

e-NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2014 – Number 2
Editors: Alistair McGeachie and Peter Luck



For Members, Family and Friends of the
OLD WEALDEN ASSOCIATION

Firstly, could we apologise for the sparsity of the number of e-Newsletters this summer compared to last year. For some reason material has not been as forthcoming as usual – until, that is, the last recent days when we have received the two Nancy Young Bursary Award pieces plus the aerial views of Harrow Weald County School. Anyway, here we go –

From Joan Hilliard (Beadle) (1939) ...

Just remembered the Plane "parked" in the middle of the School. What happened to it? I suppose the ATC used it with great glee, or was it a strange dream I had – I was a naughty child. But then I was so lucky to be found by my brother Reg's friend John (Bill) and we had 50 wonderful years together.

Gillian Chalcraft (Browne) (1941) writes ...

To Rosemary (Luck): I enjoyed the photos of the cyclists – still have a set of similar ones with you on a day out on our bikes towards the River Chess with Janet Baker (Guy)! – that year. Regards to all our year. – Gill

Rosemary says: "I remember it well, as does Jean Bendall (Cornick) the fourth member of our quartet of OWs."

Linda Lamont, wife of Prof. Willie Lamont (1945) writes ...

Thank you so much for the recent letter and enclosed Newsletter which my husband, Willie, has read with great pleasure. Unfortunately he is now in a local nursing home and so cannot receive emails but I will pass on to him any newsletters and contacts from his old (now 80-years-old) schoolfriends who he likes to hear about. John Butcher is regularly in touch with us. Best wishes to all.

Mollie Mathieson (1936) writes ...

Hi Peter – I wasn't pressing you for an update, it was just that my computer was acting in such a different way that I was concerned that I might be rejecting what I call 'mass mailings'. Quite frankly I cannot thank you and the committee enough for what you have always done – let alone being prepared to take on yet another task.

I am not in the least surprised that you are running short of news because the average age of the members must now be at a stage when life tends to get a little boring.

Now I think about it my message to you querying who of my years were still alive !! I have always suspected that it is mainly as you get old that you become interested in tracing one's ancestry, and that is very fashionable at the moment, and of course school associations are on very much the same lines.

Please keep up the good work. – Regards – Mollie

OBITUARY

Philip Chapman (1925-2014)

Philip joined the Harrow Weald County School in 1940 where his younger brother Hugh was a pupil. Philip had been at Taunton School for a couple of years. He joined the school A.T.C. and did fire watching.

After Matriculation in 1943 he left to go to Medical School.

During the war students were obliged to do something for the war in their spare time so he joined the Royal Observer Corps at the Watford Operations room. After his college was bombed while he was in the middle of the first M.B. he decided to volunteer for air-crew in the R.A.F. and passed his tests but was deferred. While waiting he became a full-time member of the Corps which was where he met Denise Vickers his future wife. She was as keen on aircraft as he was so they made a good pair. He then joined the R.A.F. when the war ended and they were married in 1946.

The R.O.C. was reformed in 1947 and manned by part-time volunteers. So Philip and Denise stayed in the Corps till they were 65 in 1990.

After a varied career he settled in a very interesting job working for a company making investment castings. He was with them for 35 years, till his retirement in 1990.

Sadly he got Vascular Dementia in 2004 and died in 2014.

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I still have his Harrow Weald County school report book which makes for very interesting reading for our children and grand-children.

– Denise Chapman

This was submitted by Denise to Heather Bickerton (nee Wheatley) (1940) who has added the following (she got Denise's blessing to add her comments):

Philip G. Chapman

I would like to talk about two of Philip's interests from which I benefitted.

I was talking to his brother Hugh, who was in my year, at a Reunion about my train set that I had found in the original box in the loft. He advised me to get in touch with his brother. This I did and Philip came and spent an evening here and took the set to sell at a train or toy fair. He was a keen railway enthusiast and had the most amazing Hornby O gauge layout in his loft. He got me a really good price for this from a museum.

During his visit he saw my Hillman Minx IIC Convertible and asked "If I belonged to a club?" Although it was not quite 25 years old he deemed it an interesting car. Later I joined the Hillman Owners Club which has

led to a most interesting time. Philip and Denise owned a Sunbeam Talbot 90 then and we joined them for several outings with the Sunbeam Talbot Club in Sussex where they lived.

Through this introduction to Classic Car Clubs the Hillman has done several films, motorcades and many shows mostly to raise funds for charities. At present these shows are in full swing.

(According to Wikipedia, 'Investment Casting' is another name for lost wax casting.)

John Stratfull 1940 writes to Keith Mayes ...

Dear Keith – Thank you for the Reunion reminder, I did not receive a copy of the original notice. Unfortunately I will not be able to join you. I am still able to stand on both feet, but the 84-year-old brain now functions far below its former peak, although fond memories of HWCS remain. For my twilight years I have a son and two grand-daughters to fuss over me!

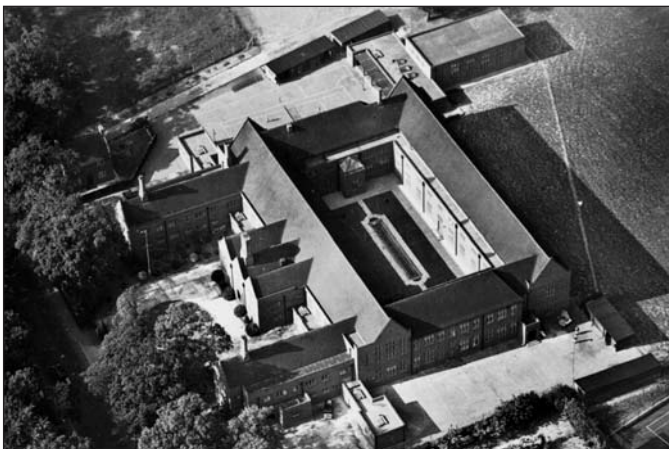
Warmest regards to all – John

HWCS FROM THE AIR

These illustrations were taken from a series of postcards produced by The Aerial Photographic Co, London. They were kindly supplied by Jean Bendall (Cornick) (1941) and show a remarkable amount of detail.

The one immediately below clearly shows the quad, complete with pond, which is now no more, as well as the gym, the cycle sheds and playgrounds.

The one on the right shows the whole of the school's area with the North, East and South fields as well as the school building



MY ECUADOR EXPERIENCE

By Rowan Jaraheim

In July of 2014, I went to Ecuador in Southern America with a 25 other students from my school plus 5 leaders, for one month. While we were there, we stayed in 3 different camps in a variety of locations such as in the 'Cloud Forest' and also on the beaches by the oceans surrounding Ecuador. We aimed to help the communities around where we were staying by assisting with building projects and conservation work. The one downside to this trip was that we each needed to raise around £4000 before we went. Fortunately, I had some very generous donors as well as a number of fundraising events to achieve this sum.

We left school at 4:15AM on the morning of 15 July, to head to Heathrow. Our flight was thirteen hours across six time zones. We eventually arrived in Quito, capital of Ecuador, to our obvious relief.

However, the journey was not yet over. We still had a two and a half hour coach ride to our first camp, Maqui, in the cloud forest. Despite the length of the journey so far, we all had the energy to admire the beautiful country we found ourselves in. When we arrived at Camp Maqui, we were greeted by Eduardo, the camp manager. He gave us a tour of the village and the camp before providing us with a meal of chicken and vegetable soup. Finally, at about 21:30 Ecuador time (about 2:30AM England Time), we got to bed and slept. Altogether, we were awake for somewhere in the region of more than 34 hours.



The following week passed quickly, for the first three days, we were carrying bags of gravel up a hill. This was to assist with the construction of a water source for the village, as in the mountains, they do not get fresh, clean water regularly. We also helped with a mural on the school walls. This included scenes of mountains, deserts and an aeroplane with the name of our school painted on the side. We hiked for 6 hours up a mountain through thick vegetation and jungle to reach a secondary camp. Here, we helped to varnish a bridge and build a house before hiking back on the sixth day to take the coach to a hostel in Quito.

Day 8 and we headed to our second main camp, Costa. This was on a beach and where we did our PADI Open Water diving qualification. In fact, this took up the majority of our time at Camp Costa. However, when we weren't diving or training, we were constructing 'octopus houses'. These were concrete domes with holes in, that were dropped to the sea floor and provided shelter from predators for octopus and fish. We also visited the local school several times and helped to entertain the children. This was mostly done through football, although on one occasion we



helped with some gardening and the tool of choice, scarily, seemed to be machetes. These machetes were used, not for cutting through vegetation, but for digging holes and were not used by responsible adults like teachers, but by children probably not much older than 6 or 7 years of age.

Our final camp, Kuri Kucho, took us 3500m above sea level, over twice the height of Ben Nevis. The views were incredible. The main downside was the extreme cold. Our project work here was a lot more varied than at the other camps as there were several things to do. The first was a building project. This involved making the daub for a temple/scientific area for the locals. We also had the opportunity to help with a 'heritage garden' which involved digging over, preparing and planting beds with ancestral crops and herbs such as various types of maize corn. While at Kuri Kucho we had the opportunity to join in one of their festivals, the harvest festival, Inti Raymi. This was an occasion for all the surrounding people to come and meet up with the others. There was several activities including a fun fair and bull fighting (Humane).

At the very end of our trip, we had the opportunity to visit a market and buy some souvenirs. There were some beautiful items on display for not very much money at all.

This was an excellent trip as it helped us all become closer as a group and got us talking to people that we may never have talked to otherwise. We came away with some brilliant experiences including seeing an art installation of a statue of Jesus on one of our dives being nibbled by a shoal of parrotfish. If given the chance, I would readily do it again. I would like to thank, once again, the Nancy Younga Memorial Bursary.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MUSOMA

by Mairi Enticott



Foundations of the Doctor's house.

LAST YEAR I had an incredible experience volunteering on the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar and since then have felt passionately about doing more to make a difference in Africa. This summer I was therefore very excited to have the opportunity to return to Tanzania for a month with the same charity, Go M.A.D (make a difference) but to assist in work they do in Musoma, Northern Tanzania, along with a team of 11 other young people.

7 weeks before we were due to depart I was devastated when I ruptured my Achilles tendon and was no longer sure whether I'd still be able to go. It was really hard to hear that it was against the doctor's advice but I was determined it wouldn't stop me. I had lots of people praying for me and thankfully I did still make it on the trip! I knew it wasn't going to be easy but after a week of sitting on the sidelines playing with the kids, I had my air cast boot off and was getting increasingly mobile.

Go MAD have been working alongside rural communities in Musoma for many years now and have established great relationships with local people in the villages. We had great fun working alongside the locals and getting to know the kids that came along every day. Our main project was in a village called Kamajoje, where previous teams have been building a health centre. There were some finishing touches to be done on the health centre so my team spent some of our fundraised money and time to get these done. Our main focus though was to build a doc-



Kamajoje - the site for the Doctor's house.

tor's house (which needs to be completed before the health centre can open). We were able to see first hand what a difference having this health centre will make for the village. Every day people came to us for help receiving health care, which often meant driving them to a clinic in town that would have been a very long walk. We took many children to hospital with malaria and it was amazing that for less than £7 you could get treatment that saved their lives. Having a Health centre in this village really is a life-changing project.

There is also a primary school in this village and we wanted to create a stronger relationship between them and Go MAD. Initially the staff weren't too sure about having English people at the school, but they did become more keen to let us do some teaching. We organized two mornings with different year groups doing some health education, English and sports. The kids seemed to enjoy our different style of teaching, involving some interactive games. We are hoping that future Go MAD teams will continue to visit this school.

With our fundraised money we could also afford to help a family from this village by building a water tank for their home. They were so pleased and this was seen in their committed work to get it built.

As a change from active and manual work we took turns visiting an orphanage in another area. We adored spending time with the children showing them love and care. To help out the mama's we would stay and assist in bathing the children and putting them to bed in the evenings.

Aside from all the work we were doing we also took a break to go on Safari and appreciate some of the many animals home to Africa. It happened to be my 20th birthday weekend and one that I will never forget!

Once again, the time I spent in Tanzania was amazing and I am so glad that I managed to go! I was surprised with how much we achieved in a month, and look forward to seeing the finished doctor's house soon. I'm so grateful to have had the support from the Nancy Young Memorial Bursary.



At the Orphanage



The main water tank.



Sports at the Primary School.

STOP PRESS

OBIT

We are sad to have to record the death of John Becker, who many Old Wealdens will know as the pianist who led the spirited singing of "The Weald" at Reunions, and many others will have known as a teacher. Our sincere and heartfelt condolences go to John's Family. We expect to have a full obit in the paper version of News & Views in January.

REUNION 2015

SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2015

DIARISE IT NOW !!

The next issue of this Newsletter will be the paper version which will appear, as usual, in January next year. Would any members who feel a burst of writer's itch please let either of the joint editors have their article by Monday 1st December.

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