

## THE CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE



The College and OW committee are evolving a new strategy for managing the affairs of its Former Students. This involves the introduction of a new Data Base and a Bi-annual Newsletter both of which will be managed by the College. The OW committee looks forward to continuing its work within the new structure and in particular looks forward to helping coordinate the affairs of our younger Former Student members who increasingly communicate through the various social media agencies including our own "Wymondham College Remembered" website.

May you continue to enjoy the fellowship of old friends through your OW membership and on behalf of the OW committee I offer seasonal best wishes to you all.

**David Spinks. (FS 1951-55)**

## HOW TIMES CHANGE... RUGBY

Seeing as our country this year hosted the Rugby World Cup we thought we would show you how rugby has changed throughout the College.



1958/59

**Back row:** Eric Peacock, David Burdett, John Beales, John Marsh

**2nd Row:** David Everitt, Cornelius Van Den Heuval, Barry Williamson, David Willmott, Derek Hubbard, Terry Nicholls, Adrian 'Twinks' Smith

**3rd Row:** Robin Howes, Mike Frohawk, John Matthews (Captain), Mr Denis Storer, Philip Malt

**Front Row:** Tommy Youngs & Rodney Cook



1982/83

**Back row:** Adam Jenkins, Jonathan Jimson, Rodney Day, Tom Langley, Michael French, Darren Butler, Rob Lockwood, Mr Burgess

**Front Row:** Jon Birt, Julian Gamble, Dominic Findlay, Steven Macmillan, Stuart Cavaliero, Jon Walton, Will Webster



2015 - UNDER 15

Today's year 10 Rugby Team

## CELEBRATING 60

The OW's celebrated 'reaching 60' this year at Take 5 cafe. The event saw about 50 Old Wymondhamians have a fun afternoon and evening catching up with their peers – some who hadn't met since leaving 42 years ago! A list of who attended the event is below:

**Girls:** Jacky Green [McLaren], Ann Sivi, Jenni Robertson, Nell Skene [Padgett], Sally Williams [Gallagher], Mary Bickford Smith, Jo Bassingthwaighte [Voelker], Moira Greenlee, Peppy Metson [Dadd], Anne Warner [Richardson], Liz Sasada [Bishop], Sandra Howard, Gill Norman [Thompson], Georgina Norman [Beaumont], Jane Pearson [Roberts], Lynne Semmens [Pettit], Stella Sparks [Howchin], Annie Jones [Pickess], Julia Bennett [Mertens], Clare Cooke [Marshall], Beverly Millard [Sennett], Jane Davies [Pratchett]

**Boys:** Simon Marfleet, Jon Green, Chris Parnham, Kevin Emmerson, Neil Bishop, Robin Postle, Jon Tolley, Steve Read, Phil Robinson, Guy Pettit, Simon Turtle, Robin Richardson, Colin Farrington, Stephen Chapman, Marcus Ellis, Michael Linsdell, Robbie Sendall, Adrian Hawes, Philip Wade, Brian Ellis, Stephen Farthing.



Wells '66 intake girls having lunch together: Peppy Metson (Dadd), Shirley Frostdick (Gray), Annie Jones (Pickess), Moira Greenlee, Julia Bennett (Mertens) Jo Bassingthwaighte (Volker)



Jon Tolley, Michael Linsdell



Simon Marfleet, Steve Read, Sandra Howard



Steve Read, Phil Robinson, Simon Marfleet



Jacky Green (McLaren)



Moira Greenlee in foreground - Michael Linsdell on left - Liz Sasada/Bishop and Phil Robinson on right

## THE SIXTIES BUNCH SUMMER DRINKS IN LONDON



Chris Ashton, Eileen Wyatt, John Young, Roger Hayward and Alan Bridges



Philip Wade eating a summer treat



Susanne Barrett and Alan Bridges with their summer drinks.

## 65TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS

2016 represents the 65th anniversary of the founding of Wymondham College and, although it's early days, we are beginning to get some ideas on how best to celebrate the occasion. One or two proactive OW's have already made contact and the general feeling is that an event or a series of mini celebratory events would be in order. Thanks especially to OW Jack Smith for getting the ball rolling and giving the prospect of an anniversary event the shot in the arm it needed. If you have any ideas on how best to celebrate this milestone next year and would like to lend a hand please get in touch.

Incidentally Jack tells us that he and a few OW's from 1951 will be visiting Joan Sperring (first joint head at the College) on 14th November to celebrate her 98th birthday and the octogenarian status of her former pupils!

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Stephen Farthing** ([squirrox@google.com](mailto:squirrox@google.com)) would be interested in hearing from anyone who knew him when he was at the college between 1963 and 1970.

**Les Abbatt** ([lesabbatt@btinternet.com](mailto:lesabbatt@btinternet.com)) is looking for Peter Bush, Tim Myhill, Kevin Kennedy, Colin Greenfield, Brian Perry, Barrie and Trevor Corless.

**Alison Davey** ([llanidloes@live.co.uk](mailto:llanidloes@live.co.uk)) would like to know about Bella Benton, Louise Chaney, Linda Taylor, Frances Harwood, Hazel Bennett and Anne Stollery.

**Neil Hart** ([neilh02@gmail.com](mailto:neilh02@gmail.com)) is looking for Michelle Johnson and Mike Horn both from around 1986-1987.

**Gay Wheeler nee Wright** ([scillygay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scillygay@yahoo.co.uk)) is looking for Joyce Bird (1958-1965). "I haven't seen her since my wedding in 1966"

**OW'S GOLF DAY 2015 - JULY 3RD SPROWSTON MANOR HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB**

We have been holding this event now for fifteen years and this year fifty of us met and enjoyed another very pleasant occasion at Sprowston Manor. As the golfers completed their round they joined the non-golfers at the Clubhouse to chat before we all assembled in the Suffolk Suite and again enjoyed the dinner, but as always time was too short.

It was wonderful that Eileen Baron and Margaret Norton were with us and we look forward to their company again next year.

Well done Muriel for winning the Longest Drive. The men must realise that to contest this challenge their drive must end on the fairway!

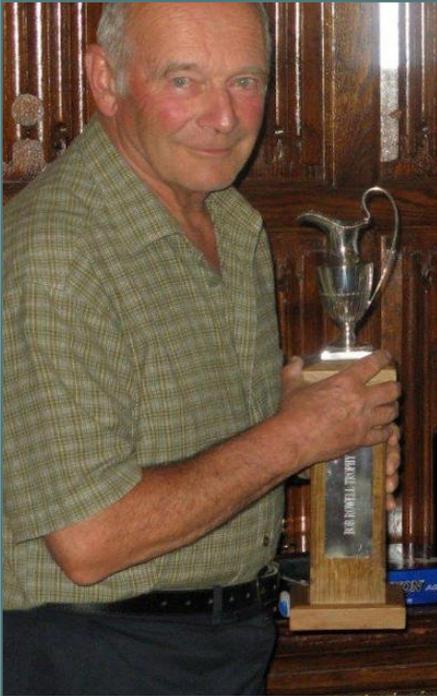
Mike Herring was anxious that this year he would not receive the Award for Greatest Endeavour, but after a recount it was confirmed that, in fact, he shared that accolade with myself!

The results of the Golf Event were:

**Winner - Men** **Barrie Croxford** | **Winner - Ladies** **Muriel Blowers** | **Longest Drive - Muriel Blowers** | **Nearest the Pin - Tony Pyle** | **Award for Greatest Endeavour - Mike Herring and Bob Rowell**

**Bob Rowell is currently arranging with Sprowston Manor for us to meet again on Friday July 1st 2016 and he will keep everyone updated with all the details.**

**Bob's contact details are: 01629 582229, 07710 229126, bob.e.rowell@outlook.com**



Barrie Croxford - Winner



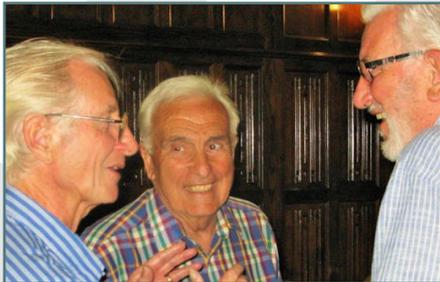
Tony Pyle - Nearest the Pin



Mike Herring and Bob Rowell sharing Award for Greatest Endeavour



Margaret Norton (nee Wilkinson) & Hubert Harbord



Tony Moulton, Geoff Morter & Terry Nicholls

## AN INTERNATIONAL VISIT

An OW Jack Smith visited the College's international linking school 'Nanyang High School' in Shanghai this year. Here is a photo of Jack outside the High School.



## LIFE IN THE HUTS

### Thoughts of a lost spirit!

I have lived so long  
In enclosing parallels of rusting black tin;  
I have limped too long -  
A languid mind, so pallid and thin.

I, the grey ghost of fancy, the lady in grey,  
Invisible and now forgotten in the cobwebs of the covered way.  
I, the spirit of what was, chimed away  
At midnight, lost in the broken dawn of a 'new day.'  
Just a grey pool of memory  
Drifting from hut to hut -  
The interval between silence and silence.

But in the red rust I see the dry reflection  
Of all those I once knew. Beneath the tin,  
The oaken desks and black iron uprights  
The metal ruler ring of solidity, still heard.

And in the glittering flash of galvanization  
I see the superficial smile and the thin  
Plastic furniture; the slogan proclaiming 'Our rights ...'  
This is the new dawn? - the feeble echoes of the evening bird.

And I am sad to leave,  
Sad as the Autumn leaf twisting through the air.  
Sad; but I shall not grieve  
For the tree I left - so stark and bare.

Simon Gooch (written 1975)

## 70 YEARS ON...

In November 1943, a young American serviceman from Philadelphia in Pennsylvania arrived at Morley Camp to do his duty.

His name was Jimmie Simmons, a member of the 987 Military Police Company Detachment 'B'. All American Military Police were nicknamed 'Snowdrops' by the British, as they wore white helmets on parade. He served until the Camp closure in June 1945, and then transferred to Norwich and finally went home in February of 1946.

He had married in November 1942 to Anna Shields and two daughters were born, the first was Anne in 1949, and then Dolores.

Jimmie never spoke to his daughters of wartime experiences, and they did not ask questions. Sadly Jimmie died in 1968 aged only 47.

Some years ago, his eldest daughter Anne, herself now retired became interested in her Father's military service. She started with no knowledge of his service location except that it was Norfolk, England, and tried to piece it together from his old photographs, his Service Record, plus any available records of the 987 MP Company from the Internet and also correspondence with other surviving members.

She succeeded, identified Morley Camp, and for the last five years cherished the wish to visit Norfolk and see where her Father had been stationed.

So at the end of July 2015, she braved the journey on her own (Her husband being in poor health) and made an emotional tour of Wymondham College almost exactly 70 years after her Father had departed.

Her Father's surviving photographs were shown during the tour depicting scenes of Morley Camp in the 1943/45 period, and we know the dogs name was 'Chips'. Not only that, on the same day, she then visited Norwich and was photographed standing in the same places as her Father had stood 70 years on...

## THE ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW 2015

Thank you to those who come to see us at the Royal Norfolk Show again this year. We had a fantastic display in the marquee (pictured below) and we also had the 'hanging memories' with which you had to leave a very brief best memory of Wymondham College. Some of the memories are written below:

- **Caryl Taylor, Norfolk** - The School netball team (Definatley not Physics lessons)
- **David Spinks, Thorpe Market** - Laying bricks on a cold January day in 1955 whilst erecting the extension to Dave Gomans Technology Block next to today's dining hall. "True Grit & Comraderie!"
- **Emily McDouall, Norwich** - Singing with the Jazz band and all of Mr Day's classes! (Mr Day still being a music teacher at the College)
- **Steve Hands, Norwich** - Friendship & School discos!
- **Phil Robinson, King's Lynn** - Early pre-season training for Rugby and visiting the local pub across the fields to avoid detection!!
- **Nigel Cushion (College Governor), Taverham** - Laughing Every Day, Loving every minute, Learning loads!
- **Karen Snook, Wymondham** - The lifelong friends I made. Freezing on a Saturday afternoon and being terrified of Mrs McBeath.



## THE 100 CLUB

The August OW 100 Club draw was carried out at The Goat Inn at Skeyton and this month's winners were: **Philip Wade** – resident of Melton, Woodbridge & **Catherine Hallett [Bowden]**- resident of Waterlooville, Hampshire

In attendance this month were Anne Bradley [Ashworth]; Jerry Linden-Ball; Joyce Pycroft [Daniels] and husband [whose name escapes me!]; Anne Chambers [Bean]; Colin Farrington; David & Sue Spinks, Steve Reid and myself. Anne B carried out the draw for us.

The Goat Inn was certainly out in the wilds of Norfolk and not near Skeyton from what I could work out when passing by the village sign and exiting the village without sighting the pub! The beers on offer were Nelsons Revenge by Woodfordes and a Wolf brew called Nanny Goat which was obviously brewed specifically for the pub. A score of 8.5 is based on a seemingly well managed establishment with friendly staff.

See the OW Website for details on the September 100 Club draw.



## AN UPDATE FROM THE COLLEGE

### SPEECH DAY 2015

One of the most prestigious occasions in the College calendar, our annual Speech Day, took place on Saturday 30th June 2015. We were delighted to welcome Mr Philip Brown as our very special guest.

Mr Brown, a Regional Director for The Duke of Edinburgh Award, is a silver Olympic medallist. Mr Brown's career highlight came when he competed for Great Britain in the 1984 Summer Olympics, hosted by the United States, in the 4 x 400 metre relay. In a dramatic final 100 m, he overtook Rick Mitchell of Australia and then Innocent Egbunike of Nigeria to claim the Silver medal for Great Britain with his team mates Kriss Akabusi, Garry Cook and Todd Bennett. Brown's final leg time of 44.3 seconds resulted in a time of 2:59.13 which was a British and European record at the time and the first time a British team had bettered 3 minutes for the event.

An engaging and funny speaker, Mr Brown set the tone for the day perfectly with his theme of "it's hard work not luck that wins prizes" - providing the perfect backdrop for the many awards and prizes presented.



### GET WITH IT!

The Big Lottery Fund are supporting a new initiative from Wymondham College to deliver some adult beginners IT training courses. Get With IT! will be delivered from a newly equipped conference and training room in the Tom Eaton Centre and is designed to help local residents learn new computer skills. As an accredited Microsoft IT Academy Wymondham College is working alongside partners to offer introductory, basic skills workshops before progressing to include a range of topics including searching on the web, internet shopping, sending and receiving emails and the popular MS Office applications such as Word and Excel. Classes are due to start after October half term, with more details to follow very soon.

Additionally the new flexible-use conference room, seating up to 24 in boardroom style, is available for external hire. Community groups and businesses can make use of the facility, which is available at competitive rates. For more details please contact Mr Smith, Director of Marketing & Development on 01953 609083.

### ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MENTORS

Over the past few years we have developed a comprehensive Futures programme aimed at equipping students with the advice, information and skills required to secure a successful and fulfilling career. We have been helped enormously by parents, OWs and members of the business and voluntary communities to give students a realistic understanding of the opportunities available. Individuals come into school to give careers talks to groups of sixth formers, help with CVs and interview workshops, hold mock interviews or offer regular mentoring.

We would greatly welcome involvement from former students who are able to give a little of their time. Please contact Liz Edwards, Student Futures Co-ordinator for more details and a 'no obligation' discussion of the options available. Email: [futures@wymondhamcollege.org](mailto:futures@wymondhamcollege.org) Telephone: 01953 609000.

## AN UPDATE FROM THE COLLEGE

### LEAVING A LEGACY!

Former students of Wymondham College are helping to give current students a step up in life – in more ways than one.

Recently some of our Old Wymondhamians have returned to the College to give something back to the place that helped shape their lives. As well as helping students with their future career development, former students are now working together to maximise the school's cricket facilities through the Cricket Development Initiative.

With the help of alumni funding, as well as a £2000 donation from former student and keen cricketer Anthony Butterworth, the college has been able to give their students 100 hours of professional coaching. Funding of over £4,000 has been donated from Sport England to support the initiative and Norfolk Cricket Board are backing plans to help the college become the hub for cricket development in the region.

The college is also investing in its future generations with ambitious plans to build a £400,000 sports pavilion, to replace the current cricket pavilion. The college fundraising appeal will look for grants from Sport England and business sponsors as well as support from alumni to help fund the project.

More details on this exciting project to follow shortly!

