



Carlton le Willows Grammar School INVITATION

Following the success of the Reunion of 29th April last year, it was suggested that a Society be formed to promote further reunions and other social events for former members of the Grammar School. It was also suggested that the Society have a newsletter. A preliminary meeting of interested parties took place on 20th April 1996 to discuss these matters. At this meeting a number of proposals were put forward and there is to be a general meeting to confirm or amend these proposals.

You are invited to the first general meeting of the Society starting at 12 noon on the 7th September 1996, at which the following agenda will be discussed.

AGENDA

- The names which should be given to the Society and its newsletter (provisionally called "Salix")
- The aims and purposes of the Society.
- Appointment of Officers.
- Adoption of a Constitution.
- Financing.
- Organisation of future reunions and social events.

If you wish to attend the meeting, would you please write, promptly, to Janet Briars at 7, Buckingham Road, Sandiacre, Nottingham, NG10 5PP, enclosing a stamped, self addressed envelope. When we know how many people wish to attend, a suitable venue (in the Nottingham area) will be advised to those concerned.

Following the general meeting, the elected officers and any volunteers wishing to assist will hold a committee meeting to work out details of how to proceed. It is estimated that a membership subscription of £5 or £10 annually may be necessary to fund future events and the newsletter. This will be decided at the meeting.

At the preliminary meeting there were volunteers to act as officers of the Society, at least temporarily until final decisions are taken at the general meeting. (It is intended that there would be annual general meetings in future at which various matters, including election of officers, would be dealt with). The volunteers are as follows.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman: | David Carnell |
| Secretary: | Jan Briars |
| Treasurer: | Margaret Jordan |
| Membership Secretary: | Kath Hardisty |
| Social Secretary: | Val Hunter |
| Newsletter Editor: | Alan Streater |

Other volunteers have offered to assist the above. Additional officers may be appointed if the general meeting decides this is necessary.

You may nominate someone else for any of these posts, if you can obtain the signature of a seconder. (The nominee should also sign to indicate willingness to stand). The nominee should ideally attend the meeting. Any nominations should be notified to Jan Briars.

**SALIX : The newsletter of the Carlton le
Willows Grammar School Society
Number 1 Summer 1996**

Welcome to Salix. This is YOUR newsletter and its contents will reflect your wishes as far as possible. You might want to send in details of yourself, your family, life after school, anecdotes, memories of the school, details of your hobbies and interests and anything else you would like to share with other members. At this stage we have no idea how much interest there might be in this newsletter and how much material people might want to send for inclusion in it. Limitations of space may prevent us from including everything you send but we shall do our best to represent everyone who writes. We may have to edit submissions and we hope there will not be too much disappointment over anything we are forced to omit due to lack of space. Time and cost are likely to limit us to only two editions annually, but we shall see.

Any material you wish to publish in Salix should be sent to the editor. The editor for the time being is Alan Streather, 34, Lawson Avenue, Tiddington, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7BT. Tel. (home) 01789 294863.

In this newsletter is an invitation to the first general meeting of the Society. Following this, we shall issue a general invitation for former members of the school to join the Society, for which a subscription will be announced. Those who join will then be advised of future reunions or other social events and will receive future editions of the newsletter, should there be sufficient interest to sustain this. Reunions may also be advertised in the media, as before: the manner in which future events might be publicised is one of the issues to be discussed at the general meeting.

This issue of Salix includes some autobiographical details from a number of former scholars. You might want to write to the editor with information about yourselves on similar lines or you might want to send something quite different: it's up to you. Obviously we are constrained by the laws relating to libel and copyright but we shall endeavour to publish what we can!

The editor possesses the School magazines for the years 1962 - 1971, with the exception of 1966.

When printing a member's item in Salix, it might be fun to include from those magazines any extracts relevant to that person (if we can spot anything).

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OBITUARY - Christine Carnell

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of David's wife. Christine was closely involved with David in organising last year's reunion. We hope to be able to include a tribute to Christine in the next newsletter and extend our sympathy to David and his family.

Tim Marshall (1957 -1964)

"Despite attending the L.S.E. in the mid 1960s, I failed to become a full blown student revolutionary. This failure was compounded by starting my first job (in Paris) 10 days after the end of the May - June riots of 1968 and an attempt to protest at the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia later that year met a less than polite rebuff from the C.R.S.

From the sublime to the ridiculous led to a job in Birmingham and, after a few hiccups, to a lectureship in medical statistics in the medical school. After 18 years proving the Peter Principle, I managed to obtain promotion at the first time of asking. For the last few years I've been moonlighting on various Whitehall committees (it's a great break from work) and even found myself inside Buck House receiving a medal from a nice late - middle aged lady.

The University was rash enough to make me acting head of department, but after 2 years thought better of it and decided to appoint a proper head of department instead."

Tim has omitted a few facts and I thought I might embarrass him by repeating them here. I can remember Tim as the Head Boy the year I started. Ed.

Tim worked for the O.E.C.D. in Paris then went to Birmingham Medical School. In 1972 he had a climbing accident. In 1978 he won a Churchill Fellowship to study outdoor and adventure activities for disabled people, in the U.S.A.

Tim once held the British Wheelchair marathon record and was responsible for getting the wheelchair section established in the London Marathon - an achievement of which he is justifiably proud. In 1986, Tim organised an expedition to cross Europe (from Istanbul to London) by wheelchair.

Tim married Caroline in 1987.

Tim has been on various Whitehall working parties and committees connected with physical education and sport. He is currently a member of the G.B. Sports Council and is also to be a member of the English Sports Council later this year.

In the 1993 New Year's Honours list, Tim was awarded the M.B.E. He is now Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Health & Epidemiology at the Medical School, University of Birmingham.

Stuart Andrews (1960 -1965)

"I joined form 3T after two years at a secondary modern school. I took an interest in many school activities including drama (e.g. Sweeney Todd), athletics and whilst an A level woodwork student helped make the school scrummage machine.

On leaving school I joined the Civil Service and have now reached the grade of principal in H.M. Customs & Excise. I returned to Nottingham about 14 years ago and currently have two teenage daughters attending Carlton le Willows Comprehensive School."

(I remember Stuart well in the title role of that excellent production of Sweeney Todd. That raucous laugh haunts me still - Ed.)

A few observations about Stuart(Ed.)

The school magazine for 1962 records the fact that, in the school play 'Play of the Yorkshire Shepherds', "S. Andrews as Mak the villainous sheep-stealer, worked hard to achieve a positive identification with the character he was portraying." *(Good training for the Customs & Excise? - Ed.)*

1963 - the school magazine tells us Stuart "gave a very good performance as Bottom (in A Midsummer Night's Dream), successfully displaying his self-centredness and delighting the audience in the process." *(Perhaps you should have made a career on the stage Stuart, after such rave reviews - Ed.)*

Extract from the School magazine for 1964. Stuart, writing the summary of the year for Carnarvon House, included the following comment.

“However, in spite of a brave effort in the Drama with scenes from ‘Pygmalion’, Bardolf were fortunate in gaining first place.” (*Bardolf weren’t fortunate, Stuart, we always were the best House - Ed.*)

Carnarvon’s ‘Scenes from Pygmalion’

Leading on from the above, another reference to Carnarvon’s Scenes from ‘Pygmalion’ mentions that ‘the bath scene was received enthusiastically by the male portion of the audience.’ (*I don’t remember this and I feel I ought to. If anyone can recall this and can describe it - i.e. who was doing what in the bath, I feel sure it would evoke happy memories for someone - Ed.*)

Alan Streather (1963 - 1970)

“Although I graduated in Biochemistry (from Hull University), I was not a very good biochemist. A clue to this was a self diagnosis during a practical class in which I decided I was suffering from a rare tropical disease which should have killed me in 12 days. I was not sorry to be proven wrong. I chose a career in insurance for reasons which are too irrational to explain. Why I should have chosen to work with numbers, given my struggles with maths. at school is beyond me. (Does anyone remember the algebraic equation the then Miss Rochester showed us ca. 1965 by means of which it was possible to prove that $4=2$? I have spent years trying to recall this as it would be a most useful way of defeating any argument based on numbers).

During my career I have worked in Birmingham, Bristol, London and Stratford upon Avon. The variety of things I have seen people doing for a living has been an endless source of fascination for me. I have seen inside car factories, iron foundries, a lollipop factory (a sticky experience) and backstage at the Bristol Hippodrome during a production of ‘Winnie the Pooh’ (where the sight of grown men dressed as fluffy squirrels and bunny rabbits swigging from beer cans and smoking cigarettes, between scenes, was quite disconcerting). At a record factory I met people who spent their working lives listening to records being played backwards because it was easier to detect faults that way. I have had several interesting encounters with guard dogs, have had to try and act nonchalantly while inspecting an (occupied) undertaker’s parlour and had to perform such onerous tasks as visiting a zoo and walking along Teignmouth pier, all in the line of duty.

Not wishing to waste my education, I have been travelling the world - from Peru to Pakistan, from

Iceland to Nepal - in search of a place where the Latin for ‘are the farmers afraid of the soldiers’ arrows, O son of my master’s servant?’ is a useful phrase to know.

Actually, I shall always be grateful to that gallant band of staff who tried so valiantly to teach me so many things. More of it became useful in later life than I might have imagined when I was still at school.”

David Thorpe (1958 - 1963)

“To say I was not one of the Willows’ star pupils would be an understatement. I think I came under the category of ‘also ran’, with my reports containing permanent comments ‘must try harder’ and ‘too easily distracted’, as I daydreamed about playing football for Notts. County and cricket for England. However, I am proud to have been one of the select few and have some wonderful memories, including trips to the Rome Olympics and Stolzenfels in Germany and fondly remember many of the friendships, three of which I have continued to this day - Trevor Penson, Geoff ‘Ben’ Martin and Dale Sharp.

Although an academic failure, I have survived post school life very happily, spending much of my working life as a ‘rep.’ in the grocery trade (26 years with Plumrose Ltd.)(*Are they the people who made those cans of meat with the key you had to wind round to open them, which always broke just before you could easily remove the top? Sorry, I’m gibbering - Ed.*)

I am now a self-employed Sales Agent working for Imperial Tobacco and several companies connected with the Licensed trade. I have been married for 25 years to Jill (not quite the girl next door, but from just down the road) and have two children - Simon (20) and Francesca (19), plus one Border Collie. We have lived in the Lincoln area for 25 years but still regularly visit Carlton and Gedling.

I have remained a Notts. County supporter since I was about 9 and still, along with my daughter, watch about 50% of their home games plus a few away. I also play tennis and badminton and am interested in genealogy which has given me a fresh interest in general history - Mr. Makins, is it too late to start again?!

I look forward, through the newsletter and the further planned reunions to re-establishing contact with many of those names that were part of my '5 years'".

Janet Briars (nee Buckler) (1963 - 1968)

"I left school at 16 and joined DHSS in order that I could get days off work to play hockey! I later represented the Civil Service at hockey, having already been a member of various county squads since the age of 15.

I have now been married for 24 years and have 2 children, Nicholas who is 17 and studying 'A' levels and Rosalind who is 22 and got married at Easter and is living near Leeds.

For the last 5 years I have worked as a Library Assistant at the Nottingham Trent University at the City Campus. I still have a very keen interest in sport, but only as a spectator watching Nick play cricket or football.

At various times over the years I have been a Parish Councillor, Secretary of the Playgroup and Treasurer of the W.I. in a small village in Lincolnshire where a certain Mr. ('Basher') Bates was a near neighbour. More recently I was Secretary of the Notts. Women's Hockey Association for 3 years."

(Looking back through school magazines, it is apparent that Janet was successful in a number of sports while at C. le W., winning 100 and 150 yard races as a junior two years in succession, with new records at both distances. She also won the long jump as a junior with a new record. This, together with her wins in the sprints made her junior Victrix Ludorum one year. (I just love the school's precision in using the feminine of the Latin - a sign of a bygone age, perhaps). Janet became Victrix Ludorum again as an 'intermediate' and featured in the hockey and tennis teams for several years. She was successful in South Notts. and County athletics. Ed.)

Margaret Jordan (nee Pitchfork) (1955 - 1957).

"I attended Carlton le Willows from September 1955 until July 1957 when my family moved away from the Nottingham area.

On leaving school I joined the Civil Service, Inland Revenue department, where I have worked in various jobs and locations for 36 years. At present I head a team responsible for examination of business and company accounts, enquiry and investigation

work, complex personal taxation matters and have responsibility for the office budget. I am also co-ordinating Self Assessment matters in my local office.

I have been married for almost 30 years and my husband is also a Civil Servant. We have no children.

We live in a village 7 miles south of York and both take an active part in village life. I am chairperson of the local history society and of the Victorian Street Fair Committee. For 17 years I was treasurer of a branch of Save the Children Fund in West Yorkshire, a supporter and active fund raiser for that charity.

My interests are many and varied but chiefly gardening, travel, music and the arts, wine appreciation, all aspects of France and of the French lifestyle. This last interest developed at an early age following the school trip to Quimper!!"

Kath Hardisty (nee Clark) (1966 - 1973)

"I left Carlton le Willows the year the school became Comprehensive. I trained as a bilingual secretary in Torquay, where I met my husband, Malcolm, who was a naval officer in training at Dartmouth. We married in Gedling church in the heatwave of '76 and settled in the Portsmouth area, where I worked for Brittany Ferries.

Our first daughter, Rachel, was born in December 1980. We were in the throes of moving to Plymouth when Malcolm was posted to the Falklands. Happily, he returned safely (but others on his ship were not so fortunate) and he retired from the Royal Navy shortly after. He joined the City of London police and we moved, yet again, to our present home in Basildon, Essex, where Rebecca was born in 1983.

I was happy to be a full-time mum but busied myself taking an Open University degree, 'A' level Law and learning Dutch in my spare time. I worked part-time for the Youth Service and Probation Service. Currently I work as a clerical assistant for Essex County Council.

I am still in touch with a number of friends from C.le W.and it was wonderful to meet them and many more, at the reunion last year. I sincerely hope we will all meet again next year and that, in the meantime, we can trace even more long lost friends.”

Roger Pikett (a founder pupil of 1953)

“I wonder what happened to ‘Prof’? He was known at Carlton le Willows as a bit of a poet, a bit of a musician, a bit of a photographer, as quite a good ballroom dancer (though I only discovered that last year at the reunion) and a bit of a big - head. He vanished in 1961 when his body was shipped to the Victoria University of Manchester. Not much has been heard of him since, though there have been brief sightings in London, Wembley, Cannes, Billericay and a Glyndebourne video . Most of the time he’s been disguised as a loyal public sector servant working quietly within the cloistered confines (ha!) of the BBC.

‘Prof’ arrived at Carlton le Willows with the nickname, from the Priory Road County Primary School. At Priory Road, ‘Prof’ was more of a mick-name, given on account of talking ‘posh’ (the family had just come up from Surrey), in long, complicated sentences and thinking he knew everything - unlike proper kids who read the Beano and liked to go scrumping. It was still a mick-name at the Henry Mellish, where the founder boys were parked for a year and where I wrote a long, complicated essay on the prospect of co-education and how I wasn’t going to be tamed by having cissy girls around.

I was wrong, of course. In about week two of the real le Willows, we were asked to write essays on our first impressions of our new school. I was smitten by the girls and in particular one who seemed to walk in beauty like the night etc. and certainly read more than the Beano. I thought about including her in my essay but chickened out. She didn’t though. I appeared in her script as ‘a rather shy, portly little boy who had obviously just been given a pocket watch. He walked around the playground talking to nobody and consulting it at every opportunity’. (*Roger does not name the writer : if she is reading this, I wonder if this is the first she knew of being the object of Roger’s admiration? Ed.*)

That tamed me very nearly permanently - was I going to lose the ‘Prof’ tag only to be known as the ‘White Rabbit’? Well, no: I recovered a bit and ‘Prof’ became something of an endearment. I had *my* essays read out quite often, too. I later had one

of *my* poems used as a study for the A - level Literature class, which *she* didn’t and *I* wasn’t even *in* the class. So there.

Manchester was rather a disaster. I couldn’t gain admission to a hall of residence because I behaved like the White Rabbit at interviews and wasn’t any good at sport, so I trawled through a succession of ‘digs’ which could have made an early novel except that Kingsley Amis had already written it. Actually, my first bed was in the Manchester Royal Infirmary where I was suspected of having undulant (glandular) fever and of being 61 years old. I moved from there to an upstairs flat in Moss Side sharing with a fussy cove who thought I was too untidy to live with, a fierce landlord with two even fiercer corgis and a nymphomaniac wife who came upstairs and undressed for us (I was the Treasurer of the University Photographic Society and my flatmate was the chairman). I ran - I wasn’t going to risk any more trips to the Infirmary.

On graduation, I had the choice of working as a trainee engineer for Ericsson’s Telephones, thanks to my degree, or for the BBC as a Studio Manager thanks to my le Willows-acquired skills in French, Music and possibly writing pastiche Goon Show scripts with David Ball and others. Mr. Stamper (‘Ike’ as he then was) told me there really wasn’t any choice and he was right. I’ve worked for the BBC ever since.

For 6 years I was a radio Studio Manager, working on all the shows from Top of the Pops through to Radio Newsreel and finishing as a classical music Studio Manager As an Outside Broadcast balance engineer I attended 6 professional football matches at Wembley: the 1966 World Cup series, including the final when England won. But no, I didn’t see the ball being pinched.

I was married in 1967 to Elizabeth Jones from Melton Mowbray. We’re still married, which today seems to be something of a miracle: I hope I deserve it. We rented a flat Shepherd’s Bush and I developed a sideline as a printer of stationery.

Studio Managers enjoy life a lot, but they aren't paid a fortune and I found my intended career path into radio production blocked by one of the re-organisations the BBC suffers regularly. At the same time, we were suffering from a computer based scheduling system which committed all the crimes such systems are regularly accused of: it continued to schedule 'Mrs. Dale's Diary' for a year after it was taken off the air and in 1970 refused to work at all, believing the year to be 196~. I thought I could do better than that - programming was one of the few things I did really well at Manchester, where I had worked on Atlas the (then) largest and fastest computer in the world. So I swapped Studio Management for Business Consultancy then Systems Analysis.

It was, on balance, a good move. Computing was a real adventure: most things hadn't been done before and where they had it wasn't hard to do them better because the technology improved with every month. It's been like that ever since - the computer I used to type this is far more powerful than Atlas was, yet it costs less than a hi-fi and I could carry it in a briefcase.

I developed several generations of manpower and programme scheduling applications for BBC Television, in 1972 designed a programme identification system still in use today and was the project manager of teams developing software for most aspects of the broadcasting business and all kinds of computer from mainframe to PC. I've lectured to university groups and worked with Ph.D. students developing early forms of the 'relational' databases now in common use.

I've only been called 'Prof' without prompting once - by a group of French government I.T. specialists at a conference in Cannes, not for any professional skill, I think, but because I spoke French well enough for them to understand. Thank you, Miss Squires.

Do you remember Tom Timms? He was the iconoclastic neo-beatnik jazz saxophonist with the impish face who revolutionised musical life at le Willows, who taught me to improvise and on whom I'm convinced the Muppet Show saxophonist was modelled. (Someone at the reunion claimed he was the model for the drummer, Animal, but that was unfair - Tom's sense of rhythm was much better). Well, I was introduced a few years ago to one Stuart Timms - a soberly pin-striped management consultant and every inch an I.T. professional and I never suspected that he was Tom's younger brother, until he told me. Stuart and I tried but failed to

persuade Tom to come to last year's reunion. I did discover that Tom has been teaching music in Bristol all these years.

My efforts in introducing the Music department at the BBC to personal computing (*you mean like 'Beethoven's Ninth Database' or 'Mozart's Horn Concerto No.2 in 8 megabytes'?* Ed.) earned Elizabeth and I an invitation to join the audience for a BBC recording of Strauss' Arabella at Glyndebourne. It was the musical experience of a lifetime. Last year we found a video of the performance: there we are at the end of the first act, centre screen, elegantly attired like the toffs we would like to be and applauding for all we're worth.

We have two children: Robin (23) and Hazel (21). Elizabeth worked for a succession of Members Agencies for the Lloyd's insurance market and Robin works for Lloyd's itself, helping to answer the Chairman's correspondence. (*Has he come across my 1973 job application yet?* Ed.) Hazel is a poet and doesn't have a job at the moment. I still play the piano and the viola. I was chairman for a while of the Billericay Arts Association, organising music events and Elizabeth was the Publicity Officer. The BBC have made me redundant and I am setting up as a freelance I.T. consultant. Maybe I'll draw on my le Willows heritage and try to write something somebody will publish.

Some of the people I'd like to have met at the reunion didn't go - the author of the 'White Rabbit' essay for instance. Before the reunion, I was afraid my old friends might seem faded and withered now, or no longer my sort of folk, but they were not. The girls who excited me then still looked as they did and broadcast the same magic and, being grown up, I could now dare to talk to them. The boys whose abilities I admired and whose company I enjoyed still radiated cheerful competence but now boasted achievements to match. The teachers who were still with us still had their authority and their comfortable charm. I hadn't expected all that and it gave me fresh hope for the future. Thank you, David, for bringing it about and all of you for being who you are."

Rosemary Telling (nee Palfree) (1954 - 59)

“After leaving Carlton le Willows at Christmas 1959, I took a job in the laboratories at Boots, Nottingham. Three months later, I joined the staff of Nottingham University Library as a junior library assistant, moving on again in 1962 to work in the Nottinghamshire County Library Education and Youth Department. In 1964, shortly after becoming the Branch Librarian for Radcliffe on Trent and Bingham County Branch Libraries, I was married to Michael. We set up home in Radcliffe on Trent where we still live.

We have two children - Jacqueline, who is now a nurse and James, who is still in further education.

While James was a baby, I commenced a degree course in Science with the Open University. The fact that I completed this will no doubt come as a great surprise to my science teacher Mrs. Denne: ‘28% Works steadily but finds this subject difficult’ A.D. (April 1959 report).

On my return to work, I decided to specialise in school librarianship and took several temporary posts in Nottinghamshire schools before going to Loughborough University to do a B.A. in Information and Library Studies. I now manage the learning resource centre at a comprehensive school in Nottingham and support the delivery of information skills throughout the curriculum.

I really enjoyed meeting up with so many friends from the past at the reunion last April. May this be the first of many such happy occasions. Thank you, David, for all your hard work.”

John Williamson (1957 - 1964)

“After leaving school in July 1964, following two very enjoyable but totally unproductive years in the sixth form, I moved on to West Midlands Teacher Training College in Walsall (along with chemistry teacher Ed Murray - him of the famous sneer) and completed 3 years teacher training. I decided to return to Nottingham to look for a job having been none too impressed with some of the schools in the darker reaches of Darlaston and West Bromwich!

I began my teaching career with classes of 52 children in the first two years - you should hear staff moan these days if they have over 30 in a class. During the next 12 years I graduated through the ranks eventually ending up with a deputy headship in a primary school in East Bridgford. It was whilst I was there that I was approached by one of the parents with the offer of a job with Mansfield

Brewery. Too good to miss - free beer as well as getting paid - and so I found myself appointed manager of the brand new Manor Squash and Leisure Club in Ilkeston. The Brewery was investing heavily in leisure at that time and the club had gyms, saunas, bars, restaurants, a large shop and jacuzzis as well as 10 squash courts.

I had married Christine the year after we began teaching and so, after 13 years, the arrival of our son some 9 months after taking the job with the Brewery was immediately put down to the aphrodisiac properties of Mansfield Bitter. We spent two very happy years at the club but the pull of the children and the classroom was great and I returned to teaching to start at the bottom again. Happily it was perhaps the right time to move back and I am now the Head Teacher at Stanhope School in Gedling - a large Primary and Nursery School just below Mapperley Golf Course. We have just the one son and live in Farnsfield, near Southwell.”

(I remember Ed Murray - although I didn't know his name was Ed until now - he was 'Mr.' or 'Sir' to me. One of his habits, I recall, was to make boys who had incurred his displeasure squat for a few minutes in a cupboard under the bench at the front of the chemistry lab. - Ed.)