



Concordia



SUMMER 2023 - Number 28

COXA RETURN TO YPRES JUNE 2023



In Remembrance 9.06.23
of the 150 Clapham Old
Xaverians who gave their
lives in WW1 & WW2
R.I.P. **R.L.** FROM YOUR
SCHOOL
CLUBS
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

In memory of the 106 Clapham College
ex-pupils who died in the two World Wars

18 Clapham College "Od Boys" died at Ypres, WW1



Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt

In proud memory of the 106 Clapham Old Xaverians
who gave their lives in the First World War.
Clapham College, London, SW4

JUNE
2023

Clapham Old
Xaverians

Visiting
School
Clubs
from
Clapham
College
(106)
R.I.P.



Clapham College "pilgrims" in Ypres, Belgium - June 2023



The "Clapham Boys" at Tyne Cott - names on walls - no bodies ever found



Rifleman Francis Brooks – 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade – Tyne Cot Memorial

Clapham College 1902 – 1903. Son of Edward Brooks, a tailor and Mother Margaret Cork Ireland. Lived Robert St., Brixton, London. **Age 29**

Rifleman Frederick Foote - 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles – Tyne Cot Memorial

Clapham College 1907 Cecilia Foote's only son, a widow, 13 Devonshire Road, Chiswick, **Age 23**

Private Austin Jukes – 2nd Battalion Honorable Royal Artillery – Tyne Cot Memorial

A Boarder at Clapham College 1909

Father Francis and mother Ellen Jukes. Family home 341 Glenlia Rd Eltham **Age 19**

Private Walter Napier – 14th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders – Tyne Cot Memorial

Clapham College 1903 – 1908

Son of John and Jane Napier of 12, Wardrop St., Paisley. Scotland **Age 19**

Private Joseph Young – 1st Buck Battalion Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry – Tyne Cot Memorial

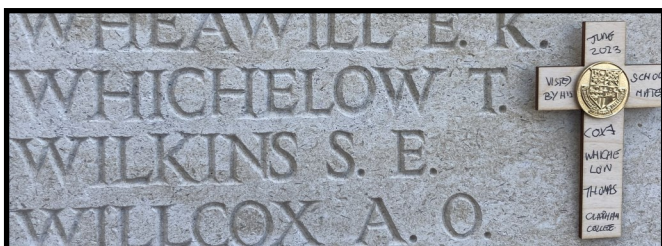
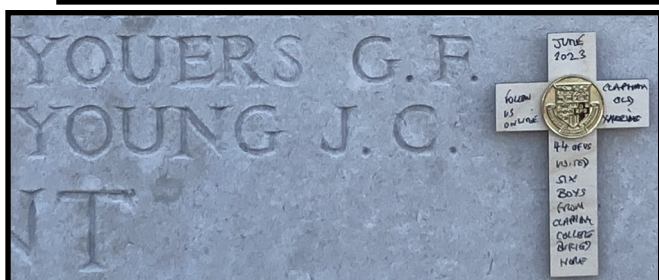
Clapham College 1909 – 1913

Mother Leah a widow. Lived 38 Albert Street, Aylesbury **Age 20**

Private Thomas Whiclelow – 28th Battalion London Regiment (Artists) – Tyne Cot Memorial

Clapham College 1909-1910

He was born to George and Annie. Lived in Addison House, Balham Hill, Balham **Age 29**



The Clapham Boys of Tyne Cott Cemetery, "The Six". Aged between 19 and 29 years old, their lives had barely started. Their bodies lie somewhere beneath the farmland of Belgium, but never forgotten.

Please think of these lads, say a silent prayer and try to imagine the sacrifice they, and their families made.

+++++ **May they Rest in Peace** +++++

John McCrae- his original poem in
Flanders Field—Ypres



In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

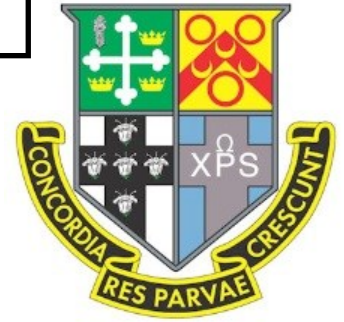
*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields*

John McCrae





Important News - take notice



**Future Concordias.
The future of Concordia**

CONCORDIA... PAPER TO ELECTRONIC

This Concordia Summer 2023, No. 28 will be the final one we are offering to ALL Xaverians in a "hard" printed format. For the past 100 years Concordia has been delivered by the Royal Mail and it's costs have always been covered by Association Funds. Yes, Membership "subs" have been used to supplement the cost, but with everyone a Life Member, income from this has dried up. The five guineas some of you paid in the 1940s was the best VFM ever! The cost of printing, post & packing means that every Concordia run costs £1,000 and I am currently producing 3 and sometimes 4 each year.

A really good reason for getting Concordia in an "electronic" format on the internet, is that it is a far better "read". Older documents and photos are easier to see & read; and "zooming" in, allows us, with fading eyesight, to access all articles in colour, the whole experience is **enhanced**. *Of the 400 COXA Members, I have all bar a dozen email addresses*

This edition will be my final print run of 400 Concordia magazines; the hours spent on addressing the envelopes, packing and posting them will be a task I shall not miss. We will still be producing some hard copies, but as you will appreciate the fewer Concordia's I send to the printer, the higher the cost of each one printed.

I will email you all once the next copy is ready - I can attach the Concordia to my email or notify you it has been published on the main Xaverian Website <https://www.claphamoldxaverians.co.uk> and the Archive Website <https://www.claphamoldxaverianarchive.com>

In summary. if you want a Concordia magazine, delivered to your home, after this one, you must contact me and "opt in"

There is no need to give reasons, just **email me** at editor@claphamoldxaverians.co.uk **or** TEXT **or** RING me on 07508001217 **or** write to me at 12 Farrow Drive, Windmills View, Barnham, West Sussex PO22 0FN. **Thank you, Scotty**

The Summer Report of Chairman David Leathem



Dear friends and fellow Old Xaverians,

A busy year since our last Concordia.

I spoke last time of a lunch to honour Ted & Sheila Hayter and Brian & Jackie Sanders at The RAC Club in Pall Mall in January. It was a big success for us all, with those attending doing so on behalf of all of us. Our senior (in every way) men enjoyed a cracking afternoon, and we brought them and sent them home in splendid door-to-door style, the men anyway, properly “refreshed”. More than a few former and current Chairmen “took wine”.

In mid-March a walk across SW1 along the Thames and across it attracted 16 walkers, and with no-one driving (it started at St James’ Park tube and finished at The Monument) the lunch for 16 was an indulgent Italian affair. I understand that another “City Ramble” is desired...

The Somme Trip was, for me, one of the best. Once more, great thanks are due to Scotty, Mick & Bina McLoughlin and Aidan Coletta for the organisation of this year’s trip to Ypres and the surrounding area. The accommodation was better than usual, with the rider that it was a bit too far out of the way for some people (many of whom miraculously discovered that €10 in a taxi resolved that, two nights running...). The visits organised by Mick, with Aidan and Scotty “auditing” timings meant that we were never on the bus for long and saw some fantastic sites (some people, for the first time). Paul Milligan, on his first trip with us, added some Ecclesiastical credentials to our always-reverential trips to see our lost boys.

The Summer Lunch at The Union Jack Club in Waterloo, meant a reduction in capacity to 120 guests, though only 60 diners signed up. It was on a Thursday (did that clash with Dickinson’s Real Deal?) and the break in routine proved too much for some of our readers. Never mind, it was fantastic and did not seem under-attended at all. Certainly, representations in the King’s Arms before and after were manifold and fun. (Some had their usual too much fun, but that’s an OX Event for you.) Scotty was taken ill and could not attend and was sorely missed.

The 1’s won another cup; I know that’s inside somewhere, and well done Clapham.

It's almost exhausting, just typing this, but events-wise, the Association thrives. Thank you all.

Yours, David

Chairman, Clapham Old Xaverians Association

David Leathem 4th July 2023

As this is the final Concordia the majority of you will get as a booklet, I’ve tried to add as many of the current Old Boys activities [most in picture form] - almost half this edition is “Personalia”. It takes dozens of hours to produce this “simple publication” [maybe I’m not very good] average grade for Eng Lang, thus the awful **English Grammar and Punctuation**. But please find my details- Page 5 - **WOULD EVERY XAVERIAN CONTACT ME WITH THEIR WISH?**

Just state **“Printed Concordia”** or **“Happy to view online”** Thanks, Scotty [Editor]

A TRIBUTE TO JIM "GOLDEN BOOTS" CHAMBERS, 1939 - 2022

James sadly passed away last year. He was a much-loved man by his family and friends, and was a member of Bob Kerr's Whopie and the Bonzo Dog Do-Dah Bands entertaining crowds up and down the country for many years. Here are just a couple of the many stories and thoughts posted on a 'Tribute to James Chambers' page by his friends. [Tribute to James Chambers, 1939 - 2022](#) David Glasson writes...

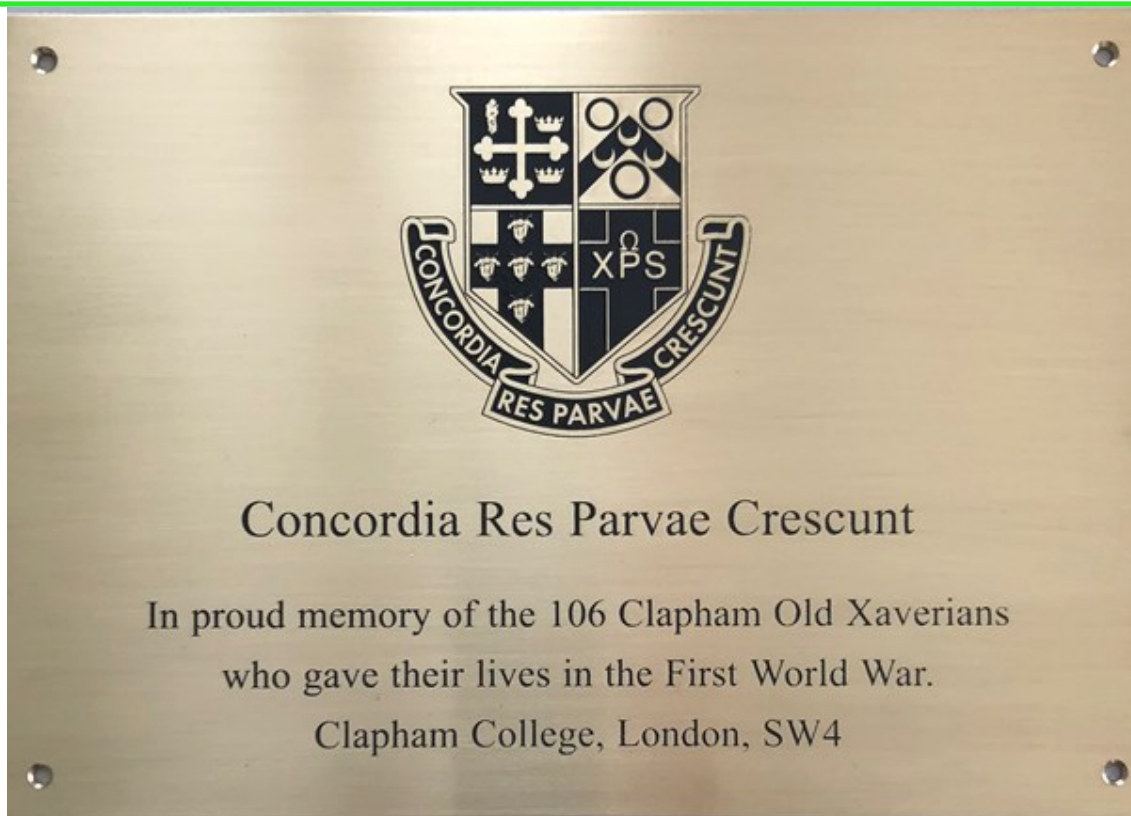
During my time in the Whoopee Band - 1968-1978 - Jim was a much loved member with whom we spent many happy tours together over the years.

... 'I've always found Jim's vocals and visual antics very funny, for instance, his impression of a modern jazz saxophonist playing a hundred disconnected notes at a ridiculous speed causing his fingers to fly off the sax altogether, followed by a look of consternation and surprise on his face! It may not sound that funny written down but I found it hilarious no matter how often I saw him do it.' *John Gieves-Watson writes...*

For nigh on 50 years I had the good fortune to be a friend and fellow musician in The Whoopee Band and Bill Posters. I've posted a short video of Jim singing 'Mean To Me; with the Bill Posters, Aim of the Golden Boots and Golden Voice. Thank you Jim.

<https://james-chambers.muchloved.com/Gallery/Pictures>





The Blessing of our Plaque in St George's Church Ypres Belgium

Friday 9th June 2023

In memory of the 106 Clapham College former pupils who died in the Great War 1914 – 1918

Saint George's Memorial Church, Ypres (Ieper), Belgium, was built in 1929 to commemorate over 500,000 British and Commonwealth troops, who had died in the three battles fought for the Ypres Salient.

Rifleman Geoffrey Freeman – 5th Battalion London Rifle Brigade – Menin Gate

Clapham College 1904 – 1906 Lived 66 Culverton Road, Balham Age 19

Private John Sutherland – 15th Battalion London Reg (Prince of Wales Own) – Menin Gate

Clapham College 1903 – 1907 Son of William and Elizabeth of 7 Topsham Road, Tooting, London Age 19

Lance Corporal John McKenzie – 14th Battalion London Reg. (London Scottish) – Menin Gate

Clapham College 1902 – 1907 Lived 30 Gwendolen Ave. Putney, London Age 23

Corporal John Jackson - 218th Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) - Perth Cemetery China Wall

Clapham College 1901 – 1908 11 Offerton Road, Clapham. Parents, John and Jane. Jackson. Age 25

2nd Lieutenant William O'Malley – Royal Field Artillery - Bedford House Cemetery Clapham College 1901

Father William a Home Rule MP for Connemara in Ireland Age 19

Lieutenant Reginald Page-Green (MC) - 26th Batt. Royal Fusiliers - Bus House Cemetery Clapham College

1907/1908 son of the William Page-Green, Felixstowe, lived at Khem, Dowsett Av, Southend; Age 22

Lieutenant Anthony Roberts - Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers - Strand Military Cemetery Clapham College

1908. Son of Joseph Henry Malpas Roberts and Annie Roberts, 16 Dumbarton Rd., Brixton Age 19.

Private Henry Simmons – 24th Battalion London Regiment - Hedge Row Trench Cemetery.

Clapham College 1907 – 1911

The son of Mrs A S Simmons of 12 Beckford Place, Walworth Road, Walworth, London

Age 21

Private William Squires - 34th Machine Gun Corps - Bard Cottage Cemetery

Clapham College 1910 – 1913

Son of William Joseph and Eliza J. Squires, of 23, Ravenslea Rd., Wandsworth Common, London.

Age 19

Private Bernard Cotter – 1st Battalion The Buffs East Kent Regiment – Ploegstreert Memorial

A Boarder at Clapham College 1907 – 1909

Parents Richard and Amy Cotter of 2 Barton's Cottages Folkstone

Age 20

Private Kenneth Cumming – 12th Bn East Surrey Regiment – Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

Clapham College 1909 -1910

Lived in Sydenham, Kent

Age 22

Private John Flanagan – 2nd Battalion Leinster Regiment – Potijze Burial Ground

Clapham College 1905 – 1907

Son of John and Sarah Flanagan. They lived at 124 St Mary's Tenison Road, St Mary's, Cambridge.

Age 27

2nd Lieutenant Felix McSweeney – 22nd Bn The Middlesex – Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery

Clapham College 1907 – 1912

Son of Dennis & Annie 53 Balham Park Rd.

Age 27

The remaining 87 former Clapham College students who died in the Great War are remembered in Commonwealth War Graves in France, Belgium, England, Ireland, Switzerland, Iraq, Egypt, Palestine, Russia, Israel and Greece.

Let us pray,

Faithful God, Lord of all creation, you desire that nothing redeemed by your Son will ever be lost, and that the just will be raised up on the last day. Grant these soldiers, who gave their lives for their friends, families and fellow citizens, a place of rest and peace, where fear, suffering and death have no dominion.

Confirm us in our hope that they will be created anew on the day when you raise them up in glory, to live with you and all the saints for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus says: Do not let your hearts be troubled Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am you may be too.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord

Jesus Christ

The service was celebrated by our own Deacon **Paul Milligan** who blessed the plaque, remembering the Old Boys sacrificed their lives , forever commemorated at St George's.

Father Michael Creech RIP - a great Xaverian

"Desperately saddened to hear this news. He was a great priest and a great Xaverian."

"I remember his sermon on Remembrance Sunday, he remembered the bombs falling on Clapham Common, and being scared to death. May he rest in peace".

"Michael was a great man. Never lost that common touch. Deeply devoted to his vocation, never forgot where he was from, was one of us".

"Always pleased to attend our functions when he could. May he rest in peace".

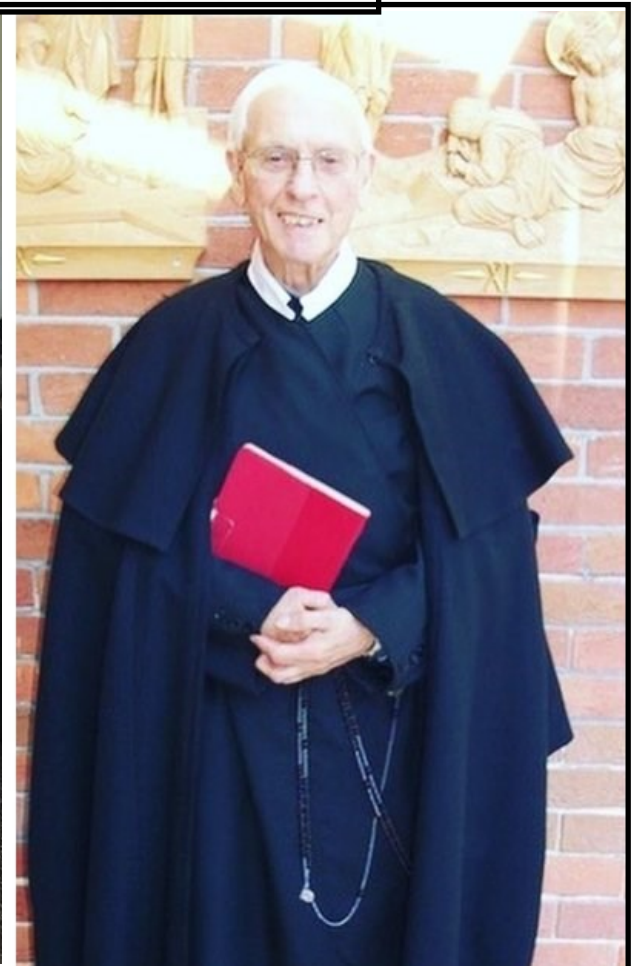
"If he was one of us (and he was), he was the best of us, God bless him"

"Such a lovely man, so engaging. Always enjoyed conversations with him.

Rev. Fr. Michael Creech – 23rd November, 2022 RIP

The death of Michael in late November last year has suddenly removed my very best childhood friend from my life. We were in the same form at Clapham College immediately following the War. We were a tiny minority of Arsenal supporters in a sea of Chelsea fans, and frequently spent weekends cycling down to the South Coast, occasionally visiting his uncle in retirement in Eastbourne, a delightful eccentric who had importantly developed the system of rapid radio contact among Spitfire pilots. Then I went off to National Service, to Newcastle for a degree in Geography, and then graduate work in Seattle, and a life of university lecturing in North America while Michael studied for the priesthood and became a much-celebrated and much-adored ordained Redemptorist in the UK. We kept in close touch and Michael was able to lead masterfully the family grieving after the death of my Mother in 1982 and Father in 1996. Later, he was also wonderful in leading memorials with London friends after the death of my sisters, Norma in Rome in 1998 and Diana in Washington in 2013. My wife, Lee and I visited him often in his rural parish in east Sussex where he was beloved and we had frequent meals together in Clapham as he neared retirement living at St. Mary's. As his health declined, we did visit him in Wimbledon, and finally last year, several times as he retained his characteristic spirit and sense of humor in hospice in Vauxhall at St. Peter's Residence. Indeed, Lee and I were all set last August 14th to play a central role in getting Michael to St. Mary's from Vauxhall to celebrate his Diamond Anniversary of Ordination when the celebration was cancelled due to ill-health.

A truly lovely article by an Old Xaverian on his life-long pal Michael Creech. I will publish your "name" and a proper apology in the next Concordia - sorry [again]





RECOGNISE THIS FACE?

This is none other than Ethan Hayter, grandson, of a very proud grandfather, Ted Hayter. Ted (beaming with delight) informed us of Ethan's latest win in the stage two sprint at the Tour de Romandie. He currently rides for UCI WorldTeam Ineos Grenadiers. Internationally,

Ethan rides for Great Britain, and selected for England at the Commonwealth Games.

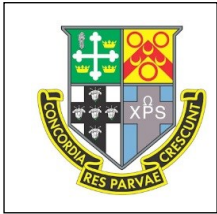
Ethan started riding at Herne Hill Velodrome in 2012, aged 13. He raced for the VC Londres cycling club from 2012 to 2016, and remains an honorary member. In 2016 he joined British Cycling's Senior Academy squad, relinquishing his A-level studies in order to join the programme.

He rode in the men's team pursuit event at the 2018 UCI Track Cycling World Championships, winning a gold medal. In August 2018 it was reported that Ethan had joined Team Sky as a stagiaire until the end of the year. That month he also competed at the European Track Championships in Glasgow, where he took bronze medals as part of the British team pursuit squad, the Madison pairing alongside Oliver Wood and an individual gold in the omnium.

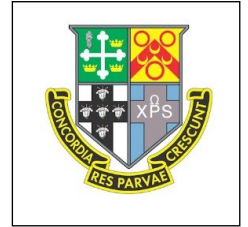
In November 2019, it was announced that he would race for Team Ineos from 2020, on a three-year contract.

Frank Barretta





MEMOIRS OF CLAPHAM COLLEGE DURING THE WAR YEARS
BERNARD ALOYSIUS REGAN (Clapham College 1938-1943)



Bernard Farrell



Bernard Regan

Bernard Regan in school uniform 1940

I started at Clapham College in September 1938, having been to primary school at St Anthony's, Lordship Lane, East Dulwich, and, prior to that, at St Patrick's, Cornwall Road, in Waterloo. Born 13th May 1927, I am the youngest of ten children and it was a proud moment for my dad when I passed the entrance exam to get a place at the school. In my first year, I was based at the Clapham site in Nightingale Lane. I used to take the daily tram from Lordship Lane to Clapham Common. It was later, in 1939, that I must have met my friend **Bernard Farrell**. Others of my contemporaries included: **Clive Taylor**, who became a well-respected sports journalist for *The Sun*, [he wrote the *Jimmy Greaves* autobiography], **Brian Wilson, Frankie Currie & Bernard Farrell**, I remember having Sports Day at Norbury. In the summer of 1939, it became apparent that war was inevitable. I remember the arrangements for the College to evacuate to East Grinstead were well organised; we turned up as arranged at school and then took the bus to East Grinstead where I was billeted at the vicarage in Hammerwood, a village just outside Forest Row along with my friend **Peter Savill**. In fact, we were already staying in Forest Row when war was finally declared. We were playing cricket and on the way back to the house we were told the grim news.

I remember staying at the Luxfords with a couple of other boys at one point. We only knew them as Mr and Mrs Luxford and I no longer recall the name of the small house where they lived. Later, I was billeted at the magnificent Stonehouse, along Hartfield Road, this is now a Grade II-listed Georgian building and I was there on that fateful night of the pillow fight in the dormitory. One of the pillows ended up making contact with the chandelier; despite our worst fears, the two women who owned the house were remarkably generous about the shattered shards of glass!



Stonehouse

Another magnificent house we were billeted in was Barton St Mary, designed by Edwin Lutyens in the early 1900s. I think I was billeted there in 1940 at the height of the Battle of Britain. Looking back, it seems strange that an entire school was evacuated to the site of the air battles, but as a young boy turning thirteen, it was quite thrilling to watch the daily dog fights. Planes were constantly overhead, firing or being brought down. When a plane crashed, we would rush to the crash site to get some of the ammunition which was prized among the boys. I was once walking along the road, when we had to take cover in a ditch as a German plane came down low. After it had passed, we realised what a close shave it was as the road was strewn with bullets. Being evacuated with my schoolfriends and our teachers was generally a positive experience. There were about 20 boys in my class and we got along well together. We shared the building with the East Grinstead County School, though we had little to do with them as our school ran separately.

Bernard Regan - continued

Some of the local children were a little resentful at having to share their facilities; it must have disrupted their timetable to have had another school imposed on them. I remember the Headmaster, **Brother Nicholas**, deciding to ban staff other than himself from giving the cane, though not before I had endured regular 'six of the best' for misdemeanours such as being late in the morning after a 5-mile walk from our billets.

I was taught English by Mr McLoughlin, chemistry by **Brother Dunstan**, history and possibly geography by Mr MacNamara and Latin by **Brother Alphonsus**. Overall, I must have had a good education as I matriculated in the Summer 1943.



Bernard Regan, Bernard Farrell & Peter Savill in East Grinstead 1939 Hartfield Road, East Grinstead

I was an Air Cadet during the war and took my first flight from Gatwick Airport. .

Like many of the boys, I used to go back home (Oglander Road, East Dulwich) when I was feeling homesick, sometimes hitching a lift back with Canadian soldiers who were no doubt training for the ill-fated Dieppe raid in 1942 and then the Normandy Landings in June 1944. My parents used to get mad with me for coming back to London, but the truth was that it was dangerous both in South London and in a county town in East Sussex. Towards the end of my stay in East Grinstead, on a July afternoon, not long after I had matriculated, I went to see *Hopalong Cassidy* at the Whitehall Cinema.

Afterwards, I spoke to my friend, Frankie Currie, who asked me what the film was like and I recommended it.

More from Bernard.....

The following evening, the cinema took a direct hit from a German bomber returning after a raid in London. The death toll was heavy, and I, along with some of my classmates, were given the arduous task of delivering telegrams to the families of the dead. I have forever bitterly regretted my recommendation as Frankie was one of the casualties, dying of his injuries the day after the bombing raid. His name is on the Roll of Honour in the College Chapel. [Frankie is buried in the Xaverian Cemetery at Mayfield College].



Whitehall Cinema bombing 9th July 1943

Not long after, I left school and started an apprenticeship as a telephone engineer. Despite being in a reserved occupation, I joined the intelligence corps as a young soldier when I turned 18 in May 1945. I never saw active service, but one of my tasks was accompanying German prisoners being repatriated back to Germany. Having experienced the destruction of the cinema at East Grinstead and being bombed out of my family homes in Sydenham and Beckenham (my own sister Peggy was killed in October 1943 after a direct hit at 20 Earlsthorpe Road), I saw the widespread devastation in Germany at first-hand. **My generation born in 1927 escaped the call-up to fight, so we spent our lives building peace and prosperity in Europe. To see war in Ukraine in 2022 has been a salutary reminder that our peace is hard-won and not to be taken for granted.** Bernard Brighton, November 2022



MEMOIRS - CLAPHAM COLLEGE DURING THE WAR YEARS



BERNARD FARRELL (1939-1944)

I joined Clapham College as war broke out and never actually studied at the College in Clapham, as we were evacuated from London for safety. This didn't stop some of the boys cycling the 30 miles or so back from East Grinstead to London to stay with their families in London over the weekend though, I found the Green Line bus far more comfortable!

Until accommodation in East Grinstead was set up, we boys would turn up at school with a packed case and gas mask, waiting for instructions. We played football in the playground and at the end of the day, we picked up our cases and gas masks, and returned home to our parents, only to return with the packed case again the following day. Eventually, we were taken to Battersea train station from where we boarded a train, and finally ended up in Forest Row, a village near East Grinstead. Our cases included sweets and chocolate, much of which did not last until the end of that first journey. Once at Forest Row, we were divided into groups, according to where we would be billeted.

I stayed in several billets during my time in East Grinstead, which were anywhere between 3 and 10 miles from the school. In those days it was common to hitchhike to and from school but sometimes we were unlucky and had to walk each way. On one occasion I was billeted with fellow student **Bernard Regan** (with whom I am still in touch with to this day), and we stayed at the 'Stonehouse' which was a beautiful old country house owned by a couple of maiden ladies. There was a chandelier in the bedroom, and I remember hitting this with a pillow in a play-fight and going down on my hands and knees to beg forgiveness from the owners for the damage caused. It was the ladies' cook who used to look after us and a few days after the 'pillow' incident, she arranged for some of us to move to her mother's house – who was an 'ancient' lady who lived on Hartfield Road and kept chickens. Forest Row was a very quiet place with few cars, - it was possible to hear the sound of a car for miles before it appeared, and for a long time after it had passed by.

I remember little about our time in the classroom. Of the total number of boys at Clapham College, it seemed a relatively small number who evacuated to East Grinstead, and I believe there may have been only about a dozen in my class. I remember wearing school uniform, and how courteous we were to the staff, Xaverian brothers and lay teachers.

Once, I went on a camping trip with other boys to Gatwick, and I remember there was a railway on one side and a large field on the other. The field was filled with mustang aircraft (I believe these served mostly with the RAF, low-altitude fighters and as long-range photo-reconnaissance aircraft); we chatted to Canadian airmen who were only a couple of years older than us, they seemed quite grown up as fighter pilots, compared to us.

Even though there was a war going on, the Canadian pilots took us up individually in a Tiger Moth to give us the experience of flying. The sheer joy I felt at being in an aircraft with a good pilot, lives with me to this day. My friend **Michael Prince** unfortunately did not have the same type of experience though and was sick in the aircraft. I wonder how many of these young pilots came back from the war. I enjoyed my time as a Clapham College schoolboy in East Grinstead during the war, accepting the fun parts and tolerating the low points. I stayed at the College until my 17th birthday, when I joined the telephone exchange in London. My career was spent in the Civil Service - I moved to the Admiralty in 1952 and then to the Immigration Service staying here until my retirement in 1987.

I thought the best teacher was a **Mr Tarbitt** who taught English – probably because he gave me a good report. We used to attend mass at Our Lady and St Peter's Church in East Grinstead. One classmate was **Paul Travers**, nicknamed Tank, who was to become **Lieutenant General Sir Paul Anthony Travers KCB**, an English officer and Quartermaster General to the Forces. Whenever the class was divided into two teams, e.g. for a football, Paul and I were always pitched against each other on opposite teams. Paul was stocky, but I would always stand up to him if he picked on the younger boys.

Another fellow evacuee was **Michael Prince** who introduced me to his father, a glass manufacturer, who would allow Michael and I to have a few glasses of whiskey at Christmas! Christmas Day 1940 I was unable to return to the family home in London as the house had been destroyed by a bomb, so we had temporarily moved to Wales. At times, I felt quite isolated, with most of my mates returning to their family homes for the Christmas period, but it was Christmas day, and I knew that I needed to attend mass. I had heard about a convent not too far away (which I believe could have been Ashdown Park) and I apprehensively set off through Ashdown Forest to walk the 1.5 miles to the convent for mass. I was afraid that the nuns might ask me to be an altar boy, but they took no notice of me at all when I arrived.

East Grinstead happened to be on one of the return routes for enemy aircraft returning to Germany. So, although not a specific target for bombing, German planes would offload their ammunition as they headed back home. One day I was walking down the road when a Messerschmidt strafed the road with unused bullets. I lay down on the pavement and hoped I would not be seen – an action which we considered quite normal at the time. One afternoon I heard that the cinema had been bombed and knowing that one of my school friends, **Frankie Currie**, was watching a film in that day, I went along to see what was happening. I told a policeman that I had a friend inside the cinema and was allowed in. The cinema had been wrecked: people were climbing over bricks and masonry trying to find survivors. I learned that 200 people had been killed in the bomb blast, including Frankie.

Bernard Farrell Clapham College [at East Grinstead 1939-44]

Chris Scott's Photos



Nicholas Scott top right back and Ray Quinlan top left back row hope you can use these and perhaps be able to fill in some of the other team mates that Chris/Dad could not quite recall.

Chris Scott's Photos



Chris with Mr Cocks the PE teacher back row far left (very strict said Dad!), the French teacher in far right back row and in no particular order Dave Rowles, Brian Smith, Gooch, Hurley. Not certain of date but maybe 1953 or 1954.

We re-introduced the Hall of Fame at Clapham—but the only photo I have is from Brian Casey, who could not make it down from “The North”

As “the Editor” was officiating” no photos from the night. Please forward for inclusion in Concordia 29



RIPs - "honoured"

CLAPHAM'S HALL OF FAME

2009

A.AMURA
P.BROWN
P.HIXSON
J.LEATHAM
J.McGUIRE
L.ROSZKOWSKI
D.ROWE

2010

F.BARRETTA
D.LEATHAM
J.MANSI
J.McGOWAN
T.McLOUGHLIN
B.MENSAH
E.O'BRIEN
A.WEBBER

2011

B.BENEDICT
C.BROWN
J.DAVORN
S.MILLER
D.MURTAGH
S.PARKER
E.TAGGART

2012

M.BENEDICT
W.BOWERS
S.CEFAI
C.GARVEY
S.GORDON
D.MacDONALD
M.POWER
V.ROSZKOWSKI

2013

B.WILLIAMS
P.WILLIAMS
S.BURKE
P.WEST
M.GORMAN
T.HIXSON

2015

B.SANDERS
T.HAYTER
T.HIXSON
D.MULVIHILL
H.MELLOR
C.LUKE

2017

M.GRICE
D.QUIN
M.POWELL
C.SMITH
R.HARTNETT
H.PINSENT

2019

A.BRANNON
M.CEFAI
S.McGUIRE
M.McLOUGHLIN
M.GARVEY
M.McGRATH

2021

C.TAYLOR
J.HICKEY
A.COLETTA
M.COLLINS
P.HAMILTON
B.CASEY

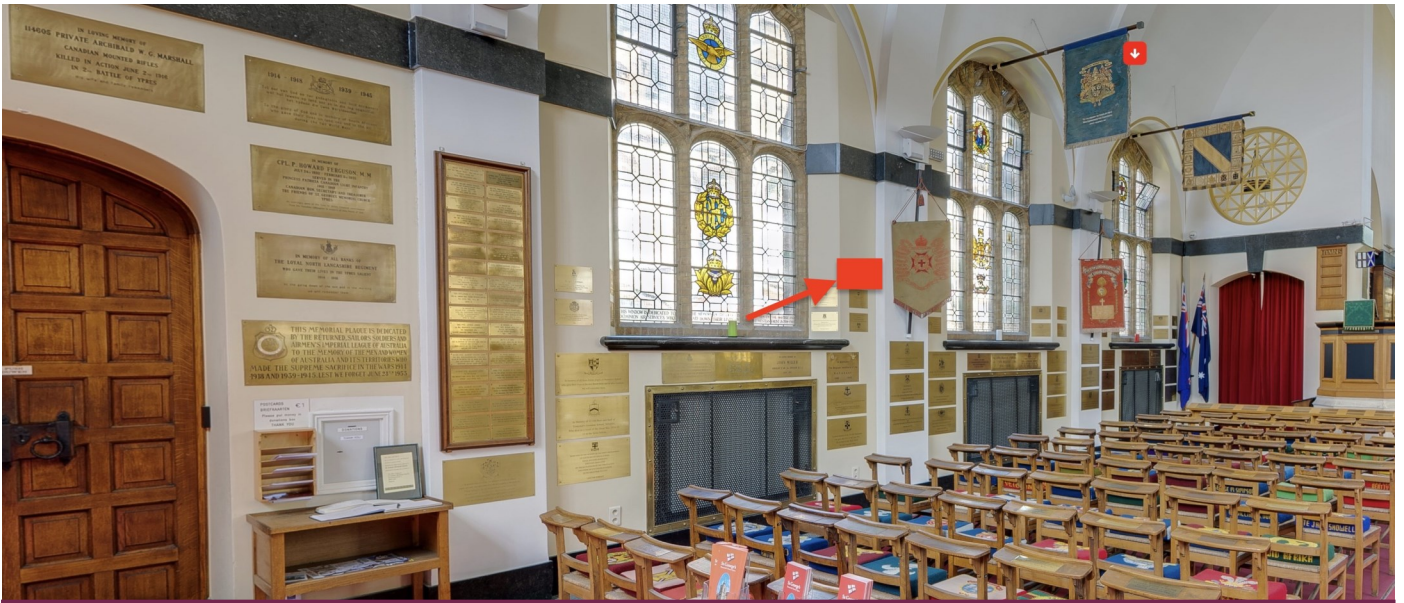


SPECIAL 'HALL OF FAME' TEAM AWARDS

*1966 AFA JUNIOR CUP WINNERS
*1986 LONDON OLD BOYS SENIOR CUP WINNERS
*2006 AFA SURREY SENIOR CUP WINNERS
*2020 AFA CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS
*1981 CLAPHAM COLLEGE U19s
(ALL ENGLAND SCHOOLS TROPHY WINNERS)

Three “thoughts” from the Ypres Trip in June 2023

The location of “our” plaque in the Church and a poignant thought on one of the graves.



The thought that Jock died for his country is no comfort to me
His memory is all I have left to love.

JOHN LOW'S FIANCEE, 10 JANUARY 1918



A “distraction” over a glass of beer,
in-between all the local sites Ypres offers

Three snippets from the Trip, "our new spiritual leader" sorry Eddie; the first Xaverian hero visited 10 years ago - and the last we visited this year! Running late for lunch - but nice to see someone practical"



The final Menology of those Xaverian Brothers who taught at Clapham

BROTHER ANTONY (James F. Greene)

Born: Forest Gate, London, England, September 20, 1891 Died: Warhurst, Sussex, November 28, 1970
Brother Antony began his teaching career in 1912 and continued it for 49 years. Specialising in teaching the juniors, he was exact and painstaking. He retired to Wadhurst in 1966, and at 75 he was still active and enjoyed long walks in the country. In 1969 he began to fail. Although suffering from internal cancer, he was never a bed-patient and was up and around the day before he died. He had celebrated his diamond jubilee on September 4, 1970

BROTHER MATTHIAS (Peter Atherton) Born: Preston, Lancashire, England, January 2, 1894
Died: Mayfield, England, December 20, 1972

Brother Matthias was from St. Walburge's, Jesuit parish in Preston, Lancashire. The Xaverians had opened a school in the town at the invitation of the Jesuits early in the 1860's. Brother Matthias, who joined us in 1919, did all his teaching at Clapham College with the exception of a few years at Deeping. Appointed Superior at Mayfield in 1943, he remained in office all his life-Clapham, Foxhunt, Brighton, Wadhurst. In retirement he was in charge of Bradley Hall at Mayfield College. He had been the English Provincial from 1956 to 1962. He spent most of his teaching years at Clapham College. He came to know some of the boys at Clapham quite well not only in his work as school secretary but also because he joined Brother Joseph Booth on some of his climbing holidays with parties of students in the Lake District. After a brief return to Mayfield he was assigned to Xaverian College, Manchester at first with responsibility for a small groups of aspirants. In 1956 he became Headmaster of Xaverian College, Manchester, a position he held until 1962. He was a most efficient headmaster and introduced many improvements during those years. Through hard work and determination coupled with the knowledge of what was needed to restore the performance and reputation of the College, he quickly set up new structures and brought about improved standards. With the help of former students, he raised funds for the development of the school. He brought about a much closer cooperation between school and parents. In 1962, he was named Provincial of the English Province. It was a difficult time in the history of the Church and religious life. Always very conscientious and prone to anxiety, he found the responsibility at such a time very difficult to bear. Indeed, he had something of a nervous breakdown which meant he did not quite complete his term of six years. There followed three years at Twickenham as superior of the scholasticate at a time when there were virtually no student brothers. In 1971 he returned to Mayfield College in the role of Bursar and when the Brothers finally moved out of the College building in 1977, he moved over to Bradley House where he spent the rest of his life as director of the community, driver and being of assistance to the other brothers of the community.

BROTHER JOSEPH (Charles Booth)

Born: Leytonstone, London, England, February 16, 1913 Died: Mzedi, Limbe, Nyasaland, Dec 1, 1957

Brother Joseph was Headmaster at Clapham College when he was assigned in October, 1953, as the pioneer Superior at St. Patrick's School in Mzedi. Recalled in three years, he spent a year at home and then went back to his heart's desire. He died of a heart attack during one of those Mzedi lightning storms and was buried on St. Francis Xavier Day in the Catholic cemetery at Limbe.

The **Brother Joseph** "piece" could have run into pages, but we've celebrated him so much over the years - and will do so again!

Colin Garvey's 80th birthday party at the County Arms, Wandsworth [near the prison]



A Strange Mix! Classic OX mix!

The Good, the Bad, the Ugly and some old friends ..you determine ..some tough choices.



SPORTS REPORTS



[Photo: R. Benson.]

U.15's, 1961-62. Left to right: Back row, Fulker, Cooney, Baker, Utting, Morcombe, Davies (Capt.). Front Row, Sullivan, McMahan, Smith Foy, Keating.

FOOTBALL REPORT

The School first XI has not been as successful-so-far-as in previous years. We have won five matches, lost six, and drawn three. There are reasons however: this year there is only one boy who had played for the first XI before last season—a most unusual state of affairs; moreover, the departure of P. Gray, T. Cain and C. Garvey—all London Grammar Schools players—has left formidable gaps to be filled. However, if the defence can tighten up a bit, and the forwards continue to take their chances—already they have scored nearly forty goals—there is no reason why the team should not find its true form in the second half of this season and continue the school's fine football record.

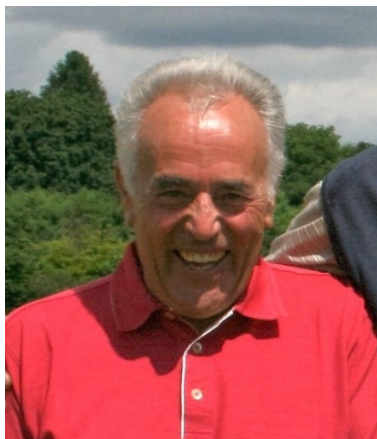
The second XI has been its usual enigmatic self, scoring nearly double figures one week, and being well beaten the next. But their football has always been good, and with their experienced captain, Cleather, behind them, and with such marksmen as Coletta (15 goals) they should continue to do well.

Led by Davis, the U.15 team has been very successful, winning six of their nine games so far. They have settled down and found their form, and with Baker and Davis playing well, look like continuing their successful run.

The U.14 team, with Ahern in form, have also done well, and there can be no complaint at the results of the U.13's and U.12's in the few games they have played.

Our warmest congratulations to Jim Howard and Laurie Snaith on their selection for the London Grammar Schools' "B" team.

A. GRAY, L. VI (Football Captain)



COXA Golf Day Surrey Downs Golf Course Friday 23 June

On a beautiful sunny day with the temperature reaching 32°C - Phil Roderick-Jones won the Stan Miller Memorial Trophy beating a field of 33 for the second time in the last three years. In a most exciting finish, Phil, Brendan Walsh and Mick O'Sullivan all finished with 38 Stapleford points.

On countback, Phil scored 20 points on the back nine, Brendan 18 and Mick 17 points. The bottle of Moet & Chandon that also went to the winner will come in handy as Phil approaches his 80th birthday - giving us all much heart.

Also, for the second time in three years, Steve Gordon won the Eamon Taggart Memorial Trophy for the nearest pin competition. Steve beat the long-time leader Arthur Williams visiting from Melbourne, Australia. Surprisingly none of our seven guests managed to get a ball on the green to win their nearest the pin guests contest. Our guest Del Rowland won the nearest pin in two shots on the 17th green.

Not quite matching the record score of 90 points achieved last year, the team competition was won by Tom Judge, James Bairstow, and Brendan Walsh, with a very creditable 86 points.

I think all enjoyed the day and also the evening, judging by how many stayed for a late evening drink on the patio. Many thanks to Surrey Downs for providing a course in excellent condition, to Paul West for ensuring we all left the tee on time and to all the players for supporting another great COXA event.

Aidan More detail next issue

Here are the winners of the 400 Club for the first six months of 2023



January - £1,000 Tom Purcell

February - £100 Vic Roszkowski

March - £100 Tony O'Flynn

April - £100 Brian Sanders

May - £100 Alec Jayes

June - £100 Club18

If you are not already in the 400 Club or would like more tickets to help support the association, please contact Aidan for more information:

400club@claphamoldxaverians.co.uk

David, I was saddened to hear the news about Paul, though I hadn't seen him for many years. Rest in peace. A funny story - in the 60s Rich Clark was secretary for the 3rd XI. It had been a hard night on the phones, so early on Saturday. Rich decided to drive to Liverpool to watch Chelsea play. At Watford Gap he was having coffee when he saw Paul. Rich said "I'm supposed to be playing for the 3rd XI this afternoon." Paul said "So am I"!!! Happy Days. Hope you are well, Colin

Personalia - Old Boys Jottings

We start our longest Personalia ever with an mystery email from late 2022



(A)

The photo is of the beautiful Quarr Abbey, at Ryde on the Isle of Wight, about 2 minutes from the ferry terminal. I remembered the name linked to an article in a Concordia a few years back on the death of Father **Joe Warrilow** [COX].



(B)

“Scotty, I have often wondered whether **Dom. Joseph Warrilow** conducted a retreat in the College during the 1950s. The first retreat I attended was given by a rather fierce Passionist priest who assured us that most young women really didn't appreciate our attention. The next year we had a much milder priest, possibly a Benedictine, who advised me that, if I tried too hard to be good, I would be good for nothing. I seem to remember **Br Sylvester** writing very warmly about **Dom. Joseph Warrilow**. Best wishes,” xxx...*[I saved the script but lost the Xaverian's name]..please help! Sorry!*

From Rev Joseph Warrilow

Quarr Abbey
Ryde, Isle of Wight
PO33 4ES

(C)

Dear David,

thank you for sending me a copy of Clapper - the Old Boys' publication for Easter. I am glad to see that I am still an honorary member, and I am proud to be one. It is just seventy years since I left the College, but I still treasure my links with the Brothers. I kept up with Br. Ambrose till he died on October 25th last year, and I am very grateful to have a copy of the homily preached at his funeral Mass at Mayfield. He was not at the College in my time, 1920 - 26, but we met at the Centenary celebration of the Xaverian Congregation in 1939, and kept in touch afterwards. I valued his friendship.

As far as I know, nearly all my contemporaries are dead, both staff and boys; as I am 87, that is not surprising. Many kept up with me for a while, and I was invited to the Mass that formally closed the College, but I could not attend.

Thank you again for your kind communication, Very gratefully,

Joseph Warrilow.

(Ed: - Like a note from a favourite uncle, this letter had ten pounds folded into it. Although five pints of Stella was tempting, I've tucked it into the Association mattress. Gratefully received).

Finally a 1990s letter written by the great **Joe Warrilow** himself to **David Leathem**, the then editor of **Clapper**. He mentions keeping in touch with **Br Ambrose** and his time at Clapham College 1920 to 1926. I enjoyed the way these 3 pieces linked

Paul Dennis

Yes that's me. Son of a doctor, said to my wife I obviously have Dementia and Alzheimer's but not to be concerned as I had them from birth. Apologies for my "slowness! [CC 1964 to 1971].. but have been moving house the last couple of weeks..

[I'd found Paul Dennis [Alpha]- a bit of a swot - supported Leeds sound like you?]

I am now an old (but cute) old fart of 65. I want to come to a lunch etc. How do I join and stuff like that?

Paul Dennis Edgware

.... I have Paul's details if any of his classmates want to get in touch with his. Am still chasing Membership, Scotty

.....
Peter E Campbell writes from the USA

Since I have returned from a wonderful trip to Europe last year, that included seeing the Belgium brothers, Scotty, and some family in Ireland I have been thinking about my visit cemetery in Mayfield. For a number of years your "Old Boys" group provided for the cemetery's maintenance but it seems that the current property owners wish to do this work themselves. If I am correct and did not misunderstand your efforts have now ended. It seems, however, that the local owners are not doing much to keep the cemetery presentable. I appreciate that lawn work around the crosses and stones is difficult. After discussion with our Xaverian leadership I want your advice on possibilities for the cemetery's future. The Xaverian Brothers would be willing to pay for some one time arrangement that eliminates the crosses and stones replacing them with a plaque detailing who is buried in the cemetery. Complicating this could be the changes to non-Xaverian graves. If this was done lawn upkeep would be simple and even allow for other uses of the space. I have no idea if this makes any sense or there are not better ways to go. Please think about this request and offer some advice. In the meanwhile, I hope you and your families are well. God bless you and many thanks for considering my request. Bro. Peter USA **[to be continued.....]**

Gents, a great one.

One of Lucy's friends went to Duran Duran in Hyde Park last Sunday (as she did 30 + years ago - her child is in the same class as one of the Taylors.). To her surprise, she saw **Canon Jim Cronin** bopping in the VIP area.

He said he's a great fan, but apologised because he had to get back for evening Mass in Barnes !!!!!!!

Brilliant.

Scotty?

Frank?....can you use?



Colin Garvey [80 years old] - another "true story" *over to you Jim*

1967 Cecil and Eric lead the ultimate school journey to the USA

. In 1967 **Cecil Pocock** went on an Exchange year out with a school in Greendale a suburb of Milwaukee, (the beer capital at the time), USA. The following year he after he had returned to Clapham he was invited back as guest of some of the parents and staff at the school at which he had taught. Needless to say Cecil had been a tremendous success and planned a trip with some differences for the following year. The differences were to be several boys at Clapham who were prepared to raise the princely sum of £150. This sounds measly but at the time it took me over a year at £1 per week to raise 50% to add to my parents' contribution. The exchange rate at the time was \$2.40 to £1.00. Easy calculation for the trip 1 cent =1 penny. Not bad. The Prime Minister was Darlin' Harold (Harold Wilson for the younger readers), and there was a currency restriction that meant you could only leave the country with £50. Not good.

The trip was for three weeks. The itinerary was:



Fly to New York. Spend a few days sightseeing, staying at Xaverian College, Brooklyn.

Train to Washington. Sightseeing, staying at a Xaverian College in the city.

Lift to Maryland near Chesapeake Bay at a Xaverian college (US called it private school we would say public). This was to rest up after all the travelling. Not too shabby.

Car drive to Greendale. There were 7 of us and two parents. It wasn't a Mini, but it did have a trailer for all the luggage. 6 days meeting Cecil's old friends and colleagues.

Lift to Chicago where we tried an overnight Greyhound to New York.

Flight to back to London.

The members of this wholly memorable trip were: Cecil Pocock. Eric Tope.

Boys **Alex Fitzgerald, Ernie Larkin, Brian Bryder, Michael Grice, John Boyd.**

Only memory of the flight to New York was trying to see a night view of Manhattan whilst Brian Bryder, who had the window seat, was doing his best to fill a paper bag. Arriving at the college, we were welcomed by a group of brothers dressed in jeans and T shirts who had just been to "Hair". Not quite the image of Bros Peter and Ambrose. We SAW the sights of New York and then onto Washington. Again lots of youthful brothers. Once on a bus back to the uptown college from downtown we witnessed two men fighting at a bus stop. One was clubbing the other chap with a **brick**. Everyone else on the bus was totally uninterested whereas the low-profile BRITs were staring out the windows in amazement. This was 3.00pm in the afternoon. Again we saw all the more conventional sights.

After all the buzz of sightseeing we were driven to another college in rural Maryland near Chesapeake Bay. After a few days of swimming in the pool and basking in the sun our next lift arrived. They were also putting us up in tents in their front garden. We set off early one morning on what was to be a journey of some 800 miles.



We met some of the kids at school that Cecil had taught. They were all worried about getting drafted to go to Vietnam. Here were we spotty-faced youths from London and they were going to war in the jungle on the other side of the world. One of our trips to Milwaukee was to the Pabst brewery. They had to barricade the doors to the guest bar as we were all under 18. The local newspaper featured us on the front page standing outside the entrance to the brewery. After a week of socialising at friends Cecil had made we were driven down to Chicago to catch a Greyhound bus to New York. Midway there we stopped at a services on the freeway. Entered via a large golden arch and were in a McDonalds. Little did we know.

Eventually arrived at New York and caught the plane back to UK.



A fantastic trip, huge thanks to all the Xaverian colleges and parents and friends of Cecil in Greendale. **John Boyd**

Philip Revel

Dear Don,

As always, a pleasure to receive and read the history of Clapham College. The 1950s of course must seem like ancient history to youngsters today yet the descriptions of school life could have been true well into the 60s and even early 70s!

Identification: on page 37 there is a photo of a sporting event with reference to a brother in a French beret. It is **Brother David (Watmough) CFX** who following some time in Clapham took over as Headmaster in Manchester around 1957/8 and was subsequently named Provincial in 1963.

He actually began his teaching career in Bruges, in the English Section of the Xaverian School on Mariastraat and could still converse with Belgian Brothers in Flemish decades later. Wonderful Brother who turned around the Manchester school after it had been in the doldrums in the mid 50s.

Best wishes. **Bro. Philip CFX** [a wealth of information, as always Phil]



Dear Scotty

As I said a few times in past e-mails, I remember playing for the old boys football team in goal on Saturday afternoons after school games in the morning and travelling from High Barnet or wherever we were playing to Norbury and **D.Quinn** and **B.Sanders** were in the football team and I remember bowling **Ted Hayter** out in the school versus the Old Boys match, Denis was a real gentleman but good at the odd shirt pulling and nudging (I think Chopper Harris from Chelsea learnt his game from him).

I really enjoyed the game v the Old Boys', apart from getting paid to play and it is where I discovered beer, for which I am eternally grateful, none of this nonsense about being 18 to drink the stuff!

As ever a great history of the school and a cracking good read.

Kind regards **Ted Corrigan** [thanks Ted - another of my regular contributors]

Sat, 1 Oct at 15:28

Hi Scotty,

Thanks for sending the 1950s link. Brought back a lot of memories including a different **Brother Cajetan** story! Due to some misdemeanour or other during a study period (possibly a card session in the basement?) Brother Cajetan was supervising a study period in Hollywood library. With all windows closed, a test tube filled with a vile smelling liquid called carbilamine (if my memory is correct) - removed from the chemistry laboratory bench was sprinkled onto Brother Cajetan's back while he was distracted answering questions. With everyone holding noses, Cajetan tried to find the source of the stench before, realising it was from him, he ran out of the library and down towards **Brother Peter** who was stood on the steps. In front of a group of first formers assembled in front of the gym he shouted "Brother, Brother, I stink, I stink!" The sixth formers from the library duly went into convulsions on the steps of Hollywood!

Looking back Clapham had more than its fair share of larger than life characters!

Hope you're well.

Best wishes **Mike Magee**

Hi Frank & Scotty

I am not a member of COXA, but did attend Clapham College from 1956 until 1961. I occasionally look at the web site and noted that you are creating a list of attendees by year. I should like you to add my name together with **Bernard Blackley, Terry Schultz, Michael Sullivan, Pat Barry, Michael Hennessy, John Keating** who died recently, **Kazakh Ostrowski, J. Feltzman,**

I can't remember any more at the moment

Bye for now Tony Hawkins

Hello Scotty - many thanks and compliments on the mammoth production of the latest Chapter 6, years 1940 - 50, of Clapham College history. Fascinating browsing, particularly for me as it encompasses my time with the College.

A couple of comments re **page 19** referring to myself -

1) I observed that my name at the opening has been truncated to 'Whit' which is coincidentally interesting as Whitsuntide [Pentecost] has recently passed. I checked 'Whitsun' on Wikipedia and, inter alia, it states

"The name is a contraction of 'White Sunday' attested in the "the Holy Ghost, whom thou didst send on Whit-Sunday ..." Also connected to the former practice of the wearing of White vestments / garments (post Baptism) on that day. Further suggested that it began to be confused with wit or understanding - no personal relevance there!! [I will amend - not my 1st "typo" don't suppose it will be my last]

2) St. Swathe's should read 'St. Swithuns' which as you will know is the EG Parish Church. Inside there is a plaque commemorating those who were killed in the Whitehall cinema bombing tragedy. {I know Mick I lived around the corner!}

Good luck with your move when it eventually takes place. Was chatting to John McGowan (my time 1955 to 1960) this morning and it would not appear that he is getting stuff from COXA. I assume you don't have his current address which is in St Botolph's Road, Sevenoaks

Any update on the next Ramble? Cheers **Mick Powell** 1955 to 1960 ... keen walker [back to sport at last!]

Clapham College 1959-66: The Good, Bad and the Ugly



Teachers

Don Robinson After I was hospitalised for one whole school year with no Maths input, his encouragement and fantastic teaching skills (no extra lessons) ensured I passed “O” level Maths in 4th year.

Bob Cummings Similarly encouraging and supportive on my return to school.

Tom Marshall Tom nursed me back to school team standard at football.

Cecil Pocock I enjoyed his entertaining History and British Constitution lessons, but was somewhat perturbed by the overt promotion of the Conservative Party. Friends in the A class said English teacher Atkinson did the same for Labour, but with less success.

Alex Begley Excellent sixth form teacher and intellectual. Apart from enabling me to achieve Grade B in “A” level Italian in one year, he opened the door to so many areas, including the theology of St Thomas Aquinas, Irish emigration and the English Catholic Church and a potted history of Celtic Football Club.....[wow Alex!]

Brother Peter (Headteacher and teacher) Headmaster but also the best teacher in the school. I experienced English and RE (especially sixth form) lessons from him. Knowledgeable in so many areas, great sense of humour and the ability to make us think. As Headmaster he cemented the whole operation together. The chaos which ensued during **Brother Ambrose’s** unfortunate period as Head when Bro Peter spent a year in America was clear demonstration of Bro Peter’s influence and control. It may not be widely known that with **Bro Hugh** some evenings after work **Bro Peter** would walk to Wandsworth Prison to do chaplaincy work.

Favourite Brother Peter quips:

“The trouble with your grammar school education is you can’t tell the difference between a spanner and a screwdriver.” (to university bound upper sixth).

“Tomorrow you will tell me the back wheel caught up with the front.” (to pupil cyclist late for school every day with plausible bicycle excuse)

Bill Blight Form Teacher of 1 Alpha September 1959 introduced the school to his charges:

“You have come to this school for one reason- to go to university. If you don’t want to do that, get down the road to **St Gerard's**...” ...Raahh!!!!

Nat Bharier And his baseball bat...**Sterzaker** And his steel ruler across the knuckles. Glad I only came across him twice in cover lessons.

Mike Gibbons ...continued 1959-1966

Brother Cajetan One of the mysteries of Clapham: how was he, with his tendency to sudden violent behaviour, ever allowed in a classroom?

Jack Green The PE teacher after **Tom Marshall**. Jack set out to instil army discipline in PE, e.g. no kit run around the playground in your underpants. One day, after Jack insulted a pupil, Jack's trousers disappeared when he was out on cross-country and he had to go home in his shorts. Shortly after Jack too disappeared from the school



My worst experience was at the hands of fellow pupils not teachers once ended up in casualty department at **St James Hospital** !!!! [Now luxury flats]

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY

Strange / funny /incongruous happenings in Clapham

College Life.

- Assembly held in school playground, presided over by head/other teacher standing on a raised drain to view the assembled masses.
- House captains collecting money at assembly weekly to build new dining hall.
- Daily expedition to a primary school in Balham for school dinners. (By 4th year my group of friends had unofficially replaced this with a café near the tube station and in sixth form by The George at the top of Balham Hill. Strangely teachers who occasionally went to check for pupils in the George only ever checked the saloon bar, while we were playing darts in the public bar!)
- Ritual burning of school caps in playground at end of 4th Year. We only ever wore them from Clapham South Station to school to avoid being identified without a cap by vigilant prefects in the windows of Hollywood.
- Football in Years 1 and 2 played at Wandsworth Common, yet football pitches near the school on Clapham Common! The routine was to run to Wandsworth Common along Nightingale Lane in old fashioned football boots with leather studs. A few of us adopted the practice of turning right running out of the school and taking the 189 bus, passing our classmates on the way.
- Playing football for the school meant playing other grammar schools and Tulse Hill. I often wondered why we never played St. Gerard's.
- Cross country was twice around Clapham Common. A few of us would run out at the end of the line, then head for the bandstand from where there was a good view of the runners, then join the end of the line to run back into school, with complimentary remarks about making a good effort
- Religious retreat for 5th year. An almost total failure. I felt sorry for the priest conducting it. Question box not treated seriously by many. Quiet periods for reflection in the paddock descended into card schools and smoking. .

Mike Gibbons

Clapham College 1952-53

Memories from our Second and Third Years

[Tony Gilford]

Brian Mcann 2Alpha and **Tony Gilford** 2A always enjoyed their playground early football kick around games with our respective classmates before morning assembly, so on the 6th February 1952 we were in early for the 2A-2Alpha scrap. Some older boys told us that the caretaker **George Day had** heard on his radio that the King, George VI, had died. Today, I just cannot remember us playing football anymore that morning but I can still visualise headmaster **Brother Joseph** taking morning assembly with us lined up in forms. After the usual prayers he announced this sad news and said there would be School Mass in the College Chapel at 3pm.

At the end of Mass we said the *Prayer for England*. In those days few people had TV sets but most of us visited the cinema and saw newsreels and many of us youngsters still went to Saturday Morning pictures for 6d to have a children's sing-song of patriotic tunes, a cartoon or two, a newsreel and a western (Roy Rogers, Gene Autrey, Lassie, ...) We all saw newsreel clips of the funeral.

The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was fixed for 2 June 1953, declared a bank holiday. It seems every school had been allocated one or two places to attend the Coronation procession in The Mall or somewhere. One of Clapham's places was given to my classmate **Paul Walsh 2A**. Brian and I didn't mind as our parents had 9" or 12" black and white television sets. I think it rained much of the coronation morning so Paul probably got a soaking. [Very sadly, Paul died when he was in the Sixth Form - a really good footballer and talented pupil who invariably came 1st in class.]

In July, the manager of the Odeon Cinema round the corner from the school had arranged to show local secondary schools the full technicolour film of the Coronation as an afternoon matinee. So after 1.55pm Assembly in the yard our various forms filed out into Nightingale Lane past the shops in Balham Hill to The Odeon.

I think the management had decided to put these "well behaved boys" of the grammar school in the Dress Circle. We were monitored by most of the Clapham staff.

I guess it must have been the Scots Guards or the Welsh Guards that started it! There is something stirring about soldiers marching and before long the whole of 3A and 3Alpha were marching in step. Soon almost every stout hearted boy in our school was on the march. The Odeon Dress Circle was well constructed and built to withstand the vibrations but the posh carpets had accumulated years of ingrained dust from previous customers and the air soon became saturated with particulates reminiscent of a London smog.

We boys could still just see the screen and carried on marching along to the RAF, the Navy, The Gurkhas, ...

Until Our irate headmaster commanded us to stop. Stop we did.

..... **Continued Overleaf**

[Tony Gilford - Odeon Cinema ..continued]

One might imagine that as far as the Odeon was concerned our College was now *persona non grata*. However the world of film was bent on catching up with the English Literature syllabus. In our Fourth year A and Alpha became 4A and 4S (we had to choose O Level subjects: Literature, History, Art & Music against Physics, Chemistry, Geography). Although only about half the 60 boys studied Literature the whole year was invited to opt for some culture. We did get to see *Romeo and Juliet* starring Laurence Harvey and Susan Shentall. Didn't know Shakespeare wrote some juicy bits. [Mind you! Not a patch on the things I heard from sixth formers reading Chaucer.]

We also got to see *Julius Caesar* starring James Mason, Marlon Brando, John Gielgud, ... **Mr Gibb** took us for English in 4S (boys lacking culture) and decided to include some class reading for parts in *Julius Caesar*. His favourites got the big roles and I ended up with Artemidorus (a sophist). All I had was three lines to say in Act III.

The first: "Hail, Caesar! Read this schedule." Mr Gibb had me down as a semi-literate schoolboy who indulged *The Hotspur, Wizard, Rover, Adventure, Champion*. Waiting for my cue, I was puzzling over this word **schedule**. Not in my Boys Own vocabulary. Must I pronounce it *sshedyule* or is it *skedyule*? pronounced as in *school*. So I chose, with some emphasis, to pronounce SKEDYULE. Some sniggers from my mates! This somewhat upset Mr Gibb who accused me of Americanising our English Language. I think Marlon Brando playing Mark Anthony had pissed him off already. Anyway my acting career was over. The bell went before my next two spoken lines could emerge.

There is little I can add to all we have seen and read about the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II. Some of us are monarchists and some are not bothered or even anti-monarchists. Should the UK have a President or a King? All I can say is, by comparison, there are a lot of presidents, past and present, who I would well manage without. In my time I have read and seen a lot of criticism about the British Empire and Commonwealth. All I say is we would have lost two World Wars without their support. And then ask the present question why there are several countries today that have opted to join The Commonwealth of Nations: Cameroon, Togo, Gabon, Mozambique, Rwanda (former French, Portuguese, Belgian colonies) and several other mostly African states waiting to join.

The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, strove throughout her life for a common friendship and respect, to hold together these nations through the years of apartheid, newly established independent states and republics. The world now sees the Commonwealth Games as "The Friendly Games." Thank you your Majesty,

Tony Gilford



Photo Concordia 26 Johnny Haynes.....Larry Davis



Hi Scotty, you asked about photo of Johnny Haynes. I do not know why it was there but I have an idea it maybe associated with **Brian Sanders**. Brian and **Phillip Leader** were 1st cousins With Johnny. His Father Eddie was their mother's brother. My grandmother was also a sister of Eddie making me a 2nd cousin. Johnny is much remembered in our family . As captain of the England football team and a stalwart of Fulham FC he was the David Beckham of his day. A Brylcreem boy taking over from Dennis Compton and the first player to be paid a real professional salary after Jimmy Hill negotiated the big change to pro players wages in the early 60's.

I have one of his England caps from 1962. He played 56 games for England 22 as Captain. He played in 2 World Cups (1958 and Captain in 1962). His career was interrupted after a car accident in 1963 broke bones in both feet and severely damaged his knee. It took a year before he could play again. Had that not happened he may well have been in the 1966 squad. He never played for England after the accident but continued with Fulham until the 1969/70 season.

I fondly remember regularly visiting him and his parents, Eddie and Rose, in Epsom as my Mum and Dad was very close to Uncle Eddie. It also helped with filling in my autograph book which now includes among many others the 1966 England team except for Ray Wilson, the Manchester United greats Law, Stiles, Crerand, Best and Charlton and so many more. Larry Davis

No worries Scotty.

*Sad to see the passing of **Steve Frost**, we were classmates at Clapham College from 1964-69. Thanks too on the info on "Jules"'*

I haven't been in contact with Brian since earlier this year and this has been a good prompt to give him a call to see how he is progressing.

Best regards

Larry Davis

“Keep in touch - don't loose touch”

Hello Frank,

Not Tony, but Paul!! I remember now! Do give him my best wishes, he may remember me. He'll certainly remember **Micky Greaves** - our drum teacher and also **Glyn Morris**, photos attached - two of my very first!

Colin Garvey took me for History for many years and may remember me (he'll remember me playing drums) - give him my best wishes also, should you contact him. He will probably remember **Michael Creagan** - Michael and I ended up living down the same street in Mitcham.

Thanks for looking at my website and your kind words. I'll look forward to hearing from you, especially if you hear anything from the teachers.

Regards, Karl

“This exchange of emails and the text and photos has been totally messed up whilst editing! It has been included so that Frank and Karl can forward me the correct detail for Concordia 29 in the Autumn, Scotty”

Hello Karl,

I will certainly pass your wishes onto Jake but unfortunately, I do not have any contact details for **Veronica Conway or Tessa Monteiro**. **Colin Garvey** (History teacher) may have their details, I'll ask him. I will certainly let you know if I hear anything back. Not sure who you are referring to with 'Tony', but my younger brother **Paul Baretta (at the college 73 - 80)** has been a drum teacher for many years and certainly played in several school bands at the time.

<https://www.pbdrums.co.uk/>



Apologies—no disrespect intended, but I ran out of space and time to celebrate these two wonderful Xaverians in this issue. Rest assured they will be included in Concordia 29 [release in the Autumn]. They have both been remembered on the Clapham Old Xaverian website, please look them up. May they + RIP +

PATRICK PEARSON RIP

9/11/1952 - 14/2/2023

In Loving Memory of



Patrick Noel Pearson

19th November 1952 - 14th February 2023

130 Years “active” service to Clapham College & Clapham the Old Xaverians



Some nice “saying “Goodbye” exchanges”

Good afternoon, Ted. I entirely echo Eddie’s words.

Your note neither surprises nor dismays me. Time to get every Thursday evening off, I think, and after a lifetime’s service, without which I certainly could not have done without, we can only voice our sincere and insufficient gratitude to you.

As for contributing “nil” in recent years, your accumulated contributions continue to colour the work of all of us youngsters as we seek to achieve the levels at which you have set a fine example. Our more important decisions have always carried a silent “**would Ted approve?**” or “**what would Ted do?**” and along with Brian, we feel that we have been blessed with many years of advice and assistance than we could have reasonably hoped! “AOB” will be less fun, now that you are taking a back seat.

Mass and lunch are the cornerstones of the Old Xaverian Calendar, and I’m gratified that you intend to be at both. I hope also that there will be other occasions (which are not *just* funerals) where we might share a glass or two...) David

Congratulations on your retirement from **Front Line Old Xaverianism**.

Dear Ted, Good to hear from you as always.

I’m sorry to receive your news. You have been a stalwart on the committee almost longer than I have been alive! Always welcomed your generosity of spirit and your contribution to COXA business over the years. You always had a view which was listened to and contributed richly to where we are today. We are still alive and kicking and that’s no accident. I count you, **Brian Sanders and Mick Power** as great movers and operators over the past years I have been involved with the committee. I fully understand the reasons for your resignation and I hope that you will continue to support the Association, as you have indicated, by attending our functions.

I’m guessing I also need to treat your email as an apology for the AGM. (Maybe you will surprise us by Zooming in!) Thank you and best wishes as always Eddie

Dear Eddie I think the time has come for me to leave the Committee. I never manage the Zooms and my contribution is now nil and has been for some time. I think I have been on the Committee for over 65 years and will miss meeting up with everyone. I wish you all the greatest success in the future and of course will see you all at the Mass and Dinner. **Ted**

Name lost again - more help required! Frank, Kevin or Wayne?? Help please

Hi Frank,

Randomly I was browsing for my old school and saw your website. I attended Clapham College, leaving in 1984/85. I had **Mr Curtin** as my form master from 3 to 5, and **Miss Mansfield** in 2nd Year. I left the UK in my early 20s, working in HK, NYC and finally Sydney so lost touch with all but a couple of School mates from that at era. Your photos from the late 70s and early 80s made me chuckle as I recognized a few of the lads and backdrops. I still have vivid memories from, Malwood Road, Clapham South and the old school though to be honest most of my later time there the school seemed in decline and uncertain about its future. That said my younger days of recalling **Mr Pocock** and his genuinely scary Tanoy announcements are embedded in my memories.

I do get to the UK most years for business (I work in financial markets) so would love to pop along to one of your gatherings if at all possible. Anyway Frank, great work on the website and all things Clapham College. Best Regards and be safe and well Wayne

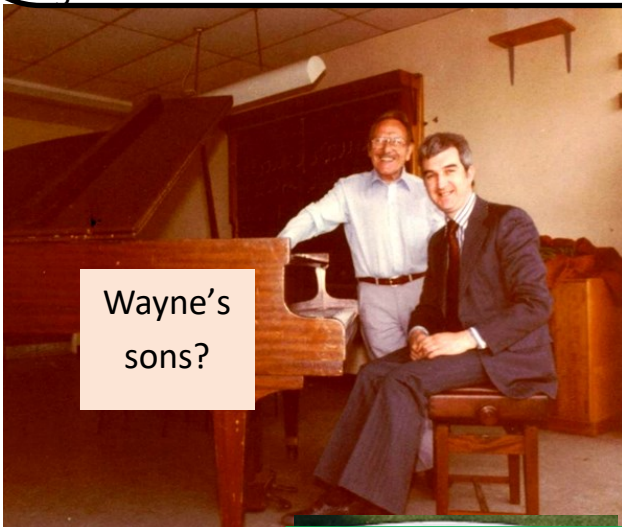
Dear Wayne,

Many thanks for the information, I have now just activated your website membership.

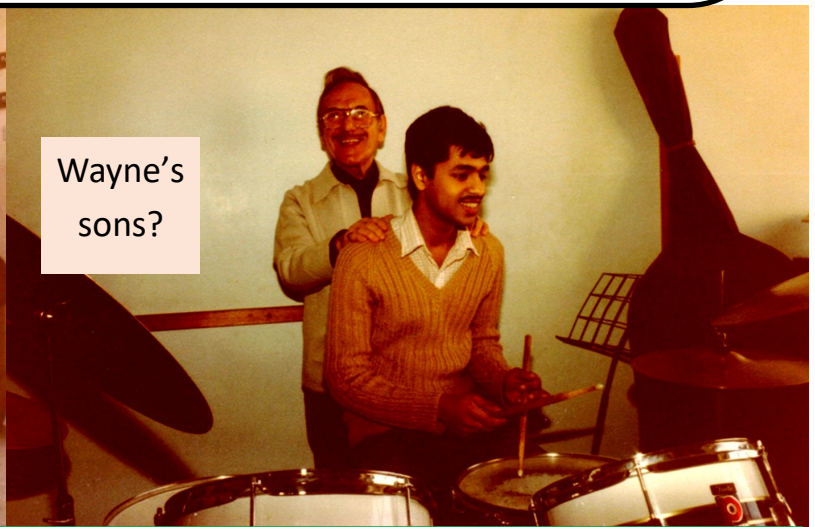
You now have full access to the day to day COXA website (which is free to use) <https://www.claphamoldxaverians.co.uk/>

Lastly, I have copied in Scotty Macdonald our Membership secretary who will be in touch with you about becoming a member of the Clapham Old Xaverians Association if you are interested. Hopefully, we will see you at one of our social events whenever you are next in London.

Regards Frank



Wayne's sons?



Wayne's sons?

On the Ypres Trip, one of the graveyards was closed for repair. Bus House Cem. **Seb. Page-Green Military Cross.**



Second Lieutenant
Reginald Sebastian Page-Green
M C
26th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 22 June 1917 Age 22
Son of the late William Page-Green, of Goyfield, Felixstowe, and of Rosa Killard-Leavey (formerly Page-Green), of Palmer House, Torrington, N. Devon.
Remembered with Honour
Bus House Cemetery



I have previously sent e-mails to your Virgin email address....Not sure if you ever received them, maybe you don't use that account. Anyway, I saw the notes in those e-mails and have put them below as they refer to times in the 60s. All three of the French brothers attended in the 60s and in the early 70s but are all now deceased, as you will read below. The note on **John Condon** I sent recently also to the Virgin e-mail address...Interesting life he had as a Franciscan and then as a man laicised working in the prisons in California again see below.

I also have included a **photo?** of myself (Clapham College '67-'69 A Levels) after leaving junior seminary in Yorkshire) with +Francis on the 13th June this year. He is in a wheelchair. This is a wider story but it was a most interesting visit along with our wives and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. He asked to meet our small group of 8 men who have been leading a campaign in the UK for the protection of minors, using our experience/history over a lifetime dealing with what happened to us at a junior seminary in the 60s and it having life-long effects on us and others. It has been a journey of many years and has led to a great outcome with being involved in IICSA (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse) whereby we gave testimony. The dioceses of England and Wales have eventually been forthcoming, although at times dragging and screaming, but once Cardinal Vincent got hold of it after initial heavy criticism, it has found a way to set up safeguards and also to apologise, and in some cases, assist with care, counselling and finance to many. The Catholic Orders in the UK over whom the Cardinal has little hold were reluctant at first but have since come on board. We were very instrumental in that and it was very much part of the reason why we were invited to Rome along with the Cardinal to meet +Francis (his personal invitation to us after reading about our journey), for a private meeting that lasted one hour and 35 minutes. It was incredibly emotional and memorable.

He speaks English by the way but not for public purposes. I should tell you that in my two years at Clapham College I never heard of or experienced any sexual abuse and believe me I would have known after my own personal experience prior to joining there in '67.

Speaks well of the Brothers and the lay teachers there and especially the leadership of **Br. Peter**, a man of whom I have so many good memories, a truly great headmaster and human being.

Herewith the items from the other e-mails:

I was just reading the mention of the passing of **Tony Morrish** (RIP) and it came to mind that I should ask you if you ever received my e-mail via the system from the weekly round-up whereby I sent you a small story item for publishing if possible on the latest passing of **Charlie French** last summer. Prior to him his two younger brothers, all ex Clapham, Tony and John, pre-deceased him. It's a sad story to relate and mentions of his mother and sister, both hale and hearty. I am happy to send that e-mail info again. I didn't see any reference to **the Frenchs** in the last Clapham booklet, hence this e-mail now.

Scotty...a note on **John Condon**, mentioned in the 'other boys from the 50s'. John is a friend of mine of many years. After Clapham College in the 60s he went to Strawberry Hill teacher training college. He spent one summer with my brother Peter (copied above) living in my apartment in Queens, NY, while they both worked as waiters in Manhattan...summer of 1972...They both made a fortune by UK standards at that time from tips. I was working for Aer Lingus at their US HQ - 564 5th Ave...very prestigious address then.

John decided to enter training for the priesthood after qualifying for teaching and took final vows in Canterbury and eventual ordination with the Franciscans. He ended up by becoming Provincial (boss) of the Order for the UK. After 25 years he decided to leave the Order and the priesthood. They actually gave him redundancy - £25,000.

He decided that he didn't want to be a cranky old man like many of those other Franciscan confreres around him and wanted to do something else with his life before he too got old. So, on leaving the Order, he headed off Stateside to California and started to work in social care in Soledad Prison. He also met and married Carla, native of the US. She had never been married before and they have now been a married couple for at least 10 years. He escaped a near death experience with a brain bleed some years ago but has made a full recovery.

He was last in the UK just before lockdown for his mother's funeral at 106. I am not in touch with him regularly but through some other friends who are, I have been told he is coming home for a visit before Christmas 2022. ...

Thank you for the latest Concordia. Always good to have news of the Old Xaverians. I was at Clapham from 1947 to 1954 following my brother **Nick**. My wife who sadly passed away in 2020 after 62 years of marriage. I have three children and four grandchildren one of whom, Paul, is writing this email for me. If you let me have your bank details I will get my daughter to send you some money for the badge. Best wishes **Chris Scott** [thanks for the team photos of Clapham]

"The Cup Final against Shene saw a huge amount of support from friends, family, and most importantly COXA Alumni"

It has been 8 years since **Conor and Dom** took over the then COXA 4th XI. Since then, the squad, which remarkably has the same core players as it did all those years ago, have been gone up 8 divisions. Whether it's an "actual" promotion, league reset, or taking the place of a departing COXA squad, each time the team has managed to have continued success at each higher level.

Starting this season, there were only two more divisions above the ones' within the AFA Southern league structure. Getting to the top tier of the AFA has long been the North Star for the management team and this season was a good opportunity to get one step closer. The reason for the goal being more realistic is because COXA strengthened their starting XI during the summer.

Long term prospect **Ashley Snadden** (going on to get Players' Player at the End of Season awards) joined after years of semi-pro shenanigans at AFC Neverheardofthem. Also, **Joe Hart** (formerly known as Judas - recently christened the Prodigal Son) returned after a few years playing with Whosbothered United - Joe received the Manager Player award at the end-of-season do. The final addition of Semi-Pro rejects was **Jon (Trotty) Trotter** - playing multiple years with **Ash** at Someteamtowards-gatwick Albion before Ashley was poached for a lucrative 50p a week raise by AFC Neverheardofthem - money talks! Trotty gave the team a solid and productive structure and his organisation had a huge impact on the team - he didn't win anything at the end of season do. Speaking of which - having a pool party at **Ben Grundman's** (Well, Angel Grundan's...) allowed the boys to pretend (as they often do) that we are in fact professional footballers - despite making Jack Grealish look Teetotal. On to the football, It was overall a very successful season. When the ones' were good - they were VERY good. Their trademark passing style was only enhanced by the undeniable ability of Ash and Joe and both lads had a close fought battle for top goal scorer title. **Liam Thornton** in goal was a revelation - think The Monk from the film Football Factory. Making huge saves and displaying some world class time wasting - if there was a Puskas or Ballon' Dor equivalent for ShitHousery - Liam wouldn't just win it, it would be named after him. Despite the strong team COXA would field each week, there were a few banana skins that did take the 1s off the top of the table and allow the likes of Sutton, Dorking and Paulines to make it a dog fight. It made for some great games with COXA putting in their best performances against the better teams in the league.

COXA 1st XI 2022/23 ...continued

“The AFA Challenge Cup comes home again”

Clapham Old Xaverians 2 Shene O.G. 1

The story of the year was of course, the AFA Challenge Cup. After winning the cup in the now legendary mid-lockdown 2019-2020 final, the boys were looking to take the cup back from league rivals Old Paulines. The ones' showed great ability in the semi-final against Red Roy Robins and won in extra time after a very tight game. As fate would have it, COXA met Old Paulines in the semi-final and were victorious in an inevitable fiercely contested game between the two sides.

The final against Shene saw a huge amount of support from friends, family, and most importantly COXA Alumni. The game got off to a shaky start. Shene went 1-0 up and Marshy missed an open goal. The boys went in at half time, regrouped and got around each other to remind each other what COXA and this squad are about. It worked better than expected with Marshy coming from the depths of despair to despatch two wonderfully taken goals. 2-1 FT. The AFA Challenge Cup was home again. Lifted on a beautiful sunny day with COXA legends in attendance - it doesn't get much better than that.

Back to the league. So, the ones' unfortunately lost their important game against Dorking to seal 2nd position and were placed 3rd. It was overall a successful and highly enjoyable season... However, there may be hope for promotion, as Sutton's ones' were relegated to the league above which may mean their twos' who came second in our league may not be able to be promoted.

Nothing has been confirmed by the league at this point but we will share information on whether Clapham have had the luckiest promotion out of the 8 so far! Either way, the team is ready to go again in their mission to get to the top tier and to represent COXA in the best level of the AFA Southern set up.

A huge thank you to Gordon, Eddie, Spence, Alex and the association for their support and humour this season. On to the next one!

Cheers! **Dom Taggart**



CHAMPIONS!
Championnes,
Championnes,
Ole Ole Ole



COXA RAMBLE JAN 2ND 2023 - REPORT

We have to thank Aidan Coletta for picking the route, being our guide and the font of all knowledge on the Epsom...



...The first COXA ramble in ages. Initially we were 20 but weather forecasts, thick mud and poor transport links put out off a few. For the "hardy dozen" who met up on the Derby Race Course, Epsom Downs, we were greeted by blue skies and a warm sun. The eight and We passed many beautiful race horses on the gallops and the views across the Downs were stunning. We visited the monuments and carvings dedicated to Kitchener's visit to meet 20,000 recruits in WW1.

We were flagging slightly when after a couple of hours we arrived at the "Cock Inn" for lunch....We feasted and drank grandly and left as it threatened to turn into a "session" with over three miles still to go back to the cars. Many Ramblers, stayed away due to the weather, but the conditions underfoot were fine. We'll gather again at the start of March for a walk along the Thames City Trail - no real need to dress up for that one. On 2nd Jan. we actually replicated the first ever walk of the COXA Ramblers in 1929 - I'm sure "looking down" they'd have all smiled on us...The group was made up of O'Flynnns [there are so many of them! The Leathem "entourage" and the usual COXA Veterans.



COXA City Ramble May 2023 - led by Chairman David

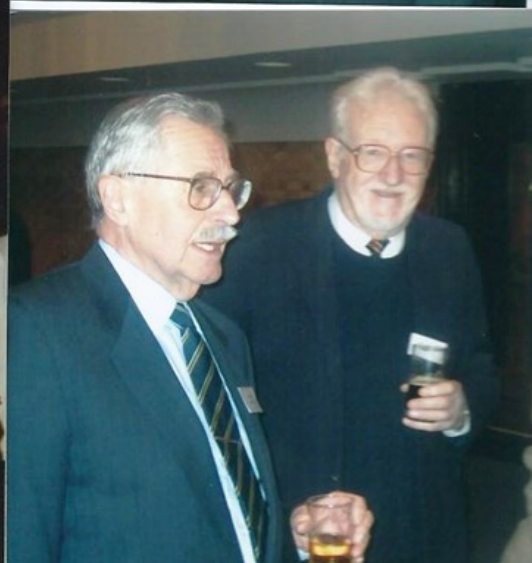


Below, end of the July Coulsdon Walk more in Concordia No 29

Hodge the Cat of Dr Samuel Johnson- "Google it" as our leader commanded



I missed the Summer Lunch [illness] - so no photos ..could "attendees" send me theirs?
Therefore I have filled the space allocated for Summer 2023 with photos from the 2000 Lunch!
Could you "name" the "stars" for me?



I know the names of these very young Xaverians, the two "stars" are gaps in my knowledge



Don't forget to contact me over the Summer for Hard Copy [Concordia posted] - or online