



# The Old Collyerians' Association

Spring 2007

## President's message

I would like to say first of all that I am sure you all appreciate the value of the OCA or you would not be members. I look forward to seeing a large number of you at the Summer Reunion and the Dinner in the Autumn. Your committee has put in a lot of good work aimed at recruiting leavers from the college and I am particularly keen also on encouraging recruitment from Old Collyerians who did not join at their school or college leaving age as well as encouraging

rejoining at later stages in Old Collyerians lives. I myself returned as a prodigal son in quite recent times and can testify to the warm welcome received.

Finally I can also testify to having now enjoyed many reunions and unexpected meetings-up in the last few years, and do not forget that both reunions are open to Old Collyerians who may still be friends but who are not members, as well as guests in general.

*Paul Smith  
(1951 - 58)*

## Contact us (e-mail is the preferred method)

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### Committee Members:

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Brian Sturt, Brian Slyfield

From the College: Jackie Johnston, Tom Bayes

## Winter reunion and AGM

The 2006 Annual General Meeting took place at 4 pm on Saturday 18th November, followed by the Winter Reunion Dinner. As ever, the latter was an excellent occasion, well attended and with plenty of good company. It was encouraging to see a number of younger faces in the gathering, and among the toasts, Tom Bayes and Khadifa Vohra (Chair and Vice-Chair of the College Council) proposed the Old Collyerians' Association.

Peter Ticehurst presided over events in his usual inimitable style, and other speakers were Brian Slyfield, who proposed the toast to Collyer's, and the Principal, Dr Jackie Johnston, who responded. The dinner marked the annual change over of President, and Paul Smith, who succeeded Mark Collins, was welcomed by the gathering.

An important part of the evening's ritual was the

celebration of membership of one or more sometimes arcane Collyers' groups, and drinking the health of fellow members. The list was daunting, and multiple toasts and frequently raised glasses seemed to be the order of the night. Guests looked on in some bemusement – but remained tolerant throughout.

The formal part of the proceedings concluded with a hearty rendition of the School song, which was successfully achieved without instrumental accompaniment; there were some good voices there on the night.

What Richard Collyer would have made of it all one can only guess, but he would surely have approved of the wines on offer, which - as ever - were of fine quality and reasonable price.

A good time was had by all - and if you missed it, try not to in 2007!

*Brian Slyfield*

UPDATED

OCA WEB SITE

[www.oldcollyerians.org.uk](http://www.oldcollyerians.org.uk)

The Association is currently in the process of updating its Web Site, under the expert care of Gary Jones, making it more comprehensive and user-friendly.

There is a particular need for ideas that will attract recent College leavers.

If you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to communicate them to the Hon Secretary.



## OCA Student prize fund

Following on from the successful launch of the Simon Nye Prize, your Committee believe that the Association should launch a new fund that will be capable of supporting the provision of further prizes for students of the College.

In the days when most of the current members of the OCA were students at Collyers', although a struggle, the majority of students wishing to go on to further education, either at university or college, were able to finance their studies through grants and some additional part time work. Except where parents who were deemed capable, but failed to support their children, it was rare

for students to really struggle to support themselves, and even rarer for them to be in serious debt on completion of their studies. Nowadays, major debt is a fact of life, with many students having debts of £10,000 or more at the end of a three year course. The Committee believe that the OCA should help to offset the debts of more students, through the provision of a prize fund. This fund should be aimed at providing prizes to a wider range of students, who do not necessarily aspire to the academic heights achieved by those at present being awarded the majority of current prizes. Winning students should be chosen, perhaps for individual

specialisations, exceptional achievement, above that which might have been expected from them, and also in some of the more recent curriculum subjects, such as sports or computer science. We would wish to be generating some funds in order to start expanding the number of prizes, that the Association are providing, by the end of this academic year, and we hope that some of you may be prepared to make an immediate donation so that we are able to do this.

However, the real purpose of this article, in addition to fund raising, is to seek ideas from our members as to how best we can generate a significant fund for this purpose, and to get some idea as to how much money we might expect to raise on a regular basis. Should we look to more of our illustrious past students, like Simon Nye, to allow their name to be attached to a specific prize? We have ideas on some Old Collyerians whom we might approach, but would welcome other suggestions. There might be some donors who would be prepared to fund a prize. Subject

to a satisfactory response, it is intended that a new trust fund will be established, so that we may take full advantage of charitable status and claim gift aid.

Initially, therefore, if you have any ideas, please communicate them to the Hon General Secretary either by e-mail or post. Additionally, without any obligation, please indicate whether you would be prepared to make regular donations (monthly or annually) and/or a one-off donation, to get us under way, giving an indication of the level of donation you might be prepared to make. Once we have received a reasonable number of responses, we shall reply to you all, giving you an idea of the size of the initial fund that can be established and any further ideas that we may have established as to how the fund will be distributed. Only then will we ask you to commit yourselves to contributing, when we send out donation and standing order forms for you to complete.

*AB*

## J o t t i n g s

At the first committee meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the incoming president, Paul Smith, was elected chairman for the year. Tom Bayes, Chair of the Student Council, and Gary Jones (webmaster) were welcomed to the meeting by the outgoing president, Mark Collins. Both were seconded to membership of the committee.

The secretary reports that he has received communications from Colin Stockford, thanking us for such quality newsletters and apologising for not being able to receive them by e-mail and enclosing a cheque for £20 as he fears that the funds provided by his life membership must have run out long ago. Also from Paul Baker, advising of an impending permanent move to Australia, and from Alan Partridge, with an address for his brother Jim, following a request in a previous newsletter.

Ray Cook has advised us of his recent retirement and provided some snippets, which are included in this newsletter.

The treasurer received the following information on Jack Reece, from his father: 'Mr Jack Reece BVSc BSc MRCVS of Hastings, East Sussex, is the winner of the first Trevor Blackburn Award in recognition of his contribution in the field of animal health and welfare in a developing country. The award was announced at the British Veterinary Association's annual congress in London.

'Mr Reece has spent much of his career in Jaipur, in India, serving as a veterinary officer with the charity "Help in Suffering" which is concerned with street dogs and methods of animal population regulation. His responsibilities include the control of rabies in dogs and he has provided training in Nepal and Goa as well as producing regular articles for his colleagues in the UK.

'A spokesman for the BVA said: "In all that he has done he has contributed greatly to animal health and welfare. In accounts of his work Jack's empathy with ordinary people and his concern for the well-being of both animals and humans shines through strongly."

# The Simon Nye prize for creative writing

The Association is pleased to announce that Old Collyerian Simon Nye, best known for writing the television scripts for the series *Men Behaving Badly*, recently agreed to the use of his name for a prize to be presented to a student of the College of Richard Collyer. The prize is to be presented annually to the student presenting a piece of creative writing. Towards the end of the last summer term, students were invited to submit a piece in a format of their choice and on any subject. This could have been an essay, a short story, play, script, poem/s - in fact any recognised format.

In 2006 there were only a few entries, and Simon agreed to judge them all and to present the prizes at the college prizegiving in December. In future years, it is anticipated that there will be a larger uptake on the competition and then the best entries will be chosen by a panel of tutors, with Simon making the final decision on the winner. The prize for 2006 was won by Polly Allen with her short story entitled *Parasites*, about an artistic group in the West Country, sponsored by a rich mediocre artist. For this year only, a runner up prize was presented to Alison

Stone for her perceptive short story about an aged relative (not hers) in the developing stages of senile dementia. These stories will be published on the new OCA web site, when it is launched shortly.

At the prize-giving, which was held in the Duckering Hall on 19th December 2006, the OCA was represented by the immediate past president, Mark Collins and by the hon secretary, Anthony Barnard. Both were most impressed by the glowing, and well deserved eulogies to each of the prize winners, which were written and given by the tutors. The standard of achievement of the prizewinners was exceptional, with several of them having achieved four or more A-grade passes at A level. Two IT students were in the top five passes in the country, and although not recognised at the prize giving, two of the evening class language students achieved passes in the top ten in their subject in the country. Mrs Rosemary Cowley, Chair of the college governors, thanked the OCA, and Simon Nye for presenting the new prize.

AB



The winner and runner up, with Simon Nye (left) and Mark Collins (right)

# New treasurer required

I shall be stepping down as Treasurer at the 2007 annual general meeting and the Association therefore will need a volunteer to take over.

## Details of the role

The accounting knowledge required does not stretch much beyond basic bookkeeping; membership of an accountancy body is not necessary. There are six committee meetings a year. However a lot of the Treasurer's work is, or can be, done by post, so if you would have difficulty attending committee meetings in Horsham, don't let that put you off. The majority of the Treasurer's work is done in the September-November period of the year; outside these months the time commitment required is small. The main things the Treasurer has to do are described below.

## Accounts

Soon after the 31 August year-end the accounts need to be prepared for independent examination. This generally takes between half a day and a full day. The accounts consist of a balance sheet and income and expenditure account, together with supporting schedules detailing income and expenditure. A report on the major figures in the accounts is also needed for the annual general meeting. The accounts, supporting schedules and reports from previous years are on computer; there shouldn't be any problem accommodating the paper records the Treasurer needs to retain.

## Winter reunion

The other main responsibility of the Treasurer is to play an important role in organising the Winter Reunion. The Treasurer attends the Reunion planning committee meeting and decides on the ticket price, based on predicted costs and numbers. The Treasurer receives and records applications to attend the dinner and ticket monies, and despatches tickets. The Treasurer also prepares the seating plan (again previous years are on computer). On the night the Treasurer pays the bar manager and caterer and collects the raffle money.

## Other roles

The Treasurer is also responsible for collecting monies for tickets for the Summer Reunion, depending on where it's held. The Treasurer needs to keep investments under review to see that they are yielding good returns. The Treasurer also carries out a regular inventory of Association fixed assets, seeking confirmation from those who hold them. Apart from expenditure connected with the Winter Reunion, there are normally no more than a dozen other payments that have to be made each year.

Becoming Treasurer offers the chance to play a necessary and important role in the Association's governance. If you are interested please contact me or any member of the committee.

*Nick Weller*

# The guild of Mercers' Scholars

**T**he Guild of Mercers' Scholars (formerly the Civic Guild of Old Mercers) is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. It therefore seems an opportune moment to remind Old Collyerians of the background and purpose of this Guild, membership of which is open to all Old Collyerians (and indeed, via the apprenticeship scheme, to those currently at college).

I joined the Guild in March 1985. As I write this article I am some eight months through a

year in which I am greatly enjoying serving as the Master of the Guild. In fact, I am the fourth Old Collyerian to serve as Master, my OC predecessors being Lawrence Windwood, Dick Beckwith and David Griffiths.

The astute amongst you will have worked out that the Guild originated in 1947. It was founded by former pupils of Mercers' School (the School run by the Mercers' Livery Company) who were active in various livery companies of the City of London: they wanted to encourage

other former pupils to develop similar interests and involvement in the history and traditions of the city. All guild members are required to acquire the Freedom of the City of London and the Guild assists with this process. (I currently have two apprentices, both former pupils at Dauntsey's School, who have been formally apprenticed to me at the Chamberlain's Court in the City of London to become Freemen of the City.)

The Guild is presided over by a Court which is constituted along similar lines to those of the Livery Companies. Hence the principal officers of the Guild, who hold office for one year, are the Master, the Renter Warden and the Junior Warden. They are assisted by a number of Court Assistants and, especially, by the Clerk and Assistant Clerks. In addition, all Past Masters of the Guild retain their membership of the Court.

The Guild has evolved over the years. Most significantly, consequent upon the closure of Mercers' School in 1959, the Guild now also recruits members from other schools associated with the Mercers' Livery Company. As well as Collyer's, the Mercers' Association of Schools includes, amongst others: Abingdon School (re-endowed 1553 in Oxfordshire); Dauntsey's School (founded 1542 in West Lavington, Wiltshire); St. Paul's School (1509, London); St. Paul's Girls' School (1904, London); Peter Symonds' Sixth Form College (1897, Winchester - consequent upon a benefaction of 1607); Thomas Telford City Technology College (Telford, 1991) and Walsall Academy (2003).

The principal objectives of the Guild today are:

- to bring together former members of the Mercers' Association of Schools who have an interest in the City of London.
- to assist Guild members to enter the Livery Companies of their choice.
- through its Apprentice scheme, to enable young people from the Mercers' Association of Schools to enter into the Freedom of the City of London preparatory to joining the Guild.
- to support educational activities related to the City of London, both by the organisation of

events and through the Guild's own charitable trust.

As well as the annual Installation Dinner, the Guild arranges a programme of social events and outings, mainly in and around London. My Installation Dinner was held on 1st June 2006 at the Headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company in City Road. Subsequently the Guild has made trips to Denbies Vineyard near Dorking (an idea shared with the OCA!) coupled with a barbecue, and to Spencer House coupled with lunch at the Oxford & Cambridge Club in Pall Mall. We also arranged a 'City Visit' for a group of our Apprentices. We are shortly to visit the Cabinet War Rooms/Churchill Museum and, in May, that fascinating institution, founded in 1611 - the Charterhouse. A particular delight is the range of ages represented by those who are active in the Guild: at the dinner last year I believe the ages ranged from 17 to 92! We are celebrating our 60th Anniversary with our 2007 Installation Dinner at Mercers' Hall on 21st June.

Personally, I have developed my interests in the City by, last year, becoming a Liveryman of the Guild of International Bankers - one of the most recent of the Livery Companies (number 106). I was also very pleased to join the VSO float in last year's Lord Mayor's Show on 11th November - an unforgettable experience!

Membership of the Guild provides a highly enjoyable way to learn more about and to participate in the City of London heritage that we all share as "scholars" of the various Mercers' Associated Schools. I can thoroughly recommend it!

If you would like more information about the Guild, and how to join, please contact the Guild's Collyerian Court Assistant, and Hon. Secretary to the OCA, Anthony Barnard (see contact details at the front of this newsletter) or, of course, myself (Tel: 020 8467 5217, E-mail [RobertTravSmith@AOL.com](mailto:RobertTravSmith@AOL.com)).

*Bob Smith.*

*(Collyer's 1970-77, Master of the Guild of Mercers' Scholars and ex President of OCA)*

**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](mailto:barnardak@blueyonder.co.uk)**

# Cecil J Cramp

We were most sorry to hear of the death of Cecil Cramp, who passed away on 16 February, aged 91. Cecil, who attended Collyers' from 1926-1933, was a well known figure in Horsham, and was often to be seen in his later years riding about the place on his bicycle. He was famous for his extensive collection of local postcards and other material recording Horsham's past history, and was a mine of information about the home town that he loved so much.

The Cramps had been a leading Horsham family since Victorian times. Cecil's father was

Walter, and his grandfather, Jury Cramp (son of 'the teetotal poet'), founded the well known jewellery and optical business of that name in 1872. Its West Street shop, established a little later in 1878 and remembered by many Old Collyerians, finally closed its doors in 1985.

Through his collection Cecil has left the town a great and valuable legacy, and in due course it will be able to be consulted at Horsham Museum.

*Brian Slyfield*

## Dusting off the cobwebs

After a number of years we have decided that it is about time we took down the existing Old Collyerians Association web site, dusted off the cobwebs, dressed it up in new clothes and re-launched it into the 21st Century. Thank you to Bill Thomson, our former webmaster, for seeing the web site through its formative years, but with increased copy space in the newsletter, we think that you will have enough to do. Welcome to Gary Jones (retired from 'Big Blue', 'It's B..... Marvellous' or IBM, whichever takes your fancy), who also designs and runs a number of web sites for business clients, who has agreed to take over as webmaster. Gary is currently burning the midnight oil to get the new site up and running as soon as possible. He is not intending to change more of the content than is necessary, but with the ever increasing speed of computers and the introduction of broadband, it is possible to transmit far more information in a much shorter time, and therefore it is possible to make greater use of full colour and hence produce far more exciting and attractive layouts that encourage visitors to explore more of the site. We also wish to make the site comparable with linked sites such as those of the College, the Guild of Mercers' Scholars, the Mercers' Company and Gresham College.

It is planned that the site should contain much more information, which is of interest to members both young and old, but we believe that it is particularly important that we include

information about current activities at the college and the universities, which will attract the most recent leavers.

This would include:

- Up to date information on examination results;
- Scholarships to places of higher learning,
- The latest sporting achievements of the various College teams;
- Details of upcoming drama, musical, sports and other activities which members might wish to attend;
- College rag activities and charities supported;
- Development of college infrastructure; and
- News, provided by Old Collyerians, of their and peer activities at the universities and colleges.

Some of this may duplicate items in the newsletter, but whereas the newsletter is published biannually, the web site will be kept up to date more regularly and would therefore become the major source of advanced notice for upcoming events.

Other ideas include:

- The inclusion of all available school/college photos on view on the web and available for purchase at a nominal charge;
- A prominent Collyerians feature giving a brief biography;
- Back numbers of the newsletter;
- Annual diary of events;
- Web links to the Mercers' Company, Gresham College, the Guild of Mercers' Scholars, and the College;

- Up to date address lists of members and contact details that they agree to publication; and
- Other items of interest.

But the Committee believe that the most significant addition to the web site, will be a 'Members Only' contact facility that will enable all members to communicate with other Old Collyerians. This should be of particular interest to the most recent college students as they become dispersed and are at risk of losing contact. This will enable contact between individuals, peer groups and even whole years if they wish to arrange re-unions, providing a facility similar to that operated by *Friends Reunited*, but at no additional cost, other than the annual membership fee of £2. It intended that this facility should be made as secure as possible, with initial contacts being made through the facility, until such time as all parties agree to the release of their individual e-mail addresses. No

addresses will be accessible or available for download directly from the web site without the express permission of the member. Later on we hope to be able to provide a mentoring forum for students and undergraduate members through which they would be able to access members who have expert knowledge of specific career paths and are prepared to give a small amount of time to Collyerians seeking career and career development advice.

The above changes are far from being set in stone and we would welcome any ideas that you may be interested in personally or that you believe may be of interest to other members. We are 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 at his E-mail address.

AB

## Letter - from R.F. Cook (1961 - 68)

I always enjoy reading the newsletter and keep meaning to come to the Winter 'do'. Unfortunately, as in most years, I am already booked for 18th Nov but please pass on my best to any contemporaries present - Hartley Bishop, Steve Cottingham, Steve Heading and many more from that illustrious era! My first name is Ray. I have just retired from teaching - pause for uncontrolled shouts of glee! - and was for the past 31 year Director of Music at the Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School and Performing Arts College in Aylesbury. Yes, I was obviously inspired by the late, great Jimmy Hodgson and

well remember his music lessons in Room 5. I hope to pay the college a visit sometime as I have very fond memories and based much of my own teaching style on some of those to whom I will be forever grateful - James Hodgson, Peter Pointer, Bill O'Connor, Peter Sibley, A. N. Wilson - whose book I have open in front of me, looking at the 1964 staff photo - Miss Young, Frank Whitbourne and Roland Soper, my housemaster.

One of my achievements at Floyd was to introduce a House system along the lines of Collyer's and as a Head of House I felt the same sense of pride as for my old School House - Collyers.

So all the very best and may the OCA, and of course the College, go from strength to strength.

## Membership initiatives

Over recent years, no matter how hard we have tried, membership numbers have been slowly but surely dwindling. Interestingly at the last count, only some 8% of our 500 or so members are ex-students of The College of Richard Collyer, which grew out of Collyer's Grammar School in 1976. On the other hand, ex-students of the sixth form college, now represent about 80% of Old Collyerians alive today. Had only 20 ex sixth form students joined the association each year since inception 30 years

ago, OCA membership would now be in excess of 1000.

In some ways it is understandable that ex-college students fail to be attracted to the association since, instead of having a minimum of five years to become attached to the college, no sooner have they arrived, than they find themselves in their final (second) year and are gone. However, they do still come from a long line of alumni of an establishment with traditions going back nearly 500 years, and we



are certain that college students have a major role to play if the association is to survive. The association can rest assured that they are not alone in this problem as it is known to exist, not only in similar institutions, but in the universities as well

The committee has, therefore, been seeking ways in which it can attract ex-students of the college to join in larger numbers. The use of e-mail offers the association a means whereby it can communicate with vastly greater numbers of members at no extra cost, and therefore, by way of experiment, it has agreed to offer, what amounts to free membership, for a period of four years. Although it is clear that membership costs are hardly excessive, to an undergraduate with huge education costs, any (unnecessary) additional expenditure is seen as a burden, however small.

Hence, for a period of four years following their departure from Collyer's, simply by registering an E-mail address with the Association, they will receive copies of the newsletter, through that channel. Also during this period, these ex-students will be offered access to the 'members only' areas of the updated association web site.

(See also *Dusting off the cobwebs* elsewhere in this edition) At the end of their free membership period, it is expected that ex-students will be encouraged to become full members of the association and start to boost our membership again.

Changes in the postal rates will enable us to increase the weight, and hence the number of pages, included in each newsletter at no additional cost as increases in paper costs will be outweighed by savings in postal costs made from existing members who have agreed to receive their newsletters by E-mail. This will enable us to include more information in the newsletter that will be of interest to recent leavers. (See also *The enhanced newsletter* elsewhere in this edition.)

Notwithstanding these initiatives, new full members are always welcome. Existing members who know Collyerians who are not members, should be spurred by our efforts to improve our image, our newsletter and website, to encourage them to join. Application forms are available from the Secretary or the Membership Secretary by e-mail or by post at the addresses shown in *Contact us* at the front of this newsletter.

*Anthony Barnard*

## H i d d e n   H e a r t

Seemingly beautiful,  
Eyes, hair and her clothes,  
But not quite so perfect,  
When you look at her close,

Smiles hide a hurt,  
Nursed deep inside,  
But all that you've learnt,  
Is her feeble disguise.

For it slips and it falls,  
Like soft drapes from a veil,  
She lets out a call,  
But into silence it pails.

Insignificant,  
A drop in the ocean of greed,  
Where the only importance,  
Is your own mouth to feed.

Looks in the mirror,  
Does this smile stay?  
When all of this hurt never goes  
away?

For inside you may bleed,  
Clawing tight to despair,  
But no-one can hear,  
When you won't let someone care.

by Emma Froud

# Summer reunion 2007

This year's Summer Reunion will be held on Saturday 30th June at Amberley Working Museum (located on the B2139 between Arundel and Storrington and right next to Amberley Railway Station) and afterwards at the Bridge Inn a short walk away.

The 36-acre site was originally a quarry where chalk was dug and converted into lime for the building trade. As well as providing a detailed history of its former use the museum is now a major centre for industrial archaeology and includes a narrow gauge railway, the Southdown bus collection, a print workshop, municipal engine house, village garage, wheelwrights shop, vintage wireless exhibition and working displays by traditional craftsmen.

The afternoon starts at 2pm with an informal visit to the museum. Please meet at the main entrance.

If you wish to arrive early and make use of the museum's own restaurant for a drink or some lunch please give your name at the ticket office and say you are with our group - they will have a list of those attending.

The museum closes at 5.30pm and we will then walk the few minutes across to the Bridge Inn where drinks and meals may be purchased (food

served from 6pm). Any OCs not coming along in the afternoon would be more than welcome to join us here in the evening.

Please send a cheque for £7.50 per head, along with a stamped addressed envelope, to the Hon. Treasurer, Nick Weller, at 12, North Ash, Hawthorn Close, HORSHAM. West Sussex. RH12 2BW. Cheques should be made payable to The Old Collyerian's Association and please make it clear that your cheque is for the Summer Reunion.

Please also include the names of any guests who will be coming with you and if anybody attending is a wheelchair user. (The majority of the site has wheelchair access).

Please also indicate if you might possibly want to have something to eat in the evening. This is only to give the Bridge Inn a rough idea of numbers and it places no obligation on you at this stage.

Please apply as soon as possible and in order for us to advise final numbers by 23rd June 2007 at the very latest.

Should you have any queries regarding your application or require further details then please contact Nick Weller on 01403-269883 or Mark Collins on 01945-880236.

## Peter Pointer (former Collyer's staff)

We regret to announce that Peter Pointer, former physics teacher, died on Wednesday 21 March at East Surrey Hospital. We believe he joined Collyers' staff in 1957, and retired in around 1990.

As well as his role in the science department, PP was a leading light in the CCF and the editor recalls his time as CO, with the rank of Squadron Leader.

PP's teaching style probably did not suit everybody - particularly those who regularly received a blow from his well-aimed blackboard duster. Although small in stature, PP was able to deliver such things with considerable force. Sore ears were another feature of his classes, the 'Pointer tweak' being a standard punishment for inattention or overstepping the mark. In fact the latter was probably the ultimate sin. The editor remembers PP's wicked sense of humour, which (in common with his equally respected contemporary in the English department Frank Whitbourn) he was only too pleased to share with his pupils, but the important thing was to know just how far one could take the joke.

Perhaps his greatest achievement as far as I was concerned was making physics interesting and relevant to this proven scientific duffer. A remarkable feat.

We hope to include a full obituary in the next issue.

# Enhanced newsletter

Changes in the Royal Mail postage rates mean that we have the opportunity to send out, by post, a considerably larger newsletter at no additional cost. In fact we can now send out a 20 page (10 sheet) document, and we intend with your help to take full advantage of this opportunity. Additionally, those members who accept the e-mail service for delivery of their newsletter will have the advantage of receiving the full colour edition. Although we could provide full colour by post, the printing costs are far beyond the means of the Association.

We have ideas for a number of new features, but would welcome suggestions from members for other news that would be of interest. Ideas include:

- Recent sports results achieved by college teams and individuals.
- News of the activities of Old Collyerian undergraduates at the universities. This will

require a network of volunteer correspondents to be established and will not be possible without the active involvement of Collyerian undergraduates.

- News of examination, and other academic achievements at the College.
- Where are you now? - interesting snippets on the activities of members. Old Collyerians will need to provide correspondence for inclusion under this heading.
- More photographs of OCA activities.

These changes will not be achieved overnight, and they certainly cannot be achieved without your help. Interested in being an Undergraduate Correspondent? - Got an interesting tale to tell? - Prepared to assist our editor? - then get in touch with any member of the Committee, addresses at the front of this newsletter.

*Anthony Barnard*

## Snapshots of 1977

### *Some snippets from the archives recalling life at Collyer's 30 years ago:*

#### **Time of transition**

The academic year 1976/77 was Collyer's first year as an officially designated sixth form college and the first of four transitional years during which the grammar school years worked towards the sixth form. Because it was the first year of change, inevitably Collyer's still felt like a grammar school, although now without a first form. Lower Sixth numbers had increased, and they had two common rooms (old rooms 8 and 10) provided for their relaxation. Collyer's was also now officially a mixed institution (five girls).

#### **House pride**

Now sadly vanished from the list of houses, in 1977 Collyer's house carried all before it. Its usual victory in the Greenop Cup for academic achievement was reinforced by sporting triumphs such as the junior tennis tournament, resulting in Collyer's claiming the Joseph cup for overall

performance. St Leonard's mostly came second; Hurst triumphed in the swimming pool and on the track, but not in the classroom. The enthusiastic leadership of Mercers' new housemaster, Kevin West, appeared to rub off on its new sixth form recruits, a number of whom reinforced its successful football team.

#### **The play's the thing**

The school play was performed in the Capitol Theatre for the first time. The play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* by Tom Stoppard, based on what purportedly was happening off-stage in Hamlet, proved a challenging choice, especially for the two leading actors. Simon Van Der Borgh and Andrew Heaps as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (or was it Guildenstern and Rosencrantz) stood around, talked, argued, tossed coins and became one of the most memorable double acts ever seen in a Collyer's drama. They were well supported by Julian Bergin as the Player King, with an extremely loud costume that commanded attention.

## Money money money

The fundraising event of the year was the sponsored walk along the trackbed of the old railway line to Henfield, to raise money for the college minibus. This was undertaken with varying degrees of speed. Three boys were observed running, having covered ten miles in well under two hours, whereas prefect Bob Smith was spotted in his blazer, gently strolling along the course. Other images included a figure in blue with a John Wayne hat, a sturdy lad carrying a stick and wearing thick white stockings and an owner bounding along with his three dogs. Mrs Plaister (the school caretaker's wife) took the walker bravery award for walking the full 20 miles in her wellies.

The staff supervised the checkpoints; Peter Burke from the comfort of his Volvo, Richard Bond and Paul Marx from the Railway Tavern at Copsale, and Frank Whitbourn and Mike Lapage (having drawn the short straws) with hot coffee and tomato soup behind Southwater brickworks. Back at base (Christ's Hospital railway station car park) Reverend Hughes administered orange squash and soothing smiles. Sadly Jim Endacott had to go around in some discomfort for the rest of term, having contracted lumbago through sitting in the March wind all day.

## Summer farewells

The summer saw the departure of two long-serving and very well-recalled members of staff, Duggie Hull and John (Mungo) Park. Also departing after even longer at Collyer's were the huts. Originally intended as a temporary wartime measure, the huts had squatted in Collyer's grounds for almost 40 years. It had taken the advent of the Sixth Form College to produce the classroom block that had always been intended to replace them.

## Come the autumn

In Autumn 1977 there were significant changes, as Collyer's progressed towards becoming a full sixth form college. For the first time the sixth form outnumbered the other years and the number of girls had risen to the heights of 40. New music and art rooms, also science labs, came into operation. The tutor group system was introduced, the rooms renumbered and staff relocated. Anyone turning up in former Room 13 expecting Latin with Dick Tidey would have found instead enlightenment on Economics with Peter Burke in newly designated Room 8.

Some rooms disappeared altogether; Room 11 became a third sixth common room, whilst the Chapel/Room 22 now did duty as an extra staff common room.

The progress report system was also revamped. The letter X disappeared from Collyer's alphabet; the letters now awarded were A,B,C,D,E. The letter C, previously indicating underperformance, now signified that the student had risen to the heights of average achievement.

## Staff contributions

Possibly the staff quote of the year was 'Dan' Twidle's 'Amphoteric substances are the chemical Vicars of Bray.'

The runner up Rowland Morris's:

'You can tell if a boy's good at history or not by his hair.'

George Farnell brightened staffroom and classroom with gems such as:

'The Education Inspector put his head around the door and asked 'Do you teach logs?'

The teacher replied 'We teach anyone. Come on in'.

Jokes such as this won him the corny joke of the year award, without really any serious competition.

*Nick Weller*

## RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

**We are still hoping to hear from 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.**

**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](mailto:barnardak@blueyonder.co.uk)**

# M e m b e r s h i p

## **The following have advised a change of address:**

- Allen, R.A.** (1955 – 1958) 22, Wyvern Place, Warnham, Horsham. RH12 3QU  
**Bartlett, M.** (1950 – 1955) 2/243, Stanhill Drive, Chevron Island, Queensland 4217, AUS.  
**Collins, D.J.** (1960 – 1966) 18, Manor Gardens, Morrison Rd, Swanage. Dorset. BH19 1JT  
e-mail: davidjcollins@compuserve.com Tel: 01929 422127  
**Elliott, A.** (1970 – 1977) Greenbays, 44, Old London Road, Patcham, Brighton. BN1 8XQ  
e-mail: Alistair.elliott1@ntlworld.com Tel: 01273-706565  
**Richardson, M.A.** (1952 – 1958) 58, Woburn Ave, Toronto, Ontario. Canada. M5M 1K6  
e-mail: m.richardson@rogers.com  
**Robins, J.D.** (1955 – 1960) 2, Lulach Court, Dunfermline. Fife. KY11 8HJ  
**Routley, A.F.** (1934 – 1941) The Old Smithy, Pound Lane, Mannings Heath, Horsham RH13 6JL.

## **The following have advised new email addresses:**

- Paul Baker** (1962 – 1968) pjrb\_backchat@hotmail.com  
**Derek Fosberry** (1960 – 1967) derek.fosberry@zonnet.nl  
**Steve Hurry** (1960 – 1965) Steve.Hurry@ntlworld.com Tel: 01296-580403  
**David McNee** (1972 – 1977) savage06@aapt.net.au

## **We are pleased to welcome the following new annual members:**

- Hurd, Oliver, C.** (1995 – 1996) 7, Forest Lodge, Forest Road, Horsham. RH12 4HY  
**Ide, Michael,** (1953 – 1961) 64, Prior's Hill, Wroughton. Swindon. SN4 0RW  
e-mail: mike.ide@lineone.net

## **We are now back in touch with the following life member (not on current members list)**

- Partridge, J.** (1938 – 1945) 77, Winara Avenue, Waikanae 5036, Wellington. New Zealand.  
e-mail: jwpartridge@paradise.net.nz

## **Sadly we report the deaths of the following members:**

- Cramp, C.W.** (1926 – 1933) 17, Bedford Road, Horsham. West Sussex. RH13 5BL  
**Cramp, G.** (1924 – 1930) 4, Oak House, Bentley Lane, Stutton, Ipswich. Suffolk. IP9 2RS  
**Mace, E.W.** (1929 – 1934) 34, Guildford Road, Horsham. West Sussex. RH12 1LS  
**Morrin, I.W.** (1937 – 1945) 3, Holm Close, Woodham. Surrey. KT15 3QN  
**Rycroft, E.** (1925 – 1931) Frognaal House, Frognaal Avenue, Sidcup. Kent. DA14 6LF  
**Wadey, H.F.** (1924 – 1929) Parbrook, Billingshurst. Horsham. West Sussex. RH14 9ET  
**Fruin, J.** (1941 – 1947) 41, Court Drive, Hillingdon. Middlesex. UB10 0BN  
*who has been a regular contributor to your newsletter and his input will be sadly missed by us all.*

## **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.

## Letter received from Eric Stockdale, re the late George Styles

The Autumn Newsletter, with its reference to the death of Colin Bone and George Styles, GC, brought back some memories. I was evacuated from London shortly after the bombing had started in September 1940 and joined Collyers halfway through the term. In my first year I was billeted on a farm at Nuthurst, but in my second I lived with Mrs Bone in Bedford Road in Horsham. I never met any of her four boys, as they were serving in the Royal Air Force, but at school we were all conscious of their exploits and looked up to them. In that second year I was in the Fourth Form and shared the desk in the back inside corner of the classroom with George Styles, and we became good friends. I left school in 1943 to go to work and next met George in 1947 when we both attended the Officer Cadet Training Unit at Mons Barracks, Aldershot. I remember envying him the fact that Royal Army Ordnance Corps cadets, like him, were commissioned at once, whereas Gunners, like me, had first to spend another sixteen weeks at their own OCTU at Deepcut. George decided to stay in the Army. Fortunately for both the Army and me, I elected in due course to pursue a civilian life at the Bar.

After that we met rarely, and then usually because we both kept in touch with John Leppard, who, apart from anything else, supplied me with a new car every two or three years. In 1972, shortly after George had been awarded the George Cross for his exceptional bravery, I was appointed a Circuit judge. John Leppard kindly invited us both to a joint celebration dinner with

our three wives (one each). After that I met George at the funeral of a mutual friend, whom I knew as the developer of fibre optics, used for medical purposes, such as peering at duodenal ulcers. George told me that they had worked together on the use of the same equipment for looking into and under bombs. It occurred to me that but for enemy bombs, I would never have come to Horsham or met George. After that funeral, sadly, I only ever saw George on television, but there is no danger of my forgetting that remarkable man.

Yours sincerely,  
Eric Stockdale  
New Barnet

*Anthony Barnard adds:*

*His Hon Judge Eric Stockdale is a Bencher of the Middle Temple and a Visiting Professor in Law at the University of Hertfordshire. He was called to the Bar in 1950 and practised on the Midland Circuit until 1972. He then served as a Circuit Judge from 1972 to 1994. He was admitted to the California State Bar in 1983 and was a member of the Supreme Court Procedure Committee from 1982 to 1994. He is the co-editor of Blackstone's Criminal Practice (published by Oxford University Press) and the author of 'Tis Treason My Good Man!: Four Revolutionary Presidents and a Piccadilly Bookshop (published by London Oak Knoll Press and The British Library). He holds LLB, LL.M and PhD Degrees from the University of London and an Honorary LL.D from the University of Hertfordshire.*

### Help us move into the 21st Century

Thanks to all of you who have agreed to receive your Newsletter by E-mail.

To date 40+ of you will be reading this in the first copy sent out by this method.

This helps us to maintain your membership fees at the very low rate that you enjoy.

One hidden benefit of the e-mail version is that it is sent out in glorious colour, rather than the boring old monochrome of the printed newsletter. It is in PDF format, so can be viewed on screen or printed off, and we try to keep the file size as small as possible for those with slow internet connections.

If you would also like to receive your newsletter by E-mail, send your name and years of attendance at Collyer's, as shown in address list i.e.

Bloggs J O E 1967 1974

To the Hon. General Secretary ANTHONY BARNARD at:  
barnardak@blueyonder.co.uk

# Volunteer placement in Mexico

**M**y time at the General Hospital de Zapopan in Mexico proved to be the most fantastic opportunity for me to compare the way in which medicine is practiced in different countries around the world, especially with regard to my past experiences in Japan. The two cultures are complete opposites in all respects and it was a fascinating insight into how cultural differences impact medical practice. The Mexicans are the liveliest, outgoing and relaxed people I have come across and this shows in the work ethics.

The hospital environment is informal and extremely relaxed. I very much enjoyed working in my hospital placement, being a small hospital, primarily for the poorest of the local community I had a great opportunity to become a key member of the medical staff. With limited resources I was able to observe the doctors at their most resourceful and for me this was the most interesting and valuable lesson as a prospective medical student as it highlighted the importance of the creative imagination and open mind of a doctor. My experiences working in the hospital spanned over a number of departments and specialisms. I observed the day to day running of the emergency room and worked in the paediatric ward, assisting doctors with patient history taking, diagnosis and injections, working both day and the emergency night shifts so to fully appreciate what was involved in the hospital duties.

My main interests being in surgery I was able to work alongside the surgeons on a number of operations, covering orthopaedic and plastic surgery. I was allocated the position of the number three surgeon and often was the number two surgeon in many surgeries; this allowed me to assist as best I could in this overworked hospital but also provided me with a fantastic learning experience and has given me basic surgical knowledge for starting my medical career.

Working in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department I worked closely with the team of resident gynaecologists and medical students in the patient pre-labour checks and enjoyed building up a relationship with these patients who greatly appreciated this support when reaching such an emotionally and physically draining stage of pregnancy. I witnessed a considerable number of natural and caesarean births during my residency in this department which provided me with a good insight into the labour procedures carried out in Mexico and it was interesting to see that the average age at labour was about 19 years old. Speaking to the doctors it became apparent that there was

a issue with teenage pregnancy and apparently there is a lot of ignorance surrounding contraception and pregnancy with some doctors experiencing patients denying all knowledge of being pregnant and then having to deliver their baby moments after. With abortion illegal in Mexico there is no alternative but to give birth, no matter what age the mother may be. In this department I was fortunate to deliver a baby which was by far the most memorable moment of my entire travelling experience and something that I shall never forget. Alongside the Paediatricians I also carried out the baby checks on the 'newly borns' giving me the opportunity to learn a lot about the physiology of the baby. I also worked with a gynaecologist in the health

clinics, giving consultations for pregnant women where it was my responsibility to collect relevant data regarding the development of the pregnancy. It was particularly interesting working in these clinics as there was such diversity and plenty of opportunity for me to engage with the patients.

What was unique to my experience in Mexican hospitals was the atmosphere and the medical approach, no matter how difficult or awkward a presented case may be the atmosphere in the wards, theatres or labour room is always relaxed (often helped by the music played out in the operating theatres!).

At first I was a little startled at the degree of relaxation about the hospitals and in particular whilst in surgery when there would often be a little 'sing along' to a catchy Mexican song. As I became accustomed to the Mexican lifestyle and having been living with a Mexican family, I realised that it wasn't at all a lack of

competence, but was simply the Mexican perspective on executing a task. This made it an enjoyable working atmosphere and I am sure this in turn makes the patients feel more relaxed which is vital when working to solve their problems.

Whilst in Mexico I wanted a well-rounded medical experience of a country which had many ancient traditions. I took the opportunity to visit a Maya medicine clinic further into the rural area of Mexico. Here traditional Mexican medicine was practiced. I learnt about the rituals and relevant symbols which they look to for resolution of medical problems and the significance of plants in herbal remedies.

I also was able to compare my hospital experience with the work of a small Red Cross clinic, with only one doctor and one nurse it was a small clinic with limited resources and facilities (pharmacy cupboard with 'post it' notes labelling the drugs!)



The author assisting with an operation

Working in the city's civil hospital which was the largest and most prestigious hospital in the city, I was able to appreciate how a larger hospital worked in Mexico. This hospital was obviously well resourced, with its many doctors, medical students and numerous departments providing more efficient service for the patients. However there was still a relaxed atmosphere with patients lying in a disarray of beds which seemed to occupy any available space with no apparent system of organisation. Office rooms seemed to have become rooms for the overflow of patients requiring medical attention. One hospital which certainly surpassed our state hospitals was a private city hospital (though in fact all medical care in Mexico is private but some are cheaper than others!). This hospital was the equivalent to a 5\* hotel with private nursing service.

Mexico is certainly a country of extremes, with the extremely rich and the extremely poor. Unfortunately there is a lot of corruption which would account for these economic problems and social inequality.

In Mexico there were certainly differences in medical practice which were more notable than any differences between medical practice here in England and the practice in Japan. For example gloves were not worn as frequently or insistently as I am used to in both the Japanese and English hospitals, especially when needles or blood is involved. Lack of equipment meant that operations with the patients already being prepared for the anaesthetics had to be cancelled and relocated. It was a valuable insight into a different medical system and one in which I really felt that I made a valued difference.

In my spare time in Guadalajara I worked in an

orphanage for boys whose parents had either died or been put into prison. Fundamentally they're 'street kids'. In my time spent at the orphanage I taught them how to make felts and together we made a wall hanging. It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my trip and I am so grateful to the children for making me feel so welcome when they themselves go without love and attention. It was upsetting to work with children in these circumstances but equally, it was heart-warming to see them so happy when given just a little attention and care, even though they deserve so much more. It really put into perspective the differences in the way in which we live our lives in relation to those with so little.

It was an incredible experience for me to work with the hospital team, with my previous working experience greatly appreciated; I was valued as member of the medical staff. I have learnt a considerable amount from both my experiences in Mexico and Japan, but they couldn't have been more different. In Mexico no one wears a watch as time is never issue, things get done but they are done in good time, obviously this couldn't always be the case when in the hospital but the general ambience was carefree which contrasts greatly to the extremely intense work ethics of Japan. Both have their positives and negatives but I believe if we could take a little from both systems that we would create the ultimate in medical care and greatly improve our medical practice here in the UK.

*Rebecca Morris: Edinburgh University Correspondent*

*This is the second article by Rebecca, recounting her experiences working as a volunteer in hospitals overseas, prior to commencing her studies to become a doctor.*

## College news

**As reported by Principal Jackie Johnston to the last OCA Committee meeting:**

Lots of things were going on mid-term, with the focus on preparing for summer exams.

Notable College visits included a history trip to the USA over the half-term period.

Also, arising from the Beacon Project, a parent works for a charity connected with the Gambia. The College Head of Science and five students went on 'holiday' to Gambia to work on the project, using science kit in an area without main services, the object being to train teachers in the use of the equipment, working in primitive conditions. Despite the lack of facilities, Gambia's school science courses manage to operate at a reasonably high level.

Work has been going on to allow the College buildings to comply with current accessibility requirements, while the multi-user games area was due to be surfaced by Easter. The college Sports Hall extension (with multigym) is now

open and operational. Future building work includes an extra science laboratory which it is hoped will be built this summer.

The College had two visits from Francis Maude, MP for Horsham, talking to students about the environment, among other things.

The College has appointed a new assistant Principal, Steven Martell, who will join in September. Vice Principal Steve Gilham is standing down at this time, but will continue his work for the college on the property strategy, which is reaching an interesting point.

The OCA's efforts in organising the contact with Simon Nye, resulting in his attendance at the prizegiving, were much appreciated by the College, particularly by the staff working in the media/literary/creative areas. The College hopes to build on this initial contact.

The College currently has eight houses - St Leonards, Denne, Garnett, Whittington, Mercers, Hurst, Pirie and Richmond.