

OLD EASTBOURNIAN 2024



Up, up
and away!

The Blue Sky Bursaries
Appeal is launched



THE JOURNAL OF THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY

www.eastbourniansociety.org

St Andrew's Prep
EASTBOURNE

DISCOVER A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES



UNLOCK THEIR EXTRAORDINARY

standrewsprep.co.uk

the Over-60s lunch

MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025
12 NOON

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



Guest speaker: John Ryley OBE (Blackwater 1975–80), former head of Sky News, who in 2021 was given the Royal Television Society Outstanding Contribution Award.



- Before indulging in the culinary delights, seize the opportunity to engage in leisure activities with access to the club's swimming and tennis facilities.
- The meal costs £60 per person and includes a drink on arrival, three-course lunch with wine, followed by coffee.



Please book your place(s) online at
www.eastbourniansociety.org/events
Phone: 01323 451911
Email: es@eastbourne-college.co.uk

CALLING ALL COLLEGE LEAVERS FROM 1982 TO 1986

IT'S BEEN 40 YEARS (OR MORE) SINCE YOU LEFT THE COLLEGE —
WHAT A MILESTONE! WE THINK THAT DEFINITELY CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION



Join us for a special reunion event where we'll take you on a tour of the College from 5.30–6.30pm. We'll walk you down memory lane, showcasing both familiar, unchanging parts of the College and plenty of exciting new developments that show just how much has evolved over the years.

We'll also be digging out some old photos and memorabilia that we hope will bring back fond memories. At 6.30pm there will be a drinks reception, followed by a two-course dinner.

This event is generously sponsored by The Long Man Brewery, and there will be plenty of beers available to enjoy throughout the evening.



£35 PER PERSON



Please book your place(s) online at
www.eastbourniansociety.org/events
Or call us on 01323 451911
Email: es@eastbourne-college.co.uk

Details of discounted hotel rooms
are available on the website



EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY MERCHANDISE

OUR ONLINE SHOP IS NOW OPEN AT
www.eastbourniansociety.org/shop

Place your order online, call us on 01323 452316
 or email es@eastbourne-college.co.uk



OE striped tie
 In OEA colours
 with maroon,
 white and crimson
 stripes
 Silk £25



Stag tie
 Navy blue with
 Stag's head motif
 Silk £25



OE lapel pin
 Enamelled round
 (18mm) in OE
 colours £4



Sweatshirts and hoodies
 Navy cotton with
 embroidered College
 crest
 Sweatshirt £35
 Regular hoodie £35



Bow tie
 Silk, in OE
 colours £23



Scarf
 Pure wool
 backed with
 soft fleece, in
 OE colours £35



Cap
 Cotton cap with College crest.
 Available in white or navy blue £15



Belt
 Elasticated belt in
 OE colours £20



Panama hatband
 In OE colours with
 Velcro fastening £15



Cummerbund
 Pure silk in OE
 colours £15



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

Bobble hat
 Navy, white
 and blue stripes
 with Eastbourne
 College lettering
 £10



College key ring
 with College
 crest £5

**St Andrew's
 key ring**
 with St Andrew's
 crest £5



Leather journal/sketchbook
 Hand-bound with leather cover, embossed
 with College crest. 60 pages (120 sides) of high-
 quality paper. A5 size, available as portrait or
 landscape in black, brown or navy blue £35



Water bottle
 Dark blue metal
 water bottle with
 College logo, 1
 litre capacity £10

Notelets

Pack of eight notelets with envelopes
 in four designs showing the College in
 spring, summer, autumn and winter £8.
 These designs are also available as A4
 and A3 prints



Tote bag
 Thick cotton tote bag with St Andrew's
 logo on one side and College logo on
 the other £10



Cool bag
 Insulated dark blue cool
 bag with College logo.
 Two compartments
 and shoulder strap.
 30x20x25cm £25

THE OLD EASTBOURNIAN 2024

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



As we go to print our first ever Giving Day will be over – I hope you have enjoyed the pictures on the wrap around of this magazine and that you joined in with the spirit of the day, which was all about celebrating our schools and giving something back. If you feel you missed out on the fun, it's not too late! Please do head to our website www.eastbourniansociety.org and click the donate button, or head to the Blue Sky Bursaries page www.blueskybursaries.org to see how you can make a difference.

As is usual in this publication you can find reviews of the events that have taken place over the past year, articles that look back in time with our popular archives features, a celebration of the schools' achievements, news from our alumni and tributes to those who sadly are no longer with us.

Our merchandise is now sold online through our web shop – the page opposite shows everything currently available to purchase. Indeed, some of you will be reading this magazine online and will know that our website is a great resource for all things Eastbournian – new to the site are Ascham photographs and Old Androvia newsletters which you can browse via the index, and the new clubs feature might also be of interest. Our alumni sports clubs including hockey, fives, cricket, rugby and football seem to be growing and we are grateful to all those individuals who bring such energy and enthusiasm to these. If you'd like to run a tennis or netball club, please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you. You will need to register in order to take a good look around the site and 'access all areas' and we're on Instagram too @eastbourniansociety, so please do follow us there.

I continue to be inspired and supported by a brilliant team, pictured below. A warm welcome to Jayne Hopton our Appeal Administrator and St Andrew's Liaison Officer. The Eastbournian Society Committee of volunteers has achieved a new lease of life under Chair Ian Henley, you can read all about this on page 3.

As always, many thanks to all of you who send in your news and photos, we love to hear from you! Congratulations on your many wonderful achievements from graduations to engagements to weddings, babies, promotions, charity fundraisers and everything in between! We continue to welcome all contributions to the magazine including advertisements – please do get in touch via email es@eastbourne-college.co.uk if you have something you would like to share with us.

Emma Garrett

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The ES team, left to right:
Jayne Hopton,
John Thornley,
Helen Medlycott,
Emma Garrett,
Liz Silvester,
Kim Richardson and
David Blake

The Old Eastbournian 2024 was compiled and edited by David Blake. Editorial contributions are credited in the magazine. It was designed by Martin Bannon (martinbannon.design@hotmail.co.uk) and printed and distributed by Lavenham Press (<https://www.lavenhampress.com>).

Cover photo by Martin Lulham.



The film wrap uses natural biopolymers, consisting mainly of potato and maize starch which is fully sustainable. There is no polythene in this product so when it degrades there are NO microplastics left in the soil/watercourse. It conforms to EN13432 so it's fully compostable in your household compost heap. In theory it could be put in your council garden waste or food waste bin but not all councils will accept it so you would need to check with your local council.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



New Eastbournian Society events are regularly added to our events list at www.eastbourniansociety.org/events.

Below is a list of events that are planned at the time of publication, but please check the website for the latest details or call us on 01323 451911. **Events are at the College unless otherwise indicated.**

Fri 11 Apr

Ladies Lunch
The Star, Alfriston

Sat 12 Apr

OE hockey tournament
Beresford Astroturf

Mon 28 Apr

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

Thu 15 May

Theatre trip: *The Great Gatsby*
London Coliseum

Fri 16 May

Reception for U6 leavers and parents

Sat 17 May

Grandparents morning

Thu 22 May

Big School Band Night for Blue Sky
Bursaries

Sat 31 May

40-year reunion

Sun 1 Jun

OE hockey festival
Beresford Astroturf

Sat 7 Jun

Foundation Day

Sun 8 Jun

Cricketer Cup: Old Hurst Johnians v
OECC
Hurstpierpoint College

Mon 16 Jun

Piltown Golf Open
Piltown Golf Club, Uckfield

Sat 28 Jun–Wed 2 Jul

OE Cricket Week

See details on page 105

Sat 28 Jun

College Speech Day

Sat 12 Jul

Theatre trip: *Nye*
National Theatre

Fri 5 Sep

ES annual dinner
House of Commons

Sat 20 Sep

London guided walk
Venue tbc

Sun 9 Nov

Act of Remembrance reception

Thu 11 Dec

Carol service
All Saints' Church, Eastbourne

Thu 25 Dec

Christmas Day service
College Chapel



FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 6.30PM

The House of Commons, Churchill Room

- Champagne reception on arrival
- Three-course banquet dinner
- Half a bottle of wine per person
- Tea or coffee served with petits fours
- Spouses and partners are welcome to attend
- Dress code: formal evening wear (black tie)

£150 per person

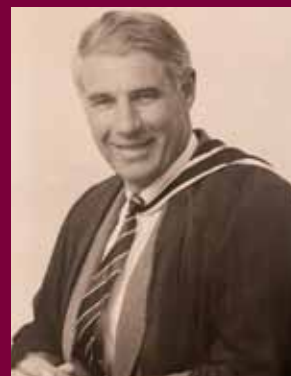
Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment



Please book your place(s) online at
www.eastbourniansociety.org/events
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Email: es@eastbourne-college.co.uk

THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

THIS YEAR, WE ARE DEDICATING OUR ANNUAL DINNER TO THE MEMORY OF FORBES WASTIE



It will be an opportunity to celebrate his remarkable life, to remember his distinguished service to the College, and to enjoy excerpts from his memoirs.

All proceeds from the evening will support the Bursary Appeal for the Forbes Wastie Award which aims to provide unique opportunities for talented young individuals who demonstrate exceptional all-round skills.



I was delighted to be invited to take over the chairmanship of the Eastbournian Society (ES) last year from Hugh Price and I would like to open my report by thanking Hugh for his service to the society and wish him and his family well.

I started at Bishop Carey House (part of Ascham) as a rather overawed and tearful eight-year-old boarder in September 1966, little knowing that I would still be closely involved with the school almost 60 years later. My roots are closely entwined with Eastbourne College: I was married, in the College Chapel, to an OE (Vicky, née Crawshaw), who has served as a governor for many years (as did her father before her); and two brothers, two children and a brother-in-law have also been educated here. I am in Eastbourne almost every week, so I hope with all these connections

and proximity I can serve members of the ES community well. The College has given me and my family much over the years and I am keen to give back.

Since being appointed, I have been working closely with Emma Garrett (Development Director), Darren Meek (ES Vice-chair and governor), the headmaster and the COO to take stock of the Eastbournian Society's role and purpose, discussing in particular how it has worked with the Eastbourne College Development Office and how it should in the future – particularly given the challenging external environment which Eastbourne College and St Andrew's face over the next few years.

As a result of these deliberations, we have agreed a new Terms of Reference (ToR) for the committee, which can be viewed on the ES website www.eastbourniansociety.org. We hope that this will provide a clear explanation of how the ES and its committee fit into the wider context of the charity which runs both schools (Eastbourne College Incorporated) and to the Eastbourne community and of how it links to the OA communities (alumni from Ascham and St Andrew's) and what was the Old Eastbournian Association or OEA (an issue which I know has caused confusion for some OEs).

You will see from the ToR that we have refreshed the membership of the committee; previous members had provided many years of service and were ready to pass on the baton. I am delighted that we have been able to attract such high-quality new members and am very grateful for their willingness to provide their energy, time and ideas on a voluntary basis (all committee members are shown below). They will be focused on very specific 'briefs', all designed to serve the interests of the ES community and to support the activity of the Development Office. The Development Office's work is crucially important for the future of the schools and the Committee knows how important it is for us to align closely with its objectives.

Finally, you will note there are a few gaps on our committee – please reach out to me or the Development Office team if you would like to fill any of them! I am very happy to talk through in more detail what is involved, either in person, virtually or on the phone. If any OEs or OAs (from Ascham or St Andrew's) have ideas about what we should be doing, please send them to the ES mailbox es@eastbourne-college.co.uk or come to our AGM, details of which will be posted every year on the ES website.

Ian Henley (Gonville 1970–75)

THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY COMMITTEE

POSITION	ACTIVITY	INCUMBENT
CHAIR	LEADS THE COMMITTEE	IAN HENLEY
VICE-CHAIR & TREASURER	DEPUTISES FOR CHAIR; COORDINATES FINANCES WITH THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	DARREN MEEK
ARNOLD EMBELLISHERS CHAIR	CHAIRS ARNOLD EMBELLISHERS	VICKY HENLEY
COMMUNITY LEAD	WORKS WITH EASTBOURNE COMMUNITIES TO FOSTER ENGAGEMENT/NEW MEMBERSHIP	CHRIS NEIGHBOUR
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	LEADS THE ES EXECUTIVE TEAM	EMMA GARRETT
DEVONSHIRE SOCIETY LEAD	ENGAGES AND RECRUITS DEVONSHIRE SOCIETY MEMBERS	JAMES FOK
EASTBOURNE COLLEGE PARENT CONNECT (ECPC) CHAIR	LEADS THE ORGANISATION OF LEISURE AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR PARENTS OF EASTBOURNE COLLEGE	MIKE LAWRENCE
EMERITUS MEMBER	PROVIDES ADVICE AND CONTINUITY TO COMMITTEE	ERIC KOOPS
FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S (FOSA) CHAIR	LEADS THE ORGANISATION OF LEISURE AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR PARENTS OF ST ANDREW'S	ZOE HARRIS
FUTURES	WORKS WITH ES MEMBERS TO HELP PUPILS IDENTIFY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES	SARAH GORDON, HEAD OF FUTURES ECI
IN MEMORIAM GIVING LEAD	DEVELOPS INITIATIVES TO MEMORIALISE LOST CHILDREN/PARTNERS/FRIENDS	TBD
OLD ANDROVIAN REP	LIAISES WITH OAS AND HELPS FACILITATE EVENTS/GATHERINGS	CHRIS MEIKLE
OLD ASCHAMIAN REP	LIAISES WITH OAS AND HELPS FACILITATE EVENTS/GATHERINGS	JON SEYMOUR
OLD EASTBOURNIAN REP	LIAISES WITH OES AND HELPS FACILITATE EVENTS/GATHERINGS	ALEX VANOTTI
SECRETARY	CO-ORDINATES MEETING AND MINUTES	JOHN THORNLEY
SPORT LEADS	CHAMPION AND PROMOTE ALUMNI SPORT COORDINATING WITH THE ECI HEADS OF SPORT	JOE POCKLINGTON BEN TWINE +1 TBD

THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY AGM

The AGM was held on Saturday 8 March 2025. The agenda was:

1. To receive and, if thought fit, to approve the hon treasurer's report and accounts for the years ending 31 July 2023 and 31 July 2024
2. To elect members and to fill any vacancies on the committee
3. To consider any other business
4. Date of next meeting

The printing deadline for this magazine means we are unable to include a full report on the AGM this year.

SOCIAL EVENTS IN 2024

A ROUND-UP OF EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY EVENTS

The Eastbournian Society organises a programme of social and cultural trips, talks and walks. All ES members are welcome to come along to these events, which are advertised on the ES website and in our regular email newsletters.

PETER PAN

The first theatre trip of the year was on Wednesday 3 January, when some 20 ES members, some of whom are pictured here, went along to the London Palladium to see the star-studded pantomime *Peter Pan*. ▼



CHOIR OF MAN

Another trip to the West End took place on Friday 26 January, when an ES group visited the Arts Theatre to see *The Choir of Man*, described as '90 minutes of uplifting, joyous fun led by nine men jamming through songs by artists such as Katy Perry, Sia, Guns N' Roses, and many more.' ►



CRYPTOCURRENCY TALK

College debater-in-residence Sesh Govender chaired a discussion on cryptocurrency on Wednesday 21 February, which turned into an informed debate with a diverse group of members of the ES. ►



THE MOTIVE AND THE CUE

◀ On Thursday 22 February, the Noel Coward Theatre was the venue for *The Motive and the Cue*, which explored the relationship between Richard Burton (Johnny Flynn) and John Gielgud (Mark Gatiss) as Burton is directed by Gielgud in an experimental new production of *Hamlet*. Some 24 ES members braved the rain to go along.



QUIZ NIGHT

◀ The annual quiz night and dinner was held at the College on Saturday 16 March, with quizmaster John Thornley asking 200 questions during the evening, although at the end he wasn't too sure which team had won... so everybody got a prize of a mini Mars bar.

OPENING NIGHT

The new musical *Opening Night* starring Sheridan Smith had divided the critics, but a group of OEs and parents (some of whom are pictured here) nevertheless went to the Gielgud Theatre for a matinee on Thursday 28 March. ►



ROYAL OPERA HOUSE TOUR

A group of 20 ES members enjoyed a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of the Royal Opera House on Friday 19 April, taking in the rehearsal studios, costume department, production workshops and auditorium. ►



SOUTH AFRICAN WINE TASTING

The wine tasting evening at the College on Saturday 27 April proved particularly popular, with 40 people attending. Wine merchant Nigel Strofton (Gonville 1955-59) regaled the group with tales of his annual escapades through South Africa, enriching their knowledge of wine along the way.



VERDI REQUIEM

The Eastbournian Society was well represented among the 180 players and singers, as well as in the 350-strong audience, for the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra's performance under the baton of conductor Graham Jones (College Music Department and organist from 1976 and director of music from 1991 to 2012) at St Saviour's Church on Saturday 11 May. ►





GRANDPARENTS MORNING

▲ A really enjoyable annual event in the ES calendar is when we invite grandparents of current pupils to look round the school, guided by their grandchildren, and this year, on Saturday 8 June, we saw as big a group of any we have had in the last 15 years. They are pictured here in the Warren Atrium in the Nugee building.



FAWLTY TOWERS

▲ A select group of theatre-goers gathered for a thoroughly entertaining afternoon reliving some of the favourite moments from what has been described as the 'greatest British sitcom of all time' when they saw *Fawlty Towers* at the Apollo Theatre on Thursday 6 June.

HELLO, DOLLY!

A trip to the London Palladium on Wednesday 10 July to see the classic musical *Hello, Dolly!* was greatly appreciated by some 30 ES members, who saw Imelda Staunton's fantastic performance as Dolly Levi. ♥



LONDON WALK: MAYFAIR

Our London guided walks are always popular and this tour around Mayfair, St James's and Piccadilly on Saturday 18 May was no exception. After the photo in Berkeley Square some of the group had a convivial lunch in Shepherd Market. ►



CAVENDISH DEBATING SOCIETY DINNER



◀ On Wednesday 19 June a dinner was held to celebrate 100 years of the Cavendish Debating Society. Special guest was distinguished Hong Kong High

Court Judge Andrew Macrae (School 1969–74), who reminisced about his time in the society and the effect this had on his life and career. He later presented the inaugural Andrew Macrae Debater of the Year award to Debate Captain Kitty Hill (Watt, Year 12).



SPEECH DAY

▲ On Speech Day on Saturday 29 June, as well as our usual stall serving Prosecco and selling ES merchandise, the ES also laid on trips in a tethered hot air balloon (see our cover picture!) to celebrate the launch of the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal video.



KISS ME, KATE

▲ Another Openin', Another Show... and this time it was *Kiss Me, Kate* at the Barbican Theatre on Thursday 22 August, which entertained a 20-strong ES group with its exuberant energy, stunning choreography, scintillating Cole Porter songs and perfect comic timing.



LONDON WALK: KING'S CROSS TO CAMDEN LOCK

▲ Saturday 21 September was a glorious day for a stroll along Regent's Canal with an expert guide, a tour packed with facts about the architecture, the various buildings, new and old, canals, railways, and the social history of what is a vibrant part of the capital.

WISH YOU WERE HERE

◀ College Archivist Paul Jordan gave a talk to ES members on Thursday 3 October, entitled *Wish You Were Here*. Paul spoke about his fascination with collecting old postcards, the stories that they tell, the changes in



fashion and society that they show and the intriguing messages that are sometimes written on the back!



ABF CURRY LUNCH

◀ The College hosted a curry lunch to support the Army

Benevolent Fund (The Soldiers' Charity) on Sunday 20 October. This was the third year the ES has helped organise this event and we are delighted to report that over £2,000 was raised on the day, with further contributions following afterwards.

INNS OF COURT WALK

A group of over 30 joined a walk through Legal London on Saturday 8 November, meeting at Temple underground for a tour round the Inns of Court. With so many there, they were split into two smaller groups, each with a knowledgeable Blue Badge guide. ▼



OPERATION MINCEMEAT



▲ The Fortune Theatre was the venue on Tuesday 12 November for a matinee performance of *Operation Mincemeat*, the hit musical about the true story of an audacious wartime plan by British intelligence. One of the 30 ES members who went commented: 'a captivating musical; a delight from beginning to end'.

BANOFFI PIE

► A talk about banoffi pie – and a chance to sample it – were on the menu when Ian



Dowding spoke to ES members at the College on Wednesday 13 November. Ian was the head chef at the Hungry Monk in Jevington and explained how the pie came about and how it got its name in the early 1970s. We were also grateful to another Ian, head chef of College caterers Holroyd Howe, Ian Wright, who produced the delicious samples for the attendees to eat.



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

◀ We were lucky to get tickets for the sell-out production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the National Theatre on Saturday 7 December. OE Hugh Skinner (Pennell 1998–2003) was on stage playing

Jack Worthing who, as an infant, was left in a bag at Victoria Station. Hugh was able to meet Emma Garrett and John Thornley for a quick catch-up between the matinee and the evening performance.



DR STRANGELOVE

◀ *Dr Strangelove*, 'an explosively funny satire of mutually assured destruction' starring Steve

Coogan at the Noel Coward Theatre was the latest of our London theatre trips on Thursday 28 November. Some of the group met for a drink after the show.

MASTERPIECES

Transforming lives, one picture at a time

We invite you to participate in our special art auction, where each piece is more than just a creation – it's a unique opportunity to help change a life. Join an array of artists and pupils from across our community and create your very own 'masterpiece', which will be auctioned to raise funds for bursaries.

We're reaching out to all budding artists, as well as anyone who may have connections to well-known artists or celebrities. If you'd like to ask them to contribute an A5 piece of artwork, we'd love to hear from you. Simply contact us, and we'll send you an A5 card to complete your work on. Alternatively, you may attach your completed artwork to the card (please ensure it is no larger than A5). Any theme and medium are welcome.

Please hand-deliver your artwork to the College or St Andrew's reception, or post it back to us at:

**Art Auction – Mrs K Richardson,
Eastbournian Society,
Eastbourne College,
Old Wish Road,
Eastbourne, BN21 4JX**

**Deadline for artwork
submission:
30 April 2025**

The auction will run for several days, with the final day to be held on Tuesday 1 July.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Richardson at KJRichardson@eastbourne-college.co.uk or 01323 451911. Full terms and conditions will be available on our website: www.eastbourniansociety.org.

Join us in making a difference, one masterpiece at a time



REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Each year the governors approve the Charity's annual report when they meet in December. The report sets out the Charity's financial performance and the many achievements of the College and St Andrew's Prep pupils. My introduction as chair follows and the full report is available on the College's website at <https://www.eastbourne-college.co.uk/about-us/structure-of-the-school>. Most importantly, our pupils are thriving in all areas of College life. However, as you will read in my introduction, and in more detail within the annual report, the effects of the new government, in common with other independent schools, are starting to be felt. Senior management and the governing body have been working on organisational changes to ensure the Charity's continued financial viability while preserving the excellence of education provided by our two schools. Fundraising to support our bursary provision has never been more important, and with the help of the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal (www.blueskybursaries.org) we can continue to provide a transformative education for those who would not otherwise be able to afford it. If you would like to find out more, or how you might be able to help, please do contact the Eastbournian Society office at es@eastbourne-college.co.uk.



Nicky Eckert

I am pleased to introduce the Charity's Annual Report describing the activities of our two schools, Eastbourne College and St Andrew's Prep, over the year.

Everything we do as a charity is for the benefit of those we educate. We proudly devote much of the Annual Report to setting out the achievements of the 1,000 pupils from nursery to A-levels. At St Andrew's Prep, the Scholarship Set collected 17 awards, all but one to the College. CAT scores show 85% of pupils are working at or above expected levels in English, Maths and Science, and the scores are even higher in other humanities and language subjects. I congratulate the pupils in Years 11 and 13 at the College for their hard work and excellent results. At GCSE more than half the grades were 9 to 7 (A* or A) and 21 pupils achieved a clean sweep of grades 7, 8 or 9 which appears to be a record high since GCSEs were reformed. At A-level, almost one in every four pupils (22.5%) achieved a clean sweep of A* or A grades, including in the Extended Project Qualification.

There remains a wide range of co-curricular opportunities that demonstrate the full depth of education and community that we achieve. At St Andrew's Prep highlights include *Madagascar* (performed by Years 5 and 6), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (performed by Years 7 and 8), the Summer Serenade and the Dance and Drama Showcase. The U13 girls are national IAPS tennis champions, while the hockey and cricket remain the very strongest on the circuit for both boys and girls. At the College, 90% of pupils have taken part in about 750 fixtures and more than 30 are playing or training with professional clubs or on national pathways. The choir is larger than ever (55 pupils), and many participate in the orchestra, Jazz Leap, Singer-songwriter and house singing and drama competitions. We had a fifty-strong cast for the complex College play, *Sweeney Todd*. There are nearly 300 members of our CCF continuing the strong tradition of military success, more than 150 pupils took part in Duke of Edinburgh awards; 135 Year 12s volunteered for service work such as Roy's Homework Club and the Chaseley Trust.

The Charity's fee income continued to grow with pupil numbers holding approximately at 2022–23 levels and our external lettings programme continuing to make a valuable and increased contribution. We have experienced inflationary pressures across the cost base but striven to maintain a strong control of costs. Overall, the Charity made an operating surplus (surplus before interest and depreciation and excluding donations) of £2,122k, a slight reduction on the previous year, but still well ahead of 2021–22 and a pleasing outcome that meets our target for surplus generation. All of the

surplus is reinvested in the Charity for the benefit of our pupils.

Following the Labour Party election victory, the imposition of tax on independent school fees from January 2025, and the removal of mandatory business rates relief from April 2025, we now face an environment that will present financial challenges as adjustments are made. VAT on inputs that were irrecoverable can now be, at least partially, reclaimed. The Charity must maintain its financial resilience whilst continuing its commitment to maintaining educational excellence, but we are very much aware of the pressures that are also faced by our parents.

The College was established in 1867 'to provide a general education of the highest class'. Both schools strive to live up to that founding principle. We want to increase our ability to provide support to those pupils whose parents cannot afford our full fees. Our long-term target is to increase our restricted and endowed funds supporting bursaries from £10m currently to £30m. The Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal, launched with a showing of the *Caffè Sospeso* film at the St Andrew's and College Speech Days, aims to fund 40 places a year. The appeal offers a variety of ways to become involved, including a weekly donation of £3.50 a week, the price of a cup of coffee. The need for bursary support in the current climate is vital, to ensure that as many pupils as possible can benefit from all that the Eastbourne College Incorporated schools have to offer. During the year 151 pupils, 16% of the total, received some assistance with their fees through means-tested bursaries. The Governors greatly appreciate the support of a number of trusts and individuals who, in addition, contribute to the fees of seven current pupils. We also value the commitment of our Devonshire Society members who have promised to support the Charity in their wills.

On behalf of the Governors, I thank Tom Lawson and Tom Gregory, our two Heads, Abbey Gough, our Chief Operating Officer, as well as the over four hundred staff who teach at and support the two schools.

I cannot write my first Chair's report without thanking Philip Broadley, who retired this year after 24 years as Governor and seven years as Chair, for his outstanding service. Eastbourne College Incorporated has thrived during his tenure which included the extreme stress of the pandemic. Finally, I thank our parents for supporting the Charity and entrusting the education of their children to us.

Nicky Eckert 9 December 2024

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

The school year 2024–25 has come to be an ‘interesting’ one, in the words of the apocryphal Chinese curse. We cannot ignore here the troublesome triple-whammy of taxation imposed, with VAT on school fees as a New Year’s treat from 1 January 2025, the removal of Business Rates Relief and a rise in National Insurance introduced in the Halloween budget of October 2024. I am beginning to approach every feast day with trepidation.

We will keep going, of course, and in due course thrive and grow again after a period of consolidation, as we work to manage the extra costs. I think it is sad that the politics of resentment and class jealousy has returned but I cannot say I am surprised. The envy of our privileged children is misplaced though, not just because they come from a wide range of backgrounds but crucially because they go on to be a force for good in the world. The money their parents spent on them continues to contribute to public good with so many of our OEs working in charities, green technology, the NHS, uniformed services or creating jobs as entrepreneurs.

We will not be compromising our standards as we look for ways to find efficiencies and savings and, indeed, as we ask your donations to help continue the life-changing opportunities we give through bursaries. It is from the futures of these worthy recipients that the government is effectively pilfering. I leave it to you to judge whether the money raised (if any, after all, many parents will now switch to the state sector; reducing the taxable base) will be spent wisely and effectively by the central government.

The non-negotiables for us at the College are that we provide house-based pastoral care, that we provide and promote academic progress to a very high standard for pupils across the range of ability, and we educate the whole person with the values of kindness, integrity, participation and pursuit of excellence. The good news, for you to spread widely to encourage more to sign up (despite the fees being now higher because our education is taxed), is that our formula works. Let me give you some examples from 2024...

After the summer’s exams, 85% of our leavers went to their first-choice university. Many achieved medals in academic Olympiads in mathematics, science and even linguistics. One pupil is such a history buff that he is writing his own book on the Sussex



Tom Lawson and his wife Jess about to take off in the Blue Sky Bursaries balloon on Speech Day 2024

regiment and was invited to give a lecture (aged 16) at We Have Ways Fest, an event organised around a very popular podcast. We remain in the Wisden top 15 for cricket but we have slipped from 4th to 5th in the country (!) in girls’ tennis despite winning the Winter LTA title. The sporting prowess of our young women continues after school, with OE Carina Graf (School 2010–11) winning the boat race with Cambridge for the second successive year and five leavers populating the national netball super league. The choir is in fine voice, the orchestra on top form, with leavers going on to Oxbridge choral scholarships and as instrumentalists to the Royal College.

Success is widely spread, with a record 200 pupils enrolled at Silver or Gold level in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Our CCF has 285 cadets and yet again this year, our senior cadet was chosen as the Lord Lieutenant’s cadet. We have won a wellbeing award and retained our platinum

grading ArtsMark.

None of this impresses Bridget Phillipson much, I dare say. But in her brave new world, who’s going to provide the cricketers, the mountaineers, the army officers, the artists or the soloists? Not everyone can be a train driver Ms Phillipson!

To stop me slipping into politics again, I will remind myself of our successes this term – the ‘champagne moments’ as the former chair Philip Broadley would have it. We had an ISI inspection in November 2024 which went very well indeed. I was immensely touched by the overwhelming majority of positive and supportive responses given in the inspection survey by pupils and parents. The loyalty that OEs have for the College clearly develops early on and spreads to our wider Eastbournian Society family of parents. I found it moving too that the excellent school play this year, Jessica Swales’ *Blue Stockings*, was about the Cambridge College my wife Jessica attended. At the end of the play, the cast held up photographs of the alumnae of that college and included my wife’s graduation photograph next to her late mother. Thoughtful and interesting stuff from our dramatists, as well as an opportunity for Jessie’s old university friends to visit!

Thank you for reading and I look forward to catching up with many of you at events over the coming year.

Tom Lawson, Headmaster

FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

A year of ambition, generosity, and community



As we close the chapter on 2024, I am delighted to report that the Foundation and Development office has had a remarkable year, one filled with ambitious targets, fresh ideas, continuing support and generosity, and a true sense of community.

In a time of economic and political uncertainty, not only have we held firm, but we have continued to thrive, thanks to the resilience and commitment of you, our supporters. Your loyalty is essential in order for our schools to continue to grow and succeed in everything we do and we send you a heartfelt thank you.



REACHING FOR THE SKIES — LITERALLY

The unusual and inspiring sight of a hot air balloon rising over College Field on both the St Andrew's and Eastbourne College Speech days (and featured on the cover of this magazine) was a fitting symbol of our shared aspirations, and served as a reminder of just how high we can soar when we work together. Through fundraising efforts, mentoring, networking, donating, volunteering and simply through staying connected with each other, we reach for the sky together, exploring new horizons, and we simply couldn't do it without you.

THE POWER OF SMALL GESTURES: CAFFÈ SOSPEO AND REGULAR GIVING



The Caffè Sospeso film

I hope by now, you will have all seen our Caffè Sospeso film. Inspired by the Italian tradition of paying it forward with a cup of coffee, this initiative

is capturing hearts and has sparked an extraordinary response. The film illustrates how small, regular acts of generosity, like

giving little and often, can have a profound impact, a message that has resonated deeply within our community, fuelling support for the Blue Sky Bursaries appeal. In particular, a network that was sometimes viewed perhaps as an out of touch 'old boys club' has become increasingly 'co-ed' and we are delighted that the entrepreneurial spirit of a younger crowd is flourishing across the globe (and across the genders!) and is showing their support through regular giving. The power of collective giving has never been stronger as alumni, parents and friends come together to change lives through education. Do watch the film by heading to www.blueskybursaries.org where you can also view some stories of the transformational support your contributions have funded for young people, and join the regular giving scheme.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: THE HOUSE OF LORDS DINNER

There was a real sense of occasion at the House of Lords in February, as we marked 75 years of the CCF in the UK. The gathering was an inspirational celebration

of friendship, achievement, and the values that unite us. We are grateful to Old Eastbournian General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux who was our host for the evening and Brigadier Anthony Lamb whose poignant reflections on the history of the CCF at Eastbourne College and inspiring words about its future, encapsulated the essence of our schools and the values we hold dear. A report is on page 14. The evening was a sell-out, but for those who missed out, we are returning to the engine room of British democracy on Friday 5 September when the Annual Dinner will be held at the House of Commons. Please book your tickets via the website: www.eastbourniansociety.org.

BURSARY RECIPIENTS: THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

At the core of everything we do are the pupils whose lives are transformed by the generosity of our supporters. Our bursary recipients continue to impress, not just with their academic achievements but with the way they embrace a whole host of opportunities given to them. They are a



testament to what can be achieved when barriers are removed and potential is given the chance to shine. Old Eastbournian Josh Curryer spoke to us at our annual



Josh Curryer

Foundation Day lunch in June about his personal journey and how the only thing that was a disappointment to him throughout his time as a day boy was the fact that he had to leave at the end of every day! We are grateful to Josh for his support and for sharing his story with us with such honesty and candour: 'the bursary awarded to me changed the trajectory of my life; giving me the best two years of my life so far. In particular it gave me self-belief, a new sense of confidence, stability, joy and a life-long love for learning.' See the report on page 33.

A GROWING NETWORK OF OPPORTUNITY

Beyond fundraising for bursaries, we have continued the work started by our

predecessors in development, one of whom, Forbes Wastie sadly died in November. For many OEs, staff and parents, Forbes represented the best of Eastbourne College throughout his 44-year association with the school and will be greatly missed. He was passionate about fundraising for bursaries to ensure that children from all walks of life have access to an Eastbourne education and the transformational opportunities that this would bring. Many Eastbournians have much to thank him for. A tribute is on page 16.

Forbes most certainly laid the foundations for the ES which continues to be a vibrant hub of opportunity; our regular networking events, the annual Futures Convention, and numerous gatherings across the globe continue to bring people together from all walks of life, helping to forge connections that extend far beyond Eastbourne. Partnerships with local businesses, the Friends of St Andrew's (FoSA), and the newly formed Eastbourne College Parent Connect (ECPC) continue to enhance the experience for pupils and parents alike at both of our schools and

the Eastbournian Society Sports Club (ESSC) has gone from strength to strength, allowing us to share our wonderful facilities with those connected to our schools.

LOOKING FORWARD

While the world around us remains unpredictable, one thing is certain: the Eastbournian Society is here to stay. The resilience, generosity, and unwavering support of our community across the generations ensure that we continue to thrive, no matter what challenges are put in our way. Your dedication is what makes this society not just an institution, but a family, and as charity begins at home, we will continue to ask for your donations in order to help continue the life-changing opportunities we give through bursaries. Here's to another year of ambition and shared success and I look forward to seeing you in 2025.

**Emma Garrett,
Development Director**



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CONNECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The Eastbournian Society has helped organise a series of events to prepare current pupils for their future careers, while at the same time enabling Old Eastbournians and parents to meet and network with others in their profession.

THE FUTURES FAIR

The annual Futures Fair was held at the College on Friday 1 March, made possible through the collaborative efforts of Head of Futures Sarah Gordon and the Eastbournian Society.



There was an impressive turnout with around 70 delegates from industries, professions, universities and gap year organisers, who generously shared their wealth of knowledge and expertise with our Year 11 and sixth form pupils. We also welcomed pupils and



teachers from local schools in the Coastal Schools Partnership.

Our thanks to go to the OEs, parents and others who gave their time in offering their expertise and guidance to today's young people planning their futures.

BANKING, BROKING AND ASSET MANAGEMENT



Our annual banking, broking and asset management networking evening took place at PwC's offices in More London, close to London Bridge, on Tuesday 16 January.



It has always proved a popular event with current pupils, who were able to chat to OEs and parents who work in this sector, gaining valuable insights and contacts. It was a particular pleasure to welcome guest speaker Will Peters (School 1987–92) who talked about his own journey in the profession. Thanks as ever go to Darren Meek (Blackwater 1982–87) for hosting the event for the tenth year.

LEGAL NETWORKING



Some 30 pupils and other guests gathered for our College-based legal networking evening on Tuesday 19 November.

Our guest speakers were Richard Liddell KC (Reeves 1989–94), who specialises in commercial disputes, liability claims, construction and engineering litigation, and sports law, and Jeremy Stone (Pennell 2000–02), legal director at Williams FI, focusing on sports and media law, with expertise across all aspects of the entertainment industry.

It was a most informative evening, with a lot of connections made and knowledge gained. Those pupils present were able to pursue some ideas for their future plans and make steps to organising work experience. One of the parents present remarked how lucky we are to have such strong connections with our former pupils.

THE CCF

75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER



The Eastbournian Society was proud to host a dinner celebrating 75 years of the CCF, which was held at the Cholmondeley Room in the House of Lords on Friday 2 February.

Headmaster Tom Lawson with Lord Richards



It was a sell-out event with 120 guests, including OEs, current and former staff, parents and College cadets proudly representing all three services.

One of the guests, Lucy Ritson (Nugent 2016–18), gave us her account of the evening:

The evening saw a battalion of OEs gather at the House of Lords to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the CCF at the College. Kindly hosted by General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux GCB CBE DSO DL (Wargrave 1965–70), we enjoyed

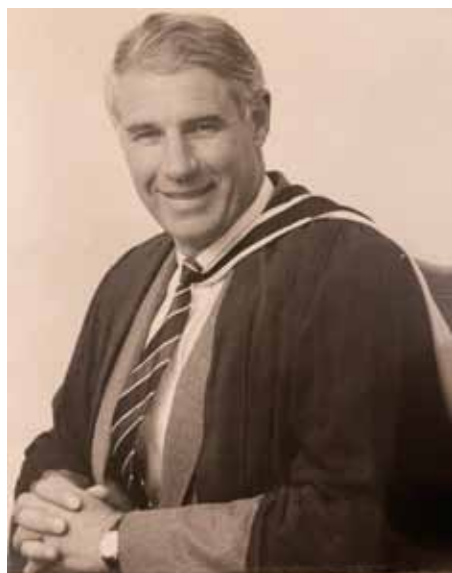
unparalleled views over the Thames, reunions, new friends and celebrations of all the achievements of the CCF.

Our host of speakers did not disappoint, with Headmaster Tom Lawson highlighting the important charitable role of Eastbourne College and all it offers; Brigadier Anthony Lamb telling of the role of the CCF in College life and that of our wider community; and fellow OE Kieran Cheney (Powell 2013–18) speaking of his role as a member of the Household Cavalry over the last few years and his

grounding in what Eastbourne offers.

The evening was a lovely reminder of my time at the College, an opportunity to catch up with familiar faces, meet new ones and be reminded of the proud history of the College with the CCF and the bonds it builds between all those connected by the Sunshine Coast. With the closing toasts given by our Chairman of Governors, Philip Broadley (Wargrave 1974–79), it was a highly enjoyable evening celebrating much of the College's heritage and all that there is to come.





FORBES WASTIE

For many OEs, staff and parents, Forbes Wastie represented the best of Eastbourne College.

Forbes died on 7 November 2024, aged 86. As a teacher, head of department, housemaster, CCF commander, second master and Foundation director, Forbes's association with the College spanned some 44 years. In retirement, he continued to be a firm supporter of the College.

He joined the staff as a teacher of biology in 1961, becoming head of department in 1965, a position he held until 1983 and then again from 1985 to 1988. He was head of science 1971–73 and contingent commander of the CCF 1968–73. In 1991 he was awarded the MBE for his 30 years' service with the CCF.

Many Blackwater boys appreciated his guidance and leadership as their housemaster from 1972 to 1983. He then became second master, a position he held until

1998, when he retired from teaching. A tribute to him in that year's *Eastbournian* was headlined: 'The one and only Forbes Wastie: What a hard act to follow.' Headmaster Charlie Bush said: 'Forbes Wastie has probably done more than anyone else to promote the good that exists here at Eastbourne College. He has been a tower of strength and a guiding beacon throughout an outstanding career.'

But Forbes had not finished with Eastbourne College, and returned the following year to act as chairman for the fundraising appeal for the new science block which opened in 2002. From 2002 to 2005 he was the College's first Foundation director and founded the College's legacy club (the Devonshire Society) which has continued to flourish to this day. Forbes maintained his support for the College, taking part in the annual fundraising Foundation Golf Day, and was a regular visitor to the Eastbournian Society office where his advice and wisdom were much appreciated.

Forbes was passionate about fundraising for bursaries to ensure that children from all walks of life have access to an Eastbourne College education and the transformational opportunities that this would bring.

the eulogy and his daughter Emily read Robert Burns's *Epitaph on My Own Friend*. The College Choir, conducted by Director of Music Dan Jordan, led the singing of hymns and sang Rutter's *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* before College Chaplain Revd Daniel Mercer on gave the final blessing.

Following a private cremation, the family joined the congregation at the Hydro Hotel where there was much reminiscing and friendships made and renewed, all with the common thread of how Forbes had touched their lives.

Jeremy's eulogy:

Granville Forbes Wastie was born on Millwood Farm in Long Hanborough, Oxfordshire on 20 July 1938. He was the second son of Granville, a tenant farmer on the Blenheim estate and Alison, a school teacher in the village and a leading light in the WI. It is Alison's family links back to Scotland that gave rise to his wonderful name.

Charles, Dad's older brother who, we are delighted to say, is with us today, talks of a happy, innocent childhood growing up on the farm. Dad could remember the two shire horses, Lightning and Mother, that pulled the ploughs before tractors took over. He also remembered the prisoners



A biology lesson with Forbes in the 1980s

Forbes's life was celebrated at his funeral service on Thursday 5 December at St Saviour's Church in Eastbourne.

Some 300 people attended the service, which was led by the Conduct of Eton College, Stephen Gray (Powell 1979–84) whose College contemporary Mark Le Brocq (Craig 1979–84) movingly sang Handel's *Where'er You Walk* accompanied by organist David Force (College Music Department 1991–2015).

Forbes's three sons all contributed: William (Powell 1983–88) read from the Book of Revelation, and Jonathan (Powell 1978–83) played Chopin's Nocturne in C sharp minor. Jeremy (Powell 1976–81) gave

of war working on the farm. I have found a hand-drawn Christmas card from 1945 from one particular German PoW thanking Granville and Alison for all the kindnesses they had shown him.

You can already see where Dad's love of the natural world, all things practical and helping others might have come from.

Charles passed the entrance exam to Magdalen College School, but Forbes did not! Instead, Alison contrived to send him to Abingdon school and the next chapter began. Under the stewardship of James Cobban, the exalted headmaster and educationalist of his time, who continued as a mentor and friend to Dad for many years,



A mocked-up front page of the *Daily Mail* presented to Forbes on his retirement from teaching in 1998



Forbes stands alongside the float he built to help fund raise after the Big School fire in 1981

Forbes excelled, winning his rugby colours, playing first eleven cricket and becoming head of house.

Whilst at school, he met and fell in love with Diana Bailey, the head girl at St Helen's girls school, also in Abingdon, and, you will not be surprised to learn, a feisty lacrosse player. They went off to their universities, Di to Bristol and Dad to London University and then Pembroke College, Oxford, where he completed his teacher training. The job search began.

When Charles and Forbes were young, there were really no summer holidays for Granville on the farm. So, he would load Alison and the boys into the Wolsey and drive down to Bournemouth where they would stay in a B&B whilst he went back to bring in the harvest. Dad grew to love the seaside and vowed that he would live and work somewhere by the sea.

And so it came to be, Forbes and Di arrived in Eastbourne in 1961. Dad took up a post at the College, teaching physics initially, and Mum taught at Beresford House, where the all-weather hockey pitch is now. They were married in 1962, I arrived in '63, Jono in '65 and Will followed in 1970.

Dad spent 44 years formally working for the College. After retirement from teaching in 1998 he continued to support the school and the wider community in numerous ways. His achievements and contributions are far beyond the time I have today to do them justice, but there are some particular aspects to share that give an insight into the man he was:

I believe the eleven years that Dad spent as housemaster of Blackwater between 1972 and 1983 were the most formative, fulfilling and happiest of his College career. There were five of us and Ben, the sop-

piest golden retriever in Britain, living on one side of that big door at the bottom of the stairs and 70 teenage boys living away from home on the other. I don't think I am exaggerating when I say that, to Dad (and Mum), we were all one big family. Dad took full responsibility for everyone in his charge and the tributes that have poured in since his departure have proved how much he cared for every single one of them, however challenging some might have been! By my calculation that is over 200 Blackwater boys who Dad helped make the journey from boyhood to manhood. He took particular special care of all those struggling with tough home lives, often corresponding with the Mums and Dads to keep them up to date on their child's progress.

He was firm but fair. He walked the talk when it came to rules and regulations. Often on a Saturday evening he would get up from watching *The Two Ronnies* on the telly, don his Deerstalker hat and drag a reluctant house tutor out to patrol the streets of Seaside. Anyone surprised out of bounds without a leave pass, having a quiet fag or cheeky pint or, heaven forbid, engaged in inappropriate heavy petting, was summarily dealt with and warned not to get caught next time.

Dad's unerring sense of duty is no better expressed than in his commitment to the Combined Cadet Force. Inspired by his brother Charles, commissioned into the Army Air Corps and fellow teachers like Donald Perrens, his predecessor in Blackwater; Marcus Lyon, the Head of Art, and Mike Young, his fellow housemaster in Pennell, who had all seen active service in the war, Dad was 100% committed to making the CCF as meaningful and professional as he possibly could, despite the protestations against compulsory 'corps' amongst many boys (including some of his sons) and indeed some in the common room. His efforts were recognised with the award of his MBE in 1992. What a proud day that was for us all at the palace. The motto of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is 'Serve to Lead' and if anyone epitomises that approach to the CCF and indeed, all his time at the College and in the community, it is Dad.

After Blackwater, Dad went on to become deputy headmaster serving three heads, Simon [Langdale], Chris [Saunders] and Charlie [Bush]. People ask if he ever coveted a headship himself, but Dad actually never wanted the limelight (Mum always kept his feet firmly on the ground); he simply thrived in his role helping and advising others.

Beyond the College, Dad was a magistrate for over 15 years, rising to become chair of the Eastbourne bench, he was a freemason, a school inspector and governor. In all these endeavours Dad was



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



Blackwater staff and spouses in 1995, just before the house was demolished: Brian Harral, Pip Kirtley, Rosie Polden, Colin Polden, Elizabeth Underhill, John Underhill, Di Wastie, Duncan Ellis (Head of House), Mary Perrins and Forbes Wastie

meticulous, kind, considerate and fair.

Dad was not an academic, but he was a man of many parts:

- He was a committed Christian with a strong faith and a loyal supporter of worship at the College, but also at All Saints', St Saviour's (where we are so kindly supported today) and latterly at St John's in Meads.
- He loved his sport and was always fit, tanned, hale and hearty. He enjoyed playing for the Eclectics, the common room cricket team, bolstered by a few ringers from the wider community – Nigel Wheeler describes him as 'a useful seam bowler of the old school'. He treasured his years at the Royal, playing golf with his many, many mates, striving to get his handicap down and putting the world to rights in the club house afterwards.
- He was a gardener and amateur botanist – I think our gardens in Tenby Lodge, Blackwater, Grassington Road and finally at Warren Hill House were some of the best tended in Eastbourne. He had a little competition with Eve Gardner, the housemaster's wife in Wargrave, trying to outdo each other in giving all the plants their Latin names. Apparently, when he did not know, he made them up and you can imagine he would be delighted if he sneaked one past Eve!
- He was a keen woodworker. I have a treasured picture of him with his sleeves rolled up, glasses dangling on the string around his neck, toiling away making wooden toys for the grandchildren in his little workshop at Warren Hill House.
- Investor – who can forget when he won the *Daily Telegraph* share competition! He was presented his award by Sir

Geoffrey Howe, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the Guildhall in the City and came home with a crate of champagne. You would have thought he was Warren Buffett after that!

- Dad could have made a very successful career in sales. His achievements in his final role with the College as Foundation Director, where he led the charge raising millions of pounds for the construction of the new science block are well documented and evidenced by the magnificent place the College is today. He particularly enjoyed campaigning with OEs overseas in places like Hong Kong and New York where I am led to believe he also developed a taste for espresso martinis... But I also remember him back in 1982 raising money after the Big School fire. He organised a large fete on College Field, single-handedly built a float for the Eastbourne fun day and persuaded one of those two Ronnies, Ronnie Corbett, to come and open the fete. What a happy day on College Field that was.

So, it is not surprising that one of Dad's proudest legacies is the Forbes Wastie scholarship awarded to 'all rounders' and we are so pleased to have some of the beneficiaries helping us today.

Above all else to us, his family, Forbes was a loving and loyal husband, son, brother, father, uncle, grandfather and most recently a great grandfather – Noah Forbes arrived exactly one year ago yesterday and we are so proud the wonderful name lives on.

Dad was a fantastic communicator, the key to being a good teacher I guess, and he had an unshakeable belief that there is goodness in everyone. He would always be interested in whoever he was talking to, whatever their place in the world. From cleaners and carpenters to generals, chiefs

of staff, dukes and duchesses and, most latterly his marvellous carers, Dad always gave people his time, made them feel special and was the first to offer help in hours of need.

Even at the end, when the dementia had stripped away most of Dad's faculties, his essential essence remained. He never complained of his lot, he remained stoic, content and happy and somehow always managed to be more interested in whoever was visiting than himself.

In his final months when he was still mobile, we would take Dad out for walks on the seafront, often with his loyal friends, which he always loved. He would say how beautiful and clean it looked, then he would pause, look up at the inevitably clear, blue Eastbourne sky and say 'I have been so lucky, thank you'.

Well Dad, that is true, but it is really us that have been so lucky and we should be thanking you for being a part of all our lives.

Jonathan added:

'Live and let live!' That was one of Dad's famous mottos.

If you excelled in the classroom or on the sports field he would be your champion. But if you lacked confidence or had problems he would be especially concerned. He would try to bring out the best in you and always see the positives in challenging times. Dad taught me A-level biology and always supported my efforts to become a doctor. When I was facing up to realities in life he would tell me how brave I was.

Dad had one serious illness in his life. That was mixed Alzheimers and Vascular Dementia. It was a brutal illness that ruthlessly and relentlessly attacked his faculties. It failed, however, to touch his gentleness and his kindness. He faced his illness with his usual stoicism and some bewilderment. It was, though, devastating for our dear mother who devoted her life to looking after him and her family.

I will always be grateful to my amazing brothers for working so hard to help make mum and dad's last years safe and secure. J, Will and I would like to thank their wonderful carers; David and his colleagues from Helping Hands, Klarissa and Lorraine who lived in, and then Camelot care home and Tina and her colleagues from Sovereign Lodge nursing home. They loved Dad – even when he was trying to corral other residents into an imagined 'assembly' or summoning them to his 'study' for some perceived misdemeanour.

He continued to take comfort from visits by many friends and ex-pupils whom he had influenced – even when he had long-forgotten who they were, and right up to his last days.

So Dad will continue to 'live and let live' through all those whose lives he touched and beyond.

THE ARNOLD EMBELLISHERS

All those with a connection to our community and an interest in enhancing our schools for the benefit of our pupils are welcome. Together as a friendly club we get the chance to meet up at the College to discuss ideas and have lunch, receive newsletters and achieve projects which augment the pupils' experience.



From the Thomson Gates in 1925 to the Charles III Coronation Gates in 2023, the Arnold Embellishers have together made a difference for the pupils by enhancing planned College investment and finding a few of our own ideas for over a century.



LOOK WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE TOGETHER



Our projects include:

Windows, benches, prizes, doors, planters, memorials, artworks, gates, pillars, sundials, lamps, floodlighting, trees, plaques, scoreboards, flagpoles, display cabinets, head of house boards, historical books.



THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS
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EASTBOURNE COMMUNITY

- Support the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal
- Come along to Eastbournian Society events
- Leave money in your will and in so doing join the Devonshire Society legacy club
- Spread the word about the world class opportunities at the two schools
- And in addition **JOIN THE ARNOLD EMBELLISHERS**



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150 YEARS OF THE COLLEGE CHAPEL

2024 marked the 150th anniversary of the opening of the College chapel.

Here archivist Paul Jordan provides a brief history

Designed by the Duke of Devonshire's architect, Henry Currey, and costing £1,343 to build, the chapel opened on 20 June 1874 and could accommodate 150 pupils. Internally the building was simply decorated with plain glass in the windows and red brick walls. Initially there was no heating but the *Eastbourne Gazette* reported:

'...along the aisle runs a cast iron grating, so arranged that the building may be warmed by hot water apparatus at any future time without doing injury to the building'.

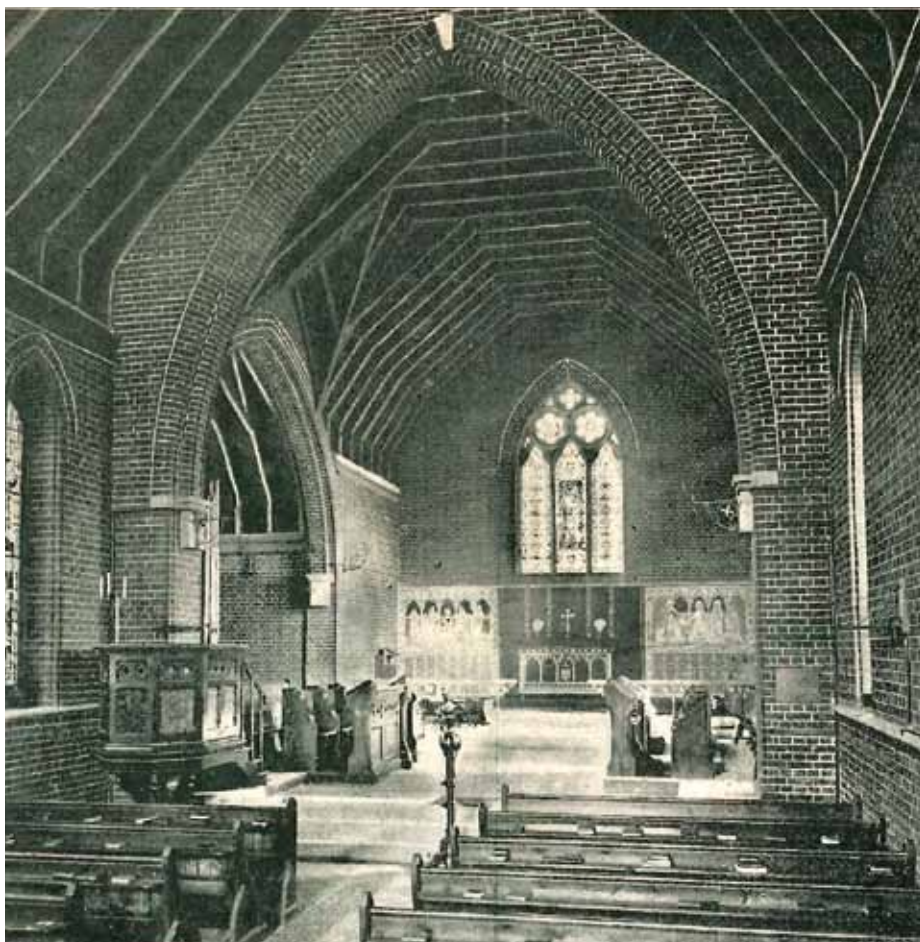
The transepts and chancel were added in 1889 and the existing east window was removed and reset into the new chancel.

The chapel was considerably enlarged in 1929 when the side aisles were added. The brick walls were painted white which made the interior much lighter. A porch dedicated to Edgar Seymour Hunt (Chaplain 1924–32) was added in 1935 and the last major change took place when the vestry was built in 1954.

The chapel is very fortunate to have six stained glass windows designed by Victorian artist Mary Lowndes. Her first commission for the College was the west window which commemorated the lives of former pupils killed in the South African War. Mary was a suffragette and designed banners, posters and postcards to support the cause. The suffragette colours, purple, white and green, feature in the windows she created. There are other stained glass windows but these tend to show a more traditional approach in their design.

The interior of the chapel was plain until 1893 when two frescos were added either side of the altar: 'The Holy Child among the doctors in the temple' and 'The Saviour blessing the little children'. The work was executed by the firm of church decorators, Clayton & Bell. Mr Bell personally copied the pictures onto the walls from the 'cartoons'. Unfortunately, these early frescos have not survived. The scheme was completed in 1904–05 when further frescos were added on either side of, and above, the east window. The work was carried out by Harry Windsor Fry, a member of the Royal Society of British Artists.

The chapel contains many plaques commemorating the lives of former pupils and members of staff. The memorial listing



The chapel in the 1890s showing the new transepts and chancel. The early frescos can be seen either side of the altar

former pupils killed in the First World War, installed in 1924, contains an error. Cyril Wickens-Smith, whose name appears on the plaque, was on board the *SS Lusitania* when it was sunk by a German U-Boat in 1915. He was believed to have drowned. In fact, it was his brother, Basil (not an OE), also on board, who died. When the Memorial Tower was opened a year later, Cyril's name was not listed.

The impressive wooden plaque sculptured by Nigerian artist, Ben Enwonwu MBE, commemorates the life of Bishop Walter Carey, College Chaplain, and was unveiled in 1956.

Singing was accompanied by the playing of an 'American Organ' when the chapel first opened. In 1888 a new organ was installed, a gift from Headmaster Revd Dr Crowden who brought it with him from Cranbrook School. It was rebuilt and enlarged in 1896, and again in 1950 by J W Walkers.

Confirmations have taken place at the

chapel since its earliest days and in 1901, Alethea Matheson, daughter of teacher H F Matheson, was the first person to be baptised.

Weddings too, feature in the life of the chapel. In September 1927, the neighbouring All Saints' Church burnt down and, for a number of years, couples were allowed to marry at the College chapel. The first wedding to be held in the chapel following the fire took place on 15 October 1927. Joseph Woodgate (brickmaker) married Freda Cole. In more recent years, a number of weddings of OEs have also taken place.

The chapel has seen some distinguished visitors over the years. The Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) came to the College in 1931. While in the chapel he examined the TOC H lamp and admired the two stained glass windows commemorating OEs Henry Pennell VC and Theodore Pennell. In the summer of 1938, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia visited the chapel and, as he left, was cheered 'lustily' by the boys.



The Bishop of Chichester with Ben Enwonwu at the unveiling of his sculpture in 1956

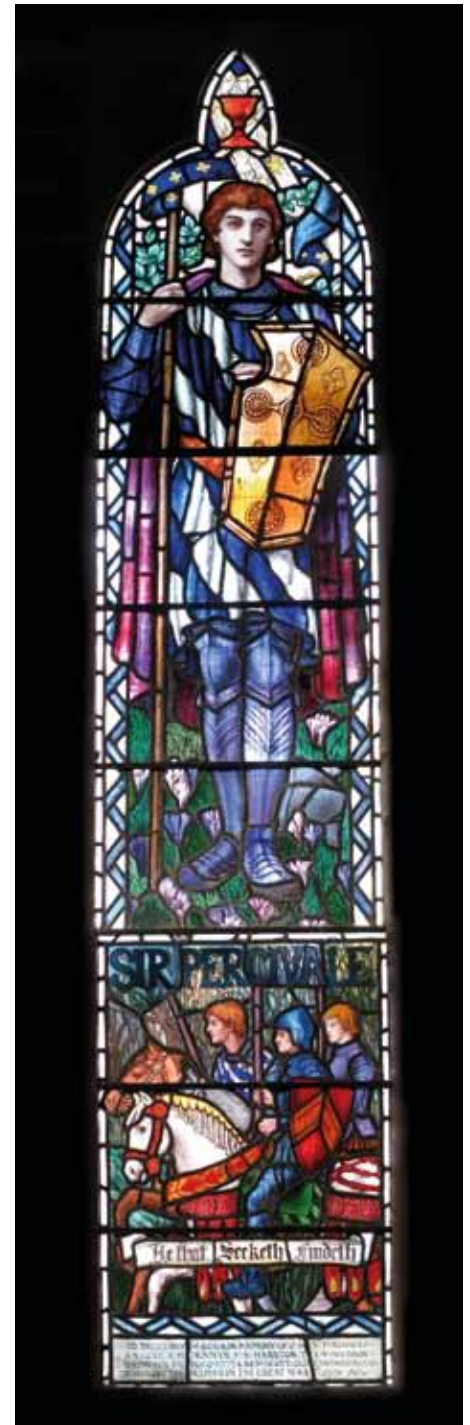
Mr C H Crump was the first music and singing master and organist and was engaged to train the choir (pupils) when the chapel opened in 1874. The first music scholarships were made in 1884 to one or two boys who were appointed choral scholars, part of whose fees were paid by the school. The choir still takes the lead at the most significant moments in the Colleges communal life: Speech Day, carol services, the whole school service, and at moments of crisis such as funerals and memorial services.

Before 1900, there was no need for a chaplain as the first five headmasters were Church of England clergymen and could conduct chapel services themselves. The Revd CW Horsburgh became the first College chaplain in that year. Perhaps one of the most 'colourful' incumbents was the Rt Revd Bishop Walter Carey who was at the College from 1936–40 and 1945–48. Formerly Bishop of Bloemfontein, he brought his love of rugby to the College; on occasions seen presiding over a rugby scrum practice dressed in full episcopal dress. He was also famous for his sermons and, according to VM Allom's centenary history of the College, *Ex Oriente Salus*, 'never hesitated to say what he thought, sometimes to the embarrassment of his audience, and on one or two occasions of the BBC when the latter were broadcasting his sermons'.

At the chapel service on Foundation Day, Saturday 15 June, College Chaplain the Revd Daniel Merceron outlined the history of the chapel in celebration of its opening 150 years previously that week. He remarked on some of the stained-glass windows, mentioned past chaplains and spoke of how the Chapel remains today a place of quiet reflection for the whole College community.



Good Samaritan (1914)



Sir Percivale (1921)



The College choir in the mid-1960s

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THE OVER-60s LUNCH

We were again fortunate to enjoy a very sunny day, and there was lots of laughter, good food and wine.

Some 50 members of the Eastbournian Society were welcomed to the Over-60s lunch on Monday 20 May. We were grateful once again to Peter Jamieson (Blackwater 1960-63) for hosting the event at the stunning St George's Hill Lawn Tennis Club for the tenth year.

In his welcoming words, he focused on how much his daughter had enjoyed College life and how the College, in general, nur-

tures friendships which last a lifetime. He was, he added, delighted, after last year's lunch, to be sent a prefect tie from the current College headmaster Tom Lawson who was the guest speaker. It was, Peter added wryly, almost acceptable as a reward for the College not having appointed him to the role in the 1960s.

It was a real delight to continue with the theme of OE girls and College friend-

ships with this year's speaker. Suzy Parsons (Nugent 1974-76) entertained us with amusing tales of how she secured her place at the College, and anecdotes about some of the key figures around at the time. She touched on what life was like in Hampstead as the daughter of famous actors, and passed on some key suggestions for life which she had learnt from her schooldays and from her father Nicholas Parsons.



A convivial lunch



A chance to catch up with old friends



Peter Jamieson with his prefect tie



Speaker Suzy Parsons, centre



Drinks by the lakeside

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Archivist Paul Jordan writes:

Thank you to everybody who has been in contact with the archives this year, whether making enquiries or offering donations to our collection. We are pleased to announce that the digital archive has been expanded to include *Old Eastbournian* annual reports from 1974 to 1986, St Andrew's *Androvian* magazines from 1938 to 1992, and photographs of Ascham prep school. The *Eastbournian* magazine now includes issues from 1949 to the 2017-18 issue, which was the last hard copy edition published.

You can access the archive via the Eastbournian Society website at www.eastbourniansociety.org; however, you will have to register and be logged in for the link to 'Digital archive' to work. If you have any problems with registration please contact David Blake at

drblake@eastbourne-college.co.uk or on 01323 452262.

Please be aware that as we expand the digital archive it is very much a work in progress and we know that some photographs may not be under the correct heading. We are addressing these issues, but if you do notice that something appears to be in the wrong place, please do let us know.

My thanks, as ever, to archives volunteer Peter Durrant (Reeves 1967-71) who has been diligently adding names to College photos to make them searchable on the archive.

We are always happy to help with any enquiries you may have. Please contact us at archives@eastbourne-college.co.uk or on 01323 451901.

D-DAY DIARIES

2024 marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the allied invasion of Normandy during the Second World War. Extracts from two diaries held by the archives showed how the news was received back home:

A member of College staff at Radley wrote in his diary:

Tuesday 6 June 1944

Well, the great day has at last arrived. D-Day opened this morning with Allied forces landed on the coast of France near a place near Caen on the Cherbourg peninsula. We have all been keyed up for this for such a long time that now it has arrived, all seems normal and natural that one wonders what is up. This evening we had a voluntary service of prayer for both schools for the men who are fighting this battle – the chapel was packed out. You would not get another person in there. I will always remember



that chapel service.

Paul Walker (Crosby & Blackwater 1939–44) wrote in his diary:

D-Day!! British, American and Canadian troops landed in Normandy at 12 last night, and fighting is going on in Caen!

This dramatic news seems to have been eclipsed by the following entry on the same day:

Scored at 1st XI match v Bloxham in afternoon. They made 134 for 4 declared, and we were 84 for 7 at draw stumps.

IAN GWYNNE-JONES

A relative of William Ian Havelock Gwynne-Jones (Gonville 1937–41), known as Ian, contacted us with some corrections for Ian's entry in the Second World War Roll of Honour. We were also in touch with a researcher working on a project to record the details of those who served in 11th Armoured Division, including Ian, and we were able to send some photographs of him to her. The Roll of Honour



Ian Gwynne-Jones in 1940

records that Ian landed in Normandy early on D-Day on Juno beach. He was part of a mission to destroy the bridges over the Orne River to delay a German counterattack on the allied forces. He was standing beside an ammunition lorry chatting to some of his men, when on 7 June 1944 they were attacked by American Thunderbolts. He was killed instantly.



Charles, standing third from the left, with his crew

CHARLES CHANCELLOR

An enquirer contacted us to ask if we had any information about his uncle, Charles Richard Chancellor, who was killed in a military air crash in August 1945. He was in the RAFVR as a skipper and pilot of a Lancaster that was taking POWs back to Italy; the plane hit bad weather over the Pyrenees where it crashed. He was originally posted to heavy bombers but, according to the College Roll of Honour, 'he hated bombing, but rejoiced in the low-level flying and food dropping operations in enemy-occupied Holland.'

We found references in the archives to Charles Chancellor and his father, Edgar Charles Chancellor, both of whom attended the College. Charles was in Blackwater House from 1938–41 and his father was in Blackwater, 1911–13. Charles's family are planning to hold a memorial service for him in France in August 2025.

A CZECHOSLOVAKIAN REFUGEE

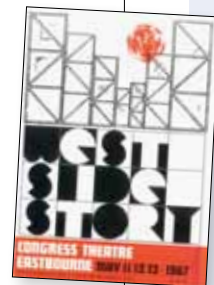
Sometimes we get speculative enquiries about relatives who may have attended the College, but on closer inspection we find that the person in question went to a school somewhere else in Eastbourne. One such was an enquiry from the son of a boy who was one of the 669 Czechoslovakian children saved as part of the Kindertransport in 1939 led by Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, whose story was portrayed in the 2024 film *One Life* starring Sir Anthony Hopkins. Although the boy was not a College pupil, the story was so interesting that it was worth investigating anyway. We discovered that he went to Willingdon College, based at Ratton Manor, the former home of the Marquis of Willingdon. This had been acquired by Mr L J Cottingham in May 1939, but only a year later the school was evacuated to Sherbourne in Dorset. The manor was taken over by Canadian troops and burnt down in December 1940. It is possible that the boy came first to Eastbourne and then moved to Sherbourne later.



Ratton Manor

A MUSICAL CONNECTION

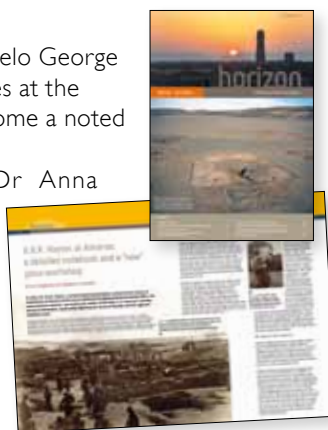
A great-nephew of Frederick Seymour, who was for many years the musical director at the Devonshire Park Theatre, contacted us as he had found a reference to Frederick being involved in the College production of *West Side Story* at the Congress Theatre in 1967 and wanted to find out more about it. A search on the digital archive listed Frederick as 'accompanist' in the review of the production in the *Eastbournian*, and his obituary, written by College director of music John Walker and published in the *Eastbournian* in 1968, said: 'Many of us will remember the endless hours when he patiently played the impossible piano reduction of *West Side Story* (he, unlike us, was never late and gave up the whole of a holiday for it), and his tearful eyes when at the end he wished us luck.' The enquirer later wrote to us: 'This information has greatly enriched my research into his life and I have been touched by the tribute to him from John Walker. I always find this aspect of family history research the most rewarding, that is when you find human stories that help you appreciate the life of the person themselves rather than just sometimes, somewhat dry genealogical relationships.'



ANGELO HAYTER

Last year we carried an article about Angelo George Kirby Hayter, teacher of modern languages at the College in the 1890s. He went on to become a noted archaeologist.

Our initial enquiry came from Dr Anna K Hodgkinson of the Freie Universität, Berlin and Dr Stephanie Boonstra (archivist of the Egypt Exploration Society) who have contributed an article on Hayter which appears in the latest issue of *Horizon*, the newsletter of the Amarna Project, <https://www.amarnaproject.com/documents/pdf/horizon-newsletter-23-HI.pdf>.



THE ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR A CHAPEL WINDOW

Thomas Kevin Rubens of Michigan, USA, contacted us concerning the chapel window dedicated to Henry Singleton Pennell VC (Blackwater 1887–92). Designed by Victorian artist and suffragette, Mary Lowndes, it depicts Gideon and was unveiled in 1913.

Thomas wrote that he had an original watercolour 'cartoon' (design) for the window and, according to its provenance, it was previously owned by Mary Lowndes' lifelong companion Barbara Forbes. When Lowndes died in 1929, she left Forbes a sum of money, all her pictures, prints, cartoons and studio effects. The design for the Pennell window was likely part of this bequeathed collection.

Thomas very kindly sent us a digital copy of the design and in return we sent him a photograph of the window in situ and a report of its installation which appeared in the 1913 *Eastbournian*.

Henry Singleton Pennell won his VC on 20 October 1897 during the attack on the Dargai Heights, part of the Tirah campaign on the north-west Indian frontier. He also fought in the Second Boer War. He died in the first fatal accident on the Cresta Run at St Moritz on 19 January 1907.



The window inscribed 'The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon'



The lower panel in the finished window, dedicated 'To the glory of God in memory of Henry Singleton Pennell VC (OE) Capt. Derbyshire Regt. Erected by old schoolfellows and his family'



Part of the cartoon depicting the lower panel



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BOYS IN THE 1950s SNAPSHOTS IDENTIFIED



David Anderson (Gonville 1957–61) has been able to identify a number of the boys featured in the 1950s snapshots which appeared in last year's magazine. The photos belonged to John Wilmot (School 1954–59).

The photo at top left includes Mike Mulvany (School 1954–59), back row, second from the left; David Winn (School 1954–59), back row extreme right; and Dod Wainwright (School 1954–60), squatting extreme right. **The photograph of the boy watering** is probably David Winn. **The image at the bottom right** includes Dod Wainwright (back row third from the left) and Mike Mulvany (sitting extreme right). David says: 'The remaining image of boys leaving the rugby pitch captures a very familiar scene at the conclusion of every 1st XV rugby match. The moment the final whistle was blown, all those boys lined along the Grange Road side of College Field, and providing support to the home team, raced across the field to the 'old' sports pavilion to form a welcoming tunnel for our team. I am reasonably certain that the Stag on the left of the two players in front is Mark Robinson (Gonville 1953–58). He was in the 1st XV in 1957 and was strongly mentored by both Robin Harrison and Peter Phillips.'

A FACE IN THE CROWD



In the 2022 edition we published some stills from a BBC Television Newsreel report in 1953 showing College pupils spectating as the All Blacks rugby team trained on College Field, and asked if anybody could identify any of the boys shown. Our thanks to Ken Cookes (Pennell 1958–61) who identified his brother, Robert Anthony Colsell (Pennell 1952–56) seen here in the crowd, wearing a dark jacket.

REEVES BOYS FROM THE LATE 1950s



Paul Tremlett (Reeves 1957–62) has sent us a snapshot of Reeves boys from the late 1950s and helpfully, he has identified everyone in it. They are:

Back row, left to right, Claud Murad (1957–60), Paul Tremlett, Humphrey Browne (1956–60), Cliff Mould (1956–60), Saleem Ali Khan (1956–60) and Algernon Walton (1956–61). Front row, left to right, A R Forrester (1957–60), Mike Levene (1956–61), David Ross (1957–60) and David Chipping (1956–62). The photo was taken by Geoff Reynolds (1957–60).

One of the boys listed is Saleem Ali Khan who died aged 25 in 1968, following an operation. *The Eastbournian* reported his death:

'On July 8, 1968, A Ali Khan died in Calcutta after an operation and on the following day he was buried in his native Rampur. Saleem, as he was known to his friends (his full name was the Nawabzada Saiyid Abid Ali Khan), was born in 1943, a younger son of His late Highness the Nawab of Rampur. He came to Ascham in 1950, joined Reeves House in 1956 and went up to New College, Oxford, in 1961 to read modern languages. He subsequently lived in Germany and took up the study of socio-anthropology. In the spring of this year he moved to India to complete his research for his thesis, and it was here that his most untimely death occurred. Saleem was a gentle, courteous and considerate young man who was well liked by his contemporaries and the staff. He came back to visit us whenever he could, and his eagerness for the smallest detail of news revealed a touching interest in and affection for the school. He will be sadly missed by his friends, and our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Gisela, his two young sons and his mother. May he rest in peace.'

Paul said of Saleem: 'He was very young and so sad to leave a young widow and two children. When at College I remember that he was excused games because of a weak heart, that might have caught up with him. I was fascinated at the time as he was the first person from the Indian sub-continent that I had ever met, in those days having led a sheltered life in 1957, and coming from the backwater of Hastings. He was a very nice gentle sort of chap.'

He went on to say about his time at Reeves: 'Reeves in those days was classed as rather down market especially next to Powell House where all the posh days boys went. But Reeves had a good esprit de corps.'

A HEADLESS MAN AND A MYSTERY OBJECT

We were intrigued by this photo, believed to be from 1967, which was found amongst some other donated material. At first glance the man in the striped blazer appears to have no head, but on closer inspection it looks as if he is tying his shoelaces while leaning over on the bench. More intriguing is the tower-like structure in front of Big School. Does anybody know what this was? In 1967 the College celebrated its centenary, so was it used as part of the celebrations that year? Please let us know.



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THE RULE BOOK



Peter Robinson (Wargrave 1949–53) kindly donated a College rule book to us which had belonged to his father, Robert Cecil Robinson (Wargrave 1918–24). We've selected a few choice ones...



The Robinson brothers, left to right, Alec, Cecil, Bertie, Victor

A New Boy Should

Realise that he is not here to please himself but to do all he can to add to the reputation of the School.

(a) He should always put the interests of the School before those of himself or his House.

(b) watch the School's First matches not as a mere spectacle, but as a struggle for the honour of the School.

Things Forbidden

No boy is to use or have in his possession any of the following articles: catapults, fireworks, gunpowder, firearms of any kind,

playing cards, smoking materials.

No boy can ride a motor cycle or drive a car or any other vehicle.

Boarders may not have bicycles.

Dress

Boys who have leave to ride horses may wear riding breeches, but must wear the usual black or dark blue coat and School cap.

Boys must leave Eastbourne at the end of term and return after the holidays in ordinary School dress wearing School straw, bowler or cap.

Out of Bounds

...all Towns, Tea gardens or Strawberry Gardens, except Thornwell [tea garden at Wilmington], Ivy Cottage at Pevensey, and the Eight Bells Garden at Jevington.

Three of Peter's uncles were OEs:

Victor (Wargrave 1916–18), Bertie (Wargrave 1916–22) and Alec (Wargrave 1928–30).

Catherine Clifton (Nugent 1989–91), who runs the Lansdowne Hotel, Eastbourne, is also related through Peter's great uncle.

NEW WRITING

Martin Haldane Ahmad Thomson (Blackwater 1966–68) contacted the archives to ask if we had copies of an in-house College magazine *New Writing* for which he designed the cover. We were able to locate the 1968 edition (blue front cover) and the 1970 edition (yellow front cover) together with the cover of the November 1968 *Eastbournian* of which he was also responsible.

Ahmad is the author of *Golden Days on the Open Road* which describes his journey to the acceptance of Islam in 1973. One of the dedications in the book is to his English teacher, Philip Le Brocq, whose best lesson was:

'The experience in life which is unique to everyone is that each one of us can fall in love.'

Ahmad's latest literary work was published in 2023, *The Presence of Islam in Andalus*.

The archives team very much enjoy helping OEs and others with their enquiries and was delighted to receive the following comment from Ahmad: 'the work of the archivist is essential in helping to keep good memories alive.'



New Writing, Easter 1970



Eastbournian, November 1968

THE CUCKMERE BOAT HOUSE



Looking through a 1920s snapshot album, we came across a photo of the original boathouse at Cuckmere. The Eastbourne College Rowing Club was founded on the banks of the river in 1928 and its first boat house was a converted army hut. Stephen Foot (Wargrave 1901–06) wrote in the 1956 *Eastbournian*:

'We bought a big army hut from Summerdown Camp at a very cheap price and the school carpenter with some of the boys re-erected it at Exceat.'

Summerdown was a large First World War army convalescent camp sited approximately where Old Camp Road is now. After the war, many of the wooden buildings were sold off and were used for a variety of purposes. The original boat house was demolished in 1934 and a new one built in its place.

DONATIONS

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

Derek Blackburn (School 1960–65)
College ephemera and newsletters

Kim Brake (Reeves 1968–72)
A carved wooden 'totem pole', a 1966 gift from visiting rugby team from Brentwood College, Vancouver

Philip Hepburn (Blackwater 1961–66)
Photographs of Ascham and the College; a rugby shirt

Pip Kirtley

Sports team photos and three reference books by EC Arnold

Family of John William Murfin
(School 1953–57)

Snapshot album and other photos

Mike Price (Reeves 1955–58)
Various College ephemera

Peter Roach (School 1957–62)
Eastbournians, Blue Books, programmes and scorecards

Peter Robinson

(Wargrave 1949–53)
College ephemera and snapshots

Harvey Smith (Reeves 1980–84)

Newspaper cuttings and other ephemera

Former member of staff

Small Victorian stained glass panel saved from Blackwater House prior to demolition

Forest School, London, E17

Copies of the *Eastbournian* from 1906 and 1914

HYDNEYE HOUSE SCHOOL

Edward Atkinson (Reeves 1977–82) wrote to us having seen the prep school article in Notes from the Archives in last year's magazine. He said: 'I believe I am the youngest former pupil from Hydneye House School (HHS), which was actually situated on the Ridge in Baldslow, part of St Leonards-on-Sea, not strictly Hastings. I joined its pre-prep aged four in 1968. I was only there a year, since it then amalgamated with Glengorse in Battle becoming Glengorse and Hydneye. The Hydneye House site was compulsory purchased by Hastings Borough Council who wanted to build a secondary modern school there, forcing the headmaster to either find a new location or amalgamate with another prep school. Hydneye House's last headmaster, and then co-headmaster of Glengorse and Hydneye, A G (Gerald) N Brodribb (Gonville 1929–33) was an OE, as was his father, Arthur Brodribb (Wargrave 1889–95), who was a GP in St Leonards. Glengorse and Hydneye remained an independent co-educational prep school until 1989, when it amalgamated with Battle Abbey School, a girls school which wanted to become co-ed. They however soon left the Glengorse site, which recently became a school again, for pupils with special needs. The site seems to have changed little since I was a pupil there in the 1970s.'



The yard at Hydneye House School

You can find more information about Hydneye House on this forum for former pupils: <https://hydneyehouse.blogspot.com> and at this website: https://historymap.info/Hydneye_House.

JOHN ELLIS REMEMBERED

The archives was contacted by Greg Horsford, the chair of the AE558 Steering Group in the parish of Northill, Bedfordshire. He was researching the life of John Homfray Ellis (Pennell 1936–40), the pilot of an RAF aircraft which crashed on a training flight in 1942. We were able to supply him with the information we held on John, who has an entry in the Second World War Roll of Honour. Greg takes up the story:

On the evening of 1 April 1942, a Lockheed Hudson aircraft of the Royal Air Force took off on a training flight from RAF Oulton in Norfolk. The aircraft was designated AE558 of the 1428 Flight Conversion Unit and was piloted by 19-year-old John Homfray Ellis who had left Eastbourne College two years earlier. John and his three other flight crew were being quickly prepared to be deployed out to Burma, which was deemed to be in a desperate situation, the Japanese advancing daily against the British.

The route of the flight

would take them some 653 miles across the heart of England to Hungerford twice before returning to their base. However, at 10.30pm that evening the aircraft developed difficulties over the



The type of Lockheed Hudson flown by the 1428 Flight Conversion Unit

small Bedfordshire parish of Northill, some 40 miles north of London. Eyewitnesses state that they heard an aircraft flying low. Then the engines started 'popping' a suggestion of fuel starvation. They then 'cut out'. A few seconds later there was 'one big orange glow in the sky, immediately followed by a terrible thud.'

John and his three crewmates were killed instantly. Two were aged 21 and the third just 29, with a wife and infant son.

At the subsequent inquest,

HM Coroner Mr Rose said, 'They died in the service of the country every bit as if they had been on a flying operation'.

This story of heroism and sacrifice had been lost for more than 80 years until

members of all four airmen, where the memorial will be unveiled later in 2025.

Mr Horsford said 'it's been a wonderful yet truly humbling experience to piece together the lives of those four young men and return their story to their families. I am delighted that Eastbourne College has a record of John and have been so enthusiastic about our project to honour him.'

The AE558 Memorial Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/1866371617502112 and the Steering Group can be contacted through Greg at greghorsford@icloud.com.

Editor's note: John's stepfather, Colonel Gillum, founded the John Ellis Biography Prize in his memory.



John Ellis's grave in the cemetery at St Mary's Church, Cardington

MEMORIES OF RANNIE'S



David Atkins (Gonville 1949–54) told us:

All the female students were known as 'cookers' to all who cared. The girls would be enrolled after school and would average 17 years old and come from what could be classified as upper middle class. It was a serious offence for College boys to fraternise with the 'cookers' and Silverdale Road, its home, was out of bounds. I don't think the girls had boundaries – in the geographical sense – and a lot of them seemed to be interested in brass band music for they gathered at the bandstand soon after the College Sunday morning chapel finished.

At a distance of some 70 years, I can't remember how introductions were made but from the age of 15 until the last of my schooldays, I befriended the students, not only of cookery but sewing and other domestic economies. The risk of anything from being beaten to expulsion seemed a worthwhile one for the pleasure of feminine company. Looking back, it was all very pure company, walking, talking and exchanging letters were the norm.

It can now be revealed that a small group of Gonvillians had found that the road from Meads that wound up to the Beachy Head road left little pieces of unexplored ground within its many twists and turns. Overgrown but very secretive, we named our



The spoof 'team photo' in front of School House

In last year's magazine we included an article about Rannie's, more formally known as the Eastbourne School of Domestic Economy, run by Miss Randall, and asked if any OEs had memories they would like to share.

hideout 'The Place'. The journey from Silverdale Road to 'The Place' was undertaken by some of the more adventurous 'cookers'.

My first 'cooker' girlfriend invited me to stay with her parents in the school holidays and they took me to the theatre to see *Showboat* during term time. All was going swimmingly until the next year when I was 'dumped' in favour of one of my great friends: a necessary but painful lesson. However, other friendships were made as the years passed and when I left, I was still a 'cookers' boy. This time with a Scottish lass who invited me to stay with her family in a shooting lodge at the foot of Ben Nevis. This friendship ended when she left Eastbourne to work at the London Hospital and with me ensconced in Oxford, meetings became uneconomical and rather pointless.

As a coda to these brief notes, I would like to mention that my housemaster had married a 'cooker' and later my first head of house followed the same path. With a little more leeway, the College and the cookery school could have started a full matrimonial agency.

The nearest I came to falling foul of the authorities due to my time spent with a 'cooker' was on a hot summer's Sunday in 1953 when I took the Scottish one by bus to Alfriston for a country ramble. Stupidly, I misread the bus timetable and found on a Sunday the one that would get me back to Chapel on time did not run. I phoned a great friend who lived in Carlisle Road and was in the cricket team with me. He 'borrowed' his father's car and drove out to pick us up and I just made Chapel with moments to spare, probably removing bits of grass from my blue shirt as I took my place.

Richard Masefield (School 1956–61) also shared his memories:

Whatever did or didn't happen in 1949 [when the *Daily Express* reported: 'College boys say: We can't see girls', see page 37 in last year's magazine], there was certainly a good deal of 'interchange' between the two establishments during the fifties and sixties. As a case in point, my sister Vicky whilst at Rannie's actually climbed through a School House window on a dare one summer night, I think in 1955, to wake anyone asleep by ringing the house bell. This to the amusement rather than consternation I was told, of a young house tutor who was himself no stranger to Rannie's!

Later in the sixties, a number of us fifth and sixth formers 'went out' with Rannie's girls – if not exactly openly, then confidently enough to pay a photographer to take the spoof 'team photo' in front of School House, complete with cup and draped school scarves. The depicted 'miscreants', as our housemaster Peter Phillips often called us, were Christopher Dane, Richard Masefield, Tony Booth and David Garst.

The girls from Rannie's included a Nikki seated at either end, with Joanna and Theresa between them.

The surnames of all but my own girlfriend now escape me. Later that term I persuaded my mother to introduce her to Barbara Phillips at a parents' tea in the housemaster's house, as 'a friend of the family'. Although having done so, she rather blew the gaff by turning back to Jo to ask, 'What IS your name dear?!'

In the days before we were officially banned from fraternising with girls from other schools, our first illicit girlfriends were from Moira House, before we graduated to older girls from Rannie's. Some even aspired to dates with the still more glamorous students from the Foreign Language College at Compton Place. But I was never sophisticated enough for that!

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THE DEVONSHIRE SOCIETY

Find out more about the schools' legacy club

Founded in 2002 by Forbes Wastie, whose life we remember on page 16, the Devonshire Society currently has almost 90 members, made up of men and women who intend to leave a financial gift to Eastbourne College Incorporated in their will. All legacy giving helps to fund bursaries or development projects, with bursaries giving life-changing opportunities to young people.

FOUNDATION DAY

Foundation Day, our annual big thank you to all of our benefactors and Devonshire Society members, was held on Saturday 15 June.

The day began with a thanksgiving service in chapel with the College Choir in fine form, followed by a Champagne reception in the Christopher Kirk-Greene function rooms situated next to the dining hall, with entertainment provided by some of the College's top musicians. Headmaster Tom Lawson, a new member of the Devonshire Society, welcomed the guests to lunch, after which there was an opportunity to hear from OE Josh Curryer (Reeves 2014–16). Josh spoke about his tough start in life, being fostered, and his ambition to attend the College. Thanks to the bursary he was awarded, he was able to reach his goal, joining the College in the sixth form. His heartwarming and emotional story was received with great applause. Legacies left by Devonshire Society members help fund bursaries awarded to pupils like Josh, and he expressed his gratitude to everybody who makes a contribution.

The lunch concluded with a preview of the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal video which was to be released on Speech Day two weeks later.



Josh Curryer, third from left, later addressed the guests



Guests had the chance to meet current College pupils

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

AWARDS AND PRIZES

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

INHERITANCE TAX RELIEF

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

IN-LIFE GIVING

Some people like to see their money in action, using their income now to transform lives for the future. Do please let us know if you are interested in this form of 'living legacy'.

ALREADY HAVE A WILL?

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

FIND OUT MORE

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



Headmaster Tom Lawson welcoming guests to the lunch

IN MEMORY

WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING
DEVONSHIRE SOCIETY MEMBERS WHO
DIED DURING 2024

Brian Meaby	(Pennell 1945–49)
Duncan Symington	(Pennell 1945–49)
Forbes Wastie	(College staff 1961–98, Foundation Director 2002–05)

GIVING HOPE TO REFUGEE CHILDREN

While researching the life of David Anable (Wargrave 1953–57), archivist Paul Jordan came across a newspaper article that David had written in 1960 concerning the fate of children displaced from Eastern Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War.

FRIDAY
EXPRESS & ECHO
OCTOBER 7, 1960

REFUGEE CHILDREN VENTURE

BRUNO lives with his father, mother, and nine sisters in a home consisting of two rooms in a barrack. His father spends every available moment and all possible money on building a small house nearby. To save money, the family just eat as little as possible, and Bruno (aged 13) must spend most of his spare time helping his father on the building.

Bruno was one of thirty boys in a room in one camp in Austria. The idea of the camp occurred to three of us in December. As we pursued the idea, it slowly evolved and took shape. Five more Cambridge undergraduates were included. Two girls who were studying civil in Cambridge also agreed to come as cooks. This made a complement of ten, each doing a different subject, except two reading English. Natural sciences, agriculture, home economics, engineering and law were among the wide range of subjects read.

Planning ahead

We did all the internal work and general organisation, being determined not to be tied down by red tape in any particular organisation. As a result of much letter writing, many private individuals, firms, schools and others were generous enough to contribute financial aid and lend or give us necessary equipment.

We ourselves spent the first month of the long routine earning money so that we could contribute our share. Two of us became schoolmasters, another a farm labourer, another a hospital attendant, and another drove a bakery van around Jersey.

made an excellent base, and provided sleeping quarters for the boys. The rest of us slept outside in tents. Water came from a tap in the nearby pizzeria, and there was electric light. The farmers and his family were very helpful in providing extra accommodation for the girls, and fresh milk and eggs.


Irrepressible

The Austrian representative of U.N.A. selected suitable boys from refugee camps over a wide area, and we collected them in the vans. They came in two groups, each for about a fortnight. Those in the first group were from seven to twelve years old, and those in the second from twelve to fifteen.


Only one boy spoke English, since he had been to England the previous summer, but five of us spoke German, and the others were usually able to make themselves understood with the aid of much pantomime.

They were all delightfully full of fun, and in spite of their very varied homes and nationalities, they settled in together happily. Many were Volksdeutsche, that is, of German origin; the others were Hungarians, Poles, Czechs, Yugoslavs, and even one Russian.

We had kept the number of boys small, so that the maximum of care and attention could be given to



THE top picture shows the older group of boys. In the back row is Roger Catchpole, the camp leader (second from left). The smaller photograph shows Haffenberg Refugee Camp—in the rain—where an afternoon was spent entertaining all the children.



Duties

The boys were expected to help with the tidying and cleaning of the hut, and with the washing up and preparing of meals. All this they did, usually with great

David's 1960 article in the *Express & Echo*

Many refugees had little choice but to stay in what were known as 'Displaced Persons' camps, and there was a vast number of children who had very little opportunity to have any sort of holiday.

The plight of these children was recognised by OEs David Anable, Roger Catchpole (Wargrave 1952–58) and Michael Crick (Wargrave 1952–57), who were all by then Cambridge undergraduates. With the support of several others, they established a 'holiday camp' for refugee children in Austria in 1960. A similar camp had been set up in Germany in the late 1950s.

The United Nations Association found a suitable site, close to the village of Ubelbach, on which to set up the camp. The accommodation, an Alpine hut, consisted of a small kitchen, living room and a bedroom with 14 bunks where the refugee boys slept. David and the others slept outside in tents.

A considerable amount of work needed to be done prior to the arrival of the children and the group did much of the practical building work themselves and spent their own holiday time earning money in order to contribute to the project. In the newspaper article, published in Exeter's *Express & Echo* on 7 October 1960, David wrote:

'Two of us became schoolmasters, one of us became a farm labourer, another a hospital attendant and another drove a bakery van around Jersey.'

But the most pressing problem was the lack of transport. The issue was resolved when they were lent two Bedford vans; one a Dormobile belonging to a woman in Jersey, the other a van from the Heathcoat factory in Tiverton. The vans travelled through France, Switzerland and Germany on their way to Austria, well

laden with sports kits, tents and cooking apparatus.

The Austrian branch of the UNA selected boys from refugee camps over a large area, their ages ranging from 7 to 15 and whose countries of origin included Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Some of them were Volksdeutsche, ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. The article continued:

'They were all delightfully full of fun, and in spite of their varied homes and nationalities, they settled in together happily... to see how happy they were and how much they delighted in everything, the food in particular, the freedom and open spaces, the companionship... made every shilling spent worthwhile.'

There were plenty of activities in which the boys could participate; playing football and badminton, hiking, cave exploring and raspberry picking with trips to swimming pools and neighbouring towns.

The experience seems to have had an effect on Roger Catchpole who, in 1963, helped run a holiday for the first group of Tibetan children to arrive at Pestalozzi Children's Village in Sussex. Following a visit by the Dalai Lama's sister to the village, Roger went to Nepal for two years as a volunteer to help implement an UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency) project to build a new village for 600 refugees. Roger also gave a talk to women students at Chelsea College of Physical Education in Eastbourne which led to them running camps for refugee girls in Austria.

The initiative of setting up the Austrian camp was very much of its time, in response to the post-war refugee crisis. Could David and his companions have imagined that more than 60 years later, the plight of refugees throughout the world would continue to be a major social and ethical issue?

David Anable's obituary is on page 112.

OLD EASTBOURNIAN LODGE No. 4946

Nick Clive-Matthews writes:

I am writing this as Christmas approaches, the time we look back and remember how the Lodge has been faring over the past twelve months, but it is also a time when we remember those who are no longer with us. It is only a few days since so many of the wider College community gathered together at St Saviour's Church to pay our last respects to that giant among former teachers, Forbes Wastie, and to celebrate his long association and outstanding service to the College. The Old Eastbournian Lodge is one of the many fortunate groups associated with the school that particularly benefitted from Forbes's direct involvement. He had been one of our key members for over 30 years, serving as our Millennium Master in 2000, since when the Lodge has adopted Forbes's Millennium Tie as part of our usual dress. During those years he had introduced many new members to the Lodge and his contribution in that respect is unlikely ever to be repeated. Many Lodge members were at the service, some of whom had travelled great distances to be with us. He will be sadly missed.

As well as joining the Lodge out of his huge support for anything related to the OE network, Forbes was also very pleased to be associated with the amazing charitable side of the movement. Apart from our well-known social side, we also manage to fund huge sums of money for charity each year, all of it being raised by the individual lodges out of their own pockets. As a movement we are second only to the National Lottery in our annual donations to charity, giving away some £50m a year to a multitude of different causes. As well as supporting large numbers of small local charities we are one of the first responders to international disaster relief, we give tremendous support to medical research, to mental health, the hospice movement

and are great supporters of Air Ambulances across the country. The London Lodges alone have made a donation of £3m towards the cost of the two new London air ambulances, each of which has the Masonic logo and the London Freemasons name displayed prominently on each side. The OE Lodge continues to support all this charitable giving as best we can, including supporting the College Bursaries Fund.



John Bones (Wargrave 1952–55) and Graham Lee

On a happier note, the Lodge has had another busy year under the leadership of our current Master, Ed Board, a local solicitor and son of Andrew, who was in the Chair in 2019. He was installed in January by Dr



Rob Wicks and John Thornley (Lodge Organist)

Rob Wicks (Powell 1974–79), who is continuing as the Lodge Mentor, another important role. Some 40 Masons gathered together for the evening, among them five visiting Masters of other lodges, in particular the Master of the Old Radleian Lodge accompanied by his Lodge Secretary, both of whom were invited to assist in the ceremony. Old Brightonians were represented by a Past Master who was also part of the visiting Sussex Provincial team and altogether we had guests from



Some of Graham's welcoming party

a dozen different lodges, who all enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Eastbourne Masonic Centre after the meeting.

The highlight of the year for the OE members of the Lodge was the October meeting, when we welcomed a new Initiate in Graham Lee (Gonville 1985–90). It is always an important moment for any lodge to welcome a new member, but especially so for the OE Lodge when the new recruit is himself an OE. As we became an 'open lodge' in 1997, when we moved our meetings from London down to Eastbourne under the guidance of the late John W E Howlett (Wargrave 1946–50), many of the members are no longer directly linked to the College, but we always try and maintain a balance. John's son John, Jr. (Blackwater 1971–74) served as Master for three years from 2020–22, when he kept up our spirits during the Covid years. Being an open lodge, we are no longer restricted to OEs and staff but also welcome parents, grandparents or friends as members, but we are keen to maintain our direct link to the College and are always delighted to welcome former pupils and anyone directly involved with the school. We meet at the Eastbourne Masonic Centre on a Friday evening four times a year and always have dinner after the meeting, which is a great way to get to know each other and keep up with the latest College news.

Rob Wicks, Dermot Bambridge (Reeves 1962–65), Peter Gates, JP (Reeves 1962–67) and Nick Clive-Matthews (Pennell 1962–66), were all recruited to assist in Graham's initiation and Nick was particularly delighted to be invited to guide him

through the ceremony as the stand-in Junior Deacon, a role he had first performed over 30 years ago. We all hope that Graham will get as much fun out of his Freemasonry as the senior members have over the years.

Our next big event will be in January, when our current Master, Ed Board, will be installing his successor, Joey Williamson-Persh, the grandson of Philip Kavanagh (Reeves 1952–55) and brother of Jasmine (Blackwater 2010–12). There will be plenty of work for the new Master next year, but he would still be delighted to welcome any new prospective members. If you are still not sure about Freemasonry, then just have a look at the United Grand Lodge of England website www.ugle.org.uk and the Sussex Provincial website <https://sussexmasons.org.uk>. Both are packed with information and we are now particularly looking to recruit not just young men, as there are also two Grand Lodges specifically catering for women. As a result of our nationwide universities scheme, we now accept anyone over the age of 18. If you think you might like to learn a little more or are already a Mason but would like to join a local lodge, then Nick Clive-Matthews – nickc_m@yahoo.co.uk – will be more than happy to have a chat or put you in touch with a lodge meeting in your area.



Peter Gates, Nick Clive-Matthews and Dermot Bambridge

SPEED KING

THEODORE CLARKE

Theodore Alexander Clarke (School 1902-04) led a fascinating life: ice hockey player, speed boat builder and pilot and employee of the Paramount Pictures film company based in Bordeaux.

We were alerted to this when the College archivist was contacted by an English woman called Lindsay Bunch who now lives on the shore of Lake Geneva. Lindsay had been researching the history of an abandoned ship building facility in Amphion on the edge of the lake, and had come across the name, Theodore Alexander Clarke. She had written a blog post on his achievements as a power boat pilot in the 1920s, and in particular on his construction of the record-breaking *France-Excelsior* powerboat that competed in the 1926 Harmsworth Cup in Detroit, USA. Further research had led her to a small piece about Theodore that former archives volunteer, the late Bill Bowden, had written for the 2015 *Old Eastbournian*, prompting her to get in touch with the College archives.

Since then we have, with the help of Lindsay, been able to provide more details about his life. We are particularly fortunate as Theodore's OE record survives. Born in France in 1889, his father was Theodore Mattock Clarke, 'bank manager, Institut Commercial, Paris'. Little is written about his time at the College but in a letter dated 1956 he wrote 'I was a bugler. We marched out to the station when the Prince of Wales came to Eastbourne (Edward VII)'.

He was also in the choir and was present when the stained glass window commemorating the OEs who had died during the South African War was unveiled in 1905 in the Chapel.

Theodore continued his further education at HEC Paris 'of which I was president for a year'. (HEC – Paris School of Advanced Business Studies). In 1908 he played for an ice hockey team in the French national championships, an account of which appeared in the sporting journal *La Vie au Grand Air*.



The French sporting journal *La Vie au Grand Air* featuring the 1908 French national ice hockey championships in which T A Clarke participated

According to his OE form, in 1912, he 'flew' and in the following year was a 'pilot in balloon, Paris to Zurich'. It also listed the fact that he was 'a member of the British Racing Drivers' Club' and 'Amateur driver motor cars and motorbikes, France and USA 1910-14 & 1919-29'.

It would seem that his love of speed dated from as early as 1911 when he received a £3 fine for exceeding the 20mph speed limit on the Brighton Road, Croydon in 1911. In his defence he said, 'I'm not used to driving in this country; I've been in France'.

During the First World War he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Cavalry Division, worked in intelligence and, as captain, was ADC to Sir George Barrow GCB. His wartime service included 'liaison work with Joffe and Foch' and he was mentioned in despatches in 1918.

He married Margaret Barclay Stevens in 1923, giving his occupation as 'engineer' and his address as 22 Welbeck Court, London, W14.

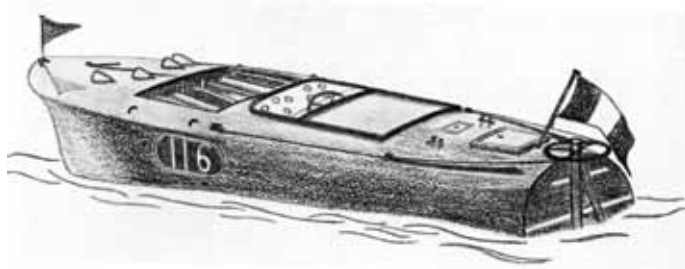
His most ambitious plan was to build a speed boat and, together with Henri Esders, bought a boatyard at Amphion and set about

building the *France-Excelsior* speed boat. They planned to race it and challenge the American record holders in the 1925 Harmsworth Cup Trophy in Detroit, USA. Unfortunately, the first vessel was destroyed by fire so work was started on *France-Excelsior II*.

The boat was shipped to New York on the deck of the liner *France*, and transported to Detroit, to great excitement, ready for the 1926 Harmsworth Cup races. Clarke, who was to 'pilot' the boat, was even given the freedom of the city of Detroit.

On the day of the race, over 150,000 people lined the banks of the Detroit River. *Yachting* magazine in October 1926 called it the 'finest fleet of highspeed fliers ever gathered on one course'. Or at least it would have been if the *France-Excelsior* had made it to the starting line. Not only were there problems with her listing in the water because the hull had warped, but the drive shaft was also damaged. It was agreed to postpone the race until the following day, leaving all the rain-sodden spectators to trundle home again.

During the night, the sportsman-like Americans offered whatever help they could, but to compound the problems it was



A pencil sketch of the *France-Excelsior* speed boat

discovered that someone had forgotten to bring the spare bottles of compressed air from France needed to start the Breguet-Bugatti engines. In a valiant attempt to save face the *France-Excelsior* lined up the following day, T A Clarke at the helm and, after much spluttering, the engines failed again to start.

Swallowing his pride Clarke agreed to be towed across the starting line in the hope that the shafts would begin to turn. Suddenly, there was a roar from the engines, the crowd went wild, and she was off! The local newspaper used the technical term of 'hobby horsing' around the course 'in a way that must have loosened the teeth of her crew of three'. After only half a mile Clarke pulled into the pits. *The Detroit Free Press* of 12 September 1926 published a photo of Clarke aboard the boat with the caption: 'The *Excelsior-France* finishing its first and only lap. T A Clarke, the English pilot, was forced to retire because of motor trouble.' He had to concede defeat and the Americans were able to successfully defend the Harmsworth Trophy, breaking the world speed record at the same time.

We have few details of Theodore's life after the 1920s. He visited the College in 1961 and, in 1975, the *Old Eastbournian* published his obituary:

'Clarke, Theodore Alexander died in January 1975. He played ice hockey for France in 1908, and was a racing driver. He served through the First World War in a variety of units, ending as a Captain. He owned a motor-boat factory on Lake Geneva, and for a time worked for Paramount films in Bordeaux.'

A remarkable man who led a fascinating life. His time at Paramount is yet to be explored – hopefully something will come to light in time for the next magazine! My grateful thanks to Lindsay for the majority of the material she supplied for this article. Her own blog can be found at <https://thollon.org/letter-from-thollon>.

Paul Jordan

FAREWELL TO THE OLD DINING HALL

The newly opened dining hall in 1965, with long tables and benches for seating

Many Old Eastbournians and staff will remember the old College dining hall behind Powell House, which closed when the new catering facilities were opened in the Winn Building in 2019 as part of Project 150.

Having stood on the site for almost 60 years, the building was no longer fit for purpose and was demolished in summer 2024. Here College archivist Paul Jordan looks back at the history of the dining hall and the early reactions by some pupils.



A crowded dining hall when a cocktail party was held to commemorate the College's centenary in 1967

The former dining hall and kitchens (next to the medical centre) served the College well in a variety of uses for nearly 60 years. Primarily to provide meals for the pupils and staff, it also hosted events such as the 1967 centenary headmaster's cocktail party (complete with a cake in the shape of the school) and finally was in use as an exam hall.

Before its opening, meals were provided for the pupils in their own houses – each house had its own kitchen and dining room. Day boys ate in a purpose-built dining hall, opened in 1951, at Powell House.

It was decided to centralise the kitchens and in 1962 new ones were built to serve all the houses. Food was delivered to the houses by trolley until a new dining hall was added to the existing kitchens in September 1965. A covered way was built between the hall and the former Powell dining room to

facilitate the delivery of food to the newly established staff dining room.

The Eastbournian reported:

The improvement in the food, which can now be served straight from the kitchen, was at once apparent. Amongst the modern equipment is a public address system, which is used for the saying of grace and for announcements.

Initially, the food was distributed in the dining hall by the pupils until 1968 when a

in nearly every respect: trays, queues are distinct trade-marks. But it is hardly something that reflects the dignity of a public school, and especially one of the calibre of Eastbourne College. This is yet another example of a change which, when complete, will rob the school of any identification that it is a public school... Surely in a day and age when manners and morals are becoming increasingly elastic, there should be a class to set the standard. This can only come from the public schools, and this includes Eastbourne College.

For this particular individual, worse was to come. In the 1990s, the long tables were cut down in size, chairs replaced benches and café-style tablecloths were introduced. There was even a salad bar.

The dining hall did sterling work until 2019 when the new facilities opened in the Winn Building.



By the 1990s the tables were smaller with tablecloths, and chairs had replaced benches

cafeteria system was introduced. One pupil noted at the time, 'Supper is somewhat chip invested... I rather enjoy chips.' However, another was rather dismissive of the new regime:

Much praise has been given to all concerned in the change from 'family service' arrangements in the dining hall to the present 'cafeteria service'... the whole system of feeding is devoid of any decency, and typifies a low grade café



A colourful view in 2006, with new lamps



The servery in 2018



By August 2024, the dining hall had been demolished

REUNION WEEKEND

THE EASTBOURNIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER



Chris Saunders with College prefects



Emma Garrett, Jess Lawson, Tom Lawson, Chris Saunders and Cynnne Saunders

Reunion weekend 2024 kicked off with a formal dinner at Eastbourne's Grand Hotel on the evening of Friday 6 September. Over 110 people gathered for an evening of celebration, starting with a drinks reception and a rousing performance by the College's Jazz Band. College prefects were also on hand to welcome the guests.

Development Director Emma Garrett (Nugent 1984–86) set the scene for the evening with a few words, before all were

treated to a superb three-course meal in the Grand's majestic Compton Room. Recently appointed chair of the Eastbourne Society Ian Henley (Gonville 1970–75) then spoke, introducing the guest speakers for the evening.

This was the much-anticipated 'Head-to-Head' when the current College headmaster Tom Lawson along with Chris Saunders, College headmaster from 1981 to 1993, captivated their audience with

anecdotes, rich in humour and nostalgia, resulting in much laughter.

The evening ended with a raffle featuring an array of prizes which added nearly £3,000 to the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal. Our grateful thanks go to the generous prize donors: Grand Flowers, Nigel Strofton, Wingrove House, and Worpleston Golf Course. And a big thank you to Alex Vanotti (Watt 1994–96) who was chief photographer.



Ian Henley



Head-to-Head: Tom Lawson and Chris Saunders in conversation



The College Jazz Band entertain



REUNION DAY 2024



The Arnold Embellishers by the new gates at the Grange Road end of Old Wish Road, with the house rugby competition taking place on College Field

The Reunion Weekend continued on Saturday 7 September, with 70 Old Eastbournians, along with family members and partners, revisiting their old school.

The day kicked off with a spirited house rugby match on College Field. Despite the rain, the enthusiasm remained high as many cheered on their former houses. A wonderful spread for lunch was laid out in Big

School, where OEs had the chance to chat, reminisce, and enjoy a display of archive photos. The Arnold Embellishers, fresh from their annual meeting, joined us for lunch.

Throughout the day, school and house tours gave the guests a chance to see not only the familiar haunts of their schooldays, but also the new buildings and facilities which have been added in recent years.

Members of the Arnold Embellishers

were delighted to view the recently-installed King Charles III and Crawshaw Henley Gates at both ends of Old Wish Road, created by blacksmith David Mortimer (Wargrave 1987–92), as well as the display cabinet in the Warren Atrium to house awards won by OEs in the creative arts. Both were projects which involved the benefaction of the Arnold Embellishers, for which we are extremely grateful.



Members of the Arnold Embellishers by the display cabinet in the Warren Atrium



Some of the guests in Big School after lunch

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THE INAUGURAL DEVONSHIRE SOCIETY LADIES LUNCH

Liz Silvester writes:

The inaugural Devonshire Society Ladies Lunch took place on Friday 4 October at The Star in Alfriston and

the ladies who attended were delighted not only by the venue but by the menu, too, which was truly delicious. As a last-minute, very welcome surprise the sun shone and

we were able to have drinks in the newly-opened Walled Garden before heading up to the Pilgrim's Room for a two-course lunch. The interior design touches really make The Star such an outstanding venue and everyone loved it. After good conversation over good food, we heard from our speaker, Lai Symes, who is a couture milliner and makes exquisite bespoke and ready-made hats. Lai's business has been going for nearly 24 years and she was able to share many insights into her craft, a truly enlightening way to end our meal.

Lai kindly donated a bespoke hat to our raffle which also included an overnight B&B stay for two at The Star. The sale of tickets made £800 for our Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal.

There were old friends, but new friendships were forged, too. A perfect lunch on a really lovely day.

If you are interested in being added to our Ladies Lunch invite list, do let us know by email at es@eastbourne-college.co.uk or on 01323 451911.



CAMBRIDGE EVENSONG AND DINNER



The College choir in rehearsal

On Friday 27 September, the College choir, under the guidance of College Director of Music Dan Jordan, travelled to St John's College Chapel to sing Evensong as part of an Eastbournian Society evening in Cambridge.

Before their rehearsal, the choir had the opportunity of meeting up with Natasha Symes (Watt 2016–21) who gave them a tour of Queens' College. Natasha is a recent graduate from the college and gained a first-class honours degree in Anglo-Saxon,

Norse and Celtic. She is now embarking on an MPhil focusing on Hereward the Wake.

Following Evensong, a true mix of the ES family met for drinks and dinner in Gonville and Caius College. Current parents and friends of the College enjoyed an evening of reminiscing and meeting other ES members. ES Chairman Ian Henley (Gonville 1970–75) and College governor Vicky Henley (Nugent 1975–77) were able to join us, along with other OEs, some of whom are Cambridge based.



A tour of Queens' College for the choir



Dinner in Gonville and Caius College

Cambridge undergraduate and linguist Sandra Fuhrmann (School 2019–21) met up with Queens' College postdoctoral scientist Dr Hamish Symington (Craig 1993–98) and Selwyn College Fellow Dr David Smith (Powell 1977–81). And it was a

delight to have join us Gonville and Caius Senior Tutor and Fellow Dr Andrew Spencer (Pennell 1993–98) with whose help we were able to enjoy the fine surroundings of the Fellows Dining Room.

PREP SCHOOL MEMORIES:

NEVILL HOUSE AND KNOCKMAROON

Nevill House

A number of OEs attended Nevill House prep school which was situated in St Anne's Road, Eastbourne. The school opened in 1897 and by the 1900s was under the headmastership of W C Laming. Following his death in 1933, his son Eric succeeded him as headmaster. Eric left the school in 1961 and went to teach part time at St Bede's and St Andrew's. Nevill House School closed in 1968 and was subsequently demolished.

Eric encouraged pupils to take part in musical and dramatic productions and several past pupils went on to perform at the Hastings and Eastbourne music festivals. The Nevill House shows were held in the Winter Garden, Eastbourne. Chris Ennals (Powell 1956–60) appeared in the 1954 production of *The Mikado* as Yum Yum and Anthony Mills (Reeves 1956–60), later known as film and TV actor Royce Mills, played Poo-Bah.

Chris remembers:

'I attended Nevill House from May 1948 to June 1956. Mr Laming was headmaster and related to the Matthews family who ran the fairly small number of boarders the other side of the road. My family lived at 51 Prideaux Road, Ocklynge, so I could bicycle to school eventually.

Mr Laming had a good way with the



Nevill House in 1968, shortly before closure

boys, and took a personal interest in my development, teaching me Latin and Greek. Capt Matthews [Eric's brother-in-law] had survived the First World War, and taught Maths. There were several women teachers, including Mrs Pertwee in the early 1950s, the mother of now Professor Emeritus Roger Pertwee (Powell 1956–60) who was with me at Nevill House and my 'nurse' the first term at the College.

Two other contemporaries I knew well were David Minords (Powell 1957–61) of military acclaim later in the Falklands War, and Stephen Cooke (Reeves 1956–60). And I also knew Royce Mills and the late Clifford Mould (Reeves 1956–60). Mr Laming was very keen on Gilbert and Sullivan and put on these light operas five years running at

the Winter Garden for parents and friends of the school. However, Nevill House never did well at sporting matches with other prep schools. I was always in the losing team! We played soccer and cricket against St Bede's, St Andrew's and Chelmsford Hall, funnily enough never against Ascham. Finally, I was head boy there and won an exhibition to the College in the early summer of 1956.' Michael Matthews, Eric's nephew, was in Powell from 1947 to 1950.

Another past pupil was Roger Stepney (Powell 1954–58), Methodist minister, organist and choirmaster in Eastbourne. He was also an accountant for the Eastbourne Pier Company and witnessed the partial destruction by fire of the pierhead pavilion in 1970. He joined the College as Bursar in the same year on a temporary basis, leaving in 1977 to work at St Andrew's.



The Mikado production at the Winter Garden

Knockmaroon

Simon Wood (Powell 1950–54) remembers attending Knockmaroon prep school and kindergarten in the 1940s. The school was originally sited in Enys Road, Eastbourne, but moved to Moatcroft Road in 1940. He recalls the smell of hops and oats coming from the neighbouring Star Brewery (now the site of Waitrose) and

sheltering under the stairs when German bombers flew over.

British composer Peter Tranchell was also a pupil at this school and from 1949 to 1950 was music master at the College. Coincidentally he was involved with the Ascham production of *Toad of Toad Hall* in which Simon appeared as Ratty. The *Eastbournian* reported on the play:



An early photo of the house in Moatcroft Road, prior to Knockmaroon school moving there, with St Mary the Virgin church in Old Town just visible in the left background

'Can you imagine *Toad* without music? I confess I cannot. It is impossible to say how much the performance was transformed by the brilliancy – no less – of Mr Tranchell, whether playing himself, conducting his admirable little orchestra, or doing both, as he generally did, together.'

Other pupils who attended Knockmaroon included Susan Craig (daughter of Powell housemaster Teddy Craig), Hugo Bagnall-Oakeley (son of Wargrave housemaster Henry Bagnall-Oakeley) and Henry Underhill (Pennell 1953–58), son of Powell and Blackwater housemaster John Underhill (School 1919–25).

Henry remembers:

'In January 1946, the day before my sixth birthday, I went to Knockmaroon, Mrs Skinner's school in a red-brick semi. Vera Ross, the wife of the headmas-

ter of the College Prep School at the time, had a car and she used to take me and her daughter Rozanne there every day and collect us afterwards.' He also played the triangle in the school's band and took part in a production of Aesop's fable *The North Wind and the Sun* which took place on the lawn of Knockmaroon.

Some readers may wonder where the name 'Knockmaroon' comes from. It was most likely named after Knockmaroon House in Castleknock, an affluent suburb on the outskirts of Dublin. The house has been for many years owned by the Guinness brewing family, but why a more modest building in Eastbourne adopted the name, we do not know.

Do any readers remember Knockmaroon, or know why it is so named? If so, do please get in touch.



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ES AND OE GET-TOGETHERS

GATHERINGS ACROSS THE WORLD

EVENTS IN SYDNEY

Following in the footsteps of David Winn and David Stewart, Emma Garrett headed to Australia in February 2024. She writes: Thanks to the rather conveniently timed wedding of my goddaughter, I was Sydney-bound and so very soon plans took shape to reconnect with some of our antipodean friends during my visit. While a drinks reception and dinner were the 'official' events of this trip, there was also a lot of reconnecting with those unable to join us for these occasions which has been wonderful.



On Sunday 25 February Mary Butler (Nugent 1984–86), Jamie Nicholson (Blackwater 1981–86), Jonathan Winchester (Craig 1980–85) and I met at Manly Pavilion which was a very special reconnection of old friends after many years.

Mary, Jamie, Emma and Jonathan



On Tuesday 27 February, a group of 30 Eastbournian Society members with an age range between 18 and 80 gathered in the magnificent Cranbrook School overlooking Sydney on a balmy summer evening.

Michael Brown, head of classics 1977–84, was present, as was Matt Banes, another former teacher at Eastbourne (2006–15) who is now head of boarding at Cranbrook. In my short talk, I paid tribute to longstanding Sydney OE rep Sam Miller (School House 1960–65) and to Mary Butler who have been instrumental in pulling the group back together after a slight Covid-induced hiatus.



Later in the week Emma caught up with Kim Deshayes, who was development director at the College between 2005 and 2008, and his wife Alison (née Townley) (Nugent 1970–72) in Sydney's botanical gardens.



On Friday 8 March, the final Sydney event was held at Bentley restaurant. James Muirhead (Gonville 1991–96) told us that OEs in Australia 'remain connected with strong links to the College and cherish our memories of that time.' He continued: 'This was illustrated by each of the alumni who spoke passionately during the evening, with very heartfelt messages. It was a pleasure to meet Philip Spanton (School 1972–77) and to hear him talk about how his time at Eastbourne helped lead to his own success in business and in life. He joined the prep school at the age of 7 years and learnt from a very young age the importance of hard work, integrity, and ambition. Tom Holden (Wargrave 1946–49), who travelled down from Buderim in Queensland, spoke of his time being taught

at the school just after the Second World War, and how he then moved to Western Australia with his family and joined the Royal Australian Navy. Emma Garrett commented on how enjoyable her visit to Australia had been, making many new friends and re-acquainting herself with old ones. She spoke of the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal which will support talented children who otherwise would not be able to have the education from which the OEs in the room had benefited. There was much interest from the group in perhaps joining together to help build a pot of money to put towards the Charity's fundraising ambitions.'

OXFORD DRINKS GATHERING

Andy Gillett (Wargrave 1970–73) helped organise a drinks evening at the King's Arms in Oxford on Thursday 11 April, with attendees from Oxford and the surrounding area.



SOIRÉE IN GENEVA

On Saturday 8 June, Eastbournian Society members gathered at La Potinière bar in Geneva, Switzerland. Hosted by College Second Master Cris Symes and Vicky Burford, the College's international co-ordinator, the evening brought together parents of past and current pupils, Old Androvians and Old Eastbournians. Cris welcomed the group, presented the objectives and values of sponsorships and bursaries, and this first opportunity to create a community of Eastbournians in Switzerland.



LONDON DRINKS

Our latest outing to a London hostelry was held at the Fire Station pub near Waterloo on Thursday 10 October, where a cross-section of OEs and others enjoyed a pleasant couple of hours.



THE WINDSOR TEN

A gathering of senior Old Eastbournians took place on Tuesday 28 May in Guildford, when the remaining members of the 'Windsor 10' met for lunch and reminiscences. Named after the study room in School House which they had shared as pupils, the group had met regularly over the years since they left the College in the late 1950s. However, since Covid and, following the death in 2020 of one of their members David Winn (School 1954–59), they had not got together for a number of years. The Windsor 10 members pictured here are, standing, Mike Mulvany (School 1954–59) and Alastair Graham (School 1954–59); and seated, left to right, Pat Colbourne (School 1955–59), John Hendley (School 1954–58), and Tim Riordan (School 1954–58).



TRIP TO KENYA

In September Emma Garrett visited Kenya with Vicky Burford, the College's international co-ordinator. Together they visited five Kenyan prep schools and Vicky represented the College at the Academic Families Expo, giving her the opportunity to talk about all we can offer Kenyan families, and discover how much we share in terms of values and ambitions for our children. We were extremely grateful to Eric Koops (Gonville and Nugent 1959–63) who sponsored a reception at the Muthaiga Club in Nairobi on Friday 13 September. We were delighted to catch up with other Eastbournians along the way including Adrian Hughes (Gonville 1981–86), Shela Davis née Nightingale (Nugent 1987–89) and James Down (Wargrave 2005–10).

THE CLASS OF 1979

Chris Porter (Gonville 1974–79) writes: Thirty-two OEs from the Class of 1979 met up for their annual lunch together at the Boot & Flogger bar and restaurant near London Bridge on Thursday 17 October. This year's gathering was especially significant since it represented 50 years since the boys from this cohort first arrived at the College in September 1974. It was a fine lunch and great to see everyone who attended and looking so well. Special mention must be made of Barry Cummings (Powell 1974–79) and Andy Roberts (Blackwater 1974–79) who had flown in from the States and Norway respectively. Congratulations too to the 1974–79 members of Powell House who arrived in number, with nine of their year present – what an effort! We'd love to see any of our friends who left the College in 1979 at our next annual reunion in October 2025, especially anyone from an un-represented Wargrave! Also any 1979 leaver from Nugent House, as we build up to the 2027 lunch, which will mark 50 years since the Class of 1979 girls joined the College in 1977. Please get in touch with Chris Porter at chris.porter500@ntlworld.com if you can make it and can join us.



A VISIT TO SINGAPORE

A very pleasant evening was spent in the idiosyncratic '5 by Sans Façon', a French restaurant set in a traditional black and white bungalow located at the Oval in Singapore. The homely and unassuming venue, set against the golden sky of a Singapore sunset and the al fresco ambience perfectly matched the informal gathering hosted by headmaster Tom Lawson and development director Emma Garrett on Monday 21 October. Sanjay Kirpalani



(Wargrave 1980–1983, St Andrew's 1977–80, Ascham 1974–77) even brought along his blue book – treasured for 40 years, a reminder of his days at Eastbourne.



THE ORIENTAL CLUB LUNCH

A group of senior Old Eastbournians who were at the College in the late 1950s have regularly met for lunch each year at London's Oriental Club. They held their latest gathering on Tuesday 29 October and Liz Silvester from the Eastbournian Society was able to join them.

DINNER IN BANGKOK

The Far East tour continued with dinner at Bangkok Heightz Rooftop Restaurant & Bar in Bangkok, Thailand on Thursday 24 October, hosted by Emma Garrett.



PUB DRINKS IN MEADS

John Thornley was on hand to buy the drinks at the Ship Inn in Meads, Eastbourne, when a group of ES members got together on Thursday 7 November. John said: 'It was a very convivial evening of reminiscing with some amusing anecdotes coming out of the woodwork and connecting the generations. A true example of what is one of the core missions of the Eastbournian Society: bringing together and keeping in touch.'



BREAKFAST IN DUBAI

The Hill House Brasserie in Dubai was the venue for an Eastbournian Society breakfast for OEs and others on Thursday 19 November. The event was kindly sponsored by Eastbourne financial planning firm Global Wealthmap, and among the guests was Jon Bathard-Smith, the College's director of marketing and admissions. Our thanks go to Oscar Orellana-Hyder (Reeves 2002–07) for helping organise the event.

