

Past Pupils' Newsletter

Autumn 2007

Vol 9 no 3

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Welcome to the 25th issue of the Newsletter

Two important dates for 2008, the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Moulsham Schools: First, our usual annual Open Afternoon, on **Saturday 10th May, from 1-5pm**. Then, an extra anniversary celebration at the school on the evening of **Friday 26th September** from 7pm - more details of this later. We hope for a really good crowd at both of these events, so do try to join us at one or both if you are able.

Once again, thank you to all who have contributed articles, photos and news to this the 25th issue of our Past Pupils' Newsletter. Back in autumn 1999, when we sent out the first issue, we could never have imagined the enthusiastic flow of recollections and pictures from past staff and pupils which we have all enjoyed over the past 8 years. We have heard from former staff as well as past pupils, and are pleased to include news and memories from former Infants' School Head **Mrs Irene Tyson, 1985-97** on page 4. On a sadder note, we have obituaries for several loyal Newsletter readers and contributors this time: **John Spooner, Pauline Digby, Ken Andrews and Keith Pitts**. We remember them all with affection and gratitude.

Many articles in the earlier newsletters were from 1940s and 50s pupils, and we continue to welcome memories, pictures and stories from these decades. More recently, we have been able to add recollections from 1960s and 1970s pupils too, including, in this issue, **Gerry Etherington (Butterworth), 1960-64** and **David Turner, 1971-75**. David's article is based on the list of questions from recent Year 3 pupils which we printed in the Summer Newsletter this year, and it is interesting to have on page 5 another response, based on an earlier era, from **Adrian Smith, 1948-50**. Every past pupil's own recollections and comments add a piece to the larger picture of life at Moulsham Juniors over its 70 year history, so do please keep sending your memories, news and pictures to the address below.

We have four pages of photos in this issue, including several from former Headmaster Mr Sturgeon's impressive collection from 1957-82. Thanks once again to his son Dave Sturgeon for sorting and sending us these photos, and a special thank you to **Norman Kerridge**, who has diligently scanned them into our computer record for future generations. As we do not have a glossy printed newsletter this time, we apologise for having to hold over some of your pictures for future issues, but we have tried to include an interesting assortment spanning many decades. We plan to have printed photos in each of the Spring and Summer Newsletters in 2008, and a full glossy Newsletter to celebrate the 70th anniversary in the autumn of 2008.

Hilary and I would like to thank all those who responded to our appeals for help in the Summer Newsletter. **Jenny French (Ingall)**, who spent all her school life at Moulsham, leaving the Senior Girls' School in 1958, will in future be delivering some Newsletters the Springfield area, and **Martyn Edwards, 1948**, with his wife **Pauline**, have kindly taken on a delivery round in Galleywood. **Gerry Etherington (Butterworth)**, mentioned above, has taken over the maintenance of the distribution list, and she has already done a brilliant job sorting out and reordering the labels ready for use. From now on, if you have changes of address or new contacts to notify, you can email Gerry direct at gerry.etherington@tiscali.co.uk. If you do not have email, please write to me instead and I will pass on the information. My postal address, for articles and pictures as well, is 1A Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9PG. My email address remains kathleen.boot@tiscali.co.uk

With all good wishes from my co-editor Hilary Balm (Dye), 1951-55, and myself,

Kathleen Boot (Nash), 1951-55

News from the Head Teacher, Mrs Linda Hughes

Over the Summer holiday, a start was made on construction projects to improve the playground and make better use of the existing school buildings. Mrs Hughes, the Head Teacher of Moulsham Junior School, was pleased to give the following report to parents at the beginning of the new school year:

"The new plan for the playground has commenced; the bomb shelter was demolished, the stage/amphitheatre has been built and a fence has gone in to separate the football area from the rest of the playground. This is only the beginning, and I am currently looking at reasonably priced seating for the amphitheatre and for additional quiet areas as well as obtaining quotes for a new external fence. The children are keen to increase the amount of equipment they have to play with and we are planning a sponsored event for later in the term to raise money.

"The cloakroom area at the south end of the school has been converted into a learning support room and every class in the school now has a designated cloakroom area outside their classroom. The staff-room too has been revamped and increased in size to enable all members of staff to have a seat during lunchtimes and playtimes.

"In addition to all the physical changes around the school we have made a few alterations to the running of the school day, and a "Golden Book" assembly, a chance for everyone to celebrate our successes, will be held on Fridays for all the school. All classes will now have a "Golden Time" session to reward children who behave well during the week and we are launching lunchtime superstar stickers to reward lunchtime good behaviour."

The cloakroom area at the north (former Boys' School) end of the school has already been converted to kitchens, allowing hot lunches to be served in future in the North Hall. By mid-October, Mrs Hughes was able to report further that:

"The work to install a nursery, breakfast club and after school club onto land near the parents car park continues to go well. Next week the buildings will be delivered by huge cranes and dropped (not literally I hope!!) into place. It is exciting to see the project develop and I'm looking forward to all of the facilities being available for the whole Moulsham community.

"A fence is also being installed across our field to demarcate the High School field from the Juniors. I have managed to negotiate an extra $8\frac{1}{2}$ metre strip the length of our playground but unfortunately the school cannot afford the fencing until the next financial year!"

We hope that many of you will come and see the results of these exciting building projects when you join us at the Open Afternoon next year.

Contributions to school funds

Thank you to all those who left donations at the 2007 Open Afternoon towards the cost of producing the Past Pupils' Newsletter, and also to those who were unable to attend but sent in cheques afterwards. The school is always grateful for your support, financial and otherwise. To keep administration as simple as possible, we make no subscription charge for the newsletters, but if you wish to contribute we usually suggest about £3 or £5 a year to cover costs. For anyone who has not made a donation this year and would like to, please send your cheques, payable to Moulsham Junior School, with a short note mentioning that you are a past pupil, to the Head Teacher, Mrs Linda Hughes, at Moulsham Junior School, Princes Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9DG. Many thanks.

A morning with Mrs Irene Tyson, Infants' Head Teacher 1985-97

Some of you who came up to Moulsham Juniors via the Infants' department across the road may remember the welcoming smile of Mrs Irene Tyson, who was Head Teacher of Moulsham Infants' School from 1985-97. A recent photo is on page 8. Hilary and Kathleen had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Tyson earlier this year, and spent a most enjoyable morning hearing about her Moulsham years as well as the impressive range of activities she now crams into her "retirement".

Mrs Tyson became a teacher simply because she loves being with children, and considers it a privilege to work with them. She had two other primary school posts before becoming Head of Moulsham Infants. Her twelve years as Head Teacher were a time of substantial changes in the organisation of primary education, and she felt fortunate to have a strong and stable team of staff, some of whom are still at the school today. Mrs Anthea Tilsley, her Deputy Head, went on to become Head of Galleywood Infants' School. Mrs Tyson was also pleased with the strong support of Moulsham parents and the joint Governors of Moulsham Infants and Junior Schools. She enjoyed all the challenges, teamwork and fun of her Moulsham years.

One of the more helpful changes in organisation was the delegation of budgets from the local authority to individual schools. Moulsham Infants' School, like the Juniors, was built way back in 1938. By the 1980s, there were serious problems with leaking roofs, inadequate toilets and the need for internal improvements. In the early days, any building emergency had involved chasing up the local authority architects and arguing a case for expenditure. Mrs Tyson recalled one Friday evening when she found rain water pouring into a corridor. Unable to find a caretaker, she and another teacher ended up trying to clear the blocked guttering themselves! Having their own school budget made all the difference. From then on the school was able to plan and prioritise its own essential maintenance work, at the same time setting money aside for major projects, including lowering the ceilings, upgrading the toilets and adding the sort of amenities enjoyed by newer local schools.

In the early 1990s, infant schools throughout the country experienced a sea change, when the Government decided that 4-year-old children could henceforth be admitted. This meant providing appropriate accommodation, equipment and activities for them. At Moulsham Infants', the emphasis was always on creating a caring environment where every child was important and special. For these youngest children, many new toys were needed, and they had their own different playtime to ensure they were not overwhelmed by the older pupils.

The introduction of the national curriculum later on brought yet more demands, involving a steep learning curve for the teaching staff. At first, there was a massive folder to master for each subject, with integrated learning as the aim. Moulsham Infants took part in the '100 Schools Survey', to establish how this new curriculum was being embedded. Over time, the requirements were toned down somewhat, and focussed on literacy and numeracy, with more testing.

One of the special events during Mrs Tyson's time as Head Teacher was celebrating the school's 50th anniversary. On Friday 18th July 1988, after an open morning for parents, invited guests and retired staff, an indoor picnic party was held. Perhaps some of you can remember that afternoon? Children and guests wore special party hats and were given balloons and badges with a birthday logo on. The Essex Chronicle recorded the event with a picture of seven-year-old pupil Duncan Buckmaster cutting the first slice of an enormous birthday cake in front of the whole school. Each child was then given a slice of the cake to take home. In the school log-book, Mrs Tyson recorded that "It was a tiring but extremely happy day, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present".

Another event which stands out in Mrs Tyson's memory is the visit of Diana Princess of Wales on 6th September 1989, the first day of the new school year, to open the annexe to the nearby College on Princes Road. The Infants' School was officially invited to welcome the Princess, and the children lined up excitedly with flags and balloons to greet her as she arrived. Along with Mrs Pat King, Head of Moulsham Junior School, Mrs Tyson attended the official reception afterwards. Again, the Essex Chronicle photographers were on hand to record the occasion. The pictures in the Chronicle archive are unfortunately too blurred to reproduce here, but we will laminate enlargements for future Open Afternoons. If anyone has a clear photograph of either the 50th birthday party or the Princess's visit, we would love to hear from you.

In 1997 Mrs Tyson decided to take early retirement, but did not leave the educational field completely. She qualified as a school inspector, also serving as a school Governor locally. More recently she has enjoyed supply teaching in various primary schools. Among her many 'retirement' activities she is a keen member of Soroptimist International, a women's organisation which raises funds and awareness in support of a wide range of charitable causes. In her Presidential year her local club raised £1500 for Limbs for Life (dealing with the horrific after effects of landmines). Locally, they support the night shelter for homeless people and The Havens Hospices amongst other causes.

For relaxation, Mrs Tyson enjoys hill walking, yoga, foreign travel and calligraphy classes. A few years before she left Moulsham Infants, her husband constructed for her a beautiful three-storey dolls' house. Her pupils enjoyed hearing all about this at the time, and may like to know that Mrs Tyson still enjoys buying miniature items to complete the furnishing and decoration.

Adrian Smith, 1948-52: Some answers to Year 3 pupils

Dear Year 3 pupils,

I have read your list of questions in the Summer Newsletter about what life was like in Moulsham Junior Boys' School sixty years ago, and here are some of my answers:

1. Favourite subjects; definitely history and geography. I have always loved maps. When I was in Year 3 (called Standard One in those days), I produced an atlas of the world and was given 10 good house marks. Far too much time was spent on sums and spelling; BUT I do know my tables, up to twelve times, and I can spell. Don't tell anyone, but my brother Roger, who later became a University lecturer, had to go on a special course at college for young men who couldn't spell!

In Year 3, we had a young teacher once a week for a lesson called 'Hygiene'. Mr Ellis was a very good teacher and was promoted after a couple of years to a Headship, I think at Castle Hedingham. He taught us how to care for our teeth and skin, how to keep healthy. I hoped he would go on to explain about babies, as my younger sister was born just about this time, but he didn't.

2. My teachers: I was taught by Mrs Moses in Standard I, Mr Burttt in Std III, Mr Hodgson in Std IV and Mr Hymas in Std IVA. Mr Petchey, the Headmaster, sensibly insisted on taking one lesson a week with each of the older classes. Mr Picken took a remedial class (for boys who were slower learners) which was held at the back of what is now the North Hall and was called the 'Remove'. Mr Picken was in charge of Brown House, to which I belonged.

3. Uniform: I didn't much like it; we wore maroon blazers and caps. All boys wore grey shorts, not long trousers. Shorts were considered healthier. We got more fresh air and exercise in those days - no computer games or television, and parents allowed children out to play more often. Most of us walked to school, though some more distant pupils went on school buses. No child ever arrived at school by car, and even some of the staff walked or cycled.

4. The classrooms and toilets were quite different. The verandah was open to wind and rain and the classrooms were all closed in. They got stuffy on hot afternoons. At the start of term there was a strong smell of floor polish, soon overtaken by dust, ink and sweaty clothes. Our desks were arranged in rows and the teaching was a lot more formal. Now there is much more emphasis on 'finding out' than on just being told things, or copying them from a chalkboard.

5. Punishments: We all dreaded being 'sent under the board' - this was an attendance board on which the numbers of children in school were chalked up every day. Boys who misbehaved were left there shivering until Mr Petchey emerged from his office nearby. Everyone in all the classrooms heard what was going on. You heard Mr Petchey's question about why the boy had been sent there, then a bellow of rage and several wallops as his hand came down on the bare thigh of the miscreant. Mr Petchey was fierce, but fair - once, when he walloped my brother, who had not misbehaved but arrived with a message, he came and apologized to the whole class.

6. School dinners were OK when I first started. In the Infants, I remember getting 'pease pudding' on Tuesdays - a sort of salty porridge made with yellow split peas. I have always liked stodgy food. As an older boy, I was always hungry, as the helpings were designed for little boys, and at the age of 11, I already weighed 7 stones (what is that in metric?). I used to draw puddings in a book in the playground afterwards. I was so hungry, I was always desperate for second helpings.

7. Playground games; I sometimes played 'He on the lines', a chasing game. If you were running about and got a 'stitch' or your shoelace came undone, you stood up with hands raised and two fingers crossed, and said "Squits". That meant you were out of the game and could not be chased. Some boys had competitions, flicked cigarette cards or trawled through heaps of dust with a magnet. There was always a queue at the drinking fountain on hot afternoons. Two boys counted loudly up to ten while you drank, so everyone got a turn, and if you were still thirsty after that you had to go to the back of the queue and start again.

8. An ITC suite? What is that?

9. What was better in my day? The school had a cornfield next to it, not houses. You could see across to Moulsham Lodge and pre-war houses in Loftin Way. On the other side of the school was a disused gravel pit which is still waste land now.

10. Several things are better at Moulsham now: classes are not so big - when I was in Std IV there were 52 boys in the class. Children now have freedom to move round and not stay at their desks all day long, And I much prefer a school where girls and boys are taught together. In my day, the boys hardly recognized the girls as human. We were not allowed to talk to the girls through the wire fence on the playground, and I don't remember a boy ever wanting to. I went on to the Quaker boarding school at Saffron Walden, and that was co-ed.

11. What did I feel like when I left Moulsham Juniors? I had mixed feelings. I got on well with most of the teachers, did well academically, and got my name at the top of the Honours Boards. But I was ready to move on. Another boy from Moulsham, John Wisley, came with me to Saffron Walden. Apart from him and Brian Howard, who lived opposite me in Galleywood Road, I didn't see any of my fellow pupils from Moulsham again. Going off to boarding school felt like going to prison or taking part in a war - such an overwhelming experience it sets you apart for life from other people who haven't shared it.

With best wishes to you all,
Adrian Smith, 1948-52

Geraldine Etherington (Butterworth) 1960-64

Assorted memories found lurking in the 'grey matter':-

- ◆ Building 'houses' from old bricks on the far side of the playground before 'temporary' classrooms were erected. These 'properties' were quite sought after
- ◆ French skipping using packs of multi-coloured elastic bands that we spent ages linking together
- ◆ Singing - lots of it, with Miss Skilton in charge - being involved in choirs seemed to take up a lot of time
- ◆ School plays, but I always missed out on the best parts - I think I was rather reserved in those days!
- ◆ Trying to learn to play the violin - not one of my best skills (endured by my parents and neighbours.....)
- ◆ Going to the open air swimming baths in Chelmsford for lessons - bitterly cold but, as summer holidays were usually spent in England then, good preparation for swimming in the sea
- ◆ Country dancing
- ◆ The verandahs that were alongside the classrooms and gave limited protection from the wind, rain and snow
- ◆ Being a 'bell monitor' - anything for a bit of status!
- ◆ School trips to Colchester (1962), Ipswich & Harwich (1963), a 4 day trip to Stratford on Avon in 1964, which was my first trip away from my parents - and Chessington Zoo (1964). Photos of the Colchester trips on page 11.
- ◆ Miss Barton - very strict but very fair. She had her grey hair tied up in a bun. One of the best teachers I ever had and who I remember with affection
- ◆ Miss Temperly, Mrs Alty and Miss Pettet, our Headteacher, who towered over us all and had a strong personality to match
- ◆ School diaries, every parent's nightmare when they discovered what their darling children had written about the weekend activities
- ◆ 'Snowberries' growing along the school drive - the berries were great for squashing
- ◆ The wire fence which divided the playground into boys and girls - each hoping the other lot would return any items which happened to go over the fence by mistake
- ◆ School sports days
- ◆ The '11 Plus' exam
- ◆ Studying Shakespeare, especially Richard the Second, which we went on to see at The Memorial Theatre in Stratford in 1964 - I've enjoyed many Shakespearean plays in various forms ever since

I remember the following school mates by name: Sally Golding, Susan Willis, Susan Hawkes, Elizabeth Williams, Christine Parker, Jane Thorogood, Janet Bell, Sandra Hall, Gail Whetnall plus those who moved on to Maldon Grammar School with me - Patricia Hinkins, Linda Pavitt and Claire Jarman. I hope life has been kind to you all and I apologise for not keeping in touch.

Until I received an email from Kathleen Boot earlier this year I had 'packed away' memories of my days at Moulsham. But then I started searching through the boxes I had discovered and stored whilst sorting out my late parent's bungalow. In amongst the boxes and cases I discovered quite a collection of school work, swimming certificates and school diaries, some of which I have passed on to the school for the archives. I'm sure they will jog memories and raise a few laughs.

On the whole I enjoyed my time at Moulsham Junior School - life there was quite disciplined but at the same time we had the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects in an interesting way.



2007 Mrs Irene Tyson, Head Teacher of Moulsham Infants' School 1985 - 97



Two photos of John Spooner, first day 1938 pupil



Photos from the collection of the late Mr Tom Sturgeon, Head Teacher from 1957-82:

(left) Mr Sturgeon and his staff in 1957

(below) Mr Sturgeon with class 4A in 1961



(above) Mr Sturgeon in 1982





More of Mr Sturgeon's pictures:

(left) 1959 Speech choir, with Mr Sturgeon's son David front row, on left

(below) March 1966
Mr Sturgeon with the school orchestra



1st March 1962
Gavin Grieg and John Rodd make retirement presentations to Moulsham Junior Boys' School teacher Mrs Grace French



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Beautiful decorations in the Hall for the 1975 carol service.

Photos from Mr Sturgeon's collection



(below)
1982-83 Mr Firth's class
Photo from James Fish



Photographs from Gerry Etherington (Butterworth):

1. (right) Miss Barton and Miss Pettet, Colchester, 1962
2. and 3. (below) 1962 visit to Colchester
- 4, (bottom left) at Colchester Zoo, 1964
5. (bottom centre) Gerry at 1962 sports day
6. (bottom right) Miss Temperly, at 1962 sports day



Notes on the photographs

Page 8:

Top left is Mrs Tyson, whose recollections appear on page 4.

Two pictures of John Spooner, an enthusiastic attender of the annual Past Pupils' reunions. Sadly, John died in August this year, and an obituary is on page 19.

Three pictures from the substantial archive of carefully labelled photos belonging to former Head Teacher Mr Tom Sturgeon, 1957-1982. The staff group from 1957 shows:

Back row, from left: Mr W James, Mr Bill King, Mrs Grace French, Mr John Lyons, and Mr W. W. Gardiner

Front row: Mr Viv Hodgson, Mrs Poppy Donovan, Mr Tom Sturgeon (Headmaster), Mrs Moses, and Mr Harold Picken

We do not know the names of any of the boys on the photo of Mr Sturgeon with class 4A in 1961 (bottom right of page 8). Do please let us know if you recognise yourself or anyone else in the picture.

Page 9:

Three more of Mr Sturgeon's pictures, the first from 1959, the 21st anniversary of the Moulsham schools. Mr Sturgeon's son Dave, who features on this photo, identifies some of the others as follows:

Back row, from left: Tim Wright, ? . John Bereznicki (not sure of spelling), John ? , Michael Lake.

Front row: Dave Sturgeon, ? Shepherd, ? , ? , Anthony Plaskett, ? .

If you know any more names, do please let us know.

The second picture, taken in March 1966, shows the Moulsham Junior Boys' School orchestra. We have no names at all for the boys at present, and would be glad to hear from anyone who recognises any faces.

In our Summer 2007 Newsletter, .David Muir, 1952-56, commented that he had hardly seen his favourite teacher, Mrs French, mentioned in previous issues. This time he is in luck, as we have two pictures of her - the 1957 staff group on page 8 and this one of Mrs French at her retirement in March 1962.

Page 10:

Hilary and Kathleen had already heard from former teacher Mrs Poppy Donovan about the wonderful Christmas decorations produced by her colleague Mrs Joyce Allen in the 1970s. So we were delighted to find a number of pictures of these among Mr Sturgeon's archive. These two photos, which can also be seen in colour on the website version of this newsletter, show both sides of the Hall at the 1975 carol service. The pictures are so clear that we hope you may be able to identify some of the many pupils visible. The staff, on the second picture from the right, are listed as: Poppy Donovan, Agnes Bishop, Peter Davidson, Ursula Franklin, Margaret Foster and Harold Picken.

Below, we have one of the four class photos lent to us by James Fish, 1979-83, who wrote in the Summer 2007 Newsletter. This picture, of his 1982-83 class, with Mr Firth as teacher, shows:

Back row, left to right: James Fish, Sharon Kermack, Jackie Heap, ? , Tracey Kennett, Justine Harvey, Timothy Grayston

Third row: Martin Eade, Darren Foster, Claire Bartoli, Nicola Daintree, Caroline Hutchinson, Carmelinda Raffa, Stuart Harrison, Dean Harris

Second row: Wafa Hamcari, Julie Watts, Matthew Heath, Paul Greening?, Aaron Goodwin, Roselyn Shoulders, Rebecca Isom, Suzanne Hampshire

Front row: Alison Hewitt, Donna Franklin, Daniel Jones, Philip Hendry?, Mark Ettridge, Robert Edge, Ian Darvill, Michael Carter, Helen Gordon, Roselyn Nye

Page 11:

The pictures on page 11 are all from Gerry Etherington (Butterworth), whose 'assorted memories' of Moulsham Junior School appear on page 7. The first photo, of Headmistress Miss Pettet (1948-69) and long-serving class teacher Miss Barton (on the left), was taken by Gerry on a school trip to

Colchester on 26th June 1962. We have relatively few photos of any of the early staff of Moulsham Junior Girls' School, so we are particularly pleased to add this one to our collection. Pictures 2 and 3 date from the same visit, for which Gerry has sent us her neatly illustrated school diary. Departing at 10am, the Eastern National coach travelled along the A12, through villages and towns nowadays benefiting from bypasses. In the 'pretty village' of Springfield, the children could see 'Magness and Usher's dairy, where the school milk comes from, and Cramphorn's Mill, where flour is milled . . . As our coach was getting near to Boreham village we saw a little hill. On it were about forty people all picking peas. Along the wayside vans and lorries were parked.' When the coach arrived at Colchester castle, the girls drank their daily third of a pint of milk, from which there was no escape, as many of us will remember. The major focus of interest at the castle was of course the dungeons, where 'the man talked to us about the stocks, and Gillian and Averil were put inside. He also showed us the cells and the whipping post . . . We saw some leg shackles in which your legs were chained. The warder's room was as dull as the cells. The only thing is that there is a fireplace there.' If you recognise any of the girls on pictures 2 and 3, or took part in the visit yourself, do please let us know.

Picture 4, from another school trip in 1964, shows a splendid white goat at Colchester Zoo, and a classmate of Gerry's called Jacqueline (surname possibly Dupre, but Gerry is not sure).

Pictures 5 & 6 are Sports Day photos, both from 1962, with the Secondary School in the background. Gerry recalls that Miss Temperly (picture 6) was 'colourful' in her style of dress and a younger teacher than most of the others at the time.

Mel Rawlingson drops in from Australia

Way back in the Summer 2003 Newsletter, we printed two pictures sent in by Geoff Barnard. One showed the cup-winning 1950 football team, the other, six members of the same team when they met up at the May 2003 past pupils' reunion. The six who got together in 2003 were Ray Brame, Norman Stevenson, Geoff Barnard, Bunny Dowsett, Alan Smith, and Patrick Durrant. We noted in the Newsletter that Geoff and his pals would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows what happened to the four 'missing' team members - **Mel Rawlingson, Roger Bell, Dickie Leadwith and Mickey Spencer.**

A year or so later, one of the missing team members, Roger Bell, called in at the school and is now on our mailing list. But still no news of the other three, until October this year, that is! Imagine the surprise of Patrick Durrant when, out of the blue, Mel Rawlingson knocked on his door after 45 years, all the way from Australia . . . and was instantly recognised! Mel was on a one-month trip to England to visit his 92-year-old mother Mabel, who still lives in the same house in Moulsham Drive where he was born.

Mel also called at 1A Vicarage Road to say that he, his brother Keith, 1950-54, and another Moulsham schoolmate Malcolm Benham would all like to receive the Newsletter and hopefully come to future past pupils' reunions. Mel himself will shortly be returning to Australia, where he now lives, but plans to be over here again next September, if possible in time to attend the special 26th September reunion. Meanwhile, he has left us these recollections and update on life since his Moulsham days:

"I was at Moulsham Junior Boys' School from 1946 to 1950, and played in goal for the school football team which won the cup in 1950. Whilst at the Moulsham Schools I also played cricket with Patrick Durrant and Nicholas Turner in the school team and district team. One instance I remember from the Junior School was that when you misbehaved in class for inattention, talking etc, the teacher would say 'Go and stand under the board!', which meant a smacking on the leg by Headmaster Mr Petchey. Every half hour or so he would come out of his office, collect the offenders standing under the notice board, and march them into his office. No questions asked, he would pull up your trouser leg and give

you one almighty slap of his hand. It is a bit different these days - in Australia teachers are not allowed to touch their pupils.

After leaving Moulsham senior school, I took an apprenticeship at Crompton Parkinson, serving mainly in the machine drawing office. At the 'Tech' I obtained the Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. In 1963, after 12 months' work in London, I decided to emigrate to Australia under the £10 scheme. I went with my friend and neighbour from Moulsham Drive, Brian Wilder, also a Moulsham past pupil. We were both married by then. Work was very easy to find in Sydney, and I continued in drafting there until early retirement in 1995. Brian Wilder still lives in Sydney, and we see each other quite often. Australia has been very good to us: a wonderful climate, easy travel (very little traffic), plenty of opportunities in work and sport, and very good government.

I have one son and two daughters. Mark is a professional tennis coach, Jacqueline is studying, and Libby is a housewife. My wife Gai is Australian, though both her parents came from Chingford, Essex. We live on a mini-farm of 5 acres with horses, chickens and three dogs. The area is very rural, with no street lighting, and our drinking water is collected from the roof and stored in an underground tank.

Ever since I can remember, I have been interested in entertainment - singing and playing the guitar. This hobby has given me the opportunity to travel, performing as a solo act, and I also have a three piece band (Australian Bush Band) which has been together since 1984. I have 3 CDs to my credit. During this trip to England, I am doing eight concerts."

While he was here, Mel told us fascinating tales of his enjoyable life in Australia and the fun he has composing and performing country-style songs, including one about Captain Cook which made it to the finals in a national TV competition. We look forward to seeing him again next year, and to hearing more from his brother Keith and other Moulsham classmates.

Recent contacts at the School Fete

Hilary and Kathleen were pleased to meet a number of 'new' past pupils and staff at the School's Summer Fete in June. Many of them were from the 1970s or later. They included:

Diana Reed (Cowell)'s son and daughter, who were at Moulsham Juniors in the 1970s, and told us that Diana (1951-55) was at that time in USA visiting her cousin **Diane Bronson (Jeffrey)**, also 1951-55 at Moulsham Juniors.

Mary Fernandez (Cohen), who attended the Juniors from 1973-77, and the High School from 1977-1980, after which she went to live in Kenya. Her younger son Liam is now in year 5 and her older son Aaron is at the High School.

Kevin Smith's father, David, was an original pupil at the opening of the school in 1938. His father used to play the mouth organ in the air raid shelters. Kevin promised to let his father see the Newsletter.

Robert Miller won the Turner Award in 1977. His 2 children are currently at Moulsham, Charlie in the Juniors and Hollie in the Infants. Robert remembered morris dancing and rehearsing in people's houses.

Mrs Natasha Hart (Dalziel) started teaching at Moulsham in 1996 and gave us names for the 1998 Staff photo. She also named children in other snaps. She has all the staff and class photos for the last 10 years and will try and find them after her loft conversion is finished!

David Cole has recently met **Peter Clift**, whose family lived in Wallace Crescent. Hilary, who lived in the same road, remembered both Peter and his brother **Barry**.

Mr Hindes started teaching at Moulsham in 1988, and is the longest serving member of Staff. He asked if we had seen **Alex Hassel** (year 6 in 1993) in "Bonkers" on ITV 9pm. Perhaps some of you did too? Alex was also in "Alice in Wonderland" with Lisa Tarbuck as the Mad Hatter, and in Torchwood at Christmas, too.

Janet Hutchinson (Cox) was at Moulsham Juniors from 1970-74.

Caroline Taffs (Thirdborough), also from, we think, the 1970s. Caroline mentioned her sister, Clare and her brother, Andrew, also at the school.

Ann Sidney (Staplehurst)'s daughter, 1958 - 62 enquired about the school website as her mother now lives in Spain and would enjoy reading the Newsletters.

Joanna Southin, 1979-82, recalled that her Junior School teachers were Mrs Tutton, Mrs Best, Mrs Healy and Mr McGinley, and was able to help identify pupils on photos from these years.

Tracy Wells (Porter) came from Oaklands Infants' School in 1974, staying until 1978. One of her teachers was Mr Firth. Tracy's father, **Tony Porter**, was at the Juniors from 1949-53.

Carol Albon was a pupil from 1979-83, and mentioned that her brother **Nicholas** had also attended.

David Turner, 1971-75

I saw in the Summer Newsletter that year 3 pupils had put together a list of questions for past pupils of Moulsham Juniors. Here are some of my answers to those questions

I started at Moulsham Junior School in September 1971. I can still remember the very first day. All the first years met in the North Hall (formerly Boys' Hall) where Mr Picken read out our names and which class we were in. My class was 1.4, and my teacher was Mrs Cassels, a Scottish lady. Our classroom was in the middle 'prefab', which stood at the bottom of the playground, behind the air raid shelters. These classrooms (a row of three) were known as the "Huts". Their entrance lobby, which was also the cloakroom, greeted us with a horrible damp, musty smell. But the classroom itself was better, furnished with old-fashioned double desks with spring lids and inkwells, and a fixed blackboard on the wall. Above was a battery operated clock, but it never kept time!

Mrs Cassels taught us for all lessons apart from PE, for which we had Miss Gregory (later Mrs Ibateson). Like all of my teachers at Moulsham Juniors, Mrs Cassels encouraged us to do well, but would discipline us with a smack on the back of the hand or legs if we misbehaved. We all had a little spelling book, which we took home each week with new words to learn ready for a test in class. We had the same procedure with tables. Sometimes you were asked at random to stand up in front of the class and say your six or seven times table.

On Monday mornings we watched "Merry Go Round", a television programme for schools, in the South Wing Hall and then went back to class to write about it. Do any of you remember this programme, I wonder? Or perhaps "Time and Tune", a radio programme on Thursday mornings which was like a sing along music lesson. I still have an official "Time and Tune" programme from autumn 1971, a little tatty, but all in one piece. On alternate Friday afternoons we went to the library in the South Wing Hall, run by Mr McGinley.

That Christmas, we first years went to the Civic Theatre to watch "Pinocchio". Other outings that year were visits to Chelmsford fire station, Magness and Usher's dairy, and Colchester Zoo. Each summer term we had a Sports Day on the school field, usually including an egg and spoon race and sack race. Our parents came along to watch, as they did on dancing afternoons, which took place on the lawn in the quadrangle, surrounded by the beautifully kept gardens. The parents sat in the verandahs, where they had a good view of the display. In reply to one of the questions from year 3 pupils, the lovely lawns and gardens in the quadrangle were probably the one thing I liked best about the old school. Looking at the new classrooms at this year's Open Afternoon, I have to agree that they are in a different league to the old prefabs, a big change for the better, as are the refurbished toilets. The present computer room was Mr Picken's fourth year class during my time at school, and of course there were no computer lessons in the 1970s!

In the playground we played football with a tennis ball. Full size footballs were not allowed, but even so, there was still the occasional broken window pane, which would result in a visit to Mr Sturgeon's study! Sometimes at dinner times our games would be interrupted when the coal merchant drove his lorry through the playground to deliver his load to the boiler room underneath the staff rooms. Another popular playground activity was card games. A playing card or football card would be leant against a wall and your opponents would take turns to flick one of their cards to try to knock it down. We had a climbing frame to play on (which I fear would not meet today's safety standards) and there was also the popular seasonal game of conkers. Drinking fountains in the playground were fitted to the wall underneath the cloakroom windows, next to the boys' toilet door. Behind the boys' toilet was an incinerator to burn school rubbish. This was alight or smouldering most days, burning many materials which would now be recycled. Could you imagine this being allowed today?

School dinners were not bad for 12p per day, rising to 15p by 1975. They were served in the canteens next to the Infants' school, traditional meals such as sausage, mash and beans or roast dinners, with desserts of puddings and crumbles served with custard. Sometimes we had jelly or chocolate crunch - a firm favourite! On the table was a jug of water and a glass for each pupil. At that time, probably 90% of children had a cooked school meal, so there were two sittings. The first and fourth year pupils dined together between 12.00 and 12.40, with eight to a table of mixed ages. A fourth year pupil was "table leader". At 12.40 a bell rang when it was time for "second sittings" (12.40 - 1.20) for second and third year pupils.

In the second year, I was taught by Mrs Gough, in the main building. All the classrooms in the main building had wooden floors, traditional desks with opening lids, revolving blackboards and butler sinks with wooden draining boards. Mrs Gough was strict but fair and she was very particular with tables, spelling and presentation. We had handwriting lessons regularly. At the beginning of the second year, we still used pencils for writing, but when Mrs Gough thought we were competent, we were allowed to write in ink. However this meant you wrote with a fountain pen, not a biro! Several pupils went home with as much ink on themselves as they put on the paper! At Christmas 1972, we went to see "Hansel and Gretel" at the Civic Theatre and during the summer we visited Southend Airport.

The following September, in my third year, my teacher was Mrs Wilson. She was quite placid and took us for all lessons except art, for which we had Mrs Allen. Mrs Wilson took us for dancing and games and even refereed football matches, receiving much banter! This was my "dullest" year in junior school, being the era of "three day weeks" during the miners' strikes. There were frequent power cuts and, to make things worse, the old solid fuel boiler packed up in December 1973. As there was no heating in the main building, we either had our lessons in the "huts" or canteens, or took work home to do. By January 1974, we were almost back to normal routine at school, although there were some changes to the school hours. The afternoon fifteen minute playtime was discontinued, resulting in school ending at 3.30 instead of 3.45, as previously. This was a very popular change with parents, as it coincided with the Infants' closing time and the children could all walk home together.

My fourth and final year was spent in Mrs Allen's class (4.3) in room 11. She was a nice lady, but "old school". On the first day, she took out a slipper from a drawer and slammed it against the top of her desk, to demonstrate how hard it was. She made it clear that she would not tolerate any nonsense. There was never any disobedience in that class! I remember her well, she always seemed to have a good word for me, but would still clip me around the ear if she thought it necessary. She was strict with tables, spelling and English language, punctuation and presentation. The whole class was issued with a text book called "Reading and Understanding". Does anyone remember it? We had to read a short story, or perhaps only a paragraph, and answer questions about it afterwards. Mrs Allen was extremely good at art and also took pride in her dancing skills and was determined to get her class to a high standard for the dancing "open" afternoon. Mrs Taylor (Deputy Head) took Science/Nature lessons and Mr McGinley took us for football.

I took part in two or three plays with Mrs Allen and class 4.3 in school assemblies, and Mr Picken organised plays in the quadrangle for the summer Parents' afternoons. Other pupils who took part were Michael Smith, Maurice Parkes and Walter Claudius. Does anyone remember them? Or perhaps my best friend at the time, Mark Harrington, who lived in Hillside Grove and then emigrated to South Africa? We went to London Zoo in the Spring of 1975. It was a great day out!

On Friday dinner times, Mr Firth ran a "Pop" Club in the North Wing Hall and pupils were allowed to bring in their favourite records to be played on the school's "mono" (record player). This created a disco environment and was open only to fourth year pupils. Favourite records of the time included "Kung Fu Fighting" by Karl Douglas and "Bye, Bye Baby" by the Bay City Rollers, which was very popular with the girls at that time!

On the last day of the fourth year, I went round the school to say goodbye to the teachers I knew best, and collected their autographs. I can recall that day as much as my first. That last bell ringing at home time that very last afternoon in July 1975. I felt quite sad, knowing it was an era gone forever. It was a daunting thought that after the summer holidays, I would be attending a much larger school, with a different routine and different teachers. Now, as I look back at my Junior School days, I have many fond memories. I can honestly say that I am proud to have been a pupil at Moulsham Junior School, which is now one of the most popular and established schools in Chelmsford.

P.S. I have not written as much as this since I left school!

News in Brief

Former Head Teacher **Les Kemp** has taken time off from his busy programme of commitments to meet up with Kathleen and Hilary over cups of strong coffee on several occasions over the past year. We are very glad to have his continued help, advice and company in our endeavours, and look forward to a report of his planned visit to Japan in due course. Meanwhile, he is working hard promoting the Keep on Reading scheme in local schools, and apparently becoming an eBay aficionado in the process, as a way of procuring inexpensive costumes and props for his school presentations.

Congratulations to 1943 pupil **Brian Greatrex**, who was made an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours this summer, in recognition of his tremendous contribution to the arts in and around Chelmsford over many years. Brian was a founder member of the Chelmsford Cathedral Festival, has promoted the arts in lots of schools, and plays percussion in the Caprice Wind Orchestra (founded by another Moulsham past pupil, **Joy Bome (Sparrow)**, 1947-51), which has raised £110,000 for charities.

We were pleased to hear from past pupil **Vic King** for the first time at the end of June. He writes: "My neighbour introduced me to the Past Pupils Newsletter recently, I found it extremely interesting and nostalgic. I was a pupil circa 1958. I am not sure of the exact dates as we moved from London to Gloucester Avenue when there was only one road on the estate. I can remember being in Mrs Donovan's and Mr Picken's classes and remember Mr Lyons. In one of the earlier newsletters (Summer 2005 I think) the whole school is documented by classes from 1955. All of my contemporaries are mentioned which really jogged my memory. Most of us went on to the senior school until we left in 1963. I started with a boy who became my best friend, Alan (Bill) Sidney and stayed friends until he sadly died in the late 1980s. I can recall being vice captain of the cricket team and being a prefect. They were happy years, good friends and good teachers, even the school dinners were good. I enjoyed my time at Moulsham and would love to re-visit.

I have also found most of my old friends from the 1955 list on the 1961 school photo of the senior school."

Sue Davis (Hawkes), 1960-64 writes: "Reading Hilary's article on Moulsham Lodge Farm in the Summer 2007 Newsletter prompted me to go in search of an old money box I had when I was a child. I was always told that every child who attended the Queen's Coronation party mentioned in the article had received one of these money boxes. Being only a few months old when this took place I obviously don't remember the event, but I do remember not being allowed to use the money box in case I broke it." The picture Sue enclosed with her letter shows a red and blue crown-shaped money box. Hilary does not recognise it, but is checking with other past pupils who might.

From **Jim Whybrow**, 1944-48: "I have recently received the Summer Newsletter. What a good idea publishing the list of the past pupils who attended the open day. I was disappointed that I couldn't attend this year's open day. I was even more disappointed when I saw from the list that four of the **Jolly** family had attended. They were our neighbours in Baker Street, Chelmsford, during the war years! After the war, our row of cottages was condemned, so we all got re-housed in other parts of Chelmsford. Myself, my three brothers, Arthur, Walter and Peter, and my parents were re-housed at Barns Mill in 'prefabs', so we were separated from the Jolly family - I think there were 13 of them in the family altogether.

I have lived in North Devon for the past 28 years, so I have lost touch with a lot of my acquaintances. I hope to attend next year's open day, though, and I hope the Jolly family will attend again. It would be great."

In August this year, six of us from the class of 1951-55 met up for a pub lunch and chatted at great length until very late afternoon. **Jenny Pickles (Hann)** was over from Australia, **Hazel Richards (Offord)** came down from Suffolk, while **Elizabeth Clarke**, **Val Corby (Rudland)**, **Hilary Balm (Dye)** and **Kathleen Boot (Nash)** all live locally. As you can imagine, there was a great deal of "gosh, do you remember?", and some close scrutiny of photographs from way back. An enjoyable time was had by all, and we were delighted to receive addresses for two more of our class, **Juliet Lindars** and **Susan Hayden**, to whom we will be sending copies of this latest Newsletter, hoping to hear from them too in due course.

We have just received an email from another 1960s pupil, Liz Neave (Warner), who has read some of our recent Newsletters with great interest, and is looking forward to future issues. Liz writes: "Born in Chelmsford in 1955, I attended Moulsham Infants and Juniors till 1966 and I can remember a majority of the pupils on the 1961 roll photo (my brother Christopher, 1954-58 in the Juniors, and Robert, born 1944, also attended the Juniors and the Seniors). I was Elizabeth Warner, and was born and lived in Moulsham Chase where my mother still lives aged nearly 91. I started in the Infants in 1960 and can recall I had Mrs Rodd as my first teacher and Gloria Long kept crying for her mum. I can go on and on . . . Oh, I remember the cuisenaire rods we had for counting. I found out last year they are still available, made by Galt. Miss Cook was my first teacher in the Juniors. My class mates were Mandy Parish, Linda Watson, Jane Pink, Yvonne Clarke, Caroline David, Stewart Mcfarlane, Jean Snow, Valerie Page, Genevieve Cockburn."

The first 10 years of Moulsham Junior School - can you help?

In our next issue, to mark the beginning of the school's 70th Anniversary year, we plan to include a brief account of the opening of Moulsham Junior Boys and Girls' Schools in 1938, and impressions of the first ten years, with extracts from past pupils' recollections of this period. If you were at either of the Junior schools between 1938 and 1948, and have not yet written up your memories for the Newsletter, do please consider putting pen to paper (or indeed fingers to keyboard) over the winter. We would love to hear from you, with any pictures you may have. Contributions to Kathleen Boot, please by email or post (addresses on page 2) by the end of February 2008 if possible. Many thanks.

Obituaries:

John Spooner, 1938

We know that many of you missed seeing John Spooner, one of the first pupils at the school in 1938, at the last two Open Afternoons. He had attended all six earlier past pupils' reunions, and was always the first to arrive, such was his enthusiasm! We were sorry to learn that he had been too unwell to attend this year and last, and very sad indeed to hear of his death on 13th August this year. John wrote a couple of articles for the Newsletter, published in 1999 and 2001, recalling that first day at Moulsham Junior Boys' School in September 1938 and his subsequent evacuation to Canada during the war. Notably, he observed that "my real enjoyment with school was the friendship I formed with fellow pupils". We will reprint extracts from his recollections in next year's Newsletters as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations.

We have included photos of John, as a schoolboy and later in life, on page 8 of this Newsletter. We are grateful to John's sister, Dorothy, herself a Moulsham girl, for writing the following obituary of her brother:

"John first attended Friars School. He then went on to Moulsham Juniors and attended there until he was evacuated to Winnipeg in Canada during the second world war. He returned home aged 15 years and continued his education at King Edward VI Grammar School.

He completed an electrical apprenticeship at Christy and Norris and worked in his father's building business for some time. He also served as a policeman in Billericay, married and had three children, before moving to Southampton to work for Midland Insurance. After a few years, he started his own brokerage business in 1972, which was very much a family concern. He retired in 1986.

His many hobbies over the years were archery, painting, shooting and being a radio ham. One of the things that he did that I value most was, that when visiting various family members, he took his cassette recorder and, with their permission, he sat and talked about their lives and all the family history. This is something many of us do not think of doing until that person dies and the chance is lost forever.

He took great interest in the school reunions and looked forward to attending each year. He always had great praise for Kathleen and Hilary and the amount of time and energy they put into making it such a successful event."

Pauline Digby (Knight)

As reported in the Summer Newsletter, past pupil Pauline Knight, well known and loved by a large circle of her friends and former classmates, died on 8 June 2007 after a courageous battle with cancer. The following appreciation is taken from the address given by Revd Jane Mortimer at her funeral.

"Pauline was born in Chelmsford in 1936. She had a wartime childhood, with rationed sweets and no bananas! The family attended Baddow Road Congregational Church. She went to Moulsham Junior Girls' School, Chelmsford County High School for Girls, and from there to college, where she trained to be a pharmacist. She worked first at Parkinson's chemist and then transferred to the pharmacy at Broomfield Hospital for 25 years.

When Baddow Road church was pulled down and Christ Church built, the family transferred their membership there. Pauline taught in the Sunday School for an amazing 32 years, and also instigated a midweek worship group. It was at Christ Church that Pauline met Gordon. They were married in 1983, and went to live at Danbury. Pauline managed to incorporate in one life what most of us would struggle to do in several. She led a full and happy married life sharing Gordon's passion for music. She continued to care for her parents, ultimately just her mother, Jessie, who died just 2 months before Pauline herself. On days when Pauline was feeling far from well she somehow managed to see to her mother's needs. She also maintained close links with the rest of her family.

Pauline had a deep love of animals. She adopted Jessie's amazing footballing tortoise and beloved little cairn Becky and cared for them to within a week of her death. In latter years she usually attended Trent Road United Reformed Church and volunteered to play the organ whenever she could despite her increasing ill health. Pauline loved gardens. On the rare occasions when she did relax, she enjoyed sitting in the beautiful garden at her home in Hopping Jacks Lane, surrounded by flowers and watching the birds. She was a member of several choirs over the years, including the St. Cecilia choir and the Springfield Singers. She was very creative, a talent inherited from her father Harry, who was a tailor. She made beautiful cakes for all the family celebrations. How did she do it all? I just don't know. What I do know is that she was one of the most caring, cheerful, positive, self giving, brave, uncomplaining, willing, unassuming people that I am ever likely to meet, and had a deep rooted faith which sustained her through her time of ill health. Thank God for Pauline."

Kenneth Andrews

We mentioned briefly in the Summer Newsletter that Kenneth Andrews, 1945-49, had died suddenly on 21st August 2006. His brother **Paul** and sister **Lynda**, both also past pupils of Moulsham Juniors, have now sent us this tribute to Ken:

"It is with much sadness but also immense pride, that we take this opportunity to write a few lines about our dear brother Ken, who left us so suddenly last year, aged 69. Ken attended Moulsham School, both Juniors and Seniors, and, on leaving, decided on a career in the Police Force. He joined the Essex Constabulary, and stayed in the CID Department until moving to the Metropolitan Force, where he made outstanding progress over the years. Ken reached the rank of Detective Superintendent and was honoured with the Queen's Police Medal (QPM). To achieve this was remarkable from someone who did not even take the 11+ exam because he was considered to have no chance. He loved his work and would have stayed on, but on reaching retirement he devoted more time to his family and lovely grandchildren. His strength in life, through his tremendous faith, being converted at a Billy Graham meeting, meant that all the family had an anchor. The love and support he gave to us all never fades. God bless, dear brother.
Sister Lynda and brother Paul."

Keith Pitts

We were sorry to hear from Sylvia Pitts (Rawlingson) that her husband Keith died of chronic heart disease on 13th May this year. Although Keith did not himself attend Moulsham Junior School, he was well known to many of you who were with him at the Seniors, and he was a keen Newsletter reader. Sylvia writes:

"Keith attended St John's School up to the age of 11 and then on to Moulsham Senior Boys' just as it opened [in 1938]. One master he mentioned was Mr Shuring. Mrs Shuring used to teach me in the Senior Girls'. Keith used to tell me that at Carnival time in Chelmsford, people would place pennies along the kerbs. Nobody touched them and every one went to charity.

When Keith left school, he went to work at Crompton Parkinson and he used to say that it felt like one happy family. He became a founder member of the 276 (Chelmsford) Squadron Air Training Corps. In the RAF, he saw the Pyramids, and visited Cairo, Port Said, Khartoum and Omdurman. During time spent in South Africa, he saw the King, Queen and the two Princesses when they were in Bulawayo. He took photos of Mombasa, Durban and the gold mines in Johannesburg, and enjoyed his stay in Cape Town.

Membership of the RAF Association was continued once back home. He carried on working at Crompton Parkinson until it closed. After this he found himself working at Marconi Radar at Baddow Research and Writtle Road. Keith retired in 1991, finishing in the area where he started with Cromptons."

Dilwyn (Dil) Barnard

We were sorry to see an announcement in the Essex Chronicle recently of the death of another of the Barnard family, Dilwyn, who attended Moulsham Juniors from 1955 and was a regular visitor at our annual past pupils' reunions. We send our heartfelt condolences to the family

Creating an index for our Newsletters

Here is a challenge for anyone with a computer who may have experience of creating an index, or if not, would be willing to have a go. The Newsletter editors, Hilary and Kathleen, as well as Dot Bedenham at the Chelmsford and Essex Museum, would all find it very useful to have a name and topic index, so we can track down quickly references to people and events mentioned over the course of our 25 issues. If this project appeals to you, do please get in touch via kathleen.boot@tiscali.co.uk

School website

Copies of this and earlier issues of the newsletter from Autumn 2004 are on the past pupils' page of the school website: www.moulsham-jun.essex.sch.uk/index.htm

We have very few paper copies of pre-2004 Newsletters, but can send copies by email from the first issue in Autumn 1999. You will probably need broadband to receive these, as those with photographs are rather bulky. Requests to kathleen.boot@tiscali.co.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.

The views expressed by individual contributors in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Head Teacher, School Governors or Editors.