



***OLD
PALMERIAN***

September 2012

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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Old Palmerian and my grateful thanks to all contributors and, in particular, to Ruth Hunwick who compiles and edits this essential part of the Association's life.

My grateful thanks, also, goes to Mike Yates for his work on the Website and to my fellow Committee members, particularly the officers, for their many years of dedicated service and for giving me their unstinting support and help during my year in office. Without them the Association would not exist.

Membership numbers remain steady at around 1000. We welcome new members and, if you know Old Palmerians who are not members, please encourage them to join. We welcome, also, any member who would like to join the Committee.

The Association's annual dinners were arranged expertly by Jill Snelling and Mike Smith who, again, managed to secure excellent venues and I would implore all O.P.s to attend so these events can continue in their present successful format. Numbers were down and that is a great shame. They give us excellent opportunities to renew and make new friendships.

We are indebted to the Reverend Darren Barlow, as ever, for warmly welcoming us to the Founder's Day Service and inviting an O.P. minister to give the sermon. We are also lucky to have an Old Palmerian Choir and organist provide beautiful music at the Service and remind us of the fine musical traditions of the two Schools. Selflessly they give their time and we, the listeners, are in their debt. It was particularly touching and fitting that the daughter of Bryan Coker, the late Chairman of Trustees, delivered the sermon in 2011. Bryan contributed a huge amount to Palmer's over many decades and we owe him a great debt.

Thanks, too, go to Richard Snoxall and Chris Mowat for their professional expertise which they give so willingly to the Association's Committee.

We are fortunate, also, that the College Principal, Mark Vinall, makes time in his busy schedule to read a Lesson at the Founders Day Service and attend the Old Boys' Dinner and give a witty and informative speech keeping us abreast of the College's continued success.

In addition to representing you, the member, as best I could, I had three other objectives very close to my heart. I wanted to bring the College and Association closer, and I wanted to commemorate nearly a century on, in

permanent form, the bravery of two Old Palmerians. Concerning the latter two, Gordon Charles Steele was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1919 and survived and the second, Eric Arthur Hopkins, was a Master at Palmer's and was killed at Ypres in 1915. I have written about them elsewhere in this issue.

A plaque to honour Gordon Steele, designed and crafted by John Sach, will be placed in the College Library; it is made from Indian Silver wood rescued from the Boys' School Library. It has been a particular joy that Mark Vinall has embraced the project wholeheartedly and has taken it further by asking the College History Department to involve the students in remembering Gordon Steele's life and bravery. Thus we can unite Palmer's past with its present and future.

Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as your Chairman and I wish you and your families the best of good health and fortune.

Neil Beaumont O.P. 1961- 1968 Chairman Nov 2010- Nov 2011

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We have lost contact with some Old Palmerians and have therefore been unable to send them a copy of the "Old Palmerian" and other notices. If any reader has a current address for any of the following members please contact us or ask the member to do so.

Miss Isobel Brooks	1952-59	Mrs Jean Cannon	1944-49
Mr Gary Davison	1990-94	Mrs J Manning Dawson	
Mr Darren Edhouse	1987-90	Mr David Hurst	1989-91
Dr Graham Ketley	1968-75	Mrs Susan Osborne	1970-77
Miss Elisabeth Pryke		Mr R G H Read	1938-45
Dr Susan Sangster	1967-74	Miss Denise Turp	1975-78
Mr Peter Warder	1944-51		

To ensure that you continue to receive your copy of the "Old Palmerian" please notify us of any change of address.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4th	November	2012	Founder's Day Service
10th	November	2012	Founder's Day Dinner
13th	November	2012	AGM
19th	April	2013	Old Boys' Dinner

ASSOCIATION SPORTS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

PALMER'S SPORTS & FITNESS CENTRE

The fees are:-

Membership	Adult	£20.00
	Couple	£36.00
	Junior 8 - 16 years	£8.00
	Concessions	£11.00
	Family	£43.50

Old Palmerians' Association members with a current membership card, available from Ruth Hunwick, will pay **only £11.00** to the **Centre** for membership.

Fees for Members

Badminton	55 min.	£9.10
Five a side	55 min.	£36.40
Squash	40 min.	£7.00
Tennis	55 min	£6.60
Fitness (Induction)	2 x 60 min	£21.00
Fitness Session		£4.60
Fitness Class (STEP, LTB, etc.)		£4.50

Non members pay a £1.00 Admission Fee every time they attend. They also do not receive such advantageous booking arrangements.

For further details concerning the Palmer's Sports and Fitness Centre telephone (01375) 898613 or look up their website www.palmers.ac.uk/sports, or follow them on facebook or twitter.

Ruth Hunwick

OLD PALMERIANS' GOLFING SOCIETY REPORT - 2011

The first event was our Spring Meeting held on 8th May, as usual, at Orsett. There were 16 players equally split between 8 members and 8 guests. Dinner followed the golf and the winners of the various handicap categories were:- **Mark Springham, Don Cave and John Collier**. The best performance of the day was by **Mark Springham** who won the Silver Salver top prize. The other members who attended were **Andrew Sheridan, Mark Osborne, Malcolm Argent, Graeme Loveland and Roger Jiggins**.

The match against the College was on 17th May at Orsett. Both teams put up a strong performance which produced a tight battle and the result was not decided until the final group game was concluded. The OPGS won the first two games, and the College won games 3 and 4 and the result was therefore a tie and as such proved satisfactory for both sides. My thanks to Paul Spinks for organising the College team and for giving me a good game on the day – he won!

Guest Day on the 5th July was less well attended than in previous years but those who came had an enjoyable day. The Association Cup awarded to the best member was won by **Don Cave** who scored 41 points. Best member and guest combination was **Don Cave** and John Hearn with 36 points, the runners up being **Malcolm Argent** and Tony Cook with 35 points.

Once again it was not possible to arrange a match with Old Brentwoods but we will keep trying for future years.

Away Day was again held at Woodlands Manor Golf Club, this time on 18th July, and, as before, was organised by **Don Cave**. We have a mid-morning starting time followed by a snack lunch after which prizes are distributed. The tankard for the best member was won by **Don Cave** with 33 points, and the guest tankard was won by Keith Whitehead.

Our last event was Captain's Day held on 9th October at Orsett. This event turned out to be the best attended of all with 14 members and 21 guests. The day's top prize is the Chalice Cup won by **Alan Gardner** with 38 points who, in fact, retained it as he was last year's winner. Runner up was **Colin Reynolds** who beat **Mark Springham** on countback, both scoring 33 points. Best guest was John Nash and second place went to Noel Cundick, both guests of **Jas Johal**. The President's Cup is awarded to the golfer with the best aggregate score for the year's events and was won, for the second year in succession, by **Don Cave**, with **Roger Jiggins** coming second. The trophies were all presented by **Malcolm Argent** who became Captain for the coming 2012 season.

In last year's notes I made the point that our membership is not increasing and future events may suffer as a result. My repeated request is that if you or anyone you know plays golf, is a former School or College student and would like to join in any of our events, please contact me on my email address rogerjiggins@sky.com. I will be happy to help to get newcomers started. We use a website of: societygolfing.co.uk where you can click box 'Access your society area' then login 'william' followed by password 'palmer' and look at data relating to our golf matters there. There is no charge for membership of

our society, just opportunities to play golf with members having our common background.

Roger Jiggins, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Old Palmerians' v's College Golf Match
Tuesday 15th May 2012
Orsett Golf Club.

In weather somewhat biblical and with new recruit Noah unavailable, (something about a building project he was engaged in) the annual Old Palmerians and College golf match took place at Orsett Golf club.

The format was, as usual, a four ball better ball match play competition on an Orsett course that was in magnificent condition, despite the weather; in preparation for some serious competitions later this summer.

Acting college captain **Steve Watterston** decided to put his strong students out in the opening two games in an attempt to get ahead in the match and create pressure for the Old Palmerians in the remaining two games.

The tactic worked perfectly with **George Gibbon** and **Callum Williams** in the opening four ball storming to a massive 7 and 6 victory on their home course. Unbelievably, **Michael Lilley** and **Bradley Boreham** exactly equalled this score to smash their opponents in the second game.

This left Skipper **Watterston** and staff colleague and playing partner **Stuart Munday** the opportunity to clinch the overall victory in game 3. Despite an excellent start this looked increasingly unlikely as the Old Palmerians' pair, led by their skipper, **Roger Jiggins** began take control. In a "nip and tuck" affair the Old Palmerians' were 1 up on the 18th tee and just needed a half to win their game. They had not, however, considered the Watterston factor as the Palmer's captain won the final hole to halve the game and give the College an unassailable lead in the overall match.

The final game out on the course saw member of staff **Paul Terris** paired with student **Danny Hobart**. This was another very tight game which saw the usually consistent and dependable Terris lapse into unfamiliar, erratic ball striking, ultimately leading to a defeat on the final hole.

The overall match score: College: 2 and a half. Old Palmerians': 1 and a half.

Our thanks go to Roger Jiggins and the Old Palmerians' for organising the event and to Orsett Golf Club for hosting it.

Paul Spinks

WILLIAM PALMER COLLEGE EDUCATION TRUST

Over the last year the Trust has given financial assistance to the students of Palmer's College and other deserving pupils who live in the Ancient Parish, as follows:

The Trust funded 50% or 25% of the cost of the trip for students to participate in visits as part of their Geography, Biology, PE, Sport & Leisure, Health & Social Care and Business Studies Courses. A wide range of other educational visits were subsidised by the Trust and these visits included Barcelona, New York, Paris, Arran, Wales, Berlin, Portugal, Thorpe Park, France, Birmingham and London.

Day visits to conferences, drama productions, galleries and concerts were part funded by the Trust as were the hockey, netball, football and rugby umpire/referee fees necessary for sporting events. The Trust continued to pay half of the cost of coaches and mini buses to sporting fixtures and competitions throughout the year. Bursaries were given to students who showed prowess in their chosen fields.

Support grants and Scholarships were given to students in need and Higher Education Interview Expenses were available.

These grants totalled - £61,982

The Trust awarded prizes for excellence at A-level or equivalent, bursaries for achieving 3 A grades at A-level or equivalent and attending university; prizes for achievement at A level and BTEC and the Legal Secretaries Course; prizes for 100% attendance and prizes for achievement at AS level as well as prizes for distinction at BTEC First Diploma Award.

These grants totalled - £48,025

The Trust also provided grants towards trips and visits to pupils in need who live in the Ancient Parish of Grays Thurrock and attend local schools.

These grants totalled - £19,373

The Trust has recently built a patio area, adjoining the Garden Room, for student use.

As is well known William Palmer provided the land for the first school, arranged for it to be built and endowed the Trustees with property in the City of London. In 1945 the roles of the Trustees and the Governors were split, with a Charity Commission Scheme providing for the Trustees to own the Land and Buildings with the School being allowed to use the property.

The College believed that it would be useful for it to have a formal Lease of the Land and Buildings and negotiations commenced several years ago. Last year, Bryan Coker reported that, at long last, a draft Lease had been sent to the College solicitors by the Trust and Bryan said that when the final Lease was agreed, he would be relinquishing his Trusteeship. Bryan died last July and sadly, the Lease is still not agreed.

*John Vesey
Clerk to the Trustees
July 2012*

NEWS OF OLD PALMERIANS

Apologies to **Bill Robson (1945 - 1949)** I got his name wrong in **Joan Hill's** article in the 2011 Magazine, it should have been Robson and not Dobson.

LUKE WALSH (2005 - 2007) graduated in 2011 achieving a BSc Honours degree in Multiplayer Online Games Design.

CLAIRE SUE SWEETENHAM (2000 - 2002) achieved her PhD in Physics from the University of Nottingham in 2011.

KIRSTY ROBERTS (2004 - 2006) graduated with a 2:1 Honours Degree in Psychology in 2011.

PAUL ELLIOT (1994 - 1996), after obtaining his doctorate, is now the Director of Studies in Biology at Homerton College Cambridge and Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University. He gave the speech and handed out the prizes at the Palmer's College annual Prize Giving in November 2011.

DAVID GRAY (1945 - 1950), who has just joined the Association, would very much like to hear from anyone who remembers him at 01892 532063 or dgray@uwclub.net

GEORGE KUBANEK (1950 - 1956) in Montreal (grkubanek@aol.com) wrote:-“Both of my older siblings attended Palmer's almost a decade before me in the early to mid-1940s. My sister Vera Kubanek Malon moved to Canada in 1956 and lived mostly in Burlington, Ontario until she died of a

heart attack in 2002. She is survived by three sons who are all thriving in the Ontario business world. Both my sister and brother were important role models for me as I grew up.

My brother Joe died more recently, in March 2011 in Ottawa. After his education at Palmer's, he graduated from Imperial College in London as a chemical engineer and subsequently worked for ICI and Simon-Carves in England. Joe moved to Canada in 1954, and had a fruitful and rewarding career working in the petrochemicals industry as well as for the Federal Government. In his youth, Joe had been an avid glider and Tiger Moth pilot, taking his last flight in a glider at age 76 in Australia. His favourite pastime was sailing. He left behind a family of two sons and one daughter plus eight grandchildren - in contrast to my sister's family, his are thriving mostly in the field of education. This ties in well with his value system, the importance of a good education, as well as with the following story I told at his memorial service (Dai Davies, my chemistry master, would have enjoyed it):

When I turned fourteen in 1951 while just starting chemistry at Palmer's. Joe gave me a thick green book of 856 pages (which I then showed to the audience). It's called "Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry" authored by Sherwood Taylor, PhD. Of course, only my brother Joe would possibly think of a gift like that!

Inside the front cover, he wrote: "To George, Happy Birthday -two weeks late - I hope that you will use this book and others like it more than I did and for the same reason". And, you know, a funny thing happened -I did use this book and others like it in my own studies and career. In fact, reading it, I developed a love of chemistry and got quite good at it (with the guidance of Dai Davies, my chemistry master). I started growing crystals in our shed, and conducted chemical experiments with strong acids and mild explosives.

When I moved to Canada in 1956, I decided to study chemical engineering at McGill University in Montreal. My first job was at Allied Chemical Corporation where I met Anne-Marie in 1966, my spouse-to-be, a research chemist. And guess where we met - in the chemistry lab! Finally, don't tell anyone, but we have a daughter who studied chemistry at Queen's University and the University of British Columbia (at least our son is an architect and not a chemist).

So what first happened is that my brother acted as a chemical catalyst, and maybe what later happened was just plain dumb luck. Please choose books for children with great care...."

ANTHONY HOCKLEY (1962 - 1968) lives in Australia and would welcome contact from any people who remember him on tony_hockley@hotmail.com

ROGER KEY (1970 - 1977), who is a member of the Corporation of Palmer's College, visited the College in January to get an insight into how the College is run. He spent the morning visiting various departments including careers, finance, attendance, libraries and also attended an Economics lesson as a guest speaker. He thoroughly enjoyed his visit and felt very welcomed by the staff and students.



JANE COKER (1962 - 1969) REV'D. LEESE, Parish Priest at Up Nately, Hook, in the North Hampshire Downs Benefice, Diocese of Winchester, preached the sermon at the Founder's Day Service in November 2011.


Following a chance remark by one of the choir, she spent a few hours with **Glenda Simpson** who had been in her year and a good friend in the 6th form. They had not seen one another for 40 years, but still recognised one another and had plenty to talk about!

JEAN NOAKES (1939 - 1945) MRS WEEKS was very pleased to read about **Eileen Ticehurst** in last year's magazine as she remembered her very clearly. They were together at Chadwell Junior school before both going on to Palmer's. Jean attributes her love of singing to **Mr. Challis** and she has been singing in the same choir in Hampshire for 52 years. Jean was also keen on sport and played Hockey until she was 50 although now she has transferred to Yoga.

BRENDA NEWING (1953 - 1959) MRS WARWICK says that she remembers **Phyllis Nisbet** quite well, as when Brenda started in 1953, Phyllis was a 6th form prefect and then Head Girl the following year. Brenda is certainly going to try to obtain the book Phyllis has written.

FRED GRAVES (1944 - 1949) remembers that the windows were sand bagged and taped during the years he was at Palmer's and he enclosed copies of some of his reports as he thought some of the masters' names and their comments might be of interest and bring back memories. (One is printed below).

Fred now enjoys fishing for Salmon in the Pacific off Vancouver Island where they caught at least ten each weighing between 18 and 32 pounds.



PALMER'S SCHOOL, GRAYS

REPORT on F. H. Graves Aged 18 yrs.
 of Form TTC for Leat Term ending April 7th 19 46
 No. in Form 35 Average Age of Form 18 years 0 mths.

SUBJECT	Position	%	Exam. Position	Remarks	Teacher
Scripture					
Grammar	12	64		<i>Good results. Has shown keeness and intelligence.</i>	<i>J. Hecker</i>
Literature	6	55			
Essay	12	60			
History	3	66		<i>J. Good</i>	<i>R. Jones</i>
Geography	4	81		<i>V. Good</i>	<i>R. Jones</i>
Arithmetic	8	62		<i>Keen & interested. Improving steadily.</i>	<i>M. J. O'Connell</i>
Algebra	5	66			
Geometry	6	50			
Trigonometry					
Applied Mathematics					
Calculus					
Analytical Geometry					
Physica					
Chemistry					
Biology					
General Science	6	60		<i>Improving.</i>	<i>J. Scott</i>
Latin	20	50		<i>V. Fair Good</i>	<i>J. O'Connell</i>
French	12	75			
German					
Drawing	14	61		<i>F. Good</i>	<i>B. Richard</i>
Woodwork					
Drill					

TERM POSITION 3 EXAM. POSITION _____ ENTERED IN REPORT BOOK _____ TIMES.
 ATTENDANCES: 127 OUT OF 130 NO. OF TIMES LATE _____
 SUMMARY: — *A good report.*
J. Hecker Form Master *H. Allardice Abbott* Head Master
 NEXT TERM WILL COMMENCE ON *Monday, May 14th* AND END ON *Sunday, July 22nd*

Palmer Press, E.16

WILLIAM GARTH JONES (1948 - 1954) wrote to say that in November 2010 when he was just about to move to Lancashire, the unexpected decision of himself and long standing friend, Desiree, to marry, resulted in a change of plan and he remained in the Land of Poetry and Song. Hence they are happily settled in Penrhyn Bay.

He enjoyed reading the OP Magazine. **James Pettigrew's** article and the reference to **David Baggs** singing bass was a surprise as David was a rather fine tenor taking leads in the G & S productions. He was also one of William's school group of rugby enthusiasts and played for Thurrock RFC, he believed, at full back. William is still very much involved in rugby, being the membership secretary of Benllech RFC and their club representative to the North Wales Rugby Council.

His wife, Des, is a G & S fanatic and sings with a small G & S concert group, while William continues with his over 40 years of choral singing with Cor Meibion Colwyn and Colwyn Choral Society. William feels that Life is good!!

BARRY GARDNER (1959 - 1966) spent April 2012 in Thailand, visiting from his home in Malaysia. It was part work and partly to enjoy Songkran, the water festival, which goes on for several days and where water is thrown at everyone to welcome (or encourage) the rains. He has changed his e-mail address to barrygardnerceng@gmail.com and if anyone plans to visit Malaysia or Thailand they are welcome to contact him and he will happily offer some assistance concerning what to do, and where to go.

TREVOR MORGAN (1952 – 1959) wrote the following article

Now that name rings a bell....

Has anyone ever attempted to hazard even the wildest guess at the number of different people we meet during the course of our lifetime? It must run into many thousands. Sadly the number with whom we retain close contact is, I suspect, in most cases quite small and many names and faces lie seemingly undisturbed at the back of our memories until something occurs to shake them and bring them further forward into our consciousness.

I am sure, I am like many Old Palmerians who, on receiving their latest copy of the magazine, eagerly scan it to see what names and memories are evoked. I did so more carefully this time and highlighted the names of every person I knew when I was a schoolboy in the nineteen fifties.

So if you are going to press on, be prepared for some nostalgic ramblings

about boys and masters of those happy days when **John Hayston's** "Two Fifty Years On" was published and we thought the school would go on forever.

The first name I singled out was that of **Roger Jiggins**. Roger was a fellow pupil in Mrs. Williams' 4a at Upminster Junior School and I am pretty sure he had a brother called Derek, possibly a twin. Roger was a train boy while I went by the 370 bus, but more of that later.

The next name to leap out of the page was that of **Roy Howitt**, our PE teacher for a short while. I remember him as a very fair and courteous member of staff working in a department where those of us who did not excel in physical excellence did not always have pleasant memories of PE lessons.

Standing next to Roy in the photograph is **Michael Horne**. Surely this is none other than the lead treble in the school choir and the boy who continued the proud tradition of performing a leading female role in the annual G and S productions. I remember him singing the treble solo in S S Wesley's anthem "Lead me, Lord" and taking the part of Rose Maybud in "Ruddigore" when I was a member of the Bucks and Blades in the gentlemen's chorus. Alongside Michael stands **Trevor Bond** to whom I was once summoned following an incident on the train. I mentioned earlier that I was a bus boy but for some long forgotten reason I went on one occasion by train. Trevor will recall the incident. I think he started his career as a sports reporter, so as a good sport, he will allow us both to forget the incident!

On the next page there is reference to **John Marshall** who was School Captain in his final year. However, he decided to remain at school for a further year perhaps to improve on his A level results. Whatever the reason, this presented the headmaster with a problem; you can't have two School Captains at the same time. The situation was nicely resolved by the institution of a new title for John, that of Dux Emeritus, a leader who has served with distinction.

Further on is a reference to **J R Scott** who was my form master in my first year at Palmer's. According to the timetable he should have taught us Science as well as Music. I don't recall much Science being done. Perhaps any of my contemporaries might be able to put me right.

A reference to **David Baggs** brings further musical memories to the fore. P 31 of the current "Old Palmerian" describes him as a bass but in my day he sang tenor and excellently too. I remember him singing the parts of Lieutenant, the Duke of Dunstable in "Patience", where I was a member of the "girls" chorus

and Nanki-Poo in “The Mikado”. I still have my copies of the vocal score with a programme signed by the Head and John Scott affixed to the front page. Just one more memory of Mr Baggs. I was fascinated by his sideburns which were shaped into a semi circle! David, if you’re reading this, confirm that memory!

It would be a surprising edition of the “Old Palmerian” not to have a reference to the headmaster. He had the latest piece of technology affixed to his study door – 3 circular lights bearing the legend “Come in”, “Wait” or “Engaged”. On knocking, one would wait to see which message became illuminated and respond accordingly, that is, unless you were a hapless year two boy who had forgotten to hand in his absence note in the morning and had been summoned to the office after break to explain. I heard the door open, saw an exasperated face and felt my neck twisted in the direction of the brightly shining “come in” message! Perhaps Fred had a chuckle at my expense as I scampered back to class – I certainly didn’t.

Another master, **Frank Hughes** is mentioned on the same page. I was never in one of his classes but remember him sitting in the back row of the busses for our morning assembly. He decided on a career change and left to become a priest in the Church of England. On his last day, he entertained the whole school after morning assembly regaling us with some interesting tales of his time teaching English at Palmer’s. He was known as “Boozer” and told us how that nickname had been acquired. When he had started at Palmer’s there had been another Mr Hughes who had the unfortunate habit of being unable to complete a sentence without hesitation; thus whenever he taught, his pearls of wisdom were liberally interspersed with “er...er”. Thus he became known as Hughes – er. So, as Frank patiently explained, the boys had to call him something different!

Two OPs mentioned a couple of pages further on are **David Staines** and **Gordon Dimmock**. David was a fellow member of the second form class looked after by Mr Scott and will be able to corroborate my remarks about Science! And I think Gordon was another 370 boy who got on the bus at South Ockendon and was probably a year or two below us.

Laurie Collingwood has written a very moving tribute to his wife in the obituary section. His brother **Harold** was a contemporary of mine at Upminster Junior School and in our early years at Palmer’s. There were 6 scholarships available for Brentwood School and all six were won by boys in Mrs Williams’ class at Upminster. Harold was one of the six but preferred to come to Palmer’s. We travelled home on the bus together where he, very daringly, I thought, would jump from the bus as it slowed down for the S bend at its junction with Sunnings Lane approaching Corbets Tey. Harold lived at

no 2 so a leap from the bus and he was almost in his front garden. And so I come to the back cover of the magazine and see three times the name of a past chairman of our association, that of **Mike Smith**, another fellow traveller on the 370 who lived, I believe, somewhere off Springfield Gardens. I think Mike was a year or two above me, so I felt very pleased when he would sit and chat on the bus as we made our way home.

I think that's enough rambling for now so let me close by asking all of those I've mentioned, those who are still with us, of course, to sit down at the keyboard and tell me if I've been right, or if not, how wide of the mark I've been. Happy rambling!

MARGARET JONE (1948 - 1955) MRS MAY was pleased to see the article about **Phyllis Nisbet** (Mrs Pilgrim), in last year's magazine as they were in the same class and both their dads worked for the Shell Haven Refinery, where they lived.

CHLOE QUIRK (2006 -2008) graduated from the London School of Economics with a First Class Honours Law Degree in 2011 and is training to be a Solicitor in London.

HEATHER STATON (2004 - 2006) graduated in 2011 with a degree in Animal Management from Writtle College, University of Essex.

STACIE INGA RUANE (2006 - 2008) graduated in 2011 from Kent University with a BA Honours Degree in American Studies.

HOLLIE SLATER (2005 - 2007) graduated in 2011 with a BA Honours Degree in Printed Textile Design.

DAVID BANNISTER (2006 - 2008) graduated in 2011 from Anglia Ruskin University with a First Class Bachelor of Law Honours degree, LLB.

KELLY ROBINSON (2005 - 2007) graduated in 2011 with a First Class BA Honours Degree in Human Resources Management.

DAVID ELMORE (1938 - 1944) has sent us this article:-

HEADGEAR

There it sits on top of my wardrobe - a large brown hat with a thick wide brim, four dents on the top and the metal letters R S stuck on the front. Goodness knows how it got there, but I know it's not mine because it's four sizes too large and comes down over my ears.

It sometimes occurs to me that over the last three quarters of a century a large number of caps, hats, berets etc. have been plonked on my head. The first was my Cub cap, green with yellow braid.

Second was my Scout hat, the brim of which needed ironing every so often to keep it stiff. There followed my Camp hat, which was, in fact, my Cub cap stripped of the peak and adorned with proficiency badges I had gained. I was very proud of that hat, but regrettably it got lost somewhere along the line. (If found, please return it - there's a small reward on offer!)

In my capacity as a District Cub-master I wore a green beret with a round metal badge which included a wolf's head. It's in my safe-keeping to this day.

During my years at Palmer's I wore the school cap (with a red button on top, indicating I was in Marlborough House). I longed to have a cap with a tassel, but sad to relate the school didn't reckon I was prefect material.

On leaving school I joined a bank in the City, and bought myself a trilby, the sort of hat my father wore after the bowler went out of fashion. A couple of years later National Service saw me in the RAF complete with a forage cap (I've still got the metal badge which came with it.)

Amongst my current collection of headgear there are several straw hats (good when the sun is strong but not when it is windy) and a steel helmet which belonged to my wife's uncle when he was an ARP warden in the Cardiff area. At one time I had a balaclava helmet (for wearing on my paper round), but that has disappeared.

My prize piece of headgear is a genuine Fez, of the type worn by Egyptian gentlemen in times of yore. It is red, shaped like an upturned flower pot, and has a black tassel. How I got it back from the Middle East in my kitbag without damaging it I'll never know, but I'm glad I did. Hopefully future members of my family will enjoy wearing it at parties and suchlike.

SUSAN HAMMOND (1956 - 1961) MRS FERNANDEZ sent news of her sister **Jennifer Hammond (Mrs Sancerres)**. Jennifer lives in Paris and she and Guy celebrated their golden wedding in 2011. Jennifer was a contemporary of **Margaret Hill (1949 - 1956) Mrs Painter**.

GILLIAN CANT (1970 - 1977) MRS DARTON has downsized as her three children all live in London now. She is still living in York and working as the pastoral support coordinator at a local primary school, a job that is challenging and exhausting but very enjoyable.

BILL ROBSON (1945 - 1949) writes :- “Thank you for the 2011 ‘Old Palmerian’. It was most interesting especially as I knew three of the ‘old-boys / old-girls’. However, it was good to see the varied careers and life-styles, a great credit to our school and teachers.

I was very sorry to read of the death of **Peter Wright** as he was the ‘school Goalkeeper’ in the team of ‘Stars’ namely, **Ronnie Owers, Powell, Abber, Appleford**, plus two much younger Wing-halves, **Schooling** and **Robson**. And, yes, Peter did direct our efforts in a very loud voice, but he was a really good all-round person, and I feel for his family.

On a brighter note I was both surprised and pleased to hear about **Peter Treloar**. I would have thought Cricket would have been his route to fame as **George Ross** said of him, “He has the perfect bowling action”. Praise indeed!

On a personal note, we are loving life on this beautiful Isle of Wight, with plenty of friends both old and new and great involvement with the activities of the ‘U3A’ which is very strong here. (University of the 3rd Age that is).

Best wishes to all who remember me”.

MICHAEL (MIKE) PETERS (1972 – 1975) decided to take the opportunity for early retirement in March 2010 after 34 and a half years in local government town planning. He left Palmers in September 1975 and immediately joined Thurrock Borough Council as a town planning trainee, leaving after 13 months to join Three Rivers District Council in Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire. After a further 9 years, and having gained a BA in town planning, by way of a 6 year day release course in London, he joined Wycombe District Council as a Senior Planner and then in 1990 joined Hertsmere Borough Council in Borehamwood for 7 years as Area Planning Officer. Following this he took a promotion to Head of Planning and Building Control at Staines in Middlesex, where he oversaw a number of high profile town centre regeneration schemes. Thereafter, 8 years later, to Dacorum Borough Council in Hemel Hempstead from where he took his early retirement after just over 4 years as Director of Environment and Regeneration. It was while at Hemel that his portfolio included emergency planning, which at one level did not present any real issue when accepting the post, but was quite another when the Buncefield Oil Depot disappeared under a massive explosion in Dec 2005, just 7 weeks after Mike joined the Council – whoops!

Early retirement has given Mike and his wife (of 32 years) Gill the opportunity to travel to Uganda to work on several slum communities with the charity called “Revelation Life” that was started by close friends of theirs in

2009. They hope to travel out to Africa once a year from now on in order to continue to support the amazing and life-changing work of the charity. Mike is also currently leading on a £3m new build church project in Amersham and was recently volunteer Chairman of planning group of a local amenity association called the Chiltern Society (CS); where the major rail project HS2 is major headache at present. It was through his work with the CS that Mike met **Michael Cooper** and found they had a common connection with Palmer's. Mike was delighted to pass on a back copy of the Old Palmerian to Michael who immediately decided to make contact with old friends - as reported on page 16 of the previous edition. It was very poignant that Michael Cooper died soon after this connection came to light (as sadly reported on page 63 of the 2011 edition of the OP).

Mike and Gill have two adult children and, in Nov 2010, their daughter (Hannah) presented them with a delightful grandson (Toby). Their son, Adam, has committed himself for an indefinite period to serve as an intern in Uganda with Revelation Life.

Mike retains very fond memories of his time at Palmer's and considers that any successes he can recount in his local government career can be directly attributed to his three academic years at the School.

JOHN LEWIS (1949 – 1956) writes:-

“I am prompted by some contributions from near contemporaries to send some observations of my own. I shall always be grateful to Palmers for the opportunities it opened up for me but I nearly spurned them.

I was one of only two children from Rainham Primary accepted by grammar schools after the 11+ in 1949. Palmers seemed vast and intimidating and I did not settle well. All these forbidding masters in gowns – where was Miss Morgan with the soft Welsh accent and soft moustache!! I knew only one other boy from Rainham and he was four years older. I seemed to go round in a haze of incomprehension. I have a vision of an exasperated **Mr Jordan** failing to drum some Latin into me, saying, “Lewis, you are an ass!” Algebra and Geometry were equally mysterious. At the end of the first year I was duly placed in Class 3C. There followed a hilarious three years. I often used to go home in the evenings with ribs aching from laughing so much. I did very little homework – I was too keen to get out with my friends in Rainham, none of whom had passed the scholarship. They were older than me and had exciting things like tree houses and motorbikes. I remember coming 28th out of 33 in class and started to have the first pangs of guilt. One problem in the C stream was that we seemed to get the weakest teachers. One or two had had harrowing wartime experiences and were then ill-treated by 4C. I still feel

guilty about that and it also destroyed any ambition I might have had to be a teacher.

There were glimmers of hope. Like David Gladwin in your last issue I remember Mr Groves – Gimpy we called him – who unlocked an interest in History. I came last in one exam but first in the next after he had started teaching us. I also remember John Scott who took us for Science but talked about allotments, bees and music.

By the time I reached 5C my friends at home had left school and I was on my own socially. I realised that I too would have to work for a living some day and perhaps I had better do something about my academic standing. I had to copy up 5 years of Chemistry notes, and I learnt them, much to Dai Davies' surprise. Dai liked practical lessons where he could have a crafty smoke in the fume cupboard. He also had apparently heated conversations in Welsh with J O Jones, an excellent History teacher. The myth developed that they hated each other. Later I was told that neither spoke Welsh but their chapel upbringing had given them an encyclopaedic knowledge of hymns that they quoted loudly at each other which greatly impressed the boys.

By O-levels I had regained some ground but found myself in interview with Mr Jordan trying to make a case to be admitted to the 6th Form to take 4 Arts A-levels, when I had not passed O-Level Maths, French and English. After a long hard look he allowed me in. So I am a fan of 'Fred' Jordan, despite some painful sessions with him earlier in my career.

I enjoyed the 6th Form, particularly the time spent with J O Jones and also George Ross who inspired a love of literature. We had a rather strange teacher for Economics whose name I can't remember, who was obsessively preoccupied with a persons' "attitude". Mr "Sam" Imms was a very good Geography teacher. The friends I remember best at school were Thomas Hawes, Dave Cook and Derek Mann. Sadly, Derek was killed in a car accident in his second year at Liverpool University.

Eventually I took a good Geography degree at Southampton and had an interesting career in Town Planning in Kent, Staffordshire and South Wales, and have returned to Kent in retirement where I have many family connections.

I am glad to say that we still have grammar schools here. One grandson has been through one, and is now at Cardiff University, and another starts in September. A granddaughter, despite having been accepted into the girls grammar school, was unhappy there, but is now doing very well in the 6th

Form of the local Comprehensive. Palmer's in the end suited me well, but there was a very narrow academic curriculum. I reckon that perhaps as many as a third of the boys would have been better off at other schools. There needed to be more pupil exchange. In Wales where my three children had all their school education, the system was 100% Comprehensive. They were lucky that because of the area in which we lived they went to one of the best schools in Cardiff and their different talents were fostered. In some other parts of South Wales there was little chance of escape from a poor education.

I can give little information about sport as I never aspired to represent the school at anything but javelin throwing. I was keen, but lacked talent! I deliberately chose the javelin as anyone can throw things and there is a technique that can be learnt. One snowy April sports day I did just manage to break the school record. One sporty thing I discovered at the age of 47 and which still gives great pleasure is downhill skiing. Again I showed no talent for it. I must have fallen over more than 500 times in my first week – but I now tackle black runs and love the mountains and the exhilaration of travelling fast. It is a great activity for one's old age because gravity is your friend rather than your enemy. One sits on a chair being wafted up the mountain for a good part of the day and how much energy is expended is largely optional. Fortunately my wife Sue is also smitten. We have had six weeks this winter between Christmas and Easter with plenty of sunshine as well as snow.

I have two daughters living in Kent with seven children between them. Our son is permanently in Sydney Australia with three children. We try to go to Oz once a year in the autumn and have rediscovered the joys of tent camping in UK and abroad in June or early July. Otherwise if really is very agreeable living in Hythe (Saltwood) where tennis, golf, gardening and walking provide needed exercise and keep joints working until the skiing season.

One opportunity Palmers offered that I greatly regret I spurned was getting involved in music making. There was an excellent choir and the annual productions of G and S were of course a major event in the musical life of the area. While I enjoyed listening to music and attended every G and S production, it never occurred to me to try and take part. Eventually, while living in Cardiff and at the age of 40, Sue and I joined the local choral society. Shortly I was also singing in a chorale and the church choir. Now in Kent we are members of the Folkestone and Saltwood choral societies and get great enjoyment from them. I now regret the thirty years of singing I missed. While the days of a 70 plus tenor are obviously numbered there may still be opportunities to come in the top bass section!

Clearly, the nature of the new Palmer's is much different from the old grammar school, and so it should be after 50 years. I am pleased to see the college obviously doing so well and that the Education Trust is able to help and reward so many scholars. May it long continue so to do.

BRENDA TONGEMAN (1951 - 1957) MRS DOYE was pleased to read about **Georgette Kutik (Mrs Miller)** in the last magazine as they were in the same form. She hoped to get in contact. Brenda was also particularly interested in the article about **Phyllis Nisbet (Mrs Pilgrim)** and having obtained a copy of her book, found that an interesting and insightful read.

BARRY JOHNSON (1950 – 1955) says that the last time he sent an article to the magazine was in 1964 and it was called "A Seagull Broke my Toe". He is still living in Canada, but now in a retirement community on a golf course. However he is still working mostly for fun. The following article was written about him by their community magazine writer Lloyd Pinnock.

AVIATION -IT'S IN MY BLOOD

As Barry Johnson relates, aviation is indeed in his blood; a passion he developed from his early days at Palmer's. He would tell anyone who would listen that he wanted to be a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy. However one key entry prerequisite eluded him -a credit in English in the General Certificate of Education exams, commonly referred to as 'O' levels.

Undaunted, he changed course and worked at different businesses in London, including among others the General Post Office as an Assistant Photographer, then at a bank in England and one in Sweden (where he quickly learned the language). Almost every year, from sponsorship by a Norwegian family, he travelled on a DC3 to Norway on holidays. The prospect of aviation kept on boiling in his blood. His next job on returning to England in December 1958, was with the Bank of Nova Scotia who transferred him to Canada.

One fine day he found himself at the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) recruiting centre on St. Clair Ave. West. He subsequently wrote and passed the entrance exam and in May 1960 commenced training in the RCAF as a Navigator. After 46 weeks of intensive training, he was one of only five to graduate, of the original 42 young men who started the course.

After receiving his wings he was transferred to Summerside, PEI, where he commenced his operational training on the Neptune P2V aircraft. Upon graduating from this course he became a member of the first 16 man crew on the Canadair Argus 4-engine aircraft. After five years he resigned and went to

the United States where he started a new career as a furniture designer. The reason as Barry tells it, "The Minister of National Defence, in an effort to reduce the military budget, laid off some 500 Air Force officers. The effect of this on morale was so traumatic that a further 3000 air crew, including pilots and navigators, left the service -me included."

He returned to Canada in 1968 to commence his new career, and also reapplied to the RCAF and was accepted in the Reserves.

So finally in 1970 he was again accepted as a Navigator, stationed in Downsview. During this period he pursued his dream and earned his private pilot's licence. He then accumulated over 500 hours of flying DHC-3 single engine Otter aircraft in the RCAF.

There came a dramatic change in 1976. He left the RCAF and joined the Canadian head office of a Swedish company as the North American Sales Manager for woodworking machinery.

On a trip to Hanover, West Germany, he met Lars Wissing, a friend of the Swedish Air Force Museum who told him that the museum wanted to acquire a WWII Mark 19 Spitfire for the museum. Barry immediately agreed to help and thus began his new career (or hobby with a difference). Back in Canada he took this request to the Canadian Fighter Pilots Association, the owners of the Spitfire. It took 8 years to convince them to sell the aircraft. Among those in that association, with whom he had met on a regular basis over this time period were Arthur Bishop (son of the famous WWI ace, Billy Bishop), Bob Hayward, commanding officer of 411 Squadron in WWII, Andrew McKenzie, the only RCAF prisoner of war in the Korean War, and Wally Floody, a Canadian mining engineer who helped build the underground tunnel for the Great Escape from Stalag Luft 17 (a famous movie was made of this).

The first CF104 that I sold in 1986

This Spitfire was being stored in a hanger at the Warplane Heritage in Hamilton and in 1984 the Swedish Air Force took ownership and transported it to Sweden. Barry received 6 aircraft in exchange: 3 two-seater Saab Lansens, 1 DC3,



1 AD4 Sky Raider and 1 Hawker Hunter Mk IV jet fighter. With the success of this transaction, Barry then devoted himself full time on this new venture (or should that be "adventure"?). These 6 aircraft were flown to California and sold to the millionaire owner of a chain of 75 restaurants who had his own museum.

The second CF104 that I sold in 1989. It was at the CNE Air-show two years ago.

The next act in the aircraft exchange was in response to a call from Norway where he took delivery of a Northrop F5 jet from the Norwegian Armed Forces museum in Oslo. It took 9 weeks to get the aircraft serviceable in Norway in preparation for the trans-atlantic flight. He sold it



to a businessman in the United States, who just wanted it to fly for fun. In exchange, the Norwegian museum received a serviceable Lockheed Lodestar, sourced in England, as well as other military memorabilia.

Hardesty's NF5B is the first aircraft I got from the Dutch



Several similar deals followed, primarily involving Starfighter and F5 aircraft, between Norway and the USA, with significant delays at times due to the government permissions required of both countries; export licences and the need to service some of the aircraft to make them airworthy, and not least, to

ensure the availability of the necessary spare parts.

Robinson's F5 67-14905 is the first F5 that I got from Norway in 1987. We flew it solo across the Atlantic.

Having sold his woodworking business in Canada in 1985, Barry studied and obtained his Real Estate Broker's licence. This is truly a man for all seasons -or should that be a man for all reasons?



TF104G # D-5810, with me in the picture, is the aircraft I sold to Michael Dorn, "Worf" of Star Trek.

His most recent aircraft venture was to source a TF104 G two-seater Starfighter for Michael Dorn (the actor from the long-running Star Trek series - as the character Worf), who was about to open his own private aircraft museum in California. This aircraft was obtained from The Royal Netherlands Air Force



with whom Barry had a contract to purchase six more. His registered company that made all this happen still exists today.

Michael Dorn, with TF 104G

Working out of his home in BGCC he is still being consulted on the sourcing of old military airplanes, particularly for museums around the world. He hopes to really start using his Real Estate licence along with wife Gabriele, self-employed as the Accounting Manager for several Toronto law firms.



All of the aircraft, except D5810 are still in flying condition. In about a year 5810 will also fly again.

ALLAN STARNS (1951 - 1955) is now living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and should be visiting Grays in 2013. He was a local Grays boy in Shaftsbury house. **Roger Wrightson** and **Tom Thomas** (named “donkey” by their French master at that time) were both in his class. He would be pleased to be contacted by anyone who remembers him, at Allan.Starns@threestreams.com

Allan is still working in the Oil and Gas industry in Alberta as, after 57 years, they still need his knowledge for the Northern Tar Sands.

LILIAN MAUD FLINT (1920s) MRS WILLIS



Congratulations to Lilian who celebrated her 100th birthday on 7 March 2012.

Lilian Willis has been a very busy lady during her 100 years, but found the time to put her feet up and relax during the celebration for her big birthday.

Her daughter Gillian organised the gathering with help from the staff at Roxburgh House care home in Westgate, Kent, and her sister **Jean Hammond (1939 – 1947)**.

She said: “The celebrations went very well. We had members of the family who travelled all the way from Devon and London, along with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren”.



Lilian surrounded by her two children, three of her six grandchildren and three of her nine great grandchildren. Jean is on the far left next to her sister Gillian. Behind Jean is the eldest son of **Phyllis Willis** (deceased). Phyllis was also at Palmer’s at about the same time as Lilian

Lilian was born in East Ham within the sound of the Bow Bells, on March 7, 1912. Gillian said: “She always said that she’d sunk the Titanic because she was born in the same year. She’s definitely a Cockney, from a family of six, although she moved around a lot after her marriage. We lived in Scotland and Yorkshire, among other places, and came down to Kent to run the Barkston Court hotel.”

Lilian drove ambulances during the Second World War around the docks in Essex, shortly after marrying her husband Dante in 1938 and afterwards worked in Lloyds bank for many years. Gillian said: “ Mum commuted to London when we lived in Bromley, which was unusual at the time because there was no sharing of the chores. But running the hotel was great fun, and a lot of people around here knew her from there. She worked right up until her mid-80s.”

Lilian thoroughly enjoyed her special celebrations at the Westgate care home. Gillian said: “She was well on form and loved every minute – she saw people she hadn’t seen for years.”

LIONEL BOXALL (1944 - 1951) went to medical school after leaving Palmer’s and, following graduation and house jobs, was given the choice of fulfilling his national service obligation in the Canadian Air Force. He stayed in the air force fourteen years, during which he specialised in dermatology. Then after leaving the service he was a consultant at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and in private practice until he retired.

SCOTT SMALLMAN (2004 - 2006) graduated in 2011 with a First Class Honours Degree in Web and Multi Media Design.

MICHAEL JOHN HENDRY (1951 – 1958) has sent the following photos.



East Dorm 1952

Left to Right: Taffy Burton, Tufty Adams, Robert Jones, Michael John Hendry, Bob Block, Tubby Grant, Derek Cording, Mick Mancer, Bob Walmsley, Peter Bennett, Bob Hawks and Ian Fearnside.



South Dorm 1951 (Can anyone help with the names)



Derek Cording and Michael Hendry by the Swimming Pool 1954



Michael and Derek by the Bike Shed 1952



Michael and Derek with friends 2 months before Derek died (1991?). Michael is on the far right and Derek is next to him.

JOHN GLANVILLE CLARK (1935 - 1939) was evacuated from Palmer's in 1939 and took a war-time two-year degree in Advanced Mathematics at Imperial College. He was then recruited to work at Bletchley Park decoding station during World War 2 as a Temporary Junior Administrative / Assistant Officer from July 1943 to June 1944. Whilst there he learned Japanese and was posted to Colombo in August 1944 where he worked on Japanese ciphers until November 1945. After that he joined the Patent Office as a patent examiner and eventually became a Principal Examiner. Genealogy was one of John's out-of-office interests.

DAVID STAINES (1952 - 1959) writes:- Love of Gilbert and Sullivan, running and French are strands in my life that have their roots in my schooldays at Palmer's. One of those strands, running and athletics in general, still play a major part in my life 60 years on.

When I arrived at the school in 1952 I suppose I was a very fit 11 year old. I had ridden by bike to and from Linford to my Primary School in Chadwell St Mary every day for the previous three and a half years. That was a 6 mile round journey. I played football daily and played for the Primary School team. In my first term at Palmer's I was introduced to something different – cross country running. The Addison cross country practice was announced and we arrived at the School's back gate in our white plimsolls and knee length shorts. Track suits had not reached Grays at that time. We were introduced to the junior practice course. It led to Turps Corner, where we turned right; half way down Rectory Road we turned into a narrow path to the Rookery Playing Fields; we ran up to the Cemetery and on to Chadwell Road; returned back to School running down Chadwell Road, over the crossroads at Turps Corner and back to the School gates. Health and Safety would have a nervous breakdown just at the thought of that. Anyway I discovered that I was quite good at this new sport.

Come half term we were loaded into Harris' Coaches and taken to Orsett, specifically to the site of Bishop Odo's Palace, and invited to race round Bulphan Fen for 10 to 15 minutes. I finished 5th which seemed to please **Phil Ross** who was teaching me English at the time. He continued to encourage me in this sport until illness forced his retirement.

With the Spring term, track and field practices started early and the sports were usually at the end of that term. In PE lessons, **Tony Hendry** discovered I could long jump and I took part at the District Trials at that event.

The following year, having won the Junior Cross Country, I ran for the School in the 880 yards. In my first race for the School, at Westcliff County High, I

won in 2m 35s beating a Westcliff runner, Bill Langlois, who was killed 30 years later whilst running along the A13. This was the yearly pattern going through the School. I was mainly a footballer and fitted athletics and cross country into the Summer and Autumn Terms. In my final year at school I won the Senior Cross Country, the mile at the School Sports and a bronze medal at the County Schools 440 yards.

The latter was on a bumpy grass track at Craylands School and I ran 53.6s which was the School record at the time.



School Sports Day 1959 1 Mile, David 1st, **Richard Tunney** 2nd.

[There is also a picture of David in the School Magazine 1958/59 year.]

I took up running seriously two and a half years after leaving Palmer's. I was at St Pauls College, Cheltenham and wanted the prestige of a 'colour' at the PE based college. At the end of that year I got my athletics and cross country colours. By the time I left St Pauls I had run 4m33s for the mile and 2m2s for the half mile.



David running in Hyde Park Relays 1963 for St Pauls College.

On arriving back in Grays I re-joined Thurrock Harriers. Mel Batty was National Cross Country Champion and World Record holder for 10 miles and was a real inspiration. I wanted to match him, but 8 years and thousands of running miles later had not made it, though I had won a couple of County Championships at road running distances.

Since then I have coached, administrated and organised within the sport without a break. Currently I am chairman of Essex AA and Thurrock Harriers and to think it all started at the back gates of the School with a 10 minute run round the busy streets of east Grays.

DEBORAH TRAVIS (2006 - 2008) graduated in 2011 with a BA Honours Degree in English and Film.

LUKE PAUL (2006 - 2008) graduated in 2011 with a BA Honours Degree in Journalism.

JAMES HALDEN (2006 - 2008) graduated in 2011 with a 2.1 Degree in Politics and was going on to study for a Masters Degree in Law.

FRANCESCA RENOLDI (2004 - 2006) graduated with a BA Honours degree in Higher Teaching.

ZOE COX (2000 - 2002) graduated in 2011 with a first Class Honours Degree and a Masters in Architecture with Distinction.

DARRELL HOVELLS (1980 - 1982) is still playing for the Pegasus Palmerian vets rugby team and often makes very good conversions of tries.

NEIL BEAUMONT (1961-1968) writes:-

On reading W.H. Edwards' article in John Hayston's book, "250 Years On", I noticed he wrote that "...two masters, Hopkins and Hunter, were killed..." in the First World War. However, the Boys' School's Memorial, now in the College Library, for those who died in the War only remembers Robert How Hunter. Accordingly, as part of research into Old Palmerians who died in the two world wars I discovered the following and it is now intended to remember him on the School Memorial, nearly 100 years after his death.

ERIC ARTHUR HOPKINS

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that Eric died on the 5th May 1915 and was serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment but, at the time of his death, he was attached to the 1st Battalion. He is remembered on Panel 31 and 33 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hopkins of West View House, Bishopsthorpe Road, York.

The Grays and Tilbury Gazette of 15th May, 1915 contained an article concerning Eric which, through age and the quality of microfiche reproduction, is not always distinct. The article is headed 'Former Palmer's School Master Killed'.

The Gazette states that Eric held the rank of Lieutenant and was killed in action at the end of April 'and will be remembered as a former master at Palmer's School'. He was in his 30th year and had been educated at Archbishop Holgate's School, York, from where he went to the University of Leeds. At Leeds he was a popular student and became President of the Students' Union and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts with Honours.

He joined the Staff of Palmer's as an assistant master under the Headmastership of George Silverwood 'and was held in high regard by the masters and boys'. At Palmer's he was a lieutenant in the School Cadet Corps and 'was well known in the town as an amateur actor'.

In 1913 Eric left Palmer's to become an assistant master at Elston School in Bedfordshire and was prominent in forming that school's cadet corps. On the outbreak of the First World War Eric volunteered and enlisted into the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was wounded early in the War and returned to England to recuperate. Before returning to France he underwent machine gun training at the Hythe School of Musketry after which he was transferred to the 1st Battalion of the Bedfords in which he was serving at the date of his death.

Mr. Silverwood and Eric were, clearly, on very good terms as Eric had written to the Headmaster as recently as April.

It can be seen that there are discrepancies between the Gazette's account of Eric's rank and the date of his death but in the confusion of war this is not unusual.

It seems likely that Eric came to Palmer's in 1910 having graduated that year with a degree in History. More research will be undertaken on this and concerning the circumstances of Eric's death should they be recorded in contemporary records. However, the following detail concerns the actions of the 1st Bedfords (Eric's Battalion) at Ypres in May, 1915.

The Ypres Salient saw huge and sustained fighting and casualties throughout the War. Popular memory associates Ypres with the slaughter of Passchendaele in 1917. However, this part of Belgium was fought over, back and forth, from the first battle there in October, 1914 to the last in October 1918. The importance of the Ypres Salient was that it held the key to controlling the ports of northern France and Belgium and control of the sea.

On 17th April 1915 British mines blew up the German position at Hill 60 on the Ypres Salient and, such was the ferocity of fighting, 3 soldiers of the 1st East Surreys won Victoria Crosses for their bravery at Hill 60 during 20th - 21st April. On 22nd April gas was used for the first time when the Germans deployed chlorine along the 4 mile front north of Ypres. Hill 60 was about 3 miles south east of Ypres and, after the initial British success there, the Germans had counter-attacked and breached the Allies' defensive line.

The Germans were only 3 miles from Ypres, still held by the Allies. On the evening of 22nd April the Germans had captured the area north of Ypres arriving at St. Julien. In the mayhem, the British were staging a 'tactical' retreat and the rump being held desperately by the British included Hill 60. On 1st May, the British resisted a German gas attack and a handful of 1st Dorsets withstood the onrushing Germans.

The 1st Devons and the 1st Bedfords now rushed to support the 1st Dorsets and for 3 hours took part in close fighting at the foot of Hill 60. 90 were killed by gas in the trenches and the Official History records that 207 men were brought back to the dressing station of which 46 died almost immediately and 12 'after long suffering'. The Germans launched a second attack on 5th May and flooded the British trenches with gas and, using hand grenades, took the British position.

The courage of Eric and his comrades is barely comprehensible to us today but we can remember and honour him by adding his name to the 90 others on the School Memorial, many of whom he would have known and taught. May his soul rest in peace

NEIL BEAUMONT (1961-1968) also writes:-

Following research into Old Palmerians who died in the two World Wars I discovered that an Old Palmerian, Gordon Charles Steele, won the Victoria Cross after taking part in a motor torpedo boat raid on Kronstadt Harbour on the 18th August 1919. The information below derives from information from a wide range of primary and secondary sources and a fuller account is intended to be published.

The Victoria Cross is renowned throughout the world and is awarded only for "most conspicuous bravery, or some daring pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy". Only 1355 Victoria Crosses have been awarded and the first presentation was made by Queen Victoria on 26th June 1857.

It is now 93 years since Gordon Steele won the Victoria Cross, the highest

honour this country can bestow for bravery, and, at last, I am proud to say that he will be remembered by a memorial in the College Library. A plaque, presented by the Association, designed and crafted by John Sach and made from Indian Silver Wood from the old Boys' School Library, is intended to be unveiled in 2012.



The Supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday, 11th November 1919 published the following citation in respect of the award of his Victoria Cross:-

“Lieutenant Gordon Charles STEELE.

Royal Navy.

For most conspicuous gallantry, skill and devotion to duty on the occasion of the attack on Kronstadt Harbour on the 18th August 1919. Lieutenant Steele was second-in-command of H.M. Coastal Boat No. 88. After this boat had entered the harbour the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant

Dayrell- Reed, was shot through the head and the boat thrown off her course. Lieutenant Steele took the wheel , steadied the boat, lifted Lieutenant Dayrell-Reed away from the steering and firing position and torpedoed the Bolshevik Battleship “Andrei Pervozvanni” at a hundred yards range. He had then a difficult manoeuvre to perform to get a clear view of the Battleship “Petropavlovsk” which was overlapped by the “Pervozvanni” and obscured by smoke coming from that ship. The evolution, however, was skilfully carried out and the “Petropavlovsk” torpedoed. This left Lieutenant Steele with only just room to turn, in order to regain the entrance to the harbour, but he effected the movement with success and firing his machine guns along the wall on his way, passed under the line of forts through a heavy fire out of the harbour.”

GORDON CHARLES STEELE,V.C., R.N.

The first entry I found was in the 1934/5 School Yearbook which included “Commander G.C.Steele,V.C., R.N., Captain Superintendent of H.M.S. Worcester”.

School records showed Gordon Charles Steele entered Palmer’s in the Michaelmas Term of 1905 along with two of his brothers, William Jermyn and Arthur Daveney Steele. Previously, they had attended Vale College in Ramsgate, Kent. Another brother, John D’Arcy Steele, entered the School in 1911, he had been previously educated at home.

Gordon was born in Exeter on 1st November 1891 and his parents were Henry William Steele and Selina May Steele, née Symonds. The naval tradition was strong in the family as Gordon’s father was serving in the Royal Navy and his maternal grandfather served as a General in the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Henry Steele entered service in the Royal Navy in 1869 and enjoyed a distinguished naval career including being mentioned in despatches. He retired with the rank of Captain and was appointed Captain Superintendent of the Training Ship “Cornwall”, moored at Purfleet, and the Steele family moved to the area.

During Henry Steele’s time in charge of the “Cornwall”, he made many improvements in respect of the boys’ welfare and the Ship’s facilities. “Cornwall” boys were provided with a good elementary educational grounding together with naval training and Captain Steele also instituted a system which offered supervision of the boys when they left the Ship to try to ensure they made good progress.

Captain Steele was 60 years old when he died in January 1916. He left a widow, four sons and three daughters and the funeral took place at Aveley Parish Church.

On leaving Palmer's at the end of the Lent Term in 1907, Gordon Steele joined the training ship H.M.S. "Worcester", moored off Greenhithe across the Thames from the "Cornwall". The "Worcester" trained boys to serve as officers in the merchant navy and, on leaving, Gordon joined the Peninsular and Oriental Line and also chose to enrol in the Royal Naval Reserve as a Midshipman.

After induction training at the outbreak of the First World War, Gordon undertook specialist submarine training and was one of the elite recruited into submarine warfare which was in its infancy.

By the end of 1914 Gordon was aboard the S.S. "Vienna", a purpose-built railway passenger ship moored at Harwich, and used as an overflow depot ship for submarine officers. Before the War it transported passengers to and from the Hook of Holland. Shortly, she was to be fitted out as an armed decoy steamer and become one of a secret force known as "Q-Ships".

During its adaptation the "Vienna", alias the "Antwerp", was provided with two 12-pounder guns hidden beneath a decoy frame in which holes were cut to enable expert Marine rifle marksmen to fire through. By the end of January 1915 the "Vienna" was ready for war service in its new role. Sub-Lieutenant Steele was appointed second-in-command and Gunnery Officer, serving under Lt.-Commander Geoffrey Herbert who was an expert in submarine warfare.

As a decoy ship, the "Vienna" steamed along at a steady pace in the North Sea hoping to lure German submarines to the surface, with the aim of destroying them before they destroyed her. This was not for the faint-hearted. The time in the North Sea proved fruitless so she was sent to operate off the Cornish Coast in the area to which the German submarines had moved but, again, had no success.

Herbert and Steele moved to another armed decoy ship, the "Baralong", and by May, 1915 they were back to their decoy duties. On 7 May the "Lusitania" was lost along with nearly 1200 lives and many small steamers were also being sunk. The "Baralong" had, in fact, picked up a distress signal from the "Lusitania" but arrived too late to be of help.

The "Baralong" now spent its time cruising in the area between the south-west of England and the south of Ireland and, at last, on 19th August, she

encountered the Germans when she went to the aid of the S.S. "Arabic", a large liner, and the S.S. "Nicosian". Both had been attacked by a German submarine and the former had suffered the loss of over 40 lives.

The "Baralong" arrived and indicated it was to rescue the "Nicosian's" crew but the submarine, rather than withdraw, chose to continue to attack the "Nicosian". In response, Herbert decided to attack the submarine and, so, raised the White Ensign. Steele, as gunnery officer, showed outstanding skill and courage in shattering the submarine's conning tower and, at risk to his own life, removing one of the shells which had misfired in the port 12-pounder gun.

The submarine was incapacitated and the German crew escaped to the "Nicosian" and the "Baralong's" marines pursued them on board and, no doubt with the "Lusitania" fresh in mind, killed the German submarine captain and others of his crew.

In recognition of their actions the "Baralong's" crew were awarded £1000 and several decorations were bestowed on them. Gordon Steele's outstanding contribution was rewarded with the rare honour of being transferred from the Royal Naval Reserve to the Royal Navy. Before the end of the year he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Actions such as those in which Steele took part convinced the Admiralty of the great worth of the "Q- ships" and they played an increasing role in the War.

After the "Baralong", Steele served at Jutland on the battleship "Royal Oak". In the autumn of 1917 he was given command of H.M.S. P63, a patrol boat specially built for anti-submarine warfare and, later, he commanded H.M.S. "Cornflower".

The Great War ended on 11 November 1918 but Gordon Steele, now a regular, continued to serve in the Royal Navy and was to be in action again within a year.

Russia had been a member of the Allied coalition in the War until a series of mutinies by its soldiers and sailors culminated in the October 1917 Revolution. The Russians withdrew from the War leaving the Germans free to concentrate on the Western Front. In November 1917 the Russians began negotiating with the Germans and, in March 1918, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed which marked the formal end of Russian/German hostilities. The Treaty also gave Germany the right to occupy substantial areas of European Russia in which the Allies had large supplies of military equipment.

In March 1918 Allied forces had been sent to retrieve the supplies and, also, to train the opposition Tsarist White Russian Army and, thereby, came into conflict with the Russian revolutionaries. The conflict continued into 1919 when the Allied forces guarding the military equipment were trapped by the Russian winter and the British now raised the North Russia Relief Force to secure their evacuation and the Force arrived in Russia in June 1919.

On 17th June Lieutenant Augustine Agar won the Victoria Cross for an attack in a Coastal Motor Boat (C.M.B.) at Kronstadt when a Russian cruiser was sunk.

Against this background, Steele and Agar were to participate in a raid on the Russian Navy moored in Kronstadt Harbour on the night of 18th August 1919. For their part in the action Steele won the Victoria Cross, Agar the Distinguished Service Order and Commander Claude Dobson, who commanded the attacking flotilla, the Victoria Cross.

The variety of Steele's naval service to date had been wide and he had already demonstrated his bravery, cool-headedness under fire, gunnery skills and quick judgement. All of these qualities, and more, were to be put to the test at Kronstadt Harbour.

C.M.B.s were introduced in April 1916, constructed of wood, 45 feet long, very fast and lightweight, built to skip over the water and German minefields and deliver torpedoes and, then, move away quickly. The boats weighed 4¼ tons and were later improved to travel at 40 knots and able to use two torpedoes, mounted above the water line either side of the hull. They were powered by twin petrol engines of 750 combined horse-power and light, rapid-firing guns defended the boats. The C.M.B.s had been used for the famous attack on Zeebrugge and Ostend on St. George's Day in 1918.

The crew on Steele's C.M.B. was minimal with two lieutenants, a sub-lieutenant together with two motor mechanics and a wireless operator.

Rear-Admiral Sir Walter Cowan, based at Björkö in the Gulf of Finland, commanded the British naval force against the Bolsheviks and his objective was to blockade the Bolshevik Northern Fleet. Agar's success emboldened Cowan to undertake the more ambitious attack on Kronstadt Harbour which was a major Russian naval port which also protected Leningrad. The attackers would have to overcome a series of defensive forts and a destroyer which protected the approach to the Harbour. If they survived these they would then face the Russian harbour gun defences and those aboard the numerous ships in the Harbour.

The raid was undertaken by a flotilla of 7 C.M.B.s commanded by a very experienced submarine captain, Commander C.C. Dobson D.S.O., R.N., who was on board C.M.B. 31 commanded by Lieutenant R.H. Macbean, R.N.. Another boat was captained by Agar. Steele was second-in-command and gunnery officer of C.M.B. No. 88D commanded by Lieutenant A. Dayrell-Reed, D.S.O., R.N.. Dayrell-Reed had served in submarines and taken part, as a navigator, in the Zeebrugge raid.

Aerial reconnaissance ahead of the attack showed that, moored immediately to the left inside the Harbour, was the 23,300 ton battle-cruiser "Petropavlovsk". To its left, amongst other ships, was the 17,200 ton battleship "Andrei Pervozvanni". Each was armed with 12 inch and many other guns. Across from the Harbour entrance the submarine depot ship "Pamiat-Azov" was moored and, to the starboard of the Harbour entrance, 5 vessels were moored alongside each other including the 15,170 ton cruiser "Rubric".

The night of 17th/18th August 1919 was chosen for the attack and the flotilla of 7 C.M.B.s started off at 10p.m.. Dayrell-Reed's boat continued to take on water which had to be pumped out at regular intervals but he proceeded and his boat was one of three which were ahead of the others. After hugging the Finnish coast they altered course for Kronstadt at 11.45p.m.. His was now one of only four which were up to speed and, after about half an hour, they could see Kronstadt Island and, after a few miles, they could see the series of small forts guarding Petrograd Bay.

By 1.00a.m. 3 boats, including Dayrell-Reed's, were amongst the forts. Amazingly, neither the forts nor the Russian destroyer opened fire and, as the three leading boats approached the Harbour, they formed up into single file with Dayrell-Reed's boat going in third. A few minutes earlier a diversionary air attack had begun to provide cover for the C.M.B.s.

Once in the Harbour C.M.B. 79 fired at the "Pamiat Azov" and hit it. The other two C.M.B.s opened fire but, as the Russians were still quiet, Steele held fire. Now the Russians opened fire and Dayrell-Reed, who was steering the C.M.B., was hit and his boat veered off course.

It was now that Gordon Steele took the initiative and, moving Dayrell-Reed from the conning tower, could see he had been shot in the head. Steele took control of the boat and continued and he and Dobson torpedoed the battleship "Andrei Pervozvanni". Steele then executed a very tight turn, still under enemy fire, and, again, from only about 100 yards gave the order to fire the other torpedo at the battle-cruiser "Petropavlovsk" and, once more, hit the target. Before he heard the second torpedo hit, Steele had to perform a turn

within the minimum of space in order to allow his boat to escape from the Harbour and this he did and then performed another expertly executed tight turn to escape the Harbour entrance, still under heavy Russian gun fire from within the Harbour.

Steele now proceeded back to Björkö and, on the journey, they tended to Lieutenant Dayrell-Reed but he died later back at the base.

The commander of the flotilla, Commander Claude Dobson, was also awarded the Victoria Cross and his and Lieutenant Steele's citations were published in the Supplement to the London Gazette of 11th November 1919 and Gordon Steele's is reproduced in full above.

The attack had called for the highest bravery, undertaken in the dark in a very confined space in a heavily defended harbour packed with well-armed ships. Additionally, the Coastal Motor Boats had to be manoeuvred with the highest standards of skill at the same time as having to evade, as far as it was in their power, heavy enemy gunfire and, at the same time, focus on firing their torpedoes to destroy their targets. As second-in-command, Gordon Steele had this responsibility thrust upon him in the direst of circumstances and, in a life or death situation, carried out his duty to the highest standards.

Gordon Steele continued serving in the Royal Navy. In 1929 he returned to his old ship, the Training Ship "Worcester", taking over its command. He remained in charge, apart from anti-submarine duties in the Second World War, until he retired in 1957.

Commander Steele had been the subject of an episode of "This is Your Life" in 1958 but, on contacting the B.B.C., they informed me that a copy of the broadcast had not been kept.

Gordon Steele was a Fellow of the Institute of Navigation, a Freeman of the City of London and a Younger Brother of Trinity House.

Gordon Steele died on 4th January 1981 and lies buried in All Saints New Cemetery, Winkleigh in Devon.

HELP REQUIRED

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the First Eleven Cricket scorebooks? We have at the College the ones for the Second Eleven and the Colts. We have had a request from Alex Evans who is writing a book on his club South Walsham in Norfolk. Palmer's used to go on a cricket tour to Norfolk in the

middle of August from 1953 until 1967. They initially camped and then later stayed at Wymondham College and played many good sides. Alex has many score cards for the games against South Walsham, but not for 1962, 1963, 1965, 1966 and 1967. I have looked in the School magazines for those years and with the exception of 1963, when the match was cancelled due to rain, Palmer's played South Walsham in all those years. Gardner, C Ennever, A Jordan, C Royle, Skinner, Cole, K Jones, Jeavons and Worwood all played in the match in 1964. Shaw, Wilson, Ashford, A Hendry, Simpson, Cole, Skinner, Reynolds, Jeavons and Worwood all played in the match in 1961. The only names mentioned in the magazines for 1965 to 1967 are Arthur Tokeley, D Foster and B Harris, but we know that K Jones, D Yates, G Jarvis, G Cole and R Battershall also played Ingham in 1965. Have any of them got their own scorecards for the matches required? Please let Ruth Hunwick know at one of the addresses given at the front of the magazine.

The match in 1964 was Drawn, with Palmer's declaring at 222 at 6 wickets and 55 overs. South Walsham then scored 174 for 6 wickets in 52 overs. Alex has very kindly sent all the score cards that he has, for all the matches from 1953 onwards.

Can any one let us know the address of Andy Cresswell? Please let Ruth Hunwick know.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:-

WILLIAM GARTH JONES (1948 - 1954) who, having been widowed in 2008, is now remarried to Desiree and living at Penrhyn Bay, Conwy.

MARTYN DERRICK (2002 - 2004) from Corringham, married Sharyn Lappage, from Jersey, at the island's St Lawrence Parish Church on 13 August 2011.

REBECCA MOORE (2004 - 2007) married Kieron O'Neill on 11.11.11 at Friern Manor. Everyone wore poppies to mark the day, and they raised money for the Royal British Legion at the wedding. They honeymooned in Mexico.

OBITUARIES

We are very sorry to have to report the deaths of the following Old Palmerians, and we extend our sympathy to their families:

DEREK CORDING	1951 - 1958			c1991
GEOFF GILHAM	c1957 - 1964	15	June	2001
VERA KUBANEK MALON	c1942 - 1945		May	2002
JOAN HILLS	1933 - 1939		January	2011
DONALD JOHN LITTLECHILD	1934 - 1939	19	February	2011
JOE KUBANEK	c1942 - 1945		March	2011
CAROLE JACKSON	1969 - 1974	06	March	2011
EDWIN LAWRENCE PEARMIN	1936 - 1943	19	March	2011
PETER WAKEFIELD	1942 - 1947	06	June	2011
BRIAN A. S. WEST	1938 - 1945		June	2011
BARBARA SHEPPARD				
(MRS ROBERTS)	1940 - 1948	24	January	2012
DENNIS GEORGE MABEY	1942 - 1949	03	February	2012
MAY CLEMENTS				
(MRS MOORING)	1929 - 1934	05	February	2012
ALAN MILLER	1935 - 1940	12	February	2012
MRS IRENE ANSELL	2005 - 2012	28	February	2012
PETER CHARLES DAY	1937 - 1942	22	March	2012
PETER BROOKBANK	1945 - 1952	22	April	2012
MICHAEL JOHN CATTON	1935 - 1943	08	June	2012

DEREK CORDING

Derek was from Vange in Essex and joined the Merchant Navy after leaving Palmer's. He left England to sail the world in 1958/9.

GEOFF GILLHAM

Geoff Gillham, director and playwright, born 27 January 1946; died 15 June 2001

Director committed to education through the theatre

The playwright, director and teacher Geoff Gillham, who has died of cancer aged 55, was not interested in writing plays that young people watched passively. He saw the potential of the theatre-in-education (TiE) movement to engage them in productive learning through theatre, making meaning of their lives, and of the world they live in.

Above all, Geoff believed passionately in the power of theatre to humanise, and become a force for change in the world. He dedicated his life to the

development of TiE, and to teaching and training others through the Standing Conference of Young People's Theatre (SCYPT). He was the driving force of this hugely important organisation through a period when funding cuts threatened both the TiE movement and SCYPT itself with extinction.

Geoff also had a 30-year admiration for the plays and writings of Edward Bond, directing the British premieres of Bond's *Human Cannon*, *Eleven Vests*, *At the Inland Sea*, and *The Crime Of The 21st Century*. He regarded Bond as the contemporary version of Shakespeare, and saw himself as a co-worker, trying to clear away some of the obscurantism and philistinism blocking the development of culture.

As an internationalist, he recognised that while TiE was under threat in Britain, progressive artists and educators all over the world were thirsty for its methods and ideas. So, through SCYPT, the International Centre for Theatre-in-Education (ICTiE) was founded. This took a giant leap forward in August last year when artists from 21 countries gathered for the People In Movement conference on theatre in education in Amman, Jordan; Geoff was the creative and political spark behind this extraordinary event.

It grew from his earlier work in Jordan, for which he was presented - by Queen Noor - with the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation performing arts centre award. Jordan became his spiritual home; the Arab people, the struggle of the Palestinians, the friendships he made, and the work he was a part of creating there, inspired him. In the staggering beauty of Petra, with its amphitheatre at the heart of an ancient city carved from the rock, he found embodied all that his work stood for.

Geoff was born in Hornchurch, Essex, the son of schoolteachers; his father was also a semi-professional film-maker. He was educated at Palmer's school, Grays, and St Mark's teacher training college, Chelsea. He began his theatre career as an Assistant Stage Manager at the Royal Court, and later won an Arts Council bursary to direct at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln. But, seeing the limitations of repertory for the theatre he wanted to create, he moved to the north-east to found a community theatre. He also started Live Theatre in 1972, and its work still continues.

Thus did Geoff's journey lead him into TiE, his chosen and beloved art form. He began to make his most brilliant contributions to theatre, and to the lives of thousands of young people. He became artistic director and writer for the Cockpit Theatre TiE Company in London, Action Projects in Education, in Cardiff, and Harlow Theatre Van.

In a lifetime's work, the TIE and other theatre companies he directed and wrote for included theatres based in Coventry, Lancaster, Mid-Glamorgan, Birmingham, Ipswich, Benwell, Newcastle, Amsterdam and Amman. Other countries he worked in included Vietnam, Hungary and Kenya. For his Bosnian work, he was awarded the Grozdanin Kikot Award by the Mostar Youth Theatre.

Geoff moved from existentialism in the 1960s to Marxism in the early 1970s; following the split in the Workers' Revolutionary party, of which he was a member, he supported the Marxist party. He wrote 27 plays and a further 27 articles on theatre, art, education, politics and philosophy.

He also had an enormous interest in the natural world, a detailed knowledge of plant life and a huge collection of cacti and aloes.

Geoff began his professional life directing the world premiere of Samuel Beckett's *Breath* in Glasgow in 1969 and ended it directing a national tour of the British professional premiere of Bond's *The Crime of the 21st Century* this year. He knew he was ill, but thought it was an ulcer. He would not stop, because he knew that his work on the play might be cut short, and remained at the helm till his last days. One of his maxims was that he would rather wear out than rust out.

Three years ago, he met and married Viet Nguyen-Gillham, the most valuable love and companion, through whom he found true happiness. He had a deep love, too, for his son, Dan, from a former relationship.

Edward Bond writes: "If English theatre survives - and if it has anything important to say and do - it will be to a surprising degree because of Geoff Gillham's seminal influence on the core of young people who will be its future. Of course, there are other influences, but I constantly meet young writers and young directors who say his influence on their work was decisive."

It is difficult to describe its power to anyone who didn't know it, a combination of utter life-giving logic with total generosity. It was as if he could throw a stone in a river and its whole course would change from the place where it struck. Not many people in theatre have lived as well as he did.

David Davis
Friday 27 July 2001
The Guardian

JOAN HILLS

Joan died peacefully at her home in the Isle of Wight in January 2011 and was buried on the Island after a large funeral in Shanklin. She was a lovely lady, very supportive of our Church and loved the Isle of Wight. She had many fond memories of Essex, especially Upminster where we both grew up, as it used to be 'in the days of Stan Eve'.

Bill Robson (1945 - 1949)

DONALD JOHN LITTLECHILD

5 January 1923 - 19 February 2011

Don was born on 5th January 1923, was brought up in Grays and attended Palmers between 1934 and 1939. By all accounts he acquitted himself well, with his valedictory report stating that, "Donald Littlechild has been a good pupil, intelligent and honest. He had played an active part in all school activities, as well as a successful player in the school's 1st XI cricket team". Indeed, cricket would remain one of his passions.

He saw active service during the war. After 2 years in the Home Guard, he went into the Regular Army, joining the Royal Corps of Signals. He became a radio operator, attached to the 8th Army. He saw action in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He learnt Italian during this time which he enjoyed using in latter years. However, he had constant difficulties in communicating as he took his holidays in Spain.

After the war, Don joined the local gaslight and coke company, which was latter to become the North Thames Gas Board, and subsequently British Gas. He rose through the ranks to enjoy a senior supervisory position.

Don joined the Old Palmerians' Lodge in May 1961. By choice he never took office but instead chose to enjoy his Freemasonry from the back benches. For those that knew him, Don will be remembered as a thoroughly likeable and jovial brother, who was never happier than when he was sat having a laugh and a joke at the festive board.

Don did not enjoy good health for many of his latter years, which prevented him from attending. His wife of 60 years, Ella, died just before Christmas last year, and Don followed her on 19th February. The Lodge was well represented at his funeral on 11th March.

Don was Chairman of the Old Palmerians' Association for the year 1962 - 1963.

CAROLE JACKSON

Carole died on the 6th March 2011 after a two year battle with cancer.

EDWIN LAWRENCE PEARMINE

Edwin die on the 19 March 2011 at the age of 85 and his funeral was held on the 4 April 2011 at Upminster Cemetery.

He was always very proud to have been a pupil at Palmer's and looked forward to getting the magazine. While he was at the Boys' School, he enjoyed cross country running.

When he left he went into engineering. Then in 1945 he went into the Royal Air Force and when he was de-mobbed the firm he had worked for had closed down. He decided to do something different, so he got a job in an Insurance Brokers in the City, called Leslie & Godwin, which is now AON. He did 48 years service and was made a company director of the firm. Edwin retired at 65 and spent some happy years until he became poorly in about April 2010. He had to go into a nursing home with very bad dementia and was taken into the Queen's hospital when he deteriorated.

He was very highly thought of by every one and had he lived until 15 September 2011 he and his wife Betty would have been married 60 years.

BRIAN WEST **1927 - 2011**

Brian West, died in June 2011 in Arrowse Park hospital on the Wirral aged 83 and is survived by his widow, Vera West.

He moved to Grays from Dorset in 1938 at the age of 10 and spent the war years as a school boy at Palmer's (1938-1945). He continued his education at St Mark and St John in Chelsea training to be a teacher. Brian started his teaching career at the Park Secondary School where he taught English and also met his wife, Vera. He then went on to Mardyke school when it first opened, later working in Billericay before becoming the head-teacher at Stifford Primary School, then at Bardfield School in Basildon and finishing

his career in Romford, as head of Mawney Road Junior School. He lived for most of his life with his wife Vera, in Corringham. They were married for 57 years and had two children, Gillian and Huw. **Gillian West** was a student at Palmers' 6th Form College from 1976 to 1978 and is now one of Her Majesty's Inspectors, working for Ofsted. Huw is a civil engineer, living near Peterborough.

In 2007, at the age of 79 Brian and Vera moved from Corringham to the Wirral, to be near their grandchildren. Brian had a keen love of music and was happy to spend the later years of his life going to concerts at the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool, watching his son-in-law play the 'cello in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

DENNIS GEORGE MABEY



Dennis died on 03 February 2012 and his funeral, which he had compiled himself and was very well attended, was on 16 February 2012 at St Owen's Church, Bromham, Bedfordshire.

Dennis Mabey was born on 29th July 1931 during a heavy thunderstorm! He has an older brother, Stanley, and had a sister, Margaret, who sadly passed away when she was 13. He grew up in Essex where his mother ran 'The Bluebird Café' whilst his father worked as a chef in London.

He went to Palmer's (1942 - 1949) and then to Imperial College London to study Aeronautical Engineering (4 years) followed by a further year at Brown's University, Rhode Island, USA. He then worked for the Royal Aerospace Establishment (Bedford) from 1954 to 1991.

The Royal Aeronautical Society awarded him the Bronze medal for research in unsteady aerodynamics as well as The Busk Prize (twice) for some other scientific papers that he published. Dennis also gave lectures around the world as a leading expert in his field. He travelled widely in Europe and also to India and China. When he retired he became a visiting Professor in the Aeronautics Department of Imperial College London until 1998 and then spent a short spell as visiting Professor at the University of Cranfield, Bedfordshire. He was also an advisor for the supersonic car (Thrust SSC) which broke the world land speed record in 1997.

He married Gillian (Gill) in 1960 and had 2 daughters Deborah and Katherine. His wife, Gill, sadly passed away in 1991 from cancer. He has 4 grandchildren Chris, Michael, Oliver and Henrietta.

Dennis was a Reader in the Diocese of St Albans from 1956 to 2005 having studied at evening classes for the Cambridge Diploma of Theology! He preached in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden.

His hobbies included swimming (which he also taught), walking (he went on many holidays abroad with The Ramblers Association), playing bridge, listening to classical music and writing poetry (he published 3 volumes of poetry).

Dennis had been for several years in a Care Home, suffering from Alzheimer's. His older brother **Stan Mabey (1937 - 1942)** was pleased that he and his family and Dennis's family had been able to celebrate Dennis's eightieth birthday at the home in July 2011. Dennis seemed to really enjoy cutting the cake and seeing so many people around his armchair.

MAY CLEMENTS (MRS MOORING)

May died on 05 February 2012 in hospital at the age of ninety three. Her funeral was at All Saints Church, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire on 23 February 2012. She lived from 1918 until 2012 in very good health - mentally and physically - until a rather bad stroke took its toll just before Christmas 2011. She never really recovered from that and was sometimes confused, but could still recognise pictures of her extended family when she was shown them by her children.

Here are extracts from the reflections on her life given by her son **David** at her funeral.

May was born in 1918, the middle of 3 girls: - **Barbara (Mrs Björsvik), May, Margaret (Mrs Smith)**. The family home was a humble Victorian terraced house in Grays, Essex. Grays was a rather grey town – lying as it did downwind of some big cement factories, but it was home for mum and where she was brought up. The local Methodist Church played a prominent part in her family life – as it continued to do in Grays for 66 years, 2 thirds of her life. This – and the family upbringing - was the background to mum’s strong Christian values which became the foundation of her whole life. The local primary school was just up the road from her home – it was called Quarry Hill - a name which tells you all about the local area. At age 10 she joined the Girl Guides – something which would be a major influence on the next 40 years of her life. She was a bright girl and passed the entrance exam to the highly reputed local grammar school – Palmer’s - where she matriculated at 15. She learnt to play the piano and the violin – and her interest in classical music stayed throughout her life. She was also a rather good artist and produced some fine drawings. She left school at 16 to be a nanny nurse but a little later became a real nurse at what was known as “The Colony” which was actually a mental institution. No doubt here she developed a few skills which came in handy later. From there she worked in what the locals called “The Fever Hospital” (things like scarlet fever & diphtheria were very real then). That was taken over by the military in the war and she continued working there for much of the 2nd World War.

The bicycle was her all-important means of transport and mum was very attached to her bike – as was I later, in a little seat behind her. A favourite story of hers is about her first meeting with her future husband’s parents. She was a bit late and rushing – and fell off the bike gaining a black eye and several cuts & bruises; a great impression for a first meeting! Anyway, it couldn’t have been too bad, she married Ron in 1939 and many of you will remember him – my dad, of course. I came along in 1943 and by then she was living in a Council House in South Stifford, though my father went away with the RAF. South Stifford was only a 15 minute bike ride from Grays.

She was a good mum – she encouraged me to learn but not just academically; she introduced me to a whole raft of interesting things in the world. We often went to London to the great museums, world-class concerts and exhibitions. Discipline was strict – mum employed old-fashioned techniques - a clip round the ears which was short & sharp and a stern lecture which was long & blunt.

All the time, the Methodist Church was a regular and essential part of her life – mum had attended Sunday School, became a helper, then a teacher and later on the Leader. And her interest in the Girl Guides flourished and she became Captain of the church guide group – a job she sustained for 21 years. I have

many happy memories of those days, not least when I reached my teens. Mum used to have tea parties at home for her girl guides – imagine being the only lad in a house full of sparkling teenage girls. Maybe it was a subtle part of my education – I was never excluded. Halcyon days!

Mum devoted much time and energy to the Guide movement – she often stood in for the lack of leaders of some of the groups in outlying villages purely because she didn't want these young girls to be “let down”. She knew that many of them were very under-privileged and it was simply her duty to support them. Some duty! I can tell you the East Tilbury marshes in winter are bleak to say the least and the east wind whips across them unforgettingly; not the time to wait for unreliable public transport night after night.

I'm not sure of the exact year, but reward came but not by any means a materialistic one. She was asked to be District Commissioner of the Guides, a role not only rewarding but of challenge and responsibility too. She loved it – though there were some tough times.

But for her, the really big moment came in the early 60s (again I can't remember the exact year). A letter arrived out of the blue one day inviting her to apply to become a JP. However, she kept it all secret – she was good at keeping secrets. None of us knew anything until, after a long process, she was finally accepted. She went on to serve on the Grays bench for some 20 years – much of that as Chairman. The going was pretty hard at times – there was no shortage of crime. But this is exactly the challenge she enjoyed - and her experience and that firm Christian fibre stood her in good stead. She knew the value of listening. She always tried to understand the other guy though she could be pretty dismissive when she'd had enough of a poor argument. She never discussed cases outside court, of course, but I know she often wrestled with reaching balanced judgements – much due to the respect she had for the fact that a stiff sentence could – and probably would – change lives. She took that responsibility very seriously and suffered particular anguish whenever a prison sentence was necessary. She knew very well what going to prison meant in those days.

For her, the job got better when, after a lot more training, she served on the Juvenile bench. It's my belief that she found her years on the Juvenile bench as THE most challenging AND the most rewarding of everything she ever did.

The magistrates there also had some unusual cases. Grays sits on the river Thames – but don't get any romantic images; there's a large oil terminal this way and Tilbury docks and power station that way. The Thames was a busy commercial river and, for miscreant mariners on that stretch of water, the

Grays court was a port of call they probably hadn't scheduled. Even the professional lawyers were a bit shaky on marine law – so it was an interesting time particularly when everything had to be conducted in Russian.

Her move with father to Berkhamsted in 1984 saw the end of this but it was almost as retirement from the bench came on to the horizon. Nevertheless, leaving so much behind in Grays was a wrench. But a third of her life was still ahead and the move was much compensated by her and dad living in a nice house right next door to us at Rosebank. Their proximity to us was good for helping them as their years advanced but, most importantly, they were able to share the growing up of their 2 grand-daughters, Susannah and Charlotte who were just 6 and 4 at that time. This was unique. The 2 girls were a source of immense happiness for her and dad and this continued for mum well after my father died in 1998. She was very proud of her grand-daughters and loved every minute of being “next door” to them.

But, as you would expect, the very FIRST thing she and father did in Berkhamsted was to join the Methodist Church here and you all know that she remained an active member for the rest of her life. And active she was to the very best of her abilities. She could be quite vocal as well – she held strong views on just about everything (don't we know). She made many friends in Berkhamsted and built many meaningful friendships – friendships she valued greatly.

She was always a good cook – I remember fantastic rissoles and simply the world's best lemon meringue pies - and she loved her food. Some of her visitors used to take her to the Gatsby for lunch; she liked that very much – as she did going with us to the Regal Chinese! It was only in December that she demolished an enormous feast with remarkable enthusiasm – even the staff took notice. She was a good seamstress – a large quilt she made in 1995 was raffled by the Inner Wheel Club here and raised £1700 pounds for the National Children's Home. It must have been quite a good quilt!

Mum remained active and able right up until just before Christmas, fired by that unshakeable determination to remain independent and keep on doing things. She even went flying at the grand age of 87 when Susannah took her up in a little 2-seater plane. Did she enjoy that? And how! “I could do that all over again” she said, at 87.

We shall miss all this; her wisdom, her modesty, her compassion, her generosity, her dependability – your words, not just mine. And even her whinges, and her frustration when she couldn't quite finish the Telegraph crossword. We'll miss her morning greetings – a favourite was “you were late

last night”, [“Yes mum, but we’re in our late 60’s – do you think one day soon we can stay out late?”] Or how about “I’ve done a day’s work before you were up”, [“But mum you don’t have to do a day’s work – relax!”] But relaxation was never on her agenda.

One mystery remains. She had an extraordinary love of owls. I wonder what inspired that? I think she’s left us to ponder on that one.

The end of her earthly life came rapidly and peacefully – just as she would have wished. In fact, I rather suspect that in her last few days she had a few firm words with her Maker about how it should all proceed, and He listened.

I wonder how many of you know the motto of the worldwide Rotary organisation. It’s commendably concise: Service Above Self. Those 3 simple words seem to me to sum up perfectly the life of this lovely lady.

“She was a lovely lady”. We’ve simply been overwhelmed by the number of times this has been said to us by the many people whose lives she touched. She wanted everyone to be glad today - not mournful - glad to remember some of the things she did in her life.

David Mooring (1954 – 1961)

ALAN MILLER

22/3/1924 - 12/2/2012



Alan was a local lad, born and brought up in Grays. He was christened Frederick Joseph Alan Miller. He lived in Hathaway Road, together with his

older brother Frank and a younger sister Joyce, and their dad worked as a baker for Pigg's bakery, Southend Road, Grays.

Alan went to Quarry Hill Junior School, and then gained a scholarship to Palmer's Endowed School for Boys which was a grammar school at that time. Alan was an earnest young lad. He enjoyed his time at Palmer's, and applied himself to his studies, especially maths and physics. His dad played in Tilbury Brass Band and he took Alan and his older brother along. Alan developed a love of brass music and began to play the cornet.

Alan left school at 16 to become a clerk in the office of Hedley's soap factory (which later became Proctor and Gamble), and began a study course in accountancy.

The war came, and Alan was called up to national service. He served in a survey regiment of the Royal Artillery, rising on merit to the rank of Sergeant. He rather enjoyed the order and discipline of military service. It was here in the army that he got his first taste of teaching, towards the end of the war, when he was called upon to teach Maths to his fellow soldiers, before they were all demobbed.

After the war, Alan went back to Hedley's, and completed his accountancy course to become an Associate Member of the Cost & Management Accountants (adding the letters ACMA after his name). It was here, at Hedley's that he met Jill, who was filling in a few weeks before she went off to college. After Jill had finished her teacher training, they met again by chance.

They were married at St Mary's Little Thurrock, on March 28th 1953, living first in rooms with a neighbour, and then renting a flat over a grocer's shop in Lodge Lane. Three years later they were blessed with the birth of Pamela, born on Alan's birthday. They moved from the rented flat to their own house in Premier Avenue and they have lived there ever since.

By this time Alan had left Hedley's and worked for a firm of cost consultants in London. In the early 60s Alan was doing pioneering computer work at the firm.

Then the teaching bug bit him again, and he took evening classes to get his A-levels, and got a post teaching mathematics at Aveley Technical High School. While he was there he did further part-time study, and added B.Sc. to the letters after his name. Aveley Technical High School was merged into Palmer's Sixth-form College in 1971, and Alan's career continued to develop.

He reached the position of Head of Mathematics at Palmer's. There, he was at the forefront of introducing Computer Programming to many pupils and teachers in Thurrock.

Alan also gave private tuition in maths, and this continued for more than 20 years after his retirement in 1985.

Alan's hobbies were both active and practical. He liked gardening and DIY, designing and carrying out numerous projects over the years. The conservatory is his work, the garden layout, and of course the Wendy House he built for Pam. Many of his projects seemed to include building walls - perhaps a skill he'd learned in his army surveying days. He also enjoyed playing (for Palmer's and Orsett), and later watching, cricket.

His love of brass music continued for many years, as a member of the Tilbury Brass Band, although he had now moved on from the cornet to the tenor horn. He also enjoyed going to frequent contests and concerts, especially the annual Brass Festival in London. Sadly his brass days came to an end in retirement when he developed tinnitus.

The last couple of years saw the rapid decline of his mind into Alzheimer's. Jill lovingly cared for him herself, until she dislocated her hip and went into hospital. Alan went into hospital for respite care, but it was clear that the help he needed was only possible in a residential home, and a comfortable place was found for him in Grays Court Care Home, where Jill could visit frequently. After a couple more hospital visits his condition needed more nursing care, and he was discharged to Upminster Nursing Home. It was from there he was taken into Queen's Hospital, Romford with his latest infection, and by now he was largely unresponsive.

He died peacefully on the morning of 12th February 2012. His funeral was on 27th February at St John's Church, Victoria Avenue, Grays and he is buried at Herongate Woodland Cemetery.

IRENE ANSELL

Irene who was Head of Reprographics at Palmer's and later, after she retired, an Invigilator, died on 28th February in St Luke's Hospice, suffering from Cancer.

PETER CHARLES DAY

Peter, who was born on 22 May 1926 and attended Palmer's from 1937 until 1942 died on 22 March 2012, aged 85.

PETER BROOKBANK



Peter circa 1951

Peter, a pupil at Palmer's from 1945 to 1952, was born in Elesmere Port, Cheshire, the youngest of three brothers, in 1934. He spent his early life and the war years there and in the neighbouring small village of Ince, where he gained a love for the open countryside. In 1945 the family moved to Corringham where he started his secondary schooling at Palmer's Boys' School. After leaving school in 1952 he joined the Merchant Navy, working in the Shell tanker fleet and spending long periods in the Caribbean and East Indies areas. After gaining his Master's Ticket in 1963 he decided that he had seen enough of the sea and that it was time to move ashore. He worked for a while with Morgan's Mail Order Company in London where he met his future wife, Sheila. They were married in 1966 and shortly afterwards he joined the Wolf Power Tool Company and lived at times in Streatham, Watford and Clevedon. In 1978 he moved to Plymouth where he set up his own business in the sale and repair of power tools. He continued there until 2000 when he moved to Tavistock, finally retiring in 2003. He was a well known figure in that town and on the neighbouring golf courses and involved himself in

various local good causes. Towards the end of 2011 he was diagnosed with cancer to which he finally succumbed on 22nd April 2012. He is survived by his wife, two sons and five grandchildren.

He would wish to be remembered to all his old friends.

Michael Brookbank (1945 - 1948)

MICHAEL JOHN CATTON



Michael Catton with his son, well-known Thurrock Museum curator Jonathan

Michael John Catton, from Little Thurrock, was born in 1926 and brought up in West Thurrock and Grays. He did two years of national service in the RAF as a squadron leader in several military hospitals. Michael was awarded the freedom of London in 1957 and returned to Thurrock to practice as a GP in Chadwell St Mary.

He also worked on the Port of London Authority's medical services based at Gravesend and was a keen supporter of St John Ambulance and became the divisional surgeon.

Michael also served on the research committee for Compressed Air Workers and spent time monitoring workers involved with the Dartford Tunnel and Tilbury power station constructions.

When he came back to England after a spell working in Algeria, Michael worked for Waltham Forest Council as a senior medical adviser.

He went on to be a medical inspector of factories, and carried out research on asbestosis and heavy metal absorption in battery industries.

Michael had a keen interest in history and was an early member of Thurrock Local History Society, inspiring his youngest son Jonathan Catton, who is Thurrock Council's museum officer and writes the Gazette's popular 'Down Memory Lane' column.

After the death of his wife Hazel, and his retirement, Michael moved to Little Thurrock and devoted his time to supporting a local animal sanctuary and the restoration of Coalhouse Fort in East Tilbury.

He passed away at Basildon Hospital on Friday, June 8, after a short deterioration of health. He leaves behind two sons and two daughters, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

THE COLLEGE YEAR 2011 - 2012

August 2011

Palmer's College maintained its excellent reputation for academic excellence for 2011 with a superb pass rate of 97.3%, with a massive 72% of students gaining A*, A, B or C grades, whilst an incredible 42% gained high A*- B grades.

BTEC level 3 Extended Diploma pass rates dipped to 96% with the level 3 Diploma also dipping to 94%. However, over a third of BTEC students gained triple distinctions (equivalent to three As at A-level).

September 2011

Over 2000 students enrolled and got to see the brand new facilities which included new canteen facilities, a new social study area, a new Study Plus

centre, refurbishments of the library and new science labs. £1.2 million pounds was secured from the YPLA Building College Improvement Fund. A further £330,000 was awarded through securing funding from the Improving Special Educational Needs for Students Fund.

The College's annual careers HE fair and UCAS Parents Evening events were extremely popular and well attended.

For the 2011 University entry we sent 518 students to university, with three going to Oxbridge.

October 2011

This year saw six of the College's ILEX students being offered permanent positions after impressing their employers during their work placements in London. **Charity Stone**, 18 from South Ockendon who was offered a position on the firm's trainee scheme, said: "My two week work placement at SJ Berwin was fantastic and allowed me to gain some valuable experience as well as build up my confidence."

October's annual open event was busier than ever with over 3000 parents and students visiting the College.

The Palmer's Glee Club did fantastically and reached the finals of the Glee Club Challenge at the Savoy Theatre in London. Unfortunately, they didn't get placed, but it was a superb performance.

November 2011

The College's prestigious Prize Giving Ceremony was held at the Civic Hall and attended by over 300 prize winners and proud guests. This year saw over 150 BTEC students winning awards on the evening.

Film studies student **Charlie Hayes** gained a fantastic work experience placement with one of Hollywood's finest film directors, James Cameron. Charlie was fortunate to have his uncle set up this amazing opportunity for him. Charlie though is no stranger to a film set, as he worked as an extra on the film The Iron Lady with Meryl Streep, although he says he would rather be behind the camera than in front of it!

December 2011

This year's pantomime, Cinderella did not disappoint, with hundreds of parents and school children seeing the superb production.

As the merriment began for Christmas, there were more celebrations in the secretarial and admin department with further students being offered positions at top legal firms in London.

The term ended with a 'schools out' fundraising event held by the Exec as well as an opportunity for students to question the Principal during the Principal's Question Time event.

January 2012

The College's open event was well attended with more visitors coming from out of the area.

Corporation member Roger Key spent the morning at Palmer's College to see the day to day running of the College and to meet with Economic students and various support areas.

AS Dance students took part in ResTec at Stratford Circus to raise awareness of Aids and HIV. They performed alongside Laban Youth Company, Phoenix Dance Company and Flawless from Britain's Got Talent. The feedback received was fantastic and they were great ambassadors for the College.

February 2012

In support of the World Skills Competition and run up to the 2012 Olympics, the College organised a community event to raise the profile of different sporting careers and invited the local community to 'Have a Go'.

The College was proud to see its very first Law debating society reach the national finals in the national debating competition.

This year's Critical Thinking students raised almost £200 for Handicap International by holding a cake stall and organising a slam hour session where students got to showcase their musical talents.

March 2012

March was a busy month with the College's continuous support of the Thurrock's Business Awards and for the second year running, Thurrock's Next Top Boss Competition. A glitzy awards ceremony took place at Town Gate Theatre where a number of Palmer's students won awards and prizes.

The College's annual Cambridge event was a great success with 100 year 10, gifted and talented pupils attending the three-day programme.

Music Technology students held their very first student event on campus which showcased the dj-ing skills of students along with a number of band and solo performances.

The Student Executive hosted a pamper evening for students, staff and the local community offering a range of beauty treatments which successfully raised over £350.

April 2012

Despite the wind and rain, a number of spirited staff and students contributed a mile on the front field for the 'run around the world' charity fundraiser. This event was in support of the Sixth Form Colleges Forum which aimed to raise £27,900 for Well Child, by asking all sixth form colleges to raise £300.

The College's photography students took on a community project which involved capturing the history of Grays with a modern twist in pictures. The exhibition was showcased at Town Gate Theatre and Basildon Library.

The Extended Project exhibition took place at the end of the month and showcased a vast array of projects including artefacts, performances, dissertations and field investigation pieces

May 2012

The College was successful in securing its second major Capital Grant of £1.5m pounds by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) to improve its accommodation and resources.

Economics student, Syed Mahian beat over a thousand hopefuls to secure a top ten place in the nationwide 'Chance to be Chancellor' competition. Syed was one of 10 finalists invited to HM Treasury where he was presented with a prize and got to hear a number of speeches from various people including the Director of Aviva and a Q&A session by the Economics Editor of Times magazine.

The Maths Department held a special lunch to thank the second year maths mentors. The group of 11 second year students were chosen after an application and interview process and between them they gave up their lunch-times on Mondays and Thursdays every week to help provide support to AS Maths students.

June 2012

Over 800 year 10s attended a series of Taster days from various local and out of area schools to get an idea of the courses offered and experience a taste of College life.

The College hosted a mini Olympics to celebrate national World Sport Day. The event featured a number of sporting events including the long jump, 60m sprint, football, table-tennis, sumo wrestling and even a spot of bouncy boxing!

The annual art and design exhibition did not disappoint and showcased the outstanding work of the College's A2 Photography, 3D Design, Fine Art and Graphic Design students.

July 2012

Hardworking student, **Tom Kitchen** beat off hundreds of applicants including graduates around the UK to secure an engineering apprenticeship with Laing O'Rourke.

Accounting students, **Ricky Bhullar** and **Jamie Sutton** recently both gained employment with two of the UK's leading firms - Deloitte and Ernst & Young. Both students impressed the panels during their interviews and presentations.

The College's Critical Thinking events for years 7, 8 and 9 pupils were all well attended and enjoyed by pupils from a variety of schools.

The final student event was hosted by the Student Exec and Learner Voice group called 'Have your Say'. Students were able to share their thoughts on the College itself, lessons, social space and more via a text wall, tweeting and posting notes on boards.

The final event of the year was the College's open event for year 10s, which received many positive comments from parents and potential students during the evening.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

The sports teams this year have been very successful within the leagues.

Football

Football team 1 - 2nd place in the league. They got to the 4th round of the Essex cup and quarter finals of the English schools.

Football team 2 - 2nd place in the league. They also got to the quarter finals of the Essex cup.

Football team 3 - 3rd place in the league.

Rugby

British Colleges Sport - 3rd in the league. The team got through to the 2nd round of the cup and were runners up at the regional 10's tournament.

Daily Mail Cup- they were knocked out in the first round, but got through to round 3 of the Vase.

Ladies Football

British Colleges- although just about getting 9-10 players a week they have worked very hard. This has been shown in the results – 1st place in the league.

SESSA- they have played on tournaments in this league and placed 3rd overall.

Netball

British Colleges Sport - 1st place in the league. They got through to the quarter finals of the British Colleges Cup and were runners up in the regional tournament. Essex Cup - they won all their games in the pool and were runners up in the Essex Cup final

England National Schools regional tournament - the team came third in the tournament this year, just missing out on the national finals.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Netball

Georgia Lees has had a fantastic year in Netball, firstly being selected for youth super league team Surrey Storm. Georgia then attended the British Colleges National team trials and was selected to play. She went to Scotland and Ireland and beat both national teams. To top her year off she has also been selected for the England U19 team. She has also attained a sporting scholarship from the College to help with the cost of kit, transport and accommodation.

Lucy Dudley has also had a very good Netball season being selected for the youth super league team - Team South.

Athletics

Lennox Thompson competed at the SESSA indoor athletics in the 400m where he attained a bronze. He has also competed on the Maysbrooke open event and won gold in the 800m.

NEWS AND CHANGES OF STAFF 2011 - 2012

Congratulations to:-

Sandip Somal (Curriculum Manager for Law) who was married during the summer break 2011 and is now Mrs Sandip Charlton.

Alison Ross, Richard Williams and Sue Davis, who received their Long Service Awards for 25 years at the College in September 2011.



Wendy Burke who was appointed Senior First Aider in September 2011.

Ritchie Naylor who was appointed Assistant Student Executive Co-ordinator in September 2011 and then in July 2012 was appointed Student Executive Co-ordinator.

Jan Robson who has been appointed College Librarian from 1 November 2011.

Peter Cook who has been appointed Curriculum Manager for History to cover for Cindy Barber whilst she is on maternity leave.

James Colledge who has been appointed Joint Curriculum Manager for PE AS/A2. He shares this post with Sally Willett.

Alistair Dunkwo who has been appointed to the post of MIS Manager.

Claire Delaney who was married early in 2012 and is now Mrs Evans,

The following staff have joined Palmer's either at the beginning of or during

the first term September 2011. **Sian Adams** (Reprographics), **Miss Jane Pudman** (Psychology), **Miss Hayley Garner** (Psychology), **Miss Lauren Spinner** (Psychology), **Ms Begoña Juarros** (Spanish) and **Miss Nicola Stokes** (Health & Social Care). **Mr Sean Valoo** also joined Palmer's as a PGCE student, teaching some IB, **Miss Emma Jones** (October - Design & Technology Technician, to cover sick leave until December 2011 and then July 2012 to help set up Art Exhibition) **Valerie Walter** (November - Health & Social Care, to cover Maternity Leave) and **Tricia Sandford** (November - History to cover Maternity Leave). In January 2012, **Claire Ruff** returned as Teacher of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), **Laura Berry** (MIS Officer) who was at Palmer's from 2005 to 2007, **Maleleine Page** (English), and **Jemma Wensley** (Finance Apprentice), who was at Palmer's from 2010 to 2011, arrived. Jemma's apprenticeship lasts for a year and she is hoping to develop her career in Management Accountancy. She is working at Palmer's four days week with one day studying Lifeskills at Basildon. In February **Mrs Sade Bright** joined Palmer's for the rest of the academic year as a part-time teacher of Law. In March, the following joined Palmer's, **Gemma Smith** to teach English and Media, **Nina Bourlet** (from Manpower Agency, Attendance Officer until Easter), **Lauren Reeves** (Scribe in Study Plus until the end of the academic year), **Robert Little** (part-time Law teacher until the end of the academic year) and **Karen Conran** to be the Curriculum Manager for Business. In May **Binta Ly** started work in Reprographics on a temporary basis until the vacant post was filled. In June **Lorraine Limbert** joined Palmer's as Head of Reprographics. In July **Heidi Butterfield** joined Palmer's as Attendance Officer and **Mrs Huma Malik-Brown** started working in a temporary capacity covering absence until the end of term before joining Palmer's as the Curriculum Manager for A Level Media in the new academic year.

Once again we have had quite a number of staff leaving during the year 2011 - 2012. **Gwynneth Simpson** (Head of Learning Resources) left at the end of October after 32 years 1 month. **Cindy Barber** (History) left Palmer's on Friday 18 November to start Maternity Leave. At the end of December, **Pat Moss** "retired" as MIS Manager after 40 years 4 months, but he came back to teach some maths, **Caroline Crowley** (Data Manager) left after 10 years 4 months to go into the family business and **Jade Hunter** (English, Media, Communications) left after 1 year 4 months. In February **Bev Wilson** (Law) left after 11 years 5 months. Then at Easter, end of March, **Jocelyn Chapman** (Curriculum Manager Business) left after 7 years 7 months. She has become Business Programme Manager at East Surrey College, the FE College at Redhill and she is in charge of Business, Travel and Tourism and Aviation! Also **Emma Gardiner** (Curriculum Manager for GCSE English) left at Easter, after 4 years 3½ months. In April **Sian Adams** (Reprographics) left

after 8 months, she had found a job as a Criminal Legal Secretary in Braintree. In June **Binta Ly** (Reprographics) left after 1 month, **Karen Chalkley** (Student Supervisor) left after 6 years 3 months and **Keith Farrier** (Assistant Examinations Officer) retired after 5 years 10 months. In July **Jane Pudman** (Psychology) left after 10½ months and **Lauren Reeves** (Scribe, Study Plus) left after 4½ months. Then at the end of August **David Little** (Curriculum Manager for Chemistry) retired after 23 years, **Andrew Law** (Maths.) retired after a total of 22 years, **Tony Fulton** (Curriculum Manager English) left after 12 years, he is going to teach at Bishop's Stortford College, which is an Independent Co-educational Day and Boarding school for ages 4-18; **Lynne Evans** (Senior Learning Consultant, Study Plus) left after 10 years, **Cheryl Hathaway** (Curriculum Manager English) left after 8 years 8 months, she is going to be Head of Faculty at Southend High School for Girls; **Carly Sandy** (Curriculum Manager Media Studies) left after 8 years, she is going to start up her own business, **Peter Cook** (History) left after 4 years, he is taking up a teaching post in September as Curriculum Manager for History at a school in Wembley, **Claire Evans** (BTEC Sport) left after 4 years, and **Ian Richards** (Senior Library Assistant) left after 2 years 7 months, he is going to America, **Kim O'Dwyer** (Dance) has gone on Maternity Leave.

RETIREMENTS

DAVID LITTLE

After 23 years at Palmer's College, and some 30 years in the teaching profession, David Little is turning off the Bunsen burners and embarking on a new phase – not, this time, the solid, liquid or gas phase, but a well-earned retirement.

David joined the Chemistry Department in 1989 and quickly established himself as an able and highly respected teacher. As well as teaching GCSE and A level Chemistry, he introduced and managed GCSE Modular Science, somehow encouraging the present writer (a mere Physics teacher) to “branch out” into plant Biology! He also taught on the GNVQ Science course and helped to develop the first year of a Foundation Degree course (in partnership with Anglia Polytechnic University, as it was then) for mature students.

In addition, in the days when Palmer's College had a broad enrichment programme, he taught small groups of students how to create and broadcast a weekly hour-long programme on Orsett Hospital Radio. If any reader heard it during a stay in hospital, I am sure David would love to hear from you – but no requests please!

Most importantly, for many years he was the Science Faculty's milk monitor!

With the retirement of Ken Jones in 1998 David took on the leadership of the Chemistry Department. In recent years this has included the successful development of International Baccalaureate (IB) Chemistry as part of the College's IB programme.

David will be remembered for his meticulous attention to detail, his careful, thoughtful contributions to meetings, and his utter professionalism and dedication. He has usually been the last to leave each evening: from now on someone else will have to turn out the lights! We will also miss his sense of humour.

We wish him well in his retirement, and trust that he will find time to rest and to pursue alternative interests, as well as being able to put his experience and expertise to use in examination work and private tuition.

If you were a visitor to the Olympics this summer and needed to visit the Information Desk, that Olympic Volunteer behind the desk may have been an ex-head of Chemistry; if so, I hope you "reacted" correctly.

Richard Williams

ANDREW LAW

Andrew taught Mathematics at Palmer's from 1988 until 2002 and then from 2004 until 2012, a total of 22 years. During his time here he ran the Christian Union and the Chess Club. He also encouraged the 'A' level Maths students to enter the UK Senior Maths Challenge National and many of them received Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

In his retirement he will no doubt pursue his other interests - sailing, not least on the Thames Estuary, Art Galleries, taking photos, first class cricket, and active church going.

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