



Cribsheet

2015

THE MAGAZINE FOR
THE ALUMNI OF
COLSTON'S SCHOOL

Past Presidents

1855-63	M. Gore	1917	W. H. Morgan	1966	J. W. Stiddard. M.C.
1864-67	F. J. Brickdale	1918	S. C. Osmond	1967	L. Welch
1868-69	R. G. Barttow	1919	H. Messenger	1968	M. W. J. Coates
1870	T. T. Knyfton	1920	W. Crew	1969	J. E. Adams
1871	G. K. Morlan	1921	A. S. Maby	1970	N. Gibbs. M.A.
1872	S. V. Hare	1922	P. G. Davies	1971	J. E. R. Tarzey
1873	H. C. Miles	1923	E. W. Allen	1972	T. G. Bickle
1874	T. T. Taylor	1924	W. H. Morgan. JP	1973	J. H. Parsons
1875	W. A. F. Powell	1925	C. H. Lawrence	1974	D. J. Briffett
1876	A. Baker	1926	P. S. Harris	1975	J. D. Iewis
1877	C. B. Hare	1927	H. T. Godfrey	1976	M. G. Moore. JP
1878	F. F. Fox	1928	Canon A. A. Millbourn. M.A.	1977	P. J. Mahoney
1879	Wm. P. Baker	1929	Thos. Richards	1978	G. Searle
1880	G. W. Edwards	1930	L. O. Vowles	1979	A. D. Watson
1881	J. N. C. Pope	1931	L. O. Vowles	1980	R. W. Hayward
1882	R. Hassell	1932	T. W. Ellis	1981	P. J. Besley
1883	G. D'Lisle Bush	1933	T. W. Ellis	1982	M. J. Wood
1884	C. O. Harvey	1934	R. C. Organ	1983	B. D. Sparkes
1885	R. W. Butterworth	1935	E. J. Baker	1984	A. V. Clark
1886	Chas Paul	1936	Dr. J. A. L. Roberts	1985	F. G. Taylor
1887	J. H. Woodward	1937	E. S. Cotton	1986	R. Pring
1888	P. L. King	1938	H. Messenger	1987	M. J. Dymond
1889	E. B. Colthurst	1939	L. B. Phillips	1988	J. R. Wright
1890	T. P. King	1940	W. J. Cochram	1989	T. S. Forse
1891	H. W. Beloe	1941	R. F. E. Emmerson	1990	J. F. Cousins
1892	H. F. T. Bush	1942	R. F. E. Emmerson	1991	I. B. Lloyd
1893	T. G. Mathews	1943	L. F. Davies	1992	D. A. Shaw
1894	R. A. Fox	1944	L. F. Davies	1993	N. P. Hurley
1895	E. Burrow Hill	1945	V. C. Pratt	1994	J. C. Kettlewell
1896	E. B. James	1946	V. C. Pratt	1995	D. G. Dollery
1897	W. W. Ward	1947	R. E. Snaith. M.A.	1996	S. J. Jenkins
1898	J. H. Clarke	1948	A. P. H. Wear	1997	N. H. J. Bacon
1899	H. G. Edwards	1949	G. K. Baker	1998	Mrs. Ann Miller
1900	A. N. Jones	1950	C. G. Lawrence. M.A.	1999	G. E. G. Stock
1901	G. O. Spafford	1951	J. H. Gleave	2000	J. J. Tolman
1902	Wm. Bennett	1952	H. B. Thompson	2001	D. Faulkner
1903	Geo. Fielding	1953	Leonard O. Vowles	2002	J. J. Cook
1904	C. R. Pendock	1954	F. G. Taylor	2003	D. J. Crawford
1905	Anthony Finn. M.A., L.L.D.	1955	A. T. Richards	2004	P. J. Mitchell
1906	Geo. Bryant	1956	M. J. Jenkins	2005	D. G. Lodge
1907	W. S. Calway	1957	C. H. R. Dimond	2006	Mrs. M. Matthews
1908	F. W. Martin	1958	F. J. Whatley	2007	P. J. Beasley
1909	G. W. S. Hurst	1959	G. H. Fleck	2008	D. J. Mace
1910	E. W. Allen	1960	Sir Charles Colston	2009	W. E. Lorang
1911	W. M. Colston		C.B.E., M.C., D.C.M.	2010	I. H. A. Gunn
1912	F. Organ	1961	J. H. Varcoe	2011	I. H. A. Gunn
1913	W. H. S. Cooper	1962	A. Green	2012	A. C. Thomas
1914	E. S. Hare	1963	A. G. Colston	2013	A. C. Thomas
1915	H. Messenger	1964	H. L. H. Tooze	2014	M. P. B. Tayler
1916	P. G. Davies	1965	N. W. Haskins	2015	M. P. B. Tayler

Contents

Page	
IFC	Past presidents
1	Contents
2 - 5	President's Article
6 - 7	Headmaster's Article
8 - 57	O.C. News
58 - 60	O.C. Golf Society
61-66	Senior O.C. Events
67	World War 1 Commemoration
68	Obituaries
IBC	Secretaries information
BC	Calendar of Events for 2016

Front Cover picture: Aerial view of Colston's School

Cribsheet

Editor - Martin Tayler

martintayler@hotmail.com

Design & Reprographics - Mike Donoghue

mike.donoghue@live.co.uk

The Old Colstonian Society President Martin Tayler

In the twilight of my career at Colston's I feel very fortunate and honoured to have been invited by the Old Colstonian Society to represent them over the past four years, firstly as vice-president and then as their president. It has been a wonderful experience.

I have particularly enjoyed strengthening friendships that I made as a young man playing rugby, cricket, golf and squash with OCs and, through the office of president, have appreciated renewing contact with so many former students and staff.

I have also relished the opportunity of attempting to create a sense of community between current and former pupils and staff.

It has been a very busy but rewarding period in my life and I was particularly touched at the Annual Dinner to receive a presentation from the Society to recognize my career at Colston's. I could have thought of no one more suitable than OC Stephen Davies to make the presentation: Stephen's knew me well when he was a boy at Colston's both in and out of the classroom and has maintained a very strong link with the school firstly through the Society of Old Colstonians in London, then the OC Society and latterly as a key and committed school governor. As he knows me so well I thank him as much for what he did not say as for what he did say!

I am pleased with the wide range of activities we have organised throughout the year to enable Old Colstonians of all ages and interests to re-engage with the school and with each other.

In March we held a successful reunion lunch to coincide with an OCRFC match. The Rugby Club regularly run two XV's and, although it has been a disappointing period for results, are well supported and are functioning well on the social side with lots of activities. The OC Society has been very pleased to support the Rugby Club this year with financial aid to purchase grounds equipment (to improve training and playing conditions which benefits the OCRFC and the school) and to purchase floodlights to make training through the winter more enjoyable

and beneficial. The Club is well run by its committee, well coached by OC Matt Leek, are captained by OC Ollie King-Sorrell and has a good number of boys from the school turning out regularly for them.

In the summer we had a couple of excursions for more senior OCs to Bletchley Park and Eastnor Castle. These trips were most enjoyable and well organised by our vice-president Bob Jennings. I am very pleased that Bob will be taking over from me as president at our AGM in March.



Bob Jennings receiving the Summer Cup from OC Golf Society Captain Dave Tooze

Bob has a lifetime of commitment to the OCs through rugby, squash and golf and has a proven record of successfully organizing events. Bob is a very popular character, is great with people and will be an excellent president of the Society.

There was also a trip to the County Ground in July to watch the one-day match against Surrey. OC Colin Sexstone arranged an excellent day for us with a splendid lunch. The County Ground is now a top class facility for watching first-class cricket and it is pleasing that, as well as Colin on the board, the OCs are also represented by Charles Cook who, as well as making a great success as a solicitor with his local company Cook and Co, is contributing to the regional sports scene.

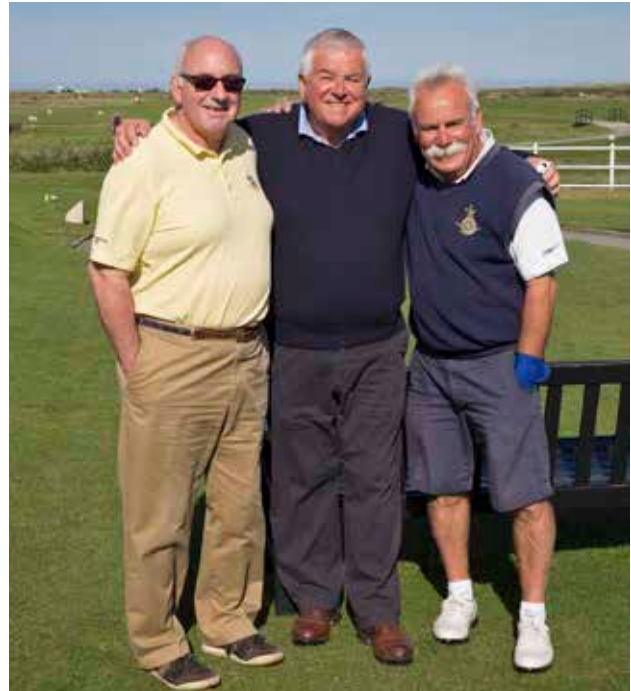
In June we had a successful weekend of events at the school with our annual Open Day. As well as a very enjoyable and exciting cricket match between a young OC XI and the school 1st XI, there was a parade of the school's CCF, which was celebrating its centenary in 2015. The weather was wonderful and I was very pleased that a wide age range of OCs attended the day.

The following day we were also blessed with good weather for the mixed sports day that, with a mixed touch rugby tournament and a mixed hockey match, is clearly aimed at the younger generations of OCs. It was also very pleasing to have a team of boarders playing. However, as they had attended the retirement party for Stephen Pritchard and Dave Mason on the previous evening they did not look so young on the day and struggled to match the pace of the youngsters. This is an excellent event, which brings together current members of the school and younger Old Colstonians.

Also in the summer the OC Society was pleased to support a Garden Opera at Colston's. The production by the touring opera company Tessitura was promoted by the local charity Julian House and was a great success, lots of fun and well attended by OCs.

I have also enjoyed taking part in golf days throughout the year with the OC Golf Society with meetings at Minchinhampton Golf Club, Long Ashton Golf Club and Royal North Devon Golf Club as well as playing in the triangular challenge match between the Society, the staff and the pupils at The Bristol Golf Club. The Golf Society is attracting record numbers to its meetings; they are always well-run and very enjoyable social events that I would recommend to any golf-playing OC.

The major event in the OC Society calendar is our Annual Dinner. In spite of the counter attraction of the Rugby World Cup the OC Society Dinner in October was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present. I am particularly grateful to OC Boyan Wells who gave a splendid speech replying on behalf of the guests. We were very pleased to welcome a large number of former staff as guests



*At Royal North Devon Golf Club
with playing partners Ian Parks and Pat Bowery*

and two special guests in Katie Mason and Gemma Rowland who had made their international rugby debuts in 2015 for England and Wales respectively. It is remarkable that, following the success of Laura Keates and Amber Reed in the 2014 England World Cup winning team, Colston's has four current women rugby international players.



*The president with Katie Mason,
Boyan Wells and Gemma Rowland at the annual dinner*

In December we completed our programme of events with a Christmas lunch for seniors and a most enjoyable Carol Service in Holy Nativity Church Stapleton with OCs joining us from near and far.

In all of the events that are held at the school OCs are able to see a successful and flourishing school. I thank Headmaster Jeremy McCullough for welcoming OCs back to the school, not only to the events mentioned but also on individual visits when he always gives generously of his time to offer a very warm welcome.



*OCs regularly return to visit their alma mater
– here OC Joe Wykes returns with his family from the USA.*

I have also enjoyed representing the Society at the annual dinners of the Old Bristolians' Society, QEH Old Boys Society and the Cathedralians Society, where again I have met lots of old friends and acquaintances.

Organising events for Old Colstonians is only a part of the function of the Old Colstonian Society. I am very proud that in the last year, through the Old Colstonian Charitable Trust, we have been able to support 15 pupils with scholarships and bursaries at Colston's School. It is only through the good management of our funds that we are able to



*Jeffrey Mason (President of the QEH Old Boys Society),
Michael Burmester (President of the Old Bristolians' Society)
and Martin Tayler at our annual dinner.*

support such a large number of pupils and I would particularly like to thank our treasurer, Ian Gunn, for the fine work that he has done in managing our accounts and guiding the committees of the Old Colstonian Society and the Old Colstonian Charitable Trust so that they take sensible decisions in safeguarding our assets and fulfil all the necessary obligations.

I am particularly pleased that two more pupils from Oasis Brightstowe Academy joined the sixth form at Colston's in September and that they are clearly a credit to their former school and honouring the memory of Jim Tolman.

No sooner had we published Cribsheet last year with the interesting article about what former Colston's teacher Keith Brook was achieving in Nepal when that country suffered the terrible earthquake that brought such distress to the region. The Society was able to make a significant donation to help with relief work. Keith Brook and Bob Ross, former head of English and housemaster of Mortlake, have kept us in touch with events through my blog, but I am sorry to say that much of the news has been very gloomy.

The Society has also been able to support young OCs and pupils at Colston's in a number of projects: OCs Ollie Levingston and Kerala Drew's accounts of their trips appear later in the magazine and we look forward to hearing about sixth former Tim Pike's Butale village project in Uganda when he completes it later this year.

We have been able to support the school's World Challenge group who visited Ecuador last year and hope to do likewise for this year's group who are going to Swaziland. Also we have been able to help the boys' 1st VII with shirts for the National Schools' Sevens tournament and the girls with equipment for their tour to Spain.

As well as providing grounds equipment to support both the school and the Rugby Club we have completed the renovation of the War Memorial, which we started last year, by paying for large-scale tree surgery on Parade and providing another bench, which will have a plaque in memory of OC Jim Tolman.

With the help of funds left to the Society by John Kettlewell in his will we are looking to provide an electronic scoreboard, which should also improve the facilities around the Old Colstonian Pavilion.

The Old Colstonian Society does not stand still and in order to secure its future we have been working hard to bring new blood to the committee. We have made some progress but we would like the committee to be represented by more women and OCs of all generations. Younger OCs have helped with a number of events and have not always had to commit to the (sometimes tedious) committee

meetings, but I would still like to hear from any OC who feels they could help in any way.

This brings me to my final point: that it has been a joy to hear from so many Old Colstonians from all over the globe, many of whom had lost touch with us. When embarking on my presidency I tried to do something different and that is when I had the idea of writing my OC President's blog. www.ocpresident.wordpress.com

I believe, by the feedback I have received and by looking at the statistics, that it has been very popular: since I started it in March 2014 we have had nearly 11,000 visitors and 80,000 views. I do hope in one guise or another to continue to bring news to OCs even when my presidency ends.

Finally I would like to thank the committees of both the Old Colstonian Society and the OC Charitable Trust for supporting me fully during my presidency. My last thank you is to Tracy Mace: she is incredibly efficient in her work, she is so pleasant and welcoming to all OCs and does a fantastic job in supporting the OC Society and the Colston's Foundation. It has been a real pleasure to work with her.

Martin Tayler

President of the Old Colstonian Society



OC Open Day in June with the trees recovering from their surgery

From the Headmaster Jeremy McCullough

I was sure that Martin must be mistaken when he reminded me (he is ever so efficient!) that my annual contribution to the Cribsheet was due. (Overdue, probably – he is also ever so polite!) Can it really have been a year since I last put pen to paper? Well certainly the calendar would suggest as much and, actually, it must have taken at least 12 months for so much to have happened at the school. It has obviously just been a lot of fun!

Hopefully many readers will have seen some of the changes being made; a new website, new signage about the place and a new livery for the school minibuses. However, the real action has been, as ever, with the student body; and boy, and girl, have they been busy!

With numbers up this year, in September we welcomed over a hundred new Colstonians (Old Colstonians of the future, as your President calls them!) and we are delighted to have seen a big increase in the numbers of external candidates sitting our Entrance Examinations. The work we do at Colston's is clearly delivering what today's families are looking for. The school's three aims are:

to provide opportunities to excel in all areas, including the academic, of course; to encourage a sense of service, this includes charity work but also our flourishing CCF that celebrated a hundred year anniversary this past year; and to prepare our students for their future beyond Colston's.

With this last aim in mind, this year our Year 12 have begun a new programme, **Future Leaders**. Designed to ensure that they leave Colston's with all the employability skills that employers value so highly, as well as the best academic qualifications that they can achieve, this taught programme has involved the development of specific skills, links with local and national employers and with Bristol University, and professional projects that will harbour those work-place skills that so many university graduates do not manage to acquire but that Colstonians will.

Evidence of this preparation for the next stage can be seen in the number of OCs that have joined the school staff this year. Successfully making the transition from poacher to gamekeeper have been the following:

Rugby World Cup Winner Amber Reed (2002 – 2009) has joined the PE Department and has coached our almost all-conquering U12 Boys' Rugby XV, currently ranked 9th in the country.

Ben Foley (2007 – 2012) joined us to coach rugby for the term while re-habbing a knee injury that had prevented him joining the England Sevens squad. He worked with the First XV and the very successful Under 15 squad who were 10 seconds away from a famous victory over Wellington in the Natwest Cup this year. Ben left us at Christmas to join the England Rugby Sevens set-up and we wish him all the best for what we hope will be a very exciting future England career.



Leah Coates (1999 – 2006) has been appointed as Head of RS and Director of the Faculty of Humanities. Leah has embodied the Colstonian spirit contributing in many extracurricular areas while driving forwards academic standards.

We also said farewell to a couple of long-serving members of staff in the summer and I know many OCs were pleased to be able to join Dave Mason (Staff 1995 – 2015) and Stephen Prichard (Staff 1987 – 2015) for a party at the end of the summer term. Colston's will miss their involvement in so many ways.

And it should also be noted here that 2015 also marked the end of one of Colston's greatest ever staff careers when Martin Tayler (Staff 1967 – 2015) retired after 141 terms' service to the school. Not that his remarkable contributions to the development of Colston's have stopped, even now. If I think that the school has been busy then the OCs have been no less so and Martin has continued to be a driving force behind many of the developments and events this year.

I would like to thank the very many Old Colstonians who have contributed so much and so generously to the school again this year. Some of those contributions have been financial but many have been of advice or support. They are all very much appreciated, especially by those students who, without the bursarial support provided by the OCs would simply not be able to take advantage of the excellent education provided at Colston's.

Do keep in touch with us, and let us know your news, and if you wish to come back and visit then please contact Tracy Mace who will be happy to organise a tour for you.

Floreat Colstona!

COLSTON'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Colston's School Foundation was launched in the School's Tercentenary with the principal objective of creating a fund that would provide a source of bursaries to talented children whose parents might not otherwise be able to afford a Colston's education. Over the past five years the Foundation has benefited from the generosity of over 200 donors who have made gifts both large and small and this has enabled the Foundation to provide the equivalent of three full bursaries each year. Today the Foundation is supporting 3 students at Colston's and the Trustees are committed to providing at least this level of support for as long as possible. However income is currently less than the cost of bursaries and the capital of the Foundation is being eroded.

The Trustees are therefore renewing their appeal to Old Colstonians and to friends of Colston's to make a donation and to consider remembering Colston's Foundation in their will. The Foundation is a registered charity and is able to recover tax on gifts made under a gift aid declaration. Legacies are a particularly valuable source of funds and in most cases are tax-free and reduce the overall inheritance tax liability of an estate.

Mrs. Tracy Mace is the Foundation Coordinator, based at School, and will be pleased to provide any further information.

Ian H A Gunn Chair of Trustees Colston's School Foundation

Andy Bromley

I met up with OC Andy Bromley when he came back to Colston's this summer to play with his son David (also an OC) for the Gloucestershire Gipsies CC against the 1st XI. Andy was a very successful bowler for the 1st XI taking 151 wickets in his two years in the sixth form and has continued to play cricket at a high level locally. In recent years he and his wife Maggie have been competing very successfully in Iron Man contests and I asked him to write me an article about these. Instead he has come up with a very interesting story of a recent cycling holiday in Spain.



David and Andrew Bromley

Spanish Bull Run

Over the past half a dozen years I have been more and more interested in Spain, its customs, food and especially wine (!), even to the extent of attempting to learn the language (a major task for me as I have no talent and I'm basically bone idle when it comes to intellectual effort).

My wife Maggie and I had booked an autumn stay near Ronda in Andalucía (southern Spain) only an hour or so from the Costa Del Sol but where local customs still seem to be entrenched. Few people speak English in the towns and ever fewer, if any, seem to speak English in the villages. The idea was to hire a couple of bikes and cycle round the magnificent countryside in the sunshine and perhaps enjoy some tapas with a glass of wine to recover. Sharing a great evening with friends just before we went away heightened my anticipation of the holiday. One couple had just returned from the area and were waxing lyrical about their holiday and another friend was extolling the virtues for Laurie Lee's books about Spain.



As part of my attempts to learn Spanish I have been watching Spanish news this year on the basis that if you listen to enough of the language then over time you will acquire it by a process of osmosis and minimum effort (it hasn't worked yet). One thing that filled me with a mixture of fascination and horror was the amount of news time given over to running with the bulls as they do in Pamplona; except these news snippets feature scenes of where it goes wrong, very wrong, and the human participants are on the receiving end of things for once. The pixelated scenes certainly didn't sanitise the fact that these guys were being gored to death. So if I ever was to experience it, what did I want from my idealised bull encounter fantasy? Probably not a scene in a bullring where the bull exits stage left very dead; nor a scene from the news where the runners exit stage right just as dead. Something toro-lite perhaps where everyone has a lovely time and nobody gets hurt and there is singing and dancing and music and food and wine in the crystal clear mountain sunshine but with the frisson of danger. Some chance of stumbling across that!

Day three of our stay in Ronda was a public holiday. I had asked our host if there was anything special going on in Ronda or around but he said no, so we just went for a bike ride as usual. We set off in lovely weather and stunning scenery with the intention of visiting a few of the picturesque white villages and, after a tough climb, we came to the first, El Gastor. It was perhaps the size of Stapleton and certainly there was nothing to alert us to the fact that something unusual was about to take place. Often these small villages have narrow cobbled street, (think of Clovelly in North Devon but with a better climate!) and there were a few locals out on their morning constitutional. A guy then told me (if I got the gist) that we couldn't get through this way with our bikes. The alleyway was gorgeous, with terracotta pots bursting with geraniums and white washed walls, so rather than turn round we thought what the hell, let's carry on and see if we could get a coffee somewhere and take in the views.

We arrived at a little square, which contained the essences of Spanish village life - two bars serving food, a church, and some dappled shade from one

hundred year old trees. What was unusual was the fact that a band consisting of trombones, trumpets, saxaphones and drums was warming up and they seemed to be good! It was much too early for a coffee stop really but when you come across an idyllic scene like this you have to grab the moment. Fifteen minutes later and a great coffee to the good it was time to go inside and pay the bill.

Then a poster caught my eye - "Running of the bulls, El Gastor, today". I asked the landlady whether this could really be true - yes, in half an hour's time there was going to be a bull run! I couldn't believe it - and right outside the bar. Now it all made sense why the musicians were wearing a range of bull themed tee-shirts.



The 'Running of the Bulls' poster



I asked in my very worse Spanish which end of the street the bull would run from and as I got a rather confusing answer (or certainly one that my Spanish wasn't up to) we took pot luck and found a spot from which to watch the preparations. The street was being fortified big-time. Massive iron posts were slotted vertically into the ground and had railway sleeper type planks inserted into them to cut off the side streets. In keeping with the Andulucian custom the buildings already had iron bars at the windows as a matter of course but now additional iron bars a couple of inches thick were bolted to any potentially vulnerable points and what normally would be the main entrance to a cafe resembled Fort Knox. Dozens of people stared out from the dim cool interiors which now was a vantage point to the spectacle about to begin. But I didn't want to watch this from a doorway of a café, I had to be on the street with the noise and smells and where you could feel the excitement of the bull run.

The crowd seemed to be made up of three sorts. Those who are clearly spectators who were safe behind the barricades and railings, those in the street that are going to risk their lives, and those who think they might! I was very firmly in the

spectator camp but it was great fun trying to spot those who were trying to give the impression of being up for it but who didn't really have the bottle. And the spectators were all sorts - children, women, grandparents, and functionaries. People watched from every possible vantage point - bars, front rooms, balconies and upstairs bedrooms. Observing some of these people made me speculate - what had that old man sat in his chair in the upstairs room seen in his life - did he remember the Spanish Civil War, was he once one of these young men strutting in the street facing his fears and the bull - for how many years had he watched this annual spectacle unfold?

Bang! A deafening cacophony of noise as a series of firecrackers go off unexpectedly - I've not heard fireworks that loud since I was a child and some of the runners betrayed the anxiety as they involuntarily leapt feet into the air. Everyone's reaction was perhaps a reflection of the very real tension that was in the air. If I had seen scenes of going on the telly, then these guys definitely had! The smoke from the firecrackers drifted slowly up the narrow cobblestone street past us, the smell of the powder and billowing smoke heightening the anticipation.

One benefit of not knowing the direction the bull was coming from was an enhanced feeling of uncertainty and anticipation. We couldn't see the bull from where we were standing but what we could see were the expressions on the faces of guys in the street looking towards it; and you could see the mixture of pride, bravado, adrenaline, fear, and fun that they were feeling.

The bull arrives - those guys previously swaggering around in the street are running and jumping for their lives, vaulting barricades, clinging to the railings of first floor windows and balconies, straining every sinew to curl their legs beneath them to keep them from the horns of the bull. And then it seemed to be over as the bull sprinted off into the distance around a corner and towards the far end of town. Confusion, or was that only me? Had the bull been captured at the other end of the street or was it going to come charging back? The runners, after the initial panic and excitement of the bull's first rush past them, still looked animated and expectant of its return. Then it did, careering down the cobbled street looking for someone to take its frustration out on. It wasn't a mad dash from one end to the other, but more a short burst of speed, a pause, an acceleration, a stumble, but always looking for someone to pin against the wall with its horns.

How big was the bull? Well it was a magnificent animal, with a jet-black shiny coat that did nothing to disguise the rippling muscle beneath and not handicapped in its agility by being too big. Its horns must have been three feet across, sharply pointed and facing forwards threateningly. It certainly looked like it meant business and I for one was certainly glad to be on the right side of the barricades and not in the least bit tempted to test my mettle in the street. After one last headlong dash at the spectators, it turned tail and careered back down the street and out of sight.

I was left shaking with excitement over what I had just experienced. The chance of a lifetime had fallen into my lap and these words don't begin to describe how excited I felt. We could have stayed all day as there were a succession of bull runs being



held and that was to be followed by an exhibition of Andalusian horse riding skills but we jumped on our bikes and headed off downhill to the next 'pueblo blanco' to sample the next slice of Andalusian culture.

If you think that Europe is the same sanitised homogenised whole then just go off the beaten track in Andalucía and think again.

[Andy Bromley](#)



Open Day - June 27th

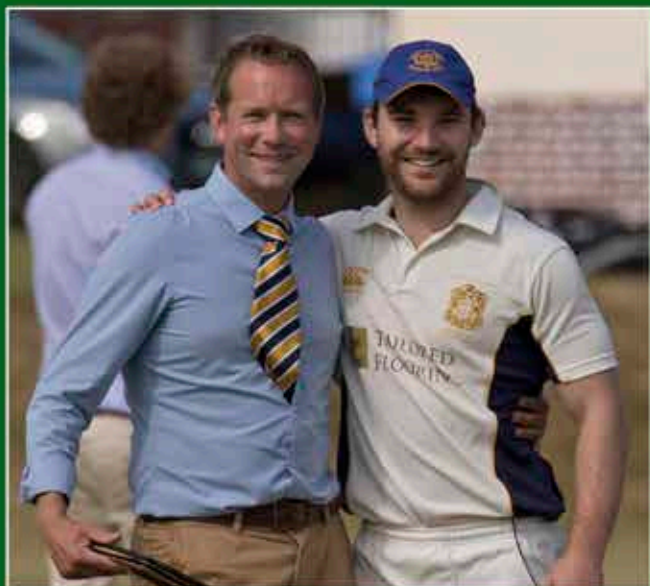






Cricket Match - June 27th





OC Open Day and Cricket Match

We enjoyed a marvellously sunny day for the OC Open Day at Colston's on Saturday 27th June. There was a highly competitive cricket match played in a very good spirit which the school 1st XI won.

There was an extended interlude at lunch time when the CCF paraded in celebration of their centenary and we were also treated to an al fresco performance from the school musicians.

Old Colstonians of all generations (some of whom had not returned to school in nearly 50 years) attended the event in good numbers and were pleased to visit their alma mater and meet the new headmaster, Mr Jeremy McCullough.

Thanks to the headmaster on behalf of the OC Society for the very warm welcome which OCs received and also to George Thomas, Mr Chris Banning and Tom Appleby for their contribution to the organisation of the cricket match, Mr Tom

Richardson for the CCF parade, Mr Michael Castle for the musical performance and the caterers for providing (as always) excellent refreshments throughout the day.

Well done too to Tracy Mace for her organisation and support to OCs.

Martin Tayler

Congratulations to OC Chris Taylor on his contribution to England winning Ashes

It was very pleasing to hear Alastair Cook recognising Chris Taylor's contribution to the England performance in winning back the Ashes.

As England's fielding coach OC Chris Taylor can feel justly proud of his contribution.

Well done Chris!



Chris with his family at a recent OC event



Women's Six Nations rugby caps for Old Colstonians

Colston's provided no less than four players for the Wales and England Women's rugby squads competing in this season's Six Nations Championship.

Gemma Rowland (London Wasps & Dragons) made her debut at centre for Wales whilst Katie Mason (Bristol) also gained her first cap at fullback for England in the opening game of the Championship at St Helen's, Swansea.

Katie joins World Cup winners Amber Reed (Bristol – centre) and Laura Keates (Worcester – prop) in the England squad. Unfortunately, Amber was unable to play in the Wales match due to injury, missing out on the opportunity to go head to head with her old team mate Gemma.

All four girls formed a formidable backline in the Colston's sevens team which won back to back National Sevens titles at Rosslyn Park in 2006 and 2007 and were undefeated in all competitions for two years.

Several staff made the journey Swansea to support the girls including Dave and Linda Mason, proud parents of Katie. Girls' rugby coach Benjamin Berry did, however, have divided loyalties. Whilst watching four OCs representing their country was undoubtedly his proudest coaching experience, he was particularly pleased to see Gemma Rowland inspire Wales to a 13 – 0 win over the current World Champions, England.

International rugby players

We thought it might be interesting to publish a list of international rugby players with Colston's connections who have represented their country at full international level:

Old Colstonians Shewring Harry Edward *England* Johnston William R *England* Spoors J A *Great Britain*
 Brown Thomas W *England* Morley Alan J *England & British & Irish Lions* Sheppard Austin *England*
 Barkley Olly *England* Lloyd Andrew *Wales* Mears Lee *England & British & Irish Lions* Pyke Michael *Canada*
 Bell Duncan *England* Varndell Tom *England* Delve Gareth *Wales* Brown Alex *England*
 Geraghty Shane *England* Fury Warren *Wales* Crane Jordan *England* Keates Laura *England*
 Reed Amber *England* Rowland Gemma *Wales* Mason Katie *England*
OCRFC Hesford Bob *England* Smith Ben *New Zealand*
Staff Gibbs Nigel *England* Rollitt Dave *England* Robinson Andy *England*



Dave, Katie, Linda and Ben Mason



Katie Mason, Amber Reed, Ben Berry, Gemma Rowland and Laura Keates

OCs Laura Keates and Amber Reed win top sports awards

Congratulations to Old Colstonians
Laura Keates and Amber Reed
 for being part of the England World Cup
 winning team which won the
BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award

OC Doug Winstone writes about his days at school during the 2nd World War

OC Doug Winstone has kindly written about his days at Colston's.

When the sirens sounded

Although the worst of the Blitz was over when I arrived at the "Crib" in 1942 Bristol was still subject to a lot of air raids. I remember looking over the city to a mass of barrage balloons and listening to "Purdown Percy" (Anti Aircraft Battery) banging away with very little effect and spending what seemed like endless nights in the shelters.

These shelters were located in the tunnels under, what was then, the senior common rooms and the dining hall. The entrance was either through the common rooms, via the main hall, or from outside through the entry opposite the headmaster's lawn, then down a short flight of steps – turn left into the "boot room" (where all the trunks and suitcases were stored) – turn right into what seemed to be a maze of tunnels with two-tier wooden trunks alongside one wall, and, together with a rather lumpy palliase, it didn't make for a comfy night.

There was a very strict procedure for getting down into the shelters. When the siren sounded, designated (reliable) boys had to close the shutters; and once these were secured the lights went on. Each boy gathered up his bedding-with dressing gown and slippers-to make an orderly way via the main stairs, main hall, and common rooms to the shelters. West House was first being the nearest, followed by East, South and finally North House. Once you had made it, in a rather dozey manner, and somehow in the crush (as there wasn't an awful lot of room down there) you made up your trunk and tried to get a little sleep. I always found this difficult as the tunnels were damp, cold and noisy and it was a great relief when the "all clear" sounded and the whole procedure was reversed. For the rest of the night a little sleep was possible.

At the height of the blitz this was a nightly procedure and must have had some affect, through lack of a good night's sleep, on a majority of the school. However, I suppose we were fairly resilient in those days, but schoolwork must have suffered a little. Well, mine did, and that's my excuse!

News of former English teacher Laurence Whitby James

OC John Ashley writes with news of his former English teacher at Colston's, Laurence Whitby James.

"On July 4, I visited Laurence Whitby James ('Whit') at his home in Birmingham. He was my English language and literature master whilst I was at "Crib". The Shetland Bus and Henry IV Part 1 were my year's Oxford University set books for 'O' level literature in 1961, and he made them both interesting for us. His most famous student after he left Colston's was Julie Walters, of 'Educating Rita' fame, and he showed me her letter to him thanking him for getting her through her English 'O' levels.

We went out for lunch at his local pub, looked over his family photos and talked poetry and school masters. He read me some poems, including several of his own. His wife Sheila died early this year (2015), and he still cooks for two sometimes he says. His three daughters are all living elsewhere, the eldest in Florence, another in Berkhamsted and the third in Worcester.

He is getting on fairly well, with a house full of photos, books and work papers. He hasn't changed, though turning 90 this year ... speaks and acts the same. A prodigious memory ... like remembering how much he paid for his wife's engagement ring and the pawn shop where he bought it ... "it's still there you know" he said. He has fond memories of Peterhouse, his Cambridge college.

I like Whit very much, having many warm memories of him. He was the only master who made time for me outside of the classroom. He was very sympathetic when my grandmother died. He gave me the RAF jacket of his beloved brother, who died when his plane crashed. Even today I cannot believe the honour that he bestowed on me by so doing. And he took me out with his 0.22 calibre gun once, asking me to put my sixpence against the base of a tree. He hit it at 25 paces with his one shot. I never saw that coin again. He acknowledges that he owes me sixpence, though I'll write it off as he paid for our lunch. I'm much looking forward to seeing him again soon, and buying him lunch."

OC Austin Sheppard still playing hockey at 65

Former Bristol and England rugby international Austin Sheppard was quite a hockey talent when he was at Colston's School and played club hockey with his father Harold when in his early teens. However, he made a name for himself at rugby, first in the talented Colston's 1st XV in 1968 (which only lost one fixture to local rivals St Brendan's College) and then as a prop forward for Bristol and Gloucestershire through the heady days of the 70s and 80s. Austin won England caps in 1981 and 1985 and toured New Zealand with England. He played over 400 times for Bristol Rugby Club.

Yet once his rugby days were over Austin didn't hang up his boots but returned to hockey and is still playing for Westbury and United Banks at the age of 65.

Austin had considered retiring last year but as he has been wearing the no 65 shirt for some time he felt it a 'must' to keep going to match his age with the shirt.

Well done Austin – keep it going!





Ben Bartlett doing what he enjoys most

News of top chef OC Ben Bartlett

One of the joys of being president of the Old Colstonian Society is that Old Boys and Girls regularly get in touch with me through all manner of ways such as email, letters, Facebook, twitter and LinkedIn. I recently received a request from OC Ben Bartlett to link to him on LinkedIn.

On reading his profile I thought it would be of interest to OCs and wrote to him to tell me more about what he has done since leaving Colston's.

His reply was most interesting and I am pleased to publish it below. Thanks Ben, a great read with plenty of tips for the summer ahead. I hope your well written article will encourage other OCs to get in touch and tell us about what they have been doing since they left Colston's.

OC Ben Bartlett

I attended Colston's between 1982-1987 and have happy memories especially studying music with Andrew McManus in the Prep School and Clifton Graham and Sue Whitby-Coles in the Senior School where I passed Grade 8 Voice with distinction.

From a young age I knew I wanted to be a chef. My mother is a phenomenal cook and I learnt about meat, fish and game from her. Even now she won't let me in her kitchen! I started my catering training in Bournemouth studying 7061 and 7062 Food Skills and got my first job at Forte's Restaurant on the seafront as a commis chef. The kitchen worked with an old fashioned brigade system so you moved around doing everything from peeling to washing! It was great training.

I returned home and studied part time the HCIMA Certificate and Diploma whilst running our newly "converted from a cow shed" restaurant named after me, "Big Ben Restaurant", the pun being I am short! What a fantastic learning curve running a restaurant and a licensee under 20! From chips with everything to fine dining and lobster bisque in 2 years. From the occasional customer to weddings in a marquee for 200. You bet I was a quick learner!

Always singing, I won a bursary to study Opera for two years in Florence, Italy where I also worked at Masaccio's restaurant and learnt to cook over 100 types of pasta! Following this I was offered a job with Conran at Cantina Del Ponte in London and I jumped at the opportunity to be the Special Event Chef for Global International, London which took me to number 10 Downing Street, the Foreign Office and the European Cardiff Summit.



A few years later friends took on the The Pumphouse at Hotwells and asked me to launch a new kitchen at this busy harbourside public house. After two years I increased sales from 200 to more than 2000 covers every week. During this time I offered to barbecue for a friend's wedding. I'd been used to cooking on barbecues, but when the guest list hit 100 and I had to use three grills it was a totally different situation – and I loved it! They entered me into Britain's Best Barbecuer Contest and my prize was to visit Kansas City and learn from Slaughterhouse Five, a chain of barbecue restaurants. That was in 2003 and I've been hooked ever since!

My top dishes that go down a treat on the barbecue include pork – pulled pork and pork ribs, chicken trio – thigh, breast and wings, king prawns and scallops, and beef brisket. You can't beat a sirloin steak! With meat, it's easy to overcook beef and chicken can be quite dull. Pork is great and very forgiving on the barbecue. A fish kebab works well and so do fruit or vegetable ones. Jacket potatoes work well too. Cook them, scoop out the inside and mix with cheese, peppers, onions, and chopped bacon. Restuff the skins and pop them back on the grill.

Then a couple of years later the brewery Marston's Pub Company from Burton upon Trent who owned the building asked me to join them as Catering Development Manager for 1500 pubs across the country. I won several awards for training, was made a Fellow of The British Institute of Innkeeping and won the Morning Advertiser "Food Champion of the Year".

Four years later I was head-hunted by Scottish & Newcastle Pub Company based in Edinburgh to become their Food Development Manager where I was responsible for all catering development within 2100 pubs.

After many years working for big corporations I set up my own consultancy business and also wrote a book, The Haynes BBQ Manual that is available in over 75 countries. I advise several National companies and regularly write for the media, working continuously on projects for the Craft Guild

of Chefs and the Seafish Industry Authority. My favourite item to barbecue is fish, because you can char-grill, steam in foil, wrap in salted vine leaves or cook on wood (planking) – the options are endless! Mackerel and sardines work really well, all you need are fresh herbs, oil and flavours and the end taste is fantastic.

There are also some unsung barbecue heroes such as Sweetcorn, as well as aubergines and courgettes. Octopus is great and literally takes just two minutes to cook. All it needs is a marinade of tomato sauce, a few chillies, a bit of brown sugar and Worcestershire sauce. Don't forget desserts. Bananas, peaches and pineapple are fabulous on the barbecue. Wrap a banana in foil and place on the grill. When it's soft to the touch, slice it open and pour in a generous measure of Irish cream. Simple, but delicious.

The World BBQ Championships this year are in Gothenburg, Sweden and the best teams from 80 countries are competing. Last year, I was a judge at the one in Morocco and it was amazing and fascinating to witness the different styles of barbecuing from around the world. The Moroccan competitors wore their traditional dress and sat on stools hand-turning the goat they were barbecuing for three hours. The team from Argentina cooked their meat on a huge metal cross and threw charcoal on the floor below it. They too hand-turned the meat – and danced while it was cooking!

In my spare time I give more time to my favourite charity The Eleanor Children's Charitable Trust and have spent time in Targu Jiu, Romania distributing aid to orphanages, schools and hospitals.

Recently I have been awarded the Silver Craftsman award from the Craft Guild of Chefs and I have become a Certified World BBQ Association Judge Trainer.

You can find out more about Ben on his web site:

www.bbqben.co.uk

News from OC Bob Dear in Texas

I was delighted to receive an email from OC Bob Dear in Texas.

I was interested to read the letter from Peter Mortimer-Rae in a recent president's blog. I cannot remember Mortimer-Rae, but we must have been contemporaries since I was at the Crib from 1944 to 1950 and he describes gardening activities in the mid 1940s. I imagine he is a year or two older than me (I am 82), possibly in a different house. I was in South. These outdoor activities were still going on when I first went to Colston's and we newcomers had to garden every Tuesday afternoon since we were too young to join the corps.

I believe the geography master he mentions is W. H. Davies, an enthusiastic teacher who was always interesting. He had a great mnemonic for many digits of pi. I didn't know he was Canadian, but there is no other who fits the description. The other geography master was E. G. Davies, a much more conservative person. C. G. Lawrence was my mentor in chemistry and it was at least partly due to his teaching that I took up that field as a career.

I recall many of the teachers of those war years and I often wonder what became of them in later years – obviously they are now all deceased. The ones I remember are

F. A. Rocket, South house master and Latin – a subject I could never master, although I took to French like duck to water!

Major Beckett, West house master, mathematics and corps commander,

Oscar Berger, a refugee and the Austrian professor of mathematics – a wholly marvellous teacher who made calculus quite palatable. His numerals and writing were immaculate.

The Rev. M. G. Tucker, history and religious studies – not a very effective order keeper in class and I'm afraid we boys took advantage of that.

J.F.C. Brown, North house master, who taught English and music. A talented composer, he created "The Daniel Jazz" based on the biblical character in the lions' den.

J.O. Ellis, an English teacher of great talent who unfortunately spent too many hours in the Bell Inn and was terminated.

F.C. Noddle, physics teacher. A contemporary of C. G. Lawrence (was he also an OC?).

Beryl Thornburgh, who taught English and art.

J.M. Forster, West house master, taught French.

Then there were, beginning in 1946, the returning masters who had served in WWII.

R.A. Whitehead, mathematics – unfortunately nowhere near as dynamic as Herr Berger.

"Bungee" Addison, a flamboyant art teacher.

I was about to add that an account of my time at Colston's was published in the 2003 Cribsheet. Imagine my surprise when I see that it is immediately followed by three articles by Peter Mortimer-Rae!! I still do not remember him.

I also did a follow up in the 2006 Cribsheet.

In the latter I mention a meeting with Peter Mathias, formerly Head Prefect and later Master of Downing College, Cambridge. What I didn't say was what a disastrous meeting that was. In the presence of, to me, such a formidable scholar I became tongue tied and after a while Mathias sensibly ignored me and we never met again during my time at Cambridge. I believe Peter Mathias is now retired and living in Hunstanton.



The picture is a recent one of myself and my wife of 60 years.

Best wishes, [Bob Dear 57, OC 1944-1950](#).

Memories from OC Harold Fry

It has been very good to see OC Harold Fry at some of our recent OC events. Harold has sent me some of his memories which I am very pleased to share:

Memories of the Crib

In the summer of 1934 because I was the top boy in my class at Redcliffe Endowed Boys' School I was entered for four scholarship exams. The Bristol Education Committee, Alice Coles bursary, Q.E.H (I didn't fancy going to that school) and last but not least Colston's. I could have gone to the Bristol Grammar. On the day of my maternal grandmother's funeral I received an invitation to Colston's. My grandfather and great uncles all said I should accept the offer. (I am very glad that I did!)

I believe that I was the first boy from Redcliffe School to go there. Much to my disappointment my mother decided that I should leave school after the autumn term 1939. She got me a job as a junior clerk in the Bristol City Engineer's Department. I registered for National Service in 1941 and opted to go for pilot training with the RAF. Got my wings in Canada in April 1945 and was home on leave on VE day. A close friend and myself must have been mad to want to fight the Japs as we volunteered to transfer to the Fleet Air Arm. We were at a Naval Base in Cumbria when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Everything was at a standstill until the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. We then became surplus to requirements and did various ground jobs for the rest of our service life.

I returned to my old job. But in 1951 I saw an advert for a post in the Bristol Register Office. I moved to Clevedon as Registrar in 1965 back to Bristol in 1978 as Additional Superintendent and eventually became Superintendent Registrar for Bath in 1981 and retired in 1985.

I was a member of the OC Society committee prior to moving to Clevedon but became so involved with bowls that I lost contact with the OC's Society. Purely by chance Peter Leaman found me a couple of months ago. How he did is an interesting story in itself Since then we have met regularly for a couple of pints. As the last time we met would have been in the 1951/52 season we have quite a lot to talk about.

Harold Fry 1934 to 1939 *School Number was One*

OC Jonno Richards heads comedy company



Jonno Richards

I was pleased to receive news of OC Jonno Richards (1994-96) from his father Mike Richards (who is also an Old Colstonian). I am sure that contemporaries of Mike and Jonno will especially enjoy reading this story.

The executive producer of BBC4's *Detectorists* is to join Talkback as its first head of comedy.

Jonno Richards will join the Fremantle Media label in January from John Bishop's indie Lola Entertainment, where he oversaw *Detectorists*, which is co-produced by Treasure Trove and Channel X North.

Richards joined Lola in 2012 as creative producer and his other credits for the company include BBC1's *The John Bishop Show* and John Bishop's *Australia*.

He previously worked as a freelance producer across shows such as *Objective's* John Bishop's *Britain*, ITV's *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* and Channel 4's *Chris Moyles' Quiz Night*.

He will report to Talkback managing director Leon Wilson. The company is responsible for a raft of comedy entertainment formats including *Celebrity Juice*, *Through The Keyhole*, *QI* and ITV prank show *Glitchy*.

Detectorists

"Talkback produces such a great range of brilliant, funny shows, I can't wait to get started there," said Richards.

Wilson added: "We've got ambitious plans and Jonno's creativity and expertise will help us with our existing slate and to develop an exciting array of new shows."

Article by Alex Farber

www.broadcastnow.co.uk

Children's Author and OC, Eric James

I have received news from an Old Colstonian, a published children's author who writes under the pen name of Eric James, who contacted me as he wanted to get in touch with his former English teacher in the Prep School, Mr George Harries, who had been an inspiration to him. Sadly I had to inform him that Mr Harries has passed away; however, I asked him if he would write a blog item for me to talk of that inspiration.

Children's Author and OC, Eric James

I attended Colston's between 1985-1990 as a day pupil, back when peanuts and milk were served at 11am, science lessons were held in a porta cabin (perhaps they still are) and the large classroom block, situated across from the headmaster's office, was a brand new edition to the landscape.

I was a shy child, a trait not helped by the passing of my father in 1986 when I was just 12 years old, but despite this loss I have fond memories of the school and of one teacher in particular.

Mr George Harries was a gentle soul with pepper-grey hair and a warm smile. He taught English and History, and it was under his tutelage that I gained an appreciation for wordplay and rhyme. English quickly became my favourite subject. In my final year of lower school my family received a letter informing them that I would be the recipient of the main English prize at the end-of-year ceremony.

However, it was not to be; at the last moment a more senior teacher overruled the decision and awarded the prize to one of his own pupils. I still recall Mr Harries taking me aside and apologising profusely, as if he were somehow to blame.

At the beginning of the next term I moved to the campus across the road, and unfortunately I never got to see Mr Harries again.

It wasn't until 2010, while working as a contract programmer, that I wrote another rhyme – my first in over twenty years. That little rhyming story came to the attention of the founder of one of the world's largest publishing houses and I was soon commissioned to write a series of Halloween themed rhymes for his new company. "Halloween Scare" was published across America as well as in Australia and Canada, and has gone on to sell over

100,000 copies to date. My next two books "Santa's Sleigh is on its Way" and "My First Santa" are due to be published in 2015 in the U.K., U.S. and Canada.

Mr Harries may no longer be around to thank in person, but he is fondly remembered by this very grateful former pupil.

Eric James (*pen name*)

Children's Author



OC James Hinchcliffe standing as a local councillor

I was very pleased that my prospective local councillor should knock on my door yesterday to introduce himself, especially when it was James Hinchcliffe, a former pupil at Colston's. James who was Head Boy in 1997/98 started at Colston's in 1991 (the same year as the merger with the Collegiate School).

I remembered that James had had a keen interest in politics right from his first days at Colston's and we laughed about the fact that he had taken part in the Mock General Election in his first year at school.

Martin Tayler

James has this to say about that experience:

"I first got into politics when Nick Drew organised a Mock General Election in 1992 for Middle School pupils (nowadays Years 7 & 8). It was terrific. I led the Conservative Party with lots of help from two other OCs – James Moore and James Hunt (until recently a South Gloucestershire Councillor). We had hustings, posters, and debates. It really took off. Nick was hugely supportive of the election and gave lots of his time to overseeing fair play from all sides. The election result was evenly split. But the point was that the whole of the Middle School learnt lots about the political process and voting. Little did I know, it would become my career just a decade later working for the Conservative Party on Bath & North East Somerset Council."

On leaving school James studied Social Policy and Politics at University of Bristol (1998-2001), and then a Masters at Bristol in Public Policy (2004 & 2005); he worked as Political Assistant to the Conservative Group on Bath & North East Somerset Council 2002 – 2008 and then as External Communications Manager for B&NES 2008-2014. After a one year stint at NHS England as a Communications Manager, he now works at JBP Associates, a PR/stakeholder engagement firm on Whiteladies Road as an Account Director.

"Few people get to say their job was also their hobby. But mine was for six enjoyable years where the Conservative Party enjoyed huge success in



OC James Hinchcliffe

B&NES. I ducked out of working in day-to-day politics for the best part of seven years to do something different – working for B&NES Council and NHS England. My new career in the private sector at JBP Associates gives me the opportunity to return. Not this time as staff, but as a Council candidate in Frome Vale."

James tells me In August, he was selected as one of the Conservative candidates for the local elections in Frome Vale. There is one Conservative councillor (Cllr Lesley Alexander) and one Labour. It is a marginal Council ward where the result has been as close as around 100 votes in the past two elections – 2013 in Labour's favour, 2015 in Conservative's favour.

"I'm enjoying being a candidate in Frome Vale. I've met lots of interesting people and listened to their views on sorts of subjects, from 20 mph zones on main roads to bus services. It's a fantastic community taking in Snuff Mills and Vassalls Park. The principles I learnt from the Mock Election in 1992 still apply – standing is about building positive relationships with the people you wish to represent one day, speaking-up strongly on the issues which affect them. It's also important to build-up relationships with the people you may take some time out of their busy schedule to help you, like delivering leaflets or knocking on doors."

"Frome Vale is one of the most keenly contested local council elections in Bristol. About 100 votes separated Conservative and Labour at the last two elections. For Bristol residents, these elections are very important. For the first time in Bristol Council's history these are the only local elections for four years. Previously, the council held elections in 'thirds' – so one third of seats were fought in three out of four years. In May 2016, voters have their say on the way city is run for the last time until 2020, with all seats and the Mayor up for election. As a result, I think turnout will increase and the outcome of who'll run Bristol becomes unpredictable."

James is still in touch with many of his school friends from his Colston's days. In fact he met his partner Justyna who is from Poland when he was on OC Stuart Pick's stag-do in Krakow. After a few visits back and forth between Krakow and Bristol, Justyna won funding to do a Physiology and Pharmacology research PhD at University of Bristol.

James would love to hear from any OCs who could give an occasional hand during his campaign. He can be contacted at jhinchcliffe2@gmail.com

Former Colston's teacher has a magical turn in his career

I was very pleased to make contact this week with a former colleague at Colston's – Jeremy Le Poidevin.

It certainly had a magical turn to it in that I had googled Jeremy's name this week, having been reminded of him by one of the singers in the recent garden opera at Colston's who had the same surname. Unfortunately, I had no success with Google. However, (and perhaps this is the power of Google) Jeremy sent a message to Facebook asking if we knew of the whereabouts of a former pupil.

I wrote to Jeremy and enquired about his life since Colston's.

He kindly wrote back as follows:

I left Colston's at the end of 1980 and went to Merchant Taylor's School, Crosby, Liverpool and spent nearly 6 years there. Then I went to Silcoates School in Wakefield where I was Head of Sixth Form. I spent nine years at Silcoates, which took me into my early forties, when I started fidgeting to go in another direction. My wife and I decided we wanted to start a mail order business which we did in 1996, selling magic to magicians. If that sounds a very different world to teaching, it isn't as far apart as you'd imagine particularly as I lecture and also, at trade conventions, I'm demonstrating and using whatever skills in communication I learnt as a teacher. The drama background was a help as well. We're just starting our twentieth year in mail order. It's enabled us to live where we want – which is Shropshire – and we have travelled extensively.

And the old Colstonian he was researching...

Tom Davey.

If anyone has news of Tom please put me in touch and I will pass on to Jeremy.



Former Colston's schoolmaster Jeremy Le Poidevin lecturing in Sweden.

News from OC John Springford

I regularly receive communications from OC John Springford who, although he lives in the Far East, is very keen to attend one of our OC events at Colston's.

I am very grateful for the following contribution that he has sent me about his days at Colston's and his life since.

John would love to hear from OCs who remember him. His email is Jspringford2000@yahoo.com

My life at Crib 1959-1967 and beyond

I can clearly remember my first day at Crib, the Prep School to be more precise, I was seven, well dressed with my cap and blazer, I arrived together with six other day boys, the first day boys in the history of the school. I was greeted at the front door by Miss Kitten and Miss Reece, names I remember to this day.

I was soon to learn some basic rules that changed my life, day boys did not exist as far as the boarders were concerned, I was beaten with a metal shoe tree on my first day for not being able to do "joined writing", chased around Fry's playing field across the road by Miss Reece, with frequent whacks of stinging nettles for committing a foul, or being out of position. In those days it was Tom Brown's school days, but it taught me two of the most useful lessons in life, self-survival, and a strong belief never to give up. I can well remember the struggle I had to complete the junior cross country in less than 45 minutes, only to be sent around again as a sure cure for the asthma from which I suffered so badly at the time.

Gradually I progressed towards the Main School, and after three years in Prep, entered Dolphin the House for day boys, a new building with modern facilities, tucked away in front of the Music Rooms and to the side of the Chapel. The House Master was Mr. Cartwright, who it was rumoured was an ex British spy in France during the war.

Life in Dolphin was very different to Prep, I began to enjoy my sport, cross country became a challenge instead of a fear; I eventually won school records for cross country running and for 100 meters breast

stroke, played for the 1st XV and was a house prefect. Life became a rewarding experience.

Prefects were of course revered as gods, who had the authority to give detention and, very frequently, corporal punishment in the form of a high speed size 10 gym shoe. Fags were made to wash prefects' sports clothes, polish their shoes and cadet uniforms, and many other services.

I eventually progressed to O-levels, then to the sixth form, where my adventures included making the suggestion that it would be a good idea to fill the geography master Mr. Luis Steven's new much-prized rain gauge with water, causing him to announce to the whole school that there had been a typhoon over night. Once finding the truth the headmaster Mr Snaith threatened to put the whole school on bread and water until the initiator of the idea owned up; of course I did, and was suitably caned for having such an idea even although I was not the perpetrator of the crime.

When I was just fifteen I cycled what is now the Tour De France with a friend, including five of the highest passes in France and Switzerland – taking three weeks for the trip and cycling an average of 150 kilometers a day. We did it all for less than GBP 100. It remains one of the most memorable achievements of my life.

As a non musician, and member of Colston's Cadet Force, ex Grenadier Guard Sergeant Major Warburton made me Drum Major and Colour Sergeant Major and I was given four inverted strips on each arm, a mace and wore a real tiger skin complete with the head and was told to get on with it. This I did with great enthusiasm. I introduced formation marching to the music of Glen Miller. On one occasion, as I led the Band up and down the quad, Mr Snaith put his head out of his study window and just as we marched past on the quad, a boarder, I believe from Mortlake, dropped an apple from the second floor dorm window shattered on Mr Snaith's head. I laughed, my Bugle Major, Ewen Robson played the Last Post and, after refusing to accept responsibility for the incident, was

threatened with the cane by Mr Snaith. I walked out of school, in the second year sixth, to explain it to my parents. I completed my A levels at the College of Commerce Bristol. I also received a bible for completing my education at Crib; I still have it to this day.

I was fortunate to enter Bristol University where I graduated in Law and Finance. While I was at University I worked nights at Fry's Chocolate Company of Keynsham, served drinks on roller skates in a dance hall, and made and sold waste paper bins, grew /made and sold cactus and Christmas decorations to pay for my life and travel while I was a student.

My first job on graduation was with Gesso, where, I was a representative in the Welsh Valleys. After seven years, and successive assignments, I was appointed one of three European Operational auditors; it was one of the most interesting periods of my life. My last assignment was in Italy, the findings made international news headlines, both Esso and Shell were accused of agreeing a market share cartel, and both companies withdrew from retailing in Italy. I was offered a roving assignment in Africa; I refused, and was asked to leave the company. Another lesson, what is fair is not always seen to be fair.

From this experience I learned another valuable lesson in life: from being one of the most senior people in Esso Europe with many "friends", invitations and a great social life, I became unemployed when I was lucky to count my friends on one hand, those who remain today are still my closest friends.

Life was difficult: I was newly married, needed to pay the mortgage, and worked for an infamous, uneducated, cut-price petrol retailer, Norman Harvey. I never knew from one month to another if I would be paid: once he gave me a car, the next month nothing. Norman often flew me in his helicopter to his petrol stations, landing on the roof and climbing down a rope ladder to the forecourt, he once landed on the roof of Shell building in central London, much to the surprise of the management and security staff.

After one year of trying in vain to get another job, suffering depression, I was offered three jobs at the same time: a tyre manufacturer, Saint George's Brewery, and a pharmaceutical company. I accepted the offer from Smith Kline Beecham Glaxo, who made me a Director of their International Division at the age of 33 and ironically sent me packing to Nigeria to develop their business. This time I didn't hesitate... it was a very educational experience, to say the least, Lucozade, Phensic, Biafra, nights spent sleeping in the bath, morning calls from a vulture standing between the bars of the open bedroom window, a plane crash, night in an army hospital and Afro discos when the power fails.

After ten years I was head-hunted by Johnson and Johnson U.S.A, and after a time living in the Philippines and Indonesia I was made Vice President for Asia Pacific, responsible for the development and implementation of fifteen countries, for the business plans and global pricing strategies. I had a ball; taking over two thousand flights in fifteen years, the Americans never bothered me as I perpetuated the idea that there were no burgers, and life was dangerous. What a myth! I remarried in 1999, my wife Kelly was born in Shanghai, and our son is currently at Marlborough College having inherited his mother's intelligence.

I retired several years ago, but soon become tired of life as a gardener in the Mediterranean, so my wife and I started companies in Singapore and China where we now have a lot of fun, and challenges splitting our lives between Europe and Asia. Our business strategies include the creation of virtual work environments around the world, strict compliance to all legal requirements, reward people only for what they produce, only work with the most professional people and most importantly have a lot of fun.

When I look back at my life I owe a great deal to Colston's, the early experiences taught me many things about life, and self-survival, apart from giving me a great broad education and strong sense of values without which I often wonder what I would be doing. I strongly believe in trying to treat others as I like to be treated myself. My challenges are now

to enjoy and encourage my family to reach their full potential and how I can pass on my experiences to our son.

I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me from my time at Colston's.

John Springford

We were pleased that John was able to join us for the Carol Service (see article with photo later).

I am grateful to Headmaster Jeremy McCullough for this additional note:

I read John Springford's piece with real interest, having met him just the night before at the Carol Service. He had, by chance, recounted the apple out of window/Head's head/ Last Post story when we chatted; hardly surprising as it is a good tale. However, while enjoying the frank account and being delighted to hear that (is it 'despite' some of these stories?) John remembers his time at school fondly, I did think I ought to give the modern day account of the school.

Still, I would say, doing a terrific job or providing that "great broad education and strong sense of values" to which John refers, but doing so in a more human and caring way. Yes, I suppose, students might still play jokes on a Headmaster. However, I suspect that this particular Headmaster is more likely to share a joke with a student, or even with a whole school assembly of them, than might previously have been the case and so the jokes these days are, I hope, more shared with each other than inflicted upon one by the other.

(My favourite from the end of term assembly was this: "After all their work for the end of term concerts I have bought the Music Department the best present in the world, and it didn't cost a penny. I have got them a broken drum. You can't beat it!")

In fact, the Headmaster says clearly warming to his theme, the nature of the relationships between students and staff might be one of the most changed aspects of a Colston's education. There is no fear, no mistrust, no them and us; simply a feeling that pupil and teacher are working together

towards the same outcome. That outcome might be a good set of examination grades, as dictated by the world we live in, or it might be that the partnership between teacher and student is working towards a better line-out drill, a more convincing drama performance or a more virtuoso playing of, for example, the last post.

I always enjoy meeting the OCs of (how shall I put it?) a certain age, but I am sometimes surprised that they lived to tell the tale! No, I think our way is probably better; certainly it is better for our current crop of Colstonians. Those outcomes may be about the same but the methods are a little different.

Floreat Colstona!

News of OC Tony Flenley in Japan

I had a note from OC Rick Smith to say that he had met up with one of his peers, Tony Flenley (Colston's 1963-72), in Japan in the summer.

Rick writes: "Tony captained the school 1st XV in 1971 and was House Captain of Dolphin. Tony's father was Colston's School Bursar. Tony moved to Japan after marrying a lovely Japanese girl, Tomiko. They still live in Japan and run a very successful Miso (a traditional Japanese seasoning made from soya beans) making business in Osaka. Tony is quite a celebrity in Japan and regularly appears on TV; mostly showing how Miso is made; how it developed and is used, and finally explaining how "a tall jovial Englishman" became Managing Director of Osaka Miso Jozo Co Ltd!"

I hope to contact Tony and get more news. His company's website is www.osakamiso.com

Martin Tayler

The Story of Fred Forse's 'Dobbin'

OC Fred Forse writes about how he used the benches from the Dining Room at Colston's to make a rocking horse:

Eventually when I retired from my OC commitments at school in 2013, I said my goodbyes to the academic staff, the accounts staff and the maintenance department, all of whom had made my task in the OCs a great pleasure over the many years.

The maintenance department asked if I knew of anyone who could make use of some old benches from the Dining Room as they were being thrown away. I immediately expressed an interest, not knowing quite what I would use them for but I remembered them fondly as everyone of our generation would.

To commemorate those OCs that had lost their lives in the Great War, the Dining Hall was given a major refurbishment with oak panels etc. A stain glass window records the same. The project was largely financed by the OCs.

The decision was now what to make? A 'Welsh Dresser' for the kitchen for my wife Sue, would be interesting and useful to make and may earn me some brownie points! However, the regular visits of my two grandsons Leo (5.5yrs) and Harry (2.5yrs) persuaded me to think of something I could make specifically for them.

This explains why Sue has no 'Dresser' but my grandsons have a 'Rocking Horse' called 'Dobbin'!

It does not have a fancy name but I suppose it does have a pedigree of sorts, much the same as any horse, as it is made wholly of the 'ancient' oak benches upon which I possibly once sat while at Colston's School circa 1957-62, as did my daughter Lucy whilst in the V1th Form 1996-98.

When the idea of a rocking horse came to mind I found an internet site called 'The Rocking Horse Shop', which specialises in providing plans and everything necessary to produce "Dobbin". The Company provided a real Mane, Tail, Leather Bridle and Saddle. They also could provide wood kits

when required but for me it was far more preferable to make it in the oak from school although it proved much more difficult for me to carve being 'seasoned oak'!

For the technically minded it is made from various pieces of oak that are laminated together to form a head, neck and neck muscles, which are eventually dowelled onto a body; again consisting of various pieces of oak similarly all laminated together to which legs are then attached. All these relatively angular shapes are then all hand carved to give form to the horse. Although I had worked with wood as an upholstery manufacturer for many years, I had to learn new skills of carving and painting, also a much greater degree of patience!

My hope is that at least it gives my grandchildren as much pleasure playing with it as I had in making it!

I am pleased to advise that Dobbin was finished in time for the Christmas Day Derby! I suppose that Sue and I won as on Boxing Day Lucy, and her husband Al, provided us with a further little grandson, Jack Freddie, who will have an equal share in Dobbin with my other grandchildren.

Preparation for painting is known as 'Gessoing', which is a mixture of rabbit skin glue and 'gilders whiting', a fine chalk which is applied hot by brush. This initial coat covers the tiny imperfections in carving and sanding and can improve with building up additional coats. Individual preference determines the final finish; I choose a dappled grey.

The Rocking Horse Shop can provide various different saddles and bridles to choose from. Also you have a choice of synthetic or real mane and tail, even colour of glass eye. With the horse completed, with the help of a friend to turn the spindles, the stand was relatively straightforward.

I hope you will enjoy reading this article. My next project is maybe a go-kart!

Plans, fittings, materials, valued assistance:

The Rocking Horse Shop, Fangoss, York YO41 5JH
www.rockinghorse.co.uk

'Fred' Forse (OC 57-62)



The Dining Hall circa 1892, (SMV Mr Colston's Hospital, Dr J Wroughton). The layout of tables was different from what I remember in 1957, due to the school only having approximately 100 pupils in 1892. However the benches I used for 'Dobbin' were as these illustrated.



The Christmas Day Meet – a 'Handicap Race'!



'Dobbin' in preparation



Fred Forse with Dobbin in late November, still with a bit of necessary grooming and the stand and rocker to be finished.

OC Juraj Draxler returns to Colston's as Minister of Education for Slovakia



Headmaster Jeremy McCullough welcomes Slovakia's Minister of Education Juraj Draxler to Colston's



Juraj with his partner Stela in the school dining hall



Discussing individual studies with sixth form history students



Juraj was pleased to see younger pupils in a history lesson

As president of the Old Colstonian Society I was delighted to tour Colston's with an Old Colstonian who is making his name in the world of politics: Juraj Draxler, at the age of 39, has become the Minister at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports in his native country of Slovakia.

Juraj who took his A-levels at Colston's in 1994 has made an impact at the European Commission as the author and co-author of several CEPS reports on globalisation and its social impact and has worked on pension reforms in the EU. He has had a meteoric rise in politics in Slovakia as he became advisor to the Minister of Education last July, then Deputy Minister in September before becoming Minister in November.

Juraj who studied history, English literature, classics and general studies at Colston's was most appreciative of the then headmaster of Colston's, Stephen Howarth, who had been very accommodating in allowing him to take his A-levels in one year.

Juraj was extremely pleased to meet up with his former history master, Nick Drew, and enjoyed talking with sixth formers and younger pupils in their history lessons.

Headmaster Jeremy McCullough was very interested to hear about Juraj's experiences at Colston's in the 90s and the extent of his Ministry which is very wide-ranging. Juraj was accompanied by Imrich Marton, a colleague from the embassy in London, and Juraj's partner Stela Bencheva who was visiting England for the first time.

I was impressed that Juraj could remember many of his contemporaries at Colston's and we are very hopeful that we may be able to get them to meet up at one of our Old Colstonian events in the near future – possibly our annual dinner on Saturday 10th October.

[Martin Tayler](#)

Old Colstonian Leon Hubbard gives psychology lecture to sixth form

Year 13 psychology students at Colston's had the privilege of listening to a lecture on schizophrenia from Old Colstonian, Leon Hubbard (1999 – 2006). After leaving Colston's, Leon gained a first in psychology from Royal Holloway University where he also completed his Master's degree. Leon then gained a place on a PhD course at Cardiff University studying the Genetics of Schizophrenia. Last month, he successfully defended his thesis and has secured funding to research the influence of genetics on Parkinson's disease

Leon gave an insight into how his research into genetics identifies possible markers for schizophrenia as well as making direct links to the A-level psychology course. The year 13 psychologists were fascinated by the talk, in particular, those applying to study psychology at university next year.



OC Leon Hubbard with his former psychology teacher Mr Ben Berry and some of the students from the year 13 psychology class

News from OC Brian Bishop in Australia

Australia Day

Australia is the 6th largest country in the world, and is the largest island, and is the only land that began the English era as a prison.

It all started when an English captain, James Cook, in his ship "The Endeavour" sailed up the east coast of Australia in 1770, and decided that it was a "very agreeable land". He had been sent from England to sail around the world, to measure the transit of Venus across the sun, so that the astronomers back home could then calculate the distance of the Earth from the Sun.

Cook sailed up the east coast, until he reached the Cape York area, and then as an afterthought

decided to plant a flag there and claimed the land for England. He sailed on, but returned a couple more times to the Pacific before being murdered by the natives in Hawaii in 1779.

It took a few more years before anyone bothered about Australia. However, the loss of the American colonies about this time focussed the English government on where to send the less desirable inhabitants. Australia suddenly became the place of choice.

In May 1787, Captain Arthur Phillip sailed with eleven ships for Australia, containing 1,500 people, mostly small time criminals, to get them away from

the overcrowded prisons at home. The fleet of ships was called, with pride here in Australia, as "The First Fleet".

The voyage took 8 months, and Captain Phillip arrived in Botany Bay. However, the conditions that Captain Cook had described were not quite what the crew and passengers had imagined, so Captain Phillip upped anchor and sailed on to what is now Circular Quay in Sydney. He anchored his ships and started a city.

It was 26 January 1788. The date all Australians know as "Australia Day".

I came to Australia in 1977 as a specialist in the Royal Air Force, to Head of Department at Perth Dental Hospital. At first it was surprisingly difficult to assimilate, because although most people spoke English, the customs were surprisingly different, but as time went by I gradually realised that I started to enjoy being here, and so I took Australian Citizenship. I now have dual passports. I like Perth very much, and enjoy the lifestyle and the warm climate. I usually visit the UK about every two years.

Life is quite nice here in Perth. The weather is a Mediterranean climate, and the summer extends from September to the end of March. June is the beginning of winter when the daytime temperature goes down to about 10oC (50oF). Perth has a population of 2 million people, and it is the fastest growing city in Australia. It was only established in 1829, so you can see that the growth here was very rapid. This rise in population was because of the mining boom which is related to a very rich mix of minerals in the vastness of Western Australia. In fact Singapore is nearer to us than Sydney. When we fly northwards it takes over 2 hours before we get out of Western Australia.

How do I and the family celebrate the day which is a public holiday? We usually take this opportunity to get together at one house or the other and set up food outside. It can be a BBQ or as is more likely nowadays, cold salads and wine or beer. It will be hot in Perth, probably about 27-30°C (80-86°F). Shorts and T-shirts are the order of the day. Many people go down to the beach or to the river Swan to celebrate. In Perth we have many pristine

beaches, for me it is a 10 minute drive to the Indian Ocean. You can actually drive for one hour north from Perth and find a beach where there is no one! The sun will set at about 7.30pm in the evening, and if you are celebrating away from home, then the limit for drinking is at 0.05%, which means that someone is unfortunately designated as the driver.



I will not be working on that day as it is a public holiday. It will be a "patient free day", but usually it is back to work next day at 8am. As the evening rolls by, it is then time to watch the fireworks over Perth city. Lots of people go into the city and sit by the river or view them from the Kings Park which is a 1000 acre of parkland overlooking the city. Luckily we can see the fireworks from our house, so we do not have to endure the traffic crawl home afterwards. So it really is a very relaxed day with usually just family and friends enjoying the company and the warm evening.

Australia Day, January 26th is approaching. The weather is warm. No work on that day save carrying the ice box and the food!

Brian Bishop No 10. (1948-1956)

bishop@upnaway.com

Letter from OC Peter Mortimer-Rae

Following the publication of the 2014 edition of "Cribsheet" I was very pleased to receive a letter from Old Colstonian Peter Mortimer-Rae who is in his eighties and is living in Canada. I am sure Old Colstonians of many generations will appreciate reading it.

Dear Martin,

Sitting here in a sun room watching numerous birds at their feeders, the expanse of a frozen lake Erie beyond a garden covered in two feet of snow, with the sun glittering off a layer of ice atop, deposited at a whim of Mother nature, I cannot help but feel a little nostalgia from this latest issue of the "Cribsheet" laying on the table beside me. It is perhaps the green within the pictures reminding me of a time still months away, or more likely, given my memories of the chapel, swimming pool and garden before its' rebirth as the Hilborne Memorial garden. Once a playground for those boys interested in gardening for the common cause; between 1942 and 47 those walls were covered in Espaliered apples, no doubt planted eons before and between them were neat rows of vegetables grown from the toil of the abovementioned and supervised by our Canadian Geography master, whose name I can no longer recall. It proved also the site of numerous planned 'digs', not for the prehistoric but rather the incendiary bombs dropped the night before, for they provided the Chemistry master, Mr.C.G. Lawrence, East House master, the then unattainable Zinc from which many chemistry experiments could be raised; and so the long recessed arteries of my mind open up to reveal what has otherwise been long forgotten and nostalgia reigns for a brief moment.

As an octogenarian I belong to those "years of disruption" as named by Dr. John Wroughton in his history of Colstons; unfortunately a very weak chapter of his book despite being a very important period of our history, for what better excuse to bring about a collapse than warfare. Many teachers of that period fail to receive even a mention, despite their return to the call of teaching when the need was the greatest and their 'beyond the call of duty' behavior and tolerance of our wretchedness,

in order to offer us a level of preparedness for adult life, as only the like of Colston's has ever been able to achieve. An education which not only incorporated academics, but also sportsmanship , leadership, honour and loyalty to those we serve as well as each other. I think of not only the geography teacher already mentioned but also the Austrian professor of Mathematics teacher, who allowed us kids to place a pin into his head through a hole left from where he had once undergone some cranium surgery, the English master who after university believed himself to be so wasting his energy as to take up building roads for seventeen years before returning to teaching, the French lady teacher who had been obliged to depart Paris before the Germans caught up with her for deep freezing their officers in her father's butcher shop, who also happened to be so cross eyed as to be able to spot our misbehavior on opposite sides of the room, and so I could go on with others who left somewhat less of an impression, particularly those lady teachers of the period.

Ironically the memories of those days are still bright and clear as if yesterday, the nightly exercise of seeking one's bed in those underground passages running beneath the palace, the loss of not only our 'monkey puzzle' tree (Araucaria Araucana , I suspect) but also of a large flowering tree outside of what was then West house Common room, on the way into the dining room, it's name still escapes me, but I was tasked to record same during many an art class. Under these common rooms, West and East, ran a section of the abovementioned tunnel; alas one day a covering flagstone was to crack asunder and some unfortunate had to be recovered from the depths, as I recall unharmed. During the winter months each house appointed a squad of healthy youngsters tasked to shovel the snow off the flat roofed portions of the building. The good Lord was indeed smiling on us all, for how we missed those walking idly by at ground level ,I will never know. The unfortunate news of an old boy being killed somewhere at the front, perhaps only months out of school. The joy of eating tinned fruit, indeed anything edible stolen from the Gym after it had been taken over by

the Ministry of food and stocked to the roof (the changing room ceiling later to collapse from the weight of empty food containers)Then there was the quiet joy of being able to listen to the school bell sounding the change of classes instead of the bugle tunes played with love by Sgt.Higgins. There was also the episode of fraternization between the kitchen staff and the some of the senior boys of the era, rather misrepresented by John Harvey in the aforementioned book; Mr. Amandini and his Macaroni cheese, cannot abide the stuff to this day; oh I could go on for a while yet, but that was never the reason for writing.

It was to offer thanks and praise to the above mentioned and many more dedicated Headmasters, teachers and administrative staff who have brought the Crib to where it is today, along with the gentlemen of The Merchant Venturers. Never did my era imagine Colston's without boarding pupils, or becoming a Collegiate with girls, for surely they belonged in Colston's Girls school? I do not believe we could even have approved, for was not the world to return to normal after we had thrashed the common enemy, and we would still need those places for boys whose parents worked for the Colonial or Foreign Office, in the many stations of the British Empire? In our innocence the world was as it was, our futures already mapped out for us.

As we were soon made aware that was not to be, today I doubt there to be anymore than a small demand for boarding places and the very word itself has taken on contentious implications, children should be raised within a family not away from it; Pedophilia, girls playing alongside boys, and rugby to boot, unsupervised sports and all the rest of the scaremongering which has become the norm today.

The three hundred years of our existence has seen many a period of suspense and doubts as to the schools' future, from crises of morale, finance, the disruption of more than one war to even the need to continue in the manner so long approved, as societies' mores change so frequently, political interference as with the enactment of the 1944 Education Act. Yet upon each occasion those essential elements of the best of human nature

were present to quell the opposition and support the intent of our founder, Edward Colston. Many has been the graduate who has gone on to greater things whether academic, sports, corporate or commercial, many of us not quite so successful yet content to have tried many things in the knowledge our schooling would stand up to any challenge.

Since my decision to emigrate I have had no contact with any of my peers of those days, although I did enjoy a visit in 2001 when we had the pleasure of the company of Fred Forsey and George Moore, but beyond that it is the Cribsheet which takes on the task of creating the nostalgia for me and I look forward each year to its arrival. Canada has been very kind to me but I am always reminding myself it was Colston's and my five years there which, despite the disturbance, was to provide the backbone of any success I have enjoyed.

In conclusion it is hoped I have provided perhaps a little more information on those days and at least a little chuckle. Keep up the good works ladies and gentlemen and please accept this small offering to further the works of the Foundation.

Most sincerely

Peter Mortimer – Rae
7120 Talbot Trail. RR1
Blenheim. ON.
NOP 1A0
Canada. Glitchy.

Photos from Peter Mortimer-Rae

I have received these two photos of East House in possibly 1942 and 1945 from Peter Mortimer-Rae.

"It seems I have been sitting with these on my desk forever, at least long enough to have forgotten whether in fact I ever sent them, so will send just in case you do not have these years in your archives. East House, the smaller count of 42, is I believe 1942, and the larger probably 1945. I can identify half in the 42 pic should you wish. Thank you for all the updates, knowing I will never make it back again make them all the more interesting. The differences between then and now are enormous but as things never remain static Colston's could have done much worse for itself. All the best."



Note from Martin: East House is what became Beaufort. An OC once told me an easy way to know the new names of the Houses from the old by the commonality of 2 letters in each word i.e.
North – Mortlake **South** – Roundway **East** – Beaufort So **West** had to be Aldington.



I asked Peter if he could name any of his contemporaries. His reply:

“Okay here goes, **front row**, looking at pic from left to right. Lyddon, Mitchell, Bruton, De’ath, Tappendan, Bolgin, Newton. **Second row** number two, Griffin and of course Lawrence in the middle. **Third row** Rae, Horrell, Parry, Thresher, miss one then Brown, Phelps, miss one then Roberts, Digby. **Fourth row** Powell, Fyffe, Edwards, then miss everyone until last two, Barnett , Samson. **Back row** miss one then Smith, Patch, Harvey(?) but that’s it.

Hope this helps the archives a little. I think you will spot all the above, or most of them in the later photograph. Please not to think I have a fantastic memory, I had them sign the back of the original.”









OC mixed sports day on Sunday 28th June

After clearly what had been a “heavy” night for many of them, the young Old Colstonians drifted along for the start of the mixed touch rugby event on a murky day which seemed to match their spirits. Yet once teams were mustered and a few hesitant passes were made smiles returned to their faces and everyone started to enjoy themselves.

The rugby was adjourned at three o’clock for a mixed hockey match between a school team and an OC team which the school sneaked 3-2. The rugby concluded in full sunshine with a team of staff and wiser OCs narrowly winning an entertaining final.



Thanks to Mr Chris Banning and OC Tom Appleby for organising the hockey and for the captains of the rugby teams for coaxing their teams through the day.

Especial thanks to Steve Hambley for refereeing sympathetically the rugby and to the Parents’ Society for supplying refreshments throughout the day.

Well done to everyone for playing sport with a smile on your face and having lots of fun.

Martin Tayler

Old Colstonians RFC

The Old Colstonians Rugby Club has been in existence since 1902. We have an ethos of playing enjoyable rugby and, through our sport, making friends for life. Whilst the club is 'open' and invites and attracts players from all walks of life and educational backgrounds we are keen to have former pupils of Colston's School in our ranks. In fact we believe it is imperative to the development and culture of the club.

This has been a great year for the connection between the school and the club. With Ollie King-Sorrell as captain, we've had Josh Grant, Tom Dursley, Michael Ball and James Wilson putting in consistent performances over the first half of the season. Unfortunately we've lost James for the season due to a dislocated shoulder, but the others continue to perform and form a strong part of the group of senior players. Josh has also had the honour of leading the team out when Ollie was injured.

We have also welcomed some of the Colts to training on a Thursday night. We have been really pleased to see some current schoolboys coming along and seeing what the club is all about. It's worth mentioning James Saunders, a former captain of the club, who has been bringing the lads to training. Everyone has done well in helping them develop their skills and we hope that they will be the future of the Club.

Many other ex school boys have ran out for both the 1st XV and 2nd XV including, Bobby Naeem, Dan Exon, Mike Jones, Joe Tolman, Harry Coulthard, Tim Rowe, Robin Harris, Rory Sheppard, Josh Guest and more.

The Club has had a varied few seasons and we have dropped into Gloucester 2 league. However we now have a young side gathering experience and are comfortably in the top half of the table with every prospect of improving on that position. We run two sides and our second team, led by Colston's schoolmaster Dylan Kaye, has been very successful taking some major scalps in their league against opposition from much larger clubs.

We train on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the School and are coached by former pupil Matt Leek.

The Club has a lively social side and hosts events such as the ever popular Christmas Reindeer Racing night through to our Ladies Night Dinner. This season, on a rare free Saturday, we had a real OCs v Pretenders match. It showed that we are well involved with the former pupils when we could field a full side.

In April 2015 the Club went on tour to Budapest where we did our best to uphold the traditions of rugby- winning our games against some good opposition and partying hard with our hosts. In April 2016 the Club will take part in a tournament in Seville and will hope to repeat the performance.

The 2015 RWC gave the Club bragging rights as one of the stars of the winning All Blacks team was Ben Smith who played for us whilst a 'gappie' at the School in 2005/6. Ben is still in contact with a number of his teammates from that season and we wish him well. The Club likes to think that Ben learned many of his rugby skills while he was with us. The knock on and yellow card tackle in the final being two good examples!

We welcome any former pupils who might be interested in coming long to play or even just to spectate. We have an ambition to form a ladies section so if any ladies amongst you are interested in getting involved please get in touch.

Most things will be on our website

www.ocsport.co.uk

or see us on Facebook.



Old Colstonians RFC





OC reunion lunch

We had a successful reunion lunch on Saturday 7th March at which there were nearly 30 OCs covering a wide range of ages.

Following the lunch we watched the OCRFC play their Gloucester 1 League match against Brockworth.

The OCs are having a difficult season and it was easy to see why as they are a young (and enthusiastic) team who lack the physical strength to compete at this level. The Club are regularly running two XV's and, although it has been a disappointing season for results, are well supported and are functioning well on the social side with lots of activities such as the forthcoming Whisky Evening to which all OCs were invited. The OC Society have been very pleased to support the Rugby Club this season with financial aid to purchase grounds equipment (to improve training and playing conditions which benefits the OCRFC and the school) and to purchase floodlights to make training through the winter more enjoyable and beneficial. The Club is well run by its committee, well coached by OC Matt Leek, and I am confident they will get through this difficult period.



Harold Fry, Peter Leaman talking to former Colston's Prep School master John Packwood and his son.



Dave Evans, Bob Jennings and Dave Tooze deciding who was going to buy the next round



Nick Cann with James Saunders and Mark Leese



Alan Hale, Richard Mace and Glyn Evans



Past presidents of the OC Society Jeff Lewis and Dave Briffett



Mark Leese, Chrissie Lewis (ex OCRFC players) and OCRFC Chairman Len Collacott.

Following the match those with more stamina than myself returned to the clubhouse to join the Rugby Club members in what the French call the “troisième mi-temps”: that brings back wonderful memories to me; and that was what the whole day was all about.



Nick Cann with (former England U23 rugby international Mark Wyatt) – with rather a lot of glasses for two!



Tennis star Paul Martin with his rugby playing brother Richard Martin with their father Mr Graham Martin.



Former England rugby international prop forward Austin Sheppard discussing former glory days with hockey player Ian Gunn. Following a prestigious rugby career Austin now plays hockey regularly and hopes to match his shirt number by playing again next year at the age of 65!



Past president (and Oxford University Blue) Andy Thomas joins Dave Briffett and Jeff Lewis to discuss playing rugby together and the state of the current game: all three not shy with their opinions



Derek Barnett (who does sterling work running the bar) digging out more archives for his predecessor Fred Forse to look at.

Many of those returning had played rugby for the OCRFC but by no means all and I would encourage all OCs to come along to one of these functions even if you feel you wouldn't recognise anyone. Everyone commented how much they had enjoyed themselves.

Thank you to Tracy Mace for her administration and the school caterers who provided an excellent Chilli Con Carne and a nostalgic Spotted Dick.

Martin Tayler

OC Seniors' Christmas Lunch at Colston's

We had another enjoyable reunion of 30 OC seniors at Colston's today when the school entertained us to Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall.

There was coffee in the pavilion (now the Old Colstonians' clubhouse and a far cry from where boys of yesteryear congregated to have their haircut) hosted by your president. The headmaster, Mr Jeremy McCullough, joined us before lunch and gave an excellent account of a thriving and happy school.



Mike Humphries (left) looking at some memorabilia with Doug Winstone and Fred Forse



No sooner had Headmaster Jeremy McCullough entered the room and he was called upon to speak (Dave King, on the left, and Nick Humphries, on the right, both more attentive than they probably ever were at school).

Phil Besley had brought along a box of memorabilia which entertained everyone and especially those who had played rugby for the OCRFC.

The Dining Hall has a very special appeal for nostalgic moments, but there could have been no comparison between the food on offer in schooldays of old and the excellent Christmas lunch served today.



Phil Besley, Dave Briffett and Jeff Lewis enjoying the memories of their rugby playing days



The memories come flooding back in the Dining Hall.



The OCs were reluctant to pull their Christmas crackers – an opportunity they would never have missed years ago.

Very smart sixth formers did a splendid job serving and could not be blamed for any of the gravy or sauce which ended on our ties. Young musicians put us in a festive mood with a variety of musical offerings reflecting the wide range of musical ability in the school.



The mulled wine clearly bringing the Christmas spirit to Steve Tucker, Peter Huckle, Dave Shaw and Bob Jennings.

Back to the pavilion for drinks, mince pies and another chance to reflect on the glorious days of old.



John Moore (left) celebrating his 82nd birthday with old school mates Doug Winstone and David Lockyer

We were able to wish John Moore a happy 82nd birthday. However, John was not the oldest OC on parade today; that must have been John Mason who came down to London for the event. John who was well know locally as a sports correspondent for the Bristol Evening Post (which he joined on leaving school at the age of 16) and then nationally as chief rugby correspondent of the Daily Telegraph (where he worked from 1968 until his retirement in 1997).

We would like to thank Headmaster Jeremy McCullough and the school for entertaining us so gloriously.

Martin Tayler

In attendance

Martin Tayler *President OC Society*

Robert Bernays *Chairman of Governors*

Jeremy McCullough *Headmaster*

Bob Jennings *Vice President OC Society (1965-1971)*

Bob Burchill *(1953-1963)*

Dave Arnold *(1945-1953)*

Dave King *(1945-1953)*

Dave Shaw *(1956-61)*

Dave Tooze *(1953-58)*

David Briffett *(1946-1951)*

David Lockyer *(1945-1951)*

Doug Winstone *(1942-1949)*

Ian Perrett *(1954-59)*

Jeff Lewis *(1950-1955)*

Jeff Savage *(1955-1960)*

John Harris *(1951-1958)*

John Mason *(1943-1948)*

John Moore *(1942-1950)*

Kevin Griffiths *(1965-1975)*

Michael Wood *(1950-1956)*

Mike Griffiths *(1955-1962)*

Mike Humphries *(1955-65)*

Murray Corfield *(1956-61)*

Nick Biggs *(1955-58)*

Nick Humphries *(1952-1960)*

Nigel Hurley *(1959-64)*

Paul Williams *(1951-1957)*

Peter Huckle *(1946-52)*

Philip Besley *(1953-1958)*

Steve Tucker *(1969-1975)*

Fred Forse *(1957-1962)*

OC Kerala Drew in Hong Kong

We have news of OC Kerala Drew who is taking a year out from her law degree at Queen Mary College, London to study for a year at Hong Kong University.

Kerala writes:

I was lucky enough to be the first Queen Mary law student to go on exchange at the University of Hong Kong. So far, it has been an amazing experience, and without using too many clichés, one I definitely will not forget. Hong Kong is a great place to study; it's a vibrant mix of East meets West, with a fantastic climate, and surprisingly, great beaches!

Particularly if you are thinking of applying to work as a solicitor, I see it as highly beneficial programme to apply for, given that many large firms are now moving into Asia. The ability to study Chinese law, and the chance to learn the language will put you in good stead to secure that coveted training contract.

Even if you don't study law, most universities now offer the chance to take a year abroad, or even just a semester, and it is something I highly recommend.

The learning environment at HKU is very very different; for example, there are no tutorials, simply three-hour lectures. HKU also offer more practical modules, such as Mediation and Human Rights in Practice, in which I was able to work directly with an NGO in Shenzhen to produce a comparative legal research report. This has developed my practical legal skills, and will hopefully provide a talking point at interview later on in my law career.

Furthermore, I was lucky enough to undertake a week's work experience doing judicial marshalling at the Hong Kong Court of Appeal, which was a fantastic experience.

Finally, being able to travel around Asia has been the highlight of my year abroad. So far I have visited Beijing, Shanghai, Borneo and Bali, as they are all within easy (and cheap) access of Hong Kong.

I was fortunate enough to be awarded a scholarship by the British Council, which has of course been useful in funding these trips, and I would advise all future students to apply for this also.

I have also volunteered my time in Hong Kong mentoring foster children, which involved helping them practice their English. This was a lovely experience, and meant I got to see a different side of Hong Kong, and to talk to them about what it was like to grow up in Hong Kong.

To summarise, I would recommend any student to apply for a year abroad; it gives you something extra to talk about at interview, and also, it is just a great excuse to be a student for that little bit longer!

I would like to thank the Old Colstonian Society, whose donation meant I was able to enjoy fully and make the most of my time in Hong Kong.



Kerala on the Great Wall of China

OC Ollie Levingston reports on his trip to India as a volunteer teacher



Ollie Levingston in the back row

The Old Colstonian Society was pleased to sponsor OC Ollie Levingston to go as a volunteer to teach primary school children in India.

Ollie is currently in his third year at the University of Nottingham studying for a BA (Jt Hons) in Philosophy and Theology. He has been accepted onto the Teach First LDP (Leadership Development Programme) beginning next year and will be teaching Religious Education to GCSE pupils as of September 2016.

We are pleased to publish his report on the trip:

“Last summer I travelled to India to stay in a village south of Chennai (formerly Madras) and volunteer teaching English and Maths to primary school aged children, before travelling up to Varanasi and across through Madhya Pradesh to the Rajasthan region. The village I stayed in was about a three hour drive south of the city of Chennai and could not have been more different to the inner city experience of the major cities such as New Delhi and Chennai.

My time in Delhi was marred by the unavailability of affordable hotels or hostels and train cancellations due to the riots that took place last summer across many major cities. In contrast, my time in the village

teaching was marred only by the disappointment of the local children that I was not the world class cricket player they were obviously hoping for!

The days for school children were surprisingly arduous. When it came to evening time I returned to stay at the house of the local Pastor who ran an orphanage that financially supported its children to go to the school I taught at. Upon returning home the children were expected to work for the vast majority of the evening to keep up on their studies and most had to be pulled away from their books in order to sleep with tests looming at school in the near future!

Some of the things I saw in India were almost beyond belief and it is a country I would recommend everyone to go to if they have the opportunity. From the roller coaster experience that is simply travelling on the roads of India to the tranquil scenes in Varanasi on the steps to the Ganges every morning, it is a country of true variety.

I would like to thank the Old Colstonian Society for supporting me financially and without them the trip would not have been possible."

The Old Colstonian Society and the Old Colstonian Charitable Trust are always keen to support OCs on such ventures, especially if they have an element of service. Ollie's trip has certainly fulfilled the criteria.

Well done Ollie.



Colston's Carol Service 2015

A good number of OCs enjoyed this year's Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church, Stapleton on Thursday 10th December 2015.

It was really a very joyous occasion with music provided by The Colston's Singers, assembled by Colston's music master Michael Castle (and featuring OCs and former staff), Colston's Year 11 GCSE musicians and two wonderful solo performances, a vocal performance of "Half The World Away" by Jess Saunders and a trumpet solo "O Holy Night" by George Berry.

There were readings by pupils and staff and a very appropriate Christmas address by Stapleton's lay priest Elizabeth Mellor.

Afterwards there were seasonal refreshments in the school's Dining Room where parents, Old Colstonians and former staff were able to socialise and, as always, reminisce about the "good old days".

I was very pleased to meet up not only with Old Colstonians but in some cases the parents of Old Colstonians that I had first met more years ago than I would wish to remember. Unfortunately there was so little time to spread myself around those present and I was disappointed to only have a fleeting conversation with so many including Tim Burge (who had an illustrious career in the Army as a surgeon) from the 70s and Ijaz Ahmed (now a doctor at a hospital in Swindon) from the 90s.

We had one OC who joined us from Shanghai. John Springford, who has been attempting to make one of our events for several years, kept his promise and came with his wife Jenny.



John Springford with his wife Jenny who joined us for the Carol Service from Shanghai.

John wrote an article which I published on my blog in April 2015 which I very much enjoyed reading again after meeting him. I was pleased that there were so many OCs of his era (1952-61) at the Carol Service with whom he could meet up.

The Old Colstonian Society thank Headmaster Jeremy McCullough for the kind invitation to this wonderful Carol Service and for the refreshments afterwards at which we again saw the school in the very best light.

Martin Tayler

Old Colstonian Society Dinner

In spite of the counter attraction of the Rugby World Cup the OC Society Dinner on Saturday 10th October was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

The OC president, Martin Tayler, introduced the guests as follows:

Boyan Wells – Guest Speaker **Jeremy McCullough** – Headmaster **Katie Mason** – OC and England Women Rugby International **Gemma Rowland** – OC and Wales Women Rugby International
Brigadier Hugh Pye – former Chair of School Governors **Robert Bernays** – Chair of School Governors
Alison Bernays – School Governor **Jeffrey Mason** – President of the QEH Old Boys' Society
Michael Burmester – President of the Old Bristolians' Society
Gordon Wood – past President of the Cathedralian Society

Former staff:

Dave and Shirley Rollitt **Bob Ross** **Stephen Pritchard** **Sonja Hemmings** **Dave Betterton**
Judy Brighton **Dave and Linda Mason** **Millie Parker** **Tim Scarll**

Current staff:

Dylan Kaye – Head of Dolphin House **Charley Flay** – Head of Adlington House
Sarah Matthews – Head of the sixth form **Nic Drew** – Head of history
Representatives of the school prefects



The OC Society President Martin Tayler with rugby internationals Katie Mason and Gemma Rowland

The president congratulated the special OC guests Katie Mason and Gemma Rowland on making their international rugby debuts and then reported on the state of the Old Colstonian Society, in particular elaborating on the bursaries and the financial support which the Society provides. He then proposed the toast to our founder Edward Colston and absent friends.

Before the headmaster, Jeremy McCullough, said a few words about the school and proposed the toast Floreat Colstona, OC Stephen Davies, a former governor of the school, said some very

complimentary words about Martin's 47 year career at Colston's School and made a presentation of a Bristol Blue decanter.

OC Boyan Wells then gave a splendid speech replying on behalf of the guests in which he spoke eloquently about judging Edward Colston on the time and morals of the age in which he lived and also spoke about how luck played a part in his life, bringing in many poignant and witty references to Old Colstonians in the hall.

Following the dinner OCs were able to stay and reunite in the Dining Hall or move to the OC pavilion for post dinner drinks and reminiscences.

It was agreed by everyone present that this was a most splendid occasion.

Thanks to the school catering staff for providing an excellent meal, to Derek Barnett for supplying good wine and keeping the bar open, to Tracy Mace for her splendid organisation and to all our speakers.

Thanks also to Doug Lodge who was busy all evening taking photos, a selection of which can be viewed overleaf.



Guest speaker OC Boyan Wells



Vice President Bob Jennings



Neil Day and Vice President Bob Jennings



Ian Brough and Richard Simmonds



School Prefects



George Thomas, Tim Scarll, Dave Mason, Linda Mason and Mark Hurrell



Fiona Murray and Liz Stratton



Luke Fletcher, John Ivory and Jacob Fletcher



Willie Lorang, Nigel Hurley and Dave King



Neil Day and Alan Morley



Pat Bowrey, Howard Griffith, Bruce Ash, Rick Kibby and Sam Bowrey



Mark Wyatt, Nick Cann, Marcus Thorne, Giles Hockin and Andrew Wyatt



Hugh Pye, Sonja Hemmings, Tracy Mace, Wendy Tayler



Shirley Rollitt, Bob Ross and Dave Rollitt



Roger Fry, Sam Bowrey, Dave Tooze



Jeffrey Mason, Michael Burmeister, Martin Tayler



Gino Rosolek, Caroline Bromley and Luke Eves



Glyn Evans, Mark Hurrell, George Thomas and Olivia Eves



Charley Flay and Sarah Matthews



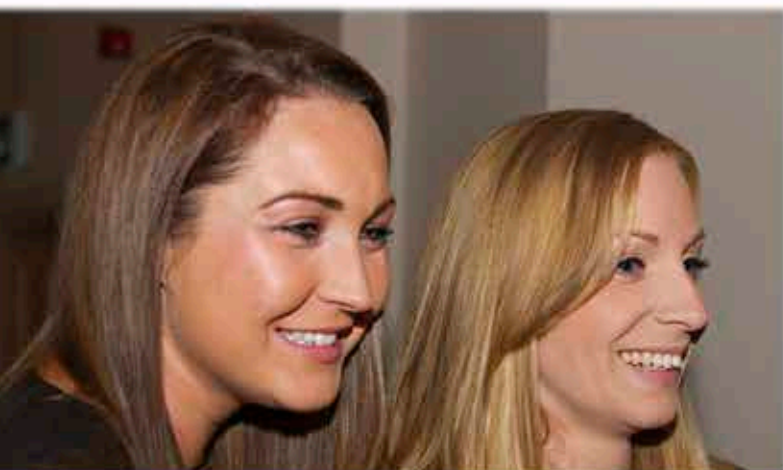
School Prefects



Doug Winstone and David Lockyer



David Lockyer and John Moore



Olivia Eves and Caroline Bromley



George Mace and Rick Smith



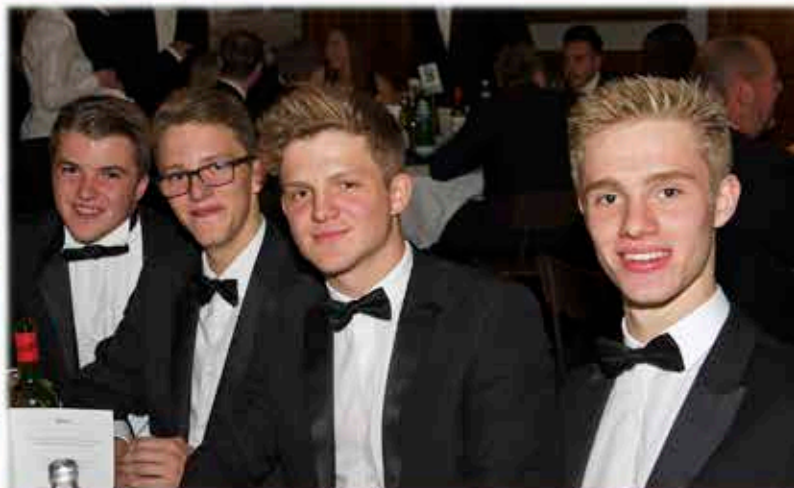
Rick Kibby, Pat Bowrey and Howard Griffith



School Prefects



Katie Mason, Gordon Wood, Jeffrey Mason and Jeremy McCullough



School Prefects



Martin Tayler - speech



Boyan Wells and Andrew Gunn



*Richard Mace, Mike Brown, George Mace, Rick Smith,
Alan Morley and Fred Forse*



Dave Tooze and Roger Fry

Old Colstonian Golf Society 2015

If I were a medical man ("which thank the Lord I'm not sir", as the song goes), I would diagnose the O.C.G.S. as being "In Excellent Health".

And rightly so - the Golf Society completed its 44th year in 2015. A total of 43 O.C.s, in an age range spanning the twenties to the eighties, played in one or more meetings, representing a progressive increase in numbers year on year. However statistics only tell part of the story, and the original ideology of "a very warm welcome, an enjoyable round of golf, and a convivial evening" (Cribsheet 1996) is still absolutely fundamental today.

The April meeting drew a near record attendance to the Cotswold idyll of Minchinhampton, to enjoy a crisp Spring day of competitive golf, top company, an excellent meal, prize giving, and a couple of beers.



OCGS Club Captain Dave Tooze in fine form at the post tournament dinner at Minchinhampton



Ian Gunn receiving the Spring shield for the highest overall score from Club Captain Dave Tooze

The Season continued with a first (or certainly for very many years) visit to Long Ashton, for the Summer Meeting, again well attended. Warm July weather, a superb course with ultra fast greens, concluding with a highly enjoyable dinner and socialising.

Another first during the evening was an auction of memorabilia from our old friend, the late Bruce Sparkes, raising £101 for the Colston's Foundation.

The Autumn Meeting featured our keenly awaited return to England's oldest course - Royal North Devon. I was particularly looking forward to the warm welcome Pat and Sam Bowrey customarily organise for us, in addition to the challenge of the huge bank of sleepers on the 4th, and renewing my membership of the Fakawee tribe awarded to those lost in the vast "plantations" of sea grass which flourish on a number of R.N.D. holes.

I had even resourced some appropriate post dinner jokes, suitably censored out of respect for our



Summer Championship Medal winner - Bob Jennings

lady guests who had graced the day. Sadly a car breakdown, en route, led to my ignominious return to Bristol in an AA Tow Truck. I was most grateful for the phone calls and e-mails for my well being, but the unanimous themes of "course in great shape", "weather marvellous", "super meal", and "great day - sorry you missed it" only served to exacerbate my disappointment.



Pat Bowrey and Ian Parks in front of the mural commemorating J.H.Taylor on the Royal North Devon course



Bob Jennings adds another trophy to his great collection at the Autumn meeting at Westward Ho!

In June the O.C.G.S. organised a further triangular Challenge Match between the Society and teams representing Colston's Pupils, and Staff held at the Bristol Golf Club. We were especially pleased to welcome the Headmaster to the event and together with Owen Harris, and myself, Jeremy formed the tail end three-ball. A most enjoyable and challenging round ensued, which went down to the proverbial wire. A generous master in school report mode would probably have endorsed our cards "shows promise". The match was just won by the O.C.G.S., but most importantly the culmination of an excellent day was a clear viewpoint that this should be a regular annual event.

More recent good news is that O.C.G.S. President, Dave Briffett, after missing most of the season through injury, was looking remarkably fit and well at the Christmas Lunch and the Carol Service. Hopes are high that Dave will make a comeback or

at least a guest appearance at Carlyon Bay in April. Carlyon Bay without "Briff" would be akin to a good Stilton without a glass of fine port, or claret.

Looking forward, the Calendar for 2016 has already been formulated.

The Carlyon Bay tournament has been arranged for the 22nd - 24th April. Members (with at least 11 from the original visit in 1996) who know from past experience that this is a "not to be missed event" have largely snapped up our initial reservations, but doubtless Steve Tucker's organisational expertise can accommodate anyone who has not yet signed on.

On the 10th June we meet at Cumberwell Park near Bradford-on-Avon. This course was designed by Adrian Stiff (of Kendleshire, The Players, Oake Manor repute), hence there is an abundance of Adrian's trademark water hazards, in addition to usual challenges.

The Autumn Meeting will be at Chipping Sodbury on the 18th September. This course has been improved and updated over recent years, and is now one of the best in South Gloucestershire. I am sure this fixture will be as enjoyable as previous visits.

By popular demand the triangular O.C.G.S./Pupils/Staff challenge match will take place in June, and a "twilight" informal evening event is planned for sometime in July/August. The intent is to enhance links between the O.C.G.S. and the school, and encourage future young members.

I could not conclude without thanking the people responsible for our continuing success: Bob Jennings and Steve Tucker who admirably organise our meetings, and ensure their smooth operation; Andy Thomas for arranging the O.C.G.S. / School / Staff events; Bob again, Ian Gunn, Pat and Sam Bowrey for their interface and liaison with the host clubs; Martin Taylor for his excellent array of photographs, and also incredible O.C.'s website and President's Blog. Being, myself, a computer dinosaur who thought "pasting" was a boring chore prior to wallpapering, and Facebook was a publication obtainable from Yate Library, I am in awe of what Martin has produced.



*The OCs team at the triangular challenge match:
Glyn Evans, Andy Thomas, Bob Jennings, Martin Tayler, Dave Tooze, Ian Gunn, Mike Brown, Sam Evans.*



The staff team: Sam Coleman, Dylan Kaye, Nick Drew, Paul, Keith Watts, Dave Mason, Jon Gwilliam, Owen Harris, Jeremy McCullough.



The team representing the school: Sam Williams, Tom Fisher, Billy Rigg, Isa Ghaidan, Jarred Williams, Ben Fisher, Max Garland.

Finally I would like to thank all of the O.C.s who have attended our meetings this year. Good golf, good company and meeting friends old and new is the O.C.G.S. unfailing recipe for a great day, and I look forward to meeting everyone at our events in 2016.

David Tooze

PS:

- 1) Reports of our 2015 meets can be viewed on the President's Blog ocpresident.wordpress.com
- 2) Cribsheet readers who would like to attend any 2016 events are welcome to contact me on david_tooze@hotmail.com

OC Seniors' trip to Eastnor Castle

A party of 26 OCs, and wives set off from Colston's on the eagerly awaited trip to Eastnor Castle on 28th August. A warm welcome was extended by the coach company (heating system stuck in the on position), which created onboard temperatures more akin to Hyderabad than Herefordshire. However, this was quickly dispelled by the distraction of rolling farmland, wooded hills, and quaint villages which are typical of this surprisingly unsung county, and within 90 minutes the party were enjoying coffee and homemade cakes in the Castle Tea Room courtyard.

An external perusal of Eastnor Castle would suggest medieval construction but it was, in fact, built between 1810 and 1824 by the 1st Earl Somers. The Earl wished to create an edifice which suitably reflected his distinguished status and considerable wealth, which had evolved from the prior merging of the Somers with the Cocks family whose many enterprises included the fore-runner of Barclay's Bank. His own marriage into the wealthy Worcestershire Nash family further enhanced his position.

Equally the large rooms of the Castle were liberally filled with fine paintings, tapestries, suits of armour and other middle age weaponry, a magnificent library of over 5000 books, plus many trophies and memorabilia which the family had collected worldwide, particularly India, where a close connection exists to this day.

At its peak the estate extended to 13,000 acres but today is nearer 5,000. The ravages of declining agricultural income, labour costs, punitive inheritance taxes, and the removal of the contents prior to Government use in World War II left the castle in a slightly sad state. In 1949 the estate was inherited by the Hervey-Bathurst family, cousins of the Somers, and over the last 30 years they have spearheaded an extensive restoration programme. A combination of asset sales, Heritage grants, Corporate events, weddings, Land Rover Test Tracks, and development of the site as a Visitor attraction has created an excellent, and most interesting venue.

The Castle itself is situated on an elevated position, overlooking a picturesque 20 acre lake, and most of the O.C. party opted for a pre-lunch perambulation around the Lakeside path, which afforded excellent views of the castle and the woodlands beyond. The highlight

for avid anglers Jeff & Sandy Savage was the fishermen who had just caught a 30lb Carp, with a photograph to substantiate. The Walk continued through the hilly Woodland Trail, with an impressive array of trees including a grove of giant sequoias.

Appetites suitably stimulated, a light lunch was enjoyed al fresco, taking advantage of the warm sunny ambience.

The Castle tour started predictably in the imposing Entrance Hall, leading to the Great and Red Halls. Armour, Swords, Crossbows and militaria were displayed in this area, with a range of portraits, furniture, decorative walls and richly embellished ceilings. The Gothic Drawing Room, State Dining Room, and the Library with its priceless collection of books, and tapestries could not fail to impress. Upstairs the State Bedroom, and guest suites, some with historic plumbing, continued the interest, with many rooms overlooking the lake and benefiting from views to the Malvern Hills in the distance.

However, amongst this vast extravaganza of exhibits, the "eagle-eyed O.C.s" spotted a model galleon, skillfully crafted by French P.O.W.s from the Napoleonic Wars, interned at "Stapleton Prison" Bristol. The inevitably provoked speculation, particularly for those who had endured the austerity, spartan conditions and harsh discipline of Crib in the 1950s and 60s; that we may have shared heritage with the unfortunate Frenchmen. In fact, cursory historic research (what did we do before Wikipedia?) suggests that Stapleton Prison was part of what is now Blackbury Hill Hospital, and while we clearly had much in common with Napoleon's men, at least Colston's boarders were allowed home on Sunday afternoons!

The remaining few minutes of the visit were sufficient for a quick test of the maze, and a view of the children's attractions. Clearly, an ideal location for entertaining grandchildren or other lively offspring. The Adventure Playground, Junior Assault Course, and miniature Land Rovers would absorb even the most hyperactive.

An immensely enjoyable day for which our thanks are due to Bob Jennings, ably assisted by Tracy Mace.

We will all be keenly awaiting the next trip.

David Tooze



Seniors Trip to Eastnor Castle



Our correspondent David Tooze on the pre-lunch perambulation around the Lakeside path with Dave Shaw



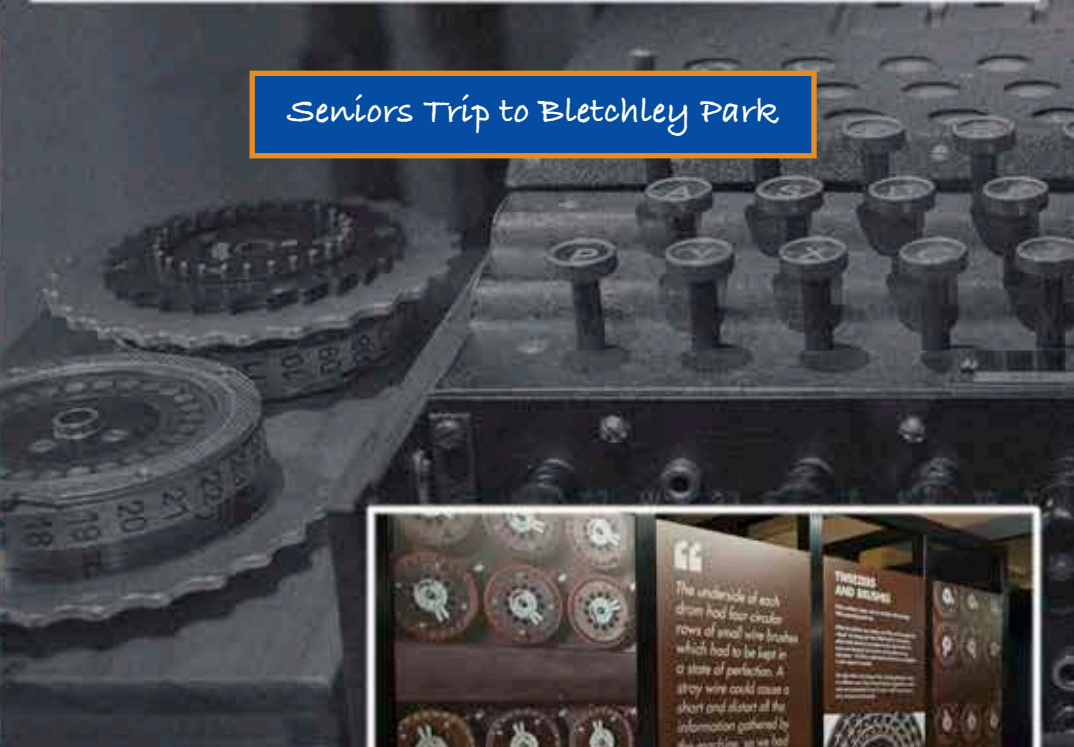
Stephen Kettle's statue of Alan Turing



The OCs at Bletchley Park



Seniors Trip to Bletchley Park



Back to school for Nick Humphries and Dave Tooze

Rinne
schliessen



IN THEIR WORDS

The sorting machines... could read the cards and sort the hundreds of thousands of messages into different categories. There were loads of sorters and there were collating machines that were even larger. The whole department was filled with machinery. It was a very noisy place, all banging on all night and day long.

Marjorie Halrow, Hollerith Operator, Block C



The OCs at Bletchley Park

ACT UP THIS DAY: Churchill's message to the Codebreakers

Unlike some of his military commanders, the Prime Minister quickly grasped the importance of codebreaking work at B.P. After his surprise visit there in September 1941, senior Codebreakers wrote to him about their lack of resources. In this memo from 1941 Churchill responds: 'Make sure they have all they want extreme priority', adding the order: 'Action this day.'

Facsimile - The National Archives, UK, HWV/105



OC Seniors' trip to Bletchley Park

Following on from last year's successful OC seniors' trips to The Brooklands Museum and Hampton Court Castle Bob Jennings, this year's OC Society vice president, organised a trip to Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire on Tuesday 25th June.

Bletchley Park was the central site of the United Kingdom's Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), which during the Second World War regularly penetrated the secret communications of the Axis Powers – most importantly the German Enigma and Lorenz ciphers. The official historian of World War II British Intelligence has written that the "Ultra" intelligence produced at Bletchley shortened the war by two to four years, and that without it the outcome of the war would have been uncertain. The site is now an educational and historical attraction memorialising and celebrating those accomplishments.

This was a most memorable outing enjoyed by a party of 23 OCs and partners.

Thanks to Bob Jennings for organising a great trip

Martin Tayler

OCs who took part in the trip:

Bob and Wendy Jennings

David and Rachael Shaw

Ian and Gail Gunn

John and Marilyn Wright

Fred and Sue Forse

David and Kim Tooze

Nick and Jane Humphries

Martin and Wendy Tayler

Andrew and Annette Gunn

Tony Olpin

Nigel Hurley

Pete Beasley

Alan Hale

Tracy Mace

Garden Opera at Colston's

It was great to meet up with a good number of OCs and their friends at the Garden Opera of *Cosi Fan Tutte* at Colston's in June.



Former Colston's head boy Wayne Bayley whose daughter Alexis was involved in the organisation of this evening's event

The production by the touring opera company Tessitoura (www.tessitoura.co.uk) which was promoted by the local charity St Vincent's part of Julian House (<http://www.julianhouse.org.uk>) was a great success and lots of fun.



Cosi Fan Tutte

Anyone wishing to support the St. Vincent's charity can contact Wayne Bayley's daughter Alexis Woodward at AlexisW@julianhouse.org.uk or by telephone on 07539 926809. It is hoped that there will be another Garden Opera at Colston's this coming summer.



Alexis with her family following a fun run for the charity

Colston's Commemoration – World War 1 Commemoration

OC Tom Appleby who is currently teaching history at Colston's has created a website to publish research he has been doing with pupils and staff from Colston's to commemorate the 77 Old Colstonians and 3 members of staff who lost their lives in the First World War.

Tom writes:

Colston's Commemoration is a research project aiming to commemorate the Old Colstonians who fought in the First World War and subsequently lost their lives in the conflict.

All Year 11 and A-Level Historians in the 2014-15 academic year each selected one of the 77 Old Colstonians who fell in the Great War. With minimal background knowledge on their chosen OC, and with limited instruction, these students have been tasked with researching the ways in which these OCs contributed to the Great War.

Through this pupil-led research, Colston's Commemoration brings us closer to the wartime service of the members of the school who gave their lives to serve their country. The website, which contains research on all 77 fallen OCs, and 3 fallen 'Masters' of the School, can be found at the following link:

www.colstonscommemoration.wordpress.com



An example of the research on Maurice William Hemingway OC, conducted by Lower Sixth student Joshua Callaway.

Hemingway, Maurice William

Name: Maurice William Hemingway

Rank: Lieutenant

Division: 55th Brigade,
33rd Battery Royal Artillery

Death: Reported and later confirmed Killed in Action on the 27th May 1918, the first day of the Third Battle of Aisne.

Commemoration: Soissons Memorial France - Recorded as Hemingway, MW (MC)

Medals/Honours: Awarded the Military Cross

Little is known about Hemingway's involvement in the War until 1918. He served consistently as a 2nd Lieutenant and then Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery. This role would install Hemingway with full operational command of an Artillery Battery; and consisted mostly of supporting barrage fire over enemy lines.

Death and subsequent commemoration of Lt Hemingway;

- The third Battle of Aisne was a 'last-ditch' attempt by German forces to recapture territory lost, and fell into the wider military action of the German Spring offensive (Ludendorff Offensive). It comprised a series of 'surprise' infantry and artillery led attacks from 27th May to 6th June. Actions of the Royal Field Artillery and indeed all divisions present ensured that the British Line didn't fracture.
- The circumstances of Lt Hemingway's death are unclear - he was initially reported missing after a particularly devastating German barrage, though this was later amended to Killed in Action, as his body was never discovered.
- He is buried at the Soissons War Memorial near Aisne, a commemorative monument to the men who fought and died in the gruelling battles of the surrounding area.

Obituaries

We have received news over the past year that the following with Old Colstonian connections have passed away.

Many of them have been reported on in the OC President's blog (<https://ocpresident.wordpress.com>).

Howard Kent
(Member of staff)

Harry Maddock
(Member of staff)

John Reeves
(Member of staff)

Tony Caple
(Member of staff - CCF)

Charles Randall

Julian Daven-Thomas

Tom Boucher

Robin Malcolm Durie

Lilian Humphey
(Senior Housekeeper)

Our thoughts are with their families and friends

Past Secretaries

1855-1864	R. Rowlatt (Headmaster)
1865-1876	James Jones
1877-1890	Arthur Beacham
1891-1895	Edwin G. Cooper
1896-1912	Joseph W. Miller
1913-1918	Thomas Richards
1919-1920	A. T. Richards
1921-1929	Leonard O. Vowles
1930-1931	W. C. Gillett
1932-1946	Leonard O. Vowles
1947-1960	V. C. Pratt
1961-1976	J. E. Adams
1976-1979	J. H. Parsons
1979-1986	N. P. Hurley
1986-2000	J. J. Cook
2000-2002	Mrs. A. Miller
2002-	D. G. Lodge

SECRETARY

Douglas Lodge
3 West Ridge
Frampton Cotterell
Bristol BS36 2JA

Tel: 01454 778924

Email: douglas@westridge1.demon.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Martin Tayler
1 Brinkworthy Road
Stapleton
Bristol BS16 1DP

Tel: 07979 368130

Email: martintayler@hotmail.com



Old Colstonians

keeping in touch

Calendar of Events for 2016

Old Colstonian Society

Saturday 20th February 2016

Reunion lunch prior to watching
OCRFC rugby match

Tuesday 22nd March 2016

Old Colstonian Society AGM
in Pavilion, Colston's School at 7.30 pm

Sunday 1st May 2016

OC Society mixed sports day

May 2016

OCRFC Dinner

Friday 6th May 2016

OC Seniors' trip to RHS Malvern Spring Show

Sunday 19th June 2016

Garden Opera at Colston's School

Friday 24th June 2016

OC Society Open Day
and OC cricket match v Colston's School
followed by Jazz Evening and Hog Roast

July 2016

Visit to Gloucestershire CCC one-day match
at the County Ground with lunch

July/August 2016

Race day at Newbury

July/August 2016

OC Seniors' trip to Stourhead

Saturday 8th October 2016

OC Society Annual Dinner

November 2016

Wine tasting with Colston's Parents' Society

Tuesday 13th December 2016

Christmas Lunch for OC Seniors
at Colston's School 12 noon

Thursday 15th December 2016

OC Carol Service with friends and families
at Holy Trinity Church, Stapleton
followed by reception
in Colston's School Dining Hall 7.00 pm.

Old Colstonian Golf Society

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th April 2016

Spring Meeting at Carlyon Bay

Sunday 26th June 2016

Triangular golf match between OC Society/
Colston's pupils/Colston's staff

July/August 2016

"Twilight" Meeting

Sunday 10th July 2016

Summer Meeting at Cumberwell Park
Golf Club, Bradford-on-Avon

Sunday 18th September 2016

Autumn Meeting at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club

*If you would like further details or wish to attend
any of these events please contact Tracy Mace*

TracyMace@colstons.bristol.sch.uk

Tel 01179 653376

Please see the Alumni section on Colston's School website for more details
and regular updates of all events: www.colstons.org

To receive regular updates via email please ensure you are registered on
Colston's Connected website: www.colstonsconnected.co.uk