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# OBITUARIES

## COLONEL JOHN R WOODDISSE DL (Q4 1933 – 18/10/2021) Bradley (1945 - 1951)

Colonel John Wooddisse DL died on 18th October 2021 after a short illness aged 87.

The Valette section of the December 1951 edition of the Cestrefeldian includes the entry:

WOODDISSE, J. R. House Prefect; S.C., 1950; S/Sgt C.C.F., Cert. A. I and II; Shooting VIII.



John Wooddisse enlisted in to the Army on National Service at Normanton Barracks, Derby on 3rd February 1952. He attended Officer Training at Eaton Hall in August 1952 and was commissioned into the 1st Bn The Sherwood Foresters in December 1952, the regiment his father, Major Ralph Wooddisse had served in before him.

John joined the 1st Battalion in Derna, Cyrenaica at the foot of Djebel Akhdar and became a Mortar Platoon Commander. In Derna one of the pastimes was hunting and his recollections were peppered with amusing stories of the Derna Djebel Hunt.

In 1955 John moved to Sennelager, continuing as both a Mortar Platoon and a Rifle Platoon Commander. In August the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the regiment amalgamated and in 1956 John joined the 1st Bn The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in Negri Sambilan, Peri and East Johore during operations against the Communist Terrorists (CT).

In his book he described operations to ambush CT with the late Col Peter Walter. John became OC Training Wing of 1 R Lincolns in Minden in 1958, then OC HQ Company.

The reorganisation of the Army at that time saw John move to the newly formed 1st Bn 2nd East Anglian Regiment before becoming the Staff Captain Q in HQ 12 Infantry Brigade in Osnabruck.

After training at the Arabic Language School in Aden, John joined the Northern Frontier Regiment of the Sultan's Armed Forces in May 1964. The photo above shows John with Sheik Nasser bin Abdulla al Awani, premier Sheik on the Jebel Akhdar at Saiq. In early 1966 when then moved to be Adjutant of 4th/6th Bn The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

In 1967 he returned to the now renamed 2nd Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment as a Company Commander.

In early 1969 he married Ann in Dublin and was then posted to HQ Dhekalia Area NEARELF in Cyprus as a GSO2. In 1972 he joined 3rd Bn Royal Anglian Regiment in BAOR and completed two Northern Ireland tours, one in the Lower Falls in Belfast and one in the Creggan in Londonderry.

This was followed by tour in HQ BAOR in Rhiendhalen as GSO2 CSIT. In 1976 he was involved in the Tickell Committee, the Army Manpower Review before ending his Regular Army career with 5th Bn the Royal Anglian Regiment as their Training Major.

On retirement from the Army, John took on directorships with Derbyshire Rural Community Council for over 20 years as well as being Commandant of the Derbyshire Cadet Battalion of WFR, a member of East Midlands TAVRA and the Derbyshire ABF Committee.

In 1989 he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Derbyshire.

In the early 1990s he moved to Matterdale near Penrith and became the Chairman of the Army Benevolent Fund in Cumbria. In 1998 John became the Honorary Colonel of 5th (Derbyshire Cadet) Bn WFR.

His funeral took place on 8th November 2021 at St Peter's Church, Alstonefield where he is buried.

John leaves Ann, his wife of 52 years, Ralph, Patrick and Penny. His elder son is Lt Gen Ralph Wooddisse, recently appointed as Commander Field Army.

Private papers donated by John are held by the Imperial War Museum:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1030030832>

*Courtesy of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association*

## **JAMES (JIM) ANDREW GILTHORPE (04/1933 – 29/11/2023) Lingard (1944 – 1951)**

Mr James Andrew Gilthorpe, of Ashgate, Chesterfield, passed away at home on November 29, 2023, aged 90.

Born at The Firs, Littlemoor, Newbold, Chesterfield. His father was Sexton and Verger at St John's Church, Newbold. Jim was later resident of Bakewell, Swanwick and finally Ashgate, Chesterfield 1987 – 2023.

He was schooled at Chesterfield Grammar School and studied at Chesterfield College of Technology. He gained Half Colours in rugby.

Jim was an Electrical Engineer until his retirement at 65, after over 40 years' service with East Midlands Electricity Board.

He was a lifelong member of the Old Cestrefeldian Society and the very first member of the Old Cestrefeldian Trust.



Jim was a man of the outdoors, began walking and climbing as a teenager, and had a lifelong love of the Peak District, but was most fond and perhaps most at home in the Scottish Highlands.

He also loved rugby union, played and captained Chesterfield RUFC and also played at county and three counties levels. Jim was a playing member of Chesterfield Golf Club for 55 years.

He celebrated his Diamond Wedding in July 2022 and 90th Birthday in April 2023. Jim leaves his wife Enid, sons Andrew James, who lives in Scotland together with grandchildren Cameron and Holly, and Jonathan David, who lives in Sweden with grandchildren Hanna and Frida. The funeral service takes / took place at St John's Church, Newbold on Friday, January 5, 2023, at 12 noon.

Originally published in Derbyshire Times on 21 December 2023

## **ANDREW TUCKER (1960 - 16/08/2023)**



After leaving Chesterfield School, Andrew studied law at the University of Liverpool and subsequently at Chester College of Law.

He joined Irwin Mitchell in 1985 and became a partner in 1988, rising to become group CEO in April 2014. He was a former chief executive of the firm's personal legal services division and also headed its personal injury department, 'working on many high-profile and ground-breaking cases'. He was based in the Sheffield office.

Glyn Barker, chair of the Irwin Mitchell Group, said: 'Andrew's many strengths, including intellect, commerciality and integrity, have ensured that Irwin Mitchell has grown and prospered under his leadership. His legacy is a robust business with a strong culture and widely admired reputation.'

'As well as being a hugely respected leader, Andrew was a much-loved colleague, always with the best interests of colleagues and clients at the forefront of his thinking, and we will miss him hugely.'

He spent nine years as a Law Society Council Member for Yorkshire and was a Fellow of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

He passed away following an unexpected illness.

*Sourced from material in the Law Society Gazette, 21/8/23 and the Irwin Mitchell website*

## **KEITH POLLARD (1934 - 31/07/2023) Large (1945 – 52 and 1959 - 1963)**

Keith, old boy, master and long-time member of the Old Cestrefeldian Society died on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

The Valet section of the December 1952 Cestrefeldian includes the following details relating to his time as a pupil:

House Prefect; G.C.E. (Advanced English and Geography); 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Soccer; Cross Country Team; Film Society (Sec); Geography Society; Sub-Librarian; R.A.F. and Leeds Training College.

He returned to the School as a member of staff in September 1959 becoming form-master of 2KP.



*From 1962 School photo*

The following is taken from the obituary published in The Derbyshire Times:



Mr Keith Pollard, of Brampton, has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, on July 31, 2023, aged 89.

He was born in Carr Vale, Bolsover and a resident of Brampton and Ashgate for most of his adult life.

Keith enjoyed a successful career in education, retiring as Headteacher of Handsworth Grange High in Sheffield.

He was a talented artist, a Spireite supporter, a keen gardener, especially growing sweet peas, enjoyed golf, travelling abroad and on steam trains.

Keith leaves his wife Margaret, daughter Anne, son Andrew, grandchildren Matthew, Katherine, Beth and Tom, great-grandchildren Ruby, Isla and Harry.

A service of Thanksgiving took place at St Thomas Church, Chatsworth Road, Brampton, on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 2.45pm.



*Keith's painting of The Old School*

*Courtesy of The Derbyshire Times, August 17<sup>th</sup> 2023*

## **MAJ. GEN. HENRY MICHAEL TILLOTSON CB CBE (12/5/1928 – 17/5/2023) Heathcote (1939 – 1946)**

Michael Tillotson attended School from 1939 leaving in January 1946 to become an Officer Cadet in training for an Indian Army commission. He is mentioned in the Cestrefeldian in 1945 as being secretary of the Boxing Club and being CQMS in the CCF.



Mike Tillotson, Major General retired, served operationally with the British Army in Malaya, Indo-China, the Indonesian Confrontation and South Arabia.

He worked in Defence Intelligence, with the United Nations in Cyprus and on a fact-finding mission for UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim in the Middle East. He was the (Hon.) Colonel The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

He has published a number of books, including Finland at Peace & War and the biography of Field Marshal Lord Bramall, having known him for fifty years after being his Chief of Staff in Hong Kong.

He has contributed military obituaries to The Times since 1997. He listed his recreations as "Abroad, birds (honorary Life Fellow RSPB) and listening to music". He was married to Sybil Osborne in 2006 and lived in Wiltshire. He had two sons and a daughter by a previous marriage.

In Northern Ireland in 1986.

A much fuller obituary courtesy of The Times May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 is available [here](#).

## **PROFESSOR KENNETH GEORGE HAMBLETON MA(Cantab) FEng, FIEE, IoP ( 15/01/1937 - 04/05/2023) Lingard (1948 – 1955)**

We have recently heard of the death of Kenneth George Hambleton (Ken) on May 4<sup>th</sup> in hospital in Hampshire.

Ken was raised in Hasland, attending Hasland Junior School, his father being an engine driver who was based at Hasland Loco Shed. His mother had been a schoolteacher, in the days when retirement became obligatory on marriage.

He then moved on to Chesterfield Grammar School. The following entry in the December 1955 Cestrefeldian Valette Section demonstrates his many successes at School and his wide interests:

"HAMBLETON, K. G. School Prefect; Open Major Scholarship, Queens' College, Cambridge; State Scholarship; County Major Scholarship; G.C.E. (Advanced Mathematics, Theoretical Mechanics, Physics, Chemistry); Old Cestrefeldians' Prize; 1<sup>st</sup> XI Soccer, Half Colours; Chess Team, Captain; Athletics, Half Colours; F.,



Scientific Soc., Deputy Chairman; F., Lit. and Debating Soc.; Queens' College, Cambridge."

After graduating, he joined the Civil Service as a scientist within the Ministry of Defence progressing to be the Director General of Air Weapons and Electronic Systems from 1986 to 1990. He then entered academia becoming Professor of Defence Engineering at University College, London. Until fairly recently Ken was writing reports with two colleagues for the House of Commons Defence Committee.



Ken was President of the OC's Society 2008. He was a regular attendee at Annual Reunions and the 48ers group dinners, travelling up from the south coast.

His achievements were also recognised in 2008 by his being made granted the Freedom of the City of London allowing him to drive sheep over London Bridge, a privilege that he took advantage of, as shown above. He was always amused by the only instruction given, which was "if the sheep jumps over the parapet into the river, let go of the lead".

He will be sadly missed by family and his many friends.

Ken's funeral will take place on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May at 3.15pm at Havant Crematorium, Hampshire.

*With grateful thanks to Ken's family and fellow 48er Frank Gorman*

## **MICHAEL A. HADFIELD OBE JP FCA (12/1939 - 05/04/2023) Lingard (1951 – 1957)**



Mr Michael Arthur Hadfield, aged 83, passed away on April 5, 2023 in Derby Royal Hospital.

Michael was a lifelong resident of Chesterfield and was educated at Highfield Hall and Chesterfield Grammar School.

His entry in the December 1977 Cestrefeldian Valette section was brief: "HADFIELD, M. A. G.C.E.; C.C.F., Cert. A, I and II; Swimming; Chesterfield College of Technology."

He was the first to admit that he had an undistinguished academic career but nevertheless for the rest of his life he often expressed his gratitude for the education he received at C.G.S. and this played a large part in his passion for the Old Cestrefeldians' Society.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, he started his career as an articled clerk at Carline Watson and Bird and later built his own practice 'Hadfields' on Chatsworth Road.

Michael gave much of his time to many local organisations and charities throughout his life. He received his OBE for service to business and the community of Chesterfield.

The Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire Rugby Football Union posted that "Michael was a stalwart of the Derbyshire RFU, and it's Treasurer for many years – a mantle he has passed to his daughter."

He was a great supporter of the Old Cestrefeldian Society and a key player in the re-establishing of the Annual Reunion in 1986 with Rob Wadd. He remained on the organising committee initially assisted by Rob, John Roberts, Mal Hughes and Syd Cooper and latterly by the late John Moss and David Finney until retiring in 2019. He also coordinated arrangements for the 51ers annual get-together.

He was installed as President of the Society in 2000.

Michael leaves behind his beloved wife Sue, daughter Rebecca and husband John, son Marcus and wife Natalie, brothers Christopher and John and grandchildren Sophie and Amelia.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to Ashgate Hospice and CP Teens UK.

The funeral service was held at St Thomas's Church on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 3.00pm followed by a family cremation.

We are very grateful to Mike's son-in-law, John Parkinson, for sharing the [attached eulogy](#).

## **LESLIE HEWITT (15/08/1924 - 17/03/2023)**

Mr Leslie Hewitt, of Shuttlewood, passed away on March 17, 2023, aged 98 years.

Born in Dronfield, Leslie grew up in Carr Vale, attending school in New Bolsover and then Chesterfield Grammar School.

Leslie was employed in the Coal Industry all his working life, progressing his career as an Internal Auditor for the National Coal Board at various locations throughout Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire.

Leslie had a keen interest in local sport, especially cricket and football, a keen follower of the fortunes of Derbyshire CCC and Chesterfield FC. He was an active member of St Mary and St Laurence Parish Church, Bolsover, serving as Secretary of the PCC for many years.

He was a member of the Italy Star Association for veterans who fought in Italy during the Second World War.

Leslie was predeceased by his wife Grace in 2011 and leaves daughter Janet and son-in-law Bob, son John and daughter-in-law Linda. He also leaves grandchildren Catherine and David and great grandchildren Grace, Thomas and Joseph. He had lived in the same house in Shuttlewood for the last 45 years of his life.

A funeral service took place at Bolsover Parish Church, on Thursday, March 30, 2023, followed by burial at Oxcroft Road Cemetery, Bolsover. Donations in memory of Leslie were be shared between Bolsover Parish Church and the Italy Star Association.

*Originally published in Derbyshire Times on 30 March 2023 with additions*



## **ROY PARKIN (26/7/1933 - 13/3/2023) Heathcote (1945 – 1951 & 1960 – 1975) B.A. (Hons)**



Roy Parkin, pupil and master at the School, Secretary and former President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society, died on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Valet Section of the December 1951 Cestrefeldian Magazine summarises his time as a pupil at School as follows:

PARKIN, R. School Prefect; H.S.C., 1950; G.C.E. (Advanced) 1951; 1st XI Cricket, Vice-Captain, Full Colours; 1st XI Soccer, Full Colours; Athletics; Howard Glossop Cup; Boxing; Alderman Cropper Prize; Debating Soc.; Société Nationale Prize; Birmingham University.

He returned as a history master in September 1960 and remained until March 1975.

The following tribute was written by Bob Young, his long-time good friend, fellow master and OC for the 1975 edition of the Cestrefeldian.

*From 1973 UVI Arts Form Photo*

Roy Parkin left the Staff in March of this year he had been a member of staff for almost fifteen years, and his association with the school goes back over thirty years in all to the time when he first arrived as a pupil.

It was characteristic of Roy's energetic involvement in the life of the school that within a year of joining the Staff he had organized and led a successful school journey to Norway, and the pace never slackened. Over the years, Transport Society, Elizabethans and Erasmus Darwin Society all owed much to his enthusiasm - to say nothing of Oxfam collections and the occasional star performance in a Masters' debate. School cricket, soccer - even hockey - teams derived benefit from his active encouragement, and he was no mean performer either. Many a staff cricket team, facing a fiery school XI, based such slender hopes of survival as it ever nourished on Roy's malicious bowling and rugged rearguard actions with the bat; and if we lost, as we usually did, his revenge could come on the morrow when he re-appeared for the Old Boys. Fives, of course, was (or were) his particular enthusiasm, and his choicest sarcasm was reserved for any misguided philistine who used a fives court as an all-weather goal-mouth for soccer practice.

As Head of the History Department, he revolutionised both the content of the syllabus and the methods of teaching it, directing the emphasis away from the acquisition of historical knowledge and towards the understanding of historical method. Within the last couple of years he secured the school's participation in the Schools Council's 13-

16 History Experiment, and energetically involved himself and his department in the development of the methods and resources required by it.

A barbed wit, more readily appreciated by the observer than by the victim, may sometimes have disguised but never completely concealed that sympathetic understanding of the pupil's abilities, difficulties, and background which made his advice particularly valuable. The Old Cestrefeldian Society, and many Old Boys individually, will remain grateful for his unfailing support. For his colleagues in the Common Room, too he has been the expert and friend to be consulted on a vast range of professional matters, and he has been Chairman of the Social Committee, AMA correspondent, and a representative of secondary teachers on TAC and the Re-organisation Consultative Committee.

The Cestrefeldian' for December 1951, under the heading '1st XI Cricket Characters', includes a comment which still deserves to be quoted - both as a verdict on Roy's achievement here and as a recommendation for his new role:

'PARKIN, R: consistently good in the field, and a source of invaluable advice.'

R. E. Young

Roy was very well thought of by his students as the following quotes from Facebook testify:

"A true Gentleman who had time for everyone." "My favourite teacher.... I owe a lot to him." "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. I became a history teacher thanks to Fez, Spike and Jock, teachers who took time to teach." "Took a party of us to Stavanger. A great time but tinged with sadness as the plane which was due to bring us home crashed with the loss of everybody on board."

On leaving Chesterfield School, the family home moved to Barrow upon Humber as Roy worked as a History Specialist Advisor, covering the whole of the newly formed county of Humberside, later becoming Senior Area Advisor. He retired in 1993. For two year's post retirement, he was an Inspector of Schools, working with OFSTED.

The many years of retirement were spent happily travelling with his wife, Josephine, and spending time at home with his children and four grandchildren. Barbados was affectionately known as his 'second home' having travelled there 56 times (*Wow!*), spending up to 10 weeks a year there.

His final achievement was to walk his daughter down the aisle, on 24th February 2023 and welcoming Phil and his three children to his family.

Having been Joint Secretary for some years, Roy was elected President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society to take office in 1976. However the Annual Reunion for that year was cancelled. His patience was eventually rewarded when he was installed as President in 2001.

He is succeeded by Josephine, son Timothy and daughter Joanne. In accordance with his final wishes, a private cremation service was held, on 31st March.

*Grateful thanks are extended to Roy's family for their help in producing this obituary.*

## **MR. IAN NEWSOME (1941 - 10/2/2023) Lingard (1963 – 1969)**

Mr Ian Newsome, of Walton, passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, on February 10, 2023, aged 82 years.

Ian joined the teaching staff at School in September 1963 to teach science. He was on the Lingard House staff. After leaving in July 1969, he spent a few years' serving abroad and then joined the teaching staff at William Rhodes (later Parkside Community) School in 1973.

He was born in Dewsbury, West Riding and a resident of Chesterfield for 49 years. He enjoyed all sports, walking and local bird life.

Ian was predeceased by his wife Marilyn and son John. He will be sadly missed by brother Keith and family.

His funeral service took place at Chesterfield Crematorium on Monday, March 13, 2023 when donations were taken for The Alzheimer's Society.



*Courtesy of The Derbyshire Times - 23 February 2023 and Facebook memories*

## **ELLIOTT BERESFORD (09/1928 – 02/2023) Clarke (1939 – 1946)**





Mr Elliott Beresford, of Ashover, has passed away at Grove House, Ashover, aged 94. Born at Riber Terrace, Boythorpe, Chesterfield and a lifelong local resident, Elliott was a former managing director of Elliott Beresford & Son Ltd.

Elliott joined the Grammar School in September 1939 at the beginning of the 2nd World War. He remembered that initially, he only attended School in the mornings as during the afternoons there were no lessons, as most of the Staff were engaged in digging out and erecting Air Raid Shelters around the School playing field !! He was in Clarke House and good academically, but excelled at sport. He was Captain of the First XI football team for several years and was awarded his School Colours. He was also Cricket Captain, Boxing Captain and sprinted for the School as well as playing tennis. He was a Member of the Air Cadet Force.

He gained his School Certificate and left in 1945/1946. He joined forces with his Father (also Elliott) and they formed Elliott Beresford & Son Ltd, a building and contracting company in November 1948. He was still coming into the office when he was 85, but then had a stroke and had to give up driving. He still retained a keen interest in the business through until his last couple of days!

He was also a keen golfer for almost 60 years. He was a keeper, breeder and judge of award winning budgerigars, past president of Chesterfield Budgerigar Society and member of the Budgerigar Society from 1939-2023 and a member of Chesterfield Golf Club from 1955-2016.

Elliott was predeceased by a son Ian. He leaves his wife Dorothy, son David, daughter Claire, grandchildren Jonathan, Anna, Rachael, Lois and Ethan, great-grandchildren Charlie, George, Esme, Martha and Cleo. The funeral service took place on February 17, 2023, Chesterfield Crematorium, at 11.50am.

*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times and David Beresford (son) for additional information.*

## **ROGER CHARLES MASON (18/3/50 – 24/1/23) Foljambe (1951 – 1956)**

The Valet section of the December 1956 Valet Cestrefeldian records "G.C.E.; C.C.F., Cert. A. Part I; Birmingham Technical College".

Roger Charles Mason passed away at Langdale Lodge Care Home on January 24, 2023, aged 82.

Born in Chesterfield and a lifelong resident, Roger was owner of Masons the Bakers & Confectioners. He was a keen golfer and Past Captain and President of Chesterfield Golf Club. He was also a member of Chesterfield Rotary Club and was an avid follower of Chesterfield Football Club.

Roger was a devoted family man who loved gardening. He leaves his wife Ann, daughter Suzanne, son-in-law John, son Christopher, daughter-in-law Melanie and five grandchildren. A private service was held for Roger. Any donations in his memory may be sent to The Derbyshire Stroke Centre.



*Courtesy of the Derbyshire Times - 02 February 2023*

## **ARTHUR EDWARD MITCHELL (1927 – 5/12/22) School (1935 - 1943)**



Arthur passed away in Chesterfield Royal Hospital following a fall at home on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Born in Brampton, he attended Chesterfield Grammar School from 1935 to 1943 after which he became a Chartered Accountant, the fourth generation of Mitchells to do so, and senior partner.

He was a lover of cricket and supported Derbyshire and England, he was a big jazz and music enthusiast and former owner of The Carlton Cabaret Club and casino.

He was very sociable and always the true gentleman.

Arthur was predeceased by his wife Jean. He leaves son Jeremy, daughter Lindsey, grandson Tobias and his wife Sophie and great-granddaughter Lula. The funeral service took place at Chesterfield Crematorium, on December 17, 2022.

*Courtesy of the Derbyshire Times*

## JOHN PETT (1946 – 20/2/21) Lingard (1957 -1964)

John died peacefully at home on Saturday 20th February 2021 aged 75 years.

The Cestrefeldian Valet Section for December 1964 states: Sub-Prefect; Advanced English Literature, History, French; Erasmus Darwin; Orchestra; Librarian. To Westminster Training College.

John lived on Somersal Park Road and is remembered as a friendly travelling companion often carrying a violin case. After school he spent 3 years at Westminster College, Oxford, studying music. A friend there remembers that his personality was reflected in his face and his gentle smile.

He was head teacher at Hucknall National Junior School, now Hucknall National C of E Primary, and described as the "embodiment" of what the school stands for.

A touching tribute written by another former head teacher, Kerry Palmer, has been shared to highlight special memories of Mr Pett.

Kerry wrote: "Mr Pett was, for thousands of children, parents and grandparents, a National institution. For 40 years John Pett was an embodiment of what National is all about.

"A teacher who loved children and his job, and was so good at it. For whom time and effort were no object and whose professional expertise and enthusiasm brought pupils' learning to life, boosting confidence and self-esteem.

"Everyone who knew him has a multitude of fond memories. His humour and encouragement in the classroom, particularly for those who struggled a bit, all those musical productions and concerts, coaching and cheering the school football team in all weathers, school holidays and activity weeks and so much more.

"We all have our special memories and reasons to be grateful for knowing John Pett. I knew him as a friend and colleague from the days when we were both newly qualified teachers and Mr Davies was head – he started the same time as Miss Wellington and went on to marry her. In the staffroom he was always good for a laugh and helped build team spirit whilst embracing the multitude of changes that came to schools over the decades as we tackled new responsibilities.

"He will be sadly missed by so many as we hold his wife, Jean, his daughters and families in our thoughts and prayers. Be sure that before too long we will all gather to celebrate his life. Rest in peace, John. You are singing with the angels."

His funeral service was held at St Wilfrid's Church Calverton on Monday 8th March 2021. Donations were to Brain Tumour UK.

*Courtesy of the Nottingham Live*

## J.F.W. "TIM" SEARCY (1937 – 10/2022) CLARKE (1961 - )

Tim was born on 8th March 1938 at the Manor Farm Tibshelf and christened Joseph Francis Wetton Searcy. Rather than Joseph Francis Wetton, from an early age he was called Tim, the name deriving from a nursery rhyme.

Tim went to the primary school in Tibshelf and was lead choir boy in Tibshelf Church Choir. After passing the 11 plus exam he went on to Tupton Hall Grammar school where his flair for art was spotted and he was encouraged to attend Art School, initially the Art College in Worksop and then The Slade, part of University College, London where he started in October 1957. He achieved excellent results in his finals being awarded the University of London Diploma in Fine Art in June 1960.

Tim decided that the next step in his career should be teaching. This would give him time to look after his aging parents and to develop his painting. To this end he enrolled on a course at Kings College Newcastle leading to the Art Teachers' Diploma of Education. He found that he enjoyed teaching and excelled at all the aspects of the course.

He started at Chesterfield School in September 1961. Art was not considered to be a serious subject at the time and the facilities were at best mediocre. He was persistent in pressing for changes and was able to improve the standing of the Art department. Headmaster, Mr Glistler, "He not only fulfilled the promise of his good qualifications but increased in stature as a school master and gave a really first class service in the Art Dept. He is one of the best Art Masters I have ever known". He went on to say "he is particularly well balanced and has a sincere feeling for art as a means of education and a way in which personality can be developed. He sees art as a means of correlation with other subjects and activities, and each year has given excellent service to the school by preparing with his students the stage sets and also making the costumes for all the school plays. He has prepared students for GCSE O and A Levels and his results have been good. His genuine interest and sincere approach have been appreciated by his pupils and



there has been no trouble at all with discipline.” He achieved notable success in preparing a number of pupils for very successful careers in which artistic skills were a major factor.



During the planning of the new School Buildings Tim helped by designing the facilities for the new Art Dept. and designed the tiles for the new corridors helping with the choice of décor.

He had a sharp tongue but he used it sparingly and relied on the respect his pupils held for his talents and his ability to express them. This respect developed into lifelong friendships with many of the pupils.

He loved collecting antiques, especially Denby pottery, a company with which he had family connections. He had started to play the cello supporting the School Orchestra. He became interested in spinning and weaving, often using his own dyes, later becoming Chairman of the National Spinning and Weaving Society. He loved travelling around England and did so in that role.

Tim was put forward to oversee the Art departments in the region; he thought about it and although it would have been a nice promotion decided to leave teaching and develop the outside interests that he had for some time been developing.

Being restricted for space while living at home, he needed a workshop. He found a neglected stone chapel in Ashover, but with only an entrance, a tower and a large room with a very high ceiling. It was a mammoth task to work up a design that was practical for his needs. With the help of many excellent skilful friends Butts Chapel became the impressive building it now is, well equipped for Tim's needs into which he moved permanently on the death of his parents.



*Self portrait*

He wove several splendid tapestries and created a reputation for his work. He was commissioned by Ashover Parish Church to create a tapestry celebrating the millennium. It has 2000 rectangular but differently coloured sections, each representing a year since Christ was born and incorporating the flower head of a dandelion to represent the fragility of time. It has since been loaned to various exhibitions.

As Chairman of the spinners and weavers, he was the tall, knowledgeable and interesting guide chosen to give Princess Diana an exhibition preview. They got on really well, Diana explaining that she wanted to know sufficient in advance of the formal opening to ask intelligent questions.



*Ashover Parish Ch tapestry (top)*

Tim will be sadly missed by family and friends, but we may all take some comfort in the knowledge that he died at home looking out through the picture windows to a view which he loved in all weathers, in the house that he had built, surrounded by the artefacts he had collected, and cared for by a loving sister. His funeral took place at 12:30 on Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup> at Ashover Parish Church.

*Extracted from a longer eulogy courtesy of Joe Welburn which can be accessed [here](#)*



## **GRAHAM O OLDFIELD (5/10/1939 – 09/2022) LINGARD (1951 – 1958)**



Mr Graham Osborne Oldfield (5/10/39 - 09/22), of Chesterfield has passed away peacefully at home, aged 82. The Valete section in the December 1958 edition of the Cestrefeldian records that he was a House Prefect who gained A levels in English and History, and played 1st XI hockey before going on to Leeds Training College.

A lifelong Chesterfield resident, Graham taught English at William Rhodes Secondary School, now Parkside Community, until his retirement in the 1990's. He was a long-time member of Chesterfield Hockey Club as a player and began the mini-hockey section. He was also a keen golfer and member of Chesterfield Golf Club, where his death was acknowledged by flying the clubhouse flag at half-mast.

Graham leaves his wife Carole, daughter Claire, twin sons Robert and Jonathan. The funeral service took place on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at the Chesterfield Crematorium, at 1.50pm followed by a gathering at The Peacock, Barlow.

*Originally published in Derbyshire Times on 13 October 2022*

## **GRAHAM STEVENSON (10/5/1937 – 27/7/2022) HEATHCOTE (1948 – 54)**

The December 1954 Cestrefeldian magazine Valete section records that Graham was a House Prefect who played 1<sup>st</sup> XI Soccer and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cricket, gaining his half-colours for each, and was active in the Geography and Economics Societies.

He was excellent academically gaining A levels in History, Geography and Economics and winning a County University exhibition to study at Manchester University.

After graduating Graham worked in market research for a paper company in London and lived in West Sussex where his interests included walking and bird watching, football and cricket.

He was born on 10 May 1937 and died on 27 July 2022 at Heather Vale Care Home in Hasland. His family who lived locally moved him up to Chesterfield in November 2020 so he could be closer to them and are very thankful that he was able to spend much more time with them over the last 20 months than he would have done had he still been living down in Sussex.

He leaves children Helen and Tony, and grandchildren Ava and Leo and was pre-deceased by his wife Glennis.

His funeral was held on Friday 2nd September at Hasland Methodist Church where fellow '48ers Frank Gorman and John Fidler, representing the Old Cestrefeldian Society, were among the mourners.

*Compiled by Frank Gorman with help from Helen Couchy, Graham's daughter.*



## **MICHAEL IRWIN (23/3/1935 – 08/2022) HEATHCOTE (1946 – 1951)**

Michael Irwin, born on 23 March 1935 in Chesterfield and resident locally for over 80 years has passed away at home aged 87.

After attending Chesterfield Grammar School where he gained his GCEs, he started work as a clerk with the NCB in Bolsover. He then saw National Service with the Royal Signals in Cyprus.

Upon his return, he trained as an accountant and worked in Lancashire and Lincoln before coming back to live in Chesterfield. He worked for many years in Sheffield before spending the last 16 years of his career as the manager of the Nottinghamshire & District Miners' Pension Scheme before retiring in 2000.

Michael loved music, having been a choir boy at Chesterfield Parish Church in his youth. He enjoyed the arts and going on holiday with his beloved wife Barbara who died last year, both having battled dementia for many years. After her death, he expressed a deep wish to join her. He leaves son Simon, daughter-in-law Debbie and grandchildren Jessica and Charlie. The funeral service took place on August 30, 2022, at Chesterfield Crematorium.

*Originally published in Derbyshire Times on 25 August 2022*

## **REVD CANON PETER NORWELL DOWNHAM B.A. (28/05/1931 – 19/03/2022) HEATHCOTE (1941 – 1949)**

Much-loved husband, father, grandfather and uncle, faithful Bible teacher, church leader and pastor and past President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society, Peter died suddenly at home on March 19<sup>th</sup>, aged 90.

Peter was born in Liverpool coming to Chesterfield in 1939 when his father moved to manage the local labour exchange. In 1941, he joined the School in the then Remove in Hurst House before moving to the main school the following year.

The following is taken from the Valette section of the December 1949 edition of the Cestrefeldian after his leaving:

DOWNHAM P. N. School Sub Prefect; Higher School Certificate 1948 – 1949; 1<sup>st</sup> XI Soccer, Half Colours; 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket, Colours; 2<sup>nd</sup> VI Tennis; Sec., Geog. and Econ. Soc; L/Cpl C.C.F., Cert A. Pt. 1; Boxing; Dramatic Soc.; Manchester University.

Elsewhere in “Soccer Characters” it stated: “Outside right. A constructive winger whose centres have been excellent. He uses his speed to great advantage and rarely loses a chance of shooting. Must try not to use his elbows too much”, and in “Cricket Characters”: “Right arm slow bowler, who could not be put on to bowl regularly due to the unsuitable state of the wicket. An excellent bowler on his day who generally keeps a good length and tries to bowl with his head. A moderate batsman and a reasonable fielder.”

At Manchester University, he studied economics, politics and modern history and on graduation in 1952 completed two years of National Service. Having been commissioned in the Sherwood Foresters, he was seconded to the West African Frontier Force in Sierra Leone. Here his Commanding Officer felt that Peter’s strong religious and teetotal commitment might be a dampener in the Officers’ Mess and suggested he be posted “up country”. His adjutant persuaded him otherwise however on the grounds that they would not want to lose the top-scoring forward from the army team.



Peter felt called to the Ministry, completing his postgraduate training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge from 1954 to 1956. His first posting was as Curate in Cheadle Manchester where he married Joan. Subsequently he was vicar at St Mary’s, Rawtenstall from 1962 to 1968, at St James, Carlisle, from 1968 to 1979 and from then until 1995, at Greyfriars Church, Reading. He was on the Church of England General Synod from 1985 to 1995 and made a Canon at Christ Church, Oxford (the cathedral) in 1990 which he continued on retirement with emeritus status.

His involvement with the Young People’s Fellowships, especially in his younger days, was particularly special to him and blessed. He kept in touch with many of the then young people and they often met up at the Keswick Convention which he and his wife attended as often as possible.

Peter continued to take an active role following his “retirement” at St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring and its associated churches, St Mary’s, Streatley and St Andrew’s, South Stoke.

Peter and Joan enjoyed many holidays at their “wooden hut” / chalet in Galloway and latterly considered themselves lucky to be able to enjoy interesting trips further afield, including Kerala, Russia and Cuba. Whilst serving at Greyfriars, Reading, they enjoyed a pulpit swap serving for four months in Sydney, NSW, taking the opportunity of getting to know Australia better.

In April 2014, Peter was installed as President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society of which he had been a valued member and attender of Reunions for many years. On a number of occasions he led the November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service in the Old School at Sheffield Road.

Peter’s funeral took place at St Thomas of Canterbury Parish Church, Goring-on-Thames on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2022. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joan, sons, Simon and Mark, their wives and 6 grandchildren of whom he was very proud.



*Produced by Joan Downham and John Drabble*



## IAN K THOMASON (14/10/1950 – 11/1/2022) LARGE (1962 – 1970)

Ian died after a lengthy battle with serious illness at the age of 71. He was born in Chesterfield in October 1950 and grew up in New Brampton. He started at Chesterfield School in 1962, took the five-year O Level course and entered the sixth form in 1967. There he excelled in English and won a place at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, one of seven boys who went to Oxford or Cambridge that left school in 1970. He was one of two who came from very modest home circumstances and whose success emphasises how the post-war grammar schools greatly widened opportunities for children from such backgrounds.

Ian read English for Part 1 of the Tripos but switched to what was then Social and Political Sciences for Part 2. During the university vacations he worked for the fashionable Chesterfield men's clothing retailer Mr Six, and was responsible for sourcing stage-wear for many of the local rock groups of the time. Ian was himself a good guitarist and a very accomplished harmonica player. He was for some time one half of 'Mac and Tomo', a blues duo in the style of Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, with his good friend Malcolm David Colton (Mac).



Ian graduated in 1973 and went on to make a career in information technology.

In retirement and living in Sheffield, Ian renewed his interest in Chesterfield and joined the Civic Society and the Local History Society, bringing to both a lifetime's knowledge of the town and enthusiasm for both its past and its future. He was also a member of Friends of Spital Cemetery.

Ian was a keen walker, especially in the Peak, and in recent years had become valued and much appreciated member of the 'Intrepids' Railway Walking and Archaeological Groups, contributing his considerable historical perspective to the Friday morning forays along old railway trackbeds and latterly canals too. He was forensic in his analysis of the existing geographical features surrounding their location, assisting considerably in the group's understanding of the railway system as it was before its demise.

We send our deepest sympathy to Ian's wife Christine Merrick, a former pupil of St Helena's, whom he had known since their schooldays. He will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends in Chesterfield and beyond.

*Thanks to Philip Riden*

## RICHARD N BOURNE ( – 05/2022) FOLJAMBE (1954 – 1961)

Following his death a few weeks earlier, Richard's funeral took place at Stourport Crematorium on Monday May 30<sup>th</sup>.

The following is the extract from the December 1961 Cestrefeldian:

BOURNE, R. N. School Captain; G.C.E. (Advanced English, Latin, French); 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey, Captain, Full Colours; 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket; Swimming; Sergeant, C.C.F. (Army Proficiency Cert.); Fellow, Literary and Debating Soc.; Chess Team; Choir (Principal); Magazine Editor; Balliol College, Oxford.

Richard made an excellent school captain and, as can be seen from the Valette entry above, was involved in all aspects of school life. He also played hockey for Derbyshire Schoolboys.

After graduating from Oxford he became a Prosecuting Solicitor, serving in Wakefield, Sheffield, West Midlands, and Hampshire finally retiring early due to ill-health from the West Midlands.

Richard had suffered for renal problems for a number of years and died as a result of complications following an operation.

He is survived by his widow, Kathleen and by their daughter, Louise and her two sons, Isaac and Samuel and by their son, Peter.

*Courtesy of Nick Roberts*

## MICHAEL ARRAND (1932 – 2021)



Old Cestrefeldian, Michael Peter Arrand, of Chesterfield, Has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, aged 89.

Born in Retford and a resident of Chesterfield for all his adult life, Michael was a wages clerk at Coalite Chemicals until his retirement.

His interests included cricket, films and taking his family out for meals.

Michael was predeceased by his wife Dorothy Jean Arrand. He leaves son Martin, daughter Catherine, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

*Courtesy of Michael's daughter, Catherine*

## A. PAUL DUNKLEY (1949 – 25/9/21) LINGARD (1960 – 1967)

Paul Dunkley passed away on 25 September 2021, age 72.

The Cestrefeldian reports that Paul was a Lingard House Prefect; in VIth Modern, gained A level passes in History, Geography and Economics and won a Pegasus Prize before going to Woolwich Polytechnic.

However he decided that was not for him, and returned to Chesterfield, becoming articled to accountants, Edward Mitchell's, where he continued his studies, becoming qualified in 1972, the same year he was married.

As a Chartered Accountant, he was employed at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, later KPMG, in Sheffield.

In 1980, now with two children, the family moved to Cambridgeshire, where he pursued several channels, finally becoming Financial Director of Genomic Solutions, a small, innovative company, making laboratory robotics for gene sequencing.

As a lifelong Christian, he was passionate about ethical business, social equality and integrity, and on more than one occasion he would leave a job because he was not happy with any one of these!

He was a church warden for 30 years, and active in village life.

He kept up to date with Chesterfield football, attending matches when visiting family, and when matches were played close to home.

His work was as diverse as assisting the Serious Fraud Office with some forensic accounting, or floating the company on the Nasdaq stock exchange, and it took him to New Zealand, California, and Michigan. But he was never happier than when he was sitting in the garden surrounded by his family, with his grandchildren running around.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, children Catherine and Matthew and grandchildren, Thomas and Ruby.

*We are grateful to Paul's wife and sister Ann for the above.*



## PROFESSOR JOHN F TUNNICLIFFE (20/9/1929 – 15/12/2021) SCHOOL (1941 – 1944)



JONATHAN FREDERICK TUNNICLIFFE, who spent his working life as a mining engineer at pits in Yorkshire before turning to academia as a professor at two universities, has died aged 92. Known as Jack to his family and wide circle of friends and John to his mining colleagues, Jack was born in Grassmoor, the only son of William Frederick (himself from a mining family and former Manager of Grassmoor Colliery) and Doris (née Thompson) Tunncliffe.

Jack attended Grassmoor Infants and North Wingfield Junior Schools and then went on to Chesterfield Grammar School until the age of 14 when he moved to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS), Wakefield, after the family moved to Castleford in West Yorkshire. Despite the move to Yorkshire he would return to Chesterfield frequently and he maintained contact with some of the friends he had made at the Grammar School throughout his whole lifetime, having regular reunions with them until recent years.

In 1954 he graduated from Leeds University with a BSc Honours degree in Mining Engineering having also been awarded the ICI Mining Prize and joined the National Coal Board as a management trainee. He initially worked underground as an undermanager, then as Manager at various collieries in Yorkshire until 1982 when he left mining to become Milburn Professor of Mining Engineering at Newcastle University. When that closed in 1990 he moved to his former alma mater of Leeds in a similar role, becoming Emeritus Professor when he retired in 1991.

Jack was heavily involved in both the Midland and National Institutes of Mining Engineers, holding the position of Honorary Secretary, President and Treasurer of the Midland Institute between 1974 and 1992 and awarded Honorary Fellowship in 2021. He was National President from 1987-1988. His vast knowledge of the mining industry, and contribution to it, were recognised over the years with many awards. He was elected as a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1989. In 2020, he was presented with the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining Outstanding Contribution Award in recognition of his contribution to the Institute's core activities.

Jack had a particular interest in the development of young engineers which he saw as giving something back to an industry which had given him so much for nearly 40 years, and with which he was still associated when he died. In 1978 he instituted the JF Tunnicliffe competition to encourage junior members in public speaking, by delivering a presentation on a topic within the mining and minerals industry. This has since been combined with the CS Littlewood award, part of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining Young Persons' Lecture Competition. From 1995 to 2013 he was chairman of the Headstart Board enabling young people interested in an engineering career to thrive.

The most recent recognition of his service, sponsored by the Midland and North of England Institutes, was the creation of the John F Tunnicliffe medal to be presented annually to an outstanding young engineer. He was proud to present the award to the first recipient last November just a few weeks before he died.

In his younger years Jack shone at sport which played a great part in his life. He captained his cricket and athletics teams and was vice-captain of the rugby team at school. He later played rugby for Sandal Rugby Club in Wakefield but after injury forced him to retire he played cricket for Paton and Baldwins (now Wakefield Thornes) from 1952 to 1966 as a left hand batsman and wicketkeeper. He also captained the first XI. Jack was a chairman of Pontefract Sports Council, a member of Yorkshire County Cricket Club from 1970, season ticket holder of Leeds United for 65 years and a long standing member of Wombwell Cricket Lovers' Society of which he was Vice Chairman when he died. He maintained an interest in Chesterfield football team and Derbyshire Cricket Club, and always welcomed an opportunity to return to watch the cricket at Queen's Park.

Jack was a perfect gentleman with a dry wit and a genuine interest in people, always quick to make them feel at ease. In 1951 he married Barbara Richardson, who he had known from their schooldays, but who predeceased him in 2016. He is survived by his children William, Sue, Anne and Jonathan, eight grandsons, a granddaughter, and eight great grandchildren.

*Courtesy of the Yorkshire Post and Jack's family.*

## **ARTHUR LYNAS WHITTAKER (1929 – 14/11/2021)**

Mr Arthur Lynas Whittaker of Brookside Chesterfield, passed away on 14th November, at his home. He was aged 92.

The Valet Section of the May 1947 edition of The Cestrefeldian includes the following detail: S.C. 1945, Cross Country Colours / Captain, Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Old Cestrefeldian Society.

A lifelong resident of Chesterfield, Arthur was employed as a successful company director and board member of several companies. He was also awarded the honour of the Freedom of the city of London for his contribution to the textile industry. He retired in 1995 having enjoyed every moment of his working life.

He was a keen sportsman, trialling for the post war Olympic Games as a long distance runner. He played squash, tennis, badminton and continued to play his beloved golf until the age of 90.

Arthur was predeceased by his wife Patricia Rosamund. He leaves daughters Sarah Ann Gale Whittaker and Martha Jane Lynasse Cooling, grandchildren Lucy Alice and Fay Louise Newsome, Nicholas Lynas and Sally Jane Cooling.

*Courtesy of Arthur's family and the Derbyshire Times*

## **GERALD SIMS (1932 – 01/2022)**

Gerald Sims, of Brimington Common, passed away at home, aged 89. He was proud to have been a local resident all his life and attended Chesterfield Grammar School before starting work in 1948 at Staveley Coal and Iron Company in the 'Janitor's Box'. Following two year's National Service in the Royal Navy, he returned to work at Staveley and also attended evening classes at Chesterfield Technical College before qualifying as a Cost and Works Accountant.

He joined Staveley Chemicals Ltd in 1966 where he progressed to the position of Company Secretary and, before retirement in 1991, became Finance Director. Gerald travelled extensively through his work, visiting such places as Japan, Brazil, Russia and the USA. He also enjoyed holidays at home and abroad with his late wife, Josephine, family and friends. Gerald's interests included maritime history, Scotch whisky, reading, watching Western films, cooking and following cricket and football. He enjoyed socialising with his friends, and was never happier than when his family was around him.



For many years, Gerald attended St Joseph's Catholic Church, Staveley and more recently, the Church of the Annunciation, Chesterfield. He was also a member of the Friends of the Eyre Chapel. Gerald was pre-deceased by his wife, Josephine and his daughter, Joanne. He leaves his sons, Nicholas and Nigel, daughters-in-law, Julie and Jill, son-in-law, Michael and grandchildren, Peter, Anna, Matthew, Bethan, Ben, Alexander, Nathan and Joshua. The funeral took place on Monday, February 7, 2022, at the Church of the Annunciation, Spencer Street, Chesterfield followed by Cremation at Chesterfield Crematorium.

*Originally published in Derbyshire Times on 03 February 2022*

### **ALAN RHODES (8/6/37 - 24/12/21) LINGARD (1948 – 53).**



Alan's Valet entry of Dec/53 confirms that he took his GCE 'O' levels; played 1st XI cricket for the School and the County Boys' Eleven, and was awarded his half-colours. He will be remembered by his contemporaries as a fearsome fast bowler, who went on to play for Hasland CC (captain) and Chesterfield CC.

Alan passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, aged 84. Born in Hasland, and a resident of Wingerworth for twenty years and Hasland for forty years. He worked for approximately thirty years as a draughtsman until his retirement from Birtley Engineering in 1993. His other interests included football, gardening, bowls, sightseeing and day-trips, driving and train excursions. He was a regular attendee at the '48ers annual lunches including the most recent one on 25 October last.

Alan was predeceased by his wife Brenda in 2003. He leaves son Nicholas, daughter Sally and Caroline, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The funeral service took place on January 21, 2022, Brimington Crematorium, at 11.30am.

*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times obituary of 13 January 2022.*

### **GEOFFREY WEBSTER (12/6/32 – 12/7/21) LINGARD (1943 – 49)**

Geoff was born on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1932 in the North Derbyshire village of Langwith Junction, close to the Notts border. He was the first of three children of Anne and Fred Webster who determined that their boys would not follow all male Websters "down the pit". To emphasise this, as there was no bathroom at 15 Langwith Junction, in their teens on Saturdays the boys would travel up to the pithead baths at Shirebrook colliery for a shower bath and Fred once said to the boys "If I ever catch you in this pit yard looking for a job, I'll kick your a\*\*e 'til your nose bleeds".



To this end, all three children could read, write and add-up before they went to the local Langwith Bassett School, where all three children passed the 11 plus exam and gained entrance to grammar schools. Anne went Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Mansfield, Geoff and younger brother Wilf went Chesterfield Grammar School. Both boys were members of Lingard House and also the school scout troop, run by K.S.(Mousey) McKay. Geoff was an enthusiastic member of the Swift Airscouts patrol and achieved second class status along with his close friend Duggie Inger (who later became Chesterfield town librarian).

Geoff was generally known as "Ster" following an act by the then art master, G S Wood, who during roll-call would call out "Web" to which the rest of the form would shout "Ster". The name stuck, in fact, when his younger brother came to CGS, they were known as "Big Ster and Little Ster". On leaving CGS, for a short time Geoff was employed as "lab boy" there. Between then and National Service he had several temporary jobs and eventually after demob was employed in the Civil Service as a Scientific Officer working at the National Gas Turbine Establishment at Pyestock in Hampshire as a member of a team investigating aero engine faults.

Geoff met and in 1955 married a local girl Diana Shrubsall and they had a daughter Diane. Sadly Diana died in February 2021. During their long married life together, Geoff and Di loved hiking, rambling, playing badminton, swimming and spending time with their grandchildren, Lauren and Michael.

Geoff passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and is greatly missed by all the family.

*Obituary by Wilf Webster (Little Ster)*



## **KEN BISHTON (16/5/51 – 2/8/21) LARGE (1962 – 1969)**



It is with great sadness that the family of Mr John Kenneth Bishton (dob 16/5/51) of Wingerworth announces his passing after a long illness, on August 2, 2021, at the age of 70. Born in Derby before moving to Chesterfield at an early age, he attended Chesterfield Grammar School, and trained as a teacher working in Chesterfield until his retirement. After retiring from teaching, he worked at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

Ken was a familiar face in Wingerworth where he lived for 45 years, often seen walking around the village with his dog. He was a member of Chesterfield Teachers' Dramatic Society and Wingerworth Church Theatre Group, both acting in and producing several plays, some of which he wrote himself. Ken had a passion for cinema which led to his compiling *In Front of the Silver Screen. A Personal History of Cinemas in the Chesterfield Area*. He also had an eclectic taste in music which had a profound impact on family and friends.

Ken leaves behind his wife Jane, his sons David and Alex, grandchildren Fleur, Louis, Matthew and Felicity, and his sister Yvonne.

The funeral service was held at Chesterfield and District Crematorium, at 11:30am on Monday August 23, 2021.

*Published in Derbyshire Times on Aug. 19, 2021.*

## **ALAN BLACKBURN (4/12/35 – 08/2021) BRADLEY (1946 – 52)**

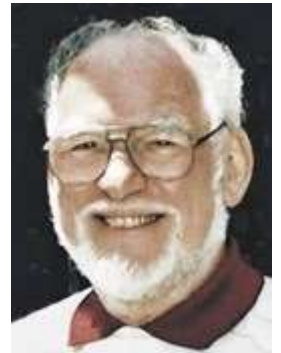
Mr Alan Blackburn of Wingerworth, has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, aged 85.

A lifelong Chesterfield resident, Alan was an engineering estimator until his retirement in 1994.

His interests included travel, the countryside (nature), football, he was a season ticket holder for Chesterfield FC. He also enjoyed snooker and walking his much loved Jack Russell "Inky".

Alan leaves his wife Kath, nieces and nephews Kate, Dave and Sam, Karen and Terry, and in Australia Richard, Laurindah and family, James, Sally and John and family, Lynda and Owen.

The funeral service took place on Thursday August 26, 2021 at All Saint's Church, Wingerworth.



*Published in Derbyshire Times on Aug.19, 2021*

## **DENNIS A HOOPER (19/7/35 - 20/7/2021) LINGARD (1946 – 1953)**

The December 1953 Valette section of the school magazine records that Dennis was a House Prefect; obtained A levels in Geography and Economics; played for the first team at tennis and was awarded his full colours. Similar success, including full colours came in the first eleven at soccer (where he also represented Derbyshire Grammar Schools) and athletics. He was also active in the Combined Cadet Force, (achieving Sergeant rank). Confirming his status as a complete all-rounder, he also played in the School orchestra and took part in School plays.



On leaving School he went into H.M. Forces, seeing service in Hong Kong before going to Loughborough College. He then went on to enjoy a 30 year career as a sports teacher locally, mainly at Manor School. In his spare time he played football for the Old Cestrefeldians FC and others, and ran evening football training classes at Manor School. His other interests were gardening, travel and spending time with his family.

He passed away peacefully at Chesterfield Royal Hospital after a short illness, leaving his wife Pat, daughters Alison, Samantha and five grand-children. A son, Richard, pre-deceased him.

The funeral service takes place on 12 August at 2.10pm at Chesterfield Crematorium

*Frank Gorman, with acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times of July 29, 2021, and fellow OCs*



## BRIAN RODDIE (23/1/41 - 9/7/21) HEATHCOTE (1952 – 1959)

The December 1959 edition of the Cestrefeldian contains the following details in its Valette section:

“RODDIE, B. School Prefect and House Captain; Open Exhibition, Classics, Kings College, Cambridge; County Major Scholarship; G.C.E. (Advanced Ancient History, Greek and Latin); Erasmus Darwin Society (Deputy Secretary, Classical Section and Chairman, Poetry Section); King’s College, Cambridge”

Brian was born in Shirebrook on 23rd January 1941, the second child of Jack and Eunice Roddie, having a younger sister Pat and being pre-deceased by brothers Jim and John.

Frequently older brother Jim was tasked with baby minding Brian, he and his cousin amused themselves by competing with their baby brothers’ prams, babies inside, releasing them down the very steep summit hill in a race, both Prams crashing at the bottom. Brian escaped with just a bump on his head but it can’t have done much damage as Brian went on to become quite a scholar.

Even as a young child Brian chose his own path in life, he was strong willed even at 3 when he set out to explore the world, getting on a local bus on his own and went a ride out, the bus driver thankfully returned him home.

His love of music also came out at an early age he attempted to teaching himself to play the piano by designing a cardboard keyboard, which he used for many years to practise and when he was allowed too, he practised on Aunt Gladys piano.

He passed his 11 plus to go to Chesterfield Grammar School, latterly Chesterfield School where Latin and other languages, including Greek were his interests and passion. He also formed lifelong friendships with fellow Cestrefeldians.

Brian must have been exceptionally talented as he was offered a scholarship to both Cambridge and Oxford. He chose Kings College Cambridge.

Life at Cambridge was very hard, and we think, lonely for Brain being a miner’s son from Shirebrook, studying alongside the elite of the land. It was not a comfortable experience, he did not enjoy leaving his home each October but did complete his degree in Latin and Ancient History.

Whilst at Cambridge he sent his nieces treasured gifts of the most beautiful animal photographic books from Cambridge shops, he did though send his family first editions of Lady Chatterley’s Lover!

After Cambridge, he started to travel and throughout his life visited France regularly, while his health allowed. We understand he had grand plans for travel after retirement but sadly his health declined.



All his life he had a love of literature, and languages. Many of his books were in French, Latin or German. We discovered that he identified grammatical errors and corrected them, all his books were very well thumbbed.

He also loved classical music, particularly Baroque and Organ music, Bach being a particular favourite. His collection, initially on vinyl, included so many of the great composers, and also lesser known musicians.

He played the Church Organ at local churches, including St Leonard’s Scarcliffe, St Mary’s Chesterfield and Holy Cross in Nether Langwith, mainly for weddings and funerals at weekends. He was the obvious choice for music at family weddings too.

Although a very private man he always attended and enjoyed family gatherings, and time with his nieces, Ann, Linda, Lisa and Claire and especially play fighting with nephew Stephen.

We have memories of him bringing a bottle of red wine to family lunches which in the sixties and seventies was considered very posh.

Brian travelled to Shirebrook regularly to visit his parents, taking 82 bus often detouring to Scarcliffe on route; both the Church and the Elm Tree pub being attractions.

After Cambridge Brian enjoyed a short spell as a teacher but decided it wasn’t the life for him, but struggled to find his niche. He worked for NCB estates before joining Chesterfield Tube Works, becoming Senior Analyst and Programmer moving on to the same role at Padley and Venables where he stayed for 20 Years only retiring four years ago at the aged 76.

We have received very moving and thoughtful tributes from colleagues and friends, amongst them:

“Top Bloke” “..... with his mind he should surely have been a Classical Academic...”.

“...was a source of significant inspiration to many”

Thanks for these they mean a lot

Brian continued to read and enjoy music and increased his collections both of books and music CDs. He also read books on Polish grammar, and many other languages. We believe he also tried and, knowing Brian, probably succeeded in learning Japanese.

Sadly the retirement from work was forced on Brian as his health declined, Brian became frail and in need of frequent kidney dialysis. He was then less able to get out and about and after several falls and exceptionally long hospital stays, finally agreed to move to Nursing Care. Brian was fiercely independent and strong willed, deciding that he would manage everything himself. His isolation was made worse by the current COVID circumstances. He remained in his flat with help from friends. He was always in our thoughts.

Surprisingly given his reluctance to even consider moving out of his flat he really enjoyed life at The Green and we would like to thank the staff who provided him with dignified care and made his last days as comfortable as possible.

Our thanks go to The Green at Hasland, Specialist Nursing Staff and Doctors at both Chesterfield and Sheffield renal units and his friends Mel and Mick.

*With thanks to Brian's family*

## **WILLIAM R STANTON (11/5/47 - 11/6/21) LARGE (1958 – 1966)**

William Roe Stanton died on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June in Newark-on-Trent after suffering from a chronic illness.

The Valet section of the December 1966 edition of the Cestrefeldian states that Will was a sub-prefect, gained A levels in Geography and Economics, was a Fellow of the Erasmus Darwin Society, played in the School Hockey 1<sup>st</sup> XI and on leaving School gained a place at Sheffield University to study economics.



Those of us who were fortunate enough to call him a friend remember him as a very warm, jovial chap who always bore a welcoming grin, which, as shown by the photographs, he never lost.

On graduation, Will joined Coutts & Co, "Bankers to the Queen" and remained with them and NatWest Group, which subsumed Coutts, for the whole of his working life.

For the majority of this time he was based in London, starting in a flat over a car spares shop on the Finchley Road.

It was at Coutts that he met his wife, Gill, and they set up the family home in Kent and had two sons. Following a three year spell working for the bank in Jersey, they returned to live in Newark from where he commuted into London until he retired in the late 1990s.

Throughout he maintained a very strong connection to Chesterfield and always considered it to be "home".

He was very active in the local community in Newark especially after he retired. He had been an active member of the Notts County Sailing Club (NCSC) since 1995, worked with the scouts and had lots of other hobbies and interests.

In their tribute NCSC said "He was one of those people with loads of enthusiasm and a smile. Many ..... will remember his advice and willingness to pass on his knowledge.

Will was our RYA training principal for a decade, he championed both young and old instructors and sailors and was awarded the RYA National Volunteer award in 2012, whilst still principal. He was always down at the (*Last of the*) Summer Winers, helping them get on the water, and maintaining the clubhouse or boats. Will was on Newark PCC as treasurer and also treasurer to the local scouts. He was very well thought of across sections of the Newark community."



His younger sister Sally says "He was extremely well thought of, was a lovely guy, a great brother and he will leave a massive hole in all our lives" a sentiment that others who knew him will understand.

William is survived by his wife Gill, his 2 sons Tom and George, his daughter-in-law Natalie and granddaughters Isobel and Eleanor.

William's funeral will be / was held at Holy Trinity Church, Newbold Road at 2:30 pm on Friday July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*With thanks to Notts County Sailing Club, Sally Stanton, Martin Tither, John Drabble, other friends and family members.*

## **ROBERT (BOB) E YOUNG (- 5/6/21) CLARKE (1941 -1948) FOLJAMBE (1958-1976)**

Bob Young died peacefully in St Luke's Hospice, Sheffield, on 5th June, aged 90 years.

He attended School as a pupil from 1941 to 1948. The December 1948 Cestrefeldian records that he was a School Prefect, gained an H.S.C., and State Scholarship in 1947 and a place at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was active in Cross Country running and the Dramatic Society and Secretary of the Classical Society, Socratics, and Historical Association. On leaving School he joined H. M. Forces.

Bob returned to School as Head of Latin and Classics in 1958 and is very fondly remembered as a form master and by those he taught. He left in 1976 to join Her Majesties Inspectorate of Schools becoming staff inspector in charge of publications.

Bob was a much loved husband, dad and grandpa.

A service to celebrate his life was held at Holy Trinity Church, Millhouses, Sheffield on Thursday 24th June.

*Thanks to Roy Parkin for advising us. Includes material from The Derbyshire Times, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2021*



## **DONALD HOLLINGWORTH (1/12/39 – 6/2021) BRADLEY (1951 – 1955)**

According to his 1955 Valette entry Don Hollingworth (b.1/12/39) left to become a mining trainee. However, he must have had a change of heart as he spent his entire working life on the market, becoming famous for his 'three for a pound, your strawberries' call to passing customers at Ayres' fruit stall. On his first day on the market he was told to 'stand there and don't move' - It was an instruction Don took to heart as he worked on the stall, opposite Marks & Spencer, whatever the weather, until his retirement in 2013.



Don died recently after a short illness and his wife Maureen had passed away previously, but the couple had three sons and five grandchildren. Their youngest son Steve worked with Don for many years on the market and described his dad as 'a true icon of Chesterfield'. Don's family say he worked through many changes on the market and lamented it was not as busy as it used to be. These included the loss of transport through the centre of town and the bus station at the bottom of the Market Place. However, despite being on the stall 'in all weathers', he used to describe his time as a market trader as a 'great life', fondly remembering the price of oranges being a dozen for a shilling when he started.

Daughter-in-law Katherine Hollingworth, who is a Chesterfield borough councillor, said: "The market was always a big part of his life and where many of his friends were, even after he retired he was always in town catching up with people. I remember him letting his grandchildren help serve on the stall. They loved it, especially being allowed to shout 'pound a bag'. To describe Don to their friends my daughters would always say: 'the man who shouts on the market'. Everyone knew who it was. He was a lovely guy who will be missed by us all".

The funeral was on 17 June when Don's funeral cortege passed his old stall on its way to a service at Chesterfield Crematorium. Here stories were shared about Don and there was a further celebration of his life at The Market pub, one of his favourite haunts.

*Acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times with additions by Frank Gorman*

## **J DEREK KILLINGSLEY-SMITH (9/1/39 – 4/5/21) – LARGE (1950 – 55)**

John Derek Killingsley-Smith of Crich, formerly of Chesterfield passed away peacefully on 4th May 2021 aged 82 years. Dearly loved husband of Kate, much loved dad of Debbie, stepdad of Sarah and Libby. Cherished grandad, great grandad, loving brother of Barbara and a dear friend to many.

His 1955 Valete entry under the name of Derek Smith, as he was then known, records: GCE; CCF Cert A part 1; Swimming; Dramatic Society; Clerk, Bryan Donkin's.

Derek joined Derbyshire Police after his National Service in the Grenadier Guards. He served in Derby, Ripley, Alferton and Chesterfield finishing in the rank of Sergeant. He retired on the grounds of ill-health after being assaulted at Chesterfield Football Ground, in about 1990/91. He later became Head of Security at Chesterfield Royal Hospital. He was a member of the IPA (International Police Association) for 50 years. He was chairman of the Matlock branch of the Grenadier Guards Association.



He was very active in a number of community projects around Chesterfield, Matlock and particularly in his home village of Crich, including becoming the founding editor and chairman of Crich Area Community News, and also previously Chairman of Crich Carnival Committee and Crich Christian Coffee Club.

Chesterfield FC also said "We are sad to announce the death of founder-member and lifelong fan Derek Killingsley-Smith. Derek had been a season ticket holder for many years at Saltergate and was a regular in the lounges at the Technique Stadium. He played an active part in Armistice Day events in the Club's Memorial Garden".

Service was held on Friday 14th May 2021 at St. Mary's Church, Crich at 12:00 p.m. Donations in lieu of flowers may be given for 'The Colonel's Grenadier Wounded in Action Fund'.

*Frank Gorman - with acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times and various internet sources.*

## **BRIAN AUSTIN - LINGARD (1945 - 52)**



His December 1952 Valete entry reads House Prefect; G.C.E. (Advanced Geography, History, Economics); 1st XI Soccer, Full Colours; 1st XI Cricket, Full Colours; Athletics; Swimming; Geography Society; Dramatic Society; Nottingham University.

Brian Austin was born on 22nd of January 1934 in Derby. In 1939 he was registered with his parents at the Police Station, Lodge Way, Mickleover (which was then in the county, not Derby Borough). His mother was Kathleen, known as Effie. His father John, known as Jack, was a police superintendent with the Derbyshire Constabulary. John Austin was a very proud Ulsterman and this pride had a strong influence on Brian's upbringing.

Brian's parents moved from Derby to Chesterfield where he attended Chesterfield Grammar School and excelled academically as well as enjoying many sports. He subsequently graduated from Nottingham University with a BA in Industrial Economics, which in those days was seen as a very good way into general industrial management as well as accountancy. He also played competitive bridge at University level

After his National Service in Malaya, Brian met Rita Jackson in Chesterfield and they married in 1959, eventually settling in Boothville, Northampton in 1969. Brian devoted himself to his job working in the British footwear industry and bringing up his family, always encouraging John, Julie and Robert to do their best at school and in further education. He set his standards high and enjoyed keeping the garden and house looking good. Brian was extremely well educated and well read. He wasn't afraid to put forward his opinions in a robust manner! He enjoyed get-togethers with friends and a good lively evening - often ending up with singing. He thought he sounded like Pat Boone.

In 1982 Brian moved back to Chesterfield to care for Effie after the death of his father. Effie developed dementia and sadly passed away. This hit Brian hard but fortunately he had already met Barbara who became his second wife - she was there as a great support to Brian and his family during a very challenging and sad period in his life.

During this time he joined the Chesterfield Library Victoria County History volunteers' group where his main contribution was to pass on an enormous, if eclectic, collection of extracts he had made from the Derby Mercury relating to Chesterfield, culled from reading the paper page by page on microfilm in the library, long before it was digitised. These extracts, mainly sale notices, proved very useful. I think he began by looking for references to tanneries he found in the paper but then realised how much more there was in it of possible interest. He was also useful as one of the older members of the group who'd



grown up in Chesterfield with memories of the town going back to just after the war. He was also active in the local Citizens Advice Bureau and Chesterfield Local History Society.

He also made many new younger friends including Peter Bullock, to whom he acted as a business advisor for Peter's footwear business, from which he gained a great deal of satisfaction with the two became firm friends.

Towards the end of his career Brian worked in Ethiopia, Egypt and West Indies on extended business contracts with the United Nations International Labour Organisation. In 1993 he travelled to China to spend a year as a cultural ambassador for Chesterfield - where he was affectionately known as Professor.

In 2007 Brian sold his home in Chesterfield to relocate back to Northampton to be near his two sons. Life had become slower but still rich.

In January last year it became apparent that he needed a little more care and moved to Grangefield Care Home in Earls Barton. The family are very grateful to all the staff at Grangefield for making the last year of Brian's life so happy, lively and full of fun, even through the challenges of lockdown.

Brian will be remembered for his kind, giving and generous nature. He was always ready to hand out advice and share his wisdom, often being slightly bemused when others didn't share his enthusiasm for his latest research project! He was intensely proud of his children and grandchildren, he couldn't quite believe he was a great grandfather when little Jack was born to Holly and Bobby in October 2020. Of course he was tickled pink by the name! He would tell anyone and everyone about his grandchildren's achievements and activities and always looked forward to their visits.

The world will be a less colourful and quieter place without him.

*With thanks to Robert Austin and Philip Riden*

## **RALPH WATSON TOWNDROW (30/8/36 - 12/11/20) FOLJAMBE 1948 - 1955**

Ralph's December 1955 Cestrefeldian Valette entry reads "House Prefect; GCE; Corporal CCF; RAF Proficiency Certificate; Geographical Society., Chairman; Articled pupil, Accountancy."

On leaving School he joined Carline, Watson, Bird & Co. as an articled clerk and qualified as a chartered accountant.

He met Pauline during this time and they married in May 1960.

They went on to live in Kettering and Bedford before he joined Comet as Company Secretary in 1969 and settled in Swanland, near Hull. After being instrumental in Comet becoming a PLC, he left when it was bought by Woolworths, and latterly worked at Rosebys (a high street curtain and fabric retailer) as Financial Director.



He was an active member of many clubs and associations including Round Table, 41 Club and the Rotary Club, taking part in fundraising activities for charitable causes. After retiring at 60 he also became a Prince's Trust mentor, joined the Board of Prison Visitors as well as U3A and two wine clubs. His favourite tipple was red wine, and he spent many happy holidays with Pauline and friends touring the vineyards of France.

He spent time researching his family tree which led to his organising Towndrow family reunions and travelling to Canada, America, New Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

He had a love of traditional jazz and spent many evenings at local jazz clubs. He enjoyed a memorable holiday visiting New Orleans, the home of jazz. He also enjoyed his Old Cestrefeldian Society reunions.

Retaining his love of business, he never missed a copy of the Financial Times and thoroughly enjoyed, (luckily rather successfully) playing the stock market!

Sadly his advancing ill health with Alzheimer's meant he could no longer continue with his clubs, organisations and activities and he spent his last couple of years in a care home where the staff, who said of him "always a gentleman and always smiling", looked after him with kindness and compassion and he spent his days dancing, laughing and being made a fuss of!

He was a much loved family man and a successful and well respected business man. He was honest, hard-working and compassionate and he will not only be missed by Pauline, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, his brother and family, nieces and nephews, but by all who knew him. Ralph passed peacefully away on November 12th 2020 at Tranby Park Care Home, Hessle, near Hull.

*With acknowledgement to Ruth Saunt (née Towndrow)*

## **ROY WILLETT (1932 – 12/2020) CLARKE 1944 - 50**





Roy Willett, of Walton, Chesterfield, has passed away suddenly at home, aged 88. After leaving School at seventeen, he worked in the family business until called up to do his National Service in the army where he saw action against the Mau Mau in Kenya. On demob he rejoined the family business and went on to become Managing Director of Willett's Sweets for over 40 years, retiring six years ago.

A lifelong Chesterfield resident, he was a member and Chairman of Round Table, 41 Club, Chesterfield Rotary Club and was President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society in 1996.

His hobbies included watching his beloved Chesterfield FC and holidaying in USA, especially Florida. In his younger days he was a keen footballer and played for the OC's F.C. and later went on to establish Nomads F.C. He also enjoyed water-skiing into his late 70's.

Roy was predeceased by his wife Barbara in 2011. He leaves partner Sheila, son Jon, daughter Sally Witham, grandchildren Harry and Joe.

The funeral service took place on Thursday December 17, 2020, Chesterfield Crematorium, at 12.10pm.

*Courtesy of the Derbyshire Times (Dec. 10, 2020)*

## **J.E.W. EDWARDS (26-6-36 – 10/20) CLARKE 1947 - 52**

John Edwards, of Wingerworth, has passed away peacefully at Ashgate Hospice, aged 84.

A lifelong resident of Chesterfield: following a grammar school education, the majority of his career was spent in mining engineering around Yorkshire. The last 17 years of his employment, before retiring in 2003, were spent as a driving instructor around Chesterfield, a job he thoroughly enjoyed.

He was an excellent cook, gardener and keen follower of flat horse-racing. He also loved dogs, walking and the countryside, particularly the Peak District.

John was predeceased by his wife Barbara and leaves one daughter. The funeral service took place on November 4, 2020 at Chesterfield Crematorium.



*Courtesy of Derbyshire Times (Oct. 29, 2020)*

## **MARTIN KELLY ( - 08/20) Heathcote 1960 – 1966**



Martin Anthony Kelly of Newbold has passed away at home after a long illness, aged 71 years. Born in Chesterfield, Martin has been a lifelong local resident. He attended Highfield Hall before moving on to Chesterfield School.

Martin worked as an Estate Manager for over 30 years.

He was a keen golfer and enjoyed any sport. He also enjoyed gardening, dog walking and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Martin leaves behind his wife Jill, sons Ross and Matthew, daughters-in-law Kate and Katie, four grandsons and one granddaughter.

His funeral service to be / was held on Friday 21st August at 11.30am at Chesterfield Crematorium.

*Courtesy of the Derbyshire Times*

## **DAVID WELCH (30/10/45 – 9/11/2019) Foljambe 1957 - 64**

Dave was born in Brampton and his entry in the Valet Section of the December 1964 Cestrefeldian records that he was a School Prefect, a fellow of both the Debating Society and Erasmus Darwin Society but, oddly, omits to record that he was Secretary of the School Chess Club especially as he became a Chief Arbiter of the English Chess Federation and the 4NCL (Four Nations Chess League). On leaving School, he went on to Queens' College, Cambridge where he was the Librarian and Bulletin Editor for the chess club.

*The remainder of this item is courtesy of members of the English Chess League.*



*Courtesy of John Saunders*

He moved from Wallasey CC to Liverpool CC in 1968. He was eventually to become its President. He played a significant role in organising the Liverpool Chess Congress which in its day was a massive event.

He joined the arbiting team of the British Championships in 1981 eventually becoming its Chief Arbiter and Manager. Within the ECF (and its predecessor the BCF) he was the Manager/Director of Congress Chess and Chief Arbiter. He was awarded the ECF President's Award in 2007.

Internationally he was awarded the FIDE International Arbiters (IA) title in 1977 and the International Organisers (IO) title in 2010. He was awarded the FIDE Long Service award in 2016.

As well as being Chief Arbiter of the British and numerous local congresses, Dave had served as Chief Arbiter at the Gibraltar and Isle of Man Tournaments.

While in Gibraltar in 2017 Dave suffered a stroke, which left him debilitated. As a result of this he was unable even to visit a chess event and passed away in hospital at 6am on 9 November.

The above are the bare facts. They do not come close to giving an indication of the tremendous amount of work and effort and success David had in promoting the game he loved. Dave was just as happy working on the Minor Section of a weekend congress as he was being arbiter of a Grandmaster event. He was always happy to pass on his knowledge to less experienced arbiters who showed a willingness to learn.

Dave had no immediate family in the normal sense but he has left behind his family of chess players who will miss him greatly.

'A great servant of British chess' – Nigel Short

'He loved arbiting at all types of events, whatever the format and whatever the strengths of the players' – David Sedgwick

'David Welch contributed so much to British Chess as an arbiter and organiser over so many years' – John Saunders

'It was always a pleasure working with him' – Jack Rudd

'A gentleman of the chess world' – Howard Wood

'He was always a great encourager of people; a good arbiter and an astute judge of character' – Alan Atkinson

Dave was a great inspiration and mentor to me. I first met him in 1985 at the British in Edinburgh. We worked together every year after that at either the British, Blackpool or Hastings until his stroke in 2017. At one of the British Championships at Eastbourne we were using a complicated Swiss pairing system which was reserved for the British Championship only. The system was supposed to produce a unique pairing. We both came up with different pairings on one scoregroup. A check showed that both pairings satisfied the rules. When David saw my solution to a problem he thought it neater than his but not content with that he applied the same logic to a different scoregroup where a similar problem had existed. The outcome was a third version which became the published version. The special rules were abandoned at the end of that event! David also had a love of beer. When we were at the Olympiad together in Baku I would go out and get some nice dark beers which we both preferred to the mass produced lager that was on sale in the hotel bar. We sat together most evenings, downing a beer or two, chatting and putting forward suggestions for revisions to what was to become the 2017 Laws of Chess. One of these suggestions, regarding illegal positions, appeared in draft version 7 only to disappear in draft 8 which appeared only a few hours later and before we had finished our beers!

— Alex McFarlane

David was born in Chesterfield on October 30th 1945. He was educated at Chesterfield Grammar School where he both played and organised chess which his father had taught him. After a successful career at school he moved on to Queen's College Cambridge to study Physics. There he played for Queen's at chess and, believe it or not, was a cox in the College eight. After four years at Cambridge he qualified with an MA and got a job at Liverpool College as junior physics teacher in the Upper School (current Y9 and above). He started in September 1968 which was also when I started. I taught History and Sport, especially Rugby and Swimming, in the Lower School (Ys 5-8) so at first we did not see a lot of each other. I had played chess at University and agreed to start some teams in the Lower School in 1969. I remember meeting Dave at "The Tram" the staff pub, and we both mentioned that we would be able to drive the minibus after half term. It was then we found out we were both born on the same day – but in different countries. David was living in a College Flat in Croxteth Road and when Ann and I got engaged I was lucky enough to get the flat above Dave's. Dave remained the owner of his flat until his death although I moved to Wallasey in 2008.

After a couple of years running school chess during which time Dave became a BCF Judge he persuaded me to start doing Adult Congresses and I followed him down the path of International Arbiter and BCF Senior Arbiter. I remember Stewart Rueben saying that there would never be any law disputes when Liverpool College were playing! I am afraid I do not remember the exact dates when David moved up the arbiting ladder but he did become chief arbiter of the British Championships and also chief arbiter of the BCF (later ECF). We also started taking holidays together and travelled to Ethiopia, Libya, Jordan, Guatemala, Honduras, Crimea, Lithuania, Finland, Estonia, up the Hurtigruten, Rumania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and many other places. We also took school holidays – Dave did the finance and was very cheersed off when the Euro arrived as it was far too easy!

David retired due to ill health in 2000 but this did not stop him travelling or running chess. He did go to Azerbaijan for the Olympiad. Both of us had been involved in chess at Gibraltar from the start of the tournament and visited over 65 times. Sadly it was in Gibraltar in August 2017 that Dave suffered a severe stroke. He survived it but was left totally paralysed down the right side. He went in to Arundel Park Care Home where his many friends visited him. Gradually his health deteriorated and on 7th November he was rushed in to Royal Liverpool and passed away peacefully on Saturday 9th November.

He will be remembered as a true gentleman, polite, caring, hard working and with an excellent brain. His contribution to English Chess has been immense and he will be sorely missed.

— Peter Purland

David Welch contributed so much to British chess as an arbiter and organiser over so many years.

Dave was born in Brampton (Chesterfield), Derbyshire, on 30 October 1945. After attending Chesterfield Grammar School, where he captained the chess team, he took a degree at Cambridge University before taking up a teaching job at Liverpool in 1968. Also starting teaching the same day at the same school was Peter Purland, who like Dave was to become an equally distinguished servant of British chess over the past half century. The two spent their entire teaching careers at the same school, and often worked in tandem as arbiters and organisers over the same period of time and long into their retirement from teaching.

Dave joined Liverpool Chess Club in 1968 and eventually became its president, and organiser of the Liverpool Congress. He became involved in organising and arbiting at British Championships in 1981, later taking on roles as chief arbiter of the British (later English) Chess Federation and director/manager of congress chess. He was also chief arbiter of the 4NCL for some years. He was awarded the FIDE International Arbiter title in 1977 and the FIDE International Organiser title in 2010. He received the ECF President's Award in 2007.

I first came into regular contact with Dave at the Isle of Man and Gibraltar tournaments where he also officiated as chief arbiter for some years. His vast experience of chess organisation made him a safe pair of hands, and almost the automatic go-to man when a major congress needed someone to take charge, as happened at the Monarch Assurance Isle of Man tournament when Richard Furness passed away. Dave's firmness of resolve and stentorian voice (albeit not quite matching the *molto fortissimo* of his Welsh colleague Peter Purland) will remain a particular memory of these events. These schoolmasterly traits gave way to a more whimsical personality, and a wicked sense of humour, when off-duty over a pint in the bar at the end of play. One small example: when musing over the experimental one-game knock-out tournament format being proposed by Stewart Reuben for the Hastings Congress in 2004/5, Dave told me, "if it works, we will call it the Hastings System. If it doesn't work, we will call it the Reuben System."

Dave died on 9 November 2019 after suffering a stroke which left him greatly debilitated some two years ago. His is a great loss to British chess. I shall miss him greatly. RIP.

— John Saunders

## DAVID M LONGDEN (28/12/38 - 07/2020) Foljambe 1950 - 55



David Michael Longden of Calow passed away peacefully at home, aged 81. Born in Chesterfield, David was a lifelong local resident.

His Dec.1955 Valete entry shows *LONGDEN, D. M. G.C.E.; C.C.F., Cert. A. Part I; Orchestra: Met. Soc. Assistant. Chesterfield College of Technology.*

David went on to work as an Electronic Engineer, running his own company, Permic Emergency Lighting, from Schoolboard Lane, Brampton, premises until his retirement.

He enjoyed Rotary, photography, electronics, travel and spending time with family. He leaves behind his wife Diana, daughter Dawn, son Derren and grandson Heath-David.

The funeral service took place on Tuesday 28th July 2020 at Chesterfield Crematorium.

*As published in Derbyshire Times on July 30, 2020, with additional information by Frank Gorman*

## IAN HOOD (10/10/44 – 05/2020) Heathcote 1956 - 1962

Ian Hood of Tapton, Chesterfield has died peacefully at home, aged 75 years. Born in Brampton, Chesterfield, Ian was a lifelong local resident.

After leaving Chesterfield Grammar School, he worked as a local government officer in Weights and Measures, and later transferred to Derbyshire Fire and Rescue working as a CAD Drawer until

his retirement at age 53 to help run the family business - Hood's Florist, with a shop on Station Road, Whittington Moor.

Ian was an avid dog lover and had a passion for driving, and caravanning throughout Great Britain, with Scotland being his favourite destination. He also enjoyed watching sport on TV and his biggest passion was smoking his pipe.

He leaves behind his wife Sandra, his children Diane and Antony, six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

His funeral was held at Chesterfield Crematorium on 4th June.



*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times of 18 June 2020*

## **ROGER DUNN ( - 2/5/2020) Foljambe 1949 – 1956**

David Roger Dunn, 82, retired Headmaster, much-loved husband, father, grandfather and friend, died on 2nd May in the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield as a result of Covid-19.

Roger was very successful at School both academically and on the field of sport. He achieved a County Exhibition specialising in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry while also being captain of the soccer 1<sup>st</sup> XI and playing for the County.

He was School Vice-Captain and Foljambe House Captain in the 1955/56 school year after which he studied at Leeds University.

Further details of Roger's activities at School can be found in the [Valete section of the December 1956 edition of The Cestrefeldian](#).

*With thanks to Roger's family.*

## **RUSSELL BRADLEY ( - 2013), Large 1941 – 48, OCS President 1999**

Russell Bradley entered Chesterfield Grammar School in 1941 on a Peter Webster Scholarship. He spent seven very happy years there to the age of 18. He did his National Service in the RAF: the usual cliché, he always said he went in a boy and came out a man!

On demob, he opted out of University and joined the Town Clerk's Office in Chesterfield Town Hall. He was subsequently articled to Richard Clegg OBE (Richard was credited with thinking up the town motto "Aspire".)

On qualifying as a solicitor, after attending Guildford College of Law and Sheffield University, he was appointed Assistant Town Clerk of Worthing, Sussex.

He married Laila in 1961 and after five very happy years in Worthing, Russell decided to move north to be nearer to parents and was appointed Deputy Town Clerk for Scarborough. However, he had an eye on the huge reorganisation in local government, knowing that Scarborough would be greatly enlarged. This came to pass as the greater Scarborough area included Whitby, Filey and many small authorities.

The Yorkshire Coast was his patch until after 15 happy years as CEO and Town Clerk, he asked for retirement. He always had a great interest in town planning and after retiring, was head-hunted by the D.O.E. and became a planning inspector, travelling all over the country.

At 65 he had to retire but having a strong work ethic, he was appointed CEO of the Sea Fisheries Committee of England, travelling and attending meetings with the Minister of the time. This post he held until he retired at 75, but still continued to take periodic planning commissions. He worked until ill health overtook him in his early 80's and he died in Scarborough in 2013 aged 83 not out, bad light stopped play.

His interests were sport, particularly football (he played for the OCS'), cricket, theatre and horse racing. He owned several good winning horses.

He always said that the Chesterfield Grammar School had a huge influence on his life and had the honour of being President in 1999.

Russell and Laila are both from Chesterfield and were always proud of that. Perhaps they never really left.

*With thanks to Laila Bradley*

## GRAHAM STOCK 21/02/1937 – 10/02/2020, Bradley

Douglas Graham Stock Brigadier Retired, Q.H.S., M.B., F.R.C.S., O.St.J., L./R.A.M.C. former Queen's Honorary Surgeon and formerly Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Q.E.M.H., Woolwich, has died on the 10th February, 2020 in Kings College Hospital, London after a lengthy illness borne with characteristic, stoicism and good humour.

A "Derbyshire Lad" who was born in Old Whittington, attended Chesterfield Grammar School where he was a keen School, County and then Medical School hockey player. A fine singer, he was for many years a chorister at Chesterfield Parish Church (the Crooked Spire) before studying medicine at Charing Cross Medical School, London, then still in central London, where he graduated in 1962.

After completing 'house' and other jobs in London he joined the Army in 1965 where he served for 32 years in many varied locations including the Oman, Nepal, Northern Ireland, Hong Kong, Belize, Germany and the U.K.

He became firstly a Consultant in General Surgery before re-specializing in Orthopaedics which was his primary professional interest. He was appointed Queen's Honorary Surgeon and Senior Orthopaedic Consultant Tri-Services. He was invited to lecture internationally on the treatment of missile injuries having gained wide experience during his various postings.

A man with his feet firmly planted in the earth he never lost his love of Derbyshire's hills and mountains, pursuing this interest even beyond Base Camp on Everest. Away from surgery he was a keen sportsman (hockey and squash) and a highly successful gardener, keeping a productive allotment (even in the Royal Herbert Hospital grounds, Woolwich) whenever U.K. based. He served for 32 wonderful years.

He leaves a wife of 59 years, Barbara (ex-Chesterfield St. Helena Girls High School), a daughter, a son and seven grandchildren by whom he will be indescribably missed.

Further details of Graham's time at School can be found in the [Valete section of the December 1956 edition of The Cestrefeldian](#).

*With thanks to Barbara Stock*

## JOHN F. LOCKHART - LINGARD 1943 - 50

John Francis Lockhart (15/8/31), of Cliff House Care Home since August 2018, formerly of Old Tupton, has passed away aged 88.

Born in Upper Langwith and a resident of Old Tupton since 1966, John was a music teacher at Edwin Swale School, until his retirement approximately 30 years ago. He was a congregation member at St Mary and All Saints, Chesterfield, where he regularly played the organ for Sunday Services. He was also PCC Secretary and a PCC member for many years. Music was his main passion and he enjoyed holidays in Scotland.



Fellow OC Wilf Webster recalls: "At the time of our schooling, our families were resident in the village of Langwith Junction and John was a prefect on our train, known as the Shirebrook Flyer. You might recall that he sometimes played the organ at our end-of-term services in the Spire. Among we lower ranks he was known as "Lucy", from the nursery rhyme :Lucy Lockett lost her pocket / Kitty Fisher found it / There was not a penny in it / But a ribbon round it."

John leaves his sister Yvonne and the funeral service took place on February 27, 2020, St Paul's Church, Hasland, at 11.30am.

*Published in Derbyshire Times on Feb. 20, 2020*

## RICHARD A MOWBRAY 16/9/1946 – 29/11/2019 (Large 1958 – 1965) Economist and lecturer

RICHARD Mowbray, who has died after a long illness at the age of 73, was an economist and lecturer who once contested the Glasgow Hillhead parliamentary constituency, and was a regular contributor to the Herald's **letters** pages.

He was born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, the younger son of John and Ada, and brother of Michael. A shy, quiet, bookish boy, he flourished when he won a place at Chesterfield Grammar School, becoming Large House Captain, involved in music and hockey and an active member of its debating, and geographical and economics societies. A lifelong interest and involvement in **politics** developed, and he was highly critical of the policies of the Heath government.

When he began his undergraduate degree at the London School of Economics in 1965 he was already a member of the Labour Party. His progress from Labour, for whom he stood for parliament in Hillhead in 1979, through the SDP, the Alliance and onto



pro- Conservative, pro-Brexit positions, were, he said, a sign that politics and parties changed, but his views had remained the same.

After graduation, he worked briefly at Rolls Royce in Derby, before returning to the LSE to do a Masters degree, then onto Glasgow University to study for a PhD, which he never completed. He met his future wife, Marilyn White, whom he subsequently married. They settled in Glasgow.

A career in education began in 1972 when Richard became a tutor at Swansea University before becoming a lecturer in economics at Paisley College of Technology the following year, where he continued to work until retirement in what had by then become the University of the West of Scotland.



As an economist, Richard lectured thousands of students, but he was, if anything, more passionate about real-life economics. Support for such issues as the sale of council houses to sitting tenants, a central plank of Thatcherite policy, saw him move away from Labour. He identified with whichever party or policy would achieve the best outcomes for ordinary people.

Richard was a formidable opponent, always ready with evidence of an economic or historic nature to demonstrate his points. It was this forensic ability to dissect an argument that made him a natural writer of letters to the editor of this paper. He took on all-comers on whatever was the issue of the day.

Richard loved sport; he was a keen golfer from the age of 12, and once completed the Old Course at St Andrews in 79, just seven over par. He remained forever loyal to his hometown team, Chesterfield FC, and also came to greatly enjoy Scottish country dancing, a hobby of Marilyn's for many years.

Marilyn introduced him to opera, which he loved, and they enjoyed attending classical music concerts together. He loved good company, good wine and good food, as well as entertaining and cooking. Holidaying in Europe was another pleasure.

"Grumps" to his six grandchildren, Richard revelled in being a grandparent, taking great delight when he unexpectedly made them laugh or when he could see their photos in Facebook on his ageing iPad. He is survived by Marilyn, daughter Laura, son Neil and his six grandchildren, Daniel, Cameron, Lucy, Lily, Melissa and James.

*Courtesy of Ann Gibson and The Herald*

## **CHARLES GERALD WOOD 6/8/1932 – 1/2/2020 Playwright**

Though he was born in the British Crown dependency of Guernsey - his parents were actors in a repertory company playing in Guernsey at the time - he left the island with his parents when he was still only an infant. His parents worked as actors in repertory and fit-ups (traveling theatrical groups) mainly in the north of England and Wales and had no fixed place of abode. His education was, until the outbreak of the Second World War, sporadic. The family settled in Chesterfield, Derbyshire in 1939. The first house they rented was 1 Cromwell Road and the second was 20 Abercrombie Street. He attended St Mary's Catholic Primary School from which he was awarded a Special Place at Chesterfield Grammar School.

At the war's end, the family relocated to Kidderminster in Worcestershire where Charles Wood obtained a place at King Charles I Grammar School. He was by now old enough to work in the theatre managed by his father Jack Wood. This was The Playhouse, later demolished. He worked as a stagehand and electrician and assistant to scenic artists in his spare time at weekends and every night. He also played small parts in the repertory company produced by his father. His mother Mae Harris was a leading actress in the company. In 1948, Charles Wood gained entrance to Birmingham School of Art to study Theatrical Design and lithography.

Wood joined the Army in 1950, and served five years with the 17<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers and seven years on reserve. He was discharged with the rank of corporal, reduced to trooper on entering the Regular Army Reserve.

He married Valerie Newman, an actress, in 1954. She was working in repertory in a theatre at Worcester, the Theatre Royal, once the second oldest working theatre in the country.

On leaving the Army, Wood worked as an electronic wireman at BAC, Filton near Bristol. Later he worked as a scenic artist, layout artist, stage manager in England and Canada. He returned to Bristol with a job in the advertising department at the Bristol Evening Post (at the same time Tom Stoppard was a journalist at the newspaper) until 1963 when he became a full-time writer.

He is credited with writing 15 theatre plays, 32 television scripts, 11 film screenplays, 5 radio plays and with 6 translations.

*Courtesy of Wikipedia.*

For further details see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Wood\\_\(playwright\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Wood_(playwright))

## JOHN LILLEY 1935 - 2019 (Heathcote 1947 - 52)

John Lilley (born 2/8/35) died at Chesterfield Royal Hospital on Christmas Day, aged 84.

Brought up in Brampton, he attended Chesterfield Grammar School, where his 1952 'Valete' entry records an involvement in cross-country and, rather presciently, as a library assistant. On leaving school, he joined the staff at Chesterfield Library, later becoming Reference Librarian and then Local Studies Librarian, a post he held until his retirement in 2000. During this time he contributed to a number of books about Chesterfield in bygone years.

His interests were many. He had a strong interest in local history and was instrumental in establishing both the Brampton Living History Group and the Chesterfield & District Local History Society. A member of Rose Hill United Reformed Church, he held many posts over the years including those of Elder, Junior Church Leader and Youth Club Leader. He also maintained the church archives. Music was also important in John's life - especially choral singing; he was a member of the Church Choir and the Co-operative Choral Society. He also enjoyed gardening, bird-watching and was a season-ticket holder and life-long fan of Chesterfield FC.



Fellow OC, David Botham, also paid his own personal tribute. *"On Christmas Day, 2019, Chesterfield lost a quiet, self-effacing gentleman of the old school."*

*John Lilley was a librarian. In the town's reference library, he assisted generations of students with their research. He passed on his own enthusiasm for local history both at work and through his membership of local societies. He was also a gifted amateur musician, content to sing an accurate tenor line in choirs and play "second fiddle" in orchestras, he was very much the team player. He was a lifelong supporter of Brampton Congregational Chapel and subsequently Rose Hill United Reformed Church. The town owes him a great debt of gratitude. His passing will be mourned far more than he himself would ever have expected. Thank you, John".*

John lived in Walton and was married to Audrey for 59 years with one daughter, Catherine. The funeral service was held at Rose Hill URC on Tuesday January 14, 2020 at 12 noon followed by cremation.

*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times and David Botham.*

*Philip Riden (Foljambe, 1963-70) adds:*

I first met John in my last year at Rother junior school, when my class undertook a project on different aspects of Derbyshire, which I still regard as a seminal moment in my discovery of local history. We were taken to the old reference library to see some of their holdings and I remember John speaking to the class.

Throughout my time at Chesterfield School I spent an increasing amount of time using the local collection at the library, which I now know was largely John's creation. Some material had obviously been acquired before he started work there, but it was he who spent a great deal of time arranging it and, equally important, adding to it. Over the years I have learnt to recognise John's neat handwriting on the cataloguing stamp in hundreds of items, often with 'Donation' written where the purchase price should have been. He was the sort of dedicated old school local studies librarian who was so widely known and respected in the town that all sorts of publications (many of which have otherwise sunk without trace) were donated by their authors or publishers to the library. He also secured a number of important donations of manuscript material, especially before either the Derbyshire Record Office or Chesterfield Museum was established, which would otherwise have been destroyed.

It was almost entirely due to John's professional skill, hard work and enthusiasm for local history that the former borough library built up such a fine local collection. For some years after the service moved to the county, the momentum he created was kept up by specialist staff but sadly that era has now ended. Too few people now realise that libraries need properly staffing as well as properly stocking.

Personally, I owe John a great deal. He put up with my incessant demands as a keen but ill-directed teenage local historian, and was particularly generous in letting me borrow duplicate copies of scarce standard works on Derbyshire, often for months on end. Much of my interest in industrial and transport history, which has never left me, resulted from being allowed to borrow a set of John Farey's monumental three-volume *General View of the Agriculture and Minerals of Derbyshire*, published in 1811-17, to read at home from cover to cover in the days before photocopying. My first academic article was largely based on work done at the library and I am happy to spend the concluding years of my career using the collection again as the Victoria County History editor for Derbyshire.

John also epitomised the kind of local government officer who put service to the public beyond any ideas of self-advancement. I doubt if he ever had the slightest wish to become a 'library manager' or (after 1974) move to a better paid job at County Hall, thus becoming divorced from books and from serving the public. He was quite content looking after and developing the local collection at Chesterfield, and being involved in the life of the town in many other ways. He was an outstanding example of that generation of Old Cestrefeldian who gained so much from their time at the Grammar School and put so much back into the community in later life.

## KENNETH ARTHUR MARKHAM 1929 – 2018 (Clarke 1940-46)

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2018, Kenneth Markham (born 1929), teacher, University lecturer, lover of cricket and highly capable DIY handyman, died peacefully surrounded by his family at St George's Hospital, London.

After leaving school he went on to National Service with the RAF, before studying English and Philosophy at the University of Nottingham on an NUM scholarship graduating in 1953. In 1959, he moved to Wales to take up a teaching post at what eventually became the University of Wales, Department of Psychology. He retired from there in 1994 having lectured in philosophy of mind and related topics for over thirty years, a role which for him was more a passion than a job, bringing him high regard from all those he taught.

In 1962, he had also gained a postgraduate diploma in History and Philosophy of Science from Oxford University (he was resident at St Catherine's College).

He is survived by his wife Rosemary, three children and 11 grandchildren.

*Information courtesy of James Markham*

## JAMES BODEN (Lingard 1936 - 41)

Lifelong Chesterfield resident Mr James Boden of Holymoore Road, has passed away in Dronfield, aged 94 years. James was for many years the owner of Boden's Restaurant at Low Pavement in Chesterfield. He was interested in sailing, golf and his beautiful garden. He is survived by his wife Rita and daughter Cara.

The funeral took place on July 5, 2019 at Chesterfield Crematorium at 3.10pm.



*Published in Derbyshire Times on July 4, 2019*

## MICHAEL BUCKLEY OAKES (1937 – 2018)

Dr Michael Oakes died on 3 September 2018, his valiant fight against cancer having been ended when treatment proved counterproductive. Mike enjoyed several rewarding months with his wife Christine and sons Richard and Matthew and their families before dying at peace on his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday.



Mike attended Chesterfield School from 1949 to 1956. He was a successful and versatile sportsman, gaining much success for Clarke House and for the school in hockey and cricket. Frank Peacock recalls Mike's prowess as a left arm swing bowler – oddly, enhanced through a side-effect of an accident in the gym! and in his final year became a team member of the Barbarians, a Chesterfield cricket club.

On leaving school Mike gained a first class honours BSc degree in mathematics and physics at Sheffield University, moving on to the University of Wales at Bangor, where he was awarded a PhD in Applied Maths, following research and publications in the area of atmospheric circulation in regard to weather forecasting, and was for many years a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and also of the Royal Statistical Society.

From Bangor, Mike took up in 1962 an appointment as lecturer in mathematics at the Royal College of Advanced Technology, Salford – thereafter Salford University – which he held for 21 years. As course tutor he worked on the development of integrated sandwich courses, and participated in various national and international committees and conferences.

In 1983 Mike started a new challenge, as head of the school of quantitative studies of the West Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education at Swansea, where he ran a mathematics degree course until 1990, when he took early retirement to Oxford to teach mathematics at Magdalen College School, until full retirement in 2000.

Mike's sporting interests continued – he gained a Blue at Sheffield in hockey, and at Bangor in both hockey and cricket. Later he played – and taught - golf to a high standard, and with his wife Christine and their sons, enjoyed travelling and walking. His full and active life was celebrated in a service held at St Michael's Church, Cumnor on 24 September 2018, where he was remembered by all as the kind, supportive gentleman he always was.

## **RICHARD A LAMB 30.11.46 - 23.06.18 (BRADLEY 1958 - 65.)**

His Valete entry in the December 1965 *Cestrefeldian* lists Richard's school record as School Prefect, House Captain; Advanced History, Geography, Economics; Hockey 2nd 11, House games.

He went on to read Economics at Durham University and joined the family firm of motor dealers, Gordon Lamb Ltd., on graduation in 1968.

Initially, he ran the company's Saab distribution centre which had the rights to sell the cars and spare parts to a network of dealers in five counties. He also became a director of Saab GB. In due course he became the MD of Gordon Lamb Holdings Ltd until selling the company to Bristol Street Motors Group for £18.7M in 2017.

A Derbyshire Times announcement says that he "died peacefully in Ashgate Hospice on 23 June 2018". The funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, on 23 July prior to interment in Ashford cemetery. He leaves his second wife Sarah and his children Stephen and Eleanor plus grandchildren.



*Courtesy of Frank Gorman*

## **JOHN MOSS 1940 – 07/03/2018 (LARGE 1951-1956)**



Mr John Moss, of Wingerworth, Chesterfield, has passed away at home, aged 77. A lifelong resident of Chesterfield, John was a policeman, starting out as a police cadet in Chesterfield on leaving school at age 16, then serving at Glossop, Buxton and Matlock. He finished his career at Chesterfield as Divisional Commander (Chief Superintendent), retiring at the age of 50. Following his retirement John enjoyed golf, bowls, gardening, taking cruises and family holidays in Norfolk. An Old Cestrefeldian and member of Chesterfield Rotary, he was a passionate supporter of Chesterfield FC who enjoyed Big Band swing music, cooking, eating and socialising with his friends. But the most important thing in his life was his family. John leaves his wife Glenys, sons Andrew and Richard, grandchild Wilfie, The funeral service took place on 26th March 2018 at Brimington Crematorium.

*Courtesy of The Derbyshire Times*

John was President of the Old Cestrefeldians' Society in 2004 and played a leading role in organising the Annual Dinner and Reunion.

## **JOHN COLIN WILSON (1946-2017)**

You could often ask Colin how he was and he would say 'I am lovely'; so what is meant by that one could think about: perhaps he felt loved by God and those close to him, despite all his health difficulties. One person said that he would light up the room with his presence, and that was certainly true. He always had a ready smile for everyone and was a very good listener. He rarely passed an opinion and you could always know that your secrets were safe with Colin.

He was a quiet man but with an incisive mind that could cut through difficult situations, technical or social. He wasn't interested in prestige but cared about people – that smile for everyone got him most places.

Colin was born in Chesterfield in 1946 and attended Chesterfield School, Clarke house. His father was a chemist and buyer at Robinson's and his mother a typist. His father died young – Colin, at 16, left school and went to work to support his mother. His first job was as a cost office clerk at Robinson's, following which he moved to Sheepbridge Engineering as a trainee management accountant, later transferring to information technology as a programmer, team manager and eventually, Chief Programmer. This led to a career with Peterborough Software and Zeda as a systems consultant specialising in computerised payroll systems, taking him all over the country working with banks, shipyards and other large organisations.

In 1976, Colin married Kate: they were married for ten years until Kate's death in 1986, leaving Colin with their daughter Charlotte, then aged five.



Colin, now 43, married Christine in 1989, and their twenty-eight year marriage produced two sons, Bernard and Joseph.

To allow him to work nearer home, Colin moved to the Post Office IT Department, again as a systems consultant engaged on payroll and pensions project; later he undertook similar work as an independent consultant at Boots in Nottingham.

Throughout his later life Colin was plagued by ill health, but managed to fight back each onslaught. He was forced to retire early, but took on a different type of work at Mount St Mary's College as their Transport Manager. Though this entailed working antisocial hours, Colin relished the chance to serve the community. He loved being in the driving seat in more ways than one – in his younger days his hobbies included rallying with his friends, hence he became familiar with mechanical and electrical equipment. He could always fix a technical problem, heading a good housekeeping team and maintaining a car for seventeen years.



He was a member of the Catenian Association, though unable to attend regularly in later years.

Colin was a convert to the Roman Catholic faith. He attended St John's Newbold, a High Church Anglican parish church, as a child with his grandmother Hart, and became a chorister at seven years of age and an altar server at ten. After becoming a Catholic he continued as a server at the Church of The Annunciation, logging up over fifty years' altar service between the two.

At The Annunciation, Colin was a member of the Parish Council and for over forty years a Eucharistic Minister. He was a founding member of two conferences of the charitable Society of St Vincent de Paul, at Staveley and at Dronfield, and acted as Treasurer for Missio (the official Papal charity for overseas missions) in The Annunciation parish.

Whilst so often having to retreat into the background because of ill health, Colin lived an exemplary life, and after a long fight, died peacefully with his wife beside him in hospital.

*Courtesy of Mrs Christine Wilson*

## **ROBERT M D ROWLAND 1937 - 2017 (LINGARD 1948 - 1951)**

Robert was the son of Tom Rowland, the manager of the Odeon Cinema in Chesterfield. The family lived on Avondale Road and Robert was at the School until his father's promotion to the Bristol Odeon moved the family away. His older brother, Christopher Rowland, also went to School prior to a short but distinguished career as MP for Meriden, curtailed by his early death at the age of 38. (See separate entry in "Some Distinguished Old Boys section.)

Robert went on to Oxford, where he became President of the Oxford Union, prior to joining the BBC TV where he became a current affairs film producer on 'Panorama'. After helping to start 'Nationwide', he was promoted to the Editorship of the 'Money Programme'. He followed this with the Editorship of 'Panorama'. He left BBC in the mid 70s to become Head of the BBC's academic partnership with the Open University.

In the mid 80s, he became the BBC's Controller of Management Development and Appointments, with a wide remit across the BBC's recruitment and promotion policies. He left the BBC in the late 80s to become Managing Director of an independent production company, producing videos for business and industry. He moved in 1992 to a new independent company, CTN, to develop broadcasting by satellite and the web for business communication. He had wide experience as a media trainer and consultant.

His outside interests included membership of the Strategic Health Authority and the Independent Monitoring Board at Feltham Young Offenders Institution. He was also a Governor of the English Speaking Union and a judge at its International Public Speaking Competition.

John Pilkington, a contemporary, remembers "I would guess that I first met Robert at age five at Highfield Hall School. I remember we shared a room during a trip from HH to Whitby, circa 1947. By that stage our back gardens almost faced each other in Avondale / Cromwell Roads. I remember that he got quite passionate about the assassination of Gandhi - of whom I had hardly heard - and introduced me to Tannhauser."

Robert made his home in Richmond where he died on 25 Sept. 2017 after a brave battle with Parkinson's disease, leaving his wife Nuala, sons Daniel and Alexander and four grandchildren. The funeral was held at St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond, on Wednesday 25th October, at 2pm.

## **CHRISTOPHER N CROFTS (26/12/36 - 02/02/17)**

Chris Crofts (Foljambe 1948 - 55) was the son of two local teachers and started in 1L (KS Mackay). Never a sporting boy his main contribution was to act as scorer to one of the School cricket teams. However, academically, he was one of the good number of budding scientists that had joined in the 1948 intake and he went on to Trinity College, Cambridge, to read Natural Sciences.

Ken Hambleton was a schoolmate and fellow student at Trinity and recalls: "He was not the most agile person and we used to have to help him climb back into College when we had been out late and the gates had been locked. He bought a set of bagpipes with his first term's grant and sent his College bill back home for his father to pay. He later said he preferred the piano - as he said he couldn't stand his pint of beer on a set of bagpipes! He also played the mouth organ and performed Scottish reels for a group called the Young Caledonians to dance to on various village greens when they went hiking in Derbyshire."

He went on to teach chemistry and biology at Thorne Grammar School, Doncaster. It was here that he taught Lesley Garrett, who went on to become a famous opera singer and who recalls in her book *Notes From a Small Soprano*, "One day at the end of a biology lesson, as I was rushing to leave to get ready for a performance, my teacher, Mr Crofts made a caustic, throw-away remark which stuck in my mind., 'Of course Lesley, once you get to university, you won't have time for all this music.' "



After taking retirement in his early fifties his wide range of interests included pot-holing and fell-walking, becoming an accomplished chef and entertaining family and friends. He also participated widely in amateur dramatics and played the piano accordion. Mention must also be made of his sartorial elegance and style; always being extremely smartly dressed with a check shirt under a tweed jacket, along with a silk handkerchief in the breast pocket, plus corduroy trousers resting above a pair of highly polished brown brogues, and a broad smile on his face.

Quiet and unassuming with a dry sense of humour, Chris was a fund of knowledge on all things to do with model railway wagons. Since he first took an interest in railways in 1943 his primary interest was the Midland Railway's Dore to Chinley line in LMS days. Behind that softly spoken Derbyshire accent lay a man dedicated to finding out all things railway wagons, the results of which were freely made available to fellow enthusiasts.

He was a regular attender at the 48ers annual reunion dinners and lunches with a fund of anecdotes about School life. Chris was also an active member of the Chesterfield Freemasons' Scarsdale 861 Lodge becoming Master in 1988 and 2005, continuing a family tradition his father had begun in 1973.

The funeral service was held on 28 Feb at Great Longstone Parish Church and afterwards at the White Lion, two minutes' walk from the church. He was unmarried and leaves a sister, Alison, and her family in Herefordshire.

*Courtesy of Frank Gorman - with acknowledgement for some content to the LMS Society website eulogy.*

## REV. JAMES EDWARD STRINGFELLOW (1927 – 2017)

James Edward Stringfellow was born into the Derbyshire mining community of Bolsover where the hard times of the 1930s depression were the unquestioned backdrop to his childhood. He was the eldest of three children of Methodist parents who possessed a proud faith.

Jim was a reformer, a mystic. He faced each day with curiosity and an inner stillness. He found much that was imperfect, unfair and unjust but he was not easily daunted.

Jim knew his call to the ministry at nine, decided to follow Christ at 15 and was a preacher at 16.



### Original

In many ways Jim was a one-off, an original, something of an enigma. A scholarship to Chesterfield Grammar School led him into a wider world, but not before he was called up as a Bevin Boy and sent to the same pit as his father and uncles for three years. This gave him a fellow feeling for ordinary people and a lifelong pride in his Derbyshire roots.

He served half a dozen circuits from Hammersmith in the south to Blaydon in the north.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Brenda, after nine years' courtship and their children were born during their nine years spent serving in Eastern Nigeria: four daughters and the sadness of a son who did not make it.

Jim found his niche particularly as Further Training Secretary at the Division of Ministries. He was responsible for new initiatives ranging from a non-residential MA course to the development of a farm project for budding artists. He knew where

he was going, he didn't brow beat, he just persisted and proved the seemingly impossible could be attempted. Although he never sought recognition or status, he did make a name for himself.

For years, theological colleges had annual "Stringfellow weeks" when Jim persuaded principals and others to suspend the curriculum for a few days to do their studying differently - lay people as fellow students, visiting speakers on such subjects as "Great Thinkers of Today" or brainstorming from scratch.

### Respected

Jim's style was reflective. Someone who respected him greatly said that some folk did not find Jim easy company. In his notes Jim said he "sought deep conversation and so often seemed anti-social". No small talk; genuine meeting with others at depth was his metier. Jim also said he "loved new experiences, taking every opportunity to taste them".

There were some experiences that hurt badly. In his last circuit, his beloved Brenda died and he faced up to some lonely years. On the eve of retirement he was knocked down and badly injured; a long recovery ensued and his daughters gave him great support and care. With their encouragement, he slowly regained his zest for life.

Jim made contact with Jill Bowden, a past colleague. They married in 1995. In 1996, an appeal came for two ministers to help in Nevis, Leeward Islands. Then Montserrat was devastated by volcanic eruption. Jim led Bible studies in shelters and travelled the island tracing the displaced, letting folks know they were not forgotten. He travelled with Jill to the Hong Kong Conference, into mainland China, scrambled aboard the Chinese Trans-Siberian Railway and was arrested at the Mongolian border by grim-faced armed guards. On a last minute whim, Jim journeyed with Jill by train through Europe to visit major art galleries.

### Supportive

Jim loved each generation of his family and was supportive of them all. They fondly remember long summers in the north of Scotland in the caravan. He loved to walk with them over moors, munros and mountains, from early till late. He enjoyed words and poetry, especially R S Thomas, and wrote several hymns and songs. Always a prolific reader, in his last months he was taken in his wheelchair to a lecture on the Brontës. Asked if he had enjoyed it, he said "It takes some doing to make such an interesting subject so boring!"

He hated small talk and could bring a struggled debate to its end with a sentence. During a sexuality debate at synod he said, "If I did the calling - most of you wouldn't be here. And if we all did the calling - none of us would be here! But it is God who calls!" and sat down to stunned silence. Jim walked the path of reconciliation. The morning after 9/11 he travelled to a Halifax mosque to assure law-abiding Muslims that we did not blame them for the atrocity.

Aged 90, frail and almost blind, Jim blurted out during the long vigil of his dying: "I want to go!" "Oh, yes, grandad, where do you want to go?" "Heaven, of course!"

His very last word was on Easter Day, "Halleluia!"

*Courtesy of The Methodist Recorder / Eric Locke and Jill Bowden*

## **E. MICHAEL HOPKINSON (13/7/1937-15/5/2017)**

Michael Hopkinson died on 15 May 2017 at Ullapool, of pneumonia after a short illness, eight weeks short of his 80th birthday. He leaves his wife Susan, their daughter Bridget with her husband Michael and granddaughter Kirsty, and their son Simon with his wife Vanessa.

Michael moved to the school from Highfield Hall in 1948. He proved to be an effective spin bowler for Clarke House, enjoyed cross-country running, and as a VI former, ran the Poetry Society; he was also a film enthusiast. He left school in 1955 having secured a place at Balliol College Oxford, where he read Modern History under Dick Southern and Christopher Hill. For a year Michael was president of the university Arts Club, and he was a winner of the prestigious Gladstone Memorial Essay Prize for a thesis on Derbyshire and the 1745 Jacobite Rising. It was at Oxford that Michael and Susan met, though they had to await Susan's graduation to marry – Oxford lady undergraduates had to be single in those days!

Electing to teach, a year at the Oxford Institute of Education including a practice term at Ashbourne Grammar School was followed by his appointment in 1959 as Head of History at Cavendish School, a girls' grammar school, at Buxton, where he stayed for three years before moving as Head of History to Harrogate Grammar School. This post Michael held from 1962 to 1985, during which period the school became comprehensive. Throughout these years Michael achieved considerable success in preparing suitable students for Oxbridge and other universities, while at the same time aiming to optimise the potential and capacity for independent thinking of youngsters across the ability range. He himself took a year out in 1974-5 to obtain an MA in Political Sociology at Leeds University under Prof. Ralph Miliband, after which he was designated Head of History and Politics.

In 1985 Michael moved to Torquay to head the History and Politics Department at the selective Torquay Boys' Grammar School, so that Sue, whose own career was flourishing, could take up the post of Head of Stonar School, an independent girls' school in Wiltshire, where Michael was able to join her at weekends. Sadly it was not long after this that he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and in 1990 he moved over to live and teach at Stonar himself until he and Sue retired to Wester Ross, where they enjoyed a long and happy retirement together.

*Courtesy of Richard H Turner*

## **ROY NELSON (- 2017)**

Roy Nelson, of Walton, has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, 86. He attended School from 1942-49.

Born in Sheffield and a resident of Walton for 68 years, Roy was an insurance broker; managing director of E. D. Notcutt & Co (Midlands) Ltd, West Bars House.

He enjoyed playing golf, was a member of Chesterfield Golf Club, a keen amateur radio enthusiast and supported Chesterfield F. C.

The husband of the late Olga, he leaves son Michael.



*Courtesy of the Derbyshire Times*

## **CLIFFORD H. HASLAM (1930 – 2017)**

Mr Clifford Haslam of Chesterfield has passed away aged 86 years.

Mr Haslam was a retired company director. From Chesterfield Grammar School (where he became house captain of Heathcote), Mr Haslam gained entry to Oxford University to study history at Exeter College after which he embarked on an international career spanning many continents before becoming a company director in Mexico City where he worked and lived for 25 years.

Mr Haslam spent the first 25 years of his retirement between California and Chesterfield. He left the warm winters of California to return home to Chesterfield in 2011.



His love was opera and over his life had heard many great tenors and sopranos of the world. He also loved walking in the Derbyshire countryside followed by a traditional pub lunch.

Mr Haslam leaves several cousins and godchildren.

A private funeral was held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Brimington Crematorium.

*Courtesy of the Derbyshire Times*

## **SIR JOHN FRETWELL GCMG (15/6/1930 - 30/3/2017)**

Sir John Fretwell GCMG, (OCS President in 1999) died on 30 March at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. He leaves his wife Mary, two children and three grandchildren. His Funeral Mass was at Brompton Oratory on 10 April at 11am.

Sir John attended the school from 1940 to 1947 and was in Lingard.

**Leading diplomat who played a key role in developing Britain's relationship with Europe and took Brexit as a huge personal blow.**

Widely acknowledged as one of the best diplomatic brains of his generation, Sir John Fretwell was at the heart of the two great preoccupations of British foreign policy since the Second World War: the containment of global communism and the protracted attempt to reorientate policy in keeping with Britain's new membership of the European Economic Community.



Fluent in Russian and Chinese, he spent his early years in Beijing, then known as Peking, and Moscow, where he witnessed first hand the widening Sino-Soviet split and faced the challenge of several crises over Berlin provoked by the brinkmanship of the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. He was also a commercial counsellor in Warsaw at a time when Britain was trying to improve trade with the eastern bloc.



In his mid career, tiring of working “behind enemy lines”, he asked for postings that demanded more cordial diplomatic skills. His reward was to be made part of the team smoothing Britain’s entry into the Common Market and overseeing the complex legislation and practices needed to integrate Britain into the policies and structures of its European partners. He helped the Wilson government mastermind the 1975 referendum confirming Britain's entry and provided the evidence for Margaret Thatcher to make her demand for a better financial deal. His death comes almost a year after Britain turned its back on his life's work and, after 43 years of membership, voted for Brexit. It was, for him, a huge personal blow.

In his long retirement he saw the lasting legacy of his wife, Mary, who successfully campaigned against compulsory quarantine for all animals brought into Britain and pioneered the pets’ passport for those animals that have a certified record of inoculations. For this Lady Fretwell was appointed OBE for services to animal welfare.

Far removed from the mandarin image of British diplomacy, Fretwell came from a modest background. He grew up in Chesterfield in Derbyshire, the son of Frank Fretwell, an accountant, and his wife, Dorothy. Both his grandfathers were coalminers. A bright child, he won a place at Chesterfield Grammar School and even at the age of 13 dreamt of a “glamorous job” as a diplomat. He left school at 16, having already won a place at King's College, Cambridge.

Before his National Service he spent “an extremely agreeable” year in Lausanne, where he was struck not only by the contrast of this rich Swiss city with the postwar conditions in Chesterfield, but by the experience of looking at Britain from overseas.

His determination to become a diplomat was crystallised and reinforced by the invariable question: “Is your father in the Service?”

He gained a first class degree in French and Russian, passed the Foreign Office exams and hoped for a posting in Moscow. Instead he was sent to Hong Kong in 1954 and told to learn Chinese. After a year he was posted to Peking. It was, from the start, an adventure. He crossed the bridge from the British colony under the gaze of Mao, 15 portraits in a row, and caught a train to the Chinese capital, where the British embassy was one of the few western missions operating in the country.

China, Fretwell later recalled, was the most intense experience of his career. It was before the Cultural Revolution, when controls on westerners were relatively relaxed. He was able to wander all over the country without facing the dirty tricks used against individual travellers in the Soviet Union.

Relations changed when the Suez crisis erupted in 1956. China, championing Egypt, organised a protest by two million people outside the British embassy. The ambassador coolly decided to receive them, and volunteered Fretwell to stand outside. Fearing this test of his language skills, he was relieved when 20 elderly Chinese, with white beards and cloaks in the tradition of ancient scholars, courteously handed over a written protest. They were followed by younger demonstrators who, with less courtesy, threw their protests at Fretwell for 48 hours. The diplomats, including a young Douglas Hurd, weathered the storm.

In the same year, as Khrushchev denounced Stalin’s legacy, relations between China and the Soviet Union, the communist allies, deteriorated. The British embassy staff, cautiously courted by Soviet diplomats, were unsure whether this was a facade intended to fool the West. Fretwell concluded, rightly, that China would never again take orders from another country. He returned to London and was put in charge of the Aden and Yemen desk, but also turned his attentions to Mary Dubois, an elegant, young shorthand typist in the office. She was only 19 when they married in 1959.

His next posting was to the Soviet Union. “Compared to Peking, Moscow was incredibly dull visually,” he recalled. “Shopping was primitive. I don’t know how the wives put up with it.” As a couple the Fretwells were always hospitable, joining in the parties that were the standard diplomatic fare of life in Moscow. Shy and a man of few precise words, Fretwell was nevertheless happy to let his hair down at times.

His main job was to try to understand the enigma of Khrushchev. “Cuddly, podgy and jovial,” is how he recalled him, but also cunning. The erection of the Berlin Wall, the resumption of Soviet nuclear testing in the atmosphere, and the shooting down in 1960 of the American U2 spy plane kept East-West relations tense. Tired of the claustrophobic atmosphere and the undermining by the KGB of private contacts with Russians, Fretwell returned to London.

The Foreign Office then merged with the Commonwealth Office and decided to give commercial work a greater emphasis. Fretwell knew little of trade, but volunteered for training and was posted, at the age of 40, as commercial counsellor to Warsaw. He learnt enough Polish to enjoy himself but after two years there decided that he had had enough of communism.

Fretwell became head of the European Integration Department (internal) only six months after Britain joined the EEC; there was a huge amount of work slotting Community law into British law. Indeed, much of what he did over the next three years is what is now having to be undone.

When Labour came to power in 1974, Harold Wilson had committed the party to renegotiating the terms of entry. The Foreign Office had to work out how Labour could achieve its objectives without tearing up the treaty. The main objective was to cut Britain's bill for the European budget. In the end, the team got enough concessions to put a deal to Wilson, who in turn put it to voters in a referendum. The 1975 campaign, Fretwell admitted, was the closest the Foreign Office came to domestic politics. It created a referendum office to support the government position. The final result was a triumph: Britain voted by a margin of 67 per cent to approve the deal. Fretwell and his office celebrated with a giant cake in the shape of a map of Europe.

The budget issue did not go away. When Thatcher became prime minister, she demanded more money from her partners. She made lasting enemies of the French president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and the German chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, but at the Fontainebleau summit in 1984 the deal was struck. Britain got a rebate.

After two years as minister (No 2) in Washington, Fretwell became ambassador in Paris. It was a job that he and his wife took to with gusto. Mary was an energetic hostess of Britain's grandest embassy, while her husband, whose drafting skills and mastery of detail had been the key to his swift rise, now had the tricky task of winning over the socialist President Mitterrand - no natural ally of Thatcher. The crunch came with the Falklands conflict in 1982. Fretwell discovered that a French team, including a member of the security service, was advising the Argentinians on the use of Exocet missiles that France had exported to Buenos Aires. He told London - and lobbied Mitterrand hard. The French president stuck by his British ally and gave London the radar codes for the missiles.

Knighted in 1982, Fretwell's final post was that of the newly created political director co-ordinating the direction of British policy with his European counterparts. It was combined with being deputy head of the Foreign Office, as deputy permanent under-secretary. Fretwell remembered 16-hour working days and constant travelling. He felt the arrangement could not work. After his retirement in 1990 the job was divided.

Exhausted, he did not look for a second career. He made time for his interests - reading, walking, concerts and opera. He supported his wife's campaign for pet passports, and spent more time with his family - his daughter, Emma, who was bringing up three children, and his son, Ben, who has worked as a ski instructor. The couple stood by Ben when he developed a drug addiction and sought treatment.

Colleagues remember Fretwell as a man who did much of the legwork for ambassadors, was admired for his ability to draft policy and was satisfied at having achieved much from a modest background without snobbery or chippiness. He said that he had left office happy that he had seen the evolution of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall. "Having seen it go up, this was an excellent moment to leave," he said. "I really felt that my life as a diplomat had been successful."

Sir John Fretwell, GCMG, was born on June 15, 1930. He died from bronchial pneumonia on March 30, 2017, aged 86.

*Courtesy of The Times*

Sir John was President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society in 1990.

## **JOHN CHARLES VICARY KENDALL (1947 – 2016) - Heathcote**

John passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016 after a battle with Prostate Cancer. He was the co-author, with M.P.Jackson, of *A History of the Free Grammar School, Chesterfield*, which they wrote on completion of a research project in which they had taken part while they were in the Upper VI<sup>th</sup> form. A copy is held in the Local Studies section of Chesterfield Library.

After leaving school in 1965, John went on to London University to study Law. At the end of his second year however, having failed his exams, he left and became articled to a solicitor. He was still in London in 1969 when he met Elizabeth (Liz), who was training to be a physiotherapist; they married, and their union was to last for 45 years.

In 1972 John successfully applied for a position in Grantham as assistant to a solicitor in a newly opened office and took on responsibility for criminal cases, eventually becoming a partner in the firm. His career there spanned more than 30 years,

during which time he gained a reputation as the best local defence solicitor to act for you in court. He firmly believed that the accused person's version of events should be heard. His firm went through various mergers, until it became part of a regional practice.

Both John and Liz were members of Grantham Choral Society for many years and they were active in their local church, John serving as churchwarden. After John's retirement, he and Liz moved in 2007 to Liz's family home near Stowmarket in Suffolk, where John then served as a magistrate. Again they both played a prominent part in church life, helping with fund raising, and John helped to restart a church choir, of which he became a member. He also belonged to, and was Secretary of, the St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir.

John was diagnosed with cancer in 2013, but continued to live as full a life as possible. The Service of Thanksgiving held for him was attended by almost 400 people, some of whom had travelled a long way to be there. He is survived by his wife, son and daughter, and five grandchildren.

*Courtesy John Hammond with grateful acknowledgement to Liz Kendall.*

## **RONALD D PEARSON (1925 - 2016)**

Ronald D Pearson was born in March 1925 at 35 Yew Tree Drive, Somersall, the son of a Chesterfield schoolmaster who will be fondly remembered by Rhodian old-boys from the post-war years, and especially the nineteen fifties and early sixties when the late 'Pop' Pearson taught Science, Biology and Mathematics at William Rhodes School and was Deputy Headmaster to 'Thrasher' Stevens!

His name is legend to former pupils who were agog at his hands-on approach to the mysteries of physics – and the exciting experiments which he regularly conducted in front of a large and enthusiastic youthful audience in the school laboratory – myself included!

Young Ronald Pearson was a chip off the old block and showed an early aptitude for scientific knowledge by quickly grasping the rudiments of mechanics whilst assisting his father with experiments in the large workshop at his childhood home at Somersal.

Ron's aptitude for learning earned him a place at Chesterfield Grammar School where as the war raged throughout Europe, he excelled in mathematics and the physical sciences, as a result of which after leaving school he earned a six-year apprenticeship at Plowright Brothers of Chesterfield.

Rather oddly, Ron presented a different version of his schooldays when interviewed for the 'Spirit Today' website saying "I was always a lot nearer the bottom of the class than the top. I think I had learning difficulties and was lazy. I failed the 11 plus but had a mastoid ear for some months before the exam and was still in pain in the exam. My dad had to pay for me to go to the Chesterfield Grammar School in consequence. They had four grades in each year, each taught in a separate classroom. Top grade was A and bottom D. I went through school in the D forms. However, I amazed the teachers by getting a pass in the school certificate examination that equalled most of the best in the A form. So I was put into the 'science sixth'. This was exciting and interesting and the science and maths were easy to understand. I never looked back from then-on."



Whilst serving his apprenticeship Ron studied at Chesterfield Technical College where he attained his HND and went on to graduate with a London External degree (BSc. Hons) in Mechanical Engineering in 1946.

Whilst the development and invention of the jet engine by Sir Frank Whittle was making headlines, Ron Pearson was inventing a new kind of engine of his own called a Gas Wave Turbine which he subsequently developed to the demonstration stage. He was invited by Whittle down to Leicester where he spent five years researching heat transfer and developing jet engines as Research Officer at the National Gas Turbine Establishment.

In 1955 Ron, still only thirty years of age, accepted a post as lecturer in mechanical engineering under the famous Professor Horlock at Liverpool University – a post he held for five years. He was tempted to return to turbine development by Ruston Hornsby of Lincoln, but with no finance available for the necessary research he soon left and in 1965 went back to lecturing.

Ron accepted a post at Bath University where he lectured in thermo-dynamics and fluid mechanics for almost twenty years. In between he was invited to further his engine development by the National Turbine Establishment of Canada in a project jointly funded by engine giants Pratt and Whitney. In the event he declined and Ron's most vivid memory of his trip to Canada is of flying from Vancouver and being airborne at the same time that the space-shuttle blew-up!

Following his retirement in 1986 Ron switched his attention to physics and cosmology and it was through his study of cosmology and ether-physics that Ron came to accept survival after death as a reality and continued to advance this theory whenever he could.

Ron died in Bristol earlier this year. No more details known.

*With full acknowledgement to Tom Bates and the [www.aboutderbyshire.co.uk](http://www.aboutderbyshire.co.uk) website.*

## **ALISTAIR FRAME (- 6/7/2016)**

Alistair Surgeon Frame of Newbold passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital aged 85.

Born in Scotland, Alistair moved to England as a boy when his father became Inspector of Mines.

Educated at Chesterfield Grammar School, where he was an accomplished tennis player and at The University of Birmingham which he represented at golf, Alistair served his National Service in the R.A.F. with Ronnie Corbett.

Alistair set up his Dental Practice in Newbold, where he worked as a sole Practitioner for nearly fifty years. In his fifties he completed a degree in Law at The University of Sheffield while continuing in practice.

He was interested in all sports, but his greatest passion was horse racing and he would attend the major meetings and meet and be known to a number of well-known personalities.

Alistair never married and leaves a niece (Helen) and two nephews (Chris and Roger).

The funeral took place at Chesterfield Crematorium on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

## **TONY PEART (-26/9/2006)**

It is with very deep regret that we have to announce the passing of David Anthony "Tony" Peart M.A. on Friday 29 September 2006. As founder and curator of the renowned railwayana collection at Doncaster Grammar School, he gave freely of his time, knowledge and advice on all aspects of our hobby and contributed for many years to **RCJ** and its forebears. An enormous debt is owed to him by all enthusiasts - and auctioneers alike - for his ability to "cast his eye" over virtually everything and make a meaningful contribution to our corporate knowledge. We are fortunate to be the custodians of the bulk of his written output on Railwayana and will ensure that it remains accessible to everyone. It is hoped that the DGS Collection will remain a monument to his lifetime interest in transport matters, when its stewardship is transferred to the National Railway Museum. He was also a keen vintage road vehicle enthusiast and will be missed at rallies around the country with his AEC double deck buses - often having to choose between competing road / rail events! In every sense, "a Gentleman and a Scholar", it will be difficult to find his like again. **DW**

Tony Peart was educated at the Grammar School, Doncaster, and at the Universities of Liverpool and Nottingham. A career teacher, he first taught at Keighley Boys' Grammar School, but most of his teaching career was spent as Head of English at Chesterfield School, the town's Grammar School, where he taught from 1963 to 1991. Upon closure of Chesterfield School, when the town's schools were reorganized in 1991, he worked at Danum School, Doncaster, in a variety of capacities, lately confining himself to the role of Chief Examinations Invigilator.

While a schoolboy, at the instigation of the late C.T. Goode, Tony Peart established the Doncaster Grammar School Railway Museum, which, with the initial help of successive secretaries of the school's Railway Society, grew to become one of the largest collections of railway historical material in existence, eventually becoming associated with the National Railway Museum. Tony also became well known through his two preserved AEC double deck buses, which were extensively and very successfully rallied from 1971 onwards.

A prolific journalist, Tony Peart had his own column in Railway Collectors' Journal from the late 1980's. He wrote regularly for a number of transport publications and, again from the late 1980's, took charge of the Preservation Scene column in Vintage Roadscene magazine.

*Courtesy of Prorail UK*



## **DR. ALAN HOPKINSON (1950-2016) - Clarke**

As the eldest of four equally gifted brothers, Alan enjoyed a stimulating childhood in the family home at Springfield Avenue, Chesterfield. His caring nature and Christian faith won him friends at school (Clarke House 1961-67), university and throughout a successful career.

Old Cestrefeldians may remember Alan's cheerful grin and love of travel and transport as evidenced on school trips and in his amazing model railway layout. His aptitude for language and logic won him a place at Balliol College, Oxford and a career in librarianship that coincided with the introduction of IT. Alan soon became a leading expert in this discipline and helped set up new cataloguing systems in various countries. He relished the many international trips that this entailed, collecting countries like other people might collect just the stamps. Sometimes, when time and budget allowed, other members of his family would join him.

In 1980 he married a talented lecturer, Marion Colledge. They set up home at Beverley Crescent, Bedford. Their children, Paul, Ruth and Mark Daniel are proof that (with hard work and commitment) it really is possible to raise a family while both parents also pursue successful careers.

By 2012 Alan had become (amongst many other things) Chairman of the British Standards Committee on computer applications in libraries, Chairperson of the International Library Group and also of the UNIMARK committee of the International Federation of Library Associates. He wrote four books and one hundred articles. Many of his responsibilities were in the voluntary and charitable sector and continued well into "retirement".

It was therefore all the more tragic that during a routine hospital procedure in 2013 Alan suffered serious brain damage and near total paralysis. Marion fought valiantly to provide him with the best possible care and therapy and it is greatly to her credit that Alan regained his speech and was able to spend his final year back home again at Beverley Crescent.

Alan's funeral was on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Queens Park All Saints C of E Church Westbourne Rd, Bedford MK40 4LD at 10am, cemetery committal following at Norse Rd cemetery MK41 ORL (Woodland area) at 11 a.m.

*Courtesy of David Botham - April, 2016*

## **ANTHONY CURTIS (1931-2016)**

Tony Curtis died peacefully at home aged 84. Born in Chesterfield and a lifelong resident, Tony attended Chesterfield School before doing his National Service with the Royal Signals in Malaya from 1949-1951. Tony attended Goldsmiths College, London and graduated as a teacher in 1953. Teaching History at New Whittington, Newbold Green and Stonebroom, he then moved to Calow Primary School and finally to Farmilo Primary School in Pleasley where he was Deputy Headmaster until his retirement in 1985. Tony and his wife Celia were keen caravaners for over 45 years and Tony was Chairman of the Derbyshire Centre of the Caravan Club and a member of the National Caravan Club Events Team. Tony was the Secretary of Court Chatsworth of the Forester's Friendly Society from 1984 to 2014 and he was involved at both regional and national Foresters events. Tony was an active member of Cavendish Probus Club and the Manvers Laryngectomy Club. He was also a keen collector of unusual artifacts and antiques. Tony leaves his daughter Alison, son-in-law Paul and grandsons James and Andrew. The funeral service took place on Thursday 14th April 2016 at 11.45am at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Old Brampton and donations in memory of Tony went to The Children's Hospital Charity (Sheffield) and Ashgate Hospice care.

*With acknowledgements to The Derbyshire Times.*

## **DAVID M CLARKE (1956 - 63) - Heathcote**

David Clarke of Brockwell, Chesterfield has passed away at Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, aged 70 years. Born (29/4/45) at Chesterfield he was a life-long resident of the local area. He was a school teacher at Clowne Junior school (67 - 71), Deputy head at Gorseybrigg Junior School (71- 95), supply teacher in local area (95-2010). A talented violinist, he was leader of Sheffield Symphony orchestra for 21 years and of several local operatic societies, enjoyed gardening, camping/ caravanning, dogs and crown green bowling. He leaves wife Christine, daughters Alison and Helen, grandchildren Holly, Louis, Rhys and Scarlett, his mother Gwen and sister Diane. The service took place at Bolsover Methodist Church on Friday 8th April at 3.00pm, followed by Cremation at Brimington Crematorium at 4.10pm. Donations to Chesterfield Royal's appeal for new cancer wing.

*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times.*

## **NORMAN K DICKEN (1936 - 2016) - Bradley**

Mr Norman Keith Dicken of Woodthorpe, has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, aged 79 years. Born in Chesterfield, he was a life-long resident of the local area. Norman attended Chesterfield Grammar School (Bradley 1947 - 52) and then started work as an apprentice draughtsman at Plowright brothers. He did two years national service in the RAF as a driver stationed in Aden. He worked as a project engineer moving to Staveley chemicals in 1974. He retired from there as Engineering Manager in 1995. He enjoyed playing golf at Bondhay golf club, was a member of Staveley miners' welfare bowling club, walking in the Lake District and loved his garden. Norman was very active, well known, respected and liked by everyone who knew him. He leaves wife Brenda, daughter Ruth and son Graham, brother Edmund, sisters June and Gillian, step-brothers John and David and step-sister Margaret. The service took place at Chesterfield Crematorium on Friday 1st April at 1.50pm. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Centre at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times.*

## **MAURICE HOPE (1944 - 52) – Bradley**

Mr Maurice Hope (16/12/32) of Brighton has died at his home at the age of 83 years. Born in Carr Vale, he excelled in his education and was an outstanding student at Chesterfield Grammar School gaining an Open Exhibition Award and a scholarship to Cambridge University. Before taking up his university place National Service called and Maurice enlisted in the Royal Navy where he was commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant. Recognising his specialism in Russian Studies the Admiralty posted him to the British Embassy in Moscow where he was employed as an intelligence analyst, a job he enjoyed immensely. On completion of his naval service in 1954 Maurice was able to take up his place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and it was here that he achieved a Master of Arts Degree in Modern Languages. Dedicated to helping young people achieve Maurice spent the remainder of his working life in education which culminated in his becoming Head of Languages at Brighton/ Lewes College. Extremely interested in European languages and culture, Maurice travelled extensively on the continent. After cremation in Brighton a committal ceremony at Oxcroft Lane Cemetery Bolsover for the interment of his ashes was conducted on the 1st March.

*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times.*

## **RICHARD M TAYLOR (1951 - 2016)**

Richard Martin Taylor has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, aged 64. A life-long resident of Chesterfield, he was educated at Chesterfield Grammar School (Heathcote 1963 - ?) and Crewe and Alsager College. He had a life-long interest in and deep knowledge of the local and national popular music scene and was a keen collector of music industry magazines. He was a keen football and cricket fan and managed a local boys' football team for a number of seasons. He was also an avid reader and collector of sporting year books and sporting biographies. Richard was a bachelor and is survived by six cousins. The funeral service took place on Monday 29th February 2016, at Rose Hill United Reformed Church at 1pm, followed by interment at Boythorpe Cemetery.

*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times.*

## **PETER WILCOCKSON (1927-2013)**

My Father, Peter Wilcockson, won his transformational place to Chesterfield Grammar School (House and years not known) thanks, to a dank and earthy well. Dad may have had to sit freezing by kitchen candle light in third-hand laundry water, but at least his brain cells were unsullied by the heavy metals which he believed had dulled his friends whose water came via lead piping. A poverty-stricken "Primitive Methodist" Peter didn't make many schoolfriends.

Peter regularly read to his illiterate grandmother, adding racy details to dull newspaper stories. His father who had left Ragged School at 12, forced him to leave school early so Peter became a clerk at Chesterfield Tube Co, quickly escaping to the Intelligence Corps for the end of World War Two in India and Israel.

Teacher Training College followed where he developed an amazing aptitude for ceramics and painting. For 11 years Head of Art at Queen's School Rheindalen Germany; he there met his future wife, fellow art teacher, Doreen. Two daughters followed, as did a return to teacher training college, Newlands Park, as Head of Art. His pottery included ceramic sheep, frogs, brains and figures. He was one of the first intake of the OU. He also acted, playing a very believable Sir Toby Belch, designing the programme. However, in 1979 Newlands Park became a business school. With redundancy he fancied a shot at quizzes, and so appeared on Mastermind, Brain of Britain, etc. On Bamber Gascoigne's art quiz, Connoisseur, Dad shone and was asked to act as a researcher for the second series. Later Peter wrote quiz questions for Bob Monkhouse's "Runway".



Peter Wilcockson with his daughters: he was a teacher early in his career and later encouraged reluctant readers at the local primary school

Peter managed an antique painting gallery in Chalfont St Giles and adored discovering bargains in dusty sale rooms. His garden was a fruitful Eden, complete with strange sculptures and ceramic animals, the setting for epicurean outdoor lunches. He was a wonderful Grandfather to Molly and Alex and Step-grandfather to Louisa and also helped reluctant young readers. His environmental campaigning brought back to life the missing river Misbourne. At 80 after a close call with death he threw away the key to the drinks cabinet. The mild cognitive impairment that now beset him was not always perceptible; almost to the end he could still recite lines of Goethe. Trees grown from pips are now an orchard. Months away from his Golden Wedding he died of pneumonia in Doreen's arms en route to the GP.

- Anna Somerset

Peter's funeral took place on Tuesday 26 March 2013.

The Royal College of Art Society said "We were saddened to hear of the death of Peter Wilcockson, husband of Doreen (a long serving member of the RCA Society Committee). Many of us got to know Peter during trips to Wood Church Air Shows, Tenterden Folk Festival, Stanley Spencer's Gallery, Cookham, and to Peter's and Doreen's wonderful homes, first in Chalfont St Giles then later to their fantastic 'Orange Farm Barn' in Kent - where their warmth and hospitality was always so abundant. All of us who had the pleasure of knowing Peter could say so much about his extraordinary scope of knowledge about art, life and the universe but it's enough at this time to say how much we shall miss him."

*Courtesy of The Guardian and rcasociety*

## **W DEREK BOTHAM (-17/01/2016) - Heathcote House**

Mr William Derek Botham of Bakewell (formerly Ashover) has passed away peacefully in Ashgate Hospice on 17th January, aged 82 years.

Born in Chesterfield, Derek attended Chesterfield School from 1942 to 1949 before training as a Chartered Surveyor and spent all his working life at the family firm of W.D. Botham and Sons (now known as Bothams). He was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. He was also a member of the Chesterfield Rotary Club and the 41 Club.

He was an active member of his local community in Ashover and spent many years as a member of the Ashover Show Committee before becoming Show President in 1993. He had many interests including tennis, sailing, walking and skiing and latterly enjoyed bowls and snooker.

He leaves behind his devoted wife of 30 years, Marie, his brother, John, nephew Peter, nieces Jayne and Kerry, stepdaughters Jill and Sally-Ann and ten younger members of the family. He will be very greatly missed by his family and by all his colleagues and many friends.

Following a private family cremation, a Service of Thanksgiving took place at Ashover Parish Church at 12.15 p.m. on Tuesday 2nd February.

*With acknowledgements to the Derbyshire Times.*

## **ERIC EDWARD BOLDRY (08/02/1929 - 04/12/2015) – Clarke House**

Eric Edward Boldry passed away on December 4, 2015 at The Green in Dronfield, Derbyshire.

He was 86 years old. Eric was born in Chesterfield and was educated at the former Chesterfield Grammar School. He met and married his wife, Mary (nee Glossop) in Chesterfield and was a supportive, loving husband for 65 years. Mary predeceased him in January.

He worked for Robinson's and Sons as a sales manager, before relocating the family to York to work for Ben Johnsons (later Donnellys) as a Sales Director.

He is survived by his immediate family including: daughter Sheila and son-in-law Frank J Durante of Dallas, Texas; his son Russell of York and two grandchildren—Lauren and Thomas.



Eric never lost touch with his Chesterfield roots. He loved football - playing in his younger days and later refereeing.

He served as president of the Old Cestrefeldians in 1970. He and Mary enjoyed travelling in their retirement.

Services - Chesterfield Crematorium at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, December 21, 2015.

*With grateful thanks to Sheila M. Durante*

## **FREDERICK C THOMPSON (12/4/1928 – 2015) - Clarke House**

Mr Frederick Charles Thompson, of Newbold, died aged 87 in Chatsworth Lodge Nursing home. Fred's place of birth was Whittington Moor on the 12th of April 1928.

He was educated at Chesterfield Grammar School between 1941 and 1946 being a member of the ATC and on leaving he worked with his father in Thompson's radio and television shop on Whittington Moor. After the death of his father, he went to work at British Telecom in Chesterfield retiring in 1986.

In his youth he was a keen tennis player and later badminton, eventually becoming a member of the Sheepbridge Bowls Club.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Barbara after nearly 54 years of marriage and by both families. Fred also leaves an older sister Birdie Townend in Riverdale Care Home and two younger brothers Derek in Wales and Barry in Chesterfield (both OCs), his older half-sisters Winnie, Gladys and Dorothy. He leaves four nieces Nicola Dexter in Nottingham, Vicki Plant in France, Jill Atkins in Wales and Susie in Derby, along with three half-nephews Peter, Robert and Roger.

The funeral service took place at Chesterfield Crematorium on Friday 9th October.

*With grateful thanks to the Derbyshire Times*

## **KEITH EWAN WILKINSON (- 17/09/2015).**

Formerly of Bamford, died on 17th September aged 83 years. A loving husband of the late June, dearly beloved father of Paul and Claire and loving Grandfather of Thomas, Eoin and Gabriel. Keith was the son of Alderman Leonard Wilkinson, a prominent local Labour member of the Town Council.

Keith was in Lingard attending School from 1943 to 1950. His interests were cultural rather than sporting. He was a witty lad with a ready tongue and good in the Debating Society being a winner of the Coxall Debating Prize. He was also prominent in School plays and, as a member of the Classical Society, performed on the lawn and terrace at Hurst House under Jennings and Gratidge. His final School year was in Upper Sixth Arts in Room 31 with Leonard Lodge as Form Master, and he was a contemporary of Roy Parkin, Martin Foley, Roy George, Michael Heath David Hooley et al. His "Valete" entry in the Cestrefeldian also refers to his membership of the Beekeeping Society. The entry also states that he left school to join the Forces, later attending Westminster College. We have no more details of his subsequent career except the thought that he was also a local JP.

His Funeral Service was at St. John the Baptist Church, Bamford, on Friday 25th September 2015, at 11.00am followed by interment at Bamford Parish Churchyard.

*Thanks to Frank Gorman with help from Roy Parkin*

## **BRYAN METCALF (17/8/1932 – 8/2015)**

Mr Bryan Shepherd Metcalf of Holymoorside has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital aged 82.

Born in Chesterfield and a life-long local resident, Bryan was educated at Chesterfield Grammar School (Heathcote) and Coventry Technical College.

After National Service with the Army in Malaya, he worked in the motor trade with Kennings before joining the family firm, T Metcalf and sons. Subsequently he worked with the car manufacturers Renault and Fiat and then the NHS before his retirement.





During his retirement he was a volunteer with the British Heart Foundation.

Bryan had a life-long passion for the outdoors, walking and climbing. He was a founding member and one-time president of the Castle Mountaineering Club, Sheffield, a member of the Austrian Mountain Club and of the L.D.W.A.

His wide ranging interests included art, Tai Chi, cooking and the Derbyshire countryside, of which he had a deep love and wide knowledge.

He leaves his wife Dulcie, son Tom, daughter Sue, grandson Mark, granddaughter Chrissie and a great grandson Jenssen.

The funeral took place at Chesterfield Crematorium on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 at 10.30am.

*Thanks to the Derbyshire Times, August 27<sup>th</sup> 2015*

## **DAVID GODBER (20/1/1940 – 7/2015) - Large House**

Mr David Godber of Wingerworth has passed away in Ashgate Hospice, aged 75 years.

Born at Chesterfield, he was educated at Chesterfield School beginning in Form 2S in 1951 under Mr BB Andrew. He was a life-long resident of the local area. Mr Godber was Headmaster at Bolsover Castle Church of England School before his retirement.

David enjoyed driving his BMW, gardening, walking, caravanning and DIY. He was pre-deceased by his wife Dot in 2014, to whom he was happily married for 49 years and leaves daughters Nicki and Kim, son Richard, grandchildren Laura, Emma, Liam, Alex and Ellie, sons-in-law Rick and Paul, daughter-in-law Lisa. The funeral service has taken place at Chesterfield Crematorium.

*Thanks to John Little and ChesterfieldToday.co.uk, July 16<sup>th</sup> 2015*

## **FRANK NEAL MBE KSG KGCHS (13/8/1926 – 29/9/2014)**

The Brothers of Sheffield (Hallamshire) Circle (*of the Catenian Association*) were saddened to learn that their President, Dr Frank Edward Neal, had died on Pilgrimage in Lourdes on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Frank had a full and active 88 years, much of which cannot be covered here.

Born in Derbyshire on 13th August 1926, the second child of Florence and Frederick Neal, a builder, Frank was raised an Anglican, educated at Chesterfield Grammar School and qualified as a doctor at Sheffield University in 1950.

At university he met Mary Sander, whom he married in 1952 having earlier converted to Catholicism. They had 12 children, also adopting a boy; 42 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren followed. Sadly his beloved Mary predeceased him after 58 years of marriage.

Frank worked initially at Sheffield's Royal infirmary. In 1955 his delayed National Service was undertaken at Harwell Atomic Energy Research Establishment, followed by time in the War Office. He returned to hospital medicine in Newcastle, moving to Sheffield in 1960 as Consultant Radiotherapist and Oncologist at the Royal Infirmary and Radiotherapy Centre.



Frank, determined to provide the best care for cancer patients, was instrumental in building Weston Park (Cancer) Hospital, becoming first a consultant there and later its CEO. He also contributed to the building of hospices in Sheffield and Rotherham. His services were much sought and he was Senior Examiner for the Royal College of Radiologists and Chairman of its Examinations Board; Chairman, Board of Management of both Weston Park Hospital; and Rotherham Hospice; Chairman of St Luke's Hospice Day Care Centre and President of Yorkshire Cancer Research.

He had many honorary and foreign distinctions and was Rotherham Citizen of the year in 1996 and made Freeman of the Borough in 1998 for his services to its Hospice.

Globally Frank was Chairman of International Committees on Adverse Effects of Therapeutic Ionising Radiation and Cytotoxic Chemotherapy. Between 1960 and 1992 he was a World Health Authority advisor on Cancer Control in India.

He retired in 1991 but continued to be active, and was instrumental in opening two hospitals in India. He visited India, Malaysia and Egypt lecturing, and providing assistance in developing cancer treatment and centres. Several Day Centres in Egypt were established as a result of his work.

Frank was committed to his faith, and an active member of many Diocesan committees and other church organisations. He and Mary were national co-ordinators for the co-workers of Mother Theresa of Calcutta and their home became the region's collecting point for supplies bound for India. They were also active in supporting LIFE and SPUC, often housing unmarried mothers and babies.

Frank was a founder member of Hallamshire Circle. He became President for the third time in his 88th year to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Those at the celebrations saw him discharge that function with great gravitas and humour. He was a traditional Catenian, active and committed, striving for the highest standards. He served as Provincial President for two years, rarely missed a meeting and was proud that his son Andrew and grandson Joe are Circle members.

The Queen conferred upon him an MBE for services to Cancer Medicine. He was made a Knight of St Gregory the Great for services to the Church and a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem for support to the Holy Land. He held the rank of Knight Grand Cross of the Holy Sepulchre.

Bishop Emeritus John Rawsthorne led his reception into the Immaculate Conception church, Rotherham. His Requiem Mass, offered by Bishop Ralph Heskett, was concelebrated by many of his priest friends. His parish priest referred to Frank's many achievements saying that he found most satisfaction in his membership of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and the Catenian Association.

Frank was a faithful and committed Catholic whose everyday life reflected the values he held dear: his faith, family, work and support for those less fortunate than himself.

The Neal family have lost a devoted father, grandfather and great grandfather; Rotherham one of its finest citizens; the Catenian Association an active, supportive and distinguished member and the various Orders have lost a faithful and noble knight.

We, who have known him, have lost a good friend.

May he rest in peace.

*Thanks to Joe McNally and Catena*

## **GRAHAM R VARLEY (23/11/41-2015)**

Graham has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, after a short illness. Born in Chesterfield he was a life-long resident of the area, latterly of Brockwell. He attended School from 1953 to 1960 being a member of Large House.

On leaving school all his career was in engineering: at Chesterfield Tube Works, S & J Kitchin, Tarmac, Markham and N.L. T. where he worked in personnel, training and recruitment.

He was a magistrate for many years.

Graham was Captain of the 1st XV Rugby Team for two years and a passion for rugby continued as he went on to play for Chesterfield RUFC. He also played a prominent part in the club as Selection Secretary and Subscription Secretary. He was also county standard swimmer. His other passions were Derbyshire countryside, Chatsworth and Cornwall.

He leaves his beloved wife Joan, with whom he was to have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August. The funeral service took place at Chesterfield Crematorium, on Wednesday, May 27.

*Thanks to Frank Gorman*

## **ANTHONY EDNEY (1952-2015)**

Tony attended school from 1963 to December 1969. He was a member of Heathcote House taking history, economics and French at A-level prior to studying History at King's College Cambridge.

His main interests were cricket (as scorer and umpire) and the Debating Society. The 1970 edition of the Cestrefeldian states "At Christmas the (Senior Debating) Society mourned the departure of Mr. A. G. Edney, our distinguished Senior Fellow. The subtleties of his inimitable style and good-humoured exchanges with the Deputy Secretary came to be a traditional part of the proceedings. He will be much missed".

He qualified as a CIPFA accountant and worked in local government in Cheshire, Essex and Redbridge before being forced to retire from full time work due to ill health. He was then able to manage some part time consultancy in local government and health. He married in 1973 and has two daughters and two grand-daughters. He continued to maintain an active involvement in cricket through local clubs for many years.

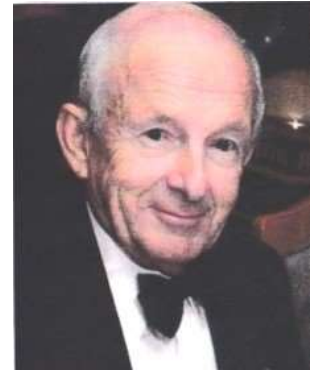
Tony died recently following a stroke.

## **JOHN NICHOL GILL (1930-2015)**

Mr John Gill, of Hasland, has passed away at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, aged 84. John attended Chesterfield School on moving to Chesterfield in 1943 until 1948. He was a member of Clarke House.

Born in Norwich, he had lived locally for 70 years, he was a solicitor and senior partner at Stanton and Walker, Chesterfield before his retirement in 1995. He had worked with the practice for 45 years.

He was involved with many clubs including being a past secretary for Chesterfield Golf Club, past chairman for Chesterfield Round Table, 41 club member, a freemason for 50 years and member of several lodges, U3A member, PCC secretary of Newbold Church and parishioner for over 40 years.



Mr Gill leaves his wife Ann, son Richard, daughters Susan and Stephanie and seven grandchildren.

The funeral service was on Wednesday 18th March at 11.30am at Newbold Parish Church, St Johns Road, Newbold, followed by private cremation.

Donations in John's memory are to Newbold Church.

*Thanks to The Derbyshire Times March 13th*

## **MALDWYN HUGHES (1940-2014)**

Mal died on 24th November 2014 one day short of his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday after a courageous fight against colon cancer.

He was born in Chesterfield and educated at Highfield Hall Primary School before spending two years at William Rhodes and then transferring into the third year (4JAC) at Chesterfield School being a member of Large House. He went on to train as a teacher at Westminster College London and taught successfully for 32 years mostly at Chesterfield School (from 1967) where he was head of year 11 and of Middle School.



He was a keen and able sportsman representing Derbyshire at cricket, having county trials at football, and playing two years in the School football 1st X1 latterly under the captaincy of Bob Wilson. He also putted the shot to good effect on School sports days. In adult life he played cricket for the Barbarians at Somersal for over twenty years and was still playing well into his fifties.

He was married first to Frances, and they have two children, David and Claire and three grandchildren. He married again in 1998 to Ann and they have a further five grandchildren. He is survived by his mother Edna.

In his late fifties he went to live in Scotland for 7 happy years. They lived towards the South West of Loch Ness not too far from Fort Augustus and there he developed his interest in photography. He became an exceptional photographer and was able to exhibit and sell his work. With Ann he spent many hours walking the moors where he was able to photograph the Scottish lochs and moors in all their moods. He subsequently returned to Derbyshire and lived at Hulland Ward near to Carsington Reservoir.

Mal was always upbeat and cheerful, he will be greatly missed by his wife and family, and by his many friends.

*Many thanks to Rob Wadd*

## **GEOFFREY WILLIAM FINNEY (1930 – 2014)**

*Geoff attended Chesterfield Grammar School from 1941 to 1948. He was in Large House and has been a regular attendee at Old Cestrefeldian Society Reunion Dinners.*

Geoff was certainly one of life's great characters. He enhanced so many lives, especially young people's. This was in whatever capacity be it as a husband to Pat, father, grandfather, or brother to David and as a friend, teacher and head master, work colleague, a Francophile, a fell walker, a keen long distance cyclist before cycling became fashionable, dog owner, a Rotarian and unquestionably as a Freemason.

He was proud to have been born and brought up in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. He also was extremely proud to have been educated at Chesterfield Grammar School and throughout his life maintained his membership of his old school association and attended their reunions. Even then he stood out from the crowd with his precocious intelligence. It was not all work because he was keen throughout his life on sport especially football. Derbyshire and the Peak District led to his love of the great outdoors and in the

years ahead, generations of school boys, parents and teachers were taken on walking and camping trips all over the UK and to France. This involved everyone piling onto the school coach driven by Geoff. Camp sites were carefully selected so they were near a pub for the mandatory evening teachers review meeting.

After school Geoff did his national service in the RAF and then trained as a teacher at St Paul's, Cheltenham. There followed his remarkable teaching career first at Clay Cross, then Pilsley before moving to Thetford, Norfolk.

He was appointed head of the Royal Free Boys' School on Bachelors Acre, Windsor (the youngest ever) and he remained head of that school and its successor, St Peters Middle School, in Old Windsor for many years. Generations of Windsor school boys and work colleagues benefited from his leadership.

Geoff was one of those people for which the rather overused saying *carpe diem* is justified. He was always involved in something, surrounded by mounds of paperwork. He was a man of the turf, who loved studying form, attending race meetings and having a flutter. He was a Rotarian for 45 years and the club's president in 1986. Geoff proudly upheld the rotary motto of service before self. He would regularly help out taking OAP's for drives in the countryside and shaking the Rotary bucket outside Tesco at Christmas while a blizzard was blowing. Whatever he was doing you could guarantee he would be talking non stop, telling stories, anecdotes and giving his learned views on subjects. God help you if you were in his car at the same time hanging on for dear life as journeys were made at rocket speed. Speed cameras were one of the very few things I knew which he hated with a vengeance.

No talk about Geoff though would be complete without mentioning his huge contribution to Freemasonry. He was Freemason for 57 years. He joined in Derbyshire in October 1957 and was initiated into St Thomas Lodge No 2583 and became their WM in 1970. He was in Thetford Lodge in Norfolk. He was a member of numerous Berkshire lodges in all sorts of masonic orders. What is quite extraordinary is that Geoff was what is called a Grand Officer i.e. the most senior mason, in almost every masonic order he was a member of. Geoff however was never one to be self important about his exalted rank. His heart was in ground root masonry – he was the founder and first master of Acre Lodge in 1972 which was set up for the old boys and staff of the Royal Free School. After his year as Master he was then the secretary for over 25 years and I can attest that he and he alone ran Acre Lodge.

He was a hugely knowledgeable mason and undertook extensive study and research into all aspects. Whenever a talk was needed Geoff was your man. Whatever the event or subject he was able to deal with it. Geoff had the good fortune to be blessed with a brain which surpassed usual intelligence. He was able to use that brain to teach, organise and benefit all those who came into contact with him.

Very sadly and cruelly Geoff was afflicted by dementia in the last couple of years of his life and during this time he was selflessly cared for and nursed by Pat.

The world will be a greatly lesser place without his presence. His lifetime's work will never be forgotten and his legacy will last for decades.

*Based on a eulogy provided by Geoff's brother David*

## **JOHN SPENCER COOK (1949-2014)**

John Cook, a local solicitor and lifelong resident of Newbold, has died aged 65. He was in Heathcote from 1960 to 1967, latterly as House Captain, after attending Highfield Hall School. At School, John was an active member of many societies, being a fellow of the Literary and Debating and Poetry Societies. He shared his inherited love of travel, giving talks on various expeditions on other school occasions.

John obtained his law degree in London and was then articled to a firm of solicitors in Mansfield, in which he later became a partner. He subsequently worked for Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw District Councils until his retirement in February 2014.

He had a wide variety of interests and was a long standing member of the Chesterfield Cricket Lovers' Society, where in recent years he served as Secretary. He had a wonderful store of amazing anecdotes and is remembered as an exceptionally caring and considerate man who was always keen to help and support individuals and causes.





John was proud of his Scottish ancestry, his father's family hailed from Helensburgh, and was a regular throughout his life at Murrayfield, where his parents first took him to see the Scotland Rugby team. A bachelor, he was a devoted and generous "uncle" to his cousins' children.

He continued to travel widely with friends, and was a regular visitor to Canada and Florida; he had only recently returned from Vancouver. He also maintained his interest in the arts, being a regular theatre-goer especially enjoying musicals which he attended both at home and abroad.

He did not take himself too seriously and his cheerful resilience and relaxed bonhomie were still apparent to those who renewed his acquaintance at recent OCS Annual Reunions.

His packed funeral was attended by many relatives, friends and former work colleagues who then went on to the function suite at the Proact Stadium, an appropriate location to pay tribute to an Old Cestrefeldian.

## **PETER WILKINSON (1933-2014)**

**PETER WILKINSON, (Heathcote 1944-49)** who died recently, aged 80, was not only among the finest runners Derbyshire has ever produced – he may well have been the most modest. On leaving school, he joined the National Westminster Bank staying until retirement. He was a lifelong friend of Ted Smith FRS (OCS President 1997) and a regular attendee at the annual reunion dinners.

Even within athletics a sport full of modest people, especially at club level, Wilkinson's humility stood out. Principally a marathon and cross-country runner, he won a bronze medal for England in the British Empire & Commonwealth Games of 1958.

There are precious few photographs of him in action but a remarkable piece of Pathe News footage, showing him winning a marathon for Britain in Holland in 1961, perhaps goes some way to summing the man up. As he crosses the line, he allows himself to raise his hands in celebration – but little more than waist height, and only momentarily.



Originally from Brimington, Chesterfield but latterly living in the Long Eaton area, Wilkinson represented Britain in five marathons and England in two Commonwealth Games marathons. He ran 21 marathons in total, winning four, and only once finished outside the top eight. He ran twice for England in the International Cross Country Championships, as part of a winning team in 1959 and as runners-up to Belgium in 1961.

With what was then Derby & County AC, he was part of a team that won the London to Brighton road relay in four successive years from 1959-1962. There were 10 appearances for Derbyshire in the Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships. Wilkinson continued to run 10Ks and half-marathons into his 50s, when veteran Derby AC runner Mick Smedley first encountered him. "He was a true inspiration to me when I first started with the club," recalled Smedley. "He was always there to pass on his vast racing knowledge and he was doing that right to the end, coaching groups of young athletes out in all weathers at Moorways."

Among those in the early 70s was Nick Lees, from Ilkeston, who went on to have a sparkling career representing Britain in cross country racing. "Peter was one of my first mentors when I joined the club as a 14-year-old," said Lees. "He was a top runner, gentleman, coach and inspiration throughout the years he spent at the club. He gave me so much advice and assistance when I was in my teens and told me early on that the only way to the top in running was hard work, simple as that."

It would be almost 30 more years before another Great Britain international to be, Luke Gunn, arrived at Moorways early in his teens. Wilkinson was, of course, still there. "Peter was one of the kindest and most humble persons I ever knew," said Gunn, a current England and Great Britain international in the steeplechase. "I was so fortunate to be coached by him for four years, during which his guidance brought me my first England vest and my only English Schools title. "He taught me hard work but without me even realising it. He let me explore my running and try new things – including the steeplechase – and was the perfect quiet motivator who kept running fun at such a critical age when people drop out of the sport."

While Wilkinson shunned publicity or acclaim, he was President of Derby & County when he opened the new clubhouse at Moorways in August, 1989. A framed picture of him running – with a trademark handkerchief wrapped around his hand, to wipe away sweat – was installed above the clubhouse counter, where it remains. "The young athletes are always shown that picture and they look up to it," added Mick Smedley. "Peter will be sadly missed but his legacy – and his picture – will be here in Derby forever."

Peter's funeral is on Wednesday 19 March at Bramcote (Nottingham) Crematorium and afterwards at Attenborough Cricket Club.

You can view Pathe footage of Peter Wilkinson winning in Holland in 1961: [www.britishpathe.com/video/holland-aka-wilkinson-wins-dutch-marathon](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/holland-aka-wilkinson-wins-dutch-marathon)

*(With sincere thanks to Colston Crawford, Derby Telegraph, for much of above information)*

## JOHN AVERN WILLIAM TAPLIN (1931-2012)

**John Avern William Taplin, (Foljambe 1942–47)** metallurgist, industrialist, Chairman of Longfield Precision Engineering Company, London, was born at The Royal Hospital, Chesterfield, Derbyshire on March 14 1931 to a journalist father (Alfred “Avern” Taplin, born Much Wenlock, December 13 1901) and a schoolteacher mother (Winifred Amy Taplin, known as “Winnie”, born Lincoln, September 5 1902), both deceased - with one sibling, (David Michael Robert Taplin, born Chesterfield, July 19 1939).

The family lived at 21 Morris Avenue, Newbold (a well-designed new community, named after William Morris), Chesterfield, with arts & crafts stained glass, art nouveau and an Anderson air-raid shelter. Well placed for country pursuits, camping, hiking, scrumping apples and raspberries, building dens and roasting spuds on bonfires. There was a pond for fishing for sticklebacks and a ha’penny bus ride to Chesterfield.

John attended Highfield Hall Junior School a short walk away. This is housed in an 18thC Georgian/Palladian Mansion with huge beech trees, once owned by the Eyre family (from whom Bronte's Jane Eyre derives) taken over by Chesterfield Education Committee in 1930 and converted into a progressive primary school with the formidable spinster Miss Dorothy Tempest as Headmistress (1930-1963). John went on in 1942 to Chesterfield Grammar School. Whilst at Grammar School he became involved in newspaper reporting, as Avern was a Reporter for “The Derbyshire Times” 1926-1948. However, John was more interested in engineering and metallurgy and he became indeed a metallurgist. John remained always in touch with his best friend from the Grammar School, Peter Cole, a mining surveyor, sometime in Burma, who still lives in Chesterfield. John and Peter were quite well known as rock-climbers amongst the crags of Derbyshire and Snowdonia - starting at Froggatt Edge, Edale, Castleton and Kinder Scout.

Winnie & Avern bought 21 Morris Avenue in 1930 as a brand-new semi-detached house for £800 and this was the family home until 1955. John’s first decade was especially happy in the pre-war era and he was always fond of Derbyshire and remained a “Chesterfield Man” and a “Cestrefeldian” to the end – never forgetting his northern industrial roots.

Then came the Second World War to disrupt this idyllic family life and also a younger brother, David. John was in the School Cadets and became a Cadet-Sergeant . His father, Avern, joined the RAF and was away for most of WW2, but told Winnie that the pram must be kept “because it would be useful when the Germans invaded”. John said he would get his Enfield rifle from the cadets and the three of them would load the pram and go into the hills and moors around Froggatt Edge and fight the Germans from there!

A resourceful chap and a brave one from earliest boyhood – he defended his mother and little brother David effectively as family head, even then. A later role was as ‘Uncle John’ to David’s children from around 1961, and one which he carried out very lovingly and imaginatively for over fifty years, right through to September 2012.

In 1945 VE Day and VJ Day street parties were held in great celebration throughout the UK and Empire – presided over in Morris Avenue by Police Sergeant Jackson of 23 Morris Avenue. After the war, John and David sledged in the winter snows at Donkey Racecourse, hiked, biked and camped in Cordwell Valley and at Froggatt Edge in the long hot summers, holidays in a family caravan at Cayton Bay near Scarborough. This was not without anguish, as Winnie was taken ill in 1946 following a breakdown. Meanwhile John had a good scientific education at the Grammar School (early teaching on global warming and carbon dioxide greenhouse effects via J R (Ratty) Owen and the theories of Arrhenius) and was influenced by former engineers in the family and the northern industrial environment. In 1947 John started an apprenticeship as a metallurgist with Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Co, a bicycle-ride away – accompanied by Geoffrey Kirkland who lived across the road at 34 Morris Avenue. He worked mainly in the laboratories including quite well-paid shift work, and was awarded National Certificates in Ferrous Metallurgy via Chesterfield Technical College.

Then came National Service in REME in Germany, which John always said he greatly loved especially as living in Germany for a year helped him to appreciate German engineering and the people. John was very much involved in politics all his life from these beginnings and especially concerned with workers' rights and socialism, industrial relations and ideas of "master-men" and ownership of factories by those who worked in them. Firstly via the Labour Party and later this was pursued through the Liberals. John said he did not want an National Service Commission, which, with his leading cadet record and professional training as a metallurgist, he was offered, saying he preferred to always be on the shop-floor with the men.



After REME John joined GEC, Osram Works, Wembley, as Technical Manager of the Tungsten Lamp Filament Works from 1955-1965 which he enjoyed, working with Richard Dolby with whom he remained in touch. These were also times for holidays of John and David as brothers, camping and mountaineering and travelling with an army bell tent in a 1947 VW Beetle, and there are many photographs of these camping holidays in France, Italy, Scotland, Wales, Derbyshire and the Lake District, with various adventures and car breakdowns fixed on the roadside.

John's wife, Winnie, died of a cerebral haemorrhage whilst giving a paper "Caveat Emptor" at a Co-operative/Labour Party Conference on April 15 1964. John then married Joan who was originally from Yeovil, Somerset, meeting through common philosophical interests in October 1964. After the death of his father, Avern, from heart trouble and prostate cancer in 1978 (whilst living at a very comfortable National Union of Journalists' care home in Guildford) they moved to Highland Avenue, Hanwell and lived there very happily with many friends until John's death from a spontaneous brain-stem haemorrhage, very suddenly but peacefully at home with Joan on 2 September 2012.

A very important aspect of John's life was his work in creating and building up 'Longfield Precision Engineering Company' in Hanwell, latterly, for over forty years. as Company Chairman right up to 2008. This was a company created so that the three partners, Peter Glover, Ron Heaps and John Taplin, could build an engineering design and manufacturing company in London based on all the three of them working together on the shop-floor. This was in accord their all espousing a special philosophy regarding good worker-relations, worker co-ownership and industrial relations. They provided employment at times for up to 15 employees in a caring environment, in close accord with ideas which John had absorbed from his Chesterfield days in heavy industry, and also a legacy of a great-uncle, Harry Varley, who was a local union leader, alderman and a Labour Mayor of Chesterfield from 1934-1936. Longfield is still operational today, having survived various engineering recessions and John was very proud of his cherished lifelong work and contribution to manufacturing exports and especially worker employment..

The "Life Celebration" of John's very full, loving, curiosity-driven 81 years and "Our Farewell" was at Breakspear Chapel (with the Reception at The Barn, Ruislip). These have been created by his widow, brother, and their families to create many warm and lasting memories of a **TRULY GOOD MAN**.

(With thanks to David Taplin, brother of the deceased)

## MR EDWARD GEOFFREY (GEOFF) PRICE (1926-2012)

Edward Geoffrey "Geoff" Price, 86, died on Friday, July 6, 2012, in Tallahassee, Florida. Born in Halesowen, Worcestershire, on April 1, 1926, to Edward Price and Eliza Hipkiss Price, Geoff attended Halesowen Grammar School, and then entered St. Edmund Hall, Oxford University. His university career was interrupted by war service, and he served in the Worcestershire Regiment, from 1945 to 1948, primarily in the Middle East and Cyprus from 1946-1948, ending with the rank of Captain. After the war, Geoff returned to St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he received a BA (1950) in French language and literature, and MA (1951), both with honours, and a Diploma of Education (1951).



As an undergraduate, he lived for many months in the Tours, France, area, in order to hone his language skills. He considered himself to be a "near-native speaker" of the language. Geoff played both rugby football and cricket at school, in the Army, and at university and club level. He captained his college (St. Edmund Hall, Oxford) at both sports. He represented the Army and Combined Services, Middle East, at rugby, a Birmingham (England) League XI at cricket, and occasionally Oxford University at both via the Oxford University Greyhounds XV and Authentics cricket XI. After graduation from Oxford, Geoff's career was spent in education, including teaching at King Edward's, Aston, Birmingham; Merchant Taylor's School, Northwood, Middlesex; followed by Head of Upper School at Great

Barr Comprehensive, Birmingham; and ending with **his headship of Chesterfield School from 1968 to his retirement in 1991**. Geoff felt that travel enriched his outlook, and as Headmaster of Chesterfield School, forged links with schools in Orange Park and Tallahassee, Florida, through soccer competitions, and academic links with schools in France and Germany. His love for travel continued into his retirement and life in the United States. After the death of his wife of 40 years, Jean Townsend Price, in 1993 Geoff married Mary Anne Johnson McMullen in 1995 in Tallahassee, Florida, where he has lived for the past 17 years. While in Tallahassee, Geoff Price became an avid golfer, took courses with the Master Gardener program, along with Mary Anne, and was for some time a member of the Tallahassee Lions Club. For his 80th birthday, he enjoyed a course of flying lessons, to fulfill a lifelong dream. He returned annually to Derbyshire to visit his family and friends, making his last trip to the UK in 2011. Geoff is survived by his wife, Mary Anne Price, of Tallahassee, Florida; his daughters Wendy Kelly, of Neston, Cheshire, and Sara Atkinson (husband, Dave), of Old Tupton, Derbyshire; and his grandchildren: Jennifer and Andrew Kelly, and Matthew, Katie, and Lucy Atkinson. In his memory, contributions may be made to St. Edmund Hall, Oxford University, or to a charity of your choice.

*Published in the ChesterfieldToday.co.uk on 19th July 2012 (Distributed in Chesterfield)*

## **STUART OLIVE (1937-2012)**

Stuart Charles Olive, (19.02.37), Lingard 1948 - 53 died recently after a short illness. Sometimes referred to by his schoolmates as 'Charlie' rather than Stuart, he joined the Derbyshire Constabulary as a police cadet on leaving School and was regularly seen around the town with the cadet's distinctive royal blue band around his peaked cap. He went on to a distinguished 30 year career with the County force serving in Traffic, the Drugs Squad and, finally, rose to the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent in charge of CID. On leaving the police he worked for Rolls-Royce at Derby as a security consultant for a number of years. After a funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Tansley, on 17 May 2012 his body was cremated at Chesterfield Crematorium. He leaves his widow, a daughter and two grandchildren.

## **MR FRANCIS J ELGAR (- 2012)**

Mr Francis J Elgar, of Chesterfield has died at home, aged 96. Born at Frome, Somerset and a resident of the local area for 66 years, he taught at Chesterfield Boys' Grammar School from 1946 until retirement in 1975. Mr Elgar served in Burma during the Second World War, finishing as company commander in the Somerset Light Infantry. He was a keen hockey player and was coach/team manager at Chesterfield Boys' School until his retirement. He helped to re-form Chesterfield Hockey Club in 1947, was made a life member in 1955 and was President until 2001. A keen philatelist he was Secretary of the Chesterfield Philatelic Society for 40 years.



Mr Elgar was very interested in gardening and served as chairman of the Chesterfield Smallholders' Association in the 1950s and 60s. He was also chairman of Cavendish Probus in 1986/87. Mr Elgar enjoyed walking with the Field Club as well as holidays both at home and abroad. The widower of Margaret, to whom he was married to for 70 years, he leaves daughters Joy and Judith, grandchildren Judy, Frances and Helen and six great-grandchildren. The service is due to take place at Chesterfield Crematorium on Friday, March 30, at 11.30am.

*Thanks to the Derbyshire Times of 22 March 2012 for this obituary.*

## **ROY NICHOLAS (1935 – 2011)**



Roy Edward Nicholas (Bradley 1947 - 54) died on October 20th 2011 at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, aged 75. He was born at Sutton-in-Ashfield but was a resident locally in Ashgate and Newbold for 70 years. Roy became a student at Chesterfield Grammar School in 1947 and during his time at the school he took part in plays, was a member of the school tennis team and played the trumpet in the school band. On leaving the Sixth Form in 1954 Roy was articled to J B Wikeley, the Engineer and Surveyor at Chesterfield Rural District Council. After National Service in the Royal Artillery, Roy became a chartered civil engineer and continued with the Council as Deputy Engineer and Surveyor.



When the Council was renamed North East Derbyshire District Council Roy's department became known as the Technical Department and he continued his engineering career with the title Deputy Chief Technical Officer. Roy was not keen on team sports but enjoyed playing tennis, badminton and golf. He was Chairman of the General Committee of Chesterfield Golf Club ( Walton) 1995 to 1998 and then was proud to be elected Captain of the Club in Millenium Year. For a number of years Roy chaired Admission Appeals Panels for Staveley Netherthorpe School. He leaves a widow, Jennifer ( nee Froggatt,) a son Andrew, who attended the School on the Brookside site, a daughter Kay and four grandchildren.

## **PHILIP BOOTH (1936 - 2012)**

We have just heard of the recent death of Philip Booth (Lingard 1948-52) . Phil was a close friend of Ken Hambleton and both were born and raised in Devonshire Avenue, Hasland. Ken remembers their first day walking from the town centre to the Grammar School, when they turned right too early and nearly arrived in the Royal Hospital.

Phil left school in 1952 to work at Robinson's Portland Works. The company manufactured printed cardboard boxes - typically for cereals. He became skilled in setting the print machines; in particular indexing all the colours correctly. He left there in 1962 to work for a company in Northampton which also used the latest printing technology. Here he worked on one of only three of the largest printing machines in the world.



Phil married his first wife Kay circa 1961, but this marriage ended at some point. When Phil retired he moved to Valladolid, Spain, in January 1995. There he married his second wife, Carmen, sadly, who died in 2005. His bad luck continued when he was then diagnosed with cancer and had to have part of his colon removed in 2006. The cancer then spread to other organs, leading to his death on 13th January 2012.

When he knew he hadn't got long to live he indulged himself in a fast new VW car, so he could surprise all the local boy racers at roundabouts and halt signs. He moved from his flat in July 2011 and bought a brand new house in Samancas, just outside Valladolid.

Phil was one of three brothers; Geoff (known as Arnie), the eldest, worked in Staveley Works offices and died age 76 in Dec 2005. David, the youngest, worked for East Midlands buses and lives in Ashgate. All three went to Chesterfield School.

*We are indebted to Michael Winson (Lingard 1948 - 53) for biographical details.*

## **MICHAEL H SELLORS (1936 - 2010)**

Michael Harry Sellors (Foljambe 1948 - 55) attended Calow Junior School before entering Form 1L (KS. McKay). His love of music and church ritual led him to become a member of the School choir, a member of the Parish Church choir - both under the baton of CA. Bryars; a choir member, server and bell ringer at Calow Church and as organist at Carr Vale. Little did his schoolmates realise that his nickname of 'Sconce' (a mediaeval candlestick) would prove to be an indicator of the future; it being obvious that his destiny lay in an ecclesiastical direction. After 'A' levels in 1955, Michael completed National Service with a commission in the army, going on to King's College, London, and then St. Boniface, Warminster, becoming a Deacon in 1960.



He married Rosemary in 1961 and served his early priesthood in North London until 1964. Many further moves followed including parishes in the Guildford diocese, followed by various ministries in the Norwich diocese until 1997. During this period he spent increasing amounts of time abroad as the Bishop's representative in Papua New Guinea.

The ultimate accolade followed in 1997 when he was appointed Dean of St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem where he also served as Coordinator for the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.. His last task was as Coordinator for the

'Academy of Peace' whose mission was " To provide every conceivable opportunity to bring Israeli and Palestinian - be they Jew, Muslim or Christian - together" It was in this context that he met the Palestinian Leader, Yasser Arafat, shown with Michael on above photo.

Few could have worked harder for the fulfillment of this dream than Michael. Who could ever have thought, on the many occasions he sang the School Hymn, that he would actually spend his last years in the Holy City, where he also requested to be buried?

*Biographical details provided by Tony Hallam ( Foljambe 1948 - 55)*

## **KEITH MALLINDER (1932 – 2012)**

Keith Frederick Mallinder (11/3/32), of Ashgate, has died at Riverdale Care Home, Chesterfield, aged 79 years. Born in Sheffield, and resident locally for over 60 years, he was a Housemaster at Ampleforth College, then taught at Tapton, then Tupton, finally Headmaster at Edwin Swale School for a number of years before retiring in 1991, aged 59.

Keith (Lingard 1944 -50) was a Prefect and School Captain in 1949 - 50, spending this final year in Upper VI Arts (L Lodge) before going on to New College, Oxford.

Keith enjoyed foreign travel, foreign languages, reading, theatre and classical music, and was a member of Probus. His funeral was at Chesterfield Crematorium, on Thursday, January 19, 2012. He was predeceased by his wife, Maureen



## **GERALD SMITH (1933 – 2011)**

Gerald was born in 1933 at Churchside, Hasland and attended School (Clarke) from 1944 - 49. He worked in the Devonshire Laboratory of Staveley Works from 1950 to 1960. He emigrated to South Africa in 1975 and died there in Vanderbijlpark Hospital, South Africa on 9 November 2011, aged 78 years.

## **DAVID L PEXTON (1935 - 2011)**

News has just reached us of the death in Churchdown, Glos. on 17 November of David Lewis Pexton (Lingard 1947 - 54), the second oldest of four brothers, Brian, David, Roger and Richard, who were all in Lingard. All the brothers were great cricketers for both House and School. They also had two sisters - Jill and Lisbeth. All survive him, with the exception of Roger.

David is on the 1953 school photo. Born in Cambridge, the family moved and lived, in the early days, in the large stone detached house on Saltergate, on the town side of the old Chesterfield FC ground.

David and Roger (who died a few years ago) were in the Parish Church Choir where David was Head Chorister. One particular memory of David - he sang a solo in "Peasant Cantata" part of a School Concert due to be held in St James Hall on February 6th 1952, which had to be postponed for one week owing to the death of King George VI.

*Research by Tony Hallam (Foljambe 1948 - 55)*

## **MR CEC THOMPSON (12/7/1926 – 19/7/2011)**

Cec Thompson rose from being a penniless orphan to become one of the first black men to play rugby league for Great Britain. He later worked as a window cleaner to fund his education gaining an honours degree in Economics at Leeds University.

He taught at Chesterfield School from 1974 until he retired as Head of Economics and master in charge of rugby in 1991.

He was a legend to the thousands of Chesterfield School pupils that he taught. His autobiography, "Born on the wrong side", is a superb insight into what can be achieved with focus and determination.

*Courtesy of the Derbyshire Times – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2011*

The following link to the obituary on the Telegraph and Guardian websites:

This link accesses a 30 min Border TV documentary on the life of the legendary 'Cec'. There are some excellent scenes of life at Storrs Road.

[CEC Border TV documentary](#)

More details on Cec can be found in the [Scrapbook pages](#).

## **PROFESSOR JOHN SLOANE (14/4/1946-10/5/2000)**

JOHN SLOANE was an internationally recognised surgical pathologist and expert in the diagnosis of early breast cancer. His sudden death, following a massive anterior myocardial infarction while at his work in the Department of Pathology in Liverpool University, is a devastating loss to medicine in the United Kingdom and worldwide.

Born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire in 1946, Sloane attended Chesterfield School ([Bradley 1957 - 64](#)) where he excelled at rugby and athletics. In October 1964 he began his medical career as a student at Charing Cross Medical School, in London. His enthusiasm for rugby increased and he was chosen captain of Charing Cross and played for the United Hospitals rugby team.



After qualification in 1969, followed by house jobs at the Charing Cross and Wembley Hospitals Sloane began his career in laboratory medicine with successive appointments in haematology, microbiology and chemical pathology. While experience of histopathology at Charing Cross kindled his interest in the subject, the key event which was to determine the course of the remainder of his life was his appointment as Registrar in Histopathology at the Royal Post-graduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital.

Although this was an exacting department, he thrived under the supervision of Professor John Azzopardi to develop the rigorous approach to his diagnostic work for which he later became recognised, particularly with respect to human breast cancer. His understanding of the importance of recognising fine and unique details provided the basis for his identification of new entities with predictable behavioural properties within early breast cancer.

The majority of his career, from 1974 until 1995, was based at the Royal Marsden Hospital site in Sutton, Surrey, where he was successively Research Fellow at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Vandervell Research Fellow and, from the age of 29, Consultant Pathologist to the Royal Marsden Hospital. Shortly afterwards, he was also appointed Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Cancer Research. In 1995, Sloane moved to a personal Chair at Liverpool University where he was also Chairman of the North West Cancer Research Fund Research Committee.

Sloane was widely regarded as one of the most outstanding histopathologists of his generation, combining basic observation, critical appraisal and exposition in a brilliant fashion. He was, however, always aware of the intrinsic limitations of conventional microscopy and he played an active part in the early development of immunohistochemistry and, more recently, in the diagnostic applications of molecular techniques. His interests in tumour and tumour-related pathology were wide, but two topics stand out.

He made major contributions in analysing tissue changes in leukaemic patients after bone marrow transplantation; and, above all, the field of breast cancer. Sloane, working with a group of other pathologists, was responsible for formulating guidelines for the standard reporting of breast tissue biopsies and for establishing a national External Quality Assessment (EQA) scheme for all histopathologists participating in the NHS Breast Screening Programme.

Much detailed and meticulous planning and organisation were involved and the consequences, in terms of improved diagnostic accuracy and consistency in this difficult area, are already apparent. Sponsored by the European Union, Sloane subsequently chaired a group of European pathologists. As a result, many of the approach-established by the United Kingdom group have been adopted by histopathologists throughout the world.

Sloane's natural leadership and administrative skills, combined with his clear desire for the continued improvement of cancer services, became increasingly used by the Department of Health and the Royal College of Pathologists. They inevitably added to an already large workload of diagnostic sessions, research and teaching.

Despite unquestionable success through dedication and commitment to all aspects of his work Sloane remained

little changed – to the delight of his wide circle of friends. So many of his personal attributes could be picked out: the direct and easy manner, the distinctive (and unusual) combination of humour and wit, the immense loquacity, the enthusiasms and energies.

He was a gentleman of the highest calibre, who was loved and respected by all who knew him, particularly members of the Department of Pathology in Liverpool. After his move to Liverpool, John Sloane took on a new lease of life, having found within the Department of Pathology there the fertile environment he needed to allow his ideas and vision to flourish. He had great ideas for developing cancer services and research in the region.

Whilst Liverpool was the focus of his work his leisure time over the past four years was shared with his wife Pat in homes in London and Liverpool. In Liverpool they thoroughly enjoyed the many cultural activities the city has to offer. His favourite interest was classical music. He played the clarinet and viola and he loved attending the Philharmonic Hall to listen to concerts, particularly if the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra was playing. In London John and Pat were able to maintain contact with their many friends and in both places enjoyed their mutual love of cycling and spending time with their two sons.

He will be sorely missed by an enormous number of people in the United Kingdom and around the world and his death is a great loss to the medical profession, particularly to the practice of diagnostic surgical pathology.

CHRISTOPHER S. FOSTER AND RICHARD L. CARTER

*John Sloane, pathologist born Chesterfield, Derbyshire 14 April 1946;  
Professor of Breast Pathology, Liverpool University 1995-2000,  
married 1969 Pat Catton (two sons); died Liverpool 10 May 2000.*

*Courtesy of the Independent 18/5/2000*

## MICHAEL (NIG) ALLAN (1936-1984)

**Michael (Nig) Allan** (29.11.36) Bradley 1948 - 53. His father, Harry, was transport manager at Trebor Sweets. Michael was a keen rugby player and member of the Combined Cadet Corps at school but left in 1953 (along with Jim Dennis) to take up a place in the first intake at Welbeck College, Worksop, which had been set up to recruit and train potential army officers.

After commissioning into the Royal Signals his service took him to Germany, Belize, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and the Middle East. His obituary describes Mike as "a pleasant uncomplicated man who knew exactly what things he liked in life and in the Army, and enjoyed doing them to the full. He always preferred serving with soldiers to working behind a desk, and even into his mid 40s.....he was happiest encouraging recruits out on the ground and was still prepared to show them the way over the obstacle course. He got on well with Arab troops and they seemed to like him. His first tour with them took him to the Trucial Oman Scouts in the early 70s and finally in the Saudi Arabia National Guard Communications.

He was a good all-round sportsman playing rugby for the Royal Signals when younger. He was also keen on skiing, adventure training and latterly fly-fishing. He married late in life while serving in Lisburn, Northern Ireland and became a devoted husband to Jane and father to his boys James, David and Andrew." He died in a Landrover accident while serving in Saudi Arabia on 8 March 1984, when a Major in the Royal Corps of Signals. His funeral was held before a very large congregation, including his mother and his wife and family, in Salisbury Cathedral where the Signal Officer-in-Chief gave the eulogy.



Derbyshire Junior XV x Staffs  
Michael 4th from right on back row



CCF  
Second left on back row.

*Frank Gorman, with thanks to Jim Dennis (Lingard 1948 - 53) for detailed military information and obituary.*

## JACK WILLMOT (12/7/19 – 6/3/82) FOLJAMBE (1930-1935)



When Jack Willmot was born on July 12, 1919, at White Carr Farm, Brackenfield, Derbyshire, his father, Wilfred, was 35 and his mother, Bertha, was 31. In 1920 the family moved to Avenue Farm, Grassmoor.

His father Wilfred died in 1921 and as a youngster Jack spent quite some time in Rochdale staying with auntie Lizzie and family in order to relieve the pressure on his mother.

Jack was educated at Grassmoor Junior School and then Chesterfield Boys Grammar School. He later studied Surveying and Architecture at Chesterfield Technical College.

On the outbreak of war he was called up and served in the Royal Engineers. He was with the railways branch of the British Expeditionary Force. He told of sleeping under railway wagons and also using them for protection whilst being strafed by German fighter aircraft. He was evacuated from Cherbourg some weeks after Dunkirk.

Photograph albums record that he was: 1940 - No 1 section Rutherglen, Scotland, 1941 - March, Edinburgh, 1942 (April) - CBI staff, Ash Tree House Derby. 1943 (March) - Duke of Yorks HQ, London.

He worked as a draughtsman in the War Office (old GLC building from which he photographed the Houses of Parliament in August 1943) principally on the design of the Mulberry Harbour.

In 1945, he was with L Company at Longmoor camp, Hampshire (in Hut 61)

He married Olive Yarnall on September 20, 1944 at Hasland Parish Church. They had two children, Derrick and Peter during their marriage.

After the war they lived at Close Farm, North Wingfield Road, Grassmoor which was part of the family farm. In 1962 they moved to 35 Deerlands Road, Wingerworth and Close Farm was demolished.

After the war Jack worked in the surveyors department at Chesterfield rural district Council and Matlock county offices. He was then a surveyor and architect for Smith & Co builders of Sheffield, and then the Butterley Company, builders where he supervised housing in Calow.

Around 1960 he joined the quantity surveyors Thornton Firkin of Saltergate, Chesterfield and spent the rest of his professional life at that company.

Jack died on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1982 aged 62 of a heart attack.

*Courtesy of Jack's sons Prof. Derrick and Peter Willmot*

## ROBERT ALAN CROFT ( - 8/2/2012)

(Robert) Alan Croft, latterly of Romsey, Hants, who was at School in the 1930s, passed away peacefully in hospital on 8th Feb 2012, aged 88 years. A devoted husband, father and grandfather. His memorial service took place at Romsey Abbey on Tuesday, 21st February 2012.

*Courtesy of the Romsey Advertiser.*



## **Chesterfield FC's Roll of Honour**

*An extract from their official website*

On Remembrance Day, people attend services up and down the country to remember those who gave their lives in defence of their nation, pausing for a minute or two in quiet contemplation. There isn't a family in the country which hasn't been shaped in some way by the loss of loved ones in war, and the family that is our football club has given up its share of players and officials to the greater good. In tribute we list them here.

### **1914 - 1918**

Albert Edward Tye	Arthur Revill	Billy Gerrish	Joe Smith
Jimmy Knowles	Jimmy Revill	Gerald Graham	Vernon Bowmer

**Lieutenant Charles Newcombe was a former head boy at the Chesterfield Grammar School and a Derbyshire cricketer, and played for Chesterfield Town as an amateur in 1911 and 1912. Serving with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, he was killed in action on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1915, at Fleuraix.**

### **1939 - 1945**

Albert Bonass	Fred Fisher	Allan Sliman
Arthur Bacon	Bob Wigglesworth	Alaister K "Alec" Campbell

***At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them***