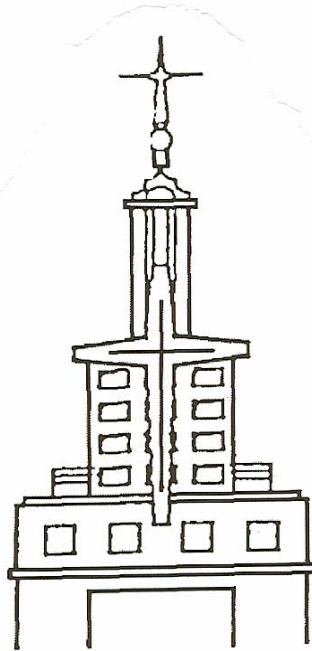


CLARION RECALL



NUMBER 32

October 2011

Editor:

Shirley Collman

67 The Green, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 4AN

Telephone: 01462 – 647234 e-mail: shirley.collman@ntlworld.com

Web Site Publisher:

Alan Woodford

Clearview Crescent RR1, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5N3, Canada

E-mail: alwoodford@rogers.com

Website: www.clarionrecall.org

From The Vicar (Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device)

Dear Friends,

It's a delight to be asked to contribute to your excellent publication. I am especially pleased that you are saving trees and publishing on line for most Clarion readers. I am joining the technologically advanced like you by typing this - using my thumbs! - into my blackberry on a tube to St Martin-in-the-Fields where I'm preaching for their Harvest Festival!

As you know we are approaching the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Consecration of the completed church on 12th December 1936.

This was a day after Edward VIII's abdication so one can only wonder not only what was in the mind of the Bishop of London - a leading privy counsellor and intimately connected with the abdication crisis - or any of those who attended.

In the run-up to the Festal Eucharist on Sunday 11th December at 11.30am (later than usual to allow people time to be with us and to enjoy lunch afterwards) we have a number of anniversary events.

Our choir leads a party to Hursley Parish Church on 6th November, where John Keble was vicar, where he's buried and where we join the parish for Evensong. It used to be - as some of you may recall - the custom to go on a parish outing to Hursley each year. It's excellent that we're reviving this.

On 21st November BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship is broadcast live from John Keble Church - the first such broadcast since a televised Eucharist in the early 1960s when Rennie Simpson (a predecessor of mine at Westminster Abbey, Blackburn Cathedral and JK) was Vicar.

The 75th anniversary itself is celebrated on 11th December as I say at 11.30am when we really hope that all who are able will make the pilgrimage to JK for a Festal Eucharist with choir and brass.

The celebrant will be The Right Reverend John Dennis, my predecessor but one, as vicar, and the preacher, one of the best in the Church of England, The Very Reverend Victor Stock, Dean of Guildford. Let us know if you are coming.

Please email Janet Saffery: jansaffery@btinternet.com or 'phone Janet 0208 959 2270.

Anniversaries are always good times to think of connections. Most importantly we wish to renew our connection with all of you for whom John Keble Church has meant, and continues to mean, so much.

I've already mentioned one that I have through Rennie Simpson. Others of you, who were at his Thanksgiving Service in Ely Cathedral, will know that I knew Rex Walford through placement as an ordinand at the parish he attended in Cambridge. But until I read the first edition of Rex's short history of the church and spotted the list of curates, I had not made the connection with Dallas le Page. Well, that is not strictly speaking true as I had heard about John Keble Church from Dallas, but forgotten that he'd spoken about it.

I first met Dallas - by then a Provincial Canon and recently retired Sub Dean of St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, when in 1996 I did a placement there as part of my ordination preparation.

I experienced and loved Dallas's warm wit, his brilliantly short sermons - never longer than eight minutes, if that - and his theologically perceptive mind. I also sang next to his (very loud and somewhat piscatorial) baritone in the St George's Singers!

After a curacy when I returned to the cathedral as its Canon Precentor, he was less well physically but no less outrageous. He used to initiate the summer routine of removing clothes under one's cassock - it was incredibly hot - by simply saying "trousers off" and to the astonishment of all removing his!

He had had a strange route to the cathedral in some ways. Those of you who recall him at JK will know that he had a second curacy in Hampstead and was then due to go to South Africa as Chaplain to the Archbishop, Geoffrey Clayton. Clayton, however, died suddenly of a heart attack having just signed a famous letter to the South African Government protesting at newly-introduced apartheid legislation, which was increasing by the month.

Clayton's successor, Joost de Blank, had his own chaplain to bring so Dallas found himself in a strange position, set to sail for South Africa but with nowhere to go!

He was swiftly offered the post of chaplain of Michaelhouse School in Natal, however, and followed this up by another Chaplaincy at an equally prestigious school, Diocesan College (Bishops) in Cape Town. He was hugely popular at both - as he had been of course working with the youth at JK. He had a mix of informality (all those jumpers!) and distance (a slightly quizzical style) which is a good one for a priest, allowing people in but giving them space and allowing them to be themselves!

After his years as a chaplain he said that he was "Sent to Fishhoek... A quiet retirement village where people came to die and swiftly forgot why they'd come."

Elderly ladies, in which Fishhoek abounded, somewhat irritated Dallas. He also, infamously, sat on the coach, on a trip to The Holy Land, when the guided tour arrived at the Mount of the Beatitudes saying that it was "All pure conjecture, the site of various happenings." Asked why he wasn't showing much interest in the so-called historical sites, he exclaimed "I've not come to see the ancients but the moderns!"

Ted King, for thirty years Dean of St George's Cathedral, Cape Town recognised that Dallas must not be allowed to languish in Fishhoek, appointing him Sub-Dean, a post he loved and filled for over a decade.

He preached intelligently, ordered liturgy beautifully, initiated all sorts of groups - he loved group dynamics, flip charts, and all those interactive games at conferences that many loath but which in his hands would always be such fun.

His years at the cathedral - moving seamlessly into retirement - were happy ones. But two realities cast perhaps long shadows over the life of this most sensitive of souls. I heard much about them when, his health failing, he gave me power of attorney, and I prepared him for death, and then had the great privilege of organising his funeral. Though I suspect that many at JK had not the faintest idea of them at all.

The first was the fact that Dallas had been a conscientious objector during the Second World War - following his years as an undergraduate at Keble College, Oxford. This in itself was not the cause of the shadow but the fact that he was only released from imprisonment at Reading gaol when most of his family were killed in an air raid on Southampton was undoubtedly an experience that affected him at the deepest level. This, combined with the fact that he was gay, at a time when it was not possible to be open about such a fact, added to a deeply reflective side of his personality which at times traversed the difficult terrain of depression. But it also made him pastorally - as is so often the case - the sensitive, listener he was. Countless souls beat a path to his door because of this and his combination of compassion and practicality was hugely appreciated.

Fastidious in many ways - he accounted for every penny or rand he spent in a ledger for each year of his life since university days - he left a small fortune at his death to benefit the cathedral he loved and its music to which he had contributed so fulsomely.

Personally I learnt a huge amount from him, and loved his humour. For someone who hated conflict - and would avoid it like the plague - he could, on occasion say some very strident things in a soft but no less penetrating way.

One Sunday at Evensong we endured an interminably dull - and bad - sermon. On reaching the vestry Dallas invited the preacher to sign the book, and then said very calmly, "Oh Father, we really must ensure that you never ever preach here again!"

It was said so softly that the preacher evidently thought it a compliment, whilst I dived into a cupboard, a surplice in my mouth in an attempt to hide my mirth.

I think of him fondly and when I stand in John Keble Church occasionally I feel his presence linking me with all those down the years who have made JK such a prayed-in and holy place. It's for them all that we'll give thanks in December, not the least for Dallas le Page, who came here when the church was still a teenager, and who would, I hope, be moderately pleased that someone he influenced so deeply stands where he stood over half a century later.

Yours faithfully,

Canon Chris Chivers

Our grateful thanks to Alan Woodford for all the hard work he has done on setting up and managing our web site. It has been very well received and has already enabled contact to be made with many people. Wendy said that Rex would have welcomed the move into technology. A printed copy will be sent to all those who returned the enquiry form and asked for one.

Thank you to all of you who have sent donations for Clarion Recall. Please note that cheques need to be made out to S. A. Collman. Barclays wanted to charge Clarion for a business account and were not too happy with the infrequent use so I closed the account and converted my sole Barclays account for Clarion Recall use. If anyone wants email or postal addresses for anyone on our mailing list please let us know.

Web Site News ...www.clarionrecall.org

Alan writes.....

Those of you who have a computer with a high-speed internet connection and familiarity with using an internet browser such as Microsoft Explorer can now read and print copies of the latest Clarion Recall newsletter, as well as past editions, directly from our website: www.clarionrecall.org
An email will be sent to advise when a new edition of Recall is posted.

Apart from all the trees and postage saved, there is another advantage to the website. Unlike a newsletter – which takes a lot of time and effort to assemble - individual articles can be published on the Clarion Recall website when and as needed. An example would be Wendy Walford's article on 'Cell Talk', or serialization of Mary Pack's Deansbrook History. Also readers can communicate with article writers (almost) directly by posting comments. To see a good example of interaction to an article via comment take a look at the WW2 Street Party article (see photos pages 20 & 21).

Two final points about our website: Firstly it provides a link with anyone searching the internet for web pages which include words such as 'JKCYC'. Think of all those ex JKCYC people out there who don't know about Clarion Recall but who will hopefully reconnect through the site, (our link to the younger JK generations?). And finally if you have any ideas or suggestions for the website or would like to help run it – please leave a comment at the end of this article if you are on the web site or email or write to me.

Alan Woodford

Barry Cockerell asks ‘when there is a significant occurrence such as demise; could an email be sent drawing attention to the notification on the web site? This would ensure that prompt information is brought to the attention of those who visit the web site only occasionally’.

Donald Straughan says.....

‘Just a note to thank you and Alan Woodford for the hard copy of Clarion Recall Review, since I am an internet user you can put me on the email/internet list and I will not need a mailed copy. It is pleasing to see that his younger cohort is active, though a salutary reminder of my own advancing years. I always enjoy reading your publications and can refresh my warm memories of how my cohort looked in their youth.

Stella and I are still living quietly in Bath, in addition to looking after me and an overlarge house for the two of us; she is active as a guide at No 1 Royal Crescent, in quilling, in a history of art group and in running a reading club, with occasional Bridge. I do very little at the moment as my family and local history activities are presently at very low ebb, but I will hopefully revive soon. I try to stay fit and slim by means of regular use of an exercise bike, and still have a reasonable head of hair which is not too grey!

As to old JKCYC members, the only person I keep in regular touch with is Michael Day, though I do see or hear from Amy Orman (nee Grimes) about once a year. Amy’s sister, Betty, lives in Bath. Best wishes to you personally and to any of your contacts who remember me.’

Donald

Don and Gill Wright

‘Wonderful website, fortunately I am able to print my own copy. Keep up the good work. Cheers.’

Don and Gill

Tony Woodford

Excellent idea – well done brother!

Thea Cooper from Melbourne, Australia, who is now 82, together with her daughter, a nurse, is caring for her sister Roma now 88 “has no time to gaze at a little screen” and sent a cheque “to help with finances for us (very) oldies who still like to read books and the paper”. She still enjoys gardening and golf and sends her regards to everyone.

Valerie Dempsey has moved to Orpington, Kent and is spending Christmas in South Africa with Yvonne Land. Sister Shirley Hobson writes ‘on my 75th birthday, John, Valerie and our daughter Helen went back to the JK Good Companions 75th birthday. We met Rita Harvey (nee Neill) whom we (John and I) knew while also teaching at Deansbrook School. We had not met since the 50’s. We enjoyed the trip down memory lane! Thank you for keeping us in touch over the years’.

Muriel Olin (nee West) says ‘It is good that Alan is willing to help keep Clarion Recall going. Thank you for your hard work too. Best wishes.....Muriel

Joy Oliver writes It was another success at Brian and Jose’s. I loved meeting up with so many again.

My garden takes up so much time but I’m getting there slowly (oh so slowly). I’m trying to make it more ‘Joy friendly’ and less time consuming. Tom must be looking down at me saying ‘now you realise just how hard I worked’. (Yes I do now, but even with all the time I put in watering, weeding, mowing and so forth, it’s still not up to his standard) and he seemed to achieve perfection with such ease! Like my school reports said ‘must try harder’. Back to the mowing.....Joy

Alan Sims writes Shirley, I believe it is possible to have an email mailing list for automatic circulation. Would it be possible to use this for free circulation thus avoiding the difficulty of not knowing when Clarion is issued? ..**Alan Sims**

Elizabeth Taillie writes and we send her our congratulations!

Eight years ago, when I was 69, I suddenly had an urge to try for a BA majoring in English. Because of where we live, I knew I'd have to do it extramurally, but when husband, Leo, and the rest of the family told me to 'go for it' I did. I still don't really know what triggered off that urge. One of my older sisters was deteriorating with Alzheimer's and an older brother had succumbed and died and perhaps I thought if I stimulated my brain it would help me escape. I have one surviving sister, Sheila, whom some of you will remember, and she is as bright as a button at 88 so hopefully I'll take after her!

Anyway, I began with one subject, because we were advised if we hadn't studied for a while we must begin gradually. Since I hadn't studied for 53 years I thought one subject taken over two semesters was probably the way to go. When I passed that paper I increased the number of papers to two the following year and then to three and then to four in succeeding years. Seven years later I passed the 24th and last paper in April of this year and attended the capping ceremony at Massey University which is in Auckland. Leo and three of our children and one of our daughters-in-law attended and it was one of the happiest days of my life.



To all you younger ones, middle-aged or even senior citizens, it's never too late to follow a dream. If I can attain a BA at the age of 76 (which I was last year) anyone can! So go for it and never think it's too late.
Eliz.



Trevor Johns

We caught up with ex JKC Choir and YC member Trevor Johns during his recent visit to Canada. Trevor was born and lived at 49 Orchard Crescent, close to JK. His main JK memories are of becoming head chorister, singing in the replacement JK choir at St Paul's Cathedral c1955 and of winning the Hendon Borough Youth Table Tennis Doubles Championship with partner Raymond Stapleton c1961. Trevor spent most of his career in the medical research and pharmaceutical industry in England and Germany.

In 1989 Trevor was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa – a leading cause of blindness in adults. His sight steadily deteriorated until 2003, when he was registered as blind (although he still has some remaining peripheral vision). Two years of increasing isolation ended in 2005 when a social worker contacted the Guide Dog Association on his behalf. Shortly afterwards Newton arrived – a black two-year old Labrador-Retriever Cross. Newton is now 8-years old and approaching the normal retirement age for a guide-dog. Trevor will hopefully soon have a younger replacement guide-dog and Newton will stay on as the household pet.



Trevor and Newton 2011

Coincidentally in 2005 Trevor was visited by a case-worker representing the Wiltshire Blind Association. During their discussion Trevor mentioned his frustration at the lack of suitable local recreational facilities for the blind. He was encouraged by the case-worker to write a letter to the Association which was published in the Association's newsletter and started a string of events that has resulted in him later becoming a trustee and Board Member of the Association.

Subsequently the British Blind Sports Association held a 'Have-a-Go Day' for the blind at 10-pin bowling, which Trevor enjoyed. He and his wife Pat then went round asking if anyone wanted to start up a local 10-pin bowling club in the town of Swindon. Initially 4-people joined and became the founding members of what is now 'The Swindon Bats Sports and Social Club' ('Swindon Bats' for short). The club which is now a charity has grown to a membership of 32 visually impaired people and 5 sighted volunteers. The club's success has been extraordinary as one member was part of Team GB's 10-pin bowling team in Sidney Australia 2008. This year the Swindon Bats had three teams in the British Finals. Trevor's team came first, and the Ladies team came third.

Cycling, shooting, archery, Social Club (cards, speakers, visits e.g. to the nearby Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, Theatres, etc.) are all Swindon Bat activities. The idea is to get people up and out – and improve their quality of life by inviting them into a friendly active environment which in turn improves their level of confidence and self-esteem. (Trevor says isolation and loss of self-esteem are two of the major potential downsides to the onset of blindness).

Trevor claims he now does more than he did when sighted – in July he spent a week as a crew member on a 40ft sailboat on the Solent.

Trevor continues as a trustee of his Swindon based charity. However over the past year he has stood down from the organizing committee to allow younger members to take more responsibility in running the club as well as to free him to take on a larger role helping blind people in Wiltshire. Three years ago he was asked to join the Wiltshire Blind Association as a trustee and is also now on the executive committee. He is presently chairing a focus group which is contacting VIPs and VIP clubs in Wiltshire to determine their perception of needs with a view to ensuring optimal targeting and allocation of Association funds.

Trevor lives in Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, with his second wife Pat and his dog Newton. He has two grown children by his first wife Sue Johns nee Perrin. Trevor and Pat each have two grandchildren. Some readers may remember Trevor's older sister Evelyn.

(Note: If you want to ask Trevor how a VIP – or Visually Impaired Person – takes part in a shooting competition, ask him by posting the question on any comment section on the web site. The web site also has a scanned copy of the Swindon BATS brochure.)

GEOFF OWEN

Like a lot of people, I am a hoarder of what some would call worthless information. However I find it a great pleasure to look back, particularly on Sport some 60 to 70 years ago.

My little scorebook holds memories of the period 1941 to 1945 and the oldest record of the famous John Keble Youth Club cricket team.

I was but a child at the time so it is perhaps forgivable that I failed to put the name of our opponents on the score sheet of 7th May 1950 although the evidence points to St. Mary's Hendon since the names of Weston and Williams(Robin and Peter ??) are to the fore. However the presence of Carter, Stacey, Sinfield and Childs seems to suggest St. Matthias, Colindale.

But maybe we played a combination of the two which would probably explain why we got well beaten.

The feature of our innings, for we batted first, was that seven of our 'batsmen' failed to score. Roy Streatfield opened and was stumped for the first of the 'ducks' – his coach at the time was Ken Pinner who came in at No.3 and was bowled also for zero. There followed a bit of confusion at the wicket when first Brian Fisher was run out for yet another 'duck' and then the rock of the innings, Michael Day, ran himself out after scoring a brave 10.

An unlikely partnership of 17 between Geoff Owen (18) and Roy Goodall (7) (he always batted at No. 11 so why was he at No. 6 ahead of our classy left-hander John Streatfield?). However John soon became another run out victim without opening his account!!

Roy Wright and Roy Smith soon added to the 'ducks' list but George Allen (12) gave JK a bit of hope as the two Old Finchleians added 21 to take the total to 56 with Eric Claydon holding out with 0 not out.

John Keble used 7 bowlers in an attempt to win the game but it was noticeable that the spearhead, Roy Goodall, did not bowl, presumably because of injury. Without Roy our attack looked pretty ineffective so it was no surprise that the margin of defeat was officially ten wickets although our opponents batted on to 117-3 presumably to make an afternoon of it!!

Bryan Hawkins writes

Hello Shirley, No doubt that this will come as a complete surprise, my mother has just passed on (aged 98) and going through her desk I came upon these two cuttings, the Clarion sprang to mind.

Have had a busy year, we went to Australia and New Zealand for 3 months in January, we met our grand-daughter in Brisbane travelling with her around all the family out there and other places, she was on a gap year before starting Uni in September, she's at Kings College, London.

We've had Keith Brown and Vic Walker down staying with us, as they do every year, that's fun going over all the old times, Iris calls us Compo, Cleggy and Foggy for obvious reasons. I'm Cleggy, work the other two out for yourself.

Iris has also done a whistle stop tour of the continent with our daughter and grand-daughter, whilst I stayed here tending to a sick Mother and now it's nearly Christmas!!!

Thanks for all your hard work in producing the Clarion, it's lovely to catch up with all the news, even though most of it is about the seniors in the youth club at that time, we knew them so it's still interesting, many thanks and well done.

Kind regards,

Bryan and Iris Hawkins.

The second cutting, 'Sensational Tie', is on the next page. Bryan and Iris were married on 3rd June 1961 but he can't put a date on the cricket match. He thinks sometime in the early 60's, perhaps Geoff or Richard Whitfield can put a date on it for us?

Jean Cockerell, nee Bertram remembers the cricket matches in Mill Hill Park. "I believe it was probably the summer of 1951. Rex was still at school because he invited the U.C.S team to play the JKCYC team. It was decided that the teams would need proper refreshments and Mavis and I were delegated to provide the lunch. A large tent (borrowed from the scouts) was erected in the park in which we prepared a ham salad with trimmings for probably 24 young men, there being two teams and umpires. The details are a little rusty after all this time, but it was a hot day. I can't remember whether the bucket which Mavis and I are carrying was for washing up or making the tea in the afternoon. Geoff may have a better memory of events and the result of the match.

The group photo on page 10 is of the cricket team on another occasion. From left to right I can recognise Roy Streatfield, Ken Pinner, Geoff Owen, John Streatfield, Peter Tozer, behind him someone called Roy, a keen photographer, who was responsible for taking all the formal YC photos. I don't recognise the fellow in the middle. Next Brian Fisher, John Smith, Derek Fisher, Alan Sims and finally Derek Holden (also 1951).

Maiden Bowled Him Over

John Keble Cricket Club fast bowler 23-year-old Brian Hawkins, met 20-year-old Colindale hairdresser Iris Bennett four years ago and—to adapt a well-known cricket term—the maiden bowled him over.

At John Keble Church on Saturday the couple were married. Brian, a City clerk, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hawkins, of Goodwyn-avenue, Mill Hill. Iris is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bennett, of Barnfield-road, Burnt Oak.

Wearing a lace-over-taffeta Alexandrine dress, with a train and a short veil held by a white rose, the bride was given away by her father. Peach roses and lily-of-the-valley comprised her bouquet.

Her bridesmaids, Miss Joan Hunter (a friend) and Pamela and Lynn Bennett (nieces), were dressed in full length, embroidered primrose taffeta with lemon headdresses, and carried lemon and white freasias. Best man was Mr. Paul Mead. The service, fully choral was conducted by the Vicar of John Keble, the Rev. Rennie Simpson.

Ninety guests attended a reception in John Keble Hall, where music was provided by Frank Barker and his Band. The couple later flew for a honeymoon in Jersey.

The couple first met at John Keble Youth Club where they were both members. Brian has been opening fast bowler for John Keble for three years. He formerly played cricket and soccer for Mill Hill Village as opening bowler and centre forward. He and his bride will live in Goodwyn-avenue.

Regards Jean

SENSATIONAL TIE

Bowlers took most of the honours when John Keble visited Hendon Buccaneers at Sunny Hill on Saturday. On a damp wicket Brian Hawkins bowled splendidly for Keble. He dismissed the first four Buccaneers' batsmen at a personal cost of 12 runs and went on to bowl unchanged through the innings, taking 8 wickets for 28 in 13.5 overs. With A. Sims (2-8) bowling steadily at the other end, wickets tumbled and the home side were dismissed for 57.

In reply Keble lost an early wicket but Michael Bonner (32) batted attractively and, with the assistance of R. Saffery (16), regained the advantage. When the third wicket fell at 51, R. Moore (6-27) and Varney (4-1) brought about an amazing collapse. Six batsmen failed to score, and then Moore dismissed the last two batsmen to force a tie.

30th August 1959 at Hampstead Garden Suburb

Richard Whitfield has corrected Rex's account of the match played on 30th August 1959 and has a signed official record presented to him by vicar Rennie Simpson (as YKCC Club President), that hangs proudly on the wall of his study.

Co-signatories of the document were David F Norman (as Chairman), and the record meticulous Geoffrey R Owen as Captain and Secretary).

The Garden Suburb innings (total 82) shows, in order: one caught and bowled, two 'caught Day' (now Sir Michael), one lbw, two bowled, two caught Trayling-M (Michael), one caught Owen, and one stumped Trayling-A (Tony).

Richard says his tally was 10 for 38 (not 39) off 15 overs including 3 maidens.

Aside from the luckless Terry Hunt bowling at the other end, he recalls that John Streatfield was the other such bowler. Richard's haul was no doubt part triggered by a part-broken boot in his first over, demanding that he take a shorter than usual run-in to the bowling crease, which no doubt contributed to what Rex termed a 'nagging accuracy' on the day, and permitted

Tony Trayling as 'keeper to stand up to the wicket. As all bowling coaches advise: 'line and length is what is always required'.

Mavis & Jean at Mill Hill park



JKYC team, names on page 9



REUNION 2011at Cuckfield hosted by Brian & Jose Wright

Twenty seven members came to the 2011 reunion which took the form of a garden party at our place in Cuckfield. The first time here, all those years ago, we had a tramp across the fields to the Church and back down the High Street with a mix of old, very old, new houses, and halls. This time the general consensus was to be less energetic and to stay put and chat and play games in the garden – boules, croquet, clock golf etc., this brought out all the old friendly competitive spirit.

Along the unenergetic theme were photographs to reminisce over of the many activities we got up to all those years ago, trying to identify those we haven't been able to contact. We showed a film that Roy Wright had made called 'Slim Slips Up' this featured Reg Ames as Slim and Brian Lord, Robin Sanders, Vic Walker and Alan Woodford as the policemen (Keystone Cops) doing the chasing, what a laugh that was and it made another competition – guess the locations used, Mill Hill wasn't a sufficient answer.

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, thinking how easy it was as everyone is so friendly, helpful and charming, and with the lovely compliments over the garden and the food. When all had gone home we found the cheese board and a large platter of veggie sticks to have gone with the sandwiches. We lunched on them for days!

I think everyone was able to speak with everyone else, from our point of view, a most successful day. Roll on July 2012 when we shall meet in Suffolk with Malcolm and Peggy hosting, we are really looking forward to that.

Jose and Brian Wright



Left to right, back row: Peggy Cherry, Wendy Fisher, Shirley Orr, Ron South, Barry Cockerell, Veronica Tuppen, Keith Rippengal, Brian Wright, Alan Alexander, Paul Fernberg, Sheila Claydon, Sylvia Murch, Bob Harman, Shirley Collman. Front and middle rows: Jose Wright, Roland Orr, Malcolm Cherry, Jill South, Joy Oliver, Henry Tuppen, Janet Saffery, Rob Saffery, Myra Alexander, Sylvia Fernberg, Jean Cockerell and Pat Harman. Photo was taken by Ricky Collman.

**If anyone would like a copy of the 'Slim Slips up' DVD contact Paul Fernberg
Email pfernberg@onetel.com**

It was a super day with a hot chicken casserole lunch, sandwiches and Jean, Joy, Pat and Jose's homemade cakes for tea in the marquee (page 12). We all thoroughly enjoyed it, thank you Brian and Jose!!

Lunch & tea in the marquee



A Reunion 2012 at Bury St Edmunds

Malcolm Cherry writes: 'It was good to see so many at Cuckfield which we enjoyed immensely. I have had a wild idea about next year's reunion. I can arrange a guided tour of St Edmundsbury Cathedral at 11.30 am and lunch in the Refectory. What about the afternoon? Presumably we are still alive and kicking! I wonder whether members could return to our house (about 8 miles West of the Cathedral) to be entertained with a live steam railway in our garden? We can take up to 4 cars in our driveway and there are two places nearby where the rest of the cars could be parked. I should have to think about the practicalities for the afternoon should the idea catch on.'

Photo at the Cathedral 25 January 2007



In 1998 Malcolm wrote an article in Clarion Recall 17 about a 60 year ambition he had begun to fulfil: 'My late brother and I, having read about a Hornby '0' gauge garden clockwork railway in the Meccano Magazine before the 2nd World War, unsuccessfully petitioned our parents to allow us to build our own garden railway. We had a large Hornby '0' gauge railway with five locomotives, all of which are now collectors' items.

When my sons were growing up some 2-rail Hornby Dublo was acquired and a so-called portable line was built, but regrettably never completed, particularly the scenic effects. Three removals later I saw an advertisement for the Model Railway Club's Annual Easter Exhibition, and, like so many, was captivated by the magnificent Gauge 1 layout there. It had **LIVE STEAM!** Magic!

I had delved into 2½" and 3½" gauges in the mid to late 1940's before being invited to join the RAF by King George VI. But that Easter exhibition did it. I became a member of the Gauge One Model Railway Association and dreamed again of having a garden railway when I retired. Gauge 1 is bigger than '0' with a scale of 10mm to the foot, 1¾" (45mm) width between the rails. After retirement I began working towards this goal with Peggy's blessing.

The first task was what I like to call the 'civil engineering survey'. The area to be developed is half the garden. We have a typical 'Suffolk strip' with the house in the middle. The railway is in the half where the garage is situated. This provides for a continuous run of 156 feet. Somehow the fall of the land was measured. It was not much, but nevertheless there.

The layout was pegged out at intervals of four feet. I had originally thought of making uprights to support the track just below waist height by filling plastic drain pipes with concrete plus a metal rod strengthener. On investigation I found that the making of the upright supports along these lines was going to take a long time. So, having discovered some 5'6" suitably priced concrete fencing posts at local building merchants, 44 were purchased. A local builder dug the holes and set the uprights in stone beds, they were not concreted in the ground. He used an instrument which meant that all the tops of the uprights started off at the same height. I drilled out the precast holes in the posts. They stand at 4' intervals.

Gradually I had accumulated various pieces of wood. When a new vicarage was being built I persuaded the builder not to burn the useful leftovers. I went to a firm specialising in second hand building materials and acquired some reclaimed wood. So I began making the upper parts of the track, the 'T' brackets on the upright posts, two for each post; some 12" wide, some 15" and others 24". I used threaded 3/8" rod with washers and nickel plated nuts to secure these to the uprights. In between the twin 'T' brackets I had to make wooden stabilising blocks to stop tilting as there was only one hole through the concrete posts. This was very time consuming as the concrete posts were not square and all varied a millimetre or so in size from each other!

I purchased a plastic plant trough into which went a mixture of creosote and sump oil (collected from a local garage free of charge). Into this the wood was placed for a few days then cut into shape. The surplus creosote and oil had to be drained off before fitted, trying to get it back into the trough! Protective clothing was essential.

After the 'T' brackets (80 in fact), it was found necessary to fit some 'Y' supports from the hole lower down the uprights to the corner of the 'T' brackets, mainly where it was 24" wide. These were made from bed-irons acquired from the local council household waste department. These were cut to shape and had holes drilled; not an easy task as bed irons seem to be made out of very hard and crude iron; much blunting of drills! These supports were first cleaned with white spirit, a rust inhibitor applied and then Hammerite paint. I have found it necessary to make some wooden 'Y' supports in some other areas too.

These have been nefariously described as 'Malcolm's Y-fronts'!!!

Next came the longitudinal supports connecting the 'T' brackets, from upright to upright. These were basically in 4' lengths, variations appearing on curved sections, the outside stretcher being longer than the inner. These were heavier than originally intended, the only second hand wood I was able to obtain was roughly in 2" x 2" square sections. Gaps had to be left for two 'lift-out' sections to allow lawnmower access. I have drawn plans to make two aluminium box girder bridges to fill these spaces when running trains.

Having completed the stretchers, I then moved into the top wood which supports the track. This has been made from 1" x 6" boards placed across the stretchers at right angles to the track flow, varying in length according to the width of the track. These were screwed down with gaps to allow for expansion and contraction. I took an average of 1½ hours to screw into position each four foot section.

It was not until October 1997 that I completed the woodwork and was able to begin putting mineralized felt over the top wood. I had to use an electric hot-air gun to avoid splitting the felt as the autumn temperatures fell. In November it all came to a halt because of rain and general dampness.

At the time of writing (Spring/Easter 1998) that is as far as I have got. But when the felt has been fitted and the bridges made, track-laying can begin. There are plans afoot to knock a hole in the garage to gain access to a station and sidings, but that's a millennium project!' *Malcolm Cherry*

We are looking forward to seeing the completed track Malcolm in July 2012!!!

We are planning a one or two night stay in Bury St Edmunds, it is a lovely town and there is plenty to do. We stayed at the Angel Hotel, Bury for a weekend recently and can recommend it. I have written to them to see if they can offer any 'deals' for mid July next year. Other hotels include Best Western Priory Hotel, Abbey Hotel, Ramada Hotel, Suffolk Hotel Golf & Leisure Club and The Fox Inn. There are also a range of guest houses varying in price from £28 per night including breakfast. The date is still to be fixed, let us know any preferences, weekend or mid week?

If you have internet access you can view and book the various hotels and guest houses in the area, otherwise contact the tourist office, 6 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1UZ Tel: 01284 764667 for a visitor guide.

The family owned and run Angel Hotel is very central, within walking distance of the Abbey Gardens which are opposite the hotel. St Edmundsbury Cathedral, cathedral shop and the Refectory, where we had a good, reasonably priced lunch are next to the cathedral. The Theatre Royal, the oldest working Georgian theatre in the country, and Greene King Visitor Centre with shop and museum are on the same side a little further on. Local shops and restaurants and the tourist office are all within walking distance.

When the information is available I will find out what is on at the theatre. We saw a very good performance of 'As You Like It'. The only seats left price £13.50 were in the gallery and it was very hot and cramped but we enjoyed it. Stalls and boxes, early booking advisable, were £24.

A tour of the brewery costing £8 was very interesting and the view from the roof made the stair climbing worthwhile. Very generous samples of their famous ales in the bar followed the tour, now we know why Malcolm chose to live in Bury! We were also able to buy ale and gifts in the shop.

Ickworth House, Park and Gardens, a magnificent Georgian Palace set in an idyllic English landscape, a National Trust property, is another place to visit.

Rex's legacy an update from Wendy

An inquest into the deaths of Rex and Keith was held at Woking Coroners Court on Tuesday July 19th. Summing up; Dr Englehart said "both Keith Lowde and Rex Walford died as a result of an accident. I would extend my condolences to the families of Mr Lowde and Dr Walford and their friends."

Different aspects of Rex's life are being remembered. The first example of remembrance is a book presented to Wendy by the Faculty of Education at Wolfson College. Memories and Recollections is a compilation of photographs of Rex and the wonderful tributes from colleagues, teachers, students and friends which poured on to the Internet site set up by the Geographical Association.

The image of Rex as an inspirational teacher comes through very strongly in people's recollections and this aspect of him is being remembered in a very imaginative way by the Royal Geographical Society. The donations that were made at the Thanksgiving Service at Ely amounted to over £5,000; this sum will be used to fund an annual award for a PGCE or newly qualified teacher who creates the best set of teaching resources linked to the Young Geographer of the Year competition. The question asked this year is 'What should every good geographer understand?' To find out more go to www.geographical.co.uk/ygoty. The Geographical Association is also planning some bold initiatives and more about these will be known later on this year.

On a theatrical note, the Guild of Drama Adjudicators is planning an award for newly qualified adjudicators and local Cambridge actors are mounting a revue featuring excerpts of all the shows that Rex directed for St Mark's Church, Newnham – 21st and 22nd October. This is obviously an eclectic programme – from Murder in the Cathedral to Do the kings still wear curtains?

Other Church news is that Canon Chris Chivers, the vicar of John Keble Church, Mill Hill, is planning a series of lectures on the Church of England in the suburbs of London – the area of social and ecclesiastical history that Rex concentrated on for his doctorate.

OBITUARIES:

Jean Warren (nee Conway)

Sad news received 8th March 2011 from Peter Warren that Jean passed away on Friday 4th March. She had been battling with cancer for the last few months, but was very peaceful and comfortable at the end. With loads of help from family and the local hospice Peter managed to keep her at home until the end, which was what Jean wanted. Peter writes 'the care we received from the hospice and local medical team was really amazing and we couldn't have kept Jean at home without them.'

Jean had a natural woodland burial near Salisbury, very relaxed and informal. Shirley sent condolences and a donation for Dorothy House Hospice on behalf of old friends from JKCYC and Peter writes: 'Just a few lines to say thank you, we were all touched by your words and treasure the thoughts expressed.'

Tony Carter

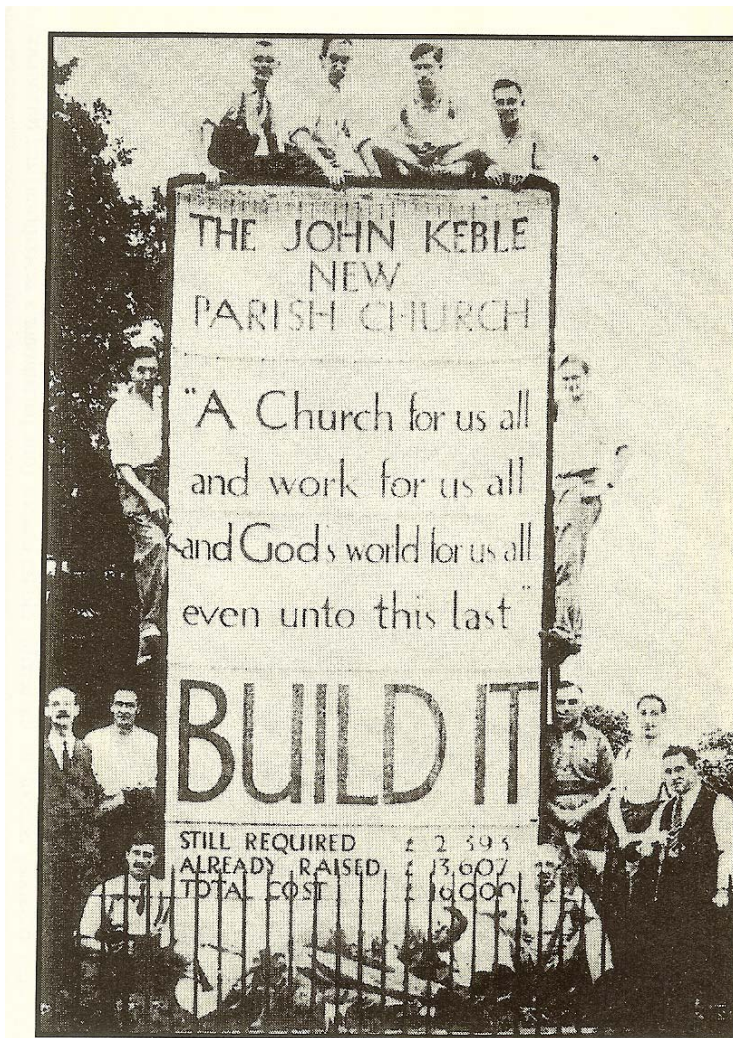
Tony Carter died on 18th June 2011. He had been ill for some time. Mavis and Tony have three boys. Tony was a Captain in the Merchant Navy on Oil Tankers. He was a keen bowls player and bee keeper. The funeral was on 30th June. Mavis writes: 'Thank you so much for the donation to R.N.L.I. on behalf of ex JK Youth Club friends and Clarion Recall. The final total was £450 which was really fantastic.'

On Sunday last, 14th August, we went on the lifeboat to scatter Tony's ashes at sea. It was a really calm day thank goodness but rather cloudy. We went a mile and a half outside Dover Harbour where one of the crew said two prayers and then as Richard was scattering the ashes the sun came out and smiled at us all.

Tony and I would have been married 58 years in September so you can imagine it is quite hard to get to terms with him not being here anymore.'

Jill Hemes (nee Norman) information received from Roland Orr

Jill, who used to live in Laneside and went to Deansbrook School, died in September 2010. Rex was told and he left a note on file for something to be written about Jill.



She was part of the Norman family. Her father, brothers Michael and David all sang in the JK Choir. David eventually became Master of Music for many years. Her father was part of the original 'gang' who helped to start JK in 1932. In the 1934 picture he stands as a fit young man on the right hand side of the big Notice Board.

Rex had this picture in his book on the Churches of Suburban Middlesex 1918 – 1945 as illustration No 11. JK uses it from time to time on special service sheets (eg the 75th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation stone on 10th November 1935). The words from TS Elliot's play THE ROCK, were mentioned by Michael Day at the start of the service at Ely Cathedral and again by Canon Chris Chivers of JK at the end of the service.

Shirley C, Wendy Fisher, Sylvia Fernberg and Ann Young went to school with Jill where she was known as Gillian.

She trained as a Nurse and Midwife at St Mary's Hospital in London. Later she settled in Winslow, Buckinghamshire, where she became a School Nurse. She knew many people there, many being 'her babies'!! She was a member of the Parochial Church Council. Roland and Shirley Orr went to her Service of Thanksgiving. The church was packed and she was clearly held in very high regard by her church and local community. Shirley Orr (nee Putman) lived opposite Jill and knew her for all her life. They exchanged letters, telephone calls and visits over many years.

A very unusual coincidence was that Jill had borrowed Rex's book and just before she died she had been preparing a talk for her Church Group on John Keble and John Keble Churchand she had already marked up illustration No 11 (mentioned above) the words of which were also used at Rex's service at Ely Cathedral.....and Rex had asked for something to be written not knowing in detail what we all now know.

PEEPS FROM THE PAST

Rita Harvey (nee Neill) who taught at Deansbrook School on and off from 1951 - 1988, mentioned by Shirley Hobson on page 5, wrote in April 2011:

'You don't know me so I will introduce myself. My name is Rita Harvey (nee Neill). I receive Clarion Recall from Pat Baulch. I was unable to attend the memorial service for Rex but Pat sent me the service booklet.

Pat and I met at Deansbrook infants' school as young teachers. I also attended Deansbrook Junior School from 1942 – 1943. I was in the same class (Miss Minty) as Barbara Warland and David Norman. The school was huge – nearly 50 children in our class. Both the infant and junior schools were large until Fairway and Courtlands schools were built.

When I started teaching at Deansbrook the infant classes had 40 or more children. We had classes in JK small hall, a hut in the playground and two classes in the school hall. The hall had to be cleared for lunch time. Good weather, P E in the playground – bad weather, stories in the cloakroom! The classrooms could be very cold in the winter – I remember frozen milk in the classrooms.

I was shocked and saddened at the news of Rex and Keith's tragic accident. Rex and I were friends for many years. I was never a youth club member but I belonged to AYPAs and the Good Companions. Rex and I also spent five years as a cabaret duo. I was also principal boy in the first JK pantomime.

When I married Bernard at JK in 1959 Pat Baulch was a bridesmaid and Rex an usher. Pat is godmother to my younger daughter. We all met again plus Wendy at Bernard's and my Ruby wedding and ten years later at our Golden wedding.

Lots of memories of Rex. I can still picture the dining table at 6 Church Close covered in Dinky cars. I wonder if he kept them. I had a phone call from Bill Warden whose family owned the Hendon & Finchley Times. Rex was a part time reporter for them in the 50's. Bill also sent me an article in the Royston News. Rex dedicated 22 years to the Meridan School, Royston where he was on the board of governors. What an amazing man – he will be sadly missed. I hope the few memories of Deansbrook may be of interest.



The date was 25/7/59 Rita and Bernard with Deansbrook children do you recognise anyone?

You may have known my brother PHILIP NEILL, he is 69. His best friend was Ken Smith and they both went to Christ's College after Deansbrook. I am still in contact with Joyce Savage now 88 and Gladys Winny 89 and I celebrated my 80th birthday a few weeks ago. I've decided that next year I will be 79!

Rita'

Deansbrook School – Mary and Angela Pack

Good news. After more than a year's effort, and with help from Shirley Collman, Rita Harvey (nee Neill) and Sylvia Daker, we have located Angela Pack - daughter of long time Deansbrook teacher Mary Pack. We needed to contact Angela to get her approval to re-publish the book her mother first self-published in 1981 commemorating the 50th year of the school's founding. Now we have it.

Here is Angela's email response to our enquiry:

“Dear Alan, What a surprise it was to receive your recent email, although I was both shocked and saddened to read that Professor Rex Walford had died so tragically earlier this year. His was a name I recall my Mother mentioning (among others) when she reminisced about her days at Deansbrook. You and I must have been contemporaries for some of our time at Deansbrook as I attended there in 1948-1954. Good Companion Sylvia Daker (formerly Luck), whose name I saw on the Website, was also a contemporary at that time although I have lost touch with her since Christmas cards from her parents ceased arriving many years ago now. It's a small world indeed when you consider how former pupils of Deansbrook have scattered far and wide, often succeeding very highly in their chosen careers.

I thoroughly approve of your proposal and am very pleased to give you my permission to publish my Mother's little book "The Story of Deansbrook School 1931-1981" on the Clarion Recall website and as a pdf file. Indeed, if she were still alive, I am sure that my Mother would be really thrilled to know that you wished to do this.

My Mother only died just a year ago, in Dunedin, New Zealand, at the great age of 98 yrs. Amazingly, a former pupil from her first Infant School class at Deansbrook in 1932, (Robert Entwistle), who has lived in Dunedin for many years, (now retired from the University of Otago), attended her funeral service. Another old pupil from that same era (Johnny Flack), living in Western Australia, used to correspond with her quite regularly, after she emigrated to New Zealand in 1985 following the death of my Father. She loved to recall the old days at Deansbrook.

Since receiving your message, it has occurred to me that it might also be a good idea to publish my Mother's Obituary on the Clarion Recall Website as many old Deansbrook pupils will remember her. Please let me know what you think after discussing this suggestion with Shirley Collman.

Meanwhile do please keep me posted on progress on this project, and let me know if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Just to fill in my background for you, I should say that having emigrated to New Zealand in 1972, I climbed the academic ladder at the only Dental School in NZ, at the University of Otago for 30 yrs, but retired from that full-time position as Head of the Department of Periodontology in 2001. However, I am still working in part-time practice with my daughter, in our specialist practice in Nelson. I was married to John Wesley Barker (although I kept my maiden name), but was widowed four years ago, and I now live in a beautiful part of NZ at the NW tip of the South Island, and life goes on! Have you ever been to NZ I wonder?

Looking forward to hearing from you again, please pass on my good wishes to anyone from Deansbrook who remembers me.....Angela R C Pack”

Angela omits to mention she is the first women in New Zealand to be awarded a fellowship of the New Zealand Dental Association and is also Past President of the International Academy of Periodontology. The Queen made her a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2001 for "Services to Dentistry".

Mary Bower Pack (nee Creighton) 10th June 1912 – 6th September 2010

Author of Deansbrook History ~ Obituary from Angela Pack

Mary Pack was the eldest of three children born to Maurice and Elizabeth Creighton, in Swinton, South Yorkshire. Her Father left school at the age of 14yrs, and was first a coal miner, then an engine driver on the LNER, and for 40 yrs was a County Alderman of the West Riding and Chairman of the Urban District Council in Swinton. Mary was brought up in a devout Church of England home (attending church three times every Sunday) and was educated at Mexborough Grammar School where she developed two great life-long passions: Botany and Poetry. After leaving school, she studied at St Peters Teachers' Training College (in the shadows of Peterborough Cathedral), and then undertook a Fröebel Teacher's Certificate at the Margaret Mcmillan Training College in London. Her first teaching appointment, in 1932, was at Deansbrook Primary School, Mill Hill; an association that spanned many years: 1932-1943 in the Infants School, and 1951-1975 in the Junior School.

In those early days she lived in "digs", first at 98 Hale Lane, and then with the Riggs family in Church Close. She joined the congregation at John Keble Church and at Sunday school taught the same children as she saw during the week. She also became a member of the Good Companions Dramatic Society. During this time she decorated the two Churchwarden staffs with leather. These are still in evidence in John Keble Church today.

In 1935, she met Arthur Pack, a BSc student at Westminster College, in London. Upon graduating, he secured a teaching position at Woodhouse Grammar School in Finchley and so their friendship flourished. They became engaged in 1939 and married in 1941. Mary and Arthur started their married life under the uncertain shadow of WW2, with Arthur stationed at Mill Hill Barracks until he was posted overseas. Their only child Angela was born in 1943 (she was named after the heroine in a John Keats poem that Mary loved). Mary took maternity leave from Deansbrook, only to return to teaching six years later after Angela had become a Deansbrook pupil herself.

In 1972, after Angela was appointed to a teaching position at the University of Otago School of Dentistry, in Dunedin, NZ, Mary and Arthur's horizons broadened and they made several long visits to New Zealand including the occasion of Angela's wedding to John Wesley Barker, and later for their granddaughter Helen's 1st and 4th birthdays. Sadly, soon after their fifth NZ visit in 1985, Arthur died after a short illness, and Mary made the very brave decision to emigrate to New Zealand. She settled very well, living in Dunedin only five minutes' walk from where Angela and family lived, and she quickly established new friends, new interests and continued her love of gardening. She revelled in the close proximity and quality time spent with her granddaughter, teaching her to read and write, long before Helen was of school age.

Mary was indeed an inspiring teacher. She cherished all the children in her classes, nurtured them through encouragement and praise, and was thrilled by their successes. She took the remedial reading classes in the Junior School and succeeded through gentle encouragement. Arthur used to say that she could "*teach a cow to read*" as she had such endless patience. Many former pupils continued to correspond with her well into her later life after she had moved to New Zealand. In fact, a former pupil (Robert Entwistle) from her first Deansbrook baby class in 1932 was in attendance at her funeral service in Dunedin.

She had a very vivid imagination, and using her fertile mind she wrote plays to accommodate a role on stage for every pupil in her large classes (often up to 45 or more children). These were presented to parents (frequently using the John Keble Church Hall) at the end of the school year. She also wrote many little stories for Helen, illustrated by Arthur with watercolour paintings; family treasures indeed!

Mary was a very creative person in so many ways. At school she taught craft to the junior boys, enabling them to do book binding and weave scarves. At home she was always industrious with embroidery, dressmaking, home furnishing and upholstery, and even millinery. After arriving in New Zealand in her early 70s, she spun, dyed and wove the fabric from which she made herself a suit; literally from the fleece! She was an excellent cook and delighted in holding dinner parties. She was thrilled when former Deansbrook Infants' Headmistress; Miss Nan Wilson paid her a visit in Dunedin in the late 1980s.

Following her love of Botany, she developed an extensive knowledge of wild flowers. She loved gardening and liked to collect seeds, propagate her own seedlings, nurturing them to maturity whether they were for the flower or the vegetable garden!

In everything she attempted Mary was a vibrant, industrious, energetic and resourceful person, always full of ideas and plans. Teachers were not well paid in those early days, so she skimped and saved and mended in order to help their marital dreams come true. In 1953, Mary and Arthur moved into a newly built house in Stanmore and created a beautiful and productive garden. Throughout her life Mary commanded respect by being kind, honest and fair in her dealings with people whether they were her pupils, their parents or her teaching colleagues.

Sadly, during the last eleven years of her life there was a very slow decline as senile dementia stole her real personality from us. She lived a healthy life, never suffering from any cardiovascular, malignant, or hormonal illnesses, but in the end, frailty overcame her constitution in her 99th year.

We give thanks for her long and productive life, for the inspiration she gave to her family, and for the many talents she used for the benefit of so many others. In the words of one of her past pupils: *"...the influence of good enthusiastic mentors never dies and ... we never can measure the result of an odd kind word of encouragement on young lives... Mary Pack's legacy is immense"*.



1945 End-of-War Street Party sent to Alan by Christine Furey (nee Knight)



Chris was in the guides at JK and briefly in the Youth Club. She emigrated to Australia c1961. What street was this party held in and what are the names of the other future JKYC members appearing in the photo? Chris was only three years old when these photos were taken. She is on the shoulders of the man in the back row- 7th over from the left. Do you have any similar end of WW2 street party photos to share?

Five responses have been received on our web site: **John Pryke-Smith**, 'Having magnified the photos 300% I can confirm that the photos are of the Stanway Gardens street party where we had a bonfire and burnt an effigy of Adolph Hitler swinging from the gallows.

Starting from the left in the first photo I am the 7th child standing in front of the guy with the hat on. I know it's me because my mother wanted me to be a girl and parted my hair on the left, wrong side for a boy! Also standing as tall as me in the middle of the photo is George Allen (black hair) and on the right is Keith Alexander. 4th from right is Elizabeth Dawson and next to her is Donald Wright, his brother Roy is in front of the garden gate. The same boys are in the other photo but difficult to indicate where they are.

Elizabeth Taillie says: 'Hi John – yes I actually do have a copy of that photo. Margaret Mason (nee Stewart), Beryl Stimson (nee Stratford), Ruth Hayward (nee Gibson) are all in there and Douglas Hall and Sheila and Colin Stratford and Chris Alexander, Geoffrey Cox – oh just everyone from our street. Is Christine the little girl who lived at No 41, between the Gibsons and the Chambers? – Is that you Christine?

Do you remember we sometimes travelled up to the city together John? Do you remember one day I saw a lovely watch in a jeweller's window and we went in and asked the price and it was something like £200. I'm in touch with Margaret and Ruth. Sadly Beryl died many years ago. I kept in touch with Rex – miss him muchly. Exchange Christmas cards with Donald Wright, had a nice email from Brian Wright a while ago and from Jose. Exchange Christmas cards with Keith Alexander and Geoffrey Cox and Bob and Pat Harman. Am planning one last visit to England when my only surviving sister, Sheila, turns 90 in 2013 so perhaps we'll meet up – who knows? Love to all who remember me..... Eliz xx'

Brian Luckhaus: Remember the Green Man chemist shop. Alan received an email in March this year from Brian who went to Deansbrook a year behind Rex and was bombed out when a V1 landed near his house on Langley Park, opposite Mill Hill train station. He later took over the Green Man pharmacy from Mr Mantrip. He wrote that Mary Pack – the writer of the Deansbrook History was a customer, lived at Brockley Close, Edgware (off Brockley Hill going up to Stanmore Hospital) and he last saw her 25 years ago.

Alan then followed this up as he still wanted family members' permission to copy Mary Pack's book and managed to track down Mary Pack's daughter Angela.

Brian replied: 'Dear Alan well done in your detective work a really interesting result. I do not recall meeting Angela but may have done so as I did visit the Packs home on a couple of occasions in my 30's and can still bring both Mr and Mrs Packs' images to mind in their home off Brockley Hill. Angela seems to have inherited her parents' academic genes and her mother's spirit. Nice comment that her mother would be thrilled to think that her 'little book' is still creating interest. There must be a mine of interesting stories out there stemming from those times, another lifetimes work to find them. I frequently make the point that the influence of good and enthusiastic mentors never dies and that as oldies we never can measure the result of an odd kind word of encouragement on young lives, it is a responsibility we should not underestimate. I am sure that Mary Pack's legacy is immense.'

Alan's letter to Angela: 'Brian Luckhaus was the manager of a chemist shop at the Green Man and I believe your mother gave him a copy of the Deansbrook History. He wrote to me when I put a post on a Mill Hill Broadway blog last January regarding the history and attempts to contact the author's family. He said he thought you had lived in a road off Brockley Hill and I wasn't able to find any Packs living there. He makes some nice comments in his email.

Brian was in Rex's cohort at Deansbrook but was bombed out when a V1 landed near his house opposite Mill Hill station. Your mother in the history recounts comments from a Miss Robinson, who was in turn recounting what she had been told by a staff member at the time, about a V1 landing on Glendor Gardens, 'a quarter mile away'. We lived only a few hundred yards away from Glendor Gardens and my brother – also ex Deansbrook (c1945-1950) – has confirmed that the nearest V1 was the one that landed opposite Mill Hill station. The V1 explosions were so loud and destructive that it would have sounded like it was a quarter mile away.

We had a summer visit from Trevor Johns, a fellow Deansbrook student and he claimed a V1 landed on the Rawlplug Factory demolishing the factory chimney! I showed him the photo below received recently from our classmate Christine Knight (who has lived in Australia since 1961).



Sunday school Seniors – July 12th 1953

It was taken in the JK vicarage garden (I think) of a JK Sunday School Class group and clearly shows the Rawlplug Chimney.

Maybe you knew some of the people in this photo?

Christine is kneeling in the front row, second from the left.'

Alan has also heard from Lesley Kerman, another classmate at Deansbrook.

What a wonderful tool the internet is!