

The World is their Oyster



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Read all about it on pages 9-11



Nobis et Scholae

The School continues to enjoy great success in all areas, despite the economic malaise and other troubles besetting the world. Indeed, the fact that so many people make significant financial sacrifices to send their children to the School is perhaps a reflection of how much they value the educational experience that their sons and daughters enjoy at Mill Hill.

For our part, we are only too aware of the challenges that await our pupils and the need to equip them with all the qualities they will need to pursue success, happiness and fulfilment in their adult lives.

Academic work continues to occupy a great deal of our collective energy, and I remain hugely impressed by the seriousness with which our boys and girls approach their studies, ably supported by their teachers. University entrance has perhaps never been so competitive, and the challenge of securing places at the top institutions is only likely to increase over the coming years. However, our pupils are well-placed to succeed, not merely because of the rising trend of examination performance that we have seen in recent years but also because of the type of young men and women who emerge from the School at the end of the Upper Sixth form. I know that those who were able to meet the Monitors at the splendid OMC Annual Dinner in October were very impressed by the maturity and confidence of our senior pupils, and it is their personal qualities as much as their intellectual gifts that should see them go on to success at university and beyond.

Part of what makes Mill Hill the school it is, and Millhillians the people they are, is the breadth of education that we traditionally provide; success in a wide range of areas has, once again, been highly evident this term. The girls 1st XI hockey team, after a slow start, has gone on to chalk up a string of impressive victories, and the 1st XV, under their new coach, former Saracens player Don Barrell, have had a particularly successful run in this year's Daily Mail Cup competition (at the time of writing, they are preparing for a challenging encounter with St Benedict's, Ealing, following victory over a very strong side from Bedford Modern School).

On 11 November, the School gathered to mark Armistice Day. I hope those Club members who were present at the gate of honour, at which your President joined me in laying wreaths in memory of the fallen, will agree with me that the pupils acted in a way which greatly added to the dignity of the occasion. In the chapel service which followed, I was privileged to be able to deliver a message from Her Majesty The Queen, who passed her best wishes to the officers and cadets of the CCF which is this year celebrating its centenary.

Our major chapel services this year have been greatly enhanced both by the inspirational preaching of our Chaplain, The Revd Dr Richard Warden, and by the superb contributions of the Foundation chapel choir. It is certainly a source of great pleasure and pride for me as Headmaster to listen to their wonderful performances. Our cultural life continues to be further enriched by the wonderful work produced by the Art department and by the consistently high standards of our dramatic output. November saw the biennial House Drama Competition, Priestley winning against stiff competition from fellow finalists Collinson and Ridgeway.

Planning is now well-advanced for the changes to come into effect in September, when we shall move from compulsory Saturday lessons and introduce weekly boarding alongside our traditional full-boarding provision. Both developments should serve further to strengthen the position of our School which, despite the challenging conditions, continues to move forward and produce pupils of whom we can all be justifiably proud.

Dr Dominic Luckett, Headmaster

The New President

Christopher Maunder Taylor FRICS, our new President, introduces himself:

I entered the School in the autumn of 1960 following my two older brothers, as well as my Father and his two brothers, into School House (Weymouth).

I enjoyed my school days. I left having developed an enduring love of choral music, having formed an affection for France and the French, and having learned that enthusiastic participation in everything can be as rewarding as great expertise.

When I left my Father sent me to speak to an Old Millhillian friend about working as a surveyor in the Shires. Roger Raffety took me on as an articled pupil and after 45 years in the property market and 40 years after qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor, an enjoyable career has culminated in joining the family firm.

My wife Beverley is Deputy Head of Stormont, a girls' preparatory school in Potters Bar. Of my three children, Helene lives with her family in Australia, Oliver with his mother in Evesham and Guy in London, where he is about to embark on a career in teaching, sponsored on the GTP scheme.



As for myself, I play golf, fish on the fly, sing in a local choir and grow vegetables. I also enjoy the friendship of a large circle of fellow Old Millhillians.

Honorary Secretary Report

Another year and another President has served his year: many thanks to Mike Corby, who has been an enthusiastic ambassador for the Club and has won many friends wherever he has travelled.

Always keen to espouse the merits of being an Old Millhillian he has attended a wide variety of events, both social and sporting, in the UK and beyond, including America and the Far East. He has also funded a President's Prize, awarded to an outstanding pupil in the Upper Sixth form and presented on Foundation Day, and initiated the setting up of an Old Millhillians room at the School. For detailed information about the nature of this room see Andy Mortimer's report in this publication.

Our new President is Chris Maunder Taylor but, as those of you who attended the AGM will know, we did not have a President lined up for 2012-13 (though we have several names for the succeeding years). Andy Mortimer is stepping into the breach, subject of course to his election at the June 2012 AGM, and Alan Toulson is taking over the Chairmanship of the Club for the year.

The Management Committee has continued to meet regularly and in January will be focusing on membership issues. Just as the School is evolving to meet changing needs so it is vital that

the Club remains relevant and purposeful. How we implement the two central Club objectives - of promoting interaction among members and supporting the School - continually needs to be assessed. For instance we need to consider whether the social needs of our members are best served by formal events or by informal gatherings such as the Oakers and the City drinks. Another key area we are trying to develop is the OM careers initiative and at the moment there is a particular need for Lower Sixth Formers at the School to have the opportunity to shadow someone for a day. Further details can be found on page 14.

Communication with members is key and inevitably technology moves apace. We have a website, a regular Martlet and an OM group on Facebook, but the main method of contact is of course email. In order to formalise our communication we are going to send out a monthly email newsletter with important news, including death announcements, and reminders of forthcoming events. We hope this will prove preferable to random and sporadic emails continually arriving in members' inboxes.

Every best wish for the coming year from our President, Chairman and all of us in the Club office.

Tim Corbett, Honorary Secretary



Annual Dinner 2011

'How will I recognise you?' inquired Peter Bolton of our President, Mike Corby, when he was due to visit OMs in Phuket in June. 'Oh, a prematurely grey 25 year-old with film star looks.' When Mike emerged from customs there was Peter in the airport foyer holding up a sign reading BRAD PITT.



This was one of the amusing anecdotes of his year in office that Mike regaled us with at this year's Annual Dinner.

Mike had chosen the London Film Museum as the venue for this year's dinner on Friday 14 October. This may have appeared to be an unusual choice of location but the circular central rotunda of the former County Hall (where the museum is now situated) afforded a dramatic setting for the occasion. Old Millhillians Jonathan Sands and Rick Senat are the Museum directors and the 150 guests were able to view a number of interesting items from the exhibition decorating the pre-dinner reception area.



Winterstokians

There was a strong Winterstoke connection as Mike Corby, Jonathan Sands, and the caterer Nic Leon, were all former members of the House. Dr Dominic Luckett, the Headmaster, and his wife, Cara, were among a number of guests from the School including the monitors and two current parents.



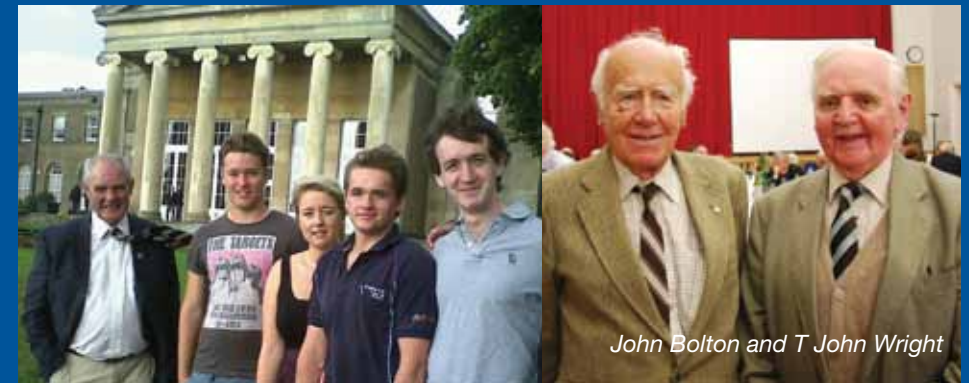
Christopher Maunder Taylor, who is intending to hold next year's dinner at the Haberdashers Hall, was inducted as the new President. The speeches were short and pithy, enabling the guests plenty of time to circulate after the meal, and an excellent evening was enjoyed by all.



Old Millhillians Day 2011

Saturday 10th September 2011

This year we reverted to the tradition of having a separate Old Millhillians Day rather than combining with the School on Foundation Day; and enabling the Life Guardians to meet on the same day. With the threat of cold, inclement weather it was decided to hold the lunch indoors in the Large rather than having the usual barbecue and many thanks to the School for providing a delicious buffet.



John Bolton and T John Wright

The hockey team had a significant win against a team from Southgate Adelaide Hockey Club, with Adam Harvey again proving to be a prolific goal scorer. Sadly the Old Millhillian Rugby 1st XV lost their opening league match on Top Field against Ickenham. Look at the Future events page to see the date of next year's OMs Day, when we hope to involve a wider representation of the Club in a number of new events such as an art exhibition.



EVENTS



New York Dinner

From right, anticlockwise:
Mike Finlay, Nancy Finlay,
David A B Brown, Michael
Grunberg, Ariel Grunberg,
Jennifer Harris, Dan
Harris, Nick Priestnall,
Alan Bain, Karin Brown,
David Cowie, Sonia Cowie

North West Dinner

The North West (or Manchester) dinner was held on Friday, 18 November at the St James's Club. This was superbly organised by John Elliott and John Farmer and the arrangements of 25 or so guests around a long single table made for a particularly convivial evening. The food was excellent as were the wines and everyone was carefully attended to by the Club's maître d. Lynn Duncan, Head of Belmont and Pauline Bennett-Mills, Head of Grimsdell, stood in for the Headmaster and delivered lively accounts of exciting developments at the Foundation. President Chris Maunder Taylor was resplendent in his newly acquired Old Millhillian blazer, which his brothers secretly had tailored for him. John Elliott and his brother Grahame were also attired in this striking item of costumery.



Welsh Dinner

The Welsh Area Dinner was held this year at the Cardiff and County Club, Westgate Street, Cardiff on Friday 28th October 2011. Thirty six OMs and their wives attended including the President and Dai Rees Master, representing the School.

The President, in proposing the toast to the School, recounted the excellent time he had on his last visit to Wales with the OMs Golfing Society and the hospitality he had received. The President gave a resumé of all the continuing activities of the Club and the close and active liaison with the School. In his speech, Dai Rees brought all those present up-to-date on the School's activities and future plans. He then proposed the Toast to the Club coupled with the name of the President.

Among the OMs present was John Sorotos (34 - 38) who as a member of the Cardiff and County Club was very much at home and also Roy Thorpe who had flown in from Canada. Among others with close Welsh connections who came from England to attend were Ray Hubbard, Tom Oxenham and Graham Fear. My thanks must go to David Paddison who helped immensely with the organisation of the dinner.

The Welsh dinner is held biannually and we hope the next event will be on the last Friday in October 2013 at the same venue. However there is the opportunity for those in Wales to attend the South West dinner in Somerset next November. **Ronnie Boon**



The Waiting Room

Following a bit of inspiration from Mike Corby, it is great to confirm that the Headmaster has agreed that the main Waiting Room can be used as an Old Millhillian Room specifically to reflect the achievements of former pupils over many decades.

This is going to be quite an undertaking with the potential to be controversial, but it is also a great opportunity to showcase just how much has been achieved by those who attended the School. A 'long list' has already been drawn up and names are being added all the time.

I am pleased to report that Tony Armstrong, who taught at the School from 1977-2009, has agreed to chair a small committee, covering the age ranges, to take the project forward. Tony provides the essential ingredient of independence which will undoubtedly be needed! By the time this goes to print, Tony, Mike and I will have met with the Headmaster to determine the parameters so we ensure the School and the Club are working from the same base. It is likely though that much of the presentation will be based on photographs and memorabilia. In the context of the latter, we have no idea just how much 'stuff' is out there so we would like to hear from anybody who may have worthy memorabilia which they would be happy to lend or give to the project. It is not just about fame; how do you define that anyway?

We want to include achievements of all sorts across a broad spectrum so, again, we would be happy to hear from anybody with less obvious ideas. As a simple example, one suggestion made is to have a roll of those who have run marathons. Whilst we tremble at the prospect of being swamped with responses, this is a Club project and views are welcome.

Andy Mortimer

Events not to be missed

These are just some of the events taking place this year, but there are plenty more listed in the Calendar such as the regular monthly City drinks, the Oakers first

Tuesday and the AGM and Cocktail party in June. Please make a note of the events in your diary and make a special effort to attend and encourage your OM friends to join you.

Old Millhillians Day 2012

Saturday 15th September, Mill Hill School

This year we are encouraging as many OMs as possible to attend OMs Day; we shall be introducing some new events so there should be something for everyone. Please save the date and come along with your family. The tentative plans for the day are as follows:

Art Exhibition

We shall invite OMs to display their work on OMs Day. We plan to hold a small exhibition to showcase the art work of current students and OMs.

Musical Interlude

We would like to organise a musical soiree on OMs Day, so if you sing or play a musical instrument, then please join us. The Director of Music at the School will arrange a programme along with students. If you are an artist or musician – please get in touch; don't be shy! All abilities welcome.

Sport

We would like to once again hold an OM hockey match, so if you would like to take part then get in touch. The School 1st XV will be playing QE Boys School on Top Field in their first match of the season and spectators welcome.

Barbeque

We hope to have a BBQ on Top Terrace/dining room after the rugby match in the early evening around 5pm.

Reunion for OMs who left in the 'Noughties'

If you were at the School between 2000 – 2010, please get in touch as we would like to hold a reunion for you on OMs Day.

Annual Dinner 2012

Friday 19th October at the Haberdashers Hall

Please start contacting OM friends from your House or year group to organise a table for the Annual Dinner. Chris Maunder Taylor our new President has chosen a stylish venue in a central location for this year's dinner and it should be a memorable social occasion. If you need help from the Office to get contact details for lost friends, then please get in touch.

Old Millhillian - Legal/Medical Reception

Friday 9 March 2012

Wedlake Bell LLP, 52 Bedford Row, London WC1.

Time 6.00pm – 8.30pm **Tickets** - £20 or £10 for under 30s

Informal drinks & supper reception (possibly a Guest speaker)
Legal and Medical is taken in its broadest sense so academics, dentists, scientists, researchers all welcome. It should be a good

European Weekend in Biarritz

4th – 6th May

Tentative itinerary for the weekend is:

Friday 4th - evening drinks and informal meal

Saturday 5th – sightseeing, followed by lunch and more formal dinner

Sunday 6th – sightseeing, event, visit and return to Blighty.

Windsor can help with booking accommodation and he has some great treats lined up, such as a trip to a "Cidrerie" in Spain, golf, a thalasso afternoon, a trip to the historical town of Bayonne and much more...

Please contact Windsor if you are interested in attending
E: Windsor@godirectmarketing.co.uk

Edinburgh

Friday 3rd February

Venue: The Roxburghe Hotel, Lord Cockburn Room, 38 Charlotte Square, EH2 4HQ

Price: £55 per person for pre dinner drinks, 3 course meal and coffee. £30 for under 25s.

Time: 7-7.45pm

Dress code: Lounge suits

The hotel has some rooms on hold at a discounted B&B price of £150 per night, but of course you can stay at a hotel of your choice! Students most welcome!

Contact Andrew Fisher
afisher@blueyonder.co.uk Cheques payable to:
Andrew Fisher, 10 Johnsburn Park, Balerno EH14 7NA.
Tel 0131 449 5173. Mobile - 07500 119778

Please contact Shalaka in the Club office if you need more information on any of these events: 020 8906 7949 or sk@millhill.org.uk

EVENTS

YOMS: Young Old Millhillians

Events

Several social events are held throughout the UK and possibly near where you are studying, including Edinburgh, Manchester, Somerset and Cambridge. Most of these events offer discounted tickets for students, so please get in touch with the organiser and see the Future Events page for more details.

These occasions offer a great opportunity not only to meet other OMs but also to network. Additionally there are many professional events, both formal and informal, open to students in London such as the property dinner, City drinks, Engineers dinners and a planned creative arts group.

Sponsorship Fund

This fund aids any OMs undertaking activities after School, in their gap year, or for further education or simply a challenge they wish to experience. The usual sum is £150 per person which is paid to the OM to help them organise their venture. Read all about the experiences of OMs who have benefited from the fund in this edition of Martlet.

Overseas Help

If you are planning a trip abroad or will be relocating overseas, get in touch with the office. There are many OMs all over the world who are willing to help you in any way that they can. Dev Dhokia (McClure '07) recently asked the office for contacts in China and he met up with Lou Dapeng while he was there – see picture below.

Careers

The OMs Club has a flourishing careers service and we have helped several university students gain work experience in many fields including medicine, finance and the media. Get in touch with the office or send an email with your current CV.

Leavers' Reception

We need your help with this event. Drinks are free!

This event will take place at the end of April/early May at the NLC.

The main aim of the event is to introduce the Upper Sixth students to the Old Millhillians Club and all that it can offer them once they leave School. We are overhauling the event this year after speaking with the School and students to really engage them and make it relevant.

We are seeking young Old Millhillians under 25 who can mingle and chat with the students to explain how they use the Club and what it means to them.

You may have used the sponsorship fund or received help with work experience or you may simply enjoy attending the social events organised by the Club or regularly visit the NLC. Whatever your experience, we would be very grateful if you could attend - once a date has been fixed- to share your thoughts with the students.

Contact Shalaka if you can help. E: sk@millhill.org.uk



Tamil Nadu



Ten of us had enjoyed such an amazing time on the School's partnership project to 'Sri Jayendra' Tamil Nadu, India in July 2010 that we decided to go back this summer and teach for a second time.

We couldn't think of a more appropriate way to celebrate our five years at Mill Hill. For many of us, myself included, this was only possible thanks to generous donations from the School's Lewis Van Moppes and EP Shanks travel award matched by grants from the Old Millhillians Club.

After receiving our A-Level results and having had our University places confirmed we set out on a 30 hour journey. When we arrived at the School at about 9am local time, tired, hot, and hungry, in true Sri Jayendran fashion we were quickly rushed onto the stage in front of the entire School to greet a crowd of familiar faces. We got up to the same sort of things we

over in the Maldives for a welcome break thanks to Shahi Ghani!

All in all another unforgettable experience. The School's partnership with Sri Jayendra does so much to benefit both Millhillians and the Indian pupils: we all felt so privileged to have had that opportunity again.

Charlie Winch (Weymouth 2011)





By Sasan Nazer & Parthiv Rishi (1993-1998)

You are exhausted having already driven for 12 hours today (but have only covered 120 miles such is the condition of the dirt tracks). Darkness and cold are quickly setting in. You're alone somewhere in the middle of the Gobi Desert in a small three-door hatchback that is falling to pieces.

The last sight of civilisation was about an hour's drive away and the nearest town, your campsite for the night, is still another 80 miles away. Unfortunately, a fast flowing river is blocking your progress. Your old school friend is in the passenger seat and succinctly sets out the only two options: "Camp here and maybe someone who can tow us across will pass by in the morning, or just gun it straight through and pray we don't get stuck or flood the engine". This is just one of many daily dilemmas we faced on The Mongol Rally - an annual adventure which involves taking a small, underpowered car your grandma would be too embarrassed to be seen in and driving it over 10,000 miles from England to the capital of Mongolia.

The Rally is totally unsupported - if you're in trouble, you're on your own! There is no specified route either (you just have to get you and your car to Mongolia) so to add to the challenge, we planned on trying to pass through as many countries as we could - we just had to make sure we had the right visas!

On 23 July 2011, we set off from Goodwood Racing Circuit in what would be our new home for the forthcoming six weeks - a ten-year old 1.3 litre Hyundai Accent that had already done over 85,000 miles. Despite our best intentions to learn everything about car maintenance, by the time we set off we were still not confident

about changing tyres let alone knowing what to do if something seriously went wrong. But with a 20 quid Argos toolbox and a Haynes manual we nevertheless set off.

Initial progress through Western Europe and the Balkans was good and eventful - including one panicked evening in Dubrovnik where we managed to lose our car (it had been towed!) and a day where we ending up driving through five borders and five countries. We managed to take in some great scenery on the Adriatic (particularly Croatia and Montenegro) before arriving in Istanbul within a week.

As we left the comfort of Europe, border crossings became trickier, with long delays, light-fingered customs officials and expensive visas and car insurance requirements. Our policy of British stubbornness in the face of corrupt border guards and police paid off in the end as our total "bribe" count for the trip came to an impressive total of two Snickers bars and a tennis ball (considerably less than the much coveted US dollars that many other teams ended up dishing out!). Driving conditions also slowly deteriorated and by the time we left Turkey became so bad that we both needed to concentrate all of the time - no rest for the passenger as he not only needed to read the indecipherable signs but also had to be on the lookout for suicidal local drivers, even more suicidal pedestrians, dozy livestock and potholes.

On entering Iran our presence became much more of a novelty to locals and, the constant police stops aside, we found the hospitality as breathtaking as some of the landscape and scenery. A very different side of the country we read of in the press. Getting into Turkmenistan was expensive and humbling but rolling into the white marble and gold covered capital, Ashgabat, you soon realise how far from home you've come. The locals (unlike the officials) were, as ever, very hospitable and we ended up staying a night with a random family whom we had only just met

(the mother made a cracking breakfast!). Interestingly, they had an LG flat screen in the living room but still used a hole in the ground toilet and old pages from a diary as toilet paper - different priorities I guess! Driving along the ancient Silk Route traversing the contrasting desert and mountainous landscapes in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and passing through the cities of Bukhara and Samarkand were a clear highlight of the trip.

After 5 weeks we approached the business end of the trip. The relief we felt at completing our last border crossing - from Russia into our 22nd country, Mongolia - was immense (it only took 6 hours - which was about 20 hours less than many other teams!). This joy was short lived, however, as any remnants of a road abruptly ended the moment we entered Mongolia. The last week of the Rally involved driving across desert and mountains, over sharp rocks and boulders, sand, mud (and most worrying of all) through several rivers under the watchful eyes of soaring eagles and dozing camels, to get to the Mongolian capital, Ulaan Baatar. As we powered through, we passed teams stranded across the country - their vehicles unable to withstand the harshness of the Mongolian terrain - broken axles, destroyed radiators, flooded engines, shredded tyres! Morale was high though as we camped with teams on the desert

and steppe under a blanket of millions of stars each night. Although we didn't get to wash for two weeks (!!) it didn't matter as everything was covered in layers of dust and sand anyway.

After 6 gruelling weeks in a car most of you wouldn't even risk taking on the North Circular (which we bought for £950 from an ad we found in Autotrader), we finally arrived at the finish line in Ulaan Baatar. We had driven 10,600 miles through 22 countries to get there (and we didn't even get one puncture)! An amazing and unforgettable experience.

With thanks to the OMs for their support and the support of all our friends and family in helping us raise around £6,500 for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Christina Noble Children's Foundation.

The countries we drove through were France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Republic of Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mongolia



Mongolian Madness



“My whole scientific career was grounded in the excellent science teaching I had while at Mill Hill.” **Francis Crick**

(taken from the biography, Francis Crick: Hunter of Life's Secrets by Robert Olby)

The Science Building at Mill Hill School was built in 1924 with money raised to create a memorial to those members of the School community killed in World War I. This was the building in which Cecil Goyder (Scrutton 1920-25) who made the first wireless communication with New Zealand and the building in which Francis Crick (Ridgeway 1930-34), who later discovered the structure of DNA, were inspired. 2012 is the 50th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Prize to Francis Crick and 2013 the 60th anniversary of the discovery itself in 1953 in Cambridge. This momentous breakthrough by Mill Hill's most famous scientific alumnus is something we shall be celebrating with a series of events in 2012-13. It would be wonderful to be able to showcase the improvements to the building during this celebration.

The laboratories inside have seen some improvements over the years and the Biology Annex was added in the late 1950s but more modernisation is definitely needed. The Court of Governors has implemented a phased refurbishment programme. The

Foundation Appeal has already raised over £200,000 towards the work now completed on the Physics Department and the external redecoration. The Appeal's next objective is to make similar contributions to the work to be done to each of the Biology and Chemistry Departments. The Biology Department requires the refurbishment of five laboratories and a prep room during 2012-13. The cost of refurbishing each laboratory is between £50,000 and £80,000 depending on the laboratory.

The Foundation Appeal is also being tasked with contributing to major projects in sport and drama, which will be formally announced in Spring 2012. For those Old Millhillians who are also Old Belmontians it might be of interest that the celebration of the Centenary of Belmont begins in the summer term of 2012; there will be a number of major events and a centenary fundraising campaign for a commemorative project.

Four new A Better Chance Bursary beneficiaries joined the School in September; three funded by Lord Glendonbrook and one by the A Better Chance Bursary group in the medical, dental and veterinary professions and members of Collinson under Donald Hall. It is hoped that two more groups will be able to provide similar funding by September 2013.

If making a gift now is just not possible, you might like to remember the School in your will, which carries with it membership of the 1807 Society. We currently have 30 members and aim to reach 40 during 2012.

There is more on our website www.mhsfoundationappeal.org.uk and look out for the new Foundation Appeal video.

If you would like to contribute to the Foundation Appeal or just want to know more, please get in touch. Whether your interest is in People (bursaries) or Places (the Science Building, Annual Fund or Annual Projects) or you wish to include the School in your will, I would love to hear from you.

Nick Priestnall – Director, Foundation Appeal

Foundation Appeal USA EVENTS

Sunday 11th March

12 noon lunch in Naples, Florida

Many thanks to leading supporters of the A Better Chance Bursary campaign, Robin Mills (Ridgeway 1957-62) and David A Brown (Burton Bank 1956-61), who are hosting this event, which will take place at David's home at 265, Indies Way, Unit 1002, Naples 34110. Please let David dbrown@mba1970.hbs.com or me know if you hope to make this event.

Tuesday 13th - Saturday 17th March. California

I will be in California from the 13th – 17th March and will be guided by those in the area as to what to do, when and where! There are almost 30 Old Millhillians and Old Belmontians for whom we have

contact details in California. There is a nucleus around LA and another around San Francisco, which is why there is a suggestion that we have a function on Tuesday evening in LA and on the Thursday or Friday evening in the SF Bay Area. However if those who are local have different or better ideas, I would be pleased to hear them. If you live in California and are willing to help pull something together (identify and book a restaurant) please let me know ASAP.

The events in Florida and California are open to all OMs not just to those resident in those states! In fact, I already know of two OMs from the North East who are planning to make sure their winter break to the sun coincides with the event in Florida.

Nick Priestnall

e: np@millhill.org.uk



“Frontloading” of the Governments proposed four-year reductions adds to the burden by giving no time to prepare. Added to this is the loss of funding received for services that are co-located at Alford House. In total, this is a loss of £45,000. In addition there is the constant uncertainty about our lettings income. So far we have not managed to build elements that increase income.

In fact the reverse has been the case. We have developed elements that improve our service to young people but increase our on-going costs.

We have therefore had to urgently review our plans for redevelopment. The aim of the redevelopment was to become “fit for

At the time of writing we are submitting revised plans to the Council.

The Fitness Studio that was built and opened in 2010 is proving very popular. It has already attracted 240 young people through its doors and a number of young people are gaining Awards and accreditation through this activity.

The Club brought together young people, staff and trustees for a full day of training that created an action plan for giving young people more responsibility for Alford House services. This is the first time, (that the Club can recall), that all those involved in the Club have been together to discuss the Alford House.

Alford House

You will have seen from previous reports in Martlet we have planning permission for a major redevelopment of Alford House. However cuts to funding for children and young people have been significant, sometimes disproportionate compared to the overall cuts to local authorities. In the case of Alford House, as with the similar organisations in the voluntary sector, a 30% reduction compared to the Council's 16.7% overall.



skiing and for two of our young volunteers to complete Sport England's Snow Sport Level One Instructor Qualification. This has been partly funded by the Mill Hill School Fundraising Concert.

The Club is also busy preparing for one its outdoor pursuit weekends in the Ashdown Forest.

The 2010-2011 annual report is available and if you would like a copy please contact me at: nigel@alfordhouse.org.uk

We would again like to thank all those who have given so generously to the Club over the past year. If you do not already have a standing order with us, or would like to make your first donation you can do so through our website www.alfordhouse.org.uk.

Nigel Baker (55-61) Chair of Governors



purpose” and to generate a greater income stream that would sustain, and in good times increase services to young people.

The Club is looking at every opportunity to make savings and increase income, to achieve this it has re-examined its redevelopment plans and has formulated a new plan that might just produce the aims of the original plan and be realistically achievable in these tough economic times.

Just a few weeks ago Alford House was awarded a Silver Level London Youth Quality Mark, a quality assurance scheme accredited by City and Guilds. The Silver Quality Mark demonstrates young people's involvement and participation in the Club.

At Present the Club is busy preparing a very small number of young people for a graduate ski programme that will end with them going to Scotland for a week's

Chit Chat

Can you help a current Sixth Former?

One way that Old Millhillians can be of real help to present pupils is to offer them the opportunity to shadow someone for a day at their place of work.

It is increasingly competitive for pupils to achieve a place at a top university and it is invaluable if they can show in their Personal Statements (part of their application form) that they have some experience of the world of work. Health and safety issues are taken care of by a parental consent form, so it requires the minimum involvement from you.

This is different from extended work experience (which some OMs have generously offered and found a very rewarding experience) but enabling a pupil to visit for just a day (or even part of a day) would be a way in which you could be of real assistance to our pupils. Although the most common requests for work shadowing are for medicine, dentistry, engineering, finance and media related careers, please get in touch with whatever you can offer. Do contact Shalaka in the office if you can help in anyway or simply want to discuss the matter further.

Fancy a Flutter!

Felix Francis (1966-71) son of deceased author Dick Francis has just brought out his first novel (he did co-author four books with his father).

The novel is called *Gamble* and not unsurprisingly is set in the world of horse-racing. Francis is also writing a screen play for *Dead Heat*, the first of the novels he co-wrote.

Tony Fitzjohn (Weymouth '63)
is giving a lecture on
15 March 2012 at 6.30pm
at Mill Hill School

The Collinson Palindromic

In December 1956 it was proposed that there should be a reunion, just for those present in the House at that time, at some memorable future date. Thus the idea of the Collinson Palindromic was born. The first reunion took place on 6.6.66 and this was followed by 7.7.77, 8.8.88 and 9.9.99.

The most recent, in the form of a lunch, took place on 11.11.11 at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall. An impressive number of twenty-two Old Collinsonians from 1956 attended, including Peter Armitage and Henry Goldsmith from the US and others from all parts of the UK. In addition, the current Housemaster, Peter Lawson, joined the group; it was unfortunate that the then House Tutor, Rev. David Payne was prevented from attending, due to illness.

The event was presided over by Ray Dunsbier. In order to bring everybody up to date, a booklet was distributed containing resumes of the attendees covering the past fifty-five years - a hard task in one hundred words. Recollections came from around the table,



followed by the Housemaster, who described life in the thriving Collinson of today.

A certain amount of discussion took place regarding the next Palindromic due on 2.2.22, sixty-six years on from 1956. Whilst there was a unanimous (understandable?) wish to attend to be there, attendance at the event will not be entirely in the hands of the participants!

Ray Dunsbier

The Average Parent

Your Honorary Secretary has only ever written two letters to publications and the two he wrote to the 'Times' this summer were both published. The second letter (see below) also made it into 'The Week' and was in response to an article by Alice Thomson about whether schools or parents are the best people to bring up children.

Sir, Alice Thomson's quotation from George Bernard Shaw, that parents are the worst people to be in charge of children, reminds me of a dictum of my teaching days: 'The more you meet the average parent the more respect you have for the average pupil.'

Legend has it that the quotation was originally attributed to the great Sir John McClure – but you may know better.

The Way They Were

Keith Armistead (50-56) wrote in to say that he along with Graham Woodhouse, David Butler and Tony Bramley-Harker, all members of the School's 1954 Cricket 1st XI have been meeting in the Beehive in White Waltham, Berks, opposite the cricket ground. If you would like to join them, please ring Keith Tel: 0208 940 9067.

Abseiling

Simon Bunyard
(Priestley 1993) sent us this photograph of himself and his girlfriend Lara about to abseil from the top of Battersea power station. They were raising money for the Stroke Association as one of Lara's friends had suffered a miserable
liven up a miserable
cause.



a stroke. A bit of excitement to November Sunday for a worthwhile

Doctor of Law

Geoffrey Rowley, School House (Scrutton 1948–1953), sent in this photo of him receiving an Honorary Doctor of Law degree at Bristol University on Thursday 21st July 2011. He was an undergraduate at Bristol University from 1955–1958, graduating with a BA in Economics and Government.



A Virtual OMs Day

It must be a rare occasion when you read about seven OM's in one day, particularly here in Switzerland. That particular Friday was one of those. The chain of events started when I managed to find a bit of good news in the Guardian earlier in the week. It was an article about two Australians who had bought a male lion cub from Harrods and the story of its integration into African wildlife became the subject of a successful book. On Thursday my granddaughter Muriel, 11 years old, an avid reader and animal lover, came to see us. She knew about the lion cub, its name and the book and even persuaded the city public library to acquire "A Lion called Christian". Muriel still had the book at home; later in the evening she brought it round for me to read.

On Friday morning, an article about the acquisition of the St. Katherine Docks caught my eye. The photo of Nick Leslau seemed to be vaguely familiar and when reading the article I found Nigel Wray's name: the bells started ringing. Two OMs in one day! The weather was beginning to look unfavourable for a round of golf, so without further ado I picked up Muriel's book. It was a good German translation of the reissue in 2009 of "A Lion called Christian", so I could read quickly without distraction. When Tony Fitzjohn's name appeared for the first time, my suspicions were aroused. But when I got to the attachment on the George Adamson Wild Life Preservation Trust, I was flabbergasted – could this be true? Five more OMs: Tony Fitzjohn as Field Director, his MHS friends Bob Marshall Andrews as Chairman, Andy Mortimer, Alan Toulson and Peter Wakeham as Trustees. So not just two OMs in one day but seven! Truly a virtual OMs Day!

Terry Allan (MHS 1945-49)

Terry Allan (MHS 1945-49)

Some 40 Oakers met for Christmas lunch on 6 December



Obituaries

A full list of deaths since the last publication appears below and detailed obituaries of some OMs will appear on the OM website and in the School magazine. However, we record a brief obituary of two members of the School staff.

Many Old Millhillians will be sorry to learn of the death of Tony Turnbull, who was a master at Mill Hill School from 1947-1978, and was Housemaster of Collinson from 1960-1974. He died peacefully in a nursing home in Angus, Scotland, in November, and leaves a widow, Peggy. He is also survived by his three sons, Ian, Alistair and Andy – all OMs – and a daughter Alison and 9 grandchildren. A full obituary will appear in the next magazine but he will be remembered for his many contributions to the life of the School, whether as a Housemaster, or as a teacher and Head of Chemistry, or on the sports field. He had a distinguished war



service with the Royal Artillery and contributed significantly as an officer in the CCF. For 20 years he ran the boxing but he also turned his hand to badminton, cricket, hockey, rugby and of course his great love, golf. His teaching both inside and outside the classroom will be remembered for his endless patience and commitment and many Collinsonians will be grateful for the happiness and security he inculcated in the boarding house, and he was always capably supported by his wife Peggy.

Old Millhillian cricketers in particular will be sorry to learn of the death of Adrian Jones. His main passion in life was sport, and after giving up playing club cricket, he qualified as an umpire and umpired in the Middlesex County League. For the last eight or nine years he was the regular umpire for Mill Hill School 1st XI. Although his poor health prevented him from umpiring last summer he was a regular spectator at both Mill Hill School matches and Stanmore CC. Adrian was also a member of Middlesex County Cricket Club and the MCC. He was admitted to hospital with heart problems and died on 16th September at the age of 69.

Just before going to press we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jinny Priestnall, wife of Nick Priestnall, on Sunday 11th December 2011 after a short illness. Jinny was working at Mill Hill School as a learning support assistant and before that in the IT department. She was a much loved and very active member not only of the Foundation but also the wider Mill Hill community. Our thoughts are very much with Nick, who works so closely with the OMs as Director of the Foundation Appeal, and his two daughters, Sophie and Emily.

OM Deaths

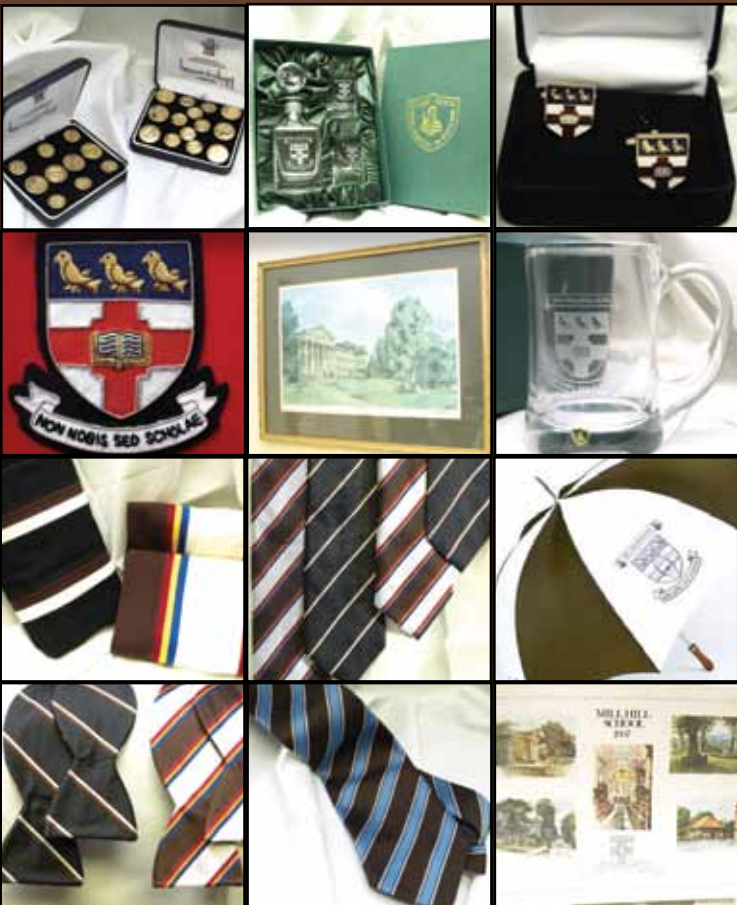
OM Deaths since last edition of Martlet (17th June 2011) to 4th December 2011

Surname	First name	Date of Death	House	School Dates
Alcock	Gerald A	02/08/2011	Burton Bank	1951 1956
Gordon-Smith	Edward Donald	19/06/2011	School House	1931 1934
Ornadel	Simon Cyril	22/06/2011	School House	1937 1940
Wesson	Colin Martin	26/09/2011	School House	1948 1953
Corden	Ivor Ronald	19/11/2011	Burton Bank	1944 1949
Foulger	Norman	03/08/2011	Collinson	1945 1949
Turnbull	John Alston	15/11/2011		

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- Gold plated	£27.00
Sturgeon print of MHS (unframed)	£50.00
Mill Hill School 1907 (unframed)	£10.00
Blazer buttons 6S 4L	£49.00
Blazer buttons 8S 6L	£65.00
Crystal Tankard	£20.00
Hat Band	£2.00
Weymouth Tie	£9.00
Golf Umbrella	£32.00
Blazer Badges	£12.00



Quiz: The Third Eleven

This quiz concentrates on the achievements and, in one case, sacrifice of legendary Old Millhillians and explores a tremendous breadth of interests many of which last to this day. I hope OMs find it both interesting and stimulating. The Fourth Eleven, if there is one, will look at more modern times!

1. To which OM did the Speaker of the US House of Representatives pay tribute when he said: "Few, if any, citizens of other lands have rendered the American people services comparable to?"

- a) David Thomas (1922 – 26) b) Peter Howard (1922 – 26) c) Derrick King (1928 – 31)

2. Who wrote in 1859 the prophetic book "The Great Air Battle – A Vision"?

- a) Walter Medhurst (1835 – 36) b) James Gethring (1843 – 47) c) Hermann Lang (1838 – 39)

3. James Challis (1818 – 20) discovered which Planet?

- a) Neptune b) Saturn c) Uranus

4. In what did Julian Holz (1918 – 20), George Goyder (1922 – 25) and Eric Dangerfield (1920 – 24) have a common interest?

- a) The OM Masonic Lodge b) The OM Town Club c) Alford House

5. Which OM was a master at Belmont while playing Rugby for England?

- a) Wilf Sobey (1918 – 24) b) Jo Auty (1924 – 28) c) Roger Spong (1920 – 24)

6. Who was the first OM said to have died in action fighting in the British Army?

ANSWERS: 1B, 2C, 3A, 4C, 5A, 6B, 7C, 8C, 9A, 10B and 11 Badminton and Lacrosse

- a) Henry Oldfield (1831) Indian Mutiny b) John West (1869 – 71) Boer War c) William Somerville (1883 – 88) Great War

7. Bill Murray Wood (1931 – 35) captained which County Cricket team?

- a) Middlesex b) Surrey c) Kent

8. The first person in the world to "get America", as the future King Edward VIII put it, was Cecil Goyder (1920 – 24). He was still at school so which master helped him in this remarkable feat of wireless technology?

- a) James Whitehead b) Herbert "Slimey" Coates c) Walter "Buster" Brown

9. What did Percy Holman (1906 – 09), Robert Scott (1917 – 19) and Arthur Holt (1924 – 31) have in common and together?

- a) Members of Parliament b) D'Oyle Carte actors c) Directors of the BBC

10. Who was the first boy (all those listed 1807 – 10) actually to arrive at Mill Hill in January 1808 when the School opened?

- a) Samuel Favell b) William Smith (c) Thomas Talfourd

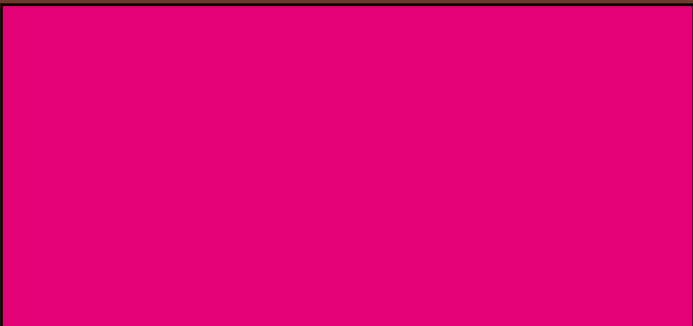
11. OMs are known to have represented their country in all but two of the following sports. Which are the "odd ones out"?

In alphabetical order: Athletics, Badminton, Bob-Sleighting, Diving, Fencing, Fly Fishing, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Rugby, Shooting, Soccer, Squash.

Answers for 2nd XI Quiz in the last Martlet:

1b, 2a, 3c, 4b, 5c, 6b, 7c, 8a, 9c, 10a, 11a and "Twinkle, Twinkle little star, How I wonder what you are"

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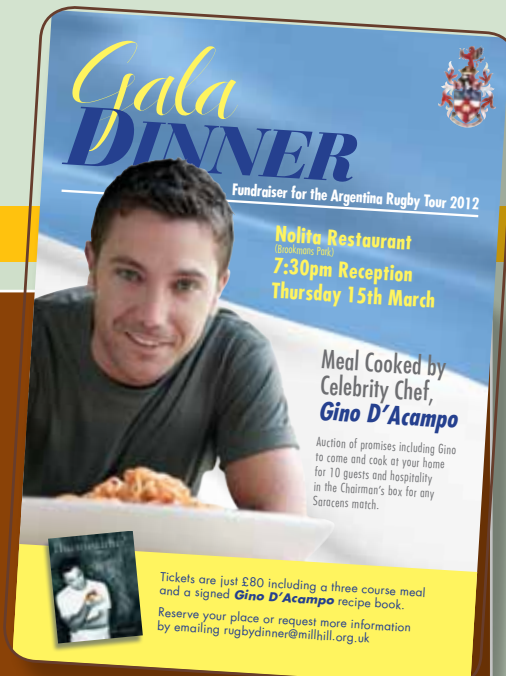
Old Millhillians Rugby

The season started promisingly with a much larger pool of players emerging from a successful summer training programme headed by coach Sean Hardy, an Old Millhillian himself. The 1st XV was looking forward to the season as newly promoted winners into the Herts/Middx 1 League. But it has been some time since the Club last played at this level and the side had a rude awakening: it was quickly realised that the forwards lacked depth, while fitness and size were also an issue. Now after 9 matches only 4 have been won and the team lie mid-table. Yet, despite the difficult start, the results have improved recently and with some new recruits and focused training sessions, the side is

optimistic of a much better performance in the latter stages of the season.

The 'A' XV have also had a tough start but though the results of played 8 and won 5 may sound middle of the road, many of the losses were very close, often by a mere point. The team is ably led by new skipper Jeremy Graves and has gelled well and is now providing the selectors with more options.

So I report that in both sides the spirits are high and morale strong. Gideon Felton continues to recruit players and we hope soon to resurrect a 'B' XV and Vets



XV. Many thanks as always to the many stalwarts working in the background such as John Tucker, James Mason and our invaluable Chairman David Webster.

Noyan Nihat, OMRFC Honorary Secretary

GOLF

The OMGS golfing year concluded with over forty members attending the Club's AGM and Annual Dinner at The Pewterers Hall on Friday 2nd December. The evening began with members standing in silence to remember Tony Turnbull, Mike Peterson and David Harrison.

Tom Hignett, who is retiring as Honorary Treasurer, was deservedly made a Vice-President in recognition of his twenty-three years in the post and at the dinner Tom also received a presentation from the Club. John Hawkins, Captain, also awarded Nick Priestnall a Beart Trophy in recognition of his work in raising the profile of the OMGS at Mill Hill and securing funds to assist the development of golf there. A further Beart trophy was awarded to James Ellis for his winning record in this year's Halford Hewitt Plate.

After the dinner Old Millhillians President, Christopher Maunder Taylor, a stalwart of OMGS, spoke of the society as one of the strongest elements within the OMs Club. The Captain gave an account of the Club's year: though not its most successful in terms of results, yet a full complement of

fixtures had been played by many - and as far afield as Royal Lytham and Royal Cinque Ports. The Spring meeting at Hankley Common had been particularly successful with twenty-one golfers enjoying the challenges of the splendid course. The annual Autumn weekend at Deal, which unfortunately had coincided with OMs Day, still managed twenty dedicated attendees, including newcomer Lawrence Parnes and octogenarians Mark Sellers, Roy Mills and Peter Woodroffe! Next year's dates, 28th-30th September will avoid the clash. NB Old Millhillian golfers are encouraged to join Royal Cinque Ports as Public School members, giving them favourable green fee rates in perpetuity. Under twenty-threes are reminded that the Club has funds to subsidise them in OMGS meetings and matches.

The speeches concluded with a report from the School's Director of Golf, Dean Halford, who was accompanied by Golf captain Will Cheng and David Fox. Dean reported on the sports continuing success at Mill Hill, the new London Golf Academy and the Autumn Tour to Vilamoura in the Algarve. Finally the President made presentations to the winners and runners up of the various major competitions:

Matchplay Foursomes: Sam Harvey and



Colin Nunn beat Anthony Ward and Frank Ward 4/3. Matchplay Singles: Anthony Ward beat Elliot Hamilton. Marnham Cup: Frank Ward 37 pts, Jeremy Galloway 36pts. Kentish Foursomes: Gordon Mizner and Geoffrey Vero 34pts, Frank Ward and Christopher Maunder Taylor 31 pts. Members of Parliament Cup: Paul Reik and Isaac Nyameke 33, Jeremy Galloway and Sam Harvey 33 pts. Scratch (Vero trophy): Frank Ward, runner up Joey Carr. The Northern Cup: Paul Reik 32 pts, runner up Sam Harvey 30.

Finally a reminder that the Spring tour to North Devon takes place from the 27th-30th May, 2012, but do get in touch immediately with me (John Hawkins) if you are interested in playing.

John Hawkins (Captain)

Totteridge Millhillians Cricket Club

The season began in drought conditions, firstly on a memorable pre-season tour to Spain, followed by an incredibly dry spell in April/May.

Once again, TMCC 1st XI finished comfortable winners in Division 1 of the Saracens Herts League. As expected, former New Zealand player, James Marshall, shone with bat and ball. Skipper, Shaun O'Brien, led the bowling attack, well supported by Asif Sutaria and Hasan Mahmood. Vishal Bhimjiyani occasionally turned his arm over, and contributed well with bat too, demonstrating his versatility as an excellent all-rounder. Justin Le Fort's inclusion in the side over the past 2 seasons has provided some welcome stability in the batting line-up. The 2nd and 3rd XIs both managed respectable mid-table finishes whilst the 4th XI struggled towards the latter part of the season, finishing just outside the relegation zone. The Colts section continues to grow; we are hoping to have in place as head of colts coaching next season a well known former England cricketer.

Winter nets begin in the New Year. Justin Le Fort has been appointed 1st XI Captain for next season and Vishal Bhimjiyani Club Captain, both OMs. Shaun O'Brien has stepped down after 5 years as skipper: Shaun has done a tremendous job during his captaincy, leading the side in successive years to become Division 1 champions. We are delighted that John Emburey, Middlesex and England, is to become player/coach next season. For further club news/information, or to contact us about joining, please go to the club website at totteridgemillhillians.com.

Stewart Wernham (1974-79)





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For further information contact:
Noyan Nihat (Collinson 82-88)

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If so, read the novel LORD OF THE LIGHTNING, written by David Butler (Scrutton 1948-54). Find out how a visitor, Pallas Athene, likes the architecture and why a NATO task force launches an attack on the school.

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The Club has a facebook page which you can join; type in ‘Old Millhillians Club’ in the search box.

We will advertise events and information on the Facebook site so please take a look.

News & Views

We would like to hear your news and views. Feel free to contact the Club Office with news and photos about your achievements, interesting stories and anecdotes!

Please contact Shalaka on: 020 8906 7949
sk@millhill.org.uk