

Past Pupils' Newsletter

Autumn 2003

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Greetings again from Hilary and Kathleen

Next past pupils' reunion - Saturday 15th May 2004

A date for next year's diary: Mr Kemp has kindly offered to host another Open Afternoon for past pupils at the school on Saturday 15th May 2004, 'usual time', 1-5pm. We look forward to seeing many familiar and new faces, so do come along if you can, and encourage any other past pupils you are in touch with to join us.

The new school bell

Some of you who live locally may have seen the picture in the Essex Chronicle on 17th October showing a miniature version of the new school bell to be installed in due course in the bell tower above the main entrance to Moulsham Juniors. Now here's a mystery: in 1938, the new school building already included the bell-tower, yet there is apparently no sign or record of a bell ever having been installed there before! Can anyone remember there being a school bell in the early days, or any plans to have one? Whether or not, it is a super idea to put the bell-tower to its proper use now, and have a bell rung every day five minutes before school begins. Mr Kemp has started an appeal to fund the project - details in his report on page 3.

Corn Exchange

Dot Bedenham, Keeper of Social History at the Chelmsford Museum in Oaklands Park, is very grateful to those of you who responded to her appeal for recollections of events at the former Corn Exchange. Dot also enjoys reading the Newsletter, and writes: "The articles are always fascinating, and Ian Hook [Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum] and I devour the pages, especially those about wartime Chelmsford which always teach us something new."

Photos and articles

Thank you to all those who have sent in letters, emails and articles for this issue, and those who have provided names for photographs. Do please keep writing for the Newsletter - your memories and news are greatly appreciated by our ever-growing band of readers, now over 500. As ever, please send items and pictures to Kathleen Boot at 1A Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9PG, or if you prefer, by email to kathleen.boot@virgin.net

Class reunions

We are delighted to have a report of Dorothy Day (Spooner)'s successful class reunion on page 6, and in our next issue we will include some feedback from another of Jennifer Bailey (Rayner)'s regular meetings of girls from her class. In late November, Hilary and I are looking forward to meeting yet another group of former classmates, all friends of **Sarah Haynes (Gipson)**, 1977-81. More about that in our Spring issue, but meanwhile we are pleased to include a photo of Sarah's top year junior class, with many names, on page 13. And of course, we should love to know of any other class reunions you may have held or are planning to arrange.

Mr and Mrs Sturgeon

We were very sad to hear from Mrs Sturgeon, former Moulsham Infants' Head Teacher Miss Purdie, that her husband has been very poorly of late, and can no longer remember his 25 years as a very dynamic and respected Headmaster. From 1957 he was in charge of the Junior Boys' School, and in 1969 took over as Head of the combined Moulsham Junior School. We send Mrs Sturgeon our kind thoughts at this difficult time.

Very best wishes for Christmas and New Year to you all, from Hilary Balm (Dye) and myself,

Kathleen Boot (Nash), 1951-55

Notes from the Head Teacher, Mr Les Kemp

I've just arrived home at 9:40pm from a meeting of the Friends of Moulsham Junior School and it has been a long day with bowls club starting at 8am. As I drove home talking to myself in the car, as I do when I'm tired, my thoughts were focused on the parents of children at this school and the PTA. The Friends of Moulsham School Committee are all busy people but this evening were adding to their work load by volunteering for a range of tasks connected with our Christmas Bazaar.

When I started teaching there were no PTAs and it was not until I was a Deputy Headteacher in 1973 that I had experience of a PTA being established. FOMS now raises substantial sums of money for the school and there are few areas of school life that haven't benefited from its participation. French teaching in Year 5, computer equipment, PE and games equipment, library books, dictionaries, class reading books and a major contribution towards our new piano all feature on their shopping list for the school. It has fortunately not neglected to hold the beetle drives, the bingo evenings and other events which don't raise a lot of money but are enjoyable family evenings.

On Wednesday afternoons Chelmsford Adult Education Centre has been holding a six week course for parents of children at the school on keeping up with your children's maths. If the ears of members of the group were burning recently, it was because the organising lecturer was expressing delight and astonishment at the numbers attending and the enthusiasm shown by the parents. A course in literary teaching in the primary school is being held next term.

This week the school council has been holding one of its regular fruit weeks and a grandparent of one of our pupils in the green grocery trade donated boxes of apples and satsumas. The former caretaker's house that we have taken over, now houses two meeting rooms and a finance office all of which were supplied with furniture and office equipment from two insurance offices that recently closed and where two of our parents worked. The thing we most often have to decline is computer equipment but we've never had to refuse promotional items that stores have left over which we use as small prizes on our stalls and sideshows.

The recent car wash in aid of installing a new school bell (see below) was dependent on parents and children doing the work and parents bringing along their cars. It was a record for both aspects. The number of parents helping our sponsored Fitness Event was also a record as was the time parents and children took to clear the hall after our indoor ice skating event.

I believe our most fortunate children are those who see their parent or other family members helping at a school, playgroup, sports club, family, religious or social event because we can't teach community involvement, children need to catch it from those modelling it around them.

Trees

We want to plant four more trees in front of the school and around the turning circle. If you would like to celebrate an anniversary or other special event by the planting of a tree, please contact me.

New School Bell

What will probably be my last major fund raising event at this school, is to install a school bell to be rung each morning five minutes before the start of school. A report by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry condemned our existing bell and pulley system and recommended a new bell and electronic ringing system because of problems with the bell tower. The cost is an enormous £2,600 of which we have presently raised £140 through a car wash and a donation. If you would like to contribute or know of any charitable trust that would assist, please contact me.

From the archive: recollections by 'first day' pupil Alan John Roxby

Ten years ago, in 1993, a former pupil of Moulsham Junior Boys' School, Alan John Roxby, came to tell new pupils [Year 3] at Moulsham Juniors about his own first day at the school. Notes of his talk, and some of his wartime memories, are in the school archive, and we have reproduced extracts below. Sadly, Mr Roxby died a few years later, on 16 May 1996, aged 68 years. But we are very glad we have his recollections on record, to pass on to you in the Newsletter.

' I was one of the pupils who entered this school when it first opened on 30 August 1938. It was not one big school then, but two, one for boys and the other for girls, with different teachers and rules. There were no playing fields next to the playground, and the playground itself was surrounded by an iron spiked railing, with a fence between the two schools, to separate the boys from the girls. This fence was nearly two metres high - no chance of climbing it! The corridor between the classrooms was not filled in with a wall. There was just a veranda with a roof over.

Fifty-five years ago, when I started here, [registration day, 29th August 1938], I felt a little frightened. I had not even seen the school until that day - it was brand new. In fact the bricklayers were still building the bicycle shed, and painters were going round touching up the spots they had missed. All the pupils and teachers were new to the school. As we waited in the playground, looking around for someone we knew, we formed into little groups, all smartly dressed in a grey suit, jacket and short trousers, and wearing a new school cap and tie. Just before 9 o'clock, the teachers started to appear: "He don't look too bad!" - "Coo, hope we don't get that one, don't you?" They were most likely thinking the same about us!

We were all directed into the Hall, and the Headmaster, Mr Petchey, introduced the rest of the staff: Mr Hudson, Mr Gardiner, Mr Hymas, Mr Picken and Mr Burtt. The only one I knew was the Head. Although he had not been my teacher, he was at my old school. Sorting out into classes started: Standard I [Year 3] went first to their classroom with their teacher, followed by Standard II [Year 4], and Standard III [Year 5]. With about 75 - 80 boys and two teachers left, we were split into two classes, Standards IVA and IVB. I was in Standard IVA. Now to our classroom, which was almost bare, with just the furniture, not a dirty finger-mark to see, and no ink in the inkwells. After that, a talk by the teacher and the Head, and then the best thing of all . . . we were all sent home for the rest of the day!.

Day two of the school started with morning assembly, prayers and a hymn, and then what must have been the School's first appeal. A team of gardeners, working hard to make the grounds look better, removing odd broken bricks and lumps of concrete from the flower-beds, had no plants to put in. Would we please ask our parents if they had any young trees or shrubs, which could be planted? A few did arrive for planting, and one boy proudly brought two smaller plants - dandelions!

Lessons started. Teaching was a lot different from today: there was no talking in class except to the teacher and you could not leave your desk for any reason without permission. These rules were strictly enforced. The teacher mainly sat at his table, or walked about in front of the class talking, or writing on the blackboard for you to copy into your exercise book. Most school mornings began with reciting the tables from two times to twelve times. School was from 9 -12 in the morning and again from 2 - 4 in the afternoons.'

From Moulsham Juniors, Alan Roxby went on to the Technical High School in central Chelmsford. In our next issue, we shall include some of his interesting recollections of the wartime years in the Moulsham area.

A letter from Keith Baker 1942-46

We are very pleased to have heard recently from Keith Baker, who started at Moulsham Infants' School in 1940 and continued through the Junior Boys' School until 1946. He remembers that on his first day at school, the whole class was taken outside to inspect a hedgehog, which the caretaker had found in the playground and eventually returned to the field or gravel pit next door. This memory sticks in his mind, along with the beautiful squirrel drawings produced by his Infants' class teacher, Miss Parker. In the Junior School, Keith recalls Miss Cook as a class teacher, and Mr Hudson taking football. Mr Hodgson was another impressive artist on the staff. Several of the staff, including Mr Picken and Mr Burtt, joined the armed forces for the greater part of the Second World War, so Keith did not come across them. Mr Gardiner, well known to many of you, was his top year teacher (see the photo below). Keith also remembers violin lessons with Mr Giddy, who we believe was still around in the 1950s - we wonder if the name rings a bell with other readers?

When he left Moulsham Juniors in 1946, Keith went on to Maldon Grammar School, and lost touch with most of his junior school friends. He was pleased to catch up with news of some of them in recent Past Pupils' Newsletters, and writes:

"My sister, **Yvonne Cartwright, nee Baker**, started her education at Moulsham Infants at its opening. She has passed copies of the Newsletter to me and I have been very interested in the articles and various names and contributions which have 'dusted off' many memories.

It seems that the regulation photograph of 11+ successes with Mr Petchey and Mr Gardiner features regularly and I enclose a copy of the 1946 issue! I believe I have all the names correctly:



Back row: Canfield, Wisbey, Clarke, Cox,
Third row: Lodge, Meadowcroft, Williams, Debenham, Simpson
Second row: Shearman, Judd, Piper, Murphy, Hart, Barker
Front row: Skipsey, Litton, Caton, Baker, Huff

"Of rather more interest, possibly, is this second photograph. My original is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", taken by Miss Parker of the second year on the Infants in 1941. Here I'm afraid the names beat me, certainly

those of the girls, but I think that third left, back row, is Mr Gardiner's daughter. Of the boys: - , - , Murphy and Land in the back row (2 of 4); then Shearman, Meadowcroft(?), - , Barker, Weston and Gunn (5 of 6); Little, Baker, Humphries , - , - (3 of 5); and front row Barnes, - , Watson, Williams, Carter, - , - (4 of 7). It would be interesting to have some observations, or names. You will note that several recent Newsletter correspondents are featured in the two photographs!"



Derek Weston, who was also in Keith's year, confirms the names on the first photo. On the second, he identifies the girl at the left-hand end of the second-to-back row as Heather Witham. In the same row, the missing boy's name is O'Brien. In the next row forward, Derek thinks the third boy from the left is Ellcock rather than Humphries, and identifies the next two boys as David and Tony Lodge. In the front row, he agrees with the first four names Keith suggests; and thinks that the second boy is perhaps Simpson, and the 6th and 7th Caton and (possibly) Cox. Thanks to both Keith and Derek. Now, can any of the girls in the picture fill in the rest of the names, please? Kathleen Boot can let you see an enlargement of the photo if it would help.

Moulsham Senior Girls' School Golden Jubilee Reunion

We mentioned in the Summer Newsletter that **Dorothy Day (Spooner)**, 1945-49, was organising a reunion for classmates who went to Moulsham Senior Girls' School and left 50 years ago, in 1953. Many of these were of course also at the Junior School. Dorothy had an excellent response to her invitation, and reports that the reunion was held on Wednesday 15th October 2003, at the Two Brewers public House, Springfield Road, Chelmsford. She writes:

"It proved to be an excellent evening, with 26 former pupils attending. One came from the USA, and three others from various parts of the UK. Some of them were meeting for the first time in 50 years. One of the ladies was still in possession of her cookery apron; this was our first needlework assignment on entering the school in 1949.

A school photograph taken in 1951 and various other photographs were passed around, including an autograph book full of signatures collected on leaving school. Finally, after enjoying a buffet supper together, addresses and telephone numbers were exchanged and promises of 'keeping in touch' were made."

Melvyn (Harry) Shergold's career in the Royal Navy

Melvyn Shergold, known as Harry at school, was at Moulsham Junior Boys' from 1945-49, and left the Seniors in December 1952. Following our short and somewhat misleading mention of his time at sea in the Summer Newsletter (apologies to Melvyn) he has filled in some of the detail for us:

"I joined the Royal Navy on 6 January 1953 at HMS Ganges, Shotley, Ipswich, and left as Boy Seaman First Class in February 1954 to join HMS Implacable. We went to the Mediterranean via Lisbon and Gibraltar, then back to UK for more training. My next ship was HMS Birmingham (July 1954 to July '55), sailing to Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said (Suez Canal), Aden, Singapore, Hong Kong, Manus (small island in the Pacific), South Korea, Japan, and Mauritius and home via South Africa, calling at Durban, Simons town Free Town. My next ship was HMS Defender (July 1956 - July 1958), visiting Gibraltar, Malta and Marseilles, where a lot of the ship's company went down with Asian flu! We had to leave there and sail back to Gibraltar where the ship was quarantined for about a month to 6 weeks. Then back to the UK for a visit to Londonderry, and afterwards to Arrhus in Denmark.

On my next ship, HMS Tenby, I made another Far Eastern tour, from September 1959 till August 1960. On our return to the UK, we then sailed for Iceland to protect our fishing boats. Because of weather conditions and high seas we had to make sure the fishing boats were safe and in the correct fishing areas. Otherwise they would be arrested by the ship patrolling the fishing limits. We had one incident when we were in very close to the Icelandic patrol ship Thor. When we made contact with each other, it was hairy, and we sustained slight upper deck damage. Also while on patrol, we had an urgent call from a fishing boat - a man had damaged a knee and needed help, which entailed sending our doctor over to the trawler. He managed to strap it up so that the man could make it back to port for hospital treatment.

I also spent time in various shore bases doing training parades in Chatham, Gillingham. The highlight of the parades was in London's Hyde Park to celebrate the centennial of the Victoria Cross medal in 1956. When I was discharged from the navy in 1962, I first worked for Marconi in Great Baddow (R&D workshop) for a few years. I then changed jobs several times, the last one working for 22 years in the lift industry in Higham's Park near Walthamstow. Now I am retired."

A poem recaptured - Don Smith, 1942-44 and 1946-48

Don Smith, a contemporary of Keith Baker (see page 5) for his first two years at Moulsham Juniors, writes that he found the Summer Newsletter so evocative that he was inspired to write the following:

'It was the Spring of 1942 or thereabouts. We had filed in from the veranda, then shuffled and pushed into our desk space and chair, wriggling in to become as comfortable as possible, ready for the lesson. Outside, you could see the early Spring sunshine on the caretaker's house and Princes Road. The teacher, I think it was Mrs Skipsey, although I'm not too sure, stood in front of us and opened a book. A story? No, this lesson was poetry. Anyway, poetry was an easy lesson. No mental arithmetic, sums, long division or any of the other subjects I found difficult to deal with.

The lesson commenced with the first verse, never to be forgotten by myself:

'Up the airy mountain, / Down the rushy glen,
We daren't go a-hunting / For fear of little men,
Wee folk, good folk, / Trooping all together,
Green jacket, red cap, / And white owl's feather!'

The teacher read aloud five more verses. Not a sound, chair scrape, sniff or sneeze was heard. The lesson continued with us being told about the poem and its writer. Outside, the war carried on in its remorseless way.

Move forward now some sixty years. Since that day in the classroom long ago, I have lived my life happily and contentedly. Being married, having a family and a trade I loved working in. During that long period the first verse of that poem would pop into my head at odd moments. Only the first verse. The title, the writer and other verses all buried in my mind, gone. I had often wondered about the rest of it.

Last year, I happened to mention it to one of my granddaughters, reciting that first verse. She listened intently, then declared: "No problem, Granddad, I'll check it out for you and let you know". Within days she had the complete answer. It was 'The Fairies' by William Allingham, written in 1850. Kate, my granddaughter, presented it to me. Sixty years later, there it was again. It all came flooding back, the mystery, the wonder, the shiver in the spine, still not dimmed, making me feel again as I did in 1942, when it was first read out. Nowadays, of course, there is Bilbo, Frodo and Harry Potter. Say and think what you will, those war-time classes at Moulsham Junior School planted solid roots.'

Junior Girls' School Gymnastics, 1946

Thank you to **Jennifer Bailey (Rayner)**, for this picture of a gymnastics display on the school field in 1946. The old air raid shelters and part of the school are clearly visible in the background. Pupils she can identify are: Front row, left: Peggy Smith; centre couple, left: Betty Sharpe; between the centre and right hand front-row couples: Eileen Saunders; behind Eileen, slight to the right, Violet Woodcock; behind Violet, facing right, Jennifer Rayner.



Jennifer meets up with many of her former classmates twice a year, once in the autumn and again at the Past Pupils' Open Afternoon at the school. News from the November 2003 reunion in our next issue.

'Uncle Enoc' (Peter Charles Smith, 1938) and 'Nellie'

In an earlier article (Autumn 2002 Newsletter), Peter 'Charley' Smith mentioned his whole family's involvement in entertainment. Some of you will certainly have seen him at local carnivals and fetes. Peter has now sent us this photo of himself as the well-known character 'Uncle Enoc', mascot of the now defunct Eastern National Omnibus Company (ENOC), where he worked until made redundant when the company was privatised in 1985.



From 1978, Uncle Enoc entertained with an accomplice called Nellie, who also became a great hit at parties and carnivals. Peter tells how they came together:

"I was employed by the Technical Services at the Civic Centre in 1978, when Nellie and I first met. She had been made redundant after taking part in the Chelmsford Festival, and found herself left as a very unhappy little Nellie, in the Reading Room of the Chelmsford Library in Duke Street. It was love at first sight. I made representations to Mr Cooper, the librarian, obtained a receipt, and off I went with Nellie under my arm one evening. I could never have imagined the reception the two of us had as we set off down the road together. The good humoured remarks at traffic lights from waiting and passing motor car passengers was to set the stage for a partnership that lasted ten years. Nellie was an instant hit at the ENOC parties, for which Hill Dowsett [Moulsham Junior School pupil from 1947-51], was an adviser and a tower of strength. Ten years later, I handed Nellie over to the Tanglewood Nursery on Melbourne Parade, and I hope she gave as much pleasure to them as she had to so many others."

Pictured below: left, Nellie, the red wooden horse; right, an Uncle Enoc badge, showing the character you saw when boarding a local bus.



An email from America: Brenda Haley (nee Everett) 1951-55

I really enjoy reading the Newsletters. They bring back a lot of memories, not just about Moulsham Schools, but also Chelmsford. I was last in Chelmsford in 2001 and boy it changes every time I come back. As I walk around town I still see faces that look very familiar. Even my husband, who was one of the London crowd that descended into our area with the building of Moulsham Lodge, knows parts of what we are talking about in the Chelmsford area. He arrived at the end of 1957.

From my Junior School days, I remember Miss Skilton, the singing, and the band, in which I played a triangle much to my disgust. I remember going back to school after the summer holidays to the Hall floors being very shiny until our shoes scuffed them all up again. One teacher who I have not seen mentioned yet in the Newsletters was one I had for two years and that was Mrs. Taylor. We were in the classroom across the divide in between the front office and a boys' classroom. She taught me in the second year and then again in the third year when they had the bright idea of giving her two classes a year apart. With the third year on one side and the second year on the other side of the same classroom, it was difficult to say the least. In that year I seem to remember we had a lot of substitute teachers because Mrs. Taylor had some illness, and I believe she died not too many years long after that? My Mother did save all my school photos and I have one of us dancing on the green in the quadrangle in our black skirts with the coloured braid around the bottom edge. My Mother did not have a sewing machine, so she hand stitched my skirt, along with the plimsoll bags.

I lived in Stewart Road, and Miss Pettet lived in the same street. At that time Stewart Road and Hillside Grove did not connect, so we as kids played rounders in the Street. We tried at all times not to hit the ball into her garden, but we were not always successful. One day at the end of Assembly she asked all the girls living in Stewart Road to come to her Office. You can imagine how we felt. When we got there she asked us all if we knew who had thrown a load of rubbish all over her garden. Of course none of us knew. I, like most others, walked through the fields into Hillside Grove and onto Princes Road, so I made sure that afternoon that on the way home I took a look at her garden and sure enough the rubbish was still there.

I did not enjoy school dinners, so I was quite glad when my Mother stopped being a dinner lady and I could go home for lunch. She used to help to dish out the dinner and wash up afterwards, the only job she ever had.

Since March 1981, we have been living in America. What brought us here was work. When we first got married, my husband Norman was working at Marconi's, Gt. Baddow. He was involved in the research of the semiconductor or integrated circuit, whatever you like to call it. When Marconi's constructed a purpose built factory in Witham he transferred, and we went to live in Witham. Not too long after that, General Electric bought out Marconi's, and soon decided to do away with that division. Our travels started, along with the ups and downs of the semiconductor industry. He tried at first to commute to Wembley where GE had a division but that didn't work out. We then went on to Greenock, Scotland and then back to Gravesend, Kent where I met up with Marion Lodge (Weston), 1951-55, and also Judy Pettit (Everard), 1951-55, another Moulsham girl who now lives in Chelmsford, who I am also in touch with via letter. [More news from Judy on page 14]

While we were in Kent, Norman was given the opportunity to come to the States. We thought we should try it, because you would always wonder 'what if?'. We have been here ever since. But we have also had to move a few times, again because of the rise and fall of the electronics industry. We spent the first ten years on Long Island, New York. Then on to Troy, New York which is in up state New York as opposed to Manhattan. Then to New Jersey and Massachusetts and finally Florida.

I myself started work at Crompton's in Chelmsford, and then moved onto Marconi's in the Personnel Dept until my first son was born. In England and Scotland I then worked in various part time jobs, all of a secretarial nature. When we came here, I went back to work full time in various Administrative and Secretarial capacities. My last job was working as an Accounts Receivable Administrator for a non-emergency transport company. Typing was part of my job from the time I left school, then of course came computers and I had to start all over again. When you think about it there have been quite a few changes since we left school, decimal currency, metric, and of course the computer, just to name a few.

Our two sons were twelve and fifteen when we came to this country and have gone on to college and work. Our eldest, Neil, is married with two beautiful children, Aylson and Matthew, and lives in Massachusetts. Ian, our youngest, has a girl friend and is back on Long Island after trying St. Louis and Kentucky. We do not have the need to come to England very often these days, as the last of our parents died in 1989. Norman has a brother in Birmingham who spends most of his time in Spain and I just have a couple of Aunts and a few cousins back there. In the Autumn 2002 Newsletter, the list of School leavers in July 1947 mentioned Douglas Brooker. He is my cousin, the eldest of four (Douglas, Eileen, Michael and Marion). Their Mother was my Mother's sister, but I have lost all contact with them now.

Do I still miss England? Yes, I will always be a Brit. I am constantly reminded that things are not the same back there now, and sometimes I wish that wasn't the case. I think that is why I am enjoying the Past Pupils' Newsletters so much. They bring back a lot of good memories.

School trip to Somerset, April 1959

Mr Kemp recently showed us a collection of photos and postcards relating to a school trip to west Somerset in April 1959. Some of these are reproduced below. Perhaps some of you were there?

According to the school log book, the week in Somerset was organised by one of the teachers, Mr W D King. Thirty boys, accompanied by Headmaster Mr T Sturgeon and his first wife, along with Miss S A Martin and Mr King, set off by coach at 8.45am on Saturday 4th April (presumably during the Easter holiday) for a week at St Audries Bay Holiday Hamlet, on the Somerset coast near Williton. The idea of the visit, quoted in a newspaper article at the time, was to show the boys a part of England in many respects different from Essex. They had worked on a quiz, using reference books, before setting off, and were expected to compile notes, sketches and photographs.



The coach arrived at St Audries at 6.45pm, and on Sunday the group attended church in nearby East Quantoxhead. On the Monday, they climbed Dunkery Beacon on Exmoor, then went by coach to Porlock Weir, where the unfortunate Nicholas Woodcraft had his ear cut by a stone and received two stitches in Minehead Hospital! Other visits in the course of the week included a day at the Somerset River Board's pumping stations and basket works, tours of Glastonbury, Wells, and Cheddar Gorge, and a visit to a paper mill in Watchet. There was also time for paddling and beachcombing, as this picture shows, and even a little shopping on Friday afternoon. On Saturday 11th April, the return journey took them via Stonehenge and the Festival Gardens Restaurant in London. The trip was adjudged a great success.



The following picture shows nine of the group at St Audries holiday hamlet with the first Mrs Sturgeon (far right) and, next to her, Miss Martin.



If you were one of the thirty boys on this trip, we should love to hear your memories of the week. It would also be great to hear from any of our readers of other Moulsham School outings or holidays you enjoyed.

Class of 1981, 3F with Mrs Franklin

This is one of the photos we displayed at the 2003 Open Afternoon in the hope that someone would recognise the pupils on it. Our only clue was the date 1981 on the back. In the event, we were lucky enough to have Sarah Haynes, nee Gipson, with us, who remembered and wrote out about two-thirds of the names for us. Sarah was at Moulsham Juniors from 1978-82. Apologies for confusing her dates in the Summer 2003 Newsletter with those of her friend Margaret Regan, nee Whent. Since the reunion, Rachel Edney, from the same class as Sarah, has kindly filled in the remaining names.



Front row, left to right: Paul French, David Ormes. Nigel de Silva, Lesley Johnston, Lee Francis, Alison Low, Nicola Miller

Second row: Mark Dalimore, Mark Neighbour Helen McGee, Michaela Davis, Nicola Juniper, Jennifer Lodge, Rachel Edney, Amanda Gowers

Third row: Paul Gallagher, David Granger, Stuart Frazer, Robin Bahgee, Stuart Hansell, Andrew Foot, James Russell, Barry Faultrich, Simon Fagg.

Back row: Mrs Franklin, Helen Hibbard, Maria Lee, Sharon Moore, Sarah Gipson, Anita Edwards, Ann Gregory, Geraldine Hoppit, Lisa Dorking, Penny Jones

Names from our distribution list, 1970s, listed by start year

1970: Deirdre Lyman (Clarke)

1971: Robert Johnson, Tracey Leslie (Cook), Margaret Regan (Whent)

1972: Cathy Bendall (Rowland), Tracy Brown, Carol Need (Rayner), Ian Nicholls,

1973: David Mack **1974:** Catharine Bird (Wade), Helen Camblin

1975: Dawn Brooks (Balaam), Lisa Burt (Balaam), Michael Cook, Kay Edwards (Waldney),
Lesley Hopkins (Hibbert), Vanessa Morriss (Johnson), Jackie West (Abbott)

1977: James Leslie, Nicole Miller,

1978: Claire Bolt (Stannard), Rachel Edney, Sarah Haynes (Gipson), Lisa Hibbert (Dorking), Ann Parker (Gregory), Michaela Venton (Davis), **1979:** Tina Stebbings (Neal)

Please let us know of corrections or additions (we may not know your start year)

News in brief

In September, Hilary Balm (Dye) was approached outside Tesco's by Janet Winter, nee Leavy (1953-57). Alan Twitchett (also 1953-57) had lent Janet a copy of the Newsletter and she recognised Hilary's name! In the 1950s, Hilary and Janet had attended High Street Methodist Church together, and Janet's children attended Meadgate School at the same time as Hilary's son. Until now, however, Hilary had no idea that Janet was also a past pupil of Moulsham Juniors, living in Finchley Avenue at the time. Alan Twitchett worked in the County Council Highways Department with Janet's husband, and they recently met again at the opening of the new A130. It's a small world.

Brian Judd, 1938-42, who lives in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, told us that the Summer 2003 Newsletter made extraordinarily interesting reading. In his email, he adds: "It was a great pleasure meeting you, Hilary and Ray at the School fete [21st June], not to mention the Headmaster Mr Kemp and his Deputy Nicola, who showed me round the school buildings. As I mentioned, I was going on to a conference in Poland (at Ladek Zdroj), where a session was devoted to a celebration of the theory I was involved in around 1962. I entertained the 150 or so scientists with a performance of my own arrangement of five of Schubert's polonaises, written originally for four hands at one piano. Thanks to Mr Gardiner's instruction in the 1930s and 40s, they went off very well!"

Bob Wiffen, 1953-57, was sorry he couldn't make it to the reunion this year. "The dates always clash with our trip to Florida. I will respond re the Corn Exchange item, as not only do I well remember the bands which used to play there, I was in a couple of them! I played drums with a number of groups in the 1960s, the best known being Ray Ford & the Statesmen and Dave Chancellor & the Exchequers, who played often at the Corn Exchange supporting the big names like The Who".

Margaret Haldane (Laurence), 1940, also recalls the Corn Exchange: "My memories are not of the dances or bands, but when I worked for the Essex Farmers' Union in King Edward Avenue, I went to the Corn Exchange and saw the Corn Merchants on high chairs at tall desks, looking at corn samples and giving prices for the crops. One other memory is the Turkey Sale at the Corn Exchange, when there was usually a large, often decorated bird as first prize. I also recall that Dr Alford's wife used to come to our office and the Corn Exchange to sell Christmas Raffle tickets for the Nurses Benevolent Fund."

Jean Wyatt (Pryor), 1938, writes: "Thank you for the latest copy of the Past Pupils' Newsletter. I always seem to find some item relating to my time at the school. Marion Lodge (Weston), 1951-55, and myself are both members of the WI in Wendover.. Talking there of my memories of skating on the lake in the 'Rec', she asked me afterwards if I was speaking about Chelmsford's Rec? I would have thought the odds of two Moulshamites ending up in the Wendover WI would have been pretty long!"

As mentioned on page 10, Judy Pettit (Everard), 1951-55, was told about the Newsletter by her friend Brenda Haley (Everett) from the same year. Judy is also in touch with Aileen French (Squires), same year again and Judy Parmenter, 1950-54, her 'oldest friend', in the nicest sense of the word. When Judy was twelve, her family moved to Colchester, and so lost touch with a lot of people. She says "it was really strange how Brenda and I discovered that we were both living in Istead Rise, Kent - it was at a midsummer fayre for the Junior School. Small world!"

SPRING 2004 NEWSLETTER: Please would you let us have your letters, articles and photos for the next issue by the **end of February** if at all possible. Thank you.