



# Old Varndeanian

IN DEO FIDEMUS

OCTOBER 1997

## POSTCARD FROM STRATFORD

Did you ever go to Stratford Camp? For a week during the Summer we camped on land owned by Sir Fordham Flower (then owner of Flowers Brewery). This was a significant part of our education, not just because of Shakespeare: for many it was the first time away from home, or the first time away from parents. The importance of getting on with others at close quarters and the need to make a contribution were both important lessons.

There was much to do: put up tents; dig an enormous hole for waste and spend a fair amount of time thereafter trying to get people to walk into it; play tennis on Sir Fordham's courts; queue to get into the "Bog Ritz", a wonderful, clean public convenience with showers; spend hours in and out of punts on the Avon; sleep on the pavement outside the theatre to get the cheap tickets next day; and, we mustn't forget, see Shakespeare performed by the best company. As responsible people, we were (of course) very conscious of our debt to Sir Fordham and made frequent and determined efforts to support his business, in spite of severe discouragement from some quarters!

Michael Wylie has kindly lent the precious postcard which is represented above. It is now over 42 years old and will evoke memories of how many of us felt on our first camp. The photos show (left to right) Brian Stone, Michael Wylie, an unidentified boy and Michael McGowan (shaving). If you have any special memories of Stratford, or photographs, please send them to the Editor. An SAE will ensure their safe return.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON WKS

3.30 PM 6 JULY 1955

POST CARD



Dear Boys,

*Having wonderful time. Bubble and Stumper call us by our christian names, Stone calls me "Lorenzo". On monday we saw "Alls well that ends well", on tuesday we saw "Macbeth". Dead shoullish. Spooky ghosts. We haven't got to bed before midnight yet.*

Yours,

Lawrence Carter

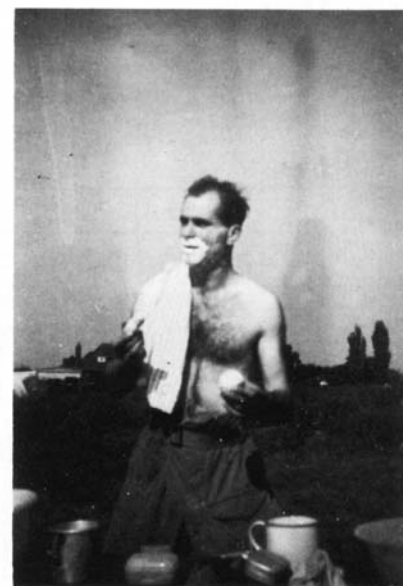
ADDRESS

*The Boys of IV-17  
c/o MRSalter,*

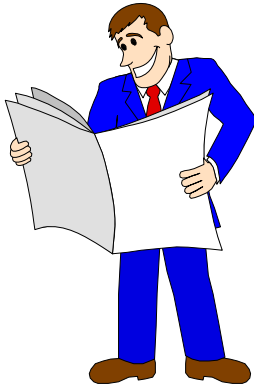
*Varndean School for Boys*

*Brighton, 6*

*Sx*



# NEWS OF OLD VARNDEANIANS



## Come and Meet Some Old Friends

**Varndean College  
7pm Wednesday 22nd October**

Come to an informal social event - see what the old place looks like now, meet some of today's staff and have a snack and a drink. Less formal than the Dinner, this will give you the chance to have a chin-wag. We will see a brief entertainment by College students. The AGM will take place on the same evening.

In another room, John Clapperton is cooking up some mischief with a piano and a tape recorder - something about the school song - but strictly volunteers only.

There will be a collection to cover costs. We need to know if you can come, so please ...

**phone Derek Ashcroft now**

## OLD VARNDEANIAN CONTACTS ☎

President: Keith Elliott  
Hon Secretary: Derek Ashcroft  
Editor: Ron McLaren  
Millennium Project: Jim Franks  
Football: Norman Wright  
Cricket: Guy Baigent

## NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA

**W**e have had an email from Rosemary Brenda Camp, who lives in Beverly Hills, California. Rosemary was doing some genealogy research on the Internet. She found Clive Henly's site (Clive is into genealogy). Since Clive has kindly made space for Old Varndeanian information on his site, she inevitably came across it.

Rosemary attended Varndean Grammar School for Girls from 1959, going on to Brighton College of Technology. She is now a licensed mental health clinician, having obtained a B.Sc. from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Masters degree in Social Welfare from the University of California.

There are strong Varndean connections. Her sister Valerie Ann Kennedy (neé Camp) was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1941 and went to Varndean in the early fifties. Rosemary has unfortunately lost contact with her sister: if you know of her, please write to the editor. Her brother is Ronald Stanley Camp who was born on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1939. He went to Varndean, probably about 1950. He is now living in Croydon.

Rosemary still has school photographs from both the Girls' and the Boys' schools. She still visits England every few years. One of her activities is to do with information for Professionals with Disabilities. If you are able to access the World Wide Web, look at:

<http://members.aol.com/rbde/ResourcesUnlimited/profs-disabilities.html>

## PHOTOS & MAGS IN PLAIN BROWN ENVELOPES

**C**ontact the Hon. Secretary if you want a copy of a school photo. He may have one for the year you want. He also has copies of the School Magazine (The Dolphin) for all years from '54 to '80, except '57, '67, '69, '73, '75, '77. '78.

Part of a copper etching, thought to be the 1923 York Place School photo, taken on Varndean playing fields



## E. J. HUTCHINS

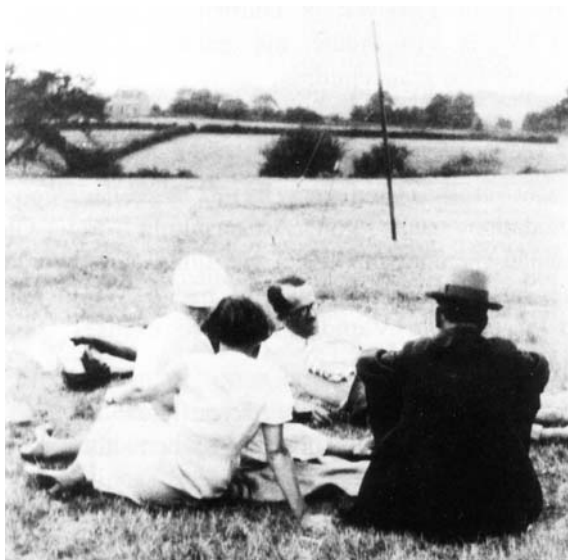
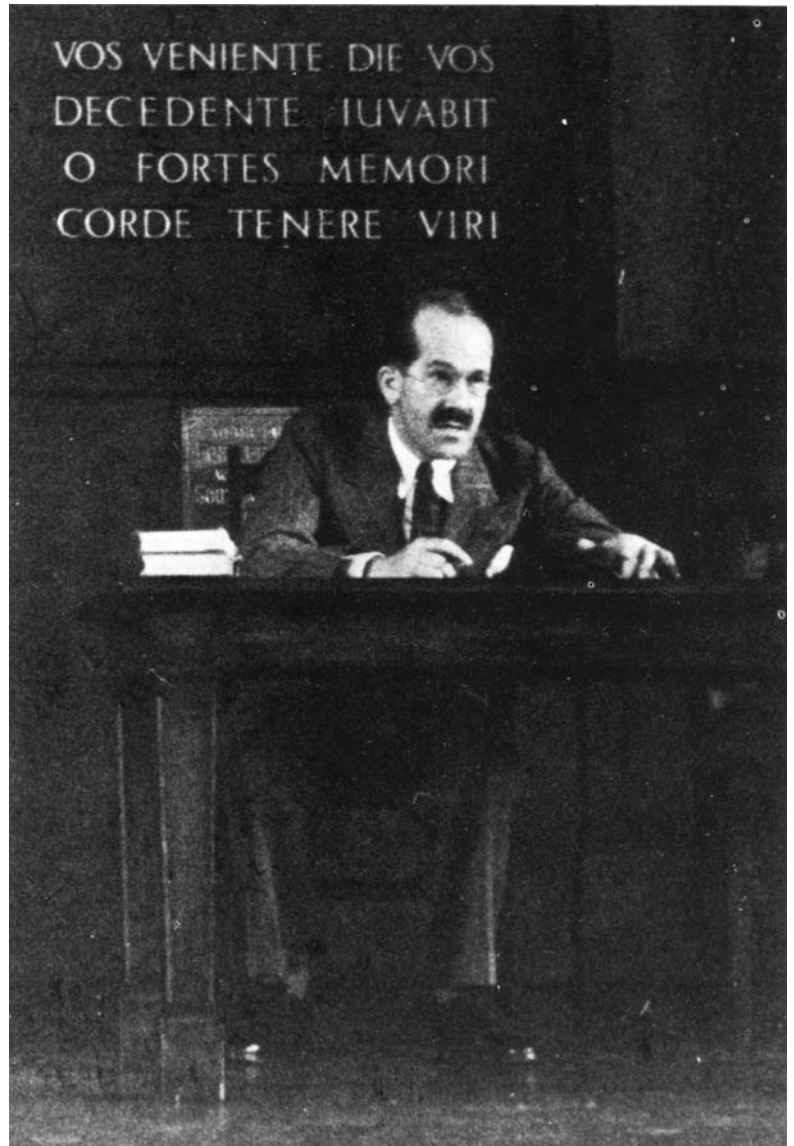
Peter Bailey has kindly sent an enlargement of part of a picture of Hutchins sitting on the stage in The Stainer Hall. This is an excellent portrait of EJH, taken on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1941 - the day of Trustram's farewell presentation. Not all of the school would have been present: there had been a partial evacuation to Skipton; others might have been firewatching, making arrangements for the camp at Horsted Keynes, or attending ATC parades.

The photo was taken without a flash on a 35mm camera.

Many memories of EJH are evoked by the Hall. During one year in the late fifties Butch had been remonstrating regularly on the appearance in the school of fluorescent, "Da-Glo" socks, which were enjoying a vogue. Johnny Winch was one of the leaders of this fashion. Imagine our delight when the honoured guest for school speech day (was it Alan Melville?) sat down in his chair on the stage, revealing Da-Glo socks. Very enthusiastic applause for Mr Melville. Johnny must have got at him.

The other picture on the right was taken by Gavin Ritchie in EJH's office on the last day of Summer term 1961. The Old Man had kindly, and slightly to our surprise, agreed to pose.

The photo below was taken at School Camp at Danehill in August 1935. It shows Hutchins in relaxed mood (but still wearing a tie, of course), chatting to some parents, possibly including Mrs C. Bailey and Mr Ball.



## TO THE EDITOR



### Staff Football Team

Dear Ron,

While looking through a box of old photos I came across the enclosed and wondered whether it might bring back a few memories to some Old Varndeanians if you were to publish it in the newsletter some time.

It is a picture of the Varndean Staff Soccer XI in 1948 or 1949: as fine a body of men as you could ever hope to see! I can't remember the result but I still bear the scars.

Glen Hoddle - eat your heart out!

I'd like the photo back at your leisure. Congratulations on the job you are doing with the newsletter.

Kindest regards,

Len Symes

### Noel Sladen

Dear Ron,

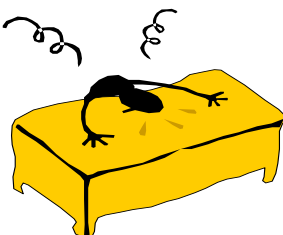
I am Noel Sladen and I was at Varndean from September 1959 until July 1965. I subsequently trained as an accountant and currently work as a management accountant for the University of Sussex.

My current 'claim to fame' is that I will become President of the Association of Accounting Technicians at the AGM next month. I have been a Council member of the Association since 1989. This is a professional body with 25,000 members and 57,000 students worldwide, a secretariat of 75 and a turnover of £7 million. The President represents the Association both at home and abroad.

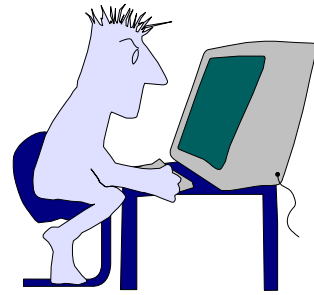
Best Wishes, Noel

*[Congratulations. I'm sure OV Accountants concur. Ed.]*

*Send your letters to me at the address on the back page. They may be shortened or edited for publication. If you send something which you want returned, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. W should be back to two pages of letters again next time. Mac.*



## FROM THE EDITOR



The article and pictures from Stratford should stir some memories (and pens!). Let's have a page on Stratford in a future edition. Send me your photos and stories.

I'm grateful to Michael Wylie for the postcard and one of the photos on the front page. Incidentally, Shakespeare-loving bridge players among you might be interested in Michael's little book, *Shakespeare at the Bridge Table*, published by Password Publishing and Design of Norwich. One quotation nicely sums up somebody's bidding and playing:

*His promises were ... mighty  
But his performance nothing.*

*Henry VIII*

Sadly, there are more obituaries than usual in this edition of *Old Varndeanian*. This has meant altering the layout a little. Also, in the last few days we have heard of the deaths of two other Old Varndeanians.

E. A. Griffith (Bob) died in September in Hove. He had been ill for some time. Bob joined Varndean Grammar School as Head of Modern Languages in 1964, retiring from Varndean College in 1989. For those who might wish to write to his wife, Jill, her address is 51 Woodruff Avenue, Hove.

Tony Stemp died on 16<sup>th</sup> March, aged 74. Tony lived in KwaZulu-Natal, where he was Managing Director of the local branch of the Dale Carnegie organisation. He was born on London, but spent most of his childhood in Brighton. After leaving Varndean Tony served in the Royal Navy, then moved to Durban in 1947. He is survived by his wife Addie, his children, Louise and Nicholas, and two grandchildren.

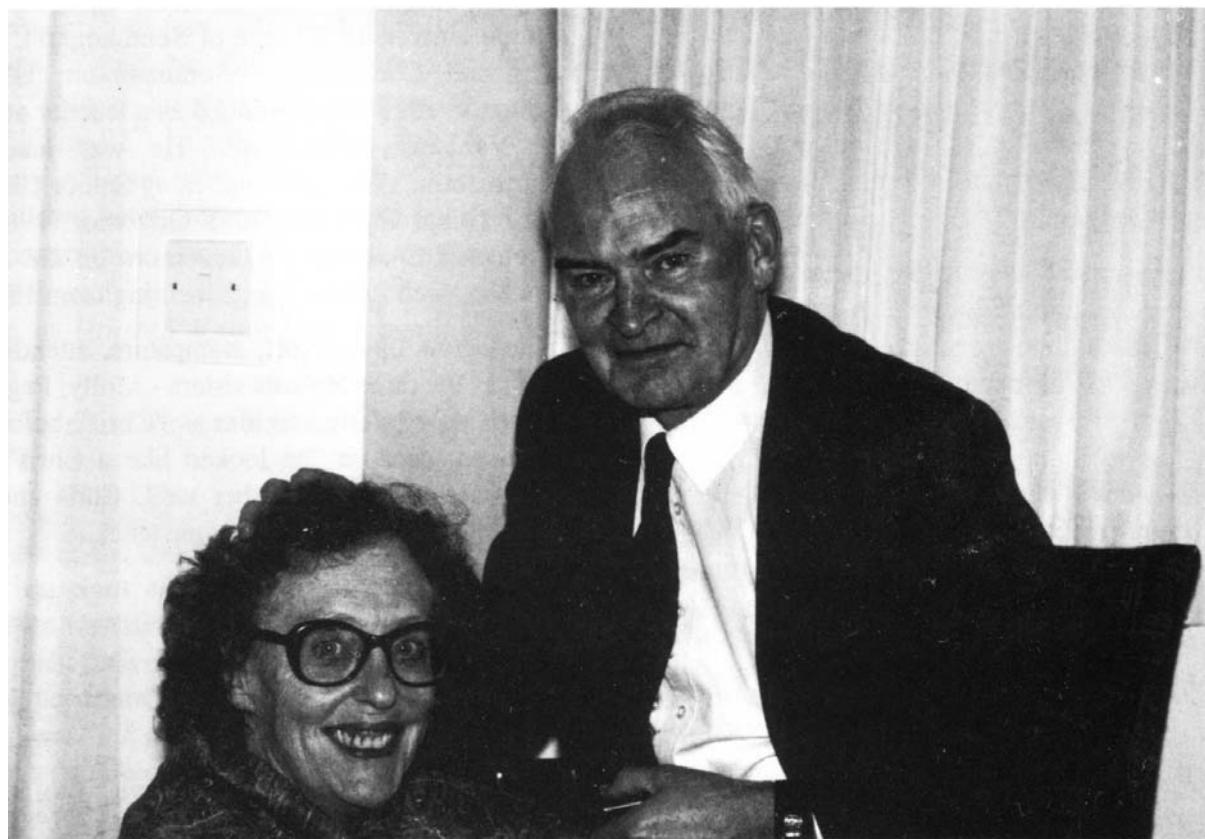
My wife and I have just spent an excellent holiday in Collingwood Ontario, where my sister-in-law organises conferences at the Cranberry Resort (excellent food, accommodation and golf). Consulting my Old Varndeanian membership list, I see quite a number of addresses in Canada. It's time we had a Maple Leaf Chapter of the Old Varndeanians. No excuses about Canada Post. Get writing!

Talking of Canada, does any of you know Jan Carr? He left Varndean in about 1956 when his family emigrated to Canada.

*Mac*

## OBITUARIES

Professor C.C. (Colin) Smith M.A. Ph.D. Litt.D. (Cantab)



Colin Smith, who died in February, is described in “*Onward and Upward*” as Vardean’s first Oxbridge Professor. Both *The Times* (14<sup>th</sup> March) and *The Independent* (28<sup>th</sup> February) gave him their lead obituaries and described in considerable detail his life and academic achievements.

From Vardean he went to St Catharine’s College, Cambridge, where he took a first class degree. He was then in the Department of Spanish at Leeds University for fifteen years, returning to Cambridge in 1968. He held the chair of Spanish from 1975 until his retirement in 1990.

Colin was a polymath whose interests embraced Spanish literature, philology, lexicography, archaeology and entomology. His impressive list of publications includes the Collins “*Spanish-English, English-Spanish Dictionary*” which is widely acclaimed, but it was “*The Place-names of Roman Britain*” (with A. L. F. Rivet) by which he hoped to be remembered and of which he was most proud.

Colin was made a corresponding member of the Real Academia Española which guards the purity of the language. He was appointed in 1988 as a Commander of the Order of Isabel la Católica, receiving this from the King of Spain in person. Colin was also the recipient of the Weidenfeld Translation Prize for 1996, presented posthumously in June 1997. This was in recognition of his translation of *The King Amaz’d (El rey pasmado)* by

Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, published by Everyman. He had previously been awarded a prize by the Galician Xunta for his translation of *Merlin and company (Merlín e familia)* by Alvaro Cunqueiro, also published by Everyman. He was made President of the Modern Humanities Research Association in 1996. Despite such honour and distinction Colin was a modest, family man ever ready to listen with interest to others.

The Vardean credentials were immaculate. His father, Ted attended York Place from 1906. His sister, his wife, Ruth, her sister and their parents were all Vardeanians.

While at school Colin won the Dupree Chess Competition for Brighton schoolboys. He was a devoted member of Vardean’s Field Club and retained a life-long interest in lepidoptery. Shortly after his retirement he recorded a moth in Sussex, which had not been seen before in the United Kingdom. He named it the Southern Chestnut.

Colin retained the friends he made in The Field Club. Several of them with their spouses continued to meet for lunch once or twice a year.

Colin is survived by his wife, Ruth, and three daughters. Ruth has kindly sent us the photograph of herself and Colin.

[Obituary supplied by Jim Franks]

## OBITUARIES - continued

**David Turner M.A. (Oxon)** died peacefully in the Royal Sussex County Hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> September. David was born in Haywards Heath in 1929 into a Strict Baptist family from whom he gained his deeply religious faith. The family moved to Northamptonshire where he attended Wellingborough Grammar School, then going on to read English at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. It was in Oxford that he met his future wife, Isobel.

After teaching at several schools in the Midlands, David came to Varndean Grammar School as Headmaster in 1970. In 1972 the school changed to become co-educational. Then, in 1975, it started the transition to Sixth Form College. This was a huge upheaval. Fortunately for Brighton, David was appointed Principal of the new College. The task facing him involved enormous administrative, educational and cultural challenges. At the same time, the Grammar School had to be kept running. His great vision, management skills and supportive manner led the staff in a successful change from School to College.

David was a family man, never letting his work intrude upon his happy family life with Isobel and their four children. He was Warden of St. Peter's Church and Vice President of Brighton Orpheus Choir.

In 1993 he made a good recovery from a heart by-pass operation, but two years ago an operation revealed a cancer which had spread to the bone. The funeral was at 11 a.m. on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at St. Peter's Church. Those wishing to contribute to his memory should contact the Sussex Oncology Trust or Imperial Cancer Research, c/o W. A. Stringer and Son, Brighton

*[Obituary from Roy Woolner]*

**Anthony Pennington Gorringe M.A. (Oxon)** died of a heart attack on 4<sup>th</sup> April whilst on holiday in Berlin. He was 56.

Tony Gorringe entered Varndean in 1952, going on to win a scholarship to St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he read French and German. He made his career in journalism, working for the Evening Argus, the Sheffield Morning Telegraph and the Daily Mail. Then he became one of The Guardian's longest-serving sub-editors. His obituary in that paper reports his achievements in bringing out the paper in difficult times.

During his career he became proficient in five languages. Only last year he took a First Class degree in Maths and Computing from the Open University.

Tony's funeral took place at All Saints Church in Margaret Street, London. Old Varndeanians David Nash and Malcolm Stacey attended the service.

**Owen Frances (Chris) Hills B.Sc.** died on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1997 at Westgate-on-Sea in Kent, aged 92. Graduating from the University College of Southampton, Chris taught Maths and Chemistry in Southampton. He moved to Brighton in 1929 and continued as a teacher at York Place, later Varndean, until 1969. He was made Head of Department in 1944, later becoming Senior Careers master. After retiring, Chris became a Governor (1969-1975). He was elected Chairman of Governors on the formation of Varndean Sixth Form College, serving from 1975-1978.

Chris grew up in Fleet, Hampshire, attending the same church as the three Holmes sisters - Molly, Peggy and Joan, who privately referred to him as "Chris" before they were introduced, because "he looked like a Chris". Eventually they got to know each other well. Chris and Joan were married in 1933 and the nickname stuck.

On moving to Brighton, Chris took up residence at Round Hill Crescent. In 1933 he moved to "Pytchley", a house he had built in Withdean Crescent. In 1951 he moved to Peacock Lane, where he and Joan devoted much time to their garden.

Chris was a teacher of initiative who kept up with developments in educational approach. His influence extended beyond the classroom through his service on committees concerned with salary structures, pension schemes and matters of educational policy. He took an active interest in pupils' career prospects, offering perceptive advice to them and their parents. He was also a member of the Combined Cadet Force, taking the cadets to their annual camp near Mayfield in Sussex.

Chris and Joan had two children - John Frederick, who was born in 1948, and Elizabeth Jane, who was born 1952: both were Varndeanians. Joan died in 1977. Since 1988, Chris had lived in Westgate-on-Sea.

*[Information supplied by Elizabeth Jane Thwaite]*

**C. A. Cutress** died on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Born on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1924, Tony attended Varndean from 1936-1941. He made his career in bakery and confectionery, but was active in his Parish Council (he lived in Poynings), in the Cricket Club, in the Scout movement (he was Brighton's District Commissioner and ACC Sussex Venture Scouts), as a Magistrate (including being Chairman of the Juvenile Panel in Hove), and as a Rotarian in the 50s and 60s.

**Donald Norman Fox** died in Norwich on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the age of 80. He had been a teacher at the City of Norwich School, where he taught PE and Divinity. He attended Varndean from 1931-1936.

Donald leaves a wife, Sylvia, and a son.

# MILLENNIUM PROJECT

## KEEP THEM COMING

**W**e reported in the March edition of *Old Vardean* that about three hundred and fifty proforma had been completed and processed. The total is now five hundred, and there are more in the pipeline.

Send in your form! Haven't got one? Contact ...

**Millennium Project**  
**Jim Franks**

## VARNDEAN STAFF

**H**aving completed an index of all pupils between 1884 and 1975, Roy Daughtree has joined forces with David Williams to process information about Vardean staff. If you can help by supplying information, please send it to the address above.

## INTERNET

**M**illennium Project has an Internet connection which yields information and enquiries. Sometimes these are unrelated to the Old Vardeanians. Does anyone know if the Grammarians have an association?

## GETTING INTO THE PRESS

**A**rea Media Managers continue to join the team. Martin Surman (1957-63) is now our media manager in South Africa. Also, he has provided proformas for himself, his brothers Colin (1945-54) and Philip (1952-60) and his father Leslie (1922-27).

John Trotman (Australia) reckons he has now rounded up all OVs down under. If you know the names of any OVs down under, please send them in - we can put Roy to the test.

Other members of the team are Clive Henly (East Midlands), Bob Henly (Wiltshire, Hampshire and Plymouth), the Chatfields - Karen, Gavin and Ray (Brighton Area) and Alan Brown (West Country).

That still leaves a fair portion of the globe uncovered. Any offers?.

## DID YOU KNOW THESE OVs?

**I**nformation is sought on the following late Old Vardeanians. If you can tell us anything about them, please get in touch. After each name is shown the year they entered the school and the year they died.

Spalding, K. C. 39, 92; Stenning K. ?, 95; Styles C. 39, 91; Syms C. J. 62, 87; Taylor J. 62, 91; Thompson S. W. H. 18, 89; Tuffin J. 30, 93; Walker T. 50, 95; Warburton R. F. 40, 87; Ward F. H. M. 16, 88; Watts L. M. 05, 88; Wells V. W. A. 31,88; Wheeler D. 32, 91; Woodford J. 38, 91.

## FAMOUS NAMES COMPETITION

**A**mazingly, nobody won the bottle of wine last time. You might have expected that somebody's wild guess would have done it. The fact is, there has never been a Vardeanian called Harold Macmillan. All the others were names of OVs - yes, even William Pitt and Norman Conquest. No, of course not the Norman Conquest: he'd be far too old. Anyway, he went to Hastings Grammar.

Have another go. Below are the names of nine more Old Vardeanians plus a tenth who does not belong. Which of the ten is not the OV? The first correct answer gets the bottle of wine. At this rate it will be very mature. Do pull your socks up!



Charlie Chester  
Richard Dimbleby  
George Elliott  
Noel Llewellyn Jones  
John Mills  
Steve Ovet  
W. H. Smith  
Willie Thorburn  
Dick Turpin  
Frederick West



## PREVIOUS HEADS

**T**he pictures of Lethbridge, Stainer and Hutchins have been donated to the East Sussex County Archive in Lewes. It is felt that this is a safe resting place for them. It will also keep them in the same place as other items relating to Vardean.

# OLD VARNDEANIAN FOOTBALL CLUB



a series of poor performances against lower placed sides eventually left us in mid-table.

For the 1997/8 season, pre-season training started in June. From September until March we will again be using the facilities at Portslade Community College. Despite all the uncertainty during the summer concerning the Albion's possible move to Corals (and the Old Vardeanians to Gillingham?) we are once again using the Greyhound Stadium as our headquarters and home pitch. It undoubtedly has the best playing surface in the league. With a comfortable bar and verandah, it makes the perfect place to watch and support local football. All spectators are most welcome. Details of the fixtures can be obtained from me.

Hopes are high for the 1997/8 season which kicked off a week earlier this year on August 30<sup>th</sup>. We are still seeking to strengthen the playing squads, so we welcome new players at all levels of ability. If you are interested, please phone me.

*Norman Wright, Hon Sec*

The Old Vardeanians FC enjoyed a very successful 1996/7 season. The 1<sup>st</sup> Team won both the Vernon Wentworth Cup and the College Cup. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Team reached the semi-finals of the A.W.Bridle Cup and finished a respectable fourth in Division 3 of the Brighton & Hove League, having been promoted the previous season. The only disappointment was the league form of the 1<sup>st</sup> Team during the last few weeks of the season. The Premier Division Championship was within our grasp, but

*[To avoid repetition, cricket reports will now appear in March and football reports in October. Ed]*

## WINNERS OF THE WORLD CUP XI, 1948

Or possibly Vardean Staff XI, 1949

Len Symes has kindly sent the photograph below (see the letters page). From left to right, back row first: M. Bruce, E. Mills, J. Foster, E. Deller, L. Symes, J. Stone, M. Frewer, G. Hackett, N. Jones, R. Goodman, J. Perkins.

*Matt Bruce*     *E. Mills*  
*R. Goodman*     *J. Perkins*  
*E. Deller*         *Len Symes*  
*Joe Stone*         *Mike Frewer*  
*G. Hackett*         *N. Jones*

