



The Old Collyerians' Association

Autumn 2009

Au revoir from the 'Prez'

Crumbs, where did that year go? To be strictly accurate it's still September as I write this, so I have a few weeks left of my term, and I think it's fair to say that it's been an interesting year so far. I've been able to catch up with some of my contemporaries from the 1950s and have also heard from quite a few other OCs from around the globe. Thanks for taking the time to contact me and I hope you'll continue to do so in the years ahead.

We have managed to gain a reasonable number of new members over the year but we always have to set this against those no longer with us and we're still not hugely successful in persuading the current College students to join us when they move on from Collyer's; but we shall continue to work on this.

I complete my year in office at the AGM and dinner on Saturday 21st November and hope to see as many of you there as is possible – attendance at the AGM isn't compulsory, by the way. Those of you who are obliged to attend such general meetings on a regular basis may agree that they don't fall into a 'highlight of the year' category and I think ours is probably no different.

The College continues to thrive and the recent 'A' level results have been as good as ever with an overall pass rate of 98% (A-E grades) with 53% achieving A and B grades.

We're always pleased to have the College principal, Jackie Johnston, at our meetings and thank her for her interest and are always impressed with her enthusiasm and energy. The new John Dew Building (to be opened officially on

Contact us (e-mail is the preferred method)

President: Derek Sturt <sturt99@hotmail.com>
Secretary: Anthony Barnard <ocawalnutclose@btinternet.com>
Treasurer: Clive Barham, <clive.barham@tiscali.co.uk>
 18 Hill Mead, Horsham RH12 2PU
Membership Secretary: Mark Collins <MCollins@rjherbert.co.uk>
 4 Stallett Way, Tilney St Lawrence, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 4HT
Newsletter: Bill Thomson, <motorship@btinternet.com>
 35 Fishers Court, Horsham RH12 2RJ and Lawrence Windwood
Other Committee Members: Nick Weller <NickWeller@bpp.com>
 Paul Smith <maureentsmith@btinternet.com>
 Peter Ticehurst <jenny.langridge@allen-ticehurst.co.uk>,
 John Meese <jdoc@jmeese.wanadoo.co.uk>,
 Gary Jones <garyjones@compuserve.com>,
 Brian Sturt. From the College: Jackie Johnston

November 6th) is already in use and making life easier for the current intake of just over 1500 students (plus another 500 at the adult evening education classes). As a comparison with the mid-1950s, it's worth looking at *The Collyerian* magazine for 1955 (which you'll find on the web-site, www.oldcollyerians.org.uk, under the archives section) when only 13 of the year's leavers out of 71 (less than 20%) went on to uni compared with the 90% or so to-day. How things change!

I was able to make my first visit to Mercers' Hall back in February for the Old Mercers' Club Annual Dinner. Thought I might find the opulence infringed my socialist roots but this certainly wasn't the case and I was made most welcome. Interestingly the only titled person there was a

Labour Peer! At the end of October I hope to be present with my wife at the Guild of Mercers' Scholars Dinner which is held at the Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall in the City, which I gather is quite an occasion – does this give me the right to drive my sheep over Tower (or is it London) Bridge, I wonder?

Think that's more than enough of my rambling, so a final thank you to you all for your continued interest in the OCA, and especially to my friends and colleagues who make up its present committee. I hope that your president for the coming year, our 'webmaster', Gary Jones, has as enjoyable a 12 months as I experienced.

Derek Sturt (1952-57)

J o t t i n g s

When sending the article about his work in animal welfare in India, Jack Reece says that he appreciated reading the last newsletter. He was particularly touched by the sad obituary of Mr Slynn, and enjoyed the verbatim reports from Mr Collins' lessons. "I did so enjoy reading it," said Jack. "School days do not seem that long ago but how the world has changed. How lucky we were to attend such a school."

Were you a 1969 footballer?

Andy Kynoch is seeking help from other Old Collyerians - he says he has exhausted Friends Reunited and other avenues.

"40 years ago this December," writes Andy, "the Collyer's under-12 team scored 100 goals before Christmas 1969. Considering we had all recently started at our new school, being in the first year and had not actually set eyes on each other until September of that year, formed a team and then beaten everyone, you can see it was no mean feat.

"I was proud to be the captain of the side and we are trying to get the team back together to recreate the team photo - 40 years on.

"We have found everyone, with the exception of the goalkeeper, Graham Jackson, and the boy in the back row immediately next to the teacher, Chris

Spicer. We are urgently trying to trace them now and wondered if you could help.

"When you consider practically every child was playing football in those days, no computers and the like, it was pretty good going."

If anybody can help, then please e-mail the OCA and we can either pass on the information or give you Andy's contact details.

Andy continues: "I'm 52 this November and still play competitively in the West Sussex League, with all ages, but I think I am well into my twilight years and would like to see this reunion before I hang up my boots. Many thanks."



Do you recognise this team from 40 years ago?

Hive gives emigrant OC a sweet tooth

Our secretary, endeavouring to locate M.C. Barnard (1943-1950 and believed to be living in Ontario) recently contacted Martin Richardson (1952-1958 and Hive 1955-1956) who is also resident in Ontario. Martin advises that following a long and successful career in the sugar industry and retiring to a new house in Niagara, he has taken on a new career producing a well-known Ice Wine.

Martin writes: "The Association is knee deep in Barnards, isn't it. M.C. was through Collyer's before my arrival at the hallowed place of learning and we have never been in contact. Sorry!

"My Barnard recollection was during 52/58 with both of us in the RAF section of the CCF and on the school shooting eight, Bisley and somewhere in the South Downs for practice. I still remember working the targets and keeping my head down when the range was active, as well as the sore shoulder when the 303 rifle was held too loosely. I imagine that the indoor range we had at Collyer's has long passed into history.

"My attendance at this years re-union was an ambition but will have to be deferred. Having moved to the wine country of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, and finding retirement too relaxing, I have recently taken on the general managers position at a small local vineyard and winery. Fortunately a friend had given a copy of Robert Mondavi's book "Harvests of Joy" which describes his growth from nothing in the Napa valley in California to a worldwide wine maker of quality vintages, and was somewhat educational on the industry. An interesting read for an entrepreneur with detailed descriptions of the development in growing grapes, managing soils, climates and marketing practices in the United States. So here goes my fifth career, but it sounds like a fun assignment using many past experiences."

1969-2009 ... 40 years on

Were you in 6A Arts or Science in 1968/69?

Many of us left in the summer of '69, coinciding with the time when the Stones played for free in Hyde Park, Dylan played at the Isle of Wight Festival, Tony Jacklin won the British Open, Ann Jones won the Wimbledon final and Horsham had its own pirate radio station - Radio Bell!

To mark this auspicious 40 years anniversary, Mick Polley and Richard (Dicky) Richards will be attending the annual OCA reunion dinner in November and would be delighted to see any contemporaries who are free to join them.

If you wish to get in touch with either Mick or Richard, please email Richard at richards@ramblers42.fsnet.co.uk

Small world...

Anita Nicholson-Florence has advised us of the recent passing of her father, Herbert Ford, who at just short of his 95th. birthday was one of our oldest members (at Collyer's 1926-1933). She also asked if our president might be related to the lady who taught her in Primary School, Nancy Clark. Derek Sturt was able to confirm that she is the wife of elder brother Brian (past president 2004-5). "It's a small world," says Derek.

- Former students Holly Willoughby and Matt Charman have been in the news. Holly has had a baby and Matthew has a play opening at the National Theatre.
- Murray Morrison (1960 – 1967), now based in Greece, has been in touch. His father was the immediate predecessor to arts master 'Dougie' Hull.
- Thanks for responding to the 'missing people' list. As a result of information received we have been able to re-establish contact with several members.

Richard Collyer Masonic Lodge and Chapter

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:

Peter R Ticehurst, Flat 32, Bowes Close, Horsham RH13 5SZ.

Remembering E.D. Slynn

Memorial service for ex-Collyer's head

The BBC's cricket theme welcomed attendees at the thanksgiving for Derek Slynn's life in May, acting as a reminder of one of Derek's most important interests. The congregation included former pupils and staff, as well as family and many friends.

Revd Canon William Price conducted the service and gave one of the addresses, taking the congregation through Derek's life. Derek studied modern languages at Oxford. His academic career was interrupted by the Second World War, when he served overseas and also at Bletchley. He returned to university in 1945, 'marrying Joan en route'.

After spells teaching in Dover and at Wimbledon, Derek became headmaster of Adams Grammar School in Wem. William Price was a pupil there. He remembered Derek as an excellent teacher who demanded high standards and hard work. He also studied Chinese alongside Derek when Derek decided to add Chinese to the other languages he already knew. William was also impressed by Derek's calm Anglican faith.

After Collyer's, Derek acted as a school governor, was a leading light in Probus in Horsham and assisted John Dew in coaching at Horsham Cricket Club. Appropriately the collection at the end of the service was for the Horsham Cricket Club Colts section.

Derek's time at Collyer's was remembered in the addresses by John Hamer and Paul Parker. John Hamer remembered Derek as a head who led by inspiring example and always sought to maintain standards. In particular Derek urged pupils to win or lose with grace. He was also prepared to accept

necessary change whilst maintaining the best elements of tradition. John remembered his excellent relationship with Derek, despite their differing interruptions of the lbw law when John was umpiring and Derek was bowling. He was helped on many occasions by Derek's wise counsel.

Paul Parker spoke of how Derek's love of cricket inspired many. He recalled Derek's batting in staff vs school matches. One of Derek's innings was ended by a mistimed hook and a blow from the ball knocking him to the ground. On this occasion the Parker brothers disgraced themselves by appealing for lbw whilst the rest of the school team were attending the injured batsman; they were rightly rebuked by umpire Kevin West. Paul also remembered Derek's calm authority, often manifested by movements of his expressive eyebrows.

Canon Price highlighted Derek's happiness with Joan and his family, which sustained him throughout his teaching career and in retirement. Derek's daughters remembered their father by reading out 'An Enquiring Mind' by Douglas Houston.

Back at Collyer's afterwards a slide show was running in a continuous loop photos from throughout Derek's life. Recollections of Derek there included how calm he kept, being confronted by perhaps the most challenging circumstances that any head of Collyer's ever had to face.

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." - so wrote Henry Adams, quoted by John Hamer in his address.

Nick Weller

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-Mail

We are hoping to hear from still more 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.

And it arrives faster, and in glorious colour.

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: ocawalnutclose@btinternet.com

More memories of Collyer's

Richard Gradie tells us that he attended Collyer's from 1966-1973 and particularly enjoyed reading the very warm piece in the last newsletter about Derek Slynn, who was headmaster during his time there (also teaching French and German), and the transcription of Mr Collins opening up a gift. The latter item brought him right back into that classroom. As a result Richard has contributed some of his own memories dating back to the 1960s. Richard now lives in Vancouver, Canada, and, aptly for an ex-grammar schoolboy, teaches private lessons in writing and literature.

Arriving at Collyer's with peers from Greenway County Primary in 1966, I had some trepidation about the new academic challenges, our first homework (or 'prep') and Latin, for example. Nevertheless, we all seemed to adjust to the rigours of a grammar school quite quickly, and Muddy Lane proved more of an ordeal than the regular cycle of French tests, form rankings, and letter grades.

I remember how the teachers religiously collected our school-issued workbooks for grading, really for completion and penmanship I think (can't imagine much of that happening nowadays). Mr O'Connor always signed the maths books off with a flowery signature. He, along with other masters, reviled the (relatively) new ball-point pen. He refused even to say the word 'biro', insisting on the scathing 'BPP' and demanding that we use real ink for all our maths work. Anyone who had failed to do the previous night's prep had to stand on a certain crack, or join, in the wooden floor to confess his sin in front of the whole class. The worst crime of all, though, was something to do with a multiplication sign (cancelling across it?). For this mathematical misdemeanour, Mr O'Connor would studiously chalk an 'X' on a wide wooden blackboard ruler, make the offending boy bend over and then give him a mighty 'thwack!' on the rear end. On those black uniform pants, the chalky 'X' really stood out for the rest of the day!

The 'weapon' wielded by this prim, precise maths teacher was called 'Excalibur,' in sharp contrast to Mr Worsley's punitive leather slipper called 'Horace,' which he kept sealed away, thankfully, in a classroom cabinet for most of the time. Along with many of the other staff, Mr O'Connor relied,

as part of a formidable toolbox of effective teaching strategies, on mnemonics or just catchy phrases and reminders that would be sure to stand one in good stead in any test or exam. I well remember him exhorting us all: "Five or over, add one on, under five IGNORE it!" The memory of chanting this rhythmical motto remains much clearer than the application for its arithmetical wisdom. He was also a master (no pun intended) of the cutting, yet often very apt, nickname, made up on the spur of the moment it seems, yet sure to stick as many a moniker does in a community of boys. One rather sleepy, diminutive boy was thus forever called 'Dormouse' while one of the slower members of the form was ironically known as 'Professor' on account of, perhaps, his glasses. Well, yes, some wag had labelled this particular teacher 'Okey' many years before but that was hardly an insult, compared to the names some of the other masters had earned over their careers at the school.

There was one (in all kindness I should let him remain nameless) whom everyone referred to as 'Deado'. His lessons cannot have been the most interesting, but then they were Latin after all. At the end of one term, when we had managed to get Mr Ken Cox into a more jovial, loquacious mood than usual, this nickname came up within his hearing. He chortled, "That's not what we call him in the staff room!" Well, of course, we wouldn't let Mr Cox off the hook with that unexplained statement. After much amicable ragging, we finally persuaded this most amenable of teachers to admit what we longed to know: "OK, boys, don't tell anyone, but in the staff room, we call him 'Merry Hell!'" I don't think we learned much Latin for the rest of that particular lesson.

My other memory of that first year in '10' was my duty, as form captain, of walking along that dark upper corridor, once every boy had arrived in class, to inform Mr O'Connor that indeed we were ready and waiting for another of his maths lessons. He of course was deep in conversation with the other masters in the staff room, a place that exuded a pungent cloud of thick, bluish tobacco smoke every time the door opened. The first time I went uncertainly along to 'summon' him, I knocked nervously on the hallowed door. "Is Mr. O'Conn..." He caught my eye from across the room, and,

barely visible through the fog, waved and shouted "Coming!" Sure he had uttered the mystifying instruction to "come in," I raised my leg to take one hesitant step over the threshold, only to be glared at menacingly by a veritable phalanx of baleful eyes, all willing me back into the hallway as if I didn't know that no mere boy could ever set foot into this inner sanctum. No dragon's cave in any tale was more forbidding to us boys, although most would have been about as smoky.

Yet, there were other places where boys were not permitted: the pathway running in front of the school to the right of the main entrance, for instance. Much later, as an adult, I was visiting Horsham with my teenage daughter. It was a weekend and the campus was deserted, so we walked into the front court and up to the old door to peruse the inscription about "Richard Collier" and the founding of the school. "There's the forbidden pathway!" I said to my daughter. "Go on, Dad, walk down it!" Needless to say, I dare not: it was still a holy of holies for me; all I could do was gaze along it and remember the masters from long ago, academic gowns flying in the stiff breeze, taking the short cut where no boy dared to trespass.

Teaching styles have changed in these intervening years, but I think what I value about my Collyer's education is the way the teacher was always a reliable source of both information and wisdom. He, and sometimes she, would stand at the front of his little domain and love nothing better than holding forth on a cherished subject.

Some were curmudgeons, no doubt, but they were all characters who could spice up the tedium of any curriculum or exam preparation with the occasional witticism or anecdote.

Many of their aphorisms and much of their good-humoured approach to academics remain with me to this day. I can still quote Mr Collins to myself, "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," even though I don't need such a useful insight too often.

As true as it is that "There ain't no aitches in French, Cully," my wife assures me that indeed I do say "Cor and/or blimey" on the odd occasion, so all those years in French were not wasted after all.

Gazing back over the years does add a certain gleam to memories well-polished by time, but my years at Collyer's have left their indelible mark (although much, like Mr. O'Connor's dreaded 'X' marks, has faded).

Winter reunion dinner 2009

The following members have signalled their intention to attend the Reunion Dinner on 21st November so, if you recognise any of the names below, why not join the party and renew your acquaintances with them. The dinner is always a good social occasion held in a relaxed atmosphere, so come along and enjoy yourself with us.

Clive Barham	1974 - 1981	Richard Richards	1963 - 1969
Anthony Barnard	1953 - 1958	Peter Shilson	1955 - 1962
Mark Collins	1974 - 1980	Paul Smith	1951 - 1958
Ken Holmes	1949 - 1957	Brian Sturt	1945 - 1950
Gary Jones	1956 - 1963	Derek Sturt	1952 - 1957
Peter Leedham	1953 - 1959	Terry Tamplin	1948 - 1953
John Meese		Bill Thomson	1960 - 1965
John Munnery	1955 - 1960	Peter Ticehurst	1952 - 1959
Brian Norris	1957 - 1965	Tim Walker	1952 - 1955
Mick Polley	1962 - 1969	Nick Weller	1974 - 1981
Jimmy Pullen	1950 - 1955	Lawrence Windwood	1943 - 1951

Guild of Mercers' Scholars

Anyone interested in joining the guild can obtain details from the guild's Collyerian court assistant, Anthony Barnard, at 1 Walnut Close, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent ME18 6DH

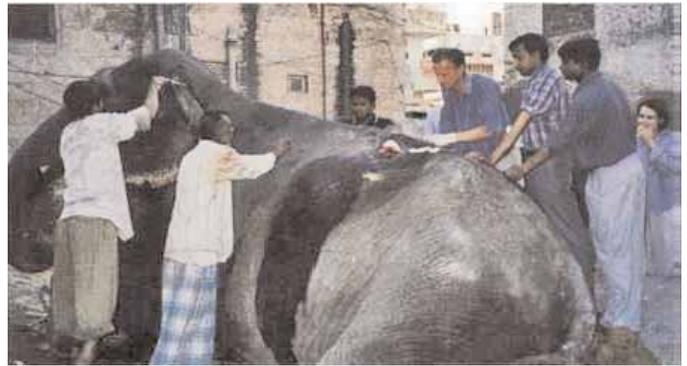
A vet in India

I knew when I arrived at Collyer's, as a rather timid and over-awed school boy in the mid 70's, that I wanted to be a veterinary surgeon.

Although only 14 I started to 'see practice' at the local vets, coincidentally with an OC veterinary surgeon, Julian Peters. My path to vet school was rather fraught (it was the height of the Herriot 'bubble'), but with help from Mr Vernon Davies (deputy headmaster), Julian Peters and others for which I will forever be more grateful than I can say, I eventually arrived at Liverpool University's veterinary faculty.

Contrary to expectations not having strings of 'A' grades did not prove a disadvantage at vet school and after 5 years' enormous fun and study, supported from the now defunct OCA 4th Centenary Fund, and after surviving a viva voce examination by another OC, Prof. Joe Brownlie, I was let loose on the world as a newly qualified veterinary surgeon. I have since learnt that School has as impressive a veterinary pedigree as it does a medical one.

Three years in rural, Herriotesque practice in north Devon followed before itchy feet tempered by a puritanical streak got the better of me. I decided to go travelling for six months but could not countenance a holiday of this length so instead found myself a voluntary position in an animal welfare charity in Jaipur, India. I had never been to India, was unsure if I would like it but thought six months of anything can be tolerated.



Elephant surgery - draining an abscess on a large male

So it was that I found myself thrust into the chaotic, disorderly cacophonous turmoil that is urban India. Little did I realise then that this six months' sojourn of a busman's holiday would become a major part of my veterinary career extending now into its 11th year.

The charity I was working for, Help in Suffering, in Jaipur, Rajasthan in north west India, when I started ran a rabies and street dog control programme and rescued sick and injured street animals, and it was in these two areas I initially spent most time. Rescues took me all over the city and to see animals in conditions I had never experienced in practice in the UK. Our team pulled bulls from wells, disembowelled monkeys from roof tops, impaled bulls and monkeys from railings. We attended railway accidents involving cattle; abandoned camels with fractured legs, donkeys

with the most appalling hobble injuries and more sick, dying, maggot infested street dogs than one could shake a stick at. The streets of India are a menagerie of animals, some owned and left to wander, some abandoned to their fate and some free-living. In one early morning survey I counted 14 species of animal on the streets of just one small city area, and at some point in my time here Help in Suffering has been called upon to treat them all. The most dramatic are our efforts to care for the city's 100 or so Indian elephants.

Nothing really prepares one for an elephant but over the years I have, with Indian colleagues, treated a number for wounds, constipation, and infections.



The Pushkar camel fair

I cut my elephantine teeth on the city's biggest, a male which stood 9ft 9in tall at the withers and had an abscess which needed lancing and draining.

Although dramatic the elephant work is run a close second by our attendance at the annual Pushkar Camel Fair. A colleague and I regularly treat 100 camels a day during the fair; mainly wounds, mange and maggot infestations. Local villagers camp at Pushkar for a week or so and the sites and sounds of the fair are unforgettable. There can be few larger gatherings of camels in the world, and providing even simple veterinary treatment to them is a challenge, and an expensive one at that.

Despite these exotic interludes my main duties over the last five years have centred on the rabies and street dog control work of Help in Suffering. Rabies kills about 20,000 people a year in India with the main vector being dogs. Street dogs occur in large numbers (we estimate 25,000-30,000 in a city of 3 million people) in Indian cities. These are

not abandoned pets but dogs which live out their entire lives on the streets with varying, but little, involvement with anyone. Killing these animals has been shown many times to be ineffective in controlling their numbers or rabies, and is often undertaken in a cruel, inhumane way. The solution seems to be to sterilise and vaccinate against rabies large numbers of these dogs while controlling the rubbish on which the dogs live.

In addition to running this mass sterilisation programme we also collect data about the dogs' biology and the effects of our work. We sterilise and vaccinate over 3,500 dogs and vaccinate (with help from the UK insurer Petplan) another 5,000 dogs per year.

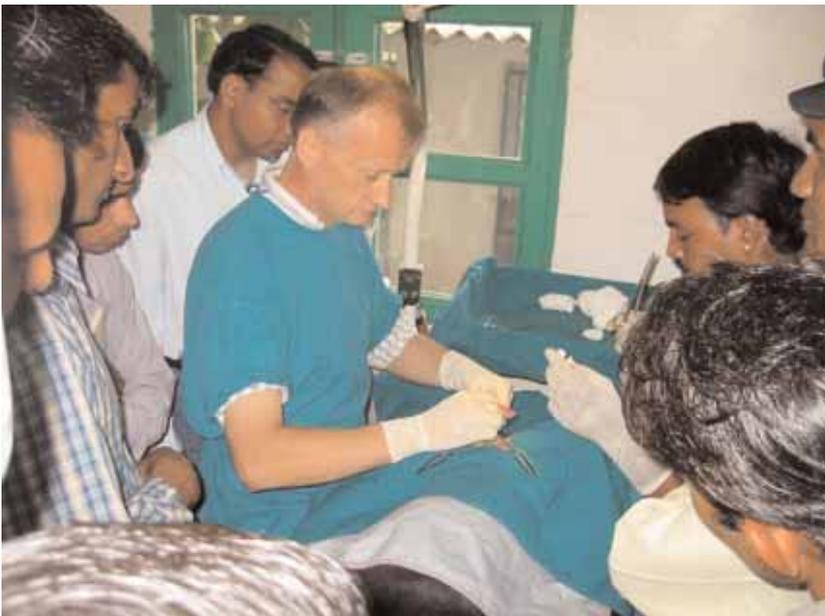
The resulting effects, and publications recording these, have resulted in us being asked to advise the Government of India; WHO; and also many of the major international animal welfare groups in humane street dog and rabies control. We also now instruct many colleagues from throughout

south Asia on these practices. All of which is a long way from where I imagined, back in school days, my career would lead me, which perhaps serves only to illustrate how silly boyhood plans are and the value of the remarkably sound education we received at Collyer's.

Help in Suffering, a registered UK Charity, is funded by donations. For more information on the charity, its work and on how to help see www.his-india.org.au or contact the author.

Jack Reece, MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon, can be contacted through Help in Suffering, Maharani Farm, Durgapura, Jaipur 302018, Rajasthan, INDIA.

E-mail hisvet1@helpinsuffering.org



Instruction in sterilisation techniques

WE NEED YOUR MEMORIES...

Items for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send your contributions via the Hon Secretary, Anthony Barnard, ocawalnutclose@btinternet.com

OCA summer reunion 2009

This year's summer reunion took place, for the second year running, in glorious sunny weather, on Sunday 14th June. The venue was the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton in West Sussex.

According to its literature, the museum was founded in 1967 and its aim is to save threatened buildings and "exhibit them in such a way as to help visitors appreciate the rich heritage of historic buildings in the region." The museum occupies 50 acres of park and woodland in a large south-west facing site adjoining the A286 road which runs from Midhurst to Chichester. There are approximately 44 historic buildings on the site, which have been found across the South-East, and then rebuilt in their original form. In addition to the buildings, visitors may see the museum's collection of tools and implements used by traditional work and craftsmen.

OCA members and their guests, numbering about 20, entered the site through the Hambrook Barn which contains the introductory exhibition. After that, we were able to wander at will. The museum's literature recommends that visitors firstly take the 'yellow route' (which would take them to the most south-westerly point of the site) and secondly take the 'red route' which leads to a shorter but more concentrated visit to about half of the buildings in an area closest to the Mill Pond.

On the yellow route, visitors also get to see some outstanding views of the local area, looking towards the South Downs to the north of

Chichester, and West Dean College to the south of Singleton. The highlights of the yellow route included the charcoal burner's camp, the Tamworth pigs asleep in a nearby field, the toll cottage from Lower Beeding and the West Wittering school, complete with desks, chalk board and maps of the world with the areas ruled by the British Empire shaded in red.

On the red route, it was possible to view the 'Whittaker's Cottages' from Ashted in Surrey. These were in the style of cottages built close to the railway line there, and were furnished so as to show how typical occupiers lived their lives. One or two members of the group, thinking back to their childhood days, regarded these workman's cottages with a feeling of *déjà vu*! This section of the site also included a medieval shop which had previously been located in Horsham, a working watermill from Lurgashall and the so-called 'Court Barn' from Lee-on-Solent which contained exhibitions on plumbing, masonry and glazing.

After such a pleasant and informative exploration, we were all ready for lunch, and strolled to the nearby village pub, the Partridge Inn, for a delicious Sunday lunch, chosen from their extensive menu. We were able to find tables quickly and service of the food was very prompt, even in the absence of pre-booking. Drinks and conversation then rounded off what had been another successful summer reunion.

Clive Barham

Obituary - Herbert Ford

Anita Nicholson-Florence, daughter of Herbert Ford, recently notified us of the death of one of the OCA's oldest members at the age of 94 years (see also Jottings, on page 3).

My father Herbert Ford, who was a member of the Old Collyerians Association since leaving school, has recently died. He must have started at Collyer's in 1926 and did particularly well at maths and science. Apparently he got three As in maths at matric and one G! He taught science in London for 25 years. I seem to remember that he was social secretary of the association in the 1950s and helped to arrange dances. He also played cricket for the OCA. His funeral service was held in church in Cornwall and eventually his ashes will join his late wife's in Pulborough churchyard. He was born in 1914 so was nearly 95 and had had a good innings! He had not been well since Christmas 2008.

Anita continues: "I have usually read the newsletter and was very pleased to hear that the new building at Collyer's College is to be named after John Dew. I remember him as the anaesthetist at Horsham hospital when I was a child."

From public school... to Collyer's

Colin Macdonald, now from Nottingham, writes:

Having only recently joined the OCA - a mere 37 years after leaving Collyer's - can I firstly congratulate you on an excellent newsletter which brought back many, mainly happy, memories, although I was sad to learn of the recent death of Derek Slynn.

I arrived at Collyer's around October 1967, having moved from Harrow, where I attended the John Lyon School. On my first day I learned three things. Firstly that, despite having been told that a school cap was *de rigeur*, only first years actually wore them! Mine was thereafter consigned to my cricket bag. Secondly that a sense of humour was vital in my new home, where my reluctant mentor explained to Frank Whitbourn that my name was Newman, thereby obliging me to spend 10 minutes explaining, to a puzzled and suspicious master, that it wasn't. The third lesson was the need for quick wits. A fellow newcomer, Lionel Woodward was suffering unmercifully because he fatally admitted having formerly attended a public school. I had committed the same felony but, by some fluke, a brilliant all-round sportsman, Stu Fellowes had previously transferred from the same establishment. I realised that Stu was well-liked, and so informed anyone who asked that I had gone to "the same school as Stu Fellowes". It worked. He may never know how grateful I was for his presence!

The 'Frankie Vivant' article was delightful. I liked 'Hitler' Collins, who always addressed me as Mac 1, Mac 2 being Iain McGregor. One of his favourite phrases, as I recall, was "Interesting Point", which he seemed to use when a pupil had said something particularly banal, as his way of pointing this out without being unduly rude.

Sadly I can't help with the whereabouts of 'Ted' Palmer, although I suspect there are more anecdotes about him than most. (*Editor's note - we understand Mr Palmer can still be seen around Horsham, although he is not in the best of health these days*).

He was certainly not a fan of the short-lived 'Blues and Progressive Music Society' of which I was a member. This convened every dinner time in the geography room and always ended with the playing of 'All You Need I Love' by The Beatles, except that the words "All You Need Is Baz" were substituted by those present, when the duty look-

out gave warning of the great man's approach. This was tolerated for a few weeks until someone overdid it by hoisting an effigy of Mr P, of which Barry Allner's prized globe was the head. On another occasion, during a 'school vs staff' football match, Mr Palmer, who was playing in goal, came out for the ball with his knee raised and took out the school centre-forward in the process. In retrospect, I am sure the challenge was not malicious but, at assembly the next morning, the entire school failed to sing the second verse of the morning hymn, in protest. I don't suppose 'Ger' Davies has spent the last 38 years pondering the reason for this, but I do recall the bemused look on his face at the time.

The ultra-modern 'Lingo Lab' arrived around the same time as I did and was an interesting novelty. If memory serves we had to listen to a taped message and repeat what we heard, using headphones and a microphone. I can't recall which master it was, but one over-excited boy became a fighter pilot and transmitted, "Biggles to base. Biggles to base. This is Biggles, come in base". He was swiftly silenced when he realised that the presiding master could listen in, and his message was answered with a peremptory, "This is base. Shut up, Biggles"

In the sixth form we were allowed to play any sport we liked and a small group of us went for golf, under the tuition of the assistant pro from Ifield. If he left early golf degenerated into hockey. I salute the courage of Iain McGregor who used to keep goal while the rest of us hit crosses with a short iron for the 'strikers' to attempt to volley at him with a No 4 wood. His life was spared only by our ineptitude!

My all-time favourite master, though, was Bob 'Tich' Gosney who could shout louder with one lung than most people could with three. If, as I was, you were in his German 'A' Level set, you got to see a whole new side to the man. He would wait for the chatter of voices outside the music room to reach a crescendo, tiptoe to the door and bellow "Be quiet!" into the corridor. He then closed the door, gave us a conspiratorial wink, then somehow managed to cough and chuckle at the same time on the way back to his desk. My previous school had made me drop German but, with his encouragement, I took it to degree level. I always regret not plucking up the courage to return and look him up.

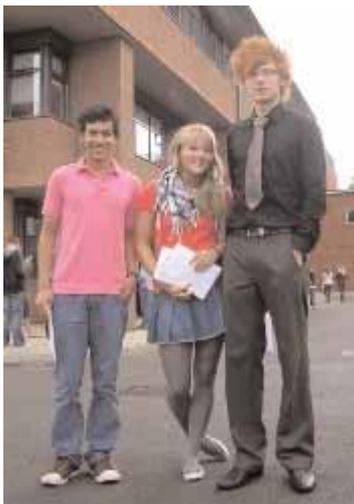
M e m b e r s h i p

**Due to data protection restrictions,
details of OCA members
and changes to member details
are available only on the version of the newsletter e-mailed or posted
to fully-paid up members of the OCA.**

News from the College

Examination results at Collyer's for 2009 are once again excellent. The overall pass rate at A level for 16-18 year olds was just over 98%, with 53% at grades A and B. The first year AS results, with a 94% pass rate, were also very strong. Under the college's post results advice service, staff have been guiding students into appropriate university choices.

In traditional big hitting academic courses, results were outstanding, with a 100% pass rate in chemistry, with 73% at A/B, a 100% pass rate in geology with 77% at A/B and a 100% pass rate in electronics, with 72% at A/B. 56% of maths (mechanics) and 57% of maths (stats)



results were at A/B, with 61% at A/B for students who achieved A grades in government and politics. The level 2 Diploma in Child Care students also shone brightly with a 100% passing at A/B. In the college's adult education department, 100% studying Level 2 Certificate for Teaching Assistants gained a distinction, and 100% passed AS art and design, with 71% at A/B.

Noteworthy individual successes were also achieved in a number of subjects across the college. Miguel Bravo achieved straight As in French, biology, chemistry and maths (mechanics), Victoria True gained As in chemistry, biology, maths (mechanics) and Spanish, while Ben Wild got As across the board in computing, further maths, biology and chemistry.

The principal, Dr Jackie Johnston, said that the future looks bright with new improved facilities opening across the college. "I am delighted that the college continues to deliver outstanding results. State sector education has recently received some negative media attention regarding academic standards, so it is a credit to the staff and students at Collyer's that we have delivered another bumper year. We have also literally built on our academic success, as students arriving in September will be able to enjoy some exciting new facilities across the college. I am delighted that we have been able to develop for the future in this way and confident that it will help the Collyer's success story to continue."

Three teachers from the College of Richard Collyer in Horsham, and a professor from the Institute of Education, are working on a groundbreaking scheme to promote scientific and community projects in Tanzania. The science project, sponsored by the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA), aims to help the Tanzanian education system to develop an infrastructure for teaching science across the country.

Teachers Mike Branfield, Joe Brock and Sally Miller, together with Professor Ken Spours from the Institute of Education, spent two weeks delivering the projects during the summer.

Mike, Joe and Sally recently hosted a presentation evening about the trip. Joe Brock, who led the expedition, enjoyed the hands-on nature of the trip. "During our time in Tanzania we visited three schools and a teacher training college. We shipped in basic science equipment, that would enable lessons to be carried out pretty much anywhere and in any conditions. We also delivered practical science workshops for Tanzania's science teachers of the future".

**The Annual General Meeting and annual Winter Reunion of the OCA
will be held at the College of Richard Collyer in Horsham on
Saturday 21st November .**

We hope that you will join us. Please see separate sheet enclosed with this newsletter

**The Annual General Meeting will start at 4pm,
the Reunion Dinner at 6.30pm for 7pm, (bar open from 5.30pm)**