



The Old Collyerians' Association

Autumn 2010

Message from the President

All too soon another membership year draws to a close as does my stint as President. A stint that has been very enjoyable and something which was never considered in my life plan!

One of the most interesting parts of serving on the committee in any position is the regular input we get on current College activities from Jackie, the Principal. We take it for granted that the news is always positive as that is the climate in which the College operates today. It is intriguing to compare the scenario today with what must have been during our day. Of course, way back then we had no idea what went on behind the scenes but it is clear that these days there is an ever increasing need for strong management and business skills in addition to the educational ones which the staff possess. If results are anything to go by, the College is clearly well equipped.

This year we are told the examination results exceeded even the College's own expectations, having already been at an all

time high. I won't risk providing raw numbers here but values under 90% seem extremely rare. One jewel in the crown is Electronics which now seems to set the standard to which others aspire. If only we had the subject available in our day! The closest we got was as a very small part of the Physics curriculum.

I find this very comforting as it helps demonstrate the relevance of the College teaching to the demands of today's real world. When we are told that the applications for Science subjects at University are falling, how good it is to see that Collyer's is playing more than its part.

Switching briefly to wear my other hat, may I thank those members who have contributed directly or indirectly to the OCA archives by providing information and material. Please keep it coming. We have a significant box full of material awaiting scanning, cleaning up and publishing to the website. The sheer size of some of the old publications has been a surprise, pleasant

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though it may be. We are trickling *Collyerians* onto the site and choosing a range of years so that we at least get a fair spread up front. However, being perhaps of more immediate interest, the newsletters have taken priority and we are now complete bar a couple back to 1990.

We now look forward to the Winter Reunion and Dinner at which time I shall be handing over to Dr. John Meese so the OCA will remain in very safe hands. May I encourage anyone who has never attended the Dinner to make an effort to come along. Even if you don't expect to find hordes of your ex-classmates there, you

may well be surprised but will definitely find the experience very interesting and entertaining, and the camaraderie first class. The beverages are very affordable too, by the way! To those who live overseas, you will be remembered and if you ever get the chance to synchronise a visit with the dinner date as some so often do, please do take advantage and join us one year soon. Dinner details are published elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.

I look forward to seeing those of you who can make it this year.

Gary Jones, President 2009-2010

J o t t i n g s

The editor asks...

In the 'Tony White's Schooldays' article in this issue, Tony refers to a school at Avranches, France, which was linked with Collyer's, and with which the legendary R.W. Kenyon used to arrange exchange visits. Does anybody remember which school this was, or, better still, have any memories of such exchanges? Avranches is quite near our French house; and no doubt RWK would be horrified to think that despite my standard of 'O' level French I did actually manage to live and work in that part of France for several years.

Careers advice - or not

Reading the piece by Jennifer Nadel (Let's hear it for the girls) in this issue struck a familiar note. Maybe the rather lacklustre careers advice was a feature of the times rather than any particular establishment and Jennifer was particularly lucky with her guidance at the College? One thing I fancied was going into newspaper or magazine publishing, but I had exactly the same reaction as Jennifer from the 'careers masters' - "don't be daft, everybody wants to do that". Architecture, another interest, drew the response "You will never be good enough at maths" (actually, I was in the A stream and perfectly competent, particularly at geometry). It really did seem that there were two options: university, which then was for the privileged few, or Sun Alliance, with a possible 'third way' in the armed services. I did, in fact, after a 15-year false start, end up in magazines. And what I learned at Collyer's is still invaluable - not so much the appreciation of good literature instilled in us by Vernon Davies, but in the love of words, clarity and consistent writing style - and most of all the sense that English could be fun - that I learned from Frank Whitbourn. What experiences did others have of 'careers teaching'? - Ed

Clement Jack Hewell (b 1920), a member of the OCA, died after a short illness on 3 May 2010 at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester. The funeral took place at Chichester Crematorium on Monday 17 May.

Letter from Canada

Ron Osborne (1957-1964), who is living in Toronto and is described as 'semi-retired-Chair of Board of Sun Life Financial', writes to say how much he enjoys reading OCA newsletters - particularly sections on former teachers and by OC members reminiscing or telling their life stories.

"For example, I particularly enjoyed reading about Mr. Collins ('Hitler' or 'Adolf' as I recall) - he was instrumental in getting me through A Levels and into Cambridge (along with Messrs Kenyon, Gosney, Henderson and Bennett).

"I once wrote to ANW Wilson, deputy head in my time, starting with 'You will not remember me but....' I received a lengthy, beautifully written and fascinating letter outlining his post-retirement exploits, starting with, in typical Wilson fashion, 'You are quite right - I do not remember you' - pretty devastating to a former head prefect who had many occasions to work with him in that role!

"One day I hope to be able to travel to an OC dinner reunion, though I may have to be fully retired first.

"A warm thank you to all of you who do such fine work on behalf of the association."

Extra-curricular prize

At a recent committee meeting of the OCA, the committee agreed that the OCA would like to sponsor a further College Prize to be given to a student, chosen by staff at the college, considered to have achieved exceptional performance in extra curricular activities. This is most likely to have been in sport, but could equally be in external contributions to the arts, charitable works or in public service.

The ladies' issue

We make no apologies for the rather feminine bias in this edition of the Newsletter. Despite the fact that 50 years or more ago it may have seemed inconceivable that the Collyer's alumni association would be writing of the achievements of ladies who were former pupils,

it seems that those who were among the first female sixth-formers have done very well for themselves, and for the College. And with a female Principal (something else that may bring about apoplectic attacks from the 'old guard' - but she is a truly top-rate principal) no doubt more of the fairer sex will be encouraged towards success in life.

One story about our newly-elevated peer, Baroness Parminter, that came out at an OCA committee meeting concerned her former campaigning status with the RSPCA, and whether it would be appropriate, or desirable, for her to 'take the ermine' (i.e. stoat fur). Fortunately the furriers who supply the Lords' formal attire have a 'non-ermine ermine' for such situations.

'The Apprentice' West Sussex style

Collyer's students reigned supreme at the Business Scene Challenge 2010, organised by West Sussex County Council. Collyer's took on rival colleges from across the region in a bid to promote their home town as a prime location for business. Each college delivered a convincing pitch to a team of industry experts, marketing their town as the number one location for business enterprise.

The Collyer's team, 'Find and Seek Location Services', clocked up points for: originality; effective marketing and clearly communicating Horsham's unique qualities as a centre of business excellence. The team comprised Sophia Pellatt, James Seear, Christopher Bryant, Heather Morton, Emma Brown and Natalie Menzies.

Bernard Walker of Cambridge was moved to write by Peter Shilson's hope in the Spring 2010 newsletter to 'stir up a bit more mud on the CCF and school ski trips to Switzerland'. Bernard recalls that Peter Sibley did accompany them on at least one trip, which he thinks was in the early 1960s. Dick Tidey went along too, and

Mr Brushev (? *could that be David Brooshooft?* - Ed). Bernard says he can see the three of them now, playing cards, in the railway carriage - Mr Brushev(?) being particularly adept at the particular game they were playing.

Collyer's principal at Downing Street



Jackie Johnston (far right) meets Gordon Brown

Dr Jackie Johnston was one of a number of leaders of the highest performing colleges in England who, shortly before the last general election, were invited to celebrate the institutions' achievements in Downing Street. The principals met with former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, as well as Lord Mandelson and ex-further education minister Kevin Brennan.

Gordon Brown said: "These colleges are among the very best and most improving in the country and I am hugely impressed by their commitment to helping people get the skills, the training, and inspiration to achieve their full potential. The Principals, staff and students should be very proud of their achievements, and I am delighted to celebrate their success here in Downing Street."

A Collyerian in the Lords

Congratulations to Kate Parminter, who has recently been appointed Baroness Parminter of Godalming, a Liberal Democrat working peer.

Kate was at Collyer's from 1980 to 1982, having been head girl at Millais. After Collyer's she read Theology at Lady Margaret Hall Oxford. She worked for Nestlé before progressing to senior roles at the RSPCA and serving as Chief Executive of the Campaign for Rural England between 1998 and 2004. Kate has also acted as adviser to the National Consumer Council and the 'Every Child A Reader' programme.

Horsham residents may remember Kate as a local councillor. Kate won a Horsham District Council seat for the Liberal Democrats in 1987, after a very hard-fought campaign, beating the long-serving councillor Arthur

Sheppard in the election. Kate served two terms as a councillor, retiring from the council when she moved away from Horsham. Her other political involvements have included working for the office of MP Simon Hughes, and membership of the National Federal Executive of the Liberal Democrats and the Liberal Democrat National Policy Review Group. Kate is married to Neil Sherlock, a partner at accountancy firm KPMG, who is also a Liberal Democrat adviser.

Those who remember Kate at Collyer's and afterwards will recall her as enthusiastic and positive, someone who always took delight in the success of her friends. It's certainly fitting therefore to celebrate Kate's success and to wish her well.

Nick Weller

Summer reunion 2010

This year our reunion was held at the RHS gardens, Wisley, on Sunday 13th June. The weather was nothing short of perfect in the fine tradition of the last few years and a very pleasant few hours were spent meandering amongst gardens and displays which makes one's own attempts look rather pathetic!

The recent completion of the imposing glass emporium proved to be of particular interest displaying many large exotic specimens in controlled climatic conditions. Furthermore, the leisurely exercise walking the extensive, undulating paths with variety at every turn was first class preparation for the traditional adjournment to a rather late lunch.

Our visit terminated with perhaps an inevitable visit to



Now where am I going to put this?

the plant shop where instant garden colour renewal was purchased in pots in a vain attempt to raise the standard of our own patches at home.

The location of the retirement and energy replacement hostelry this year was the pub by the canal at Wisley which, though extremely busy, provided a first class and relaxed meal, with dishes personally recommended from an unnamed participant who had obviously been there a few times before! The canal, lock and its narrow boats provided much interest whilst renewing bodily fluids lost in the heat of the day.

Time here was also well spent exchanging memories of Horsham and its people of old, not to mention those specific to Collyer's, the like and depth of which may sometimes only be discussed at such events.

We now look forward to next year's event and hope for continuing favourable weather.

Gary Jones

Let's make a giant snowball

In addition to the Annual Dinner and Summer Reunion, the committee of the association feels that there is scope for more frequent social gatherings for Old Collyerians still residing in the Horsham Area.

The meetings will be aimed at all Collyerians from both before and subsequent to the establishment of the Sixth Form College, irrespective of whether they are members of the association or not. Meetings are scheduled to take place in the upstairs room of Bar Vin, in Market Square, Horsham, from 8pm to 11pm on the first Tuesday of each month commencing on 1st February 2011.

At least two members of the OCA Committee will be on hand to greet fellow Old Collyerians and their partners, who will be equally welcome. We look forward to these regular social gatherings, which we hope will have a snowball effect as they grow in size as news spreads among our peers.

Paul Smith and Derek Sturt

Tony White's schooldays

Editor's note: This article was sent to us in the hope that the part about Collyer's may be of interest. However, the picture painted of the whole education system in the WW2 era will no doubt awaken memories so it is surely worth reproducing the whole article.

As this was a long time ago, some details may be rather vague. If so, the author apologises.

Primary Schools

We lived at 22, Acre Lane when I first went to Beddington school. Quite soon my father took on Brambledown Road in Wallington as a rented property. It was a large Victorian house with a big garden. From there I attended Bandon Hill school which necessitated a journey by trolley-bus.

Fairly soon the 2nd World War broke out, and my father decided to go back to his own house at Acre Lane and give up the tenancy of Brambledown Road. From Acre Lane I attended Bute Road Primary School.

At this time I became great friends with a Dudley Parsons, whose father was the Baptist Minister for Carshalton. I was persuaded to attend the Baptist Sunday School as a casual member. I walked to school each day with Dudley and just before we reached Bute Road, we took a path across allotments. We took our 11+ exam for Secondary School at this time. Dudley, who of course was well versed in hymn tunes, would sing "Nearer and nearer draws the time the time that shall surely be....." I would join in as the 11+ exam loomed.

Secondary education

As a result of this examination I was awarded a scholarship to Wallington County Secondary School for boys, a purpose built school with large playing fields with plenty of room for the underground air raid shelters at its edge.

At this time Dennis, my brother, was in the Lower vi or 6th year. He was very good at work and games and was often performing with distinction on the cricket or rugby pitch.

In the first year we had an examination each term and the whole year took the same exam. The results were out of about 100 pupils. Selection of forms was made from this list and the best 28 or so overall were put in what was called the special form which started Latin. No lower classes studied Latin so it was vital to be in the so-called special form. In the first exam I fairly easily made 1 Special. For the second exam my mathematics mark dragged me down and as a result I was thrown out of the special form. The special form jumped a year on its way to the then School Certificate.

I should say that my parents at that time paid four

guineas a term for Dennis to attend secondary school. At about this time school fees were abolished under the Butler Act and my scholarship was called a 'Special Place'.

The lack of Latin was very bad for me, as I very much wanted to study medicine, for which Latin at some level is an essential requirement. I was also forced to abandon any hope of starting an arts degree all of which require Latin. As my best subjects were English French and History, it was ironic that I had to study Maths for which I was ejected from the special form. For this reason I have always supported comprehensive education and opposed early selection.

Life at Collyer's School, Horsham

My parents decided to move out of their bomb damaged house and found a house called North Lawn in a rather ugly village called Broadbridge Heath, noted for the birth place of Shelley.

I had to attend Collyer's School Horsham, founded by an old Mercer's boy.

The school consisted of what seemed to me a small house-like school after the purpose built Wallington High. It smelled of a mixture of school dinner and polish.

When I first heard of the decision to move I was very upset and I can remember lots of tears on my part. As it happened it was to be a very good change for me. The school had a very severe but as it transpired, understanding and sensible Headmaster, P.A. Tharp MA DD. Collyer's was a place of real education in every way.

Especially I remember with gratitude Miss Margaret Young who was both my form and English teacher. In English lessons she organised debates, mock trials, and parliaments. This very much suited me and I remember how she coaxed even the most reticent boys to speak in public. In particular she persuaded me to join the dramatic society where she assisted Margery Lee who produced plays. Major school productions were once a year but the various one-act competitions took place throughout the year. I later met her sister Jenny Lee who lives in Rye.

Another wonderful teacher was A.A. Henderson who taught geography and organised many day outings and longer school expeditions at home and abroad. On one of these we travelled via Fort William to Portree in Skye. While in Skye, some of us had to have B&B in crofts. Ian Matheson recently reminded that we spent time in a croft where we were shown one bedroom in which there was only one bed. In those less politically correct days we happily settled on one end each and spent the night head to toe. AAH was a marvellously

patient man who never seemed to be cross. Ian and I treated members of staff who accompanied our walks, to our latest staff imitations. I seem to remember that Mr. Twytle was particularly attentive.

Among the day trips on Saturdays were the 'Britain Can Make It' exhibition, Portsmouth docks, HMS Victory, the Isle of Wight, and various day trips to London to Museums and Galleries.

The Head of French Mr Kenyon arranged exchange visits with our link school at Avranches, Normandy. I remember travelling alone to Avranches after one night in Paris with my uncle's agent. I stayed with the Besse family. Robert Besse who was my exchange later came to stay with us.

Due to my lack of Latin I was in the B form at Collyer's although in the 'A' group for English.

In school plays I remember 'The Zeal of Thy House' by DE Sayers, in which I had a small part as Father Martin.

In Henry IV Pt 1, I was Sir Walter Blunt (full of speed). I remember the discomfort of wearing a beard and also the artificial chain mail dusted with cocoa to make it look 'full of speed'.

In 'The Critic' I was Mr Sneer (very appropriate you may think).

In those days the school hall had no permanent stage. It was constructed during the weekend or at half term by a very competent group.

Bob Greenop who was the senior master at the time also taught chemistry. He had a wooden leg which he acquired in the First World War. He frequently regaled his sixth form with accounts of how exactly he had need for it with lots of lurid details. I can remember how he would call in any passing sixth former into his prep room to help him fit on the artificial limb. This necessitated many circuitous journeys to avoid his prep room door. Bob would often describe his stump ("...like a bit of old raw meat, boys").

All in all I loved Collyer's because although my athletic prowess was limited, I became editor of the school magazine, house captain, chairman of the geography club and a prominent member of the debating society. The latter was always chaired by the Head Master and compulsorily included all prefects.

As I spent too much time on my extra-curricular activities, my Higher School Certificate was not good enough and I had a third year in the sixth form where I

took subsidiary French in place of chemistry.

After school I had compulsory army service for two years, before starting at university.

While at Carshalton my father became friends with a Mr. Bettles who was an Alpine plant specialist. He was rather eccentric and fascinated me. He taught me nature craft which involved natural materials such as tree bark, cones nut shells and seeds. With these materials I made little scenes including birds nests, trees, moss etc. The resulting construction was painted in very bright colour schemes. At the festive season I attached calendar tabs to the trees. I obtained a regular contract to supply a high class florist in Sutton High Street. This shop used my models to make an effective and unusual display in his window. Customers were plentiful and we had long extended holidays due to the unpredictability of the German V1s. At the time there was lots of time for long excursions into the country to gather materials. Many times I was accompanied by a friend, Patrick Chewter. His father was very much into amateur operatics. Pat was very keen on rabbit keeping and breeding and soon got me involved. Due to war time shortages, rabbit was in great demand. I could gut and skin the rabbits and prepare them for the table but could never bring myself to kill them. For this reason, an executioner would call as needed. Thanks to bomb damage the rabbits lived in palatial quarters.

I have mentioned our neighbours in Carshalton. Three doors from us was a Scottish family, consisting of two boys, Johnny & Tommy, and a girl, Georgina, who was my almost constant companion when I was there. Our friendship was purely platonic as we were so young. Tommy was in the RAF and was shot down and killed in action. Johnny became an Army Major and was killed in Italy. It is strange that Dudley Parsons was the son of a Baptist Minister, and my friend at Rye has been Maureen Getley, daughter of a Baptist Minister. We were both interviewed at Rye on the same day.

When at Horsham a great friend of mine was Brian Masters. He became Bishop of Edmonton, and like all male members of his family, died young. His father was a dairy farmer who ran a milk round with his farm Channel Island milk. Milk was rationed at that time and I used to walk with our dog to get a quart of milk each night.

Tony White

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

Let's hear it for the girls

Those of us who came to Collyer's in the 1970s witnessed the gradual transformation of the school into the College we know today. One of the biggest changes was, of course, the admission of girls for the first time in well over 400 years as a 'boys only' establishment. For us their arrival brought a breath of fresh air to the place but what was it like to be one of the few back then? Here Jennifer Nadel - TV journalist and writer - recalls her time at Collyer's:

I'm not sure I knew what to expect when I became one of the first full intake of girls at Collyer's. There had been a handful of girls who bravely came the year before me in 1977. I could have joined that group but, full of adolescent self-consciousness, I chose to stay on at the High School for an extra year and do a secretarial course rather than face the prospect of being so outnumbered. Of course, when I did arrive I was still outnumbered, as the younger years were male only.

We girls obviously got a lot of attention. Not all of it positive. I can remember being informed that there was a weekly vote by the male prefects in the year above us, ranking us in order of desirability. We were regularly informed of our place in the order and which aspect of our appearance was letting us down.

However, we also got a sense of possibility. At the High School, which was in the process of becoming Tanbridge House, I'd had a careers advice session where I'd tentatively suggested that if everything went really well for me I'd like to become a secretary at the BBC. I was told not to be ridiculous, as every girl would want to do that. Instead I was told to think of working for Sun Alliance. Certainly the idea that I could have my own secretary rather than be a secretary was not one that was put to me. Being with boys whose aspirations were not limited by the expectations of their gender helped me to look and think further. Eventually, I did end up at the BBC and not as a secretary but a reporter, something that without Collyer's would have been beyond my wildest dreams.

But, I did have to come to accept that my gender did still bar me from certain activities. I remember being outraged that girls were not allowed to play rugby. 'Discrimination' I screamed and turned up on the playing fields in a rugby kit insisting that I be allowed to

play. I was turned away on the grounds of safety. Although outwardly outraged I was privately very relieved as I would have been terrified if my bluff had been called and I'd been invited to play.

Perhaps the biggest difference and the one that has had the most lasting impact on my life was the extraordinary focus amongst the boys on academic excellence and achievement. At my all-girls school the competition had largely centred around men and make-up. At Collyer's there was a wonderful sense of pride in things intellectual. I can remember being so relieved that it was OK to love reading and ideas and that talking about them wouldn't make me a 'swot'. I remember spending endless hours in the library with my friends out of joy and interest rather than necessity. I think I learnt more of lasting importance in the two years I was at Collyer's than in all the years that had gone before or came after. I still gain huge pleasure from literature thanks to the amazing English teaching. And, only last week took down my battered copy of the Four Quartets to introduce my sixteen-year-old son to T S Eliot. Knowing, as I did so, that I was passing on what Collyer's gave me to another generation and knowing that I would have missed out hugely if I hadn't taken the plunge and joined the boys."

Jennifer Nadel (1978-1980)

Another of the 'new girls' at Collyer's was Angela Hobbs who appeared on our TV screens earlier this year in the BBC 2 documentary 'Atlantis: The Evidence'. Now Professor Angie Hobbs, she lectures in philosophy at Warwick University and last year was appointed as the first ever UK 'Senior Fellow in the Public Understanding of Philosophy', charged with bringing philosophy to as wide an audience as possible in Britain and beyond. A regular contributor to radio programmes, including numerous appearances on Melvyn Bragg's BBC Radio 4 show 'In Our Time', she has also written a number of books and is currently working on a new translation and commentary on Plato's 'Symposium', as well as a book on heroism, courage and fame.

Angela Hunter Hobbs (born 1961, Sussex) is a British philosopher. Hobbs is a Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Warwick, and was previously a Research

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.

Fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge. She has a First Class Honours Degree in Classics acquired at New Hall, Cambridge and a PhD in Classical Philosophy from the University of Cambridge. She is a specialist in Platonic ethics and moral psychology concerned with value conflicts, and whether it is possible or desirable to resolve them. Her research interest is in ethics, and her research has focused on Platonic ethics and moral psychology, and their foundations in his metaphysics. She is currently working on a translation of Plato's Symposium with a commentary for Oxford University Press.

She is a frequent contributor to radio programmes in the UK, including numerous appearances on the BBC Radio 4 programme *In Our Time* hosted by Melvyn Bragg. Hobbs has also appeared on BBC Radio 3's *Night Waves* and the BBC World Services' *The Forum*. Her contributions to this latter programme usually concerns classical thought on a given subject which has inter-related literary and scientific levels: Plato on Love,

Parmenides on Time etc.

On October 6 2009 The University of Warwick announced that they had appointed her to be the first ever UK 'Senior Fellow in the Public Understanding of Philosophy', charged with bringing philosophy to as wide an audience as possible in Britain and beyond.

On another, but Collyer's related, matter, I was watching a television documentary on the history of Atlantis recently (a perfectly serious, academic and respectable documentary - not on Five!) when who should suddenly pop up as a commentator but flame-haired Angela Hobbs (except she was referred to as Professor 'Angie' Hobbs). I think she was in the year above us at Collyer's - I always remember how she was expected to go far, and it looks like she has! I believe she is still based at Warwick University, and she appears to have quite a few publications under her belt.

Mark Collins

A meeting to launch the Old Collyerians' Association

In its issue of Saturday 16 December 1922 the *West Sussex County Times* reported on a meeting that had taken place the previous Saturday, to lay the foundations for what we know today as the Old Collyerians' Association. The moving force behind the idea was the Rev W.M. Peacock, headmaster at the time and a man who had done much to inject new ideas into the old grammar school (for example the establishment of a house system). He was ably backed up by the Second Master, Mr R. Robinson.

About 100 old boys came to a late afternoon meeting, from Horsham, London and the home counties, to establish the principles of such an association - so the idea was clearly a popular one. Before they got down to some hard work an afternoon football match was played between the boys and the old boys, which, in a free-scoring contest, the latter won 6-4. Among the old boys was right back R.M. Tanner, who had come down especially from St John's College Cambridge to take part.

Tea then followed, courtesy of Rev and Mrs Peacock, and then they all got down to the serious business of establishing the rules of the new association, its committee members, and - most importantly - what it should be called. Peacock chaired the meeting, and it was regretted that R.C. Knight, another main mover and currently Guildford town clerk, had not been able to attend.

It was agreed that the purpose of the association was 'to keep alive amongst Old Collyerians an interest in the welfare of Horsham Grammar School and to promote

social intercourse and sports among its members', and that subscriptions should be five shillings for annual membership and two guineas for life membership. The colours should be dark blue, light blue and gold.

There were two main candidates for President, Rev Wallace Elliott and A.J. Woolgar. Both were interesting men. Elliott was from a local shop keeping family who rose to become a national figure and popular BBC religious broadcaster. Woolgar had been at the school when it was based in Denne Road and later was a Collyer's master (from 1897 - 1907) and then head of a large boys' school in London.

In the event Woolgar got the most votes and Elliott became vice president. David Bryce was made honorary treasurer and it was thought necessary to appoint no less than three honorary secretaries: R.C. Knight (general), T L Lane (local) and R Robinson (school). Further committee members were Messrs Blackman, Blakiston, Eager, Greenop, Hecks, King, Rowland and Stedman.

And so to the knotty problem of what the Association should be called. There were a number of proposals: the Old Collyer's, the Old Grammarians and the Old Collyerians (this from Woolgar). It was generally thought to be a good idea to incorporate the name of the school's founder into the title, and Woolgar - clearly a man of some judgement - thought the first name might suggest a group of 'ancient coal miners.'

And so the Old Collyerians' Association it was, and 88 years on, it still remains.

Brian Slyfield

Frank Whitbourn remembers

Frank Whitbourn retired 30 years ago, having taught at Collyer's between 1961 and 1980. For 12 of those years, Frank produced the school play. He gave an interview to the 1973 edition of 'The Collyerian' when he stepped down as producer; the piece is reprinted below. The interview includes detailed recollections of the plays he directed and hopefully it will bring back memories for others who were involved or who saw the productions

Nick Weller

Drama on record - a dialogue

Persons represented:

X - a Collyerian reporter

FW - a retiring play director

X Is it really true, Mr W, that you are not directing the next Collyer's play

FW It is. I have directed twelve of them, each one, I like to think, offering something new, extending the actors and their audience. One more might be tempting providence

X The productions have been very successful?

FW The local press has not always thought so, but I don't believe all I read in the papers.

X Looking back over the years, what do you think has been achieved?

FW Continuous and progressive experimentation in the possibilities of school drama; of the relation of freedom and discipline in school life generally as well as in artistic activity; of personal relationships, and of commitment to the belief that only the best is good enough. It has all been tremendous fun.

X What was your first play?

FW *Twelfth Night* in 1961 in the Old Hall, which is now the library. It went quite well, largely thanks to the efforts of Mr Rees, then Head of Maths, Mr Routley and Mr Pointer, who understood how to assemble the miscellaneous pile of lumber and electrical gear which at that time constituted the Collyer's stage. I regarded it as a formidable fire trap. They repeated the exercise in reconstruction in 1962 for *The Rivals* after which the whole bizarre contraption disintegrated, mercifully without any noticeable loss of lie. The 1963 play, André Obey's *Noah*, was held over until the Spring term of 1964 by which time the Duckering Hall had been opened.

X You must have been glad of that.

FW I was, but it proved a mixed blessing. There is no access to the stage from the right hand side, wing space is minimal and mostly occupied by two very grand pianos. The floor of the hall resounds like a bass drum at the drop of an aspirate, and requires to be polished almost continuously. The acoustics are difficult too.

X You must have been disappointed

FW I was. I was beginning to have a recurrent nightmare of Julius Caesar being struck down by a soft

pedal while he declaimed *Et tu Brute* to a floor polisher continuo.

X Your next play was *Julius Caesar*?

FW Yes, to celebrate the Shakespeare quarter-centenary. We overcame the limitations imposed by the proscenium by using an apron stage devised and built by Mr Lawrence. Thanks to the success of the Chichester Festival Theatre, this sort of presentation was in fashion again after a lapse of centuries. The action of the play took place all round the hall, and members of the audience often found themselves unexpectedly caught up in it, especially if they came late. Murray Morison made a remarkable Cassius in this production, and Dick Budgen began his career as an organiser of stage fights. So this was the beginning of his company 'Action Incorporated'.

X What next?

FW 1965 and *Hamlet*, to welcome Mr Slynn, who has been a completely unmixed blessing to the play. Murray Morison played the Prince, and received serious offers from London theatrical agents, but sensibly turned them down to proceed with his A levels. More innovations too. We felt that transvestism was no longer tolerable, so we invited girls from the High School and Forest to join us, which they did. We also began the practice of Sunday afternoon rehearsals in addition to those held after school hours three evenings a week. This allowed us to work in greater depth and to improve technique.

X Did innovation stop there?

FW Certainly not. In school drama, as in every other activity, you cannot stand still. 'Change' as the immortal Wodehouse might say 'is of the essence.' We attempted another modern play: *A Man for All Seasons*.

X Why had you done so many classics?

FW Chiefly because they provide more parts than contemporary plays. They generally require the use of costume too, and this allows boys to impersonate grown men more convincingly; and no royalties are payable on them.

X A matter of cutting your coat according to your cloth?

FW Sometimes literally. In our next two productions, for instance, Marlowe's *Faustus '67* (which we largely improvised) and *King Lear*, we made a virtue of necessity by presenting the boys as themselves, in their own clothes, donning token period dress, or something like it, of the characters they were to

portray. On this account Mrs Davies first took a hand in our preparations, as a designer and stitcher-upper.

X Did the experiment succeed?

FW Some people hated it, others loved it. I found it theatrically very rewarding. The contrast between the youth of the actor and the age of the character he was representing, seemed to me to give it a new, poignant, dimension, though perhaps one has to be middle aged to feel it. David Pearmain's production as Marlowe/Faustus and as Lear I shall never forget, and nowadays I can forget practically anything.

X Were there any other advantages?

FW The device allowed us to extend the age range of the company. It was possible to include third formers with fifth and sixth formers, without any disturbing discrepancy.

X So more people became involved in the play.

FW Indeed. I have always felt that a school play should involve as many members of the school, staff and boys as possible. I hate cliques. And it's good box office!

X But staff had always helped back stage, hadn't they?

FW On certainly. But now we tried to put them on stage as well.

X You mean Mrs Davies?

FW How did you guess? After she had become involved with the costumes for Faustus and Lear, I managed to persuade her to tackle drama as an integral part of her English classes in the lower school. This succeeded splendidly, and thereafter we were able to draw upon a pool of developing actors who had a sound idea of what drama was all about, of the demands it makes and the disciplines it imposes if it is to be really enjoyable. Thanks to Mrs Davies we were able to recruit an uninhibited band of Indians for the *Royal Hunt of the Sun* in 1969, in which Gordon Rennison gave a magnificent portrayal of General Pizzaro. Then she had her hair cut.

X Who?

FW Mrs Davies. She came into the staff room one day with a new hair style, looking just like Joan of Arc. I

immediately decided that the play for 1970 should be Shaw's *St Joan*, if Mrs Davies would undertake it. (I have often chosen a play at Collyer's, as elsewhere, just because I have suddenly seen the possibility of a particular player in a part). She agreed, and the hunch paid off: she gave a portrayal that was first rate by any standards. Actually this wasn't an innovation, but a return to a lost tradition. In the days of PAT, Mrs Tharp used to sing the contralto roles in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas at Collyer's; but the motivation may have been different.

X And then Mrs Davies played Lady Macbeth. I remember that.

FW And don't you ever forget it - nor Rod Mengham's Macbeth either. They were a terrific team. I think that production afforded me more satisfaction than any I have done anywhere - which perhaps was one reason for my deciding to bow myself out, a course that became practicable in 1972 when Mike Lapage joined the staff, having worked with the National Youth Theatre some years previously. To see what he could do, I cunningly devised a form of entertainment called *The Green Knight*, in which he and Mrs Davies, as producers, shared the greater part of the burden, with my old friend, Brian Strange, whom, many years ago, I cajoled into stage lighting because he hadn't anything to do in his spare time and wanted a hobby. Good old Brian! He doesn't have any spare time any more, and what the Collyer's play would have been like without him for the last six years or so, I tremble to think. It owes a good deal also to other members of Horsham's Theatre 48 too, as well as to many of my colleagues, the administrative and domestic staff, parents...

X Mr W you are trying to seem modest as well as retiring! Admit now, don't you think of yourself as 'God's gift to the theatre' as they say, and to the Collyer's play in particular?

FW (after a moment of terrible suspense) No I don't. But I do think that Collyer's play has been God's gift to me.

X That sounds like an old-fashioned exit line.

FW It is. Goodbye!

Menu for winter reunion dinner

to be held at the College of Richard Collyer on 20 November 2010, 6.30 for 7.00pm

(ticket application with this newsletter)

Mixed Melon balls in Port

Roll and butter

Poached Scotch Salmon with Cucumber and Dill sauce

New Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Individual Lemon Meringue Pie

Cheese Plate and Biscuits

Filter Coffee and Mints

A tax man remembers...

Malcolm Papes (1955-1962) recently exchanged correspondence with our Hon Secretary, telling us that he has now retired from his position as HM Inspector of Taxes, and we are pleased to reproduce his memories below. He suggests that his former job may not be the most popular in some quarters; but he found that a combination of law and investigation work was an interesting enough profession, and but for the Official Secrets Act, would be able to relate his fund of stories about the antics of a proportion of the rich and famous.

How lucky those of us born in the 1940s have turned out to be. A good and free education at Collyer's, a university education with grants, and without starting working life burdened with debt. Many, although I appreciate not all of us, retired with a final salary pension, and even had our free bus pass at 60. I don't envy young people today.

It is ironic, is it not, that when Duckering left his famous bequest to the school in the late 1950s, the intention of his legacy was to provide funds to enable boys from less well-off families to go to university before the time of grants. However, when he died, the post-war government had established the system whereby such higher education was free to such boys (I was one such myself coming from a single parent family). At the time, the school had to argue in the courts that Duckering's will was intended for the good of the school, and that there no longer being need for this funding, it should be diverted to the building programme which benefited the school greatly. Yet here we are 50 years later, governments have come and gone, and once again, the original purpose of the

bequest would have been of exceeding benefit to a proportion of Collyerians today. What goes around, comes around, as they say.

I was vaguely aware of our current Secretary as a prefect at Collyer's, but knew his younger brother better, and it would be interesting to know how he has fared. He was a year younger than me, and I knew him through his best friend John(?) Stone, who lived near me in Pulborough and was, like me, a member of Weald house.

Even in those days, the younger Barnard reminded me of the 'Just William' character. He was a bit scruffy, alert, and always into, or at least on the margins of, whatever was going on. No doubt he became a very upright businessman and pillar of the community; such types often do.

Although not a great fan of Friends Reunited, I have looked at it from time to time, and there are certainly entries from old boys of my generation who have not chosen to join the OCA. I always held back on the basis that many years have flowed by, live shave gone so many different ways, and one would certainly be left with little but the '...do you remember the time when old so-and-so...' carefully missing out the embarrassing bits.

Peter Shilson mentioned in the Spring newsletter the list of famous alumni. Maybe it is perverse of me, but I wonder how many OCs turned out the other way, and perhaps have done a stint 'inside'? Perhaps there should be a 'List of Infamy'.

I wonder if anyone has ever thought of updating A.N. Wilson's excellent history of the school?

Malcolm Papes

News from the College

Collyer's students once again recorded exceptional 'A' level results, with passes in 99% of the examinations sat, with A/B grade passes up to 56% compared with 51% last year. These results were better than expected, and in the introductory year of the A* classification, passes at this level were in line with the national average. Worthy of particular mention is the exceptional 100% Electronics pass rate including over 90% A's and B's. The greatest improvement was in Theatre Studies, where the A/B pass rate improved from 6% last year to 66% this year. Also noteworthy were A/B pass rates of 68% for Dance, 70% for Chemistry and 70% for Government and Politics with far higher than average A*s.

Students re-sitting GCSE English achieved an 87% A-C pass rate and there was also a very high pass rate in the NVQ Childcare Diploma Course.



Successful A-level students

M e m b e r s h i p

**Due to data protection restrictions,
membership data is available to OCA members only.**

**Join the OCA
to receive the full version of the newsletter,
plus regular membership lists**

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



The Old Collyerians' Association

**The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Old Collyerians' Association will be held at
THE COLLEGE OF RICHARD COLLYER IN HORSHAM
on SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2010 at 4.00pm
in the Memorial Hall.**

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2009.
2. Matters arising
3. Apologies for absence
4. Secretary's annual report
5. Treasurer's report
- 5a. Increase in Subscription rates.
It is proposed that the following increase in subscription rates should take immediate effect for all new members:

Annual membership	£5
Longterm membership	£50
Life membership	£75
6. Election of Officers and Committee as under:

 - President
 - Senior Vice-President (to serve 1 year)
 - Junior Vice-President (to serve 2 years)
 - Honorary Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Honorary Social Secretary
 - Honorary Membership Secretary
 - Five Old Collyerians to serve on the committee
 - Three past Presidents to serve on the committee
 - Honorary Examiner
 - Trustee (to serve for three years) – R.A. Allen – retiring member
7. Any other business



The Old Collyerians' Association

Winter Reunion Dinner 2010

Ticket application form

The annual Winter Reunion will be held at the College of Richard Collyer on Saturday 21st November at 6.30pm for 7pm, bar open from 5.30pm. We hope that you will join us. Please feel welcome to bring your partner or other guest(s). Tickets are £25.00 per person.

To secure your tickets, please print out and complete the form below, and return as soon as possible with the correct remittance to:

Clive Barham,
Hon Treasurer OCA
18 Hill Mead,
Horsham,
West Sussex
RH12 2PU.

Please note that postal applications must include a cheque or postal order and a SAE.

You will help us considerably if you apply without delay. In any event, applications should reach the Hon Treasurer no later than 13th November. We regret that we will not be able to consider requests for tickets after that date, neither will we be able to reserve places for which payment has not been made. If your tickets have not been received by 17th November, please phone the Treasurer on 01403 262124 or e-mail clive.barham@tiscali.co.uk.



The Old Collyerians' Association

Please send me tickets @ £25.00 for the 2010 Reunion Dinner

Names of guests

I enclose a total of

£

and a SAE

Cheques to be made payable to
the Old Collyerians Association

Name and address

Years at Collyer's

19

to 19

Please indicate below if you or any guests would like a vegetarian meal, and if you wish to be seated with a particular person in addition to your guest(s).

BEFORE RETURNING THE FORM TO THE TREASURER, PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE ENCLOSED A SAE AND THE APPROPRIATE REMITTANCE. THANK YOU.