



***OLD
PALMERIAN***

2011

www.OldPalmerians.co.uk

CONTENTS	PAGE NO.
Chairman's Introduction	3
Where are they now?	4
Events During Year	4
Sports and Fitness Centre	4
Golfing Society Report	5
William Palmer Trust	6
News of Old Palmerians	8
Help Required	41
Births	45
Weddings	45
Obituaries	46
The College Year	70
News and Changes of Staff	76

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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION



The Old Palmerians' Association Chairman has a 'Badge of Office' (see photo).

I wore the Badge in November 2010, when attending the Palmer's College Prize-giving ceremony at the Thurrock Civic Hall, which was a very enjoyable occasion. I intended to wear it at the Old Boys' Dinner at Orsett Hall in April 2011 but, to my consternation, I could not find it!

Subsequently, after a lengthy search of my Flat, I found the case containing the Badge, tucked between two of my hundreds of 'Great War' (WW1) books. On return from the Prize-giving, I must have had a 'Senior Moment' and just plonked it there, for no apparent reason.

This brings me to the fact that, with regrettably few exceptions, we are getting to be somewhat 'Senior' on the OPA Committee and would welcome others (of any age) who could contribute.

Hopefully, the Association will continue for many years, but I asked the Committee to consider 'what if...?', as there is nothing in the current Constitution concerning the dissolution of the Association. Please don't misunderstand me; I am not proposing that we do disband, just that we should have agreed procedures 'just in case'.

The Committee discussed the matter, but no amendments to the OPA Constitution were proposed at the AGM in November 2011. Instead, the matter is to be given further attention, in 2012, with the intention of recommending any necessary changes at the November 2012 AGM.

My thanks to the Committee members who have supported me, during my year as Chairman, and also thanks to other OPA members who have contributed to events like the Founder's Day Service which has been considerably enhanced, in recent years, by a Choir consisting of Old Palmerians.

Brett Goodyear (1954 - 1961) Chairman Nov 2010- Nov 2011

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We have lost contact with some Old Palmerians and have therefore been unable to send them a copy of the “Old Palmerian” and other notices. If any reader has a current address for any of the following members please contact us or ask the member to do so.

Miss Isobel Brooks	1952-59	Mrs Jean Cannon	1944-49
Mr Gary Davison	1990-94	Mrs J Manning Dawson	
Mr Darren Edhouse	1987-90	Mr David Hurst	1989-91
Dr Graham Ketley	1968-75	Mrs Susan Osborne	1970-77
Miss Elisabeth Pryke		Mr R G H Read	1938-45
Dr Susan Sangster	1967-74	Mrs Ann Smythe	1962-69
Miss Denise Turp	1975-78	Mr Peter Warder	1944-51

To ensure that you continue to receive your copy of the “Old Palmerian” please notify us of any change of address.

EVENTS DURING YEAR 2011 - 2012

6th	November	2011	Founder’s Day Service
8th	November	2011	AGM
12th	November	2011	Founder’s Day Dinner
20th	April	2012	Old Boys’ Dinner

ASSOCIATION SPORTS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

PALMER’S SPORTS & FITNESS CENTRE

The fees are:-

Membership	Adult	£19.00
	Couple	£34.00
	Junior 8 - 15 years	£7.50
	Concessions	£10.50
	Family	£41.50

Old Palmerians’ Association members with a current membership card, available from Ruth Hunwick, will pay **only £10.50** to the **Centre** for membership.

Fees

Badminton	55 min.	£8.70
Five a side	55 min.	£34.80
Squash	40 min.	£6.70
Tennis	55 min	£6.30
Fitness (Induction)	2 x 60 min	£20.00
Fitness Session		£4.40
Fitness Class (STEP, LTB, etc.)		£4.30

Non members pay a £1.00 Admission Fee every time they attend. They also do not receive such advantageous booking arrangements.

For further details concerning the Palmer's Sports and Fitness Centre telephone (01375) 898613.

Ruth Hunwick

OLD PALMERIANS' GOLFING SOCIETY REPORT - 2010

As usual our year began with the Spring Meeting held this time on 9th May at Orsett. There were 14 members and 8 guests who played, and dinner followed in the evening. The various winners were: **Andy Cresswell, Don Cave, Mark Vinall** and **Roger Jiggins**.

Our match against the College resulted in a win by the College team. Despite valiant efforts by our members our achievements were less than we had hoped! The contest against Old Brentwoods did not take place due to fixture difficulties.

Guest Day came next, on 6th July, at Orsett. Unfortunately the records do not show which member and guest combination had the best score on the day. If this can be resolved I will include it in next year's report. The Association Cup, awarded to the member with the highest score, was won by **Roger Jiggins** with 37 points.

Our Away Day event on 19th July held again at Woodlands Manor Golf Club in Kent was kindly hosted by **Don Cave** who is a member there. The format is a little different from Orsett events. The starting times are around mid-morning followed by a snack lunch in the clubhouse. The timing of the day allows free evenings and, for those travelling back to Essex, avoids the Dartford Crossing rush hour. The tankard for best score by a member was won by **Roger Jiggins**. The last event on our calendar was Captain's Day, held on 17th October at Orsett. We had our best attendance of the year with a total of 25 members and

guests playing for the prizes. Members compete for the top prize, The Chalice Cup, this year won by **Alan Gardner** with 42 points, followed by **Don Cave** in second place with 38 points. Best guest was Les Barnard (**Jas Johal's** guest), second place going to Paul Stone (**Adrian Sheridan's** guest). Each year the President's Cup is awarded on Captain's Day to the member with the best aggregate score for all the year's events, and this time the winner was **Don Cave**. Runner up was **Jas Johal**. All the prizes and trophies were presented by our Captain, **Adrian Sheridan**. We had two dinner guests, David Wilson who was invited by **Ray Matthews**, and **Trevor Bond**, a non golfing Old Palmerian who attended the School in the early/mid fifties.

It was just prior to our Captain's Day that I took over the post of Secretary/Treasurer from **Ray Matthews**. Ray held the post for nearly ten years and I should like to formally acknowledge and thank Ray for the considerable time and effort he put in on our behalf to maintain all the Society's activities for members and their guests. It would not have been the same without you. As a reward?! Ray was elected to the vacant post of President which he kindly accepted, along with a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion.

My last note is to say that we are always looking for new members as the age of our existing membership inevitably increases with the years. If you know of any former School or College students who play golf and may wish to join, there are details on our website:- www.societygolfing.co.uk, click box "Access your society area" then login as: william and password: palmer. There is no charge for membership, simply opportunities to play golf and enjoy the company of players with our common background.

Roger Jiggins (1952 - 1958) Hon.Secretary and Treasurer.

WILLIAM PALMER COLLEGE EDUCATION TRUST

Over the last year the Trust has given financial assistance to the students of Palmer's College in the following areas:

The Trust funded 50% or 25% of the cost of the trip for students to participate in visits as part of their Geography, Biology, PE, and Business Studies Courses and special visits to Southampton and Oxford Universities. A wide range of other residential educational visits were funded by the Trust and these included, Berlin, Normandy, Portugal, London, Paris, Magam, Orielson, Arran, Ecuador and New York.

Day visits to conferences, drama productions, galleries and concerts were part funded by the Trust who also provided Support grants to needy students at the

College. The Trustees also pay for the hockey, netball, football and rugby umpire/referee fees necessary for sporting events and for coaches to the various venues.

These grants totalled - £69,110

The Trust awarded 106 prizes for achieving 3 A grades at A-level or equivalent, 77 bursaries for achieving 3 A grades at A-level or equivalent and attending university, 72 prizes for achievement at A level and BTEC, 20 prizes for 100% attendance and 19 prizes for achievement at AS level as well as 29 prizes for distinction at BTEC Introductory Diploma or First Diploma Award.

These grants totalled - £38,700

The Trust also provided grants towards trips and visits to needy pupils who live in the Ancient Parish of Grays Thurrock and attend local schools.

These grants totalled - £21,400

In the beginning, William Palmer provided the land for the first school, arranged for it to be built and endowed the Trustees with the property in the City of London. In 1945, the roles of the Trustees and the Governors were split with the Charity Commission Scheme providing for the Trustees to own the Land and Buildings and with the School being allowed to use the property.

Recently, the now discredited Learning and Skills Council insisted that the College obtained a formal Lease from the Trustees as a condition of granting the College some £70million for a capital project. Although, it transpired that no money would be forthcoming, the College decided that it did want a formal Lease instead of the previous arrangement that lasted over 300 years. The Charity Commission agreed to amend the Scheme to allow the Trustees to grant a Lease but the whole process has proved to be both time consuming and expensive. At long last, a draft Lease has been sent to the College's solicitors by our solicitors. When the final Lease is agreed, I shall be relinquishing my Trusteeship.

I am happy to acknowledge the work of its Clerk (John Vesey) and its Secretary (Maureen Challis) thereby ensuring the smooth running of the Trust.

*Bryan S Coker
Chairman of the Trust
July 2011*

(Ed. - See Obituaries)

NEWS OF OLD PALMERIANS

(Ed. This news is up to, and including, the beginning of September 2011.)

SCOTT WAKEFIELD-REYNOLDS (2004 - 2006) graduated in 2010 with a 2.1 BSc in Psychology.

STEPHEN CLEAR (2005 - 2007) graduated in 2010 with a first class honours LL.B Law degree from the University of Wales, Bangor. He has been President of the Student Law Society and a member of various different Staff/ Student Committee groups.

Stephen is currently conducting research into the area of international human rights law and achieving universal human rights for all for his PhD at Bangor.

KATIE GRIER (2005 - 2007) graduated from Canterbury University in 2010 with a 2:1 in Psychology and is now studying for her Masters.

EMMA JONES (2005 - 2007) graduated with a first class BA Honours in Graphic and Media Design from the University of the Arts, London College of Communication in 2011.

HALEY BRIDGES (2004 - 2007) graduated in 2011.

KAREN CROSS (2005 - 2008) graduated from the University of Essex with a Bachelor of Law first class Honours degree in Law.

RACHAEL HAIGH (2007 - 2009) has been awarded an internship at 20th Century Fox in Hollywood which will start after she graduates. She is hoping to graduate with a first class degree in Film and Television from Nottingham University.

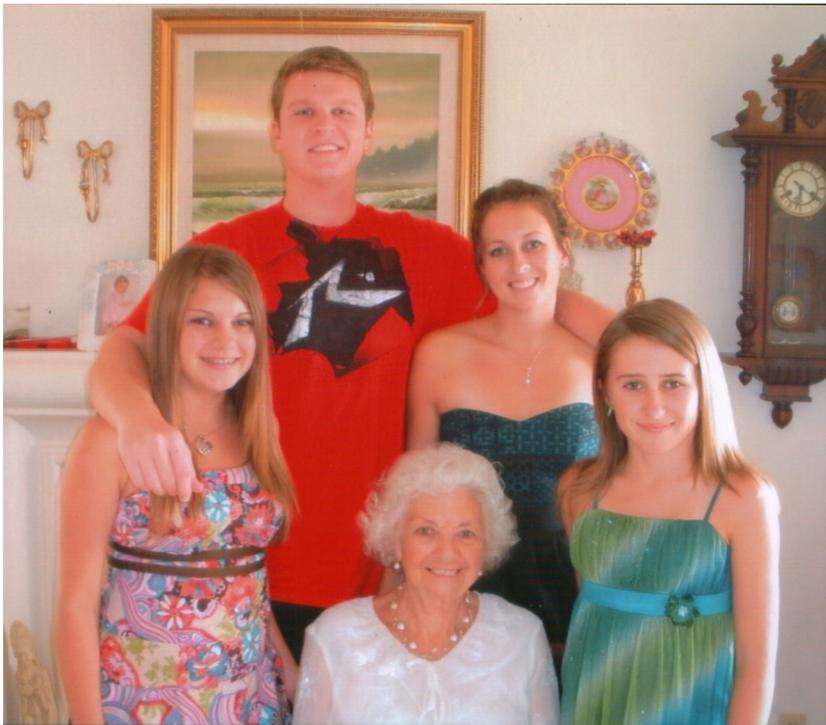
EILEEN TICEHURST (1940s) MRS FLINT was born in 1929 in New South Wales, Australia and her brother William was born a year later. Her parents had emigrated from Britain two years prior to her birth. They all returned to England in 1934 and settled near North Stifford before moving to Marsh House Farm in Biggin Lane when Eileen was 8, where they remained for 10 years. Eileen and her brother attended school at Chadwell St Mary before she came on to Palmer's Girls' School. She vividly remembers the day she started at Palmer's because the sky was black with smoke as the oil tanks had been bombed in Purfleet and were on fire. Eileen was ushered into the air raid shelter on her arrival, where they had to sit on rows of benches and the toilet was a bucket behind a curtain. In an attempt to quell the noise of guns they sang as loud as possible. Eileen has many happy memories of those years

and the friends she found there. Her closest friend was Dorothy Price and they remained in contact until Dorothy died several years ago. Eileen still visits Dorothy's sister Gwen in Washington and Dorothy's brother Alan in Vancouver.

In 1950 Eileen married Joseph (Johnny) Bethell and his sister, Joan Regan, encouraged them to emigrate to the U.S.A., which they did in 1954. However, Joan never joined them, but had a great singing career.

In July 2010 Eileen spent 5 weeks in England and visited Palmer's College and was shown round. She was pleased to see Miss Leworthy's photo and recalled Miss James and Miss Davis.

Eileen now lives by herself, at a beautiful location on the water by Ventura and approximately 25 miles south of Santa Barbara. Two of her sons live eight miles from her and another lives on the border of Canada overlooking the ocean. The photo below was taken on Eileen's 81st birthday, 1st August 2010 and shows her with four of her grandchildren.



NORMAN PALMER (Early 1960s) was very pleased to see **Mr John R Hayston**, **Mr Edward J Moorhouse**, **Mr Eric L Bone** and **Mr Wyn Phillips** (who had been responsible for getting Norman an exhibition at Magdalen Oxford in 1966); on the 1959 video on our Website.

BARRY GARDNER (1959 - 1956) was pleased to read the comments on his mother **Joyce Gardner** from **John Walsham** in last year's magazine. It was nice to hear of fond memories. She really enjoyed her time at Manor, and for many years she had to cycle all the way there from Stifford Clays, come rain or shine.

Apologies though, because we did get the date wrong. Joyce went off to college in 1958 or 1959.

Barry was on temporary secondment from Malaysia to the new Airport Railway in Bangkok in October 2010 and said that the city was peaceful. 99% of the city is clean and respectable and a lovely place to visit. Outside the city it is a magical, historical country with something for everyone.

WILLIAM GARTH-JONES (1948 - 1954) has sold his house in Anglesey and moved back to England in November 2010, to get involved in his son Christopher's holiday cottage business in Lancashire. It has been a great wrench for him after 21 years idyllic existence in the Land of his Fathers, but it is a practical solution to a commercial problem.

KEN BUSHELL (1950 - 1958) has moved again! He writes:- "Our son Ian has taken a new job in Knoxville Tennessee and he and the family (4 kids now) moved there in May of 2010. Since we really only came to Virginia to be close to them, we decided that if we could sell our house, in these difficult times, then we would also move to be close to them.

As luck would have it - or great marketing - we sold our house and bought another in Tennessee. It is West of Knoxville in a golfing community called Avalon, Lenoir City. We are not golfers, but realized that overlooking a course gives you nice big lawns that you do not have to mow!

We have really enjoyed Virginia and would have been content to stay there forever, but it is 430 miles to Ian's new location, which is not suitable for quick visits to school functions and birthdays etc. We are now less than 6 miles and just a few minutes away. From what we have seen so far, it seems that Tennessee will be equally nice. The golf community chosen is smart, there are many large lakes in the area and mountains nearby, the Smokies to

the East and the Cumberland Mountains to the West, both visible on the horizon (when you find the right location) about 30 to 40 miles distant.

Ian's new job is Corporate Medical Director for Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Health Insurance company. Three of our grandkids are at school - 3 schools in fact.”

Here is a photo taken of us with the family on Matthew’s 12th birthday in July in Farragut. Nicholas is 10 Vanessa 6 and Sean 1.



LESLIE COX (1941 - 1944, 1945 - 1948) had a chance encounter with another Old Palmerian in 2010. He writes:- “I was on my way with a friend up to the Yukon in Northern Canada and we had decided to fly from Vancouver to Prince Rupert, which is about 30 miles south of where Alaska begins. While we were waiting for the bus to take us from the airport to Prince Rupert township itself I noticed that the couple behind me were speaking with an English accent. I enquired where they came from and the man replied that he came from Bromley in Kent but that his wife was from the other side of the river. At this his wife said “Yes, Grays in Essex”. “I know it well” I replied, “I used to go to school there”. “So did I” she rejoined and we quickly discovered that we were both Old Palmerians. The lady’s maiden name had been **Russell** and it turned out that both she, **Doreen**, and her brother, **Roy**, had been pupils there until they left in 1950.

As we were going to different destinations we had to cut short our conversation, but before parting the couple gave me their card, which read John and Doreen Gough, goughins@shaw.ca.

I hope this will perhaps awaken memories of the brother and sister.”

PAUL THRUSSELL (1959 - 1965) is now retired and would like to meet up with old friends from Palmer’s. If you remember Paul, please contact him on p.thruscell@sky.com or 01245 284987.

Congratulations to **TED (CHARLES EDWARD VICTOR) SAXTON (1933 - 1940)** and his wife **GRACE JENKINS (1935 - 1941)** who celebrated their Blue Sapphire (65th) Wedding Anniversary on 15th August 2010, which was also the 65th Anniversary of the final end of the 1939 - 45 World War, known as VJ Day.

DR PETER HAPPÉ (1943 - 1950) has been in touch with **SIR BRYAN NICHOLSON (1943 - 1950)** who he had not seen for 60 years and they arranged to meet for lunch.

JOAN HILLS(1933 - 1939) was loaned a copy of last year’s Old Palmerian Magazine by **Bill Dobson** and this prompted her to write to us. Joan and Bill attend the same church in Shanklin, Isle of Wight, and they are both members of the British Army Association, as they were both ex Service. It was at one of the meetings of the Association that Joan was surprised to see Bill wearing an Old Palmerian sweatshirt. She had not thought that there could be two Old Palmerians living in Shanklin. She writes:-

“I really am an ‘old’ Palmerian as I was a pupil from 1933 until 1939, having done an extra year in the ‘Commercial 6th’ to learn shorthand and typing. My brother **Peter Hills** attended Palmer’s from 1928 until 1934; his children followed in their father’s footsteps - **Mary** from 1959 to 1964 and **David** from 1963 to 1968. My brother John’s son **Robert** was at Palmer’s from 1951 until 1956. (I have arrived at these figures from their years of birth; Peter was born in 1917 and his children in 1948 and 1952. Bob was born in the second year of the war, 1940.)

Miss Wren was our headmistress. Her initials were E. M. But for some reason she was always known as Fanny. Her sister, **Miss Kathleen** was Matron of the boarders. The right-hand building was the hostel, and the school took a limited number of boarders, I think children whose parents lived abroad for one reason or another. The lowest numbered forms were Forms 1 and 2, and these were all girls below the age of 11. I was in Form 3R and my

Form Teacher was Miss Davis. I think all old pupils of my age and possibly younger will remember Miss Davis, Miss Braimbridge and Miss Shorter. These three ladies lived in house along what we called The Top Road, and could be seen walking along the road to and from school. I remember quite a few of the teachers from that time. There was Miss James, a short, tubby lady who always played the piano for hymns at morning assembly; the two Miss Smiths - "Art" Smith and "Botany" Smith - always called "Botany Biff" - at least behind her back. She was a little lady who wore her dark hair in a large bun. Botany Biff stood no nonsense and was a strict disciplinarian. Of the younger teachers I remember Gwyneth Owen the P.E. Teacher who had fair hair and wore glasses. Best of all I remember Evelyn Hannabus, quite a little lady with dark hair. My handwriting had always been awful and sloped in all directions. Miss Hannabus set me the task of copying lines of her writing and I had to make sure that all my upright letters sloped in the right direction. And, of course, there was Mr Challis (I think he was Professor John Challis, but never used the Professor). Thanks to Mr Challis the standard of singing in the school was very high. French, German, Latin and latterly Spanish were taught in the school and each language class learnt a song to perform at Speech Day. I can still remember all my German and Latin songs, and also some of the French and Spanish although I didn't understand many of the words. Mr Challis was a strict teacher and expected one hundred percent attention from the class. On one occasion he actually sent one girl back to her classroom for trying to sit at the back of the class and do her homework instead of copying down some music from the blackboard. I can still hear his voice starting very quietly and rising to a crescendo. "My dear, I don't want to lose my temper but I think you'd better go back to your classroom before I do!" We had a good healthy respect for Mr Challis and also a great affection. On Speech Day he would start at the back of the hall and walk between the rows of assembled parents and then through the middle of the assembled school. We absolutely raised the roof for him, until eventually he tapped his baton on the music stand in front of him. Of all the things I have to thank Palmer's for, I think my love of singing comes first.

The school was divided up into three 'Houses'. "House" consisted of the boarders, "Town" of all the girls who lived in Grays and surrounding villages, and "Country" of the girls who came from farther out like Upminster. These were all called the "Train Girls" as they were allowed to leave five minutes early to catch the bus which connected with the Upminster train. I wonder if that little branch line is still open? It went through South Ockendon station. (Ed. - the line now includes a stop for Chafford Hundred and Lakeside.)

I can still remember the names of quite a few people in my class:- **Barbara Allen, Joyce Bird, Connie Carden, Ellen Claxton, Margaret Clements, Joan Cotton, Elsie Deats** - her family were dairymen, **Eileen England**, who

had red hair, **Helena Eeles, Joan Foley, Lily Galley, Betty Hawkes, Joan Hayes, Joan Hills, Joyce Mullins**, her parents kept a shop in Little Thurrock, **Frances (Grace) Poston**, who was my school friend., (her younger sister, **Hilary** and her two brothers, **Frank** and **John**, also went to Palmer's), **Sylvia Radford, Sissie Saunders, Pamela Rose, Ellen Walker**, who died fairly young, and **Esme White**, whose father was Headmaster of the old South Ockendon School. I wonder how many of us are still alive? Grace Poston died unexpectedly following an operation to replace her left shoulder joint. **Lilian Poston** is still alive and lives on the Isle of Wight!

And what have all the **Hills** family Old Palmerians done with their lives?

Brother **Peter** went straight from school to work for Lloyds Bank (Executor and Trustee). He had some prestigious clients, including the Aga Khan and his family.

Peter's daughter, **Mary**, married **Alan Higgs**. They have two daughters, one son and a total of eight grand children. Mary works as a school secretary.

I know very little of Mary's brother **David**. He has a son and two daughters , but his marriage ended in divorce. David is a talented photographer.

Bob (Robert John) had always wanted to be a farmer and went to Agricultural College, I think at Writtle. Unfortunately he had to come out of farming at the age of 40 because of severe arthritis. However, he was, as they used to say "good at figures" like his father, my brother John, who was an accountant, and Bob retrained as an accountant.

And me? (**Joan**) I became a medical secretary. I worked at one time at Thurrock Hospital but spent the last 9 years of my working life at Guys.

FRED GRAVES (1944 - 1949) wrote to say that he was born and raised in Stanford-le-hope and after leaving Palmer's worked at Shell Haven Refinery. He emigrated to Canada in 1956 and rejoined Shell in 1959, in Vancouver. He was in Sales and Marketing and travelled The North West Territories, Northern Alberta and Vancouver Island. He has many happy memories of Palmer's and his 35 years with Shell and is happily retired in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada.

PENNY WRIGHT (1958 - 1965) MRS ALEXANDER who wrote a delightful article for us last year from Australia, has written to say that she has found a way of sharing her favourite images with everyone and has been displaying them on all manner of products for sale in her online shop **Images**

from Manor Hill. Her website is www.twopencecoloured.wordpress.com and is well worth a browse. She also runs digital photography workshops.

HILDA SIMONDS (1950s) MRS DIXON lives in Canberra, Australia and still corresponds with Margaret and **Steve Foreman (1947 - 1952)**. She joined the Essex constabulary and was stationed at Romford before going to Northern Rhodesia where she joined their Police Force and was stationed in Livingstone where she was married.

RICHARD TALLBOYS (1942 - 1946) writes “I was the sixth member of my family to attend Palmers. My mother **Doris Gilbert** was there at the time that **Strang** was at the school (the girls only saw the boys at Church on Sunday, but used to pass notes to “Willy” Strang). My uncles **Hugh** and **Bernard Gilbert** were also there. Both my brothers:- **John** (now 90 and still driving!) and **Michael** (now 88 - who was Captain of the cricket team at some time) had good names for hard work and academic achievement - to the extent that I was able to coast through my first 3 years at Palmer’s on their reputation. By the time I got to the 5th form I was, I regret, becoming known as a bit of a ‘slacker’. My parents said I could go to sea, providing I got matriculation first. To my parents’ dismay and to the teachers’ surprise, I earned my matric exemption at 15 - thanks to the quality of the teaching rather than due to any special effort on my part. I have always given Palmer’s credit for getting me off to a good start. Going to sea taught me a great deal about the world, about the power of nature, and about hard work. I made up for the slacking at school by later reading little else but text books for 20 years!”

Richard and his wife were in the UK in 2010 and called on **Pam Bright**. He has also been in touch, in recent years, with **John Taylor** QC who sat in front of him in the Fifth form. Richard and his wife travel a great deal as they have had invitations to lecture on cruise ships for the past 15 years, often taking up 5 or 6 months in a year. It is a very nice retirement hobby, but they are finding the long flights increasingly tedious, so they are going to cut down the activity in 2011 and, as they are living in Tasmania, stay East of Suez.

They are working on plans to visit the UK in 2012 and take a last look around Grays.

PETER TRELOAR (1944 - 1951) writes:- “**Bill Bohm** asks in the September 2010 issue of the Old Palmerian if anybody remembers a Maths teacher called **Mr. Michael**, who incidentally was also known as “Coffee Pot” (the last syllable of his surname was “Kov” hence the “Coffee”) and as Bill says nobody could spell or pronounce his name. Yes not only do I remember him well but on joining the Royal Navy after leaving school I was given the choice

of learning Chinese or Russian. I chose Russian, which was a bit of a mistake as I have spent the last 28 years living in Hong Kong!

Any way, I duly attended my first lesson at the Joint Services Linguists School and who walked in as my first Tutor but Mr. Michael. He looked very hard at me and said “Treloar I remember you”. He then proceeded to teach me Russian for the next few months as adeptly as he had taught me Maths at school.”

MICHAEL COOPER (1945 - 1952) also answered Bill’s question as he remembered **Mr Olhovikov** (well it sounded like that) who was a “fearsome” little man who drummed the basics of mathematics into Mike and his class. Mike wondered also how many realised that the “**Eric Bomb**” mentioned at the bottom of page 21, last year, was Bill’s father.

Mike used to know **Bill Bohm** very well, sharing a flat with him for a year. Bill was an usher at his wedding (more than 48 years ago) and Mike was best man at his (about 47 years ago).

Mike was at Christ’s, Cambridge (1954 - 1957).

Unfortunately Michael died shortly after sending us this information and he is mentioned in the obituaries later on.

PEARL RANDALL (1951-1959) was Head Girl at Palmer’s in 1958 - 1959 and has lived in Canada since 1964. She would very much like to make contact with former friends on pearl_randall@yahoo.ca

JANE PEASE (1981 - 1982) MRS TYSON achieved the degree of Bachelor of Science Open and also Dip Comp (Open), Cert Comp & Maths (Open) and Cert Maths (Open) from the Open University in 2011 after seven years of study with a full time job, three children to bring up and music studies. Congratulations.

DANNY HAWKINS (2004 - 2006) graduated in 2011 with a 2.1 BSC with Honours degree.

DANNY NICKLEN (2005 - 2007) graduated in 2011 from the University of Essex with a BA Honours degree in Politics.

BERNICE WINSER (1948 - 1953) MRS GOUGH moved to a flat in Harrogate to be near her daughter in December 2010. She is only ten minutes drive away from her lovely grandchildren and it takes about twenty minutes to

visit them by bus. The bus stop is right outside Bernice's house and the Starbeck railway station is only a five minute, flat walk away. Bernice is also close to a library, lively Anglican and Methodist churches and a good mixture of shops, including Harrogate's best butcher.

The flat has two bedrooms on the ground floor and has a warden who pops in twice a week to deal with any enquiries. Her beloved cat Smudge went back to his roots as he started life in Harrogate. Cat sitting is less of a problem so Bernice is more mobile than before. Bernice says that if any of her friends fancy a trip to beautiful Harrogate she can easily accommodate a couple.

LORNA ROSEMARIE HEMPSTEAD (1960 – 1967) was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (an AM – The UK equivalent of the OBE) in this year's Queens Birthday Honours Awards. It was for service to the arts as an administrator in the fields of theatre and dance, and to the community through a range of heritage, tourism, aged care and educational institutions. The investiture ceremony was held in Cairns (North Queensland) on Friday 8th October, 2010 and was a proud moment in the lives of Lorna and her husband Martin Gibson.



Lorna, with Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of Queensland.



Martin and Lorna at the Investiture.

The submission in June 2008 gave a very detailed life history.

Lorna, who was born in Hornchurch, moved up from Brownies to the Girl Guides where she became a Queens Guide in March 1965 and received a Duke of Edinburgh Award. She went on to become a Guide Leader (Girl Guides Warrant issued 7/6/67) and excelled as a quartermaster organising many successful Guide Camps while still in her mid teens.

She achieved 9 ordinary and 5 advanced levels at the end of her time at Palmer's and was awarded a Scholar Instructor's Lifesaving Certificate to qualify as an instructor for the Royal Life Saving Society. She then went on to Manchester University, where she was an active member of the Student Union and obtained her B.A. degree with Honours in 1972.

Lorna started her professional life as a theatre technician. She was soon sought after in the Theatre and Arts industry and became a technical manager. She became a member of the Association of the British Theatre Technicians and served a term as president. She then started her own company offering related services to the theatre and TV industry.

She arrived in Australia on the 28th April 1984 and achieved Australian Citizenship on the 26th August 1987. Within weeks of arriving in Townsville,

and starting demanding full time work as General Manager for Dance North, Lorna was looking for ways to help in the community. First she joined the Townsville Volunteer Coastguard where she gained tickets in seamanship, radio communication and first aid. She did regular 12 hour, 4 weekly, Sunday & public holiday ‘watches’, on duty at the Coast Guard centre, and regularly was on call to man the patrol boat to attend to afterhours/night-time medical evacuations from Magnetic Island, and numerous boating emergencies. Lorna was on the executive and was responsible for organising two big successful fund raising ‘Boat Shows’ for money to buy a replacement 45ft patrol/rescue craft.

She then joined the Soroptimists, the business women’s service organisation; in 1988. She reluctantly had to give it up in 2007 as she felt she did not have the time to devote to the club although she still remains in communication and advises.

In 1986 Lorna sponsored her parents, aged 79, to immigrate to Australia. Her father died three years later and Lorna looked after her mother who suffered worsening dementia for many years. Her mother eventually was placed in the Good Shepherd Nursing home which for Lorna started a long association with the management of the home. Now Lorna is a long term serving member of the Good Shepherd Management Board.

In 1993 Lorna moved to live on Magnetic Island. In a matter of months she was a member of the predominantly Tourism oriented MICCA (Magnetic Island Community & Commerce Association) seeking ways to promote the Island’s flagging tourism industry. Very soon Lorna was the President and in an attempt to bring cohesion to the Island and to expand its outlook, the association was rebranded MICDA (Magnetic Island Community Development Association) with Lorna as President, the honorary position she still holds today.

In the position as President, Lorna has guided the association into an organisation that campaigns for Tourism, sustainability both lifestyle and environmental, and many social issues relating to the Island. Under Lorna’s presidency Magnetic Island has rightly regained its recognised status as World Heritage, and has set about campaigning for better planning for sustainability and the environment in accordance with this status. Many issues are discussed and campaigned for, at all levels of governance:- local, state and federal. The association has actively promoted many activities to help sustain the Islands tourist economy and maintain its World Heritage values

Lorna has always been a strong advocate for Women’s equality and rights – In March 1999 she was awarded a Queensland Government Certificate of

Excellence awarded on the 70th Anniversary of International Woman's Day "to congratulate you on your outstanding achievements".

Always active in trying to promote and the betterment of the arts industry Lorna served on the National Performing Arts Board (Federal Government) of the Australian Council for 9 years and, in June 94, received a commendation from the Arts Minister at the end of her term in office.

Lorna has actively served on the executive of Townsville Enterprise (a part of the Townsville City Council's business and tourism promotions organisation). She has been a long time member of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce and was given an award of distinction for honorary services to the chamber as Vice President '93 - '97. In April 1998 Lorna was awarded by the Australasian Community Association Services Sector – The Drucker Award which is for outstanding services to the non-profit industry.

Lorna has been an active member of the Townsville City Council's Sister City Committee, promoting Townsville to their sister cities and been a member of delegations to Japan and elsewhere.

In 2004 Lorna was awarded the Townsville City Council's Community Leadership Award, and in the same year was awarded by that Council, the Environmental Excellence and Sustainability Award for 'being a dedicated volunteer with a strong commitment to protecting Magnetic Island's world heritage values and unique environment'

In June 2006 Lorna became a Facilitator for the Queensland Government Community/Arts Networks.

Lorna was awarded the AIAM Nugget Award (regional category) in 2000 for the contribution and pursuit of excellence in the sector. Australian Institute of Arts Management (AIAM) is the peak national body representing arts managers in Australia. Then in 2001, the centenary year of Australian Federation, Lorna received a Commonwealth Centenary Medal for services to the Arts and Tourism.

Lorna is, and has been a long time serving and active member of James Cook University Governing Council. A member of various committee's and an attendee at graduation ceremonies and business meetings at various JCU campuses (Cairns, Mackay, Townsville etc)

For a full term of 6 years plus a special services extension of one year, Lorna sat on the board of Tourism Queensland. For a further 3 allowable years,

which came to an end in 2010, Lorna has been a judge on the Queensland Tourism Awards panel, travelling to areas of the state to assess, culminating in 2 x 4 day determinations held in Brisbane.

Lorna spends 99% of her spare time in campaigning for and promoting Magnetic Island and the many, not for profit, organisations with which she is associated. She works tirelessly, without fear, favour or recompense, in an honest forthright manner for people, the environmental and social issues. She has devoted a lifetime to helping others.

Lorna's older brother, John Robin Hempstead (deceased) was also a student at Palmers in the 50's and Lorna herself regularly keeps in contact with at least 4 or 5 friends from her school days.

We add our congratulations to this extremely active lady.

JANET MOORE (1955 - 1962) MRS FELLOWS wrote in December 2010. "I enjoyed reading the last edition of the Old Palmerian and particularly the article sent in by Penny Wright. I was quite friendly with her at school even though we were not in the same year. If my memory serves me right, she had relations in Barrow-in-Furness - not far from our Ulverston home. Barrow has a well known photographer called Anthony Wright who also does school photos so I was reminded of her when our granddaughter brought home her photos recently. I think he is one of her relatives. I don't know what's happened to our school year (1955 entry) as they rarely feature but I do have a yearly letter from Christine Adams who lives near Chelmsford. She sometimes meets Wendy Hawkins. My sister Sally was also a Palmerian and lives a few miles away from us. Since we retired a few years ago we have spent the winter months in New Zealand which we enjoy very much - and then return to the Lake District in spring. This year we have decided to stay and enjoy the festivities with our family and grandchildren and go after Christmas. I am ready for some sun!"

GEORGETTE KUTIK (1951 - 1957) MRS MILLER says " When I did my B.Ed., as a 'geriatric' with four young children(!), at the then King Alfred's College (now Winchester University), the bursar was **Jean Sawyer**, a former Palmerian!!! - I wonder if anyone remembers her? - a very fine lady too.

I have a '1066 and All That' programme and photo, as well as a class photo and an aerial photo in which we did a gymnastics display featuring the girls, myself included, forming the letters for 'Palmer's Girls School'".

ALAN REYNOLDS (1953 - 1961) has sent us the names of the First XI Soccer team which is in the back row of image 5 of 14 of Martin & Chris Bridge photographs on the Website. John Crates, Peter Jeavons, Alan Reynolds, Clive Collis, Maurice Dixson, Colin Taylor, Dick West, Malcolm Williamson, Paul Skinner, Glynn Jones, Rob Simpson.

YVONNE BRENNAN (1942 - 1948) was interested to see the Order of Ceremony for the opening of the Girls' School in 1934, as the name of her grandfather, A. Brennan Esq. J.P., appears on it.

She writes:- "In my first year at Palmer's we were told only one parent could attend Speech Day and I mentioned to another girl that my Granddad would be there. Miss Brown, our form mistress, told me that was not allowed and to tell him so! She was very surprised when I told her a few days later that he would be there, on the platform. Granddad was amused and duly took his place among the Governors!"

ROY HOWITT, who taught PE from 1954 to 1958 at the Boys' School, was 80 in September 2010 and a group of OPs held a lunch to celebrate with Roy.



Left to Right:- Peter Goodyear, Barry Newman, Brett Goodyear, David Mooring, John Nicholls, Neil Beaumont, Stephen Pinnock, Eddie Hunt, **Roy Howitt**, Michael Horne, and Trevor Bond.

Brian Kitchener has sent a photo of his father **Harry John Kitchener (1914 - 1917)** who was in the First XI Cricket Team circa 1915. Harry is second from the left seated on the chairs. Does anyone else recognise their father in the photo? Please let Ruth know via addresses given at the front.



TREVOR LAYZELL (1960 - 1967) has informed us that the person, in the photo added to **Brian Ross**'s folder on the website in December 2010 of a master at his desk, was **John Marshall**. John was an Old Boy and taught English and is best remembered for his productions of the School Play and the annual Gilbert and Sullivan operas. As we have lost touch with him, does anyone have the current address for John? Please let Ruth Hunwick know using the addresses at the front of the magazine

PAULINE FLETCHER (1957 - 1962) MRS FOX thinks that it is amazing where you meet Old Palmerians. She has met one at the school where she taught in Clough and now another at her Art Class in Wokingham, which prompted her to buy the 300th Anniversary book and DVD.

EDDIE HUNT (1954 - 1961) says that OPs will be interested in the British Pathe News website at www.britishpathe.com. Putting Grays in the search box gives lots of clips, although some are not to do with Grays. "Answer to Wage Bandits" shows Grays High Street.

PHYLLIS NISBET (1948- 1955) MRS PILGRIM

“The Hidden Passport”

Barbara Greig (1948 – 1953) Mrs Kirkcaldy writes:-

“In recent years I have been in contact with Phyllis, a contemporary of mine when I was at Palmer’s. She is currently working as a yoga instructor and fitness department manager at a Fitness Resort and Spa “Rancho la Puerta” in Tecate, Baja California, Mexico.

This is in stark contrast to Phyllis’ childhood, when, with her parents and younger brother, she was living on the island of Java. In March 1942, following the bombing of Pearl Harbour in December 1941, the Japanese arrived and her father and the men in the community were soon taken away in military trucks, leaving the rest of the families to endure four years of life in various Japanese concentration camps until the end of World War II.

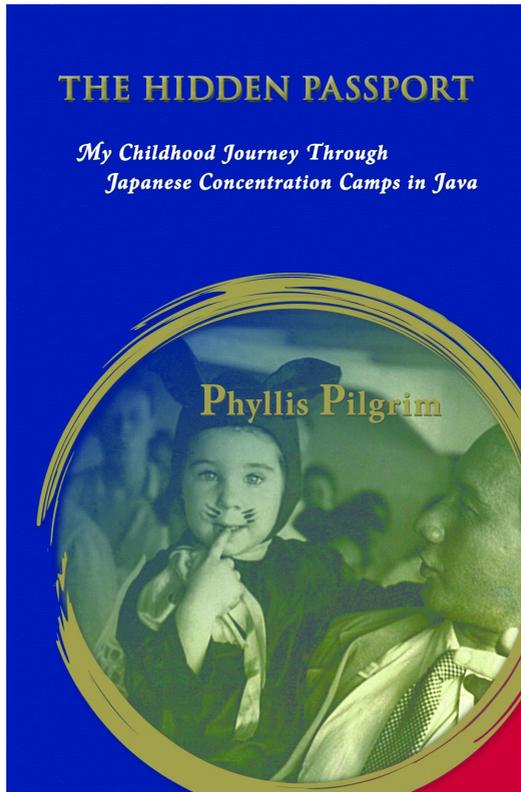
Phyllis has now written a book detailing her experiences during that time, and of the years both before and afterwards. Whilst at the various camps, her mother continued with the education of her children as best she could. She was obviously successful, as when they finally returned to England, Phyllis subsequently passed the Scholarship and arrived at Palmer’s in 1948, becoming Head Girl and then studying for a degree in Geography at University College, London University. Her brother, **Donald**, also became a pupil at Palmer’s Boys’ School.

I, and some others of our classmates from our Palmer’s days, have read this book. It is a difficult book to read at times, but nevertheless completely enthralling. Although we were in the same class together for my 5 years of attendance, most of us were completely unaware of the early part of Phyllis’ life. It is only now that I can marvel at what she and her family went through, and how they survived such an appalling sequence of events.

As I write (June 2011), Phyllis’ mother is 99 years old, living in Dumfries, and Phyllis will be coming to the UK to visit her later this year. I cannot think of two more remarkable women with such fascinating, distressing and eventually successful stories of survival to tell.

The book “***The Hidden Passport***” is available from Amazon and many bookshops in the UK, and Phyllis would be happy to hear from any Old Palmerians who might remember her or who would like to pass on comments about her book. She can be contacted at phyllis081@aol.com or via her web

page www.phyllispilgrim.com where you will be able to read an excerpt from the book and a short biography of the author. Buy it, read it – I guarantee you will not be disappointed.”



ALAN WINSER (1938 - 1942) has written about his evacuation from Palmer’s to Bungay:-

“On 3rd September 1939, evacuation of tens of thousands of children began. Margaret, my sister, nearly fifteen and a Guide Patrol Leader, wanted to remain with Mum and Dad to help with John 5 and Bernice 2½. She did not leave with the Palmer’s girls, but I was packed off to school bearing my gas mask and stipulated pillow case with draw string, containing clothes, sandwiches and a bottle of pop, and wearing school cap and blazer and my navy blue mac. About 60 of us assembled in the inner quad and a somewhat short-fused Bunny took command. Led by Mr Jolly and Mr Whittaker we were loaded into coaches, transported to Tilbury landing stage and embarked

on the MV Royal Daffodil, joining the Palmer's girls and hundreds of other children from Thurrock schools. We each wore a coded linen luggage label. Palmer's girls and boys were allocated a rather separate covered open deck.

We sailed out of the estuary and headed North for the fishing port and resort of Lowestoft. Many children were seasick. Over the Tannoy, we heard Mr Chamberlain announce the Declaration of War. At Lowestoft we were marched off to a cinema where we were given food and drink and a seat each for the night. Somehow the Palmer's girls and boys were extracted and taken to hotels on the seafront.

Next day we were coached down to Southwold, boys to the Dunwich Hotel, girls to an hotel on the Green. The girls remained at Southwold and the boys moved to Bungay after a few days. We liked Southwold - who wouldn't? - the hotel food was marvellous, and inter alia, we found the fish shop sold scallops - thick slices of cooked potato deep fried in batter, cheaper and more filling than fish. The beaches were being barricaded with triple rolls of Dannert barbed wire by soldiers. We saw a destroyer exploding depth charges a mile off shore in Sole Bay, scene of a battle against the Dutch Admiral Tromp in the 17th Century - we gained a free history lesson.

Two coach loads of boys were off-loaded outside Bungay Butter Cross. Local worthies, starting with the Town Reeve, took first pick. The Vicar was second and singled **Sid Metcalf** and me to live at St Mary's Vicarage nearby. Mum's lifelong friend **Mabel** née **Cletheroe**, with whom she was confirmed, lived at Diss and her husband Dan Jones collected Sidney and me and the whole carload of 7 enjoyed an outing to Great Yarmouth before the beach was fenced off. Thereafter, beaches were closed "for the Duration". Sid had recently lost his father and his mother had been distraught at parting with her only child aged 13. After 2 or 3 weeks, with no sign of mustard gas raining from the sky, Sid was recalled; I next met him in the Officers' Mess in Suez in 1947. He was replaced by **John Warren** who had been to Trimley with his siblings, then transferred for the start of term to Bungay Grammar School, even older than Palmer's. John (12) was not happy in the Barchester-like household into which I fitted very easily and he was reassigned to a family with children, leaving me as the only one.

The bachelor Vicar Rev Harper, Cambridge Rugger Blue and Boxing Half Blue and WW1 battle hardened Padre, was a Governor and like nothing better than joining in on the practice field. Miss Aldred the housekeeper in her 60s and Ella the maid (15), treated me as their own. I had a bit of a crush on Ella who always looked lovely and immaculate in her 'nippy' uniform to serve our meals.

Dad and Mum brought up my bike on a Harris's Coach day trip. New and exciting exploration followed in Norfolk and Suffolk, including Norwich, the Broads, Yarmouth, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Beccles, Diss and Southwold. I quickly made friends with local boys, especially Billy Minns who sang in St Mary's choir and Bob Bailey 13, the head choirboy. Bob together with others I knew including Head Boy "Scorchy" Simms were killed in the RAF. As each chorister place carried a valued stipend I had to sing in mufti in the vicarage pew. With my bike I ran several errand visits to a slightly porcine Mr Bedingfield, the pork butcher and Mr Bedwell the beef butcher for off-cuts for Miss Aldred's delicious pies.

Together with others, including fellow choirboy **Michael 'Kitten' Catton** (13), future doctor and senior RAF aeronautical medicine expert, we regularly visited the boatyard and bathing huts of one George Baldry at Ditchingham Mill on the Norfolk edge of Outney Common. He had a large workshop with strange mechanical devices he designed and constructed, hopefully to produce perpetual motion. Rider Haggard lived at Ditchingham House nearby and his daughter Liliias had come under his thrall as a youngster. Baldry told us he had written a book called 'The Rabbit Skin Cap', which we took with a large pinch of salt, but in fact Liliias had helped produce his life story, using a style of writing capturing his vernacular while being eminently readable. My father knew of the book which had been well reviewed in the Bookman and News Chronicle. We still have a copy which makes fascination reading about the poverty country folk endured in the 1870s and which made even the squalor of the city described by Booth seem attractive.

We boys hired Baldry's rowing boats and skiffs and explored up and down the Waveney and we swam in the Sandy, a deep clear pool near the confluence of the mill stream with the main current. On one occasion we were present when a drowned man's body was pulled from the river. "Por feller drownedd hisself". Another time while we were out rowing a boy threw a conker at a group of half a dozen swans gliding serenely along. The result was terrifying. They all took off and attacked in Vee formation, honking furiously and with necks stretched forward dive bombing us at just above head height. We never did that again!! Billy Minns caught a 6" perch near the eel trap with his rod and line. He presented it to me and Miss Aldred cooked it for Jerry the Huge Black squatter cat. If there were a class of Pitbull Cat, he would have qualified. Miss Aldred had a lapdog Pekinese Mollie, which could have been reclassified as a cat. She also had a long haired gray cat, Billy.

School was enjoyable and not over burdensome. Most of the local boys were sons of farmers and local bourgeoisie, not distinguished by the rat-race case-hardening of the Palmer's selected entry. Generally Palmerians took top

places in tests and those that stayed on helped produce unprecedented academic levels. My claim to fame was two 100% marks in the December exams which I never subsequently repeated. Mr Hewitt the headmaster caught me getting a cheap laugh by mimicking the PE master while doing old hat physical jerks. He caned me; Bunny remarkably never did. Two elderly ladies residing in a large house near Mettingham castle thought two evacuees would like to earn some money clearing a large plot of poppy wilderness. **Warren** and I spent several labouring Saturday hours to earn a few shillings. Mr Hewitt thought it improper for Public School boys to accept money from old ladies and induced us to part with our earnings for the School Fund from which evacuees were exempt. Many of the local boys did paper rounds or threaded snares at Gibson & Balls the Ironmongers for a penny a hundred. The farmers' sons had junior shot guns and shot rabbits.

The 'Phoney War' continued. Schools, including Palmer's were to reopen for Spring Term in January 1940. Michael Catton's mother arranged to bring me back home with him in time for Christmas. It was a great joy to be back with Marnie, John and Bernice and all our family, but I wouldn't have missed a minute of my sixteen weeks as an Evacuee!

JAMES PETTIGREW (1950 - 1955) has sent the following two articles:-

Ripples in a pond

For many years my wife and I have spent our holidays in the UK but at the end of this year we will be celebrating our Golden Wedding anniversary so we decided to treat ourselves to a summer holiday in Switzerland.

We had heard excellent reports from friends of "The Great Rail Journey Company" and after lengthy examination of their illustrated brochures we decided to book a ten day holiday which featured the "Glacier Express" in early June this year. We joined thirty eight other people at the Eurostar platform at King's Cross where we travelled to Brussels, changing trains there to arrive in Luxemburg for an overnight stay. We arrived in Brig, Switzerland, where we stayed for four nights.

The highlight of that part of the holiday was being driven over the Simplon Pass in a motor coach, only six passengers in a forty seater, to arrive after ninety minutes in the Italian town of Domodossola for lunch. Neither of us speak Italian and my wife does not eat tomatoes in any form - surely almost a crime in Italy! We found an excellent restaurant and despite the language deficiency and the fact that none of the restaurant staff spoke any English we ate an excellent meal, much aided by another diner, a local English resident

for twenty years, now practising the art of wood carving, but originally born and resident in Lancashire! The cost of lunch in Euros was very much less than the relatively high prices we had become used to in Switzerland.

Having avoided an inebriated handbag thief at the railway station we returned to Switzerland through the Simplon railway tunnel in about thirty five minutes.

The weather was excellent throughout our holiday and enabled us to enjoy a voyage by ferry from Spiez across the Thuner See to Interlaken calling at various picturesque landing stages. Interlaken is not what it used to be. When we enquired where Swiss people took lunch we were told that nowadays it is very difficult to find Swiss food in Interlaken but we were given excellent directions to a restaurant used by the local Swiss people. Should any readers enjoy leaping off a cliff and paragliding down to the valley Interlaken is definitely the place to go in the summer.

Later we moved on to Chur (pronounced 'Koor') in the east of Switzerland via the "Glacier Express". That part of the holiday took us to a delightful town called Poschiavo which was a cross between Port Merion and one of our famous Gilbert and Sullivan stage sets at Palmers.

At the end of our holiday we made our way up the Rhine Valley to Cologne from which we returned to the UK via Brussels and the Eurostar.

We were much impressed with Switzerland in which the trains ran on time and were clean and litter free, as were the streets. I developed a tremendous admiration for the Swiss road and railway engineers who have constructed some extraordinary viaducts, tunnels and bridges.

We saw no overweight children, nor were people constantly nattering away on mobile phones. Shop staff were very polite and often took the trouble to find an English speaking member of their staff to serve one. There is also a different philosophy for driving in that country, for there seems to be no 'dash and brake' as in the UK. We found that without exception when we, as pedestrians, approached a zebra crossing every approaching motorist drew calmly to a halt to allow us to cross at our own pace. Public toilets were free and spotlessly clean. I saw no potholes in any Swiss road during our holiday.

The reader must be wondering what on earth the foregoing account has to do with 'ripples in a pond' or this magazine - the tale continues:-

One evening at dinner I found myself seated next to a member of our party

and we began by talking about our days in the Scouts which led to where we had lived as boys and of course which schools we had attended. Much to our mutual surprise we found that each of us was an Old Palmerian! **Frank Holt**, my companion, had attended Palmer's from 1942-49, leaving just a year before I was thrown down the 'coal hole.' I was intrigued when he told me that during the war years he had to attend school on a part time basis only resuming the Monday to Friday 9am - 3.45pm (?) routine after the war. Frank used to live in Upminster and journeyed to school by steam train. One of our masters, **J R Scott** had played a role in both our lives and our chat over dinner brought back memories for both of us.



The photograph was taken outside the doorway of one of the churches in Poschiavo, I am on the left, Frank on the right.

We returned to our homes in the UK and Frank recently emailed me with the following account of yet another ‘ripple in the pond.’

Frank now lives in Wales and sings with a choir; J R Scott’s influence? That choir recently held a garden party at which several people enquired about Frank’s and his wife Val’s experiences on the “Glacier Express” holiday. Frank told them of our encounter. One of the choir members, **David Baggs** - a bass, was quite astonished for he had been to Palmer’s from 1948 onwards thus overlapping both Frank and myself. Frank’s brother attended the Liberty School in Gidea Park and recalled a swimming match between Liberty and Palmer’s at which a David Baggs won the diving. David was at one time Essex County Diving Champion and is now in the same choir as Frank.

So a chance conversation over dinner in Switzerland certainly began a series of ‘ripples in the pond.’

Axeman fell that tree!

I had hoped by now that I could have arranged a Spring lunch for Old Boys and Old Girls with their partners at the Royal Air Force Club in London. This year that has proved impossible, not, I hasten to add, due to lack of support or the inability of the Club to provide good food in excellent surroundings but rather to the return of a personal severe allergy.

On April 6th 2009 I attended a dinner in London and woke up next morning feeling decidedly groggy - not from over indulgence nor from food poisoning but a nasty persistent and violent cough. That cough was to continue for five months and to bring with it a series of lung function tests, a heart scan (“Do you want to watch dear?” - “No fear“, says I, terrified almost out of my life) and an MORI scan. The medical profession seemed to think that the eternal coughing had overstressed my heart, I did lose half a stone in weight, some traces of bronchitis were found but to me life was pretty miserable and for almost a whole year I was unable to enjoy life.

Last year passed without incident but on April 10th this year my cough began again. I was unable to sleep for three nights and then shot off to my GP. After a very thorough examination she announced that no bronchitis was present but I was obviously suffering in the ears, nose and throat area. Pills and steroids were prescribed to guard against a chest infection and I was asked to attend one week later. I was not too happy for I did not want to cancel our

holiday on the “Glacier Express” and I certainly did not want to go through another year like 2009.

I suspected that since my coughing had started almost at the same date as in 2009 then possibly pollen of some sort might be the cause of my coughing. “Google” provided the answer in seconds. Now everyone will have read that the prolonged warm weather early this year resulted in very large volumes of pollen being produced with the unusual situation of plants producing pollen much earlier this year than is to be expected. “Google” also added that silver birch trees produce increased volumes of pollen each alternate year!

Since 1967 a silver birch tree has grown from a sapling to a thirty foot high tree with the trunk measuring twelve inches in diameter some eight feet from my front door. This year it was absolutely laden with catkins and if one walked across our front lawn one’s shoes would be coated in a film of yellow pollen. That evening I ‘phoned our local tree surgeon who agreed to fell the tree and poison the root one evening during the following week. The felling took less than two hours, the trunk and most of the branches were sawn up for use by a neighbour as fuel in his wood burning boiler, three boughs went to a local man who makes wooden knife handles leaving the tree surgeon to clear a small amount of foliage and vacuum up the hundreds of fallen catkins from the lawn. My coughing stopped two days later.

My doctor saw me a few days later with mixed feelings. She was pleased that I was obviously much better and that her prescription had stopped any bronchial infection but unhappy because her own daughter was complaining of sore eyes, just as I had done some ten days previously, and that the cause might be two or three mature silver birch trees my doctor had recently purchased and had planted in her own garden!

I was surprised to find that one can develop an allergic reaction to almost anything at any age and that silver birch pollen can produce a severe reaction in some people.

We were able to go on our Swiss holiday in early June but I have not yet been able to arrange an Old Palmerians lunch at the Club.

Several OPs have expressed an interest in such an event and I hope to be in contact with them later in the year. Meanwhile please accept my apologies for being unable to arrange the Spring 2011 lunch. If anyone else is interested please contact me at jamesmpettigrew@btinternet.com

DAVID ELMORE (1938 - 1944) has sent us this article:-

HOLIDAYS

Plonk!

The postman pushed something through the letter box and it fell onto the hall floor with a thud. I knew immediately what it was - a brochure from a coach holiday company (of which more anon).

Before the war my parents took me to Clacton on holiday - year after year after year. I don't know whether the attraction was the beach (for me), the pubs (for my father) or the food in the lodgings (for my mother). Probably all three.

Came the war and I was evacuated (privately) to Teignmouth, a seaside town in South Devon. The next three years were delightful and a holiday wasn't necessary. But I was in the Scouts and each year we went camping on Dartmoor, an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable time.

At the end of the war I did a couple of years National Service, in Egypt. "Holidays" consisted of visits to the pyramids and trips to Cyprus. After that I got sent by the Bank I worked for to their branch in Tangier, which at the time was an International Zone. Holidays consisted of interesting visits to towns in French Morocco and Spanish Morocco.

The next few years I was home with my parents, and I can't for the life of me remember much about holidays. I expect they consisted of weeks at various resorts on the south coast, interspersed with camps with the Cubs and Scouts, with which I was actively involved.

1960 saw the holiday of a lifetime; a honeymoon in France and Spain. The following years my wife and I went on coach holidays all over Europe. Initially they were made all the more interesting by having to use French Francs, Spanish Pesetas, German Marks, Dutch Guilders, etc., but of course the Euro put a stop to that. Eventually the time came to write to the coach company asking them to stop sending their brochure to us because, due to 'advancing years', we could no longer go on such holidays. And that should have been the end of the matter. But wait a minute - the postman is pushing something through the letter box. Plonk!

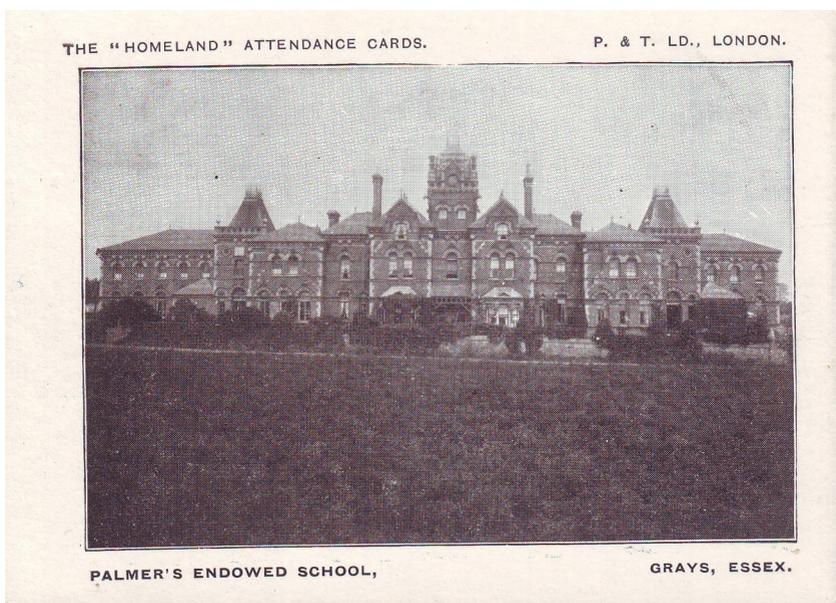
SUSAN HAMMOND (1956 - 1961) MRS FERNANDEZ saw **Marie Zak, (Mrs Peel)** at a Bata function in April 2011 - her husband, like Susan's, was

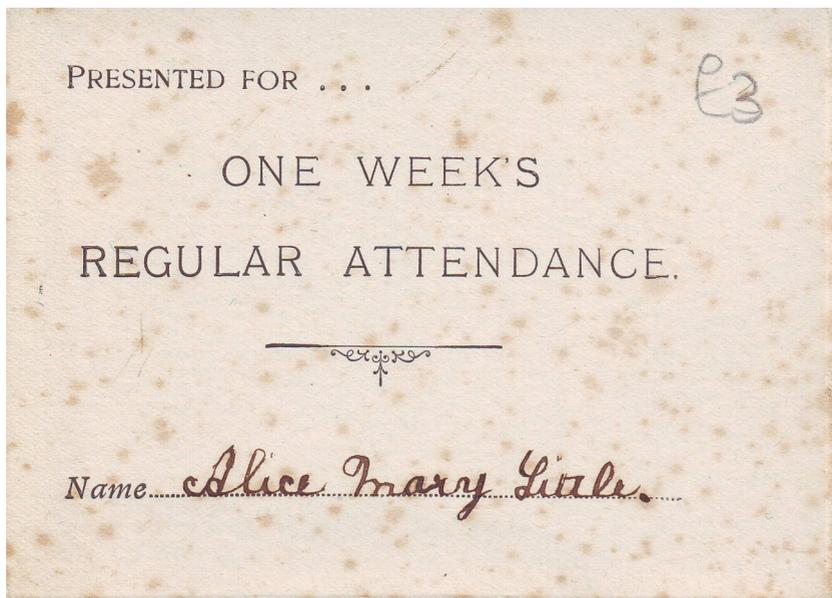
an ex Bata Technical College student and a reunion was arranged at the Bata Reminiscence and Resource Centre at East Tilbury. When Marie and Sue were both at Palmer's and living on the then Bata Estate, their houses were very close to each other.

In July 2011 Sue and her husband were in their house in Spain for the summer, busy entertaining their grandchildren aged 7 and 4! Busy!

PAULINE FLETCHER(1957 - 1962) MRS FOX left Palmer's with 4 'O' levels having discovered boys! She worked in an accountants before going to work for British Airways when she was 21 (the age requirement for BA). She stopped working when she had her children and then did 'O' and 'A' levels and went to university.

LEIGH AUSTIN (1970 - 1977) MRS EVERINGHAM has sent us a wonderful collection of postcards which we will be putting on the website. There is also this unusual Attendance Card for **Alice Mary Little**, which must be very old, because of the photo. We are now trying to trace when Alice was at Palmer's. Can anyone help? Maybe she was one of the Shoe Shop Littles? Please let Ruth Hunwick know.





RUTH ELMER (1951 - 1958)

FORM VL 1955 - 1956

Since our first reunion in 2000 at the millennium celebrations, organised by the Old Palmerians and which coincided with us all becoming Pensioners, we have managed to meet annually as we resolved to do then. As we come from all directions, we meet up in London and take over a corner of the outdoor cafeteria in Embankment Gardens (apart from 2006 when we participated in the 300th anniversary celebrations). This makes for a useful and informal background for hours of non-stop chatter, laughter, reminiscences and sustenance.

Then some bright spark reminded us that we would have all reached the three score and ten mark in 2010 and that we should celebrate this milestone accordingly. Thus it was that on September 8th 2010, appropriately suited and booted, we found ourselves taking tea at the Ritz! As the photo, taken after the event demonstrates, a delightful time was had by all, even though we had to mind our manners and keep our chatter to a subdued hum!



Back Row L to R Mary Wilson (Mrs Williams) - Newport, South Wales; Celia Cook (Mrs Crookes) - Ilminster, Somerset; Judith Priestly, Madrid, Spain; Dorothy Clear (Mrs Gee) - Wellingborough, Northants; Jean Brown (Mrs Knell) - Leamington Spa, Warwicks; Lois Perkins, (Mrs Warden) Godalming, Surrey.

Front Row Ruth Elmer, Grays, Essex; Sandra Wilson (Mrs Lodge) - West Mersea, Essex; Diane Davis (Mrs Moore) - Horndon on the Hill, Essex

DAVID GLADWIN (1947 - 1953) has recently joined the Association and having been sent some past magazines wrote:-

“Having read and digested the material sent to me I thought I would add a few notes of my own which seem to be diametrically opposed to those of most of your correspondents.

To those who claim and purport to feel that their school days were the happiest of their lives I would beg to disagree - at Palmers they were probably as good as one could get in the just post-war period but it was all relative. During the war our junior schools were bombed out twice; hobbies included collecting shrapnel but also from time to time we found empty desks of wartime casualties.

Palmer's teachers were under considerable strain - we had days with no heat

(no fuel due to the terrible winter) and pretty grotty meals and if I remember correctly - and I think I do - classes in 2nd and 3rd forms of between 35 and 40 boys. We had good teachers and those one could clash with rather than admire; **Jit Jesson** (Science) was one of the latter, while **Scotty** the music teacher once halved my marks in an exam for playing 'Battleships and Cruisers' when we were supposed to be learning some obscure musical theory but as it was only from 6% to 3% I don't think there was much relevance....but something must have stuck, as later I spent many an evening attending classical concerts at the Royal Albert Hall - only five bob (25p) each for me and the girl, **Cynthia**, also ex-Palmers. Later I was part of a skiffle group and as a tug-shantyman consortium we cut and sold a 12" LP (remember them?), while now I enjoy a mixture of dialect folk music and Wagner! Art was taught by a **Mr. Willmott** - think that is right - and all he wanted us to do was draw stupid pots and flowers whereas having an uncle who was an engineer and draughtsman in the Southern Railway I could and still can draw excellent engines and rolling stock. Nix the flower pots. I have a memory of a puzzle: mental arithmetic was an absolute doddle, but since my answers were always right why on earth did I have to waste time showing the method employed to get this answer? **Mr. Jordan** rather incredibly managed to get me to like Latin. He was also adept with the cane..... What happened to his daughter? We all ogled her from a distance.

However the two masters who had the greatest influence were **Frank Hughes** and one whose name I am mortified to admit I have forgotten (could it be **Mr Groves?**), but both taught English (Lit and Lang in those long dead days) and history and helped my rather dry brain-sponge to fill up, not only with facts and figures, but by showing us how to research projects and root out facts. "Always, boy, aim for the Highest Common Factor **not ever** the Lowest Common Denominator", said Mr. Hughes. The 'not ever' stuck all these years!! Probably as a result I have had 37 books commissioned and published in 50 years; the last a treatise entitled "A History of the British Steam Tram", running to seven volumes in all totalling roughly 1,230,000 words and swarming with illustrations, printed on heavy A4 paper and therefore weighing a bomb due to the classy production and binding. They also sell so take that look off your face, Jones Minor!

For the rest I took a short-service commission in the RAF whereas one of my contemporaries [?] **Harrison** joined the Army Education Corps having a whale of a time and gaining rapid promotion out in Libya! I then went all serious and was working very hard indeed when my wife died after only 3 years together. After that I had a year or two flying civilian, briefly married a senior air hostess, and then wandered off to fly anything anywhere that paid. All rather fun that bit. Came back, worked on the canals for a while, drove

and later operated coaches, but after rambling around accompanied by very long suffering wife Mk.III (ex classical pianist and good boat-girl!) settled down with British Rail, but was then redundant 4 times in 20 years. Quirkily I got offered a job as a two-days-a-week manager of a car parts store, meeting all sorts of owners of historic cars - my own at the time were a 2CV and a Daimler straight 8 of 1947. The land owners got greedy, doubled the rent, so that was that.

Unsurprisingly being neither Freemason nor a good politician I have never heard of, or met, another Palmerian since schooldays; but I can add one historical note. House prefects had some difference with their blazers and certainly a cap-tassel of the appropriate house colour, whereas school prefects had a silver tassel. The difference was either in the piping of the blazer or the badge - as a sprog I remember looking up at this august figure towering above me and noting this difference!!!

Sometime I must get back to my home (insofar as I ever had one) in Upminster for the first time in 56 years....at least I know the street is still there, but a nearly 5 hour journey each way requires some courage in my old age.....”

JANE FURNELL (1961 – 1968) MRS CLAY preached at our Founder’s Day Service in 2010.



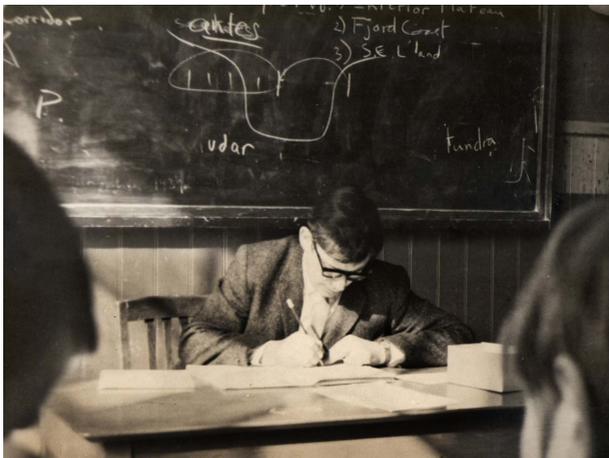
(Photo by Brett Goodyear)

She writes:- “I was born in the East End in 1950 and was brought up very happily in Dagenham. I became a Christian when I was a young child - my parents were not church goers.

I went to Palmer's in Sept 1961 and so was one of the last intake to know Miss Leworthy as head mistress; she retired at the end of our first year. After school I went to Sheffield to train to be a schoolteacher and then taught English and RE in comprehensive schools in Barnsley and Wakefield. Having taken a career break when I became pregnant I resumed work by becoming a lay chaplain (a job I shared with my husband) at a Christian conference centre in the Yorkshire Dales. From there we both went to Cambridge to train for Anglican Ministry. After various parish jobs I ended up working one day a week at HMP Wakefield and then became a full time prison chaplain in HMP New Hall, a women's prison in West Yorkshire. Having done that a number of years I am now also a Regional Chaplain for the National Offender Management Service in Yorkshire and Humberside. This job involves having some oversight of the Multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams in prisons.”

Canon EJ Clay MBE
Coordinating Chaplain HMP & YOI New Hall
Regional Chaplain HMPS Yorkshire and Humberside.
Tel 01 924 803531

BRIAN ROSS (1961 – 1967) has sent us two more photos taken while at school and one taken on a recent reunion (number 3) in the Oxford area which is the most central place for a day out.



John Marshall (1949 - 1957) who taught English 1962 - 1968.



Tony Marsh looking out the window at Mr Smetham and probably a gardener.



Reunion 3 Steve James, Pete Oldham, Brian Mitchell, Chris Jones and Brian Ross.

HELP REQUIRED

An Old Palmerian, **NEIL BEAUMONT (1961 - 1968)** is researching the Old Palmerians who died in the First and Second World Wars. The aim is to produce a volume on each to honour their memory. He would be extremely grateful to receive any information, photographs, documents or memories concerning those who fell and any items would be handled and returned with the utmost care.

Neil can be contacted on 07941 663283 or Ruth Hunwick can be contacted at Palmer's College by e-mail RHunwick@Palmers.ac.uk

We have had an enquiry concerning **Robert James Bain Roach** who was at Palmer's from **1936 to 1938**. He was national junior champion at 100 yards in 1938 and took part in the European Championships of 1946. Has anyone any further information about him? We would very much like to hear from you. Please contact **Ruth Hunwick** on RHunwick@Palmers.ac.uk

This is what we have so far, but not much on his time at Palmer's.

Three British internationals of note by David Phillips, trackstats – ROBERT ROACH

His fastest 100 yards in 1938, his fastest 100 metres 11 years later!

The Great Britain team which made the North Sea crossing to Norway for the 1946 European Championships was a mixed bunch. Some were veterans who had already established themselves in the pre-war years and were now enjoying a new lease of athletic life, and most prominent among these was Sydney Wooderson, who won the 5000 metres. Others were of the youthful post-war generation, including Alan Paterson, who would be the bronze-medallist in the high jump and the champion four years later. A third group was made up of a few who had showed promise before the war and were belatedly picking up the pieces of their athletic life, at least for a year or so, and among these were the four sprinters.

The best of them was Jack Archer, of Notts AC and the RAF, who had placed 2nd in the 1939 AAA junior 100 yards and on his return to competition seven years later would win the European 100 metres as a model of consistency with identical 10.6 clockings for his heat, semi-final and final. The others were Tommy Jover (Herne Hill Harriers), Bert Liffen (South London Harriers) and **Robert Roach** (Polytechnic Harriers), and of these Roach had the best credentials, having won the AAA Junior 100 yards back in 1938. It must be

said that his performances at the Oslo European Championships were of no great distinction – last in his 200 metres heat and a member of the team which was an unimposing 5th in the 4 x 100 metres – but he has a curious claim to recognition, and what may be a unique one, in that his fastest 100 yards of 10.1 was set in winning that AAA junior title and his fastest 100 metres of 10.7 came 11 years later in 1949!

Robert James Bain Roach had been born in Shanghai on 25 October 1919 and first came to notice as a sprinter when he beat a prodigious youngster, John Lockwood, in an invitation junior 100 yards held in conjunction with the second day of the Inter-Counties' Championships at the White City on 6 June 1938. Lockwood had won the AAA Junior 220 the previous year by a margin of six yards, and Roach's achievement was sufficiently impressive to be remarked upon by the athletics correspondent of "The Times". At the AAA Junior Championships on 9 July, again at the White City, Roach won by two yards in 10.1 from Cyril Holland, of Short's AC, who took the 220 and had also been 2nd in the previous year's 100 as a member of the City of Rochester club. "The Times" said that Roach had "proved himself a remarkably strong sprinter".

1945 which partly opened the way for Roach to gain his international place the next year. The other salient reason was that the Trinidad-born Emmanuel McDonald Bailey, who was serving in the RAF in Britain and was much the best sprinter in Europe, was ludicrously declared ineligible for the European Championships even though he was an established British international. At the AAA Championships McDonald Bailey had beaten Archer by two yards at both 100 and 220 yards, with Liffen 3rd in each.

Roach, who won his heat in 10.2, and Tommy Jover also reached the 100 yards final and so merited their places in the relay team, but Roach's selection at 200 metres remains a mystery. He had shown no form of any note at the event and Liffen and Paul Vallé, of Enfield AC, were far better qualified. For the medley relay in a match against France at the White City before the team departed for Oslo, the 220 stages were run by Liffen and Vallé, and maybe it was simply a matter of economics regarding the European Championships selections that Roach, who was going to Oslo anyway for the relay, was also put in the 200 to make up the numbers. His time of 23.1 in his heat must rank as the least auspicious performance at the distance by any Briton at a major Games at least since 1908. In the relay the British quartet finished 0.9sec behind the winners, Sweden.

In a subsequent meeting in Bergen on 27-28 August Roach was very modestly 3rd at 100 metres in 11.4 behind Liffen, 11.1, and Jover, 11.3, and was 4th at

200 metres in 22.9, half-a-second down on a Dutchman, Gabe Scholten, who had also been eliminated in the heats in Oslo. The next year Roach had a minor victory in the Wiltshire 100 yards at Salisbury in 10.2, and in 1948 as a Flight-Lieutenant he won the RAF titles in 10.4 and 22.7, which rather paled into insignificance in comparison with McDonald Bailey's meeting records of 9.7 and 21.8 set in the immediately preceding years.

At the RAF Championships of 1949 Roach lost his 100 yards title to an otherwise unknown Aircraftsman Morgan, who ran 10.1, and was 3rd at 220 yards to Sergeant Les Laing (22.5). Nothing of greater note was registered for Roach, and so his 10.7 for 100 metres set in a heat of the Inter-Allies' Championships in Bordeaux on 3 September came very much as a bolt from the blue – well, he *was* in the RAF. The final of that event was won in 10.5 by Laing, Roach's air force team-mate, who was an established athlete of the finest class, having reached the 1948 Olympic 200 metres final for Jamaica, and who would eventually be a 4 x 400 metres relay gold-medallist at the Games of 1952. It may be that Roach ran another meritorious time behind Laing in the final, but the full results of the meeting are not known.

Did Robert Roach have his day of days in Bordeaux? It is not at all beyond the bounds of probability because it was an oft repeated experience for British sprinters to find unexpected extra yards of speed on a rare overseas adventure in that era when the conditions under which they ran on home ground were so often to their great disadvantage.

Roach was in the thick of things as a Spitfire pilot during the Battle of Britain in 1940. Promoted from Acting Pilot Officer to Pilot Officer in December 1939 he shared in the shooting-down of a German aircraft off Dunkirk on 15 August, claimed another "kill" on 7 September, and then four days later was forced to bale out over Billericay, in Essex, after being hit by enemy fire. He rose to the rank of Squadron-Leader and after his retirement took up a post as a golf-club secretary. He died in Newquay, in Cornwall, on 11 September 1994.

Trevor Smithson (1970 – 1977) e-mailed to say that Pilot Officer Robert James Bain Roach flew Spitfires during the Battle of Britain with 266 "Rhodesia" squadron. The squadron was based at RAF Hornchurch 14-21 August 1940, but was almost wiped out. Trevor also sent the following from "Men of the Battle of Britain" by Kenneth G. Wynn which is a standard reference work giving biographical details of all the aircrew involved.

ROBERT JAMES BAIN ROACH
42263 PO Pilot British 266 Squadron

Born on October 25 1919, Roach joined the RAF on a short service commission in March 1939 and was with 266 Squadron at Wittering in early July 1940.

He shared in destroying a He (Heinkel) 115 floatplane on August 15 and shared a Do (Dornier) 17 on September 7. After being hit by return fire from a He (Heinkel) 111 on the 11 th Roach baled out over Billericay from Spitfire N 3244, unhurt.

He retired from the RAF on October 25 1965, as a Flight Lieutenant, retaining the rank of Squadron Leader.

APO 1.5.39 PO 9.3.40 FO 9.3.41 FL 9.3.42 FL 1.9.45

Ray Williams (1956 - 1964) also e-mailed to say that James Roach was the 1938 AAA Junior Champion for the 100 yards at 10.1 seconds and was a WWII fighter pilot.

Ray would like very much to reconstruct the Palmer's School athletics records from the old athletics sports programmes. Has anyone kept their School Athletics Programmes? If so please let Ruth Hunwick know (addresses at front of magazine) and we can arrange for them to be scanned. John feels that **Gordon Dimmock**, **David Staines**, **Jim Havard**, **John Chesher**, **Roger Peek**, and **George Tarrant** may be able to help. Does anyone have contact details for these? Please let Ruth know.

Can anyone help us find the whereabouts of **Frances Pateman** and **Michael Mortimer** who were at Palmer's in the 1960s. Please contact **Ruth Hunwick** on RHunwick@Palmers.ac.uk

IAN REEVES (1949 - 1955) would like to know if anyone has photos of any of the soccer teams during the years 1949 - 1955. If anyone can help, please contact **Ruth Hunwick** on RHunwick@Palmers.ac.uk

We have had an enquiry concerning **CHARLES JOHN FRENCH KYDD (1926 - 1929)**

Google gives:-

OBITUARY - FALLEN OFFICERS - ROYAL AIR FORCE

SQUADRON LEADER CHARLES JOHN FRENCH KYDD, D.S.O., D.F.C., was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Kydd, of Upminster, and was 25 years of age when he died of injuries on 23 June 1941. He was born at Longford, Ireland, and educated at Palmer's School, Grays, Essex. Entering the R.A.F. as a pupil pilot he was granted a short service commission as acting pilot officer on January 20, 1936, and after training he served in the Bomber Command from August, 1936. Two years later he was promoted to flying

officer, and as such he was awarded the D.F.C. on June 1, 1940. In September he gained the D.S.O. after he had attacked, from a low altitude, the ship lift on the canal at Magdeburg. A few nights earlier he had taken a leading part in an attack on the Leuna oil works. "Since the outbreak of war," said the official record, "he has done outstandingly good work, proving himself to be a fine leader and a skilled and resolute captain of aircraft."

He lost his life after the Manchester 1 L7310,EM.H, he was flying in, on air test, on 21 June 1941, crashed at Dunstan Pillar, close to Waddington after an engine failure.

Has anyone got any further information or pictures of him? Was there a write up about him in the school magazine when he died? Please let **Ruth Hunwick** know.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:-

RINA DUTTA (1992 - 1994) and her husband, Nicholas Reynolds, who have a son, Arun Dutta Reynolds, born on 3rd March 2011.



WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:-

MARIA JONES (1982 - 1985) who was married in 2010 and is now **Mrs Landry**.

OBITUARIES

We are very sorry to have to report the deaths of the following Old Palmerians, and we extend our sympathy to their families:

AGNES MURPHY (MRS HERSON)	1924 - 1930		1996
ANTHONY MARSHALL WHINCUP	1934 - 1937	October	1997
COLIN ENEVER	1958 - 1964		2008
NICHOLAS CHARLES STRUTT	1957 - 1965	September	2009
ROBERT ARTHUR GREEN	1935 - 1938		2010
EDWARD A HENDERSON	1939 -1944		2010
PAULA GOSNALL			
	(MRS HOCKLEY)	01 February	2010
PETER HARLEY WRIGHT	1942 - 1948	20 June	2010
DONALD UPTON	1933 - 1938	02 September	2010
JOAN TOKELEY	1928 - 1938	09 August	2010
CHRISTINE KNIGHTS			
	(MRS SAXTON)	17 September	2010
RUTH KNOPP			
	(MRS COLLINGWOOD)	28 October	2010
NANCY HITCHCOCK			
	(MRS GILBERT)	02 December	2010
SYVIA WHISSON (MRS MURKIN)	1943 - 1948	21 December	2010
SALLY CASSANET	1957 - 1964	27 December	2010
ARTHUR CLARKE	Governor	February	2011
MAUREEN LENNON			
	(MRS ETHERTON)	11 March	2011
LORNA BOND (MRS CLAXTON)	1938 - 1945	30 March	2011
PAULINE CARTER			
	(MRS ATTERTON)	20 April	2011
ARTHUR HERBERT VINCENT	1940 - 1946	14 May	2011
MICHAEL ROBERT BURTON	1948 - 1955	25 May	2011
MICHAEL JOHN COOPER	1945 - 1952	28 May	2011
HILARY JAMES (MRS WELCH)	1959 - 1966	28 June	2011
BRYAN SYDNEY COKER	1936 - 1941	10 July	2011

ALAN JOHN MURRAY

(Noted in 2010 Magazine)

Alan was born on 25 August 1933, went to Palmer's from 1944 to 1950 and died in June 2009 at the age of seventy five.

The photo shows Alan and his wife Margaret outside Kafi House.



Alan was a Master Baker for 45 years, first at Marks & Murray in Grays, then at F. R. Murray & Son at Upminster, then at King Street Bakery in Stanford Le Hope, and then a brief sojourn in Hong Kong as a favour for a fellow Chinese Student who was with him at the National Bakery School in London in 1954. In Hong Kong Alan taught and trained Chinese bakers the skills to bake goods for Marks and Spencer, who had new shops there and now also in China's mainland. He also taught Bakery at the Dagenham Tec. Then later, when they moved to South Elmham, Suffolk, to Kafi House, which was built about 1495, he was a baker at 'Wrens' in Harleston, Norfolk.

In retirement he and his wife Margaret worked for S.S.A.F.A. (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association) and the British Legion for four years.

Margaret (née McIntyre) lived in Connaught Avenue, Grays, as a child and went to the Convent in 1945. She later taught there, then at Torrells Secondary School, then at The Bell School in Upminster and then at City College, Norwich. She and Alan had four children and five grandchildren, having been together for 60 years. They had celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at Swiss Lodore Falls Hotel, Derwent Water, in the Lake District in 2007.

They had kept in contact with **Beryl Saxton**, **Peter Dines**, and **David Parish**.

Margaret has now moved to Harleston.

ERNIE COX

In November 2010 Trevor Draper, owner of the Billericay Cookshop, presented the plaque which he had donated, commemorating the life of Rotarian Ernie Cox, to the winner of the local heat of the Young Chef competition. In the past Ernie was responsible for organising this competition as well as the Youth Speaks Competition.

COLIN ENEVER

Colin sadly died of cancer three years ago.

NICHOLAS CHARLES STRUTT

1946 - 2009



Born on 8th October 1946 in Upminster where he attended the Bell Primary School before entering Palmer's in 1957 as a Marlborough boy. My brother was never a sportsman but perhaps not a true academic either, he still did well

in 'O' and 'A' level exams and went to Leeds University to study agricultural chemistry. His favourite teacher was undoubtedly **Dai Davies** but he also had a lot of respect for **George Ross**, **'Tough' Hendry**, **John Sach** and, somewhat perversely, **Fred Jordan**. Visits to Fred's office were numerous but unfortunately, as Nick got into quite a few scrapes at school, they were to receive 'cuts' rather than praise. This did not prevent him from holding Fred in very high regard. Close friends or, perhaps, partners in crime, were **John Dobson**, **Ian 'Jock' White** and **Steve Warrington**. His love of music first started in his teenage years and he was a keen member of the Jazz Society pronouncing himself 'the only known member of the Jelly Roll Morton Fan Club'. He was given a banjo at this time by one of his aunts when visiting them in Middlesex and, on the return journey, he quickly mastered his first song 'When the saints go marching in'. He became proficient quickly at the banjo but at the same time his musical interests were turning towards folk music and he attended and performed regularly at local folk clubs in Romford and Hornchurch before joining up on a more regular basis with Upminster based banjo player Janet Kerr and established folk singer Les Western. By this time Nick was playing guitar as well and he went on to master the dobro, bass and, perhaps his forte, the mandolin.

It was while at University (1965 – 1970) that Nick's musical career really began to take shape establishing a successful partnership with local musician Roger Knowles. He still managed to complete his studies and obtain his degree but, as was usual with Nick, not without the odd scrape. In fact, on one occasion he was only saved from expulsion from university by the efforts of the Student Union rep., one Jack Straw. By this time two things had emerged as constants in his life. Firstly, his love of Leeds and it's people (he was to live there for over 30 years), and secondly, his love of music and performing which became the dominant factor in his life.

During 1966 – 1969 Nick and Roger featured regularly on various radio broadcasts including The BBC'S Country meets Folk compared by Wally Whyton, where they sometimes played with Brian Golbey and Pete Stanley, an established and highly regarded country music act. Nick's musical passion was now firmly entrenched in American Old Time and Bluegrass and he was also becoming widely recognised as an accomplished mandolin player, one of his heroes being the father of Bluegrass and doyen of the mandolin, Bill Monroe.

Strutt and Knowles appeared, albeit fleetingly, on television in Hughie Green's Opportunity Knocks and, more significantly, they were a support act for the UK tour of the legendary Hank Snow and Willie Nelson, playing at both the prestigious Liverpool Empire and London Palladium. Being the

younger brother I can remember seeing the Palladium performance and being equally impressed by the fact that Ringo Starr, a big fan of Hank Snow, was in the audience. My brother performing in front of a Beatle!

The Strutt – Knowles duo expanded into the trio Natchez Trace with the addition of ex – Palmerian **Richie Bull** who played banjo and bass and later enjoyed some chart success with the Kursaal Flyers. Two albums were recorded, part produced by Nick, the first ‘From Natchez to Nashville’ recorded at Joe Brown’s home studio in 1971 and the second, ‘Last Time Together’ in 1972. There was even a compilation album somewhat dramatically entitled ‘The Best of the Immortal Natchez Trace’!

The band split at this time and Nick flirted briefly with the folk rock scene joining Bob and Carole Pegg in the band Mr. Fox and then going on to record two albums as a duo with Bob, the self titled Bob Pegg and Nick Strutt and then the highly acclaimed The Shipbuilder, both in 1972. In the late 70’s he worked in production and played as a session musician for the now defunct Look label. Here he worked with many artists, especially Mel Hague, but also produced albums for folk singer Alex Campbell and country star Tommy Collins. In the early 80’s he turned more to old – time music again and often worked with Brian Golbey recording Last Train South in 1983. During the mid – 80’s, having now married and with 3 children, he played part-time with various units including a swing quartet, but returned full-time in 1990. He began teaching guitar, mandolin and bass and appeared regularly with Mel Hague’s band. He also played old-time music at regular venues with banjoist Tim Howard of the Muldoon Brothers. In 1994 he began working with a trio called Finnegan’s Wake. A particular love of Nick’s was organising and contributing to jam sessions, notably at the Grove pub in Leeds, in which he displayed his collaborative and inventive musical talents.

Nick’s musical success never brought financial reward and the additional pressures of touring and a musician’s lifestyle led to his divorce in 1996 and he left his beloved Leeds moving eventually to Hemsby in Norfolk where he reunited with an old friend and musician Hugo McGill. Together with a young protégé, fiddler Joe Wright, they played in pubs and clubs as Old Heads and Nick also continued teaching local musicians as he had done in Leeds.

Since the 1960’s Nick had been at the heart of the British country and folk music scenes and it’s various offshoots. He was held in such high esteem by his fellow musicians that his attributes as a person, mastery of a variety of instruments and his deep knowledge of music enabled him to combine successfully with so many of them in a variety of musical genres. His stature in country music was recognised by his inclusion in the Virgin Encyclopaedia

of Country Music in which he was one of the few British artists amongst the elite of American Country legends.

Nick added to, and upheld, Palmer's fine tradition of producing outstanding musical talent and did so over five decades. His health had deteriorated since his move to Hemsby and he died of liver failure in September 2009. His funeral, held in Leeds, reflected his life and times perfectly. Over 300 people attended including ex Palmerians Steve Warrington, Dick Wilcox and Richie Bull and musical partners Roger Knowles, Brian Golbey and Bob Pegg. Many other friends from university, musicians and family travelled from as far afield as Scotland, Bristol, Norfolk and Essex and a very appropriate musical wake was held at the Grove pub afterwards.

Nick had lived his life to the full doing what he loved and made many friends not just through his musical ability but through his wit, enthusiasm and flamboyant personality. He leaves his ex-wife Sue and children Wesley, Bradley and Holly. Also his brother Paul Strutt, Palmer's 1960 – 1967.

PAULA GOSNALL (MRS HOCKLEY)

Jean Planton (1945 - 1950) Mrs Catton wrote:- "It is with great sadness that early last year we heard of the death of Paula Gosnall (Mrs Hockley). Paula had been suffering from motor-neurone disease and died on 1st February 2010. She attended Palmer's Girls School between 1944 and 1950 and those of us who have kept in contact since then have missed seeing Paula at our annual gatherings for a few year.

Paula and her husband Peter lived in Fleet, they had a son and daughter and four grandchildren.

PETER HARLEY WRIGHT

Peter passed away quickly and with great dignity having suffered a heart attack at home in Henleaze, Bristol on the 20th June 2010. He had been to church, St Peter's Henleaze, with his wife Betty that Sunday morning as usual, taking his place in the choir. The anthem sung was "O For a Closer Walk with God" by C V Stanford and he took his last communion. On the way home they popped into Costa for a coffee, then Betty prepared lunch and as Peter finished his glass of wine, he collapsed. He leaves his wife Betty and his four children, Alison, Heather, David and Margaret, and their families.

Peter loved his school days at Palmer's especially his sport, with many achievements at cricket, football and hockey and of course, the Gilbert and Sullivan productions. At his funeral, his school cap, cricket bat and pads were placed next to his coffin. He was delighted that his daughters **Alison (1969 - 1976)** and **Heather (1978 - 1980)** followed him to Palmer's.

Here is the tribute that Peter's son, David Peter Frederick Wright, gave at the funeral.

"For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, He writes - not that you won or lost - but how you played the Game."

For me this quote says so much about the way Dad lived his life. He was a gentleman in both senses of the word. He loved life, and loved people, who in return loved him. Dad's life story is a story of love; the people he loved, the pastimes he loved, and of course his love of God. Add to that the folks who loved him, just look around you today, then yes I am sure Dad was a man of love in all its forms. It has been a very humbling experience over the last 10 days to read the numerous cards and letters from friends old and new, saying the things that I guess we all wish we could have said to him in person. It is clear that Dad was loved and admired by so many and I hope that this tribute goes some way to doing him justice.

While going through his papers recently we came across a letter that Dad wrote some years ago, requesting that his funeral be as happy as possible. So as a son who always did as his father told him, without fail.... here is a story that I hope you will enjoy.

Now this may come as a surprise to some of you, but one of Dads great loves was singing. I am sure we have all some fantastic memories of him singing, either here at St Peters, or at any one of numerous cathedrals, churches and halls. I know that many of us also have memories of Dad singing when we least expected it: just walking down the Henleaze Rd to buy a newspaper, or on a bowls green on a summer's afternoon. Dad loved singing, and was always humming or whistling a random hymn or anthem, and even Christmas carols in July. He and I were at Lords Cricket Ground some years ago and during a typical break for rain we were amusing ourselves trying to do the crossword. All of a sudden the chap sitting next to Dad, a complete stranger, piped up and said, "Excuse me but do you mind if I ask what is was you were humming?" Dad looked at him in surprise and said "Sorry brother, I am afraid I have no idea. I didn't realise I was disturbing you". "Oh no" came the reply "It's one of my favourites. I have been trying to find out what it was for ages. I was hoping you would tell me". There then followed the most bizarre few

minutes when we all tried to find out what it was, with Dad running through his repertoire of hymns ancient and modern, anthems, and arias, all to no avail. But Dad had managed to combine music with another of his loves, cricket.

Peter Harley Wright was born on 21st July 1931 in Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, the younger of two boys. His father sadly died when Dad was only 8, so he was raised predominantly by his mother, a wonderful lady who lived into her 80s. She introduced Dad and his big brother Godfrey, who I am sure a lot of you remember, to many things and despite being a single parent during the war, she managed to give them both a fantastic start in life. This included the local church and Peter joined the choir of St Margaret's church on Good Friday 1939, following in his father's footsteps, and he continued singing in church choirs until literally, the day he died.

The choir when he was a lad contained only boys and men, and here Dad learnt the tricks of the trade, and not just musically. The boys all learnt sign language so they could chat to each other across the aisle, during the boring sermons. The trick was not getting caught by the rector or choir master and Dad soon perfected that innocent look that stood him in such good stead for the rest of his life. The friendships he made then lasted a lifetime and it is wonderful to see one of Peter's oldest friends here today, who still sings in St Margaret's Choir over 70 years later.

Dad's other great love was sport and this too started when he was a boy. His main love was cricket and he and Goff spent many hours on the park pretending to be their heroes of the day. They joined Stanford Cricket club and under various tutors both came to be players of the highest amateur standard. Dad the elegant batsman and canny leg spin bowler; Goff a lethal seam and spin bowler and a batsman who used his great height and weight to thump the ball many a mile. The local paper would often have the headline "Wright brothers win it for Stanford", telling tales of the pair rescuing their team from certain failure, with one of them scoring the runs and the other bowling them out. They were both made life members of Stanford Cricket Club for their service of nearly 40 yrs.

After passing his 11plus Dad attended the local grammar school, and he represented the school at cricket and football, where he played as goalkeeper. He played his sport competitively but was always the gentleman, apart from one occasion when much to his surprise he was sent off the field for shouting at his defenders. Dad took great delight in telling us this when watching football on the TV and berating the modern behaviour.

After school he harboured dreams of becoming a teacher but in the end opted for a career in the City. In Aug 1948 he got his first job, working for the

London Assurance company as a junior clerk earning the princely sum of £75 a year.

A little over a year later Dad was called up for National Service and did 2 years in the RAF. He was a Stores Clerk but continued with sport to alleviate the boredom. It was when posted to RAF Sandwich, Kent in May 1951 that one of his loves led to another. His love of God and Church music took him one Sunday morning to St Clements Parish church where, with some shock, he noticed that the choir contained ladies!! He was drawn to a tall, dark haired beauty in the front row, and after joining the choir managed to arrange an introduction. She was, of course, the 17 year old Betty who was bowled over, pardon the pun, by the handsome charming young man in uniform. Dad was demobbed 6 months later but the romance continued.

He returned to working for the London Assurance Company in the City, but regularly travelled to Sandwich to see Betty. He got to know his future father-in-law, a man who he held in great respect and who surely filled the gap left by the death of his own father years before. After courting and getting engaged they hit upon a problem. When to get married? With his weekends committed to sport Dad realised with some shock that he may have to miss a match or two. Cricket was sacrosanct, so it meant a winter wedding, and his hockey that he now played, would have to suffer. On a snowy February day in 1956 they were married in Sandwich, and moved to their new home in Stanford.

Dad continued working in the City, commuting by train the 25 miles or so. Sport and singing took up much of the weekends, a pattern that was to continue for the rest of his life. Mum soon became involved in the cricket club (did she really have any choice?) by doing the teas. Relief from this came in the form of Alison Jane, born in 1958, followed by Heather in 1962, a certain small boy in 1966, then finally Margaret in 1967. Hockey soon gave way to family time during the winter months, but cricket remained.

Ours was a very traditional upbringing, Dad the breadwinner and Mum the home-maker. It was filled with love and we were incredibly happy. Dad loved us deeply and as a daughter and sons-in-law joined the family this love was unhesitatingly shared with them. To say he was pleased when the grandchildren arrived is an understatement, he was as proud as anything, but also happy for us knowing that we too would enjoy and love our children as he had with us.

In 1982 Dads employer, Phoenix Insurance, relocated from London. At the age of 51 Dad was given the Hobson's choice of redundancy, or moving to

Bristol. This was a great wrench for us all with Dads' mother and brother Goff still firmly planted in Essex. By this time Alison and Heather had flown the nest so in August 1982 Mum, Dad, Marge and I moved into 14 Holmes Grove. It was a move we never regretted, none more so than Dad. We soon became involved here at St Peters, and Dad, Marge and I joined the choir. In 1986 Dad took early retirement and realised a long held dream of working for himself, still in the insurance business investigating claims. This he enjoyed greatly and often commented that he should have done it sooner. This continued until 1992 when he took up full time retirement.

Shortly after moving to Bristol Dad finally gave up playing cricket, he played the odd game here but grew frustrated as his body wouldn't do what he was telling it! So it was that he jumped wholeheartedly into Henleaze Bowls Club. He would laugh as back then at the age of 52 or so, he was known by many of the club members as young Peter. He had never played much bowls before but soon got the hang of it and again loved the competition, becoming an accomplished player, and winning a number of club tournaments. As the years progressed he became Fixture Secretary, arranged various tours, and in 1999 was Club president.

In his final years, Dad's health slowly deteriorated, but he remained cheerful, and always tried to be as active as he could, playing bowls, singing and enjoying life with Mum and the rest of the family. It has been a great comfort to us that his end was swift and without suffering.

In 2004 Dad was persuaded to write memories of his childhood and early years, and I will end with his own words:

“May I leave you with one thought? Whatever may befall me in the time left, be assured that if life has taught me anything, it has shown me that love does really conquer everything and that true love wants the best for the person loved. I have been greatly blessed in this way all my life.”

JOAN TOKELEY

Joan was born on 23 September 1921 to Joseph, the Builder, and Lizzie Tokeley and died on 09 August 2010. Her Funeral and burial were at the North Stifford Church on Thursday 19 August. She started at Palmer's in 1928, when she was aged 7, in the Prep School and left in 1938 at the end of the Sixth Form. She lived first of all in Lodge Lane near the Methodist Church and then in Wood View.

In 1941 whilst working for Tokeley and Goodger her young sister was killed during an air raid by a bomb fragment. This of course caused a great deal of grief to all the family and Joan gave a great deal of support to her parents.

She went on to spend most of her career as a medical secretary at Tilbury Hospital and then as secretary to a local doctor until retirement.

Unfortunately as a young woman she tripped and badly damaged her knee. Eventually she had an operation in Manchester, which resulted in the knee cap being removed, leaving the leg permanently stiff.

Joan coped well with this handicap, driving for many years. She also travelled to Switzerland and visited friends in Canada.

The death of her parents left her lonely, but she learned to play bridge and spent many hours with her bridge partners and also playing at different venues. It was while leaving one of these she was involved in a car accident which resulted in a fracture of her bad leg and time in hospital.

When back at home, with the help of carers, but unable to drive, she heard of the death of her close cousin Ernest Cox. After a fall at home and more time in hospital she died after a short stay in Bluebell Court Care Home in Grays.

CHRISTINE ANN KNIGHTS (MRS SAXTON)

16.9.1946 – 17.9.2010

Chris' parents married in May, 1945, her father in army uniform having spent five years overseas, fighting in North Africa and Italy. Chris's only sibling, her sister Hilary, destined to follow her into Palmers, arrived soon after Chris's fifth birthday.

Her own recollections and, thanks to her father, well annotated collections of photographs, told of a happy childhood in the bosom of an extended family, which included trips with grandfather to motorcycle scrambles and shooting game for the pot.

Chris responded well to the early years of education in local, small, mixed schools, passing the 11+ in 1958 to enter Palmers. An enduring personal quality can be mentioned here; throughout her life she stayed in touch with friends met in those "single digit" years.

At Palmers Chris won various subject prizes and excelled at languages, scoring high A level grades in Latin, German and French. She later lamented having to choose between sciences and languages with no opportunity of combination. Her high standard of tennis, which had her play for the school, did a “Subaltern’s Love Song” on John, her future husband! More long-term friendships were formed.

Chris entered John’s life at that unjustifiably self-confident age when they were both sixth formers. He found her wonderfully enjoyable company at West End theatre, dining out, concert and dance. They married in 1972.

After QMC, an assistante year in France and a commercial, bilingual course, a twenty two year career at Reuters in Fleet Street followed. There she steadily progressed, taking on staff responsibility and travelling around Europe and the UK in her marketing executive role.

In 1992 multiple sclerosis, which had been evident from 1981, finally forced Chris to retire from Reuters. However, her travel lust persisted, even when in a wheelchair, in which she toured around the continent, Swaziland and Northern Ireland.

On Boxing Day, 2004, Chris suffered a devastating relapse, rendering her totally dependent. After three months in hospital, she was nursed by her husband night and day at home until her death. Many friends from all stages of her life showed her great kindness during their frequent visits, which definitely brought joy and solace into her life.

RUTH URQUHART KNOPP (MRS COLLINGWOOD)

02/05/1936 to 28/10/2010

Ruth was born in South Ockendon, when it really was a village. She was a member of the Girls’ Brigade and the local church. She attended the village school at which she passed the so-called 11+ exam, and decided that her secondary education should be undertaken at the Girls’ School.

When I started at the Boys’ School, I decided to travel there on the 370 bus. About half way through the journey, a group of similarly aged school girls joined the bus en-route to the Girls’ school. Eventually the effervescent extrovert leader of this group decided to tease the introverted, quiet school boy who wouldn’t say boo to a goose. Thus began a teenage friendship which eventually ended in marriage.

In contrast to our two natures, for most of our 53 year of marriage it has been Ruth who has stayed at home to maintain a stable platform on which to bring up the children. Ruth has been a very loving and protective mother to our 4 children as well as a superb companion to me. We now have two sons-in-law and a daughter-in-law as well as 9 grandchildren and all these have been gathered into Ruth's boundless love. It was not just close family either; Ruth maintained contact with friends and acquaintances from at least the four previous properties we lived in. During recent months it has become quite apparent that Ruth has been held in high regard by so many people, as we have had an almost continuous stream of visitors wishing to see and speak with her.

It was probably very fortuitous that, when we moved to Woodnesborough, Kent, that the Village Hall was our next door neighbour, as this meant Ruth became an active member of both the WI and the Gardeners' Club enabling her to exercise her favourite hobby, **talking**. Ruth has also been a member of the local church until her illness made it too uncomfortable for her to attend. Another activity which was curtailed by the cancer was her participation in the Harvest Supper

For the last three and a half years Ruth has suffered from cancer in the oesophagus and had various forms of therapy but the last treatment she could take was in December 2009, so 2010 has been a time of gradual decline, but she was always cheerful, saying more than once, that she had had a good life and was not afraid of the end of her life.

Laurie Collingwood (1948 – 1954)

SYLVIA WHISSON (MRS MURKIN)

Sylvia was born on 14 May 1932, attended Palmer's from 1943 to 1948 and died of cancer on 21 December 2010. Always a private person, it wasn't until her funeral, when her friends came together, that people realised how varied were her interests. She acted as a Samaritan for many years, learnt several Eastern European languages (to add to the German she studied at Palmer's) and travelled widely, especially in Germany, Poland and Russia. She joined an amateur dramatic society and was much involved with a book club, writing a report on every book she read over the many years of her membership. One of her greatest joys was her daughter **Julie** (another Old Palmerian from **1983 - 1985**) and Julie's twin children. She had a delightful sense of humour and will be much missed.

Enid Bond (1943 - 1948) Mrs Winston formerly Byford

ARTHUR CLARK

Arthur who died in February 2011 was a Governor of Palmer's College and Chairman of the Premises Committee. He had also been a Trustee for many years. His wife **Diana Creek (Mrs Clarke)** was at Palmer's from **1941** to **1947**.

MAUREEN LENNON (MRS ETHELTON)

Maureen died on Friday 11 March in St Luke's Hospice, Basildon. She had been diagnosed with cancer shortly after Christmas 2010, and, although she underwent some treatment in Basildon Hospital, sadly she did not recover. She will be greatly missed by all her friends. **Barbara Greig (1948 - 1953)** **Mrs Kirkcaldy** worked with Maureen at Torells School for over 35 years. Maureen became the very efficient Finance Officer for many years until her retirement in 1999, and as Barbara was the PA to the Headteacher during most of that time, they developed a great relationship both in a working environment and socially, too. **Irene Smith (1944 - 1950)** and **Jean Planton (1945 - 1950) (Mrs Catton)** attended her funeral on 11th March 2011 at St Thomas Church, Grays and this was followed by her burial at Chadwell Cemetery.

PAULINE CARTER (MRS ATTERTON)

Pauline died on 20 April 2011 and her funeral was on the 6 May at Horndon-on-the-Hill Church followed by committal at Corbets Tey Crematorium. She was loved by her family and friends, respected and revered by all who met her. She was the Manager of Chafford Hundred Campus library.

NANCY HITCHCOCK (MRS GILBERT)

Palmer's – a 90 year association sadly comes to an end

Nancy Margaret Gilbert (née Hitchcock) attended Palmer's Girls School as a boarder between September 1932 and July 1937. She always had very happy memories of her school days and kept in touch the rest of her life with the School via the Old Palmerians' organisation and one of its teachers Miss E. T. Brown.

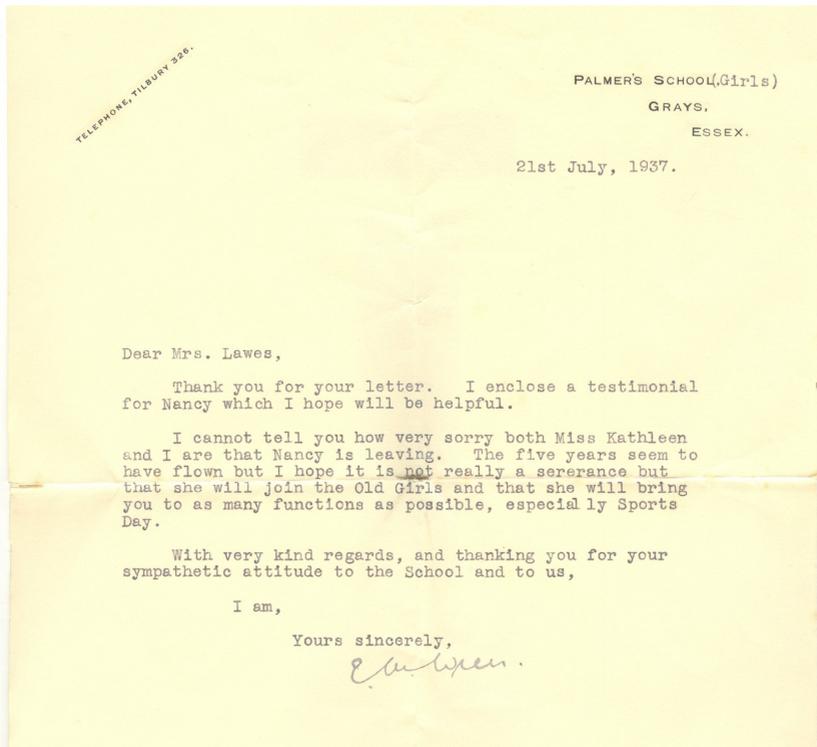
She passed away on 2nd December 2010 aged 90 after suffering five years of the relentless and progressive affliction of vascular dementia. Nancy had been

married to her husband Eric for over 60 years until his death in September 2005. They had two sons Richard and Tony. She had been brought up in and lived in Leigh on Sea in Essex until 1951 when the family moved to Solihull in the West Midlands due to her husband's work.

Nancy was delighted later on to be presented with seven grandchildren to 'spoil' and loved being a Granny.

Nancy had two older brothers: William Harry Hitchcock and Charles Alfred Hitchcock and an older sister Jean Annie Hitchcock (who later married becoming Clarke) who also attended Palmer's Schools. It is believed William attended between 1920 and 1925, Charles between 1922 and 1927 and Jean from 1924 to 1929.

Nancy was brought up by her aunt Mrs Annie Lawes and there follows a copy of a letter which was a reply to a request for a testimonial (spot the mistake!) and the testimonial itself from Miss Wren.



TELEPHONE: TILBURY 528.

PALMER'S SCHOOL(Girls)
GRAYS,
ESSEX.

21st July, 1937.

Nancy Hitchcock has been a pupil of the above School since September 1932. As she has been a boarder I have known her intimately. She has always been exceedingly well behaved and has done her best work. She has taken an interest in all the School activities, in the sports, in music, in the social life as well as in the academic. She has also been captain of her form.

She has had the advantage of coming from a good, middle-class home founded on religious principles and she has been brought up with the sense of right and wrong. She is a girl of a particularly pleasing appearance, in fact, I can recommend her without any reservation whatever for a post involving responsibility, work and tact.

E. M. Whelan B.A.

(Head Mistress.)

SALLY CASSANET
(1945 - 2010)

Sally died unexpectedly on 27 December 2010. She was at Palmer's from 1957 to 1964.

Sally, my sister, a lady of parts.

First, she was an archaeologist and historian. There is a rare Roman coin in the British Museum, found at Ancaster, by Sally. I think she walked me round every Roman Site in England, explaining it all and gathering a little band of tourists, following her every word.

Secondly, she was a diplomat, with two tours of duty at our Embassy in Paris. It was there that she met the Prince of Wales and the Queen Mother. And I discovered that the USA Embassy Club made the largest dry martinis in France!

Thirdly, she was a soldier. She was promoted to Major in the TA, becoming CO of the Royal Signals Regiment in Brentwood and then Ilford.

Fourthly, she was a good friend, as shown by all those who came to pay respects at her funeral.

She supported the RNLI and the Dogs' Trust, passing the latter interest on to me. She owned a rescued miniature poodle and Charlie now lives with us in Chafford Hundred.

But she was always my sister. We supported each other through "thick and thin." She is loved and missed terribly.

Gillian Cassanet (1952 - 1959) Mrs Hill

LORNA MARGARET BOND (MRS CLAXTON)

Lorna, my cousin, died on 30 March after a brief illness. Born on 21 August 1927, she attended Palmer's from 1938 to 1945. Her older sister, **Audrey**, was also a pupil of the school, but had to leave at the age of 16 because their father died in 1939 (Palmer's was still a fee-paying school at that time). Lorna became a prefect and at the age of 18, having obtained her Higher School Certificate, went to train as a nurse at what was then the London Hospital. Having gained her SRN and SCM (when she delightedly reported that the last of the required 12 home deliveries turned out to be twins), she became a Staff Nurse and then a Ward Sister. She was appointed to Ipoh General Hospital as Deputy Matron, but served for the minimum length of time for her contract as she had met a young planter at the hospital's Halloween Ball and married him. Their first daughter, Anne, was born in Malaya (they were there at the time of the Emergency with the Communists). Following the death of her father-in-law, the Claxton family returned to the UK, and settled in Cheshire to run a very successful mushroom farm. Three more daughters were born. Hugh had a stroke in 1979 and Lorna nursed him for the final two years of his life. Soon after, Anne became Britain's first woman farrier, being featured in *The Daily Telegraph* (no less). Lorna returned to nursing for a while, being in charge of the maternity unit at her local hospital until it was closed. After the sale of the mushroom farm a few years ago, she moved into sheltered accommodation at Knutsford where several friends from her village and the WI were already in residence. We spoke frequently over the phone and often talked about our time at Palmer's and just how lucky we were to have been there and to have had the quality of education the school offered then.

Enid Bond (1943 - 1948) Mrs Winston formerly Byford

ARTHUR HERBERT VINCENT

Arthur was born 17th February 1929 and died 14th May 2011, His funeral and burial was on the 25th May 2011.

Having attended Primary school at Upminster, Arthur joined Palmer's in 1940, leaving in 1946 when he went to West Ham Polytechnic to attain a BSc in Civil Engineering, subsequently to become a Member of the Royal Institute of Civil Engineers (MICE). His National Service was spent as an officer in the RAF serving in Egypt. Arthur was a Scout with the 3rd Upminster Troop. He was happily married to Myrtle Hill. His professional career started with Harlow New Town Development Corporation followed by several years in Lagos, Nigeria with their Development Corporation. Arthur then changed direction finishing as a Lecturer at Mid Essex Tech., in Chelmsford, from where he retired to live in Suffolk. He lost Myrtle earlier in 2011.

John Tarlton (1938 – 1945)

MICHAEL JOHN COOPER

Michael died on 28 May 2011 from an aggressive and inoperable cancer, only identified 6 weeks earlier. He died at home peacefully with his wife Sue and their three children at his bedside.

HILARY JAMES (MRS WELCH)

Hilary died quite peacefully on the 28th June 2011.

MICHAEL ROBERT BURTON 1937 - 2011



Michael died on 25th May 2011. He was suffering from a brain tumour which had been limiting his life for over 8 years.

His funeral was held in Stockport and there were tributes from his two friends Bill Coulthard and Andrew Hornsby and a reading from a third, David Allard. Bill first met Michael when they did their National Service in the Navy from 1955 to 1957 and was the best man at Michael's wedding. He was also godfather to Michael and Kate's twin daughters and always remained in touch. There were many tales of unreliable cars being pushed a long way and engines stripped on kitchen tables. Andrew met Michael in 1973 when he joined JCB and his tribute follows. David was a graduate apprentice at Rolls Royce Aero Engines in Derby starting at the same time as Michael. He chose Mr Micawber's speech, from David Copperfield, as Michael was well known for his thriftiness.

"I first met Mike when he joined JCB back in 1973 – he had started as the service supervisor covering the Scottish JCB dealers, and had moved with his family to Strathaven in Scotland. Soon after, I also started travelling on the road as a junior rep.

It was just two years before Mike was offered a service & parts manager's job, a little further afield this time – namely Australasia...and so Mike, Kate and the girls move to Sydney to start their long adventure in June 1975. The girls were only six years old then.

My real involvement with Mike began in 1978 when I accepted a job in the JCB Sydney office located near to the Pacific Highway, Gordon, so my family also moved to Australia. Mike was my boss there for the next seven years, although it seldom seemed that way.

Mike had quickly made a name for himself with Blackwood Hodge, the Aussie dealer, as an astute guy who knew what he was talking about. One man at the dealership, a technical supervisor by the name of Ron Crosthwaite, also an Englishman who had emigrated there, who was well impressed by Mike's ability, and they soon became not only colleagues but also good friends. When he heard of Mike's death Ron sent a note to me and in it said:- "To me personally, Mike was my mentor in the business we enjoyed and was a friend who I looked up to and learned an enormous amount from."

In fact both the Crosthwaite and the Burton families all became very good friends and enjoyed many a BBQ together over the years.

As many of you will know Mike was a thrifty guy and was very well versed in financial matters. His good knowledge and advice showed before we even got

to Australia when he said we should buy rather than rent a house, which is what we did and have never looked back as a result.

On our arrival in Sydney, Mike and Kate made my family and me very welcome into their home in Terry Hills and certainly made our move to the other side of the world a lot easier than it would otherwise have been.

Mike got to some interesting places with work – in the various Australian states he met some unusual characters & customers such as sapphire miners and opal miners who lived underground to keep cool, as Aussie is a bit of a hot place you know. He also saw action in NZ, Fiji, PNG and French Polynesia, of which Tahiti is the main island.

In fact this shows what sort of boss Mike was – when I came on board he made Tahiti part of my territory rather than keeping it to himself as others might have done. This resulted in my visiting the South Pacific Islands five different times for work purposes that were all on expenses of course!

Mike was an engineer and a Rolls Royce trained one at that. So, when the BBQ at home in Terry Hills kept blowing smoke in his eyes he decided it had to be redesigned & rebuilt with a chimney to British Standards. The result was immensely successful, but very large, so that the property when sold could be described as a BBQ with house Attached!

Alongside this BBQ Mike had a 10m swimming pool installed which was great for their family and ours when we visited, especially as swimming was something they all loved. The pool gave an opportunity for Mike's dry sense of humour to show itself. Kate wanted a dishwasher for her birthday but Mike wasn't having it – not until one cool winter's evening when the pool's water temperature was far too cold to swim in and the subject came up. Mike said "I'll buy you a dishwasher dear if you swim two lengths of the pool!" Quick as a flash Kate was in her swimming cosy and swimming several lengths – it was then that Mike turned to us with a grin from ear to ear saying I've already got one on order! I don't know if Kate ever found out about that...?

As well as having BBQs what else did Mike enjoy – well a decent drink whether it be beer or wine but also a good whiskey, so when the JCB dealer gave a bottle of White Heather each Christmas it was very gratefully received! And another love of Mike's was his golf of course. I don't know if anyone here played against Mike but he was pretty good in his day playing off a 9 handicap. His club in Sydney was the Monash Golf Club, which had a beautiful course being on a hillside having views over the beach and out to

sea. My family and I particularly remember the Sunday lunchtime Smorgas Boards – they were something else..!

As well as a decent drink Mike liked his food of course and one food that was his favourite when he visited Queensland was Queensland Mud Crabs that are literally the size of a dinner plate – he even had some shipped back home at one time.

One fond memory is of a time when Mike and I were in Melbourne visiting the dealer's HO, at the time the America's Cup yacht race was being run. The American and Australian yachts had won three races each with one race to go to decide the winner. Now in 132 years of the race's history Australia had never won and so for a sporting nation like Australia this was a very big deal. I woke up early the morning of the last race to find that the two yachts were neck and neck going round the last buoy and on the final leg to the finishing line. I knocked on Mike's hotel room door and was faced with a very grumpy "Why have you got me up at this stupid time?!" comment but he conceded and watched the TV as Australia II won the race – and the country went mad..! Needless to say no work was done that day and celebrations continued all day and most of the night.

Another memory I have of Mike is when Kate's Aunty Eva visited them. She was an elderly, rotund but very sharp and great fun spinster lady. We were all at a place called Coal and Candle Creek enjoying a BBQ, when a huge 5ft long Iguana was spotted on the trunk of a nearby gum tree. What a great photo opportunity for Aunty Eva, so she approached ever so gingerly, with the camera to her eye. Mike thought this was very amusing and so ever so carefully crept behind and photographed Aunty Eva photographing the Iguana. The picture of the two of them I then photographed and the resultant photo captured Australia's unusual nature along with human beings doing daft things and the fun we had out there.

After 7 years we, the Hornsbys returned to the UK having had a great experience and Mike had been a great guide to me professionally and I learned an awful lot from him, especially in relation to customer service and common sense business sense. Leaving the Burtons behind was a sad occasion, as our families had become such good friends and Mike no longer my boss, but a great pal.

Two years after that, in April 1987 Mike's family themselves returned to England to live in Ashbourne, after spending 12 years in Australia, which was the entire schooling years for the girls, Angela and Wendy. Once they got back to England we were able to visit them quite regularly.

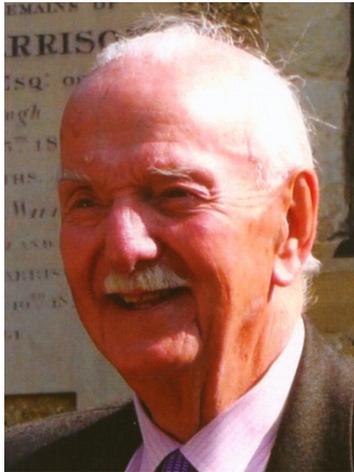
Based in the UK, Mike then covered South America for a few years, travelling to many of the different counties there.

After leaving JCB Mike joined Hill Samuel to do what he was very good at, which was giving financial advice, and later he became a partner in David Neills', the local DIY store and was there for three years before finally retiring in 2001.

We will all miss Mike, his thriftiness ("Don't turn the heating up any more."), that dry sense of humour and his straightforward points of view."

BRYAN S COKER MBE FCA September 1936 – January 1941

(By **John Vesey 1945 – 1949**)



Having left Palmers Endowed School in 1949, I joined the firm of Chartered Accountants called Rowland Hall & Co and almost the first person to greet me was Bryan Coker. Our families had known each other for many years – his father was one of a long line of Cokers who had lived in Grays for generations while my father was very close to Bryan's uncle.

Perhaps, due to the family connection, it was decided that Bryan should be responsible for my training and from this apparently non particular start, there began another link between these two families which, I am glad to say, is still as strong as ever and yet all the more surprising when considering the many

activities Bryan has undertaken during an extremely busy life. It used to be said that his tombstone will be inscribed with the words ‘Gone to a Meeting’.

In 1949, Bryan’s main interests apart from his work, were Oakside FC and Interknit CC – the former being overtaken by his involvement in Grays Athletic FC and the latter by membership of Essex CCC, which regrettably he had to leave when the pressure of the accountancy practice became too great.

As a pupil of Bryan, I like to think that I managed to follow his example by maintaining high standards in our Audit work – certainly he introduced me to a wide range of businesses which all needed different programmes – wholesale and retail stores, construction companies, manufacturers and so on. Two audits stand out – first the civilian Institute at Purfleet Garrison, which always involved a lengthy lunch at the Royal Hotel, and second the Essex Equitable Building Society where Bryan insisted that we check every Property Deed every year – very boring, but it did avoid a fraud like the one suffered by the Grays Building Society. He introduced me to a varied and interesting range of clients which, hopefully, benefitted from our endeavours. The experience definitely did benefit me as, in due course; I became a Non-Executive Director of the Essex Equitable Building Society and Finance Director of the Overseas Packing Company.

During these years, Bryan, in addition to improving the scope of his accountancy practice, had become a Committee Member of Grays Athletic FC and later, when great changes took place, became a founder shareholder and Director of Grays Athletic FC 1982 Ltd.

He was also a founder member of Grays Round Table, becoming Chairman of the Club and of the District Organisation and Treasurer of the National Association and, in 1963/4, became President of the National Association. He became an Honorary Member of Grays Rotary Club in 1967 and was elected a full Member in 1973, becoming President in 1981.

Somehow he managed throughout all this to advance his position in Rowland Hall & Co and was senior partner when he retired in 1986. One of his important business positions was that of Secretary of the Thurrock District Association of Industries – the Gazette always telephoned him on Budget Day to seek his opinion on the latest tax changes and how they affected the local business community.

One of his greatest joys, however, was his interest in education which started with a Governorship of Thurrock Technical College (as it was then known) in 1960 and where he was Chairman from 1975 until 1994. As he became more

involved in Education, he joined the Local Divisional Executive and was even appointed to the Education Committee of Essex County Council as a co-opted Member. He was also a Governor of several local schools from Junior (Stifford Clays), through Secondary (Aveley and Grays) to Sixth Form College (Palmer's). Later, he was selected to be a Council Member of the Association of Colleges for Further and Higher Education and from there, in 1969; he joined the Associated Examining Board. Following an amalgamation, his service continued on the new body that was known as the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance and in 1982, he was appointed as one of the Pension Trustees of the Associated Examining Board where he was elected Chairman in 1996 and he held that post until his retirement in 2002.

In 1970, Bryan had decided that I should take on some voluntary work and he suggested that I became a School Governor. I asked if it could be Palmers? – 'Not until you have served your apprenticeship' said Bryan and so for 7 years I was a Governor of Grays School. It was eventually considered that I had sufficient experience and joined Bryan on the Board of Palmer's College followed by the William Palmer Trust in 1980.

Bryan was elected Vice Chairman of the College and, when Revd Cyril Thrush retired in 1984, was elected Chairman of both the College and the Trust. Bryan asked me to accept the position of Clerk to the Trustees. Bryan continued in the dual position until 1996 and during part of that time I served as Secretary to the Corporation as it had become known. Bryan continued as Chairman of the Trust after 1996 and I too was elected Chairman of the Governors, completing my term of office in 1999.

Soon after Bryan was elected Chairman of the Trust, the groundsman, employed by Essex County Council and delegated to tend the North Field Cricket Ground, retired and the wicket was declared unfit for purpose. Bryan decided that the Ground should be sold to provide greater funds for the assistance of the College and the other beneficiaries. Considerable opposition was faced from a variety of sources which included several Old Palmerians and local politicians but, as many people know, Bryan is not deterred when he has decided on a course of action that he believes will benefit the beneficiaries of the Trust. He instructed me to seek the best price from potential developers and eventually the Ground was sold for £2.3 million pounds. Part of this money was used to construct the Lecture theatre and other buildings with the remainder invested to provide an income to enable the Trust to make more grants to the beneficiaries.

In 1995, at the instigation of the Thurrock District Association of Industries and Thurrock College, Bryan was awarded a richly deserved MBE for his services to Education.

Both of us retired from the College Corporation in 2010 but continued in our roles with the Trust. Bryan had a tremendous sense of duty and even at the end, when he was so frail and tired, he continued in the same vein. Bryan died early on Sunday morning 10th July 2011. On the Thursday before, in his Thurrock Hospital bed, he was signing cheques for beneficiaries of the William Palmer Trust and signing letters, including one to a retiring Trustee thanking him for his long and faithful service.

Bryan never retired so he did not get a letter of thanks but a Thanksgiving Service was held at Grays Parish Church on Friday 22nd July 2011.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF PALMER'S COLLEGE 2010 - 2011

August 2010

Palmer's College maintained its reputation for academic excellence with students gaining superb results in their exams.

Our A-level pass rate was 97%, with 68% of students gaining A, B or C grades, while an incredible 40% gained high A*/A/B grades. BTEC National Diploma pass rates were 99% with the National Certificates at 97%. 37% of students gained triple distinctions, a 1% increase from last year.

September 2010

Student **George Lilley** was selected to play for the U17 England Hockey team in the Sainsburys UK school games in Gateshead during September. He played in three games where the England beat Ulster, Wales and Scotland.

September also saw Palmer's students take advantage of two successful Higher Education (HE) events. First year students were encouraged to think about university options during our HE Fair, while our UCAS Parents' Evening explained the benefits and cost of going to university, and the application process.

October 2010

Palmer's student, **Lara Corcoran**, performed at the Drum Corps European Championships in Dusseldorf. Lara is part of Dagenham Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps, and their performance saw them come in 7th in Europe and 4th in the UK.

Her success was matched by that of fellow student, **Samantha Mullender**, who secured a place on the GB Rowing Start Development Squad to help build up her skills and hopefully fulfil her dream of getting onto the GB Rowing Team.

November 2010

November was a busy month at Palmer's, starting with the recognition of the hard work and achievements of 280 students at our Prize Giving Ceremony.

This annual event rewards students for a variety of endeavours, including outstanding achievement in exams, contributing to the cultural and social life of the college and 100% attendance. Many students also picked up a £300 William Palmer Bursary that they can claim if they go on to University.

The prizes are provided by the William Palmer College Educational Trust, with some sponsored by local businesses and individuals.

The Palmer's Careers Team also received recognition for their hard work with successful re-accreditation of the Recognition of Quality Award (RoQA) for providing excellent careers education and guidance to students.

The efforts of the team were recognised at an awards ceremony at Chelmsford County Hall. Re-accreditation was given following a rigorous assessment that praised the team for their well established and efficient standard of service, leadership and team work.

In the same month, a team of mathematicians from Palmer's came second in the Senior Team Maths Challenge at King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford. In order to take part in the competition, run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT), the team studied maths they were previously unfamiliar with, and had to learn to work together to answer difficult questions in a short amount of time.

Student **Charlie Simpson** was named as runner-up in the Colleges Week 2010 'I chose College because...' competition. Students across the country submitted videos for the competition which were all published on YouTube. Judges were impressed by the creativity and enthusiasm of Charlie's entry and the clarity with which the message was delivered.

A play written by another student, **Alex Lawler**, was performed by Thurrock Youth Theatre at Thameside Theatre in November. Alex's play, *The Dating Game*, is a comedy that follows the fortunes of a man who joins a dating agency and ends up going on a series of increasingly bad blind dates in his quest for love.

Finally for November, the Palmer's College student choir were in fine tune when they performed in front of an international audience at a conference

organised by the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics. The students beat competition from colleges across the country for the honour of performing at the conference held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

December 2010

Christmas came early to Palmer's when Santa and an Elf arrived to sell festive goodies to raise money for Little Havens! The event was arranged by the Palmer's Student Executive, who raised over £78 for the charity by selling mince pies and chocolates to students and staff.

Little Havens Children's Hospice was the Student Executive's chosen charity of 2010/11 and this was their first fundraising event for the charity.

During December, the Palmer's College English Department was awarded The Prince's Teaching Institute Mark by the Prince of Wales.

The PTI Mark is awarded to colleges and schools that can demonstrate a commitment to improving subjects, inspiring students through subject based activities and developing their staff's own specialist knowledge. The English Department was awarded the accolade for developing the curriculum, investing in teaching staff, and inspiring students.

January 2011

The winners of Thurrock's Next Top Boss were announced at the start of 2011, with students from Palmer's College picking up 10 of the awards up for grabs. The project was a collaboration between education, business and public sectors to develop links with talented young people in Thurrock.

Also during January, A-level photography students were invited to take photos of the Port of Tilbury to celebrate the Port's 125th anniversary.

The students took photos that captured people at work and the use of modern equipment and technology throughout the Port. Their efforts were displayed at the Port of Tilbury Open Day in April as part of a photography exhibition of the port through the ages.

February 2011

Love was in the air at Palmer's on Valentine's Day, with messages of love and friendship displayed throughout the College.

To raise money for Little Havens Children's Hospice, the Student Executive and International Baccalaureate students sold space on the College's display

screens so students could post a message to that special someone, along with a sale of home-made cakes and biscuits.

First year ILEX Legal Secretarial students got a taste of their career after Palmer's with a visit to Basildon Crown Court.

The students were given a tour of the courts and even got to meet one of the judges. They also observed several trials and gained insight into the role of the different parties involved in a trial, including witnesses, judges and barristers.

March 2011

Our first Your Life Fair took place in March and was a huge success, with a range of exhibitors handing out information and advice on areas such as mental wellbeing, the dangers of drink driving, sexual health and spirituality.

March also saw over 70 Year 10 students from ten local schools taking part in the popular Aim Higher Initiative. The programme has been running for almost 10 years and its popularity has grown year on year.

Selected students join us at Palmer's for a three day event, designed to challenge them and develop skills in key areas to enable them to think about their future choices and gain valuable information about Further and Higher Education. Days one and three are spent at Palmer's College and the middle day takes the students to Anglia Ruskin University to get a feel for life and studies at a university campus.

Also in March, International Baccalaureate students braved a day at College in fancy dress to raise money for Comic Relief.

Students sold home-made cakes and raffle tickets to raise money for the charity event, as well as setting up a photo booth with the help of the College's photography department, and raised over £700 on the day.

In the same month, the Palmer's College 2nd XI football team fought off competition from across the county to win the U19 Colleges 2nd XI Trophy after defeating Havering Sixth Form College 3-1 in an action packed final.

April 2011

Singers, musicians and a body popper took to the stage at Palmer's College in April in an evening of entertainment to raise money for Little Havens Children's Hospice.

The event - Palmer's Got Talent 2011 - showcased the talents of students who had got through a round of auditions before performing on the night in front of an audience of their classmates, families, staff and a panel of judges who critiqued each act. The event was organised by the Student Exec.

In the same month, **Kathy Hayes**, Continuing Professional Development Manager, celebrated turning 60 this year by competing in the London Marathon. She made a deal with herself to run the marathon when she turned 40, 50 and 60, and the 2011 race saw her fulfil her ambition. Kathy was joined in the marathon by colleague **Ritchie Naylor**, Sports Teacher.

Finally, over 50 students showcased their final projects at their End of Year Show. The exhibition featured a range of work including dance, photography, dissertations, gaming, film-making and creative writing.

The work on display was by students taking the Extended Project, a course equivalent to half an A-level, that allows students to produce a focused piece of work on a topic of their choice from four categories; dissertation, field investigation, artefact or performance.

May 2011

Palmer's sporting stars were celebrated at our annual sports award evening. The awards celebrate the success of our sports teams - football 1st, 2nd and 3rd, ladies football, netball and rugby - and individual athletes.

Following the awards, the Palmer's Netball Team went on to pick up third place in the British Colleges Sport National Tournament while representing the east of England.

The Enterprise in Education Team visited Palmer's to meet with students studying the ILEX legal secretaries qualification. Students learnt about writing a successful CV, interview skills and job hunting tips, and even had individual interviews with our business guests.

May also saw Palmer's take part in Superhero Friday, a fundraising day for Little Havens. Students and staff were invited to dress up as their favourite superhero, buy cakes made by the Student Exec and take part in a Tug of War tournament that was eventually won by a very competitive team of sports teachers!

June 2011

In June, our second year BTEC performing arts students brought the bold and brash 80s to life with David Eldridge's play, Market Boy, for their final performance as Palmer's College students.

The play follows a 13-year-old boy who is pushed into working on a shoe stall in Romford Market by his mother in 1985. The show marked the end of the students' two year course, and was performed over two nights in front of a packed audience at the College's purpose built theatre.

Speakers from universities and employment organisations visited Palmer's College in the same month to speak to first year students about work and higher education.

Moving On Up, an annual event, gave students information on how to choose the right university and course, tips on writing a CV, student finance and how to succeed in job interviews.

Also in June, three Palmer's students found they had landed sought after places in a prestigious London law firm's two year training scheme.

Emma Turner, **Charity Stone**, and **Chelsea Blackmore** all studied the ILEX Legal Secretaries Diploma. As part of their course they were interviewed by legal firm, SJ Berwin, and were offered a space on a two week work placement. The students impressed the firm so much that they were then offered a place on the training scheme.

July 2011

International Baccalaureate (IB) students picked up their results in July, and finally found how well they had done after two years of rigorous study.

All 27 students who completed the course gained either a Diploma or Certificate, with the majority of the group achieving grades exceeding three A grades at A-level. The Palmer's College average IB grade is 29, higher than the world average score.

The end of term was celebrated with our annual fun day, organized by the Student Exec. Students enjoyed a rodeo bull, inflatables, games, BBQ and music from student DJs. The Exec ended the day by presenting Little Havens Children's Hospice with a cheque for £2,000, the amount students and staff have raised for the charity over the academic year.

On the same day, 11 intrepid explorers from Palmer's swapped Essex for Ecuador. The group - nine students and two teachers, plus an expedition leader from Outlook Expeditions – jetted off to Ecuador for a month long trip which will see them explore the South American country and take part in community projects.

To take part, the students have spent 18 months raising £3950 each to fund the trip. They did this through fundraising events at the College and a recent sponsored abseil in Wales.

You can reference this trip which was in July/August 2011 at www.palmersecuadortrip.wordpress.com

NEWS AND CHANGES OF STAFF

Congratulations to:- **Pat Moss**, the College's MIS Manager, who received his 40 years long service award and **Dave Wolstenholme**, Physics Teacher, who received his 25 years long service award, in September 2010, for their outstanding contributions to the College.

Congratulations to **Lucy Sankey-Warner** on joining the CPD (Continuous Professional Development) team as the new CPD Coordinator at the beginning of November. Congratulations again as she was appointed to the post of Head of Faculty in May, to start in September.

The Careers department of Palmer's received a Recognition of Quality Award in the splendid council chamber of Essex County Council on 25 November 2010. They found themselves sitting in front of a stained glass window with William Palmer 1706, Grays Palmer's inscribed on its panels. Apparently in the 1930s Councillor William Julian Courtauld and his family from Halstead gave the funding to build the new Council Chambers in Chelmsford. He employed a firm to design the building at this time and part of the brief was that the most respected and highly regarded schools in Essex were represented in some way within the new building. The history of William Palmer and the reputation of Palmer's as a quality educational establishment was recognised then as one of the best in Essex and so was represented along with a small selection of other schools at the time, which were mainly Grammar Schools. Palmer's was the only school represented from this area of Essex.

The excellence and prestige of Palmer's was recognised then and still applies today.

Congratulations to **Varsha Patel**, the Marketing and Communications Manager on the birth of her daughter Reisha on Friday 3 December 2010, weighing in at 6lb 1 oz.

Congratulations to **Sarah Waterman** who became Curriculum Manager for Performing Arts, **Kim O'Dwyer** who became Curriculum Manager for

Dance, **Carly Sandy** who became Curriculum Manager for A Level Media and **Isabel Roberts** who became Curriculum Manager for Level 3 BTEC Media all in January 2011.

Congratulations to **Ritchie Naylor** who became Team Games Co-ordinator, while **Heather Day** is on maternity leave. Congratulations to Heather on the birth of her son.

Congratulations also to **Ritchie Naylor** and **Kathy Hayes** who both successfully completed the Virgin London Marathon over the Easter holidays. Kathy, the Palmer's Continuing Professional Development Manager, made a deal with herself to run the marathon when she turned 40, 50 and 60 and so she has now achieved that ambition, raising money for Link Radio Trust, a community radio station that is broadcast to sheltered housing schemes for older people living in Castle Point. She has now competed in the London Marathon eight times having first completed the course in 1989 in an impressive time of 3 hours and 30 minutes. For Ritchie it was his second London Marathon and he raised money for Diabetes UK.

Congratulations to **Stuart Munday** who became a father in May.

Congratulations to **Helena Dove** who will be Curriculum Manager for Extended Project, **Lydia Cooper** who will be Assistant Curriculum Manager for Level 3 BTEC Business and **Kelly Ryan** who will be Curriculum Manager for GCSE Psychology and Joint Assistant Curriculum Manager with **Melissa Marnoch** whilst **Sue Gray** is on maternity leave in September 2011.

The following staff have joined Palmer's either at the beginning of, or during, the first term September 2010. **Miss Elizabeth Amisu** (English), **Mr Oghenerhoro Babu** (Biology), **Mr Tom Dewhurst** (Maths), **Ms Jade Hunter** (English), **Mr Toby Wilson** (Assistant Technician for Media and Film), and **Lisa Collings** (HR Officer). **Jen Farrant** joined the English Department in January 2011. **Steve Locke** Joined in February as Assistant Caretaker / Handyperson.

Once again we have had a number of staff leaving during the year 2010 - 2011. At the end of October, **Andy Sankey** (Curriculum Manager, Music Technology) left after 5 years 8 months to return to South Essex College. In December, **Sam Sorrell** (Curriculum Manager, Dance) left after 14 years 4 months moving to Lincolnshire to be a Community Dance Artist and to help her husband with his Glass Art Business, including jewellery, see www.artfromglass.com, **Robert Miller** (Curriculum Manager, Media Studies) left after 10 years 4 months and **Melanie Jupp** left. In April 2011 **Julie**

Gregory (Biology Technician) retired after 23 years 11 months and **Pat Fisher** (Study Plus) retired after 6 years 8 months. In May **Phil Smith** (English) took early retirement after 15 years 3 months, **Sharon Heighington** (Health & Social Care/Sociology) left after 7 years 9 months, **Kim Gardner** (Attendance Office) left and **Suzanne Challans** (Nurse) left after 6 years 1 month. In June **Bill Farquhar** took early retirement after 10 years 2 months. In July 2011 **Lyn Owers** (Administrative Assistant) retired after 13 years 8 months, **Colin Salmon** (Head Caretaker) left after 5 years 7 months and **Nigel Wilson** (HR Manager) left after 2 years 10 months. Then at the end of August **Brian Dutton** (Film Studies and Senior Curriculum Manager) retired after 30 years, **Jenny Luton** (English) retired after 25 years, **Pam Seaman** (Reprographics) retired early after 21 years, **Mel Perry** (English/Communication Studies and Senior Pastoral Manager) left after 16 years to teach English part-time and to study for her MA, **Julia Sheen** (Psychology) left after 7 years 8 months to go to Australia, **Jacqueline Hampton** (Learning Consultant, Study Plus) left after 7 years 8 months, **Barry Thomas** (Learning Consultant, Study Plus) left after 7 years 2 months, **Becky Bentley** (Spanish) left after 7 years, **Amanda Scott** (Health & Social Care) left after 7 years to go to America, **Claire Ruff** (Learning Consultant, Study Plus) left after 5 years 9 months, **Lorrain Blue** (PE) left after 5 years, and **Andrew Fallan (1988 - 1990)** (Learning Consultant, Study Plus) left after 4 years 6 months. Andrew is pursuing a career as a writer. He recently had a book published entitled 'Winging it - Birding for low-flyers', see Amazon.co.uk which gives a synopsis of it - it also has a foreword by Chris Packham, presenter of BBC Spring/Autumn watch. It may be quite interesting to Old Palmerians as there is coverage of the hill-walking trip to the Isle of Skye that Andy went on while a student at Palmer's with **Kathy Price** and **Paul Spinks** and also a brief mention of a Geology field trip to the Isle of Arran. Andy is currently working on a follow-up. Also at the end of August **Surjit Grewal** (Administrative Assistant) left after 4 years 4 months, **Ian Barrow** (ICT) retired early after 4 years, **Karen Jarman** (Reprographics) left after 4 years, **Karolina Krzyzanowska** (Photography Technician & Media teacher) left after 3 years 4 months to go to Los Angeles, **Olu Sodipo** (ICT/Mathematics and Senior Curriculum Manager) left after 3 years, **Folashade Omoniwa** (BTEC Science) left, **Victoria Coss** (Marketing and Communications manager) left after covering Varsha Patel's maternity leave, **Jennifer Farrant** (English) left, **Kate Monk** (Business Education) left, **Nevio Visalli** (Italian) left after 1 year and **Oghenerhoro Bubun** (Biology) left after 1 year.

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