith and Myriam moved to Forfar, Angus, in Scotland.

Myriam died in 2010. Born in Switzerland, she came to School House in 1950, married Keith in 1952 and taught pottery at Ascham and at the College for 17 years. They were parents



Keith in naval uniform in the Second World War to Philip and Celia and grandparents to four grandchildren.

Keith sent this memory in 2007: 'David Richards came to Wargrave in my time. He was the last boy who received six of the best from me for going to the cinema instead of a double Maths with Vic Ferris'. In 2013 Keith was delighted to receive his Arctic Star, awarded for war service above the Arctic Circle.

## The College Archives

**A**nother busy year! The fresh and extended Roll of Honour, which was placed on the Eastbournian Society website at the end of 2015, has already attracted three further photos and some fresh data which have been added. We have mounted a number of factual and pictorial displays: in May a celebration of Robin Harrison's long and distinguished life, a Pennell exhibition for the Pennell celebration lunch in June, a further one on Foundation Day and Speech Day to celebrate the centenary of the award of the Victoria Cross to Lionel Rees (Blackwater 1898-1901) and a massive one in the Birley Centre in September as a part of National Heritage Open



Simon Wood, who retired from the archives in September

Day; this can now be viewed on the website: [www.eastbournian-society.org/college-history](http://www.eastbournian-society.org/college-history).

We also continued our termly displays inside and outside the LRC. Subjects included the con-

struction of the Memorial Building, stained glass in the Chapel and the Queen's visit in 1966. Finally, in May we were privileged to work with RAF Media Operations in the production, both at the College and at the Shuttleworth Aviation Museum, of film recordings about Lionel Rees's life and his Victoria Cross which was awarded on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Pupil George Williams, senior RAF Section cadet, and Archivist Michael Partridge, were interviewed and filmed at both the College and at Shuttleworth (see page 34).

We continued to deliver talks to Year 11 pupils, to new staff and to external bodies. We are enthusiastic to share the College's rich

history and unique ethos with as many people, inside and outside the school, as possible. To this end, we host numerous visits from OEs and their descendants; we also deal with a good number of enquiries, primarily about OEs from earlier generations, from families and researchers. As a consequence of these contacts, we were able to reinstate a number of OEs onto the OE register and as members of the Eastbournian Society.

We also host visits from people with fond memories of the College: this year this included a lady who, accommodated in Wargrave, served here as a Wren with HMS *Marlborough* during the Second World War and another



The archives team: Michael and Sheila Partridge, Pat Larkin, Paul Jordan and Peter Durrant at the Pennell lunch in June



Old Eastbournians in front of the display about Robin Harrison's life, at the reception after his memorial service in May

lady from Denmark who worked as an au pair in Wargrave just after the war (see pages 26-27).

This magazine contains several biographical articles which were stimulated by visits or contacts from relatives of distinguished OEs. We also host S@S pupils; last year Lily Lawton from Arnold House put in a sterling effort in transferring the death dates of every OE from magazines into the Allom Register as well as creating a computer database of the information.

We were delighted to hear that Cary Frame (Reeves 2008-12) gained a 2.1 for his dissertation

at the University of Nottingham on the positive impact of private education on the local economy in Eastbourne. We were proud to have assisted with his research.

Among many generous donations to the archives (see below), we received a gift of about 100 digital colour photographs from the late 1950s, taken while a pupil by Tony Hilton (Blackwater 1955-60), who visited the College from Australia on OE Reunion Day.

As well as filing our archival material in hard copy form, we are now recording data digitally. For example, a start has been made to create an Excel spreadsheet listing

OE and staff obituaries as they appeared in the *Old Eastbournian* magazines. We are working on adding these to the Eastbournian Society website shortly.

We have also catalogued our collection of CDs and DVDs in a similar fashion. During this process we discovered a fascinating set of cine films ranging from the 1930s to 1975 showing sports activities and other aspects of College life. Our next task will be to create an index of articles which have appeared in the *Old Eastbournian* so they can be accessed with greater ease. Also, as work in progress, is the crea-

tion of a digital picture library that we hope will, in time, be available to other members of staff.

The archives team continues to thrive. Michael Partridge and Paul Jordan were supported by a remarkable team of part-time volunteers which included Pat Larkin, Sheila Partridge, Simon Wood OE and Peter Durrant OE. Simon decided to retire this September after about 14 years of loyal service. We shall miss his enthusiasm and his encyclopaedic knowledge.

Michael Partridge and Paul Jordan

## Donations and acquisitions 2016

**David Atkins** (Gonville 1949-54)

*Playfair Rugby Football Annual* 1954-55

Estate of **Roger Blackburn** (Wargrave 1954-59) via **Jon Bathard-Smith** (Powell 1988-93) Photo of the 1st IV rowing 1959

**Judy Bennett**

Memorial material for her uncle **Robert George Woodhead** (Pennell 1930-34) who lost his life in a Japanese PoW ship or camp

**Laurien Berkeley**

Biographical information, photos and documents about her father **Peter Fitzhardinge-Berkeley** (Powell 1934-38) and his brother **Ian Fitzhardinge-Berkeley** (Powell 1936-40)

**Carey Family**

1935 Athletics colours vest belonging to **John WHC Carey** (Crosby 1931-35)

**Ken Day** (Blackwater 1960-64)

Numerous period photos

**Cary Frame** (Reeves 2008-12)

Dissertation: *Has Eastbourne's Private Education Sector generated a Positive Local Economic Footprint over Time?*

**Judith Harridge**, Librarian at Nuneaton

Library. Three photos of **John Silver** (Gonville 1932-37) who died aged 18 soon after leaving the College

**Philip Hepburn** (Blackwater 1961-66)

Five photos of Ascham events from the 1960s

**Tony Hilton** (Blackwater 1955-60)

About 100 digital photos in colour from the 1955-60 period

**John Humphries** (Pennell 1948-52)

Three photos of Pennell House and the fencing team 1952

**Brian Meaby** (Powell 1949-53)

Three CCF and golf photos

**Gillian Pare**, partner of **John Knapp-Fisher** (School 1945-48)

Two books: *Pembrokeshire* and *My Life - All the Little Things* by John Knapp-Fisher

**Julian Paxton** (Blackwater 1951-55)

Bugle belonging to **Llewellyn Colin Paxton** (School 1914-18) and photo of him with the bugle, two brass shoulder flashes: Eastbourne OTC, College and Royal Sussex swagger canes

**Philip Smith** (son of **Keith Norman Smith**, former College staff)

Numerous photos and memorabilia relating to his father's time at the College (see page 48)

**Ray Ward** (School 1957-60)

Two photos of gliders c.1960

**Nigel Wheeler**, former College teacher, who compiled the book *Book: From Field to Field, the Life of Ralph Bryant* (Ralph was head groundsman at the College for over 30 years)

## Purchased

Three books containing text and prints of paintings by **Cecil Aldin** (School 1879-80)

Book: *Against the Sun* by Edward Lanchbery, a biography of **Roland Beamont** (Crosby 1934-37)

Book: *Hugh Casson Diary*, written, illustrated and signed by **Sir Hugh Casson** (School 1924-27)