

OWs at the Olympics

Some of you who have been watching and listening to the Olympics may have noticed a pair of Old Wellingburians in Beijing. Anne Panter, (92-02, N) was part of the British Women's Olympic Hockey team and played in defence and midfield. Anne played in six matches and scored against Japan in a 2-1 victory for the British. The British squad finished third in their pool and therefore did not progress to the semi-finals but they still finished sixth overall.



Anne Panter in her GB Olympic Team kit



Alison Mitchell and the Birds' Nest stadium.

The second OW in Beijing was Alison Mitchell (91-98, W). Alison is normally part of Radio Five Live's cricket commentary team, but for the Olympics she formed part of Five Live's Olympic coverage.

It is believed that Anne may be the School's first Olympian, do you know of anyone who can challenge that claim?

Was Beijing 2008 the first time an OW reported on another OW at the Olympics? Alison Mitchell (91-98 Wey) covered the Games for BBC Radio, while Anne Panter (92-02, Ne) was part of GB's women's hockey team. Here, Alison describes some of her experiences in China.

Amidst the four gold, one silver and four bronze medals snapped up by Great Britain on 'Super Saturday' at the Olympics, it was particularly pleasing to type the following line into my Radio Five Live sports bulletin: "Hockey now, and Great Britain's women have taken a 1-nil lead in what is a 'must-win' group game against Japan. Anne Panter with the goal!" I can now boast that I have played in the same hockey team as an Olympian; Anne joined the school 1st XI in the Shell form, when I was in the Sixth form and a senior member of the side. Even as a 14 year old, she stood out as a highly talented player. For the record, Great Britain's women finished 6th overall in the hockey. It has though, secured them a place at next year's elite Champions Trophy tournament in Sydney, for the first time since 2003. Anne and I did exchange emails while we were out there, but our respective schedules meant we weren't able to meet up. Tom Gee (91-00, PI) also got in touch, as he was in Beijing in his capacity as a 2012 Project Officer for the East Midlands Development Agency. Beijing was my first experience of an Olympic Games. I had covered a Commonwealth Games for the BBC, but never an Olympics. The scale of the operation for media alone was tremendous: the cavernous IBC (International Broadcast Centre, where the BBC and every other broadcaster had their windowless offices and

studios), the equally enormous MPC (Main Press Centre for the written media), the concrete expanse of the transport hub where hundreds of shuttle buses arrived and departed, linking media-designated hotels with Olympic Park, and Olympic Park with sporting venues. I counted 49 bus stops spread over a massive grid. The timetable was 149 pages thick.

I was part of the BBC's Radio team, providing live coverage for Five Live, but also reporting for Radio One Newsbeat when required. I went as a 'general reporter', with my main job being to write and present the half hourly rolling sport news from 3pm-11pm local time, from our studio in the IBC. It was quite a challenge to keep up with all the action, but we were helped by the proliferation of TV screens surrounding us in the office, each of which we could tune to a different sport at any one time. Plus, our own output on Five Live was always with the Brits at the crucial moment, and in 16 days of Olympic action, we didn't miss one British medal. Beyond the rolling sport news, the mornings were soon filled with plenty of live sport. I became a gymnastics reporter and provided what our presenter John Inverdale believed was the first ever live commentary of the Pommel Horse on Five Live. 19-year-old Louis Smith won bronze, which was Britain's first gymnastics medal for 80 years. Definitely a highlight. It also got me on the 'Commentators Medal Table' stuck on the wall in our IBC office. The chart was a bit of fun, with a tally kept of how many gold, silver or bronze medals each reporter commented on. Simon Brotherton (cycling) was the clear winner. Juliette Ferrington (sailing) and Alan Green (rowing) were close behind. Some of us really didn't have a chance! After some more gymnastics, basketball, and a rain sodden morning of commentating on beach volleyball, I received a phone call asking if I could get to Olympic Park in an hour to cover the Taekwondo. Cue a mad scramble to find my BOA handbook with bios of the British Taekwondo team, and a thorough (but speedy) bit of research to get the rules clear in my head. Good job I did, because I found myself reporting on one of the most controversial and astounding episodes of the Games. First, Britain's Sarah Stevenson had the result of her quarter final with China's gold medal favourite overturned because the judges had failed to award her any points for a kick to the face, which would have won her the bout in the dying seconds. She eventually took bronze, making her Britain's first-ever Olympic taekwondo medallist. Moments later, a male Cuban heavyweight deliberately kicked the referee in the head and was promptly banned for life. Extraordinary.

Most of our team were exhausted once the three-week trip was over. But what an experience witnessing Britain's best Games for a century. As for Beijing itself, the people were extremely friendly and on the few occasions I dined in restaurants the food was absolutely fantastic, although most of my meals were grabbed from the IBC canteen. It's a great shame about the smoggy haze, but culturally the city buzzes with the ancient, the old and the new. Shortly before flying out of Beijing, a couple of us made the trip to the Great Wall of China, where we bumped into Boris Johnson. The London Mayor was being mobbed by locals, who had seen him on TV at the Closing Ceremony the night before. On hearing our English voices he moved to shake our hands, so we congratulated him on his flag waving. London 2012 should be a carnival of sport to end all carnivals. I hope I'll be lucky enough to see it first hand again.

Alison Mitchell (91-98, W) ■

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Philip Warr (96-01, PS)

Martin Whatton (72-82, W)

The President-Elect

This year's President Elect is former Headmaster Graham Garrett. Graham was educated at Alley's School and Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge where he was a Maths scholar. After serving in the RN as an Instructor and working in industry, he joined the staff at Radley College in 1961. He moved to Shrewsbury School in 1964 as Head of Maths before becoming a housemaster in 1967. In 1973 he moved to Wellingborough and began his term as Headmaster, which was to last 20 years.

Graham has said, "The fifteen years since retiring from Wellingborough have passed rapidly, I have continued with former interests and started new ones such as Bird Watching and Botanising with others in the University of the Third Age, which is very active in Cambridge. Part-time work on the House Staff of the National Youth Orchestra from 1993 – 2000 was a wonderful experience with great concerts in the U.K. and abroad. We keep in touch with education by visiting careers departments in schools and meeting pupils from years 11 and 12. I have also managed to pass a couple of piano exams, sing in a local choir, and took a year's course to qualify as a tourist guide in Cambridge. My grandchildren are at school age now and we see them regularly. One is having golf lessons so I keep in touch with the game in that way as well as playing occasionally."

Letter from the President



Alison Caton

This year seems to have flown by. In the May newsletter, I mentioned the Old Weymouthian Reunion and the Oxbridge dinner. I thoroughly enjoyed the Old Weymouthians' lunch at the school, meeting their 'Old Boys' and witnessing the very talented Weymouth House girls singing. The Oxbridge dinner, held at Lincoln College, Oxford was a glimpse into University lifestyle of Oxford - I must thank all those involved in its organisation and those currently studying at Oxford for making me so welcome.

I was sorry to miss the School Prizegiving in June due to ill health; however the Summer OW/Open Day in early July was very successful. The lawn in front of the Headmaster's house provided an excellent platform for drinks, lunch and entertainment (again provided by the School's talented music pupils) – It was great to see and meet a number of new OWs gathering under the Young OWs banner, as well as the 'usual suspects' under the OW banner on the opposite side of the lawn. I also judged the school's Public Speaking Competition – congratulations to all those who took part by speaking in front of a full chapel. The day continued with sporting activities, such as the cricket that was followed by the Hog Roast beside the Thatched Pavilion.

The OW Rifle club welcomed me to Bisley for the Veterans Shoot in July, where the weather kept us guessing but didn't deter us from the now traditional Bar-B-Q at the end of the day – thank you.

Congratulations to Andrew Tompson for his top score of 50.8 (translated as 10 out of 10 bulls (scoring 5 pts each) of which 8 were centralised (aka "V-bulls")).

On a more sober note, I was saddened by the passing of Philip Gordon (also affectionately known as "the Bear"). Although Philip only taught me mathematics on one occasion, I had come to know him better after leaving School via the OW Rifle Club. I attended his funeral in Kettering, as did many OWs and past teaching staff, where I learnt of his earlier personal sporting and coaching achievements. His son, Tim, also reminded us of his deadly accuracy with a chalkboard rubber! He is sadly missed and our condolences are extended to his family and friends.

We are now looking forward to the OW November Weekend (Remembrance Weekend) – on the Saturday: the OWAGM in the large meeting room, various sports clubs meetings before the OW dinner in the School Hall with entertainment in the form of a song and dance piece from the cast of 42nd Street (school pupils) in the evening. If you wish to attend, an order form (post-closing date) can be downloaded from the School website, or contact Debbie Whittemore at the School. I look forward to welcoming Graham Garrett to be your President for 2008/9 at this weekend and together we will attend the Remembrance Service in the School Chapel on the Sunday – a service which all may attend.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during this historic year, and wish you all good health and happiness for the future.

Alison Caton (nee Willgress) (81-88, Ma) ■



Presenting the Public Speaking Cup

Head's Report



Headmaster: Garry Bowe

The start of a new academic year is always rightly associated with optimism and confidence. Bright faces and new uniforms, fresh paint and refurbishment are the norm and September 2008 is no different, indeed we begin this new school year with a completely refurbished Dining Hall with its sparkling Coffee Shop delivered on schedule. We also await the opening of a new Art extension alongside the ageing temporary building which has long-passed its originally intended lifespan. I recall past OW President Peter Cordrey, regaling me with stories of its use as a dormitory and character-building freezing showers! We have also made attempts to alleviate our parking problems with an ingenious reconfiguration of the car-park; judgement is reserved on whether anything other than a brand new tarmac,

purpose-built car park will have the desired effect of calming traffic and tempers but this is certainly a feat of workmanship on the part of the Estates' team!

Our non-appearance in the recent GCSE and A Level League Tables has prompted a good deal of comment. The decision was taken essentially because, although we accept that League Tables are a yardstick by which some judge schools, we consider them to be flawed and misleading. The intention is to place our results in the public domain once the re-marks and appeal process has been completed. The decision has already been vindicated because we have uncovered at least three separate major clerical errors which have had a considerable impact upon our statistics. Perhaps more importantly, individual pupils have suffered as a result of these shortcomings in the system. Essentially we have again achieved Public Examination results of which we are proud, which maintain the standards set in recent years and which reflect the hard work done by teachers and pupils alike; the vast majority of pupils achieved, in our professional opinion, what their abilities deserve.

A new structure for the School Day and Week has prompted largely positive comment. Lessons of 35 minutes have been replaced by those of 55 minutes each and assemblies, Chapel, tutor and House meetings have been allocated time at the beginning of the day. Once the perennially popular House Singing Competition is completed later in the month we will embark upon a new Enrichment programme during the lunch break, which will provide over 40 options for pupils to enhance their co-curricular experiences.

The full and wholesome tone has been set for the year in the opening week of term. We have had the added pressure of hosting the Festival Meeting of the Federation of School Lodges. The manner in which the catering, Estates' team and the pupils who helped rose to this challenge brought worthy accolades from our visitors who came from all over the country. The first Sunday of term traditionally sees the New Pupils' Service which marks a relaxed, broad welcome to families across the Senior School and one is always heartened by the sense of vitality of the new members of our community; this year we have 91 new S9 including 15 from outside our own Prep School, 15 new 6th formers as well as 3 other new pupils. Our numbers across all three parts of the School, despite the inevitable impact of the "credit crunch", are buoyant and, though one must guard against complacency, we are looking forward to a year of energetic School life.

Garry Bowe ■

headmaster@wellingboroughschool.org

DEADLINE:

Please ensure that all material for the next edition of *The Old Wellingburian* reaches Edward Minchinton c/o the School by 10th April 2009.

dates for your diary

2008

November 8th:

AGM and November Dinner at the School

November 9th:

Remembrance Service

2009

March 27th:

London Dinner - RAF Club, London

April 24th:

Oxbridge Dinner- Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge



Items of OW clothing are available from Warwicks of Wellingborough (01933 224981)

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NEWS OF OLD WELLINGBURIANS

We are constantly being told that this is the section in the *The Old Wellingburian* that attracts most interest: so why not write in and give us YOUR news for the next edition?

Congratulations to all those who have received their results for GCSE, AS and A Level exams and also to all those who graduated this summer.



The Cast of "Charlie Brown", Robert Kelly third from right

Robert Kelly (00-07, P1) appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Warwick University's production of "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown". In its short run of 10 performances the show gained critical acclaim being described as "an un-missable superb production" by *The Scotsman*. Their review of Kelly himself stated "Rob Kelly is adorable as [Lucy's] security-blanket-dependent brother Linus" and to quote Rob himself "you just can't argue with a national newspaper". The show also received 5 star reviews from all the members of the public who commented on the show on the Fringe's website.

Peter Kelly (97-04, P1) graduated this year with an Upper Second BA in History from Sheffield University.

Alex Campbell (02-04, G) is now studying for an LLM at University College, London. Alex graduated this year from Trinity College, Cambridge with a BA (Hons) in Law and also Masters in French Law from the University of Paris.



Sophie with Dora

Congratulations to **Sophie Spink (nee Timms)** (82-92, W) and her husband Chris on the birth of their daughter Dora Florence Spink on 17th May 2008.

Congratulations to **William Hanley** (91-05, P1) and **Henry Sanders** (71-81, C) who have been selected for the 2009 National Rifle Association Channel Islands tour. The tour sees the team depart for the Channel Islands on 20th May for a week of competitions.

Nick Stevens (00-02, P1) has been selected to play for the Great Britain Australian Rules Football team and will be taking part in the 2008 ARFL World Cup in Melbourne in September 2008. Nick has done well playing rugby in the BUSA league for his University and a number of clubs but he put all his efforts to getting in to the GB squad and was duly rewarded.

Rodney (Rod) Smith (65-67, F) has written in with an update. "My brother **George Randall Smith** and I attended Wellingborough from 1965-1967. We were both members of Fryer's House. Our parents felt it prudent for us to attend the School while our father was posted with the Canadian Embassy in Moscow, (then) USSR. Non-communist schooling was available in Moscow at the elementary level, but not at higher levels. Both Randy and I attribute much of our personal successes in life to the solid academic and social groundings we received at Wellingborough. Randy retired as Principal ("Headmaster") of a Middle School in Aylmer, Quebec, five years ago. I retired as Assistant Commissioner with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in June 2007."

John (Tony) Archibold (77-86, G) now lives in Dubai with his wife Fiona and is an Associate with RMJM Architects. His brother **Christopher** (78-88, G) has lived in Singapore for the last four years where he works for Jones Lang LaSalle. He and his wife Samantha have two sons: Cameron, 6 and Hamish, 1. Christopher recently received an award for professional excellence. He was awarded the Outstanding Individual in Industry Award for Real Estate Transactions by RFP (Real Estate, Facilities, Projects) magazine.

Andrew Tompson (78-85, G) was selected to shoot for England in the National Match at Bisleigh on Thursday 24th July. England won with a score of 2046.204v. Scotland was runner-up and Ireland third.



(Picture-Alison Mitchell)

Alison Mitchell had the opportunity to meet up with many of her contemporaries before leaving for Beijing at the OW Hog Roast that took place after the Club vs. School Cricket Match on Open Day. In this picture are **Allen Ramsden** (staff), **Mike Askham** (staff), **Miss Irvin** (staff), **Alison Mitchell**, **Mehran Waheed**, and **Michelle Hurst**. Front row, **Reshma Shah**, **David Baldry**.

Moved or moving?

Please let us know so that we can keep our records up-to-date and able to send you the newsletter.

Welcome back... after all these years!



Jeff Clark with his guide to the School, Debbie Whittemore.

What does it feel like when you return to a place of such good memories?

I left the School in December 1979 – nearly 29 years ago. But, I tell you; walking round with Debbie Whittemore, Foundation Secretary, my smile could not have been broader. Often, when you revisit a place or share an experience, you realise just how much it has influenced you. The academic life and the extra-curricular involvement have both served me well. The School was good then. It is even better now.

So, what am I doing now? Well after a career running manufacturing units for Unilever and Procter & Gamble, my wife (Gill) suggested working together in our own business. We now run Admiral Design & Print, based in Wellingborough, helping people run and promote their organisations with well-designed & printed material. Like the School, we've improved and expanded over recent years!

And what's your story? Give me a call if you can remember the School in the Seventies; and, if not? Well, maybe a revisit is in order!

Jeff Clark (Steyne's 72 – 79) ■
Work : Admiral Design & Print 01933 443455
E-mail: jeff"at"admiralprinters.com

OW Oxbridge Dinner 2009

This event is being held at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge next year on 24th April. Graham Garrett will be writing to Oxbridge students nearer the time enclosing an application form for this event. Further details can be obtained from Debbie Whittemore on 01933 233441 or e-mail: dw 'at' wellingboroughschool.org

London Dinner 2009

Next year's London Dinner will be held at the RAF Club in Piccadilly on 27th March as organised by incoming OW Club President Graham Garrett. An order form is enclosed with this newsletter.

OW Masonic Lodge

OW Masonic Lodge No 5570

By the kind permission of the School, on Saturday 6th September the Lodge had the privilege of hosting the 61st Annual Festival of the National Federation of School Lodges. We were honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Wellingborough, the Headmaster, the Provincial Grand Master for Northampton and Huntingdonshire, together with 220 distinguished Masons representing 70 different Old Boys' Lodges from across England and Wales, coming from as far as Cardiff, Truro, and York.

The day commenced with a rousing Chapel service followed by a Lodge meeting in the afternoon in the Senior School Hall where, in a glittering ceremony, our new Lodge Banner was dedicated and a Past Masters' Board was unveiled. W. Bro Brian Huckle then gave an interesting and highly entertaining talk about the history of Wellingborough and some of his reminiscences of his time at the School. Over 60 Ladies in the meantime enjoyed a private tour of Boughton House, the Northamptonshire home of the Duke of Buccleuch.

The day ended with Dinner in the newly refurbished School Dining Hall where all enjoyed a splendid meal and most enjoyable company. A far cry from the School meals I remember having in Game's all those years ago! We thank the School Prefects and CCF Cadets for helping us during the day.

Any OW or master at the School who is interested in joining the Lodge should in the first place contact me on 01604 743 389 or by e-mail at brian.strudwicke"at"btinternet.com. We meet four times a year at the School during the evenings of the first Friday in May, July, October and February.

Brian Strudwicke (48-57, G) ■

November Dinner 2008

If this publication arrives before November 8th – please feel free to check with Debbie Whittemore to see if there are any places available for this year's November Dinner. This takes place in the School Hall, with pre-drinks commencing at 6.45 p.m. Earlier in the day is the Club's AGM which is open to all OWs. On Sunday the Remembrance service will be held in the School Chapel at 10.15 a.m. with refreshments afterwards in the newly refurbished Dining Hall.

Chairman of the Governors Report

The 2008 Transparency & Accountability Report was published to staff in September and so once again, I wish to share with you some of its key messages which were based on extracts from the independently audited Financial Statements of the School for the year ended 31 March 2008, which were approved at the Governors meeting on 24 June:

- the Schools' assets increased by £259k to £16,382k
- net fees and other income for the year was £8,633k as compared to £8,105k for the previous year
- total tuition expenses were up £406k to £5,504k
- the surplus was a fairly satisfactory £267k or 3.1% of net fees and other income
- pupil numbers decreased from 896 to 888 but are forecast to increase to circa 900 in September 2008
- full time equivalent teaching staff numbers increased from 124 to 127, whereas both ground and maintenance staff at 16 and support staff at 17 remained static
- the pupil /full time equivalent teaching ratios across the whole school was 7.0 but individually, reflecting the differing needs were:
 - Pre preparatory 6.8
 - Preparatory 9.7
 - Senior 5.9
- the above are crucial in maintaining our aim to keep set sizes circa 20, which we recognise is a key benchmark for parents
- the cost of buildings & grounds maintenance and minor works totalled £1,251k with a further £104k being spent on capital items relating to the Preparatory School changing block and Cripps extension

I set out in the table below the percentage allocation of net fees and other income for the year 2007/08:

	%
Tuition	63.8
Domestic & Catering	8.6
Building, Grounds maintenance & minor works	14.5
Administration & marketing	8.4
Depreciation	1.6
Surplus	3.1
Total	100.0

Wellingborough continues to be very competitive with other Independent Schools who all have the complex task of balancing fee increases with affordability of parents. We operate on what commercial enterprises would consider very small margins and sometimes specifically choose to spend more of our budgeted surplus during a year to ensure that current pupils and parents see the benefits and not just future ones. Exciting developments during the summer holidays have included the completion of the new 2D Art Centre, the creation of the new mezzanine floor in the dining hall and further car park improvements.

We recognise the sacrifices that parents make and the tremendous support that many grandparents provide. The introduction of our first grandparents' day was recognition of this as well as their natural pride in their grandchildren and how much they truly value what Wellingborough School offers. This justifies why we have positively reviewed our criteria for scholarships and bursaries and will continue to do so.

In conclusion the School has had an excellent year under the stewardship of Garry Bowe, Richard Mitchell and Julia Jones who have been so ably supported by their staff. As ever, it is impractical to comment on all of the successes that have been achieved by individuals, teams, classes or departments with the exception of one. That one, being Julia Jones who has retired after completing 14 years as Headmistress of the Pre-Preparatory School where numbers have grown from 133 to 168 and music, smiles, passion for learning and happiness abound each day. Of course, we now welcome Julia's successor, Jocelyn Everett as she settles into her role as Headmistress of the Pre-Preparatory School and other new staff, pupils and parents find their way in our "family of schools"

Jerry J H Higgins (57 - 66 St) ■
Chairman of Governors

School News

In Girls' football the School's squad reached the ISFAG final and played against the American International School, Cobham at Yeading and Hayes FC's ground in Middlesex. There was "plenty of heroic action, not least by the Cobham goalkeeper; but a harsh 0-5 defeat in the end".

After representing East Northants in the County Athletics Championship, five boys and girls were selected to represent the County at an inter-counties event. Of the five, three are competing in running events with the other two in jumping events.

In 1st XI cricket this season there have been a number of outstanding performances and results. This is typified by the fact that five members of the XI have scored centuries. Great interest was generated by the team's performance in the National Independent Schools' 20/20 Cup that saw the School score some impressive victories and reach the semi-finals before losing to Dulwich College.



The guest speaker at this year's prize giving was the BBC's Crime correspondent Ben Ando. Ben was a pupil at the School in 1984 and was in Steyne's House. An interesting innovation for this year's Prize Giving was a trip to Oxford a few days prior to the event. This occasion allowed the prizewinners to select their books as well as visit an Oxford college. Here Ben recounts his day:

Stepping back in time - an unnerving but enjoyable experience for OW Ben Ando who presented the prizes at Speech Day this summer.

My first reaction when headmaster Garry Bowe called me and asked me to present the prizes at Wellingborough school's Speech Day in June was a crushing realisation that I must be now, officially, an old fart.

After all, this had always been my impression of those censorious and distant figures who'd made the speeches during my time at Wellingborough from the late 1970s to the mid 1980s.

In my minds eye I saw myself standing in a stifling dining hall looking out over rows of eyes gently glazing over and stifled yawns as an inner voice helpfully says, "You're losing them...."

But of course, such visions - based on my own Speech Day memories - had no relation to the vibrant, enjoyable and impressive event that the day has now become.

Accompanied by Paul Copperwaite, a former Steyne's housemate and contemporary I can't seem to shake off, I arrived just in time to be late for the lunch that had been very kindly offered. It was fantastic to see so many of the teachers I recalled from my days at Wellingborough.

What I found most galling was that while I have changed quite considerably (!) none of them seems to have aged more than a few months!

I chatted with Graham Garrett, Peter Croft, Mickey Prall, Mike Askham, Mike Nugent and Ian Rowse who were, respectively, head teacher, deputy, junior school history master, sports master, housemaster and physics teacher when I was there - and I was stunned to hear that a mere 24 years later Ian is still teaching physics on a part time basis!

I strongly suspect that the last time I was in the headmaster's house it would have been for a ticking off over some misdemeanour (probably smoking; "...and I must warn you your parents will be informed, Ando....") and returning after more than two decades as an honoured guest was an interesting, bordering on bizarre, experience.

The head boy and girl were kind enough to show me around and I chewed my lip with jealousy as I saw the amazing sports facilities the school now offers; however the now unified Parkers and Steyne's seemed shabbier than I remembered! Maybe it's a grunge thing? My efforts to find the locker in which we once shut a Shell-former were unsuccessful; indeed none of the current lockers appeared to have the capacity I was expecting; either (like all childhood things) they seemed smaller to me as an adult, or perhaps these were newer lockers where a lower capacity was specified to ensure no further Shell-formers would endure the "in-locker experience."

The next part of the day involved an interactive "meet the sixth formers" session. I was a little concerned that the session would be a series of silences punctuated by the occasional tumbleweed rolling across the room, but they all had plenty to say. We chatted about the media, about news values, about the veracity and trustworthiness of mass media compared to the Internet, and about conspiracy theories.

I decided to test the power of the internet - asking for a show of hands over whether it was "possible" that man had not been to the moon and that the landings were actually filmed in a hangar in Arizona. At least half of the group thought this; a result that surprised me. Then again, these were politics and history students.

And on to the main event.

Those who have not been to a prize giving at Wellingborough since the day they left, and until this year I included myself in this happy band, will be surprised to learn that nowadays parents are serenaded into an enormous white marquee by a string quartet; with bouquets of flowers around and surprisingly comfortable, hired-in chairs.

I went to wander in but a hand restrained me - I had made a schoolboy error. As guest speaker, I was a member of the "podium party," with the Headmaster, Chairman of Governors and others. We were to enter last, once every bum was on a seat. For some reason (probably nerves) I found the "podium party" concept hugely amusing but maybe you had to be there...

The prize giving went smoothly. No winner tripped on their ascent of the podium, no book was dropped, and no handshake resulted in a comedy "thumb to the nose." I was impressed not just by the number of winners but also the Teutonic efficiency of the entire exercise.

Most of the winners had chosen reasonably sensible books, and I found one young man's choice of "Car Mechanics Made Easy" endearing.

After the books were handed out it was speech time - followed by the "goodbye" to leaving sixth formers. This is something new; every pupil leaving the school comes forward, is presented with their own bound yearbook and then, in turn, exeunt. For those Upper Sixth formers moving on there was something poignant and rather moving about this formalised farewell.

At dinner that evening, I had a chance to chat a little more to Garry and his wife Ruth, who is very involved in school life, before finally calling it a night and heading home.

Overall, the school made me feel very welcome and I was surprised just how much I enjoyed myself - and just how glad I was to see that Wellingborough continues to go from strength to strength.

Ben Ando (77-84, St) ■

Archive News

Dr Trevor Easterfield (48-56, W) has kindly sent me a letter regarding the School organ. He became determined to learn to play having watched and listened to Robert Britten (JS Headmaster) play the Chapel organ. He started lessons under the tutorship of Maurice Pettitt (Director of Music) in 1953 when he moved up to the Senior School. By 1955 he was accompanying some of the chapel services and soon became deputy organist to Mr Pettitt. After leaving Wellingborough, Trevor studied at Trinity College of Music and became Director of Music at Hendon School. In addition to this post he also worked for the English National Opera as Children's Vocal Coach and Director of Music for Barnet Music Hall. Having retired, he is now Honorary Archivist to Hendon School and Editor of the Old Hendonian.

Donald Balmer (38-44, Pa) has written in to ask if those who remember Murray Witham's geography lessons can recall the type of aircraft that he flew in as an observer/bombardier during WWI.

The Wellingburian Grace

After receiving several queries from OWs, the President has asked me to do a small piece on the Wellingburian Grace. John Shrive commissioned the Grace during his term as OW President in 2000 and was composed and translated by Peter Croft, who taught Latin at the School from 1951 to 1991.

The text of the Grace is in Latin and English:

Pater caelestis.

Tibi gratias agimus pro hoc alimento sodalicioque, pro omnibus bonis e manibus tuis et praecipue pro beneficiis Wellingburiensem apud scholam accipitis.

Quare precamur ut gratiam non solum his verbis sed per nostrum vitam referamus.

Per dominum nostrum Iesum Christum filium tuum.

Amen

Heavenly Father.

We thank you for this food and fellowship and for all the blessings from your hands, especially for the benefits received at Wellingborough School.

Wherefore we pray that we may show our gratitude, not just in these words, but in the way we live our lives.

Through your son and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

OBITUARIES

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of all whose deaths are reported below:



John Starsmer Adams (37-45, Pa) was born on 30th January 1929 and joined the Junior School at the age of 9 following in the footsteps of his brothers Ted and Dick. He enjoyed all aspects of school especially the Chapel Choir, eventually becoming Head Chorister. John pursued his love of music into adulthood and was one of the founding members of the Orpheus Choir, Choirmaster of All Saints and St Barnabas' Church to name but a few of his posts.

After leaving school John joined the family business of Adams Builders and Sons, eventually becoming Managing Director. John's links to the school were not only as a student but also on a professional basis as Adams Builders had a long working relationship with Wellingborough. John's son Nick attended Wellingborough and was a member of Parker's House. Currently two of John's grandchildren are in the Senior School: Alexander (Pa-St) and Olivia (Ne) Hunt.

One of John's most important visits to the School each year was on Remembrance Day when he remembered his brother Dick who died during the Second World War at Anzio. Dick's name is the first of the war memorial at the back of the Chapel. John was a larger than life character who had a quick wit and an incredible sense of humour. This humour together with enormous courage was present throughout his long battle with cancer. John died on 10th May 2008.

Sue Hunt

David Henderson (46-50, staff) died on 24th March 2008 aged 85. At Weymouth College he was a House Prefect, Chapel Warden, a L/Cpl in the OTC and a first class shot, being in the Shooting VIII. He was in the Tennis VI and represented his house in Rugby, Cricket, Tennis, Fives (captain), Boxing, Singing, Dramatics and Shooting. He was a PT Athletics instructor.

Leaving Weymouth when the college closed in 1940, he went to St. Andrews University and

graduated with honours in History in 1945. He was House Tutor at Weymouth House, Wellingborough from 1946 to December 1950. He then left to take over a House at St Bee's. After 5 years at St. Bee's he was appointed Housemaster, Senior History master and Master i/c Rugby at St. Michael and St. George School, Gringa, Tanganyika, a new school for Europeans. After 4 years there he accepted an appointment at Eton where he stayed for 2 years, then moving to a state school south of the Tyne and living at Ponteland.

He married Dr. Eileen Dixon in August 1964 and they had a son and daughter. He became headmaster of Embley Park School near Romsey in 1968, retiring in July 1987 but continuing to live in the area. Both before and after retirement he was a regular contributor to the Old Weymouthian Budget newsletter, keeping us in touch with his activities and his contact with many OWs. He served for many years on the Old Weymouthian Club Committee, resigning only when forced to do so by ill health. He was Club President 1992-93.



Jeanne Thurgar (85-92, staff) worked in the Tuck Shop whilst at the School, eventually becoming Manageress.

She was also a Marsh house tutor between 1986 and 1988. Ian Gallagher, the Estates Bursar remembers her as being "immaculate". Before working at the School Jeanne worked for British European Airways as a stewardess.

After leaving BEA Jeanne had two children Chris and Theresa. Chris went to the School from 1971 to 1981 and was in the Junior School and Cripps' House. After leaving Wellingborough Jeanne helped with "Meals on Wheels" for the elderly. Jeanne died on 14th June 2008.

Chris Eve (71-81, C)

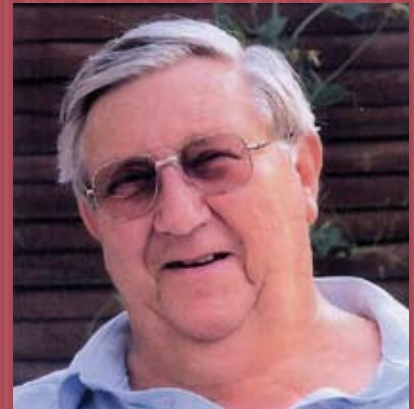
Philip Gordon, who died on Monday 2nd June 2008, was one of the longest serving members of staff in the second half of the twentieth century.

He was born in Yorkshire in 1926, and educated at De Aston School in Lincolnshire, where he excelled at sport. He then read Engineering at Queens' College, Cambridge, and was awarded a Half Blue for Lacrosse in 1949.

In September 1951 Tom Nevill appointed him to succeed A.J. Wright as Mathematics master at Wellingborough, with the challenging task of pushing the lower forms through to O Level. His teaching of Mathematics encompassed the time when traditional syllabuses were being overtaken by the 'new maths' of the School Mathematics Project.

He remained on the staff until his retirement in July 1987 - one of the rare group of masters, known as Centenarians, who had spent more than 100 terms here. His dedication to the School was seen both inside and outside the classroom. On the playing fields he ran 1st XI cricket (1958-69), U16 soccer (1957-67) and Athletics (1958-70).

For many years he led the RAF Section, and several generations enjoyed rising to the challenge of getting the glider to lift from the ground. In 1975 he succeeded Gordon Flex as master i/c shooting, and he was Officer Commanding the CCF from 1976 to 1983. A highlight of his career was serving as Commandant for the Athelings (the British junior shooting team) when it went to Canada in 1986. From 1969 to 1976 he was housemaster of Steyne's, giving a clear lead to the boys combined with much kindness and understanding.



Known variously as Fizz and The Bear, Philip made his presence felt in so many areas - whether in the Chapel Choir at Christmas, or in the orchestra for one of the Gilbert & Sullivan concerts. He was to serve as president of the OW Cricket Club and president of the OW Rifle Club for many years, and as president of the OW Club itself in 1990-91. He was also a prominent member of the OW Lodge for 25 years.

His four sons (Stuart, Andrew, Tim and Martin) all attended the School, showing similar sporting prowess, and he and his wife Joyce supported many School and O.W. functions. His contribution to so many aspects of life at Wellingborough will long be remembered with gratitude.

Old Wellingburian Sports Clubs

Golf

As in previous years the opening event in the Golf Society calendar was the usual match against Oundle, which took place at Luffenham Heath Golf Club in March. In a social match Wellingborough eased home by 3 matches to 1.

The Halford Hewitt took place in April with Wellingborough being drawn to play against Forest at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, Deal in the first round. Our first match was on the Friday, by virtue of our position in the draw, and there were expectations that we might secure a long awaited 'win' - at least according to the Halford Hewitt statistics. In the end Forest were able to field a rather better side than we anticipated and, despite the supporters club led by President Alison providing a considerable amount of encouragement, we came second in the match by 4 matches to 1. Wellingborough were represented by Martyn Allen, Michael Port, Chris Billson, Philip Saxby, Luke McGuire, Harry Newman, Giles Kellett, Richard Jackson, Justin Chacksfield and Tim Poole and our long suffering loyal band of supporters (who would also dearly love us to win a match) included Ben Ward (society captain), Brian Huckle (society president), John Ward, John Saxby and Alan Fells.

The Spring Meeting took place at Luffenham Heath Golf Club in early May but due to a clash of dates with other events only 14 players took part. Despite the low attendance, competition for the Gillitt Vase was as fierce as ever and Tim Gordon made the most of the benign conditions to return a score of 40 points that no one else could match. Runner up with a score of 36 points was Nick Fry with Alan Fells in third place on 34 points.

The afternoon foursomes over 9 holes was won by Peter Hooton and Paul Woodley with 21 points.

The annual match against the Old Bedfordians was held at Wellingborough Golf Club in June. We met the OBs in the Halford Hewitt Plate (and beat them) and a challenge was then laid down that this match would be the return game. As it turned out home advantage proved to be a vital factor in our winning the game although the OBs indicated that we had fielded too good a side for them. We await next year's match with interest!

Michael Port ■

Shooting

Public Schools Veterans Match 2008

The 2008 PS Vets Match was held on Thursday 17th July at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley just as the School teams are packing up after another Ashburton week. Once again this year the OWRRC was easily able to enter three teams into the competition as well as having a good supply of steak for the customary barbeque afterwards. The format of the contest sees teams of five firers complete 10 scored shots at a distance of 500 yards, the maximum individual score being 50.10v. Despite some pretty straight shooting and a very respectable 50.8v from Andrew Tompson (3rd overall), The 'A' Team captained by William Hanley, finished 21st out of 50 teams in their division with a total of 240.24v. The Old Epsomians took the title that Oundle's 'OO Trouble-shooters' had held for the previous two years with a score of 247.29v. The 'B' Team, captained by Martin Whatton finished in a



One of our V Bulls at 500yds

credible 12th place with a final tally of 235.15v. The Old Malvernians notched up a 245.29v to capture the B division. The 'C' Team under the captaincy of Philip Humphrey mirrored the B's in finishing 12th in their category with a score of 230.14v. Once again, the Old Epsomians were the top dogs with a total of 243.29v. In the overall aggregate the OWRRC finished in a credible 10th place. Well done and thank you to everybody who came along to shoot, to spectate or just be shouted at. It's good to see that this event is getting more popular as the years go on. The only thing to do now is win it!

William P Hanley (91-05 Pl) ■

Football

The OWs are again competing in the Arthur Dunn Cup. Our first match is away against the Old Wellingtonians on 25th October. This is then followed by another away match at Eastbourne.

Open Day Cricket Match

Following the rain-affected match in 2007 we were delighted to see sunny skies and the first "Old Boys" match. Unfortunately a number of the recent OWs could not play due to their Club Cricket commitments, which meant the side were slightly weakened. However we did see 3 sets of brothers playing against each other; the Moxhams (Joe & Tom), the Singhs (Sukhdev & Satnam) & the McGuires (Sam & Jordan)

The Old Boys "won the toss" and elected to bat, however the School's 1st XI attack soon made in-roads to the top order and only Satnam Singh found his form,

with the Old Boys all out for 109. The 1st XI opened the batting with a new school opening pair of William Knibbs and Charlie Henson (normally No 10 & 11!) & they put on a 50 run opening stand and recorded their best batting performance of the season. The School eased past the target and won by 5 wickets.

A presentation of the Cup was made by Headmaster; Garry Bowe in the Tea Pav to 1st

XI captain Jack Chopping, along with the School-bowling award for the third successive season. A large number of parents & Old Wellingburians were present and it was a very enjoyable occasion for all.

We hope that we can have two Old Wellingburian sides next year and make it another fantastic sporting and social event. (Sat July 4th 2009, 1.30 start) followed by the OW Hog Roast, which is gaining momentum each year as word gets out that free booze and a bite to eat is on offer.

Steve Adams, Director of Sport ■



OW and School cricket teams. After the match.

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