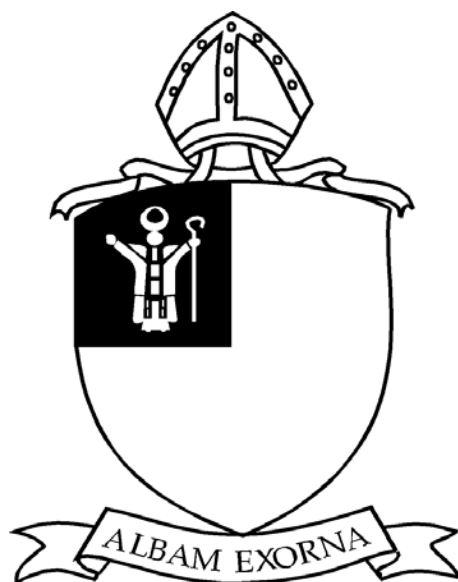


The Dunstonian Association



OD NOTES Autumn 2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The next Annual General Meeting of The Dunstonian Association (TDA) will be held at the Clubhouse on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 8pm.

Copies of the Annual Accounts will be available at the Clubhouse. Nominations of members wishing to stand as Association officers or as Committee Members - please contact the current Hon Secretary, Isabelle Blake-James on 020 8516 7200 or e-mail: dunstonians@sdmail.org.uk. Prior to the AGM, a full list of candidates for election as Association Officers and/or Committee Members will be posted on the Clubhouse Notice Board giving the appropriate Notice required by our constitution.

TDA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2019/20

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Mr Alex Brewer
SDC Head of 6th Form

Ms Nicola Rich
SDC Head of Careers

Rebecca Watkins
SDC Director of Sport

ALUMNI OFFICE

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ARCHIVES

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DIARY DATES

2019	SDC Commemoration Day Southwark Cathedral Friday 22 May	Dunstonian Family Day (All years and families welcome) St Dunstan's College September - TBA (1100-1500)
OD Golf Society Xmas Fayre & AGM Knole Park Golf Club Thursday 5 December	'66 Leavers Lunch Doggett's Coat & Badge, London Friday 22 May	OD Golf Society Autumn Meeting/Tour Saunton Golf Club Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September
Xmas Drinks for '09 - '19 Leavers SDC Jubilee Ground, Catford Wednesday 18 December (1800-2200)	SDC Leavers Day Jubilee Ground, Catford Date TBA	
2020		
Dunstonian Celebratory Black Tie Dinner The Great Hall, St Dunstan's College Saturday 28 March	St Dunstan's Festival Monday 22 June to Thursday 2 July SDC and other venues	
OD Golf Society Spring Meeting Rye Golf Club Wednesday 6 May	OD Golf Society Summer Meeting Crowborough Beacon Golf Club Saturday 24 June	

Diary developments

The tangible effects of the new drive to establish more Dunstonian events are already apparent with long-established items like Commemoration Day and the now traditional SDC Leavers Day being joined in the calendar by more recent innovations. Association/College events now in the diary for the year ahead include an imminent Xmas Drinks for '09-'19 Leavers gathering at the Jubilee Ground in mid-December, and, next year, a Dunstonian Celebratory Black Tie Dinner in the Great Hall in March, Leavers Day at the Jubilee Ground in May, the revived St Dunstan's Festival in June/July and a second Dunstonian Family Day in September.

OD sport

Encouraging reports from all areas in OD sports activities. Yet another excellent cricket season; further success in strengthening the rugby club after the difficulties of a couple of years ago; more steady progress on and off the golf course; and, in boost for Fives buffs, news that an overdue refurb for the SDC courts has now been completed - just an interim stage in the College's wider development plans which we understand include building a completely new suite of courts at Catford in due course.

Tailpiece

Our tailpiece marks a full turn of the circle as our *OD Notes* Editor takes his leave after some 25 years in his editorial chair. It would surprise readers if our man didn't offer some final, critical thoughts on the publication's performance and he doesn't disappoint. He signs off with a sharp look at the good and the not-so-good news on his time in post. As he says, the *Notes* may long have been the essential mortar in binding ODs together, but there remains, as ever, more still to be done in maintaining and building on the Association's century plus legacy. (Page 21)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



D C 'David' Edwards

As we draw near to the end of our first year, it is a natural time to reflect: to reflect on what has been achieved and on what the future may hold. However, before such reflections, I must pay tribute to Bob Rangecroft as this is his last edition as editor of *OD Notes* after 25 years at the helm. With two editions a year, even my limited knowledge of maths is sufficient to calculate that he has crafted no less than 50 impeccable collations of news of our widespread membership and of various Dunstonian events held around the world. He has done so with extraordinary care, attention to detail and not a little love.

In an age of texting, abbreviations and acronyms we have become used to reading little more than headlines, soundbites and straplines but we have been the fortunate beneficiaries of Bob's professional experience. His skill in garnering news and presenting it with a judicious blend of formality and informality has been exceptional. On behalf of the whole membership, may I take this opportunity to thank Bob publicly for everything he has done and the pleasure he has given us over so many years. He may leave large shoes which will be difficult to fill. Indeed, *OD Notes* may need to evolve over the years to come but it will always strive to maintain the editorial standards that Bob has set and followed so impeccably.

Turning to the events of the last year, we have seen a very deliberate move to establishing a closer relationship with the College in terms of our constitutional structure and the events held. From Christmas drinks at the Jubilee Ground to the memorial trip to Ypres; from Commemoration Day to joining the Year 13 at their Leavers' Luncheon and A Level

results morning; from attending the St Dunstons Arts Festival to the Family Day held in September. All these events have been held with the objective of bringing Dunstonians together from across the generations, an objective that, on reflection, has not been given as much attention over recent years as it naturally deserved.

And what of the future? As Bob himself writes in his personal musings, there is work to be done. We can communicate more regularly and encourage more participation, whether it be by physical attendance at events or by contributing to future editions of *OD Notes* and the more regular email bulletins.

It is true that not everyone will recall their schooldays with unfettered joy but nostalgia can be a curious animal. It can appear when you least expect it, triggered perhaps by a chance meeting with an old school friend or teacher, resurrecting happy memories and re-establishing connections thought lost for ever. In an age of political, economic and ecological uncertainty, such links with the past can be an important source of comfort as can new or reinvigorated friendships, forged from a common source.

If you have not attended an event in the past, may I encourage you to do so during the year ahead? There will be many opportunities including a Black Tie Dinner to be held in the Great Hall on Saturday 28 March. Details of this and other events will be included in the regular email bulletins or can be found by contacting the Alumni Office at the College by telephone or by writing to dunstonians@sdmail.org.uk

Earlier in the summer I wrote that all generations of Dunstonians share a splendid heritage but that such a heritage had to be preserved for all those that follow us. The next year or two will see a new Junior School and STEM department being built.

These plans may be bold but are indicative of the confidence that the Headmaster Nicholas Hewlett, his Senior Leadership

OD Notes

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Team and the Governors have in the future of St Dunstan's College.

If you have not already done so, please take a few moments to visit www.stdunstans.org.uk/about/future-plans and peruse the detailed plans. I know the Dunstonian community will want to support the College in bringing this vision to fruition and we expect further news of the development to be circulated in the near future.

Finally, I must once again thank the team at the College and, in particular, Isabelle Blake-James for all their help and efforts during the year. The success of the events we hold is due solely to their hard work and we are all very much indebted to them as a result. Albam Exorna!

ALUMNI OFFICE UPDATE



Isabelle Blake-James

The Dunstonian Association's first ever Alumni software has now officially been launched. It operates through a platform called Toucan Tech and is easily accessible in your browser: <https://dunstonians.org.uk/homepage>.

As we go to Press, we have just over one hundred registered Dunstonians

and we are hoping that this will increase to many hundreds more in the coming months.

Through this new platform, all Dunstonians are now able to upload their profile manually or sync it automatically from LinkedIn. The software enables members to reconnect with long lost friends and to organise reunions in the UK or abroad. All our alumni events will be advertised through the platform and our online monthly newsletter will soon also be disseminated via Toucan Tech. Last but not least, the platform enables all registered members to have access to our rich digital archives which are in the process of being uploaded onto the site.

One highlights of the College's year is our Careers Convention, held annually in November at the College for the benefit of the pupils. Many Dunstonians have been very generous in giving their time and professional expertise in support of this event and we are most grateful to you.

During 2020, we are planning to host a Celebratory Black Tie dinner on 28 March, amongst other events, details for which will be circulated in the monthly Association e-newsletter. We are also hoping to launch a range of branded merchandise, including cufflinks, Dunstonian ties, branded coffee cups and College's teddy bears, to name but a few!

Please remember that the best way of getting in touch with the Dunstonian Office is by email: dunstonians@sdmail.org.uk.

Family Day 2019

The Association hosted its first Family Day on Saturday 14 September when around 50 former pupils, parents, family members and staff – ranging in age from 4 months to 75 years old – made their way to the College. Lunchtime picnicking on the field was optional but all those present on the day had an opportunity to catch up with friends, reminisce about their schooldays, or take a look material dating back to the SDC's early origins in the extensive College archives.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The Dunstonian Association Annual General Meeting was held at the Clubhouse, Park Langley, on 27 November 2019

The following were elected to the TDA Management Committee for the 2019/20 year:

T P 'Tom' Coling ('01); M A 'Malachi' Connelly ('11); Miss J M 'Jemima' Davenport ('14); P L 'Peter' Brown ('61); J J 'Julian' Platford ('88); SDC Staff Member Robin Austin; SDC

Director of Marketing Admissions & Development Isabelle Blake-James; SDC Head of 6th Form Alex Brewer; SDC Head of Careers Nicola Rich; and SDC Director of Sport Rebecca Watkins.

Association members elected to serve on the Board of the Old Dunstonians Sports Club Limited were: Peter Brown, Malachi Connelly, and David Edwards.

OLD DUNSTONIAN LODGE NO 5662*Consecrated 24 September 1937*

meeting, held in the Great Hall for only the second time in the Lodge's 82-year history.

On 28 September 2019 the Old Dunstonian Lodge No 5662 met at St Dunstan's' College for their annual installation



Overall, the meeting was a great success and the Lodge hope to make it a regular event. It was followed by a festive board, in the College Refectory.

We were made extremely welcome and the College even laid on a short tour of the school for the visitors who arrived early for the evening.

A total of 42 members and guests attended the meal and were treated to an evening of wonderful gastronomic dining. The College caterers excelled with a highly professional menu complemented by the waiting staff's friendly and cheerful service which made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all present.

Our special thanks goes to all at the College who helped make the evening so successful, especially as there was an SDC open day event happening earlier that day and everyone had much to do after that to prepare for our event.

Many of those from the Lodge who attended had not been back to Catford since leaving and were surprised by the changes that had taken place, along with many feelings of nostalgia. We all look forward to the next visit when we hope to increase the numbers.

R J 'Russell' Mady ('77)

SPORTS ROUND-UP**OLD DUNSTONIAN SPORTS CLUB**

We continue to maintain the Langley Park grounds to an exceptional standard. After its best season ever, the cricket club has relaid the square which should provide one of the finest playing surfaces in the area for years to come and, although less successful on the field, the rugby club is holding its own in its leagues and its pitches continue to be the envy of many local clubs.

However, the Clubhouse has been showing its age for some time. While a more permanent refurbishment may be some way off, overdue improvements to the toilet/changing areas are now in hand, and plans to invest in our long-term financial security by redeveloping the squash courts are still being pursued, although Bromley Council's planning department continues an obdurate obstacle!

Elsewhere, as part of reinvigorating OD/College links, our Rugby, Cricket and Association representatives are now working with the SDC sports department on closer co-operation and how our combined facilities can best be deployed for the future benefit of all Dunstonian generations

**OLD DUNSTONIAN RFC**

The 2019-20 season has been slow to get going with a too many players unable to start the season whilst recovering from injuries sustained the previous term. Malachi Connolly, one such player, given the all-clear to resume playing again after an 18 month layoff with extensive knee ligament damage. Returning to the A XV against Sidcup in late October any thoughts of self-doubt were quickly dispelled when he scored a long-distance solo try with his first touch of the ball.

The First XV started the season in typical vein of recent years by keeping the coaches and loyal band of supporters on tenterhooks as to which team would turn out on the day. Late wins were gained against Park House and Old Williamsons in the dying seconds of both matches after lapses on concentration forced them to play catch-up rugby. This in itself shows that the team has the ability, determination and skills set to compete in this league but only when produced at the same time.



Malachi Connolly scores his breakaway solo try against Sidcup



Jamal Gobir dots down under the posts against Old Williamsons.

The highs and lows of this season so far have both been revealed on days of inclement weather. The low against bottom of the table Uckfield, when the team's performance was a lack-lustre display, the team playing as individuals with few skills on display. The high, in contrast, was against Aylesford Bulls at home two weeks later.

Played in difficult, wet conditions throughout, the team could seemingly do no wrong following a good week's training. After an opening scrum that saw the pack unceremoniously pushed off the ball, the team took control of the game producing a lot of sustained pressure. Such was this pressure that Aylesford could not get into the game with ODs running in three tries before the break finishing the half 22-3 up.

There was more of the same following the restart with the bonus point being achieved within five minutes. With six tries scored and an outstanding defensive display producing eight turnovers the game was a sheer delight to watch as well as stopping Aylesford's attacking play in its tracks.

The A XV, following its late start to the season with three matches postponed, has settled in with its usual aplomb winning the three matches played so far and sitting convincingly in third place in the league behind Blackheath Bandits and Southwark Rebels who have played five and four matches respectively.

So, what can we expect now from the rest of the season? Hopefully, more of the same from the First team as seen against Aylesford and continued on-field success from the A XV with, a down-turn in the number of serious injuries sustained in the playing squads. If the club achieves all three a successful season will be assured.

1st XV Results 2019-20

14/9	Park House*	Away	Won	32-29
21/9	Vigo*	Home	Lost	26-38
28/9	Bromley*	Away	Lost	10-20
5/10	Old Williamsonsians*	Away	Won	30-29
12/10	No Game			
19/10	Ashford*	Home	Drawn	27-27
26/10	Uckfield*	Away	Lost	12-33
2/11	No Game			
9/11	Aylesford Bulls*	Home	Won	44-17

* London 3 South East league match

AXV Results 2019-20

19/10	Beccehamians 2*	Away	Won	35-14
26/10	Sidcup 3*	Home	Won	22-5
2/11	No Game			
9/11	Old Elthamians 3*	Home	Won	22-0

* Kent 3 Metropolitan league match

MAR



OD CUACO CC

Another great year

The 2019 season proved to be yet another highly successful one for the Club - more than over 100 senior games were played, we fielded five Colts teams and ran some enthusiastically attended social events. Good, consistent availability was reflected in the season's results with our 2s, 3s and 4s all achieving promotion, the 2s and 3s as champions - in all making an incredible eight promotions from a possible 12 in the last three years.

Meanwhile, we continue to attract new members and to

invest in our ground facilities, this year renovating the main square at the end of the league season to improve it further and provide the pitches that our developing sides deserve.

Yet again bucking trend, our Sunday cricket continues to thrive and remains a great place for our youngsters to learn and develop their game alongside senior players. Our thanks go to Andy Hall for all his hard work in finding suitable fixtures and encouraging people to play.

Thanks also to all the Colts managers and parents supporting the junior game and well done to all those young players now stepping up to play in the senior sides - a testament to Steve Wright's coaching and hard work that so many are coming through the system.

Steve will be taking over from Robin East as chairman, combining this with his role as head coach. Robin steps down as chairman after many years as committee member and team manager with our thanks for all his hard work and dedication in helping the Colts Section's development. We are pleased that he has agreed to continue as a committee member where his experience and ideas will be invaluable.

League review

Promoted to KCL Division 2 - a second promotion in two years - the 1st XI more than held their own finishing in a well-deserved fourth place, OD Cuaco's highest league position so far; we hope to continue the progress next season. The 2nd XI were also playing in a higher KCL division, the 3rd. After a mixed start to the season, they had an unbeaten run from the last week of May to finish champions, winning 14 of their 18 matches; another great performance under captain Dan Webster.

Both the 3rd and 4th XIs have benefitted from an influx of senior players this year to add to the improving skills of our younger players. The 3rd XI were champions of the KRCL 1B Met/West division, winning 12 and only losing two matches all season. The 4th XI built on their fine 2018 season in the KRCL 1C Met/West division, going one better this year to finish second, only four points behind first place - a deserved reward for a fine team effort.

The Sunday 1st XI continued to hold their own in the top division of the Sunday Development League. This league requires six players per team to be under 21 of whom two need to be under 18 and we fervently hope that other clubs will continue to support it.

Non-League cricket

Our non-league 5th XI played matches on 11 Saturdays during the season, with an excellent set of fixtures including those against other local friendly sides along with some delightful Kent village settings. This has proved an excellent way of introducing more youngsters into adult cricket without the added pressures of league cricket.

Most of the games were very competitive and there was even one week when we fielded a 6th XI for the first time in the Club's history!

Player availability meant that the Sunday 2nd XI played most weeks, even when the development team had games, with at least six matches played after the last weekend of the league season. The games again provided a great opportunity for members of the lower league sides to play on the main square and to give a game over the weekend to any club member who wants to play.

Midweek matches

Along with pre- and mid-season matches, our 2019 midweek schedule featured no fewer than 21 friendlies in addition to those played by our 5th, 6th and Sunday 2nd XIs. This continues our established policy of finding additional fixtures whenever we have the players available to ensure all playing members get the chance of games during the season.

Worcester Tour

The season also saw a very successful tour to Worcester with our "tourists" staying in the hotel at Worcestershire's New Road County ground. Although one day was washed out, two very enjoyable matches were played and we are delighted to have been invited back by all three host clubs for next season.

Outstanding performances

Success on the field, particularly in the leagues, brought with it some outstanding individual and team performances during the summer. Among the batsmen, top scorer was Michael Parr with 950 runs, just easing out Chris Webster (936) and Shehryah Gul (919), the other two men with more than 900 runs to their name. In all more than 10 batsmen passed 500 runs for the season. Gul was the pick of six century-makers with three 'tons' including a top score of 146 not out. Top

team effort with the bat was clearly the 451-3dec registered by the 2nd XI in their 283-run win at Gore Court – tough day for Joe East though as our pictures show.



L to R: Liam Osbourne 68*, Andrew Ainger 111, Michael Parr (116), Chris Colby (134*)...

and Joe East 4.

Top wicket-takers among the bowlers was Isaac Loader with 43 and William East 40, well clear of the following pack; best bowling performances of the season came from Howard Thomas with a 7-14 by Andy Hall's 7-22. Not too much to choose between fielding performances this year, though Laurence Sanders' 23 catches, almost matched by Isaac Loader's 21, certainly deserve mention.



Final League tables

1st XI – Kent Cricket League Division II

Team	p	w	l	t	inc	abn	BatP	BowlP	Pen	Pts
Minster (Sheppey) CC	18	14	1	0	0	3	3	4	0	283
Sidcup CC	18	12	3	0	0	3	5	7	0	252
The Mote CC	18	9	7	0	0	2	21	18	0	217
OD CUACO	18	9	7	0	0	2	18	14	0	210
Ashford Town CC	18	8	7	0	0	3	9	22	0	199
Dartford CC	18	7	8	0	1	2	20	20	0	188
Chestfield CC	18	7	8	0	0	3	12	23	0	185
Old Wilsonians CC	18	6	9	0	1	2	13	22	0	165
Orpington CC	18	5	10	0	0	3	7	13	0	134
Whitstable CC	18	0	17	0	0	1	16	22	0	46

p - Played, w - Win (18), l - Lose (0), t - Tied (10), inc - Incomplete (6), abn - Abandoned (8), BatP - Batting Bonus Points, BowlP - Bowling Bonus Points, Pen - Penalty Points, Pts - Points

2nd XI - Kent Cricket League Division III

Team	p	w	l	t	inc	abn	wcn	lcn	BatP	BowlP	Pen	Pts
OD CUACO	18	14	2	0	1	1	0	0	9	5	0	280
Minster (Sheppey) CC	18	13	3	0	1	1	0	0	4	10	0	262
Rainham (Kent) CC	18	10	5	0	2	1	0	0	14	15	0	229
Catford Wanderers CC	18	11	6	0	0	1	0	0	10	8	0	224
Chestfield CC	18	9	8	0	0	1	0	0	13	23	0	206
Frindsbury CC	18	8	9	0	0	1	0	0	13	18	0	183
Orpington CC	18	6	9	0	1	2	0	0	19	21	0	170
Bexley CC	18	4	11	0	0	2	1	0	25	25	0	156
Nonington CC	18	5	10	0	1	1	0	1	13	19	0	116
Gore Court CC	18	0	17	0	0	1	0	0	14	12	0	34

p - Played, w - Win (18), l - Lose (0), t - Tied (10), inc - Incomplete (6), abn - Abandoned (8), wcn - Opposition Conceded (18), lcn - Team Conceded (-20), BatP - Batting Bonus Points, BowlP - Bowling Bonus Points, Pen - Penalty Points, Pts - Points

3rd XI - Kent Regional Cricket League 1B Met/West

Team	p	w	l	t	c	a	wcn	lcn	BP	Pen	Pts
OD CUACO	16	11	2	0	0	2	1	0	73	0	278
Bickley Park CC	16	10	5	1	0	0	0	0	84	0	246

Natwest Blues CC	16	7	8	0	0	1	0	0	113	0	228
Catford and Cyphers CC	16	7	7	0	0	1	1	0	92	0	227
Dulwich CC	16	8	6	0	0	2	0	0	84	0	224
Bexleyheath CC	16	8	5	0	0	3	0	0	71	5	216
Blackheath CC, Kent	16	4	8	1	0	3	0	0	80	0	182
Wickham Park CC	16	4	10	1	0	1	0	0	94	0	176
Belvedere CC, Kent	16	2	10	1	0	1	0	2	95	0	137

p - Played, *w* - Won (15), *l* - Lost (0), *t* - Tied (12), *c* - Cancelled (10), *a* - Abandoned (10), *wcn* - Opposition Conceded (20), *lcn* - Team Conceded (-5), *BP* - Bonus Points, *Pen* - Penalty Points, *Pts* - Points

4th XI – Kent Regional Cricket League 1C Met/West

Team	<i>p</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>wcn</i>	<i>lcn</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>Pen</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Beckenham CC	16	11	3	0	0	2	0	0	78	0	263
OD CUACO	16	12	3	0	0	1	0	0	69	0	259
Holmesdale CC	16	9	5	0	0	1	0	1	76	0	216
Old Colfeians CC	16	6	7	0	0	2	1	0	78	0	208
Sidcup CC	16	8	5	0	0	3	0	0	52	0	202
Orpington CC	16	7	6	0	0	3	0	0	57	0	192
New Ash Green CC	16	6	8	0	0	2	0	0	74	0	184
Old Wilsonians CC	16	3	11	0	0	2	0	0	90	0	155
Catford and Cyphers CC	16	0	14	0	0	2	0	0	71	0	91

p - Played, *w* - Won (15), *l* - Lost (0), *t* - Tied (12), *c* - Cancelled (10), *a* - Abandoned (10), *wcn* - Opposition Conceded (20), *lcn* - Team Conceded (-5), *BP* - Bonus Points, *Pen* - Penalty Points, *Pts* - Points

Sunday League XI – Kent Sunday Development League Division 1

Team	<i>p</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>lcn</i>	<i>wcn</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>Pen</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Hayes (Kent) CC	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Bexley CC	8	3	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	18
OD CUACO	8	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
Old Wilsonians CC	8	3	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	8
Linden Park CC	8	2	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	8

p - Played, *w* - Won (4), *l* - Lost (0), *a* - Abandoned (2), *c* - Cancelled (2), *lcn* - Team Conceded (-6), *wcn* - Opposition Conceded (4), *t* - Tied (2), *Pen* - Penalty Points, *Pts* - Points

Under 15 - North Kent Junior League Division 1

Team	<i>p</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>lcn</i>	<i>wcn</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>BatP</i>	<i>BowlP</i>	<i>Pen</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Beckenham CC	10	8	0	1	0	0	1	0	39	38	0	147
Bexley CC	10	5	4	0	0	0	1	0	40	29	0	113
Bexleyheath CC	10	5	4	0	0	0	0	1	37	35	0	105
Blackheath CC, Kent	10	3	3	0	2	0	1	1	31	19	0	101
Dartford CC	10	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	37	26	0	101
OD CUACO	10	2	4	1	1	1	0	1	29	18	0	74
Gravesend CC	10	1	8	0	1	0	0	0	27	23	0	64
Old Wilsonians CC	10	2	4	1	0	2	0	1	18	22	0	55

p - Played, *w* - Won (6), *l* - Lost (0), *c* - Cancelled (8), *a* - Abandoned (8), *lcn* - Team Conceded (-4), *wcn* - Opposition Conceded (14), *t* - Tied (3), *BatP* - Batting Bonus Points, *BowlP* - Bowling Bonus Points, *Pen* - Penalty Points, *Pts* - Points

Under 13 North Kent Junior League Division 3

Team	<i>p</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>lcn</i>	<i>wcn</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>BatP</i>	<i>BowlP</i>	<i>Pen</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Hayes (Kent) CC	10	6	1	2	1	0	0	0	29	24	0	113
Bromley CC	10	4	2	3	0	0	1	0	19	22	0	103
HSBC, Kent	10	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	26	20	0	92
Catford and Cyphers CC	10	3	4	1	0	1	1	0	28	19	0	83
Beckenham CC	10	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	33	26	0	79
OD CUACO	10	1	4	3	1	1	0	0	17	11	0	62

p - Played, *w* - Won (6), *l* - Lost (0), *c* - Cancelled (8), *a* - Abandoned (8), *lcn* - Team Conceded (-4), *wcn* - Opposition Conceded (14), *t* - Tied (3), *BatP* - Batting Bonus Points, *BowlP* - Bowling Bonus Points, *Pen* - Penalty Points, *Pts* - Points

U11 NKJL U11 Division 2W

Team	p	w	l	c	a	lcn	wcn	t	BatP	BowlP	Pen	Pts
Hayes (Kent) CC	9	5	1	1	1	0	1	0	25	24	0	109
Gravesend CC	9	6	0	2	0	0	1	0	21	21	0	108
Chislehurst & W Kent CC	9	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	33	34	0	99
Beckenham CC	9	4	4	0	1	0	0	0	33	25	0	90
HSBC, Kent	8	2	2	2	1	0	1	0	19	13	0	82
Beckenham CC	9	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	23	17	0	74
OD CUACO	9	2	5	1	0	1	0	0	29	17	0	62
Greenwich Jr Academy CC	6	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	17	13	0	58
Farningham CC	8	0	5	0	1	1	1	0	14	11	0	43
Old Wilsonians CC	8	2	3	0	1	2	0	0	16	14	0	42

p - Played, w - Won (6), l - Lost (0), c - Cancelled (8), a - Abandoned (8), lcn - Team Conceded (-4), wcn - Opposition Conceded (14), t - Tied (3), BatP - Batting Bonus Points, BowlP - Bowling Bonus Points, Pen - Penalty Points, Pts - Points

2019 STATISTICS

Batting (Total runs)	M Parr 950	C Webster 936	S Gul 919	C Colby 682	I Loader 678	H Hamilton 660	D Murrell 638	A Ainger 625	Ol Jasper 594	W East 566
Batting Averages (Min 5 innings)	C Colby 68.20	S Gul 61.27	Os Jasper 60.40	R Loader 58.13	C Webster 52.00	T Patel 44.67	B Chowdhry 42.33	Ol Jasper 39.60	B Rouse 36.33	P White 35.15
Bowling (Total wickets)	I Loader 43	W East 40	A Ainger 32	S Tyler 30	A Hall 29	C Webster 29	C Brown 29	H Thomas 28	A Arora 28	
Bowling Averages (Min 5 wickets)	A Woods 5.60	A Chowdhry 10.11	O Bennett 10.40	J Barratt 10.50	I Gill 10.87	A Arora 11.82	S Gul 11.69	H Thomas 12.63	L Colby 13.60	A M'daram 14.00

Best Batting	S Gul 146*	C Colby 134*	A Patel 129*	M Parr 116	A Ainger 111	S Gul 110	C Webster 104	S Gul 101
Best Bowling	H Thomas 7-14	A Hall 7-22	I Gill 6-27	J Barratt 5-6	A Woods 5-15	A Arora 5-19	I Loader 5-28	M Couch 5-29
Catches	L Sanders 23	I Loader 21	M Parr 18	E Nott 16	S Parke 15	H Hamilton 15	W East 14	M E Patel 13
Stumpings	E Patel 4	S Parke 4	H Smith 3	A Rouse 3	J McCarthy 2	L Boyden 2	L Sanders 2	
Run Outs	W East 7	C Webster 6	I Loader 5	L Mills 3	N De Vaux 3	J Dako 3	D Webster 3	C Brown 3

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held at the Clubhouse on 23 October 2019. Club Chairman, Andy Rouse took the Chair in the enforced absence of President David Edwards in undergoing knee surgery from which he has now quickly recovered.

The Club's Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019 were approved with Chris Webster elected to succeed Nick Worsley as Club Captain and Laurence Sanders succeeding long-serving Hon Secretary, Andy Parker.

Elections and appointments for the 2020 year were:

President:	David Edwards
Chairman:	Andy Rouse
Hon Secretary:	Laurence Sanders
Hon Treasurer:	Peter White
Club Captain:	Chris Webster
Colts Manager:	Steve Wright
Chairman of Selectors:	Andy Hall
Hon Fixture Secretary:	Andy Hall

Team Captains

1 st XI:	Nick Worsley
2 nd XI:	Dan Webster
3 rd XI:	Andy Rouse
4 th XI:	Steve Sawko
5 th XI:	Bob Lake
Sunday 1 st (League) XI:	Oliver Day
Sunday 2 nd (Friendly) XI:	Dan Baylis
20/20 XI:	Chris Webster
Hon Auditor :	Alex Parker
Colts Committee Chairman:	Steve Wright
OD Sports Club Nominees:	John North, Andrew Ainger, Andy Rouse, Howard Smith
OD House Club Nominee:	Howard Smith
The meeting also recommended to the Club Management Committee the appointment of other officials:	
Hon Welfare Officer:	Jo Colby
Vice Chairman	Howard Smith
Team Secretary:	Andy Hall
Hon Assistant Secretary:	Andy Parker



OLD DUNSTONIAN GOLF SOCIETY Summer Meeting Rye GC Thursday 27 June

As a south-westerly wind blew the Spanish Armada down the Channel, English bowmen, anticipating the threat of invasion, surveyed the approaching fleet with a mixture of anticipation and dread. With a hearty lunch lifting spirits, the OD sat in the clubhouse at Rye's infamous Old Golf Course equally expectant but fearful of the challenge ahead. There would be no burning at the stake on this day, windburn and damaged pride more likely wounds



Lord Pressney at ease on the Rye course's the OD "gift bench "



Bandsman Pearce negotiates one of Rye's more challenging hazards

Battle-hardened member, Sir Stuart Burns, rallied the troops over lunch with stories of yore before watching his troops head off into the horizon knowing that each would do their duty. None would question this man's integrity despite his insistence that "plant pots always fly straight"

"Pepper the flag with low projectiles" barked bandsman Mark Pearce. In reality this proved a tough call with many a hole requiring a degree in medieval calculus to thwart Rye's swirling squalls. "Avoid going left at all costs, as you advance along the ridge" was the order of the day on ridge of the par four 4th, whilst scaling the rampart-like dunes of the 13th hole would prove equally taxing.

But as dusk enveloped the course, it was the dashing Lord Pressney that saved the day. His mighty galleon firing-off enough heavy artillery to return home victorious. In earlier skirmishes on the Jubilee Course, the Duke of Devon (Trevor Smith), the Earl of Shortlands (Jeremy Scott) and the honourable secretary again, expunged the fruits of war.

As the sun set over the horizon, discussion among the combatants resolved that "links golf was the way forward" and so the ODGS will be looking forward to plundering a

return to Rye next year in the Spring. Let's hope the wind blows!

Richard Cosgrove

Autumn Meeting Princes GC Thursday 26 September



Scott, Brophy, Hennessy – and the only tree for miles



Brophy determined - but nonetheless very much "on the edge".

The forecast was not looking good as the Old Dunstonian Golf Society made its way to the Kent coast for its third meeting of the year at the links of Princes Golf Club. Even though it was late June, wind and rain were expected for most of the day, so it was interesting to watch the members, although small in number, gather at the first tee.

Paul Bennett strode to the first bow-legged, mean and moody like the gunslinger portrayed by Lee Van Cleef in the Spaghetti Westerns. One suspected if this man missed a two-footer all hell was going to break loose. "Best give him a wide berth" warned Paul King, who we were all pleased to see after his recent illness. Avoiding any further trauma was obviously top of his agenda!

Nigel Kees rocked up next sporting a funky new pair of spectacles, portraying an uncanny resemblance of a 1950s racing driver. He reassured us all that he would now be able to "see straight". Another renowned cricketer, Clive Carpenter was next and could have been striding out to bat all those years ago. Still elegant and stylish, his opening drive would dissect the offside superbly.

Martin Hennessey must have had serious concerns about being blown out to sea, such was the lurid colour of his new quarter-zip. "Truly horrific" was overheard on the practice putting green shared with Princes' members. Whether this

applied to Henno's putting or his dress-sense would remain unclear.

Our secretary turned up in tailored shorts, Bermuda socks and hairy pins on view, totally at odds with the forecast. What was he thinking? Had one of the baboons had escaped from the nearby Howlett's Zoo? "Perhaps he knows something we don't" we thought.

Rob Brophy arrived just in the nick of time, his white trousers gleaming in the gloom. In his haste his opening tee shot would scuttle into the long grass by the ladies' tee. Rumour has it Rob's actions were completely deliberate - a feeble attempt at avoiding too much exposure to one of his playing partner's juvenile conversation. I must admit that I, too, expected more from David Foster.

What an odd bunch and that's just some of us And so, they were off with Scotty exclaiming "All I can see are sand dunes!" and "Every hole looks the same!" Thankfully Henno was at hand to give him a lift up to better observe the layout.

The closest to the pin competition on the 145-yard par 3 Dunes course proved to be a stunning contest, although it would have been nice if someone actually hit the green. The prize for this contest would have to wait for another day.

By the time the final putt dropped, the sun had come out and Ian Pressney, for the second time this year, romped home on a links in shorts. Perhaps he really does know something we don't ...

The final meeting of the year will be the traditional Christmas meeting and AGM at Knowle Park on 5 December and it is hoped a few more characters will be on show.

Join us if you dare!

Richard Cosgrove

Looking forward

It all looks set for another of great golf days in 2020 with new Captain Trevor Smith choosing some great venues for the year. As always anyone is welcome and we especially look forward to seeing new or even old friends join us for a game next year.

The fixtures will culminate in an Autumn meeting at Saunton Golf Club in Devon that will double as a mini-tour. It is hoped that a Pope's & President's team will make the trip with us for some further OD networking and fun with a reciprocal arrangement the in 2021.

It would be great to have as many playing and non-playing ODs take September's planned overnight trip to the links in Devon to enjoy two of the top 50 golf courses in the country.

Ian Pressney - Hon Secretary

Dates for the Diary

Xmas Fayre & AGM: Knole Park GC5 December 2019

Spring meeting: Rye GC 6 May 2020

Summer meeting: Crowborough Beacon GC 24 June 2020

Autumn meeting/tour: Saunton GC 20/21 September 2020

Facebook

We are always eager to welcome ODA members and friends to join us for our golf days. See the ODGS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1033481393362390/> for our photo and video galleries.

SCHOOL REPORT

ST DUNSTAN'S FESTIVAL 2019



The annual St Dunstan's Festival was further revived this year with a much enhanced programme, expanding its offering well beyond the arts. It is now firmly established highlight of the end of each academic year, giving pupils the opportunity of engaging in a wide variety of activities and performances, involving not just the College but its wider Lewisham community.



Among the events held between 24 June and the first week in July were drama & dance, workshops, concerts, lectures, a Diversity and Leadership Talk with guest Baroness Doreen Lawrence, an historical tour of the school, and a variety of sporting events including MCC Cricket, Rugby and Fives.



The closing event on 4 July was an afternoon Tag Rugby festival sponsored by the Dunstonian Association. Three different student teams (Years 8/9, Years 10/11 and Sixth Form) played against members of staff and the student teams won! Association Chairman, David Edwards, was there for the matches; cheering on before presenting a well-earned victors' shield to students on together with a £100 donation to the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, the charity of choice of the winning teams.

History

The Festival originated in the 1990s under the stewardship of Dr Anthony Seldon, the then College Deputy Headmaster, as the Catford Arts Festival, running over two-and-a-half days in July. With more than 20 main events and 'a rich and enterprising fringe' it was quickly dubbed the 'Edinburgh Festival of South London'.

However, the Festival proved a short-lived annual event, lasting only a few years despite such cultural offerings as 1994's 'array of eclectic events catering for the soul' featuring the College jazz group, lectures by well-known writers and the Shakespeare-inspired 'A Pocket of Midsummer Night's Dream'.

The arrival of current Headmaster, Nick Hewlett, prompted the Festival's revival and re-launch in Summer 2015 as a two-week event, now firmly re-established in the annual College calendar.

Remembrance Day 2019



With next year marking the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2, the College's Remembrance Day on 11 November this year focussed on the 1939-45 conflict with material from the College archives was specially prepared to help College show students understand real stories from the St Dunstan's community at that time. As last year, a cross for each of was the fallen was laid on the crescent outside the Main Entrance.

After a Remembrance Service held in the Great Hall and led College Chaplain, Canon Boswell, all pupils and staff gathered on the front crescent for the Last Post, played by a College student, a two-minute silence at 11am, followed by the laying of wreaths.

SDC video

The College's new video "*Welcome to St Dunstan's, welcome to our school*" which was created with Inspired Films, was filmed at the College over a week in late March, and features among other events the CCF Biennial Parade, Sixth Form graduation and a Junior School drama lesson.

The video was awarded bronze in the 'Celebration' category at the EVCOM Clarion Awards ceremony on 5 September at the Design Museum in Kensington, London.

It also won bronze in the 'Editing' category at the EVCOM London Film at the British Film Institute (BFI) on 22 November.

Known as the Baftas for the commercial film-making industry, this year there were more than 800 entries for the Awards.

College win at 2019 Davey Awards

The St Dunstan's website, created in association with the professional team at Final Site UK, received a silver award at this year's 2019 Davey Awards as a 'best in class' school site. The Davey Awards are judged by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts (AIVA), an invitation-only body consisting of top-tier professionals from well-known media, advertising, and marketing organisations such as Condé Nast, Disney, Microsoft, MTV and Yahoo!.

SDC makes TES Marketing Award shortlist

As this edition of OD Notes closed for Press, it was announced

that the College has been shortlisted for a Times Educational Supplement (TES) Independent School 2020 award in its "Marketing Campaign of the Year" category, putting SDC among the most outstanding institutions in the independent sector.

TES Editor, Ann Mroz commented: "The Independent schools in this country are truly exceptional; and those that

have earned a place on the TES Independent School Awards shortlist are a cut above the rest. "We received an unparalleled number of entries this year, all of which were first rate. The schools that have been shortlisted should be proud - it's a remarkable achievement".

The winners will be revealed at a gala awards evening at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on Friday 7 February 2020.

Careers Convention





A record 65 stalls manned by career and higher education organisations were on site on a wet and windy 11 November evening for the latest annual SDC Careers Conventions in the Great Hall and the Refectory, topping last year's attendance of 60. Their representatives were there to share their knowledge and experience on the nature, challenges and rewards of their work and working lives, and the pathways to them. Among them were ODs who had a stall last year and came back again this year.

Significantly, the Convention also welcomed a record number of external students from local state schools attending - more than 100 in a total of more than 400 guests turning out despite the poor weather. The Great Hall and the Refectory were, in the words of the College organising team 'heaving with people at the height of the evening', among them quite a few OD volunteers including Association Committee member T P 'Tom' Coling ('01) and Michael Barley and Dr R B 'Richard' Davis ('74).

The Convention is aimed at giving College students in Years 10-12 who are at varied stages of thinking about their futures,

the chance to meet and chat informally with representatives from different professions, fields of employment, or higher education institutions. Past experience has shown an extremely positive feedback from the visiting representatives, the students and the students' parents.

For Year 12, the event helps to crystallise thinking about university, higher education, apprenticeship, or employment; for Years 10 and 11, it can stimulate ambition as well as laying to rest some of the myths about how life might be after their schooldays are over.

In planning for next year's event SDC Head of Careers, Nicola Rich will be particularly looking for delegates in Marketing, Fashion, Psychology, Social work, Occupational therapy, Television, Sport, Physiotherapy, Graphic design, Acting, Entrepreneurs, Jobs with languages, Web design, Animation, Illustration, Writing.

The event's success clearly relies on the goodwill of people such as you, the *OD Notes* reader.

If you, a colleague, or contact of yours, are able to attend, please email Nicola Rich at nrich@sdmail.org.uk.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The College's Year 12 (Lower 6th) undertake work experience to understand the working environment, build employability skills and enhance future employment or university applications. The College believes that this age is the right time for students to undertake work-based learning to aid their decisions about future careers and further study options.

The aim is to match the placement to a suitable student by asking potential mentors to complete an online form with basic information about the placement as well as checking that risks have been assessed. See the College website for detailed information on its work experience policy.

The College greatly appreciates placements offered by ODs - it can prove very difficult for students to secure placements by writing speculatively to organisations.

ODs in a position to offer a work experience placement on the SDC scheme contact
SDC Head of Careers, Ms Nicola Rich. At nrich@sdmail.org.uk

PERSONAL NOTES

DEATHS

Armitage

One of our most senior ODs I D 'Ian' Armitage ('39) died on 20.6.19 at the age of 96. A Thanksgiving Service held at St Paul's Church, Brackley Road, Beckenham on 10 July, was led by his widow Sylvia and OD son S D 'Simon' ('89), Simon's wife Annette and son Anthony. Other ODs present were D S 'Doug' Ford ('46) and his wife, J F 'John' Grundy ('50), B J 'Brian' Robinson ('51), M J 'Michael' Whatmough ('52) and his wife, and M A 'Mike' Rogers ('69).

A committed member of the OD Rugby Club for many years, Ian had specifically wanted the Old Dunstonian network to know when he passed away. It was a task which son, Simon, ensured was promptly carried out via a series of email messages to notify fellow ODRFC members as well as other OD friends and acquaintances of his father's death and of arrangements the Thanksgiving Service,

Simon writes in tribute to his father:

'Ian Douglas Armitage was born in 1922 in Leyton, Essex. His family settled in Catford and he and his older brother Lawrence both went to Torridon Road Primary School just at the top of their street and then to St Dunstan's, his nephew, Paul, and I were to attend in later years.

My father was a Goosey House man, gaining colours for rugby and boxing. He clearly enjoyed his time at the College and made good friends, although it was an education interrupted by illness. The outbreak of WW2, evacuation of the school to Reigate, and his subsequent enlisting in the RAF brought an abrupt end to his early years.

'The war was a period that defined him in many ways. He spoke about some of it but there was much left unsaid. A few notes and an audio recording that he made about 15 years ago tell a little of his story. It was clearly a very hard time of completely unknown duration in a location that many people forgot was still at war, especially after VE day in 1945.

'He largely served in India and Burma. Aside from the challenges of a tropical illness and the inevitable risks he had to take in the Air Force, he was fortunate to return at all. One flight after VJ day was to evacuate prisoners of war from Burma but it was overfull so he didn't board. The plane was struck by lightning and lost.

'He returned to Catford but only after nearly four years of continuous service overseas. It was a life-changing time. His best friend from school and many others had been killed in Europe and there was no chance to complete his education. He paid a lifelong price for serving his country.

'Many of my father's defining memories post-war came from friendships made through the ODs - he enjoyed the tours and the camaraderie, joining the Rugby Club and later becoming a regular line judge when he stopped playing.

'He and my mother, Sylvia, married in 1965 at Christ Church, Beckenham and I came along in 1971 and he was a life-long supporter of the SDC, attending numerous events even after I left in 1989.

Away from rugby and other College/OD activities, he always enjoyed his garden and allotments and the vast annual vegetable-growing exercise. On having to give up the allotment, he diverted his energy to helping in the gardening team at the church. In recent years he enjoyed staying with

me and my family, first in Colchester and more recently in Cambridge.

'My father had found Christian faith in the early 1960s, a faith which helped him to live through a set of very clear principles including never to go to sleep on an argument and always to trust in God's provision. His love of reading the Bible was something that was increasingly evident and he was keen that others had the chance to hear the same Christian message that had transformed his own life.

'When he was no longer able to get to St Paul's, Beckenham, he would listen online to the services from St Andrew the Great in Cambridge and he left an iPad full of downloaded sermons on which he had feasted daily - confident in what he hoped for and certain about what he could not see - right to the end of his 96-year race'.

Among other tributes to an OD whom your Editor came to value greatly as an enthusiastic contributor to *OD Notes* were those from rugby friends:

'Sad news. Ian was a very efficient touch judge in first couple of years that I played in the 1st XV. Long time ago, but I think I was a passenger in same car with Ian on my first Easter Tour in 1964; D 'David' Sharman ('56) was the driver,' D W 'David' Baker ('62)

'I remember your father well - we had a good OD "senior/junior" relationship and would often communicate re ODA and OD Rugby Club events. M A 'Mike' Rogers ('69)

'A gentle passionate Dunstonian. A valued lower side player, a reliable touch judge and loyal friend to many. He will be missed.' J F 'John' Grundy (50)

'Sorry to hear the sad news but 96 is a good innings. When I first started playing for the ODs in the late 1950s it was in the B team and Ian was on the wing - but he did argue with the ref, even in home games when the ref was Ronnie Marion who never could get out of habit of blowing up for a scrum and saying "our" ball'. S P 'Stuart' Robertson ('54)

'Sad news but, as Stuart said, he had a good innings. I, too, remember him in the B team led by Albert Lucky. Happy memories of the Bar at Beckenham Hill with the dart board and roaring fire. B J 'Brian' Robinson ('51)

Finally, knowing Ian's deep attachment to the OD rugby, Club President Mike Rogers some time later added a gentle request to his initial condolences to Simon and the Armitage family. 'As ODRFC archivist, should there be any rugby memorabilia stored by your father, I would be interested in items for the Rugby Club archives'. [Just so - Ed]

Childs

D W 'Derek' Childs ('52) died on 20.10.19 at the age of 86. He leaves a widow, Barbara, four grown children and 11 grandchildren. A memorial service held on 1 November at St Margaret's Church, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent was led by Barbara and Derek's two OD sons, S J 'Stephen' ('83) and J P 'Jonathan' ('85). It included a full choir and followed a cremation ceremony for the family only which took place earlier in the day.

Other ODs present at very well attended service were J 'John' Mockford ('51); the Rev J F 'John Andrews, R H 'Richard' Broadley, M C 'Michael' Randall ('53); D E 'David' Palmer ('54); D E 'David' Gardner, J S M 'John' White ('55); and R J 'Roger' Davenport ('63), most of whom joined the family for refreshments at The Three Horseshoes in Knockholt afterwards.

John Andrews delivered an excellent eulogy – a fond, amusing tribute to a lifetime friendship with many personal parallels.

'I knew Derek for more than 70 years – longer than anyone except for my own brother. Our lives ran on closely parallel lines when we were young. Before we met, we were both wartime evacuees – I in Devon, Derek in rural Warwickshire. After a spell back in wartime London, Derek went to Penarth in South Wales to join St Dunstan's in evacuation.

'We met in the junior forms of the College when it returned to Catford in 1945; Derek was 18 months older than me, but we were placed in the same school year. We got into mischief and were caned. I think for what was then called "taking the mickey" out of a teacher.

'Our school careers ran in parallel: we each became House Captain and Prefect in the 6th form. In National Service we were both commissioned in the Royal Artillery: I served in Germany, Derek in Edinburgh, he staying for a couple of years, with a regular commission.

'On leaving the Army, Derek did a spell driving buses for Scottish Motor Traction and I – much later when I was 60 – copied him and drove buses for the local firm: Metrobus at Green St. Green. We shared a lifelong interest in the passenger transport industry: I had worked as a bus-conductor during a university vacation; Derek worked as a volunteer on the famous Ffestiniog Railway for 25 years.

'However, our career paths could not have been more different: I became a language teacher and Derek worked in the meat trade, spending three years in Australia and New Zealand learning the business at the sharp end on cattle stations before returning to the City of London, where in due course he became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Butchers.

'As young adults we chose to go on crazy hairbrained enterprises. Once we undertook a car trip to the Continent in Derek's 1932 open-top baby Austin. We turned a few heads en route and at the Belgian frontier a chap wanted to *buy* the car, but Derek declined, as it would have spoiled our holiday. Later, as we hurtled down a hill in Germany, a peasant woman crossed herself as we passed.

'One day, Derek phoned me with the news that British Rail had a special offer – "Go anywhere in Britain for £10"! Would I like to go on a trip with him? "Where to?" I asked. Derek replied: "How about Wick?" Having established that this was a few miles short of John o' Groats, I gulped, and said yes.

'We travelled overnight, inexplicably stopping frequently for no apparent reason, and found ourselves in Carlisle when we should have been approaching Inverness. Derek stretched his legs on the platform and encountered a large man in a suit who commented on the lateness of the train and asked Derek where he was heading.

'In a wonderful theatrical display, Derek told him a sob story of how our once-in-a-lifetime trip seemed doomed, as we would miss our onward connection. The man said: "Give me your names, and I'll see what I can do." He turned out to be

a ScotRail manager and on our very late arrival in Inverness, there was a small reception committee of uniformed staff who greeted us brightly: "Mr Childs, Mr Andrews ... we're here to facilitate your onward journey: how would you like to go to Mallaig and Skye? ... or are you set on Wick?"

'Yes, we were. So, smiling through gritted teeth, they told us a car was waiting to take us on and that, if we missed the train back, it would also do the return trip. We jumped in and saw a signpost reading: "Wick: 70 miles". Our driver drove like Jehu and we arrived in Thurso (rather than Wick) with a view across to the Orkney Islands. We had just 40 minutes before the return train left, so we raced to the northern shore, scribbled a couple of postcards, and hared back to the station for the journey south for our overnight stop in Edinburgh.

'A side of Derek's life which I did not share was his love of choral singing. His father was an organist and choirmaster and, unsurprisingly, Derek became a choirboy – the beginning of a life-time's singing in church and other choirs. At school he won music prizes, and later sang in the choir of St Nicholas, Chislehurst, where he married Barbara in 1963, having met her three years earlier. They raised a splendid family of three sons, and a daughter, Fiona, who emigrated to New Zealand.

'While working in the City of London, Derek sang in the Festival choir of St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield. More locally, he sang for many years with the Sackville Singers, a chamber choir based in Sevenoaks, and for 20 years in the choir of St Katharine's, Knockholt, where Barbara was organist and choirmaster. So Derek started under the baton of his father and finished under that of his wife!

'Our two lives continued to be intertwined in our adult years: we were each best man to the other at our respective weddings and godfather to each other's children. We both spent an inordinate amount of time in church: I, after ordination at aged 47, in the pulpit, and Derek in choirstalls in the chancel.

'So, to end with, how can I sum up Derek's character, seen through the eyes of a lifelong friend? Derek was emphatic in his views – some might say verging on the dogmatic. Many are the times I've seen poor Barbara roll her eyes at his pronouncements! Derek expected things to be done – as St Paul wrote to the Corinthians – "decently and in order" and if they were not, his criticism was incurred.

'He appeared to me as someone with a boyish sense of humour, but more importantly, as a conscientious parent and husband who always had the good of his family as his top priority. They now mourn his loss and so do I. He was my best friend'.

John White writes to add his tribute: 'Derek was some years ahead of me and was my Goosey House Captain, a job I remember he did very well. We met up again at the Eastbourne lunches and found we had several shared interests, notably in railways (large and small), and buses. We had both worked overseas, although in very different places, and our wives had much in common as well'.

'He persuaded me, without too much difficulty, to join The Transport Trust of which he was an active member. All this formed the basis for a lasting friendship with lunches and entertaining discussions. As a House Captain, I always remembered Derek as firm, fair and approachable and so it seems he remained throughout his life. In common with many others, we will miss him a great deal'.

In tribute to an OD for whom St Dunstan's was a life-long interest Childs' family are now gradually assembling old photos and other memorabilia which will be passed to the College archives

Copp

B R W 'Bruce' Copp ('73) died peacefully at home on 7.8.19 aged 65. A Service of Celebration of the life of a much loved husband, friend and colleague to many, was held on 3 September at Wealden Crematorium, Horam in Kent.

ODs present were: C M 'Chris' Hills, T M V 'Tim' Lineham, R C 'Charlie' Taylor ('73); L F 'Lawrence' Atkinson (over from Australia), A G 'Alun' Evans ('74); P L 'Phil' Atkinson ('75) together with Richard Pierce (ODRFC past player). Brian Rivett, who gave an excellent eulogy at the Service, writes in tribute:

'Bruce Ridley Copp ('73), a stalwart of Old Boys' rugby for many years - he was a hard scrummaging prop - lost his long fight against cancer in August. Although he did not take much interest in the academic aspects of school, he greatly enjoyed his career at St Dunstan's and threw himself into a wide range of activities outside the classroom. Despite his occasionally detached view of authority in his progress through the School, he finished up as Head Prefect.

'A sharply intelligent man, Bruce who found his vocation in the Lloyd's insurance market where his gregarious nature and an uncanny ability to 'sniff out a deal' brought him material success together with a wide circle of friends -not an easily achieved combination.

'Bruce had a broad range of interests but his greatest relaxation came with his shooting in various forms. He never allowed vulgar commerce to stand in the way of the 40 or so days he spent in the field during the season; all his commercial business came from Australia and he was careful to attend to it during the Antipodean Winter. He was also a keen stalker on annual visits to the Isle of Arran.

'He was also collector. He built a substantial library of first editions and an unbroken run of *Private Eye* and *Autocourse*. He was a keen visitor to fine art galleries and auction houses where he frequently added to his collection of modern figurative paintings. He also possessed a somewhat eclectic collection of classic cars, which he drove with considerable verve, to the occasional consternation of his fellow motorists.

'Despite his apparently carefree disposition, Bruce could be very disciplined when he chose to be and brought this side of his character to his flying. He had been drawn to flying by his interest in history and flying's romantic side, which had attracted so many brave pilots in two world wars. He was a great supporter of the Battle of Britain Historical Society.

'After he retired from the City, Bruce concentrated his efforts, with the support of his wife, Sue, to his farm in East Sussex. He and Sue ran this more out of their love of the land and their animals than any intention of making a living. They had no children, but Bruce was an attentive and generous Godfather to many.

'Old fashioned and principled, he was a man who was, perhaps, not entirely in tune with modern times. None the less, the huge turnout at Bruce's funeral in early September, liberally laced with ODs of his generation, was a reflection of the warmth and affection in which this affable and wholly unassuming man was held by so many'.

Ellerby

We learn of the death of former SDC master Harold Ellerby in August this year via a moving personal letter from his son, Chris, to his father's former pupil who returned to the SDC Masters Common Room, S D 'Simon' Thorogood ('65). Chris wrote:

'Although he had not been in the best of health, there was rarely a day that he didn't mention St Dunstan's, the staff and pupils he had taught. He was proud of and took a special delight in speaking about the "young men" that he had known at the school who returned as members of staff.

In particular, I would like to thank you for the friendship that you showed towards him since the loss of his wife, Kathleen, in 2003. Your friendship has been one of the things that encouraged him to keep going for as long as he did.

'He recalled fondly the last time you both saw one another when he and Kathleen came to the school (at your invitation) for the re-opening of the College swimming pool. This meant an awful lot to Harold and we are extremely grateful'.

Hankins

Mrs Jane Prett emailed in with apologies for omitting to contact *OD Notes* earlier. 'I have to report the death of my father, F G 'Geoff' Hankins ('45) last year on 16.4.18 at the age of 91. Our mother, Iris, had also died unexpectedly four months earlier and he was totally lost without her'. They had married in 1951 and so were married for 66 years. I have an older sister Susan born 1956; I was born in 1959'.

'Our father was always a keen follower of St Dunstan's. He was at school when WW2 broke out and was evacuated first to Reigate then to Wales, then back to London after the war finished.

'My father was in the CCF at school - we have so many photos of him as Base Drummer in the Corps band marching with the animal skin on him across London Bridge on Founders Day. He really loved it and always had a love for military music because of this.

'He joined the Army on National Service in 1946, the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, was commissioned and then transferred to the RASC and sent to Germany in the 'clear up' phase. He was an 'Acting Captain' at the time he left the Army - which in peace time wasn't bad considering he was only there, I think, for two and a half years. His time there made a great impression on him

'He was very successful in his career, working his way up to eventually becoming Chief Executive and Chairman of the public company, Fitch Lovell, who sold out to Booker PLC just as my father retired. He became a non-exec director of Booker for a short while. He was a tremendous character with a great sense of humour. He was a brilliant 'dad' too, with high standards of morality and decency. He was a gentleman.

'He was very keen Rugby player but don't get confused with his younger brother Fred - Frederick Walter Hankins ('48) - who, I think, returned to St Dunstan's as a teacher.' My father may have been named Frederick Geoffrey but was always known as 'Geoff or Geoffrey'!!

'No problem in distinguishing between Geoff and brother Fred, writes your Editor. 'Fred did, indeed, return to St Dunstan's to teach. I have a fond memory of my first term at St Dunstan's in 1955 with him challenging a whole crowd of us to try (simultaneously) to tackle him as part of our first lesson in the arts of rugby. He knew what he was doing - we

failed completely to even lay a hand on him'!

Ling

Denis George Ling died on 22.09.19 - no further details known.

Palfrey

We learn from S 'Steven' Chaplin ('52), son of the late I C 'Ivor' (1914), of the recent death of his contemporary R 'Ralph' Palfrey ('52) at the age of 86. Palfrey's funeral was held at Bromley Baptist Church and he was buried at the new

SCRAPBOOK

KCVO for Hall on retirement

Our congratulations go to our most eminent churchman, the Very Revd Dr J R 'John' Hall ('67). Her Majesty The Queen presented him with the award of Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order at his farewell audience at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 30 October. The award, an honour in the personal gift of the Sovereign, marked his retirement as Dean of Westminster after some 13 years at Westminster Abbey.

50 years on – a return visit

P W 'Peter' Rodgers ('69) picked up matters with your Editor pointing out that 'Considerable time has passed since our January e-mails on my making a 50-years-since-leaving anniversary return visit to SDC'.

'This I achieved last weekend as part of the Family Day. It would be incorrect to say that the return was, but there were definitely moments when I found myself needing to breathe deeply.

'You asked for some "words" and, with a bit of thought, I've come up with the attached. By way of background, my school history was: Years 1 & 2 - B, years 3 to 5 - S followed by 6Eo set; Bennett House Sept '61 - Jul '69 - I did a 3rd year in sixth form having been unwell at A-level time in Jun '68)

Rodgers' thoughtful observations in describing his return will chime with the thoughts of many ODs who have finally made it back to Catford after years away.

'Apprehension! What will I find beyond those heavy doors? There were changes of course, but neither so many nor so great as to dispel the feelings of renewed familiarity with a place that I once had known so well. The Great Hall is largely the same but turning round, the various honours boards have now been relocated to the passageway beside the Hall and have been replaced by pictures, but these are cosmetic changes only.

'The Family Day "guided tours" structure was more a means of keeping groups of people, often including families and with widely varied years of leaving, loosely together rather than being closely shepherded around, but it did afford time to look into various rooms.

'Away from the Hall and moving to the Middle Corridor, the most earnest discussions surrounded which of the then eight houses occupied which room but, given that occupancy changed at intervals, there was a consensus that everyone was probably correct given their individual years of attendance.

'Moving further afield around the school, most comments took the form of, "I remember when this was" - recollections which included the former Masters' Common Room and the old Dining Hall.

cemetery at Kemnal Manor - the last resting place of the late F A Robinson ('66) – see *OD Notes* Spring & Autumn 2014.

MISSING MEMBERS LIST

We have had no contact details for the following ODs on our "Missing" or "No Communications" lists for some time now and, as it is now 80 years after their College leaving date, we must regrettably presume that they are no longer with us: J E Hall, H R Heasman, J A Hopper, J P Riddle, W J Vredenburg (all '38) and R J Acutt, R H Proctor, F H Sawyer, J W Scott (all '39).

'Memories of those earlier years still fit comfortably into the revised environment and a little imagination allows the voices of individual masters to be "heard" once again.

'It is not my place to pass judgement on the changes, but I am of the opinion that nothing has happened purely for the sake of making a change. The ladies have been admitted, the building once the Headmaster's House is now a pre-prep school, and facilities have been added, relocated, extended and improved; but everything has happened within what remains highly recognisable as the SDC of old.

'Thanks are due to SDC, administrators, teaching staff and student colleagues alike, for the memories - and for giving me a past, a present and a future - as well as to those members of the OD movement who give freely their time and effort and who help to keep those memories alive'.

RN Passing Out Parade



Our congratulations go to OD J D 'Joss' Young ('14) on completing his Initial Training at Britannia Royal Naval College

(BRNC) and passing out to become an Officer in the Royal Navy.

Joss rose to the rank of Coxswain in the College CCF Royal Navy Section and subsequently returned to become a CCF officer in the. An ardent supporter of the CCF its RN Section, he was noted as maintaining exceptionally high standards as both a cadet and officer while at the College.

SDC's Major Davies, Commander Main and Lt Davies to attended Joss's BRNC Passing Out Parade on 15 August with the Young family. The parade proved a fine demonstration of military precision and flair from the establishment on the River Dart which has been delivering world class Naval Officer training since 1863.

ODs will join the CCF and the College in wishing Midshipman Young all the best with his ongoing training and the start of what promises to be a very successful career as an RN submariner.

'A Mile in My Shoes'

M A 'Malachi' Connolly ('11) studied Biomedical Science at the University of Kent before deciding to become a nurse, obtaining his PGDip Nursing in 2018. He is currently working at a major trauma centre in South London and is now an NHS England ambassador helping to increase the uptake of young people studying nursing degrees, particularly encouraging more men into the profession.

Over this summer Malachi worked with the Transformation Trust at the Rock Assembly in Wembley and was the subject of one of a series of audio portraits *A Mile in My Shoes* in which people to walk a mile in the shoes of a stranger and to listen to their story.

On arrival for his Shoes recording, he was as surprised as his producer to discover that she was your Editor's younger daughter Andrea. To put her OD credentials into context, she is just one of the many OD offspring who have honed their early social skills among playmates on the field at Park Langley.

To their parents often extreme discomfort, this entirely independent junior venture has, of course, always included "exploring" and a now time-honoured initiation – daring to see who can go furthest up the tunnel into which the stream disappears at the top end of the ground!"

Drawing a blank

D A 'David' Chapman ('79) emailed in to the *OD Notes* Office in mid-September in search of contemporary J 'James' Farminer who he hope might be on the OD mailing list. 'I lost contact with him many years ago and would love to get in touch. I would be grateful if you could give him my email address'.

Regrettably, a quick check revealed no contact information - email or postal - for Farminer. As your Editor explained, 'this simply means he left school without ever joining the OD Association - not as unusual as one might expect. The system of chasing up to ensure that all school leavers became Association members cannot be described as a scientific exercise around the period the two of you left the College - sadly, "hit and miss" might be a better description! So, you have my apologies for not being able to be of more help'.

Thanks for a swift though negative response came by return from Chapman who was philosophical, musing that 'It's funny how people from School come in to your mind even after all these years. I thought everyone would have joined the ODs. Not to worry; I'll try another route'.

1980s Beer n' Curry

Special correspondent for the occasion, Stephen Dyer files his report on a further episode in the series of select gatherings of the OD 1980s leavers group.

'Another successful get-together on 3 July with more banter, more beer, followed by the inevitable curry but, just as importantly, with a new recruit! Iain Blazey joined us for the first time having seen us in a previous *OD Notes*'.

'The full roll call was: C S 'Clive' Archer, I A D 'Iain' Blazey, R J 'Russ Hackwood, R P 'Russ' Harrison, M S F 'Mark' Hayford, D J 'Don' Lindsay, P 'Paul' Sibun and S A 'Stephen' Dyer (all '80). Interloper - but welcome nonetheless for the occasion - was M J 'Matt' Blake ('89).

'We started in The Bull's Head in Chislehurst and moved on to the Bengal Lancer restaurant for the essential curry part of proceedings viz:



Left to right Harrison, Sibun, Dyer, Blazey, Lindsay, Hayford, Archer, Hackwood and Blake.

'Following that a few of us decided we had to go back to The Bull's Head to round the evening off!



Last men standing - Left to right Harrison, Lindsay, Sibun, Archer, Blazey and Dyer.

'We are already looking forward to the next one. The good news is that Iain will be back and we'll have another OD, A P 'Andy' Towers ('80), joining us - coming all the way from Singapore solely to see us obviously!

Athletic, posh, and sons of Gentlemen

'I was interested in the recent piece on P J Brinson ('53) and had often wondered what happened to him', emailed in P J 'Pat' Connell ('56). 'He was a bit of a hero to those of us who did Athletics and had, at some time, attempted to emulate his mastery of the Western Roll!! (The Fosbury Flop was some way off!)'.

'As you say, this could be due to Editorial vagaries. During that time it seems that only the Prefecture warranted a full blown profile in the Valette column; other leavers might sometimes have a name check without mention of their achievements. Perhaps this was the reason we see no further mention of PJB'?

Changing tack more than somewhat, Connell went on to add a further couple of Dunstonian-related items. 'While on holiday recently I met an American whose mother had been born and raised in Catford. He had therefore heard of St Dunstan's and from what he had learned thought I must be pretty posh'!

'It reminded me of a tale (probably apochryphal) that when the school was opened there was a name plate at the entrance gate stating: "St Dunstan's College for the sons of Gentlemen". It was quickly changed to "SDC for Boys" - I wonder why'!!

Reluctant converts

'Make me an email recipient, if you please, although I do not enjoy scanning a double-column-text on a computer screen' writes one of our distinguished senior ODs, Professor A H 'Alan' Roper ('52), from UCLA in California. 'But I am old and it would be unfortunate if you incurred the cost of sending the printed version to a corpse, whereas I suppose it would not matter if you continued to send an email version to one'.

'I am, by the way, one of the prefects of 1952 and enjoy reading accounts of their lunches as I fade away on the Pacific littoral like a wretch in a novel by Conrad'.

'Many thanks for your elegant acceptance of the digital inevitable' went your Editor's reply, 'I can only apologise that the request to move to the e-version comes from a semi-technophobe like me'.

'You may find it reassuring that I get by happily using an ageing laptop and an even more ancient Sony Ericsson mobile which saw duty during my younger daughter's gap year spent in SE Asia and Australia in 2007/08. No modern "strokie" phones for me'!

Thespian recollections

J A 'John Sangster' ('61) emailed in to thank for our last edition which had triggered a brief wander down memory lane for him.

'Your note about B 'Barry' Maitland ('59) and his leaving date brought back memories of Dramatic Society productions at that time. Barry was an impressive Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* in, I think, 1959, and then Cassius in the late John Newton's production of *Julius Caesar* in Spring Term 1960'.

'By his own account, Maitland was then a (temporary) master, although I, who was his co-conspirator Brutus in that production, have no recollection of that! Incidentally, the part of Octavius was played by Michael Grade ('60) – subsequently far better known for his off-stage connections to the entertainment world - and Caesar was another contemporary, the late B 'Barry' Mason ('60) who died in late 2013.

Walking the D-Day beaches



David and Ann-Marie en route



Early morning on the trail

In early October past Association President Professor D B 'David' Jefferys (1970) and his wife Ann-Marie walked 75 miles along the Normandy Beaches to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the D Day landings and to support the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) for which they have now raised more than £10,000.

Jefferys writes: 'In my latest walk, apart from fund-raising for the ABF, I wanted, as a Bromley Councillor, to visit the graves of Bromley residents and lay a commemorative cross. Initially the intention was also to visit the graves of fallen ODs, but research revealed while many ODs participated in the D-Day landings, none are buried in the large number of WW2 cemeteries in Normandy'.

'The walk was, nonetheless, a most moving experience on a number of counts. It was brought to life by two military historians who accompanied us along with an inspirational tri-plegic ABF ex-serviceman, severely injured in Afghanistan, whose mantra was "What the mind believes, the body achieves". However, the greatest poignancy for me was that my father had landed on D-day+1 with the 8th Army in Normandy and I was able to follow the route his tank squadron had taken'.

The Jeffrey's trek began before dawn at the village of St Mere Eglise where the first paratroopers landed to secure key points before the invasion. It continued to Utah Beach and then inland past the sites of numerous key battles which consolidated the invasion. Day 2 was along Omaha Beach, site of the major US landing with the impressive American Cemetery and then onto Gold Beach where the British forces landed. This section of the walk took in the impressive Royal Marine Memorial and concluded at Arromanche with the Royal Engineers Memorial and the preserved Mulberry harbour.

The final day began again before dawn at the Sam Hollins tram stop and continued along Juno Beach, the site of the Canadians landings – as Jefferys reveals 'while listening on the radio to England beating Argentina in the Rugby World Cup'. It then continued to Sword Beach, the second British landing site and then to the Hermanville War Cemetery. The day concluded at Pegasus Bridge, secured as in the first acts of the invasion by troops from the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry landing from gliders.

[Might be thought that this is all becoming rather a Jefferys family signature, Their Normandy expedition followed up David's walk last year along the front line of the 1914/18 battlefields and his running the London Marathon - in under five hours - with his OD son, P C B 'Peter' ('07) in April this year to raise funds for Dementia Revolution. Well done all! – Ed]

Never too late

About a year ago, long-time resident in Germany B C 'Brian Price' ('54) wrote in surprised to see a mention in our Autumn 2018 *Notes* of the rediscovery by J M C 'John Campbell' Ricketts ('65) of his old friend, Peter Day with whom he had regularly cycled home from school.

Price's letter explained that he had tried to contact Day when on a visit to Yorkshire in 1972 (!) but without luck despite an in-depth search in Scarborough where he knew Day had been running a guesthouse.

Later, using an address and telephone number supplied by your Editor, Price made contact with Ricketts who came up with contact details for the elusive Day. By mid-year Price and his old friend had finally been re-united. As Price says: 'I wrote to him with news I had of myself and received a detailed reply of his life history since leaving school! I propose keeping in touch with him for as long as possible: he is 88 this year and I 85, so too much cannot be expected'.

Of his time in Germany, Price tells us that since moving there in 1973, 'I kept myself fit by strenuous mountain tours in the Alps in summer and Nordic skiing in winter. I am still enjoying good health but can no longer undertake such efforts and am restricted to gardening and walking.

He adds 'one other thing that might be of interest. On a recent UK visit my eldest grandson's wedding in Saltdean, I enquired about an OD who left the College before WW2: John Allan Weston. I don't think he was ever an Association member, but he is still alive in a senior citizens' residence in Bickley and, if he lives until next March, will become a centenarian'.

In the Steps of St Dunstan (2)

Our intrepid band of '66ers – J R 'John' Broadfoot, D P 'David' Cousin, W J McL 'John' Marshall, and A J 'Andrew' Mew - continued their annual pursuit of the amazing, largely unknown,

life and times of St Dunstan with a visit to his birthplace in Baltonsborough village, six miles SW of Glastonbury, in mid September. Many people have no idea what a truly huge figure St Dunstan was in his time, overshadowed only by Thomas A'Becket (c1120-1170) two centuries later.



Marking St Dunstan's birthplace



A contemporary image of our man



Our OD's meet Father Dunstan



The Baltonsborough village church

Born in 909, St Dunstan became a priest at 25, living a truly remarkable 80 years and serving at the court of seven different English kings over the years. He was appointed Abbot of Glastonbury by King Edmund in the early 940s and set about transforming the monastery both architecturally, materially, educationally and spiritually. He rebuilt the Abbey, founded a school and extended the draining of the Somerset levels. His political role expanded considerably under King Eadred who appointed him his Treasurer. After a brief spell in exile in Flanders, he was brought back to England by King Edgar and

was made Bishop of Winchester and London.

He was then appointed to the role for which he is best known - Archbishop of Canterbury - serving no less than 28 years in the highest religious office in the land. He was a charismatic free thinker, hence his popularity at Court, and carried out extensive reform and modernisation of the Church and State.

On a secular level, St Dunstan was an artist - a metal worker – and, quite apart from his considerable spiritual influence at Court, was involved in establishing national standards of coinage, measurements and trading in order to assist the poor. He became Patron Saint of Silversmiths & Goldsmiths and, with OD rugby surely in mind, Patron Saint of Beer Brewing! He died on 19 May 988, a date which was declared a feast day to be celebrated every year, and he was buried at Canterbury Cathedral. To this day, English hallmarks still start on 19 May of any year.

TAILPIECE

Time to take one's leave

Personal decisions are sometimes difficult to take but my 50th edition of *OD Notes* is, I think, an appropriate moment to lay down my editorial pen. I do so proud to have been in the company of two distinguished former keepers of the OD word, my one-time Latin master, the late L F 'Leslie' Morris (1917) and good friend the late J W 'John' Newton ('44).

Between the three of us we have covered OD matters since 1924 and, while we didn't quite make our century, 95 is not a bad collective innings!

Objectives

Digital delivery may have largely taken on from the printed word as the means by which *Notes* now reaches its readers, but the over-riding purpose has always remained the same - to entertain, inform and encourage. To give our readers a picture of the lives and achievements of those who have "adorned the white" and, most importantly, to ensure that ODs have a way of keeping in touch with former friends and contemporaries.

So how well have we met these objectives? It would be less than honest not to admit that, while there are many positives, there are also some areas where we have been less successful.

Positives

On the plus side, the *Notes* trumpet can be blown for having uncovered any number of OD achievements in many different fields, among them the artistic, clerical, commercial, cultural, legal, political, scientific, and sporting spheres.

With *Notes* also central to keeping ODs in touch down the years, the Association now has a genuine international network firmly in place linking friends at home and around the world – in Europe, in Asia and the Middle & Far East, in South Africa, Australia & NZ, in the Caribbean, in North, Central & South America, and even in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. The failure? Antarctica - a case of *nul point*!

Obituaries tend to be a somewhat niche area for both editor and reader but here, too, I think we can claim to have done justice to those who have contributed so much to our rich OD inheritance. More widely, our coverage of OD sacrifices in time of war, particularly during WW1, will I believe stand as a lasting tribute to those who gave their lives in answering their country's call to arms.

Our OD '66ers visited a memorial to St Dunstan in Baltonsborough village, combining this with a visit to the beautiful 15th Century village Church of - yes - St Dunstan's. Inside there are tapestries paying tribute to the great man. The OD group had an hour's very enjoyable and informative guided tour of Glastonbury Abbey by a St Dunstan's expert - Father Dunstan (of course!). There is also a feature in a stained glass window of St Mary's Church directly opposite Glastonbury Abbey.

Our thanks to John Bearfoot for this report which concludes: 'A trip to Baltonsborough/Glastonbury is highly recommended. St Dunstan was a truly great man, great reformer and free thinker who, remarkably, lived 80 years in the 10th Century'!

RECENT MOVES

P M Newton ('73) from London SE24 to Bourton, Gillingham, Dorset.

Likewise, the *Notes* has been the essential journal of record for the OD rugby and cricket clubs down the years. Not everyone's cup of tea as light reading, but our coverage has ensured that each season's campaign has been properly covered and OD sporting achievements suitably noted.

Not such good news

Turning to the debit side of the ledger, it must be counted as a sizeable failure that we still have so few female ODs contributing to our coverage. It may be, as some claim, that OD females are intrinsically less "clubable" than their male counterparts. Perhaps so but, as we have pointed out before, it may be that they are just less prone to boasting of their achievements. Either way, it remains a shame that they have not featured more strongly in our pages since a co-ed SDC became a reality more than 20 years ago.

Tracking down "missing" ODs is another area for some regret. The *Notes* has played its part in boosting our total active membership from less than 2,000 in 1995 to nearly 3,500 today. The not-so-good news is that we currently have no email or postal address for a further 1,100 or so with whom we once had contact. As one's school report might say "More work to be done here"!

Progress – and fun

Despite these and other less obvious shortcomings, the *Notes* has borne witness to some real progress in my time – more members, more activities on which to report, a far wider geographical coverage and readership, some improved College/Association links and, above all, a continuing healthy regard for our essential Dunstonian ethos.

On a lighter note, it also seems only right to thank those who have held no lasting grudge against their Editor for revealing some youthful misdeeds in our pages, nor for his shameless favouring of the Addicks, South London's greatest football team – not at all a bad season so far!

It's been a great journey reporting OD news of every kind. I sign off with my grateful thanks to all contributors and occasional correspondents who have so readily given their time and care in helping to develop *OD Notes* over the past 25 years. In short, it's all been much as it should be – hard work at times but, above all, never less than fun to do!

Bob Rangecroft

OD email directory

OD emailers' addresses continue to be added – and deleted when they prove inoperative. Members can obtain the email addresses of ODs they wish to contact, simply by emailing the Alumni Office for the details they need.

We continue our established policy of refusing non-OD access to the directory responding only to genuine OD requests for specific addresses.

More generally, people change their email address, have mailboxes which become full, or have servers who return messages for other reasons - any of which render the address effectively inoperative.

Please let us have your new details, make sure you (or your server) are not blocking Association messages, or simply sort out your mailbox so we and other members can reach you.