

Old Wymondhamians Newsletter

An account of the Reunion Dinner Melbourne, Australia—22 October 2008

Joan Thomson (Woodbridge 57-58)

The dinner was attended by 25 people, 13 of whom were ex-students, and Mr Melvyn Roffe, who is of course the current Principal, with his wife Catherine; the remainder were partners and two were daughters, my own daughter Melanie, who lives in Melbourne and was chief photographer for the evening, and Keith Skipper and his wife, with their lovely daughter Denyse.

Welcoming drinks were served. Melvyn Roffe, Mike Herring (OW Chairman) and myself greeted everyone as they arrived, assisting to pin on name tags, and offering beverages. Everyone mingled and caught up



Julia, Barry, Roger, Melvyn, Catherine, Joan, Paul, Dennis

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Old
Wymondhamians
Former Pupils and
Staff of Wymondham
College

Wymondham
College



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with long lost friends, Mike knew several people from his year, and I met John Duffy, who was in my form, for the first time since December 1957. He attended with his lovely wife Maureen. They now live in Melbourne. The remainder of guests were from varying years, dating from the first intake in 1951, Dennis Thomas, who had flown in from New Zealand just for the event, to students who left in the mid to late seventies. Guests had travelled from far afield; Clive Lancaster and his wife Judy flew from Collie, a small town south of Perth in Western Australia, a good six hour flight, Julia Nichols and her partner Barry flew from Adelaide in South Australia, while Heather and David Bligh, both ex students who met and fell in love at Wymondham in the late fifties, drove for over two hours from their small town in mid Victoria, the others all driving many miles to enjoy the evening. Kim Chambers (1969-1970) was the only ex 'day girl' attending, while the youngest ex-student attending was Dawn Brownhill (Jessop 1973-76).



*Joan Thomson, Keith Skipper, John Duffy, David Bligh,
Barry Westburg, Paul Davis, Catherine Roffe*

A projector, set up to show slides from the first days of WC to current times, played throughout the evening, much to the delight of those who spotted themselves in old pictures. It was good to see how the school has progressed over the years. My own daughter was flabbergasted, to say the least at the picture of the Nissen hut dormitories of the early years. I had, of course, told my children about them, but did not have a photo to show them. Let me just add the current dorms are a 1000 times better, the current students, very lucky.

Yes, lucky and not simply because of the sleeping arrangements; Mr Roffe gave a superb speech and is obviously very committed to both the school and his students. I personally found his speech very inspiring, and if he can inspire the current students with his enthusiasm they will go on to lead very rewarding lives. We were all enthralled while he was speaking. On completion, and while we were standing giving three cheers, Clive burst into the school song, joined by Heather and others who remembered all the words after some forty years or more. Spectacular! Of course they received an enthusiastic round of applause.

Mike gave a speech of thanks in return and then, much to my surprise and delight, I was thanked and presented with a beautiful framed photograph of the school as it is today, from Melvyn and a spectacular bouquet of flowers, which weighed a ton incidentally, from Mike and, he said, the committee in the UK. Thank you again, everyone, my new school photograph hangs beneath the photograph of all the girls from 1957, taken from the entire school photo, in my study, and I have some beautiful photographs of the flowers.

The three-course meal was delicious. We began the meal with place settings, with Mike, Melvyn and myself rotating for each course in order to meet and mix, which worked well, I think. The evening felt as though everyone had known each other from schooldays, when in fact many of us had not even met. It is wonderful what effect the connection and camaraderie the school and, of course Norfolk, can have. We were all firm friends by the end of the evening, which went on until after 11pm.

The Dinner took place at the Hotel Windsor, opposite Victoria's Parliament House in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Guests at the dinner were:

Melvyn Roffe	College Principal	John Duffy	WC 50s
Catherine Roffe		Maureen Duffy	
Mike Herring	WC 1950s	Clive Lancaster	WC
Jane Sutton	Partner of above	Judy Lancaster	
Keith Skipper	WC	Joan Thomson	WC 50s
Lyn Skipper		Melanie Huson	
Denyse Skipper		Julia Nicholls	WC
Dawn Brownhill	WC 70s	Barry Westburg	WC
Ken Brownhill		Roger Goodwin	WC 60s
Kim Chambers	WC 60s	Bev Goodwin	
Joe Chambers		Paul Davis	WC
Heather Bligh	WC 50s	Dennis Thomas	WC
David Bligh	WC 50s		

To see photos of the evening visit www.wcremembered.co.uk

Next Steps

Joan Thomson and John Duffy indicated that they would be prepared to work on setting up the Aus/NZ Chapter of the Old Wymondhamians.

The nature of the organisation, where and how often to meet, etc, is left for those in Aus/NZ to decide.

The following are just thoughts from chats with people that evening.



Julia Nichols, David Bligh, Barry Westburg and Heather Bligh.

1. Possibly arrange meetings in different capital cities in sequence, i.e. Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, NZ, depending on the number of active people in each State.
2. There will be a need for a small amount of funding for postage etc and starting a 100 club (which funds the UK OW's) is one way to achieve this.
3. Start an Aus/NZ web based newsletter/magazine based on local contributions.

The UK OW's will give as much help as needed in this venture.

If you would like to be involved/kept in touch, please e mail your details to Joan Thomson, joan@bellingham-marine.com.au

Chairman's Greetings

Mike Herring (52—58)

We enter 2009 with the world a very different place from the one we had become comfortable with at the beginning of 2008.

Even for some of us “old stagers” this downturn feels different from the ones we have previously experienced. The media, which loves a crisis, is keen to report “the worst set of Christmas sales figures on record”, a very selective use of the data if ever there was one, when the only worst aspect is the % change. In fact we spent about the same amount of money as we did in 2006, and I don't recall that we then felt it was the end of the world.



*Mike Herring and Tony Wyatt at the
2008 Golf Day*

Of course there are major differences – the banking situation for one, and fear will make people behave conservatively with their money.

However, every change has the potential to be for the better, and this is how we will approach these new and uncharted waters.

The Old Wymondhamians committee had already started the debate about “what are we here to do?”, “how do we meet the expectations of us?” and even “what are those expectations?” This year some of those debates will reach working conclusions.

Our concentration on “fellowship” will certainly be augmented with how we can serve existing pupils and recent leavers as well as the core of older leavers.

We did not have a reunion last year as the number of prospective attendees could not justify organising one. On the other hand, we had a very successful reunion in Melbourne for Old Wymondhamians living in Aus/NZ. This will hopefully lead to further events in that part of the world, and lead us to ask if there is also a need in the USA, where we have a considerable number of past pupils.

I will predict (ahead of our next meeting) that we will have a reunion this year. However, its nature and even where it is held is up for debate. Perhaps we should be looking at smaller, possibly less frequent, regional get-togethers. Maybe we have to offer more than a dinner and a chance to socialise. Any thoughts on this would be welcomed by the committee.

Another change this year will be with the *WC Remembered* website. This is one of the best past pupil websites that I know of, and is admired by other schools. This is due entirely to the hard work, dedication and expertise of Bill Atkins. Bill is getting ready to retire and it seems unlikely that we shall find anyone else with his attributes.

A new data base for the Old Wymondhamians is in the planning stage, which should allow us to be far more pro-active in our approach to ex-pupils and staff. At the moment we have no facility to link people in similar professions, who have similar interests, went to the same university etc, etc.

I wish the best to all of you for this year, whatever it may bring.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Read (68-73)

The Old Wymondhamians Association continues on a solid, if not spectacular, financial footing. The financial highlights are as follows:

The accounts for the year to 30th September 2008 show total funds held of £5054 at the year-end, reflecting a decrease of £484 from the previous year. In a second 'quiet' year, with no official reunion event apart from the Joan Sperring 90th birthday celebration (net cost £86), the 101 Club continues to be the main source of income, generating £2850 net this year, compared with £2800 last year. Once again, on behalf of the committee, my thanks go to Phil Robinson for his continued administration of this activity.

Donations of £1024 were received in the year from various sources, an improvement on last year (£685) but still down on 2006. We also received £134 from sales of merchandise (2007 - £59).

The cost of producing and distributing the annual Newsletter of £2304 was less than last year (£2630) due to the A5 format which in no way compromised the content.

The overhead cost of technical support, development and maintenance, associated with the online database, of £670 is as last year and other small items of expenditure, show minimal changes. The only other main item of expenditure was our contribution of £1500 towards the cost of new College hymn books.

I reiterate my annual thanks to the College for the provision of the Alumni Secretary position, and to the other committee members for freely supplying their time.

Dates for Your Diary 2009

30th May	PSA Grand Summer Ball
26th June	50s Golf Day, Sprowston
27th June a.m.	Speech Day Ceremony—invited guests
27th June p.m.	PSA Summer Fayre
27th June evening	Old Wymondhamians Official Reunion
1st & 2nd July	Royal Norfolk Show
11th October	Founders Day—At which all past pupils and staff are most welcome
30th October	Reunion Dinner Hedlam Hall, near Barnard Castle and Durham.
November	College Remembrance Service
November	Old Wymondhamians AGM

Old Wymondhamians Reunion 2009

The date for the Old Wymondhamians Reunion is:

Saturday 27th June 2009 at the College, on Kett Lawn.

This is a busy day for the College with the Speech Day ceremony in the morning and the PSA Summer Fayre in the afternoon.

The reunion will be informal, with the emphasis on the opportunity to catch up with old friends over a drink and a buffet meal.

Many people will be making a day of it, coming to the Fayre in the afternoon and staying on for the reunion in the evening. Why not get in touch with a few old friends and come as a party? We'd be happy to advertise for you through the **Wymondham College Remembered** website.

A list of those that are intending to come is available on the website too.

The cost of tickets is likely to be around £15 per head

If you would like more information or tickets please contact **Jackie Glenn**, alumni@wymondhamcollege.org, tel **01953 609000**.

The closing date for tickets will be 12th June 2009, but please let us know as soon as possible if you intend to come.

Visits and Visitors

The College is fortunate to have benefited from the help and expertise of a number of former pupils during the past year.

Ben Handford (89—95), is the director of a company called Naked Marketing which produces much of the College's promotional material. Ben has run a number of workshops on design and marketing for the Technology Department which have been attended by students and parents.

Tamasin Doe (76—82) is a fashion journalist and author who has freelanced for most of the broadsheets and was deputy fashion editor at the *Evening Standard*.

Tamasin contacted the College, volunteering to talk to College pupils who were seriously thinking about going into either journalism or fashion. Her offer was snapped up, and she will be advising the group responsible for putting together the 2009 College Magazine.

The College is always delighted to hear from past pupils with experience or expertise that they are willing to share—if you would like to offer your assistance then please contact the **Alumni Secretary, Jackie Glenn, 01953 609000 alumni@wymondhamcollege.org**, in the first instance.

THE 2008/9 COMMITTEE

President: Patricia Howard (51—58)

Chairman: Mike Herring (52-58)

Vice-Chairman: Julie Harding (Ebbens 71-76)

Treasurer: Steve Read (68-73).

Secretary: Jackie Glenn (Alumni Sec.)

Other Committee Members:

Carole Arnold (1995-2005 ex staff)

John Beales (52-59)

Roger Garrard (Staff 52-89)

Phil Robinson (66-73) – 100 Club

Asha Gita Simmons (Ramseebaluck 81-87)

David Spinks (51-55)

Bill Atkins (58-64) - WCR

Michael Brand (Staff 62-98)

David Jackson (60—66)

Bob Rowell (52-59)

Jack Smith (51-53)

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

Christopher Sayer

2006/7

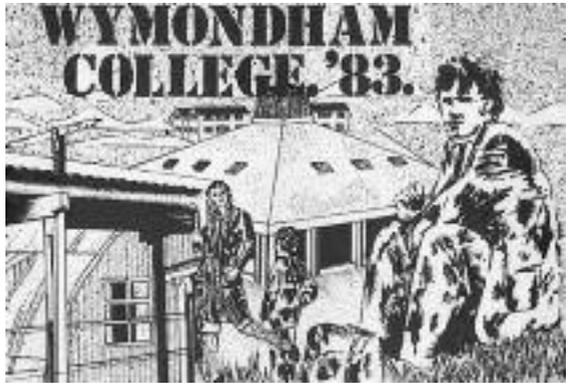
Dominic Findlay

2007/8

Patricia Howard

College Magazines—Old and New

If you would like to purchase copies of the re-designed College magazine 2008/9 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 27th 2008

Bob Rowell (52—59)

Sprowston Manor was again the meeting place for our annual round of golf and evening reunion. More than ever attended and it was great to meet and reminisce with school friends we knew so many years ago. It was great that Mike Rees was with us, he coached the first 1stXV in 1957/58 and five of that team were there, and also on a personal and sporting note there were seven of us from the 1958 1st XI Cricket team which I captained.

There was the opportunity for those returning for the first time to visit the Summer Fayre on the Saturday and observe the many changes that have taken place at the College since those early days.

Arrangements are in place to meet again at Sprowston Manor on Friday June 26th 2009, so please put that date in your diaries.

The result of the golf event was:-

Winner – Men	Barry Adkins
Winner – Ladies	Linda Davis
Longest Drive	Mervyn Taylor
Nearest Pin	Roger Hubbard
Award for Greatest Endeavour	Mike Herring

My contact details:-01629582229, 07710 229126, bob.rowell@virgin.net

Those attending: were:

Barry Adkins	Peggy Mapes
John Beales	Peggy McGowan (Wright)
Richard Blowers	Pat Meek (Morris)
Muriel Blowers (Currie)	Geoff Morter
David Burdett	Tony Moulton
Lawrie Burdett	Terry Nicholls
Dave Clarke	Beverley Nicholls
Chris Chamberlain	Tony Pyle
Sallie Chamberlain	Ann Pyle (McCafferty)
Terry Coppin	Anne Read
Ruth Chase (Brown)	Peter Read
Barrie Corless	Mike Rees
Barry Croxford	Bob Rowell
Linda Davis	Glenda Sewell (Angel)
David Everitt	Maggie Skipp (Smith)
Dave Fitt	Adrian Smith
Jean Gouldthorpe (Southgate)	Ann Snushall (Drinkwater)
John Gouldthorpe	David Spinks
Aubrey Hammond	Jane Sutton
Huby Harbord	Mervyn Taylor
Geoffrey Hardaker	Heather Turner (Reed)
Mike Herring	David Whyte
Pat Howard (Marsh)	Jennifer Wickham (Howell)
Roger Hubbard	Bill Wiskin
Emba Jones	Esme Wyatt (McNulty)
Tony Lake	Tony Wyatt
Bob Mapes	

Old Wymondhamians 100 Club Report 2008

Phil Robinson (66-73)

The Old Wymondhamians 100 club continues to operate successfully, and this last year has seen the number of members increase to around the 90 mark. However, this is still short of the magical 100 that we originally hoped to recruit.

This is the fifth year that we have been operating the 100 club and £2,850 has been generated this year, which is a slight increase on 2007/8. With the absence of a reunion this year, the surplus generated from the 100 club has been the major source of income for the Old Wymondhamians. As ever, the cost of producing, printing and posting the yearly newsletter, together with the cost of maintaining the Online database is the major outgoing .



Subscription is still only £5.00 per month. The normal monthly draw is for two prizes of £50 but there is the possibility of winning one of the two star prizes of £500 & £250 (in June & December). For those of you who may wish to join, the monthly payment is normally made by Standing Order, but we are happy to accept yearly payments of £60.00 from anyone who would prefer to subscribe in that way.

Of the monies raised, 40% is redistributed in prize monies with 60% being retained by the Old Wymondhamians. The cost of our Alumni Secretary, Jackie Glenn, continues to be funded directly by the College, for which we are extremely grateful.

Steve Read (our Treasurer) & I continue to meet on a monthly basis at hosteries within Norfolk, and have been joined by a number of you in the last year. Thankfully, the majority of the chosen pubs have actually been open this year!! We have some very obscure statistical evidence that members who actually turn up to one of our draw evenings are rewarded with a win a

few months later!! So, any ex-pupils or staff are more than welcome to attend, and 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, please contact me so that I can add you to the list.

This year's winners have been:-

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

February 2008 – Steve Human; Barry Croxford

March 2008 – David Burdett; Mike Lynn

April 2008– Phil Robinson; Alan McIvor Dean

May 2008 – David Spinks; Anne Richardson (nee Warner)

June 2008– Barry Croxford; Sheila Forde

July 2008 – Carole Arnold; Adrian Dubock

August 2008 – Bob Rowell; John Head

September 2008 – Colin Leaford; Sheila Forde

October 2008 – Adrian Osler; Louise Martin

November 2008 – John Head; Neil Sparrow

December 2008 – Aubrey Hammond; Geoffrey Hardaker

January 2009 – Adrian Osler; David Mills

If you feel that you can support the Old Wymondhamians in this scheme, please contact me, Phil Robinson – Old Wymondhamians 100 Club Administrator at philrobinson.robson@btconnect.com 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 Laura Mansell.

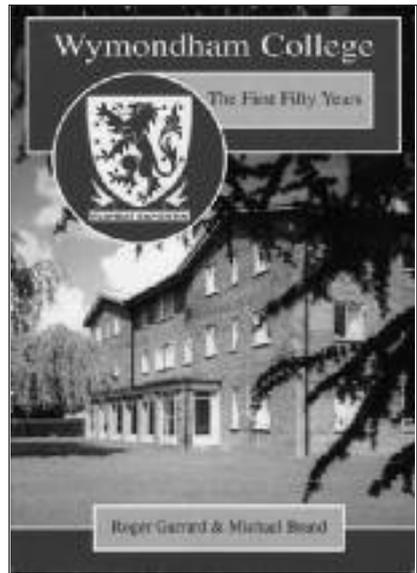
The Jim and Elspeth Hodgson Prize for History was awarded to Joshua Ludkin.

The Dave Goman Technology Prize was awarded to David Wilson.

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. We would like to thank all those who bought books and prints and made donations last year in answer to our call for help in financing the Newsletter.

Thanks also to those of you who joined the 100 Club, which not only helps cover the cost of the newsletter but enables us to operate the websites and general membership of The Old Wymondhamians.

One pound from every former student would cover all of this and leave some over to pass on to the Wymondham College Trust, which aims to set up a bursary fund to help less fortunate students to have the opportunity to board at the College.

Gift Aid is tax relief on money donated to UK charities. The donations are treated as if the donor had already deducted basic rate tax from them. The Wymondham College Trust can then reclaim this tax to increase the value of a donation.

A Gift Aid form can be downloaded from the Trust Website or obtained by contacting the Trust Secretary Mrs Jackie Glenn, at the College.

If you feel you would like to help make a difference to someone's life, please get in touch.

Norfolk Show 2008

The weather was once again kind to us at the Norfolk Show. The visit of Prince Harry ensured a bumper crowd and the Wymondham College marquee was busy on both days.

More than 60 past pupils, from 1950s to 2007 leavers, visited the stand.



We shall be at the show again this year on 1st and 2nd July in the same position just off the grand ring—we would love to see you there.

Wymondham College

... remembered

This year will see the end of an era, as Bill Atkins retires as the editor of his website Wymondham College Remembered.

Many of you will have spent time reading the articles on the website and looking at the vast gallery of photographs which make up one of the finest school archive sites in existence.

If there is something you want to know about the history of Wymondham College, be that fact, fiction, rumour or speculation, you will find it on the site. In the unlikely event that the answer is not there, then post the question, you will soon be deluged with replies of infinite detail.



Bill Atkins

Being a modest chap Bill will say that it could not have been achieved without the generosity of all those contributors who took the time to submit thoughts, remembrances, photographs and memorabilia to the site.

However, none of it would have been possible without the vision and dedication of Bill Atkins, who has pieced all this information together in an engaging, humorous and sometimes touching collection which has become a unique history of the College and its staff and pupils. This, you must remember, has all been done on a completely voluntary basis.

The site receives a large number of visitors, those that are new and also those that return every two weeks to see what has been added. Bill's tireless enthusiasm, attention to detail and knowledge of the College and its history mean that there is always something for the visitor.

Bill has decided that ownership and administration of this web site should pass to the Old Wymondhamians and that the site should cease to be what is, in effect, an independent and unofficial concern. This is a tremendous gift to the Association and

Old Wymondhamians



Please reply to: Mrs Jackie Glenn, Alumni Secretary,
Wymondham College, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9SZ

Tel: 01953 609000 Fax: 01953 603313 E-mail alumni@wymondhamcollege.org

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 2009 Reunion

All former Students and Staff are invited

Venue: Marquee on Kett Lawn
Date and time: 7.00pm on Saturday 27th June 2009
Format: BBQ, Buffet supper
Cost: £15

Please send me _____ tickets

Cheques payable to Old Wymondhamians

Please order early, closing date for tickets 12th June

Please return the whole page

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

Reduced to clear! Reduced to clear! Reduced to clear!

Please send me _____ copies of the above book at £5.00 each _____
Plus P&P (£2 UK/£5 overseas per book)
Donation to Wymondham College Trust _____
TOTAL _____
=====

Cheques payable to “Wymondham College Trust” please.

All profits from the Book go to the Bursary fund.

Your name and address:-

Title First Name Surname
(formerly)

Address.....
.....
.....Post Code

one which they were delighted to accept. Fortunately a volunteer has come forward to take over the day-to-day administration of the site so the notice board will be kept up to date. It may be possible that in the future the site can continue to develop and grow to reflect the history of the College in more recent times.

We hope that Bill will enjoy pursuing his many other interests, he intends to remain a member of the Old Wymondhamians Committee, and hopefully will be around to give some expert advice when needed.

The heart-felt thanks of the committee and all the regular visitors at Wymondham College Remembered go to Bill for his inspiration in setting up the site, all his work in making it such a valuable historical record for all past pupils and staff, and the many hours of hard work involved in making the memories of those involved come to life in such an engaging way. **Very many thanks, Bill.**

Our Friends in the North

We are arranging a series of regional reunions, the first being in the North East this Autumn – 2009. The intention is meet the needs of those in that region who find it impractical or expensive to travel to Norfolk, and also for people from all parts of the country who would like to visit that area with some convivial company.

More details will appear on Wymondham College Remembered and be sent by email later in the year.

We will endeavour to keep you informed of who will be attending for the weekend or just the reunion dinner. It is anticipated that the principal, Melvyn Roffe and the Association Chairman, Mike Herring will both be there with their respective wives.

If you would like to register your interest or suggest future locations in which you would like to reunions held please contact the **Alumni Secretary, Jackie Glenn, 01953 609000** alumni@wymondhamcollege.org, in the first instance.

Wymondham College Remembered

(www.wcremembered.co.uk)

Bill Atkins (58–64)

General News

The content has continued to expand over the past year, particularly as regards naming of faces in the House photos, addition of a large collection of photos from Anne and Adrian Hoare, and completion of a data file related to nissen hut physical details – hopefully (one day) to be reflected in a scale model. The number of ‘visitors’ has been much as previous years – about 4000 a month – but with a slight dip over the summer months.

Heard via the ‘Net

Mike Hedley (Head Boy 1970-71), now Professor Mike Hedley of Massey University, New Zealand, is leading research into Biochars, part of carbon-neutral technology that will have long-term benefits in the fight against climate change. Mike is the nephew of Bob Mullenger, who will be remembered by many from the 50s and 60s.

Flt Lt **Chris Collins** (1990-97) writes: “Having spent 6 years in Fry and a year in Lincoln, old comrades will be bemused to hear that the ex-RSM of the CCF finds himself serving as an RAF Police Officer; this story is best told over a few beers. Having served in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands and Afghanistan, I can confirm that being a prefect and Mr Brand’s House Captain in Fry, particularly with the last Year 7 main boarding house intake, was the best possible work experience for a military policeman - I know when to coerce people with threats, promises or blackmail, and when to clip their ears and send them to bed. Married to Ross, an Army Captain, my latest challenge is anticipating the kamikaze curiosity of my 7-month old son, Harry.”

Kate Hardy writes romance novels for Harlequin Mills & Boon (Medicals and Modern Extra); her 25th title for them, *BREAKFAST AT GIOVANNI’S*, was published in July 2007 and won the Romantic Novelists’ Association (RNA) Romance Prize 2008. She also writes local history books as *Pamela Brooks*; her book *HEROES, VILLAINS AND VICTIMS OF NORWICH* was short-listed for

the East Anglian Book Awards in 2008. Find out more at www.katehardy.com.

Bob Cooke alerted us to an EDP piece about the retirement from nursing of **Anne Lemmon** (nee **Gallaway** - West/Westminster Houses). The paper's Comment column added "Some would criticise Anne Lemmon for having low ambition after spending 44 years as a nurse. How wrong they are. This extraordinary woman's ambition to care, care and keep on caring for sick children is admirable. Not for her the thirst for money, fame or power. Mrs Lemmon has dedicated her life to serving others. Now with the chance beckoning to put her feet up, she has proved that her heart remains as big as ever by signing up as a cover nurse. Where would the NHS be without the likes of Anne Lemmon?" Indeed.

Julia Nicholls (1963-70), a veterinary surgeon, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (equivalent to the OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2007. The Citation reads: "for service to veterinary science through professional organisations, as a contributor to policy and professional standards development and as a mentor, particularly for overseas trained veterinarians." She received her award from the Governor of South Australia, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce. Says Julia "I believe that I was taught some of the values of community service and professional engagement that I hold when I was at WC, so I thought that my former teachers and fellow pupils would enjoy hearing of this. You could add that I was hopeless at sport, tone deaf, but still managed to mostly enjoy my time at WC especially some of the inspiring staff. I was once described in a House report as 'The naughtiest girl in the First Form' so anyone can come good!"

Graeme Gooday (1975-82) has been awarded his own Chair at Leeds University and is now Professor of the History of Science and Technology. The award is in recognition of his outstanding achievements in research, teaching and administration over the preceding years, which have included fellowships granted by the British Academy and the Royal Society. He is the son of **Michael Gooday**, Vice-Principal of Wymondham College 1981-1993, who now lives in Besthorpe.

Tom Hampson (1990-98) writes: “I was in Kett Hall and enjoyed my time there immensely. I was a keen member of the CCF and left WC as a Colour Sgt. This is what I thought I wanted to do so I tried for the Army Air Corps but, with regret, I was not successful with the medical as I had hay fever. I have lived all over the UK, including Sheffield and London, where I worked as a cameraman for



Tom Hampson

a number of years. I got married in June 2004 and moved to Florida to train as a helicopter pilot for 2 years. I am pleased to say that I have recently moved back to my home town of Norwich and work for Bristow Helicopters as a pilot. It was great doing my training out of Norwich airport as I got to fly over WC a number of times, and I must say it has changed a great deal since I left.”

1980s pupil **Sandra Dinneen** has been appointed Chief Executive of South Norfolk Council. She was previously Head of Economic Development at Norfolk County Council. The vacancy was the subject of a YouTube recruiting video, and the unconventional approach led to some controversy in local government circles.

Alan Wright is now a painter of erotic art, with a web site at www.exposeart.com, ‘specialising in the figurative female form in all its beauty.’ He says “The website just relates to a hobby; can’t say it keeps me out of trouble - quite the opposite in fact! I work for Norwich Union in my day job, but based in Perth, having moved up to Scotland with General Accident in 1986. It would be good to hear from anyone who remembers me.”

Nick De’Ath is the current president of the Norfolk and Norwich Licensed Victuallers’ Association, and runs the *Lawyer* and the *Unthank Arms* in the City.

Tamasin Doe recalls her time at the College (1976-82) as “academically patchy (nearly bald, in fact) yet hugely enjoyable.” She went on to become a fashion journalist and author, freelancing for most of the broadsheets and holding the position of deputy fashion editor at the *Evening Standard*. In

addition she edited a non fiction book for Phaidon and worked on a fashion magazine for five years. Her current book release is '*Patrick Cox: Wit, Irony, and Footwear.*' Tamasin has recently re-established a link with the College and hopes to pass on her knowledge to pupils who are thinking about careers in journalism and/or fashion.

Timothy Scase is now Director of Pathology at Bridge Pathology Ltd. in Bristol. Does anyone know if there is a connection with Professor **Richard Scase** (a leading business forecaster)?

Persons Sought

Muriel Davie would love to know if anyone is in touch with **Lesley Kirby**.
mdavie@talktalk.net

"I placed a posting on the web site some years ago to see if I could find my friend **Patricia Elmslie**. We were in Worcester House in the 1960's. Have had no feedback as yet. Is there any chance you could find her middle name for me, please? We can then do an in-depth Google". -*Hilary Ambler (Nee Schoop)* amblerdavid@bc.wbs.net.au

"I heard from **Brett (Howard) Bambridge** a while ago, but by the time I wrote back he had changed his e-mail address (hopefully coincidentally!) - I would like to know if anyone has his current e-mail address." - *Jennie Rogers (nee Sedgley)* jennierogers@hotmail.com

"Many people refer to the fact that their fathers were in the RAF. As I am researching my father's time in the RAF at Marham from 1956-1963, could you please ask if anyone who has memories of RAF Marham during this time could email me at jennierogers@hotmail.com - other people seem to have far better recall than I do!" - *Jennie Rogers*

"I am looking for anyone that was part of the (new) 3rd intake of 1969, in particular **Stuart (Gangle) Campbell** of Canterbury House. Also would be interested in hearing from anyone that was in the WC Swimming team from 1969." *Hugh C. Fathers (Canterbury 1969-71)* hughc023@yahoo.com.au

Other News of Past Pupils and Staff

From the 50s

John Amis (54 – 61). I have worked in power stations for 30 years before taking early retirement in 1996.

Susanne Brown (Smith 55 – 59). I was Margaret Smith and lived in Ludham, Norfolk. My friends were Anne Amies, Gwen Green, Brenda Burgess, Irene King, Jackie Edge, Ruby Babb.

Roland Clarke (55 – 62). I played lots of rugby and was in the 1st. team for most of my last 2 years in College. I played in the county team, and in Rouen in France. I tried typing to Cliff Richard's Living Doll....not with much success!!!! I did A levels and went to Redland College in Bristol, where I have spent the last 35 years or so teaching Design Technology. I am now retired, and my wife Sheila and I are happily looking after our grandson.

Graham Arnup (56 – 59). I emigrated to Auckland, New Zealand in 1966 on a two year contract and have stayed ever since. Married to Carol, also from Cromer, with two sons David (20) and Michael (18). Hopefully retiring soon and getting in more golf.

Rob Kinge (Waddington 56 – 61). I am married with four children who are all married. I have three grandchildren. I joined the RAF from Wymondham and spent 23 years as a Weapons Engineer. Now employed in the defence industry, currently working in Norwich.

Paul Rutter (58 – 64). I received BSc and PhD in Chemistry at Leeds University. I married Libby in 1971. I have worked in industrial research for Boots, Unilever and BP, ending up as BP's senior advisor in environmental technology. Retired in 2003 and now spend my time as a visiting professor at Imperial College and sitting on a few technical advisory boards.

Ian F Hammond (58 – 64). Lived in east house Nissen huts 21, 24 and possibly others I've forgotten! Then new block known as Norwich. Much preferred huts for camaraderie but not the heat!! In those days all just accepted as normal. Useless academically but great in Seeley's workshops! Now restore objets d'art for worldwide clients, but half retired here in Spain.

Keith Skipper (58 – 65). Geologist; researcher; author; oil and gas explorer; company director; private oil and gas producer. Teacher; mentor; married; 3 offspring (2 engineers, one economist); 4 grandchildren. Wannabe cowboy at one time, rode in Calgary Stampede. Lived in Canada, USA, Japan, Australia. Travelled extensively.

From the 60s

Kathy Saunders (Harrold 60 – 64). I worked as a florist until I married and had two children. My daughter has 4 and son has 2 children. Went back to floristry for few years but have been in hotel housekeeping for 8 years.

Sue Deese (Mansell 60 – 65). I was always shy and still am. I am the same height as I was at 12yrs old. Sadly that is the only thing that has not changed, my once black hair is now grey and my slim figure is a little less slim! After leaving school I worked in the Laboratories at May and Bakers until my marriage in 1972. I lived in America for a few years, and my daughter is currently in the American Navy.

David Fordham (61 – 64). I have lived in Aylsham, Norfolk all my life. I joined Eastern Electricity from WC for nearly 34 years, progressing to Collection Manager before taking voluntary early retirement. I then joined Ensign Finance as Collection Manager for 7 years, and I am currently in the Security Industry with ISL Dardan Security (4 years). Married for 37 years and have 2 sons.

Bryan Dyer (62 – 67). Good life thus far spent all round the world. I have happy memories of Wymondham, especially the rugby & the girls. I have not been back since I left (1967).

John Savill (62 – 67). I left under a dark cloud (skiving games!). Otherwise fairly low profile, and I still hate rugby.

John Taylor (63 – 67). Came in the 3rd year and spent 2 years as a 3rd year. I never really fitted the system and have the scars to prove it. I managed to survive to 5th year using CCF and choir as occasional respite. Left with 2 0 levels (just!). Have been married twice, 3 children, 2 grandchildren. I am now in a long-distance relationship, commuting to Germany. I am a senior manager in the Scottish NHS.

Janet Adams (Adams 63 – 68). I am now living on the Black Isle near Inverness on a croft, and teaching.

Frank Andrew Browne (63 – 68). I left Wymondham College to study architecture at Brighton Architectural School, qualifying in 74. In 1978 invested in restaurant with my wife who is qualified in hotel management. Using all our skills to expand business, it was very successful (recommended in Good Food guide, Egon Ronay and AA). I retired early in 2001. I am married with two sons. Interests golf, skiing, sailing and bridge.

Don Fulcher (63 – 68). Started in Form 3D. Tried to do 2 Maths Phys... not at all well. I ended up as Rowing Captain in Rowley Rutherford's squad. I went into world of work rather than University. Have many great memories of those 5 years in Ollie Seeley's Gloucester.

Linda Hudson (Pocock 63 – 68). I have been married to Tim Hudson for many years, living near Brighton. I have two sons, Ross (working in Brighton) and Marcus (working in Switzerland).

Paul Hayden (63 – 68). Ageing well, considering life style. Had various jobs in England, got fed up with the rat race, costs etc, and went travelling in June 2006, never went back. I now have bar in Thailand and warmth all the year round, I only see bad weather on the news.

Louis Poll (64 – 66). Work at a stud farm -now used for making electronic instruments. I have been married for 31 years this year, to Rachel. We have three children, all in their 20's. I have not as much hair nowadays and have a larger waistline, which I am trying to reduce by walking our dog slightly faster and Rachel further, when we have days out. My memory is not as good as I would like it to be, though some school memories remain .

Lorelie Dyer (Kentish 65 – 71). I am married to John Dyer (also ex Wymondham) three children, teaching dyslexic pupils in independent school in Glos.

John Churchward (65 – 72). I have been in the states since 1985 after accepting a job with Jaguar but I am now an engineer with VW in Arizona. I still get back to the UK at least twice per year and still miss it. I have a couple of girls and my partner is Diana.

Brian Middleton (66 – 74). After leaving Wyomondham I went to Plymouth Polytechnic to study Electrical Engineering. I started work for GEC and went to South Africa for 9 years, returned to England for 8 years, and am now in Denver, Colorado USA, where I lead the development of a new transportation system. I'm married, with a son and a daughter.

Richard Golke (67 – 72). I was a complete idiot at school but somehow managed to acquire nine 'O' levels. Subsequently gave up on my 'A' levels and started work in the construction industry. Studied Building and Civils at Norwich City College, and afterwards decided to try my hand at international contract work. Started in Saudi Arabia in 1981 and have continued (fairly successfully) with that sort of life ever since, spending most of my time living and working in a number of countries around the world (13 at the last count) on a variety of major construction projects.

Cherry Knights (Hillen 69 – 71). I am older & MUCH wiser now. I have been married for 34 years (so far) to David. 2 boys I can't get rid of. Girl friend has had to move in so 5 adults + 2 Rottweilers and a demented budgie makes life at home hectic! I work part time at Norwich City Football Club & love it! Wore glasses at school, then wore contacts for 30+ years, gone back to glasses again. I'd love to contact anyone who remembers me.

Captain Christopher Maurer (69 – 76). I went to Hatfield Polytechnic, then the United States Air Force Academy. I was an Instructor Pilot, then flew fighters at the Flight Test Center. I now fly as a Captain at United Airlines and live near Galveston, TX.

Derek Moss (Staff 69 – 79). I retired from teaching after 28 years at The Chase in Malvern, although returned for 6 months as part time teacher of Chemistry and Biology at Haybridge High in Worcestershire. Now into lots of travelling and watching both my northern premier league teams, Bolton and Wigan, play soccer.

From the 70s

Wendy Lee-Finglas (Lee 70 -75). Married, 3 children all went to WC, youngest now in year 13. I worked as analytical research scientist in Nutrition for 20 years at Food Research Institute Norwich. I now work from home as editorial assistant on scientific journals. In my spare time I have worked as a

costume designer for a local performing arts school and as a children's chaperone for theatrical productions.

Frances Distin (Watkins 70 – 77). Working in Norwich for a firm of financial advisors for the past year after taking redundancy from Lloyds where I'd worked for 29 years. Have 1 daughter & 2 step daughters. My husband & I are hoping to move abroad in the next couple of years. Still have ties with the school, as it is where I met my husband, whilst waiting to pick my daughter up after school, & we help out at annual summer fete. Mr Woodrow has recently helped me to sit French exam with an ex member of staff preparing me for the oral exam. I am hoping to do Spanish next year!

Ross MacRae (70 – 78). Left school in 1978 and went on to Glasgow University to study Dentistry. Now have my own dental practice in Padstow, Cornwall. I am married with two daughters.

Lesley Cross (Sutherland 72 – 75). Left school to work in the bank, then went on to do nurse training, and then became commissioning manager for the local primary care trust. I have two children and two grandchildren and live in Middlesbrough.

Tina Richardson (72 – 79). Currently living in Leeds doing a postgraduate in Cultural Studies.

Moira Woolsey (Staff 74 – 75). I was a teacher of Home Economics and Needlework. Married in March 1975 - then lived on site in one of the 'chalets'. Maiden name was 'Goodenough'. Margaret Norton was my HoD.

Glynis Day (Akers 74 – 77). Married with 1 daughter age 13.

Sally Akers (Rodwell 74 – 81). After I left Wymondham I went to Cambridge University and then worked in marketing for a brewery and later for a design company. I am married with 3 teenage daughters, who keep me busy; so I'm not working, but I am finding time to enjoy playing tennis and golf, and I am studying kinesiology. I would love to hear from any old Wymondhamians who remember me.

Debbie Webster (Haanes 75 -80). Living in Norfolk and working for a German bank. Married to Tony and have 3 sons. Middle one is starting at Wy-

mondham in September 08! We are attending an open day this Saturday looking forward to seeing if there are any Nissen huts left!

Gail Selby (Weir 75 – 81). Was a day pupil but vast majority of friends were boarders. Played netball for the school team (still playing today) and was in the school play *Post Horn Gallop*.

Sue Weaver (Littlewood Staff 75 – 84). I married Mike Weaver, also a member of Wymondham staff in 1980. I left in 1985 to join Malvern College in Worcestershire. Have two boys, now aged 19 and 23.

Caroline George (Hunter 76 – 82). Law graduate, Price Waterhouse trained accountant, followed by a decade as CFO of a FTSE 250 plc - I travelled and worked and played. Have now been forced to be more balanced, and am enormously grateful for - a wonderful husband, 5 children (aged 12 down to 1), a home away from London I increasingly yearn for (in Norfolk), non executive directorships of PLCs and art gallery work. Busy but a bit of everything!

Diane Powell (Shepherd 76- 83). Still married to Richard Powell (76-83)!

From the 80s

Kate Madgwick (Drummond-Hay 84 – 91). I trained as a nurse in Southampton and married in Feb 1996. Lived in Romsey, Hants. First daughter born October 1996. Trained as midwife 1998. Second daughter born Jan 2001. Son born April 2003. Moved to Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk 2004. Moved to Isle of Man 2006. Still working as a midwife but about to embark on PGCE Primary Teacher Training in September!

John Baldock (85 – 90). After Wymondham College I emigrated to Cyprus for 2 years then returned to England, and am currently residing in London. I went on to study Sound Engineering and for a while had my own Radio show, after which I started working as a bookseller. I write short stories and play guitar. I remember my time at Wymondham College with great affection and would love to chat with ex classmates and staff.

Wendy Fallon (Warburton 85 – 93). I am currently working as a staff nurse in Lincolnshire, I am divorced with no children. I have travelled the globe, enjoying being single!!! I intend to return to New Zealand where I have lived/worked before.

Mark Budd (86 – 90). I'm in the army now, I'm a tank commander, just got back from Afghanistan. I'm married with two girls. Life is good!

Dr James Cleverley (86 – 92). Now living in Perth, Western Australia and working as a geologist/geochemist (yes, despite the A-level results) with CSIRO Exploration & Mining.

Andrew Bailey (87 – 92). Was a pupil in Kett House, under Mr Sayer, had the best times, miss all me old mates and the Sport facilities, representing the School and County. Living in Southampton now and doing well, love coming back to Norfolk and hearing the College doing as well as ever.

John Waterman (88 – 93). After leaving WC, completed a 7 year multi-skilled engineering apprenticeship at Colman's of Norwich, Still at Colman's as an engineer. Married Rose Wilkie (Ex WC pupil 1993-2000) in 2005. No children just yet! My biggest passion and hobby is powered flying and gliding, also enjoy travelling the world when time and work permits. Always keen to hear from old friends.

From the 90s

Ben Ulph (90 – 93). Spent three great years at WC in the 6th Form - so good I stayed an extra year! I spent a lot of that time playing with The Handy Little Fellas and not really doing as much work as I should have. Now I'm living in Oxford with my wife and two children.

Flt Lt Chris Collins (90—97). Having spent 6 years in Fry and a year in Lincoln, old comrades will be bemused to hear that the ex-RSM of the CCF finds himself serving as an RAF Police Officer; this story is best told over a few beers. Having served in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands and Afghanistan, I can confirm that being a prefect and Mr Brand's House Captain in Fry, particularly with the last Year 7 main boarding house intake, was the best possible work experience for a military policeman—I know when to coerce people with threats, promises or blackmail, and when to clip their ears and send them to bed. Married to Ross, an Army Captain, my latest challenge is anticipating the kamikaze curiosity of my 7 month old son, Harry.

Captain Doug Hayton-Williams (91 – 98). Moved to Wym Coll in 1984 (son of Head of P.E) left in 1998. Passed out at Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in 2004 - worked in Iraq, Germany, Cyprus, Canada, Italy and all over UK.

Serving in 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) preparing to revisit Iraq in spring 2009. Still enjoy playing rugby and tennis, and love popping back to Norfolk!

Melissa Boyd (96 – 2000). I am a graduate of the University of St Andrews where I was awarded an MA in Spanish and History in 2005. I am currently a 1st year PhD research student at the same institution. My research interests include Mexican liberalism, nineteenth-century political thought, norms and behaviour, political history and the history of ideas, with particular reference to Mariano Otero.

Francisca Menchaca (Staff 97 – 98). I was a Gap student during 8 months in Wymondham College. I taught Spanish and lived in Peel. It was a wonderful experience and I would love to get in touch with some of the students and staff I once met.

Obituaries

Jack Cassie. December 2007. Jack originated from Hunstanton and joined the College in 1951 as a member of the Grammar School. "I visited Jack and his wife in Queensland about 6 years ago. He was then retired and living in a beautiful flat overlooking the ocean. He had been state manager for Target, a major Australian store chain in roughly the same position that Woolworths had in the UK at that time." -**Mike Herring**

Leo Barnes. "Sadly Leo died from a massive heart attack while working in his office on 25th September 2008. I last met Leo some five years ago with Graham Smith, and we spent an evening in a local pub just outside Wickham Market. He was living not far from me and working for Anglian Water. Leo was divorced and leaves a young daughter." - **Philip Wade**

Peter LeGrice "Peter died peacefully in hospital on Sunday, February 8th 2009 after many battles with MS. Our thoughts are with his wife Diane, sons Martin and Tom, and their families. Peter was one of the nicest people you could have wished to meet. Was also one of the finest all-round sportsmen Wymondham College produced, and we were fortunate enough to play with him. Will always be remembered." - **Philip Wade**

A word from the Principal

Melvyn Roffe

This has been a significant and momentous year for the College, and one that, I hope, heralds even brighter and better things in the future. The opening of the magnificent new Enid Ralphs Building adjacent to Lincoln Hall to form the Lincoln Sixth Form Centre is not only of significance to the College. The building, which was entirely funded by Government grant, provides 115 ensuite rooms for our Upper Sixth students. It is almost certainly the largest single piece of boarding infrastructure built at a state school since the war and represents an extraordinary vote of confidence in the work of the College and the capacity we have here to mould young lives for the better. The building is of an extraordinarily innovative design, deliberately more university college than boarding house and, with the original Lincoln Hall, comprises what is probably the largest boarding house in any boarding school in the country.



Melvyn Roffe

We know, however, that bigger is seldom better simply for being bigger. We have taken the opportunity of the advent of this new facility to reinvigorate the way in which we provide pastoral support for Sixth Form boarders and, crucially, to make the development of Sixth Form leadership a priority. At all costs we need to avoid the Sixth Form becoming a college within the College. So far, I am pleased to report, there is no sign of that happening. In fact, if anything, Sixth Formers are more closely involved than in recent years in providing support and role models for younger students.

It was a particularly fortunate co-incidence that the opening of the new building occurred within a few weeks of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the original Lincoln Hall by Dean Acheson in October 1958, and the term before the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln in February 2009. Such co-incidences could not go unmarked, and the inauguration of the Lincoln Lecture was our way of marking these events and, as it transpired, the

inauguration of a new American President. Professor Richard Carwardine, Rhodes Professor of American History at Oxford University, gave an outstandingly good lecture on Lincoln as well as providing an afternoon of seminars for Sixth Form students. It is planned that this lecture will now become a settled part of the College's annual calendar. The lecture can be heard on the College website www.wymondhamcollege.org which also contains a great deal of other information about the College.

The links between the College and the United States are to be further strengthened as we develop our new partner school in Indianapolis, Indiana. Park Tudor School is an excellent twin for the College, apart from anything else because it hosts the US Veterans' Legacy project, which collects and collates the memoirs of those who served during the Second World War in, amongst other places, Norfolk. Park Tudor joins a list of schools in Europe, Africa and China with which the College now has official links.

All of this augments but does not replace the routine but vital business of educating students at the College. A teaching staff of over 100, working alongside over 200 support staff, continues to work its daily miracles to ensure that our students are as well prepared as they possibly can be for what awaits them when they leave. Our examination performance in 2008 was again amongst the best in the country, but, as our new strap line says, "it's about life - not just about grades". Activities of all kinds continue to flourish and this year has seen a revival in the fortunes of both the CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, which have had something of a fallow period in recent years.

We are also looking ahead with new schemes in mind for the future - encompassed in a new Strategic Plan which sets out the options for the College's development over the next ten years and an Estate Masterplan that will ensure that we make the most of the wonderful site that we occupy here.

In 2011 we will celebrate the College's Sixtieth Anniversary, and plans are already in hand to ensure that we make the most of that milestone. The centrepiece of our celebrations will be a Service of Thanksgiving to be held in Norwich Cathedral in October 2011. I hope that many Old Wymondhamians will be able to be with us on that occasion.



The award winning Enid Ralphs Building

Another important feature of the celebrations will be occasions when Old Wymondhamians here and around the world can meet and renew fellowship. I was most grateful for the warm welcome that my wife and I received at the Old Wymondhamians' Dinner in Melbourne, Australia, in October. The success of that event was proof, if any were needed, that time and distance do not weaken the ties that former students feel with the College and with each other.

An organisation with the heritage that the College enjoys should never be so preoccupied with the present that it fails to honour its past. Neither should it be so fixed in the past that it fails to seize the opportunities of the future. I hope that an increasingly close working relationship between the College today and the Old Wymondhamians will help to ensure that the College of the future enjoys even greater success than it has in the past.