

# O·N·A

OLD NOVOCASTRIANS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE



Issue 77 | Autumn 2009



In this issue:

Memories of the Boat Club  
Track and Field – 50 Years On  
News and Events

1 President's Welcome  
2-3 News and Events  
4-5 Who? What? Where?  
6 ONA Dinner  
7 Taylor Lecture/London ONs  
8-9 Memories of the Boat Club  
10-11 Track and Field – 50 Years On  
12-13 Aston Martin  
14-17 Obituaries



## Contribute!

We are always looking for articles and news from Old Novos to include in the magazine, so send your contributions, via email (if possible) to: [ona@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:ona@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk) or to the ONA Office at the school.

Please include relevant pictures if possible. They will be returned as soon as the magazine has been printed.

The deadline for acceptance of copy for the Autumn 2009 issue is: Monday 7 December 2009. Copy may be carried over to a future issue.

**ONA Magazine**  
Issue 77 | Autumn 2009

ONA magazine is the magazine for the Old Novocastrian Association

Editor: Tove Elander

All correspondence should be addressed to:  
The ONA Office  
Royal Grammar School  
Eskdale Terrace  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE2 4DX

Telephone, ONA office:  
0191 212 8924 email:  
[ona@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:ona@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk)

The Editor reserves the right to edit, alter or omit all submissions to the magazine. Copy may be carried over to the next edition. The Editor's decision is final.

Designed and produced by  
[www.infinitedesign.com](http://www.infinitedesign.com)

# Welcome to the latest edition of our magazine

What a shame the barbeque weather deserted us at the end of June. ON's and members of the 1st XI were looking forward to the first competitive match for many years, but unfortunately the monsoon season arrived that week. We were looking forward to seeing other ON's as spectators, and I can at least assure them that the match is firmly back in the fixture card for the future. As we waited in vain for the rain to clear it was good to meet up with **Fred Godson (51-58)** and Geoff Swindon, retired member of staff, who were to have been the umpires for the day.

The advert for the Brahms Requiem in the last issue increased my postbag, as many of you indignantly pointed out that they (and I) had sung or played in the real first performance. I took the opportunity to take part in this concert, and found it just as stirring as the first time.

This year I met up with **Brian Rich (54-64)** who lives in Coventry, and he would be delighted if any ON's now living in the area were to get in touch. His email is **brian@therichs.force9.co.uk**.

We met again with the U6 form leavers after their exams to continue discussions about what they feel the Association should try to offer, and a particular request (too late for them, perhaps), was for a directory of ON's who would be prepared to talk informally about possible careers, with contact being made first through email. This will entail more thought before we can make any progress, and I am conscious that some of you already help the Careers Department. Please let the ONA Office know if any of you might be prepared to help.

Finally, we have the largest group of retiring staff who have all accepted invitations to the Dinner on 16 October. You will all have your own memories of Paul Ponton, Norman Baker, Hazel Jones-Lee and Derick Lawson and I would encourage all those who can to join them and make it a memorable night.



*Mike Barlow*

**Mike Barlow (53-64)**  
ONA President

# News and Events

## My American Adventure Eric Middleton (45-53)

Many of you will know that my book, *The New Flatlanders* has been revised, edited and now published by the Templeton Press in America. Earlier this year I was invited on a two week book-promoting tour. The tour would involve university lectures about my book, talks to student seminars, and book signings, often two each day.



Ken Reid and Eric Middleton

Beginning on the east coast with Drew University, New Jersey, I was hosted by Prof. Leonard Sweet, giving three lectures on the first day. Len had wondered if I was up to a 'gig' on the east coast, where he was a Visiting Professor at George Fox University, in Portland, Oregon.

Here I was welcomed by Prof. Phil Smith, giving an open invitation university lecture. Phil had also arranged for me to take two of his classes and as speaker at a seminar for psychotherapists/theologians. Phil and his wife made me so welcome, taking time out to see the Pacific coast, scramble on the rocks and feel the bracing air on my first free day. They also introduced me to the finer points of baseball in the evening.

Enjoying Quaker worship on the Sunday, I then stayed with Prof. Dwight Kimberly and his wife, who took me up to see the snow-covered Mount Hood at 12,000 feet,

illuminated by the evening sunset. Another professor, Paul Anderson, and the University chaplain, Sarah Baldwin held informal meetings with friends who were also involved in healing.

Flying back over to Minnesota, I was booked to speak at Minneapolis University, where the professor, **Ken Reid (46-54)**, was an old friend from RGS and university, (fellow cricketers and Cambridge boxers). I enjoyed the talk/book signing at a Minneapolis bookstore, visiting some of the 2000 lakes, and sharing old memories! The Friday evening was an open university lecture arranged by the 'Mars Hill' group of students (see Acts 17). Their leaders, Josiah and Nathan and a dozen others invited me for a further fascinating hour talk at a nearby coffee shop.

The final Sunday involved a Baptist Church service with Ken and his wife. The flight home was to a family welcome on the Monday- and

“It was a privilege to talk about contemporary science in eleven dimensions, the wonderful parable story of Flatland, then changing gear to share my experiences of the healing power of the Holy Spirit in the authority of Jesus.”

to postponed birthday celebrations- I was 74 at the book signing!

It was a privilege to talk about contemporary science in eleven dimensions, the wonderful parable story of Flatland, then changing gear to share my experiences of the healing power of the Holy Spirit in the authority of Jesus. Often students stayed behind to ask for prayer for healing.

There have been many exciting experiences as my American Adventure unfolded – what a joy to meet so many wonderful people and enjoy their hospitality, as well as to meet up with my old friend Ken Reid after all these years.

*Eric Middleton is Principal Emeritus at the Prior Pursglove College in Guisborough, and Visiting chaplain at Bede Sixth Form College, in Billingham.. Email: eric.middleton2@btinternet.com*

## Degree results

### **Alice Charnley (03-05)**

First Class Degree in Modern and Medieval Languages,  
Cambridge University

### **Jamie Rutt (99-06)**

First Class Degree in Economics, Cambridge University

### **Zoe Dias (03 -05)**

First Class Degree in American Studies, Nottingham University

### **Thomas Coles (02-04)**

First Class Degree (subject unknown), Glasgow University

### **Ewan Smith (99-06)**

First Class Degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Northumbria University

### **Sam Fisher (96-06)**

BSc (Hons) Medicine, St Andrews University

### **Sean Prosser (98-05)**

MA (Hons) Economics, St Andrews University

### **Nicholas Bailey (00-04)**

Medicine and Surgery (MBChB). Manchester University

### **Richard Matthews (99-04)**

MA Economics, Glasgow University

### **Gemma Thorpe (02-04)**

Veterinary Medicine (BVMS), Glasgow University

## AGM Notice

The ONA AGM meeting will be held on Friday 16 October 2009, at 6.15pm in the Plender Library at RGS. If you would like to nominate a member for the committee, please note that written nominations for election to the committee by two members of the Association must reach Mrs T Elander, the ONA Office, Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DX seven days before the AGM meeting.

Please see page 6 for the ONA dinner booking form.



## Calling all Novo international sports competitors

Are you, or have you in the past competed at international level? Do you know of Old Novos who have? If so, please read on:

The Royal Grammar School has always had a strong tradition for sport but it is felt that, on occasions, we do not recognise the high standards that have been achieved by some of our athletes. In an effort to remedy this situation and also to applaud our past and present success, the RGS Games Committee is endeavouring to use the existing Dining Hall as a focal point for recognition.

If you are one of those who competed at international level, we are hoping that you will support our venture and, if possible, for you to provide some memorabilia of your tremendous achievements. Photographs of you in international action or indeed even simply in international colours would be hugely appreciated. These we would copy and frame and return to you at the first possible opportunity. The photographs would then be displayed, with honour, in the Dining Hall.

In addition, a brief summary of your sporting career, i.e. time, date, venue, opposition, number of caps, medals etc, would be greatly appreciated by the committee.

**Please send your contributions to the International Committee, RGS, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DX. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Jim Pollock (67-77) at RGS: [j.pollock@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:j.pollock@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk) or at home: [duncanwpollock@aol.com](mailto:duncanwpollock@aol.com)**

# Who? What? Where?



**Bernard Weiss (57-65)** writes: I took my A levels at the Newcastle College of Further Education (also known as the College of Knowledge). Since graduating with a BSc in Electrical Engineering and a PhD in microwave semiconductor devices from the University of Newcastle, I was awarded an SRC Personal Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to study microwave semiconductor devices, and a Wolfson Foundation Research Fellowship in 1977 to study thin film devices at the Newcastle University. Later on I moved to University College London to work on ZnO acoustic sensors and LiNbO<sub>3</sub> integrated optics. I joined the University of Surrey in 1979 as a Lecturer in Optoelectronics and established research in integrated optics at Surrey, funded by EPSRC, UK industry and the US Army/DARPA. I was promoted to Professor of Microelectronics in 1996, appointed Head of the School of Electronics & Physical Sciences in 2001 and Pro-Vice Chancellor in 2004. I take up my new post of Head of the School of Engineering and Design at the University of Sussex in August 2009.

I am a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and I have received a number of awards including the IEE Achievement Medal, the 150th Anniversary Medal of Warsaw University of Technology, a DSc from Surrey University and a DEng from Newcastle University. Also, I have held visiting appointments in USA and Europe and an honorary appointment in Asia. I am a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology

and have served on many of their committees, in addition to being a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (USA) and the Higher Education Academy.

**Professor David Lidgate (55-65)** writes: this missive has been prompted by the photograph supplied by **Peter Graham (55-65)** that you published in the Spring 2009 magazine.

I remember all five boys in the photograph and since they were in my year and I attended Wensleydale camp, I suppose I must have been "off-camera" when the photograph was taken. I must have enjoyed this camp because I subsequently attended the camps in Swaledale, Littondale, Eskdale and the Isle of Arran.

Now for more about me: when I left School I joined A. Reyrolle and Co Ltd. Of Hebburn, as a student apprentice. They sponsored me through Liverpool University, twice, to obtain my B.Eng and PhD. After two years as a research engineer with the company I joined UMIST in Manchester as a lecturer in electrical engineering in 1975.

In 1988 I moved to Thames Polytechnic/ University of Greenwich as Head of School of Engineering. My last academic move was in 1994 when I became Professor and Head of Department of electrical engineering at Napier University in Edinburgh. I took early retirement at the end of July 2003. I still live in Edinburgh and put most of my academic activity through my professional institution the IET (the Institution of Engineering and Technology, formerly the Institution of electrical engineering). Indeed I have been elected senior Vice-Chairman of the Scotland South-East branch of the IET for 2009/2010.

I have joined the Reyrolle Heritage trust and regularly attend their meetings in Hebburn. After each meeting I often take the opportunity to drive round old haunts in the Newcastle area (including Eskdale Terrace!). Crossing the Tyne on the Western Bypass brings back not so happy memories when I spot the School Boat-house (I was in the first IV in 1964/65) The unhappy memories are nothing to do with rowing, I thoroughly enjoyed that and went on to row for my University and later for Tynemouth Rowing Club. The unhappiness is caused by the fact that I suffered a massive

stroke in 1998 which has left me with no use of my left arm and reduced use of my left leg (this makes me in PC terms, mobility restricted), making it impossible for me to get into a boat, let alone hold an oar. However, this does not prevent me enjoying my main hobby of riding round on the trains of Switzerland or giving up my remaining free time to Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland, and a major Scottish charity.

**Richard Dixon (98-03)** graduated from Southampton University with a degree in B.Eng Electromechanical Engineering. He is now an army officer cadet at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

**Peter Graham (75-82)** after working for an international management consultancy, Peter transferred his skills into academia, and is now a lecturer at Newcastle Business School at Northumbria University.

**Aidan Robertson (73-80)** was made Queen's Counsel in March. He practices at Brick Court Chambers in London, specializing in competition law, a subject he is also teaching as a visiting lecturer at Oxford University postgraduate law course.

**Mark Pearson (71-78)** writes: I fondly remember Stoker Meaken, Alan Hall, Don Peden and many others. I married a Japanese girl with whom I have four children, and we are currently living in Tokyo, my second extended spell in Japan. I would love to hear from any contemporaries and wonder whether there are any other Old Novos in Japan? If so, contact me via the ONA office.

**Paul McCombie (70-77)** is Head of Civil Engineering at the University of Bath.

**Mike McKendrick (44-51)** writes: Regarding the article Sailing on the Seven Seas (Issue 76), our son, **Andrew McKendrick (72-79)** has spent the last 29 years under the Seven Seas in HM Submarines, recently promoted to Captain. He was interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live programme in February and shortly afterwards took HMS Vengeance on patrol.

**Richard Cahill (88-98)** Having left the school I went to UMIST and graduated in BSc. Management (International Business Economics), and followed this with MSc. Development Economics from the University of Manchester. I then spent a year travelling around the world, through Asia, Austro-Asia and South America. I then moved down to London to follow the dream of being an Economist in London but fell out of love with this after a couple of years.

I decided to go into Corporate Tax and after 3 years working with Grant Thornton in London, I moved to Lloyds TSB in September 2008. I did another spell of travel at the turn of the year and this time went around sub-Saharan Africa for 3 months.

On a personal note, I live in Finchley in London with my wife, Helen, who works as an Actuary down here. We have been married for coming up to three years. I keep busy in my spare time by running (I ran the London Marathon in 2008), following the plights of Newcastle United and relaxing with family and friends...and planning my next big trip!

**Johnny Bruce (75-82)** writes: I'm still an avid cricketer, playing 40 games a season. I now have the pleasure of watching my son in the Middlesex U10 team. I have lived in London since graduating from Sheffield University in 1985, and play for Hornsey CC. Other club members have included **David Kohn (74-81)**, **Simon Johnson (78-88)** and **John Hammill (83-93)**. Many matches saw a rendition of the school song in the changing room – even by non-attendees!

**Andrew Large (78-88)** was appointed Chairman of the Trade Association Forum of the CBI in March 2009, and was made a Freeman of the City of London in September 2007. He is currently Chief Executive of the Cleaning and Support Services Association. He is married with two daughters and lives in Buckinghamshire.

**Christopher Binks (95-02)** I am currently flying for British Airways based at London Gatwick Airport. I started flying at Newcastle Aero Club when I was 10 years old, initially taking only one 30 minute lesson per month. This continued during my time at the Royal Grammar School, but after starting Edinburgh University in 2002 my flying took the side line for a few years.

After leaving university with a Medical Microbiology degree, my passion for aviation soon took hold again and I returned to Newcastle Aero Club to complete my Private Pilot's Licence. More determined than ever to fulfil my dream of becoming an Airline Pilot, I started the Airline Preparation Programme at Oxford Aviation Academy in June 2006. This intensive course is designed to take someone of little flying experience and train them to the high standard required for airline type rating, necessary to become a First Officer in either a jet or a turboprop aircraft.

During the course I can safely say I absorbed more knowledge in six months of ground school training than during my entire University

**James Mair (94-01)** I was working as a researcher on the BBC2 Series South Pacific (aired earlier in the year), finding stories and then setting up and directing shoots. I was mostly based in Bristol but did work from New Zealand for three months and travelled around New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Hawaii and Indonesian New Guinea.

Since I graduated I have worked as a runner in various TV jobs. I eventually got a job on BBC's Animal Park at Longleat Safari Park, then went on to work on a similar series in California for two months before starting on South Pacific. I am currently working on a series about the Natural History Museum in London.

**Simon Cann-Evans (88-95)** is moving to Jakarta, where he will be doing some consulting work whilst also starting his PhD.

**Alistair Jenkins (86-93)** is the new Stewardship Development Officer for Diocese of Durham.

**James Neffendorf (96-03)** now has the following qualifications: BA (Hons), Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery with Distinction and Final Year Prizes for Ophthalmology and Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Pembroke College Cambridge then UCL London. James recently presented papers in Vancouver and Auckland.

**Robert Glass (74-84)** is director of Coracle Films. ([www.coraclefilms.co.uk](http://www.coraclefilms.co.uk))

**Andrew Wildish (83-90)** is senior tutor at Finchale Training College in Durham.

**Rick Vishal Kumar (87-94)** Graduated in marketing and advertising from Leicester in 1998, and worked in London advertising agencies for eleven years. Rick is now a Director of Fill Recruitment ([www.fillrecruitment.com](http://www.fillrecruitment.com)), where he recruits staff for all the major creative, advertising and marketing agencies in London.

**Bill Weeks (35-44)** a senior member of the Rotary Club of Seahouses, has been honoured with the highest Rotary International tribute, the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship, in recognition of his service to community. Formerly a contributor to food, farming and current affairs programmes on BBC and ITV, Bill has served as President of the Rotary Club, Chairman of Seahouses RNLI, Vice Chairman of North Sunderland and Seahouses Development Trust, and has also been a Harbour Commissioner and both a Borough and Parish Councillor. Bill is still active in the local community and the Rotary Club.

## Midwest USA Contact

If you live in, or are visiting the Midwest, **Colin Wilkinson (34-42)** would love to hear from you. Write to him at:  
349 Merriweather Rd, Grosse Point Farms,  
Michigan, MI 48236-3430, USA  
Email: [colinw349@comcast.net](mailto:colinw349@comcast.net)

degree! We were however rewarded during the second part of the course with five months of full time flight training in the glorious Arizona sunshine.

I graduated the course in September 2007 with all the licensing requirements necessary to become a commercial pilot and was one of the lucky few from my course who successfully made it through the British Airways flight crew selection. I started training with BA in January 2008, and was finally able to get my hands on the real thing in March of the same year - a Boeing 737 aircraft capable of carrying 150 passengers to destinations throughout Europe. My first flight with passengers on board was a flight from London Gatwick to Rome. It quickly dawned on me that I was responsible for the safety and comfort of a large number of people on this 1500 mile round trip – a truly unforgettable experience! From then on every time I have turned up to work, every time I feel aircraft lift into the air solely under my control or watch the sun rising over the Alps from 37,000ft, I'm reminded of why I will never lose my passion for flying.





# The ONA Annual Dinner

Friday 16 October 2009 at RGS,  
Newcastle upon Tyne

**6.15pm**

## **AGM in the Plender Library.**

This will be a short meeting; everyone welcome.

**6.30pm**

## **Sherry reception in the School Hall and presentation to retiring teachers Paul Ponton, Hazel Jones-Lee, Norman Baker and Derick Lawson.**

**7.30pm**

## **Dinner and speeches in the Dining Hall.**

**Guest Speaker:  
Professor Ian Gilmore  
(55-65) President of  
the Royal College of  
Physicians**

### **Price: £25/£20\***

(\*£20 if you are aged 25 or younger, or aged 80 and over).

The price includes the sherry reception, dinner, and a choice of wine on the table.

**Dress Code:** Formal (Optional Black Tie/ Evening Dress).

There will be no fixed table plan; however, it will be possible to reserve seats. Tables will seat eight diners, and parties of less than eight will share the table with others to complete the octet. If you would like to reserve seats please contact the ONA office no later than **Wednesday 7 October.**

To reserve your place at the dinner, please complete and return the booking form below, to:

The ONA office,  
Royal Grammar School,  
Eskdale Terrace,  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE2 4DX.

The deadline for bookings is **Wednesday 7 October 2009.**

*Please note that no tickets will be issued. Once you have reserved and paid for your place, we are unable to refund your money.*

## Booking Form: The ONA Annual Dinner

Please reserve  places at £25.00 each, and  places at £20.00\* I enclose a cheque payable to RGS for £

Full Name, including First Name:

Years at School (start and leave year):

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Name of Guest(s):

Years at school (if applicable):

Please state any dietary requirements:

# Peter Taylor Lecture

Wednesday 18 November 2009 at 6pm  
In the RGS Performing Arts Centre



## “Challenges for leadership in the 21st century: what can schools teach us?”

**Steve Munby (67-74)**

Chief Executive of the National College for School Leadership

Old Novo Steve Munby, Chief Executive of the National College for School Leadership since March 2005, began his career as a secondary school teacher in Birmingham, later moving to the North East of England where he worked as a teacher and then as a lecturer. In 1987 he became a consultant on assessment and records of achievement, working for the nine North East LEAs, becoming an Inspector within the Education Department at Oldham Borough Council in 1989. He managed the Advisory Service before moving to Blackburn with Darwen as Assistant Director in 1997. From 2000 to March 2005, he was Director of Education and Lifelong Learning in Knowsley.

For tickets, please contact Events Manager Jill Graham on 0191 212 8930 or email: [j.graham@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:j.graham@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk)



## Calling all London ONs!

**Bruce Embleton (66-73)**, President of the London ONA, would like to get in touch with all ON's living within reasonable travelling distance of Central London who were not at the London Dinner earlier this year. If you live within the M25 area or just beyond and you have not had an e-mail from him recently can you please contact him at [bruce.embleton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bruce.embleton@yahoo.co.uk).

He is hoping to arrange an event for London ON's in early November.

# Along the Coaly Tyne – Memories of the Boat Club

To this day, more than 40 years on, I can remember how I joined the School Boat Club, but for the life of me I can't remember why.

David Henderson (60-67)



The 1966-7 A and B crews. From left to right: (standing) Tim Straker, Geoff Bowman, Tim Parkin, Malcolm Nelson, George Gonszor, Charly Curtis; (seated) John Turnbull, Peter Hutchinson, Joe Liddell, David Henderson, Dave King.

**For four years, Wednesday afternoons hadn't been much fun for this particularly large and lumpy, not-very-athletic adolescent. I had been excused Winter rugby due to chronically bad eyesight; Spring athletics was bad: I couldn't run, I couldn't jump, although I normally managed to score a solitary house-point with my shot-putting. Summer cricket was more to my liking, until with successive years the bowlers got faster and I got out of their way less frequently.**

Then came the fifth form, and a choice unfolded; there was golf, and tennis, and rowing, and badminton – that was going to be my sport, I had often knocked a shuttlecock

around with my pal Martin Barnes, who practiced against County players and showed me all the fancy shots.

So why then, on the first week of term, did I find myself going along to a lunchtime meeting for anyone who might be interested in rowing? I clearly remember where it was – one of the classrooms on the balcony above the Hall – but as for the motive, I'm not sure I even knew at the time. Maybe I was just curious, or maybe another one of my pals dragged me along. Or maybe it was raining that day.

The annual intake was fixed at 12 big'uns and three little'uns so that three crews could be made up. Probably about 25 of us listened

while the Master in charge of Rowing, Joe Liddell gave us a very brief introduction to the sport. I can't remember anything that was said that fired my enthusiasm, but he did get us all practicing the flick of the wrist that you need to 'feather' the blade as it comes out of the water.

Then, as we filed out past him at the end of the session, I received a tap on the shoulder. Until then, I was one of those people who were always last, or second-last to be picked when two captains took turns to select their teams. Now, out of the blue, I had been chosen for something. That was it – bye-bye badminton.

The following Wednesday, the Chosen Ones found themselves on the riverbank at Newburn,

“To this day, more than 40 years on, I can remember how I joined the School Boat Club, but for the life of me I can’t remember why.”

at the old Rutherford College boathouse. There we encountered a ‘shore tank’, a sort of pond alongside which were slides and seats, and outriggers to hold the oars, so you could simulate the rowing stroke on dry land. I can’t recall each of us having more than a minute or so to show off what we’d picked up from the explanations and demonstrations.

On the strength of our meagre efforts, the twelve of us were sorted into A, B and C crews, and I got another tap on the shoulder – I was to be in the top group, along with **Peter Hutchinson (60-68), Dave King (60-67)** and **Ian ‘Icy’ Kell (57-67)** and cox **Tim Straker (58-67)**.

It wasn’t until the following week that we finally took to the water at the School’s own boathouse, in Blaydon. The boathouse was a small brick structure which held four clinker (plank-built) fours, two of them quite new, the others somewhat older, and a couple of clinker single sculls, which we called ‘cutters’. There was also a very beautiful shell four, which was owned by the Old Boys – who on paper at least had their own rowing club – and which was virtually never used, accounting for its pristine condition.

Assisting Joe (although we would never call him that to his face) with the coaching duties were two other masters – W. C. ‘Bogs’ Cuthbertson and a French teacher whose name now escapes me. Our boatman was Jackie Farrow, who had been a Champion sculler in the days when the big Tyne rowing races attracted cup final-sized crowds.

For three years we rowed every Wednesday and Saturday in term-time. After a very brief coaching session, we would be sent off unsupervised to put theory into practice.

Occasionally we went towards town and once, memorably, we rowed all the way down through the five bridges and got a rocket on our return – if we had gone through the wrong spans of the Swing Bridge, the Club would be in Big Trouble. Usually we headed towards Newburn and took great delight in leaving trails like an icebreaker in the expanse of crud that collected in the crook of the bend by the Stella power station. Gradually, we began to achieve some sort of competence and cohesion.

We were the first fifth-form crew to be taken along on the annual jaunt to Dumfries to row a friendly fixture against the school clubs there – and some of us had our first, illicit, taste of ale during the short stop in Brampton on the way back.

In our second year we began racing in earnest, at Berwick, Cambois, Talkin Tarn, Hexham, Newburn, Durham, South Hylton, and Yarm. Once (against Joe’s better judgement) we made the long trip to Lancaster, lost our first heat and set straight off back again. At Tynemouth regatta the following week, with **John Turnbull (60-67)** having replaced Dave King, we won our Novices – the first lower-sixth crew in memory to achieve that feat.

In the upper sixth, with Dave back in the crew replacing Ian Kell, we started off well enough at intermediate level, reaching semi-finals and finals before A-levels loomed and our form deserted us. As a special treat just before we broke up, we were finally allowed an outing in the Old Boys’ boat.

The seeds of a lifetime passion had been well and truly planted. I went on to row at University, and at club level in London, and then in Brussels. Although I took several years out of the sport, it inexorably drew me back; I now

row regularly and race occasionally in a squad of 50 and 60-somethings who, like me, left the sport for a while but it never left them. John Turnbull is the President of the large and successful Weybridge RC on the Thames, and the last I heard Peter Hutchinson was still rowing, at Steve Redgrave’s home club in Marlow.

Although I never reached the upper levels of the sport, I’ve raced at Henley, I’ve raced at the World Veterans’ Regatta, I’ve rowed with a TV launch chasing me (with John Snagge commentating), I’ve rowed with Olympic competitors and World Championship medallists. I’ve raced in eights on the Serpentine in Hyde Park. I’ve raced along national frontiers, with my crew in one country and my opponents in another.

I’ve made countless friends and I have taken from rowing countless precious memories. Without doing anything other than what I really enjoy, I am probably fitter than most of people of my age.

Not bad for a lumpy non-athlete who was tapped a couple of times on the shoulder back in 1964.

*David Henderson left RGS for a career in civil aviation with BOAC/British Airways, then the Association of European Airlines in Brussels.*

*He can be contacted on [david.henderson@aea.be](mailto:david.henderson@aea.be) and would be delighted to hear from any Old Novos in Belgium.*

At the start of the 1955 season Bill Elliott, recently appointed athletics and technology master, invited the touring Achilles Club to visit the school. Twelve athletes from Oxford and Cambridge Universities came, coached and demonstrated their skills with the RGS Athletics Team and ended with a match against them on a handicap basis.

# RGS Track and Field Fifty Years Ago

**Kretzschmar, Oxford and German javelin champion, was perhaps the most memorable of the Achilles' in his demonstration of javelin throwing with a huge 210 ft; what seemed at the time to be from one end of the rugby pitch to the other.**

The national coach, Dennis Watts was also invited by Bill, followed shortly after by Geoff Dyson, the Loughborough and British Olympic Athletics Coach. They taught regimes of training and techniques of throwing and jumping, on a one-to-one basis. From all of this focus on top quality coaching, athletic performances showed immediate improvement in all events.

Up to 1954, all track and field records had been established on Sports Day the one athletic competition of each year. These records were up to 30 years old; 100yds 10.2 (1931); 220yds 23.4 (1924), 440yds 52.9 (1937), 880yds 2m 4.8 (1935), and long jump 20'3" (1932). But within a couple of seasons, as RGS teams began to compete across the country at top level in City, County, All England and Public Schools Championships, those records came under attack.

Individual rivalries naturally set up; Josh Collins (48-58) vied with Kit Coleman (49-59) in the mile. Each broke the then 4 min 45sec. record again and again with Kit, in 1959, eventually setting it at the very much lower time of 4min 26.7sec. John Farthing (50-59) broke Markham's 1932 long jump record with a leap of 20 ft. 5 inches. Kit Coleman in 1958 and then Bill Nixon (52-59) in 1959 reduced the 1937 440yds record down to 52.5. This record was then broken again by Peter Allan

(49-60) in 1960 with a time of 52.2 sec. The 880 yds record of 2min 4.8 sec from 1935, which had been equalled by Miller in 1955, was then also broken by Bill Nixon with a time of 2min 1 sec.

1960 was then probably the most successful year for school athletics. A team which "was necessarily a small one" (Novo June 1960) of ten had gone for the first time to compete with the City of London School and had come away victorious. Being a very small team and with two athletes entered in each of eleven events, some of the team members had to compete in two, three or four events. This was all in the space of a two hour period but, working as a team, they won and set two new school records in doing so.

By the end of the 1960 season, School Athletics Teams had left the past standing, so to speak, were unbeaten in all inter school competitions and were on their way into the modern era. Only Markham's 1931 100 yds record of 10.2 sec. and Price's 1924 220 yds record of 23.4 sec. had kept their places in the record book. All other records had been broken over that short five year period, 1955 to 1960, and metrication was another nine years away.

So, no need yet to look up the conversion factors!

**Ron Hindmarch (48-59)**

## Established School Records 1960 Track and Field

Event	Record	Competitor	Year
100yds	10.2 sec	R. E. Markham	1931
220yds	23.4 sec	H. Price	1924
440yds	52.2 sec	P. Allan	1960
880yds	2 mins. 1.0 sec	W. S. Nixon	1959
One Mile	4 mins. 26.7 sec	C. E. Coleman	1959
High Jump	5 ft. 8 in	P. S Walker	1960
Long Jump	20 ft. 5 in	J. Farthing	1959
Discus	136 ft 6 in	R. S. Hindmarch	1957
Javelin	163 ft. 11 in	P.G. Wight	1960
Shot	41 ft 2 in	D. T. Law	1959
120yds Hurdles	15.4 sec	J. M. Lively	1960
200yds Hurdles	23.5 sec	J. M. Lively	1960
Pole Vault	11 ft 3 in	J. R. McManus	1955

Compiled, with thanks, from Peter Allan's personal records, 1956



The current RGS athletics vest

## 50 years since the first RGS athletics uniform by Kit Coleman (49-59)

When the photograph for the 1958 RGS Athletics Team came out (opposite) some of us looked at it and said “Don’t we look pretty scruffy. Some in T-shirts, some in sleeveless vests, all of us looking generally untidy. The Rugger players have a uniform and so should we. But what should it look like?” The rugby uniform uses red, white and black, so that should be our colour scheme. We needed to have the school crest highly visible. So why not model it on the Great Britain team uniform with horizontal bands of red, white and black with the crest in the centre.

Old Novo athletes are getting together at the ONA dinner on Friday 16 October to celebrate athletics as it was 50 years ago at the RGS. If you would like to join them, please contact The ONA Office (0191 212 8924, or email: [ona@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:ona@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk))

### RGS Athletics Team 1958



**Back row:** W.S. Nixon, D.Smart, A.N. Other, C. G. Reah†, A.S. Fotheringham, C.D. Marfitt-Smith, K. Groom†, A.E. Black, B.P. Wilkinson. **Front Row:** J.M. Collins††, J. Farthing††, F.O. Robson† (Captain), W.G. Elliott, Esq., D.T. Law†† (Vice-Captain), C.E. Coleman†††, R.S. Hindmarch††.

Mr. Elliott, the master in charge, liked the idea so we took it to the headmaster, Mr. O.W. Mitchell, who was persuaded that a classy athletics uniform would reflect well on the school when we visited other schools and attended meets in places like the White City in London or White City in Manchester or the English Schools Championships. Hence the new uniform. The 1959 photograph shows a fine array of well-appointed young men, a credit to any school (see photo below).

The Cross-country runners also adopted the design and, along with their haka of the Newcastle Brown Ale song (sung to the tune of Cushy Butterfield), they were unbeatable during the winter of 1958/9, winning every dual meet, the North-Eastern Schools Championship and the Lumley Castle Relay.

### RGS Athletics Team 1959



**Back row:** M.J.C. Andrews, K.I.M. Linkleter, M.I. Dickinson, J.D. Smart, P.S. Walker, P. Allan, J. Lively, D.A.B. Pearson. **Second row:** A. E. Black†, C.E.Coleman†††, J.A.L. Armour, D.T. Law†††(Captain), W.G. Elliott, Esq., J. Farthing†††, R.S. Hindmarch††, C.G. Reah†, W.S. Nixon†††. **Front row:** E.W. Ainslie, W. Young.

† School record \* Half Colours †† Full colours



# Aston Martin: The RGS Connection

What is the connection between RGS and Aston Martin? Robert Gordon Sutherland became MD of Aston Martin Ltd. in 1932 when his father, Sir Arthur Munro Sutherland, rescued the ailing motor engineering company from the economic recession.

By Mike Downie

**Where have we heard that sort of thing recently? Except this was no government minister doling out our money, it was a shipping tycoon of the Sutherland Steamship Company Ltd. doling out his own: he bought the majority share in Aston Martin and gave his son the top job.**

He retained control until 1947 before selling it to David Brown: the DB in subsequent Aston designations. Old Novos will surely recognise the significance but, if not, then go to the School Hall and face the mighty organ. This musical centrepiece and War Memorial were gifts from Sir Arthur Munro and Lady Sutherland to the School. Sir Arthur was one of

its greatest benefactors. He donated the first rifle range in 1915, the old gym and the swimming pool in 1930 and Sutherland Park for boys' games. He had attended RGS as a boy from 1878 to 1883, had become a School Governor in 1919 and was Chairman from 1929 until his death in 1953. Therefore, between 1932 and 1947, the Royal Grammar School Chairman of Governors, Sir Arthur Munro Sutherland O.N., was effectively the owner of Aston Martin with his son running it. That is the connection – or one of them.

When another Old Novo, Nick Miller (80-87), General Manager of New Model Launch at Aston Martin Lagonda Ltd., brought an Aston

Martin DBS to RGS in March 2009, it was a kind of homecoming for both man and machine. And another connection.

And both were very welcome: Nick was here to talk to students about careers in Engineering and Design; the car was here to illustrate it. But this top of the range supercar was never going to be just a worthy prop for a talk. It was here to thrust a 510 bhp missile through the myth that engineering is just dirty fingernails and an oily rag. It was here to give a six-litre, V12, twin-exhaust howl of derision at those who think design is all long hair, apathy and weird clothes, yeah? This car was on the pull – an object of lust and love (unrequited for those

without the £165,000 fee), drawing boys, some girls (and several staff) to see and understand this ultimate union of engineering and design supremacy.

Nick Miller gave a superb presentation about his profession: both in his own case and in that of the designing and building of a new Aston Martin. His A Level subjects in 1985-7 were Maths, Physics and DT (Design & Technology – or just ‘Technology’, as it was then). He didn’t mention it, but his DT project was a real stunner – he developed a compressed air driven extendable radio mast for rapid deployment in fell rescue operations. This was no fantasy concept, either: it was a practicable proposition featured on BBC Look North (presenter, Tom Kilgour, came to RGS to do the feature). Now that sort of thing goes down well on the UCAS application... And that was a point which Nick was keen to emphasise to the 50 or so students who came along to his talk in the School’s own flagship of engineering, the Performing Arts Centre theatre: academic prowess alone is not enough. He gave some examples of what he meant but, in fact, his own records survived the floods which hit the archives last September and I discovered that Nick’s ‘something else’ had been sport, music, drama and a heavy involvement in CCF as a Sergeant. He had secured some work experience at engineering firm, NEI Parsons, too, in summer 1986. It launched a fascinating career. He read Mechanical Engineering at Leeds University before rising through Nissan’s graduate training scheme at Sunderland to become a Manufacturing Engineer, during which time he spent over a year in Japan. He moved to TWR (Tom Walkinshaw Racing), where his Manufacturing Engineering consultancy work took him to Sweden, China and Australia. He progressed to Ford Europe, handling New Model Launch for ‘C’ class platform models (including the Focus and Kuga) based in Cologne, Germany, with regular involvement at Ford’s plants in Germany, Spain and Russia. And then to Aston Martin, where he is in charge of New Model Launch in the UK and with responsibility for a new facility in Austria from 2010. He went on to explain some of the engineering and design aspects of the DBS.

Meanwhile, sitting outside was the hand-built thoroughbred: the epitome of automotive engineering and design. The Aston Martin DBS. When they constructed the Performing Arts Centre, back in 2006, nobody thought to give it vehicle access to the stage. So we went outside to continue the presentation around the car. The top of the range model: race-bred to position it somewhere between the road-

going DB9 and the track-monster DBR9. It’s a two-door coupe. The DBS has a 5935cc V12 alloy engine with four valves per cylinder and the 510 horses transmit their power to the rear wheels through a six-speed Touchtronic gearbox with flappy paddle shift on the steering wheel. Nick explained about the rigid bonded aluminium tub around which the body is constructed. The panels are a mix of aluminium, magnesium and carbon fibre for lightness and strength. Welding went out with the ark (pardon the pun) as it would not be much use on these materials, so much of the car is stuck together with glue. Yes, really. But the glue itself is a product of sophisticated chemical engineering. The cars have been tested in both Arctic and desert and they have been deliberately crashed. The glue did not come unstuck. The brakes use ventilated carbon ceramic discs and they look gorgeous through the spokes of the 20-inch alloys. Yes, the brakes look gorgeous... And if electronic engineering is your thing, it has that, too. You already know about the fly-by-wire transmission and you’ll assume there’s a very advanced engine management system. There is. But there’s also Adaptive Damping Control (ADC) which alters the suspension settings to match your driving style; Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) and Traction Control; Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) to stop the wheels locking up, Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD) to balance the braking force amongst the wheels under different cornering loads and surface conditions and Emergency Brake Assist (EBA) to takeover the full brake

application when the car senses a certain panic in your foot pressure, suggesting you would like it to stop p.d.q. Should you turn off the Traction Control? Ask the AM driver who was track-testing the V12 Vantage which was meant to come with Nick. And if you have time to admire your internal environment whilst reeling in the road at up to 191 mph on the Autobahn, it is a fest of hand-stitched soft leather, carbon fibre and aluminium trim and myriad features for comfort, entertainment and safety. On the road, this car can achieve a combined figure of 18.2 mpg or 26.8 mpg if you’re careful. Careful! So is it green? Well, Nick told me he and some colleagues would be driving a clutch of Astons down to Austria, where the marque is soon to be produced, the Sunday following his RGS visit. I am writing this on that Sunday and it is a pristine, Spring morning. I am dreaming of the V12 exhaust note echoing off the mountains, as the convoy twists and turns through the deep, glaciated Alpine valleys below a cloudless blue sky and snow-covered peaks. It certainly makes you green. With envy.

Thank you, Nick for a hugely interesting presentation and for bringing the DBS. We relish the connections and hope they will continue. Thanks, also, to **Mike Barlow (53-64)** for facilitating Nick’s visit and for his help and support on the day.

*Mike Downie is Head of Careers at RGS. This article is an edited version of that published in ‘The Grammar’.*

A young Nick Miller with BBC Look North’s Tom Kilgour



# Obituaries

## Arthur Cecil Taylor (33-41)

Born 1923, died 9 April 2009, aged 86.



Throughout his life, my father was driven by a strong commitment to serving the community – both the Jewish community of Newcastle upon Tyne and England, and the wider local and national community. His advice was sought by many because of his impeccable moral judgment. He set high standards, and he lived by them. He was generous, courteous and always considerate. He imbibed these values from his parents, Louis and Raie Taylor, and shared them with his sister Dorothy, a doctor like her father, and his brother Peter, who went on to be Lord Chief Justice of England.

A lawyer by training and profession, dad also served the National Health Service for almost two decades, including 10 years (1982-92) as chairman of the Newcastle Health Authority. He was elected chairman of the National Association of Health Authorities, and used the position to press the government discreetly for more resources for the Health Service. He was a co-founder and council member of St Oswald's Hospice, president of both the North of England Medico-Legal Society and the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Law Society, a member of the General Medical Council and a stalwart of the Newcastle legal aid committee. His service to the community included work for the Northumbria Probation Committee, the Northumberland and Tyneside Family Conciliation Service, and on the National Family Mediation management committee and the UK College of Family Mediators. Dad was typically loyal to his old school; he served for a long time as vice-chairman of the governors. A keen sportsman, he played rugby for Old Novos and Northumberland, and refereed county matches well into his 40s. He also played cricket for South Northumberland.

For his services to society, Dad was awarded a CBE in 1988 and appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Tyne and Wear in 1989.

Dad was also a great lover of classical music; he played the violin, hacking away at the Bach double violin concerto with Doree Rose as first violin, accompanied on the piano by his brother Peter, who frequently scolded his time-keeping. A keen opera-goer at Glyndebourne and in Newcastle, he would sing Mozart whilst drying the dishes. One of his principles in life was to “hear a little Mozart every day”.

Carolyn's and my memories as children were of Dad rushing home from a long day at the office for a quick meal with the family before heading off to the inevitable committee meeting of the shul or some legal or medico-legal body, then finishing the evening reading copious pink carbon copies of all his firm's outgoing correspondence and ticking off long to-do lists scribbled on the back of envelopes. Yet somehow he found time to be a loving father and a devoted husband, always eager to debate the political and ethical issues of the day with his family and friends.

## “For his services to society, Dad was awarded a CBE in 1988 and appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Tyne and Wear in 1989.”

He encouraged us to learn, to question, and to fulfil our potential in life. Carolyn made sure he was never allowed to get too pompous. She tickled him in the ribs and nicknamed him “Cess”, for Cecil, his middle name. She used to make him drop her off a safe distance from school so her friends didn’t see his bowler hat. She had a knack for giving him the giggles, which is how we managed to wangle getting our dog, Ginger. In his lawyerly language, Dad insisted this was against his will and better judgment. But it wasn’t long before he could be seen affectionately petting Ginger. Hopeless as a handyman, he would protest that he was “just a simple chap”. But he was only simple when it suited him. He took a cookery class but only ever managed one dish. We all learned to love his Armenian lamb.

Dad devoted countless hours to voluntary work to help create the United Hebrew Congregation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and to find a proper home for the shrinking community, which was then three communities. It is no exaggeration to say that without his patient contribution, the Graeme Park Road synagogue would probably never have been built. He negotiated a complex covenant for the purchase of Culzean Park that satisfied the concerns of prickly neighbours and provided the basis for creating today’s community centre. He also co-wrote the constitution of the new congregation, keeping peace among the many “machers”.

Dad did not seek honours or power in the Jewish community. As his mother might have said in Yiddish, he preferred “naches”, the pleasure derived from others’ achievements, to “yiches”, personal glory. He was content with his role as Hon Sol – the honorary solicitor, providing wise counsel, conducting backroom diplomacy in a sometimes fractious community, and quietly taking care of tricky legal affairs.

Dad was evacuated with his school to Penrith. The war then interrupted his language studies at Pembroke College, Cambridge. He joined the Guards Armoured Division, serving as a gun commander in the Normandy landings, Belgium and the Netherlands. In Germany at the end of the war, he helped translate the V2 rocket blueprints from German for the allies. He maintained a lifetime

involvement in the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women (AJEX) and served on the Newcastle Jewish Representative Council, and for a time on the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Returning to Cambridge after the war, dad abandoned modern languages and hopes of a diplomatic career in favour of law. He joined his uncle’s law firm, Samuel Phillips and Co, and built up the practice over more than 40 years, passing on the mantle of senior partner to Barry Speker. He married our mother, Maureen Cohen, in 1952. Shortly before his death, they celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary.

Before being struck with Parkinson’s disease in recent years, he and Mum travelled widely to India, America, Egypt, Morocco, Australia and South Africa, thanks to the adventurous spirit of their dear friends Peter and Ann Fingret, who winkled dad out of his holiday habits of France and Corfu. Dad visited me in every country where I was posted by Reuters, except revolutionary Iran, for which he could be forgiven.

He and Mum were frequent and happy visitors to their children and grandchildren in France and London. The word “inclusive” was not of dad’s generation, yet that is how he welcomed my wife Catherine, and Carolyn’s partner and now husband Mark, into the family. He adopted my step-son Manuel as his own grandchild, playing chess with him, delighted in taking my daughter Rachel to nursery school in Paris, singing French songs as they went hand in hand along the banks of the Seine, and more recently, he was specially moved that Carolyn and Mark named their son Arthur after him. Grandpa and grandson played together happily, calling each other “Little Arthur” and “Big Arthur”.

And always, Dad treasured the peace and companionship with Mum of their simple fisherman’s cottage on Holy Island – a place with no telephone, and where he took no work.

He was truly a mensch for all seasons.

**Paul Taylor (62-72)**

# Obituaries

## Malcolm Scott Gleghorn (44-50)

born 1932, died 15 February 2009, aged 76.

Malcolm was an artist, musician, teacher and master of the live stage. He was, while at the RGS probably the bane of the OTC's disciplinarians, but the joy of Marfit-Smith's art classes. His culminating work, before going to King's College, was a huge mural in the art classroom. Following Newcastle and Sunderland art studies he was conscripted to serve in the Middle East, where he was the garrisons entertainments director, and so impressed a visiting 'celeb', Elizabeth Welsh, that she repeatedly tried to sign him on in her troupe. He had, however, a place at the Royal College of Art in London (where he became the first pianist for the Temperance Seven before they went professional).

He returned North to marry his betrothed and teach art here – first in senior colleges, then after a diploma in advanced primary teaching, in Alnwick and, as deputy head, in Craggside, Cramlington, before becoming a full-time artist in Newton-on-the-Moor in 1974. He is included in The Artists of Northumbria reference book, and was described by his peers as having heightened perception of nature, seeing its tiny details, numbers and patterns - able to produce

abstract work of beauty and logic as well as capturing the glories of our landscapes. He exhibited in Alnwick, Rothbury, Wallington, North Shields and Newcastle and, with his wife Rita, hosted the annual summer exhibition in Newton. He did many commissions including posters and murals, and supported and vice-chaired the Alnwick Fair.

His musical and performing abilities were also impressive; from childhood he could play anything, by ear, in any key, was valued by the Temperance Seven, and in the Army, and set up

memorable performances of Gilbert and Sullivan in his schools, often as manager, director, producer, scenery designer and lead performer. He starred in the Morpeth Operatic Society in many productions, was a tenor in the 'Serenade' quartet, and lastly played with a popular Northumbrian dance band.

We grieve the loss of one who coloured the Northumbrian scene.

**Hedley Brown (45-52)**



## Allan Whillis (49-59)

died October 2008, aged 69.

Imagine a normal healthy young boy contracting measles, the results of which leaves him with one leg shorter than the other, with half of the foot having to be removed, and his jaw disabled so that he was unable to close his mouth, thereby being almost inarticulate and you might have Allan Whillis. I say might because I have left out the fact that he retained remarkable intelligence, humour and bravery.

At the time of his cruel afflictions the doctors predicted he would not reach the age of 30 years. They did not account for his will and determination.

Allan came to the RGS and more than held his own academically among his peers, and when he left the school he worked as the photographer in the Pathology department of the Newcastle General Hospital where he made many friends.

When his mother died in 1975 his protective brother Peter Whillis (44-54) tried hard to persuade Allan to go and live with him, but Allan had other ideas and would not accept the offer. He spent the rest of his life caring for himself and living independently. As the years went by Allan's condition gradually grew worse, and eventually the foot had to be removed and his

articulation became non-existent although this never curtailed his ingenuity to communicate.

Many boys at the school looked up to older boys as heroes because they displayed some form of prowess of an academic or sporting nature. On reflection, a more lasting hero would be the image of the shuffling boy being jostled along in the stream of his lively contemporaries.

That image would be Allan Whillis.

**George Thompson (43-52)**

**John Alan Godtschaik (35-42)**

born 1926, died 9 July 2009, aged 83.

**R C M Stamp (28-31)**

born 1914, died 3 January 2009, aged 94.

**Russell Lowes (30-37)**

born 1920, died 18 February 2009, aged 89.

**Ian Lesley Atkinson (47-54)**

born 1936, died 11 October 2008, aged 72.

**David Salkeld (30-38)**

born 1919, died 27 April 2009, aged 89. A gifted sportsman who captained Combined Universities teams at both cricket and rugby. He also captained Northumberland at rugby and also played cricket for the county.

**John L Browne (35-37)**

born 1923, died 19 April 2009, aged 85.

**Ian Gray (67-74)**

born 1956, died 21 April 2009, aged 52.

**Leslie Arthur Gane (31-37)**

born 1921, died 5 June 2009, aged 88. Formerly clerk to Newcastle Magistrates.

**Jeffrey A Taylor (50-56)**

born 1938, died 11 June 2009, aged 70.

**Alex L Gleghorn (40-46)**

born 1929, died July 2009, aged 80.

**Andrew Manley (75-82)**

born 1963, died unexpectedly on 15 August 2008, aged 44.

**Geoff Wilkinson (70-76)**

born 1957, died 12 July 2009, aged 52 in a boating accident on Kielder Water, trying to rescue his daughter, who also died.

## Apology

In the previous issue of the ONA magazine, we published an obituary for Patsy Gordon, partly written by Patsy's husband Alan Gordon, and by Patsy's friend and colleague Joy Knowles. With the obituary we mistakenly published a picture of Joy Knowles, rather than the intended picture of Patsy Gordon. We are truly sorry for the upset this caused Mr. Gordon and his family, as well as Mrs. Knowles, and sincerely apologise to all parties concerned.

# ONA Merchandise



## RGS

### Cufflinks £10

Enamelled cufflinks  
(presentation box included)



### Polo Shirt £18

Canterbury polo shirt with embroidered crest.  
100% cotton. Available in black, navy or royal  
blue, in sizes M, L and XL.



### Wall Plaque £25



### Tie £10

Polyester tie, striped with crest.



### Hooded Sweatshirt £35

Canterbury hooded sweatshirt with embroidered crest. 60% cotton 40% polyester.  
Available in black or grey, in sizes M, L and XL.



## The new ONA merchandise is now for sale

**To order any of the items, please send  
a cheque (payable to ONA) to:**

**ONA Office  
Royal Grammar School  
Eskdale Terrace  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DX**

Remember to include your name, address,  
phone number and/or email, and to indicate  
which item you are ordering.

Please include phone number and/or email  
so we can contact you if delivery is likely to  
be delayed.

The ONA accepts no responsibility for non-  
delivery via standard post. If you would like your  
order to be sent by special delivery, please  
contact the ONA office for a price list.

All goods are sold subject to availability.