

# Past Pupils' Newsletter

**\*\* 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year \*\***

Summer 2008

Vol 10 no 2

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## See you all again in September

This year's Open Afternoon on 10<sup>th</sup> May was once again a most enjoyable occasion (more about this on page 5), and we would like to thank everyone who helped to make it so. Our special gratitude to former Headteacher **Les Kemp**, without whose energy, enthusiasm and organising skills the reunion would not have been possible. On page 19 you can read Les' account of his amazingly active 'retirement'. Thank you to **Tony Brown**, **Pat Rushbrook (Davis)**, **Ted Caton** and Hilary Balm's husband **Hugh** for their help with setting up the photo display. In fact, we need to thank Ted Caton twice this year, as we inadvertently left him off the list last year - apologies, Ted!

On the day, **Derek Weston** and **Les Kemp** worked hard preparing and helping out in the refreshment rooms, while **Peter Turrall** and **Brian Emmett** did a superb job on the welcome desk. Peter also managed to take some photos of the reunion which we plan to include in the Autumn Newsletter. Once again, **Hilary** baked a delicious assortment of cakes, and we thank all those who brought additional cakes to increase the selection, as well as **Anita** from FOMS and her daughter **Anna**, who helped serve food and drinks throughout the afternoon. It was also lovely to see the present pupils' Tudor dances on the playground, in beautifully designed Tudor style costumes. Thank you to all who took part.

Others who have been working on your behalf include **Gerry Etherington (Butterworth)**, 1960, who keeps our records and distribution labels up to date. If you have any changes of address or new contacts to notify, you can email her on [gerry.etherington@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gerry.etherington@tiscali.co.uk) Gerry has also started a project making contact with more Moulsham Junior School past pupils through the Friendsreunited website. **Tony Rayner**, 1956, has completed his very useful index of the Past Pupils' Newsletter, and has kindly offered to update it as each new issue appears. We are very grateful to Gerry and Tony for their assistance.

In this issue of the Newsletter, the second in the school's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we turn the spotlight on the 1950s and 60s. In the post-war decade, the school had much to celebrate. There were visits to the Festival of Britain in 1951, the Coronation festivities in 1953, and in 1959 the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Moulsham Schools. Thank you to all those who have contributed recollections and photos of this period. Next time, we plan to move on to 1969 and beyond, starting with the merging of the two single-sex schools into one larger co-educational Moulsham Junior School in 1969. For interest and a bit of fun, we have devised a 'time-line' on page 4, showing major national and school events in parallel. Let us know if you think we have omitted any vital information in either category!

As usual, do please send all your news, memories and pictures from this or any other period of the school's history to Kathleen Boot at 1A Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9PG or by email to [kathleen.boot@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kathleen.boot@tiscali.co.uk) We look forward to hearing from you. Those who read the newsletters on the school website may be pleased to know that it is now possible to access the site through Google, by typing in 'Moulsham Junior School'. This is a useful step forward, which should help more and more past pupils to find us.

The next big date in our diary is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, when we hold the special Anniversary Reunion at the school. Details of how to obtain your ticket are on page 3 - please be sure to apply before 20<sup>th</sup> July. Please see also **Headteacher Mrs Hughes' request** on page 17 for volunteers to share their recollections with present day pupils during the Anniversary Week, 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September.

Happy reading, and all good wishes from Hilary Balm (Dye) and myself.

*Kathleen Boot (Nash)*  
1951-55

## School News

The **Summer Fete**, which is an entertaining occasion as well as a good fund-raiser for the school, will be held on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June** this year, from 12 noon until 3pm. Do come along if you can.

Moulsham Juniors continues its tradition of supporting **charitable causes**. In one of her recent newsletters to parents, Headteacher Mrs Linda Hughes reports that 'Farleigh Hospice would like to say thank you for supporting them at Easter. We raised £546.46p selling the Easter chicks and bunnies'. And on another occasion: 'you may recall a couple of weeks ago that some of our pupils were selling cakes outside the school. I am pleased to report that the cake sale was a huge success and raised an impressive £120. The money was split equally between Diabetes UK and our playground fund here at the school.'

**School lunch** menus are circulated in advance these days, with all dishes prepared on site using fresh, local and organic ingredients, and jacket potatoes with filling, fresh baked bread and salad selection available every day. Moulsham has come a long way since the old mince and semolina days!

Pupils' **recent achievements** recorded by Mrs Hughes include an impressive range of awards, for ice-skating, hockey, skiing, judo, gymnastics, piano exams, distance swimming, synchronised swimming, life-saving, cycling proficiency and even efficiency in pony care.

**Sport** continues to feature prominently in the life of the school. In mid-March, two teams of Year 6 (top year) girls played High 5 Netball at Lawford Mead, winning 17-0 and 12-0. In late April, Mrs Hughes wrote: 'A very well done to the children who represented Moulsham Junior School at the inter-school tennis tournament at Moulsham High School. All children played extremely well, tried their best, and showed wonderful sportsmanship. All this culminated in them winning the tournament. Well done - I was so proud.'

## Tickets for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion in September 7-10.30pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September

As mentioned in the Spring 2008 Newsletter, we are arranging a special 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion for former staff and pupils of Moulsham Junior School **from 7 to 10.30pm on the evening of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. It will be the final event in a week of school celebrations to commemorate the opening of the Moulsham Schools in autumn 1938. Do come along if you can, and meet up with former school friends and teachers. Husbands and wives are also welcome. A buffet and drinks will be provided, and we shall once again have our collection of Moulsham photos on display.

Admission will be by numbered ticket only, so that we know how many to cater for. To reserve your ticket, would you please send a cheque for £6.50p per person, payable to 'Moulsham Junior School' to: Mrs Elaine Jardine, Finance Office, Moulsham Junior School, Princes Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9DG, by 20<sup>th</sup> July at the latest. Please include your address, so we can deliver the ticket to you, or a phone contact number so we can hold it for collection from 1A Vicarage Road if you prefer.

At the September reunion, as mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, we plan to make a presentation to the Headteacher on behalf of past pupils, consisting of a playground bench and a trophy for present pupils. If you have not already contributed and would like to, you are invited to send a cheque, payable to 'Les Kemp', to Kathleen Boot, at 1A Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9PG.

## TIME-LINE FOR MOULSHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL

**1938**

### MOULSHAM JUNIOR GIRLS' AND BOYS' SCHOOLS OPEN

Headmaster Mr S Petchey, Headmistress Miss W Rankin

World War II begins	1939	gas-masks and air-raid shelters 3 boys' school staff in armed forces
World War II ends	1945	
Britain hosts first post-war Olympics	1948	
	1949	Girls' Headmistress Miss S Pettet
Festival of Britain	1951	
Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II	1953	Coronation pageant (boys and girls)
Sweets come off the ration		
Roger Bannister breaks 4-minute mile	1957	Boys' Headmaster Mr Tom Sturgeon
	1959	21 <sup>st</sup> anniversary and pageant
England wins football World Cup	1966	

**1969**

### GIRLS' AND BOYS' SCHOOLS COMBINE AS MOULSHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Head Teacher Mr Tom Sturgeon

First man on the moon	1969	
Decimal currency introduced	1971	
Britain joins EEC (later EU)	1973	
Queen's Silver Jubilee	1977	
Falklands War	1982	Mrs P King Head Teacher
	1988	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations
Fall of the Berlin Wall	1989	
	1992	Mrs S White Head Teacher
Channel Tunnel opens	1994	Mr Les Kemp Head Teacher
	1998	60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations School flagpole erected
	2002	Computer suite opened by David Bell, Chief Inspector of Schools
Queen's Golden Jubilee	2003	
	2006	Mrs L Hughes Head Teacher
	2008	70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

## Open Afternoon 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008

We had a gloriously sunny day for this year's May reunion at the school, and were delighted to welcome friends old and new to a lively and memorable get-together. Upwards of 140 attended, not counting husbands and wives, brothers, sisters and children and quite a few past pupils we suspect escaped the registration list. As last year, we have listed those present by decade on the next page, with apologies in advance to anyone whose name we may have misread or mis-spelt. Once again, for ease of identification, we have used the girls' maiden names in these lists.

It was lovely to have former teachers **Mrs Poppy Donovan** and **Mrs Carol Leverett** with us this year. They hope they may be able to encourage other former colleagues to join us at the September reunion.

This year no less than 27 pupils from 1938 or '39 came along to the reunion, and there was much hilarity and swapping of memories. **Roy Barnard**, has kindly given us his 1939 school photo, and has offered to copy for us a panorama photo of Trinity Road Juniors dating from 1936, which shows Moulsham Headmaster Mr Petchey in his previous post, and many of the children who transferred to the Moulsham Junior Schools along with Mr Petchey in 1938.

For **Arthur ('Gus') Gowers**, 1941-45, the Open Afternoon reunion was his first time back at the school since leaving 63 years ago. He was warmly welcomed, and writes: 'It was good to be there again, and to see that the school has been modernised sympathetically'. We will include his detailed and entertaining recollections of his Junior School years in our next Newsletter. As a footnote, he enjoys telling of an incident from later life: 'Following Military Service in 1952-55, I joined Essex Police and in the early 1960s was posted to Headquarters Traffic Patrols at Springfield. On one occasion I spoke to the driver of a car which had a seriously bulged tyre. None other than Mr Petchey. After pointing out to him the possible dangers, I dealt with the matter 'officially' by issuing an unrecorded 'verbal advice to road user' when he promised that he would get his son to take care of it straight away. What goes around . . . '.

Another 'first time returnee' was **John Ratcliff**, 1943-7, whom our record-keeper **Gerry Etherington** contacted through the 'Friendsreunited' website. In reply John wrote: 'I would love to subscribe to the Moulsham School Newsletter as I attended Junior school about 1943 until 1947. I was born in June 1936 and passed my eleven plus to go to the Mid Essex Technical School. It was the first year they took eleven year olds.' John tells us he has been made a CBE 'for your records and to the credit of the school'.

There were a considerable number of other 'first time returnees' at this year's Open Afternoon, and we know many of you enjoyed meeting up with former classmates you hadn't seen for many years. Among them, we were pleased to find **Margaret Smith (Tomalin)**, 1945-49 who wrote in our Spring 2008 Newsletter, and **Philippa Haining (Waring)**, 1951-55, who was in the same class as Hilary and Kathleen, and came with her friend **Pamela Scott (Harper)**, another of the 51-55 crowd. We also welcomed **Brenda Baggs (Morrella)**, a cousin of Ann, Una and Hazel, with her friend **Viola Lee (Nurse)**, 1944. Brenda attended St John's School for a short time before coming to Moulsham Infants in 1938 and the Junior Girls' School in 1940.

Special thanks to all of you who brought photos, schoolbooks and press cuttings along to add to our display, including **Claire Jarman**, 1960-64. We are also grateful to **Debbie Furber (Reed)**, 1974 -78, for bringing along school photos of herself when 8½ years old and her brother **Stefan Reed** aged 10. As ever, we would like to appeal to all pupils from the 1970s to check out the attic, please, as there must be more photos somewhere from that period. We look forward to hearing from you.

1938/9	Roland Dennison	1950s	1960s
Roy Barnard	Hill Dowsett	Bill Bateman	Anne Aves
A. Bearman	Jean Dudman	Elsie Braid	Julie Aves
Gordon Bennett	Martyn Edwards	Barbara Blomfield	Claire Jarman
Brian Campion	Norma French	Enid Brown	Patricia Turbin
John Court	Pauline Gandy	Kenneth Brown	Liz Warner
Vivienne Daniels	Gus Gowers	Rosalyn Brown	Clive Woods
Brian Emmett	Jill Gozzett	Carol Collins	
Peter Eves	Alan Hammond	Pat Davis	1970s
Doug Fawcett	Arthur Humphrey	Hilary Dye	Robert Bolton
Evelyn Gridley	Beryl Janes	Michael Gottschalk	Gareth Chandler
Gladys Gulliver	Ivy Jolly	Chris Hammond	A Crowe
Wesley Holden	Ian Marshall	Pam Harper	Debbie Reed
Mary Jiggins	Mary Matchett	Duncan Hayes	Stefan Reed
Peter Moore	Brian Meadowcroft	Sharon Hayes	David Turner
Joan Porter	Judith Mills	Susan Holden	Tony Turbin
Joyce Porter	Brenda Morella	Bob Jolly	Catharine Wade
C John Reed	Una Morella	Marea Jones	
Malcolm Robinson	Colin Moore	Christine Jolly	1980s
Jean Taylor	Viola Nurse	Vic King	Emma Gowers
Ralph Turbin	Ivy Osborne	Janet Leavy	
Peter Smith	Eileen Perkins	John Macauley	Seniors
P 'Charley' Smith	Jean Perkins	Steve McLoughlin	Jackie Slade
Heather Turner	Marigold Polley	Fred Morley	Ann Cracknell
Peter Turrall	John Ratcliff	Kathleen Nash	
John Whittle	Faith Savill	Mick Polley	
Tony Woollett	Myra Shinkwin	David Porter	
Eric Woods	Julie Shipman	Mick Purkiss	Former Staff
	Wendy Shipman	Angela Rawlingson	Les Kemp
1940s	M Simpson	K Simpson	Mrs Poppy Donovan
Dorothy Armstrong	Don Smith	Aileen Squires	Mrs Carol Leverett
Pat Bates	Dorothy Spooner	Philippa Waring	
Audrey Brangham	Margaret Tomalin	Chris Warner	
Pamela Brown	Gordon Thorp	Stephen Watson	
Ted Caton	Jean Turbin		
Geoff Chivas	Ken Turton		
Jean Collins	Clarence Wade		
Anne Cook	Elizabeth Waring	Mel Rawlingson, who lives on Australia,	
John Cook	Derek Weston	hopes to be with us in September, as	
Shirley Cooper	Jim Whybrow	does John Escott	
Pat Cox	David Witham		
Roland Dennison	Dianne Woollett		

Apologies were received from the following, many of whom hope to come to the September reunion: Adrian Smith, 1948, Julie Renvoize, 1953, Tony Rayner, 1956, Diane Berthelot (Lawson), 1938, Phyllis Chatelier (Little), 1938, Sue and Mike Wilkinson, Maureen Rignall, 1941, Mary Allen, 1953, John and Shirley Wiffen, 1946, Gerry Etherington, 1960, Jennifer Bailey (Rayner), 1943, Norman Kerridge, 1946, Phyllis Chatelier writes: 'I am so sorry I will not be able to be with you on Saturday. As one of the oldest ex-pupils I had so hoped to come, but the Lupus has incapacitated me and everything is an effort. Thankfully, I was able to be of a little help toward the Past Pupils memory-bank, and the Newsletter has given me so much pleasure, and so many like me I am sure. Through you I am in touch with more past-pupils from my era, like Diane Berthelot (nee Lawson).'

## **Alderman Frank Fox – friend and supporter of Moulsham Juniors**

In the Spring Newsletter, we mentioned Alderman Frank Fox, Deputy Chairman of the Borough Education Committee, who was given special thanks at the school's official opening ceremony for his enthusiastic support of the Moulsham Schools building project. He was present on the opening day, and continued to take a keen interest in the progress of the two junior schools. Looking back on the first ten years of the Junior Boys' School, Headmaster Mr Stanley Petchey wrote of Alderman Fox's 'regular weekly visits in fair weather or in foul' and his 'sympathy and kindly words to boys and teachers alike'. At the 1943 Harvest Festival Service, just after Mr Fox's retirement, Mr Petchey had dedicated the school song to him (text on page 16) and in December that year he was presented with a framed copy.

Last autumn, Hilary and Kathleen called on Dot Bedenham, Keeper of Social History at the Chelmsford and Essex Museum in Oaklands Park, who had in her office two interesting documents relating to Mr Fox. The first was a framed illuminated manuscript presented to him on his retirement from the Borough Council in 1943. It records his service as a Borough Councillor from 1918 to 1943, as Alderman from 1934, and Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford from 1940. As a member of the Borough Education Committee from 1919 onwards, he served as Deputy Chairman from 1936-40 and Chairman from 1940 until his retirement in 1943. The manuscript then goes on to say: "Throughout this service, Alderman Fox gave wholeheartedly and unstintingly of his time and energy for the improvement of the education service of the Town, and the successful reorganisation of schools involving the erection of the new Moulsham and Rainsford schools at a cost of two hundred thousand pounds was due in great measure to his good counsel and leadership". Dot also showed us a beautifully bound retirement tribute containing the signatures of the staff of all five Moulsham Schools. A photo of this is on page 11.

Until recently, the only clues we had to Alderman Fox's personality were his confident copperplate handwriting in school log books after his visits, and a magnificent cartoon by 'Matt' in the 24 February 1935 edition of the *Sunday Graphic*, portraying 'Chelmsford celebrities' (on show at our recent Open Afternoon). In this, Alderman Fox appears intense, wiry and charismatic, and is labelled 'The firebrand of the Council'. So it was excellent news to learn from Peter Turrall at the Open Afternoon that he had met Mr Fox (affectionately known as 'Freddy') in person in the course of his very first job, working in the Chelmsford Borough Council Town Clerk's Department.

Peter has since emailed to tell us that Alderman Fox owned a hatter's shop in Chelmsford High Street, opposite Woolworths, in which were 'very tall stands equipped with the latest headwear, and a number of mannequins displaying different hats. Hanging on the wall behind all these were his Alderman's robes, with fur lined collar, and the cocked hat which he wore on main Council or ceremonial occasions. He would always welcome me into his shop and had a chat whilst he checked the documents I had brought him. He was Chairman of the Council Schools Committee and I often took him the draft notes of his various meetings for checking.' Peter recalls Mr Fox as 'a very upright man with a small goatee beard, smart grey suit and a very loud and commanding voice, but gentle in his approach to customers. I am not sure of his home address but I think it was in the Moulsham area. Only on one other occasion did I meet him and that was during the last War when with other people, including the Schools Superintendent Mr. Murphy, he paid a visit to Moulsham Junior School.'

Many thanks to Peter for this interesting portrait, and for letting us have a photo of Alderman Fox parading with other Councillors, which we will copy for the school archive.

## **Denis Wick, 1941-42, - from Moulsham Juniors to the LSO**

Another past pupil Gerry Etherington contacted through the Friendsreunited website is Denis Wick, who was born in Braintree but came to Moulsham Junior Boys' School aged 10 for one year when his family moved to Chelmsford in 1941. They lived in Moulsham Street, in a couple of rooms above and behind a boot repair shop called R E French. Denis recalls that in the top class at Moulsham, "Daddy" Gardiner did a fantastic job and we had 20 successful candidates for places at the Grammar School. We did a "scholarship exam" test EVERY NIGHT for homework! I have a group photo and can remember some of the names. Messrs Petchey and Gardiner are also on it.' A copy of this picture, first sent to us by Denis' classmate Hugh Piper, is on page 10.

After one year at KEGS in Chelmsford, Denis moved to Doncaster with his family, to avoid air raids, and eventually completed his school education at Luton Grammar School. From an early age, he was captivated by music, and today at age 77 still teaches one day a week at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Starting as a cornet player in the Salvation Army (a link he retained until age 15), he quickly moved on to the trombone, the instrument which then became central to his musical career.

After studying in London, Denis took up his first professional post as 2<sup>nd</sup> trombone in the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. In 1952 he became principal trombone in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and in 1957 joined the London Symphony Orchestra, where he stayed until his retirement in 1988. During this period, he played under most of the world's greatest conductors, travelled extensively and made numerous recordings.

As well as playing the trombone in these orchestras, Denis has also been closely involved in music education. He was appointed professor of trombone at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1967 and taught there for nine years, continuing as a consultant professor and conductor since that time. His textbook, Trombone Technique (OUP 1971) is in its 5<sup>th</sup> edition and used throughout the world.

Denis has also been a member of other ensembles, including the London Sinfonietta, and has made many appearances as a soloist. His own London Wind Orchestra made prizewinning recordings in the 1970s.

And as if this were not enough, Denis now runs his own company designing and constructing mouthpieces and mutes for brass instruments used in orchestras all over the world. He is currently president of the International Trombone Association and from 1992-5 was president of the British Trombone Society. Although retired from professional trombone playing, he is still in demand as a conductor and for master classes worldwide. He was appointed Professor of Trombone at the Royal Academy of Music in 2000 and awarded a fellowship in 2002.

Some of you will remember Denis from his schooldays, and others may have met him more recently. He still has many contacts in Essex musical circles, and a couple of years ago conducted a concert at Chelmsford County High School. You can read much more about his achievements and interests on his website, [deniswick.com](http://deniswick.com). In a recent phone call, Denis observed that time passes so quickly. So it may, but some of us are just amazed how much he has crammed into the first 77 years!



## Notes on the photographs

1. This is the photograph (originally sent to us by Hugh Piper) mentioned by Denis Wick in the article on page 8. The picture shows the group of boys from Moulsham Juniors who passed the 'scholarship' exam in 1942. The names we have are: **Back row (left to right):** Ray Bush, Paul Turner **Second row from back:** Hugh Piper, John Evans, Alfred Samuels, Peter Moore, Alan Warr, Ray Lydamore, Robin Sampson **Third row from back:** Roy Knightsbridge, Brian Hutchins, Gerald Smith, Stan Ketley, Michael Mason, Denis Wick, Brian Judd **Front row:** Dennis King, John Donovan, Kenneth Higgins, David Trump, Donald Post. **Teachers:** Mr Gardiner (back left) and Headmaster Mr Petchey. Most of these boys joined the school on its opening day in August 1938, and we are delighted to be in touch with Hugh Piper, Brian Judd, Peter Moore and Donald Post as well as Denis Wick. In our Spring 2008 Newsletter, Donald Post also gave us news of achievements of the late (Dr) Ray Bush, who sadly died in Toronto in 1990.

2. and 3: Thank you to Christine Hammond (Knight), 1953-57, for these two pictures from her schooldays at Moulsham Junior Girls' School. The first shows the summer gym display in 1954 or 55. Christine is on the right of the picture, sliding down the plank. Next to her is Christine Jolly, who lived in Widford Chase, and behind her in the queue a close friend Christine Gentry, from Baddow Road. Christine Knight herself lived in Stewart Road, off Wood Street, near to Headmistress Miss Pettet, and could walk to school across the fields if the weather was dry. When it rained, the journey to school took rather longer, via Wood Street and Princes Road.

The second photo was taken at the Nativity Play in her final year, Christmas 1956, before she moved up to Moulsham Senior Girls' School. Christine was the first of the Three Kings (bearing gold), and can be seen in the back row, standing next-but-one to the left of Joseph (played by Andreea Monk). She recalls that Jane Davis played Mary, and Lorna (surname?) the angel Gabriel. Perhaps other readers can supply further names? As first King, Christine wore her father's dressing gown, and carried a trinket box she borrowed from her mother after much pestering. Sadly, she dropped the little box and chipped one of its legs, at which her mother was not at all pleased! Christine still has the box. Margaret Smith (Tomalin)'s account in the Spring Newsletter reminded her of the experience of walking down the hall between the parents, singing a solo verse in 'We Three Kings'. Christine recalls being very nervous and holding her breath most of the time, although she says it was nevertheless very enjoyable.

Christine remembers the road of brick 'houses' at the end of the playground, some of which were very smart. She also recalls the school meals in the canteen next to the Infants' School, as her Mum was the cook throughout her time at all three Moulsham Schools. A Mrs Shutte (spelling?) was in overall charge, and Christine's mother prepared all the meat and vegetables. Pupils were expected to eat everything on their plates, with older pupils in charge of each table to make sure no one left until all the plates were clear. In practice, if the little ones did not want to eat all their food, the older girls would help them out on the quiet so they could all get out to play after lunch!

After finishing Moulsham Senior School at age 15, Christine went to work in the offices at the Eastern National Bus Company, eventually leaving to bring up her family.

4. The book signed by all the Moulsham teaching staff and presented in 1943 to Alderman Frank Fox on his retirement as Chairman of Chelmsford Borough Education Committee. Alderman Fox (see page 7) was an enthusiastic champion of the Moulsham schools, and visited the Junior Schools regularly.

5. One of a set of 1959 photos in the late Headmaster Mr Sturgeon's collection, recording the Junior Boys' School pageant to commemorate the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the school. (Article on page 14.)

[continued on page 12]

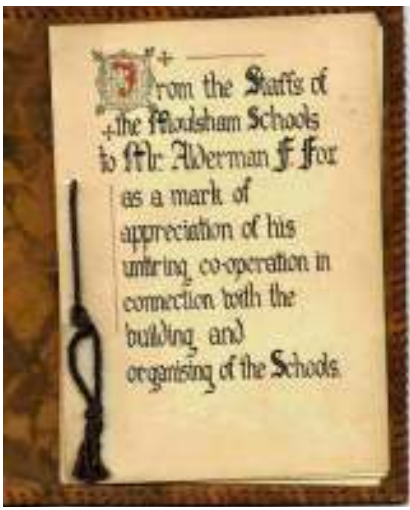
1. **Left:** 1942, boys who passed the 'scholarship' exam (photo from Hugh Piper)

**Below:** two photos from Christine Hammond (Knight), 1953-57:

2. top, 1954 summer gym display

3. Below, 1956 Nativity play





4. (left) the 1943 tribute to Alderman Frank Fox for his support for the new Moulsham Schools

5. 1959, 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary pageant: class 1A presents The Jackdaw of Rheims, directed by Miss S A Martin.

6. (bottom) Alan Twitchett's class in 1954 or 55



[continued from page 9]

6. Thank you to Alan Twitchett, 1953-57 for this picture of his class at Moulsham Junior Boys' School in 1954 or 55. The two adults are, on the left, Headmaster Mr Petchey and on the right Mr 'Daddy' Gardiner, the music teacher. Alan cannot remember many of the pupils' names, except for the back row, left to right:

Alan Royle, Philip Raven, Peter Parkhurst, Ian Whitehead, Rhett Hazell, Kenny Myall, Clive Hawkins, Alan Twitchett, Dave Eley and Martin Lockwood.

Can anyone help with more names?

PS: Since printing Julie Aves' 1968 picture of the recorder group in the Spring 2008 Newsletter, we have come across a press cutting with the same photo and a list of some of the girls. The press report notes that 'under the tuition of Mrs Sheard, 31 pupils at the Moulsham Junior Girls' School have passed the Trinity College recorder examination. The girls, some of whom gave up free time to learn, have also formed an ensemble which has gained an honours mark in the examination'. The girls in the ensemble are listed as: Vivienne Stockley, Alison Shoulders, Sheila Smith, Janie Beacon, Eleanor Shearwood and Anita Sheard. Others mentioned are: Elaine Beller, Michelle Tuffin, Elizabeth James, Lyndsay Brown, Susan Miller, Janice Daniels, Judith Sherwood, Victoria Stock, Susan Lee, Sarah Goodey, Maxine Smith, Alison Reeve, Lynne Brown, Julie Aves, Gwen Munday, Jennifer Wells, Julie Smith, Lyndsay Batsford, Karen Chambers and Christine Goodman

## June 1953 - The Coronation Pageant

The following record of the Coronation celebrations at Moulsham and in Chelmsford first appeared in two parts in our Spring and Summer Newsletters in 2002. It was compiled from notes by retired Boys' School teacher Mr Harold Picken, our own recollections and various press reports from the time:

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place on Tuesday 2nd June 1953. For Moulsham pupils, the whole of the previous week was the Whitsun (half-term) holiday, with three extra days holiday (1-3 June) added for the Coronation celebrations. On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the last day of school before this long break, a special Coronation Pageant was performed by children from the Moulsham Junior Boys' and Girls' Schools in front of the main entrance. Parents and the remaining pupils watched from the grass in front of the school, and, amazingly, the sun decided to shine!

Groups of children, representing each of the Commonwealth countries at that time, assembled in the car park behind the caretaker's house. Central figures for each of the Dominions were played by girls from the 'top class' (eleven-year-olds). The figure of Britannia was portrayed by Judith Parsons; Canada by Janet Free; Australia, Paula Turner; South Africa, Valerie Bradford; New Zealand, Angela Yarrow; India, Barbara Butcher; Pakistan, Anne Barnes; and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Jennifer Mussel. Many other boys and girls formed the 'supporting cast' for each Country group, all of them dressed in costumes made or designed by Mrs Taylor, Miss Barton, Mrs Moses, and Mrs French. The pageant was a joint effort between the two schools, with Mr Harold Picken in overall charge.

The story of the part each country played in the Commonwealth was narrated over the loud speaker system and appropriate music played as each group appeared in turn from behind the house and walked in formation to the front of the school. There they formed a tableau around the central figure of Britannia. Mr Picken recalled that it was all very colourful, with costumes, flags and banners. Rule Britannia, Land of Hope and Glory, and I Vow to Thee my Country were played and sung with patriotic fervour, and the National Anthem became the grand finale. School and parents joined in the singing, conducted by Miss Skilton, the Junior Girls' music teacher, and accompanied by Mr Rhodes on the

piano, Junior Boys on recorders and Junior Girls on percussion. As a special treat after the pageant, the pupils all received ice-creams, and went on their way rejoicing at the prospect of an extra long half-term holiday.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Central Park was called) at 2 o'clock on Monday afternoon with the tickets they 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 they swarmed in, there was a hubbub of excited children racing around and dropping behind them a sea of ice cream papers - they 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, the children seemed to have welcomed themselves!

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 children 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 they left the park at half past four, they were all presented with long tins of chocolate, decorated with the royal crest. The chocolate had disappeared long before some of them 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 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 they returned to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, each pupil was presented with a Coronation medal, and shortly afterwards with a souvenir book called *Royalty in Essex*, presented by the County Council. This told the story of royal visits to Essex over the centuries, illustrated with a 17<sup>th</sup> century map, colour pictures and photos from the Essex Record Office.

## 1959 – Moulsham Juniors' 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebrations

The Moulsham Schools' 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary, in 1959, provided the opportunity for another round of celebrations. For the Senior Schools, there was a special service at Chelmsford Cathedral to commemorate the anniversary. **Christine Hammond (Knight)**, 1951-55, who went on to the Senior Girls' School, has given us a copy of the Essex Chronicle photograph of the occasion. At the Junior Girls' School, there was a party, with a large cake. Former teacher **Mrs Judith Woricker**, 1957-61, kindly sent us a group photo from the party, featuring the first Headmistress Miss Rankin, Boys' School Head Mr Petchey and benefactor Mr W.C. C. Turner (we think), along with two or more sets of twins, and other pupils including **Jennifer Lucking** and **Bryony Reed**. If any of you can tell us more about this occasion, we would be pleased to hear from you.

At the Junior Boys' School, inevitably, Deputy Headmaster Mr Harold Picken was called upon to mastermind another grand-scale pageant, involving the whole school and performed in front of the parents. We are fortunate to have Headmaster **Tom Sturgeon's** superb photograph album documenting this event. The pageant opens with Old Father Time (played by **Norman Ridgway**) introducing the story of the school to The New Boy (**Graham Ogborn**). Then the whole school marches into the grassy quadrangle, led by a group representing war-time pupils. **Barrie Stevens**, 1959-61, described the moment for us in the Spring 2001 Newsletter:

"I can even now recall the ripple which ran through the assembled parents seated on the upper veranda when my performing group, clutching tin hats, gas masks and schoolbooks, emerged from the playground to the recorded sound of air raid sirens and marched off to the shelters! Looking back now, I realise that for parents with children at Moulsham in 1959, the war had been a mere 15 years before, and must have seemed like "yesterday". Some helmets and gas masks had been found in the school stores where they kept plimsolls and shorts."

Class 1A, under the direction of Miss Martin, performed 'The Jackdaw of Rheims', and you can see a picture of this on page 10. The School Orchestra, Junior Choir and Senior Choir played and sang in turn, all conducted by Mr Gardiner, with Mr W D King at the piano. On the photos, the boys all look very tidy in their white shirts, short trousers, ties and sandals. The parents are watching from the verandahs, peering through flower borders of rose bushes and hollyhocks. Next come groups representing football and cricket, and more groups representing past concerts and past pageants (notably the Coronation pageant). Old Father Time continues to unfold the story of the school to The New Boy, and there follows a PE display trained by Mr J Lyons. The grand finale includes the whole school singing the School Song (words on page 16).

## Your memories from the 1950s

**Hazel Richards (Offord)**, 1951-55, has sent us these extracts from the diary she kept during the top year at Moulsham Infants (1950/51).

September 15<sup>th</sup>: David French, Pat and Marian are seven years old now.

September 18<sup>th</sup> Jamie brought some grapes and Valerie some pears for our nature table.

September 27<sup>th</sup> Christopher brought a hyacinth and Valerie brought some crocuses for our class room.

September 29<sup>th</sup> Valerie brought a potato shaped like a dog. Her mummy put buttons for its ears, eyes, nose and mouth (Valerie Rudland?)

October 2<sup>nd</sup> It is Susan Stiles' birthday today and she showed us her cards.

October 15<sup>th</sup> It is a lovely sunny morning for Jamie's birthday.

October 9<sup>th</sup> Tony Robinson brought a sun head to hang up for the birds.

October 11<sup>th</sup> It is a sunny autumn morning and it is Sheila and Susan Hayden's birthday.

October 17<sup>th</sup> David Barnes has been for a holiday to Oldham. It is two hundred miles away. (It must have seemed like a real adventure in those days)

November 7<sup>th</sup> It is a lovely sunny day for Christopher's birthday. (Christopher Raven?)

December 13<sup>th</sup> Our mothers are coming this afternoon and we are going to show them our work.

January 1951, various dates, we obviously did some work about Holland. Notes about windmills, rivers and canals, hyacinths etc. Cinderella was on at the Regent.

February 13<sup>th</sup> We are hearing the story of Peter Pan. Today Roy has brought a book with pictures of the story.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> Today Miss Kendall is leaving us. (A student teacher who came Jan 29<sup>th</sup>)

March 9<sup>th</sup> We have some coltsfoot which Jill brought. It is like a small dandelion.

March 12<sup>th</sup> We have some snowdrops in our classroom which Susan Witham brought.

(Almost as early an Easter as we have just had in 2008. My entry for March 19<sup>th</sup> 1951 reads 'Yesterday was Palm Sunday and next Sunday will be Easter Day')

April 11<sup>th</sup> We have started our last term in the Infants School. In September we go to the Junior School.

April 30<sup>th</sup> Most of us went to Billy Smarts New World Circus last week. We saw lions, elephants, ponies and highland cattle

May 1<sup>st</sup> This morning we sang the birthday hymn for four people, Judith, Hilary, Roy Briggs and Robert Firman. (Can anyone remember the birthday hymn?)

May 4<sup>th</sup> Yesterday the king opened the Festival of Britain

June 20<sup>th</sup> Yesterday Elizabeth brought a tadpole with four legs but it still had its long tail and this morning we could not find it. (The tadpole or the tail??)

June 21<sup>st</sup> We have been in the hall for Music and we played a game of Peer Gynt in the hall of the mountain kings. (I put this in because I can remember this. The music gets faster and faster, we were all leaping around and we were encouraged to make horrible faces.)

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> I wrote about the carnival

July 5<sup>th</sup> We have a woolly bear caterpillar which Roy Lund brought. It has made a web round itself and we hope it will turn into a moth

July 13<sup>th</sup> One of the black caterpillars which Peter Haywood brought had turned into a chrysalis.

**Kenneth Brown**, 1952-56, writes: 'I arrived at Moulsham Boys School in 1952 after attending Friars Infants for a year. It was a sea change from the small schools which I had been used to. The drive always seemed miles long and the spaciousness of the site was something which was a credit to the builders and planners. I remember being taught by Mrs French, Miss Robins, Mr Gardiner, Mr Hodgkinson and Mr Hymas in successive classes. An early memory was the coronation pageant when we were assembled sitting on the grass outside the front of the school listening to Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker suite and Elgar's Military Marches. We all received a tin of chocolate and a book on Essex. I also remember appearing in a school play (I had one line to say)! Notable also was the school song written by Mr Gardiner which we used to sing at the end of term. The only line I can recall is the last one "We'll shout 'till the rafters ring." I wonder if it is still sung? One of my favourite lessons was last period on Fridays when we would have the teacher reading a book to us. I recall one was "Pilgrim's Progress." Games played during break included marbles and flicking cigarette cards against the air raid shelters. One project I recall was digging and planting vegetables behind the air raid shelters. This came to an abrupt end when a boy stuck a fork through his foot!

I used to cycle to school, but many of the pupils came by bus and there was always a busy time at the end of the day when all the buses paraded outside. We would go by bus for swimming lessons at Waterloo Lane baths. Great excitement would accompany the sight of the blackboard outside where the day's temperature was inscribed. This was usually around 55 degrees F, chilly!

I was fortunate enough to pass the 11+ and also received the Ann Johnson Award. Some of my friends at school were Keith Haldane, Tony Brown, Keith Pavitt and Clive Gowers.

Note: The school song Kenneth refers to was written in 1942 by Mr V Hodgson, with music by Mr W W Gardiner, both masters in the Junior Boys' School. We believe the song continued in use for many years, though by 1972 a different song had been written, with words and music by Mr R A Peachey, for the combined Moulsham Junior School. The words of the original song are:

"Let us sing of this School where, under its rule,  
We prepare for our manhood to come,  
Let us spread far its name, its honour, its fame,  
To all places under the sun;  
Uphold our tradition, advance our position -  
"Work and be Happy", we'll sing,  
And "Moulsham for ever!" and "Moulsham!" again  
Resound, till the rafters ring.

Let us strive to be true to the Red and the Blue  
Which blend us together in youth;  
Let kindness guide us, whatever betide us,  
And cheerfulness, humour and truth.  
In our games and our toil we'll ever be loyal -  
"Work and be Happy," we'll sing.  
And "Moulsham for ever!" and "Moulsham!" again  
Resound, till the rafters ring."

## Your memories from the 1960s

Looking through the many past Newsletter contributions from 1960s pupils, it is clear that trips and excursions became a memorable feature of life at the two Moulsham Junior Schools. **Dave Sturgeon**, 1958-62, son of Headmaster Tom Sturgeon, recalled in the Spring 2004 Newsletter two trips, in 1965 and 1966, to France and France/Belgium: 'I was about 14, but I was allowed to go with the Moulsham party. Mrs Donovan's son, Andrew, of the same age, came too. The second trip was supposed to fly from Southend, but when we arrived we were sent back home because snow had stopped all flights. We successfully went the second day. What a nightmare of organization for Dad: there were no mobile phones in those days! Both trips were successful and very educational, of course: Paris, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Versailles, Dunkirk and the war cemeteries, the Atomium etc. A very poor photograph near the Eiffel Tower confirms my memory that school caps and ties were de rigueur!'

**Anne Waters**, 1963-63, is one of several Girls' School pupils who have an abiding memory of the 1964 school holiday in Stratford-upon-Avon. In the Autumn 2001 newsletter, she wrote: '1964 was the four-hundredth anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and a set of stamps was issued to commemorate it (and in those days only Very Important Events were marked in this way!) The visit certainly was for me a landmark in my primary education. It was Mrs Alty's incredible enthusiasm that fired us all up. I found Stratford and all the places we visited there absolutely magical (and can still quote several chunks of Richard II !) I think the total cost for the trip was £24.'

**Sally Waller (Golding)**, another of the 1960-64 class, remembers all her teachers. Of the long-serving **Miss Barton**, she reported in the Spring 2001 issue that: 'Initially I feared her, but I got to like her very much and I can still remember some of our "projects", eg collecting information on all the ingredients that make a Christmas pudding, or on all the places we passed through on a visit to Colchester Castle.'



The worst feature of this year, however, was being kept in at break to practice my handwriting with a "dip in" ink pen. As I am left handed, I never managed to write successfully without smudging all that had gone before! I remember being told that one day I should have to write "the most important letter of my life" this way - a job application. Clearly poor Miss Barton never foresaw the advent of cartridge pens or the word processor!

"Projects" were also very much in vogue throughout the 1950s and 60s. In the Junior Boys' School several generations of pupils in Mr Picken's class worked on a 'Chelmsford Project', involving visits to local government, the market, library, Cathedral, gas works and elsewhere. **Dave Sturgeon** has given us his project folder, complete with photos and worksheets, which we display at Open Afternoons. **Barrie Stevens** also recalled the project in his extensive school memoirs. We copied these to Mr Picken in May 2000, and he wrote back in delight: 'Barrie's superb letter deserves a 'large gold star' for its quality, content and presentation. . . . I am so pleased that Barrie remembers working on the Chelmsford project and all the educational visits involved in it. I often tell the story of the occasion when I was visiting the Cathedral with my class and on arrival was met by a young priest from one of the parishes of the Diocese who had been assigned to be our guide. He looked ill at ease and told me that he was fairly new to the area and had not as yet a great knowledge of the Cathedral and its history. I could see the relief on his face when I told him I had done the visit many times and perhaps we could help him. The boys supplied him with copies of their 'worksheets' and their notes. At the end of the day he thanked us for all we had taught him that day!

Hilary and Kathleen were so pleased to have been able to consult Mr Picken in the first year of putting together the Past Pupils' Newsletter. They wish they could have continued to call on his recollections as more and more 'old Moulshamites' sent in their news and memories. He had taught at the school for over 30 years, starting on the first day in August 1938, and still saw many of his former pupils around the town. Sadly, he died in January 2001, and is greatly missed.

## **Volunteers to speak to present pupils during the anniversary week 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September**

At the Open Afternoon, Headteacher Mrs Hughes was delighted to meet several of you who were at the school on the first day in 1938. We have made a list of eight who are willing to talk to current pupils during the celebration week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> September. We also need local volunteers from later decades who would be able to come into school and talk to various groups about their time at the school and life in Chelmsford when they were at the Juniors.

If you were a pupil during the 1940s, '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s or '90s, and would be interested in sharing your memories with today's Moulsham pupils during that week, please contact either Kathleen Boot or the School Office, giving your name, address and a telephone contact number. Thank you.

## March 1982, 'The Hamelin Incident'

More names many of you will recognise in the programme for a performance by the school Drama Club on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 1982, given in honour of Headteacher Tom Sturgeon's retirement:

THE DRAMA CLUB (4th Year) presents: "The Hamelin Incident" by Graham Walker, a dramatised version of the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

Scene 1 Town Clerk's Office

Scene 3 A street in Hamelin

Scene 5 In the Land of the Rats

Scene 7 The Council Chamber

Scene 9 On the Koppelberg mountain

Scene 2 Doctor's surgery

Scene 4 The Council Chamber

Scene 6 The Market Place

Scene 8 The Market Place

CAST (in order of appearance):

NARRATOR 1	Jennifer Cocks
NARRATOR 2	Nerissa Payne
TOWN CLERK	Nigel Smith
ANGRY LADY	Neya Drane
BIG MAN	Robert Bolton
MAYOR	Sabatino Ciambriello
CLLR BLANKENFELD	Jonathan Loose
DOCTOR	Barry Falltrick
FRAU BLANKENFELD	Alison Shergold
ROLLO, their son	Lesley Johnson
MARTIN, the Cowled Figure	Andrew Foot
FRAU BURGOMEISTER	Juliet Sharman
GRAVELL	Wayne Porter
SCHMIDT	Gary Snowdon
THE PIPER	Gary Critch

TOWNSPEOPLE: Nicola Butler, David Wilson, Elizabeth Knott, Karen Boutal, Emma Baalam, Paul Gallagher, Georgina Clarke, Sarah Blayney, Magdalene Bevans, Simon Fagg, Paula Good, Michaela Davis; Jennifer Smith, Amanda Ward, Stuart Leighio, Lisa Dorking, Sarah Gipson, Kerry Smith, Fiona Spence.

RATS (and CHILDREN):

Ayse Mustafa, Amanda Chilvers, Joanne Andrews, Nicola Speakman, Alison Lowe, Sharon Murphy, Kerry White, Joanne Southin, Samantha Skingley, Jennifer Pitt, Mandy Charity.

Lighting Team:

Adrian Coy, David Grainger, Michael Wintersgill (Class 4.D.2.)

If you remember or took part in the performances, do please record your memories in writing for the Newsletter.

## Former Headteacher Les Kemp: the joys of 'retirement'

When I was at Moulsham, I used to get up very early in the morning and do a couple of hours work before I left home. Now I am retired, I regularly get up at 4.30am to do a couple of hours work before anyone else stirs. The link is that retirement has not brought some new found efficiency or any actual reduction in what I do. My wife bends my ear even more so now, as I haven't got a spare day to go to Tate Modern, a visit I promised as a birthday present in April.

I knew when I left Moulsham that I wanted to extend the Keep on Reading project, first trialled at Moulsham. That first year saw me working with five schools and developing an invaluable link with the School Library Service. Soon another ten schools joined the project and I began to struggle, with our garage packed tight with boxes of books. I claimed to the neighbours that our front grass was so long because I was developing a wildlife sanctuary. I spend hours on end sticking labels on plastic wallets, making badges and writing materials to go out with the books. I also visit many of the schools and work with the children, my aim being to get them really excited and then leave the class teacher to cope. The most recent development has been with Southend High School for Boys and The Stanway School, Colchester who are funding Keep on Reading for some of their feeder primary schools, which has helped relieve a funding crisis.

I also work as an Associate Link Tutor for Canterbury Christ Church University working with students on school placements in Essex and the surrounding counties. I observe their lessons and I'm sure much to the surprise of my former colleagues, I even manage the paper work involved. Some of these students are going to be the wonderful teachers of the future and it still gives me a shiver up the spine when I see them with a class. This work helps me fund Keep on Reading but this term my number of students shot up from ten to twenty-six and I only managed to arrange visits to them all with the invaluable help of another retired headteacher, Alison Widgery.

Plato's People, a programme of philosophical based themes for Year 5 and 6 children run by Terry Flitman, a former deputy headteacher at Moulsham, has been running in the Wickford and Braintree area. I should mention that my contribution is as coffee server and provider of unusual refreshments for the children and I'm only rarely let loose on the philosophy.

All this was recently left behind for three wonderful weeks in Australia and Japan, only made possible by the very generous farewell gift when I left Moulsham. A helicopter ride over Uluru, a walk along four mile beach at Port Douglas, watching my daughter Megan go scuba diving at the Great Barrier Reef (I would have gone with her of course, but I was over the age limit), a tour of Sydney Opera House (when I enquired about getting tickets for the ballet they laughed) and so many memories including Holly in Year six calling out my name from the top of a shopping arcade at Darling Harbour in Sydney.

Australia was the favourite part of the visit for my wife and Megan but for me it was Japan. Temples, Japanese tea ceremony, wonderful food, a ride on the bullet train and so many examples of Japanese courtesy had me wanting to bring home many aspects of Japanese life. I tell people we went to Tokyo Disneyland but I don't add that I thought the face masks worn by many Japanese there was due to them having a cold. It was explained to me that one in five Japanese suffer from hay fever and the mask gives some relief.

I didn't forget Keep on Reading and in Sydney I searched the bookshops for new titles and in Tokyo bought a wooden carrot from a very prestigious department store. Megan was too embarrassed to stand near me while I did this but the shop assistant wrapped it beautifully and laughed as she presented me with it. I must remember to stop bowing when I go into Tesco's.

## News in brief

Congratulations to **Diane Berthelot (Lawson)**, one of our 1938 pupils, who recently had a poem printed in the Daily Mail. Diane has written many poems over the years and has been interviewed on Radio Norfolk. Copies of several she has sent us are on display at Open Afternoons, and we plan to include one recalling Christmas 1944 in our Autumn Newsletter.

At one of our Open Afternoons about three years ago, we noticed that **Gordon Thorp**, 1941-45, was wearing a distinctive RNLI sweatshirt, and asked him about his involvement with the Lifeboats charity. He has now sent us an extract from the latest RNLI magazine, recording that: 'A grand Christmas draw organised by the Chairman of Drayton and Taversham branch, Gordon Thorp, raised £3,269 for RNLI funds. The draw, for shopping vouchers for Roy's of Wroxham's Bowthorpe store, was made live on BBC Radio Norfolk. Gordon's outstanding effort will be acknowledged by the presentation of a Certificate of Thanks at the Regional Awards at Robinson College, Cambridge, on 8 June'. With his usual humour, Gordon observes that 'It just goes to show that with a Moulsham education and no qualifications, it is possible to get a place at Cambridge at the age of 74 - even if it is a place at a table for a presentation!!' Many congratulations to Gordon for his fine work.

**Bill Osborne**, 1942-46, has been a Newsletter reader for many years now. He writes: 'I joined Moulsham Juniors from Friars Infants' around 1946. My sister Ivy followed later to the Junior Girls. My children Karen (1959-71) and Liam (1971-82) both went through their education at the Moulsham Schools and have had very good careers since. My son's boy Luke is now at Moulsham High, coming from Mildmay School, and his sister Hannah will be coming next year. I only hope they do as well as their Dad at school and after leaving. Thank you for the Newsletters'.

## School website

Copies of this and earlier issues of the newsletter from Autumn 2004, containing memories and photos from many other former members of Moulsham Junior School, are on the past pupils' page of the school website: [www.moulsham-jun.essex.sch.uk/index.htm](http://www.moulsham-jun.essex.sch.uk/index.htm) Well worth a look.

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](mailto: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.

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