

Past Pupils Newsletter

Summer 2000

Vol 2 no 2

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Open Afternoon

Welcome to the third issue of the Past Pupils' Newsletter.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the Open Afternoon on 20 May. Upwards of 65 past pupils attended, the largest contingent from the 1930s and 40s. Some were meeting up with old friends for the first time in 50 years or more! The weather stayed fine, the school was splendidly decorated ready for the 'Four Corners of the World' curriculum week (complete with an enormous Chinese dragon), and a happy time was spent exchanging memories, revisiting classrooms and poring over panorama photos.

In the 'Girls Hall', we exhibited a selection of pictures, press cuttings and mementoes. Many thanks to Elizabeth Clarke for helping us set up the display on Friday afternoon. In the 'Boys Hall', Hilary Balm's delicious homemade scones were served with jam and hand-whipped cream by the Head Teacher, Mr Kemp, and a noble band of helpers and washers-up. A special thank you to the Head for his warm welcome and hard work on our behalf.

We are grateful to everyone who handed in copies of group photos and press cuttings during the afternoon, and those able to fill in missing names for the photos on display. We plan to build up a collection of these photos, enlarged and laminated, with name lists, for use at future exhibitions and open days. The Double twins, now Jennifer Rolf and Ann Watt, have made a sterling start on identifying girls on the 1949 panorama photograph, and we now also have copies of the Girls' 1948 and Boys' 1949 versions to work on. We should be grateful for any others you could lend or copy for us, with names if possible, please.

The Newsletter circulation list is snowballing nicely. With new contacts at the Open Afternoon and addresses passed on, the total has risen to around 215. Please keep sending them in!

So far the costs of printing and posting the Newsletter have been borne by the school. Several of you have suggested that we should in future make a contribution ourselves to cover these costs. I mentioned this to Mr Kemp, who says there is no urgency, but that it would be nice if from the beginning of next year, 2001, people were willing to contribute say £3 a year for the Newsletter. If you have any views or thoughts on this, please let us know. We will return to the question in the Autumn Newsletter.

For the current year, if you would like to make a contribution, Mr Kemp suggests planting some shrubs in the school grounds in commemoration of our Open Afternoon. Cheques for £3 or so towards this project, payable to 'Moulsham Junior School', can be sent direct to Mr L Kemp, Headmaster, Moulsham Junior School, Princes Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9DG.

As ever, please keep sending your news, photos and articles for future Newsletters to me, Kathleen Boot, c/o Past Pupils' Newsletter at the school address above. If you have recently written and not yet received a reply, it is probably because I am away for most of June. I shall be back at the beginning of July, and look forward to reading your letters then.

Kathleen Boot (nee Nash)

School News - Mr L R Kemp (Headteacher)

Having taught for over thirty years I cannot remember a shorter Summer Term. This is always a hectic term but this year it seems frenetic at times.

Early in the term all the children undertook SATs tests. The Year 6 tests are marked externally and the results are published later in the year. The results of the other year groups are used to monitor progress and set future targets. The Saturday following SATs week was when the school opened to welcome former pupils and it was a delight to greet many former pupils who attended the Sixtieth Anniversary celebrations last year.

Each year we hold a curriculum week when all the school focuses on one curriculum area or one theme. This year we took as our theme, 'The Four Corners of the World' with each House taking a different part of the world as a focus for a wide range of activities. We welcomed musicians, dancers, artists, a missionary, a storyteller and a number of parents and other contacts who worked with the children. All the children in Fire House produced a screen print design in red on a white tee-shirt while Air House have aboriginal poles as a permanent feature in North Wing quadrangle. African masks and drumming featured in the Earth House programme and Water House with their focus on the Americas included weaving. An evening storytelling with Charlie Wilson and an Open Evening for children and parents to try some of the activities were well supported.

On behalf of the school Jeffrey Bray 6W and Leanne Grieve (6A) collected the School Curriculum Award 2000 at a ceremony at the Barbican. This is awarded to schools in recognition of the quality of their community links. Our link with Chelmsford Cathedral Festival dates from last year and this year our two lunchtime performances included Year 5 Line Dancing, Maypole and County Dancing and songs by the choir.

Our Years 5 and 6 Football Tournament had one hundred and forty seven children playing for the twenty-one teams whose names were taken from an area around Chelmsford in America.

The Years 3 and 4 tournament takes place during the last week of term. The Years 5 and 6 netball teams played in the Ormiston Centre Rally in Colchester which draws a large number of teams. Both teams did well with the year 5 team achieving our best ever result in reaching the finals.

The School Fete was fortunate with ideal weather, the quantity of help received, the number of children who appeared in arena events and the generosity of the many people who supported the event. Our newly formed steel band group performed the opening ceremony. Once again Mrs Crowdy provided a wonderful breakfast for all the early morning helpers. Some of the money raised has already been used for another water fountain and blinds for one of the classrooms.

The school has a link with the Japanese School in West London and it was a pleasure to welcome forty-five pupils and six teachers including Mr Yamada, the Headteacher. We hope to establish a link with a Japanese School when Mr Yamada returns to Japan in March.

Forty-five Year 5 children will be enjoying a day of Japanese education on Friday 7 July.

Coming soon Year 6 will be undertaking a residential visit to the Isle of Wight or a programme of local and London visits. The choir is soon performing at the Royal Albert Hall having recently taken part in the Chelmsford Primary Schools Music Festival. The Year 6 production of Ali Baba provides an exciting climax to this term.

It is a short term and I desperately want more time to fit everything in but I confess the holidays will be greeted with a huge sigh and a promise to my youngest daughter Megan that a bucket and spade will feature strongly in the coming weeks.

A Learning Support Assistant's Work - Rachel Maggs

I am a Learning Support Assistant to two children with Down Syndrome, one in Year 3 and the other in Year 4. My role is to support the children in their learning and to make sure that they are well integrated into school life. I work with their class teacher to adapt the planning to the children's individual needs and aims. I work with the children on a one-to-one basis but also importantly facilitating as much independence as possible. This means working with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and advisors from different support organisations to provide the framework for independence to take place.

The children benefit from a clearly structured day, with reminders and cues presented visually to encourage their confidence in the tasks ahead. The support of other Learning Support Assistants is vital to me, as we pool our experience and share ideas. Using a variety of games and exercises we achieve objectives which focus on developing language skills, improving fine motor control and handwriting. This year has seen developments in the children's reading ability and improvements in their writing and composition. Games, puppets and role play strengthen basic numeracy skills.

I work on social skills with the children, for example using role play and practicing turn taking using games and creative play. Both children have excellent relationships with their peers and participate fully in school life.

Dipping and skipping

In the March issue, the Head Teacher asked if anyone remembered the 'dipping' rhyme beginning 'Ip dip, sky's blue', or any other counting out or skipping rhymes from the playground. Hilary Balm (1951-55) recalls this version:

Ip dip, sky's blue
Who's it? Not you.
Not you because you're dirty,
Not you because you're clean
Not you because you are
The fairy queen.
O-U-T spells out!

Another popular 'dip' in the 1950s was:

One potato, two potato, three potato, four,
Five potato, six potato, seven potato, more.

Each child put forward two clenched fists to be 'dipped', and dropped their arm if they were caught on 'more'. The last person with a clenched fist ('potato') left was 'it'.

We wonder if anyone can tell us the meaning and full words of a playground song from the Junior Girls, again in the 1950s, which started something like:

The big ship sailed on the allee-allee-oo
The allee-allee-oo, the allee-allee-oo
The big ship sailed on the allee-allee-oo
On the first day of September.

This was a lengthy ballad sung by a line of girls holding hands, with girl 'A' at one end of the line making an archway with her free arm against the air-raid shelter wall. The girl at the other end would then lead the line under the first 'archway', and then round again and again through further archways formed in turn by girls A and B, B and C, C and D and so on raising their arms as the line passed beneath. The end effect was a circle of girls facing outwards with crossed arms as in *Auld Lang Syne*, but we have forgotten exactly how the ballad goes or how it ends. Can anyone enlighten us?

There must have been many more dips and skipping rhymes in use at Moulsham over the years. Do you remember any?

News from Anne Holdsworth (nee Hammond) 1943-47

We were pleased to see a number of new faces at the Open Afternoon, among them Anne Holdsworth, nee Hammond, who was at Moulsham Junior Girls from 1943 to 1947 and at the Seniors from 1947 to 1951. Anne has stayed in the Chelmsford area all her life and is currently living in Gt Baddow. She enjoys reading (mainly factual books) and playing the piano and keyboard - but not 'Top of the Pops'! After leaving school, Anne worked in an office at Crompton Parkinson and in the factory at Hoffmans. Both of these have now been demolished, Cromptons within the past few months to make way for a large housing development. She also worked in some Chelmsford shops after she married, and especially enjoyed her years working in a Chelmsford jewellers.

Anne writes: " I enjoy looking at pictures of 'Chelmsford past'. It has changed a lot during the past 50 years. Princes Road went through open fields in those days, and I often cycled to school. I wonder if the pupils today cycle to school, but maybe the roads are too busy. I spoke to the music teacher at the Open Day, 20th May, and was interested to hear how the 'School in Wartime' was recently recreated. I well remember those days, sitting in the shelters, but did not realise the emotional traumas of the time. I realise now how lucky we were that the school was not hit. We all had to carry gas masks.

The teachers while I was at school from 1943-47 were:

Class 1 (youngest pupils), Miss Wright (today's classroom number 16)

Class 2, Miss Skilton (room 15)

Class 3, Miss Barton (room 14)

Class 4, Miss Firmin (room 13)

Class 5, Miss Sawday (room 12)

Class 6, Miss Norris, (room 10)

The office nearest to room 12 was the room of the Headmistress, Miss Rankin, who did not take a class. Pupils stayed in the same room for all lessons unless the use of the hall was essential. Our desks were arranged in rows, two pupils to a desk, teacher in front using a green roll round blackboard and chalk.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everybody who helped to give me a very happy afternoon on 20th May. It was most pleasurable to meet again so many of my school friends after 50 years, and to see how the classrooms have changed."

Anne has given us copies of a number of interesting photos, which we hope to use in future Newsletters. She also recalls some of the words of the patriotic song referred to in the last issue (Coronation Celebrations), and wonders if anyone knows the rest of it:

1. What heroes thou hast bred
O England my country.
I see the mighty dead
Pass in line.
Each with undaunted heart
Playing his gallant part
Making thee what thou art
Mother of mine.

2. There let me take my place
O England my country.
Amid the gallant race
That is thine.
..... ?

Do you remember Robert Wiffen? (1953-57)

I was delighted to receive the first newsletter from my old friend Alan (Twit) Twitchett who lived near me on Moulsham Drive. To see all the old familiar names brings back many memories and it's amazing how the first names of some of the boys immediately came to mind.

Although I've been 'Bob' for as long as I can remember, I was definitely 'Robert' in those days. I walked to school up Vicarage Road to join Princes Road at the junction with Longstomps Avenue and my Mum would stand at the bottom of our garden in Moulsham Drive making a whirling action with her arms if I was late (which I usually was). How I wished I could cut across the cornfield (now the tennis club) to save time.

I just remember the Infants, and isn't it amazing the things we remember! I recall singing the hymn with the words 'after the sun the rain' in the hall. I was a milk monitor in the Juniors, and remember walking the trolley full of milk crates around the 'quad'. I can't recall how the trolley was hauled up the few steps at the corners? Less happy memories include standing under the headmasters board at the corner of the same quad. How many others will admit to that!

Mr Hodgson taught us history, and Mr Picken is recalled fondly. Another fond memory is peeking across to the girls' playing field when they were having sports!!

Some of the names in pictures from the first two newsletters are familiar and some were with me at the Grammar School including Keith Haldane (was he headboy?). Whatever happened to Robin Wight, Francis Gillam and the rest of the gang from Moulsham Drive?

The mention of the gravel pit between Gloucester Avenue and Princes Road brought back vivid memories of dumped TV sets which made a particularly pleasing explosive noise when shattered by a stone. Why were they there in the early days of TV?

I was scared stiff of the 'Seniors', and eventually passed the eleven plus and was followed by my brother John to the Grammar School (1957-1962) and then joined Crompton Parkinson as a technical apprentice. When Cromptons was taken over by Brush of Loughborough in 1968, I was one of only about thirty who transferred and I moved to Leicestershire. I married Christine Collins (Rainsford School) in 1969 and we have lived in the Midlands ever since. I stayed with Brush (Hawker Siddeley then BTR) until another takeover by FKI in 1997 and now run a small engineering firm in Corby, living in the village of Glaston, Rutland.

I look forward to reading many more recollections from other old boys of the fifties at Moulsham.

Robert Wiffen

1953: The Coronation Celebrations (part II)

All over Essex, towns and villages were engaged in months of planning for the Coronation celebrations. After the austerity of the immediate post-war years, the coming 'New Elizabethan Age' seemed to represent a new start for us all. Optimism was in the air.

In the week before the Coronation, shops, offices, homes, public buildings and schools were decked in red white and blue streamers. The Shire Hall and County Hall in Chelmsford were specially floodlit, and there was a seven day programme of entertainment for local people including dancing in the parks, open-air boxing and wrestling in Central Park, a motor gymkhana, miniature tattoo, concours d'elegance, swimming gala, band concerts, and a circus. After a Children's Day on the Monday, there was to be an Old Folk's Tea in Central Park on Thursday, and on Saturday 6 June came the Big Carnival Procession and more dancing in the Park.

Children's Day in Central Park

Monday 1st June, the day before the Coronation, was the Children's Day in Central Park. The weather was unseasonably showery and blustery, and remained so for much of the week. Undaunted, some 4,600 junior children from the Chelmsford area descended on 'The Rec' (as we called it) at 2 o'clock on Monday afternoon with the tickets we had been given at school before breaking up for half term. Parents were not allowed in - if they came they had to wait outside or collect their children later. Senior school children had a separate entertainment from 5 o'clock to half past seven.

Central Park seemed much larger in those days, before the intrusion of the inner ring road. Children often went to play there quietly on Saturdays, usually by the lake or on the swings and slide. But this day it was very different. As we swarmed in, there was a hubbub of excited children racing around and dropping behind them a sea of ice cream papers - we had once more received a celebratory Vanilla Ice on arrival at the park! The intention was that the Mayor of Chelmsford, Alderman WW Farthing (also a governor of Moulsham and other schools over many years) should welcome the four and a half thousand. But the plan was quickly abandoned as it proved impossible to get all the children together, and in any case, as the Mayor is reported to have observed, we seemed to have welcomed ourselves!

There were some very popular attractions on offer: Cody's Royal Empire Circus; Clifford Fallows and his handmade puppets; Punch and Judy show; conjuring; dog handling displays and much more. Some of us queued politely for the various entertainments. Bolder spirits, as the Essex Weekly News reporter noted, "ignored the conventional entrances to the several marquees, and the legs of little boys and girls could be seen projecting under the tightly stretched canvas of Cody's Circus big top and the puppet tent"! At one stage, thunderstorms temporarily broke up the dog displays and children ran for cover in the larger of the marquees! As we left the park at half past four, we were all presented with long tins of chocolate, decorated with the royal crest. The chocolate had disappeared long before some of us reached home, but the tins were used as pencil boxes for many years to come.

Despite the weather, or perhaps even because of it, the afternoon was a happy and memorable one for most of us. Looking back now, the idea of over 4,000 children aged 5-11 milling around unsupervised by parents sounds like a recipe for disaster. In practice the Red Cross and St John Ambulance volunteers had nothing more serious than minor cuts and bruises to deal with. Their main task proved to be reuniting several dozen 'lost' children with their anxious parents as the multitude of youngsters streamed out of the 'Rec' to go home!

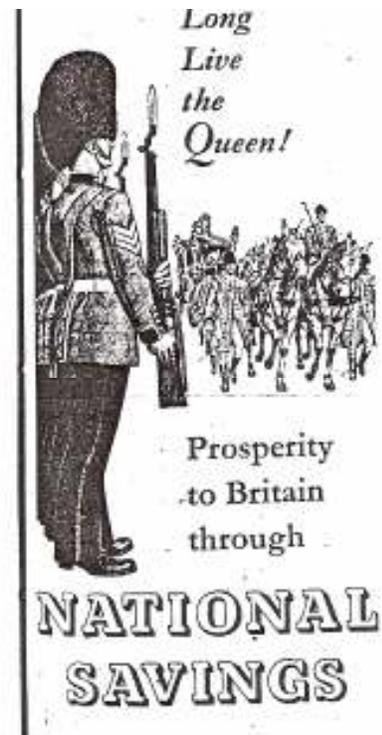
Coronation Day and souvenirs

Coronation Day itself turned out to be too wet for street parties to be held in the open air, though some were salvaged by means of a last-minute transfer to a marquee, gospel hall or in one case a builder's yard. The Grand Firework Display in the evening was cancelled for the same reason, and several children's parties in local parks were sadly curtailed or abandoned. But many children were at least able to follow the Coronation procession and ceremony on either the 'wireless' or the small-screened black and white televisions which had just started to become widely available.

When we returned to school on Thursday 4th June, each pupil was presented with a Coronation medal, and shortly afterwards with a souvenir book called *Royalty in Essex*, presented to Essex children by the County Council. This told the story of royal visits to Essex over the centuries, illustrated with a 17th century map, colour pictures and photos from the Essex Record Office. As the 'Cheery Chums' column in the Essex Chronicle declared, "It really is a splendid volume, full of lovely pictures Even the cover is a beautiful thing with the many coats of arms of Essex Boroughs".



Advertisements from the local press in Coronation week



Teachers at Moulsham Junior Girls

The first Headmistress of the Junior Girls' was Miss Winifred Rankin, previously Head of Widford Village School. This school, like St John's School in Moulsham Street, was closed in the summer of 1938. Miss Rankin and some 84 pupils transferred from Widford to the new Moulsham Schools. She continued as Headmistress until her retirement in 1949, and was still

living in Widford when this photo was taken for the Essex Newsman Herald in July 1972.

The teaching staff at the Junior Girls' in 1938 consisted of Miss M S M Firman, Miss G F Sawday, Miss W M Huff, Miss G F Skilton and Miss J Wright. Miss Huff left in May 1942 to take another teaching post in Woodham Ferrers. She was presented with a fitted weekend bag, a Songs of Praise hymnal and Kipling's 'Just So' stories. Miss Huff was replaced in June 1942 by Miss H Barton, well known to many of us, who we understand lived at Hatfield Peveril until her death just a few years ago. Miss Norris joined the staff in March 1943.

Miss Pettet, from Manningtree Voluntary School, was appointed Head from September 1949 to replace Miss Rankin. She remained in this post until the two Junior Schools became one co-educational school in 1969. From 1949, as the Junior Girls' School increased gradually to eight classes, extra teachers were recruited, including Miss Gurton, who taught from 1951 until she left for Canada in 1959. Miss Carter and Miss G M Cook joined the staff in 1952, Miss Carter marrying in 1953 to continue as Mrs Curtis. Miss Cook's obituary is given at the end of this Newsletter.



By 1955 the staff still included Miss Cook, Miss Skilton, Miss Sawday, Miss Gurton, Miss Barton and Mrs Curtis. Thereafter the record becomes complicated by the appointment of various supply and part-time teachers. We shall continue our reseaches and let you know any further information we come across, and would be glad to hear anything you know of the Junior Girls' School staff. In particular, if you were at the Junior Girls' after 1955, can you recall the names of any of your teachers, and when they started or left?

Schooldays and 'Colonel' Picken

Barrie Stevens, who now lives on the Isle of Man, has sent us a very long and interesting account of his schooldays at Moulsham. We plan to include extracts over a number of issues, as there are too many anecdotes and fascinating details to condense into one article. Here is a photo of Barrie in his new school uniform outside his home at 25 Juniper Drive on the Moulsham Lodge Estate. The houses were new, as can just about be evidenced by the raw state of the land in the picture. He thinks that his parents paid £3,500 for the house, which was built by Rodgerson. Cheaper houses in the Lime Walk area built by Ackworth ranged from £1,600 to £2,000!



"I started at Moulsham Junior Boys' School in, I think, the summer of 1959 or 1960 and moved to the 'seniors' in 1961. My first teacher was possibly a Miss Shaw of '2a' but I was next moved into "Joe" Lyons' class of 3b. I would like to know who my first teacher was for sure. Other lady teachers were a Miss Martin and Mrs Donovan. Mr Lyons' classroom was by the lower end of the hall near to the then cloakrooms. Mr Picken I think was Deputy Headmaster. We boys thought that Mr Picken had a military bearing and a moustache to match! Some of us believed he had been a Colonel! On occasions he was wont to indicate his boots, they being used when conducting 'games/sports' sometimes on the school playing field but more often in Oaklands Park, as having been to the top of the "Great Pyramid". I hope Mr Picken will not be embarrassed if I recall him many times pointing to the old style hot water radiators and saying that when he was our age he had stomach muscles "as hard as that radiator!"

Moulsham was a new experience for me, entering as I did from a much more backward school in Rainham. There were shades of the public school or grammar school about it. There were 'houses' which at Moulsham were such as 'Woodpeckers' (green) and 'Yellowhammers' (yellow). I was in Woodpeckers and our football captain was Christopher Beavis. I think he also played for the school. He seemed a very good player and a senior boy at the time but he was probably only eleven! Then there were 'house marks' given and taken away. Lose too many and there was an inquisition! A cup was given every week to the leading house, with the house flags being moved up and down a wooden post on the hall stage according to the league that week.

School uniforms of maroon blazer, cap, tie, short grey trousers and grey flannel shirt for winter - obtainable from Bonds (now Debenhams) - speech days, prizes, certificates; all were hitherto strangers to me. In the hall there were panels bearing the names of boys who had won an award - the Turner Award, was it? What exactly was awarded? Returning to short trousers, they made sense. Boys fall over, and grazed knees daubed with acriflavin and gentian violet were cheaper than long pants with the knees out!

I remember several boys from Harold Picken's class. John Sanderson, whose parents were resident managers at the Marconi-owned Hampton House(?) in Beehive Lane, was by then Head Boy and I think he went on to Colchester Royal Grammar School and received a 'Turner Award'. John Staplehurst was also in the top stream in Mr Picken's class and his father had a cabinet making business in Beehive Lane which I think is still there. David Cohn's father, I think, had a scrap metal business in lower Wood Street, which, last time I was over, had been cleared, presumably for building. These three boys seemed very well off to me, and David recounted to the class his trip to New York by air - then almost unheard of to us Moulsham boys! Recalling other names at random, where are now Blades, Tucker, Bray, Kane, Hobbs and Harding?"

Barrie Stevens

Mr Picken, who was delighted to read Barrie's recollections, comments: "Yes, I was the Deputy Head. Yes, I was in the army during World War II (from 1940 to 1946). Not a Colonel, though - just a sergeant. It would seem that my old army boots were still going strong in the 1960s - the mirror finish on the polished toecaps fascinated the boys. And yes, they (my boots) did take me up the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

The school did not have the extensive playing fields of today in Barrie's time, and for a time we used a football pitch in Oaklands Park. We 'marched' from school to the Park in all weathers. I don't remember bad weather ever putting us off - it must have been all those stomach muscles!"

1969: Coeducation at Moulsham

On 1 September 1969 the Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' Schools combined to form the present coeducational Moulsham Junior School. Do any of our readers have memories from that time?

Miss Pettet, who had been Headmistress of the Junior Girls' for 20 years, retired at the end of August, and Mr T W Sturgeon, previously Headmaster of the Junior Boys, took over as Head of the new combined school. It must have been quite a task overseeing the transition!

The staff of the combined school in September 1969 are listed as:

Mr H J Picken	Mrs J Taylor	Miss J Bonnington
Mr V Hodgson	Mrs J Allen	Miss S Lloyd
Mr K Dunstan	Mrs E Stuart	Mrs P Edwards
Mr P Davidson	Miss D Smith	Miss P Bolden
Mr P Lowe	Mrs E Donovan	Mrs V Ainscough
Mr S Clements	Miss G Cook	Mrs J Strood
	Miss R Iszatt	Mrs D Jackson

Junior Boys' School Staff in 1965



Back row: Mr Williams, Mrs Hollingbury, Miss Duffett, Mr McGinley, Mr Lyons
Front row: Mary Bartlett, Mr Hodgson, Mr Sturgeon (Head), Mr Picken, Valerie Fox

A Hymn for the end of term

In a school with a strong tradition of singing, hymns were an important part of our school assemblies at Moulsham Junior Girls' in the fifties, and no doubt before and afterwards too. With Miss Skilton as our music teacher, we had occasional hymn practices in the hall for the whole school. At these, solos of individual verses of hymns were allocated to as many of the girls as were prepared and able to sing more or less in tune. You had to keep an eye on the hymn number each day, and if it was 'your' hymn, stand on the platform ready to sing your verse as a solo. Often, as in 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', there would be a number of verses allocated as solos, with a whole row of girls on the platform and the rest of the school singing the first and last verses and the refrain after each verse.

The hymn which, without fail, brought tears to the eyes of 'top class' girls at the end of the summer term, when they were about to leave the Juniors for the High, the 'Tech' or one of the many senior schools including Moulsham, was this one. It is engraved in the memory of many a past pupil, and for some of us the tune will forever be associated with that moment of moving on from the Juniors to the 'big school':

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing
Thanks for mercies past receive;
Pardon all, their faults confessing
Time that's lost may all retrieve;
 May Thy children
Ne'er again Thy spirit grieve.

Let Thy Father-hand be shielding
All who here shall meet no more;
May their seed-time past be yielding
Year by year a richer store;
 Those returning
Make more faithful than before.

Henry James Buckoll, 1803-71

Pupils from 1938 to 1945

Here are the names of past pupils on our mailing list so far who started at Moulsham Juniors in the years 1938 (when the school opened) to 1945. We plan to give lists for later years in future issues. If you want to get in touch with any of these people and don't know their address, send your letter (inside a stamped envelope) to Kathleen Boot c/o the school and we will forward it. If you are on the mailing list but your name does not appear here, it may be that we do not have your start year - do please let us know.

GIRLS:

1938 Cynthia Bendall (Carter), Vivienne Bennett (Daniels), Pamela Gunn, Brenda Halls, Evelyn Turbin, Heather Turner

1939 Jill Archer

1940 Diana Turbin

1941 Beryl Brown, Pauline Digby (Knight), Maureen Rignall (Bidwell), June Tiffen (Porter), Evelyn Wade (Saunders), Marlene Beckett (Snowball)

1942 Mary Allen (Culver), Mavis Lodge (Hodgson), Elaine Wheeler (Ackrill)

1943 Joan Atkins, Jennifer Bailey (Rayner), Marion Bell, Gillian Britton (Robinson), Betty Clarke (Slater), Marigold Cook (Polley), Joan Edwards (Ireland), Beryl Graves (Tween), Anne Holdsworth (Hammond), Yvonne Rush (Auston), Betty Sharpe (Watts), Jean Stockley (Rolfe), Edna Swayne (Mathers), Shirley Wood (Porter)

1944 Patricia Fleming (Hallihan), Ruby Lightfoot (Orrin), Daphne Stonely (Farrow)

1945 Corinne Barker (Wilson), Pat Barton (Jameson)

BOYS

1938 John Baker, Roy Barnard, Gordon Bennett, Roy Eaton, Jim Fleming, Les Gunn, Vernon Makin, Reg Podd, Charles Reed, Ray Sewell, John Spooner, Ralph Turner, Selwyn Wheeler, John Whittle

1939 Hugh Piper, Malcolm Robinson

1941 Kenneth Cook, Brian Turbin

1942 Neville Clarke, Ken Turton

1943 Angus Fleming, Peter Gridley, Graham Slater, Derek Weston, John Barnard,

1944 Arthur Whybrow, Roger Stevenson

1945 Ken Andrews, Tony Gayler, Daniel Hallihan, Geoffrey Barnard

News in brief

Congratulations to **Selwyn Wheeler** and **Elaine Beckett (nee Ackrill)**, former pupils in 1938 and 1943 respectively, who were married at Hylands House on Saturday 13th May, and didn't return from their honeymoon in Venice quite in time to join us at the Open Afternoon. We wish them every happiness in their new life together.

Marion Lodge (nee Weston) (1951-55) sent her apologies for missing the Open Afternoon. She and her husband **Geoff** were visiting their son Jamie in Moscow at the time, and combined the visit with a tour from Helsinki through Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Russia.

Joy Bome (nee Sparrow) (1947-51) is currently involved in arrangements for musical exchanges with Chelmsford's new twin town in France: Annonay. The next Caprice Wind Orchestra charity concerts in Chelmsford (see article in June issue) are:
23rd September, Civic Theatre, 7.45pm. Tickets now on sale at £7.50 and £6: Promenade concert in aid of Essex Air Ambulance. Box office: 01245 606505
19th November, Shire Hall, 3pm: Sunday afternoon children's concert. Tickets £3 adults, £2 children available from September, details 01245 258629. Do come along!

Tracey Leslie (nee Cook) (1971-75) wants to know if anyone is in touch with Mrs Donovan. We now have Mrs Donovan's address from Joy Bome, and hope to make contact before the next issue of the Newsletter. Watch this space, Tracey!

Gillian Britton (nee Robinson) (1943-47) was another of the welcome new faces at the Open Afternoon. She went on to the Seniors from 1947-51, and tells us that her interests now include gardening and voluntary work.

Hugh Piper (1939-42) went on to KEGS from 1942-49, was in the army from 1949-51, and at Northampton Polytechnic (London University) from 1951-55. He will be known to some of our readers as an optometrist at Boatman & Co in Moulsham Street, where he has worked for many years, though now part retired.

And sadly ...

We were very sorry to hear of the death earlier this year of our classmate **Janet Cable (nee Bidwell)** after a long and brave fight against cancer. We send our deepest sympathy to her husband **Geoff**, another past pupil from Moulsham Junior Boys.

Obituary: Miss G M Cook 1909-1996



Miss Cook at Moulsham Infants
In 1950

Many of you will remember Miss Cook from the Fifties and Sixties. She taught at Moulsham Junior Girls for over twenty years, mainly with the younger classes. After she died in November 1996, the magazine of Christ Church, London Road, where she was a deacon, published this obituary:

"On the last day of December 1996, many of us gathered at Christ Church to pay tribute to and give thanks for Gertrude Mary Cook. The Rev Glyn Millington, conducting the service, opened with the words: "Mary was a dear, gentle Christian woman, quite unstoppable in the sense that nothing ever seemed to dent her determination to make the best of every situation".

"Mary was born in Colchester in 1909. With her one brother, parents and cousin Dorothy, who lived opposite, she spent most of her childhood in Leiston, Suffolk, with periods at Dovercourt where her father's family lived. Eventually they all moved to Chelmsford, living in Moulsham Drive.

"Trained for teaching in Norwich, she taught in Drinstone and Coombes then more than twenty years at Moulsham School when she became a member at Baddow Road Congregational Church. There she soon became involved with Sunday School, leading in Primary and Senior grades. Elected a deacon, Mary continued her mission at Christ Church, eventually serving at Friday's Day Centre lunches as Hostess, only relinquishing quite recently her long service to Senior Citizens.

"Mary was a keen member of Amnesty International, writing many letters on behalf of political prisoners, ever giving generously of her time, working at their Moral Re-armament movement office in Westminster Theatre.

"A great love of nature was fully evident in Mary's life; she made many trips to Suffolk involved with bird-watching and she was indeed knowledgeable of garden flowers. It can truly be said of Mary that she saw the best in everything and everyone".