

The Old Altrinchamians' Association

Newsletter 2009-2010

Annual General Meeting

The Association's A.G.M. will be held at the School on Wednesday 10th November 2010 at 7:30pm. We will welcome any members of the Association as well as Old Boys who are thinking of joining.

Annual Reunion Dinner

The general consensus from those who attended was that the Annual Reunion dinner was a great success, well-attended by both regulars and also a welcome influx of first-time attendees. Ringway GC was a good location and the ticket prices, slightly reduced in price compared to last year, sold well. Any views and feedback from those who attended, or who have previously attended the Annual Dinner, would be much appreciated. The next Dinner will be held on Friday 18th March 2011, again at Ringway Golf Club.

Antony Perrett

Head Master's Introduction

I am delighted to introduce to you another issue of the Old Altrinchamians Association newsletter. This academic year has been one of many high points, but it began in September on a note of great sadness due to the death of Robert Anderson, a pupil who should now have completed his GCSE year. Robert died suddenly of asthma in August 2009.



The death of any member of our school community hits home hard but the **suddenness of Robert's death from an asthma attack** on his way home from playing football with his friends made it all the more difficult – especially for his many close friends in Year 11 and those teachers who had got to know him so well over the years.

The response of boys and teachers was magnificent. A committee of Year 11s led a campaign to raise awareness of the perils of **asthma which culminated in "Robert Anderson Day" in May. Their efforts not only gave everyone at School pause for thought but also raised significant funds for the "Asthma Awareness" charity. At the end of an afternoon of sports organised by our Year 11s – because sports was Robert's main passion – a memorial and School prize board was unveiled by Robert's parents in "The Grammar".**

Thus our Year 11 boys left for their GCSE study leave on a positive note. Some good has come out of this tragedy. It is another example of the kindness, resourcefulness and determination of AGSB boys.

Tim Gartside

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ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2009



Some regulars and some newcomers at the 2009 Annual Reunion Dinner

In the absence of the Association President, Peter Morton, Chairman Mike Gittins welcomed 98 diners to the 95th Annual Dinner, which was held on Friday 19th March 2010.

There was a rather sombre start to the evening proceedings as news filtered through that Rowland Longshaw, who had organised the dinner for decades had sadly and suddenly died in the preceding week (see obituaries).

Despite the inevitable disruption to the organisation, the dinner was well attended, with a particularly good turnout from the school staff and prefects.

Following Grace by Reverend David Clark, an excellent meal prepared by the steward of Ringway Golf Club was enjoyed by all.



Bernie Jordan helps Stephen Perrett pick raffle winners

Following the meal Mike Gittins announced the winners of the 2009 golf trophies, with Paul Stockton winning the Charles Laver Trophy at the annual society meeting, and the Marlborough Trophy being won by the Old Boys in the annual match versus the School, putting the score 6-4 in favour of the Old Boys.

The Headmaster responded to the toast to the school and paid tribute to the staff who continued to get the best from the boys. This has resulted in the school achieving its best ever A Level results in 2009, with 77% at grades A and B. Furthermore, the school achieved its best ever AS Level results leaving high expectations on this year's Upper Sixth.

On a recreational front the school broke new ground by inviting girls from Loretto School to join them in staging Romeo and Juliet. There had also been an excellent production of The History Boys, although the script was a bit of an eye-opener for the more faint-hearted!

The Head welcomed Peter Ellis as the new Classics teacher at the school, who is a former Old Boy of the School, taught by Peter Butler and Keith Nodding.



On the school development front good progress has been made on the new £600,000 food technology/art block with £300,000 being contributed by the Department of Education and over £100,000 provided by Altrincham Grammar School Developments Limited.

With an eye on the future, there are still **proposals for a new "low carbon" science** block and the School is currently investigating new avenues for funding. In 2012 the School will celebrate its centenary year, and a committee has now formed to look at various ways to mark the special occasion. Inevitably, contributions from Old Boys will be much appreciated.

Ian Horne made a memorable and witty after-dinner speech

The response to the toast to the Association was made by Old Boy, Ian Horne. He recounted fond memories of **carefully preparing his "duck's-arse" hairstyle before being forced to cover it with his school cap.** There were less fond memories of the corporal punishment dished out by various Masters, likening Ron Tilly to Bruce Lee.

On leaving the School, Ian was persuaded by Roy Wilson to play for the Old Altrinchamians AFC, which he has now been involved with for over 40 years. Likewise, Ian is also involved in Ashley Cricket Club, which historically has a strong association with the school, and thanks to the current **influx of "Old Alts" the club is** again on the rise.

In closing his response Ian made a plea to the Head as a testament to old times to reinstate the School house system – and bring back caps!

The raffle made a record £700 on the night, assisting the Chairman to be able to make a donation to the School from the Association in the sum of £750, which goes towards the School Discretionary Fund.



Sarah Lawrie and a couple of friends

Diary Date: Association Dinner to be held on Friday 18th March 2011 – Ringway Golf Club

OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS' GOLF SOCIETY

Society Day

The 22nd Society Day was held at Styal Golf Club on Friday 5th June 2009 and was well-supported again. This year's winner (on a card play-off) was Paul Stockton with 39 Stableford points, with second place going to Society Chairman, Mike Gittins. Third (on a card play-off with David Smith), with 36 points was Ray Jackson, who had travelled up for the event from East Sussex!

The Guest Prize was appropriately won on 36 points by Bernie Jordan.

Nearest the pin competitions were won by Chris Rawson and Brian Dickenson, and the longest drives were won by Colin Bamford and David Smith.

The team prize was won by Mike Gittins, David Dincombe and Simon Nichol.

Dinner, prize-giving and speeches rounded-off another successful day.



Ringway GC member, Paul Stockton, winner of the Charles Laver memorial trophy, receives his prize from OAA Chairman, Mike Gittins



This year's event will be held at Ringway Golf Club on 9th September 2010. Anyone interested in playing should contact Golf Secretary, Paul Stockton.

Longest drive winner, David Smith, receives his prize from Mike Gittins, whilst an amused President, Peter Morton, looks on

Inter-Schools Old Boys Competition

This annual event was yet again held at Bramhall Golf Club, on 8th July 2009. Despite being short on numbers and thanks to the efforts of Jim Leonard, the School finished a respectable fourth out of the six schools represented. A better turn-out of Old Alts is hoped for this year's competition to be held on 7th July 2010 at Bramhall Golf Club. Anyone interested in representing the Association should contact Golf Secretary, Paul Stockton.

Association V School Match

The Malborough Cup was fought for on 10th July 2009 at Styal Golf Club, with The Association comprehensively winning the match 6-1. This now tilts the balance in favour of the Old Boys 6-4. However, Golf at the School is clearly on the rise and the Association can expect tough matches in the coming years.

The next match will be held at Styal Golf Club on 18th June 2010. Any Association Member wishing to play should contact Golf Secretary, Paul Stockton, (details on front of Newsletter).

RECENT SCHOOL LEAVERS SPORTS MATCHES

The Association has been keen to encourage recent School-leavers to keep in touch with the School and therefore in 2007 re-kindled the traditional 'Old Boys' v School football and rugby matches. This year's matches were both held on 1st April and were well supported by pupils, teachers, old boys and parents.

FIRST XI v OLD BOYS XI

Unfortunately, this year the recent school leavers were unable to put together a team of eleven to face the School First XI. To avoid the same disappointment next year older 'Old Boys' are welcome to put their name forward for selection

FIRST XV v OLD BOYS XV

On a regular Wednesday afternoon, 15 overweight, out of shape and unfit university students descended on AGSB hoping to chuck a rugby ball around and have a bit of a laugh. For the other 2, James Scaife and Jack Snoddy however, it was more than a game, and as we took to the pitch before the game you could see the tears of emotion welling up inside them.



For Year 13s, this was to be our last game playing for the school, many of us having played since the lower school, and we were determined to go out on a high. Prior to the game, the main worry was that **the Old Boys' size and strength would tell, but having** competed with physical sides such as Kings Macclesfield throughout the season, we were prepared for a confrontational game.

The first half was closely contested, with excellent defence from the 1st XV, led by outstanding play from Sam Spring, Harry Jones and John Howell. Eventually, Jack Snoddy broke through to score for the old boys, to be converted by Ryan Seaton, to make it 7 – 0. The 1st XV soon hit back however with a penalty from Tom Green to make it 7 – 3.

Going into half time so closely matched seemed to give the team a boost, and we came out aggressively in the 2nd half. **After a period of sustained pressure in the Old Boys' 22, Joe Brame forced his way over from a couple of metres out.** Despite the missed conversion, we were ahead, 8 – 7.

The Old Boys hit back quickly though, with a momentary lapse in concentration and technique allowing flanker Matt Ollier over to score under the posts, and the conversion made it 14-8.

With the Old Boys beginning to feel the pace of the game, thanks to a few too many donner kebabs, the 1st XV **came back into the game. The match's defining** moment soon came, with the Old Boys in possession of the ball on the half way line. A crunching hit from **Joe Hesford on the Old Boys' captain (who stayed** down for a considerable length of time) caused the ball to spill loose. The splendid Matt Smith (his words, not mine) scooped up the ball, and set off on a 50 metre sprint to the try line. With no one left to beat, all he had to do was jog under the posts and put the ball down to present an easy conversion. However, in failing to look over his shoulder, he managed to convince himself that John Howell was an opposition player, and hastened to dive over the line, presenting a slightly harder kick. With the score at 14 – 13, **a successful conversion would've almost certainly brought a win for** the 1st team with only a few minutes left on the clock. However, Tom Green narrowly missed, resulting in the slightest of victories for the Old Boys.



Phil Marchant (Captain) and Matt Smith (Vice-Captain)

ASHLEY CRICKET CLUB (incorporating Old Altrinchamians CC)

In 1987 Old Altrinchamians Cricket Club merged with Ashley CC. Old Alts played their home games at the British Aerospace ground on Clay Lane and joined the Cheshire Cricket League in 1974 as one of the founder members. Ashley joined the league in 1977 and had played Old Alts in previous leagues for many years.



With Old Alts struggling to meet the cost of the rent of their ground and Ashley **struggling for players a merger was agreed. Ashley's club colours before 1977** were blue and green whilst the colours of Old Alts were blue and yellow. When the clubs got together these colours were amalgamated and the cap shown illustrates these colours.

2009 was another successful season with good progress being made both on and off the cricket field. There were many excellent contributions on the field from all teams and at all levels; all teams have performed admirably and have been a credit to the club.

One of the most important contributions was from Dave Twiney who again provided excellent playing facilities.

Off the field a great deal of progress was made with club facilities continuing to improve.

How things have changed, thanks to the hard work of so many people in the intervening years there are now 4 senior league teams, an occasional Sunday friendly XI and junior sides at U18, U15, U13, U11 and U9 age groups. In 2009, 79 different players played for one of the senior sides; 24 of these were Under 18.

In recent years Ashley CC have invested heavily in new equipment, new pitches, drainage, machinery, sight-screens, batting cages and coaching expertise with the help of grant funding, club fundraising, and increased match fee and annual subs collection. Mid way through the season we achieved Clubmark re-accreditation, this shows we are a safe and child friendly club. A lot of our recent improvements can be put down to using the Clubmark process as a basis for club planning and development.

The 4 senior teams had good seasons; the difficulties of selecting 4 teams eased with the increased membership; although we appear to have too few Saturday players and too many lads only willing or able to play on Sundays. The Club needs players of all abilities to fill the dozen or so teams we will have in 2010. Hence we will continue our policy of playing junior cricket in such a way that all the players get an equal opportunity to play and practice.

We now have a large number of junior players at the club; approximately 50 youngsters in the U11 and U9 group

In 2009 we were fortunate to have a great overseas player in Ash Bradshaw; he conducted himself in an exemplary fashion throughout his time at Ashley. The overseas player for 2010 is Grant Webb from New South Wales.

Please note that he is keen to find local accommodation, and any help from Association Members would be greatly appreciated.



The 1st XI finished 10th in Cheshire Cricket League Division One.

Back row (left to right) Jon Griffiths, Harry Horsfall, Steve Logan, Brian Birtles (Scorer) Ash Bradshaw (Overseas player) Alex Wigfield, Harry Hatchell & Dave Alves.

Front row (left to right) Rick Gandy, Matt Wilson (vice captain) Ian Barber (captain) Paul Hanrahan & Andy Shakespeare



The 2nd XI finished 5th in Cheshire Cricket League Division A.

Back Row (left to right): Harry Hatchell, Harry Horsfall, Chris Pendlebury, Dave Woods, Ally Horn (captain) and Dave Royle.

Front Row (left to right): Martin Blain, Zak Power, Rish Agrawal, George Power and Dave Rice

The 3rd XI finished 3rd in Cheshire County Cricket League Division 3 West.

The 4th XI finished 8th in Cheshire County Cricket League Division 4.

1st XI Player Of The Year – The Alan Booth Trophy - Winner: Ian Barber

2nd XI Player Of The Year - The John Allott Trophy - Winner: Chris Pendlebury

3rd XI Player Of The Year - The Geoff Medford trophy - Winner: John Brownhill

4th XI Player Of The Year - The Graham Park C.B.E. trophy - Winner: James Semple

The Best Under 18 in Senior Cricket - The Stuart Naylor Trophy - Winner: Martin Blain

For further information visit www.ashleycc.co.uk

OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS' AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

It was perhaps inevitable that Old Alts AFC could not achieve the same level of success as last year with three of the six teams all playing in higher divisions this season.

However, the 1st XI came very close. They opened the season by collecting their first silverware as early as the 8th August by winning the Manchester League's equivalent of the Charity Shield by 2 goals to one against West Didsbury. Life in the Premier League did not prove quite so straightforward. After their first eleven games the team was in eleventh place with just four wins and fourteen points. But manager, Lee Bennett, and his assistant, Andy Maclean, were already taking action to strengthen the squad. Their efforts were rewarded by improved results, which have carried the team to third place - a tremendous performance for their first season back in the Premier Division of the Manchester League.

The Reserves also found the going much tougher in a higher division following last year's promotion to Division Two of the Manchester League. New manager, Pat Kelly, had to contend with many changes forced on him by injuries, lack of commitment and 1st XI calls. Nevertheless, he was particularly proud of their performance in the Stockport Senior Cup Quarter Final tie against Woodley Sports Reserves. Playing away against Lancashire League opposition, Alts were still level after extra time only to go out on penalties. A fine late run in the League should just about see his team escape relegation and hopefully come back stronger next season.

The Altrincham League side managed by Steve Brookes and Steve Gregory had also been promoted last season. Life in Division One held no fears for them and sixteen wins and two draws from twenty-two games earned them the runners up position eleven points clear of third place Atlantic. In the League Cup Semi Final, they played AFC Quarry, who had already won the Division One Championship. In a well-contested game, Alts turned on their best performance of the season to win through to the final by 2 goals to 1. Unfortunately in the final at Altrincham's Moss Lane ground, Alts never recaptured the same form and eventually went down 2 – 1 to Sale Rovers.

The Sunday XI were unable to achieve the same level of success as last year. They did reach the semi final of the Altrincham Sunday League Cup but were no match for Trafford Hawks, who repeated their success in last year's final. This disappointment meant that they had to settle for a mid table position in the League.

It is sad to report that the Vets decided that time had finally managed to catch up with them and that they were no longer able to compete in the competitive East Cheshire League. This meant that stalwarts such as Dave Stephens, who has played for Old Alts for more than forty years, decided finally to hang up their boots. However, we are hoping that many members of this team will continue to support the Club both on and off the field of play.



James Davenport in action

Our other two 'social' teams continue to play in the East Cheshire League and both managed to improve on last year's performances. Credit should be given to Dave Richards and John O'Connor who run the 'Youth' team, which has played for the Club under this name for more than twenty years! With many players now around the 40 mark, the big question is when they will take over the moniker of the Veterans. Equally deserved thanks are due to the father and son team of Martin and Adam Officer, who manage the A team, which has again showed great team spirit and has also enjoyed improved results as the season has drawn to a close.



In addition to the continued successes on the field of play, a very enjoyable Sportsman's Dinner was held at The Cresta Court in November when our guest speaker was Paul Fletcher, the ex Burnley and England Under 23 International. This annual event will take place again this year on Thursday 25th November 2010 and anyone reading this report will be most welcome to attend. Please ring me on 0161 428 9836 for tickets.

The Club is now 90 years old and with the help of Ian Crosby, I am hoping to compile the history of Old Alts AFC in time for our centenary in 2020. If anyone has any interesting pictures, match reports or memorabilia I would be delighted to hear from you on the same number as above.

Brian Clark

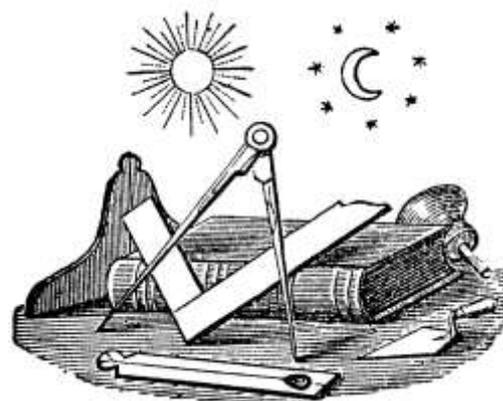
HALE AND OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS LODGE

Following the recent successful merger of Old Altrinchamian Lodge with The Hale Lodge, HOA Lodge 3749 has gone from strength to strength with two new initiates joining the Lodge in the last 12 months, and several promotions to both Provincial Lodge and United Grand Lodge. Perhaps most notably, former School master, Dr Arthur Birch has been promoted to Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

The Masonic calendar was rounded-off in April with a visit to the Lodge by the newly installed Provincial Grand Master, with over 50 members and guests in attendance.

During the year the Lodge donated over £1,000 to charity, with three-quarters going to non-Masonic charities.

Anyone who is potentially interested in joining the Lodge either as a new initiate or an existing Freemason should contact Don Boden at donald.boden@ntlworld.com who is an Old Boy of the School .



We now have our own website: www.oldalts.com

If you have any suggestions or items to be included, email them to colincbamford@aol.com

SAVILLE LAVER SOCIETY



The Saville Laver Society was established in 1998 in honour of our School's founder and first Headmaster, Laurence Saville Laver, who attended St. John's College, Cambridge, at the turn of the 20th Century. It was with great enthusiasm, then, that we embraced the opportunity to enjoy the very same College's hospitality on Saturday 7th November 2009 for the Twelfth Annual Dinner of the Society.

The dinner saw over 20 current Oxbridge students, old boys, teachers and old friends of the School come together in the Old Music Room for a champagne reception before proceeding to the Wordsworth Room of St. John's College, where Mr Laver himself would have dined many years ago on special occasions.

The dinner got off to a great start with some opening remarks from Mr Gartside, Mr Alan Laver, and Amir Hajizamani who had organised the evening. In Mr Butler's absence, Mr Pearson recited the traditional Saville Laver grace which set the pleasant and light-hearted mood for the remainder of the night. The St. John's catering staff served up a fantastic menu, featuring the College's signature Lobster Shepherd's Pie dish and after coffee and desserts the guests had the opportunity to peruse some items from the St. John's library biographical archives on the great man himself.

Yet another successful event for the society shows the continuing prosperity of the society and we hope to see much more of the same for many years to come.

Further details about the Society can be obtained from Alistair Allen, 07818 453 116, or email alish-tair.allen@rothschild.com

Amir Hajizamani

RETIRING TEACHERS

Anne Hillier (Maths)

Peter Pickwell (Chemistry)

Bernie Jordan (Maths)

PUBLICATIONS

We can supply the following;

The full magazine entitled "Tracking Back Over 2009/10" £4.00 each

"1960-2000. 40 years in the life of a school" by Roy Coleman £5.00

"Altrincham Grammar School for Boys 1912-1962" by R.N. Dore £2.50 each

All prices include post & packing - Email antonyperrett@talktalk.net.

OBITUARIES

Rowland F.S. Longshaw. (attended School from 1943-48)



Rowland died suddenly from a heart attack on 16th March 2010 aged 78. Rowland was the dearly beloved husband of Betty, loving dad of Jane and a much loved and caring Grandpa to Adam, Robin and Mary, also a dear father in law to Nigel. His passing is a sad loss to many.

Born 28th March 1932 in Rusholme, Manchester, Rowland's family moved to Timperley when he was just 18 months old. In 1956 he married Betty. He did his National Service in the RAF at Wilmslow. Rowland was a Pension Advisor and worked for Legal and General for many years until he was 62. It was always important for him to get out of the office and meet his clients, and he clearly served them well because on several occasions he was warmly thanked for ensuring that they were well-provided for in their old age.

Rowland Longshaw (left) and Alan Faullkner

Sport was always Rowland's great love, and he was successful from an early age, becoming *Victor Ludorum* in athletics at School. He played football, squash and tennis at which he excelled. His participation was always full-hearted.

Even watching his grandsons playing football was something he did very enthusiastically, offering plenty of advice from the touch-line.

On retirement he took up crown green bowling, playing at two local clubs and captained the veterans team.

For decades Rowland meticulously organised the Old Altrinchamians Association Annual Dinner, always ensuring a well-run and well-attended event. He will be greatly missed.

Leo Hanson (Attended the School from 1932-36)

Leo played football for Old Alts and had a younger brother, Roy, at the School from 1938-44.

He left a wife, children and grandchildren.

Stefan Tomkins (1978 – 2009)

Stefan appeared to have everything going for him. Originally from Timperley he attended ABGS, leaving in 1996 to study Science & Media at Sheffield Hallam University. However, the athletic, 6ft 2in teenager fell in with the wrong crowd, and alcohol and cannabis addiction led to stronger drug abuse. He dropped out of university and left the family home to live rough. Stefan was killed after he fell asleep in a refuse container as he sheltered from the rain. He was unable to escape when the bin was emptied into the back of the lorry where he was crushed. Stefan was 31 years old when he died in November 2009.

His father, John Tompkins contacted the School to express how much Stefan had enjoyed his time at ABGS.

Edward Teague (Born 25/01/1943, died 09/06/2009)

The following is an extract from an obituary that appeared in The Independent newspaper written by Ken Bodfish:

A cotton man through and through, Edward Teague repeatedly cut his cloth to suit a variety of sometimes simultaneous careers which straddled the commercial, scientific and artistic lives of Manchester and elsewhere, including a stint as a United Nations advisor to North Korea. He became best known, however, in his sixties, as Postman Patel or Lord Patel, one of the best and most original voices on the British blogosphere and regularly consulted by many a Fleet Street commentator.

Born into a family of Manchester cotton merchants, Teague played rugby at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys before going to Leicester University to study botany from 1961 to 1964. Further research in this, at Edinburgh, was curtailed by being hauled back to run the family firm.

Back in Manchester at the family firm, he met and married Lesley Holmes in 1969; she was with him throughout his varied occupations. He was a regular at the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society which met in the Portico Library – a relic of the quest for learning which existed alongside the search for profit which characterised Manchester in its heyday. The Manchester Stock Exchange was a particular interest and he was especially proud to be associated with the Royal Exchange Theatre, created inside the Exchange buildings when, in one era of an eclectic career, he served as Drama and Literature Officer for North West Arts.

He had previously spent time working for Saatchi and Saatchi as an advertising copywriter, owning a bookshop with the typically sardonic name of "Books" and as director of a private art gallery, where he refused to hold L.S. Lowry on the grounds that he was a better artist himself. This was almost true: his cartoons of Sydney the Spider were adored by all the children who received postcards with his illustrations.

Never a political activist in the traditional sense, he was a genuine libertarian with no time for the humbug and rhetoric of the left and right. The blog he ran as Postman Patel/Lord Patel became a port of call for anyone seeking to unravel what was really going on behind the headlines. His scientific training made him ask questions, and seek answers, where others feared to tread. Never daunted, though sometimes dismayed, by a changing world, he threw upon challenge, to which he brought a perspective which spanned two centuries and drew upon many contacts – whether he was discussing the De Menezes shooting, the fact that the US brought greater firepower upon Libya in 1986 than the English had done in the Falklands, and the embarrassing photographic evidence held by MI5 about Anthony Blunt, among others.

In one of his last blogs, he declared, "apart from making my arm ache reaching for my gun when I hear the phrase 'Two Cultures', it has been evident since Queen Victoria died and the little incident in Sarajevo that the Rolls Royce minds of the upper echelons have always regarded scientists as an unpleasant luxury, like a water flushing closet".

Teague soon found the internet a natural outlet for his wide-ranging talents – the very emblem of fast-moving, post-industrial society. It is a profound regret that he died so soon into this latest incarnation of a pleasingly eclectic life. Would that more politicians themselves were of his maverick spirit. He hoped his blog would continue beyond his lost struggle against cancer, and there are those in that blogosphere who may attempt it. However, it is doubtful that any one person can bridge C.P. Snow's Two Cultures in the way that Lord Patel did during that personal, idiosyncratic foray in the global village.

Donald Hankinson (Attended School from 1940-46)

Donald was born in 1929 and attended Wadham House School before progressing to Altrincham Grammar in 1940. After National Service he returned to H Hankinson & Co Valuers and Surveyors of Altrincham, and also formed a new construction company, Fairway Properties. Donald was a member of Ringway Golf Club for 59 years, and was also a keen walker in both Snowdonia and the Lake District.

Donald passed away on 23rd June 2009, aged 80, and leaves wife, Sheila and four children, Carolyn, Michael, David and James.

Tony Allsford (Attended School from 1944-47)

Throughout his life Tony followed a very successful career as a Quantity Surveyor, as well as being an active member of Ringway Golf Club.

He died in August 2009, aged 76 and is survived by his wife, Jennifer as well as two daughters and four grandsons.

Geoffrey Gough.

Geoffrey Goff started at the School in 1931 and throughout his life, he kept a diary. His family have very kindly provided an extract from his entries for his school years, which perhaps form the most appropriate basis of an obituary:

"September 1931 -

When the time came to move on to higher education and not having passed a scholarship, our parents paid fees for Cousin George and me to attend Altrincham County High School for Boys. We went by cycle to Plumley station daily and thence to Hale by the 8 am train to Manchester and home in the afternoon by the 1.04 pm from Hale station. What adventurous times these were for the "train boys".

Every station from Northwich collected one or two boys including half a dozen from Knutsford. The leader of the pack being "Sticky" Wright, the work house master's son - a six footer later to become an amateur boxer and police constable. Going in on the morning train, peace reigned as we completed our homework neglected from the previous evening. This encouraged much "cribbing" so that if one answer was wrong, we all got it wrong! Our best asset was Ken Whalley, later to go to university and achieve a doctorate and to become a veterinary surgeon of note. A real brain box was Ken, the son of a Plumley farmer. But if he got any of our answers wrong, he was always beaten up on the way home in the evening. We always attributed his successes in later life to our early beatings.

The 'train girls' heading for the girls' high school had a whole reserved coach at the front of the train. This was strictly taboo and was supervised by the female train prefects. If romance developed one had to take a later train home; where there's a will and all that! High spirited mischief was abundant on the homeward train and the railway staff were immediately alerted when at intermediate stations a compartment door would fly open before the train had stopped moving and a dozen or more boys would erupt from the compartment dashing up and down the train and oiling into other compartments in ones and twos to be seated meekly studying our books when staff looked in seeking the culprits. We were frequently detained in school hall after prayers the next day, the headmaster **uttering ominous words 'train boys stay behind after dismissal'** - that always meant trouble. Most of Cheshire Lines rolling stock appeared to come out of the ark and some elderly carriages had loose upholstered seating across the compartment and one of the ploys was to lower the compartment window and with three or four boys at each side, launch the six foot by two foot seat through the open window and land it in the Bolin whilst crossing the bridge between Ashley and Hale stations.....

School dinners were avoided by joining the Knutsford train boys who were allowed to go home for lunch which was from 12 noon to 2 pm! Having schoolboy contract tickets there was no limit on the number of journeys made. George and I were given one old shilling per day to obtain fish and chips at Howard's chip shop near to the now Civic Hall on Toft Road - but having one fish between us we had money over to buy sweets. A further advantage in making this journey was we were not back in class until 2.05 pm - always a joy. They say that school days are the best days of ones life but I did not find this so. My interest was to work with my hands, woodwork being a particular fascination. I am afraid I did not do well academically, always bumping along in the bottom half of the class. *I must say however that I have always been grateful to my parents for their sacrifices made to give me a good education which helped me no end professionally in later life."*

In 2008 Geoffrey attended a lunch at The House of Commons as a fundraiser for The School. On that day he was celebrating his 89th birthday and described the day as one of the most enjoyable of his life. He died in February 2010.

SCOUT HUT APPEAL

The 3rd Altrincham Troop came into being in 1913 with the opening of Altrincham County Grammar School for Boys in 1912 and until 1932 held its meetings in the original school hall. With over 150 members (Rovers, Scouts and Cubs) it was felt that development was sufficient for a move to set up its own HQ.

A purpose-built scout hut was constructed in 1931 at an estimated cost of £600. It was an ambitious plan, the design was for a structure resembling externally an old-fashioned log cabin, and internally a Baronial Hall.

To finance the scheme, the school as it existed then, was turned for a week-end, into a Trappers Trading Post. The Scout Troop was mobilised and with a willing array of helpers sufficient funds were raised to erect a Scout Headquarters second to none in the country. It was opened on 1st October 1932 by DR. F.W. W. Griffin Editor of 'The Scouter'. **There's a photo of the completed hut and copy of the original opening invitation published overleaf.**

Various works have taken place over the years and the building was re-roofed back in 1975 after a fire. The inside walls are full of trophies, flags, photographs, antlers, shields, spears, animal heads and paraphernalia donated to the Group over the years or brought back from Jamborees and journeys afar.

There's a more detailed history on the troop's own webpage:

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/3rdscouts/>

The building is still as originally constructed but is once again desperately in need of a new roof at more considerable cost than the whole building back in 1932! (the cost is estimated at £40,000 !)

The scout troop regularly fundraise by way of jumble sales and rounders days but have added cake sales, car boots and bag packing to our list to raise this huge amount. Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund have given us £3000 and generous donations have been received from Old Boys (notably £5000 left to the fund by Gordon Fyfe, a former head boy of the school, but who sadly died last year) and we are applying for other grants. There is also a salsa/auction evening planned in April and we are asking for support from local businesses. However the troop is still a considerable way short of the target amount and we are appealing to old boys for donations.

Scout Headquarters still functions on a weekly basis as some 130+ youngsters continue to be trained in Scouting Tradition, so any donations will be much appreciated by current scouts and scout-to-come.



The current scout hut with its distinctive totem poles, but poorly roof

Please send cheques (made payable to "3rd Altrincham Scout Group") to:

3rd Altrincham Scout Group
c/o Nicky Smith
5 Acacia Avenue
Hale
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA15 8QX

For the techno-confident amongst you, the troop has its own donations page on the just giving website:

<http://www.justgiving.com/3rdaltrinchamscoutgroup-raisetheroooffund>



*The County High School for Boys,
Altrincham*



*You are cordially invited to the
Opening of the new Scout Clubroom
by*

*Dr. F. W. W. Griffin, M.A., M.D.
(Editor of "The Scouter")*

on Sat., Oct. 1st 1932, at 3-15 p.m.



SCOUT CLUBROOM, THE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS, ALTRINCHAM

Opened 1st October, 1932, by DR. F. W. W. GRIFFIN, M.A., M.D., Editor of "The Scouter."

Architect: F. A. BRAZIER, A.R.I.B.A.

Builder: C. E. PENNINGTON

Roof Covering: "FLEXIBLE SHINGLES," by D. ANDERSON & SON, LTD.

JOTTINGS

2012 Centenary

During 2012 the School will be celebrating its Centenary Year, with various events being prepared to mark the occasion. **It is likely that the 'Old Boys Association' will be asked to contribute to a commemorative School Magazine** – more news to follow.

2010 Election Campaign

The School took an active part in this years Election and the 'Old Boys' were well-represented with Graham Brady (Conservative) successfully defending his seat from another Old Boy, Tom Ross (Labour).

Classmates Reunion

Three former classmates, (Kenneth Lea, Michael Blease and John Billingham), who attended the **School during the 1940's managed to contact each other** via the internet culminating in the three meeting for lunch in Hale recently for a sixty year catch-up.



OAA Contributions to the School

You may be interested to know that the Association has over the last 10 years contributed over £11,000 for various projects at the School, including the Language labs, the Sixth Form Centre and lighting for the School stage. This can only be achieved by your continued support for the Association and the various events it organises.

Email Addresses

To save costs, The Association are now emailing copies of the Newsletter to all Members of the Association who have provided us with their email address. Not only does this mean you will receive the Newsletter earlier, but also you will have the benefit of receiving it in colour, (as opposed to the black and white printed version). If we do not have your email address, please forward it to the Membership Secretary, Ken Webb at kenwebb@sapo.pt

Ronald Gow Poem

As many Association Members will be aware, one of our famous 'Old Boys' was poet and dramatist, Ronald Gow, (probably best known for 'Love on the Dole' – 1934). We have been forwarded the following poem written by him in memoriam to the School's founder and first headmaster, Laurence Saville Laver. Unfortunately we don't have a date of the poem but for authenticity it has been scanned from the original type-face (see overleaf).

In Memoriam

LAURENCE SAVILLE LAVER

In Wales we saw across a sunlit bay

The great blue mountains standing bare and free,

He said, "I think in such a manner too,

The hills of Greece go down into the sea."

And once we watched the runners on the field,

Pacing with white limbs flashing lightly clad,

He said, "They're like the runners on an ancient frieze,

Or some old Grecian Vase" - and he was glad.

Or when we pushed from off a shingle shore,

And turned our boat's nose down towards the West,

He said, "Now we are like Ulysses and his men,"

And youthful hearts beat faster for the jest.

O Attic city, gleaming young through time,

He never saw your stones, nor wandered there,

But builded here a School, and bade Youth smile,

And dreamed another Athens, still more fair.

Ronald Gow.