



The Old Collyerians' Association

AUTUMN 2006

President's message

Mark Collins

As my year as President draws to a close I have many happy memories to look back on. I have especially enjoyed my regular visits down to Horsham for our committee meetings and it has been immensely rewarding to hear at first hand how well Collyer's continues to do under the enthusiastic leadership of Jackie Johnston. There are those who may have felt that the loss of grammar school status in the 1970s would result in a lowering of standards but the continued outstanding exam results from the College have well and truly proved that this has not been the case. This year's meetings have been well attended and I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of those on the committee and also to thank them for the support they have given me during my time in office. As always, we would like to see some new faces, so if you can spare a couple of hours on a Thursday evening half a dozen times a year then please do get in touch, or, better still, come along to this year's AGM on Saturday 18th November.

It has been an honour to represent the Association at three excellent meals in London - all very different occasions but each comparable in the warm welcome and generous hospitality I received. First was lunch with the 'old boys' from Mercers' School held in the wonderful surroundings of Mercers' Hall. Mercers' School was founded 10 years after Collyer's but closed in 1959

so the youngest members of the Old Mercers Club are now in their sixties. Although Club members cannot bring spouses to the lunch, they are able to bring sons and daughters, so there was an interesting mix of ages and much pleasant conversation over a relaxing meal.

Then it was time to brush down the dinner suit for the first of two evening engagements in London - both of which required an overnight stay and neither of which ran quite to plan. On my first visit I was delayed by a flood in the hotel bathroom (considered so bad that the manager refunded the cost of my accommodation!); the taxi driver had to resort to his road map to find where Ironmongers Lane was; and an accident on the way meant a lengthy diversion at little faster than walking pace. I was therefore 'cutting it rather fine' when I found myself again at Mercers' Hall, this time as guest of the Mercers' Company at their Associated Companies Dinner - and what a magnificent dinner it was! The food, fine wines, magnificent setting and above all the company made for a most enjoyable meal and the evening is one I shall never forget. The Loving Cup Ceremony was just one of the many customs observed on the night and it was humbling to be part of a tradition that has been carried on for so many years and a reminder of just how many years the Mercers' Company has so generously supported both the School and College.

Less than a week later I was again starting out for London when the water pump on my car failed en route to the station and I had to be towed ten miles to a garage! This meant catching a train two hours later than planned so once more it was something of a rush to get to the Guild of Mercers Scholars Installation Dinner. This too was a wonderful evening and a fuller report appears later in the newsletter.

We now have our own Annual Dinner to look forward to and I hope to get the opportunity to meet many of you on the night. If you have never been before do try and come along. You can bring a

guest but even if you come alone you will be seated with those from your era and will be assured a warm welcome. Further details of the dinner and how to obtain tickets can be found within.

Mention of dinner tickets reminds me of the little pink tickets that those from my years purchased from the school office and which then gave access to the dining hall and a hearty lunch. They could be (and often were!) traded for cash - although always at considerably less than face value - for those who preferred the less hearty but perhaps more appealing menu offered by the tuck shop. I actually remember the school lunches

as being fairly good but despite this, like many others, opted for packed lunches in later years, which were usually eaten out on the wall of the quad if the weather permitted. I took to leaving my lunch in my briefcase in one of the cloakrooms and experienced the only case of pilfering I can recall when over several days my lunch went missing. Ted Palmer was soon on the case and made up a special lunch - bringing a rotten apple from his tree in the garden and then wrapping off-cuts of wood from the carpentry shop in silver foil to represent sandwiches and cakes. It certainly did the trick and my lunch was never touched again!

Summer reunion 10th June

This year 25 people attended the Summer Reunion that was held at Denbies, the Dorking Vineyard and subsequently at the Stepping Stones Pub in nearby West Humble. Sunshine and Blue Sky lasted throughout, enhancing the beautiful setting at Denbies and the surrounding area.

We took a trip round the vineyard (the largest in the UK) in its land train, experienced the particularly striking view to the east along the scarp of the North Downs, with Box Hill in the foreground. Back at the visitor centre, a physically enveloping cinematic experience, which depicted Denbies in all seasons of the year, during the course of which I was reminded how great the value is of geographical and historical studies, in illuminating such matters as the importance of the location, as it

relates to soil type and micro-climate, and the influence the dramatic increase in continental travel in the past 40 years has had on the expansion of demand for wine in our country, and the introduction of viticulture here. Departments of Education please note. Not that I am biased or anything!

The get together later at the Stepping Stones pub for refreshments (including a meal for those who wanted one) proved most convivial, and it was a particular delight to see a table full of old Collyerians, who all left in the same year as our President, enjoying themselves so much. He had taken the trouble to contact every member who left in that year, and the result was an impressive demonstration of what can be achieved in boosting numbers attending reunions.

Paul Smith

UPDATED OCA WEB SITE

The Association is currently in the process of updating its Web Site so that it is more user-friendly and useful to members and users. It is particularly interested in any ideas that will attract recent College leavers to the Association. If you have any ideas please do not hesitate to communicate them to the Hon Secretary.



JOTTINGS

Past President Rupert Parker continues his career as a musician and one of his pieces, *Sacrifice*, received national exposure in May of this year when it was played on Radio 2 just before the 6.30am news. More information and details of Rupert's albums can be found on his website at www.rupertparker.com.

While many of us were spending an exceptionally hot Sunday 18th June relaxing with the newspapers and a cold drink, dedicated cyclist Nick Rose was taking part in a London to Brighton charity bike ride. Not content with the basic 58 mile journey, he even added a few extra miles by way of a warm up, and writes: 'Because Southern Trains won't carry bikes on the day, I stayed with friends in Penge on the Saturday night. The seven miles from Penge to the start at Clapham Common was pleasant too, over Sydenham Hill past Crystal palace, down the other side of the hill and past Dulwich College'. It took

Nick six hours to reach the finishing line, and he raised over £280 for the British Heart Foundation.

Also enjoying some hot, if less settled, weather is Derrick Edwards (1938 - 1942) who writes of his move from France to South Africa: 'Our house looks across wild bush to the Indian Ocean - quite spectacular. Although we have had some very bad storms recently it is good to be back with our families'

Arthur Bone has been in touch to inform us of the sad loss of his brother Colin (1930 - 1938). Colin was Head Prefect from 1937 - 1938 and Arthur held the same post from 1939 - 1940. He writes "I am the survivor of four Bones, all proud to have attended Collyers - the best education imaginable". Four brothers attending Collyers - is this a record we wonder?

Where are they now?

The OCA archives contain an extensive collection of school photographs some of which are traditionally on show in the Duckering Hall before our annual dinner. However, we are not sure if our collection is complete. We do not have any photographs from the later years of the Grammar School and the earlier years of the present College. Do any exist?

Does anybody have an email address for Jim Partridge in Australia who was at Collyers from 1938 to 1945? The address he used to contact doesn't seem to accept replies.

R.E. Davey (1949 - 1954), also living in Australia, would love to have a chat with fellow Old Collyerian Alan Picton (1952 - 1959). They were neighbours when living in Hillside, Horsham. Perhaps, Alan you can get in touch with a contact telephone number?

We have been contacted by Lester Dewey who is researching his family history and believes that his Aunt, Nellie Mortimer, may have had connections with Collyers. Her maiden name was Matravers, her mother was a JP in Horsham and her sister Dolcie also taught in the area. The only other clue he can give is that she was born in 1908. Can anybody help?

Does anybody have a current address for M.A. Richardson (1952 -1958) formerly of 26, Wilberton Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. His copy of the Spring newsletter was returned 'gone away' but we have no further details

**Items for the newsletter are always welcome.
Please send your contributions via the Hon Secretary,
Anthony Barnard, 118 Downs Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1AE.
barnardak@blueyonder.co.uk**

O B I T U A R Y

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of one of our most famous, yet at the same time probably our least well known, members. For security reasons, that will be obvious upon reading the following obituary (published courtesy of the *Telegraph*), the only way the OCA was able to contact him was through the VC and GC Association. Our condolences go to all his surviving relatives.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Styles, GC

Lieutenant-Colonel George Styles, who died on 1st August 2006 aged 78, was awarded the George Cross in 1971 for leading ordnance disposal teams during the terrorist campaign in Northern Ireland and for personally dealing with extremely hazardous devices.

As the senior ammunition technical officer, Styles, then a major in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, was responsible for the supervision of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams dealing with the increasing number of explosive devices used in the terrorist campaign.

In September 1971 the first of what became known as IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) was discovered at Castlerobin, Co Antrim. In the course of trying to dismantle it, one of Styles's close colleagues was killed.

What the IEDs lacked in power they made up for in ingenuity, and it became clear that their main purpose was to kill EOD members who tried to disarm them. When, eventually, one of these devices was recovered intact, the radiograph showed microswitches at the top and bottom of the box so that if it was lifted, tilted or the lid opened, the bomb would explode.

Styles gave the order for an identical model to be built with a light bulb substituted for the detonator. He took this device home and worked on it in his kitchen until the bulb lit up. "I would have been dead," he said later. But something that a science teacher had said during a lesson years before came back to him and, after a long night, he believed that he had found a way to deal with the IEDs - at least in theory.

On October 20 1971 Styles was called to deal with a device that had been placed in a public telephone booth at the bar of the Europa Hotel, a 12-storey building in the centre of Belfast. Having made sure that the military and the police had cordoned off and evacuated the area, Styles, assisted by two RAOC officers, took charge of the operation of disarming and removing the bomb.

The radiograph showed that it contained more than 10 lb of explosive, and Styles realised that until the electrical circuit had been dealt with, the slightest false move might detonate it. He decided to disarm the bomb in stages, each one requiring meticulous

planning and execution before he proceeded to the next.

At last he was able to fix a line around the device and gingerly pull it a distance of some 18ft before drawing it a further 30 ft out of the hotel and on to the pavement. The whole operation took seven hours and was completed successfully.

Styles refused to divulge details of his theory, proved under these testing conditions, but he recalled later how he had felt: 'You couldn't avoid the feeling of menace each time you walked towards that telephone box. Inside it was enough energy to blow your head from your shoulders, your arms and legs from your trunk, and your trunk straight through the plate glass windows of the Europa.'

He was sure that he knew the identity of the bomb-maker and was just as certain that the man would not take this defeat lying down but try again. Two days later Styles was called back to deal with a bomb containing a charge of almost 40 lb of explosive.

After analysing the radiograph, Styles realised that the device had the same circuitry as the earlier IEDs, but this time a jumble of complex wiring and microswitches had been added to try to confuse the EOD team. Inscribed in small letters on it were 'Tee-Hee, Hee-Hee, Ho-Ho, Ha-Ha'. Styles's men worked for nine intense hours until the bomb was disarmed and removed, to the sound of *Some Enchanted Evening* wafting from the hotel's Muzak system, and then dismantled.

'Throughout each operation,' his citation concluded, 'Major Styles displayed a calm resolution in control and a degree of technical skill and personal bravery in circumstances of great danger far beyond the call of duty.' Styles was invested with the George Cross by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on March 28 1972.

The son of a bricklayer, Stephen George Styles was born on March 16 1928 at Crawley, Sussex, and educated at Collyer's Grammar School, Horsham. He was called up for National Service in 1946 and after officer cadet training was commissioned into the RAOC (now the Royal Logistics Corps) and posted to the Army's central ammunition depot at Kineton, near Banbury.

In 1949 Styles obtained a regular commission, and was seconded to the King's Own Yorkshire Light

Infantry to gain infantry experience. He served with the 1st Battalion in the Malayan Emergency of 1949-51, and was mentioned in dispatches.

Back home Styles studied for a degree in Engineering at the Royal Military College of Science before being posted back to Malaya to take command of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade Ordnance Field Park Regiment, based at Taiping.

A posting to Germany with 1st British Corps followed before Styles moved to Northern Ireland in 1969 as deputy assistant director of ordnance services.

In the year following the operations in the Europa Hotel, teams under Styles's command dismantled more than 1,000 explosive devices in Northern Ireland and destroyed as many more by controlled detonation. Valuable technical information was obtained over this period that would help to save the lives of operators confronted with these devices in the future.

On leaving Northern Ireland in 1972 Styles was promoted lieutenant-colonel and appointed chief ammunition technical officer (EOD), responsible for the RAOC bomb disposal teams throughout the world. When he attended a dinner for bomb disposal men back in the safety of the Ordnance Corps' training centre at Camberley, a pudding named Improvised Explosive Delight was on the menu.

After retiring from the Army in 1974 he served on the boards of several companies advising on anti-terrorist measures. For many years Styles campaigned

energetically for a change in the design of commercial detonators in order to preclude their use in IEDs.

His expertise in explosives was called upon in other fields. When construction at Dungeness nuclear power station was completed, the cost of dismantling the giant 1,100-ton crane was judged to be prohibitively expensive, and it was decided to demolish it. Because of the proximity to the power station, it was essential that the ground shock of the demolition be kept to a minimum.

Styles recommended collapsing the structure into an area of shingle to absorb the shock and detonating a series of charges to break the rigid joints of the crane while it was still falling. So light was the impact that a cup which had been placed on one of the legs of the crane remained undamaged.

In 1975 he wrote *Bombs Have No Pity*, the publication of which was delayed for several months at the request of the judge in a Birmingham bomb trial.

Three years later Styles attracted more publicity when he complained, after taking part in the television documentary *Death on the Rock* about the shooting of three IRA men by the SAS, that it lacked balance.

In retirement, Styles enjoyed rifle and game shooting and cataloguing his collection of rare cartridges. The uniform that he wore when earning his GC is on display at the Imperial War Museum.

George Styles married, in 1952, Mary Woolgar. They had one son and two daughters.

At Collyer's in 1924

Brian Slyfield looks back through some family archives, which provide a glimpse of a previous era at Collyer's, which may seem familiar to those of us who attended the grammar school in later years, but is a totally different world from today's sixth form college.

I recently inherited a Collyer's school photograph which featured both my father and uncle - you know the kind of thing - one of those long jobs that curl up into a tight cylinder unless you stake them out with paper weights at either end or, better still, capture them in a frame. In my time when the annual line-ups took place the whole school had to keep completely still until the photographer had run his camera along the ranks, and there was much apocryphal talk of boys running smartly from one end to the other, beating the camera for speed and so appearing twice - but where's the evidence?

Anyway, the photograph that was passed over to me was of Collyer's 1924, over 80 years ago now, and it got me thinking of what the school must have been like in those inter-war years, a different place to the school of my memory (1953-60) for sure, and a million miles away from today's sixth form college,

where there seem to be as many cars as students.

There was something very affecting about that sea of young 1924 faces staring out at the camera, mostly without much of a smile, as was the way then: who were they all? what were their aspirations? what did they do with their lives? One thing is certain: few are now with us, as time has inevitably taken its toll - and for another reason as well. This was a generation that missed the Great War, but was bang on cue for the fight against Hitler. My father, Donald Slyfield, thankfully survived, and is still with us - among the last of that class of '24 - and his recollections are incorporated into this article.

Judging by the photograph, there seemed to be little in the way of standard uniform then. Lace-up boots were much in evidence among the short-trousered brigade, and older, more stylish pupils tended to sport waistcoats. Jackets, single and double-breasted, were

all firmly buttoned up, with pens and pencils poking out of breast pockets. There appeared not to be a standard school tie, but collar pins were very much the order of the day.

It had been some 30-odd years since the school moved in 1893 from its old site in Denne Road, where St Mary's playground now is, to its new home in Hurst Road. During that period it had experienced difficulties, mostly, as ever, to do with money (the Great War years did not help), and it was in 1923 that the decision was taken to incorporate the founder's name into the school title, so that it became known as Collyer's School, rather than Horsham Grammar School. And with the appointment of Rev Wilfred Peacock as headmaster in 1922, the school began to move forward. Peacock was a scholar of Marlborough and Jesus College, Cambridge, and it was under his guidance that Collyer's put into place those essentially public school-based structures that framed my father's early schooldays, and were characteristic of the place from then on.

The school acquired premises on the other side of Hurst Road as well (the old cottage hospital), in order to accommodate pupils and a library, and the buildings still stand as part of the Horsham hospital complex. In 1924 a museum was opened in the entrance hall there, and donations were publicly acknowledged in the local press. Mr J Groves presented 'a boomerang, a Bulgarian rifle, a young shark, a whale's tooth, and (mysteriously) some Feyican cloth'. Let's hope the science department had sufficient stocks of formaldehyde to cope with the shark. Other gifts were equally eclectic.

Peacock set up a house system, a school magazine, and an old boys' association, known by all - then and now - as the OCA. School games and inter-house competitions were encouraged, and to cap it all, symbolising a new sense of cohesion, Founder's Day and Prize Giving ceremonies were established, with pupils marching by houses through the town to the Parish Church.

The governors, who met in March 1924 under the chairmanship of Rev E.D.L. Harvey, needed to sort out the school's finances, and took a decision to increase its fees to five guineas per term 'to bring them in line with other schools in the county'. This charge 'would include stationery and games, but not books, with a reduction in the case of brothers'. At this time the headmaster reported that there were 220 boys at the school (this when the population of Horsham was 11,000), and it looks as if the forms ran by year from 1- 6, with 3-5 having 'a' and 'b' categories. On the face of it this is an average of 35 pupils per stream. Peacock reported that a star pupil,

Paice, had just won a £60 history scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge (his headmaster's old college - probably not a co-incidence). It was also worth noting that the school Choral Society was to give two performances of 'a fairy play', written, composed and produced by FB Carter, an assistant master.

The local paper advertised that entrance exams would also be held in March, on Saturday the 8th at 9.30am, to fill vacancies for the next term. All candidates 'will be examined in reading, writing, dictation and arithmetic, and an intelligence paper will be set. Candidates over twelve may also offer elementary French and Latin'. Though the years have rolled on, my father still remembers sitting that very same exam, which was invigilated by Mr Shrewsbury, a well-loved master in his time, and one-time curator of Horsham Museum.

We have seen that sport became a priority under the new headmaster, and so a Collyer's Sports Day was held in late May. I regret that Slyfield was not

reported among the winners, but Woodward won the 100 yards Open with a time of 11.8 seconds (many years later I managed to win the same event with a time of 10.4 seconds: that's progress for you, 1.4 seconds in 35 years). The Under-13 Throwing the Cricket Ball

was won by W Slater with 152 feet, and the inter-house Tug-of-War by Hurst. All the events were sponsored, and the Under-13 100 yards event was won by young Whitehead, the prize donor being Sir A Sykes, a teacher of some class at the Monro-Higgs school at the top of the Causeway, where Donald Slyfield, Hammond Innes and others attended before their leap into a bigger world.

Lady Burrell presented the prizes, and having been introduced by the headmaster as 'a very busy woman', quickly cut the ground from under him (and endeared herself no end to the audience) by reporting that her hectic schedule was much to do with her social life, and 'she had been dancing until 3.30 that morning' - but being in the open air had quite woken her up. It had been 'great fun seeing boys running' (applause), and unsurprisingly, judged by all to be a good egg, she was given three hearty cheers at the end of the day.

Another Peacock innovation was the annual Collyer's School camp held at Cuckmere Haven, and in 1924 no less than 79 pupils spent the period between 23 August -1 September in this fold of the Downs by the sea. It was described as 'a carefree holiday', but the schedule sounds pretty tough. Every day started at 7.30am with a blast from the commandant's whistle, and breakfast came only after an encounter with the cold pump by the sheep trough, a muster parade and prayers. After breakfast

'judged by all to be a good egg, she was given three hearty cheers at the end of the day'

there was another short parade 'for cleaning lines', and then it was onto the Downs for cricket or whatever - 'and everyone revisited the wrecked submarine'.

And so to Founder's Day. The school was, of course, founded in 1532 by Richard Collyer, a Horsham man who went to London and made his fortune with the Mercer's Company. As was the practice at the time among rich merchants, he left enough money for the endowment of a 'free school' for 60 pupils back in his home town, and it was this man and this event that the Rev Peacock now celebrated through the institution of an annual Founder's Day, held in 1924 on 29 June. A march through the town took place, as did a service at St Mary's, following which the prize-giving ceremony went ahead back at the school (in my day the venue was the more glitzy Ritz cinema, now the Arts Centre).

The chairman of Governors presided, and guests of honour were Earl and Lady Winterton. Rev Harvey, in his introductory remarks, commented that in the 20 years that Earl Winterton had been in Parliament, this was the first time that he had visited the school. Hopefully this point was made in a light-hearted way - at any rate the great man seemed not to take

offence. Fine words were spoken all round, and prizes were distributed form by form, and for a limited number of special subjects, such as English. Note was made that an Old Boy, J.R.D. Greenop, had joined the staff - an announcement that clearly gave satisfaction - and it was this same Bob Greenop, who had lost a leg in the Great War, who was still teaching Collyer's boys in the 1950s. The day ended with a hearty rendering of the school song and other musical items, all conducted by Mr W Stanley Sutton, music master and composer of the song. The annual cricket match, between old and current boys, was won by the OCA.

Finally, at the end of 1924, the first Old Collyerians' Annual Dinner took place on the second Saturday before Christmas, at The Black Horse, and it is clear that Rev Peacock, who had set the Association up in the first place, was ready to roll his sleeves up and back it to the hilt.

There was much entertainment on the night, including a humorous contribution by Mr Harold Montague (of 'Vagabonds' fame), but without doubt the star of the show was Collyer's very own Headmaster, whose programme of songs was delivered in great style, and was well received by all.

The College is 30 years old

The College of Richard Collyer turned thirty at the start of the new academic year. In 1976 Collyer's School changed from being an assisted Grammar School with a three stream entry with less than 600 pupils to a Sixth Form College serving the whole of the northern part of West Sussex. Collyer's has grown out of all recognition and now has nearly 1400 students studying for a full range of subjects that has grown out of all recognition from the 20 or so 'traditional' subjects that were offered in the Grammar School Days. Subjects offered now in addition those 20 now include a wide range electrical and computer based subjects, design technology, music and drama and sports technology, to name but a few, as well as being a specialist sports academy.

As a Grammar School, Collyer's had the pick of all the most able boys in the County, whereas now it caters for young men and women studying for 'A' Levels and for part time adult education classes as well. There are now nearly 1400 students studying at the College, and no selection criteria applied other than to ensure that students have achieved the lowest academic

level acceptable for the course which they wish to follow. Places are allocated on a strictly first come, first served basis. This makes the pass rates achieved in the past two years so exceptional and a credit to Dr Jackie Johnston and her academic staff.

For exams taken this summer the 'A' level pass rate was 98% with an 'A-C' rate of 75% and 'A-B' rate of 49%. At 'AS' Level the pass rate was 92% with 'A-C' at 63% and 'A-B' at 40%. Of particular note are the achievements of some of the star students where two Electronic Students were in the top five in the country and two Design Technology Students in the top ten.

Not to be outdone were those taking GCSE's, with 6th Form students achieving an 'A-G' pass rate of 96% with 'A-C' at 58%. Part time Evening Students achieved an 'A-G' rate of 86% and 'A-B' of 73%. Again of particular note were an evening student in Italian and one in Spanish who were both in the top five in the country.

The OCA wishes to offer all the staff and students of the College, congratulations on achieving such magnificent results.

Anthony Barnard

Undergraduate report

Volunteer Placement at the Japanese Red Cross Atomic Bomb Hospital, Nagasaki

In September 2005 I began my travels with a hospital placement in the Red Cross Atomic Bomb hospital of Nagasaki, Japan. Nothing could have prepared me for the culture shock that I was faced with on my arrival. Everything was immensely different to the life I led back in the south of England, but with these differences I became intrigued and enthralled with the Japanese culture, embedded so deeply in the Japanese lifestyle that it was a notable component even in the sterile surroundings of the hospital.

Arriving in Japan, I could hardly speak a word of Japanese and had to navigate myself around the city unable to read any of the signs directing me. When in the hospital my duties would involve tasks where communication with the patients was essential. Despite not being able to speak more than the basic phrases I found that I was able to understand and be understood without too much difficulty. The Japanese are very perceptive individuals; this is probably down to the emphasis on spiritual wellbeing which is fundamental to the daily routine. Words are not the only form of communication, but with body language I found that I could explain myself substantially whilst I was still learning the language (often taught to be by the patients intrigued by my western features). Intrigue played a key part on my trip. There was obvious intrigue in me as I was clearly physically and culturally at contrast, but as I became more comfortable with the gazes and photographs I became less aware of the interest and I am sure as a consequence became of less interest. However, my intrigue in the Japanese culture is one which I know will not lessen in this respect. I am fascinated by the ritualistic nature of the lifestyle-the routine that must be obligated, but it's not in a tedious fashion, as it may be perceived in the west, but there's an energy and mystery about these rituals, no matter how mundane. It may be the art of rolling an Oshi-Bolie (warm hand towel- for which there are a number of various ways for the towel to be folded), and these

rituals are present and are as important whether in the home of the patient or in the hospital ward.

I was lucky enough to have a vast range of experiences working firsthand with the patients on the wards in the hospital. Working on each unit, I was part of the nursing staff on all seven floors of this large hospital. The nursing teams are closely working groups of female staff (never male nurses, in fact there was only one female doctor in the hospital). With a head nurse who conducts a meeting at the start of every morning and afternoon shift where duties and needs of the patients are discussed, of course these meetings are met with the necessary and expected respect of the fellow nursing staff who bow at the beginning and the end.

The team work is something that stood out to me and astonished me. It was extremely impressive, everyone works for one another, even the patients assist as best they can with the nurses; administering their own basic medication and at no-point in my stay did I ever encounter any form of confrontation, even with patients and families who are distressed. This however is of course a Japanese trait which I was a little apprehensive about at first as I was unsure that I would ever be told if I was doing anything which may be disrespectful in anyway but I have been reassured that though the Japanese do not like confrontation, and never use it as a means to resolve problems, they do have alternative means for letting people know when they are not obeying the rules. The team worked to a tight schedule, the nurses carrying around their daily 'to do' notes which were stuck to rigidly. There is certainly no shame in running from end of the hospital to the other calling to a fellow nurse if it means that the job gets done on time, which is above all the most important objective; Punctuality. Something I learnt a lot about whilst living and working in Japan. In the work place or in social circles there is nothing more embarrassing than being late, so consequently there tends to be a rather intense work ethic.

There was a clear work focus in the hospital and the staff often work long hours. Generally in Japan this is the case. The living quarters are small and usually everything can be kept to one basic room as it is not intended for you to spend a lot of time here, most of your time is at work or with work colleagues. I found that there was a large social scene within the hospital with various sports teams that a lot of the hospital staff would participate in, attending the hospital practices which I signed up for, not knowing that the low-key informal tennis practice was in fact a three hour practice every other night! They certainly don't do things by halves in Japan. Your work colleagues form a large proportion of your friends and there are many social events during the year. Despite this huge



crossover between social time and work, social life was never a topic during working hours. Focus in Japan is extremely important and expected of everyone. Focus is often put to practice in the traditional Japanese forms of entertainment from Origami to martial arts and so has been a part of Japanese culture for many thousands of years. This is what I love about Japan. The rich culture which is embedded in everyone's lifestyle, even when in the hospital. It was magical being a part of this and an eye-opening experience, one which has provided me with a great insight into faultless medical care. Japan is a land of contrasts; from the peaceful to the hectic, from the ancient to the modern, and yet the two sides of Japan co-operate in harmony and unity, there is an overriding sense of duty. In a world with so many social problems, today's Japan should be looked to as an example of how man can work together and for

one another. I shall never forget my experiences of Japan and hope to put to good use all that I have learnt from my placement.

Rebecca Morris (2003-5): Edinburgh University Correspondent

Rebecca is our first Undergraduate Correspondent, currently studying to become a Doctor at the University of Edinburgh. She took a gap year before commencing her studies and put the time to good use gaining valuable pre-training experience in two entirely different environments. A second report will appear in a later newsletter. We are currently seeking Undergraduate Correspondents at other universities who are willing to keep us up to date with the activities and achievements of Old Collyerians.

AB

Membership

Membership details are available to members

Guild of Mercers' Scholars Installation Dinner

This year's Installation Dinner was held at Armoury House - home of The Royal Artillery Company and still the headquarters of an active TA unit - and marked the installation of Old Collyerian and Association Past President Bob Smith as the new Guild Master. Armoury House dates from 1735 and passing through the main entrance protected by brass cannon we ascended the magnificent staircase and were received with a welcome drink in the Medal Room - its walls lined with Company and Regimental standards, colours and medals, including two VC's. As was to be expected on such a special occasion there were many familiar faces present including Old Collyerians Ticehurst, Weller, Beckwith, Austin and Barnard. There were also representatives from other Mercers school and college associations such as the Old Dauntseians and Old Abingdonians and a good turnout of Guildmen and their guests. We were soon called into the atmospheric Long Room, the wood panelled walls lit by the flicker of candlelight, where a superb dinner of warm goats cheese gratin, followed by whole boned, stuffed quail and rounded off to perfection by strawberries and cream was served. The selected wines included an excellent white from Denbies Vineyard at Dorking to accompany the first course. The chief guest was Mr. Paul Double, the City Remembrancer (whose role is to represent the City of London to Parliament and whose office organises the City's ceremonial occasions - a position which dates back to 1571) and musical entertainment was provided by members of the Guildhall School of Music who sang from the music gallery. My thanks to Bob for making us so very welcome and congratulations from all of us on your installation. We hope you enjoy your year.

Mark Collins

Membership of the Guild is open to anybody who attended Collyers and further details can be obtained from the Guild's Old Collyerian representative Anthony Barnard, whose address is 118 Downs Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 1AE.

Richard Collyer Masonic Lodge

The Richard Collyer Masonic Lodge is almost as old as the OCA having been formed in 1927, while the Chapter is a mere junior having been formed in 1958. Both are very active organisations and meet regularly at Horsham Masonic Hall. The Lodge members would be delighted to hear from any old Collyerians who would like further details or who might be interested in joining. Full details may be obtained from:

Robert Phillips, 1 Mona Cottage, Minffordd,
Llanfachraeth, Holyhead, LL65 4UR.

Important Diary Date

18th November

**Annual General Meeting of the OCA
at the College of Richard Collyer**

at 4pm

followed by

WINTER REUNION DINNER

at the same venue

6.30 for 7.00pm

Further details and

ticket application enclosed

with this newsletter

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-Mail

We have had a surprisingly poor response from members prepared to receive their Newsletters by E-mail. All monies saved on publishing and distribution, as a result of this, can be re-assigned to other useful activities of the Association.

To receive your newsletter by E-mail, please send your name and years of attendance at Collyer's, exactly as it appears in the Address List, to the

Hon. General Secretary

ANTHONY BARNARD at: barnardak@blueyonder.co.uk