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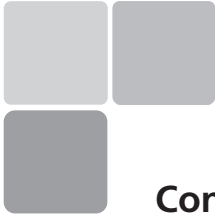
# Old Caterhamians' Association Review 2009-2010



CATERHAM SCHOOL

A Selection of sports events from recent OC Days





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## ■ Editorial Notes

This is now the fourth year of putting pen to paper and compiling the Editorial Notes. We have had an action packed year with reunions, a new-style AGM and we have been busy making plans for the forthcoming Bicentenary year.

As mentioned in the last Review, we have changed the format of the OCA Year - Remembrance Sunday Service & OC Lunch followed by rugby and lacrosse in November; Spring OC Sports Day in March, when football, hockey, netball and the Darby Swimming competition are held along with afternoon tea and presentations; and Summer OC Sports Day, at the end of June, with cricket and badminton matches, afternoon tea and presentations.

Many thanks to all of you who have been sending in your news. Please keep doing so. It is always of great interest to hear from you.

Of particular note this year was Daniel Darley and his partner Amelia's trek to the North Pole. A feat of total endurance, bravery and 'Omnia Vinces Perseverando'! Dan and Amelia gave all their donations to Help for Heroes. Well done!

Our AGM at the East India Club in London was a great success – so much so, that we have booked up again for March 2011 and hope to see even more of you coming along.

We have posted a suggested timetable for the Bicentenary celebrations on the OCA website. We hope to be able to cast in stone the final times and dates of the major events soon, so please keep checking the website. It would be wonderful to see you back at School sharing some of the celebrations with us during that special year.

We now have links to our OCA pages on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn via the website **[www.oldcaterhamians.com](http://www.oldcaterhamians.com)**

We are continuing to increase OC membership on the database. For those of you who have not joined and who would like to, please go to the website to download an application form or contact Alina direct – details are on the back of this issue.

Please remember that there is always a welcome at Caterham School so please do come back and visit us sometime!

Denis Tindley & Alina Rennie

## ■ The OC Year 2009/2010

### Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2009

Thankfully, the rain held off for our Service of Remembrance although it was a rather chilly day. Once again, the crowd assembled was a big one and we all offered our thoughts and prayers led by Rev. Rick Mearkle. The Head gave us a moving address where he told us about the mighty Orient football team of 1915 and their brave endeavours at the Battle of the Somme. Our President then inspected the CCF and we trooped indoors for a warming 'cuppa' to thaw out! A very interesting short, silent film about the Orient team and the Battle of the Somme was being shown in the Old Dining Room.

The afternoon was very well attended and some good games were played. Jess Uden, Curator of The Gallery, opened its doors for us to view the Advanced Graphics Exhibition. Afternoon tea was served at 4pm along with the usual sports presentations, and Honorary Membership of the Old Caterhamians' Association was given to Mr Keith Simpson, retired Head of Physics.

#### ■ Sports Results

Lacrosse: 10 : 10 – The Captains jointly accepted the trophy.  
Rugby: Recent Leavers beat the School 34 : 6  
OCRFC beat The President's XV 11 : 5

## The Headmaster's Address at the Remembrance Sunday Service

After wishing everyone present a good morning and welcome, the Head went on to say:

'This is one of the most important occasions of the School year. It is a morning when Caterhamians young and old return to the School for Old Caterhamians' day, and when we gather together to remember those servicemen and women who have given their lives in our name. If you have time, do please join us for coffee in the concourse immediately after the service and you are very welcome to stay for the events and activities of Old Caterhamians' Day which follow this service.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am a life-long Leyton Orient fan.

I should imagine that that statement will have elicited two responses. Half of you will be thinking, "who or what is Leyton Orient?", and the other half will be thinking, "what can a small league one football club have to do with a Remembrance Day service?"

Well, I would like to take you back to the winter of 1914. Many of the fit, young men of this country had joined up and were serving in the British Army in Europe. Nevertheless, First Division football – the Premier League of its day – played on. This caused much debate and there was a strong feeling among some that football should be stopped. The debate was still raging when the actions of a group of footballers stopped the discussion in its tracks. At a meeting in Fulham Town Hall the entire playing staff of Leyton Orient joined up en masse. This led to the formation of the 17th Middlesex Regiment, otherwise known as, the Footballers' Battalion. Other footballers answered the call and football was duly suspended. In total, more than 40 players and staff of the football club answered their country's call.

On the 24 April 1915, Orient played their final home game of the season against Leicester City in front of a packed crowd, winning 2-0. At the end of the match, the entire first team changed into army uniform and marched off to war with their regiment. If you are interested, and would like to join me in the Old Dining Hall after this service, I will show you some silent cine footage of the event.

Three of the XI who played that day never returned.

Orient's top scorer, Richard McFadden wrote back to the Orient supporters following the death of centre forward, William Jonas: 'I, Richard McFadden, sadly report the death of my friend and O's colleague William Jonas on the morning of Thursday 27th July, aged 26. Both Willie and I were trapped in a trench near the front in Somme, France. Willie turned to me and said 'Goodbye Mac, best of luck, special love to my sweetheart Mary Jane and best regards to the lads at Orient. Before I could reply to him, he was up and over. No sooner had he jumped out of the trench, my best friend of nearly 20 years was killed before my eyes. Words cannot express my feelings at this time. Yours, Company Sergeant Major Richard McFadden.'

Richard McFadden himself died on the Somme three months later along with team-mate and midfielder George Scott.

The story of the 17th Middlesex is surprisingly little known. It was an example of one of the so-called "Pals Battalions" initiated by General Kitchener. From all walks of life these proud battalions were raised: pit workers, local farmers, groups of public schools. The theory was that young men would be more likely to join up if they knew they would serve alongside their friends. These battalions included the Grimsby Chums – former pupils of Wintringham Grammar School, the Accrington Pals, raised from the villages around Accrington, and even the Stockbrokers' Battalion. There were many more – 27 in total. The Pals battalions did encourage men to join up, but the tragic result was that some communities lost a whole generation of young men to the slaughter of war.

And that, of course, is the real horror of war. It is not just the cutting short of young lives. It is the tearing apart of families and of the communities in which they live. Many of those communities never fully recovered. And regrettably we still see this today as our servicemen and women are killed in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere across the globe. So let the poppies that we wear today with pride also come to symbolise remembrance not just of the men and women who have given their lives in the service of the country, but of those families and communities who have had to bear the terrible burden of such great sacrifice and whose lives were, and continue to be, changed so fundamentally by the deaths of their loved ones.

Today we remember the men of Orient Football Club whose selflessness set the lead for others; we remember the many men who, in the First World War, joined up with their friends to fight to secure freedom for their communities, but who never returned home to see the fruits of their sacrifice; we remember

the 124 Old Caterhamians who died in the two world wars and whose names are recorded on our two war memorials; and we remember the many, many thousands of men and women who have paid the ultimate price in armed conflict throughout the years. We remember them because to do so is to ensure that their lives had meaning; that the anguish and tears of their families and their communities had purpose.

I spoke last year of the Old Caterhamian war poet, Donald Goold Johnson. He wrote in one of his poems of his certainty that the sacrifice of those who died in war had meaning and purpose. Donald Goold Johnson was, of course, to become one of their number. I shall finish by sharing his words with you today.

***Resurgit***

*They said that strength had passed from off the earth  
With the last blazon of dead chivalry;  
That Faith had dipped its lance to revelry,  
And God been banished to the strains of mirth.  
I think not that the blood of them that die  
Lifts to the stars an empty sacrifice,  
That prayers but batter a closed Paradise,  
That heaven can answer not the hearts that cry  
Upward for comfort;  
Clearer now there ring  
The song of faith triumphant over death,  
The sound of praises thro' a mist of tears:  
And not in vain they make their offering  
Who, spent and shattered, clutch their dying breath;  
Behold, the son of Manhood reappears!*

## OCA Sports Day 21st March 2010

Quite a crowd turned up in the sunshine for Old Caterhamians' Sports Afternoon. It was good to see all the players and their parents, friends and supporters enjoying the games. Presentations were made to the winners by Dave Clark during afternoon tea at 4pm.

### ■ Sports Results

- Football: 2–1 to the 1st XI School Team with goals scored by Captain Toby Horrocks and Joe Mann
- Hockey: School 1st XI lost 9–0 to Old Cats
- Netball: Old Cats won 22–20

## AGM Thursday 25th March 2010

We are very pleased to report that The Annual General Meeting at the East India Club was a great success. Thank you to all who attended - it was good to see so many of you there and we are making plans for next year's AGM (and a black tie bicentenary dinner in March 2012) to be held at the East India Club again. We welcomed Denis Tindley as our new President. John Grimshaw was presented with an engraved trowel and fork and thanks were given for his two years' service as President to the Association. John has very kindly decided to remain with us as a Committee Member for the next two years. Denis Tindley paid tribute to John Mortimer who had served the Association so well as Editor for many years. New Committee Members – Bob Fairall, John Jones and David Rogers were elected, the Constitution was changed and we were given an introduction to the plans for our Bicentenary celebrations. After business was done, we moved on to a well-earned glass of wine and a bite to eat.

## Summer OC Cricket Afternoon 27th June 2010

Regrettably this event had to be cancelled this year due to the World Cup football match, as we were unable to raise more than three players. We apologise to all those who came to the School and were disappointed.

## ■ The Caterham School Year

### Main Events and Developments

Despite the recession, this has been another very successful year for pupil recruitment, although the process has taken a little longer than in previous years. All indications are that the School will be full for September 2010. Enquiries are up +4% on year ago and many more enquirers have been turned away because the year groups have been full.

In 2009 Caterham School students once again achieved very good results in their A Level examinations, enabling the School to retain its top 100 position in the Independent Schools League Table produced by The Daily Telegraph. The Times produces a more detailed analysis and assessing performance against other co-educational schools using the top grades, ie A grades in A Levels and A\*grades in GCSEs, we were ranked 33rd and 11th respectively. However, perhaps the most important aspect of the A Level results in 2009 was that all students were able to accept a place at university, with 83% going to one in the top tier. It was an extremely difficult year for students seeking university places as demand far outstripped supply, so this success was a major achievement and is a key message for prospective pupils and their families.

However, we also want to communicate that Caterham is much more than “just” an academic school. We want prospective (and existing) families to understand that the School aims to provide an excellent all-round education so that every pupil can achieve his or her full potential academically and socially, thereby helping to prepare them for their life at university and beyond. The School has summarised this proposition as an ‘Education for Life’ and this aspiration is reinforced across all marketing material.

As marketing is such a mix of activity it is difficult to identify specific areas of success. The website continues to attract interest with 21,000 visits per month, up 30% on year ago. The mailing programme to Prep and Junior schools remains a key activity and we are continuing to strengthen relationships with overseas agents to attract high quality international students. The outstanding ISI Report received earlier this year has been promoted far and wide and builds on the excellent OFSTED Report on boarding.

Marketing the school is not just the act of one person. Pupils, parents and former pupils continue to play a significant role as key ambassadors. Additionally, staff and governors continue to contribute to the successful marketing of the School through the tasks that they perform and the messages they communicate every time they encounter parents and the wider community.

The next few years are likely to be challenging, as the economic climate will remain difficult for parents. Consequently, other schools will continue to strengthen their marketing activity. However, we have established a relevant message and continue to take a pragmatic approach within the context of a clear understanding of the long term objectives. This enables us to be cautiously optimistic about the future.

Alan Howe, Marketing Director

## ■ 119th Annual General Meeting

39 Members and the Headmaster were present. The Chairman, Dave Craft, took the chair. The Chairman began the meeting by reading out the names of the 34 'absent friends' whose deaths had been notified since the last AGM. The minutes of the 118th AGM were signed as correct.

### Treasurer's Report

Denis produced the full Accounts. The surplus for 2009 was £13,175, 4% above 2008, and a very satisfactory result. £1,000 was donated to the Lerang'wa crisis appeal, and £6,000 to the Millennium Fund. The Bicentenary Fund now stands at £27,000. The Accounts were formally adopted unanimously.

The Old Caterhamians Trust had a quiet year, but had maintained the grant to the School at £14,000, which supports five pupils. Denis proposed Sandie Kirk and John Mathias as Trustees for a further four-year term and their appointments were approved by the meeting.

The meeting endorsed the Trustees' proposal that the Trust should become the basis of a broader trust that would raise funds for the School from all the 'Caterham family'

## **Archivist's Report**

Colin Bagnall told us how a reference to William Wilberforce as a Subscriber to the School in its early years had come to light and brought to our attention that we now have a 'Wilberforce Connection'. The old dining hall is to be called the Wilberforce Hall and there has been a Wilberforce Bursary started which was awarded to the first pupil on the 25th March 2010.

The digitisation of the School Magazine, 'OC' and Newsletters, School, OC and EOGA Newsletters is taking shape and it is eventually hoped the facility will be placed on the OCA website. It is hoped this will facilitate time-saving searches.

The mobile archival shelving has been a gift to the School from the Association and thanks were given to the Bursar for the static shelving in the pre-storage room.

The Roger Deayton and Mary Leathem interviews are now finished.

Jenny King from the local library is to make some of the Bunce Brothers' archived photographs available for purchase by the School.

Dave Craft thanked Colin for his hard work and support.

## **Sports Club Report**

Bill Broadhead told us that the Club had been hampered with injury again this year but financially the future remains secure.

The Club is still running the youth teams and mini rugby every Sunday.

A small cricket pavilion is to be erected, planning for floodlights on the pitch is getting started and pitch drainage work is underway.

The club remains in good heart and strength of character and Bill informed us that he was holding Rugby Club archival information and photographs that had been donated to the Club.

## **Headmaster's Report**

Julian thanked us all for the invitation to the AGM and told us he was most impressed with the venue. He was wondering why there are two Caterham School plaques on the stairwell wall though! Julian thanked John Grimshaw for bringing the School and the OCA together.

The School is in good form and the numbers are up to 820 in the Senior

School making a grand total of circa 1,100 including the Preparatory School. We have come a long way from 6 pupils at inception to the present day totals!

The Admissions process for the next academic year has finished and the School seems to be very popular with many applications.

The Governance of the School has changed and Bill Broadhead has stepped down as Chairman. Julian thanked Bill for his support.

The School had been inspected in the week of the AGM by the Independent School Inspectorate and Julian was pleased to tell us that the School is now 'regulatorily compliant' which is a great achievement.

## **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The following positions were proposed:

Denis Tindley was proposed as President by Rodney Lyons, Sir Alex Harley seconded this and all were in favour.

Colin Bagnall was proposed for re-election as Archivist by John Grimshaw and all were in favour.

Bill Broadhead was proposed as Vice President by Denis Tindley, Dave Craft seconded this and all were in favour.

Dave Craft was proposed for re-election as Chairman by Denis Tindley and all were in favour.

The following Committee Members were proposed by Denis Tindley:

- Mark Harriott
- John Short
- John Grimshaw
- David Rogers
- John Jones
- Bob Fairall

All were in favour.

## ■ Treasurer's Report to the AGM 25th March 2010

The surplus for 2009 was £13,175, 4% above 2008, and a very satisfactory result. Subscription income rose by 8%, but interest receivable was insignificant compared with previous years, reflecting the virtual disappearance of interest on savings accounts. Expenditure rose by less than 5%. Although we have had increased postage costs we have been able to contain design and printing costs for our publications. We also benefited from the Bursar kindly agreeing to a reduced charge for administration for 2009. We purchased the shelving for the archive room, and continued to support Colin Bagnall in his excellent work. We donated £1,000 to the Lerang'wa crisis appeal, and our donation to the Millennium Fund was increased to £6,000 to help maintain the current level of bursary funding.

OCs will be pleased to know that the work on the Mottram memorial has finally been completed after lengthy bureaucratic delays.

I have again this year transferred £3,000 from the surplus to the Bicentenary Fund which now stands at £27,000.

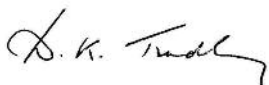
I anticipate achieving a smaller, but acceptable, surplus in 2010.

I am very grateful for the support of our President, Chairman and Committee, the assistance I have received from Alina Rennie, and the support of the Headmaster and Bursar. As always, I am indebted to Alan Blake Thomas for examining the accounts.

# Old Caterhamians' Association

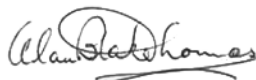
## Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2009

	Note	2009 £	2008 £
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and Investments held:			
Barclays Savings A/c		1,244	1,243
National Savings Inv. A/c		28,321	28,209
Lloyds TSB Savings A/c		20,284	20,273
Lloyds TSB cheque A/c		36,984	22,181
Paypal Internet A/c		185	
		87,018	71,906
Sundry debtors		15,000	15,000
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>£102,018</b>	<b>£86,906</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Outside liabilities			
Sundry Creditors		4,032	1,915
		4,032	1,915
Future Income Received in Advance			
Life membership fund		2,043	2,223
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>£6,075</b>	<b>£4,138</b>
<b>NET FUNDS</b> (as shown below)		<b>£95,943</b>	<b>£82,768</b>
<b>RESERVE FUND</b>			
Brought forward		58,768	49,105
Surplus for year		13,175	12,663
Less Allocation to Bicentenary Fund	1	-3,000	-3,000
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<b>68,943</b>	<b>58,768</b>
<b>BICENTENARY "2011" FUND</b>		<b>27,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>
		<b>£95,943</b>	<b>£82,768</b>



Denis Tindley (Hon. Treasurer)  
19th February 2010

I have examined the above balance sheet and the attached income & expenditure account and having received satisfactory explanations and answers to my queries find that they are in accord with the underlying records of the Association and report that in my opinion with the attached notes they give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 31st December 2009 and of the result for the year ended on that date.



Alan Blake Thomas  
18th March 2010

**Old Caterhamians' Association**  
**Income & Expenditure Account 2009**  
**Year ended 31st December**

	Note	2009 £	2008 £
<b>Income</b>			
Subscriptions received	2	51,873	47,975
Donations received			200
Sales		297	552
Interest receivable	3	127	1,308
		<b>52,297</b>	<b>50,034</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Communications</b>			
Caterhamian		270	287
Annual Review		3,302	3,167
Newsletters		10,048	8,956
<b>Administration</b>			
Admin/office	4	10,210	15,261
Website		541	1,246
Corporation tax		27	271
<b>Events</b>			
OC days		571	1,035
Golf			104
Colesbourne		-185	
<b>Donations</b>	5	8,831	5,063
<b>Archive project</b>	6	5,507	1,981
		<b>39,122</b>	<b>37,371</b>
<b>Surplus on normal operations</b>		<b>13,175</b>	<b>12,663</b>
Less Transfer to Bicentenary Fund		-3,000	-3,000
<b>Increase/Reduction in Reserve Funds</b>		<b>10,175</b>	<b>9,663</b>

## Notes to the 2009 Accounts

### Balance Sheet

#### 1. Allocation to Bicentenary Fund:

As advised at the 2003 AGM, a designated fund has been established to support the Association's activities in the School's bicentenary year 2011. £3,000 has been allocated from this year's accounts. The fund's total is now £27,000.

### Income & Expenditure Account

#### 2. Interest receivable:

The low figure reflects the dramatic fall in rates in 2009

#### 3. Subscriptions received:

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Caterham School*	47,760	43,958
Members	3,748	3,664
Life Fund**	365	353
	<b>51,873</b>	<b>47,975</b>

\* AGM 1990 resolution: "Caterham School will fund life membership for pupils and subscriptions will take into the current year's income. If numbers drop, or for any reason this scheme has to be abandoned, the OCA may have an unfunded liability."

\*\* By Committee resolution, one fifteenth of the Life Fund is applied to subscriptions received each year.

**4. Admin/Office:** Your Treasurer and the Bursar agreed a lower charge from the School this year in return for lower than budgeted parental subscriptions. This will not apply in future years.

#### 5. Donations:

	<b>£</b>
Bursary Fund	500
School prizes & Prep School leavers' books	600
School activities	148
Staff leaving gifts & honorary membership	283
OC Sports Club	300
OC Trust	6,000
Lerang'wa crisis appeal	1,000
	<b>8,831</b>

**6. Archive Project:** Payment for shelving, equipment and system support.

## ■ **The Old Caterhamians' Trust**

### **Report by Denis Tindley, Chairman**

It has again been a quiet year for the Trust. The trustees have been encouraged by the continuing support of our regular donors, but there have been fewer new donors and 'one-off' donations. Our grant to the School for bursaries was maintained at £14,000, which supports five pupils. As I said last year, in the present financial climate we expect donations to continue at a modest level and we have, of course, experienced a sharp fall in interest receivable. We are most grateful to the OCA for increasing its donation in 2009.

#### **Trustees:**

Sandie Kirk and John Mathias are standing for re-election for a further 4-year term. I seek the AGM's approval for these appointments.

#### **2011 Bicentenary:**

Following discussions between the Headmaster, Association and the Trust, it was agreed that it is not the right time to launch a major appeal for bursaries. The reasons are:

1. The current financial climate is unfavourable.
2. We do not have the resources to undertake a successful fund raising exercise.
3. Our current alumni database is unacceptably low at one third of the size of many comparable schools.

We agreed that we all should work together towards increasing the database during 2011/2012, and that the Trust should become the basis of a broader trust that would raise funds for the School from all the 'Caterham family'. Our Objects should require little or no amendment.

The trustees have accepted this proposal and the School will now commence the necessary legal work. I would be grateful for the AGM's endorsement of the direction we are proposing to take.

The trustees are very grateful to all OCs who have donated to the Millennium Fund, and to Anne Bailey and the EOGA for their continuing valuable support.

I thank my fellow trustees, Alina Rennie, our administrator, and Alan Blake Thomas, who examines our accounts, for all their work on behalf of the Trust.

## ■ OCs Working at The School

Welcome to Gareth Algar, Rebecca Bownas and Henry Jones who have taken up Gap Assistant positions at the School this academic year. Lorne Barnard, Matthew Owen, Rosie Dell and Natalie Francis are staying on for another year.

Also, if you are considering a career in teaching... then please get in touch. We always need gap graduates to assist with sports coaching, drama, art and music. This applies as much to recent university leavers as to more 'mature' OCs who may feel like a career break!!

## ■ OCA Register

**Honorary Members:** Keith Simpson and Helen Smith

**New Members 2010:** Frederick Guy Hector Jackson, 1946-1953  
Derek Harold Shuff, 1945-1953  
John R Hodgkins, 1947-1954  
David Cecil Peck, 1942-1951  
Clive Howard Furness, 1971-1978

### 6th Form Leavers:

A. Ardron	J. Bungay	C. Fortune	R. Hon
W. Atkins	T. Chiu	N. Fresko	T. Horrocks
H. Bainbridge	C. Chow	J. Frith	S. Hristova
J. Bannister	A. Clark	H. Gibbons	Y. Hsu
M. Barber	R. Clarke	E. Gilbert	K. Hu
R. Barron	S. Colman	R. Goddard	W. Hudson
R. Bartholomeusz	D. Cooper-Parry	A. Gordon	J. Hutchings
E. Bashford	R. Crammond	G. Gowers	C. Ingham
M. Basma	E. Croft	T. Grant	H. Jerrard
R. Baylarbayov	N. Dungarwalla	N. Greenhalgh	R. Johns
R. Baylarbayov	E. Edwards	Z. Gu	C. Kendall
V. Belchambers	S. Edwards	A. Hajiyev	A. Krag
A. Bhat	K. Erskine	S. Harper-Booth	K. Lau
A. Bishop	X. Feng	J. Henderson	K. Lau
A. Bownas	M. Fenton	C. Heron	P. Lerpiniere
C. Brown	M. Field	R. Hickmott	W. Leung
C. Budianto	J. Fitzsimmons	J. Higginson	B. Lewis
E. Buggins	J. Flanagan	A. Hinkson	J. Li

N. Lilani	C. Moore	A. Sadler	R. Todd
X. Lin	W. Murch	G. Sakandelidze	S. Vincent
J. Lloyd	C. Murphy	M. Scarpa	A. Walmsley
L. Lobbes	S. Nagarajah	K. Se	R. Wan
G. Longworth	W. Ng	E. Sheldon	R. Ward
Y. Lou	D. Nicholls	G. Sherlock	I. Ware
H. Ma	E. O'Brien	N. Skinner	E. Warner
S. Ma	H. Paine	R. Smith	L. Williams
F. Maude	J. Parsons	S. Spathas	A. Wilson
C. May	G. Pickford	D. Speller	A. Wilson
E. McCartney	C. Pollard	H. Spence	J. Wong
K. McClumpha	S. Qian	R. Spurgeon	H. Wright
R. McNley	A. Quinn	E. Steven-Fountain	Y. Wu
J. McLaren	C. Rennison	J. Sullivan	J. Xu
L. McSheen	E. Rhodes	D. Terrey	H. Ye
G. Mills	S. Riches	G. Thomas	Z. Zhao
R. Milton	E. Roach	S. Thomeczek	D. Zhexemaliyev
S. Moore	L. Rowlands	A. Tikhturova	

## ■ In Memoriam 2009–2010

Robert A Blackwood	1928 – 1936
Alan Blake Thomas	1955 – 1964
David Christopher Boorman	1975 – 1982
Raymond William Aeneas Bottoms	1934 – 1941
Martin H. Briggs	1925 – 1932
J.I. Edwards	1942 – 1948
David Raban Gatward	1946 – 1953
Andrew Offen Grigg	1953 – 1959
Robert Head	1961 – 1968
Nicholas Johnston ( <i>teacher at Prep School</i> )	
Mary Leathem ( <i>Widow of Terry Leathem, Headmaster 1949–1973</i> )	
Miss Martin ( <i>Secretary to the Head of Prep School</i> )	1940 – 1973
David Morgan Jones	1930 – 1936
John Mortimer	1935 – 1945
Nicholas Howard Mugford	1966 – 1975
Frederick Needham	1942 – 1945
John Lewis Price	1937 – 1945

Geoffrey Pyner	1929 – 1932
Sandy Ross ( <i>former Bursar &amp; Director of Cricket</i> )	1996 – 2009
Donald Simpson	1945 – 1952
Stephen Rider Smith ( <i>Headmaster</i> )	1974 – 1995
D.C. Wastnage	1931 – 1939

## Obituaries



### **Stephen Rider Smith** – A Tribute by Sean Hayes

Stephen Smith was born in India on Trafalgar Day, 21st October 1934 to Parents who were Missionaries in the State of Bangalore. His initial schooling was at Highclere School in Kodikanai and it was a pleasure to hear David Firth recall, at Stephen’s memorial service, those times with fondness as the American mission school delivered a very American education.

George Washington and the civil war were clearly served up to everyone and the Battle of Hastings never got a look in. It was a relief to hear that the boys were the same as the rest of the world in their delight in making mud balls and then baking them in the hot Indian sun to be used in their ‘catties’ at a later date.

At the end of the Second World War he moved to England and the school for Missionaries at Eltham College in South East London. Here his embryonic leadership and sporting qualities began to be noticed and it was no surprise to see him end up as Deputy Head Boy, captain of Rugby and a well respected member of the school by all who encountered him. Many of his Indian contemporaries have fond memories of him by making them feel welcome and easing the cross-cultural adjustment from India to post-war Britain. It was here that his practical capabilities and perseverance to see the job through, as well as his readiness to see the best side in everyone were first noted.

After school, he completed his National Service in Aldershot and his prowess on the Rugby field came to national notice by his selection for Hampshire and the Combined Services. He followed this by going up to Emmanuel College Cambridge where he read Geography and went on to captain the University in the 1959 Varsity match and he was also capped twice by England that year. He then entered teaching at Harrow where he had 5 happy years during

which time he married Helen, and saw the birth of the first of his children. He continued with his Rugby, playing and captaining Richmond and helping out with the Harrow junior XV's and adding three more caps for England. It was due to be four but illness, while in Dublin the day before the Ireland match, put paid to that.

The lure of India became too strong and Helen and Stephen decided to return to take up missionary work. It was not all plain sailing and there were many crises to overcome, not least the dreadful experience of losing their elder son in a tragic accident. There was also the help and comfort they gave to thousands of refugees displaced in the revolution that led to the birth of the Bangladesh nation. His organisation and determination were seen to the fore at this desperate time for the people of that region. As the children got older and secondary school was looming the family returned to England and he took up a Housemastership at Birkenhead School. He had hardly got his feet under the table when the post of Headmaster of Caterham became available. And so he began his longest and most high profile job of his career.

He came to Caterham at a tumultuous time in political educational history. Labour had just returned to Government and one of the first decisions was to remove the Direct Grant. Caterham was one of these schools affected and had the choice to join the Maintained sector or go entirely independent. Under his leadership the latter was chosen without any financial backing, the only source of income was the fees. Having successfully navigated the school through this hurdle, the incoming Conservative government effectively reversed the decision and offered Assisted Places. These were taken up by the school and did allow a large number of Caterhamians to come to the school that otherwise would have not been able to have the chance. The number of boarders also began to decline but Stephen and Helen went out to Hong Kong and Malaysia to recruit replacement boarders.

Money was always tight and Don Mear recalls that the Board hardly had 'two pennies to rub together' but this did not unduly bother him as he ignored them and made the impossible possible with a variety of fund raising events and generous donations from Old Caterhamians. The Humphreys Hall was one of these projects and its use to the school and wider community today for all sorts of functions continues to impress.

His ideas and innovations continued to flow; he introduced a chaplain for the first time, chose a deputy Head from outside the Common room, appointed a

senior management team and in 1981 introduced girls into the Sixth Form. This last move was the prerequisite for his final stamp on the school, full coeducation. This came about with the merger with Eothen. Don Mear reported at Stephen's memorial service that the move was strongly opposed by a vociferous minority of Trustees but Stephen drove it through and the excellent school that is now Caterham is directly linked to his drive, determination and foresight back in the early 1990's.

The school campus also continued to grow and the merger did allow major expansion and the initial projects that quickly came to fruition were the Eothen building, where he laid the Foundation Stone and Sports centre, rightly named after him in 2008. The common room also expanded along with the school role and high quality staff were appointed, a number of whom have since gone on to achieve Headships of their own. One former colleague described him as the most inspirational teacher he had met in the profession.

In 1995 he retired from teaching but did not retire from life. As his son David said at his memorial service, 'He never dwelt on his achievements but got on with the next job.' His deep Christian faith meant help and organisation in his local URC church, first in Sussex and then in Marlow when Stephen and Helen moved to be nearer the family which he loved so much.

Stephen will be remembered by many for all the achievements he made but, as noted in the Times obituary, at Caterham he will be remembered for his determination and resolution in what he wanted to do at the school.



### **John Mortimer (1935 – 1942)**

Henry Richards has sent us his tribute to John:

When John lost his battle in March 2010 against the ravages of a massive stroke, sustained over four years previously, the OCA lost one of its longest serving and most devoted officers. He joined the OCs soon after leaving school and his membership covered almost seven decades. The President, Denis Tindley has written movingly of John's seventeen year stint as the Editor of the OC magazine.

He was also a Vice-President of the school.

John was the third child of the Rev. and Mrs. Fernley Mortimer, a Congregational minister and his wife and when he entered Mottrams in 1935

his older brother, Gerald, was already a prefect in the senior school. An older sister, Peggy, who survives him, was at Milton Mount School.

It was an idyllic life at Mottrams for small boys. World War 2 was then four years away.

The Headmaster, Mr. Soderberg was benevolent but firm and the Housemaster, Mr. Short was kindness personified. Like many, John was not enamoured when the former instituted his version of a " Swedish Breakfast"! He always spoke kindly of the matron, Miss Burgess, and her deputy, Miss Odling.

Lessons were at Shirley Goss and the teaching was relaxed and friendly. Leisure activities played a large part in the life of the school and John was prominent in many of them especially roller skating on the then new rink & the scout troop. He recalled how some scouts went camping over the OCs' summer long weekend reunion, so that the Old Boys could use their beds for the Saturday and Sunday nights in order to take part in the tennis tournament on the Monday.

On Sunday mornings the whole of Mottrams walked along Harestone Valley Road to the Congregational Church where the rear balcony was reserved for us. We were escorted there and back by two senior prefects and John was always so proud when it was Gerald's turn to be in charge. Fortunately traffic on the road then was very light.

In due course we passed into the Main School but by that time World War 2 had begun & there were lots of air raid precautionary jobs to be done – taking the heavy wooden doors from the toilets and using them to protect the windows of the assembly hall on the ground floor against blast damage, digging air raid trenches on the hill above the Memorial Hall and learning to use the tubular fire escapes from the top floor dormitories. In spite of the school being near Kenley and Croydon aerodromes it managed to escape serious damage.

John will be remembered by his contemporaries as a powerful front row forward for two seasons in the school 1st XV in 1941 and 1942. He was awarded his school colours and his house colours for hockey and was involved in cross country running. He recalled how the M25 construction cut across several of the old courses. He was a member of the ATC.

After matriculating he left school and started to train in engineering but was

soon called up into the army with the Royal Engineers where he was involved in mine laying and building Bailey bridges in Northern Europe. He was taken prisoner for a short time but was released by the advancing British Army. He finished his Army career at Chatham and he was highly commended by his Commanding Officer. He captained the HQ rugby team. It was during this time that he decided to become a school master.

There can be very little doubt that his decision was greatly influenced by his experiences with Mr. Soderberg and Mr Short at Mottrams and Mr Arthur Davies-Jones in the main school. The latter, a distinguished OC and long time Editor of the school magazine was the classics master in the senior school. His insistence on the correct use of the English language, spoken and written, left a deep impression on John, whose beautifully constructed hand written letters in later years bore testimony to that. When he became the Editor of the OC magazine he always maintained the format and meticulous standards set by "A D-J". John had a fine singing voice and was also a violinist in the school orchestra and played at the Sunday evening services then held in the Memorial Hall. He was in the chorus for the unforgettable performances of the 1937 Mikado in which the Headmaster took the leading role.

From the Army, John went to the Borough Road Training College to train as a specialist PE teacher with Geography as an additional subject – no doubt his inspiration for that came from memories of Mr. Hubert Walker who on his last school report commented that "John already has shown exceptional powers of leadership". He captained the Borough Road college rugby team and after graduating he joined the Wasps RFC until demands on his time made it impossible.

His teaching career began at a senior boys' school but he transferred to a junior school which had a Nursery section for three year olds and a Partial Hearing department being responsible for the care of the little children's early education and teaching some with hearing difficulties had great appeal to John who had congenital hearing difficulties himself....He climbed the ladder eventually becoming the Headmaster of Kingsbury Junior School in North London where he remained until he retired in 1986.

Whilst at college and for several years afterwards he helped at his Father's church running the Boy's Brigade and assisting in the Sunday school & was the assistant Church secretary. It was here, in 1947, that he first met Vera and they married in 1950– a union which brought them great joy and happiness for almost 60 years. They had two sons whose careers and children filled them both with pride.

After his retirement in 1986 John and Vera settled in a quiet part of Sussex where his passion for gardening was given full rein. It was a joy to behold. In January 2006 John suffered a massive stroke which left him completely paralysed on one side and with other complications.

Notwithstanding his frail condition he was determined to visit the school in his wheelchair whenever he could - the last time was only a few weeks before he lapsed into a coma.

Throughout the more than a thousand days and nights of his distressing illness he was cared for at home by Vera with great devotion, almost single-handedly. Visiting John and Vera in the last few years of his life was distressing. One remembered this once strong powerfully built front row forward but now helpless and beyond medical aid & totally dependent on others. He bore his terminal illness with uncomplaining dignity.

There were several OCs, including the President, and a former Headmaster and masters at his funeral as well as many of his former teaching colleagues whose messages reflected the impact he had made on so many whose lives he had touched.

All at Caterham who knew John will wish to send to Vera – an Honorary OC herself - and her family their very deepest sympathy coupled with admiration for the way she cared for John in his final years.

Vera Mortimer would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral, offered support, gave donations, sent flowers, letters and cards – she is very touched by the kindness and sympathy.



### **Alan Blake Thomas (1955 – 1964)**

Simon Ely has sent us the following:

Alan was born into a Caterham family – his 3 brothers and their father were all at the school. My father was also a Caterham boy, and Alan and I had already met when we joined the Prep School in 1955. Our firm friendship lasted for over 55 years.

Alan's association with the school continued throughout his life, and there were several boys there who were to become lifelong friends. On leaving Caterham Alan became articled, and in due course qualified as a Chartered Accountant. Soon after, he decided to see more of the world, and his travels

took him to Australia, where he joined Esso and started to put down his roots.

However, in the 1970s Alan developed Hodgkins Lymphoma - a form of cancer of the blood which reduced his life expectancy, and it was a shock to see how his body had wasted when he visited UK in the late 1970s. His marriage at that time to an Australian girl was not a success, and after a stay of over 20 years in Australia Alan decided to return to England.

His life changed when in 2000 Alan married Eileen Mills, a friend and neighbour, and the subsequent years up to his death were some of the happiest of his life. Eileen's sons became the family Alan had never had, and their mutual liking and respect was a pleasure to see. Alan and Eileen enjoyed entertaining their wide circle of friends, and a barbecue washed down with generous amounts of Australian Shiraz was Alan's speciality!

In all the time since leaving school Alan had kept up his membership of Tandridge Golf Club, and he often said that Tandridge was the reason for his return to UK! He certainly enjoyed his golf there, and he and I had many memorable skirmishes over 50 years both here and abroad.

When Alan set up his own Accountancy practice, he became involved with several companies in the Caterham/Godstone area, and also joined my own wine company in Cheshire as Finance Director, where his accountancy knowledge kept us on the straight and narrow. Alan was always conscientious about the business, but we usually managed to fit in some golf around board meetings (or perhaps it was the other way round!).

For several years Alan helped Young Enterprise students at the school, and in later years he assisted with examining the OC accounts. Only last year Alan initiated a successful OC golf match versus the school at Tandridge, something which he hoped would become a regular event.

St Nicholas church, Godstone, was packed for his funeral, and no less than 6 Old Boys from our school year alone joined the congregation – a great reflection of the comradeship and affection in which Alan was held.

We extend our deep sympathy to Eileen and Alan's family in their loss.

## **David Christopher Boorman (1975 – 1982)**

An obituary was kindly sent to us by Roy Elliott:

It is with great regret that I report that David died on 23rd March 2010 in Derby where he had lived for 24 years. He had been diagnosed some 9 months before as having cancer and had undergone a series of painful operations and radiotherapy that proved to be unsuccessful. Typically he spent his last days thinking of ways of softening the effects of his absence upon his family, long time partner Jenny and close friends. His last wish was to marry Jenny, which he did, in hospital just hours before he died.

David was a studious pupil at Caterham and left with nine O Levels and three A Levels under his belt. A highlight of his school days was a visit to St. James's Palace on 30th June 1982 to receive his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award personally from Prince Philip. After leaving School he had a year with Cambridge Tutors before taking a place at the University of Aston where he gained a BSc Hons in Mechanical Engineering in 1986. He joined Rolls Royce directly after graduating and remained with them for the duration of his career, rising to become an Associate Project Manager in 2007. In 1991 he had taken a career enhancing step by attending a Business School in Derby from which he obtained an MSc in Advanced Manufacturing Management; and followed that in 1992 by taking part in an Integrated Management Development Scheme. David went on to become a Chartered Engineer in 1999.

Apart from those nearest and dearest to him, the great love of David's life was all things mechanical and cars in particular. Outside of work David avidly pursued his interest in high performance cars. His pride and joy was an immaculately maintained TVR Tuscan kept largely for motor racing and TVR Car Club events. He was an enthusiastic member of the TVR Car Club, attending and thoroughly enjoying as many of their organised events as his work commitments would allow. It was also a matter of personal pride that induced him to qualify for an Association of Racing Drivers Schools (ARDS) Licence for racing in Public Events. He still found time to attend major race meetings such as the Le Mans 24 Hours Race and at Donnington Park, often with my son, Mark Elliott. David acted as Best Man at Mark's wedding and they remained firm and constant friends from school days.

At David's funeral service, short appreciations were given by his sister, Patricia (1983 – 1985), Mark Elliott (1976-1981) and his brother-in-law. Also present were James Filmer (1974 – 1980) with his wife and Roy Elliott (1944-49). I greatly appreciate having retained David's friendship for 36 years in spite of the age differential and grieve that such a promising life has been cut short. Our sympathy is extended to both of his parents, Gillian and Brian, and his sister Patricia.

### **Donald Simpson (1945 – 1952)**

Edward Starmer (1943 – 1951) very kindly sent us Donald's obituary (abridged version) from the Racing Post:

Donald Simpson, who died suddenly on March 1, graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 1960 and began his association with the National Stud after it moved to Newmarket in 1963. He won acclaim for his work identifying and containing the spread of CEM [contagious equine metritis], which arrived in the UK in 1977. Simpson subsequently advised other countries on the disease and its management, and was instrumental in establishing a code of practice, now developed in the HBLB code of practice on equine infectious diseases, which is updated and published annually for use across Europe. Simpson also had a long standing association with trainer Sir Mark Prescott, and regularly provided veterinary advice for Poonawalla Stud Farms in India and the British Bloodstock Agency.

Donald leaves his wife Joan, four children and many grandchildren.

### **Donald Charles Wastnage (1931 – 1939)**

Hilary Tratt (nee Wastnage) wrote to us with the following news:

Donald died on the 15th February 2010. He had been an RAF pilot in WW2. He became a member of the Institute of Engineers and worked as an Electronics Engineer in Plymouth, Devon. He had a happy retirement with his wife Audrey.

### **Nicholas H. Mugford (1966 – 1975)**

Nicholas' cousin, Richard Fryer emailed to tell us the following:

'I regret to have to inform the School of the sudden death at the end of November of my cousin Nicholas Mugford, who was at School in the years (I think) 1966 to 1975, although as far as I know he was not an OCA

member. (He was definitely in the Third Form in autumn 1970, when I was called in for a brief period to teach Latin to 3A as Tony Horwood was acting Headmaster.) Professionally he was a surveyor and valuer and at the time of his death he was living in Horncastle, Lincs. He is survived by his mother (widow of Kenneth Mugford who was at School in the 1930s), his sister, his brother Timothy (OC), a son, a daughter and his ex-wife.

### **Martin Briggs (1925 – 1931)**

The following tribute to Martin Briggs, who died in December 2009, was written by his son Gordon.

Martin Briggs was born in Whetstone, Middlesex in February 1915. In 1921 the family moved to Coulsdon, and four years later Martin became a “train boy” at Caterham School. Train boys lived in Coulsdon or Purley, and were allowed a half hour shorter day at school than the boys who lived in Caterham.

Martin excelled academically at Caterham School, starting one year ahead of his age and finishing another year ahead. He entered Imperial College, London to study civil engineering at the age of 16 and graduated in 1934. He spent the next 5 years working as a structural engineer in and around London. He played tennis at Coulsdon and rugby for the Old Caterhamians.

Martin volunteered for the army as soon as war broke out in 1939. He enlisted in the ranks as a Royal Engineers sapper, but the story goes that an NCO noticed that, whilst the other recruits had pin-up pictures of film stars inside their locker doors, he had technical drawings of military bridges he was designing, so he was transferred to Officer Training.

By 1941 Martin had been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and was on his way to India, where he resumed his military bridge design activities. He came up with a speedily erected, box girder bridge that attracted the attention of the Chief Engineer in India. Martin built a prototype which was successfully tested. However, another military bridge designer in England was able to work directly with the War Office, who chose his design instead of Martin's. In the event, Bailey Bridges did not arrive on the Burma Front until 2 years after Briggs Bridges, fabricated locally, could have been available.

In 1942 British troops started to advance through Burma from India, Martin building bridges across valleys and rivers as they went. The troops encountered the Japanese, and were driven back into India, Martin blowing

up the bridges he'd built only months earlier, as they retreated. The turning point of the Burma Campaign was at Imphal in 1944, where the Japanese trapped and laid siege to the British Army. The siege was finally broken in the biggest Japanese defeat on land of the war. In his typical, understated way, Martin's account of the siege focussed on the fact that the relieving troops provided a welcome change of Rugby opposition, although the British 2nd Division must have included North Country units, since the matches against them seemed to follow League rather than Union rules. After Imphal, the Allies once again advanced through Burma, Martin rebuilding the bridges he'd previously built, and then blown up. The Race to Rangoon was completed in May 1945. Martin arrived back in England on VJ Day 1946 as an acting Lieutenant Colonel with an OBE, a Mention in Despatches and a lifelong weak stomach from bouts of dysentery.

Post-war, Martin returned to work as a structural engineer. He joined the Territorial Army, and helped rebuild the Old Cats Rugby Club, using his engineering contacts to acquire the pre-fabricated building which is still part of the Queens Park club house. He married Olive in 1948, and in 1950 they bought a large 1870's run-down property known as The Mound, in Caterham. Martin and Olive brought up their 3 children, Gordon, Katharine and Sally at The Mound, where they lived for 28 years. The Mound also hosted Old Cats and Caterham School events over the years.

Martin's commitment to the OCRFC and Caterham School lasted throughout his adult life. He was Captain of the Old Cats from 1946-1947 and Chairman from 1955-1958. He was invited to join the Caterham School Board of Governors and served as Chairman from 1975-1979.

Martin's quiet leadership qualities in his service to the Army, OCRFC and Caterham School were also evident in his career in structural engineering. He became Managing Director of Sanders & Forster in Stratford, East London, then Chairman, as well as having a seat on the Board of Chamberlain Group. Sanders & Forster was granted the Queens Award for Industry in the 1970's under his leadership.

In 1978 Martin and Olive moved to Old School in Nutfield. Retirement, and living in a village after the relative isolation of The Mound, allowed them both to participate fully in local activities. Martin's membership of Nutfield clubs included walking, wine making and bowls. But his keenest passion at Old School was the large garden – and he could still be seen negotiating the paddock and orchard on his ride-on mower at the age of 88. Martin and

Olive spent 26 years together at Old School until Olive died in 2004. In 2006 Martin moved to Tupwood Gate Nursing Home, less than a mile away from Caterham School and The Mound, where his wish to be reunited with Olive was granted on Boxing Day 2009.



## **Nick Johnston**

A tribute from the Prep School Head, Mr Tuckett.

During the middle of this academic year we received the very sad news that Nick Johnston, a long serving member of Prep staff and even after his eventual retirement, an active member of the Prep School community had sadly passed away.

Nick Johnston was famous within the Caterham community as being all that a school master should be. Deeply caring, principled and firm on all matters pertaining to manners and good form, he tempered the more austere aspects of great school mastering with a wicked sense of humour and very sensibly applying the rules and spirit of the great game of cricket to all other parts of life.

I came along just in time to overlap the final few years of Nick's time at this school. My own son benefited enormously from Nick's tutelage and cricket coaching, a gift that Gareth, Colleen and I will always be very grateful for.

To my mind Nick was one of the great school masters. The kind of teacher who inspired me as a schoolboy myself and as a young teacher starting out that this was the kind of teacher I wanted to be. One for whom the pastoral aspect of primary age teaching is as important as academic development.

Even though I was lucky enough to get to know Nick quite well in the three years or so that our respective lives at Caterham overlapped, Nick, once away from the school site, was a very private person. I have had a very difficult time in finding anything else out about him. It appears though that Nick joined Caterham School shortly after completing his military career, where he served in intelligence. Nick lived in a flat in Mottrams as a boarder master for the bulk of his teaching career, in addition to his teaching, Nick took special responsibility for school drama and, inevitably, the coaching of cricket.

I was delighted to receive a letter from Mrs Brown, one of Nick's sisters in which she shares family memories of Nick's life. I thought that a written

tribute to Nick should include a selection of a few selected sentences from Mrs Brown's letter about her brother's life.

Mrs Brown writes:

*Nico was a teacher from the start. Nico sincerely loved all his pupils. His stories of them have passed into family legend. Nico sympathised with his childrens' sorrows and gloried in their achievements, they probably know.*

*After our widowed mother's stroke, Nico's care of her was beautiful to see. After his own stroke, his family tried to give him the care he had given our mother. His ashes lie with hers and our father's in their big Victorian garden.*

*Nick loved Clark Gable, Alistair Sim, Jamie Dee and Spencer Tracy.*

*He disliked sportsmen who embraced each other on the pitch, cheap sausages, Gene Kelly and Tony Blair.*

Those of us who knew Nick, and many more who have gone before us, I am sure would like to join me in thanking our good Lord for blessing us with the life of Nick Johnston at Caterham Prep School.

I would like to thanks the Old Caterhamians' Association who have undertaken to make an annual award to the Prep School in Nick's memory. These funds will cover the annual cost of a cricket prize, to be known hereafter as the Nick Johnston Cricket Trophy. These funds will also be put towards the provision of sports honours boards, to be displayed in the new pavilion in Nick's name. We are very grateful to the Old Caterhamians for this provision.

## **Mary Leathem talks to Colin Bagnall, the School Archivist**

Mary Leathem was part of the life of Caterham School for sixty years. She died on the 28th July 2010. As many Old Caterhamians will know, she was the wife of Terry Leathem, Headmaster from 1950 to 1973, and in later years became a Foundation Member, participating in most important school events. She and Terry moved on his retirement to Townend, Caterham-on-the-Hill.

Mary, who was 93, was born in Cheriton Fitzpaine in Devon, fourteen miles from Exeter. The following are edited extracts from an interview she gave last year to Colin Bagnall, the School Archivist.

### ***Did you enjoy being the wife of the headmaster of Caterham School?***

Oh, I loved it. I think we all loved it. It was such a very happy school. One was sort of happily busy.

### ***What did you enjoy most about it?***

The companionship, all the different people – the teachers of course, the matrons, the secretarial staff – they were all so extraordinarily helpful and nice. It was a lovely, warm set-up.

### ***Do any members of staff stand out for you?***

Dear Soder (*Percy Soderberg, master 1925-66, Headmaster of the Prep School 1935-66*) was a great friend of the family. I was very fond of the two matrons of Mottrams, too – Miss Burgess and Miss Odling. They were lovely women. And in our own school we had the identical twins, the two Miss Stanburys. We had one, and then their father died, so the second sister joined her. She was at the school for years. Olive was in Beech Hanger, and May was in Lewisham, I think [actually Townsend].

### ***What did your father do?***

My father was the headmaster of the village school. He died of pneumonia when I was seven and my brother was fourteen ... I went to the local high school, which was very good. I really grew up in very lovely countryside, and there was lots of tennis and walks and cycle-rides.

### ***Were you a sporting person at school?***

Very. Tennis and hockey.

### ***Were you captain of those?***

Hockey, no, tennis, yes And Head Girl, I think – yes.

### ***How did you and Terry meet?***

It was at a dance. I was at the Maria Grey Teachers' Training College in Brondesbury – a Froebel-based college, training people to teach anybody under the age of twelve. I was there from 1935 to 1938. I was Students' Union chairman or something or other, so I was organising this dance, and all these friends of mine at the college said, "Well, I'd love to come, but my boyfriend's up in Middlesbrough, or somewhere, right up north. So I then rang my brother, who was teaching maths at Christ's Hospital in Horsham, and said, "Hi, I've got all these girls who would come but don't want to because their boyfriends aren't available – can you provide any partners?" And so he brought, I think, seven! And amongst them was Terry, who was teaching history and modern languages there, and running the OTC.

### *Where did you start teaching, yourself?*

My first teaching job was at a school called Park Side in Horsham. I had also applied at the same time to the Maynard School in Exeter, and the headmistress said, "I'd love to have you, but I can't, because whoever I appoint in our Froebel department has to have a student teacher from Exeter University and supervise her teaching practice, and I can't have you doing that straight out of college, but if you get a year's experience somewhere else, then come to the Maynard." So I did a year at Park Side at Horsham, and then moved to the Maynard, which of course was lovely because it was near my mother, so I lived at Crediton and motored in each day. That would have been 1939 to 40.

It was very soon after I got to Park Side, that Terry became my boyfriend. I dated quite a lot of people when I was in Horsham, but he was the most persistent!

We got married in December, 1939, at St. Michael's, Chester Square, in London, and went for our honeymoon to Tenby. It was very nice, but being 1939 you couldn't go down to the beach because it had barricades all over it. Anyway, while we were there, Terry was called up! Having run the OTC at Christ's Hospital and having languages he was soon called for, you see. So we got a telegram saying he was to report 'with full overseas kit'. He duly ignored it until we were due to come back, which was a few days later, then reported at the War Office. He was in the Territorial Army, the 6th Devons.

He was sent on various courses – then, very soon, it would have been in May 1940, he went to Norway as an Intelligence Officer, complete with a motorbike. There were quite a lot of Intelligence Officers sent out there with a motorbike each – most of them had never ridden one before!

Our Senior Vice-President, Roger Deayton, who was in the RNVR, was apparently serving on the ship at the time.

[After he returned from Norway] I think he went on one or two more training courses, then the War Office told him he was going to Bletchley.

### *And for the rest of the war he was working there on secret stuff which you didn't know about?*

Yes – I just knew it was all secret

### *You didn't know he was working on Enigma?*

No.

***What did you do yourself during the war?***

I taught at a boys' preparatory school, called Swanbourne House School, about six miles away from Bletchley. I took lots of subjects and played soccer with them, too. I got a car – they gave you petrol if you had to drive to a recognised job – and I drove to and fro, and I took with me two or three of the children of the very clever boffins at Bletchley, who had sent their children to Swanbourne House. So that's how the war went.

***And after the war, you had your own children?***

Elizabeth was born in Shrewsbury in 1946, Jack was born in Caterham in 1950, four and a half years between them.

***You've done a lot of charity work for the NSPCC in Caterham - when did you begin that?***

A year after we came, if not less. I was asked to join the committee, and then gradually I started running it. It's a very good committee, and we've raised a lot of money. We have two functions a year, and a house-to-house at Christmas, which does very well, a lot of people involved, but I gave it up about five years ago – I do much, much less now.

***Did you enjoy teaching?***

Very much.

***You've enjoyed most things you've done, actually, haven't you?***

Oh, yes.

***Did you have any ambitions to go any higher than assistant teacher?***

None at all. I was only teaching the wee ones.

***I think you could easily have been a headmistress!***

Perhaps so. I wouldn't have minded that so much. But I was happy as I was.

Mary will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

**We have received notification of the deaths of the following:**

David Morgan Jones, 1930–1936

John de C. Blomfield, 1949 – 1958

Harold Edward Payne, 1937 – 1947

Nicholas Harper, 1950 – 1958

## ■ Officers and Committee Members

### **President:**

DENIS K TINDLEY (1947 – 1955)  
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### **Vice President:**

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### **Headmaster:**

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### **School Liaison:**

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### **Pupil Representatives:**

JOSH HIGGINSON  
ROSIE CLARKE  
FREDDIE MAUDE

### **Chairman:**

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### **Representative:**

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### **Independent Examiner:** VACANT

### **Eothen Old Girls Representatives:**

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### **Honorary Members:**

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### **Social Secretary:** VACANT

### **AROPS Liaison:** VACANT

**Committee Members to retire in 2013:**

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Email: bob.fairall@fairalls.co.uk

DR JOHN GRIMSHAW (1978 – 1985)  
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Email: j.grimshaw@virgin.net

**OCA Secretary:** ALINA RENNIE  
Caterham School, Harestone Valley Road,  
Caterham, Surrey CR3 6YA  
Tel: 01883 335091/343028  
Email: alina.rennie@caterhamschool.co.uk

## Change of Address and Update of Member Information

Dear Member

Please help us to update your membership information.

We would like some further information that will help us to keep in touch with you:

Name (capitals please) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please specify in full in the appropriate type form, upper case/lower case)*

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Dates at School (including Caterham Prep. i.e. 1999 – 2006)

\_\_\_\_\_

Willing to receive Newsletter by email Yes/No

Willing to receive OC Review by email Yes/No

If you move or wish to amend any details we hold for you, please notify:

**Alina Rennie**, OC Administrator at Caterham School, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6YA or email **alina.rennie@caterhamschool.co.uk**

Alternatively you can contact **oldcats@caterhamschool.co.uk**

# The Old Caterhamians' Trust Millennium Appeal

We are currently supporting five pupils. **Our special plea is for more OCs to support the fund through regular contributions by standing order.**

Whatever you can give, for example, from as little as £5 monthly or £10 twice yearly, helps us to plan for the future. And remember that with Gift Aid a donation of £5 benefits the fund by £6.40. Thank you.

To: **Alina Rennie, The Old Caterhamians' Trust c/o Caterham School,  
Harestone Valley Road, Caterham Surrey CR3 6YA**

Name (capitals please) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose my \*donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

(Cheques payable to **"The Old Caterhamians' Trust"**).

\*Completed Bankers Order / \*Gift Aid declaration \*Delete as required

## Gift Aid Declaration:

I want The Old Caterhamians' Trust to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Note: You must pay an amount of UK income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).

## Bankers Order

**The Old Caterhamians' Trust**

**Registered Charity No: 1083128**

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society:

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of account holder(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Sort Code:

Account Number

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Please pay to: **Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, Bromley, Kent BR1 1NA**

**Sort Code: 30-91-35**

**The Old Caterhamians' Trust**

**Account No: 0784764**

The sum of: £ \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ (insert date)

and the same sum on the first day of each month\*/January\*/April\*/July\*/  
October\* thereafter until further notice. (\*delete as required)

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## John Townsend Champion of Georgian Charity by John Townesend

John Townesend, the author, is descended from the Rev. John Townsend's brother, The Rev. George Townsend. He has produced a fascinating read about a truly great man including many references to Caterham School. The OC Association is offering copies of this book at £15 per copy (plus £2.50 postage and packing).

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy/copies of 'John Townsend, Champion of Georgian Charity'

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Old Caterhamians' Ties

Silk tie, striped: £15, Crimplene, striped: £10, Polyester, crested: £10  
(Postage and packing £2.50)

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ silk\*, crimplene\*, polyester\* tie/s  
(delete where applicable)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Old Caterhamians' Enamel Cufflinks

We are delighted to be able to offer these beautifully crafted enamel gilt plated cufflinks with chain or T-bar fitting. Price £30.

Please state T-bar or chain when ordering. (Postage and packing at £2.50)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to '**Old Caterhamians' Association**' and return to: **Alina Rennie, Caterham School, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6YA**





Old Boys Reunion, 8th July 1950



Speech Day 1925



Eothen Reunion

**Old Caterhamians' Association**

Caterham School  
Harestone Valley Road  
Caterham . Surrey . CR3 6YA

**Telephone** +44 (0)1883 335091

**Email** [alina.rennie@caterhamschool.co.uk](mailto:alina.rennie@caterhamschool.co.uk)

**Website** [www.oldcaterhamians.com](http://www.oldcaterhamians.com)