

# Winter Newsletter 2011

Hi Everyone,



Doesn't time fly 2011 yet at times it seems only yesterday I started attending Caius. The school closed in 1968 and I am still finding ex-pupils. The compliments of the season to one and all and I hope you all have a blessed and happy Christmas

Our good wishes go out to Ann Lewis our President on her return to health following an eight hour operation for pancreatic cancer.

When I think of the Old Boys Association and newsletters it starts to conjure up thoughts of first experiences. I vividly recall my first day at Caius standing in the panelled

entrance hall, in short trousers, with another new boy, Michael Ansell, who was wearing long trousers.

Then there was the first time I received the cane from the head master in the front hall. The first day I met my wife and our first child's arrival. My confirmation at St Julian's church from the Bishop of Chichester and my first communion by the Reverent Glaysier who called me over after the service who told me off drinking too much wine causing him to consecrate more.

With Christmas just around the corner and I have dug out this picture of a Caius Christmas party. I expect some of you will recognise those included, two of whom are Mike and Gamma Talpur. Fortunately Mike is still with us living in Pakistan.

I have just spent a weekend in Cheshire attending the retirement of Tony Powell (ex-Secretary of COBA) and his wife Jane, after their 40 years as a pastors ministering to their flock. They had started with about twelve members in their home then building a large church and congregation. Over the recent times, both have had serious health scares. It was great to see them looking so well. I wish them a very happy retirement and hope that as they do not now work on Sundays they can attend the



next reunion.

We send our congratulations to Alan and Jacky Gibson, Terry and Pat Downing who have reached their Golden wedding anniversaries. I hope I haven't missed any others if so I apologise please let me know if I have.

Another Remembrance Day has been and gone, bringing back memories of a lecture by Miss Gladys about our responsibilities to remember those who gave their lives. She told the story of how she was in a church yard and saw a woman approach a memorial. She kneeled down, opened a leather cloth revealing medals and laid them at base. She prayed then collected the items and walked slowly away. I found her story quite moving. There have been quite a few ex-pupils have served their country, some as National Service Men and some as Regulars. We send our thanks to you for your service.

## **A Blessed and Happy Christmas to you all**

Well it's here again, Christmas, money for the children, presents for the grandchildren and for some, and the great grandchildren. Doesn't time fly? To me it seems only yesterday that I was at school and looking forward to the holiday. As a boarder it was very exciting, looking towards catching the train home, to see the family and the great welcome I used to get, especially from my dog. To have a warm room, hot baths every day, those foods that were always in short supply at school and the thought of the gifts I may receive. The Christmas lights in London were magical to me as a young boy.

I enjoyed the school days approaching Christmas. The Carol Service and the play were the highlights. There was always a relaxed attitude from the teachers and prefects and even Miss Gladwyn appeared almost human. If it snowed, that really made it. We didn't mind soggy wet knitted woollen gloves from snowballing. The winter downside could be when the seniors responsible for stoking the boiler would forget. This meant cold washing water and no heating in the mornings. Good job we didn't have to shave and was I glad when I was old enough to get out of short trousers in to long warm ones?

So how are your Christmas's these days? Hectic, plagued with requests for money, gifts and not knowing what to buy. Would you like to be in hot sunny climates lying on the beach sipping a cocktail? Do you wish, like in the old days, you only had two days off, thereby avoiding being confined for up to a week with a squabbling family watching 'The Great Escape'? You could of course be a grandparent who loves having the grandchildren around, for a short while, but wish they would be quiet when you are having your p.m. doze. To me, past Christmas's seemed difficult; I worked shifts, picking up drunks, dealing with accidents, passing sad news onto relatives also having to sort out the bits and pieces following the aftermath of family disputes.

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### **Cats on at hot Caius roof.**



Heather Stringer, Pete Rawlins, Lesley Robinson

Diane Cullen, Penny Metcalf

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We decided to go back to the basics of Christmas and make it a Christian celebration. I attend Carol Services, Midnight Mass and don't waste money on what I call 'Xmas Tat'. I tried to cut from our card list those to whom I can personally wish a happy Christmas. A telephone call and a chat are best. I still send to distant friends and donate the savings to a charity.

No I am not turning into a miserable old Bu.....! I love Christmas and love what it means. Irrespective of what the 'do gooders' and the 'Politically correct idiots' say i.e. "it is a Winter Festival," No, 'it is a Christian festival' and people of other faiths will always respect Christians for celebrating

their faith and the birth of Jesus. The non-Christian boys at school always celebrated Christmas with us. I think they liked the mince pies.

I finish with the words of the Rev. Glaisyer of St Julian's, "A Blessed Christmas and Peace to all.

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### **IN MEMORIUM**

**Richard Morris** the brother of Barry Morris was killed in a car crash in Thailand on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011 just one day short of his 67<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I knew him as an ardent member and great supporter of the Association who attended the reunions on a regular basis. Although he spent several months each year in Thailand, a country he loved, teaching English language, he would always try to return home for the Reunions.

The picture shows him posing in a relaxed manner at a reunion in 2009 at the Hove club. Richard's family spent many years living in Jersey where one sister still resides. Richard had worked for British Caledonian and British Airways retiring on a pension from B.A. This allowed him to travel the world visiting friends, often using Thailand as a stopover on way to Australia. Whilst in England he stayed with his sister and brother-in-law in Sompting, West Sussex. He like Barry had never married and is survived by two sisters and a brother.



On this occasion he was in Thailand visiting a friend in a nursing home near Chan Mai. He borrowed a motor cycle from a member of staff to go and get supplies for his friend. The police records show that for an unknown reason he travelled to the other side of the road and struck a parked lorry. It is thought he had a blackout. Previously, he had suffered blackouts and on one occasion he had ridden into a ditch; medical investigations into this problem had a negative result. At Richard's request he was cremated in Thailand and to be interred with his parents and Barry in the family plot in Jersey.

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We remember with great fondness our acquaintance & personal rapport with Richard whose sense of humour shall remain enshrined in our memory. May his Soul rest in peace? Our Condolences. Mumtaz Talpur Tommy, Ejaz Talpur Mike. Talpur Family of Tando Mohammed Khan. Sindh. Pakistan

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BackRow ? Peter Roberts Tommy Tapur? ? Barry Morris Front Row Ali Talpur Leo Jeffcot F. Lewis  
Leophong, Gilles Mosseri

**New email address for Alan Conroy** [a.c.conroy@bell.net](mailto:a.c.conroy@bell.net). Hi Malcolm – Thanks for your e mail – we are getting settled in Toronto, Canada – we expect it to take time – but think that so far we are doing very well. We have all our furniture, and will soon have all the curtains and blinds for the house made. Finding ones way around the city is very easy as it is all laid out on a grid system. My life so far: – The full resume might take too long – I left Caius went to college did a BA and then did 40 years as a pastor for the Seventh day Adventist church all over the UK – picking up and MA on the way. Have been married for 47 years to Christine – we have a son with two boys and a daughter with two girls – both live in Canada. Christine and I also had as a 'hobby' a fleet of caravans in the Lake District and North Devon which was started by my father and ran for just about 50 years. We also offered holidays to Greece for many years. That is about it – and into the bargain Christine and I are in good health considering the miles on the clock for which we are very thankful. Nice to keep in touch – all the very best. Alan Conroy.

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