

Past Pupils' Newsletter

Autumn 2004 Vol 6 no 3

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MOULSHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Past Pupils' Newsletter

Autumn 2004

Vol 6 No 3

Welcome to the

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

of the Past Pupils' Newsletter. To celebrate, we have a special printed edition this time. In it are reprints of some of our archive pictures, as well as new photos, letters and articles.

Thank you to all our contributors, and especially Norman Kerridge, who, after our appeal in the Summer Newsletter, kindly volunteered to scan and restore our photographs. He landed himself with a massive task for this souvenir issue!

Because of all the pictures, we have had to leave over a few texts until the Spring Newsletter. But please don't let that stop you sending in more articles, news, memories and pictures. We are always delighted to hear from you.

Happy reading and very best wishes,
Hilary Balm (Dye) and Kathleen Boot (Nash)

FROM THE HEAD TEACHER, MR L R KEMP

I haven't found another primary school with a Past Pupils Association, and that it has flourished over the past five years is to the enormous credit of Kathleen Boot and Hilary Balm. Each term it usually reaches the point where they put pressure on me to produce my item for the newsletter. It starts with gentle requests but usually reaches the point when a twenty-four hour ultimatum is given and the support of the administrative staff sought to ensure I meet the deadline. Thank you for the persistence that has resulted in this newsletter and termly newsletters for the past five years.

As we approach Christmas it always brings to mind my first term as a new teacher when, with two of my colleagues, we were told off by our headteacher. He didn't use a single polite word about me and the politest thing he called my colleagues was idiots. He was shouting at us so loudly he kept gasping for air. We had taken our three classes for a nature walk on the afternoon of the school Christmas concert. We didn't need permission notes from parents in those days and there were no such beings as Learning Support Assistants to give additional adult support. We formed up our crocodile of over one hundred children and set off on a circular route which we hoped would use up most of the afternoon. We reached a small wooded area where Stephen and his cousin Matthew told me of a detour through the wood which would use up another twenty minutes and would mean we would arrive back at school just in time for the end of school. They convinced me that although it had recently been very wet there was a cinder path through the wood. We started off and I ignored the first rule of walking with a crocodile of children, which is always take the lead and I dropped back to tell the other teachers about the new plan. Shouts as children got stuck in the mud brought me running back to the front to see dozens of children struggling through a quagmire that might once have been a path. Shoes were lost in the mud and several children were caked in mud having fallen over. We did a smart about turn while I tried to rescue children, shoes and the chance of a career in teaching. That evening there was only one subject of conversation among parents at the Christmas concert. Between each item on the programme the headteacher would look in my direction and scowl and his lips would move but fortunately I can't lip read. Health and Safety has improved in schools and now every school has to appoint an Educational Visits Co-ordinator to ensure the very detailed guidelines are applied. We take pride in the quality of our educational visits. I also was shouted at about the tidiness of the art area in my classroom but that aspect of my work hasn't improved.

2005 REUNION

Saturday 14 May 2005 is the date of the next annual Open Afternoon at Moulsham Junior School. Make a note in your diary now, and do come along if you can. From 1 - 4 pm as usual, with refreshments, entertainment and an opportunity to see the school and meet up with old school friends.

THE EARLY DAYS :1938-45]

BOYS' SCHOOL STAFF 1938-39 (*photo from school archive*): We recently came across this excellent picture of the Headmaster and staff of the newly opened Moulsham Junior Boys' School.



Back row (left to right): Mr H J Picken, Mr G B R Hudson, Mr R G Hymas. Front row: Mr A G Burtt, Mr S W Petchey (Headteacher), Mr W W Gardiner

MR HYMAS' CLASS 1939 (*photo from Selwyn Wheeler*):



There were about 52 boys in the class, though not all appear in the picture. As far as we know, the names are:
Back row, left to right: Brian Tween, Derek Wiseman, Raymond Hinsley, Mr Hymas, ? , Peter Wilson, Owen Legerton, Raymond Downs, Alan Roxby, ? Chapman, Thomas Hunter? .
Left hand row of desks, from back to front: Brian Harvey, Eric Boesch, Ian Smeaton, Arthur Cornell.
Centre row of double desks, from back to front: Roy Sheppard and Selwyn Wheeler, Peter Brazier and John Reed, Terence Smith and David Pyle, Peter Brown and Donald Morris

At the back of the third row of double desks: Alan Harvey and Reg Podd, then John Baker and Peter Wallis, James Adams and Clive Barnard, and at the front, ?Dowsett and ?Lock.

Far row, from left to right: John Williams, Kenneth Ackrill, James Peacock, Ivan Lander and ?.

MR GARDINER'S CLASS 1939: (photo from school archive)



Standing (from left): Ray Sewell, ?, David Saltmarsh, Ray Thorne, Ralph Smith, Derek Smith, Kenneth Mann, Peter Turrall, Mr Gardiner, Peter Vinall, John Whittle, Robert Bedford, John Davey, James Fleming, Ray Hatherley

Back row (seated): Tommy Howes, Dennis Poulter, Derek Meadowcroft, Brian King, Reg Folkard, Ivan Brown, Peter Smith

Second row: Roger Fletcher, Martin Lee, Ronald Hancock, Charles Dickerson, (Bunny) Boon, Ralph Turbin, Colin Mallows

Third row: Billy Harris, John Southgate, David Bell, Douglas Whipps, Tony Miller, Kenneth Walls

Front row: John Spooner, David Smith, ? Reeve, Reg Baldwin, Magnus Anderson

Missing are, we believe, Keith Lodge, Ian Gardiner, Dennis Martin, Alec Fulcher, John Howitt and Peter Wild. Among those sadly no longer with us: Ralph Smith, Kenneth Mann, Roger Fletcher and Brian King

MR PICKEN'S CLASS 1939 (photo from Eric Woods)

Can anyone identify the boys in this class for us, please? We can supply a larger print of the picture if that would help.



We assume that photographs of MR BURTT'S CLASS and MR HUDSON'S CLASS were probably taken at the same time as these three. If anyone has a copy of either which they could lend us, we would be delighted to complete the series. Please contact Kathleen Boot at the address on page 12.

SCHOLARSHIP GIRLS 1940 (photo from Eileen Geer (Steele)).



Back row, from left: Pat Roebuck, Sybil Bonvini, Renee Passmore, Eileen Steele, Daphne Cole. *Front row:* Mary Tamkin, Heather Broadway, Eileen Cook, Kathleen Thorp.

Eileen wrote again recently to say how much she enjoys the Newsletters. The Open Afternoons have so far clashed with holidays, but she hopes to see us one day.

THE GIRL IN THE ALICE BLUE GOWN

DIANE BERTHELOT (LAWSON) was at Moulsham Junior Girls' School from 1939-42. She was delighted to read Phyllis Chatelier (Little)'s memories in the Summer 2004 Newsletter. Diane was the girl Phyllis remembered singing 'My Alice Blue Gown'! Nowadays, she lives in Norfolk and has published a book of poems, which she spoke about on Radio Norfolk. Here is a short extract from Diane's interesting school-time recollections. More from Diane in our next issue.

"In the winter of 1937, we moved into a new rented house in Moulsham Drive. It was a bitterly cold day. There was snow on the ground and the road had not been made up.

My school life began at the beautiful new Moulsham School. I remember very little of the Infants' school - just small chairs and desks - but, like Phyllis Chatelier, I loved being at Moulsham Junior Girls' School. I remember Miss Rankin as a fair Headmistress.

The war did not stop us having fun, but I did get annoyed when the siren went off during drama class, which I loved, but never during maths! The air-raid shelters were brick built, and had a peculiar damp, musty smell.

One air raid sticks in my mind, the one where Marconi's received a direct hit. We could see the flames from our back bedroom window. My brother and I stumbled downstairs, half asleep, to the newly acquired table shelter, which took the place of our dining room table. The shelter was made of steel, and very ugly. Once inside, with the wire sides pulled up, you felt like a rabbit.

Mum was good at cooking. She used to make what she called 'frippets', with dried egg. She would add water to the egg powder and mix until it was fairly thick, then dip slices of dry bread into the mixture and fry them. Delicious. The word 'cholesterol' was never mentioned in those days.

I learnt to dance when I was four, and on arrival in Chelmsford my parents sent me to the Made Russell School of Dancing. I won a bronze and silver medal for tap-dancing in 1942 and 1943. I also had singing lessons from Miss Dorothy Cole in Rothesay Avenue, but it was the singing, dancing and stage work I loved the best."

YOUR LETTERS

From MAUREEN BIGGINS (LITTLE), 1938: "What a trip down memory lane! I so enjoyed Phyllis Chatelier's letter in the Summer Newsletter. Phyllis Little, as she then was, was a year younger than me, so she would have been in Miss Wright's class when I was in Miss Skilton's. Her letter brought back memories of the German plane flying low and machine-gunning us. As the bullets hit the concrete round us, clouds of dust covered our feet and legs. When I arrived home, my mother was not impressed by the dingy grey colour of my normally white socks, until I explained what had happened.

I wonder if Phyllis remembers the bomb that fell in the sand-pit next to the school? There was a loud explosion, the shelter shook, and when we emerged the whole playground was deep in sand. If only we had had our buckets and spades with us!

Miss Rankin and Miss Wright lived opposite Widford Village Hall. Each day they wedged themselves into a dark green Austin Ruby for the drive to school. Believe me, Miss Rankin's eyes saw everything during that journey. Woe betide you if you misbehaved on your way to school. Miss Wright, I am sure, was concentrating on her driving. She didn't drive rapidly - some of the boys on bikes used to overtake them!"

From ADRIAN SMITH, 1948-52: "I was moved by the reminiscences of Phyllis Chatelier (Little). I remember Mr Little and Mr Collins well - caretakers are so visible when they go about their work, and tend to get called in at once when there is a crisis. Derek Murphy's letter was hilarious. I can believe every word he says, and I fully share his affection for Miss Cook, Mrs Moses and Mr Hodgson. As for school dinners, I have always enjoyed starchy food, and remember being confronted with a savoury yellow paste at the Infants', called Pease Pudding, which some other children refused to eat. I liked it better than the slices of meat served up on other days. Dinners when I started in 1946 cost 4 old pence.

Mr Kemp is right to say that school trips stand out in the memory. In the postwar years there was less money about, few people owned cars, and any outing was a great treat. I remember going on one from Moulsham in the summer term of 1952, just before I left the Juniors. Mr Hodgson and Mr Hymas came with us on the coach. It seemed an endless trundle up to London. We negotiated some awkward streets in the East End to reach a Thames-side pier for a trip in a water bus up the river. We had a good view of the Tower and St Pauls, and trams grinding along the Embankment (but running for only a few weeks after this - I still miss the London trams). At Big Ben the coach met us and took us to spend the afternoon at the Zoo. On the way home we took a different route, through Epping Forest, which I had never seen until that day. We were allowed out at High Beech to let off steam by running downhill through remains of last year's leaves. It was an exceptionally happy day.

Just before this, I had organised a different outing of my own, one Saturday, and about six classmates from 4A came with me. One was John Langton, grandson of Alderman Langton, after whom Langton Avenue is named. His parents ran a fruit farm in Galleywood. Does anyone know what happened to him? We went by bus to Bishop's Stortford, then by one of the infrequent trains which ran through Takeley, Dunmow and Braintree. The service lost money, and was taken off soon afterwards, ten years before Beeching. I cannot imagine parents agreeing nowadays to boys of ten travelling around the countryside unsupervised in this way!

From BRENDA HALEY (EVERETT), 1951-55: "What a joy to read the Summer 2004 newsletter, it just seems to be growing and growing. I was saddened to read the Obituary of Judith Dunmow, written by Elsie Hills (Braid). Elsie lived four doors away from me in Stewart Road. Off and on through our childhood we spent time together. Elsie and I were as far as I can remember the only ones from Stewart Road to go to Moulsham Youth Centre for not only shorthand and typing but also for the social life it offered. In fact I met my husband at the Youth Centre. Often I was allowed to stay out later than usual because I was going with Elsie and would have someone to walk home with. The only problem was more often than not we didn't get home until well after our curfew and boy did I get in trouble with my Mother and Father."

From BRIAN JUDD, 1938: "Many thanks for e-mailing me the Summer 2004 Newsletter. It is another superb piece of work, stirring ancient memories. I particularly enjoyed Derek Murphy's letter from Norway, and I only regret that his sister's teaching me how to knit (when we were at the Friars' School, I suppose) did

not stick in my long-term memory. They say the past is a foreign country -- but the Newsletters are wonderful guides there."

MR W C C TURNER [photo from Derek Weston, 1942-46]

An article about Mr W C C Turner appeared in the Autumn 2001 Newsletter. Mr Turner was a well-known Chelmsford resident, who made generous gifts to the Moulsham Junior Schools from their earliest days. He presented the annual 'Turner Awards' for Sportsmanship (boys) and Good Companionship (girls). In 1942 he gave the Junior Boys' School Honours Boards, and in 1945 some 120 books for the school library. Mr Turner also paid for many excursions and visits. He was a keen photographer, taking numerous pictures of top class groups, which he then sent to many pupils. Graham King's picture on page 5 is one such photo, complete with names on the back.

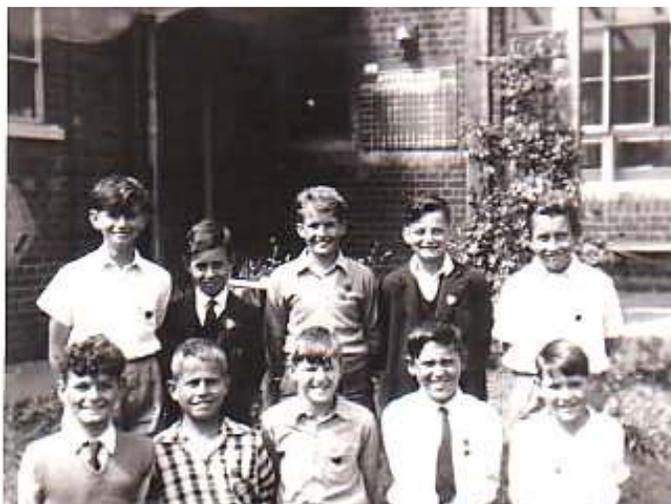
CORONATION PAGEANT MAY 1953 (photo by Essex Weekly News)



The Coronation was on Tuesday 2 June 1953. On Friday 22 May, a special Pageant, representing Commonwealth countries at that time, was performed by pupils of the Boys' and Girls' Schools in front of the main entrance. The costumes were made or designed by Mrs Taylor, Miss Barton, Mrs Moses, and Mrs French. Mr Harold Picken, a teacher at the Boys' School, was in overall charge. Details of the occasion were given in the Spring 2000 Newsletter, together with this photograph, which first appeared in the Essex Weekly News. The figure of Britannia was portrayed by Judith Parsons; Canada by Janet Free; Australia, Paula Turner; South Africa, Valerie Bradford; New Zealand, Angela Yarrow; India, Barbara Butcher; Pakistan, Anne Barnes; and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Jennifer Mussell. Other children taking part were listed as: *Boys:* K Mackman, J Ryan, David Eyre, Jack Royle, G Penpack, H Gandy, G Lodge, E Jacoby, K Hemsley, J Winson, R Winson, M Cowell, D Ward, D Roblin, D Mann, K Spearman, Langton, A Toms, W Bateman, A Youell, J Barker, D Oliver, J McLoughlin, K Haldane, Banham, R Oakley, R Hazell, A Holland, W Clarke, R Ash. *Girls:* C Pearsons, C

Combes, M Grace, L Andrews, E Phillips, S Sullivan, C Rolf, J Hayes, M Gillam, R Samuels, S Knight, S Spencer, C Baldwin, C King, C Goby.

BELL AND BOARD 1958 (photo by W C C Turner, from Graham King)



Graham King, 1954-58, has sent us this photo, and writes: " Derek Murphy's letter from Norway made reference to the 'Board'. I can recall that as a senior at the Junior School I was appointed Bell Monitor. This involved ringing the large brass ship's bell over the 'Board' at the end of each lesson and the start and end of the day. My photograph clearly shows both the Bell and the Board, positioned on the wall outside Mr Petchey's office in the verandah, which linked all the classrooms around the school.

The photo was taken by Mr W C C Turner. In the back row are the House Captains and Vice-captains for 1957/8: G King, G Sparrow, Michael Eyre, G Swift and Paul Brewer. The Vice-captains, in the front row, are M Banham, R Murray, D Frost, I Offord and M Bishop. I recall that the houses were Kingfisher (blue), Robins (red), Woodpecker (green), Yellowhammer (yellow), and I believe the fifth colour was purple, but I cannot remember the name. [Editor's note: was it in fact Wrens (brown)?]

Almost since leaving Moulsham Senior School in 1964, I have been employed by Chelmsford Borough Council. I work as a Building Control Officer, and in the course of my duties, I have recently been on site inspecting work in the Junior School for the erection of disabled toilets in the very same corner of the quadrangle that Mr Turner's photograph was taken."

21ST ANNIVERSARY PAGEANT 1959: (photo on next page, from Barrie Stevens 1959-63)

For the 21st anniversary of the Moulsham Schools in 1959, the Junior Boys' School celebrated with another pageant, once again devised and produced by Mr Picken, and written by Mr Hodgson. This took place on 14th July 1959, with rehearsals watched during the previous week by the Infants, Seniors and Junior Girls. In the Spring 2001 Newsletter, Barrie Stevens (1959-63) recalled his own performing group, clutching tin hats, gas masks and schoolbooks, emerging from the playground to the recorded sound of air raid sirens and marching off to the shelters. He explained that this photo showed about half the school on the grassed area. He himself is in the penultimate row at the back. Another element of the pageant was a ballad of Robin Hood, in which Franklin played Friar Tuck, and Barry Tabrett was one of the "merry men". Then there was the "Jackdaw of Rheims", mentioned also by Dave Sturgeon in the Summer 2004 Newsletter. The Jackdaw, with a sort of hood and beak on his head can be seen on the picture. About three rows back to the right, is the boy who played the Lord High Cardinal Archbishop of Rheims.

21st Anniversary pageant 1959 *(see previous page)*



1954 GIRLS' GYM DISPLAY *(photo from Marion Lodge, nee Weston, 1951-55)*

The girls in the foreground, from left to right, are Isobel Travis, Susan Stiles, Susan Hayden, Marea Jones, Janet Bidwell, Janet Bullock, Pauline Tarbun, Marion Weston and Valerie Rudland. Behind them in the queue, from left to right, are Miss Barton, Christine Combes, two unidentified classmates, then Hazel Offord, Janice Newcombe and Juliet Lindars. In the same class were Hilary Dye and Kathleen Nash, though not visible in the picture.



JUNIOR GIRLS'SCHOOL STAFF IN 1960 *(Photo from Mrs Judith Woricker, nee Flatt)*



A rare photo of Moulsham Junior Girls' School staff, seen here enjoying a boat trip from Harwich in 1960. Mrs Judith Woricker (nee Flatt), who sent us this photograph, was a pupil at Moulsham Junior Girls' School from 1946-48, and returned later as a teacher. The staff, in the centre of the picture, are: *(seated left to right)* Miss Pettet, Miss Skilton and Miss Barton, and *(standing behind them)*, left, Mrs Alty and right, Miss Cook. Can anyone identify the lady directly behind Miss Pettet, please? Or any of the pupils on this 1960 excursion? If anyone has any other pictures of Girls' School staff between 1938 and 1969, when the two schools combined, we would be delighted to hear from you.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Do please remember to tell us your new address if you move house. After the Spring distribution by post, we had newsletters returned undelivered from Mrs Lisa Burt, Mrs Janie May O'Brien, Mr Ivan Lander and Miss Catherine Green. If anyone knows their current addresses, please let us know, and we will reinstate them on the mailing list.

1964 TRIP TO STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (Photo by Essex Weekly News, from Anne Waters)



Back row from left: Elizabeth Williams, Linda Harrington, Melanie Whitehead, Bundy Thompson, Janet Bell, Sandra Halls, Sally Golding, Alison Hendry, Christine Yallop, Susan Harrison, Susan Willis, Gillian Norton, Ann Deighton, Hannelore Mawby?, ? , Gail Whetnall, Dorothy Burch, Christine Martin, Janice Grant, Vivienne Noone, Margaret Prahl, Christine Parker, Jackie Butler, Helen Golding.
Front row from left: Averil Clark, Beryl Archibald, Susan Turner, Geraldine Butterworth, Mary Norris, Diane du Prez, Claire Jarman, Linda Pavitt, Janet Freeman, Jane Watkinson, Pat Hinkins, Jill Hollingsworth, Susan Hawkes, Anne Waters, Julie Walker, Lynn Cain

This picture shows the group of Class 8 Moulsham Junior girls who went on a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon in summer 1964. It was taken on their return for the Essex Weekly News. Several of you, including Anne Waters, Sue Davis (Hawkes) and Sally Golding, have contributed happy memories of this trip in previous Newsletters.

FOOTBALL SUCCESSES AT MOULSHAM JUNIORS

1946/47 CUP WINNERS (photo from Colin Moore)

Moulsham Junior Boys' School Football Team 1946/47 were cup winners in that season, and in the league finished second only to Kings Road Juniors, who had future Chelmsford City star Tony Butcher in their side. With Headmaster Mr Petchey and sports teacher Mr Burtt are (*back row left to right*): Colin Moore, Barry Hills, Bill Osborne, Doug Brooker, Brian Saunders, Tommy McGovern, and (*front row*): Barry Jacobs, Tom Filby, John Carter, Mick Wright, Clive Barker, B. Graham and Teddy Beerman.

1953/4 FOOTBALL TEAM (photo from Bill Bateman)

The 1953/53 Football team won the Andrews Cup, beating Trinity Road School 3-2 in the final.

*Back row from left: Mick Polley, Bob Southgate, Mick Calver, David Tripp, Tony Berry, Bob Feint, Mick Roblin.
Front row: Dave Woodyard, Johnny Clark, Bill Bateman (captain), Keith Rawlinson, Chris Hughes*

1966, WINNERS OF THE LEAGUE AND ANDREWS CUP *(photo from school archive)*

The 1965/66 Football Team defeated Writtle 2-0 to win the Chelmsford and District (Under 11) Knockout Cup. They were coached by City player John Docherty, and had already won the Division One Championship. This photo shows presentation of the cup and shield at Kings Road Junior School.

Team members: S Carnell (captain), S Andrews, N Hinton, K Stevenson, M Clapp, S Whewell, S Menhinick, R Geer, M Childs, P Salmon, T Tabrett, J Barry, G Smith, J Escott, J Nice, D Gridley, M Gribble, and J Saunders.

MOULSHAM JUNIOR BOYS' FOOTBALL TEAM 1972 *(Photo and names from Paul Toms)*

Malcolm Knight, Shane Champion, Kerry Gray, Lee Darg, Graham Moore, Stephen Poole, Richard Hiskey, Paul Toms, Tony Nicholas, Stephen Monk, Michael Kilby, Kevin Dunbar, Gary Barker. The teacher/manager was Mr Newton, and the two supporters just in the photo are Andrew Piper and Neil Watling. This picture was a source of great interest at this year's Summer Fete.

1965 JUNIOR BOYS' SCHOOL STAFF *(photo from school archive)*

Front row from left: Harold Picken, Mrs Poppy Donovan, Tom Sturgeon (Head Teacher), ? , Viv Hodgson

Back row: John Lyons, Mrs Joy Bome, ? Ron Williams

Mrs Donovan, teacher from 1957-82, still lives in Chelmsford, and features in an article in the Spring 2001 Newsletter. Mrs Bome (Sparrow) was also a Moulsham pupil from 1947-51, and wrote about her schooldays in the Spring 2000 issue. Mrs Bome is well known locally for her work building up the Caprice Wind Orchestra, which raises funds for numerous local charities. Forthcoming concerts include Hospice Noel at Christ Church, New London Road on Saturday 4th December, and a candlelit supper at Boswells School on 11th December, with the choir of Gt Baddow High School, in aid of Mencap and the Home Farm Trust. Tickets and times from Joy and Roger Bome on 01245 258629.

NEWS OF MR STURGEON

Head Teacher Mr Sturgeon's son Dave, a pupil at Moulsham Junior Boys' School from 1958-62, has sent us the following news of his father and stepmother:

"Dad, Tom Sturgeon, now 84, is still very poorly, living in a nursing home at Stisted, Braintree. His loss of memory is considerable and he is hardly able to speak at all. It is difficult to know how much he understands but he smiles a lot and seems to know that someone 'special' is there to visit him. The home is a wonderful place and he is looked after as well as we could possibly hope for. He recently had a spell in Broomfield Hospital, but is back at Stisted, although confined to bed now. He would be absolutely thrilled to know that the newsletter is attracting so much interest and would be so proud if he could have attended one of the open days. Sadly, that will not be possible, of course.

His second wife, Pat, nee Purdy (ex Head of Moulsham Infants' School), is also unwell although she is still living at home in Boreham. Sadly, she is bed or chairbound but is able to visit Dad from time to time. She has a wonderful group of carers looking after her. She has been very interested in many of the names which have appeared in the newsletter. She still has a good memory for people in the area. Pat is unable to write these days and does not have a computer, but if anyone wished to make contact with her, please feel free to do so via my email address, dave@sturg.co.uk. I am in frequent contact with her and Dad."

DECADE BY DECADE

We are currently in touch with over 500 Moulsham Junior School past pupils, in addition to those with children at the school, who receive their copies of the Past Pupils' Newsletter separately. The numbers on our distribution list are approximately as follows:

1938-39: 74 1940s: 168 1950s: 85 1960s: 51 1970s: 32 1980s and 90s: 26:

Start date unknown: approximately 70.

We are keen to reach out to increasing numbers of past pupils from the 1960s onwards. If you are in touch with any other past pupils who do not at present receive the Newsletter, do please invite them to join the mailing list.

A MOULSHAM SONNET (Written by Headmaster **MR S W PETCHEY** for the School Magazine, Summer 1949).

Moulsham for ever! Let the chorus ring,
Our voices raised in jubilant refrain
Up to the rafters, till they ring again
Like lusty winds that in the treetops sing;
So that thy name, for ever echoing,
Hold in our growing memories that strain,
And in the years advancing may remain,
Moulsham for ever, happy thoughts to bring.

Such ever be our lot in childhood's days
Carelessly unaware the days are brief,
Happy in work beneath the master's gaze,
Or on the field of sport in friendly strife.
O Moulsham, let thy children be thy praise,
Love, loyalty and service be thy life.

1977 SILVER JUBILEE (*Facsimile of 1977 display day programme*)

In our Spring 2004 Newsletter, past pupil and parent Mrs Cathy Bendall (1973-77) recalled the trees planted at Moulsham Junior School to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Since then, we have come across the original programme of the Jubilee Display Day on Wednesday 13th July 1977.

From the details set out in the programme, it is clear that a lot of preparation and rehearsal was involved.

Each year contributed its own display, as follows:

1. National Anthem. Entry of the Yeomen of the Guard. Union Jack Tableau by Third Year
2. A Royal Tribute from the Five Royal Houses [Balmoral, Buckingham, Caernarvon, Sandringham, Windsor] by First Year
3. An Entertainment for Elizabeth I by Third Year:
 - a. Entry of Townsfolk
 - b. Procession of Queen and Courtiers
 - c. Maypole Dance
 - d. Tumblers
 - e. Scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream
 - f. A courtly Dance
 - g. Ceremony of Handing over Power
4. The Commonwealth by Second Year
 - a. Kenya - An African War Dance Class 2.1

- b. India - A Hindu Legend by Class 2.5
 - c. Canada - Square Dance by Class 2.4
 - d. Australia - Waltzing Matilda Class 2.2
 - e. Caribbean - Fiesta and Limbo Dance Class 2.3
5. The United Kingdom in Words, Songs and Dances by Fourth Year
 - a. St George's Tableau - Class 4.5 English Song and Dances
 - b. St Andrew's Tableau - Class 4.2 Scottish Song and Sword Dance
 - c. St David's Tableau - Class 4.1 Welsh Song and Dance
 - d. St Patrick's Tableau - Class 4.3 Irish Song and Dance
 6. Rule Britannia

Some of you may remember this occasion. We would be delighted to hear from any other past pupils with memories of the Silver Jubilee Year.

DANCING AT MOULSHAM JUNIORS

There is a long tradition of dancing at Moulsham Junior School, going back to the post war days, when dancing skirts were made of blackout material.

(sword dance photo)

Can anyone identify the occasion and dancers on this photograph, please?

MUMBO JUMBO SAPIENT 1977

Lesley Bartsch (Hibbert) has kindly lent us three school magazines from her time at Moulsham Juniors in the 1970s. The title in those days was Mumbo Jumbo sapient (Wise Rubbish). We have taken copies for the archive, and will include extracts in future Newsletters - very many thanks, Lesley.

The 1977 Mumbo Jumbo Sapient contains news of the five Houses, concerts, sports, and various clubs. Lorraine Russell's report on the Fourth Year Dance Team refers to the Jubilee display dances, and goes on to say:

"We took part in the Central Essex Junior Dance Festival at Moulsham High School on 10th May, and we are going to take part in the Great Stoney Dance Festival held at Ongar on 1st June. At these festivals, all the schools do general dancing and each school performs its own demonstration dance.

We have also danced at St John's Hospital Fete on 15th May, at the Soroptomists Garden Party on 15th June and at the Ileostomy Association Garden Party on 16th July. I should like to thank Mrs Allen and Mrs Taylor for all the time and effort they have given to teach us the dances".

1979/80 STAFF PHOTO

Back row, left to right: John Firth (4F), Mrs Black (ancillary), Mrs Gilbert (anc), Lois Cakebread (4C), Penny Foulger (2F), Dawn Brooks (1B), Joan Bradshaw (3B), Peter Davidson (2D2)

Middle row: Ursula Franklin (3F), Sue Boyd-Wallis (3W), Denise Bragg (1F), Maureen Best (2B), Connie Tutton (3T), Ivy Kirkpatrick (office), Brian Davis (Deputy Head)

Front row: Winnie Dennet (2D1), Judy Laffan (1L), Margaret Foster (3/4F), Poppy Donovan (4D), Tom Sturgeon (Headmaster), Ann O'Riordan (1D), Ann Gough (2G), Maureen Healy (3H)

1983 MRS CAKEBREAD'S CLASS, 3C

Another class photo from the 1980s. Many thanks to Sharon Beech and Gillian Edney, who, at this year's Open Afternoon, made a list of the names they could remember. If you can add any more, please let us know.

Back row, left to right: Gillian Edney, Margaret Foot, Nicholas Blowers, Christopher Corthine, Gary Forstick, Darren Chambers, Sarah Hawkes, Christina Court. *Third row:* Suzanne Foster, Monica Halley, ? , Paul Forstick, Mark Gallagher, Martin Critch, Elizabeth Grimwood, Nicola Hedley. *Second row:* Zachary Stone,

Steven Finney, David Hurley, Sharon White, ? , ? , Duncan Eade. *Front row:* Panna Chantbar, James Everett, Paul Gardner, Steven George, Charles Fraser, Mark Hansell, Nicola Grainger

THE BELL

The new Moulsham Junior School bell, produced by the world-famous Whitechapel Foundry, now rings from 8.45am to 8.55am every school-day from the bell tower above the front entrance. Hilary and Kathleen were given a special demonstration, and can report that it sounds wonderful. A great idea, to encourage the tardy - if you hear the bell stop while still on your way to school, you are definitely late!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Many thanks to Mrs SHIRLEY RUSSELL, who has carried out some useful research at the Essex Record Office into the closure of St John's School, Moulsham Street and the building of the new Moulsham Schools in 1938. Shirley's sons Ian (1968-72) and Andy (1969-73) are both past pupils.

JENNIFER BAILEY (RAYNER), 1943-47, is meeting up with several of her former Moulsham classmates again in November, and has interesting plans for a joint article in our next Newsletter.

Many of you will have seen the recent photo of GEOFF BARNARD, 1945-49, in the Essex Chronicle on his retirement after 50 years as a barber in Chelmsford. Happy retirement, Geoff!

PAT COX started at Moulsham Infants' School in 1940 and continued through the Junior Girls' School. She has sent us some delightfully detailed recollections of her Infant days, which we will keep for the Spring 2004 issue. She has also kindly offered to write something about her Junior days.

Well-known children's writer KES (KERRY) GRAY, 1968-72, who features in the 1972 football picture on page 8, has also sent us a fascinating memoir of his schooldays. It just missed our deadline this time, so look out for it in the Spring issue.

LINDA SAUNDERS (BROADWAY) also enjoys receiving the Past Pupils' Newsletter. She says there is always something of interest. Linda and her sisters Jean and Heather lived in Elm Road at the same time as Phyllis Chatelier (Little), and enjoyed reading her article in the Summer issue. Like Phyllis, Heather experienced the move from the old St John's School in Moulsham Street in 1938. Linda herself recalls that she used to play with Phyllis' younger sister, Paulette, now and again.

BRIAN CAMPION, 1939, missed the Open Afternoon this year as he was on the 'holiday of a lifetime', but looks forward to seeing us all at next year's reunion. While at Moulsham Junior Boys' School, Brian lived in Goldlay Avenue, as did one of the teachers, Mr V Hodgson. He recalls having private lessons in maths with Mr Hodgson, and feeling envious on hearing his classmates playing out in the street while he was indoors studying.

Among the more recent recruits to our Newsletter mailing list, we are pleased to welcome sisters EILEEN BARTRUP (PERKINS) and JEAN WHITE (PERKINS). Eileen attended Moulsham Junior Girls' School for one year, 1945-46 on returning from Ireland at the end of the war. She went on to the Senior Girls' School, while her sister Jean was at the Juniors from 1946-50.

JOHN BOWERMAN was at Moulsham Junior Boys' School from 1942-46. Like many of us, he came from Friars Infants, and remembers Miss Amey as Headmistress. He and his wife CYNTHIA (KYFFAN) both went on to Moulsham Seniors.

OBITUARY, RUTH LARRETT 1938

We were sad to hear from Derek Holmes that his wife Ruth, nee Larrett, died in Shrewsbury on 29th June, following a massive stroke. Ruth was a pupil at Moulsham Junior School in the late 30's and early 40's, later moving to Chelmsford Technical College from which she graduated in 1946. She went to work for the Essex Weekly News, then moved into nursing and eventually took up a secretarial post in the accounts department at Cromptons in Writtle Road.

Derek writes: "I discovered Ruth in the early 50's via my Mother's house parties for her young lady colleagues in the office. I began to get to know her better, and we decided to become more seriously involved at the Coronation party in 1953. I was due to enter the Royal Airforce in 53, so it was in 1956, on my return to civilian life, that we became engaged and later married in 1958.

Ruth and I had a wonderful life together, and she became the mother of two fine sons. We lived the early days of our marriage in Billericay, later moving to Coggeshall for 17 years. When the boys had finished university, they both settled in the Midlands, so I decided to retire and we moved away from Essex to Montgomeryshire, where we have been for the last 17, going on 18 years. Ruth was a lovely lady, and is very much missed. She was greatly liked by all who met and knew her, both here and abroad. Her passing has left a big hole in a lot of people's lives."

ARTICLES, PHOTOS, NEWS AND MEMORIES

Can be sent to Kathleen Boot at 1A Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9PG or by email to kathleen.boot@virgin.net . The Newsletter can also be read on, or downloaded from the school website: www.moulshamjuniorschool.org.uk

Data Protection Legislation

Please note that for the purpose of compiling the Past Pupils' mailing list, and for no other purpose whatsoever, your name and address is being held as a computer record. If for any reason you object to this, would you please inform us immediately in writing. Unless we hear from you, your consent is assumed.

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