

PLANE TALKING



A NEWSLETTER FOR OLD ELTHAMIANS

DECEMBER 2010 ~ ISSUE 7

Gerald Moore Gallery

After so many false dawns the Gerald Moore Gallery has passed its final hurdle and work will start in the New Year. It will be built in the New Quad next to the Antony Barnard Hall. In phase two there will be a connecting walkway with a sculpture garden, between the two buildings.

Gerald Moore, our very generous benefactor on this project, has led an inspirational life. He had a successful career as a Harley Street surgeon, but was also a film actor in his youth and has been a prolific artist, published writer and poet.

We are delighted that Gerald will be donating fine paintings by some of Australia's best known artists - Arthur and David Boyd, Charlie Blackman and Louis James - in addition to a large collection of his own dynamic work.

"The Gerald Moore Gallery will be an immensely valuable addition to the school," said Elinor Brass, Head of Art at Eltham College. "We are really excited about the chance to have a contemporary Art space on our doorstep with all of the opportunities that it will present to the pupils in the school. It will be a space where, alongside Gerald's work, we can show work from major collections, work by up-and-coming artists and by Eltham College pupils. I am sure that the gallery will also have a major impact in the local community offering a range of opportunities to engage with the Arts, which is even more

important at a time when the Arts are facing major cuts. We will be able to work closely with major collections, artists, colleges and universities to offer, among other things: film nights, art classes, performance art, family events, and a place for artists to meet and share ideas."

Gerald, who came to the Winter Reunion, is pictured in the space the Gallery will occupy.

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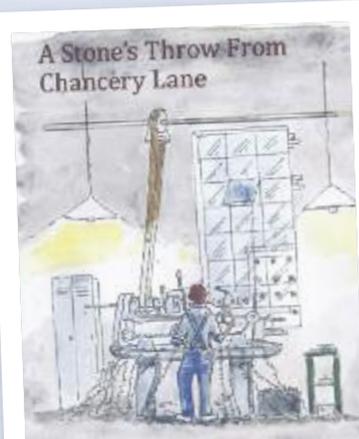
A Stone's Throw from Chancery Lane



Following the success of *You're the Doctor - You Decide*, published in 2004, Graham Matthews has recently published his follow up, a slightly tongue-in-cheek account of leaving Eltham College prematurely and, via the factory workshop, a life in patents and inventions.

The book starts with an account of his engineering apprenticeship, and continues with his experience in the patent profession. He describes a number of inventions he patented for clients, some serious, some quirky.

As with the first book, the venture is non-profit making. Graham has made contributions to the East Kent Breast Cancer Mammography Appeal & Eltham College Bursary Fund in anticipation of a sell-out! Copies can be obtained by emailing graham_matthews@ntlworld.com or via the website www.elthamians.net



Far East and Down Under

I was delighted to be invited over to the Sydney reunion in October and, in an attempt to avoid having to purchase a day return, sent emails to OEs in Hong Kong and anyone in Australia who wasn't going to be able to make it to Sydney. A chance meeting with David Tripp (1965) at this year's SW reunion in Taunton cemented the Perth leg of the trip and an offer to host the event from Harry Pong (1960) in Hong Kong firmed up the itinerary.

On 12th October more than half the OEs living and working in Hong Kong met at the Whamey Hotel in Wanchai. Krishna Shanmuganathan (1992) flew in from Singapore to meet up with classmate Raphael Ho. Something very special about OE gatherings is that there never seem to be any awkward silences, a shared heritage breaks down the barriers immediately and stories of old teachers and classmates are very inclusive.

On the Sunday I met up with some of the more recent arrivals, who couldn't make the previous evening's entertainment.



Carl Adagra (98), Jason Oliver (05), Vinesh Vijayanathan (03), Christian James (03)

On the way to Dave Greening's house my wife and I met up with Martin Lobb (1988) and Mike Osborne (1976) in Melbourne, and Derek and Norma Andrews (1945) in Port Campbell.



Bruce Tseng (90), Malcolm Jones (72), Raphael Ho (92), Krishna Shanmuganathan (92), James Tsang (79), Ian Williams (02) Kerensa & Simon McGrahan, Harry Pong (60), Sandy Lau (04), Stanley Pong (69).

Two days later in the Rugby Club, Alastair Browne (1964) had repeated his magnificent effort of two years ago by bringing together the Sydney Chapter of the OEA. Before realising that there was going to be a gathering at his house, Dave Greening (1964) flew over from Perth. Old blazers, caps and House ties were much in evidence; Tim Sleep (1990) was even wearing his 1st XV rugby socks.



Roger Jennings (65), SJM, Jools Spon-Smith (91), Julian Sturdy (54), Dave Greening (64), David Tripp (65)



Back: Andrew Watson (61), Lester Martin (67), Dominic Mercer (05), Jonathan Hartstone (65), Roy Gower (53), Alastair Browne (64), Jon Williams (83), David Stewart-Hunter (65), Tim Sleep (90), Robin Mills (79), Mike Barker (85), Simon Youngs (83), Front: Kevin Mercer (70), Paul Evans (70), Dave Greening (64), Derek Andrews (45), Claudia Haisman (96).



Winter Reunion

Tributes by David Norris (1958) and Noel Shepherd (1950) and a choral contribution from the Chamber Choir all contributed to the well-attended celebration of the life of Stephen Smith in the Chapel at the Winter Reunion. Pressure of numbers moved the formal lunch to King George's Hall and Room 1 was used for a display of photographs of Stephen as a child, pupil, rugby international along with video footage of his Varsity match and the 1959 Calcutta Cup match, both at Twickenham. After lunch most enjoyed the only sun we have had for three weeks, watching the OEs play the school at rugby; for the record the school won 26 - 17. Richard Pinkham was on hand to present the cup for the



man of the match to James Sellick. A special mention must go to Callum Thurley who came down from Durham University for the weekend to play in the game.



Life in the Bush



After leaving in 1990, Robin Lines went to Leeds University to study Engineering before taking an MSc in Conservation Biology from the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent. Since 2002 Robin has been founder director of the Namibian Wild Dog Project. The project works to promote wildlife-based land uses across a mosaic of rangelands through sustainable natural resource management.

Red Listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, only 3,000 – 5,000 wild dogs remain in Africa today.

Like most large carnivores, they have disappeared from much of their historical range as human populations have expanded, and the dogs are now mostly confined to protected areas. Robin works in North Eastern Namibia, part of the western Kalahari Desert ecosystem, where the last surviving population of free roaming Namibian wild dogs can be found.

Robin carried out six years of fieldwork, utilizing a combination of direct and indirect sampling methodologies, including VHF/GPS telemetry and aerial tracking using a Cessna 172 that he pilots himself. For much of this time Robin lived with rural communities including the Herero and San Bushman groups in tented camps up to 300km from the nearest town.

Fieldwork in these areas is exceptionally challenging with the low density of the dog population, less than one per 100 square km, and minimal infrastructure, dictating long periods of tracking off-road in temperatures ranging from 45°C during summer days, to -8°C during winter nights.

In recent years Robin has been focusing more on developing the political capital to encourage governments to engage in active conservation, while also developing a new project site to study African wild dog and cheetah conservation in Kafue National Park, Zambia, as part of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Programme, in collaboration with the Zambian Carnivore Programme. Latest project information is available at

www.nnf.org.na

www.zambiacarnivores.org

Engineering Careers

We were fortunate to be able to welcome so many OEs involved in the field of engineering, who came along and shared their enthusiasm and experiences with current pupils.

Professor Nigel Lucas (1963)

Has been Professor of Energy Technology at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Director of the ASEAN-EU Centre for Energy in Jakarta, Professor of Energy Studies at Imperial College and a Director of Environmental Resources Management (which is a Global environmental consulting company) and is now an independent consultant on Energy Policy and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Nikhil Sehmi (2005)

Nikhil began by studying Civil Engineering at Imperial College London, however after working for a large civil engineering company for a period, he is now studying Project Management for Construction at University College London.

Roger Mainwaring Burton (2004)

Roger graduated from Cambridge in 2009 with a masters in engineering, specialising in aeronautics. He has since worked for Cambridge Consultants, an engineering design consultancy who have designed everything from coffee machines and irons to hurricane simulators and radar systems.

Vinno Bala (2005)

Also left Eltham College in 2005 studying Civil Engineering at Imperial College London. He completed a one year industrial placement with Engineering Consultancy Aecom, who then sponsored him through his third and fourth years. He now works for Aecom as a structural engineer in the Tunnels and Underground structures team.

Ivor Andrews (2005)

Ivor studied Product Design and Technology in Manchester and after completing his degree, Ivor has gone on to set up his own Design & Manufacturing company, Vortec Systems Ltd.

Mark Blowers (1976)

Mark is a practising chartered mechanical engineer, working for Air Products plc for the last 30 years, and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He, along with colleague Ray Sacks, is a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) ambassador, promoting these subjects in schools.



Ivor, Nikhil, Roger, Ray Sacks, Vinno, Mark and Nigel

OE weddings in the Chapel

On August 21st Pete Galloway (1999) married Karen Munro in the Chapel, with the Reverend Bob Draycott officiating. Sam Tarjomani was Pete's best man and a number of other OEs attended the event.

Then on 18th December Julian Ramsey (1992) was married in the Chapel, followed on New Year's Eve by the wedding of two more OEs - Tom Lockyer to Sarah Atkins.



*Back: Dan Shering, Richard Russ, Olly Murray, Ben White, Ken Rowlands
Front: Rev. Bob Draycott, Peter Galloway, Sam Tarjomani*



Tom Lockyer (2002) and Sarah Atkins (2004), pictured at the Winter Reunion, were married in the Chapel on New Year's Eve.

It's a Bug's Life

I was a boarder at Eltham between 1968 and 1973 whilst my parents undertook missionary work on Niue Island in the Pacific. Some of my most pleasant memories of The Grange (other than billiards, model aeroplanes, & midnight feasts) were of our explorations of the old hospital grounds, where we budding young naturalists sought out field voles, mice, frogs, newts and stag beetles to populate our menageries. This helped to instil in me a passion for wild places and creatures, which I've held to this day.

At the moment, I'm living in Greymouth, on the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island. This is a place where the mountains come down to the sea, and nearly every slope is thickly forested with evergreen rainforest. I spend much of my time exploring the wild places of the region, wandering far off the beaten track, finding and photographing those hidden treasures of nature that often elude the casual passer-by. I look for the unusual and interesting, and try to capture them in creatively unique ways.

I have been posting my photos for several years on various nature photography sites, and have had photos published in a number of books, including two Guinness World Records publications for Scholastic NY, the *Batemans Guide To Wild New Zealand* and, more recently, Neville Peats new book, *The Tasman, Biography Of An Ocean*.

You can find my work by Googling my name, Steve Reekie. I post many of my most recent photos in my Facebook albums (friend requests welcome) and on Flickr www.flickr.com/photos/nzwild.



Alternatively, you can enjoy an audio visual experience on my newest flash site New Zealand Wild - Wonderland Aotearoa www.wix.com/naturalist/new-zealand-wild

Steve Reekie (1973)



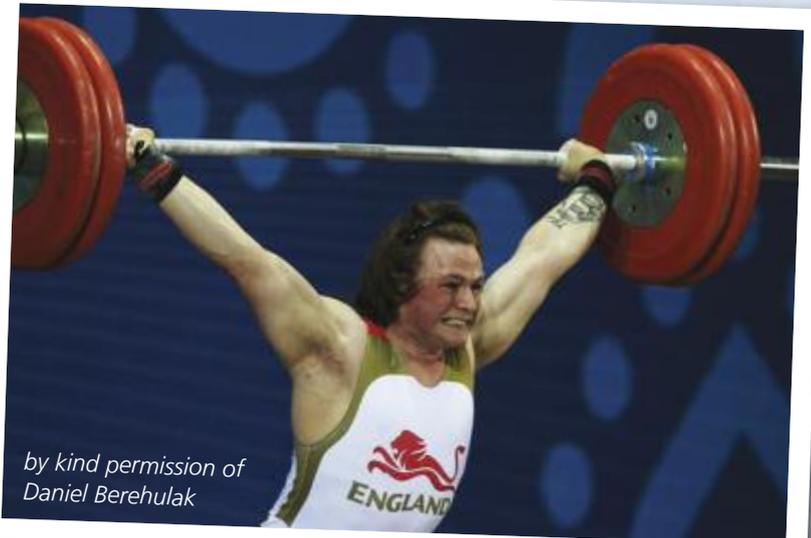
Four members of the Eltham College diaspora held a mini-reunion in November 2010 at the Saatchi Gallery restaurant in London SW3.

L to R: Martin (MJG) Davison, Richard (RT) Nokes, Terry (TJ) Oakes, Richard (RHJ) Foster (all 1967)

Raising the Bar

Weightlifting international Jack Oliver (2009) got his first taste of senior action at the Commonwealth Games in October, ending eighth overall. Jack was disappointed with his Delhi display, his Games being hampered by a back injury which looks set to keep him out until the New Year. If he had matched his previous best lifts in the Indian capital he would have finished with the 77kg Bronze Medal. And with that in mind, Jack, who is studying classics at Leeds University, admits he can't wait for another shot at international glory at next year's European Championships in Kazan in Russia.

"It was disappointing not to be fully fit in Delhi, but just knowing that I could have been on the podium gives me a lot of confidence. I am looking forward to the European Weightlifting Championships."



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