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# OLD NORTHAVIAN ASSOCIATION 2006 NEWSLETTER

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2006 Old Northavian Newsletter, the third since the ONA was revived.

Before I update you on our progress in the last year, I have to report the very sad death in April 2005 of Lord Rothes. Ian was one of the first recruits to the ONA Committee and was a constant source of wisdom, common sense and good humour during the Association's formative period, for which I, and the rest of the Committee, will always be enormously grateful. Ian was one of that fairly rare breed of Old Northavians who attended the school (1940 – 45) during its wartime occupation of Loton Park in Shropshire and is much missed. I sent a letter of condolence to Lady Rothes at the time on behalf of all Old Northavians.

Otherwise, the Committee remains as listed in the last Newsletter. My thanks go to all of them for their valuable contribution this year. In particular, I must give thanks to Bryan Gordon-Smith for his capable efficiency as Hon Secretary & Treasurer; to Charlie Thomas for organising the ON day last July and to Jalal Janmohamed for his enthusiastic energy as Editor of this Newsletter. We have not, as yet, filled the vacancy left by Lord Rothes. I would be very pleased to hear from any Old Northavians of whatever age, who would be willing to join the Committee. We would particularly welcome anyone who has left the school in the last 5 or 6 years and who would be willing to help lower the average age and put forward the younger ON viewpoint. It isn't hard work! Anyone interested should contact me at [anthony@troutwines.co.uk](mailto:anthony@troutwines.co.uk)

We were blessed with glorious weather on the Old Northavian Day in July last year and were pleased with the numbers who turned up. This is not to say that there wasn't room for more! Later in this Newsletter, you will see a piece by Sir James Birkmyre (1964 – 69) regarding Northaw's 1968 Soccer XI. This team won all their matches that season – a remarkable feat. Jamie has suggested that there should be some sort of a reunion but we have lost touch with several of the players. If anyone can provide contact details for the missing team members, please advise me (as above). Email addresses would be particularly useful.

Another ON who has sent in his news is Jeremy Cripps (1951 – 56). During the 60s, he was Hon Secretary to the predecessor to the ONA, known simply as The Old Boys. Having regained contact with him, I am particularly pleased that he has also joined the Association.

As has been said before, in order to thrive, the ONA does need more of you to join up. The benefits, enumerated in the last Newsletter are still in place. Indeed, we are seeking to enhance what we offer to paid up members with the establishment of an Old Northavian Network. Details can be found on pages 23 to 25. We are still working on the ONA website. Once established, certain areas of the site will be password protected and available only to paid up members. This Newsletter will not be sent out indefinitely without the small financial commitment from ONs that joining entails. Please do consider doing so. You will find a form on page 26.

I usually take this opportunity to thank Patricia Taylor, the School's Registrar but also the vital link between Norman Court and the ONA. This year is no exception. She has continued to work tirelessly, efficiently and cheerfully on your behalf and, again, I thank her for all that she has done for us. However, my thanks are tinged with a note of sadness, as Patricia will be retiring during 2006. At the time of writing, I do not know what arrangements are planned for her successor. For the time being, please direct any correspondence to me at [anthony@troutwines.co.uk](mailto:anthony@troutwines.co.uk). We will publicise the new contact details, once they are known.

At present, there are no plans to organise a specifically ON oriented "event" this year (although this may change with the 1968 Soccer Reunion). However, there are several other functions of one sort or another being organised in connection with the School's Triple Anniversary Appeal (details of which appear throughout this Newsletter). I very much look forward to meeting many of you at these events.

With best wishes for 2006

*Anthony Whitaker*

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## HEADMASTER'S NEWS

As I pause for breath at the start of my second decade as Headmaster of Norman Court, perhaps it is time to reflect on how much we have achieved thus far and how the school continues to move forward in this competitive independent schools sector.

We are pleased that the numbers of pupils have grown from 120 to 280 in the last 10 years, but this puts pressure on facilities, and with ever increasing expectations from prospective parents, the time has come to update and develop some of our facilities.

The year 2006 promises to be a very challenging year, particularly with the recent launch of the Triple Anniversary Appeal. This is the first fundraising appeal that the school has undertaken since 1987 when Blake Hall was built. We have a target of £500,000 to build a new Music Department, a CDT Suite and a complete upgrade of the Sports and Performing Arts Complex (details of these improvements are attached).

We have a fund raising team working round the clock. However, for the appeal to gain momentum, and to make a significant dent in this target, we have to reach beyond the current school community.

This is why I am appealing to you for any contribution you feel you can make.

Many Old Northavians have expressed an interest in giving something specific to mark their time at the school. With this in mind we have created a gift list. Would you like your name on a seat in Blake Hall recording the time you were here for £300? Or maybe a music practice room named after you for £5,000? (See attached gift list on page 11 for full details).

Additionally, you can support the appeal in other ways such as attending some of the fund raising events. The Newsletter contains invitations to our Golf Day at Worplesdon in Surrey, where Old Northavian teams would be a major bonus, and also our Summer Ball on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Several ON's plan to put together tables; please support what will be a fantastic event. The appeal office (01980 862345) has all the details.

Sponsorship is another area we are focussing on. Can you or your company donate any prizes for our many sporting events; Golf, Tennis, or Clay pigeon shooting where the main prizes might cost £100/£200? We are looking for sponsors for the band and the champagne reception at the Summer Ball (about £1000) or a sponsor for an 'Indoor Racing' evening in the autumn. In all cases we will provide advertising in our

brochures, banners where feasible and appropriate publicity for our sponsors. Rosemary Court is coordinating this area and is available to answer any queries on 07748 301102.

The children are enormously keen and very excited about the events. We all believe that it will unite and enhance what is already a wonderful school community. We are in a position to take Norman Court to a new level. We would be grateful for all and any support.

*Kevin Foyle*

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## NORMAN COURT

Norman Court has launched a fundraising project entitled 'The Triple Anniversary Appeal' to mark 125 years since its foundation, 50 years in Hampshire and 10 years as 'Norman Court.' This is a building project to develop excellent facilities for sports, music and craft design technology for use by the school and the wider community.

The target of the appeal is £500,000 to fund:

- A new Sports and Arts Complex. This will involve upgrading the existing sports hall by providing better support facilities (heating, lighting, sound, seating) and refurbishing the squash courts
- A new changing room block adjacent to the sports hall
- A new Music School with state-of-the-art facilities
- A new Craft Design Technology Centre
- An Historical Exhibition. This will be sited within the sports and arts complex to promote a greater understanding and tolerance of different faiths and cultures

Plans of the proposed development are available to view on our website [www.normancourt.co.uk](http://www.normancourt.co.uk)

We very much hope Old Northavians will give generous support to this project. There are several ways in which you may consider donating to the Appeal:

**Sponsor a room or piece of equipment.** You may wish to contribute to a specific area of the appeal such as the sports hall, the music school or the craft design technology centre, and we would be happy to discuss this with you.

**Sponsor a seat.** You may like to sponsor a seat within Blake Hall where your name will be inscribed on the back of the chair at a cost of £300 per seat.

**Set up a regular bankers' standing order.** This allows you to spread the cost whilst still giving a meaningful sum.

**Payroll giving via your employer.** Where your employer has a scheme, this is paid to the charity before income tax and national insurance are deducted.

**Donate shares.** A gift of shares to a registered charity is exempt from capital gains.

As a registered charity the School can reclaim income tax on donations by gift aid. Should you wish to make a donation and you are a taxpayer, by completing the gift aid form your donation is worth an extra 22% to Norman Court. The gift aid declaration and bankers' standing order forms are available for you to print out from our website [www.normancourt.co.uk](http://www.normancourt.co.uk)

### Further information

The Headmaster and the Appeal team would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about the Appeal and answer any questions you may have. Should you wish to receive a copy of our Appeal brochure including details of the plans, please let us know.

### Contact Details

The Appeal Office, Norman Court Preparatory School, West Tytherley, Salisbury, SP5 1NH

Tel: 01980 862345

Email: [office@normancourt.co.uk](mailto:office@normancourt.co.uk)

## ONA INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM!

### Major Peter Forbes (1926 – 29)

In March 2005, Anthony Whitaker, Patricia Taylor and Belinda Jones visited Major Peter Forbes at his house in Crowborough, East Sussex. This is an edited version of their report:

PF spent most of his time in the school at Northaw Place but his last term was at Surrenden Dering, which had been a most impressive house. The school had had to move from Hertfordshire because the lease on Northaw Place had come to an end. He had more recently tried to pay a visit to Surrenden but had found that it had been razed to the ground after the fire, although the stables were still standing.

Prior to the move to Surrenden and the adoption of the Dering family crest by the school, there had been no school emblem. However, maroon was very much the school colour even in the twenties. As far as he could remember, the uniform had been grey flannel trousers and a blazer (with braiding along the lapels), although the boys may have had a blue suit for Sundays.

We showed him a developer's sales brochure for Northaw Place, which had been prepared in 1990 or so. The main house had been renovated substantially and sold for a figure in the millions, while various outbuildings (that had not been there when the school moved out) had been developed as individual properties. PF and his late wife had pretended to be interested purchasers in order to have a look around. His interest in what each room had previously been used for had caused the agent to work out that they were not genuine buyers but he was kind enough to let them look round in their own time, unaccompanied.

During PF's time there were between 70 and 80 boys in the school and all were boarders. Boys seldom went home during term time and half term, as we know it today, did not exist. Although they were given dancing lessons (PF was required to be the girl to his brother's boy) they had no contact whatsoever with girls or girls' schools and would not have known what to do in such circumstances anyway!

Other entertainments were few and far between. Sometimes one of the masters would read Bulldog Drummond stories to the boys on Sunday evenings. In the summer term, if it was sunny, they were allowed to take their rugs outside to sunbathe. Occasionally a Charlie Chaplin film might be shown on a Saturday evening but they never had lectures or talks on "improving" topics. However, the Head Master, Mr Winter was very keen on theatricals so school plays were a regular feature. Mr Winter was a very good actor himself, as well as being a very nice man. PF often stayed at Surrenden after he had left, as a guest of Mr and Mrs Winter.

Games, of all sorts, were extremely important and, if you weren't good at games, you would never make your mark at the school, however academically clever you might be. Soccer, rugby and cricket were the main sports played. In the summer term, boys could swim in an oval pond that had probably been an ornamental one originally. Naturally it was neither heated nor particularly clean, but it was deep enough to swim in, and to learn to swim in. Bathing trunks for swimming were *de rigueur* and showing yourself naked was so frowned upon that even accidental exposure would be greeted with disapproving shouts of "sights!" Baths were a once weekly occurrence and there was no opportunity to wash yourself after games (except possibly your feet and knees). The lavatories were not of the flushing type but required the user to tip sand in after use.

The school food was excellent, although many dreaded Tuesdays, when they were offered something called "Tuesday soup" - a form of Irish stew. The staff were, generally, popular and respected by the boys and it was a happy school. Discipline was enforced by the masters and also by the Prefects, and beatings were quite often administered even for minor misdemeanours, like talking after lights out in the dormitories. In one of the photographs we were shown, three of the boys had just been beaten and one is still holding the seat of his trousers to ease his discomfort!



## **Summer Ball**

Why not get a table together for the Norman Court Summer Ball on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> 2006? This is just one of our many fundraising events planned for 2006 and promises to be a great evening of fun and entertainment. Proceeds from the event will go to the Triple Anniversary Appeal and to Naomi House Children's Hospice. We very much hope that as many Old Northavians as possible will join us. To book tickets, please complete the attached booking form and return it to Norman Court School Office as soon as possible.

### **The Norman Court Summer Ball Committee**

**Warmly invites all parents, guardians, staff,  
Old Northavians, friends and supporters to the**

### **Summer Ball**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2006  
at Norman Court  
7.30 p.m.

Champagne Reception with canapés

Formal Dinner

Complimentary wine and water (on table); after dinner coffee

Auction of Promises

Dancing - Live band and disco

Casino

Magician

**Tickets £70 per head**



Remember Midsummer's Night!  
Licensed Bar! Music from 'More'! Dancing through to 1 a.m.!

**Norman Court Summer Ball – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**Please do come to Norman Court's largest fundraising event of 2006 and come with as many friends and supporters as possible. Bookings of 8 – 10 will secure a table, but equally if you do not wish to commit to a whole table, we will happily team you up with others! Contact the School Office for further details.**

To: School Office, Norman Court School, West Tytherley, Salisbury, SP5 1NH

From:

First name: ..... Last name: ..... Title: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Email address: ..... Phone no.: .....

Please send me ..... tickets at £70 per head for the Summer Ball on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2006

I enclose payment for £..... (Cheques payable to 'Norman Court Preparatory School')

Please note the following seating requests:

(Tables will seat up to 10):

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Any other requests (vegetarian options will be provided):

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## ONA MEMBERS' NEWS

### **Chris (aka Topper) Grove (1950 – 54)**

Was at the school for the years covering Mr Winter, Tom Reynolds, Richard Lewis, and both Surrenden, the fire, and Norman Court. I was among those house captains who 'christened' the old swimming pool at Norman Court, now filled in, and was probably the first to attain my 'blues' in it, having learnt to swim since leaving Surrenden where I had never managed more than a width.

Went off to St John's Leatherhead in 1954 in the company of David Garrod and Franky Hoare and left there at Christmas 1958. After a couple of terms teaching Latin at a Buckinghamshire prep school, I went to Sandhurst in September 1959, was commissioned into the Queen's Own Buffs, the Royal Kent Regiment (one of those rather short lived products of the amalgamation of many regiments in the 1960s) in 1961 and served with the 1<sup>st</sup> (and only) battalion in Kenya, UK and Hong Kong, taking a University of London External degree in General Science at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham in the meantime. While in Hong Kong, during the Red Guard riots, we were amalgamated yet again, to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Queen's Regiment, with whom I served in England, Northern Ireland and Germany, including a two year stint as Adjutant of 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (TA, or rather TAVR 2 in those days) in Canterbury.

During the 2 Queen's tour in Germany, I was selected to become a member of a computer project (Project Wavell) in Hildesheim, just south of Hannover, for two years, before rejoining 2 Queen's in Werl (near Dortmund), shortly before their return to Bulford in the UK. It was during this time that I met my future wife, Isobel, then serving at the British Military Hospital in Iserlohn. I then attended the Advanced Computer Course at Blandford after which I got married and spent another two years instructing at Blandford, two years at HQ British Army of the Rhine at Moenchengladbach in Germany and three years at HQ Allied Forces Central Europe (a NATO HQ) at Brunssum in the Netherlands. My last two years in the Army were spent at the Defence Intelligence Centre at Ashford in Kent, where my family lived; we bought a house and still live there.

When I left the Army, I spent about 5 years working in computers, but after being made redundant twice I joined the Civil Service as a Retired Officer and have been working in the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall ever since. I shall retire (again) in August 2006 and hope to have more time (if less cash) to enjoy fishing, model making and general relaxation!

We spent a wonderful three weeks in New Zealand in late 2005 and hope to spend longer there in 2007. What a fantastic country! My strong recommendation is that readers, especially the younger ones, go there before you are too old to enjoy most of the fabulous activities on offer; provided, of course, that you can afford it!

### **Richard Gosnell (1951 – 54)**

School life had many daily cycles, one of which was Chapel. Under Major Reynolds' headmastership we sang a well known hymn quite often, to the tune called "Old 100th". Everywhere else it's sung as "All people that on earth do dwell", but we sang words with military overtones, viz "God send us men whose aim t'will be/ not to defend some worn out creed". I wonder where that came from? Perhaps it comes from Army church services, or in the trenches behind the lines! Still, it makes a change from Lilli Marlene (see my previous report in the 2004 ON Newsletter). In chapel, there was of course a choir, and I recall being impressed by the voices of the choristers though I never could sing myself. After the move to Norman Court, a chapel was built at the end of the corridor past the classrooms in the orangery. As you entered you walked over an inlaid inscription which read "Constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice".

Another daily routine was the half-pint of milk, issued to everyone during PM break, and usually drunk through a straw. I wonder if we were healthier than today's children who don't drink milk (which has fat in

it) but do eat lots of so-called junk food. The morning exercises on the terrace were unforgettable, but only because of the chore of doing it on cold mornings. I did, however, enjoy seeing the ever-changing bands of morning mist hanging in the vale to the south. Or a steam train would chuff past in the distance, its smoke poking up through the mist. At 'Old Northaw' - Surrenden Dering, I remember that confectionery was still rationed after WW2, and that fact, combined with an ingenious plan to teach us the basics of bank accounts, resulted in us 'buying' our sweets with a special cheque-book after waiting in a queue!

I became interested in astronomy during my last term or two, and was excited to see the planet Mars in summer 1954 gleaming in the South, as I had crept out of bed to peer through the curtains. Concerning astronomy, at home we had a 3-inch refractor telescope, but it never took the risky trip to school with me. With it, I was thrilled to see things like the crescent Venus and the moons of Jupiter before I had learned anything about such things. Thus I was in a similar position to Galileo in 1610 when he turned the world's first telescope onto objects in the sky. I found a book in the School library, and that explained what I had seen in the telescope. At Northaw I was given, I think by Mrs Reynolds or Felicity Lewis, a smooth round piece of stone which I was told was a meteorite that had fallen into a hedge by the school. A boy at school, Johnston, saw it and gave me another one, more knobbly, which his father, who owned a chalk quarry business, had found in the chalk. Later I learned that, in fact, both were Marcasite nodules, and not from outer space.

I remember Headmaster Mr Lewis's reading sessions in his study with us all sitting on the floor around him and one term the book was 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'. One task, also in his study, which Mr Lewis found embarrassing, was a talk on 'the facts of life' given to all pupils before they left the school. It made him seem very human, especially as most boys had been giggling about sex among themselves for ages, without provocation from the Headmaster!

I remember that boys' parents were asked to donate to a tree-planting scheme, and I recall my parents subscribed, but I never recall seeing 'my' tree. A good excuse to visit and look along the avenue north of the main building.

### **Jeremy Cripps (1951 – 56)**

The ON Newsletter caught up with me in Kuwait. I am here helping to start up a liberal arts university in the Arabian Gulf. We are on the cutting edge of a region of developing democracy and liberal arts education offers important opportunities for our Kuwaiti students better to understand the impact of globalisation as they join the World Trade Organisation and take a greater part in international events than merely supplying oil.

As a Professor of Business, the change from mercantilism to an open society offers interesting research opportunities including the discovery of Arab scholarship on economics that predates Adam Smith by a thousand years. I am writing in the relative cold of winter and it is raining. However, the weather here is generally warm and dry.

Although less than 100 miles to the border with Iraq and 350 miles to Baghdad, Kuwait is remarkably free from crime and provides a welcome area from where British and American companies base their Iraq operations. This is a boom town, new building everywhere with increasingly taller buildings rising up and the introduction of green golf courses and tourist attractions.

The population is also growing and in particular the number of high school graduates is increasing by 8% per year which has enabled us to grow to 800 students in 15 months. So far we are the only liberal arts institution in Kuwait but just one of a number of American universities that have come to the Gulf in the last decade.

Back to the arrival of the ON Newsletter and many memories, which are growing dimmer. I remember particularly the gaining of permission for a pond which led to Norman Court's first swimming pool and provided me with the opportunity to take up swimming as a sport and eventually at Eton to captain the team. Memories rise in the smoke of the fire at Surrenden Dering, of the playing fields there (and the swimming pool) and of beating the bounds on the way through orchards to Pluckley. I remember that Surrenden Dering was said to be haunted, the manor and the woods. But not the yard where we played "Kick the Can" nor the chapel where we sometime hand pumped the organ and certainly not the fields where we helped harvest potatoes, but maybe the orchards where we helped harvest apples - great times all slip dimly by in the mists of yesteryear. I remember taking a small part in HMS Pinafore at Surrenden just before the fire when my brother (Seddon 1950-54) sang Buttercup (really rather well). Norman Court after the move also comes to mind as I still can hand write the three very different styles of my first teachers, Miss Mace, Jasper Plaister, and Captain Sutcliffe.

The newsletter makes one wonder what happened to so many. I went on to Eton and then to Coopers (now PriceWaterhouseCoopers) and to Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, met my wife there and came back to Europe with an American multinational. Moved into consultancy in the Gulf and then into academia when my children came to school age and we returned to the States. Now, with the nest empty, I took the opportunity to return to the Gulf. All that way and then the ON Newsletter caught up with me. A very happy and prosperous 2006 to everyone.

**Anthony Sherman (1952 – 54)**

So much for retiring! I have started a new career, and have moved to Wimborne. Are there any ONs with a heart for people in the Dorset, Wilts or Somerset areas, particularly? I head up a Charity called Footprints Project based at Dorchester Prison working with ex-offenders and their families to stop re-offending. Previous schemes have reduced the rate from 57% to 21% - the current average for the UK is nearing 75%! There are schemes being set up in other areas, and I can put people in touch.

**Andrew Duncan (1958 – 63)**

Co-founder (1983) and sole director of Duncan Petersen Publishing Ltd, co-edition publisher of illustrated reference books including the Charming Small Hotel Guides ([www.charmingsmallhotels.co.uk](http://www.charmingsmallhotels.co.uk))

Lives London and Beaulieu, Hampshire. Interests: travelling, sailing, reading, writing. Quite often in contact with Conroy Ryder (now Lord Sandon: 1959-63) and occasionally Grahame Nicholson (1960-65).

Married for 28 years, to Fiona (Grafton) with two boys, Alexander (22, just graduated from film school) and Fergus (19, Bristol University).

**Mark Ellerton (1958 – 63)**

I retired from being Headmaster of Stoke Brunswick School in July 2005 after 23 years. Having a very happy 'new life' in the sunny Algarve.

**Jamie Garnock – now Jamie Lindsay (1964 – 69)**

Married with 5 children, living in Fife, farming and involved in various businesses in Scotland and London including land use & rural enterprises, minerals, the food industry, accreditation and further education.



## Triple Anniversary Appeal Gift List

Below are some examples of 'gift list' items required for our new development.

Should you wish to buy a particular item, an engraved plaque with your name will be displayed on the equipment / at the entrance to the room in acknowledgement of your generosity.

### Music Department

Music Practice Room incl. equipment	£ 5000
Yamaha Piano	£ 2000
TV/DVD Combi Unit	£ 240
Orchestra Chairs	£ 150 each
Stools	£ 75 each

### Craft Design Technology Department

Design Room incl. equipment	£ 6000
Large power machine room incl. equipment	£ 4000
Workstation Benches	£ 420 each

### Information Technology Department

30 Computers & Software	£ 400 each
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### Sports & Arts Hall

Brick (with name on)	£ 100 each
Seat in Blake Hall (with name on)	£ 300 each
Sports lighting	£ 8000
Flooring	£35000

**Jamie Birkmyre (1964 – 69)**

Chelsea couldn't do it, nor could Arsenal, Manchester United or Liverpool but.... Northaw's 1968 1st XI could. We went through the whole season winning every game.

PLAYED: 8 WON: 8

Rooney, Lampard, Gerrard and Henry would never have lived with Haak, Clements, Condou and Naylor-Vane. Fergie, Mourinho and Wenger were thought to have modelled themselves on Sarge, Tommy and Mr Cooper but sadly they could not put together teams with the awesome power of Northaw '68.

Hawtreys, Marsh Court, Twyford and Sandle Manor were all amongst the local rivals put to the sword by the ruthless finishing and battling defence of Northaw '68.

Sadly, Billy Howard failed to persuade the authorities to sanction an Open Top Bus Tour of London (or even West Tytherley) to celebrate the season, so he sent the team to the cinema – a fantastic double bill of The Magnificent Seven, followed by The Return of the Seven. He then really pushed the boat out by throwing in a trip to the local Wimpy for burgers and chips!

What a season! So, we are now calling on all those talented Heroes of Northaw '68 to get together for a reunion to re-live all those Bone-Crunching-Tackles, Step-Overs and Game-Winning-Saves. We can't promise an invitation to 10 Downing Street nor can we promise an appearance from Tony Blair but we can promise a few laughs and some good memories.

Do hope you all can make it.

As an aide memoire, those heroes of yesteryear were as follows:

**Dariush Bakhtiar (1965 – 69)**

Jamie Birkmyre (1964 – 69)

**Simon Clements (1964 – 69)**

**Jonathan Haak (1964 – 68)**

**Simon Moore (1964 – 69)**

**Graham Radley (1965 – 68)**

**Adrian Baring (1965 – 70)**

Eddie Bolitho (1963 – 68)

Pierre Condou (1964 – 69)

Jamie Garnock (now Lindsay. 1964 – 69)

**Stuart Naylor-Vane (1965 – 70)**

Stephen Windsor-Clive (1964 – 69)

Names in bold are those with whom we have lost contact. If anyone can provide up to date details as to their whereabouts, please advise the Registrar at Norman Court. Once contact (and interest) has been established, we will organise a reunion; date, time and venue to be announced. We hope to include Billy Howard, Tommy Thomson and Colin Cooper in the gathering. Sadly, Sarge is no longer with us.

**Ivo Hesmondhalgh (1965 – 69)**

I am married to Ann-Mari, live in Barcelona. I have 2 children, Bede and Yolande + a very elderly deaf spaniel called Henry. We are building a house in South Kensington. When it is finished we will be moving back to England.

**Simon Noble (1967 – 71)**

Joined an investment bank "for a few years before I find something more interesting": still at it! Left UK in 1985 "for 3 years": still in the USA with a 5 year stint in Mexico where I married a beautiful Peruvian. Have 3 sons.

**Paul Crean (1968 – 72)**

Currently living in Chiswick, London, I have been married for 16 years and have three sons, aged 11 and twins of 9. I am currently a founding partner in an emerging market hedge fund called Finisterre Capital, having worked for a variety of banks in London and New York over the last 25 years.

**Jamie Bowden (1968 – 73)**

I left Northaw for Eton, and then spent 1979-1986 in the Green Jackets. I entered the Foreign Office in 1986 and have worked in London, Cairo (learning Arabic, most of which I have forgotten), Aden, Khartoum, Washington, Riyadh and Kabul. I am now two years through a three year stint as the No2 at the Embassy in Kuwait, having done a six month temporary duty last year / early this as the No2 in Baghdad. I am married to Sarah Peaslee and have five children - I just seem to sort of accumulate them.

**Richard Howard (1968 – 73)**

Great to get news of ONs. I will pass it round the family as we 3 boys were all at Northaw, spanning about 1963 – 1973 and of course Dad was Headmaster from 1961- 1972.

Of me – well – I went on with Mike Walker and Andrew Morrison to Winchester after Denis Blake's first term. I lasted only 2 years there before moving to St Paul's and then on to Oxford. In between those last 2 institutions I joined the Army and spent 7 months in Germany. After getting my rather undistinguished degree in Chemistry I went back to the Army and spent most of the 80s in Germany with occasional visits to Northern Ireland. I married Paula on returning from Germany in 1989 and we now have 2 children; Grace (1996) and Fred (2000). Since then I have been to the Army Staff College and done a variety of jobs in UK ending up in Bristol at the Defence Procurement Agency where I now launch technology out of the research field into reality. On the way I spent a year doing an MSc in "Design of Information Systems" (basically management consultancy with an IT slant).

I occasionally see one or two other ONs (in addition to my brothers) including David King (1968-73), who is godfather to my son Fred. William Sieghart (1968-73) was at Oxford with me and my brother Robin and took on the task of best man for Robin. I remember counting up 22 or 23 ONs at Oxford while we were there (1979-82) - not a bad total from a little country prep school of 105 pupils!

**Rab Cross (1969 – 74)**

Living in Sidmouth, and working in Exeter for NHS Connecting for Health, helping to update computer systems to work with the new National Programme for IT.

I still keep in touch with Andrew Elliott (1969-74), and would be keen to see other ON contemporaries if you're ever visiting East Devon.

I enjoyed the 2005 reunion day last summer and seeing how much of the school is recognisable after 30 years, and what has been developed: new sports field, Blake Hall & science rooms.

**Rosanne Soffe - now Rosanne Pilditch (1979 – 84)**

Job-wise I am UK HR Manager at Heidrick & Struggles - a worldwide executive search firm (head-hunting). 2005 was a very exciting year as I got married to Justin Pilditch in July. We are now living in Battersea before making the big move out of London to the country, and unfortunately then into the world of commuting!

**Fin Hughes (1980 – 86)**

Having got married in summer 2004 to Caroline we now have a future Northavian opening batsman in Humphrey Hughes born in August 2005. We have also just moved to the village of Appleshaw, near

Andover and I work for Cluttons, managing the country house sales offices in Romsey and Sutton Scotney. If you would like some sound property advice from a trusty ON please do give me a call.

**Alex Hughes (1980 – 88)**

Now living in Shanghai (having spent a couple of years in Sydney) and working for Scottish and Newcastle Brewers. Got married to Tara in September on the west coast of Ireland.

**James Pennefather (1982 – 87)**

Some news from me:

1. At the start of the year (2005), I was married to Pam in the Lake District, and we have moved out of London into Buckinghamshire.
2. I am still at Diageo, and in July was promoted to Brand Director on Smirnoff vodka.
3. At the end of the year, Pam gave birth to Elizabeth Verena who is adorable and keeping us both very busy (and tired!)

**Patrick Firebrace (1983 – 88); my twin brother Charles, and my older brother James (1981 – 86)**

Antonia and I had our second son Marcus in February and at almost the same time Charles and his wife KC had their second daughter, Lyla. Two of Marcus's godparents are Old Northavians, Katherine Harvey (née Norbury: 1984-87) and Tom Leslie (1983-88).

Antonia and I are living in Bristol where I work for a law firm called Beachcroft Wansbroughs. Charles and KC live in Teddington but by the time this is printed they will have moved to Chicago where they met. James lives in London and works in finance.

I also attended an ON wedding, that of Kate Edge (1983-89) who was marrying Tom Williams, an Old Shirburnian friend of mine. Kate's Master of Ceremonies was her brother Titus (1980-86) and there were at least 2 other ON's, Clare (1985-88) and Jonathan Sibun (1986-91), in attendance.

**Ed (1983 – 92) & James Parsons (1982 – 90)**

We both attended Allhallows School in Devon until we were 16 at the beginning of the sixth form. From there I duly followed James to Peter Symonds College in Winchester.

After James had finished his A-Levels he drove up north to start a degree in Business at Northumbria University. Two years later I went west to the University of the West of England to study Law.

James completed his degree and moved to London. After working for a couple of different companies in the recruitment industry he struck out on his own and now is the owner of a young but very successful IT and Medical recruitment company. He is based in Clapham, south London but has offices in Frankfurt, New York and Tokyo.

After I finished my degree I remained in Bristol and started working for an event management company. Two years later I moved to London and am currently working in the same industry for a company also based in south London.

**Will Wynne (1984 – 89)**

I was there about...blimey...20 years ago now, when Mr Blake was the big boss man. I'm now 29. Left Northaw to go to Stowe and then on to Magdalen College, Oxford, where I was a scholar. I read Biology.

I then spent 5-6 years working in venture capital in the city, seeing all types of different businesses, from tile retailers to anatomy technology providers. Fascinating, fun, and taught me a hell of a lot.

I then made a change of tack, taking a year out to relax and then move out of finance and into the “doing” part of business (rather than the backing / advising part). I was a little tired of being the 20-something telling everyone else what to do without having done it myself. I wanted some real experience and to learn something new, too. As a result I'm now at eBay.co.uk where I've been since the start of 2004 and am mainly involved in email and on-site marketing, although I'm involved in a wide range of things. The key challenge is helping eBay, in the UK and globally, to address the challenge of moving from an acquisition focused organisation into a mature, customer focused organisation. We shall see what the next few years bring!

On a personal level, I'm still single, my family still lives in the Berkshire countryside, my two “little” brothers are now 16 and 18 and 6' 4" and 6' 2" respectively. However, I won the tall sons competition at 6' 5 ¾". All good fun!

Please pass on my fond regards to the terrifying Mr Blake and his much less (but still sometimes) terrifying wife. I have very fond memories of them both, even if I was very scared of them. I'll check in again in another 15 years time!

**Harry Badham (1984 – 90)**

Married Vicki in Lapland, expecting first child in October 2005. Now living in Dulwich and working in London on city centre regeneration projects. (*Entry received mid-2005 - Ed*).

**William Dobbie (1988 – 94)**

I've been training in Germany for the last few months with my infantry battalion ("The Highlanders"), and we're off to Iraq next week, for about 7 months. I'm a platoon commander, and have been very blessed with a great platoon. Have been keeping busy with various side-shows (including a battalion boxing competition, in which I got well and truly thumped!). Still aiming to go into the church, medium term. (*First entry received September 2005*).

(*Update as of January 2006*): Am in Iraq having exciting times in Al Amarah with my infantry platoon. Am leaving the army this summer after three very cool years, and will start a new job from next Autumn working for a church in London.



**Old Northavian Social Function**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – 6.00 p.m.–8.00 p.m.**

Norman Court is holding a social event at 20 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA (the offices of Cazenove) for Old Northavians to meet up with friends and to hear about current developments at the School. Drinks and canapés will be served and the evening is free of charge. **Places are limited**, so if you would like to come please contact Beth Gordon-Smith, on 020 7382 8656 or email [beth.gordon-smith@ft.com](mailto:beth.gordon-smith@ft.com) We look forward to seeing you there!

**Alicia Wright (1988 – 95)**

I have finished my degree getting a first in Biology and am now working for a bit in South Africa until the summer when I start working on the 2006 Bladerun Boat Rally. All those into boats, get in touch!

**Jeremy Whipp (1989 – 95)**

Having finished my A levels in Buckinghamshire I spent my Gap Year doing a ski season in the French Alps before a 6-month stint in Southern Africa mixing development projects with travelling.

I then began studying Economics with French at the University of Nottingham in 2002 and am currently on my Year Abroad as part of my degree. I'm living in Paris working for Goldman Sachs and loving life out here in this magnificent city. When not slaving away for GS, I play hockey for a local hockey team, the odd game of social tennis keeps me from getting too rusty and I've been known to explore Paris' many bars, clubs, museums and galleries. Anyone who I knew, especially the dorm crew, during my time at Northaw should most definitely get in contact as I've been terrible over the years at keeping in touch - hence the attempt to make up for lost time! Looking forward to hearing everyone's news.

**Gemma Gutteridge (1993 – 98)**

Gemma finished her Gap Year as a ski instructor in New Zealand (training) and Keystone Colorado and has now started at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. She is reading for a degree in Sports Therapy which she hopes to combine with her skiing.

**Soraya Janmohamed (1989 – 99)**

Soraya is in her second year at Nottingham University, studying French and Chinese. She has been involved in a campaign at the University to help stop violence against women as part of Amnesty International. Soraya will spend next year in Paris gaining work experience.

**Harriet Booker (1990 – 97)**

Harriet is in her second year at Trinity College, Cambridge reading Natural Sciences.

**Stephen Michaelides (1992 – 99)**

Stephen is currently working at the David Lloyd leisure centre where he is a coach. He is also doing a plumbing course at Southampton City College.

**Charlotte James (1993 – 97)**

Charlotte is currently working in Windsor. She spent part of her gap year at Lucy Clayton secretarial college in London. She also spent a month travelling around Australia with a school friend.

**Daniel McCormack (1993 – 99)**

Daniel is studying History at Swansea University. He spent his gap year in Australia where he was a ski instructor in New South Wales, visited the east coast and worked on a farm in Western Queensland. He then spent some time working in Dublin and Galway.

**Sam Best (1994 – 99)**

Sam spent most of her gap year travelling. She spent 3 months in Australia before spending another 3 months backpacking through South America. She then spent some time in Eastern Europe. Sam is now at Newcastle University where she is reading Biomedical Sciences. She is an Officer Cadet on the Northumbrian Universities Air Squadron so spends her free time learning to fly.

**James Hollas (1994 – 99)**

James is in his second year at King's College, London where he is reading War Studies and is currently in the Territorial Army. He passed the Regular Commissions board and was awarded an Army bursary. He will be going to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in September 2007.

**Thomas Churton (1994 – 99)**

Tom spent much of his gap year working as a manager in Staples, West Quay and in Paulton's Park. Over that year he collected his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from Prince Philip and Sir Trevor McDonald. He is now at Southampton University reading Economics and Politics and also takes part in the Officer's Training Corps, which seems to be taking up most of his time.

**Simon Walford (1994 – 99)**

Having left Northaw I went to Marlborough College to do my GCSEs, AS and A levels. I studied French, Spanish, Business Studies and Design to AS dropping French for A levels. (Miss Assali-Reeve, and Mrs Le Trevidic would be proud!)

Since leaving Norman Court I have started a relatively small sustainable disco company, I have been organising, producing and DJ-ing for private functions, parties, night clubs and at the beginning of March I have a prep school disco in London!

As a career, I am trying to get into the very competitive music industry (no surprises there!), particularly within recording in advertising, working as an engineer in a Soho studio.

Other slightly relevant details...? I have just passed my driving test, and have had a motorcycle licence for around 6 months; however, it being winter, the bike loses its charm!

On that note, I have just been given a job working for Avis, delivering their cars around England; I think it's a mug's game as I have only held a full licence for about 4 days! This means I have access to new cars, and get to practice without paying insurance or petrol; they even want to pay me!

Enough about work:

At the end of March I am going with a great friend to Japan for two weeks to see the cultural as well as more modern sides of Japan to aid her university course. I then fly down to New Zealand (Wellington) where I will buy a car / motorbike and wander down to Christchurch, meeting a friend along the way. I then fly to Melbourne, Australia, and again dawdle along with a pack of friends towards Sydney for work / surf. From there I fly to Johannesburg to meet a girlfriend who has been doing the proper charitable thing of teaching English to Zulu children, by then for 6 months. We will then take a small safari (as cheap as is possible) and return home in July '05.

(Update as of January 2006): Simon spent 5 months last year travelling through Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia and seems to have had a fantastic time. He is now living in Parsons Green and is manager of the first 'Jack Frost' store, located at 267 New Kings Road. It is a new company specialising in luxury frozen ready meals. His aim for the future remains to get into the sound industry and become an audio engineer.

**Sarah McComas (1994 – 99)**

Sarah spent part of last year training and working as a Divemaster in Minorca. She is currently working full time at a hotel bar and plans to do more travelling soon. She is going to spend 5 weeks in Peru doing a community project. She then has plans to go to Drama school.

**Richard Gutteridge (1994 – 00)**

Richard is part way through a gap year at Port Regis prep school where he is one of 16 gaps - male and female. He is off to the University of Gloucester in Cheltenham to read for a degree in Adventure Leisure Management and then hopes to join his sister in Canada or New Zealand.

**Nick Dawkins (1995 – 99)**

Nick is in his first year at Manchester University where he is studying Maths and Management. He spent his gap year working in his local pub and in Winchester.

**Matt Wright (1996 – 99)**

Matt is currently in his second year studying Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at Durham University.

**Ted Clarke (1997 – 99)**

Ted spent his gap year sailing in Greece, working for Mark Warner in Val d'Isère and visiting Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. He is now reading History and Politics at Newcastle University.



**Mad March Hare Golf Day 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

How about supporting Norman Court's first major fund raising event of the year by entering a team of 4 in our golf day which is being held at Worplesdon, one of Surrey's best and most attractive courses. A great way to entertain clients and catch up with Old Northavians, breakfast will be served on arrival before a shotgun start at 9.15am with competitions and prizes along the way before all enjoying a traditional golf club lunch afterwards. Inclusive cost £400 per team of 4 golfers. Please contact Mark Nixon for more details and entry forms at [mark@sheppardpartners.com](mailto:mark@sheppardpartners.com) or 07785 227482

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**NEWS FROM DENIS BLAKE**

4<sup>th</sup> January, 2006

Dear ONs,

It is extraordinary how, these days, I no sooner finish one letter to you all than I have to sit down and type another. As usual there is no system to this roundup of news other than that the snippets are in the order in which I pull things out of an untidy filing-folder or out of the box of recently taken down Christmas cards and letters. Trying to sift the ON news from Granny's Boasting Broadsheets is sometimes a mite difficult and requires severe editing! So here we go:

**Firebrace family** On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2005 **Patrick's** wife, Antonia, gave birth to Marcus Archie, a brother for Harry. All is well. Since May '05, Patrick has had a new job in Bristol and I have a new address and email which, of course, the Data Protection Act prohibits me from telling you, in spite of the Freedom of Information Act. Is it just me, or is the world of statute law wholly crazy? **Charles** (1983 – 88) also has

two children and has just moved to the USA to start an office for his firm in the outskirts of Chicago. (Geographers please note the classic schoolboy definition of the location of Chicago – “At the bottom of Lake Michigan”). **James** (1981 – 86) is also in very good spirits “and has a wicked sense of humour”, says his mother. Now, I wonder where on earth he got THAT from!

**Craig family** On the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2005, Anne and I attended the wedding of **Matt** Craig (1983 – 88) to Becks (Rebecca) Simmons in brilliant hot sunshine and an idyllic setting in Dorset. It was a lovely occasion. As Becks is the daughter of a fellow-governor of Forres Sandle Manor, I felt that I had a foot in both camps, which was deeply satisfying. **Duncan** (1983 – 89) went climbing in Nepal and is now a freelance sub-editor and sports reporter with a variety of national papers. Daphne (Mum) raised a huge sum of money for SCOPE by trekking the Great Wall of China. Makes my knees burn painfully just to think of it!

**Waterhouse family** **Charlotte** (1985 – 90) ran in the London Marathon and has a medal to show for it. She sent us a photo of her complete with the medal, and jolly nice too. She was, of course, running for charity. Congratulations from the whole Northaw Family. Charlotte is to be the organist at Holly Soffe’s wedding this coming summer and she assures me that she is practising hard. She has her hands full because she is now Head of Science at St. Saviour’s and St. Olave’s School in the Elephant & Castle part of London - loving teaching secondary school students. **Tessa** (1987-92) now has an MA in Medical Ethics and Health Law from the University of Keele. She is Senior Research Nurse in Oxford and working on her PHD in Ethics. Her job involves working on childhood vaccinations in and around Oxford. Wow! (Sarah is at York studying English and Eleanor is mid-way through a PA course at Queen's - these two didn't go to Northaw but always seem to end up in the newsletter regardless....)

**Simon Ekin (1978 – 80)** It was super to hear from Simon after all these years; he now lives and operates his business from Cape Town. Simon had been a soldier in the Light Infantry before he took up his present venture which, in essence, is coaching people in how to achieve more than they thought they were capable of. A sort of one-man Gordonstoun *Plus Est En Vous*.

**McKeown family** **Catriona** (Mrs Nathan Sempala-Ntege: 1985 – 88) now has three children and she is in Germany with her soldier husband. I have of course got their new address and email address but I’m stymied by “that” act! Children are Noah, Lydia and Joel. **Kieron** (1978 – 84) and **Karen** live in Salisbury with their two children. **Hamish** (1978 – 85) and **Nicola** live at Northaw in one of the staff houses and they also have two children. Proud grandparents, Bob and Rhona, now return to the school their children attended to support their grandchildren, as did Commodore and Mrs Friendship in our time at Northaw. History is delightfully repeating itself.

**Clare Sibun (1985 – 88)** At the Craig wedding we met Clare, still as tall and bubbly (and stunning, adds fond Headmaster!) as ever, and we heard from her subsequently, too. Her boyfriend’s business partner is Rohan Blacker (1974 – 79). Remember Rohan and Barnaby (1970 – 74)? One of them famously crawled across the netted swimming pool and did not know that I knew about this until his final prize giving! Small world, that little group called ON’s! Clare is an Interior Designer for a firm of London publishers.

**Lucy Baines (1979 – 81)** Lucy (Dr Lucy, by the way) now, and for some years, married to Graham Smith. They and their children, Samuel and Patrick have a new address; they live in Cheam but I can say no more....!

**Daniel Fagan (1973 – 77)** Dan, now 42, is married and has a son. He lives and works in Ireland but we had lunch with him and his mother at one of our local pubs back in November. After Northaw he went to

Milton Abbey and he is very keen to meet up with any ON who remembers him. He says he can easily get to London, thanks to Ryanair.

**Heminsley family** **Alexandra** (Ali: 1984 – 89) is doing a lot of writing for all the broadsheets and several weekend supplements. **Charlotte** (Lottie: 1986 – 89) seems in effect to run the London property market but actually works for Winkworth's in Parson's Green and **William** (1988 – 89) has studied, seemingly endlessly poor chap, for his Accountancy finals while working for the National Audit Office. Their dear parents are still in Italy and father John has retired from the Army after a very distinguished career, most of it to the huge benefit of NATO.

**Iain Allan (1980-84)** Iain wrote us a most moving letter; I am sure you will remember his mother, Mrs Allan, who was Matron at Northaw before Miss Sylvester and who married Commander Bob Archer. Iain now lives in Salisbury and is starting a new career as a taxi-driver in February of this New Year. All good luck to a most enterprising young man!

**Badham family** **Richard** (1983 – 87) has just been promoted at Rolls Royce. **Harry** (1984 – 90) and his wife, Vicki, had a baby boy in October. Tommie (Honorary ON) is running the RAF Saddle Club at Lossiemouth (not enough aircraft to go round?). **Timothy** (1989 – 92) has done his 6 months stint in Iraq and Edward (Honorary ON) is becoming an electrician – what a family, bless them all!

**Bush family** **Alison** (1984 – 87), a very senior nurse, is moving from Truro to Weybridge  
**Duncan** (1982 – 87) is working for Oyster yachts.

**Sian Kenyon (1984-88)** Sian tells us that she sees a lot of the Soffes and Halseys – chiefly at parties organised by Holly S. Sian ends her note with a superb new motto:-  
ONwards and upwards! May I respectfully add “ONE for all and all for ONE”?

**Soffe family** I will start with an extremely relevant quotation from Simon's super Christmas letter: “When I started writing these letters fifteen years ago, I hoped there would be several times in the distant future when we'd be reporting some very big, happy news.” Boy, oh boy, has his wish come true! This truly outstandingly brave, loyal and affectionate family, adored as they are by all who have had the privilege of knowing them, have had a lovely year. **Rosanne** (1979 – 84) was married on 9<sup>th</sup> July to Justin and so is now Mrs Pilditch. **Holly** (1982 – 89) wisely accepted John Wills's proposal and is now engaged. She and John are now in a rented house in East Meon, a glorious village in the beautiful Meon Valley of Hampshire and they both work in Portsmouth. Holly and John, please remember that Charlton All Saints is just a quick buzz along the M27 westbound and a nip over the heathland of the New Forest – we'd love to see you. **Simon** (1979 – 87) and Alex were, at the time at which Simon wrote, in New Zealand living in a camper van before moving on to Australia. Take care; rampant Aussies are still smarting about the Ashes!

**Quarrelle family** **Olivia** (1988 – 92) is still in New Zealand with Chris and loves it all in her home area of Queenstown. She came home in the summer and caught up with Jemima Snagge (-1992) at the wedding of her sister Emily (-1990)! **Robin** (1989 – 94) is totally in love with skiing and so has returned to Verbier and thereafter out to NZ for yet another ski season – and of course to see his sister! What people will do just to slither down snowy mountains standing up! I have never skied and so am a hopeless person to dare to comment!

**Tamara Pearson (1979-81)** Tamara (Mrs Thom) has three children and still lives in Woking; her oldest, Victoria, is now at the Gordon School. Tamara thoroughly enjoys being a busy Mum, bless her.

**Selway family** **Tom** (1983 – 88) is still working as an estate agent in London and has joined the Westminster Dragoons. **Jamie** (1985 – 89) is out in Oman with his parents and is also an estate agent. **Guy**

(1987 – 92) is loving the army, having spent 6 months in the Falklands and now in Germany and may, by the time I finish this letter, have bought a Mercedes sports car “as an investment”!

**Rawnsion family** **Philip** (1983 – 88) has taken over from his father as Managing Director; **Nicola** (1983 – 91) and her other half are well and thriving, I gather from Mum.



### **Auction of Promises**

Would you be willing to make a pledge for our Auction?

At the Midsummer Madness Ball we're holding an Auction of Promises and we are now looking for items, both large and small. 10-12 major items will be auctioned live at the Ball, the smaller items will be offered by sealed bid and listed in a catalogue circulated prior to the event. Listed below are some examples of items you may consider donating, but any other ideas would also be most welcome:

- A trip in a helicopter / private plane / boat
- A week / weekend in a holiday home
- A day at work with a barrister / air traffic controller / TV presenter / City trader
- Tickets for the theatre / concert
- Meal at a restaurant / hotel

If you are able to make a pledge, please send details to Belinda Jones at Norman Court, email address: [belinda-jones@btconnect.com](mailto:belinda-jones@btconnect.com)

**Rob Dixon (1977 – 81)** Rob is still with P&O and has moved house down to Hamble. His parents went on a P&O cruise at Rob's persuasion and I dare not write here what father Jack Dixon thought of some of his fellow passengers!

**Fuller family** **Rollo** (1976 – 81) and Annabelle are expecting a baby in April. **Hugo** (1978 – 83) and Catherine became proud parents of Lily born on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. Congratulations from us all!

**Halsey family** **Jo-Jo** (Joanna Lewis: 1983 – 86) is teaching EFL at home. She would like to do a teaching diploma when her two boys are at school full time. **Katie** (1984 – 87) acquired her Doctorate in July and is now about to take up a part-time teaching fellowship at St Andrew's University.

**Phillips family** **Joanna** (Mrs Royle: 1986 – 89) is thoroughly enjoying the giggles and gurgles of her son, Joshua, and she tells me that brother **Paul** (1984 – 89), still with Deutsche Bank, has a wife who is training to be an opera singer while he himself is studying law in his spare time. Great God, is there nothing my last Head Boy cannot do?

**Grant family** **Nick** (1985 – 89) is working for Boston Consulting Group. **Jo** (1985 – 89) is a fully fledged barrister, thinking about spending some time in Oslo (maritime law) and **Tom** (1985 – 93) is still engrossed in the financial world of T-Mobile. Parents now live in London, of course.

**Rowlandson family** **William** (Billy: 1983 – 89) and Eva have moved to Canterbury where he is teaching Hispanic Studies; he has written a text book for his PhD and this will be published this year. **Pru** (1981 – 86) is half working for Random House in London and half for herself in Edinburgh. She has also been lecturing at Napier University. I am full to busting with admiration.

**Neilson family** **Biffy** (1980 – 88) is still working for Chrysalis Music and living in Maidenhead. **Toby** (1988 – 94) has reached his last year in architecture at the Bartlett School, in London.

**Wells** Miss Wells is now Mrs Tarrant and she and her husband and two children are very well. She met up with Susan Perrin (Miss Richardson to you), her fellow ex-assistant matron, and had not only a meal together but also a jolly good natter!

**Hastie family** We met up with their aunt who is the wife of one of my fellow Cathedral Guides in Salisbury. **Rupert** (1970 – 75) is married with young children and lives in London. **James** (1978 – 80) is also married and in London where he works for Christie's; he is head of the department specialising in 19<sup>th</sup> century watercolours.

**Blake family** **David** has had a very productive and successful year with the AONB office in Cranborne and has managed to continue with his official commitment to deer-culling as well as fitting in a holiday in the Hebrides and a sort of half term in (on?) Arran. He is proposing to visit Zambia and its Luangwa Valley wildlife later this year. **Anne** and **Denis** are both in fine fettle, doing lots of gardening and charitable works (Anne) and studying for AS and A2 level Italian in May / June this year (Denis). We are being terribly brave and are going to spend a week in someone else's timeshare in Northern Cyprus next month. (Fear not! We shall be looked after / chaperoned by our son Robert and his wife!) No other holidays are planned because there are things that we need to do in the house and anyway 2007 will see (Deo volente) our Golden Wedding and we need to conserve energy and "resources" for a decent party!

This letter has not been as long as some have been in the past but I can only pass on such news as is sent to me – I dare not concoct what I regard as being the probable activities of some, if not all, of you! Suffice it to say that you and all your fellow ON's are very much in our thoughts and we continue to be extremely proud of each and every one of you.

God bless you all.

Denis

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## THE ONA NETWORK – A NEW INITIATIVE

**Why form this Network?** One of the practical advantages that membership of the Old Northavian Association should bring, in addition to fostering the friendship established whilst at school and continuing to maintain your interest in the school itself and those generations that follow you, is the network of friends that continue into your further education, your gap year and then into business and your career. The sheer scope and complexity of choice and decisions can be bewildering in your late teens and twenties to put it mildly. But we believe that there are generations of Old Northavians who precede you who would be extremely happy to offer advice and practical help as you pursue your education and careers. If only you could take advantage of it!

The ONA can provide such a network by building a database of ONs who want to offer help and those who want advice. We could not and should not pretend to substitute for all the official agencies that exist to offer career advice etc. But many jobs come through one's network of contacts. There is every advantage therefore to joining your prep school network. Indeed, your parents may be even more seized of the importance of this step as you move towards the job market and remain on their payroll after many years of expensive education. Perhaps you may even persuade them that membership of the ONA is one of the best decisions they ever made!

### **How will it work?**

#### ***Q. Who does the ONA Network benefit?***

A. All members of the ONA, and their parents, who wish to take advantage of advice from Old Northavians with first hand experience of schools, gap years, universities and colleges, business and careers.

#### ***Q. What does the ONA Network offer?***

A. The offer depends entirely on the goodwill of those members of the ONA who are prepared to make their experience available to ONs. The potential scope is almost unlimited but embraces advice, work experience, recreational opportunities and business contacts and job offers.

#### ***Q. Why should the ONA promote the Network?***

A. There are many benefits to membership of the ONA but, realistically, your preparatory school competes eventually for your time and allegiance with many other worthwhile institutions as you develop – public schools, university, clubs and business. In order to remain prominent, the ONA believes that the network of friendships fostered at prep school must develop a full suite of contacts relevant to later life in order that potential members really cannot afford *not* to become a member. Many people in business believe that 80% of jobs are acquired though good networking!

#### ***Q. How does the ONA Network work?***

A. The List of ONA members contact details is produced on request to enrolled members once a year at the time of the issue of the ON Newsletter. In addition, it will contain information of the Network. See the illustration below – all fiction! Anyone who is prepared to offer help should complete the attached form and send it to the Registrar. Anyone wishing for specific help can advertise in the same form.

#### ***Q. When will information about this Network be available?***

A. The List of Members will include this information for the first time in 2007. In due course the Website will include this information. At this point, registered members will be issued with a password and can then gain access.

**ONA NETWORK - EXAMPLE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Present occupation</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Offer</b>	<b>Wanted</b>
<b>Public School</b>						
Ian Rowe	1997	2002	Marlborough College, Turner House, 2002 –	York Uni?	Advice on public school choices – tel 0123456	
Jeni Ravel	1996	2001	Godolphin School, 2001 –	Bristol Uni		Base Sydney 2006 - 07
<b>University</b>						
Dom Tome	1987	1992	Canford School, 1999 – 04; Durham Uni, Collingwood College, Reading Law, 2004 –		Advice on school / university – tel 0123456	
Will Tome	1994	1999	Canford School, 1999 – 04; Nottingham Uni 2004 –			Wanted: work experience as scuba diver – ambition to become instructor!
<b>Business &amp; careers</b>						
Chris Frog	1974	1978	Winchester College; Trinity College, Oxford University; Foreign Office: Paris		Opportunity for gap year student to stay / learn French in Paris – tel 0123456.	
Andy Johns	1987	1992	Rugby School 1992 – 97; Bristol Uni 1997 – 00; Law Firm, Bristol, 2001 –		Advice, my speciality: family law. Tel 045678	
James Bloggs	1987	1992	Westminster College 1992 – 97; Southampton Uni 1997 – 00; Law Firm, Bristol, 2001 –		Week in Summer work experience at a law firm – tel 0345678	
Sam Eale	1995	2000	Oxford School 2000 – 05; Loughborough Uni 2005 – Olympic athlete 2004 –		Advice on professional sports career – tel 0123456	
Bob Cue	1974	1978	Management Consultant 1999 –		3 week base for ON gap year student Located Sydney, Oz	

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Years at Northaw / Norman Court (Dates):</i>
<i>Present occupation:</i>	<i>Destination:</i>
<i>Offer (include contact details if different to those in the List – no more than 200 letters):</i>	<i>Help wanted (include contact details if different to those in the List – no more than 200 letters)</i>

Please complete this form and cut and paste it in to an email titled “ONA Network” for the Registrar at: [academicregistrar@normancourt.co.uk](mailto:academicregistrar@normancourt.co.uk)

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Data Protection: This Old Northavian Newsletter and the List of Members contain personal data. It is sent by e-mail to members of the Old Northavian Association and it should not be forwarded to anyone who is not a member of the Association. If you are in any doubt as to membership, you should contact the Academic Registrar at [academicregistrar@normancourt.co.uk](mailto:academicregistrar@normancourt.co.uk). If you know of anyone who wants a copy of this Newsletter and the List, they should contact the Registrar. If you have received this Newsletter in error, please delete it from your system and notify the sender immediately

Disclaimer This Newsletter may contain personal views, which are not the views of the Old Northavian Association unless specifically stated.



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF  
THE OLD NORTHAVIAN ASSOCIATION**

Name:

Address:

Email address:  
**(please write clearly)**

Telephone number:

Years at Northaw / Norman Court School (dates):

I would like to apply for membership of the ONA for 5 / 10 / 15 years / Life *(please delete)*. *(Only School Leavers are eligible for Life membership at present)*

I enclose my cheque (payable to The Old Northavian Association) for:

- £25.00 (5 years' membership)
- £45.00 (10 years' membership)
- £65.00 (15 years' membership)
- £100.00 (Life – School leavers only) - *(please delete)*

I am claiming family membership rates: second member @ 75%, third @ 50% & fourth @ 25% *(please delete and amend amounts paid accordingly)*

I would like to pay by Standing Order at the rate of £4.50 per year. *(Please complete the attached form)*.

I understand that the membership year elapses on 31<sup>st</sup> August each year and that renewal fees will become due on the first day of September thereafter

I give / do not give permission for my contact details to be disclosed to other members of the Old Northavian Association only, in the form of a List of Members **(please delete)**

**Signed** ..... **Date**.....

Office use:

Date received

Date banked

Member no.

*(If you require a receipt, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope)*

