

THE OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS' ASSOCIATION

newsletter july 2013



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADMASTER



Headmaster: Tim Gartside

The twelve months since I last wrote to you all have been very memorable ones for the School. Our centenary celebrations continued into the second half of 2012 and a most memorable event was the “AGSB Film Night” in which the North West Film Archive kindly put together a series of extracts from films made at the School during the 1920s, 1950s and 1960s. The earlier films were directed by Ronald Gow and the later ones by Jack Sugden. Particularly during the screening of the extracts from the films of the 1950s and 1960s there were cries of recognition and peals of laughter from Old Boys in the audience who recognised scenes from Ladram Bay, many familiar faces of boys and teachers and some of the locations around School and the Hale/Bowdon area. A great time was had by all at this very well-attended event which concluded with some “Pearl & Dean” local cinema adverts as shown in 1973!

The event brought together boys, teachers, parents and Old Altrinchamians and for me helped to sum up the success of the Centenary Year celebrations. The year has been an opportunity to reflect upon the School past, present and future. Our final event will be in September of this year when we open the new Physics Centre – a £1M four-laboratory building at the North end of the site. There we will bury a Centenary time capsule containing a collection of artefacts and documents representing the School in 2012. The capsule will not be opened until 2112. It is a sign that having celebrated our first Centenary we are confident that we will continue to flourish for another 100 years and more.

Tim Gartside
Headmaster

EDITOR'S NOTES

Firstly may I thank all those who have contributed to this year's Old Altrinchamians' newsletter with reports and photographs.

It has been a daunting task taking over from Steve Perrett who appears to have been so much better organised and efficient than myself. Thanks, Steve for all the hard work you have put into the newsletter over the past years in addition to your many other Old Alts associated activities. You seem to be uncomplaining and have boundless energy. It would be greatly appreciated if any Old Alts could continue to alert me to any news which would be of interest to us all. It is only by your help that this newsletter can continue. See elsewhere for my contact details.

I would also urge any boys in their final year at school to consider formally joining our excellent association. It is a good way to keep in contact with one's school friends as we progress through life. Currently the cost of membership is £5.00 per year which is hardly

breaking the bank. It is hoped in the future however that, following negotiations, all former students may be automatically enrolled in the Association. If you are interested in becoming a member of our prestigious organisation now please contact Ken Webb who in addition to being our Treasurer is also our Membership Secretary.

We have over 700 members at present but hope to increase membership considerably during the next few years.

Our Annual General Meeting took place in November 2012. Drinks provided by the Headmaster were most welcome and helped us admirably in our deliberations.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our Chairman's wife, Valerie, and the Association send their sincere condolences to Mike Gittins and his family.

Mike informed us that the time had come for him to stand down as Chairman of the Association.

We thank him for his tireless work over many years. It was unanimously agreed to offer Mike the honorary post of Vice-President. We were delighted that he felt able to accept. The committee feels that we have a worthy successor to Mike (Geoff) in Colin Bamford who has already shown a great ability in diplomatic and organisational skills.

We were also pleased to welcome Scott Meakin to the Committee. It is hoped that since Scott is a teacher at AGSB he will be able to provide a good link between the Association and the School.

We were delighted to hear that Committee member Alastair Galbraith had become a father. We send congratulations to Alastair and Rachel on the birth of Luna Ivy.

Next year's AGM is scheduled for November 6th 2013 and takes place in the School Library. All interested parties will be most welcome.

Next year sees the Centenary Anniversary of the founding of the Association and in particular we look forward to huge crowds celebrating this milestone at the Annual Reunion Dinner provisionally scheduled for Friday March 21st. 2014.

Finally can I remind Old Alts of our website www.oldalts.com which provides details of upcoming events. We plan to revamp the website during the next few months with the help of Old Altrinchamian Mike Cetina.

Larry Bode



Old Alts Committee

Back row: Ken Lea, Paul Stockton, Stephen Perrett, Scott Meakin, Christian James, David Hughes.

Front row; Larry Bode, Tim Gartside, Peter Morton (President), Colin Bamford (Chairman), Ken Webb.

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

The annual reunion dinner took place on Friday March 22nd on a cold snowy Spring evening in the newly refurbished Stamford Hall at the School.

Perhaps it was disappointing after last year's bumper turnout that only 117 guests and old boys were present. However it was one of the most enjoyable and well organised reunion dinners for many years mainly thanks to the excellent organisational skills of Stephen Perrett and Colin Bamford.



Pre-prandial drinks: Eric Lupton, David Chester, Robert Nicholson, Kevin Burgess

Our new chairman Colin Bamford presided over the proceedings in the absence of the Association's President Peter Morton who was unable to attend because of poor health. Guest speaker this year was Mr David Howe (1958 - 1965) who was recently awarded an OBE.

Special Guest of Honour was the new vice-president Mr Mike Gittins who stood down from his position as chairman at the AGM in November 2012.

Preprandial drinks from a bar provided by Ashley Cricket Club in the luxurious 6th form common room set a convivial start to the evening. It was notable that not a single person present had aged in the slightest since his time at our august school except that most were now in long trousers.

Following a substantial and well-presented meal the chairman welcomed the assembled revellers.



Guest Speaker, David Howe with Colin Bamford

In his short speech Colin suggested that the Association might benefit from the appointment of a Commercial Manager who could organise fund raising activities. He is also looking for somebody to act as webmaster for the association's website. People interested in either of these posts are asked to contact Colin for further details.

In his report the Headmaster, Mr Tim Gartside highlighted three events in particular that took place in the centenary year of the foundation of the school.

Firstly the concert at the Bridgewater Hall which was attended by 1400 despite the alternative attraction of the local football match City v United, hastily and cruelly rearranged by Sky TV for the same night. It was pure coincidence, the Headmaster assured us, that one of the musical items that night was a rendition of 'Blue Moon'.

The second event was the visit to the school by The Duke of Gloucester who also met representatives of the Old Altrinchamians.

The third event of note was the AGSB Film Night which was well attended by former boys of the school. In addition to old footage of bygone Altrincham the team from Northwest Film Archive showed four films from a collection of spools found on the death of history teacher Mr Jack Sugden.

Cries of recognition emanated from the audience as the four films were shown.

In his report Mr Gartside announced that a time capsule relating to the centenary year is to be buried with a view to unearthing it in 2112.

Two long-serving members of staff Messrs. John Taylor, mathematics, and John Wales, geography, had retired after 40 and 36 years' service respectively.

A new science building is in the process of construction. It is to be known as the 'Physics Centre'.

The Headmaster thanked the Association for the cheque of £8000 recently presented to the school by the chairman. The donation will fund the new all-weather cricket wicket.



Plaque commemorating Old Alts' donation

Mr Gartside felt the future for AGSB looked good but there will be challenging times ahead because of the poor financial climate.

In conclusion the Headmaster reminded the Association that 2014 would be the Centenary of the foundation of the Old Altrinchamians. It would certainly be good to see an increase in numbers attending next year's annual reunion dinner.



Prefect persuading Chris Hill and David Chester to buy raffle tickets

The guest speaker this year was David Howe (1958 -1965).

David was recently awarded the OBE.

He recalled that his family had relocated to a local housing estate from Manchester. He was the first boy from the estate to attend AGSB.

He remembered cycling to school on a particularly cold day wearing a bright red jumper only to be confronted on arrival by the Headmaster Mr Crowther.

Mr Crowther remarked: You are very colourful today; you look like a parrot. Very polychromatic! Tomorrow you must be a polygon; tomorrow you must be more conventionala square in fact.

So Mr Crowther did have a sense of humour after all.

David told us how he enjoyed his involvement with sport at school and that he appreciated all the work put in by the schoolmasters both during term and during holidays when they organised School Camp at Ladrum Bay.

They were happy days.

A humorous and entertaining speech enjoyed by us all.

The evening was excellent.

A raffle raised funds for the school. People were exceptionally generous and more money per capita was raised than ever before.

The Association looks forward to next year's Reunion Dinner when it will be celebrating its Centenary Year. Early booking for the event is highly recommended as demand for tickets is expected to be high.



Paul Stockton with Guest of Honour Vice-President Mike Gittins

SAVILLE LAVER DINNER

In 2012/13, the Saville Laver Society held its 15th Annual Dinner on Saturday 27th April in Balliol College, one of Oxford University's oldest-established colleges. There, in the Grand Hall, where illuminated life-size paintings of past Masters, Fellows and Alumni adorned the walls, members took their places at the table.

The printed menus disclosed the gourmet dishes which were to be served and these were accompanied by choice wines. At the coffee stage, Balliol Mints were provided, carrying the figure 750, indicating the age of the college (in years).

Two Toasts were proposed, one in memory of the School's first Headmaster, L Saville Laver, and the other in memory of Roy Coleman, former Deputy Headmaster. Tim Gartside, present Head, gave an upbeat account of the breadth of School activities and of the many events held to celebrate the centenary in 2012.

Alan Laver, possessing genealogical links to the great man, offered some interesting remarks, pointing out that Balliol was the "sister" college to St John's, Cambridge, last year's dinner venue and undergraduate home of L S Laver.



Top row: Alan Laver, Adam Laycock, David Wheeldon, Alistair Allen.
Front row: Kevin Pearson, Tim Gartside, Will Allen.

Much credit for the success of the evening is due to the hard-working local organiser, Adam Laycock, now in his 2nd year at Balliol and reading Engineering.



Organiser Adam Laycock

After a photocall in the Hall, the company descended to “The Dungeon”, a basement bar in the college. There, in addition to the usual pursuits of alcohol consumption and conversation, an energetic game of table-top soccer was played (a “Head of the Table” contest!)

Ken Lea

ASHLEY and OLD ALTS CRICKET CLUB

Ashley CC (incorporating Old Alts CC) celebrates its 125th year in 2013 and we are looking forward to offering cricket to as many people as possible. We now have 5 senior teams, 6 junior teams and an Over 40s side. We have over 100 junior players and 50 seniors, in total they will play up to 200 matches this season.

Old Boys still involved on the playing side are Ian Horn, Chris Pendlebury, John Ward, Gary Tyms, Steve Foster, Dave Rice, who is the club chairman and more recent pupils, Josh and Matt Wardle and Rish Agrawal.

We have an overseas player/coach, Matt Jackson who plays for Fitzroy-Doncaster CC in the Victorian Premier League. He, along with 8 other qualified coaches and various assistants oversee the Junior coaching programme at the club on Monday nights; we have teams at Under 7, 9, 11, 13,14 and 15 age groups.

Recently we have invested in new equipment, notably a bowling machine and have built a new scoreboard, to be named after a past player and benefactor John Longworth. We have plans to extend the existing pavilion and to improve the outfield and drainage.

We have a number of events planned to celebrate our 125 years including 2 Music Nights on Thursday 6th June and Friday 5th July, our beer festival, now in its 3rd year on 12th to 14th July and finally our celebration dinner will be at the Grammar School on Saturday 19th October.

We are trying to establish a former players association in an effort to keep in touch with all past players from Ashley and Old Alts CC.

If you are looking for a new club or a new challenge get in touch with the club secretary Brian Birtles on 07766 114447 or e-mail him at bdbirtles@hotmail.com

Brian Birtles

OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS F.C

Old Altrinchamians F.C., better known locally as Old Alts, runs five open-aged football teams, four on a Saturday and a Vets team that plays friendlies on a Sunday. The Vets team has numerous old grammar school boys playing for them and are run by the Club's Chairman, Mark Fallon. All of our teams play at Crossford Bridge, Sale, M33 7WR.

The 1st XI plays in the Premier Division of the Manchester Football League and is managed by Lee Bennett. They finished in 7th position out of 16 this season.



1st XI at Crossford Bridge

Our reserve team also play in the M.F.L. and finished runners-up in the 2nd Division, in which there are 14 teams. This was a tremendous achievement and marks four successive years of improvement. The reserves are managed by Pat Kelly.

Our 3rd XI team play in the Altrincham F.L. Division 2 and finished 3rd out of 12 teams, and are managed by Bernard Williams. We are hoping that this will be sufficient to gain promotion into the top division for the 2013/14 season.

Our 4th team, which started as our youth team some years ago, play in the East Cheshire League and are managed by Andrew Wallis. They finished just below half way in a division of 12 teams.

Another enjoyable and successful Sportsman's Dinner was held at the Cresta Court when our guest speaker was television comedian and impersonator, Kevin Connelly, who proved to be very popular. Please make a note of the date of our next Sportsman's Dinner, which will be on Thursday 28th November 2013.

Old Alts AFC was formed in 1920 and our Treasurer Brian Clark, who was at the School from 1954-62, has been with the club for over 50 years. Brian is also Treasurer of the Crossford Bridge Management Association which runs the site at Crossford Bridge Sports Ground.

For further information please contact Phil Lewis at philip.lewis816@02.co.uk

Phil Lewis (Sec).

REQUEST FOR TEAM MANAGERS

One of Cheshire's leading amateur football clubs, Old Alts FC, is looking to recruit a Reserve Team Manager and Assistant Manager to run their 2nd XI, which plays in the Manchester Football League. Following a successful 2012/13 season when they finished runners up in their Division, the previous 2nd XI Manager and Assistant have now taken over the running of the 1st XI for next season.

We are therefore looking to recruit a Manager and Assistant that can build on last season's success. The ability to work with other Team Managers is paramount. Old Alts is a Charter Standard Club with good pitches and facilities at Crossford Bridge Sports Ground in Sale from where it runs four open age Saturday teams. Anyone interested should in the first place contact the Club Secretary, Phil Lewis, on 07753 137 170.

GOLF SOCIETY REPORT

Vintage Deux Mille et Douze

Old Alts v. The School 15th June 2012 – The Marlborough Trophy

Daylight Robbery

Twelve months after a humiliating defeat at the hands of the youths, revenge was on everyone's lips. One look at the team I had assembled told me that defeat was not just improbable but quite impossible. No punches were pulled in the team talk either. Every hole won was to be banished from the mind, every hole lost was to be felt like the death of a beloved family pet.

Harrison and Perrett quickly built a commanding deficit by losing the opening two matches but better was to follow. Leonard, in the form of his life, took a moment out from signing autographs to dispatch his awestruck opponent. Murton then moved swiftly to draw us level at two apiece. Leake and McNally got in on the act gaining halves against dangerous opponents. Three all. Next up - Dave Smith, a man whose record for the Old Alts is only matched by Nadal at the French Open. He was irresistible as expected. 4-3 up. Next - the captains. Master Meakin eased past Paul Stockton at a canter as the Old Alts skipper let the emotion of the occasion get the better of him. 4-4. There should have only been eight matches but when the Boys brought two too many players, we had a readymade decider. In a solution reminiscent of playground football team selecting, I plumped for the smaller one of the two, betting the House on some odd notion that he would be a better putter. I was wrong. 4-5.

And so it was that the Marlborough Trophy remained with the School for a third year. Heartfelt congratulations, tinged with not one iota of bitterness, go to Master Meakin and his Team.

Old Alts v. The World 4th July 2012 – The Inter-Old Boys Trophy

A Valiant effort

The Old Alts Team took the field at Bramhall GC to represent their school against inferior seats of education including; Kings Mac (Maxonians), Cheadle Hulme (Old Waconians), Stockport GS (Old Stops) Stockport HS (Stoconians), William Hulme (Old Hulmeians) and Manchester GS (Old Mancunians).

With six of our scores to count from.. our six entries, it was going to take something very special to stay off the bottom of the table. A rainy morning (it rains in this fixture every year) gave way to a drier afternoon and the Old Alts came out from under the brollies scrapping.

George Sams, enjoying some sparkling mid-season form, top scored with 32 points. The wily fox, John Shaw was next, delivering a not insubstantial 31 points to the OA coffers before Paul Stockton chipped in with 30. Stalwarts Roy Harrison – 29 points, Martin Leake – 25 points and last but not least, Duncan Battman – 21 points gave everything for the cause to make a non-too-shabby total of 168. Twenty points down on the year before and one place lower in the standings as the Old Alts finished in 5th place in the seven-team challenge match eventually won by Maxonians on 215.

Old Alt v. Old Alt 1st November 2012 – The 23rd Annual Old Alts Society Day

Wet socks

Our third dry Society day on the bounce – what fortune! Unfortunately a storm of biblical proportions had taken place the night before all but washing away the venue for the year's blue riband event. A record turn-out of 24 braved soggy underfoot conditions to take on the challenge of a new course on our rota – High Legh.

I've always seen my role as the organiser as being to lay the foundations, as far as humanly possible, for my fellow Old Alt to have the very best experience possible on his special day out. I like to make sure he is personally greeted at the door. I like to place a fully marked card with all his shots annotated in his hand before he tees off. I try to put him with people he will enjoy the company of. I try to give him a prize – even if he's played quite appallingly. However as those of you with children will know, sometimes you can bring 'em up too soft. And so it was that a request came through from the first tee that someone's trolley was "Not working as perhaps I might have wished." and "Could a replacement be couriered immediately." Please note the lack of a question mark in that last sentence. Well, a trolley was removed and a replacement was couriered and when another member saucily suggested that his shoes had become un-laced, I took longer than I should have to see the humour in his comment. I digress.

Following a soggy trudge we fought each other like hormonal teenage girls in the changing room, all bidding to secure the sole hairdryer with which to dehumidify our socks. Partially dried out, we gathered to dine with Ken Webb delivering a brief but evocative toast to the School. Following a quite outstanding meal it was time to announce our winners and losers.

The Team Prize was won this year by Colin Bamford and his two guests Charlie Turnock and Graham Winthorpe with a best 2 from 3 score of 56 Stableford points. Charlie Turnock's red letter day continued as he picked up the Best Guest Prize, The Dickson Trophy with 31 points.



Team prize winners Charlie Turnock, Colin Bamford, Graham Winthrope

There was a shock in the Long Drive competition when Duncan Battman, immediately following a 4 putt on the previous hole, let go a 300 yarder at the par 5 fifth to win the Popeye head-cover. Nearest the Pins were unsurprisingly collected by Scott Meakin and John Shaw.



Duncan Battman makes a near unbelievable boast whilst in receipt of the Longest Drive prize

The main event, The Charles Laver Trophy, was a hotly contested affair with six Old Alts in with a chance to win over the closing three holes. Scott Meakin and Ken Webb tied 2nd with 36 points but it was the wily fox himself, Mr John Shaw who sprinted clear of the chasing pack just when he needed to with 38 points to emerge victorious.



John Shaw receives his second career *Charles Laver Trophy* from organiser Paul Stockton

Alan Hunt, in his 80th year, waltzed off with the engraved wooden putter we annually bestow upon our unluckiest golfer.

There is much to look forward to for 2013. The Marlborough Trophy being regained.. Victory in the Inter-School challenge at Bramhall GC on the 10th July.. and our first trip to Mottram Hall GC as a Society on 31st October. You will, of course, read all about it here next year however if you're not already part of the ever growing number of Old Alt golfers playing in these events, please feel free to come and experience them for yourselves.

Paul Stockton (1989-96)

MASONIC LODGE

It was the wish of the first Headmaster of the school Dr.Saville Laver to found a Masonic Lodge for Old Boys, Teachers, Governors, and Parents of pupils for the purpose of continuing an association with the school through Freemasonry sadly he died prior to the formation of the Lodge. However some distinguished Old Boys decided to make his wish a reality and the Lodge was formed in 1956 its first Master being Edward Mason(Ted) who was a Deputy Headmaster of the School. Due to declining numbers the Lodge amalgamated with our Mother Lodge Hale and became Hale and Old Altrinchamian Lodge in 2007

It is sad that we no longer have any direct contact with the school in the sense that no Teacher or Governor has joined the Lodge even though the school is now very nearly 5 times bigger than when the Lodge was formed.

I hope this very brief explanation of the reason why the Lodge was formed is of interest to you if you would like more details I can provide a history of our first 50 years.

Don Boden



Don Boden

OLD BOYS RECEIVE NEW YEAR HONOURS

Two former Altrincham Grammar School Boys were given awards in the New Years Honours List.

Ian Livingstone and David Howe received a CBE and OBE respectively.

Ian who attended AGS in the 1960s is mainly known for his work with video games and is life president of the Eidos organisation.

He is co-creator with Steve Jackson of the Fighting Fantasy books, a series of interactive books which may well have encouraged many students to enter the computer games industry.

Ian has been critical of Information Technology teaching in UK schools in a report published in 2012. This led to Conservative Education Secretary Michael Gove giving English schools the directive to improve the teaching of programming in Information and Communications Technology.

David Howe was at Altrincham Grammar School between 1958 and 1965.

David was awarded his OBE for services to vulnerable children and families.

He is Emeritus Professor of Social Work at the University of East Anglia, having joined the School of Social Work in 1976.

Before attending AGS he went to Heyes Lane Primary School.



David Howe

David was guest speaker at the Old Boys Annual Reunion Dinner in March when he recalled fond memories of his time at AGS , the excellent teaching staff and two teachers in particular.

Roy Coleman taught Geology and he remembers Mr Coleman's kindness to the students during a field trip to Dorset, caring for one less able individual especially.

His Form master at one point was Reggie Thompson who also took him for Latin, a subject at which he did not excel. David especially remembers the somewhat tedious textbooks, which he detested, written by a Dr Whitely .

It was at an interview at Durham University that he came across an elderly gent on the interviewing panel..... a Dr Whitely.

'O me miserum' were the words that sprung to David's mind.

We send our congratulations to both Ian Livingstone and David Howe.

OBITUARIES

Peter Duke (born September 6th 1958)

My good friend Pete Duke (1969-76) has sadly passed away following a long illness, on October 5th this year, in his adopted city of Lancaster.

I will never forget my first sighting of Pete, nor, I have to tell you, will my mum who was taking me, on my first day, to the 'big school'. As first years (none of this year seven nonsense!) we were told to turn up at 10.30 with school already under way. Now in 1969 first years, and only first years, were made to wear shorts and a cap (that everyone, with the exception of a few odd balls, had ditched by the end of the first week).

As we approached school that morning we spied Pete walking, by himself, towards us from the other direction. Despite being only 11 years old he was already the best part of six foot and probably weighed about twelve stone, all of which was muscle. He had long black hair, no cap and the effect on the shorts that he had somehow squeezed into, was almost pornographic. I looked at my mum who hated me swearing and said, "Bloody hell, I hope they're not all that big!"

Pete was sent home to get his hair cut and to buy a cap but a concession was made and he returned to school, less provocatively, in long trousers.

Pete was the archetypal gentle giant. He was kind, generous, helpful and, above all else, great fun with a wicked sense of humour; once met he was never forgotten.

One of Pete's last public appearances was at the Centenary Concert at the Bridgewater Hall last year; an evening which, despite his illness, he was thrilled to have attended.

A picture of him, in the school rugby team, can be seen in The Gallery Room in the 1970's section ... he doesn't need pointing out!

Duncan Battman

Frank Whittaker

Frank attended Altrincham Grammar School during the 2nd World War years, 1939-1944. He died in December 2012.

After leaving Altrincham Grammar School he went into local Government, where he studied and became an Environmental Health Officer. He moved to Northern Ireland where he worked in Newcastle County Down. He very much enjoyed his time there and spent many happy hours going out on his boat and taking part in the local dog shows with his Alsatian.

After a few years he moved back to England, spent a short time in Hertfordshire before moving to North Devon. This is where he spent most of his working life and retirement. He played bowls and captained many games, he also had a love of snooker and gardening, in particular growing orchids.

He was extremely proud of his time spent at the Altrincham Grammar School and wore his scarf with pride. He leaves a Wife Sylvia, a Daughter Fiona and two granddaughters Lucy and Francesca.

Fiona Tomalin

Robert Ian Mackay

Robert (Bob) loved husband of 68 years of the recently deceased Marion, and loving father to Alison and Margaret died peacefully on April 15th 2013.

Formerly he was the first visiting Paediatrician at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport and pioneering Consultant at Hope Hospital, Salford and the Royal Manchester Childrens' Hospital.

He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and a founding Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

For the last eighteen years of his professional life he was Medical Officer to Manchester Grammar School.

In the Centenary year of 2012 Dr Mackay wrote a letter to the Headmaster, part of which is recorded below.

As far as my records show, I entered the school to the First Form in 1928 and left in 1937. I was Head Boy in 1936 - 37 and my name was inscribed in gold leaf on an Honours Board, which may still exist.

I recall being happy at school in spite of the appropriate checks and balances, much of which I also remember.

Of course , I remember Mr. Laver as a severe senior figure. I remember him caning the hands of boys but never violently nor viciously and we regarded it as normal punishment without resentment.

My strongest memories of happiness are with Scouting. I joined the Wolf Cubs early on and progressed through the ranks to Assistant Scoutmaster after I had left. I remember Mr. Hamblin as Head and Scoutmaster. He took a group of us to Kandersteg one Summer but unfortunately on the way home in a camp in Paris he scalded his foot while cooking. This was a major complication but we arrived home safely. I remember the campaigns to raise funds for the Scout HQ and the opening of the building which was an enormous facility. At that time Geoff Sutcliffe was Scoutmaster with Mac Clow and Horace Jackson as Rover Scouts. Scouting had an enormous effect on my life and the teaching still affects my daily affairs.

Scout Camps and the School Summer Camps were a particular joy which I joined year after year. The Scout Hut had a useful fiction library and I don't recall any library facility in school at that time.

Ronald Gow I remember as form master and teacher of ancient history, and also the films and dramatic work, though I never took part. I remember his disputes with Walter Greenwood, the author of 'Love on the Dole' when he wrote the play. Ronald was my mother's cousin and so I knew his family and of his marriage to Wendy Hiller.

I was never intereted in sport and continue in this. My father had no interest except personally in golf and I was a weedy post-war baby. Association football in those days was cloth caps on a Saturday afternoon and not for the middle classes. We played inter-house matches on a Wednesday afternoon which I skipped as often as I could. I do not recall any enthusiasm among the staff to encourage us, but then my mind would not be receiving

such. Apart from the mention of a cricket coach, I don't think there was any serious attempt at coaching teams and the school sports were a joke.

R. I. Mackay

Barry Cliff

Attended AGS 1947-1953

Kenneth Ayrton

Ken was born on 11th February 1926 in Hale. He was the middle child having an older brother Eric and younger sister Barbara(now Kennedy). He attended ABGS from 1936 - 1942 after which he was called up and found himself in India on the North West frontier in what is now Pakistan. On return to the UK he remained active in the Territorial Army and rose to the rank of Lt Colonel in the 4/7 Cheshire regiment. In his civilian life he trained as a quantity surveyor and became partner in W Davenport & Co Warrington. He married Mary Shaw in 1954 and had a son Richard who also attended ABGS(69-76) and daughter Jane who attended AGGS. He was a passionate dinghy sailor and was for a time Chairman of the National Albacore Association as well as being a senior measurer for the Royal Yachting Association. He continued racing his Albacore dinghy until ill health stopped him in 2005. Music played a large part in his life and he was an accomplished guitarist; after his retirement he played jazz semi-professionally. His wife Mary passed away in 2009 and on account of his deteriorating health Ken moved from Alderley Edge to a nursing home in Somerset near Richard. He suffered another stroke in December 2012 and never really recovered. He passed away peacefully on 6th June.

Richard Ayrton

Ron Tilley

Howard McKay writes: I read in the Old Alts newsletter that Ron Tilley died last year at the age of 87. Unknown to us in the 1960s he served on an aircraft carrier in WW2 and was a prisoner of the Japanese. His gym slipper was feared by us all.

DONATIONS

The Old Altrinchamians Association is a non-profit organisation.

Income depends mainly on Membership fees and money raised through the raffle at the Annual Reunion Dinner (so ably organised this year by Christian James with the help of many very generously donated raffle prizes).

All profits are given to the school and in the past have been used to send students on various educational trips. For example students have been helped to attend a World Challenge Trip to Argentina; a Spanish exchange visit for a talented linguist was partly supported. There is also a discretionary fund which is distributed as the Headmaster sees fit.

This year the Association was able to donate a considerable amount of money for the provision of an all-weather cricket pitch. This will be particularly appreciated by the enthusiastic cricketers whose matches were frequently rained off during the 2102 season.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cricket Club Celebration Dinner	Saturday October 19th 2013
Old Alts AGM.	Wednesday November 6th 2013
Reunion Dinner	Friday March 21st 2014

