

OLD EASTBOURNIAN 2023



THE JOURNAL OF THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY

www.eastbourniansociety.org

A photograph of four children in school uniforms sitting on a pile of logs in a garden. They are surrounded by tall grasses and colorful streamers in shades of red, green, and purple. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a dense thicket of green foliage.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



New Eastbourne 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 451911. **Events are at the College unless otherwise indicated.**

Wed 21 Feb

Talk: Is cryptocurrency worth its weight in gold?

Tue 22 Feb

Theatre trip:
The Motive and the Cue
Noel Coward Theatre, London

Tue 27 Feb

ES Sydney drinks reception
Cranbrook School, Bellevue Hill, Sydney

Fri 1 Mar

Futures convention

Fri 8 Mar

ES Sydney dinner
Bentley Restaurant,
27 O'Connell Street, Sydney

Sat 16 Mar

Annual quiz and dinner

Thu 28 Mar

Theatre trip:
Opening Night
Gielgud Theatre, London

Sat 27 Apr

South African wine tasting

Wed 1 May

Talk: Is the planet worth saving?

Sun 19 May

Cricketer Cup:
OECC v Charterhouse Friars

Mon 20 May

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

Sun 2 Jun

Cricket: Lashings World XI v
College XI
see advert on page 97

Sat 8 Jun

Tour and reception for
grandparents

Sat 15 Jun

Foundation Day for benefactors
and Devonshire Society
members

Wed 19 Jun

Dinner: Debating Society
celebrates 100 years

Thu 20 Jun

Cricket: 1st XI v MCC and
evening cricket drinks

Sat 29 Jun

ES reception at Speech Day

Wed 10 Jul

Theatre trip: *Hello, Dolly!*
London Palladium

Thu 11 Jul

The annual Foundation Golf
Challenge
Royal Eastbourne GC

Fri 6 Sep

Eastbourne Society annual
dinner
The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne

Sat 7 Sep

Old Eastbourne reunion day

Sat 21 Sep

London guided walk
Venue tbc

Thu 17 Oct

London pub social
Venue tbc

Sun 20 Oct

Army Benevolent Fund
curry lunch

Thu 7 Nov

Eastbourne pub social
The Dolphin, South Street

Sun 10 Nov

Act of Remembrance reception

Thu 12 Dec

Carol service
All Saints' Church, Eastbourne

Wed 25 Dec

Christmas Day service
College Chapel

the Over-60s lunch

MONDAY 20 MAY 2024

12.30pm

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

The guest speaker is still to be confirmed but will be announced in our events emails and on the ES website.



- The club offers opportunities for swimming and tennis in the morning to help you build up an appetite for lunch!
- The meal costs £60 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/events>
Or call us on 01323 451911 or send an email to es@eastbourne-college.co.uk

EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY MERCHANDISE

We have a range of Eastbournian Society merchandise and clothing available to buy.

How to order

Please contact us on 01323 452316 or at es@eastbourne-college.co.uk to place your order and to check the cost of postage and packing.



Panama hatband
In OE colours with Velcro fastening **£15**



Cummerbund
Pure silk in OE colours **£15**



Sweatshirts and hoodies
Navy cotton with embroidered College crest
Sweatshirt **£35**
Regular hoodie **£35**
Cross-neck hoodie **£35**



Eastbournian Society notebook
Hard cover with College crest. 80 lined pages (160 sides). With Eastbournian Society branded pen in elastic pen holder, elastic closing band, ribbon bookmark and pocket inside back cover **£10**

Notelets

Pack of eight notelets with envelopes in four designs showing the College in spring, summer, autumn and winter **£8**



Bow tie
Silk, in OE colours **£23**



Waistcoat
Pure silk in OE colours **£30**



OE umbrella
Maroon and cream with 'Old Eastbournian Association' lettering **£15**



OE striped tie
In OEA colours with maroon, white and crimson stripes
Silk **£24**
Polyester **£15**



Scarf
Pure wool in OE colours **£18**



Stag tie
Navy blue with Stag's head motif
Silk **£24**
Polyester **£15**

OE lapel pin
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Torpedo fitting, OE colours, in gift box **£24**



Blazer buttons
Large and small sizes with College crest design **£4 each**



Leather journal/sketchbook
Hand-bound with leather cover, embossed with College crest. 60 pages (120 sides) of high-quality paper. A5 size, available as portrait or landscape in black, brown or navy blue **£34**



Eastbourne College prints
Showing Eastbourne College through the four seasons, these prints have been designed by Tabitha Mary (www.tabithamary.co.uk). Available in A3 or A4 size, framed or unframed.

Individual print costs
A3 unframed **£12**
A3 framed **£35**
A4 unframed **£10**
A4 framed **£25**



THE OLD EASTBOURNIAN 2023



WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF OUR MAGAZINE, THE JOURNAL OF THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY.

You may have noticed the hot-air balloon on the cover, symbolic of the forthcoming launch of our Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal, which is introduced on page 9. Examples of how donations to bursary funds have transformed young lives are shown on pages 11 to 15, which consist of extracts from our recent impact report, *The Difference You Make*. You will hear a lot more about the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal over the coming months as we gear up for our first-ever Charity Giving Day. Please do get involved and see pages 16–17 for how you too can make a difference.

Elsewhere in this issue we review events that have taken place over the past year, look back with our popular archives features, celebrate the College's achievements in 2022–23, report on your news and pay tribute to those Old Eastbournians, staff and others from our community who are no longer with us.

As you will see, it has been another jam-packed year and we have seen some changes to the Eastbournian Society team. In May we were joined by Kim Richardson as our new events organiser. She hit the ground running, taking on a whole series of summer events in her first few weeks and has had a similarly busy schedule since then. She is keeping the events page on our website (www.eastbourniansociety.org) regularly topped up with all the latest entries in our social calendar.

Liz Silvester joined the team in early June in the newly created position of development officer. Liz has a fundraising background, having worked at St Wilfrid's Hospice in Eastbourne for eight years. She has been developing the strategy for the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal and is looking after our legacy club, the Devonshire Society – if you would like to leave a gift to the Charity in your will, do get in touch with Liz: LMSilvester@eastbourne-college.co.uk.

We were sad in October when Jayne Caines said that she would be leaving us but, luckily for the Charity, she has not gone far – just up the road to St Andrew's where she has taken on reception duties. Jayne was with us for a short time but made a big impact, for which we are very grateful. With Jayne's departure, we welcomed back a familiar face; Helen Medlycott re-joined the team in November to take on the administrator role.

The other members of the team are still going strong: John Thornley organises our talks, walks and theatre trips, and David Blake keeps the database up to date and puts this magazine together with the help of Paul Jordan, the College archivist, who also deals with numerous historical queries. I am incredibly grateful to all of the team who help make the Eastbournian Society the wonderful supportive community that it is.

If you would like to pop in to see us or have a look round the College, please do get in touch so that we can arrange a convenient time. Our contact details can be found on page 120. Thank you all for your continued interest in the Charity, we are very grateful for your generous support in so many ways and look forward to the exciting times ahead.

Emma



The ES team: Kim, David, Liz, JT, Helen and Emma

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.

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CONTENTS

Contents and Editorial	1
Social Events in 2023	2
Report by The Chairman of Governors	4
A Message from The Headmaster	7
Foundation and Development Focus	9
The Difference You Make	
Philanthropy at Eastbourne College	10
The Peter Bibby Award	11
The Richard Holliday Award	12
The Bernard Drake Award	13
The Difference at St Andrew's Prep	14
Nicholas Banton's Legacy	15
Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal	16
Back to the Future(s)	19
Making Connections	20
Tales of Two Coronations	22
The Annual Dinner was a Grand Affair	24
Oar's Well That Ends Well	26
The Over-60s Lunch	28
A Life Well Lived and a Lesson Well Learnt	31
Notes from The Archives	33
Our Readers Write...	39
We Are the Devonshire Society	42
Foundation Day	43
Flying from Dance Halls to Yalta	44
The SAS and a Secret War	46
Old Eastbournian Lodge	47
The Arnold Embellishers	48
The 2023 Reunion	50
ES and OE Get-togethers	52
International Women's Day	55
Write Your Will For Free	56
75 Years of the CCF	57
2022–23 College Highlights	60
Scholarships and Awards	82
Prize Winners 2023	82
The Class of 2023	84
News from Our Members	88
MCC Match and The Cricket Dinner	96
OE Fives	98
OE Golf Society	98
The Foundation Golf Challenge	100
The All Blacks	101
Obituaries	102
Eastbournian Society Contacts	120
OE Representatives Worldwide	120
Eastbournian Society Committee and AGM	122
The Eastbournian Society Sports Club	122



SOCIAL EVENTS IN 2023

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.

MEADS, AN EDUCATIONAL HEARTLAND

On Thursday 23 February Chris Neighbour spoke about the history of schools in Meads from the late 1800s to just after the Second World War. There was a bumper turnout for the talk in the Jennifer Winn Auditorium. ▼



QUIZ NIGHT

▲ The ES annual quiz and curry dinner was held on Saturday 18 March and, in the words of quizmaster John Thornley; 'didn't descend into its usual chaos...' Over 200 questions were asked and the winning team were the Pickwicks on 169 points, closely followed by the Buddy Holleys on 166.



OKLAHOMA!

◀ Our first theatre trip of the year was to Wyndham's Theatre on Wednesday 29 March to see *Oklahoma!* The contemporary reimagining of this classic musical was not to everybody's taste, but it was certainly an experience! Some of our group are pictured here in the stalls.

MY JOURNEY AND AN ARCTIC FOX

▲ College teacher and OE Pete Fellows told a fascinating story about how his thirst for adventure was quenched by his trip to the Arctic, and how it became so much more. Some 40 people came along for the talk on Wednesday 3 May to hear Pete's tale of his journey to Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago, a highlight of which was an encounter with an Arctic fox.



BACKSTAGE AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE

A slightly different theatre trip was a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Theatre on Saturday 27 May. One of our group was James Harris, the son of architect Christopher Harris (Reeves 1948–51), who died in 2022. Christopher had helped design the complex, being particularly tasked with the design and detail of the internal fittings and finishes in the Lyttelton Theatre. James (pictured second from right) said: 'It was a great honour to visit the National Theatre with the Eastbournian Society group in my dad's memory; it reminded me of many happy times.' ▼



42ND STREET

▲ Sadler's Wells Theatre was the venue for the latest production of *42nd Street*, which ES members went to see on Thursday 15 June. In the cast was Old Eastbournian Michael Praed (Gonville 1973–78) and our group had a chance to meet him backstage after the show. More about this and a photo are on page 52.



GRANDPARENTS VISIT THE COLLEGE

▲ On Saturday 17 June some 50 families were represented at the annual event where grandparents of current pupils are invited to have a tour of the school. They are pictured here in the Warren Atrium where they had a chance to meet Headmaster Tom Lawson and Development Director Emma Garrett.

SPEECH DAY

Despite the windy weather on Speech Day, Saturday 1 July, we managed to hold on to the books and merchandise we had on display on the ES stall in front of the pavilion, and even managed to serve a few glasses of fizz to passers-by. ▼



CRAZY FOR YOU

◀ The romantic comedy musical *Crazy For You* at the Gillian Lynne Theatre was the next theatre trip on Wednesday 13 September – who could ask for anything more?

LONDON WALK

Some 30 ES members joined the annual London walk on Saturday 23 September, the 23rd such walk we have done in 21 years. Starting at Battersea Power Station, the group, led by expert guides from the London Walks Company, strolled alongside the Thames to Westminster, followed by a convivial lunch at an Italian restaurant on Victoria Street. ▶



REMEMBRANCE DAY

▲ The College's annual Remembrance Day commemorations took place on Sunday 12 November. Following the service in the College Chapel, cadets paraded on College Field as part of the Act of Remembrance. Guests were then invited to the Warren Atrium for a short reception with refreshments, hosted by the Eastbournian Society.



THE ABF CURRY LUNCH

▲ On Sunday 22 October we helped to host the second curry lunch with and in support of ABF - The Soldiers' Charity. CCF cadets provided valuable help and an impressive military presence throughout the meal. With professional auctioneer Roger Dakin on hand, and raffle prizes galore, the event was able to make contributions to the ABF and also to the Eastbourne College Bursaries Fund. Our thanks go to Keith and Rosemary Ross who organised the event.

SWEENEY TODD

We hosted a reception on Friday 8 December for OEs, parents and others in the creative arts, who were there to enjoy the College production of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. ▶



CAROL SERVICE

▲ The College's Christmas carol service was held at All Saints' Church on Thursday 14 December, and we were delighted to provide mince pies and mulled wine afterwards in the Warren Atrium.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS



Philip, third from left at the front, with fellow governors at a strategy meeting in November 2023

Each year the governors approve the Charity's annual report when they meet in December. The report sets out the charity's financial performance and the many achievements of College and St Andrew's Prep pupils. My introduction as chair 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/>

Most importantly, our pupils are thriving in all areas of College life. Our financial performance has returned to pre-pandemic levels – the key to financing the future of the Charity. However, independent schools face political uncertainty, given Labour party policy, as I discuss in my report. Please get in touch with me via the Eastbournian Society office at es@eastbourne-college.co.uk if you would like to know more about 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.

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 over 1,000 pupils from nursery to A-Levels. I congratulate the pupils in Years 11 and 13 at the College who collectively achieved the best performances, outside of the pandemic years, in GCSEs since 2017 and in A-Levels since 2016. Our pupils' significant outperformance at A-Level compared to national averages has improved further this year. At St Andrew's Prep, our Year 8 leavers collected a very impressive 23 scholarships and awards at their senior schools, the great majority at the College.

The strength and depth of the Charity's co-curricular programme continues to develop and to provide opportunities for all pupils. More than 90 per cent of College pupils and School pupils in Years 3 and above were involved in at least one of over 200 sports teams. Pupils took part in national finals across ten different sports. More than one-third of pupils across the Charity learn a musical instrument. The College CCF remains one of the largest outside military schools and the College is the largest centre in Sussex for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

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. 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 14 Year 11 pupils from Willingdon, 12 of whom saw an improvement over their predicted grades, with ten achieving Grade 7–9.

The Charity's fee income benefitted from the growth in pupil numbers and our external lettings programme returned to pre-pandemic levels. With good control of costs, the Charity made an overall operating surplus of £2,256k, an improvement of £832k over the previous year. Operating surplus is our result before interest and depreciation and, at 8.1 per cent, more than meets our target for surplus generation. This is an encouraging result after a number of years where our performance was adversely affected by the pandemic. The operating surplus is wholly invested in the Charity for the benefit of our pupils. In recent years, it has allowed us to build the Goodwin Sports Hall at St Andrew's Prep and the Nugee and Winn Buildings at the College. We expect that future capital expenditure will be funded from surplus generation.

Thanks to the very close attention our senior leadership team has paid to managing our costs, the Charity has maintained its finan-

cial 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. Our education continues to be in demand: the 2023–24 academic year started with 995 pupils across all ages in the two schools. We appear to be benefitting from the appreciation, enhanced during the pandemic, of the quality of our provision. The Annual Report sets out our progress in achieving the objectives of our 2018–23 strategic plan in its final year as we aim to deliver the best for our pupils. Our strategic plan for 2023–28 has been approved: building on what has been achieved, it is designed to be flexible in the face of political uncertainty.

Labour Party policy is to end business rate relief for schools that are charities and to remove the exemption from VAT on the school fees charged by independent schools. Were this policy to become law, the Charity would be required to apply VAT to its fees paid by parents. We anticipate the Charity would also be able to reclaim the VAT on its inputs that is currently irrecoverable. None-the-less, the cost to parents of educating their children at the Charity's schools will increase significantly. Governors have devoted considerable time to considering the effects these proposals would have on our activities; although, in the absence of detail, this requires making assumptions about how the policy will be effected by a future government.

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 163 pupils, 17 per cent 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 ten 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 almost 450 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. Finally, I thank our parents for supporting the Charity and entrusting the education of their children to us.

Philip Broadley 11 December 2023

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Fractal geometry, as I understand it, is where going deeper into the detail finds you discovering more detail, and yet more as you go deeper, and so on. Preparing to write to you about the College has something of that dizzying complexity. At the broadest level, the school is in excellent heart. As one strolls along Old Wish Road or along the side of College Field, you pass pupils laughing, jostling, hugging and smiling. It does remind me to ask you to arrange a visit when you have the opportunity to do so. Not only can you check in with the Eastbournian Society and be sure of a welcome there, but you can share the infectious joy of the young people here as you go around.

Over the last year, we have won several awards and been shortlisted for others. As a finalist for the *Times Educational Supplement* Boarding School of the Year we were praised for the quality of our pastoral care and we achieved the Wellbeing Award for the way we listen and respond to the needs of our young people. As one of the few schools in the country with the platinum Artsmark from the Arts Council, we can celebrate the quality of our music, drama, art, dance and more.

And this is where the detail can get confusing: what should I pick out to tell you about given the myriad activity that goes on throughout very busy terms? Seeing one of our boys win the Royal Opera House design challenge for the dress he designed is an unusual highlight, I would suggest. The quality of our choir (and the decorum of our congregation) when we were chosen to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the CCF at the RAF church, St Clement Danes is another wonderful memory. Musical performances coordinated by houses include the unison singing competition, a cappella competition, house and charity revues. It also says something about the morale of staff room and the wonderful spirit among the teachers that we discovered our new head of maths, Robert Breslin, was a fantastic blues singer to front the staff band! Bringing to the arts scene some newer skills, this year we have founded EBCTV – our own television and radio programme-making group. *Surviving School* premiered in summer 2023 and our podcast version of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* was released this November.

We had recognition for our games programme too, in the form of a national award for sports innovation. The judges were



hugely impressed with our focus on the inner game and sports psychology with the Mind Gym and the way we encourage use of our seaside location with our Blue Health philosophy. But alongside these highfalutin concepts, we continue to excel in our traditional games with some excellent rugby results, continued top-tier hockey achievement and our girls' tennis teams being the best in Sussex and in the national top few (the boys are catching up with some great tennis being played too!) We are the first of the country's top cricket schools to appoint a female director of cricket. Matilda Callaghan (with the perfect initials MCC) has made an immediate impact guiding the boys to a win in the County T20 competition and has been a role model to inspire the take up of girls cricket. Our golfers are in the top ten nationally, we are encouraging the fives pipeline from St Andrew's Prep and netball,

equestrian, fencing, badminton and basketball are all thriving. You can see how I get confused by the detail – there will be something important I have missed out – but that just goes to show how our boys and girls cleave to the Eastbournian tradition of enthusiastic participation and competitive spirit.

With a substantial rise in the positive gap between our A-level results and the national average in 2023, the sixth formers have not forgotten the importance of their books and I remain immensely proud of their hard work. It is increasingly difficult to gain entry to Oxford and Cambridge – these universities are ever more determined not to take too many from private schools – but we still have notable successes, as we do with other very competitive universities and courses such as medicine. More subtly, we are thinking about the pupils' futures in an age of AI and uncertainty, knowing that the 'soft skills' developed at school will be of increasing importance. So many OEs contribute to the Futures Fair, an opportunity for our pupils to meet people from an extraordinary range of careers, and we share this resource with the children from our local state schools.

All in all, I am happy when we have a happy school. And we do: busy, successful, good-natured pupils surround me flourishing at this wonderful College.

Tom Lawson, Headmaster

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FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOCUS



Last year, in this magazine, I expressed my determination to expand our bursary fundraising efforts, giving every member of our community the opportunity to contribute to supporting education for young people from all backgrounds. As the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal begins to take shape, our goal of making education accessible to a broad cross-section of society remains unwavering.

We aim to nurture and empower children in order to unlock their potential. We know, without any doubt, that a bursary, awarded based on financial need and individual merit, serves as a lifeline for passionate learners.

Our ambitious target is to establish a £30m endowment for bursaries, the income from which could fully fund 40 100% day pupil places at any one time. Having completed the Project 150 development appeal five years ago, which focused on infrastructure, we now aim to increase access to our excellent facilities to children from all walks of life.

Our fundraising ambitions are significant, but exciting; individual efforts collectively contributing to transforming young lives. We are delighted to share stories of how our supporters' generosity has brought joy and life-changing opportunities to young people in the following pages.

Pupils like Florence Assetto, a bursary recipient of the Richard Holliday Award, who exemplifies the impact a transformational bursary can have. Florence is now studying law at Cambridge after thriving in the sixth form at Eastbourne College.

Bursaries are crucial for levelling the playing field, providing all students, regardless of financial background, the chance to succeed. We welcome your support in any number of ways including making one-off donations, joining our legacy club, regular giving, corporate sponsorship and pledging match-funding gifts. It is of course, also incredibly valuable to have your support in attending events, spreading awareness, volunteering your time, or encouraging corporations you are linked to to get involved.

Through our Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal we are determined to increase access to education at Eastbourne College and St Andrew's Prep. Your continued support, along with that of the Eastbournian Society committee, governors, staff, our generous benefactors and the wider community strengthens our collective impact.

Thank you

Emma Garrett,
Development Director

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE

In December we produced a report entitled *The Difference You Make* to show the impact that donations have made to the lives of young people who have received bursaries, and we have included extracts from it in the following pages. You can read the full report at <http://bit.ly/ESimpact-report>



A message from Philip Broadley, Chairman of Governors

Philip introduced the report and part of what he wrote is included here.

Those of you who have visited St Andrew's Prep or Eastbourne College in recent years will know that the charity is thriving and word of what we are doing spreads, whether measured in awards, independent reviews, or the numbers of prospective families attending open days. Importantly, both schools maintain pupil numbers, despite the pressures brought about by the return of high inflation and political uncertainty.

Our founders set out to provide an all-round education of the highest standard for the local area. At the centenary celebrations of the College, the then headmaster, Michael Birley, talked about the importance of being open to all, and today's governors are determined to remain true to these principles.



Philip Broadley with Leander and Justin

For the last ten years I have supported the fees of one or two sixth formers each year in memory of my parents, to whom I owe a great deal for the sacrifices they made to send me the College half a century ago. I have no doubt that my Eastbourne education enabled me to succeed in my chosen career. It gives me great pleasure to support the next generation, watching them grow and thrive while at the College and beyond. Indeed, latest leavers Justin and Leander are already starting to fulfil their plans.

Many of you have supported us in the past. Many of you have told us that you will be able to support us in the future. The question I must ask is whether you able to do something extraordinary right now and support our bursary appeal today.

PHILANTHROPY AT EASTBOURNE

The spirit of philanthropy has played a vital role in the growth and development of Eastbourne College Incorporated

Gifts from our founders and benefactors continue to benefit each new generation of pupils, improving the schools' facilities and ensuring that pupils have access to state-of-the-art resources and a conducive learning environment. Philanthropy has also enabled us to offer places to children who may not otherwise be able to come to our schools. Through gifts from our benefactors, we can extend our provision to a wide range of young people, fostering curiosity, open-mindedness, and a thirst for knowledge. As a result, our pupils strive for academic excellence while being encouraged to find inspiration in every aspect of their education. They are the leaders of the future.

We are so grateful for all that has been achieved over the years and are proud that the spirit of philanthropy continues to be a guiding force, ensuring that we will improve and grow for future generations.

These are just some of the generous benefactors who have given to the College



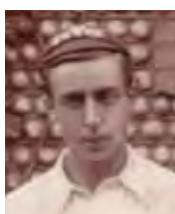
Herbert Reeves
(School 1879–81)
After the First World War, Herbert became the College's solicitor and was later Vice President of the College Council. His many gifts amounted to almost £40,000 and Reeves House, named in his honour, opened in 1947.



Peter Homburger
(School 1942–47)
Peter and his brothers, Walter and Wolf, escaped Nazi Germany in 1939 through the Kindertransport and found refuge at the College. A loyal supporter of the College, he left a generous legacy to the bursaries fund after his death in 2021.



James Groves
(Pennell 1949–54)
James 'Jim' died on 11 May 2017. After national service in the Royal Artillery in Germany, Jim spent his working life in the hotel and catering industry. As a member of the Devonshire Society his bequest to the College is used to fund the Sevorg Scholarship – Sevorg being 'Groves' spelt backwards.



Arthur Nugent
(Wargrave 1891–98)
A house prefect and a member of the cricket 1st XI in 1897, Arthur bequeathed his residuary estate of more than £20,000 'in memory of happy days at the school'. This enabled the purchase of Nugent House.



John Klyberg
(Gonville 1945–50)
Following studies to become a chartered surveyor, John completed his national service before entering the church. He was a loyal supporter of the College and left his estate for bursary funding.



Richard Holliday
(Pennell 1952–58)
Soon after arriving at the College, Richard broke his back and was always so grateful for the kindness and compassion shown to him by his housemaster and his wife, Kenneth and Peggy Hindley. His legacy funds the Richard Holliday Scholarship; see page 12.



Stanley Langhorne Powell
Stanley lived and worked in London but bought 22 Grange Road, then known as Cravenhurst, as a holiday home. He later donated it to the College, and it was named Powell House in 1936.



Trevor Pescud
(Powell 1945–50)
Head of house with a love of tennis, which he enjoyed playing all his life, Trevor died in 2015. His wish was that his legacy should fund a talented girl pupil who is good at tennis, and so the Trevor Pescud Tennis Bursary was set up.



David Winn
(School 1954–59)
A governor and Chair of the OEA, David was instrumental in launching the fundraising after the Big School fire in November 1981. He was a major contributor to P150, with the Winn building named in his honour, and the Denso scholarship set up with his legacy.

'NO ONE HAS EVER BECOME POOR BY GIVING' *Anne Frank*

THE DIFFERENCE TO ME

How the Peter Bibby Award has transformed the life of Joe Pocklington

(Craig 2014–19)



Golf Day winning team 2022. L to R: Joe Pocklington, Ben Twine (Craig 2013–17), Director of Sport Mike Harrison, Harry Finch (Craig 2011–13) and Mirren Mace. The OEs were all Peter Bibby Award holders.



The earliest I remember playing cricket was about the age of eight but I loved all sports really. I was at a state secondary school in Eastbourne, for Years 7 and 8, and was doing well there. Rob Ferley, the then Director of Cricket at the College, hosted a day of cricket at my school and from there I was invited down to the College to join in training sessions. It was Mr Ferley who put me forward as a potential Peter Bibby recipient. I knew the recipients before me – Harry Finch and Ben Twine – had done so well and I wanted to make the most of my time at the College.'

Joe's mother, Sue said 'We would have considered Eastbourne College sixth form for Joe, but he was getting on well at his state school; he was strong academically, so we weren't sure. Obviously, we were delighted when Joe was offered his place and a partial bursary, and, once at the school, Joe's competitive side came out. He was really pushed and encouraged, not just in the sports environment, but academically, too. We noticed that from the off, from Year 9.'

Joe said: 'I have just graduated from Leeds University with a 2:1 in economics and politics in the summer and started my masters in ecological economics – also at Leeds. I have been to Australia and played some great cricket in Sydney and am hoping to go back after my masters. I would love to pursue a career in professional cricket, and I am sure it wouldn't have happened if I hadn't gone to Eastbourne.'

'If I could have met Peter Bibby, I would have thanked him for spreading his love of cricket; it would have been great to have chatted to him. I will do all I can to make the most of the fantastic opportunities I was given at the College.'

Mirren Mace, Peter Bibby's daughter

'When we set up the Peter Bibby Bursary after my father's death in 2009, it was with the intention of finding a candidate who was not only a talented local cricketer but, more than that, a young person who would embody the values that my father held so dear. In Joe, and in our other bursary recipients, we found exceptional people who, along with their talent and passion for cricket, consistently demonstrated integrity, perseverance, and a dedication to being the best possible version of themselves.'

'For me and my family, it's hard to articulate how much it means to see these exceptional young people flourish. To have so positive a legacy following the sadness of losing my father too soon, has helped us as a family immeasurably. My dad would be beyond proud of Harry, Ben, Joe and Tom and it's my dearest wish that we will be able to continue to support other young people in the future.'



Could you help someone like Joe realise their full potential?

THE DIFFERENCE TO ME

How the **Richard Holliday Award** has transformed the life of Florence Assetto

(Blackwater 2021-23)



‘The award contributed to my fees for the sixth form – it was amazing’

Florence and her family live in East Sussex and Florence attended a local secondary school before coming to Eastbourne College...

‘My school didn’t have a sixth form, so I needed to find somewhere suitable. I heard about Eastbourne College, and thought it sounded perfect, but I knew my parents couldn’t afford the fees. I also heard that sometimes through very generous donations, people like me do get into the school which made me determined to apply. I was lucky enough to be given the Richard Holliday Award funded by money left to the school by a former pupil. The award contributed to my fees for the sixth form – it was amazing, and I wanted to give back by working as hard as I could.’

Florence’s mother, Dorothy, said: ‘There is no doubt Florence was a hard worker anyway, but the days at the College were long and Florence had an hour-long bus journey either end of that. She settled in quickly, though, and I could see how she flourished at the College.’

Florence added: ‘I absolutely loved my time there; I was chosen for the award as I play violin and was interested in, and good at, maths. But there was so much more on offer at Eastbourne, and I did it all. The PE facilities are amazing.

‘If I could speak to Richard, I would ask him about his time at the College; it must have worked well for him here to want to leave money to help someone else. My time at Eastbourne was great: I ended up with two As and two A*s at A level and am going to read law at Cambridge. This wouldn’t have been possible without the award and I am so grateful for that.’

Andrew Holliday, Richard’s son

‘My father died in 2018 and left a lot of money to the school. He really appreciated the support he received at Eastbourne; he broke his back very early on and rather than the school sending my father home, his housemaster and his wife really looked after him and helped him through such a difficult time.



RICHARD HOLLIDAY (PENNELL 1952–58)

‘When he left the money to the College, I knew that he wanted it to benefit people who would not otherwise have the chance to attend a fee-paying school. He would have been very proud, and you get a warm glow, don’t you – knowing that you are doing good for someone else?’

Our Blue Sky Bursaries will provide transformational assistance to 40 pupils at any one time



THE DIFFERENCE TO ME

How the **Bernard Drake Award** has transformed the life of Matt Ginno

(Reeves 2012–14)

Matt was a beneficiary of the Bernard Drake Award set up by Douglas Fergusson (Old Aschamian and Blackwater 1966–70). Matt is still so grateful for his time at Eastbourne



DOUGLAS FERGUSSON

‘Seeing their progress has been a joy and a privilege’

I hope my story will reinforce what an incredible impact strangers can have on your life. Just over 10 years ago, I was a scrawny lad aspiring to musical greatness and it was through the generosity of a man I had never met that I was offered a bursary to Eastbourne College. The teaching staff recognised my potential, nurtured my talents and instilled in me the belief that I could achieve whatever I put my mind to. I embraced all that was on offer and was fortunate to be appointed Head of School.

‘Without a bursary my parents would not have been able to send me to Eastbourne. And so, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I say THANK YOU for everything people like you do to support people like me. It’s amazing to think that in the decade since I was at the school, gifts from generous supporters like yourselves have sponsored over 200 pupils. I know the schools have plans to increase access to these life-changing bursaries so that they can give more young people, like me, such an amazing education.

‘I sign off by sharing with you that this year I performed at Glastonbury – my guiding ambition since I was very young. People like you made that happen. Thank you so very much.’

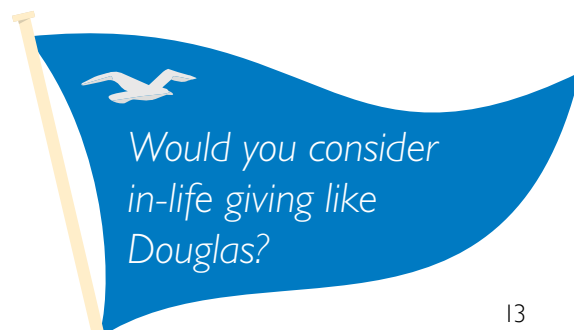
Douglas Fergusson

‘Reflecting on my time at the College, I realised what a privilege I had been given to be involved in an institution providing excellence academically, in sport and in numerous other activities. I realised that there are many who would benefit from and contribute to the College but whose

circumstances precluded that. Accordingly, I decided to establish a bursary scheme to fund deserving candidates from the local community for their sixth form years. Bernard Drake was an inspirational teacher for me at school and I wanted to honour him, by setting up this award in his name.

‘These pupils have not only excelled academically but made significant other contributions to the College and its community. Seeing the progress of these outstanding young people has been both a joy and a privilege... delightful people with whom I keep in touch. Nothing can compare with the pleasure I derive from this scheme.’

Can you help more young people like Matt excel at our schools?



THE DIFFERENCE AT ST ANDREW'S PREP

Our thanks to all those benefactors who have made the major developments at the school possible over the last few years

With a nursery, pre-prep and prep school, St Andrew's Prep is committed to giving all children, from the age of nine months to 13, the happiest of starts in a warm and friendly environment. While the staff provide a firm academic grounding across the curriculum inside and outside the classroom, modern facilities are so important, too.

There is no doubt that we would not have been able to make such improvements without the support of our key benefactors, who include: Keith Anderson, Neville Burston, Jack Durlacher, the Richardson family, the Vestey family, the Wainwright family, and Faith Banton who shared one of her husband's school stories, opposite.

The facilities include:

- 2016** The opening of the **Goodwin Sports Hall** by paralympian and broadcaster, Tanni Grey-Thompson.
- 2018** The opening of the **refurbished pavilion**. Money was raised via FoSA, see below, and by the previous headmaster, Gareth Jones, taking on an epic daily swim.
- 2021** Conversion of the school shop into the **wellbeing hub**. When school uniform purchase went online, the freed-up space was converted into the wellbeing hub, renamed the Snug.
- 2023** The library was moved to the old playroom and the **new library** was opened by Catherine Johnson.
- 2023** Tied in with the movement of the library was the creation of the **learning hub** in the former library space.

FoSA has helped pay for:

- Library bookcases and furniture
- Fives court improvements
- Floodlights
- Sports equipment
- Play area
- Sandpit for Pre-Prep



FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S

St Andrew's Prep is lucky to have a very active parent association, the **Friends of St Andrew's** (FoSA) who organise fundraising events throughout the school year. The year group representatives on the Friends

Committee also arrange informal get-togethers from time to time with the parents in their year groups. You can contact FoSA on friends@standrewsprep.co.uk

Thank you so much to FoSA

NICHOLAS BANTON'S LEGACY



NICHOLAS BANTON
IN HIS FINAL TERM
(4th FROM THE RIGHT)

We are so grateful to Nicholas Banton and his widow, Faith, who have donated to St Andrew's Prep

Nicholas was a boarder at St Andrew's Prep from 1933–38 and remembered his time at the school very fondly. He often recounted tales of his school life to his great nieces and great nephews, adding to each a little lesson learned. They were collected by his widow, Faith and made into a book after his death in 2021. Faith gave her permission for us to share one of those stories.



FAITH BANTON (LEFT) WITH EMMA GARRETT, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR IN TIM'S CAFÉ

The tuck box

Nicholas arrived at St Andrew's Prep in the spring of 1933. His brother, Dick, had been enrolled in the school several years earlier so, immediately upon arrival, Nicholas was dubbed Banton Two. Nicholas was neither scared nor homesick, a fact which the famous Headmaster ELB seriously would have doubted. However, Nicholas always insisted that his only concern was the

safe arrival of his tuck box. He and Nanny Rogers had filled that tuck box with all sorts of goodies and personal treasures. The tuck box even possessed its own special key.

After a brief time in the chapel, Nicholas was led to the dorm which he would share with the other eight- and nine-year-old boys. As soon as he was guided to his bed, he grinned like a Cheshire cat, for lo and behold, at the foot of his cot was the tuck box. Throughout his life that tuck box travelled with him and, presently filled with toys, continues to spread its happiness.

A lesson learned

We learn to trust when people fulfil their promises. Nicholas was told his tuck box would be at the foot of his bed when he arrived, and it was. From that moment on, he knew St Andrew's would be a very safe home. Over time, Nicholas learned that keeping his word was not only essential for building a strong character, but also in creating any authentic relationship.

Nicholas left two Rolex watches to St Andrew's, which were auctioned, and the money helped fund the refurbishment of the library. His legacy also supports talented pupils whose families would otherwise not be able to afford to send them to the school.

Can you help?

If this story resonates with you, there are numerous ways you can support our bursaries appeal:



- Join our legacy club by leaving a gift in your will



- Crowdfund a bursary with your prep school friends



- Sponsor a pupil through the school

PLEASE GIVE...



Coming soon... cross-charity Giving Days

These whole-school community events will see everyone coming together to have fun and raise money over a 36-hour period, ensuring that our overseas supporters can participate, too. To prepare for the days, we are looking for some **match-funding donations**. Give money in advance of the days and, as different levels of fundraising

are achieved, so match-funding will be released, to double the donations. This money needs to be sourced in advance and is crucial to a successful Giving Day programme. If you, or your company or organisation, are interested in providing match-funding, do contact Emma Garrett, see right.

COME FOR A CUPPA

Call Development Director,
Emma Garrett on **01323 452308**
or email **ecbgarrett@eastbourne-college.co.uk**
to find out more

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways to give, and we would love to work with you to decide the right way for you:



A one-off gift
A single donation, whatever the size, can make a huge

difference. You can donate via our website or scan the QR code opposite with your phone's camera for an instant link.



In-life giving
You can give a larger gift and sponsor a child

through their prep school, or sixth form for instance. Experience the joy first-hand of seeing them grow and develop.



Crowdfund
Maybe the thought of donating with a group of

friends appeals to you? Get together with your peers or members of the house you were in.

www.eastbourniansociety.org/fundraising/donation

Registered Charity Number: 307071



AND UNLOCK THEIR EXTRAORDINARY



BLUE SKY BURSARIES APPEAL

Our appeal

Our bursaries appeal has the ambitious aim of fully funding 40 places for day pupils at any one time. We are building an endowment of £30m, and the annual income generated from this will fund these places in perpetuity. It's an amazing gift as you will have read from the stories featured on previous pages and it is something we invite you to be part of. With our targets set so high, we need your support to make it happen.

We now have amazing facilities in place, can you help ensure that more young people benefit from them?



Regular giving

Choose your amount and commit to giving

on a regular basis, this could be monthly, termly, quarterly, or even annually – please get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.



Corporate sponsorship

If your business is passionate about education

and wants to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.



Match-funding

Pledge a gift to our Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal Giving

Day. This will double the gifts donated by others – see left for details.

All donors will be recognised on a special Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal donor wall

Thank you so much

Please donate here



Where Will Art Take You?

*Jesse Darling
Ghislaine Leung
Rory Pilgrim
Barbara Walker*

*28 September 2023
to 14 April 2024*

*Free Admission
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TOWNER Eastbourne TURNER PRIZE 2023

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BACK TO THE FUTURE(S)

THE FUTURES CONVENTION RETURNED TO THE SPORTS HALL IN THE WINN BUILDING ON FRIDAY 3 MARCH, AND THE CAREFUL PREPARATION OF HEAD OF FUTURES SARAH GORDON, SUPPORTED BY THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY, ENSURED THIS ANNUAL EVENT WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS ONCE AGAIN.

With a bumper number of industries and professions represented, alongside gap year companies and universities, those seeking information and advice on a wide range of careers had it all in one place. With pupils from both the College and local schools in the Coastal Schools Partnership attending, it was clearly a very worthwhile evening; many were still chatting when the 9.00pm deadline came and the stands were being dismantled around them!

Our thanks as ever go to the OEs, parents and others who acted as delegates, offering their expertise and guidance to the young people looking to the future.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

The Eastbournian Society's networking events have become firmly established in the calendar, offering opportunities for OEs, current pupils and parents to meet, chat and make connections in a variety of industries and professions.

SPORTS



Our first sports networking event was held on Thursday 19 January at the offices of CSM Sport & Entertainment in central London. A panel of expert professionals shared advice and insight into their backgrounds and routes to their current jobs, before attendees had the chance to ask questions and network.

Rob Stevens (Pennell 1999–2004) reports:

Alongside Becky Durrant (née Stewart) (Blackwater 2001–06), a business director at CSM, were a trio of former Pennellians; Bob Rogers (1957–61), Andrew Rogers (1991–96) and Tim Ellerton (1991–96). The quartet discussed how sport offers a myriad of different roles to those who may not make it as a professional on the field of play.

Bob Rogers, former President of the Rugby Football Union, explained how he came to be chairman of the amateur committee at the RFU, and the impact the professionalisation of the game in 1995 had on the sport and its support structures, as well as stressing the importance of being involved in grassroots sporting organisations.

His son Andrew, meanwhile, talked about his journey to becoming the head of governance and salary cap director at Premiership Rugby and his role in the headline-making decision to relegate former domestic and European champions Saracens in 2020 for breaching the league's rules.

Becky pulled back the curtain on the world of sports marketing, and how her agency works with global companies to deliver brand and business growth across a range of sports, and finally Tim explained how he went from managing sports sponsorships for Coca-Cola and Heineken to becoming the commercial director at Team GB.

Aside from hard work and the element of luck, the panel explained how self-belief, humility, enthusiasm, problem-solving and a can-do attitude were also key to gaining a foothold in the industry – attributes found in many a pupil and Old Eastbournian.

Also on hand to offer a different perspective was BBC Sport's Rob Stevens (another former Pennell boy), who has worked for local radio, the BBC Sport website and the BBC World Service as a reporter, producer and writer for over a decade. He explained his roundabout path to becoming a journalist and reporting on big events such as the respective World Cups in football and rugby.

Meanwhile, Hugo Millns (once of – you guessed it – Pennell, 2011–16) talked about his job in the marketing department at Premier League leaders Arsenal, which involves planning and delivering campaigns on the club's digital channels.



Andrew Rogers, Bob Rogers, Becky Durrant and Tim Ellerton

BANKING, BROKING AND ASSET MANAGEMENT



The latest of our networking events to focus on financial services took place at the PwC building in London, overlooking Tower Bridge, on Tuesday 31 January.

One of the attendees, Joe McIntyre (Reeves 2014-19), writes:

It was great to see the event attended by all generations of the Eastbournian Society, with pupils, university graduates and young professionals eager to speak to other ES members about how to navigate the highly competitive finance industry.

David Clark, parent of former pupils and a director-level professional in many facets of the industry, generously took the time to be our guest speaker for the evening. While sharing his path to becoming a top industry expert, David answered a plethora of questions from the audience and gave invaluable advice to younger generations. He stressed the importance of decisiveness, emphasised a real need for people skills in the industry and showed that the qualities held by Eastbournians are transferable into the working world.

Many thanks to Darren Meek (Blackwater 1982–87) for hosting this event for the ninth consecutive year (!) and to Sam Wicks (Powell 2005–10) and Development Director Emma Garrett for organising another great occasion. This has grown from strength to strength each year – with hopefully more to follow in the future.

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS PROVIDE USEFUL INSIGHTS INTO GETTING ON THE CAREER LADDER (AND THEN MOVING UP IT) WITH **INSIDE KNOWLEDGE** AND **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE** THAT HAS PROVED INVALUABLE FOR THOSE WHO ATTEND.

MEDIA AND JOURNALISM



On Thursday 25 April, 34 attendees, including 11 pupils from the College's sixth form, met at the Curzon Victoria in London for the first ever networking event with OEs who work in the media and journalism industries.



John Ryley

John Ryley (Blackwater 1975–80) was the guest speaker for the evening, in his last week as head of Sky News, where he had been in charge for the previous 16 years.

John detailed the changes he has seen over the past 40 years in the industry, from when touch-typing was a highly regarded skill, to what the next 40 years might hold with the huge developments in social media and AI. He passionately believes that there has been and will always remain a need for real-time reporting from journalists in the field.

The floor was then opened up for a Q&A session, which provided an opportunity for College pupils and younger OEs to get a better understanding of how to enter a career in journalism.

We were fortunate not only to have John in attendance but also several other notable OEs with media backgrounds, including Torin Douglas (Gonville 1964–69), former BBC media correspondent for 24 years; Ted Young (Blackwater 1974–79), recent editor of Metro UK and current committee member of the Independent Press Standards Organisation; Jane Slade (Nugent 1975–77), who has over 20 years of property editor experience working for many of the main broadsheets; and Rob Stevens (Pennell 1999–2004), BBC Radio sports journalist.

The enthusiasm for their industry was very compelling and advice invaluable. If attendees were not a daily listener of the *Today* programme already, they are now!

INSURANCE



In recent years, the insurance networking event has been one of the most popular ones we hold. The 2023 event took place at Howden Insurance, One Creechurch Place, on Tuesday 21 November, and we are grateful to Duncan Willcocks (Powell 1990–95), Stuart Willcocks (Powell 1993–98) and David Lyle (Wargrave 1995–97) for hosting it.

The speakers were David Turton, senior casualty underwriter at Liberty Specialty Markets; Mike Roberts, managing director of the Construction & Engineering division; Charles Taylor, loss adjuster; and Alexander Bellotti, account handler, who shared the experiences of an apprentice in the insurance world.

The 50-strong audience were regaled with tales of the unexpected from the insurance world and amazed by the stunning surroundings of the art-filled office space, and there was a tangible buzz of excitement as OEs reconnected and friendships were rekindled. For the dozen College sixth formers who attended it was a feast of information and networking opportunities.

They all took advantage of being with people who were hugely experienced in the world of insurance, so much so that the College's Director of Futures Sarah Gordon, who had accompanied the College group, delayed their departure so that they could continue to mingle.



Emma Garrett, right, with the guest speakers

TALES OF TWO

1953

College archivist Paul Jordan looks back on how the College celebrated on 2 June 1953.

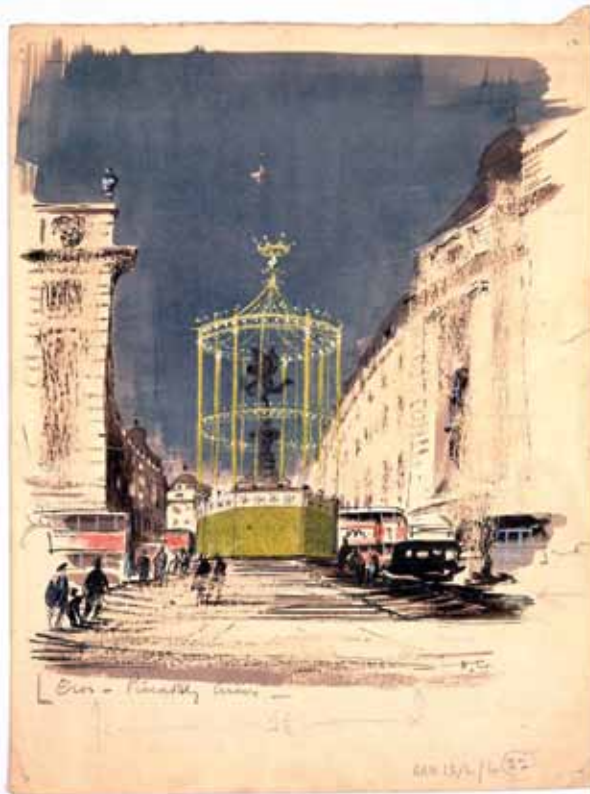
The Eastbournian reported:
 'The school was granted an exeat from June 1st-3rd for the Coronation. Twenty-nine boarders, however, stayed behind, and for them as well as for the day boys, masters and their families, the television projection set in Big School behaved very well, and excellent pictures were received. The 29 were entertained to dinner in the evening at a banquet given by Mr and Mrs Howell.'

Rather than everyone in Big School crowding round a small television set, it's more likely that they watched the coronation on a large screen. There was a similar set-up at the Lansdowne Hotel, where the images were beamed onto a 4 ft by 3 ft screen in the ballroom. The hotel warned viewers that there was 'no guarantee of reception'.

In London, seven pupils representing the CCF cheered the royal procession from the Victoria Memorial on its journey down the Mall. Many of the street decorations had been designed by Sir Hugh Casson (School 1924–27), most notably, a gilded 'bird cage' that surrounded the statue of Eros in Piccadilly Circus.

Admiral Sir Algernon Willis (School 1902–03) and Air Marshall Sir John Baker (School 1911–15) attended the service, and Lt Michael Drummond-Brady (Blackwater 1942–47) carried the Regimental Colours of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

The coronation culminated in a fly past over Buckingham Palace. Flying three of the jets were Flt Lt David Letham (School



Sir Hugh Casson's design for the Eros 'bird cage'

1944–48), F/O Peter Stonham (Gonville 1945–50) and P/O Nigel Wickman (Gonville 1945–49). Ian Strange (Nugent & Blackwater 1960–64) remembers the fly past as it flew over his prep school, Farnaby, in Sevenoaks, Kent:

'My father led a squadron of RAF Meteor jets for the coronation flypast. Unbeknown to me he contacted the school to say that,

on a day shortly before the flypast, he would fly low over the school. On that day, the whole school (couldn't have been more than 30) assembled in a circle on the front drive, with me standing in the middle with a rolled up newspaper ready to wave. Then he flew over – quite low, probably lower than regulation allowed – and wiggled his wings as I waved furiously. I felt quite proud after

that.'

Later in the month, the whole school attended a special matinee of British Pathé's colour film documentary *Elizabeth is Queen* at the Luxor cinema in Pevensy Road.

To commemorate the coronation, the Arnold Embellishers provided funds for building a pair of pillars at the Grange Road entrance to Old Wish Road. The translated inscription reads: *In the year the Queen received the crown, these columns were erected AD MCMLIII.*

The in-house College magazine *Quest* was critical of some aspects of the coronation: 'But it is a shameful thing that so great an event should be subject to commercialisation. Cheap and shoddy Union Jacks, paper crowns, photographs of the Queen and the Royal family, yards upon yards of ribbon and other vile monstrosities have been crowding the shops for months.'

The College's prep school Ascham also joined in with the celebrations. Some of the pupils travelled up to London to 'view the spectacle... those less fortunate found reasonable compensation in watching the historic sequence of

events on our own television set.' In fact, the new set had already, according to the *Eastbournian*, 'fulfilled, and indeed exceeded, our expectations as a major source of entertainment' and many a master 'will add to his acclamation of *Vivat Regina, Vivat also Muffin the Mule.*'

At Eastbourne's Winter Garden, Ascham's headmaster, Henry Collis, acted as pageant master at the Children's Society production of *Fanfare to Elizabeth*. Several pupils and teachers took part, notably Miss Leach who appeared as Gloriana.

A lasting legacy of the 1953 coronation can be seen in the Eastbournian Society's office at Craven Cottage – a chair that was used by a guest at the ceremony at Westminster Abbey and which was presented to the College by attendee Colonel N K Hill (Blackwater 1916–19).



Quest magazine Coronation issue



The coronation chair

CORONATIONS

2023 not only saw HM King Charles III crowned but also marked the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation

2023

As with 1953, OEs were also involved in the coronation of HM King Charles III on Saturday 6 May.

General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux GCB CBE DSO DL (Wargrave 1965-70) was honoured to be asked by HM The King to carry the Sword of Spiritual Justice as part of the coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey. In a tradition that dates back to at least the coronation of Richard The Lionheart in 1189, the sword is one of three that was carried in the procession, pointing upwards and unsheathed, representing the King's various powers and duties. The Sword of Spiritual Justice signifies the monarch as Defender of the Faith; the other two swords are the Sword of Temporal Justice, which signifies the king's role as head of the armed forces and the Sword of Mercy or Curtana, which has a blunted tip, and symbolises the king's mercy.

In an interview at the time Lord Richards said: 'It's a great privilege because I recognise that many other much greater people



Michael Gietzen on site for the coronation

than I have historically had this honour. And I'm now doing it for our new king, who I know reasonably well and have a very high regard for, so there's a personal element to it too.' He said that he had known the king since the-then Prince Charles had served as an officer in the Royal Navy in the 1970s. Lord Richards added: 'When I met him first he was a very normal, approachable officer and that's how he wanted to be treated and viewed. Since then I have met him on many occasions and I've always found him remarkably normal and lacking in pomposity or self-regard.'



Lord Richards on the left of the picture holding the Sword of Spiritual Justice

Another OE who took part in the coronation procession was Kieran Cheney (Powell 2013-18), in his third year in the army as a member of the Household Cavalry. The role of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment was to accompany the royal coaches in the King's Procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey and then on the return journey as part of the much larger Coronation procession, which featured over 4,000 armed forces personnel from the UK and the Commonwealth, the largest military procession in London for 70 years.

Michael Gietzen (Reeves 2001-03), CEO of the Eastbourne-based events management company Identity, played a key behind-the-scenes role to ensure the success of the coronation. The company organised rehearsals for thousands of military personnel participating in the ceremonial procession. Inside Westminster Abbey, they supported 2,000 guests, including heads of state, political leaders and community and charity workers while also collaborating with national media outlets covering the event. In addition, they co-ordinated crowd management and infrastructure to ensure the welfare and safety of the many thousands of spectators,

with health and safety professionals and a security and stewarding team of 7,500 individuals.

The company was also involved with the dressing of London landmarks including the National Gallery, Admiralty Arch, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall, featuring Sir Jony Ive's coronation emblem. Buildings were protected by temporary structures, façades, projections and scaffolding. Michael said: 'As the CEO of Identity I don't think there's a prouder moment than working on the coronation and to see so many people come to London and celebrate this magnificent occasion.'



Keiran Cheney prepares for the coronation procession

THE ANNUAL DINNER WAS A GRAND AFFAIR



What an evening it was! The event was completely sold out and the atmosphere was buzzing as Old Eastbournians, members of staff, parents of current pupils, friends and others in the College community came together to celebrate all that is great about the school and its people. And with a venue so close to the College, school prefects were on hand to welcome the guests to the drinks reception before the meal.

We were very pleased to have Paul Mayhew-Archer (Reeves 1967–71) as our special guest speaker, and he brought the house down with his witty reminiscences of College life, together with the humour that he has found since his diagnosis with Parkinson's in 2011. He paid particular tribute to his English teacher Philip Le Brocq, who first encouraged him to put on at the College a comic play that he had written. Hearing the audience laughter at the time inspired Paul to go on to have a career as a comedy writer, producer and, more recently, as a stand-up touring his one-man show. You can hear Paul in a new podcast, *Movers and Shakers*, and learn more about how you can support fundraising at the Parkinson's UK website.

We are also grateful to our other speakers: Headmaster Tom Lawson, Eastbournian Society Chairman Hugh Price

We were delighted to return to Eastbourne's Grand Hotel, which first hosted the Old Eastbournian Association dinner in 1905

and Foundation Director Emma Garrett. But we are particularly grateful to all the guests who came along and ensured that it was such a successful evening, adding to the joyous atmosphere.

Among the many comments we received: 'It truly was a brilliant and special evening...'; 'Immense pleasure in attending last night's dinner; the meal was outstanding...'; 'That was a terrific evening at the Grand Hotel. It is quite special to be able to gather back in Eastbourne...'; 'It really was most enjoyable with excellent speeches, wine flowing and good food, plus of course a great setting. The Grand is always so impressive and it sets the tone for the evening.'

Our thanks go also to Alex Vanotti (Watt 1994–96) who took on the role of photographer for the evening and did a fantastic job. We have printed only a selection here, but you can see more on the Eastbournian Society website; simply go to the News section and search for 'Grand Hotel'.



OAR'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

The story of a rowing club oar, rediscovered after nearly 50 years



The 1975 1st IV – Standing: Alan Gardner; seated, left to right: Andrew Burdge, Salim Shubber, Jan Koops, Jack Stevenson; seated at front: Mark Izzard

Gill and Tim Caroe (parents of two current College pupils) were sitting round a dinner table with friends. When one of those friends mentioned in conversation that they knew Suzy Izzard, Tim mentioned that they had an oar in their house with the name Izzard on it. Little did they know what that comment would lead to. Gill told us the story...

We moved into our house 15 years ago and the previous owners were Mark and Nicola May, whose children were OAs, one of whom is now an OE and the other two are still at the College. On moving in, they explained that hanging in the conservatory was an oar that belonged to the previous owners, the Gardners, that Alan Gardner had received from his time at Eastbourne College as housemaster at Wargrave and coach in charge of rowing. The Gardners had left the oar when the Mays bought the house as they did not have space in their new home and, given the Mays links to the College, decided to leave it

with the house for safekeeping. When we moved in, the oar passed to us as the new homeowners.

On closer inspection, we discovered there were five names on the oar, one of which was 'M Izzard'. We later discovered that this referred to Mark Izzard (Pennell 1973–78), who is the brother of Eddie (Pennell 1975–80), now known as Suzy. We didn't really think too much more about it until 15 years later when we were at a dinner party with Helen Medlycott and my husband Tim (OA 1981-87; Craig 1987–92) told her about the oar and the Izzard connection.

To cut a long story short, Helen messaged Suzy, Suzy got in touch with us, and unbeknownst to us, Suzy was actually in Eastbourne that weekend so she came round to the house to see the oar! She had asked her brother Mark if he wanted it, but as she put it, 'Mark is one for looking forward and not back', but I think she felt kind of drawn to it. Anyway, we were having such a nice time,



Suzy Izzard with Gill and Tim Caroe

we ended up inviting Suzy and her manager Sarah to dinner – we had a wonderful evening with them.

It was Suzy who contacted Jan Koops (Gonville 1971–76) whose name is also on the oar, and he said he would be delighted to take it and so a week or so later he came over and picked it up. We're just very delighted it's gone to a good home to somebody whose name is actually on the blade.

Jan Koops takes up the story:

I reconnected with Suzy at an OE reunion at the College in 2021. I asked her how Mark was getting on as I had very fond memories of him as our outstanding cox as part of a very strong crew back in 1975–76. Amongst many other things, Mark had just completed the script for her solo performance of *Great Expectations*. Some of us were very fortunate to enjoy a stunning preview performance in the Dell that weekend before Suzy opened in New York. What a treat and how lucky we all were.

Suzy shared her memory of our successful crew walking into the central dining hall to a standing ovation, having won the National Schools Regatta [in 1976]. My recollection of this had dimmed through the passage of time, so it was a great pleasure to be reminded of that magical moment.

On a warm summer Sunday afternoon I was relaxing in the garden when I received a video call from Suzy who in her playful way began a conversation about an oar, and did I know anything about it? I knew nothing of it! As Suzy mentioned the names that were on the oar – Alan Gardner, Salim Shubber (Pennell 1972–77), Andrew Burdge (Pennell 1971–76), Jan Koops, Mark Izzard and Jack Stevenson (Pennell 1974–75), winners of Richmond Regatta Senior 'C' IVs in 1975, everything came into focus.

Alan Gardner was the housemaster of Wargrave and also our excellent rowing coach. Clearly the oar had been a generous and thoughtful gift to Alan from the rowing club. Once I had ascertained from Suzy that Mark had no desire to have the oar, I enthusiastically agreed to become its custodian. It now has pride of place in our kitchen/dining room at home near Herstmonceux. At a recent small lunch party Salim was introduced to the oar, which stirred a multitude of happy memories. I was very impressed by his proud memory of some of our rows, the details of which were

almost forensic! Sadly Andrew Burdge and Alan Gardner are no longer with us.



Jack Stevenson

A few years ago, Jack Stephenson had been in touch with us with his memories:

I had rowed at South Kent School in the United States and a couple of months after arriving at Eastbourne, I had heard that Alan Gardner was looking for people to sign up

for rowing. As it happened, there was a group of us in Pennell who were talking casually about the sport over a game of ping pong. Anyway, I volunteered to go speak to Mr Gardner. I am not sure how long Alan had been at Eastbourne, but he was thrilled at the prospect of having an experienced crew and we were excited to have an enthusiastic coach like him.

Shortly thereafter, he drove us down to Pevensey in an old beat-up Land Rover to see what was in the makeshift boathouse and when we opened the steel doors, much to our dismay, we saw several very worn rowing shells in disrepair. I remember pointing up to the highest corner of this tin structure at something wrapped in cloth. We climbed up the racks and carefully eased the cloak off the mystery object and, lo and behold, it was a brand-new rowing shell that had been recently donated.

Under the guidance of Alan Gardner, we won the Richmond Regatta and presented a very large bowl at school to the headmaster who was over the moon about the story. Our crew then finished second in the Nationals in Northampton. We had the fastest time in the preliminary heats but lost in the finals due to a horrific start. The wind blew our stern sideways as the starter began the race.

One could only wonder about the possibilities at Henley. But the 1976 and 1977 crews redeemed the College and Mr Gardner should be remembered for his hard work in restoring the rowing programme to a level of success not seen since 1966. As our coach he had the vision, assembled the crew, and gave us a chance to compete. I will never forget the fun that I had in those days and the spirit that he engendered in our boat.



Jan Koops collecting the oar



Jan and Salim Shubber

THE OVER-60s LUNCH

From Downing Street to Headmaster's House



A young Tom Lawson helps feed the ducks in St James's Park on a pre-Budget family stroll on 19 March 1985

We were delighted to be welcomed back to St George's Hill Tennis Club, Weybridge, by Peter Jamieson (Blackwater 1960–63) for the Over-60s annual lunch. The weather was glorious, enabling all to enjoy drinks on the terrace followed by a delicious three-course meal.

Our guest speaker for the day was The Hon Tom Lawson, headmaster of the College and son of former chancellor of the exchequer Nigel Lawson. Tom spoke about 'Living above the shop from Downing Street to Headmaster's House', which provided intriguing stories from the feeding of left-over Tory-blue bread rolls to the ducks

in St James's Park to receiving an instruction from No 10 (aka Margaret Thatcher) to desist trumpet practice or to do something to 'make it quieter'.

This provided a good foundation to prepare Tom (and his family) for life now in the Headmaster's House which is part of the many offices of the College support team, and where Tom's son, more a drummer than a trumpeter, now practises.

Looking back to the early 1980s, Tom said that there was 'an extremely talented team led by Margaret Thatcher, of true free-market revolutionaries. With the country left broken by the 70s they had an opportunity for radical reform and they took it, despite tremendous criticism.' He concluded: 'Making a difference means making difficult choices, believing in yourself and sometimes seeing through the orthodoxy to understand the true nature of things. Of that heritage, I am indebted, and proud, and I could not have been better prepared for the honour of leading Eastbourne College.'



Kim Richardson (ES events officer),
Liz Silvester (ES development officer),
Peter Jamieson, Tom Lawson, Hugh Price,
Emma Garrett and Jane Jamieson



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A LIFE WELL LIVED AND A LESSON WELL LEARNT

Richard Duncan (Wargrave 1978–83) contemplates society's attitude to the older generation



Richard Duncan, centre, with Phil Mulray, right, and Tony Abbott between them, with Phil's family

I'd like to share a story about a great man I affectionately called 'Michael Angelo', whom none of you will have heard of, but whose story is no less important.

His name is Phil Mulray and I met him when he was 87. Phil was a highly celebrated architect who had served under Jørn Ulzon, the designer of the Sydney Opera House, and had designed many great buildings in his own right. When I met him he was a shadow of himself, having lost his way since retiring. He had been drifting aimlessly through his twilight years with little focus or drive and the fire that had once apparently been in his eyes, was being slowly extinguished.

When I met him in his retirement home I learnt that he had a passion for painting. In fact, as a young man leaving school he had wanted to be an artist, but his father forbade him to follow that path and rather enter a more 'respectable' profession that would 'pay the bills'.

As I sat across from him, Phil was effectively lost and missing a purpose. It felt like he had given up on life. It was then that I had an idea – that he should enter Australia's pre-eminent national art competition, The Archibald Prize. His response was that it was a preposterous idea as he could never win it. To which I replied, 'I am asking just that you enter it, not win it'. From then on I met every objection he had – found him his own studio, gave him access to free art supplies, provided an art teacher mentor and even invited the three celebrities he picked to consider having his portrait done by him. In the end, he had no choice but to take the plunge and pick up the paintbrush.

It wasn't a journey of plain sailing though as he had nagging doubts about his ability

to finish the task and felt under enormous pressure, given who he was painting a portrait of; the then Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbot.

At one point I had to enlist the help of another celebrity, Derek Rebalo, the Brazilian Blind Surfer, to join me for tea and cakes. His visit served to highlight to Phil, as I had hoped, that if this young man could surf Hawaii's most gigantic waves, then Phil could paint a portrait.



Tony Abbott with Phil and the portrait

The look on his face when we submitted the finished artwork (entitled 'Tony the Man') at Australia's National Gallery was priceless and his smile was wider than the Cheshire cat in *Alice in Wonderland* when his subject (and Mrs Abbott also) complimented him on the finished work being the best portrait ever done of him.

What was perhaps even more remarkable was that the old (or rather young) Phil had returned and his eyes sparkled, he was smiling and back to his cheeky confident self. All this happened, without the need

of a doctor, medication or treatment. In his case, his depression was more a loss of purpose and he had found his purpose again. And after the competition was over, his adventures with art continued as, at my encouragement, he told his story to his friends and the community at large.

For me, it was further evidence that the older members of our society are often ignored and counted out as having done their bit, past their prime with no more to offer society and yet in truth they still have so much still to give. Phil had much to teach others including students at school struggling with their Art HSC (A-levels). I have since seen great programs where primary school children are matched with pensioners as part of an initiative of pairing the new and older generations together.

The cherry on the cake for Phil came when he asked me if I could sell his painting. I didn't know how to tell him that no-one would pay good money for a non-commissioned portrait of a deposed prime minister. He was most insistent that I could find a suitable buyer (showing great faith in me – how the tables had turned!) and in the end I did and was surprised by what they were willing to pay for 'a portrait with a story'.

There is much I took from my time on the road of life with Phil – the importance of having a plan for retirement, hobbies, family, clubs, friends, pursuits, volunteering... so that I have a new purpose to replace work when that day comes and so I don't slip into idleness and become lost when the hours and days blur and blend into one.

He also taught me to look at the older generation differently. We were taught at the College to respect our elders and sadly this attitude towards the older generation seems to have faded in the broader world, but more than that it is also about recognising that they still have so much to still give and teach us, the community and society. They might be old, but with that age comes wisdom, life experience and hard earned knowledge.

Sadly, Phil passed away peacefully 94 years young from cancer in the early hours of 29 November 2022. I visited him in his final days and he assured me that he was happy and ready to go, had lived a fulfilled life and left behind a great family. He had no regrets and only fond memories. His parting gift to me was a small, framed etching he did of a windswept field entitled 'Windy Day', a poignant reminder of the period of his life when I met him.

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NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Archivist Paul Jordan writes:

We were saddened to hear of the death of former archivist Michael Partridge in November. Michael had continued to contribute to the archives throughout the year. An obituary appears on page 114 and we offer our own tribute below.

Once again we've been very busy with enquiries this year with a number connected with former pupils' prep schools – did you know that Bede's (then St Bede's) was the College's first prep school?

Peter Durrant (Reeves 1967–71), archive volunteer,

continues his dedicated work in the archives and is currently sorting through OE files and putting names to faces on house groups and sporting photos. He is also scanning photos from the early Eastbournian magazines (1890s/1900s) which have the names of the boys attached. Very few named photos survive from this period.

If you have an enquiry for us or have an item of College memorabilia that you would like to donate, please get in touch on archives@eastbourne-college.co.uk or 01323 451901.

MICHAEL PARTRIDGE

Michael was 'old school'. He seemed more at home using pen and paper than creating records on the computer. I came to respect this approach and now have a dual system of record keeping. While maintaining a large collection of digitised images, I also keep paper-based records which have proved invaluable on the rare occasions I haven't been able to access my computer.

As the current archivist I can really appreciate the work Michael put in to make the archives what it is today, with photographs carefully stored in archival boxes and thousands of former pupil records stored alphabetically in the main office.

He was tremendously proud of the College and kept in touch with many of his contemporaries. His energy and enthusiasm were incredible and he was always keen to take on new research projects, the last of which was his revised College Second World War Roll of Honour which was published shortly before his death.

Michael (in the true spirit of an archivist) had written his own obituary and placed it in his former pupil file. The College quite rightly flew the OE flag at half-mast in the days following his death. This would have meant everything to him.



The archives team in 2018: David Atkins (Gonville 1949–54), Pat Larkin, Michael, Paul Jordan, Peter Durrant (Reeves 1967–71)

DONATIONS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES THIS YEAR

David Fisher

Two blank Eastbourne College sporting medals in original boxes (Pearsons, Eastbourne) which belonged to his great uncle, **Arthur Ernest Mortimer Scott** (Home Boarder 1909–13)

Philip Hepburn (Ascham 1958–61; Blackwater 1961–66)
Additional school photos

Mark Skinner

 (Blackwater 1959–60)

Five silver plated cups and one silver cup belonging to Mark's father, **Denzil Robert Skinner** (School 1922–26) and two stags heads, made by DRS's company (see article on page 38)

Ian Strange (Ascham 1956–60; Nugent & Blackwater 1960–64).
Ascham photos 1956–60
Nugent House photos: Michaelmas term 1960 and Christmas dinner 1960

Laurie Ormerod

Engraved pewter cup belonging to **Edward Booth Ormerod** (School House 1876–80) and biographical material

Richard Vickery

Various photos from his father **Michael Vickery** (Crosby & Blackwater 1939–43), including one of 1st XV rugby 1942 (see article on page 34)

SEEING STARS

Does anyone remember a telescope at Memorial Ground? In 1964 the College's Astronomical Society reported that the installation of a new 12-inch reflecting telescope in an observatory at Memorial was shortly to take place. Councillor Gilbert Foyle (who also part-funded the building of the original Wish Tower Café) had donated it to the Eastbourne Astronomical Society.

By 1966 the telescope was in place and the *Eastbournian* reported:

'The astronomical year has been particularly notable... the 12 in. reflecting telescope of the town A.S. has been installed in the observatory on the Memorial Ground. This building, with its sliding roof and office space, is chiefly the work of Mr J Stork and his son, assisted by S J Hawkins, P J Gates [Reeves 1962–67] and other members of the society. The telescope is a magnificent instrument and when the winter evenings draw in we hope to use it regularly.'

Eastbourne Astronomical Society have been in touch and confirmed that the telescope was on the Memorial Field (in a structure adjacent to the present pavilion) and have kindly allowed us to use some of their photos of the site.



The telescope points skywards



The observatory with the sliding roof extended

SHALL WE DANCE?



A fascinating find in the archives was a dance programme for the 'new' OE ball which was held on 11 January 1899 at the Hotel Cecil, London. This was six days after the annual OEA dinner (also in the Hotel Cecil), which had been held in the capital since 1895. Guests had the choice of waltzing to the *Blue Danube*, dancing the Lancers to the *Belle of New York*, or even taking part in a barn dance to the music of *Little Dolly Day Dream*. The *Eastbournian* reported that tickets cost ten shillings and sixpence and that 'the ballroom arrangements were admirable, with the exception of the floor which was of solid oak.' The generosity of one guest was also noted: "Any account would be inadequate which did not allude to a father of three OEs, who brought fifty-nine people to the dance and put them up at the hotel.'

THE 1ST XV PLAY 'AWAY' ON COLLEGE FIELD



Paul Jordan writes: What seemed a straightforward donation of photographs led to a fascinating discovery. The photos were sent by Richard Vickery whose father, Michael Hadden Vickery (Crosby & Blackwater 1939–43) and uncle, George Malyn Vickery (Crosby 1935–39), attended the College.

One of the images was of the 1st XV rugby team (including Michael Vickery) on College Field and was tentatively dated 1942. In the background at top left, a man in a naval uniform can be seen. The uniform suggested the photo was connected with HMS *Marlborough*, a Royal Naval torpedo training school

which occupied the school campus in 1942, after the College had been evacuated to Radley College. As far as I was aware, the College did not return to the site until after the war and yet the 1st XV appeared to have played a match there. I checked the local newspapers and the *Eastbournian* magazines and found the 1st XV did come back to the town to play rugby on a couple of occasions in 1942 and 1943. Michael had left by the time of the 1943 match so the photo did indeed date to 1942.

The Eastbourne press reported that on 18 December that year, 'Eastbourne College are playing a naval fifteen on Eastbourne College grounds'. The naval fifteen must have been HMS *Marlborough* but due to wartime censorship, the name of the naval team couldn't be identified. The

report added that, following the match, both teams adjourned for tea at the 'College headquarters in Carlisle Road'. This refers to the Eastbourne Branch of the College which had been set up earlier that year to maintain a presence in Eastbourne.

The other interesting fact which arose from this donation was that Michael Vickery was one of the few College boys who, as a member of Crosby House, was briefly at the former Ascham St Vincent's site (later the College's prep school, Ascham). The school had bought the site in 1939 and had moved Crosby House there barely a year before evacuating to Radley College in June 1940. Crosby closed while the school was at Radley (which is why Michael moved to Blackwater) and did not reopen when the College returned to Eastbourne in 1945.

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE 1930s

The daughter of David Colyer (Gonville 1933–37) kindly sent us copies of some of the snapshots her father took at the College in the 1930s. David's good friend was Peter Clifford Stephens (Gonville 1934–38), who died in Burma in 1942.



David Watson (Gonville 1933–38) and Peter Forster (Gonville 1934–37)



Sports Day with David Colyer on right



Gonville library



Gonville from Carlisle Road



A corridor in Gonville

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE LATE 1950S

John Wilmot's (School 1954–59) daughter Caroline has very kindly agreed to let us publish some of her late father's College snapshots in this year's magazine. Are you able to identify the boys in the photos?



THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES

Andrew Finn-Kelcey (Blackwater 1956–60) was a member of the College Film Society and among several objects kindly donated by him to the archives was a booklet in which he listed the films he had seen in Big School throughout 1957. It was an eclectic mix, from comedies such as *An Alligator Called Daisy* starring Diana Dors – ‘not very good’ and *Keep it Clean* with Ronald Shiner (father of Bryan Shiner, School 1949–54); musicals such as *Oklahoma!* – ‘a really 1st class film’ to dramas such as *The Man Who Never Was* – ‘a very good film’.

The society had been formed in 1936 although, according to the *Eastbournian* of that year, ‘the society owes its origins to the old Lecture Theatre Cinema which for some terms gave performances of silent films on Wednesday afternoons.’

The magazine continued: ‘An arrangement has been made with Messrs. Gamleys Ltd [a former London department store] who lent us a Gaumont-British machine and an operator and who act as agents for supplying the film. Performances take place in the Gym on five Saturdays during the term. The subscription is 3/- per term and there are at present 120 members.’

By 1939 the society had become so popular that an extra performance had to be shown in Big School as the gym was filled to capacity (until 1958, the gym was in the Memorial Block). If you had been a member in the 1930s, you would have seen a main ‘feature’ which

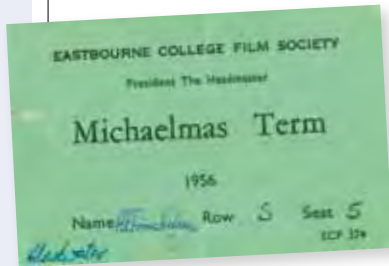
would have shown together with several short films and cartoons. They even had their own in-house artist, Charles Cole (Gonville 1936–39), a founding member, who produced posters for the society.

In 1991 the Film Society was restarted and the *Eastbournian* reported that: ‘Jon Tomes (School 1987–92) is “Honorary Popcorn Maker” – Craig House is very grateful to Jon for smelling out the house whenever he does his “popcorn microwaving”... Harriet Marcell

(Nugent 1990–92) is “Official Tension Breaker” – whenever the atmosphere becomes too tense, Harriet’s awesome laugh would ensure that everybody forgot about the film. This was particularly useful in *The Exorcist* as it made the film about as gripping as an episode of *Rainbow*’ [a children’s TV programme].

Films are now made at the College by pupils themselves. In 2023, Year 9 pupils completed their academic year in drama by producing, directing and starring in their own short films. Ironically, these were shown in the Le Brocq Studio 22 which in the 1930s was the venue for the Film Society.

Date	Title	Dir.	Remarks
1/1/57	... ..	...	...
26/1/57	Bill for Mary	Bill Day	very funny
1/2/57	Simon	...	...
14/2/57	An Alligator called Daisy	...	not very good
23/2/57	Oklahoma	...	really good
23/2/57	Neddy Dick	...	...
7/3/57	The Purple Heart	...	...
14/3/57	The Ladykillers	...	...
21/3/57	Doctor at Large	...	...
17/4/57	The Man who never was	...	...
20/4/57	The Spanish Gardener	...	...
24/4/57	Keep it Clean	...	...
25/4/57	Knight's Hall	...	...
1/5/57	Harry's Holiday	...	...



PREP SCHOOLS

We’ve had a number of enquiries recently asking for details of College pupils who had attended a variety of prep schools which were not in the Eastbourne area. These include Hydneye House, Hastings; The Lees, Hoylake; and Farnaby House, Sevenoaks, to name a few. There were of course a number of prep schools in Eastbourne. The earliest one with a College connection was St Bede’s (now Bede’s) which was established in the 1890s.

Mrs Browne (her son, Maurice, School 1897–1900, became a well-known theatrical manager) opened the first College prep school, St Bede’s, at 55 Blackwater Road in Michaelmas term 1894. It was such a success, that in 1899, while retaining no. 55, she bought Clovelly, a large, detached house in Blackwater Road (the building is now made up of flats and is opposite the chapel car park). Clovelly also provided a kindergarten department for boys and girls aged three to seven and a preparatory school for girls aged seven to ten.

Relations with the College had never been particularly cordial and by the end of 1902, she had ceased to have dealings



Clovelly

with the school. To that end, she sold 55 Blackwater Road to Mr G H Gowring (a former teacher at Eastbourne College) who reopened St Bede’s in new premises at Dukes Drive while she retained, briefly, the kindergarten at Clovelly. By 1905, Mrs Browne had moved to Meads and was running a girls’ school and Clovelly had become the Convent of the Nativity.

In 1939, the College acquired the site of Ascham St Vincent’s prep school in Meads and Crosby House moved up there shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. In June 1940, the whole school was evacuated to Radley College in Oxfordshire and it wasn’t until 1946 that the College returned to the Ascham site

but this time it was as the new Eastbourne College Preparatory School.

Plans for such a school had been laid in 1942, when headmaster John Nugee opened the ‘Eastbourne Branch’ of the College in Gonville House. He was concerned that if the College did not have a presence in the town, it might never return.

The ‘new’ Eastbourne College preparatory school opened in 1945 following the College’s return to Eastbourne from Radley College and was initially based in Powell House and 57 Carlisle Road before moving to Ascham a year later.

Ascham closed in 1977, the site in Meads was sold (although St Andrew’s briefly occupied the buildings) and the land developed for housing.

The archives are compiling a list of all the prep schools which former pupils attended and would be very grateful if OEs could let us know which ones they went to.

Did you attend Chelmsford Hall (corner of Carlisle Road and Granville Road), Nevill House (St Anne’s Road), Holywell Priory (now the site of Holywell Close, Meads) or St Andrew’s?

THOMAS GUY PETTIFER



Tom in 1962, taken from a Blackwater House rugby photo

In December Richard Morgan visited the ES office to find out about his cousin, Tom Pettifer (Nugent & Blackwater 1961-65), who had died in a tragic accident shortly after leaving the College, when he was working as part of a Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) scheme in India. We found a tribute to Tom, who had died on 17 December 1965, aged just 18, in the March 1966 issue of the *Eastbournian* magazine, which said that Tom 'was a boy of tremendous energy, and he was never at a loss for activities in which he could employ it.' He had been working as a volunteer at Baldwin Boys High School in Bangalore and we also found a letter from the school's headmaster, which said that he was teaching English, health science, scripture and moral science, and his extra-curricular activities included being the cub-master and acting. He concluded: 'The staff and boys liked him very much... it was a great tragedy and a shock to the school... to lose Tom in an accident.'

SPEECH DAY AT THE CONGRESS

2023 marked the 60th anniversary of the opening of Eastbourne's Congress Theatre, a state-of-the-art venue which had cost £500,000 and could accommodate 1,678 people, 300 performers on the stage and 40 musicians in the orchestra pit. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the first College Speech Day to be held there, on 12 June 1963. Many might assume the theatre's first event would have been the Fol-de-Rols variety show or a concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, but in fact Speech Day takes that honour. The theatre hadn't officially opened but, as Vin Allom remarked in his book *Ex Oriente Salus* (a history of Eastbourne College): 'the College [were] in fact acting as "guinea pigs" in trying out the acoustical and air-conditioning arrangements.'



The newly-opened Congress Theatre

The Speech Day party, consisting of Headmaster Michael Birley, guest of honour Judge Aavold and the College Council, were seated on the stage above the orchestra pit. The *Eastbournian* reported that the headmaster 'expressed his forebodings at the realisation that, at a touch of a button, he, Judge Aavold and the Council might sink from view. He felt it something of a dreamlike sensation to be in this wonderful building, but there was nothing ephemeral about Judge Aavold, a onetime rugby three-quarter for England...'

Reflecting on the anniversary at the 2023 Speech Day, Chairman of Governors Philip Broadley said: 'I doubt many schools have a theatre of this size on their doorstep. The Charity is very lucky to be able to use the Congress Theatre for occasions like this.'

AGK HAYTER — SCHOOL TEACHER AND ARCHAEOLOGIST

We were contacted by a researcher who wanted to know more about the details of a former Eastbourne College teacher and archaeologist, Angelo George Kirby Hayter. Hayter was an assistant master in modern languages from 1890 to 1895 and a house tutor in School House from 1893 to 1895.



In his post-College career Hayter was a noted archaeologist working in Egypt in 1910 with Sir Flinders Petrie on digs in Hawârah and Memphis and in 1921 in the excavation at the Egyptian city of Amarna where he played a crucial role in the discovery of a nearby workshop site. His excavation notebook (which has been praised by a number of scholars) is kept in the archive of the Egypt Exploration Society in London.

His expertise in archaeology was not confined to Egypt. He was an enthusiastic student of Roman Britain and carried

out many digs on various sites including Richborough, Kent, and Wroxeter and Carnarvon.

It would seem that Hayter enjoyed taking part in amateur dramatics while in Eastbourne. In 1894, the *Eastbournian* reported on the production of the trial scene in *The Pickwick Papers* and wrote 'The thanks of the Society are due to Mr Hayter for the great trouble and time he spent rehearsing and arranging the piece'.

In the same year, Hayter appeared in a production of *Up for the Cattle Show* at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne. The *Eastbourne Chronicle* stated that he gave an 'excellent representation of the cunning worldly lawyer'.

He was also involved in sport in the town and was listed as a player in the Eastbourne (town) rugby team. The club had been established by the Revd Roberts, assistant master at the College, in 1892.

RANNIES

College boys say: We can't see girls ran the headline on the front page of the *Daily Express* in July 1949.

An OE kindly sent us this press cutting which broke the sensational story that College boys had been, against College rules, 'fraternising' with girls outside the school. The girls in question were from the Eastbourne School of Domestic Economy in Silverdale Road, run by a Miss Elise Orange Randall, hence the name 'Rannies'.



The article continued: 'Then followed a lecture by the Head Prefect who is said to have given ten prefects the job of enforcing the non-frat ban.' Perhaps to add an air of respectability to Miss Randall's establishment, the *Express* reported that 'the Prime Minister's daughter, Miss Felicity Attlee, was once a pupil there.'

Headmaster John Nugee was quoted: 'Of course, the boys will tell you a good story. They are accomplished at telling tales and enjoy nothing better.' He was also quick to refute the fact that, according to the *London Daily News*, boys from the College and girls from the school had taken part in 'early morning bathing parties'. An article in the *Eastbourne*

Gazette attempted to calm the waters: 'In the present case the principals and pupils alike can be relied upon to be sensible about a situation which apparently got far more publicity than the circumstances warranted.'

If any OEs have memories of Rannies, the Archives would be delighted to receive them.

TANKS AND STAGS

We had a fascinating donation from Mark Skinner (Nugent & Blackwater 1959–60) of a number of athletics cups which had been won at the College by his father, Denzil Robert Skinner (School 1922–26). An all-round sportsman, he was also a member of the 1st XV and 1st XI teams. Intriguingly, Mark sent a couple of models of stag heads mounted on shields made by his father and wondered if these could have anything to do with the College crest. We have been unable to verify that, although we would like to think that maybe he was inspired by the stag emblem he would have seen while a schoolboy.



The stags heads

When we checked the files for Denzil Skinner, we found a catalogue produced by his firm, Denzil Skinner & Company Ltd, advertising model tanks for sale. The text read 'True models for the collector. Scale 8ft. inch. Can be used for recognition purposes and sand table demonstrations. Start collecting your models now and lay out mock battles.'

The company was founded by Denzil in 1951 and specialised in making industrial scale models such as one of a

Mark IV tank, three of which were used in a film called *The First Day*, re-enacting the 1917 Battle of Cambrai, the offensive that marked the first large-scale, effective use of tanks in warfare. His company also made the aforementioned stags heads. In the 1950s Denzil employed a young artist called David Shepard, who later became the world-famous wildlife artist and conservationist, to paint a war games backdrop for a mock battle layout to be used for training by the MOD.

Denzil's interest in tanks had begun during his career in the army. After leaving the College, he attended RMC Sandhurst and was commissioned in 1928 into the Royal Tank Corps. In 1932 he was posted to 8th Armoured Car Company, RTC, Red Fort, Delhi and thereafter followed various roles within the tank/weapon development directorate until promotion in 1942, to acting, followed by temporary Lt Col and appointed Chief Instructor, The School of Tank Technology at Chobham, Surrey.

From 1944 to 1945 he served with the 8th Army in the role of tank ground/going adviser in Italy. It was here that Lt Col Skinner's own design of tank track extension, called platypus, was developed. Fitted to the tracks of many different Allied tanks the track assembly was officially referred to as 'Skinner Platypus

Tracks'. While on a visit to Italy Winston Churchill revealed to Denzil that although the Allies named their tanks after their great leaders such as the Sherman tank, the British did not. As a result the Churchill tank was so named.

During his war service, he was assigned to the War Office in London where he met all the top brass including General Eisenhower who, in February 1918, had



Denzil Skinner with a model tank

commanded the United States 301st Heavy Tank Battalion, so they had something in common. At the request of the general, Denzil accompanied the general's wife, Mamie, in a flying boat back to the United States.

After the war Denzil continued tank development in Egypt. By chance he discovered a route through the Quattara Depression previously thought impassable to tanks by General Rommel – strategically this was a vital element enabling

the Allies to conclusively win the key second battle of El Alamein.

Denzil's father, Col Robert Bruce Skinner, also attended the College (Home Boarder 1890–94). He had a notable career in the Royal Engineers and was awarded an OBE in 1920. Eight years later, he was appointed to the Hong Kong Legislative Council with the title The Hon The Officer Commanding The Troops. When the Governor of Hong Kong was on leave, a senior member of the British armed forces usually took on the role of Acting Deputy Governor. Robert was appointed to this deputy position and his traditional navy blue bicorne hat with swan feathers plumage is retained by the family to this day.

We are very grateful to Mark for the biographical details he has provided. Mark's brother Geoffrey Denzil Skinner was at the College in Blackwater 1955 to 1958.

Paul Jordan adds: On a personal note, I remembered by sheer chance, the name Skinner appearing in a 1928 holiday diary which I found in a junk shop years ago. It had been written by Owen Herbert Mitchell, an officer in the Indian Army. I mentioned the name, date and place that 'Skinner' and Owen met and Mark confirmed it was his grandfather. What an incredible coincidence!

THE CAVENDISH DEBATING SOCIETY

We were going through material in one of the archive stores and found several bound volumes that had been produced by the Cavendish Debating Society in the 1930s. They covered a wide range of topics but the most interesting aspect of them were the cartoons produced by its members. In the February 1936 meeting, Basil Proddow (Blackwater 1935–40) proposed that 'This house would welcome a victory for the insurgents in Spain'. The insurgents to which he referred were the Republicans fighting against Fascism in the Spanish civil war. At the end of his first speech, he said 'that those who wanted to be true

Communists should go and pull down the chapel'. This was neatly illustrated at the end of the minutes. [Note: Basil's wartime exploits were recounted in last year's magazine.]



Hitler as portrayed by Derek Joss



Mussolini by Derek Joss

Political figures such as Hitler and Mussolini were also depicted. The artist who portrayed the two dictators was Derek King Joss (School 1933–37). Sadly, he didn't pursue a career in art but instead became the manager of an oil company in Tanganyika. Another artist from the society, Basil Ian Spencer Gourlay (School 1934–39), later General Sir Basil Gourlay, KCB, CVO, OBE, MC) went on to have a notable career in the Royal Marines.



The chapel cartoon

OUR READERS WRITE...

We have had a number of correspondents comment on articles that we carried in last year's magazine.



Maxwell's son, Jack, in the cockpit of his plane, *Miss Kenya*

MAXWELL LE POER TRENCH

Following our article about the Le Poer Trench brothers, we were contacted by Colin Trench (a descendant of Maxwell Le Poer Trench) who pointed out a number of inaccuracies in the information we had taken from Vin Allom's register (mini biographies of former pupils).

Colin told us: 'Maxwell wasn't a coffee grinder nor had he any involvement in Portuguese East Africa other than visiting Lorenzo Marques [now known as Maputo in Mozambique] while on a passenger steamer for a holiday in South Africa!' According to the website www.europeansineastafrica.co.uk, Maxwell arrived in British East Africa [now Kenya] from Jamaica in 1914 and took a job with the government as a coffee expert and advisor. He later went into partnership with John Carberry (Carberry financed aviatrix Beryl Markham's east-to-west

flight across the Atlantic) and ran a coffee estate at Seremai, Kenya. Maxwell's brother, Arthur, took over his position as coffee advisor. Maxwell died in 1969 and was buried at sea. But the coffin floated so his son, Dan, kept taking shots at it until two hit the target and the coffin sank.

Colin also sent us this photo of Maxwell's son, Jack, in the cockpit of his plane, *Miss Kenya*. The plane had originally been imported by John Carberry in 1925 (the first privately owned aeroplane in Kenya). The de Havilland DH51, VP-KAA, was despatched from the de Havilland Stag Lane Works, north London, to Mombasa and, after a long passage by sea followed by the haul up-country on the Uganda Railway, it was finally carried on a cart drawn by an ox-team, on the last leg of its journey from Nairobi to Seremai, where it was reassembled for flight.



THE 1957 FLY-PAST

Richard Selley (Wargrave 1953–58) contacted us regarding the 1957 fly-past, a photo of which we carried last year, saying: 'I remember

it well. As the four planes zoomed down over the playing field Air Marshall Sir Douglas McFadyen ducked, the RAF band stopped playing and Eastbourne Police Station received worried phone calls from elderly residents enquiring if the Luftwaffe had returned.'

TURKEY AND GREECE EXPEDITION

Tom Serpell (School 1961–66) wrote: I was delighted to find the article by Paul Tremlett. One aspect of the trip of 1962 was the inclusion of two very junior boys: myself and Felix 'Freddie' Friedlander, both of the 1961 School House intake. A would-be classicist, I was able to persuade my parents and the College powers-that-be that I could be included on condition that another of my age was too. I prevailed upon the extraordinary Freddie and his parents to apply and so it came about. Why extraordinary? Freddie was a one-off; an eccentric at 13 whose preferred reading matter included *Principia Mathematica* and *Les Fleurs du Mal*. Such was his intellectual curiosity that he was open to visiting the sources of so much knowledge.

The trip was really arranged around the sixth-formers' agenda, so Freddie and I were rather 'extra baggage' for whom provision had not really been made. Suffice it to say, we spent a great deal of the time in both Istanbul and Izmir left to our own devices, though sharing in all the same discomforts of travel and wonders of architecture with our seniors. Unfortunately, I contracted dysentery in Turkey such that by the time we arrived in Athens I had to take to my bed, where Roger Mills's sister, who was his main helper, took care of me. With my symptoms and the heat, she deserved a medal. My bed on the top floor of the rather basic hotel looked out at the Parthenon and that was as close as I would get to the main objective of my journey, except in delirium.

Nonetheless, that trip was one of the most influential elements of my time at Eastbourne. It left me with a life-long affection for Greece and I went on to read classics at Oxford. I am hugely grateful to Roger Mills, not as a classics master but as the organiser who let me into the group; to the late Freddie Friedlander, for being my companion, without whom none of it could have happened; and to my parents who stumped up the money to pay for it all. [Roger Mills' obituary is on page 113.]

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BRUCE BOBBY: A CORRECTION

In last year's magazine we inadvertently published the wrong photo for Bruce Bobby (Reeves and Pennell 1949–53)

Bruce Bobby

in the article *Are You Being Served?*, which was about OEs with connections to department stores. Bruce was the great-grandson of the founder of Bobby's, the famous store in Eastbourne's Terminus Road. Our thanks to Pat Larkin, former volunteer in the College archives, who pointed out that the photo we published was actually of David Stone (Pennell 1950–55). We had cropped the wrong head and shoulders from this photo of Pennell House taken in 1952. Bruce



Bobby is seventh from the left in the fourth row from the top; David Stone is seventh from the left in the third row

from the top. The housemaster is Robert Storrs with his wife Millicent and their daughters Fiona and Alison.

REMEMBERING ROBIN BROWN

John Peck (School 1946–51) wrote to us after reading the obituary for Robin Brown

(Pennell 1945–49): 'RTV Brown was considered a giant on the rugby field. I was



The 1948–49 1st XV, **standing:** Ronald 'Beefy' Howell (coach), Noel Geach, David Matson, David Patterson, Peter Davies, David Kidd-May, David Cracknell, Robin Grey; **seated:** Dermot Hoare, Eric Fleuret, Robin Brown (capt), John Wills, Colin Pickford; **seated at front:** Alan Ravenscroft, Duncan Symington, Gerald Lomax

delighted to learn he continued in his prowess in later life. Yes, it seemed curious that he never made school prefect but he was highly regarded by the rest of us. My most abiding memory was sitting in School House, I think Middle Room after games. For some reason TR Paris (red-haired Scot) had been off games that afternoon and had gone to watch Pennell in a house match, probably on Larkins as nearest field. His description was graphic: "The ball, scrum, Fleuret (scrum half), Geach (hooker), Fleuret, Brown (fly half), Try! It's like a machine!" Fearsome.'



Bashers

John Peck continued: 'Another memory, bashers. I got mine in summer '46.

Rationed, but it is one of the early design with broader weave; later ones had a much smaller, tighter pattern. Anyway, the custom was that a new one had to be christened by its owner. Choice: drop-kicked over the 1st XV goal posts (and of course ruptured) or thrown from the top of the tower. I chose the latter, It floated down, intact – to this day. I can't remember if that was the occasion I was beaten for being on the tower or another occasion. Happy Days.'

IAN STRANGE'S MEMORIES

Ian Strange (Ascham 1956–60/Nugent and Blackwater 1960–64) emailed us about his prep school, Farnaby, Sevenoaks, after seeing the article about the Le Poer Trench family. He believed the school was run by a Susan Le Poer Trench and wondered if she was related to the family. We discovered that a Mrs Susanne Le Poer Trench was indeed headmistress of Farnaby but could not directly connect her to the Le Poer Trench brothers mentioned in the magazine.

Following the closure of Farnaby in

the late 1950s, Susanne took a teaching post in Switzerland where she taught, among others, the children of Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

Ian went on to say: 'Whilst I was at Blackwater my father was stationed in Germany at RAF Wildenrath as a Wing Commander in charge of a Canberra squadron. He announced one Christmas term that he would arrange to fly me home in his Canberra at the end of term in time for Christmas. So, on the last day of term, when everyone else went home in 'normal' clothes, I had to dress in my CCF uniform (RAF section of course) and make my way to RAF Benson in

Oxfordshire. He and his navigator then flew me over to Germany – at night, and in thick fog. The only place for me was either in the jump seat below the pilot, or lying down in the glass nose of the aircraft where the navigator was usually placed. All this made me extremely airsick, and so the first glimpse that my father's squadron had of their commanding officer's 16-year-old son as I staggered out of the plane was of a very white, very ill lad clutching a number of sick bags.'

Ian has also contributed a memory about his father to our coronation article on page 22.

WE ARE THE DEVONSHIRE SOCIETY

Find out more about the schools' legacy club

'I am grateful for the vision and generosity of Eastbournians before me, leaving me with a legacy and a school that has prepared me for the challenges in the wider world. Joining the Devonshire Society is my way of paying it forward to future generations of Eastbournians to share the same experience.'

James Fok
(Pennell 1997–2002)



Founded in 2002, the Devonshire Society is currently over 80 strong. Our members are men and women who intend to leave a financial gift to Eastbourne College Incorporated in their will. All legacy giving helps to fund bursaries or development projects, with bursaries giving life-changing opportunities to young people.

Make a pledge to leave a legacy and join the club – just let us know your plans. We offer you an invitation to our annual Foundation Day lunch, regular updates of how your money helps, stories from other members and your own tie or scarf to show that you're a proud member of the Devonshire Society.

Awards and prizes

We would be delighted to name a bursary in your honour, available for legacy gifts of £300,000 or more. If you are considering such a gift, please do get in touch, so we can discuss your plans.

Inheritance tax relief

This relief applies to those who wish to leave a legacy of 10 per cent or more of their net estate to charity. It means the remaining assets will be taxed at 36 per cent instead of the usual 40.

In-life giving

Some people like to see their money in action, using their income now to transform lives for the future. Do please let us know if you are interested in this form of 'living legacy'. Read Matt's story on page 13 to see how Douglas Fergusson's gift transformed his life.

Write your will for free

You can write your will for free through Farewill, the UK's largest online will-writing platform. More details of how to do this are on page 56.

Already have a will?

A letter of wishes or a codicil is sufficient to make a change and leave a legacy to the Charity – please contact your solicitor.

Find out more

If you have any questions, or wish to let us know about your legacy pledge, please contact **Liz Silvester** on the Development team at lsilvester@eastbourne-college.co.uk or on **01323 452261**.

IN MEMORY

We remember the following Devonshire Society members who died during 2023

Derek Connolly (Powell 1955–59)

John Crawshaw (former College governor, father of OEs)

Jennie Harari (Eastbourne resident and loyal supporter of the College)

Peter Milton-Thompson (Blackwater 1940–46)

Margaret Prentis (wife of **Brian Prentis**, former member of College teaching staff)

Paddy Sandford-Johnson (Blackwater 1944–49)

Christopher Thomas (Wargrave 1960–65)

FOUNDATION DAY



Foundation Day was held on Saturday 10 June and we welcomed back members of the Devonshire Society and other major donors to the College.

Following a service in the College Chapel, guests enjoyed a champagne reception in the Christopher Kirk-Greene Function Rooms where they were treated to a musical interlude from College pupils. A luncheon followed where guests were welcomed by Development Director Emma Garrett (Nugent 1984–86) and Chairman of the Eastbournian Society Hugh Price (School House 1961–66).

Later, Chairman of Governors Philip Broadley (Wargrave 1974–79) spoke about the importance of the bursary fund and the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal which aspires to fully fund 40 places for day pupils at any

one time in perpetuity. He paid tribute to Douglas Fergusson (Blackwater 1966–70) who sponsors a pupil through the sixth form, honouring a former teacher of his, Bernard Drake. Bernard also attended the lunch and taught at Eastbourne College full time from 1967–96, finally retiring in 2008. Douglas will sponsor his fourth pupil through the sixth form in September and takes enormous pleasure from seeing young people thrive while they are at the College. Philip is also continuing to support two pupils through the sixth form, and encouraged others to consider doing the same.

'Together Douglas and I want to think of our commitments as seed capital, that others will want to join us and share the joy of supporting young people with a gift that is priceless. Donation income of £23,000

per year supports a day pupil at the College, assuming we can claim Gift Aid. Could you provide support individually or, perhaps, with a group of contemporaries? Could you make a regular monthly commitment? Contributions of any amount to our Bursary Funds go to supporting pupils.'

Two recent recipients of the Jack Broadley Award, named after Philip's father; Justin Bonneau Diesce (Wargrave, Y13) and Leander Walters (Wargrave, Y13) 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 and tennis on Powell Courts on a beautiful summer's day.

FLYING FROM DANCE HALLS TO YALTA

The fascinating career of OE Walter Pickard



Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at Yalta

Recently we discovered the career of Walter John Pickard (Gonville 1919-23). His life included links with the West End stage, directorship of one of the UK's largest entertainment organisations and the playing of a key part in the organisation of the Yalta Conference in 1945, for which he was awarded an OBE.

On leaving the College, Walter joined Ye Mecca Ltd, a well-known catering company, which had been founded in 1887 as Beare and Gosnell. In the 1960s it would greatly expand its dance and bingo halls division under the more familiar Mecca Leisure name.

Walter's father, Percy, who owned a string of cafés and hotels, sold the business to Ye Mecca in 1918 and had a seat on the board of directors. Walter was appointed joint general manager in 1931 and, a year later, the *Croydon Times* reported that a 'Sunday Club' had been established by Walter at his newly renovated Lido dance hall (formerly the Princes Cinema) in North End, Croydon. Here you could dance for a half-yearly membership of one shilling or for a shilling 'floor fee' per session. The advert noted that the Lido (presumably for those unfamiliar with Croydon) was opposite Marks & Spencers.

In 1936 he married actress Norah Chapman, convent educated and a former member of theatrical empresario C B Cochran's 'troop of young ladies'. Walter's sister, Helena, also an actress, was married to the actor, Sir Cedric Hardwicke.

Norah had recently been involved in a lawsuit concerning her appearance at the Windmill Theatre where she had refused to wear real flowers on stage, believing it to be bad luck. Despite this refusal, the hotel at which she was staying prior to her wedding was severely damaged by fire, though luckily she was able to rescue some of her wedding presents while 'servants



The title page of Walter's Yalta album

were lowered to the ground in sheets'.

Flying was a passion for Walter; he joined the RAF in 1931 as a Flight Officer and was almost immediately promoted to Flight Lieutenant. On the outbreak of the Second World War, he became a flying instructor at the first RAF school in Canada.

He later returned to head the RAF Transport Command Station at Lyneham, Wiltshire, where he served until being given the very important task of organising air transport to and from the Yalta Conference, which was held from 4-11 February 1945. The conference was the meeting of the heads of government of the USA, the UK and Russia to discuss how post-war Europe would be organised following the inevitable defeat of Nazi Germany. The 'Big Three' attendees were President Franklin D Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and General Secretary Josef Stalin.

Walter's job as Group Captain was to



Walter and Norah on their wedding day

command '150 Staging Post', a base at Saki on the Crimean peninsula, for conveying Churchill, as well as other British and American delegates, to the conference. Known as Operation Argonaut, it involved 252 aircraft of at least nine different types – 120 of the aircraft British and 132 American. Amongst the obstacles that Walter faced were limited facilities, severe weather including heavy snowfall, communications issues and mechanical challenges that involved engine repairs to both Churchill's and Roosevelt's aircraft. There was also the threat of friendly fire from Russian fighters should the British or American aircraft fly off course or stray out of agreed flight corridors.

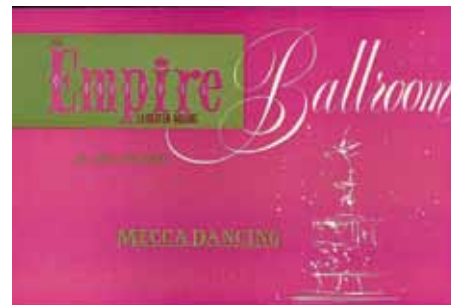
For his service, Walter received numerous accolades from his commanders and was subsequently awarded an OBE.

A meticulous account of the Yalta operation was kept by Walter which he later compiled into a 100-page album, including documents, photographs, hand-annotated maps, newspaper clippings and letters of appreciation from senior military commanders. The album is inscribed by Winston Churchill and includes a letter of acknowledgement, dated 9 September 1947, from Churchill's private secretary which says that Churchill 'remembers how much all concerned admired the efficient and agreeable manner in which you and those under your command carried out your arrangements in such difficult circumstances.'

Flying was also a passion for Walter's younger brother, the celebrated bomber pilot Percy Charles 'Pick' Pickard. He was the first RAF officer to be awarded the DSO three times during the war and became a public figure for his role in the 1941 RAF documentary film *Target for To-night*, as the pilot of the bomber 'F for Freddie'. He was the commander of Operation Jericho on 18 January 1944, a daring low-level raid by Mosquito bombers to destroy the walls of Amiens prison and liberate French resistance fighters who were held there. However, Percy's plane was intercepted by a German Focke-Wolf 190 fighter which shot off his aircraft's tail. The plane crashed, killing both Percy and his long-time navigator Alan Boadley.

After the war, in 1947 Walter was awarded a service pilot certificate from the Royal Aero Club and four years later the *Eastbournian* reported that: 'W J Pickard has very kindly agreed to become our Royal Air Force Correspondent. Would all members of the RAF please send to him details of their rank, etc., and promotions, decorations and awards as they occur? It is very much hoped that members of the RAF will co-operate with Pickard. The Editor has always in the past found them so much more reticent than members of the other services!'

Meanwhile Walter's career with Mecca continued to flourish. He was in part responsible for the opening of the Stork Club (in Streatham, not New York) in 1948 and, in 1959, the *Manchester Evening News* was reporting that Walter (the senior of the two managing directors at Mecca) 'concentrates mainly on the dance hall side of the business and branches other than those in the City of London'. The dance halls were under the control of Eric Morley (creator of the original *Come Dancing* and the Miss World contest).



The Empire Leicester Square, one of the Mecca ballrooms

In 1964, Walter retired due to ill health and died three years later in Kenya on 16 January 1968. His obituary in the *Eastbournian* concluded: 'He was a very loyal and keen OE whose cheerfulness and charm won him many friends who will miss him sadly.'

His son Christopher was in Gonville from 1950 to 1955. Christopher also worked for the Mecca organisation.

Paul Jordan



Young Walter at school

THE SAS AND A SECRET WAR

The involvement of three OEs in the Dhofar Rebellion

Christopher James (Wargrave 1959–63) contacted us earlier in the year with some information about what had been, at the time, a secret war in Oman involving soldiers of the Special Air Service (SAS). He and a fellow OE, Michael Kealy (Wargrave 1959–63) were both in the SAS and one of the operations with which they were both involved was the British-backed campaign against guerrillas in the Omani province of Dhofar. Another OE, Tim Landon (School 1956–60), was also playing a pivotal role in the history of the country at around the same time. This led us to look at the events of that period in a little more detail.

In the early 1960s Oman was a British protectorate, and a communist guerrilla group, the Dhofar Liberation Front, which later became the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arabian Gulf (PFLOAG), aimed to liberate the Gulf from what they regarded as British imperialism. They believed that the Sultan of Oman was effectively a puppet leader under British control and that he was doing little to improve the living conditions of his subjects. From 1963 they carried out a number of attacks on the Omani forces, oil company installations and government facilities, in what became known as the Dhofar Rebellion.

On 23 July 1970, Sultan Said bin Taimur was deposed by his son Qaboos bin Said in a coup d'état backed by Britain, with Brigadier Timothy Landon playing an important part. Landon had known Qaboos at Sandhurst and had worked as an intelligence officer in Dhofar from the mid-1960s. During this time he had got to know the locals and learnt their language and Sultan Taimur had been persuaded that he would be a sound companion for his son. In fact, Landon acted as an intermediary when the plotting to overthrow Taimur started and he was able to ensure that Qaboos would be in a position to take over once his father had been deposed.

With Qaboos in control, one of Landon's tasks was to deal with the long-running guerrilla campaign in Dhofar. He agreed with Qaboos that military success on its own would not be enough and that they would have to win over those who supported the rebels in other ways. A lot of support for the guerrillas had been bred by a hatred of the tyrannical rule of Sultan Taimur so, as well as expanding and equipping Oman's armed forces, they used revenue from oil production (which had previously gone straight to the old sultan) to pay for an ambitious civic development programme over the next few years. By 1976 the rebellion was over and the country was well on its way to being transformed to a modern Middle Eastern state.

But before that, while the guerrilla campaign was still taking place, the SAS had a role to play, although this was kept secret at the time. Christopher James takes up the story:

'Mike Kealy and I were in Wargrave together, became close friends and both went on to Sandhurst, Mike six months before me. After commissioning, Mike went into the Queen's Regiment while I joined the Welsh Guards. We next met on selection for the SAS in 1971 and were successful. We spent four years with the regiment during which time we were involved among other operations, extensively in a then secret war in Dhofar, Southern Oman, though we were in different squadrons. It was here that Mike was awarded the DSO as a captain for conspicuous gal-

lantry in the Battle of Mirbat which has gone down in the annals of regimental history as one of the most bloody and courageous involving the SAS. At the time the war was highly classified and so remained largely unknown for a number of years. Mike's DSO was the second in his family – his father had also been thus decorated. After our first tour with the SAS Mike returned to the Queen's while I left the army to join the Foreign Office. It was when he returned [to the SAS] to command a squadron that he died accidentally [while training] in the Brecon Beacons, leaving a wife and three very young children. We had remained close friends until he died in 1979. If there is to be a happy ending it is that Maggie, his widow, married a fellow SAS officer: we all live close to each other here in Herefordshire.'

The Battle of Mirbat took place on 19 July 1972, when the British Army Training Team (BATT) house based just outside the Port of Mirbat came under attack from members of the PFLOAG. Some more details about how Mike won his DSO are taken from his obituary, which was published in the *Old Eastbournian* in 1979:

'As a young captain in July 1972 Kealy won his DSO for sustained bravery in an action in Oman. With nine members of his troop and some local auxiliaries he held off an attack for five hours by 250 enemy armed with automatic weapons, rocket launchers and mortars. During the battle he ran forward 700 yards with another soldier to assist those manning a 25-pounder gun in an exposed position.

At the gun he found both soldiers wounded, and soon the one who had accompanied him was fatally wounded, too, and one of the others killed. With the remaining wounded man Kealy held off attacks from grenade-throwing range until relieved by reinforcements. The commander of the relieving force sincerely believed that his inspired leadership and bravery had saved the lives of his men, and the town from being captured. A colleague writes, "He stands as a memorial to all that is courageous and honest. We do not often see his like. He will be sadly missed".' **David Blake**



Tim Landon sitting alongside Sultan Qaboos bin Said



Mike and Chris on another operation, in the Malaysian jungle

OLD EASTBOURNIAN LODGE

Nick Clive-Matthews writes:

Christmas is once again approaching only too rapidly as I write this and another year is almost over for the Old Eastbournian Lodge. Our masonic year began in January with an unexpected turn of events. John Howlett (Blackwater 1971–74), who had been in office as our master for the past three years due to the long-term disruption caused by Covid, was due to install John Meech as the new master, but John had to drop out at the last minute due to the loss of his only son in tragic circumstances. This led to a last-minute scramble to find a replacement and Dr Rob Wicks (Powell 1974–79) kindly stepped into the breach. Rob had fortunately finished his year in the chair of the Lodge of Emulation, No 21 the week before, but was still actively involved in London as one of the Duke of Kent's grand stewards for the year. Rob's installation was attended by over 40 members and guests with representatives of the Old Radleian, Old Brightonian and Hurst Johnian lodges taking part in the ceremony.



John Howlett and Rob Wicks

The OE Lodge meets at the Eastbourne Masonic Centre on a Friday evening four times a year and we then go for a very convivial dinner after the meeting. As we are now an open lodge, we are no longer restricted to OEs and staff, but also have parents, grandparents

and friends as members, with ages ranging from the twenties to the eighties. If you might be interested in joining this philanthropic group, which is known for its strong social side as well as its charitable giving, or would like further information about freemasonry in general, then contact Nick Clive-Matthews (Pennell 1962–66) at nickc_m@yahoo.co.uk.



Nick Clive-Matthews

Many non-masons reading this might think, why would I be interested in joining this bunch of weirdos? Such is the bad press we receive in the media and yet there are 12 other lodges meeting in Eastbourne alone, with over 200,000 members across England and Wales, who between them give some £45–50m a year to a multitude of different charities. In fact we are second only to the National Lottery in terms of charitable giving, and all of it out of our own pockets. What many people also don't realise is that it is an international organisation with organised freemasonry occurring in most countries in the free world, so that wherever you go, whether in this country or abroad, you will be welcomed as a friend and a brother.

There are also university schemes throughout the country, with lodges in each area allocated to bringing young men into freemasonry, which may be of interest to younger OEs. Although this is traditionally a male organisation, there are also two grand lodges for lady freemasons who have the same aims and traditions. Have

a look at the United Grand Lodge of England website at www.ugle.org.uk, or the Sussex Provincial YouTube link which can be found at <http://youtu.be/czXLHUdYG6Y>. If you think you might like to learn a little more or are already a mason but would like to join a local lodge, then Nick will be more than happy to have a chat or put you in touch with a lodge meeting in your area.

The lodge has kept itself busy again this year, with John Olliff, a local investment manager, being initiated in June and John Bones, a retired export director, joining us in October. It was good to see a number of old faces at the June meeting, with Hafiz Khandwala (School 1968–73) and Dermot Bambridge (Reeves 1962–66) both driving down from Northamptonshire and Philip Kavanagh (Reeves 1952–55) travelling down from Berkshire. Philip's grandson Joey Williamson-Persh, brother of Jasmine (Blackwater 2010–12), is now the lodge junior warden and only two years away from the master's chair. It would be good to have a few more OEs taking an active part in the lodge. Fortunately we still have Peter Gates (Reeves 1962–67) as our treasurer, Nick Clive-Matthews as almoner and John Thornley (College staff from 1978) as our much esteemed organist.



The Master and his two Wardens, Ed Board, Rob Wicks and Joey Williamson-Persh

Most lodges have their own lodge banner, which is usually displayed adjacent to the master's chair. Banners have historically played an important part in many associations and in earlier days would have been paraded through the streets



The OE Lodge Banner

on important masonic occasions. This happens very rarely now, as masonry became more cautious during the Second World War, when Hitler proscribed freemasonry, alongside Judaism, gypsies and homosexuals, but the tradition of having individual lodge banners has continued. For a long time the OE lodge did not have one until this was remedied a few years ago and we now have our own banner proudly displayed at all our meetings. I am including a picture of it this year, as it may be of interest, in particular to masonic OEs who are not able to join us, perhaps due to reasons of distance. You will see that the lodge was consecrated in 1927, coincidentally the same year that our near neighbour, the Hurst Johnian lodge, was formed. Both of us are now approaching our centenary, which is always a very special occasion.

Next year Ed Board, a solicitor and son of Andrew Board of Cornfield Law, who was master in 2019 immediately before John Howlett, is due to take over as master. We have plenty of work for the lodge in 2024 with another potential candidate coming in, so that will keep us all on our toes. More and more though, we are having to rely on non-OEs to keep the lodge going, which is a great shame. All the major public schools in the country have associated school lodges and it would be a great shame if the College lost touch with its own lodge. If you can spare just a few hours, three or four times a year, have an enquiring mind and want to keep an active link with a longstanding OE association, do please get in touch using the contact details above.

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.



The gates at the Carlisle Road end



Jonathan Winchester and Nigel Wheeler by the Guy Richards plaque on the scoreboard

Nearly a century after the Arnold Embellishers installed the Thomson gates which sit at the College Road entrance, the group has commissioned two sets of iron gates to enhance the new security systems being put in place by the College. Old Wish Road has been closed up to through traffic. A competition was launched to regional 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 Art 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, conservation 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. The winning designer, an OE, David Mortimer (Wargrave 1987–92) made the gates at his Firebird Forge in Hartfield and installed them in October half term to coincide with the fitting of the electrics. He has been



The gates at the Grange Road end

returning since to adjust and finish painting the Grange Road gates which feature the trees of the area with an Arts and Crafts feel.

The gates at Grange Road have been installed alongside the coronation pillars at Grange Road, commissioned by the AEs to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II'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. The AEs are having the worn Latin inscription on the coronation pillars improved and

the stonemason will add below a second inscription which mirrors the original to say that the gates are installed in honour of King Charles III's coronation in 2023 – '*Quo anno diadema sumpsit CAROLUS III REX hae statuta sunt portae AD MMXXIII*'.

The gates at 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 being commissioned in the heart of the town's cultural quarter.

Elsewhere in the magazine is the obituary for Michael Partridge, our remarkable AE chairman for 12 years. We remember the many projects he oversaw – books, pictures, artefacts, regalia, improvements to the Bunbury Door to name just a few. Those of us lucky to be on ES visits to the war graves of France and Belgium saw his attention to detail and his care of the records as we searched for the names of individual OEs and also Old Aschamians and Old Androvians. We remember the

plaque he had put up in Ypres church, his care of the Memorial Field gates, recording the history on the entrance so all would remember, and of course the many new names he sourced to be added to the College war memorial. He was an historical author of some repute – two of his books are available on Amazon – and the AEs benefitted from this talent with a legacy of historical records for the College. The AEs feel so pleased that he saw his final project, a revised and updated roll of honour for the 163 OEs who lost their lives in the Second World War, in print and enthusiastically received at September's AGM. Please email me if you would like to obtain a printed copy and the digital version is on the website.

It was lovely to see so many AEs attending the unveiling of the new flagpoles on the scoreboard on College Field. It was through the enthusiasm of Nigel Wheeler (College staff 1976–2006) who, with others, never gave up on his quest to get the flagpole and plaque in memory of Guy Richards reinstated. Guy (Craig 1980–85) was an outstanding sportsman who sadly had a fatal accident in his gap year. A long-term member of the AEs, Nigel generously match-funded the project with the AEs to get two flagpoles installed



The flagpoles behind the scoreboard

to fly the EC/OE and the opposing team's flags. Mike Harrison, director of sport, was very enthusiastic to get the tradition going again at cricket matches with away teams and thanked the AEs. The plaque to Guy, originally on the flagpole by the old pavilion, was moved to the scoreboard too

and unveiled by Nigel and Jonathan Winchester (Craig 1980–85) who was representing Guy's family and friends. Thank you to Nigel and to all involved; it was a significant moment and very nicely orchestrated by Emma Garrett and the ES team. You can read more about this and see additional photos in our cricket report on page 96.

We were pleased to sponsor the Music Department's Young Musician of the Year competition again, a very worthwhile annual event involving a large number of pupils who show an impressive standard of commitment and talent. This is the chance for so many outstanding musicians to shine but also for many to get experience in performing. Overall winner this year was the incredible Alice, a Year 12 pupil who started learning the violin aged 7, passed Grade 8 distinction by the time she was 13, the London College of Music Diploma in Performance at just 15 and plays with the National Youth Orchestra. It has been a privilege to hear her perform at ES events and I hope those who haven't will get a chance to hear her at the College. I suspect she's coming to a concert hall near you in the future!

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

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THE 2023 REUNION

OEs and former staff returned to the College on one of the hottest days of the year



The hot and humid conditions of the September heatwave did not put off the Old Eastbournians and former staff who returned to the College on Saturday 9 September.

Some of them caught the tail end of the house rugby competition which had been taking place on College Field during the morning and early afternoon, while others arrived in time for a tour of the College conducted by John Thornley.

Tea in Big School followed at 4.00pm; a chance to catch up with old schoolmates and reminisce while enjoying plentiful cups of tea. A scrolling presentation of old photos of the College from the 1950s to the present day was on show on a big screen, and we also had access to the digital archives for guests to look at house group photos and spot their younger selves.

After tea, there was an opportunity for OEs to visit their old houses, before heading along to Evensong in the Chapel. The day culminated with the drinks reception and evening dinner in the function rooms of the Winn Building. Development Director Emma Garrett welcomed the guests and Headmaster Tom Lawson gave a short speech reflecting on the College's recent achievements.

Our thanks as ever go to the many College staff behind the scenes who helped make the day such a success: the porters, the IT department, the catering staff and the ES team who worked hard on a very hot day to make it all run smoothly.



EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY

ANNUAL DINNER AND REUNION WEEKEND

We're doing things a little bit differently this year...



ANNUAL DINNER The Grand Hotel FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER Eastbourne BN21 4EQ

Following the great success of last year's dinner at The Grand Hotel, we have decided to return, but with a difference. This year the annual dinner has moved from the spring to the autumn, kicking off the reunion weekend in style!

And it's not just for Old Eastbournians. All members of the Eastbournian Society: OEs, OAs, parents, College staff and other friends and supporters, together with spouses and partners, are cordially invited to attend.

- Formal evening wear ('Black tie')
- Reception drinks from 6.30pm
- Three-course dinner
- Half bottle of wine per person
- Tea or coffee and petits-fours
- Tickets cost £100 per person

HEADS AND TALES

Our guest speakers for this special evening will be current headmaster The Hon Tom Lawson and former headmaster Chris Saunders (1981–93) who will be sharing some amusing anecdotes and swapping tales about their times in charge.



HOTEL DISCOUNTS

We have arranged discounts with a number of Eastbourne hotels to enable you to stay overnight and join in the reunion events on Saturday. Please check the website or call us for the latest list of participating hotels.



PLEASE BOOK ONLINE AT

<https://eastbourniansociety.org/events>

or call us on 01323 451911

or send an email to es@eastbourne-college.co.uk

REUNION DAY

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER



Following the annual dinner, the fun will continue at the College on Saturday, with house rugby matches to watch from 11.00am on College Field, OE tennis and fives, and all the different societies represented in Big School during the day. There will also be school and house tours on offer in the afternoon.

Refreshments will be available in the Warren Atrium (Nugee Building, adjacent to the pavilion):

- 10.30am Tea and coffee
- 12.30pm Buffet lunch

There is no charge for any part of the day but you will still need to book a place so that we have accurate numbers for catering. Booking details as shown on the left for the annual dinner.


EASTBOURNE
COLLEGE

ES AND OE GET-TOGETHERS

OXFORD DRINKS

Emma Garrett invited ES members to drinks at the King's Arms in central Oxford on Friday 24 February.



Left to right, Mark Ackred (Pennell 1991–96), Emma Garrett (Le Brocq) (Nugent 1984–86), Tim Kourdi (Reeves 1974–79), Andy Gillett (Wargrave 1970–73) and wife Sarah, Ann Arscott (Nugent 1973–75), Jonathan Winchester (Craig 1980–85), Holly Symington (Blackwater 1996–2001) and Emma Holman (Moore) (Watt and School 1996–2000). Bill Baxter (Gonville 1974–79) also attended.



Left to right, Roz Adams (Burrows), Lynn Savage (Hanscomb), John Hargreaves, Ingrid Carding (Roberts), Beverley Pugh (Storkey) and Claire Saxby (Lathbury).

OLD GIRLS REUNION

Ingrid Carding contacted us early in the year and we helped her get in touch with a number of old school friends, who were all in Nugent 1974–76. They met up in March, together with former member of staff John Hargreaves. Ingrid told us: 'We all got together at Long Sutton for lunch. We hadn't seen each other for over 40 years and were thrilled to spend time with each other again. John was an English teacher at Eastbourne College at the time, who was and is much loved. We hope to see each other again soon, possibly with some more OEs, from 1974–76.'



Michael Praed, centre, between Jane Slade and Emma Garrett

A MUSICAL REUNION

The ES trip to see *42nd Street* on Thursday 15 June resulted in a mini OE reunion when some of the group were able to go backstage and meet actor Michael Praed (Gonville 1973–78) who was appearing in the show. Jane Slade (Nugent 1975–77) told us: 'It ended up a bit of an impromptu *My Fair Lady* reunion when a coterie of Old Eastbournians and others went to see *42nd Street* at the Sadler's Wells Theatre. We had no idea that Michael Praed was in the cast. But when we discovered he was, we thought it would be 'lovely' to see him and, more importantly, he would love to see us. And we were right. A quick text from Emma Garrett got us a VIP pass through the stage door. I hadn't seen Mike since starring with him in the 1976 school musical *My Fair Lady* at the College. Mike (who called himself Michael Prince in those days) played Freddy Eynsford-Hill. There was instant recognition of course since neither of us had changed a jot.'

DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARDS

The College was well represented at the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards presentation on Friday 19 May at Buckingham Palace. Upper Sixth pupils Abi Perry (School) and Karam Al-Robaie (Reeves), along with OEs Lucy Ritson (Nugent 2016–18), Sapphyre Mills Kennelly (Nugent & Watt 2017–22) and Emily May (Arnold & Watt 2017–22) were all there, and we congratulate them on their achievements.



Abi Perry and Karam Al-Robaie



Lucy Ritson



THE MOLE CLUB'S FINAL GATHERING

Peter Woods sent us this photo of members of the Mole Club, a group of former School House pupils who have met almost every year since leaving the College. He told us: 'this was our final lunch gathering at the Royal School of Medicine which took place on Tuesday 10 October. The first gathering took place in 1962 and apart from three years missed during Covid we have met every year, 59 out of 62. Numbers have fluctuated from a low of about four to a high of 18. The meetings were first organised by Chris Dane (School 1956-61) and following his untimely death I took over.'

Left to right (with School House years in brackets) Mike Dunning (1956-60), Robert Gabriel (1957-62), Richard Masefield (1956-61), Mike Hortiatis (1957-62), Peter Smith (1956-61), Dougal Graham (1957-61), Nick Buckland (1959-63), Mike Valmas (1958-62), Chris Buckland (1956-61), Peter Roach (1957-62), Peter Woods (1957-62) Keith Ross (1958-63), Michael Carpenter (1956-61); seated: Hywel Thomas (1957-62).

SUMMER DRINKS IN MEADS

Magnus Spencer (Ascham 1975-77; St Andrew's 1977-80; Powell 1980-85) organised a pub gathering at The Ship in Meads on Saturday 17 June which involved involving Old Aschamians, Old Androvians and Old Eastbournians.



Chris Walter (St Andrew's 1974-79; Powell 1979-84) and James Dean (St Andrew's 1974-79)



Jonathan Winchester (Craig 1980-85), Emma Garrett (Le Brocq) (Nugent 1984-86), Simon Croft (School 1980-85) and Christine Bertoli (Nugent 1983-85)



Mark Skelton (St Andrew's 1973-79), Toby Edwards (Reeves 1981-84) and Warren Terry (Craig 1980-85)



Magnus Spencer, James Dean, Marios Costambeys (Ascham 1975-77; St Andrew's 1977-80) and Mark Skelton

BREAKFAST IN DUBAI

Oscar Orellana-Hyder set up a breakfast meeting for OEs and others in Dubai on Tuesday 20 June. The venue was the Dubai Creek Golf Club.



Left to right, Oscar Orellana-Hyder (Reeves 2002-07), Tariq El-Titi (Pennell & Reeves 1989-92), Philip Broadley (Wargrave 1974-79), Stephen Atkinson (parent of an OE), Niki Mapouras-Hyder (Blackwater 2002-07), Pierre Locher (Gonville 2014-18), Alex Woodford (Reeves 1994-99), Albert Kahlow and Michael Gietzen (Reeves 2001-03)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN FRANCE

In June, Maurice Trapp (Gonville 1962-67) celebrated his 75th birthday in style with friends from College days, including Philip Hepburn (Blackwater 1961-66), John Ashcroft (Reeves 1960-65) and Pip Kirtley, the daughter of Donald Perrens. The celebrations included a dinner cruise down the Loire and an informal supper in a gîte with stunning views overlooking the river.



Left to right are Pip Kirtley, Philip Hepburn, Maurice Trapp, John Ashcroft and Judi Ashcroft.

EVENING DRINKS IN JERSEY

The Beach Club at St Brelade in Jersey was the perfect location for evening drinks on Wednesday 9 August, and it was good to see ES members from all generations, plus a few guests, come along.



RECEPTION IN HONG KONG

The Eastbournian Society hosted an evening reception on Tuesday 10 October 2023 at the Hong Kong Club, an opportunity for OEs, parents and others to hear about recent developments at the College.



LONDON DRINKS EVENING

An evening get-together for London-based OEs was held at The Fable near Holborn Viaduct on Thursday 19 October.



ORIENTAL CLUB LUNCH

A group of senior OEs, who all started at the College in the late 1950s, met at the Oriental Club in London on Thursday 19 October for their regular get-together.



Left to right, Paddy Geoghegan (Pennell 1956–61), Alan Elwig (Gonville 1956–61), Michael Dix (Pennell 1957–62), Michael Hind (Blackwater 1955–60), Bob Rogers (Pennell 1957–61), Emma Garrett, David Chandler (Blackwater 1956–61), Mike Price (Reeves 1955–58), Pat Crowley (Gonville 1956–60), Andrew Finn-Kelcey (Blackwater 1956–60), Nigel Strofton (Gonville 1955–59), Peter Corke (Powell 1955–60), Henry Underhill (Pennell 1953–58) and Hexell Lewis (School 1958–62)

ANNUAL REUNION FOR 1979 LEAVERS

The Class of '79 met up at the Boot & Flogger bar and restaurant in London on Thursday 26 October. A great time was had by all, at what has now become a firm fixture in the calendar for friends who left the College in 1979, to reminisce and catch up on plans, present and future. Organiser Chris Porter commented 'it's such a special group and so good to still be in touch, meeting up like this on a regular annual basis so thanks to everyone who came along.' Next year will be especially poignant as it marks the 45th anniversary since leaving the College and a date at the same venue has already been arranged: Thursday 10 October 2024. If you would like to attend or get in touch with friends from the year group please get in touch directly with Chris at chris.porter500@ntlworld.com.



Left to right around the table are Lloyd Watson (Gonville 1975–79), Rosalind Hall (Girling) (Nugent 1977–79), Ian Cracknell (Gonville 1974–79), Tim Brice (Blackwater 1974–79), Steven Crawshaw (Craig 1974–79), Lucy Stevens (Nugent 1977–79) Tim Kourdi (Reeves 1974–79), Sarah Simpson (Hichisson) (Nugent 1977–79), Robert Wicks (Powell 1974–79), Ted Young (Blackwater 1974–79), Jane Hole (Nugent 1977–79), Robert McNeilly (School 1974–79), Chris Porter (Gonville 1974–79), Richard Vidal (Gonville 1974–79), Simon Petrides (Powell 1974–79), Michael Naylor (Blackwater 1974–79), Paul Lovatt-Smith (Powell 1974–79) and Bill Baxter (Gonville 1974–79).

EDINBURGH GET-TOGETHER

ES members based in and around Edinburgh were invited to our first networking event in the city on Sunday 29 October and got together for a drink in a local hostelry.



AN EVENING IN BERLIN

The inaugural get-together in Germany was held in Berlin on Saturday 18 November, with OEs and parents from across the country enjoying dinner and a chance to reminisce about College days. We are grateful to Tom Breitzmann (Gonville 1973–75) who suggested and hosted the evening, and also to Vicky Burford (second in charge of modern foreign languages and international co-ordinator), who represented the College.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



To celebrate International Women's Day on Wednesday 8 March, Head of School Tess Garrett (School 2021-23) invited a number of OE women to record on video their thoughts on what it means to be a woman in today's world. It's a project inspired by the gender BE YOU group at the College, a group of pupils who come together to promote gender equality within the school.

Tess said: 'We would like this video to be female focused and the aim is to empower girls through the school, especially on International Women's Day, proving to them that anything can be achieved if they put their mind to it and are a kind person.'

Those who took part were asked to consider:

- What's one moment in your life where you have felt proud to be a woman?
- Has your career taught you something that you feel is worth sharing?
- Which woman has inspired you throughout your life?
- What are your hopes for the women of the future?

The video was shown in an assembly to the school, and is available to view on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fa5pyZ6kzko.

We are grateful to the OEs who took part:

Sasha Bates (Nugent 1984–86), Patti Clark (Nugent 1983–85), Jax Comyn (Nugent 1979–81), Di Moss (Nugent 1970–72), Georgie Daniels (School 2014–16), Emily Warburton-Adams (School 2007–10), Lulu Brown (Nugent 1980–82), Helen Binge (Nugent 1973–75) and Jenny Kirtley (Nugent 1989–91).





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We are delighted to announce that we have partnered with Farewill, the UK's number one online will-writing service.

This gives Eastbourne Society members registered on our website access to this fast and easy-to-use platform. Once checked by one of Farewill's team of specialists, printed, witnessed and signed, you will have a legally-binding will ensuring that your wishes are carried out.

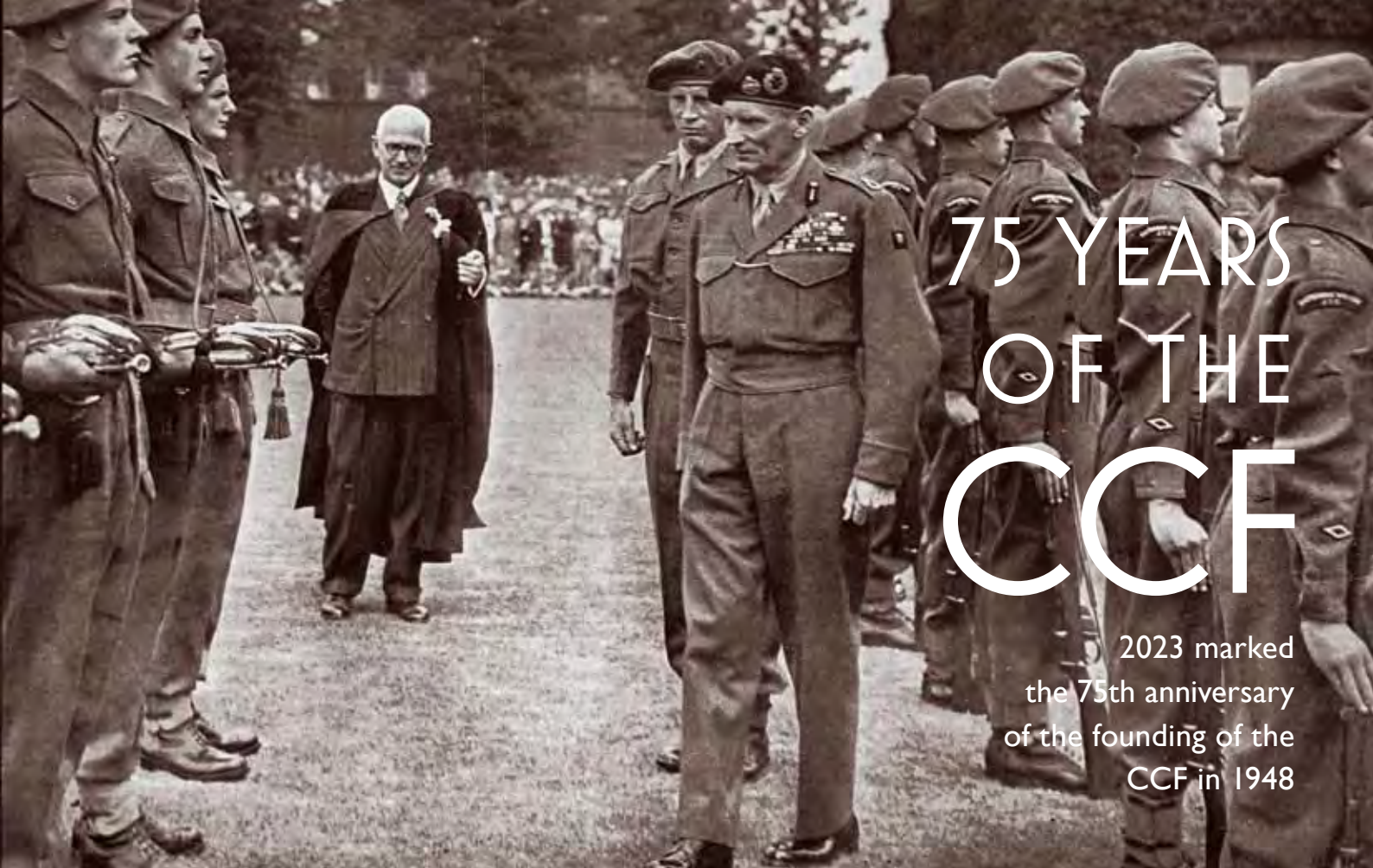
During the process you will be asked if you would like to leave a legacy gift to Eastbourne College Incorporated (Registered Charity Number 307071). There's no obligation to do so, but if you are able to contribute to our bursaries fund, we would be so grateful. Your generosity, regardless of its scale, will help unlock extraordinary futures by giving the life-altering gift of education to a child.

Simply go to the Farewill website to get started: <https://farewill.com/eastbourne-web>.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Liz Silvester at lsilvester@eastbourne-college.co.uk or on 01323 452261.



Matt Allchorn, who is the premises officer at the College, recently made his will using the Farewill service. 'Having our son last year, brought into focus the fact that my wife Rachel and I didn't have a will. I found out about Farewill which handheld me through the whole process. It was so simple – and free! In return, we were more than happy to leave a gift to the schools.'



75 YEARS OF THE CCF

2023 marked
the 75th anniversary
of the founding of the
CCF in 1948

Cadets at the College have existed since 1896 when the Eastbourne College Cadet Corps was founded, but it was over fifty years later that schools across the country joined the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), which came into existence on 1 April 1948.

The intervening years had seen a number of changes: the cadets were renamed the Officers Training Corps (OTC) in 1908 and, following the College's evacuation to Radley College, Oxfordshire, in 1940, they became the Junior Training Corps (JTC). An Air Training Corps was established the following year and the Sea Cadets Corps added in 1943.

In 1948 the three sections were merged into the CCF and the July edition of the *Eastbournian* reported that at Eastbourne this would be effective from the following September:

'Combined Cadet Force – This force came into existence on 1 April 1948. We have been expecting details of it for some time but they only came in June and the Corps will be reorganised in accordance with the scheme next term. The Combined Corps will consist of... a Royal Naval Section... an Army Section... a Royal Air Force Section.'

1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein ('Monty') was guest of honour on Speech Day on 12 June 1948. He inspected the Guard of Honour and went on to say:

'I thought they were extremely good; they were quite first class. They were very smart and did all their movements well. But what really impressed me was that they stood steady on parade. That is good... if they do so then they will be steady in action... I commend the Junior Training Corps as far as I saw it.'

It is interesting to note that in the photo of Monty inspecting the guard of honour, the cadets still have 'JTC' on their shoulder flashes.

Later in that year, the *Eastbournian* reported: 'To celebrate the inauguration of the Combined Cadet Force the Field Day [21 October 1948] took the form of a Combined Operation. The area chosen was the Cuckmere valley, just south of Litlington, and the exercise took the form of an attempted river crossing by bridge and assault boat.'

▲ Field Marshal
The Viscount Montgomery
of Alamein inspecting a
guard of honour on College
Field in June 1948 with
Headmaster John Nugee in
the background



The Corps of Drums on parade in 1951, led by Michael Partridge (Blackwater 1946–51)



The early cadet corps in 1898



The College's 'Eton' glider in flight over Memorial Field, 1952. The pilot operated a wire to release an elastic rope which launched the glider; the usual flight length was about 100 yards

The CCF celebrated its diamond jubilee in 1956 and, as part of the festivities, a new headquarters was opened in Blackwater Road. In January 1992, for the first time, seven girls (from Nugent and Watt houses) were enrolled in the Army Section. Currently, the College CCF has just over 300 cadets and is one of the largest contingents in the south-east. Over 15 members of staff provide a varied and exciting training programme every Monday afternoon, as well as one field day per year and a four-day camp. There are also voluntary overnight tactics exercises and range days, and the opportunity to participate in MOD sponsored adventure training and military based courses around the country.



The 25-pounder field gun on Inspection Day 1954



RN section cadets returning from HMS Vanguard in July 1951



CCF officers over the years: RSM Bill Strong, Major John Underhill, Major Tom Rodd, Lt Col Tony Henderson, Inspecting Officer Lt Gen Sir Richard Goodwin, Major Forbes Wastie, Wg Cdr Donald Perrens and RSM Tony Watson on Inspection Day 1977



RN cadets being shown a model of a 48-gun frigate by Lt Keith Norman Smith at the College (*Illustrated London News*, January 1959)



General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux GCB CBE DSO DL (Wargrave 1965–70) was Chief of the Defence Staff between 2010 and 2013 after a long army career; he is pictured here with cadets at summer camp in 2010



The Link trainer simulator arrived at the College in 1954 and is pictured here in use in the early 1980s



RAF cadets on a field day in 2010



Navy cadets on the Cuckmere in 2016

CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST CLEMENT DANE'S

The College marked the 75th anniversary with Evensong at St Clement Danes, the Central Church of the RAF, on Wednesday 4 October. College musicians took part and the RAF section of the cadets paraded and presented the CCF standard to the chaplain-in-chief of the RAF, the Venerable Dr (Air Vice-Marshal) Giles Legood MBE KHC, who also gave the sermon on the theme of non ministrari sed ministrare (not to be served but to serve).

The Evensong was a joint event with the choir and the director of music of St Clement Danes. It began with a violin solo by music scholar Alice Younger (Watt House), and involved some 40 College singers, a quartet of visiting singers, and four College trumpeters under the guidance of director of music Dan Jordan, providing an uplifting and inspiring service.

Further celebrations of the anniversary were due to take place with a formal dinner at the House of Lords on Friday 2 February 2024, a report of which will be carried in next year's magazine.



LORD LIEUTENANT'S AWARDS

In December 2023, the College CCF was honoured with two awards announced by the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Andrew Blackman CStJ.

Cadet Warrant Officer First Class (WO1) Alexander Davies (Powell Year 13) was chosen by the Lord Lieutenant for his outstanding contribution to his unit. One of the highest achievements in the cadet forces, the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet is the aide and representative to the British royal family and the Lord Lieutenant, with cadets chosen every year from the regional cadet forces, and occasionally from the CCF.

Capt Phil Martin, Officer Commanding the Army Section and B Company for Year 10, was awarded a Lord Lieutenant's Meritorious Service Award for his exem-

plary contribution to the CCF movement. Capt Martin, the College librarian, has served as an adult volunteer in the CCF for more than 20 years. He is responsible for delivering a high standard and inspirational programme, while providing counsel to more junior and less experienced adult volunteers.

Anthony Lamb, deputy head of co-curricular at the College, said: 'We are extremely proud of Cadet WO1 Alexander Davies and Capt Phil Martin, both of whom exemplify the resourcefulness and determination of Eastbourne College's Cadet Force. This is the third time in the last 15 years that a pupil from Eastbourne College has had such a singular honour bestowed on one of our cadets. Rarely, if ever, has a school ever had so many cadets honoured.'



Alexander Davies and Phil Martin