

In  
harmony  
small  
things  
grow



7

# Celebrating 125 years

The Fifties

1897 – 2022

Clapham College

Clapham Old Xaverians





# 125 Years of Clapham College

## Chapter 7 - 1950 to 1960



### Happy Days at Clapham friends, football & education

The 1950s - Modern History, Clapham as a School in London. no Wars, conscription, no school fees, no wealthy [posh] parents—well maybe a few posh [and some wealthy]. But the days of the upper classes in England and all over the world sending their boys to Clapham, ended. As **Vlad** said in Chapter 6 [the Forties] more of the Old Kent Road, Camberwell and Old Kent Road boys. The Irish and the Polish swelled our ranks to 338 on roll the highest to date in the 20th Century. Very few “teaching” Xaverian Brother [more were cooks, cleaners, accountants and gardeners. There were the retired ones “upstairs” in Broadoak, that we only unearthed when their death was announced. **Brother Joseph** was still the Head, about to embark to the Missions in Africa, and then his tragic death.

The Headmaster from the “Raj” arrived in 1963, trained in Manchester and thought every boy at the College was called “**Johnny**”. **Brother Peter** was the Headmaster the majority of Clapham Old Xaverians know as their Head. Waiting beside that bell on the Headmaster patio, and taking Assemblies standing onto of the drain cover of the Washrooms and Science Labs. You might not think that was this was a suitable platform to spread “the word” to 350 boys, but Peter made it look “normal” - a “class act”.

There were still only 66 boys entering the Grammar School each year, half and half “As” and “Alphas”. Split equally into four Houses, Canterbury, Charterhouse, Walsingham and Glastonbury. I say equally, but obviously not “fairly” if you look at the sporting excellence and academic highs of one or two Houses. Did you “love” your House, or were envious of the others? The A & Alpha groups were split like North and South London; there might well have been a river dividing them. Then, **Brothers Ambrose, Christopher, Stephen, Hugh** ...and of course **Dunstan** was still there....

# 1. Was this? Is this the “Golden Age” at Clapham College?



Accumulating vast numbers of historic documents and publications produced by

Clapham, I’ve been asked what was the “best year” at the College. We all think it’s “ours”, I clearly think it’s mine in the 1960s! This historical journey has led us through half a century, so far, and although it is difficult to pick out the best “Year”. I would 100% say that the 1950s seem by far the strongest decade, the sheer numbers of high quality talent arriving at SW12 was outstanding leading to some superb students and results. Finally came the successes in the works of work.

This decade was further highlighted by those Old Xaverians who went on to play sport for the Old Boys. They built the “new” clubhouse, they were recognised as MPs and by “knighthood”. There were inventors and Company Directors and Professors and Doctors. Seven [that we know of became priests] and one, Peter Smith, become the Archbishop of Canterbury. A large group of “famous names” from the “fifties”, stay on as members of the Old Xaverians, some are still active in many of our events. They made up the majority of the Old Boys Committee and brought a level of humour and intellectualism never before seen in our Association, not forgetting that Alan Webber was there in the “fifties”.

## TABLE TENNIS

Thus far this year some thirty different Old Boys have put in an appearance at some time or other on Friday evenings and the Section has enjoyed a reasonably successful season. A number of friendly matches were arranged and the team is so far unbeaten.

### RESULTS

- v. Balham Youth Club (Away), Won 5—4.
- v. Balham Youth Club (Home), Won 10—6.
- v. Walworth Y.C. (Away), Won 5—4.
- v. A.E. Club (Home), Won 7—2.
- v. School, Won 8—1.
- v. School, Won 5—4.

Throughout the season the mainstays of the team have been T. Ennis and A. Amura, while towards the close K. Carroll emerged from semi-retirement to claim the third place. M. Hodges, B. Hodges, B. Sanders, J. Golton and M. Dunne have also made appearances in the team.

Some of the matches provided very close finishes, but none more so than the final match against the school. With two games left to play the Old Boys were losing 3—4. In the eighth game, T. Ennis, fighting back magnificently against loss of form and a dour and nerveless opponent in A. Leeder, won a close struggle 6—21, 21—18, 21—17. The final match between A. Amura and C. Luke was very exciting, Luke had shown a vastly improved form and had won both his previous matches. A terrific struggle ensued, Amura finally triumphing, only after the final set had gone to deuce; scores: 18—21, 21—10, 22—20.

P. HUGHES.

## Looking for a “Ref”?



## 2. L.C.C. official photographs of Clapham College

“Icon and Imposing” entrance to Broadoak



3. The “boys” entrance - as “unglamorous” as Broakoak was “imposing”



Ground floor - College Gym [pathetic really, the Chapel, St Joseph and the “back” of the St Francis Xavier stained glass window, removed and lost. To floor Clapham 5 Alpha class [scene of many high jinks].

4. Broakoak and a truly "disappointing" photo of "Hollywood" - why "2-D"?



5. The LCC Architect required these photographs to assess any structural work required at the College, as it moved [Post War] from a private boarding school to an “adopted LCC school” with no fees [or borders] and receiving central funding.



I only waited in this hallway for my College interview, caning meant, no delay, straight in, rapid justice! The “bonus” was NOT to be recorded in the Caning Log Book

6. There is a copy of the 1953 Queen Elizabeth Souvenir Brochure in the College Archive. There is a Clapham link, the boys at the College made a decorative manuscript and it was presented to the Queen. + RHP Elizabeth +





# 7. 1953 Clapham College creates Manuscript for the Queen's Coronation

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

Dr. JOHN BROWN, MBE, MC  
Education Officer

TELEPHONE WATLING 3000  
EXTENSION 495.

REPLIES TO BE SENT TO THE  
EDUCATION OFFICER, QUOTING

BOJ S.



THE COUNTY HALL  
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE  
LONDON, S.E.1

23rd June, 1953.

Dear Mr. Booth,

Thank you for your letter of the 15th instant, sent with the illuminated manuscript done by the pupils as a Coronation Project. This is an extraordinary piece of craft work which has been highly commended by everyone who has seen it. The College should be complimented on such a masterpiece and particularly the 60 pupils who combined to produce it. I should like, too, to congratulate the staff concerned in the conception and instruction.

The Chairman of the Education Committee has seen it and would like me to add his congratulations.

With regard to your suggestion that the Council should accept this as a gift in the hope that it might possibly reach Her Majesty, I have not yet had an opportunity to discuss this with the Clerk of the Council who has only just returned from a visit abroad. It happens that Her Majesty the Queen will be at County Hall for the Chairman's Reception on 6th July, and I hope the Clerk of the Council will agree that the manuscript should be on display then for Her Majesty to see, and other distinguished visitors. I will also take up with the Ceremonials Officer the question of its ultimate destination, as the willingness of Her Majesty to accept the gift would first have to be obtained.

In the meantime I hope you will accept the Council's thanks for the gift, and the assurance that it will be appropriately displayed and later I hope to be able to communicate with you further about the possibility of presenting it to Her Majesty.

With kind regards.

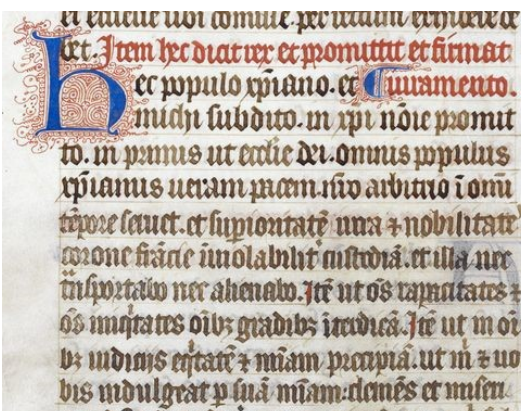
Yours sincerely,

C.J. Booth, Esq., M.A.,  
Headmaster,  
Clapham College,  
Nightingale Lane,  
S.W.4.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Brown'.



## 8. The story behind the 1953 manuscript



In 1953 as the country prepared itself for the Coronation of Elizabeth II. Schools all over the country prepared gifts for Her Majesty. This was post-WW2 money was not in great supply, "the gifts" of the children were "Art and Crafts". Clapham College produced a manuscript constructed by 60 boys

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

21st November, 1953.

Dear Sir Howard,

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 19th November.

I have laid before The Queen the illuminated manuscript produced by the pupils of Clapham College in honour of the Coronation. Her Majesty is very pleased to accept this and would be grateful if an expression of her thanks could be conveyed to those who produced this beautifully illuminated collection.

I also gave to The Queen the model of terrace houses now being built by the Council, which Her Majesty is pleased to accept for her children.

The Queen would be grateful if you would express to the Council her appreciation of the kind thought which has prompted them to send these gifts to her.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) EDWARD FORD

Sir Howard Roberts, C.B.E.

I'd love to say the boys of the "fifties" came up with some great stories and anecdotes for this magnificent production, however, most didn't remember it!. Those with a vague notice remember "colouring in" something for the Coronation! I even discovered a list of boys, who were involved, that was forwarded to the Palace ...any "glimmers / shafts of light"? **PTO**

## 9. The "Artists" of Clapham College 1953 who impressed the Queen

Abrines R.	21-6-35	Geoch P.A.	17-10-36
Allain P.	20-10-32	Geuter G.B.	22-8-35
Allain M.G.	17-9-37	Gunn P.J.J.	23-8-36
Atkinson C.G.	9-2-38	Haggart J.	26-12-38
Assirati D.G.	13-11-37	Hart M.J.	8-8-35
Baines T.P.	28-6-37	Harris G.H.	8-12-37
Barratt L.	22-10-36	Hawtherne M.F.	31-10-36
Barratt. P.	27-12-37	Higgins T.P.T.	16-12-36
Barry J.	3-10-37	Helden J.O.P.P.	12-3-35
Barry P.J.	8-12-36	Holehan B.J.	3-3-35
Barthelemew B.	13-10-37	Hurd P.	13-1-37
Bede A.A.	25-4-36	Murley M.W.	21-12-35
Berkeley R.	26-1-38	Hynds P.G.	29-4-37
Boley T.A.P.	4-5-36	Iles A.J.P.	4-4-36
Blackburn G.A.P.	15-7-35	James B.P.	26-6-37
Buckley D.	9-8-37	Johnson P.M.	18-3-37
Brown A.G.	17-9-37	Jones P.F.	5-11-37
Brown P.C.	17-1-37	Jones M.C.	11-12-37
Bucher P.	21-10-36	Juby T.	24-12-36
Burnham A.J.	2-7-37	Kansen P.	2-3-37
Culvert E.G.	1-8-36	Keen J.M.	28-3-37
Carter J.M.	16-1-35	Keenan J.	30-6-37
Chapman J.	3-4-37	Kember J.E.	20-4-37
Chatfield M.	25-11-37	Kington P.J.	13-7-36
Clarke P.A.	7-6-37	Lane D.A.P.	6-9-36
Clarke D.J.	21-8-36	Lawrence B.	29-4-37
Coffey J.F.	5-11-37	Leonard G.P.	14-2-38
Conway J.G.F.	17-11-35	Lynch B.	19-11-37
Cook B.	3-3-38	McElangy M.	29-12-36
Cox A.K.	19-2-37	McTernan R.	10-11-37
Crummy H.	24-1-38	McDermott B.	28-11-35
Culvert E.G.	1-8-36	Martin S.F.	13-6-35
Davies M.	3-7-36	Massara R.	6-11-33
Du Feu. D.	7-7-35	Milford M.	6-3-38
Deasy J.	17-1-36	Mountain R.	12-3-38
Davis L.	3-6-36	Mulpeter M.	23-1-37
Dixon P.J.	29-5-37	Nash J.	26-6-37

Roads E.	12-10-37
Rogers B.	2-1-38
Rezanski J.	24-7-36
Rosati K.J.	25-11-37
Rewles D.M.	31-8-36
Sanders B.P.H.	4-12-35
Serebecbero M.	4-1-38
Scarlett T.W.C.	28-9-36
Scott C.J.	16-6-36
Seaton D.S.	27-11-36
Sheridan J.A.	7-5-36
Slattery D.M.	31-7-36
Smith B.M.	21-8-36
Smith T.J.	10-8-37
Speer B.B.	6-6-36
Stallion A.A.	7-11-36
Stevens B.F.	10-9-35
Swan C.M.	18-10-35
Tee J.	14-5-34
Tomazina R.J.P.	10-10-36
Weir M.J.	24-3-37
Whelan M.	15-2-38
Whitehouse M.	16-2-37
Wilding B.K.	22-3-36
Williams B.C.	23-10-36
Wood B.M.	31-5-35
Walsh P.C.	25-1-38a

The names of  
the Boys who  
drew the  
illustrations  
on the  
manuscript that  
was presented to  
Queen  
Elizabeth  
before her  
Coronation in  
1953 - some are  
still COXA  
MEMBERS!

## Clapham College

Fiftieth Anniversary 1947



Concordia res parvae crescunt

Irrelevant and not in a  
logical place, but a nice  
"space-filler"

1897-1947

The following is a faithful English translation of the original Dutch document:<sup>24</sup>

*Rules  
of the Congregation of St. Francis Xavier  
or of the Brothers called Xaverians  
for the Instruction and Education of Children*

Art. 1

*The aim of this Congregation is to promote the personal perfection of its members and the salvation of souls, especially of children of the male sex, through instruction and education in Europe and in all countries where one can live according to the spirit of the Congregation, but particularly in America.*

Art. 2

*For this purpose the members shall bind themselves by the three religious vows for life.*

Art. 3

*In the Congregation there shall be a novitiate where the members will be prepared for a determined time for their profession, which time is determined by the Constitution.*

Art. 4

*One of the members shall be the Superior so that they may be governed by the same spirit and so that he, according to the spirit of the Council of Trent, may lead the others by his example in the observance of its (the Congregation's) rules.*

Art. 5

*There shall be a Novice Master who shall be subject to the Superior and who shall direct the novices according to his orders.*

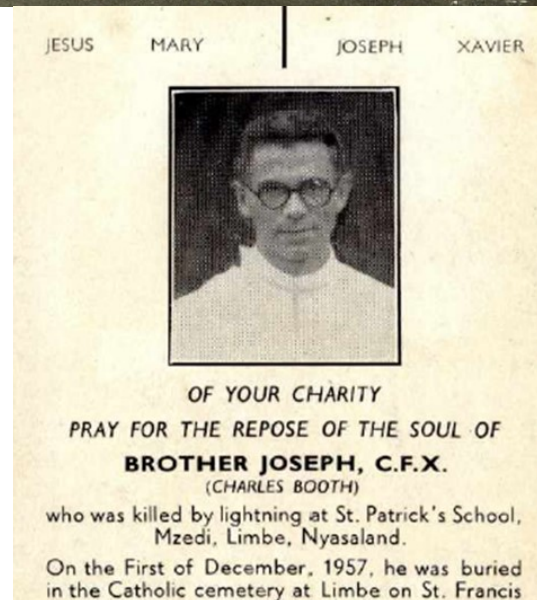
Art. 6

*Everyone shall use with the utmost zeal in the Lord the time which is prescribed to examine his conscience twice a day, as well as to pray, to meditate and to read, and also to renew often during the day the affections of the morning's meditation.*

Art. 7

*Let them, together, hear Holy Mass every day with proper devotion and, in addition, the sermon or spiritual reading when they will be performed in our church or house.*

## 11. Brother Joseph, Headteacher, Mountaineer and Missionary



Some original photographs and documents on Brother Joseph 1953 and 1957 ... a tragic story really...

My dear Parents,

The Brothers are, as you may know, essentially a Missionary Congregation and during the holidays I was appointed Headmaster of one of our African Mission Schools in Nyasaland.. I willingly accepted and I shall be leaving Clapham towards the end of October.

I thank you very deeply for the confidence you have shown me by entrusting to my care the education of your sons. It is a trust I have always held sacred and I hope and I pray that I have in no way failed you.

I ask most earnestly for the privilege of a daily remembrance in your prayers. God bless you all.

Yours very sincerely,

Brother Joseph.

## 12. More on Br. Joseph's challenge in Africa

### Pleased with road safety week

DURING Battersea's "Keep Dead off the Road" week, road safety propaganda reached 21,000 residents. And the cost, estimate Battersea Road Safety Committee totalled £292.

The most expensive single item in the campaign was the provision of a mobile cinema. It gave 4 shows to over 4,000 people, and cost £55.

A close runner-up was the hire of a projector and films. The Council paid £45 for the equipment.

Was the week a success? Yes, think the committee.

Accident figures for that month are not yet to hand, but members have reason to believe that a substantial decrease for the period has been recorded.

Many expressions of appreciation have been received lately by Mr R. J. Beckinsale, clerk to the committee, and the prime moving force



**BROTHER JOSEPH** (Mr. C. J. Booth), headmaster for three years of Clapham College, leaves this country on Sunday to take charge of a mission in Nyasaland. Brother Joseph has been at the College for nine years. On Wednesday, the Bishop of Southwark (the Rt. Rev. Cyril Cowderoy) came to bid him farewell.

Brother Joseph is a keen mountaineer and he has instilled his enthusiasm into the boys to such an extent that the college has earned a fine reputation in sporting circles. He has trained scores of boys and taken them on expeditions to many parts of the country. He has been a popular headmaster.

His task in Nyasaland will be to educate the natives and train them as teachers.

"When we have firmly established one mission we will move on to another part of the country and set up a new one," said Brother Joseph. It may well be a life's work.

Among the places where he was educated are Mayfield College, Sussex, London University, Manchester University, Loughborough Training College and the Teachers' Training College, Oxford. At Manchester, in 1944, he gained an M.A. in Administration.

On Friday, 1,350 boys and staff gathered to say goodbye to their headmaster and to make a presentation to him.

**Brother Joseph** (in white), who is giving up his post as headmaster of Clapham College, with the Archbishop of Southwark (seated) and friends at the farewell ceremony on Wednesday.

My dear Parents,

The Brothers are, as you may know, essentially a Missionary Congregation and during the holidays I was appointed Headmaster of one of our African Mission Schools in Nyasaland.. I willingly accepted and I shall be leaving Clapham towards the end of October.

I thank you very deeply for the confidence you have shown me by entrusting to my care the education of your sons. It is a trust I have always held sacred and I hope and I pray that I have in no way failed you.

I ask most earnestly for the privilege of a daily remembrance in your prayers. God bless you all.

Yours very sincerely,

Brother Joseph.

### "Random" space-filler Table Tennis Club

I was interested to read about the original table tennis club. You may know that on leaving Clapham in 1955, I ran a table tennis club in the College gym on Friday evenings. We actually entered a league (don't ask me which, somewhere in Surrey, I think) and did not do badly. **Tony Amura** was one of our star players and **Tom Ennis** may well have been another. Other members included **Dave Slattery Terry Collins Mick Hodges, Nino Caraccio** et al. Somehow we gradually morphed into a drinking club, the fore-runner (with help from the Annual Mass regulars) of The Old Fogies and now The Friday Club, **Brian Sanders** [absolutely fabulous "series"].



### 13. Brother Joseph - Missionary letter to the boys and parents

Clapham College,  
Nightingale Lane,  
S.W.4.

September 8th 1953.

My dear Parents,

The Brothers are, as you may know, essentially a Missionary Congregation and during the holidays I was appointed Headmaster of one of our African Mission Schools in Nyasaland.. I willingly accepted and I shall be leaving Clapham towards the end of October.

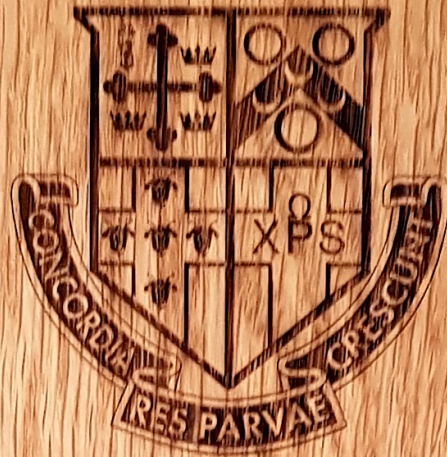
I thank you very deeply for the confidence you have shown me by entrusting to my care the education of your sons. It is a trust I have always held sacred and I hope and I pray that I have in no way failed you.

I ask most earnestly for the privilege of a daily remembrance in your prayers. God bless you all.

Yours very sincerely,

Brother Joseph.





Brother Joseph C.F. X.  
16th February 1913 - 1st December 1957



Headmaster  
Clapham College  
1949 - 1953

Born in Leytonstone, London  
Tragically killed by lightning  
at St Patrick's School,  
Limbe, Nyasaland.

Requiescat in Pace



**BROTHER JOSEPH, C.F.X.**

We have learned with deep regret of the death of Brother Joseph in Nyasaland on December 1st. He was killed with one of his African school boys when the school was struck by lightning.

Born in London, he was educated at Mayfield and entered the Xaverian Novitiate in 1930. He graduated in French at London University and later took his Master's degree at Manchester. Brother Joseph spent most of his early teaching career in Manchester and during the War years was acting headmaster. He came to Clapham College when the school was evacuated to

2

Taunton in 1944 and remained with the school on its return to Clapham. In 1949 he was appointed headmaster in which post he remained until 1953 when he went to Nyasaland as principal of St. Patrick's, Mzedi.

Besides his academic and teaching ability Brother Joseph was a very able all-round athlete with a flair for coaching and he was undoubtedly mainly responsible for raising the standard of athletics in the school from its wartime nadir until Clapham College became a name to be respected on track and field.

In the rock climbing and mountaineering world his qualities of physical and mental toughness and his powers of leadership were evident. A rock climber of far above average ability he was not in the fanatic class, he climbed for the joy of it and not as part of a physiological study in endurance. He was responsible for introducing many Manchester and Clapham Xaverians to the delights of the hills and was one of the founders of the Achille Ratti Climbing Club, where he will be remembered with affection as climber, cook, songster and raconteur extraordinary.

His great popularity amongst the boys and his success as a teacher lay in his ability to engender within the boys themselves an intelligent and topical interest in the subjects he taught. Wide reading in our own and foreign languages and his knowledge of the world of both "Top People" and the readers of the popular dailies enabled him to keep in touch with both the serious and the trivial that occupy the minds of schoolboys. His disciplinary methods were unorthodox but salutary and the resentment so often felt by schoolboys on being punished was usually absent.

It was typical of his dislike of public occasions that he should be better known to Old Boys as the master cook behind the scenes of the "Ham and Mash" suppers than as a speechifier after the annual dinner.

We who were his pupils and his friends will remember him as a man of wisdom, wit and humility, a true example of a Catholic teacher and Xaverian Brother. May he rest in peace.

## 16. 1957 "news" from the College included in Concordia

We have had the encouraging news of the de-requisitioning of Norbury as at the end of this year. Though it is obvious that the ground will need much money spent on if before it is usable as a sports ground again, it should mean that the College can look forward to full sporting activities within a reasonable time. I hope that it will mean, so far as the Association is concerned; the return of a time when, with the permission of the College; we may resume sporting activities on a pre-war scale. It is only such activities that can surely attract and hold the younger Old Boys.

### 1957 Old Boys v The College

RES PARVAE · Many thanks to those 8 hardy supporters at the Norbury stadium- the roar from those rapturous throats really inspires the sides. Actually a few more onlookers would be appreciated. The "Sussex" being in close proximity (both distance and opening time) as an added incentive. We understand that some of our more scientific members are working on a project to fit detergent sprinklers into the showers at Norbury, thus enabling copiously soapy water to cascade onto the groaning swains beneath- this, a spokesman said, was to reduce the grovelling and brawling in search of and possession of those small pieces of "all purpose" L.C.C. soap. Our correspondent was told that in exceptionally muddy circumstances, the task of expediting the soap was made even more difficult as it disguises itself as "backwoodsmen" skilled in the art of plank cutting can help out at another major step in the Clubhouse Construction campaign. Willing helpers and cheques are of course always welcome- but you will find more details later. It is with deep regret that I inform all O.Xs that the College defeated the Soccer XI 11-2 on Sunday, 24th November. This bald statement needs a little explanation, think, before the just wrath of our 11 older Old Boys descend upon Norbury and we have the heart-warming sight of many ancient and honourable campaigners girding up" once more for the battle.

To say we lost honourably is hardly true, because long before the end the members of the attack were becoming incensed with the defence's inability to hold a virile line of College sharpshooters and of course the defence were heard to mutter that the forwards weren't in the game, thus throwing all the work on them. As a member of the attack on that lamentable occasion I will refrain from commenting on where the blame lies-suffice to say none of us will ever play so badly as that again.

(In fact, we won 6-0 the week after).

Congratulations to a very useful College XI who took the 15 or so chances presented, with 11 hard hit goals. Perhaps it is a pregnant comment that the score at half-time was 2-3- maybe the rather heavy pitch and the College fitness earned their 8 goals in the second half . . . But I must not let partisan feeling enter into this, I'll conclude with comments from the Ref, "Hardly a fair test for the College "; from the captain, "A game best forgotten" and finally from a supporter, "A nice hot cup of tea anyway." **RES PARVAE**; Old Boy ties may be purchased from the Treasurer, Peter Rayland at 9/6d. and 27 /6d for a silk scarf respectively; Annual subscriptions are due from October 1st. **Bro. Julian** reports that **Mr. Thomas the tailor of Cavendish Parade**, who is the School tailor, is prepared to accept orders for **gold wire braid blazer badges** priced at about 55/- . [Natty]

**1957** Members will have noticed that the News Letters have been more frequent and better produced this year, this has been effected by securing the services of a **professional duplicating bureau [a bander]** and also by members being somewhat more forthcoming with news than hitherto, however much more news is still urgently required: Although the Club house is well under-way both labour and capital is still required if we are to complete and furnish it in the future.

## 17.1955 - please excuse the lack of chronologicity [a word?] but when were the Old Boys chronological?

**1955 BENEVOLENT FUND.** At the last AGM a lively discussion took place regarding the ultimate purpose which the Benevolent Fund should serve.

The balance of the Prisoner of War Fund be used as a reserve for benevolent purposes to be disposed at the discretion of the Committee subject to review each AGM. This fund originated during the War as a Prisoner of War Fund and proved more than adequate for the purpose. Since the War it has been possible to give some assistance in cases of need arising from those families of war dead, or for ex-prisoners of war. The Fund has a cash balance of £42 5s 8d: The Committee feel the balance should be used towards a permanent Memorial for those who lost their lives in the Second World War.

This is a question which deserves serious and thoughtful action, many people feel deeply on this matter. It will be necessary to decide on the form of any such memorial. A simple one: quite apart from any question of taste, our fund is small.

Two suggestions made so far are for a plaque (the funds we have available would purchase an attractive and dignified design) or for the provision of trophies for sports or studies to individual boys at the College. A book illustrating the type of plaque which we could afford will be available at the next AGM.

Brother Dunstan Jubilee Fund. Money collected amounted to £105/3/6d from which was deducted £11/5/- for pipes and postage including that for receipts £4/16/1d leaving £88-2-5 with its definite promise of £25 for Br. Dunstan's trip to Rome. It was decided that the remainder should be invested in 3½% War stock, which at present stood at about £63. It was further decided that the Brother's Bank should be made trustee of the fund, thus saving us additional expense. It was further agreed that we should do our utmost to obtain a plug in the speech day programme.

Incidental to the fund, the vice-chairman informed us that the school-boys had raised £20 by holding a dance in the college. Messrs Blarriet and Wright would ask us for our £25 when required. Br. Dunstan was going on an organised coach trip for a fortnight, and it was suggested that a surplus of the various moneys collected should be given to the brother for his personal expenses.

The last point under this heading concerns

this year's prize; it is apparent that we will have to foot the bill for £3.10.- ourselves: with no alternative

### Social Secretary

The secretary announced that he had provisionally booked the ballroom of the 'Comet of Hope' for the annual dance on 29th October. He had further provisionally booked at the Eccleston Hotel for the 21st Jan, or alternatively the 28th Jan, for the annual Dinner and Dance. He stated that

18. Still Active Old Xaverians after all these years



*A Date To Remember —*

**JUNE 12th 1954!**



A GRAND

**GARDEN FÊTE**

*(Organised by Knights of St. Columba and Dames of St. Joan—  
Tooting Bec)*

IN THE GROUNDS OF

**CLAPHAM COLLEGE**

*Entrance in Malwood Road, S.W.12 (side of Odeon Cinema)*

*to be opened by*

**Miss PATRICIA HAYS**

*(of Ted Ray's "Ray's a Laugh")*

*at 3 p.m.*



**GARDEN TEAS — COMPETITIONS — SIDE-SHOWS  
AND ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR**



**DISPLAYS OF COUNTRY DANCING BY THE GIRLS OF  
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, CAMBERWELL**

AND

**A TIP-TOP VARIETY SHOW BY THE  
PENQUIN CONCERT PARTY AT 7 p.m.**



*Admission to Fete*

**ADULTS 6d.**

**CHILDREN 3d.**

Printed by Hurley's, The Ritherdon Press, S.W.17.

20. Art Mark Book in the 1950s [for the whole decade!!] regular marking

<u>Sx</u>	FEB 57	JULY 57	FEB 58	JULY 58	FEB 59	JULY 59	FEB 60	NOV TEST '59	ENTERED G.C.C. 3/60
Bradford	73	79	59	51	47	F	41	48-✓	50
Cannon	40	49	35	15	35	F			
Donnelly	79	59	57	49	50	F			
Huckhurst	a		60	G.C.C.	59	P			
McCann	85	74	72	56	60	P			
Maguire	chem.		chem	chem	53	F			
Murphy	85	83	73	69	67	P			
Quirk	40	76	67	53	57	F			
Snee	50	75	44	37	47	F			
Streeter	50		37	G.C.C.	52	P			
Wilson	67	80	64	52	64	P			
Wyatt	77	61	42	47	46	F			

<u>Ax</u>	FEB 57	JULY 57	FEB 58	JULY 58	FEB 59	JULY 59	FEB 60	NOV TEST 59	ENTERED G.C.C. 3/60
Benson	88	75	73	80	a	62	54	56	-✓ 45
Carlton	85	58	62	36	52	70	42	45	?
Chaney	47	71	39	49	a	51	15	15	?
Dyer	46	57	56	52	43	44	30	39	?
Gowan	62	42	40	39	40	38	20	32	
Hurst	86	79	52	57	57	68	60	59	-✓ 55
McGowan	65	64	47	46	47	40	50		-✓ 45
McGuire	52	50	42	40	30	56	25	27	
Miller	79	51	45	43	46	53	39		
Newberry	84	61	65	56	54	50	37	61	-✓ 45
Shaw	77	74	80	82	a	73	LEFT		
Devlin	a	48	37	65	46	63	46	46	-✓ 45
Collins	84	67	47	67	chem	chem	55	40	-✓ 50
Powell				chem	chem	chem	den	10	

23. Excuse the word "BUM" - but some Bum Artists in this decade!

	FEB 57	JULY 57	FEB 58	JULY 58	FEB 59	JULY 59	FEB 60	NOV TEST 59	ENTERED G.C.C. 3/60
<u>4A</u>									
Bryson	48	52	a	46	49	55	45	51	- / 50
Fitzgibbon	45	49	43	33	30	37	38	29	
Hammill	40	37	40	36	a	41	36	45	- / 50
Haynes	69	68	61	62	47	65	50	52	- / 60
Hoogson	79	a	68	58	a	59	LEFT		4 writ 134
Jones	58	67	42	23	49	52	35	34	
Kennedy	49	62	60	30	47	46	44	45	- / 45
Mallins	46	69	52	39	52	76	48	64	- / 45
Monks	44	79	a	45	LEFT				
O'Mahony	36	56	45	37	48	48	35	41	? / 45
Poner	50	57	47	20	46	57	40	41	? / 45
Smith	89	71	55	65	54	36	45	43	/ 50
Campbell	64	44	45	26	a	43	28		
Barnes	66	a	80	76	CHEM	70	75		Always Dist.
SA - H.W. 59/60									
Barnes	P	SL	C.I.	Fig	Fig	And. SL			
Benson	P	P	SL	C.					
Davlin	P								
Bradford	P								
Hammill	S.P.	SL	P	P					
Miller	P	P	SL						
Newberry	P	Part	Part						

	FEB 57	JULY 57	FEB 58	JULY 58	FEB 59	JULY 59	FEB 60	NOV TEST 59	ENTERED G.C.C. 3/60
<u>5A</u>									
Bogart	a		66	47	56	P			
Byrne	41		62	G.L.G.	66	F			- / 45
Hayes	42	15		28	37	/			
Lyons	75	49	39	36	44	F	44	31	?
McGoogan	43	46	a	38	51	F			
Pozzoni	85	73	69	44	58	P			
Montfort	47	38	LEFT			/			
Richins	chem.	-	chem	-	42	/			
Rowe	chem.	-	chem	-	45	/			
Tierney	64.	47	51	47	36	F			
Walters	chem.	-	chem	-	48	/			
White	66	26	47	47	40	F	34	51	?

## 22. Concordia 1955-56 prints the "School Diary"

### SCHOOL DIARY 1955-56

September 12th was the day school broke out for the 1955/56 year with 347 boys in attendance. School opened on a cheerful note; on the notice board was the announcement from the Ministry of Education that two C.C. boys had won State Scholarships. They were Brian Sanders (Languages) and John Nash (Mathematics). If the memory of the reader goes back as far as last year's School Notes he will remember reading, "Sanders has returned for another year to have a shot at a State Scholarship." His aim was good. Sanders is now at King's; Nash at University College. Besides the scholarship winners there are four boys at the University of London. Coffey, Lopianowski and Nowak are at University College; Brian Smith is at Queen Mary College.

The School Captain was A. T. Corish. The House Captains were Canterbury, P. Gooch; Charterhouse, P. Kanssen; Glastonbury, M. C. Jones; Walsingham, H. Doyle. Football and Cricket, P. Gooch; Athletics, H. Doyle; Cross-country, T. Foster.

The third week of October was one of steady rain. The Old Boys match on the 22nd was cancelled. To the sixteen Old Boys who turned up, despite our efforts to warn them of the cancellation, we tender our apologies. On the 29th the school had a good day against John Fisher, two wins and a draw. An even better day was November 5th against Beulah Hill. Five games were played and four of them were won. The First won 3-1; the Second lost 0-5; the Under Fifteens, Fourteens and Twelves each won 4-1. This report of the First Team game was written by an onlooker. "On Saturday in bright sunshine but on a rather slippery pitch

Clapham defeated Beulah Hill 3-1. The game was played with confidence and sometimes with skill but it was not great football. The most obvious weakness was the shooting which was feeble when it was not wild. The goal scored against Clapham was the result of a false move. At a tricky moment the ball was centred when it should have been safely if ignominiously pushed into touch. It was scrambled into the goal by the whole of the Beulah forward line. First blood to Beulah. 0-1. The equalising goal was the finish of a neat passing movement by the Clapham forward line. The movement ended theoretically too far out on the right wing but Gooch's drive left the net flapping and the goalkeeper sprawling. Gooch played a hard, bouncy game and really led his team. 1-1.

"Five minutes after half time the ball travelled out to Ivers near the left wing touch line. He squared off like a great professional, poised himself and banged in a shot that would have had Trautman worried. 2-1. The third goal was netted by Gooch but was really scored by Buchan. The ball was passed deftly from Luke to McDermott to Buchan who hit the cross-bar with a power shot. In the ensuing melee it was Gooch's foot which reached the ball first. 3-1. Two other members of the team who deserve special mention are Whelan, in goal, who had a knotty time of it now and then but acquitted himself excellently, and Luke, at inside right, whose positioning especially for goal kicks was exact. The ball, so inevitable was his control, appeared to be grounded by magnetism. The team played well and with growing confidence which if it continues augurs well for other fixtures. Had the peppering of the Beulah Hill goal, especially in the second half, been accurate, the score would have been reckoned in double figures."

On December 8th, 9th and 10th the school play "The Duke in Darkness" was presented. Once again Mr. Gibb and Mr. Pocock had undertaken the heavy task of producing a play. Their choice fell on a historical, three-act play set in the France of 1580. An unpromising choice? Ask those who saw it! Nearly every seat was taken (pity about the "nearly") and every spectator was delighted. Despite the small stage, the swords, the period costumes, the unfamiliar names — Brulart, Gribaude, Volani — the play was triumphantly alive. John Howie, John Mattock, Peter Montanjes and Michael Sayers had the star parts and shone in them brilliantly. Some of the scenes, the "ring" scene and the "poker" scene, were poignant and poignancy is a quality not often reached by schoolboy players. Our thanks are due and are willingly given to the actors, major and minor, the stage hands, the dressers and above all to the producers.

December 13th — the Carol Concert. As an experiment the Carols were sung this year in the Chapel. The experiment was successful and the Carol Concert will probably stay there. The

Some great  
Clapham  
College  
footballing  
names and  
memories

The Duke of  
Darkness with  
Pocock and Gibbs  
[the Rodgers and  
Hammerstein] of  
the 1950s at  
Clapham



Aidan Corish, the School Captain, learned that he had been awarded a place in a party of schoolboys which is making a six-week tour of Canada this summer.

The Table Tennis Competition was won by Canterbury.

The collection in the school for the Princess Elizabeth flag day came to Five Pounds Two Shillings.

At Easter Luke and Ivers were picked to play for England in the Catholic school team against France at Strawberry Hill. Luke was the captain. England won.

At the Catholic schools Athletics meeting at Motspur Park, Kidd, Cox, Doyle, McDermott, Deards and Spivak came first in their various events. At the S.L.G.S.A.A. meeting at White City, Cox won the Open 880 and McTernan won the Open Javelin.

We print below a jeu d'esprit written by someone in Form VI in a pre-exam mood. He calls it DARKLING (A THRENODY).

Black Branches

Like a corpse's withered hands

Waving against a blacker sky;

Chill winds

Bitter like the tang of half-remembered sins

Bats wheeling mournfully through the air;

And on the ground

Worms, Toads, Frogs

And nameless creeping things;

And all around

Desolation, Doom, Despair.

I am a bat that wheels through the air of Fate,

I am a worm that wriggles in a swamp of disillusionment,

I am in despair.

I have dyspepsia.

We are told, and the explanation usually given is the reform of the calendar by Pope Gregory in 1582, that all the traditional dates of weather lore are now inaccurate; we mean such things as St. Swithin's Day, March coming like a lion, April's showers bringing May flowers. But this year, at least, May was its traditional self. One warm day followed another, the temperature was in the

The Autumn Term will begin on September 7th.

School hours are from 9.10 a.m. to 12. 50 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

There are no lessons on Saturdays but members of school teams must attend when required for organised games and matches.

All pupils must be supplied before entry with gym-vest, white shorts and gym-shoes. They must wear the School uniform of blazer, cap, badge and tie, and when playing football a school football shirt must be worn.

Articles of school uniform are obtainable from the College.

The Headmaster invites the parents of all new pupils to attend a meeting in the College Gymnasium on Tuesday, June 30th at 7.30 p.m. At this meeting you will be given full information concerning the education of your son and you will also be able to inspect the College.

You are asked to inform the Headmaster should you be unable to attend this meeting.

## 25. Teddy Boys and Rowing at Clapham College

Clapham in the 1950s....recognise Colin Garvey of course, in most COXA photographs, was this "Switzerland Trip"? A group of "wannabe" Teddy Boys, with their jeans turned up! Second photo Bill Kidd 100% in the "back seat" possibly NOT a rowing "term"; but, we didn't do rowing at Clapham College - the River Wandle had too many Shopping Trolleys in it, [did we?]



26. Michael Clements "bright boy" reference from Br Peter -  
[maybe only dim boys were called "Johnny?"]

FROM  
THE HEADMASTER

CLAPHAM COLLEGE,  
NIGHTINGALE LANE,  
LONDON, S.W.4.

16.7.53.

M. Clements.

Michael Clements (25.10.41) has attended this Grammar school for the last five years. His health is excellent. His attendance has been most regular. His character is very good. He plays games and takes part in Athletics; he has played Soccer and Cricket for his House.

He is a clever boy and a hard working one too. He took six subjects at O. Level this summer: History, English Language, English Literature, Geography, French and British Constitution and is expected to do well in them.

He wishes to enter the Civil Service. Whatever career he takes up I'm sure he will well in it. He has considerable abilities and I recommend him with confidence.



*J. Pounton*

27. Prefects and “British Constitution Boys” - “the Prime of Mr Cecil Pocock”



As many names as possible  
please - before they are  
“lost to time”



I greatly enjoyed **Colin Garvey's** recent contributions to the Clapper (what an awful name!) magazine, but could not help noticing the glowing tones with which he describes the teachers. In my view, this is down to the fact that he enjoyed some years in the sixth form where, in all probability, the teachers actually began to treat pupils as young human beings, rather than regarding them as something lower than a sub-species of pond life!

If he had terminated his academic studies somewhat earlier, I think his recollection of certain masters might be less pleasant. For example, at a recent class reunion, it became obvious that even after some 40 years, those of us who exited the school at the end of the 5th year still held a positive dislike of **Atkinson**, the English teacher.

For those of our number who didn't make it past the 4th year, the dislike was more akin to hatred. We must not forget that not for nothing was he nicknamed **Slimy**. The origin of this soubriquet was probably down to his obsequious manner, but he was mostly remembered as a "ruler on the knuckles merchant" — in our view, a particularly nasty and cowardly way of holding discipline. For the same reason the little ginger-haired maths master, **Stirzacre (nickname Biccyy)**, was held in even lower esteem. I seem to recall that **Bharrier's** weapon of choice was not a stump, as suggested in the last issue, but a baseball bat administered to the rear end with such force that small boys were lifted clean off the floor! Nobody liked Bharrier, and revenge was finally taken when one of our number removed and disposed of his notorious ledger of homework marks which seemed to contain records going back over his entire working life. He made several unsuccessful appeals for its return over subsequent weeks, and never seemed to recover from its loss, becoming a withdrawn and broken man, seemingly losing the will to live!

The first lesson on my first day in Form 1A was from **Bill Blight**, who was also our Form Master. Having called the register, he selected six of us at random (including me), lined us up at the front of the class, and demanded a gym slipper from a boy in the front row. When he couldn't produce one, he was added to the line of unfortunates. Finally a plimsoll was supplied and we were given a slippering to act as an example to the rest of the class. My initial shock/horror at being beaten within an hour of first entering the school, and for no apparent reason, quickly subsided when we were then given a free pass for a subsequent misdemeanour of our choice. Music lessons were presided over by **Mr. Smith -or "Gobbo"** in view of his unfortunate habit of depositing saliva on the front two rows of pupils whenever he spoke. When singing in full flow, boys at the front were positively drenched! As he taught only on a part-time basis, he never knew anybody's name, and we soon learned that his questions were invariably addressed to "that boy in the middle of the back row". Finding music reasonably easy I usually volunteered to sit there, with the result that he seldom got the incorrect answer he was expecting. It was unfortunate for him that the music room doubled as the premises for the art class, as one lunchtime it facilitated our painting the white piano keys black and vice-versa!

I only have only one recollection of **Mr. Pocock**, as a football referee, because he never taught the As, only the alphas. One day, as a punishment for something or other, I had been told to captain the form 3rd team against the Alphas.

## 29. Peter Fry - the 1950s at Clapham... continued

By definition these were the dregs of the class, who could not even get into the 2nd team and consisted of a rag-bag of fat, unfit or dis-interested young gentlemen, often without any soccer kit at all, whose number varied on a weekly basis. I pointed out to **Pocock** that my team consisted of 12 players, to which he replied that I would have to put 2 in one position. I duly assigned 2 goalkeepers and was promptly given several hundred lines to the effect: "I must not be too clever by half " French lessons were given by **Mr. Gilmore** who charmingly started most lessons by instructing somebody to "Open the windows - there's a smell of boy in here". On that note, we never got a smell of the French magazines that were ordered and paid for in the 1st year! Having said all this, I have to say that I always found the **Chemistry teachers Ernie Wright and Bill Kidd** to be decent human beings. Many years later, I bumped into the latter in Oxford Street, and was surprised that he recognised me first. He had by then become disillusioned with teaching and had left the industry altogether. I am sure that a lot of people will remember **Brother Cajetan**, who was most probably deranged and should never have been teaching. I think that he joined the school at the start of our 4th year, and that he taught History to the alphas. He had got it into his head that all young boys were "Teddy Boys", although I doubt he really knew what this meant. He would often dish out hundreds of lines: "I must not be a Teddy Boy!" One memorable incident occurred when we were in the 5th year. Quite a few of us had a blank study period, with no teacher present, whilst the alphas were being supervised next door by Cajetan.

The partition between the classrooms had a pane of glass missing, where it had been previously broken. We started to throw various items, such as books, plimsolls, chalk etc. through to next door, whilst also making a hell of a din! As expected, Cajetan came flying through the door, screaming that we were all Teddy Boys and started lashing out at the head of anyone within reach, although these were seldom the perpetrators. The now unattended alphas were quick to return the compliment, and a barrage of missiles came back through the missing panel, even a bottle of milk, accompanied by even more noise, especially terms of abuse for Cajetan. This, of course prompted him to go tearing back into 5 alpha, meting out even more ferocious whacks to the head, again probably to innocent pupils. This was our cue to repeat the process, and the whole scene was played out several times, with Cajetan running back and forth between the classrooms, becoming ever more irate and hitting people at random. At one point, he was actually chasing some boys round the desks — fortunately, he didn't know any of our names.

These musings would be incomplete without one more anecdote about **Br Peter**, a truly great and good man. On hearing that **A.K. Smith** had indicated an intention of not leaving the College after two years in Form 5, he enquired in his usual sarcastic tone, "A.K. - what are you staying on for? - Third Year 5th?"

*Peter Fry*

# Michael Aldrich

Electronics wizard who glimpsed the potential for online shopping long before the internet

Michael Aldrich was walking his dog one day in the late 1970s when he had the germ of an idea that would change the world. Aldrich, who worked in development for the television company Rediffusion, saw the potential for hooking up the humble TV in the corner of his sitting room to a local supermarket to take the tedium out of the weekly shop. The online shopping revolution had begun.

Fast forward five years to May 1984 and Jane Snowball, a 72-year-old Gateshead grandmother chosen as a guinea pig for the project, picked up her remote control and ordered margarine, cornflakes and eggs from her local branch of Tesco. The experiment worked well enough but it was ahead of its time — it would be another 11 years before Amazon began trading, soon to be followed by eBay and a host of other online companies that are now household names.

Aldrich's innovation was to connect a domestic TV to a computer that could process transactions. He had been sent a prototype receiver for a new Post Office service, Prestel. The TV set gathered dust in his office for several months while Aldrich worked out how the Prestel service could be used to make money.

The key was that the TV contained a computer chip that could be utilised for his shopping idea. In September 1979, Aldrich, his wife Sandy and a Rediffusion engineer, Peter Champion, took their fledgling system to the data entry management association conference in New Orleans. They put the TV on a table covered in a green cloth which concealed Champion lying on his back to make the connection time after time during three days of presentations.

Aldrich recalled: "The visitors were interested, intrigued and excited. We could have sold many systems. They loved the idea of shopping from home." At a London hotel six months later, Aldrich called a press conference to announce what he described as a revolution. But his system only went as

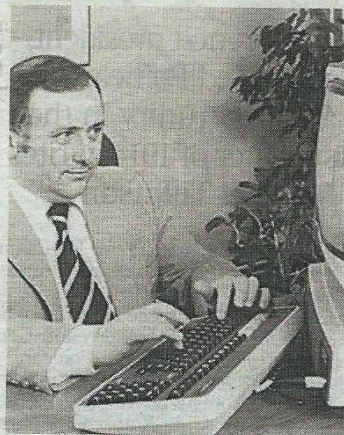
## Using her TV remote, a Gateshead grandmother ordered her groceries

far as letting companies connect customers, agents, distributors and suppliers to their corporate databases — a far cry from what was to follow. It was the start of e-commerce, but didn't yet enable the public to shop.

An early adopter was Thomson, the holiday company, which used the system to link branches of travel agents.

Michael Aldrich was born in 1941 at Brocket Hall, the 750-year-old Hertfordshire estate where London women were sent to give birth during the war. He was educated at Holy Cross Convent School in Islington, north London, and Clapham College grammar school before reading history at Hull University.

While studying at Hull, Aldrich met Sandy Kay Hutchings, a student at the



Aldrich wanted to take the tedium out of the weekly grocery shop

1962 shortly before he graduated. She is now a retired magistrate. They had four children: Tobin is global fundraising director for the charity Sightsavers International; Philippa is a City lawyer and lecturer; Gabrielle works in education and Luke is chief executive of Rediffusion's Old Computer Company (ROCC). His father was part of a group which acquired ROCC from Rediffusion in 1984. He later bought out the other shareholders and handed over to Luke in 2000.

Away from his work in electronics, Aldrich was interested in politics — he unsuccessfully fought Richmond, Yorkshire for Labour in the 1970 general election — and higher education.

In 1977 he started sponsoring student employees for electronics engineering and computing degrees at Brighton polytechnic. He became chairman of the organisation in 1988 and oversaw its transition to university status in 1992.

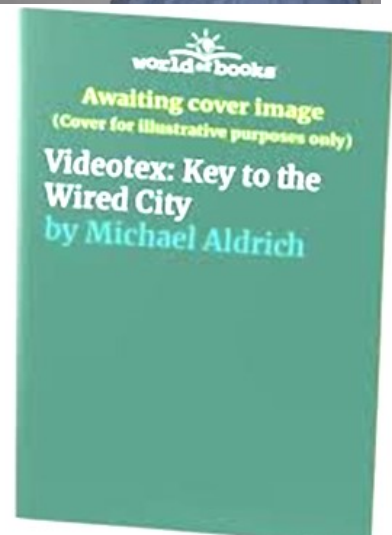
In 1996 the university dedicated a new library to Aldrich and four years later its Aldrich collection of contemporary art was opened. His archive of research papers is also housed at the university.

His profile in the industry led to a large number of advisory posts, including membership of Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet Office information technology advisory panel from 1981 to 1986. During that time he also advised the Confederation of British Industry on information technology.

Aldrich, who is survived by his wife and children, wrote one of the earliest books on the information superhighway, *Videotex: Key to the Wired City*, in 1982. He also wrote several government reports on information technology.

He loved America, a passion stirred by watching Westerns at Saturday morning picture shows as a boy. He had a collection of more than 500 cowboy films. Aldrich owned a house in Arizona for a number of years and became an accomplished rider of American quarter horses, the muscular breed best known in rodeos.

Michael Aldrich, electronics engineer, was born on August 22, 1941. He died of



Meet Michael Aldrich, the godfather of online shopping



The Aldrich Gallery [Brighton Uni] carries Michael's name



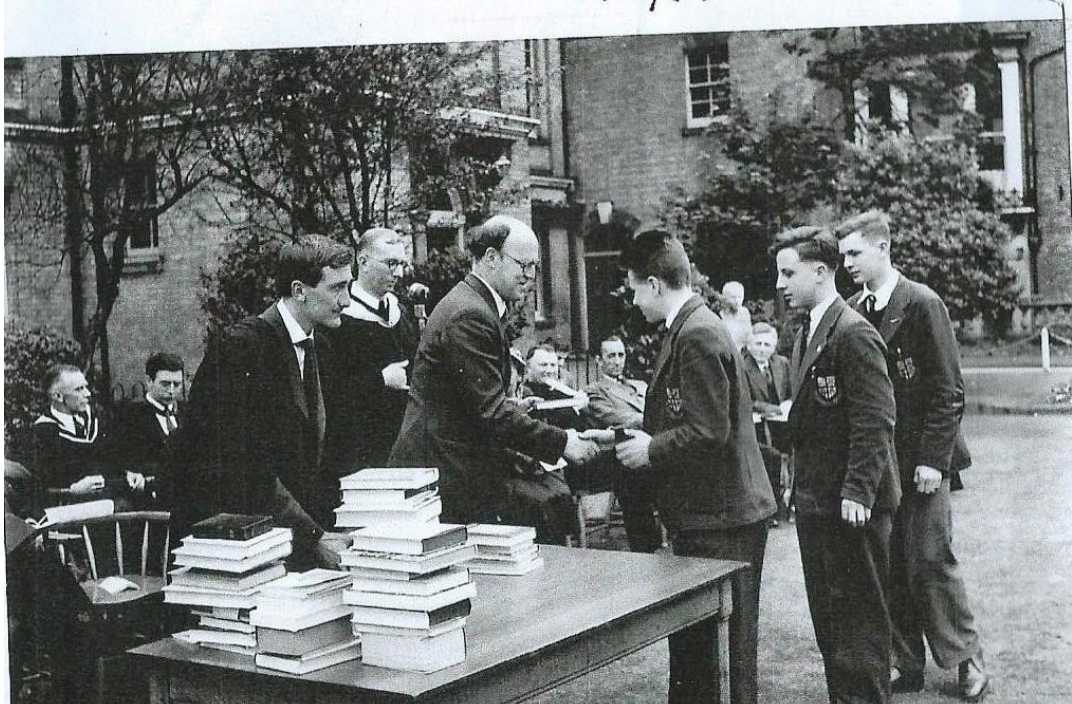
31. Cecil proudest moments - Clapham boys visit Parliament



Those two with  
Lord Longford -  
always destined  
for greatness

Lord Longford (Poulton?)  
John Noulton  
V

Clapham College Prizegiving  
1955/6?



## 32. Paul Kanssen [at Clapham in the 1950s] - early life

### Paul Kanssen

I don't know if this is any use... Paul

A little bit of family history first.

My family emigrated from Belgium to the UK in 1935. I was born in London in March 1936 and was brought up initially speaking French, but English soon became my first language. My brother André and I attended local Catholic schools, firstly the Servite School in Fulham Road (where the nuns wore big white cornetts) and then the Oratory School in Chelsea. Going to and fro by foot we always managed to go via one of the squares where the American soldiers were billeted - "Any gum chum?" was our catch phrase.

Repeating the sentiments of **Pat Gooch** in the last issue I don't remember being afraid of the war, but it was all around us. At the Oratory School (which had a playground on the roof) we didn't even interrupt lessons when there was an air raid, we were simply shepherded onto the stairs where work carried on. One February morning we turned up to find half our classroom desks were empty - the nearby Guinness Trust Buildings off the King's Road in Chelsea had been hit by two high explosive bombs. Seventy-six people died - including some of our class.

Closer to home we had our own blast. We had come to realise that the 'doodle bugs' (V1 flying bombs) were coming over on a set flight path, each day falling later in their trajectory. We used to keep a watch out from the balcony and count the seconds after the throbbing note of their engines stopped. We had worked out that the next one could be ours, so we prepared a shelter in the understairs cupboard. Sure, enough the noise stopped, and we all crowded into the space - except Maman. André ran into the adjoining kitchen and dragged her in - just in time. All hell was let loose. The heavy oak front door was torn off its hinges and thudded against the entrance to our hidey-hole. Where Maman had been drying dishes a few seconds earlier two huge leaded windows slammed down onto the kitchen table which had all our best crockery on it - miraculously, not a piece broken! Some other windows were smashed, and the flat was full of dust. Most of us clambered out to look around, then my sister Renée screamed "Where's Paul?!" They found me on my knees still under the stairs - "I haven't finished saying my prayers" I said. The bomb had fallen a couple of hundred yards away, killing ten and injuring many others.

Sometime later I was diagnosed with a thyroid problem and was admitted to the Victoria Hospital for Children in Tite Street, Chelsea. There were almost daily bombings very close to the hospital (one had actually hit the hospital without exploding before I arrived) and it was decided, as a safeguard, that all the beds should be positioned between the windows, rather than under them. I remember that the only way I could turn round in bed after my operation was to sit completely upright and lower myself gingerly on my other arm - my neck was surrounded by a huge roll of bandaging. Soon after I was discharged it was felt that it had become too dangerous to house patients there and they were all evacuated. The hospital motto was optimistic: "God willing, a shoot at length becomes a tree".

I was then sent to convalesce in Clandon Park near Guildford, a magnificent Palladian building set in the Surrey countryside. I remember travelling there in the back of an American estate car cum field ambulance in camouflage paint - all I could see were trees and sky though the rear window. ....<sup>34</sup>.....**continued**

Whenever we visit Clandon Park a friend takes mischievous pleasure in telling the attendants that I was there during the war - they then look at me with respect as it was used as a military hospital! Life settled down for a while until war ended and we went to stand outside Buckingham Palace (with everyone else!) to celebrate. Old, I began suffering excruciating pains in the arms. This was diagnosed as the onset of rheumatic fever and was soon followed by an attack of Subacute Chorea (known in then as St Vitus Dance). According to Wikipedia, Chorea is characterized by 'brief, semi-directed, irregular movements that are not repetitive or rhythmic, but appear to flow from one muscle to the next. Walking may become difficult and include odd postures and leg movements. The movements of chorea occur on their own, without conscious effort'. I was admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital for Children at Carshalton where I stayed for the next year and nine days.

The layout of the hospital was interesting in that the wards were in pairs on only the ground floor. Each ward was L shaped and linked to its neighbour at one end to form a sheltered area. There were large doors enabling the beds to be brought out to stay under a roofed patio or brought further out into open air. My ward was B2 and some of the patients were really long term. No education was provided but I remember one 15-year-old being encouraged to get his first-class badge in the Scouts - the nurses rigged up a mirror device so that he could practise his knots (he was fully recumbent, had a spinal injury and could not lift his head).

My own treatment was simple. For the first couple of months, I too was fully recumbent, a blue ribbon on the bed indicating that I was not allowed a pillow, had to be fed, given drinks through a special spouted cup and not allowed to read. My medication throughout my stay consisted of aspirin and bromide cocktails (in later life this was found to have upset the construction of the ear, leading to deafness). Each day nurses tested my blood sedimentation rate by drawing blood from my thumb using a device which looked like the sort of needle you use for sewing heavy canvas. (This BSR test carried on all through my stay until I was given a relieved 'thumbs up' to leave.) Over the next few months, I was allowed a pillow, then I was allowed to read, then I was allowed to sit up and feed myself. And then bliss, the doctor said I could get out of bed. Upon which I promptly fell on my face! It took a while for my muscles to recover, and I was allowed to don grey outdoor clothing and wander the grounds. I once unwittingly entered the morgue and found I could run....

The highlights of my stay in hospital were my visits on Sundays. Despite the difficulty of travelling from Kensington to Carshalton the family was nearly always there, often having to hire a car. And, as I progressed, my mother used to bring me a whole cooked chicken and delighted in seeing me wolf it down! For the next eighteen months after my discharge, I was placed in the Brook Green School for Disabled Children travelling to and from home and Hammersmith in a little green bus. I don't remember receiving any education there, but I know I was put to making shoes and other leather goods and rewiring any plugs that became faulty. No doubt all this was very good at steadying my hands but wasn't much good for my brain.

## 34. At Last Clapham College, Br Nicholas, Begley and Glastonbury

Fortunately, that's what sister Renée thought too. She set about trying to get me into 'proper' secondary education and succeeded in getting me an interview with Brother Nicholas, headmaster of Clapham College, a Xaverian grammar school in Balham. Fortunately, he had a soft heart and agreed to give me a place - it may have helped that the interview took place in French and that Renée came with me - she was quite good looking! He agreed that I would start in the first form although I was two years older than the norm and that each year they would review the situation and possibly bump me up a class. I stayed until 2nd year six form without this happening! Still under doctor's orders, I was not allowed to take part in physical activities whilst at school - except standing as marshal on the cross-country course. I didn't get on very well with the science subjects, however, and when I was voted House Captain of Charterhouse in the 2nd year Sixth form the physics master Mr. Bharier, who was House Master, said "What on earth are you doing here? I thought you would have left a long time ago"!

The teachers at the College were wonderful and gave me every encouragement given my lack of much previous education and even allowing for the fact that I used to scribble my homework during my 45-minute journey at the back of the tram and the 49 bus. One teacher marked my report "I will mark Paul's work when I can read his writing!" I had to change bus at one stage of the journey and sometimes a kindly young Cecil Pocock would stop at the bus stop and give me a lift.

When it came to choosing subjects for Sixth Form study I chose Art, French, English and Italian whereupon Mr Thomas, my art master, took me to one side saying, "I have no doubt you will pass your A level Art, but only if you give up your other subjects". So, I chose to give up Art.

The Italian course was challenging. Starting from scratch one took the O level at the end of the first year and the combined language and literature A level at the end of the second. Mr Begley, our teacher, took a novel approach - "This is the last time you'll hear me speak English for the next two years". He then set us singing Italian songs like "o sole mio", playing records so we got the pronunciation right. My choice of English A level was doomed from the start. I enjoyed the challenge of learning Italian. and then found the history of Italy, reading Garibaldi and Macchiavelli and others fascinating. And the French literature was not too arduous. But the English literature tested my intellect too far, and I admit I didn't really try very hard - activities outside College began to take up more of my time. So, I ended up at Clapham College passing Italian and French A Levels. And becoming Charterhouse House Captain

And at the age of 86 I can still sing "o sole mio" and thank Brother Nicholas with all my heart.

### **Peter Kanssen Oratory School and Clapham College 1940s and 1950s**

So Peter are you [at 86 a Xaverian or an Old Oratorian [boo]?.... as.....

**Old Oratorians** qualify for discounted or complimentary membership at five London private members clubs. **The Sloane Club, Chelsea, National Liberal Club, The Rag - Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall, The Lansdowne Club, Mayfair, The East India Club, St James's.**

## 35. Sports Day and Discus at Clapham

### Open Discus Event

Photographs of Clapham College Sports Day taken by **Mik Hodges** at the Tooting Bec Track. Not sure who the first photo is of, but “nice style”. The second is “Victor Ludo rum” **Henry Pinsent**, the ultimate sportsman. It says “3rd place”, surely some mistake! Who is the “French-looking” brother, I know a beret was part of the Xaverian uniform, but first I’ve ever seen ?



36. A very “tightly-packed” COXA team - John McGuire seems to have suffered



I can only “gauge” the age of COXA teams through the eras - by a close look at Colin Garvey’s hair, the bottom photo pre-days the Old Boys 1950s squad [Old Boys Cup Winners].. Thanks Col



**Cecil the football coach - sorry can't imagine Training Sessions and Tactics...or....**

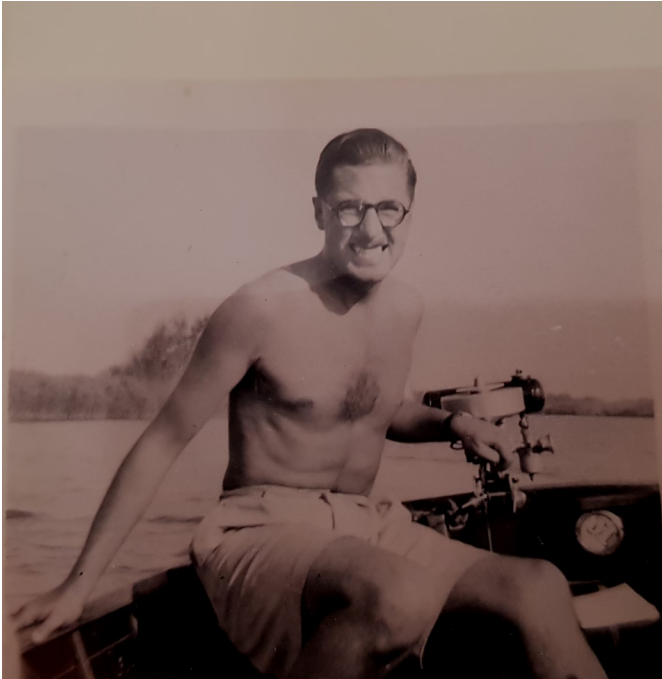


**Names  
Please!**



**Prize Day on the  
Lawn - Mr Pocock  
introduces the boys**

## 38. The Many "facets" of Mr Pocock in the '50s



Cecil on holiday, on the rudder, showing off his Summer physic. Then more of the outdoor life, cooking sausages for Bill Kidd. Finally, Cecil the car enthusiast. The blazer sets the whole scene off, really suits the man! Any idea who his friend is?





## 39. Old Boys Concordia "snippets" 1950s

### HON. GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since I wrote my last letter we have had the encouraging news of the de-requisitioning of Norbury as at the end of this year. Though it is obvious that the ground will need much money spent on it before it is usable as a sports ground again, it should mean that the College can look forward to full sporting activities within a reasonable time. I hope that it will mean, so far as the Association is concerned, the return of a time when, with the permission of the College, we may resume sporting activities on a pre-war scale. It is only such activities that can surely attract and hold the younger Old Boys.

The setting up of the Table Tennis tables in the College Hall each Friday during the past winter has enabled us to establish, under the able management of Stephen Ward, an active section. We quickly decided that it would be advisable to alter Club nights from Wednesday to Friday, to coincide with Table Tennis nights. John Prince looked after the Club Room, and the College soon enabled us to provide tea at these evenings. Here I would say that the help given us by the College throughout the winter has been very substantial.

-x- -x- -x- -x-

As many Old Boys will know, Norbury was re-sown last autumn. The grass is now well established, although it will not be fit for sport until the summer of 1953. The Pavilion is also to be restored and the College, in accordance with regulations, have obtained seven tenders for the work and submitted them to the L.C.C. for their consideration.

**1952 – “The Pavilion” our [current bar]-** I had no idea when that was erected – think it came with the pitches at Norbury – two large pitches running down the hill [where St Alfred’s School is now] with a cricket square laid between the two pitches...and a small practice pitch roughly where the current pitch is, but much smaller...it is where the top two pitches on the slope drained down to. So it’s a miracle it is not always waterlogged.

Hollywood basement has been redecorated and the changing rooms enlarged; the whole of the interior of the school has been revived in pastel shades of blue, pink and grey; finally the physics, chemistry and biology laboratories are being overhauled. Norbury playing fields were first used during the Easter term. The London County Council provided transport to and from the Grounds and there was at last recaptured the long lost feeling of playing on pitches that were our own. By the end of the summer the Pavilion was finished and contained many improvements including very fine ablution arrangements. With the facilities now available for games and athletics both at Norbury and the College we are indeed more fortunate than many schools.

## 40. The on-going saga of the COXA Bar 1952 onwards

This summer we intend to complete the Club House at Norbury. At the moment the four strong walls and the window frames are standing steadfastly against the elements. All that is required is to roof the edifice, which, with the aid of very detailed written instructions from our late Clerk of the Works, Dave Mason, who has, alas, had to move to Portsmouth, and the strong backs of members, we will do during the summer. During the autumn and winter we hope to fill the place with furniture and thirsty members.

Mr. M. Ward reported that progress on the Club House had been very slow. The reason lay in the loss of Dave Mason our Clerk of the Works, the adverse weather conditions and the difficulty of building at high altitudes with most improper scaffolding. The increasing cost of building materials was also pointed out. An appeal for members with experience of plastering†, carpentry and the like, to aid in the finishing of the building was made. He hoped that others would help financially.

Any "backwoodsmen" skilled in the art of plank cutting can help out at another major step in the Clubhouse Construction campaign. Willing helpers and cheques are of course always welcome — but you will find more details later.

The last you heard about the Club House was in a letter from the Chairman. This painted a gloomy picture and rightly so, for while we had completed the shell of the building it had taken a long time to do so; much remained to be done and the Club House Fund was exhausted. However, the matter was given a great deal of thought at the A.G.M. and the position now seems much brighter, so that your committee has pledged itself to have the job completed by the next A.G.M. and in fact anticipates that it will be done much sooner. Charles Pickering, who is of course the College Architect, offered to co-operate in the completion and his help will be greatly appreciated.

We now have sufficient money in hand to finish the structure, which we find, after further careful estimates, need only cost us £125. The recent appeal raised a further £46 and though this is disappointing it does mean that by using most of our slender reserves, we will be able to see things through. Obviously though, if there are any members who have overlooked the fund, further contributions will be very helpful.

When the building is complete it will still require furnishing and this means further cost. However, it may be that members can help us with furniture that they no longer need in their own homes: already we have been promised a lounge suite and some carpets and we are most grateful to the donors. If you can assist us in this most practical way please contact me, or any member of the Committee.

Five years of Concordias and....

Saga of the Club House goes on... and on... and on...

## 41. No idea, when I that the Clubhouse took 10 years to complete.

Our Clubhouse at Norbury, which has been a source of frustration and worry to the Committee, is almost complete and we pray that the obstacles which we face may be resolved in a manner befitting those in whose <sup>1962</sup>memory we are erecting it.

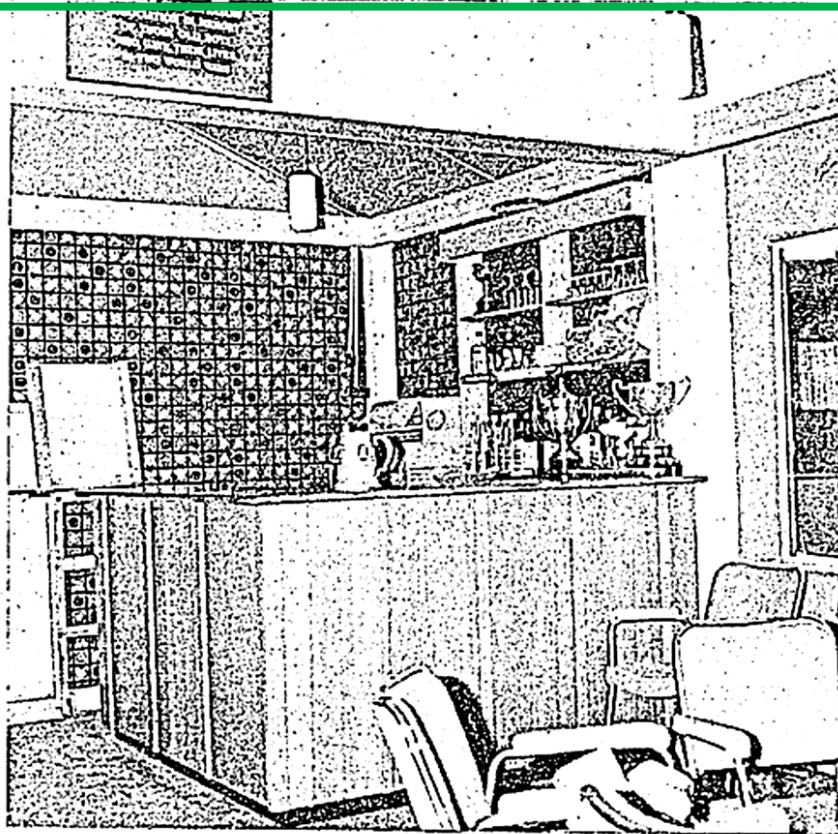
### Concordia snippets 1957 and 1958

**The Clubhouse** — After the frustrations of many years since the idea of the Clubhouse was first mooted we can at last report that mere legal formalities now await completion before the hard work which Maurice Ward and others have put in finally materialises in its official opening. It is likely that the bar licence will be through by the time members receive Concordia.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Perhaps the most important event in a busy year, particularly to that generation of Old Boys now approaching what is euphemistically described as middle age, was the informal opening of the Clubhouse at Norbury on Boxing morning. The structure has been complete for some time; final touches were put to the heating and lighting, and due to the good offices of Freddy Baldwin, the legal formalities were completed in time for the annual football match between the Cricketers and Footballers, to be followed by the imbibing of some legally saleable liquor. No speeches, no ceremonies, but perhaps it was fitting that the first pint of draught beer drawn in the Clubhouse should be handed to, and consumed by, Brother Dunstan. This must indeed, have been a proud moment for Maurice Ward, since, although he would be the first to admit the help which he has received, the guiding hand and the perseverance <sup>1963</sup>over many years of frustration has been his. More recently, a plaque has been placed on the wall of the Clubhouse commemorating its building, and recording the fact that it was erected as a memorial to all Old Xaverians who gave their life during the two World wars. This splendid example of craftsmanship is entirely the work of Tony Brinn.

42. After a decade of labour/headaches the Clubhouse finally opened in 1962



The new bar at Norbury. Soccer trophies can be seen on the counter.

FRONT ROW: K.TORPY, A.MAYHEW, S.WARD, A.BRINN, A.AMURA, K.CARROLL AND A.MORRISH

BACK ROW: M.WARD, D.QUIN, J.CHERUSCHI, J.FLYNN, B.FARRELL, D.ROWLES, M.HURLEY, D.MULVIHILL



CLAPHAM were admitted to the Old Boys League for the 1954/55 season. The photograph shown

above was taken at Norbury towards the end of that season.

## 43. Two great Xaverians from the 1950s John Noulton & Dick Benson

### John Noulton

Civil servant whose work on planning and building the Channel Tunnel spanned three decades

**J**OH Noulton, who has died aged 78, was a senior civil servant who played a crucial role in the planning of the Channel Tunnel, was parachuted into the consortium building it to keep the project on track, then was Eurotunnel's public affairs director for its first decade of operation.

Highly effective in Whitehall, with a keen mind and engaging manner and totally unflappable, Noulton's involvement with the tunnel spanned three decades from the time Edward Heath's government first gave the go-ahead. As the project was cancelled by Harold Wilson and then revived under Margaret Thatcher, he built up an encyclopaedic knowledge of it.

During construction, he transited the tunnel more than 200 times, "starting off in old works trains with a hard hat and muddy boots". After it opened in 1994, he observed: "Something deep in the British psyche requires that we only do things long after everyone else knows they're necessary."

John David Noulton was born in Tooting, south London on January 5 1939, the son of John Noulton and the

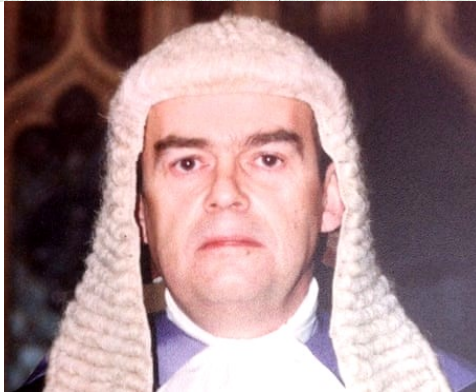


cessation of work, and early in 1989 both firms accepted management changes to end personality clashes, strengthen leadership and encourage cooperation. Dr Tony Ridley, progenitor of Hong Kong's mass transit railway, came in as managing director of Eurotunnel, and the veteran American tunneller Jack Lemley took charge at TML.

Later that year, as Morton warned that the cost of the project was nearing £6 billion, Noulton himself joined TML as director of administration. He spent his final days in the civil service at Downing Street.

The friction continued, but the tunnel was completed and commissioned. During this process, in 1992, Noulton moved across to Eurotunnel. People then, he recalled, only asked three questions about the Eurotunnel: "Three tunnels [two running, one service], Sir Alastair Morton, and rabies."

When the tunnel opened in 1994, "we thought we had done the difficult bits". But Eurotunnel's difficulties with the banks intensified – it lost £995 million in 1995 – and Noulton lobbied the Government and the EEC



**Dick Benson called to the bench in 1992 and served as a circuit judge until he retired in 2004. He was a real star [in his own unique way]. And well "no John Noulton, no Channel Tunnel" - Why no Knighthood?**

### Dick Benson obituary

My friend Dick Benson, who has died aged 73, was a barrister and circuit judge, officially known as His Honour Judge Richard Benson. Dick was born in Liverpool, the son of Jean (nee Yeadon) and Frank Benson. When Dick was three years old the family moved first to Sheffield and then to London, where he attended Clapham college, a Catholic boys' Grammar school. In 1965 he gained a BA in politics & Philosophy at Nottingham University, then chose to study for the bar while working as a hospital porter. He qualified in 1968 and was offered a pupillage in Nottingham by Brian Appleby. After a successful and (by all accounts) entertaining career at the criminal bar, Dick was called to the bench in 1992 and served as a circuit judge until his retirement in 2004. Over the years he became well-known for his no-nonsense judgments. In an obscenity action brought by the police for the showing of erotic moving images, he summarily dismissed the case by declaring that he had "seen worse on Channel 5". Before Dick settled for life in Nottingham, he and I had first met in the 1960s at Brondesbury cricket club in north London, where Dick shone as an eccentric left-handed opening batsman and inspired slip fielder. Turned on by this promising experience, Dick – with his then wife Susan (nee Tickle), whom he had married in 1980 – threw himself into the sport. Together they owned their own mounts and Dick even competed occasionally as a winning amateur jockey. The marriage was dissolved in 1998, and at the same time Dick prudently moderated his expensive obsession with racing, although he maintained a lifelong interest in horses. Dick was funny, generous (he funded the Jim Lees prize for philosophy at Nottingham University), kind, gregarious and, while sometimes over-dogmatic, always hugely enjoyable company. He loved cricket, golf and football (he supported Fulham), and sometimes broadcast on local radio as a commentator. He also took politics seriously, and, as a member of the Conservative party, served on Nottingham city council. In later years Dick was happily reunited with his girlfriend from university, Linda Radford (nee Duckett), an English teacher, whom he married in 2008.

44. Cecil leads the boys on another School Trip



And Cecil  
Camping -  
a "breath of  
fresh air"  
at the College  
how much  
did we  
benefit

45. What's wrong - a "Pint with your Teacher" - nothing - just ask.



32

The "Rose and Crown" in Mayfield. How many of us ended up there whilst away camping with Cecil, or after COXA picnics? That's all "history" now; the "P.C. Brigade" means this will never happen again. Did it do us any harm? Same as "the cane" - well maybe let's not go there..... Scotty



47

## CLAPHAM COLLEGE

### *The Boys in Blue & the Class of '54* *Collected by*

*Mickey "The Moose" Walsh*



**Cecil and more trips more boys in caps.**





*“Concordia res parvae crescunt”*

*Life’s journey is metaphor*

*From the sublime to the ridiculous*

as Mac Davis sang it,

*“Oh Lord it’s hard to be humble when you’re perfect in every way.*

*I can’t wait to look in the mirror, cause I get better looking each day.”*



The Class of '54

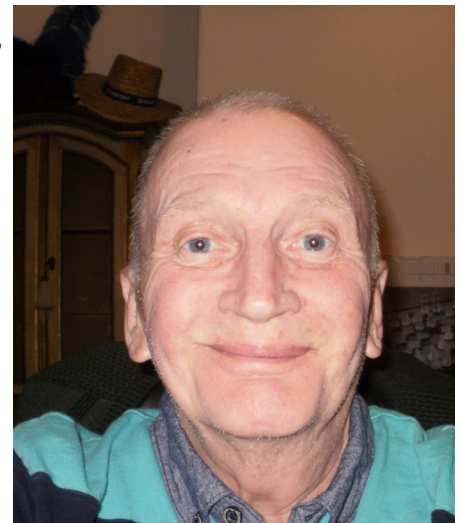
It has been nearly sixty years since I arrived at Clapham College in September, 1954 before leaving in April, 1956 for Canada. Therefore, people might wonder why my brief stay is worthy of a place in my memories. The answer is quite simple because a few years ago Peter Wills (Spiv) sent me an email stating that if I had red hair, played football and had a hard shot with my left foot and supported Fulham FC. I had been found. Only someone I had known at the College could have been so precise and when I was invited to attend a COXA reunion luncheon at the Oval, how could I refuse not spending a thousand dollars for a meal in merry old England with the ‘boys’ I went to school with in the 1950s. *(A year ago I told Steve Bradford that it was the metal badge, which helped me to choose Clapham & that it had been illustrated on the front cover of The Rover comic book too.)*

## 48. More from Micky Walsh



To begin I had a choice upon leaving St. Stephen's school with an ElevenPlus grammar school place. I lived in Shepherds Bush and the closest school was Cardinal Vaughan near Holland Park or Salesian College in Battersea. But no, my teacher, Mr. Bateman convinced me to apply to Clapham, mentioning that Terry Kinane had gone there the previous year. I only knew Terry as a talented footballer from our championship team in '53 plus I had a played for Hammersmith Schoolboys in my last year at St. Stephens. Regardless Cardinal Vaughan, which was close to the Soviet embassy looked like a Siberian Stalag from the outside, while Salesian was next to the Battersea Gasworks when I needed some fresh air, not stinking hot gas. At least Clapham College looked out onto a verdant Common, was next to the Clapham South tube station and as I felt at the time, had a unique, blue uniform with a colourful, metal cap badge to boot representing the four Houses at the school: Walsingham, Glastonbury, Canterbury, and my future house, Charterhouse.

If memory serves me, I went with my parents to register and met Brother Peter, the headmaster for the first time before the term began. Because I lived in Hammersmith I had to get bus and train passes from West Kensington station to Clapham South, which became my daily journey for the next two years. Therefore my knowledge of the Underground became second nature especially with a change from the District Line at the Embankment for the Northern Line, with a possible change at the Elephant & Castle for the fastest train to Clapham South. The detail I have attached to this routine is here because so much of my memory includes the Clapham boys, who made similar journeys by train to the College before 9am. Two names stand out, David Hoppett and John McGoogan because we played a lot of chess with our tiny, portable sets on those daily journeys. I also recall a chess club and a tournament that I entered, facing Allen Kelly, whose moves and checkmate reduced my ego to that of an also ran, especially when I pondered my demise on the train back to West Kensington. Allen, it seemed was first at everything he entered, not to mention being first in Class 1A. *(May he rest in peace and have a laugh if he reads this.)*



## 49. Clapham College 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the 1950s and more from Concordia

MAY 1950 OBITUARY It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death on Sunday, 16th April, of our old Heather and great friend, the Very Rev. Bro. Bernardine. There was a Requiem Mass in the College Chapel on Wednesday, 19th April. At the burial at Mayfield, where Bro. Bernardine had spent some of his schooldays.



The School year began on September 8th and 330 boys turned in at the College gates to enjoy or suffer the blessings of education that a benevolent State had made free but unfortunately compulsory. Sixty new boys with timorous anticipation creasing their previously unfurrowed brows found that some unknown force had drawn them together into a massed phalanx and they stood ready to resist whatever powers of evil might bring against them. They soon found, however, that fate. was not too unkind, not nearly so unkind as it had been to some of the 6th Form members who, although they had passed the Higher School Certificate, had not been able to gain entry to a university on account of the serious overcrowding in these establishments and they had been obliged to return again to Clapham. It may be news to some readers of Concordia that the overcrowding in the Universities has caused the size of 6th Forms to be five or six times the pre-war figure. A third and fourth year 6th Form doing scholarship work of nearly graduate standard forms a part of practically every grammar school.

**Mr Pocock**, senior teacher at the College has now to spend at least half his year the 6th Form giving. lectures equal to a good University, standard. He knows that a mere Pass in the Higher School Certificate will be of little use for gaining entry to a University, for even to obtain an interview, a Good or 'Very Good' standard must be attained in the examination. At present we have a 6th Form of 38. The L.C.C. has enabled groups of seniors to attend the Ballet. Opera, and Orchestral Concerts during school hours, free of charge. It is an arrangement. much An interest for Carol singing broke out and as a result of faithful attendances for practice out of school hours and. also in no small degree to the patient efforts and ability of **Mr G. Smith**, the Music Master, a very beautiful Carol Service was arranged for the last day of the Christmas Term.

## 50. More from Concordia on College life in the 1950s

After the service the Choir went along to the South London Hospital, where it had been arranged that they should sing to the patients for 15 minutes. They were kept for nearly 90 minutes they had numerous encores from both patients and nurses. the Matron and Sisters regaled the boys before they left the Hospital.

It was mentioned in the last number of Concordia that the College had its periodical inspection by the Ministry of Education last June. The Inspection lasts over several days and delves deeply into school activities, buildings, administration and so on. The Report was published at the end of January and was very complimentary concerning the high educational and social work done by the College. The high standard attained is rightly attributed to my predecessor, who piloted the College through the difficult war years and by his capable direction rebuilt the corporate life of the School after its return from evacuation.

Like Tennyson's Brook, the Building Fund is likely to go on for quite some time. A really magnificent response has been made by many parents, who have generously joined the scheme of contributing 1/- a family each week. Since last November the total from these weekly collections; is £220 and I wish to express my very deep gratitude to those loyal and generous families who have not forgotten the College in its struggle to continue the work of catholic culture and education. Sincere thanks are also due to the Old Boys Association, which has donated £21 to the fund during the last few months. The Building Fund has now reached the total sum of £3,746. We still have an awfully long way to go.

During the winter months there was much constructional work in progress in the Paddock. A most loyal and hard-working team consisting of Blackburn, Freddi, Du Feu, Hobbs, Cooper, Frakes, Hughes, Hayter, Plummer and Nicholls under the able care of Brother Ambrose demolished the rockery and planted the site with grass seed so that there is now a clear sweep through to Brother Dunstan's greenhouse. They also cleared and levelled the stretch leading to Malwood Road and laid a concrete wicket in this former wilderness" It is hoped to extend the Paddock still further during the coming year and several of last year's team have already volunteered for this work. We are extremely grateful for the help they have given. Other improvements effected have been the resurfacing of the playground, the refurnishing and redecorating of the Staff Rooms. The Easter Term is generally a doubtful pleasure. The rheumatic English weather probes the joints of the elderly, and the younger generation collects all sorts of ailments. The odd fine day of early Spring evokes a yearning for sunny warmth that is never realised. Lent and the trial examinations do not conduce to ease and comfort. Nevertheless, the College lawns are now well starred; most beautiful and imposing also this year was the array of scarlet and yellow tulips, like so many proudly swaying heralds in livery of crimson and gold proclaiming the resurrection of nature and glorious pageantry of the coming Coronation.

## 51. A beautiful Summer at the College ...continued

The Common Ground Club -set to business on their flower beds and Brother Dunstan appeared\_ once again on the land. Now, too, could be seen the results of the hard work that many of the Vth and 6th Forms had expended on the College grounds. A very fine shot putting pit with cinder approach for the high jump occupied a formerly disused corner; large areas of fresh green grass covered the sites of weedy \_paths and rubbish pile~; such paths as are necessary were renewed with asphalt and those in front of Hollywood were widened and edged with concrete; a turf practice wicket was laid in the paddock- a Coronation present from the Brothers- railings were straightened and painted; the floors of the 6th Form in Hollywood have been renewed and now glow like a new cricket stump; much new furniture has been purchased especially for the 6th Form; Hollywood basement was redecorated and the changing rooms enlarged; the whole of the interior of the school has been revived in pastel shades of blue, pink and grey; finally the physics, chemistry and biology laboratories are being overhauled.

Norbury playing fields were first used during the Easter term. The London County Council provided transport to and from the Grounds and there was at last recaptured the long-lost feeling of playing on pitches that were our own.

By the end of the summer the Pavilion was finished and contained many improvements including very fine ablution arrangements. With the facilities now available for games and athletics both at Norbury and the College we are indeed more fortunate than many schools.

1953 Perhaps the supreme achievement of the whole year was the illuminated Coronation Manuscript. This was a work of rare beauty and skill consisting of selections of music, poetry and prose set in period script and design in an effort to capture the spirit of England over the last thousand years.

The craftsmanship and anybody and all of those who had anything to do with the work was most highly rewarded. The London County Council had the Manuscript on display in County Hall on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen together with the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duchess of Kent and some twenty other members of the Royal Household.

The Queen and the Royal party spent some 15 minutes examining our script which Her Majesty graciously accepted as a Coronation gift. **The Headmaster, Mr Thomas the Art Master, and John Tee of the 6th Form** were invited to the Royal Reception at County Hall and retain marvellous memories of the privilege accorded to them on that Royal Evening.

"The school made an interesting tour. We saw youngsters in knee pants learning their Latin verbs and rather trim looking seniors doing calculus -and dissecting a huge white rat All the boys wore blazers and school ties, looking rather well dressed by our standards. Among the youngster! there seem to be as many dialects as there are people, but their language has a roll and a richness that makes ours seem flat."

1958 September 22nd. At Ewell. First Eleven. Clapham 3, Salesians 1. One notion that must be dispelled immediately is that Salesians fielded a weak team. Their captain has been in their first for three years and seven of his men are in their second season. Clapham, facing strong opposition. won convincingly. Individual play was good, sometimes brilliant, but the match lacked sparkle - it was too dour for that. The game opened badly for Clapham with a goal against in the fourth minute. It was not against IVERS [in goal]; had the defence been in position no goal would have been scored. Quite often the Clapham defence worried IVERS more than did the Salesian attack. Four minutes later a centre from McDERMOTT was hustled into the net by LUKE. The neatest play in the game came from this partnership between LUKE and McDERMOTT. Nothing spectacular occurred until after half time when LUKE scored a goal so brilliant that applause broke out spontaneously from both sides. Ten minutes before full time LEEN scored from straight in front of the net. He had been doing nothing more original than staying close to the ball and shooting whenever he saw the

in July 1959 nearly the whole school went to the Planetarium.

The Retreat was given by Father Ignatius, a Passionist, and an old boy of Stamford Hill School.

One other religious activity was the "School's Pilgrimage" to Aylesford, which was attended by a coach load of C.C. boys. We heard the Bishop speak of the new Aylesford which will arise on the ruins of the old.

As usual there was a trip to Paris just before Easter, and as usual everything went smoothly and easily. Our thanks are due to Mr. Gilmore and Mr Gibb and of course Mr Pocock.

The Chess Club playing in the London Grammar Schools League played eight games, of which they lost one, drew two, and won five.

The great event of the Autumn Term was the installation) of the new central heating plant. Instead of the work having been 'more~ or less completed in the midsummer\_ holidays it did not\_ start until October. From then on the school buildings were loud with the noise of banging and hammering, thumping and clattering, whistling and yelling and a peculiarly raucous crooning noise interspersed<sub>54</sub> with sudden yelps. This last, we were told, was singing in the style of a Mr. Weepy Johnny-Ray. Lessons continued, however with-

53. Mik Hodges - professional photographer in the making

Many 1950s photographs of “sport & boys” were taken by **Mik Hodges** who went on to photographer of international renown. He followed the Royal Tour to Africa and migrated to Hong Kong. Where he worked as a photographer to the newspaper for many years.



For the “date” of this team photograph, check out Colin Garvey’s hair. Always like names for a Team Photo - any contributors?





One of my favourite photographs on the COXA Archive - the Collins brothers, Bill and Terry, during their National Service.....talented boys.

# ‘I know what’s needed’: Ofsted chief on pushy parents, staff clothing and canes

His decisions have angered teachers all over the country, but Sir Michael Wilshaw insists he will not shy away from working to improve standards in every British school

**Daniel Boffey**

POLICY EDITOR



Sir Michael Wilshaw, chief inspector of schools and pantomime hate figure of the teaching unions, can't remember if he owned his own cane in the 1970s, but, yes, he certainly used one on pupils. "I am sorry to say that I did," Wilshaw admits, with what appears disarmingly like a flush to the cheeks.

"I was a head of year in London at a time when it was part of the disciplinary cultures and procedures of the school. It never worked. I stopped corporal punishment because I realised that it didn't work, because the youngsters you were using the cane on were used to physical violence, often at home. It sent out the wrong message. When I look back on it now I can't





## 55. The most famous Clapham Xaverian? -St Michael Wilshaw OFSTED



The son of a postman, Wilshaw grew up in a Roman Catholic household in south London in the 1950s. He went to Clapham College, a south London grammar school, and then St Mary's teacher training college in Twickenham. He later took a part-time History degree at Birkbeck College while teaching in various London schools. At the age of 39 he was appointed Head teacher of St Bonaventure's Catholic School, also known informally as St. Bon's, in Forest Gate, London. Whilst there, he was knighted in the New Year Honours for 2000 "for services to education".

In 2003, Wilshaw was appointed executive principal of Mossbourne Community Academy in Hackney in London.

In November 2011, Wilshaw was announced as the successor to Christine Gilbert. He took up his five-year term from 1 January 2012. In 2015, Wilshaw was paid a salary of between £195,000 and £199,999 by Ofsted, making him one of the 328 most highly paid people in the British public sector at that time.

Speaking on BBC TV's *The Andrew Marr Show* in the wake of the GCSE English results controversy in August 2012, Wilshaw said the row was a "really good opportunity" to examine whether examinations were "rigorous enough", adding that "Two-thirds of our schools are good or better. We have got a third of schools, 6,000 schools, that are not good, that are satisfactory and below. We have to make sure that schools know they have got to get to good soon as possible. We have given them a prescribed period of time, up to four years, in which to get to good."

From 1st January 2017 Wilshaw has been a board member of the Education Policy Institute, a Westminster-based research institute.





CLAPHAM COLLEGE

SPEECH  
DAY

WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE  
1958

SCHOOL OFFICIALS

School Captain.	COLIN LUKE.
<i>House Captains</i>	
Canterbury	A. INSOLE.
Charterhouse.	D. WORLEY.
Glastonbury.	J. MATTOCK.
Walsingham.	P. LEEDER.
<i>Games Captains</i>	
Football.	A. INSOLE.
Athletics.	P. McDERMOTT.
Cricket.	C. LUKE.
Colours	V. FELZMANN, D. HOGAN, A. INSOLE, C. LUKE, P. McDERMOTT, J. MATTOCK.

PRIZE LIST

*First, Second, Third and Best Effort.*

<i>Form 1A</i>	
M. McGRATH, D. HOARE, J. NELLA, T. VERNEY.	
<i>Form 1a</i>	
D. SERADI, M. HEMSLEY, K. O'CONNOR, I. HAMILL.	
<i>Form 2A</i>	
C. PERRY, R. JACKSON, M. ERWIN, M. MURPHY.	
<i>Form 2a</i>	
J. GILHOOLEY, T. DUHIG, L. SNAITH, J. O'NEILL.	
<i>Form 3A</i>	
J. McCOLE, M. MAGEE, J. HOWARD, F. SMITH.	
<i>Form 3a</i>	
J. GMAJ, J. NEWBERRY, P. SHAW, P. SMITH.	
<i>Form 4A</i>	
A. KELLY, A. CLEATHER, C. GARVEY, J. LYONS.	
<i>Form 4a</i>	
B. SCHWENK, R. COX-HORTON, I. McCANN, D. KENNY.	
<i>Form 5</i>	
Religious Instruction . . . . .	M. SCOTT.
English Language . . . . .	D. MARTIN.
English Literature . . . . .	D. MARTIN.
Geography . . . . .	A. GILFORD.
History . . . . .	M. TURVEY.
Latin . . . . .	A. MORRISH.
French . . . . .	E. MILLICHAP.
Applied Maths. . . . .	H. DAVIS.
Pure Maths. . . . .	A. MORRISH.
Physics . . . . .	P. KELLARD.
Chemistry . . . . .	A. GILFORD.
Art . . . . .	J. SABBAGH.

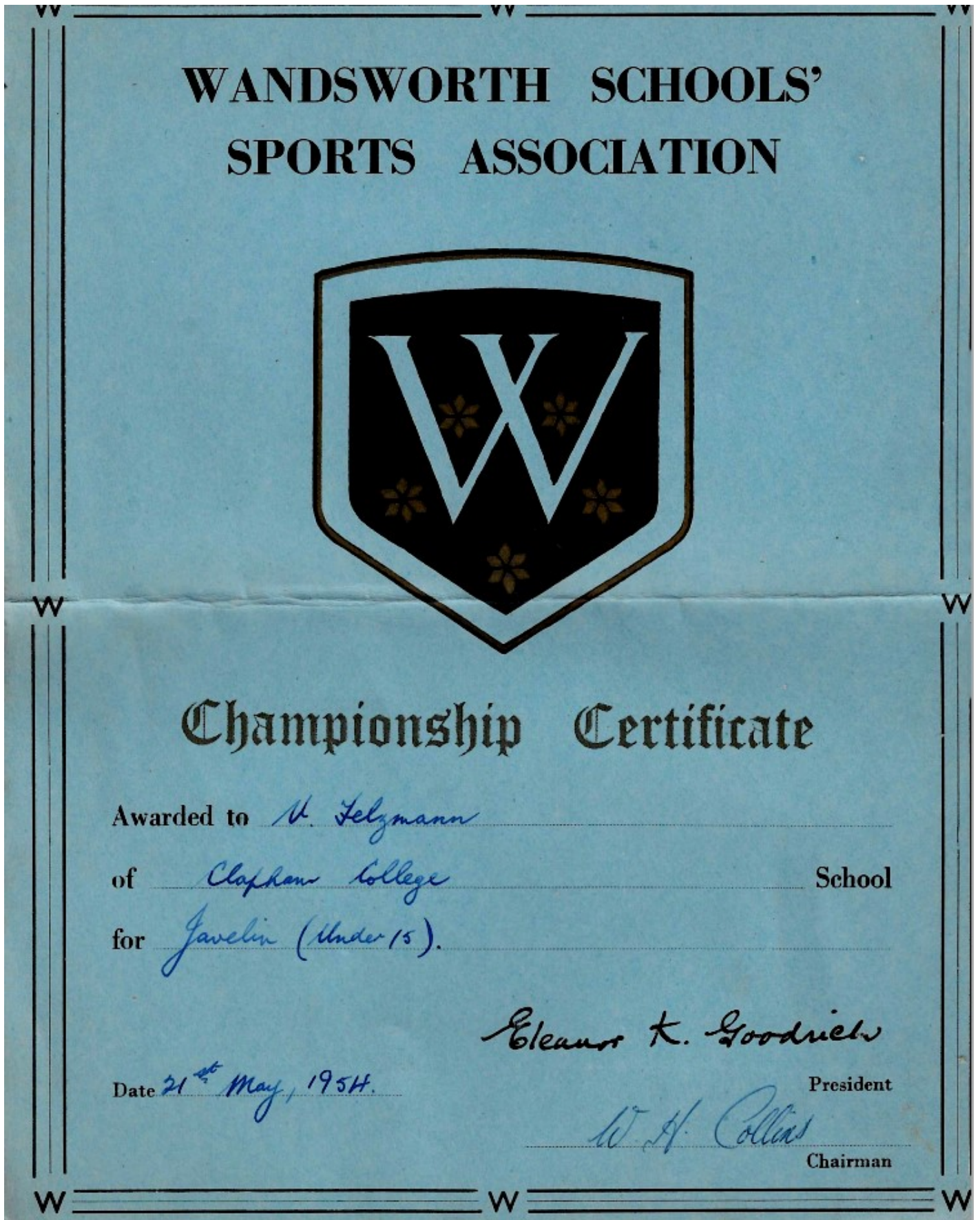
PRIZE LIST (*continued*)

<i>Form VI</i>	
Religious Instruction . . . . .	V. FELZMANN.
English . . . . .	J. HOWIE.
Geography . . . . .	C. LUKE.
British Constitution . . . . .	C. AUGER.
History . . . . .	D. WORLEY.
Latin . . . . .	D. CONDUCT.
French . . . . .	D. WORLEY.
Applied Maths. . . . .	A. SPARK.
Pure Maths. . . . .	M. SAYERS.
Physics . . . . .	A. STRINATI.
Chemistry . . . . .	K. ENNIS.
Zoology . . . . .	J. CHAMBERS.
Art . . . . .	J. KESSLING.

*University Students (First Year)*

A. COX.	Regent Street Polytechnic.
D. McBRIEN.	Reading University.
R. McTERNAN.	Queen Mary College.
A. MORRIS.	St. George's Hospital.
R. KIDD.	St. Mary's College.
P. McDERMOTT.	Outside Right for the England Grammar Schools' Team. A special sports prize.
COLIN LUKE.	The School Captain receives the Headmaster's prize.

57. Mons. Vladimir Jan Antonin Václav Felzmann (Confirmed Francis Xavier) what a talent!



**Vlad Felzmann** , priest, sportsman, footballer/athlete, professor, fund-raiser, more to come in "History", brother **John** at Clapham too.

58 "Monsignor Vlad the Footballer"



FELZMANN, BELL, LEEDER, IVERS, HOGAN, INSOLE  
 McDEROTT, WEDGEWORTH, LUKE, LEEN, BURKHARD

FELZMANN, BELL, LEEDER, IVERS, HOGAN, INSOLE  
 McDEROTT, WEDGEWORTH, LUKE, LEEN, BURKHARD

Clapham College  
 1st XI  
 Norbury '58

58



Head Boy [naturally],  
 Walsingham [well, you can't  
 win them all]. Vlad of course  
 had a photo of the COXA  
 team he played for and knew  
 all the names, I'm sure he  
 could give me "pen-pictures".  
 Most of the other Old Boys  
 from the 1950s, just about  
 recognise themselves in  
 Team Photos! [Except **Colin  
 Garvey**, of course].



**Professor Mons. Vladimir Jan Antonin Václav Felzmann (Confirmed Francis Xavier)**

**BORN** Prague 6 May 1939. Came to England in 1946. Father a Czechoslovak diplomat who in '45 came to the Czechoslovak Embassy in London. In '48, when Communists took control of CSR, he resigned. So we became refugees. Expecting imminently to return home, it was only after the failure of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 we took on British Nationality.

- Father - Adolf Felzmann 1909-1961
- Mother - Georgina Felzmann 1910-1996
- Sister - Jarmila 1937 –
- Sister - Georgina 1941-1995
- Brother – John 1946-1967

**PRIMARY EDUCATION** Convent School in Prague briefly  
 Glengyle, Putney (Day) 1946-48  
 St Peter's Guildford (Boarding) 1948-51

**SECONDARY EDUCATION** **Clapham College (Day) 1951-58**  
**Head Boy 1957**  
 Imperial College BSc 1958-81  
 DIC (Structures) ACGI MSc (Eng.) 1962-63-  
 Lateran University, Rome 1967-69  
 DD (Summa cum Laude) 1969

**GOD** - fell in love with God while on summer holiday on Eriskay, Outer Hebrides in 1954 **OPUS DEI** Joined Opus Dei 23.9.1959 Studied theology in Rome 1965-69 Ordained, Priest, Madrid 31.8.69 Participated in Opus Dei's General Congress, Rome 1969 & 1970 exit from Opus Dei 23.9.81 Incardinated Westminster Diocese 1.4.1982

## 60. Vlad's Curriculum Vitae [well some of it...]

Founder-CEO JP2F4S charity

2011-21

Priest-in-charge Stepney Parish 16.10.13-15.3.14

Wapping 8.8.14 – 4.4.15

Care for Anglophone at St Anne's Underwood Rd

1.4.16 – 3.9.17

Chaplain, Olympics & Para-Olympics 2012

Chaplain, Para-Athletic & Athletic World

Championships 2017

Joined Chaplains Squad @ HMP

Wandsworth for Sat. & Sun. masses 29.4.2017-

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

some better than others

**English, Czech, Spanish, Italian, French, Latin**

DRIVING LICENCE

ADE – car and motorcycle

HOBBIES Nurturing friendships, prayer, thinking, writing, house repairs and installation, keeping fit [press-ups / squats alternate days–resting Sundays - to the tune of my age (including 9 months in womb)]

AWARDS

Companion with Star and Badge of Religion 1st Class Order of Orthodox Hospitallers 1986

Knight, Polonia Restituta 1988

Cavaliere di Merito Ecclesiastico, Constantinian Order of St George 1990

Knight of the Holy Sepulchre 1994

Chaplain, Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem 1995-99

Chaplain General (OSLJ JChIJ) 1999

Chaplain of the Jurisdiction of St Lazarus of Jerusalem 1999-2001

Prelate of Honour (Mgr) 1999

Knight Commander of the Holy Sepulchre 2001

Knight 1st Class Order of Francis 1 2006

Chaplain of Honour, Lourdes 2015

Visiting Professor, St Mary's University Twickenham 2019

# 61 ...Vlad's CV ..continued ..some "classics" here...

## WRITINGS

Articles and Book Reviews in The Tablet,  
The Universe and The Catholic Herald.  
Numerous articles in Westminster Cathedral  
Bulletin, now 'Oremus'  
Pamphlets: The Apostles' Creed 1989  
Life's Pilgrimage 1990  
Fortnightly Column on Sport,  
'The Catholic Times' then 'Universe' 11.6.18 - present day

## RETREATS PREACHED

Many throughout stay at All Saints 1991-2011  
St Mary's Ascot Yrs. 11 and 13 1986-2012  
St Peter's Seminary, Wexford 1998 & 99  
Venerable Collegio Inglese, Rome 9-10.4. 06  
Permanent & Trainee Deacons  
Aylesford 2008 & 9  
Merville, France 2010  
Ashburnham Place, Battle 2011

## THEOLOGY COURSES TAUGHT – Auxiliaries of the Apostolate, Lourdes

The Blessed Trinity 2000  
Pneumatology 2002  
New Testament 2004  
Creation-Redemption 2006

## RELIGIOUS ADVISER

(Theatre) 2007&14

### The Last Confession

Brideshead Revisited (Film) 2007  
Saint Joan (National Theatre) 2007  
Apparitions (TV) 2007  
Romeo & Juliet (Theatre) 2008

\*\*\*\*\*

PS. The 9s have been outstanding – who knows why?

I was:

Born 1939  
Joined Opus Dei 1959  
Ordained Priest 1969  
Diocesan Chaplain to young people & Director of Pilgrimages 1989  
Awarded Papal 'Prelate of Honour' 1999  
Appointed Visiting Professor at St Mary's University 2019

## 62. Vlad's C.V....does he transport it on a small [large] trolley??

### POSITIONS PRIOR TO LEAVING OPUS DEI

1st XI Football Colours	1955-58
Assistant Scout Master	
28th Streatham	1957-62
Secretary, Imperial College	
Boat Club	1959-60
Captain. City & Guilds Boat Club	1960-61
Students Cross, London	1959.
Member, Union of Catholic Students	1961
International Vice-President, UCS	1960
Student's Cross, London Leg, Secy.	1960
Students Cross, London Leg, Director	1961
Secretary, Netherhall House	1960-61
(Residence of Opus Dei)	
Director, Netherhall House	1961-65
Director of first Greygarth [Opus Dei]	
Summer School, Manchester	1962
Tutor in Structures at	
Architectural Association	1962-64
Lecturer in English at	
Institute of Education, Rome	1966-69
Chaplain at Turo University	
Residence, Barcelona	1969-70
Chaplain to Netherhall House	
Boys' club	1970-79
Chaplain, Netherhall House	1970-81
Chaplain to Lakefield	
Educational Centre	1970-81
Preached retreats for men, women, boys, girls and	
Diocesan clergy	1970-81
Started Days of Recollection	1970
At Sudbury, Southend, Canterbury, Camberley. Oxford, Newmarket and Cambridge.	
Led recollections, retreats, excursions and international camping trips.	1970-81
Led retreats for diocesan clergy at Wickenden Manor, Sussex	1973-80
Organised:	
Week of Disabled People at Cardinal Vaughan School	1981
Vocations week at CVMS	1982

I



## 63. Vlad Felzmann's C.V. approaching the finish [hope you're still with us....]

Founder Chairman, National Association of School Chaplains (now ACCE)	1984-91
Priest in Residence, Our Lady of Victories, Kensington	1981-82
Head of Religious Education Cardinal Vaughan School	1973-84
School Chaplain, CVMS	1976-84
Head of Liberal Studies CVMS	1976-84
Chaplain, Westminster Cathedral	1985
Sub-Administrator, Westminster Cathedral	1985-1989
Chaplain, to WDES	1985-92
Vice Chairman, The Passage Management Cttee	1985-92
Foundation Governor, CVMS	1989-92
Chaplain to Papal Knights	1985-
Council Member, Friends of Westminster Cathedral	1985-97
Diocesan Director of School Chaplains [then 'coordinator']	1985-2009
Diocesan Chaplain to Young People	1989-2004
Diocesan Director of Pilgrimages	1989-2002
Director, All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney	1991-2011
Founder and Chaplain to SPEC Centre, All Saints	1992-2004
Founded <u>Loft@SPEC</u>	1998
Founded and Chaplain to Young Adults Pilgrimage to Lourdes (YAP)	1986-92
Chaplain, Ascent Movement	1999-2003
Trustee, Genesis Foundation	2001-
Trustee, The Passage	2002-
Chair, Fund Raising Committee	2011-2017
Founded SPECeast	2001
SPEC-SON	2002
SPEC Mission Team	2003
Trustee Genesis America (UK)	2004 -
Trustee Nat. Spir. & Mental Health Forum	2007 - 09
Trustee 'Rights and Humanity'	2008 - 12
Chair of Trustees CaAPA [ex CSG]	2008 -

64. Vlad's C.V. .."The End"..... said he was a talent [at school] and then some!

Delegate International Council of Christians and

Jews [ICCJ] Conferences in

- Fribourg 1987
- Montreal 1988
- Lille 1989
- Launched Diocesan Annual Conference of Parish Youth Workers 1990
- Diocesan Director World Youth Days to:
  - Czestochowa 1991
  - Denver 1993
  - Paris 1997
  - Rome 2000

Attended the Vatican's "Sport at the service of Humanity", 1st Global Conference on Faith & Sport, October 5-7 2016

Executive Committee Member ICCJ 1992-98

Provincial Chaplain, Knights of St Columba, Province 29 1993-2011

Started Bright Lights Festival for Young Adults 1995

Governor, St Columba's School 1995-99

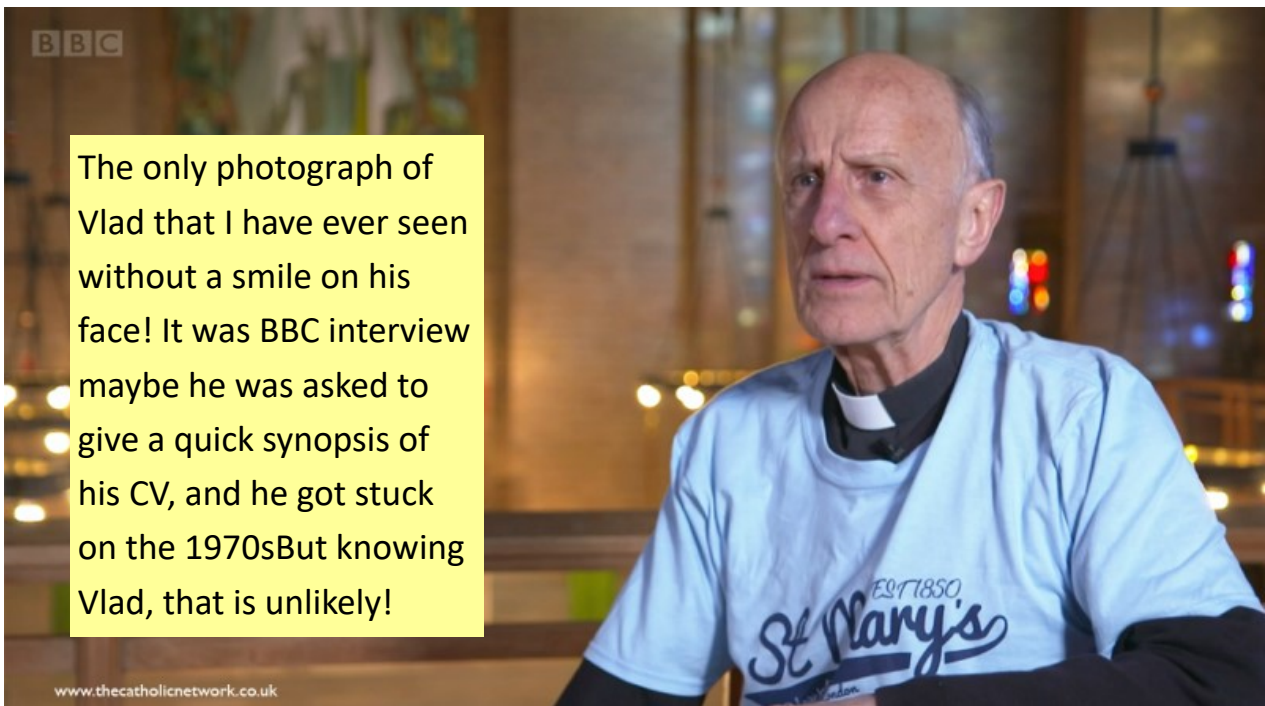
Executive Committee 3 Faiths Forum 1998- 2002

Started Medical 3 Faiths Forum 1999

Founder & Chair Friends of Bethlehem Uni 1999-2017

Catholic Chaplain to Canary Wharf 2010-21

Catholic Chaplain for Sport 2011– present day



Clapham College 1958 - 1963  
Observations and recollections:  
Yet another view!

I greatly enjoyed Colin Garvey's recent contributions to the Clapper (what an awful name!) magazine, but could not help noticing the glowing tones with which he describes the teaching staff. In my view, this is down to the fact that he enjoyed some years in the sixth form where, in all probability, the teachers actually began to treat pupils as young human beings, rather than regarding them as something lower than a sub-species of pond life! If he had terminated his academic studies somewhat earlier, I think his recollection of certain masters might be less pleasant.

For example, at a recent class reunion, it became obvious that even after some 40 years, those of us who exited the school at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year still held a positive dislike of Atkinson, the English teacher. For those of our number who didn't make it past the 4<sup>th</sup> year, the dislike was more akin to hatred. We must not forget that not for nothing was he nicknamed Slimey. The origin of this soubriquet was probably down to his obsequious manner, but he was mostly remembered as a "ruler on the knuckles merchant" – in our view, a particularly nasty and cowardly way of holding discipline.

For the same reason the little ginger-haired maths master, Stirzacre (nickname Bicky), was held in even lower esteem. I seem to recall that Bharrier's weapon of choice was not a stump, as suggested in the last issue, but a baseball bat administered to the rear end with such force that small boys were lifted clean off the floor! Nobody liked Bharrier, and revenge was finally taken when one of our number removed and disposed of his notorious ledger of homework marks which seemed to contain records going back over his entire working life. He made several unsuccessful appeals for its return over subsequent weeks, and never seemed to recover from its loss, becoming a withdrawn and broken man, seemingly losing the will to live!

The first lesson on my first day in Form 1A was from Bill Blight, who was also our Form Master. Having called the register, he selected six of us at random (including me), lined us up at the front of the class, and demanded a gym slipper from a boy in the front row. When he couldn't produce one, he was added to the line of unfortunates. Finally a plimsoll was supplied and we were given a slippering to act as an example to the rest of the class. My initial shock/horror at being beaten within an hour of first entering the school, and for no apparent reason, quickly subsided when we were then given a free pass for a subsequent misdemeanour of our choice.

Music lessons were presided over by Mr. Smith – or "Gobbo" in view of his unfortunate habit of depositing saliva on the front two rows of pupils whenever he spoke. When singing in full flow, boys at the front were positively drenched! As he taught only on a part-time basis, he never knew anybody's name, and we soon learned that his questions were invariably addressed to "that boy in the middle of the back row". Finding music reasonably easy I usually volunteered to sit there, with the result that he seldom got the incorrect answer he was expecting. It was unfortunate for him that the music room doubled as the premises for the art class, as one lunchtime it facilitated our painting the white piano keys black and vice-versa!

I only have only one recollection of Mr. Pocock, as a football referee, because he never taught the As, only the alphas. One day, as a punishment for something or other, I had been told to captain the form 3<sup>rd</sup> team against the alphas. By definition these were the dregs of the class, who could not even get into the 2<sup>nd</sup> team and consisted of a rag-bag of fat, unfit or dis-interested young gentlemen, often without any soccer kit at all, whose number varied on a weekly basis. I pointed out to Pocock

that my team consisted of 12 players, to which he replied that I would have to put 2 in one position. I duly assigned 2 goalkeepers and was promptly given several hundred lines to the effect: "I must not be too clever by half "

French lessons were given by Mr. Gilmore who charmingly started most lessons by instructing somebody to "Open the windows – there's a smell of boy in here". On that note, we never got a smell of the French magazines that were ordered and paid for in the 1<sup>st</sup> year!

Having said all this, I have to say that I always found the Chemistry teachers Ernie Wright and Bill Kidd to be decent human beings. Many years later, I bumped into the latter in Oxford Street, and was surprised that he recognised me first. He had by then become disillusioned with teaching and had left the industry altogether.

I am sure that a lot of people will remember Brother Cajetan, who was most probably deranged and should never have been teaching. I think that he joined the school at the start of our 4<sup>th</sup> year, and that he taught History to the alphas. He had got it into his head that all young boys were "Teddy Boys", although I doubt he really knew what this meant. He would often dish out hundreds of lines: "I must not be a Teddy Boy!"

One memorable incident occurred when we were in the 5th year. Quite a few of us had a blank study period, with no teacher present, whilst the alphas were being supervised next door by Cajetan. The partition between the classrooms had a pane of glass missing, where it had been previously broken. We started to throw various items, such as books, plimsolls, chalk etc. through to next door, whilst also making a hell of a din! As expected, Cajetan came flying through the door, screaming that we were all Teddy Boys and started lashing out at the head of anyone within reach, although these were seldom the perpetrators.

The now unattended alphas were quick to return the compliment, and a barrage of missiles came back through the missing panel, even a bottle of milk, accompanied by even more noise, especially terms of abuse for Cajetan. This, of course prompted him to go tearing back into 5 alpha, meting out even more ferocious whacks to the head, again probably to innocent pupils. This was our cue to repeat the process, and the whole scene was played out several times, with Cajetan running back and forth between the classrooms, becoming ever more irate and hitting people at random. At one point, he was actually chasing some boys round the desks – fortunately, he didn't know any of our names.

These musings would be incomplete without one more anecdote about Brother Peter – a truly great and good man. On hearing that A.K. Smith had indicated an intention of not leaving the College after 2 years in Form 5, he enquired in his usual sarcastic tone, "A.K. - what are you staying on for? – third year 5<sup>th</sup>?"

Peter Fry

### An Old Boy Remembers – David Conduct Clapham College 1952 - 1960

My views on Clapham College 1952-60, I hope these will strike a chord with former Xaverians [sorry David not such a think. Once a Xav...!] who share my fondness of the place. There was certainly something unique about the place and was this was brought home to me when I was a student at Hull University [1960-1963]. One evening I went around to visit **Mick Aldrich**, a contemporary of mine from Clapham [credited with the invention of "Online Shopping"] also at Hull. I was with my girlfriend, and another friend, not from Clapham. The conversation soon became a nostalgia fest as Mick and I recalled days at Clapham. After an hour of this, I overheard my girlfriend ask my other friend, "Did you go to Clapham College?". To which she wearily replied: "No, but I feel that I did!".

So, what makes Clapham College special?...

*[Oh dear, have we got space??]*

**Clapham College was run by a religious order**, but never in a doctrinaire fashion. My daily prayers are still those I learnt in the school playground where the outdoor assembly was held. No one, to my knowledge, ever joined the Xaverian Order and the result was an educational establishment with a spiritual dimension but remarkably free from dogmatism or missionary zeal.

**My first impressions of the school, in 1952**, were of a rather forbidding place. On the wall outside the narrow alleyway when led to our small gym, someone, acquainted with Dante's "Inferno" had carved the words: "Abandon hope all ye who enter here". I was in awe of our masters in those intimidating gowns; **Bill Blight** always had a conker, or two, tied up in the wings of his and used them to painful effect. The prefects were enormous and could be mistaken as teachers; **Mr Escott**, the Geography teacher, did use one of his 6<sup>th</sup> Form students [**Rudolf Massara**] as a substitute teacher on a number of occasions. "Eccentric", is a word which springs to mind when I think about my teachers at Clapham, but, on reflection, the whole school set-up was somewhat bizarre.

How many schools have **assemblies in the School Playground**, with the Headteacher addressing them standing on an elevated drain-cover? How many schools send their pupils on a one-and-a-half-mile hike to a local primary school every lunchtime?

An obvious feature of the College was the **complete lack of women**. They didn't seem to play any part in that "blokey" male world, dominated by sport and academic study. Bill Blight, when initiating my class of terrified First Formers in the mysteries of Mathematics, declared that "Arts Subjects are the equivalent of knitting". I never accepted this point of view..but it did survive in the Upper School Track and Field Team, where each of us used to evaluate our performance relative to those of women; if you couldn't beat the Woman's World Record Holder in your event, you really weren't up to much".

**The teachers....** what a remarkable bunch they were! **Brother Dunstan**, who was forever blowing himself up in the Chemistry Lab; **Brother Xavier** - or "Louie" as he was known to us all - a kind old man, whose favourite pastime seemed to be that of stroking the back of the school cat's head with the rubberised end of his walking stick; Brother Peter, the Head, who was found every morning and afternoon, welcoming, or bidding farewell to boys from the top of Broadoak's steps, everyone seemed to be called "Johnny" for some strange reason; **Brother Joseph**, my first Head, saying "goodbye" to the College, and shaking everyone's hand [including mine - and nearly breaking it!], as he prepared to leave for the Mission School in Africa, where he later died, struck by lightning; **John Gibb** - taking "A-Level lessons smoking a cigarette, in class.. **Jacob** Schwenk saying to me "I don't mind him smoking, but I wish he'd pass them around!"

## 68. So, what makes Clapham College special?.by David Conduct

And, of course **Cecil [Pocock]** – only in his early twenties, when I first met him, but already, it seemed, part of the very fabric of the College; telling the story of History in such a dramatic fashion that his lessons were never dull and with a boundless energy which inspired all his extra-curricular activities. In short, a friend and one I have gone on to exchange Christmas cards for the past fifty years.

And my fellow pupils: “**Auger, Bonthron, Bouchard, Bunce, Callaghan, Conduct...**” I still remember the daily litany of morning registration, I have forgotten most of the names which came after mine, but I have happy memories of the time and space we shared. Academic rivalry was a feature of our relationships, but it generated respect rather than resentment. To this day I can still recall the intellectual pleasure of talking to people like **Philip Lovelock** and **John Howie** and I still look back in admiration on fellow pupils like **John Bunce**, [always seemed to beat me into second place in class].

Sport, at Clapham, always provided wonderful opportunities to grow and develop. I was surrounded by talented sportsmen, **Frank Burkhard, Bernie Lean, Ted Bell, Ben Hogan, Eugene Smyth, Peter McDermott, Dave Whitehouse, Mick Gowan. Mike Turvey, Colin Luke**; all brilliant in different ways. I recall a First XI football match with Colin Luke v an Army team, at their Chelsea Barracks ground on the King’s Road. The pitch was very heavy, the ball weighed a ton, Colin seemed to skip across the ground, banging in goals from every angle. He scored **FOUR** that day, I watched on in awe. In my “mind’s eye”, I am still the young boy playing alongside Colin, in spite of the ravages of time. I guess that’s how we all feel. And so, **Cecil Pocock**, as frail as he now might be, remains for me, the vibrant life force that he ever was. It is very good to have known such a fine man



69. The most “intelligent “ boy **ever** to attend Clapham College...”unless”..



Distinguished Professor Michael Turvey Senior Scientist at the University of Connecticut USA

One of the most amazing achievements of Michael Turvey is that he has a longer Curriculum Vitae than **Vlad Felzmann** - don't worry am not including it [sorry Michael] - please look online,

**Michael T. Turvey** is the Board of Trustees' Distinguished Professor of Experimental Psychology at the University of Connecticut and a Senior Scientist at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Connecticut. He is best known for his pioneering work in ecological psychology and in applying dynamic systems approach for the study of motor behavior. He is the founder of the *Center for the Ecological Study of Perception and Action*. His research spans a number of areas including: dynamic touch and haptics, interlimb coordination, visual perception and optic flow, postural stability, visual word recognition and speech perception. Along with William Mace and Robert Shaw, he has been one of the leading explicators of the ecological psychology of J. J. Gibson. His pioneering work with J. A. Scott Kelso and Peter N. Kugler introduced the physical language of complex systems to the understanding of perception and action. He also helped to introduce the ideas of Russian motor control theorist, Nikolai Bernstein, and his colleagues to a larger audience. Working with Georgije Lukatela and other colleagues at Haskins Laboratories, he has exploited the dual nature of the Serbo-Croatian orthography to help understand word recognition.

Turvey is also the winner of the IgNobel Prize [6] in Physics along with Prof. Ramesh Balasubramaniam of Cognitive & Information Sciences at the University of California, Merced, for exploring and explaining the dynamics of hula-hooping. (*Reference*: "Coordination Modes in the Multisegmental Dynamics of Hula Hooping," Ramesh Balasubramaniam and Michael T. Turvey, *Biological Cybernetics*, vol. 90, no. 3, March 2004, pp. 176–90.)

### Representative publications[edit]

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- Turvey, M. T. (1973). On peripheral and central processes in vision: Inferences from an information-processing analysis of masking with patterned stimuli. *Psychological Review*, 80, 1-52.
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## 70. The most “intelligent “ boy ever at CC Michael Turvey..continued

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- Fowler, C. A., Rubin, P. E., Remez, R. E., & Turvey, M. T. (1980). Implications for speech production of a general theory of action. In B. Butterworth (Ed.), *Language Production, Vol. I: Speech and Talk*(pp. 373–420). New York: Academic Press.
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- Lukatela, G., & Turvey, M. T. (2000). An evaluation of the two-cycles model of phonology assembly. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 42, 183-207.
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There are more than 20 pages of this online - I only understand every third word, wow what a talent - what a brain - what you'd have given to sit next to him in class at Clapham College; was Michael taught **Science by Brother Dunstan?**

Remember your “roots” Michael Turvey certainly does. When presenting a lecture, that was written up in the media, he sent a signed copy, with an note to **Cecil Pocock** [his old History Teacher] thanking him for his inspiration and believing in him!

Before departing from the “brilliance that is Michael Turvey” [Clapham College 1953 to 1960] triple jumper - England “B” Athletics, Loughborough College, [in the “A” class] were the most intelligent boys in “A” ..I was an “A” Ed.. Finally ...**Glastonbury** [again you can't win them all, Michael!]. Below is a link to a question / answer session Michael did to hundreds of students, in a lecture hall.. You see 37 pages online- I added a page overleaf.

<https://haskinslabs.org/sites/default/files/files/Michael%20Turvey%20Oral%20History%20transcript.pdf>



## 71. Michael Turvey..continued ..a short transcript of an oral Q&A session

Michael Turvey Oral History

CAF:OK so this is January 26, 2016 and present; Carol Fowler, Donald Shanweiler and Michael Turvey. We are taking an oral history from Michael Turvey. Go ahead, Donald. DPS: OK Michael.

We want you to tell us about your childhood, what might be...have prepared you for your life as a science researcher [laughter]

MTT: Good question. My father was a gambler, my mother was a factory worker. My brother received a medical degree at Royal College of Surgeons, University of Edinburgh. My sister was one of the first people ever to do computers. They were born...they were 13 and 12 years older than I was. I was, as it were, created during the so-called London's longest night when 1,750 German bombers bombed for 48 hours

DPS: The Blitz.

MTT: No, this was more than the Blitz. This was now to stop the collapse of the German empire as it were. And it's clear that my parents decided that this was the end of their time, since my neighbourhood was basically destroyed. And so here I am

CAF: They needed more descendants.

MTT: So here I am. And I was brought up in school as it were, run by nuns, so there was very dedicated teachers, which are very important. In my school that I went to, only three of the children in my age group went on to the next level of school, which was grammar schools. Most kids just went on directions where they would get jobs very quickly.

CAF:What age would that be?

MTT: So eleven in the English system.

CAF: Eleven. Yeah.

MTT: Move on to grammar school. So I went to grammar school and two others from my class.

CAF: Isn't that awful. DPS: I think I remember you saying that you went to a Jesuit grammar school.

MTT: Jesuit and Xaverian brothers. The teaching order of the Jesuits as it were, So that's where I went to grammar school. But the nearest grammar schools in neighbourhood were about an hour and a half travel time away. So a little 11 year old kid...

DPS On the tube or on a...

MTT: On buses and tubes. Two tubes and two buses.

DPS: Wow. But that was a high quality education.

MTT: Yeah, it was a good education, great education.

DPS: Very rigorous. Yeah.

MTT: And for some reason or other, I had always been well prepared to study, and I think that was partly...My father never read a book in his life, but he would always bring books into the house, whatever they were. Just pick them up when he was on his way back from the race track or the dog track or cards or pool, wherever he was earning his money in those days.

.....**Continued overleaf** .....

## 72. Michael Turvey..continued .....oral Q&A session

CAF: Have you ever read Angela's Ashes? I mean this is reminding me of Frank McCourt'...

MTT: Someone mentioned...I think Bob Shaw mentioned that to me that I should look at it.

CAF: He left school at 13. He was in Ireland But also his father was this alcoholic guy; he wasn't a gambler as far as I know, but just an alcoholic. But he taught his son to read. Just amazing.

MTT: Which is rather important., I guess.

CAF: Just amazing DPS: Your parents...You must have been very special.. I mean, I met your mother. I remember her. Because all three of you were...

MTT: "Pubbers"

DPS: ...did things that were special.

MTT: I did leave...

So I went on to this second school [grammar school] **Clapham College** as it was called. As I said, that was a long trip, every day it was about three hours' travelling, and I was always late. I was late from the time I entered that school until the time I left that school. I can still remember one of the main brothers would say: Turvey, late again. I would say simply: Yes, brother. And everyone, all my old buddies still say: Turvey, how you doing? Still late? I could never be otherwise. It was impossible.

But I left school at 16 for a while, because we just couldn't survive, the family and I. So I started to look for jobs, maybe an apprenticeship in some engineering company. So I was doing some math and physics primarily.

Though probably history was the subject I was best at. I in fact got the highest grade in the history exams, O level history exams, in the United Kingdom.

### Michael Turvey [Glastonbury]

[Thank you Cecil]

Snippet from the 1960 Prize Day programme.. Wonder if the two soloists for the 1950s would be willing to play a duet at the Chairmans's Lunch next year?

The Two Solos:  
(Soloists : J. K. SABBAGH, A. G. CLEATHER)

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**SCHOOL OFFICIALS.**

	1959-60.	1960-61
<i>School Captain.</i>	W. McGrath	C. Garvey
<i>House Captains.</i>		
Canterbury	J. Howie	K. Williamson
Charterhouse	A. Morrish	P. Keenan
Glastonbury	R. Shea	A. Cleather
Walsingham	L. Richardson	K. Sabbagh.
<i>Games Captains.</i>		
Athletics	M. Turvey	
Cricket	W. McGrath	P. Gray
Football	D. Hogan	C. Garvey

**Award of Colours, 1959-60.**

Athletics.	P. McDermott; D. Whitehouse; M. Turvey; D. Hogan; I. Griff
Cricket.	J. Bunce; T. Cain; W. McGrath; P. Steward; D. Worley.
Football.	D. Conduct; D. Hogan; P. McDermott; P. Steward.

## 73. Most eminent pupil of the College [ever] Peter Smith Archbishop of Southwark

The Most Reverend  
**Peter Smith**

*Archbishop of Southwark*  
*Vice President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales*



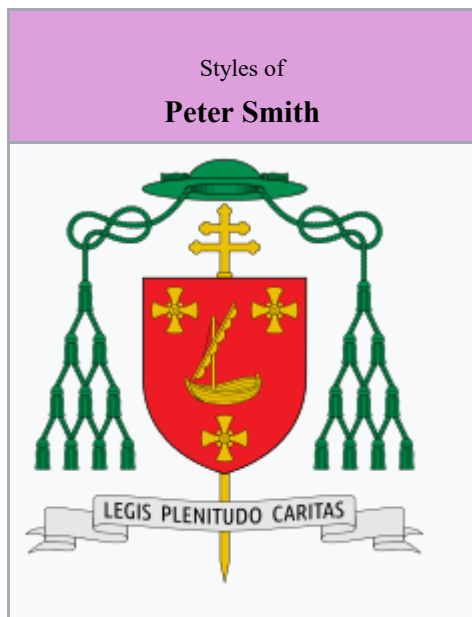
Peter started at the College in 1955 and stayed to complete his "A" Levels in 1961, when he moved on to Exeter University.

Peter never forgot Clapham and as Archbishop he officiated at the Remembrance Day Service in our Chapel 4 years ago. He was in the "A" group and got the English Prize in his 5th Year.

Peter Smith at his installation as Archbishop of Southwark

<b>Church</b>	<a href="#">Roman Catholic Church</a>
<b>Archdiocese</b>	<a href="#">Southwark</a>
<b>Province</b>	<a href="#">Southwark</a>
<b>Appointed</b>	30 April 2010
<b>Predecessor</b>	<a href="#">Kevin McDonald</a>
<b>Ordination</b>	15 July 1972
<b>Consecration</b>	27 May 1995 by <a href="#">Basil Hume</a>
<b>Birth name</b>	Peter David Smith
<b>Born</b>	21 October 1943 (age 74) <a href="#">Battersea, London, England</a>
<b>Educated</b>	<a href="#">Clapham College</a> (1954—1960)
<b>Previous post</b>	<a href="#">Bishop of East Anglia</a> (1995–2001) <a href="#">Archbishop of Cardiff</a> (2001–2010)
<b>Coat of arms</b>	

## 74. The Archbishop Peter Smith story



**Peter David Smith** (born 21 October 1943) is an English prelate of the Roman Catholic Church, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark. He had previously served as the Bishop of East Anglia (1995–2001) and Metropolitan Archbishop of Cardiff (2001–2010).

England. He was educated at Clapham College, then an all boys Catholic voluntary-aided grammar school. He studied at Exeter University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in law. He then undertook studies for the priesthood at St. John's Seminary in Wonersh and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome (doctorate in canon law).

Smith was ordained to the priesthood on 5 July 1972. After doing pastoral work from 1972 to 1974, Smith began teaching canon law at his *alma mater*, St John's Seminary, Wonersh, in 1977. Curate in Thornton Heath (1984–85) and as the rector of St John's Seminary (1985–95).

On 21 March 1995, Smith was appointed Bishop of East Anglia by Pope John Paul II. He received his episcopal consecration on the following 21 May from Cardinal Basil Hume OSB, with Archbishop Michael George Bowen and Bishop Alan Charles Clark serving as co-consecrators. Smith was later named Archbishop of Cardiff on 26 October 2001. He also voiced his opposition to living wills in 2004, fearing that "a proxy could make a decision to do away with someone for the motive of killing someone".

Smith has chaired the Catholic Truth Society since 1993 and the Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship within the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales since 1998. He was also chairman of the Central Religious Advisory Committee (CRAC) of the BBC. In 2002 he was made a subprelate and chaplain of the Venerable Order of Saint John. In 2004 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the University of Wales, Lampeter and also of Cardiff University in 2006. On 30 April 2010, Smith was named as the Archbishop of Southwark.



The Prefects (1960-61). Left to right, back row: A. Morrish, P. Keenan, J. Sabbagh, P. Noakes; middle row: P. Gray, K. Williamson, C. Garvey (School Captain), A. Cleather, B. Schwenk; front row: T. Cain.

"This is a true story"  
 "Scotty tell us the one about"  
 "Have you heard the one about."

Friend of Salesians, Thorntonians, Suttonians, Glynn OB etc., etc...

PREFECTS



76. Is this a meeting of great Xaverian Brothers, or a great meeting of Xaverians  
[or both] at the Golden Jubilee of Brother Berchmans in 1953



top Row: Fr Sidney Farmer, M.H.M.; Kevin, Mario, Charles, Thomas, Merv, Bede, Felix, Antoninus, Christopher  
Plunkett, Cathbert, Conrad, Camillus

middle Row: Chad, Alphonsus, Patrick, Raymond, Danstao, Bonaventure, Thomas, Gabriel, Anthony,  
George,

bottom Row Anselmi, Matthias, Brendan, Jerome, Paul, Berchmans, John, Peter, Benet

taken at Mayfield: Golden Jubilee of Jerome & Berchmans 1953

Well, there is the proof, teachers marking "our" work at Clapham in the 1950s. You thought they never read a word. Cecil [in the "chair"] could have had a reason behind this teaching "sweat-shop". Or possibly it was a posed" picture. After all who would take snaps of teachers marking?

Sorry can't name the others two....

Staffroom sweat-shop





## 78. Very Quick Synopsis of some of missed “Boys of the Fifties”

**John Rayer** [recently deceased] was a Past Grand President of the Catenians Association. 1959/66. More importantly John was a “free-scoring” centre forward for COXA [as was his father before him]. Captain of Walsingham and Alpha. God Bless John ++ RIP ++

**Aidan Coletta** [1957 to 63] Charterhouse [Alpha] Director of a successful meat-trading company. Footballer [midfield destroyer], wicket-keeper, golfer, successfully Grade “A” League referee



**Emigration** - well this was certainly the decade for it of the 150-odd boys we have “full” details on eight emigrated to Australia, seven to Canada, six to Africa, then Turkey, Hong Kong, France, Sweden, Jerusalem, Ireland, West Indies and USA. This was the era of opportunity. Success was “at home” for many of the pupils who stayed in England.

“**Arnold**” ‘59 - an Alpha, no idea what happened, but he was expelled in the First Year.

**Albert Markham** [Alpha] 1954 to 1960 was an ABA Boxer - we never “boxed” at C.C.]

**Michael Knowles** 1953 to 1960 - nothing in Archive, but was Conservative MP for East Notts. 1983-92. attached to Ministry of Defence. Leader of Kingston on Thames Council.

**Austin [Gus] Davis** 1953-59 emigrated back to the West Indies [brothers Richard and Lindon] Deputy Attorney General of Jamaica and Principal of the Trinidad Law Academy.

**Eight Old Xaverians became priests** [the lowest number since record began in the 19th Century, John **Condon** [Head Boy Canterbury trained for the priesthood] was he a priest?

**Pete Wills** 1954 to 1958, [Spivak] Walsingham, sprinter, footballer, “oracle of 1950s Clapham,” one of the 20 who meet at the Falcon in Clapham Junction [twice a year] truly a group who became “friends for life” after their time at Clapham College.

**Stan Miller** [1955-60] surely the nicest/kindest Xaverian, great cricketer & squash player.

**Mick Meade**, 1955 to 1962, 1st XI goalkeeper [flying crop sprayer, Australia] Head Boy.

**Only a handful became doctors**, Kieron Ennis - Royal College of Surgeons.

**COXA Chairs Mick Powell, Alan Webber**, legends in their lifetimes [sorry those missed].

**Time and space** has caught up with me for the many great servants of Clapham College and Clapham Old Xaverians whose contribution to our Association has been immense.

Among that group are “Boys of the 1950s” who are still active and regular supporters of COXA, so apologies to **Mick Power, John McGuire, Frank Hixson, Peter McDermott**,

**Tony Curtis** [who ran a boarding kennels and helped design target missiles in Australia],

also **Peter Keenan, Phil and Tony Gray, Phil Roderick-Jones, Martin McGrath, Lorcan**

**Farrelly, Jake [John] Richins**, of the 3 Clapham brothers, Art Teacher Clapham, mobile paraffin salesman extraordinaire [pink or blue doesn't bother me - does him!] opens his

fabulous garden to the public for charity [and to COXA]. **Fr Lawrence Richardson**, House Captain Walsingham lived in Madrid & Jerusalem. Apologies in last sentence of the

“Fifties” to **John [Karl] Sabbagh, Len Luckhurst, Rich Clark, Denis Healy**.....surely not....



The “Fabulous Fifties” boys joined a school going through rapid change and adjustments following WW2. There was a freedom and optimism about the decade. They started businesses, invented things, bought into new technologies. For those unwilling to take the opportunities in England many looked abroad and migrated for greater rewards, both socially and financially [Australia, USA and Australia being the favoured destinations].

This group produced our first Archbishop and Judges, Members of Parliament, Heads of Large Corporations and “career Xaverians”. Within this group were men who dedicated their lives to producing a better society. It was from this talented bunch that the first COXA millionaires were created, a testimony to their skills and organisational abilities. Let us be frank if it was today **Michael Aldrich** would have achieved “billionaire status with his “online shopping innovation.” We had **John Noulton**, who will always be remembered by the brilliant achievement of the Channel Tunnel for which he was the driving force. Peter Tu

**Intelligence** is a theme that runs through the very DNA of this decade [OK a few “duffers”, I can think of] but they embraced the changes in society and enhanced them. **Mike Turvey** the shining light. The numbers going to University expanded, sportsmen were rife, **Tony Amura**, [professional footballer]. I feel this decade produced two of the nicest and most loyal and thoughtful of Xaverians - **Stan Miller and Brian Sanders**. Pupils came back to teach at the College. One of the loyalist and humorous individuals one of our two Papal Knights - **Colin Garvey** has influenced, moulded and served Clapham 70 years. [**Michael Straiton** the other]. I’m sure the hundreds of Xaverians we have lost contact with have been equally successful. A truly great COXA decade and the finest ever!