

# Wedding Bells

*Martlet* is not changing its name to *OK Magazine* but congratulations to the following Old Millhillians who were recently married.

Of course **CONGRATULATIONS** also to their respective brides and grooms.

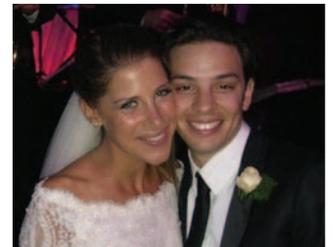
*Thanks to Stephanie Gibbons for providing the pictures.*



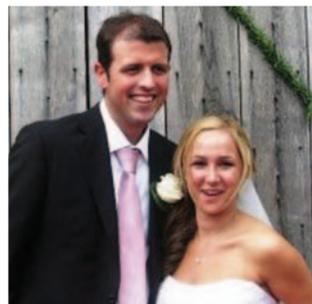
JOSEPH HIRSH and SARAH, married on 6th September 2008



ANITA NG and WILLIAM MAK,  
married in August 2008



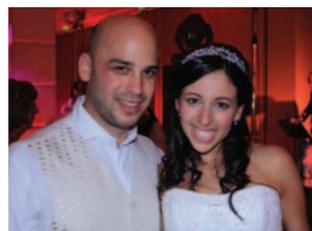
JAMIE SIMON  
and CLAUDIA



TALA DIZADJI and BEN EAVIS,  
married in Somerset on  
16th August 2008



JAGDEEP SIDHU and  
AVNEET NIJHAR, married in  
Southampton on 15th June 2008



VALENTINE TAYLOR (former  
Head of School) and DANIEL RABIN,  
married in Hampstead Garden  
Suburb on 2nd November 2008



ANDREW AL-RAIS (former Head  
of School) and GINNY WINSTANLEY,  
married in Kent on  
27th September 2008

# President's Update

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 17.9.08

A relatively quiet period for the President in July and August, kicked off again in September with the Leeds dinner which was an informal affair attended by the President and the Headmaster. Apart from the local hotel, which was somewhat lacking, the evening was excellent and thanks go to Windsor Roberts for his organisation.

Sadly Ronnie Boon was unable to get a quorum for the Welsh dinner, which was to be held in Cardiff, and had to be cancelled.

The Appeal Board meeting was held on the 17th September and was a very constructive affair and well organised. Peter Wakeham is the Chair and this was to have been followed by a reception at the offices of Lehman Brothers. Sadly their demise 2 days before necessitated a change of venue and luckily this was arranged next door. In future the Past President, the current President and the incoming President will be invited to attend Appeal meetings to ensure continuity.

Foundation Day was a great success and thanks must go not only to the School for providing hospitality but also to Tim and Shalaka for their organisation. It was blessed by wonderful weather (such a rarity these days) and the School rugby team was outstanding and provided great entertainment in their win on Top Field. My personal view is that these combined events are the way forward.

Finally the day came when the President shed his badge of office and resume a normal life; namely the Annual Dinner. After the impressive event the previous year with over 200 attendees, it was always going to be a hard act to follow. Thanks to Lords who were very helpful and supportive. About 180 enjoyed excellent food and a speech from the Head which was very impressive and from Alan Toulson, which was hilarious and which augurs well for his year.

Finally it only remains for me to wish Alan every success in his year and hopefully he will enjoy the privilege of being your President as much as I did. **Ronny Cohn** President 2007-2008

## Honorary Secretary's Report

It has been very much a year of changing personnel and we have a new Chairman, Andy Mortimer, who has succeeded John Watkiss, who wished to retire after a lengthy stint at the helm. Andy Mortimer is quickly getting his feet under the table and is eager to take the Club forward. But many thanks to John for all his tireless work and enthusiasm and he will be remembered particularly for his emphasis on membership and for introducing a much more proactive Management Committee to replace the former and outdated Old Millhillian Council. On November 26 John was entertained to lunch at the Army and Navy Club. Seven members of the Committee, including the President and Chairman, were there to thank him for his work for the Club. Ronny Cohn had organised what proved to be a most convivial occasion.

Obviously there have been changes in the Office with the retirement of our secretary, Viv Wood.

Shalaka Karlekar has done an excellent job in taking on a much fuller role and has been very busy in fulfilling most of the tasks required, though recently Ann Bunyard has stepped in to do some book-keeping as we are still without a treasurer since Bob Rudd resigned. If anyone knows of someone who would be a possible replacement, please let us know. Also Noyan Nihat has just re-joined the Committee and will take responsibility for membership.

Owing to a much earlier copy date and change of editorial procedure a photo of Tony Bell, who sadly died last January, was not included in the School Magazine, so we print one here. For Tony the Old Millhillians Club came second only to his family and one of his proudest achievements was to be President during the millennium when he and Joy travelled not only the length and breadth of the UK, but the world, attending OM functions. A full and detailed obituary written by his close friend, Jim Roberts, appears in the Magazine.



Among the subsidiary clubs it is good to report that the merger of the Old Millhillians and Totteridge cricket clubs seems to have had a positive first season and congratulations to Stewart Wernham for all his efforts in making this project work. The rugby club is struggling for players still and the finances of Headstone Lane continue to be a major issue. On the other hand the Golf Society continues to be very strong and has had a great centenary year, culminating in a special centenary dinner at Lords Cricket Ground in the Long Room. But all these societies need younger players to join them, so if you are interested in fives, golf, rugby or cricket – or even hockey – do join up and get involved.

Thanks go to our editor of Martlet, Ray Hubbard, for all his continuing efforts with this publication. **Tim Corbett**

## FOUNDATION APPEAL

This is not an easy time to be talking to people about fundraising! However, I am delighted to be able to provide a considerable amount of good news:

**£1,062,000**  
has now been raised

**A further £816,000** has  
been pledged in legacies

**68 people** have become Top Terracers (each having given **£5,000**)

We are currently in discussion about a six-figure gift which we believe will become a reality early in 2009. Since the September mailing, which included the Review 2007/8 and the Annual Fund 2008/9, we have received 26 gifts, half of which have come from people who have given before. While the actual numbers are important, it is what the money can do which is the reason for the Foundation Appeal.

Over the last three years I have been in touch with many Old Millhillians (in person, by phone, by email, by letter) who have told me how Mill Hill prepared them to be successful. Old Millhillians are successful all over the world in an incredible range of activities. The Foundation has a long-term fundraising campaign to give talented young people (who could not otherwise afford it) access to a Mill Hill education and provide superb resources for teaching and learning to enable this and future generations of Millhillians to achieve their goals whatever their strengths and ambitions.

**As expressed exactly 50 years ago in the Old Millhillians column in the School Magazine in 1958 (referring to the 150th Anniversary Appeal):** "To those who have already made their donation we express our grateful thanks. To those who intend to donate we would welcome their contribution."  
**Nick Priestnall**



Park will soon see the installation of a new electronic scoring system thanks to the generosity of Old Millhillians



## New President

Our new President **Alan Toulson** (School House 55-60) has already been very busy attending events and intends to focus much of his energies on encouraging younger OMs to join the Club. Photographed with him is our new Vice President **David Short** (Murray 51-55), well known Cambridgeshire pub landlord, who received his badge of office at the Manchester Dinner.



## Chairman's Report

In taking over from John Watkiss, I am looking to build on the tremendous work already done.

In particular, we have to address younger membership. As Alan Toulson has already pointed out in his short time as President, the age of most attendees at the functions he has been to, qualifies them as silver surfers. We simply must crack that problem if we are to pass on a healthy club to the next generations. That is going to involve revisiting ideas and IT solutions that may previously have been discarded but which fit today's use of technology.

The other headache affecting us all is Headstone Lane. The board of Club Lands, which I chair, is very concerned at the potential for HL to be a drain on the clubs resources. We will be reviewing the situation regularly and will consult as necessary. Watch this space as they say!

Finally, I look forward to working closely with the School and with all our own sporting, social, professional and overseas organisations to create a strong and modern club. To that end, I am always open to suggestions, a dangerous thing to say, but feel free to get in touch anytime as a couple of you already have!!

**Andy Mortimer** Chairman



*Farewell lunch for John Watkiss at the Army and Navy Club*

## Nobis et Scholae

2008 has been another extremely good year for the School. The summer brought great successes for our public examination candidates, who achieved by far the best results that Mill Hill has ever enjoyed. The percentage of A and B grades at both AS and A level rose by over 5% from 2007, and the percentage of GCSE papers graded A\* and A was 7% up on the previous year.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to see so many of our pupils setting their sights high and obtaining such good results. It is equally gratifying to know that these successes did not come at the expense of all the many other activities in which Millhillians have traditionally been involved. Among the many extra-curricular achievements of the year, those of our sportsmen and women were perhaps the most conspicuous. Last year, our 1st XV enjoyed their most successful season for 60 years, and the current campaign is progressing very well, the team being unbeaten at the time of writing. Perhaps their most notable

performance was a 41-6 victory over St Paul's shortly before half term. The girls' 1st XI hockey team, who enjoyed their most successful season ever in 2007, have also continued to perform exceptionally well. Not to be outdone, our 1st XI cricketers secured their best results for 17 years, the team numbering among its members some outstandingly talented players including Adam Rossington, now in the Fifth Form, who recently made his debut for the England under-15 XI and went on to be named Middlesex Young Player of the Year. In addition, there have been numerous triumphs for our golf, swimming, tennis, fives, netball, rounders and other teams. The cultural life of the School continues to blossom, our pupils' dramatic, musical and artistic output being of the highest quality. This term saw a revival of the house singing competition, something which has been dormant for many years. The quality of the performances was outstanding, as was the house spirit which the competition

engendered. Weymouth emerged as worthy winners, despite exceptionally strong competition from all the other houses.

This year's Foundation Day was again combined with old Millhillians' Day and was another great success. We were blessed with beautiful September weather and the atmosphere on the quad and elsewhere around the School was both warm and relaxed. Our guest at Prize Giving was Professor Andrew Fabian of the Cambridge University Institute of Astronomy whose highly engaging remarks covered the full range from the importance of education to the nature of the universe.

It is always a great pleasure to see members of the Old Millhillian Club at the School and I hope that the coming year will allow many more OMs to visit us, whether to watch our sports teams, to enjoy our many plays, concerts and exhibitions, or to join the audience at our lecture series.

Details of all these events and others can be obtained from Mrs Karen Willetts in the Friends Office.

I very much appreciated having the opportunity to attend so many OMC functions over the course of the year. It was a very great pleasure to join Club members at their regional dinners in Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge and Leeds, at the Engineers and Property dinners in London and at the OMC Liverymen's lunch in the City. The hospitality of the Club has been quite exceptional, and I have greatly valued the chance these occasions have afforded me to get to know many Club members.

One of the personal highlights of the year was the birth of our first baby, Charlotte, on 17 September. Cara and I were simply overwhelmed with the many expressions of congratulation that came from Club members. We are most grateful, and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming year.

**Dominic Luckett 2.vii.08**

# Past Events

## South West Dinner



An impressive table of memorabilia brought in by guests was a highlight of the South-West dinner at Taunton Cricket Club on Friday 28 November and provoked much discussion and interest.

These included School caps from 100 years and 80 years ago, dozens of assorted photos, including one of the main School documentation from the founding of the OMs Club.

building before Top Field was laid out, and School Rules from 1945 included detailed instructions about 'beatings', and there were letters from Sir John McClure, whose grandson Christopher Ousey was present. OM Rodney Coffin wore his father's OM blazer from 1922 and had his father's shooting caps from School and Bisley (Rodney, himself, has represented England at shooting).



There were some 40 guests, both OMs and their wives, and congratulations for all the organisation to Michael Henderson, abetted by his wife, Erica, who did the beautiful table decorations. The excellent occasion and meal was enjoyed by all. Donald Hall, a regular attendee, sent his apologies stating that at 94 his health made it difficult for him to travel! There was also a minutes silence in memory

of another West Country stalwart and former teacher, Martin Meade-King, who died recently at the age of 94 (an obituary appears in the School Magazine).

It was good to welcome Dr Dominic Luckett to his first South-West dinner, and he gave an upbeat review of the School, while the President, Alan Toulson, and outgoing Chairman, John Watkiss, proposed or answered the various toasts. Alan reminded everyone that Taunton had always been the starting point for what could be described the ultimate bonding experience or a version of 'men behaving badly': the



OM rugby tour. He was pleased to see former master, Paul Hodgson, who had entered the School at the same time as himself and a number of other OMs present, including John Hunt and David Gould. John Watkiss, as well as referring to the challenges that lie ahead for the Club, humorously reminded the guests that it was the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Club in 1978 when the interest of the Queen was also then dominated by a certain Mr Brown.

Attendees: Aye Maung, Joan, Aye Maung, Ronnie (45-50), Barnes Colin (49-54), Bewsher Angela, Bewsher Gowen (48-52), Boon Denise, Boon Ronnie (54-60), Coffin Rodney (53-56), Constable Andrea Constable Michael (66-71), Gould, David (55-59), Gould Phillipa, Henderson Erica, Henderson Michael (46-50), Hunt Jill, Hunt John (55-60), Jones Lynne, Jones Tim (66-71), Luckett Dominic (Headmaster), Mills Roy (37-40), Mills Pamela, Milnes John (53-58), Milnes Marie - José, Ousey, Barbara, Ousey Christopher (40-47), Petersen Michael (55-60), Petrie David (42-46), Petrie Daphne, Phillips Jeffrey (51-56), Priestnall Nick Director Foundation Appeal Rodda David (45-50), Rodda Marjorie, Toulson Alan (55-60), Toulson Sarah, Warmington Brian (38-42), Watkiss John (50-55), Williams Adrian (51-56), Paul Hodgson (ex-Master), Tim Corbett (Honorary Secretary).



## 2008 North American Old Millhillan Dinner

Being an Old Millhillian, whether you have met before or not, means that there is an instant bond and it is a good base when getting together. There is no need to prove to each other who we are.....we are all on the same side from the beginning. This is a very good start for an evening.

On September 20th 2008 the North American OMs held a lively event at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club on Centre Island, City of Toronto. They came from near and far and, for a small group of 24, there was a wide representation of ages, from a recent graduate Mr. Ollie Ringguth studying in Toronto, to our senior OM Dr. Rick Rickards, a veterinary from Cleveland Ohio, (who was evacuated to St. Bees) with his wife Jane. He told some interesting stories that went back quite a bit in history.

Thanks to Bob and Carmen Angel, the sailors, we secured a smart spot for the dinner at RCYC. The ferry took us from the city to the prestigious club on a beautiful clear evening. Chicken or salmon was served with an assortment of Canadian wines (they are good nowadays).

We were particularly happy to see Chris Parker there from the UK and others that came a long way were North American OM Hon. Sec. Donald and Karen Haigh from San Francisco, Chris and Suzanne Ellis from Kansas City, Soydan Nihat and Megann Licata from New York. In addition from Canada we had Robin Ball and Makda, Louis and Angele Bloom, Simon and Mary Parry, John Vincett and Pamela Wheaton, John Whyte and Kathy Malone, and John (scribe) and Estelle Oldroyd.

Several regrets were sadly received (we can't get them all), Peter Armitage, Jim Bowen, Rufus Boyett, Brian Buckingham, Charles Clarke, Tim Fanstone, Fred Fischer, Christopher Grosskurth, Brian Harley, Howard Miners, Jim Roberts, and Alan Stanhope. El Presidente Ronny Cohn was missed being unable to join us on this occasion, he kindly sent us an update on his and the OMs activities which was communicated to those present with great interest. Maybe next time Ronny!

The OMs behaved themselves remarkably well considering their behaviour at school meals in their teens. The dinner was spiced with good anecdotes full of news, memories, humour and a good dose of reverence and irreverence, as usual. On the return ferry-ride to Toronto we had the view of the twinkling lights of the Toronto skyline.... just to top it off.

Donald Haigh (haighsf@comcast.net) will be arranging the next NA OMs dinner, this time next year in New York or San Francisco, yet to be determined. Stay tuned for September 2009; Haigh always does a good job!

**John Oldroyd 1958 - 1963**



## Rugby Reunion Lunch

Reunion Lunch for members of the MHS 1st XV's for 1948/49/50;

STANDING Left to right, Derek Salter, John Fortune, Peter Long, Ray Hubbard, Jim Roberts, Michael Henderson.

SEATED Left to right, Tony Hazell, Ronnie Aye Maung, Ewen Brenchley, John Fitzgerald, John H Williams.

**Ronnie Aye Maung**



## Old Millhillians Day 27 September 2008

As with last year Old Millhillians Day was again held on School Foundation Day and the School generously provided an excellent barbecue lunch, including a delicious spit roast, as a start to the afternoon of events (though a number had already enjoyed the Friends get together for the 1960 leavers). The weather was gloriously sunny and warm, as is so often the case in late September, and there was a real sense of occasion as Old Millhillians mingled with each other as well as with teachers, pupils and parents.



OM visitors enjoyed the opportunity to watch both the CCF marching band and the School 1st XV: the latter put on a superb display of rugby on Top field to overwhelm the visiting opposition. As usual the Old Millhillian Fives Club had a match against the School while an innovation this year was an Old Millhillian men's hockey match (we still cannot get enough response from the Ladies for a team to play the School). A scratch side of fifteen OMs turned up to play the local Mill Hill Club 2nd XV. Inevitably the opposition were better organised and scored three quick goals before the OMs got into their stride. Then the game became much more even and genuinely contested and OMs scored twice (two splendidly taken goals by Adam Harvey), though the final result was a 7-2 defeat. It is hoped to build on this beginning and to have several games each year. Thanks to Mark Dickinson (master) for umpiring.



The day finished with drinks in the main dining room to bring a successful day to a conclusion. The only disappointment was that because of unavoidable timings the Life Governors had to hold their AGM in the afternoon and so those OMs attending missed many of the day's events. This problem will have to be addressed in planning for next year. But many thanks to the School for its hospitality and to the various teams, including the caterers and groundsmen, who looked after us so well.



## North West Dinner

As always the St James's Club in Manchester provided an intimate and inviting venue for the North West dinner. On Friday 14th November nearly 40 Old Millhillians and friends met for a most convivial evening: the guests enjoyed some excellent fare, including some delicious lamb and fine wines and, as always, the service was most attentive. Former President, John Elliott MBE, had worked tirelessly to make the evening such a success and left nothing to chance: many thanks to him for his efforts and to his ever supportive wife, Angela.

First to speak was John Elliott, who gave a typically amusing address and proposed the health of the School. The Headmaster, Dr Dominic Luckett, gave an informative talk, emphasising both the academic and extra-curricular strengths of the School before proposing the health of the Club. Finally the new President, Alan Toulson, replied and presented a badge of office to the new Vice-President, David Short, who had not been able to attend the main dinner, where the presentation is usually made. Robert Harley won the sweepstake on the speeches, which ran out at only 37 minutes in total.



It was a most enjoyable evening but these occasions are increasingly challenging to organise as the number of traditional Old Millhillian families and individuals in the North declines. Many had travelled from the South and from over the Pennines but the thinking at the moment is that the Leeds/Yorkshire dinner and the North West/Manchester dinner should combine into a single annual Northern dinner, being alternately hosted by the white and red roses.

## North East Dinner

The Yorkshire & North East Dinner was held on Friday 15th September at Buon Apps Restaurant where 23 OMs and guests gathered on a pleasant Yorkshire evening in the picturesque town of Otley. Our guests were Ronny Cohn (the Club President) and Dominic Luckett (the Headmaster).

After an excellent meal Windsor Roberts (Area Representative for the North East) welcomed everyone to Yorkshire, and thanked all those who had travelled to join us, in particular Gavin Turner (on his first Yorkshire Dinner) and Noyan Nihat (for his continued support).

Windsor then specifically welcomed The Headmaster, Dominic Luckett, to Yorkshire and hoped that this would be the first of many visits to the North East as a guest of the Yorkshire OMs. The President, Ronny Cohn then entertained those assembled with stories from around the world since becoming President, with particular reference to a new dinner which was organised in Dubai around the Dubai Sevens. Dominic Luckett then spoke about his vision for Mill Hill School and recounted some of the tremendous accomplishments achieved by pupils from Mill Hill School over the last 12 months.

With the formalities over, it was time to retire to the bar to reflect on an enjoyable evening and renew friendships.

List of attendees: Ronny Cohn (59 - 63), OMC President, Dominic Luckett, Headmaster, Michael Sweetman (43 - 48) & Shirley Sweetman, Jim Roberts (45 - 50) & Jill Roberts, Dudley Reed (47 - 52) & Judith Reed, Gavin Turner (49 - 54), Bill Skinner (49 - 55), Paul Taylor (50 - 54) & Lindsay Taylor, John Elliott (50 - 55) & Angela Elliott, Chris Sutcliffe (58 - 93 Master) & Christine Sutcliffe, Clive Fox (57 - 62), James Walker (61 - 67) & Jane - Ann Walker, Martin Walker (66 - 71), Windsor Roberts (79 - 85) & Mandy Roberts & Noyan Nihat (82 - 88).

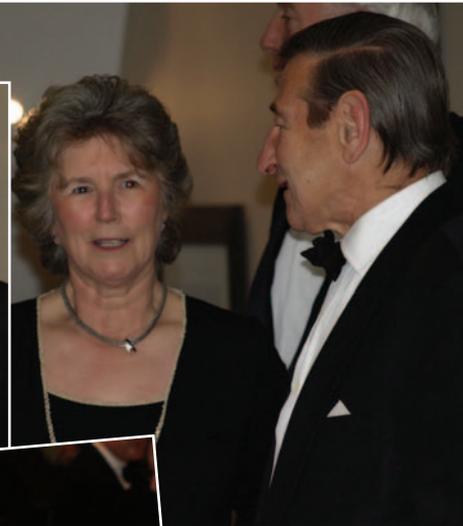
# ANNUAL DINNER

FRIDAY 17th

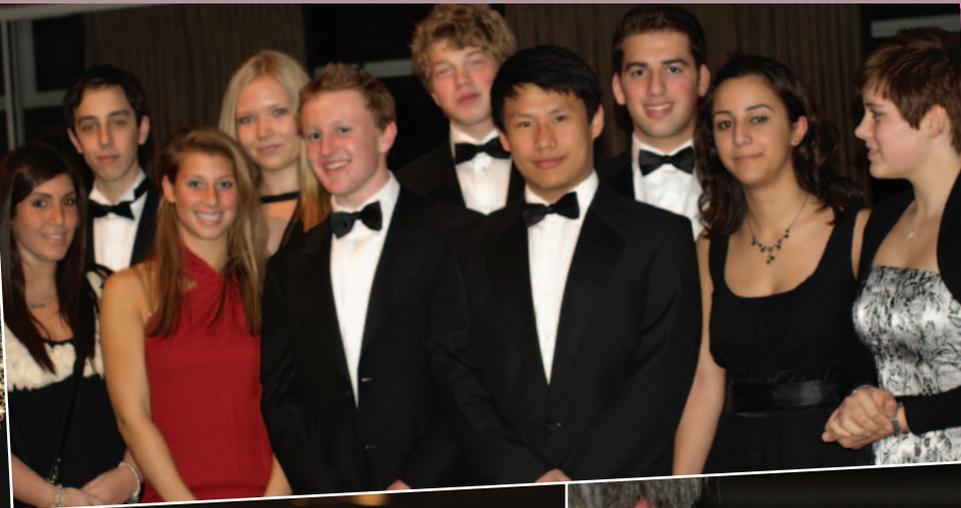
After the grandiose occasion and setting of the Inner Temple last year, when some 220 Old Millhillians and friends sat down to celebrate the School's bicentenary, this year's dinner was always going to be a very different occasion. However, the Thomas Lord suite at Lords cricket ground proved to be an ideal venue, with a very pleasant ambience, attentive service and an excellent meal.

Ronny Cohn, the outgoing President, had chosen well and it was undoubtedly one of the best dinners yet. The Headmaster, Dr Dominic Luckett, proposed the toast to the Club and gave a very interesting speech touching on the importance of maintaining the integrity of independent education and about the need for scholarship funding to support the less advantaged. The new President, Alan Toulson, was then inducted and he made a short but witty speech, and also congratulated the Headmaster and his wife, Cara, on the recent birth of a daughter.

Some 40 of the 175 guests had also availed themselves of the opportunity to take a tour of the ground, pavilions and museum prior to the formal reception and meal. A highly successful evening and an appropriate climax to Ronny Cohn's year of office: many thanks and congratulations for all his efforts – and also to our secretary, Shalaka Karlekar, for her organisation of the evening.



# NOVEMBER 2008



# Chit Chat

(Do not be backward in coming forward with any snippets of news or photos either about yourself or other OMs so that the editor can include them in Chit chat)

## Birthday Celebrations

Many congratulations to Donald Trouson ( Collinson 1923) who has just celebrated his 103rd birthday in Australia.

At School he won prizes for photo and piano, and then later as a young man competed in the Monte Carlo rally. After serving in the British Army he eventually found his way to Sydney, Australia, via the Diplomatic Service. On his retirement he won awards for his bird photography and published two definitive books on the subject. His longevity must be down to the fact that he lives on the coast south of Adelaide in Kirribilli, Encounter Bay, an idyllic corner of Australia, and not far from the equally idyllic Kangaroo Island (your Hon. Sec. speaks from first-hand experience).



## Harlequin Gents in Dubai

OMRFC stalwarts Dave Kelly (46) and Mike Peskin (42) together with former 1st XV Skipper Noyan Nihat (39), his brother Soy Nihat (36) and Mark Freer not an OM but also a regular in the OM's 1st XV over recent years, went to Dubai with the Harlequin Gents on 25th November 2008.

They played in the International Social 10's Tournament, which is part of the Dubai International 7's.

James Carson was also due to make the trip but has not as yet fully recovered from a nasty back operation. Mike Peskin was again skipper of the Gents side. Other OM's who were out in Dubai included: Simon (Bo) Hall, Ikenna Onyiajaka, Mark Barr, Nick Propper, Emmanuel Ajayi and Tien Tai.

**Mike Peskin**

## Australia

It was good to receive minutes of the inaugural Australian National OM Committee. Congratulations to David Stannard for his continuing enthusiasm in stirring up Old Millhillian interest 'down-under' and particularly for this latest initiative. The meeting was set up by teleconference between the Australian states and David pays tribute to the spade-work done by Maureen Keane Hatcher, who with husband Steven is about to spend a year back in the UK.

Patrick Russell (Burton Bank 57-62) read in the Dental Journal that John M G Hunt (School House 1955-60) has just received a significant honour, being inaugurated to the List of Honour of the International Dental Federation; its highest honour and limited to 30 people worldwide. He was Interim Executive Director, and previously Speaker of the General Assembly. He was Secretary of the British Dental Association for many years, and has been awarded Honorary Membership of both the British and American Dental Associations. He was given an OBE in 2001 for services to the profession. His younger brother Peter (School House 60-65) is a dentist in the USA and their father Robert (School House 27-30) was also a dentist. (John recently attended the South West Dinner).

Archie Galloway (School House 51-56) gave an interesting talk on June 16 to the Guildhall Historical Association (made up of invited members of the City of London Corporation) on Ivan Luckin's sale of London Bridge. Archie, through his father, got to know Ivan personally and his paper recorded Ivan's persistent and ultimately successful efforts to sell Rennie's Old London Bridge (which was literally falling down and had to be replaced) to the Americans. It has now been resurrected in the Arizona desert, though one impressive section of its balustrade stands in the Stoa quadrangle at Mill Hill School. Ivan of course was an Old Millhillian (Ridgeway 22-25) and the sale is a typical example of Old Millhillians' unusual entrepreneurial skills.

## OMC Collection

John Elliott (50-55) is looking for two younger OMs - one male and one female to assist him with the OMC Collection Merchandise and would be delighted if anyone interested would get in touch with him.

email

[a-j.elliott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:a-j.elliott@hotmail.co.uk)

## New Chairman of the National Trust

Congratulations to OM Sir Simon Jenkins ( Ridgeway 56-60) who has been appointed Chairman of the National Trust from November 1st. An interesting article appeared in The Times on November 22 when Sir Simon emphasised how he wants to make the Trust much more user friendly and enable the public to enjoy its facilities without those running it being threatened by restrictions of health and safety. His sentiments reflect those of so many of our country's silent majority who have become increasingly frustrated by the machinations of risk assessment and downgrading of personal responsibility.

**Michael Henderson interestingly reminds us that December 20th will be the centenary of the birth of one of our prominent Millhillians, Peter Howard (School House 22-28).**

Peter Howard was in his day one of the highest paid columnists in Britain, a world bobsled champion and a best-selling author. At his death in 1965, 17 heads of state and prime ministers sent condolences and House Speaker John McCormack compared him to the Marquis de Lafayette in services rendered to America. Born with a foot and knee joined - he wore leg irons as a boy and was forbidden contact sports - Howard went on to become the youngest captain of England's rugby team. Howard penned 30 books and plays designed to encourage faith. He married Doris Metaxa, the Wimbledon women's doubles champion in 1932 (with Josane Sigart). He died in Peru, from viral pneumonia, at the age of 54. Read more by visiting Michael's website ([michaelhenderson.org.uk](http://michaelhenderson.org.uk))- and also discover that Michael has recently played tennis for Devon 75 year olds and is still very busy with his writing - as well as organising the South West dinner.

**Another Old Millhillian writer/poet is Richard Burns (Burton Bank 56-61).**

Richard was born in London in 1943, into a family of musicians. He has lived in Italy, Greece, the US and Yugoslavia.

His perspectives as a poet combine English, French, Mediterranean, Jewish, Slavic, American and Oriental influences. He deals equally with historical and political material, with inner worlds, and with relationships and everyday life. In the 1970's, he founded and ran the famous international Cambridge Poetry Festival.

His work has been translated into 18 languages and Richard now writes under his ancestral name Berengarten. Salt publishing, Cambridge, are bringing out the first five editions of his selected writings, so visit their site for more information.

## New Members

SURNAME	MIDNAME	DATES	KEYYEAR
COCKBURN	Nicholas	1985	1990
HARTMAN	Ben	1982	1987
MADGE	Clive	1969	1976
WARREN-THOMAS	Simon	1967	1972
WONG	Michael	1977	1983

## Deaths

DATE MHS	NAME	DATE MHS	NAME
44-49	DICKS Christopher	31-34	PIDGEON Frederick
31-35	NOLTINGK Ben	26-30	TIPPETT John

**COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS JUNE 15th 2009**

# YOMS



At 9.00am on the 12th April, I set out from John O'Groats, the Northern tip of Scotland, aiming to walk to Lands End, adding the ascent of the three highest peaks in the UK: Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, a 1048 mile feat which no one had yet completed entirely on foot and unsupported.

I was immediately greeted with a wet 'hello' from the Scottish weather, giving me an insight into what would be to come throughout my time in Scotland. After months of planning, preparation and many sleepless nights, I was finally moving.

Scotland is a place of immense beauty and awe, and as a lone walker moving through the mountains, I felt amazingly humbled and soaked up each sight and the occasional heavy downpour! I reached Fort William and prepared for my attempt on the summit of Ben Nevis the following day.

My brother Stuart and I climbed 'The Ben,' navigating in dense cloud, deep snow and driving winds, arriving at the summit to find an eerie calm. In just over six hours we were home. One peak down, 200 miles completed.

I picked up the West Highland Way from Fort William to Milngavie, producing some of the best walking and scenery of the entire trip, especially Glen Coe. Crossing the border into England was a tremendous feeling and I met one of the many 'End to Ender's' heading north on a bike. We exchanged stories and headed our separate ways.

Scafell Pike was next, again with my brother and Uncle this time. This was the only peak where I carried my full, 25kg Bergen for the climb rather than a daysac. We enjoyed the stunning views from a clear summit and celebrated at the bottom with a well earned pint; two out of three.

Wales marked a turning point and the best mileage, 26 miles in a day. I linked up with a friend and together we scaled the final Peak, Snowdon, and then traversed back across the country.

A few days later, I was crossing the River Severn and it signalled the final leg of the trip. A little further down the coast I reached the 1000 mile mark at the North End of Perran Sands and I never thought I would be so happy to have reached a patch of sand!

The weather unfortunately turned quite heavy after some glorious days and I completed the last full day soaked to the skin, including having wet feet, my kit having obviously decided to finally give up after a long time of constant abuse!

I was greeted with a soggy start to my final day. I was sad that this incredible experience was now coming to an end but glad that I would soon see my family and friends and be able to not worry about everything that comes with trekking! I was hit by a sudden drain of energy when I crossed the line and for the first time since I had started, I felt absolutely shattered. Lands End Finish: 21st June, 11.00am.

This trip has changed my life, my outlook, my priorities and it has taught me to enjoy the simple things in life. Many people never explore what the UK has to offer but it has everything you could want: beaches, mountains, coast, forests and much more; if only there was a little less rain!

I would not have been able to do any of this without the incredible support of all of those around me. I raised £7000 which I have divided between my three chosen charities: Cancer Research UK, The Army Benevolent Fund and The Mill Hill School Combined Cadet Force Corps of Drums.

**James Ellen**



## Project Nepal 2008



After leaving Mill Hill last year, and whilst there having been involved in the partnership project to Tamil Nadu, I knew that I wished to take part in a similar project in the summer after my first year at Oxford University.

Thus this last summer and preceding year I became involved with 'Oxford Development Abroad'. ODA is a student based charity that organizes trips to Morocco, Nepal and Uganda for students who, through their own fund raising, wish to travel in order to execute projects that assist development in the areas that need it most.

Our project was based around a school that was in need of roofing, the construction of smokeless stoves and soak pits in the neighbouring areas and teaching English in the village primary school and local youth group. Although the initial project proposition had made it clear that the area where we were to reside and work for 5 weeks was 'remote' it failed to warn us of its extreme isolation in the mountains. My very first initial memory of Nepal is therefore that of the hair-raising, bumpy and precarious cliff drive up to the village; the jeep following a 'road' often prone to landslides. Needless to say, the hilly terrain of our village's location meant that everything we did was an uphill hike. Despite this however (and of course the common local perception held that a construction team of five girls would be unable to deal with the work in such conditions) the project was completed on time and without any major problems. The roofing of the school went smoothly and was completed first. We later visited it to see it in full use and classes well underway. Similarly, the 11 smokeless stoves and 15 soak pits were all constructed on time, something which was especially important to us as they promise to provide the most benefits for the community. Whilst the smokeless stoves are essential for lowering the number of respiratory problems provoked by the locals' constant use of smoky, open stoves for their cooking, the soak pits ensure clean domestic utensils all year round.

What most struck us about the community in which we were working was its organization and pro-active attitude. The community meetings made it clear that, unlike in most Nepalese mountainous villages, they had made an effort to abandon the prevalent caste system in order to give women a leading role in the community as well as establish a more democratic, unified work ethic. Despite the fact that the villagers often seemed to presume that we just had money to give them, which sometimes proved a little uncomfortable, we managed to work well alongside them and by the end they seemed happy for us to take on some more of the skilled aspects of the manual labour we executed. Our teaching also gave us time to interact with the people that lived around us, something that proved more difficult to do than we had expected due to local custom and tradition. Although the level of English was very poor, the children and adults that attended the classes always proved willing; indeed when we aborted classes one day for a fun sports day they were thoroughly disappointed and asked us that we give classes only in future. It was due to this evident enthusiasm, yet lack of available resources, that we were prompted to spend our micro-fund on books and posters for the school that we worked at before we left.

There is no doubt that without the money donated this project would not have been possible. I would therefore like to express my sincerest gratitude to The Old Millhillians Club on behalf of my team and ODA, for donating what they did in order that such a community received the help they so desperately needed. **Sarah Rachael Shaul**, St. Anne's College, Oxford

# Alford House

The DVD film made by Alford House club members about their lives and heritage as part of the successful "Endz-2-Da-Hood" project visit in April this year to the Madison Square Youth Club in Brooklyn, New York City, was screened at the Tate Modern auditorium on 22nd September.

It contrasted the themes of education, fashion and crime between New York and London, the experiences of young people in both cities and was followed by a panel question and answer session with the members, which generated some lively debate. About 70 people attended, including the Mayor of Lambeth, the Lambeth Youth Mayor, charity representatives, local councillors and the local police Safer Neighbourhood Team, as well as the family and friends of the participants and other club members. A number of Alford House Governors and Old Millhillians also attended, including the new OM President, Alan Toulson. Most of the cost of the project was paid for by generous donations from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the British Council and 'Connect Youth'. The feedback has been most positive and it is hoped that there will be further screenings in due course.

The Daytime Work & Snooker Club has been closed two afternoons a week and will restart in April 2009. However, this is a measure of its success as all of the 12 participants in the initiative, designed to assist young people back into learning or work, have obtained places in education or training. One member, who had been excluded from school, has been helped to take four GCSE exams through this process and is now training to be a plumber at Westminster College and developing his IT skills. There are also 20 young people participating in the Youth Achievement Awards scheme and 9 are currently going for moderation for these awards variously at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels.

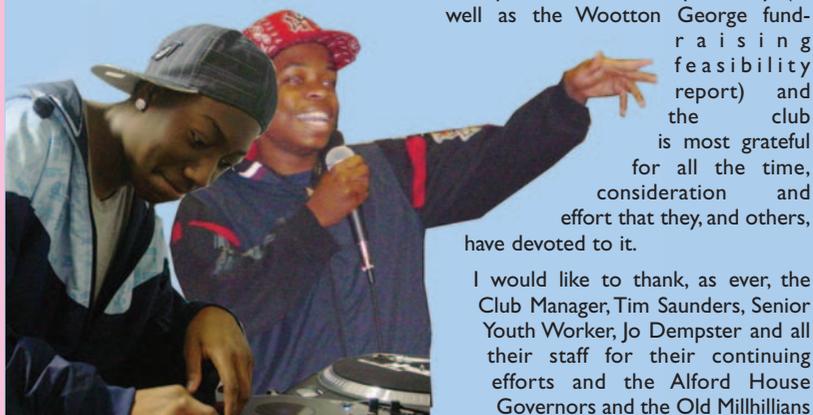
With the support of the local police, for

the first time ever, Alford House opened for a four-week period over the summer holiday for three days each week from 1pm to 6pm. The funding for this also provided part-time employment for two of the older members to act as helpers. This worked well and attracted an average of 20 members aged 14 to 19 years old, which was the intended target group. The snooker, room, computer suite and music studio were all in use. Generally, there is a good atmosphere developing in the Club, which is particularly welcome after the recent tensions in the local area resulting from gang-related activity.

Alford House once again took part in the London Youth Cricket Competition, held at Arundel Castle in Sussex. We entered three teams, two in the Under 14 age group and one in the Under 16 category. One of our Under 14 teams made it through to the finals of the championship, unfortunately losing by a few runs. A number of other events are being organised for the members in the near future, including weekends away at the London Youth facilities at Hindleap Warren & Woodrow High House and a trip to Thorpe Park.

As far as the major club redevelopment is concerned, it would appear that, in the current precarious economic situation, it is very unlikely that we will secure the £4 million or so to carry out the project in one go and we will have to undertake it in a number of 'elemental' phases, as funding is obtained, in order to get under way and satisfy planning regulations. A Project Team, led by Graham Chase and Alford House Chairman, Nigel Baker, has been set up to examine this possibility (as well as the Wootton George fundraising feasibility report) and the club is most grateful for all the time, consideration and effort that they, and others, have devoted to it.

I would like to thank, as ever, the Club Manager, Tim Saunders, Senior Youth Worker, Jo Dempster and all their staff for their continuing efforts and the Alford House Governors and the Old Millhillians



## OMRFC Season 2007-2008

This season OMRFC is working hard to restore its heritage.

We have after an absence of many years returned to training at Headstone Lane on Thursday evenings, in addition to the training we do on Mondays at the H.A.C. ground in the city. This move feels good, and has resulted in steadily increasing numbers at training. Paul Thornton the grounds-man has prepared a decent surface under excellent lights, and his wife Christine prepares the players a good spread for after training. Scott Orrit, our new coach, who has joined us this season takes a very good session and has worked very hard to improve the players' fitness.

We are attracting a steady trickle of second team players to the club, and one of the newcomers, Gideon Felton, has taken over the management of the second team. We have decided to commit to playing a fixture on every available weekend to ensure we are constantly able to provide players with game time.

At time of writing the first team are finding the going in Herts/Middlesex 1 tough, and are still searching for their first league win, having conceded some heavy defeats. The biggest problem in the team is a lack of consistent availability from key players, and we have not started with the same back line on one occasion this season. Although we nearly toppled one of the high flying teams in the league, Harlequin Amateurs, we have missed good opportunities to register wins against some of the lower placed teams through being forced to field weakened line-ups due to player unavailability. We cannot afford to continue in this vein, and will have to take our chances when they arise if we are to avoid the drop.

Incidentally, the game against Harlequins saw the departure from the field, possibly for the last time of David Kelly, OMs rugby legend. DK has been an inspiration to generations of OM rugby players, and has achieved and maintained an extraordinary level of form and was always one of the first names to be written on the team sheet. I will say without hesitation he is one of the best players to represent the OMs. After several decades of consistently top level performance, and scoring well in excess of 100 tries for the club, he must rank as one of the clubs most valued players. Although the club will miss him greatly, there are few players in the game that have earned the right to a good rest. We will be having Christmas drinks in DK's honour; please feel welcome to come and raise a drink to salute a top guy, and a great rugby player.

We are halfway through our season, and have everything to play for. If the results on the pitch begin to reflect the enthusiasm and commitment of people off it we will do well. If you are interested in playing for the club you would be very welcome, find us on facebook, Old Millhillians RFC, our website, [www.omrfc.org.uk](http://www.omrfc.org.uk), or call me on 07791 620151.

**Ben Nash**, 1stxv skipper.



### OM Eton Fives Club

Under the guidance of the new 'senior management' of Chris Vincent and James Hutcheson, the Club has made a sound start to the season.

In the League the OMs have beaten Old Berkhamstedians and St. Olaves both 3 – 0 but lost 1 – 2 to both Highgate and North Oxford. In the Barber Cup it was disappointing that the OMs could not put out a 3rd pair – the first time for many a season – and lost to the Old Etonians 1 – 2. Barber Cup rules stipulate that only genuine old boys can represent the club.

On Foundation Day in September many OMs appeared and joined in a very enjoyable afternoons play with and against the School and at the end of November the OMs hosted the Jesters Club in a thrilling friendly match in which the visitors sneaked a 2 – 1 victory.

Club nights at the new courts have been well attended and new recruits to the club include Sunil Tailor, an old QEB boy against whom a generation of OMs will have played both at Fives and cricket, and Jitesh Patel, an old Highgate boy.

**Forthcoming events:** Christmas drinks in town on the 15th December please contact **Ollie Sander** email [oliver.sander@gmail.com](mailto:oliver.sander@gmail.com)

### Golfing Society

As I write this, we are less than 2 weeks away from the OMGS Centenary Dinner to be held at Lords, which will represent the last and most important function marking our Centenary Year. Since our tour to St Andrews in May, we have played our usual round of summer matches, alas in most cases with less success than last year. For all of that, Society members have had lots of fun with parties travelling north to Ilkley to play the Oundelians, arranged by Chris Sutcliffe, to Royal Lytham to play against the Giggleswigans and Prestbury to play the Old Beghians. The autumn meeting at Deal was attended by 21 members. Jeffrey Selwyn won the Northern Cup and Chris Taylor and Sam Harvey won the Members of Parliament cup. The prize for snappiest dresser was again won by Ben Hartman, adjudged by Alan Guthrie Jones and Jerry Galloway, our very own Trinny and Susannah. Geoffrey Vero arranged the match against the Old Malvernians at Sunningdale where he was captain only a few years ago. The Malvernians were our first opponents in the original Halford Hewitt competition of 1924. 84 years on, teams of 8 played foursomes and managed a very sporting draw, followed by a convivial dinner addressed by Jeremy Lowe, President of the Old Boys Golfing Society. After recalling how we lost in the original match by 5-0 and were lucky to have been included in the competition at all, being a Rugby playing school when all the others played soccer, he made up for it by remembering Mill Hill's finest hour. This was in 1982 when we beat the then holders, Tunbridge and that evening in the Royal Hotel, Deal, when the Mill Hill team entered, the entire room gave a standing ovation.

Nigel Maile was one of the 1982 team who won his match. He was never one to be in awe of the opposition, as the following anecdote reveals. Ian Reekie tells the story how paired with Nigel 2 years earlier against Bradfield, they went out high up in the order as "sacrifice pair". Much to their surprise they found themselves up on their opponents. This prompted Nigel to suggest to his partner that perhaps they had inadvertently been pitted against the Bradfield "sacrifice pair", only unbeknown to him, one of their opponents was the Oxford University captain and the other a former Walker Cup player!

# Future Events

## European Weekend News

Several of those who have attended the weekends in years past have wondered where we should go in 2010 - two years time. Ideas have ranged from Russia to Iceland, but have eventually come down to a visit to Berlin. These weekends have never been held in Germany before. Consequently I have contacted all Club members known to have an address in Berlin and asked for volunteers to assist the organisation of a weekend there. Several useful replies have been received and details are being sorted. If anyone reading this edition of Martlet in Germany feels that they can offer help please contact Shalaka in the Club Office who will forward details on to me. Watch this space!! **David Rodda**

## 2009 Events

### PAST PRESIDENTS LUNCH

**Thursday 16th April** Army and Navy Club, London

Contact Ronny Cohn on tel 01707 659236

### PROPERTY DINNER

**Thursday 23rd April** Cavalry & Guards Club, London

Contact Mike Peskin on tel 0208 761 5233

### EAST ANGLIA DINNER

**Friday 24th April** Trinity College, Cambridge

Contact David Short on tel 01223 870436

### LIVERYMEN'S LUNCH

**Wednesday 6th May** Guildhall, London

Contact Archie Galloway on tel 07973 507662

### CLUB ENGINEERS & SCIENTISTS

**Friday 8th May** St Ermins Hotel, Westminster

*A dinner has been organised for Friday 8th May at the St. Ermins Hotel, Westminster, so please put the date in your diary. You will note the change in title and more will be revealed in due course and anyway Gordon Mizner and myself have thought that it is about time that we acknowledged the existence of Scientists in our Club. If those of you reading this – either Engineers or Scientists - want to learn more:*

Contact Gordon on tel 01923 842068 email mizner@btinternet.com

### AGM & COCKTAIL PARTY

**Thursday 25th June** National Liberal Club, London

Contact Shalaka in the Club Office tel 0208 906 7949

## OMRFC Vice Presidents' Reunion and Pre-match Luncheon

On **Saturday 17 January 2009** the **Rugby Club** will be playing Old Merchant Tailors' at Headstone Lane. As the OMTs can be considered our oldest and closest rivals, this match has also been chosen as the day of the Vice Presidents' reunion, when we are hoping to welcome a number of their aligadoos. I will be sending out my usual circular before Christmas, but perhaps this notice will act as a reminder to those who have not yet replied and also be of interest to some who are not on my database.

### TIMING FOR THE DAY:

**Reception in the bar 12.00**

**Luncheon 12.30 Kick off 2.00**

*Please note the earlier times than usual due to early January kick off*

**ALL FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS,  
LADIES AND GUESTS ARE VERY WELCOME.**

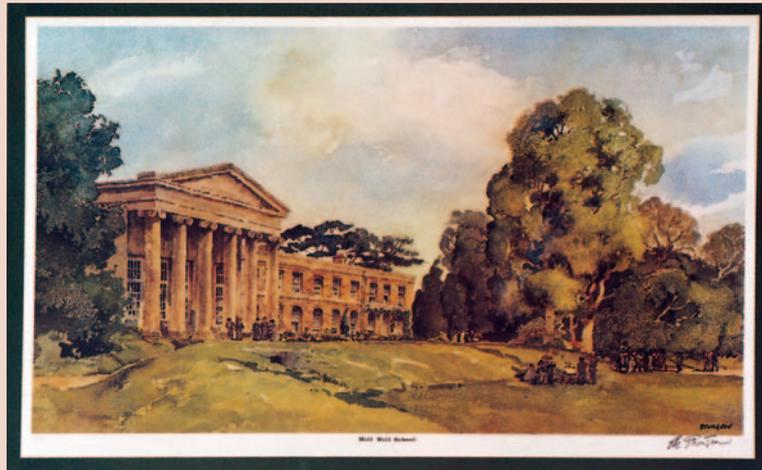
As *Martlet* will not be published until the first week of January and the closing date for numbers is 10th January, it is imperative that you let me know immediately if you are going to attend.

*Cheques made out to OMRFC should be sent by 10th January, indicating whether a vegetarian meal is required to:*

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Contact the Club Office for further information

We are planning to expand the range with a new range of T-shirts, hats and other items for younger OMs. Also a range of crested leather goods is under consideration.