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## OLD HARVEIANS' NEWSLETTER (2020)

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**“The superior man more than anything  
is dedicated to wisdom and friendship.  
Of these the first is mortal good,  
the second immortal.”**

**Haris Dimitriadis -  
'Epicurus and the Pleasant Life:  
A Philosophy of Nature'**

## INTRODUCTION FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We are once again experiencing a time of great uncertainty. As the country continues its Brexit transition we have had to face up to a new problem in the form of Covid-19. This global pandemic has affected us all in one way or another and has, as you all know, impacted dreadfully on some more than others, particularly those who work in front line services, those who are in education, and those of later years who tend naturally to be in a more vulnerable category for many reasons. In these circumstances I write to you more than ever in the spirit of friendship, knowing that what brings us together will be to some a (continuing) comfort in itself, and I hope that what you read about within these pages will be something of a welcome distraction from the usual facts, figures and predictions that seem to cast a permanent shadow over our daily lives at this time.

We must therefore, in the spirit of hope, enjoy the moment as much as we can, whilst at the same time looking to the past with gratitude and looking to the future with optimism. So far as the past is concerned we will not, for obvious reasons, be able to hold the OHA Annual Dinner this year; but so far as the future is concerned, we must look to the young, such as those who are current pupils at our old school, whose abilities and promise make me feel confident that things can be turned around, not just nationally but globally too, for the benefit of all. The Headteacher's Prizegiving speech (on pages 3-6) evidences this in so many ways, as do some of the other articles within this Newsletter, and in terms of how this is to be achieved, I can do no better than quote Old Boy, Tom Fletcher, when writing to the Hertford Community on the first day of his principalship:

***"[As a former Ambassador] I believe that education is upstream diplomacy:  
where learning flourishes, we find better ways to live together.***

***Having worked on the future of learning, I also believe that we must do more to develop  
not just knowledge, but skills and values.***

***I will be asking our students to be kind, curious and brave."***

As Covid-19 is ongoing the day-to-day running of the Harvey is more of a challenge than it has ever been, and in a future edition we hope to be able to share with you some first-hand experiences of providing education in a school (with a 1,000 pupils on the role) during a pandemic. I can report at this time, as you would expect, that Harvey has (once again) risen to the challenge! Sincere thanks to all staff and governors for doing so.

I respectfully ask that you to take a moment to look at our revamped website ([old.harveians.org.uk](http://old.harveians.org.uk)) for which sincere thanks must also be extended to Ken Liverton, as they must also to Phil Harding, who continues to look after our membership in so many different ways. "True security is that of a quiet life and away from the crowd" someone once said, so please do keep up the social distancing and stay safe.

Yours Ever, **JB**

**We are very grateful to the Headteacher, Scott Norman, for sharing with us the speech he intended to make at this year's Prizegiving ceremony, had it been able to go ahead in the usual way at the Leas Cliff Hall.**

"A very warm welcome from me to all our guests today and it is my great pleasure to once again report on another busy year at the Harvey. What is rather scary is that this is the 7<sup>th</sup> time I will have done this - time really does fly!

However, I'm pleased to report that 2019 was a genuinely golden year for academic outcomes. At A-Level, we matched our best ever results in recent memory with overall at post 16, 64% of all grades achieved being at the top grades A\*, A or B or their equivalent. Gaining those types of overall outcomes means that our boys are able to access high quality destinations, and this year over half of those going on to university have gained a place with one of the top third of UK universities, with 16% going to one of the top 10.

This includes boys such as Jake Chapman, who joined the University of Cambridge to study Engineering, and our thanks to Jake for already hosting a group of our year 12 boys in October and showing them round his college. Congratulations also to Joe Spruce who has joined Oxford University to undertake a Masters in Physics. Many others have joined top universities such as Bath, where Richard Moore and Sanskar Thapa have both taken up Science based courses, and also Durham where Joe Tolhurst has started his Philosophy course. Overall, it's a very well done to all concerned.

Results for GCSE this year were genuinely stunning, which is especially pleasing in an era where the achievements of boys are falling behind those of their female counterparts at a national level. What was most pleasing was to see our boys significantly increase the percentage of outcomes at G7 (the new A grade benchmark). In fact these increased by 14% overall, which really was a fine outcome given the already high standards usually achieved. Within those overall outcomes there were some stunning individual performances, so well done on that front to boys such as George Dickenson, Thomas Wood, Alistair Carney, Eli Davis and, in particular, George Heath, who achieved an incredible 9 grade 9 outcomes. I could go on naming names, but overall there were so many boys who performed incredibly well. I know many of those are here today receiving prizes, so again well done all and I hope we have many proud parents in the audience too.

Other prizewinners today will be receive their prizes based on their efforts regardless of the actual outcomes they ultimately achieved and, as I have said many times from this platform before, that's exactly as it should be. Success can be measured in many shapes and forms and exam outcomes are but only one small part of that. That's why at the Harvey we remain determined about developing our boys into decent citizens, ready to contribute to wider society, through the provision of a broad curriculum that isn't just about examination outcomes. It is then my pleasure, as always, to be able to report on

some of those activities that have taken place this year both inside and outside the classroom.

I'm going to start this year with sport. Our leadership programme, in conjunction with the Shepway Sports Trust, has been helping primary school children at tournaments, festivals and skills sessions around the area all year, whatever the weather! The 56 boys involved truly do an outstanding job and this was recognised at the Shepway Awards night with Dylan Commons (Yr9) winning Sports Leader of the Year. It has certainly been a successful year in Sport, some of the highlights include Handball where our U13 boys were district champions, county runners up and came 4th in South East England. In Badminton, the U14 were district finalists and our U16 team were crowned county champions. In Tennis, we are now officially an LTA School of Tennis with a plan in place to develop Tennis in both within our own school curriculum and the community as a whole, with our tennis ambassadors providing support to local primary schools. In Beach Volleyball our Y10 team won the county finals this year and the list goes on and on in sports we offer such as Football, Hockey, Basketball, Rugby, Athletics, Golf, and so on. There's too much to mention of course in this speech, but it's a wonderful reminder of how the enjoyment of sport remains a key aspect of Harvey life.

Another area of our provision where there is so much going on that there is just too much to mention today is in Art, Music and Drama, where our boys have been very busy in the last year. There have been a number of drama production highlights, such as Blood Brothers, and the annual school pantomime in addition to music showcase nights and a huge amount of work going on in the community with our boys involved in events such as Holocaust Memorial Day and Folkestone's Youth Festival of Remembrance. Art also continues to thrive with our continued involvement in the Charivari Parade, the Cheriton Light Festival and trips to the Turner Contemporary at Margate and Brighton Pavilion and Museum. I truly believe that an education that is solely academic and ignores the creative arts is a diminished one, and so it is hugely pleasing to be able to report that our school continues to fully develop and build on the boys' creative, artistic and cultural interests.

It's been a busy year too for the English department with a number of authors visiting the school to engage with pupils. For example KS3 pupils were treated to a visit from Cliff McNish, a bestselling author, who spoke about his writing; whilst Sixth Form pupils were visited by Fran Sandham, who spoke about his epic journey on foot across Africa - from Namibia's Skeleton Coast to Zanzibar, as described in his book '*Traversa*'. Reading remains high on the agenda with our accelerated reader programme continuing to go from strength-to-strength, with Y7 and Y8 so far having read 107 million words, putting them on track to beat last year's total. There were over 4000 recorded book loans from the Library. Well done boys! In History, Y9 boys made what has become an annual trip to the battlefield and war graves of the Ypres, made all the more salient by eminent historian Marc Morris, now one of our parents, who kindly gave of his time and came in to give an expert talk to our Year 11 pupils on the Normans - to be clear, it was not about my family! Politics pupils also visited Parliament, where pupils were able to take part in a select committees workshop.

In Maths, boys have been participating in the various Mathematical Challenges run by the United Kingdom Mathematical Trust. Awards include 6 golds, 13 Silver and 21 Bronze awarded at Junior level, and 3 golds 5 silver and 2 bronze won at the Senior level. A particular well done here to Nathan Rossbach and Louis McMullan who both qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad. In the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge our boys did exceptionally well and of the 81 that took part from Years 9, 10, and 11, 56 achieved a certificate of some colour and 13 boys have qualified for one of the follow up kangaroo competitions, reserved for the brightest mathematical minds in the country.

The department have also been doing their bit for the community with 36 pupils in year 5 from 18 feeder schools attending a series of Masterclasses here at the Harvey, where they had an opportunity to experience different areas of Mathematics - with a biscuit and a drink to help them along of course. Year 7 pupils also travelled to Lingfield Racecourse to look at Maths in industry. Specifically, pupils looked at the construction and cost of fences, the weighing and handicapping of jockeys, and the area needed for the parade ring. Fortunately parents, I can confirm that they had an enjoyable day and definitely didn't look at the Maths involved in spread betting!

Our Scientists have also had an interesting year with Y12 Biologists enjoying a visit by Dr Russ Morphew from the University of Aberystwyth, who delivered two masterclasses on Parasites and proteins. The Biologists also visited Wildwood in Herne Bay where they conducted small mammal trapping and observed species like mice, shrews and voles. Seven intrepid Harvey year 13 Chemists also spent a day at Pfizer. They had been hard at work in the school labs making Aspirin and had it then analysed by Pfizer's multi-million pound machinery. It turned out that was perhaps not the purest that Pfizer had seen – but well done anyway boys.

Six Yr13 Chemists also visited Givaudan to find out about the chemistry behind developing fragrances for perfume, washing powders, glade air fresheners, and toothpaste. The pupils were able to see how fragrances are developed and adjusted for a global market. The robot run warehouse is six stories high and contains 20,000 pallets of chemical drums. The robot forklifts are apparently able to collect all the ingredients for a 100-ingredient perfume within four minutes!

Year 8 pupils enjoyed a visit to The Science Museum in London where pupils took part in several interactive workshops throughout the day, and 6th Form Science ambassadors visited Sandgate Primary School, where pupils engaged in a variety of hands on Biology, Chemistry and Physics practicals. Our boys have also been enjoying participation in National Science competitions. For example, in the National Biology challenge entered by our Y10 pupils, 3 gold awards were achieved with 7 pupils achieving silver and 23 Bronze. Overall, it has been a very successful and busy year for our Harvey scientists.

Our budding entrepreneur Harveians have also enjoyed an active year. Y11 pupils took part in a 'Dragons Den' style activity to pitch their own enterprise ideas and out of the

seven groups, three went forward and successfully ran their businesses in the final days of the summer term, making a small profit! Year 12 and 13 pupils went off to Betteshanger Country Park in October to participate in a military fitness obstacle course as part of their teamwork in business unit. All helped each other out to successfully crawl, climb and jump through a lot of muddy obstacles. In addition, Y11 economics and business studies pupils visited the Bank of England to see first-hand the role this financial institution plays within the UK economy.

Our languages department also goes from strength-to-strength with greater numbers than ever of our boys opting to study two languages through to GCSE. We once again celebrated European Day of Languages across the school, with Yr7 pupils making postcards of flags from around the world for staff to display in their classroom and offices, and staff and pupils were also involved in using different languages across the curriculum, including some colourful language from the PE department urging boys to run faster.

This year, Y7s have visited Boulogne-sur-Mer where they met with their new French penfriends and practised the language. They then further practised their language skills in the old town, and we finished with some shopping at Auchan – very much enjoyed by both pupils and staff. We have developed penfriend links with a number of schools, and also developed our links with local grammar schools, sharing good practice in languages and holding joint GCSE Masterclasses for the boys.

The Computing Department once again focused their attention in a national Cyber Discovery Program, exposing pupils to the realities of Cyber Security. Many pupils took on the challenges, passing through several stages throughout the first few terms, ranging across hacking, encryption, and website interaction to name a few. The program encourages pupils to see how easily networks can be manipulated and, more importantly, how to protect themselves and others against attacks.

Year 9s took part in a cross curricular 'Be an Internet Citizen' day, which is a new initiative run in partnership with Google and YouTube. The pupils immersed themselves in current affairs surrounding the internet, what to expect, and how to mitigate from certain interactions. The day welcomed a visit from local MP Damien Collins, who commented on the boys' exceptional attitude and awareness surrounding this extremely relevant topic.

So to finish, to our boys in the room, you've just heard me talking at length about some of the fantastic work that you've been involved in. I hope you will all continue to take up some of the many opportunities you are given here to get involved in life beyond the classroom. This school is determined to give you the chance to develop all your interests, and to send you off on the next stage of your journey as a rounded individual ready to succeed in life. If you leave with the determination to work hard, play hard, and to be supportive of your fellow citizens, you'll be on the right track!

So finally, it has been a pleasure to report on another successful year in the long and distinguished history of the Harvey, and long may that success continue. Thank you."

## TOM FLETCHER CMG ELECTED AS PRINCIPAL

Hertford College was delighted to announce the election of Mr Tom Fletcher as its next Principal, with Tom taking up the principalship in summer 2020.



Tom is a former Ambassador and No 10 Foreign Policy Adviser to three Prime Ministers; a Visiting Professor at New York University; and chaired the International Board of the UK Creative Industries Federation. He is the author of *'The Naked Diplomat: Power and Politics in the Digital Age'*, and has led reviews on how technology will change the UN, statecraft, and the future of learning.

Hertford's Senior Fellow, Professor Tony Wilson, said, *"We are delighted to welcome Tom back to the college where he was an undergraduate (History), JCR President and is an honorary fellow. His distinguished career as a diplomat and recent involvement with NYU will be of great benefit to the college as will his empathy with the college's core values. We believe he has the ability, energy and standing to take the college forward and to address the challenges which higher education will inevitably have to face in the years ahead."*

Tom Fletcher said, *"I am thrilled to be coming back to Oxford. I was a beneficiary of Hertford College's pioneering approach to opening up the greatest university education on the planet, and have experienced its friendly and inclusive community. This is a fragile moment for higher education, the UK and global politics. I will do all I can to support Hertford and Oxford as they defend reason, expand access to opportunity, and nurture the next advances in human ingenuity."*

**Bill Broad gets in touch and remembers his friend, Henry Shackleton**

Hello! I am William Edward Broad an old (96yrs) Harvey Grammar School pupil. I was lucky enough to obtain a scholarship to allow me to join the school at about 10 years of age. My brother Ronald also joined the school a few years later.

I would just like to say that I was very upset to hear that my good friend Henry Shackleton had passed away. He will be missed by us all as he was such a special person. I happened to get in touch with Henry a year or so ago. We were both happy to make contact after so many years. We shared our different experiences in life, including the war where I believe he was a POW after his plane was shot down over Berlin, whereas my war involved years of training for the Normandy landing at Gold Beach.

At 10 years old I was living in Folkestone with my parents. At about 9 o' clock most school days I would meet Henry and have a talk with him. We would meet outside the school gates and chat for a while before entering school for the day. I enjoyed the short periods we were able to discuss things together. I believe Henry travelled to school by train, as he was living in the country outside of the town with his mother.

I really do believe that Harvey Grammar served its pupils very well. Many parts of the school and staff will forever have a place in my mind such as:

- Going to Mr Downing the Headmaster to get a taste of the cane.
- Using the facilities in the Chemistry and Physics labs with Mr Brooks (whose son was in my year) and Mr Elston.
- Excitement in the gym when we had to jump over The Box - I think with Mr Howard watching us.
- Playing soccer against a team brought over from France.
- Having Wednesday afternoon off for good behaviour.
- Going to school each Saturday morning.

Finally, my best wishes to all those attending and running the school. It certainly is a place needing to be well remembered.

**Bill Broad**



## Colin Manning tells of a family line linking directly to William Harvey

My lovely and very bright granddaughter, Darcy (aged 7) gave my wife and I a book for Christmas entitled: *"My Family Tree"*. Most of the pages were blank, the intention being that we were to fill in what we knew about our families before returning the book to Darcy. Thus, whilst searching through some of my late mother's papers, for some information, I came across the newspaper clipping shown, tucked into my old *"National Registration Identity Card."*



The newspaper is not named, nor is the clipping dated, but I have managed to date it to some time in 1958.

As you will see from the text, Mrs Greenstreet as a young woman was a parlourmaid in the employ of Dr Gilbert, and she had a room in the Harvey House, the room, in fact, where William Harvey was born.

Harvey House is in Harley Street, which runs parallel with St Michael's Street, and both streets (more or less) overlook Folkestone Harbour.

You may also note that Mrs Greenstreet, at 77 years of age, still lived in the area, at 7 Michael's Street.

Mrs Greenstreet, William Harvey, and Harvey House all therefore have a connection with the Harvey Grammar. It all may seem a little tenuous at this point, but read on.

Evelyn Laura (second initial is "L" not "C" as indicated in the clipping), was born in Folkestone on on 22 April 1881 and her father was Thomas Henry Baker - a "Mariner" by profession, and known locally as "Captain Baker."

William Harvey and Thomas Baker were both Mariners and of roughly the same era: another tenuous connection!

On 20 March 1909 Evelyn Laura Baker, a spinster, then living at 20 Harvey Street, married a Maurice Greenstreet at St Michael's Church, at the end of St Michael's Street. The church is long gone, and the small patch of land on which it once stood now has old people's bungalows on it.

On 28 January 1938, Mrs Greenstreet was known to be living at 40 St Michael's Street, as it was recorded that her eldest daughter, Gertrude Julia Mary, gave birth to a boy at that address on that date.

On 5 September 1939 Maurice Greenstreet died in the Royal Vitoria Hospital and Evelyn Laura was widowed at 58, only two days after the outbreak of World War II, although Maurice's death was not connected with that war.

Like Mrs Greenstreet, I was born in Folkestone, and probably would have started at the Harvey in 1949, but my father's job had moved us to Maidstone around the start of World War II. Dad was in a reserved occupation during the war; something to do with keeping hospitals running - but he never spoke of his job. If he wasn't working all around Kent in his day job, at night he was with the ARP "Fire watching." I don't know when he ever slept!

I therefore went to Maidstone Grammar School in 1949, and transferred to the Harvey when we moved back to Folkestone in 1952. I spent a very happy time there until 1954.

Returning to Mrs Greenstreet, she was a strong, capable, and determined woman. Records show that she was a longstanding and active member of Folkestone's Townswomens' Guild, a local JP, and a recipient of the Queen's Maundy Money.

The following story illustrates this strong, kind, busy woman. At Christmas she would habitually have lunch with her daughter, son-in-law and grandson. Shortly after lunch one year, she out on her hat and coat and announced: "I must go, I have to hand out Christmas parcels to the old people." She herself was about 82 at the time! She was very proud of the modest achievements of her only grandson.

Evelyn Laura Greenstreet died suddenly and alone at the age of 84 on 3 or 4 November 1965, whilst still at 7 St Michael's Street.

How do I know all this? Well, because "Granny" Greenstreet was my maternal grandmother, and there's another link between Mrs Greenstreet, William Harvey, The Harvey Grammar School and me - I was christened at St Michael's Church too!

Colin Manning (HGS: 1952-54)

## Jim Skillern shares his life and times at the school and in his career

I have been moved to write this as I was inspired by your recent article about Bruce Bovill. I never knew him, but he was at the school in the same years (1960-1965) and many of the teachers names mentioned brought back memories.

I spent my time at the school in the C/T streams and although my parents always made it clear that they did not think I worked hard enough as I did not progress to the A stream in years 1-3, it is now clear to me that I was in the right place. However, I must admit that having a good time was always more important than study.

In my village of Elham anyone passing the 11+ went to school in Canterbury. I was never expected to pass this exam, and so there was surprise when I passed with the 'Technical' grade. No one seemed to know what this meant apart from the fact that I would have to go to Folkestone.

On my very first morning at Harvey I followed signed routes and the bulk of children into the building. As the turning towards the assembly hall, where we all got together, stood a stern looking master, and I wanted to sink through the floor as he bellowed: "You

boy!" He actually pointed to a bigger lad beside me who was pulled into a classroom where Fred Ellis lived. I was in fear and trembling.

In assembly endless lists of names were called out and my first form master was Mr Adams. His gentle attitude did much to calm me.

I never did well in english with Mr Field, Mr Thomas and Mr Burroughs (who was also my for master in years 4 and 5), which makes a mockery of the last 36 years of my life as a technical author specialising in electronics.

Maths was a different matter. I always enjoyed starting with Mr Godfrey (who made much of my lack of neatness), Mr Stutchbury and Mr Radford. It was strange with Mr Radford as his son was in my class at the time.

In my later careers science was good to me as much as the maths. I started in the General Science block (also my form master in Year 2) and followed this Chemistry (Mr Husband) and Physics (Mr Nichols) at the Grace Hill department.

I spent a lot of time at Grace Hill in the last 3 years, also doing woodwork, metalwork

and technical drawings there. In all these my performance was adequate but spoilt by a lack of neatness. However, all these subjects aided me in all aspects of my life subsequently.

One of the fun bits at Grace Hill was the lunch time spent on the beach. There were competitions who could get furthest through the arches as the tide changed. Trying to hide wet feet from Mr Husband in a chemistry lesson became an art form.

The subject I hated most was PT/games. I was always in the also rans. Overweight and unfit. Mr Philpott despaired of me and it was a great relief to me when Mr Nichols (who also took us for geography) filled in taking the class. Many years later it was discovered that I had a hereditary condition. Mr Philpott would not have approved if he had known about my antics on the annual compulsory cross-country. The one good bit of sport was where another boy, Roger Reagan, took me out a few times in the school sailing dinghy. Although a bit nervous because my swimming was not that good, I totally enjoyed the sport.

As soon as I had taken 'O'Levels I left school without waiting for the end of term.

I was determined to join the RAF and had applied, but was yet to receive a reply. Not being expected to pass many 'O' Levels (mock exam results had been bad and were a wake up call) I took a temporary job on a dairy farm. Having recently been on a plane out of Stansted I think we treated the cows with more respect than some air passengers are now treated.

Interviews and entrance examinations (plus 7 out of 8 'O'Levels missing out only English) saw me enter the RAF, where I was accepted for ground electronics. Whilst training I was introduced to my first computer (an Elliott 803) in 1966. This was entirely valve driven and the room! (It had a lower computing power than the ZX Spectrum, but was magnificent for the time.) The room where it was housed had air conditioning to keep the temperature down. There was a massive rack with ferrite cores to act as memory. Whilst there a modification introduced the first transistor into the machine. Having passed out of training I managed accelerated promotion to Sgt in dual trades of communication and radar. This put me in charge of the watch for an airfield. More by accident than design I had become specialised in airfield equipment. This included

designing and building a new mobile control caravan for deployment at the end of the runway. Thank goodness for the technical drawing I had done at school.

In the forces I had become much more sporting. I had followed up the sailing at school by being in the team that represented RAF Training Command and had taken up cycling, doing 100 mile time trials.

Forces life came to an end suddenly in 1974. The RAF was being reduced in size, and I was not going to get any further promotion and was very unlikely to have my contract extended past my nominal completion in 1979. There was a chance to become a production engineer in Gt Yarmouth so I bought myself out of the forces. This progressed well and later I became the division Quality Engineer during which time the company successfully applied for BS9000 recognition. This is where I first had to originate paperwork in logical sequence. The electronics company was taken over by the American giant 'ITT', so I could see rationalisation coming and jumped ship to GEC-Marconi electronics in Norwich. Based on the computers I'd studied earlier (and a postal course with Harlow College) I got in as

a technical. During this time I had to use both ALGOL and ATLAS computer languages.

It was in these times that I got married to a Norfolk lass and we had a daughter. In later years I was so able to help her learn school subjects when she got stuck. The only problem with this was that the methods I had learnt gave the right results but did not use the same working methods as she was being taught. If her teachers had failed to make her understand, then there was no reason why it was wrong for the wisdom of my teachers to be passed on if this gave understanding.

I have now retired and am having a whale of a time. To keep the old bones moving, in spite of osteoarthritis, I am doing the Parkrun every week; and I also sing in a choir (my first choir was with Mr Adams at school) and have toured with them, participating in competitions in Barcelona, Northern Ireland and New York.

Also, I am studying ancient history and give a few talks on this subject. Learning never stops, but a good grounding is worth its weight in gold!

Regards to all,

**Jim Skillern**

From **Fr Tim L'Estrange (1979-86)** on Facebook: "One of my parishioners went into a care home for brief respite care, but took a turn for the worse and died yesterday. She became unable to speak, but a nurse, seeing her crucifix, asked if she wanted a priest, and she nodded. The staff then went carefully through the paperwork in her handbag, and discovered a postcard I had sent to the lady a few weeks ago. The card was signed "Fr Timothy" and made reference to "St Gabriel's" so they did a Google search for a London church dedicated to St Gabriel with a Fr Timothy on its staff. Having found our parish website, they used it to locate my telephone number, and then called me to ask if I could attend. I call all of that, on a busy working day, by people who are short-staffed and working under lockdown pressures, pretty heroic efforts. The net result was that the lady received the last rites, at the hands of her own priest, before losing consciousness. It often fails to happen this way, alas, but it is very encouraging when it does."

From **Frank Fortey** by email to Phil Harding: "It is just 60 years since I left the Harvey and have been immensely proud of the many achievements of both students and Old Boys that I have read about over the years. Examination success for me at school did not lead on to a degree at Nottingham but, as Cyril Ward had foreseen, I did get the opportunity to represent the University 1 XI at cricket on a number of occasions. Events in 1960-61 were swayed to some extent by Tottenham Hotspur FC and a certain double being achieved. I've been fortunate to work and live in Dorset for more than 40 years and spent a good part of my Midland Bank career in the Channel Islands, representing Jersey Guernsey and Alderney at cricket. (On 28 September 1969 a memorable match took place against Sussex CCC on the matting wicket on the Butes. Mark Faber set Sussex on the way to 304/7 (decl.) by scoring 92, and Alderney made 150 against Snow, Thomson, Suttle, Lenham and with Tom Cartwright guesting [FDF 63\*]. Community and charity work have been my focus since retirement in 1991, and I recently served as President of our local Lions Club for the third time, though the pandemic has curtailed matters of course, especially fundraising.

## DAVID 'BUNNY' RAWLINGS

The Association was saddened to learn about the passing of Old Boy, Dave Rawlings.

**We are grateful to Rodney Kilbee** for providing the following words and photographs:

"Sad to have report the passing of another Optimist star with the passing of David 'Bunny' Rawlings. He bravely fought dementia over the last couple of years of a very active life - before, finally, succumbing to the dreaded Covid-19 on 6 May 2020.

As a hockey player, he was ever present in the 1 XI for at least 15 seasons, an utterly reliable left-half, who gave 100% for his side and never got into any trouble with the umpires or the opposition. He then continued playing for many seasons in the lower XIs and Vets Teams, and came over to the Three hills to watch hockey until very recently.

He was also a very useful cricketer for Sibton Park - bowling his awkward wrong-footed 'induckers' - competitive, but always playing in totally the right spirit. Not to mention his considerable ability as a skier and ski-instructor, and his quiet but much appreciated support after games in the bar!

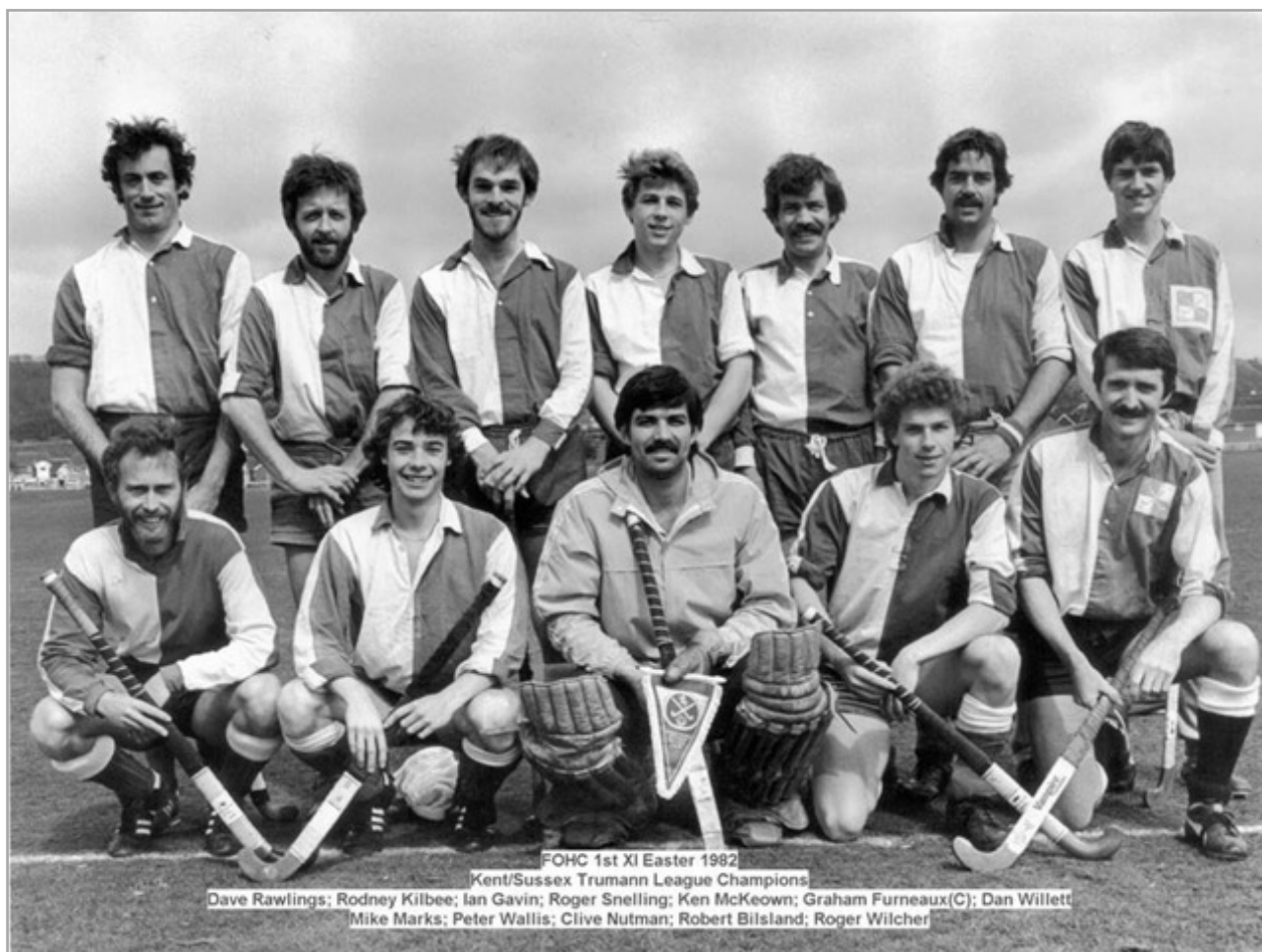
Dave will be sadly missed by his wife Sue and family as well as a host of sporting friends. It was a pleasure to have shared so much with Bunny."



L-R: Dunster, Rawlings, Nichols, Hill, Cowell, Hyde, Dearman. M. XI Team Silkenstone Optimist. H.C. Kilby, Rees, Upton, Eslam, Dearling, Henson. © F. H. A. R. C.

### Editor's Note and request:

Due to the various impacts of Covid-19 this Newsletter is shorter than it would normally be. We remain grateful to all contributors and apologise to those whose articles have not featured this time round. Please though do keep sending the editor your contributions for future editions, and know that whatever you write about is very much enjoyed by our diverse readership.



## George Stevens shares his research into Sir John Moore - A Folkestone Hero

I left the Harvey in 1965, and after a mere 35 gap years I commenced my degree course with the Open University in 2000. So it was that one day I found myself in La Coruña, Northern Spain, with time to kill whilst on a language course. I wandered around a flea market, perusing the second hand books for sale, and was taken aback to find a tome celebrating the life of Sir John Moore. The name was immediately familiar to me, having lived very close to Shorncliffe camp, and the memorial at Seabrook (see photo). I asked the vendor how it was that she should have this book, in Spanish, on the life of an English general, and she reacted with surprise, as well she might. She patiently explained that Sir John Moore was known to all Spaniards as the Hero of Coruña (also Corunna), and that his body was buried within the city limits, not a stone's throw away. I took myself off to see his memorial, within a wonderful walled garden. It was a lovingly tended space, with a wall dedicated to the

general, and a poem engraved into the stone face. Parties of Spanish schoolchildren were being conducted reverently through the garden, pausing while their teacher related the tale of Sir John Moore's heroism, and then passing back into the hustle of the streets beyond.

I regret now that I did not buy the book in Spanish, and instead elected to buy an English-language biography on my return home. That was my second surprise: there is remarkably little in English on the life of Sir John Moore. His nephew wrote a biography in 1834, and another was published in 2001, but neither paid much attention to the Shorncliffe period. Luckily, there are other sources, and from these I have compiled a brief history of the life of the general now known as great reformer, who died a hero during a famous retreat, but who undoubtedly laid the foundation for Wellington's subsequent victory against Napoleon, as acknowledged by the Iron Duke himself.

Unlike his close contemporary, Sir Eliab Harvey, who had no known connection with Folkestone, Sir John Moore laid the foundations of modern infantry training whilst Commandant of Shorncliffe Camp, and thus qualifies as a Folkestone Hero.

Moore was born in Glasgow in 1761, and was commissioned into the 51st Regiment in 1776. He saw service in the American War of Independence before returning home to spend six years as a Whig MP.

Moore was then posted to Ireland, where he helped suppress the 1798 rebellion. His personal intervention was credited with turning the tide of battle at Foulksmills on 20 June. Although the rebellion was put down with great brutality, Moore stood out from most other commanders in his refusal to commit atrocities. In 1790 at the age of 30 he was appointed to command of the 51st serving in Ireland, Gibraltar and Corsica until 1796 when he was appointed to command of a brigade. He became a Major General in 1797.



He returned to Great Britain in 1803 to command a brigade at Shorncliffe Army Camp, near Folkestone, where he began to develop further his ideas for the training of infantrymen, grouping regiments to fight together as Light Infantry and eventually forming the Light Division which was to fight with such distinction in the Peninsula War.

He had a reputation as an inspirational leader and trainer of men; it is said that when new buildings were being constructed at the camp and the architect asked him where the paths should go, he told him to wait some months and see where the men walked, then put the paths there. Moore also made sure his troops were well housed and fed properly, earning

himself a reputation as a comparatively humane commander.

In 1803 the French armies, who intended to invade England, lay encamped at Boulogne. Moore was put in charge of the defence of the coast from Dover to Dungeness. It was on his initiative that the Martello Towers were constructed. Interestingly, the Martello Towers were named after some defences that had impressed Moore in Corsica, where the Torra di Mortella, at Mortella Point, had offered a stout resistance to British land and sea forces. Perhaps spelling was not his strong point!

He also initiated the cutting of the Royal Military Canal in Kent and Sussex, and recruited about 340,000 volunteers to a militia that would have defended the lines of the South Downs if an invading force had broken through the regular army defences.

While in Minorca in 1800 Moore's attention had been directed to the need in the British army for a light infantry corps whose training should correspond with that of the French *voltigeurs* or skirmishers. A few battalions so trained under sensible officers, it was suggested, might serve as a model for the rest of the army. He had moreover noticed the system adopted by Major Kenneth Mackenzie, then in temporary command of the 90th foot at Minorca. This consisted in breaking up the battalion into skirmishers, supports, and reserve, on the plan afterwards adopted for light movements throughout the army. 'He was struck with its excellence, and with his usual openness and candour expressed his surprise that it had never before suggested itself to his mind'. At Shorncliffe he now introduced not only the system of drill and manoeuvre based upon these principles, but the admirable system of discipline and interior economy which laid the foundation of the famous Peninsular light division, and has been maintained ever since in the regiments trained under him.

His military training ideas changed the face of front-line fighting from the Red Coats onwards. He realised their bright red coats made them stick out and could be easily targeted by the opposition. He introduced The Riflemen, who wore green coats, and so were more easily camouflaged. Warfare was changing; the riflemen worked in pairs where one fired and the other loaded the spare gun, ready to swap to maintain continuous fire.

Sir John Moore has been described as "the greatest trainer of troops that the British army has ever known" and "the father of the Light Infantry". He discarded the then existing disciplinary system, largely maintained through fear and brutality, which in his view also stifled individual initiative, and replaced it with a system based more upon self-discipline, mutual respect and trust.

In 1804, Moore was knighted and promoted to Lieutenant-General. The Prime Minister William Pitt also held the office of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and often went over from Walmer to Shorncliffe to consult him. When, in 1806, it was proposed to send Moore as commander-in-chief to India, Charles James Fox protested against sending so skilled a general far away in the existing position of European affairs.

#### THE PENINSULAR WAR

By now knighted, in 1808 Moore returned to service in the Mediterranean, taking command of the British forces on the Iberian Peninsula. This followed the removal of his predecessor, General Sir Harry Burrard, for his signing of the Convention of Cintra, whereby 20,900 defeated French soldiers were repatriated from Portugal by the Royal Navy with all their equipment and 'personal property'.

Moore advanced deep into Spain, planning to co-operate with Spanish forces against the French. But the surrender of Madrid and the arrival of Napoleon with an army of 200,000 soldiers forced him to retreat from Salamanca. Moore drew the French northwards while retreating to his embarkation ports of La Coruña and Vigo. Moore established a defensive position on hills outside the town, while being guarded by the 15th Hussars, and was fatally wounded at the Battle of Corunna, being "*struck in his left breast and shoulder by a cannon shot, which broke his ribs, his arm, lacerated his shoulder and the whole of his left side and lungs*". He remained conscious and composed throughout the several hours. Like Lord Nelson, he was mortally wounded in battle, surviving long enough to be assured that he had gained a victory.

He was buried in the town's ramparts in a spot now laid out as the Jardín de San Carlos. Charles Wolfe's poem "The Burial of Sir John

Moore after Corunna" is inscribed on a plaque in the garden.

The French commander, Marshal Soult, would later erect a fine monument in memory of his fallen adversary. The retreat to Corunna would, in 1940, be echoed by Dunkirk: the bedraggled army had escaped destruction and survived to fight another day.

Yet despite the appalling losses, Moore had, to a degree, succeeded in his mission. Three months later the British army would return and begin its long, victorious campaign under the command of Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington. Wellington acknowledged the debt he owed Moore, saying: "*We'd not have won, I think, without him.*" Napoleon himself admitted: "*It was only Moore's action which stopped me taking Spain and Portugal.*"

The most famous of all the divisions during the Peninsula War was the Light Division. The division still survives to this day and remains the elite of the Army. Yet today, few outside his native Glasgow have even heard of him. Honouring his memory is left instead to the townspeople of Corunna who commemorate his courage and his sacrifice in a special ceremony every year, and, since the bicentenary of Sir John Moore's death in 1809, the Shorncliffe Trust have commemorated him each year at his memorial on Sandgate Esplanade

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Only my introductory paragraphs are original. For the rest I am indebted to the following sources, from which I have borrowed freely:

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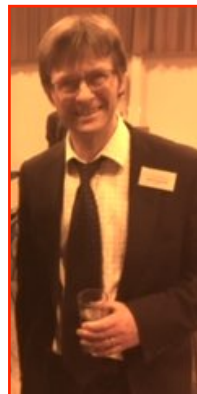
I also want to thank Geoff Head, who is a direct

descendant of Sir John Moore's aunt, and who

reignited my interest in Moore with his excellent vlog:

<https://sirjohnmoore.wordpress.com/>

**Memories from the OHA Annual Dinner (7 December 2019)**



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