

Past Pupils' Newsletter

Autumn 2006

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SEVEN YEARS ON Yes, this is our 22nd issue and the start of the eighth year of the Moulsham Junior School Past Pupils' Newsletter. How time has flown since we sent out the first issue to 130 of you in Autumn 1999, and received such an enthusiastic response. We are delighted that so many of you keep sending in your memories, news and photos, and look forward to hearing from more and more of you in the coming years.

Once again we have a bumper issue, professionally printed on glossy paper, so that those who receive the paper version of the Newsletter can see the pictures as clearly as those who read it on the website.

And now, a date for next year's diary:

2007 PAST PUPILS' REUNION: SATURDAY 28TH APRIL, 1 - 4.30 pm - SEE YOU THERE!

Very best wishes to you all from your co-editors

Hilary Balm (Dye) and Kathleen Boot (Nash), both at Moulsham Junior Girls' School 1951-55

From the new Head Teacher, Mrs Linda Hughes

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, as I was appointed as the new headteacher of Moulsham Junior School in March 2006 and took up the post in September. I was delighted although apprehensive as Les Kemp, the previous headteacher, was going to be a hard act to follow.

I have spent my entire teaching career working in Essex, having trained at Leicester. I have worked in schools in Witham, Kelvedon, Mistley and Dovercourt before gaining my first headship in Walton on the Naze. My subsequent marriage meant I left there in 1999 to take up the post of headteacher of Meadgate Primary School here in Chelmsford, a school I thoroughly enjoyed working in. However, I really believe that heads should not stay in one place too long, so after six memorable years I decided to apply elsewhere and was appointed to Moulsham.



I was particularly interested and delighted to find that Moulsham has a Past Pupils Association as these are very rare in Primary and Junior Schools. I have always been interested in history and have enjoyed looking at Old School Log Books with children, so I was delighted to meet with Hilary Balm and Kathleen Boot and view the expertise and pride which they take in the Association and in producing this newsletter. It makes fascinating reading. I joined the Past Pupils Association of one of my own old schools several years ago, having found out about it via a chance meeting with another pupil (not in my year group) on the Isle of Skye!! My husband and I were staying at her Bed and Breakfast when we discovered that we were both from Chatham in Kent, and went to the same school. She alerted me to the Friends Reunited website, where I found out about the next Past Pupils luncheon and also made contact with many old friends and teachers. It was great to reminisce and find out what everyone had done with their lives.

I hope therefore that this latest newsletter prompts you to get in touch with past friends and come along to the afternoon on 28th April 2007. Photographs and archives will be on display and some of the children will be performing. I am hopeful that by then there will be plans available of how we might develop the playground so that it is more interesting and caters for the interests of all children and not just those who like ball games. I do hope you can come and I look forward to seeing you there.

"Farewell Old Friend": Mr Kemp's retirement, July 2006

We are grateful to Deputy Head, Mr Glen Denham, for the following account of the 1st July farewell celebration for Mr Les Kemp, who retired as Moulsham Junior School Headteacher this summer:

The end of an era is always a time of great sadness and reflection. This was no more evident than when we said farewell to our Headteacher Mr Les Kemp.

We were fortunate to have Wickford County Junior School as a venue, and we were hosted by the Headteacher there, Mr Terry Flitman, as an ex-Moulsham Junior School Deputy Head and Chairperson of the Les Kemp Fan Club! The guests included Mr David Bell, the Chief Inspector of Schools, who was a Deputy under Mr Kemp at Powers Hall, previous work colleagues ranging from Head Teachers to LSAs and family friends.



Following the speeches, a presentation was made to Mr Kemp, which included a trip to Japan. An 8 piece band then entertained us during the evening. The occasion was filled with laughter and reflection - reflection on a career that all of us in education can only marvel at. The consistent themes to come through from the speakers were Mr Kemp's unfaltering work ethic, his seeking out what was best for the children in his schools, and a kindness and empathy that transcended his remit.

The impact that Mr Kemp had on our community and the lives and careers of so many children and colleagues is enormous. We were regaled with tales of Mr Kemp single-handedly making an obstacle course out of hay; the reams of unattended paperwork thoughtlessly sent by the County (!); his fascination, indeed addiction, to coffee; and his innate ability to turn a negative into a positive. We were glad to share these memories with Mr Kemp's entire family, so they were able to see at first hand the incredibly positive impact their Dad has had on education. Those who attended the farewell were of the same opinion that there will never be another Les Kemp and that we will all miss his boundless energy, enthusiasm and love for education and helping those who need it most.

Legoland Visit, 28th June 2006 - more from Mr Denham

Not since the evacuation of wartime London has England ever seen such a huge body of humanity leave one area. On the Wednesday 28th June our whole school visited Legoland. Our Headteacher, Mr Kemp, carried out the sheer logistics of the event in minute detail. It was an effort that Winston Churchill would have been proud of.

The statistics: 554 children, 104 adults, 14 buses, 1 exhausted Headteacher.

The day was an enormous success. The children were, understandably, excited and their behaviour was impeccable. The staff at Legoland told us that we were the biggest group that had visited all year. All staff and parents had a great time and I must confess that I only screamed twice. Once was on the Roller Coaster, and the second time was when I saw the cost of a cup of tea at the restaurant!

Each adult and child received a commemorative medal (picture below) marking the occasion, and blissfully the traffic Gods were kind to us and we arrived back on time.

Here are some of the thoughts of the children about the day:

'Brilliant fun', John Year 5

'The best day ever', Sam Year 4

'I loved everything, even the bus ride', Charlie Year 3

'Can we come back tomorrow?' Charlotte Year 4

'No', Mr Kemp aged 60.

A huge thank you to Mr Kemp for organising a wonderful excursion, although by the end of the day he had more grey hair than when he started. This in itself is quite a feat, as I didn't think he could fit any more grey hair on his head! A big thank you to all the children, staff and parents that made the day unforgettable.



Above left: Fourteen coaches leave Moulsham Junior School for the Legoland trip

Above right: The medal presented to all pupils participating in the Legoland visit

Farewell to Mr Kemp from the schoolchildren

At the school open day on 6th July, the pupils of Moulsham Junior School presented Mr Kemp with two very special and incredibly beautiful handmade plates, on which all their names and fingerprints appear in colour. A real work of art and labour of love. This photo, right, taken by Hilary, shows one of the plates.



Another surprise for Mr Kemp: on 19th July, during his last week at Moulsham Juniors, pupils and staff arrived dressed as Mr Kemp look-alikes, complete with his trademark blue shirt, red braces and beard! The picture, left, shows Mr Kemp with some of the staff on that occasion.

Requests, reminders and thanks

- **Many thanks** to all the contributors to this issue of the Newsletter. Articles, photos and news to include in the Spring edition can be sent as usual to Kathleen Boot by email at kathleen.boot@tiscali.co.uk or by post at 1A Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9PG. If you know of any other classmates who would like to join the Newsletter distribution list, do please let Kathleen have their addresses.
- **Tesco vouchers** Thank you to all who sent or brought in Tesco computer and/or sports equipment vouchers. Please do keep collecting them when in season - Moulsham Juniors will be very glad of them if you are not saving them for another school.
- **Website** Once again we are posting this issue of the Newsletter on the Past Pupils' page of the school website: www.moulsham-jun.essex.sch.uk/index.htm . You can also read the previous six issues on the site.
- **Moulsham Senior Schools and Moulsham High School** Several readers who went from the Juniors to Moulsham Senior Girls' or Boys' Schools have asked if we know of any past pupils' association 'up the road'. We notice from Moulsham High School's new website that there is a 'Reunion' page, with lots of news from former 'Seniors' and Moulsham High past pupils, and a 'rogues' gallery' of photos of individuals and classes from the 1940s onwards. For those interested, the website address is: www.moulshamhigh.essex.sch.uk/reunion.htm
- **Contributions** We are often asked if there is a charge or subscription fee for the Past Pupils' Newsletter. The answer is no, as the workload and record-keeping would be excessive. But if you would like to make a contribution, we are glad to collect small donations at the annual Open Afternoon. These go into the school fund, and are used towards special projects to enhance the school environment. If you are not able to be at the Open Afternoon, you are welcome to send a cheque, payable to 'Moulsham Junior School' to the Headteacher, Mrs Linda Hughes, at Moulsham Junior School, Princes Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9DG. We normally recommend a minimum of £3 a year.
- **Request for help** We are very grateful to those who have helped at previous Open Afternoons, and would be glad of more volunteers for the next reunion on 28th April 2007, please. If you are able to offer to set up display tables on the Friday afternoon (27th), to set out tables in the refreshment rooms on the Saturday morning, or to be available for any period from 1pm on to man the reception desks or help load the dishwasher, do please get in touch with Kathleen or Hilary as soon as possible.

Stop Press: Anne Holdsworth (Hammond), 1943-47

We have just heard the sad news that Anne Holdsworth (Hammond) died on 15th October 2006, following a battle with cancer.. Anne was at Moulsham Junior Girls' School from 1943-47, and a keen contributor to our Newsletter over the years. Her lifelong friend, Pauline Digby (Knight), has kindly agreed to write a full obituary for our next issue. Meanwhile, if any of Anne's friends and former classmates would like to hear more details from Pauline, please feel free to phone her on 01245 222361

1947 photos from Ray Allen, 1943-47



Back row (staff): Mr Petchey, Headmaster, left, and Mr Hymas, Deputy Head, right

Back row (boys) left to right: John Wilkes, ? , Brian Lillywhite, ?Peter Gridley, Doug Brooker, Derek Lydamore, Don Myall

Middle row: John Ratcliff, John Graham, Michael Wright, John McGovern, ? , ? , ? , Alan Lightfoot

Front row: Ted Francis, Brian Cushing, Brian Gandy, ? , Edward Sampson, Neil Heard, Ray Allen

Ray Allen was at Moulsham Junior Boys' School from 1943-47, and went on to the new Technical School with several of his classmates afterwards. He has sent us these two pictures of his final year at Moulsham, and comments:

"The first picture, above, was taken in 1947 by Mr W C C Turner [well-known benefactor of the Moulsham Schools]. One of the interesting people on the photo is John Ratcliff - for many years his name has appeared on the back end of every lorry I have ever followed. His father invented the tail lift but unfortunately died early and John and his sister carried on with the business and built it into a very large concern. I think he may have sold out very recently but was awarded a CBE in the Honours List - I am not sure whether this was to do with the business or his support for the drama scene.

I lived next door to the Deputy Head, Dick Hymas - we lived at 13 St John's Avenue and he lived at 11 St John's Avenue. I did not have to await the term reports for mother to find out how well or badly I had done in class. Dick Hymas's wife died early in life and Dick and his son Richard and daughter established themselves in Castle Hedingham where the young Richard commenced the reincarnation of the Colne Valley Railway. I met him there about thirty odd years ago. It is now a very large tourist attraction.

The second picture picture, below, shows a day out at the seaside (mudside) at Maldon, paid for by Mr W C C Turner and photographed by him. I have seen some reference fairly recently to Derek

Lydamore in either the Moulsham newsletters or perhaps in the Tech ones. He referred to himself as Delboy. He left Moulsham Drive when his father transferred to Frinton or Clacton. Pat Durrant used to live almost opposite him.

I have many memories of the school, including Mr Petchey's comments that if there hadn't been a war we would have been surrounded by housing . . . as it is now."



Maldon 1947, left to right: Derek Lydamore, Ray Allen, Brian Poole, Tony Lawson, Michael Wright, Michael Poole, Bruce Pinder, David Harper, ? , Ray Barnes

News from Cynthia Sidney (Baines), 1952-56

An old school friend of mine was mentioned in a couple of recent news letters. Her name is Colleen Benham, and she was my 'best friend' at junior school until she emigrated to Australia. My name was Cynthia Baines, and I was in the Junior Girls' School between 1952 -1956. I have a granddaughter who now attends the school and it was her mother who first showed me an article about Colleen, and her memories of Chelmsford, in one of the newsletters. I fully intended to come to the fete recently but on the day I was trying to be in too many places at once, so I missed out. My brother, David Baines, also attended the boys school from 1951 - 1955, and he receives the newsletter, and called me to say that Colleen had mentioned me in the current edition.

When I left Junior School I went to Sandon Secondary, until 1960, and I went into hairdressing until I had my family. I have 3 children, who have given me 6 grandchildren. As my children grew up, I went back to work but to a different vocation, telesales, mainly selling yogurts / cheese, for about 5 years and I moved on to a local frozen food company until my retirement 2005. So with all this time on my hands I have been doing family research and also have been in touch with other old school friends. I do have other hobbies, gardening, photography, and I am decorating and furnishing a second dolls house, when I have a free moment.

Treasures from Great-Grandfather's memory box Caretaker Mr A Little's retirement celebration, 1963



Phyl Chatelier (Little)
2006

A tremendous thank you to **Phyl Chatelier (Little)**, 1938, and her grand-daughter **Melanie**, for sending us a wonderful collection of pictures, taken at the retirement celebrations of Phyl's father, **Mr A Little**. We have selected half a dozen to print in this Newsletter, and will keep others for future issues. We are also grateful to **Mrs Donovan**, Moulsham Junior teacher for 25 years from 1957 to 1982, for looking at the pictures with us and putting names to faces.

Mr Little was caretaker of Moulsham Infants', Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' Schools for 17 years, from 1946 to 1963, and his daughters Phyl and **Paulette** were also well known to many past pupils from the early years of the Moulsham Schools. The Little family lived in Elm Road, as did the Barnard, Whittle and Cox children, who also attended Moulsham Juniors. You may recall that we included two excellent photos of them at the Elm Road VE Day party in our Autumn 2005 and Spring 2006 Newsletters.

Phyl takes up the story in her letter: " My grand daughter Melanie flew down recently, and on reading about school photographs in the Past Pupils' Newsletter, recalled that she had some slides in her great grandfather's memory box. Once home, she took them to the local photographic shop to enquire whether they could transfer these to conventional photographs. We are so pleased with the results and thought you might like to accept these as a contribution to the Moulsham School archives!" We certainly were excited to receive them, both as a record of the occasion itself and in providing pictures of so many other well-known Moulsham people present on that day.

The Moulsham Junior Boys' School log book pinpoints the date of the pictures as 11th October 1963, noting that on that day Andrew Donovan presented Mr Little with a fireside chair; the combined primary school staffs held a tea party, and on their behalf Mrs J P Roberts presented Mr Little with a decanter, six wine glasses and a tea set; also a cheque, and a bouquet for Mrs Little. Several of these items can be seen in the photos, along with two 'pouffes', of which Phyl still has one today. The two sisters could not believe how many gifts he received! Phyl also still has the gold metallic tray on which the Swedish dark glass wineglasses and decanter stood.

Those of you who were at school while Mr Little was caretaker may remember that he was rarely seen without his cap. Phyl comments: "Yes, he was welded to that old cap of his ! He was quite a character. He had done his service in the First World War, and in the Second World War was at Hoffmans in 'munitions'. He was also in what we lovingly call Dads Army (The Home Guard), and an Air Raid Warden, too. He kept chickens in the garden, and ran two plots of allotment along Writtle Road. He was always up at 5.45a.m. each and every morning. Oh yes, and he had an incubator in the spare bedroom where the baby chicks were hatched, and a few ducklings also. It was all go in our house, but lots of laughs! Dad worked as caretaker in the three lower schools while Hubert Collins worked in the Moulsham Senior Schools. I think it was Mrs Collins' father who was the very first caretaker when I started school and his name was Mr Perrin."



A toast to Mr A Little (centre) on his retirement. Moulsham Junior Boys' School staff from left to right: teachers Mr Viv Hodgson, Mr John Lyons, Mrs 'Poppy' Donovan, Mr Harold Picken, ? , Mr Tom Sturgeon, Headmaster, and Mrs Hollingbery, school secretary.



Andrew Donovan presents Mr Little with a fireside chair on behalf of Moulsham Junior Boys' School. We wonder if any of the boys seated on the floor of the Boys' Hall recognise themselves or their classmates? Note the 'Work and be Happy' motto board on the wall, which we usually have on display at Past Pupils' Open Afternoons.



Miss S Pettet, Headmistress of Moulsham Junior Girls' School, during the presentation to Mr Little in the Girls' School Hall. Note the old air raid shelter outside the window. Does anyone recognise the girl next to Miss Pettet? She was wearing a bright red cardigan.

A Moulsham Infant School Pupil presenting two 'pouffe' footstools to Mr Little. We have not yet discovered the name of the Head Teacher on the left of the picture. If you know it, or recognise any of the children in the photo, do please get in touch.



Another picture of the same Infants' class. Do any of you recognise yourselves on either of these photos?



**Mrs Jean Roberts,
Chairman of
Managers, handing
over a decanter and
wine glasses on
behalf of the staff.**

This picture was
taken at the tea
party in the old
canteen next to the
Infants' School.
From left: Mr Little,
Mrs Little, Miss
Pettet, Mrs Roberts

Miss Pettet, Headmistress of Moulsham Junior Girls' School 1949 - 69



As we have mentioned before, we have very few photos of either staff or pupils from Moulsham Junior Girls' School, as, unlike the Boys' School, no class group pictures appear to have been taken. So we were especially pleased to find that Headmistress Miss Pettet (1949 - 1969) featured on several of Phyl Chatelier's 1963 slides. Miss Pettet, previously at Manningtree Voluntary School, was appointed Head from September 1949 to replace Miss Rankin, the first and only other Head of Moulsham Junior Girls' School. She remained in this post until the two Junior Schools became one co-educational school in 1969.

This is a particularly good photo of Miss Pettet as many of us remember her. Do please let us know if you happen to have any other pictures of the Junior Girls' School staff from any time between 1938 and 1969.

1955: Moulsham Junior Girls at St John's Hospital Fete



Conductor, Miss Skilton

Front row from left: Pam Harper, Lucille Franklin, Kathleen Brown, Pat Bartlett, Sylvia Drinkwater, Aileen Squires, Jennifer Bohannon, ?Wendy Philp, ? Jean Staples. Vivien Biglin (hidden behind Miss Skilton). **Second row from left:** ?Susan Hayden, Hazel Offord, Hilary Dye, Christine Combes, ? , ?Marea Jones, ? . **Back row:** ?Susan Witham, ? . ?Jenny Hann, ?Juliet Lindars, ? Marion Weston (far right, partly visible, Pauline Tarbun, Elizabeth Clarke)



Conductor (left): Miss Skilton

Front row from left: Pam Harper, Lucille Franklin, Kathleen Brown, Pat Bartlett, Sylvia Drinkwater, Aileen Squires, Jennifer Bohannon, ?Wendy Philp, ?Jean Staples, Vivien Biglin

Second row from right: Janet Bidwell, Margaret Gunnell, Philippa Waring

Back row from right: Elizabeth Clarke, Pauline Tarbun, ?Janet Bullock

We are delighted to have these two photos from **Hazel Richards (Offord)**, 1951-55, of music teacher Miss Skilton conducting a group from the Junior Girls' School choir in 1955. Hazel tells us that the pictures were taken at the St John's Hospital Fete. Her mother was the Hon Sec for some years, so Hazel always went along. Several other Moulsham Mums and Dads were on the committee, including the parents of **Susan** Hayden, also 1951-55.

Special thanks to Hazel and classmate **Jenny Pickles (Hann)** for identifying so many of the names on these two pictures. If anyone can add to the list, or remembers the occasion, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Hazel and Jenny were especially curious to know who 'the bloke at the back' was - or perhaps it was a girl after all? Jenny doesn't recall being at the fete herself.

In the early 1950s, Moulsham Junior Girls already had a strong musical tradition, winning the annual schools singing competition at the Corn Exchange on more than one occasion. In May 1952 we won the cup and were placed first in every class. Hilary and Kathleen, who were in the same class as Hazel and Jenny, tried to remember the songs we had to learn, and came up with 'Nymphs and Shepherds'; 'This is the Weather the Cuckoo Likes'; 'Ye Spotted Snakes with Double Tongue'; and 'When Daisies Pied and Violets Blue'. Hazel and Jenny both vividly remembered 'Nymphs and Shepherds'. Hazel says she hated it and it is still embedded in her brain, but on the plus side "I do remember Miss Skilton encouraging us to sing on top of the note. This has stuck with me and although my voice has cracked up now, I did enjoy singing. You can hear so many singers nowadays who only just make the note and I still think 'get on top of it' ".

Another musical tradition at Moulsham Junior Girls' School in the 1950s was for some verses of the hymns at our daily Assemblies to be sung as solos. One of Hilary's verses was 'Dear Mother Earth, who day by day', from 'All Creatures of our God and King'. Kathleen remembers the terrible ordeal of 'auditions' for verses in All things Bright and Beautiful - volunteers on a 'you, you and you' basis! She ended up with the tall trees in the greenwood, as she recalls, and the solo came round rather frequently, as it was a popular children's hymn. Do any of you remember your solo verses in Assembly, and having to climb up on to the platform when 'your' hymn was announced?

Following this article, we have a letter from Jenny, who now lives in Australia and came to Chelmsford this summer, taking in both the County High School Centenary Reunion and a tour of Moulsham Junior School. It was lovely to meet up with her again. Hazel was also at the reunion, and we have been in touch with her by email. Of Moulsham Juniors, she writes: "My memories are similar to those of some of the ones already reported. I remember the black skirts with the coloured ribbon round the bottom that we wore for dancing and when we had open days we danced round the covered part of the quad. I remember the brick air raid shelters on the top field and how we used to dare each other to run through them. They would be considered a hazard these days. I expect they are long gone". [They are.]

As ours was the nearest school to St John's Hospital, there was already an established tradition of Moulsham pupils helping out with entertainments at the Fete. This picture, right, from Diane Lawrence (Woollett) shows Moulsham Senior Girls dancing at the 1954 Fete
From left: Julie Shipman, Gillian McPherson, Judith Pinder, Jean Clough, Diane Woollett, ?



Chelmsford County High and Moulsham Juniors revisited, Jenny Pickles (Hann) 1951-1955



Just over a year ago a group of nine past classmates of Chelmsford County High School were reunited. For some, it was our first meeting since around 1961 when we completed our "O" levels. Of this group Hazel Richards (Offord) and I had also spent our junior years together at Moulsham. A diverse group, many of whom travelled a long distance to meet up, we all so enjoyed our day that we made a tentative plan to get together the following year, perhaps to attend the High School's 100th anniversary. It seemed an appropriate proposal, since we had been students there for the 50th celebration.

Although I had wondered if our initial enthusiasm would wane, as June 2006 approached emails were frantically exchanged. For my part, I planned to visit my mother again in Gt Baddow, so why not combine it with the school function. Luckily I was able to book a suitable flight from Australia and also a ticket for the reunion. As the event drew more interest than the organisers had expected, some friends were unfortunately excluded, having left their booking too late, so we were reduced to six.

Undeterred by this disappointment, we duly arrived at 5pm on 24 June to join a tour of the High School, lead by a bright and self-assured senior student, seemingly much more confident and worldly than we ever were at that age. The original school building, the old assembly hall (the gym), and even the junior cloakrooms were essentially unchanged, though many classrooms now have a different or new function. The former domestic science area is now devoted to IT, reflecting societal and educational change. We were interested and impressed when shown the swimming pool, but I was surprised when our young guide informed us that it is not popular with the girls. In my day, I remembered much effort going into fund-raising for this facility, built after I had left. At that time Chelmsford had only an outdoor unheated pool and I, being a swimming and sport enthusiast, happily participated in the school's fund-raising events. We were pleased to note that the pond where many of our class photos were taken remains, as do the crab apple trees between the two fields. However, a busy road has reduced the size of the bottom field, and the top one also seems smaller, perhaps due to the encroaching school buildings.

After the tour we began assembling for liquid refreshments in the dining area where we met with some of the organisers of the event. Our attention was now focused on attaching our identity labels prominently while we scanned the room for familiar faces. In due course we were ushered into the assembly hall for the AGM, which was combined with the reunion. The deputy principal gave an interesting talk about students' achievements, the direction of the school and the generous funding awarded for further languages development, and office bearers of the Old Girls Association duly gave their reports. This anniversary reunion had apparently drawn so much interest that numbers had to be limited to around 200, and the committee members were concerned about their ability to cater adequately for so many. Their fears were unfounded, and they are to be congratulated on the sumptuous cold buffet meal, accompanied by wine, and followed by desserts and coffee. Well done!

The informal part of the programme was what we most looked forward to. As we ate, we chatted among our own group while Hazel and I tried to identify our classmates on two photos of the Moulsham Junior Girls choir that she had brought along. We then moved among other tables seeking old friends. Two who attended together, and who were easily recognised from our class at Moulsham, were **Pam Harper** and **Philippa Waring**, who apparently have maintained a lengthy friendship. We were unable to

ascertain whether other Moulsham past pupils were present as the evening seemed rapidly to draw to a close, but it would be interesting to know if others were there.

During my visit to Chelmsford I was to revisit an even earlier phase of my schooling, my time at Moulsham Juniors. This was motivated by my receipt of the Past Pupils' Newsletter, which I was intrigued to note was edited by my former classmates Kathleen and Hilary. Furthermore Hilary and I sat next to each other in our final year at Moulsham, and Kathleen and I were in parallel classes during our years at Chelmsford County High. Soon emails were sent back and forth between us as we became reacquainted, and a plan was subsequently formulated to meet up during my forthcoming visit to Chelmsford in June/July.

I was excited that the three of us were able to meet up as planned, to pour over old photos and chat at length about our school experiences. Hilary was later able to arrange a tour of the school for us. We were welcomed by the deputy head and met a number of friendly staff as we explored and reminisced, noticing the numerous changes that had taken place, and also what had amazingly remained the same (classroom radiators!). I was especially impressed by the creativity of the pupils (and of course their teachers), evidenced by so many colourful and interesting displays throughout the classrooms and corridors. The informality in the classes was notable too, yet the pupils were quietly and industriously engaged with their latest projects and topics, their imagination enhanced by the availability of an abundance of materials with which to work. It seemed much more austere in my day with quite a different approach to learning and our desks arranged in pairs all facing the blackboard. Then I paused to wonder how 52 girls were accommodated in our classroom in 1955, surely the room must have been larger.... And was the platform in the hall really that low?!

It was a most interesting morning, and was followed by a delightful chat over lunch that Hilary had arranged with yet another of our classmates, Marea Jones. When we eventually parted company I was still reflecting on my time at Moulsham as I boarded a bus to Gt Baddow and became involved in a conversation with another passenger. I suggested to her that her face was familiar to me and I wondered had she by any chance attended Moulsham. She said her name had been Heather Parish, and indeed she was a past pupil around the same time as me. Further discussion revealed that she too receives the Past Pupils' Newsletter, and had seen my name mentioned in the Summer 2006 edition!

Overall, my trip to UK in 2006 will be remembered as a most unusual but satisfying one. It would not have occurred to me that to revisit my old schools would rank as positive experiences, let alone hold so much pleasure and fascination, though I would still never share my father's view that "your schooldays are the best years of your life". However, my trips down memory lane this year were very rewarding, most of all because of the warmth extended by others, and the interesting and worthwhile friendships we have generated by our reconnection.



Photos: Right: Jenny 2006 in Chelmsford

Previous page: Jenny at Moulsham Junior Girls' School, 1955

1965 to 1967 School football teams: pictures from Richard Geer



1965 school football team

Back row, l to r:: Tom Sturgeon, ? , Kevin Menhinick, Paul Salmon, ? , ? , ? , John Escott, ? , Simon Hewell, Richard Geer , Mr Williams
Middle row, standing each end: .Malcolm Clapham, ?
Front Row: Kevin Saunders, Micky Gribble, Paul Hinton, John Nice, Robert Snellgrove, ? , Kevin Stevenson

1965-1966, Winners of the League

Back Row: Tom Sturgeon, Paul Hinton, Kevin Stevenson, Malcolm Clapham, Simon Hewell, Kevin Menhinick, Mr Williams
Middle Row: Richard Geer, ? , Paul Salmon , ? , ?
Front Row: ? , John Escot, John Nice, David Gridley, Micky Gribble, Kevin Saunders, John Docherty (Chelmsford City player at the time)



1966-67 team: Winners of the league and Andrews Cup
Back: 2 teachers standing: Mr H Picken and Mr J Lyons
Back row (incorporating the ones in the middle l to r): Kevin Thomas, Kevin Saunders, Nigel Hinton, Kevin Tong, Timothy Manning, Kevin Menhinick, Richard Pinder, Clive Lovejoy, Harold Swift, Bryan Robson
Front Row: Ian Hayter, Ralph Ricks, Richard Geer, David Gridley, Micky Gribble, Simon Hewell, Grahame Hunt (?)

1974 A class outing with Mrs Donovan



A rare picture from the 1970s, which we came across in the school archive, and showed to retired Moulsham teacher Mrs 'Poppy' Donovan during a very pleasant morning we spent with her recently, hearing more about her 25 years at Moulsham and the staff with whom she worked. She told us the photo was taken in Green Park, central London, where the group were eating their picnic lunch

1982 Mrs Foulger's class (please let us have any other names you may know)



Back Row second from left, Ian ? **Third Row:** fifth from left: Samuel Rhyl. **Second Row:** Richard Brewer, ? , Tina Maris, Kate Carver, Michelle Bacon. John ? , Matthew Heinz. **Front Row:** fifth from left: Paul Foster, then ? , Sarah Staples, Melanie Pavitt

1997 Moulsham Junior School staff



Back row, left to right: 1 ? , 2 Barbara O'Kelly , 3 Lorna Blowers (office), 4 Mrs Cox (LA), 5 Mr Hines , 6 Mrs Hines , 7 Mr Leatherdale , 8 Mrs Rich , 9 ?

Middle row: 1 Mrs Pennack , 2 Mrs Lettuce , 3 Mrs Kumar , 4 ? , 5 Mrs Stapleton , 6 ? , 7 Clare Dolding , 8 Eleanor Coupland , 9 Mrs Turner , 10 ? , 11 Irene Smith , 12 **Mrs Figg**

Front row: 1 Miss Coughbrough , 2 Mrs N Stoker , 3 ? , 4 Pat Edmonds , 5 Les Kemp (Headmaster), 6 Miss MacIntyre , 7 Rosemary Cannon (office), 8 Mrs Howlett

News in brief

Nigel Norris (1959 - 63) has a car repair business in Gt Baddow, and enquired about past staff when phoning the school recently to say that a member of staff's car was ready for collection! He is particularly interested to know if anyone has heard from Mr Ron Williams. Nigel admits he was a bit of a rebel at school and Mr Williams encouraged his interest in nature - badger watching, etc. He thinks Mr Williams may have moved to Bristol. Nigel's other teachers were Sally Martin, Mrs Donovan, Mr Lyons (who had a daughter, Geraldine) and Mr Picken. Other boys he remembered are David Pinder, Mal Clements, Colin Tyler, and Keith Robinson, although he has not seen them since those days. He also recalled going on strike (not to be recommended!) with Bobby Clayton and Peter Norman.

Thank you to **Gerald Britton**, 1947-51, for putting us in touch with his sister, Anne Davey (Britton) who was at Moulsham Junior Girls' School from 1945 - 1949, and read the summer newsletter when she visited him recently. Gerald went to a reunion in Chelmsford in July, celebrating 50 years since leaving the 'Tech', and writes: "It was great to meet up with old friends, many of whom I had not seen since leaving school. Two of the boys there went to Moulsham ('47 - '51) (there may have been more). They were **Neil Scott**, who had barely changed in appearance, and **Bill Berry**."

At the school fete in July, we were very grateful to Ted Caton, 1941-45, for helping Hilary to man the past pupils' table. Ted and Hilary were able to chat to quite a few past pupils, including several we had not met before. Among these was **Peter Jojic**, who started at Moulsham Junior Boys' School in 1962.

Peter remembers Mr Sturgeon, and was taught by Mr Lyons (3rd year) and Mrs Bome (2nd year). Some of his schooling was in a portakabin. Fellow schoolmates included Ricky Banks, Clive Lovejoy and Stephen Flowers, who is now his brother-in-law. Peter wondered if we had seen the 1960 photo that hangs in the Infants' School next to the secretary's office, on which he features. We will check this out.



Also at the fete was **Mrs Dinah Reed (Cowell)**, 1951-55, who brought her cousin, **Dianne Bronson (Jeffrey)** with her. She is visiting from America, where she has lived for 28 years. Later this year Dianne will be returning to the UK permanently. Thank you to Ted Caton for taking this photo of Hilary, 2nd left, with Dinah, Dianne and another early 1950s pupil, Jean Marsh (Pascoe).

From the Junior Boys' School, **Gary Johnson**, 1966-70, and his brother **Clifford**, 1960-64, lived in Mildmay Road at the time. Some of you may have seen Clifford's photo in the Essex Chronicle recently. Their mother, **Patricia (Davies)** also attended the school.

Hilary was also pleased to meet **Joanna Hazell**, 1980-84, whose brother Rhett is already on the Newsletter mailing list. Joanna remembers teachers Mr Brian Day and Mrs Margaret Foster, who became Mrs Day. From a more recent decade, **Victoria Brickwood**, 1977-81, remembers Mrs Donovan, Mrs Foster, Mrs Wilkinson (dec'd) and Mrs Dennett.

Brian Judd, 1938, was able to access the Summer 2006 Past Pupils' Newsletter on the new school website, and emailed to say "I was delighted to hear that Peter Moore is still around. My mother had the bright idea of having me (as a teenager) join him one summer in working on a farm tending to strawberry plants. After a couple of days I realised that my forte was desk work and abandoned him to continue the gruelling work in the hot sun alone. I hope he has forgotten all about it."

Thank you to **Alison Barker**, 1975-59, for letting us have her impressive collection of exercise books and school projects from her time at Moulsham Juniors. More about this next time.

More next time, too, from **Don Smith**, 1942-46, who has just sent us some fascinating wartime memories, which we will include in the Spring 2007 issue.

And finally . . .

Following the recipe for Hilary's malt loaf in the Summer Newsletter, we were delighted to have the following feedback from Phyl Chatelier: "I have made three batches of two so far, and they are a great success. My sister Paulette tried using dates and apricots and I did a batch with dates and dried cranberries, so you can do many variations and all are delicious".

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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