

Old Wymondhamians Newsletter

Old Wymondhamians it is!

As keen students of Wymondham College site history will be aware, it was used for emergency teacher training in the period immediately following World War Two. Between May 1947 and December 1950 around 1500 future teachers were trained for the rigours of a life in education at the Wymondham Emergency Training College for Teachers. Those involved in this training formed the Old Wymondians Association to sustain old friendships, and held reunions at the college every year until 2005.



Your Old Wymondhamians Committee—Hard at work!

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- > 1950s Golf Day and Dinner 2007
- > 100 Club Report
- > Celebrating Joan Sperring's 90th Birthday

Old
Wymondhamians
Former Pupils and
Staff of Wymondham
College

Wymondham
College



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www.wymondhamca.co.uk

Dwindling numbers caused by the passage of time means that future reunions are unlikely.

What has all this to do with us, as past pupils and staff of Wymondham College, you may well ask? For the last few years the past pupils organisation has been known as the WCA (Wymondham College Association). Whilst having the advantage of brevity, this name could represent almost anything to do with the College and could easily lead to confusion with other stakeholders associated with the College, e.g. WCT, PSA etc.

“ what was,
is, and will
remain a
first class
school”

A new name that more clearly defines what the Association is and does was clearly a good idea. With the Old Wymondhams no longer really in existence this provided the opportunity to propose that we adopt this name for the Association.

Much heated debate ensued at the committee meeting in June, and a proposal from Bob Rowell to become The Old Wymondhamians instead was carried by a narrow majority. This decision was ratified at the AGM in November where there was much hilarity over the correct pronunciation of the new name; well, most of us have roots in Norfolk even if we don't all live there any more. Melvyn Roffe, the new College Principal, helpfully stepped in with the suggestion that a phonetic representation (**wind-hame-ians**) should be included in the minutes to avoid any confusion!

So, ladies and gentleman, we are now all Old Wymondhamians. Pretentious, some may say, but why shouldn't we be? We are all proud to have attended what was, is, and will remain a first-class school.

Colin Leaford (70—77)
Chairman

Chairman's Greetings— Colin Leaford



Greetings, fellow Old Wymondhamians!

Little did I imagine that when I attended Wymondham College in the early 1970's, when Mr Garrard took me for English in 1B and Mr Brand was my housemaster in Fry and then Salisbury, that 30 odd years later I would serve on the same committee with both of them. Even less did I imagine that I would become comfortable referring to them as "Roger" and "Michael" rather than "Sir" and they would refer to me as "Colin" or even "Mr Chairman" rather than "Leaford". That, however, is the position I find myself in as I take up my post as the inaugural chairman of The Old Wymondhamians, a position I am delighted and proud to hold.

The major event of the coming year for the College will be the opening of the new 6th form house in Lincoln which is due to occur late spring/early summer. The facilities and standard of accommodation offered will be first class, and show a similar step change as when the move from dormitories in Nissen huts to the current boarding houses occurred in the 1960s. A formal opening will take place, and I hope that a number of the younger Old Wymondhamians (more recent leavers) will be particularly interested in attending this, along with the "Grumpies" of my generation and older who, whilst secretly tremendously impressed, will mutter "it wasn't like this in my day, you know".

**" I can
guarantee
that if you
remember
Mr Brand he
will
remember
you!"**

The highlights of the year for the Old Wymondhamians will be during the last week of June. We shall be at the Royal Norfolk Show on the College stand on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th. Please call in and see us if you are visiting the Show; a warm welcome and a chance to rest weary legs is offered to all, along with the opportunity to put names to faces on old photographs, sign the visitors' book and have a chat.

There will be a reunion event on the evening of Saturday 28th June to coincide with the PSA Summer Fayre. This will be focused on those who attended in the 60s, 70s and 80s but all are welcome, especially anyone who remembers Michael Brand. Michael will be celebrating his 70th Birthday during 2008 but, rather annoyingly, he looks very little older than he did in 1971, unlike some of us! I can almost guarantee that if you remember Mr Brand he will remember you; I don't know how he does it! As you may know, there was no formal reunion at the College last year, so we are expecting demand for tickets to be particularly strong.

I would especially like to see some "first time returnees" - those who haven't returned since they left. I left in July 1977 and didn't set foot on site again until the 50-year reunion in 2001.

Reunion
Event
June
2008

I managed to stay away for 24 years and I will buy anyone a drink if they can exceed that figure this year. I'm really glad that I went back, eventually. I have met up with old friends, made new friends and acquaintances with whom I share a common heritage, and generally had a good time.

Kind regards
Colin Leaford (70—77)
Chairman

Treasurer's Report – Steve Read

The accounts for the year ended 30 September 2007 showed a satisfactory financial picture, with total funds of £5538 at the year end, reflecting a modest increase of £236 over the year.

The 101 Club continues to be the major item of regular income at £2800 net (£4685 - £1885).

Donations of £685 (2006, £1251) were also received from various sources

including appeals made in the Newsletter, commissions made on purchases made via the www.wcremembered.co.uk website or other sources. We also received £59 from the sale of magazines and Spitfire prints.

There was no official reunion this year, so no income was raised from either ticket sales or other fundraising activities.

The cost of producing and distributing the annual Newsletter of £2,630 (2006, £2,708) continues to be the largest single item of expenditure incurred, with the technical support, development and maintenance costs associated with the online database of £670 (2006, £720) being the other significant item of expenditure.

My thanks go to the College for the provision of the Alumni Secretary and to the Committee for freely supplying their time, without whom the OW would struggle to survive.

Backroom boys—Carole Arnold

It has been 10 years since two Fry Hall past students approached the College wanting us to have a ball for the reunion and to mark Michael Brand's retirement. But that was not the end of the story. Since that successful occasion one of them has continued to support the association in a very positive and practical way. Through his expertise he has helped us to improve the Newsletter to its present format whilst ever mindful of keeping costs down. He is always reliable and professional, keeping to deadlines for posting this Newsletter out to you all despite odd delays from the college end with last minute news items. Gathering all the copy and proof reading – ably and meticulously done by Roger Garrard - is one stage. Letting go of the finished copy of the Newsletter and handing it over to the printers is an anxious time. But once the copy had been delivered to the printers I could totally relax knowing that it was in good hands and they would turn it into an attractive, professional, publication.

The Old Wymondhamians Committee would like to record on these pages their appreciation and thanks for all the work that **Paul Foster** and his team at **Barnwells** have done for us.

THE 2006/7 COMMITTEE

President: Patricia Howard (Marsh 51-58)

Chairman: Colin Leaford (70-77)

Vice-Chairman: Mike Herring (52-58)

Treasurer: Steve Read (68-73).

Secretary: Jackie Glenn (Alumni Sec.)

Other Committee Members:-

Carole Arnold (1995-2005 ex staff)

Bill Atkins (58-64) - WCR

John Beales (52-59)

Mike Brand. (Staff 63-98)

Roger Garrard (52-89 ex staff)

Julie Harding (Ebbens 71-76)

Phil Robinson (66-73) – 100 Club

Bob Rowell (52-59)

Asha Gita Simmons (Ramseebaluck 81-87)

Jack Smith (51-53)

David Spinks (51-55)

Iain Trafford (Staff Rep and Past Pupil 77-84)

Past Presidents:

2000-02 Jack Smith

2003/4 Roger Garrard

2004/5 Bob Rowell

2005/6 Michael Brand

2006/7 Dominic Findlay

Notice of Old Wymondhamians AGM 2008

This will take place on Saturday 15th November 2008, at 11am at the College.

All past students and staff are welcome

just advise the secretary if you plan to attend.

College Celebrates Joan's 90th Birthday —Jack Smith

On 21st November, 2007, Joan Sperring (nee Tebbutt) became a nonagenarian and to mark this milestone in her life, the College celebrated Joan's birthday on Sunday, 18th November which appropriately was Founders Day. Joan was one of the two founding head teachers back in 1951 when the College first opened.



Joan Sperring and Danielle Hammond

Many former students and several staff from Joan's era at the College attended Founders Day with one, Pat Turl (nee Luckhurst) a former Thetford Transferee, travelling all the way from Brighton in Canada. Joan was joined by her husband, John, also a nonagenarian.

On the Saturday evening, a party of eight Thetford Transferees had dinner with Joan and John at The Hill House Hotel in Wymondham with much reminiscing about earlier years and some catch-up on later times. Joan had prepared some cards with copies of her own photographs affixed and with some appropriate typical Joan prose inside which she presented to everyone around the table.

The Sunday Founders Day service in the College Chapel was attended by some of the birthday attendees, together with other visiting guests, the Governors of the College and its esteemed Visitor Lady Ralphs – yet a third nonagenarian – and of course current students and staff. The address was given by Mrs. Jones, a reader from the Diocese of Swansea who is the mother of the College Chaplain, Ian Jones.

During the pre-lunch drinks in the College Library, Joan met and conversed with a number of former and current pupils and staff. She relished talking to so many friends old and new and no more than Danielle Hammond, a sixth former contemplating entry into the teaching profession. It was clear that Danielle also much valued speaking with Joan (see picture).

The lunch in Lincoln Dining Room was of the usual high standard and was served by attentive and cordial staff. During coffee, the Principal, Melvyn Roffe, with his enviable economy of words, welcomed Joan back to Wymondham College. He was followed by Lady Ralphs, widow of the late Sir Lincoln Ralphs. We were all enthralled by her usual erudition, incisiveness and humour.

The post-lunch break provided more opportunity for Joan to “chat” and Ken Glover, the Head of the Sixth Form, was engaged by Joan and presented with some encouragement on the joys and rewards of teaching.

The birthday tea party, which had been organised by Jackie Glenn, the Alumni Secretary, followed in the College Library with refreshments and birthday cake. Lady Ralphs had specially stayed on to be present. Black and white photographs of the early 1950s were displayed and some projected by power point. Jackie had circularized past pupils from 1951-55 and had asked them to provide their tributes and recollections which were mounted in a presentation folder.

One former student, now in her mid sixties, wrote “We absolutely adored you” which many others would echo. Another from the mid 1950s recollected “I remember Joan hitting my hockey stick so hard in a staff versus 1st eleven hockey match that the vibrations bruised my right thumb so badly that I had to write left handed for the next week! In all other ways I enjoyed my time at Wymondham”. Joan clearly had that admirable combination of qualities which allowed her to be both tough and tender! A Thetford Transferee included in her recollection receiving her ‘O’ level results and wrote “With Joan’s help and patience, I managed to achieve three ‘O’ levels. On hearing this Joan said it was a miracle!” Enough said!



Back row: Tony Greenfield, David Norfolk, Jack Smith,
John Sperring, Mervyn Beck
Front row: Margaret Pestell (Delph) Patricia Turl (Luckhurst),
Joan Sperring (Tebbutt), Fay Stowers
Missing was Jan Mullins (Platten)
who left prior to photograph being taken.

Melvyn, the Principal, gave a warm tribute to Joan and this was followed by an appreciation given by Mervyn Beck. His address included a short history of Joan's life and some personal recollections. Mervyn spoke movingly of Joan's inspirational teaching of five GCE subjects and her concern for the personal development of every pupil. He acknowledged the debt of gratitude owed



to Joan for all that she did in the formative years of so many former pupils. Joan, known for her love of the performing arts, was presented by Mervyn with a birthday gift of theatre vouchers from the Thetford Transferees. She was also presented with a bouquet of flowers from the Old Wymondhamians by the Principal Melvyn Roffe.

Joan was at ease in responding and spoke extemporarily with her usual confidence in providing some recollections of the 1950s and in thanking everyone for attending, including those who had arranged her celebration. She had special thanks for the Principal and Jackie Glenn who had worked so hard in organizing everything. Thank you Jackie.

In commenting afterwards on the events, Lady Ralphs wrote "Founders Day was particularly special this year because of Joan's return. I can't tell you how much pleasure meeting her again gave me and the chance to meet her husband". Joan commented "It was very touching and very wonderful" – and so it was.

Dominic Findlay's Trip To Leicester Tigers—Bob Rowell



On Saturday 29th December 2007 Bob Rowell welcomed Dominic Findlay and his son William to Welford Road to watch the rugby match between Leicester Tigers and London Irish in the Guinness Premiership.

We met in the European Suite and were able, before it got too busy, to look at photographs, trophies and memorabilia displayed in the Tiger bar. Dominic and William paid a visit to the Club shop and explored the ground on the way to their seats.

The match had a satisfactory outcome for Leicester and they achieved a bonus point win!

After the match we returned to the European Suite and it was interesting talking to the Chief Executive of London Irish and hearing some of the problems of managing a Premiership club which has not been made any easier by the somewhat difficult relationship between Premiership Rugby and the Rugby Football Union. The players eventually joined us when they arrived for their meal and William was able to get their autographs before he and Dominic departed on their three hour journey home.

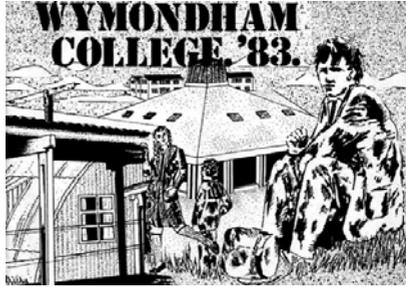
This trip was sponsored as a gesture of thanks by the Old Wyomndhamians to former student Dominic who in his last year as acting Principal supported our association most enthusiastically ensuring a seamless and positive transfer of information on the OW's to our new principal Melvyn Roffe. Melvyn, we are pleased to say, is equally enthusiastic in supporting our endeavours in maintaining a group in which we can all feel proud to be a part of.

College Magazines—Old and New

If you would like to purchase copies of the re-designed College magazine 2007-8 when it is published, these are available via the Alumni Secretary at a cost of £5.

Jackie also has copies of the College magazines covering the years from 1975 to 2005 (but not including 1977 and 1984) which are surplus to requirements.

If you would like to purchase the magazines from your time at school please send a cheque for £3 each, (including P&P) with your order payable to Old Wymondhamians, to the Alumni Secretary at the College address.



Old Wymondhamians Golf Day and Reunion Sprowston Manor June 29th 2007—Bob Rowell

We met again at Sprowston Manor for our round of golf and reunion in the evening, and enjoyed meeting our friends at this annual event. It was a pleasure to welcome those who joined us for the first time, and disappointing that others who had been with us in the past had family or holiday commitments and were unable to attend.

Hopefully early notification of this regular reunion, **on the last Friday in June (27th this year 2008)**, together with awareness that other events are taking place at Wymondham College that weekend, will encourage us to put the date in our diaries

The overall winner of the golf event was Linda Davis and we look forward to her coming again with Roger Hubbard to defend her title in 2008.

Runner- up:- Barry Adkins.
Longest Drive:- Barry Croxford.
Nearest the Pin:- Barrie Corless.
Award for Greatest Endeavour:- David Spinks.

Best Wishes, Bob Rowell.
My contact details:- 01629582229
07710229126
bob.rowell@vigin.net

Those attending:

Barry Adkins	Tony Lake
Richard Blowers	Bob Mapes
Muriel Blowers (Currie),	Peggy Mapes
David Burdett	Geoff Morter
Lawrence Burdett	Terry Nicholls
Roland Clarke	Beverley Nicholls
Terry Coppin	Tony Pyle
Barrie Corless	Ann Pyle (McCafferty)
Janet Couperthwaite (Wing)	Peter Read
Barry Croxford	Bob Rowell
Linda Davis	Maggie Skipp (Smith)
David Everett	David Spinks
Jean Gouldthorpe (Southgate)	Jane Sutton
John Gouldthorpe	Mervyn Taylor
Aubrey Hammond	Philip Wade
Geoffrey Hardaker	David Whyte
Huby Harbord	Neil Whyte
Pat Harvey (Basey)	Jennifer Wickam
Mike Herring	Bill Wiskin
Roger Hubbard	Pat Woldridge (Dack)
Emba Jones	Esme Wyatt (McNulty)
	Tony Wyatt

Old Wymondhamians 100 club report 2007—Phil Robinson

This is the fourth year that we have been operating the 100 club and £2,775 has been generated this year, which is a marginal increase on 2006. Unfortunately we still do not have the 100 members that would allow us to pay out the maximum monthly prizes. We currently have to pro-rata all prizes to reflect the 80 or so members that we currently have signed up.

Subscription is still only £5.00 per month and there is the possibility of winning one of the two star prizes of £500 & £250 (in June & December).



Of the monies raised, 40% is redistributed in prize monies with 60% being retained by the Old Wymondhamians. The cost of producing, printing and posting the yearly newsletter is in excess of £2,500, so it can be seen that the current income from the draw is just covering the newsletter costs. This year we are hoping to improve the quality of the newsletters with colour pictures which will obviously cost more to produce. The cost of our Alumni Secretary – Jackie Glenn continues to be funded directly by the College, to whom we are very grateful.

For those of you who may wish to join, the monthly payment can be made by Standing Order but we are happy to accept yearly payments of £60 from anyone who would prefer to subscribe in that way.

Steve Read & I continue to meet on a monthly basis at hostelrys within Norfolk and have been joined by a number of you in the last year but any ex-pupils or staff are more than welcome to attend. We just need to ensure that the pubs that we have chosen are actually open!! If you have a local that you would like us to visit, please let us know. However the only way of effectively advising people of where/when we meet is by e-mail. If you wish to be kept advised of

the monthly meetings and who has won, and you also have access to the Internet/e-mail, please contact me so that I can add you to the list.

This years winners have been :-

January 2007 – Colin Leaford; David Mills

February 2007 – Alan Bridges; Tony Moulton

March 2007 – Gill Thompson (nee Norman); Joanna Mills

April 2007 – Melvyn Sims; Richard Charley

May 2007 – Aiden Brand; Sheila Forde

June 2007 – Julie Harding (nee Ebbens); John Head

July 2007 – Bob Cooke; Anne Brand

August 2007 – Anne Bradley; Nicola Howard

September 2007 – Graham Smith; Michelle Salter (nee Howard)

October 2007 – Evi Walker (nee Hutchcraft); Ann & Tony Pyle

November 2007 –William Hammond; Nick Harding

December 2007 – Jack Smith; Tony Moulton

January 2008 – Evi Waller (nee Hutchcraft); Jose Tibbenham (nee Steggles)

If you feel that you can support the Old Wymondhamians in this scheme, please contact me, Phil Robinson – Old Wymondhamians 100 Club Administrator at philip.robinson@constructionplus.net or at “Pipkim”, Hill Road, Fair Green, Middleton, King’s Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1RW.

A copy of the relevant Bank Mandate is attached to the newsletter.

Prizes

This year the Sarah Battye Memorial Prize for Modern Languages was awarded to Helen Dennis, who achieved an outstanding five A grades at A Level.

In the inaugural year of the Jim and Elspeth Hodgson Prize for history the winner was Jack Stevens .

The Dave Goman Technology Prizes were not awarded this year as no project of merit could be identified..



Helen Dennis with Rt. Hon Lord MacGregor of Pulham Market OBE. Guest Speaker at Presentation Evening

Memorabilia

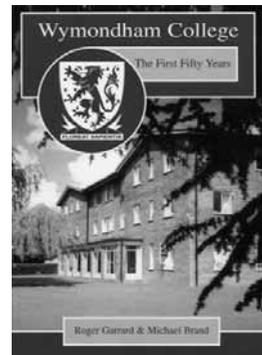
There are still copies for sale of the book **“Wymondham College – The First Fifty Years”** written by long-serving teachers Roger Garrard and Michael Brand.

This 92-page book provides a detailed and well-illustrated chronological history of the College and was published in July 2001. It can be purchased from the Alumni Secretary at the reduced price of **£5, plus P&P (£2 UK, £5 overseas)**. All proceeds go to the Wymondham College Trust Bursary Fund. Order form enclosed.

Also available are **limited edition (500) signed prints** of a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire flying over the College, size 63 cm x 50cm.

The original painting was by David Chedgley (Head of Art at the College) in 1986. The prints are signed by David himself, Sir Michael Beetham (Marshal of the Royal Air Force), Sqn Ldr Tony Banfield (RAF Officer Commanding, BBMF) and Flt Lt Jim Wild (RAF Pilot - who flew the plane over the College on 15 September 1986).

Price is £10 each, plus postage & packing - £3 UK and £5 overseas. Orders to the Alumni Secretary, with cheques payable to Old Wymondhamians.



Wymondham College Remembered

(www.wcremembered.co.uk)

General News

The web site will be 7 years old in April. It has been another good year as regards influx of new material, and the content now amounts to some 370 Megabytes of information and photographs, presented on 1350 pages. This represents 40% of the site's rented capacity a 25% increase on last year because of the digitised College magazines and other PDF documents that have been added. There has been only a fractional increase in the number of visitors and we still average approximately 4000 unique 'hits' each month.

Visitors will notice that 'Ads by Google' now appear on most pages (www.google.com/adsense/ explains how it works). The object is to produce a modest income that will offset the site's hosting, registration and software charges that are at present met by Bill Atkins from his own pocket. Please support our advertisers! Income from Amazon and Abebooks will continue to go to the Old Wymondhamians.

As always, do please get in touch if you have memories and/or photographs that you would be willing to share with the 'readership.' Another way to contribute is to identify one of the many (several hundred!) unidentified faces on the existing photographs.

Heard via the 'Net

Peter Dubock (1957-1964) has been appointed Inspector General of the European Space Agency.

Chris Bajak (1987-93) was placed second in his class at the 2007 British Bodybuilding Championships - a very *close* second according to the reports. Chris is a teacher at Hitchin Boys' School and also plays on the wing for Letchworth RFC.

William Armstrong (South House, late 1950s) has completed 12 years as the Norwich City Coroner.

Received from **Gary O'Shea**: "Just some additional comments on what

happened to one of the O'Sheas after I emigrated to New Zealand in 1974 from the York House 'splinter group' (hard when I had help to promote the integration of the girls with us into the new house of Lincoln). I'm keen to contact Stephen Bishop, Andrew Bawden, Alistair McFadden, Middleton, Jenkins, Fairclough and Mills. **Career ...** completed a BSc in Zoology and went into Secondary Teaching. Spent 9 years in Hong Kong as Curriculum Principal of Hong Kong International School, now the Headmaster of Nelson College in NZ, a boys' boarding school of 1000, the oldest school in NZ (1856) and Ernest Rutherford's alma mater. The College introduced rugby to NZ, and Nelson College played the first game of rugby in NZ against the Nelson Club in 1879. **Family ...** married (24 years) to Susan, a NZer and multimedia artist. One son (adopted Chinese; 10 years old, autistic). **Sport ...** played for Auckland & North Auckland colts and A team (rugby). Coach Auckland Schools U19's (which lost to Welsh schools in 1991 ... ironic, given my Welsh heritage!). Coach Hong Kong Schools U19's. Now a keen mountain biker (completed a 6 week trip to Great Wall of China & Mongolia in 2002). Social networking seems to be the big thing on the internet at present. If you're into this kind of activity there are two related groups for **Facebook** members to join; *I went to a proper British boarding school* (30704 members) and *Wyndham College* (1176 members). **Mike Gascoyne** is now chief technology officer of the Spyker Formula 1 team.

**"What is
the largest
Boarding
School in
Europe?"**

Chris Thatcher (cht@ntlworld.com) writes: "There are various items around the 'net telling us about WC being the largest state boarding school in the UK, but the second largest in Europe (Wikipedia). Can anyone find the exact details about this? I've been looking, but not far enough, obviously. Which would be the largest in Europe?"

Abigail King (now graduated from UEA and about to start her Primary PGCE) has left her previous band *Commercial Drive* and is now part of an acoustic duo *HeyZuuz*. Have a listen to her music at

<http://www.myspace.com/heyzuuz>

“Have just been appointed Rector’s Assessor at Dundee University by the newly elected Rector, Craig Murray, former British Ambassador to Uzbekistan. Craig was at Paston with Stephen Fry, who is a former Rector at Dundee Uni, so there is quite a Norfolk connection up here.”

- **Mike Arnott** (1973-80)

Alaster Stockwell-Jones is planning an expedition in December 2008 to Aconcagua, a 23,000ft peak in South America, in aid of the British Heart Foundation. He then plans to climb the remaining five at the rate of one a year, with the aim of raising thousands of pounds for good causes. He has already conquered Mt Kilimanjaro - the first of the ‘seven summits’ on his list - - which he scaled in August 2005, raising £3,000 for St Nicholas’ Hospice at Bury St Edmunds and Great Ormond Street Hospital, London. Now living at Walsham-le-Willows, near Diss, Alaster, 34, launched his own company, Cardiac Care, in July last year; a private healthcare organisation providing diagnostic services to the NHS and private sector. For more details visit Alaster’s web site at www.justgiving.com/AlclimbsAconcagua.

Actor **Mark Strong** now has an appreciation society on LiveJournal (http://community.livejournal.com/mark_strong/)

Natasha Marley (1990s) is a prominent glamour model and has her own web site at <http://www.natashamarley.com/> (parental discretion advised!).

Where Are They Now?

Steve Kirk (Cavell 1972-78) is trying to locate Louise Coote, who was in Cavell in the early 1970s. If anyone knows of her whereabouts or has any current contact details, Steve would love to get back in touch.

S.Kirk@massey.ac.nz

“I visited the College from 1996-2000 from year 10 till A-levels. I used to live in Kett Hall. My problem is that I have lost contact with all of my friends from then, due to going back to Germany. Maybe it is possible to get back in contact through here?” Oliver Clasen;

emsio@gmx.de

Old Wymondhamians



Please reply to: Mrs Jackie Glenn, Alumni Secretary,
Wymondham College, Golf Links Road, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9SZ
Tel: 01953 609000 Fax: 01953 603313 E-mail alumni@wymondhamcollege.com

NEWSLETTER/REGISTRATION WITH OLD WYMONDHAMIANS

I confirm that I wish to register as a member of The Old Wymondhamians. This entitles me to continue to receive a copy of the annual newsletter.

FIRST NAME(S)

SURNAME SURNAME AT SCHOOL

ADDRESS*

..... POST CODE*

EMAIL ADDRESS* TELEPHONE NUMBER*

START YEAR AT COLLEGE FINAL YEAR

DATE OF BIRTH* HOUSE

Signed Date

The information that you provide will be checked against official records from the school. It will then be entered on the OW database. This forms the basis for the OW website which has been designed for ex-pupils and staff (including non-teaching staff) of Wymondham College to get in touch with friends and colleagues from the past, and to provide the source for mailing the annual newsletter. By registering your details with OW, you agree that you may be sent messages from other users, and newsletters or other updates from OW. We will not pass on any of your details to any other organisation without your express permission.

* Only the information which is not asterisked above appears publicly on the online database.

You can register by returning this form, or by registering online at www.wymondhamca.co.uk. If you use the form to register and later wish to use the website, you will need to log on and enter a username and password.

PLEASE NOTE: Current active online members need do nothing, except check their details are still current.

I enclose a donation of £ _____ towards the cost of the newsletter (*cheques payable to Old Wymondhamians - or see standing order form enclosed*).

Old Wymondhamians 100 Club

INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK TO PAY A REGULAR STANDING ORDER

Please complete your bank details and return to the 100 Club administrator:

P.A. Robinson, "Pipkim", Hill Road, Fair Green, Middleton, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1RW

Name and address of your bank:

.....

.....

Name(s) of Account Holder(s):

Account Number:

Sort Code:

Upon receipt of these instructions, please debit my account and pay EACH MONTH to:

NatWest Bank plc, 5 Market Place, Wymondham, Norfolk. NR18 0YY

Account: **Old Wymondhamians** – Reserve Account

Account Number: **14660040** Sort Code: **60 – 24 - 52**

The sum of: (in figures) £ 5.00
(in words) Five Pounds only

Commencing on [.....] (start date) and on the same day each month until further notice from me/us.

Signature(s):

Date:

TO THE BANK – please quote reference:

(To be completed by 100 club administrator)

MEMBERS ADDRESS.....

.....

Old Wymondhamians

From: *(block capitals please)*

Title..... First Name.....Surname.....

Formerly.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Tel:.....Fax.....E-mail:.....

Dates - of entry 19.....of leaving..... House.....

Don't Forget the 2008 Reunion

We are particularly keen to see former students from the 60s 70s and 80s
But ALL are very welcome

Venue: Marquee on Kett Lawn
Date and time: 7.30pm on Saturday 28th June 2008
Format: BBQ, Buffet supper, music, Cash Bar
Cost: £20

Please send me _____ tickets

Cheques payable to Old Wymondhamians

Please order early, there is already a queue for tickets!

Wymondham College Trust

Orders to: Mrs Jackie Glenn, Wymondham College, Norfolk, NR18 9SZ

The 50th Anniversary Book
“Wymondham College – the First Fifty Years”
by Roger Garrard and Michael Brand

With illustrations looking back over 50 years at the College

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Marcus Chapman (Cavell '82 to '87, Peel '87 to 89) would like anyone to get in contact who remembers him and would like to reminisce about the good old days at marcus.chapman@hoodvoreslaw.co.uk, especially would like to hear from Sparrow, Sparky, Wiggy, Doc Blair et al.

“Can you put a note out to see if anyone has an address/e-mail for **Kate Setchell**? She was a great friend! I was in Kett 1985-1990. My e-mail address is maxgidney@hotmail.com. Thanks, **Max Gidney**.”

“I think that the **Gerry Moon**, featured in your website photograph, went on to teach PE and I was one of his pupils at a British Forces School in Cyprus in 1969/70. I met him again several years ago when I was teaching at a school (now closed) in Guildford. My old school, St John's (Episkopi) is holding a reunion in September 2008. We'd love to invite Gerry. Are you able to assist me in contacting him, please? **Steve Holbrook** (stehen_holbrook7@yahoo.com)”

Did **Paul McGonagle** make the big time with his bass guitar? Did **Michael Chalcraft** continue with his ink art? Does **Dominic Bell** still have all of his early U2 and punk vinyl? Is **Dawn Eade** (as was) still as pretty now as she was I last saw her during a sales visit to St.Ives, Cambs? I guess we all started in 1976 and left 7 years later! **Scott Wedderburn** (scott.w@jaguar-events.co.uk)

Adrian Dubock asks: “What happened to my friend **Alfred Ernest Jack Paul Joseph Tagliaferro** (from Malta)? We sang “Michael row the boat ashore, hallelujah” and many Beatles songs, together. He was (probably still is) a great character.” adrian.dubock@syngenta.com

Don't Forget the 2008 Reunion

Saturday 28th June

At Wymondham College

All are welcome

We are particularly keen to see former students from the 60s 70s
and 80s

Tickets available from the Alumni Secretary

£ 20

Other News of Past Pupils and Staff

From the 50s

Jacqueline Isted (Gray 1951-55). I was in 'B' Form throughout my school years at Wymondham College. I then went to Cromer Hospital to do a pre-nursing course, from there to The Royal Free for general training and later moved to Chelmsford and Essex Hospital as S.R.N. Married in 1963 to Bob, we had 2 daughters and a son, have 5 granddaughters, and are now enjoying retirement. We have lived in our bungalow for 44 years in the pretty village of Terling, Essex. I live near Reggie Daniels {now deceased}, and his wife Shirley and remember his sister Joyce. Best wishes to all.

Stanley Furneaux (52 – 57). Came to Australia in 1961, have been married for 37 years, and have two daughters, 26 and 30 years of age. Was a commonwealth meat inspector for 32 years and retired in 2000.

Alan Fry (53 – 57). Met. Police 57-58. Brit. Sugar 58-61 student-qualified chemist. Training College [Nottingham] 61-64 .Teacher 64-89 Norfolk [Dept Head] Prep. Sch. 89-94 [Head, maths, geog]. Employed by Notts Forest, Derby, P'boro. Luton, Cambr'. Notts County in various roles after chance at 18 to join Arsenal junrs. Shrewsbury, Notts. Enjoyed every thing I have done.

Anne Zelinski (Fielding 52-58). Two of the girls I remember were Anne Crask from Sheringham and Rosemary Abram from Nth Elmham. I vividly remember our History master on meal duty strolling up and down the dining hall with a copy of *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, strategically hanging out of his back pocket. He taught a terrific history class too.

Jill Hann (Taylor 53 – 57). Lived in Sprowston when I attended WC. Very involved in sport and represented Norfolk in netball. Took leading role of Mrs Nothing in Paul Wrench's *Jasper Grasper*. Attended Bath Domestic Science college and taught until my retirement in 1999. Have now "retired" to France

Valerie Curtiss (Grounds 54 - 56). Been in the USA since 1961, married, 4 kids, raise Boston Terriers, love to garden, vegetables and all flowers that smell. My favourite hobbies reading, photography and art. www.treetopstidepools.com or www.justbostons.com will take you to my web site. Love to hear from anyone from those years of Nissen huts and walks in the countryside.

Tony Moulton (54 – 58). Retired teacher (special needs) divorced. Remarried to Christine (principal Castle Community Sports College, Deal, Kent). Two chrn, Kathryn-now mother of twins Amy & Rosie and Sam (she was formerly ad. director Instyle magazine, son Robert, partner in city law firm, Nabarro Nathanson. I waste much time playing golf, gardening and chauffeuring my wife to and from school but love travelling.

Adrian Smith (54 – 61). Happily retired from Head of Business, Leisure and Tourism at Colchester Institute. Married with 3 children and 5 grand children. So busy it is amazing that I found time to work! Thoroughly enjoying life.

Wendy George (Fulford 56 – 59). Married with 2 sons and 5 grand children. Retired from full-time work and now volunteering for The Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind.

Michael Hammond (57 – 65). Dec '07 - Committee Member of PSA with son taking GCSE this year. Son from earlier marriage also attended College. Intending retirement in 2009, but will continue to maintain contact with alumni both in UK and abroad.

Richard Leighton (59 – 64). Started at Wymondham '59, aged 13, in South, then Durham. Think I may have been in last group to sleep in Nissen hut. Left in '64. Joined Bernard Matthews, then worked for small breeder of turkeys in Attleborough. Married Anne, now a retired teacher. 2 daughters, 30 and 25. Lived in Ashill 35 years. Chairman of Parish council. Played football, squash and now bowls for the village.

Alex Blake (59 – 65). Very happily married with two sons. Retired at Christmas 2005, but re-formed company as so much construction work available in London. Saw ref to my sister and myself. Herb, last met you in pub in Cromer in about 1967. You were with very attractive WREN and serving in RN. Very much wish to make contact with old classmates.

Tim Mason (59 – 66). Now retired and living in South Africa. Fond memories of the school and pupils. Would love to hear from anyone who remembers me.

Jill Walker (59 – 66). Since leaving school, I trained as an accountant and have lived and worked firstly in London, then Buckinghamshire, Sussex and now Hertfordshire. I love travelling and am grateful to WC for teaching me to be independent!!

From the 60s

Edward Willimott (60 – 64). After leaving W.C. attended Agricultural College at Writtle and attained a National Diploma in Agriculture. Married in 1968, have two sons and two grand-daughters. Took early retirement in 2005 after a career in agriculture, firstly in farm management and then as an agronomist. Have lived in North East Suffolk for 25 years. Main hobby is playing bowls.

Eric Woodhouse (Staff 61 – 66). Taught chemistry with Keith Rutherford as HOD and with Michael Brand from about 1963. In Canterbury House for one year and then in Norwich House with Frank Laughton for the remaining five. Left to become Head of Science in Oxfordshire and from there to Deputy Head and Acting Head to Vice-Principal of King Alfred's School Wantage, Oxon, from which I retired in 1999.

Adrian Dubock (61 – 68). Zoology at Cardiff, then PhD at Reading. MAFF two years, Then ICI / Zeneca in agribusiness. Zeneca merger with Novartis in 2001 caused move to Switzerland. Recently retired from Syngenta, and so have more time. Continuing with humanitarian work (see eg www.goldenrice.org). Recently separated from Stella (nee Dyer) married 1972 after meeting at Wy Coll, two sons Ollie (graduated UEA 2006) and Chris - going to Nottingham Trent October 2007.

David Clitheroe (62 – 68). On leaving Wymondham I joined EEB and qualified as an elect. supply engineer in 73. I am now retd. I married in '82 and have 2 children, Clare 18 and Ben 16. I still live in Norfolk. I remember my friends in Norwich Hse, Mr Wood and Dave Goman [who was my mentor]. I enjoyed being in the team that ran the Sat. night films and the stage lighting for the G & S shows.

Tom Melvin (62 – 69). Married, 2 children, 6 grandchildren. Working in Climatic Research Unit, UEA.

Helen Werner (Douglas 63 – 69). Left school after A-Levels in 1969. Took a Diploma course in languages and commercial studies. Since 1988 living in Germany and working at the European Patent Office.

Pauline Nobbs (Thurston 64 – 67). Joined Wymondham as a new third. Left after O levels. Married Derek from Canterbury House, aged twenty. Still happily married with three children. Worked for Barclays Bank before family. Now working for NHS for last twelve years.

Paul Hayden-Wells (64 – 68). Hell it's a bloody job application! Not had psychotherapy so don't know how to express myself. bull!! English, 58yrs old, fed up with England, went travelling, ended up in Ayutthaya in Thailand, loved the place! Stopped few months, went back to England, got rid of everything (too much music went, no time to download) and came back here. Am in the process of opening bar/rest. Well that's what I'm doing. What am I like? Reasonably laid back, still have sense of humour, not overly cynical, still tend to be optimistic especially now have business goal to achieve. Patient for certain things, others can get up my nose. Anyway that will do for now.

Catherine Willimont (64-69). Married in 1975.4 children. 3 grandchildren. Divorced. Living just outside Durham. Medical Receptionist - now retired through ill health, though now six years in remission. Remember so many people. Would love to chat and catch up on everyone. Met several at reunion c20yrs ago arranged by Marjorie Turner.

Peter Beck (65 – 70). After WC went to Aston University and took Physics and Computer Science. After a short spell at CERN joined Hawker Siddely Dynamics (Now BAE SYSTEMS) doing systems engineering and running a small team. Married Gina and have 2 children aged 13 and 16. Actually made it back for the WC summer fete in 2006 and met Mr Brand. At that time Will Daniels (ex WC) was working for me, and Mr Brand was his housemaster!! Interests are travelling - (I have had a few foreign trips with my work), family life, DIY, gardening, the occasional sea fishing trip and wind surfing (when abroad).

Michael Greenwood (64 – 71). Teaching at Attleborough High. Head of Technology and Art.

Andrew Green (65 – 70). Married, have lived in Essex for the last 30 years and have four sons, 15 19, 23 and 26. I am Deputy Head Teacher of a large High School and Sports College in Chelmsford. I am still very much involved with local and national sport. My brother Jonathan three years behind me, who also was in York house is still in the Norfolk/Suffolk area farming. Still fit and hugely competitive!!

Gillian Taylor (Sapsford 65-71). I've finally found my true home in Perth, Western Australia, after having lived and worked in Brunei, the Netherlands, Norway and the Highlands of Scotland. I blame, and will eternally thank, Mr Staveley (Geography) and Mrs Brand (French) for opening my eyes to the wider world outside the boundaries I knew back then, and for giving me the itchy feet which led me here. These days I'm enjoying life with an Aussie husband, a few chooks and a galah, when I'm not busy helping the Pastoral Lands Board look after more than 450 cattle and sheep stations covering almost one million square kilometres of Australian rangeland (www.dpi.wa.gov.au/pastoral). This is not the life I planned - but it has turned out well. I'm rapidly approaching the age at which the 1960's are easier to remember than last week, and I'd love to hear from anyone else feeling the same, especially whilst they still remember me!

Marjorie Bailey (Turner 66 – 69). Recently divorced from long marriage, two children, landlord, living in Surrey

Graham Lach (66 – 72). I had an absolutely fabulous time and took it all very seriously.

Liz Irving (Yardy 68 – 72). Am now separated, had two children-one boy and a girl. Have 3 grandchildren, love my life although it could seem boring to most-I live with my daughter and her 3 children!!!!!! Would love to hear from any ex-house mates.

Catherine Irving (Kidd 68 – 73). Escaped from W. C. after G.C.E.s and did A Levels at Ipswich Civic College. Graduated from Stirling University in 1978 with 2/1 in English Lit.

Three children 23, 16 & 13. Three dogs, two horses, five ducks.

Unemployed for last 12 years, in order to educate my children at home.

Jan Turner (68 – 75). Average student, caned three times, slipped untold times, only interested in Art and girls.

Selena Auert (Hogg 69 – 72). Migration Agent, living in Australia. 2 children, girl 19, boy 16. Used to fly over to Wymondham from Sydney, Australia, to attend school. Miss Tebbs was my House Mistress to begin with in 1969. I started at age 13, Form 3 with the second intake.

Jenni Butler (Last 69 – 74). Famous for doing impressions of staff and others (namely Miss Bowditch) for the sixth formers in their private common room - should've been paid for it really! I was in the famous 5th form class who were all girls except for the lovely Tim Mayer. Would love to hear from anyone who remembers me - though, sadly, I don't think many will!!

Heather Skea (69 – 74) I live in London and have been married 14 years to Brendan Major, whom I met at the University of Sussex in 1976, where I did a degree in French Studies. No children (by choice). I have spent a lot of my career living and travelling abroad (working in the Language Travel industry), initially as an EFL teacher and then in sales and marketing. I am currently Director of Marketing & Business Development for a training & enterprise agency based in Tottenham.

Felicity Foulis Brown (Parrott 69 – 75). Tubby and red-haired - what a start in life (hair now tastefully highlighted...) - wore glasses, friendly and sociable (still am), sister of Jonathan Parrott (Pol) in Cavell Hall. Sang a lot (still do), was Mair Cup Captain the first time New Hall ever won the competition. Married and divorced (yes, I've jumped through that fiery hoop); two fabulous children: Eleanor 25, a teacher, and Rupert 23, an estate agent and would-be auctioneer. Was very happy at WyColl; regarded it as an extension of my social life...Enough?

Steven Betts (69 – 76). After leaving Wymondham I spent 3 years in California before settling in London where I worked as a photographer. Recently moved to the wilds of Suffolk, still taking photographs and avoiding proper work.

From the 70s

Christopher Chenery (70 -77). Now living in my 16th century black and white pub within the city walls of Hereford, having retired after 23 years' service as head of English and literacy in Gwent.

Ken Seaman (70 – 77). Hated boarding to start with, but soon changed my mind - totally glad by end. Set me up for three years at uni in London. Wimp-like start - played first team rugby seven years later! Left with eight O-Levels and three A- Levels. THANK YOU, WYMONDHAM COLLEGE

Gerry Doherty (71 – 78). Hi I was married with three children, two boys, Douglas and Conan and a girl, Chantelle. Have worked in Africa and Hong Kong as a Civil Engineer. Currently living in Limerick and working on a road tunnel project. Planning to live in Brasil after that with my girlfriend.

Tim Eaton (72 – 77). Now living in Northamptonshire and working in London as Commercial Manager for a large capital programme. Married Ingrid in 1996 - we travel quite a bit and enjoy life in a peaceful sort of way. I've been in touch with Roger Blackmore and Ken Seaman from Wycoll and have always remembered it with affection. I now have a nephew there, so the story continues.

Joanne Morris (Ravenscroft 72 – 79). Married for 18 years to Ian, one child, Ashley, currently studying for GCSE's. I work for South Yorkshire Police at the central Police station in Doncaster.

Huw Baker (72 – 79). Partner in City Law Firm. Married to Helen; one daughter – Katie.

Gary Byrne (72 – 79). I am now a Quality Manager for the Eurrop, Africa and Mid Ease region of Syngenta Crop Protection, based in Guildford. I travel a lot on business, mostly into Europe but sometimes Africa. The furthest so far has been Tokyo!!

Lauren Perry (Clifton 73 – 77). I'm married, living in London at the moment, and working at Richmond-Upon-Thames College as a lecturer in Supported Learning. I have two teenagers and a pug. Fry boarders from our year have had a couple of reunions in the last 5 years that have been great fun.

My hobbies include scuba diving, photography and travel; I try to combine them if possible.

Peter Jordan (73 – 80). After 26 years in the soft drinks industry, latterly with Britvic in Chelmsford I was made redundant in November 2007. I am now with East of England Ambulance Service in Essex.

Mairi Lewis (Robertson 73 – 80). Now a mother of 4, working as Cabin Crew.

Katherine Betts (75 – 80). Escaped Wymondham College after O-levels to do A-levels at Norwich City College. Ended up as a journalist after (briefly) studying medicine then gaining a degree in Physiology. Now runs my own media training and consultancy business in Sheffield, where I live with my dog Barney.

Sally Cornwell (Biggs 75 – 81). I am still living in Norfolk, married with two boys, aged 16 and 13.

Barbra Hunt McLanahan (Hunt 75 – 82). I have lived in New York since 1996 and I am married with a toddler daughter. I graduated from the Universities of Kent and Manchester, and I have run alternative art galleries and artists' foundations for the past 20 years - a wonderful career that has allowed me to travel and generally have fun! I am still in touch with many friends from Wymondham and remember my time there very fondly. My brothers John and Andy also attended WC.

Mark Browne (75 – 83). Graduated Nottingham University in 1986, worked in Industry as Engineer and Manager, currently studying for a Fellowship in Manufacturing Management at Cranfield. Enjoyed playing Rugby, and carried on for some 15 years after leaving school. Learnt to ride horses, climb and dive. Travelled round world.

Andrew Napthen (76 – 78). Left half way through my third year was not in 76 photo? Thought I should have been. Can remember Nigel Utting and a lot more in my dorm. Was in *The Gondoliers* with Simon Bingham (he came from South Walsham) didn't fit in at King's Lynn Grammar but now life on track at East Dereham as an HGV driver. Would like to hear from my dorm friends if they can remember me!

Liz Solly (76 – 80). I was a day pupil in Fry. My best friends were Sally Biggs & Kelly Bowhill. I was not hugely sporty as I had a brace on my

back for most of the time there, which restricted my movement in the sporting field! However, we had great rounders & netball teams! I enjoyed the coach trip to school as we had great fun on the coach and shared one fag between the whole back four rows!

Anthony Lovick (76 – 83). Houses Peel in year 1 and 2, Kett in year 3-5, Lincoln 6-8. Day pupil from Taverham.

Paul Reeson (76 – 83). Left after 'A' levels in 1983 and joined Sedgwick Insurance Brokers in Norwich in August of same year. Remained with the company through takeover by Marsh and now work for the reinsurance arm, Guy Carpenter. Live in Norfolk, married to Lynn, with two children, Daniel (born 1993) and Ailish (born 1997).

Andrew Gardiner (77 – 83). I started as a 'day bug' in New Hall under the smokey eye of Mr Rutherford, and later was in Lincoln. I was 'techy' at heart, ending up with A levels in science followed, for some obscure reason, by a BSc in computer science. After many years in the wilderness that is City College Norwich, I returned to the fold of WC as Senior Science Technician in 2006.

From the 80s

Mark Nichols (80 – 82). Joined WC at 6th form from Eccles Hall School with Jason Miller. Lived in Attleborough. Enjoyed computer studies with Mr Freeburn! Now living in Devon working in electronics. Pleased to hear from anyone who remembers me.

Robert Brown (82 – 89). After studying at Art College in London I returned to Norfolk to work at Eastern Counties Newspapers. Currently Senior Designer at TSO in Norwich. Living with partner and 2 young children. Still in touch with a few from that era, would be great to hear from more.

Alaster Stockwell-Jones (84 – 89). I left Wymondham College in 1989. I then moved to Swaffham 6th form College for my A-levels prior to attending Reading University to study Chemistry. Moved into the pharmaceutical industry where I worked for about 10 years, prior to setting up my own company last year. Currently living on a farm in Suffolk. Happy & healthy.

Max Gidney (85 – 90). Railway Engineer in London... Living in Norfolk. No sense at all.

Ben Porter (87 – 92). Site Agent for civil engineering firm, working all over UK.

Rebecca Rice (88 – 93). Followed in my brother's foot steps and went to Kett Hall under the guidance of Mr Sayer. There was a Rice child in Kett for over 12 years!

Richard Aidley (89 – 91). Did my A Levels at Wymondham College, I'd be interested to hear from anyone who remembers me. Made the mistake of sodding off for a computing degree, finally saw the light and now a decade-and-a-half later am finally doing the art degree I should have done in the first place ;)

From the 90s

Justin Ripley (90 – 94). Since leaving Wymondham College I have gone into our family business & worked hard over the past 15 years to help grow the company, which operates in commercial property, steelwork & construction. I live locally in Gt Ellingham with a wife & two boys who are to start school shortly, with a view to one day also joining the college.

Donna Eke (Woodroffe 91 – 93). I am living back in Rocklands with my husband and 3 children. I am teaching in Thetford after training in South Wales. It would be great to hear from those of you that remember me.

Helen Blake (Woodhouse 91 – 96). I am now married with four children and living in Norwich.

Cicely Hunt (Hall 91 – 96). Since leaving Wymondham College and continuing with my athletics at 6th form (Norwich City College) and university (Newcastle), cash flow requirements forced me into work and I am now a qualified rural surveyor currently working for the National Trust at their head office in Swindon.

Nikki Allison (92 - 97). Left Wymondham to have a year out ski-ing and working on a kids' summer camp in France. Then did my teacher training in Northants and taught there for 4 years. I have now moved to Olney, where I have bought a house with my boyfriend and two cats. Now teacher Year 4 at Bedford Prep School.

Dr Ben Phillips (93-96). Currently training as a histopathologist after qualifying as a doctor 6 years ago.

Capt Anthony Pywell (93-98). Spent 5 Years in Fry Hall before leaving to attend Welbeck College to do A Levels and gain a foothold in the Army. From there I read Management and Logistics and entered the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, before finally starting at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in 2004. Commissioned into the RAMC, and have deployed a couple of times to Iraq. I have recently been posted to Germany as a Squadron Second in Command at 1 Close Support Medical Regiment. I would love to hear from anyone that was at WC when I was there; I have, unfortunately, lost touch with the majority.

Cristina Morales Burgess (94 – 96). I am now a London-based freelance translator & interpreter, and am a visiting lecturer at the University of Westminster, teaching Interpreting.

Kaj O’Sullivan (97 – 97). Only at the school for about six months but made some really good friends, would love to get in touch!

Charlotte Jones (97 – 2004). Charlie still the same happy and bubbly person!! I am a tutor delivering a resettlement programme within a prison for a company called The Foundation Training Company. I am living in Watton in my own house with my partner! I got engaged this weekend - 10/11/2007 on my birthday!!! I am very excited and as ever very happy!!!!!!

Camilla Darling (98 – 2000). I left Wymondham in 2000, spent the summer in Australia, returning to start my BA in Media and Management with French in Leeds. After graduating, I spent 3 months in Central America as a Raleigh International volunteer. I then returned to the UK to join the Tesco Graduate Recruitment Scheme. I now live back in Norwich and work as a National Account Manager for a plastics company based in Finland. It would be good to catch up with anyone also back in the area!

Nicholas Winser (99 – 2001) Dec 2007 - I am currently residing in Thetford with my two children, Shane & Charmanee. Due to complex health problems, my wife has had to return permanently to South Africa last month, so we are adjusting to life changes gradually. The next year I hope to commence training as a Catholic Permanent Deacon.

From 2000 onwards

Emily McDouall (2000-07). At Wymondham I was always the musical one, singing mostly and in practically as many music clubs as possible, not forgetting Mair cup EVERY YEAR! - fighting for Kett! I was also the chatty one (at least in GCSE science I was!) Renowned for being inseparable from Jayne Anderson in high school days and in Sixth Form it was probably Chloé Riley! I'm still singing lots, and forever the confidante of Chloé!

Chloe Riley (2000 – 2007). I was very much into sport throughout school, playing netball as captain, and hockey, rounders etc. Became Head Girl with Henri Loombe Temple in Sixth Form. I took English, Art and Drama, and was part of the legendary (well to a few) performance of 'The Trial'. I loved Mr McConnell, Mrs Nantongwe and the drama department. Went on to Warwick Uni to study English Lit. Oh, and after about year 9, I stopped growing!

Fran Leipold (2001-02). Just came to WC for a year but have found some great friends who I am still in contact with. Had a little boy in February. Am NOT married. Studying History of Art, History and Archaeology. Still living near Munich. Hopefully, moving somewhere else soon.

Obituaries

Serena Ottley (1983-87) passed away suddenly on the 19th of April 2007, aged 39. It's believed that she had worked for Norwich Union since leaving the College.

Cyril Victor Hughes, a member of staff in the 1950s, died in the early part of 2007 after a long illness of several years. "A man I remember with great respect, and who with Dave Goman and other great teachers did so much in shaping our lives and moulding the future of a very new Wymondham College." - David Spinks.

Stephen Dobbin (Canterbury/Kett 1965-72) died 3rd October 2007 at the Ashwell & Morden station of the Cambridge-King's Cross rail line. "I went to the funeral, a very moving service. Dobbo had an interesting life in the theatre, stage managing for the RSC and ENO, and directed a touring version of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* for the RSC. A small group of ex-Canterbury, including Geoff Lewis and Andy Holmes, were there." - Robin Richardson.

Roger Lincoln passed away suddenly on 8 May 2007, aged 60. He was driving to meet a primary school friend when he felt pains in his chest; he pulled up near Thetford and died in the car. Roger was in the Police Service for 30 years from 1964-1995, then worked as a Communication Support Worker with deaf people.

Dennis Storer died 8th September 2007. An ex-Army Captain, Dennis Storer joined the College's Physical Education department in September 1958, and spent one year with us. He coached the 1st XV and was a prominent speaker in the Chad Club and 6th Form Semi-Circle. After leaving, he became a sports commentator with Anglia TV, but then emigrated to the USA in 1965 to begin an outstanding career at UCLA as head coach of the university's rugby and soccer programmes, becoming the US National rugby coach in 1976. At a national and international level, Dennis was the British Olympic Association's Executive Director, a director of BAFTA, a founder member of the British Community Advisory Board and founding President of the Spirit of Youth Foundation. He was awarded the OBE in 1994 for services to British/American Education, Sport and Commerce.

Brenda Rawlings (nee Myhill; East House 1957-1963) died on September 2nd 2007. "Her husband, Mike, and children, Helen, Paul, Steven and Kevin were with her when she died of cancer the day after her 61st birthday. Nancy Trett, Pat Fuller, Irene Cooper and I and June Armiger were able to attend her funeral in the packed Methodist Chapel at Great Ryburgh. Brenda loved being at Wymondham College and was a wonderful friend, always putting others first and always cheerful. She was devoted to her husband and family. - Margaret White (Kilgour).

A word from the Principal—Melvyn Roffe

These are certainly interesting times for Wymondham College. It would perhaps be thought usual for a new Principal to take a few terms to get to know the place before planning any great change. I, however, have had no such luxury. Change is already very much on the agenda and the College is already headed into some new and uncharted waters. Not that I am complaining. The opportunity to steer this great and unique College into its exciting future was one of the things that drew me to the post of Principal here. I thought that the momentum of change would be quite exhilarating. I was right.



The new classroom extensions were completed both on time and on budget last August and are excellent additions to the facilities we have available. The builders of the new Lincoln building have made good progress over the winter and we should be taking possession of that fantastic new facility in early summer. It will be a boarding house quite unlike any other boarding house in the country. Not only does it provide excellent study and social facilities for our Year 13 students, it stands out as an inspiring design in its own right and, incidentally, provides some stunning views over the Norfolk countryside.

All this building will enable more students to benefit from a Wymondham College education in the coming years. We are now in the intense period of planning to make sure we make the most of the opportunities that the £10 million or so of public money that has been invested in the College will give us. Staff and students are developing creative ideas for the

curriculum and for extra-curricular activities. We will also be building on links with business and industry and helping students to understand the value of enterprise, not only locally but much further afield as we develop partnerships with schools as far apart as Prague, South Africa and China. Autumn Term gave us the opportunity of taking stock of what the College has already achieved assisted by the OfSTED inspectors who came to give us our regular inspection. In our last inspection in 2004, the College was adjudged to be a Very Good school, but this time the judgement was an unequivocal “Outstanding”. In fact we were awarded the top grade in all but four of the thirty nine inspection criteria. This was a great tribute to the work of the staff, not least my two immediate predecessors as Principal, Victoria Musgrave and Dominic Findlay, and also to the students whose attitude to their studies, to their teachers, to each other and to the College community received particularly favourable comment from the inspectors.

If further proof of the quality of the College were needed, it came in January with the publication of the national schools performance tables. Newspapers present the data from those tables in so many arbitrary ways that even if you were an avid fan of league tables you would have to accept that the messages that they give are at best ambiguous and at worst incoherent. I am no fan of league tables, but I did have to accept that one piece of data about the College’s performance last year was striking. On top of exceptional results at GCSE and A level, the College gained the twelfth highest Contextual Value Added rating of any secondary school in the country. Contextual Value Added is a bit of government jargon, but put simply, it is the measure of how much better our students did at GCSE than they would have been expected to do given their ability when they joined the College aged eleven. Not only were we the twelfth best in the country on that measure, we were the only school which combined that success with overall high performance in the examinations themselves.

So whatever is going to change in the coming years, the academic standard that we set ourselves will not. Nor will that very special sense of community which the inspectors noted and which so many of the former students that I have met also say is their abiding memory of the College.

As the College grows in size (we shall be nearly 1300 strong by 2010) we know that we will have to redouble our efforts to retain that sense of belonging which is so important to us. And that sense of belonging encompasses former students, too. I have been grateful for the warm welcome that was afforded me by the Committee of the newly renamed Old Wymondhamians and I have been most impressed at the way in which the Old Wymondhamian network joins former students in friendship across the world.

As we approach the sixtieth anniversary of the College in 2011, I look forward to working with the Old Wymondhamians, the Wymondham College Trust and the Parent and Staff Association to strengthen the ties that bind the various parts of the wider College community together. We have already started to plan the diamond jubilee commemorations which we intend should have a number of tangible benefits for the College and its future students. Amongst the most important of these we hope will be a viable bursary fund that can be used to support students who would benefit from a boarding place at the College, but whose home circumstances are such that their parents could not afford the boarding fee. I can think of no better way of perpetuating our sense of community into the future.

I look forward to meeting more Old Wymondhamians in the coming year, not least when I attend events in Hong Kong and Australia in the autumn and, of course, the Reunion to be held at the College in the summer.

Melvyn Roffe— Principal

Dates for You Diary 2008

31st May	PSA Grand Summer Ball	Wymondham College	
25th & 26th June	Royal Norfolk Show		
27th June	'50s Golf Day, Sprowston		
28th June	PSA Summer Fayre		
28th June	Old Wymondhamians Official Reunion		
20th September	College Presentation Evening		
9th November	College Remembrance Service		
15th November	Old Wymondhamians AGM		
16th November	Founders Day—At which all past pupils and staff are most welcome		

President of the Old Wymondhamians – Patricia Howard (51 – 58)

I was honoured and thrilled to be offered the post of President of the Old Wymondhamians. My involvement with the College as pupil (1951 – 58), as a member of the original Past Students Association until 1966, then as a parent (1982 – 91) has been quite varied! The parent spell included being part of the group of parents who fought to preserve the future of the college when it was threatened with the withdrawal of County funding.

Having now attended two committee meetings, it has been a joy to catch up with old friends and truly fascinating to learn of the future plans for the college.

If any of you are hesitating about renewing your contact with you old school, then please don't!

Visit the College website and www.wcremembered.co.uk, refresh old memories and do your utmost to join us at the next reunion – you won't regret it.