

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A very warm welcome to the 41st issue of the OP magazine! I am writing this in early January in a very good mood - we have just retained the Ashes and won the series in Sydney. My apologies to all Aussie OPs!

Reflecting on the activities of the OP Society in 2010 is quite heartening. My sense is that we are making progress in three key areas that form the basis of your Society's work: improving contact with OPs and the College, holding more social events and growing our sporting involvement.

The 2010 OP Dinner was held at the College and would have seen a record attendance had it not been for the Icelandic volcano that prevented a few OPs attending. Niall Kilgour was our Guest of Honour. Willie Shuttleworth hosted a successful drinks party at The Turf Club in London for those OPs who served in the Army. Adrian Stow, our decade representative for the 1950's, organised seven

well attended lunches for his contemporaries in Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Somerset and Essex. We're also aware of many other OP social events and reunions taking place including a lunch for the Over 60s in London early in 2011. We hope to make this a regular occurrence.

Founder's Day was a special occasion for all of us who were there. I was immensely proud that the Guest of Honour was an OP, Angus Fair, and a former Chief of the College. He made a remarkable speech and created a huge impression on all who met him.

As usual the OP Golf and Cricket teams played against the College. I am pleased to report two "firsts." There was a rugby match between the College and an OPs XV for the first time in many years. Age and weight considerations have to be observed, so mustering up an OP team is trickier than normal. The first hockey match between OP girls and the College girls 1st XI

was a great success. For OP sailors Ian Williams has kindly agreed to start a Sailing and Yachting Society. If you are interested, please contact him on woofwilliams@yahoo.co.uk.

I enjoyed OP Day in November. We held our AGM in the morning and in the afternoon supported the College girls hockey team against Marlborough 1st XI and the boys 1st XV against The Oratory. David Nicholson arranged a group of OPs from the 1960s, of which I am one, to meet for some refreshments in a hostelry in Yattendon.

We are grateful to Robin Knight, our President, who agreed to step in at short notice and edit this issue - the 13th time he has done so. Last year we mailed 3,500 copies to our entire OP database, which was a great feat. We also were able to post a printed (long) version of the obituaries to about 100 OPs who requested this service. Kindly contact us if you want us to do this in 2011.

Meantime we are running a very active OP website <http://www.oldpangbournian.co.uk> which is becoming more and more popular. In parallel *LinkedIn*, *Facebook* and other networking sites are being utilised to keep OPs in touch with each other and the College.

Sadly, we lost two special OPs in 2010. Both Trevor Turner and Michael Beale worked tirelessly for the interests of Old Pangbournians and the College for many years. They were both great examples of all that is good about OPs. Trevor and Michael were Vice Presidents



Angus Fair inspects the Marching Band

of the Society at the time of their deaths and former Chairmen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee, the Decade Representatives and OP Reps overseas for what they do for Old Pangbournians. I also want to acknowledge the warmth and encouragement we receive from Thomas Garnier, the College's Headmaster. He is always keen to support us as is the invaluable Lindsey Hughes, Pangbourne's Marketing Director and our main link into the College.

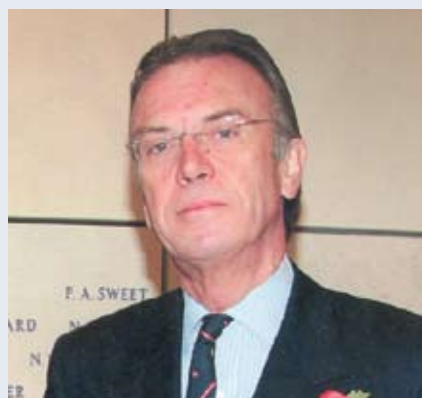
Looking ahead, we hope you will find a sporting or social event that appeals to you in 2011. Details of future events can be found in this publication and also on the website. Every OP is most welcome to attend our Committee meetings in London. And if you are planning an event in 2011, or have a story to relate, please let us know so that it can be posted on the web to encourage inclusion and our mutual enjoyment. May 2011 be good to you all and I hope we can meet in the near future!



Mark Dumas (64-68)

mark@dumas.be

AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Michael Allsop

“It’s a pleasure to have the opportunity to communicate with you in the “new-look OP Magazine”, writes **Michael Allsop**. My last message was in 2009 and I thought I had been retired as a contributor! Enough of that, but so much has happened in the last two years that I am hard pressed to fit it all in to my allotted space so I apologise for any omissions.

I will leave it to our Headmaster to write about the College. Suffice to say that my colleagues and I on the Board are delighted with the way Pangbourne continues to progress under Thomas Garnier’s inspired leadership. We are absolutely determined to provide the encouragement and financial support he needs to make the College fit for purpose in the 21st Century.

In a post-recession environment the private education sector will undoubtedly suffer as more and more potential parents decide to rely on the state sector to educate their offspring. This means that we have to be even more vigilant in ensuring Pangbourne is up there as a ‘first choice’ establishment. And that means we have to keep investing to renew and modernise our infrastructure.

We are now at the stage where innovation and ‘thinking outside the box’ are playing a crucial part in our fundraising activities. Since my last message much has happened. In particular our highly successful Appeal has closed. May I convey a huge ‘Thank You’ to all the many OPs who contributed. Your help in making the new Music/ICT Centre a reality, albeit at a cost of over £2 million. We are now selecting the contractor and construction will commence this year.

Our long running planning battle with West Berkshire District Council to develop a site around the St George boarding house has ended. The final episode took place in September when the College successfully appealed the latest of a long string of refusals. This decision is pivotal to the College’s future. It means we can go ahead and replace the ageing St George boarding house with a complimentary building to Illawara for which we already have planning consent. And there will also be a chance to do so some other things. All we have to do now is to sell the site and realise what we think it is worth and that process is underway!

When these two projects are completed we will have spent in excess of £11 million in renewing and updating the College since we embarked on our modernisation programme in 2003. It has been a huge ‘team effort’ and I am grateful for the support and commitment of the entire Pangbourne community including OPs.

There is still much to do and we cannot relax our efforts but I believe the future is brighter now for Pangbourne than for some of our competitors. Your continued interest in the College is fundamental and a cornerstone to our success. Thank you for your support and encouragement.”

FOUNDER'S DAY 2010

This was the 93rd Founders Day at the College, writes **Mark Dumas**. The sun shone and the day seemed to go without a hitch. The OP guests included those who left Pangbourne in the 1980s and 1990s – part of a rolling programme introduced by the Headmaster four years ago whereby different decade groups are invited back to the College on a regular basis.

The first official event was the parade. It was the best I have ever witnessed. The Marching Band played throughout and the quality of the marching and turnout seemed

very impressive. **Lt Col Angus Fair (83-88) DSO and bar** took the salute and was the Guest of Honour. Angus, an active officer in the Army, looked resplendent in his uniform although I would imagine it was designed after a winter military campaign on the Eastern Front and was possibly rather hot in Drake Hall for the College prize giving in summer!



Lt. Col. Angus Fair with the Headmaster

Michael Allsop, Chairman of the Governors, gave the opening speech and particularly complemented the important work of the OP Society and the support OPs give to the College. Thomas Garnier said the College was performing well and it was pleasing to see the first pupils who started the International Baccalaureate programme graduate. The OP Society gave three important prizes that recognise pupils' outstanding work and success.

Angus Fair, who spent 10 years with the SAS and commanded operation *Panthers Claw* in Afghanistan, then



Lionel Stephens, Mark Dumas, Mr. & Mrs. McBroom, Anthony Clifford

spoke and described some very moving and humbling stories of bravery, leadership and teamwork to the audience, many of whom were of a similar age to the heroes in his anecdotes. He received a standing ovation. It was very good to see Peter and Margaret Points looking so well among the guests. Coincidentally, Angus was Peter's last Chief of the College before he retired in 1988.

In the afternoon the OPs managed to defeat the College 1st XI cricket team in a 20:20 over contest on Bigside. A very large crowd mingled on the boundary catching up with friends and staff. The College then hosted a large tea party followed by an impressive Beat Retreat.



Some returning OPs on Founder's Day



Four young OPs on Big Side

ANGUS FAIR (83-88) – ALL’S FAIR IN THE AFGHAN WAR



*Lt Colonel Angus Fair is one of several OPs who have been serving in Afghanistan. **Barney Spender (76-81)** found out more about the former Chief of the College.*

In July, 2010, Pangbourne broke with tradition. Instead of asking a senior officer of the Senior Service to take the salute at Founder’s Day, the college invited a young serving officer from the other lot, the Army.

By all accounts Gus Fair, a lieutenant colonel in the Light Dragoons, went down extremely well with OPs and members of staff describing his presence and his address as “inspirational”. Perhaps the reason lies in his energy. Fair doesn’t stroll to the bar when we meet, he bounds to it.

As the UK’s military involvement in conflicts in central Asia continues, Fair is one of those British servicemen who have been not been so much in the eye as the cornea of the storm. His most recent tour in Afghanistan was in 2009 as commanding officer of the Light Dragoons recce regiment during Operation Panther’s Claw. “It was a highly attritional summer,” he reflects. “But it was the start of consolidation and the ownership of the ground there. It made a big difference to our operations and to the people living there.”

Fair joined the Junior School in 1981, graduated to the hallowed halls of Hesperus and went all the way through the College, leaving in 1988 as Chief Cadet Captain of the College. Along the way he played in the rugby first XV, represented the College in athletics, got stuck into the CCF and developed a passion for music and the French horn.

From Pangbourne, there was never any doubt that he would take the high road into the Army - albeit via Exeter University where he studied engineering. “My father was a Gunner,” Fair explains. “I was one of four boys and was always going to join the Army. Pangbourne certainly helped me as its ethos and culture are very consistent with the services. It’s a place that promotes leadership and communal responsibility and that creates leaders and people who contribute to society.

“Returning for Founder’s Day last summer was my first time back since 1990. A hell of a lot has changed, but the College has largely remained the same in terms of its culture and the standards. It breeds strength of character and confidence. There are very few shrinking violets.”

Fair began his army career with the Scots Dragoon Guards. He won a first DSO for his work in Iraq in 2006 but it was in his role during Panther’s Claw that he hit the headlines. The British-led operation, launched in June, 2009, was designed to secure a crucial part of the population and territory that joined the economic and political capitals of Helmand Province

The idea was to stabilise the area ahead of the 2009 Afghan Presidential election - no small task as they were up against a serious Taliban force that had long controlled large parts of the province. Fair’s Light Dragoons were part of the third wave. The *Daily Mail*’s Richard Pendlebury,

embedded with them, described Fair’s address to his troops ahead of the battle as “moving and inspirational”.

In the event Fair’s battle group suffered more than 50 casualties. “It’s wearing, but we’re all prepared for it,” he told the BBC at the time. “For the time being our heads are held high. We are very determined and with every casualty comes an ounce or two more of determination.”

In his blog of July 28, 2009, Fair, who was awarded a bar to his DSO, described the engagement as “the most intense fighting over a protracted period I have experienced in my 20 years in the Army”. But the operation was a success. “The battle group broke in through a bridgehead secured by the Danish battle group and fought its way south through determined enemy resistance,” he wrote later. “We subsequently cleared our way west, and have now cleared the enemy from Malgir and Babaji... We have comprehensively defeated the Taliban wherever we have found him, and his losses have been far in excess of ours.”

This was Fair’s third tour of Afghanistan. His regiment, the Light Dragoons, had also been involved in 2007 in stabilising Garmsir, another area of Helmand. At the time it was described as resembling the OK Corral but when the regiment returned to the same district 18 months later, the differences were clear. “We returned to a haven of relative tranquillity - a remarkable improvement. Where there had been poppy, wheat was now growing. The destroyed and deserted bazaar had been rebuilt and was in constant use and the school and hospital were rebuilt and functioning. Around 15,000 Afghan people lived in this relative oasis of calm protected by ourselves and some genuinely excellent Afghan security force elements. That showed me that what we had set out to do in Afghanistan is achievable.”

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE

*“There is much to celebrate,” writes the Headmaster, **THOMAS GARNIER**. “This report can provide only the briefest flavour of 2010 which, nonetheless, I hope OPs will enjoy.”*

The year began and ended with snow lying thickly on the ground, always exciting for children but causing disruption to our activities. Disruption was also experienced in April thanks to the Icelandic ash cloud which stranded a fifth of the Common Room and pupils overseas, so there is a danger that 2010 will be remembered for its climatic variation!

Academically, we made excellent progress in continuing to develop the learning culture. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is being studied as an alternative to ‘A’ levels by a small, pioneering cohort of students. Its emphasis on open-mindedness, reflection, independence of learning and service to others is already affecting the rest of College positively. In the summer exams, results were once again pleasing. In particular, the performance of the weakest pupils was noticeably better than in the last few years, and at the top end the results exceeded our predictions.

We continue to believe that the ‘value added’ data which take into account the ability of the pupil – and at Pangbourne the ability range is very wide indeed - is the only fair way of assessing performance. At both GCSE and A level they were highly positive. **Anna Wilson (06-10)**, one of the two Chief Cadet Captains of the College, deserves special mention for securing a place to read Veterinary Science at Jesus College, Cambridge.

It was also an excellent year for Drama and Music. Our new Head of Drama, Mrs Ruth Richards, decided to set the bar very high from the outset and each of the productions this year was of higher quality than at any time in recent memory. Of them all, the main College production of Jesus Christ Superstar was the most striking, involving close cooperation with the Music Department. It is a Rock opera with only two scripted lines of dialogue and very considerable technical and vocal demands. The cast included newcomers, such as the 1st XV fly half, in major roles as well as more experienced hands, and the final show was a tour de force. Without doubt, this was one of the most impressive productions of the past 20 years and, for my part, the most exciting example of Team Pangbourne that I have seen since arriving at the College.

Once again, we had a good year for sport, even though some of the results sheets do not read as well as in recent years. The boys’ hockey season was strong and notable victories were secured against Desborough and Harrow. Jack Hardy was selected to play for England U18 hockey a year young and scored four goals for England Schools to defeat Scotland in September. For cricket, it was an excellent all-round season with the 1st XI winning eight matches, including a magnificent 20-20 victory over Bradfield. Sadly, the pavilion was burned to the ground at Easter by an arsonist. We are planning its replacement.

The Boat Club had one of its best seasons if the performance of the whole club is taken into consideration. Five medals from ten crews at the National Schools Regatta in May, including Gold for the J16 VIII and our first ever girls’ rowing medal, Bronze in senior coxed fours, was a great outcome. In the absence of a 1st VIII (rebuilding for 2012), the J16 VIII raced in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley and did not disgrace anyone. **Helen Jefferis (04-10)** became our first female international representing Great Britain in the girls’ VIII at the Coupe de la Jeunesse in August.

Both the boys’ rugby and girls’ hockey fixture lists were strengthened in the latter part of the year. In rugby, St Paul’s and Eton were added to the fixture list which meant that some of the matches were difficult ones, but it is only by playing stronger opposition that skill levels will improve. The 2010 1st XV was young and will have gained much from the experience. Similarly, the girls’ hockey XI is now competing well with teams that play regularly at regional level. It was very good to be able to welcome OPs to watch both teams play on OP Day on 6 November.

Visitors to the College in 2010 will have noticed a number of improvements to buildings but there remains much to do to ensure that our facilities are fit for purpose. Most of our competitors are further down the improvement track than us, although our ethos and quality of delivery ensure that we remain full. In this context we were delighted that after a three year battle with the planner’s permission to develop the area around Croft House was obtained at the end of the year. The Governors have now given the go-ahead to sell this area of the site and to build a new St George girls’ boarding house nearer the College with a view to it being opened in 2012. Additionally, they decided that the new Music and ICT Building – for which our fundraising campaign was so generously supported by OPs – should be built as soon as possible, hopefully meaning that construction can begin within the next term.

As these projects get underway, and with an Inspection and a major timetable change in the offing, 2011 promises to be an exciting year. OPs are always welcome, and I hope that I may see a number of you in the course of the year.”

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2010

“The Chairman of the OP Society is invited to lay a wreath on behalf of all Old Pangbournians at the annual Service of Remembrance at the College each November,” writes **Mark Dumas**. “In 2010 I was most fortunate to represent the Society to commemorate those OPs who have died on active service since 1939.

I had not attended a service in the Falklands chapel before. It was extremely impressive and moving especially as we had Mrs. Sara Jones, wife of Lt Col H Jones VC, as the Guest of Honour. The College has a very good concert band that accompanied much of the singing and opened the proceedings with “Nimrod.” Thereafter we had some great hymns including “I vow to thee, my country”, O God our help in ages past” and, for me, the Pangbourne hymn, “Eternal Father, strong to save.” The former Bishop of the Bahamas, The Right Reverend William Down, gave a well structured and fascinating sermon about a kamikaze pilot who escaped Hiroshima, converted to Christianity and was later ordained.

Every seat in the Chapel was taken and I enjoyed every minute of the service. Afterwards Mrs H Jones inspected the parade of 400+ pupils and took the March-past.”



The OP Society was also represented at the Remembrance Day Service held at the Merchant Navy Memorial in the Sunken Gardens at Tower Hill in the City of London. Captain **Miles Eden-Smith (54-57)** laid a wreath on behalf of Old Pangbournians in memory of all seafarers of the Merchant and Royal Navies who lost their lives at sea in the two World Wars of the 20th century and other conflicts.

Relatives of those who died were present as well as representatives from some 80 organisations with a maritime heritage. “I have attended this service on behalf of the Society

for the past ten years,” says Miles. “I consider it an honour. Each year the experience is very moving.”



OP wreath laid at National Memorial Arboretum July 9, 2010 - (l to r) Robin Arnott (47-50), Nicholas Evans (73-76), Cdr. Keith Evans (33-37) together with other dignitaries



Remembrance Sunday inspection by Mrs. Sara Jones, widow of Lt. Col, H Jones VC

Three OPs took part in a Memorial Service at the Pangbourne College plaque at National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield in July. The OPs were Cdr. **Keith Evans (33-37)**, his son **Nicholas Evans (73-76)** and **Robin Arnott (47-50)**. The brief Service was conducted by the Chaplain of the Fleet the Venerable John Green and held “in proud and grateful memory of former cadets of the Nautical College, Pangbourne, who made the supreme sacrifice in World War 11 and subsequent conflicts.”

THE OP DINNER 2010

A record 116 OPs subscribed to attend the 57th OP Dinner. In the event, around 100 OPs turned up. Most of the no-shows were victims of the Icelandic ash cloud which hit air travel in and out of the UK from midday Thursday, 36 hours before the dinner. Among disappointed OPs was one, **Ian Currie (52-55)**, who was travelling from Melbourne, Australia, for his first visit to Pangbourne in many years. He found himself marooned in Singapore.



Keith Evans and a young admirer

Among those who did make it were a number of young OPs including **Thomas Bishop (06-08)**, **Edward Harper (01-08)** and **Conor Brown (01-08)**, one of the oldest OPs **Keith Evans (33-37)** and the Guest of Honour Admiral **Niall Kilgour (63-68)**, Secretary of the Hurlingham Club. Niall's last commander in the RN, Admiral **Roger Lane-Nott (58-63)**, a former Chairman of the OP Society, was also present with his wife Roisin. OPs from the 1970s attended in force including **Richard Parrett (72-80)** and **Anthony Clifford (75-82)**. **William Skinner (82-87)** and **Charles Sykes (81-85)** were among a good group of 1980s leavers present. Honorary OPs present included Lionel Stephens, Ian Busby and Alan Vasa.

Our Chairman, Mark Dumas, thanked the Headmaster, Thomas Garnier, for “making OPs part of the fabric of the College.” His reference to Lindsey Hughes (the College Marketing Director and organiser of the Dinner) resulted in prolonged applause. Mark also revealed that more than 1,200 OPs (about 30% of the known total) have now joined the OP website.

In a witty, self-deprecating speech Niall Kilgour recalled some of his NCP reports including the final one in 1968 which stated, *inter alia*: “I find his attitude to work incomprehensible.” From Pangbourne, Niall said, he had learned that “adversity and discipline draw people together and make lifelong friends.” At school, he added, “I learned to stretch the boundaries.” After the NCP, BRNC Dartmouth was a “doddle”.



Jack Muggridge & Lucy Hamblin-Rooke



Ian Shuttleworth and friends



Alex Smith and friends



Roger & Roisin Lane-Nott and friends

Thomas Garnier responded briefly, pointing out that there is a lot to be encouraged by at Pangbourne at present including a full school and waiting lists for several age groups. After the speeches the bar remained open to 2.00am. Next morning conversation resumed over an excellent buffet breakfast.

OP SPORT IN 2010

Hockey: “Girls’ OP Hockey has been a possibility for many years. In 2010 we finally organised a date and played a match in November against the current College 1st X1,” reports **Lucy Hamblin-Rooke (01-08)**. “We managed to drag along a few old faces from leavers of the 2005-09 vintage, of whom a few probably hadn’t seen their sports kit in years.

“The game resulted in a 6-0 loss and without **Philippa Allen (99-05)**, our goalkeeper, making some excellent saves the score would have been a lot worse! Still, it was a great afternoon, with plenty of humour and more importantly it got OPs together to have a good catch up. Our aim is to try and make this an annual event. One idea is to merge the OP hockey and rugby on the same day which would bring everyone together and hopefully result in more OPs coming along to watch. If you are interested in taking part, please contact me at lhr2008@live.co.uk

Rugby: In December, 2010, an OP Under-21 XV lost to the College 1st XV in a close game 22-17. Watched by most of the school as well as a few OPs, the strong College team that had lost only a couple of matches during the school term eventually ran out winners after some excellent forward and back play.

Jack Muggridge (05-08), a former captain of the College 1st XV, organised the OP side. He reported later that he had had 20 players to select from and put out “probably the strongest team we could have picked.” He adds: “It was particularly good to see the fixture played as the last two seasons the game had been cancelled due to lack of interest and weather issues.” Any young OP (below the under-21 age limit at the start of the 2011-12 season) who would like to play for the OP XV in 2011 should email Jack at jmuggers@yahoo.co.uk



The OP Under-21 XV 2010

At the end of August an OP squad of 18 players “excelled itself at the annual old boys’ tournament at Richmond RFC,” writes Jack. “We played King Edward VI, Southampton in the first round of the main competition and won 21-0. Unfortunately, we drew our old foes Wellington College in the next round and lost 12-0 on the main pitch. A tough game where we hardly saw any of the ball and suffered key injuries to one of our centres and our full back which put them out of the rest of the day.

Fortunately with the Cronk Cunis tournament there is always more rugby to be played and we dropped down to the quarterfinals of the vase competition where we met St Edwards, Oxford. We put together some really good rugby and racked up a good score of 31-0. Then we met a very tired Reigate Grammar XV in the semis and came out winners 12-5. Finally we played a well drilled Norwich School in the final. We started poorly but scored just before half time and went on to assert our superiority in the second half. The final score was 22-14 to us - a great day all round.”

The OP rugby squad in 2010 included: **2006 leavers** - Will Hughes, Olly Johnson & Josh Reece. **2007 leavers** - Olly Huson, Tom Altman, Simon Jewell, John Symons, Ben Lawton & Jeff Joseph. **2008 leavers** - Sean Flynn, Tommy Alexander, James Groves, Dotun Awarni, Tola Awarni, Conor Brown, Tom Bishop, Sam Hewick & Jack Muggridge. **2009 leavers** - James Paterson & Olly Walgren.



*OP Sports Reporter
Alexander Smith (95-02)*

Cricket: “Now in its fourth year, the OP T20 cricket match against the College 1st XI has established itself as one of the highlights of Founder’s Day – and the 2010 game didn’t disappoint,” writes **Alex Smith (95-02)**.

With the sun beating down on the Big Side pitch, an OP XI including six players who toured Barbados in 2000 won the toss and elected to bowl. After a nervous start, the youngsters soon had the old boys working hard around the field, testing the fitness of some of the older players on show. Tremendous slogging from Ben Tooze had the OPs worried at one point but despite some rather unorthodox fielding techniques we restricted the College to a very chaseable 140 after 20 overs.



T20 cricket - an OP at the crease



*T20 cricketers (l to r) James Allsop (95-00),
Tim Hamilton (96-01), Chris Sutton (96-01)*

Going in to bat the OPs recovered well from the early loss of opener **Mark Metcalfe (96-01)**, with **James Lewis (96-01)** and **Jack Parsons (07-09)** forming a strong partnership at the crease. Parsons eased to his half-century in some style before getting out, leaving skipper **James Allsop (95-00)** and **Chris Sutton (96-01)** to lead the OPs to victory in a dramatic final over.

The OPs collected their trophy in front of a large and supportive crowd, many of whom enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by the College. So, with the match yet again proving to be a great success, we look forward to another contest in 2011.”

Golf: “Early in June a full house of 30 OPs enjoyed a fantastic day at Hankley Common Golf Club,” writes OPGS Secretary **Charlie Parry (81-85)**. “This was the second year in succession that the Golf Society had played at Hankley and we were again treated superbly. The course was in great condition, with fast greens and punishing rough. We were lucky that the sun shone all day so helping to produce a competitive, but friendly, atmosphere.

In the morning the Society played a single stableford competition for the President’s Cup. There were lots of good rounds as most people realised that to score well you had to keep the ball on the fairways. **Mark Dumas (64-68)** is a member at Hankley, knew where the danger lay, avoided it and won with 42 points playing off 16. The runner up was **Willie Donaldson (91-96)** who racked up 41 points off a handicap of 4 by going round in 72 gross.

In the afternoon 28 players competed for the Simon Broome and Stephen Walker Memorial Bowl in a St Andrews greensome stableford competition. The Bowl was won, on count back, by **Chris Reed (75-80)** and **Charlie Parry (81-85)** with 44 points off a combined handicap of 19.



OPGS vs the College Oct. 2010

We were delighted to welcome some new faces to the golf day this year including our first female OP participant, **Lucy Hamblin-Rooke (01-08)**. Our hope, as ever, is that many more younger OPs will take part in 2011 when the meeting will again be held at Hankley (near Farnham) on July 5th.”

In early October 12 OP and 12 College golfers contested their annual match at Goring & Streatley Golf Club. This year the encounter involved six fourballs and a matchplay format based on handicap difference. The result was a clear victory for the OPs by five points to one, with two games halved and four won - so avenging our defeat in 2009.



OPGS Hankley Common GC - Sam McCarthy-Primett, Gareth Evans, Lucy Hamblin Rooke



OPGS Hankley Common GC July 2010 - Ben Webster, Kingsley Borrett, Pip Smitham

For once we were blessed with decent autumn weather and a course in good condition. There were a number of close matches but two stood out. Our strongest pairing - **Pip Smitham (64-69)** playing off 7 and **James Ash (95-00)** playing off 2 - had to fight all the way to the final hole to record a one up victory. The second match, involving local member **Richard Parrett (72-80)** and his partner **Greg Caswell (78-83)**, was halved. This was quite an achievement considering that one of the College team went round in a gross 74 playing off a 7 handicap. According to Greg it was his “second best round ever.”

Sailing: At an OP Society Committee meeting held in September, 2010, a proposal by Vice-President **Ian Williams (61-63)** to set up an OP Yacht Club was approved unanimously.

Ian explains: “Both HMS Conway and Worcester still have their own old boys’ yacht clubs despite neither institution existing. The NCP, as such, ceased to exist as long ago as 1969 yet unlike Conway and Worcester an Ensign flag still flies over the parade ground, pupils wear the naval uniform and the College goes from strength to strength. Yet despite our proud nautical history and the countless OPs who sail recreationally today, we have never had our own OP yacht club. Your Committee wishes to change this.

The intention now is to launch the OP Yacht Club formally at the 2011 OP Dinner in HQS Wellington on April 20th. We envisage a “virtual” worldwide club run according to a standard RYA Constitution (see www.rya.org.uk). As a ‘not for profit’ organisation, it should be inexpensive to run. Burgee designs are still under consideration and a Steering Committee is in the process of seeking officers and committee members. Once everything is in place, we will turn our thoughts to how best to arrange “global” events.

Despite being virtual we will need real live members! So if you sail or own a yacht, now is the time to step forward. Application details will be posted on the OP website www.oldpangbournian.co.uk If you believe you can help the new yacht club in any way whatsoever, or just wish to belong, please get in touch with me at woofwilliams@gmail.com



Ian Williams (61-63)

NEWS OF OPs

T.N. Hall (44-48) visited the College for the first time in nearly 50 years in October and let us know later that he was “vastly impressed.” Following a 23 year career in the Royal Navy, he worked for the Ministry of Aviation. Today he lives in retirement at Liskeard, Cornwall.

David Lewis (81-85), a Commander in the Royal Navy, let us know early in 2010 that he was working as a Liaison Officer to the Pakistani military and was frequently in Kabul.

Paul Scott-Masson (74-79) is based in Naples where he works for NATO analysing intelligence data on the Balkans.

From **William Skinner (82-87)**, the ebullient managing director of Savile Row bespoke tailor Dege & Skinner, comes word that he spent New Year’s Eve with **Charlie Sykes (81-85)** and **Damian Scott-Masson (81-85)** and the new master-in-charge of rowing at the College. A jolly evening was had by all!

Richard Hamilton (87-92) rowed for GB for eight years after leaving Pangbourne and took part in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He now lives in New Zealand and has become a dairy farmer in the Bay of Plenty region. Married with three children, he met another OP farmer locally, **Jim Bryce (81-86)**, early in 2010. Richard says he is keen to meet other OPs living in or touring New Zealand.

Ian Tew (56-60) was inducted as a Freeman of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners in September. Earlier in the year he sailed to Scotland and back with his brothers in their Nicholson 40. **Rory Macnamara (56-60)** left a

note on board in Tobermory but they did not meet. 2011, he reminds us, is the 50th anniversary of the loss of the British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd passenger ship *Dara* which was blown up by terrorists (possibly Omani rebels) with the loss of 238 lives in 1961 - one of the worst British peacetime losses since the *Titanic*. “I was the youngest European on board aged 17 and now think I am the last European survivor,” he writes. “My account is the prologue to my book “Salvage a Personal Odyssey.”

Tim Goodenough (86-93) is working as a mechanical engineer and lives in Neuchatel, Switzerland. He and his Spanish partner were expecting a boy in March, 2010.

From South Africa our Johannesburg Rep. **Shaun Maynard (60-64)** reports that he is busier than ever in his shipbroking business. He has a new hip yet still rows several times a week. He keeps in touch with **Strachan (56-61)** and **Garth (59-63) McDonald**. Strachan stood as a candidate for the small Liberal Party in the 2010 UK general election and increased his vote but not by enough to win a seat. Garth was with SevernLink until it closed down. He was then retained by the owner to look after two ferries bought from WightLink until they were resold.

An OP, **Paul Haynes (78-83)**, sent us an email asking if any OPs are Freemasons. He “regularly visits the Old Wellingtonian Lodge that meets in Freemason’s Hall, London WC2” and has met one other OP Freemason there. He says he is considering starting an Old Pangbournian Lodge. If you are interested in joining please email him at p.haynes@cadogantate.com

Jeremy Hodgson (51-54), at home recovering from a pacemaker operation, sent a long email in December detailing his life since leaving the NCP. After national service in the Royal Marines, including active service on Cyprus, he moved to North America before returning to England and training as a sales rep. with Unilever. This led to a sales career with a succession of companies like Marley Tile operating in the flooring sector. After retiring to France for a couple of years, he returned to the UK and now lives in East Sussex where he is Sales Manager at D.J. Hann, another flooring company. He rows, does track days around Europe with his 3lt Alfa Romeo and in 2006 ran the London Marathon and the Great North Run and raised over £7,000 for the neo natal hospital where two of his grandchildren were born. A fuller version of his email appears on the website.

Charles Stuart (54-57) continued to travel in 2010. In February he was in Santiago, Chile, where he caught up with **Ben Brundell (53-56)** – “in fine form – he survived the earthquake with only minor damage.” In November he visited the UK where he met **John Lang (55-58)** “for a second 70th birthday lunch,” **Adrian Stow (54-58)**, with whom he watched Australia being beaten by England at the Dorking RFC (“I felt a bit isolated”), and Lionel and Pat Stephens.

OP author **Ewen Southby-Tailyour (55-59)** had two books published in 2010 (reviewed elsewhere in the magazine). He also spent nearly a month virtually incommunicado in the South Atlantic as a Guest Lecturer on board the cruise ship *Polar Star*. “A fascinating experience” he says, especially seeing the wildlife and glaciers on South Georgia. “What a privilege!”

Cornelius Frey (01-03), currently at Harvard Business School, writes that he is enjoying life in the US. “After several years toiling in finance it’s great to focus on learning new things outside tight client deadlines. More than prestige, impressive buildings or other secondary measures, it is Harvard’s ability to bring together brilliant people from all over the world that makes it so worthwhile being here.” He adds: “A quick update from the River Charles as I recently got back in a boat after a very long time. Nothing too serious at all as you’ll see!”



Head Of The Charles 2010
©www.row2k.com

Cornelius Frey (01-03), third from right, rowing at Harvard 2010

REUNIONS IN 2010

Numerous Reunions of OPs, some large, some small, were held all over the place during 2010 reflecting the Chairman’s desire for a more active OP social life. If a gathering is not mentioned here, it is only because the organiser has failed to inform the editors!

The “Fifties Group” West Country lunch, loosely intended for those living in the Dorset, Wilts and Somerset area, took place shortly before Christmas, 2009, at The King’s Arms, near Wincanton. It proved a considerable success with 14 members coming as far afield as Bath in the North and Swanage in the South. Attendees were: **Ted Pratt, Reg James, Christopher Whitfeld, Charles Du Cane, Sandy Watson, Jeremy Ainslie, Bob Hill, Tim Lee, Michael Layard, Peter Roe, Erik Bjorkstrand, Rob Richards, Anthony Sainthill** and the organiser **Adrian Stow**.

In January more than 20 OPs who left the College in 1962 gathered on the Parade Ground one Sunday morning to wave off three fellow “62’ers” – **Geoff Popple, Nick Vaudrey** and **David Keith-Welsh** - who were driving to the tip of Africa in two Land Cruisers (see separate article) to raise money for charity and have a memorable experience. Everyone then reassembled in The Swan for a convivial lunch. Among those present were **Richard & Ian Shuttleworth, James Allenby, Colin Miller** (who had driven from Norfolk and camped overnight on the freezing Parade Ground), **Mike Palmer, AJS Herbert, Anthony Sainthill, Anthony Morrow, Andrew Scott-Priestley, James Baxter, Julian Biggs, Barry Jerman, Andrew Moore** and **Richard Givan**. Thanks are particularly due to Lindsey Hughes who organised the event and drove south from North Wales in a snowstorm to be present.

In March the “Fifties Group” met again, this time at The Bell Inn at Horndon-on-the-Hill in South Essex. “We were welcomed there by **John Vereker (49-53)** who owns and runs this delightful Tudor inn together with his wife, Christine,” writes **Adrian Stow (54-58)**. “John treated us all to a welcoming drink at the bar before joining us for an excellent lunch in a private room.

“Many of those attending had not met each other since leaving the College. This day also marked a ‘First’ for the group, as it was the first time wives dared to join us. We all had a very convivial time and it was after 1600 hrs before the party broke up.” Those attending were: **John Vereker, Jeremy Collingwood, Mark Dumas, James Irvine, Nigel Ackerman, Richard Waldron, Tim Seeman, Michael Welby, Graham & Gwyneth Hart, Roger Richards, Mike Beale, Colin Bennett, Richard Furlonger** and **Adrian & Charmian Stow**.



OP Army reunion at The Turf Club

In June the first Reunion of OPs who were serving or had served in the Army was held at the Turf Club in London. Hosted and organised by **Willie Shuttleworth (66-70)**, late of

13th/18th Royal Hussars, the gathering attracted the Headmaster and Robin Brodhurst from the College, Mark and Nicola Dumas, Lionel Stephens and 14 OPs. Among them were Colonel **Paul Belcher (59-63)**, Lt. Col. **John Esmonde-White (58-61)**, Major **Jollyon Coombs (59-63)**, Major **James Copinger-Symes (80-85)**, Capt. **Daniel Holloway (95-99)** Lt. **Andrew Michael (97-02)**, Ms. **Tiffany Blagg (98-02)** and Messrs **Mark Corby (64-68)**, **Martin Smith** and **Christopher Bindloss (52-57)**.

“Considering the number of kind notes received afterwards and expressions of regret from those who could not come, it was an encouraging start,” reports Willie Shuttleworth. “Our thoughts are now moving towards holding a dinner somewhere suitably military in London in the future.”



OP Army Reunion 19.6.10

One of the OPs present at the Army Reunion was Lt. Colonel **Mike Nicholson MBE (57- 61)**, late of the Royal Artillery. Mike continues to host gatherings at the National Liberal Club on the first Thursday of every month (less January, for liver reasons) under the auspices of “The Liquid List.” This is a networking organisation he set up to help Service folk of all ranks, including OPs, looking for a second career to meet others who have made the move into the commercial world. Liquid List events are held around the UK and Australia. Mike can be contacted at thenet@forcesbusinessnet.com

Mention of Australia serves as a prompt to highlight several OP gatherings in the past 12 months. In March a Reunion took place in Sydney organised by **Nick Lampe (60-64)** and **Alex Hunter (89-96)**. So successful was this event that it was agreed to hold a follow up in October to coincide with Trafalgar Day.

In the event “ill health, relocation and travel” meant that fewer OPs turned up for the second helping. **David Andrews (60-64)** flew up from Melbourne. He was joined by **Mark Martin (79-84)**, **John Rudge (46-48)**, **Charles Godbald (66-70)** and **Duncan Irvine (75-79)** and their partners as well as Nick Lampe. “We enjoyed a few pints at the “Lord Nelson” where the Devitt & Moore flag fitted in well with other nautical memorabilia,” reports Nick. “We then adjourned to another haunt familiar to OPs who have visited Sydney by ship - the Orient hotel - where we had an excellent dinner.”

Meantime in Melbourne the regular Conway/Worcester/Pangbourne lunch group continued to meet. **Charles Stuart (54-57)**, **Richard Strachan (58-62)** and **Nigel Cook (59-62)** are regular attendees. In May, 2011, a CWP Reunion is planned in Singapore. More than 100 people have registered to attend. If any OP in Australia, New Zealand or Asia would like to take part he or she should contact the organiser Nick Goodwin at nickgoodwin395@ymail.com

In October a Reunion for OP members of the Royal Yacht Squadron took place in Cowes on the Isle of Wight organised by **Merrick Rayner (68-73)**. Guest of Honour at the dinner was the Headmaster Thomas Garnier. Eleven OPs were present. They were **Mike Anderson (68-73)**, **John Fisher (68-73)**, **Roly Franks (42-45)** **Wyndham Halswell (62-65)**, **James Maitland (57-60)**, **Peter Mumford (64-68)**, **Patrick Roberts (71-75)**, **Ian Shuttleworth (57-62)**, **Mike Stringer (66-69)** and **David Keith-Welsh (58-62)**. Three Old Conways also attended and at the end of the dinner one of them, Sir Malcolm Edge, gave a stirring recitation without notes of a poem written by another Old Conway, John Masefield, about HMS Conway. Unsurprisingly, the OPs had no response!



Reunion at the Royal Yacht Squadron Reunion

Honorary OP and retired French master **Ian Busby** with his wife Roma was in Paris in April, brushing up on his linguistic skills and tracking down the grave of the Irish playwright Samuel Becket. In between times, he caught up with former French 'A' level student **Barney Spender (76-81)**. After five years in Greece, Barney is freelancing as a journalist and rugby commentator for the broadcaster Eurosport.

In between quoting and acting out parts of *Waiting for Godot* and comparing the length and fullness of their respective beards - Buzzers won by virtue of the fact he could hide three sparrows in his - they managed to empty the wine cellars of at least nine cafes in St Michel. Amid the catching up after 29 years, they also discussed the feasibility of starting a Paris/France chapter of the OP Society or holding an OP Reunion in France in 2011.



*Busby & Spender go native in Paris.
The children were not responsible for the bar bill.*

Plans were scribbled on the back of the *addition* and Barney took it upon himself to “give it a lash.” He has agreed to get in touch with those OPs known to be resident in France - although if there are any OPs who may be working temporarily there and would like to meet, they should contact Barney via Facebook or his email barneyspender@yahoo.co.uk Those with private vineyards are especially encouraged to get in touch.

DECADE REPRESENTATIVES

The following OPs have kindly agreed to represent a decade of leavers to facilitate OP reunions and other OP social events. If you would like to suggest an event or take part in one please contact:

- 1930s - Keith Evans Tel: 01428 642122
- 1940s – Robin Arnott riarnott@hotmail.co.uk
- 1950s - Adrian Stow Adrian.stow@btinternet.com
- 1960s – David Nicholson David.Nicholson@pgs.com
- 1970s – Steve Davis stephenpauldavis@googlemail.com
- 1980s – Charlie Parry parry1@gotadsl.co.uk
- 1990s – Charlotte Hayne charlottehayne@hotmail.co.uk
- 2000s – Paul Lawrence paullawrence1@live.co.uk

VIRTUAL OPs - THE FACEBOOK GENERATION



Steve Davis (74-81)

The OP Society has existed as a physical organisation for many years with regular sporting events, committee meetings, dinners and reunions. The internet has given us, potentially, an extra dimension - social media, writes **Steve Davis (74-81)** stephenpauldavis@googlemail.com



In responding to this opportunity the Society began by spending considerable time and effort in revamping the OP website (www.oldpangbournian.co.uk) to act as a focus point for our activities. News stories and events are posted on the site on a regular basis alongside our picture gallery and contact details. Go online and take a look, and while you are there be sure to register your details so we can keep you informed of what is happening.

Additionally, we wanted to use the website as a platform to get more OP networking underway. The first part of this is the Business Directory on the website. Make sure you register your business or expertise and take advantage of what is already there. To give you a personal example, I get exceptional value from insuring with **Richard Armitage (70-77)** at Unicover.

An extension of this networking is the world of social media which includes sites like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Our Facebook presence has been deliberately low key. Some OPs had already constructed several informal groups on Facebook and in any case it's not the OP Society's desire to try to have any editorial influence over what is posted. However, we can post messages and articles of interest in the hope that they will be read and acknowledged in some way (mustering OP Cricket teams for instance).

Twitter has proved more elusive as it needs active management as well as followers but it's on my 2011 list of things to tackle, so watch this space.

Finally LinkedIn www.linkedin.com is proving an effective medium for business-related networking and discussion. An active OP forum exists (search on Groups for Old Pangbournians) that already has 88 members. Over the last few months we have had informative discussions on careers advice for existing Pangbourne pupils and networking amongst OPs. If you are on LinkedIn please send us a request to join and take part in what's going on.

As a Society we try to be active in many areas but we still need your input. So send us articles and or pictures for publication in this magazine or on the website. Register contact details via the OP website. Take part in our LinkedIn group. And please feel free to send any suggestions or comments to OP@pangcoll.co.uk

OPs IN THE NEWS

The Sunday Times devoted the best part of a page in November to a long profile of **David Harding (72-78)** headlined "Giving his riches to the men in white coats." Harding, who allegedly earned £54m in 2009 and is worth more than £430m according to the paper, is owner of the hedge fund Winton Capital Management. Earlier in 2010 he had donated £20m to the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge to turn it into a centre of excellence in the study of the "physics of sustainability – exotic new energy-saving materials, energy capture and storage."

Harding, 49, passed his 'A' levels at Pangbourne at 16, went up to Cambridge at 17 and gained a First in physics by the time he was 20. He then went stock broking for a time before devising a mathematical approach to trading in the futures markets and setting up his own firm.

The long-running saga surrounding a luxury property development on Barbados being led by **Robin Paterson (69-73)** - a Four Seasons hotel and 35 villas, costing up to £12 million each – continued to make waves in the national press during 2010 with several lengthy articles in *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. By the end of November, according to *The Telegraph*, "after £55m of costs and years of delay Simon Cowell, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Eddie Jordan could finally get their slice of paradise as the luxury resort they

helped to fund is resurrected." According to the paper new banking support for the project had been received "on the condition that the loan was guaranteed by the Barbados government. Building work is now due to restart in January" 2011.

Angus Fair (81-88), commanding officer of the Light Dragoons (a regiment formed in 1992 from the 13th/18th Royal Hussars and the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars), has been awarded a Bar to the DSO "in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Afghanistan during the period 1st April, 2009, and 30th September, 2009." Angus, who was CCCC in 1988, was commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and posted to the Light Dragoons to command. His second DSO follows an earlier award after his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. At least ten OPs are known to have served in the Light Dragoons or its predecessor regiments.

An article in the May, 2010, issue of 'Naval Review' by Lt. Cdr Yogesh Athawale of the Indian Navy highlighted how **Brian Goord (25-27)** "in his short but distinguished RIN (Royal Indian Navy) career" contributed substantially to the genesis and growth of antisubmarine warfare in India.

In the run-up to the General Election in May David Cameron was reported in the national press to have

languished at the bottom of his class at Heatherdown Preparatory School. **Rhidian Llewellyn (71-78)**, a teacher at Heatherdown at the time, was quoted in several newspapers as remembering Cameron as a “charming and bright “ pupil with a “cheeky grin. To suggest he was a dunce is unfair,” he said, “because you would expect a younger boy to be behind chaps who had already sat their scholarship exams to Eton.” Rhidian, 52, now runs an educational consultancy firm.

In April **Patrick Derham (74-78)**, Headmaster of Rugby School, co-produced a new book *Liberating Learning* with Michael Worton, vice-provost of University College, London. An illustrious array of contributors added to the book’s lustre. “It could become a bible for (educational) reformers fed up with the past 13 years of missed opportunities” according to a columnist in the *Financial Times*. In December Patrick had a letter published in *The Daily Telegraph* on the national need “to respond to the (educational) advances made by emerging nations.

Derham was one of a number of OPs having letters to the editor published in the national press during 2010. Others included **Ewen Southby-Tailyour (55-59)** on under-strength commando battalions in Afghanistan, the possible military consequences of finding oil off the Falkland Islands, and amphibious warfare; **Michael Smith (60-65)** on the “moral and spiritual malaise infecting the nation” and the distortions of capitalism; **Michael Layard (49-53)**, a former Second Sea Lord, on the decision to disband “the unique Harrier force in favour of the less capable, more costly and manpower-intensive Tornado” aircraft; **Tim Lee (51-53)** on the importance of the Trident deterrence; **John Lang (55-58)** on the Red Ensign and ships wearing a British flag; and **Robin Knight (56-61)** on English batting averages ahead of the Ashes series in Australia.

Mike Smith (60-65) also attracted press publicity thanks to a series of roundtable forums on banking ethics that he masterminded. Sponsored by Caux Initiatives for Business, the forums took place throughout the year at the London centre of Initiatives for Change. In December Mike had a piece published on *Times Online* reporting that at a meeting in November HBOS whistleblower Paul Moore had claimed the best regulation in the world will fail in banks if carried out in a culture of greed.

S.J. Van Lochem (00-05) took part in the Sovereign’s Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in mid-December. He attended the University of Wales, Swansea, after Pangbourne and is now serving in the Royal Engineers.

Helen Jefferis (04-10) was selected to row in the Great Britain Junior Women’s coxless four and eight in the Coupe de la Jeunesse Regatta in Hazelwinkel, Belgium last summer. In the eight, Helen gained a silver medal and she also won two bronze medals in the coxless four. **David Rendle (73-78)**, who let us know about this achievement, adds: “We hope that Helen’s success will encourage more girls to row at the College.”

A chapter in a new book on the British Merchant Navy, “Voices from the Bridge,” published in 2010, was contributed by **Ian Tew (56-61)**. Up to half of the world’s cargoes were once carried by British merchant ships, and the officers and crews who sailed them were heirs to a tradition stretching back centuries. “Voices from the Bridge” presents varied personal recollections describing life as seen from the bridge of a merchant vessel during the second half of the twentieth century.

Memories of a lifetime involving the sea also were invoked by **Peter Tambling (50-53)** in a six page article on his career which he wrote for *Shipping - Today & Yesterday*. It appeared in the January, 2011, issue of the publication. In the article Peter goes into detail about his three years at the NCP and included a photo of the Duke of Edinburgh inspecting Cadet Tambling and the Guard on Founder’s Day 1953. In more than 60 years involvement with the sea Peter has been a Master, Marine Superintendent, Ship Surveyor, Port Manager, Harbour Master and Shipping Agent.

The ups and downs in the oil and gas industry in 2010 led to a number of quotes by **Malcolm Graham-Wood (70-75)** appearing in print. Malcolm was described by *The Daily Telegraph* as “a director of oil and gas broking at Westhouse Securities.”

Anjali Gupta (94-99) received plenty of media coverage for her documentary *India’s Forgotten Women* which screened at the Vue West End in Leicester Square and the Frontline Club in London as well as in Birmingham in the summer of 2010. Anjali acts as the on-screen presenter. The well-shot film tackles the plight of Dalit women who, as members of a low caste are treated as slaves or, at worst, disposable human carrion. Anjali interviewed a number of women including some forced into temple prostitution - a practise known as devadasi. “In theory devadasi ceased to exist in 1988 when it was outlawed. In practise it has anything but died out,” she says. “One of the main problems with the issues we cover is that people think they are historical problems, perhaps even legends and myths,” Anjali told the *BBC World Service*.

Retired film director **Ken Russell (42-44)** steered clear of attacking the College in 2010. Instead he became embroiled in a debate about whether or not there should be a “Men’s Hour” on BBC radio to emulate “Woman’s Hour.” There are, he asserted in *The Times*, “some things that men would like to hear about – divorce, for example. I could talk about divorce for hours on end... (But) I don’t think men are interested in talking about emotions. They don’t want to hear each other emoting.”

Andrew Simpson (90-95), Pangbourne’s sailing gold medallist at the Beijing Olympics, had an up-and-down

year. At the start of 2010, with his partner Iain Percy, he won the 2010 Star World Championship title “after a fraught final race in Rio de Janeiro” according to *The Daily Telegraph*. America’s Cup duty with TeamOrigin and the birth of Simpson’s son then restricted their competitive season in Star racing. In the Skandia Sail for Gold regatta in Weymouth Bay in August the duo finished seventh in the Star class. Later that month Team Origin did well in the AudiMedCup regatta in Cartagena – only for the plug to be pulled on Team Origin’s aspiration’s to campaign in the next America’s Cup, with the loss of 70 jobs, after publication of new rules for the prestige contest.

OPs CLOSE UP – TWO PROFILES

TERRY O’NEIL (51-56): A BIG PERSONALITY

Terry, a tall, energetic, instantly likeable chain-smoking Captain wafted into my life in the 1960s when he joined the Regiment in which I was serving as a mere *wart* (Subaltern), writes **Mike Nicholson (57-61)**. His unbounded enthusiasm impacted on all but his cult status among the *warts* only became enshrined when, overnight, he gave up smoking and returned to the boxing ring.



Terry O’Neil (r) in the ring in the 1960s

Even *civilian* readers will appreciate that boxing as an officer is a high risk activity in the Services, so it should be recorded that Terry was only the second officer to have boxed for The Army since 1945. The night that Terry won the Divisional Heavyweight Boxing Final proved memorable for two reasons. First, his opponent sprung out of his corner,

landed on his ankle and was carted off, leaving Terry the winner. Second, as the tournament progressed, the regiment was subjected to a practice operational call out. With the CO miles away watching the boxing, his deputy back at base decided that moving out of barracks would be rather tiresome so we sat in our vehicles making bogus reports of mobility. Our contribution to deterrence at that time has been grossly underestimated.

Assessing Terry’s boxing prowess is easier than making judgements on Cold War deterrence. He was a Member of the Army Boxing team 1958-1968. He scored the quickest KO in Sandhurst v Cranwell history which ultimately brought an end to such competitions. He was BAOR Heavyweight Champion 1961, 1962 and 1967. And, perhaps bravest of all, he taught **John Ridgway (51-55)** to box although, allegedly, it is the latter who wears the scars.

While sport played a significant part in Terry’s life there was always another dimension – a career in the Army. Progression at the time required an Officer to pass the Staff College examination as well as gaining the appropriate recommendations. The *cognoscenti* let it be known that Terry was most unlikely to pass the exam. Not for the first time I suspect, he had been under-valued and in due course he attended the Staff College 1970-1971.

In 1978 Terry decided to leave the Army to begin what turned out to be a highly successful commercial career. Initially he worked for Hapag-Lloyd (UK) Ltd as Group Company Secretary on the main Board. In 1983 he moved into the security business and set up Argus Shield in partnership with two others the following year. In 1991 they sold Argus Shield to Pinkertons. Terry was then appointed CEO Pinkertons (Europe).

In 1998 aged 60 he handed over his CEO role. At this point many would have retired but Terry's energy levels demanded a more active outlet. In partnership with his daughter (Susie), and younger son (Steve), he co-founded The Security Watchdog www.securitywatchdog.org.uk A dozen years later it is a leading voice in the security business and in particular has been instrumental in raising the quality of that industry.

The only son of a Fleet Air Arm pilot killed in action in 1944, Terry has grabbed hold of life and lived it to the full. Aside from boxing, he has excelled at cricket, rugby, squash and golf. He is a man whose personality readily fills a room but without ever being obtrusive or ostentatious – a difficult balance. He is also a generous man both with his time and money. Two illustrations come to mind. Unsolicited, he offered to help with second career guidance to Service leavers. On another occasion, to celebrate his birthday some of his many friends were treated to a wonderful day of golf in which he made sure that everyone won a prize. Attention to detail is another of his qualities.



Terry O'Neil (r) with his golfing friend OP Kingsley Borrett (51-56)

Reflecting on such a stellar career, I am convinced that the NCP played a key role in shaping Terry's approach to life. In an era dominated by the so-called cult of celebrity it does no harm to remind ourselves that the reputation of an institution does not rest on individuals but on its collective qualities. Terry O'Neil exemplifies all that was, and no doubt still is, good about Pangbourne.

ROBIN PATERSON (69-73): MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

You would expect a sun-kissed Caribbean seascape in the boardroom of international property businessman Robin Paterson's offices in St James's Street, Pall Mall, writes **Rupert Bates (77-81)**.

Instead there is an etching of 'The Thames at Pangbourne' by F. Hunter – testimony to OP Robin's enduring love for the College, where he remains a governor. "I take a serious interest in the College and still have several very close friends I first made at Pangbourne," he says. "I think it has a unique ability to identify and nurture people's strengths."

Self-discipline via the parade ground, social skills and a self-confidence that rarely tips over into arrogance are traits of many OPs, he believes. "Pangbourne gave me a lot of self-esteem and a quiet determination to succeed. When I first went into property I had the belief I could do the job."



Robin Paterson in his St. James's Street office in London (photo by OP Angus Thomas)

Since leaving Pangbourne in 1973, it has been all about property and the seesaw emotions of fluctuating markets both at home and abroad for Robin. Buy outs, buy backs, booms and busts, he has got all the T-shirts from the mad world of real estate over the last 30 years. In his time he has been chief executive and majority shareholder in a number of estate agency businesses including Barnard Marcus, Cluttons London Residential and Hamptons International.

In 2003 the agent turned developer after selling Hamptons. His first project was the 500-acre Henley estate Park Place, which he sold in 2007 for a then record price for a country property outside London.

In 2005 Robin formed a company called Cinnamon 88 to develop projects in the Caribbean. Sadly, we meet not in Barbados but in its St James's Street office – an historic building of faded grandeur and the

merest hint of stale cigar smoke across the road from St James's Palace. When the market allows, Robin has plans for a private members club and residential apartments here in a £100 million development.

Right now Robin's highest profile development is Paradise Beach in Barbados - a luxury hotel and villas designed to keep paparazzi in long lenses beside azure waters. Music impresarios Simon Cowell

and Andrew Lloyd Webber, retail tycoon Philip Green and former F1 motor racing boss Eddie Jordan are among the purchasers.

All was initially not well in the Garden of Eden with the global markets in turmoil and the development on hold, but Paradise is set to be found again. "It was a steep learning curve, but we have survived with refinancing and the likes of Simon Cowell have been incredibly supportive," says Robin.

His love of Barbados is clear and two of his five children are being educated there. Son James followed Dad to Pangbourne.

Robin, who was in Illawarra with Peter Politzer his housemaster, learnt his love of sailing at Pangbourne and hopes to get OPs involved in Antigua Sailing Week. Less successful was his bugling. "I was thrown out of the band for being useless." Self-confident, but self-deprecating – Robin is a classic OP.

'CITY OF ADELAIDE' IS SAVED - BY SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The last Devitt & Moore ship in existence, '*City of Adelaide*', has been saved from destruction and is to be moved from Irvine, Scotland, to Adelaide, South Australia.

The historic 1864 clipper ship will be re-located to a land-based maritime precinct at Port Adelaide following a successful campaign to persuade the government of South Australia to support the project. It is hoped to move the ship from its present berth in Scotland in time to celebrate South Australia's 175th anniversary of settlement in 2011.

The South Australian campaign, supported by OP **Rohan Greenland (74-79)**, succeeded against bids to demolish the ship and a campaign backed by another OP, **David Inglesby (67-71)**, to relocate it to Sunderland where the clipper was built. The massive size (176ft/55m length) of the hull will make an exceptional display and promote closer cultural links between Scotland and South Australia according to supporters in Australia.



City of Adelaide at Irvine 2009

'*City of Adelaide*' undertook 23 return trips between the UK and Adelaide carrying thousands of passengers and significant amounts of cargo between the two countries. Genealogists have calculated that almost a quarter of a million present-day Australians can trace their heritage to passengers and crew of the ship.

Apart from the '*Cutty Sark*', '*City of Adelaide*' is the only surviving clipper ship in the world. In 1893 she was converted to a hospital ship at Southampton and in 1924 to a naval training ship at Irvine (when she was renamed HMS Carrick). The vessel was moored at Greenock until 1950 when she was moved to Custom House Quay in Glasgow and used as a clubhouse by the RNVR.

In 1991 '*City of Adelaide*' sank and lay on the bottom of the river Clyde for a year before she was raised by the Scottish Maritime Museum and moved to Irvine. According to a naval architect, Peter Roberts of the South Australian Preservation Trust, '*City of Adelaide*' is in "quite sound condition" for a ship built 146 years ago with its chequered history.

Rohan Greenland adds: The '*City of Adelaide*' was the first vessel built for Devitt & Moore. No division at Pangbourne is named after the clipper today but a dormitory in Macquarie bore the '*City of Adelaide*' name for many years. The Scottish government will be injecting substantial funds to see the clipper transported to South Australia. This support is being augmented by funds from South Australian engineering companies. While this will cover the lion's share of the cost of getting the ship across the globe, we still need to find between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Fund-raising is now underway in earnest and donations can be made online at the '*City of Adelaide*'s' impressive website www.cityofadelaide.org.au



City of Adelaide with Fiona Hyslop, South Australia's Minister for Culture & External Affairs

THE PANGBOURNE AFRICA OVERLAND EXPEDITION 2010

It was on a pleasant evening at Drotskys Cabins on the banks of the Okavango River in Botswana in October, 2007, writes **G.E.M. Popple (58-62)**, that two Old Pangbournians, **David Keith-Welsh (58-62)** and I decided to muster a team of OPs to drive overland from England to South Africa.



PangAf expedition departs from the College parade ground Jan 31st 2010

Nicholas Vaudrey (57-62) was the first OP to sign up and we searched for two other OPs to join us. Despite many phone calls and emails we were unsuccessful for a variety of reasons, so Nicholas's brother Jonathan, a vet from Melbourne Australia, and Anthony Kent, Nicholas's neighbour in Cape Town joined the Pangbourne Africa Expedition.

We set off from Pangbourne College on 31st January 2010 with OP Society President Robin Knight handing over Devitt & Moore house flags to carry and fly them on the most southern tip of Africa – Cape Agulhas. Robin also kindly arranged lunch at The Swan in Pangbourne village and more than 30 supporters came to wish us well (see Reunions).

The trip in two Toyota Land Cruisers took us four months, covering 25,000 km, travelling through



PangAf expedition reaches Cape Arghulas April 2010 - Nick Vaudrey, Geoff Popple, David Keith-Welsh

Europe, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

In total we used 3,650 litres of fuel. We experienced every kind of weather from snow, hail and frost in Europe to a desert storm for three days in Sudan, high humidity on the Tanzanian coast and torrential rain in Malawi. Temperatures varied from sub-zero in Europe to the high 30s in Egypt and 2 deg C at 4,000m in Ethiopia's Semien Mountains.

A highlight was our journey on the weekly passenger ferry and vehicle barge across Lake Nasser from Aswan, Egypt, to Wadi Halfa, Sudan. This was everything we had expected - frustrating bureaucracy and dirty, chaotic conditions in sweltering heat on-board. But all turned to joy when we were reunited with our vehicles after three days apart!

The Land Cruisers performed well and lived up to their reputation as reliable, rugged and comfortable 4x4s ideally suited to driving conditions in Africa. We had a few mechanical problems but nothing that couldn't be solved with ingenuity and the occasional phone call to our experts in South Africa.



PangAf expedition - in the western desert of North Africa

Each of us came away with our own personal highlights that will remain with us for the rest of our lives. I know that some of my fellow travellers are keen to explore this beautiful and diverse continent further. We also hope that we have been able, in some small way, to enthuse others to do the same. Our blow-by-blow account can be read on www.pangbourneafrica.co.za

(Editor's note: One of the expedition's purposes was to raise money for two charities - Pangbourne College, and the Red Cross hospital for children in Cape Town. More than £3,000 was donated - a great achievement which, we hope, other OPs may emulate on future expeditions)

OP SOCIETY – OUR OVERSEAS REPS

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PAST & PRESENT - PANGBOURNE 65 YEARS AGO

“The Second World War ended in Europe in August, 1945, and the task of reconstruction began,” recalls **Lionel Stephens**. “The College had not suffered any physical impact, but real loss had been experienced in the relatively high casualties suffered by such a small and young school.

In September, 1939, there were only 220 cadets at the NCP and the

College was 22 years old. All OPs except for a few declared medically unfit served in the armed services or the merchant navy. A total of 177 lost their lives - 80% of an entire College generation. In the post-war “Log” the Roll of Honour and War Honours took up three pages. Great efforts were made to create a fitting memorial and a fine memorial window, together with a memorial plaque, were eventually installed

in the chapel in Drake Hall (and moved recently into the Falklands Islands chapel).

In 1946 the NCP was still very much in the hands of one family, the Devitts. Sir Philip had taken charge personally in 1939 and brought his wife and five daughters to live in the Captain’s quarters. It was appropriate that when he retired in 1946 at the age of 70 he referred to



First Cadet Captain photo after the war. The CCCC is Roger Game (42-45) who sailed with P&O and OCL and died in 2007

“my cadet family.” As Chairman he was succeeded by another Devitt, Sir Thomas (grandson of the founder). “Tommy” Devitt had played rugby for England on the wing, but as a business man he had less time than his predecessors to run the College. He retired in 1961 – the last member of the Devitt family to be Chairman of the Board.

The immediate post-war period in 1945-46 also saw many staff changes. The much loved Bill MacIlwaine, an outstanding teacher of Navigation (his notes became famous and were published in 1955) retired exhausted and died soon after. “Gnarly Bill” Stamper, the Master-at-Arms and a brilliant fencer, also retired. The Director of Studies, Frank Woodall, left and was succeeded by Kenneth Topliss who faced an uphill

struggle to raise the school’s poor academic standards. A new Captain Superintendent, Commander Hugh Skinner RN, arrived together with a new Executive Officer, Lt. Cdr. Ronnie Hoyle. New and younger teachers were recruited and the outlook generally brightened.

Despite the changes the College’s ethos remained unchanged as the destination of the leavers in 1946 makes clear. Of the 60 who departed, 38 joined the Merchant Navy and eight the Royal Navy. Just eight went in to what was ignominiously termed “civil life.” An interesting example is **EJ Robinson (43-46)** who went into the MN but soon left to go into business and became one of the most enthusiastic OPs ever, being instrumental in the creation of the OP Magazine. Meantime new entrants increased

to 55 with the result that by 1960 numbers at the school had risen to 300. One interesting arrival was **J.M. Webster (46-50)**, later to become Vice Admiral Sir John Webster KCB and Chairman of Governors.

Overall, the future for the NCP in 1946 was encouraging. An Appeal was launched, construction began on two new Divisions (Macquarie and Hesperus) and within a few years work began on a new Study Area and Mess Hall. All that changed in the 1960s as the need for specialist nautical education in the UK declined sharply and by the end of the decade the College was in danger of closure. Drastic change became essential. In 1969 Pangbourne College was launched beginning a remarkable success story over the next 40 years.”

PAST & PRESENT - THE CLASS OF '81

Barney Spender (76-81) left Pangbourne in the summer of 1981 to travel the world as a journalist and broadcaster. Thirty years later he checks out how life has evolved for some of his contemporaries.

Strange thing, school. You spend five years there, eating, breathing, living its very core. Inhaling the smells, ingesting the culture, getting to know each and every byway. Your friends at school are your friends out of school, the rules are your rules of life. It is your everything. And then you leave. Quite suddenly it becomes your nothing. New smells, new cultures, new paths, new rules, new friends. Out in the big wide world and desperate to leave adolescence behind.

Maybe things are different now that the social network systems of *Twitter*, *Facebook* and so on means that pupils/cadets (call them what you will) keep in touch as much or as little as they like with their contemporaries? Even without regular contact they can keep tabs on each other.



Class of '81 (l to r) Spender, Bates, Murison, Durban 1995

Back in 1981, when I hoisted my cap high in the air and bid farewell to Pangbourne, keeping in touch meant parents’ telephone numbers - mobiles were still the best part of a decade away - and addresses. Yes, we used to write to each other, usually postcards aimed at showing off.

One of my chums, **Will Scott-Masson**, sent me a very annoying card from some sun-kissed Greek island later that summer extolling the virtues of the motorbikes, cheap beer and *ta omorphia koritsia* - not sure it was in that order. Another from **Gordon Arthur**, at one point my cabin mate, extolled the pleasures of tree-felling in Canada, Moosehead beer and the beauty of the local lassies (Gordon is Scottish so he would always call them lassies).

Rupert Bates went off to work as a chalet maid in the French Alps. Cue snowy mountain postcards and comments about skiing, cheap wine and *les belles filles*. Having said that, Rupert's top memory of his time in France appears to have been hanging out with a former France rugby captain at his pub Le Twickenham in Valence. I was jealous until Rupert returned to Britain with a ridiculous beach-blond perm of the type then favoured by the Australian fast bowler Jeff Thomson.

I kept in touch with all three of them over the years by old means and new. After a stint in the Army Will has carved himself a decent career as an actor, not so long ago springing up as the Prime Minister (loosely based on Gordon Brown) which is probably as close to Number 10 as any OP has got.

Rupert always had a plan to become a journalist. How many of today's crop of young hopefuls take themselves off to the local tech to join a bunch of giggling girls in a shorthand/typing course? Scoop has been a regular in the rugby pages of the Sunday Telegraph over the best part of 20 years and is also editorial director of Globespan Media, a niche publishing company which is expert on matters property. For a few years we worked together, making magazines and doing our best to drain the European wine lake.

Gordon spent seven years as director of corporate affairs at Standard Life where he master-minded the communications campaign when the company floated in 2006 and (far more important to Messrs Bates & Spender) laid on great spreads for the press prior to Murrayfield rugby internationals. The thirsty hacks are confidently looking forward to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014 as Gordon is firmly in place as director of communications.

There are others. **Johnny Hanscombe** was the person who removed the scales, so to speak, from my musical eyes by "finding" punk and the energy and passion of bands like the Clash, the Jam and the Sex Pistols. No wonder he has spent his working life in the music industry. **James Cookson** has built up a shoe empire called Shipton & Heneage. **Fergus Bowen** runs the rather funky office furniture company Bene.

Henry Laurence was the bright one of our year, along with **James Witter** who went on to win a Boat Race Blue at Cambridge - or was it Oxford? I always get them confused. Henry went to Oxford where he "starred" alongside Rob Lowe in Oxford Blues - and then to Harvard where I visited him in 1990. It's not entirely surprising to find that he is now Associate Professor of Government and Asian Studies at Bowdoin in the US.

While working in Durban, South Africa, in the 1990s I reconnected with **Nick Murison**, one of the rebels of our era. Nick kept a motorbike in the Piggeries to ease late-night flits to the pub or to one of his girlfriends. He attempted a career in the City. At the last OP Day in November he was back at the College reminding anyone who would listen of the day he did a Jonny Wilkinson and dropped a goal from his own half in the last minute to beat Abingdon.

A large number of contemporaries have slipped by the wayside. Telephones out of date, parents moved so no address. There were even deaths, perhaps the saddest being that of **Peter Uncles** who had a wonderful voice and starred in John Flint's blockbuster *Carmen Jones*. The advent of *Facebook* has challenged this distancing and it has been fun to catch up with **John Lancaster-Smith**, a pilot with EasyJet, **Steve Davis** (in IT) and **Drummon Mackinnon**, a captain of industry in his native US.



Class of '81 (Ilor) Flynn, Spender, Barrett, Field in Carmen Jones 1980

Angus Thomas has exchanged the world of property for the dark room. **Miguel Arraya** owns most of Jersey - allegedly. **Niall Flynn** is an orthopaedic surgeon in Portsmouth. Perhaps the one who has achieved the greatest fame is **James Shuttleworth**. Always passionate about trains, he was, I am ashamed to say, given quite a lot of stick during his Pangbourne days. But he showed us all by making trains his career - the cherry on that particular cake being the fact that he owns the Hogwarts Express.

It is 30 years now since the class of '81 marched out of Pangbourne. Each has his own story of achievement and disappointment. I just hope that they don't respond to this piece with postcards. It would be much more fun if they all pitch up for a Founder's Day reunion on July 2, 2011.

BOOK REVIEWS

“3 COMMANDO BRIGADE: HELMAND ASSAULT”

- by Ewen Southby-Tailyour

(Ebury Press, ISBN: 9780091937751, £18.99)

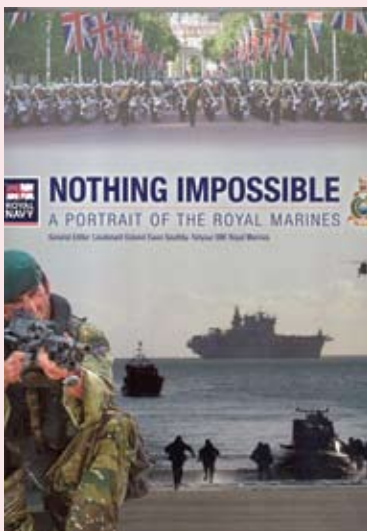
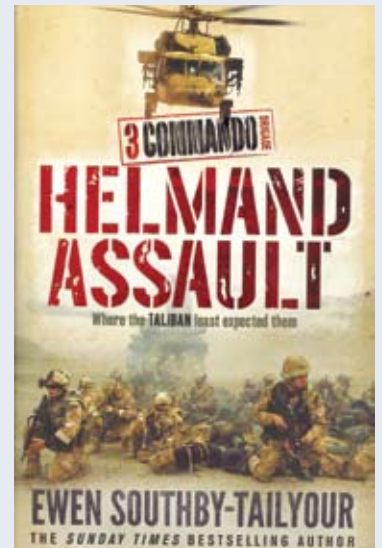
Ewen Southby-Tailyour (55-59) is now at least as well known as a military historian as a Royal Marines Lt. Colonel (rtd) or ocean-going yachtsman. This is his ninth book with a military theme and his second on the exploits of 3 Commando Brigade in Afghanistan. As he makes clear, he had not intended to write a follow up account. This one was compiled against a very tight deadline at his publisher’s suggestion and is aimed squarely at anyone thinking of joining the Royal Marines.

3 Commando deployed to Helmand Province during the Afghan winter of 2008-09 and remained there “for seven long, exhausting, exhilarating, dangerous and successful” months in Ewen’s view. The Brigade’s mission was broader than in previous operations - “not to destroy the Taliban...but to defeat the insurgents in order that good Afghan governance could flourish.” That said the appearance of this book just as British forces were pulling out of the Sangin Valley after four years and 106 deaths to be replaced by more numerous and better equipped US Marines, underlines the considerable risks involved in writing instant history.

Securing the Sangin Valley was one of the Brigade’s key missions during its third deployment in Afghanistan. Ewen argues that despite a determined insurgency in the area it succeeded in this, creating a firm foundation there and “a stability that allowed schools, clinics and new shops to open” encouraging voter registration, improving wheat seed distribution and enhancing the capabilities of the Afghan National Army. Sadly, this verdict has to be questioned in the light of subsequent events.

As ever with a Southby-Tailyour production, this book is full of detail, vivid action and punch and reflects an enormous amount of first hand interviewing and informed analysis. Reading it, no one would ever question the Royal Marines *esprit de corps*, commitment, fighting qualities and organisational dexterity. But Afghanistan has proved time and again down the centuries that bravery, sophisticated strategy and superior technology are not enough for outside forces to win the day given its unique cultural and topographical conditions. After reading this account of the latest foreign incursion, one ends up wondering how 3 Commando will react to a fourth Afghan deployment, should it ever take place.

by **ROBIN KNIGHT**



“NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE: A PORTRAIT OF THE ROYAL MARINES”

General Editor: Lt. Colonel Ewen Southby-Tailyour OBE

(ISBN 978-1- 906507237; Third Millennium Publishing; £45)

This beautifully produced coffee table book has been published as the 350th birthday of the Royal Marines’ “hoves into view” in 2014. It is the first official portrait of this famous Corps for more than 20 years and in some 200 glossy pages sets out to capture “the life, activities, capabilities and ethos” of the Marines, then and now. Some 120 first person essays detail the history, service and training of the Corps, there is a Foreword by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh (Captain General Royal Marines), much fascinating archive material has been unearthed and the whole production is reinforced and enhanced by superb images of the Marines in action today commissioned specially for the book.

Pulling it all together was the challenging task given in late-2008 to **Ewen Southby-Tailyour (55-59)**, now as well known for his military histories as for his military exploits in the Falklands campaign. Working with him was the leading photojournalist Julian Andrews. In less than two years they managed to compile a truly memorable picture of the ups and downs of one of the British armed services most colourful and courageous fighting units down the centuries, with a special emphasis on the Corps' activities since the end of the Cold War.

Reviewing a book like this is difficult. The reader can start at the beginning and go through to the end. Or, as I suspect is more normal, he or she can dip into this cornucopia and extract items of interest in a more random fashion. Either way, do not be put off by the "coffee table" designation. This is a serious and educational study that should be read as well as looked at and is full of fascinating insights on every page.

The first half of the book concentrates on Marine history from 1664 to the end of the Cold War. The second half brings the reader up-to-date. Sections on life in the Marines since the early 1990s cover the Commando Brigade, the wider corps, training, sport and corps family life. The book ends with 12 pages of images showing a year in the life of the Royal Marines today. One of the contributors is Colonel **Rory Copinger-Symes (79-86)** – at the time he wrote his essay Commanding Officer of 1 Assault Group Royal Marines, a multi-faceted unit that provides "a continuous thread" running through the Marines' amphibious capability.

This is a handsome, sumptuously illustrated volume that would be a worthwhile addition to every library and to every collection of books about British military life. More than that, it is an affectionate and balanced work that will launch the Royal Marines happily into the 36th decade of their long and proud history.

by **ROBIN KNIGHT**

OBITUARIES

Michael Beale (53-56) was Vice President of the OP Society, a past President (1988-93) and a Trustee of the Society for 15 years from 1978-93. He left the NCP in 1956 to join the New Zealand Steamship Company. In 1960 he came ashore and joined British Metal Corporation (BMC). Here he became a ring-dealing member on the London Metal Exchange, focusing on copper and silver. In 1974 he became managing director of Amalgamated Metal Trading – a post he held for the next 15 years. He was elected to the board of the London Metal Exchange in 1984 and in 2002 became one of only 12 life members of the Exchange.

In parallel Mike led a successful public life in the City. In 1980 he became a common councillor for the Lime Street Ward on the Corporation of London, serving until 2005. He was also a Master of the Ward Club, a member of the Shipwright Livery Company and a court assistant. He was honoured with the Freedom of the City of London and the Order of St. John.

The three great loves of Mike's life outside business were family, hunting and sailing. He had a great sense of style and was rarely seen without his trademark red carnation button hole. Throughout his life he was a loyal OP, always making the effort to attend Founders' Day with his wife Paula in his vintage Rolls Royce car. In the words of the Address at a packed Memorial Service in the City he "never made an enemy, never criticised anyone and only saw good in others – he was indeed a gentle man."

William Lund MS FRCS (40-43) was not only an outstanding surgeon but a "gentle, special man." Bill left the NCP in the middle of the Second World War and spent two years in the Royal Navy as an ordinary seaman. On release in 1946 he entered Guy's Hospital in London to become a doctor. He qualified in 1954 and decided to pursue a career in surgery. His early ear, nose and throat training was in Oxford. In 1965 he was appointed to the consultant staff at the Middlesex hospital in London. He returned to Oxford as an ENT consultant at the Radcliffe Infirmary a few years later and remained there until retirement in 1991. By then he was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and a Master of Surgery.

Bill was an all-round sportsman playing golf, hockey, rugby and village cricket. He loved amateur dramatics and took parts in plays staged by the Woodstock Players. He retained affection for Pangbourne into old age and regularly attended Reunions of Cadet Captains at the College in 1943. In 1993 he was part of the group that took the salute at a College parade in its honour 50 years after its graduation from the NCP.

Dennis Scott-Masson CBE, RD and Bar (44-46) was Master of the P&O liner *Canberra* during the Falklands war and later was made ADC to The Queen. Leaving the NCP in 1946 Scott-Masson joined Shaw, Savill & Albion shipping line – the third generation in a row of his family to serve in the Merchant Navy. Four years later he moved to P&O and remained with the company for the rest of his career.

In April, 1982, Scott-Masson was in *Canberra* in the Mediterranean when he was informed by P&O that the ship had been “taken up” by the UK government to transport British troops to the Falklands. Returning to Southampton, helicopter pads were quickly welded over the decks, military stores loaded and accommodation made ready for 2,000 troops. Two weeks of preparatory exercises followed off Ascension Island and *Canberra* then became part of the British flotilla which entered San Carlos Bay on May 21. Her size and white hull made her an obvious target for air attack. But troop disembarkation proceeded smoothly. *Canberra* then sailed 1,500 miles to South Georgia to rendezvous with the Cunard liner QE2 and take on board 3,000 soldiers in a day – a considerable feat of energy and organisation. Shortly after *Canberra* returned to San Carlos Bay where Scott-Masson again accomplished the troop offload without injury or loss.

After the capture of Port Stanley *Canberra* entered San Carlos Bay for a third time to load PoWs for the Argentine mainland. This accomplished she returned to the Falklands to transport Royal Marines back to Southampton. There she was given a remarkable welcome as hundreds of small boats sailed out to escort her into the harbour and thousands of people cheered from the dockside. In 94 days at sea *Canberra* sailed over 25,000 miles without a mechanical fault, carried some 5,000 troops into battle, repatriated over 4,000 PoWs and treated 172 wounded soldiers and sailors. According to *The Times*, “Scott-Masson set a courageous example of steady command.” In recognition he was appointed CBE.

In retirement DJ, as he was known, joined Jubilee Sailing Trust as a Director. His later years were overshadowed by ill health but he attended the service in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel in June, 2008, honouring the 47 OPs who served in the Falklands conflict. He sent his three sons Paul '79, William '81 and Damian '85 to the College and remained a proud OP to the end. A Memorial Service will be held in the Falklands chapel at the College in May, 2011.

Trevor Turner (39-43) was Vice President of the OP Society, twice Chairman of the Society, served on the committee for several six-year stints and edited the letters from OPs that appeared in the OP magazine in the 1980s and 1990s. He was fated to be at the NCP during the difficult war years. Unexpected wartime departures meant that he went from being a Cadet Leader for half a term to Chief Cadet Captain of Harbinger in one promotion.

After the NCP Trevor joined the Royal Marines and left at the end of the war having risen to the rank of Captain. From 1946-53 he worked as a clerk with the government shipping agency. Moving to Air India, he was employed in London as their UK sales marketing and publicity manager for 19 years until 1981 when he joined the Bond Street Association as executive officer.

He retired in 1992 to begin a new ‘career’ as a twice-a-year host with the California-based Royal Cruise Line. Here dancing skills first learned at Pangbourne proved to be in great demand. Throughout his life Trevor was a supporter of young people and the College. For more than 50 years he organized reunions of the Cadet Captains at the College in 1943. At his funeral the Rector of St. Bride’s, Fleet Street, where he worshipped for many years, picked out five words that summed up the best of Trevor - grace, truth, faith, hope and love.

LIVES REMEMBERED*

Jack Bitmead (33-36) spent his career in the Royal Navy, reaching the rank of Captain. In 1944 he was awarded a DSO for his part in escorting convoys to and from Murmansk.

Clive Buckle (49-53), a Lt. Cdr., served in the RN for 27 years. He then worked in the Netherlands on secondment before setting up an IT consultancy in the UK.

Jeremy Coulter (48-53) served in the Royal Marines for 12 years, went into business and became a Lloyd's insurance broker. In retirement he promoted literacy in prisons.

Hugh Curley (49-52) died in January, 2010. We have no other details.

Ian Gosling (40-44) spent ten years at sea with the Merchant Navy. The remainder of his working life was spent in the wine trade.

Ben Hamilton (26-28) served in the MN and RN. After WW11 he was Commissioner of Prisons in Mauritius. He moved to Canada in 1949, joining the RCN, and later working in the Canadian Penitentiary Service.

George M. Harrison (36-39) served in both the Merchant and Royal Navies in WW11. After the war he moved into advertising in London. He was a larger-than-life character.

Simon Harvey (52-55) sailed with P&O and worked in Hong Kong for Far East Freight. Returning to the UK, he set up a boat building business and became Chairman of Harvey Eastwood Group. He was an enthusiastic member of the OP Society committee.

M.R.L. (Dick) Hayes (34-39) was a successful engineer, aviator and entrepreneur. He served in the RN in WW11. He moved to Pembrokeshire and set up and ran companies servicing the oil and shipping industries. He was a keen member of the Royal Yacht Squadron and attended OP Dinners there.

Tony Hepworth (50-53) went into the RN before spending 13 years in the Mid East as a civilian. He returned to the UK in 1982 and established an IT company. He worked closely with the Nautical Institute. In retirement he authored a book about Lavenham.

Ian Hollinrake (45-48), a Cdr. RN, served in the Royal Navy for 35 years. Retiring to Devon, he enjoyed sailing the River Dart and walking the moors.

E.P. Inglesby (29-32) served in the RN 1933-44, took a degree at Oxford and worked in education. In 1964 he was ordained as a Church of England priest. He later converted to the Greek Orthodox Church. He had a lifelong interest in UFOs.

C. M. Inigo Jones (27-29) served in the Army for 31 years, rising to the rank of Colonel. He worked in the Cabinet War Rooms for most of WW11 and had a varied career after leaving the services.

Roger Morris (40-42) served in the RN, MN and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. In 1979 he reentered the Royal Navy as Director General Weapons (Naval).

W.F. Nott OBE, TD (22-25) was 101 when he died – the oldest OP. He was a solicitor and drew up the first constitution for the OP Society in 1926. In WW11 he served in the 14th Army in India. Posted to Berlin, he was responsible for the reformation of the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra. In the 1960s he went into business in Cornwall before taking on part-time advisory roles. In retirement he travelled extensively. He was awarded the OBE for his services to the Territorial Army.

Patrick G. Penny (53-57) died in September 2010. He did his National Service in the Blues and Royal and afterwards led an interesting and varied career until his retirement to the South of France in 2005.

Victor Pym (38-43) served in the RN in WW11. Afterwards he trained as an architect, set up a practice in London and became a member of RIBA. In the mid-1970s he was ordained as a C of E priest and lived in Yorkshire. He set up the Joshua Christian Trust.

Stuart Robertson (56-60) emigrated to Canada and worked in Montreal's fashion industry before concentrating on gardening. He wrote a gardening column in a leading Canadian newspaper and authored several books on gardening.

George Sibbering (33-38) served in the RN during WW11 and was wounded in action. After the war he became a leading London estate agent and cooperated extensively with Trafalgar House.

Robert Strang (41-43) farmed in Cornwall for most of his life. He was a long-time member of the Royal Observer Corps.

Peter M.G. Wisdom (50-54) went to sea with Hall Line, then came ashore to join Silverton Services Shipping Ltd. Later he worked for Kapok Ltd.

* These OPs died in 2010. Full length obituaries can be read on the OP website at www.oldpangbournian.co.uk >news>obituaries



(Eric) Paul Inglesby (29-32)



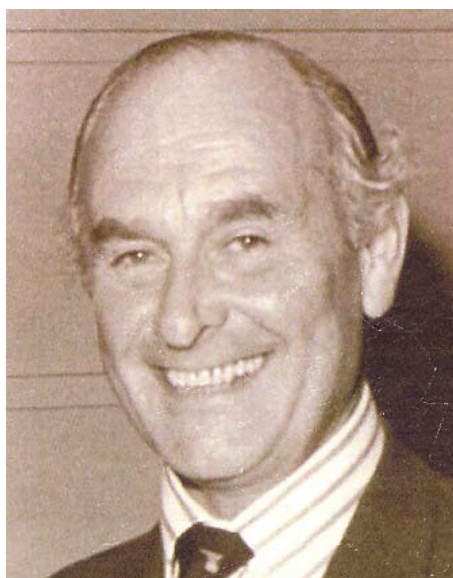
Charles Meredith Inigo Jones (27-29)



Dennis Scott-Masson (44-46)



Michael Beale (53-56)



MRL Hayes (34-39)



Stuart Robertson 58-60



Trevor Turner (39-43)



W.F. Nott (22-25)



G.S. Sibbering (33-38) taken in 1942

THE OP SOCIETY IN 2010

The 77th AGM of the OP Society took place on Saturday morning November 6, 2010, in conjunction with OP Day. At the AGM, held in the Yellow Room in Devitt House, 20 OPs received a full briefing from OP Society Chairman **Mark Dumas (64-68)** on what the Society had achieved during the past year and its plans for the future.

A report by the Treasurer **Tarka Duhalde (95-98)** for the year ended April 5, 2010, given in her absence by **Pip Smitham (64-69)** revealed a small deficit of £2,016 and General Funds in the Society's bank accounts totalling £35,839. This outcome followed the winding up of the Harry Sykes Memorial Trust and the commitment of its funds by the HSMT Trustees to the "Network with Notes" campaign to build a new IT/Music centre at the College.

It was further explained that the Society now conducts its financial affairs through the Pangbourne Association (PA). Under this system, we no longer receive contributions on behalf of new pupils via the College, instead receiving an annual grant from the College through the PA based on an itemised budget that we draw up ourselves. Full Minutes of the 2010 AGM may be read on the OP website.

New Rules for the OP Society were presented to the meeting by Vice President **Ian Williams (61-63)**. Various changes were proposed to reflect two developments since the Rules were last amended in 1992 - the formation of the Pangbourne Association and the retirement of the Honorary Secretary Lionel Stephens.

The new Rules were adopted by the meeting on a temporary basis. They will now be posted on the OP website. All OPs are invited to comment on the changes by emailing Mark Dumas at mark@dumas.be At the next AGM in November 2011 the amended version (if there is one) will be adopted permanently unless a majority of OPs present at that meeting object.

Two new Vice Presidents of the Society were elected to replace Trevor Turner and Michael Beale who died during 2010. They are **Nigel Hollebone (59-63)** and **Richard Shuttleworth (57-62)**. Nigel is a past Chairman of the Society and was a Governor of the College for 25 years. Richard is a past Chairman of the Society and has been a member of the Committee for most of the past 20 years.

Following the AGM OPs dispersed for lunch at pubs and restaurants in the College's vicinity. In the afternoon they were joined by many more OPs who watched the College 1st XV play Oratory and the College girls hockey 1st X1 take on Marlborough girls 1st X1. After the games tea was served in the Dining Hall. Around 50 OPs of all vintages enjoyed a return to the College during the day.

OP SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2010-11

Chairman: Mark Dumas (64-68)

Members: Andrew Adams (79-84), Anthony Clifford (75-82), Steve Davis (74-81), Keith Evans (33-37), Anthony Fenwick-Wilson (53-57), Niall Kilgour (63-68), Paul Laurence (04-08), Charles Parry (81-85), William Shuttleworth (66-70), Alexander Smith (95-02), Pip Smitham (64-69)

The **President** of the OP Society, Robin Knight (56-61), and **Vice Presidents** Nigel Hollebone (59-63), Richard Shuttleworth (57-62) and Ian Williams (61-63) are ex-officio members of the Committee.

JOHN BROOK – A NEW HONORARY OP

John Brook was elected an Honorary OP at a Committee meeting of the Society in 2010 in recognition of his 24 years loyal service to the College. He arrived at Pangbourne in 1986 to teach maths. From 2001-10 he was Head of Maths. His fine instruction helped generations of pupils at all levels to achieve their potential. Many OPs will recall his kindness and patience, as will members of the academic staff who experienced his mentoring. As the representative of the teaching union ATL in Common Room, John carried out his role with tact and sensitivity. He ran the College swimming team for years and coached junior hockey.



Much of John's contribution to College life went unseen. As Academic Manager, he was responsible for working out the teachers needed, the deployment of individual teachers, the amount of private study required and the construction of the timetable. He oversaw the analysis of exam performance each year and played a key role in introducing the International Baccalaureate to Pangbourne in 2009. A keen chess player, "he was the Gary Kasparov of the College - always able to think ten moves ahead," in the words of the Headmaster Thomas Garnier.

ROGER LANE-NOTT (58-63) CB, FCMI, FIAGR

Towards the end of 2010 Rear Admiral Roger Lane-Nott joined the Board of Governors at the College, so becoming the fifth OP member (the others are Vice Admiral Sir Michael Layard, Robin Paterson, Grant Macpherson and Charlotte Butterworth).

Roger spent 32 years in the Royal Navy, mainly in submarines. He commanded HMS Splendid, a nuclear submarine, during the Falklands War when

he was Mentioned in Dispatches. As an Admiral he had appointments as Chief of Fleet Operations, Flag Officer Submarines and NATO Commander Submarines Eastern Atlantic.

In 1996 he left the Royal Navy and became the FIA Formula One Race Director and Safety Delegate. Working for Bernie Ecclestone, he was responsible for all F1 on-track activity worldwide. More recently his executive roles have included CEO of the Centre for Marine and Petroleum Technology and Secretary of the British Racing Drivers' Club at Silverstone Circuit. In 2007 he was appointed Director General and Chief Executive of the Agricultural Engineers Association, The Association of Manufacturers of Power Generating Systems and the Milking Equipment Association.



Roger is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farmers. He has been married for 42 years to Roisin and they have three adult children and eight grandchildren. The couple live in Buckinghamshire.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The **2011 OP Dinner** will be held in HQS Wellington on the Embankment in central London on Wednesday April 20th. Costs are being worked out. For more information, check the OP website and/or contact OP Chairman Mark Dumas at mark@dumas.be

A **Memorial Service** for Dennis Scott-Masson (44-46) will be held in May in the Falklands Islands Memorial Chapel at the College. Further details from Rev. Brian Cunningham at brian.cunningham@pangcoll.co.uk

The Secretary of the **Conway Worcester Pangbourne Association** in Singapore, Nick Goodwin, is organising a weekend in Singapore May 26-29, 2011, for former pupils and partners who live in Asia, Australia and New Zealand. So far he has 97 confirmed bookings. If you would like to attend, contact him at nickagoodwin395@ymail.com

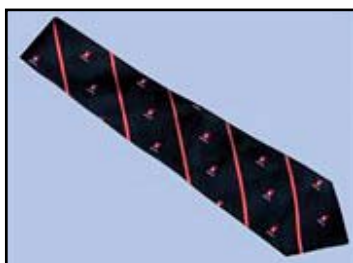
Founders' Day is on Saturday 2nd July. All OPs are welcome. Special invitations will be extended by the College to OPs who left in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. More detail from Lindsey Hughes, Marketing Director at the College Lindsey.Hughes@pangcoll.co.uk

The summer meeting of the **OP Golf Society** will be held at Hankley Common GC on July 5th. To take part, contact Charlie Parry at parry1@gotadsl.co.uk

The OPGS vs The College **golf match** will be held at The Berkshire GC on October 12th. To take part, contact Charlie Parry at parry1@gotadsl.co.uk

OP Society committee meetings in 2011 will take place at 6.00pm on Wednesday February 2, Tuesday June 21, and Monday October 3 at the Naval Club, 38 Hill Street, Mayfair, London W1J 5NS. All OPs are *most welcome* to attend. Further details from Anthony Clifford at anthony_clifford@hotmail.com

OP MERCHANDISE FOR SALE



OP Silk Tie

Traditional design/silk.

Our price: £ 17.50



OP Socks

Cotton socks. Claret and white strip.

Our price: £ 6.50



OP Enamel Cufflinks

Available in blue and red with the college crest engraved.

Our price: £ 29.50



OP Ladies Pin

Our price: £ 15.00

Prices include postage. Cheques should be made payable to “Pangbourne College Enterprises Ltd” Orders should be mailed to The Shop Manager, Pangbourne College, Pangbourne, Reading RG8 8LA. **Tel:** 0118-976-7476; **Fax:** 0118-984-5443; **Email:** Karen.Townsend@pangcoll.co.uk



Lionel Stephens' history of Pangbourne College 1917-89 may be obtained direct from the author at 4 Lycroft Close, Goring-on-Thames, Reading RG8 OAT.

A new silk tie, made to the original OP design but more colourful and of better quality fabric, is also available. It can be bought direct from Dege & Skinner at 10 Savile Row, London W1S 3PF (Tel: 020 7287 2941) for £30. Bow ties cost £22.50. Please add £1.50 per item for postage & packing. Or you may send an email and cheque to OP **William Skinner (82-87)** of Dege & Skinner at william.skinner@dege-skinner.co.uk

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Our thanks are due to everyone who has helped to produce this issue of the magazine including Mark Dumas, Michael Allsop, the Headmaster, Lindsey Hughes, Caroline Kemp, Barney Spender, Rupert Bates, Lionel Stephens, Steve Davis, Alex Smith, Mike Nicholson, Rohan Greenland, Geoff Popple and Richfield Graphics. We have tried to build on what we achieved in Issue 40.

Reaction last year to the new-look publication was generally positive. The variation of the Devitt & Moore house flag irritated some but we created it deliberately to “brand” an OP product (not a College one) in a distinctive way. The same reasoning applied to the title of the magazine. Removing the word ‘Old’ from the title also aligns us with the wider Pangbourne community where everyone today is known as a Pangbournian.

The argument goes on between those who feel an OP print publication is unnecessary in this era of social networking and websites and those who either do not have access to a computer or prefer to absorb material in print form. Your Committee believes in satisfying as many OPs as possible so we are likely to go on publishing an annual magazine *and* operating an active website.

Last year we devised a compromise over the Obituaries which we have repeated in this issue. To publish full obituaries of the 25 or so OPs who, *to our knowledge*, die each year would involve adding another six to eight pages to the magazine – more than can be justified. Anyone wishing to read the full obituaries can do so by accessing the News section of the OP website and going into Obituaries. In addition we published a print-out of all the obituaries last year for around 100 OPs who requested it. We are prepared to do so again. Any OP wishing to receive this print-out should write to Lindsey Hughes at the College or by email at Lindsey.Hughes@pangcoll.co.uk

In response to a request from **Malcolm MacKenzie (52-55)** – one of the OPs who got in touch in 2010 to make the point that the “working with the Internet is still an unfamiliar and worrisome experience” – we have reinstated contributions from the Chairman of Governors and the Headmaster to update us on developments at the College.

Finally, the hunt goes on for a permanent Editor of this publication. There *must* be an OP out there who would like to be more involved and is prepared to devote a little time and effort once a year to helping to keep other OPs informed. Surely?

The Editors