

SOLIHULL SCHOOL
450 YEARS


www.silhillians.net



THE SILHILLIAN
2010

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Web: www.jerroms.co.uk



"THE SILHILLIAN"

the magazine of the
The Old Silhillians' Association Limited
(The Former Pupils of Solihull School)

Memorial Clubhouse and Ground
Warwick Road
Copt Heath
Solihull
West Midlands B93 9LW

Telephone: 01564 777680 Facsimile: 01564 775151
Email: osa@solsch.org.uk Website: www.silhillians.net

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President 2009 Max Levenger

Dear Old Silhillian

It has been an eventful year at the OSA as usual, with many changes taking place. Now nearing the end of my year in office, it has been enjoyable meeting so many new faces and attending such varied events of your behalf. As you are aware, it was the 450th anniversary of the foundation of the School, with a marking of this occasion with several events at School and our Ball in July.

I hand over the Presidency in December to John Harrison. I am delighted John has agreed to be President for next year as he has been involved in the organisation previously as a committee member and has this year helped with our marketing direction. John and Hilary live in Dorridge and their son Tom is also an old boy of the School. John will, I'm sure, be able to add to the direction of the Association with his business acumen and his continued interest and involvement at School will hopefully continue our strong link with them.

There have been other changes at School as well, with the retirement of one Headmaster and the Head of Governors and the appointment of their replacements. Graham Hughes, who previously has been OSA President, was Head of Governors and will be replaced in December 2010 by Mark Hopton. Mark is an former pupil of the School who the OSA wish well in his new role. We look forward to forging a firm partnership to develop even stronger relationships between the School, its former pupils and the OSA.

David Lloyd has taken over from Phil Griffiths this summer. I have met the new Headmaster on several occasions and he is an individual that clearly is focussed on developing the School, not solely on academic results. David is a great recruit for the School and I wish him the very best.

I have been lucky enough to be invited to several events at School and it is certainly a very different place to when I left in '94, there has clearly been a huge investment in facilities and it really is an impressive establishment. The School Musical, *South Pacific* was performed in the new Bushell Hall and the production levels and performances were fantastic. The Upper and Middle School Speeches in September also allowed the School to show the successes they have had over the last year and how it continues to go from strength to strength.

The OSA Ball was a fantastic event, with over 290 people attending on a sunny night in July. The food was exemplary and supplied by Rupert Davies, our new Chef at Copt Heath who has taken over the running of the catering facility on site. The bar and facility was excellently managed by Keith Waterhouse and all his staff there and the evening ran without hiccup. During the evening we also raised well over £1,000 for the OSA Trust. The Trust continues to raise money for grants for some students at school and recent leavers, via the Lander Osbourne grant which gifts bursaries to those who want to carry out worthy causes but need financial backing.

We have run a number of events for our members this year, all of them well attended. The Ball mentioned above, the BBQ mentioned below, the over 60s lunches organised by Roger Flood and the Past Presidents' dinner organised by Peter Callaghan. As I write this, we have the London Dinner (organised by Mark Lucas) and the Annual Dinner to look forward to. I am sure both will be huge successes.

The facility at Copt Heath is looking forward to a change fundamentally in the way it is run. The OSA, through Mike Waters' chairmanship of the Management Committee, has successfully implemented the installation of a first class Astroturf facility which continues to have excellent usage levels. Although the Clubhouse is reaching the age where investment will be needed, there is a strategy for the clubs that use the facility to manage their own destiny. Although the OSA will still retain the ownership of the Clubhouse and Ground, the management will be the responsibility of a new management team. An opportunity for the OSA to concentrate on its primary function, as an association for alumni and not running the facilities at Copt Heath.

The membership of the OSA continues to grow, we have invested heavily in both time and resources over the last 18 months to increase the infrastructure for our members to gain information on the School and Association, mainly via the archive becoming accessible via our website - www.silhillians.net and also allowing technology to help reach all past pupils using a new membership database. It was great to have over 100 recent leavers attending a BBQ we run every year for those expecting their 'A' Level results the following day. Congratulations to all of you on your results and a warm welcome to all of you who have joined the Association, it will be money well spent!

Once again Malcolm Lawrie has done a fantastic job once again in producing and editing *The Silhillian*. Malcolm also spends a huge amount of time and effort at the Sils and working on the OSA website and membership database, without which the Association would be hugely lacking. I thank Malcolm for producing this and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

I would like to conclude with a thank you to the staff who put a lot of effort into the day to day running of the Clubhouse and Ground at Copt Heath. I would also like to thank the OSA Main Committee and the Management Committee, including the Sports Club representatives, for all their efforts.

Kind regards



Max Levinger

THE OLD SILHILLIANS' ASSOCIATION - PAST PRESIDENTS

1921/22	Dr AV Bernays	1955	JT Rolfe	1983	DD Cox
1923	C Aldrin	1956	VO Hawley	1984	DW Edwards
1924	WR Ludlow	1957	FR Bishop	1985	SC Mackay
1925	PE Martineau	1958	LG Highway	1986	JRD Orrett
1926	PH Reading	1959	HA Steele	1987	G Stubbings
1927	HA Hughes	1960	CWD Cooper	1988	MS Saunders
1928	HS Matthews	1961	HT Wilcox	1989	HJC Taylor
1929	TA Furse	1962	WP Townsend	1990	MJD Smith
1930	CH Palmer	1963	DH Billing	1991	RJC Graves
1932	LC Reading	1964	HB Callaghan	1992	BW Allen
1933	LE Horton	1965	CT Coton	1993	GM Hughes
1934	F Burnett	1966	MJ Wheelock	1994	HE Blow
1935	RH Whitehill	1967	PJ Hill	1995	AJ Richardson
1936	CL Hughes	1968	BJW Swift	1996	P Callaghan
1937	FJ Osborne	1969	FAR Moon	1997	MC Bettridge
1938	HD James	1970	JEJ Baggs	1998	PA Thomas
1939/43	WRL Horton	1971	RG Toy	1999	JM Batsford
1944	FL Nock	1972	TG Jones	2000	J Woolman
1945	AG Bragg	1973	JMB Urry	2001	BJD Wilde
1946	JB Mayers	1974	DM Powell	2002	MA Cutler
1947	CW Bragg	1975	MJ Cusack	2003	N Smith
1948	EG Wilcox	1976	RC Young	2004	R Jerrom
1949	AJD Mansell	1977	KJ Foster	2005	BW Allen
1950	JM Urry	1978	T Jackson	2006	PA Thomas
1951	KW Highway	1979	DA Gurnham	2007	SD Allso
1952	Dr. KD Waters	1980	PBL Instone	2008	JA Platt
1953	BE Hatton	1981	JLR Hare	2009	RJ Young
1954	MAD Cooper	1982	RC Cupit		



I am very proud and honoured to have been invited by Max to be the next President of our Association. Solihull School and the Old Silhillians have been a major part of my life and I am both the son and father of an Old Silhillian. Some of you will know me as Wilf's son, or Tom's dad. I hope that this coming year will give me the opportunity to meet many more of you in my own right too!

I joined the school in 1968, leaving in 1975, which turns out to have been - dare I suggest - a vintage year. I find on the current OSA Committee my school contemporaries Barry Allen, Joe Bates and Malcolm Lawrie.

My father's school days at Solihull neatly coincided with the war years

'39-'45, and Tom left three years ago. Jago three, the rest nil. All three of us were probably keener on sports than the academics (a recurring theme for OSA Presidents I have noticed...). My own sporting achievements were as a very keen but very average member of the 1st XI hockey squad; Dad was school captain of hockey and gymnastics and played for the school at rugby and cricket too – and then played for the Sils in the Dingle Lane days. Tom played to England U-16 level at hockey and is currently playing for Cannock, making me definitely the one with fewest family bragging rights.

My memories of school are happy ones – Saturday school was still going and meant what seemed a fairly relaxed timetable with lots of time for extra activities, and also 'free Mondays' off every month or two. The 1971 Mediterranean school cruise (10 days, 6 ports of call, cost to my parents £75 if I remember rightly) was a highlight, as were two RAF camps. Maths with Swotty Ansell was my ongoing academic challenge. But above all, I got a great all-round education and made a number of lifelong friends who I still see regularly and this was the best outcome of my 7 years at Solihull.

On leaving school I naturally joined the Old Silhillians' Hockey Club and have been there ever since. I guess the high spot was reaching the old Midlands Premier League in the days before National Leagues – this coincided with my short time in the 1st XI but sadly we were only there for one season. However, perhaps the most enjoyable season was winning the 4th XI league in a team made up of some of my best hockey friends, along with my then 13 year old son and some of his.

These days I still hack around in the 4ths where, alongside Mike Bettridge, John Lyons and other 'seniors' there are thankfully a few current school boys and younger members

to provide some running. The Wednesday Veterans XI contains some quality players and we play other local teams in friendly games - the opening of the astro pitch at Copt Heath has given this team a huge boost as it cuts out travelling time to and from the pitch and allows more time in the bar!

Regular trips back to the School as both old boy and parent mean that I have seen the changes at the School 'as they happened' – recent visits back with contemporaries who have not had that luxury have highlighted the incredible and very positive changes that have occurred over recent years.

The only subject at which I ever achieved anything near an 'A' grade at school was geography, and it is therefore perhaps not surprising that my career has taken me into international trade and to more travelling than I could ever have expected when geography field trips were restricted to the odd visit to the Mountain Cottage.

On leaving school I was sponsored by Lucas Aerospace in Hall Green, took my business degree at Lanchester Poly (now Coventry Uni), and headed off into the world of export marketing. I spent a short period living in Montreal (the only time in my life I've ever lived more than 5 miles from Solihull), and in 15 great years with Lucas I learnt loads about aeroplanes, gained a life-long passion for travel, and best of all met my future wife Hilary sitting at the next desk to me! She moved on, but it can't have been because of anything I said, and we married in 1987.

Having experienced big business, I joined the British Chambers of Commerce, initially working on a DTI scheme for small /medium enterprises and then as Marketing Manager for the international division. Much more travelling resulted, though always on short trips to interesting places and with little time between meetings to see much; Hilary and I are now slowly working our way through the places we've always wanted to visit 'properly' and are just back from a fabulous holiday in Vietnam and Cambodia.

For the last six years I have been self employed as a consultant and trainer specialising in international trade, working from my Dorridge base predominantly for organisations such as UK Trade & Investment, Chambers of Commerce, Scottish Enterprise and similar organisations – and with the SMEs they support – everywhere across the UK from Cornwall to the Shetlands Islands. I also work closely with Hilary and the company she works for, Grayling Live, in the events sector and for several years now have been an event consultant for a major international tradeshow, on which my wife is also my boss! It's interesting, and it seems to work!

Having served on the OSA Committee for a few years in the late '90's and the OSHC committee until a couple of years ago, I know something of the issues faced by the Association and hope I can get back up to speed quickly. We are in a time of seemingly permanent change and certainly of significant challenge, but the projects already underway and which are reported elsewhere are taking us in the right direction. I am looking forward to helping move these forward, and to seeing as many of you as possible at Copt Heath and at the School in the coming year.

With best wishes

John Harrison

Dear Old Silhillian

Another 12 months have passed and here I am again. I have to say how very much I appreciate the thanks that many of you have expressed to me either by letter or in person for the work I do in producing this magazine. It might involve a bit of hard work but I would be lying if I said I did not derive a great deal of pleasure from the letters and emails many of you send to me.



A few people were surprised when Max Levenger was announced as OSA President Elect last year. It has been a very difficult year and despite his tender years Max has proved to be a more than worthy and able President and it has been a pleasure to work with him.

To say this has been a busy year would be somewhat of an understatement. We have had the School's 450th Anniversary; a Headmaster to say "Goodbye" to; one to say "Hello" to; a magnificent website to build; a fantastic OSA Ball organised by your President and a phenomenal amount of work has, and continues to be done, to sort out the business at the clubhouse. All of that, of course, is on top of the other 'normal' activities!

It is nice to welcome John Harrison onto the Main Committee as President Elect. I spent many years on the Hockey Club Committee with John and look forward to working with him again. He was always late for OSHC meetings so it will be interesting to see if he can make the OSA ones on time!

PAST EDITORS

1. Bernard Owens (1950, 53-55)
2. Brian Cogan (1951-52)
3. Arthur Upton (1956-60, 63)
4. Robin Cooper (1961-62)
5. Mike Cusack & Mike Callaghan (1964)
6. Mike Cusack (1965-67)
7. Brian Knight (1968-71)
8. Geoff Herne (1972-74)
9. Nick Atkinson (1975-76)
10. John Woolman (1977-79)
11. Simon Wilcox (1980-82)
12. Martin Cotter (1983-85)
13. David Gilbert (1986-87)
14. Robert Chetland (1988-89)
15. Reg Instone (1990-91)
16. Richard Graves (1992-94)
17. Claude Coton (1995-99)
18. Malcolm Lawrie (2000-)

The OSA has now dragged itself into the 21st century. We have a wonderful new OSA website - www.silhillians.net with fully searchable school archives available and the first OSA newsletter was sent out by email in September. Denis Tomlin referred the website to as the most significant contribution the OSA has ever made to the School and once you have seen it I am sure you would have to agree. Photographs from the archives are dotted throughout this edition of *The Silhillian* to entice you onto the website. More about it can be read on page 54.

I must thank all of you who contributed to the News from Former Pupils section. Your recollections are part of the School's history - and an important part at that. It was a pleasure to meet Stuart Burton earlier this year and,

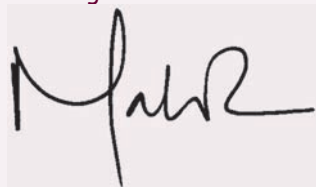
as ever, a delight to chew the cud with his contemporary, Peter 'Percy' Bragg, more recently. Both kindly submitted substantial pieces for the aforementioned section.

I also met up with Colin Johnson, the son of Woodwork and Engineering Drawing Master 'Timber' Johnson. 'Timber' Johnson was Advisory Editor to *The Shenstonian* magazine from 1954 to 1966. During this period he collected many photographs and it was fantastic to spend an afternoon at the Clubhouse with Colin and Denis Tomlin going through them all. Once they have been scanned for inclusion on the website Colin has asked that they be passed to John Loynton for the School archives.

Once again the generosity of the advertisers has covered the cost of printing this magazine and they have my and the OSA Trust's sincerest thanks.

I hope you enjoy this, my 11th, edition of *The Silhillian*.

Kind regards



Malcolm Lawrie

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Imm. Past President



Barry Allen
Chairman



Phil Griffiths
Headmaster



Peter Davies
Hon. Secretary



Joe Bates
Hon. Treasurer



Rupert Young
Hon. Membership Sec.



Malcolm Lawrie
Silhillian Editor



Mike Waters
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Johnny Dugdale
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Peter Thomas
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Simon Bright
General Member



Nigel Harrison
General Member

Please note that all enquiries concerning membership issues, subscriptions, change of address, etc., should be addressed to:

**The Membership Secretary
The Old Silhillians' Association,
Solihull School,
Warwick Road,
Solihull, West Midlands B91 3DJ**

**or emailed to
osa@solsch.org.uk**



This year has been a special year with events to celebrate the 450th Anniversary of the School's foundation. On 3 July all past pupils were invited to return to see a variety of displays and to visit their old classrooms, as well as to see the tremendous improvements to the facilities that have taken place in recent years. It is difficult to know exactly how many visitors we had that day, but 3000 bowls of strawberries were consumed, which is a very rough indicator. There were displays in all the departmental areas, a large Art exhibition in the George Hill Building, as well as school activities such as Terriers and the CCF in the quad and by the Bushell Hall. The weather was kind and visitors could watch the sporting fixtures in cricket, hockey and netball and by the School's equestrian team,

whilst there was also a display by the police dog team and an exhibition of classic cars. Pupils performed excerpts from some of the plays that have taken place this year – Bugsy Malone, Alice in Wonderland and the Junior School's Ye-Ha! Some of the old cine films of events at school from CCF Inspections, the consecration of the School Chapel by the Bishop of Birmingham to the visit of the Queen in 1962 had been digitalised and could be watched on the big screen in the Bushell Hall or on the small screen in the Kent Library. The new David Turnbull Music School has been built to celebrate the 450th Anniversary, as the Chapel was built to commemorate the Quatercentenary. Although it has been in use throughout the academic year, on 3 July it was officially opened by international pianist Peter Donohoe CBE and this marked the high point of the day at school. The building was full when he pulled the cord to reveal the plaque recording the event and the afternoon was filled with music, either by recitals in the Music School or by Saxophony playing on the lawn in front of Big School. In the evening the OSA organised a Ball to mark the 450th Anniversary.

There have been other events throughout the year. Just as the OSA had a Ball to celebrate, so too the Parents' Association had their own 450th Anniversary Ball at the St John's Hotel. With 420 attending, the number of years of the School's existence was nearly matched. That evening there was a preview of the old cine films that were shown on 3 July and which were also part of the exhibition on the School's history in the Borough Library. This was the work of John Loynton, the School's Archivist and probably better known to many as teacher of History at school for 25 years. John has used the archives to write a new history of the School and has included many of the pictures stored there. The last published history was by John Burman, past Chair of Governors from 1942 to 1948, in his book Solihull and its School, first published in 1939. John Loynton's book is due for publication in the autumn. I have seen a preview and it is an enjoyable and informative read.

In January everyone at school received a commemorative medal to mark the 450th Anniversary and sufficient were kept to give to the new intake in September, so that all at school in the anniversary year would receive one. At the beginning of the Summer Term two Services of Commemoration and Thanksgiving were held simultaneously in Chapel

and at St Alphege. As the School had its origins with the chantry chapels of St Mary, St Katherine and St Alphege, it was only right that we should return to the place where the School began. At St Alphege the Bishop of Aston gave the address and the Rector of St Alphege, a Governor of the School, led the prayers. The Mayor of Solihull attended the St Alphege service and was seated in the pew that was donated by the School for the Mayor's use when the Borough of Solihull was created. It is adorned with both the Borough's and the School's crests. The service in Chapel was led by Father Andrew and the address was by Mark Hopton, Vice Chairman of Governors and past pupil. To complete the celebrations of the 450th Anniversary, there will be a concert in the Bushell Hall on Tuesday 16 November and I hope many of you will want to attend. Tickets are available from Reception in the Headmaster's Wing.

As always in such a vibrant community as Solihull School, there has been a great deal taking place outside the classroom, but it is the academic achievement that often makes the headlines. This summer's (August 2010) results at both A Level and at GCSE were the best in the School's history. This year saw the introduction of the A* grade at A Level and 24% of the grades achieved were at this level, with 7 pupils gaining 4 A*s. There was again a 100% pass rate and 85% of the grades were at A*/A and B, which was 5% better than in 2009. At GCSE, 68% of all the passes were at A* and A grades, which was 7% better than 2009. Five pupils gained 10 A* grades and 34 pupils had all A* or A grades. The results at A Level and GCSE are impressive and a testament to the hard work of both staff and pupils. Whilst national exams make the headlines, this year also saw the first pupils take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is worth half an A Level and allows the student to explore a topic rigorously with the guidance of a staff mentor. Over 20 of the Upper Sixth chose to take on this challenge, whilst others (photo below) have participated in the YASS (Young Applicants in Schools and Colleges Scheme) run by the Open University. Topics include 'How the Universe Works', 'Engineering the Future' and



'Molecules, Medicines and Drugs', and successful participants receive credits towards an Open University degree.

The academic year 2009-2010 also saw three more Arkwright Scholars join the two already in the Sixth Form. Arkwright Scholarships are a national engineering award and to have five in the School at the same time is a marvellous achievement. For the third successive year the Maths Challenge Team won the regional round to participate in the National Finals in London, whilst pupils taking the national Maths Challenge have achieved 60 Gold certificates at the three different age levels, seven of them going on to the next level of the Maths Olympiad. Isaac Webber won a Silver medal and his performance put him in the top 50 mathematicians in his age group in the country.

The European Youth Parliament Team won the Midlands regional round and progress to the National Finals this September, hoping to emulate the success of the 2007 team who became the UK representatives at the International Forum in Dublin. Sixth Form scientists attended the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in San Diego, whilst Sixth Form linguists went to Belgium to debate in French with schools from Spain and Belgium on subjects such as 'Cloning' and 'Civil Partnerships'. The Modern Languages Department has exchange visits with schools in Germany and France, as well as the developing link with Wessex School in Chile. Not only do Solihull pupils visit the school, but Wessex sends Gap Year students to act as language assistants at Solihull. It was whilst the Gap students were at school that the earthquake struck Chile and in a moving assembly they explained what had happened to their country and to their town in particular, Concepción, which was close to the epicentre of the earthquake. After the assembly £2,500 was raised for the Chile appeal and this was just weeks after £2,400 had been raised for Haiti after the earthquake there. Charity fundraising is of major importance and this year we have supported Acorns Children's Hospice Trust, Macmillan Cancer Support, West Midlands Air Ambulance, Diabetes UK,

Jeans for Genes, The Royal British Legion, Sightsavers, End Polio Now, the Samaritans' Shoe Box Appeal, Save the Children and the Edwards Trust. Money is raised at the traditional Charity Week, but also throughout the year with specific appeals, and the Junior School is particularly active in fundraising.

On the sports field the girls have had a very successful year. The 1st XI won through to the finals of the Hockey County Championship, but failed to retain their title by one point. The Under 14 team, too, were runners-up in the County Championship, but both Under 12 and Under 13 teams are County Champions. Towards the end of the Summer Term Julie Whiting was selected for the Wales Under 18 team, despite being only 15. The netball teams have also had success,





with the 1st VII becoming Borough Champions for the second consecutive year and the Under 12s coming runners-up in their competition. During the summer holidays the netball and hockey teams went on a tour to Malaysia. In the Summer Term rounders is the principal sport and the Under 13 team were Borough Champions, with the Under 12s and Under 15s coming second in their age groups. In athletics, the girls had one of their most successful seasons ever. In the English Schools Regional Competition Solihull School came 1st and seven pupils were selected for the Borough. Molly Eales became National Champion for the standing vertical jump and was selected to represent the West Midlands at the All England Schools' Athletics Championships in the triple jump.

The 1st XV had a superb season under the captaincy of Alex Kirke, who provided a great role model. There were some close matches, but all regular fixture matches were won and the only loss was to Warwick in the fifth round of the Daily Mail Cup. The 2nd XV had an undefeated Christmas Term, amassing 325 points with only 43 scored against them. The Under 12 XV were undefeated and the Under 14 team lost only two matches, whilst the Under 15 XV reached the fifth round of the Daily Mail Cup. There were fears that co-education would dilute the standard of rugby at the School, but such results across all the years confirm the strength of rugby at Solihull. This is achieved by the commitment of staff and players, with pre-season training, fitness sessions before morning school, combined with the support from Pat Cropper as Fitness Coach and Phil Evans as Physiotherapist. The selection of five senior players for the England Barbarian trials and two Under 16 players for the England squad is testament to the rugby club's success. This summer the senior squad returned to South Africa for the biennial tour.

Hockey has had a mixed season, with the 1st XI winning 14 and losing 9. They improved as the season progressed and at the end of the season went to the Bath Hockey Festival, which is not a competition but a celebration of the game, winning 3 matches and drawing 1. There is strength in depth, with five boys' hockey teams playing on Wednesday.

The 2nd XI lost only one match in the Christmas Term and the junior teams all had good seasons, with the Under 14s losing in the final of the County Championship.

The senior cross country team has had a magnificent season, retaining their Greater Birmingham title (the area covers the West Midlands and even goes into Shropshire). The senior team is unbeaten since November 2008 and in several matches took the first six places (the first six count). Jonathan Simpkins and Alan Yates won the Sutton Park Pairs race and Jonathan was 3rd in the Midlands and Northern Championships at Sedbergh, when the team was 2nd, losing only to the home side. Phil Holt has coached the team for many years and regards this season as the best yet.

The boys' golf team defeated Rugby School in the Regional Final of the Independent Schools' Golf Tournament and so, for the first time in the School's history, went to the National Finals at Oulton Hall, near Leeds. This was played over 36 holes on two days and the team came 10th out of 15 schools. Patrick Skakel finished 7th out of 45 in the individual standings.

In the short cricket season there were 133 scheduled fixtures and 108 played. Despite a lack of experience, with only four players remaining from last season's team, the 1st XI performed well under the captaincy of Chris Williamson. There were 20/20 wins over Bromsgrove and Warwick, as well as tight run chase successes at home against both King's Worcester and Warwickshire Imps. Undoubtedly the highlight was the astonishing game against Nottingham High School in which over 800 runs were scored, Solihull

winning with just four balls to spare. The game included a remarkable innings by Chris Williamson who scored an outstanding 263. The 2nd XI had a mixed season and the junior teams have improved considerably, with the Under 14 team in particular winning 9 games and losing 2. There have been some outstanding personal performances, with Dominic Harding achieving four centuries for the 1st XI, James Trueman two centuries for the 2nd XI and Archie Clay taking 5 wickets for 29 runs in 7 overs for the Under 12 team.

The athletics teams have again scored victories at all levels against some leading schools, including Cheltenham College, Rugby School, Clifton, Dean Close, Malvern and Old Swinford Hospital. The mid-



dle distance runners often earned full points and there was regular success in both triple and long jumps. In the junior teams, Lewis Grinsell must be mentioned for his selection to represent the West Midlands in the All England Schools' Athletics Championships, where he was placed 6th in the javelin.

The sporting successes of the Junior School should also not be forgotten, as they won the Borough Six-a-Side Football Cup and the Under 11 hockey team won their County Championship. In athletics, the Junior School won the Borough Sports, taking both boys' and girls' cups, as well as the overall trophy.

The new David Turnbull Music School has given the musicians much needed space for rehearsal and teaching. Over 350 pupils have individual music lessons and there is music for everyone's talents. This was emphasised in Charity Week when the annual Battle of the Bands was interrupted by a technical failure and one of the Upper Sixth entertained the audience of about 500 with an impromptu rendition of a piece by Purcell. It received a standing ovation. Iain Simcock returned to give an organ recital. He was a music scholar at school, organ scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor and also at Christ Church, Oxford. He is currently the Musical Director at the Maîtrises de l'Académie Vocale de Paris. Iain was in my Form years ago and it was great to welcome him back to listen to his virtuoso performance of works from William Byrd to Francis Pott. Iain's recital is one of several and Thomas Trotter, Birmingham City Organist, performed in Chapel on 5 October.

The pupils have also provided much music, with individual recitals by members of the Upper Sixth, as well as the two main concerts. The St Cecilia Concert displayed particularly the strength of brass and woodwind with the appearance of a junior saxophone group - Saxbeats - conducted and accompanied by members of the Sixth Form. In the Summer Concert the rendition of Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man was superb, as was the playing of John Denver's Annie's Song by the flute choir. The concert ended with the first movement of Beethoven's Symphony Number 5. There were seventeen separate items that evening and every one was enjoyable.

Singing has developed enormously under Pam Davies's watchful eye. The Choral Society has performed twice, offering Mozart's Missa Brevis and Saint-Saens' Christmas Oratorio. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has become so popular that Chapel is full, with about 450 in the congregation each night. The Chapel Choir sings every Sunday evening as part of the regular religious worship in school and is over 70 strong when the boys and girls sing together. On the final evensong of the year, and my final Chapel service as Headmaster, Belinda and I chose all the music. I set them some challenging pieces, from Hubert Parry's I Was Glad to Burgon's Nunc Dimittis, and included Rutter's Clare Benediction. They sang beautifully and it will long remain in my memory as a great evening. Peter Irving has been the Organist and Choirmaster for 25 years, but he has taken over as Head of ICT and Mr Oliver Walker, organ scholar at Wells Cathedral, has taken control of the Chapel Choir from September 2010.

This year's musical was *South Pacific*, which played for five nights to full houses. It is a major operation, with over 100 pupils involved, and it has established a reputation for consistent excellence. The facility provided by the Bushell Hall has enabled near professional standards to be achieved and every year the musical week is eagerly awaited



by performers and audience. This year was no exception, with great performances by Jessica Singer as US Navy Nurse Nellie Forbush and John Whiting as the French plantation owner, Emile de Becque. The male and female choruses of marines and ensigns gave the musical vitality and the joy of being part of a great performance was visible on all their faces. The musical has become so popular that the Lower School now has its own musical in the Summer Term, after the internal examinations. *Bugsy Malone* was a great success and had a cast of 60. There were some remarkable voices and the successors to the Senior School actors and singers were readily evident.

South Pacific and *Bugsy Malone* are just two of the seven productions this year. For the second year running a group of Middle School pupils, with Sixth Form help, put on their own produc-

tion, this year a version of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. This version had been written by Richard Ackroyd, a member of the Lower Sixth, and it was performed in the outdoor amphitheatre constructed next to the David Turnbull Music School. The weather was glorious and it was so successful that it was repeated for the Junior School and then at a local primary school. Best of all, it was performed at lunch time to anybody who wished to sit, watch and listen, and it attracted an audience of about 60. Both Lower and Middle Schools have performed their own plays - *The Masque of the Red Death* and *Living with Lady Macbeth* - and the lunch time Drama Clubs provide the opportunity for new talent to be spotted. The main school play was *Oh! What a Lovely War* and this ensemble piece demanded great teamwork and was a resounding success. All the action took place in front of a huge screen which depicted the horrors of the First World War and the whole was held together by a Master of Ceremonies, Jessica Singer. It was performed just after Remembrance Day, making the whole production more poignant.

As happens in any large institution, colleagues have decided to retire or move to other schools. Some have been at Solihull School for a short period of time: Miss Bouckley and Miss Powell move to new schools whilst Mrs Parker retires after being in the Modern Languages Department for eight years. Two staff are retiring from the Junior School: Mr Barclay, who has been at the School for nine years, and Mrs Barralet, who has been the mainstay of Music in the Junior School for 19 years. Mrs Wolffe has been at Solihull

School for 29 years, having been a full time language teacher and who more recently provided the oral support at GCSE and A Level.

Mr Jones has been at the School for 23 years and has been a stalwart in the Physics Department. He has been very much involved in cricket, taking junior sides then the 2nd XI, and in the past few seasons has helped with the 1st team. Chris has been on both recent cricket tours to Barbados. Mr Belcher was a pupil at the School and returned in 1986 to become a member of the Design and Technology Department. He became Head of Department in 1990, just after the building had been extended. John was a keen hockey player and he coached the 1st XI for many years. He was also a member of the CCF, commanding the Naval Section. He moved from Head of Department to become an Upper School Housemaster and he has helped countless pupils to achieve their potential and guided them to university. I am sure he will be found on the golf course in his retirement.

Finally, Belinda and I would like to thank the OSA, and particularly members of the committee, for the help and encouragement I have received as Headmaster. The gift, presented at the OSA's 450th Anniversary Ball, will be cherished. The past five years as Head and all 38 years associated with Solihull School have been enjoyable and I regard it as a great honour to have been Headmaster of such a marvellous school. I am sure the School is in very good hands under my successor, David Lloyd, and Belinda and I wish him, Debbie and his family every success in their new role.

Best wishes,

Phil Griffiths

To mark the 450th Anniversary of the School's foundation the Old Silhillians' Association have commissioned the design and production of solid silver cufflinks.



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Dear Old Silhillians

I remember bringing Warwick School hockey teams over to Solihull many years ago and it always had that local derby (grudge) match feel about it. In fact, beating Solihull was arguably the most important victory of the season, particularly as I used to observe young Warwickians at Warwick train station happily travelling north in their tartan and stripy Solihull School uniforms. Why would they want to go to Solihull when they had Warwick School on their doorstep? I used to naively convince myself that the reason was that they couldn't get into Warwick!

Now I feel enlightened! This is a truly outstanding school and I feel very proud to be the Headmaster. The staff are

highly professional, the Governors are forward thinking, the Parents' Association is incredibly active and the Old Silhillians are fiercely loyal and dedicated to the long term prosperity of the School and town. On a personal level, the Lloyd family has received a very warm welcome from the entire school community and this has helped two young girls in particular settle into their new school a ferry ride and a long car journey away from their old friends on the Isle of Wight. For this Debbie and I thank you.

So, a little about the new Headmaster... My father was in the Army, so I was born on a military base on the island of Malta. I was educated in Liverpool (he was in a Lancashire regiment) and I went to the University of Lancaster. I started reading a Law degree, found that this wasn't for me and so switched to Economics instead with a little bit of Law on the side. I had always planned to join the Navy, partly to upset my green-uniformed father, but changed my mind and was drawn to the bright lights of the "Square Mile", the City of London. I was fortunate to be offered a place on the ADP (Advanced Development Programme) at Midland Montagu International Investment Bank and was on my way to my first filofax, red Porsche 911 and embarrassing wealth, or at least I thought so.....

It was 1989 and the boom years were drawing to a close and I wasn't the greatest banker, not through lack of ability, I may add, but my heart wasn't in financial futures and rights issues. So, I gave the Personnel Department great cause for laughter when I told them I was off to Nottingham to train as a teacher!

That led to my first post at a boarding school in Nottingham, Trent College, where I was an Assistant Housemaster and teacher of Economics, Business Studies, Maths and Games. For some bizarre reason, I was also asked to be the School's Press Officer,

having had no experience of managing the media. I think it was the banking thing that impressed them!

Anyway, three years later, Warwick School took a huge risk and appointed me as Head of Economics and Business Studies. It was a calculated risk on their part as Martin Green, Old Silhillian and son of Norman Green, was also in the department and he was always on hand to give me a steer, which was several times a day to begin with! Some years into my spell as Head of Department I discovered aspirations to become a Deputy Headmaster, but was subsequently invited to join the SMT at Warwick as one of three Senior Masters. I accepted and handed the running of the department to a younger man. As Senior Master, I had responsibility for staff welfare and professional development and, upon the retirement of the aforementioned Martin Green, I also took on pastoral care.

Fast forward several years and after eleven years in total at Warwick, I moved south to Hampshire and Ryde School on the Isle of Wight. I was now a real Deputy Headmaster and tasked with the day-to-day running of the School and, latterly, the introduction of the International Baccalaureate. Ryde School is a family school in the truest sense; both of my daughters attended and my wife, Debbie, worked in the Prep Department. I have very fond memories and we have kept our house in Ryde.

Finally (“phew” I hear you saying), Mr Griffiths retired and here I am! Debbie feels a little like a single mother at the moment, but she has done a fantastic job helping Jessie and Megan settle into the Ills and Shells respectively. There are many things I want to achieve at Solihull, but three areas worthy of note are academic performance, the professional development of staff and pupils’ personal development. This is an excellent school, but complacency has no place and standing still is not an option. The advent of the A* grade at A Level is yet another opportunity for the best schools to leave others lagging behind and I want to squeeze every last ounce of potential out of each and every pupil – even a few ounces they didn’t realise they had.

I also firmly believe that professional development is inextricably linked with academic performance. The staff are our greatest asset and I want to give them regular and structured opportunities to discuss their ambitions and professional development. I want Solihull School to be a school renowned for producing academic and pastoral leaders.

As regards pupils’ personal development, I want to raise the profile of Benchers further, to give them genuine responsibility and to reward them appropriately. I want the four School Councils (Junior School, Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form) to work in harmony and I want our pupils to look smart and to be ambassadors for the School around the town and further afield.

I do have a tendency to go on a bit, so I will stop, bid you farewell for now and look forward to when we can meet in person.

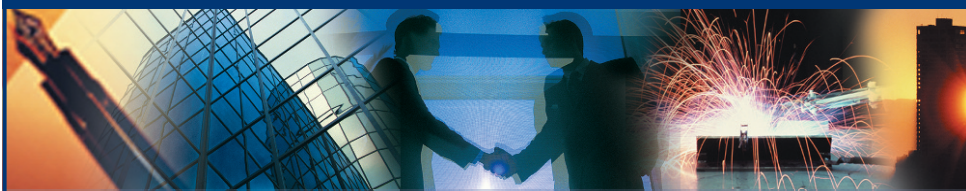
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JOHN WASDELL (School House, 1927-33)

John entered Solihull School in 1927 when Mr Kinch was the class teacher of Form 1. In 1931, Fifth Form cohabitants in Aston's dormitory were Vickerstaffe, killed in WW2, De Limas who went home to Trinidad and died in his forties, John Taylor who was last seen at El Alamein, and Barry Peck who retired as a Group Captain, lived in Solihull with his Italian wife and three daughters and died in 2001.

John served in WW2 in the RAF. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant and spent his business life in the UK and South Africa, mainly with the Anglo American Corporation. He has a married son, Roger, three granddaughters and 5 great grandchildren. He retired to Cape Town with his wife Maioio, who sadly died last year. At the age of 93 he has just had his corporate thriller, *Angels won't lie*, published and is busy with his second book.

C DOUGLAS KEEN (Jago, 1929-35)

As an ex-fullback I thought all members should know that Peter Young, born 1927, played in our 2nd XV. He won his England cap in 1954 and became Captain of England in 1955 to win the Triple Crown - almost an impossibility nowadays. He died on 13 June 2002, aged 75 years. We must have had a good 1st XV in those days!

DAVID LEWIS (Fetherston, 1927-36)

I joined Solihull School in 1927 and left in 1936. During that time there was a fete to raise money for the school swimming pool with which my mother was involved as a member of the Parents' Association. The fete raised, I believe, the figure of about £600 which was sufficient to build a plastic pool. I seem to remember Claude Coton joined the School the same year.

The Junior School at the time was situated at the top of New Road, Solihull in the original school building. It was moved to the new Junior School on the present site about two years later.

I think I was fortunate to gain entry to the School and probably did so on the strength of my brother's (G M Lewis) brilliance as a mathematician who eventually obtained a First in Mathematics from Cambridge University.

I left School in 1936 and was articled with a firm of surveyors in Birmingham. Having taken the first part of the Surveyors' Institution exam the 1939 war started before I was able to take the final part. I joined the T.A. in 1938 joining as a trooper in the Warwickshire Yeomanry. I was subsequently commissioned into the HAC and remained with the Regiment for the remainder of the Second World War.

Leaving the Army in 1946 I decided to start a house building company which was disposed of in 1960. I then became involved in property development and I am still so involved.

I married Jeanie in 1942 whilst she commanded the first mixed anti-aircraft battery (at Wormwood Scrubs) in the ATS.

PETER SUCKLING (Pole, 1932-45)

I was in Prep 3 when the Old School at the top of New Road. In Form I we had 'Spracker' Keech as our Master. Other pupils in that class with me were **JOHN MARTIN**, **EWINGS** and **PETER WHEEL**. I remember having to go home with wet trousers after they dipped me into a pool of water at the bottom of the garden. We had to walk along New Road

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past a tuck shop to go to Science lessons at Big School (now the Vith Form Centre) when the (old) Chapel was being built. 'Inky' Ingram was sports master and 'Bun' Havinden taught History. In the Vth Form I specialised in Physics, Chemistry and Maths, dropping the latter in the VIth form and specializing in materials.

I left school at 17 to go to St. John's College, Cambridge. After one year I was called up into the Royal Signals. They were fondly called the Royal Corps of PIGS which was appropriate because my initials are PGS and my friends used to put an 'i' between the P and G in my books. For many years I was known as "Piggy Sucking"! I was sent to Italy where, although they had lost the war, there was plenty of food, but in England food was rationed.

After two and after years I returned to St. John's to complete my education, taking a Science degree specializing in Metallurgy. I then joined my father's metal business, Suckling & Thomas Ltd. After he retired I started the Moseley Street Metal co which dealt in reusable non-ferrous metal tubes (drawn down to the right size). I travelled around M. O. S. depots and British Rail depots inspecting their surplus non-ferrous metal tubes, both for scrap and re-use.

I retired at the age of about 65 and settled down with my wife, Betty.

JOHN M DAVIES (Shenstone 1938-46)

WW11 memories (one could write a book!), air raid shelters Mk1 dug by the then 6th formers, **BASIL COOPER, JOHNNY OWEN** et al. flooded! Mk2 all around the lower playing fields perimeter, concrete lined, dry and rarely needed in daytime, though did the boarders in School House use them during nighttime warnings? The OTC, then became JTC, now CCF, the Norton motorcycle training (that stood me in good stead in Egypt later), the .22 rifle range and full bore (0.303) at Kingsbury ranges. I was Captain of the School Shooting VIII.

Following Army Service, Egypt, (Royal Engineers), Birmingham University and a reward-ing career in the chemical industry in the UK and briefly in Curacao, W. Indies.

I am now living happily in N. Yorkshire, a 'born again biker' (only a scooter). Any Old Sils around here?

email: john.davies11@virgin.net

DEREK YOUNG (Shenstone, 1941-47)

I joined Prep IV in September 1941. I know a little about the School as my uncles, Harold and Philip Lissiman, attended in the 1920s when Mr Bushell was Headmaster (I was told about a certain Mr Havinden!).

I moved up the School (IIIA, Shell A, IVA and UV Sci.) and remember with affection the masters who taught me. I was in Shenstone for a time and then moved to one of the new houses – Bushell. My career at School was not particularly distinguished – house colours for swimming (does anyone remember Mr Shepherd, the coach?). I enjoyed the J.T.C. – Capt. Hay, Lts. Christ and Easterling – and remember being in the Cadet Platoon when the Royal Warwickshire Regiment received the Freedom of the City of Coventry.

I left school in 1947 and joined Bakelite Ltd as a Laboratory Assistant. In those days if you were under 18 you were entitle to 1 day a week for study. This for me was done at

the old Central Technical College in Suffolk Street. I finally obtained an external London Degree in Chemistry and an Associateship of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. My deferment from National Service ceased when I qualified and I was 'called-up'. I served two years with the National Service Commission in the Armament Branch of Fighter Command. I returned to Bakelite Ltd as a Chemist and later ran the Library Information Service for several years. I finally spent some years as Materials Manager for one of the businesses. Bakelite Ltd (then called BXL) closed in 1985 and after two years with the Manpower Services Commission I joined a firm of Executive 'Headhunters' until I retired at 65.

Away from work my activities centred around my family, house and garden (my son attended Solihull School in the 1970s). When we moved into our first home in Olton in 1959 I began attending St. Margaret's Church and still do. I spent 42 years on the PCC (including spells as Churchwarden, PCC Secretary and Vice-Chairman). I also sing in the choir. In the Choir Vestry we have photographs of past incumbents and choir members. Below is the earliest from 1924 showing the Rev. D J Scurry-Jones and the choir. Some may recognize the then Organist and Choirmaster – Mr J A Easterling (first row, second from the right).



PHIL TAYLOR (School House, 1943-49)

On leaving school I joined what was then Lloyds Bank Executor and Trustee Department in Birmingham. Apart from two years' National Service, mainly spent in the Suez Canal

Zone, I stayed with Lloyds for 41 years, retiring in 1960 as a Director of Lloyds Bank Financial Services.

Retirement has given me the opportunity to follow hobbies and sports for which there was little time during my working life. Apart from family interests, my wife, Sue, and I enjoy taking part in amateur theatre and singing – choral and Gilbert and Sullivan – being at present members of the Stour Singers and the Stratford Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Our other major interest is theatre research, focused mainly on the Victorian era. After nine years of research we published a biography of the Lancashire tragedian, Jonathan Dewhurst, in 2001 (a copy of which is in the School Library) and since then we have amassed sufficient further detail to write a sequel, which we hope will appear by the end of the year.



Phil Taylor, Geoff Downman and Derek Owen at a recent Over 60s Luncheon

I look back on my days at Solihull with great pleasure and considerable pride in all the school stood for. Following our move from Suffolk I have enjoyed attending the Over 60s Luncheons, which have given me the opportunity to renew many old friendships, some going back to primary school days.

Between us my wife and I have six children and eight grandchildren, all of whom ensure that there is never a dull moment.

BRIAN WALLACE (Shenstone, 1943-49)

The last time I made contact from 'down under' was in the 2006 issue, but I need to make a correction to the year that I left school, it was 1949, not 1940 as printed (yes, I'm getting old, but not that old!!). Hopefully this might remind some of my peers to recall this 'Wallace' fellow and make contact.

Since 2006 I have stayed in touch with John Haddleton (Pole, 1943-48) and John Gardiner, and also John Trumper (Shenstone, 1943-49) who had worked with me in Sydney. He heard about my article from a friend whose son is an OSA member, so please pass this on.

I am still fit and well, beach, gym and tennis as before, the latter being now enhanced by cataract surgery. I can now see the ball better, so all I have to do is learn to hit the thing properly!! Last year we had the World Super-Seniors (over 60) tennis in Perth where I was able to meet some entrants from the Midlands who were enjoying the hot sunny weather. I may think about the local over 80s in a couple of year's time. Wimbledon? Maybe not!

This year has been very dry in the West, but some areas in the East have had unseasonal rain which resulted in Lake Eyre being flooded in two successive years. It normally floods only once or twice in a lifetime. The ABC has produced an excellent film of this, which gives a good insight into outback Australia. Another 'doco' about doctors in country towns in Western Australia, 'The Town Needs a Doctor' is also interesting.

I hope you enjoy the 450th events at the School. Sorry I can't be there, but I have the programme of the Open Day from John Gardiner. Best wishes to you all. Please contact if visiting Australia (address from OSA Office).

BRIAN FOSTER (Jago, 1945-52)

I trained as an engineer with the Austin Motor Co. in company with two others from Solihull - **R J KELLAR (Pole, left 1952)** & **R HANCOCK (Shenstone, left 1952)**. Following 2 yrs National Service and a short sojourn in the P&O; 1964 saw my arrival in Sydney NSW working with BMC (Aust) as it was then known. Shortly after, I met **M J BRITT (Jago, left 1950)** and **K G LAWSON (Fetherston, left 1959)**. I married an Australian in 1970 and we moved to Brisbane in 1973 when I joined Volvo (Aust). We celebrated the arrival of Elizabeth in 1975 and Rosemary in 1977.

In 1983 I was retrenched (what's new in the Motor Industry?), so we decided to leave the city life and head out West. Del was appointed Deputy Principal at a State High School in a country town called Dalby about 230 Km west of Brisbane. Dalby was a centre for manufacturing agricultural machinery so I soon founded my own consultancy (Silhill Management Services –would you believe!). At the conclusion of 20+ years, we both retired (Del from the Principalship of another neighbouring School and I, from the SMS, mostly concerned with grain conveying equipment both here and overseas). We returned to Brisbane where we enjoy the company of our two daughters and their families from time to time.

In 2000, Del and I made a visit to Solihull where we met Pam & Brenda Rolfe (daughters of the Late **J T ROLFE**, former president of OSA). Unfortunately, it being the first week of January we could only peer through the windows of the School Chapel etc, etc. In about 2005 I chanced on a website about Solihull district with an invitation to reunite with old school friends. Through this I contacted **A J BOULTON (Fetherston, left 1954)** an old contemporary of mine, and received an E-mail from **J P O'GORMAN (School House, left 1954)** who lives in Canberra and has family in Brisbane (we've yet to meet up) Others whom we see/write to now and again are members of the Skelcher Family from Solihull; Architects (over Lloyds Bank). Robin, an Old Cheltonian is my contemporary living in NSW and his Brother-in-Law Bruce who lives here in Brisbane. Sadly. Rob's younger brother, Martyn, who was at Solihull briefly, passed away in Melbourne some years ago now. Del and I live in St Lucia Brisbane close to the University of Queensland and have met several staff members at our local Anglican Church who have /had associations with Solihull. Should any Old Sils care to contact me –

email: brianafoster@optusnet.com.au

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JOHN WALL (Pole, Left 1942-51 and Master, 1959-61)

As we enjoy the celebrations of the 450th anniversary of the continuous history of the School, I am taken back to an activity in which I played a part some years ago now which recalled the 400th anniversary in 1960. And a significant event of that “part” was the singing of the old school song - “When Richard the Second was ruling this land “. “Oh yes,” you may say, “so what?” to which I reply that I doubt if the song either has ever been sung so far away from Solihull, or that it has at any other time been sung on a Maori Marae - in the meeting hall in a Maori village.

It all came about when I was the Headmaster of Awatapu College here in Palmerston North, New Zealand and I was on a weeklong course at Manukorihi Marae in Waitara, just north of New Plymouth in the province of Taranaki, on Maori protocol for heads of secondary schools. We had been there a few days, and were sitting round one evening having a “korero” or general chinwag, in their meeting house, when I was emboldened to ask our Maori hosts why it was that generally when one met Maori people around the community, they presented a very humble presence, but when they were on their marae - on their “home turf” if you like - they stood up, proud and tall, different people altogether.

“Look around you,” said Huirangi Waikerepuru, one of their senior elders. And as I did, I became aware of the magnificent building - like a long hall - in which we were talking together. Two superbly carved posts in the middle held up the solid ridgepole from which the rafters descended down the sides and richly patterned weavings filled the spaces between the rafters and down the walls. “I am standing in the middle of my family” said Huirangi. And he wasn’t referring to the other Maori people there; he was talking about the building itself which in Maoridom represents a famous ancestor, the ridgepole being the ancestor’s backbone, and the rafters his ribs.

“Ah,” I said, “I understand!” - and a sense of history overcame me as I thought about the generations of his family who had gathered in that meeting house over scores of years. “I have stood in a place of history myself,” I said; “I was a staff member at the School at which I had been a boy just a few years previously, when in 1960 we celebrated our 400th birthday.” And as I looked round, I saw a number of heads nodding in understanding; they appreciated that I knew what Huirangi was saying where they were coming from. But that wasn’t the end of it. At the end of one’s speech, or “korero”, it is customary to sing a song, what they call a waiata. So I said at the end of my little talk, “I’m going to sing you a waiata; it’s my old school song. And I launched into “When Richard the Second was ruling our land . . . “. I had great difficulty in keeping my voice even and I was further very moved when at the end as I sat down, a strong murmur went round the gathering “Kapai, John, kapai” or as we say in English here in New Zealand, “Good on you, John”.

I do hope that my wife Alison and I have the pleasure of welcoming any Old Silhillians who come our way, and if you like, I’ll take you to our local marae to meet some of our Maori friends and learn a little bit about their customs and heritage.

email: jandawall@clear.net.nz

JOHN CUTTING (Fetherston, 1947-54)

The photograph overleaf is of the Silverbirch Cricket Team, of which I was Captain, with Pat Millar as Vice Captain. We both lived in Silverbirch Road. This game was against



Back Row: Tony Brearton (in pads), Peter (?) Mitchell, Roy Dixon, Brian Dixon, Colin Smith, ? Baillie,
Front Row: Peter Cutting, David Mahoney, John Cutting, Pat Millar, John Topping, Paul Dunstan, Mike Burley (in pads)

St. Helen's Cricket Team in 1950 at Malvern Park. All the members of the Silverbirch Cricket Club were at Solihull School.

Unfortunately, I can't remember who won the game! Other members might know. It would be lovely to hear from any of the others a mere sixty years later!

Whilst writing, I very much enjoyed the letter In 2009 by **DAVID ROSS**. However, may I correct one thing, viz, Mike Rawson surely did not run in the Olympic Games of 1948 (which were in London), as he was too young and at School (see School photo of 1948). He did run in the Olympic Games, either in Melbourne In 1956, or In Rome in 1960. A great 400 and 800 metres runner, I think no longer with us.

Wikipedia says (therefore please take it with a pinch of salt!)

Michael Arthur Rawson (born May 26, 1934) was a track and field athlete, who represented Great Britain in the men's 800 metres at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia. He won the gold medal in that event, two years later at the 1958 European Championships in Stockholm, Sweden. Later that year he won a Bronze medal in the 800 metres at the Commonwealth games. He represented Birchfield Harriers and on his retirement from the sport spent many years coaching at Birchfield and working as an athletics reporter for the BBC and local newspapers.

Mike worked for the British Olympic Association at a number of Olympic games. He died after a short illness on 26th October 2000 in Birmingham.

JOHN SPERRING (School House, 1946-54)

National Service commission into Uganda Battalion King's African Rifles and served during Mau Mau in Kenya. Spent working life in Marketing & General Management in the Oil Industry, one of the longest and most enjoyable spells was in Turkey 1969 – 79. Happily

married for 27 years to a South African, Patricia, with 2 grown up daughters. Living in splendid retirement for 25 years playing bad golf and enjoying life in Cape Town, South Africa. In 1983 had a visit from Andrew Cutler, son of Ian, together with Rupert Young, ex President of OSA 2009.

email: jopakasa@iafrica.com

DAVID A THOMPSON (Shenstone, 1957-64)

I was at the School when it was boys only and a third generation of Thompsons to attend the School, sadly the fourth one, my son John, chose to go to Slough Grammar instead! I was there for the Quatercentenary when the Queen called, planted a tree and some bright spark dug it up afterwards!

It is always interesting to hear news of the School, though these days most of my time is confined to Herefordshire, my sister lives in School Lane, Solihull, so we often go back down memory lane to see her and see what is going on over the fence – the many new buildings and great developments I see from time to time.

I wish *The Silhillian* and the School every success in its 450th School Year.



Diane & Peter Bragg

PETER BRAGG (Jago, 1955-64)

Having left Solihull School in June 1964, it took 40 years for me to submit my first personal contribution to *The Silhillian*. It was a factual but light-hearted review of my life up to that time, first as a pupil and then Old Boy or, as it now is, Former Pupil, and the copy ran to four pages. How that should have been, given such an unremarkable but certainly enjoyable life, was, I guess, down to over-sized print sanctioned by the then Editor to fill space! I concluded then with a promise no update would be submitted for at least a further 40 years! That same Editor, the venerable Mr. Malcolm Lawrie

remains in post to this day notching up this, his 11th publication which is, by some distance, the longest continuous stretch of any *Silhillian* Editor. I am sure, therefore, you would join me in congratulating him. Malcolm, being a persistent chap, clearly was not prepared to wait those further 40 years so here he has another “filler” copy, as requested. He must have been scraping the barrel wanting something from one who satisfied himself with D stream (and lower) progress through school, a standard, incidentally, that has been manfully sustained ever since! Perhaps this offering, somewhat shorter than my first, will be in “normal” sized print so won’t trouble you, the reader, for too long.

Academically, my 9 years at Solihull left much to be desired, the only subjects of real interest being woodwork, engineering drawing and misbehaving. I secured an ‘O’ level in the first, ‘A’ level in the second and ‘distinction’ in the third! A product of that esteemed local preparatory school owned and run by H. B. (Mike) Callaghan (O.S.), one could enter Solihull, certainly at junior level in the mid ‘50s, without interview or exam.. Maybe it helped my being a member of the Bragg family although I was never even close to

emulating the academic successes of my grandfather Stanley, a pupil in the 1890s or my own father, Arthur George but better known as A.G., in the 1920s. Indeed, father was head boy in, I think, 1927 whereas my most significant achievement was simply to avoid suspension or worse! My younger brother Patrick had a trickier entrance to the school 3 years after I joined as he was required to attend for interview and pass the entrance exam before being accepted. Clearly the School didn't want to risk repeating the possibility of letting another hooligan slip into their ranks! As it happens, Patrick is quite the opposite of hooligan whom I am pleased to report is alive and kicking.

It was sport and the Cadet Force that really fired me up at Solihull. Being something of a boisterous individual, rugby was right up my street although I never quite managed to make the 1st XV. I had two years in the Seconds with David Wigglesworth as Master in Charge and we never lost a match including the two we played against the Old Boys in the Decembers of 1962 and 1963. I was not outstanding but felt I was a good team man surrounded by some exceptional players. It was my winter game of choice once I left school which made me many friends both within the Old Silhillian Rugby Section and at many of our rival clubs. Summer was, of course, cricket. It was certainly father's favourite game so he was especially delighted when I made the 1st X1 in my final term in '64. I had been a member of Solihull Cricket Club since I was 2 months old so it was inevitable I would play for them rather than for the Old Boys as I grew older. That was fine until my late 20s when my first wife, Geraldine and I started our family so my serious cricket stopped. Rugby, being less time consuming, did not suffer so much and I kept playing between suspensions (4 in all) until 32 when I then took to the whistle. "If you can't beat them join them" so I did and had some 13 years of rugby as a referee with the Warwickshire Society.

The Cadet Force was great fun where I reached the rank of, I think it was, CSM. I know it's not for everyone but for me, it was very character building. Indeed, I had designs of joining the Forces when I left school but found little encouragement from my parents -- probably a good call given the conflicts the UK has been involved in since '64! For some reason, I never was interested in Scouts but once I had had a year of Bob Beach's Terriers, it was into the Army Section and some great Thursday afternoon parades on the Field of Mars. The annual camps were the stuff of legend with pals like Ian Thorpe and Chris Scott for company though I'm not too sure we should have had quite so much to drink on one of our nights off from the Crowborough Warren

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camp near Tunbridge Wells in about 1961! We were only about 15, maybe 16 but still managed to convince the landlord we were not underage!! That was a prelude to many similar sessions we three had together over the years as members of the Rugby Section and I am pleased to report I do see those two chaps, albeit too infrequently.

Now is not the time to ramble on about what I did for a living save to say I was, thankfully, always gainfully employed till I retired at the end of March this year. Most of my employment was spent in either mechanical service contracting or brick, stone and cladding distribution services. I did have a 3 year stint with my great O.S. chum, Peter Thomas, affectionately known more often, of course, as “Arnie”, during the mid ‘80s in the world of property security. With two young children at the time and the need for a job, I was indebted to him when he offered me an operational position. Whether he thought that such a good idea after my first day, I’m not sure as we two landed up in a city centre wine bar with another great O.S. pal, Brian Wilde following which I crashed my new company vehicle! Arnie and I eventually purchased the business, made a few shillings and had enough laughs to fill a book before I moved on. I still see “Arnie” and Brian a few times a year which is always good fun.

Geraldine and I went our separate ways in about 1989 which found me indebted to another Old Silhillian, Tim Platt. He put me up for a couple of years in his Hampton in Arden home for Old Sil waifs and strays before I moved out on meeting the lovely Diane to live with her in Streetly. She is generally cautious but was even more so when all my so called friends kept asking her “what on earth are you doing with him?” Perhaps that’s why I had to do a 12 year apprenticeship before we could do the marriage bit! It’s nearly 6 years now and never a cross word – well, not before breakfast!! That’s cross word, not crossword!

We each have two children from our first go at marriage. Diane has two married sons in their late 30s and each has two children. Stephen (an Old Veseyan – somebody has to be!) lives in Tring and Philip (an Old Reptonian, a school older than Solihull!) in Northville, Michigan. My two are in their mid 30s, Paul who works in Zürich and unmarried and Judie, married and living in Leamington. No grandchildren for me here but I more than make up with the four Diane has.

On joining Diane in the ranks of the retirees we have been holidaying all the way. We are caravanners so have had nearly 10 weeks touring western Europe getting as far as Venice, Rome and Monaco and more recently, 3 weeks in the West Country taking in the likes of Clevedon, St. Mawes and Salcombe – not quite so romantically sounding names as in mainland Europe but still great places. We managed a 3 week trip to Michigan and a few days in Anglesey at the Hill family’s holiday home in Rhosneigr. Many Old Sils will know the Hills of Moseley Rugby Club fame. Peter, an immediate school contemporary, Alan who played in the 1st XV for many years and the twins, Stephen and Jonathan. All educated at Solihull! Jonathan invited us on the Welsh trip where we were joined by another Old Sil and immediate contemporary, Trevor Kilby.

The West Country trip was to look up friends and family we seldom see which included two Old Sils. The first was Geoff Allen and his wife Gail who have retired to the village of Malborough just outside Salcombe having spent the last 35 years or so in Godalming, Surrey. Geoff and I played rugby together at the Sils for a couple of years and simply kept in touch. They wined and dined us royally in their lovely home for an evening that



Geoff & Gail Allen

day courtesy of their third son, Thomas, who works for the ECB. He sorted out some complimentary tickets, programmes and car parking for the day/night final ODI series decider between England and Pakistan at The Rose Bowl, Southampton. What a bonus! We had a great time, the weather was spot on and England won. It was good to see Geoff and Mike and their ladies again and have the opportunity to update them on the life and times of Solihull School coupled with mutual friends.

The Foundation Ball in early July celebrating 450 years of Solihull School was very enjoyable and President, Max Levensger and his operational support are to be congratulated for staging the event in such difficult financial times. Our table was quite an eclectic mix of Old Silhillians and their ladies and comprised Peter and Maggie Hill, Jonathan and

ended all too quickly. The second was Mike and Margaret Johnson who live in Longparish near Andover. I was with Mike at Cedarhurst and we came through Solihull together. He still does some work in the world of pewter but he also has interests, I believe, in the world of recruiting. They spend about 10 days every month all year round in their home in the south of France which sounds idyllic. Like the Allens, they too have a lovely home where, again, we were royally looked after. There was a big bonus this particular

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(soon to be Mrs.) Christine Hill, Trevor and Sandy Kilby, Roger and Marilyn Forder, Diane and myself. I was especially pleased Roger and Marilyn could be with us having travelled all the way from Hove. They stayed with us (separate rooms so no scandal, paleeeese!) at The George and we knew it had been a good “do” as we didn’t leave the marquee until 4am!! Marilyn was heard to remark what a lovely sunset as we moved off the car park only for Diane to advise her it was sunrise!!



Marilyn and Roger Forder with Diane and Peter Bragg enjoying a Sunday breakfast at The George

Now the summer is well behind us, it’s time to put the ‘van away and plan for next year. With such a frenetic time since starting retirement together, we are only now getting into a more structured life and, maybe, a little reflection before carrying on life’s enjoyment. You only get one chance in life and I have been particularly fortunate that, on balance, most things have gone my way. Starting with loving parents, having a very loyal and supportive brother, a good education and some great friends, many of whom are former pupils of our School, was an excellent start. Many of those former pupils are members of the Association but some are not. Some are older and some are not but for me, keeping in touch with so many for so long continues to enthrall me. Many, like me, did not know what they wanted to do when they left Solihull School but many, unlike me, have gone on to great things. For me, I guess I wasted much of the academia that was available at Solihull but the whole experience stood me in good stead for the wider world. Indeed, had I not skipped adulthood by going straight from adolescence to old age, who knows what I might have achieved!!

I look forward to seeing many familiar faces at the main OSA Dinner and that of the London Chapter in November, always two good nights. In the meantime, my best wishes to all Old Silhillians wherever they may be and further, to our wonderful Association. Look out for my next instalment update in 40 years time by which time I will be 104 and the year 2050!!

Email: petercharlesbragg@googlemail.com

STUART B BURTON (School House, 1957-64)

But for the fantastic times on the rugby and hockey fields, the cricket square and the expeditions and camps with the Terriers and the CCF, school life for me would have been a distant memory – many thanks to Denis Tomlin, Rev Hutchings, Ian Biggs, Bill Bale, Swotty Ansell and the amazingly eccentric Bill Griffiths. Perhaps the academic masters should have been a bit more honest with themselves as well as with me for the task of A levels! I suspect many groans behind the scenes from the likes of Robin Moore (Maths), Tiger Haines (EconHist), Mike Simpson (Econ) and Guy K-R and Roger Gleave (Geog). Also thank goodness for no health and safety laws as we tempted fate on dodgy canoe expeditions and long weekends in North Wales and the Lake District and two weeks with Bill Griffiths in Iceland.



Kineton lawn 1957

***L to R: David Pennel, Phil Johnson,
??? Hartley and Robin Joy***

At the time the boarding house was closed down, I also wondered what on earth happened to the ever increasing store of empty bottles ferreted away at school term ends under the floor boards of the Head Boarder's study just under the bell tower with the bell rope passing through. "Ummm Burton" Mack Mackenzie was heard to say (several octaves higher!!) at breakfast on the last day of school – "bats in the belfry" – referring probably to the likes of Riddihough and/or Buswell, as the school bell chimed out at 2.00am that night!

And the ever patient Harry Rickman as a group of us returned from my parents' house at the end of term practically holding up Philip Harding between four of us as we reported back.

Fortunately “economic” sense prevailed once I left school and I qualified in early 1969 with what is now KPMG, Birmingham, articled to the long serving Old Silhillian Gordon Wilcox (uncle to Simon). I then broke ranks, to join PWC in Frankfurt. Whilst in Frankfurt I married Cynthia Heyworth (an ex St Martin’s girl) and completed two years auditing British and American banks.

This experience opened the chance to join one of the newly formed consortium banks in London, primarily involved in arranging large syndicated euro dollar loans for international banks, large non-UK corporations and non-UK government enterprises.

Cynthia and I were then posted to Kuala Lumpur for 2 years in 1972 to assist in the opening of a new merchant bank. A very exciting and memorable stage of Malaysia's development.

Before and after KL, we lived near Orpington and subsequently Bromley and were fortunate to have Alison (1977) and Peter (1980). Cynthia was heavily involved with the London Homoeopathic Hospital as well as part time jobs. Inevitably I became closely involved with Bromley Hockey Club (now BromBeck HC) both playing until 7 years ago when the knees finally gave up, and coaching the juniors from 1987 to 1998. I am still umpiring one of the main Saturday teams.

SBB Garden 1964 (the evening we had to support Phillip Harding in front of Harry R) Top left white shirt myself with ciggy, then to my left: Keith Sjogren, John Perks, Ian Thorpe, Phil Harding, Andrew Harrington, Richard Waters, Phil Edmonds, John Griffin and Nicky Riddihough





Weymouth Hockey Festival 1967 (?)

L to R: Pat Bragg, Keith Foster, Alan Rudge, ??, Ian Gold, Brian Callaghan, Peter Levenger, Keith Dennis and Sturge Taylor.

S E Asia regional role. Midland then became part of HSBC and I took over one of the UK large corporate teams based in the City.

Early “retirement” came in 1995, at which time I linked up with other ex JPMorgan Chase colleagues to establish a banking consultancy firm “GBRW Limited” based in London, focusing, in my case, on credit risk management and debt securitisation. I became fully independent in 2006 and have subsequently significantly reduced my working hours!

Sadly Cynthia and I separated in 2004 and I am now married to Joyce living about 7 miles south of Tunbridge Wells. Alison my daughter married Ed in 2007 and lives in Sheffield and Peter lives in south London.

Joyce and I are very keen walkers and in May this year independently completed the West Highland Way (Glasgow to Fort William – about 96 miles over 8 days). I admit to us having our luggage transferred for us!

The photo is taken at the top of Bow Fell last September, during our stay in the Langdales

Finally a big thanks to Roger Flood for continuing to manage the over 60’s lunch, which has enabled me to catch up with many old friends and memories! Separately Joyce and I arranged to meet a number of Old Sils one early Saturday evening in May 2010.

My best regards to all and delighted to hear from whoever.

email: stuart.burton@lineone.net



NICHOLAS J TYLDESLEY (Pole, 1958-66)**Nostalgia Rules OK?**

An abiding love of history which has informed my professional and personal life, a deep dislike of team games and a group of long standing friendships are the legacies of my time at school. It was a somewhat surreal experience to return for the first time in nearly 45 years on the occasion of the 450th Anniversary Open Day. I remember the 400th celebrations, collecting for the new chapel in a cardboard replica, seeing the Queen plant the mulberry tree [which had to be replaced at dead of night some years later] and count the coins that edged along the perimeter of the quad. Then, the cloisters were cold, and draughty in winter. And the swimming pool was also ice cold. The impression now focuses on the massive new build. The archive films and photographs prompt a succession of “Grumpy Old Man” remarks about what has gone, remains and has changed in the interim.

Since those days when the 60s revolution lapped on the fringes of the school, I have been involved in education, currently working in Bolton as a teaching and learning consultant with a strategic responsibility for Gifted and Talented pupils; oversight of the RE Agreed Syllabus, running network of teachers, and generally being the nice side of OFSTED inspections and school monitoring.

I am gradually downsizing from full time work to do other things such as travelling and gardening. I have visited 60+ countries world wide, having recently dropped into North Korea, Easter Island and Iran. More parochially, I relax by cultivating an organic allotment to hopefully produce prize-winning vegetables at Southport Flower Show.

Visits to schools to make judgments on effective teaching and learning are a regular part of my work. It is hard to take this professional perspective on my own alma mater. In the 60s it did offer an enriched curriculum outside the classroom but a rather mixed recipe of good teaching within and, of course, caning was still practised. Clearly the enrichment has been developed further today and one would expect the facilities to improve the results but there is just a suspicion that this is a “coasting” institution?

Should I have gone back for a look-see? On balance I am rather doubtful. The friendships are enduring but indulging in nostalgia is not always healthy. As a historian I am trained to be a critical evaluator of the past. I journey onwards.

email: njt25@live.co.uk

CLIVE RICHARDSON (Pole, 1967-72)

Although I was spectacularly disinterested in history at school I have been an avid historian more or less ever since and my first book is being launched on September 21st. I live in Ludlow and have researched the 138 Ludlowmen killed during WWI. I have written a narrative account of the progress of the war with each man's name/deeds woven in which hopefully makes the book much more readable than similar efforts for other towns.

I own/run a tour company that specialises in choir tours particularly for American choirs and also particularly providing replacement choirs for cathedrals when their own choirs are on holiday.

ROGER HILL (Fetherston, 1967-74)

A geography degree at Durham heightened the desire for travel and saw me off to work

in Southern Sudan for 2 years working at the University of Juba running amongst other things student sport. An enlightening and challenging experience which remains with me many years on.

A 'real' job and corporate life followed with Cable & Wireless and I was fortunate enough to continue my travels with them when I was part of the team that built the Global customer business in the late 1990's. Family life meant travelling had to be curtailed and I am now firmly settled in Buckinghamshire with Adrienne, Adam and Grace. Sport remains a focal point for friendships and health. I continue to play squash although my marathon running days are about at an end.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone of my era.

email: rogerhillx@yahoo.co.uk

PAUL L GREEN (Shenstone 1968-75)

Speculative migration to New Zealand 22 years ago evolved into a permanent settlement. Working as deputy principal of a south Auckland high school and keeping active with triathlons and a documentary film project (www.menabout50.com). Divorced with three adult children - all now flown the nest. It would be good to hear from any old friends.

email: paulg@paradise.net.nz



PAUL NEWBY (Shenstone, 1969-77)

Paul still lives in Knowle and is a chartered surveyor and Executive Director of Fleurets, a national firm that specialises in the hotel, restaurant, pub and leisure sector of the property market. Paul is currently in his third year as President of Silhilians RUFC and his other leisure interests include golf and sailing. Paul says "I still see quite a lot of Old Sils on a regular basis and with some 'big' birthdays coming round its been good to keep in touch with people from my year such as Alex Henderson, Tim Newman, Bob Bate, Tim Elkins and Richard Goodman. I hope to see a few more soon". Paul is married to Fiona and pictured here with his three children, Rebecca (see below), Hannah (Lower V1 2S) and Joshua (J4) both of whom are pupils at Solihull School in Shenstone House.

Hannah, Becky, Newbs and Josh

ANDREW SHEPHERD (Windsor, 1969-79)

... has been in the Army since 1982. Defence Attaché in Prague from March 2011. Would welcome news from school friends.

email: a.shepherd147@btinternet.com

RUSSELL BURTON (Windsor, 1973-80)

Still living happily in a village in Northamptonshire with my wonderful wife of 15 years, Caroline, and our super children, Oliver (13) and Polly (11). Polly still puts 'pony' on the

bottom of any shopping list, but it's not happening - at least she's found one in the village to look after. Oliver chuckles at any seventies comedy we can introduce him to: Monty



Python, Fawlty Towers, etc. 'No-one expects the Spanish Inquisition' unless they haven't done their homework.

I continue to work in what's left of the public sector currently involved in how the SATs are delivered - whatever happened to the 11 plus? My old band, Mighty Mighty, has dusted off the cobwebs recently and performed in Birmingham, Derbyshire ("they look

Russell on bass guitar for Mighty Mighty in Berlin, July 2010

like five Dads at a wedding") and Berlin. I spent a little bit too much time after the gig telling the Germans that their country had failed to produce a reasonable level of pop music since the war (which we didn't mention) - they were too polite to mention the implosion of England's defence in the World Cup.

Great to see the improvements in school facilities and to meet old class mates at the reunion in 2006 - mourned the passing of L Block: don't New Silhillians need to learn languages in a drafty building made out of cardboard? (And where are Herr Damm (dodgy Village People moustache and velvet jacket) and Herr Rothenbecker now? It was lovely over lunch to chat to John Lloyd (gesticulating in a Yorkshire accent) and Mrs. Keil (quietly serene) - both unchanged. Sadly, my Mum died in 2010 - she was very proud I attended Solihull School - and at her wake I encountered Mr. Sansbury who briefed me on my stage announcements in Berlin ("not 'Ich bin ein Berliner' - that's a type of small cake"); plus caught up with Singer and Jervis parents. It's also great to see the offspring of Old Silhillians featuring in school reports - I note the achievements of those with the surname Rhodes, Beaumont-Dark (no surprise on sporting prowess for both) and Griesbach (Chris - I had nothing to do with putting you in the bin in 4B1 in C1 in 1975).

Anyway, greetings and good wishes to all!

STEVE JOBERNS (Fetherston, left 1987)

Steve qualified as a lawyer in 1991 and in 1992 switched professions to join the London firm of Shipleys LLP. He is a Chartered Accountant and a member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and became a principal at Shipleys LLP in 2001. He now looks after a portfolio of clients that comprises principally of entities in the film and television industries and has a wide experience in dealing with complex multi-national co-productions.

Steve has acted as auditor and/or advisor on a large number of productions. Recent films in which both Steve and Shipleys have been involved are, Brideshead Revisited,

How to Lose Friends and Alienate People, Incendiary, Miss Potter, The History Boys and Slumdog Millionaire.

He is a regular advisor to both the UK film Council and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

He is married with three children and lives at Blackheath, London where he is quite involved in local issues. He also keeps in touch with his old classmates Robert Gaut, Phil Brown and Michael Reynolds. He has also recently been in contact with Nigel Canin.

JASON OLLIVIER (Windsor, left 1994)

Jason and Jessica Bazzard were recently married at Little Missenden Church in Buckinghamshire. Old Sils Stuart Barrington, Colin Cameron and Martyn Fisher presided over best man and usher responsibilities with Lucy Cameron (née Duncombe) making sure they did so with aplomb. Jason and Jess honeymooned in Brazil and currently live in Tring, Hertfordshire.

BEN AND NICOLA (Née Robinson) FLYNN (Fetherston, left 2002)

Ben joined Solihull School in 1977 and I joined in the VIth Form in 2000. We were in the same form in Fetherston and started dating when we were 17 and 18. 8 years later we married on 10th April 2010 in The Oratory in Birmingham – the original high school sweethearts.

NICHOLAS TRAVIS (Fetherston, left 2004)

After an extremely frantic week of preparation in Solihull, I arrived in Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, on 1st October 2009, having spent a few days in Uganda sorting out various bits of paperwork. Fears of arriving in Juba were not eased by the encouraging remarks of my taxi driver who advised me “to get the hell out” as soon as possible. Coming from an African this was rather worrying! Once I told him I was going for two years he simply laughed and wished me luck. Unlike most holiday destinations where such worries are overtaken by the glorious weather, or the glorious coast, or the glorious culture, mountains, food and wine etc., I was greeted with 40 degree heat, dust in my eyes and a half broken 4x4 that would take me on a rollercoaster ride along Juba’s appalling roads.

The airport was tiny, with no x-ray machine or luggage collection facilities (I realised later this was because there is only very intermittent electricity supply, even at the airport). We waited inside the small entrance until our luggage was dumped literally through a hole in the wall and waited for it to be marked with chalk (meaning that it has been cleared by the security staff). We were then picked up and were driven to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of the Government of Southern Sudan to meet the people I was going to work with for the next two years.

Three months earlier I had been recruited by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), an organisation based in London that works in the field of international development. I had been assigned to work as an ODI Fellow for the Ministry of Finance in Juba for a period of two years, helping the Ministry build its capacity to carry out the core func-





Nick (back row, 2nd from right) with his colleagues

(SPLA) – the official armed forces of the South. Debating issues of budget with former SPLA rebel commanders turned Generals is an experience I will never forget!

Conditions in Juba are fairly basic, to say the least. Juba, along with the rest of Southern Sudan, has been long neglected by a string of rulers and has had virtually no investment since independence was granted in 1956 (to the extent that we still have a signpost that points to the Belgian Congo!). The most oppressive factor is the perpetual heat, which never relents. Indeed, trying to do anything other than complain in 45 degree heat can be quite a challenge! Terrible roads, lack of cultural amenities and a limited social scene are some of the other downsides of living in Juba. Many things that are taken for granted in the UK (e.g. having a fridge, public transport, electricity) are difficult to come by. This is hardly surprising given the recent history of Southern Sudan.

However, most of these downsides are offset by the intriguing (if sometime frustrating) work environment. Working for the Ministry of Finance alongside national staff (several of whom were previously senior rebel commanders operating in the bush during the civil war) is constantly fascinating and provides a unique insight into how a country that is starting from scratch has to try to cope with the enormous number of demands placed upon it by its citizens and the international community.

My experience so far working in Southern Sudan has been thoroughly rewarding, and I hope that my second year here is as eventful as the first. With a referendum on independence and also the possibility of the birth of a new independent State, how could it not?

REBECCA NEWBY (Fetherston, 2007-09)

Since leaving school Rebecca has taken a gap year, working initially for HGCA, a government funded farming advisory body, and then going off travelling. Over four months she visited parts of India, Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia. Highlights included the Taj Mahal, bungee jumping, skydiving and the “Full Moon” party on Koh Phangan in Thailand. Since returning Rebecca has been on a family holiday to Turkey, worked at the Boot Inn, Lapworth and spent 10 days in Morocco. In September Rebecca takes up her place at Cardiff University to read English Literature.



At the age of 71 and with two new knees Roger Flood still managed to make it to the top of Africa. His surgeon must be proud. There's hope for Peter Levenger still making it round 18 holes after he's had his done then!

(1954-64) and **Max**, President of the Old Silhillians' Association, (1983-94).

John Peck (1954-64) was unable to attend the luncheon as he was leading a 3-man team in the North Pole Challenge. He was pulling his sledge with all provisions and kit on it. **Raymond Harrison (left 1928)** was 99 in August this year and wrote to me to say that regrets he is unable to come as he finds it hard to travel from the Isle of Wight. He left School in 1928 before most of us were even thought of!! Other ninety-plus year olds who are still alive and kicking are **Stan Peck (1927-33)** and **Geoffrey Smith (1931-35)**.

Alas we lost three regular attendees, namely **Geoffrey Nicholls (1932-36)**, **Barrie Swift (1937-45)** and **Pat Moore (1942-52)**. They all passed away during last spring and their obituaries are written elsewhere in the magazine.

Heard around the clubhouse!

Somehow the conversation got round to bikes. **Derek Sharman (1942-49)** said in probably 1946/7, he cycled 7 miles from Meriden to school with **Alan Shirley (O.S.)**, occasionally on Alan's vintage tandem. They used to reckon if they could reach the bottom of Hampton Lane before the school bell stopped ringing, they could, by dismounting and running along the footpath, arrive in school having parked their bikes,

90 members, eight of who were new, attended the October 2009 lunch and many had travelled a long way to Solihull. Even **Keith Sjogren (1954-1964)**, now resident in Canada, arranged his holiday in England to coincide with the meeting and Ken David came across the English Channel from just outside St. Malo. As usual there was a cross-section of ages from old timers like **David Lewis (1931-37)** and **Gordon Harper (1935-41)** to relatively young ones like **Pat Bragg (1959-67)** and **Peter Callaghan (1959-67)**.

In April 2010, **Heath Pratt** replied from 12,000 miles away in Christchurch, New Zealand and promised he would be back in time for the May luncheon. 85 members, including 11 new members, joined him. At the age of 92, **Douglas Keen (1929-35)**, drove down from Sheffield to attend the luncheon. In a later email to me he said he was well looked after by several youngsters including **Des Main (1931-41)**, **Trevor Gilbert (1933-39)** and **Don Rushton (1933-42)** but regretted there were none of his era there!! There were three **Levengers** present - **Peter (1951-62)**, **John**

without getting into trouble. They could not risk having to wait to cross the Warwick Road twice. It worked and they were never late once. Incidentally there used to be racks for over five hundred bikes – now there are six!!

Tony Jowett (1948-57) says he still remembers his first day at school. It was memorable for him as the Head Boy shouted him at. Admittedly it was in Big School and several hundred others were present but he felt sure the Head Boy was addressing him! He also recalled a Latin lesson whilst in 4 Bale in the ground floor classroom adjacent to the Old Changing Rooms. It was a balmy summer's day with the windows open, and a gentle breeze which aided a general drowsiness. A loose ball of string appeared outside one of the windows. This was much to everyone's amusement including Bill Bale who was probably as bored as we were! He indicated to the lad adjacent to the window to grab it and pull which he did. Alas a feckless youth upstairs had tied the other end to someone else's exercise book, which came tumbling to earth outside the window. Shortly after "Salty" Sellars appeared at the door to enquire about the loan of Bill's rounders bat (Little Willy) used for sadistic purposes. A pregnant silence followed, punctuated by three audible smacking sounds. Then the bat appeared on a length of string outside the window!



Denis Tomlin - always a welcome visitor to the Clubhouse



A newcomer, **Howard Westwood, (1962-66)** was in School House (not noted for bright academics!). He was told by one master, "Life is not all beer and skittles." He hoped he had proved him wrong!

The retiring Headmaster, Phil Griffiths, said that those who did not excel at the usual sports of rugby or hockey sometimes discovered their talents in Cross Country running. **David Patterson (1941-49)** recalls his prowess certainly did not extend to the former and he was not enthusiastic about the latter. But he had acquired a Signallers' Badge in the C.C.F. With this useful qualification, on Cross Country Day, he was directed to go, equipped with radio, to a gate across the fields at Ravenshaw. There he had to report back to HQ with progress reports on the run. At last he had discovered his useful talent! Incidentally, he told me his father was a signaller in the OTC at Solihull School before 1912. His knowledge was put to use in the Royal Worcestershire Regiment in the First World War.

Alan Cave (1953-64) remembered Dennis Paxman saying for grace, "For this food God help us."

Another newcomer, **Phil Johnson (1957-63)** related that Howard Fisher said to him, "Entering you for geography 'O' level is like entering a mule for the Derby."

If any Old Silhillian, who is over sixty and wishes to come to these lunches, please contact me via over60s@silhillians.net

Roger Flood





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THE LONDON DINNER

The 60th London dinner was another great success. It took place at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly on Friday 11th December 2009.

There were 60 in attendance, with pupils from each decade from the 1940s to the 2000s represented. We were delighted to see, as ever, so many teachers – Martin Covill, John Nixon, Martin Brough, Chris Jones, Sean Morgan, Bob Melling and, of course, Phil Griffiths. In addition, the Chair of Governors, Graham Hughes and the President, Rupert Young were welcomed.

It was Phil's night. As much as he wanted to avoid any accolade or praise, the focus was very much on him in his last year of office. Former Chair of Governors, Air Vice Marshal John Price made a special effort to attend the dinner and was amongst the first to offer praise and thanks for all that Phil has done for the school. A particular honour for Phil was the fact that a number of old boys from his first form (1972, 3C1) attended. The highlight of the evening was, of course, a standing ovation for Phil.

Guy King-Reynolds, was unable to travel to London, but offered his thoughts in a note which was read to those present. Rob Wheeler brought a copy of a programme for a fete held in 1955 to raise funds to build the school's first swimming pool. Full of adverts for local ironmongers, butchers, grocers (many bearing still familiar Solihull names) and describing the simple pleasures of the fete (lemonade, cakes) it spoke of a different world, at once familiar and almost forgotten. Sharing memories across the decades is why these dinners are so enjoyable.

David Meek, Jonathan Potts, Neil Pinto, Paul Rivers, Phil Pinto, David Young and Ian Eckloff



THE LONDON LUNCH

The London lunch was held this year in the delightful surroundings of the Great Hall of The Worshipful Company of Butchers. This is, according to their own marketing blurb, one of the seven oldest of the City of London Livery Companies, with roots stretching back to 1469.

The lunch was the best we have had so far – unsurprisingly given the hosts and the proximity to Smithfield market. Any vegetarians would have been disappointed. Thanks must go to John Lockyer (Fetherston, '57 to '66) for introducing us to the livery company.

Lunch turned into afternoon, turned into evening...beyond that there is little that I can report, save that the reassuringly hefty bar bill indicates that we must have had a good time.

Numbers were up on the last two lunches. I am now working on finding an equally grand venue for next year's lunch. Ideas on a postcard, please.

Please e-mail or call me if you would like to receive an invitation to future London Lunches or Dinners.

Mark Lucas (Fetherston 1978-1988)

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The Past Presidents were privileged to be invited to hold their fifty third Annual Dinner in the Alan Lee Memorial Pavilion as part of its 450th Anniversary. Sadly Founder President of the Society Vic Hawley was unable to attend and Past President Bob Toy (1971) took the Chair. He was joined by twenty three members who, before sitting, stood for a minute's silence to honour the memory of Barry Swift and Keith Foster. Apologies had been received from Vic Hawley, David Billing, Daryl Edwards, John Baggs, David Powell, Mike Cusack, Bob Young, Graham Hughes, Brian Wilde and Richard Jerrom.

Bob Toy welcomed Headmaster Phil Griffiths, the current President of the OSA. Max Levenger and John Platt introduced Immediate Past President Rupert Young as the newest member of the Society. President Max Levenger spoke of the success of the new all-weather pitch and of the plans to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the school. After the toast to the school, Headmaster Phil Griffiths responded and talked about his thirty-eight years of service to the school. On behalf of the members, Peter Callaghan thanked him for the endless help, guidance and support during his Headship at OSA meetings, dinners and other events and for making the Society feel so welcome at the school and wished him, Belinda and his family every happiness for many years in his retirement. As a token of the gratitude and high esteem held by the Past Presidents, Bob Toy presented him with a pair of Edwardian silver napkin rings as memento of the enjoyable evenings he had spent with us.

Peter Callaghan



The OSA choose certain times to run big events in the marquee, this year the Ball was to celebrate the School's 450th Anniversary. With the marquee in a new location due to the new Astroturf being built, the 292 attendees met on a warm summer's evening on the new patio. Music was provided by the band Felix Leiter and the Singing Waiters entertained between courses, leaving some dancing before dessert, which you don't often see! The evening was most enjoyable, thank you to all who attended, especially those who helped by organising a table.

Max Levenger



SHENSTONIAN LODGE No. 5544

Worshipful Master *W.Bro. John Currigan (2010/2011), W.Bro. Iain Denton (2009/10), Secretary: W.Bro. Joe Bates (01675 442586)*

The Lodge is open to Old Boys, Members of Staff both present and past, Governors, Parents and Grandparents of present and past pupils. It continues to enjoy the unique combination of freemasonry and meeting at the Old Silhillians Clubhouse which provides a wonderful opportunity for Masonic and Old Sils. fellowship. We are always delighted to welcome both initiates and joining members and also enjoy some excellent social occasions. By the time of publishing the Lodge will, hopefully, have celebrated its 75th anniversary with a special meeting in October and continues to attract new members of all ages. We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested as either new or joining members – please contact Joe Bates.

Meetings second Monday in October (Installation), November, February and March.

SHENSTONIAN CHAPTER No. 5544

Principals: E.Comps. *Stuart Thorpe, Roger Moore and Ed Baker. Scribe E.:E.Comp. Derek Howie (01564 777120)*

The Chapter continues to welcome suitably qualified Master Masons whether members of the Shenstonian Lodge or not. Meetings will take place on the second Monday of December 2010, January and September 2011. Please contact Derek Howie.

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THE ATHLETICS TEAM 1972

Mr. A.G. Collins, Mr. A.H. Brooker

**C. Paton, P. Morley, C. Johnson, M. Shipley, A. Vickerman, N. Skevington, P. Snell, R. Bevan, P. Cadigan, P. Holmes, P. Thomas
R. Instone, A. Rose, J. Cahill, R. Izon, M. Kernack, P. Icke**

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

Structure, Governance and Management

Principal Activities

The Trust was founded on 3rd November 1999 when approval was obtained from the Registrar of Charities.

Trustees

Peter A Thomas.- Chairman of Old Silhillians' Trust

Richard M Jerrom – Trustee

Max E Levenger – President Old Silhillians' Association

Barry W Allen – Chairman Old Silhillians' Association

Joseph R Bates – Treasurer Old Silhillians' Association

Peter Davies – Secretary Old Silhillians' Association.

Organisation

The Trustees administer the charity. The Trustees held four formal trustee meetings during the year ending July 31st 2010. All Trustees have equal voting rights with a majority required for all key decisions such as the approval of grant applications.

Risk management

The Trustees have considered the risks to which the Trust is exposed and are of the view that an appropriate control framework is in place.

Objects and Policies

The sole object in the Trust deed is “The provision of full and / or part time scholarships and to provide grants or support for pupils of Solihull School, West Midlands.

The trust meets these objectives primarily by providing funding for four 25% scholarships each year.

Chairman's report:

It is now almost fifty years since I was a new boy at Solihull School. It was a good school then, but it is an immensely better school now. Time and again I find my-

self, as Chairman of the Trust, reflecting on how much it has changed over the decades and how much it has gone from strength to strength. The quality of the education which it provides is quite outstanding.

As Chairman I am always conscious how little we can take for granted. Excellence in education is not necessarily welcomed in an envious age, although parents undoubtedly value it. As Trustees we are well aware of the challenges which we face as a result of charitable status, but unlike the School, we do not have a large endowment to fall back on in times of trouble and, although we run a tight ship, we do not create large surpluses to build up our reserves. The Trust thrives on the strength of its own efforts so we can never sit back and rest on our laurels. Having said that, the possibility of creating a large endowment has increased significantly over the decades, because the UK is now wealthier than at any time in the last 100 years. Favourable world conditions in the early part of this decade have resulted in large salaries, even larger bonuses and a huge rise in value of most assets, not least property. We must never forget that the very existence of the Association was made possible by the generosity and help of a number of benefactors. Now it is our turn. New benefactors, Old Silhillians will not only want to pay back for the opportunities they had at this extraordinary School, but also see the Trust fulfill the wants and needs of this century. All we need is your support.

This has been a steady year for the Trust with £10,000 raised in legacies thanks to a wonderful and generous donation by the late Sir Oliver Wright and a further £8,000 in new life membership subscriptions. The Trust is therefore financially sound, albeit not flush, and is involved in more activities than ever before. Our support of Emma Hubble through three years at Drama School has now come to an end with her graduating with flying colours. The Trust has truly been delighted to support such a talent and we are all extremely proud of her progress. Well done Emma and my sincere best wishes for a magnificent career to come whether it is on stage or screen!

The Trust has also managed to provide four 25% scholarships to students in the sixth form and a grant of £500.00 to a former pupil to assist with his ongoing studies at University through the Lander Osborne Fund.

As this year the School celebrated 450 years in existence the Trustees decided that to mark such a milestone, they would provide a gift which would be of benefit to all current and former pupils of the School whilst at the same time offering an immense opportunity for the Trust itself to generate new sources of income.

For many years the School through the dedication of people such as Denis Tomlin and latterly John Loynton, has maintained an archive containing literally thousands of photographs, documents, film footage, and other items of memorabilia going back more than 100 years in the School's history. Whilst being a magnificent and useful record in itself, it is only accessible by persons visiting the School and requesting access to the archive room.

The Trust decided that the entire archive would be captured forever in a digitized format and kept on a new web site (www.silhillians.net) available to all who register, and that this would be our gift to the school. All the photographs, the Shenstonian magazines, the Silhillian magazines, the school diaries and many more documents dating back for more than 120 years have been scanned and are now available to view, but the most wonderful feature is that the archive is now alive and added to on a regular basis thus ensuring that what happens at school today forms part of the archive of the future.

Finally, I would like to say that no voluntary organisation succeeds without the dedication of a core group, and the Old Silhillians' Trust is exceptionally fortunate to have a number of individuals who, through their membership of the Trust, have committed considerable time and energy to creating and managing the various activities I have referred to. I am personally extremely fortunate and grateful for the ideas, energy, dedication and humour of those stalwarts of the Trust who have made last year both fruitful and enjoyable. There are a number of Trust members who could be singled out for special mention, in fact all, but I would like to mention one person who actually is not a member of the Board of Trustees and that is Malcolm Lawrie, Editor of *The Silhillian*. Malcolm has without doubt been a major force in getting the new web site up and running, he has been involved in endless meetings with representatives from the School, the web site design company RE:Media (owned and managed by an Old Silhillian – Paul Rivers) not to mention me and the Trustees. Malcolm, sincere thanks.

In conclusion, may I thank all Old Silhillians who have not just supported our activities but contributed in many various ways to the Trust over the years. The rewards for the efforts of the Trustees are in the support given by members of the Association to the activities and events we organise. We are very anxious to do more for members of the Association and the causes we support, but inevitably we are constrained by our income. I would therefore like to end this report by simply asking you, the existing members, to do two simple (cost free) things this year, which would make a very significant difference to the speed with which we can improve what the Trust can offer. Firstly, as our membership represents no more than 10% of former pupils there is considerable scope to increase the size of the Association. If every member sought to encourage just one non-member to sign up and join the Association we would dramatically enhance the Trust. Secondly, the majority of members have not taken advantage of subscribing via Gift Aid, which again would make a real difference to our income. We are actively seeking confirmation from HM Revenue & Customs that subscriptions/donations to the OSA qualify as Gift Aid. We will keep you posted. Having said that, you would need to sanction this in order to enable the Trust to recover Tax you have paid on your membership fee subscriptions, so I would ask you to take two minutes to fill in the Gift Aid section of the new membership form enclosed with this magazine. Thanks again for your support.

Peter A Thomas
Chairman , Old Silhillians' Association Trust

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'THE OLD SILHILLIANS ASSOCIATION'. The header features the association's crest on the left and right, with the title 'THE OLD SILHILLIANS ASSOCIATION' and the subtitle 'Commemorating 450 years of Solihull School' in the center. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, The Archive, The OSA, The School, Sports Clubs, News & Events, and Contact Us / Links. The main content area is divided into several sections: a large 'Welcome to the Old Silhillians Archive Project' banner with a photo of a smiling couple, a 'Log-in' section with a 'Not registered? Join now!' link, and three columns of featured content: 'Recent Articles' (Stations Of The Cross 1967), 'Popular Articles' (listing several issues of the Silhillian), and 'Archive Showcase' (Salad Days 1979). A 'News & Events' section on the right lists recent news items. The footer contains the association's crest, copyright information (© 2010 Solihull School), and additional navigation links (Home, Sign up, Contact Us, Terms & Use).

Over the past 12 months the OSA has made considerable inroads into the world of technology - and about time too!

The OSA Website

If you have not yet visited the new website you really must do. The site was commissioned by the OSA Trust to celebrate the School's 450th Anniversary. There is a plethora of information about the Association and the School, including News & Events, Sports Sections, Contacts, to mention but a few. However, the jewel in the crown is the School's archive. As Peter Thomas mentioned on page 55 in his Trust report it is a veritable mine of memorabilia, fully searchable and you can download the documents and photos. Whilst the rest of the site is open to anyone the archives are restricted to current and former pupils, staff and Governors.

Registration is a straightforward process. Towards the top right hand side of the home page -

www.silhillians.net

you will see a link called 'Not registered? Join now!'. Just click on this link, complete the form and then click on the 'Sign up' button at the bottom of the page. Your request will then go to the web-master for verification and authorisation. Once you have received your authorisation (normally within 48 hours and often considerable faster) you can log-in to the site and access the archives. Please note that you have to log-in each time you visit the site and your log-in will automatically time out after a period of inactivity.

Please be warned - the archives are a great devourer of time and we accept no responsibility for missed appointments or angry partners!!!

Users are able to 'tag' photos. Tagging is to add a name and it is important for posterity that when you come across a photo in the archive and recognise one of the subjects that you tag the photo if it has not already been done. In order to tag a photo, once you have done a search you will see a list of possible matches. In the right hand column there is a link to 'view details' and when you click on this you will see a further link to 'add new tag' - just click on this link and follow the instructions. Once a tag is added to a photo every time that tag, which can be a name or an event, is used in an archive search the tagged photo / document will appear in the results.



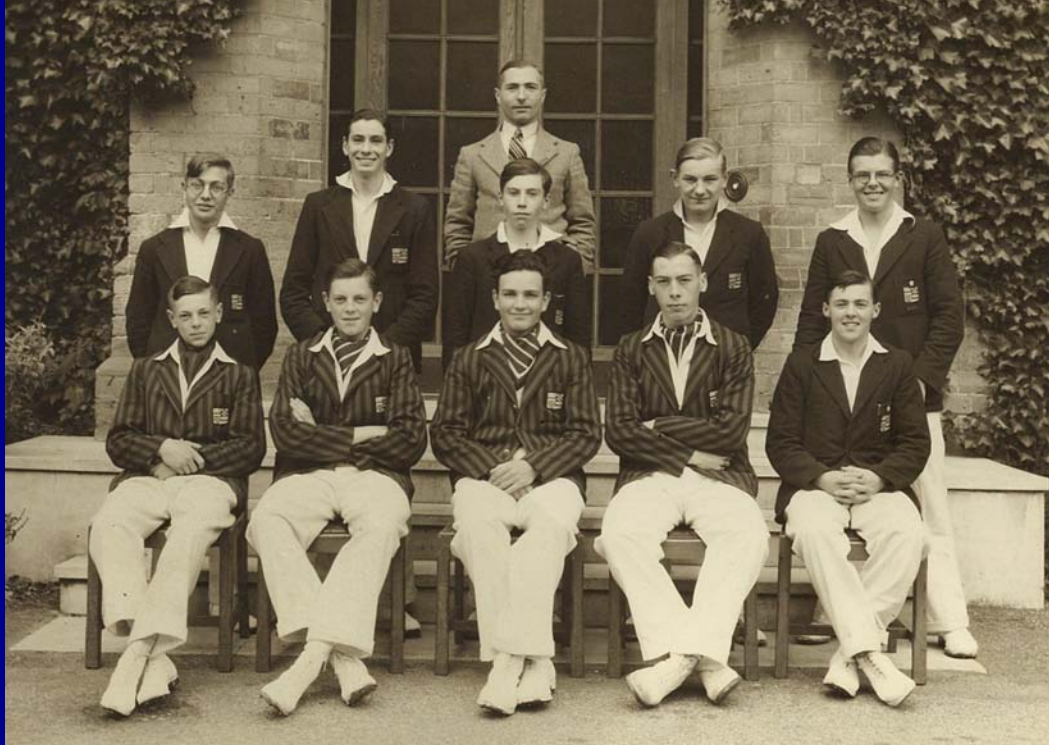
***A small selection from the archives -
The first Silhillian Magazine 1950, The Shenstonian 1884,
The Solihull Old Boys' Hockey Club Fixture List 1948-49***

Users can also upload their own photos for inclusion into the archives. Once you are logged-in click on the 'Upload item to Archive' link and follow the instructions. It is important that the photo/document is accurately described and tagged at this stage so that the webmaster can easily assess whether it is suitable to be included in the archive.

If you would like to make an announcement on the website, e.g. births, deaths, marriages, etc., please email - webmaster@silhillians.net

The OSA Database

With the advent of the website we collected a wealth of contact information, one of these was the email addresses of registered users. Our old database was tired and needed a thorough update. With the help of the School's IT guru, Dave Reardon, a new database has been built and populated with the data provided from website registrations and, indeed, the archives themselves. Whereas the old database contained about 3,900 former pupils, mostly OSA members both living and deceased, the new one has nearly 8,000 former pupils on it. The names were mostly taken from old Shenstonians and most leavers (certainly those that left in the Vth and VIth Forms) are now on it.



A photo from the archives - The 1st Cricket XI 1925 captained by R.D.N. Fabricius

If you are in touch with any Old Silhillians please ask them to visit the website and complete the 'Update OSA Membership Details' (you do not need to be a member) in the Membership section under 'The OSA' on the website.

If we do not have your contact details we cannot keep you abreast of either School or Association events.

The OSA Email Newsletter

918 Old Silhillians were sent our first OSA Email Newsletter in early September. As of going to print 335 (36.5%) recipients have opened and read it. This, we are told, that this is an impressive result, but we would like to improve on it. In some cases the email may have been treated as junk mail so please watch out for future copies. It is planned that the newsletter will be sent out every quarter, the next is due in early December, with occasional interim issues if the need arises.

In order to receive the newsletter you must register with the OSA website or complete the update form as outlined in the paragraph at the top of this page.

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RICHARD ADAMS (School House, 1943-51)

To sum up Richard's life and to pay adequate tribute is a near nigh impossible task. To do so in just a few words without omissions is difficult when he was such a unique character, but family and close friends have put together some of their thoughts and fondest memories of Richard.

Richard, often known as Dick to his colleagues, was a very well known and highly respected Coventry Chartered Surveyor. During the latter part of his career he specialised in carrying out private structural surveys for buyers of property who wanted to know as much as possible about their prospective purchase. There were others who did this kind of job but none as famous and respected as Dick Adams who was in a class of his own. When a structural survey was required the first name people thought of was Dick Adams.

His professional practice was built on solid grounds of hard work. Whereas most of his colleagues took a far more leisurely stroll through their careers, Dick thought nothing of carrying out two structural surveys a day and leaving his building society and bank valuations for a Saturday. How he did this year after year beggars belief. Of course, he had two marvellous secretaries and Sheila in the background holding the fort.

Perhaps his greatest professional achievement was in founding the Independent Surveyors Association, a group of like-minded surveyors who fought to preserve the interests of the house buyer and those of small firms of practitioners.

His hobby was book collecting and he built up a large collection, ranging from Cecil Rhodes to Hitler's invasion of Russia. Latterly he was collecting literature on the railways and the steam engine. In his retirement days he often travelled to Hay-on-Wye to spend many hours browsing through the books. Sometimes a friend would go with him and together they would go for afternoon tea. Richard would order – a slice of cake, a cup and saucer, boiling water and a tea bag. He believed he was the only one who could make the tea properly, no-one else know how long to leave the tea bag in the water! He would only have 'proper-milk' and referred to the skimmed variety as 'white water'.

He was very proud of his children and their achievements. They have many happy memories of lovely holidays spent together in Scotland, Wales, the Isles of Scilly and the times they would go out bird watching or cycling when little.

Richard was not afraid of conflict. The family remember the time when he found himself in a boundary dispute with a disgruntled neighbour. The neighbour was knocking down the brickwork of recently erected gate pillars. Dad chose to intervene with a very long wooden pole from the garden to fend the neighbour off. It actually worked and no punches were thrown!

Richard was very fond of Sheila and their love and devotion for each other was the basis of their marriage. He held traditional values about the way in which life should be lived which might be seen as 'old-fashioned' now. He could be dogmatic and would express his views forcibly.

His approach to losing his leg was never self-pitying, he never complained, he just got on with it. He made what accommodation was necessary and rather enjoyed the problem-solving element. Richard was a character in a world where there are no longer many characters. He was a big man, a big personality. That loud and forceful voice will no longer be heard, the robust and strong Englishman is gone forever. That brother, husband, father, colleague and lifelong friend is with us no more. All that is left is the memory of an indomitable spirit, quite prepared to take on all comers, including death itself, with a fortitude that we can only admire.

LAURIE BAILEY (Master, 1950-88)

Laurie, who died suddenly In December last year, was an almost permanent feature of the Solihull School scene for the past seventy years. In 1940 he arrived as a boy in the Lower School during the headmastership of Mr Thompson and apart from his years of teacher training and a short period in the Junior department of Caterham School his involvement and interest in the life of the School was unbroken.

Wartime copies of the *Shenstonian* reveal his enthusiastic commitment in the classroom, on the stage and on the games field, where he dominated the Cross-Country competition and regularly ran in tries on the rugby field from the wing-threequarter position (in the days when backs were given room to show their prowess!)

Joining the teaching staff in 1950, he became a Lower School housemaster and kindled the enthusiasm of his boys in Pole House to such an extent that the outcome of the inter-house competition, sporting and cultural, became monotonously predictable – Pole first, the rest nowhere. His style as a schoolmaster was humane and straightforward, friendly and approachable but always maintaining the necessary distance between teacher and taught. He encouraged generations of boys to master the art of debating and as an extempore story-teller entranced with his fine speaking voice his audiences on games afternoons when bad weather prevented play. He wrote and produced a series of Lower School plays – Robin Hood, Treasure Island, Ali Baba, Jonah and the Whale and David and Goliath (with Robin Everitt, Senior Mathematician, pressed into service as the Philistine giant!) and remained faithful to his guiding principle that every member of the Lower School in the course of the evening should strut and fret his hour upon the stage. In later years he was also persuaded to produce a number of Shakespearean plays as well as a memorable production of *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller.

In 1977, when a fourth division of the School was created, he was the natural choice to become Master of the Lower School where he fostered a happy and purposeful atmosphere and continued to bring to his class teaching of English and Religious Studies his qualities of patience, clear exposition and insistence on accuracy and stylish presentation.

In 1962 H.B.Hitchens asked him to join with Marlborough and Winchester Colleges in instituting a pilot scheme to set up a community service in local schools, hospitals and the homes of the elderly and infirm and to organize holiday camps for under-privileged children. His activities steadily expanded into the foundation of the Solihull Young Volunteers which drew its membership from fifteen local schools. He became Chairman of the Solihull Council of Social Services and later helped to set up the National Young Volunteers Resources Unit. At this time he published his book 'Youth To The Rescue', which received high praise from Alec Dickson, the founder of VSO, and led to invitations to speak on the subject in many parts of the country and on television.

After retirement in 1988 he continued to take close interest in the progress of the School and was a faithful supporter of the monthly meetings of the PRA Luncheon Club who were his friends and ex-colleagues during a particularly happy period of the School's history.

Surprisingly, perhaps, he also found time to pursue his private enthusiasms- the Methodist Church, photography, gardening, walking and, especially his family, Sylvia, his devoted wife and his daughters, all of whom followed in father's footsteps and entered the teaching profession.



Denis Tomlin



**ANTHONY (TONY) BERRILL
(Fetherston, 1948-55)**

Anthony Berrill (Tony), born in Colchester in 1936, won a scholarship to Solihull School in 1948. He left in 1955, deferring his place to read English at Bristol University until completion of National Service. He was not a natural soldier and did not enjoy army life in Germany, although to his own surprise he was a good shot. Unable to settle at Bristol University

he took a job at the Commercial Union in Birmingham where he remained for the rest of his working life, firstly as an insurance clerk, and later as a fire and burglary surveyor.

Tony married Sylvia in 1959, a marriage that lasted for 48 years. They had three children, Alistair, Adrian and Sally, and eight grandchildren

Tony had a range of interests, including squash and hill walking, both of which he was forced to give up due to heart trouble. He was a voracious reader and accumulated a huge collection of books of all types. Although his literary tastes could be fairly highbrow, they were not exclusively so, and he was a devoted viewer of Xena the Warrior Princess and Buffy the Vampire Slayer. He was a keen photographer to the extent that he took the photographs at his sister-in-law's wedding; unfortunately he did not get around to developing them for ten years.

Tony's most unlikely hobby was motorcycling. He had never been on a motorbike until he was nearly forty, but he made up for that in the years to come. He had a series of large, often unreliable, motorbikes, on which he toured the length and breadth of the country. Some of his happiest times were spent touring the Highlands of Scotland and beyond, up to Orkney and Shetland. He always enjoyed emerging from his leathers and helmet, an outwardly alarming figure to many, but revealing to surprised onlookers the grey hairs of a respectable elderly gentleman.

Tony came to the Church in his thirties, but it became very important to him and he was a regular worshipper at St Margaret's, Olton, for more than thirty years.

Tony battled with ill health for much of his life, firstly developing heart trouble, and latterly motor neurone disease. He never willingly succumbed to illness, giving up squash only when told to by an angry heart specialist, and his motorbike only when he lost the strength to manoeuvre it.

Tony died on 24th November 2007, aged 71, and is sadly missed by his family and friends.

Alistair Berrill

DAVID BROWN (Fetherston, 1940-47)

David Devonish Brown was born in Chicago U. S. A. on the 17th August 1929. The family moved to Dovehouse Lane Solihull in 1938; David entered Solihull School (known as D.D.); he did well. His principal sporting interest was in target shooting, rifle and pistol. Leaving school he went up to Birmingham University, graduating with an Honours Degree in Oil Engineering in 1950. He joined Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. in Trinidad for two years and then moved to Mobil Oil in Canada, Calgary. He married Anne in 1953, and they had three children.

He returned to the U.K. for seven years when North Sea Oil was discovered, becoming Senior Reservoir Engineer (the man who decides where exactly to drill for oil) and then returned to live and work in various locations in Western Canada. He visited the U.K. several times over the years. He retired to Vancouver Island B.C. and developed his interest in firearms especially old weapons.

Always a strong but gentle man, he commanded respect, loyalty and affection in all who knew him. He died on August 21st 2010.

David Gurnham



COMMANDER MALCOLM BURLEY (Shenstone, 1939-45)

Born in Flintshire, Malcolm Burley arrived at Solihull School in the winter of 1939. He rose to the 'heady' rank of Corporal in the JTC, which was to belie his achievements in later life. At the age of 16 Malcolm was locked up overnight in Walton Prison after having been arrested for suspicious behaviour. He was relieved of his notebook, which listed the warships in Liverpool, their berths, pendant numbers, details of main armaments and so on – but a call to the Headmaster, Mr A.R. Thompson, established that he was not a German spy.

After school he went to the Royal Naval College at Eaton Hall. He had a distinguished Naval career during which time he fell in love with Antarctica and the islands of the Southern Ocean. In 1964-65 he led a Combined Services expedition to South Georgia, which was the first to climb Mounts Paget and Sugartop and re-created Shackleton's crossing of the island in 1916. Following this successful expedition Malcolm was appointed MBE, presented with the Cuthbert Meek award by the Royal Geographical Society and had a Mountain named after him.

Rather than suffer a series of shore appointments or life in the M.O.D. Malcolm resigned from the Navy in 1973 and took up the post of Bursar at Stowe School. Here he also took a keen interest in the extra-mural activities, particularly rugby, sailing and drama.

When he retired from Stowe in 1986 he settled in Suffolk where he managed the Anchor-age estate at Iken. Malcolm Burley, who died on 23rd August, married, in 1965, Fiona Mairi Macdonald. She survives him with their three daughters.

NORMAN (Nic) ILSLEY CUTLER (Jago, Left 1937)

Nic, as he was known to his friends, passed away at home on 15th August 2010.

Very much a local lad he came to Solihull School on a scholarship in 1931 leaving in 1937 to take up articles for Quantity Surveying.

At the outbreak of war he was by now in a reserved occupation but served in The Home Guard until 1943 when he joined the Royal Engineers seeing service at home and in the Middle East. In the post war years he became a valued member of OSHC serving at various times as Veterans X1 Captain, Club Secretary, Chairman and finally as President where those who remember him enjoyed his calm exterior and laconic humour.

His professional career took him to Walter Webb and Partners from where he retired as Senior Partner. In retirement he rendered great service to his Church and spent many happy years travelling in his beloved France with his wife Stella who survives him along with their daughters Lesley and Louise.

Stan Lea

TONY FLETCHER (School House, 1949-56)

Tony died after a short illness in February 2010. He took over his father's business called Capels Transport in Balsall Common and lived locally all his life.

**KEITH JAMES FOSTER (Pole, 1949-58)**

Keith died in June 2010. After leaving Nottingham University he became a successful partner in accountants Wenham Major in Birmingham. On his retirement he became Hon. Treasurer of Birmingham University for the next fourteen years.

He was one of three children, his sister Jane lives in Barston and his brother, also an Old Silhillian, now lives in Wiltshire. Keith married Ann and they had three children and his son Giles attended Solihull School.

Keith was an excellent hockey player playing for the Old Sils, Warwickshire and the Midlands. Despite all of the demands on his time, Keith was President of the OSA in 1977/78, a member of the Old Silhillians' Golfing Society and a frequent Saturday visitor to the Clubhouse until he became too ill.

He will be sadly missed by all of his friends and family.

MORLEY HUTCHINSON (Pole, 1941-51)

Morley Hutchinson died during the summer, aged 77, while on holiday in Yorkshire. He attended an Over 60s' lunch about seven years ago, but health difficulties prevented further visits.

CHARLES FRANCIS LANDER (Shenstone, left 1936)

We regret to announce that Charles died in mid-June 2010. Charles lived in Royston, Hertfordshire.

IAN HAGUE (Windsor, 1969-75)

Ian Hague has sadly died of a brain tumour at the age of 48. Ian was a pupil at Solihull from 1969 to 1975, from the age of 8 to the age of 14, when the family had to move to London. Ian's brother, Malcolm, was also a pupil here and they both moved to Bancrofts School. After university, at the age of 24, Ian moved to live in Canada, where he carved out a successful career in accountancy, lecturing all over the world in his field.

PETER LEWIS HOLLINGS (School House, 1936-41)

Peter grew up in Shirley, Solihull. He was a boarder at Solihull School from 1932 until 1942 when he left to join the Merchant Navy. His seafaring days formed the bedrock of what was to become a distinguished career. He rose through the ranks and gained his first officer's certificate just before completing seven years at sea. He sailed ships to countries right around the world – Australia, New Zealand, India to name but a few – and was one of many brave merchant seamen sailing through the last years of the war.

In August 1949, he followed in his father's footsteps (the late Arthur Edward Hollings who was a director of Dowding & Mills until his untimely death in 1960), and started serving as an apprentice at the Birmingham branch of Dowding & Mills, based at Camp Hill. There were just two branches at this time – Birmingham and London.

With his merchant officer's training, coupled with his naturally pragmatic business sense, he soon began to show his potential within the company. In 1954 he was appointed manager of the failing London branch, with a 5 year target to turn it around and make it successful. By the year end in June 1955 the factory had already begun to make a profit, and by 1957 he had made a drastic improvement.

As the London branch continued to strengthen, Dowding & Mills acquired a third branch in Southampton in 1960, which Peter was instrumental in buying. A branch in Nottingham followed five years later.

Peter was appointed Group Managing Director in 1969, and so returned to the head office in Birmingham. With consistently rising profits Dowding & Mills had a period of significant growth, and by 1976, under Peter's skilful leadership, had expanded to Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, Middlesbrough, Durham, Ipswich, Cardiff and Falkirk. International acquisitions followed in Holland, Germany, Luxembourg, Sidney, Brisbane, Phoenix, and Salt Lake City.

1979 was a record year for Dowding & Mills, with a record group profit of £2million. The late Kenneth Sharp retired as Non-Executive Chairman that same year, and Peter was promoted to the new post of Executive Chairman. The late Jim Cole took up the post of Managing Director, providing strong support to Peter, and forming a successful partnership with him, under which the company continued to excel.

What began as a local Birmingham business, was now a major world player in electrical engineering repairs. Retired Director of the southern region, Charlie Jenkins, says that Peter Hollings was undoubtedly the business brains and the driving force behind Dowding & Mills success. "His sound financial running of the company enabled it to expand into the international business it became."

Peter semi-retired in 1990, becoming Non-Executive Chairman, with Jim Cole taking up the role of Chief Executive in his place.

He fully retired in 1995, aged 70, after a highly successful and distinguished career at Dowding & Mills, spanning 46 years.

It was not just his sound business skills which marked him out from the crowd. To quote Charlie Jenkins again, colleagues also regarded him as a scrupulously honest and fair man who led from the top by example. He had the courage of his convictions and always stood by what he believed was the best thing for the company. He was the epitome of the best of British business practice, based on fairness and consideration of all the employees within the business.

Outside work Peter was a loving family man, survived by his wife of nearly 61 years, Audrey, and children Mark and Paula. He was as much respected by friends and family, as he was by his colleagues, and fondly described by many as a real gentleman, kind, generous, and good company.

To his credit he remained an admirably modest man, despite his many successes as a businessman. He had a quiet determination that carried him through life without any affectation. He was a lover of life and a fighter right to the end, determinedly braving his way through a long respiratory illness for the last three years. When it was finally his time, he passed peacefully in his sleep.

He touched many lives, and he will, without question, be greatly missed by all who knew him.

CHRIS LEA (Shenstone 1949-58 and Master)

We regret to report the death of Chris Lea. At school Chris was an extremely talented sportsman. He was Captain of the XV, received his Cricket Cap and School Colours for Hockey.

Chris returned to the School as a teacher and became Master of School House. Chris

continued with his sport and played rugby for Nuneaton and in later years turned out for the Old Sils' hockey and was an active member of the Old Silhillians' Golfing Society.

Chris is survived by his wife Carol their daughter Sarah and their son Jonathan who is also an Old Silhillian.



IAIN MACMILLAN (Pole, left 1971)

My brother, who died suddenly of unknown causes in June aged 57, was unconventional by nature (some may remember the cream satin flared trousers he asked me to make from curtain material for one of the school dances). At Solihull School he excelled at music (violin), chemistry, and chess. From there he went on to Lancaster University to study chemistry, switching to philosophy after his first year. Thus armed with a most useful degree, he obtained his HGV licence and drove lorries for a number of years, delivering newspapers, fridges, or whatever seemed the right thing at the time. To deal with any minor traffic or parking offences, he took a paralegal course and greatly enjoyed fighting his own cases in court. He was particularly pleased to discover, when delivering for Comet,

that broken fridges began working again when you stood them upside-down for a while; hence his house at that time often had at least two upside-down fridges in the kitchen. In 1997, having taken a course in programming, he finally took what our parents described as "a real job" and became a programmer for a pensions company. As in his earlier years, he remained nocturnal and somehow managed to morph his job into one where he worked at night. He continued with his musical interests, learning the classical guitar and, more recently, taking part in karaoke in a more serious way than most. His renditions of the Sex Pistols' version of My Way and of The Crazy World of Arthur Brown's Fire had to be seen to be believed, and our duets at home of All That Jazz and the Cat Duet likely had the neighbours running for cover while our parents simply smiled proudly. He was widely travelled with a particular fondness for Turkey and Thailand. He lived his life in his own unique way and according to his own beliefs and values, and he never failed to make me laugh on the rare occasions we were together following my move to Canada. In the words of one of his karaoke colleagues: "He was a character. He will be missed."

Ginty Macmillian

JOHN PATRICK (PAT) MOORE (Jago, 1942-52)

John played hockey for the School and was awarded his House Colours for hockey and rugby. He was an active member of the Dramatic Society Stage crew.

On leaving school he immediately joined the RAF, for his National Service, and was trained as a wireless technician. After his service he attended Birmingham University and graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering. A succession of posts in industry followed

in Research, Plant Commissioning, Sales and Contracting. He worked at Serck Engineering in Tysely for a period. Before joining the Alkali Inspectorate, where he dealt with industrial air pollution in the Midlands for 27 years, he served as Deputy Station Manager of a plant making gas from oil in Bicester.

He joined the OSA and played cricket and hockey. Later he joined the Golf Society. Pat was never a technically correct sportsman, but played with great determination and enthusi-



asm. He was a great supporter of the Association and took over the Chairmanship of the Over 60s Luncheon Club. He also played tennis and squash and regarded the latter as his best game.

Pat married Trisha in 1976 and went to live in the derelict cottage in Inkberrow that he had previously painstakingly restored and extended over a period of years. His wife and son, Peter, survive him.

He became a Magistrate in Redditch, and eventually chaired the Bromsgrove and Redditch Bench. He was deeply involved in Amateur Radio (call-sign G3 IKR) and the restoration of Vintage cars. He played both Bridge and Snooker.

Pat will be remembered as a most erudite man, winning prizes for the Times crossword, having a love of both classical and jazz music. At the time of his death he was exercising literary skills in producing a book on the History of Air Pollution and the Alkali Inspectorate. Although he had only got as far as 1974 it is hoped that the book may still be published. He will be remembered also for his consummate dexterous skill with anything mechanical, electrical or of a practical nature.

He died peacefully in his sleep, at home, and the magnificent attendance at his funeral was a testament to the respect and admiration we all felt for him. He was a man of honour and all who knew him will remember a loyal friend and a wonderful teammate.

GEOFFREY WILFRED NICHOLLS (Shenstone, 1932-36)

Geoffrey Wilfred Nicholls was born on 13th December 1918, the youngest of 5, in City Road, Edgbaston where his father had a dental surgery.

He went to a local preparatory school, Chigwell House in Edgbaston and thence to Solihull School – this was about the time that Solihull School became fee paying. He had very happy memories of his time at Solihull School, probably because there was an emphasis on sports which suited him: he was a very fast runner and very proud of his achievements in that field. Later he put his speed to good use on the wing of the School rugby team. He enjoyed his rugby and continued to play for the Old Silhillians into his forties.

His other main interest was cars, and in 1936 he left School to take up an apprenticeship at the Austin motor company in Longbridge.

With the outbreak of war he was enlisted from the army cadets into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and embarked on a 6-year tour of duty. He went to France, was evacuated from Dunkirk, and was sent to the Middle East and North Africa, then to Sicily and Italy from where he was repatriated suffering from malaria. He recovered in time to take part in the D-Day landings and was eventually demobbed from Germany in 1946.

Geoffrey returned to Longbridge as a planner on new models, eventually specializing in paint.

In 1949 he married Vera and they moved to Redditch where they brought up three children. They celebrated 60 years of marriage last September.

He retired in 1980 but maintained monthly contact with many of the lifelong friends he made at the Longbridge. He regularly attended meetings of the REME association, the Austin ex-apprentices and the over 60s lunches. He also liked to spend time with his son and daughter, their spouses, and the grandchildren.

His funeral on 21st April 2010 was well attended by family and many friends from work, the REME association, the British Legion and the Austin ex apprentices association. He will be remembered for his sense of humour, mature attitude and ever-helpful good nature.



STAN SKIPPINGS MBE (Solihull School CCF)

Stan Skippings was determined to join the forces. He grew up listening to heroic battle tales from his grandfather John King who had served with the Royal Horse Artillery in the Boer War. So, as soon as he reached 16 years of age, the young Stan signed up for the Royal Marines

He served 23 years at sea aboard some of the Royal Navy's most famous ships - including HMS Belfast, HMS Implacable and HMS Glory. His service in the forces brought him into some of the fiercest clashes of World War II.

He went on to work with the Combined Cadet Force at Solihull School for another 23 years. So Stan was able to continue his passion to serve his country and regularly worked with the Territorial Army during his time at the school.

His contribution to the forces was so great that Stan was awarded an MBE in 1995.

MICHAEL SKUSE (Fetherston, 1961-68)

Michael arrived at Solihull School in 1968. He was a good sportsman and was School Captain of Swimming, received School Colours for rugby and House Colours for rugby, hockey, volleyball, basketball and water polo.

Michael worked as an accountant and until recently was a partner with the global accounting firm KPMG. He was a keen huntsman and was chairman of the Worcestershire Hunt for the last 5 years. Joint hunt master David Palmer paid tribute to Michael. He said "I can speak on behalf of everybody at the hunt by saying we are all reeling with shock at the loss of a very good friend". He went on to say "He was the chairman of the hunt and was a very authoritative figure. He loved the countryside and he loved his hunting. He will be enormously missed by all of us here, he was a very good administrator."

Michael is survived by his wife May and daughter Jessie.

BARRY SWIFT (Pole, 1937-45)

Barry Swift started his scholastic career at York House School before entering Solihull School before the war in 1937. At School he was next in form alphabetical order to Peter Suckling and so they always sat one behind each other in class and grew up as mates. Barry was an enthusiastic member of the JTC (CCF for the younger members!) and keen on shooting. He earned the nickname "Storeman" as he was the Quartermaster Sergeant. He became a bencher and stayed on in the sixth form while waiting his enlistment in the Royal Engineers. During this time he taught the juniors for which he received no pay. He spent many an evening on the roof of Big School doing fire watching. He left School in 1945. In the army, after basic training, he went to OCTU at Newark and then served in Germany. After demobilisation he joined the TA in which served for many years finishing as a Lieutenant Colonel with an MBE.

He started his business career with the family builders in the Black Country. He then moved on to work with the architect John Osbourne (also an old boy) and after a few years obtained a post with The Builders Employers Federation which he held until his retirement.

He was a great supporter of the Association having been President of the Rugby Club and he served on the main committee as Secretary and President. He also travelled regularly for the over 60 lunches, Rugby Club and Association events until he was unable to attend due to failing health. He was a quick witted and friendly person who will be sorely missed.

Roger Flood, Bob Toy

DAVID THOMAS

David Thomas died on 1st October 2009 aged 80. He was at School in the 1940s and followed from his brother, who was 6 years older and obviously of some notoriety. On his arrival at School he had to get up and introduce himself whereupon he was immediately caned with the admonition "That's to ensure you do not grow up to be like your older brother Warren". At school he particularly enjoyed rugby and determined to join the RAF. This he did as a National Serviceman and, trained as an electrician, helped to support the Berlin Airlift. After this he spent much of his time with the Knowle Scout Troop and on the 100th anniversary of that organisation received a personal letter from Lord Baden-Powell. He was Roy Letts' brother-in law and leaves his wife Doreen and sons Ian and Stephen.

PETER THOMPSON (Shenstone, 1936-41)

When I arrived at Solihull School - 'Solihull Grammar School', in September 1936 Peter was Form Captain of 3A. Arthur Smith, John Hudson, Tony Worster and Mike Wheelock were also in the form. Peter was a great sportsman - cricket and rugby. We finished at School together in 1941 before work and the war.

Peter was such a decent and popular bloke. He never had an unkind word. He wrote humorous poetry and I was still meeting him at our little history of art classes in 2008. He was a great credit to the School and his family - a lovely man.

Roy Davies

LIONEL VARNISH (School House, 1948-54)

Lionel left Solihull in 1954 and went to Canada with his father. He spent a week at sea en route to Halifax, Nova Scotia, followed by a train trip across Canada to Vancouver. He stayed in Canada for about a year, mainly in Balcarres in Saskatchewan and then returned to the UK and joined the Army.

He spent 5 years in the Army, mainly in Malaya fighting the Chinese Communists and having a whale of a time into the bargain (probably because the girls out there are very pretty) until he was blown up by a landmine while driving his Land Rover in Kuala Lumpur. He spent a couple of months in a military hospital in the Cameron Highlands before being repatriated to the UK.

He then returned to Canada, to Montreal where he was working in advertising and according to Lionel having a great time with wine, women, tennis and rugby. He returned to the UK and married a wealthy Devon girl and had a job travelling around Europe and Russia. That did not last long so he went back to Canada but found it hard to get a job. He then decided to go to Australia with his girlfriend, Heather, but that also did not last too long and he ended up back in Canada, this time in Montreal where he stayed for the rest of his life.

His brother, Michael, retired as an Archdeacon in Australia and he had two children, Julian and Amanda.

John Hill

W. W. (BILL) WALLIS (School House, 1936-40)

We regret to announce the death of Bill Wallis. Bill arrived at the Solihull School in the winter of 1936. He was a talented miler who won his House Colours in his last year at school. Bill was an MG car enthusiast and a regular attendee of the Over 60s Luncheons. He was also a regular correspondent to *The Silhillian*.

Memorial to Stuart McNidder M.B.E.

Stuart McNidder attended Solihull School from 1952 to 1961. He died in 2006 at the age of 63. He qualified as an Architect and Town Planner, and spent 21 years working for the City of Worcester where he was City Architect, Planning Officer, and Director of Technical Services.

His love for Worcester, and his determination to make it a modern City, whilst preserving its history and culture were recognised in 2005 when he was awarded an M.B.E. for his services to the City. Worcester Council has now commissioned a permanent memorial to him, paid for by public subscription, friends, family and colleagues. A sculpture has been created by Lawrence Walker, a Herefordshire blacksmith, whose work Stuart admired. It commemorates the historically important Battle of Worcester, in 1651 and depicts, in galvanized steel, the helmets, breastplates, and pikes, used in the battle, and is attached to the canal bridge parapet on the A44 next to the Commandery at Worcester.

The sculpture and a plaque commemorating the contribution made by Stuart to the planning of Worcester were unveiled on 19th March, 2010 by the Mayor and Lord Faulkner of Worcester. The ceremony was attended by Stuart's son, Simon, his wife and family, his brother Brian, and several of his Old Silhillian friends.





OSHC c1975

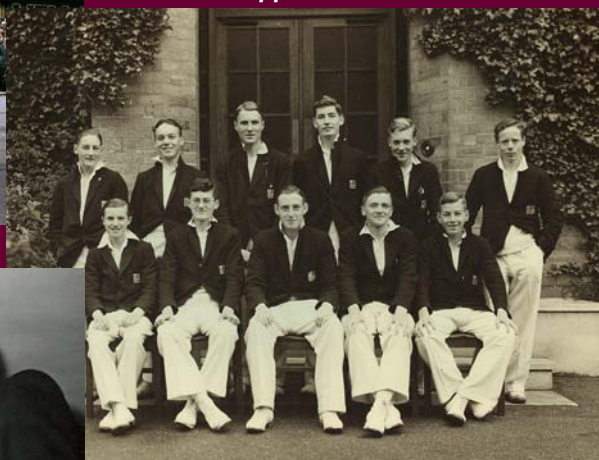
All of these photos and
many more are available at
www.silhillians.net
See page 55 for details



Upper Bench 1964



The Visit of Her Majesty The Queen 1962



School Cricket 2nd XI 1938



The Visit of The Duchess of Kent 1960



OSRUFC c1975

BASKETBALL

**Secretary
Treasurer**

**Geoff Garwood
Bugsy Morton**

**07956 915217
0121 706 3966**

A season of fluctuating fortunes for Old Sils Basketball. A late run of victories lifted Sils out of the West Mids League Div II relegation places to finish a respectable 7th with a record played 14 won 5 lost 9.

The season highlight was undoubtedly an away win to division winners Bromsgrove Blaze by 71-78. A victory that belied Sils league position and Blaze's only home loss.

The Rose Bowl saw a victory and a loss both against Premier opposition. A R1 win against BC Bears 111-82. A loss in R2 to Shropshire 128-116.

Geoff Garwood

GOLF

**President
Captain
Vice-Captain
Secretary / Treasurer**

**John Stubbings
Tim Platt
John Platt
Bob Young**

**01675 470578
01564 770400
01564 777661
01564 772556**

2010 for the OSGS has been like life in general, a year of contrasts. Some incredibly enjoyable moments, and some rather disappointing.

The golfing year started in April with the Presidents v. Captains match played at Olton Golf Club in what can only be described as "unfavourable" conditions, and resulted in a surprise victory for the Presidents Team by 12-7.

The "domestic" competitions got underway in May with the Wiseman Foursomes Cup, which was played in somewhat better conditions, light rain!, and was won by those seasoned campaigners Peter Levenger and Fred Harris with a creditable score of net 69. It was indeed refreshing to hear Fred be complimentary about something in his victory speech!

The arrival of June brought some improvement in the weather, and our major competition of the summer, the OSA Challenge Cup. John Loynton took the trophy with a highly competitive score of net 68, with Will Westall taking the Charles Hill Salver, for best gross, with 75 and Bob Young winning the Senior Salver with a net 69.

The Roy Letts Invitation Foursomes was played in July with Nigel Thomas and his guest Mike Hawe taking the trophy with a net 65½.

August saw the Captain's Away Day, where 36 enthusiastic members and guests were treated to a memorable day at the Northamptonshire County Golf Club at Church Brampton, with Mike Wiseman and his guest Tony Pearson dominating the prizes, combining with Richard Lucas and John Duncombe to win the team Stableford competition in the morning, and winning the pairs Stableford competition in the afternoon.

During the year the "A" team played matches against Copt Heath G. C., winning 4-1, Ladbroke Park G. C., losing 1½-4½, Robin Hood G.C. halved 2½-2½ and finally the annual 24-a-side match against Olton losing 2½-9½. Meanwhile, the "B" team, led by OSA President Max Levenger, enjoyed a little more success with matches against The School,



Who needs the Molinari Brothers?

Back Row: Richard Strickland, John Platt and Graham Creed

Front Row: Peter Strickland, Tim Platt and Roger Creed

losing 1½ -4½, North Warwickshire G.C., halved 3-3, Olton G. C., losing 2½-3½, Old Edwardians, winning 5½-½ and finally against Old Veseyans winning 3½-2½.

The one major disappointment of the year was the team's failure to qualify for the Grafton Morrish Trophy finals in Norfolk, for only the second time in the competition's history, and the first time for 25 years. Whilst it can be said that the conditions were, at best, difficult, it was felt that the quality of player we selected should have been able to manage the conditions sufficiently well to ensure qualification.

Not to be down-hearted, 16 members and guests ventured to Norfolk for a short tour during the duration of the Grafton Morrish Finals. This enabled us to honour our commitment to The Lifeboat Inn and support The Competition and the local economy. Two rounds of golf were played, one at King's Lynn Golf Club and the second at Royal Cromer Golf Club, which saw Bertie Parkes as the inaugural winner of "The Norfolking Cup" with an aggregate score of 67 points. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all, and the tour went some way to soften the blow of disappointment at failing to qualify for the Grafton Morrish finals.

The final event of the year is the December Vase which is to be played at Olton Golf Club on 11th December 2010, and is open to all Old Silhillians whether they are members of the Golfing Society or not. It is hoped that as many former pupils as possible make the effort to support this event, which is always followed by a magnificent lunch and an afternoon of great camaraderie.



Despite the disappointments, it has been a thoroughly enjoyable year, with some good golf being played, but above all, great fun and friendship, which has been helped to no small degree by the Committee, Members and Staff of Olton Golf Club, who are so kind to avail us of their facilities and friendship. A sincere "Thank You" goes to them.

A heartfelt "Thank You" must also go you the members of the Golfing Society, who have made the year such a pleasure for me personally, and especially to Secretary Bob Young and Match Secretary Mike Wiseman without whose efforts the Society would not function.

My report would not be complete without mention of President John Stubbings, whose smiling, laconic approach has made the disappointments bearable, and the sun shine on the wettest of days; "Thank you, John".

Finally, my thanks go to Vice-Captain John Platt for his unfailing support throughout the year, and I wish him every success for his year of office and trust he enjoys as much pleasure as I have.

Tim Platt

HOCKEY

President	Ian Rosser	07813 197384
Chairman	Steve Tabb	07900 884100
Secretary	Mike Waters	07977 229541
Men's Club Captain:	Jamie Clapham	07974 648665
Ladies Club Captain:	Ruth Dovey	07813 034750
Youth Development:	Lucy Steele	07800 940257

www.silshockey.co.uk

A new astroturf, new members joining the club, a burgeoning junior section and an Old Bromsgrovian as Men's First XI captain!

First the good news. The astroturf pitch is now a year old and receiving rave reviews. Use of the pitch is exceptional and it is fantastic to see so many new faces playing sport at the Sils. For the Hockey Club having our own pitch is already producing positive results allowing the Club to play, change and socialise at a single site. After years of playing away from Copt Heath the return of spectators watching games is a welcome sight and the clubhouse has a more vibrant buzz after matches.

In terms of adult membership the Club had gone through a period (as with most clubs) where the number of new members was always slightly less than those who retired or left the area. This trend has ceased since the astro opened and sufficient new members have joined to replace those who have left. Better still the new members joining over the summer are generally at the higher end of the club which should result in a greatly improved Men's First XI for the season ahead. The Ladies, if anything, have attracted even more new members. This is all positive and bodes well for the future.

In addition to stabilising the adult membership the junior section is beginning to grow rapidly. Prior to the astroturf opening the section, though well organised, was showing signs of membership decline. However, significant numbers have joined since January with turnout now approaching 30 every Sunday. It should be said that this is not solely due to the astroturf and Lucy Steele and Louise Hirons are to be congratulated for the time and effort they put in to organising the sessions and promoting the Club through local schools.



The First XI

***Max Levenger, Mo Hadian, John Mayo, Jamie Glynn, Jamie Clapham, Steve Tabb, Matt Fell, Mark Dovey
Salman Whitacker, André Tchakhotine, Mike Norrington, Jo O'Malley, James Sloane***

The Club was the first in the country to be awarded the Sport England Clubmark Accreditation and I am delighted to announce that this Accreditation has been re-awarded for a further three years.

On to the playing side and the Bromsgrove bit. First it should be stated that Matt Fell (Men's First XI Captain) is the first Fell in generations not to gain a place at Solihull School. Nonetheless by maintaining links with many former members of the Club Matt has persuaded many to rejoin since the opening of the pitch as well as driving the club to providing the necessary support to the First XI. This will benefit the team with the return of the likes of Old Silhillians such as André Tchakhotine and Jamie Glynn. While finishing mid table, yet again, was always likely to be the outcome of last season, looking ahead the team has a genuine chance of promotion this season. The importance of this should not be underestimated as the Club looks to expand membership.

For the Ladies a strong finish to the season saw the First XI finish a respectable mid table while the Second XI continued their streak of promotion one season followed by relegation the next. Here's to this season's promotion campaign.

The Men's Second XI, suffering for most of the season with various injuries restricting availability, rallied strongly after Christmas to avoid relegation. Meanwhile top marks go to the Men's Third XI for securing promotion to West Midlands 1 while the Men's Fourth XI, though finishing bottom of the pile, continue to provide perhaps the most hospitable attitude in the league off the pitch, if at times somewhat hospital (passing wise) on it. It is great to see that the competitive spirit and desire to play the game lives on, particularly given that a number of the side are now aged over 60 with many of the others heading in that direction.



Jamie Clapham - Nutmegged!

Lastly on to the advertising bit. If you are interested in joining or perhaps taking up the game for the first time please ring any of the contacts listed above.

The Club trains on Wednesday nights with matches as ever on Saturday afternoons. If you are interested in joining or perhaps taking up the game for the first time please ring any of the contacts listed above. Junior training is at the club on Sunday mornings at 10.30am until noon.

For those looking for a slightly slower pace (though not much) or if you prefer to play midweek then the club runs a highly popular Men's Veterans side generally playing on Wednesday's. Please contact Club President, Ian Rosser, for more information.

Mike Waters

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oldsilhilliansrifleclub.org.uk

The last 12 months has proved a solid one for the club. Membership numbers have held up, range usage has been good, and we have welcomed our first 2 lady members into the Pistol Section which currently shoots Lightweight Sport Rifle (LSR) without support from the shoulder. Social events have increased in number and club spirits are high.

This could in fact be described as 'the year for the Ladies' as our Rifle Captain Liz Asquith led our club entries to the annual Warwickshire Open Championships and came away with the Women's County Championship Cup.

During the season several shooters achieved County Honours in both Prone and LSR disciplines, Mike Doble and Clive Hollings respectively captaining these teams. Mike has moved on to the national stage being chosen as the Counties' representative on the NSRA's main Committee - many political and financial considerations wait ahead for him - we all wish him well.

This season we entered teams in Warwickshire, Midland, National, Kent and Cumbrian Leagues. There was a good

**County Open Championships –
Happiness is cup-shaped!**



return of Team and Individual successes and medals, shooting standards and averages raised through effort and commitment.

As ever Range maintenance has been a priority and many members have helped out with one off needs and in full Range working parties. Thanks to all involved. This year, we have, in addition, equipped 2 firing lanes with provision for 10m and 20yd Airgun use, both air rifle and air pistol. This is a development looking to the future and to run alongside our familiar rimfire activities, it also gives us further opportunity to train and encourage shooters to International standards.

We have again hosted members of St Alphege Rotary to an evening of shooting and will soon be visited by a group representing Shirley Round table. A good evening of LSR shooting and a meal in the clubhouse runs out at about £10 per head and we can cater for up to 15 shooters. For enquiries contact the Chairman.

Finally, shooting is about balance, muscle condition, concentration and mind control. Size, age, and strength are unimportant. You cannot bully a shot into the middle of a target, it has to be persuaded - advantage to the ladies again then? A challenge for all comers, current membership ranges from 14 to 84 years - why not give it a go? Full details available from any of those listed above.

Clive Hollings

A distinction needs to be made here between the between the two rugby sections. Old Silhillians Rugby is an occasional team formed only of former pupils of the School to enter Old Boys competitions and meet other such fixtures. Silhillians RUFC is the regular Saturday club which plays its fixtures at Copt Heath and was spawned from the original Old Silhillians' Rugby Club and is now open to all-comers.

OLD SILHILLIANS RUGBY

The old boys' rugby side has been re-formed over the last six months and the Solihull School Old Boys' first outing was on 13 March at the Griffen Rugby Sevens, hosted by Abingdon School for a number of alumni teams. The OS team scored victories against the old boys of Bloxham, Magdalen College School, hosts Abingdon and St Edward's, Oxford. Having beaten the Old Bloxhamists by a single point in the round-robin stage, the Old Sils had found their form as the day went on and faced Bloxham again in the Final. The result was very different from the first meeting; it gives great pleasure to announce that the Old Sils won 47-0 against a much-fancied opponent. Dan Super must be mentioned here for scoring five tries in the final.

Thomas Arnold (not the famed Head Master!) in action against the Old Rugbeians



St. Alphege Rotary Club in action on a guest night



**Thomas Shanahan vs. Old Warwickians with
Referee Alex Henderson OS**

The OSA hosted the inaugural Public Schools Old Boys' Sevens in mid-June 2010. Over 120 players turned up to pull on the colours of their respective alma maters (or almae matres for the classicists). Schools represented included the pre-tournament favourites Millfield, Sevenoaks, Cheltenham College, Monmouth, local rivals Bromsgrove, Bablake, Rugby and eventual winners, Warwick. The day was a success and the tournament will be repeated annually and

hopefully can grow into a prominent sporting and social occasion in the diaries of all those involved. In criticism, however, the OSA Committee did express its deep distaste for 'the old enemy' being allowed to go home with the trophy. Note to the players: must try harder next time!

The Old Sils were invited by the Old Wheatleyans, the former pupils of Bablake School to compete in a seven-a-side tournament for the old boys of Warwickshire schools. We came second overall, with the hosts retaining the trophy, but most importantly, we scored a narrow but satisfying win over the Old Warwickian VII.

Continuing the long-standing rivalry between Warwick and Solihull, an Old Silhillian XV travelled to Warwick School on the morning of Saturday 18th September to play against our Warwickian counterparts as a curtain-raiser for the Warwick School 1st XV's first home game of the season. A frantic and physical first ten minutes led to two Warwick tries, both from loose ball being picked up from just outside the OS 22 yard line.

A stern word of encouragement under the posts from loose-head prop, Alex Henderson Jr (School XV captain, 2003-04), prompted a resilient spell from the boys in maroon and blue; the hard-fought but good natured game seemed finely balanced and several for-

Joe Brawn vs. Old Monmouthians

ays by a centre pairing of Chris Mussell and Alex Kirke (School XV captain 2009-2010) proved threatening. Our scrum was dominant and number 8 Giles Ellison (School XV captain, 2007-08), aside from his relentless defence, carried well to set a platform for his backs to attack from. Dan Super scored a fantastic individual try, beating four OW defenders in the process - Aki Davies (School XV captain 2005-06) converted.

The far larger Warwick squad looked predictably more fresh and energetic towards the final stages and snatched another couple of opportunistic and individual tries, making the final score of



32 - 7 rather flattering. The final whistle preceded some generous hospitality from the Old Warwickians, in the form of curry and enough beer to placate the excited victors and disappointed visitors. Even in defeat, we took proud solace in the fact that our striped blazers looked far more dashing than anything that an Old Warwickian could be seen wearing.

Thanks must go to Warwick School and the Old Warwickians for hosting us and for the considerable number of supporters who came to cheers us on - notably the new Headmaster, David Lloyd.

It is planned that the Old Boys XV will take on the Silhillians RUFC at Copt Heath on Boxing Day this year to commemorate the life of Alastair Ross who died whilst in his UVI year at Solihull. Further details will be in subsequent newsletters, on Facebook and on www.silhillians.net.

There has been relative success for this old boys' rugby team this far; the joy of getting together with team mates from one's school days has motivated an ever-growing group of boys to turn out in the maroon and blue hoops. With the continued support of the Committee and School community there can only be further success on the horizon. Thanks must go to all those who have played for and turned up to watch the OS rugby side. Special thanks, too, to Messers Sean Morgan and Steve Thompson, Solihull School's Deputy Headmaster and Director of Sport respectively, who have not only been immensely supportive but have aided the provision of playing kit, a brand new set of which the OSA now owns.

Simon Bright

SILHILLIANS RUFC

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Chairman
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Paul Newby
Ian White
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www.silhillians.com

I must apologise for the vein this report is written in. It is at times self-indulgent, does not provide many facts and is positively reminiscent. Having said that, three years as 1st XV Captain does take its toll, so please forgive me.

It would be easy for me to spout a number of facts and figures at you to justify why we ended up where we did in the league. What went wrong. How we could improve. However it remains that we are amateur rugby players. We continue to play at the highest level the club has ever reached whilst still going about our day jobs. We give up time that could be spent elsewhere to ensure the continued success of an institution which I feel fortunate to be a part of. The Sils is like an extended family for me and the clubhouse a second home. Family life at the Sils has its ups and downs. Arguments, disagreements, tears and sadness but against this backdrop it provides some of the greatest times of your life. It's for the latter that we lay our bodies on the line week in and week out. As the years go by it gets harder to get up on Sunday mornings - or on some occasions even move! Tuesday and Thursday training becomes less appealing especially in the depths of winter and the injuries just keep on coming. Apparently we do this for fun!

Perhaps one of the most satisfying aspects of club life is watching one of our home grown youngsters rising from the ranks of our Mini and Junior section to play in the senior sides. You may have known these guys for years and even coached them at some point. It brings a smile to your face seeing them grow in stature and ability and the youngsters

you once knew develop into men. We have a relatively young squad, one which I hope will continue to stick together and improve over the coming years.

At our very successful SRUFC Annual Dinner this year Jason Leonard (England's most capped player) presented awards to the following, all being examples of the progression of M & J talent. All the above have roles to play in our plans for the forthcoming season and I wish them continuing success in their rugby careers -

Laurence White - The Cap for the Most Improved Player

Richard Kirby - The Mills Ball for Young Player of the Year

Stephen Hawkins - The Colts Cup for the Colt of the Year

Other playing awards on the night were presented to -

Andy Cunnington - 2nd XV Player of the Year

Richard Fulham - Tourist of the Year

Peter Nicholls - The Players' Player



***John Griffin receives the Peter Styles Shield
from Jason Leonard***

On the non-playing side Kevin Lane was awarded the Peter Youngson Memorial Tankard as Clubman of the Year and John Griffin was presented with the Peter Styles Shield for Exceptional Effort on behalf of SRUFC.

All award winners epitomise in their own ways the spirit and dedication to our club and the game which is shared throughout our little community. When the dust has settled at the end of the season it matters not where we finished or how we achieved it as we will have had a great time getting there. We should not lose sight of why we play rugby in the first place. Sometimes it is too easy to let seriousness take over and there is a danger this may happen. So

here's to all the good times to come!

The last three years have been a massive learning curve for me. During my period as skipper I have learnt an awful lot about people. Subject to selection, I am now looking forward to being just a 1st XV again without the added responsibilities of leading the side. My change in position to hooker is providing me with new challenges as I strive to learn the art of front row play.

It gave me great pleasure to recommend to the committee the nomination of Jim Roper as this season's 1st XV Captain. I can think of nobody I would rather have lead me out onto the pitch and he will get my full support and assistance as and when necessary. I see it as a just reward for all his efforts both on and off the pitch over the years. Jim - another product of our M & J section - is a perfect ambassador for the club and he will stamp his own personality on his new role.

To all club members in all sides, thank you so much for your hard work over the last three years. You have surprised me with your dedication. At times we may have come off second best, but when I see that it hurts you as much as it does me it makes me feel very proud and emotional to have been your captain.

Finally, thanks to two of the back-room boys. John Griffin has put in an immense amount of work over the years in so many areas. Many

of the facilities we enjoy at the club are the result of his foresight and efforts. The conversion of a pig sty to a gym, the training lights on the 2nd XV pitch, his stewardship of the playing areas which remain the best in the Midlands and 1st XV physio. His award of the Peter Styles Shield this season was richly deserved. Many thanks, Griff, on behalf of us all. Also to Phil "PG" Green who was presented with an embroidered flag by Jason Leonard at the Annual Dinner in recognition of the sterling work he does behind the scenes at the Sils and especially to mark 25 years of running touch for the 1st XV.

Lee Jones

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On Line Booking System

The online booking system continues to be very reliable and ensures that we have a safe and trustworthy source of income. Again just a reminder from last year that any one wishing to view the new booking system or is interested in joining the Squash Section can visit the squash booking website on www.squashbooking.co.uk/silhillians. The Squash Club also has a new web site which is linked with the main OSA site. We are in the process of installing and updating information but it can be viewed at -

www.silhillians.net/Sports-Clubs/Squash

Warwickshire League

Following on from my concerns last year as for the need to recruit new team players I am sorry to say that this has not happened and as a result we have been further relegated to Division 5. In numerous matches, due to unavailability of players, we were unable to field our strongest side for many matches and in a couple of fixtures we had to compete

with only four out of the five players. As last year with our playing numbers down we made the decision not to enter a team in the Summer Leagues.

Thanks go to Phil Davies for organising the team in difficult circumstances. Players involved in winter squash were - Phil Guest , Roger Taylor, Arthur Adair , Phil Davies , Ray Mills , Andrew Tippings. Anyone interested in viewing the winter league results in more detail can visit the Warwickshire website on -

www.horizonsport.com/wb/wb1/engsqu/warwickshire

Warwickshire Over Sixties

During the year both Arthur Adair and myself represented Warwickshire at Over 60 Level. We played twice during the season. The format was a three man team, Roger Moore from Kenilworth Squash Club who played at number one being the third member.

In October we played at Kenilworth in matches against Oxfordshire and Berkshire. We managed to win both matches three games to nil and moved onto the next stage. In January we travelled to Manchester to participate against Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire. The competition was more difficult this time and we lost these matches by three games to love to Cheshire and in the other two by two games to one.

Internal Tournaments

Last year's open final has finally been played and I am pleased to report that I have regained the trophy that I last won in 1998. In a very close final I eventually won through by three games to one against Arthur Adair. In this years competition at the time of writing we have not completed the tournament although in the top of the draw Phil Guest has won through to the final and is now awaiting an opponent. It is hoped that the final will be played within the next few weeks. Steve Chant beat Nick Barnard by three games to nil to win this year's handicap tournament.

Membership Levels

Again membership levels have held up reasonably well although slightly down on the previous year. We are hoping to attract more members by promoting both Racketball and Squash. In this year's renewal notice we have strongly pushed the game of Racketball as an alternative to Squash. Squash courts are suitable for both games and it is hoped that we can increase membership levels in this manner. This is in line with the development of many other Squash Clubs throughout the UK. It is intended if enough interest is shown to start internal leagues. We are also hoping to attract new members by cornering a captive market in the form of the new Astroturf Pitch.

Many thanks to John Milne our Membership Secretary who continues to work very hard in promoting membership and running members' squash accounts for the on line booking system.

Committee

The rest of the Committee has also put in many hours of hard work to ensure that the club runs efficiently and without these efforts we would not be able to operate. Special thanks must go to John Standley (President) John Parrott (Treasurer) Brian Wright (Court Maintenance) Ray Mills (Internal Leagues) Bob Heighway (Secretary) and Phil Davies (Captain)

Finally as in previous years we have plenty of spare capacity for new members wishing to play either Squash or Racketball. Our subscription rates remain very competitive and anyone interested in joining the squash club should contact John Milne on 01564 795063.

Roger Taylor

THE HICKLIN CUP

The annual Golf match between the Rugby and Hockey Clubs took place on Friday 10th September 2010 at The Royal and Ancient St. Stonebridge Golf and Country Club situated on the picturesque former quarry site near Meriden.

With many of their young bucks unavailable Rugby Captain Jim Roper elected to fall back on some of their more senior and experienced club members. After a bit of confusion the format agreed on was standard matchplay with all holes to count.

First off for the Rugby Club were former OSA President, John Platt playing with former Copt Heath GC Captain, Simon Carter and they were up against the ever steady Jonathan Clutterback and your Silhillian Editor, Malcolm Lawrie. Clutterback and Lawrie took an early lead which was maintained throughout the game and they secured a win by 11-7. OSA President Max Levenger was paired with Hockey Club Captain Jamie Clapham against Rugby Club Chairman Ian White and 1st XV Captain Jim Roper. Levenger and Clapham managed to snatch a draw from the jaws of victory having been 4 up at the turn!

Nol Mortimer and Hockey 1st XI Captain Matt Fell came against the experienced pairing of the Rugby Club President Paul Newby and OSA Trust Chairman Peter 'Sir Arnie' Thomas and did well to claim a half in this game. In the last game out the Rugby Club managed to salvage some pride with Quentin Tchakhotine and Andy Redman beating Ben Judd and John Rice by the smallest of margins - 9½-8½.

The Hockey Club narrowly won the match by 37½-34½ to retain the Hicklin Cup. Yet again all who played in the competition enjoyed a good day and we must thank Stonebridge GC hosting us.

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