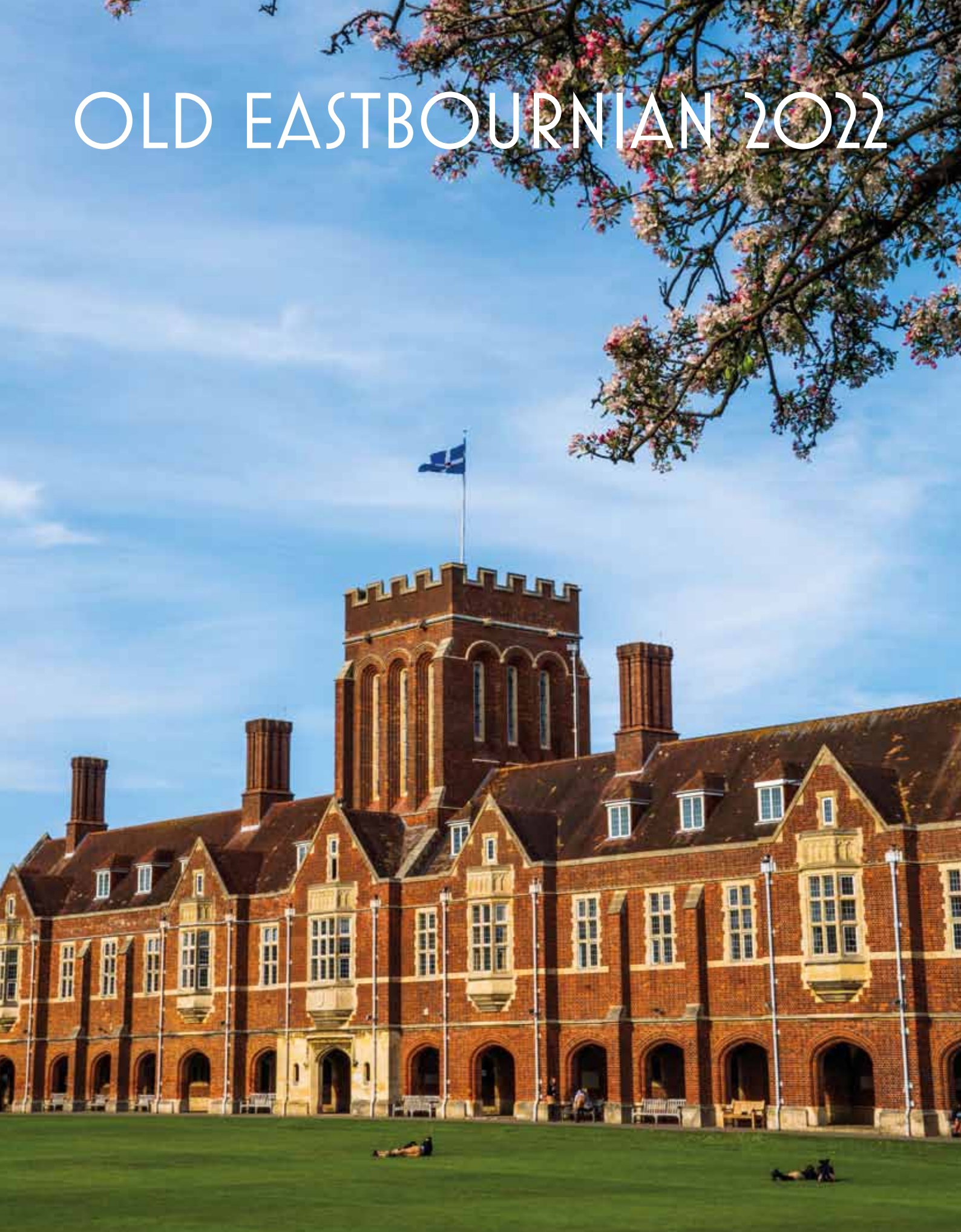


OLD EASTBOURNIAN 2022



THE JOURNAL OF THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY

www.eastbourniansociety.org

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All Old Eastbournians, parents, College staff and other members of the Eastbournian Society are cordially invited to

THE ANNUAL DINNER

**GUEST OF HONOUR:
PAUL MAYHEW-ARCHER**



Our guest of honour is comedy writer and producer Paul Mayhew-Archer (Reeves 1967–71), famous for *The Vicar of Dibley*, *Mrs Brown's Boys*, and, on radio, *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* and *Old Harry's Game*. In more recent years, Paul has taken to the stand-up circuit with his one-man show, *Incurable Optimist*, about the funny side of Parkinson's.

FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2023

The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne, BN21 4EQ

- Formal evening wear ('Black tie')
- Reception drinks from 6.00pm
- Three-course dinner
- Half bottle of wine per person
- Tea or coffee and petits-fours
- Places cost £85 per person (£50 for OEs aged 29 and under)

All tickets are subsidised by the Eastbournian Society and the Old Eastbournian Association



You can book your place(s) online at <https://eastbourniansociety.org/event/annualdinner23>
Or call us on **01323 452316** or send an email to es@eastbourne-college.co.uk

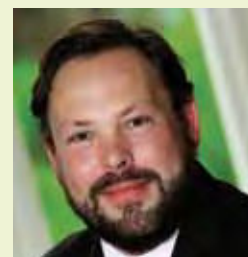
The Over-60s lunch

MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023, 12.30pm

**St George's Hill Lawn Tennis Club,
Warreners Lane,
Weybridge
KT13 0LL**



**GUEST SPEAKER
THE HON TOM LAWSON,
COLLEGE HEADMASTER:**



**'Living above the shop:
from Downing Street to
Headmaster's House'**

The lunch is an opportunity for all senior OEs (who are encouraged also to bring partners) to meet for a convivial meal which has become firmly established as a popular annual event.

- The club offers opportunities for swimming and tennis in the morning to help you build up an appetite for lunch!
- The meal costs £50 per person and includes a drink on arrival, three-course lunch with wine, followed by coffee.



You can book your place(s) online at <https://eastbourniansociety.org/event/over60slunch>
Or call us on **01323 452314** or send an email to es@eastbourne-college.co.uk



THE OLD EASTBOURNIAN REUNION

SATURDAY 9
SEPTEMBER 9



This year the reunion is open to all Old Eastbournians and former members of staff. Husbands, wives and partners are also welcome as guests.

You can come to as many or as few of the day's events as you wish. There will be a £25 charge for the evening dinner but lunch and tea are free.

THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Lunch
- Guided tour of the College
- Rugby on College Field
- Tea
- Visits to former houses
- Evensong in Chapel
- Evening drinks reception and dinner

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



You can book your place(s) online at
<https://eastbourniansociety.org/event/reunion2023>
Or call us on 01323 452316 or send an email to
es@eastbourne-college.co.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



New Eastbournian Society events are regularly added to our events list at www.eastbourniansociety.org/events.

Below is a list of events that are planned at the time of publication, but please check the website for the latest details or call us on 01323 452316. **Events are at the College unless otherwise indicated.**

Sat 18 Mar
Annual quiz and dinner

Wed 29 Mar
Theatre trip: *Oklahoma!*
Wyndham's Theatre, London

Fri 21 Apr
Eastbournian Society annual dinner
The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne

Tue 25 Apr
Media and journalism networking
Central London venue tbc

Wed 3 May
Talk: *My Journey and an Arctic Fox*
with Peter Fellows

Tue 16 May
A Little Night Music: an evening of musical theatre

Mon 5 Jun
Over-60s Lunch
St George's Hill Club, Weybridge

Sat 10 Jun
Foundation Day for benefactors and Devonshire Society members

Sun 11 Jun
Cricketer Cup first round, OEs v Old Wellingtonians

Thu 15 Jun
Theatre trip: *42nd Street*
Sadler's Wells Theatre, London

Sat 17 June
Tour and reception for grandparents

Thu 22 Jun
Cricket: 1st XI v MCC and Evening cricket dinner

Sat 1 Jul
ES reception at Speech Day

Fri 7 Jul
The annual Foundation Golf Challenge
Royal Eastbourne GC

Sat 9 Sep
Old Eastbournian reunion day

Wed 13 Sep
Theatre trip: *Crazy For You*
Gillian Lynne Theatre, London

Thu 14 Sep
Marketing networking
Venue tbc

Sat 23 Sep
London guided walk
Venue tbc

Sun 22 Oct
Army Benevolent Fund curry lunch

Tue 7 Nov
Banking and broking networking
PwC, London

Wed 22 Nov
Insurance networking
Central London venue tbc

Thu 14 Dec
Carol service
All Saints' Church, Eastbourne

Mon 25 Dec
Christmas Day service
College Chapel

THE OLD EASTBOURNIAN 2022



A WELCOME FROM EMMA GARRETT

I write this introduction in rather an emotional state. I have just finished reading through the magazine proofs, painstakingly and meticulously pulled together by David Blake. Wow! What an impressive community we are. I am moved and humbled by the achievements of so many Old Eastbournians and the wider community of parents, friends, Old Androvians and Old Aschamians.

I hope that when the magazine landed on your doorstep or in your inbox, you felt a frisson of excitement and anticipation – as one OE said to me recently 'it always feels a bit like Christmas when the magazine is delivered'. So, without further ado, I am extraordinarily proud to present the *Old Eastbournian* 2022, the Journal of the Eastbournian Society. Please do let us know what you think of the new look and feel, we'd really appreciate your feedback.

It is bursting with adventure (A Wartime Escape From Occupied France, page 32), intrigue (Whatever Happened to Macho Frog?, page 61), drama (Circus, page 20), celebration (the London dinner, page 18), history (Notes From the Archives, page 41) highlights (The College Year, page 62) and friendship (OE get-togethers, page 52). There are also the inevitable obituaries (page 92). I know this is the section that some people flick to first, and I have no doubt that a wash of emotions will pass over you as you read the articles. They are an incredible biographical record of Eastbournians we are so pleased to honour in this way.

The Eastbournian Society is, as ever, at your disposal and we always love to hear your news; you can find our contact details on page 110. If you are not yet registered on the website www.eastbourniansociety.org, I urge you please to do



so, and keep in touch with us and each other. You will need to 'opt-in' in order to receive our regular newsletters and events emails. You can even scan this QR code to register (just one of the new initiatives we have embraced, along with online payments for events).

There have been a few changes to our team here at ES HQ; Helen, who was our community and alumni engagement officer, is now supporting husband Jon Medlycott (Pennell 1989–94) who took on the helm in Nugent in September 2022. Sam Wicks (Powell 2005–10), who replaced Lulu Brown, has also moved on to take up a full-time position in events management. We are so grateful to them both for everything they brought to the team and are delighted that Jayne Caines, who has a son at St Andrew's and one at the College, has joined us recently as an administrator (what did we do without her?).

In other team news, JT, David Blake, Paul Jordan and I continue to keep out of mischief and are in the process of recruiting an events officer and also a development officer to assist as we move into full-on fundraising mode (see my report on page 15).

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition, and for your continued support of the charity. I think you are all amazing and we can't wait to see what the next year will bring.

Emma



The ES team: JT, Jayne and David, with Emma in front, proudly displaying our bashers (see page 40)

We welcome contributions to the magazine, whether items of news, recollections, obituaries, 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 us at es@eastbourne-college.co.uk if you would like to submit something and we can advise on the length of the article.

The *Old Eastbournian* 2022 was compiled and edited by David Blake. Editorial contributions are credited in the magazine. It was designed by Martin Bannon (martinbannon.design@hotmail.co.uk) and printed and distributed by Halcyon (www.halcyon-uk.com).

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HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen on 8 September was received with great sadness at the College



The portrait and the coronation chair in the chapel on 9 September 2022

Although it was only the first full week of term, the school responded with two services of remembrance in the chapel the following day, which allowed all pupils to pay their respects. The Union Flag was flown at half-mast, and a further service was held on Saturday 10 September, for guests who were attending the OE reunion. That was also the day of the proclamation of King Charles III, so the flag was raised at 10.30am, returning to half-mast at 1.00pm on Sunday, staying there until the day after the state funeral.

On 28 October 1966, Her Majesty had visited the College as part of the school's 100th anniversary celebrations in the 1966–67 academic year, and the photograph which she had signed that day was put on display in the chapel for pupils and visitors to see during the remembrance services.

The College archives team also unearthed a coronation chair which had been used in Westminster Abbey on the day of the queen's coronation on 2 June 1953. This had been presented to the College by Colonel NK Hill (Blackwater 1916–19), a guest at the coronation. It had originally taken pride of place in the Cavendish Library, now the LRC, but had been in storage for a number

of years. When looking at the photos of the queen's 1966 visit, we realised that this was the chair on which she had been sitting when she signed her official portrait. The chair was also placed in the chapel during the remembrance services.

The queen's visit in 1966 is fondly remembered by many OEs, and Philip Hepburn (Blackwater 1961–66) sent us his and Richard Canham's recollections:

A unique day in my life which I remember very clearly. At the time I was deputy head of school and was chosen, with head boy Richard Canham (School 1961–67) and the headmaster Michael Birley, to accompany the royal party and to be introduced to HM the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The intention had been that the queen would be accompanied by the headmaster and the duke by the head boy and this is how it was at the rehearsal. However, a little later Richard was summoned by his housemaster, Peter Phillips, and told that the palace had requested the queen be accompanied by the head boy. A great honour for Richard, but probably a huge disappointment for Michael Birley.

The visit was scheduled to begin at 4.00pm, but the motorcade did not enter

the memorial gates until well after 5.00pm. By this time it was dark and rain was threatening, thus requiring the mobilisation of the umbrella detail. This consisted of three of the larger members of the 1st XV, Harry Marchington (Pennell 1962–66), Maurice Trapp (Gonville 1962–67) and Ollie Masefield (School 1962–67).





HM The Queen, sitting on the coronation chair, signs her portrait in Big School



The signed portrait

My first impression as the queen stepped out of the car was how small she was! There was a certain amount of milling about as everyone seemed to be struggling to find their correct places.

Eventually the introductions began. Headmaster Michael Birley and his wife Ann, were 'presented' by the Mayor of Eastbourne, Alderman Winnie Lee. She was also a very tiny lady and seemed to be a bundle of nerves. I know she mixed up some of the names! Then Lord Tenby, chair of the College Council, took over to introduce Richard and me. The Duke of Norfolk was also in the royal party and he apologised to Richard for their late arrival saying that 'Luncheon had taken longer than expected'!

The actual introductions passed in a flash. It really seemed like meeting ordinary people, which helped to dispel any trace of nervousness. The queen's smile is well documented and absolutely genuine. The duke's handshake is very firm and he looks you straight in the eye.

My allotted task was to accompany the lady-in-waiting, Lady Susan Hussey. First I had to make myself known to Sir Edward Ford, the queen's private secretary, who would then introduce me to Lady Susan! I have to say she was charming and made me feel completely at ease.

After more shuffling about, the party moved off through the memorial arch onto the perimeter of College Field, where the

headmaster's daughter Joanna Birley presented the queen with a bouquet. Then Donald Perrens asked the queen to inspect the CCF guard of honour, which of course she did. Following this, Richard called for three cheers and I was thanking my lucky stars it was not me. Shouting loudly in such exalted company 'School, three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh', would I'm sure have left me tongue tied! Fortunately, Richard was word perfect!

The queen then turned to him and said, 'Now where do we go?' Informality in action? It certainly put him at ease!

The party moved on down the cloisters, where in one of the classrooms, they were entertained by a rehearsal of the dramatic society's production of *The Fire Raisers*. Philip Le Brocq was directing, thus, needless to say, the scene he had chosen was overtly loud and full of action!

Back in the cloisters, we were greeted by the sight of the school hovercraft in full 'flight', with Robert Vale (School 1962–67) and Peter Maddocks (Powell 1962–66), the designers and builders on board. The duke seemed interested and went over to speak to them. Richard was nearby and he heard Robert ask the duke if he would like a ride. He very firmly let it be known that he wouldn't! I understood later that while being impressed, he suggested (quite rightly as it turned out many years later!), that such devices had little future.

We then moved into Big School where exhibitions of various activities were on display. This seemed to be a little contrived, but must have been necessary in order to give the queen some ideas of what went on at the school, in a very limited time frame.

These displays were in the alcoves along each side of the building. They largely covered examples of the work of various College societies and special interests of individual students. At one of these, a pupil whose name escapes me, was exhibiting a collection of medieval weaponry. It had been suggested that this chap was an avowed republican and that 'security' (if there was any) took a special interest in him! On the stage, John Walker was conducting a choir practice.

We then moved to the lobby of Big School, where Michael Birley asked the queen to sign the visitor's book and a portrait of herself. She obviously agreed but then occurred a slightly more significant break down in planning. There was no pen!

Suddenly from somewhere appeared Marcus Lyon, the master in charge of art, extracting his own pen from his jacket pocket. The queen signed with this and the day was saved. Marcus said to me afterwards that he would treasure that pen for the rest of his life!

Soon after this the royal party departed, having been at the school for rather less than 30 minutes. The last few moments were a little chaotic and any semblance of



HM The Queen shakes hands with Headmaster Michael Birley; on the extreme left is Philip Hepburn, next to Richard Canham

Below: the school service of remembrance in the College chapel

formality had been abandoned. This, and indeed my dominant memories of the visit as a whole, are best summed up in Richard Canham's words when he wrote to me recently, almost 56 years later.

'As the Queen was signing her photograph I became separated from her, there was a bit of a throng around her. As she left going through the Big School door she turned round and looked for me, but I was some way from her by then and she gave a broad smile, waved to me and mouthed 'good bye'. A very informal and unforgettable moment always etched in my memory.'

In hindsight, one particular aspect of the visit kept occurring to me. Security. Today, all royals are protected by meticulous preparation, intelligence and visible bodyguards. Before the visit in 1966, we did see a number of people wandering around the College premises, looking out of windows and peering over the top of the memorial tower. We assumed they were involved in some sort of security operation, but it was, or seemed to be, very low key.

During the visit, we did not encounter anyone who might have been a bodyguard. Maybe they were there, but were trained to be invisible.

Some 40 years later, I read an obituary of Marcus Lyon. Those who remember him will do so as a mild, quietly spoken, almost shy teacher of art, both at the College and previously at Ascham. He was, however,

extremely well built, well over six feet and broad with it. His obituary describes him as a former Special Operations Executive agent, who was parachuted into Albania during the Second World War and, among other activities, acted as bodyguard to the dictator Enver Hoxha.

I wondered then, whether on 28 October 1966, Marcus had been surreptitiously melded into the royal party to act

as a bodyguard, arousing little suspicion as he was a well-known member of staff. We may never know, but he clearly had the appropriate skills!

Do you have memories or photos of the queen's visit you'd like to share? If so, please contact the archives on archives@eastbourne-college.co.uk or write to us at the address on page 110.



SOCIAL EVENTS IN 2022

A ROUND-UP OF EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY EVENTS

The Eastbournian Society organises a programme of social and cultural trips, talks and walks. All ES members are welcome to come along to these events, which are advertised on the ES website and in our regular email newsletters.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Our first theatre outing of the year was to see the pantomime *Sleeping Beauty* at Eastbourne's Devonshire Park Theatre on Sunday 2 January. ▼



THE ES ANNUAL QUIZ

▲ After a gap of two years, quizzers returned to the College for the ever-popular annual ES quiz night and dinner on Saturday 19 March. The winning team had a former Mastermind finalist in their ranks, whose general knowledge definitely helped them take the top slot.



HAYDN CREATION

◀ A large audience in St Saviour's Church had a musical treat in store with the performance of Haydn Creation on Sunday 8 May. Conductor Graham Jones and the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra began their first post-Covid choral concert, joined by soloists Rachel Shouksmith, OE Andrew Mackenzie-Wicks, and Christopher Dixon, along with the Eastbournian Society Chorus and the Eastbourne Symphony Chorus.

GRANDPARENTS VISIT THE COLLEGE

On the morning of Saturday 21 May, grandparents of current pupils had an opportunity to be shown around the College by their grandchildren. We had a particularly large turn-out of some 120 visitors, as we have been unable to hold this event for the past two years. Following the tour, a reception was held in the Warren Atrium of the Nugee Building, with Headmaster Tom Lawson and Development Director Emma Garrett addressing the guests from the balcony. ▶



MY FAIR LADY

▲ Wouldn't it be lovely? Yes, the theatre trip certainly was a 'lovely' day out for the 41 members who went along to the Coliseum in London on Thursday 19 May. They were treated to a sumptuous production of the latest revival of this classic musical, with rising star Amara Okereke playing Eliza.

A MUSICAL INTERLUDE WITH JT



◀ Some 30 members of the Eastbournian Society attended an entertaining talk given by John Thornley on Tuesday 21 June. As well as speech there was also music, as John invited the guests to listen to some random musical excerpts from his eclectic collection amassed through decades of being on the edge of the musical world, interspersed with one or two relevant / irrelevant / irreverent anecdotes.

SPEECH DAY



▲ We had glorious summer weather for Speech Day on Saturday 2 July and the ES team were on hand with a stall set up in front of the pavilion by College Field. Glasses of Prosecco and sparkling elderflower proved very popular with Speech Day guests, many of whom also picked up copies of the recent book *Eastbourne College – 150 years in pictures*.

LADIES LUNCH CLUB

We were delighted to host the Eastbourne Ladies Lunch Club at their lunch on Thursday 22 September. The Ladies Lunch Clubs are an opportunity to network and discuss business opportunities with other like-minded businesswomen from the local area in an informal atmosphere. A number of College staff attended, including Development Director Emma Garrett, Chief Operating Officer Abbey Gough and biology teacher Jess Lawson, who also represented on behalf of Headmaster Tom Lawson. The Club returned for another lunch on Friday 2 December. ▼



THE ABF LUNCH

The Eastbournian Society helped facilitate an officers' mess-style curry lunch in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, held in the College dining hall on Sunday 30 October. Organised by Rosemary and Keith Ross (School 1958-63), it raised over £5000 for the ABF. Members of the Eastbourne College Combined Cadet Force provided valuable help throughout the day, greeting the guests and carrying out various tasks, gaining much experience in the process, and enjoying chatting to many of the distinguished visitors ►



RECEPTION FOR PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS

▲ Parents of pupils who joined the College in the Michaelmas term were invited to a reception on Saturday 17 September. Gathering in the Warren Atrium for tea and coffee, the guests were welcomed by John Thornley who explained that all parents are automatically members of the Eastbournian Society and are welcome to join our many social events. Headmaster Tom Lawson was also there to meet the parents, who later had an opportunity to take a tour of the school. ▼



A GUIDED WALK IN BLOOMSBURY

The annual London guided walk is always a popular event in the ES calendar and this year around 25 people came along on Saturday 24 September. The theme was 'Literary Bloomsbury' and the walk concentrated on the area around the British Museum, Russell Square and Fitzrovia. With literary figures ranging from Virginia Woolf, Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath and George Orwell to Dorothy L Sayers, it was a fascinating tour of one of London's most attractive districts. Some of the group then joined John Thornley afterwards for lunch at a local hostelry. ▼



▲ Our theatre trip to the musical *Come From Away* proved to be a big hit, not just with our group (pictured), but also with many members of the audience who gave it a standing ovation. The matinee performance on Wednesday 16 November, at the Phoenix Theatre in London, was enjoyed by 30 ES members, who took advantage of the discounted group rate we were able to arrange.

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

◀ Over 30 members of the Eastbournian Society were entertained by a talk on the history of Eastbourne's department stores, held on Thursday 3 November in the Long Room. The fully-illustrated talk was given by College archivist Paul Jordan (standing at the back of the group), who mentioned a number of Old Eastbournian connections with various local shops. You can read more about this in the feature on page 28.



▲ A pre-Christmas treat was an operatic adaptation of the classic Frank Capra film *It's a Wonderful Life* at the London Coliseum on Saturday 3 December. A group of 12 went along to see the English National Opera production and once again we were able to arrange discounted tickets for our members.

PUB EVENING AT THE DOLPHIN

The Dolphin in South Street, Eastbourne, was the venue for a pub evening for ES members on Thursday 10 November, with OEs, parents and staff all coming along. ►



REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS



Philip Broadley at Speech Day on 2 July 2022

Each year the governors approve the charity's annual report when they meet in December. The report sets out the charity's financial performance as well as the many achievements of College and St Andrew's Prep pupils. My introduction as chairman follows and the full report is available on the College's website at <https://www.eastbourne-college.co.uk/about-us/structure-of-the-school>.

After two academic years with a term of enforced closures, the year began with Covid restrictions and twice-weekly testing regimes still in place. Pupils and staff alike overcame these to achieve very impressive results in public exams – the best for a decade – and a host of achievements in sport, arts and service to others.

The College is thriving. Please get in touch with me via the Eastbournian Society office if you would like to know more what the College is doing or how you can support us.

I am pleased to introduce the Charity's Annual Report describing the activities of our two schools, Eastbourne College and St Andrew's Prep, over the year. After two years interrupted by pandemic-related school closures, I am delighted to report on a year that saw the schools gradually returning to a full programme of educational and co-curricular activity on site.

Everything we do as a charity is for the benefit of those we educate. We proudly devote much of the Annual Report to setting out the achievements of our approximately 1,000 pupils. I congratulate the pupils in Years 11 and 13 at the College who collectively achieved the best performances in GCSEs since 2010 and in A-levels since 2012. Both years were set the goal of matching the results achieved under Teacher Assessed Grades in the previous year. That both year groups came very close to doing so reflects not only their efforts but also the integrity of the grades awarded last year. At St Andrew's Prep, our Year 8 leavers collected a very impressive 21 scholarships and awards at their senior schools, the great majority at the College.

Among pupils' many achievements last year, the College won its first national hockey title with the 1st XI girls winning the English Hockey Tier 3 final. The 1st XV boys rugby team played its first national final and were runners up in the RFU 18 Bowl. In the performing arts, the College's production of *Les Misérables*, delayed for a year by the pandemic, was an outstanding ensemble performance by its actors, musicians and stage crew. For the first time, St Andrew's Prep performed at the Devonshire Park Theatre putting on *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. The depth of the College's arts and cultural offering was confirmed by the Arts Council award of its ArtsMark Platinum Award at the end of the summer term. The College is one of only two schools in the South-East to hold this award.

After two years where fees were reduced to reflect periods of closure, we received a normal level of fee income and benefited from the resumption of our summer lettings programme. The Charity made an overall operating surplus of £1,424k, an improvement of £793k over the previous year.

Thanks to the very close attention our senior leadership team has paid to managing our costs over the last three years the Charity has maintained its financial resilience. Current levels of inflation bring pressures on our operating costs and we are very much aware of the pressures that are also faced by our parents. Its education continues

to be in demand: the 2022-23 academic year started with 1,022 pupils across all ages in the two schools. We appear to be benefiting from the appreciation, enhanced during the pandemic, of the quality of our provision, and from families relocating to East Sussex. The Annual Report sets out our progress in achieving the objectives of our current strategic plan now in its fourth year as we aim to deliver the best for our pupils. Work on the development of the strategic plan for 2023-28 is well advanced, reflecting not only the financial effects of the pandemic but also what we have learned from it in the better use of technology and in the art of being flexible.

The Charity plays an important role in the Coastal Schools Partnership (CSP), an organisation that brings together the maintained and independent schools in Eastbourne and the surrounding area. The Annual Report describes the CSP's activities: a full programme has been possible once again. I am particularly proud of the Maths homework club run by some of our Year 12 pupils for Willingdon Community School. Our pupils provided 1:1 support to 27 Year 11 pupils from Willingdon, 25 of whom saw an improvement over their predicted grades, with 7 achieving Grade 9.

The College was established in 1867 'to provide a general education of the highest class'. Both schools strive to live up to that founding principle. We want to increase our ability to provide support to those pupils whose parents cannot afford our full fees. Our long-term target is to increase our restricted and endowed funds from £10m currently to £30m. During the year 185 pupils, 20% of the total, received some assistance with their fees through means-tested bursaries. The Governors greatly appreciate the support of a number of trusts and individuals who, in addition, contribute to the fees of nine current pupils. We also value the commitment of our Devonshire Society members who have promised to support the Charity in their wills.

On behalf of the Governors, I thank Tom Lawson and Tom Gregory, our two Heads, Abbey Gough, our Chief Operating Officer, and the over four hundred staff who teach at and support the two schools. I also thank all those who continue to support our fundraising. Without them all we would not be able to provide the education we do.

Philip Broadley 12 December 2022

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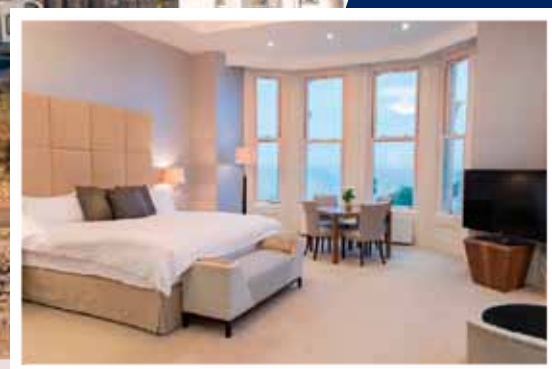
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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER



The weekly prefect meeting

The calendar year 2022 has been as joyous and back-to-normal at the College as it has not been in wider politics and society! Avoiding the curse of interesting times is really what schools need, and the return of all those occasions which provide the punctuation in the story of the school year has been very pleasing.

Exams in the summer term, with the excitement and dread of results day in August might not, you would have thought, have been something the pupils welcomed back. But in truth, they found the Covid arrangement of self-assessed grades as a bit of a let-down and, nervous as they were, the 2022 GCSE and A-level cohort relished the vindication of their efforts given by proper examinations. And vindicated they were, with some of the best results for several years. Crucially we maintained, and by some measures, improved on the results from the previous two years when we marked our own homework. Not only is that a credit to the pupils and teachers for their hard work but also it demonstrates that we conducted the Covid process with integrity. Across the schools sector as a whole, this was not always the case.

This September we welcomed an intake that brought the College roll to the highest number in history – 660 pupils. This necessitated Watt House annexing the next-door building to accommodate the number of day girls we have, and has given us some confidence as we face the gathering storm of energy prices and a possible Labour government ideologically inclined to raid independent schools.

Our girls hockey XI won their national tournament in the first half of the year, and the cricketers won a national 2nd XI competition as well as having a winning 1st XI season. The rugby XV, having competed in a London

final last season, were a division up in the cup and made it to the last 16. They had an excellent regular season, including victories over Worth, Sevenoaks and Brighton College. Over the year, the College has scooped a clutch of national awards, including being a finalist in the Independent Co-ed School of the Year award and winning a Tatler award for our environmental work.

In matters more everyday, the headmaster's office has seen its fair share of naughty pupils over the last year – the team and I still have a job to do to correct behaviour and encourage the best comportment out of adolescents. But the main theme I want to bring out is how impressed and proud I have been by the maturity and good conduct of the majority of our pupils this year. In the pictures accompanying this article you see examples such as the steeplechase where everyone enjoys taking part for the greater glory of their house. It is not just the sense of satisfaction when the exhausted pupil completes the final mile along the seafront through to the finish line on Western Lawns. It is the crowds of others in their house cheering and encouraging each other on that really warms the heart.

You see also a photograph of the prefect body. They really do care about their school and take their duty to make it a better place very seriously. What tickles me most about the weekly prefect meeting is that the chairing by the head of school, the minute taking by the deputy, the adherence to the agenda and other formal accoutrements of business meetings is so very much better than any other meeting I attend run by (so-called) adults!

Most impressive of all, however, was the way that the pupils responded to the death of the queen. As the College chaplain and all the staff showed their mettle by organis-

ing a wonderfully moving couple of service in Chapel, the pupils conducted themselves with the utmost decorum and respect. At the end of the service, they filed past our signed photograph of Her Majesty from her visit to the College as Princess Elizabeth without breaking silence or any distraction. Teenagers can be magnificent if you let them be.

Thank you as always for all your support, and I look forward now to welcoming back OEs and other Eastbournian Society members to College events and sharing the news of the school and the forthcoming campaign to raise funds for bursaries in the New Year.

Tom Lawson, Headmaster



The steeplechase



Head of School Dylan Pearson, Deputy Head of School David Udege, Tom Lawson, Deputy Head of School Caitlin Milborne and Head of School Tess Garrett

THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT

THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY HOSTED THE ANNUAL FUTURES CONVENTION ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY 4 MARCH, ENABLING CURRENT PUPILS TO CONSIDER THEIR FUTURE PLANS FOR EDUCATION AND CAREERS ONCE THEY LEAVE THE COLLEGE.

With around 70 exhibitors in the sports hall in the Winn Building, there was a lot for Year 11 and sixth form pupils to take in. As well as representatives from a variety of professions, companies and industries, a number of universities and gap year providers also took part.

We are grateful to the many Old Eastbournians, parents and others who gave up their Friday evening to pass on their advice and expertise.



NETWORKING

The Eastbournian Society holds a series of networking events throughout the year, which bring together Old Eastbournians, parents and others to share their knowledge and experiences with current pupils in an informal atmosphere.

John Capaldi, Mike Lawrence (College parent), Emma Garrett, Michael Gietzen, James Shore (Wargrave 1998–2003) and Stuart Weston (Gonville 2011–13) at the business lunch



On Saturday 1 October, College sixth-formers interested in studying **medicine** were given valuable insights into medical careers. Dr Nigel Sargant (Reeves 1990–95) is a consultant haematologist for Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and he started off by giving a detailed illustrated talk on his career in haematology. He was followed by Mr David Macafee (Pennell 1989–93), speaking via video link, who gave an interesting perspective on a day in the life of a surgeon, based on his experiences as a consultant at South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The session concluded with a talk from Dr Rob Wicks (Powell 1974–79) about the breadth of experience

necessary to work in general practice; Rob was a GP in Eastbourne and was also the College doctor for a number of years.

This year's **business lunch** was held on Friday 14 October at The Clarence, Whitehall, and was an opportunity for ES members to meet with others in business not only for networking, but for socialising as well. Michael Gietzen (Reeves 2001–03) spoke candidly about the challenges his events company, Identity, has faced in recent years. He also talked about their recent successes, including running the G7 summit and COP26. Some attendees had changed careers recently; including John Capaldi (Craig 1974–79), who, after a long career in the City, was now enjoying

a return to his talented roots, as a pianist, by teaching piano to prep school-aged youngsters.

On Wednesday 23 November, ES members working in the **insurance** industry gathered at Davy's Wine Bar in the City of London, where they were joined by current sixth form pupils interested in working in the sector. Peter Matthews, a parent of OEs and CEO of two insurance firms, generously gave his time to be guest speaker. Peter spoke passionately about why he loves the industry – receiving many nods of agreement from the audience – and about how he accidentally ended up working in insurance in the first place! Our thanks go to Peter sharing his story with us.



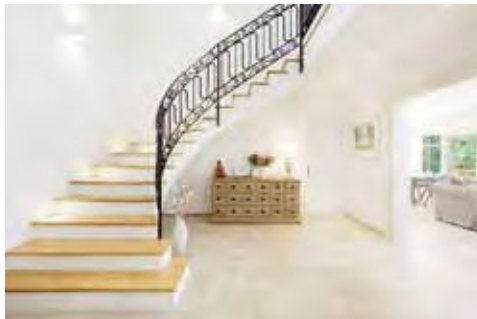
The insurance networking evening

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FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

As we are well aware, Eastbourne College is a prestigious and renowned institution that provides exceptional education to young minds. It is a place where pupils are nurtured, challenged and equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. I am fortunate to have a job that I love, in a place that is very dear to me with people that are a joy to work with. I also count myself extremely lucky to work with young people whose enthusiasm and zest for life is contagious.

It is clear however, that many children who would benefit from the education offered at Eastbourne College or St Andrew's Prep are unable to attend due to financial constraints, and this is where bursaries come in. Undoubtedly the best bit of doing what we do in the development office is being able to make a very real, tangible difference to a child's life through our bursary programme.

Bursaries are awarded based on a pupil's financial need and academic merit and can be a lifeline for those who are passionate about learning. There is nothing better than sharing the news with a bright aspirational child and their parents that their dreams have come true, and an extraordinarily generous member of our community has offered to pay for their schooling. Can you imagine what it is like for that young person to hear they have secured a place at their school of choice? One phone call and the trajectory of their life changes dramatically.

I am not afraid to admit that the charity's bursary fundraising ambitions are huge but as an individual I am determined to do my bit to help transform young peoples' lives. Over the coming months, you will see and hear more and more from us, a sort of surround-sound approach, telling the stories of how the generosity of our supporters has been life changing and joyful for both those giving the gift of education, and those receiving it.

At the risk of repeating myself, the importance of bursaries cannot be overstated. Bursaries help to level the playing

field and ensure that all pupils have the chance to succeed regardless of their financial background. We can all play a role in shaping the future and ensuring that the next generation of leaders, innovators, and thinkers has access to the education they need to succeed.

There are many ways to support bursaries at Eastbourne College, and every contribution counts. Here are just a few suggestions:

- **Make a donation.** Your donation, no matter how small, can make a big difference to the lives of students who need financial assistance. You can donate in a number of ways; directly to the charity's bursary fund, by setting up a regular giving payment, joining the Devonshire Society legacy club, or contributing to specific fundraising activities.
- **Attend fundraising events.** The Eastbournian Society continues to host a range of fundraising events throughout the year, from charity golf days to giving days. By participating in these events, you can show your support for bursaries while having fun and socialising with other like-minded individuals.
- **Spread the word.** Share information about the importance of bursaries and how they can help students achieve their dreams. You can use social media, email, or word-of-mouth to encourage others to get involved.
- **Volunteer your time.** If you have skills or expertise that could be useful to the charity, consider volunteering your time. You could help with fundraising, offer mentorship or work experience to students, or organise your own event.
- **Encourage businesses to get involved.** Businesses can play an important role in supporting bursaries at Eastbourne College. You could approach local businesses and ask if they would be interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, funding a pupil or making a donation.

In conclusion, bursaries are essential to ensuring that young people from all backgrounds have access to the exceptional education offered at Eastbourne College and St Andrew's Prep. By getting involved and supporting the upcoming campaign, we can all make a difference by giving back and helping create a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

I am determined to see the bursaries campaign grow into a global initiative that includes every single member of the Eastbournian Society in some way, working together to ensure that no child is denied the opportunity to reach their full potential due to financial circumstances. Project 150 saw the creation of the most amazing



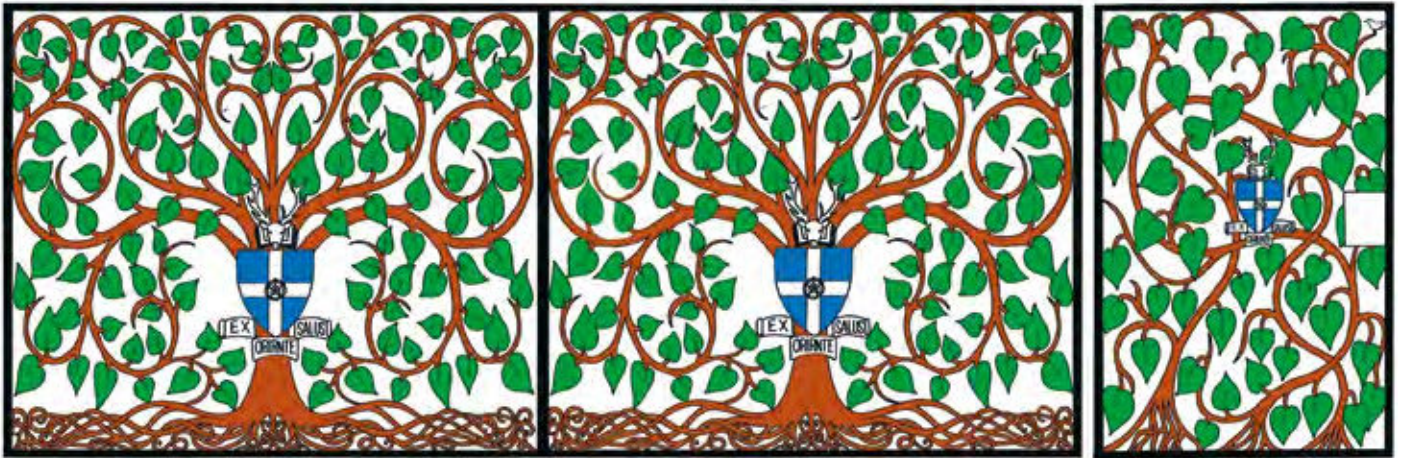
The joy of being an Eastbournian Society member. Old Eastbournians who are teachers at the College: Jon Medlycott (Pennell 1989–94), Georgie Daniels (School 2014–16), Jane Bathard Smith (Everist) (Nugent 1991–93)

state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of our wonderful coastal town. It's now time to ensure that the education we provide is accessible to as broad a cross-section of society as possible.

Many thanks to you for your continued support, to the Eastbournian Society committee and its chair Hugh Price, the governors, the staff and everyone featured within these pages. We are stronger together.

Warmest regards

Emma Garrett,
Development Director



The Grange Road gates

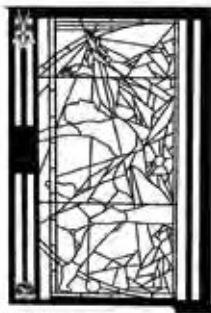
THE ARNOLD EMBELLISHERS



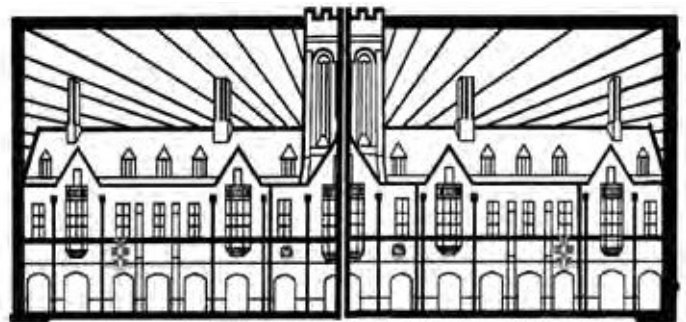
The Arnold Embellishers welcomes all current and past pupils, parents, staff and friends of the College to meet together and discuss projects which enhance the College community. There is a small minimum subscription which enables members to gather for a sociable annual AGM and lunch, receive newsletters and fund suggested embellishments which improve the pupils' experience at school.

For over a hundred years Embellishers have developed projects including the Dell open air theatre, scoreboards, flagpoles, floodlighting, the dance studio windows, individual house commemoration boards, benches on College Field and outside the new reception area, the sundial on the Nugee Building, gardens, historical publications and the literary timeline in the English Department corridor.

Join in and be part of the final exciting stage of a significant project, two pairs of ironwork gates on either end of Old Wish Road, which have already been commissioned to be installed during summer 2023. A competition was launched to regional



The Carlisle Road gates



tion officer; Amy Gordon, partner at Miller Bourne Architects; and Jenny Lush and Chris Nicholson for the AEs. The panel considered six very different designs and were unanimous in their choice. It is a lovely bonus that the winning designer who has been commissioned to make the gates is an OE. David Mortimer (Wargrave 1987–92) of Firebird Forge produced two complementary designs, one for the Grange Road end and one for the Carlisle Road end.

being commissioned in the heart of the Cultural Quarter.

It was felt that the gates at Grange Road should feature the trees of the area with an Arts and Crafts feel. They will be installed alongside the Coronation Pillars at Grange Road, commissioned by the AEs to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's coronation in June 1953, and will be known as the Coronation Gates in honour of HM King Charles III's coronation in May 2023. These AE-commissioned gates will be a very prominent embellishment and will hopefully be as enduring as our Thomson Gates donated in 1925–28 which sit at the College Road entrance to School House, the Memorial Building and the Science Centre.

The AEs embellished the dining hall with a large clock, supported the Young Musician of the Year awards, and started working on a number of future projects with the College. This is an exciting time to join the society – you would be most welcome to come along and find out more.

Vicky Henley, Chairman
vhenley@eastbourne-college.co.uk



The Embellishers AGM on 10 September 2022

blacksmiths and designers together with national craft associations. The judging panel included Cllr David Tutt, leader of Eastbourne Borough Council; Rebecca Maddell, the council's heritage champion; Joe Hill, director of the Towner Gallery; Tom Lawson, headmaster; Abbey Gough, chief operating officer; Nick Chapman, head of facilities management; and Vicky Henley, AE chairman. Observations were gathered from Chris Connelly, conserva-

The gates for Carlisle Road looking down to the new Winn Building feature the iconic Memorial Building and our very own stained-glass window design by Jessica Lambinet. The headmaster commented that using the dance studio window was a celebration of the Arnold Embellishers commissioning pieces of art for the town. Joe Hill of the Towner agreed that it was good to mark the fact that new works were



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THE 2022 LONDON DINNER

Nearly 200 guests turned out to celebrate in style at the annual Eastbournian Society London dinner on Tuesday 22 March



Old Eastbournians, parents of both former and current pupils, members of staff new and old, and other members of the Eastbournian Society all came together to pay tribute to David Stewart, who retired in 2021 after 37 years' service to the College. We also welcomed as a special guest Christine Todd, who worked as the College's Foundation administrator for 21 years before her retirement, also last year.

There was a warm and joyful atmosphere at the Waldorf Hilton Hotel as guests gathered for welcome drinks in the elegant Palm Court, before moving to the Adelphi Suite for dinner. Following welcomes from Hugh Price, Chairman of the Eastbournian Society, and Emma Garrett, Foundation Director, a superb dinner was served. A chance for many to catch up with old friends, reminisce and swap anecdotes of school days. Headmaster Tom Lawson then spoke about how the College is moving on from the last two years of the pandemic, concluding with a toast to the Old Eastbournians.



Nigel Wheeler

After pudding had been served, Emma introduced Nigel Wheeler, who spoke with his usual humour about David's contribution to College life. He concluded with these words:

'I can't stress more how important you have been to Eastbourne College. Eastbourne is not a well-known, high-flying school. It has always needed people such as yourself, known and respected far afield from the tight confines of the

Sussex coast. People who rub shoulders with the good and the great from all sorts of schools, sports, arts arenas and walks of life. People who can sing out the strengths and qualities of Eastbourne College far and wide. David you are something special, a legend, a winner and a friend. Lucky Eastbourne, lucky all of us, thank you.'

David replied with a few amusing reminiscences of his own and spoke about what the College had meant for him as teacher, rugby coach, housemaster, deputy head and foundation director. He finished with a toast to Eastbourne College, which was greatly appreciated.



David Stewart

One final unscheduled speaker was Peter Paul (Wargrave 1950–52), who asked to say a few words. He told the guests that he had not been at the College when David had worked there, so had been unable to see at first-hand David's contribution to school life. However, he wanted to thank David, on behalf of his generation of OEs, for all the great work he had done to help make the College what it is today.

The evening continued as many of the guests enjoyed the hospitality of the hotel bar, the culmination of a splendid return, after two years, to the highlight of our social calendar.



Peter Paul



Christine Todd, Lulu Brown, David Stewart, John Thornley and Emma Garrett





CIRCUS

CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Emma Garrett writes:

The idea for Circus, a creative arts festival, came about in December 2021. We had invited some past pupils involved in the performing arts to the College to see the school production of *Les Misérables*. This gave us a rather wonderful opportunity to engage with an incredible array of talented Eastbournians who were working as actors, directors, producers, agents, set designers, costume designers, writers and musicians and to introduce them to the cast and crew of the show.

It was on the back of this that various offers came through from our guests who wanted to return and perform again at their old school and so we decided to mount this rather ambitious project. Little did we know at the start how incredibly generous performers would be with their time and how delighted they would be to share their expertise with you, our audiences and with current pupils at school. Many of them attribute their current success to the start they got treading the boards at the College.

Ultimately, our intention was to raise a significant amount of money through ticket sales and donations to go into our bursaries pot which enables children from low-income families to benefit from an education at one or both of our schools: St Andrew's Prep and Eastbourne College.

Many thanks to those who purchased tickets and, in doing so, contributed to our fund and helped transform the lives of young people who otherwise would not have the opportunity to reach their full potential, on or off stage.

MARK LE BROCQ — A MASTERCLASS IN CLASSICAL SINGING

In the Birley Centre on Thursday 21 April international tenor Mark Le Brocq (Craig 1979–84) gave a masterclass involving a number of College pupils, who were rehearsing *Songs of Travel*, a song cycle of nine songs originally written for baritone voice composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams, with poems drawn from the Robert Louis Stevenson collection *Songs of Travel and Other Verses*.



TEA, CAKE AND SYMPATHY WITH SASHA BATES

On Friday 22 April in Tim's Café, author Sasha Bates (Nugent 1984–86) read extracts from her book, *Languages of Loss*, part memoir, part psychoeducation into what therapeutic wisdom, of all types, can offer grievors. When her husband, Bill, died unexpectedly at just 56, Sasha tried to make sense of the tumultuous feelings of grief that were overwhelming her. As this 'grieving self' wrote the pain down onto the page, she began to find her 'therapist self' entering the conversation, trying to use what she knew of therapeutic theory to help navigate through the new and unwelcome world into which she had been thrust.



AN HOUR WITH ED SPELEERS

The Le Brocq Studio was the venue on Friday 22 April for an evening of informal and entertaining conversation with film, television and theatre actor Ed Speleers (Wargrave 2001–06) in conversation with Nigel Wheeler, his former College tutor and English teacher. Ed's first professional role was in 2006 as the lead in the film *Eragon*, since when he has appeared in numerous television and film productions both in the UK and abroad, including, in 2012, the recurring role of Jimmy Kent in the award-winning ITV series *Downton Abbey*, as well as *Wolf Hall*, *Partners in Crime* and as Stephen Bonnet in *Outlander*.



IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU — AN ACTING MASTERCLASS

On the afternoon of Saturday 23 April, professional actors Patti Clare (Nugent 1983–85) and Kate Isitt (Nugent 1983–85) gave a joint acting class with College drama scholars in front of a ticketed audience. Using short scenes, the class focused on cold reading (no rehearsals beforehand, no line learning), learning to trust themselves in a scene and trust their instincts.



PAUL MAYHEW-ARCHER — INCURABLE OPTIMIST

Paul Mayhew-Archer (Reeves 1967–71), comedy writer, script editor and producer, performed his one-man show at the Birley Centre on Saturday 23 April. In 2011, Paul was diagnosed with



Parkinson's. It's an incurable illness that gets progressively worse and has over 50 symptoms. It is also – as Paul quickly found out – funny. He first performed his show at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2018, then toured the UK with it in 2019. It was described as 'an inspiring show about the therapeutic power of comedy and laughter from a man who is not contagious but is well worth catching' and the Eastbourne audience certainly agreed.

DEREK GRANGER IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVID GRINDLEY

On Sunday 24 April, the day after his 101st birthday, Derek Granger (Powell 1935–39) spoke about his career in television with theatre director David Grindley (Wargrave 1986–88). The audience in the Birley Centre was in turn enthralled and amused by Derek's tales of working with Laurence Olivier, producing early episodes of *Coronation Street* and the TV drama with for which he is best known as producer, the BAFTA-award winning *Brideshead Revisited*. Afterwards everybody was able to join in Derek's birthday celebrations with a glass of champagne and a piece of birthday cake. Sadly, this would turn out to be Derek's last visit to Eastbourne, as he died on Tuesday 29 November at his home in London. An obituary appears on page 98.



THREE ANNIVERSARIES

2022 marked the 65th and 55th anniversaries of three very different College events: the CCF flypast over College Field and the opening of Mulvany's, a boys 'waiting house' (later to become Nugent) in 1957, and the production of *West Side Story* at the Congress Theatre in 1967.



Left to right, top row:
 Anthony Dixon (Mulvany's/Nugent/Blackwater 1957-61),
 Peter Hall (Mulvany's/Gonville 1957-60),
 Henry Monro (Mulvany's/School 1957),
 Jeremy Lillywhite (Mulvany's/School 1957-60),
 Peter Woods (Mulvany's/School 1957-62)

Bottom row, left to right:
 Adrian Hall (Mulvany's/School 1957-60),
 Mrs Mulvany, Brian Mulvany,
 Christopher Atkinson, Richard Pike
 (Mulvany's/School/Nugent 1957-61)

MULVANY'S

At the start of the 1957 Lent term, Brian Mulvany (Member of staff 1938–62) opened a 'waiting house' for new pupils on the first floor of Craven Cottage, in Old Wish Road. The dormitory adjoined the flat where Brian and his family lived.

Known as Mulvany's, it only lasted a short time as its replacement, Nugent House, in Blackwater Road, was opened in the summer term. Nugent was named after Arthur Nugent (Wargrave 1891–98), whose generosity enabled the College to buy the building.

A photo of the first boys in the house was taken on the steps leading to the garden at the back of Craven Cottage. This picture also includes Christopher Atkinson (Gonville/Mulvany's/Nugent 1952–57). He transferred to Mulvany's from Gonville in order to help Mr Mulvany set up the new house. Christopher died in 2020 and a brief obituary can be found on page 93.

In 1969, Nugent became a day girls house, accommodating sixth form day girls from Moira House who were studying their A-levels at the College. Eleven years later, the house was opened up to sixth form boarders and in 2005, lower years were admitted. The house was extended in 2006.

THE FLYPAST

Later in 1957, a flypast by four College pupils took place over the College grounds as part of the CCF inspection. Clive Morris (Reeves 1952–57), Charles Masefield (School 1953–58), Jeremy Banham (Wargrave 1952–57) and John Wingfield (Reeves 1953–57) made history as the *Eastbournian* reported:

'It was... the first occasion on which RAF cadets at any school have staged a proper flypast for an Inspecting Officer.'

On 21 June 1957, the boys took off from Croydon aerodrome in Tiger Moths borrowed from the Surrey Flying Club. As they

reached Eastbourne, they dived low over College Field where an inspection of the CCF by Air Marshall Sir Douglas MacFadyen was taking place. He was later to remark, 'Well, I've never had that done for me before!'

Three of the boys went on to have careers in aviation: John Wingfield trained as a flight cadet at Cranwell and later attended the Central Flying School, graduating as a flying instructor in 1968. He instructed at Manby and soon became a flight commander and was promoted to squadron leader. Refusing the offer of a desk job, he decided to change to civil aviation, flying as a captain for South African Airways and Dan Air, but mostly for Air Europe.

Clive Morris joined the RAF in 1957 and BEA (British European Airways) in 1965. He later flew Boeing 707s and 747s for BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation) and from 1994 to 2001 flew with Virgin Atlantic, retiring in 2004. He continued flying in a private capacity following his retirement until shortly before his death. He was an associate member of the Guild of Aviation Artists.

Charles Masefield (later Sir) also had a notable career in aviation. He was a test pilot for Beagle Aircraft from 1964 to 1970, followed by a six-year period with Hawker Siddeley Aviation and finally as a test pilot for British Aerospace. In 1964, he flew a DH90 Dragonfly from London to the USA, setting a record time for bi-planes between London and New York. He won the 1967 Kings Cup Air race in a P-51D Mustang and in the following year became the British National Air Racing Champion.

WEST SIDE STORY

Ten years later, the acclaimed College production of *West Side Story* was performed at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne. The musical formed part of the College's centenary celebrations and included pupils from other Eastbourne schools (Beres-



Flypast 21 June 1957

ford House, Cavendish County Secondary School, Eastbourne Grammar School, Moira House and Ratton County Secondary School).

Pupils from the College included Peter Marchand (School 1962–67) as Tony, a member of the Jets, and Christopher Trower (Reeves 1962–67) as Bernardo, leader of the Sharks. Alex Mitchell (Pennell 1962–67), who with Robert Vale (School 1962–67), built the College hovercraft, appeared as Anxious and remembers:

'I had a minor part as one of the gang of Sharks. My friend

Brian Simmons (Pennell 1962–67) was another one, which was most appropriate as he lived in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In fact the previous summer I had travelled with him to stay there during the holidays. It was a very exciting and intense experience performing on stage – we all felt very lucky to be included and I believe it was generally well received considering most of the cast were amateurs.'

Victor Wilde, the College's catering manager, appeared as Officer Krupke.



THE TRIP TO CHAMPAGNE IS A SPARKLING SUCCESS!

In late April, we finally managed to embark on our trip to the Champagne region, which had originally been planned for 2020, but which had been postponed because of the Covid pandemic.

*Mike Davey (School 1967–72)
reports on the trip.*

In my final term at Eastbourne College (which was the summer term of 1972) I boarded a coach in Blackwater Road for the last time as a College student and I certainly did not envisage that, 50 years later, I would once again board a coach for another 'school trip'.

However, that is what happened because on Tuesday 26 April at 05:30 hours a group made up of OEs and others that either had or have a connection with the College climbed aboard a luxury coach in Blackwater Road destined for Folkestone... the ES 2022 Champagne tasting and cultural tour of the region around Reims had begun.

Fortified by bacon rolls and coffee kindly supplied by Helen Medlycott the group were in good spirits and, with the roads being clear, we arrived at the Eurotunnel Terminal (which was pretty much deserted) and, after a quick coffee, boarded the train. Forty minutes later we were in France.

By now old friendships were renewed and new friendships made, and it quickly became evident that the trip was going to be fun as clearly everyone was up for a good time and the tour did not fail to deliver.

The next couple of days consisted of a good mixture of visiting champagne houses with of course the obligatory tasting (in which the group did not need any encouragement to partake), excellent meals with wonderful wines, and some spare time to wander around the enchanting City of Reims (well known for its glorious Gothic cathedral where all French kings were crowned).

I can only speak for myself here but I am not entirely sure that I can even now identify the difference between a Blanc De Noirs 1er Cru (100% Pinot Noir) champagne and a Grande Cuvee Speciale 1er Cru (70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Noir) champagne but what I can say is, I really, really enjoyed every single glass of champagne that was put in front of me and clearly I was not alone,

as on departure from each champagne house the coach sank a couple of inches as more and more cases of bubbles were loaded.

Before we knew it, the tour was coming to an end but there was time for one last stop on route to the Eurotunnel Terminal for a visit to the old Grand Prix circuit at Reims Tinquex where Dermot Bambridge (Reeves 1962–65) shared his passion for motor racing and, as a memento for the group, produced a booklet full of information about the circuit.

If you enjoy excellent champagne and wines, fine French cuisine and great company then this is a trip for you, so keep an eye out for the next one and get your booking in!

There were so many highlights of the trip (the hotel which we stayed at, Hotel de la Paix in the centre of Reims, was very well received by the guests, particularly the breakfasts!) and therefore very difficult to pick one that stands above the rest, but I think we would all agree that what really made our trip so successful were the people who attended.

Of course, it would be totally remiss of me not to say a few thank yous on behalf of the group. To David, our coach driver, who on more than one occasion received a round of applause from the group for completing some tricky manoeuvres in some



Left to right are Alison Gourlay (Nugent 1970–72), Mike Davey and Di Moss (née Sparrow) (Nugent 1970–72)



At the Reims Tinquex circuit



very tight spaces, to Guy, our champagne and wine expert guide, who was always on hand to answer any question, and finally to Emma Garrett.

By the end of the trip Emma must have been fed up to the back teeth of ensuring on departure from each venue that all the group were safely back on the coach. She always made sure that everyone had what they needed and frankly took away from the group all aggro that is associated with trips/holidays and all done with her smile on her face.

Now where is that glass of champagne...?

Emma Garrett adds:

What might surprise those of you who know me well to hear was that a three-day trip to France was not actually something I was hugely looking forward to, despite the promise of champagne for elevenses, coming as it did at such a busy time.

I am delighted to report however, that it was fabulous! Twenty-three of us were expertly led by Monsieur Guy Boursot and driven by our regular driver Dave who wields his coach with great expertise and precision.

We did not know each other before we set off, but by the end of the trip were firm friends united by our connection to the College. Old Eastbournians, parents, Eastbournian Society members, partners and siblings, we were a blend of young and old – the wonderful Robert Stapylton-Smith at 90 years young, keeping us all on our toes and by the end of the trip, busy planning next year's trip to Portugal where he lives!



Robert Stapylton-Smith

The coach certainly returned much heavier than when it left the College early the previous Tuesday morning, not only because of the delicious meals that we enjoyed en route, but due to the crates of champagne that we picked up at every stop along the way. I can thoroughly recommend joining next year's ES European adventure – the planning is so expertly taken on by Guy and Dave that we didn't have to think about very much at all, other than what colour wine we wanted to drink with our dinner!





A POST-WAR TRIP TO FRANCE

A view of Caen taken by Maurice Wyles

The Second World War had ended just over a year before, when an intrepid band of College pupils (Maurice Wyles (Pennell 1944–49), Arthur Toplis (Powell 1942–47), John Congdon (Pennell 1944–48) and Stephen Boniface (Eastbourne Branch/Powell 1942–46) made their way to France in September 1946. The trip was organised by the Franco-British Society and the boys were part of a party of fifty boys and girls from 'well known schools', led by the Chairman, Lord Bessborough.

Unfortunately, the crossing from Newhaven was so rough that only one of the boys managed to take lunch on board.

The report in the *Eastbournian* mentioned their confusion about French breakfasts:

'We ate a large supper that night because we had an idea that the French ate hardly any breakfast. However, we were astonished to find fried ham and eggs the next morning. There was also a large spoon provided, whose purpose we did not divine until the last morning, when we were told we were intended to soak our rolls in our coffee with it'

The itinerary included a visit to Dieppe where a wreath was placed on the Canadian War Memorial, a visit to Rouen to see the spot where Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake and, on the following day, a bus tour of the Normandy battlefields. They

stopped in Falaise for lunch, hosted by the mayor.

Signs of war were still evident: 'Falaise is very badly damaged... and all along the road and in the fields, we kept on seeing wrecked tanks and by the time we reached Caen, we had counted at least 70.'

Their last day 'was spent in an orgy of buying things that were in short supply in England and cheap in France, and after a smooth crossing, we returned to England and the pouring rain.'

Maurice Wyles, who contacted the College Archives earlier this year with his memories of the trip, told us:

'We visited what was left of Rouen, the cathedral a stark reminder of St Paul's in the Blitz... on reaching Falaise, we were greeted by the mayor who had spent time in Dachau for 'favouring a country at war with Germany'. At Falaise, Caen and Rouen we witnessed man's inhumanity to man: desolation and destruction. But the reconstruction was impressive. Rubble had been cleared, often by hand. New homes were being built among the ruins. Farmers were working with burnt-out tanks still in the fields. In the evening a farewell dinner with our generous friendly hosts. Together we looked forward to a happier and united Europe.'



The commemorative menu from the lunch in Falaise

THE OVER-60s LUNCH

We were delighted to resume the Over-60s lunch after a three-year break caused by the pandemic, the last lunch having been held in 2019.

The venue was once again St George's Hill Club in Weybridge, and we are grateful to Peter Jamieson (Blackwater 1960–63) for having arranged this for us. The lunch, always a popular event in the ES calendar, is an opportunity for senior OEs, together with their spouses and partners, to meet for a convivial meal.

The guest speaker was Jane Slade (Nugent 1975–77), who spoke about her memories of the College and her life as a national newspaper journalist, in conversation with former member of staff John Hargreaves.



John Hargreaves and Jane Slade



ARE YOU BEING SERVED?



Many will remember the BBC comedy *Are You Being Served?* which was set in a shop called Grace Brothers, and readers in the Eastbourne area may be interested to know that an exhibition of the same name, looking at the department stores of Eastbourne, has opened at the town's Heritage Centre in Carlisle Road.

Bobbys tearoom

College archivist Paul Jordan, who did a lot of research for the exhibition, discovered that there were a number of OEs with department store connections.

BOBBYS (later Debenhams), situated in Terminus Road, was considered a very high-class store. It had a Georgian-style tearoom, lit by a large glass dome, and was furnished with potted palms and Lloyd Loom furniture. Customers could listen to the orchestra or watch a fashion parade as they indulged themselves in a sumptuous afternoon tea. Bobbys even had its own staff fencing team and in 1953, the general manager, Mr Maurice Hughes, presented the Bobby fencing cup to the College. It was awarded to the house with the most points.



Bruce Bobby, 1952



Roy Bobby, 1959



Michael Hatfield, 1958

Harold Bobby, grandson of the founder, enrolled several of his children at the College; Bruce Bobby (Reeves & Pennell 1949–53) and Roy Bobby (Powell 1955–60). Having taught French at the Thacher School in California, Roy returned to the College in 1969 for a short period to teach languages. Graham Bobby (Craig 1973–78) and Jacqueline Bobby (Nugent 1978–80) also attended.

Michael John Hatfield (Powell 1956–59) died in 1966 and had been with Bobbys since 1962, having spent three years apprenticeship with Harrods. He had initially been manager of the toy and knitting wool department at Bobbys but in the year of his death, had been appointed to the position of assistant to the group merchandise controller in the central buying office. His widow, Sheila, was the sister of Ian Walker (Powell 1960–65).

Sidney Chartres, at one time general manager and local director of Bobbys, sent his son, Michael, to the College (School & Nugent 1955–60). Michael enrolled his own children at the school; Harriett (Nugent 1991–93) and Alexander (School 1992–97).

A more tenuous link with Bobbys can also be made with Kerridges furnishing store in Hailsham. When Bobbys furniture repository in Pevensey Road was demolished in the 1930s (for the Luxor Cinema), Mr Kerridge bought the shopfront and installed it in his Hailsham store. His son, Charles Kerridge, came first to Eastbourne Branch and Ascham from 1945 to 1947 and attended the College in Reeves and Blackwater from 1948 to 1951.

PLUMMER RODDIS was another well-known department store with branches across the south of England. Stewart Melville Spence (Wargrave 1918–21) joined Debenhams after he left the College, specialising in silks. He later became the manager of Plummers in Hastings and in 1938, went on a business trip to the USA to study the workings of American stores and sailed in style, travelling out on the *Normandie* and returning on the *Queen Mary*. Following the Second World War, he managed Plummers' store in Brighton. Stewart's son, Stewart James Michael Spence, was in Gonville from 1947 to 1951.



Stewart Spence, 1919



Plummers of Eastbourne

Like Bobbys, Plummers had their own staff fencing team who were instructed by Regimental Sergeant Major William Strong, who had joined the College staff in 1937. He taught drill to the boys in the Combined Cadet Force and coached PT, gymnastics, boxing and fencing.

Further afield, Leonard Bentall, the grandson of the founder of **BENTALLS** stores (the main store was in Kingston upon Thames)



Leonard Bentall, 1930

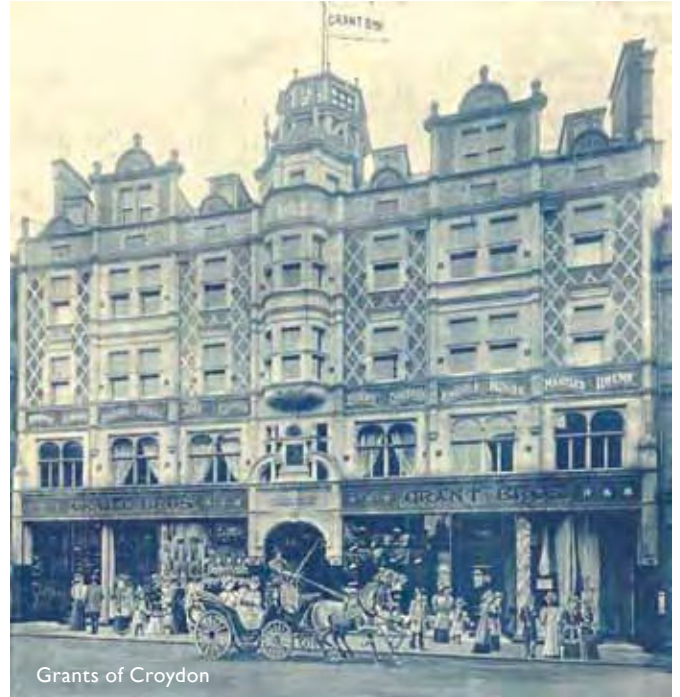
was in Blackwater from 1926 to 1930. On leaving the College, he worked for Harrods for a year before going behind the counter at the Kingston store. In 1968 he became chairman of the store and ten years later, president.

GRANTS was a large department store in Croydon, south London. Malcolm Goss Grant (Pennell 1928–32) was the grandson of one of the founders and joined the store in 1937. He was killed in action in 1942. His brother, Peter William Grant (Pennell 1934–37) also worked in the store and his son, Norman Goss Grant, was in Pennell from 1961 to 1964.

Bobbys and Plummers were later absorbed by the Debenhams organisation, which have now closed all their stores; Grants closed in the 1980s with only Bentalls surviving as part of the Fenwick group.



Bentalls in Kingston upon Thames



Grants of Croydon

The exhibition *Are You Being Served?* can be seen at the Heritage Centre, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, from September 2022 to September 2024.



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FOUNDATION DAY



Bella Moen, Eleanor Chapman and Daisy Barrow



Luncheon in the function rooms



Foundation Day was held on Saturday 11 June and we welcomed back members of the Devonshire Society and other major donors to the College.

2022 marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Devonshire Society, and this year's gathering was also the first one we had held since 2019, the last two years having been cancelled because of the Covid pandemic.

Following a service in the College Chapel, guests enjoyed a champagne reception in the Warren Atrium where they were also entertained by current pupils with a variety of musical offerings. A luncheon was then held in the Christopher Kirk-Greene function rooms where the guests were welcomed by Chairman of Governors Philip Broadley. Later, three recent recipients of the Trevor Pescud Tennis Award,

Daisy Barrow (Watt, Year 10), Bella Moen (Nugent 2019–21) and Eleanor Chapman (Blackwater 2016–18), spoke to the guests about their gratitude at having received bursary funding while at the College, and reflected on the opportunities a College education had given them.

The afternoon concluded with an opportunity to watch cricket on College Field on a beautiful summer's day.

A WARTIME ESCAPE FROM OCCUPIED FRANCE



Hawker Typhoon

The wartime adventures of Basil Francis Proddow (Blackwater 1935–40) read like the script of an episode of Secret Army. The BBC TV drama told the stories of RAF pilots being returned to the UK by a Belgian resistance movement, and Basil’s story, although set in France, is just as exciting.

We got to hear about it after the College archives received an enquiry from Basil’s daughter Viv, who first contacted us about the Proddow tennis cup, which had some connection with her father. Unfortunately, we could find no reference to this in the archives but what did emerge, through correspondence with Viv and her brother Julian, was the extraordinary story of their father’s time in France after he had been shot down.

On 14 February 1944, Basil Proddow climbed aboard a Hawker Typhoon. ‘We were to be fighters on this trip temporarily forsaking our more usual role as fighter-bomber’. They were on a mission to carry out a long-range sweep into the heart of German-occupied France. But disaster struck when, flying over France, Basil’s engine stopped as he tried to jettison the long-range fuel tanks.

He managed to crash land in a field, just missing some high voltage cables, and walked away from the plane unhurt.

He made for some woods and later spotted a farmhouse, deciding to wait until dusk to ask for help. He knocked and entered and said to the farmer’s wife in his schoolboy French, ‘Madame, je suis pilote Anglais’.

After a meal of chicken, cheese and wine, and dressed in a blue suit which the farmer had given him, he went to bed. He didn’t sleep for long as the Germans had begun searching the area and the farmer moved him to a freezing barn.

With hands so cold he could hardly hold the handlebars, Basil cycled to the farmer’s parents’ house in a nearby village where he was given shelter. Off he went again by bicycle to Blois where he found refuge in a small grocer’s shop overlooking the Loire.

The owner’s sister, ‘Madame C’, ran a brasserie across the river (which was a depot for the bottling and sale of beer) and offered it as a place of safety. But the difficulty was how Basil was to cross the bridge, as it was manned by sentries and Basil didn’t have any papers. So Madame C and her daughter stood either side of him, gripped his arms and told him to pretend to be drunk. He made it successfully across and spent six months hiding in the brewery.

He was well cared for, two ‘charming’ old ladies brought him English books, the local barber called to give him a haircut and the dressmaker made him a shirt out of a linen sheet.

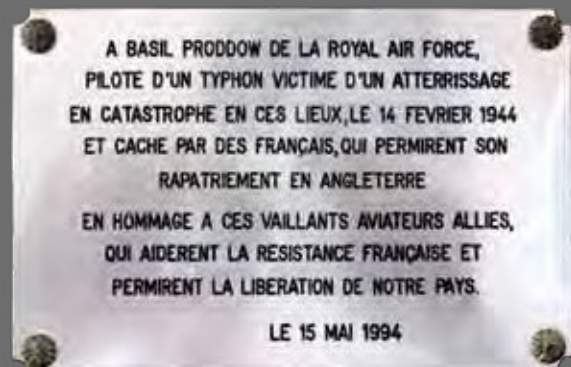
One afternoon in 1944, two German soldiers entered the brewery before Basil had time to hide, so he followed the



Basil in uniform



In more relaxed times



The plaque commemorating those who had helped Basil

example of the Frenchmen there and smiled and shook hands with the soldiers who then left without incident.

Paris fell to the Allies on 15 August 1944 and by 1 September, the Germans had vacated Blois.

Basil made his way back to England and, on the way, was greeted at one French airfield by an officer who thrust a large mug of neat gin into his hand. A condition of taking a space on the plane back to Northolt was that he nursed a box of eggs on his knees destined for the Air Marshal's wife – they arrived intact.

Shortly after Basil's marriage, he and his wife, Sheila, returned to France to visit all those who had helped him. Madame C suggested that Basil go into the attic and chose two of her grandfather's paintings. He had been an accomplished artist in his day and had known several famous painters. A few years later, Madame C's daughter wrote to Basil and told him that while clearing the attic, they had found three paintings by Toulouse Lautrec in the same place from where he had chosen his.

In later years, a plaque was unveiled on the farmhouse where Basil had been sheltered to commemorate all those who had helped him. At another ceremony, both the farmer's wife and Madame C were given awards for bravery.

Sheila wrote:

'When I look at those [Basil's] paintings, I do not think what might have been, but rather would I have had the courage to shelter an unknown pilot in times of such terrible danger'.

But this wasn't the end of Basil's wartime adventures. In February 1945, his plane was shot down over Germany and he spent the remainder of the war in a POW camp.

Our thanks go to Basil's widow Sheila and his children Viv and Julian (Ascham 1966-69; Blackwater 1969-74) for sending us the information for this article.

Basil's brother, Stuart Cyril Proddow, came to the College (Blackwater 1932-36) as did Stuart's son, Ian (Blackwater 1961-67). Basil's son, Simon, was also at the school (Ascham 1966-68; Blackwater 1968-72).

Paul Jordan

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THE JOHN LE BROCQ LUNCH



Sally and Philip Le Brocq in the chapel



On Sunday 12 June, winners of the John Le Brocq Memorial Scholarship joined members of the Le Brocq family at a lunch to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the annual prize.

John Le Brocq was a pupil at the College who died on 27 November 1980, aged just 16, of a brain aneurysm. His parents Philip and Sally Le Brocq set up the award in his

memory, and it goes to a current pupil who has made an unusual contribution to College life. It can be spent on anything, apart from educational fees, which lifts and enriches the spirit.

The first award was made in 1982 and there are now 40 scholars. In Philip's words: 'Their letters and postcards during their year of scholarship, and often, many

years beyond, have given us the kind of life support which only a regular transfusion of young enthusiasm and idealism can bring.'

A number of scholars, together with current and former College staff, attended a thanksgiving service in the College Chapel, before moving on to the Christopher Kirk-Greene function rooms for reception drinks and lunch.



A chance for a quick selfie

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE FOR TWO OLD COLLEGE CHUMS

Richard Duncan and Barry Salmon (both Wargrave 1978–83) returned to the College in early June and, along with the happy memories, were impressed by the new facilities. Here Richard gives us his thoughts.

It had been almost 40 years since Speech Day 1983, when my fellow Wargravian Barry and I left the College. Much had changed in our lives since those special days. We were both married now with two children apiece – two sons (aged 17 and 15) for Barry living in Aylesbury and two daughters (21 and 17) for myself living in Sydney, Australia.

What was comforting for both of us was that so much about the College hadn't changed a bit, or at least felt the same. The main building with its flagstone cloisters overlooking the cricket green on a blue-sky sunny Eastbourne day, was no different from when we left it, as was the memorial gate with the coat of arms and motto *Ex Oriente Salus*, where we had listened to many a last post echoing over the years.

We were so lucky that, despite visiting just before the Jubilee weekend and the school being empty for half term, our long-time house tutor and French teacher JT (who started at the school and Wargrave the same day and year as us!) was able to give us a tour of the school and our old alma mater Wargrave House.

Whilst the last four decades have seen some impressive modifications and general improvements to our old house, the general feel seemed the same and the memories of our five years there came flooding back. Having said that, it was much warmer than we remembered! And there were many fewer boys in a dormitory than in our day.

The same was true for our tour around the school classrooms, library and Big School, though the original Big School sadly burnt down while we were at the school as pupils.

Walking through the now partly-carpeted wooden halls of the school, many of the classrooms have remained almost identical to our memories from 40 years ago. We felt great comfort in that and could almost hear the stamp of leather-soled school shoes up and down the stairs, bellying of 'get to class' by masters for the late arrivals and final banging of the wooden doors as they closed to signal that class had started.

It wasn't until we visited the impressive new wing that we were stunned by the new facilities and the significant improvements they heralded:

- a brand new dining room replacing the old 'Hogwarts-style' dining hall that we had visited three times a day, seven days a week. A space where friendships were forged and tons of food consumed. A place of much laughter,



'We could almost hear the stamp of leather-soled school shoes up and down the stairs'

noise and revelries that held many great memories, now stood somewhat forlornly as the school exam hall – what a different experience the walls would share now if they could talk

- a state-of-the-art sports centre, with a nose-bleed-high ceiling, which has replaced the small wooden gymnasium of the past where PE, fencing and judo classes were held and a few of us used to roller skate at the weekends
- an Olympic-style swimming pool and modernised version of what we recalled previously for our school and house swim meets
- welcoming modern classrooms that replaced the spaces and worlds we fondly recalled where we were guided into adventures into the past to learn all about the world wars from our impassioned history teachers
- an incredible theatre that you could mistake for the West End or Shrewsbury to honour school playwrights and poets that was a far cry from the classrooms and outside grass-lined Dell where we used to perform our house and school plays
- in place of the girls' school Beresford House, where Barry's sister was head girl and which we visited on numerous occasions (once as the only official male lunch guests and other times unofficially!), there is now an all-weather AstroTurf pitch for hockey and tennis

One of the things I have learnt over the years is that we often don't appreciate what we have until we don't have it. This is a



Barry, JT and Richard

learning that comes with age and maturity. Make no mistake, we did enjoy our times at school, and both appreciated it, but it was only now as men in our late 50s that we have truly grasped just how incredible the facilities, services and support were that we were lucky enough to get from the College. And thanks to our parents, we were given an envious head start to our young lives; something that was probably unrealistic to fully appreciate at our age at the time.

As parents who have had to choose

schools for our own children, none that we saw came close to offering what Eastbourne College offered us then and offers their pupils now. This trip down memory lane not only reminded us of our childhood adventures, friendships and special times, but it also served to foster an even greater respect for the College and what it gave us. It - and the quality education it gave us - set us on a road that took us to where we are today.

As we walked along Old Wish Road for the last time after many hundreds of times before, we took one last picture with JT with the College behind us, and turned the corner to our car. Everything momentarily went black and white and I felt a wave of emotion wash over me, as well as a sense of appreciation for the many friendships that blossomed in my time at the College and all the time, effort, support and guidance our many teachers like Alan Gardner, Mr Budge, Ms Newman, Mr Young and the inimitable Donald Perrens all gave us. Some of these great people have sadly passed on, but they live on in us, in our hearts and the memories of the thousands of pupils that have come through their classroom doors. We are their legacy.

I am grateful to have my memories and

have learnt as much as I did in those five years at the College. I count myself lucky for the education, sports and social activities, for all my teachers, the CCF and the many many special excursions, theatrical performances and adventures that we experienced as well as all the shenanigans we got up to at the weekends!

I am also grateful for the special friendship I have kept all these years with my good school chum Barry (who has been my best man twice!) as most of those we knew back then have drifted away. Despite the years and distance between where we both live now, since I emigrated first to South Africa in 1994 and then Australia in 2005, Barry and I have remained firm friends and catch up each week on Zoom. This friendship, forged at the College, is a testament to the great things the school provided us and others, and is evidence that we may have left the school in the summer of 1983, but the school has never really left us and, despite its changes, improvements and modernisation, it will always remain the same place to us in our hearts.

As the saying goes, you can always leave a place, but the place never really leaves you.

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A TURKISH AND GREEK ODYSSEY



In summer 1962 a young teacher called Roger Mills took a party of College pupils on an adventurous trip to Turkey and Greece. That experience was good preparation for his later career as a television film-maker, because in 1988 he persuaded Michael Palin to travel *Around The World in Eighty Days*, the first of many travel programmes which he produced and directed.

Temple of Apollo at Delphi

Paul Tremlett (Reeves 1957–62) was on that 1962 trip and has sent us his memories.

We all met at Victoria Station and took the train to Dover; there we embarked on a four-hour boat trip to Ostend. At Ostend we must have taken a through train to Cologne. We changed trains for the overnight trip down to Munich, where we did indeed wait six hours for the train to Belgrade. We trundled on through Austria to cross the Iron Curtain into what was then Yugoslavia.

I can remember we passed endless flat fields of melons. At Belgrade we bought yet more hard rolls for the onward journey. Next stop was Sofia in Bulgaria, arriving in the middle of the night, a Soviet-style station dimly lit.

Around this time Roger came to Grant McIntyre (Reeves 1957–62), myself and a couple of others and divided all the Turkish spending money between us. Possibly someone saw this because during the night as we slept sprawled in the train's gangway McIntyre's passport and his portion of the money was stolen. Poor Grant was removed from the train at the exit border from Bulgaria. God knows what went through Roger Mills' mind at that time.

The train trundled on into Turkey and eventually we arrived in Istanbul central station. Taxis took us to Istanbul university halls of residence where we were to stay. I was shown into a plain largish room with four beds, one in each corner. On one bed was a bundle covered by a blanket, wherein lay a young French traveller; he was covered head to toe – as we discovered – to avoid the masses of mosquitos. There was a basin in the corner for washing; however, the basin was smashed and the water simply fell onto our feet, hence the mosquitos. The smelly crouchers were down the hall!

Luckily the border guards eventually released Grant after interrogating him through the night and plonked him on the next train. Grant told me afterwards that it was almost funny as no one spoke English, but pretty frightening at the time. The poor chap had to present himself to the British consulate in Istanbul every day until they finally gave him a temporary visa to allow him to continue the trip. Unfortunately, he did miss some of our sightseeing trips.

We lived on rather greasy street food and all suffered dicky tummies. One night we did venture out to the naughty part of town and ended up in a bar where ladies

were belly dancing and chaps were cracking whips around the girls' hips. I seem to remember one of our number was called up to try the whip trick. It's true we had had a couple of beers and had a good laugh, but we felt only friendship from the locals and never felt threatened.

We visited all the sights in Istanbul and after about four days embarked on a ferry to take us down to Izmir. We travelled overnight and I remember sleeping on deck under the stars, the cabin was stifling. In Izmir we took a coach to the ruins of Ephesus, a truly amazing ancient site.

We then embarked on another ferry to take us to Athens. We stayed in a small hotel in a street immediately under the Acropolis. Here again we visited all the sights including the memorable bone shaker coach trip to Delphi. We also visited the beach at Piraeus; it was at this time that Roger Mills' wife flew back to London, she was quite slight and had suffered terribly from the heat.

From Athens we took another overnight ferry through the Corinth Canal, stopping for a few hours in Corfu along the way. The next day we disembarked in Brindisi, Italy, and boarded a very slow train with wooden

seats up to Milan. The journey took probably 16 hours and I actually celebrated my 19th birthday on that train. Eventually we arrived in Milan central station where we slept out on the benches of the cavernous waiting room. The following morning we boarded the overnight train to Calais, bypassing Paris. One more ferry and a train back up to Victoria station and home for a long bath and a sleep.

We all arrived home intact and without mishap. I can only think that Roger Mills did an awful lot of planning and homework before this epic trip. Obviously it was good training for his future at the BBC and his collaboration with Michael Palin.

THE CONTEMPORARY REPORT

The Eastbournian in November 1962 published a report on the trip by Tim Freshwater (School 1958–63).

Eighteen members and former members of the College owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr Mills, whose hard work and energy did so much to make our trip so memorable. We can still hear the haunting dissonance of Middle-Eastern music and taste the juicy bitterness of ziz kebab, for three short weeks in Turkey are not easily forgotten.

The train journeys were a unique experience in themselves. As we travelled east the trains became progressively more primitive and crowded, the scenery more strange, the guards less guttural and more officious. In Munich there was a six-hour stop, but we were hurried through the dingy Belgrade and Sofia. Four of our party, locked out of the moving train in mysterious Bulgaria, just managed to dive in through the mail hatch, while Grant McIntyre had his passport stolen and had to be left for a full day in the clutches of the Communist frontier guards. But the remainder, miraculously safe and sound, drew into Istanbul three days after leaving London.

The first thing the visitor to Turkey notices is the dirt. The streets are deep in dust and grit, except where the wheels of the taxis have cleared a path for themselves. Through the filth fly fleets of battered taxis, their horns permanently switched on and their drivers grinning gaily over the wheel. There are, it seems, no private cars, so the taxis share the road only with the horses and carts that carry pile upon pile of three-penny melons. On the pavements nearly all the buying and selling is done, usually

with argument and gesticulation. Many of the vendors are children, as young as six or even five; and they drive a hard bargain. These urchins swarm everywhere, never going to school or even to bed. Grimy and grinning, begging sweets or, more often, cigarettes, they are even more proficient at peddling useless goods than their elders.

The Turks are the most friendly and helpful people in the world. Not one of the hundreds to whom we spoke gave us the least reason to doubt this. I shudder to think how 'friendly' and 'helpful' some Londoners would be to a Turkish tourist. In the street they queued to take us wherever we wanted to go. Never to direct us, of course; they would always take us. In packed beer-houses we were treated and toasted, and everywhere we were received as celebrities. One man invited us to his yacht within an hour of meeting us; another, misunderstanding our question, led us proudly to a brothel, and seemed perturbed when we refused to investigate further.

The Turks still lock up many of their womenfolk. We saw more of them hanging from top-floor windows than walking in the street. They possess all the lithe beauty attributed to them, and the Greek girls

proved as lovely as

Helen and as wise as Socrates. But we were

no less impressed by the man-made beauty, the unforgettable art and architecture. There is that cluster of minarets outside the Blue Mosque, and inside the delicately painted ceilings proclaim in golden script that Allah is great and Mohammed is his prophet. Santa Sophia, huge remnant of

an illustrious Byzantine past, has a history more impressive than its appearance. But Ephesus, standing – or lying – in lonely magnificence, exceeded our expectations, and who could be disappointed by the Acropolis? It surpasses the hopes of even the most ardent enthusiast. We were captivated by its severe but graceful splendour. It is impossible to know when the Acropolis is at its best. At midday, when the sun, shimmering upon the marble whiteness, beats down so strongly that you could fry an egg on the bald head of an American tourist? Or during the brief Balkan twilight, when the black symmetry of the Parthenon is silhouetted against a sky of deepening blue? Or perhaps at night, when it hangs in illuminated glory, suspended from Heaven for mortals to gaze at in awe?

At Delphi the sparse remains of Apollo's temple and the celebrated bronze charioteer were less inspiring than the vastness of the scenery and an exquisite statue of Hadrian's favourite, Antinous. We made this 100-mile Journey across the rough and parched country of Greece in the traditional rickety bus. With a whimsical, mocking smile, the driver threw the tired machine round tight corners at phenomenal speeds, hurtled over impossible surfaces too fast to hit the bumps, and skidded gaily within inches of long, sheer precipices.

Just as our first impression of Istanbul had been one of filth, so our last impression



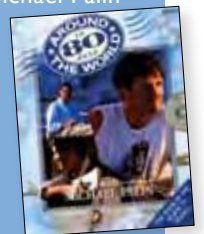
Paul on the dockside at Piraeus waiting to board the Italian ferry

of Athens was one of cleanliness. As we steamed away into the setting sun, escorted by bloated hordes of Piraeus jellyfish and a dolphin or two, the whole city seemed perfectly white. A snowy cluster between the blues of sea and sky; an exotic memory.

ROGER MILLS

Roger Mills taught at the College for one year, 1961–62. His later career in television included being producer of *Sailor*, the 1976 series about life on board HMS *Ark Royal*, executive producer of the BBC2 documentary series *Forty Minutes*, and director and producer on many Michael Palin travel series, starting with *Around the World in Eighty Days*, and including *Full Circle*, *Pole to Pole*, *Sahara* and *Himalaya*. In November 1962, the *Eastbournian* said:

Another great loss to us was Mr R E S Mills, who during his one year with us was amongst other things the originator of the Revue Society. He seems to have got his party back from Turkey in roughly the same condition as they were when they set out. He has already been seen on Southern Television.



BOATER OR BASHER?



This picture of Derek Granger (Powell 1935–39) generated a variety of comments when it was included in our email newsletter in October.

Emma Garrett and John Thornley had visited Derek, at age 101 our oldest Old Eastbournian, and he proudly donned his College headgear for the photo. (Sadly Derek died just a few weeks later). In the newsletter we referred to it as his 'boater', but we were swiftly corrected by a number of OEs who told us that the correct term is 'basher'.

Which made us wonder where the term 'basher' came from. Andrew Finn-Kelcey (Blackwater 1956–60) said that when you first bought one, the hat was as hard as rock and uncomfortable to wear. So, the hats were soaked in water and then 'bashed'



to soften them. Nigel Lea-Cox (Pennell 1938–42) said in his memoirs 'the idea was to allow one's basher to be blown off into the sea so that they could be moulded into a less formal shape.' Others, including Philip Fenwick-Elliott (Wargrave 1964–68), told us that in the 1960s 'it was de rigueur to 'bash' the top in'. Luckily, as his photo shows, his basher managed to survive any such rough treatment. Philip laments the

passing of the basher, which he says was abolished by Headmaster Michael Birley, despite the fact that they were popular with the boys at the time.

A quick search on the internet suggests that 'basher' is not a name solely adopted by College pupils, but is a common alternative to 'boater', along with skimmer, cady, katie, somer, or sennit hat. Traditionally a summer hat, boaters were derived from the canotier straw hat worn by gondoliers in Venice, hence the association with boating and the name boater.

In America in the early part of the 20th century, Straw Hat Day was the day when men would switch from wearing their winter headgear to their summer hats. There was also an unwritten rule that straw hats should not be worn in public after 15 September, and it became socially acceptable for

anybody wearing one after this date to be ridiculed and, at worst, to have their boater knocked off their head and stamped on.

Unfortunately, things turned nasty 100 years ago. In 1922, a group of youths in New York City decided to start the hat-bashing two days before the usual date. This developed first into a brawl, then into a series of riots lasting eight days, as gangs roamed the streets looking for hat-wearers from whom they would snatch boaters and destroy them. The police managed to restore order after many arrests and some injuries.

So, maybe an element of this unruly behaviour had seeped into the Eastbournian consciousness and it became a custom to bash in the top of your hat once your College days had come to an end? If anybody can shed any light on this, we would be most interested to hear from you.



College boys relaxing in bashers in 1919

A footnote from the *Eastbournian*

In July 1951, the *Eastbournian* published this editorial:

We are not qualified, nor do we presume, to be the College's fashion critic. Nevertheless, we would like to draw attention to the growth of eccentricities in the wearing of the common straw hat. Despite a reference in these pages some years ago to this headgear as 'reminiscent of the Naughty Nineties', we feel that the 'basher' worn with taste and distinction is both elegant and dignified. It would indeed be a pity if the good impression created by the majority of the College on the Town were injured by a few thoughtless individuals, who wear their 'bashers' not as one

would expect of a public school boy, but in a fashion more appropriate to the fishmonger or the minstrel. Irregularities in tilt are not, sad to say, the only eccentricities we have recently observed. Perhaps more noticeable are the locks of hair escaping from the front and the padding protruding from the back. These slight affectations can easily be avoided by a little thought and care, to the benefit of the College and the appearance of the owner. It is to be hoped that these few observations may prevent the traditional Sunday headwear from becoming an object of derision.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Archivist Paul Jordan writes:

We've had a real mixture of enquiries this year and have hosted a number of visits to the College. Archives volunteer Peter Durrant (Reeves 1967–71) is doing sterling work adding names to the online photographic database. You can access this if you register on the ES

website and then click on 'Digital archive' in the top menu. We would encourage more OEs to identify pupils in house and team photos, as unfortunately not all of the photos are captioned with names.

It is hoped too, that in a few months, a hard copy of the Second World War Roll of Honour, which has been updated by Michael

Partridge (Blackwater 1946–51) will be available.

David Atkins (Gonville 1949–54) has written a continuation to Vin Allom's 100th anniversary College history *Ex Oriente Salus*. Entitled *Eastbourne College: The Third Fifty Years 1967–2017*, it is now available. Please contact the archives if you would like a copy.

THE TRENCH BROTHERS

Michael Cotsell (School 1951–55) contacted us on behalf of his cousin, asking if we had any information about the Trench brothers who had attended the College in the early 20th century. We found the following details:

Maxwell Douglas Le Poer Trench (Gonville 1900–02), who played in the 1st XV shortly after EC Arnold had introduced the new rugby rules to the College, went on to be an adviser to the Portuguese Government on coffee grinding in East Africa; Arthur Hugh Donald Le Poer Trench (Gonville 1904–07); Power Watts Le Poer Trench (Gonville 1910–12), owner of a coffee plantation in Kenya; and Patrick Chevenix Le Poer Trench (Gonville 1915–16),

who ran a banana plantation in Jamaica.

THE MIKADO FAN

John Hayes (Blackwater 1968–73) responded to the Mikado fan article which appeared in last year's magazine. He contacted us to say not only did he share the same name as the owner of the fan but he is also a Past Master of The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers and a Trustee of The Fan Museum in Greenwich.

PETER HARTWELL

We received an enquiry about Peter William Beresford Hartwell (School 1939–40). Peter died on 5 June 1943, when his aircraft, a torpedo-bomber, crashed into the sea off the east coast of Scotland just after he had released

CHAPEL STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

Jane Smith visited the College chapel in May 2022. She is writing a masters dissertation on the stained-glass artist and designer, Mary Lowndes, who designed six windows for the chapel which date from the period 1903 to 1919.

In October 2022, Kim Adams, a local tour guide, who includes the College site as part of his Devonshire Quarter tour, visited the College. We showed him the Cloisters (and plaques) and the war memorial hall. There was also a visit to the chapel to look at the stained-glass windows.



The West Window in the chapel, designed by Mary Lowndes, which commemorates 12 OEs who died in the Boer War

AGENT SONYA

As part of research by Michael Partridge (Blackwater 1946–51) for the obituary of Michael 'Maik' Hamburger (Pennell 1944–48) on page 99, we became aware of Ben Macintyre's book *Agent Sonya*, which provided some useful information on Michael's life as a child. The book is the fascinating story of Michael's mother, born Ursula Kuczynski, but perhaps better known as Agent Sonya, a German communist activist who spied for the Soviet Union. The book, which was published in 2021, is well worth a read.



his torpedo. He was 20. We forwarded the information taken from the Second World War Roll of Honour to the enquirer.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE PREP, READING

Paul Mason, Head of History at Crosfields School, Reading, is tracing details of alumni of Marlborough House prep school in Reading who later attended the College. (Marlborough House merged with another school, Leighton Park, in 1940, and the junior school of Leighton Park

became Crosfields in 1957. It is not to be confused with Marlborough House Prep in Hawkhurst.) We were able to provide information about the five boys who came on to the College: Eric Edward Baker (Pennell 1920–24); Eustace Humphrey Bonnett (Crosby 1920–24); Trevor Francis Bonnett (Crosby 1924–28), brother of Eustace, Trevor was a pupil at and later taught at Chelmsford Hall prep school, Eastbourne; Henry Stanley Culherne-Brown (Crosby Park, in 1940, and the junior school of Leighton Park

A KEY MOMENT IN COLLEGE HISTORY

On Tuesday 1 February 2022 a ceremonial key which had been used to open the door to the Arnold Wing of the Memorial Building when it was officially opened in 1930, returned to the College after nearly 92 years. The archives had been contacted by Chris Ayress to say that she and her husband wished to donate a key which had been bought by her husband's aunt and uncle in a sale at the home of the 1st Viscount Hailsham some years previously. The Viscount had been guest of honour at the opening of the Arnold Wing on 14 June 1930 and had been presented with the key. Chris



and her friend, Pat Harlow, visited the College and were shown the door (in the nicest possible

way). Chris kindly re-enacted the scene from 92 years ago by putting the key in the lock, hoping it wouldn't get stuck or snap off, but all was well. Chris added that, aside from the key, a pair of Viscount Hailsham's slippers had also been bought at the house sale, and these were later worn, with pride, by her husband's grandfather, a draper in Sandwich. The Hailsham connection has continued at the College as the 1st Viscount's great grandson William Koops was a pupil in Gonville from 2005 to 2010. William's father Eric Koops is also an OE (Gonville 1959–63).

NEW COLLEGE

We were contacted by a gentleman asking if his great-grandfather had come to the College and was it possible that his son came as well? We checked our records but without result. Then I remembered we had a file containing a list of boys who had attended New College (now Gildredge Free School). Sure enough we found the details our enquirer required. Ironically, the great-grandfather probably attended New College when it was based at Ellesmere Villas, the original home of Eastbourne College. The son was not so fortunate in life, according to the enquirer, he was a bigamist, repeated bankrupt and was eventually banished to Australia!

CS SMALLMAN PRIZE

We received an enquiry about the Smallman prize. The enquirer wanted to know more about Arthur Smallman (Blackwater 1906–09) after whom, she thought, the prize

was named. After carrying out some research, we discovered that it was his brother, Charles Strong Smallman (Blackwater 1907–11) with whom the prize is connected. An entry in a

ANDREW FINN-KELCEY

Andrew Finn-Kelcey (Blackwater 1956–60) visited the College in November 2022. He very kindly donated some of his school memorabilia which included his membership cards for the Film Society and one for 'Club Rico' (a club situated in Maxims coffee bar at 89 South Street, Eastbourne). He told us some wonderful anecdotes about life at the College including how he and some other pupils met a group of girls near Beachy Head which was strictly forbidden. A master spotted them and Andrew was 'gated' for the whole term. Andrew gave us



Paul Jordan with Andrew Finn-Kelcey



Club Rico membership card

an explanation for the term 'basher' which you can read about on page 40. He was also a member of the College Meteorological Society, taking measurements from a weather station on the Memorial Tower, and has continued to collect meteorological records for the past 60 years.

1915 *Eastbournian* magazine stated that Sir Henry Smallman had endowed a fund for providing science prizes in memory of his son, Charles, who had been killed in action in December 1914. Prizes are normally given out on Speech Day but these were not held from 1915 to 1918, due to the war, we assume. The first mention of the Smallman prize was on Speech Day 1919 where it was described as the CS Smallman Natural Science Prize. The prize is still given and is now known as the CS Smallman Senior Chemistry Prize.

THE TAYLOR BROTHERS

Having recently moved to Eastbourne, one of our enquirers wanted to find out about his great-great uncles, John Taylor (School 1881–82) and Christopher Taylor (School 1882–83). We were able to send him some information and asked him to let us have further details of their lives post-College. Often we have only the school records and nothing about their careers and families, so we were very pleased when the enquirer was able to send us more details about the brothers' later lives.

FRANCIS HERBERT WALES

We had an enquiry from John Wales (Blackwater 1953–58) asking for details of his father's time at the College. Francis Herbert Wales was in Blackwater from 1919 to 1924. We were able to provide John with a 1924 house photo, a copy of Francis's entry in the 1924 leavers' book and a copy of his obituary which appeared in the 1996/97 *Old Eastbournian*.

HEADS OF HOUSE BOARDS

Blackwater House contacted us and asked if could supply them with the names of heads of house and housemasters from 2011–22 to enable them to update their honours board. We also helped supply names for the Gonville House honours board project.

OTHER SCHOOLS IN EASTBOURNE

We have had a number of enquiries this year asking for information about family members who attended 'Eastbourne College'. Often we are able to confirm that the boys did come to the College but on a number of occasions it turns out that the boys went to the former Eastbourne Grammar School, the Eastbourne Technical School, the Eastbourne School of Art or to one of the many private schools which existed in Eastbourne in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In a few cases, we are still able to help the enquirers by checking online historic newspapers or finding references in the material we have on former Eastbourne schools.

PHILIP HEPBURN

Philip Hepburn (Blackwater 1961–66) paid a return visit to the archives in March 2022 to discuss the donations he had previously made. He also showed us copies of photos which his father, Guy Hepburn (Blackwater 1929–34; Headmaster of Ascham 1958–69), had taken during his time at the College.

HEIR HUNTERS

Perhaps the most satisfying outcome to an enquiry came when we helped track down the beneficiaries of a legacy. We were contacted by an enquirer who was trying to find the whereabouts of the children of a deceased OE. Her father, who had recently died, had left them a bequest, but the enquirer had no idea how to make contact with them. Much like the television programme *Heir Hunters*, we consulted various internet sites and our own records, and were able to discover the address of one of the OE's daughters. The family were delighted and amazed at our tenacity and skill in tracking them down.

This is a good example of how we work in the archives – we always try and do our utmost to help our enquirers regardless of the time and effort it takes.

MOVING WITH THE TIMES

In October, the granddaughter of Old Eastbournian Edward Lawrence Anthony (Tony) Folker (School 1929–34) and her family were shown a clock that he had donated to the College in 1939. Annemarie Leuvennink and her family were attending the College on Open Day on Saturday 8 October when they spoke to Development Director Emma Garrett. She took them to the Eastbournian Society office to show them the clock, which had recently been taken down from its position in the old dining hall. When Annemarie's maternal grandfather presented the clock to the College it had been put above the entrance to the original pavilion on College Field. The clock, made by local firm Brufords, was accompanied by a plaque which read: *Presented by E L A Folker, School House 1929 to 1934, CURFC 1937.*



CURFC are the initials for the Cambridge University Rugby Football Club and in 1937, his final year, Tony won his rugby Blue. In 2000, the clock was removed from the pavilion and installed in the College dining hall. At the time, a second plaque and a new clock movement were supplied by the Old Eastbournian Association. With the old dining hall no longer in use, the clock was removed recently for safe keeping and has since been put back in its original wooden frame. Emma told Annemarie and her family that we are currently considering where the clock could be installed next – it certainly has moved with the times!

THE 1906 GYMKHANA



Looking through an album of Edwardian photos in the archives store, we came across some fascinating images of the 1906 College gymkhana. The event took place on Speech Day, Saturday 7 July 1906, and was organised by the College Cadet Corps (now the CCF). The photo shows a line-up of the prize winners of the fancy dress competition. First prize went to Reginald Colgate (School 1902–06) and Vivian Deuchar (School 1903–06) who were dressed as America's Uncle Sam and a tin of meat. This odd combination is partly explained by the verse written on a placard held above the 'tin':

*Sing about Chicago
Horn and hoof and skin
What a fine farrago
Packed into a tin
When the tin was opened
Of ptomaine 'twas full*

*And wasn't it a pretty dish
To set before John Bull*

Written on the tin itself was: 'Death Trap Brand – by Kill-Quick & Co. – Chicago'

The idea behind the costume almost certainly relates to a scandal which broke in the summer of 1906 regarding adulterated tinned meat which had been produced in the USA (predominantly Chicago). In one investigation, it was found that sausages had been preserved in embalming fluid. Ironically, Reginald Colgate went on to be an analytical chemist.

John Tolhurst (School 1901–06) and Donald Scott (School 1903–07) won second prize for their submarine costume (left hand side of photo) while Kenneth Jameson (Home Boarder 1902–10), pictured on the right dressed as a grandfather clock, won fourth prize.

THE ALL BLACKS IN 1953 – WERE YOU THERE?

An OE drew our attention to the BBC online archive which contains a Television Newsreel report about the All Blacks rugby team who used College Field for training in October 1953, during their British tour. We have taken a couple of screen shots from the film, showing College boys watching the team from outside Big School. Do you recognise yourself? Please let us know at archives@eastbourne-college.co.uk. If you want to see the whole film, please visit www.bbcrewind.co.uk and search for 'Eastbourne College'.



MEADS: AN EDUCATIONAL HEARTLAND

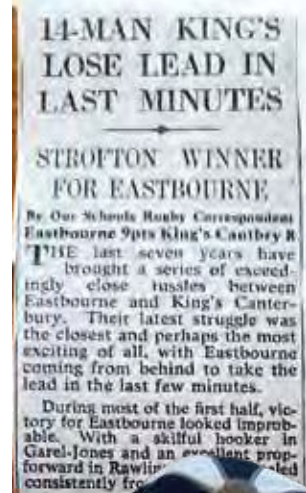
Chris Neighbour, a great supporter of the College, has recently published a book about the history of private schools in Meads. In the book *Meads: An Educational Heartland*, Chris uses his extensive research to build a picture of schools, large and small, the adults and children who worked in them, their comings and goings, their challenges and achievements. With his background in education, Chris was fascinated by how the town attracted such a range of schools and colleges over the latter part of the 19th century and through to the Second World War.



Sources include rarely seen reports by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Schools, based on school visits, which reveal details of day-to-day life for staff and pupils. Additionally, archived newspaper reports from around the country provide some fascinating glimpses of special moments in the lives of these schools. From schools established in residential villas to those which provided education in purpose-built premises, many thousands of pupils developed their lives in and among the streets of Meads and left the area with a unique legacy. The book costs £20 (£3.75 p&p). To order, please email Chris at contact.educheartland@gmail.com or phone 07817 647506.

NIGEL STROFTON'S STAG FEZ

Nigel Strofton (Gonville 1955–59) sent us this clipping from the *Daily Telegraph* of 16 November 1959, reporting on the 1st XV match against King's Canterbury. In a closely fought contest, the College had been 8 points down from early on, but Nigel had helped redress the balance, first with a penalty towards the end of the first half and then, five minutes before the end, with the winning try. Final score: College 9 – King's Canterbury 8. The headline states: 'STROFTON WINNER FOR EASTBOURNE'. Nigel tells us: 'As a result of this game I was awarded my Stag. I wrote a letter to my father asking if I could order the Stag fez (as it was called in those days). The cost was £5 5s (£5.25). He replied saying yes, but it would have to be my Christmas present. I ordered it and sadly it did not arrive in time for Christmas but came in mid-January. By then I had left the College, so I never had the opportunity to wear it prior to a game or in a photograph. I still have my Stag playing shirt and Stag pullover and Stag socks.'



RICHARD NORMAN'S SELF-BUILT CAR

We received a fascinating enquiry from Richard Norman (Powell 1962–67) who built a car while at the College and wondered if we had any photos taken of it during the 1967 centenary celebrations. He said:

'In my final year at the College, I won the Nelson Helmsley Senior Project Prize for a car I had built. [The prize that year was awarded jointly with Robert Vale (School 1962–67) for his hovercraft.] This was 1967, the centenary year, so I had the honour of

shaking the hand of Harold Macmillan on the stage of the Congress Theatre when receiving the prize! 'For the Speech Day celebrations, my car and the hovercraft were positioned on College Field either side of Memorial Arch, but I have no photographic record. I was also told later that the car was featured in the BBC South evening TV news programme, but I missed that as well and there were no VCRs in those days! 'Although I loved my time at the College, there was zero support for a boy interested in pursuing a career in engineering, so the car build was carried out



on my own at my parent's home in Eastbourne. My enthusiasm for building the car far exceeded my interest in studying for my A-levels which was duly reflected in my grades. However, I went on to have a very fulfilling and successful career as a mechanical engineer.'

Richard retired in 2010 as chief engineer of the UK's

largest bus builder, Alexander Dennis, and is featured in a book entitled *Dennis Buses and Other Vehicles* which was written to celebrate the company's 125th anniversary. Amongst his many design achievements was the Dennis Dart, which went on to become the most produced bus in the UK.

Richard's son Chris Norman was in Wargrave from 2002 to 2006 and his daughter Sarah (Nugent 2001–02) is married to Guy Croft (Gonville 1997–2002). Guy's sister, Charlotte, was in School House from 2000 to 2005.

THE ZALESKI CLOCK

In June 2022, we were contacted by Steph Lawrence who wanted to donate a clock to the College. It had been presented to Albert Zaleski, her great grandfather, who had taught French at the school from 1888 to 1896. He appeared to be highly regarded at the College as the headmaster pointed out on Speech Day, 1896:

'...the French Examiner spoke very highly of the French teaching... and he [the headmaster] must congratulate Mons. Zaleski most sincerely on the result of his work.'

And later that year:

'Mons. A Zaleski left us at the end of last term; on Monday, July 28, N H Baynes

[Norman Hepburn Baynes, Home Boarder 1892–96], in the name of the School presented him with a small testimonial in return for his kindness and patience during the eight years of his mastership.'

The clock is inscribed: 'Presented to A Zaleski as a token of esteem and regard from the masters and boys of Eastbourne College, July 1896.'

Following his time at the College, Zaleski continued to teach French in Eastbourne and advertised in the local press offering French language and literature lessons. A few years later he left England for France and died in 1910.

Steph said she was coming to Eastbourne on a coach holiday and would

bring the clock with her – we imagined a grandfather clock strapped to the roof! In fact, it is very ornate brass mantel clock, decorated in the French ormolu style. It now takes pride of place on the mantelpiece in the ES office in Craven Cottage.



DONATIONS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING WHO
HAVE MADE DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Deborah Butler

First edition of *British Waders* by EC Arnold (1924). Given as maths prize to **John Coplestone Carter** (Blackwater 1928–32)

Peter B Graham

Fabric badge with stag emblem, 'ECCC 1926', belonging to his father **James Eric Graham** (Pennell 1922–26)

Philip Hepburn (Blackwater 1961–66) *Public & Prep Schools' Yearbook 1957*; *Public & Prep Schools' Yearbook 1967*; sporting photos; items belonging to his father;

Guy Hepburn (Blackwater 1929–34; Headmaster of Ascham 1958–69), including a swagger stick and College medals (boxed) for 1930 athletic sports/1933 athletic sports/1934 long jump

Dr Charles Knighton (Clifton College Archivist). List of attendees of the Lectern Society 1995–2002. From the estate of **Dr Chris Waller** (College staff 1991–2002)

Eric Koops (Gonville 1959–63) Bible with label on spine 'Gift from Viscount Tenby'. Published in 1923. Signed 'David Lloyd George'. Most likely to be the signature of the **2nd Viscount Tenby** (School 1936–41), son of **Gwilym Lloyd George, 1st Viscount Tenby** (School 1910–13)

Chris Neighbour

A copy of his book, *Meads, an Educational Heartland*

Nigel Sargent (Reeves 1990–95) Book: *Special Ops Heroes* by Michael Ashcroft, which mentions **Cecil Merton** (Gonville 1921–27); 1937 College regatta programme

Nigel Strofton (Gonville 1955–59) College car badge

Mike Yeats

A PDF digital document of the Second World War diaries of his father **William John Howard Yeats** (Home Boarder/ Crosby 1935–39). Mike's brother, **Jeremy**, was in Wargrave from 1965 to 1968

A LONG-LOST CASUALTY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Peter Frank Kennard-Davis (Wargrave 1933–34), who was killed in action in 1940, was not recorded in the original Second World War Roll of Honour, nor does his name appear on the plaques under the Memorial Tower.

Michael Partridge (Blackwater 1946–51) writes:

Peter Frank Kennard-Davis, was born on 24 February 1920 to parents Captain Frank Edward and Mrs Frances Amelia Kennard-Davis of Selsey, West Sussex, and West Kensington, London. He attended Wargrave from September 1933 until late 1934. His school record was undistinguished, unsurprisingly considering that he left at the age of 14. His father was a professional photographer and during the Second World War served as a military attaché in South America with the rank of colonel.

Aged 16, Peter attended the Thames Nautical Training College, HMS Worcester, at Greenhithe, intending to join the Merchant Navy, but an eyesight defect prevented this. Instead he entered the RAF on a short service commission in May 1939. In April 1940 he was posted as a Pilot Officer to no 7 AACU (Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit) at RAF Ringway, Castle Bromwich; then in July 1940 to no 7 Officers' Training Unit at Hawarden near Chester and, after converting to fly Spitfires, on 3 August 1940 was posted to 64 Squadron at Kenley in Surrey. On 10 July 1940 Peter had taken part in the first day of the Battle of Britain.

On 8 August Peter's Spitfire caught fire during combat with Messerschmitt 109s from Jagdgeschwader 51 over West Langdon, just north of Dover, and Peter bailed out, with serious wounds in his head, body, right arm and right leg. He was unable to bail out in the usual manner but had to turn his aircraft upside down and allow himself to fall out, pulling the

rip-cord of his parachute as he did so. He fell into a tree at West Langdon and it was nearly 20 minutes before he could be rescued, losing a good deal of blood from his 12 bullet wounds and a fractured pelvis. His aircraft fell to earth in flames and crashed at West Langdon. He was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Dover where he died of burns two days later on 10 August 1940. He was 20.

Peter was laid to rest in his grandparents' family grave, 42348, along St Cyprian's Avenue at the London Necropolis Cemetery at Brookwood in Surrey (now known as Brookwood Cemetery). The headstone reads 'In proud and loving memory of Pilot Officer Peter Frank Kennard-Davis who died on the 10th August 1940 from wounds received in an air battle off Dover, at the age of 20 years. Called to higher service'. An obituary notice stated that 'this young officer had a most attractive personality and cheerful manner which endeared him to all who knew him and he was a great favourite in the village where he had spent many years of his life'.



A Spitfire of 64 Squadron 1940



Kennard-Davis's grave at Brookwood