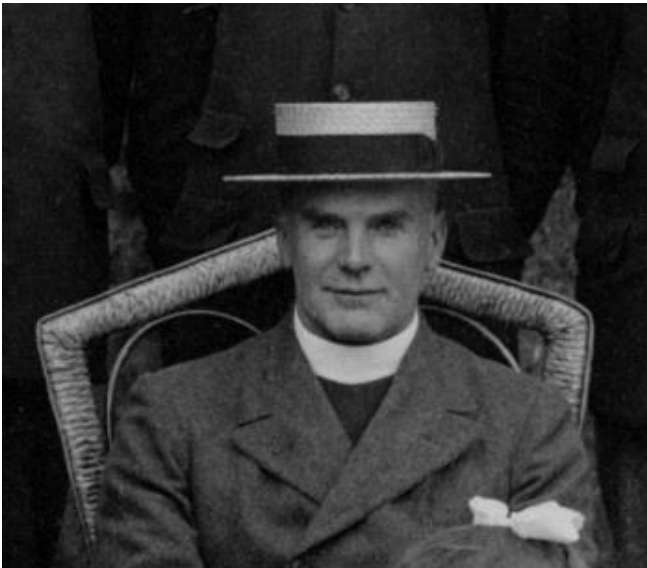




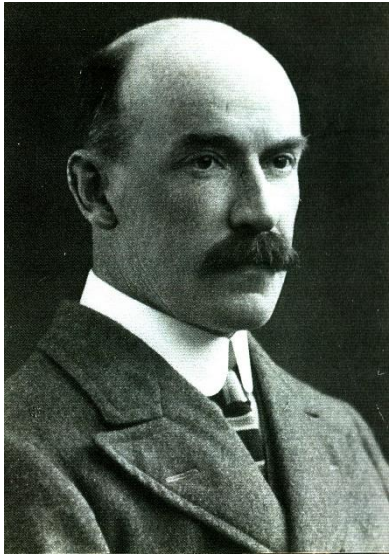
### **Heylyn Matherson 1888-1905**

Mr Matherson came to the College in 1884 as an Assistant Master and became housemaster at School House in 1887. The following year he bought Wargrave and became its first housemaster. A keen supporter of the Cadet Corps, regularly attending their camps, he also played cricket for the 1st XI in the 1880s.



### **Revd Francis Atkinson 1905-07**

In 1905 Mr Atkinson joined the College as Wargrave housemaster and as the school chaplain. He was responsible for the running of the tuck shop and the Cavendish library and was a keen supporter of College cricket. He was also instrumental in the building of new fives courts when the old ones were lost to the construction of the Memorial Building.



### **George H Peacock 1907-30**

He joined the College in 1895 and remained on the staff teaching English and Latin until 1930. Following the closure of the boarding house which he had set up in Silverdale Road, he took over Wargrave in 1907. He commanded the Corps for several years, became choir master and, it was said, helped to raise the musical standards of the College. He was also a good all round athlete and gave his assistance to the school games.



### **Diarmid Noël-Paton 1930-37**

An assistant master from 1923 to 1937, he became housemaster of Wargrave in 1930. In 1924 he became the college librarian and helped move the books from the old Cavendish library into the new premises within the Memorial Buildings. He commanded the OTC (later the CCF) from 1933 to 1935. Sir Hugh Casson (an OE of the College) is said to have had his love of Victorian art inspired by conversations with Mr Noël-Paton.



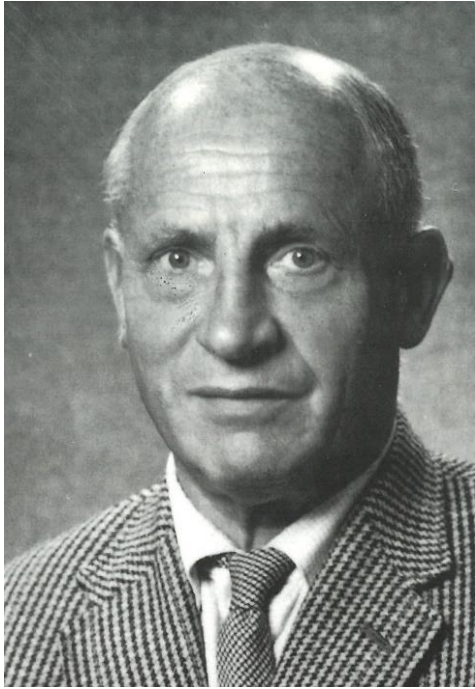
### **Vincent Allom 1938-42**

Mr Allom arrived at the College in 1929 to teach biology, taking over as housemaster in Wargrave in 1938. Evacuated with the College to Radley in 1940, he returned to Eastbourne in 1942 to help establish a 'branch' to maintain a College presence in the town. Wargrave had ceased to exist and did not reopen until 1946. Mr Allom retired in 1965 and two years later his history of the College, *Ex Oriente Salus*, was published.



### **Kemey's Bagnall-Oakeley 1946-51**

A housemaster at the former Crosby House from 1936 to 1942, he moved back to Eastbourne from Radley in that year to run the new 'branch'. Crosby closed for good and its building was incorporated in to Wargrave when it reopened after the war in 1946. Mr Bagnall-Oakeley then became Wargrave housemaster. An accomplished athlete, he often took part in College sporting events.



## **Tom Rodd 1951-62**

Tommy Rodd joined the College as Head of Science in 1939. Noted for his lecture on 'explosives', he remarked that a 'fool and his eyebrows are easily parted'. His devotion to the house entailed stoking the boiler every morning at 6.00am. He also took games for rugby and cricket and was Commanding Officer of the Corps from 1943 to 1948.



## **Keith Norman-Smith 1962-75**

Most notable for introducing bedsitters into Wargrave, he had joined the College in 1948 as a maths teacher. He also ran the Naval section of the CCF and was in charge of the Junior Colts rugby. His wife Myriam taught pottery at both Ascham and the College.





### **Alan Gardner 1975-85**

A teacher of modern languages. he was also well known as a wit and raconteur. Keen on music (he played the French horn in the College orchestra), he coached rugby, was a stalwart of the rowing club and was master-in-charge of sailing. His wife, Eve, acted as house matron.



### **David Charman 1985-89**

Arriving from Australia in 1979, he became Head of Geography that year. David brought such phrases as 'toads and minstrels' to the house and was a keen cricketer, hitting five sixes at one match and was still able to field. A highlight of his wife Ann's 'matroning' was to rub a mixture for treating diarrhoea on to a pupil's back in mistake for embrocation.



### **David Stewart 1989-98**

In 1984 'Stewie' was appointed to join the English Department and to take on the rugby from Euan Clarke. He also coached U14 cricket and worked with Nigel Wheeler and the 1st XI for a number of years. Soon after he took over the reins from David Charman, the house was refurbished with the 'bridge' being demolished and a middle section built, joining Crosby and Wargrave. Keeping tabs, often by remote control on the 25 boys sleeping down in 12 Grange Road for 18 months, was interesting and challenging to say the least.



### **Charlie Bostock 1998-2005**

Unique in College history for running three different houses – Watt, Blackwater and Wargrave – he is particularly remembered for his 'loud trousers, loud laugh and loud singing'.

He coached numerous sports teams, played his trumpet in the swing band, sang with the Choral Society and was a regular preacher in Chapel.



## **Nick Russell 2005-12**

Described as ‘a rare blend of wit, sensitivity and scholarliness’, he joined the College in 2000 to teach English and theatre studies. Pupils taught by Nick didn’t forget the experience; describing it as ‘hilarious’, ‘inspirational’ and ‘mad’. He was a driving force behind staff soccer and never shied away from coaching sport in all three terms.



## **Nick Miller 2012-14**

Nick brought ‘good humour, enormous enthusiasm and professionalism’ to the modern languages department. He coached rugby and tennis and was a member of the Eclectics cricket team and took a keen interest in the welfare and development of Wargravians and the house itself.





## **Rob Hill 2014-**

Rob played hockey for Great Britain in the 1992 Olympics and joined the School as Director of Hockey in 2013.

He became Wargrave housemaster the following year.

## **Chris Kirk-Greene, house tutor 1952-62**

Chris joined the College in 1949 to teach modern languages and was head of the department from 1962 to 1978. He published several textbooks on the French language, and produced a number of house

plays. He was in charge of fencing for 37 years and master in charge of tennis for 22 years. Colleagues referred to him as someone 'who led by example and gentle encouragement' and that his love of cars was 'legendary'. The suite of function rooms in the Winn Building is named in his honour.





# John Thornley

## House tutor 1978-95



*"Whether to be or not to be with Michael Fish and John Thornley"*



*Miss DT and JT taking lunch in Seville.*

## Mr Thornley

### Something of an Antique.

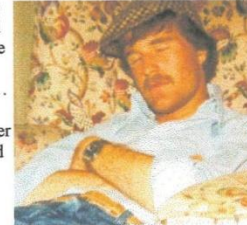
Some rambling thoughts about what seems to have made Wargrave tick since my arrival on that hot day at the end of the summer in September 1978....

Alan and Eve Gardner were at the helm and I arrived to be their resident tutor, anticipating a short stay before moving on and was resident for 17 years. CSB is the fourth housemaster with whom I have had the pleasure of working. Like all good housemasters and teachers - they have all had their idiosyncrasies. CSB's Wargrave idiosyncrasies have yet to develop and become entwined with myth and mystery over the years - as they surely will. His predecessor is now in the exalted position of deputy head so, if I value my job, the less said about any foibles here the better...

Which takes us back to David and Ann Charman, and then to Alan and Eve Gardner, names unfamiliar now to the present generation so their secrets are safe and we have come full circle. So what is that I should record for posterity about my twenty or so years of seeing Wargrave at work?

One of the great advantages of being in Wargrave is that you are slightly off the main campus, hence you feel a bit more independent and the short walk down to school gives you a bit of space. (Before I came, there were, apparently, strict rules about which side of the road you had to take to walk down to school...) This is one of the factors which goes to making Wargrave one of the more relaxed houses. That short distance from the hurly-burly of College life engenders a sense of going home at the end of lessons or activities and helps create more of a family atmosphere. This has always been the hallmark of Wargrave in my experience and successive housemasters have encouraged this by the way they have chosen to run their house.

All of this is not intended to suggest that other houses have a greater or lesser degree of independent or homely feeling though Wargravians would argue that they have both in abundance. They have always been known for their relaxed approach, their sense of fair play, their modesty in success and their willingness to help. All of these attributes have been



encouraged by a succession of like-minded housemasters and their greatly supportive wives, matrons and the domestic staff, as well as by groups of very good upper sixth formers helping to keep the house running smoothly.

Parents have always played a large part in Wargrave's success. Always in touch and ever supportive, parents of Wargrave boys have been understanding and supportive when the odd difficulty arises and have also shared the Happiness of their sons' successes. This parental involvement was highlighted most recently when DAS and his tutors were guests at a meal hosted by a group of parents of one particularly successful year group when they were in their final year.

Wargrave has been fortunate to have a series of housemasters who have been and are men of great compassion, always looking for the best in people and supportive to the last of their charges. It is not unusual for me to meet people these days who were pupils in Wargrave many years ago who are still in contact with their housemaster and are grateful to him for some particular act of kindness many years ago.

The actual job of housemasters or housemistresses, of course, has changed beyond recognition over the last twenty years. As the pace of life has increased, so has looking after 60-70 boys or girls and their individual needs. Simply to survive, "hsms", as they have become known, have had to develop a greater sense of proportion than many of their colleagues in the Senior Common Room. It is probably because boys and girls are aware of what their hsm does that they think that they are the busiest people in the College. To a very large extent, of course, this must be true but I did wonder how aware the boy was whom I overheard musing about what the headmaster did all day. It wasn't a Wargravian I hasten to add...

Everything that has changed over the

past two decades has been a change for the better. The refurbishment a few years ago provided every creature comfort, so much so that when Wargravians leave they must be unimpressed by much of university accommodation. Fixtures and fittings are vital, naturally, but the heart of a house is in the people themselves and Wargrave has always had a great bunch of characters - some rogues, of course, but, in the main, decent lads who turn into decent citizens.

Not many secrets in all of that are there? That's because there aren't any. In Wargrave, what you see is what you get, which can't be a bad motto to include in your set of values for life.

